

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

All within reasonable driving distance are two outstanding stamp shows coming to our area. The first is the annual WESTPEX show that I know has attracted many of our members in the past. If you want to see some first class exhibits WESTPEX is the place to go and if you want to buy stamps the dealer bourse is outstanding. The show is scheduled for April 22-24 at the San Francisco Waterfront Hotel in Burlingame. Second, the annual GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW comes to California this year. Scheduled for August 25-28 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento this national show is jointly sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, the American First Day Cover Society and the American Topical Society. Take this opportunity to attend the premier philatelic event of the year.

Local Post Offices

Paul von Gottfried

One of the things that I like to do is visit post offices in small locales. We have many in Sonoma County. It's a wonderful thing to do on a rainy day. Moreover, these small post offices often have copies of older forever stamps that typically sell out in larger towns and cities. For example, the Graton post office displays all the stamps that are available on a large board facing the entrance.

The Guerneville post office is fascinating. When I entered, there were photos and articles about the town's first postmaster and the history of the post office. I took a couple of pics with my cell phone. The clerk informed me that I wasn't allowed to take pictures inside the post office. I asked to see the postmaster. I informed him of who I was and my purpose in taking the photo. He said the rule was to protect the identity of patrons. There was no one else inside. With that proviso, I was given permission to take a few photos. I was a little surprised to see a picture of Steve Brett in black and white, front and side view, on a document in the lobby. I decided not to take a picture of that because I figured Steve was in enough trouble as it was. Otherwise, the documents and pictures on the wall were fascinating.



The Guerneville post office opened in 1870 and was in a general store. The current post office was built in 1985. It had more post boxes than any Santa Rosa post office. I think the terrain and outlying rural residences had a lot to do with this. It was nice to see the Russian River Historical Society take such an interest in the local post office and its history.

I encourage all of us to check out our outlying post offices. They are often a treasure trove of information. They're a lot of fun also. A good way to safely spend time during the pandemic.

Ask Phil

Dear Phil,

A two-part question:

When was zip code created?

Was it the first postal code utilized to speed the delivery of mail?

Mr. Zippy,

Dear Zippy,

The zip code system was implemented on July 1, 1963. There was some initial resistance, but most people realized that anything that would speed the delivery of mail was a very good thing. It's highly successful and it works. Almost everyone memorized their zip codes quickly. It was expanded to include more numbers, which was especially useful in large urban areas.



No, it was not the first postal code, not even close. Sir Rowland Hill, the originator of a uniform nationwide mail service in 1840, introduced the first postcode, as it is called in Great Britain, in 1856. He divided London into two areas, N(orth) and W(est). I will expand on this subject in the article below. In this case, divide and conquer is a good thing Zippy.

Phil

AKA Paul von Gottfried

The Postcode System of Great Britain

Paul von Gottfried

The first British postcodes were introduced in 1856 in the city of London by Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the first universal postage stamp in 1840. They were used to enhance the speedy delivery of mail in this largest and fastest growing city in Great Britain. Unlike other towns at the time, where postmen knew where all the local addresses were, London was too large to rely on local knowledge only. Hill introduced the very first postcodes in the world so that postmen would know which part of London an address was situated. He divided London into areas denoted by the letters on compass points, e.g. N for North London, W for West London, etc.

During WWI, most of the regular postmen were drafted into the army. The job of sorting and delivering of the mail - like so many other jobs at the time, was undertaken by women. Postcodes became even more important, especially since so many families were separated. It was often the only way for soldiers to communicate with their families. To facilitate delivery, numbers were added to form the London districts, such as N1, N2, etc. This worked so well that other major cities, including Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool soon introduced a similar system.

The first postcodes designed for machine sorting were introduced in 1959. Unlike previous postcodes that were designed to help postal clerks, both men and women to find an address, these postcodes were designed to allow letters to be sorted by machine. Postcodes as we know them today, began to be introduced in other parts of the country in 1966. The postcoding of the entire country was completed in 1974.

A postcode, at its simplest, is a routing instruction for Royal Mail. The group of letters and numbers describes an address anywhere in the UK. It is made up of an outward

code and an inward code. The outward code describes the route a letter will take via the local sorting office. The inward code then determines on which delivery the item will go out.

Example:

Mr. Rowland Hill	Addressee's Name
4 Stamp Road	Number and Street Name
Hoby	Locality name (if required)
MELTON MOWBRAY	POSTTOWN
Leicestershire	County Name (if required)
LE14 3DS	POSTCODE

The Postcode format utilizes some interesting information.

- People can remember a mixture of numbers and letters more easily than a list of numbers.
- Using numbers and letters gives more code combinations. For example, if one were to only use the numbers 0-9, there are 1 million possible combinations for six-character postcodes, by including most of the letters between A-Z, as well as the numbers, there are 48 million different possible Postcodes for the UK. Currently only 1.7 million are used.
- This format enabled those places where codes had already been introduced, like London, to be built upon, instead of introducing an entirely new system.
- On average there are 15 addresses on one postcode.

People utilize different ways to remember their postcodes. A popular method is to think of a phrase around the postcode. For example, the postcode of Stone Henge is SP4 7DE and can be remembered as Stacking Practice for Seven Druid Engineers. The Royal Mail postcode system helps to make it the fastest and best value for the money and helps produce the highest quality service. The Royal Mail has a national phone service, the National Enquiry Line, for customers to find the postcode number for any of the 25 million addresses in the UK. The entire system is designed to deliver the mail in the UK quickly and efficiently.

The Ten Least Valuable Stamps Ever Issued

Stephen Brett

O.K. I'll admit it, I receive daily email correspondence from Don Sundman, CEO of Mystic Stamps. He and I have been good stamp buddies since I sent him a dime for 100 free stamps and approvals. Never did I imagine in my early teens that much of what comprised the 100 "free stamps" would nearly sixty years later in 2022 be worth less than their value in 1964. After all, my Dad's 1956 Olds Holiday Coupe which cost him \$ 50.00 to have towed away in 1963 would now fetch \$35,000. But who's complaining? Don's mixture still sits in my collection and fills spaces.

In today's "IMPORTANT" correspondence from Don, he and his staff announce the ten most valuable stamps ever issued. The way the world is spinning lately I'm definitely not in the mood to celebrate anything. On the other hand, I am prepared to list the World's *least* valuable stamps; stamps so derelict of value that even at current inflation rates, they continue to go down in value. All of the nominees are regular issue stamps (definitives) printed in the millions. After you survey my nominations, you are welcome to write to Dennis Buss with your lists or dispute mine.

Here we go (downhill, without brakes):

TEN OF THE WORLD'S LEAST VALUABLE STAMPS (in descending order, of course)

1. Scott 1035 USA 3 cent Liberty
2. Scott 1278 USA 1 cent Jefferson (same catalogue value mint or cancelled)
3. Scott 277 India 3np brown map of India
4. Scott 539 Hungary 4f ocher Crown of St. Stephen
5. Scott 291 China 2-cent olive green Dr. Sun Yat Sen
6. Scott 221 Germany orange, 5m miner, mint
7. Scott 261 Great Britain 2p light orange, King George 1942 cancelled
8. Scott 294 Great Britain green, 1½p, wmk 298 Queen Elizabeth
9. Scott 190 Norway 5o rose lilac post horn and crown
10. Scott 33 South Africa ½p blue green and black (Afrikaans), springbok

And, speaking of springboks, all the above were available in the 1,000 stamps for \$1.00 at Woolworth's or Kresge's Philatelic Counter in the 60's and 70's. Now, they are a short hop to the Dollar Tree. Wait till Tuesdays, and get the 10% senior discount.



The Criteria for Valueless Stamps

1. It maintains its minimum Scott Value even as a "Gem" with a perfect 100 grading!
2. You will find it in plate block format on stamp dealer mailings. (Note: You know you're a manic collector when you soak it off said mailer).
3. It is often found in shoe boxes and cigar boxes or the penny box stamps at shows.
4. It is always left behind in old cherry-picked albums.
5. Whether a 10-cent album found in a Cheerios Box or "free album" at a fair, you can rely upon a pictured space for this stamp.
6. The USPS paid staff triple overtime to appear at the first day of issue event for this stamp.
7. It has maintained its minimum Scott value for at least 20 Scott Catalog editions.
8. It appears as a stamp-on-stamp Trucial or Burundi issue.
9. The stamp is returned to you after donating it to a charitable organization.
10. The largest holder of the stamp is a Thrift Shop in Camden, New Jersey

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<https://stamps.org>

My Favorite Revenue Stamps

Henry Alker

I specialize in collecting revenue stamps. I find them to be particularly attractive, especially the older examples. Beautifully engraved, they represent early stamp design and production at its finest. The set of four imperforate stamps shown below are examples of trial color essays depicting an image of George Washington. They were printed prior to final release as part of the First Issue series of revenues between 1862 and 1871. The stamps were used to pay a 25-cent tax on official "certificates." The 25-cent red plate version was adopted. The essay is identified by Scott as R44P4 and was printed on card paper. The blue, green, and orange versions were printed on bond paper. Scott identifies them as R44TC5 a, b, & c.



In 1871 the so-called Second Issue series of documentary stamps were released. A few of the most spectacular and high catalogue values were printed in multi-colors. The imperforate pale blue and black block of four 2-cent issue depicting George Washington shown below is also an example of a trial color essay printed on bond paper. It is assigned the Scott number of R104TC5a.



The next item is an example of revenue trial essay on stamped card paper intended for the Department of Internal Revenue. The central image shows a profile of George Washington with a value of 2-cents. However, the Scott specialized US catalogue does not show an image of this stamp under the category of Revenue Stamped Paper indicating that the essay was never adopted.





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, 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.