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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Journal of the American Philatelic Society

June 2012

GIBRALTAR





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Starter: Local Dungeness Crab Cake; **Salad:** Crisp Butter Lettuce, Opal Basil, Roma Tomato, Fried Cheese with Champagne Vinaigrette; **Entree:** Herb Rubbed Chicken Breast with Forest Mushrooms and Roasted Carrots or Vegetarian Option; **Dessert:** Flourless Chocolate Torte

Writers Unit Breakfast — Sunday, August 19, 8:30 am \$30 \$ _____

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Stamp Collecting 101 (Adult Beginners Course) — Saturday, August 18,

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Boy Scout Merit Badge — Friday & Saturday, August 17 or 18, \$15 \$ _____

Choose your date: August 17 — 10 a.m.–4 p.m. August 18 — 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (\$20 after July 20)

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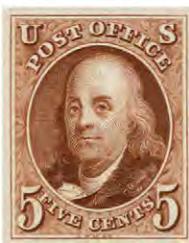
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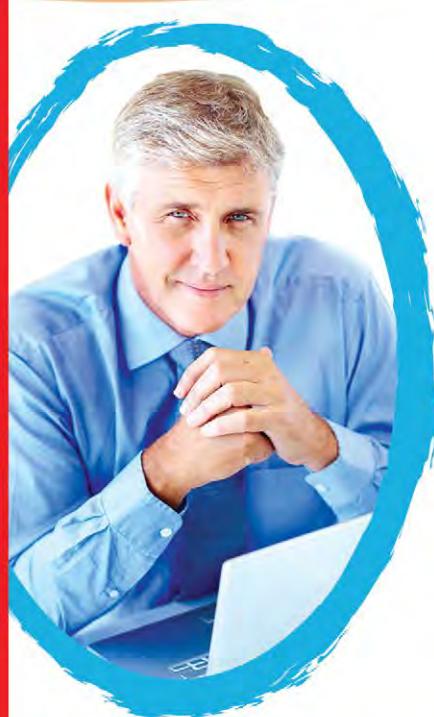
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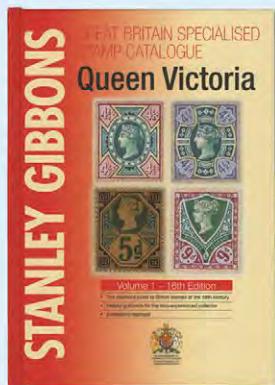
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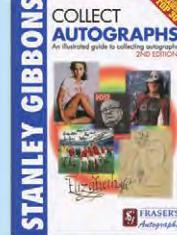
Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue

Volume 1: Queen Victoria, 2012



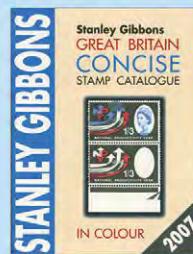
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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Since 1887 — The Premier Philatelic Magazine in the Nation

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Symposium • November 2–4**

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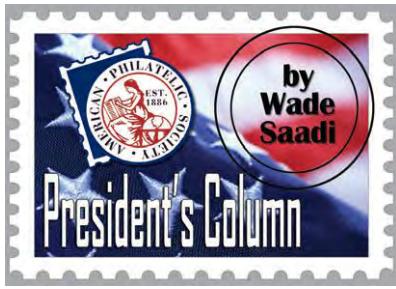
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The Power of the Written Word



In today's milieu of e-mails and texting, the mere mention of letter writing draws haunting stares and anxious twitches. Many people in their twenties have never written a letter and mailed it in an envelope with a stamp on it, albeit some have remitted payments in that manner. Just fifty years ago, letter writing was the predominant method of personal communication. Today it is less common than an Inverted Jenny.

Even before the effluence of "Forever" stamps, I asked about a dozen people in my office how much it cost to mail a letter (ten of the twelve have graduated college, with an average age of thirty years). Only two of the twelve knew (it was 42 cents at the time I inquired), with the bulk of the others off a penny or two, except for three not having any idea. Responses included, "Is mailing a letter the same cost as paying a bill?"; "Who mails letters, anyway?"; and "The last time I mailed something was for my mother, and she put the stamp on it."

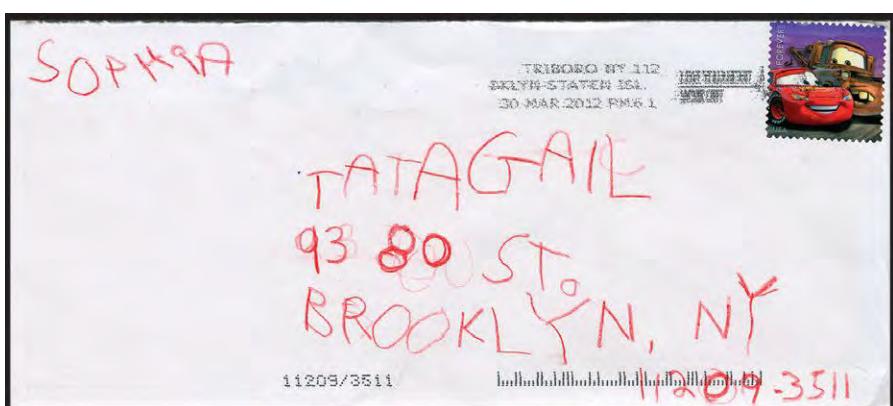
"Kids say the darndest things" echoed in my mind as a way for me to rationalize those last comments. Then, introspection whacked me upside the back of my head. Except for thank you letters and greeting cards, when was the last time *I* wrote a letter? Hmmmm. Well, oh, never mind!

It seems we save letter writing for the "really important" things in our lives. When my son was applying to colleges in the early/mid 1990s, he was accepted to six of the eight schools to which he applied. The other two "Wait Listed" him, about a month apart, with a caveat stating that they rarely accepted applicants on the "Wait List," and not to hold out for their acceptance. I suggested immediately that my son write a letter to the Dean of Admissions, explaining his interest in the college, why this relationship could be meaningful and his desire to attend. Within two weeks, an acceptance letter arrived in the mail. Two weeks later when the second "Wait List" letter arrived from the other college, I did not have to "suggest" to my son to write a letter; he had mailed it before the day was over. A week later, another acceptance letter arrived.

The power of the written word can separate us from and propel us past others who do not take that initiative. When Gail and I travel, we send postcards to our grandchildren, Sophia and Wade. After we return from a trip, we point out the picture on the postcard and the stamp, and tell about the place we visited. To the older Sophia, who just turned four in January past, and whose attention span is significantly longer than her 2½-year-old younger brother, we point out where we were on a map. Now, when we tell her we are "going to Sacramento this August," she asks, "Can you show me on the globe?" I do, and point out where my brother lives in Los Altos and where Disney World is located — she smiles broadly and I

catch a glint of the wonderment in her eyes, when I put my finger on Orlando.

I noticed Sophia liked to draw on colored paper (what we used to call "construction paper") and then gift the Crayola-laden artwork to friends and family. "Sophia, would you like to write a letter? You can draw a picture, put it in an envelope, put a stamp on it and mail it to someone," I inquired. I love it when a plan comes



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together. She said she would write her first letter to Tata Gail (Tata is the Arabic pronunciation of the word for Grandmother and Jidu is for Grandfather). Placing my finger where each letter should be written on the envelope, Sophia deliberately and methodically placed the address more or less where it belonged.

The discussion of which stamp to use on her envelope took more time than it should have taken. She chose the Cars Mater and Lightning stamp from the Disney/Pixar "Send a Hello" sheet. We walked up to the mailbox on the corner (one of the advantages of living in the city) and she mailed her first letter.

When my wife received the letter, we both got misty. She showed it to Sophia who beamed with joy. Sophia has since written more letters and is excited to continue. Of the handful of letters she mailed to other four-year olds, two have written back and another has said they are in the process. It's contagious! I know how much fun it was to get a letter addressed to me when I was a kid, as long as it wasn't from my school principal.

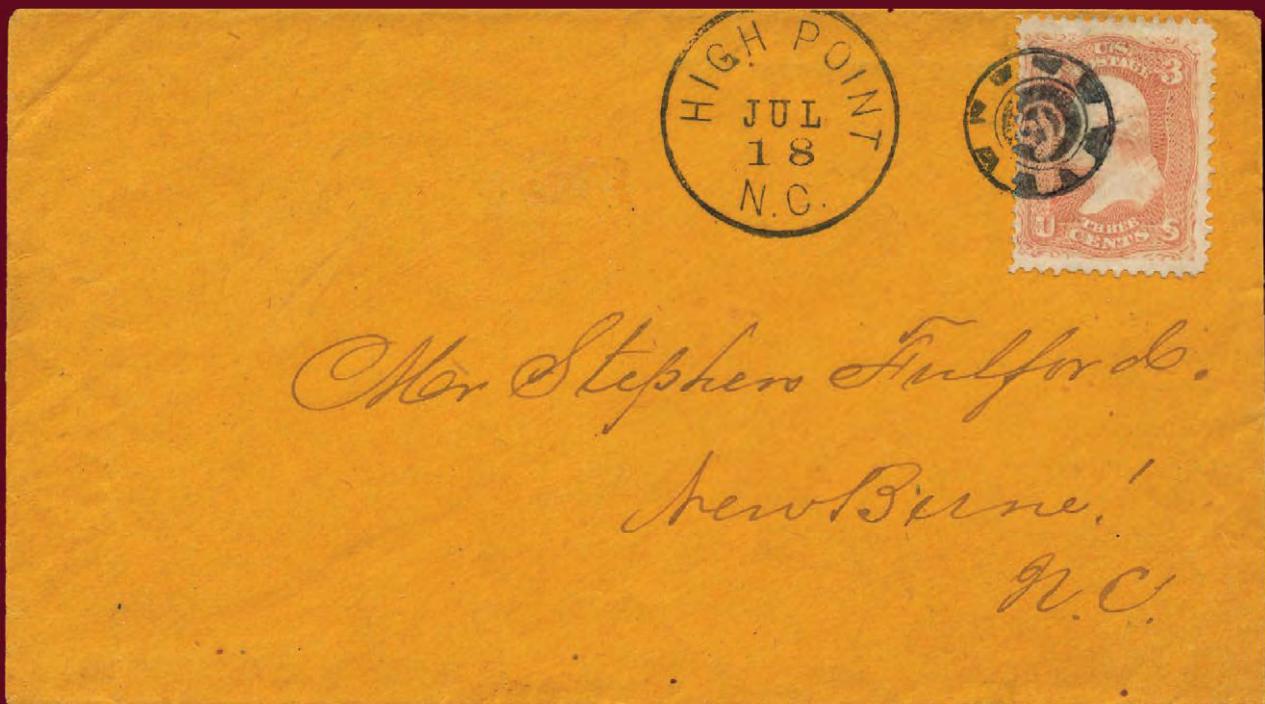
Well, not to be denied an opening or opportunity when it presents itself, I asked Sophia if she would like to have a sheet of the Art of Disney "Celebration" stamps. Nestled neatly within the sheet reside five Snow White stamps (with Dopey — her favorite Dwarf), mixed among the likes of Ariel and Flounder, Alice and the Mad Hatter, and Mickey Mouse and Pluto. Snow White is her favorite Disney character, she tells me, several times. The next day I got a three-ring binder and printed "Sophia's Stamp Collection" in lightly stroked pink script (her favorite color), added the image of the Snow White stamp and slipped it into the front cover sleeve. She was delighted with the single-page stamp album, as evidenced by her opening and closing it several times and showing it to everyone in the house as "My Stamp Album."

A few days later, I presented a Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Pane to Sophia, after explaining the expedition and showing her on a U.S. map the area traveled. She looked at me and said, "But I don't like that stamp." Even though she could recount the Lewis and Clark story to me and show me roughly on the map where the expedition took place (off maybe by a state or two), she did not want the sheetlet in "her" album. I said okay and put it away. The Lewis and Clark stamps would appeal to kids a few years older than Sophia. I had a



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learning moment just then.

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I hope my recounting can help others to have similar results. It's been so much fun to share this time with Sophia, watching her grow up and being able to have a positive influence on her development. Inspire other young people to write a letter; show them how it is done. They will love you for the experience. Write one yourself. Use this centuries old manner of communication. E-mails are but digitized charged particles floating in the ether; the written word is almighty

and forever. Let your expression make an impression for that special occasion.

By the way, the Lewis and Clark sheet is now in her album with two other Art of Disney sheets, “Romance” and “Friendship.” I guess she learned how to bargain in the process. How sweet it is!

Volunteer Profile

Nancy Shawley

I first began working at the APS through the Experience Works program, a federal program managed by our local Career Link, in August 2010. After my period of work ended, I wanted to stay active so I thought of volunteering at the APS through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program would be just the ticket. I like the jobs they have for me, which include mailing preparation, researching stamps in the *Scott Catalogue*, and processing donations. Each time I come in there is something different to do and it keeps my interest active. I never realized there were so many stamps in the world. I was awe-struck by the volume of them and still am after all this time.



Everyone is friendly and easy to get along with at the APC, including the members who stop by to visit. Everyone makes you feel welcome. I enjoy my interactions with all the people I see each week when I volunteer. That's what makes you want to keep coming back.

Before I retired, I was a medical secretary for a home health agency in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania for eighteen years. I like classical music, planting flowers, decorating for the holidays, and spending time with the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. My family is most attentive to me and I feel very blessed.

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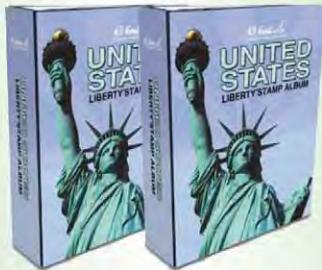
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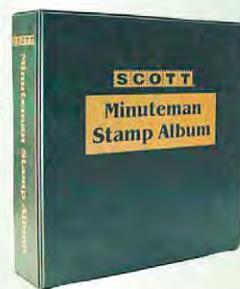
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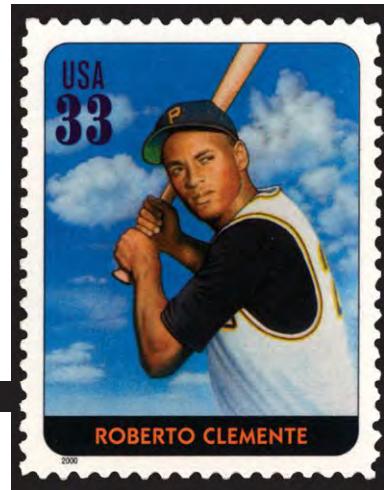
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Further Letters to Lisa

I would like to reply to Lisa Pando's letter in the March AP ("New Adult Collectors Need Help," page 204).

I've been collecting for what seems like my whole life. I thought collecting was about what one feels like collecting not what everyone else collects. I was just collecting individual stamps that I thought were impressive, but a number of years ago it started to change without me even knowing that I was beginning to collect certain things. True, my collection is very unusual, and I laugh at what the "Know it All" collectors would say if they saw how or what I collect.

Now don't get me wrong, without the know-it-alls of the world, we small timers would not know who to ask about our collection or how to price it if we chose to sell. So to help answer her question, never be ashamed about what you collect. You do as you feel, because there

will always be someone out there willing to help you or answer your question and not laugh at you or behind your back.

Milton Leek

Toronto, Ontario

Letter to Lisa II

I just read Lisa Pando's letter about adult collectors needing help. I am appalled by the negative experiences she has had at the hands of a so-called "expert." Almost every collector that I know started collecting the world and many still do. That's not "hoarding," it's collecting! There is absolutely nothing wrong with that and anyone who says differently is just wrong!

Many of us do eventually specialize when the challenge of collecting the world becomes overwhelming, but one of the great things about this hobby is that there NO RULES about what one has to collect — there is something for everybody.

Lisa, please try going to a club meeting. I have never been to a club where beginners weren't embraced and made to feel welcome. A club that doesn't have time for your "type" probably is on its last legs and won't survive long with that attitude. Also, go to those stamp shows — I don't think you will have anything but a positive experience.

Please don't think all collectors are like that person who was so negative. Take a beginner's course — there are lots of adult beginners out there. At the Greater Houston Stamp Show, we don't have a kid's booth, we have a "Beginner's Booth" — for the express purpose of being able to answer questions from adult beginners — as well as having youth activities. The APS also has a Mentor Program where you can be paired up with someone who can answer questions and help you out via e-mail or snail mail.

I think if you ignore those unfortunate comments you received, and go out and meet other collectors, you will be delighted at the kind and helpful people you are likely to meet. Good luck!

Denise Stotts
Houston, Texas

Axis Intent

I enjoyed immensely the many articles marking the 70th anniversary of the entrance of the U.S. into World War II. However, Lawrence Sherman's statement (December issue, page 1136), "Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini were eager to



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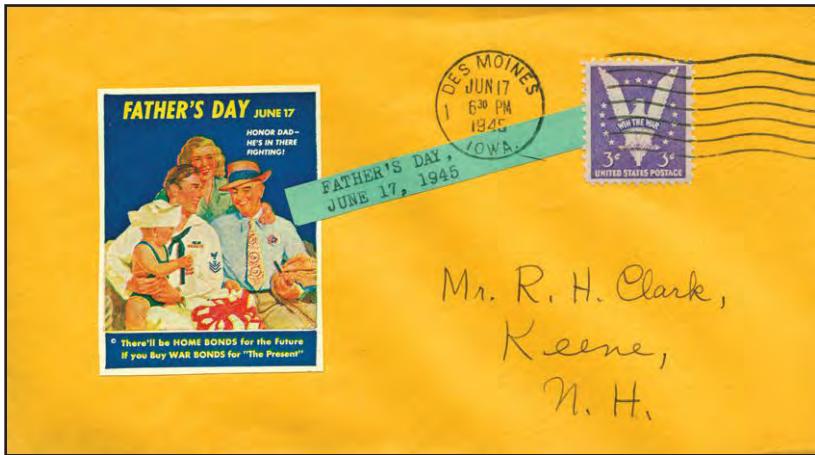


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Father's Day

A World War II cover with a label honoring Father's Day mailed June 17, 1945 and submitted by Ted Bahry gave rise to some thoughts on the holiday.

Father's Day in the United States has its origin in a daughter's desire to celebrate the achievements of her father, a Civil War veteran who raised six children, including an infant, on his own after his wife died in childbirth. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington wished to honor her father, William Jackson Smart, and proposed a "Father's Day" church service similar to the ones already being observed across the country to honor mothers. She hoped to have things in place for her father's 68th birthday, June 5, 1910, but services were not able to be held until June 19, the third Sunday of the month.

It struggled along in its attempts to be recognized as a country-wide annual observance until the Second World War, when it was seen as an occasion to honor America's military men. The label on the cover also promoted War Bonds. It shows a U.S. sailor home with his family. The text reads: "Honor Dad — He's in There Fighting. There'll be HOME BONDS for the Future if you Buy WAR BONDS for "The Present." A hand-typed strip of paper ties the label, stamp and postmark together. It reads: Father's Day, June 17, 1945. By June 1945 the Axis forces in Europe had surrendered, but the war in the Pacific lingered on until the final surrender documents were signed by Japan on September 2, 1945.

President Calvin Coolidge recommended the observation of Father's Day in 1924, and in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. But it wasn't until 1972 that President Richard Nixon made the day a permanent national holiday. This year Father's Day will once again be celebrated on June 17, making this 67-year-old cover an appropriate anniversary offering, to all fathers, philatelic and otherwise.

join Japan in its conflict with the United States" is historically inaccurate.

Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy declared war on 11 December 1941, three days after Congress responded to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The European powers reacted because in September 1940 they had signed with Japan the Tripartite Pact, a defensive alliance aimed against any non-belligerent which entered the war. Although originally aimed at the USSR, Japan decided to engage the U.S., a non-belligerent which stood in the way of its complete dominance in Asia.

Hitler found late 1941 inconvenient because he was bogged down in a Soviet winter offensive. But he considered America's supplying food, war materiel, ships, lend lease, and troops to Britain to be anti-German, and suitable reason to carry out his treaty obligation.

In 1939 Mussolini's military leadership advised him that they would not be ready for war for at least three years. With mediocre officers and poorly built equipment, Italian soldiers soon developed a morale problem, as shown in France, Greece, and Libya. Nonetheless in late 1941, Mussolini decided to follow ally Hitler and to fulfill his treaty obligation by declaring war on a country where many Italians had family and which was deeply admired.

James J. Divita

*Marian University
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Author's response: Mr. Divita denies the historical accuracy of my statement, "Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini were eager to join Japan in its conflict with the United States" ("Pearl Harbor and the



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Interruption of U.S. Mail to Hostile Foreign Destinations," December 2011 AP, page 1136).

Perhaps we can gauge the states of mind of these historical figures at this critical juncture in their careers by applying the Forrest Gump Rule, which (to paraphrase) is: Eager is as eager does.

The Tripartite Pact of September 1940 established Japan, Germany, and Italy as the Axis Powers of World War II. Article 3 of their agreement reads in its entirety: "Japan, Germany, and Italy agree to cooperate in their efforts on aforesaid lines [to establish and maintain a new order of things]. They further undertake to assist one another with all political, economic and military means if one of the Contracting Powers is attacked by a Power at present not involved in the European War or in the Japanese-Chinese conflict." [Emphasis added.]

Nine months later, in June 1941, Germany invaded the USSR. This was not an attack on a "Contracting Power" of the Tripartite Pact. Therefore, there was no obligation by Japan to enter the war. And it did not.

Why then did der Führer and Il Duce declare war on the United States, which had not attacked any Contracting Power? In part, as noted in my other article in the same issue ("U.S. Event Covers, December 1941," page 1104): "There was no obligation by Germany or Italy to aid the aggressor, Japan. Yet Adolf Hitler seized the opportunity to fight the United States. To be successful, Germany needed a 'big blue-water navy.' Japan provided that navy: 'Now there would be a navy of battleships and aircraft carriers to deal with the Americans. His own navy had been straining at the leash for years and could now sink ships in the North Atlantic to its heart's content.'" (Quote within the quote is from reference 3, Weinberg, *A World at Arms*, page 262.)

In fact, so moved was der Führer by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor that the next day he exclaimed, "We can't lose the war at all. We now have an ally which has never been conquered in 3,000 years." (From Hewel-Tagebuch entry for

December 8, 1941, in Institute of Contemporary History, Munich; quoted in Ian Kershaw, *Hitler 1936–1945: Nemesis*, page 442.) The United States fleet would be tied down in the Pacific, unable to challenge German U-boat warfare in the Atlantic, while Japan's assault on British possessions in the Far East would seriously weaken Britain's ability to fight. Josef Goebbels reported Hitler saying the day after declaring war on the United States: "Now the East-Asia conflict falls to us like a present in the lap." (Kershaw, page 448.) Eager is as eager does.

Italy's military misfortunes began with its inglorious incursion into the French Alps as France was falling to the Wermacht in June 1940. The misfortunes continued with defeats in North Africa, setbacks in Greece and Albania, and the crippling of the Italian Mediterranean fleet by British bombers.

Only a few years before, in 1937, Hitler had described Mussolini as "the leading statesman in the world," and considered Italy the only European country other than Germany capable of firmly resisting Bolshevism. By the time Germany invaded Russia in June 1941, Mussolini had become Hitler's "first vassal," admiring the German Dictator's unbounded optimism and seeking his favor. Thus he mirrored der Führer's eagerness to join the fray on December 11, 1941.

Lawrence Sherman, M.D.
San Diego, California

Batura Covers

I read the article "Chronicle of a Dangerous Time" by Lawrence Sherman in the April AP (page 334). The article states that William J. Batura created the covers and I have to question that, given that he is listed as living in New York City and was an electrician or streetcar conductor. I don't have any access to Sherman's book *United States Patriotic Covers of World War II*, but it looks more to me like Batura had a friend or relative in Washington, D.C. who was producing the covers. They may have visited him occasionally in New York.

The cover that caught my attention originally was the one postmarked Nov. 7, 1941 for the Neutrality Act revision

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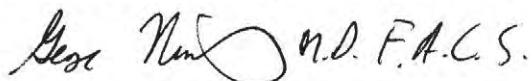
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vote. It is posted before 3 p.m. on November 7, 1941 at the Ben Franklin Station post office, which is across from the White House lawn. This is very shortly after the vote was taken on a Friday and has the signatures of Robert F. Wagner (Democratic Senator from New York), Sam Rayburn the speaker of the House, and Claude Pepper (Democratic Senator from Florida). It seems unlikely to me that Mr. Batura took off work and came to Washington, and managed to catch three important political figures, and then get up to near the White House to post this. Even if the signatures were added later, you would have a tough time getting this posted by 3 p.m. if you were watching the vote at the Capitol. And yet it has the vote (50-37) on it, which only happened a couple hours before. The cover from Nov. 13, 1941 also has the vote on it in the artwork.

The typewriters used to make the covers are a bafflement. At least six of the covers have the address using a type-

writer where the small "a" strikes low compared to the other letters in "Batura." Others do not. The typing on the cachets is different from the address typography. I think at least four different typewriters have been used. And the handwriting on the three shown with written cachets is different.

Batura may have pre-addressed these covers for someone to use. But I think a friend(s) or relative(s) who mailed the envelopes did the cachets, and I think they worked in or near the White House.

Scott Troutman

Altoona, Pennsylvania

The Author replies: Reader Troutman is justified in questioning whether William J. Batura was the creator of "Batura's event covers." As he stated, he did not have access to my original study, *United States Patriotic Covers of World War II*—a misfortune in itself (not the book, lack of access to it). The book was the first reference listed in the article's endnotes. There on pages 35–36 are my

thoughts on the subject, with new comments in brackets:

Of Batura the collector and maker of patriotic covers we know next to nothing.... Some of [his] pre-Pearl Harbor covers have 'FIRSTDAY COVERS/245 HEM-LOCK TERRACE/TEANECK, N.J., USA rubber stamped on the flap. [See illustration.] The 'FIRST-DAY COVERS' rubber stamp on envelopes ... are [sic] also found on pre- and early post-Pearl Harbor covers unrelated to Batura. All Batura covers known to me are canceled in Washington, DC [exceptions were later found: note November 15, 1941 cover illustrated in "Chronicle of a Dangerous Time"]; many of the pre-Pearl Harbor ones have a "New York, N.Y. (Church St. Annex) Gen. Del." receiving mark. What was the relationship between Brooklyn collector/publisher Batura and Firstday Covers of Teaneck? What was the Washington connection that allowed Batura to receive

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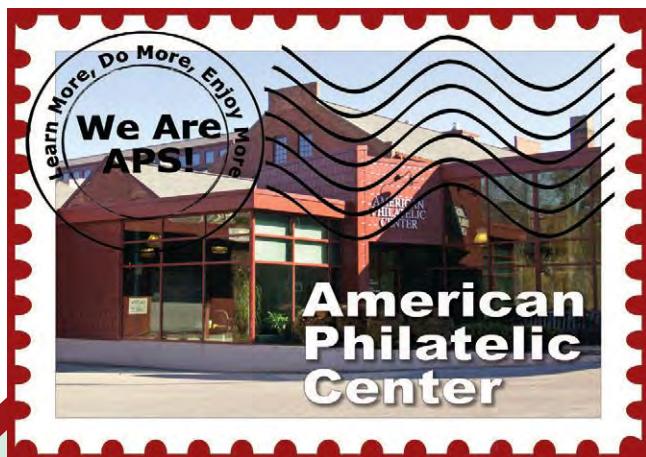
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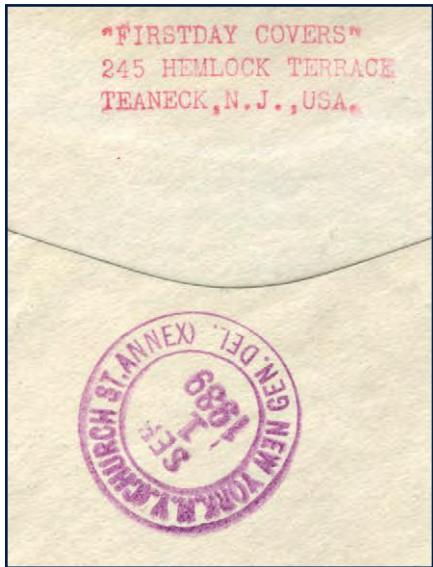
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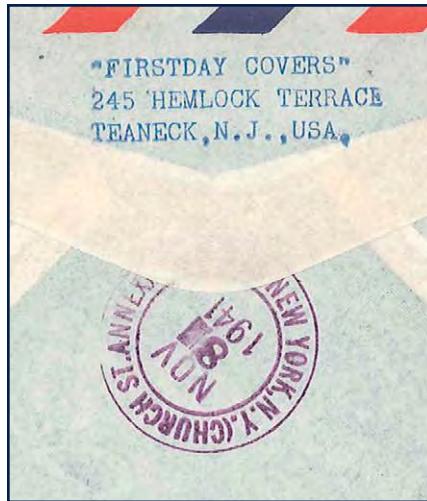




cover, and ascribing this series of 60 [now 77] covers to "William J. Batura" requires caution. Yet the evidence points to a single hand producing these intermittently over a six-year period.

It is important to recognize three facts about event covers of World War II: (1) The cachets were almost always created **after** the event, but were "of the period"; (2) signatures by notables were almost always obtained after — sometimes long after — the event, including after the war at ceremonial events or reunions (no other way to explain event covers signed by General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz, and others); (3) a same-date postmark was the defining element of an event cover.

Undoubtedly, Batura had someone in Washington, DC, who obtained the crucial same-date postmarks. The covers were then mailed to him in New York City; the NYC receiving marks noted on many of his pre-Pearl Harbor covers



were dated the day after the event. Like any cachet maker, Batura could then spend some hours or days crafting his cachet message, including details of the Congressional votes taken days earlier. It bears repeating that it was, and still is, accepted practice for cachets of event covers, like those of Firstday Covers, to be created after the date, but "of the pe-

timely cancels for events of national importance? After more than 50 [now 70] years we still only have the questions.

It can be dangerous to assume that the sender or addressee on a patriotic cover is the author of that

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riod." There is no need to invoke a friend or relative who "worked in or near the White House" to design the cachets on the spot.

Questions about the typewriter(s) used on the covers, and variations in size or position of type, I must leave to the FBI. I have trouble enough reading the sports pages in my morning newspaper.

It is indeed possible that we should call these "Batura covers," named simply for the addressee, rather than "Batura's covers," implying cachet authorship. Yet the continuity of this series of covers for six years, addressed to the same person — without evidence of multiple duplicate covers — suggests to me that person's involvement in the cover-making process. Covers sent to multiple collectors allow a subscription service to be profitable (as in Fluegel, Linto, or Sayama event covers). If Batura was merely one of a number of subscribers receiving the offerings of Firstday Covers of Teaneck, NJ, where are the duplicate covers sent to other col-

lectors? They may exist, but I have not seen them. Perhaps others have. Current collectors and dealers in First Day covers with whom I have talked know nothing of Teaneck's "Firstday Covers." I hope someone reading this letter will throw light on the group. That might help resolve the Batura covers/Batura's covers question.

Lawrence Sherman, M.D.

San Diego, California

Nominations for Stamphood

If I were the person in charge of deciding who was going to be on an American stamp, I would first make sure that we departed from the policies used by the "Sand Dune" states, the former Soviet "Republics" in Central Asia, Equatorial Guinea, and almost all of the Caribbean and Pacific countries. You know, the countries that issue stamps of Elvis riding a dinosaur, Madonna and the Seven Dwarves, Princess Di on a space-

ship, Beckham and Posh Spice with the Smurfs....

I would also cut way down on the "cute" issues — kitties and puppies (the kind of stuff you see on YouTube), lace patterns, beads, etc.

What I would have more of are heroes of integration, military heroes (more enlisted men, fewer generals), Nobel Prize-winning scientists, and the like. But the first three stamps I would authorize would be for athletes (accepting the fact that sports loom large in the USA).

The first would honor Paul Anderson, a mild-mannered Georgia farm boy who was, bar none, the strongest man in history — and without drugs. (He lifted from the late 1940s until the 1960s.) A completely self-taught, self-trained lifter, he performed feats still unmatched to this day, even with the scourge of strength enhancing drugs and HGH. He squatted three reps with 1,025 pounds, without a lifting suit — a total



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Forged Irish Specimens

Yet another group of bogus Irish specimens has found its way to market. This group of Irish overprints, definitives, and commemoratives was offered recently by a prominent New York auction house as a lot.

The specimen defacement was accomplished with a rubber handstamp that measured 13.25mm x 2.0mm and almost passed for a Marcus Samuels type PS21 steel handstamp. This was the handstamp used by the director of the British Post Office and is very well made. The ink was regular back ink and not from a color copier.

The overprinted stamps were the ½ penny to the 5 shilling Dollar four line and the ½ penny to the 5 shilling Thom three line. Nowhere in the whole lot were there any 10 shilling sea horses, which most certainly would have been included if sent to a UPU country.

All of the stamps were first mounted by hinge then stuck down onto the page to appear as if mounted into a ledger.

The forger also accidentally handstamped a British 1½ penny postage due stamp, which would never have been included to the UPU.

Finally, the defacement was applied diagonally in every case. All of the specimen handstamps legitimately used were made to fit onto a regularly sized postage stamp horizontally.



This is a poorly made forgery compared to the lady in London who is using high-end Photo Shop software and a high-end commercial computer to place specimen defacements onto the stamps, and represents a disturbing trend to forge less expensive stamps for public consumption.

John Pedneault
Bohemia, New York

that was not equaled for a *single* rep for more than forty years. He could dumbbell curl 275 pounds, twice what any of today's steroid strongmen do. I saw him do a 300-pound dumbbell press for three reps, at least fifty pounds more than anyone can do today for one rep. And he still holds the record for the most weight gotten off the ground by a human being: an incredible 6,270 pounds — more than three tons!

The second would be Steve Prefontaine, the greatest distance runner in American history. Only twenty-four when he died in a car crash, at the time of his death he held the U.S. record in

the two mile, three mile, six mile, 2,000 meters, 3,000 meters, 5,000 meters, and 10,000 meters. He was also the most charismatic athlete of his time, in any sport. He died just as he was starting to reach his peak. Had he lived, runners would still be chasing his times.

And the third (and most surprisingly not-yet-honored) is Wilt Chamberlain, simply the most incredible basketball player in history, surpassing any other contender by the same margin that Babe Ruth surpasses any other baseball player — that is, no one else ever played in the same league. Simply put, the way to find out if someone knows anything

about basketball is to ask them who was the greatest player ever. If the answer is anything *but* Wilt, the guy learned all he knows about basketball from ESPN and shoe ads.

Jamie Selko
Eugene, Oregon

A Friend Is Gone

Mel Feiner (1934–2011), who with his wife, Pat, owned Classic Philatelys and the Higgins & Gage Worldwide Postal Stationery Catalogs, passed away on October 29, 2011 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

He was a longtime member of the

American Stamp Dealers Association, and a lifetime member of the American Philatelic Society and UPSS, as well as a member of fifty-plus other philatelic organizations. Mel became a stamp collector at the age of ten and soon fell in love with Canadian stamps. He and Pat started their part-time business in 1971 after Pat convinced him that he had a larger collection than most dealers they visited had stock.

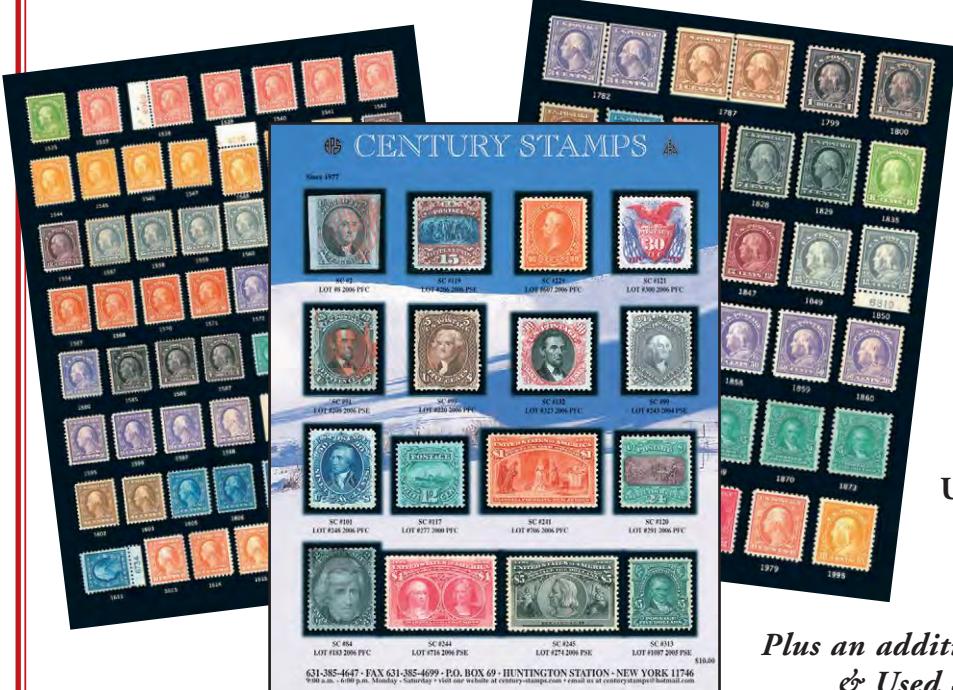
A graduate of UCLA in chemistry, Mel became a thermal dynamics engineer on the Apollo Space Program at North American Rockwell. In 1978 Mel left Rockwell after purchasing the Higgins & Gage inventory, as well as the LAVA inventory of aerogrammes from Arthur Lewandowski, to become a full-time dealer. He and Pat opened a store in Seacliff Village, Huntington beach, CA and operated it for four years. Over the

next twenty-eight years they built one of the largest stocks of postal stationery in the world.

He and his wife traveled to many stamp shows throughout the United States as well as to international shows in Toronto, London, Paris, and Singapore. They sold their business to Christoph Gartner in August 2006.

Mel is survived by his wife Pat as well as by five children and eleven grandchil-

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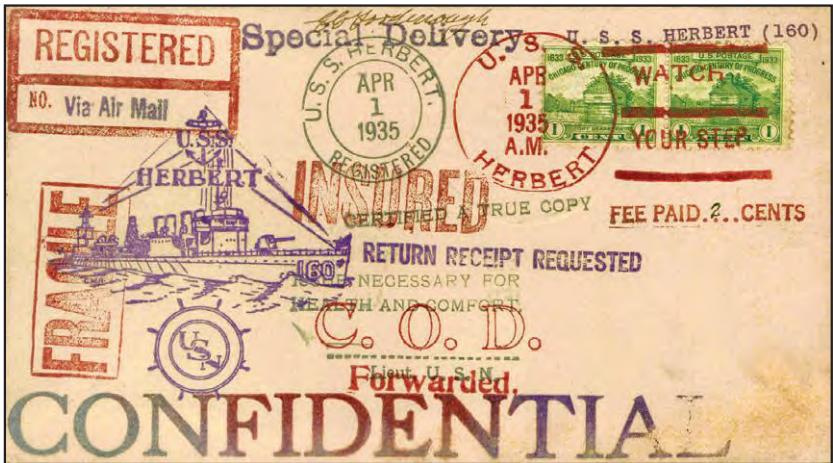
Please rush my catalog to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



Naval April's Fool

This ship cover from the USS *Herbert*, dated April 1, 1935, is a nice April Fool's cover. Although not addressed, it is properly postmarked and appears to have been stamped with every postal device the clerk had at his disposal. I wonder if there are others out there?

William B. Spald
Pensacola, Florida

dren. He loved life, had a great sense of humor, and will be greatly missed by his friends in the philatelic community. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Barbara Chisholm
Costa Mesa, California

Dealer Address

I enjoy the magazine from front to back, but I find that so many dealers don't put mailing addresses along with e-mail in their ads. I'm a mid-80 year old who has never owned a computer nor do I want one now. I'm sure there are lots of collectors like me. I wonder how much

business is lost by these people not listing their addresses?

Boyd DeGeest
Winona, Minnesota

Hand Cancels

As a collector of Great Britain stamps, I have experienced the usual problems with obtaining recent used commemorative issues, because of the much despised use of labels instead of stamps or of the stamps being defaced with the ball point line struck through the stamp. Until recently, I have been able to resolve this by purchasing the

mint versions and taking them to a local post office during my annual visit to the UK, but that has become very difficult as the post office employees are now very reluctant to or else will not allow them to be handstamped.

I have, however, found an answer to the problem. During a recent visit, I went to my usual post office in Trafalgar Square and was, as expected, politely turned down. However, they then told me that there is a department where hand stamping can be done at the main sorting office at Mount Pleasant in Farringdon Road in London. Much to my surprise, I was given a very cordial reception by three employees who were delighted to hand cancel my stamps and to show me the many varieties of cancels available.

The second surprise was that any collector can send mint issues there and they will be canceled and returned postage free! As a bonus I was given a personal tour of the sorting facility by the man in charge, Mr. Pritpal Mann, who was clearly very proud of the service they provided.

The address is: London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1BB. There are also similar centers in South Shields, Birmingham, Cardiff, and Glasgow. Much more information is included in the June 10, 2011 issue of the *British Postmark Bulletin* published by Royal Mail Letters, 35–50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

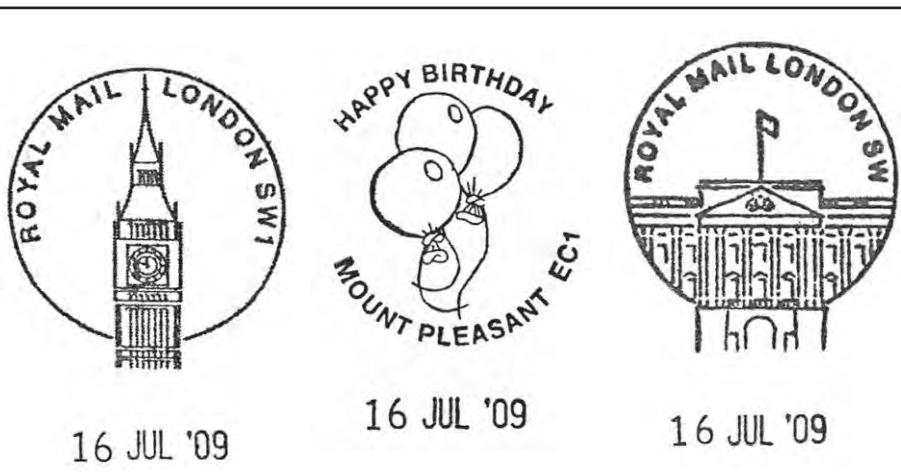
The Centre is a short walk from the Farringdon Road underground station, which is on the Metropolitan and Circle Lines and easily reached from central London.

Alan Laming
New York, New York

Editor's note: The *British Postmark Bulletin* is available through the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) at www.stamps.org/about-the-library or by telephone at 814-933-3803.

USS Reuben James

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the April 2012 issue of the AP. The articles on Military Postal History were excellent.



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Mystery Postcards

David Norris' article on "Vintage Stamp Collage Postcards" in the January AP (page 56) re-tweaked my interest in stamps on postcards. I use these to "decorate" the front page(s) of my country collections, but I don't know anything about them.

I've enclosed two varieties I've found at flea markets. The one depicting actual Russian stamps is marked "Made in Germany" and bears the number "27." I have several others like this and they appear to be part of a large "set." The other card shown seems to be some sort of an advertising card with an ephemeral Turkish stamp.

I would love to know more about any of these.



Thomas L. Schwarz
Burke, Virginia

archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

I was born in Berlin, just one year after Adolf Hitler ascended to the Chancellorship of Germany. At that time, anti-Semitism was rife and encouraged. My father was of so-called "Aryan" stock, but my mother's family had been Jewish until my grandfather converted to Lutheranism in the 1920s. However, the Nazis still considered them Jewish in a "racial" sense. All that made us a "mixed" family, with an unknown fate under the new Nazi government. My mother feared the worst and convinced my father to make preparations to emigrate.

In order for us to be able to emigrate to the U.S., it became necessary that my father precede us and "get established" in advance of our departure. He left us in December 1938, leaving my mother alone with my brother (then about sixteen months old) and me, almost five.

My mother's ordeal in getting herself and two young boys out of the country is recounted in the manuscript cited above. But to return to the AFSC, consider what she says: "Never have I seen people so afraid of thunderstorms as in this summer of 1939. With every thunderclap they thought a bomb might have fallen nearby.... I had made contact with the American Friends Service Committee and had put Hans [my father] in touch with their New York office. They took a great deal of interest in our situation, and referred me to a lawyer who could be trusted. He specialized in helping racially mixed couples. He handled my financial affairs, and proved to be very supportive."

She continues, "When I got acquainted with the American Friends Service Committee in Berlin, it consisted of two little old ladies.... They told me that they were expecting a more active person from the States. She would help us get out. Her name was Elizabeth Shipley.... Years later, I learned that when Miss Shipley left New York (by steamer, of course), her coworkers and her boss were to see her off. As the boat was ready to pull away from the docks and the gangplanks had already been lifted, her boss arrived breathless and threw a



I wish to point out just one mistake. On page 336 it states that the USS *Reuben James* was sunk by *U-562*. It was *U-552* under the command of Erich Topp that sank the "Old Rube."

Years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Admiral Topp. When speaking of this incident, he told me that he had thought this ship was one the U.S. had transferred to Great Britain and so thought he was in the right. With tears in his eyes, he said if he had known, he would have let her go on.

Thanks again for an excellent set of articles.

Lawrence Northdurft
Jefferson City, Missouri

More on the AFSC

The following personal narrative is offered as a complement to Mr. E.R. Du-bin's fine article about the work of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that appeared in the April AP ("American Friends Service Committee; World War I European Relief Work," page 322). It also describes a very different aspect of the work of that fine organization during the period preceding the United States' entry into World War II.

The longer passages set off in quotes in the following are taken from an unpublished manuscript by my mother, Lotte R. Peters, *The Flight* (ca. 1986). The complete manuscript is accessible in the

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(Above middle) Solomon Islands 2 1/2d Magenta and sage green. 'Imperforate Horizontal, Vertical Pair'. Post Office fresh unmounted mint.



(Above right) British Guiana 1934 4c. Slate-violet. 'Imperforate Horizontally, Vertical Pair'. One of the Great Rarities of KGVI Philately.

(Right) Falkland Islands 1964d 'Glasgow Error'. Post Office fresh Unmounted mint.



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rolled-up file folder with a rubber band around it to her across the water. 'Take this one first,' he yelled at her.

"This folder held our record.... Had it fallen in the water, Miss Shipley would have worked on another case first. We would never have left Germany."

Miss Shipley, as the representative of the AFSC in Berlin, proved to be of inestimable help. Eventually, she saw us off at the train station and "hurriedly introduced me to a young girl, Mary B., an American who was returning to the States. She suggested that she might be helpful to me, as she, too, was going to Copenhagen." Later, another of Miss Shipley's contacts picked us up in Copenhagen and helped us to get lodging, food and, as it turned out, money to fund our enforced nine-day stay in Copenhagen.

I think my mother would agree that were it not for the AFSC and its courageous personnel, we would not have been able to leave Germany. As it was, we were the last people to board the ferry from Warnemünde to Copenhagen in September 2, 1939. England declared war on Germany the next day. Several days later, we were able to get passage on a Swedish ship out of Goteborg for New York. We arrived there on September 22, 1939.

Till J. Peters

Grand Rapids, Michigan

St. Xavier, Updated

With reference to my February 2012 article in the AP, "Saint Francis Xavier, Revisited" (page 138), I would like to add an update. Alan Lauer, a collector friend and APS member, wrote to point out, as gently as he could, the existence of the Vatican's 2006 stamp for Francis Xavier, Scott 1324.

I don't know how I missed it. Savorio, the Italian spelling of Xavier, is a routine search for me. But the stamp did not turn up, and I wrote: "the Vatican still has not issued a Francis Xavier stamp." I was wrong. I am embarrassed. I apologize.

But the good news is that there is a Vatican Xavier stamp!

Mike Soper
Hertford, North Carolina

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Postal Markings & General Appeal Make Great Postal History

Although the essential early roots of postal history are derived from rates and routes — what many would consider to be dry information and, occasionally, uninteresting covers that show arcane but “important” uses — the area fortunately has evolved over time to take in a much broader range of material that also has important stories to tell. This, coupled with the fact there are far more variables with modern mail (including more complex rate structures and numerous technological changes), has made modern postal history a much larger, more diverse and — arguably — more interesting field.

As I've mentioned previously, modern postal history can be broken down easily into four primary categories (with inevitable overlap): stamps, markings, general appeal, and uses. Each, in turn, is composed of many other sub-groupings that can be studied and collected. “General appeal” is a catch-all term to include anything that is simply desirable for whatever reason, and covers from other categories can certainly have a great deal of general appeal!

Markings

Markings on a cover can include everything from cancellations, routing marks, and other postal information to

auxiliary markings and even non-postal directives that affect mail transport and delivery. Entire collections have been formed studying very specific types of postal markings. We'll take a very brief look at a few here.

The landscape of philately — U.S. and foreign — is littered with hundreds of types of cancellations, each developed for very specific reasons and most eventually discontinued for others. Each has a story.

One of the more notable types of cancels from the late twentieth century is the purple machine cancel that was endemic in the early 1980s. For a time it seemed these cancels — received by collectors with very mixed emotions — would eventually take over cancellation machines throughout the country, and that was originally the United States Postal Service's plan. A typical example of one of these cancels is shown, a 1982 commercial cover from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a plate number single (#2) of the 20-cent Consumer Education coil stamp. As is frequently the case with interesting postal history, the use of purple machine cancels was caused by technological advances. Please note the spots in the lettering area, these will come into play shortly.

When the USPS first began experi-

menting with the use of purple cancellation ink during the 1972–73 period, it was looking for an inexpensive, effective alternative to the standard black canceling ink then in use, which was not only considered unattractive, but more specifically was thick enough that it frequently jammed the then-new Mark 36 canceling machines (so named because they supposedly could cancel 36,000 envelopes per hour). Experiments with the new thinner ink, developed by National Cash Register Co. (which had already developed effective meter inks) were run on live mail through Mark 36 machines in sectional centers near Washington, DC, and several cities, including Atlanta, Boston, and the Church Street Station in New York City, beginning in early 1972. The second cover shown, an early experimental use from a Mark 36 in Boston, features a slogan cancel as well.

By 1980 the use of purple machine cancels was no longer considered experimental, and the ink was placed into general use in thirty-four post offices. By 1982 at least 146 cities had machines running the purple NCR ink, and there were plans to continue expanding its use. Collectors, for the most part, did not like the new ink because of the blobs it left on stamps (such as those in the dial area of the first cover illustrated), as well as the fact that the ink migrated easily during soaking, ruining entire batches of stamps. But there was another problem the USPS took far more seriously.

Despite its widespread use, the purple ink used for these cancels disappeared almost completely by early 1983. It seems these cancels were extremely popular with the prison population and others with challenged ethics who found the ink very easily removable with common off-the-shelf products. Inmates



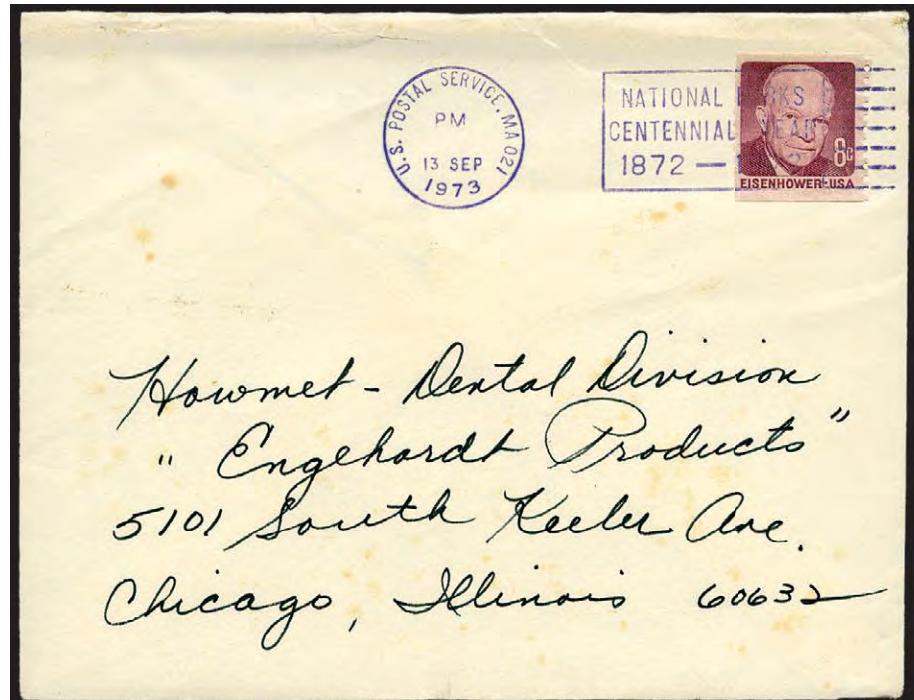
A typical example of a 1982 purple machine cancel, bearing a plate number single (#2) of the 20-cent Consumer Education coil.

would simply purchase a few pounds of common definitive mixtures, remove the cancels and offer the newly "uncanceled" stamps as "ungummed postage" throughout the philatelic press, creating a revenue protection nightmare for the USPS. The reaction to this problem by the USPS eventually led to the demise of the stamp mixture industry. But that's another story.

In May 1982, the USPS announced that it was discontinuing use of the NCR purple ink, and that post offices would not be resupplied as they ran out. As a result, covers with purple machine cancels from 1983 are uncommon, examples from 1984–86 are scarce, and later examples are rare — although there are at least a couple of post-2000 examples known. Illustrated is one of these late-use examples, from Beaumont, Texas, on May 7, 1991. These late examples simply reflect postal employees finding old ink supplies and using them in a pinch.

Several collectors have made studies not only of the stamps that bear these cancels (and which ones are scarce) but also of specific plate numbers on coils, as this drama unfolded during the infancy of plate number coil collecting. A few plate numbers with purple cancels command hefty premiums from specialists.

Ironically, this chapter in cancellations created another interesting but less well-known experimental cancel, an example of which is shown. The cancel, from Greenwood, Mississippi, March 21,



This 1972 cover from Boston, Massachusetts is one of the earliest known experimental items bearing a purple machine cancel.

1983, doesn't appear to be special in any way. It's a black, wavy line cancel of an ink consistency acceptable for use in the Mark 36. What is unusual is that it is one of a type used experimentally for a few months in various post offices throughout parts of the South.

In about 1990, several U.S. Postal Inspection Service officials in Washington, DC, both told and later showed me that the new black NCR inks weren't much better than the purple in terms of indelibility, and there were still problems with

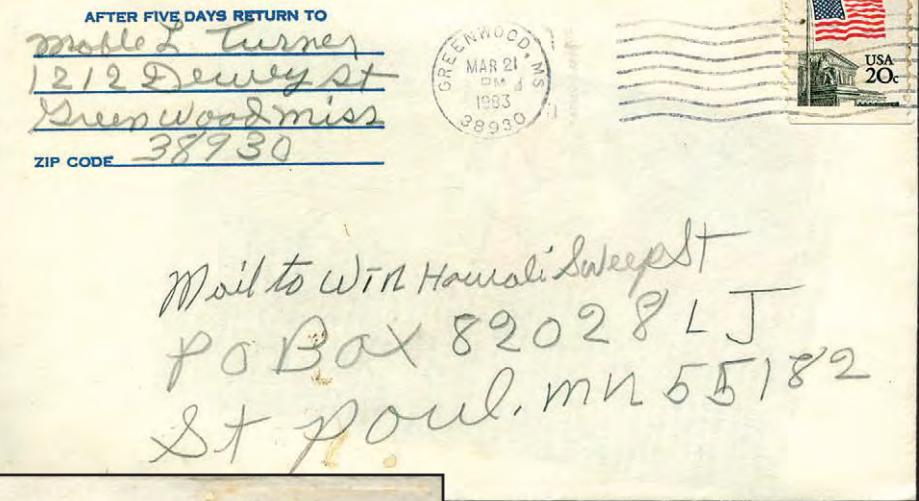
chemical washing of cancels in several large Southern prisons. The same chemicals worked to remove the new-generation black inks.

As a test, in early 1983 the Postal Inspection Service, as I was informed, added a fluorescent agent to inks being distributed to several post offices in the South, with the thought that even if the pigmented cancellation ink was removed from a stamp the fluorescent footprint of the cancel would remain, providing proof that a stamp had been



This 1991 cover represents a scarce, extremely late use of the purple machine cancel, which should have been discontinued in 1982. The ink was no doubt used when old stock was discovered.

A 1983 contest cover from Greenwood, Mississippi doesn't appear to be anything particularly notable at first glance.



Under ultraviolet light, the cancel shows fluorescent characteristics that confirm it as an experimental type initiated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

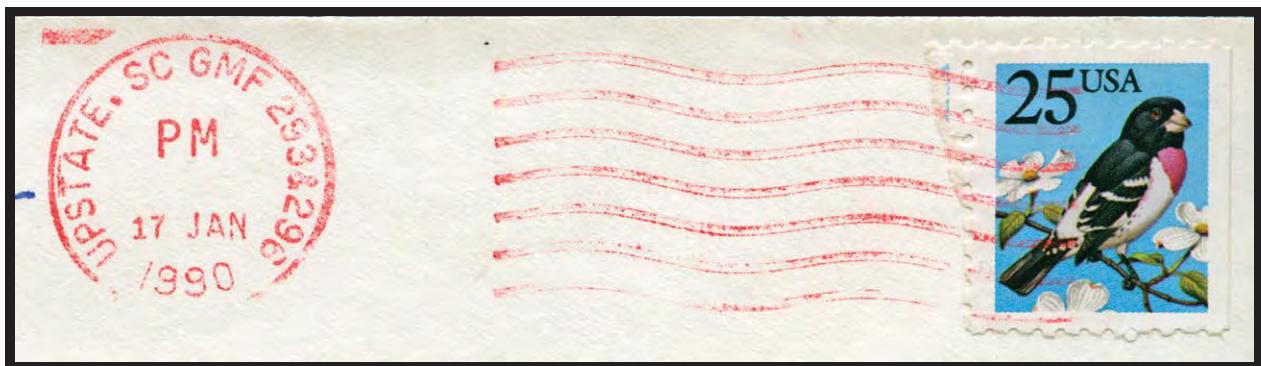


illegally washed. While this was a good idea, the ink was too costly to roll out nationwide and — even if illegal washing was provable — tracing the crime to the source would be far more difficult. The experiment was abandoned after only a few months. The experimental cancel, shown under ultraviolet light, is pictured.

Of course, there also are non-intentional and highly collectible cancels created by the USPS.

In early 1990, while I was a reporter at *Linn's*, a handful of covers (such as the example illustrated) bearing bright pink fluorescent ink, began appearing in the office from the Upstate General Mail Facility in Greenville, South Carolina.

Within a day or two incoming mail was back to normal. A quick telephone call to the facility confirmed what we had assumed: The facility had run out of black cancellation ink and, to bridge the gap until new supplies arrived, fluorescent pink meter ink was used in several Mark 36 cancellation machines.



During a 1990 temporary ink shortage in Greenville, South Carolina, fluorescent pink meter ink was used to cancel mail.

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Gibraltar

A British possession since 1713, Gibraltar is a narrow, rocky promontory on the southwest coast of Spain, strategically situated at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. Despite continuing claims by Spain to gain control of "The Rock," its citizens remain loyal to Britain.

Seven contemporary Bermuda Queen Victoria stamps were overprinted "GIBRALTAR" as a temporary measure to ensure stamps were available for the establishment of Gibraltar's own Post Office on January 1, 1886. These provisionals, from ½-pence to 1-shilling, were replaced after a few months by De la Rue "key-types." To bring the post office into line with Spanish currency used in Gibraltar, stamps from the 1886 issue were surcharged with values from 5 to 75 centimos in 1889; the 25-centimos surcharge was applied to both the 2-pence and 2½-pence stamps. Designs of the 2-, 4-, 6-pence and 1-shilling stamps subsequently were issued in denominations from 5-centimo to 5-piastres. Gibraltar returned to sterling currency in 1898, so the original plates were reprinted, with

some stamps now in two colors.

Ten Edward VII key types were issued in 1903. The halfpence to 1-shillings stamps were normal size, whereas denominations of 2-, 4-, 8-shillings and £1 were produced in an attractive vertical format not used by any other colony. All, excluding the 8-shillings, were reissued with Multiple Crown CA watermark during 1904–1908. Between 1906 and 1912, additional printings were issued in new colors; the 8-shillings was reinstated in 1911 in violet and green.

King George V stamps in the same design were issued between 1912 and 1924. The newly introduced Script CA watermark was used for new printings, including a 1½-pence, between 1921–27. In 1925 revised postal rates required 2s6-pence, 5-shillings, 10-shillings, £1 and £5 denominations; color changes were made for the 1- and 2-shilling values.

The ½-pence 1912 issue (Scott 66) was overprinted WAR TAX locally by Beanland Malin & Co in April 1918 as World War I began to draw to its close.

In 1930 a new plate was prepared of the 1912 3-pence stamp to amend the in-

scription on the stamp from 3 PENCE to THREE PENCE.

Gibraltar issued four low value pictorial definitives between 1931 and 1933 featuring a view of The Rock. Perhaps someone can tell me why De la Rue required two different perforations for each of the four stamps, especially as the 2- and 3-pence denominations were printed sixteen and twenty-three months later, respectively, than the 1-penny and 1½-pence stamps.

Although 1938 King George Sixth pictorials were modeled on the 1931–33 stamps, the original design was used only for the 1-pence and 1½-pence denominations. Small-size ½-pence and £1 stamps featured only the King's portrait. The 2-pence featured "The Rock North Side," the 3-pence "Europa Point," the 6-pence "Moorish Castle," the 1-shilling "Southport Gate," the 2-shilling "Elliott Memorial," the 5-shilling "Government House," and the 10-shilling "Catalan Bay." Colors of the 1½-pence and 2-pence stamps were reversed in 1943 and 1944 to comply with UPU regulations for changed postal rates. A 5-pence



Gibraltar overprint on
Bermuda two pence 1886
(Scott 3).



De la Rue "key-type" designs
replaced the provisionals; 2
pence 1898 (Scott 12).



In 1889 "centimos" surcharges
brought the stamps into line
with Spanish currency used
in Gibraltar; 25 centimos on 2
pence 1889 (Scott 24).



Twelve stamps were issued in
denominations from 5-centimo
to 5-piastres; 25 centimos
1889 (Scott 32).

When Gibraltar returned to sterling currency in 1898 the original plates were reprinted; 2 pence 1898 (Scott 13).

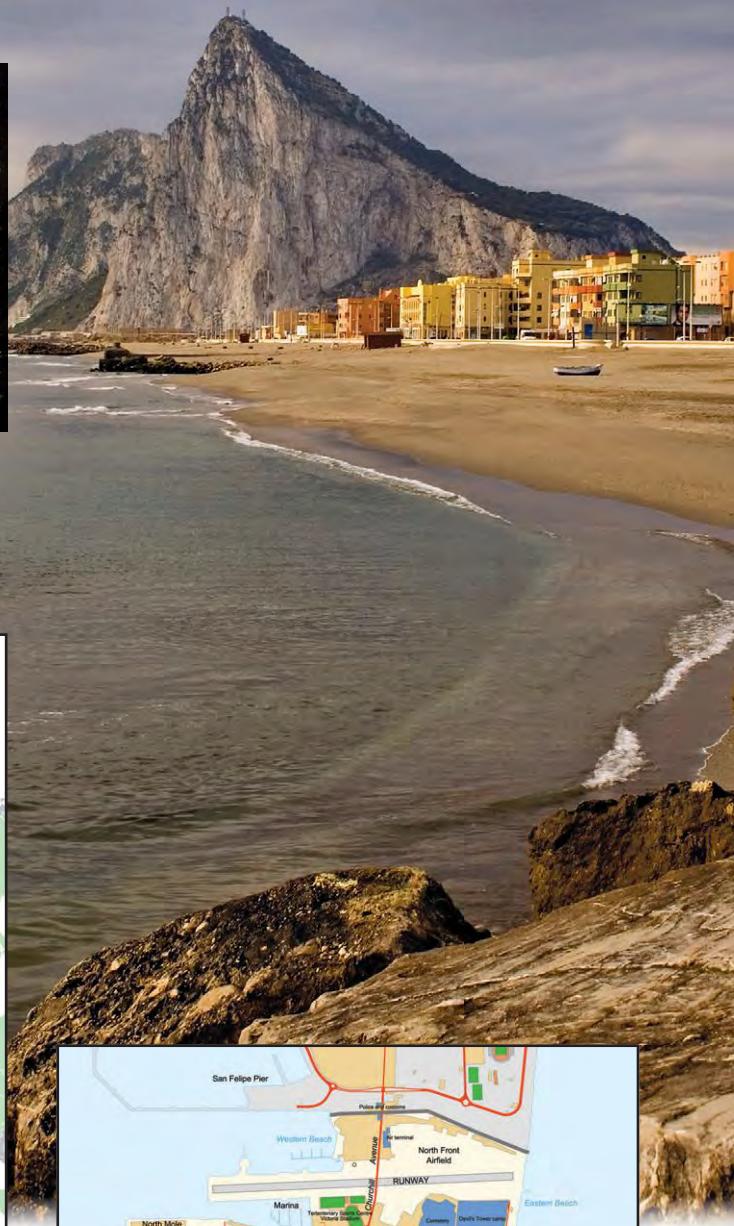
orange was added in 1947.

During the war several perforation and a couple of watermark changes, combined with some good re-entries, made these stamps particularly challenging for the specialist. Heavy parcel postmarks on some of the higher values are relatively inexpensive and may be worth examining for the scarcer perforations and other varieties. The 2-, 3-, 6-pence and 1-shilling denominations were overprinted NEW CONSTITUTION 1950 for the inauguration of the Legislative Council; the numerous re-entries and plate flaws, especially on the 6-pence stamp, have been extensively researched.

Fourteen new designs showing views of Gibraltar and the Queen's portrait were issued in 1953. The coat of arms featured on the £1 stamp. The 2½-pence is known with inverted watermark — unusual for the period!

A second definitive set in 1960 was comprised of fourteen quite radical multi-colored stamps. Each stamp featured the Annigoni portrait of the Queen accompanied by local scenes, flowers, birds, a location map and, on the 2½-pence, the ceremonial "Keys" of the fortress. The American War Memorial is shown on the 9-pence stamp. Barbary apes featured on the 1-shilling stamp; legend has it that while the apes remain, Gibraltar will stay British, so in 1942 when ape numbers had dwindled to just a handful, Winston Churchill demanded immediate replacements from Morocco, just across the Strait. Each stamp also included a small square depicting a local bird, fish, or mammal.

The larger £1 stamp was engraved and quite different from the photogravure printings, with a striking view of The Rock and the badge of the Gibraltar Regiment, but possibly the Colony's seal would have been more appropriate. In 1966 the 4-pence Catalan Bay stamp was reprinted with sideways watermark.



Pictorial definitives issued 1931/33 featured a view of The Rock; 3 pence 1933 (Scott 99).



The 2½-pence stamp from 1953 featuring "Sailing in the Bay" and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II is known with inverted watermark; 2½ pence 1953 (Scott 136).

Ships associated with the colony, along with the Gibraltar arms, provided the theme for fourteen pictorials issued in 1967. Especially fascinating was the £1 *Mary Celeste*, found abandoned west of Gibraltar in 1872; the disappearance

a nineteenth-century print and a modern photograph — thus doubling sales to collectors! As with Great Britain, the £ was retained, valued at 100 rather than 240 of the previous pence. New pence are shown on stamps as "p" instead of "d." A multi-value coil strip of five stamps — ½-pence (2), 1-pence (2) and a single 2-pence — was issued on the same day for use in vending machines. New printings of 1-, 2- and 4-pence definitives with watermark changes were released in 1973 and 1975.

A definitive set issued in 1977 featured butterflies, birds, fish, and flowers in values from ½-pence to £2. The stamps were unusual in that descriptive information was printed over the gum and so is not seen on used stamps. My collection includes an extra mint set placed in protective mounts to display the inscriptions. In a significant spelling mistake on the 9-pence, the Latin name *Leguminosae* reads wrongly as *Leguninosae*. This error was not corrected when the stamp was reprinted in 1978. A new 15-pence issued in 1980 showing another flower from the same family, was however correctly inscribed. The seal of Gibraltar was shown on a new £5 denomination added in 1979.

In 1981 specially-designed se-tenant 1, 4- and 15-pence stamps became available in panes of five or ten stamps, plus two labels promoting Gibraltar stamps for collectors. I understand these were sold only in booklets costing 50-pence and £1.00. I do not know how long they remained on sale.

A series featuring aircraft connected with Gibraltar was issued in 1982, including the ill-fated de Havilland "Comet." Of the nine "Comets" authorized for passenger service in 1952, five would crash, including a flight in January 1954 in which the plane disintegrated in mid-air and crashed into the sea off the Island of Elba, killing six crew members and twenty-nine passengers. The RF Sea Salvor, the Mediterranean Fleet salvage vessel, was en route from Gibraltar when



A depiction of the *Mary Celeste*, found drifting abandoned off Gibraltar in 1872 was one of the ship pictorials issued in 1967; £1 1967 (Scott 199).

the disaster occurred and was one of the first rescue ships on scene. Each stamp showed a different airplane and an appropriate aerial view. Some denominations were reprinted with amended dates at the foot of the stamp.

Historic guns and artillery located throughout Gibraltar were the theme of the 1987 definitives. In 1990 to cover a new registration fee the £3 stamp showing a 9.2-inch Coast MK 10 artillery gun (1935) was surcharged to provide an unusual £1.05 rate.

From this point I was tempted to end my Gibraltar collection, because so-called definitives were being issued with increasing frequency. However, an enthusiastic local pen friend persuaded me to accept one last set — the very attractive 1993 Architectural Heritage series. In 1995, however, eight new denominations were added — supposedly to cater for revised postal rates. I suspect that some of the new additions, especially the £2, were not really necessary as the issue already included £1, £3 and £5 stamps.

Apart from the various omnibus



Booklet stamps with a silhouette bust of Queen Elizabeth II were sold in panes of 10 (with two labels) or 5 (with one label) 1 pence 1981 (Scott 407).

of all on board remains an unsolved mystery. Other vessels featured include the *Canberra*, HMS *Hood*, the *Victory*, and the German battleship *Bismarck*. A 5-pence value was added in 1969.

Decimal currency was introduced in 1971 with se-tenant definitives featuring old and modern views of Gibraltar,



A series featuring aircraft included the ill-fated de Havilland "Comet"; 50 pence 1982 (Scott 427).



Attractive Historical Architecture series includes a view of the Garrison Library, 24 pence 1993 (Scott 638).

Gibraltar Sampler



Edward VII key type vertical format; 2 shillings 1903 (Scott 45).



Edward VII key type normal size; 2 pence 1903 (Scott 46).



Between 1905 and 1912, additional printings appeared in new colors; 4 shillings, black and red, 1910 (Scott 62).



King George V stamps in the same design were issued between 1912 and 1924; 1 penny 1912 (Scott 67).



Revised postal rates in 1925 led to new stamp denominations; 2 shillings 6 pence 1925 (Scott 87).



A new plate was 1912 3-pence stamp amended the inscription to THREE PENCE; 3 pence 1930 (Scott 94).



War Tax overprint 1918 (Scott MR1).



The 1938/49 King George Sixth pictorials included a variety of scenes such as this one of "Catalan Bay"; 10 shillings 1943 (Scott 117).



Small-size ½-pence and £1 stamps featured only the King's portrait; £1 1938 (Scott 118).



Overprinted "NEW CONSTITUTION 1950" for the inauguration of the Legislative Council, numerous re-entries and plate flaws can be found on the 6-pence stamp; 6 pence 1950 (Scott 129).

Visit www.stamps.org/AP-Album for additional Gibraltar Samplers.



International Cooperation Year 1965 color comparison: Gibraltar ½ pence (Scott 169) and 4 pence (Scott 170); Bahamas ½ pence Scott 222; Pitcairn Island 1 shilling 6 pence (Scott 55).

stamps, Gibraltar's 1950 New Constitution was the only King George Sixth commemorative issue. In 1954 the Queen's visit during her inaugural World tour was marked by adapting the new 3-pence definitive to include the words "Royal Visit 1954." It was ten years until "NEW CONSTITUTION 1964" was overprinted on 3-pence and 6-pence 1960 definitives. An interesting flaw occurred on row 2/5 of the 6-pence stamps — the full stop after 1964 was omitted.

New issues in 1966 included three stamps for the European Sea Angling Championships, and a single 2-shilling denomination marking the re-enthronement of the restored statue of the Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus, "Our Lady of Europa," in her reconsecrated shrine on Gibraltar. Originally carved and painted in the mid-fifteenth century, the polychrome wooden Madonna and Child are shown seated. Mary holds a scepter with three flowers representing Love, Justice, and Truth.

In 1967 three International Tourism Year stamps featured the new cable car, shark fishing, and skin diving. That



Gibraltar postage due stamps, then (2 pence, Scott J2, 1956) and now (50 pence, Scott J29, 2002).

same year, the first Gibraltar Christmas stamps were issued as well as a colorful set commemorating General George Elliott who commanded the garrison during the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1779–83). My collection of non-definitive stamps closed at this point.

I seldom comment on omnibus issues, but am puzzled over the 1965 ICY stamps printed in reverse colors from those of other territories. In previous articles elsewhere I questioned catalogue editors insistence that the lower value is indeed ½-pence; I now believe the editors were correct, particularly as Gibraltar had already included ½-pence stamps in five omnibus issues. My theory now is that the printers, Harrison's, misunder-

stood the instructions and mistakenly produced a highly improbable 1s2d denomination with the same typeface and color sequence they used for, say, Pitcairn Islands 1/6d and Bermuda 2/6d denominations. Whereas all other territory's ½-pence or ½-cent stamps were, of course, printed correctly, Gibraltar post office officials could not have known the correct color sequence for these stamps and so would have accepted them as bona fide ½-pence values, despite the odd appearance of the figures. As the printers are long gone, regrettably I cannot verify my theory.

Today's very frequent issues are promoted vigorously by Gibraltar's Philatelic Bureau. A graphic example emphasizing the change in policy was to recall the humble 3-pence stamp marking the Queen's very brief visit in 1954; fifty years later this largely "non-event" was remembered by four stamps with black-and-white photographs from the royal visit plus a souvenir sheet, which would set the collector back almost £4!

Even the once prosaic Postage Due labels are now colorful pictorials clearly aimed at philatelists.

Some collectors may also be interested in the several Victorian and Edwardian stamps overprinted "Morocco Agencies for use in Tangier and other Moroccan post offices," but I consider these to be outside the scope of this review.

If you save Gibraltar stamps you might like to add two controversial 1969 Spanish stamps (Scott 1579–1580) featuring excellent views of "The Rock" — which Spain continues to claim as its own!

Readers may contact me with comments or questions at chambon@xtra.co.nz.



Spain continues to claim "The Rock" as indicated by these two 1969 stamps (Spain Scott 1579–1580).

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The Siege of Przemyśl 1914–1915



One of Przemyśl's Austro-Hungarian defendants (photo taken in Przemyśl in 1914)

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski

At the outbreak of World War I, Przemyśl was a small garrison town of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the territory of Polish Galicia between two provincial capitals, Krakow (Cracow) in the west and Lwow (Lemberg) in the east.¹ Just forty miles from the frontier with Imperial Russia, Przemyśl was protected by a ring of fortifications thirty-six miles in circumference, similar to the French Maginot Line. After Austria declared war on Russia on August 6, 1914, the Third Russian Army of Radko-Dimitriev advanced on Przemyśl, and by September 18 the fortress was completely besieged. Luckily, the blockade was quickly relieved, lasting only thirty-three days. However, the Russians soon returned, and the second siege commenced on November 10. One hundred and thirty-three days later on March 22, 1915, after disease and starvation had taken their toll, Commander General Hermann von Kusmanek, nine generals, ninety-three staff officers, 2,500 officers, and 117,900 men all surrendered to the Russians. In all, some 12,000 defenders and 100,000 Russians perished in Przemyśl, which makes it one of the largest and bloodiest sieges in the world's military history.

The provisional air mail effort set up in the besieged Przemyśl by the Austrian Army represents an important chapter in the history of aerophilately. The desperate necessity of the Przemyśl defendants to communicate with the outside world, especially with loved ones, was the primary reason for establishing such a service. This venture, unlike many others that followed, was never philatelically motivated. Although described in the philatelic literature, the Przemyśl mail has never received attention comparable with that of the Siege of Paris. It has not been widely recognized that

Przemyśl air mails of 1914–1915 illustrate the first time in history that mail-laden airplanes landed and took off within a completely surrounded fortress. Of note, these events happened in a remote part of Eastern Europe less than four years after the much celebrated world's first air mail service took off on February 18, 1911 in Allahabad, India.

Although I have collected and researched the development of air mail services in the Polish territories for the past twenty-five years, Przemyśl has only recently caught my attention.^{2,3} First, I was lucky enough to acquire some key items from the "Fliegerpost Przemyśl 1914–1915" collection of the late Alexander S. Newall, a famed British aerophilately scholar with Polish roots.⁴ Then, I was greatly inspired by the pioneering work of another Brit, Keith Tranmer, who devoted more than fifty years to studying the postal history of Przemyśl sieges.^{5,6} Needless to say, I became fascinated both by the uniqueness of the material and by the wealth of information available, as well as the turbulent circumstances under which the individual components of both collections were created.

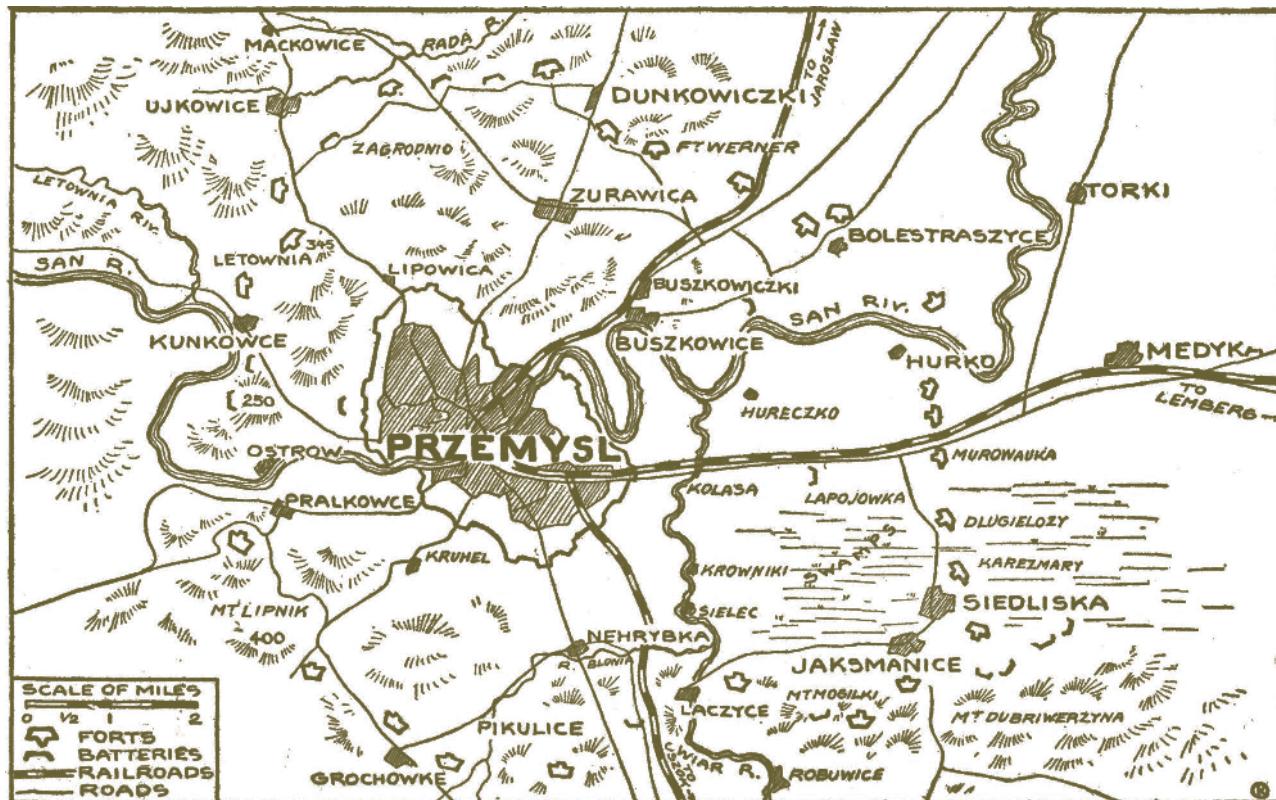
With the Przemyśl siege centenary quickly approaching, I believe that publication of this story should "resurrect" interest among both philatelic and non-philatelic audiences. Re-introducing some key items from the Newall and Tranmer collections, which were either exhibited rarely (the former) or not at all (the latter), should also shed new light on this somewhat overlooked and understudied yet fascinating postal history topic from the aerophilately perspective.

Mail Flown by Airplanes from Przemyśl

Since the Russians severed all ground communication links, the only remaining means of contact between Przemyśl and the outside world was by air. Fourteen mail-carrying flights are recorded as having been flown from the garrison, one during the first siege, and thirteen during the second.^{1–6} Seven of them landed in Brzesko (flights 6–8 and 10–13), four in Krakow (flights 2, 4–5 and 9), one in Hungary (flight 3), and another had to make a forced landing in the Russian-occupied territory (flight 14).

First flight: On October 1, 1914, during the first siege, an Austrian military two-seater monoplane Etrich Type VIII, nicknamed "Steffel" and piloted by Lieutenant Aladar Taussig and Captain Emil Raabl flew into Przemyśl from the Third Army General Headquarters at Neu Sandez (Nowy Sacz). Upon its return on October 6, the plane carried about 100 field postcards with private messages. After coming under enemy fire, during which Lt. Taussig was wounded, the plane crash-landed some thirty miles from its destination. Captain Raabl carried the mail by motorcar to Neu Sandez, where he handed it over at Field Post Office (FPO) 11 for further distribution.

Shown on page 546 are two outstanding examples of the seldom seen cards from the only flight made during the first Przemyśl siege. The sender of the first one, Hptm. Karl Grebenz, the balloon pilot, writes to his mother in Graz: "*The Russians are giving us an easier time just now; I am trying to send this card by a flyer, write or telegraph me how you are.*"



Przemyśl fortress and its vicinity in 1914–1915.



Card from the first flight from besieged Przemyśl,
with transit FPO 11/October 7, 1914 cancellation.

The card has a military unit handstamp, which was applied to obtain the free postage concession, and shows an October 7, 1914 transit datestamp from FPO 11.

The second item is the only known civilian postcard carried from Przemyśl by the first flight. Franz Vodrazka, Militärbeamter, writes to his parents in Vienna on October 5, 1914: "*This card comes to you by the kindness of a flying officer. The card will travel by train for the remainder of the journey.*" Taussig and Raabl left with that card the next day. However, FPO 11 did not cancel it on October 7, because it did not conform to regulations for military mail. Hence, the regular Vienna cancellation was applied on the imprinted stamp upon arrival at its destination on October 17, 1914, as was the correct postal procedure.⁷

Third flight: On December 9, 1914, Hans Wanneck, of Flying Squadron Nr. 11 flew from the Przemyśl Hureczko airfield, and after crossing over the Carpathian Mountains in strong winds, he landed in Kaschau, Hungary (present Košice, Slovak Republic). The mail received a transit cancellation from Hungarian FPO 30 "TABO-RI POSTA HIVATAL / 914 DEC. 10- / 30," sometimes erroneously canceled DEC. 1 or DEC. 11. Displayed here is a unique field



The only known civilian postcard from the first Przemyśl flight (canceled in Vienna instead of FPO 11).



Hans Wanneck, the pilot of the Carpathian flight during the Przemyśl siege.



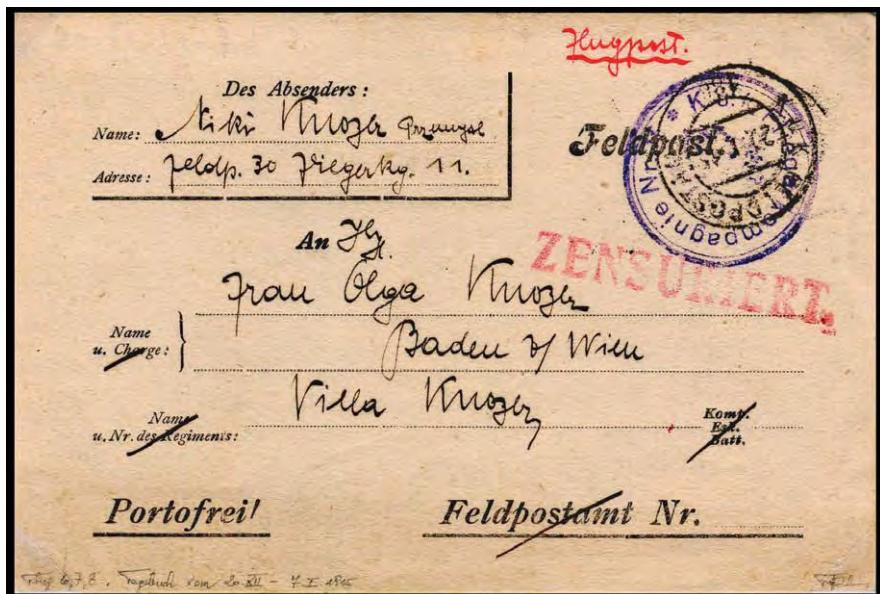
One of the most valuable pioneer flight rarities from the Przemyśl siege era: a field post card written by pilot Hans Wanneck, after the Carpathian flight, to his flying instructor in Switzerland.

post card, written by the pilot Wanneck himself, after completing the Carpathian flight, a considerable achievement at that time. It is addressed to his former flying instructor, H.W. Eckinger in Dübendorf, near Zurich, Switzerland. Wanneck writes: "My Friend, Flying continues, I carried from besieged Przemyśl some 5000 letters and cards flying over the Carpathians at 3200 meters for 5 hours to land easily in Hungary. In the morning we go back again. I believe that up to now I have made over 15 major sorties. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a really lucky New Year. Yours, Hans." The card was endorsed "Luftpost" by the pilot and shows a "Fliegerkompagnie No. 14" circular handstamp, a December 11 transit postmark from FPO 30, and a Dübendorf receiving postmark. The card was sent post-free until it reached Dübendorf and a 20-centime postage due stamp was applied.

This card is one of the most sought-after items from the Przemyśl siege era. It was sold in the 1930s to the Marquis of Bute by Georg Sobetsky, a Vienna air mail collector and dealer. The card was water-damaged in London during Luftwaffe bombing of 1940, when the Swiss stamp was washed off. Finally, it was purchased by Keith Tranmer at the Bute sale of Robson Lowe in 1959.⁸

Wanneck came down in the Russian lines later during the Przemyśl siege, and ended up as a P.O.W. in the Siberian Chita Camp. After his release, he was twice awarded with the most prestigious Austrian Gold Bravery Medal, and died in an air crash on August 29, 1930.

Sixth, seventh and eighth flights: Three airplanes left the Przemyśl Buszkowiczki airfield on January 18, 1915 and landed at the Fourth Army Headquarters in Brzesko. This was the largest flight from Przemyśl, and provides most of the surviving mail. Nikolaus Knozer served as an automobilist and postal agent of Flying Squadron Nr. 11, and worked as a volunteer in the Automobile Military Unit. Collectors of Przemyśl mail can find his signature serving as the censor mark, usually at the top right corner. The postal cover illustrated is an example of Knozer's correspondence to his mother in Baden, near Vienna. It presents an interesting diary of events in the fortress (December 20 1914–January 15 1915), including day-to-day weather conditions. Knozer refers to



Flown on January 18, 1915 is a letter from Nikolaus Knozer of the Automobile Military Unit, containing a diary of events in the fortress (December 20, 1914–January 15, 1915). Seldom seen transit cancellation from Krakow FPO 186.

"two flights, which arrived from Krakow on December 24 with 35 letters and cards," and for December 26 he reports the "departure of a flight back to Krakow."

The card shows a handwritten "Flugpost" inscription, a circular flight handstamp, and an official censorship handstamp, along with a seldom seen Krakow FPO 186 transit datestamp of January 20, 1915. The Knozer correspondence provides invaluable insights to everyday life during the Przemyśl sieges. These cards are relatively rare; fewer than twenty have been recorded.³

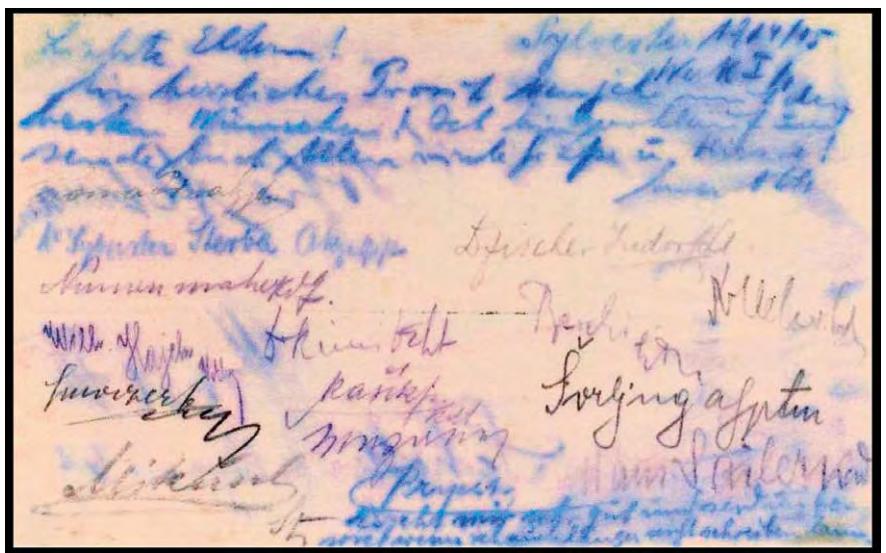
Fourteenth flight: The airplanes of 1915 could not climb sufficiently high enough in a short time in a direct line to avoid enemy gunfire, so flying from Przemyśl was difficult



The 14th and last flight from besieged Przemyśl (March 22, 1915). Mail was captured by the enemy. Russian and Austrian censor cachets on this salvaged and rare card.



Both sides of a very rare "experimental" card written during the New Year's Eve celebration of 1914, one of four to six known to exist.



Private correspondence of Capt. Lehmann, the pilot of Flying Squadron No. 11. The only known card of the Przemysl siege that was flown by airplane three times.

and done usually in the first light of dawn in order to cross the Russians lines safely. On March 22, 1915, the day of the surrender, an open-cockpit aircraft piloted by Sgt. Robert Meltsch took off from the fortress, but soon developed engine trouble and was forced to land in the enemy lines. The pilot was taken prisoner and almost all the mail was lost. The salvaged cards were seized by the Russians, who forwarded them to Petrograd (St. Petersburg), where they were censored, and passed on to the International Red Cross in Copenhagen for return to Austria. An outstanding item carried by the last flight to leave the fortress has an oval Russian censorship "Petrogradskaja Wojennaja Censura" along with an Austrian Red Cross circular censor marking. The card was received in Vienna almost five months later, evidenced by the August 14 manuscript endorsement.

"Experimental" postcards: These cards were produced in Przemyśl, probably as a result of the paper shortage. Printed in the format and design of ordinary field postcards, they were made from two different pieces of thin paper in red/pink or light blue. The "experimental" cards are very rare, with only four auction realizations recorded in the past fifty years. They all originated in Fort Siedliska of the Przemyśl fortress, were sent by the same people (Lt. Altmann, Hajek, and Kadett Numenmacher), and show a straightline "K.u.K. Fliegerkompanie 11" marking. It appears that these "experimental" cards were used from November to mid-January.

One of them, salvaged from a bomb-damaged London building in 1940, suffered water damage and the pink and white parts separated. Written by Oblt. Altmann, the Commander of Fort Siedliska, to his parents in Vienna during the New Year's Eve celebration of 1914, it includes signatures familiar to Przemyśl mail collectors, including Wilhelm Hajek (the poet and censor) and Capt. Sverljuga (Artillery Commander for WERK 1/1, the Siedliska Group). Both Hajek and Sverljuga defended the Siedliska Fort during the first siege. The card



An unusual example of registered mail flown from besieged Przemyśl. Posted on November 5, 1914 and received in Vienna on January 14, 1915 (crayon manuscript endorsement).

also shows a “K.u.K. Festungsartillerie Regiment Kaiser Nr. 1” marking and was censored. As with the “Wanneck” card, this item was acquired by Keith Tranmer in 1959 at the Robson Lowe sale of the Marquis of Bute collection.

The card that was flown three times: Card #18740 was written by Hptm. Georg Edler von Lehmann, one of the most experienced pilots of the Austrian Air Force.¹ On the reverse, while on his way from Krakow to Przemyśl on February 9, 1915, he wrote to his wife: “*I think of you on my flight to PrzemyślI am healthy and...1500 m above the earth — Pepi.*” Interestingly, Hptm. Lehmann had carried this card on his earlier flight (flight 9) from Przemyśl to Krakow on February 7. It was blank and only censored by Hptm. Nimmerrichter, the Commander of the Fortress Balloon Division No. 1. Since the card was never mailed from Krakow, Lehmann used it again to write his wife during next flight to the fortress (February 9). Finally, he took the card with him to Brzesko on February 12 (flight 11). Its rarity stems from the fact that this is the only card known to have flown three times during the Przemyśl siege.

Registered mail: Registered mail flown from besieged Przemyśl is not commonly found. One of the most celebrated examples is illustrated in color on the cover of Keith Tranmer’s book.⁶ It was posted on November 5, 1914 (two days before the second siege commenced), and received in Vienna January 14, 1915 (blue crayon manuscript endorsement). This cover was probably expedited privately in late December 1914 or early January 1915. Indeed, in addition to the “official” courier flights, there was a second service for

more urgent mail, and for those officers with “connections.”

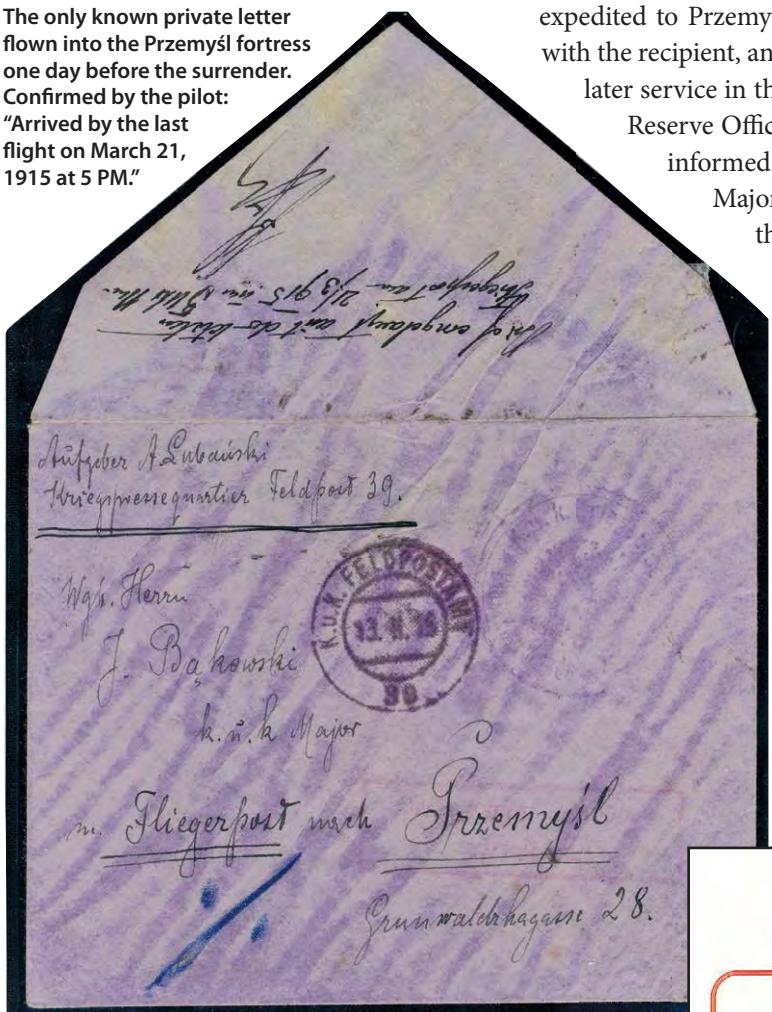
The envelope contains a letter from Franz Vodrazka, Miltärbeamter, K.u.K. Genie-Direktion Przemyśl, to his parents: “*If you do not hear from me for a considerable time do not worry, and when the situation improves you will hear from me.*” Registered mail from Przemyśl was sent through the civilian post office, and although it was given priority, it had to be censored with a framed “ZENSURIERT” red handstamp.

Mail Flown by Airplanes to Przemyśl

Many families tried to stay in touch with their loved ones, but the majority of correspondence never reached the addressees. Only a lucky few out of 130,000 stationed soldiers and officers received a letter from home carried by the infrequent courier flights, which was most demoralizing. Based on their correspondence, it seems there was a general belief among the men that a letter could be sent through the Fliegerpost from Krakow. However, an additional frustration came when an order was given on November 9, 1914 that all mail sent to Przemyśl should be retained instead of being returned to the senders.¹⁹ It was not until February 2, 1915 that newspapers announced that mail could no longer be accepted for Przemyśl. Indeed, hundreds of bags of Przemyśl-bound correspondence were found in Vienna and Krakow in early spring 1915.

The last flight to Przemyśl: One of the most famous of all the Przemyśl air mail items is the only known private letter flown into the fortress a day prior its surrender. It was sent by A. Lubanski of The War Press Quarters in Krakow,

The only known private letter
flown into the Przemyśl fortress
one day before the surrender.
Confirmed by the pilot:
"Arrived by the last
flight on March 21,
1915 at 5 PM."

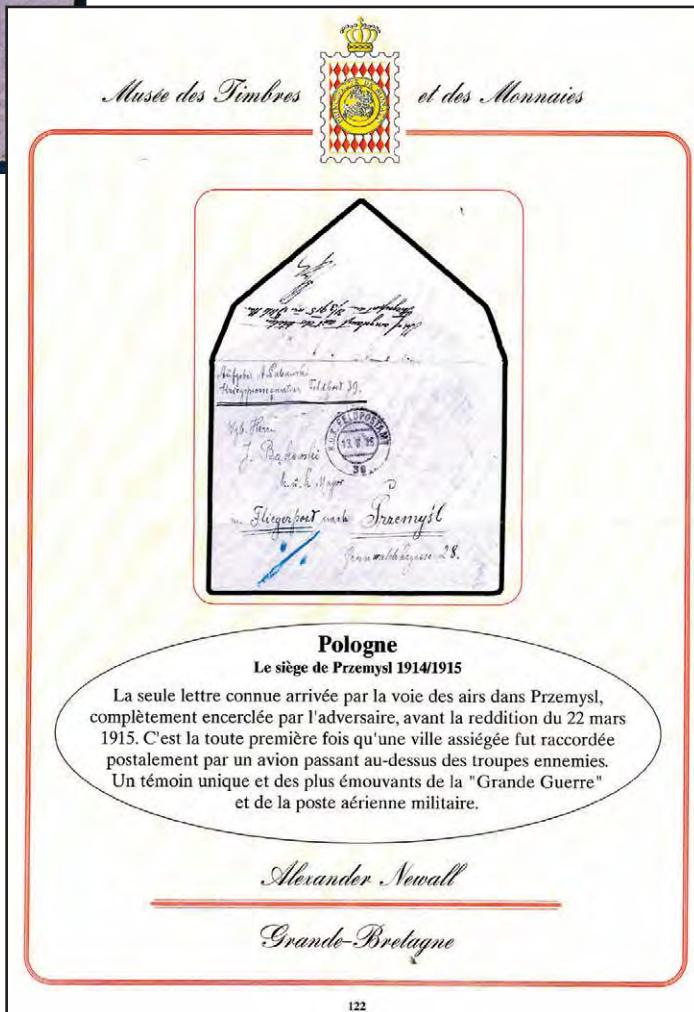


expedited to Przemyśl successfully reached the fortress, went into captivity with the recipient, and miraculously survived the Siberian war camps and his later service in the Czech Legion in Russia. The story reads as follows: A Reserve Officer working in the Przemyśl main stores, Prokop Maxa, informed his wife in Prague that he was able to supply red wine for Major General von Nickl. In return, the General had suggested that letters could be sent to Prokop in Przemyśl through an old friend, Oblt. von Mayer of Flying Squadron No. 14 (FPO No. 30 in Kaschau, Hungary), who could then arrange to have mail forwarded to the fortress.

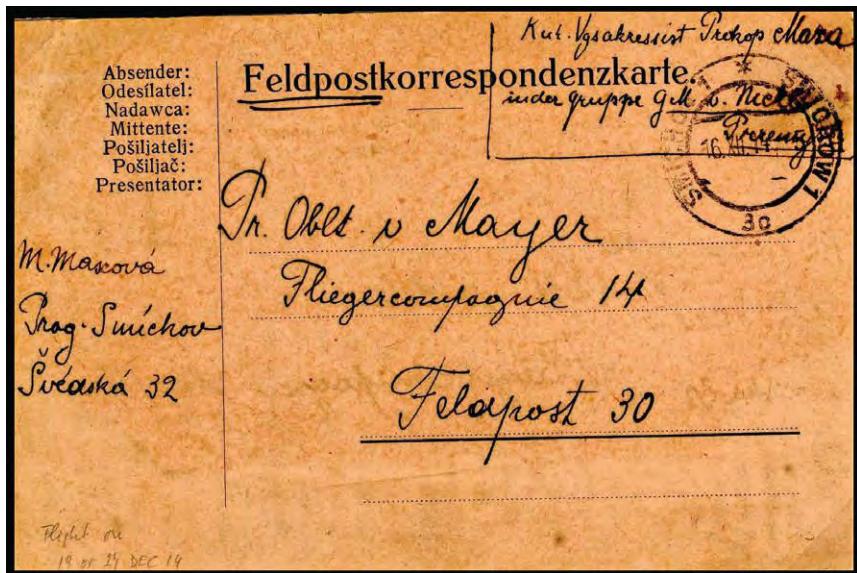
Frau Maxova took the hint, and wrote to her husband on a field postcard, which civilians could purchase in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The card was sent from Prague on December 16, 1914, addressed to Oblt. von Mayer at Fliegercompagnie 14, Feldpost 30, with the Przemyśl address of Prokop Maxa in the upper right corner. With General von Nickl's name as a useful reference and connecting address, this card was delivered in Przemyśl. There were inward flights from Krakow on December 19 and December 24. However, Oblt. von Mayer was

and addressed to Major J. Bakowski in Przemyśl ("mit Fliegerpost" — by air). It carries the Krakow "K.u.K. FPO 39/13.II.15" postmark and "K.u.K. Kriegspressequartier" marking. A confirmation on the flap in the pilot's handwriting states: "Brief angelangt mit der letzten Fliegerpost am 21/3 - 915 um 5 Uhr Nm" ("Letter arrived by the last flight on March 21, 1915 at 5 PM"). Indeed, records show that on that very day two aircraft landed in Przemyśl (pilots Stanger and Meltsch). This exceptional cover (ex Newall collection) was displayed at a prestigious "MonacoPhil 2002" exhibition.¹⁰ Organized under the patronage of Prince Ranier III of Monaco, the event featured a "rarest of the rare" display of one hundred stamps and covers exhibited by members of Le Club de Monte-Carlo.

The Maxa correspondence: The correspondence of Frau Maxova, a lady from Prague who used a variety of routes with unusual persistence over a five-month period to reach her husband in Przemyśl, is one of the most remarkable stories of the siege era. Keith Tranmer uncovered it in the late 1960s when he acquired from the Maxa son their mail collection (covers, with letters removed). It is highly certain that some of the items



This letter was exhibited at "MonacoPhil 2002" as one of the world's 100 greatest philatelic rarities.



Left: Frau Maxova's message from Prague (December 16, 1914), which most likely reached her husband Prokop in the besieged Przemyśl. Addressed to Oblt. von Mayer and showing General von Nickl's name as a useful reference and connecting address.

Below: Failed attempt of Frau Maxova to reach her husband in Przemyśl (January 22, 1915), despite using a well-connected Nikolaus Knozer address. She also mixed up Fliegerkompagnie No. 11 (stationed in Przemyśl) and FPO 30 (located in Kaschau, Hungary).

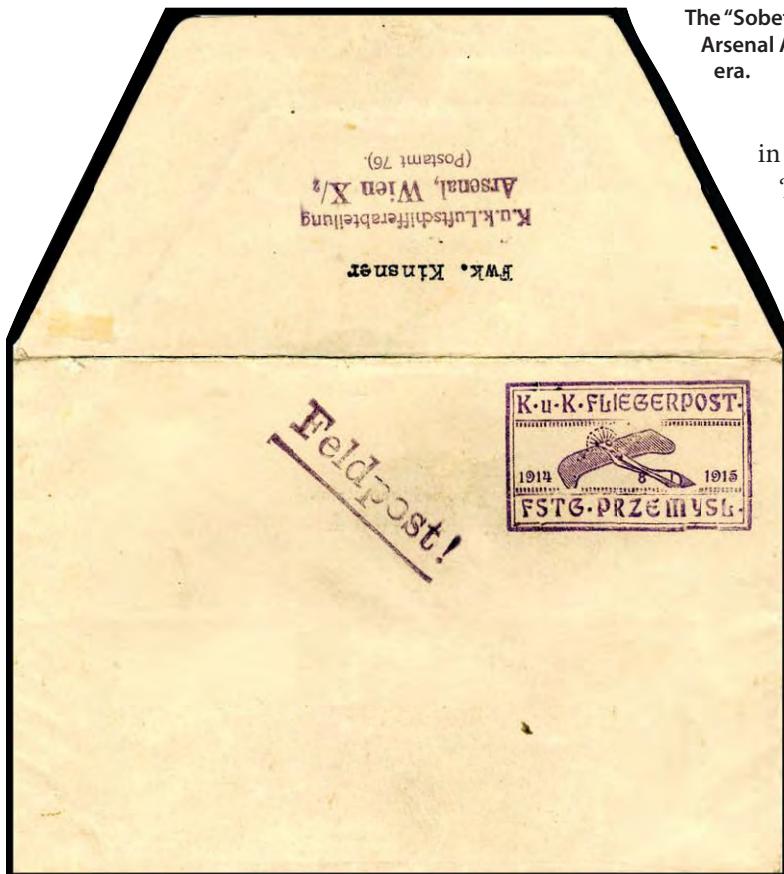
most likely unaware of the whole arrangement, as many of subsequent Maxova letters sent directly to him were simply returned to Prague.

Another attempt to reach Prokop on January 22, 1915 apparently failed. Here, in her effort to assure message delivery to her husband, Frau Maxova used the address of Nikolaus Knozer, a well-known Przemyśl siege figure and a friend to Hptm. Blaschke, the commander of Flying Squadron No. 11 stationed in Przemyśl. In order to make sure that Knozer, who censored some of Maxa's mail before, recognized the connection, she mentioned her name along with a return Prague address on reverse. However, she wrongfully addressed the card, combining Fliegerkompagnie No. 11, which was indeed in Przemyśl, and Feldpost 30, which was in Kaschau, Hungary. The letter was held by authorities until after the siege ended, and ultimately returned to sender, as evidenced by a red-framed "Derzeit nich zustellbar / zurvck" ("Impossible now to deliver / back") Krakow handstamp.

The Maxova card with the rarest markings was posted in Prague on January 22, 1915, just before publication of the ban on future mail to the garrison. It is addressed c/o Fliegerkompagnie No. 11 Krakau, with Maxa's address almost obliterated by the datestamp. The card was censored in Krakow ("Zensuriert Hauptpostamt" cachet) and transferred to Squadron No. 10 instead of Squadron No. 11. Indeed, in the beginning of January 1915, to strengthen the air connection with the garrison, the operational unit of Fliegerkompagnie No. 10 was moved from Krakow to Brzesko. If



One of the scarcest of Frau Maxova cards, posted in Prague on January 22, 1915. It passed censorship in Krakow and was flown by Fliegerkompagnie No. 10 from Brzesko to Przemyśl on February 12. The circular handstamp of "Fliegerkompagnie No. 10 / K.u.K. Luftschifferabteilung" is known on just one other card.



The "Sobetzsky" marking on Kinsner's stationery from the Vienna Arsenal Airport: an unusual philatelic souvenir of the Przemyśl siege era.

in *Story of Austria Air Mail* published in 1948, states:

"According to the references received, this airmail cachet is found in the Aviation Archives K.u.K. of Vienna Arsenal X/2. One cover from pyrotechnician Kinsner bearing a violet cachet with 3 lines (42mm x 14mm) confirms this...."¹² We do not know how many envelopes with Kinsner's name were printed; however, it is plausible that the envelope shown here derives from K.u.K. Aviation Archives, as described by Herr Koselin. Certainly, it is attributed to the Arsenal Airfield near Vienna, identifies gunmaster Kinsner as its designer, and should be treated as an unusual philatelic souvenir of the Przemyśl siege era.

Paper Balloon Flights from Przemyśl

Since airplane flights from Przemyśl were often disrupted, delayed, or canceled altogether due to weather conditions, on January 9, 1915 Commander Grebenz of the Fortress Balloon Division No. 3 issued an order allowing transport of mail by paper balloons.^{5,6} Special cards were sold at 50-heller per card, with proceeds going to a fund for the Widows and Orphans of Fallen Soldiers. One card was allowed per officer or fifteen soldiers (who were to send a combined message). It is unlikely these cards were printed separately and solely for that purpose. Recent research suggests that about 6,000 cards in various shades of blue were simply separated from the previously printed bulk of field postcards. These "balloon blue" cards were then numbered with a four-digit metal numerator (the lowest and the highest numbers recorded are 0089 and 5909, respectively), although a single hand-numbered card (#1020) and a one with a five-digit number (#15747) do exist. All cards received a special "Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915" violet handstamp, a "IX/54" control "camouflage" seal (where "IX" stands for Galicia and "54" for Przemyśl), and a "Festungsballonabteilung" flight handstamp.

not subjected to any delays, the card might have flown to Przemyśl as early as on February 1. The Fliegerpost No. 10 circular acceptance handstamp of "K.u.K. Luftschiiffabteilung" is extremely rare. There is only one other card with this marking recorded; it was posted on January 5, 1915 and flown from Brzesko to Przemyśl on January 12.

K.u.K. Fliegerpost Przemyśl cachet: A controversy exists about one item related to the siege of Przemyśl, a special framed rectangular handstamp depicting the "Taube" type of airplane used by the Germans. Described as a Sobetzky-type (it was first identified by Georg Sobetzsky), it was most likely produced with the idea of making Brzesko a base for all flights from and to Przemyśl.¹¹ This handstamp, measuring 45mm x 27mm, can be found in violet or black. It was applied to some unofficial or courtesy correspondence flown into Przemyśl after the sender made a suitable donation to the charity.

However, in *Handbuch der Luftpostkunde* published in Germany in 1925, authors Berezowski and Paganini write: "After the fall of the fortress, the original device used for the cachet fell into the hands of private party. Thus, one finds later canceled-by-favor cachets in both black and violet on covers and postal cards, all with Austrian postage stamps. Genuinely used on legitimate air mail, this cachet is exceedingly rare."¹¹

The collection also includes an unused stationery envelope with the "Sobetzsky" handstamp, as described above. On the flap, however, there is an additional three-line violet handstamp, with "Fwk. Kinsner" typed above. Adolf Kosel

19), Lemes (May 18), and Margitfalva (June 20), as confirmed by postmarks on some of the surviving cards.

There is some controversy regarding the “Lemes” balloon as only a single card carrying a “Lemes” postmark has been recorded (ex Newall collection). The item was addressed to a person living in that village, and it remains unknown whether the balloon did indeed land in Lemes itself, or whether the postmark was applied upon the arrival to the addressee’s hometown. In all, Przemyśl balloon mail is much scarcer than that transported by airplanes. It is a fair assessment that only about 5 percent of all existing cards sent from the fortress were flown by paper balloons.

One of the field postcards (#629), written on February 3, 1915, was addressed to Szeged, Hungary. This item was flown in the balloon released from Przemyśl on March 7. The balloon was found in Turja-Remety, Hungary, as evidenced by a seldom seen March 19 postmark applied at FPO 47, which is known to have been used to process some mail from that balloon flight.

Another unusual balloon card was addressed to Budapest. It contains short messages from seven Hungarian soldiers stationed in the fortress, along with addresses of the families to be notified that they all were doing just fine. Interestingly, this card was never censored, since it lacks the required rubber-stamp markings. Additionally, it carries an unusual handstamp: “K.u.K. Festungsartillerieregiment/Fürst Kinsky Nr. 3/ FESTUNGBALLONABTEILUNG.” The card is now accompanied by a letter written in May 1926 by Vienna-based Przemyśl collector and stamp dealer, Adolph von Arx, who states: “The mark is particularly scarce...only 3 of my 43 balloon cards carry this flight cachet.” He also writes that he intends to attend a stamp show in New York City in the fall 1926 where he will bring 750 (!) of the Przemyśl siege cards.

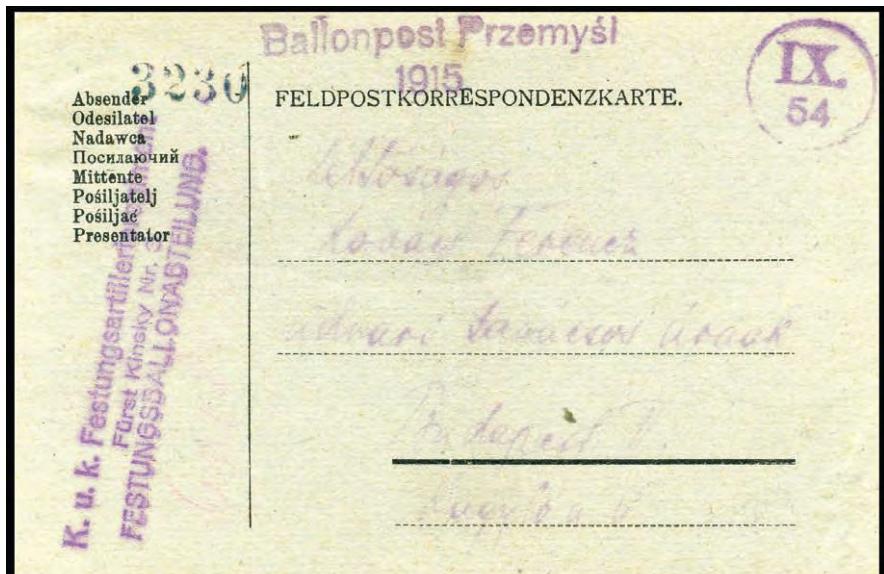
A unique Przemyśl balloon card has previously been described in Austrian air mail catalogues by Sobetzky,¹³ Köhl,¹⁴ and others. It carries the “15747” serial number, the one reserved for airplane correspondence (only about 6,000 consecutively numbered blue balloon cards were prepared). The message was written on January 5, 1915, seven days prior to when the blue balloon cards went on sale.



Field postcard flown from besieged Przemyśl by a paper balloon and found in Turja-Remety, Hungary. It was canceled by FPO 47 on March 19, 1915.

It was canceled at the Post Office on February 1 and has a “Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915” handstamp.

The use of an “inappropriate” airplane number on a blue card intended solely for the balloon transport, as evidenced by an “appropriate” balloonpost handstamp, may be explained as follows: An officer with apparent access to airplane cards wrote the message (January 5). When the item was discovered among those meant for an airplane flight, the card was numbered, and later (February 1) it received a control seal along with the datestamp at the post office. However, since the “Fliegerpost Przemyśl 1915” marking was still missing, the “Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915” marking was applied in error. The card was then censored and, instead of being flown by balloon (as implied by the handstamp), it



This card, carried by a paper balloon from Przemyśl, shows one of the rarest markings: “K.u.K. Festungsartillerieregiment/Fürst Kinsky Nr. 3/ FESTUNGBALLONABTEILUNG.”



Unique postcard intended for a balloon flight, but instead transported from besieged Przemyśl by an aircraft.

was most likely carried by aircraft to Krakow on February 7, 1915. Is there an army in which everything always goes according to regulations? If so, it certainly was not in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

Manned Balloon Flights from Przemyśl

Shortly before the surrender of the Przemyśl fortress, an effort was made on March 19 to send out manned balloons — named *Przemyśl*, *Austria*, *Josef Ferdinand*, *Schicht*, and *Steiermark*, although the latter was carried away by a storm before the crew could board it. The others got away, but none of four piloted balloons reached the Austrian lines and all had to land in the Russian-occupied territory. On landing, each balloon and most of the official mail it carried were destroyed by the crew, as instructed, before capture. The few surviving cards were handed over to the Red Cross in St. Petersburg, who in turn passed them on to the Red Cross Bureau in Copenhagen, from where they were eventually delivered to the addressees at least six months later. Not surprisingly, these items are among the rarest of the Przemyśl post.

The identification of mail carried by the manned balloon flights is further complicated because it is comprised of cards carrying both "Fliegerpost" and "Ballonpost" markings. This makes it difficult to distinguish balloon mail from similar mail salvaged from the airplane flight made on the day of surrender, March 22 (Sgt. Meltsch), unless these are cards dated after March 19, all of which are very rare.

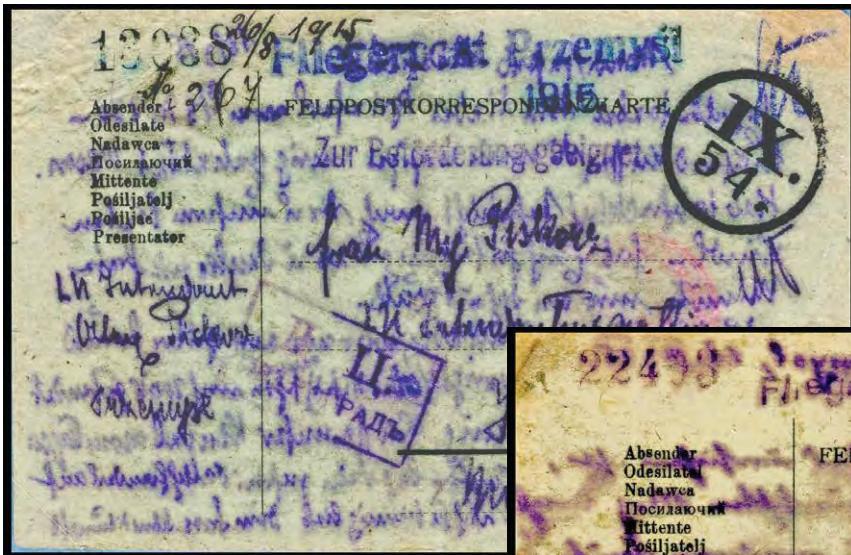
Two extremely rare cards were flown in the balloon *Austria*, piloted by Hptm. Nimmerrichter.¹⁵ Both cards were written on March 18, the day before the balloon flight. The first one is from Oblt. Alex Piskorz, Intendant of the 108th Infantry Brigade in the Pikulice area of Przemyśl, who was well known to Nimmerrichter. The second one is from Karl

Vareschi, an FPO 152 official. Both cards show identical censor initials but only the Piskorz card appears to have a censor handstamp "Zur Beförderung geeignet" ("suitable to forward"). Both arrived safely in Innsbruck, even though one was redirected. Vareschi writes: "Although the delivery of this card is uncertain I send it anyway to give a sign of life. Should you not hear from me for some time, do not worry. I will be back. Kisses, greetings, — Karl." Piskorz writes a sentimental letter, but opens with an interesting note: "I just got your letter from 9/3/15 No. 230," which establishes that he was able not only to send mail privately but to receive replies the same way through his connections with Nimmerrichter, and most likely someone outside the fortress. Interestingly, Piskorz was sending quite large amounts of money to his wife throughout the siege.

After crash-landing in Lukowo in the Russian lines, some thirty miles south of Brzesc Litewski, Nimmerrichter managed to destroy the balloon and burn the approximately eighty-eight pounds of mail on board. However, the aviator also carried some private mail in his greatcoat pocket, including the two cards shown here, as well as one to his wife, now in another collection.⁹ The captured flyer was arrested and taken to the Russian Army H.Q. at Cholm for interrogation. When he was accused of being a spy, two Russian flyers intervened to confirm that Nimmerrichter was indeed a pilot and, in an act of friendship, they offered to post his private mail. Both cards were sent first to Petrograd where they received censor marks. Although they are partially washed out, these marks and a red Austrian Red Cross handstamp can be seen on the cards.

Of note, the Russian censor mark on balloon cards (a rectangular "D.C. Petrograd") is distinct from that found on salvaged cards from the fourteenth airplane flight (an oval "Petrogradskaja Wojennaja Censura"), which also was forced to land in the enemy lines. This may also help to distinguish these two very seldom seen Przemyśl mailings.

The Piskorz card arrived in Innsbruck more than five months later, on August 26, 1915, as annotated by his wife. Indeed, she meticulously numbered all the correspondence from her husband, which reached "267" on this particular card. So much for one card per officer! However, this fascinating story does not end here. After World War I, both cards became part of the air mail material acquired in the 1930s by the Marquis of Bute from Georg Sobetsky. Unfortunately, the cards had suffered water damage during the bombing of London in 1940. Finally, Keith Tranmer purchased them, together with many other prized Przemyśl items presented



Two extremely rare cards, which were flown from Przemyśl in the balloon *Austria* piloted by Hptm. Nimmerrichter, a few days prior to the fortress's surrender. Note the Petrograd censor mark and red Austrian Red Cross handstamp.

here, at the Robson Lowe auction of Bute air mail holdings in 1959.

Epilogue

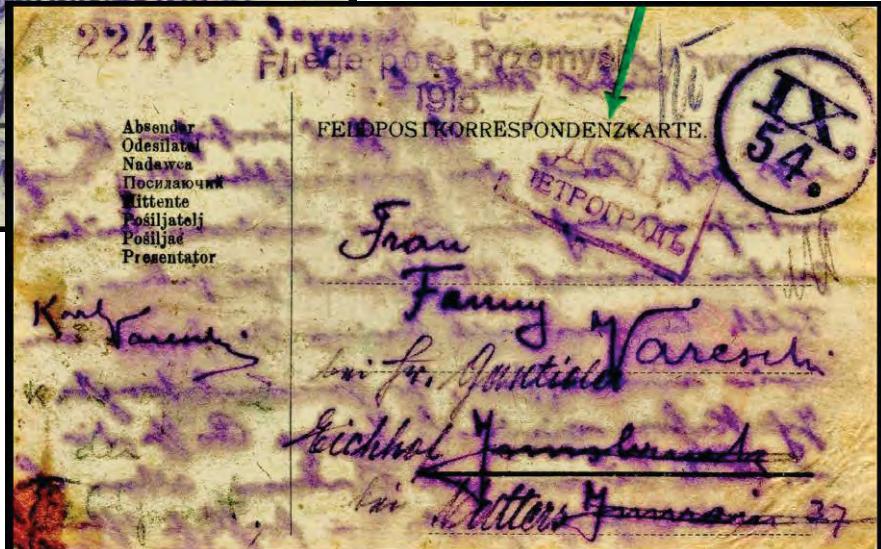
Keith Tranmer once wrote: "There are many interpretations of what constitutes postal history, but in my long experience the human aspect that the student can discover is the true reward of collecting, and in a subject such as the siege of Przemyśl ... the collector is able to relate closely to some of the personalities engaged."¹⁶ During fifty years of forming one of the most significant Przemyśl siege collections, Tranmer made a major effort to uncover its personal aspects and to get the relevant information first hand. It took him four years, for instance, to acquire the Maxa correspondence from the son of one of the Przemyśl defendants. He also became a good friend and an eager listener to the late Franz Graf Czernin von Chudenitz¹⁷ who knew many Przemyśl veterans, including Oblt. Nimmerrichter. It is my hope that this article, a testament to Keith Tranmer's Przemyśl siege postal history philosophy, will provide the impetus for a new generation of international scholars to further study this fascinating topic.

Endnotes

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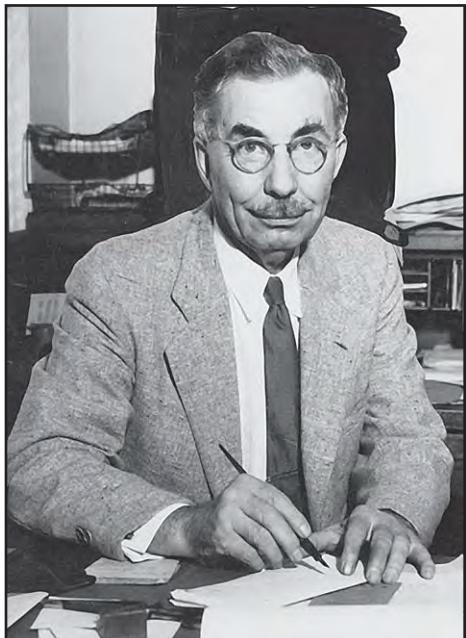
The Author

Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski is the Goldwyn Chair in Transplantation Research, and Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles. Involved in philately since childhood, for the past twenty-five years he has researched the postal history of air mail services in the Polish territories. He has won several Golds, three national Grands, and three international Golds. Jerzy has written a number of philatelic articles for such publications as *The Airpost Journal* and *American Philatelic Congress*.





World War II Internment of a German-American Couple in Hawaii



Joseph B. Poindexter, Territorial Governor.

by Louis Fiset

Congress declared war on Japan December 8, 1941, one day after Japanese naval forces attacked Pearl Harbor. Three days later Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. Immediately, German, Italian, and Japanese foreign-born residents who had not become U.S. citizens became enemy aliens; individuals over the age of fourteen were subject to arrest and detention. Moreover, Hawaii came under martial law on the day of the attack, threatening U.S. citizens of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry with the loss of their freedom.

Available knowledge in relation to internment of civilians in Hawaii centers on 561 Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans who represented a minuscule percentage of the Islands' population of 158,000 Nikkei.¹ However, eighty individuals, or 13 percent of the 614 German-born residents living in the Islands also were rounded

Alfred Smith
Detention Camp.
Honolulu T.H.

REPLY CARD
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



OK & contact of the
F.T. Bureau

Mrs. Susan Smith
so Immigration Sta.
Honolulu T.H.

up, thirty-nine of whom were U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization. The internment correspondence between two married U.S. naturalized citizens, Alfred and Susan Schmidt (Smith), is the focus of this article.

In late afternoon the day of the attack, Hawaii's territorial Governor Joseph B. Poincexter placed the Hawaiian Islands under martial law and transferred all civilian powers to Commanding General of the Hawaii Department, Lieutenant General Walter C. Short. Major restrictions on the daily lives of all civilians included suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, replacing civil courts with a military commission, and censoring communications — including the mail.

The military governor was given authority to intern, without recourse to the courts, enemy aliens as well as any U.S. citizens of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry he suspected could pose a threat to the nation's security. For the next several weeks FBI agents, acting on warrants issued as early as December 8, set about arresting enemy aliens and suspicious U.S. citizens that intelligence agencies had listed for detention. Throughout the Islands detainees were brought to Oahu and confined in Honolulu, where they awaited the loyalty hearings whose outcomes determined their

My dear Lusi: It is 4 wks. today and still we are here. Keep up your spirit as good as you can, Lusi. I am sure, that this week we will be released. Do not worry about anything. I have always been a good Captain. Health & freedom means more than money & jewellery. We have \$600.00 in cash, \$13 & \$10.000 in Notes, a \$20.000 home, a good business, but what can we do with it here? Write, if you only did say, my Alfred? With all my heart yours.

freedom or internment.

While mail documenting Hawaii's martial law internment experience has remained scarce, an extensive collection generated by a German-American couple, Alfred and Susan

Smith, provides an unusual account of one couple's internment in the United States. The collection consists of 160 covers postmarked from December 9, 1941 to December 29, 1943. This includes forty-six that they sent to each other during periods of separation. This article concentrates on the subset of covers highlighting Alfred and Susan Smith's movements between camps in Hawaii and on the mainland.

The Schmidts married in Germany in 1932 and moved to the East coast of the United States the next year. Alfred worked his way west to San Francisco as a roofing supply salesman, and the couple eventually arrived in Honolulu



Lieutenant General Walter C. Short.



Correspondence between Alfred and Susan while confined in separate quarters at the Sand Island Detention Camp.

in 1935 where later Alfred established his own roofing business. Susan stayed at home as a housewife. Naturalized in May 1940, the Schmidts changed their name to Smith.

Based on allegations of sympathy to the Nazi cause, arrest warrants for Alfred and Susan were issued on December 8, 1941. They each received a hearing at Fort Shafter before a board of officers and civilians convened to determine if one or both should be interned. A court record documenting Susan's hearing on December 23, 1941 contains witness allegations of anti-Semitic remarks, devotion to Hitler, and a preference for speaking German in public.²

Alfred, the operator of a successful Honolulu roofing and paint business on the eve of the war, was arrested on December 8, then removed to the Sand Island Detention Camp in Honolulu, at the head of Honolulu Bay. On December 18 Susan was taken from the couple's home at 2825 Park Street to the immigration station in the Ala Moana area of Honolulu, a short distance from Sand Island. The couple's ordeal

as internees, spent mostly in separate camps or isolated from one another in fenced off areas within the same camp, ended with their release on parole two years later.

On January 5, 1942 Alfred penciled a postcard to Susan, which was carried by pouch outside the mail stream from Sand Island to the immigration station. The message, referring to the day of his arrest, reveals the couple's ample financial resources:

It is 4 wks. today and still we are here. Keep up your spirit as good as you can, Susi.... Health & freedom means more than money & jewelry. We have \$2.600⁰⁰ in cash, \$13–15.000 in notes, a \$20.000 home, a good business, but what can we do with it here? Write if you only did say "My Alfred."

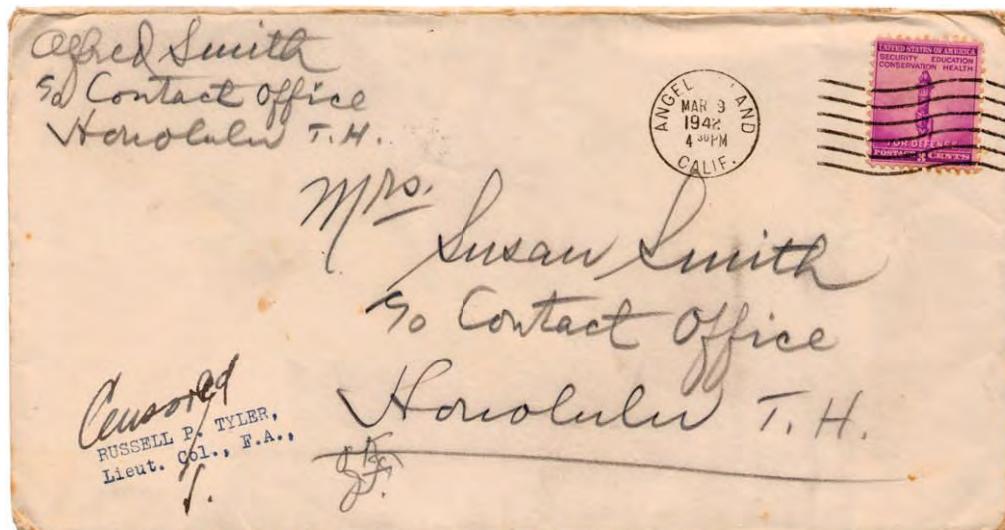
This and all known correspondence between the Smiths were examined by military censors at the Sand Island Detention Camp and often bear censor markings including a simple "OK" or single line "OK at contact office," applied in manuscript or by rubber stamp.

The first week of February 1942 found Susan transferred from the immigration station to the Sand Island Detention Camp where male and female detainees, single or married, were quartered in separate areas. An example of the within-camp correspondence between Alfred and Susan, then housed in different sections, is illustrated. Although they lived only yards apart, the letter traveled through the postal system. Two identical "OK" censor markings suggest examination by the military censor both going and coming.

After two weeks of confinement at Sand Island, on February 20 Alfred was taken from Honolulu under guard and transported by ship to the mainland for an unknown inland internment destination. One of eight contingents of trans-

ferees from Hawaii, this first one consisted of 199 passengers, all male: 171 Japanese, 24 Germans, and 4 Italians. On March 1 the ship docked at the Angel Island Quarantine Station, in San Francisco Bay.

Show is one of three known letters Alfred wrote to Susan during the group's five-day stay at Angel Island, from March 1 to March 6. Each cover bears an Angel Island postmark of March 9, three days following his departure from the Bay area. He probably wrote them over several days,



Alfred to Susan from Angel Island Quarantine Station before departing for an unknown inland internment camp destination.

handing the letters over in unsealed envelopes for censorship and subsequent placement into the mail stream. Because the free frank privilege for prisoner of war and internee domestic mail would not be authorized until the following November, Alfred franked each letter with postage.

While en route by train, Alfred learned of his ultimate destination: Camp McCoy, a military installation in Wisconsin. There, with his Hawaii cohorts, he would remain in confinement for two months. His correspondence with Susan indicates her presence at the Sand Island Detention Camp throughout the period.

In a postcard postmarked March 15, midway through his mainland internment, Alfred lamented:

Still I am here. I wired yesterday to Washington & trying all to have explanations why we have been interned.... Susi, dearest, I cannot believe it that I am here. Why? Please try as I do — take it. Always thinking of a clear release. I shall then find you, my dearest Susi.

An air mail envelope from Alfred postmarked April 17, 1942 survives. After examining the unsealed letter, an English language military censor at Camp McCoy applied the rubber stamp boxed marking, then sealed and placed it in the mail stream. Next it was forwarded to the Chicago field censor station, where civilian censor 3092 opened the letter for re-examination before returning it to the mail stream. At the Sand Island destination it was passed by a censor yet a third time (manuscript censor marking) before being handed over to Susan. As on many of his letters, Alfred highlighted his U.S. citizenship status in the return address, the status that soon would lead to his return to Hawaii.

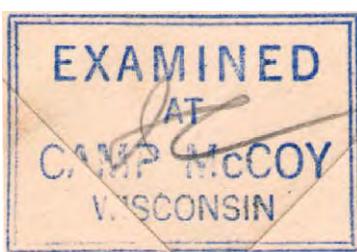
In the meantime, he had received no letters from Susan since before his departure from Hawaii. On March 24 Alfred sent an anxious message on a postcard:

No reply to my cable so far. Where are you cannot understand why we are not told about our wifes in detention. Nearly 6 wks. without hearing from you. Oh,



To Susan from Camp McCoy. Alfred identifies himself as "U.S. Citizen."

3092



Typical censor marking applied to internee mail by military censors at Camp McCoy.

I feel so bad about it. Today is just another day.

After Alfred cabled an Easter greeting on April 6, Susan responded with three letters from "Detention Camp, Sand Island." The last was postmarked April 24, two weeks before Alfred's departure from Camp McCoy and return to Sand Island.

This move occurred because in the absence of martial law the U.S. Government had no authority to intern U.S. citizens on the mainland. A *habeas corpus* case had been filed on behalf of one of the German American internees. A successful outcome would ensure release of all thirty-three Hawaii-resident U.S. citizens of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry then interned on the mainland. Therefore, in May 1943, with the Hawaiian Islands still under martial law, all internees were returned to Sand Island where legally they could be kept under lock and key.



Susan from Sand Island Detention Camp to Alfred at Camp McCoy.

Mr. Alfred Smith, Detention Camp, Sand Island,

Mr.

Alfred Smith
Detention Camp
Sand Island

Alfred

7 1942 MAY

Within-camp mail
between Alfred and
Susan at Sand Island
Detention Camp,
docketed May 7, 1942.

2749
U.S.A.S. CENSORSHIP
EXAMINED
By _____
OVO



Susan Smith,
c/o Immigration Station
c/o Major F. E. Walker
Honolulu T. H.

Mr.

Alfred Smith

Honouliuli Detention Camp
Honouliuli T. H.

Susan, from the immigration station in Honolulu, to Alfred at the Honouliuli Detention Camp.



Incoming mail addressed to Alfred at Sand Island Detention Camp, forwarded to the home in Honolulu where he and Susan would return after their release.

Upon his return to the Sand Island Detention Camp, Alfred and Susan were again quartered separately for a short time, and their within-camp correspondence resumed. An example from Susan to Alfred was censored locally and docketed May 7, likely the day Alfred returned to the camp.

A gap in the correspondence exists following this letter, for the camp administrator soon relaxed regulations permitting the few married couples under his jurisdiction to live together on the women's side of the camp. While the Smiths were themselves childless, young children of interned couples were allowed to visit and stay with their parents on weekends.

On March 1, 1943 the Sand Island camp was shut down, because most detainees by this time had been transported to the mainland for internment. Those who remained, among them U.S. citizens including Alfred and Susan, were sent to a newly erected internment camp situated a few miles northwest of Honolulu, near the town of Ewa. The camp, located in Honouliuli Gulch, its namesake, also held a few Japanese prisoners of war from the Pacific Theater. Alfred was removed to this new camp in mid-February, two weeks before the Sand Island facility closed. Subsequently, Susan was returned to the immigration station in Honolulu where she began detention fifteen months earlier. However, soon they were re-united at Honouliuli and remained together for eight months until their release.

During their separation, Susan sent at least one letter from the immigration station to the Honouli-

uli Detention Camp. Although the postmark is mute, common on outgoing Hawaii internee correspondence, it was probably mailed early in March 1943. It shows both military censorship (manuscript) and censor markings applied by a Honolulu field censor station examiner.

In November 1943, while together at the Honouliuli Detention Camp, Alfred and Susan received welcome news of their impending release from custody with placement on parole for the duration of the war. This order permitted the Smiths to return to their Honolulu home on Park Street.

An air mail letter postmarked at Fresno, California on December 29, 1943 reflects this change in their status. Sent to Alfred at the Sand Island Detention Camp, it was forwarded to the couple's Park Street address. This cover concludes the philatelic story of the Smiths and their internment under martial law in Hawaii.

What stigma the Smiths may have suffered as a result remains unknown. Their arrests were based on suspicions of sympathy with the Third Reich. The accusers, perhaps neighbors, personal enemies, anti-Nazi German Americans, or other Honolulu acquaintances, never were called as witnesses to swear to their allegations at the couple's loyalty hearings. Alfred and Susan's incarceration may have been based on hearsay or fueled by the understandable hysteria of the time. In the end, the Smiths were U.S. citizens, and

In the end, the Smiths were U.S. citizens, and their experience demonstrates how civil liberties often can become early casualties during times of war.

their experience demonstrates how civil liberties often can become early casualties during times of war.

Acknowledgment

The author thanks Dickson H. Preston for his helpful suggestions on an earlier version of the manuscript.

Endnotes

1. For an account of interned Hawaii residents of Japanese ancestry see: Louis Fiset, *Detained, Interned, Incarcerated: U.S. Enemy Noncombatant Mail in World War II* (Chicago: Collectors Club of Chicago, 2010).
2. Schmidt (Smith), Susan Auguste Subject File of Civilian Internees, Hawaii, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD (copy in the author's possession.)

The Author

Louis Fiset has been collecting postal history of non-combatants during wartime for more than thirty years and has exhibited widely. He is the author of *Detained, Interned, Incarcerated: U.S. Enemy Noncombatant Mail in World War II*, (2010).

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Visual Comparison of Complex Objects

by Raymond H. Murphy

In the study of philately we are often faced with the comparison of one printed object with another. Are they the same? If different, how do they differ? The written answers given in texts and catalogues are too often along the lines of "They differ by the addition of a curlicue here and a sharp corner on the letter" or "The rarer version has a small dot above the eye" (which can leave the reader confused as to "which eye, and how far above?" or "what small dot?"). Even worse is the answer that compares two copies, but begins by assuming that the reader (a) has two copies and (b) that he/she knows which is which! These sorts of answers are often difficult to follow, and harder to duplicate. The procedure discussed below is not without its faults or weaknesses, but it provides a visual and reproducible means of comparing complex objects.

This procedure involves the use of Corel PaintShop Pro®,

a program designed to enhance, change, or correct digital photographs. The program is a powerful tool, and runs under Windows 7® or Vista®. It allows the operator the freedom to make changes and manipulate photographs. By nature complex, the program has a tutorial and assistance option, which can make using it easier for the novice.

Example 1

Let's start with a pair of World War II censor tapes from the island of Jamaica. These will give an idea of how the comparison is done with relatively simple designs. The censors checked incoming, outgoing, and transient mail for contraband material and information that could possibly aid the enemy — such as shipping schedules or information about the new air base being built by the Americans. When the censoring process was done, the original envelope was resealed with a gummed label called a PC 90 that had the in-



Censor tape type L09 from Jamaican censor D/8816.



Censor tape of unlisted variety, censor D/8830. Longer "EXAMINER" line and shorter serifs on "D."

dividual censor's country (D or ID for Jamaica) and a code number. The pictures shown are in two sections — one from the front and one from the back of the envelope.

There are ten basic types of PC 90 censor tapes listed. The example D/8816 used here is a type L09, with four printed lines used between 1942–1943. The second example, D/8830, is a previously unlisted type that is similar to the L09, except for the obvious differences in the "EXAMINED" line, which is 10 mm longer, and the longer serifs on the "D." But is this just an L09 with a longer line or are there other differences? Here's how we can find out.

The first task is to scan in the objects as photographs. Most scanners/printers have programs that come with them to handle this task. Once scanned, I name the images and store them in a file called "Pictures JA Censor Tapes."

Opening Paint Shop Pro, I notice that the program has gone through all the photographs stored in my system and nicely arranged them into groups of pictures by file folder. My first task is to bring one of the photos into the work area. Let's start with the bottom half of D/8816.

As you can see, the cover wasn't exactly straight in the scanner, although the cover itself was straight. This can be corrected by use of the STRAIGHTEN tool that allows one to draw a straight line between two points that should be straight. Here the lower corners of the letters in the "Examiner" line were used.

It is necessary to straighten all scans to insure that items being compared are parallel. In this step, and others following, it is wise to use the SAVE AS option to create copies of the images as you proceed, so you can recover from an error. These extra copies can be erased upon completion.

The next step is to change the color of the black area to another color that will provide a clear contrast with a second color to be used on the second label. For this example, I've chosen the color pairs magenta and blue. Censor tape D/8816 was assigned the magenta color and D/8830 the blue color.

The first task is to scan in the objects as photographs. Most scanners/printers have programs that come with them to handle this task.



Bottom half of tape D/8816 as scanned. Note that it is not parallel to the base.



Bottom half straightened and now parallel with the base.



Black converted to magenta.



Image cropped to show only the large "D" before the censor number.



Letter "D" from D/8830 straightened, recolored, and cropped.

If we try to compare everything at the same time, the eye tends to get confused with too much information. So it is best to get rid of the extraneous material, and break the file into several pieces. The CROP command will allow selection of individual pieces. Here, I decided to look at the large D in the censor identification line.

After I straighten, crop, and recolor one tape, I'll save it as a new photo, switch to the second tape, repeat the operation in the contrasting color, and save it. The sequence of straightening, recoloring, and cropping is not important. What is important is that you save your work to a new file after every



"D" from D/8816 with background removed, made transparent, and positioned over the "D" from D/8830.



"D" from D/8830 with background removed, made transparent, and positioned over the "D" from D/8816.



Letters and number from other parts of the censor tapes are shown overlapped. There is no difference between the two "PC 90"s and "BY"s, but differences can be seen between the letter "X", slash, and numerals.

step. (Note: The letter X from "EXAMINER" falls on the fold, so only the top half will be used for comparison.)

Since I have several lines of type and several different spacings, I'll want to look at each area separately. Starting with the capital letter D, both pictures are moved to the work space. First, the BACKGROUND REMOVER tool is used to remove the tan background on both. Clicking on the blue D, I copied it using the EDIT tool. Next, clicking on the magenta D, the EDIT option is used again, but now I'll paste it on top of the blue D as a transparent copy layer. The cursor allows some movement to adjust exactly where it should be, and then the image is saved. I chose to align the two samples based on the left ends of the serifs. The horizontal alignment was taken care of by the program; however, I could have moved the blue D so that it was aligned on the top rather than the bottom.

This procedure is repeated, except that now the magenta D is moved over the blue D. This is done since one image hides part of the other.

At the top of the page are the results for the other sets of letters and figures. I've used the most informative of the two results for each example shown. Examining the superimposed images, it can be seen that:

1. The "PC 90" and the "EXAMINED BY" lines are identical.
2. The "D"s differ in size, design, and serif length.
3. The "slash" is longer on one, and at a slightly different angle.
4. The "EXAMINER" lines use different type faces, as demonstrated by the angle, size, and serif variations seen on the letter X. (Although not illustrated, other letters also showed similar characteristics supporting this conclusion.)
5. The numerals are different in width.

My conclusion is that the censor tapes are different, but possibly produced by the same printing company based on the similarities in the first two lines.

Example 2

Let's try this again with something more complex. Here are two logos used on Irish Official Mail of the 1922–1939 time frame. The Irish national symbol, the harp, is surrounded by wording in both Irish and English to indicate that this is postpaid official mail. There are seventeen types of the Irish/English logo known.

When we go through the process, we can see that there are differences but, again, there is almost too much information for the eye to take in. Notice that these scans contain extraneous material, in particular, cancellations. Although in this case they do not interfere with the results, it is sometimes advisable to remove these distractions from the scan. There is an ERASE tool that gives the user the option to erase material down to the pixel level; however, this is can be needless work since, as in this example, the cancel really doesn't affect the areas I'm interested in.

However, if we break the scans down into smaller sections, the differences become more apparent. For example,



Two variations of the 1922–39 Irish/English Official Mail logo.



Logos overlapped: (left) green on magenta, (right) magenta on green.



Portion of green logo on magenta showing that the green letter "A" is not connected to the harp head and the differences in the shape of the letter "T."



Portion of magenta logo on green showing the letter "A" connected to the harp head, and the shift and spacing of the letters.



The Irish letter "G" in *Go* is similar to the "G" in *hOifigiuil* on the magenta logo but differs on the green logo.

the letter A touches the top corner of the harp on one scan but not the other. Also, it can be seen that the letters are shifted and vary in shape between the logos. For example, the Irish G (which resembles a capital J) in *Go* is very similar to the G in *hOifigiuil* on the magenta logo but different on the green logo.

To make this procedure work effectively, the pictures must be in the same relative position; that is, something in one picture must be parallel with a corresponding part of the second picture. In the Jamaican censor tapes, I used the bottoms of the letters and numbers. In the Irish logos, the backs of the harps were made parallel. In objects where there are no straight lines, improvisation becomes the rule. From geometry, we know that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Thus, if we can select two identical identifiable points on each picture to serve as ends of a line, the STRAIGHTEN command will make them parallel. We

can then use our cursor to make the pictures overlap.

Since I have saved my results as digital photographs, I now have the flexibility to pass the results on to other people by printing a hard copy or by e-mailing the output to them. I can even copy this information into my word processor to create exhibit pages or add an illustration to an album page.

Conclusions

This method has many possible applications. How about comparing the Maltese Cross cancels used on the Penny Blacks? Each town cancel was different, but it is difficult to figure out some. Maybe we can make a useful comparison between the lettering used in the British "Stars" and the plate numbers! Could this be used to detect fakes of precancels or overprints by comparing different type faces? There are many possible applications, limited only by the user's interest, imagination, and subject material.

References

- Burrows, Peter C., editor, *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II, Section 6, British West Indies & Falkland Islands* (Colorado Springs, CO: The Civil Censorship Study Group, 2010).
Corel Corporation, *PaintShop Pro® Ultimate PHOTO X2 User Guide* (Ottawa, ON: Corel Corporation, 2008).

The Author

Raymond H. Murphy Jr. is a retired USAF officer who collects and exhibits Jamaica and Ireland. He is active with clubs in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Florida area, and has served as an officer in several.

From the Editor

There are a variety of digital photo editing programs available today, ranging from Adobe PhotoShop created for the professional designer to the much more user-friendly versions developed for the hobbyist. Some of the software packages will let you try before you buy — just download the free demo/trial version and start to explore.

The top programs under \$100 are:

- **Corel PaintShop Pro** — <http://www.corel.com/corel/product/index.jsp?pid=prod4130078>
- **Adobe Photoshop Elements** – <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements.html>
- **Serif PhotoPlus** — <http://www.serif.com/photoplus/>
- **Xara Photo & Graphic Designer** — <http://www.xara.com/us/products/designer/>
- **ACDSee Photo Editor** — <http://www.acdsee.com/>
- **Photo Explosion** — <http://www.novadevelopment.com/software/photo-explosion-deluxe-129012>
- **Photo Impression** — http://www.arcsoft.com/estore/software_title.asp?ProductCode=PI65
- **Photo Studio** — <http://www.arcsoft.com/photostudio/>
- **Photolightning** — <http://photolightning.com/>

There are so many features to the individual programs that you will be amazed with effects you can create. A word of warning: photo editing is challenging, fun, and addictive.

*For comparisons, pricing, operating system compatibility, and reviews
visit <http://photo-editing-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>*



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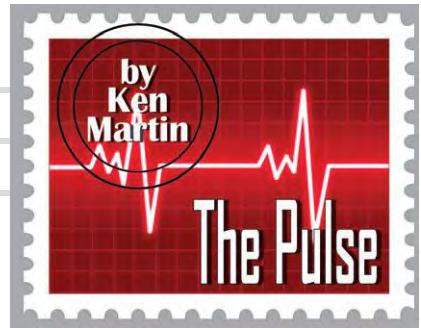
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New Tenant Signed

I am happy to report that the APS and APRL have signed an agreement with another firm to lease about 11,000 additional square feet at the American Philatelic Center. It will take us ten to eleven months to renovate the space, but the lease will generate a significant positive cash flow for us from the day they occupy the space. This will be our tenth tenant. In total the tenants will be leasing more than 35,000 square feet, paying rent of about \$500,000 per year and helping our finances significantly. Without our success in leasing space we would not have been able to keep the annual dues constant since 2009.

You may notice that we dropped 2,490 members for non-payment of dues at the end of April. While we would prefer not to drop even a single member, this is the lowest number of drops for nonpayment that we have had since 1978, and most organizations would be extremely happy dropping only seven percent of the membership. Adding resignations and deaths, our annual retention rate of ninety percent is excellent.

Our challenge continues to be recruiting new members. Any help in identifying prospects for membership is greatly appreciated. If you are a member of a local club, ask your fellow members if they have joined the APS. If you have a web page, include the APS logo and a link to our site. If you buy or sell stamps, ask the sellers or customers if they are APS members. If you are willing to do more, we are happy to mail you a recruiting kit or business reply cards you can include with correspondence or orders. Recruit one or more members and we will pay you \$5 for each and list you in the annual recognition issue.

Stamp Buddies & Show Greeters

In the May *American Philatelist* (page 435) Michael Bloom proposed that the APS start a "Stamp Buddy" program. As noted in one of the earlier letters, the APS Education Department already has a Mentor program that can serve an APS member no matter where they live. A "Stamp Buddy" who could actually meet with a collector in person is even better, but is a little challenging to administer on a national basis.

Similar to many churches, a few APS chapters have designated greeters. And hopefully every stamp club introduces and welcomes visitors. If you would like a "Stamp Buddy," the APS will be happy to pass your contact information on to the nearest local chapter but we can't make any guarantees that they will have an appropriate contact available. If you would like to contact an APS affiliate club in your area, you will find them listed at www.stamps.org/Local-Club or you may contact Judy Johnson at requests@stamps.org. If you live in an area without an APS chapter we may not be able to do any better than to arrange a contact through our traditional mentor program; please contact Gretchen Moody at gretchen@stamps.org.

Robert Stevenson, an APS member from the St. Louis area, made a similar suggestion for APS shows about fifteen years ago. We obtained "Ask Me" buttons and solicited volunteers to serve as greeters and to provide show tours for



Ron Lesher guides Boy Scouts through the exhibits.

the APS winter and summer shows. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers was small. When Mr. Stevenson's health declined, we incorporated the program into the "Chapters/Affiliates/Beginners Booths" at our shows. We still try to do this but without the tireless assistance of Jim McDevitt and a couple others we would not even be able to staff this booth. However, if volunteers are willing to step forward we would love to have show greeters, offer regular show tours, and any other assistance we can to help enhance collectors' enjoyment of our shows — and hopefully also make them a little more likely to join the APS. If interested in volunteering in these ways at an upcoming APS show, please contact Barb Johnson at barbj@stamps.org.

When To Expertize

A recent discussion on the APS Linked-In group, www.linkedin.com/company/american-philatelic-society, centered around when and if a stamp should be expertized. One individual questioned the need to have a U.S. Columbian expertized. While Columbians are much easier to identify than Washington-Franklins and many other U.S. stamps, expertizing may still be beneficial, even for a used copy. Many straight-edge copies of Columbians have been perforated

and some are repaired. I would certainly recommend expertization for any high-value copy claimed to be mint never hinged. Even if the unused copy is hinged, an expertizing certificate can provide some reassurance that the hinge has not been used to cover a thin. Having an expertizing certificate also makes it much easier to sell a stamp.

APEX, your Expertizing service, caters to individual collectors, and discounts are offered to APS members. With our CrimeScope, our Reference Collection of both genuine and forged stamps, our Library, and more than 130 experts serving on our expertizing committee, we can provide a guaranteed opinion on nearly all postage stamps. Most items are returned within six weeks of receipt. Additional information on APEX is available from our website or by contacting Director Mercer Bristow (mercer@stamps.org) or Coordinator Krystal Harter (krharter@stamps.org).

Fun with Philately

A hobby is supposedly to be enjoyable. And some clubs and shows go to great lengths to achieve this. Each year, WESTPEX, the San Francisco area World Series of Philately show, has a theme. This year, their theme was the 200th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ross, the southernmost



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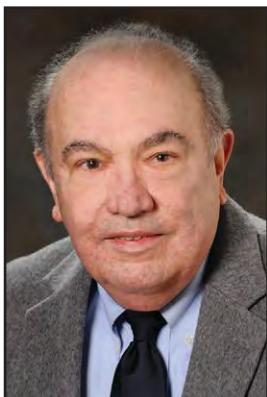
extension of Russian adventure into the new world. The story of Fort Ross includes a wonderful but tragic romance between Concepción, the 15-year-old daughter of the Spanish Commandant and Nikolai Resanov, the Russian adventurer and commander of the expedition that founded Fort Ross. In a follow up to last year's show when "Sophie Tucker" visited WESTPEX, this year "Concepción" helped welcome show attendees and made an appearance at the banquet as well.

A couple weeks earlier in the Chicago area, the Park Forest Stamp Club had its annual show. And for the second year in a row their judging team of Rich Drews and Kathy Johnson came in costume — this time as hockey players.

Although these images are no substitute for actually attending these shows, we are pleased to share a photo from each event. Philately can be a serious hobby, but a little levity can make it a little more enjoyable and a lot more memorable!

Distinguished Topical Philatelist

Congratulations to 42-year APS member Frederick Skvara of New Jersey (also a life member of the APRL) who has been selected as the American Topical Association's 2012 Distinguished Topical Philatelist. I've known Fred for many years because of our mutual interest in medical-related philately. He has been a member of the ATA Board of Directors since 2006 and ATA Director of Chapters including author of the *Topical Time* "Chapter Chatter" column from 2006–2011. He has served since 2004 as editor of *Scalpel & Tongs*, quarterly journal of the ATA Medical Subjects Unit, as well as editor since January 2010 of the *Americana Philatelic News*, quarterly journal of the ATA Americana Unit (and APS affiliate). Since 2008, Fred also has been editor of *The Westfield Philatelist* for the



APS Westfield, New Jersey chapter.

The award will be presented to Fred at the ATA National Topical Stamp Show scheduled for June 22–24 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, about two and a half hours from the American Philatelic Center. I plan to drive down to the show for Saturday and Sunday following the conclusion of our Summer Seminar and hope to meet a few of you there!

Donating to the APS

Let me end with an apology and an opportunity. First, Yoram Szekely was omitted from the list of in-kind donors in the April recognition issue of *The American Philatelist*. Our apologies and our thanks for his ongoing support.

Finally, there is a unique opportunity for individuals who financially support the American Philatelic Society. In June 2012, the Centre County Community Foundation will provide \$100,000 in matching funds to Centre County, Pennsylvania-based public charities (such as the APS) for gifts made online at www.centregrives.org during the thirty-six hours from 6 a.m. (Eastern) on June 27 to 6 p.m. (Eastern) on June 28, 2012.

All donations must be made online through www.CentreGives.org; no checks or cash can be accepted. The minimum amount that can be donated is \$10. The maximum individual donation that can be part of the match is \$10,000. All donations to Centre Gives are tax deductible and will be distributed to the organization in whose name they are made. The \$100,000 match will be prorated based on the total raised. If the cumulative amount raised during the 36-hour period is \$100,000, organizations would receive a \$1 match for every \$1 designated to them. If \$200,000 is given during the period, the match will be 50¢ for each dollar. Donors do not have to be from Centre County for their gifts to qualify for the match.

Philatelic Vacationing

Traditionally, summer is a slow period for philately. However, it is a great time to introduce a kid to the hobby; to make a side trip while on your vacation to visit the American Philatelic Center; to visit stamp shows including NAPEX (Washington, DC area), NTSS (Lancaster, PA), the Minnesota Stamp Expo, AmeriCover (Irvine, CA), and APS STAMP SHOW (Sacramento, CA); to participate in the APS Volunteer Work Week; to visit the Congressional Exhibit in Washington, DC; or to simply relax at home with your collection. We hope this summer brings you fun and philatelic nourishment!

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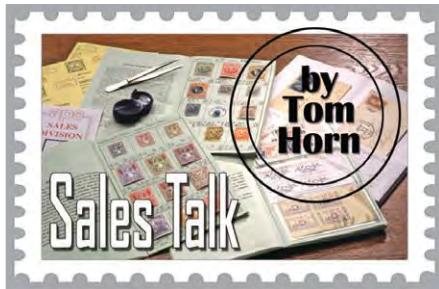
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APS Sales Division Use

An estimated 22,000 APS members have now experienced buying stamps, covers, cards, and other philatelic items from the Society's Sales Division. Add the number of members who are actively buying through this approval service to the number who have used it in the past (including those who have now passed away) and the total equals the Society's membership. At the time this article is written, the inventory of members' sales books stands at 41,627 sales books worth \$8,204,500.86. This includes the Clearance sales books, most of which are being sold at 50 percent less than the original asking prices.

Here are the ways you, too, can explore this voluminous stock of material:

- Get your name on a list of other collectors in your relative geographical area who have similar interests in material. Many friendships have been made through this informal way to add to your collection. There's no pressure from someone looking over your shoulder. Take seven days to decide what you want to buy. The stamps are right there in your hands for inspection.
- Request a Clearance circuit of sales books that have been discounted and are selling as a unit. There are no individual-stamp sales on this circuit, but the experience is like buying the old kiloware lots, except that these stamps are identified for you.
- Join a local stamp club that is receiving monthly mailings of sales books for their meetings. Better yet, join a club that is not receiving them and push to have them request circuits. This includes mailings of Clearance circuits. With the great prices of these discounted books, many clubs are

buying the books and then breaking the material into lots for their own club auctions.

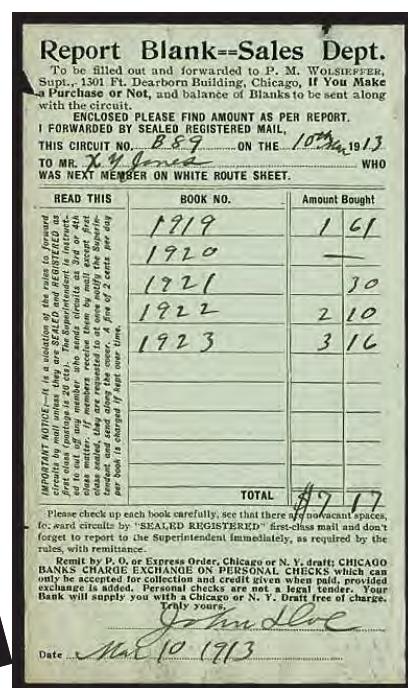
- VISIT US! This time of year is busy for us, because members traveling through this area stop to browse through sales books that are in transition between circuits. Some buy stamps here, while others make up their own personalized circuit and mail it back to us after checking their collections at home. Speaking of visiting, we are open the Saturday before the Summer Seminar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 16, 2012. Our local stamp show, SCOPEX, is operating that weekend and will provide you with additional buying opportunities.

History 1920-1930

P.M. Wolsieffer handed the reins of the Sales Department to J.E. Guest in 1920. His long tenure in this position would show how efficient an operation



Early Sales Circuit book and report sheet.



SALES DEPARTMENT NEWS

Published in the Interest of the Sales Department of the American Philatelic Society,
by J. E. Guest, Sales Supt., P. O. Box 1042, Dallas, Texas.

Sales Department News

No. 13

Issued May 1st, 1924, by J. E. Guest, Sales Superintendent, American Philatelic Society, P. O. Box 1042, Dallas, Texas

3000 IN SIGHT

A goal of at least 3000 members will be reached by the time our annual convention meets in Detroit in August. Whether or not we will have more than this depends upon you, Mr. Member. Get busy today and get just one new member during May; if you will we can make it 5000 by August. Will you do your part?

TAKE FRIEND WIFE

On to Detroit in August—Why go alone? Take friend wife. All of us married collectors can do the hobby a mighty good turn by taking our wives to Detroit in August. Give them an opportunity to find out for themselves just what fine congenial fellows stamp collectors really are (and stamp collector's wives). Try it this year.

REGARDING SPECIAL CIRCUITS

These may consist of one to any number of books. If you are a general collector you can get a real large circuit, while as a specialist we might be only able to send you one book along your collecting lines, but whether one or more we will do our level best to serve you. We have no U. S. Special circuits, we do not have books enough to go the rounds of the regular U. S. circuits as often as we wish.

RETIREMENT OF BOOKS

Members do not seem to fully realize the large volume of work connected with the operation of the sales department. They request their books back by return mail. This is all right. Usually they are out on circuits or even if in the office have to wait their round. It is the office which serves several hundred members and must serve all in turn. We are here to sell stamps and the sending out of circuits must always have preference over the retirement of books. We cannot see where some members figure any profit from entering their books for such a short time, the insurance commission and charges usually eat up the sales when books have only been in a few months. Several times we have had to send the book out again, as the sales would not take care of the debits of the account. We are trying to give impartial service, so do not get impatient if it is not return mail service.

PRECANCELS

Again we wish to state we now have a growing demand for these stamps. We need more books and also members interested in this side line should ask to be put on the precanceled circuits.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Our rate goes up this month. Hereafter the rate for advertisements will be 2c per word per issue, or four times for 5c per word. Cash with order. Circulation nearing 3000. Better get in now. All advertisements set solid, no display unless especially contracted for.

The *Sales Department News* from 1924. The newsletter grew in size from $5\frac{1}{16} \times 8\frac{13}{16}$ inches (in May) to 8 x 11 inches (in September).

could be if it did not have to settle all accounts every year or so before transferring to the next Superintendent, effectively shutting the operation down and starting from scratch again. The Board of Directors did not record the specifics on how they decided on the approval of Sales Department Superintendents, but their approval of Guest proved to be a long-term situation.

J.E. Guest made his first report to the Convention of 1920. The usual closing of accounts under Wolsieffer, the transfer of records and funds, and the resumption of activities occurred. Guest moved from Minneapolis to Wichita Falls that year and stated that he could now devote more time to the Department activities. From the 1920 Convention to the 1921 Convention, the Sales Department showed an increase in sales from \$4,841 to \$19,263 while the inventory

value of sales books went from \$24,655 to \$82,892. In 1922 Guest reported sales of \$29,050 and an inventory value of \$151,098 — quite a jump in both numbers.

Part of the reason for these advances was the increase in membership in the Society (going from 1,788 in 1920 to 2,308 in 1922), but Guest also developed a short quarterly newsletter that he sent to members, emphasizing the advantages of using the Society's Sales Department.

The following year, 1923, showed continued growth as the sales and inventory increased to \$39,258 and \$186,820, respectively. At this Convention, Guest proposed through the Bylaws Committee that Branches that wanted to receive sales circuits should properly appoint a local member to handle the circuits and that, as far as the Society was concerned,

Volume II, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 15, 1924

Whole Number 16

SALES REACH NEW HIGH RECORD OF \$44,567.83

Again the results obtained through the sales department reach a new high record. As against last season's total of \$39,258.81 a total of \$44,567.83 was effected this year.

The rapid growth of the sales for the past few years, as shown here, is just evidence of the growing popularity and efficiency of the sales department.

Sales 1922-23	\$19,262.97
Sales 1921-22	29,050.15
Sales 1923-24	39,258.81
Sales 1923-24	44,567.83

A gain of \$25,304.86 in four years.

THE A. P. S. COMES TO ITS OWN

P. M. Wolsieffer Chosen President

By the largest vote on record P. M. Wolsieffer of Philadelphia was chosen president of the American Philatelic Society.

Mr. Wolsieffer, known as a veteran philatelist and a charter member of the Society, should add new life to the organization.

With "P. M." taking up the work where Mr. Heyerman left off, we ought to forge ahead this year greater than ever before.

Mr. Member, it takes your fullest co-operation to make the A. P. S. a success, so get behind Mr. Wolsieffer and his program 100%.

REAPPOINTED

One of the first announcements made by Mr. Wolsieffer was that your superintendent has been reappointed for the new year.

This was especially gratifying to us, for we have set a final goal of \$100,000 annual sales and want to be continued in office to accomplish this.

Stay with me and I will stay with you. Together we can accomplish this goal.

LOS ANGELES WINS 1925 CONVENTION

An organized pre-convention campaign put on by our West Coast members resulted in a victory and Los Angeles was chosen as the 1925 meeting place.

Many objections were raised against this choice and it is up to our California members to attend 100%.

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified, 2c word. Four insertions, 5c word.
Display on request.
Circulation, 2800 or more monthly.

CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

Proposed plan to abolish Sales Superintendent was not brought on the floor of the convention.

An amendment to the by-laws to prohibit your appointative officers from holding proxies was defeated. My appeal in this matter was not because I was against the amendment,

but because I felt it was a direct personal attack on me, as I was the only appointive officer with any proxies. The matter on my motion went to the new by-laws committee for action.

A recommendation was made by the Board that the price for sales books be raised. This was turned over to the new Board for action.

Reported not marked are now subject to fine the same as counterfeits when found in the books. If in doubt have them expertized.

\$1,000 was voted for publicity purposes, to be expended under the direction of Mr. H. A. Diamant of St. Louis.

Dues were raised to \$3.00 per annum.

BLANK BOOK ORDERS

All orders for blank books are being held up pending receipt of new supply of books from the printer.

Don't get impatient.

PROXIES FOR OFFICERS

The A. P. S., in our opinion, is now large enough to place implicit trust in its directors and officers and permit them to hold proxies at conventions.

Why should this society of 3,000 members be afraid to trust such men as Wolsieffer, Heyermann, MacLaren, Moses, Phillips and others, with a proxy vote?

ARE YOU BUYING FROM THE CIRCUITS?

Last season we served several hundred members through the department.

We are out this year in an effort to double the number of purchases.

If you are not now seeing the circuits, all we ask is an opportunity to show you what we have to offer.

We can place you on a regular mail circuit or send you a special circuit direct covering your wants.

NEW BY-LAWS BEING WRITTEN

A committee headed by W. C. Stone of Springfield, Mass., has been appointed to work out the new set of by-laws. This will be completed and submitted by mail to the members at a later date.

Any suggestions should be sent Mr. Stone at once.

AUCTIONS

Some of our members have requested that we run an auction department in the NEWS. We would be glad to devote space to such a plan and invite those who have items to enter to get in touch with us at once.

FRENCH COLONIALS

One of our members having an almost complete stock of French Colonials solicits through the NEWS want lists of any colonists.

If you have some blank spaces you have been trying to fill, send along your list to the superintendent at once, and we will submit it for you.

the Branch was responsible for any losses or damage. The Branch could then make the local "Sales Superintendent" responsible for the loss, if they chose to do so. (This arrangement still stands today for the local Chapters.)

By 1924 Guest was already deciding that the profits from operating the Sales Department were enough to give him a decent living. He reported that he "has gradually given up all other sources of income and today, and for the past year has been depending on the profits from the Sales Department as his means of living." As a licensed attorney, he still held one or two nominal positions in Texas, which gave him just a little extra income. During 1923-24, Guest established an office in Dallas with a fireproof vault and office machines and he "put in 50 hours per week" in managing the APS sales operation. In addition, he proposed 10 per-

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cent of the new members who joined the Society that year. (On a side note, P.M. Wolsieffer, the former Sales Superintendent, was elected President of the Society at the 1924 Convention.)

At the 1925 Convention, Guest reported that sales had surpassed the department's goal of \$50,000. He also addressed the accusation that he was "picking all the good stamps from the books" by saying that he was not a stamp dealer and that he challenged anyone to prove that he had taken stamps. He said he would buy a life membership for anyone who could prove that it was so. He was further accused of "being interested in who is elected to office in the Society," and to this he pled guilty, saying it was because he was concerned about who would be responsible for making decisions concerning all phases of the Society's offerings, including the Sales Department.

Also at the 1925 Convention, Guest and Wolsieffer pushed for changing the appointment period for Sales Superintendent from yearly to five-year terms. No action was taken until such time that the membership was to be notified about a change in policy. That change ultimately was made by member vote and Convention vote at the 1926 Convention. This gave J.E. Guest an additional five-year appointment on top of the six years he had already served. Now that the office had some continuity, serious future planning could take place, rather than having to rely on a year-to-year plan.

By 1928 the Sales Department's annual sales had grown to \$80,267 and the value of the circulating sales books had

increased to \$363,967. Guest's quarterly newsletter was very popular and there were many who objected when he said he might discontinue its publication. He suggested that it be included in *The American Philatelist*. It was left to the editor of the magazine and Guest to work out an agreement on allowing two free pages for the Sales Department News. The Sales Talk column had its beginnings during this time.

Sales reached \$88,201 by the summer of 1929, but as the country entered the Great Depression later that year, Guest had to report a drop in sales by 1930 to \$79,061, still a successful amount, given the economic conditions of the day.

To be continued....

Circuit Category Adjustments Reminder

Circuit categories with adjusted descriptions, new categories, and discontinued categories are listed below:

Adjusted descriptions

- U.S. General
- U.S. Covers (This category is to covers as U.S. General is to stamps.)
- Canada General

New categories

- U.S. 1900–1940
- U.S. Covers 1900–1945
- Canada pre-Elizabeth

Change of focus

- U.S. Blocks — includes any U.S.-related multiple-stamp)
- Animals and Flora — combines Animals, Birds, and Flowers
- Art — covers all forms of art, including

animation (Disney and cartoons) if we have some books of it

- Transportation — all forms of transportation, including ships

Discontinued categories

- Animals
- Birds
- Flowers
- Ships
- Stamps on Stamps
- Transportation, including Ships

Dropped categories are

- U.S. Zip & Mail Early Blocks

Sellers

Please note the categories above when mounting sales books.

Possibilities

Let us know about other category possibilities. In the past, we have had these suggestions: Switzerland pre-1940, Berlin, Italian States, and Global Mint Only. Any others?

'5 for 10' Categories (Needs)

You can earn coupons for free blank books for every ten completed books (Clearance books do not qualify) containing material from a set list of categories. (Each group of ten or more qualifying books must be received at the same time and contain at least \$50 of material per book. The coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving.) Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Visit <http://stamps.org/Stamps-Needed> for more information and the list of qualifying categories, or contact us to obtain a hard copy of the list. [Note: Single-country books usually have better sales.] Below are categories mentioned in this column and which will qualify for this offer, if the contents fall completely within the described focus of each:

- U.S. 1900–1940
- U.S. Blocks
- U.S. Covers 1900–1945
- Canada pre-Elizabeth
- Air Mails Worldwide
- Animals & Flora
- Space
- Transportation

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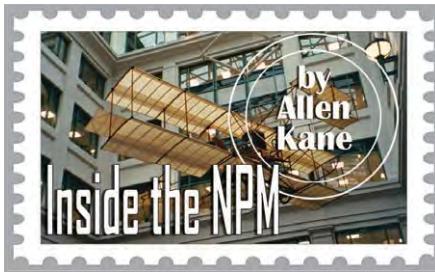
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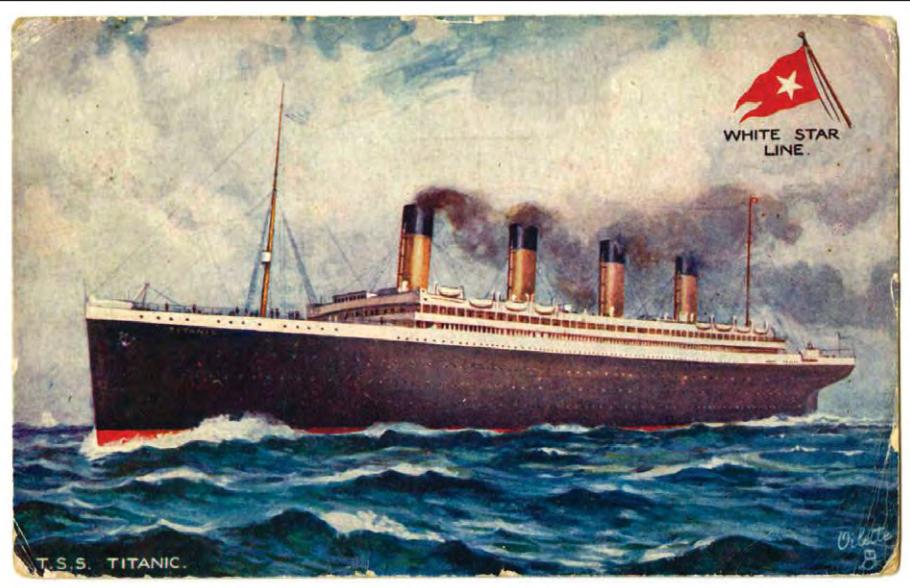


Fire & Ice: Hindenburg & Titanic

For those of you who are not busy focusing on Mayan end-of-the-world prophecies, this year brings the anniversaries of two real-life disasters. One hundred years ago, the lavish and magnificent ocean liner, RMS *Titanic* set sail on her first and only voyage. Seventy-five years ago, the German airship *Hindenburg*'s journey to America ended in a fiery crash. The museum's latest exhibit, "Fire & Ice: Hindenburg and *Titanic*," looks at the last days of these very different vehicles. *Titanic* and *Hindenburg* are connected not only by their tragic fates, but also as the largest moving post offices of their respective eras.

When she set sail on April 10, 1912, *Titanic* did so as the largest ship in existence. The ship's length was equal to four city blocks, and she carried 2,229 passengers and crew on that tragic maiden voyage. The ship struck an iceberg just before midnight on April 14, and sank less than three hours later. Only 712 people survived the tragedy, to be rescued the next morning by RMS *Carpathia*.

While no mail survived the ship's sinking, a few pieces of *Titanic* mail, posted before the ship's departure from Queenstown, Ireland, do exist. The display includes a folded letter on *Titanic* stationery mailed by first-class passenger



Titanic postcard, 1912. Relatively few photographs exist of *Titanic*. Most images purporting to be the ship, including the one on this picture postcard, actually picture her slightly older, nearly identical sister, *Olympic*. (Courtesy Dr. Edward and Joanne Dauer.)

George E. Graham. Destined for Berlin, the envelope was postmarked on the ship and sent ashore with the mail, probably at Cherbourg, France. Graham did not survive.

Two decades after the *Titanic* tragedy, the German rigid airship designated as LZ-129 *Hindenburg* began carrying passengers and mail across the Atlantic Ocean. The *Hindenburg*, just 78 feet shorter than the doomed *Titanic*, pro-

vided the first regularly scheduled, entirely by air post service between Europe and North America. A year into the airship's service, on May 6, 1937, while approaching the Lakehurst Naval Air Station (New Jersey) mooring mast, tragedy struck.

Hindenburg, carrying ninety-seven passengers and crew suddenly burst into flames. Fire engulfed and destroyed the ship in thirty-four seconds. Thirty-six

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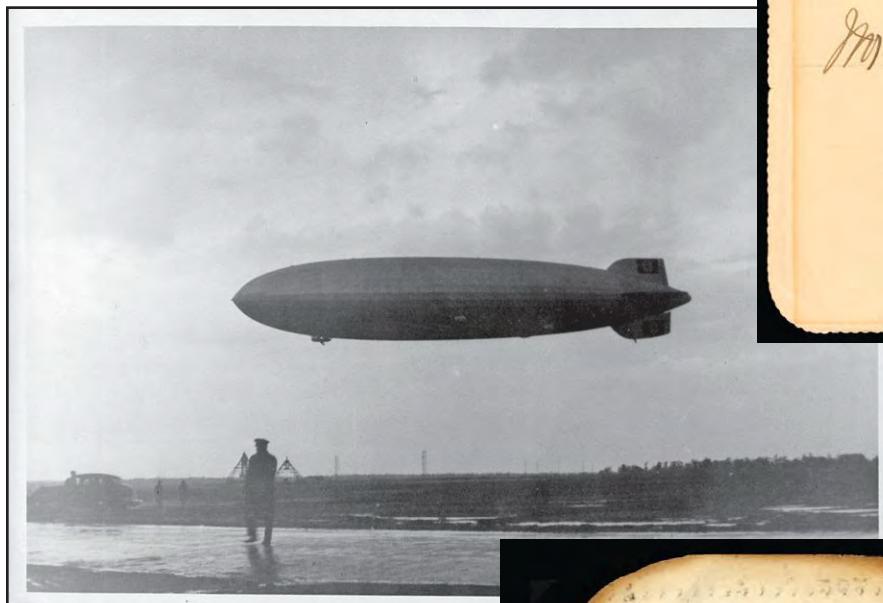
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men and women died in the disaster that sparked the end of trans-atlantic commercial travel in lighter-than-air vessels. Among the items on display are the fragile, charred remains of a postcard salvaged from the airship's wreckage. The U.S. Post Office Department enclosed the card in a glassine envelope before delivering it to the addressee.

These tragic events, separated by twenty-five years, continue to capture our attention and sympathy. In addition to the fascinating and intriguing philatelic items that visitors will see in the exhibit are objects, photographs, and video that help visitors envision daily life on board both vessels.

I urge you all to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see all these items together in one exhibit. Visitors have an opportunity to view this extraordinary exhibit through January 6, 2014. The exhibit offers a fabulous catalogue, which also is available online for those who can't visit the museum in person, for only \$14.95 (plus shipping and handling) at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice.

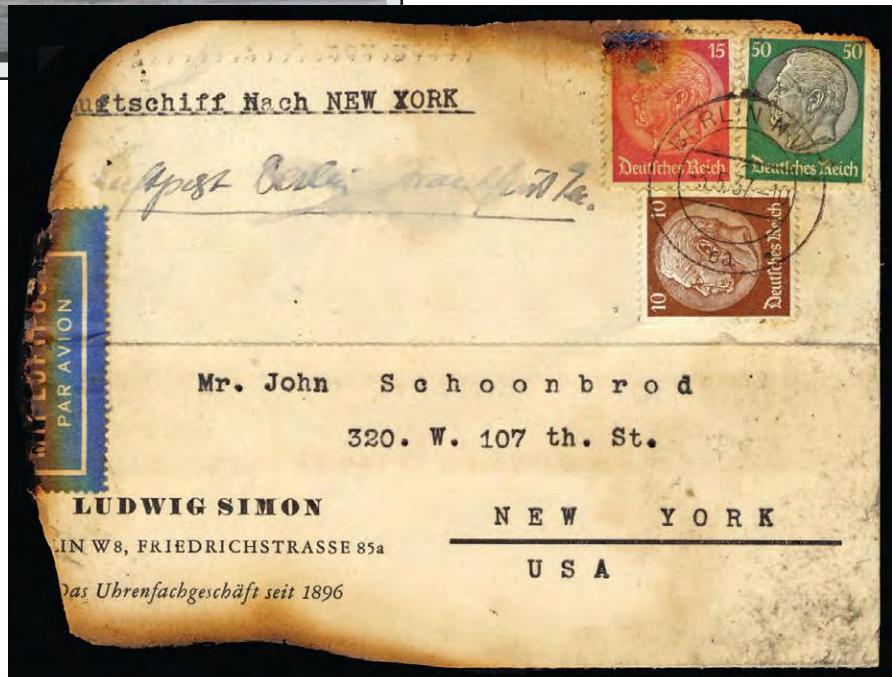


Above: Hindenburg's Final Moments, Lakehurst, New Jersey, May 6, 1937. (Courtesy Bill Schneider Photograph Collection.)

Right: Hindenburg disaster card, 1937.



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<http://postalmuseum.si.edu/>



Letter Mailed on *Titanic*, 1912.



The "Show Time" Calendar features a list of upcoming shows and APS events (shown in green). To obtain a listing, please submit a "Show Time" form, available online at www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time.

Listings are free to World Series of Philately shows, those sponsored by APS chapters and affiliates, and any stamp show that includes exhibits.

Listings for shows/bourses **not** including exhibits may be purchased for the month of the show/bourse and the month prior **only**. The listing fee is \$25 per show per issue. These shows are designated ***B***.

Grand award winners from ***WSP*** shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition. Visit www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

All information is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, you should check with the specific show to verify information. The APS website listing includes shows much further in advance than we have space to include in *The American Philatelist*.

Alberta **June 1-3**
ROYAL 2012 ROYALE Edmonton Stamp Club, West Edmonton Mall Convention Centre, 170 Street and 90 Ave., 3rd Floor Conference Centre above Europa Boulevard, Edmonton.
Contact: David Piercy
E-mail: dpiercy@telus.net
Website: <http://www.royal2012royale.com>

Virginia **June 1-3**

NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean.
WSP

Contact: Darrell Ertzberger, 703-548-3366
E-mail: mteton@aol.com
Website: <http://www.napex.org>

Alabama **June 2-3**

HUNTSPEX 2012 Huntsville Philatelic Club, Beville Center, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 301 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville.
Contact: Henrich Hahn, 356-536-7785
E-mail: hhahn256@comcast.net
Website: http://www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

Florida **June 2-3**

Clearwater/Largo Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave., N., Largo. ***B***
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: <http://www.floridastampdealers.org>

Ohio **June 8-10**

COLOPEX Columbus Philatelic Club, DiSalle Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 East 17th Ave., Columbus. ***WSP***
Contact: Chuck Wooster, 614-560-3689
E-mail: cwooster@aol.com
Website: <http://www.colopex.com>

New Hampshire **June 9**

Great Bay Stamp, Coin, Postcard and Ephemera Show Great Bay Stamp Club, K of C Hall, 40 Columbus Ave., Rochester.
Contact: Edmund H. Vallery, 603-868-5523
E-mail: ehvallery@aol.com

Michigan **June 9-10**

Dearborn Stamp Club Show Dearborn Stamp Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn. ***B***
Contact: John Gorney, 313-561-7024

Pennsylvania

Collecting Union and Confederate Civil War Patriotic Covers On-the-Road Course, Prior to Summer Seminar, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.
APS

Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://stamps.org/>
 On-the-Road-Courses

Pennsylvania

CSI Philately 2011 — Uncovering the Less Than Obvious On-the-Road Course, Prior to Summer Seminar, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://stamps.org/>
 On-the-Road-Courses

Pennsylvania

SCOPEX 2012 Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.
Contact: Ken Martin, 814-933-3817
E-mail: kpmartin@stamps.org

Ohio

Hudson Stamp Bourse Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Memorial Parkway, Hudson. ***B***
Contact: David G. Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssnet.com

Pennsylvania

Summer Seminar Annual week long seminar, Hosted at the American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://stamps.org/Summer-Seminar>

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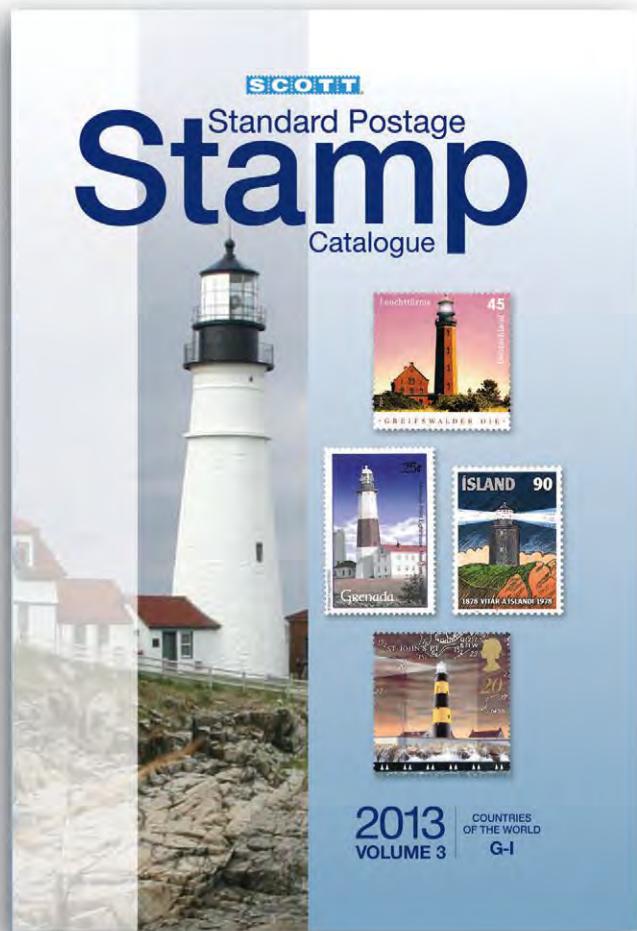
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- More than 21,000 value changes
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- Other European countries with a large number of value changes include German Democratic Republic and Ireland.

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Contact: Kees Adema
Contact address: 38 Fallow Field Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
E-mail: keesandulla@yahoo.com

Kentucky June 22-23

LOUIPEX 2012 Metro Louisville Stamp Society, St. Leonard's Catholic Church, 440 Zorn Avenue, Louisville. *B*

Contact: German Dillon, 502-558-0046
E-mail: german.dillon@insightbb.com
Website: www.louisvillemetrostampssociety.org

Pennsylvania June 22-24

National Topical Stamp Show American Topical Association, Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster. *WSP*

Contact: Robert J. Mather, 262-968-2392
E-mail: americantopical@msn.com
Website: www.americantopicalassn.org

Wisconsin June 23-24

Tripex Stamp Fair 2012 North Shore Philatelic Society, Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd St., West Allis. *B*

Contact: Robert Henak, 414-351-1519
E-mail: henak8010@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Connecticut June 24

Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. *B*

Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874

E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

Michigan

July 7
Bay De Noc Stamp and Coin Club Show Bay De Noc Stamp and Coin Club, Bay College Heirman Bldg. Rooms 952, 958, 962, 2001 N. Lincoln Ave, Escanaba. *B*

Contact: Mark Kuehn, 906-786-2103
E-mail: triplejump@charter.net

Michigan

July 14
SUMMERPEX The Mouse and Such - Paul Stanton, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights. *B*
Contact: Paul and Loraine Stanton, 734-454-1515
E-mail: weluvstamps@hotmail.com
Website: www.themouseandsuch.com

Minnesota

July 18-19
Inverts & Misperfs & Curios, Oh My! On-the-Road Course, Prior to Minnesota Stamp Expo, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Minneapolis. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: http://stamps.org/
On-the-Road-Courses

Minnesota

July 20-22
Minnesota Stamp Expo Twin City Philatelic Society and Various Local Clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis. *WSP*

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E-mail: rasmary4@frontiernet.net
Website: www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20
Stamp%20Expo.htm

Nevada **July 21-22**
Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Nevada Stamp Study Society, Reno National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St., Reno.
Contact: Harvey Edwards, 775-246-4769
E-mail: renostamp@earthlink.net
Website: www.home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/

North Carolina **July 21-22**
CHARPEX 2011 Charlotte Philatelic Society, Grady Cole Center on the campus of Central Piedmont Community College, 301 N. Kings

Drive, Charlotte.
Contact: Gene Zhiss, 704-553-8110
E-mail: show2012@charpex.info
Website: www.charpex.info

Connecticut **July 22**
Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. *B*
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

Missouri **July 25-28**
PMCC Convention Post Mark Collectors Club, Grand Plaza Hotel, 245 North Wildwood Dr., Branson.

Contact: Gary Hendren, 314-249-0731
E-mail: g2hslm@msn.com
Website: www.postmarks.org

Illinois **August 4-5**
Chicago 2012 National Stamp Dealers Association, White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. *B*
Contact: Terry Kurzinski, 815-262-9117
E-mail: tkurzinski2002@yahoo.com

Michigan **August 5**
Northwestern Michigan Coin & Stamp Show Northwestern Michigan Coin and Stamp Club, Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Road, Petoskey.
Contact: Richard Silet, 906-643-7941



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California

August 10-12

AMERICOVER American First Day Cover Society, Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine. *WSP*
Contact: Cynthia Scott
E-mail: showinfo@afdc.org
Website: www.afdc.org/americancover/
americancover.html

Washington

August 11

Strait Stamp Show Strait Stamp Society, Sequim Masonic Lodge, South 5th and Pine, Sequim.
Contact: Cathie Osborne, 360-683-6373
E-mail: rickcath@wavecable.com

Michigan

August 11-12

COLPEX Collectors Club of Michigan, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. *B*
Contact: Charles Wood, 248-546-1282
E-mail: jarnick@wowway.com

California

August 14-15

Exhibiting for the Prize On-the-Road Course, Prior to APS StampShow, Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 L Street, Sacramento.
APS

Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: http://stamps.org/
On-the-Road-Courses

California

August 16

Stamps in the Classroom Teacher Resource, In conjunction with STAMP SHOW, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
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California

August 16-19

APS STAMP SHOW Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. *APS & WSP*
Contact: Barb Johnson, 814-933-3803 ext 217
E-mail: stampshow@stamps.org
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California

August 17-18

Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Scouting Merit Badge Program, Sign up for 1 day Only! Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. *APS*
Contact: Janet Houser, 814-933-3803
E-mail: jehouser@stamps.org
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California

August 18

Stamp Collecting 101 Adult Beginner Course, In conjunction with APS StampShow, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
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Kansas **August 18-19**
The Wichita Show Wichita Stamp Club,
 Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita.
Contact: Ralph Lott, 316-683-6593
Website: www.wichitastampclub.org

Ohio **August 25-26**
AIRPEX Dayton Stamp Club, IBEW Local (Crossroads Expo Center), 6550 Poe Avenue, Dayton.
Contact: Mike Komiensky, 937-299-9297
E-mail: info@daytonstampclub.com
Website: www.daytonstampclub.com

Connecticut **August 26**
Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. *B*
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

New Jersey **August 31-September 1**
MERPEX Merchantville Stamp Club, St. Cecilia School, 4810 Camden Avenue, Pennsauken.
Contact: Macario Sarreal, 856-424-2389
E-mail: macsar530@aol.com
Website: mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/

Canada **August 31-September 2**
BNAPEX 2012 British North America Philatelic Society, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 700 Centre Street, Calgary.
Contact: Earle Covert, 403-752-4548

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New Hampshire

September 8
Carroll County Stamp Show White Mountain Stamp Club and Wolfeboro Stamp Club, The Moultonborough Lions Club, 139 Old Route 109 off Governor Wentworth Highway, Moultonborough. *B*

Contact: Barbara Savary, 603-447-5461
E-mail: bmsavary@gmail.com
Website: www.virtualstampclub.com

Florida

September 8-9
FSDA Ocala Stamp Show Florida Stamp Dealers Association & General Francis Marion Stamp Club, Circle Square Culture Center, 8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org

Nebraska

September 8-9
Omaha Stamp Show Omaha Philatelic Society, Metro Community College-South Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Omaha. *WSP*
Contact: Herb Eveland, 402-397-9937
E-mail: tuvaenterprises@hotmail.com
Website: www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org

Wisconsin

September 19-20
100 Ways to Collect Germany On-the-Road Course, Prior to MILCOPEX, Wyndham Milwaukee Airport and Convention Center,

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100 diff. \$ 140.00	1945-49 (West & Soviet)	1000 diff. \$ 125.00
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200 diff. \$ 55.00	300 diff. \$ 67.00	200 diff. \$ 36.50
300 diff. \$ 145.00	500 diff. \$ 300.00	300 diff. \$ 76.00
<u>Bavaria</u>	<u>Western Occupation</u>	500 diff. \$ 210.00
200 diff. \$ 84.00	1945-1949	
300 diff. \$ 225.00	250 diff. \$ 67.00	
<u>Germany Third Reich</u> <u>1933-45 with Territories</u>	<u>Soviet Occupation</u>	
300 diff. \$ 49.00	150 diff. \$ 46.00	
500 diff. \$ 150.00	200 diff. \$ 91.50	
<u>Third Reich</u> <u>Semi-Postals</u>	<u>East Germany</u> <u>(GDR & Soviet issues)</u>	
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	2000 diff. \$ 165.00	
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New Jersey

Clifton 2012 Fall Stamp, Coin, Cover, and Postcard Show Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. *B*

Contact: Thomas Stidl, 973-471-7872

E-mail: stidl@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.cliftonstampociety.org>

California

October 5-7

WINEPEX 2012 Redwood Empire Collectors Club, Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael.

Contact: Kurt Schau, 707-778-6454

E-mail: info@harmerschau.com

California

October 5-7

SESCAL Federated Phil. Clubs of Southern California, Hilton Los Angeles Airport, 5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles. *WSP*

Contact: Carl Shaff, II, 213-383-7111

E-mail: c2shaff@aol.com

Website: <http://www.sescal.org>

New York

October 6

OLEPEX 2012 Olean Stamp Club, B.P.O. Elks Club No. 491, 209 West State Street, Olean.

Contact: Ronald J. Yeager, 814-362-4471

E-mail: cry@atlanticbb.net

Oklahoma

October 6-7

Lawton/Fort Sill Annual Stamp Show Lawton/Fort Sill Stamp Club, Center for Creative Living, 3501 SW Dr. Elsie Hamm

Dr. Lawton. *B*

Contact: Bernard S. Pawloski, Jr.

E-mail: obiks46@yahoo.com

New York

October 11-14

The National Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. *B*

Contact: Joseph Savarese, 718/224/2500

E-mail: jsavarese@americanstampdealer.com

Website: <http://www.americanstampdealer.com>

Illinois

October 13

Will County Stamp Show Philatelic Club of Will County, Messiah Lutheran Church, 19901 S. Houbolt Road (Jefferson-Route 52 & Houbolt), Joliet.

Contact: Rodney Juell, 817-741-2734

E-mail: rejuell2@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapwillcounty.html>

Illinois

October 13-14

CUPEX 2012 Champaign-Urbana Stamp Club, Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street, Urbana.

Contact: Louise B. Toft, 217-359-9115

E-mail: ndx4031@att.net

Website: <http://custampclub.org/>

New York

October 19-20

STEPEX 2012 Elmira Stamp Club, Big Flats American Legion Post, 45 S. Olcott Rd. (I-86, Exit 49), Big Flats.

Contact: Alan Parsons, 607-732-0181

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www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar

E-mail: alatholleyrd@aol.com

Oklahoma

October 19-20

OKPEX Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Express Events Center, 8512 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City. *WSP*
Contact: Joe Crosby, 405-749-0939
E-mail: joecrosby@cox.net
Website: <http://www.okcsc.org>

Wisconsin

October 20

CENWISPEX 12 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point. *B*
Contact: J. D. Manville, 715-341-5555
E-mail: jadeco@charter.net

Michigan

October 20-21

MOTOPEX-12 Motor City Stamp & Cover Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights.
Contact: Robert Quintero, 248-546-0038
E-mail: qover@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.motorcitystampandcover.com>

Michigan

October 20-21

Kent Philatelic Society Fall Show Kent Philatelic Society, Aquinas College-Donnelly Center, 1607 Robinson Road, SE at Woodward Lane, Grand Rapids.
Contact: Ron Mrozinski, 616-891-9878
E-mail: oldkentstamps@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.oldkentstamps.com>

New Mexico

October 20-21

NEWMEXPEX 2012 Stamp Show Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho.
Contact: Paul L. Morton, 505-867-9664
E-mail: p.morton@att.net
Website: <http://madjac.com/stamps.htm>

Connecticut

October 21

THAMESPEX 2012 Thames Stamp Club, Clark Lane Middle School, Clark Lane, Waterford.
Contact: Bill McMurray, 860-535-3668
E-mail: mcmurraync3@att.net

Internet

October 23-November 20

Basic Stamp Collecting Course Online Course (4 weeks), *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://www.stampcampus.org>

Washington

October 24-25

Philatelic Marketplace On-the-Road Course, TBD. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://stamps.org/>
On-the-Road-Courses

Washington

October 26-28

SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition, Seattle Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle.
Contact: Ruth Caswell
E-mail: seapex@comcast.net

Arkansas

October 27-28

PINPEX 2012 Pinnacle Stamp Club of Arkansas, Jacksonville Community Center, #5 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville. *B*
Contact: Ann Austen, 501-868-4553
E-mail: anniephant@aol.com

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October 27-28

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Road, Sarasota. *B*

Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897

E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.floridastampdealers.com>

Indiana

October 27-28

AWPEX 2012 Anthony Wayne Stamp Society,

Concordia Lutheran High School, 1601 Saint

Joe River Road, Fort Wayne. *B*

Contact: Jim Mowrer, 260-422-1716

E-mail: stamp4@frontier.com

Ohio

October 27-28

CUY-LORPEX 2012 Cuy-Lor Stamp Club,

Rocky River Civic Center: Memorial Hall,

21016 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River.

Contact: Stan Fairchild, 440-333-2536

E-mail: cuylorstampclub@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.virtualstampclub.com/>

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Pennsylvania

October 27

Fall Stamp Expo Cumberland Valley Philatelic

Society, Eugene C. Clark, Jr. Community

Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg.

B

Contact: Quinn Witherspoon, 717-264-1252

E-mail: rspran@pa.net

Connecticut

October 28

Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven

Philatelic Society, Annex YMCA Hall, 554

Woodward Ave., New Haven. *B*

Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874

E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.NHPS1914.org/>

Michigan October 28

Pontiac Stamp Club Fall Stamp

Harvest Pontiac Stamp Club, Waterford
Recreation Gym, 2303 Crescent Lk. Rd. (1 mile
N. of M-59), Waterford. *B*

Contact: Mike Miley, 248-623-2178
E-mail: mileystamps@hotmail.com

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Keys to Exhibiting Course Online Course (10 weeks), *APS*

Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://www.stampcampus.org>

Pennsylvania November 2-4

Postal History Symposium Forum for
philatelists, academic scholars, postal
historians, and the interested public.
American Philatelic Research Library,
American Philatelic Society, and Smithsonian
National Postal Museum, American Philatelic
Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.
APS

Contact: Tara Murray, 814-933-3803 ext. 246

E-mail: tmurray@stamps.org

Website: <http://stamps.org/>
Postal-History-Symposium

Michigan

November 3-4

AAPEX Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J.
Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Comm. College,
4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.

Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859
E-mail: harwin@umich.edu

Website: [http://sites.google.com/site/
aastampclub/](http://sites.google.com/site/aastampclub/)

Pennsylvania

November 3-4

PITTPEX 12 Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh,
South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd.,
Bridgeville.

Contact: Ron Carr, 412-561-6562

E-mail: rgc211215@aol.com

Website: <http://www.presidentdrive.com>

California

November 9-11

Filatelic Fiesta 2012 San Jose Stamp Club,
Santa Clara Fairgrounds, Gateway Hall, 344
Tully Road, San Jose. *WSP*
Contact: Stephen Schumann, 510-785-4794

E-mail: sdsch@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.filatelicfiesta.org>

Pennsylvania

November 10

66th Annual Johnstown Stamp

Show Johnstown Stamp Club, Johnstown
Senior Activities Center (Main Hall), 550 Main
Street, Johnstown.

Contact: Charles D. Holtzman, Jr., 814-532-0199
E-mail: chazhjr@msn.com

Ohio

November 10-11

Rubber City Stamp Club 93rd Annual Stamp
Exhibition and Bourse Rubber City Stamp
Club, Akron General Health & Wellness
Center, Rt. 18 at Crystal Lake Road, Montrose
(Akron).

Contact: Tom Hirschinger, 330-336-8227

Texas

November 10-11

25th Annual Mid-Cities Stamp Expo

2012 Mid-Cities Stamp Club, Grapevine
Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street,
Grapevine.

Contact: Stanley Christmas, 817-656-2925

E-mail: elvira6@swbell.net

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No. 4, April 30, 2012

Membership Report

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during April 2012. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to June 30, 2012, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the August 2012 issue.

Abercrombie, James E. (220194) **Dearborn, MI** MINT US-GERMANY THIRD REICH ERA; 60; Principal
Addieg, Christopher A. (220172) **Concord, CA** PRE 1920 MINT US; 66; Retired
Ahmed, Shakil (220222) **Cuttack, Orissa, India** NUDES-ARCHEOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY-INDIA-INDIAN STATES-POSTAL HISTORY; 39
Anagast, John (220212) **Milford, NY** WORLDWIDE; 69; Retired
Anderson, Anne (220186) **Washington, DC**; 69
Arroyo, Janet (220228) **Inyokern, CA** UN FDC-US, COMMEMORATIVES; 50
Ballerano, James A. (220284) **Boca Raton, FL** US COMMEMORATIVE PANELS, SOUVENIR PAGES, FDC, FD PROGRAMS, PLATE BLOCKS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING; 58; Attorney
Bauer, Henry F. (220206) **Haddonfield, NJ** US 19TH & 20TH C
Bauerband, Bill (220166) **Cedarburg, WI** US COMMEMORATIVES, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, NJ POSTAL HISTORY, FDC-CLASSICS-PRE 1980 WORLDWIDE; 53
Baum, Joel L. (220258) **Chicago, IL** US-CANADA-GERMANY-JAPAN; 73; Retired
Beard, Patrina (220173) **Marietta, GA**; 40
Berglund, Timothy J. (220174) **Silverdale, WA** 1840-1940 US; 63
Bilson, Barbara (220178) **Santa Monica, CA** US PLATE BLOCKS-JAPAN; 78; Retired
Blanchett, Rick (220245) **Pembroke Pines, FL** BIRDS-JAMAICA-CUBA; 45
Blossman, Robert C. (220248) **Henderson, NV** US COMMEMORATIVES, CLASSICS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS-MEXICO-CANADA-WORLDWIDE; 77
Bonanomi, Peter L. (220235) **Willington, CT** ST PIERRE/MIQUELON-ITALY-UN-CANADA-AIDS-SHIPS/BOATS; 66
Brady, Paul (220262) **Falcon Heights, MN** US AIR MAILED, POSTAL HISTORY; 62

Brown, Barry (220237) **Olympia, WA** CHINA-US 19TH C-GERMANY-GREAT BRITAIN-FRANCE-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS; 60
Capuano, Richard J. (220260) **Newington, CT** US COMMEMORATIVES, CANCELS, CLASSICS, 20TH C; 56
Cashman, Daniel (220268) **Seattle, WA**
Caviness, Mary Leah (220220) **Germantown, TN** US, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, COMMEMORATIVES, CLASSICS-POSTAGE DUES-WORLDWIDE; 38
Chambers, Alan (220226) **North Canton, OH** US FDC-US & RUSSIAN SPACE-NASA COVERS; 53; Engineering Director
Cioppa, Salvatore J. (220216) **Ashville, OH** US CLASSICS; Retired
Conkley, James (220181) **Englewood, CO** US 19TH & 20TH C, FD COVERS & PROGRAMS, COMMEMORATIVES, AIRAILS; 71; Retired
Conrad, Dan F. (220270) **College Park, MD** US 19TH C, BUREAU ISSUES, CLASSICS, COMMEMORATIVES; 55; Retired
Conrardy, Chuck (220271) **Prescott, AZ** US; 65; Retired
Dekker, Peter (220267) **Montara, CA** FOREIGN COVERS-US FDC-NETHERLANDS-GREAT BRITAIN-SINGAPORE-THAILAND;
Delerme, Felix (220272) **Rye, CO** GERMANY-US; Nurse
Detert, John (220265) **Hampton, VA**; Salesman
Dibble, Mary I. (220168) **Leeds, ND** US EXPRESS COVERS, CONFEDERATE STATES, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, FD PROGRAMS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, 19TH C; 59; Homemaker
Elmlinger, Jerry (220243) **La Barge, WY**; 69
Fernandes, Denzil J. (220189) **Toronto, ON** INDIA, STATES-BRITISH INDIA
Gagermeier, Mark W. (220213) **Thomasville, PA** US, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS-SPACE-TRAINS-MOTORCYCLES/BICYCLES-BALLOONS; 52; Technical Writer
Gazda, Michael (220207) **Coral Gables, FL** US 19TH C-CLASSICS
Geissmann, Christian R. (220205) **Hilfikon, Switzerland** SWITZERLAND-WAR COVERS/STAMPS-PHILATELIC LITERATURE-POSTAL HISTORY; 42
Georgios, Rigas (220195) **Pasadena, TX**; 71; Port Captain/Marine Surveyor
Greene, Roy R. (220238) **Red Hook, NY** US, COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH C, AIRAILS, BOOKLETS/PANES, CLASSICS, COVERS; 55; Environmental Specialist
Grimaldi, Thomas S. (220210) **Bradenton, FL** US; 65

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 219927 through 219934, and 219936 through 219973, and 219975 through 220000, and 220002 through 220066 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, Mar. 31, 2012	34,990
New Members	136
Reinstated	18
	154
	35,144
Deceased	34
Resignations	30
Dropped, Non-Payment of Dues	2,490
	2,554
Total Membership, Apr. 30, 2012	32,590

Guerrette, Philip A. (220179) **Glenburn, ME** US, PLATE SINGLES, FD PROGRAMS; 69; Retired
Halldorson, Arbec (220273) **Salt Lake City, UT** MINT US, BOB; 67; Retired
Hancock, Vernon E. (220196) **Middleton, ID**; 81; Retired
Hanor, David C. (220274) **Zephyrhills, FL** US-SPACE-S E ASIA-LOST NATIONS; 70; Retired
Hanzawa, Kenneth T. (220239) **Issaquah, WA** JAPAN HAND ENGRAVED-1931/40 SCENIC CANCELS; 64; Engineering Director
Harrell, Guy (220170) **Ridgeland, MS** US, AIRAILS, PARCEL POST, POSTAGE DUES, SETENANTS, SPECIAL DELIVERIES
Hicks, James A. (220190) **Attleboro, MA** US, CLASSICS, PLATE VARIETIES, PLATE SINGLES; 63
Higgins, Michael J. (220192) **Kensington, MD** BRITISH AMERICA-GERMAN THIRD REICH/OCCUPATIONS-CANADA-IRELAND-BERMUDA-VATICAN CITY; 63; Librarian
Homberg, Thomas R. (220264) **Oconomowoc, WI** US 19TH & 20TH C; 41; Attorney
Howen, Darcy L. (220227) **Rockford, IL**; 52; Store Owner

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- Howton, Georgia M. (220275) **Pearl City, HI**
WORLDWIDE; 77; Retired
- Imler, Jeffrey B. (220276) **Hollidaysburg, PA** SPACE-AUTOMOBILES-SPORTS; 52; Teacher
- James, Rich (220197) **Denver, NC** MINT US SINGLES; 63; Retired
- Johnson, William H. (20221) **Melbourne, FL**
SWEDEN-GREAT BRITAIN-BRITISH COLONIES-ICELAND; 50
- Jones, William (220217) **Myrtle Beach, SC** US 19TH C, NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS; 46
- Joseph, Marc (220261) **Olathe, KS** PRE 1949 WORLDWIDE; 58
- Karlovec, Luke (220229) **Amelia Island, FL** US; 75; Retired
- Kelley, Richard J. (20198) **North Kingstown, RI**
US-CANADA; 74
- Keresztes, Ernest (220255) **South Bend, IN**
ARCHEOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY-BUTTERFLIES/INSECTS-SPORTS-US-HUNGARY-MEXICO
- King, Horace B. (220252) **Binghamton, NY** PRE 1950 US-DEAD COUNTRIES; 68; Clergy
- Leskiw, Andrew R. (220251) **Dearborn, MI** US 19TH C; 47
- Liversidge, John R. (220167) **Laurel, MD** US, VT
POSTAL HISTORY, COVERS; 59; Clock Repair
- Livesay, Robert A. (220187) **Greenville, OH** US-FRANCE-RUSSIA; 51
- Lopez, Kenneth (220253) **Rockford, MI** US, AIR MAIL, PLATE BLOCKS, MINT SHEETS, FDC; 64; Retired
- Luca, Raymond J. (220230) **Springfield, VA** US-SLOVAKIA-CZECH REPUBLIC-IRELAND-VATICAN CITY; 71; Retired
- Maciorowski, Henry (220219) **Miramar, FL** US DEFINITIVES, COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAILED, BOOKLETS/PANES; 65
- Malecki, John J. (220244) **Cheektowaga, NY** US-WORLDWIDE; 60; Retired
- Martinez, Carlos (220180) **Moreno, Argentina**
ARGENTINA-ZEPPELIN COVERS/STAMPS; 53
- McBride, Paula A. (220286) **Foxboro, MA** US 20TH C-CHINA-ARCHEOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY-STAINED GLASS-ART-MUSIC/MUSICIANS/INSTRUMENTS
- McCabe, Michael J. (220182) **New York Mills, NY**
CLASSICS-IRELAND-WORLDWIDE; 46; Portfolio Supervisor
- McClimans, Gary (220259) **Franklin, PA** OLDER US-WESTERN HEMISPHERE-WESTERN EUROPE; 58; Retired
- Mccormack, Regina C. (220199) **North Bethesda, MD** PLATE BLOCKS-FDC; 84; Retired
- McGee, Michael P. (220215) **Warrenton, VA** US-MILITARY-GREAT BRITAIN-BASEBALL-GOLF
- Mihardja, Andreas S. (220282) **Daly City, CA**; 68
- Miller, Jerome R. (220231) **Towson, MD**
- Miller, Rich (220266) **Princeton, IL** AIR MAIL-FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD-INSURANCE; 65; Retired
- Monaco, Martin L. (220277) **Sarasota, FL** MINT US, SHEETS, FDC-USN VESSEL POSTMARKS/STATION POSTMARKS; 79; Retired
- Mondy, Marvin (220278) **Lake Ozark, MO**; 73; Retired
- Moran, William F. (220254) **Canisteo, NY** USED US & CANADA; 76; Retired
- Motalebi, Sasan (220169) **North Hollywood, CA**
SOUVENIR SHEETS-CHINA-IRAN-CLASSICS-MINIATURE SHEETS; 50
- Oppel, Greg (220224) **Edmond, OK** US-DINOSAURS-GEOLGY/GEMS/MINERALS-ANIMALS-PETROLEUM-SENEGAL; 40; Educator
- Osser, David (220183) **Needham, MA** US, ESSAYS & PROOFS-CLASSICS; 65; Psychiatrist
- Paprock, Joanne M. (220200) **Woodgate, NY** US-EUROPE-ASIA-EARLY AFRICA; 72; Retired
- Parker, Thomas (220211) **Kennett Square, PA** CHINA; 69; Consultant
- Perez, Julio A. (220234) **Miami Shores, FL** US 19TH C, AIR MAILED, FANCY CANCELS, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, CLASSICS-STAMP DESIGN ERRORS; 62; Artist
- Phelan, James (220241) **Burke, VA** US
COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES-BRITISH AMERICA; 71
- Phillips, Richard C. (220242) **Du Bois, PA** US FDC, PLATE SINGLES; 71; Retired
- Pohlman, George J. (20185) **Prescott Valley, AZ**
ICELAND-US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, COILS-GREENLAND-IRELAND; Retired
- Pokorny, Henry Z. (220214) **Walnut Creek, CA**
CZECHOSLOVAKIA-US-FRANCE; 74; Self Employed
- Pratt, Larry L. (220201) **Bellingham, WA**; 66;
Inventor
- Prohaska, James O. (220263) **Winston Salem, NC**
US 19TH C, CHRISTMAS SEALS-AUSTRALASIA-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS; 68
- Pruett, Iris (220283) **Los Gatos, CA** RUSSIA-CHINA-CANADA
- Pupcsik, Michal (220240) **Beloky, Czech Republic**
PICTURE POSTCARDS-WWII-CZECHOSLOVAKIA-CZECH REPUBLIC-PROPAGANDA STAMPS/COVERS; 37; IT
- Qoshlli, Ilia (220209) **Redlands, CA** ALBANIA-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH; 42; Painting Contractor
- Reguera, Francisco (220191) **Miami, FL** SCIENCE/SCIENTISTS-US, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES-CUBA-AUTOMOBILES; 49
- Rudsenske, John M. (220202) **Madison, MS** US-GERMANY-AIR MAILED; Pilot
- Sandrock, Blue (220279) **Brentwood, CA** PRE 1970 US-AIR MAIL-DUCK & HUNTING; 60; Architect
- Sankarayya, Narayanaswamy (220171)
Shrewsbury, MA INDIA; Engineer
- Scott, Peter K. (220232) **Carmel Valley, CA**; 75;
Realtor
- Smashko, Gregory M. (220203) **Zelienople, PA**
VATICAN CITY-PRE 1960 E & W EUROPE; 54;
Endodontist
- Shehadi, Ramiz A. (220257) **Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico**; 57
- Smith, Joseph (220246) **South San Francisco, CA**
BASEBALL-WASHINGTON-CHESS; 59
- Sorrenti, Francis (220193) **Concord, MA** US,
PLATE SINGLES, MODERN POSTAL HISTORY, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS-CHINA; 46
- Spoagh, Robert G. (20175) **Elkhart, IN** US; 59;
Truck Driver
- Speakman, Will (220225) **Nice, CA** US CLASSICS, BULLS EYE/SON CANCELS, AIR MAILED, OFFICIAL POST OFFICE SEALS, POSTAL HISTORY-CLASSICS
- Stratton, David B. (20176) **Apple Valley, CA**
LIBERIA-US-COLONIAL AFRICA-MOGOLIA; 64;
Retired
- Szczerdlo, Robert (220188) **Portage, IN** US
COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, AIR MAILED-POLAND-COCOS ISLANDS-CHRISTMAS ISLAND; 51; IT Director
- Thompson, James E. (220218) **Bellevue, NE** US
COMMEMORATIVES; 50
- Thompson, Lee (220236) **Corona, CA** US
COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, COILS, AIR MAILED, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES; 56
- Van Holton, Roxanne (220208) **Greenwich, CT** US, FDC, CLASSICS-COMICS; 33; Artist
- Van Wicklen, George H. (220177) **Cortland, NY** US SINGLES, PLATE BLOCKS-CANADA; 70; Retired
- Vander Yacht, James M. (220247) **Salina, KS** US & WORLDWIDE 19TH C-SPAIN-CLASSICS-DENMARK-US COVERS; 49; Chiropractor
- VanLear, William (220250) **Centreville, VA** US, 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, COILS, COIL LINE PAIRS; 60; Teacher
- Wagner, Cody M. (220233) **Columbus Grove, OH** POST CARDS; 26
- Walther, M. C. (220204) **Rochester, NY**
- Wang, Huaien (220249) **New York, NY** CHINA-JAPAN-WORLD HERITAGE; 38
- Wenneker, Verle E. (220280) **Portland, OR** NATURE-FDC-WILDLIFE-CONSERVATION; 63; Wildlife Biologist
- White, Michael (220184) **Swartz Creek, MI** US
COMMEMORATIVES; 63; Retired
- Williams, Larry G. (220256) **Stockton, CA** US AIR MAILED, 19TH & 20TH C-AUSTRALIA-TRAINS-CANADA; 70; Real Estate Sales
- Wooten, Joe C. (220281) **Memphis, TN**; 87
- Wrocklage, William C. (220285) **Milford, NH**
GERMAN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THIRD REICH/OCCUPATIONS, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, STATES-IRELAND-SWITZERLAND-JAPAN; 84; Retired
- Yong, He (220269) **Ning Bo, China** FLAGS/NATIONAL EMBLEMS
- Young, Jackson M. (220223) **Doylestown, PA**
US, COMMEMORATIVES-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-WORLDWIDE; 72

DECEASED

- Arn, John D. (090034) Colbert, WA
- Bailey, Gary C. (077928) Ruskin, FL
- Behr, Eldon A. (3832-019594) Northfield, MN
- Blake, Robert E. (8305-057961) Cincinnati, OH
- Burd, Peter W. (176769) Woodward, PA
- Burridge, Alvin L. (8405-058728) Ripton, VT
- Calaceto, Ralph R. (6572-046208) St. Pete Beach, FL
- Crane, Anne (6608-047131) Grosse Pointe, MI
- Curtis, Harry F. (151135) Jacksonville, NC
- Dowd, Joseph P. (6841-046226) Livingston, NJ
- Finch, George L. (150839) Austin, TX
- Freeman, Franklin I. (137543) Monrovia, MD
- Halik, Peter L. (11281-065473) Ramsey, NJ
- Henry, Ronald E. (109845) Delafield, WI
- Hyman, Arnold (146133) Bronx, NY
- Jordan, Walter C. (111255) Hackettstown, NJ
- Kletter, Miles A. (200112) Saratoga Springs, NY
- Landry, Bruce E. (9441-063806) Des Moines, WA
- Larsen, Barbara, 8771-059889, Monument, CO
- Lebson, Hyman (7412-052023) Randallstown, MD
- Massey, Albert L. (124150) Erie, PA
- Matek, Ord (175328) Evanston, IL
- Papucciyan, Ted (143977) St. Lambert, QC, Canada
- Rice, Beverly S. (215368) Marietta, GA
- Ritter, Betty J. (094613) Seattle, WA
- Ritter, H. Hansell (6434-021901) Blue Bell, PA
- Roraback, George D. (213442) Hope Mills, NC
- Rosenblatt, Philip (173001) Ipswich, MA
- Skilling, Robert F. (8451-056902) Brunswick, ME
- Smith, Leta M. (129404) Ada, OK
- Stutzman, E. Delroy, Jr. (105644) Schaumburg, IL
- Tebbano, James P. (191570) Quincy, IL
- Weinberg, Philip (7575-051033) Peoria, IL
- Wolff, Gerhard S. (6190-041153) Kensington, MD

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Kolesnikov, Lyubov



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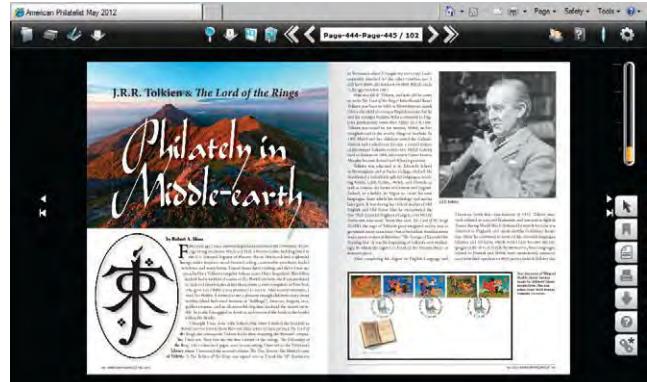
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Great Film Directors

On May 23, in Silver Spring, Maryland, the Postal Service issued the Great Film Directors commemorative stamp (Forever® priced at 45 cents) in four designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps.

With these stamps, the USPS honors four extraordinary film directors: Frank Capra, John Ford, John Huston, and Billy Wilder. Creators of some of the most iconic scenes in American cinema, they gave audiences an unforgettable (and in some cases, deeply personal) vision of life. The stamps showcase portraits of each filmmaker against a background suggesting scenes from their work: Frank Capra (1897–1991), *It Happened One Night* (starring Clark Gable & Claudette Colbert, 1934); John Ford (1894–1973), *The Searchers* (starring John Wayne, Vera Miles & Jeffrey Hunter, 1956); John Huston (1906–1987), *The Maltese Falcon* (starring Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre & Sydney Greenstreet, 1941); and Billy Wilder (1906–2002), *Some Like It Hot* (starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis & Jack Lemmon, 1959). Working with art director Derry Noyes, illustrator Gary Kelley created the stamp art using pastels on paper.

Denomination: First-Class Mail Rate
Forever Commemorative



Format: Pane of 20 (4 designs)

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Derry Noyes, Washington, DC

Artist: Gary Kelley, Cedar Falls, IA

Engraver: Trident

Modeler: Avery Dennison, Designed &
Engineered Solutions

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black,
Gray-Blue

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 36.07 x 21.34 mm (image);

39.62 x 24.89 mm (overall); 184.15 x
171.45 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by five
single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* Heading:

"Great Film Directors" John Ford —
Frank Capra — Billy Wilder — John
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of pane; Film directors movie credits
at bottom of pane. *Back:* ©2011 USPS;
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Barcode 469200 in upper right and
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text; Short biographies of all four
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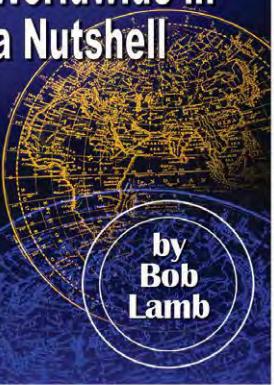
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**Worldwide in
a Nutshell**

by Bob Lamb

Solomon Islands

Status: A sovereign state in eastern Melanesia

Population: 584,578 (2012 est.)

Area: 11,157 square miles

Currency: 100 cents = 1 Solomon Islands Dollar (\$1 = US\$0.14)



The Solomon Islands are in the South Pacific southeast of Papua New Guinea. Although English is the official language, it is spoken only by about two percent of the population. There are an estimated 120 indigenous languages, and Melanesian pidgin is the *lingua franca* in most of the country.

The Spanish navigator Alvaro Mendaña is credited with discovery of the islands in 1567. He called them Islas de Salomon after the potential riches he saw after surveying the three large southern islands. But Europeans showed little interest in the area for two centuries, when French explorers arrived in the north. The hostility of the native people discouraged European settlement for another century. Finally, the British and Germans divided the Solomons between their respective spheres of influence. Bougainville and some smaller northern islands were assigned to German New Guinea. Most of the islands were organized into the British protectorate of British Solomon Islands.

The Solomons were the farthest region in the southwest Pacific reached by the Japanese during World War II. A surprise attack by U.S. Marines on a strategically important Japanese airbase at Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942 resulted in months of the fiercest fighting of the war in the Pacific.

The islands were a British protectorate until 1976 when they gained self-government and — on July 7, 1978 — full independence. The first decades of independence saw ethnic violence, government malfeasance, and endemic crime that undermined economic and political stability. In 2003 the prime minister sought Australia's assistance in restoring civil order. An Australian-led multinational force disarmed ethnic militia. Since that time the Solomons have made progress toward restoring the economy and rebuilding government institutions.

Missionary and commercial correspondence are known from the islands in the mid-nineteenth century. After the establishment of the protectorate, official correspondence generally went to Sydney. New South Wales stamps were used for forwarding. For 1906 and 1907 correspondence the island administrator, C.M. Woodford, authorized a framed "British/Solomon/Islands/Paid" handstamp. The first postage stamps, issued February 14, 1907, were inscribed British Solomon Islands. That inscription was used until 1975 when it was replaced by "Solomon Islands" in anticipation of self government. Stamps were denominated in Australian currency until 1977 when Solomon Islands introduced its own currency.





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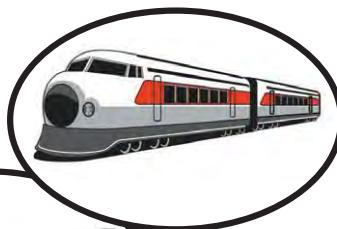
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Born in Chicago, Fred Baumann moved to Canada as a child and grew up and was educated in Toronto and in Windsor, Ontario. A childhood collector who returned as an adult in the late 1970s, his passion for philately landed him a job as a stamp auction describ-

er in Michigan in 1985, followed by 10 years as an editor and senior editor at *Linn's Stamp News*, six more as a senior editor at *Stamp Collector* and a three-year stint as Public Relations Director with the American Philatelic Society. He wrote a bimonthly column for *Scott Stamp Monthly*, and in 2010 taught a five-day APS Summer Seminar on the “World of German Philately.” Fred has a third-generation collection of Germany, smaller collections of Danzig, Bohemia & Moravia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and an exhibit on the postal history of the ancient German city of Leipzig. He also collects bridges, the Statue of Liberty, and tanks on stamps.



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