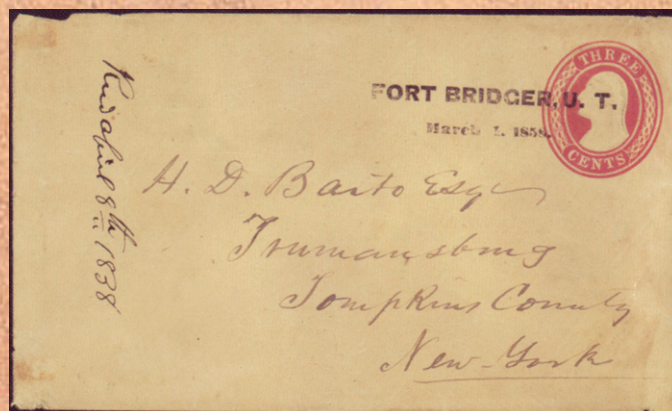


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**Securing Manifest Destiny:
Western Forts, 1840-1890**

The Oregon Trail Forts



OUR 39TH YEAR OF PUBLISHING AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY 1969-2008



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Book Review: United States Multiple Advertising and Discount Postal Cards
Ed. by Bill Falberg, United Postal Stationery Society, 2008

*Bay Rum is good for horses, it is the best in town
 Purina cures the measles, just pay five dollars down.
 Teeth extracted without pain for only half a dime
 Overcoats are selling now, slightly out of time.*

— from the “Old Billboard” song

Whoever thought of putting multiple ads on a tiny U.S. government postal? The mix of resulting businesses can be hilariously incongruous, and brings to mind an old song about an ancient, peeling billboard. What would motivate a person to buy an advertising postcard to send a message to a friend? The answers can be found in a new handbook of advertising postals, “**United States Multiple Advertising and Discount Postal Cards.**” Edited by Bill Falberg, this handbook expands on earlier works by Burdick, Fricke and others, and documents a promotional phenomenon that lasted for nearly 50 years.

U.S. advertising postal cards were in use 1873-1915, and printed mainly in the northeast and midwest. Cataloged and illustrated are 94 multiple advertising and discount card types produced by 35 different entrepreneurs starting with George Simmon’s 1873 Oak Hall cards and ending with the popular Allentown cards of the 1910s. A few 1960s examples and a well-chosen sampling of collateral ephemera items are also shown. The book has created a comprehensive new “MA” numbering system to identify multiple advertising and discount postals, conveniently tied to Scott catalog numbers. Multiple advertising and discount postals are

uncommon, so a rarity index is provided in the appendix to show relative scarcity.

Advertising on the backs of U.S. “discount” postal cards followed usually one of two formats: an overall ad by a single entrepreneur or multiple ads by different businesses. In some cases, “house cards” were mailed by the merchant direct to prospective customers, but most MA and discount postals were actually sold directly to the public at retail shops. Cards were sold usually, but not always, for less than the cost charged by the post office. For example, if bought in bulk, it was common for advertising postals to be priced at two for a penny.

While advertising was initially limited strictly to the back of the card, when the post office changed its rules to allow printing on the fronts and backs, single-advertisers produced some of the more popular and visually appealing cards at discount rates, such as the “Lucky Man” motif. Even with improvements in graphic presentation and color printing through time, though, the MA and discount postals eventually fell out of favor as bulk mailing rates became available, and other means of advertising expanded.

Advertising and postal card collectors should certainly add this book to their libraries, as it represents a significant phenomenon in the early use of postal cards for advertising. For dealers and auction houses, this book is a “must-have,” particularly for its rarity index and useful illustrations.

Review by Cath Clark

Details:

185 Pages, b&w illustrations

Hard Cover

Table of Contents keyed to Scott UX numbers and new “MA” numbering system

Rarity Index

Index by Advertisers, Entrepreneurs, and Products

Bibliography

Available from:

UPSS Publications Office, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831 (e-mail upsspubs@aol.com) for \$45.00 (\$36.00 if UPSS member) plus \$5.00 shipping for up to two books (VA residents add 5.0% sales tax; CA 7.25%).

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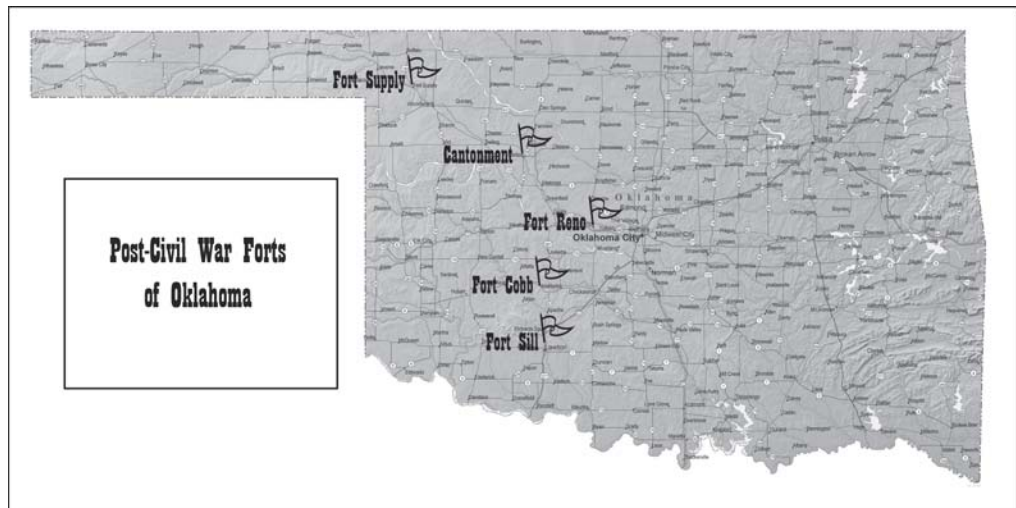
FORT SILL

All building of western forts ceased with the outbreak of the Civil War. Shortly before the outbreak of war, Fort Cobb had been established on the Washita River to protect and police the villages of the Wichita and Caddo Indians, but its location was too far north to protect the Texas border.¹ As a result of Sheridan's winter campaign in 1868-1869 against the Cheyenne, Kiowa and other Indians of the southern plains, Fort Cobb was abandoned because of its poor location.

Colonel Grierson, commander of the 10th United States Cavalry, explored a site near the junction of Cache and Medicine Bluff creeks near the eastern base of the Wichita Mountains in May 1868, and reported to Sheridan that it was an excellent location for a new post. A final survey of the site was made in Decem-

ber, 1868, by a group of officers including Grierson and representatives from the 38th Infantry and the 9th Cavalry. These officers recommended immediate occupation of the location.

In January 1869 General Philip Sheridan, commanding the Department of the Missouri, ordered the troops and Indians to move from Fort Cobb to the new camp, approximately thirty-six miles south of the Washita River. Troops of the 7th US Cavalry, 10th US Cavalry, 19th Kansas Volunteers and 6th US Infantry be-



Map 9 Unlike the pre-Civil War forts that were concentrated in Southeast Oklahoma, the post war forts were in the central part of the state.

gan the move. By January 10 all the troops were at the new site, which had an abundance of water, grass and building materials. The black troops of the 10th United States Cavalry and the white troops of the 6th United States Infantry were directed to construct and garrison the new post.

Initially the post was called Camp Washita (or Camp Medicine Bluff). However, on July 2, 1869, the camp was renamed Fort Sill in honor of Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill—a West Point classmate of General Sheridan who had been killed on December 31, 1862, in the Battle of Stone River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Fort Sill was to serve as the base of operations against such hostile south plains Indians as the Cheyenne, Comanche and Kiowa. It also replaced Fort Cobb as the Indian agency headquarters for the tribes in the immediate area. The Fort Sill post office was established September 28, 1869.

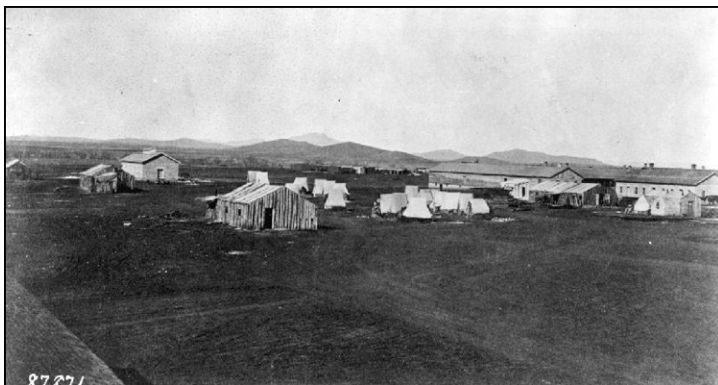


Figure 12 Fort Sill, Indian Territory, 1871. General view. (Source: Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer—Signal Corps Photographs of American Military Activity)



Figure 13 Stone Barracks at Fort Sill, Oklahoma Territory, May 6, 1877. (Source: Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer—Signal Corps Photographs of American Military Activity)

Construction of the permanent stone buildings began at Fort Sill in the spring of 1870. A few skilled civilian stone masons, brick layers, sawyers and carpenters were hired by the quartermaster and recruited in Kansas to direct the building. Most of the actual labor, however, was conducted by soldiers of the 10th United States Cavalry commanded by Colonel Grierson. Troops from the 6th United States Infantry helped the “buffalo soldiers” quarry stone at Quarry Hill east of the post. In 1871 nearly all the building was completed at a negligible cost to the government.

The original military reservation was quadrangular-shaped and had an area of approximately 36-square miles. The main buildings were formed as a square enclosing the parade ground. With a garrison strength never more than 800 troops and frequently less than 300, the post’s solitary location on the open prairies presented an inviting target for hostile Indian raiders.

As the period of war with the Plains Indians came to a close, Fort Sill’s mission gradually evolved from controlling hostile Indians to

one of law enforcement with soldiers protecting the Indians from outlaws, squatters and cattle rustlers. In 1894 Geronimo and 341 other Apache prisoners of war were brought to Fort Sill from southeast Arizona. The tribe lived in villages on the open range of Fort Sill. Geronimo was granted permission to travel while with Pawnee Bill’s Wild West Show and he visited President Theodore Roosevelt. The great chief died of pneumonia at Fort Sill in 1909.

The rest of the Apaches remained on Fort Sill until 1913. They were taught by Lt. Hugh L. Scott to build houses, raise crops and herd cattle. Scott also commanded troop L of the 7th Cavalry, a unit comprised

entirely of Indians and considered one of the best in the west. Indian scout I-See-O and other members of the troop are credited with helping tribes on the South Plains to avoid participation in the bloody Ghost Dance rituals of the 1890s in which many died on the North Plains.

The last Indian lands in Oklahoma opened for settlement in 1901 and 29,000 homesteaders registered at Fort Sill during July for the land lottery. On August 6 the town of Lawton sprang up and quickly grew to become the third largest city in Oklahoma. With the disappearance of the frontier, the cavalry of Fort Sill were gradually replaced by field artillery. The first

artillery battery arrived at Fort Sill in 1902 and the last cavalry regiment departed in May 1907. The School of Fire for the Field Artillery was established at Fort Sill in 1911 and continues to operate. The author was one of the many young Army officers who experienced the “joys” of field artillery training at Fort Sill nearly half a century ago. My principal memories of the place involve running a college foot-



Figure 14 This cover was mailed at Fort Sill in September 1874 to General Grierson in Saint Louis who was then serving as Superintendent of the Mounted Recruiting Service. The envelope bears an embossed “N” and was probably mailed by an officer’s wife of a member of his former command.

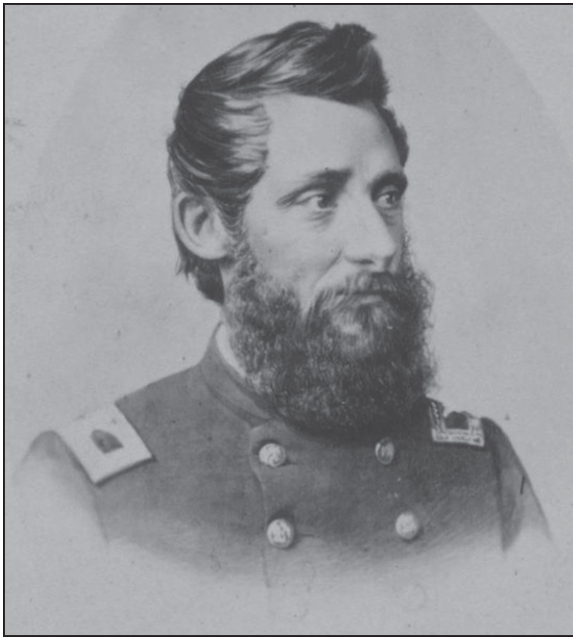


Figure 15 General Benjamin H. Grierson organized the 10th Cavalry and supervised construction of Fort Sill. Not a West Point graduate, he was ostracized by some other officers for his enthusiastic command of the African-American troops. (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Grierson)

ball pool for our class, keeping a pet armadillo in the old wooden barracks and the ringing thunder of 105 and 155 millimeter howitzers that left me partially deaf in one ear. I fear that I was less than enthusiastic about becoming a “cannon-cocker” as my interests ran more in the direction of missiles and air defense artillery.

Fort Sill also served as home to the Infantry school of Musketry, the School for Aerial Observers, the Air Service Flying School, and the Army Aviation School at times during the 20th century.

CAMP (FORT) SUPPLY

Fort Supply was originally established as “Camp of Supply” on November 18, 1868 in support of General Philip Sheridan’s winter campaign against the Southern Plains Indians. It was from Camp Supply that



Figure 17 Camp Supply in 1869 (Source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/9/9c/Fsstockade.jpg/300px-Fsstockade.jpg>)

George Armstrong Custer led the Seventh U.S. Cavalry south to the banks of the Washita River to destroy the village of the Cheyenne Indian chief Black Kettle in what became known as the Battle of the Washita. Later, the camp served to protect the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservations from incursions by whites.

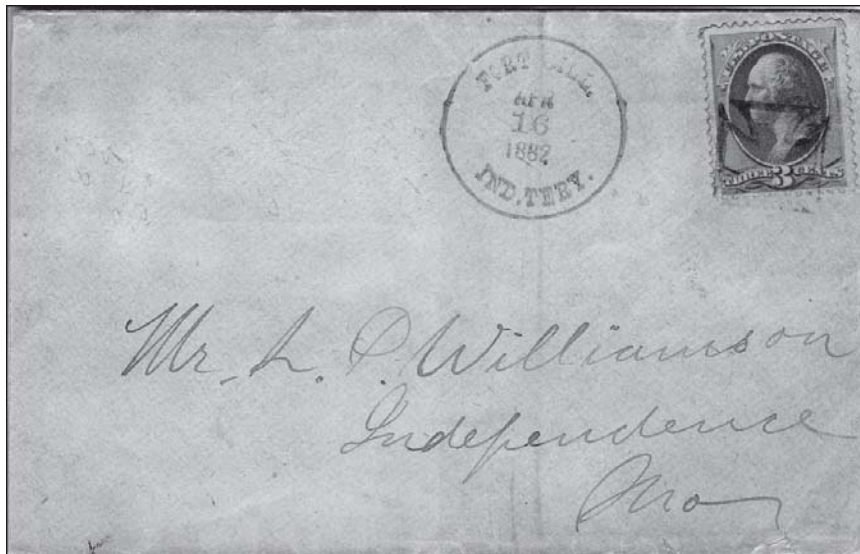


Figure 16 This cover bears a postmark from Fort Sill dated April 16, 1882. A Maltese Cross handstamp was used to cancel the 3¢ green banknote. Often seen used with this postmark type, the cancel may have been an integral part of a duplex handstamp at one time.

The Camp Supply post office was established March 17, 1873, and, while the post was renamed Fort Supply in 1878 following its role in the Red River War of 1874-1875, the post office continued to be called Camp Supply until June 28, 1889 when it was finally changed to Fort Supply. The Fort Supply post office was discontinued October 12, 1895, but a civilian community that grew up near the site acquired a new post office with the same name in 1943.

By 1880 the Indian Wars on the Southern Plains were nearly over and the fort was in bad repair. The Department of Missouri recommended its abandonment, but Philip Sheridan—then General of



Figure 18 Postmarked Camp Supply, Indian Territory, May 11, 1876, this registered cover was mailed by Calaryman John O'Connor, to a company in Maine.

the Army—objected and worked to establish the Fort Supply Military Reservation, giving permanence to the fort and an accompanying reserve of 36 square miles.

Fort Supply was officially closed September 1894 following the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to settlement. One of the last missions troops from Fort Supply performed was bringing to end the violence of the Enid-Pond Creek Railroad War during the summer of 1894. Troops from Fort Reno and U.S. Marshal E.D. Dix and his deputies had been unable to quell the wrecking of trains, destruction of tracks, and demolition of trestles by residents from both communities. On February 26, 1895, the last remaining troops turned over operation of the old fort to the Department of the Interior.

FORT RENO

Fort Reno began as a military camp in 1874. It was established at the urging of Agent John Miles of the Darlington Indian Agency, to pacify and protect the Cheyenne & Arapaho tribes living there. Troops from the 10th Cavalry—a unit of “Buffalo Soldiers”—were initially dispatched from Fort Sill to maintain the peace, but they were detained at the Wichita Agency near present day Anadarko because of local Indian unrest. The military “Camp near the Cheyenne Agency” for Darlington was then set up about two miles from the Darlington Agency by soldiers from the 5th Infantry and 6th Cavalry from Fort Dodge, Kansas, under command of Lt. Col. Thomas Neil.

In 1875, the commanding officer was authorized to select a site on the North Canadian River to build corrals and a wagon yard, dig wells, and set up a sawmill for the military post. The new post was named Fort Reno in February 1876 by General Phil Sheridan, in

Figure 19 Using an U.S. Army Medical Department envelope franked with a pair of 2¢ and a 1¢ banknotes, the sender of this 1890 Fort Supply cover sought an addressee in Germany.



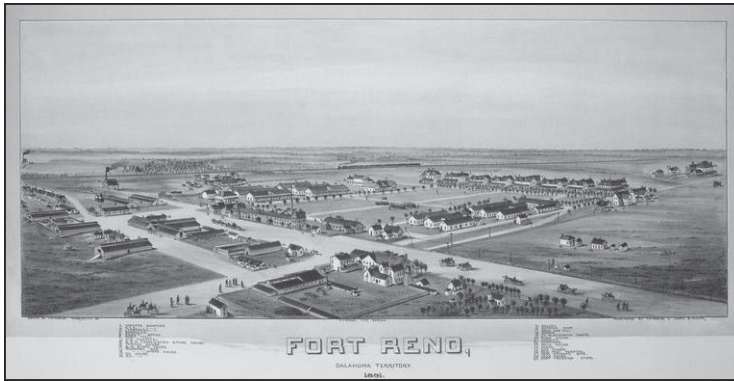


Figure 20 A drawing of Fort Reno in 1891 (Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Reno_\(Oklahoma\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Reno_(Oklahoma)))

honor of his friend Major General Jesse L. Reno who was killed in the Civil War in 1863 at the Battle of South Mountain in Maryland.

The Fort Reno post office was established February 1, 1877, and continued to operate until May 30, 1907.

The cavalry and infantry stationed at Fort Reno played a role similar to those stationed at other posts on the Great Plains. The fort played an important role in the campaign against the northern Cheyennes in 1878-1879. During the Sioux wars from 1865 to 1877 the northern Cheyenne were allied with the Sioux. At the close of that conflict, the Government began transporting the northern Cheyenne to the Indian Territory for the purpose of reuniting them with their kinsmen of the southern Cheyenne. During the years 1877 and 1878, most of the people of the northern Cheyenne division were brought to Darlington and placed under the charge of the tribal agent, Col. John D. Miles. The northern Cheyenne were a high-spirited people who had refused to move even as far south as the Arkansas with their kinsmen of the southern division of the tribe, more than forty years before, and they bitterly resented this governmental attempt to force a reunion of the two long separated divisions.

Finally, a band led by Chief Dull Knife evaded Agency officials and the troops at Fort Reno and started for their old ranges in Dakota, Montana and Wyoming—nearly a thousand miles distant. Their progress was slowed by the fact

that they were accompanied by their families and transporting all their movable belongings. With Army troops from more than half a dozen military posts engaged in chasing, they dodged and doubled and fought their way to north-western Nebraska before they were finally recaptured. The survivors were returned to the reservation in the Indian Territory, but this experiment of attempting to reunite the Cheyenne was ultimately conceded to be a failure by both military authorities and the Indian Service. Two or three years after the establishment of the Cantonment post, the Northern Cheyenne were permitted to return to homelands in the north.

The cavalry assisted by the Cheyenne police operated the “beef issue” that allotted the tribes live longhorn cattle to chase and shoot like buffalo. The cattle were herded up the Chisholm Trail from Texas. In retrospect the scheme would appear to have been a pathetic attempt to replace the void left in tribal culture by the elimination of the great buffalo herds, but it does indicate that there were some government and military decision makers who were aware that eliminating an entire way of life for the Plains Indians represented a tragedy of epic proportions.



Figure 21 A registered cover postmarked Fort Reno, Indian Territory, in March 1882 addressed to New York.

The Fort Reno troops helped find and evict many *boomers*—white settlers who believed the Unassigned Lands were public property and open to anyone for settlement—from Indian lands for ten years prior to the opening for settlement by the 1889 land run. The Fort Reno soldiers also assisted with the land runs of 1892 and 1894. In 1892 some Fort Reno troopers were dispatched to the Choctaw capitol of Tuskaoma to help quell a political dispute among the Five Civilized Tribes. In 1898 Fort Reno troops distinguished themselves in the Spanish-American War in Cuba. In 1900, Fort Reno troops were sent to Henryetta where they helped quell the Creek Rebellion by capturing Crazy Snake and 67 of his followers. In 1906, as a result of the Brownsville, Texas incident, wherein Negro troopers from Fort Brown allegedly had a nighttime shootout with civilians, an entire battalion of the 25th Infantry was sent to Fort Reno and discharged.

After Oklahoma statehood in 1907, the post was abandoned on February 24, 1908 but remained as a U.S. Cavalry remount station until 1949. The nearby city of El Reno, Oklahoma, owes its name to the fort.

CANTONMENT

The establishment of the military post known as “the Cantonment on the North Fork of the Canadian” was a result of the raids of Dull Knife and a band of northern Cheyenne Indians across Kansas and Nebraska during the late summer of 1878. Kansas suffered greatly as the result of the raid. Many people were killed and considerable property was destroyed in the settlements in the western part of the state. A company of state troops was kept stationed on the southwestern border on patrol duty.

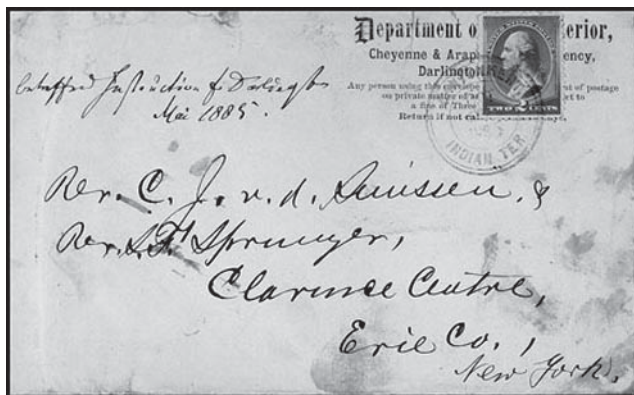


Figure 22 This cover was mailed through the Cantonment post office almost three years after the Army had abandoned the post. At the time the facility was under control of the Interior Department. A mission and school was organized and maintained for many years by the Mennonite Church for the Indians of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes who lived in the vicinity.

Political influence was also brought to bear on officials in Washington, one of the results of which was the establishment of a new military post on the North Canadian River, about midway between Fort Reno and Fort Supply. The new post was established March 6, 1879, when six companies of the 23d U. S. Infantry, under the command of Lieut. Col. Richard I. Dodge, went into camp on its site. In his next annual report, the Secretary of War made the following statement:

During the last winter, it became necessary, for the protection of the Kansas frontier, to establish a cantonment in the Indian Territory on the North Fork of the Canadian, between Fort Supply and Fort Reno. It is now occupied by six companies of infantry (one mounted) and has served and will serve as an almost complete check to any movements of the Indians of that region toward the north. The troops have huddled themselves and will get along without suffering this winter, but, as this cantonment will be needed and more needed every year, as well for the protection of the Indian Territory against white invasion as for the security of the Kansas frontier against the Indians, I ask that an appropriation of \$50,000 be requested this winter to build a permanent post. Whatever may be the condition of the Indian tribes in the future, it is quite certain that this post will be needed to maintain them in possession of their lands and to protect them against broils and difficulties with the whites, both respectable persons and outlaws.²

When the soldiers first arrived, they lived in tents. Barracks were built of what was known as the “picket-house” type. Trenches were excavated and closely spaced pickets or large posts were set vertically within the trenches. The sides of the trench were then filled in and tamped. Spaces between the pickets were filled by plastering with mortar made of a mixture of clay and grass. Rafters were laid directly on the upper end of the pickets, with no slope whatever. These were covered with brush which, in turn, was covered with a layer of coarse grass. Over this a heavy layer of earth was laid. The inside walls were covered with canvas and the canvas was whitewashed.

The Cantonment post office was established July 17, 1879. The office was located in the post trader’s store—also a picket house—while there was a garrison at Cantonment. After the Army abandoned the post, the building continued to function as a store, post office and residence until its destruction by fire, in July 1917. Official records indicate that the Cantonment post office was discontinued September 15, 1917.

Records in the office of the Adjutant General at the headquarters of the Army do not give evidence that there was a permanent post at Cantonment. But the fact there are three permanent buildings of stone masonry construction still standing attests to the presumption that the recommendation for an appropriation was granted. The three buildings erected were a hospital, a commissary and a building which was used for officers' quarters. The erection of such permanent buildings for a post that was not even officially named was almost if not quite without precedent. These buildings are still standing, unimpaired and in use at the present time. The Agency office occupies the building which was used as officers' quarters. The old post bakery and commissary is now used by the blacksmith. The building near the river bank was the post hospital. The windows, doors and casings of all of these buildings, together with the finishing lumber, were hauled from one of the railway stations in Kansas—either Wellington or Wichita—as also were the bricks for the chimneys and the fire-brick for the bakery ovens.

The latest return from the post at Cantonment on file in the archives of the War Department is the one for the month of June, 1882. The last company of the 23d Infantry (Company G) left the post January 3, 1881. Detachments of the 24th Infantry, of the 4th Cavalry and of the 9th Cavalry were stationed there until the abandonment of the post.

When the post was abandoned, the buildings were turned over to the Interior Department. A year or two afterward, they were occupied by a mission and school that was organized and maintained for many years by the Mennonite Church, for the benefit of the Indians of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes who lived in the vicinity. On May 4, 1884, a Cheyenne Indian named White Buffalo was killed by a white man who was engaged in driving a herd of horses northward from Texas. Other Indians threatened revenge. The owner of the horses and two of his men took refuge in an oven of the post bakery until a troop of cavalry came up from Fort Reno and rescued them. At that time, there was a Government telegraph line from Fort Reno to Fort Supply, with a station at Cantonment, so that the appeal for help from the troops at Fort Reno was sent by wire. The poles of this telegraph line were sections of iron pipe. When the line was abandoned, the poles were pulled down and carried off, many of them, badly rusted at the surface, being broken off.

Indian Territory Fort Postmarks

Postmarks from offices associated with active camps and forts in Indian Territory during the 1840 to 1890 period are not common, but probably easier to acquire than one might think. Army duty in the Territory was much like the life typical to most garrison soldiers—long periods of boredom punctuated by brief episodes of terror. While most of the enlisted men were probably illiterate, officers were usually well-educated and some were prodigious letter writers. Fortunately, at least some of that correspondence has been preserved, and we postal historians today are fortunate enough to enjoy the benefits of that preservation. As *Chart 1* suggests, the volume of mail from Indian Territory forts was not inconsequential.

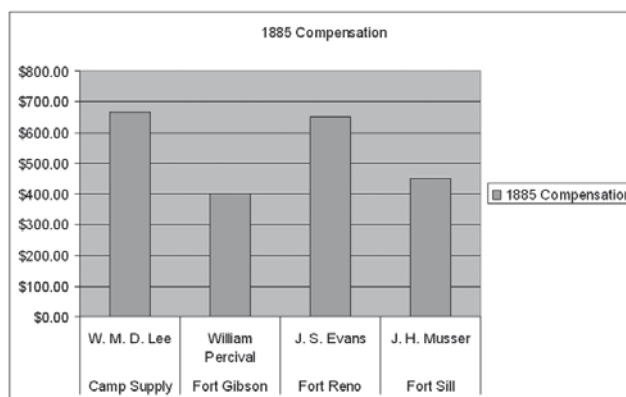


Chart 1 Indian Territory postmaster compensation at Army post offices in 1885.

Endnotes:

1The military post at Fort Cobb had no post office during its 1859-1861 and 1868-1869 periods of use by the Army. In 1902 a post office named Fort Cobb was established to serve the civilian settlement that developed near the site of the old Army post.

2 <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v003/v003p059.html>

References:

<http://www.chickasawhistory.com/FTA6.htm>

<http://sill-www.army.mil/pao/pahist.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Supply

<http://www.fortreno.org/history.htm>

Oklahoma-Indian Territory Fort Postmarks, 1840-1890

*Fort Arbuckle
Oct. 23 1858*

1



2



1



2

*Fort Gibson
March 26*

*Fort Gibson
Aug 28*

2



3



4

*Fort Gibson C.N.
November 15 - 49*

5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

Oklahoma-Indian Territory Fort Postmarks, 1840-1890

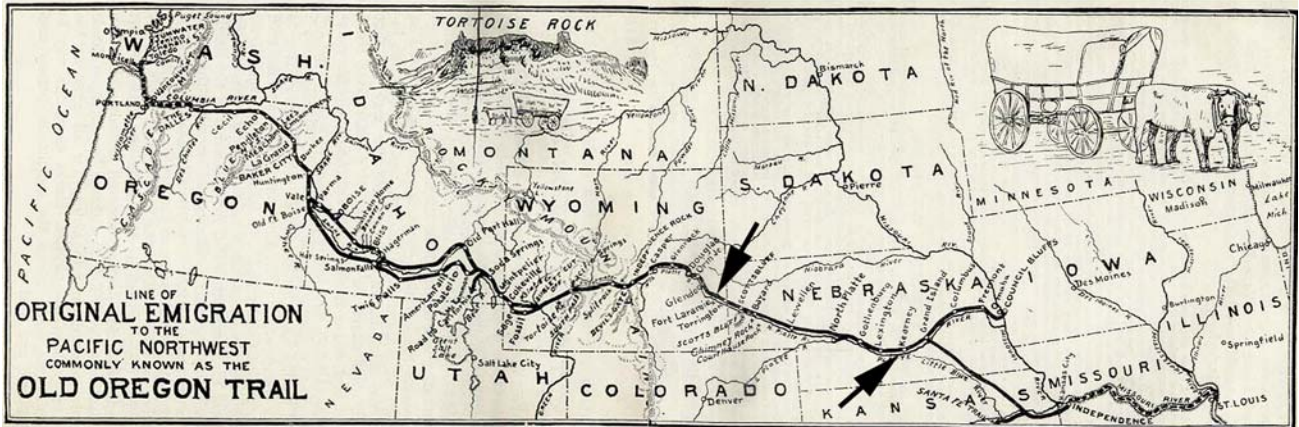
	Earliest	Latest	Notes	Killer
Fort Arbuckle (1853-1875)				
1 MSS	30 Jun 1856	23 Oct 1858	C.N.	
2 CDS 26	1 Apr 1876	17 Apr 1876	IND. T.	
Cantonment (1879-1917)				
1 DCDS	22 Oct 1885	8 Dec 1889	INDIAN TER.	
2 DCDS	26 Dec 1888		IND. TER.	
Fort Coffee (1835-1838)				
None known				
Cantonment Gibson (1827-1842) & Fort Gibson (1842-Date)				
1 MSS	5 Nov 1828	28 Nov 1930	Cantonment in mss.	
2 MSS	19 Feb 1834	23 Aug 1838	"Fort" used in mss.	
3 CDS 30.5	2 Dec 1841	19 Jan 1843	Ar	
4 CDS 30	11 Nov 1844	17 Dec 1849	Ark	
5 MSS	3 Dec 1848	15 Nov 1849	C.N.	
6 CDS 32.5	10 Mar 1855		ARK	
7 CDS 27	18 Dec 1864	4 May 1870	ARK	
8 CDS 25.5	29 Mar 1871	Sep 187?	ARK	
9 CDS 26	7 Feb 187?	4 Jun 1880	C.N.	
10 OCT 24.5	3 Jun 1878	20 Dec 1880	IND. TER.	
11 OCT MOB	16 Oct 1885			
12 CDS 26.5	3 May 1886	9 May 1887	IND. TER.	
Fort Reno (1877-1907)				
1 CDS 25.5	3 Jun 1881	1 Jul 1889	IND. T.	
2 CDS 23.5	10 Mar 1883	13 Apr 1887	IND. TY.	Barrel Killer
3 DCDS 30	16 May 1890		IND. TY.	
Fort Sill (1869-1917)				
1 CDS 25	14 Jan 187?	2 Aug 1876	IN. TER.	
2 CDS 27.5	17 Feb 1881	27 Mar 1884	IND. TER.	
3 CDS 28	16 Apr 1882	8 Apr 1885	IND. TER.	Maltese Cross
4 CDS 26.5	27 Mar 1887	19 Aug 1889	IND. T.	
Camp Supply (1873-1889) & Fort Supply (1889-1895)				
1 MSS	27 Dec 1874		I. T.	
2 DCDS 26	11 May 1876	7 Nov 18??	IND. TER.	
3 CDS 25	12 Jan 1886	31 Dec 1888	IN. T.	
4 CDS 27.5	4 Mar 1890	8 Dec 1890	IND. T.	
Fort Towson (1832-1847)				
1 CDS 31	19 Jun 1838	19 Jul 1847	Ark	
Fort Washita (1844-1880)				
1 MSS	23 Jul 1845	26 Jan 1852		
2 CDS 33	19 Dec 1852	13 Jan 1858	ARK.	

Oklahoma-Indian Territory Fort Postmarks, 1840-1890



Plate 2

Part 2 The Oregon Trail : Forts of Nebraska and Wyoming, 1840-1890



Map 10 Oregon Trail. Line of Original Emigration to the Pacific Northwest Commonly Known as the Old Oregon Trail from The Ox Team or the Old Oregon Trail 1852-1906 by Ezra Meeker. Fourth Edition 1907. Arrows indicate locations of Fort Kearney and Fort Laramie. From: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/hi]

The Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail has always had a special significance to this author. As a native Oregonian, I grew up hearing the stories of pioneer families that had made the arduous five-month overland trek from the Missouri frontier to Oregon one hundred years before my time. These brave travelers were celebrated in our school pageants, civic remembrances and in the form numerous monuments around Portland and the Willamette Valley. The trail itself—at least the portion of it within Oregon—was celebrated and its route was marked in various places to show us exactly where the wagons had rolled.

We must remember that in the 1940s and early 1950s, Oregonians still saw themselves as somewhat isolated from the rest of the nation—particularly the East and Midwest. It was a significantly important fact that five generations earlier, a small group of men and women had cut their ties with family and friends to make an incredibly difficult journey over two thousand miles to a place they knew little about. We in Oregon celebrated these people as our Plymouth Rock and Jamestown equivalents. Certainly there were new Oregonians who had travelled to the Pacific Northwest by ship from ports along the East Coast, but these tended to be the wealthier and better educated citizens. Their numbers were small in comparison to the “overlanders”, and the wagon trains brought the common folk.

The Oregon Trail helped the United States implement its political goal of Manifest Destiny to expand the nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The journey spanned over half the continent as the wagon trail

proceeded 2,170 miles west through territories and land later to become six U.S. states (Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon) (map 10). Between 1841 and 1869, the Oregon Trail was used by settlers migrating to the Pacific Northwest of what is now the United States. Once the first trans-continental railroad was completed in 1869, the use of this trail by long distance travelers diminished as the railroad slowly replaced it.

On May 1, 1839 a group of men from Peoria, Illinois set out with the intention to colonize the Oregon Country on behalf of the United States of America and drive out the English fur trading companies operating there. The men of the Peoria Party were among the first pioneers to blaze the Oregon Trail. Although the group split up on the trail, several of their members did reach Oregon.

On May 16, 1842, the first organized wagon train on the Oregon Trail set out from Elm Grove, Missouri, with more than 100 pioneers. The party was led by Elijah White, appointed Indian Sub-Agent to Oregon, the first U.S. official in the region. Once the party reached Oregon, John McLoughlin—Factor of the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Vancouver—offered the American settlers food and farming equipment on credit, despite company policy to discourage U.S. emigration.

The principal driving force attracting settlers to the Oregon Country was the offer of free land. In 1843, the settlers of the Willamette Valley formed a provisional government and by a vote of 52 to 50 drafted a constitution that organized the land claim process in the state. Married couples were allowed to claim up

to 640 acres—a “section” equivalent to a square mile—at no cost and single individuals could claim 320 acres. In what became known as the Great Migration of 1843, an estimated 1000 immigrants, led by Marcus Whitman, arrived in the Willamette Valley.

Timing was important to the emigrants’ success in reaching Oregon. The most favorable time to depart from Missouri was in April or May. This would put them on schedule to make the high mountain passes when winter snows would not be a threat.

Mistakes were often made before the journey even began. In preparing for the trip, many emigrants overloaded their wagons with supplies. As a result, not long after leaving Missouri, dumping excess items was a common sight along the trail. Tools, guns and food were considered vital—heirlooms were not.

The relatively gentle first leg of the route along the Platte River was a time for the emigrants to settle into travel mode. This meant getting used to hitching and unhitching the oxen, cattle and mules whenever a stop was made - hard and dangerous work. It also meant constant wagon maintenance, foraging for firewood and clean water, cooking over open fires and learning how to break and set camp every day.

When emigrants reached Chimney Rock and Scotts Bluff, their journey was one-third over. But more challenging terrain lay ahead as water, firewood and supply depots became scarce. Buffalo herds that initially were a dependable food source for the emigrants also thinned out due to excessive killing.

The challenge of crossing many rivers and the Continental Divide created other severe tests for the emigrants. Summer temperatures, miles of trail without shade and choking dust compounded to make life decidedly uncomfortable. Confrontations with Indians were rare, but the fear of attack was a constant worry.

The last leg of the trail was the most difficult. But thoughts of approaching winter snows kept emigrants motivated to move as quickly as possible. The Blue Mountains in eastern Oregon and the Cascades in the west presented barriers that slowed progress.

Upon reaching The Dalles, the emigrants were faced with either taking their chances on the dangerous Columbia River, or, starting in 1846, taking the safer but longer Barlow Road. Sam Barlow’s toll road became the preferred route for the emigrants. Finally, if money, animals, wagons, supplies and morale held out, the emigrants reached the Willamette Valley.

In 1846 the United States signed a treaty with Great Britain that established the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of Oregon Country. The Territory of Oregon was organized August 14, 1858. The Donation Land Act of 1850 superseded earlier laws, but did recognize the earlier claims. Settlers after 1850 could be granted half a section (320 acres) if married and a quarter section if single. A four-year residence and cultivation was required. In 1854, the land was no longer free (although still cheap—initially \$1.25/acre).

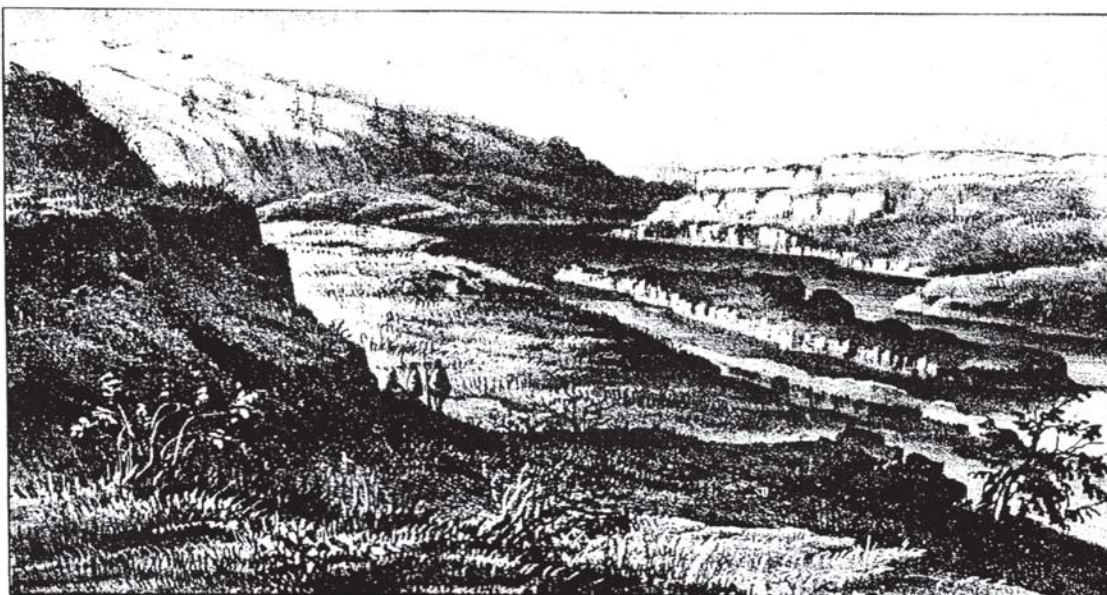


Figure 23 The Dalles, Oregon, as seen in a 19th century sketch, meant that the emigrants were nearing their destination, but the rapids posed a serious impediment to the journey.

The annual wagon trains continued to carry a few thousand new Oregon migrants in 1846 and 1847, but the discovery of gold in California in 1848 soon transformed the flow of migrants into a torrent. In 1849 the nearly 25,000 "Forty-niners" followed the Oregon Trail as far west as South Pass or Fort Hall before turning southwest to seek the Sacramento Valley. Their numbers almost doubled again the next year. Many Plains Indian tribes were beginning to realize that the white man, who had been seen more as a curiosity than a threat, were far more numerous than expected and did indeed pose a threat to their way of life. Wide spread slaughter of the buffalo to feed the increasing throng of migrants offered convincing evidence,

Scattered clashes between Indians and wagon trains created considerable fear and produced an outcry for protection from the "savages." The Army relocated its old post at Fort Kearney on the west bank of the Missouri River to a new position on the south bank of the Platte River in May 1848 in order to protect emigrants on the Oregon Trail.

Further west, the Army occupied the old American Fur Company trading post of Fort Laramie on the Laramie River about a half mile from its confluence with the North Platte on June 16, 1849. Ten days later the government purchased the post and it eventually became the headquarters for campaigns against the Indians.

Hundreds of thousands more followed, and the trail was still in use during the Civil War. Completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869 greatly diminished use of the trail, but wagon and coach traffic continued to use it into the 1890s. Modern highways eventually paralleled large portions of the trail, and U.S. Highway 26 still follows the trail from Ogallala, Nebraska, to Portland, Oregon, although for much of its length it piggybacks on interstate highways today.

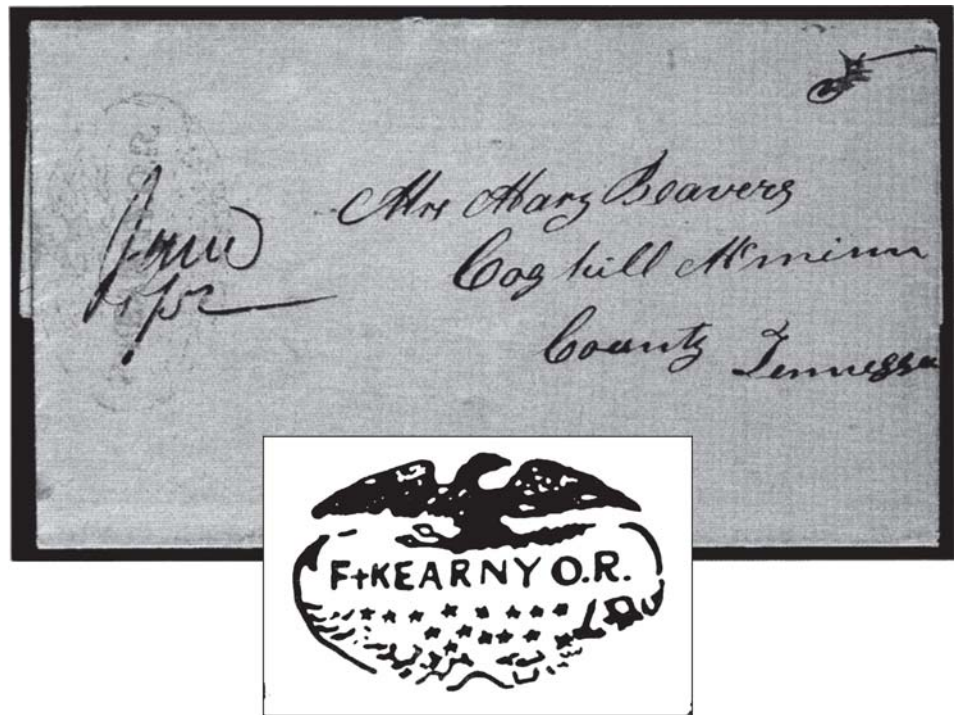


Figure 24 This rare example of the fancy Fort Kearny Oregon Route eagle sold as lot 323 in Christie's Jarrett auction of 1990 for \$4,400. Struck in blue ink, details of the design are difficult to distinguish and for that reason it has been reproduced here in a tracing by Charles Winter from his 1992 *La Posta* article.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE TRAIL

Once a wagon train left the relative civilization of the Missouri frontier, the only possibility of passing a letter to the folks back home was the extremely rare chance that someone on the trail travelling in the opposite direction might be willing to carry it back to the nearest post office. The *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Volume II, notes that examples of mail originating from Fort Laramie dating from 1848 exist with postmarks from Kane, Iowa—the name applied to the Council Bluffs post office when the community was called Kanessville.

Establishment of military garrisons at Fort Kearney on the Platte and Fort Laramie in 1848-1849 greatly improved the chances of posting letters back to the "States." Army couriers travelled between Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri and forts Kearney and Laramie carrying official dispatches. In addition, occasional supply or quartermaster trains offered additional opportunities for transporting soldiers' letters. Daniel Meschter, in his *The First Transmountain Mail Route Contracts, the Central Route 1850-1862* citing Unruh states:

Nor were officers and the carriers above extending this service to trail trekkers—for a suitable emolument, of course. Unruh (1979, p.



Figure 25 Fort Laramie O(regon) R (oute) probably 1852 from the C C Wagner Collection as illustrated in Sampson (1950).

471-2, f. 157) reports that one such military express from Fort Laramie in late June 1849, “carried emigrant letters for two cents apiece [twenty-five cents doubtless was intended], and within the week at the fort, officers collected over \$300,” implying more than 1,200 letters at twenty-five cents each.

The first US post office to be established along the Oregon Trail was located at Fort Kearney in July 1849. In March 1850 an office was established at Fort Laramie. At the time of their establishment both of these offices were officially located in Indian Territory—then an area with no organized government. For administrative purposes, the Fort Kearney and Fort Laramie post offices were listed on the rolls of Clackamas County, Oregon Territory, centered in Oregon City at the falls of the Willamette River.

In his discussion of the Fort Kearny post office, Charles Winter (1992) writes:

All the military post reports from December 1848 refer to the location as Oregon Route or O.R. The use of this designation continued until Nebraska Territory was formed. Since both the military and the post office refer to Oregon Route, one would have thought that the postmaster would have canceled letters from Fort Kearney with the “O.R.” designation. From the beginning and prior to June 1852 this procedure was not followed by the postmaster. Mail was placed in mail bags and carried to the nearest post office in Missouri. It appears that the first postmaster, who was the son of the sutler, John Dougherty, tended more to the business of the store than to the matter of the mails. Either because of the unorganized civil government in

the territory or lacking specific instructions from Washington, we do know that there are no recorded covers of letters originating at the fort that were posted by the postmaster at Fort Kearney during this period.

The Post Office Department awarded its first contract to carry mail beyond the Missouri frontier to Salt Lake City—Route No. 4965—to James Brown in July 1850. Brown had gained experience freighting government supplies to Santa Fe during the Mexican War. He was an associate of Samuel H. Woodson—an Independence attorney. When Brown died suddenly in December 1850 in Santa Fe after encountering a blizzard on the Pecos River, Woodson assumed complete responsibility for the mail contract. Readers seeking additional details of the history of this route should consult Part II of Meschter’s “The First Transmountain Mail Route Contracts, the Central Route 1850-1862”, in *La Posta*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (September 1995).

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NEXT: Forts of Nebraska and Wyoming

The Postmasters General of the United States

XXXVI. Wilson S. Bissell, 1893-1895

by Daniel Y. Meschter

Wilson Shannon Bissell's main qualification for appointment to be Postmaster General was his long and close association with Grover Cleveland dating back before Cleveland's election as Governor of the State of New York. It seems likely Cleveland esteemed him more for his support on national policy matters in Cabinet meetings than as Postmaster General.

Bissell was born on the last day of 1847 in New London,, a village near Rome, New York, the son of John Bissell, a stage coachman, who later owned the Bissell Transportation Company of Buffalo¹. The family moved to Buffalo when Wilson was six. He was educated in local schools until 1863 when he was sent to Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Connecticut to prepare to enter Yale College in 1865. He graduated from Yale in 1869 with honors. Returning to Buffalo he began studying law and was admitted to the bar in 1871. He formed a partnership with Lyman K. Bass in 1872 which was joined by Grover Cleveland the following year to become Bass, Cleveland & Bissell and then Cleveland & Bissell after Bass retired on account of ill health. Cleveland remained with the firm until he was elected governor of New York in the fall of 1882, but they remained close personal friends for the rest of their lives.

In the meantime, Bissell took in several new partners and continued what became a highly successful practice. He specialized in corporation law and won a reputation as one of the ablest railroad attorney's in the country, serving as president and on the board of directors of several western New York railroads for which he was richly rewarded. The press described Wilson's physique as "uncommonly large," sometimes making jovial reference to his ample girth. His work habits were regular. As Postmaster General he habitually was at his desk a half-hour before his staff arrived in the morning and remained long after they had left for the day. He had a genial personality and his peers considered him a fine companion.

The scion of an affluent family, an older brother who preceded him at Yale was associated with their father in the transportation business for about twenty years

and later was prominent in Buffalo banking circles. A younger brother was educated in Europe and Harvard. He completed his law career as an Associate Justice on the New York Supreme Court.

Wilson became active in politics when his law partner, Grover Cleveland, ran for mayor of Buffalo in

1881. His success as mayor cleaning up City Hall established his credentials for nomination as the Democratic candidate for Governor of New York. He was elected by a wide margin. Again, his honesty and efficiency and the popularity of his campaign slogan, "Public office is a public trust," made it only a short step to the presidency in less than two years. He was the odds-on favorite going into the 1884 convention and even powerful Tammany Hall could not block his nomination. In all of this Wilson Bissell was in the in the background exercising his considerable influence in the

corporate world in support of his friend and associate. His reward was the offer of a cabinet seat, which he declined.

Wilson long remained on of Cleveland's most loyal supporters in the 1888 and 1892 elections. Despite winning the popular vote in the 1888 election by a narrow margin, Cleveland lost New York and its 36 electoral votes that would have made the difference. Cleveland again was the favorite going into the 1892 convention, but had substantial opposition as the Democratic Party began to split over the two most controversial issues of the day, the protective tariff and, for the first time, the free coinage of silver, both of which Cleveland opposed. Cleveland won by a small majority of the popular vote over Harrison and a third party candidate and a clear majority of the electoral vote, including New York. Bissell's reward was appointment as Postmaster General, which he accepted.

Wilson Bissell brought his own distinct style to the Post office Department. As a corporation lawyer, his annual reports were lawyerly, covering nearly every activity of the Department with few positive comments of his own². Unlike his predecessors in office, he paid particular attention to the so-called "Presidential" post offices, which was to say post offices of the first, second, and third classes whose postmasters were appointed by the President,. He also included discus-



Wilson S Bissell
circa 1885

sions of the ten largest post offices in terms of volumes of mail handled and total receipts. He presented a table showing that these ten, led by New York City with receipts of more than \$7,000,00, accounted for 30% of the Post Office Department's total revenues for fiscal year 1893. In so doing, he virtually ignored the 65,000 or so fourth class post offices and their plebeian postmasters who served as the federal government's representatives in every corner of the nation no matter how remote or how few its patrons by means of notices posted on each post offices bulletin board, including the ubiquitous "wanted" notices. It was a kind of intercourse that escaped few executive agencies or even Congress itself. It was an effective way for Uncle Sam to communicate with even the most distant of its citizens. Before the coming of radio news, fourth class postmasters commonly were looked to as the most accessible representative of the government.

Bissell also deviated from normal etiquette when he mentioned his predecessor, John Wanamaker, several times by name in his 1893 Annual Report. Previous Postmasters General only ever mentioned their predecessors by name once or twice in the history of the Post Office Department and then only in appreciation.

Recognizing that the Post Office Department now was the largest and most complex business organization in the country comprising some 200,000 employees scattered from coast-to-coast and from the Gulf to Canada with a balance sheet rapidly approaching a hundred million dollars,, Bissell adopted Wanamaker's plan to decentralize the department's command center in Washington, except for the Postmaster General and the Fourth Assistant, and replace it with a series of districts, each with its own supervisor under the overall supervision of Deputy Postmasters General stationed in New York and San Francisco and a Controller in the Washington office³. Bissell, however, decided that instead of a half dozen or dozen districts he would have the districts conform to states. He visualized state superintendents would be experts in postal affairs and since their duties would be principally supervisory rather than policy-making, they would come under the classified civil service free from political influence⁴.

One of the congressionally-delegated functions of the Postmaster General under the Act of July 24, 1866 was to fix the rates for telegrams sent by Government agencies⁵. Bissell criticized Wanamaker for setting rates (October 30, 1889) low enough that for the first time were rejected by the telegraph companies, al-

though they continued to accept government messages. His response was to fix rates still eight percent below those set in 1888 by Postmaster General Dickinson which were accepted by the telegraph companies⁶.

Bissell didn't mention Wanamaker by name in his discussions of free delivery, but his criticism was implied in his assessment of Wanamaker's free delivery proposals⁷. In his report of the "free delivery system" He noted that as of July 1, 1893, there were 610 "carrier" post offices in cities with populations of at least 10,000 or revenues of \$10,000 a year. He could have had no problem with these since they were authorized by Congress in 1863. Wanamaker's proposals were another matter. He adopted Wanamaker's distinction between extension of the existing city free delivery system to towns between 5,000 and 10,000 population and \$6,000 revenues and "rural free delivery" to patrons beyond the area to be served by free delivery who still had to come to town to get their mail at the post office.

In the former case, Bissell concluded that the experiments Congress was continuing to finance with \$10,000 annual appropriations did not result in the predicted steady increase in postal receipts. Accordingly, he concurred with the opinion of his First Assistant Postmaster General that the Department would not be justified in recommending extension of this service to small towns at an estimated expense of \$10,000,000 a year.

In the case of rural free delivery, on March 3, 1893, just a few days before Bissell took office, Congress appropriated \$10,000 "to be applied under the direction of the Postmaster General to experimental free-delivery in rural communities other than towns or villages" †in other words, rural free delivery as we understand it⁸. Assuming the phrase "under the direction" granted him discretion in the matter, Bissell estimated that rural free delivery, if adopted, would cost at least \$20,000,000 a year and that "the Department would not be warranted in burdening the people with so great an expense" when, he thought, the requirements of the proposed rural free delivery service could be satisfied simply by enlarging the areas to be served by the small city or town free delivery service, despite he had already decided this service was not justified, and by establishing new post offices in rural communities. In fact, a large portion of the new post offices established every year were at farms or ranches and rural stores and would continue to be established over the next ten years until Rural Free Delivery and the automobile would reverse the trend. Consequently,

h he did not pursue the matter. He didn't have the imagination to see the technological progress and social adjustments going on around him.

Expenditures of public moneys always were of concern to Bissell who tended to reject proposed improvements on account of cost. In addition to rural free delivery, he considered the acquisition of the national telegraph system that had been authorized by Congress and recommended by previous Postmasters General for many years. In a lengthy opinion he estimated the costs of acquisition, organization, and operation of a postal telegraph system and described the management difficulties as "limitless⁹." He concluded that the Government "can not afford" the establishment of a postal telegraph system "at this time," that it would be unprofitable, that it would retard the development of the postal system, and that some question whether the Government has the power under the Constitution to establish telegraph routes.

The outstanding event in Bissell's tenure as Postmaster General was the World Columbian Exposition that opened in Chicago on May 1, 1893 and ran six months to the end of October. The dedication ceremonies were held earlier on October 21, 1892 and it was obvious the planning for a special post office on the fairgrounds and the preparation of the Department's exhibit was under John Wanamaker's direction.

The Columbian Exposition gave Bissell another opportunity to criticize Wanamaker, this time for the elaborate series of postage stamps he had issued to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Columbus's Discovery of America. His complaint, however, was not so much the stamps themselves' but their cost and his arrangements for their production.

During the first year in Wanamaker's term of office, he executed a four-year contract with the American Bank Note Company to design and print United States postage stamps for 7.47 cents a thousand, continuing the previous contract. However, as Bissell noted, Wanamaker bypassed this contract and, without advertisement or competitive bidding, entered into an agreement with American to design and print the Columbian series at 17 cents a thousand, more than double the prevailing contract price. Bissell, of course, was ignoring the fact that the Columbians were twice as wide as the ordinary issues and called for sophisticated designs unlike any employed before. Taken collectively the sixteen stamps in the set comprise a picture history of the Columbus expedition. Bissell also understood that Wanamaker expected there would be

a great demand for the stamps yielding a profit he estimated at two and a half million dollars. This expectation, he said, was not realized. Based on figures as of June 30, 1893, he said he became satisfied that the extra sales of the Columbians to collectors would not produce enough profit to cover the extra cost of their production¹⁰. The modest sales of the dollar values seem to confirm his assessment.

On the other hand, his lengthy report of the branch post office on the fairgrounds; description of the Post Office Department's exhibit featuring, among many other things, a railway mail car and a variety of coaches and wagons used to transport mail; and his review of the first century of the U.S. Post Office indicated his considerable personal pride in the Post Office Department¹¹.

Perhaps Bissell's most notable accomplishment as Postmaster General involved the Department's stamp printing contract. When the contract with the American Bank Note Company expired in early 1894 after a short term extension, Bissell received an estimate from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, an agency of the Treasury Department lower than any of the other proposals submitted in response to the Department's advertisement for proposals. The savings naturally appealed to Bissell and the apparent advantages of working with another Government agency led the Post Office to enter into an agreement with the Treasury on June 9, 1894 to design and print the United States' postage stamps and deliver them to post offices on demand. The Bureau of engraving and Printing began printing the stamps known to collectors as the "First Bureau Issues" later that summer beginning with plates turned over by American.

There was nothing in Bissell's reports to suggest he was less than satisfied with his assignment as Postmaster General; but following the Republican landslide in the off-year elections of 1894, rumors began flying around Washington, as they so often did, that Bissell had discussed his intention with both the President and his close friends to retire from the Cabinet after the present Congress adjourned on March 3, 1895¹². In an interview with a correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* in late January, he emphatically denied these reports and confirmed his denial in another interview with a reporter for the *New York Times* on January 29th. The *Evening Post* gave the reason for his proposed resignation was his "sensitivity" to criticism: "He was said to feel keenly the

rough assaults to which he is subjected from those who do not approve his course," and that he was dissuaded from doing so only by the President himself.

Finally, on February 27th Bissell announced he had forwarded his resignation to the President. The *Times* correspondent said he acted as if he was "perpetrating a surprise upon the public." He said he would return to Buffalo as soon as his successor took office. The reason he gave for leaving office was that his professional work in Buffalo demanded his attention and he could no longer remain away from it. He did not address the views in the press that he resigned due to being unable to carry out some of the policies. Actually a close reading of his annual reports give the impression he opposed more proposals than he approved.

The rumor mill began supplying Bissell's successor as soon as his resignation became known. The favorites turned out to be W. J. Coombs and Charles Tracey, both of New York, and W.L. Wilson of West Virginia, all three Democrats who were defeated for reelection to the House in the Republican sweep of 1894.

Wilson was Cleveland's choice, probably on the strength of his leadership and influence during his six terms in the House (1883-1895) and his experience. W.L. Wilson was sworn in on April 3, 1895 by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in a ceremony in the Postmaster General's private office. Wilson S. Bissell was present and left for Buffalo that night where he resumed his law practice and public activities¹³. He was on the board of the Buffalo Historical Society; president and trustee of the Buffalo Library; and on the board of managers for the Eire County Hospital from 1889 until his death. He was appointed a Vice Chancellor of the University of Buffalo upon his return to Buffalo in 1895 and Chancellor in 1902.

Sometime after his return to Buffalo he developed a chronic ailment that sapped his strength so that by the spring of 1893 he could no longer attend to his law practice or his public offices. His condition became critical that summer. He died in Buffalo on October 6, 1903 at what even then was considered an early age for a man with such a robust physique¹⁴. Bissell Hall on the University's was named for him.

(Endnotes)

1 See Vexler; *New York Times*, February 12, 1893, March 5, 1893, October 7, 1903 for biographical sketches of Wilson S. Bissell,

2 Annual reports of the Postmaster General, November 28, 1893, Serial 3208 and November 20, 1894, Serial 3304.

3 *New York Times*, December 6, 1892).

4 1893 report, pp. 39-40.

5 19 Stat 221 as amended by the Act of July 5, 1892.

6 1893 Report, pp. 29-30.

7 *Id.*, pp. 8-9.

8 27 Stat. 732.

9 1894 Report, pp. 47-49.

10 1893 Report, pp. 39-40.

11 *Id.*, pp. 41-46.

12 The circumstances of Bissell's retirement from office are summarized in the *New York Times*, February 28, 1895.

13 *New York Time April 4, 1895*,

14 *Id.*, October 7, 1903.

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A Century of Who-You-Know

by Tom Clarke

Currently we're in the quadrennial silly season for politics, and this one has already (by April) been a lonn-gggg season with seven more months to go. Many are much more sensitive to things political, and wonder what changes will be in store after next January's inauguration.

In the 19th century, there was a political topic that absolutely riveted many thousands. It threads its way though otherwise disconnected, major events and oddly unites them. It is the subject of who gets Federal jobs once the old is swept out and the new triumphantly sweeps in.

Civil Servants

Civil service began in India, and spread back to England by 1854. Civil Servants include all those employed in the civil administration (non-military) and excluding elected officials.

Civil service personnel in any democratic country are those thousands and millions of job holders who exist to keep governments running, the lesser and greater functionaries that are the grease for the lumbering machine of government. Recruiting and advancement procedures are purposefully designed to restrict civil servants from politics by choosing them by examination, then promoting them on the basis of merit scores. Postal carriers, National Park guards, second assistant secretaries of the Treasury, etc., all belong.

The system that developed over the first six Presidential administrations for appointing federal workers, assistants, secretaries, clerks, postmasters, and all other personnel, on the whole, worked well.

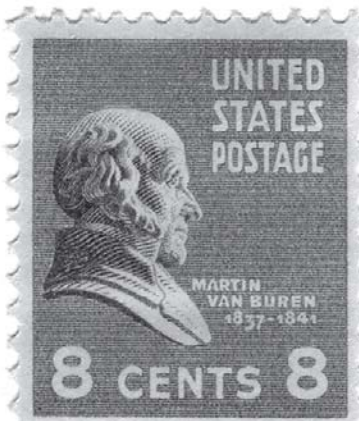
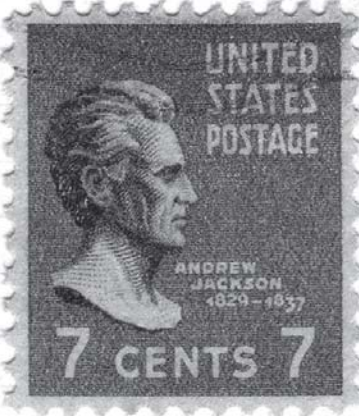
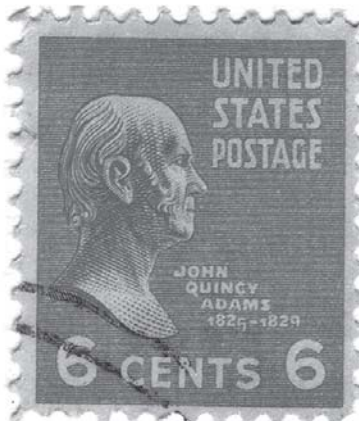
George Washington, coming from the army, where merit generally set the standard, chose nominees with care after investigating their capabilities and reputations. Honesty and efficiency were Washington's paramount considerations. However, his "fitness test" included, in addition to ability (agree or not), whether the person was a Federalist.

Army officers might naturally get a preference, though he made sure candidates came from various sections of the country. He also was diplomatic by choosing local officials with the help of Congress.

President John Adams continued to look for demonstration of ability in a candidate for public office. However, personal prejudice and partisan politics influenced him more than Washington. The notorious "midnight appointments" made in the final days of Adams' administration occurred when he attempted to 'salt' Jefferson's incoming Democratic administration with favorite Federalists. In this way he hoped to blunt Jefferson's ideas and obtain a lasting influence through the growing Judicial Branch. (George H. Bush's judicial appointments since 2001 have been made with the same unabashed goal.)

A bitter Jefferson retaliated. Most government positions were held by Washington and Adams Federalists, so Jefferson "redressed the balance" and appointed only Democrat stalwarts until a balance had been reached. Though blamed for partisanship, Jefferson wrote that his removals and appointments were "as few as possible, done gradually", only permitting those truly qualified.





War has always caused a sharp and sudden increase in the number of civilian as well as military personnel. The War of 1812, under James Madison, was no exception. He, however, gave opposition party members a share in his civilian appointments, which was in accord with his principles and the practical consideration for securing a united front during the three year crisis.

The Tenure Act

During the “Era of Good Feelings” under James Monroe, political party divisions were minimalized, thus he could further the good feeling of that period. He adopted what he called an “amalgamation policy”. His appointments ignored party affiliation.

But the Tenure of Office Act of 1820 under Monroe opened the door to the ‘spoils system’ of the future. By its provisions, the terms of many officials were limited to four years, corresponding with that of the President. Supporters believed that most officials would naturally be reappointed based on their acquired knowledge and capability. Balancing this was a method for removing unsatisfactory office holders called ‘rotation’: one out and a replacement in.

The Tenure of Office Act within a decade would make removal from office the customary thing to do, but neither Monroe nor president #6, John Quincy Adams, took advantage of this. Both reappointed people of merit to office.

Patronage is the operative word. John Quincy Adams has principles and refused to give into his party, whose adherents clamored for outgoing Monroe administration jobs. Adams would be the last to take this conservative, enlightened view of the power of appointment and removal. Their civil servants were generally of high quality, and had both ability and integrity.

For the most part, the first five Presidents –all Founding Fathers— would have seen the upcoming ‘spoils system’ as detestable. For the present, political parties had not yet become too powerful, so these men’s personalities were the dominating factor. The number of Federal posts, frankly, was small and expenditures from the treasury were not as tempting as they would become. Patronage as a weapon of political warfare and financial nourishment was still on the horizon.

Darker Days Dawn

A look at any list of postmasters of the 1830s through 1870s shows a direct correlation between the victorious party in office and the changing name plates on the local post office door. Add to this *every other* federal job from cabinet posts to the lowliest paper shuffler, excluding of course the regular military. At the peak of the spoils era, each change in national administration was the signal for wholesale removal of Government employees in order to provide jobs for the supporters of the new President and his clique.

Incoming presidents routinely set aside other business during the month after inauguration to concentrate on the hordes of hopefuls who descended on the Capital.

Jackson’s application of the spoils system was an extremist implementation of the Tenure Act and illustrates the extent of the rough and tumble of political patronage by the 1830’s. Fitness for office was given far less consideration

WASHINGTON.

Wholesale Decapitation—Peter G. Washington—List of the Dismissed, &c., &c.
 WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 20, 1853.

Not a little consternation spread throughout the city to-day at the announcement of a wholesale slaughter in the Sixth Auditor's Bureau. This bureau is located in the General Post-Office, its duties being to audit and settle accounts of that department, in which it employs nearly one hundred clerks. It is, of course, a branch of the Treasury Department, and under the direction, therefore, of the Secretary of the Treasury.

PETER G. WASHINGTON, now Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, formerly filled the office of Sixth Auditor, in which position he achieved a reputation for heartless proscription that has made him exceedingly unpopular with all classes. Though undoubtedly an experienced officer, his elevation to the post he now fills was occasion of great regret to many of his own party, among whom a decided opposition seems to be at present organizing. The complaint is that he is dictatorial, overbearing and unkind in his manner towards those whose business with the Government, or applications for office, bring them in official intercourse with him.

Prominent and influential Democrats in my hearing to-day, poured out their maledictions upon him, mingled with not a few regrets that Secretary GUTHRIE—probably with a view of relieving himself of a portion of his official cares—permits his Assistant to be Secretary in all important matters of detail, and thus leaves men who should be treated with consideration, entirely to his mercies, which they don't appear to consider very tender. What is to be the result of this family jar, it would be difficult to predict. I give the facts only.

The following is a list of the Clerks who were removed to-day:

A. C. Finney; J. R. Wilson, Coan.; W. W. Street, D. C.; E. H. Thompson; Albert H. McRea, La.; Samuel Kepler, Penn.; G. W. Mitchell, Va.; W. O. Lumsden, Va.; J. P. Shields, Ohio; John Douglas, Va.; W. H. Colledge, Ohio; John McKenney; Thomas Gray; J. C. Kennedy, D. C.; E. W. Fortney; J. A. Browne, Ohio; J. W. Morehead, Pa.; L. J. Middleton, D. C.; N. A. Ramsey, North Carolina.

The foregoing are all Whigs, whose removal was deemed "necessary for the good of the public service."

J. F. CALDWELL, SAMUEL FITZHUGH, and G. D. HANSON, superannuated Clerks, were removed, and their sons appointed in their places.

The following-named Whigs, who are retained in office, were razed in official rank, and had their pay reduced about \$200 per annum each; W. T. DARRELL, W. C. LIBSCOMB, JOHN F. SHARRETT, C. T. POPE and P. WASHINGTON.

The following-named Democrats were promoted to places with increased salaries: H. ST. GEORGE OFFUTT, JOHN F. BOONE, J. L. DAVIS, GILES DYER, JAMES COOLIDGE, JOHN P. WHEELER, M. JOHNSON, L. J. ANDERSON.

The following appointments of Democrats to fill vacancies have been made:

Elias Yulee, of Ohio, salary \$1,400; Alfred Russell, of Tennessee, \$1,200; Henry Rogers, of Pennsylvania, \$1,600, (Principal of the Pay Division); John Donnelson, of Tennessee, \$1,000; G. W. Mounts, of Mobile; A. J. Dallas, of Pennsylvania.

THOMAS J. JOHNSTON, of Mississippi, an old experienced and accomplished officer of the Treasury Department, was a few days since appointed Chief Clerk of the Sixth Auditor's Bureau, in place of GIDEON J. BALL, of Pennsylvania, resigned.

Figure 1 This article from the New York Times datelined April 20, 1853, 46 days after the inauguration of Franklin Pierce (Dem). It singles out Peter Washington (signer of the letter shown in this article). His own party members considered him "dictatorial, overbearing, and unkind", yet he was promoted by Pierce to Asst Secy of the Treasury. As retribution after election, Whig civil servants were either demoted, removed, or retained at lesser salaries.

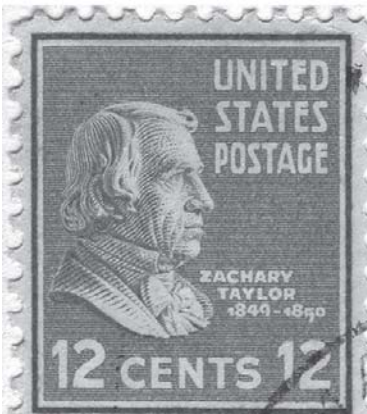
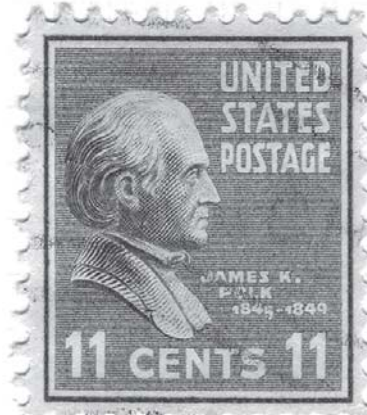
under Jackson, who was a hard-headed administrator, than under the more philosophic Jefferson or Madison. The result was a deteriorating quality of public service.

The job-hungry mobs greedily clamored for post office, customs house, and Treasury Department appointments. Jackson stated that the trained, re-appointed officials in Washington constituted a dangerous bureaucracy. (This parallels the distrust today of some for anyone working 'inside the Beltway'). Spoils System adherents believed that continuance in office would ultimately lead to a privilege few 'ruling' by inheritance. Jackson said:

...the duties of all public offices are, or at least admit of being, made so plain and simple that men of intelligence may readily qualify themselves for their performance ... I cannot but believe that more is lost by the long continuance of men in office than is generally gained by their experience.

By Jackson's time, government had become much more complex, but Jackson's 'rotation' via spoils to the victor would place in those complex positions men who had very little training to run them.





Similar arguments have been heard in this generation about term limits. Should men and women be forced from elected office after, say, two terms, lest they become complacent? But how long would it take for their replacements to learn the subtleties of the job, the way business is done, and get a handle on the vast details inherent in every subject brought up for vote? How much less important were the jobs and acquired knowledge base of 19th century unelected government workers?

Spoils System Strength

Martin Van Buren proved himself a master at building a political machine at the Federal level from what he had learned of it in Albany NY. After inauguration in 1837, he closely followed Jackson's politically motivated method of removal and appointment, but the results caught up with him. Fraud in public office was profuse. Collector of the Port of New York Samuel Swartwout, whose funds were \$210,000 short in Jackson's first term, nevertheless was reappointed. Under Van Buren he fled to Europe with over \$1,250,000 of the people's money.

There always has been a see-saw battle for power between the Legislative and Executive Branches. Strong executives could hold Congress at bay, but with weak administrations as the next 20 years would prove allowed Congress to take the reins on who would win Department posts and everyone beneath.

The Whigs took over in the election of 1840, during a deep recession, but lost no time in making use of spoils tactics under William Henry Harrison. An estimated 40,000 wannabees swarmed to Washington armed with introductory letters. Some staged sit ins in Cabinet Member offices and White House, and some slept in White House corridors.

Harrison favored rewarding political adherents with public jobs and planned to remove large numbers of officeholders because they had been politically active while in office, a conflict of interest. But Harrison after 30 days as president died. Though nearly 70 when elected, he doubtless died of pneumonia, though many historians say the real culprit was the wear and tear of dealing with the spoils system!

John Tyler, nicknamed "his Accidency", had set the precedent by succeeding his running mate. While not a thorough-going Whig, he still felt bound to carry out Harrison's intentions, though less intensely than Harrison would have advised.

Wholesale dismissals and replacements followed when James Polk was inaugurated in 1845 and when the Whigs came back again with Zachary Taylor in 1849, where he reversed Polk's removals.

Polk, in his inaugural speech, promised the dismissal of dishonest officers, but said nothing about retaining others based on their merit. The result was the usual multitude of aspirants descending on the Capital like locusts. The result was that Polk removed more incumbents than any of the ten preceding presidents put together. Then under his successor, Zachary Taylor, *one-third* of the entire government workforce was removed or forced to resign.

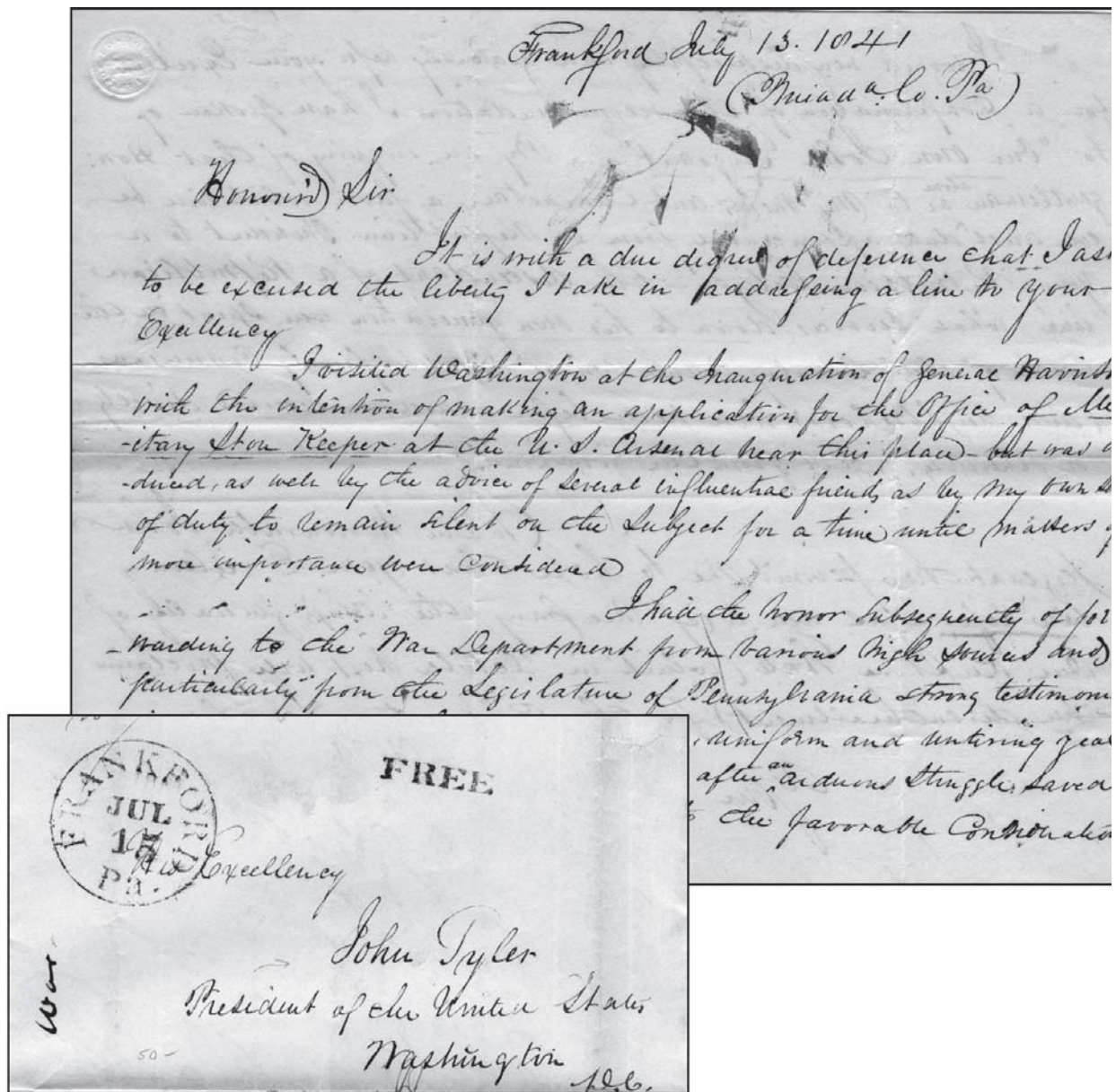


Figure 2 The writer in 1841, three months after William Henry Harrison's surprising death, wrote to 'his Accidency' John Tyler, soliciting a job at the Frankford Arsenal just beyond Philadelphia. Tyler, a Whig, followed in the footsteps of Democrat Andrew Jackson in carrying on the Spoils System, so very possibly the writer got his wish—IF he was a Whig.

Blowing in the Wind

By the time Franklin Pierce was inaugurated on March 4, 1853, the spoils system had become the accepted means of conducting the public's business. But now, different factions within the victorious party began to quarrel over division of the spoils.

The spoils system had become increasingly, obviously destructive. Gen. Winfield Scott was seriously hampered during the Mexican War by insubordinate volunteer officers (not regular army) who had been appointed for non-military reasons.

In 1853, Congress finally passed legislation that was the first Federal attempt to appoint qualified employees. It contained an historically significant provision: a salary scale for four classes of clerks in the Treasury, War, Navy, and



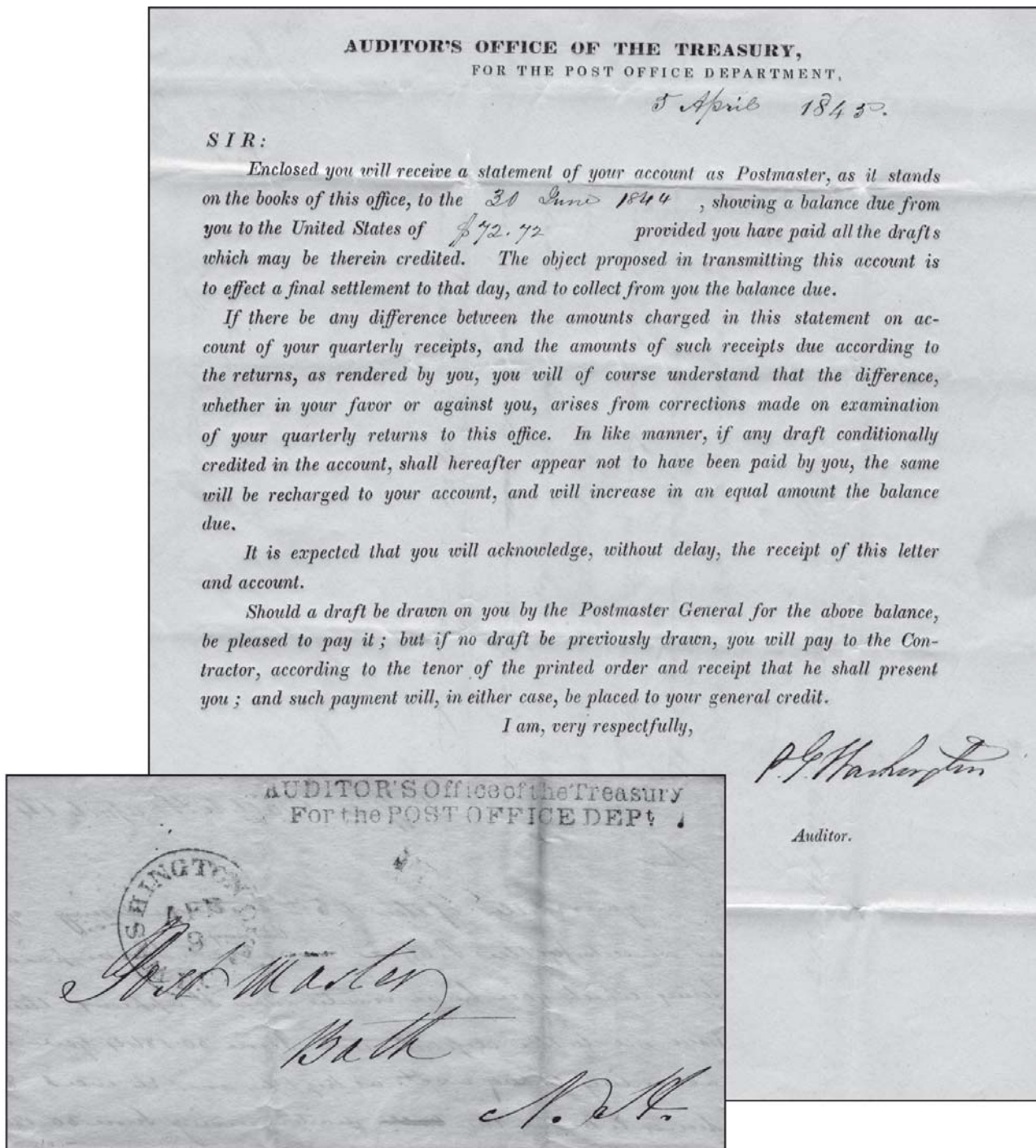


Figure 3 The front and contents of a balance due letter to the post master at Bath NH, April 5, 1845, signed by PO-Treasury Auditor P. G. Washington. From his 1872 obituary: "...He was a native of Virginia, but came to this city when a youth, and on reaching his majority was appointed to a clerkship in the Treasury, and during his life filled the position of chief clerk of the Treasurer's Office; chief clerk of 6th Auditor; 1st Assistant Postmaster General, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury...". 'Rotation' of the party faithful into government jobs they may not be fit for was rampant. Of course, those removed may themselves have been equally incompetent, though experienced.

Interior Departments, between \$900 and \$1,800 per year. Examining Boards were to screen applicants. These so-called “pass” examinations were not the solution since the exam required someone’s political pull in the first place.

With James Buchanan as President in 1857, war’s storm clouds were gathering. Despite this, he occupied his time with spoils system concerns as though no crises imperiled the country. He ultimately announced the most extreme policy on spoils: for him to carry out the traditional ‘policy of rotation’, the entire civil service should be replaced.

Lincoln as Dishonest Broker?

In spite of a profound dislike of the spoils system in all quarters and the realization of its dangers, particularly in a time of mounting secession, Abraham Lincoln made in 1861 the cleanest sweep of office holders yet seen. He doled out patronage to help quench the angry elements of his new Republican Party, and as a result to obtain all the cooperation necessary from Congress to pursue the Civil War. He removed more than 1,400 Buchanan incumbents, more than twice as many removals as the previous record holder Pierce had made.

As the war drew to a close, Lincoln reversed himself and dealt a blow to the spoils system. In March 1865, though he had but a month more to live, he refused the idea of removing appointees of his first administration to make room for a new set of supporters in the second who had gone ‘unrewarded’. Had Lincoln lived, Civil Service reform might have come about 25 years sooner. In fact, this time it would lead to impeachment.

Andrew Johnson’s Trials

Andrew Johnson was Lincoln’s second Vice President and a Jacksonian Democrat, nominated to unite Republicans and Democrats for final victory. As a congressman and senator, Johnson advocated the spoils view, and after he was sworn in he fought bitterly with Congress for control of Southern Reconstruction by using patronage to empower himself.

But the ‘Radical Republicans’ passed a second Tenure of Office Act of March 2, 1867, over his veto. This law gave the Senate the right to okay Johnson’s own Cabinet members. Johnson nonetheless removed Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, and the resulting impeachment and trial failed by only one vote. He remained a quiet president for the remaining six months of his term.

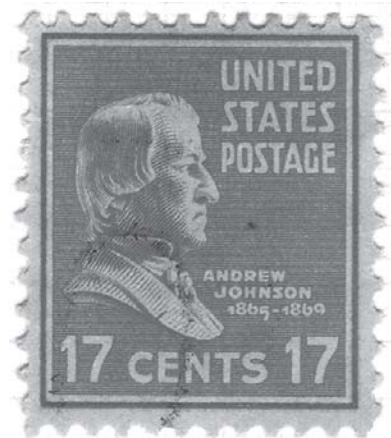
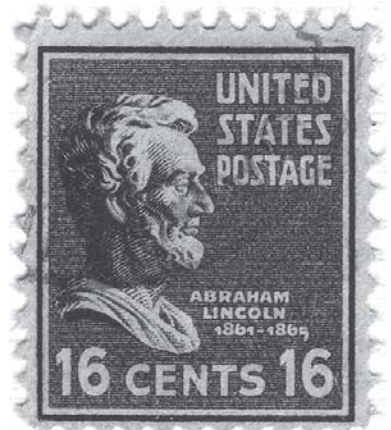
Reform’s ‘Big Mo’

Another unsuccessful step toward reform was attempted by Rep. Thomas A. Jenckes and Senator and Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz, great names in the civil service crusade.

In 1868, a committee reported out the evils of the existing system to Congress, and said it favored the introduction of a *competitive* exam scheme. This suggestion seemed too novel and the idea was temporarily defeated.

General Ulysses S. Grant was elected president on a reform platform, which included a promise to reform civil service too. Though Grant’s two administrations were marked by corruption by many of his appointees, he still favored strong reforms. His Advisory Board of the Civil Service (later, the Civil Service Commission) recommended:

Classification of all positions into groups according to the duties to be performed, and into grades for purposes of promotion.



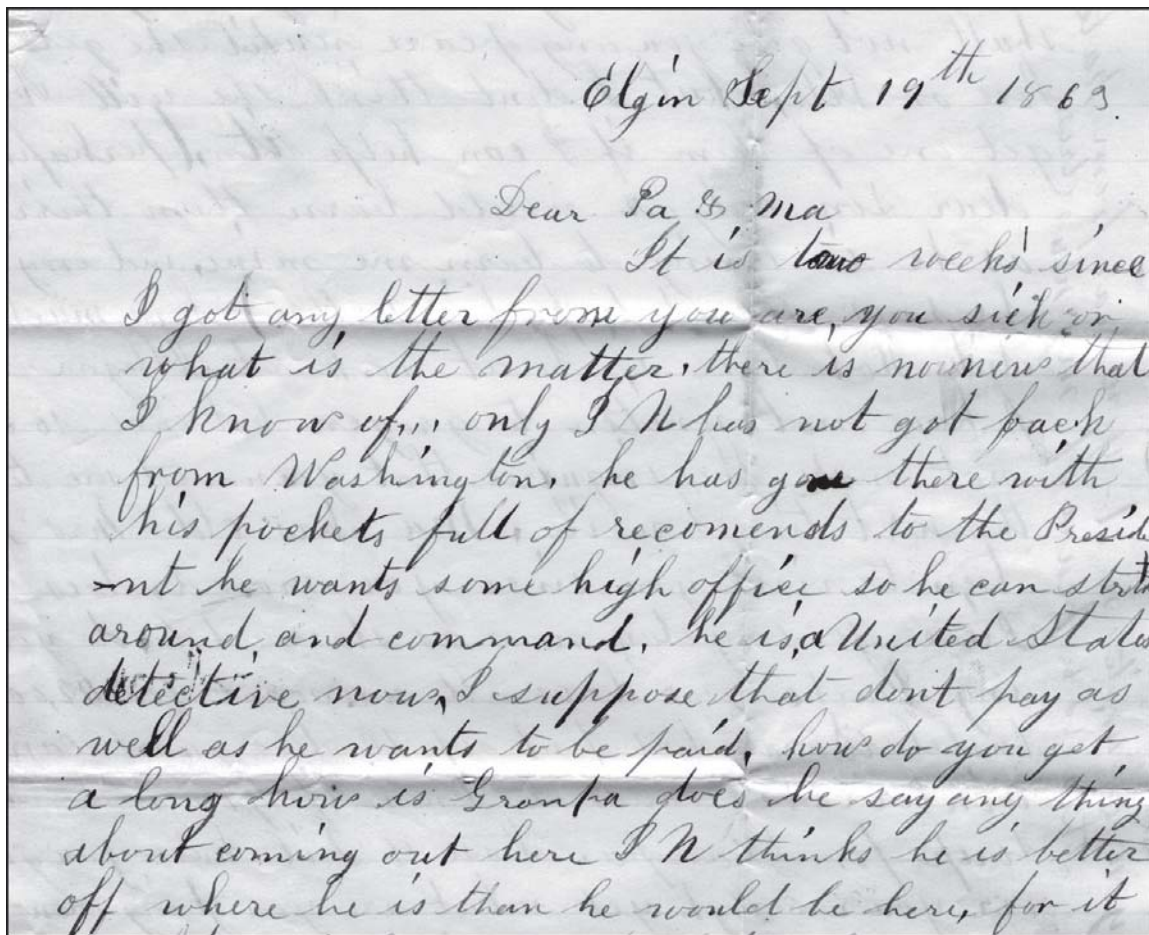


Figure 4 A letter from Elgin IL to Allegom MI, June 1863. I refers to "...I.N. has not got back from Washington, he has gone there with his pockets full of recomends to the President he want some high office so he can strut around and command, he is a United States detective now, I suppose that don't pay as well as he wants to be paid, how do you get a long how is Grampa does he say any thing about coming out here I N thinks he is better off where he is than he would be here, for it

Competitive examinations for appointment to all positions within the lowest grade of each group.

Competitive promotion examinations to fill positions in grades above the lowest.

A 6-month probationary period following appointment.

Boards of examiners in each department to do the actual work of examining candidates and maintaining lists of qualified applicants.

After Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes presided over a period of growth in reform activity and of support by the public. Associations formed which soon merged into the National Civil Service Reform League.

The Death of Spoils

Four years later, in 1881, when James A. Garfield was inaugurated, the executive branch and the public favored reform and Congress was not opposed. But it would take the shock of Garfield's improbable mur-

der to provide a catalyst. His inaugural address only mentioned regulation of removals and said nothing about the competitive examinations that his party platform endorsed.

Soon a patronage dispute developed between the President and N.Y. Senator Chester A. Conkling over the collector of the Port of New York. The wrangling attracted attention from Charles J. Guiteau, one of many wannabees seeking government work. He visited the White House daily to press his ambition for a job.



On July 2, 1881, the President was waiting in the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station to go on vacation. Guiteau used a 44-caliber revolver and one of two bullets struck the President's back. He died two and a half months later on September 19.

The country reacted profoundly, as evidenced by *Harper's Weekly*. The October 1 issue's editorial, "The Significance of Guiteau's Crime," condemned the crime in florid words.

Death aroused more indignation than reformers could have mustered alone. Impatience became anger. Newspapers and magazines and pulpits blasted the spoils system, condemning it as evil incarnate.

On December 6, 1881, five months after the gun was fired, Sen. George H. Pendleton introduced a bill into Congress. It was reported to the Senate on May 15, 1882, but found little Congressional enthusiasm despite petitions signed by tens of thousands.

Voters Act

The fall 1882 elections demonstrated beyond doubt that the citizens demanded a Civil Service Act. Enraged voters voted several congressmen out of office. The word was finally heard.

Powerful help came from Chester A. Arthur, Garfield's successor, though ironically he had been himself the focus of spoils investigation when collector of the Port of New York. He declared he was in favor of whatever civil service legislation was enacted. Congress acted. Debate began on December 12, 1882; a full year after the bill had been entered into Congress, it was debated almost daily through December 27.

Then the rapid vote in the Senate was 38 to 5 in favor, with 33 Senators absent (!). In the House they voted 155 to 47, with 85 (!) not voting. The Pendleton Act arrived on Chester A. Arthur's desk on January 16, 1883. His signature made front page headlines.

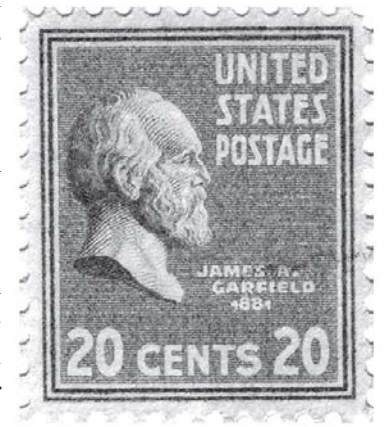
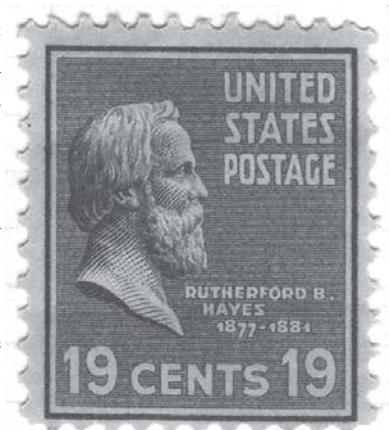
The basic principles in the new Civil Service Act, "An Act to Regulate and Improve the Civil Service of the United States", have gone basically unchanged in over 125 years.

A commission drafted it; the first rules divided the Civil Service into three sections: Department Service in Washington, the Postal Service, and the Customs Service. On July 16, 1883, the provisions of the act went into effect.

Post Office First

The Commission prepared application forms then toured the country establishing local boards at 23 post offices and at 11 customs houses across the nation. A Central Examining Board and three special boards were created for the State Department, the Patent Office, and the Pension Bureau in Washington.

The first person appointed under the merit law was Ovington E. Weller of Maryland. On August 29, 1883, he was appointed as post office clerk at a salary of \$1,000 a year. He was a lawyer by profession and later was elected U.S. Senator from Maryland.





Harrison's Ax, a Last Gasp

When Benjamin Harrison was inaugurated in 1889, former (Democratic) President Grover Cleveland's order to include Railway Mail Service jobs under the new competitive system had not yet been fully carried out. Harrison decided to postpone implementation for three months so he could remove 38,500 not-quite-yet Democratic position holders from the RMS. This number was more jobs than Cleveland had created in his entire first term. Very few Democrats escaped Harrison's ax.

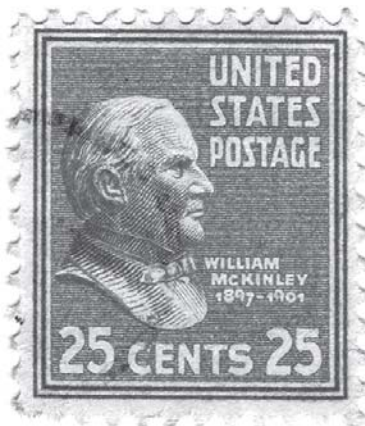
He announced he would firmly adhere to civil service rules however, and to do so appointed the vigorous 31-year old Theodore Roosevelt to be Civil Service Commissioner. Harrison did innovate the keeping of employee efficiency records so they could be used as a basis for making meritorious promotions.

On taking office from Harrison for a second presidency in 1893, Grover Cleveland began to double the size of the merit civil service. Finally, in May 1896, Cleveland unified Civil Service rules so as to replace the individual regulations developed by the several subordinate branches. It has gone largely unaltered since.

And so...

Discussing the topic of Civil Service versus the Spoils System, as suggested at the beginning, encompasses the deaths of four presidents, the Mexican and Civil War, Postmaster appointments, skullduggery at the Port of New York, the Railway Mail Service, 'Dishonest' Abe, Whigs, Republicans, Democrats, patronage, plus the kitchen sink.

Office seekers have and will do anything to get a job, including those running for our highest office, who sometimes promise the impossible. For democracy to work reasonably smoothly, it takes experimentation and theory development across many years. Eventually the right answers and solutions should develop. While the Spoils System seemed right for the 1830's and 40's, time and common sense forced a reevaluation, and the Civil Service was created.



Milcopex 2008 to Promote State Postal History and Collecting/Exhibiting on a Shoestring

The Milcopex Committee has announced the theme for this year's show: Skinflint Philately. Milcopex will also host the Midwest state postal history exhibiting competition.

The "Skinflint Philately" theme is intended to show that one does not need buckets of money to enjoy philately or exhibit successfully. Milcopex 2008 plans to execute this theme with educational programs focusing on how one might start or develop an enjoyable collection without spending a lot of money.

Milcopex will host the inaugural "Exhibiting on a Shoestring" competition. Exhibits in that competition will be limited to philatelic material costing no more than \$100 per frame. The exhibits will, however, still be judged by regular APS standards. In addition to the usual medals and special awards available to all competitive exhibits, "Shoestring" exhibits will compete for the top cheapskate award.

Established exhibitors and others should view this as an inexpensive introduction to exhibiting, or as another way to add some fun and a new challenge to their exhibiting.

Milcopex will also host the Midwest state postal history exhibiting competition, modeled after one originating at Ropex 2004 in Rochester, New York. It is intended to encourage state and local postal history exhibiting by members of state postal history societies in the Midwest.

Milcopex 2008 will be held September 12 – 14, 2008, at a new location, in the Alumnae Dining Room in Bergstrom Hall at Mount Mary College, 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Thirty-five stamp dealers from around the Midwest and across the nation are expected.

Milcopex will include up to 220 16-page frames for exhibitors. As an APS World Series of Philately show, the Grand Award winner is eligible for the annual "Champion of Champions" competition at Stampshow.

For a bourse application, an exhibitors prospectus and entry form, or to obtain additional information, see the website: www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org, or contact by mail, Robert Henak, Milcopex 2008 Show Chairman, P.O. Box 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217-0832, or by email at henak8010@sbcglobal.net

A Rare and Significant Postal Marking of Columbus, Mississippi, 1826

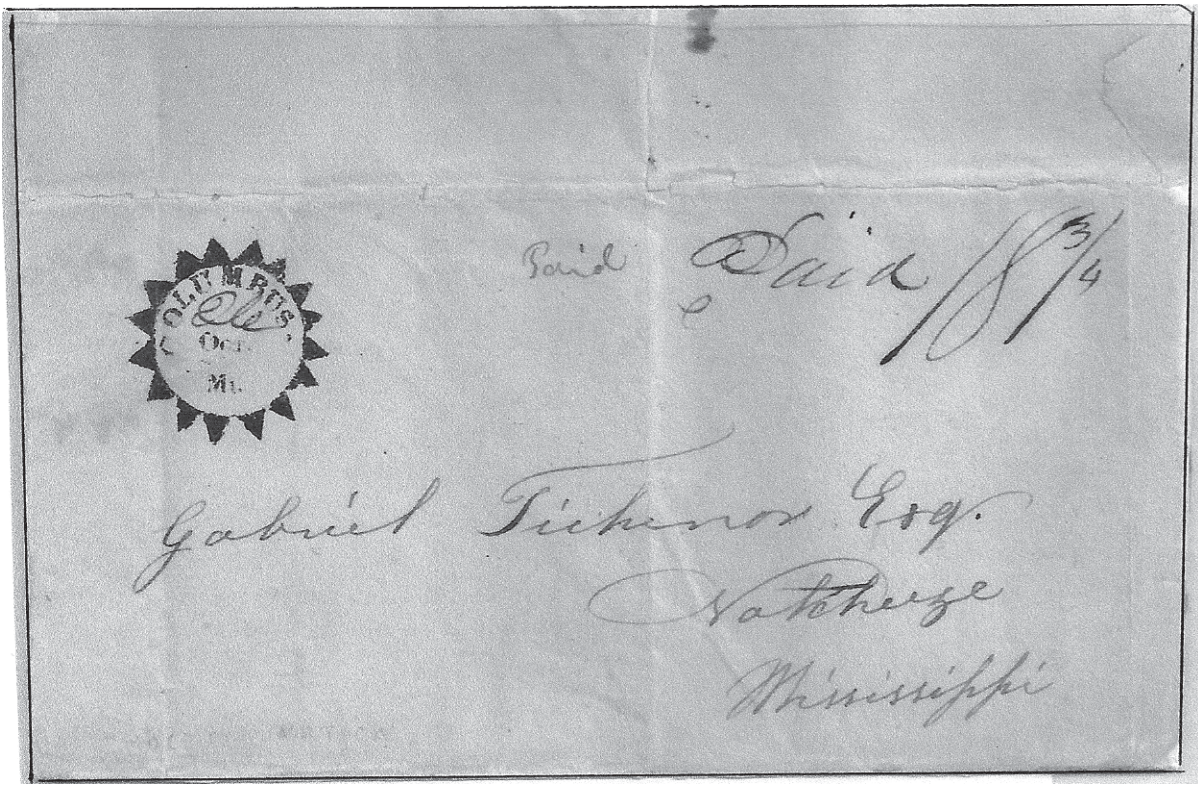


Figure 1 A Columbus, Miss. "sunburst" dating from October 26, 1826.

By Jim Doolin

During much of the early decades of the 19th century postmasters were allowed to create their own postmarking devices. This was a time when many postmarking devices were hand carved from various types of wood. A number of years ago I acquired the fancy postmark shown in *figure 1*, which I call a "sunburst" postmark. This postmark is dated by letter content as Oct. 26, 1826. *Figure 2* is a second example that is dated Oct. 30 on a folded letter sheet (fls) addressed to the governor of Mississippi at Jackson the state capitol. It appears to be used just four days after the date of my letter. There is no original content with this fls.

Two questions eventually occurred to me, (1) what was the significance of this marking and (2) why was it initiated in 1826? I came to learn that the symbolism of the "sunburst" means a "new beginning" and has been used many times over the last two hundred plus years on coins, currency, stamps, stock certificates and

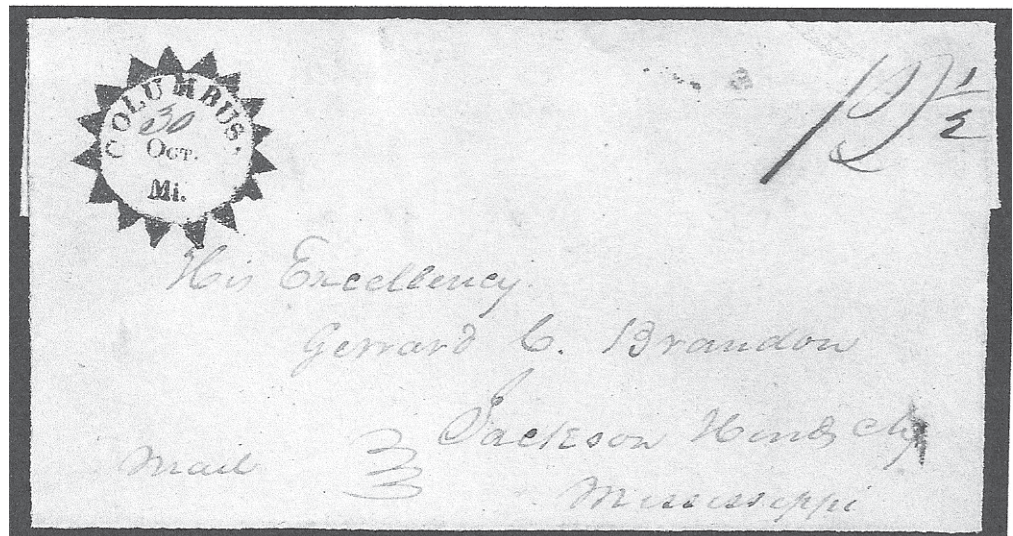


Figure 2 This "sunburst" dates from just four days after the one above.

state seals of various U.S. states. Then I learned it was used over 4,000 years ago by the Egyptians. Their most important god was called “Ra” the sun god.

Going to my second question which was “why was it initiated in 1826”, took some more thought. Eventually it occurred to me that July 4, 1826 was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—the same day that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson the 2nd and 3rd presidents of the U.S. died. Of course no one could have predicted that event.

Going back to symbolism, it then occurred to me that the maker of this fancy postmark was using this marking to observe the 50th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence. As I continued to think about the symbolism, I then realized that July 4, 1826 was not just the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, but the 50th anniversary of “a new beginning” in the “new world”. The United States was the first country in the new world to gain its independence. Columbus the man was the discoverer of the “new world”.

I then began to study the postmark itself and eventually began to see symmetry evident in it. The name “Columbus” has eight letters. It sits inside a 26 mm (outside diameter) postmark ringed with 16 pyramids. Adding up the numbers $8 + 26 + 16$, I realized totaled 50! Was this math a coincidence or does this post-

mark contain a well crafted and thought out symbolism whose significance to American postal history has been lost, until now?

The earliest postmarks of most small or beginning towns are manuscript markings. If the volume of business rose, most postmasters in the early years of the 19th century would make up their own postmarking devices to save time in marking the outgoing mail. The earliest manuscript markings of Columbus, Mississippi start in 1821. By 1826 Charles Abert was appointed postmaster taking the job on April 20, 1826. He would serve until March 3, 1837, nearly eleven years as postmaster. It is under his administration that we see the first handstamp markings of Columbus. In the 1820s many Mississippi postmasters were using a two letter abbreviation for the state which was “Mi.”. With the advent of zip codes in 1963 the post office assigned the two letter abbreviation of MI to Michigan and MS to Mississippi.

The purpose of this article is to elicit other examples of the sunburst marking. In addition to the two examples shown above. Thus far, I have recorded one other earlier example which has been dated by letter content from September 1826. A July or August 1826 usage which could be confirmed by letter content or by docketing would be exciting.

jamesdoolin@att.net

Transcript of the Letter

Mayhew, C.N. 23 Oct. 1826

Mr. Tichenor

Dear sir:

Your letter and enclosure of notes was duly received, for which please accept my grateful obligations. I must trouble you again with a request for \$250.00 in notes and a check on U.S. bank, New Orleans or Philadelphia or New York, if equally convenient for \$200.00 more. Please remit by mail and you will much oblige.

Yours very sincerely,

Cyrus Kingsbury

P.S. I should be glad to receive the remittance by the first mail as there is but little time for a return before I am obliged to leave on a journey.

Charge \$450.00

Additional Notes From Google:

The writer of this letter was Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury who was a Presbyterian minister. He became superintendent of the various Choctaw missions in Miss. by 1818. He established the Mayhew Choctaw Indian Mission in 1820, the location where this letter was written in 1826. In 1830 the Choctaws ceded all their lands in Miss. to the U.S. Government in exchange for lands west of the Mississippi River. Rev. Kingsbury moved with the Indians at this time. Gabriel Tichenor was a cashier at the Bank of Mississippi in Natchez at the time of this letter.

Footnote:

Though we cannot tell from the content of Rev. Kingsbury's letter what the rather large sums of money he was requesting from Gabriel Tichenor were for, it can be surmised that land purchases may have been thereon on behalf of Gabriel Tichenor or the Bank of Mississippi.

A Mail-In Contest: 70,000 Postal Stories

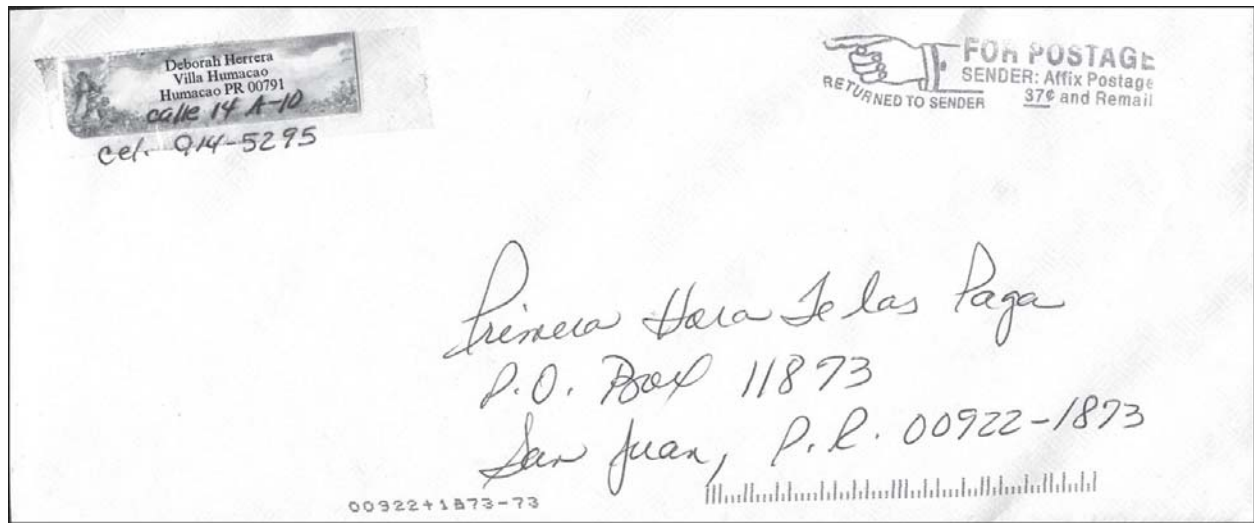


Figure 1 This entry, mailed without postage, was delivered even though there's no indication the fee was paid.

By Jorge Vega-Rivera

Contests tend to attract the widest range of people imaginable. Everyone has his or her reasons to participate, but they are all after the same thing: the big prize.

Recently, I had the opportunity to rummage through 15 mailbags or so full of entries for a contest held by a local newspaper in Puerto Rico. By law, these entries are stored for a year by the organization in charge of the contest, just in case any problems should arise concerning the *chosen few*. Since the contest was held locally, I honestly did not expect to find any interesting usages of stamps or cancels, especially since all intra-island mail is received and postmarked at the General Post Office in Guaynabo. However, I'm glad to say the search proved my assumption wrong.

As a result, the following article will showcase some of the more curious covers found in the bunch and, in the process, perhaps shed some light on the human behavior associated with this type of contest.

THE CONTEST: "PRIMERA HORA TE LAS PAGA"

In terms of circulation, *Primera Hora* is the second largest daily newspaper in Puerto Rico. With its irreverent and eye-catching headlines, full-color images and trendy graphic design, the newspaper appeals mostly to the younger readers of the island, between the ages of 18 and 45. However, its easy-to-read format and emphasis on show business news, also attracts most age groups in Puerto Rico's middle and low-income social brackets. In order to help sustain this readership, *Primera Hora*'s marketing division conducts up to two

mail and internet contests every year, offering everything from travel packages to one-on-ones with well known local entertainers.

From November 14, 2005 until January 10, 2006, the newspaper conducted a contest called "*Primera Hora Te Las Paga*", which can be roughly translated as "Primera Hora Will Pay For You", referring to the participant's domestic and utility bills. More specifically, the contest offered six randomly selected cash prizes of:

- \$100 per month for one year to pay the cellular phone bill;
- \$150 per month for one year to pay the electricity bill;
- \$200 per month for one year to pay for gasoline;
- \$250 per month for one year to pay for groceries;
- \$300 per month for one year for car payments;
- and \$700 per month for one year to pay the mortgage on your home.

However, the winners of these cash awards were free to use the money as they pleased. To participate, contestants needed to send in one front page of the newspaper to the following postal address: *Primera Hora Te Las Paga* / P.O. Box 11873 / San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-1873. A total of 71,773 entries were received through the mail or delivered in person at the newspaper's main office.

AT THE POST OFFICE: "OOPS!"

The more interesting covers found among the entries are the result of mishaps that took place during the sorting process at the post office. Some of these, I suspect, occurred due to the large number of entries

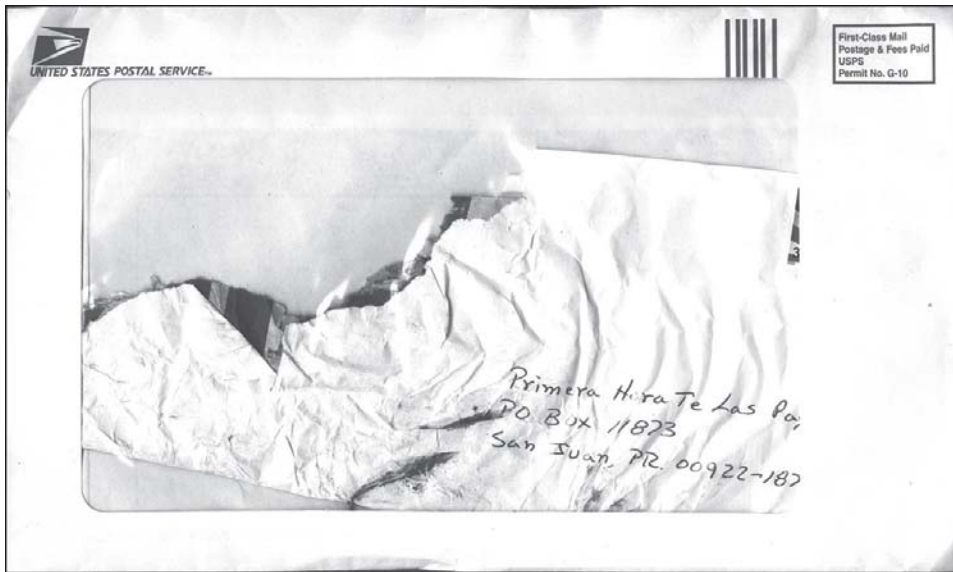


Figure 2 Although this entry arrived in a “body bag”, the sender’s chances of winning were hindered by the loss of his or her contact information.

that arrived each day, as one can imagine the load of letters probably pressured postal clerks into letting some irregularities go through even if they were, in fact, against postal regulations.

The numbers, however, are just part of the issue. Consider, for example, that among the tens of thousands of people who participated, a large percentage of them belonged to a lower income class and, therefore, had a lower level of education. For this reason, many entries show illegible handwriting, were either insufficiently addressed or poorly sealed, and some were incorrectly rated by the participants who ended up paying above or under the required amount of postage.

One example of the many entries that were short paid but went through without penalty is shown in *figure 1*. It was mailed without postage so it was stamped with

the pointing hand “Returned To Sender” marking indicating that the writer must affix 37 cents of postage before remailing. However, there’s no evidence that the sender paid for the postage nor is there any indication that it was either held or returned. But, from the zip and bar code marking at the bottom, we do know it was received at the Caparra post office, where all entries ended up before reaching the newspaper.

An interesting example of the perils brought on by the journey through the post office is an ambulance envelope or “body bag” with a badly torn entry inside (*figure 2*). In this case, even though the entry was received and thus officially entered the contest, the entire upper left corner of the envelope is missing leaving no opportunity for the participant to win, as there is no way to identify the sender had he or she been selected.

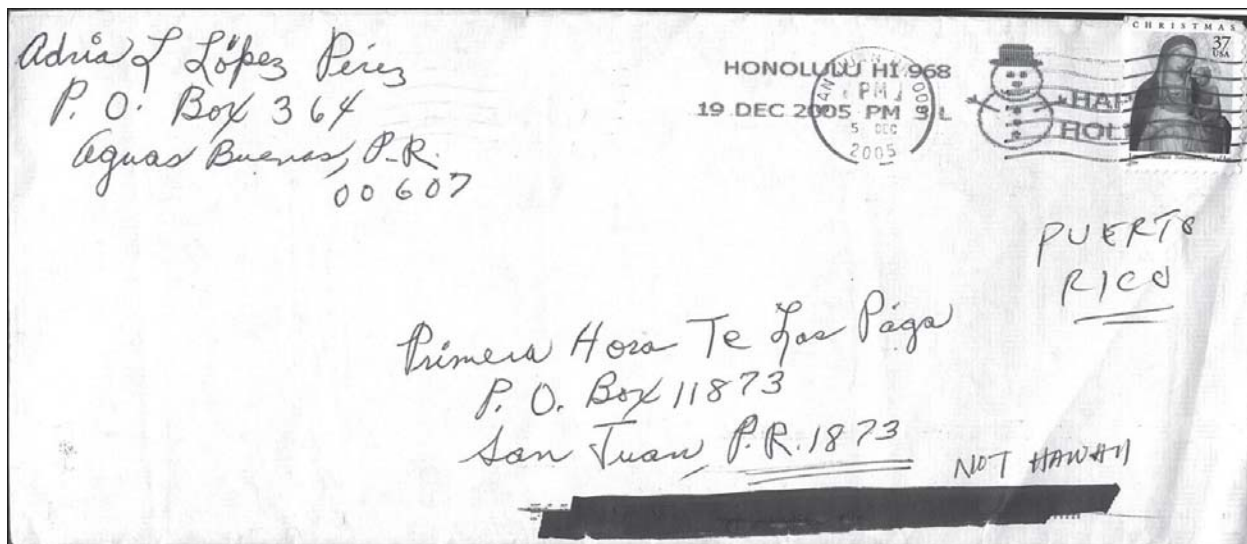


Figure 3 One entry made an amazing but unnecessary journey from Puerto Rico to Hawaii and then back to San Juan, just in time for the contest.

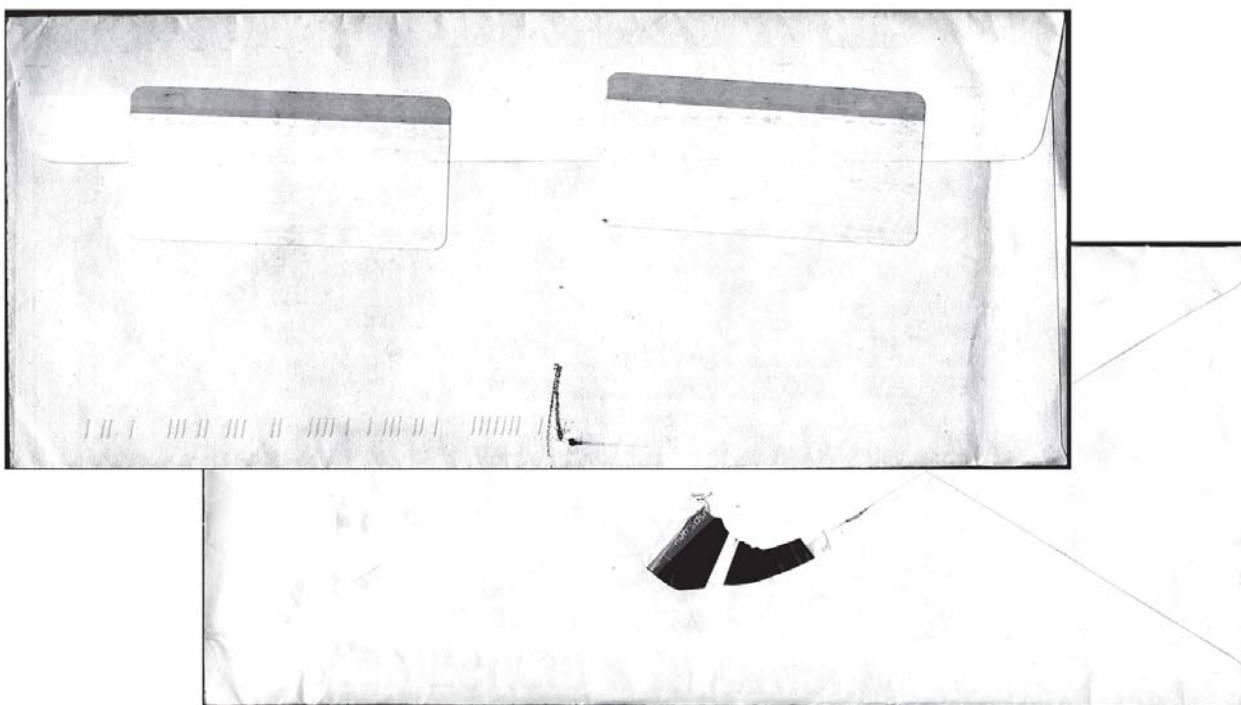


Figure 4 Two entries were “officially” sealed; one with a small piece of the blue cellophane USPS tape and the other, with two blank postage labels.

Figure 3, on the other hand, shows a cover that appears to have been destined to make it safely for the final toss. It was mailed from the north central town of Aguas Buenas, meaning that it only had to travel about 15 miles of highway to reach the GPO in Guaynabo so it could then be forwarded to Caparra’s post office only 4 miles away. However, the entry was somehow forwarded *out* of Puerto Rico, across the Caribbean and the entire 3,000 miles of the continental U.S., all the way to the Hawaiian islands on the Pacific Ocean! There, the cover was cancelled with what is probably a very early use of the HONOLULU HI 968 / “Happy Holidays” inkjet postmark before it was returned to Puerto Rico in time for the contest.

Other mishaps include the covers in figure 4, the backs of which demonstrate they were “officially” sealed at the post office: one (*bottom*) with a small piece of the blue cellophane USPS eagle tape and the other (*top*), with two blank postage labels.

PAYING THE DIFFERENCE: H-RATE STAMPS

Many entries bearing nondenominated stamps were also found in the bunch. Most of them showed usages of the 2006 Liberty and Flag first-class stamps, as well as the Love / True Blue first-class stamps (one of them a second day of use: Jan 3, 2006!)

of the same year. Other examples include the 1998 Breast Cancer (Scott B1) semi postal stamp (this time valued at 37 cents) and even a cut and *re-used* example of the 2003 five cent Sea Coast Nonprofit Organization stamp that was not penalized!

However, in my opinion, the most interesting usages of non-denominated stamps are seen on the entries bearing lettered rate stamps, particularly the “H” rate related stamps. One of them (*figure 5*), paid the 37 cents of postage with an H-rate stamp plus a 1-cent

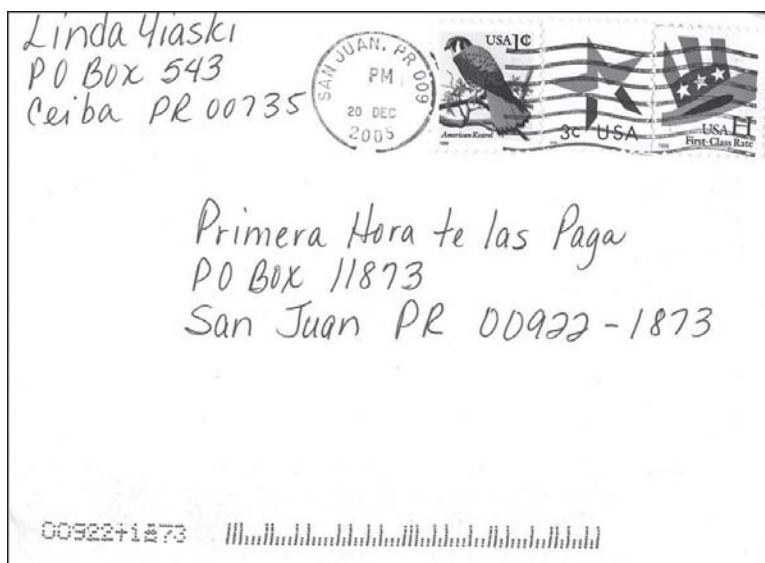


Figure 5 Non-denominated stamps were used on some of the entries, like this one bearing the H-rate stamp

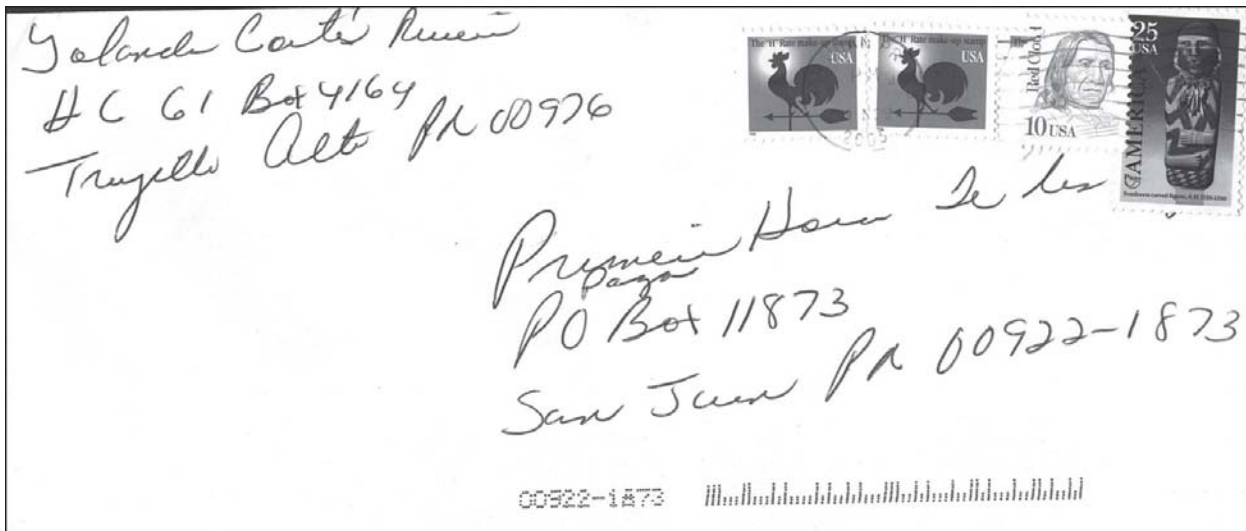


Figure 6 Even though non-denominated stamps are issued in astronomical numbers, finding them in commercial covers from Puerto Rico can be quite a challenge.

American Kestrel stamp and the 3-cent “Star” stamp—the latter issued to pay for the first-class letter rate increase of June 30, 2002.

The H-rate stamp, with Uncle Sam’s hat against a white background, was issued on November 9, 1998 and was assigned a value of 33 cents when the domestic letter rate was increased by one cent on January 10, 1999. These lettered non-denominated stamps are usually issued by the billions to satisfy the demand for new rate stamps after an increase goes into effect. In this case, the letter “H” responds to the alphabetical sequence used to designate these adhesives, which began on May 22, 1978 with the A-rate stamps, equivalent to 15 cents.

A second example of non-denominated stamp usage is shown in *figure 6*. The cover bears a 25-cent Pre Columbian America stamp and a 10-cent Red Cloud stamp, along with two “H” rate make-up stamps. These stamps, equivalent to one cent, were issued simultaneously with the H-rate stamps to pay the difference between the old and the new domestic rate. Even though non-denominated stamps are issued in astronomical numbers, finding them in commercial covers from Puerto Rico can be quite a challenge. I believe these scarce examples are the result of stamp combos assembled by the postal clerk at the time of mailing.

COMPUTER POSTAGE

A mail-in contest that only requires the front cover of a newspaper in order to participate has some advan-

tages over other types of contests. For instance, contests that require writing something or finding an answer often attract fewer entrants because people may feel they do not have the talent or the knowledge to win. On the other hand, if the requirements are minimal and the number of entries per contestant is unlimited, you can bet your bottom dollar contestants will send in multiple entries spread out over the life of the contest.

To facilitate the process of dealing with multiple entries, some participants used personal computer postage printed at home. By subscribing to online services such as Stamps.com or Endicia.com, a person can print as many stamps as they need to fulfill his or her mailing needs, without running short of regular stamps or having to make frequent trips to the post office. Among the entries, I found some interesting usages of personal computer stamps, all of which were issued by Stamps.com. *Figure 7*, for instance, shows a 37-cent



Figure 7 Some entries were franked with “PC” or “computer” postage with Christmas designs such as snowmen and candy canes.



Figure 8 This entry went through the mail even though its computer stamp was only partially printed, missing its value, as well as the zip and scrambled codes.

“Season’s Greetings” snowman computer stamp, sent by a contestant who also printed a “Happy Holidays” candy cane computer stamp to mail in another entry.

However, the most interesting usage of a computer stamp can be seen in *figure 8*. It is a partially printed stamp that is missing most of the required information, apparently due to the fact that the sheet was fed

upside down into the printer. Even though the stamp lacks the value of the postage, as well as both the zip code and the scrambled code at the bottom, the entry went through the mail without even raising eyebrow at the post office! For comparison, a correctly printed stamp from another entry is shown in *figure 9*.

TIED, TIED, TIED

Perhaps because the contest was held during Christmas time or because people were entranced by the happy-go-lucky attitude frequently associated with give-aways, many entries were found to have labels of different kinds tied to the covers. The vast majority of them were Christmas seals issued by the American Lung Association. Some of these were dated “2006” even though they were used during Christmas of 2005. Other entries have UNICEF seals tied by the post-

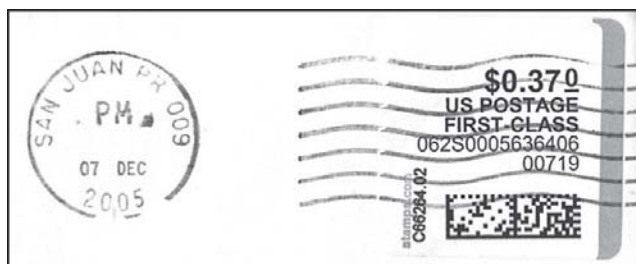


Figure 9 A correctly printed computer stamp.

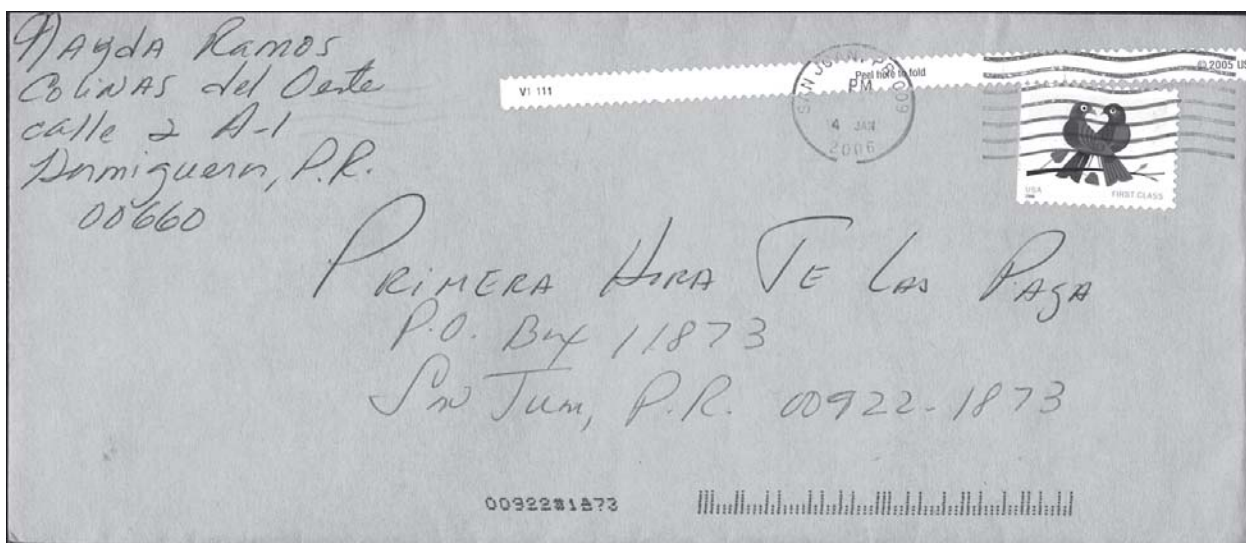


Figure 10 A large number of entries show tied adhesives of different kinds, as in this unusual case.

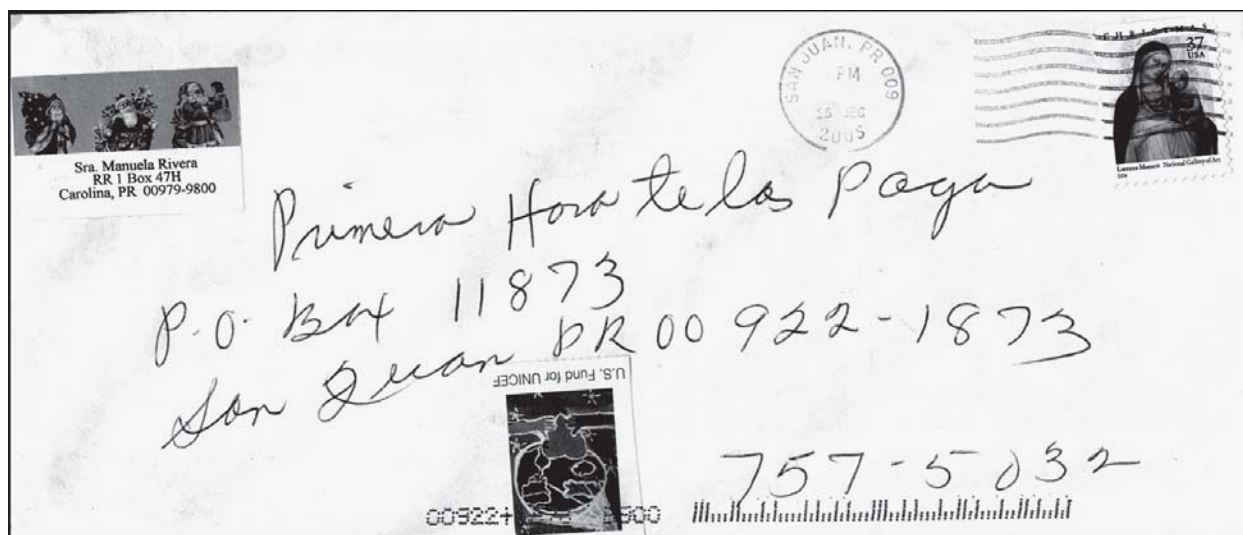


Figure 11 Two examples of tied seals: one issued by UNICEF and the other one by Hospital del Niño de Puerto Rico.

mark and even by the receiving barcode at the bottom of the envelope, called Postnet, which is printed on the mailpiece to make it easier for automated machines to sort.

Carried away by the magical and joyous event of entering the contest, some participants literally sprinkled and bedazzled their entries with all sorts of colorful adhesives. From sporting goods to smiley faces, labels of all shapes and sizes became unintentionally tied to the covers as they passed through the post office. After all, sending in colorful, eye-catching entries improves the chance of being picked from the rotating tombola!

One example can be seen in *figure 10*, where an entry franked with a non-denominated 2006 Love/True Blue first-class stamp shows what appears to be the bottom selvage of a 2005 stamp pane tied to the cover by the San Juan GPO machine postmark. Other tied seals can be seen in *figure 11*.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES ON COVER

A large number of entries show modern commemorative stamps issued between 2004 and 2005. This could be explained by the fact that participants may have chosen

to buy booklets or panes of these stamps in order to submit multiple entries for the contest. Little did they suspect that modern postal history collectors seek scarce commercial usages of these commemorative stamps!

Among the 2004 commemorative issues, we can find entries bearing stamps from series such as Love / Candy Hearts, Garden Blossoms, Theodor Seuss Geisel, Summer Olympic Games - Athens, Art of Disney, Art of the American Indian, Cloudscapes, and Christmas Holiday Ornaments. From the 2005 com-



Figure 12 An entry bearing two stamps from the Nature of America series.

memorative series, we can find stamps like the American Scientists, Spring Flowers, Masterworks of Modern American Architecture, Art of Disney: Celebrations, American Advances in Aviation, Rio Grande Blankets, 50s Sporty Cars, Greta Garbo, Constellations, To Form a More Perfect Union, Let's Dance (*Bailemos*), Jim Henson and the Muppets, Christmas Cookies, and Distinguished Marines, among others.

One group of entries that stood out among the rest had stamps from a few of the Nature of America series (*figure 12*), like the Arctic Tundra (2003), the Pacific Coral Reef (2004) and the Northeast Deciduous Forest (2005).

CONCLUSION

Searching through these entries proved to be rewarding experience. It was actually a back-to-basics learning exercise for me, as my knowledge on modern postal rates and the regulations that control the handling of the mail was put to the test. Also, the fact that these entries were mailed in under what I consider special "emotional" circumstances turned this search into a wonderful opportunity to *meet* these folks through their entries. These, I have to say, are modern postal stories indeed.

* These and other entries are available for sale. Please contact me at: portovega8@yahoo.com

What do these five Presidents

Have in common?

Answer at History News Network: <http://hnn.us/articles/48916.html>

Randy Stehle Mail Bid No. 129

16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401

Phone: (650) 344-3080

Email: RSTEHLE@ix.netcom.com

CALIFORNIA

- 1 SKYLAND HEIGHTS, 1912 F 4-BAR ON PPC (10-19). EST. \$12
- 2 SLATINGTON, 1907 VG DOANE O/S ON PPC (03-20). EST. \$6
- 3 SLIPPERYFORD, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (61-11). EST. \$8
- 4 SOLEDAD, 1909 VG DUPLEX ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 5 SOLEDAD, 1914 F ECU MOT-3470 ON PPC. EST. \$8
- 6 SOUTH LOS GUILICOS, 1891 F CDS ON COVER (89-93). EST. \$60
- 7 SPOONVILLE, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (03-13). EST. \$20
- 8 SPRECKLES, 1911 VG DUPLEX ON PPC (98-73). EST. \$5
- 9 SPRINGS, 1911 F 4-BAR ON PPC (09-12). EST. \$35
- 10 STAGG, 1907 VG DOANE O/S ON PPC (02-26). EST. \$5
- 11 STANWOOD, 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (05-15). EST. \$15
- 12 STENT, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (95-25). EST. \$12
- 13 STONE CANON, 1911 G+ BLUE 4-BAR A BIT H ON PPC (00-32). \$5
- 14 STRAW, 1925 VG 4-BAR ON COVER (02-28). EST. \$15
- 15 SUGAR PINE, 1908 F 4-BAR ON TONED PPC (07-32). EST. \$7
- 16 SUN CITY/QUAIL VALLEY RUR STA, 1964 F 4-BAR ON PC (63-66) \$8
- 17 SUR, 1907 F DOANE REC'D ON PPC W/TEAR (89-13). EST. \$5
- 18 SWANTON, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (89-30). EST. \$6
- 19 SWARTOUT, 1936 F 4-BAR ON PPC (26-42). EST. \$6
- 20 TAHOE CITY/OLYMPIC VALLEY RUR STA, 1961 G+ 4-BAR ON PC. \$5
- 21 TANCRED, 1907 VG DOANE ON CREASED PPC W/TEAR (93-32). \$4
- 22 TASSAJARA, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (96-22). EST. \$12
- 23 TASSAJARA HOT SPRINGS, 1918 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (12-44). EST. \$8
- 24 TASSAJARA HOT SPRINGS, 1930 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (12-44). EST. \$8
- 25 TECNOR, 1934 VG 4-BAR ON COVER (08-35). EST. \$6
- 26 TELEGRAPH CITY, 1890 G+ DC ON REG'D COVER (62-94). EST. \$85
- 27 THE GEYSERS, 1931 VG 4-BAR ON PPC OF SITE (98-35). EST. \$6
- 28 THERMALITO, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (95-30). EST. \$8
- 29 TIBURON/NAVY 10124 BR ON CACHED COVER (43-45). EST. \$20
- 30 TIMBER COVE, 1867 F MS ON COVER W/ENCL (63-93). EST. \$120
- 31 THOMPSON, 1901 VG CDS ON REG'D COVER (83-03). EST. \$100
- 32 TOBIN, 1912 F 4-BAR REC'D & O/S ON PPC (94-15). EST. \$15
- 33 TOWLE, 1917 MAGENTA 4-BAR ON PPC (91-35). EST. \$5
- 34 TRENTON, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC (87-14). EST. \$20
- 35 TUDOR, 1914 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (93-42). EST. \$6
- 36 UNION, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC W/STAIN (00-24). EST. \$8
- 37 UNIVERSITY, 1892 F CDS ON COVER (82-13). EST. \$12
- 38 UNO, 1914 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (92-20). EST. \$12
- 39 UPTON, 1907 F CDS REC'D ON PPC (97-07). EST. \$25
- 40 VALENCIA, 1908 VG 4-BAR REC'D & O/S ON PPC (93-09). EST. \$25
- 41 VALLETON, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON COVER RED'D @ RT (87-18). E. \$12
- 42 VANTRENT, 1912 F DOANE ON PPC (04-18). EST. \$20
- 43 VARAIN, 1909 VG 4-BAR O/S ON PPC (07-19). EST. \$15
- 44 VICTORVILLE/AIR CORPS ADV FLYING SCHOOL, 1944 VG DPLX. \$15
- 45 VINELAND, 1907 G+ CDS REC'D ON PPC (84-22). EST. \$8
- 46 WAKEFIELD, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC (05-18). EST. \$8
- 47 WALSH STATION, 1908 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (76-17). EST. \$12
- 48 WATSONVILLE/LA SELVA BEACH RUR STA, 1956 F 4-BAR ON CVR. \$8
- 49 WENDLING, G+ 4-BAR ON PPC W/TEAR & CORNER GONE (02-14). \$8
- 50 WEST BUTTE, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (63-30). EST. \$6
- 51 WHITEHOUSE, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (97-13). EST. \$20
- 52 WILD FLOWER, 1882 VG DC ON COVER (78-98). EST. \$125
- 53 WILBUR SPRINGS, 1913 F 4-BAR ON PPC (09-45). EST. \$6
- 54 WRIGHTS, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (79-38). EST. \$6
- 55 ZELZAH, 1920 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (11-29). EST. \$12
- 56 ADAMS, 1923 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-60). EST. \$5
- 57 AGUA CALIENTE, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (86-55). EST. \$5
- 58 ALAMORIO, 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (09-17). EST. \$20
- 59 ALCALDE, 1895 VG CDS ON REG'D COVER (88-04). EST. \$40
- 60 ALCATRAZ, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (74-63). EST. \$6
- 61 ALCATRAZ, 1943 VG DUPLEX ON PPC W/STAIN (74-63). EST. \$6
- 62 ALGOMAH, 1908 VG CDS ON CREASED PPC (02-09). EST. \$15
- 63 ALLENDALE, 1907 F CDS ON TONED PPC (03-08). EST. \$12
- 64 ALOSTA, 1887 F CDS ON COVER (83-99). EST. \$75
- 65 AMEDEE, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC W/STAIN (90-24). EST. \$8
- 66 AMERICAN RANCH, 1870's VG CDS ON CVR W/TEAR (55-78). \$175
- 67 ANGEL ISLAND, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (75-45). EST. \$6
- 68 ARBOLADO, ca1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-15). EST. \$12
- 69 ARMADA, 1914 F 4-BAR ON PPC (95-20). EST. \$12
- 70 AROMAS, 1908 G+ DUPLEX REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 71 ARROWBEAR LAKE, 1938 F 4-BAR ON COVER (27-64). EST. \$5
- 72 ARROWHEAD SPRINGS, 1915 F MAGENTA 4-BAR ON PPC (87-42). \$5
- 73 ASIOMAR, 1925 VG LKU MOT-80 ON TONED PPC (14-35). EST. \$8
- 74 ASIOMAR, 1934 VG 4-BAR ON CVR W/CONFERENCE CC. EST. \$12
- 75 ATCHISON, 1908 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (03-12). EST. \$45

COLORADO

- 76 BONANZA, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (80-38). EST. \$8
 - 77 GULCH, 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (95-16). EST. \$35
 - 78 NORTH CREEDE, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-19). EST. \$20
 - 79 SWIFT, 1913 F MAGENTA 4-BAR ON PPC (10-19). EST. \$40
 - 80 WESTCREEK, 1911 F 4-BAR ON PPC (02-68). EST. \$5
- Railway Post Offices (RPOs)**
- 81 DETROIT & ALGONAC RFD STEAMBOAT, ca1908 G+ (Q-3-d) ON PC. 15
 - 82 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1924 VG (X-14-c) ON PPC. EST. \$8
 - 83 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1934 VG (X-14-g) ON PPC. EST. \$12
 - 84 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1936 VG (X-14-h) ON PPC. EST. \$12
 - 85 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1935 VG (X-14-i) ON COVER. EST. \$8
 - 86 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1932 VG (X-14-j) ON COVER. EST. \$8
 - 87 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1941 VG (X-14-l) ON PPC. EST. \$8
 - 88 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1940 VG (X-14-o) ON COVER. EST. \$8
 - 91 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1941 VG (X-14-p) ON PPC. EST. \$12
 - 92 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1941 VG (X-14-v) ON PPC. EST. \$8
 - 93 SEATTLE & SKAGWAY, 1926 VG (X-19-c) ON PPC. EST. \$12
 - 94 SEATTLE & SKAGWAY, 1940 VG (X-19-d) ON COVER. EST. \$8
 - 95 SEATTLE & SKAGWAY, 1939 G+ (X-19-e) ON PPC. EST. \$8
 - 96 SEATTLE & SKAGWAY, 1914 G+ (X-19-h) ON PPC. EST. \$12
 - 97 SEWARD & UNALASKA, 1932 F S.S. STARR (X-49-b) ON CVR. E. \$15

Minimum Bid \$3.00 please. Phone bids accepted.

CLOSING DATE: August 13, 2008 (10 PM Pacific)

United States Diplomatic Mail

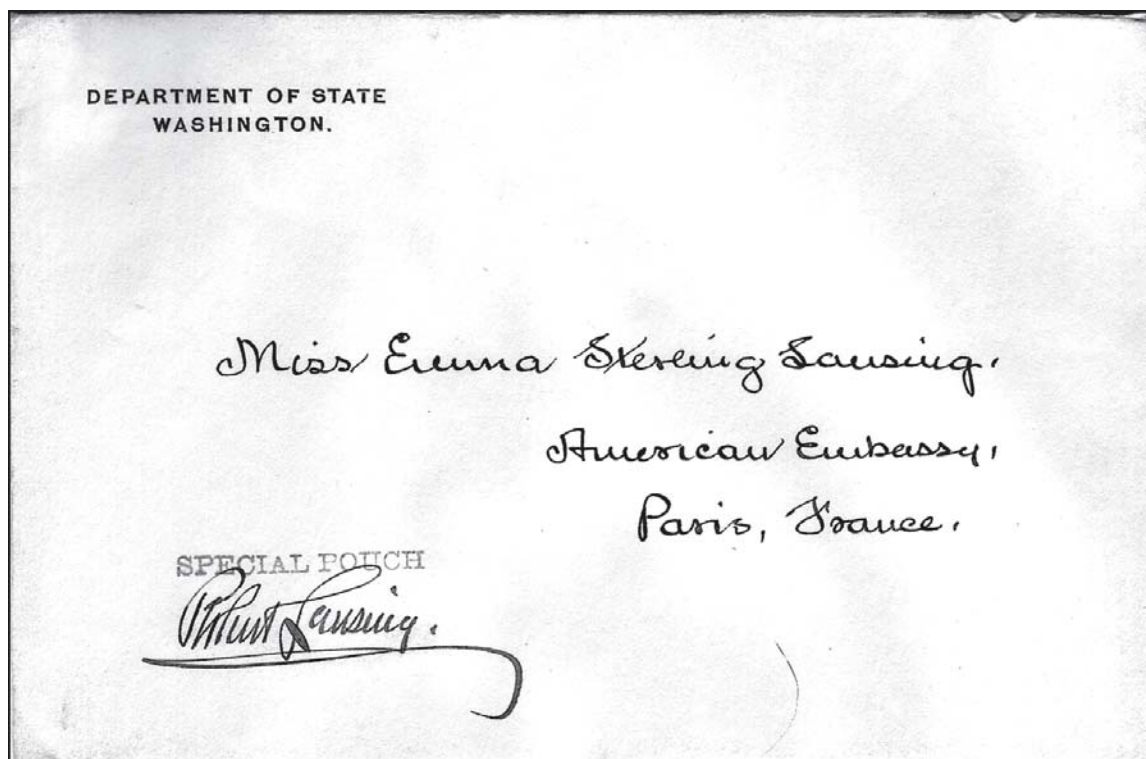


Figure 1 Department of State stationery used by Secretary of State Robert Lansing in 1917 to send correspondence to his sister, Emma Sterling Lansing, via the American Embassy in Paris. Emma was the director of the Cantine de Deux Drapeaux at Epernay, France. She was the first American woman to be awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government. Note the “SPECIAL POUCH” marking with Lansing’s signature.

Part Three - Personal Mail Transported in Diplomatic Pouch

By Michael Dattolico

Throughout history, a secure container to carry documents of state has been crucial in maintaining diplomatic communications. To Americans, the container has usually been called a pouch, while the British call it a diplomatic bag. (*figure 1*). To the French, it is “la valise diplomatique.” Until 1961, unwritten international understandings allowed it to travel free from inspections, and couriers were permitted unrestricted access to and from diplomatic destinations. Those protections have been maintained and remain in force with few violations for centuries.

American diplomatic officials have exercised broad discretion regarding which documents could be included in the pouch. This has been especially true at overseas locations during periods of war, foreign political instability, or simply the unreliability of the host nation’s postal system. Under those and other adverse conditions, strict rules of inclusion were relaxed to permit personal mail in the diplomatic pouch.

The State Department and U.S. Post Office formulated a plan to handle personal mail sent via diplomatic pouch. Embassy personnel were instructed to affix the host nation’s stamps at proper overseas rates. When the pouch was opened at the State Department, properly franked mail was postmarked at the Washington, D.C. post office. The hand-stamped marking, “This article originally mailed in country indicated by postage” was applied, after which the card or letter was forwarded for delivery. *Figures 2 through 11* are examples of such mail. The earliest example of this marking that I have seen was on a 1916 postcard from a U.S. embassy staffer in Berlin. Other postal historians, however, claim to have seen earlier dates.

As previously stated, rules governing the diplomatic pouch originally were matters of customary international law. In 1961, however, diplomatic protocol formerly accepted without written treaty were codified as law by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and ratified by the United States and 150 other nations. What was deemed appropriate for a diplomatic container was an issue addressed by the Vienna

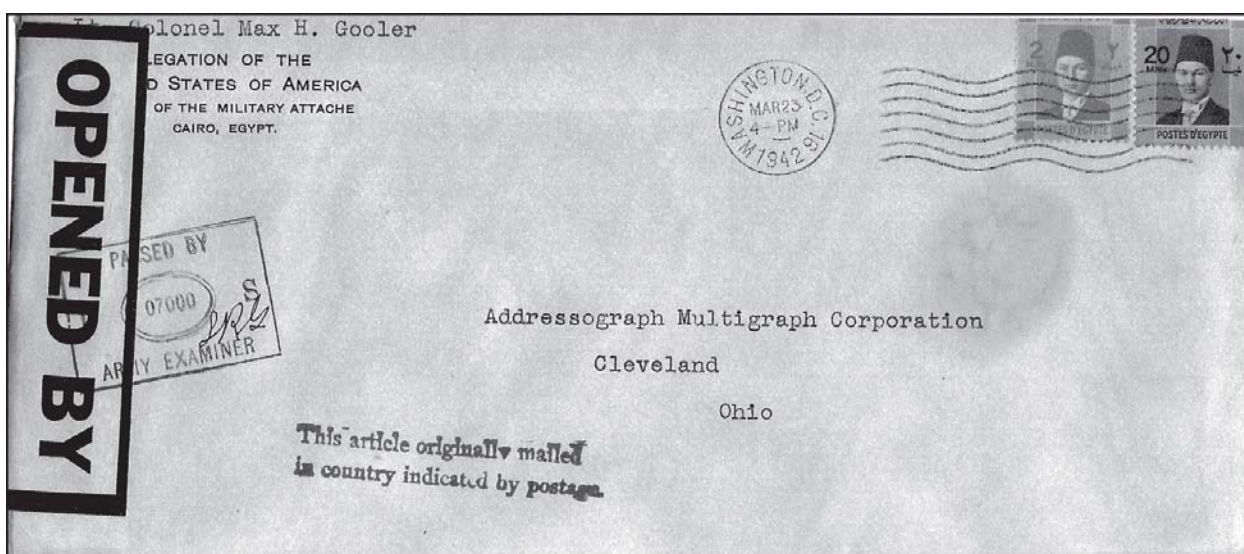


Figure 2 Long diplomatic envelope from the U.S. Legation at Cairo, Egypt to Ohio in 1942. The letter was sent via diplomatic pouch yet was still censored.

Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Of special note are Section 27(3) which reiterated that the diplomatic bag could not be opened or detained, and Section 27(4) which stated that "...the diplomatic bag...may contain only diplomatic documents or articles intended for official use." If a diplomatic bag's contents could not be inspected except by State Department personnel, who but they would know if an enclosure was official or not? That causes some postal historians to wonder if overseas diplomats continued to exercise discretionary powers regarding the pouch's contents after the Vienna Convention rules were ratified.

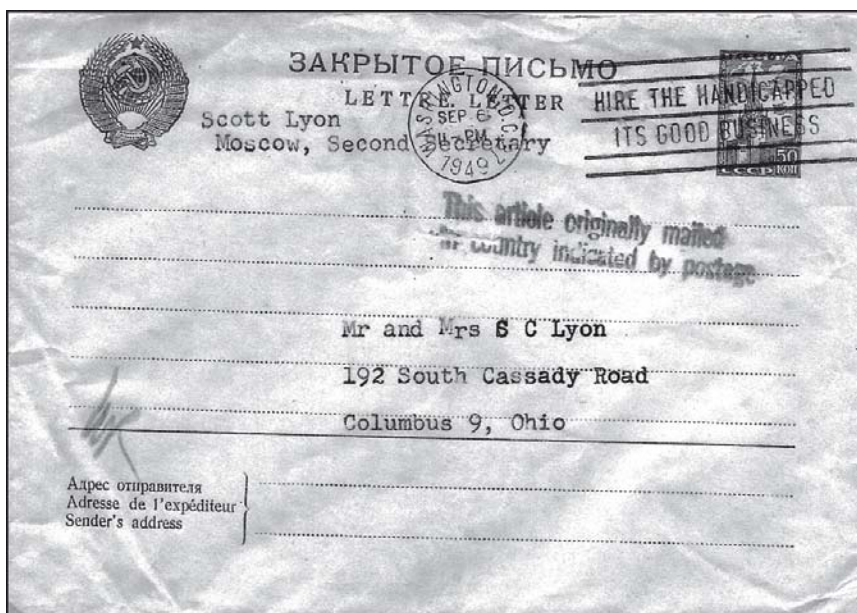


Figure 3 Russian postal stationery used by Scott Lyon, second secretary to the Ambassador to Russia, in 1949 to Ohio. Relations between the United States and Russia were tense when this letter was sent.

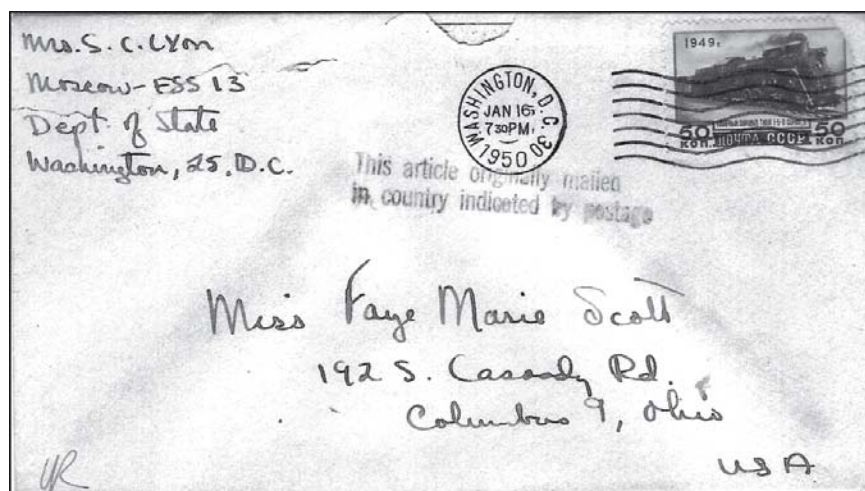


Figure 4 Letter from American embassy personnel to Ohio in early 1950. Mailed just months before the Korean War began, United States-Russian relations were at a low point. Yet the security of the diplomatic pouch was honored and maintained.

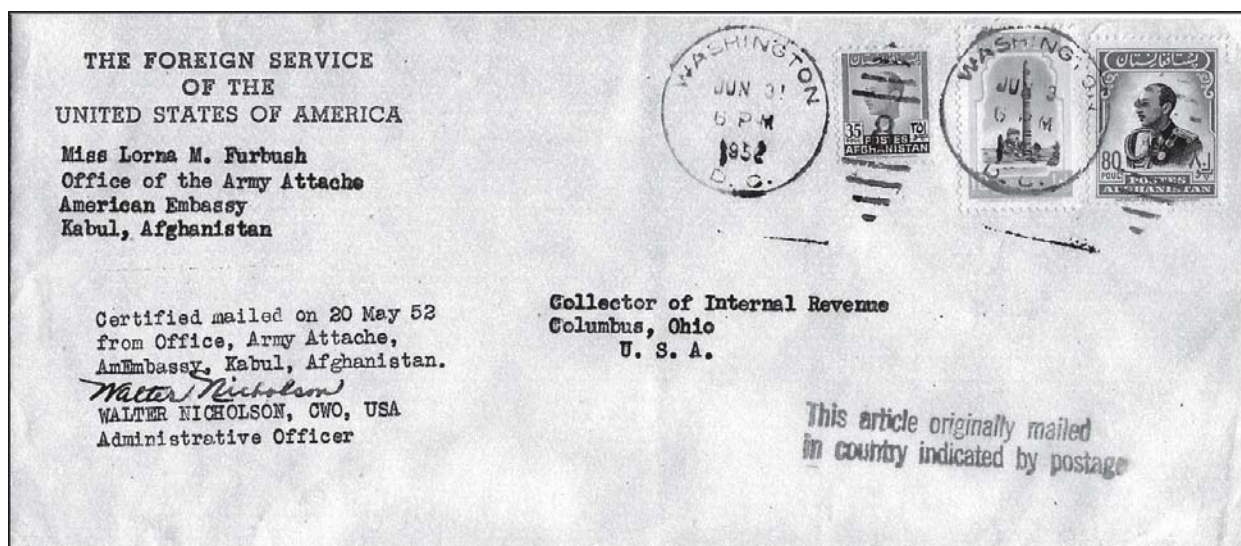


Figure 5 U.S. Foreign Service envelope mailed from the American Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan in 1952. The letter was sent at a time when there was no U.S. ambassador assigned. Diplomatic matters were handled by a charge d'affaires and staff.

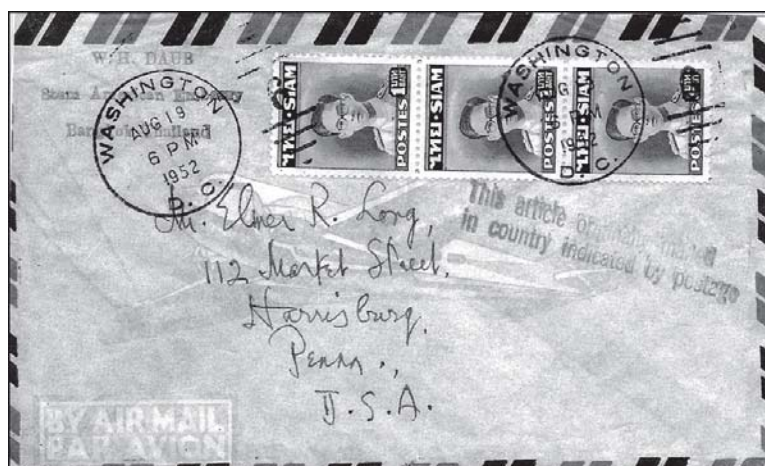


Figure 6 Letter from diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand to Pennsylvania in 1952.

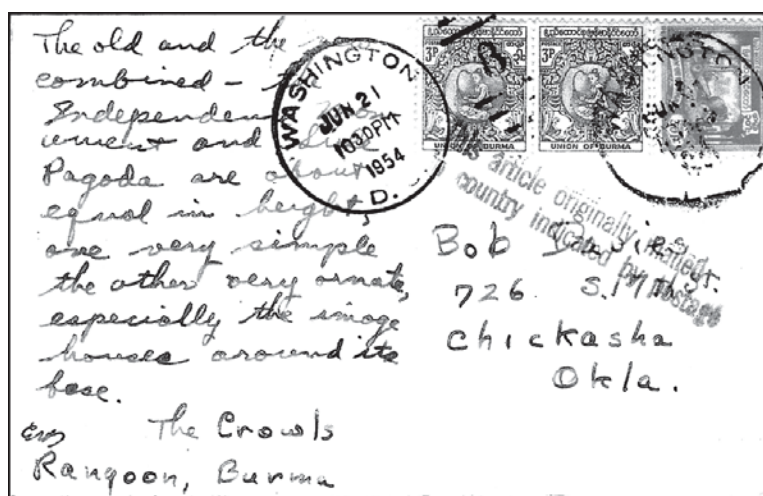


Figure 7 Commercial post card sent via diplomatic pouch from Rangoon, Burma in 1954. At some embassies, attitudes about what could be included in diplomatic pouches were liberal.

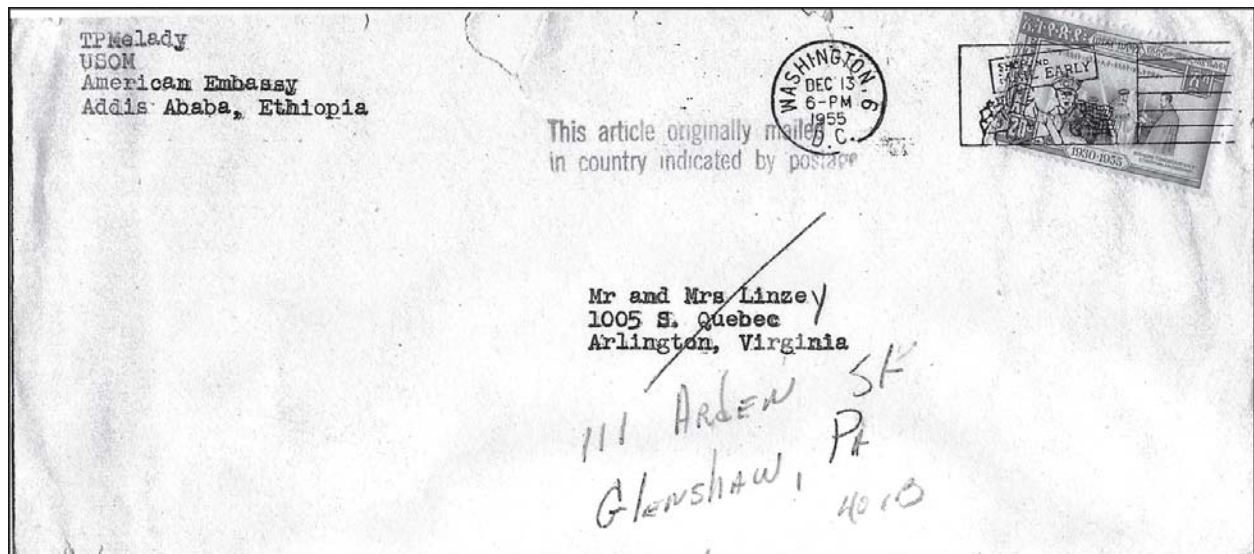


Figure 8 Letter from the U.S. embassy at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1955 to Virginia. It was the first diplomatic assignment for Thomas Patrick Melady, who later became United States ambassador to Burundi and the Vatican.

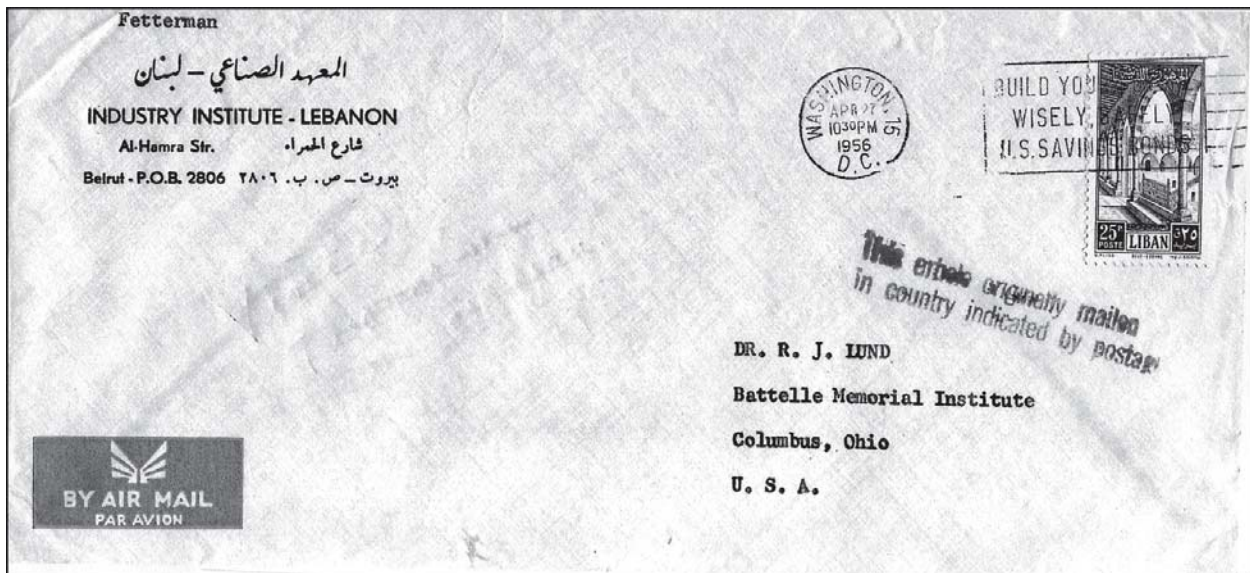


Figure 9 American diplomatic missions to foreign countries are often serve a variety of functions. Business and industrial development aid offices operated from U.S. embassies, such as this cover from Lebanon in 1956.



Figure 10 Letter from the liaison official working with the Haiti-American Institute of Cultural Studies. The official, Charles N. St. John Jr., worked out of the American embassy at Port-Au-Prince in 1959.

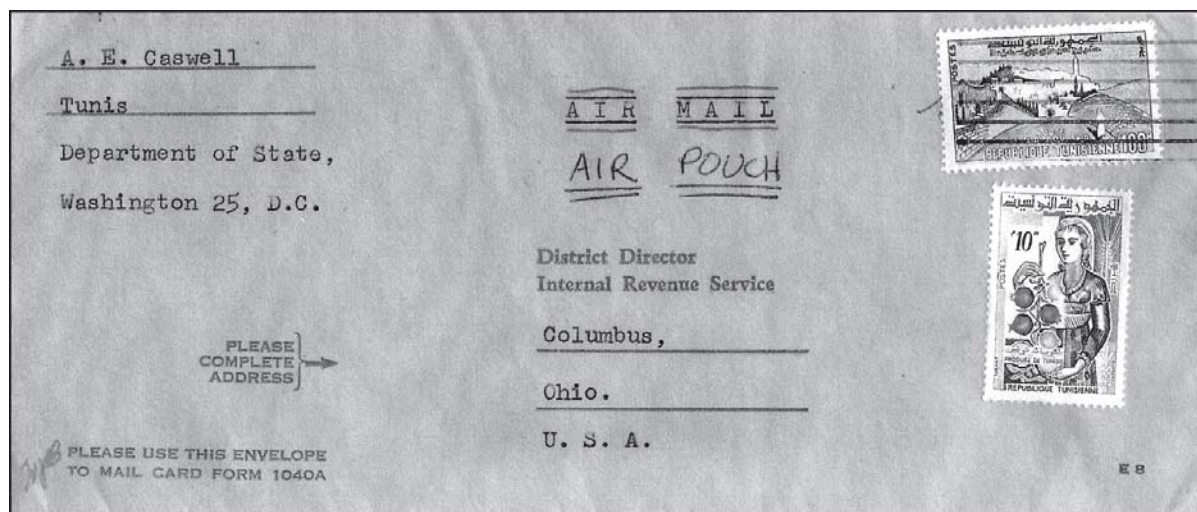


Figure 11 U.S. diplomatic personnel's letter sent by diplomatic pouch from Tunisia circa 1950s.

Did the Washington, D.C. post office stop using the marking, "This article originally mailed in country indicated by postage" after the Vienna Convention of 1961? If so, that might explain why it does not appear on figure 12. That cover was mailed to a non-official

address and likely contained a Christmas card. Bolivian postage was affixed by U.S. embassy personnel at La Paz, and it was processed at the Washington, D.C. post office in December, 1965. From all observable facts, it traveled via diplomatic pouch.

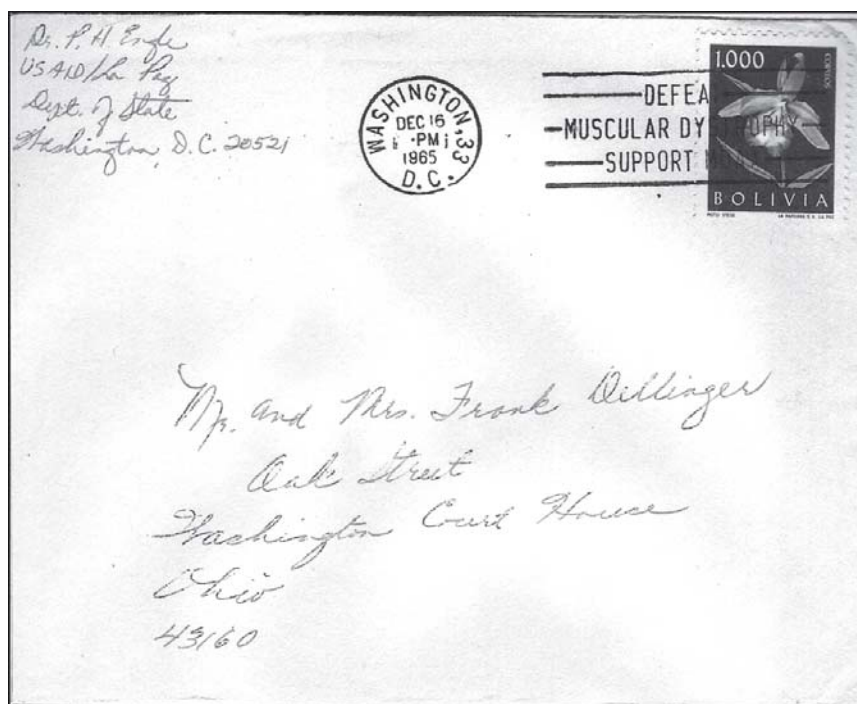


Figure 12 Letter originating from the U.S. embassy at La Paz, Bolivia in 1965 to Ohio. Note the absence of the "This article originally mailed in country indicated by postage" marking. It may have been accidentally omitted by the Washington, D.C. post office, or perhaps the marking was no longer used.

Wake Island Exhibited

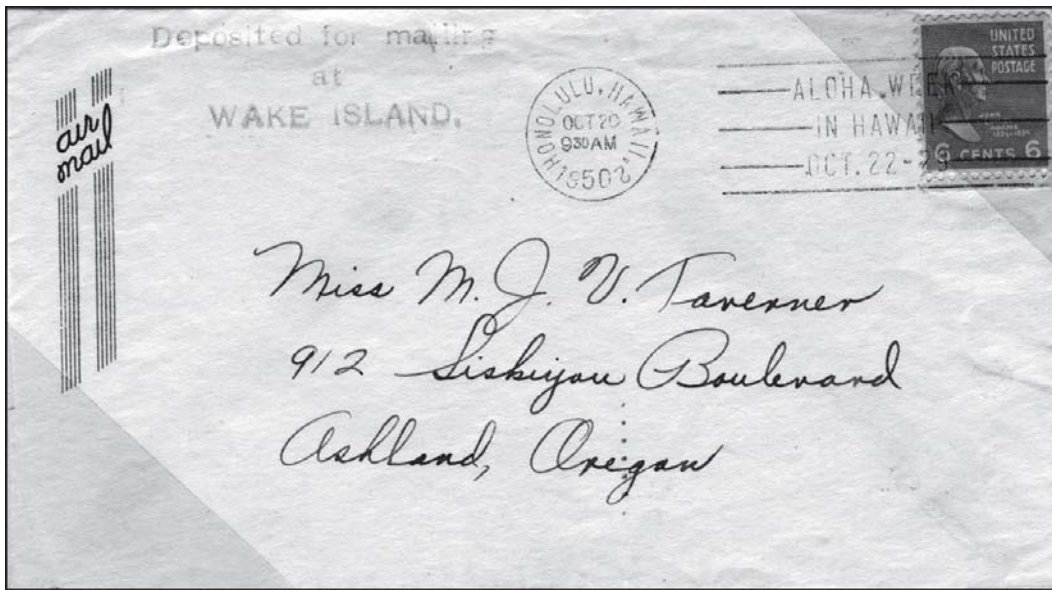


Figure 22 Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct 20 1950 cover to Ashland, Oregon with “Aloha Week” slogan cancel and the only known use of “Deposited for mailing at WAKE ISLAND”, applied at Wake Island. By this time, all APO and Fleet post offices had been closed, and mail was carried by closed pouch to Hawaii and onward by air. The 6¢ air mail rate was in use from 1-1-49 to 7-31-58.

Part 3 – Post-War Cancellations

by Len Lukens

After the Japanese surrendered, Wake Island was taken over by the U.S. military on 4 September 1945. Many different branches were used by all three service branches. The Navy established several branches: Branch 13764, known used 3-24-47 to 4-39-4; and Branch 13832, active from September 1945 to 30 November 1945.

APO 101 for the Army was known to be on Wake from 1 July 1955 to 1 Jan 1965, when it was replaced by APO zip 96501. This cancel was later changed to the Army & Air Force Postal Service, but the same number was used. (Used 1979-1986). A naval unit numbered 1181 was on Wake from 1945 to 1948, using PO BR. NO. 13764. Another naval cancel known but not recorded was FPO 96615. APO 96501 was also used by Air Force personnel.

Commercial mail for Wake was initially handled through Hawaii. The opening day of the Wake Island post office was 1 May 1951. Lukens illustrates a large variety of cancels from 1951 to through 2000 in his exhibit, culminating with a related slogan cancel from Trenton, N.J. “Remember Wake Island” 50th Anniv. Sta., Dec. 7, 1991; and a Wake Island postcard dated 1 Feb 2000.



Figure 23 First Flight cover from Wake Island going east to Honolulu. May 1, 1951 is also the first day cancel of the civilian post office.

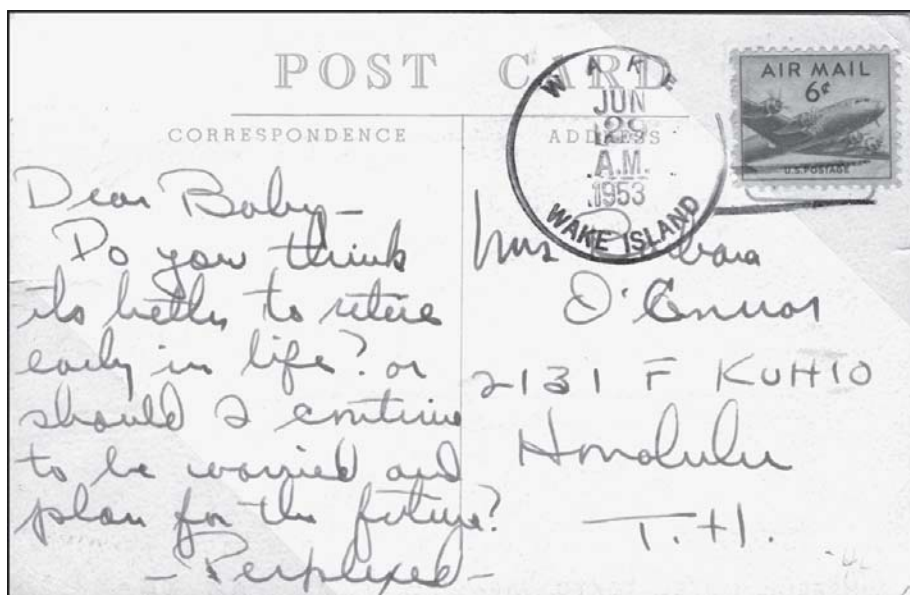


Figure 24 Commercial mail is hard to find from Wake, this is an example and the cancel is known used from May 1, 1951 to July 6, 1959. Note over-payment of 2¢ on this postcard.



Figure 25 A variety of postmark types were used after 1951 and up to the present. Shown here is a sampling of known types.

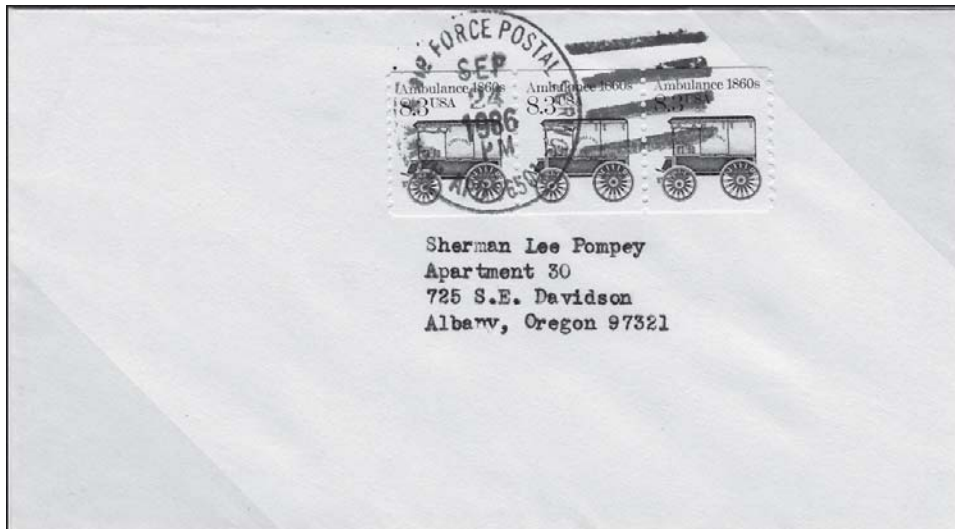


Figure 26 Military zip code assigned as mailing address for Air Force personnel on Wake since January 1, 1965. Discontinued on unknown date.

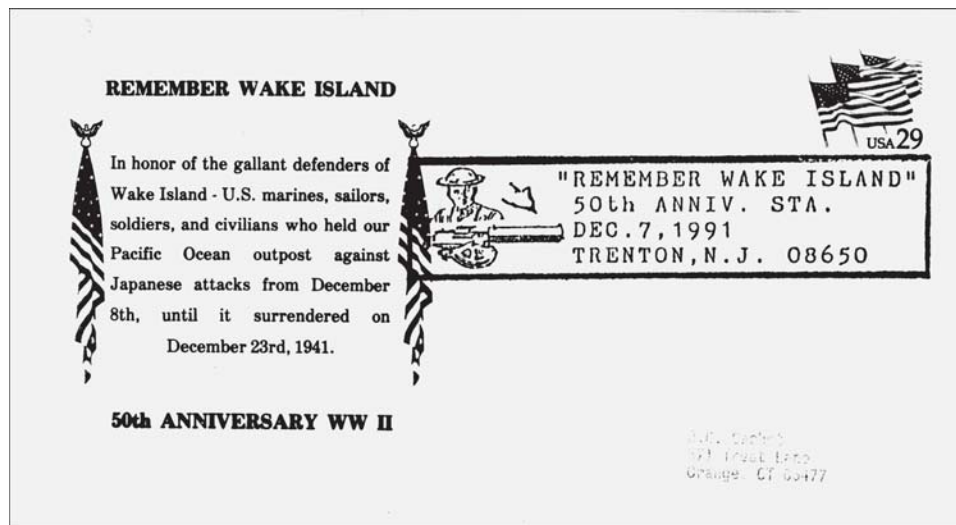
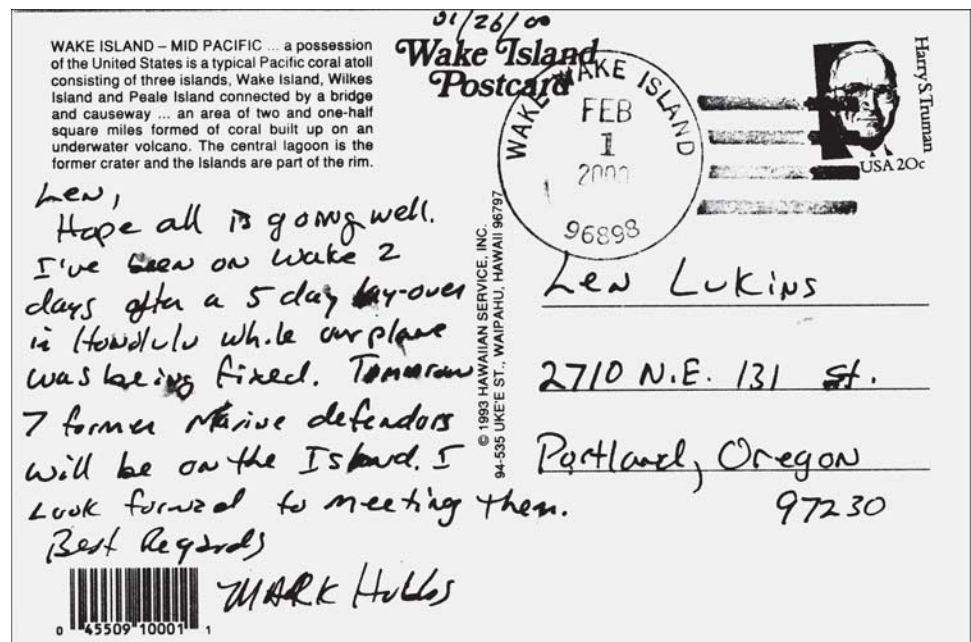


Figure 27 A cover issued to honor the Wake Island defenders 50 years to the day the Japanese attacked.

Figure 28 Wake Island post office still operating in the year 2000. Only a few air planes arrive each month. Note postcard is written 1-26, Postmarked 2-1, and arrived in Portland 2-7-00.



Mail to & from American Civilians Interned by the Japanese in the Philippines, 1941-1945

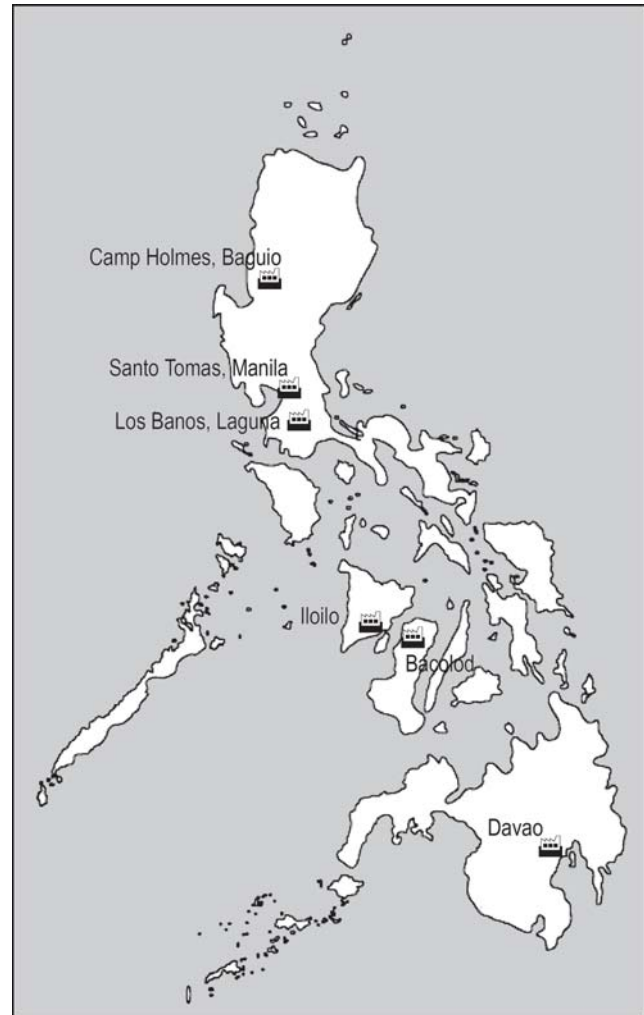
Manila was declared an open city on December 26, 1941. The local government and United States Army Forces publicized their retirement from the city in the hopes that the Japanese Army would not shoot their way in causing wide scale death and destruction. Meanwhile, the American Emergency Committee of the Red Cross obtained permission from Santo Tomas University authorities to use the buildings and grounds as an internment camp in case the incoming Japanese forces decided to imprison civilians of the Allied Nations.

On New Years Day the local newspaper declared that the Japanese were on the verge of entering the city and advised residents to remain in their homes. American and other Western civilians began packing toilet articles and a change of clothing. On January 2nd in mid-afternoon the first units of the Japanese Army began entering Manila. They set up card tables at important intersections throughout the city and began making announcements ordering all enemy aliens (American and British nationals) to remain at home until they could be registered and investigated.

The following morning, all Americans and British were ordered to report to the campus of Santo Tomas University. On January 4 the first internees arrived at Santo Tomas numbering approximately 300, all of whom were from the South Malate District of Manila. While Americans and British were most numerous, the prisoners were of many nationalities. The men, women, and children also included Australian, Canadian, Swedish, Polish, Norwegian, French, Egyptian, Slovakian, Swiss, Chinese, and Mexican passport holders. The camp population eventually grew to some 3,800 as additional foreign nationals were added from all over the Philippines.

Other civilian internment camps were added by the Japanese to house people they considered undesirable or a threat to the occupation. *Map 1* shows the location of the most important camps located in the country.

The following pages illustrate mail addressed to or originating from American civilians interned by the Japanese in the Philippines from 1942 to 1945. A letter from the Santo Tomas Camp commander to an American named James Kinloch, who had apparently been spared incarceration, or released from Santo



Map 1 Civilian internment camps housing Westerners in the Philippines, 1942-1945.

Tomas after the initial lock-up, begins the display. This is followed by several pieces of correspondence addressed to internees, a few examples of mail from civilians during their internment and, finally, some mail from civilian internees in the weeks following their liberation from the camps.

Mail addressed to American civilians interned by the Japanese in the Philippines is very scarce and examples of mail from internees is even harder to find. Most of the items illustrated in this display were acquired over the years by Harold Richow and became part of his magnificent collection of World War II postal history. I was fortunate enough to be chosen by Harold to assist in the liquidation of this collection a few years ago, and made high-resolution copies of most of his important pieces before they were dispersed.

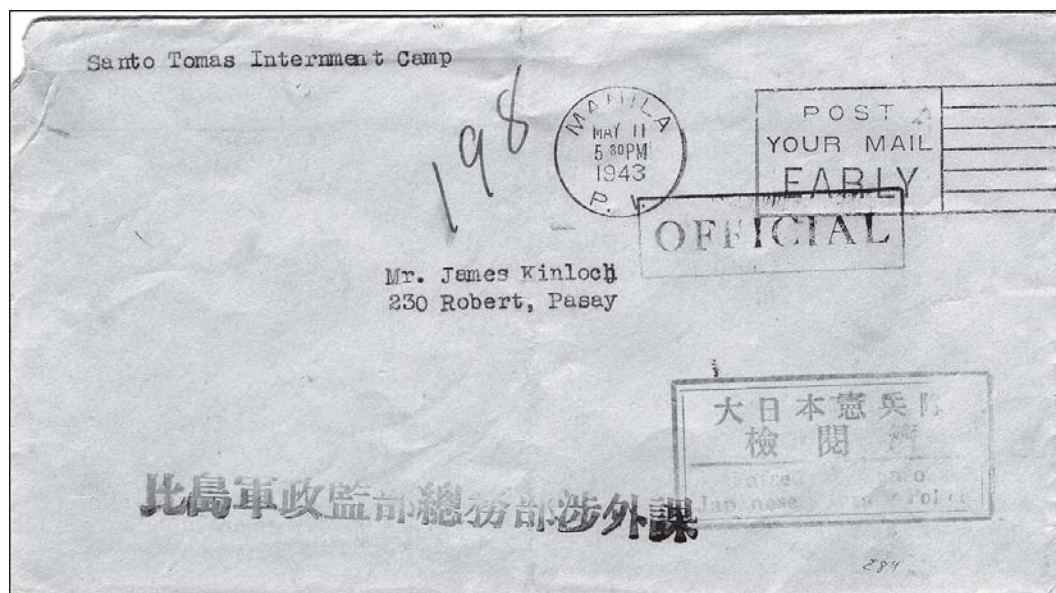


Figure 1 Letter from Japanese commander of Santo Tomas to James Kinloch directing him to report for transfer to Los Banos Camp. Kinloch survived the war but died in 1948.

SANTO TOMAS INTERMENT CAMP
May 10th, 1943

Mr. James Kinloch,

You are ordered to report at this camp for re-internment before 4:00 P.M. May 17, 1943, preparatory to transfer to the new internment camp at Los Banos, Laguna, as soon as necessary facilities have been provided.

You may bring with you into the Santa Tomas Camp essential personal effects, single bed of the folding or camp cot type, bedding, mosquito net and dishes. Your hand baggage should be limited as much as possible or to the equivalent of two suitcases per person, because there is no storage accommodation for extra baggage. Any furniture in your home which has been marked by the Japanese Military Authorities (marked with white tape) must be left with the exception of that one bed of the types described above may be brought for each person even though marked with white tape. In case your house will be unoccupied due to your re-internment, you shall inform this office of this fact as soon as possible as the Military Authorities will take the necessary measures to protect your house and furniture.

If it is absolutely impossible for you to comply with this order due to very serious illness or physical disability, please have your representative appear at this office on May 15 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m., with your release paper.

COMMANDANT
Santo Tomas Internment Camp

SANTO TOMAS INTERMENT CAMP
May 10th, 1943

Mr. James Kinloch

You are ordered to report at this camp for re-internment before 4:00 P.M. May 17, 1943, preparatory to transfer to the new internment camp at Los Banos, Laguna, as soon as necessary facilities have been provided.

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COMMANDANT
Santo Tomas Internment Camp

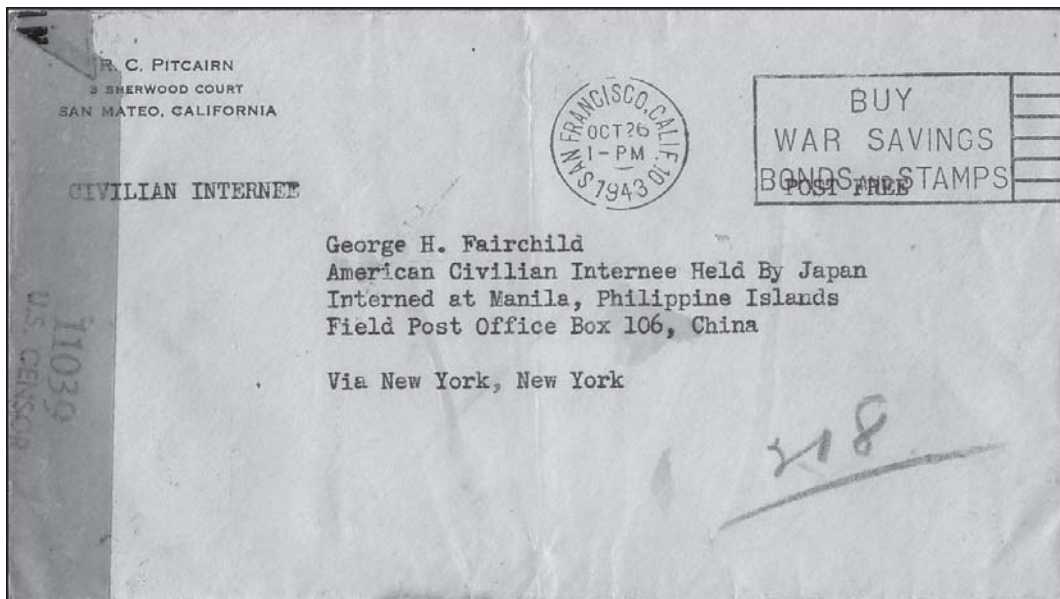


Figure 2 Free-franked cover postmarked San Francisco, Oct. 26, 1943, addressed to an American civilian interned by the Japanese in Manila. Censor tape along left edge bearing a US civil censor handstamp applied in New York Cover accompanied by an enclosure bearing Japanese censor chop.

La Posta Sub Auction 71 (Dec. 28 2003) Lot 393 Estimated \$150.00. Sold \$110.00

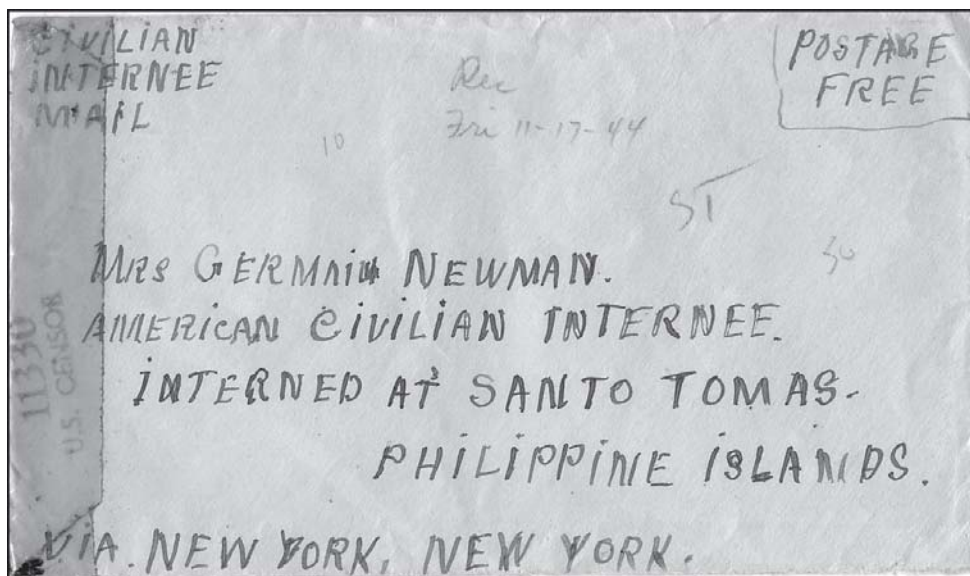


Figure 3 Unpostmarked cover endorsed "Civilian Internee Mail" "Postage Free" and sent via New York to a woman interned by the Japanese in Manila. Censor tape along left edge with US censor handstamp. Note: pencil docketing "Rec Fri 11-17-44"

Ebay Auction Nov 15, 2003 Sold \$100.00

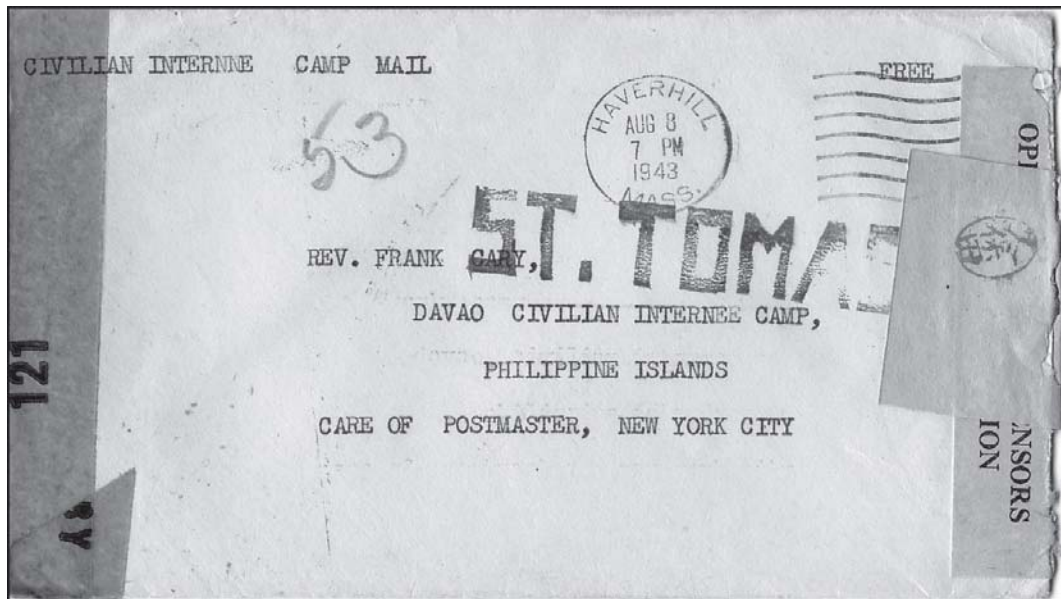


Figure 4 Postmarked HAVERHILL/MASS., 1943 (Aug 8), machine cancel on Free franked Civilian Internee Camp Mail cover to Davao Camp Philippines c/o NYC. US and Japanese Censor tapes and handstamps and unusual bold "ST. TOMAS" handstamp.

LaPosta Sub Auction 72 (May 9 2004) Lot 281 Estimated \$150 . Sold \$260.00

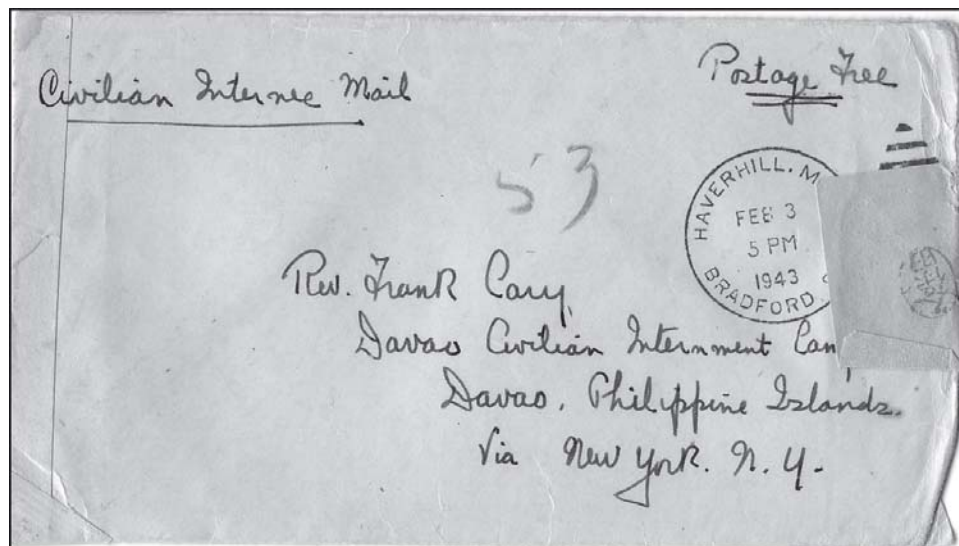


Figure 5 Postage Free Civilian Internee Mail cover postmarked HAVERHILL, MASS. / BRADFORD STA., duplex of Feb 3, 1943 addressed to a minister interned at the Davao Civilian Internment Camp on Mindanao.

Ebay Auction Nov 22, 2003. Sold \$163.52

Prisoner of War Mail
Civilian Internee Mail
(Cross out one.)

POST CARD

Postage Free

MRS. L.M. SMITH
(NAME)

SANTO TOMAS CAMP

12,823 PHILIPPINE INTERMENT CAMP No. 1
U.S. CENSOR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Via New York, New York

From: MRS. EUGENE JOHNSON
1295 DAVIDSON AVE.
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.
(FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

FORM 2277
JUNE 1944

JAN 23, 1945
(DATE)

Dear LOUISE:

CABLE TWO CARDS HAVE BEEN REC'D.

[REDACTED]

SORRY, DARLING.


ALL WELL HERE. LOVE AND BEST
WISHES.

FLORENCE

Messages must be not more than 24 words. Type or hand print in block capitals.

Figure 6 Beginning in late 1944, Americans were instructed to use Form 2277 to correspond with POWs and interned civilians. This card to a female resident of Santo Tomas Camp was heavily censored. The message was dated January 23, 1945--a little over a week before the Santa Tomas Camp was liberated by US forces.

61



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

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GENÈVE (Suisse)

1 CM 127290

10634

A.R.C.

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name RUSSELL

Prénom — Vorname — Christian name Mrs. J.R.

Rue - Strasse - Street 4648 -12th Ave.

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality SACRAMENTO

Département - Provinz - County Calif.

Pays - Land - Country

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message
 (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) —
 (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words,
 family news of strictly personal character).

Anxious to know if you are well and safe.

SOCIÉTÉ DE LA CROIX-ROUGE DU JAPON

CHAMBRE DE TOKIO

Date - Datum 27.1. 42. 27 AOUT 1942

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name BUTLER

Prénom - Vorname - Christian name Eliza and Oscar.

Rue - Strasse - Street 912 Nebraska St.

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality MALATE

Province - Provinz - County Manila P.I.

Pays - Land - Country

RÉPONSE AU VERSO
Prière d'écrire très lisiblement

ANTWORT UMSEITIG
Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben

REPLY OVERLEAF
Please write very clearly

Figure 7 A Red Cross message form initiated in late January 1942 attempted to learn the condition of Eliza and Oscar Butler who were residing in Manila. The receiving docket indicates that the message arrived November 1, 1942.

Ebay Auction Nov 8, 2003. Sold \$129.50



Figure 8 A first day cover for the Japanese Occupation semi-postal stamps issued to promote the campaign to produce and conserve food. The cover was mailed by a Manila resident to a civilian held by the Japanese at the Santo Tomas Camp.

Ebay Auction Sep 22, 2003 Sold \$227.50

SERVICE des PRISONNIERS de GUERRE
俘虜郵便

NAME MORRIS C. SCHERER

NATIONALITY AMERICAN

PHILIPPINE INTERNMENT CAMP NO. 2

TO: MR & MRS. JACK SCHERER
1114 OLIVE ST.,
TEXARKANA, TEXAS, U.S.A.

検閲 比島軍抑留所

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Philippine Internment Camp No. 2

2. My health is excellent; good; fair; poor

3. Message. (Limited to 25 words.)
HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU - TRY TO
WRITE - DORIS AND I ARE VERY
BUSY WITH CAMP DETAILS, GARDEN,
CLASSES - CONGRATULATIONS TO PAULINE
ON MARRIAGE

Signature Morris C. Scherer

Figure 9 Message card provided by the Imperial Japanese Army to an American civilian to communicate with his family in Texas. No date appears to indicate mailing or arrival.

Ebay Auction Nov 15, 2003 Sold \$158.05

From: WILLIAM ZEITLIN
 Name: *William Zeitlin*
 Nationality: AMERICAN
 Rank: CIVILIAN
 Camp: Headquarters Military Prison Camps of P.I. #3

To: Mr. Miguel Simon
 % Bank of Philippine Islands
 MANILA, P.I.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Headquarters Military Prison Camps of P.I. #3
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am — injured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that Carling, Alex, Vicente and the families are given my best wishes. is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family): Hope the family is all well.
7. Please give my best regards to all our friends.

Figure 10 Message card provided by the Imperial Japanese Army to an American civilian that was used in this case to communicate with an acquaintance at the Bank of Philippine Islands in Manila.

Ebay Auction Nov 1, 2003 Sold \$182.50

arrived in SF 12/21/43

From: T.H. CHARTER
 SANTO TOMAS INTERNMENT CAMP
 MANILA PHILIPPINES

MANILA No. 1
 SEP 25
 10 AM
 1943
 PHILIPPINES

MR. E. J. TOWLE
 TALON FASTENER COMPANY
 314 Howard Street
 San Francisco, Calif,
 U. S. A.

PRISONERS OF WAR POST
 Service des Prisonniers de Guerre

EXAMINED BY

Figure 11 A Prisoners of War Post envelope mailed by a resident of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp postmarked Manila September 23, 1943. Censored by the Japanese authorities, the cover was carried by M/V Teia Maru to Goa, India, where it was transferred to M/V Gripsholm in late October. It was received in San Francisco December 21st after passing through US censorship in New York.

Ebay Auction Oct 24, 2003. Sold \$485.00

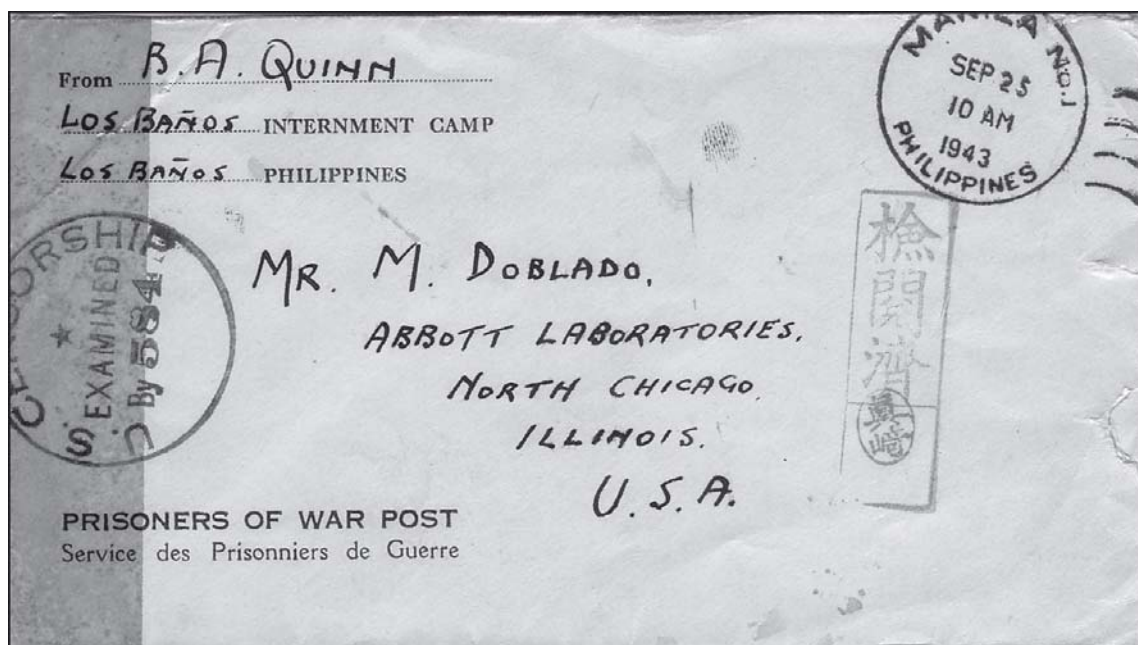
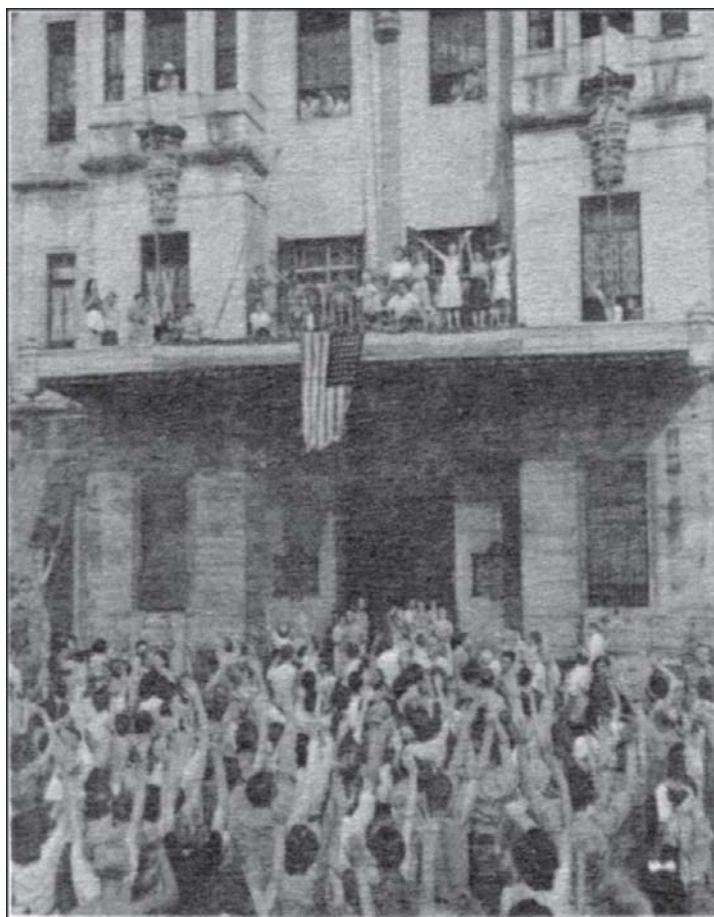


Figure 12 A Prisoners of War Post envelope mailed by a resident of the Los Baños Internment Camp postmarked Manila September 25, 1943. Censored by the Japanese authorities, the cover was carried by M/V Teia Maru to Goa, India, where it was transferred to M/V Gripsholm in late October for transport on to the United States.



Celebrating civilian internees at Santo Tomas camp after their liberation by the US Army February 3, 1945. (U.S. Army photo)

Figure 13 Addressed to Charlotte Edna Brussolo, mother on an interned family of four at Santo Tomas, the cover was mailed just five days after the camp was liberated. Worried friends and family must have rushed to communicate with internees after news accounts detailed the liberation of Santo Tomas.

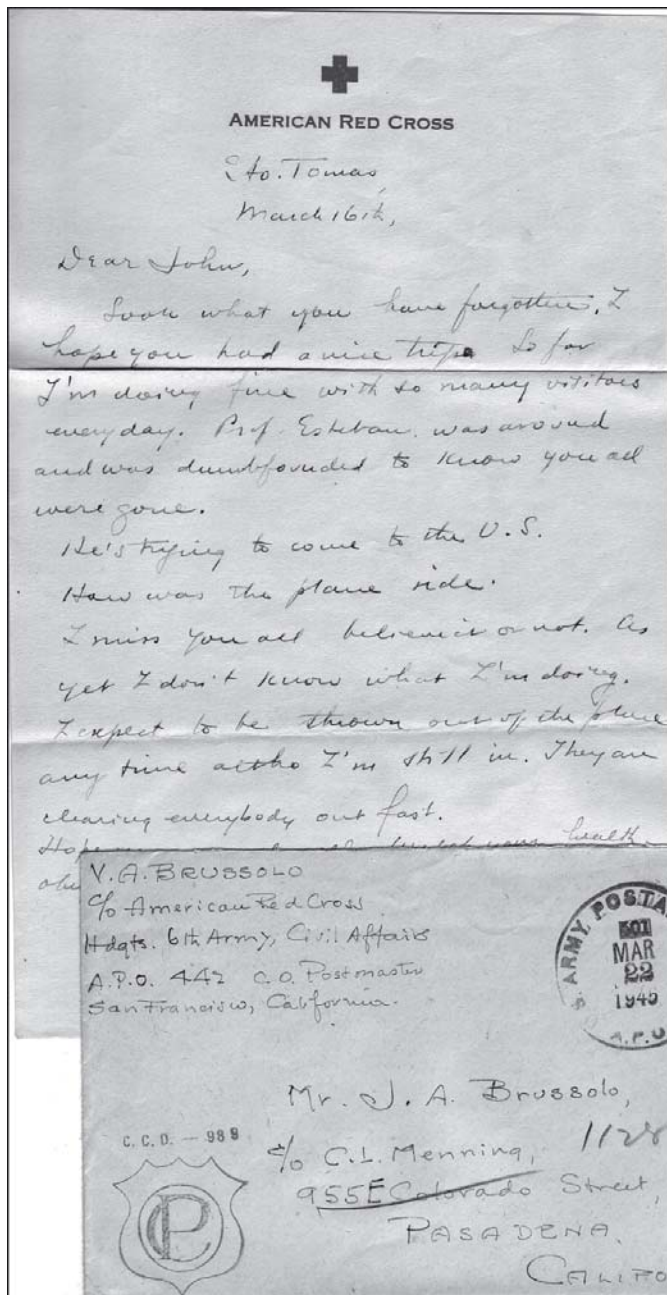
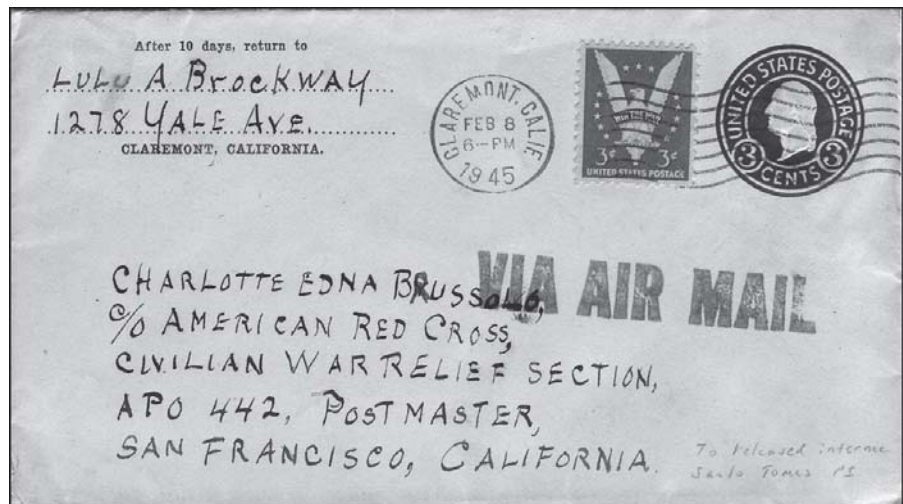


Figure 14 Vito Angelo Brussolo and his family that included his wife Charlotte, and sons John and Charles, were residents of Manila when the Japanese invaded in December 1941. They were interned at Santo Tomas camp until released by the US Army on February 3, 1945. The letter from Vito to his 12-year old son John, who had already been repatriated, was mailed through APO 442, but bears an APO 501 postmark (HQ, Services of Supply). The censor marking is the distinctive C/P in shield of the Civil Censorship Detachment (CCD), an operating unit overseen by the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2), that operated in the Philippines until being transferred to Japan in September 1945.

In addition to the note, Vito passed along a message from one of John's close friends at the camp—a young man named David Blackledge (code named "Blackstone"). This message is reproduced in figure 15.

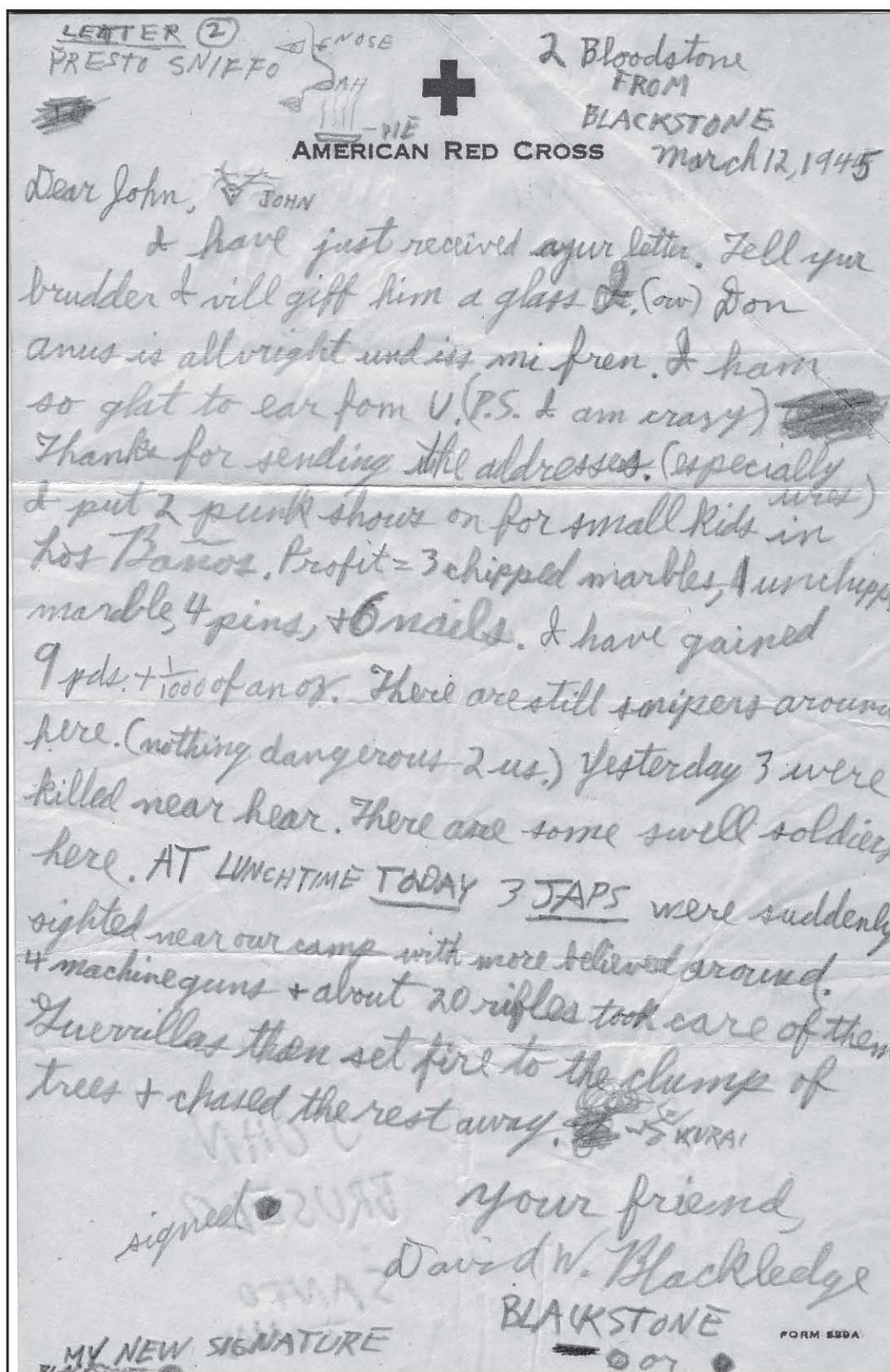


Figure 15 Nothing I have ever seen bears better testament to the indomitable spirit of youth than this message from Blackstone to Bloodstone. These two boys had been locked up in Santo Tomas for three years from the time they were nine. Rations were short. Japanese guards were a constant presence. And the adults were, no doubt, suffering considerable anguish over their long incarceration. Yet, read the words of Blackstone. His world is full of staging shows for marbles, and Japanese snipers, and guerrilla (sic) raids. Children are amazing creatures!

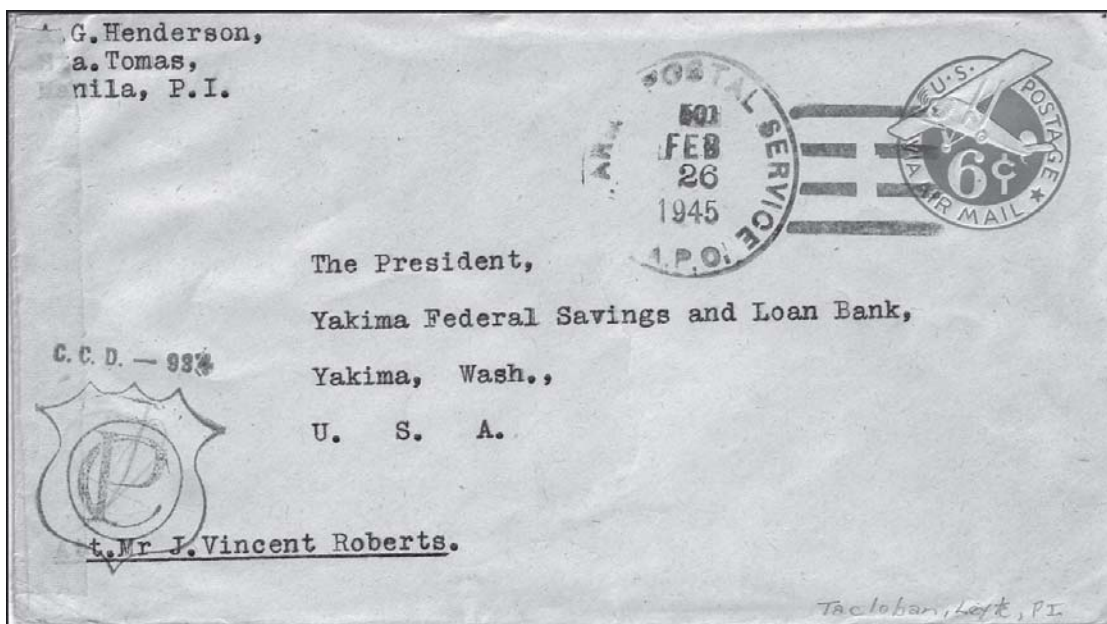


Figure 16 Mailed through APO 501 about three weeks after Santo Tiomas Camp was liberated, this 6¢ concession rate air entire was sent by Alexander George Henderson to the Yakima Federal Savings and Loan Bank. The cover represents a fairly early example of mail from the released internees, and it may be noted that Mr. Henderson was still listing his return address as “Sta. Tomas” rather than c/o of the American Red Cross as is the case with mail dating from early March onward.



Figure 17 Posted by Donald Lionel Chard—a British citizen interned at Santo Tomas—using a concession rate air entire to send a letter to Calcutta, this March 10th cover travelled surface to India as evidenced by the April 13th Calcutta arrival backstamp. Note the endorsement that the letter enclosed was “written in Spanish.”

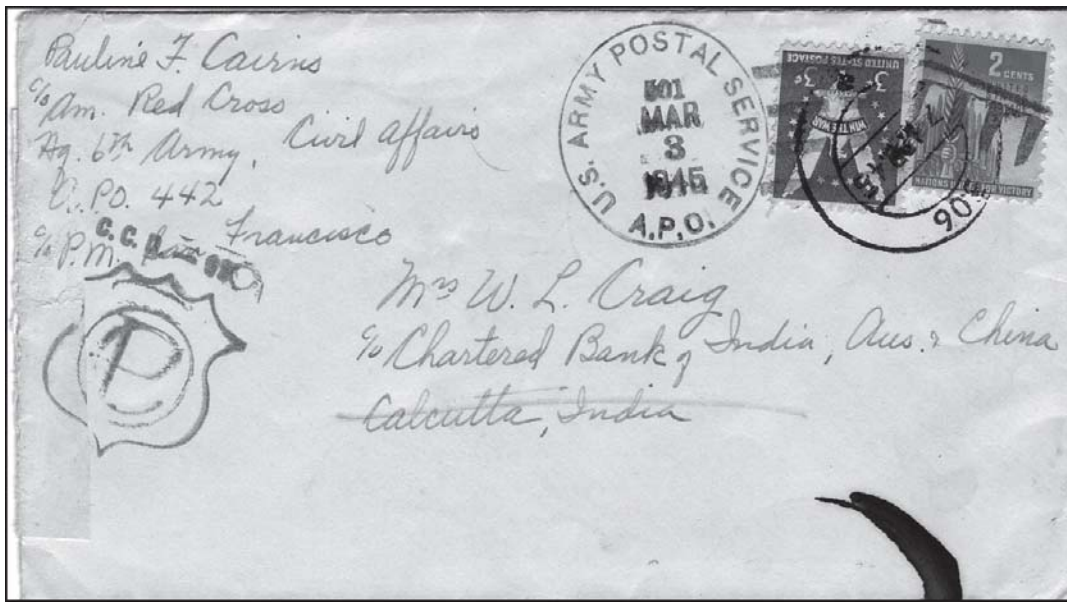


Figure 18 Pauline Fae Cairns was an American citizen interned at Santo Tomas. She franked this letter to her banker in Calcutta with a 3¢ Win the War and 2¢ Nations United to pay the five cent basic US international rate. A Calcutta arrival backstamp of April 8th indicates that the letter took about five weeks in transit by steamer.

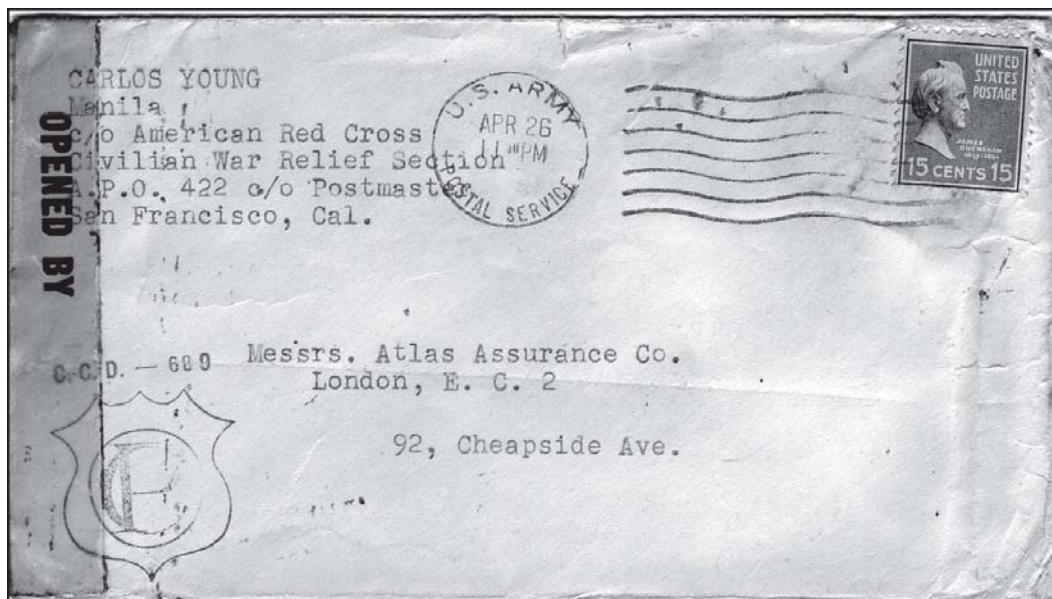


Figure 19 Carlos M. Young was an American, aged 61, who had been interned at Santo Tomas camp along with his son Carlos C. M. (age 32), his wife Eunice (age 29) and their baby daughter Consuelo. This cover was franked with a 15¢ Prexie intended to carry the letter to London. Choice of the stamp is unusual—perhaps the letter was overweight—but there is no indication that air mail service was sought and the 15-cent rate was not yet in effect.



Figure 1 A recently discovered example of the Canol, N.W.T., registration marking dating from 1944. It is believed to be only the second known example.

CANOL, Northwest Territory, Canada: A Recent Discovery

By John A. Pollard

Information available to the author suggests that this cover is only the second reported example of the CANOL N.W.T. registration marking. The cover was mailed from Canol on October 27, 1944, and franked with 10 cents to pay registration fee and a double weight of 4+4 cents for a total of 18 cents. The return address is care of C. W. Elliott Company of Seattle, Washington, a sub-contractor engaged to carry freight from Canol and to maintain the road.

The cover arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, on November 3, 1944 (backstamp), where a Foreign Exchange Board label was added. The label was tied by a faint purple circular “EDMONTON ALBERTA/NOV, 3 44/E.C.” handstamp and a straight-line PASSED FOR EXPORT on the front of the cover between the registration box and the postage stamps (figure 2).

The routing used to carry this piece of mail to its destination in Billings, Montana, is easily retraced by virtue of the Canadian practice of applying transit marks on railway post offices. The first two RPOs were “Calgary – Edmonton R.P.O. Nov 3rd” (Edmonton to Calgary by Canadian Pacific Railway); and “Calgary & MacLeod R. P. O. No. 8 / Nov 3 / 44” (Calgary to MacLeod, Alberta, via Canadian Pacific).

At MacLeod the cover was picked up by the Canadian Pacific train that ran between Medicine Hat, Alberta, and Nelson, British Columbia. The handstamp reads “MED(ICINE) HAT & NEL(SON) R.P.O. No. 12 / 11 / NO 3 / 44”. From Nelson the cover travelled to Spokane, Washington, via Great Northern Railway (no RPO marking, but this was the international connection between the two towns).



Figure 2 Detailed view of the right side of the cover—enlarged and darkened slightly to show the Edmonton civil censor handstamp.

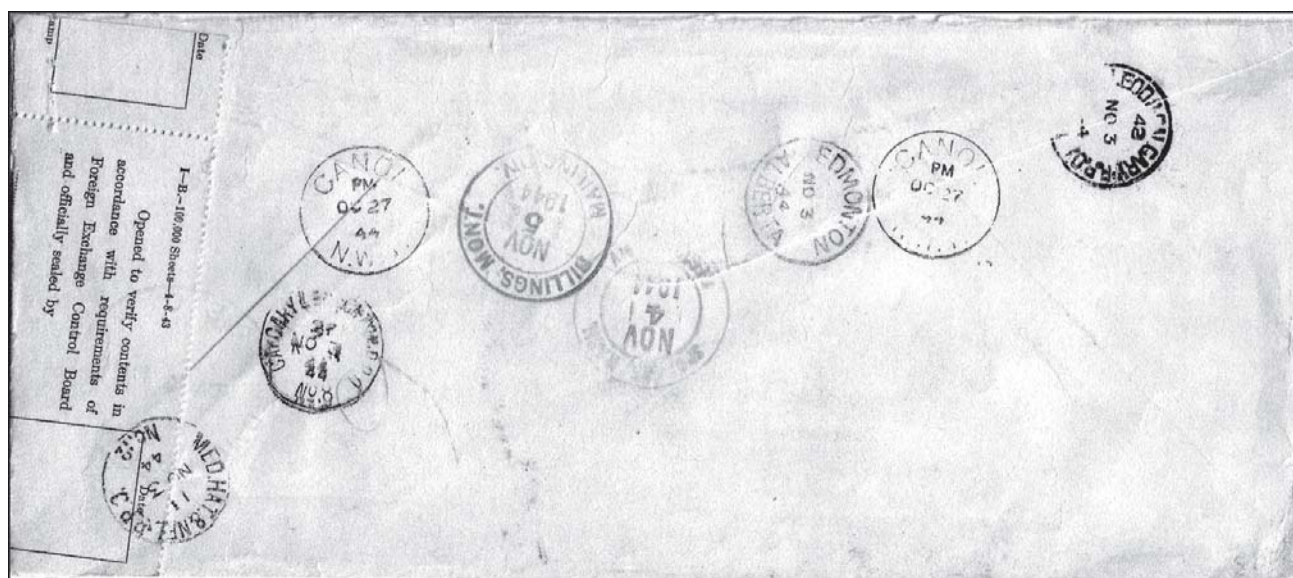


Figure 3 Reverse of the cover shows a variety of Registry handstamps and Railway Post Office transit markings that allow us to retrace the route travelled by this piece of mail.

There is a Spokane registration marking dated Nov. 4, 1944. Finally the cover was carried from Spokane to Billings by either Great Northern or Northern Pacific railroad and it arrived in Billings on Nov. 5th. All in

all, a most interesting cover with the addition of the Edmonton civil censor handstamp and a very scarce postal marking.



Figure 4 A Canol truck convoy stops for repairs 30 miles north of Blackwater Lake on a winter trail between Fort Providence and Norman Wells. 11 April 1943 (Source: Finnie/NWT Archives/N-1979-063-0142)

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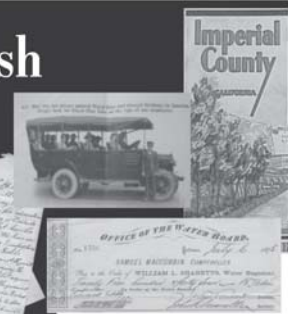
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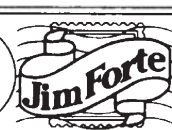
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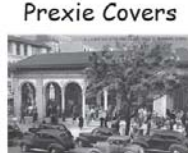
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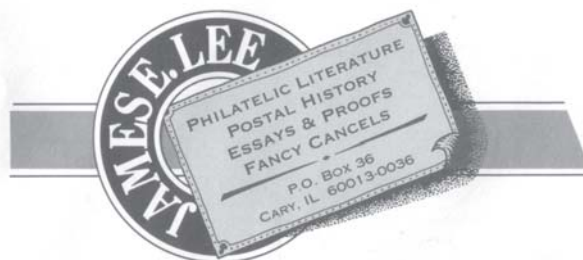
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NORTH DAKOTA: all postal history wanted from territorial to modern. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [39-5]

SPOKANE FALLS / SPOKANE, WA. 1872-date wanted: Territorial, registered, postage due, certified, commercial airmail, foreign destinations, unusual station cancels, usages, and postal markings. Send description or photocopies/scans to Larry Mann, 655 Washington PL SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275 Larrymann02@aol.com [39-5]

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NOTE:

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July 5, 2008

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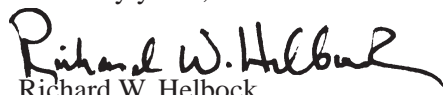
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