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WORLD'S FAIR  
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Vol. 43, No. 2  
Whole Number 250  
Second Quarter 2012

# LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

## Pre-event Publicity for World's Fairs and Expositions

By Michael Dattolico



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# LA POSTA

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## See You in Sacramento!

### Excellence in Philatelic Writing

I continue to be impressed with the articles that Pete Martin has featured since he became editor in late 2011, and *La Posta* is looking sharper, both visually and in terms of content under his guidance.

Thank you to all who have contributed articles, and keep up the great work! Remember that the newly established Richard W. Helbock Prize will be awarded to the best article appearing in the 2012 edition of *La Posta*. With cash and prizes valued at more than \$500, sharpen those pencils and get in touch with the editor if you have an article in mind.

### Linking Postal History Health to Exhibiting

Steve Edmondson has thrown down the gauntlet to challenge us all with his commentary, "The Health of Postal History and Postal History Exhibiting."

Steve notes that both postal history exhibits and material available from dealers at shows seem to be declining, and believes that one of the reasons is that categories available for exhibiting have become stilted and uninteresting to today's collector.

I would like to see some dialogue get going about this within the pages of *La Posta*. Do you agree with Steve's assessment? What do you think of the alternate categories he has suggested? If you are a dealer, why isn't more postal history material put out at shows? If you have an opinion, please send an e-mail to [Pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:Pmartin2525@yahoo.com), or send a letter to the editor.

### Helbock Collection to be Offered in Sacramento

*La Posta* will have a strong presence at the APS StampShow in Sacramento August 16-19 as Editor Pete Martin and I will be in attendance all four days. Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries is the official auctioneer and, among many other enticing offerings, the postal history collection of founding editor R.W. "Bill" Helbock will be up for sale.

Bill was a lifelong postal history researcher and writer and his holdings represent more than 50 years



of collecting. While he is well known in the philatelic arena for his expertise in the western United States, Alaska, military postal history, and U.S. Doanes, his interests expanded in later years to include impressive collections of U.S. and worldwide commercial airmail, and specialty collections of APOs, Philippine POWs, U.S. internment camps, and probably the most comprehensive collection of 19th century U.S. forts in America. There are about 7,000 covers in the collection, many of which will be individually auctioned.

The Helbock collection is fresh material that hasn't been "recycled" through other shows or dealers, and is notable for the many unique and interesting pieces, and the excellent condition of its covers. To request an auction catalog, just e-mail [info@harmerschau.com](mailto:info@harmerschau.com) or ring them at (707) 778-6454 (see their ad on the inside front cover).

I'll be attending the auction, and will also be making the rounds to visit dealers and friends at the bourse. If you'd like to have a "cuppa" and a chat, I'd love to meet up at the show. You may ring me from August 15-19 in Sacramento on my U.S. mobile phone: (503) 704-5959. Hope to see you there!

*Catherine Clark*



This Fort Gibson free frank from the Helbock collection is one of thousands of covers to be offered by Harmer-Schau Galleries at their StampShow auction in August.

## A Profile of *La Posta* Readers

The Fourth Quarter 2011 *La Posta* carried a two-page Readership Survey insert and thanks to an enthusiastic response we have a much better idea about who *La Posta* readers are and what they like.

Overall, more than 25 percent of *La Posta* subscribers took the time to complete the survey. That's an impressive response rate for a survey like this and a clear indication about how strongly you feel about the journal, now in its 43rd year of publication. Many of you included additional, sometimes extensive, comments about your preferences.

Overall, we received surveys from 32 states, Canada and Great Britain. Traditional mail was used to send all but six, which came via e-mail.

Based on your responses, here is what the "typical" *La Posta* reader looks like:

You are a male (97 per cent) in your late sixties or early seventies and have been a subscriber for more than 10 years (68 per cent). You receive your journals in the mail in excellent condition (92 per cent) but you're not keen about sharing it with others (68 per cent don't let anyone else read their copy).

You feel the \$32 subscription price is just right (81 per cent) and have visited the *La Posta* website within the last 90 days (although about a third have never visited the site).

Getting access to a digital version of *La Posta* is not important to you, nor is access to the Postal Historian Online feature (although for those with access to a computer, most would use it if it were placed online).

More than two-thirds of you have purchased from at least one of our advertisers within the past year, with two-to-three purchases being the most common.

A narrow majority (56 per cent) feels that Canadian postal history should not be covered in *La Posta* (although many made exceptions if there was a U.S. tie-in).

Almost unanimously (96 per cent), you feel that the type size currently used in *La Posta* is just right. Nearly two-thirds of you feel that including color in the journal is not important or only somewhat important and that, given a choice between getting an 80-page journal and adding color, nearly 70 per cent of you opt for the larger journal.

In response to the question about what subjects you would you like to see more coverage of, as expected, the topics were wide and varied. Some of you listed all your favorite subjects; others just said you liked the

subjects currently included. To give you an idea about what your fellow members are interested in, the chart on the next page shows the rank order of items listed in the survey. Other subjects were offered, but none received more than two mentions.

The Top 10 is listed in bold. While many of the Top 10 subjects were expected, it's nice to see the interest in postal history exhibits, book reviews and modern postal history.

Also on the next page are representative comments (in random order) provided on the survey forms.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond. We will continue to carefully evaluate the results and all your comments. They will serve as a guiding light as we continue to review the future direction of *La Posta*.

### **Auction Houses and *La Posta***

We strive to provide you the best of all aspects of American postal history and that includes adding more of the top dealers and auction houses to our stable of advertisers.

Kelleher Auctions, established in 1885, has been a longtime advertiser and carries a wide range of U.S. postal history, usually very strong in the Eastern states.

Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, based on the West Coast, often includes postal history and will offer the Richard Helbock Collection at StampShow in August. Bill had wide interests and this "fresh" material should be a boon to collectors of many specialties.

Schuyler Rumsey, based in California, joined us as a regular advertiser in the First Quarter *La Posta*. The firm has had great success recently in offering exceptional Western and advertising covers, among others.

Starting with this issue, Siegel Auction Galleries, the leading auction house in North America, becomes a regular advertiser. Siegel auctions are known for offering the rarest postal history, especially for Postmasters' Provisionals, early United States and Civil War material. The Siegel auction catalogs are usually so well documented that they become essential references and literature in their own right.

Several other major postal history auction houses and dealers have indicated that they plan to advertise in the future.

We want *La Posta* to be a one-stop shop where you get all the best features and where you also can find the best sources for adding items to your collections.

# The *La Posta* Readership Survey Results

For which of these areas would you like to see more coverage in *La Posta*?

In rank order. Top 10 in **bold**.

- 1. Postmarks**
- 2. Military mail**
- 3. Postal history exhibits**
- 4. Auxiliary markings**
- 5. Town markings**
- 6. Territorial mail**
- 7. Book reviews**
- 7. Modern postal history**
- 9. Mail by rail**
- 9. Postal rates**
11. Censorship
11. Advertising mail
13. Machine cancels
13. Ship mail
15. Postal cards
15. Postcards
17. Civil War
18. Post offices
19. Western mail
20. Airmail
21. Auctions/Mail sales
22. Auction coverage
23. Fancy cancels
24. Private posts
25. Crash mail
25. Illustrated mail
27. Stationery
28. Disinfected mail
29. HPOs
29. Letters
31. Photographs
32. Event covers
32. News items
32. People
35. First day covers
36. Meters
37. Astrophilately

## Member comments in random order.

- You have good rounded coverage.
- Put the PMG series in book form when the series is completed.
- I like the range of articles, quality of the publication and dedication of the participants.
- The new "Post Office Views" column is nice.
- I like the variety of subjects and depth of research.
- Include more major national auction results and upcoming auctions.
- *La Posta* is just a good and interesting read for postal history people and not a second tier story for philatelists.
- Keep up the good work!
- Include Canadian postal history, especially if USA is at least secondarily involved.
- For me, paper publications are extremely important.
- I prefer 80 pages. I can get color from the digital version.
- I like the quality and completeness of the articles. They are very academic and very well done.
- I want more coverage of the entire USA, not just the Western states.
- Would love to see more articles about Southern states.
- I like the excellent articles (and superior illustrations in B&W) written by knowledgeable authors (even about areas I'm not especially interested in).
- I realize costs are going up but you must hold down costs. I realize there are no free lunches any more but some of us belong to a lot of groups.
- I like everything!
- "Postal Historians Online" is actually sort of stupid to have in print. On the Web you can just double click on the name and the e-mail is ready to go.
- I love the new format and much larger print and illustrations.
- I like the move away from the heavy emphasis on the West.
- *La Posta* has a lot of personal touch.
- I'd like to see more Eastern postal history.
- The "Postal Historians Online" should have moved to the Web long ago; no need to take up real estate in the journal. Besides, on the Web they could be hot links—so much easier to use
- While color would be nice, I would opt for more content over color.
- The most important thing that could be added to the website is an index, kept up to date for all issues.
- A large number of illustrations helps alleviate the feeling of crowding and should be continued. An occasional article consisting of many illustrations and little text would add interest and variety.
- Would like to see more 19th century features.
- The articles are "colorful," informative and unlike the bland articles found in other journals.
- There is information useful to me in every issue.
- More book reviews, please.
- Well written and interesting.
- I really like the Postmaster General series.
- I like the advertisers. It would be nice if there were dealer auctions again.

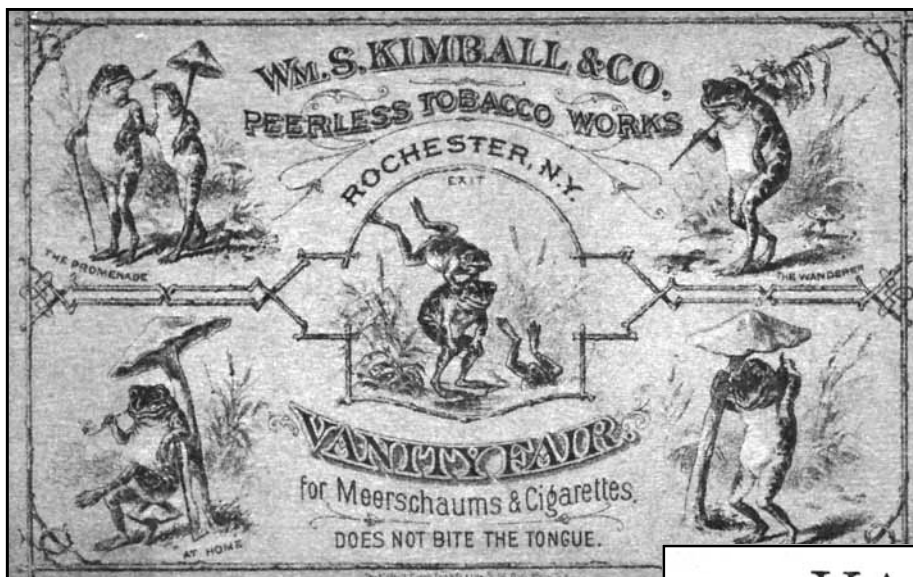
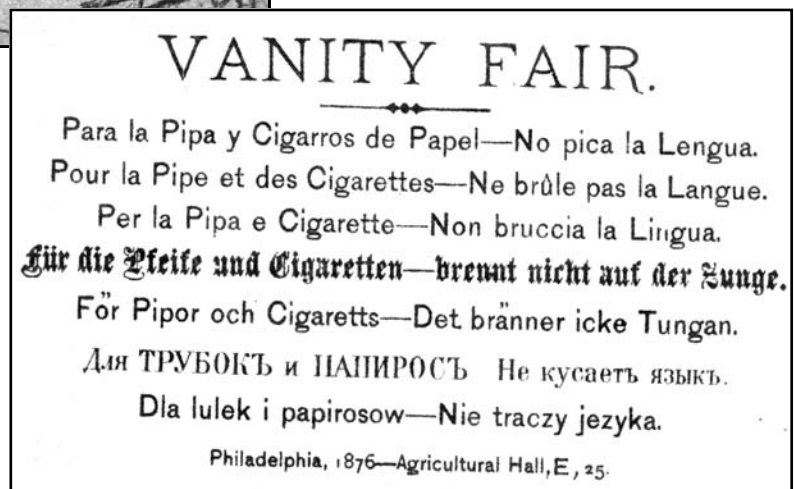


Figure 1: A promotional card produced by William S. Kimball & Company of Rochester, N.Y., before the start of the 1876 Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. Kimball displayed a series of cigarette production devices invented by an employee. Kimball's exhibit won a gold medal at the Vienna Exposition of 1873 and Melbourne, Australia in 1880. Note that the advertising message is printed in seven languages. His exact location at the 1876 Centennial is printed at the bottom.



## Pre-event Publicity for World's Fairs and Expositions

By Michael Dattolico

World fairs and expositions have long been expressions of national pride and cultural splendor. The Second Industrial Revolution influenced the world with a vast array of technological achievements.

In Europe and America, inventors and entrepreneurial geniuses became a new class of scientific titans who awed the masses with feats of engineering while delighting them with everything from mysterious gadgetry to exotic foods. Exhibitions and expositions were the forums where people could see, be mystified and learn about exciting discoveries. For rich and poor alike, the price of a ticket bought a box seat in the theater of an expanding universe.

"How science makes life better" was a recurrent theme at most fairs. But they also commemorated events having national and international importance, celebrated the resurgence of places devastated by natural calamities and promoted the development of others. Overall, they affirmed man's relationship with others and his evolving world.

Unfortunately, many fairs were held during national economic downturns and were themselves financial failures. At least three American world's fairs opened their gates as financial panics rocked the country.

Investors scratched their heads in dismay when the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition, which began on the coattails of the Great Depression, actually made a profit. Yet the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, which opened at a time of burgeoning prosperity, finished with one of the deepest deficits on record.

Other events defined their places in our history. Two American expositions were marred by political assassinations. Louisiana's state treasurer hobbled the 1884-85 Cotton Exposition by absconding with \$1,777,000 of the state's money, including most of the fair's funds.

The Spanish-American War delayed the Pan-American Exposition by two years, and the 1939-40 New York World's Fair was affected by the start of World War II. Two fair sites became major naval bases:





Figure 2: Official envelope for the 1884 Cotton Centennial Exposition cancelled at the exposition's postal station. Envelopes were designed for each state's representatives; This one was for Iowa. No envelopes were cancelled at the Expo Post Office in 1884.

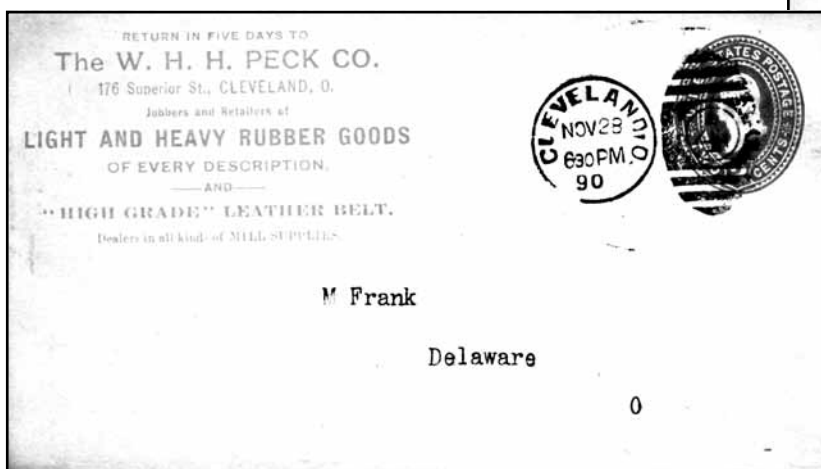
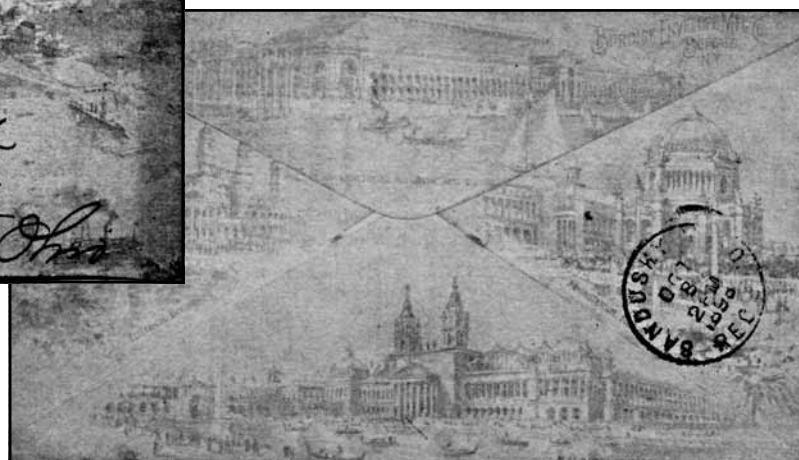


Figure 3 (above): The front and back of a trade card printed for the Willimantic Thread Company, a participant at the Cotton Centennial Exposition. The back refers to the event as the "New Orleans World's Exposition."

Figure 4: Front and back of business envelope of the W.H.H. Peck Company of Cleveland, retailer of rubber goods including overshoes (galoshes). Chicago shoe tycoon, Charles Schwab, was one of the Columbian Fair Commission's prominent members. Schwab's factories manufactured all types of shoes including galoshes. The Peck Company was one of his retail outlets. Schwab had stickers made such as the one shown on the back which were affixed on outgoing mail. Note the play on the word "Fair."



Figure 5: Front and back illustrated envelope showing a panoramic view of the Columbian World's Fair. It was used by the Clarendon Hotel in Chicago. This type of envelope has been seen in four colors.



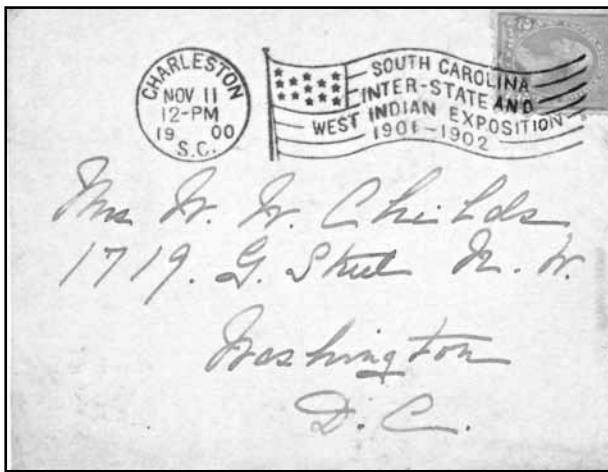


Figure 6: An American machine-Langford Type B-26 with the pre-event publicity slogan "SOUTH CAROLINA/INTER-STATE AND/WEST INDIAN EXPOSITION/1901-1902" within the flag killer.

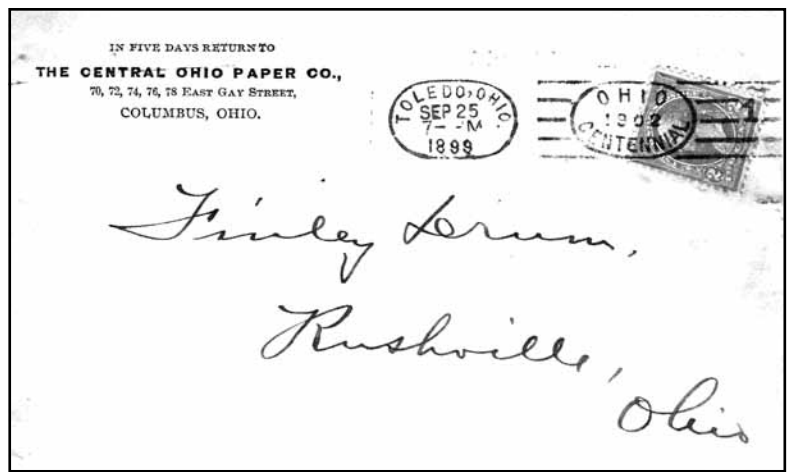


Figure 7: A business envelope cancelled with a Barry machine at Toledo, Ohio, the designated site of the mixed Ohio Centennial Exposition. In the second oval, the year is given as 1902.



Figure 8: An advertising cover promoting the Ohio Centennial Exposition to be held at Toledo, Ohio, in 1903. For reasons not fully understood, this fair never took place. The cover's design was created in 1898 by J.G. Breed Jr.

Norfolk naval base following the 1907 Jamestown Exposition and Treasure Island, Calif., after the 1939-40 Golden Gate Exposition.

Weather played an adverse role in some expositions' fortunes. Attendees of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition endured a searing summer heat wave. The Texas Centennial Exposition and the Great Lakes Exposition began in the blast furnace of 1936, the hottest year of the 20th century.

For the 19th-century expositions, much of the pre-event publicity was contained in newspaper items. But organizers found other ways to publicize them.

In 1876, a "Centennial Boarding-House Agency" made a list of rooms in Philadelphia hotels, boarding houses and private homes. The agency sold tickets for available rooms in cities that promoted the centennial. Trains going to Philadelphia carried advertising for the event. One of America's most popular poets, Kate Harrington, published *Centennial, and Other Poems* that commemorated the centennial celebration and enticed people who read her book. Competing exhibitors used advertising cards before the fair's opening to tell people where they would be located

(Figure 1). Stationers created a vast variety of illustrated envelopes and trade cards that publicized expositions. Other ingenious promotional gimmicks can be seen on business envelopes. (Figures 2 through 5).

The 1893 Columbian World's Fair got an official boost from the U.S. Post Office Department. The government issued a commemorative set of stamps for the event, and postal cards were printed to promote the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing. Perhaps most important was the use of rapid canceling machines to process mail at the fair's postal station. The machines were used after the fair began, however, and did not function in a pre-publicity capacity.

Rapid canceling machines made their appearance during the 1870s. Besides usage at the Columbian Exposition's postal station, they were also used at the National Export Exposition (1899) and the Paris Exposition in 1900. Like the Columbian Exposition, they were only used during the fair (Figure 6).

But the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 was different. For the first time, rapid machine cancellers produced pre-event publicity. A Barry "oval" rapid canceller machine with a slogan killer began hyping

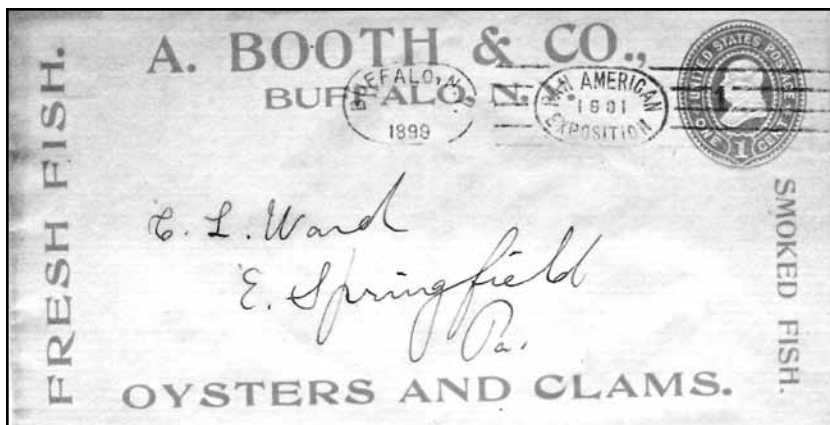


Figure 9: Barry machine cancel, Die I, on this third-class cover postmarked at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1899.

Figure 10: A Barry machine involute flag style cancellation. This marking is most often found on Larkin Soap Company advertising covers.



Figure 11a (left): A promotional postcard showing the emblem of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, its inclusive dates and the signature line.

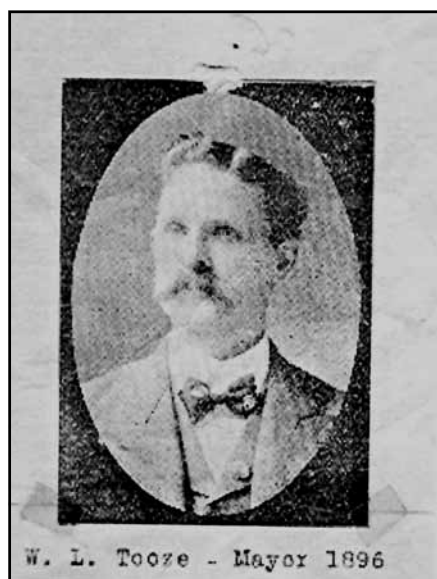
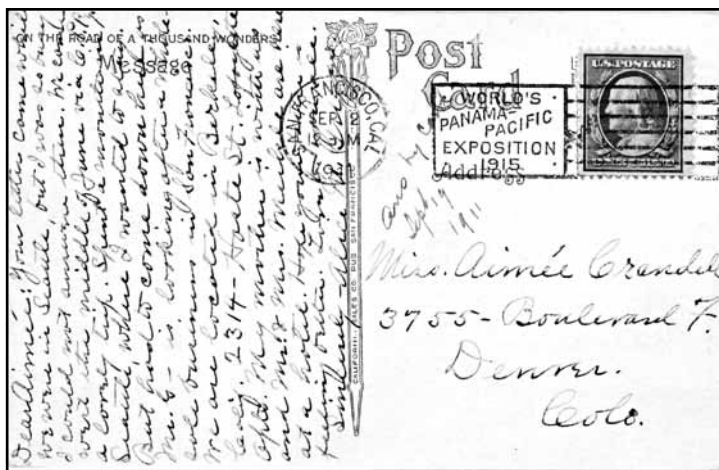


Figure 12: Photo of Walter L. Tooze.



Figure 11b: Back of the card showing the name and address of the sender, Walter L. Tooze of Woodburn, Ore., in November 1904.





**Figure 13: International machine Type 3 cancellation applied in 1911.**

the Pan-American Exposition as early as July 1899. It was situated at the Buffalo Post Office. Before the exposition opened in May 1901, a variety of rapid canceling machine types had been used for publicity. (Figures 7 through 10).

The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair extensively used post office pre-event publicity markings that helped make it one of the few successful expositions of the era. The national economy had shaken off the effects of the 1901 stock market crash, and the business atmosphere had improved. The St. Louis fair had the popular Ferris Wheel as an attraction, and the 1904 Olympics held in St. Louis expanded the fair's attendance.

Even before the St. Louis event began, plans were made for a fair in the Pacific Northwest. The event was called the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition and was slated to open in 1905 at Portland, Ore. The area had not recovered from the "Long Depression" (1873-1896). Business and civic leaders planned the fair as a way to revitalize the local economy. An International rapid canceller was used at the Portland post office in the summer of 1904. Promotional envelopes bearing the exposition emblem were used during the pre-exposition period.

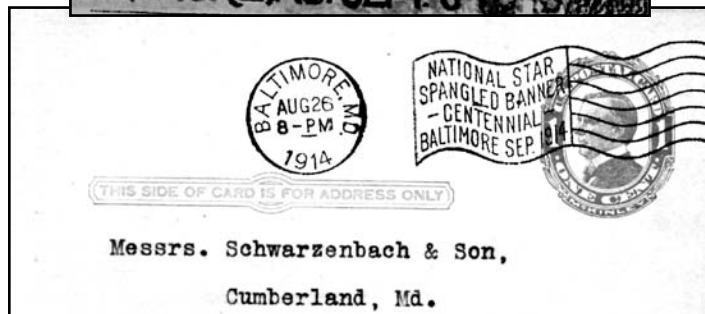
An "announcement" postcard also showing the exposition logo was used for publicity. An example is seen as Figure 11a and 11b. The postcard had a signature line on the front to personalize it. The individual who signed this postcard was the former mayor of Woodburn, Ore., Walter L. Tooze (Figure 12).

When Tooze signed the postcard, however, he was postmaster of the Woodburn Post Office. He was also a landowner and prominent businessman in the area. The fair was a financially successful one and did boost the area's economy.

The Panama-Pacific Exposition may be the most pre-publicized fair event of all. International machines



**Figure 14: International machine American flag type cancel applied at the Los Angeles University Station. It was only used from May 3 through July 23, 1912.**



**Figure 15: Postal card with a machine cancel publicizing the National Star Spangled Banner Centennial held in Baltimore from Sept. 6 through 13, 1914.**

were used, not only in San Francisco, but also in other cities on the West Coast. Pre-event publicity machine cancellers began promoting San Francisco's Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1911 (Figures 13 and 14).

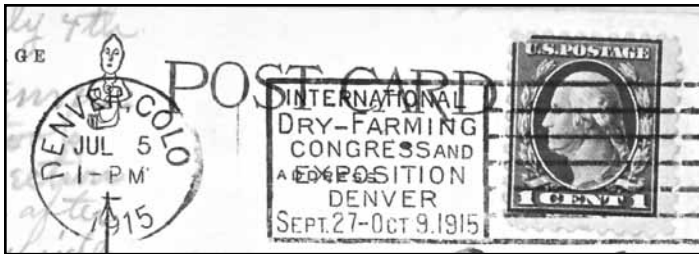


Figure 16: International machine cancel publicizing the International Dry-Farming Congress and Exposition held at Denver from Sept. 27 through Oct. 9, 1915.

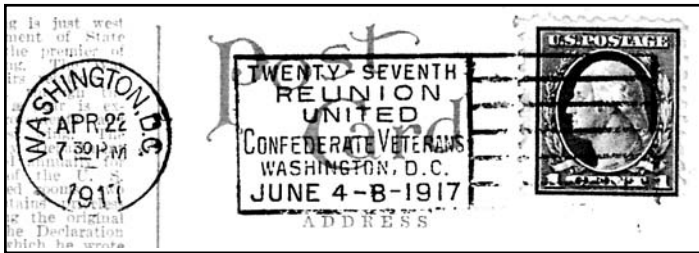


Figure 17: Machine cancel slogan telling of the 27th Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans held in Washington, D.C., in June 1917.



Figure 18: Machine cancel slogan bringing attention to the Texas Centennial of 1936. Use of this cancellation began in late 1935.

Postal rapid machine cancellers also publicized non-fair events in future years. Some examples are shown as Figures 15 through 18.

The use of labels to inform and generate enthusiasm about upcoming expositions, though not as effective as machine cancellers, was another method. Two examples are shown as Figures 19 and 20.

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- Selz, Schwab & Company of Chicago. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Whitfield\\_Bunn\\_and\\_Jacob\\_Bunn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Whitfield_Bunn_and_Jacob_Bunn)
- “Portrait & Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley Oregon.” Chapman Publishing Company, 1903. Walter Lincoln Tooze.



Figure 19: A Hotel Hunt corner card with an example of a pre-event publicity label publicizing the Pacific Southwest Exposition held at Long Beach, Calif., in 1928. This label was used after the exposition ended.

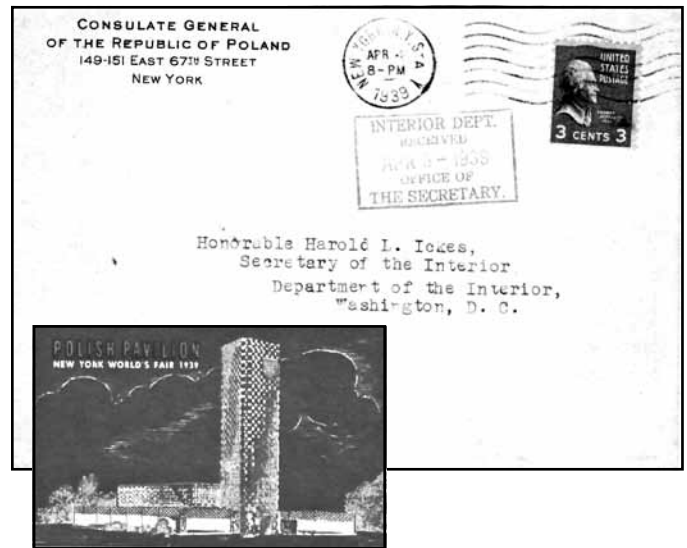


Figure 20: Diplomatic cover sent from the Polish Consulate in New York on April 4, 1939 to Washington, D.C. A label showing the Polish Pavilion (inset) is affixed to the back. The fair opened April 30, 1939. The Polish, French and Czech staffs were forced to stay in the United States due to the start of World War II on Sept. 1, 1939. Ironically, the only major power to not attend the World's Fair was Germany.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jtenlen/ORBios/wltooze5.txt>

Walter L. Tooze.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walter\\_L.\\_Tooze.pgn](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walter_L._Tooze.pgn)

Commemorative Image of Star Spangled Banner Centennial.

<http://www.mdhs.org/Library/Images/Mellon%20Images/Z24access/z24-01921.jpg>

(Michael Dattolico is a longtime contributor to La Posta.)

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STAMPS BY 100 AND 1000BRITISH COLONIES  
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DEALER'S LIST FREEWE CARRY THE  
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POSTAGE STAMPS  
IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICAMarks Stamp Co.  
Importers and Exporters of  
Postage Stamps

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BRITISH COLONIES  
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ALBUMS, CATALOGUES  
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Canada

March 12th 1915

J. E. Renoll, Esq.,

Hanover, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to the enclosed order, we are very sorry for the delay in filling it. The trouble is we are out of so many of the lines quoted in our list as they have all gone up in price. We ~~xxx~~ send you a larger quantity of the German two marks in order to straighten out in full the old balance and hope you will find the same to be satisfactory. Any further orders we promise will be more carefully looked after.

Yours truly,

MARKS STAMP CO.

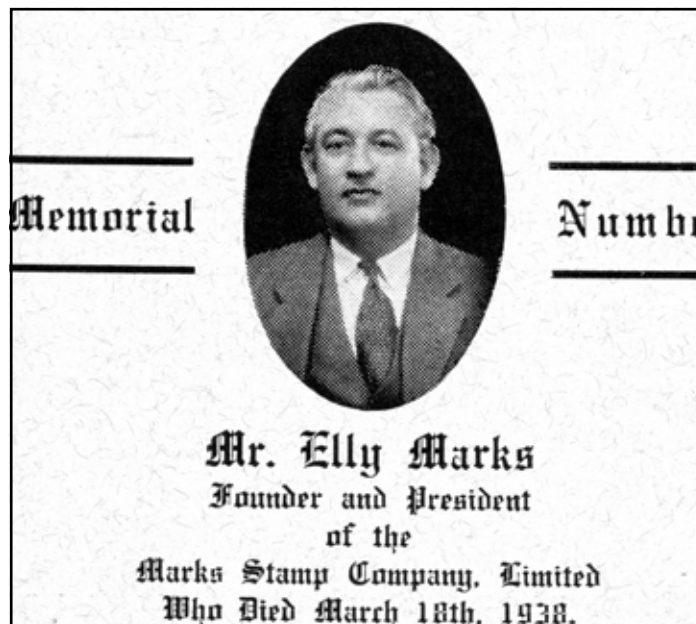
EM/PS

Figure 1: A March 12, 1915, letter from Elly Marks on company letterhead.





**Figure 2: The only known photo of the Marks Stamp Company.** This 1914 view shows Delf Naronha, Leslie Davenport and Arthur Barger at the storefront. (Courtesy, The Vincent Greene Foundation Philatelic Research Centre)



**Figure 3: A photograph of Elly Marks in his later years.**

## Canada's Marks Stamp Company Served Collectors in Small U.S. Communities

By Gary Dickinson

The founder of Marks Stamp Company (MSC) was Elly Marks (1879-1938), a lifelong resident of Toronto, Ontario. His business experience began in 1891 when he sold stamps to his fellow students. He became a fulltime stamp dealer at the age of 18. He gradually developed his business into the largest stamp dealership in Canada with an inventory of more than 75 million worldwide stamps and with customers around the globe.

The bulk of the company's customers resided in the United States as evidenced by the fact that three-quarters of more than 200 MSC outgoing covers reviewed for a recent study were mailed to U.S. addressees. Although the majority of U.S.-bound covers were addressed to collectors in larger cities, the company also served collectors in even the smallest communities.

This article highlights the postal history of MSC and the services it provided. Nine covers addressed to customers in smaller U.S. communities are illustrated. All of the communities represented had fewer than

10,000 residents at the time of the 2010 Census. The populations of the nine towns range from the 1,800 residents of Berlin, N.Y., to 8,000 in Wellsville, N.Y. The cover postmarks range from 1897 to 1963.

The first decade of his business was based at the family home at 169 McCaul Street in Toronto. He placed considerable emphasis on customer service and satisfaction and this was reflected in a letter dictated to a customer in Hanover, Pa., (population 15,000) in 1915 as shown in Figure 1. The letter indicates an effort to satisfy the customer and also illustrates a rather complex letterhead design.

The only known photograph of the Marks Stamp Company is shown in Figure 2. This image, found in the archives of the The Vincent Greene Foundation Philatelic Research Centre in Toronto, was taken in 1914 and shows Delf Naronha, Leslie Davenport and Arthur Barger at the storefront. It is likely the 414 Spadina Avenue address printed on the March 1915 letter shown in Figure 1.

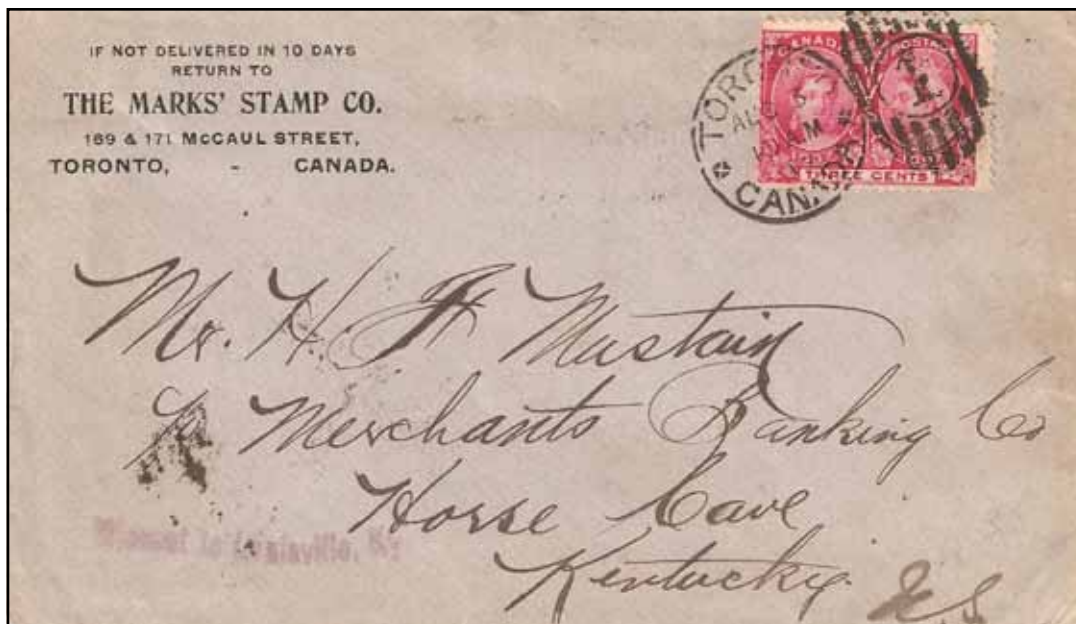


Figure 4: To Horse Cave, Ky., (population 2,200) on Aug. 3, 1897.

Marks gradually built up his customer base through direct mail and other forms of print advertising, as well as by word-of-mouth. A 1907 regional history of the county in which Toronto is included noted that:

“Though he began in quite a small way his interests have increased until now he is carrying on the largest concern of the kind in Canada. The stock comprises 25 or 30 million stamps of all nations, and his orders come from all parts of both Canada and the United States.”

The 1920s and 1930s were the period of greatest success for MSC. In addition to carrying a large inventory, the company employed several knowledgeable philatelists. Among the long-term employees of the company were Leslie Davenport, Gordon Crouch and Alden Johnson, all of whom went on to form and operate stamp dealerships of their own.

MSC published a considerable number of monographs, price lists, and other ephemeral material, but its major publishing venture was the periodical variously titled *EMCO Circular*, *EMCO Journal*, and *EMCO Monthly Journal*, with EMCO being an acronym for Elly Marks Company.

The company periodical was first published in 1919 and continued until 1957 with a total of 416 issues. The main content was always price lists and stamp promotions, but other information concerning new stamp issues and articles by company staff members was also provided to the subscribers.

Elly Marks converted his business from a single proprietorship to a limited company in 1927, and in an unusual development for the time, he allotted 80 per cent of the company’s shares to four employees who had all been with MSC for nine or more years.

During the last decade of his life, Marks paid less

attention to his stamp business and more to his diverse interests in mining, real estate and finance, as well as several Toronto charitable organizations, especially those working with disadvantaged children.

A portrait of Marks near the end of his life, which is taken from the front cover of the memorial edition of the *EMCO Journal* in 1938, is shown in Figure 3.

The business was eventually sold in 1953 to Harry Martin Jr. and became a subsidiary of his Empire Stamp Company. Although the MSC name was continued for at least two decades beyond the takeover, most business transactions were conducted under the Empire name.

MSC’s business was transacted primarily by mail, so there were many opportunities for the company to offer collectors a diversity of covers. They had a vast inventory of Canadian stamps that had accumulated over a long period, so they were able to apply a variety of old and new stamps to their outgoing mail.

Such variables as the weight of envelopes and their content, changes in surface mail rates and registration fees, and frequent changes in their business corner cards resulted in the production of a diverse range of covers emanating from their offices. Thus, MSC’s covers had collectible status in their own right.

Those variables noted above are reflected in the mailings by MSC to their customers in smaller U.S. communities. The nine covers shown here are arranged in chronological order. Each is addressed to a different destination and has different franking.

Of particular interest is that all of the corner cards are different. MSC printed at least 50 different versions during their seven decades of operation. This was attributable, at least in part, to the company moving its location seven times over that period, but they also

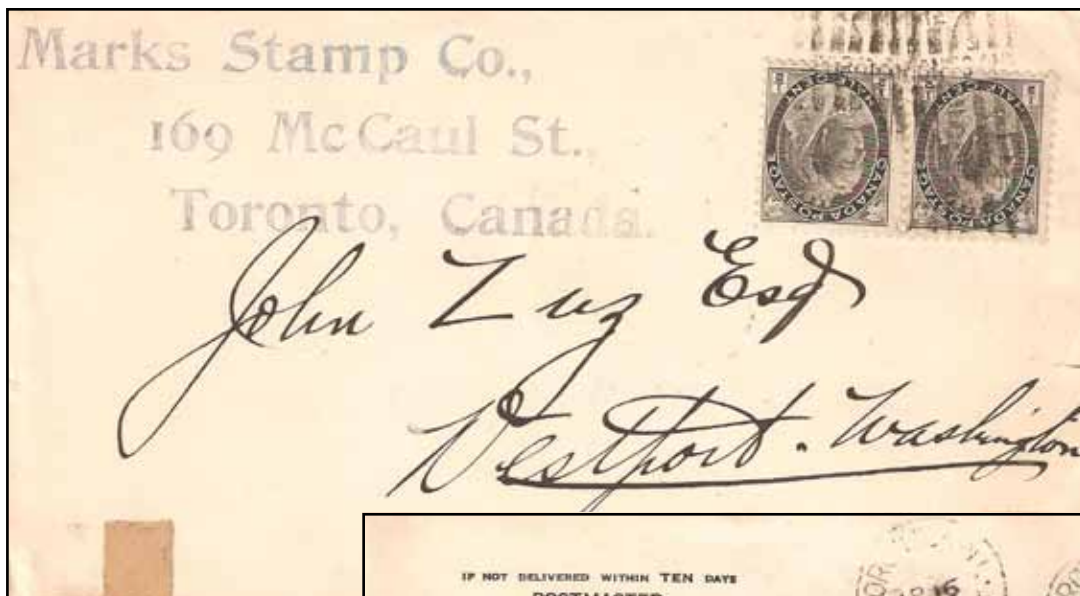


Figure 5: To Westport, Wash., (population 2,800) in July 1900.

Figure 6: To Centerville, Iowa, (population 5,500) on April 16, 1935.



seemed to revel in making frequent changes to their stationery.

Figure 4 shows a cover postmarked at Toronto in 1897 and addressed to an employee of the Merchants Banking Company in Horse Cave, Ky., population 2,200. The envelope probably contained business correspondence as the 3-cent stamp (Scott 53) covered the 1/2-ounce letter rate in place at the time.

The letter was posted on August 3 and despite the faint impression of a rubber stamp on the lower left front of the envelope indicating that it had been "Missent to Louisville, Ky.," was received, according to a back stamp, on the 5th.

The Horse Cave name is colorful and was most likely derived from a large natural cave located on the south side of the town's Main Street that was used historically by Native Americans for sequestering their horses.

The cover shown in Figure 5 was mailed to Westport, Wash., (population 2,800) in 1900 and contained printed advertising material as postage was paid with a pair of 1/2-cent stamps (Scott 66) to cover the one-cent rate

for up to 4 ounces of printed papers. The cancellation was with a Toronto roller and the cover was received at Westport on July 13, as indicated by the back stamp.

Figure 6 shows a cover addressed to Centerville, Iowa, (population 5,500) in 1935. Centerville was originally a coal-mining town and that was the main industry until the 1950s. The town was named Chaldea when it was founded in 1846 but its name was changed to Senterville to honor politician W.T. Senter.

When incorporation papers were filed in 1855, the clerk handling the transaction thought that Senterville was a spelling error and registered the name as Centerville.

The cover is franked with a 10-cent stamp (Scott 190) that was used to pay the registration fee, and a 3-cent stamp (Scott 197) to pay the first ounce of the surface letter rate.

A rubber stamp applied by the Chicago Custom House indicated that the cover was "FREE of duty" but a Customs fee of 10 cents was applied as per the rubber-stamped "Letter Package/Collect ten cents." This fee was paid at the cover's destination as indicated





Figure 7: To Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., (population 3,000) on June 27, 1936.



Figure 8: To Eddington, Pa., (population 3,100) in 1940.

by the two 5-cent postage due stamps (Scott J83, precancelled Centerville). The cover was posted at Toronto on April 16, 1935, passed through Chicago on the 17th, and arrived at Centerville on the 18th.

Shown in Figure 7 is a cover from 1936 addressed to a MSC customer in Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., a riverfront village of 3,000 people in Orange County that was founded in 1609 by the explorer Henry Hudson.

The registration fee of 10 cents was paid by Scott 190 while the 5-cent rate for a two-ounce envelope was paid by one each of Scott 182 and 197. The back of the cover has a large rubber-stamped impression, "Used postage stamps only/Not Dutyable," as well as circular dated cancellations tracking the cover from Toronto (June 27) to Buffalo (June 28) and finally to Cornwall-on-Hudson (June 29).

Figure 8 features a cover to Eddington, Pa., a town of 3,100 people less than a half-hour drive northeast of Philadelphia. Franking is with one of Scott 246 and a pair of Scott 252 for a total of five cents, which was the surface mail rate for an envelope weighing up to two ounces. The Toronto roller cancellation does not include a clear date, but the cover was likely mailed in 1940 as the corner card includes an address change from 462 Spadina Avenue to 258 College Street to reflect an office relocation that happened in that year.

A 1942 cover to Berlin, N.Y., is shown in Figure 9. The Berlin population is 1,800, and was settled originally around 1765. In early times, it was a dairy farming area but today it serves mainly as a residential community for the state capital at Albany. The eastern town boundary is along the border with Massachusetts.



Figure 9: To Berlin, N.Y., (population 1,800) on Dec. 10, 1942.



Figure 10: To Franklin, N.J., (population 5,000) on July 7, 1943.

The envelope contained stamps for a customer in Berlin and was franked with four 3-cent and one 1-cent War Issue stamps. The 13 cents paid included 10 cents for the registration fee plus three cents for the surface mail of less than one ounce. Rubber stamps indicated that the envelope “May be opened for/customs examination,” and that it was “Passed for Export.” The back flap was resealed with brown tape. The cover was posted on Dec. 10, 1942 and received at Buffalo the next day before arriving at Berlin on December 12.

Another wartime cover is shown in Figure 10 and was addressed to Franklin, N.J. This town of 5,000 people is located over a rich ore body containing 150 different minerals, many of which are fluorescent. Franking of the cover is with two War Issue stamps, Scott 250 and 254 paying the six-cent rate for envelopes

up to two ounces. It was examined and passed for export by the customs inspector.

Wellsville, N.Y., was the destination for the 1947 cover shown in Figure 11. Wellsville is the name of both a town and a village within the town, with a combined population of some 8,000 but with two separate governments. The two 2-cent War Issue stamps (Scott 250) paid the four-cent rate for surface mail of less than one ounce. The cover was posted on July 18 and passed for export.

The final cover in this series is shown in Figure 12. It was mailed in 1963, a decade after MSC was acquired by Empire Stamp Company. The addressee resided in Pawhuska, Okla., a town of some 3,300 people located about an hour’s drive north of Tulsa. The 5-cent stamp (Scott 341) paid the five-cent letter rate to the U.S.



Figure 11: To Wellsville, N.Y., (population 8,000) on July 18, 1947.



Figure 12: To Pawhuska, Okla., (population 3,300) on May 20, 1963.

Even though Marks Stamp Company was a Canadian company with its home base in Toronto, its customers were principally in the United States and scattered throughout the nation.

The company's founder and leader for almost five decades, Elly Marks, as well as his employees, went to considerable lengths to ensure that all of those customers were satisfied and those who resided in the smallest of communities were no exception.

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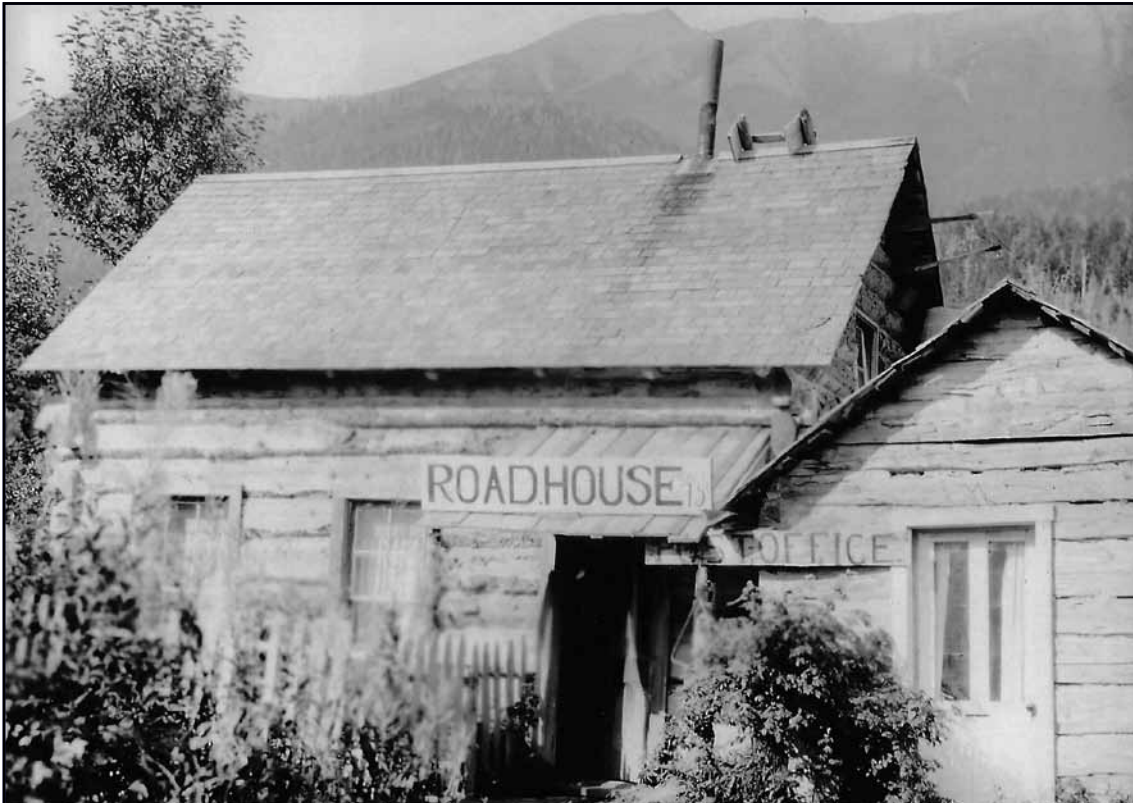
Dickinson, Gary. *A Postal History of Marks Stamp Company*. 2012, 50 pp., in press.

(Gary Dickinson is a researcher specializing in Canadian postal history and first day covers. He resides in Kelowna, British Columbia.)



The "Snapshots" column features photographs of interest to postal historians. *La Posta* readers with interesting or historical photographs should send a 300 dpi or better scan, or a sharp color or black and white photocopy, plus a photo caption to: *La Posta* Snapshots, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; E-mail, [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name and address.

### Two Post Offices From Opposite Coasts



**Post Office  
and Roadhouse  
Sunrise, Alaska**

Taken during the  
1900-1916 period.  
The Sunrise Post Office  
operated from 1899-1918.

### **Post Office Nethers, Virginia**

Taken in 1935 during the  
Great Depression.  
The Nethers Post Office  
in Madison County  
operated from 1885-1944.



## Postcard Pursuit

By Charles A. Fricke



Figure 1: A 1901 Private Mailing Card mailed from St. Louis to Berlin, Germany.

### A Postcard for a Multitude of Categories

Just where to begin with a discussion of the interesting aspects of the Private Mailing Card (PMC), postcard shown in Figure 1 is a puzzle.

As a starter, the PMC was mailed with a 2-cent stamp (Scott 279B) affixed upside down. Was it happenstance, or was it a subtle meaning of “be sure to look at the other side.” Of course, we’ll never know.

The PMC is postmarked St. Louis, Mo., Jul. 30, 1901, which indicates that the postcard was mailed during the Private Mailing Card period that lasted from July 1, 1898, to Dec. 24, 1901.

During this period, privately produced postcards had to have the inscriptions “Private Mailing Card” and “Authorized by Act of Congress, May 19, 1898” but they did not have to include “This side for address.”

However, the postcard did include “POSTAL CARD—CARTE POSTALE,” which was needed by a UPU Agreement.

If the post office regulation or the UPU Agreement were not in accordance with the requirements, then the postal rate would increase from the UPU 2-cent first class postcard rate to the UPU 5-cent first class letter rate. Since the PMC did comply, the UPU 2-cent postal rate was correct.

The postcard is addressed to Berlin, Germany, and forwarded to Copenhagen, Denmark, as noted by the blue ink forwarding marking. There were no added postal charges for a UPU postcard to be forwarded from one UPU country to another UPU country.

Shown in Figure 2 is the other side of the postcard. It falls into the category of why in the world would anyone send someone a card titled “Shooting Craps.”

It pictures a large group of negroes with some of them kneeling and playing craps. The player at the left is in a position to be the shooter. While it may not be discernible, there is a pair of dice in the center. Whether the dice came up with a winning number is left to the viewer to decide.

There is a good chance that this was a posed photo shoot because there is no evidence of money showing anywhere near the players.

The message implies a knowledge of the game.

July 29, 1901

*Is this familiar to you — Recd your letter & will answer soon, bye bye.*

JJB

Continuing on at the left side reading up is: “FROM PHOTO MADE ON CRAMER PLATE.”



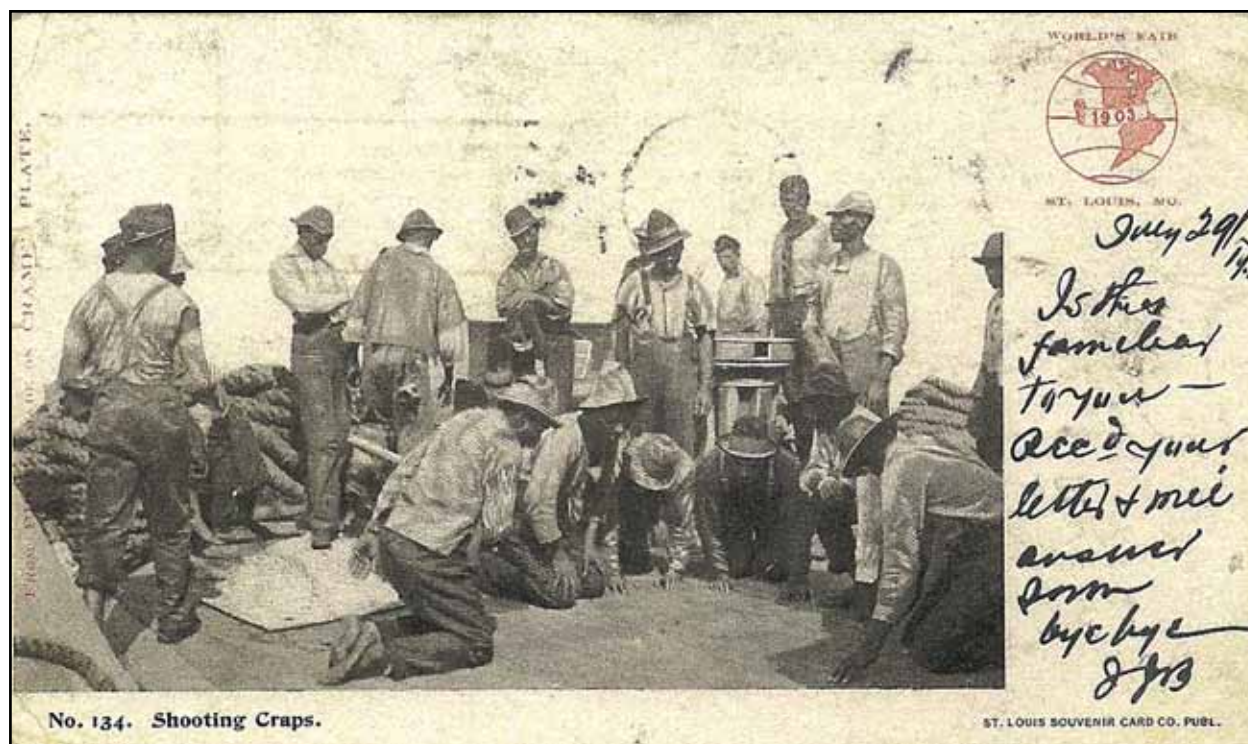


Figure 2: The picture side of the Figure 1 PMC showing a “Shooting Craps” scene.

Now comes the mysterious connection of the photo showing a game of craps with a simple logo in red at the top right picturing a globe and a map of North and South America with “WORLD’S FAIR/1903/ST. LOUIS MO.” and at the bottom right “ST. LOUIS SOUVENIR CARD CO. PUBL.”

So, it all comes down to this, just where would you consider the most logical place in any one of the possible collections. Topical (gambling), postal history

(PMC period), expositions (St. Louis World’s Fair 1904), usage (UPU 2-cent postcard postal rate), method of production (Cramer Plate), publisher (St. Louis Souvenir Card Co.), 2-cent stamp (upside down) or just file it under !/?.

(Charles A. Fricke, the 1981 American Philatelic Society Luffaward recipient for distinguished philatelic research and a longtime postal card specialist, lives in Jenkintown, Pa.)

## Military Postal History Society Turns 75

Congratulations to the members of the Military Postal History Society, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The Military Postal History Society was founded in 1937 as the War Cover Club, American Philatelic Society Unit #19. The club was formalized by adoption of a constitution at a meeting in April 1938 during which a member’s publication called *The War Cover Philatelist* was selected as the club’s official bulletin.

The original club focused largely on the postal history of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. The group changed its name in mid-1991 to better reflect the wide variety of collecting interests of its members. The quarterly issues of the *Bulletin* became identified by season beginning with the Winter 1994 issue.

The group promotes the study of the postal

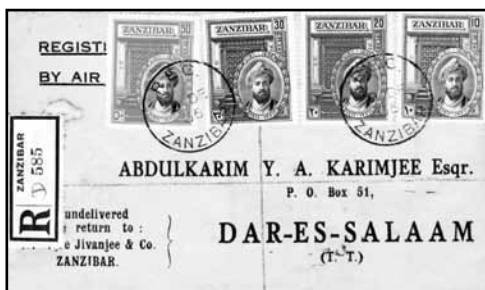
aspects of all wars and military actions of all nations. Today members’ interests include soldier campaign covers, patriotics, prisoner-of-war mail, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, picture postcards of a military nature, camp cancels, field post offices, propaganda labels and leaflets, V-mail, censored mail and similar related material.

The Society publishes a quarterly journal, *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, as well as separate books such as the APO directory that is now in its 7th edition. Mail auctions are frequently conducted.

A 1937-2004 index of the *War Cover Club*, *The War Philatelist* and the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin* is online and downloadable in pdf format.

Tony Brooks is the current president; David Kent is the journal editor. For further information about the MPHS, go to their website at: [www.militaryphs.org](http://www.militaryphs.org).





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Figure 1: A Scott U9 envelope with corner imprint from the Institution for Deaf & Dumb, Jacksonville, Ill.

# The Humanization of Deafness

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

Let us, for the moment, contemplate several seemingly distasteful educational anachronisms; and trust us, they will be pertinent to the philatelic discussion to ensue. First, the year is 1856, and you are a resident of Illinois. Your six-year-old hearing-impaired daughter is required to enter Normal School. But, due to her handicap, she will have to attend a state institution for the deaf; a school dating back to 1839.

The school is fully staffed and funded through the state, such that your only financial liability will be for her clothing. Your precious child, however, will be attending the Jacksonville Deaf and Dumb Asylum. Yes, deaf and dumb asylum. Your lovely daughter is considered deaf, dumb, and in need of an asylum.

Well now, tell that to Helen Keller, or for that matter to Thomas Edison. You didn't know that Edison was severely hearing impaired and graduated from a school for the deaf and dumb? Well, the fact is that "dumb" then did not imply what we now define as "dumb." More on this shortly.

Just one more bit of anachronistic language, this one however clearly representing insensitivity. The year is now 1903 and a new wrinkle has emerged. The biologic theories of evolution derived from Darwinism create a scientific community no longer constrained by scholastic, biblical teachings of creationism. The theory of linguistic development now considers speech to have been a gradually progressive event, passing

through stages of gestures and vocalization that would eventually supersede to present-day speech; this in marked contrast to biblical canon that God created man with fully-formed verbalizing attributes.<sup>1</sup>

The upshot of contemporary thinking would be a momentous cultural change in thinking with regard to the established use of sign language. The newer school of "oralism" would espouse doing away with sign language, considered now a lower stage of evolution, to be replaced by the teaching of vocalization and lip reading. While experts conceded that signs constituted a true language, it was felt that sign language was historically inferior to spoken language.

And here comes the distasteful anachronism. Whereas the manualists, those teaching sign language, felt that signing did not imply inferiority, the oralists felt the opposite. The latter's caveat, however, was that signing should be retained for those hearing-impaired "savages," which to them included Native Americans, who's cultural and biologic development was felt to be consistent with an inferior race—a "race of savages."

These folks should be allowed to retain their more primitive means of communication. And, oh yes, since African-Americans were considered among the backward races, their hearing-impaired too should be confined to separate schools where signing would be their mode of education and oralism denied them. And, in the *Fin de siècle* of the 19th century, so it would be.

We shall return to the entangled web of signing versus oralism, but this is a postal history missive, and we return now to the mid-19th century to embark on an historical and cultural adventure predicated on our exposition of a marvelous philatelic cover.

The cover under discussion (Figure 1) is utilitarian and attractive. A postal stationary envelope is a red Scott U9. The sender, receiver and cancellation are all clearly defined. They yield an attractive imprinted corner cachet from the Institution for Deaf & Dumb, Jacksonville, Ill., a scripted and lined calligraphy address to a Mr. R. Druce in Waukegan, Lake Co. Ill., and a bold Jacksonville cancellation on Jan. 6, 1859.

As they say in upscale clothing stores, tasteful yet not ostentatious. As a starting point for a postal history dialogue, it is specifically the era of the mailing that will highlight the historical events surrounding both the institution and the contemporaneous, and indeed contentious, dialogue surrounding the education of the deaf in the United States.

To understand the nature of the Institution for Deaf and Dumb requires an introduction to the world of the deaf.<sup>2</sup>

Hearing-impaired individuals refer to themselves, and are referred to by others, by many terms, one of the more accepted and indeed respectful being the word Deaf, with a capital letter D, when used as a noun. The timeline of deafness indicates that before the Christian era deafness was considered a curse of the Gods for which people so afflicted were considered monsters and were even put to death. Hebrew law, 1,000 years B.C., provided the Deaf with limited rights to property and marriage, protected them from being cursed by others, but prevented them from participating fully in Temple rituals.

Greek and Roman philosophers classified them with defectives. In Plato's *Cratylus*, Socrates states that deaf people are incapable of language and ideas. Aristotle said that "those who are born deaf all become senseless and incapable of reason." Lucretius, the Roman poet, wrote: "To instruct the deaf, no art can ever reach, no care to improve them, and no wisdom to teach."

Augustine in the fourth century CE stated that "faith cometh by hearing" so deafness was a hindrance to acquiring faith. However, he did believe that the Deaf were educable through sign and gesture, and were capable of transmitting thought and belief and receiving salvation. Finally, in this early Christian era, a setback occurred for the Deaf with the Justinian Code of 529 CE in which the Emperor Justinian denied deaf people the ability to hold property, make contracts or write a will.

As we fast forward a full millennium, we find Girolamo Cardano in 1500 CE being the first physician to recognize the ability of the Deaf to reason and the

first to challenge Aristotle's belief that hearing was a requirement for understanding. Shortly thereafter, in 1521, Dutch Humanist Rudolf Agricola, said the Deaf could communicate through writing, and advocated that speech was separate from the ability of thought.

In 1550, Pedro Ponce de Leon began teaching the Deaf. And, in the mid-17th century, British Physician John Bulwer published several books, including *Philocopus, the Deaf and Dumb Man's Friend*, and *Chirologia, the Natural Language of the Hand*, the first English books about deaf education and the use of manual signs. Bulwer also advocated for the establishment of a school for the Deaf.

In 1616, G. Bonifacio published a treatise about sign language, and over the remainder of the 17th century a veritable explosion of publications pertaining to the education of the Deaf emerged throughout the Western world.

Francis Green, a native of Boston, whose son was a deaf mute, was the earliest advocate of education for the Deaf in the United States. His *Vox Oculis Subjecta*, published in 1783, described methods by which the Deaf could be taught to speak.

The number of writers and the scope of their works are far too numerous and detailed for a philatelic article to encompass, but they invariably shared a common theme, namely that the Deaf were capable of thinking and reasoning, were educable, could be taught to communicate through various forms of formalized gestures known as signing, were in some cases capable of vocalizing intelligible speech, and through education could become self-sufficient, useful, productive members of society.

Finally, we will again fast forward to the contemporary time-frame of our philatelic missive, the 19th century, to arrive at the historical heritage of this many-century odyssey leading to the creation of the Jacksonville, Ill., Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the seventh School for the Deaf to open in the United States, 22 years after Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet established the precursor of all those great institutions in America, The American Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut in 1817.

At this point in our dialogue we are reminded of the reality of attending a performance by a mega star performer, where a "warm-up" group precedes the main event. We hope that the discussion thus far has been thought-provoking and has raised expectations and we ask your indulgence for one final diversion, namely the issues of the term "deaf and dumb" and the several methods intrinsic to the education of the Deaf.

We in the 21st century are rightly offended by the use of the term "dumb" as a derisive reflection on the Deaf individual. This is clearly a pejorative term; however, it was not so in the 19th century. The word





**Figure 2: The original building housing the Illinois Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.**

dumb for centuries did not mean “stupid,” rather, it was indicative of the fact that one was “unable to speak,” as in “struck dumb,” as might occur following a severe traumatic event, either physical or emotional.

Although it is an archaic phrase, particularly since Deaf people are not necessarily unable to speak, and because the newer 20th century slang is pejorative, it must be understood that “dumb” was not originally an insult or an accusation of stupidity. Similarly, “deaf-mute,” while not derogatory or intentionally insensitive, is inaccurate and considered politically incorrect, in view of the fact that most deaf people are taught to speak with varying outcomes, so that they are indeed not mute. Hopefully that clears the air.

Finally then, let us address the available means of education to which the teachers of the Deaf could avail themselves in the second half of the 19th century including: (a) the long-established, traditional manual method of signs, the manual alphabet and writing; (b) the oral method, as favored by the school of thought that “oralism,” the ability to phonate words was more “advanced” than signing; (c) the auricular method for semi-deaf pupils, using their remaining hearing capabilities to the greatest possible extent, with or without the aid of artificial appliances; and (d) varying combinations of the above three methods.

Clearly, in the 21st century electronic devices and cochlear implants would be added to the available approaches, but would not pertain to our discussion as we embark on the experience of those who either taught or were taught at the Illinois Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.

The Illinois Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Jacksonville, Ill., was established by an act of the Legislature on Feb. 23, 1839.<sup>3</sup>

It is considered the first of the state’s charitable institutions and the seventh oldest in the United States. Its location in Jacksonville was by no means an accident. In the early 19th century it was the county seat of Morgan Creek, a branch of the Illinois River about 90 miles north of St. Louis, Mo. Founded in 1825 and named in honor of General Andrew Jackson, the then prominent presidential candidate, it was a town of geographic beauty, stately houses, and marked local boosterism for education.

It would be the first city in Illinois serviced by the railroad. It was known as the “Athens of the West” and would become famous as the “City of Institutions,” eventually possessing no less than 17 major educational facilities catering to the needs of the population in general, but especially serving the less blessed—those who were deaf, blind or suffering from mental illness.

During 1838 the Honorable Orville H. Browning, then a member of the state Senate, and later to serve as U.S. senator and member of President Lincoln’s cabinet, was making a steamboat journey on the Mississippi river where he met an educated Deaf man who aroused his interest in the plight of the Deaf.

Browning was abreast of the times with regard to public education and humane endeavors and in many ways was ahead of his time. He vigorously pursued a bill in the state senate that resulted in the chartering of what was named the Illinois Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb. His goal from the get-go was that this was

to be instrumental as an educational institution; yet, aware of the prevailing prejudice in society regarding the supposed uneducability of the Deaf, he accepted the styling of the corporation as an asylum rather than an institution of learning. The understanding at the time held that the Deaf were incapable of rational acts and were thus better protected in an asylum to prevent their perpetrating unreasonable conduct.

Senator Browning's pragmatism, despite his awareness of the incorrectness of the common thinking, would reap great reward. He saw to it that the object of the charter's incorporation would be to "promote by all proper and possible means, the intellectual, moral and physical culture of that unfortunate portion of the community, who, by the mysterious dispensation of Providence have been born or become deaf: and by judicious and well adopted course of education, to reclaim them from their lonely and cheerless condition, restore them to their species and fit them for the discharge of the social and domestic duties of life."

And so it would be, for his bill passed the Senate without dissent, then passed the House by a large majority and was approved by then Governor Thomas Carlin in February 1839. Funding was derived from the state's umbrella educational fund obtained through taxation.

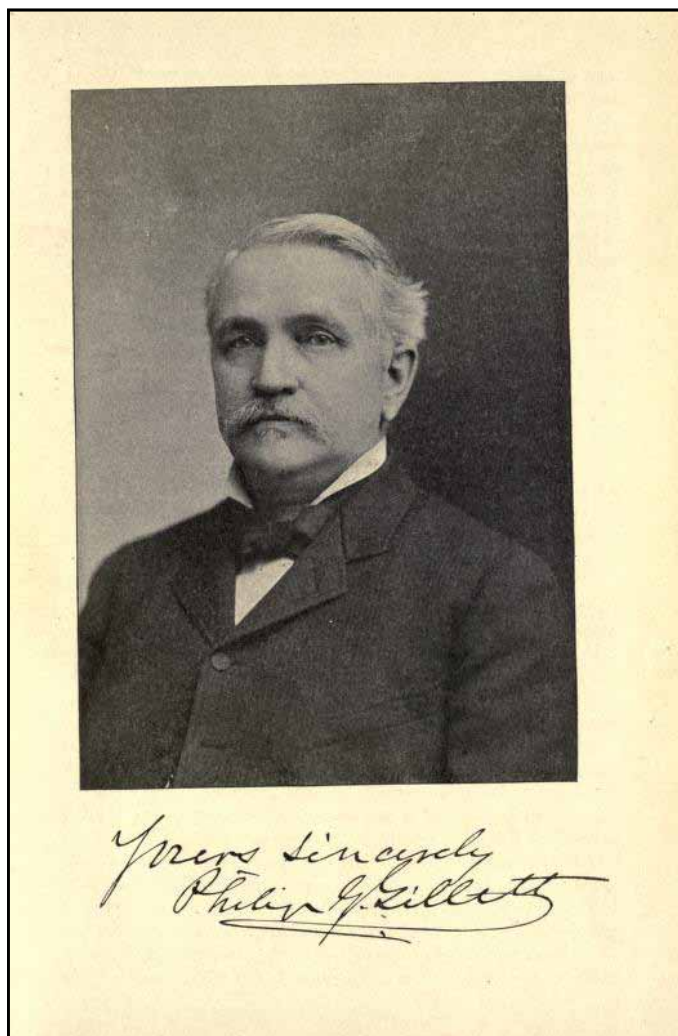
Pragmatically, the state became aware of the benefit derived through the education of the Deaf, such that a return to society as productive individuals would negate the necessity to otherwise support them through a lifetime of dependency, often at state expense.

The 20-member Board of Directors consisted of a galaxy of renowned Illinois jurists, judges and educators. The town of Jacksonville was selected for its convenient location, even prior to the advent of the railroad, as well as based on the community's supportive boosterism. It was only as a result of the intervening of the late 1830s crisis in the state's financial debt that implementation of the charter would be delayed into the 1840s.

The impressive initial building erected (Figure 2) was completed in 1846 and was then regarded as "far beyond all the requirements of the next hundred years," and indeed was felt by some to be folly, in that so little demand for such an institution was understood.

The men of the day could have little perception that within 30 years not a vestige of the original building would remain, having been replaced by a score of larger, specialized buildings.

The first instructors of the Deaf in America were all college-bred men. No women were included initially, and the Illinois asylum was fortunate to obtain as its first president, Thomas Officer, a teacher with five years experience in teaching the Deaf at the Ohio Institution for the Deaf.



**Figure 3: Phillip G. Gillett, the influential second principal of the Illinois Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.**

Dec. 1, 1845, was set as the day for the school's opening, but no students arrived. A search went out for students and by the end of January 1846 four students had reached the institution.<sup>4</sup>

Historically, the experience with the preceding six institutions in the United States had been essentially the same. By the second term the number had risen to 14, and a census indicated that 160 individuals were eligible within the state but that since only eight had the means to pay for their support, the rest would have to attest to circumstances of poverty for admission; an onerous and disagreeable consideration for many parents. The eventual removal of this requirement eased the way for families to enter their Deaf child into the institution.

By December 1848, with 60 pupils enrolled, the three-year-old school had outgrown its building! For many other purposes the physical plant would have been adequate, yet for the education of the multifaceted needs of the Deaf, their education required separate and distinct units, as well as a host of instructors with varied skills. Industrial training was felt to be an essential component of their education.

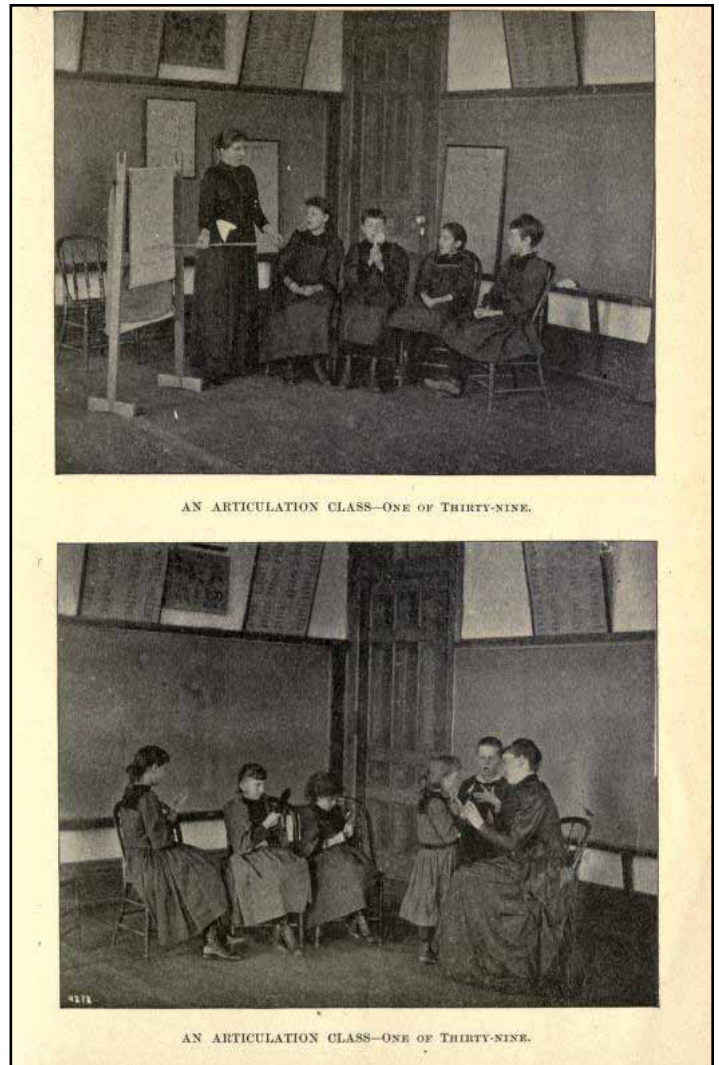




**Figure 4: The new primary building.**



**Figure 5: An individualized educational room.**



**Figure 6: Two articulation classes.**

With what would presage a Gandhian philosophy 75 years in the future, the educators perceived that, “the more we see of the practical workings of the plan of connecting manual labor with mental and moral instruction, of calling into exercise the physical energies and directing them to some definite and useful object, while the intellect and heart are being trained, the more we are convinced of its importance and practicality.”

The goal of all was to prepare the pupil physically, mentally and morally for becoming independent, useful citizens. In 1849, with this ennobled vision in place, the Illinois Asylum was renamed the Illinois Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

The politics of the institution became quite strained in the 1850s, with articles in *The Alton Weekly Courier* sharing recriminations between contending parties in turf wars of various nature, including the Board of Trustees, the principal and the school steward.

In 1855 the bitter antagonisms resulted in the resignation of the principal, the reconstitution of the board and the elimination of the steward’s position, since “a ship cannot have two captains.”

Fortunately for the institution, the newly recruited principal, Phillip G. Gillett (Figure 3), formerly of the Indiana Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, proved an able successor to Mr. Officer.

It is most amusing, however, to read of the concerns over the choice made, since some thought it “a rash thing for a beardless youth... that boy that’s come to run the deaf and dumb” to have entered upon the duties of the principalship. The conflicts preceding the change in leadership had resulted in a decline in enrollment from 107 pupils to 22.

The young man with a “face innocent of down” proved more than an equal to the battle, and within eight months the newly established board crowed that enrollment exceeded its prior high and Gillett was now looked upon as a gentlemen and a scholar.

The rest of the story is one of continued growth and success. Twenty years later the Illinois Board of Public Charities reported that the advent of Gillett’s tenure had resulted in the institution entering “a new career of vigorous youth and expansion.”

Experienced teachers were secured, and, whereas





Figure 7: The dining room.



Figure 10: The cabinetmaking shop.



Figure 8: The auditorium and chapel.



Figure 11: The shoemaking shop



Figure 9: The printing shop.

previously no women had been regularly appointed, by the 1880s, two-thirds of the college-educated instructors were women.

The building program for the institute was not only prodigious, it verged on the fantastic. The change in thinking, from initial general disbelief in undertaking the teaching of the “feebleminded,” to an awareness of the humanity, let alone practicality of the undertaking, saw the development of facilities to include a new primary building (Figure 4), individualized educational rooms (Figures 5 and 6), dining facilities (Figure 7), library, hospital, auditorium, chapel (Figure 8) and gymnasium.

Industrial facilities included schools of printing (Figure 9), cabinetmaking (Figure 10), shoemaking (Figure 11) and machine shop. In addition, construction included a gardener’s room, engine and steam facilities, cold-storage facilities, horse barns, bakery and dairy barn.

In all, the latter decades of the century saw the creation of 20 buildings stretching over 15 acres with “eighteen acres of plastering, fifteen hundred windows



**Figure 12: The front and back of a postcard with a 1910 view of the Illinois Institute for the Deaf.**



and seven hundred doors.” So much for compulsive cost-counting.

In concluding our 19th century odyssey, we wish to touch on an issue alluded to at the outset, namely the controversy regarding the form of instruction used for the education of the Deaf.

Until the late 1860s the sign system was the one pursued at the Illinois institution in the instruction of its pupils. At the same time, much use was made of writing, while little attention was given to articulation and lip signs. The deaf person can produce sounds but cannot hear them, so that to impart speech to one who cannot hear was considered a most difficult undertaking. It was felt that the deaf person, given the option, would choose signing.

The caveat to this thinking, however, varied with the nature of the cause of deafness, such that the congenitally deaf, or those whose deafness was acquired through various diseases in infancy, were at a decided disadvantage to acquire the ability to talk when compared to those whose deafness was partial, or had developed only after they had a recollection of speech.

In 1868, classes in articulation and lip-reading were organized in the Illinois institution and admitted pupils were tested to learn who would derive greater promise with the various means available, thus tailoring their education on an individual basis.

At the 1899 convention of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, the president of Amherst College, John M. Tyler, gave the keynote address. He insisted to this group of oralists that the goal of education of the Deaf should be based on an understanding of the grand foundation of biological history. He contended that the two major theories pitted creationism against evolution.

Most of those opposed to the use of sign language belonged to a younger generation whose worldview was built upon an evolutionary understanding of the world. Indeed, evolutionary thinking pervaded American culture in the early years of the 20th century as oralism became dominant in deaf education.

The most important aspect of the change occurred in the attitude toward language, specifically, the relative status and worth of spoken and gesture language.

Tyler explained that the human race would continue its upward course only if, “certain bequests from our brute and human ancestors were consciously eliminated.” Tyler and his audience clearly understood this to mean that speech and humanity stood in contradistinction to gesture and implied lower evolutionary forms.

This idea seems to have originated with French philosopher Etienne Bonnot de Condillac in the mid 18th century.

Condillac surmised that gestures, what he called “language of action,” was confined to an early stage of linguistic development and, because of its inferiority, would gradually be superseded by speech.

Nevertheless, following a visit to an institution for the Deaf, he did conclude that “language of action” was not inferior to speech as a means of communication, *i.e.*, there existed an independence of language efficiency.

Whereas the manualists who taught sign language accepted this, the oralists in the late 19th century interpreted things differently. They concluded that “gesture language” was language low in the evolutionary scale, fit for savages, which for them included several racial groups including Africans, Native-Americans, Australian aborigines and African-Americans.

This “linguistic Darwinism” meant that sign language was inherently the inferior language of inferior people. This conclusion crept into newspapers and scientific journals when describing primitive tribes and even the prolific gestures of Italian immigrants.

The manualist concluded that sign language did not imply inferiority as did the oralist, and instead considered progress as social progress, an accumulation of knowledge and accomplishment.

Nevertheless, Americans coming of age in the later 19th century saw sign language as inferior to speech and in need of extinction.

By the end of World War I, nearly 80 percent of Deaf students were taught entirely without sign language, and oralism remained orthodoxy until the 1970s when sign language began to return to the classroom.

The contemporaneous issues of education for the

Deaf involve not only the ongoing battles between signers and speakers, but also the role for cochlear implants, all issues far beyond the scope of our discussion.

The receiver of our presenting cover, Mr. R. Druce is regrettably lost to history. We concluded this only after an intensive historical and genealogical investigation bore no fruit. We do, however, thank him in absentia.

We conclude our discussion with a final postal history entry, a turn of the century postcard scene (Figures 12) of our young Deaf pupils from the Illinois Institute for the Deaf. Oh yes, in 1903 the school’s name was changed, as the “dumb” was deleted.

What a splendid-looking group of youngsters they are, would you not agree? And, through the efforts of Mssr. Browning, Officer, Gillett and hundreds of other men and women who prowled the halls of The Asylum, nay, The Illinois Institute for the Deaf, they hopefully did live normal lives.

**By the end of World War I, nearly 80 percent of Deaf students were taught entirely without sign language, and oralism remained orthodoxy until the 1970s when sign language began to return to the classroom.**

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- 4 Doyle, Don H. *The Social Order of a Frontier Community: Jacksonville, Illinois, 1825-1870*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1983.

(Jesse I. Spector M.D., a retired hematologist-oncologist living in western Massachusetts, has published extensively on postal history. He and his wife Patty operate a 35-acre farm with about 70 animals.

Robert L. Markovits, an attorney and a world authority on United States Special Delivery mail, has also won the APS Champion of Champions competition. He resides in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts.)

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## A Postal Card From Barrow, Alaska

By Don Glickstein

It's the northernmost city in the United States and people have lived in the neighborhood since at least the 10th century.

Barrow today is the metropolis of Alaska's North Slope, the commercial and cultural center for more than 4,400 people; the port city of the North American Arctic Ocean.

The native Inupiat people were first visited by whites in 1826. American whalers, from as far away as New Bedford and Nantucket, visited frequently by the 1870s, along with assorted exploring expeditions.

Just 23 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight, aviators reached Barrow. The most famous of them was Wiley Post who, along with a far more famous friend, Will Rogers, died when their plane crashed a few miles short of Barrow in 1935.

Before World War II, fewer than 400 people lived in Barrow. World War II and the Cold War brought the military and scientists, and Barrow's population steadily grew. What became the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory began in 1947.

By 1951, nearly 1,000 people called Barrow their home, and increasing numbers were coming as visitors.

One of them was Harold E. Dinger, a research scientist with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. During World War II, the lab had helped develop new kinds of tools, from radar to sonar, synthetic lubricants, and other inventions that supported the war effort.

Dinger's daughter, Marilyn Cullen, a California artist, remembers that her father's project involved sounds from outer space. "He traveled quite a bit with his job and attended conferences all over the world," she said.

Dinger was also a stamp collector, and he sent his

daughter the Scott UX27 postal card, illustrated above, from Barrow on March 18, 1951. The card's magenta cancellation of March 22, 1951 is Helbock Type 16, a much earlier use than that recorded in *Postmarks of Territorial Alaska*. To meet the 4-cent airmail rate, he added a 3-cent California Centennial stamp, Scott 997.

The message side of the card shows a preprinted "Greetings... from Point Barrow, Alaska, top of the world" with a polar bear drawing. Dinger handwrote a message to his daughter, "Dear Marilyn, You would sure love it in Alaska!"

Cullen said her father was a collector as long as she can remember and until he died in 1975. His collection was eventually sold, and the illustrated card appeared on eBay, where it was auctioned in January 2012 for \$3.49.

My thanks to Marilyn Cullen for her reminiscences and support in preparing this article.

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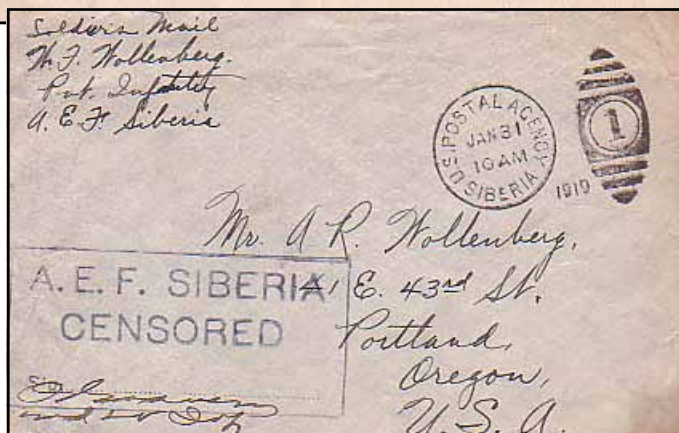
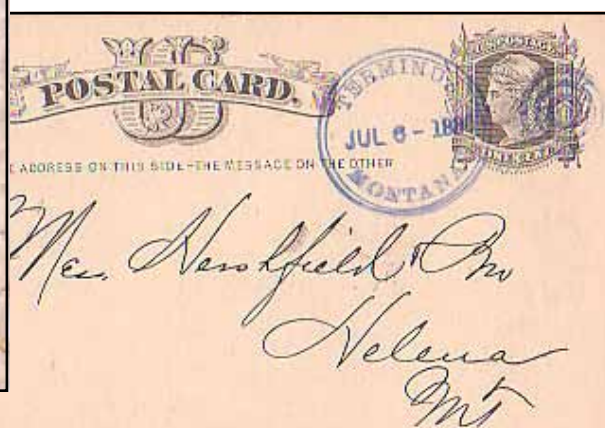
(Don Glickstein (E-mail, [don6glickstein@gmail.com](mailto:don6glickstein@gmail.com)) collects postal cards with nonphilatelic uses from Alaska and the Canadian Arctic.)

# A Preview of the R.W. Helbock Collection

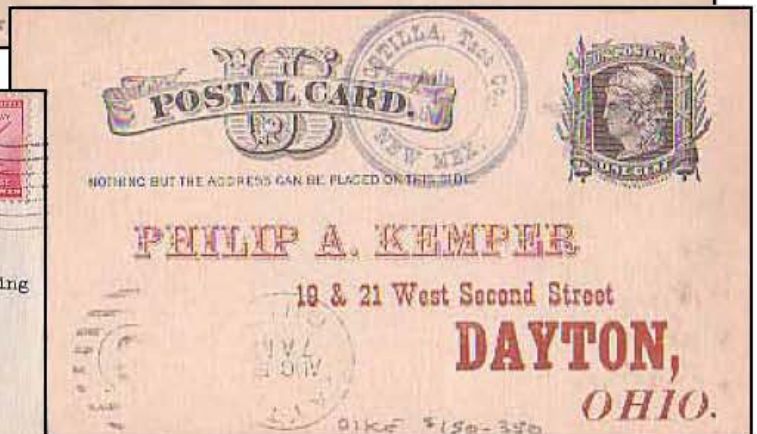
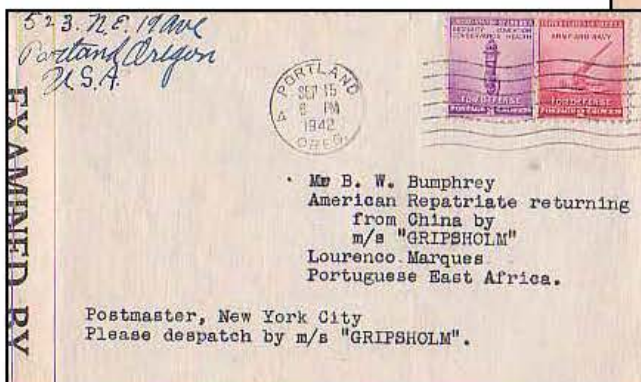
*La Posta* founding Editor Bill Helbock's personal collection of about 7,000 covers will go on the auction block August 16-19 at the APS StampShow in Sacramento, Calif. The Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries will conduct the "Postal History Collection of R.W. Helbock" auction.

Helbock was well known for his expertise in the western United States, Alaska, military postal history, and U.S. Doanes, but he also collected U.S. and worldwide commercial airmail, APOs, Philippine POWs, U.S. internment camps and 19th century U.S. forts.

There are many unique and interesting pieces and this will be a great opportunity for postal historians to add covers to their collections that have been off the market for some time. A brief preview of items in the collection is shown here. To obtain an auction catalog contact Harmer-Schau at: [info@harmerschau.com](mailto:info@harmerschau.com).









# Two New *La Posta* Columns

In this issue, we introduce two new *La Posta* columns.

“Ask *La Posta*” is intended to help readers get answers to difficult postal history questions or to identify resources to help get those answers. Readers can e-mail or write in with their questions and we’ll include them in “Ask *La Posta*.” In this way we leverage the vast experience of all our readers in the hope of finding an answer. We’ll publish replies in subsequent issues. Each question will have a unique identifier that consists of the year, the *La Posta* issue number and a sequential number. For example, the first question in this issue is 2012-2-1.

Postal history collectors usually have side collections of unusual items and the second column, “The *La Posta* Challenge,” offers readers the opportunity to dig through their collections to see if they have items that match the subject in each issue. Readers can send scans or photocopies, along with a brief description of the item, and we’ll showcase the responses received by the deadline in the next issue. We also hope that “The *La Posta* Challenge” will encourage collectors to provide additional articles about their favorite subjects.

For both columns, be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.

## *Ask La Posta*

“Ask *La Posta*” is intended to help readers get answers to difficult postal history questions or to identify resources to help get those answers by using the vast and varied experience of the *La Posta* family. Readers can e-mail or write in with questions and answers to: Ask *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; E-mail, [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.



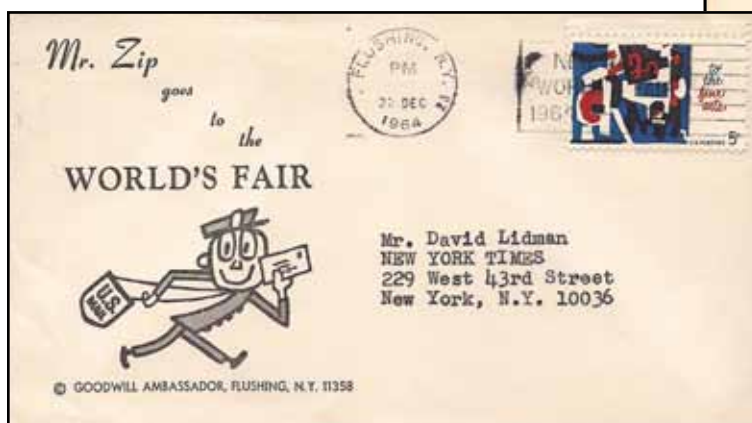
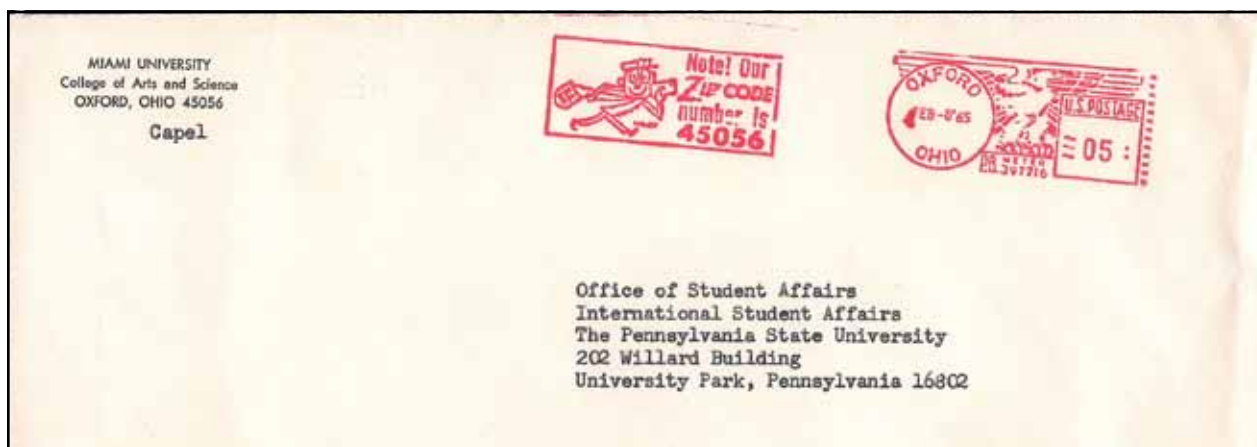
### 2012-2-1 Arrows to Atoms, Last Mail Train

The postcard shown here contains a 3-cent Liberty coil with a tied \$1 Cinderella for “Arrows to Atoms, Last Mail Train.” Cancelled Aug. 10, 1961, in San Luis Rey, Calif., the postcard inscription reads: “*The longest mail contract of its kind in history, approximately 2,650 miles, as part of the Centennial Celebration of the Overland Mail, re-enacting the history of our forefathers 100 years ago. Wagon Master-Tom Lawson, Scout-Lee Shannon. Camp Fire Music by the Horton Brothers.*” Does anyone have any information, including routes, events and the purpose of the Cinderella stamp, for this “Last Mail Train?”

**Troy Arthur**  
Springfield, Virginia

## The La Posta Challenge

"The *La Posta* Challenge" offers readers the opportunity to dig through their collections to see if they have items that match the subject in each issue. Readers can send scans or photocopies, along with a brief description of the item, and we'll showcase the responses received by the deadline in the next issue. Readers should submit items to The *La Posta* Challenge, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; E-mail, [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.



Submission Deadline: August 1, 2012

## The Most Interesting Mr. ZIP Card or Cover

The first *La Posta* Challenge is to find the most interesting Mr. ZIP card or cover.

While most people would classify this as modern postal history, the ZIP Code will turn 50 in 2013.

The ZIP Code was introduced in 1963 and was not immediately or warmly received by the American public. As mail volumes soared in the 1950s and 1960s, postal officials looked to mechanizing systems such as machines that could move thousands of pieces of mail in the time it took clerks to move a handful. But the machines needed to be able to "read" the mail in order to process it. So the ZIP Code system was introduced, promising Americans that by adding five numbers to each piece of mail, it would travel swiftly through the system to its destination.

Mr. ZIP was the face of the new campaign with posters, television, newspaper and magazine ads featuring his image.

Shown are several Mr. ZIP examples, including a 1964 World's Fair ad cover addressed to *New York Times* stamp columnist David Lidman; a 1965 Mr. ZIP meter and a circa 1971 USPS postcard thanking customers for using the ZIP Code.

Your challenge is to find the most interesting use of Mr. ZIP on an item that went through the mails. It can be the earliest use, a great ad item, an unusual cancel or meter, a ZIP error or anything related to Mr. ZIP.

Submit your Mr. ZIP card or cover, and a brief description of why it is interesting, by August 1 to the address at top of the page.



## Post Office Views

This column features the architecture of America's Post Offices as shown on postcards. The city post office is the cornerstone of many communities and was a popular subject on postcards through the 1940s. Many of the post offices are still in use, others stand but serve different purposes and others still have been demolished. Post office views can enhance an exhibit and also can round out stories about postmarks and mail handling. If you have material suitable for this column, contact the editor.

### Virginia Post Office Views

By Peter Martin

Virginia is one of the original 13 colonies and when the United States was formed, Virginia had 14 post offices. Since that time, this large eastern state has

featured a multiplicity of post offices, large and small. Most of the post offices in this feature were built in the first 30 years of the 20th century.



Aden



Bassett



Bristol



Charlottesville



Christianburg



Covington





**Fredericksburg**



**Galax**



**Harrisonburg**



**Hartwood**



**Hopewell**



**Jamestown**



**Leesburg**



**Newport News**

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- U.S. Eastern Expresses of the 19th century
- Fakes and forgeries of U.S. Carriers and Locals
- U.S. and Canadian fantasy stamps of the 19th century

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Figure 1: The banner of the *US Postal Bulletins* website that appears on every site page.

# An Introduction to the Digitized U.S. Postal Bulletins

By Tony Wawrukiewicz

After many years of effort, a significant expenditure of personal funds and a number of false starts, the digitization of the *U.S. Postal Bulletins* from 1880 to 1971 has been accomplished. This effort has been supported by a number of other individuals and several philatelic societies, including a major grant from the United States Stamp Society. I am most grateful for this support and the full list of significant individual and societal supporters is given on the digitized *U.S. Postal Bulletin* website.

After much discussion by all the parties involved in the support of this effort, it was decided that access to the site would be universal. Anyone can use the site by going directly to the website. This article explains the content of the site and gives an introduction about how to use the site. Enjoy what I hope is a valuable addition to the research capabilities of the philatelic community.

The digitized *U.S. Postal Bulletin* (*Postal Bulletin*), *The Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, later *The Postal Bulletin*, still later just *Postal Bulletin* (PB) and for the proposes of this website, *U.S. Postal Bulletin*, has always been a publication of the Post Office Department (POD) and its 1971 successor the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

The purpose of this publication, which first appeared in March 1880 and continues today, has been to itemize and explain, in great detail, the services the Postal Service provides, to communicate the location of these services throughout the country and to communicate the internal business of the Postal Service.

For decades, the *U.S. Postal Bulletin* was published daily except Sundays and holidays. Today, it is published every two weeks. Over the years this publication has produced more than 60,000 pages of content, most of which (1880 through 1971) this website now makes readily available to the public.

It is an incredible resource for a person who wishes to understand POD operations and policies, locations for its services, types and rates for services, processes by which it functions, etc. In other words, it is a voluminous source of research information.

Users of this website will find a fully searchable

digitization of the *U.S. Postal Bulletin* from 1880 to 1971. Users are able to submit simple or complex inquiries, including “full text” searches, as every word in each issue has been OCRed (converted to text by optical character recognition software).

For example, one will be able to search all these lists by any individual city and state: post offices established, post offices discontinued, postmasters commissioned, post office names and site changes, post office names changed, post office sites changed, post offices supplied by RFD, superseded by RFD, were RFD, now discontinued, RPO service changes, RPO services established, RPO through registered pouches, railroad services changed, railroad service established, railroad service established-discontinued-changed, electric car services established, changes in star schedules, electric car service changes, mail messenger services established, mail messenger services changed, mail messenger services discontinued, fraud order, special service changes, special services discontinued, steamboat services, through registered pouches, inner registered sacks, stations and branches, etc.

But these numerous tabulations only represent a part of the invaluable information hidden in this resource. For instance, all the rate changes tabulated in the domestic and international rate books of Wawrukiewicz and Henry Beecher are located there, as are the rules and regulations for all special services.

Beginning circa 1925, first-day information and stamp descriptions became available. Information concerning the Universal Postal Union, CAM and FAM routes, first flights, the permit process, free franking, the international parcel post, official mail services, interrupted mail, stolen postal money orders, nondenominated stamps, and so on are found there in detail.

Michael Eastick, an Australian stamp dealer and software developer for the philatelic industry, has developed the software necessary to make the numerous pages with their valuable information readily searchable. By breaking the thousands of pages into tiny units of one issue, Eastick has made the initial search



of the database extremely fast. After this larger, initial search is done, the individual PDFs representing the *Postal Bulletins* located by this search can be viewed, printed or downloaded.

As I previously mentioned, the site is only developed to search the bulletins up to and including 1971. This is because there are no copyright issues for these years. Eventually, with further funding and the necessary permission obtained from the U.S. Postal Service, I hope to extend the project through the present day.

For this reason and others, funding efforts for this undertaking have not been completed. For instance, since the software developed is new and still in the early days of testing, there are bound to be issues that develop that require ongoing efforts by Eastick, *et al.* to repair and enhance it, and for this purpose added funding is required.

What follows is an explanation of how to use the search capabilities of the website.

### **How to Access *The US Postal Bulletins* Site and Search *The U.S. Postal Bulletins***

Each page of *www.uspostalbulletins.com* has a banner at the top that allows navigation throughout the site (Figure 1).

We have developed a series of FAQs that we believe will help users of the site come up to speed faster. They are accessible on the website (Figure 2 shows a screen shot from the home page), but I'm going to discuss and list a few here. Some of them are self-explanatory, while others are explained with appropriate screen shots from the website's PDF Search page.

#### **1. Why am I unable to access the website or am unable to see it fully?**

Be certain that your browser is up-to-date and that you have JAVA and cookies turned on. For PCs, the most up-to-date Internet Explorer is best, while for Apple computers Safari is necessary.

#### **2. Do I need to register? Is there any requirement needed if I am to use the site?**

No and no. The website is freely accessible to all. To access the site, just start a search.

#### **3. There appear to be three sections defined on the PDF Search page. What do the three sections basically do?**

Figure 3 is a screen shot from the PDF Search page of the website. Each section is a filter that defines and narrows your search for you.

Filter 1, "Select Word Search Type," defines the actual text (word or phrase or name or even number) for which you are going to search.



**Figure 2: The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) button on the home page of the *US Postal Bulletins* website.**

Filter 2, "Select By Date/Range," can limit the search to all dates, a range of dates or a specific date.

Filter 3, "Select By Volume/Issue," limits the search in a different manner. If you use it, it can narrow the search to specific volumes (*i.e.*, years) or issues.

#### **4. How do I do a search of all the issues in the database (*i.e.*, from 1880 to 1971)?**

(a) First, in the first filter, click on the "?" marks and read the associated explanation about how each of the six search functions work. Each of them allows a search for some text, using one of the six techniques.

Figure 4 shows the one for "Exact Word or Phrase Search Help." In Figure 5, I'm showing this search for the exact phrase "Portland Oregon." I omitted the comma because programming issues will not allow a search with punctuation.

(b) The default radio button for the second filter is "All Dates." For the third filter, it is "All volumes/Issues."

This full search (actually accomplished by now clicking the "Full Search Using all Ticked Filters") will usually give you too many individual issues (as PDFs) that contain your desired text. Figure 3 illustrates part of the results of the search (*e.g.*, + 1883 Issues (Five documents found, etc.).

Search PDF Document Database

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) Select Word Search Type ?

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search ?
 ☐ Any Word ?
 ☐ All Words in any order ?
 ☐ Wildcard Search ?
 ☐ Word within x words of Word ?
 ☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search ?

Enter search keywords   ?

☒ Include Filter in Full Search

(2) Select by Date/Range ?

☒ All Dates
 ☐ Specific Date
 ☐ Date Range

(3) Select by Volume/Issue ?

☒ All Volumes
 ☐ Specific Volume
 ☐ Volume Range
 ☒ All Issues
 ☐ Specific Issue
 ☐ Issue Range

Figure 3: The PDF search page.

Exact Word or Phrase Search Help

Select this option and enter keywords in the *Enter search keywords* textbox separated by a space to find pdf documents containing the exact occurrence of the text entered.

*Note, multiple spaces between words are ignored. Words occurring next to other words will be found regardless of the number of spaces separating them.*

Figure 4: The “Exact Word or Phrase Search Help” screen.

(c) Next click on the + sign. This causes the results in Figure 6, where all five documents (issues) found are shown.

(d) Finally click on, say, the first issue. A new window will open in your browser and the PDF corresponding to that issue will be displayed with the search word or phrase highlighted (Figure 7 shows part of the resulting new window).

You may then read, print or download the PDF. Again, this search gave you a lot of information, perhaps way too much.

## 5. So how do you limit your search so that your results are a manageable number?

First, again in the first filter, choose the text and search function you desire. Then use the second and third filters to delimit your search by either using the second filter to limit the date range or third filter to limit the number of volumes, or years, or issues that are searched.

Now, as you did in the unlimited search, actually perform the limited search by clicking the “Full Search Using all Ticked Filters” button. Note that the results,

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**Search PDF Document Database**

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) **Select Word Search Type** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search [?](#)
☐ Any Word [?](#)
☐ All Words in any order [?](#)
☐ Wildcard Search [?](#)
☐ Word within x words of Word [?](#)
☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search [?](#)

Enter search keywords   [?](#)

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

(2) **Select by Date/Range** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Dates
☐ Specific Date
☐ Date Range

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

(3) **Select by Volume/Issue** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Volumes
☐ Specific Volume
☐ Volume Range
☐ All Issues
☐ Specific Issue
☐ Issue Range

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

[Clear All Filters](#) [Full Search Using All Ticked Filters](#)

---

**Search results...**

+ 1883 Issues (5 documents found)	+ 1906 Issues (3 documents found)
+ 1884 Issues (3 documents found)	+ 1907 Issues (7 documents found)
+ 1886 Issues (1 document found)	+ 1908 Issues (19 documents found)

Figure 5: A partial list of “Search Results” for a search for “Portland Oregon.”

**Search PDF Document Database**

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) **Select Word Search Type** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search [?](#)
☐ Any Word [?](#)
☐ All Words in any order [?](#)
☐ Wildcard Search [?](#)
☐ Word within x words of Word [?](#)
☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search [?](#)

Enter search keywords   [?](#)

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

(2) **Select by Date/Range** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Dates
☐ Specific Date
☐ Date Range

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

(3) **Select by Volume/Issue** [?](#) ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Volumes
☐ Specific Volume
☐ Volume Range
☐ All Issues
☐ Specific Issue
☐ Issue Range

[Clear this Filter](#) [Search within this Filter only](#)

---

[Clear All Filters](#) [Full Search Using All Ticked Filters](#)

---

**Search results...**

- 1883 Issues (5 documents found)	+ 1906 Issues (3 documents found)
<a href="#">11 OCT 1883 - Volume 4 - Issue 1097 (1 page)</a> <a href="#">12 OCT 1883 - Volume 4 - Issue 1098 (1 page)</a> <a href="#">15 OCT 1883 - Volume 4 - Issue 1100 (1 page)</a> <a href="#">18 OCT 1883 - Volume 4 - Issue 1103 (1 page)</a> <a href="#">31 DEC 1883 - Volume 4 - Issue 1154 (1 page)</a>	+ 1907 Issues (7 documents found)
	+ 1908 Issues (19 documents found)

Figure 6: A list of *Postal Bulletin* issues obtained by clicking on the “+” next to 1883.



Looking For:  
Portland Oregon in the current document

Results:  
1 documents with 5 instances

New Search

Results:

- Vol4\_Issue1097
  - AND PORTLA
  - and Portland
  - and Portland
  - Portland R. P.
  - Portland K. P.

**DA**  
**ORDERS**  
**Vol. IV. POST OFFICE**  
**The Postal Bulletin.**  
 WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 11, 1883.  
 THROUGH REGISTERED POUCHES.  
 POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
 OFFICE OF GENERAL SUP'T R. M. S.  
 WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 11, 1883.  
 NEW YORK, N. Y., AND **PORTLAND, OREGON.**  
 An order has been issued establishing a daily exchange of through registered pouches between the postmasters at New York, N. Y., and Portland, Oregon. Pouches to leave New York at 4.25 a. m., via the New York & Chicago R. P. O., and Portland at 6.15 a. m., via the Walla Walla & Portland R. P. O. Pouches are to be forwarded via the New York & Chicago, Chicago & La Crosse, Minneapolis & La Crosse, Saint Paul & Fargo, Fargo & Bismarck, Bismarck & Billings, Billings & Helena, Helena & Wallula, and Walla Walla & Portland R. P. O's. This exchange to go into effect Monday, October 22, 1883.

shown in Figure 8, where the date range was limited, are much more manageable.

## 6. What happens if I choose a search function in the first section/filter and click on that filter's "Search Within This Filter Only"?

Such searches will include all dates, no matter which radio buttons are ticked in the second and third filters.

I hope that this introduction to the digitized *Postal Bulletin* website has both whet your appetite to visit the site and at least introduced you to techniques for making the site as useful as possible.

(Tony Wawrukiewicz, 3130 SW Wilbard St., Portland, OR 97219)

Figure 7 (left): A cropped image of the Oct. 11, 1883, *Postal Bulletin* with "Portland Oregon" highlighted.

**Search PDF Document Database**

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) **Select Word Search Type**

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search 
☐ Any Word 
☐ All Words in any order 
☐ Wildcard Search

☐ Word within x words of Word 
☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search

Enter search keywords:

(2) **Select by Date/Range**

☐ All Dates
 ☐ Specific Date
 ☒ Date Range

Date:   to

(3) **Select by Volume/Issue**

☒ All Volumes
 ☐ Specific Volume
 ☐ Volume Range
 ☒ All Issues
 ☐ Specific Issue
 ☐ Issue Range

**Search results...**

+ 1883 Issues (5 documents found)
 + 1884 Issues (3 documents found)

Figure 8: The results obtained by limiting the dates searched in filter 2 to "04 Mar 1880-30 Dec 1885."



Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield at the desk in 1958. (USPS photo)



PMG Summerfield at the April 2, 1959, unveiling of the design of the new Providence, R.I., Automated Post Office. (USPS photo)

## Postmaster General LIV Arthur E. Summerfield 1953-1961

By Daniel Y. Meschter

Arthur Ellsworth Summerfield was an American success story, although as a politician he never was considered a force to contend with. Twice, for example, he failed in his quests for public offices. The zenith of his political career was serving eight years as Eisenhower's postmaster general.

Summerfield was born on March 17, 1899, in Pinconning, Mich., the son of William H. Summerfield, an early rural mail carrier. Pinconning is a village located on the shore of Saginaw Bay, 150 miles north of Detroit; but it is uncertain whether it was the family's permanent home or simply a seasonal residence.

Summerfield claimed Flint as his hometown the rest of his life. He received his basic education in public schools and may have continued in one or another of Flint's several universities and colleges.

He began work at 13 as a mill boy for the Weston-Mott Company, a manufacturer of bicycle and automobile parts. He then went to work on the Buick Motor Company's production line until he was promoted to chief inspector at age 19. He obviously had a talent for business management.

It was at this point, at the end of World War I, that he began to perceive the future the automobile industry held for Michigan's long-term economy. He saw the first influx of war veterans seeking employment and workers, mainly from the eastern states displaced by the post war recession. It was by no means the flood that would come from the depressed east and rural south in the 1930s; but Summerfield saw the opportunity these new workers offered in residential and commercial real estate. He was barely 21 when he opened the Summerfield Realty Company and was astute enough to take in people who knew the business better than he. Later, he was elected president of Bryant Properties Corporation, perhaps a successor of the Summerfield Realty Company.

A few years after entering the real estate business, he organized a distributorship for the Pure Oil Company, a



Arthur E. Summerfield

national producer, refiner, and distributor of petroleum products essential to the operation of automobiles. He gave up his distributorship about 1937.

Finally, in 1929, about the time the public was becoming accustomed to the idea of owning their own car in preference to public transportation, he established a Chevrolet dealership in Flint and later opened branches in several other cities.

He became active in the National Car Dealers Association of which he became a Michigan director from 1942 to 1949 and regional vice president for a time.

By the 1930s, he was recognized as a community leader, successful businessman and a native son. So, it was only natural that he would take a role in Michigan politics.

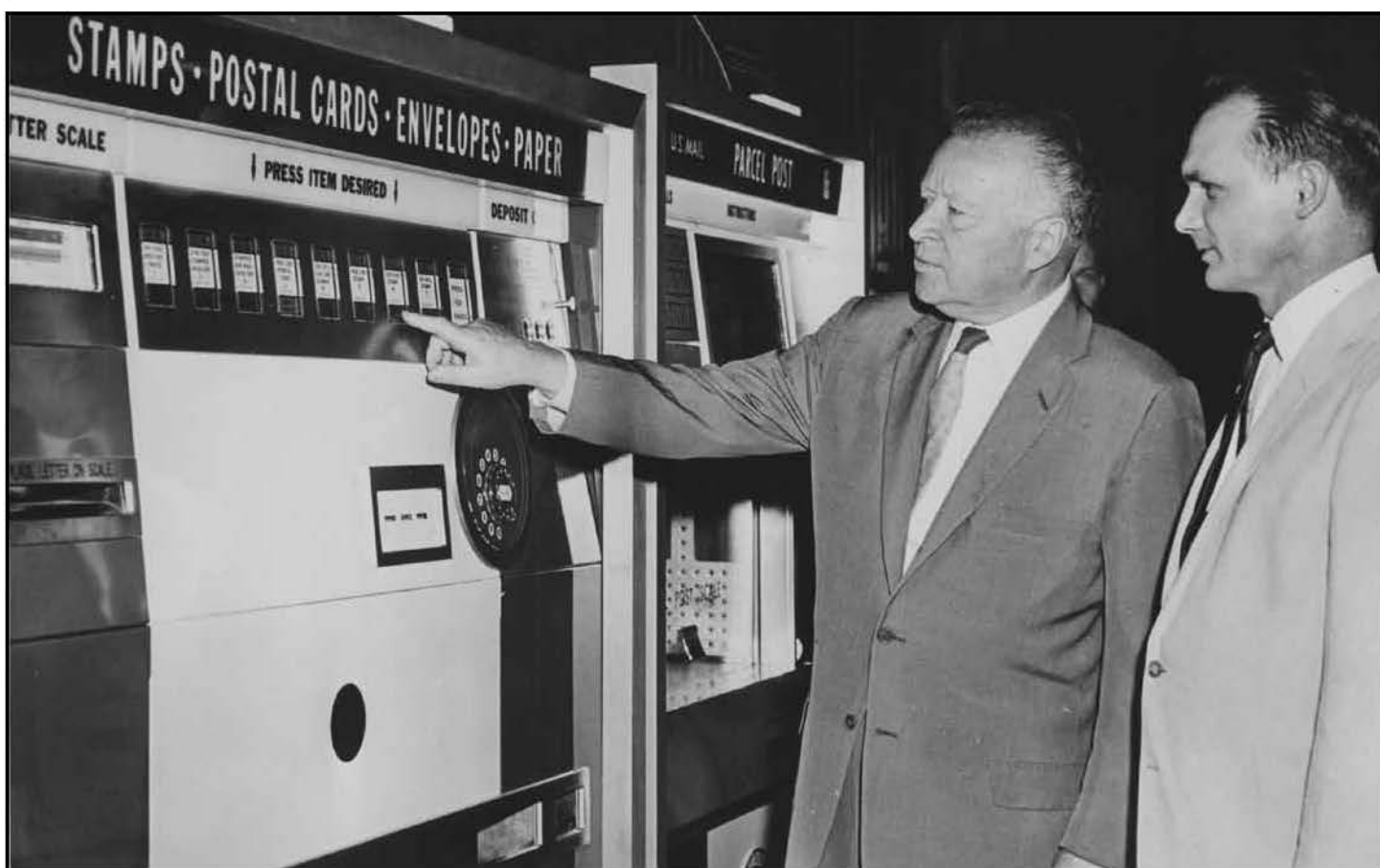
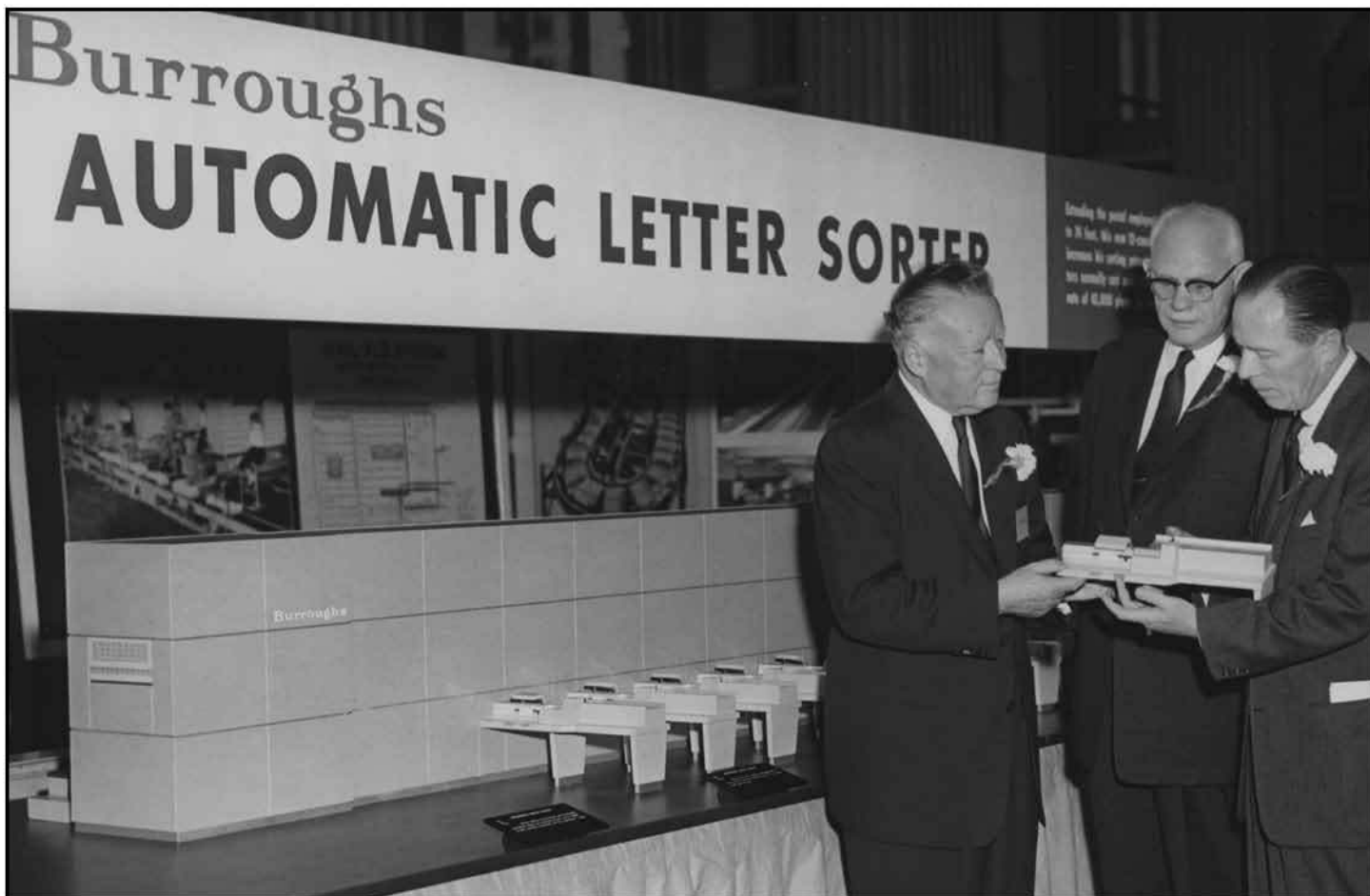
He joined the Republican Party and became active in local and state party affairs. He supported Wendell Wilkie for president in 1940. At the same time, he ran for Michigan Secretary of State, but he did not yet have enough influence with the state central committee to win the nomination. However, he was chosen finance director of the state central committee the following year.

He at last achieved national recognition in 1944 when he was elected the Republican national committeeman from Michigan at the national convention, serving in that capacity until he was elected chairman of the National Central Committee at the 1952 convention.

In the meantime, in 1946, he gained experience in managing presidential campaigns when he was vice chairman of Republicans for Arthur Vandenberg for President. At the same time, he was again denied a nomination, this time for governor. Summerfield backed Eisenhower for president at the 1952 convention. Eisenhower honored him with appointment as postmaster general effective Jan. 21, 1953. He served the full eight years of Eisenhower's term.

Arthur Summerfield entered upon his reward with no experience or familiarity with the Washington ethic and no background in the management of a public





Two photographs of Postmaster General Summerfield at the 1959 Parade of Postal Progress in Detroit. (*USPS photos*)



**PMG Summerfield (right) accepting key to the city from the mayor of Detroit at the Sept. 29, 1960, Postmen's Dedication Parade. (USPS photo)**

agency. We can only assume the Post Office Department staff treated him with the combination of disdain and deference bureaucrats reserve for political appointees that they have to tolerate until their replacement appears.

Summerfield would have been astute enough to familiarize himself with the Post Office's organization chart, read internal reports, sign such documents and correspondence as protocol dictated, and approve proposals for improvement of the Post Office Department, and preside at meetings of the advisory board. He was a stark contrast to his predecessor, Jesse Donaldson.

When he took office on January 21, he was assisted by a deputy postmaster general, Charles R. Hook appointed by Dwight Eisenhower on January 20, and four assistant postmasters general with their areas of responsibility listed in Winton M. Blount's last annual report as operations, transportation, finances and facilities, instead of the previously numbered titles as first, second, etc .

The first deputy postmaster general appointed under the reorganization plan was Vincent C. Burke, whom Truman promoted from first assistant in 1949. Otherwise, Summerfield was deliberate in appointing two replacements and two reappointments of incumbents.

Surprisingly, despite his lack of administrative experience, Summerfield had some success in pushing legislation through Congress. One of the first was for a fifth assistant postmaster general for personnel.

A few years later, using his own authority, Summerfield established the Office of Research and Engineering by interior circular No. 44 effective July 1, 1956. The position was not at the assistant postmaster general level until after he left office. Thus, by the end

of his term in January 1961, he had a deputy and five assistant postmasters general.

In more practical matters, Summerfield introduced a number of innovations and experiments. In 1953, he accepted an offer by the railroads to transport truck trailers loaded with mail by mounting them on flat cars, "piggy-back" style with economies of operating cost and time in transit over longer distances.

A really significant improvement was the introduction of certified mail in 1955 where the patron's objective was evidence of mailing and proof of delivery at lower cost than full security registration.

Of special interest to stamp collectors was the creation of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee in 1957. Two experiments tried under his watch were the use of missiles to dispatch mail from a submarine at sea to mainland Florida in 1959 (that proved impractical) and the introduction of facsimile mail in 1960 (that was displaced by the personal computer and the proliferation of e-mail).

On the whole, Summerfield's tenure was typical of the composure of the "Fifties" and the Eisenhower administration nationally.

Arthur Summerfield retired from the political arena at the end of the Eisenhower administration and returned to his automobile business in Michigan. He died of pneumonia on April 26, 1972, while on vacation in West Palm Beach, Fla.

### References

See Vexler; internet Wikipedia article "Arthur Summerfield" for biographical sketches of Arthur E. Summerfield.

Act of July 23, 1953, 67 Stat 193.

*New York Times*, April 27, 1972.



Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield (left) and Deputy Postmaster General Charles R. Hook Jr. showing off postal vehicles painted in the new red, white and blue color scheme in 1954. (USPS photo)





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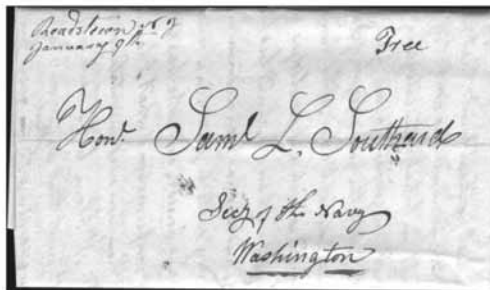
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The “Best of the Rest” column features significant American postal history articles that originally appeared in other specialized journals. “Inter-Possessions Mail” by Daniel F. Ring appeared in the Third Quarter 2007, Second Quarter 2011 and First Quarter 2012 issues of *Possessions*, edited by Len McMaster and published quarterly by the United States Possessions Philatelic Society (Website: [www.uspps.net](http://www.uspps.net)). It has been slightly edited to conform to *La Posta* style.

# United States Inter-Possessions Mail

By Daniel F. Ring

Possessions. For most people, even members of the United States Possessions Philatelic Society, the title directs collectors to think about those entities that issued stamps: Hawaii, Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Canal Zone and the Danish West Indies.

Those who are more expansive in their thinking might include: Ryukyus; the post-1980s issues of Micronesia; Palau; Marshall Islands; the AMG issues of France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Venezia-Giulia and Trieste; and one could even include Alaska before the establishment of the district government.

Yet the scope of United States possessions is far greater than even this. What about all the islands that had post offices and never issued stamps? American Samoa, Wake, Midway, Canton, Swan Island and Corn Islands are just a few.

And then there is Antarctica, which has had an American presence since the 1928 and a “sector” until sectors were supplanted in the Antarctic Treaty of 1961.

All this leads to an interesting topic: inter-possessions mail. For what purposes would letters be sent from one outpost to another? Study of this topic for several years has led me to make some analysis. There appear to be links across the globe linking American possessions.

The most obvious link is between San Francisco, Hawaii, Midway, Wake, Guam and Philippines. Another is the San Francisco, Hawaii, Canton, American Samoa route. A third and fourth is from the Canal Zone east: Canal Zone, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Miami and west: Canal Zone, Hawaii, Philippines.

The categories of correspondence, other than philatelic mail, seem to fall into four areas: government mail, government contractor’s mail, military mail and commercial mail.

There seems to be very little “tourist” mail prior to 1950. It is fairly easy to obtain nonphilatelic mail on the Trans-Pacific link and on mail from the Canal Zone. The remaining outposts pose difficulties.



## Antarctica

Now for a moment let’s go to the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II. This was a privately financed expedition to the Antarctic with some government support. It began Sept. 25, 1933 from Boston.

The various ships of the expedition transited the Panama Canal and proceeded to several Pacific ports for resupply before reaching Antarctic waters.

Admiral Richard E. Byrd reached Little America at 80°08’S 153°57’W on Jan. 17, 1934, a month after the bulk of the expedition’s ships had arrived in the Antarctic. The exploration portion of the expedition ended at Dunedin, New Zealand, on Feb. 20, 1935.

Over the Antarctic summer, mail was dispatched to various parts of the world. This was the case of the cover illustrated in Figure 1. It was mailed Jan. 31, 1934, as were many others on this date, from Little America.

This cover is of interest in that it has multiple frankings. The embossed envelope (Canal Zone Scott U13) was probably bought on the initial leg of the voyage, but when it was mailed a Byrd Antarctic stamp (US Sc. 733) was applied.

The return route took the ship to San Francisco where the cover was backstamped March 25, 1935. At some point (probably in the Antarctic) it got a hand stamp on the face: “This letter has been delayed one



Figure 1: Little America, Antarctica, to Ancon, Canal Zone, with “delayed for one year” handstamp.

Figure 2 (Below): This cover, mailed from Little America, Antarctica, to Ponape, Caroline Islands, probably contained a letter between two scientists.



Figure 3: Mail from the Catholic Mission at Koror to the Guam Supply Company, Agana (Hagatna), Guam.

year because of difficulties in transportation at Little America, Antarctica” The cover was then forwarded to its destination Ancon, Canal Zone.

One of the more interesting inter-possession covers was one bought from a friend four years ago. It is a May 1, 1956 cover (Figure 2) from Little America, Antarctica, marked airmail special delivery, but under paid to Ponape, Caroline Islands, where it was assessed 60-cents postage due on Nov. 20, 1956.

What are the possibilities on this cover? Well, 1956-57 was the International Geophysical Year (IGY). The personnel at Little America were Navy and scientists. Mail from Little America was mostly philatelic. The Navy personnel, if they were to write home, probably would have written to the United States.

That leaves a scientist. May 1 is the end of shipping from the Antarctic. As it was near the start of the IGY, the guess is that it was a cover from one scientist to another, both connected to the IGY. The route was Antarctica to New Zealand to San Francisco to the Carolines, so this cover traveled 30,325 kilometers.

### Trust Territory

As a consequence of the defeat of Japan in World War II, the United States became heir to the islands in the North Pacific that had been mandated to Japan by the League of Nations following World War I.

When the United Nations was established in 1945 it was decided that territories of the defeated Axis nations would be placed under trusteeship of the United Nations. This was done by the United Nations on April 2, 1947, and approved by the United States Congress on July 19, 1947.

The island groups of the former mandate were the Marianas, Palau, Caroline and Marshalls. These were given a designation of a special security area that, in effect, made them off limits to all nations and allowed only the United States and the residents of these islands to be present within the trusteeship.

Per the trusteeship agreement, persons appointed by the United Nations Trustee Council could carry out periodic inspections. This new territory was formally known as The United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and was governed by a high commissioner.

Initially, the territory was administered from Honolulu, later from the United States Territory of Guam, which is geographically a part of the Mariana Islands and has strong cultural connections to the Marianas, and finally from Saipan.

District administrative offices were established at the following locations: Saipan, Mariana Islands; Koror (Palau), Caroline Islands; Truk (Chuuk), Ponape (Pohnpei), Yap and Kusaie (Kosrae) Caroline Islands; and Majuro. Marshall Islands.





Figure 4: Mail from Ponape to the University of Guam.



Figure 5: Mail from Bikini Atoll to Hawaii using the APO service.



Figure 6: Mail from Bikini Atoll to the Philippines using the FPO service



Figure 7: Registered letter dated April 18, 1908, from Manila, via New York, to Ancon in the Canal Zone during Panama Canal construction.



Figure 8: Letter mailed from Zamboanga on the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines to Honolulu.

All of these islands, including Guam, were subject to severe repression when under the control of the Japanese and at the time of liberation many islands suffered great destruction. As a consequence, the process of rebuilding was long and difficult.

Guam and Hawaii became the staging areas for the rebuilding process. Communication in the first five years was mostly through military channels. The first civilian post offices were established beginning July 1, 1951, at the district headquarters. Subsequently other post offices and branches were established.

Nonmilitary communication was limited to students from the Trust Territory taking extension courses from the University of Guam, schools, missions, charitable organizations, small commercial operations seeking materials and supplies from either Guam or Hawaii and civilians working on behalf of the Trust Territory.

To illustrate this type of communication is Figure 3, a cover from the Catholic Mission at Koror to the Guam Supply Company, Agana (Hagatna), Guam.

A private correspondence example is the cover in Figure 4 from Ponape to the University of Guam.

One activity that generated both military and civilian mail, but was a result of military operations, was the atomic bomb testing at Bikini and Eniwetok (Eniwetak) atolls and the missile testing range at Kwajalein atoll, Marshall Islands. An example of the missile testing activity is the Figure 5 cover sent to Hawaii using the APO postal service.

The USS *Appalachian* cover in Figure 6 is an example of the military activity and while it could be a philatelic cover it may well be a form of civilian correspondence considering the occupations of the sender and the addressee.

Additionally, it qualifies as an inter-possession cover because it was addressed to the Philippines which, until July 4, 1946, was an American possession.

In 1972, the United States notified the United Nations that the Trust Territory was ready for a change in political status. Palau indicated that it wished to be



Figure 9: An airmail letter mailed from Manila to Honolulu.

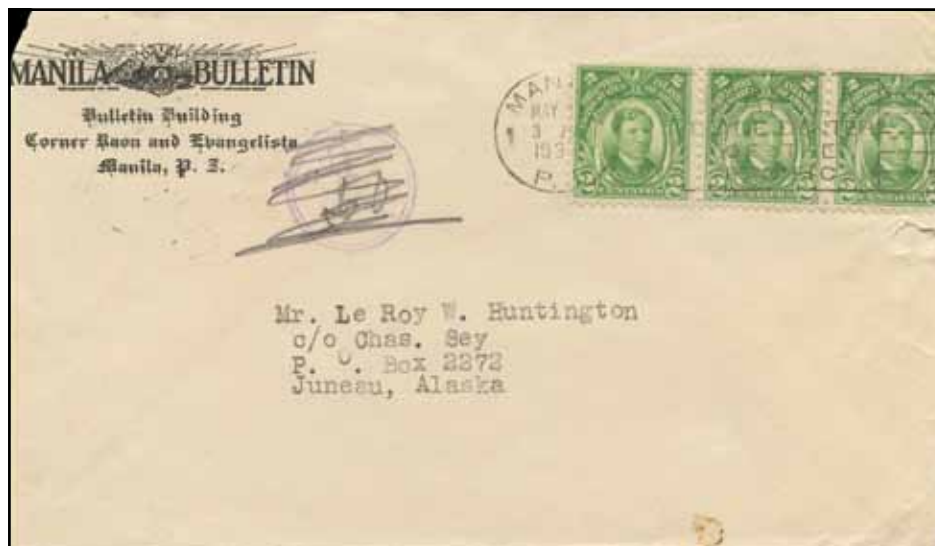


Figure 10: Letter mailed from Manila to Juneau, Alaska.

considered separate from the other Caroline Islands. Several options were offered to the now four entities: to become a United States territory, independence or to join in voluntary association with the United States.

The Mariana Islands chose to become a United States territory, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Palau became the Republic of Palau, the Caroline Islands chose to become the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands became the Republic of the Marshall Islands. These latter three choose to be in voluntary association with the United States. On Dec. 22, 1990, the United Nations Security Council ended the trusteeship over the territory.

Individual agreements were made involving the United States, United Nations and the various territories. The major issue at hand was military

defense, but there were other issues including postal services, environmental assistance, communications, and transportation.

The change in status was effected on the following dates: Mariana Islands Jan. 1, 1978; Palau Sept. 27, 1994; Micronesia Nov. 3, 1986; and Marshall Islands Oct. 21, 1986. However, stamps were issued in the Trust Territory prior to the effective dates: Palau on Nov. 10, 1983; Micronesia on July 12, 1984; and Marshall Islands on May 2, 1984. Covers mailed between these two dates and actual independence are actually Trust Territory covers.

### The Philippines

The Philippines were not the first non-conterminous possession of the United States. The Philippines were preceded by several islands acquired under the Guano





Figure 11: QSL card mailed from Cagayan Oriental, Misamis, on Mindanao to Guam.

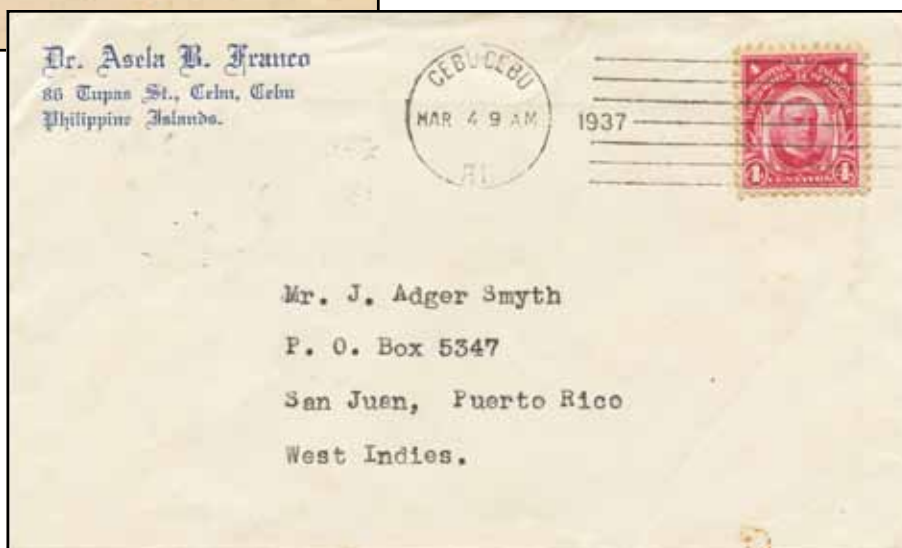


Figure 12: Letter mailed from Cebu to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Act of Aug. 18, 1856, and the purchase of Alaska effective Oct. 18, 1867.

While American control of the Philippines started with the Dewey victory at Manila Bay, actual postal activities did not begin until the opening of the post office at Cavite on June 30, 1898.

The American occupation of the Philippines did not go smoothly. The military government was devoted to the suppression of the Philippines Insurrection (Philippines-American War) until 1902 and it was not until the organization of civil government under William Howard Taft in 1904 that commercial activities improved. Very little mail went to the other United States possessions. Most was directed to the United States mainland.

The first inter-possession mail was most likely directed to Hawaii. Mail may have been sent by American soldiers to Hawaii during the Spanish-American War but it cannot be considered inter-possession mail unless sent after Aug. 12, 1898, the day Hawaii became a possession.

Figure 7 is an interesting item probably sent from Manila by registered mail via New York. This was mailed April 18, 1908, to Ancon in the Canal Zone

during the canal construction period. It arrived June 2, 1908. Any mail to the Canal Zone from a possession prior to the opening of the canal is rare, especially registered mail.

Most inter-possession commercial mail from the Philippines would most likely be directed to Hawaii, as the circa 1924 cover to the postmaster at Honolulu in Figure 8, and the business cover to a shipping line in Figure 9 attest.

One of the more unusual destinations is the Figure 10 cover to Juneau, Alaska that, on its arrival, was going to be assessed international postage due until someone realized that domestic surface rates applied to mail from the Philippines.

It should be noted that this cover traveled by sea before the trans-Pacific flights.

A QSL card is a reply card from an amateur radio operator acknowledging the receipt of a transmission. The Figure 11 card was mailed at Cagayan Oriental, Misamis, on Mindanao to Guam.

The last cover, Figure 12, with the balance of the postage on the reverse, is most unusual in that very little mail was sent to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in spite of the Spanish connection.

# The Health of Postal History and Postal History Exhibiting

By Steve Edmondson

On the subject of the postal history market, I was a bit surprised at a friend's recent comment that there weren't any covers for sale at this year's St. Louis Expo show. I wondered if that was intended to be "no postal history of interest to him" at the show, or a more general "no postal history at all" at the show.

The reason I bring up the subject is that ever since I went to Westpex last year, I've noticed that the amount of postal history for sale at the shows that I attend has dropped off significantly. The sample is small in that I do not attend all that many shows.

Still, this year at the Nashville, Tenn., show, there was only one cover dealer and only few of the other dealers stocked even a small box of covers. I've also talked to a couple of postal history dealers who have complained recently about "poor business."

Well, dealers are always, it seems, complaining about not enough business. Still, I wonder if this is just a matter of my own peculiar point of view or if the economic downturn has finally come to roost in the postal history market. Of even more concern is whether my personal observations are a symptom of a growing lack of interest in postal history generally.

There is little doubt in my mind that the philatelic hobby has taken a decided turn toward stamp collecting. Not that there is anything particularly wrong with this. I'd personally just like to see collectors interested in postal history not dry up and blow away completely!

Another issue is the exhibiting of postal history. For many years, I've had an ongoing row with the postal history judges over the very narrow definition of postal history (you know, the "rates and routes" definition). As I wander down the exhibit aisles, increasingly I seem to find only postal history exhibits of such extreme, narrow scope that I wonder if anyone other than the exhibiter has any interest in them.

If I'm correct, I can't believe that this is a sign of anything but bad news for postal history collecting. It also could help explain the lack of dealer interest in stocking modest, low-end postal history at the shows.

Here are a few suggestions for new postal history exhibit categories that could attract the interest of the general collector. Each of these categories is unconnected to the "rates and routes" approach of traditional postal history exhibits.

First, consider a category titled *Illustrated Covers*. The focus within this class of exhibits would be purely thematic. However, not so thematic that the rules for thematic philately should apply.

Next, consider a category titled *Personal Postal History*. The focus within this class would be on a person or family. I do remember some displays about famous people (George Washington and Abraham Lincoln come to mind). The concept could easily be extended to the exhibiter's family and illustrate covers and postcards from family members who emigrated west or who participated in the military.

Equally interesting could be a showing of covers related to the working history of the various family members.

Similar to the above, a category titled *Ethnic Postal History* could focus on the emigration to this country and the incorporation of a particular culture into our own. I remember postcards featuring specific ethnic terms (not all derogatory by any means).

Such a thematic showing of the way people were treated on our envelopes and cards, the way businesses developed, the way pizza made it onto our tables, all could be educational as well as entertaining. The history of the Irish, the Italian and the blacks, to name just three, are all subjects waiting to be exploited and exhibited.

Finally, consider a category titled *Town and County Postal History*. The focus within this class would be on local history as preserved in the covers from a particular locale. The development of a town or area; its growth into a city; or its being swallowed up in a suburban district of a larger nearby city could all become the focus of an interesting exhibit.

There are any number of other such exhibit possibilities. Of course, members of the postal history establishment within the ranks of the current rules structure are not expected to welcome new categories with any enthusiasm.

I can hear the groans and griping already. However, maybe someone out there would like to put together an "outside the postal history box" exhibit? I'd certainly look it over!

(Steve Edmondson can be contacted at: [tenac@hctc.com](mailto:tenac@hctc.com))

## Closed Album

### Frederick Langford 1916-2010

Frederick Langford was born Oct. 23, 1916, in Chicago, to Lellus Frederick Langford and Sara Jessamine Struble. He lived in Chicago until his teens, but attended high school in four different cities, graduating from Alhambra High School. He earned his associate degree at what was then Pasadena Junior College.

There he met his future wife, Ruth Elizabeth Carter, in the stamp club, and they were married May 2, 1943. They had two daughters, Julia Langford Busse, and Rosana Langford Whittlesey, whom they raised in Pasadena.

Langford had received training as a secretary, and his early working years were with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Because Langford preferred to work for himself he took the leap of starting his own business, dealing in coins, stamps, postcards, and his specialty, American flag cancellations.

Langford became an expert collector of these flag cancels and wrote what many consider to be the definitive book about them and the machines that made the cancellations. It was his life's work. The first edition of the *Flag Cancel Encyclopedia* was published



Frederick Langford

in 1955; the fourth edition was published in 2008.

Langford's other life-long interest was genealogy and family history. Because he was the child of older parents, and his parents themselves had much older siblings, Langford associated with many older family members. He came to know and remember stories, facts and associations by heart and, as an adult, decided to try to learn more about the family history.

In addition, Langford had a great knowledge of history, with special interest in Americana in general, and the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln in particular.

Langford never considered himself retired, though he finally gave up his business license at the end of 2009. Through his later years, he continued to deal in collectibles, even from home when he could no longer work from an office. His book and his interest in genealogy kept him going until the last couple of years of his life.

Frederick Langford passed away Nov. 19, 2010, at age 94 and rests in the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena Calif.

*Julia Langford Busse*

## Letters

*La Posta* welcomes reader letters about journal content or anything related to a postal history topic. Send your comments to: Peter Martin, Editor, *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403, or e-mail [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com).

### *La Posta* Fans

I just got a chance to sit down with the First Quarter 2012 issue of *La Posta*. I just have to say that I like the new look and the changes made and the further ones proposed. It looks like *La Posta* is in good hands.

**Eric Knapp**  
Anchorage, Alaska

*La Posta* is the most prestigious postal history journal in America. The Cortlandt Street article was wonderful and I'll certainly miss the postmaster series.

**Don Glickstein**  
Seattle, Washington

### Cordlandt Street Memories

I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed The Richard Hemmings article about New York City's

Cordlandt Street in the First Quarter 2012 *La Posta*. My father had a business on parallel Liberty Street for many years and I remember Radio Row quite well. The radio store owners on Cortlandt Street, led by Leonard Levy of Leonard Radio Co., fought the Port Authority tong and hammer, but sadly lost, and with that loss a wonderful historically important section of old New York was gone.

I used to enjoy looking at those old, interesting buildings, many of which probably dated back to the 1850s or 1860s, or possibly earlier, on the way to dad's place.

That neighborhood had such character! The Hemmings article brought it all back for me, and I am grateful!

**Fred Schmitt**  
Northport, New York



## Postal Museum Announces the First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and the Institute for Analytical Philately Inc. will jointly sponsor the First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately November 12-14 at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

"This International Symposium—to our knowledge the first ever held—offers an opportunity for interested philatelists and scientists to get together, share their work and help set the course for future forensic analyses in the philatelic arena," said David Herendeen, president of IAP.

"Our close working relationship with the National Postal Museum is a huge plus because it allows philatelists to use state-of-the-art equipment for their advanced research efforts."

A call for symposium technical papers has been issued by the IAP, and approximately 10 will be accepted. Each paper should address the manner in which forensic analysis has been applied to solving a philatelic dilemma. Both the study of stamp characteristics (color, ink chemistry, paper, gum, etc.)



and postal history papers are welcome. It is preferred that papers address methodology rather than a simple study or "expertization" of material, which does not advance the state of the art in methods with broad applicability.

In addition to two days of technical presentations, there will be a half-day workshop offering hands-on experience with the museum's forensic equipment.

Featured equipment is a Foster & Freeman VSC 6000, a Bruker Tracer III-SD X-ray Fluorescence spectrometer and a Bruker FT-IR (Fourier transform infrared) spectrometer.

The keynote address will be given by David Beech, head of philatelic collections at The British Library, London. Bruce Kaiser, chief scientist at Bruker Elemental, Utah, will be the featured speaker.

The symposium venue will support limited attendance, and advanced registration is required. Interested participants can learn more by visiting a special page hosted on the IAP's website: [www.analyticalphilately.org/symposiumcall.html](http://www.analyticalphilately.org/symposiumcall.html).



## U.S. Postal Service to Allow Mailer Logos and Marks on Permit Indicia

The U.S. Postal Service is planning to revise its mailing standards and has recently filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission to allow commercial mailers to include logos, trademarks, brand images or other kinds of marketing designs in the permit imprint indicia area of their mail. The Picture Permit Imprint Indicia offering will provide participating companies with immediate recognition of their logos, products or promotions while boosting the visual impact of their mail.

"This prime real estate area will allow companies to brand, advertise and market their products and services on the actual mail piece," said Gary Reblin, USPS vice president, Domestic Products. "Market research shows that customers believe picture permits will enhance the perception of their mail."

If approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission, the offering will be effective on or about June 24, 2012, for commercial mailers of presorted first-class mail letters and cards or standard mail letters. The premium for first-class mail letters and cards will be one cent per piece and for standard mail letters two cents per piece.

"Picture Permit will provide our customers with advertising opportunities without impacting required indicia information on the mail piece," said Reblin. "Allowing Picture Permits is just one of the many ways the Postal Service is working hard to make mail work better for our customers."

For more information about the Postal Service's Picture Permit Imprint Indicia offering, contact the Picture Permit offering program management office at [picturepermit@usps.com](mailto:picturepermit@usps.com).

## Philatelic Libraries Announce Partnership to Create Gateway to World's Greatest Philatelic Research

In April, the American Philatelic Research Library joined forces with preeminent philatelic libraries around the world to provide a centralized gateway to the greatest philatelic research in existence.

Founding partners in the initiative include: the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum ([www.postalmuseum.si.edu/](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/)) and Smithsonian Libraries ([www.sil.si.edu/](http://www.sil.si.edu/)), Washington, D.C.; the Royal Philatelic Society London ([www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk)), United Kingdom; and the American Philatelic Research Library ([www.stamplibrary.org](http://www.stamplibrary.org)), Bellefonte, Pa.

The goal of the project is to establish a single destination on the web where philatelists around the world can search, locate, and access philatelic research from partner libraries in real-time, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, will soon be one click away, providing an invaluable resource to those doing philatelic research.

Major pre-1923 publications, including *The Stamp Collector's Magazine, Illustrated*, London, from 1865–1874, have been digitized and will be made available at no charge.

Other resources considered proprietary by partner libraries may also be accessed through membership programs and other avenues via the portal, which is planned to launch in June.

"This is a fantastic program that will benefit philatelists around the world," said Allen Kane, director of the National Postal Museum. "I would like to thank Alan Holyoake for championing the effort and helping to make it become a reality."

Other partners participating in the project include: Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Denver, Co.;



Slusser Memorial Library, Postal History Foundation, Tucson, Ariz.; The Collectors Club Library, New York; Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, Canada; and Western Philatelic Library, Sunnyvale, Calif..

"All philatelists should welcome the introduction of a centralized information gateway, a project that could never have been undertaken without the active participation of its preeminent founding partners, all of whom should be thanked," said Alan Holyoake, internationally-known philatelist.

"This cooperation between philatelic libraries will not only will it make the researcher's quest more efficient, but it will also help the researcher uncover previously unknown sources of information," said Tara Murray, director of information services and librarian at the APRL.

The 12,500-square foot American Philatelic Research Library contains more than 20,000 book titles, more than 5,500 periodical titles, government documents, auction catalogs, philatelic exhibits, and several unique archives, including the Daniel Hines Air Mail Collection.

The library staff of four serve the public and also publish the quarterly *Philatelic Literature Review* with the American Philatelic Society editorial department.

The APRL is a public nonprofit that relies heavily on donations of materials. Members of the APRL and the APS may borrow materials directly through the mail and others may use the library through interlibrary loan. Scholars are always welcome to do research on site.

For more information, contact Tara Murray at [tmurray@stamps.org](mailto:tmurray@stamps.org).

**Report news related to postal history or philatelic research to the editor at:**

***[pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com)***

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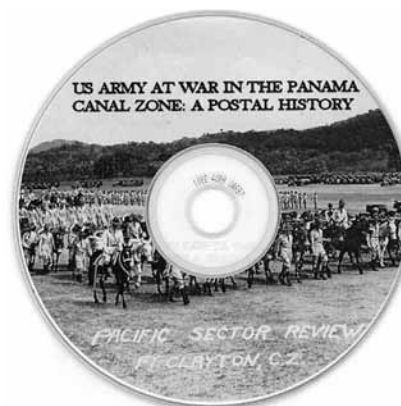
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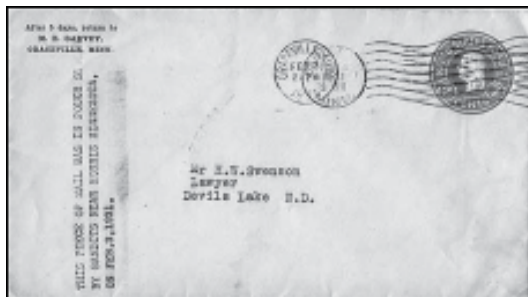
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**ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING COVERS** showing various old products. Many with matching graphic enclosures. Submit collecting interests for free photocopies. John Cuddy, 2768 Willits Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19136. Email: [jcuddymailpouch@aol.com](mailto:jcuddymailpouch@aol.com). [44-1]

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**HATHERLY MASS** Postmark, 1887-1906, Covers, postcards. Send scan, photocopy and price to Daniel Lucas, 29 Cottonwood Ln., Rockland, Mass 02370. [da1941@verizon.net](mailto:da1941@verizon.net) [43-3]

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**May 10, 2012**



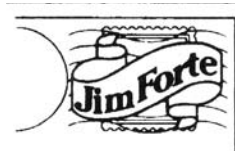
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