

# Nevada

P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
in the Sparks Heritage Museum at Pyramid and Victorian Avenue  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



## N.S.S.S.

## POST BOY

October 10, 2009

October is the month of hobgoblins and ghouls and other things to scare the wits out of little kids. We should stick to stamps. October is also the month of stamp collecting and Christopher Columbus.

In November, at the first meeting we will have the **Auction Bucks Auction** where we can finally unload all those auction bucks we've been working all year to earn. For those of you not familiar with auction bucks, you will find a list of ways you can earn them on the last page of this issue. If you are a new member, let me tell you a little about the Auction. Every year at the first meeting in November we forget about stamp collecting and bring with us any and all white elephant items we have that someone else may find useful (or not). Of course, being a stamp club, stamp related objects are preferred but not required. It is bit of insanity but a lot of fun. It is our way of rewarding ourselves for our year's work for the club. Anything you bring is lost to you as we only use auction bucks to bid on the items and those bucks are kept by the club to be recycled to next years workers. Make an effort to come to this meeting, even if you only come to watch.

I received a message from **Barbara Diederichsen** and promised to pass it on to all of you. Here it is;

**Ray and Barbara Diederichsen would like to thank NSSS for the cards of sympathy regarding our son, Jim. Your thoughts and prayers are helping us as we heal from our loss.**

**Thanks!**

**Barbara Diederichsen**

This month we had a very interesting program and I hope to see this happen again. Instead of having one person stand up and give a presentation **Charles White**, our program director had several people take the floor and show and talk about their "favorite thing." Very informative and entertaining. A big thanks to all who participated.

Our new president has informed us that in order to fulfill the requirements of the bylaws, the board will meet at the end of our next club meeting on the tenth.

The Christmas party is ready to go and will be held in the usual place on the second Saturday of December. The usual place is the Masonic Temple. address is 601 W. Peckham. More details will be given in the next issue.

We are getting a road trip for SACAPEX. See Stan or John Walter, Chuck White or Howard.

**East Bay Collectors Club** stamp show will be held on Oct. 24-25 at the Walnut Creek Civic Center, 1375 Civic Dr.

**SACAPEX** is coming on Nov. 7-8 in Sacramento at the Scottish Rite Temple at 6151 H Street.  
<http://sps.nfshost.com/>

**Filatelic Fiesta** will be held again this year on Nov. 13-15 at the Santa Clara County Fair Grounds. for more details, go to <http://www.filatelicfiesta.org/>



## What's Wrong with this Stamp?

At one of the meetings of the club I bought a collection of Spanish stamps. I went through the collection and selected the stamps that fit into my collection and decided to sell the rest. It was while I was scanning that I noticed this stamp was a little different but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. What was wrong with it? What made it different?

The stamp is from the Spanish Sahara and is listed as Scott #66. It was issued on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Geographical Society. The description of the picture says that it's an "Allegorical Figure and Globe" and the 35 centimos is a slate green. No further description is given, nor is there any clue as to what makes this stamp stand out.

I went back to the first scan I made to see if anything jumped out at me to give me some idea what I was looking for. Then I saw it. The shadows were all wrong. Look at the area between the figure's right arm and her body. That shouldn't be light, it should be dark. My scanner has a button that allows me to reverse the light and dark areas in a scan. Its called "Invert." It turns a positive picture into a negative picture, or in this case the opposite. It seems the Allegorical figure (and globe) was printed as a negative.

On the right is the result of "inverting" the scan. It gives a completely different outlook on the stamp and makes one wonder why it was printed this way? Was it an accident that nobody caught? Maybe it was caught after the first 5 billion stamps were printed and they decided to ignore it in the hopes no one else would notice. In any case, we have another small philatelic mystery on our hands. Perhaps one day we will find the answer. By the way, there are two more stamps in the set with the inverted image.



## The Classifieds

This September of the American Philatelist has an article called Declassifying the Classifieds (by Ada M. Prill) in which it defines the terms used in those ads. I disagree with one of those definitions but the rest seem pretty accurate so I will pass them on for those of you who don't get the Philatelist.

**Mixtures;** These usually have a lot of duplicates. Mission mixtures, that used to come from stamps donated to religious organizations and resold for the benefit of charities, are often sold by private businesses or individuals. The term has become generic. They come in batches that are both on and off paper. On paper means you will have to soak some stamps. Off paper means you won't. Most stamps will be common and you won't fill a lot of spaces. *Bank mixtures* are different. There are more high value and foreign stamps. They don't necessarily come from banks though.

**Packets;** Usually all different stamps from a specified country or topic. Don't expect rare stamps here unless the packet maker missed one. Watch out for inflated claims like 1000 stamps, \$200.00 value. That just means they are all .20 cent stamps. They should be priced accordingly.

**Lots;** These are generally a grab-bag of stamps, covers pages and whatever else the seller is trying to get rid of. There can be some good finds in a lot and you may be able to fill many spaces in your album. There are no guarantees here. Some sellers refer to these as "floor sweepings." Most of the time new collectors will find many things of interest in the lot but, still, there will be quite a bit that is not needed or wanted. If you select the lot you buy carefully you may be able to sell the leftover for what you paid for the lot. But, if you don't get all your money back, the difference is what you paid for the stamps you want. If you are a packrat, it's a god way to fill your stamroom quickly. It's best to go through them right away and sell off what you don't need.

This is the one I disagree with. A "lot" can be (in auction terms) anywhere from one stamp to a housefull of stamps. Perhaps this is somewhat accurate for the definitions being offered here.

**Collections;** This covers a wide range of possibilities. It might be an album, a series of stamps from a country, pages of stamps or retired sales books, among other things. Read the ad carefully to be sure it's what you want to buy.

**Approvals;** This one usually starts with a "free" or low value offer. They will honor the offer and send you more stamps you can select from or they will give you a discount for buying them all. The first approvals will be low value stamps followed by better items once the seller feels he can trust you. This is a convenient way to buy stamps but you have to come up with the return postage (most of the time).

There are other terms offered in this article that are sometime confusing, though

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<http://www.stampboards.com/>



Stampboards is a place to go to get your questions about your stamps answered, if you can't get it answered at the club. One thing I like about this site is the opening statement; "No Spyware - No Pop-Up Ads - Anywhere on this Site!" And its in bright red.

This is a "forum" board where anything about stamps, any stamps, can be discussed. To participate you have to join up, which, I imagine, would consist of giving your name, creating a "username" and a password. If you don't want to join you can still read the postings and learn everything you need to know about stamps.

Should you choose to join, the first "board" on the chat board is a place to go to learn how the whole thing works. This includes how to use what's available, the "rules" and a place to introduce yourself. Once you pass through the crucible you're free to indulge yourself on any of the other areas of the board.

The first of those other areas is called "Discuss stamps and \*anything\* at all happening with stamps". When you click on that one (and most of the other topics) it takes you to a similar page that starts off with some general information on how to post. Then topics such as "Naughty Uglies, Fakes/Forgeries" and "The best Volcanos on Stamps." This is followed by the author of the post, the number of replies and views (how many people read it) and a glimpse of the last post. Each topic is called a thread. So, choose a thread and jump in.

There are many subjects you can choose from such as "Sell or Give away Supplies", "Stamp Auction Related Discussion" and "Share your Stamp Images" but my favorite is "You Ask the Question - Someone will have the answer." The picture to the right comes from that section.

You may have guessed by now that I like this site. It is entertaining, if you want entertainment or more serious if that's what you need. There are many more topics than I have mentioned here. There is a place for coin lovers and even a place to talk about nothing, not even stamps. It's called "The Water Cooler" Take a visit to this one, I think you'll love it as much as I do.



All this traveling around the world makes me tired so, this month, back to the good 'ole USA!

1. The Iwo Jima Memorial appears on a 1945 stamp. In what city will you find that memorial?  
A) Philadelphia, PA                      B) Richmond, VA                      C) Washington DC
2. Who's picture appears on the first Confederate stamp?  
A) George Washington                      B) Thomas Jefferson                      C) Jefferson Davis
3. What sport is shown on the Lake Placid issue of 1932?  
A) Snow boarding                      B) Ice skating                      C) Skiing
4. What anniversary of football is marked by a 1969 stamp?  
A) 50th                      B) 75th                      C) 100th
5. The World's Fair in what city was the subject of a 1958 stamp ?  
A) Seattle                      B) Tokyo                      C) Brussels
6. In what year were the first US Christmas stamps issued?  
A) 1952                      B) 1962                      C) 1972
7. A 1949 airmail marks the 200th anniversary of which American city?  
A) Richmond, VA                      B) Petersburg, VA                      C) Alexandria, VA
8. A stamp issued in 1955 showing the Great Lakes and two steamers marked the centenary of what event?  
A) Opening, Panama Canal                      B) Opening, Macy's                      C) Opening, Soo Locks
9. What is shown on the Canal Zone Postage dues of 1932-41?  
A) A Panama hat                      B) The Canal                      C) Canal Zone seal
10. The Missouri Sesquicentennial issue featured a painting called "Independence and the Opening of the West." Who was the artist?  
A) Benjamin West                      B) Grant Wood                      C) Thomas Hart Benton

Bonus question: Can you earn auction bucks by selling monkeys to madmen?

This is an easy enough quiz for you, especially for the newcomers. It is one way to earn some extra auction bucks for next month's Auction Bucks auction. Try it out, earn 110 bucks (if you get them all right and maybe you can win enough to outbid everybody on that inverted Jenny, if someone brings one in!

India has one of the oldest cultures on the face of the earth, second only to China. It is also one of the most interesting countries. Its earliest civilization was established in the Indus Valley about 4500 years ago.

1. B. As it is with most British colonies, the first stamps pictured Queen Victoria who reigned during the greatest colonial expansion Great Britain had ever known. This is why it was said, The sun never sets on the British Empire.

2. A. The East India Trading Company created the first stamps issued in India. This company started business in India in the early 1600s and continued in business for over 265 years.

3. B. #232 pictured the extinct stegadon, an early form of elephant to celebrate the Geological Survey of India in 1951.

4. A. The lotus Blossom is shown on #252 along with the UN emblem for United Nations Day in 1954.

5. B. The fiftieth anniversary of airmail is celebrated with a stamp showing the Boeing 707 and a biplane on #336.

6. C. Issued on June 12, 1964, #388 pictures Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

7. C. The stylized, upraised hand of Buddha from a ninth century sculpture is shown on #564, issued on November 3, 1972.

8. C. A stamp was issued (#768) on October 12, 1977 for the INPEX Philatelic Exhibition showing a 19th century postman.

9. B. Only one airmail stamp was issued in 1948 (#C7). This one pictured a Lockheed Constellation.

10. B. A stamp was issue on December 4, 1979 for the International Atomic Energy Council. It shows a Dove, though I think the cuckoo would be more appropriate.

Bonus question. Mr. Zip is shown in two positions on the labels issued with the sheets. In the vertical format he is running.

Hope you did well on this quiz. Its one of the last opportunities to score some bucks for the auction next month. The quiz on the other side of this page will be the last chance to get your bucks for this year so make sure you get it in early.

we are familiar with most of them.

**Off paper;** these are stamps that have been soaked or are CTOs (canceled to Order). CTOs are stamps that have never seen postal use and usually still have their original gum.

**HV;** HV stands for high value and are often CTOs. Having never seen postal usage their actual value is questionable. If this is what you like, it's your collection but I wouldn't pay a lot for them.

**Dunes;** This refers to stamps issued by many Arabic countries such as Sharjah, Manama, and Ras al Khaima. They issued these stamps only for collectors. Most have never been in the country of issue and those that are used are CTOs. Postally used stamps are somewhat rarer and covers almost non-existent. They are pretty stamps and good for collectors who want them. Another term, though derisive, that is used to describe stamps that are issued for collectors and not postal use is wallpaper.

**IC;** This refers to Iron Curtain, stamps issued by countries that were a part of the Soviet Union. Like the dune stamps many were issued only for collectors and never saw postal usage. The unused stamps usually command a small premium as they were available to be used for letters. Most used stamps are CTOs, even the definitives. Covers can be worth a little more but are often philatelic.

**Cinderellas;** These are labels and were never issued or used for postal purposes. Generally, they are stamps meant for charities, events or advertisements, not necessarily commercial advertisements. Christmas or Easter Seals are a good example of charitable cinderellas. There are some that advertise paper or stamp-making companies. These are commercial. Some advertise stamp events or clubs and others advertise a religion or religious event. They can also be political and say things like "I Like Ike". Anybody can issue a Cinderella, even you.

**MNH;** I think we are all aware of this one but, just in case, it refers to gum that is undisturbed by hinged marks.

**LQ/SQ;** These are only for stamps from Canada. They refer to the early issues from that country. LQ means "Large Queens", while SQ means "Small Queens". Other countries may use different terms so ask the seller before you buy.

**SS;** This is an easy one. It means Souvenir Sheet, even if it's a miniature sheet, which is not a souvenir and different from a souvenir sheet.

**BOB;** Back of the Book. Any stamp which is not a regular issue for basic postage. They might be airmail, semipostal, postage due or a range of other items.

**SCV;** Refers to Scott Catalog Value, or what catalog was used to give value to the stamp. As opposed to the Michel, Yvert or Sanabria.

These definitions have been paraphrased for this article and may not be what the original author intended. Read the original article by Ada M. Prill from the Philatelist to know exactly what was meant. That article is longer and the definitions are in greater detail.

## **AUCTION BUCKS 2009**

The purpose of the Auctions Bucks Program is to involve NSSS members in the club's activities.

The 2009 Auction Bucks Auction (Philatelic and "White Elephant") will be held on 14 Nov, 2009.

You may earn extra Bucks by following these rules ammended for the 1999 year based on member input.

1. Providing a new member----- 200 Bucks
2. New member ("Jump Start" bonus)----- 250 Bucks
3. Providing a program ----- 150 Bucks per subject
4. Providing refreshments ----- 100 Bucks
5. Selling door prize tickets ----- 25 Bucks
6. Donating door prizes ----- 5 Bucks each (limit 5)
7. Providing Auction item----- 5 Bucks each (limit 5)
8. Donated items for the good of the club -----Same # of Bucks as Auction yields  
or equal to value of the item
9. Officer's Board meeting----- 50 Bucks
10. Comittee Chair attending meeting----- 25 Bucks
11. Club Member attending meeting----- 10 Bucks
12. Meeting room set up or down----- 5 Bucks each
13. Helping on the youth programs----- 10 Bucks per hour
14. Helping on an organized show----- 10 Bucks per hour
15. Any club activity ( except meetings)----- 10 Bucks per hour
16. Providing original Post Boy articles----- 100 Bucks - 1/2 page  
(may be edited) One page limit----- 200 Bucks - 1 page
17. Correct Post Boy answers----- Bucks vary per issue
18. Penny box donations----- .02 Bucks per stamp

- Members (that's you) You will be responsible for turning in "outside" meeting activities hour values to a "Buck" chairperson. Please count your Penny Box donations too.
- Auction Bucks will be distributed monthly.
- You may carry Auction Bucks over from a previous year's earnings.
- Bucks may be used to buy or sell philatelic items between members.
- Bucks may be purchased: 500 Bucks for \$10.00 (real Money).

GETTING INVOLVED IN NSSS ACTIVITIES IS THE BEST WAY TO EARN BUCKS !!!

**GET INVOLVED !!**