

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.

APS Chapter 1584



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The Canada rose stamp on the banner shows the 1981 issue that commemorates the opening of the permanent outdoor botanical park on the site of *Les Floralies Internationales de Montréal*, a floral exhibition held in 1980. The Montreal Rose was bred specially for the show and the City of Montreal.



Editor's Note

Dennis Buss

After going through my files I discovered quite a few unanswered Ask Phil questions that need attention. In his more colorful style, this is how Phil described the situation:

Since the last "Ask Phil" I've been literally swamped with stamp related questions. I'm going to drain that swamp here and now. We think the activity is a result of all the traffic on our website. The club website gets more hits than a hot Rolex peddler in Times Square. Hope you enjoy this installment.

Consequently, I am forced to devote this issue exclusively to Ask Phil Q's and A's. I trust you will be able to sort through the wheat from the chaff, or, as they say in philately, the space fillers from the Very Fines. As usual, Steve Brett and Paul von Gottfried continue to insist on impersonating the real Phil A. Tellick.

P.S. Later in July, you will receive another edition of the newsletter that will feature Steve Brett's concluding thoughts on the rise and fall of First Day Cover collecting along with an informative piece by Paul von Gottfried on the challenge of identifying re-gummed stamps.



Dear Phil:

Once again our hobby has shown resilience under difficult circumstances. Our local stamp dealer, Monumental Philatelics has not only flattened the curve but has flattened his curb! Monumental is now a drive-in dealer. All you have to do is pull into the drive-in and call your Scott Catalog numbers into the clown. Bruce or a helper will ask you "Mint or Cancelled?" In a minute or two you drive up to the pay window and that's it. What do you think?

Jack N Bachs, Lansing

Phil: I'll have a Whopper C13 to C15, Mint, with an order of fries.

Dear Phil:

I don't know if anyone, even you, can help me on this one. I have a stamp, it looks like Persian and it has the following overprint: *Bushire Under British Occupation*. Can you identify this for me?
-L.Lane, Metropolis, Missouri

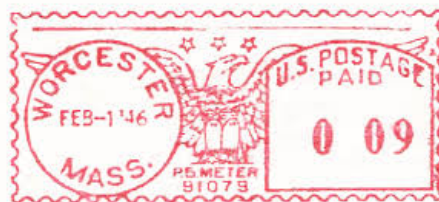


Phil: I'm familiar with Bushire. The town is a port located on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf. It was occupied by the British for about three months in 1915. In 1915 Iran's 1911 issue and the coronation were overprinted with the words Bushire Under British Occupation. Port facilities are not extensive and the town has lost its importance and population to other Iranian ports. Hold onto this rarity, there isn't a lot of Bushire around.

Dear Phil:

I've become interested in Meter Postage as a specialty. Am I alone or is this a popular area of collecting? Can you tell me something about it?
-Shirley Tick, Toledo, OH.

Phil: This is a popular area of philately. You can join the Meter Stamp Society that was organized in Jackson, N.J. in 1948 to promote meter stamp collecting. Metered postage goes back to 1848 when a Frenchman, Carle Bushe obtained a British patent for a device that would print a "stamp" on an envelope and record the amount of postage by means of a counting meter. In 1896 an unknown Munich inventor developed a franking device that was called a "postage meter." Elmer Wolf of Springfield, Ohio obtained a patent in 1899 for a postal franking device but we don't know if he ever developed the device. Finally, a Norwegian, Charles A. Kahrs created a coin operated franking device in 1900 and it was placed in the lobby of the General Post Office in Christiana, Norway on Aug. 24, 1900. Great Britain followed in 1912 but that was ten years after Pitney Bowes created a postal machine in the U.S.A. (Please deposit 25 cents for this answer. Thank you).



Dear Phil:

I really like the stamps of Saar. Few are costly, they are readily available and I find no other country or region's life or economy better captured philatelically than Saar. What's your opinion about collecting the stamps of Saar?
Constance Shovelle, Little Rock, AR.

Dear Constance: Saar is now the 10th state of Germany.

It's a hilly area of woodland and fields bisected by the Valley of the Saar. As you know from its stamps, it is a coal mining area with blast furnaces and steelworks.

My wife and I enjoyed our honeymoon there, no one complained about our noise. For the sake of space, I will touch upon my favorite Saar issues. These are the overprint with SAARGEBIET inscriptions on stamps of Germany in 1920. Second to that are the issues of 1921 depicting various views within the territory, and these

are the first to use SAARGEBEIT as an inscription. Saar came under German control in 1957. Stamps of Saar continued from 1957 to 1959 but were inscribed "Deutsche Bundespost SAARLAND." So, here's a very manageable area to collect with much complexity and political upheaval.

Until next time, keep those letters coming - Phil.A. Tellick



Dear Phil : Can you educate me about the paper used for stamps?

Thanks, Scott Charmin

Dear Scott : Broadly speaking , all paper used for stamps can be divided into hand-made and machine-made, these terms referring to the operation of spreading the stuff. (1) Hand-made, where all operations are done by hand. Some stamps from countries in the Far East, such as Japan and Nepal, have been printed on paper locally made by hand. They vary greatly in thickness and texture. This is called "native paper." (2) A second kind of hand-made paper entails paper that is spread by hand operation. This formed a large proportion of the paper used for postage stamps issued during the first few decades from 1840 onward. (3) Machine -made includes spreading of the stuff and other operations are performed by machine. This class is universally employed for postage stamps today. There is a special class for Trucial stamp paper, it is called 2-ply, or 3-ply.

Dear Phil: I think it is an amazing coincidence that someone with your name actually writes a stamp column.

Yours, Alice Mensa

Dear Alice: My dear, it is no greater a coincidence than Lou Gehrig dying from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Dear Phil: I think our stamp club President is pulling my leg in recommending that I order Intaglio for our Christmas party. Isn't Intaglio a philatelic term?
Regards, Lois Prima

Dear Lois: Yes, he's pulling your leg. And, by the way, the APA has rules about this. For your information, Intaglio Printing is printing from the recessed portions of the printing base, so that the intensity of the design printed on the paper is in direct proportion to the depth of each recess on the printing base. This characteristic alone is common to gravure and other recess-printing processes.

Dear Phil: I think I hit the jackpot! I ordered the *Legends of the West* sheet of 29-cent stamps (Scott 2869) and the one I received has the controversial error in the second row (Scott 2870). I have Ben Picket in the second row and not his brother Bill who was the famous rodeo star. I think it is worth about \$250.00. Should I hold onto it?
Signed: P. Butram

Phil: Before you get carried away, check the stamp in position one of the sheet. An expertiser has recently discovered that it is the wrong horse. If you have the wrong cowboy and wrong horse, you'd better hold onto this sheet. The right horse is a Quarter Horse.

(This month I've been guilty of procrastination and I've allowed questions from collectors to pile up. The delay is justified! I have formed an exploratory committee and may become a candidate for President. My motive is pure: We need another President of the United States to be a philatelist. The hobby flourished under F.D.R. Why shouldn't it have another renaissance under P. A. T.?)

Dear Phil: As Vice President of the Oshkosh Stamp Club I am responsible for Club charitable programs. What message is Boy's Town trying to send our club when they continuously return our stamp donations? J.Benny .

Dear J: Boy's town is trying to tell you that they also have a charitable program.

Dear Phil: I purchased an off-paper stamp mixture from Herrick's and found something unusual in the mixture. It is a Kiribati stamp with diagonal lettering in "caps" that reads: SPECIMEN. Have you ever come across a SPECIMEN?
Myron Tinkles

Dear Myron: So-called "specimen" stamps are those that are either overprinted or perforated with the word "specimen" or its foreign language equivalent. Some authorities include in the definition stamps produced by security printers and submitted to postal administrations, but these would appear to be more accurately termed essays or samples. Specimen stamps are so marked to prevent their use for

their intended purpose. At the Universal Postal Union meeting in Paris, in 1878, it was ruled that each country should send three copies of each new stamp to every member country for reference purposes. While it wasn't a requirement that the stamps be marked "Specimen" some countries, especially those of the British Commonwealth, did overprint them. Most US stamps issued from 1851 to 1904 can be found with a specimen overprint. Spain uses "MUESTRA" and Germany uses "Muster." Fernando Po, a stamp-issuing island off the coast of the African Cameroon Republic has the easiest job of all – they simply add an "o" to their Specimens, as a result, Fernando Poo overprints are extremely sought after by collectors.



Dear Phil : What does *Apres le depart* mean?
Chuck Boyer.

Dear Chuck : This inscription on a French postal marking indicates that the item was too late to catch a particular mail shipment, and it means "after departure." In the 1860's, a French service was begun whereby, for an extra charge, such a "too late" mail would be forwarded the same day when received after the normal closing of the mail.

Dear Phil: I am trying to decipher an advertisement in a German stamp magazine. Perhaps you can help me. The word is MARKE.
A. Schicklegruber.

Dear A. When the word MARKE appears in a German publication it means "adhesive stamp." It is used as a prefix for a large number of words relating to stamps and stamp collecting, some of which follow:

Markenanordnung: A German word referring to the arrangement of stamps in a sheet. Markenheftchen is the German word for "booklet stamps." Lastly, Markenschnooker is the German word for a collector who buys Trucial States stamps at more than 5% of catalogue value.

Yours in Philately, Phil

Dear Phil: My Grandfather Albert was a lifelong stamp collector. His U.S. Collection is almost complete. He may have been Mystic's biggest customer. As executor of his estate I had the awkward task of explaining to his heirs that he wished to be buried with his favorite collection segment: Mint N.H. U.S. Issues of 1851 - 1856, Scott cat. #7 - 17 (the imperforate issues). My question is this, Mr.Tellik , am I doing the right thing in honoring his burial wishes request. These stamps are obvious rarities, much desired by other serious collectors.
Respectfully, D. O'Dell.

Dear D, Absolutely: you must honor his wishes. A collection as valuable as Albert's must be insured by the A.P.A. program or Lloyd's or by special schedule to his Homeowners. Make sure to endorse his coverage to include this new location. Don't

bother to inform Mystic - they'll find him. I offer you and his entire family my condolences and my want list.

Dear Phil: I'm a topical collector who collects stamps depicting stamp collectors at their hobby. A fellow collector told me that there's a stamp that I must find showing Franklin D. Roosevelt "examining his stamp collection." He went on to tell me that the stamp is very special because there's an error few know about: FDR's left hand has six fingers! Can you help me find this must-have stamp?



Yours, Mittsy LeHand

Dear Mittsy: This is the famous Monaco Airmail from 1947, the 50-cent violet (Scott C16). It is debatable whether the President is shown with 6 fingers on his left hand or if it is an optical illusion caused by his cuff. If you look closely, the open album conceals a Betty Page Magazine, hidden from Eleanor and his domineering mother.

Dear Ask Phil:

Can I get the coronavirus from licking stamps? What about self-adhesive stamps? Are they safe?

Signed, Ima N. Skull

Dear Irma:

Now there's a novel question. In your case, yes. I suggest you cover your tongue or spray it with Lysol. For self-adhesive stamps, use a mask and gloves.

Phil A. Tellick.

P.S. We can still answer your questions during the coronavirus folks. We do try to answer all questions remotely...

Dear Phil,

Outside of the obvious complete gum on the back, how can you tell if a stamp is a CTO?

Signed,

Lover of Iron Curtain stamps

Dear Iron Curtain, I referred this question to Steve Brett, who may have the largest collection of CTO's this side of Yemen. I also referred this to Paul who has an abhorrence of CTO stamps. And they're great friends. Go figure. Most stamps that have less than 1/4 circular cancel in a corner are suspect, partly because there is usually not enough information, such as date and location to verify. Most stamps from countries that usually issue CTO's are almost always CTO. Besides the obvious Soviet block, Trucial States, and a few South American countries there are a few others. Most Labuan with smudged cancels without identifying information and



Switzerland are considered CTO's. Another factor are overly clean cancels without any small smudges or lines.

Hope this helps, Phil

Dear Phil,

This is a follow-up question to the earlier one about CTO's: I have a plethora of Eastern Europe communist CTO's. Thousands upon thousands in fact, some in sheets. My wife wants her linen closet back. What do I do with them? Start a bonfire?

Thanks,

Iron Curtain Paper Collector

Dear Iron Monger,

I posed your query to Connie Suer. Even she questions your taste and collecting habits. I suggest you take the Albanian, Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian stamps (otherwise known as the ABC's of wallpapering) and start a part-time business wallpapering people's bathrooms. Use the sheets for wrapping paper. Betty's Fish and Chips might be interested in the wrapping paper. You might recoup a pittance of what you paid. Be persistent, even when people raise their eyebrows. Please contact me after you are released from the Behavioral Wellness Center in Vacaville.

Good luck,

Phil



SRSC

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm at the Finley Community Center, 2060 W. College Road, in Santa Rosa.

Membership dues are \$20 per year. Following a discussion of club business matters, the meetings feature a philatelic presentation and a member auction. For further

**information about the club visit our website at
<http://www.santarosastampclub.org/home.html>**

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Bill Anklam, Stephen Brett, Dennis Buss, Susan Dixon.

Members At-Large: Paul von Gottfried, Barry Sovel, Plus One Other To Be Appointed.