



The Philatelic Prospector

A publication of the Sacramento Philatelic Society, est. 1914
P O Box 13284, Sacramento, CA 95813

December 2011

A Note from the President

I would like to wish year end greetings to all.

I had several stamp projects I was going to accomplish this year, but have not yet finished. Oh well, there's always next year. I imagine many collectors are in this same situation. We probably could not be considered a stamp collector unless we had a project or two that we intend to accomplish.

Have a Happy New Year.
Ernie Teays
SPS President

SACAPEX 2011

If you didn't make it to SACAPEX 2011 you missed a great show!

There were a large number of exhibits. I couldn't find attendance numbers for last year, but this year's attendance of 515 was higher than that of the 2009 show!

The Silent Bid Sale was well attended and there were many lots to choose from. Total sales were \$4,667.25.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST!



Please bring a food dish for the potluck dinner - hors d'oeuvres, main dishes, desserts, or anything else that's a favorite holiday food are welcome.

**There will be a gift exchange – bring an item if you would like to participate (stamp related and around \$10).
Gift certificates from the club circuit are available.**

There will be no stamps for sale that night (no circuit, dealers or 2c stamps) – just good company and good food!

SACAPEX 2011 Palmares

Grand Award

Robert D. Rawlins Mail from Manila Bay, December 1941 to 3 May 1942

LeRoy D. Armstrong Memorial Award - Best Exhibit by a Sacramento Philatelic Society Member

Peter Thy Bechuanaland and Botswana Postal Orders

United States Stamp Society Award

Bob Grosch The Boston Negatives, 1875 - 1883

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award

Joe Ross Rhodesia Revenue and Fiscally Used Postage Stamps

Sterling Achievement Award

Jean Johnson The Lunar New Year

Court of Honor

Peter Thy The Registration Envelopes of the Bechuanalands

GOLD Award

Richard Clever Mongolia 1886-1932
Bob Grosch The Boston Negatives, 1875 - 1883
Edward Jarvis Luxembourg Formular Cards 1870 - 1874
Kristin Patterson The Story of the United States Playing Card
Robert D. Rawlins Mail from Manila Bay, December 1941 to 3 May 1942

VERMEIL Award

Joe Ross Rhodesia Revenue and Fiscally Used Postage Stamps
Peter Thy The Rest of the Bechuanaland Post Office
Peter Thy Bechuanaland and Botswana Postal Orders

SILVER Award

Gordon N DeKarz Great Britain - The Machin Head Definitives
Bob Grosch Propaganda Cancels of the Third Reich
Dennis Hassler The Chase
Jean Johnson The Lunar New Year

SILVER-BRONZE Award

Dave Coleman A United States Philatelic Primer
Fred Rickert Great Britain Stampless and Botswana Postal Orders

BRONZE Award

Sherry Bradley Czeslaw Slania, Master Engraver
Gordon N DeKarz Errors on Stamps
Fred Rickert Hey Look What I Found

Participation Certificate

Gordon N DeKarz Fun with Stamps - Or Humor is Where You Find It
Fred Rickert Pictorial Cancels & How I Make Them Special

Junior Members Corner



Merry Christmas!

It is exciting that Christmas is almost here. I hope that you are all having a good year and are enjoying the holiday season.

Did you know that the first United States Christmas stamp was issued in 1962? Interesting also is the first United States self-adhesive stamp was a Christmas stamp issued in 1974.

Have fun, enjoy your Christmas and find time to enjoy your stamp collecting.



-Dean Carl



First U.S. Christmas
1962

First U.S. Self-Adhesive
1974

An undersea post office really did exist!

The undersea Post Office was started in 1939. It was part of a scientific facility located off the Bahamas on the sea floor. There they cancelled mail using a special oval postmark that said "SEA FLOOR/BAHAMAS". Here is a picture on cover with cancels from that station.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ



A plant used in decorating for Christmas is the "Noche Buena" flower. What is it commonly known as in North America?

- a) Mistletoe
- b) Holly
- c) Poinsettia
- d) Amaryllis



One of the most popular Christmas stories of all time is "A Christmas Carol", the story of businessman Ebenezer Scrooge who changes his miserly ways after being visited by ghostly beings on Christmas Eve. Who is the author?



- a) Henry James
- b) Charles Dickens
- c) Mark Twain
- d) Washington Irving

The portrayal of Santa Claus as a jolly old elf began with a famous poem originally known as "A Visit from St. Nicholas". What other title is the poem also known by?

- a) A Christmas Carol
- b) Old Santeclaus
- c) When Santa Claus Comes
- d) 'Twas the Night before Christmas



Santa Claus is said to bring gifts to good children. What do naughty children get?

- a) A lump of coal
- b) A rock
- c) A bag of dirt
- d) Nothing



In North America, children hang stockings in the hope that they will be filled with candy and gifts. In some countries, such as France, another article of clothing is used for this purpose. What is it?



- a) A shoe
- b) A hat
- c) A mitten
- d) A boot

According to the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas", which of the following names is NOT attributed to one of Santa's reindeer?

- a) Donner
- b) Dancer
- c) Vixen
- d) Rudolph



Stamp Shows in Our Area

JAN	13-15	Coin, Currency, Jewelry & Stamp Show Bick Int'l Circus Circus Las Vegas, NV www.bickinternational.com
JAN	14	Las Vegas Stamps Only Show American Legion Post #8 Las Vegas, NV jpphil@sisna.com
JAN	20-22	SANDICAL (WSP Show) San Diego County Philatelic Council Al-Bahr Shrine Temple San Diego, CA www.sandical.org
MAR	3-4	NOVAPEX Redding Stamp Club Senior Citizens Hall Redding, CA www.reddingstampclub.com
MAR	24-25	FRESPEX 2012 Fresno Philatelic Society Veterans Memorial Building Clovis, CA starstamps@thegrid.net

National Stamp Shows

JAN	27-29	AmeriStamp Expo American Philatelic Society http://stamps.org/AmeriStamp-Expo-ASE Atlanta, GA
JAN	27-29	Southeastern Stamp Show Southeast Fed of Stamp Clubs www.stampclubs.com Marietta, GA
FEB	3-5	Sarasota Nat'l Stamp Exposition Sarasota Philatelic Club, Inc. www.sarasotastampclub.com Sarasota, FL
FEB	24-26	ARIPEX Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs www.aripexonline.com Mesa, AZ
MAR	16-18	St. Louis Stamp Expo St. Louis area clubs www.stlstampexpo.org St. Louis, MO
MAR	23-25	Garfield-Perry March Party Garfield-Perry Stamp Club www.garfieldperry.org Cleveland, OH
Mar/Apr	30-1	Philadelphia Nat'l Stamp Exposition Assoc. Stamp Clubs of SE Pennsylvania & Delaware, Inc. www.pnse.org Oaks, PA

Only World Series of Philately (WSP) shows are included

For more shows and contact details go to:

http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowCalendar.htm

APS Online Courses & Activities

Starts Feb 21	Basic Stamp Collecting Course (4 weeks) Instructor: Ada Prill www.stampcampus.org
March 12-23	APS Stamp Cruise West Indies & The Southern Caribbean APS Stamp Cruise Information
Year Around	Collecting First Day Covers Part 1 (5 lessons) and Part II (4 lessons) Instructor: Marj Sente www.stampcampus.org

Member Presentations

Jan 18	Harry Mueggenburg	Eisenhower on Cover
Feb 15		Preparing an Exhibit
Mar 21		Show and Tell

New Members

Sacramento Philatelic Society membership for 2011 totals 248. New members and their collecting interest since the last newsletter mention are:

1964	Frank J Buckley, Jr	– US, Canada, Brit Cmnwlth, Sailboats, Lighthouses & Locomotives
1965	Lubertus Schapelhouman	
1966	Ronald Dixon	
1967	John DeRonde	– WWII, JFK/RFK, Olympic stamps
1968	Paul Domenici	– US, Germany, WW, used US PNC singles, Bureau Precancels
1969	John R Selmer	– US

Notes From the Web



1853 4d Die Proof in black on carton, from sub-die "A", stamp sized and mounted on card. (e)

Here is a very detailed website on the Triangle stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. In essence it is an exhibit presented in webpage format. Expand the menu on the left side and then click on the links to display a specific page(s) of the exhibit.



Information on plates and dies as well as die arrangement(s) and plate flaws is presented. Specifics of the papers and watermarks used as well as the colors and postal rates found are included. There is a "Total View" link at the bottom which will display all pages and allow you to click through them as you wish. NOTE: I found that "Open in New Tab" worked well – otherwise you have to click the Back button after each page view.



Also included on the site is a similar analysis of the rectangular issues with the same level of detail. In addition there is an entire section on *overprints* – Griqualand-West, British Bechuanaland, Stellaland Military Telegraphs, Rhodesia, Mafeking Siege, Vryburg and Orange River Colony overprints are included!!!

This website was prepared by R. Gerritsen, last updated November 2011 and can be found at <http://www.cghstamps.com/>

The Queen Victoria Issues of Labuan

Engraved, Lithographed and Forged...

by Doug Elliott



Over the last few weeks I decided to catch up on organizing, cataloging and incorporating into my collection some new British Commonwealth material. You know, one of those projects that Ernie talks about intending on getting to... Well, it's been a couple years so I decided it was high time to get started.

It didn't take long for me to run into a few old Labuan stamps. I'd picked up a few new ones at SACAPEX and so I sat down with my Scott and Stanley Gibbons catalogs. The Queen Victoria issue was the first to tackle – and I quickly found that Stanley Gibbons doesn't list it under "Labuan" but "North Borneo / Labuan"...

The stamps above are the initial group I was trying to identify. This design covers Stanley Gibbons (SG) catalog #'s 1 through 57 (Scott catalog #'s 1 through 48). The different issues are distinguished first by watermark then by color – there are issues with the following watermarks: "CA Over Crown", "Crown CC", "Crown CA" and "Unwatermarked". There are also two "Crown CA" issues but with different colors.

My stamps were all "Unwatermarked", and this is where things got interesting. The unwatermarked stamps were printed by both the recess (engraved) method and by lithography. Recess printed stamps should show raised ink on the face whereas lithographed stamps should be smooth. I wasn't sure which I had – although I suspected they were lithographed.

And then there is the inauspicious note after the last set – **"Collectors are warned against forgeries of this issue."** Most of the time when that type of statement is made in a catalog you can bet a good proportion of the stamps you're working with may be forgeries...

I tried to figure out which was which with the forgeries references I had – but I didn't seem able to draw a definitive conclusion. It seemed that 4 of the 8 stamps shown above might be forgeries (the 10, 12 & 40c) while the others (the 2, 6, 8 & 16c) were most likely authentic and probably lithographed examples (SG #51-57, Scott # 42-48).

I found a "guide" on eBay which helped and emailed the author asking if larger images could be emailed. He obliged and was gracious enough to help identify my stamps. Over the course of our discussions I discovered that he was Ray Price - the author of the "Concise Guide to the Queen Issues of Labuan"! You will

never expect the acquaintances you may make via the internet when researching things philatelic!

Here are a series of images that will help you determine whether you have engraved or lithographed – or forged – examples of these stamps. Keep in mind that there were at least 7 different forgeries of these Queen stamps and there is variability between them. The key distinguishing features of the forgeries are noted below.

The individual lines of color are fine and distinct in recess stamps but at times even run together on lithographed examples.



Recess (Engraved)



Lithographed

Forgeries can be distinguished by the irregular, patchy lines of shading at the back of the neck and by the near or total absence of a fine line of shading down the ear.



Lithographed



Forgery

Here are two examples of each of the three types.



Engraved

Lithographed

Forgery

As it turns out, the 10c, both 12c and the 40c in the image above are forgeries while the 2c, 6c, 8c and 16c are lithographed examples.

By the way, most if not all of the lithographed issue never saw Labuan – they were sold in London mint or CTO'd with the 9 bar cancel seen on the examples above – these are worth a few cents each.

Ray Price is also the Australian representative for the Sarawak Study Group. Should anyone want to communicate with him about the stamps of Labuan or joining the study group they can contact him at sealbook@ozemail.com.au.

SPS Calendar

Regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7–9PM at the Easter Seals Center, 3205 Hurley Way.

Dec	7	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	14	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	21	Christmas Party , no 2¢ boxes/club circuit
	28	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Jan	4	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	11	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	18	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	25	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Feb	1	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	8	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	15	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	22	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	29	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.

We normally have our club circuit and penny boxes available for your shopping pleasure at each meeting. There are also members who enjoy just talking about their collections or helping you with yours. You might even find a member with a similar interest as you have and you can initiate a stamp swap. Come see us – it's a lot of fun. 'Shoe Boxes' of 2¢ stamps can be taken home to search through during the week.

Current USPS Rates

Domestic:

First-Class Mail Letter (1 oz) - 44¢
First-Class Mail Letter (2 oz) – 64¢
Rigid Envelope Surcharge - 20¢
Postcard - 29¢
Large Envelope (2 oz) - \$1.08
Certified Mail - \$2.85

International:

First-Class Mail Int'l Letter (1 oz)
To Canada - 80¢, Mexico - 80¢, Other Countries - 98¢

On January 22, 2012 first class letters will increase to 45¢, postcards to 32¢, 1 ounce letters to Canada or Mexico to 85¢ and other int'l destinations to \$1.05.

Visit Our Website

Dean Carl does a great job with the SPS website at [sacramentophilatelicociety.org](http://www.sacramentophilatelicociety.org). A calendar of events, membership forms, copies of the Prospector back to 2004, and links to philatelic-related websites are all there!

Call for Articles

If you have a collecting interest that you would like to share with the club or feel more comfortable doing so in written form, please send it to Doug Elliott via email at nzstampsinca@gmail.com. You can also get a printed version to me at one of the Wednesday meetings – I can scan and/or retype it as necessary. Or mail a copy to me at PO Box 1547, Oroville CA 95965. Typical articles will run from ½ to a full page (or two) of text and images.

Officers & Board of Directors

President	Ernie Teays
Vice President	Ron Clark
Secretary	Cynthia Leffler
Treasurer	John Pavalasky

Board of Directors

Dean Carl	(thru 5/2012)
Harry Mueggenburg	(thru 5/2012)
Joanne Berkowitz	(thru 5/2013) (Chair)
Katie Pavalasky	(thru 5/2013)
Sherry Bradley	(thru 5/2014)
David Coleman	(thru 5/2014)

Committee Chairmen

Easter Seals Show	Katie Pavalasky
Junior Members	Dean Carl
Library	Ken Hilmer
Membership	Debbie Jean Hopkins
Programs	Fred Rickert
Prospector	Doug Elliott
SACAPEX	Fred Rickert
Silent Bid Sale	Al Williams
Website	Dean Carl

Prospector Distribution

If you are reading this from our website right now, you are one of those helping us to reduce our costs. It currently costs more than \$1 to produce the hard copies and mail them to each member or family.

If you have an email address we will send a notice when a new edition of the Prospector is ready for viewing.

To see the Prospector at our website:

1. Go to www.sacramentophilatelicociety.org
2. Look under the Prospector section for **Find the Prospector newsletter here.**
3. You will be able to read past issues as well as the current issue.

If you need help please ask Dean Carl, Doug Elliott or Al Williams about your problem.

First Day Cancellation Information

All **first day cancellations** may be received after affixing stamps and sending to:

Customer Affixed Envelopes

Postmaster

_____ (first day city)

_____ - 9991 (5 digit ZIP + 9991)

Up to 50 FDCs may be submitted for cancellation at no cost, additional covers are charged 5¢ each. If you want them returned without addresses, you must enclose a self addressed envelope, with sufficient postage applied, to insure their return. There is no charge for this service. First day cancellations are usually available for 60 days after the day the stamp is issued.

Detailed instructions are found on the American First Day Cover Society's website at <http://www.afdcs.org/servicing.html>.