

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

This cover commemorates the historic meeting of the Cunard Lines three Queens in New York on January 13, 2008.

Celebrating our 41st anniversary, we were on board for one leg of QE 2's last around-the-world cruise that year.

This cover could only be purchased on board the three ships.



ISLE OF MAN POST OFFICE OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER

THE HISTORIC MEETING OF
THE MOST FAMOUS OCEAN LINERS IN THE WORLD™
QUEEN ELIZABETH 2, QUEEN MARY 2 AND
QUEEN VICTORIA - NEW YORK, 13TH JANUARY 2008

The cover is franked with an Isle of Man souvenir sheet which has individual stamps for each ship Queen Elizabeth 2, Queen Mary 2 and Queen Victoria.

The orders were filled by the Isle of Man postal service, and mailed to each recipient well after they returned home.

The QM 2 and Queen Victoria remain in service.

In October, 2008, QE 2 made its last voyage to Dubai where it was turned over to its new owner, Makeel, a division of Dubai World.

Plans are under way to refit the ship and make it a floating hotel, museum and convention facility for Dubai.

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Although I'm primarily a stamp collector, we often find ourselves headed off into the world of covers (envelopes) and postcards.

I decided to attend a local antiques & collectibles show at the Reno Fair Grounds to look for postcards to help complete two exhibits.

While browsing through a group of illustrated cards featuring children, I ran across this card that was sent through the U.S. mails in 1913.

This is a young boy with BIG ideas. Maybe he's the next Warren Buffet or Donald Trump.

The copy on the card front reads:

"THERE! I GUESS THAT WILL DO"



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

These covers were cancelled on the last day of service (June 11, 1938) in the now submerged Post Office in the town of Saint Thomas.

As the waters behind the new Boulder (now Hoover) Dam lapped at the steps, the Postmaster reportedly threw his cancelling device out into the waters.

If the long drought in Nevada persists, the device, the Post Office Building and perhaps what remains of the entire town may rise ghost like out of Lake Meade:



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

This postcard from fall 1946 spells out just why so many people re-locate to Nevada, especially those from the tax crazy micro-managers in California State Government.



BUT, lest we Nevadans whether native or trans-planted become complacent, watch out for those “public service” union people (like teachers) and those weak-kneed pols in Carson City who are constantly probing and dreaming up new ways to circumvent our State’s Constitutional money grabbing tax protections.

They dearly love to squander your hard earned money on some hair-brained idea and then march to the TV camera and brag about how government has “saved” us from some trumped up phony-baloney problem or boogey-man.

These people love tell us it is all “for the children” and then pee it away on schemes that only fatten their larders, buy votes, and dig deeper into our lives and liberties with their rules and regulations intended to micro-manage our businesses and lives from cradle to grave.

One of My Favorite Things

The vertical postcard shows the 36 foot figure of "Last Chance Joe" as he appeared in front of John Ascuaga's Nugget casino hotel in Sparks starting in May 1958, in Sparks, Nevada.

Ownership of the Nugget changed fairly recently and "Joe" was without a home.

The horizontal layout shows "Joe" today, rescued and standing proudly outside the Sparks Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.

Other than a few color changes, "Joe" remains a symbol of fun and western hospitality.



This 36 ft. high statue of "Last Chance Joe", symbol of Western fun and hospitality at the NUGGET CASINO AND MOTOR LODGE, stands majestically beside the main casino entrance in Sparks, Nevada (3 miles East of Reno).



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Stamp Packets like this are a "voice" from the past when many of us were just beginning to collect.

Packets like these were sold by stamp departments in retail stores from Five & Dime (Dime Stores), Variety Stores and even larger local and chain Department Stores.

The bigger stores had their own coin and stamp concessions where packets of stamps and coins were displayed under glass, or in boxes where customers could browse.

Think back to those days when the big question we all had to answer for ourselves was – with my allowance do I buy an ice cream cone, the latest Archie comic book or add to my stamp collection.

Here is what you might have decided to buy for a dime:



A FEW OF MY LEAST FAVORITE THINGS

Back around 2000 or perhaps it was 2001, I was thinking about getting my feet wet in the world of philatelic exhibiting. From the time I was a young boy lying in bed at night listening to the freight locomotives straining to climb a hill in our town, trains were source of fascination and what dreams were made of.

These stamps come from a topical "collection" in three stock books purchased from a dealer's ad in Linn's.

The books were offered at something like \$35.00 each or the lot at \$100.00 plus shipping.



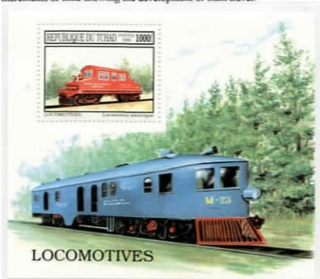
What a way to jump start my move into a collection of train stamps, and hopefully an exhibit.

On examination, the stock books contained a lot of stamps as advertised.

Most are from small African and Asian countries, "Sand Dune" countries with no railroads, or islands so small you could throw a stone from the ocean on one side into the ocean on the other side.

This doesn't necessarily mean that the stamps don't belong in a collection, but overall it was a bit disappointing.

Now, how can I cast these into an interesting exhibit; steam versus diesel, or the evolution of locomotives, or select a specific type of engine and attempt to find all the stamps that depict it, or display them in ten or twenty five year increments of time showing the development of train travel.



Well, here we are "X" years later. The stock books remain on the shelf (less the stamps shown on this page) undisturbed since I placed them there.

Anybody got a good idea for an exhibit? Anybody wanna buy them? I'll make you a screaming deal!

A Few of My Favorite Things

An interest in the old V & T (Virginia & Truckee) RR, has led to a small collection of RPO (Railroad Post Office) cards and covers. Early in 2007 at the Easter Seals stamp show in Sacramento, I was going through a dealer's group of RPO covers when I was stunned to see this cover:



What makes this cover special?

The condition is fine given it is 125 years old. The stamp at 2 cents is not unusual. The RPO cancel partially runs off the top of the cover, but reads in part DEM ____AN FRAN which probably translates to Deming, NM and San Francisco, CA which would have been on a branch line of the Southern Pacific RR.

The addressee is Mrs. J. S. Casement in Painesville, Ohio, and the sender is J. S. Casement with a return address in Mexico.

To those who have read Stephen Ambrose's *"Nothing Like It in the World"* or other books on the subject of the first US transcontinental railroad, the name John S. "Jack" Casement is quite prominent.

Casement and his brother Daniel were hired by the chief engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad General Grenville M. Dodge. Daniel Casement handled all of the financial transactions for the acquisition of materials and payroll for the workers, while Jack was in charge of the actual construction.

They were hired on for the work between Fremont, Nebraska and completion at Promontory, Utah.

Jack went on to become president of seven different railroads including the Texas & Pacific, and nine railroad construction companies.

The return address is San Antonio, Sonora, Mexico in late 1883, so Jack was probably there as a consultant or in conjunction with one of his railroad construction companies.

The mystery is how the letter came to be franked with a US stamp and carries an US RPO cancel, when the return address is for a town near Guaymas on the Gulf of California.

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

This cover is addressed to H. M. Yerington as President of the Inyo Development Co. in Carson City from the Assistant Superintendent of the Carson & Colorado Railway Co. (C & C) in Hawthorne.

Yerington was also the Superintendent of the C & C and of the Virginia & Truckee Railway (V & T) which was the parent company of the C & C.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum (NSRM) in Carson City was the first of the three state railroad museums, and is often referred to as "The Virginia & Truckee Division". Much of the rolling stock is vintage equipment from the V & T and the Archives are brimming with V & T documents from tickets and bills of lading to correspondence.

Much of the correspondence to and from Yerington is held in the NSRM Archives, the University of Nevada Reno library, and the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

This piece was acquired for a modest price from a stamp dealer from California who probably had no idea who Yerington was or the importance he had to the V & T, Virginia City, Carson City and for that matter all of northern Nevada.

As an eight year volunteer at NSRM, and member of the Board of Trustees, I'm pleased to own at least one small piece of history



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Just when do we collectors and accumulators flirt with the idea of having some Zeppelin stamps and/or covers?



A complete set
from Iceland

For me, I was in my mid 20's, beyond military service and before marriage and a family. No mortgages and no station wagon payments. In other words, when I had some "beer" money, or make that "Zepp" money.



And, it was before knowing that this area of philately can quickly become very pricey, especially covers.



It didn't take long before I abandoned this collecting area. But, there are still some remainders and reminders floating around in various album nooks and crannies, and as shown here.

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

HISTORY DENIED

Since 1893, the U.S. Postal Service has been designing issuing stamps to commemorate significant events, places and people in American history.

After protests from Japanese Government officials and intervention by President Clinton, the Postal Service reluctantly rescinded a planned stamp commemorating the swift conclusion of the War in the Pacific through the use of atomic bombs.

THIS IS THE ONLY COMMEMORATIVE STAMP EVER RESCINDED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.

Ironically, the announcement was made on December 7, 1994, exactly 53 years to the day after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

The stamp on the cover below is a "cinderella" commemorative stamp that was created in place of the rescinded stamp to honor the sacrifices made by a generation of Americans.

The cover bears the signature of Paul Tibbets who piloted the "Enola Gay" on the historic atomic bomb run on Hiroshima.

Commemorating the Allied victory over Japan



50th Anniversary
End of World War II
1945 - 1995



Atomic bombs end WW II

FIRST DAY OF NON ISSUE

Paul Tibbets

Pilot, B-29 "Enola Gay"
Hiroshima, Japan 6 August, 1945

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

This is an example of U.S. diplomatic pouch mail. The cover was sent from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to Washington, D.C. and then on to Petersburg, N. J.

As per diplomatic mail rules, the cover is franked with postage of the country where it originated. In this case, the cover is franked with Germany 501 and tied by the cancel and "football" December 20, 1940 in Washington, D.C.



LEGEND OF BAGHDAD

MOHAMMED SAAED AL-SAHAF
IRAQI INFORMATION
MINISTER



"I will hit Bush with a shoe!"

"We are defeating these infidel dogs"

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

These "cinderella" Iraqi souvenir sheets were created strictly for fun built around inane (or perhaps insane) remarks from the Iraqi Information Minister.

*"God will roast their stomachs
in hell at the hands of the Iraqis"*
Mohammed Saad al-Sahaf



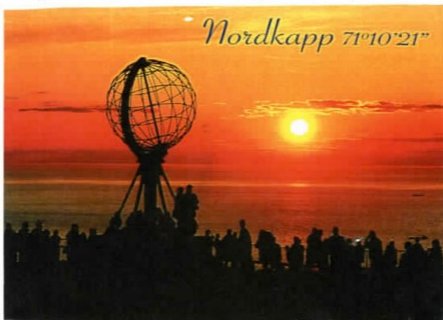
BUNKERPEX 2003



BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

The large metal sculpture is shown at Nordkapp, Norway 71 degrees 10'21"



This photo was taken on the longest day of the year at the northern-most point in Europe. The sun is about to seemingly "touch" the earth before re-bouncing which which results in there being 24 hours of daylight – no night.

Norge, Nordkapp 71°10'21"N, Europas nordligste punkt.
North Cape 71°10'21"N, The northernmost point of Europe.

SENT FROM THE
NORTHERN MOST
POST OFFICE IN
THE WORLD!



NEA, Trondheim, Tel. 71 81 81 81 - Post One Point Service

N555

9/0 STANCENJAH
10,000 GME SPURLE
ROAD
RENO, NV 89511-
5751

USA



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

As one who collects covers and cards with R. P. O. (*Railroad Post Office*) cancellations, I have run across items with H. P. O. in the same dealer boxes.

H. P. O. stands for *Highway Post Office*. These operated throughout the country using trucks and bus-like vehicles dedicated solely to processing the mails.

Here are two H. P. O. s that managed to creep into my small collection of R. P. O. covers and cards:

