



# San Jose Stamp Club

## Newsletter



Whole number 174

October 2012



**9 - 11 - WE WILL NEVER FORGET**

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**Visit our website at:**

**[filatelicefiesta.org](http://filatelicefiesta.org)**

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928  
Meets 7:00 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
Hilltop Manor in 1<sup>st</sup> floor dining room  
790 Ironwood Drive, San Jose, California  
Driving instructions on the website.

#### Annual dues:

Adults/families \$12 ~ Youths \$6

APS chapter # 0264-025791

This run of the newsletter

commenced January 1998.

Correspondence to:

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### Autumn

Yes, it's that time of year again with all the holidays looming ahead. Yom Kippur was on the 26th of September and in addition to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas there's Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and ending with New Year's Eve. In the midst of all this is our annual WSP show Filatelice Fiesta on November 9 - 11 and don't forget Sequoia's Penpex that takes place December 1 - 2.

Filatelice Fiesta has had quite a resurgence in recent years due to a number of improvements. We'll have an auction this year in addition to the WPL auction where a number of club lots will be added on the tail-end. A very important change has been Steve Schumann's ability to get the fairgrounds to let us rent our own parking area which enables us to offer free parking to show attendees. Some still view the fairgrounds as a negative, however, not only can we afford it but the fairgrounds management has been very accommodating in any number of positive ways. I think the only remaining hurdle is the involvement of more of the club members. Brian Jones has made an appeal for volunteers to help with the WPL auction where we expect to make a few dollars for the club treasury. Brian's time will be completely taken up with the Scout program which he's expanded over the past couple years and where he could use some help. So, the youth table, the registration table and the WPL auction could all use a little help. We don't expect, or want, anyone to shoulder a load all by themselves, however, if all gave a little the overall effect would contribute greatly to a more successful exhibition.

Please consider a little of your time for the cause, it would be greatly appreciated by all.

### Program

We'll have a CD program on October 17th titled *"The Doctoring of Postage Stamps — Philatelists Beware"*. This is one of three CDs your editor bought at StampShow. The other two are *"Jamaica in World War II"* and *"The Story of the Penny Black"* which will be viewed at future meetings.

### Sequoia's Anniversary

The 65th anniversary of the Sequoia Stamp Club was a great success. As expected, it was a celebration of past and present members including the last remaining charter member Bill Moll. SJSC member Richard Clever was remembered very clearly and fondly by Bill as they had dealings in years past.

Your editor won a \$10 voucher good in any of their auctions or circuit books, and as a member received a copy of the club's history and an anniversary pin.

### Articles

I normally try to find a philatelic connection to all the articles presented here, however, on rare occasions subject matter that's both timely and interesting presents itself. Such is the story on Okinotorishima.

The Japanese position that it's an atoll, which it is, makes it eligible as an EEZ is flawed in that it was a rapidly disappearing atoll until massive amounts of concrete were poured on it. Of course the PRC is objecting for both military and commercial reasons, not to mention their intense dislike for the Japanese throughout history.

This is an on-going argument that has very little hope of being resolved any time soon. Unless there is a confrontation one will have a difficult time getting any news about it in our sorry media.

## Northern California Trivia

Q What city is home to the Placer County Museum?

A Auburn.

Q In what state park is there a monument to James A. Garfield?

A Bodie State Historic Park.

From *Northern California Trivia* by Ernie & Jill Couch

"They are not to do anything they please to provide for the general welfare, but only to lay taxes for that purpose. To consider the latter phrase not as describing the purpose of the first, but as giving a distinct and independent power to do any act they please which may be good for the Union, would render all the preceding and subsequent enumerations of power completely useless. It would reduce the whole instrument to a single phrase, that of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United States; and as they would be the sole judges of the good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please..."

Certainly no such universal power was meant to be given them. It was intended to lace them up straightly within the enumerated powers and those without which, as means, these powers could not be carried into effect."

—Thomas Jefferson, Opinion on a National Bank, 1791



**And you wonder why the post office is going broke???**

"Republics are created by the virtue, public spirit, and intelligence of the citizens. They fall, when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded, because they flatter the people, in order to betray them."

—Joseph Story,

Commentaries on the Constitution, 1833

At the meeting of September 19, the presentation by Bob Bortfeld from *Vintages of Los Gatos* was terrific. His presentation "Mixed-Media Techniques for Enhancing Stamp Collections and Exhibits" was inspiring on how to use more creativity in ones collection. He demonstrated some techniques can be done to add visual appeal to a page without necessarily breaking the rules of exhibiting. If you're not worried about the rigid rules of serious philatelic exhibiting, you can really let your creative juices flow. You're encouraged to visit his store in downtown Los Gatos at 130C North Santa Cruz Ave and explore the eclectic mix of antiques, crafts and gifts. Vintages website is: [vintagesantiques.com](http://vintagesantiques.com). Also, check out his blog "Postmark" at:

[vintageslg.blogspot.com/](http://vintageslg.blogspot.com/)

HELP!!! The great news is that our club has a lot going on. The only "down" side of that is that I cannot do it all by myself. Any active and vital organization cannot expect one person to do all the work and I need one job filled VERY quickly. Someone is urgently needed to run the club portion of the WPL auction at Fiesta. What is mostly needed is to prepare the material left over from the Sequoia Club auction to prepare it to sell at Fiesta. We can also accept lots from club members to sell (with the club taking a 10% commission). Will you step up and take this responsibility? How about helping arrange speakers and meeting activities? Call me to talk more about what is needed and help.

Filatelic Fiesta is right around the corner and all club members should be involved in some way or another. You don't need any specific philatelic knowledge or stamp show experience to help. Anyone can help at the registration desk for a few hours or help with the putting up and taking down the exhibits. Love working with young people? I'm planning several new activities at the youth table. Hands can always be used at set-up and take-down. Where will you help?

One of my goals for the club is to enhance the experience for young people walking in. We've always offered a kids table with bins of stamps for kids to pick from. With your support, we can offer this year's kids the opportunity to get the new APS Northern California stamp album. I've been able to find a printer that can do 25 copies for \$6 each. Since the album uses Scott catalog numbers, we cannot sell copies. Therefore, I'm asking for donations to help offset the printing costs. Any help is greatly appreciated. I'm asking the APS and others for stamps to help kids be able to get 10 to 15 stamps for their album. If you have any suggestions where to get quantities of these stamps, please let me know. Let's keep building the positive momentum with everyone helping where they can.

—Brian



## Donation Acknowledgement

A wonderful collection was recently donated to the Boy Scout merit badge program by the estate of Bobbie J. Diehl. Ms. Diehl passed away earlier this year and her sister Catherine chose to donate the collection. She collected for many years and assembled a widely varied collection. The crown jewel of which is a seven volume collection of British Empire including: a large volume of British Europe, two volumes of British Asia, two volumes of British Africa, and a large volume of British North America. Also in the collection is a large international album loaded with stamps. There is also a nice Harris US Liberty album. This generous support for the Boy Scout merit badge program is greatly appreciated.

Additional donations have also been recently received from Pam Vogt, James Steinwinder, and Nick Clark. Pam is a long time supporter of the merit badge program and regularly contributes excess material from collections she buys. James is one of the newest members of the SJSC and donated some wonderful stamps I know the boys will want to add to their collections. Nick is one of the stamp collecting merit badge counselors who will be helping me this year and donated a box of old albums and stock books. A HUGE THANK-YOU to all contributors. A deep and varied set of stamps is important in getting Scouts excited about becoming stamp collectors.

—Brian

## New Member Introductions

Please welcome our clubs 2 newest members James Steinwinder and Bill Breisacher. After visiting just two meetings, James joined our club at the end of the Sept 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. He has an extensive collection of US stamps including every commemorative and most of the definitive issues with exception of only a few of the most exotic. James specialty is Columbian series of 1893. He made a very generous donation to both the club (stamps we can auction at Fiesta) as well as to the Boy Scout merit badge program. This generosity is greatly appreciated!

Bill Breisacher is a licensed contractor and has a real estate license as well doing appraisals. He started collecting as a child and is now interested in possibly re-starting his stamp collecting and has joined the club to observe and learn more about collecting as he contemplates getting back into philately. Bill now has the record for driving the furthest for meetings as he comes over the hill from Aptos to join us.

—Brian

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. It's inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

—Winston Churchill

## The Story Behind *Moby Dick*

Most people that can read English have at least a passing knowledge of the classic novel *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.



Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick* or *The Whale*, Scott 2094, issued August 1, 1984.

How did this novel come about? In 1841 a young Herman Melville signed on as a hand aboard the New Bedford whale ship *Acushnet*. While in the Pacific, he met William Henry Chase, the son of the Captain of the *Essex*. Melville had heard stories of the *Essex* and closely questioned the boy about his father's experiences. William pulled a copy of his father's narrative from his sea chest and loaned it to Melville. He found it very interesting and exciting. In the Captain's narration, it was a real albino whale that whalers named Mocha Dick that attacked the ship. The whale was seventy feet long. The original narration varied very little from Melville's book.



If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right. —Henry Ford

## Okinotorishima

Okinotorishima (沖ノ鳥島?) is an atoll, which in English has multiple designations (Okinotori coral reefs, Okinotori Islands). Its original name was Parece Vela, Spanish for "looks like a sail" (alluding to the original appearance of the reef). This name has been retained in English as well, especially to designate the geological formations of the islets. It is located on the Palau-Kyushu Ridge in the Philippine Sea about 534 km (332 mi) SE of Oki Daito and 567 km (352 mi) WSW of Minami Iwo Jima of the Ogasawara Islands or 1,740 km (1,080 mi) south of Tokyo, Japan. The Japanese meaning of the name is "remote bird islands" and they are sometimes referred to as "the southernmost islands of Japan."



It was possibly first sighted by the Spanish sailor Bernardo de la Torre in 1543, certainly by Miguel López de Legazpi in 1565, and its first recorded name was Parece Vela ("looks like a sail" in Spanish).

In 1789, William Douglas arrived with the British ship *Iphigenia* and, in the following year, the place was named Douglas Reef (also spelt Douglass Reef). The existence of the atoll might not have been known by Japanese until 1888. In 1922 and 1925, the Japanese navy ship *Manshu* investigated the area. In 1931, confirming that no other countries had claimed the reefs, Japan declared it Japanese territory, placing it under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Prefecture, classifying it as part of the Ogasawara Village, and naming it Okinotorishima.

During 1939 and 1941 a foundation was completed for "a lighthouse and a meteorological observation site"; however, construction was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. After Japan's defeat, the United States assumed sovereignty over the Ogasawara islands, and returned authority over the islands to Japan in 1968.

Between 1987 and 1993 the government of Tokyo and later the central government built steel breakwaters and concrete walls, to stop the erosion of Okinotorishima, which today leaves only three of the five rocks that were present in 1939 above water; in 1988 the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center built a marine investigation facility which it has since maintained following typhoon damage.

On March 16, 2007, a light beacon was installed by the Japan Coast Guard. The beacon is plotted on the hydrographic chart.

Geologically, the islets are an atoll, built on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge, the westernmost part of the Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc System. The name "Parece Vela" has been given to the extinct back-arc basin that lies immediately to the east (the northern half of this back-arc basin is known as the Shikoku Basin). This back-arc basin formed by seafloor spreading between late Oligocene and Miocene. The Parece Vela Basin contains the longest megamullion in the world. The original Spanish name of the islets is normally used for the geological formations, hence, Parece Vela megamullion, Parece Vela ridge, Parece Vela rift or Parece Vela basin.

The waters around the reefs are potentially rich in oil and other resources and lies in an area of potential military significance. At high tide, one area of the reefs is roughly the size of a twin bed and pokes just 7.4 centimeters (2.9 inches) out of the ocean. The other is the size of a small bedroom and rises about twice as high. The entire reef consists of approximately 7.8 square kilometers (3.0 sq mi), most of which is submerged even at low tide.



The area has three tiny individual islets:

Higashikojima (東小島, "Eastern Islet")

Kitakojima (北小島, "Northern Islet"), nevertheless rather in the West

Minamikojima (南小島, "Southern Islet")

Minamikojima is a completely artificial islet created in shallow water. But also the two original islets appear completely artificial today, with little if any trace of the two natural rocks that still appear on photographs of 1987. In 1925, there were still five above-water rocks, which have eroded since. A report from 1947 mentions five above-water rocks. Three smaller ones were on the west side, nearly impossible to see from seaward because of the breaking waves. The larger rocks on the southwest side and on the northeast side, possibly Kitakojima and Higashikojima, were reported to be 0.6 m (2 ft) and 0.4 m (16 inches) high, respectively.



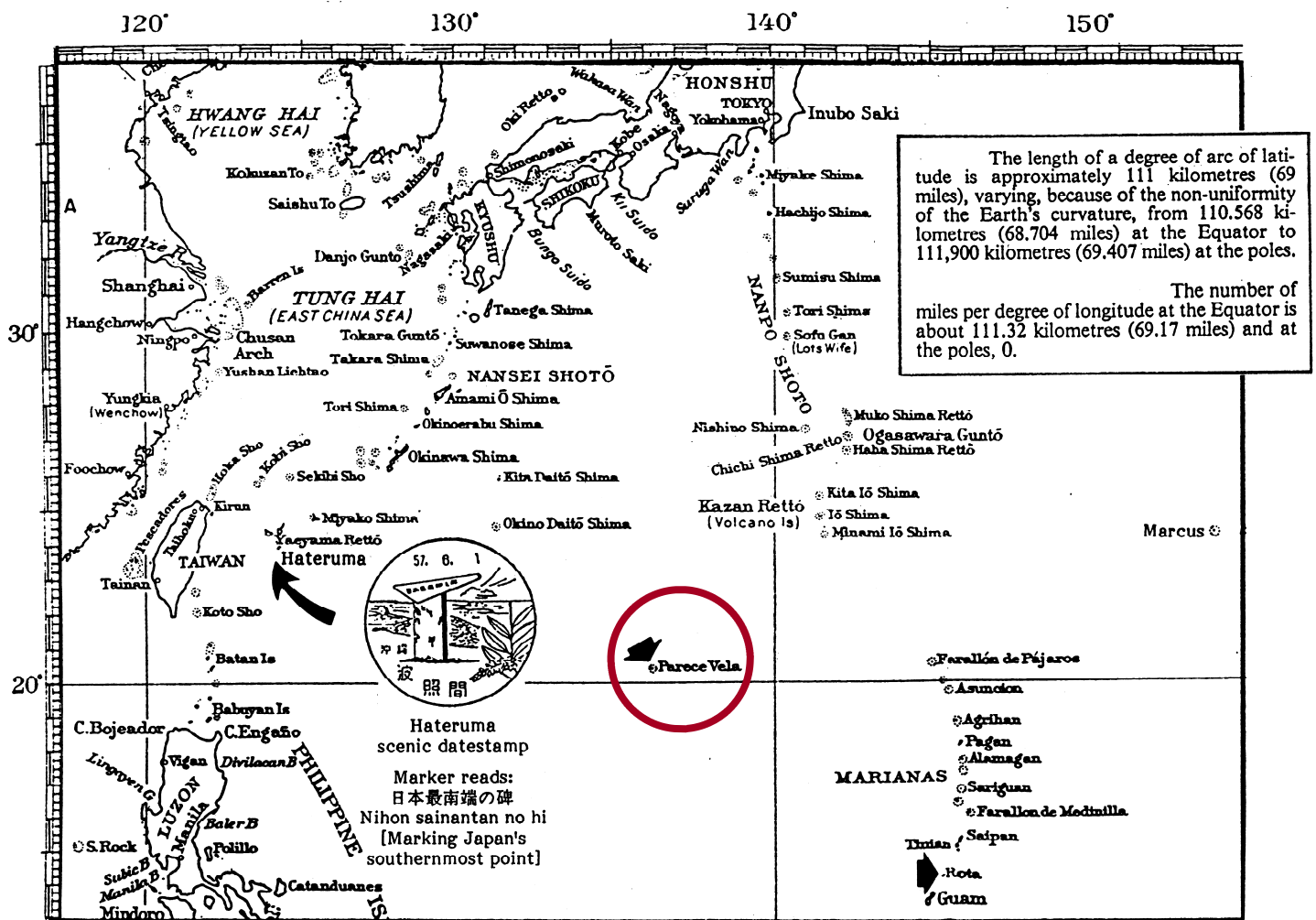
The original rocks appeared barren, obviously without any terrestrial vegetation, nor do the current concrete surfaces appear fit to support terrestrial vegetation.

After concrete encasing, each of the islets appears as a circle with a diameter of 60 meters (about 200 ft) on detailed satellite images, which would correspond to a land area of 2827 m<sup>2</sup> (0.7 acres) per islet, or 8482 m<sup>2</sup> (2.1 acres) in total. In addition, there is a platform on stilts in the shallow part of the lagoon 140 meters (460 ft) ENE of the southern islet, built by the Japan Marine Science & Technology Center in 1988, which appears as a rectangle of 100 m by 50 m (330 ft by 165 ft). The platform has a helicopter landing pad and a large three-story building with marine investigation facility and a meteorological station.

Administratively, the island is considered part of Ogasawara village, Tokyo. In 1939, construction of a Naval Base was started by Japan, but suspended in 1941, at the start of the World War II hostilities in the Pacific.

Typhoons are constant threats to Okinotori's existence. In 1970s there were about five or six visible protrusions, but by 1989, only two were visible.

In order to prevent the island from submersion caused by erosion and maintain the claim to the EEZ (exclusive economic zone), the Japanese government launched an embankment building project in 1987, and Higashikojima and Kitakojima were surrounded by concrete. More on the EEZ follows on the next page.

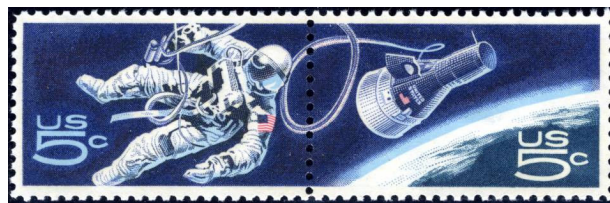


The rocks are in the western part of a lagoon surrounded by a submerged coral reef, over which the waves break, and that extends 4.5 km (2.8 mi) east-west and 1.7 km (1.1 mi) north-south, with an area of roughly 5 km<sup>2</sup> within the rim of the reef. The lagoon is 3 to 4.6 meters deep, but there are numerous coral heads of lesser depths throughout the area. The fringing reef of the atoll is pear-shaped in an east-west direction with its greatest width at the eastern end. There is a small boat channel into the lagoon in the southwest, about 15 meters (50 ft) wide and 6 meters (20 ft) deep, 250 meters (800 ft) southeast of the artificial islet.

Japan has encased the reefs with \$280 million worth of concrete and covered the smaller one with a \$50 million titanium net to shield it from debris thrown up by the ocean's waves. In fact, the Japanese government has spent over \$600 million fortifying the reefs to prevent them from being completely washed away.

Furthermore, the Nippon Foundation has drawn plans to build a lighthouse and increase the size of the reef by breeding microorganisms known as foraminifera. Creating land using the microorganisms could take decades to a century before the island is large enough to be useful.

## Edward Higgins White II



Accomplishments in Space Issue, Scott 1332b.,  
issued September 29, 1967.

Edward Higgins White II was a lieutenant colonel, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1952, who was transferred to the Air Force. In 1955, he flew F-100s and F-86s with the 36th Fighter Day Wing in Bitburg, Germany, with his West Point tract team buddy Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. White later graduated from the University of Michigan with a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering. He was selected for astronaut training in September 1962. He was the first astronaut from West Point.

White was selected for the flight of *Gemini IV*. He was to fly as pilot with James McDivitt as mission commander. The launch was on June 3, 1965, and the press contingents had gathered at the Cape and in Houston at the newly inaugurated control center. A space walk (Extra Vehicular Activity or EVA) was scheduled for the mission.

White had trained extensively for an EVA. (The Russian cosmonaut Alexei A. Leonov had already accomplished this feat in *Voskhod II* on March 18, 1965.) After a slight delay, when the launch pad gantry stuck, the lift off was flawless. Five minutes later, *Gemini IV* was in orbit. White went through stressful preparation for the EVA while attaching his umbilical system and the emergency oxygen checkpack. While over the Indian Ocean, he opened the hatch, squirted compressed air from his zip gun and maneuvered himself to the end of his tether. He was in space for 20 minutes testing the effects. He wasn't disoriented nor did he experience space sickness. One of the photographs showed White floating freely in space, his thruster gun in his right hand, the sun showed reflected brightly from his protective visor, and the flag sewn on his left shoulder documenting him as an American astronaut. The flight ended June 7 with 97 hours, 48 minutes flight time.

On January 27, 1967, the launch team of *Apollo I* mounted the spacecraft atop an operational Saturn IB rocket. At 1 p.m., the astronauts were placed in their seats — Gus Grissom on the left, White in the middle and Roger Chaffee on the right. A fire broke out in the cockpit, and the three astronauts perished.

Edward Higgins White II was born November 14, 1930 in San Antonio, Texas. He died January 27, 1967 at Kennedy Space Center, Cape Kennedy, Florida.



In 2005, the government installed a Radar system (at the cost of ¥ 330 million), repaired a heliport, and placed an official address plaque saying, "1 Okinotori Island, Ogasawara Village, Tokyo" in Japanese. Fishing expeditions are also sent to support the claim of economic activity.

Despite protests by environmentalists, Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara has talked of building a power station. His government has helped fund expeditions to Okinotori by Japanese fishermen and scientists. Governor Ishihara toured the islands on May 20, 2005 to inspect the conservation and management efforts, went snorkeling to see the condition of the surrounding waters, and he released Japanese horse mackerel fry to show support for the local fishing industry. As an intermittent rallying point for Japanese nationalists, the islands are a hot-button political issue in Japan.

On 22 April 2004, Chinese diplomats stated during bilateral talks with Japan that they regarded Okinotorishima as an atoll, not an islet, and did not acknowledge Japan's claim to an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) stemming from Okinotorishima.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, an island is "a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide". It states that "rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone". Japan signed the Convention in 1983; the Convention came into force in 1994–1996 for Japan.

Japan claims an EEZ over 400,000 square km (154,500 square miles) around Okinotorishima. The People's Republic of China disputes this claim, saying the area only consists of rocks and not islands. The PRC has not made a territorial claim of its own regarding Okinotorishima, but foreign policy analysts note that it wants to "investigate the surrounding seabed for submarine operations in case of military conflict involving the Republic of China (Taiwan)".

The territory lies at a militarily strategic point, midway between Taiwan and Guam, where U.S. forces are based. Vessels of the PRC are believed to have been mapping the ocean's bottom over which U.S. warships might pass on their way to Taiwan. The PRC conducted four maritime surveys near the Okinotori coral reefs in 2001, two in 2002, and one in 2003. However, the number of such incidents rose to four in 2004. These incidents have drawn protests from Japan.

It's been suggested that the situation is similar to the failed British attempt to claim an EEZ around Rockall, an uninhabited granite outcropping in the Atlantic Ocean. The UK eventually dropped its claim in the 1990s when other countries objected. It was further asserted that it is impossible to make "a plausible claim that Okinotorishima should be able to generate a 200 [nautical]-mile zone". The Japanese disagree, arguing that rocks and reefs differ in composition and structure, and that the intent of the provision was geared toward the former.



# *Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.*

As a rather serious collector of the Americana series I knew this cover would be a nice addition. Posted in Miami, Florida on July 11, 1984 and sent, registered, to Vorarlberg, Austria it was franked with \$3.65 worth of Americana series stamps. And, it was a very nice destination—wherever Vorarlberg, Austria was! A quick search online solved the question. Vorarlberg is the westernmost federal state (Land) of Austria. Although it is the second smallest in terms of area (Vienna is the smallest) and population (Burgenland is less populated), it borders three countries: Germany (Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg via Lake Constance), Switzerland (Graubünden and St. Gallen) and Liechtenstein. The only Austrian federal state that shares a border with Vorarlberg is Tyrol to the east. The capital of Vorarlberg is Bregenz (28,000 inhabitants), although Dornbirn (45,000 inhabitants) and Feldkirch (30,000 inhabitants) are larger cities in terms of population. Vorarlberg is also distinct in that it is the only province in Austria that does not speak an Austro-Bavarian, but rather an Alemannic dialect; it therefore culturally has much more in common with its Alemannic-speaking neighbors Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Swabia than with Bavaria and the rest of Austria. I guess I will have to purchase the rate book on foreign destinations to validate the postage rate used on this cover.



Cover measures approximately 163 X 115 mm.

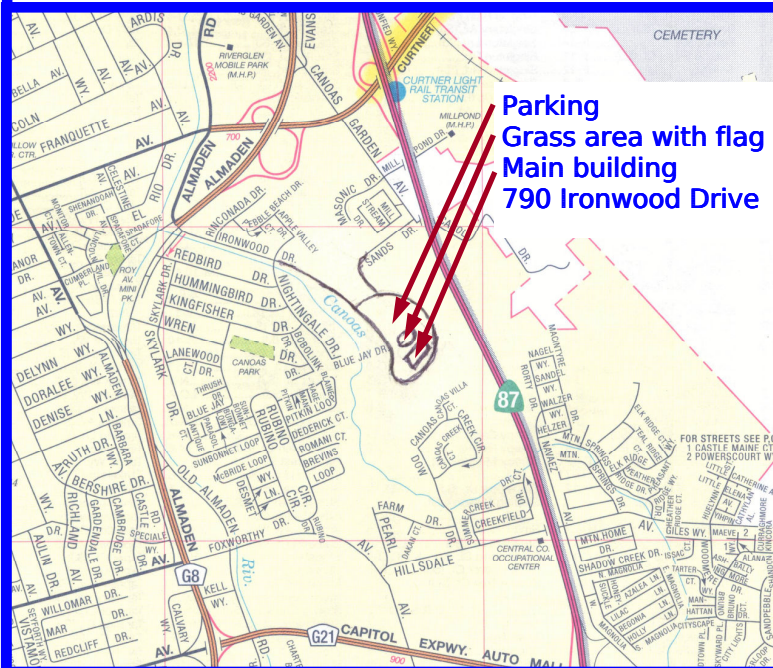
**"A Constitution is not the act of a Government,  
but of a people constituting a government,  
and a government without a constitution  
is a power without right."**

**—Thomas Paine**

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.—Douglas Adams



**OCTOBER MEETINGS ARE ON THE 3RD & 17TH  
NOVEMBER MEETINGS ARE ON THE 7TH & 21ST**



**Parking  
Grass area with flag  
Main building  
790 Ironwood Drive**

#### Show Calendar

##### WINEPEX 2012

October 5 - 7

Marin Civic Center, San Rafael

Fri - Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 3

Free Parking & Free Admission

##### Santa Cruz Post Card & Collectables Show

Sunday, October 7

The Hilton Scotts Valley

6001 La Madrona Drive, Scotts Valley

10 - 5

Free Parking

##### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WESTERN ARTIFACTS SHOW

October 20

Walnut Creek Elks Lodge Hall

1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

Sat 9 - 3

##### East Bay Collectors Club Show

October 27 - 8

Walnut Creek Civic Park Community Center

1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4

Free Parking & Free Admission

**The San Jose Post Card Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month  
(excepting July & August) in the Hilltop Manor dining room.**

**Visit the SJSC website at: [filatelicifiesta.org](http://filatelicifiesta.org)**

#### Advertisements

Members may place an ad here to run for three months unless sold. Three at a time or as space allows.  
No politically incorrect, risqué, religious, illegal or offensive material accepted. Editor will edit.

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Vatican City: C18 - 19 MNH 75th Anniversary UPU  
Cat \$130.00 - \$75.00

Great Britain: 185 - 6 & 203 - 4 MLH British Empire  
Exhibition issues Cat \$91.00 - \$50.00

Great Britain: 435b. Block of 6, MNH  
Cat \$5.00 - \$3.00

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U.S.: Legends of the West error sheet w/original mailer and all contents plus White Ace specialty pages.  
Cat \$240+++ - \$195.00

Mozambique Company: C1 - 15 MNH  
Cat \$9.85 - \$5.00

Monaco: FIPEX issue 354 - 62 MNH  
Cat \$23.95 - \$14.00

Montserrat: UN 50th gutter pairs MNH 873 - 6  
Cat \$17.00+++ - \$10.00

All prices plus shipping or mailing costs if applicable.

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Jim Sauer 408.445.2694 ~ [hjamesauer@yahoo.com](mailto:hjamesauer@yahoo.com)

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**Walt Kransky's website has changed** — now mostly philatelic material, covers, etc.— a few postcards. Website: <http://www.thepostcard.com/walt/> e-mail [Walt@wrsky.att.net](mailto:Walt@wrsky.att.net) Walt's duplicate and extra postcards are still for sale **Please use the word "POSTCARD QUERY"** in the subject line of your e-mail message to avoid spam. Thank you.

**This is a member service — use it!**