

# Post Boy



May 2020  
Volume 53, Issue 5

MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 A.M.  
**ON-LINE VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR APRIL AND MAY. SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.**

### **Officers:**

**President** - Harvey Edwards  
[president@renostamp.org](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

**Vice President** - Gary Atkinson  
[vp@renostamp.org](mailto:vp@renostamp.org)

**Secretary** - John Walter  
[secretary@renostamp.org](mailto:secretary@renostamp.org)

**Treasurer** - Erik Fields  
[treasurer@renostamp.org](mailto:treasurer@renostamp.org)

### **Directors:**

George Ray

Paul Glass  
[membership@renostamp.org](mailto:membership@renostamp.org)

Dave Gehringer  
[dave@renostamp.org](mailto:dave@renostamp.org)

Howard Kadohiro  
[director@renostamp.org](mailto:director@renostamp.org)

Howard Grenzebach  
[director2@renostamp.org](mailto:director2@renostamp.org)

**PB Editor & Webmaster**  
John Walter  
[editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

[www.RenoStamp.org](http://www.RenoStamp.org)  
PO Box 2907,  
Sparks, NV 89432

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

1. Announcements
2. Post Boy Reporter
3. Sad Messages from the Past
4. Boule de Moulins
5. How About Stamp Values in Potatoes?
7. Quiz - Republic of China
8. Buy Want Sell Trade
9. Vassar Post Office Display
10. Philatelic Themed Face Covering

### **Announcements**

#### **On-line (virtural) club meetings in May:**

**May 9 - Time:** 10:00 AM Pacific Time      **Topic:** NSSS May 9  
Clicking the link below will start a download of "Zoom.exe" to your computer, notebook, phone or any device that connects to the Internet. The link will log you in automatically and put you in a "waiting room" until the meeting starts. If you already downloaded the app, then only the Meeting ID and Password are needed.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86395304824?pwd=QWxHQk1uamxMOGcydFhIYUxsUVFIUT09>

Click on - **Join Zoom Meeting**    **Meeting ID:** 863 9530 4824  
**Password:** stamps

**May 23 - On-line virtual meeting using Zoom app.** The instructions are the same as above except the Meeting ID and Password will change. They will be emailed a few days before the May 23 meeting.

The Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 25-26, 2020, is still being planned. If you need a philatelic project, consider making a few My Favorite pages to exhibit at the show. There are examples on the club website: <http://renostamp.org/exhibits.html>

The stamp club has had three on-line virtual meetings and they all went very well. Please make plans to attend the next meeting on May 9. The final decision to have our July stamp show will be made at this meeting.

It's nice to see fellow members in their home environment, staying safe. At our last meeting **Gary Atkinson** had a bag of donuts to share, but we could not figure out how to get them to other members through Zoom. Sign in on May 9 and have some philatelic fun.

You do not need a camera or microphone to participate. A desktop computer works fine. Use chat button to ask questions or make comments.

## Post Boy Reporter

**April 11 virtual meeting - Harvey Edwards** conducted the meeting via Zoom with 9 attendees. Members with any type of Internet connection can attend, even using your smart phone. Instructions on connecting to the video conference are emailed before each meeting.

**Harvey Edwards** announcements: Still need volunteers for Program Chair and Nomination & Election Chair. The USPS has canceled all First Day Ceremonies for new issue stamps through mid-May. There is a critical fall-off in mail across the country, especially in advertising mail. The Postmistress has asked for immediate help from Congress as the USPS "will not survive the summer."

**Erik Fields** reported the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 25-26, is still being planned. Printed post cards for the show are available with 3,000 printed. Two dealers have committed with two more highly likely. The final decision about the show will be made at the May 9 meeting.

**John Walter** attended virtual town hall meeting on April 9 with APS Executive Director and NSSS member **Scott English**. The APS is closed temporarily with many employees working from home and available via email. Everyone now has Free access to APS journals from 2008 to present and the APRL publication from 2018 to present. There are also over 500,000 searchable pages of philatelic journals, literature and exhibits available. Live and archived Stamp Chats and YouTube videos are available. No new expertizing certificates will be sent with current material in secured area. No new submissions for expertizing is being accepted. No circuit books are being sent but OK to pay for purchases and send current circuit books back to APS. The Stampstore is open for orders and payment with some shipment delays. The Great American Stamp Show, Aug. 20-23, in Hartford, Ct is still on. [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org) more info.

**April 25 virtual meeting - Harvey Edwards** presided at the meeting with 12 attendees. Some of the reports: Stamp show chair, **Erik Fields**, reported 3 paid dealers and probably 2-3 local dealers are committed. **Harvey Edwards** showed two possible show cancels for the Carson City Mint 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passage. Discussion about facial covering and especially social distancing would make the show a challenge. A final decision for having the stamp show will be made at the May 9 meeting.

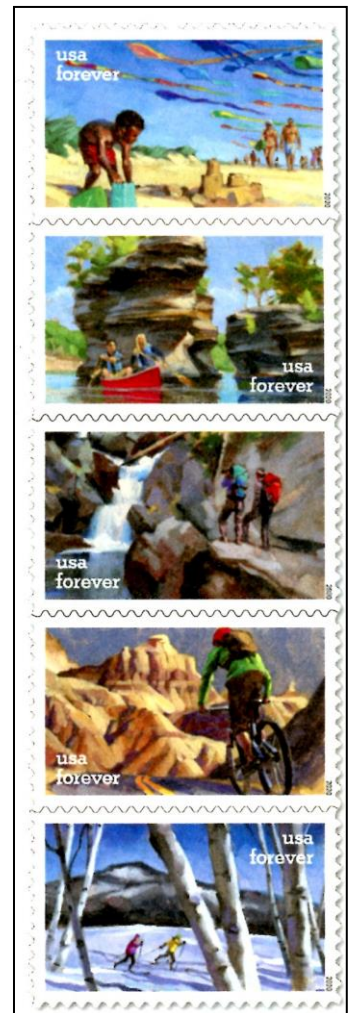
**John Walter** volunteered to Chair the Nominations and Elections Committee. Candidates are needed for the Vice-President, Secretary and two Directors. Three members have volunteered for three of the positions. Someone is still needed for the V-P position. A volunteer is still needed for Program Chair.

**Harvey Edwards** reported the first day of issue, June 13, for the Enjoy the Great Outdoors stamps will be in Incline Village, NV. The set of five stamps features outdoor activities celebrated by individuals and families: building a sandcastle, canoeing, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic many countries have "Service Disruptions" for overseas mail; over 100 countries affected as of April 27. Many free stamp collecting videos are on YouTube with access through the APS website, <https://stamps.org/>



**Harvey's happy face on computer screen conducting the meeting. The background picture is outside Doolan's Pub in Cobh, Ireland.**



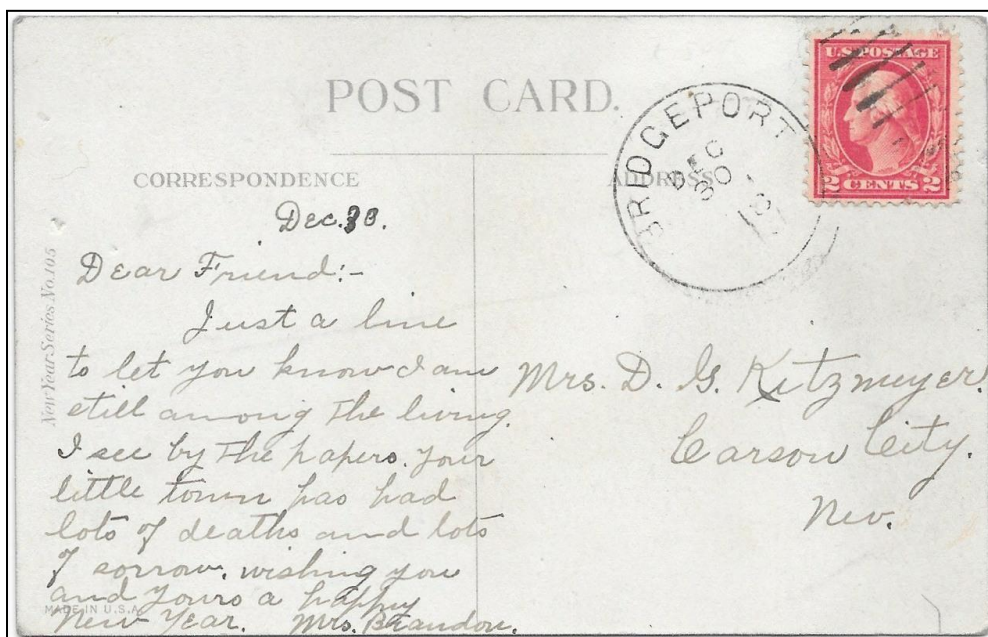
## Sad Messages from the Past

By Mike Del Grosso

As we endure a worldwide pandemic and all the inconveniences on our daily lives and our economy there were similar pandemics in the past. The "Spanish flu" of 1918-19 is noteworthy. It killed an estimated 50,000,000 worldwide and approximately 675,000 in the United States. That at a time before all the medical advances and other amenities modern life has made available for us.

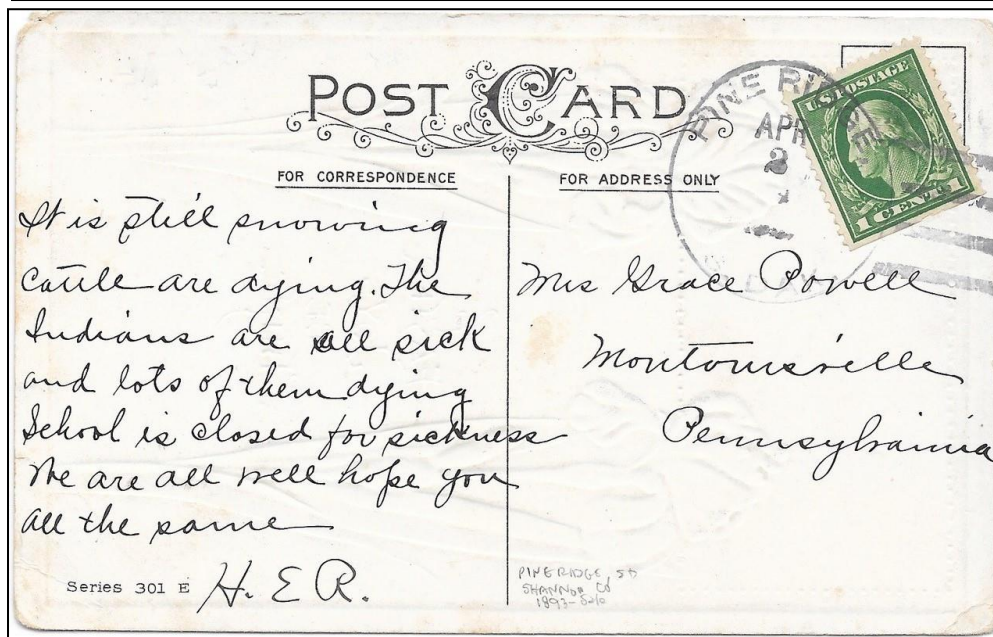
The two postcards illustrated here have messages that speak of the misery at the time of that major pandemic. The first a card mailed from Bridgeport, California to Carson City, dated December 30, 1918. The message:

"Dear Friend: Just a line to let you know I am still among the living. I see by the papers your little town has had lots of deaths and lots of sorrow. Wishing you and yours a happy New Year. Mrs. Brandon"



The second card is mailed from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, located on the Oglala Sioux Reservation, and mailed to Montoursville, Pennsylvania. The postmark date on the postcard is April 2 with the year not clear but the card is from the era when the flu pandemic occurred. If not then, the message still speaks of the impacts diseases our ancestors had to contend with in the not too distant past. The message on the card reads:

"It is still snowing cattle are dying. The Indians are all sick and lots of them dying. School is closed for pictures. We are all well hope you are the same. H.E.R."



**Mike Del Grosso** is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society who has a passion for collecting post card postmarks. He is a museum board member of the Post Mark Collectors Club. More information available at <http://postmark.org/>

# Boule de Moulins

By Emmanuel Gps



A Boule de Moulins (Moulins ball) was an attempt to transport mail from outside the city during the Siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.

According to the three inventors "it was a hollow zinc sphere, about the size of a human head and fitted with fins which would have rolled on the bottom of the Seine, passing under the nets of the Prussians."<sup>1</sup>

Pigeons, hot air balloons and floating devices had been tried but shot down or intercepted.

As mail using this means was previously centralized in Moulins where they were fabricated, these balls were said "of Moulins."

The Boules de Moulins, 55 total sent, were filled with 400 to 500 letters each then immersed in the Seine largely upstream of Paris. "Driving" on the bottom of the river, they had to cross the lines of the Prussian army and hopefully be recovered near the capital.

The process turned out to be a total failure, as no Boules de Moulins reached Paris before the end of the siege (28 January 1871), even though more than half of them had since been recovered.

As the Boules de Moulins were found anywhere for months after the siege up into the 1960s, legal battles raged as to who "owned" the contents - the French postal service, the finder (water wreck), descendants of the letter writer or descendants of the inventor. Hundreds of the covers (probably thousands) entered the philatelic market.

Reference: <sup>1</sup>

<https://sites.google.com/site/moulinsvuparreneguillot/curios/boules-de-moulins>

**Emmanuel GPS**, a native Frenchman, is a past Director and life member of <https://www.rotaryonstamps.org/> and the lead person of the Inverness (California) stamp club where he resides. He owns the cover shown with authenticity certificate "sent from London on 28 December 1870, placed in a boule 2 January 1871 without a receipt cancel." See <https://www.stampsrhistory.com/iverness.html>



Green dots: where boules were immersed.

Red dots: where boules were found, ALL after the siege.



Covers like the one I have can be found at auctions for between \$500 and \$3,000 depending on the various cancels and marks on them.

# How About Stamp Face Values Denominated in Potatoes?

By Stan Cronwall

We all know about revenue stamps of various kinds where both federal and state government agencies have slapped taxes on such things as cigarettes, playing cards, transfer and sales documents, and even agricultural products.

But, have you heard about a country where the face value of their stamps was denominated in potatoes?

It is true, or at least one man tried to make it happen.

Long time ago, a very small and isolated country called Tristan da Cunha was visited by a Norwegian Scientific Expedition.

First let us learn more about Tristan. It is part of the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, in the south Atlantic Ocean about 1500 miles from the nearest inhabited land, Saint Helena. Tristan is the largest of the island group. It was first sighted in 1506 by a Portuguese explorer who gave the islands his name.

The island group was first named on British Admiralty charts and formally annexed by the United Kingdom in 1816 ruling them from the Cape Colony in South Africa. In 1938, Great Britain declared the islands to be a dependency of Saint Helena creating the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena and Dependencies.

We now pick up the potato story in 1937 with the Norwegian Scientific Expedition arrival December 7 on Tristan. In route via Cape Town, the crew captain recruited a British engineer, meteorologist and topological surveyor Allan Crawford who would go on to be regarded as the foremost authority on Tristan.

On the right are four Tristan da Cunha stamps showing scenes from the Expedition. These were issued on December 7, 2017 which was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Expedition's landing.

The 70p value shows Allan Crawford at work.



On March 29, 1938, a whaling ship arrived to retrieve the Expedition crew of 13. Their field station and most of the remaining equipment was left behind for the Tristans.

During WW II, Britain established a weather station on Tristan. Crawford made later visits to the islands working as a meteorologist at the weather station and recognized that there was a demand for stamps from both philatelists and passing ships wanting souvenirs from what was being called "The Loneliest Inhabited Island in the World".

He decided to develop and produce a stamp or "sticker" for the islanders to use on their letters. In the early rough designs, Crawford and his draftsman artist recognized that they did not have permission to use the King George head so instead they used the British Union Flag.

Also, the Tristan islanders had no money and would be unable to purchase the stamps. However, during WW II they had used potatoes as currency with 4 potatoes equaling one old penny (1d). This "currency" was added to the designs.

Crawford and his artist came up with nine designs, each with a penguin and a value of 4 potatoes. They had 20,000 sheets made, each having 35 stamps. The stamp/sticker soon achieved fame as a souvenir from passing ships and collectors around the world. It was nicknamed “the potato stamp”

In 1946, these designs were used as part of a petition for stamps for Tristan submitted to the United Kingdom Postmaster General for consideration as a legitimate postage stamp.

On the right is the Tristan da Cunha souvenir sheet issued April 8, 2015 for the “Potato Essays.”

The petition was denied.

In 1952, the islands got their first postage stamps which were Saint Helena definitives overprinted “Tristan da Cunha.”



Here are the Saint Helena overprints for use on Tristan:



Now, you more than you ever wanted to know about Tristan da Cunha and the stamps that were denominated in potatoes. As they say on the web – TMI,

Any questions? Yes . . . you in the back row . . .

**Stan Cronwall passed away in October 2019. He authored a number of Post Boy articles and quizzes still in the queue for publication.** His collecting interests included Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collected U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards; Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA); U.S. Naval Covers; DDR stamps; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.

## May Quiz - Republic of China (Taiwan)

By Stan Cronwall

Taiwan is officially the Republic of China (ROC). It is the most populous state and largest economy not a part of the United Nations. The last of the Chinese dynasties, the Qing, ceded Taiwan to the Japanese following the Sino-Japanese War in 1895. In 1912, the last dynasty gave way to the establishment of the Republic of China.

Following the Japanese surrender to the allies in 1945, ROC took control of Taiwan. Then in 1949, the ROC (Chiang Kai-shek) government fled mainland China abandoning it to the Mao led People's Republic of China (PRC) re-establishing the ROC on Taiwan. ROC had been a founding member of the U.N. but lost its seat to the PRC in 1971.

For stamp collectors, Scott has handled this change of governments by extending the numbering from pre-1949 to the current ROC seated on Taiwan. Scott has chosen to start a separate numbering for the PRC stamps.

1. For many of us, our first exposure to stamps from China came in the form of packets from such purveyors as Littleton, Jamestown, and like dealers offering young and otherwise new collector's random selections of stamps. The Chinese Junk sailing ship comes to mind. But this basic design was re-engraved with changes and overprinted so it is not a good place to start.  
Get out your magnifier, and check China 335 titled "Methods of Mail Transportation". What methods are shown on the stamp?  
a. Ship, Rail & Foot      b. Air, Ship & Rail      c. Rail, Ship & Balloon
2. A Curtis "Jenny" is shown on two early Air Post stamp designs one issued in 1921 and the other in 1929. What is difference between the designs?  
a. The values      b. The portion of the Great Wall depicted      c. Bars of the Republic flags on the early version, and the Nationalist sun emblem on the later
3. Long before any specific personalities appeared on Chinese stamps, three other symbols appeared time and time again. What were these symbols?  
a. Wild Goose, Dragon & Carp, the messenger fish      b. Swallows, Snake & Carp      c. Dragon, Pigeons & Lobster
4. Interestingly, ROC welcomed Chinese veterans who had fought with the North Korean army against the U. N. in the Korean War. This was commemorated on a set of three stamps issued in what year?  
a. 1961      b. 1965      c. 1955      d. 1952
5. In January of 1995 a set of four stamps was issued to celebrate Chinese traditional architecture in design. What were featured?  
a. Pagoda designs      b. Distinctive roof lines      c. Column & Beam construction
6. 2007 saw the issue of ten colorful pairings of flowers with insects – probably those that pollenate the plants. How many of these pairings included butterflies?  
a. 2      b. 4      c. None      d. 6      e. 10
7. In its history ROC has issued relatively few Semi-Postal stamps, but two are important because they deal with wartime refugees. The first set in 1944 was for refugees, but it is not clear whether these people were fleeing the Japanese or the Mao led forces attempting to unseat the ROC government.  
The second set was issued in 1954. This surtax was intended to aid what group of Chinese?  
a. Those still stranded on the Mainland      b. Evacuees from North Korea      c. Evacuees from North Vietnam
8. Madame Chiang Kai-shek (nee Soong may-ling) was thought by many to be the real power behind her husband. However, she was seldom seen on stamps. The first time was in 1965. What did that single issue commemorate?

a. Her 67<sup>th</sup> birthday    b. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chinese Women's Anti-Aggression League    c. The first anniversary of her husband's passing

9. Founder of the Kuomintang dominant political party in the history of the ROC, was Dr. Sun Yat-sen. He was the revolutionary leader that established the ROC ending the last Chinese dynasty in 1912.

He has appeared alone or in the company of other political leaders on many issues. The first time was to honor him for being the leader of the revolution. This was is what year?

a. 1912    b. 1925    c. 1930    d. 1938    e. 1941

10. Roses were the subject of an issue in 2012 which consisted of two horizontal pairs, each with a central label, and a souvenir sheet impregnated with a rose scent. Some might say that the microencapsulation of the scent was a mistake, because?

a. The encapsulated scent stained the back of the souvenir sheet and anything it was adhered to

b. Over time, the scent became the odor of rotting vegetation    c. Both of these are just rubbish ideas dreamed up by the quiz master

**BONUS:** American baseball quickly became a true passion among young male athletes on Taiwan. It seems that almost every year they are among the best teams in the world competing at the Little League Baseball World Series Championships. Since the first year of these Championships in 1947, Taiwan has won it all a staggering 17 times and been runner-up three times.

Oddly, Taiwan had won the title 5 times before its effort were recognized on a set of two stamps issued in 1974. One of the stamps displayed Championship banners. What Championship year(s) are depicted on the banners?

a. 1971-1974    b. 1969, 1971, 1972 and 1973    c. Only 1974

The May quiz is worth **110 Auction Bucks**. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at the next physical meeting or email to [postboyquiz@renostamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org)

<p><b>Apr. Quiz Answers:</b> 1. d 2. False 3. c 4. a 5. a 6. b &amp; d 7. False 8. c 9. False 10. b</p>
---

---

## Buy Want Sell Trade

**Selling:** The following items are being offered for sale from the estate of Gary Dahlke, recently deceased member of the NSSS. All proceeds will go to Rose Moratti, his significant other. Many of his albums and other philatelic items will be offered at future meetings.

- Scott 2005 Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps & Covers 1840 - 1940. Hard cover. Good shape. \$5.00.
- Scott Identification Guide to U. S. Stamps Regular Issues 1847 - 1934. Soft Cover. 163 pp. Like new. Retailed at \$24.99. Sell at \$5.00.
- 6 Volume set of Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. 2015 Edition. Great condition. \$50.00
- Classic book: "Fundamentals of Philately" by L. N. Williams. Revised edition 1990 published by APS at \$60.00, 862 pages. Brand new condition. \$20.00. Contact member **Paul Glass** 775-425-8939 or email: [pdglass60@gmail.com](mailto:pdglass60@gmail.com).

**Buying:** Stamp Collections Worldwide & United States, Large or Small Estate. Postal History, Post Cards, Ephemera, Stock Certificates, Checks, Old Business Ledgers and Billheads, Mining Lumber, Staging & Express, Pony Express, California Gold Rush. Photographs 1840's - 1920's, California & Nevada Oil Paintings, anything Rare from California or Nevada History... Contact member **Mark Baker** 530-417-1117 or email [Mark@goldrushpaper.com](mailto:Mark@goldrushpaper.com).

# Vassar Post Office Display

By John Walter

One of the display frames at the Vassar post office was changed in April with material for Memorial Day. Both covers and stamps are on display for the public. A picture of that display case is on the right.

The second display case at the post office has a frame with baseball material with the title being "April is Baseball." But the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines including "Stay at Home" took care of that.

Upcoming stamp displays are scheduled for the Carson City Library during July.

In August and September, all the display cases at the South Valley's Library are available for our displays.

And Zephyr Cove Library has invited the stamp club to use their two large display cases for the month of September.

The photo is taken at an angle because of severe glare from both the overhead lights and reflection from the outside windows which are immediately in front of the display cases. This is the best I can do for obtaining a decent picture.



**Memorial Day** is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day is May 25, 2020.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

## Philatelic Themed Face Covering

By John Walter

I now have a stamp/philatelic themed face covering courtesy of Trice Klauber from the Poway Stamp Club in CA. While preparing this Post Boy issue and formatting the quiz on China, I realized Stan Cronwall did not have the quiz answers with the questions. That has never happened before.

I have an old (2009) Scott catalog that would have all the answers, or so I thought. Two questions I was not sure of the answers. I remember when Trice Klauber (Secretary of the Poway Stamp Club) and her husband David (Newsletter editor) visited our club about two years ago. They were in the Reno area to visit their daughter and grandchildren. Trice mentioned she collected China.

So, I email Trice to make sure the quiz answers were correct before sending them to Betty Mudge, our Auction Bucks Chair, who keeps track of such matters. Trice confirmed the answers and then mentioned she is making face coverings for the Poway Stamp Club members and other organizations and would I be interested in receiving one.

I never refuse something I can make really good use of. My wife and I did not have any masks except some paper “dust” masks I’ve had for years. I told Trice I would really appreciate a cloth mask. But Trice said I would have to wait as she is waiting for a supply of elastic for the bands.

Last week I received two face covering masks, one with a philatelic theme as shown in the picture, and the other from blue material. Both have a space for a filter between the material layers.

This morning I had an eye doctor’s appointment for an annual check on cataracts. Two of the office technicians remarked about the face covering and enjoyed seeing the stamp themed mask. They see many different coverings and different material used for masks. They enjoy the unusual.

Trice, thanks for the nice surprise and sending two masks.

From all the news reports, it looks like face coverings and masks will be with us for a long time. And for those of us in the at-risk group, continue social distancing, use some face covering and wash those hands frequently.

Can’t wait to show off my mask at the next face-to-face stamp club meeting. Hopefully, that will be in June.



**John Walter with his face covering mask.**