



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

March 7, 2019 marked the 170th anniversary of the birth of Luther Burbank who was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts on March 7, 1849. Burbank moved to Santa Rosa in 1875 where he began his experiments in plant cross breeding. He died at the age of 77 on April 11, 1926 and was buried in an unmarked grave at the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens in Santa Rosa. No doubt many of us have visited this beautiful site situated in the heart of our city. Burbank experimented with the propagation of many types of vegetables, fruits and flowers. Most notable among these were the Shasta daisy, the Santa Rosa plum, the russet Burbank potato and over 500 hybrid roses. The stamp depicting Burbank above was issued on April 17, 1940 as part of the Famous Americans Series that honored scientists, artists, poets, educators, among others.

We are living in a time when the distinctions between truth and fiction seem to be a bit blurred. No doubt you will be able to sort out the differences when it comes to reliable philatelic knowledge when you read the two feature articles in this newsletter. I hope you find them entertaining if not informative.

Ask Phil A. Tellick

Steve Brett and Paul von Gottfried

NOTE: This month I will be your know-it-all Question & Answer man. Cousin Phil won an all-expense paid vacation for two in sunny Venezuela as a home game contestant of Wheel of Fortune. Did you know that Vanna White is a stamp collector?

Yours in pre-cancels,

Bentley A. Page

[Editors Note: Bentley Page is an expert in the pre-cancelled philately of Cape Juby. He is a second cousin, once removed, of our normal (?) Q&A contributor, Phil A. Tellick.

Dear Bentley: As a member of the Cape Juby Stamp Collector Society I take exception to your statement that the Post Master of Villa Bens, capital of Cape Juby, agreed to handle the postal needs of Rio de Oro when it became an extension of Spanish Sahara. Further, Bing Crosby & Bob Hope never set foot on our island – "The Road to Morocco" (Marruecos to those who know anything!) – when filming their "Road" movie.

Signed Jerry Colona.

Dear Jerry: For your knowledge, in 1916 the stamps of Rio de Oro were overprinted and surcharged for use in Cape Juby. The area was ceded to Morocco in 1958 and the last copy of "Road To Morocco" was thrown in a dumpster along with your study of the philately of Cape Juby.



*Dear Bentley: I am a working gal who is passionate about stamp collecting. With whatever free time I have, which isn't much, I like to work with my collection. The problem is, my boyfriend feels neglected and says I spend way too much time on my collection. What do you think?
Signed: "Butterfield" (real name withheld)*

Dear "Butterfield:" I would dare say that your husband feels equally neglected.

*Dear Bentley: I have been toying with the thought of collecting Official Stamps. Do you recommend this area of Philately?
Signed: Nancy P., San Francisco*

Dear Nancy: Your interest "speaks" well of your intellect and perhaps your access to free material. One needn't build a wall around their usual interests. As you may know, "Official" refers to a postage stamp issued for use by a department of government. The world's first official stamps are claimed to be an 1854 issue of Spain. In 1873 the U.S. Post Office Department issued stamps for use by various branches of the government for the first time. Canada's official stamps were first perforated with the letters "OHMS" then overprinted with "O.H.M.S." Later that was changed to just "G." So, you can see that collecting officials can be an intriguing hobby field. I suggest that you begin by collecting Russian Officials. Someone you know collects them and may have some doubles to trade.



*Dear Bentley: Am I seeing things or did I really find a Postage Due Forever Stamp in a Mix from Mystic? I can't find it in my Scott catalogue. I checked Poland.
Signed: Stash W.*

Dear Stash: No, you are not seeing things. The U.S.P.S. is also looking into the advisability of issuing Forever Postage Due Stamps. When was the last time you got correct change from a Millennial? I rest my case.

*Dear Bentley: I have a stamp with the denomination of 50 KURUSH. I can't tell what country issued this stamp. Do you know?
Signed: Fran Bonomo*

Dear Fran: Does it bear the image of KURUSHChev? Just kidding, Fran. Kurush is a unit of currency used by Turkey. Currently, 100 Kurush equals one Lira. Also, it was once used by Hatay. So, 50 Kurush is equal to ½ Lira – enough to purchase one share of PG&E common stock next week.

It has been my pleasure to fill in for Phil this issue. We think he will be returning from his vacation in Venezuela by the next issue—unless, of course, he is made interim President of that country.

Bentley Page

[Editor's Note: Below is a question to Phil that we were unable to include in the last issue of the Newsletter.]

Dear Phil: Like many of us, I get a little more forgetful as I get older. Can't find the remote, can't find my wallet, can't find my cell phone, etc. I'm usually fairly well organized. Now the phone has a find me app. There are bar codes, chips and other technologies helpful for those of us getting older. Recently I had trouble finding my stamps for mailing items. I usually keep them in one place, but I must have moved them. Then it hit me: Why don't they add chips to the sheets (since it's very hard to buy individual stamps at the Post Office) that would make them easier to find? This would solve a lot of problems.

Thanks,

I. R. Smart

Dear Smarty: Hmm, there are so many problems with your suggestion I don't even know where to start. I would suggest you ask your doctor if there is a chip that can be surgically implanted to your brain. By stimulating the chip, you'll stimulate your brain. Then you should be able to find almost anything, including your postage. Let me know if it works. I'll get my wife ('ol what's her name) to try it.

Phil A. Telick

Psst: Did you check the water heater to see if you stored the stamps there?

True Stories

George Land

I always look forward to the writings of your star columnist, Phil Telick, because they're so informative and useful. Of course, I know they are wholesome and accurate, but sometimes I wonder if some of his opinions might be slightly exaggerated? With this in mind, I am sending some stories that are absolutely true in all details. I know this because they happened to me years ago when I was a young philatelist in the 1940's and early 50's.

I was a youthful member of the Long Beach (CA) Stamp Club & attended monthly meetings. One evening at the club auction, I was bidding on a used set of the 1924 U.S. Huguenot-Walloon issue. I was bidding against an older man (probably in his 60's) who was there with his wife. At some point, I heard his wife whisper to him, "stop bidding, he's just a kid." Suddenly, he stopped and I got the lot! I don't have it anymore; I now have a nice MNH set.



At another time, I met a lady at the club (probably in her 60's), who began coming to meetings. Her husband had been a member and now she was a widow. She would bring some of his stock books with MNH U.S. commemoratives from the 1920's and 30's. They were for sale, slightly above face value. Her standard prices for blocks were: 1 cent block, @ 4 cents face + 5 cents = 10 cents. A 2-cent block, @ 8 cents face + 5 cents = 13 cents. A 5-cent block, @ 20 cents face + a nickel = 25 cents. Knowing a good deal, I was buying 1 and 2-cent blocks as fast as I could save my nickels and dimes. I held off buying the 5-cent blocks because they cost a whole quarter & that was a whole weekly allowance from my parents at home.



Finally, I arranged to come to her apartment to see all of her stamps for a "big" purchase. She lived seven miles across town. On Saturday, I got on my bike with all the coins I could scrape together and peddled to her apartment. Answering the door, she apologized sincerely and told me she had sold everything to that part-time dealer at the club, Harry Rickard. Harry and I had one thing in common . . . we both knew a good deal when we saw it. We also had one big difference (besides our age), he had money and I did not. I still have those MNH 1 and 2-cent blocks, they are mounted in my Lighthouse hingeless U.S. album. I don't have the 5-cent blocks, they were too expensive at the time and I never bought any.



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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Paul von Gottfried, Stephen Brett, Dennis Buss, and Susan Dixon

Members At-Large: Jerry Campbell, Barry Sovel and Susanne & Jim Scholz



Members are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter. Whether it is a short piece about an interesting stamp or cover in your collection, a more extended article on some aspect of philately or your stamp collecting autobiography, your submissions are welcome.

See Dennis Buss, the Newsletter editor.

ATTEND WESTPEX 2019

APRIL 26 – APRIL 28

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL

\$5 ADMISSION GOOD FOR ALL THREE DAYS