

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER.

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.
APS Chapter #1584



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Editor's Note

Dennis Buss

If your interest in stamps has been flagging a bit lately, Steve Brett has a solution that you might find interesting and challenging. He suspects that most of you have set aside stamps that defy proper identification and cataloging. Why not take a second look at these items and follow Steve's tips for doing the research to uncover the mysteries behind these oddities and cinderellas? Our good friend Phil A. Tellick has been busy lately with an exclusive interview with Post Master Louis DeJoya. You will be surprised on what he has found out. For a Newsletter first, you will have an opportunity to test your knowledge of U.S. stamps. Yours truly has composed a ten-item quiz that I hope you will find a bit challenging. I also invite members to submit their own philatelic knowledge quiz for future editions of the newsletter. Just email your questions to me and I will take it from there.

Focus-Pocus: Collecting Oddities and Cinderellas

Stephen Brett

On my last birthday I turned 75 as did many of my baby-boomer buddies. On the way to the three-quarter mark I began receiving moving notices from old friends who were in the process of "simplifying their lives." This meant closing long chapters where they lived in private homes (a/k/a money pits) and moving where all or nearly all is done for them. Someone else is pushing the lawn mower, for instance. And, someone who can survive falling the roof will be on their new roof in the gated community.

As I received details from these friends, I learned that they were actively shedding themselves of long cherished "stuff." This brings me to the topic at hand: All of our voluminous collections. From conversations and comments amongst club members, there's plenty of talk about our next step as collectors. There are choices to make. Keep on truck'n till the Great Philatelist in the Sky calls for us? Freeze—hold but not grow? Shed all but my core specialty area of interest? Get a good price now for the whole collection, especially when I can guide the sale? Let's face it, there are often "dark forces" that goad us into considering the "big dump" option and, if these inclinations don't prevail, then slimming down will do, at least for now.

Now, the question we should ask ourselves is: Why is my stamp collection the focus of household discontent and not the pile of scrapbooks or the yearbooks from junior high, senior high school and college that we never look at? Not to mention the souvenirs from vacations, old tennis rackets, snowboards from when we lived in Vermont, and fondue sets (four of them)?

My answer to this comes in two pieces: Unless money is an issue, then one's lifelong hobby - something that defines us as curators, thinkers and people who value quality of life pursuits - deserves encouragement on a perpetual open-ended basis. We should continue to enjoy and continuously learn something when we work on stamps, or, as Goethe said: "Every day, one should either be a teacher or a student." Goethe didn't say, "until one is 75 years of age." Now, is the time in our lives as senior citizens to use our time to explore and engage in things we *always wanted to do*. We've earned the right to drop the "but for."

This has been a long wind-up to sharing something with you that I always wanted to do and once I got engaged in this area, I've been having a great and rewarding time. For 75 less 9 years (that's 66 years) I've accumulated what are called oddities and cinderellas. I've been arranging them in a stock book for decades thinking that I will deal with them in the future. Like I said a moment ago, that day has come. The fun questions are: What is this? And, Is it worth anything? So, we immediately have the ingredients of what is most enjoyable about our hobby—the search and research and the possibility of treasure. And, treasure was found!

First, I must tell you that I did not purchase any one item individually out of the 150 or so I researched from my accumulation of oddities and cinderellas. I can't even recall how and why I have these items. They were in mixtures, on nearly empty pages of old albums, in someone else's stock books or envelopes or in a cigar box. I simply relocated them over many years into one place. And, if any of them had any value, I considered that an extra benefit to my research.

Enough suspense, here are some of my top findings:

1. Brazil: A damaged mail postal seal (SERVICO POSTAL). \$23.92 on ebay.
2. AARHUS Telefon OG BBYPOST 1 ORE. Date 1889 Denmark. Gibbons L 64.10 \$77.17 U.S.
3. Plebliscit Slesvig Stamp 2½ or 2 Frank (1920) Danish-German. To decide border of Germany & Denmark \$ 9.00 U.S.
4. Turkestan Cinderella, 1923-1924. "Tribesman on a camel). Printed in Paris but of Russian origin. \$ 8.50 on ebay.
5. Neue Ban Omnibus stamp. "Unactier Gas" 1886 New Berliner. German Omnibus Stamp with bullseye cancellation (used between 1881-1890. \$ 83.96 on ebay.
6. 1888 Frankfurt Main Privat Brief Verkehr. Postmarked Fold. U.S. \$ 20.44.
7. Poland K.O.M.W. with 6 gr overprint. These "stamps" are from the citizens committee of Warsaw 1915. Initials stand for "Komitel Obywatelski Miasta, Stolecznergo Warsaw. This established a local post office. The 2 overprints are \$ 4.75 for the 6 GR overprint 57 pounds sterling; the 2 gr. stamped on face of stamp \$68.71 (57 pounds sterling).
8. 5 cent Palestine Israel poster stamp Revenue. \$ 8.00 U.S.
9. France Poster Stamp. Foire Europeenne Strasbourg 1954 (Strasbourg Fair 1954) 7.95 Euros, ebay.
10. 1967 Greek Post National Bank (electrical industries in Greece). Cinderella \$29.90 U.S.
11. Netherlands Railway Train Stamp from 1963 mint. \$20.00 U.S.

[See the next page that shows two rows of scans in order from #1-11 left to right]

Very little of this material can be found in the standard Scott Catalogs, although I had a few pleasant surprises amongst the fiscal stamps. Therefore, the following is absolutely necessary for these safaris:

- 1, A powerful magnifying glass to read very small print—whenever there is print to read. All print is helpful for these one-off stamps that typically do not show a national origin let alone a

date. One also has to “bend” their vision to pick up letters often compromised by canceled stamps.

2. A good strong pinpoint light to pick up small, often ornate or foreign letterings and numerical symbols while using the magnifying glass.

3. A couple of stamp identifier books to help discern the language or country of origin.

4. And, of critical importance, a laptop to research the item under scrutiny.

After a couple of trial-and-error experiments and lessons, success followed in short order. Despite their obscurity, I became proficient at researching and identifying about 80% of my oddities and Cinderellas.

Here are some tips and lessons quickly learned:

A. Using pinpoint lighting and the magnifier on the subject I wrote every word or number(denomination) that appeared on the “stamp” including anything discernible from the cancellation, if it was cancelled. Often there was no country indicated.

B. By using *Google*, I loaded a lot of the words in the search line and sometimes I had a BINGO right away, or at least a finding of items akin to my item.

C. Akin is a good thing! More often than not akin gave me country and ‘kind’ of material such as fiscal stamp, railroad stamp or charity stamp etc.

D. As I narrowed the focus I added country, fiscal tax, denomination, if any, and more and more until (80% of the time) I found the exact stamp.

E. Once I hit the target, I was able to call it up from a number of sources and the description I was able to provide on the mounting page included when issued, where issued, purpose, and various selling prices in several currencies such as Euros, Pounds, Dollars, etc.

Often, there’s an interesting history behind the stamp including political and geographic boundaries. I found the Spanish Civil War material the most interesting. I really didn’t need another stamp album binder amongst the many I’ve accumulated but I have to admit, this new album resulting from patient and highly enjoyable research and detective work, was the most fun and one that refreshes my passion for our hobby.

Scans of Oddity and Cinderella Stamps



Ask Phil

Our Postmaster General agreed to an exclusive interview with Uncle Phil. Here's the outcome of that interview with our intrepid newsletter correspondent:

The Hon. Louis DeJoy is the 75th Postmaster of the United States. His term as Postmaster began in June, 2020. He agreed to this interview to discuss our country's plans to establish a permanent settlement on the Moon in 2025 and the probability of establishing U.S. lunar postal service thereafter. Nearly in the shadow of the Artemis 1 (ORION CM-002) the spacecraft operated by NASA, Postmaster DeJoy agreed to this interview for the benefit of our club members:

Phil: Thank you Postmaster DeJoy for taking time from your busy schedule to address the potential for and planning of Lunar Mail service.

DeJoy: We're never that busy at the post office.

Phil: NASA is planning to establish a permanent moon base by 2025. Is the U.S.P.S planning to establish postal service?

DeJoy: We have hopes of delivering 2022 mail in 2025.

Phil: Seriously, the most obvious question: Are you really in discussions with NASA regarding the establishment of a Post Office on the moon?

DeJoy : Yes I am and this includes strategic placement of mailboxes, and service counters in Target Stores and Walmart Centers.

Phil: Will postal rates change for lunar mail?

DeJoy: Package rates will be lower because the moon's gravity is one-sixth of earth's gravity, but that's if the package is mailed between point "A" and point "B" on the moon.

Phil: But Sir, there is no point "B" on the moon....at least for many, many years.

DeJoy: Thanks for your insightfulness, Phil. We didn't think of that. But, by the way, we did realize there would be no airmail postage. There's no air.

Phil: Well, that begs the question, Sir. If a package weighs 1 pound on the Moon and is shipped to earth where it weighs 6 pounds, will it postal rates be charged for one or six pounds?

DeJoy: Maybe we'll just split the difference.

Phil: Will the Moon have a zip code?

DeJoy: Yes, and it will be called a ZAP code with a little cartoon character we call Mr. ZAP.

Phil: Since the moon is an international property, meaning no one country owns it, was the United Nations ever considered for postal operations and not the U.S.A.?

DeJoy: I'm going to let you in on a little secret, Phil. When the U.S.A. lands on the moon again it is going to claim the moon as American property. It will become the 51st state.

Phil: This is a real exclusive! Are you sure of this?

DeJoy: As sure as I am that mail will be delivered same day or night on the moon - because there is only one day and one night on each side. By the way, a name has been chosen for the new moon state.

Phil: Can you let me in on that?

DeJoy: Certainly, *Kamaloht*.

Philatelic Quiz on U.S. Stamps

Dennis Buss

Select the correct answer to the following multiple-choice questions:

1. In 1940 the U.S. Postal Service issued the very popular Famous American set of commemorative stamps. Which of the following was not a famous educator?
Horace Mann; B. Victor Herbert; C. Charles W. Eliot; D. Booker T. Washington
2. In 1982 the Postal Service issued a sheet of 50 stamps depicting State Birds and Flowers from each state. The State Bird and Flower for California are which of the following?
Cardinal & Peony; B; Western Meadowlark & Mountain Laurel; C. Grouse & Poppy;
D. Mountain Bluebird & Syringa.
3. Between 1980 and 1999 the Post Office issued a total of 63 stamps depicting the Great American series of definitive stamps. Which of the following was not a Great American military figure from this definitive set? A. Chester W. Nimitz; B. Claire Chennault;
C. Sylvanus Thayer; D. Grenville Clark.
4. In 1976 the post office issued a 50-stamp sheet of each state flag in order of admission to the union. Which stamp from the following was not among the last four admitted states?
A. Oklahoma; B. New Mexico; C. Hawaii; D. Arizona?
5. Which was the last set of multi-denominational regular issue (definitive) stamps issued by the Postal Service? A. Distinguished Americans; B. The Transportation Series; C: The Prominent Americans Issue; D. The Americana Issue.
6. The regular definitive issue of 1922-1932 was noted for depicting A. An American Indian;
B. An animal; C: The Statue of Liberty; D. All of the previous.
7. George Washington has appeared on more U.S. stamps than any other person. Who was next? A. Thomas Jefferson; B. Benjamin Franklin; C. Abraham Lincoln; D. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
8. The Scott Catalogue initially listed the following person in the 1954 to 1968 Liberty Issue of definitives. However, he was later removed from the Liberty list because the design format of the stamp was inconsistent with the others. Who was he? A. Andrew Jackson; B. Robert E. Lee; C. John J. Pershing; D. Woodrow Wilson.
9. The Liberty Issue replaced the Presidential Issue of 1938. Which was a reason for not doing so? A. Many Presidential stamps did not sell well because the indicated denomination did not serve a useful postal purpose; B. The new stamps would better project American values in the midst of the Cold War; C. The Presidential series served its purpose, a new set of definitives would better respond to new postal needs; D. The Presidential printing plates were worn out.
10. Which of the following figures was not featured as a stamp in the American Literary Arts series that began in 1979? A. John Steinbeck; B. James Baldwin; C. Ayn Rand; D. Margaret Mitchell.

See Answers on Next Page



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, Room #1, 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 information about the club visit our website at <http://www.santarosastampclub.org/home.html>

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The SRSC Newsletter

Members are invited to contribute to the Newsletter. You may submit articles on a philatelic topic that reflects your interest and expertise. Such articles can range from 100 to 500 words. Illustrations are encouraged. You can scan covers and stamps and attach them to your text. Another category of interest entails a short paragraph or two on your favorite stamp, stamp set or cover with a description of why it attracts your interest. Multiple entries are encouraged especially if you have a favorite US stamp as well as those from other countries. You can submit your own stamp autobiography or you can interview a fellow club member and report on how he or she got started in collecting. Send your contributions to Dennis Buss as an attachment to an email (denlyn59@yahoo.com). Microsoft Word format is preferred although I can accept articles in *pdf* format.

Quiz Answers: 1. B 2. C 3. D 4. A 5. A 6. D 7. B 8. C. 9. D 10. D

Attend the WINEPEX stamp show October 7-9, 2022

Novato Oaks-Best Western Inn at 215 Alameda Del Prado Rd., in Novato. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The show features a 9-dealer stamp bourse with video access to virtual stamp exhibits.

For more information about the show including how to submit an exhibit, visit the redwoodempirecollectorsclub.org website.