

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.
APS Chapter 1584



Vol. 2, No. 4

January 2014

Club News

As we move into our third year, the Santa Rosa Stamp Club has continued to grow. Since our inception in January 2012, forty-three stamp collectors have joined our club. Thanks to the good work of Susan Dixon, our treasurer, the club accounts are sound and continue to grow. The comfortable surroundings of the Lodge at Paulin Creek, along with the growing camaraderie among our members, have made our meetings a monthly event to look forward to. The members attending enjoyed our first holiday season lunch at the Cricklewood Restaurant.

We continue to learn about the many facets of stamp collecting from both our member presentations as well as contributions from invited guests. Special thanks go to the following individuals:

- Paul Von Gottfried on collecting the Falkland Islands and Dependencies 1946 map stamps and his presentation on the “key-plate” designs used in British Commonwealth issues.
- Doug Iams on the opportunities and pitfalls of buying and selling stamps on EBay.
- Bob Kirk on the appeal of collecting King George VI era British Commonwealth stamps.
- Dennis Buss on the philatelic artifacts resulting from the 2001 anthrax letter scare.
- Stephen Olsen, an attorney and stamp collector, on the need to have an estate plan for disposing of a collection.

Interspersed among these presentations we held two “show and tell” sessions, conducted a philatelic equipment swap session, shared ideas on dealing with the problems of identifying difficult stamps and of safely mounting stamps, and we

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Membership is open to anyone interested in stamp collecting and who agrees to abide by the club By-Laws. The new member fee is \$10.00 which includes \$5.00 dues for the first year of membership. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lodge at Paulin Creek, 2375 Range Avenue, Building D, Santa Rosa. For information about club membership call: 707- 774 - 6296 or send an email to: srsc2012@yahoo.com

concluded our year with another stimulating philatelic quiz session conducted by George Land.

Our auctions have become increasingly popular as a venue for buying and selling stamps. More lots are selling as members find items that appeal to our collecting interests.

The success of any stamp club depends on the contributions of its members. We encourage you to support the club by making presentations at our monthly meetings, by serving as club officers, by offering lots for sale at our auctions, by writing articles for our newsletter, and by encouraging your collector friends to join.

A Word from Our President



We are pleased that we have received so many guests in the last year. Many have joined the club and have enriched it with their presence. They have helped to make the club more viable and diverse.

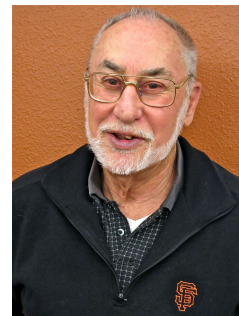
Some guests are interested in getting an appraisal of their collection. The Santa Rosa Stamp Club does not provide formal appraisal. We do not have the expertise to provide authentication of individual items. Individual members are more than welcome to assist guests in assessing and evaluating their stamp collection, but not as a member or representative of the club, only as an individual. The Santa Rosa Stamp Club encourages guests to contact reputable dealers for an appraisal of their collection. Any assessment of a collection brought to our meeting should not be done during our business meeting time. I would suggest that this take place before the official meeting or outside of our club meeting time and format. The influx of new members is encouraging. We welcome all members of our community to attend our meetings and share their stamp collecting interests.

Paul Von Gottfried

Meet Your Club Members

Common Sense

I must have been nine or ten when my parents received a package with three colorful stamps. They were from the 1943 Overrun Nations set, showing the flag of Luxembourg. Dad said these would be a nice beginning if I ever wanted to start a stamp collection. That evening, Dad found me in the kitchen with a paring knife trying to remove them from the wrapper. He showed me how to soak stamps off paper. It was too late for 2 of them, but one was rescued. I still have it. It is mounted on the first page of my album, labeled "My First Stamp."



After eating three *Cherry-A-Lett* candy bars, I mailed the wrappers and received a nice 9"x 6" album. It had spaces for the U.S. Famous Americans complete, AND . . . would you believe . . . the British 1930's Silver Jubilee & Coronations complete! I still have the album . . . but I don't use it anymore. I fit right in because

SRSC Officers	
President	Paul Von Gottfried
Vice President	Don Test
Secretary	Dennis Buss
Treasurer	Susan Dixon
Auctioneer	George Land
Executive Committee Members	
Doug Iams	
Martin Feibusch	
Advertising and Public Relations	
Robert Kirk	
Newsletter Editor	
Dennis Buss	

other neighborhood kids were getting into collecting. (Sometimes, I wonder if any of those kids went back to collecting later, as adults?)

Now, I learned how to save money toward future goals. I received an allowance of 25 cents weekly from my parents. A mere pittance I complained, but my Depression-era parents refused an increase. Lawn-mowing jobs were a bigger source, while I dreamed of buying early U.S. sets from the M.J. Stern Co. My parents gave me a subscription to the *Western Stamp Collector* and now I had news and ads offering stamps way below catalog

value. It arrived twice weekly . . . every Tuesday and Saturday.

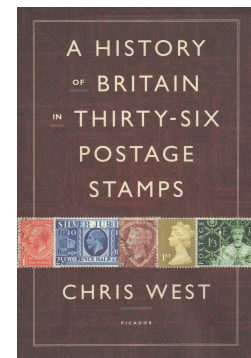
Somehow, I saved \$5.00 and Dad took me downtown to a stamp dealer, “Doc” Salathe. Now I had a REAL album, a Scott’s International Junior, bound with a blue cover and red binding! Loose-leaf was too expensive. But wait . . . time passed and a kid in my 6th grade class had a brother with a loose-leaf International for sale, only \$2.50. I bought it on time payments and now I was King of the Neighborhood!

But the times and young George were changing. It was 1950 and I was 15 years old and ready for high school. I quit my paper route job because it was not cool to ride a bike in high school. The British had just issued UPU commemoratives for all of their colonies. A complete set cost \$28.85 and I sent a down payment of \$10. I still have the letter from the Tribune Stamp Co. confirming that a set was on hold for me. But I never completed the payments and I never received my set. Now my money went for other things and my interests went toward anyone who wore a skirt. Did I ever regain my good senses? Maybe the answer will come someday in another article.

George Land

Book Review

The book stores seem to be filled with them: *A History of the World in 12 Maps*; *A History of the World in 100 Objects*; *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*; *A History of America in 101 Objects*. So it didn’t surprise me that we stamp collectors would get our turn. Chris West’s *A History of Britain in Thirty-six Postage Stamps* (2013) makes the case that every stamp tells a story. His fascinating account of the history of Great Britain since the appearance of the 1840 Penny Black, demonstrates that stamps serve more than a utilitarian function, they also reflect history as it happens. From the rise and fall of the British Empire to the defeat of Hitler, from Victoria’s coronation to the death of Diana, from the first



WESTPEX 2014 STAMP SHOW
Postage Stamps and Postal History for Collectors
April 25-27, San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel

railways and steamships to the advent of computers, West describes how stamps provide insights into British social, economic and political life.

In an easy-to-read style, West makes imaginative connections between the issuance of a particular stamp and the emergence of Great Britain as the world's first industrial power to its current role as an important participant in promoting European unity. One of the thirty-six stamps he selects for analysis is the 1867 5 Shilling Red. It was among the first high value stamps issued by Britain. Why were these stamps needed? Patrons wanted to use the postal system for more than just letters; more and more wanted to ship parcels that contained the products made by the mills and factories of Britain's great industrial "Wealth Machine." In other examples, West demonstrates that the appearance of cheap one-penny postage rates led to what amounts to a communications revolution. In 1839 70 million letters had been mailed. By 1841, after the release of the Penny Black, the figure had gone up to 208 million and by 1850 it was 350 million. Even more astonishing, during the postal life of the 1881 Penny Lilac, 33 billion of these stamps were released!

Choosing both definitives and commemoratives issued between 1840 and 2012, West's ingenious treatment of each of these thirty-six British stamps provides a highly entertaining and informative read that will appeal especially to stamp collectors regardless of specialty. Also of philatelic interest, his appendix provides commentary on the catalog value of the stamps described, hints on collecting them, and information on the varieties available. Highly recommended.

Dennis Buss



SRSC Meeting Program

February 4 Victor Ivashin on Russian Rural Post Zemstvo Stamps
March 4 George Land on the United States C3 Airmail Issue

Newsletter Articles

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. You are encouraged to submit a short biography for the "Get to Know Your Members" feature. Submissions on your collecting interests, ideas on the technical aspects of collecting, reports on visits to philatelic shows, exhibits, libraries, museums, books, etc. are all welcome. Get in touch with Dennis Buss, newsletter editor at 1015 Gailinda Court, Petaluma, CA 94952 or call 707-774-6296 or email at: srsc2012@yahoo.com.