



RPA Meetings Return in September
Bornhardtts and Nubbins
Upcoming RPA Meetings and Club News
GASS 2024, Hartford, CT
1833 Turned Letter

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RPA Meetings Return in September

Summer is winding down. It is now dark by 8:00 PM and school has started, both for the kiddos and at all the area's colleges and universities. And you all know what that means. Yes, it is time for RPA to reconvene with its twice-monthly meetings.

As in past years, even decades, we will meet the second and fourth Thursdays in September and October and then, in deference to the major holidays, we will meet just once in November and December. Our meeting location has not changed from last year and is listed on page 2. You can also see that our members have provided us with a full slate of programs. The first five meetings of the year are set with different presenters covering a wide range of philatelic topics each meeting.

At the first meeting, one of our long-time cachet makers, Kelly Armstrong, will show us some of the creative and PUNderful cover cachets that he has designed over the years. This one is from 2020, but they go back a lot farther than that!



Bornhardtts and Nubbins

by Fred Haynes



Do you know what a bornhardt is? How about a nubbin? In full disclosure, and even as a geologist, I had not heard of either until I encountered them in a Facebook Geology Group and then found the Australian stamp shown in the title box in my collection. Bornhardtts and nubbins are geomorphic terms. *Geomorphology is the study of landforms and their relation to geologic processes and structures.* In short, a bornhardt is a large rock formation with steep or vertical sides and a round or dome-shaped top and a nubbin is a small, gently-sloped hill with a bedrock core that is often dotted with erosionally-exposed, rounded, residual blocks. Both are subsets of the broader geologic landform known as an inselberg, an "island mountain" as directly translated from German. Bornhardtts often degrade into nubbins as erosion proceeds in a desert environment. Both are typically made of granite, but this is not part of the definition.

Let's start with the larger of the two landforms. Bornhardtts are named after Wilhelm Bornhardt (1864–1946), a German geologist and explorer of German East Africa, who first described the feature. Arguably, however, the most famous bornhardt in the world is across the South Atlantic from where Bornhardt worked. At the head of Guanabara Bay and overlooking Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Sugarloaf Mountain rises 1300 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Since 1912, cable cars have carried people to the top

continued on page 4 (see Nubbins)

Editor's Message

As with last issue, I struggled with input from our members to fill the issue. Thank you Tom and Larry for contributing, but to fill this issue I resorted to including a longer article I wrote for the Spring 2024 issue of *Philagems*, the newsletter of the ATA Study Unit on Gems, Minerals, and Jewelry. Perhaps some of you will enjoy learning about bornhardts and nubbins, but my main message is this:

Please take a moment in the coming weeks and months to send me a note about your current philatelic interest or maybe just an image of something you have just acquired or rediscovered in your collection that you think might interest others. The next *Hinges and Tongs* will be better for it and you will make your editor's job easier. It is either that or more geology, wildflowers, or fungi on stamps!

Fred Haynes



Unity-Village Community Center in Greece

The Unity Village Community Center is at 1477 Long Pond Road in Greece. Buy/sell/trade runs from 7:00-7:30 PM, followed by the formal meeting at 7:30 PM. A silent auction concludes most evening's program.

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2024

- Sept. 12 PUNderful Cover Cachets
by Kelly Armstrong
- Sept. 26 A Collecting Passion Spanning 70 Years
by Reinhard Danger
- Oct. 10 APS Stamp Chat: The USPS Stamp Decoder and Scrambled Indicia
YouTube video *by Henry Jehan*
- Oct. 24 Railroad Destination Cancellations (Part 2)
by Robert Lighthouse
- Nov. 14 Love for Sale: The Prostitute Stamps of Rosario, Argentina *by Tom Fortunato*
- Dec. 12 TBA

If you can't attend a meeting in person, join us via a Zoom connection using the following link and login details at 7:30 PM each meeting night.

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7117955142?pwd=amR3Z1Z3L0d4bkJaNHdJUjBmbjFaQT09>

GASS 2024, Hartford, CT by Tom Fortunato

The nation's largest stamp exhibition, the Great American Stamp Show co-sponsored by the APS, ATA and AFDCS, was held August 15-18 at the Greater Hartford Convention Center. I had the honor to be selected as a judge for the show. While most of the time I was on jury duty—literally—I was able to sneak out to attend a few events.



GASS is a must-attend event if you enjoy first day ceremonies. USPS sponsored two at 11 AM on the show floor, one for the "Pin-Back Buttons" set of 10 round stamps on Thursday and another on Friday for the "Autumn Colors" issue, another set of 10 displaying colorful leaves on trees. I was able to sneak a peek at that one for a few minutes where I ran into RPA president Jack Rosenstein in the crowd. Other ceremonies included the United Nations Postal Administration's "World Heritage – The Republic of Korea" release; the National Duck Stamp Collectors' pane of 12 issue; the fourth Boston 2026 Label First Day Ceremony; and the Rattlesnake Island Local Post unveiling for "Island Aviation through the Decades."



Autumn Colors First Day of Issue Ceremony

continued on page 6 (see GASS 2024)

1833 Turned Letter

by Larry Rausch

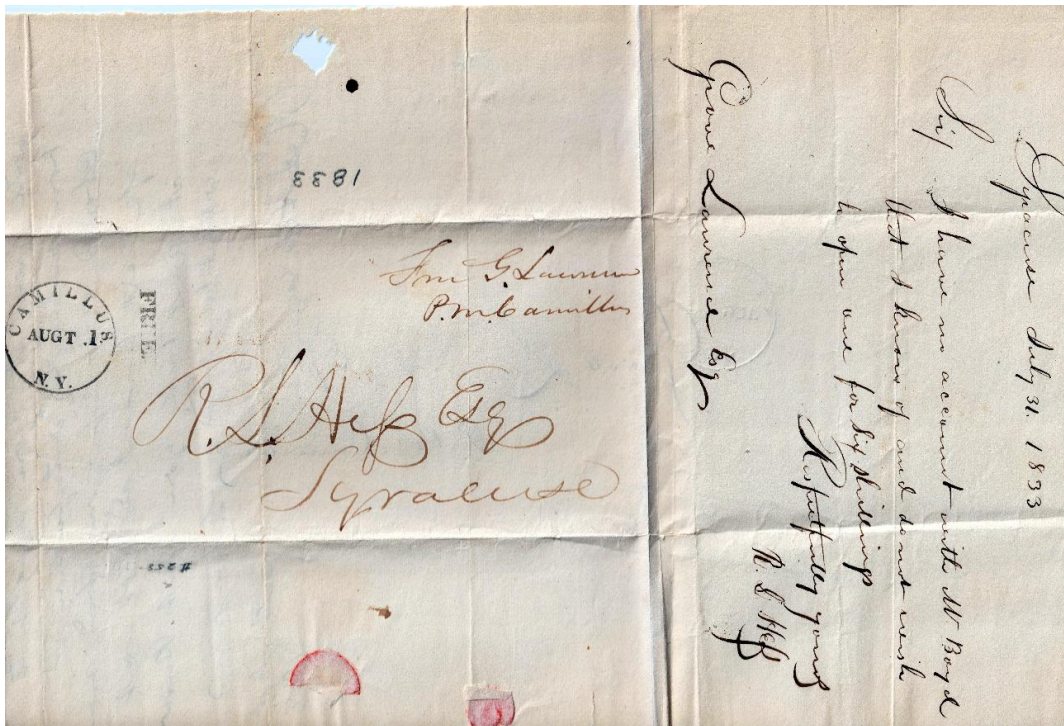


Figure 1. Original letter to the Camillus Postmaster on the right. Return address on the left and Camillus postmark on the left. The FREE marking on the return indicates the privilege of the Postmaster position.

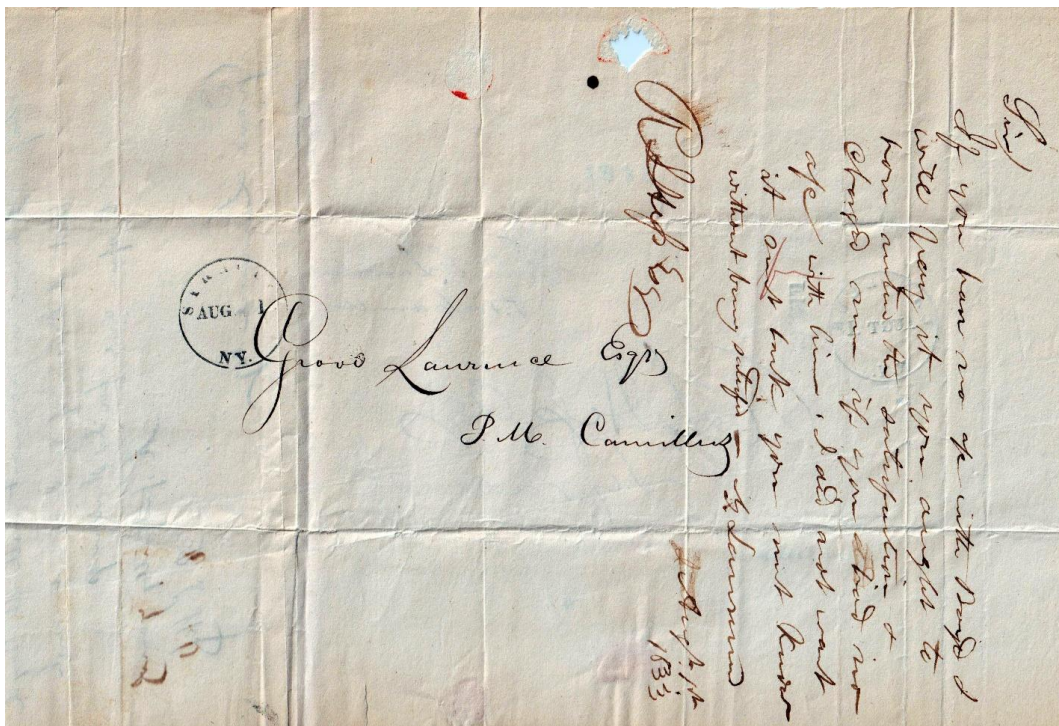


Figure 2. The Postmaster's return letter is on the right. The address and Syracuse postmark on the left are from the original letter sent to the Camillus Postmaster.

Turned letters are letters that are reused a second time either by unfolding a stampless letter or ungluing an envelope and addressing the reverse side to send a second letter or a reply letter. Many times in US postal history reusing letters was needed to fill the lack of paper or envelopes.

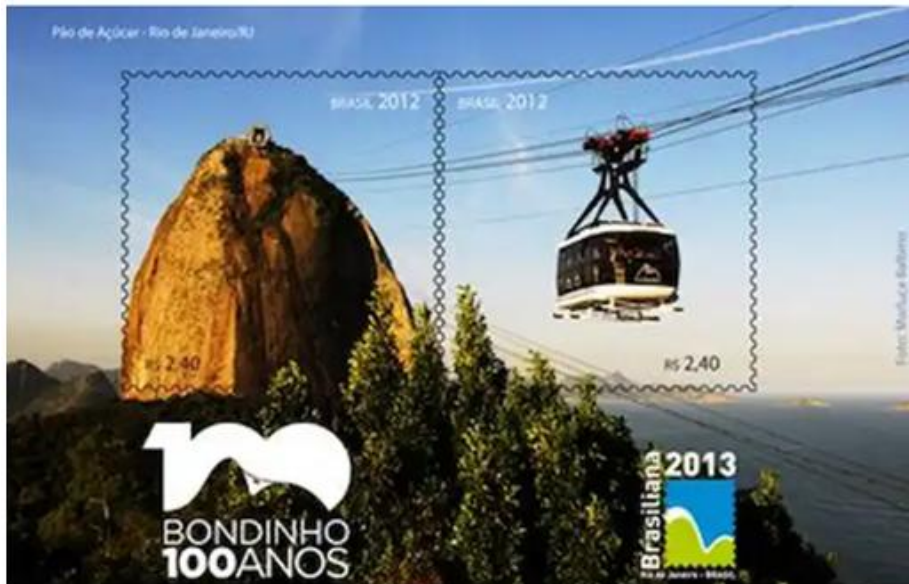
Folded letters can be a little hard to understand. Both sides of a turned letter from the early 19th century are displayed to the left. The original letter on the right side of Figure 1 was written on July 31, 1833 and the paper was folded. The Syracuse postmark that was applied on Aug. 1, 1833 is on the reverse side (Figure 2) and the letter was sent to Grove Lawrence Post Master of Camillus, New York.

The Postmaster used the same sheet of paper to respond, placing his response on the right side of Figure 2, and refolding the paper. The return postmark for the stampless letter is on the left side of Figure 1.

Grove Lawrence was the Post Master in Camillus from August 29, 1829 until June 15, 1838.

Nubbins (continued from page 1)

of this large bornhardt for a spectacular view of the city. In the summer over 1300 people are transported to the top each hour. Brazil is proud of the bornhardt overlooking its largest city and has featured it on at least two postage stamps. Both commemorate Brazilian tourism and both were issued as souvenir sheets.

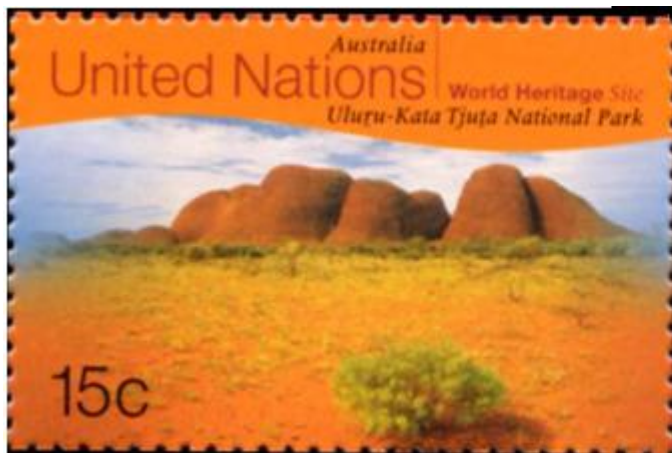


Scott 3232a, b (2012)



Scott 2397

Australians are likely to disagree with the assignment of Sugarloaf Mountain as the most famous bornhardt. The many bornhardts in central Australia are certainly worth noting and that is exactly what the United Nations did in 1999 when it depicted the stark landforms from Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park in a set commemorating World Heritage Sites in Australia. The UNPA held the first day ceremony for the Australian World Heritage Sites issue during ROPEX on March 19, 1999. Australia had previously placed the bornhardts at Uluru in a seven stamp set honoring its National Parks in 1979.

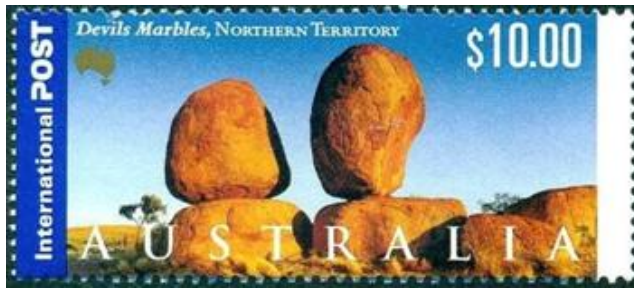


Scott 756d (1999)



Scott 701 (1979)

Nubbins are smaller features, but perhaps even more impressive in that visitors can approach them easily and appreciate their full beauty and origin. There are nubbins in the southwestern United States and in the arid regions of Namibia and South Africa (more on them later), but perhaps the world's most famous nubbins are in a protected area in the Northern Territory of Australia called Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve. The large rounded boulders strewn across a low hill in the Australian desert are referred to as Karlu Karlu by the aboriginal owners of the land, who place great cultural and spiritual significance on the granite monoliths. In 2000, Australia featured the Devil's Marbles on the postage stamp shown in the title box and again below.



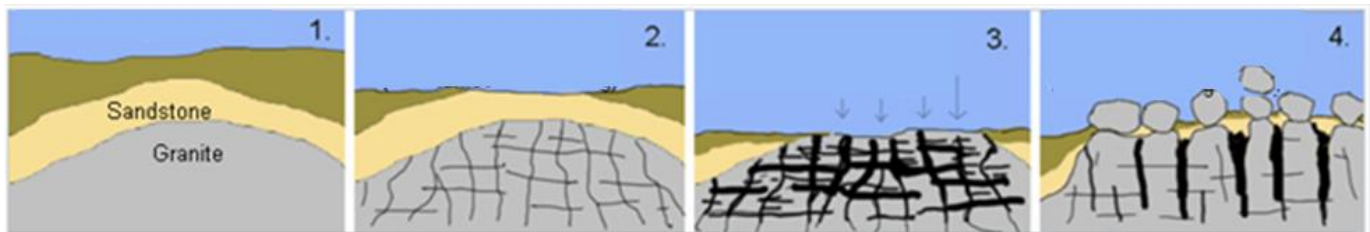
Scott #1846 (2000)



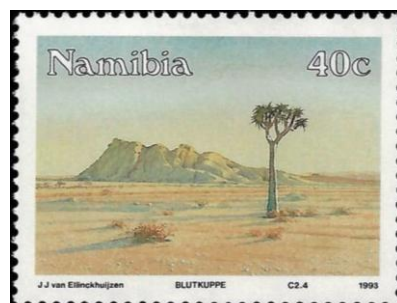
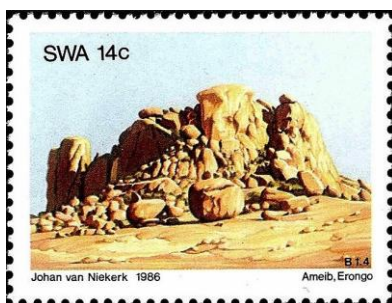
Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve, Australia.
from [Uluru Tours Website](http://UluruToursWebsite.com), Siteseeing Australia

It was said by Australian explorer John Ross in 1910, upon discovering the remote region in the Northern Territory of Australia, that it appears that “the devil himself emptied his bag of marbles around the place”. But geologists have a slightly different explanation for how the unique landform was created. Referring to the geologic diagram from Wikipedia shown below:

- 1) About 1700 million years ago, a granitic magma intruded an even older sedimentary sandstone unit. As the granite cooled, pressures and stresses within the Australian continental plate caused cracks (called joints) to develop at right angles. Slowly and over hundreds of millions of years the overlying rocks were eroded and the granite came closer to the surface.
- 2) Groundwater filtered down the joints, converting some of the feldspars in the granite to clay. The weathering process was helped by the warm, humid climate. Weathering was greatest at the corners of the blocks where surfaces were exposed.
- 3) Eventually, the overlying rocks were eroded away and the granite was exposed. The softer weathered granite at the edges of the blocks was washed away leaving boulders perched on one another and strewn across the rock platform and ...
- 4) Nubbins are born!



The inselbergs, bornhardts, and nubbins of Africa are also depicted on stamps, specifically those from the desert landscape of South West Africa, which became the Republic of Namibia in 1990 when it won its freedom from the territorial rule of South Africa. Prior to World War I, the region was a German colony from 1884 until 1919 when it was released to South Africa's control as a stipulation of the League of Nations Mandate and the Treaty of Versailles.

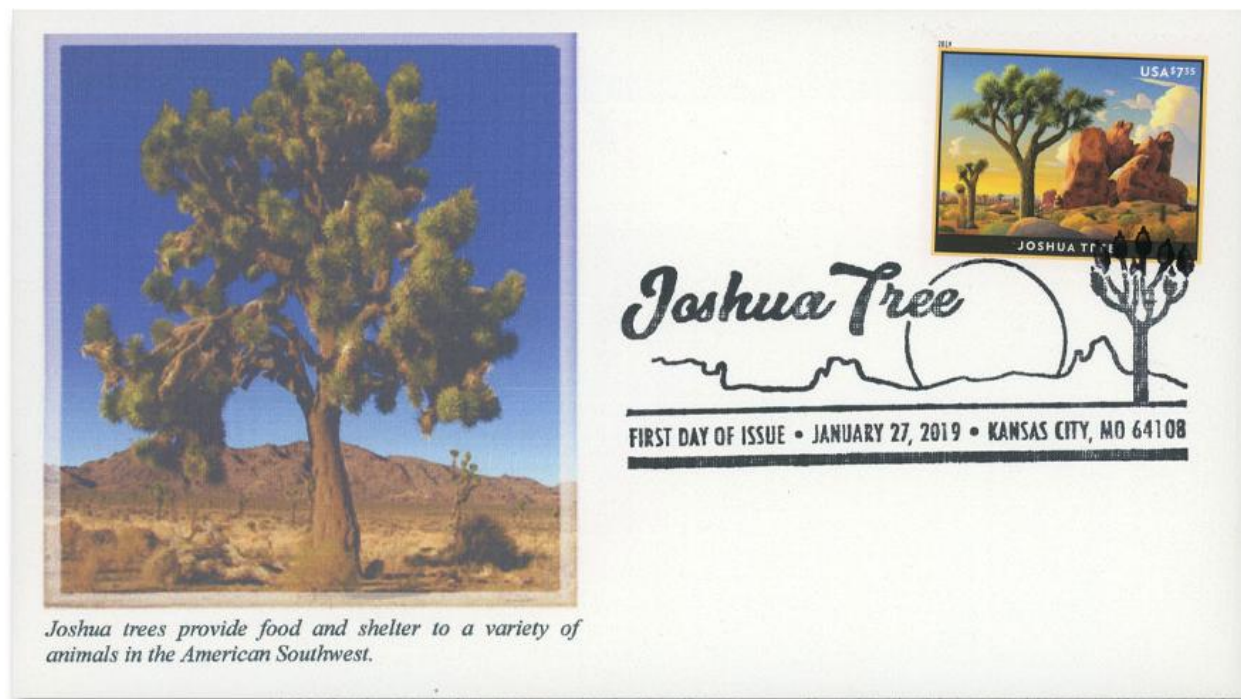


left: central bornhardt surrounded by nubbins, South West Africa Scott # 566 (1986)

center: This large inselberg in the Karib Desert is called Spitzkoppe, Namibia #735 (1993)

right: spectacular bornhardts in the foreground, inselbergs in the distant, South West Africa Scott # 400 (1977)

The desert southwest of the United States features bornhardts and nubbins in the desert landscape of Joshua Tree National Park and in the Coastal Range east of San Diego. Both owe their origin to the erosion of mildly jointed coarse-grained igneous batholiths. The United States chose to feature one such geologic landform on a \$4.75 Priority Mail denomination stamp (Scott #5347 in 2019). Although the cachet on this First Day of Issue Cover features the Joshua tree for which the park was named, one of the classic rock formations in the park is prominently depicted on the stamp. One could argue whether this is a bornhardt or a nubbin, or maybe this is a great example of the transformation of a larger bornhardt into a smaller set of nubbins with desert erosion.



References:

Various Wikipedia sites, William Bornhardt, nubbin(landform), bornhardt, inselberg
 Withers, P.C., 2000, Overview of granite outcrops in Western Australia, Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia, v. 83, p. 103-108
 World Landforms.com: Bornhardt Landforms link: <https://worldlandforms.com/landforms/bornhardt>

GASS 2024 (continued from page 2)

Among the 100+ meetings and seminars held over the four days was a very special gathering for the 75th anniversary of the American Topical Association. Preregistration was required and we learned why when we arrived. Attendees were greeted at the door by ATA officers presented with a party hat and the promise of a surprise and gifts at the conclusion of the festivities. Indeed, convention center workers wheeled in a birthday cake on cue and all 100 or so guests received a well-designed souvenir notebook as a remembrance.

Back to judging! There were 120 competitive exhibits at GASS made up from the three co-sponsoring societies. Twelve exhibit judges were divided into four first-responder teams of three and assigned their frames a month beforehand, allowing for study and research beforehand. An informal walk-through

took place late Wednesday afternoon, with judging starting at 8 AM Thursday. Points and medal levels were decided by 6 PM, with Friday morning allocated to determining GASS special awards and selecting the overall “Champion of Champions” winner among the 22 entries from the prior year’s national stamp shows from the US and Canada in a totally separate competition. That C of C championship originated right here in Rochester in 1968! The judges were then dismissed to write up their findings and seek out exhibitors before Saturday afternoon’s Feedback Session and medal awards ceremony. Top awards were presented during Saturday evening’s banquet attended by some 400 collectors, exhibitors and guests.