



The Postal History Foundation



Stamp Tracks

Whole No. 22

Winter 2014

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Arizona Territorial Checks By Paul Nelson

Sam Dougan, a long time member of the PHF, has an excellent collection of early western mining and banking documents. He shared an album with me recently, and here are some scans I made of certain items from our part of the country!

One check, from the First National Bank of Tucson, has a 2 cent orange RN-G1 imprinted revenue stamp in the middle. The use of stamped paper for checks and other financial instruments was first authorized during the Civil War, and the 2 cent tax on checks and sight drafts expired on July 1, 1883. This check was written February 12, 1883, not long before that expiration. The tax was reinstated to raise funds for the Spanish-American War in 1898 and ran for a while. Scott lists these imprinted



RN-G1 imprinted revenue stamp

checks as "Revenue Stamped Paper" and all have the prefix RN.

Another check written in 1907, specifying "Mexican Silver", has a Mexican "Renta Interior" valid in the 1906-1907 biennium, Catalog R262, 2 centavo orange, with talon on the reverse. This listing is from the 2011 publication, "Mexico's Revenue Stamps" edited by Michael D. Roberts of the MEPSI specialist organization. The book is in the Slusser library here at PHF. The handstamped overprint, "NOGALES SON.", appears on this orange revenue stamp.

Continued on page two

920 North First Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719 • www.postalhistoryfoundation.org
Phone: 520-623-6652 • Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Chairman's Message

What continues to be our everlasting blessing is the loyalty and hard work of our volunteers. In the sorting of stamps, the conducting of tours, selling of stamps and philatelic materials, answering of questions, and running the post office, we continue to be blessed by their efforts. It always seems to be a busy place, and when those outside classrooms and organizations come to visit, we are filled with eager faces. Our library exhibits continue to attract visitors, and we continue to be recipients of collections. It is fun just to watch the activity and listen to the jokes. Yes, people do joke about stamps. Just don't get stuck.

Yours in philately,
Bob Bechtel, Chairman

Member in Good Standing for 2014?

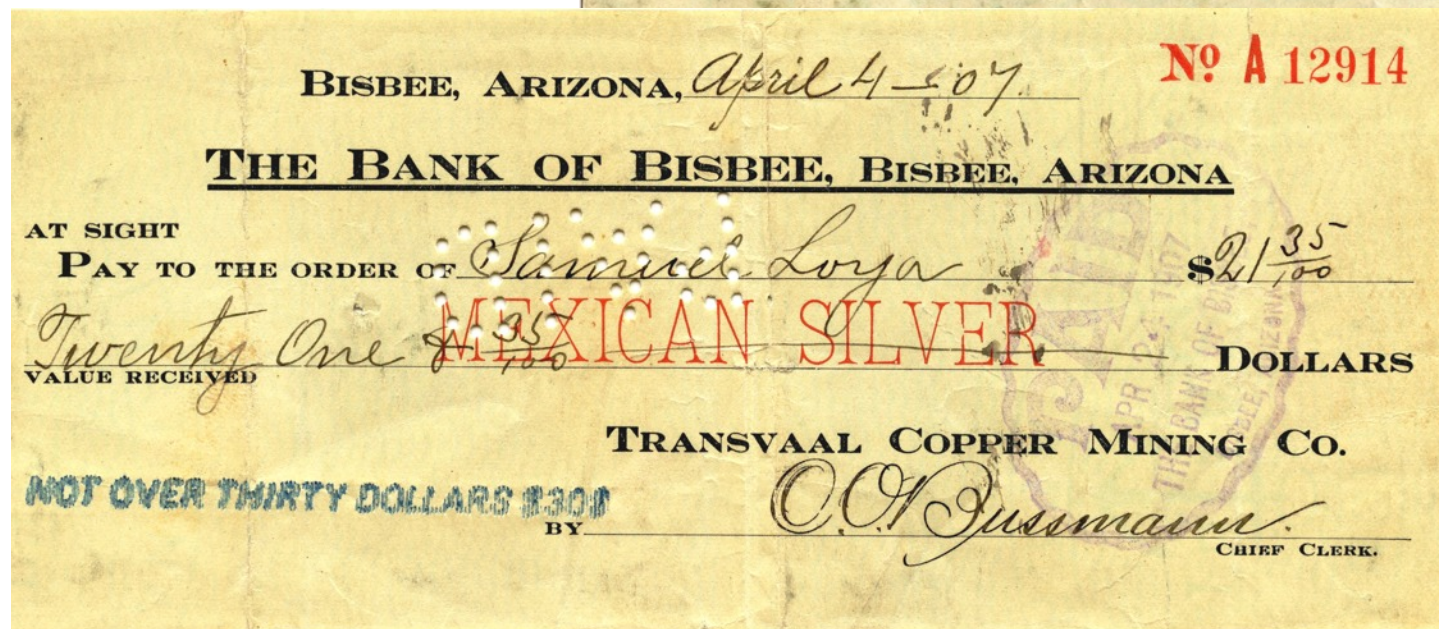
Membership dues for 2014 are past due (December 31, 2013). If you misplaced our October letter and have not renewed, please go to "How to Help" on our web site to join online or complete the printable membership form. Thank You.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Continued from page one

The hand stamped overprint, "NOGALES SON.", validates the stamp. These validations were put on the unused revenue stamps when they were received in the various offices around the country. A revenue stamp without a validation might have been stolen en route from Mexico City, so they were validated upon receipt to reduce theft and fraudulent use.

Catalog R262





Annual Contest Winner

2013 Grand Prize Winning Stamp Design by
Sierra McLean, Student at City High in Tucson

In case you missed it on the web, the custom stamp featured to the right is the Grand Winning Design of 2013. Sierra McLean, pictured bottom left created this very colorful design which incorporates the past and the present of Tucson. The bright red and yellow from the state flag is pictured in the top left and a Mountain rises up in front of it. A Mountain is painted the red and blue of the University of Arizona. In the foreground are silhouettes of a broncing cowboy, a saguaro, and a wave of dust. On the horizon in the top right corner are the towering buildings of downtown Tucson.



This innovative design is very popular and many people have ordered the stamps which are sold for \$1.50/stamp as a fundraiser for the YES program. Stamps are still available for sale but note that they are 46¢, not the current 49¢ for a one ounce letter. Contact Lisa Dembowski if you are interested in purchasing some stamps at phfeducation@comcast.net.

The **2014 Annual Contest** is now open to **local** students. Information and entry forms can be accessed on the PHF web site under the Education tab. Entries are due August 1, 2014.

Information and entry forms can be accessed on the PHF web site under the Education tab. Entries are due August 1, 2014.

Welcome New Members of the Board of Directors

Steve Hamann and Mike Wood

Beyond Basic Membership

Please help us continue to positively influence the future of our hobby. Assist us in continuing to grow the Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program and building the library archives.

Contributions above the Basic Member level are critical in allowing us to maintain our programs, buildings, and operations, now and in the future.

Visit our website to view membership opportunities for (tax deductible) unrestricted and special contributions to PHF.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Sales Department Bargains!!!

Our sales department is overflowing with mint plate blocks and sheets.

- Plate blocks starting with Scott #650 are available for approximately 50% of Scott Catalogue value (but none less than 25 cents).
- Sheets start at Scott #772 and are also priced at about 50% of Scott.

Contact: Bill Kohl at 520-623-6652 x 103 or phftucson@comcast.net



The Postal History of Miners and their Mail



Promotional postcard from Globe, Arizona

Gold fever lured countless men and women west in the hopes they might strike it rich. It was often a lonely, difficult existence. One of the bright spots was a piece of news from back home. Did you ever wonder how these miners, often holed up in remote areas, refusing to leave their claim, could send and receive mail? The mail's journey from the eastern U.S. to the miners' grubby, calloused hands was long, complicated, and fraught with danger.

Our exhibit, which is on display through February, complements the concurrent Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The exhibit

takes you through the process, from the long trip across the country, to the western post offices, and finally into the miners' hands. We also present some of our Arizona postal history collection, including territorial covers, postcards and postal forms, all from mining towns.

Slusser Exhibit March 2014

Slusser Library is proud to partner with the University of Arizona's Museum of Art, holder of the tremendous Robert McCall Collection. The museum generously loaned several philatelic items for the Slusser Library's display of several artifacts from McCall's design process, including sketches, drafts, and correspondence. Some of McCall's personal covers will also be contained in the exhibit. The UA Museum of Art will concurrently display its own exhibit featuring many of McCall's works of art and artifacts relating to his art and life.

New Librarian at the Slusser

The Slusser's new librarian, Valerie Kittell, began in June 2013. A Tucson native and a University of Arizona graduate with a Master's degree in Library Science, she is in her second career; prior to her work in libraries and archives, she was a junior high school English teacher for ten years.

Treasures from the Archives

One of the featured archival collections in the Mining and the Mail exhibit is the Arizona Territorial Covers Collection, rich in Arizona territorial history. The earliest cover in this collection is from Clifton, hand canceled 1875. The collection includes envelopes, some letters, and postcards, one of which is a grocery order that requests a copious amount of cabbage. Some letters are personal, discussing the death of a grandfather or requesting a secret rendezvous; others are governmental, such as Gov. C. Meyer Zeilich appointing B.M. Jacobs as a university regent. Postmarks include at least seventy-five separate post offices from all over Arizona, including American Flag, Big Bug, Bonita, Contention, Fredonia, Goldroad, Kymo, Mineral Park, Palmerlee, Poland, Quijotoa, Silver Creek, Tip Top, and Vail, just to name a few. This comprehensive collection of covers is contained in three archival boxes and is available for viewing at the Slusser Library.



1905 cover from AZ Territory Covers Collection

Stamps Are Stupendous!

When I was ordering new pencils recently for our Youth Education thru Stamps YES program, I was trying to come up with a catchy or rhyming phrase. I thought up "Stamps are Stupendous," which I don't necessarily think is very clever but the meaning behind the word *stupendous* is very apropos. Briefly the adjective has two simple meanings:

1. *Causing amazement; astounding; marvelous; fantastic.* Of course! Stamps elicit this reaction all the time whether used in a classroom, at a merit badge workshop, or at a local event. Stamp shows, site field trips and tours of our facilities always elicit comments of amazement: "Wow! Look at this one!" "Awesome! Can I keep this?" "I'm going to collect stamps." "Cool! I need to find my stamp collection." "My students loved learning with stamps."



2. *Amazingly large or great; immense: a stupendous mass of information.* Children and adults can gain a vast amount of knowledge through philately. The history of the world is at our fingertips when we hold stamps.

The YES program is stupendous as we supply stamps and YES created lessons for **12,000+ students and teachers across the country every school year**. We also send out **400,000+** stamps annually via orders that come into the department almost daily.

There are many people who work behind the scenes to help us accomplish these massive tasks. They include two paid employees and many volunteers. Pictured on this page are some of the volunteers who are working hard to spread the love of philately. Also on this page are pictures of students who benefit from our volunteers' hard work.

Students enjoy learning about pictorial cancels, working in a post office, and selecting stamps from our famous treasure chests.



Sue Sisson

Sue spreads the love of learning with stamps to Show Low area schools, museums, and at ARIPEX.



Bill Radcliff

Bill responds to the letter and stamp kit requests. He prepares classroom orders and packages for shipping, and maintains the topical files.



The Behnkes

Barrett and Nancy Behnke build and decorate our famous Stamp Treasure Chests. They also prepare stamps for classroom use. They work at home and at the PHF.

Help us continue to grow our hobby. Send us your stamps, supplies, and monetary donations. All are **tax deductible**.



Bill and Jo Glass introduce students to philately in the classroom and run stamp clubs in Casa Grande, Arizona.

In Memoriam**Brigadier General (Dr.)****Donald N. Vivian**

Member, Ranger

Died: June 2013

Richard L. Keefe

Ranger

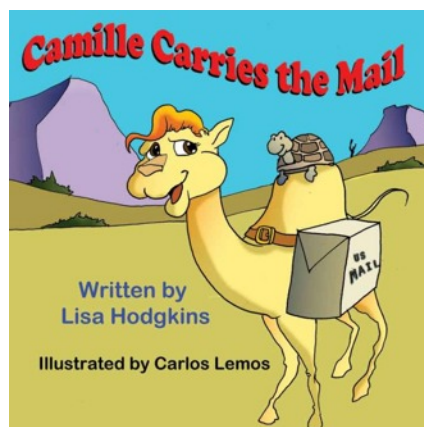
Died: January 2013

John Hewitt Willard

Ranger

Died: 2013

Rosalie Bock recently shared her love of philately at a stamp fair she organized in Sedona, AZ. YES provides thousands of stamps for youth areas at several stamp shows and scouting events every year. People with a passion for philately are encouraging the growth of our hobby across the country. Thank you Rosalie!

**Great Gift Idea for Young Children**

Books are still available at \$9.99 plus shipping from the PHF, Amazon.com, and Barnesandnoble.com.. Contact Valerie Kittell at library@phftucson.org or 520-623-6652 x107

Tucson Stamp Club

First Tuesdays - 5 pm bourse
Third Saturdays - 12 pm bourse

March 4 - Tuesday
Norway Calendar
Stamps by Paul Nelson

March 15 - Saturday
Aerogrammes by
Heather VanCranbrock

April 1- Tuesday
Victorian Plate
Numbers
by Mike Wood

April 19 - Saturday
Spring Auction
Dan Sherry
Auction Coordinator

PHF Calendar**February 21-23**

ARIPEX in Mesa, AZ

March 1

Robert McCall

Stamp Design
Exhibit**April 12**

Annual Member Meeting
and Luncheon
at Westward Look 12 pm

April 14

Transportation Exhibit

New Members!Robert Asmead, *Ponte Vedra, FL*Lisa Weber Bradley, *Tucson, AZ*Robert Burdick, *Tucson, AZ*Elvira Burrue, *Sahuarita, AZ*Joan Cooke, *Marana, AZ*Bob Crossman, *Conway, AR*Gary Cox, *Sierra Vista, AZ*Larry Dailey, *Tucson, AZ*

Rebecca Felton,
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Shirley Gallagher, *Mason, OH*Byron Lewis, *Tucson, AZ*William Ludt, *Tucson, AZ*Edward Manley, *Chappaqua, NY*Arthur L. Merrill, *Grand Rapids, MN*Ron Moses, *Tucson, AZ*Edward W. Murphy, *Tucson, AZ*Stacie Periclos, *Tucson, AZ*Damon Prithett, *Oro Valley, AZ*Manuel Salmeron, *Tucson, AZ*Benedict Termini, *Ft. Worth, TX*David Zlowe, *Silver Springs, MD***PHF Family Portfolio****Officers:**

Chairman: Bob Bechtel

Vice Chair: Bob Davis

Secretary: David Bernheim

Treasurer: Ted Maynard

Staff:

Executive Assistant:

Lena Rogers

Youth Education Director:

Lisa Dembowski

Librarian: Valerie Kittell

Youth Assistant: Linda Wynn

See past issues of Stamp Tracks
at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org