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Vol. 43, No. 4

Whole Number 252

Fourth Quarter 2012

# LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 43, No. 4  
Whole Number 252  
Fourth Quarter 2012



My Address is the World's Fair  
By Kenneth C. Wukasch

OUR 43RD YEAR OF PUBLISHING AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY 1969-2012



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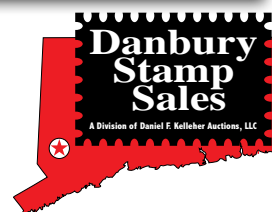
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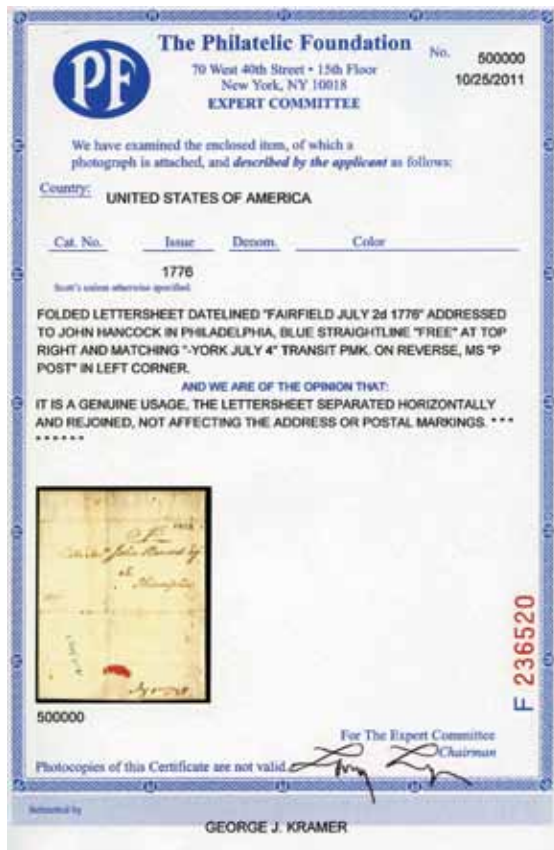
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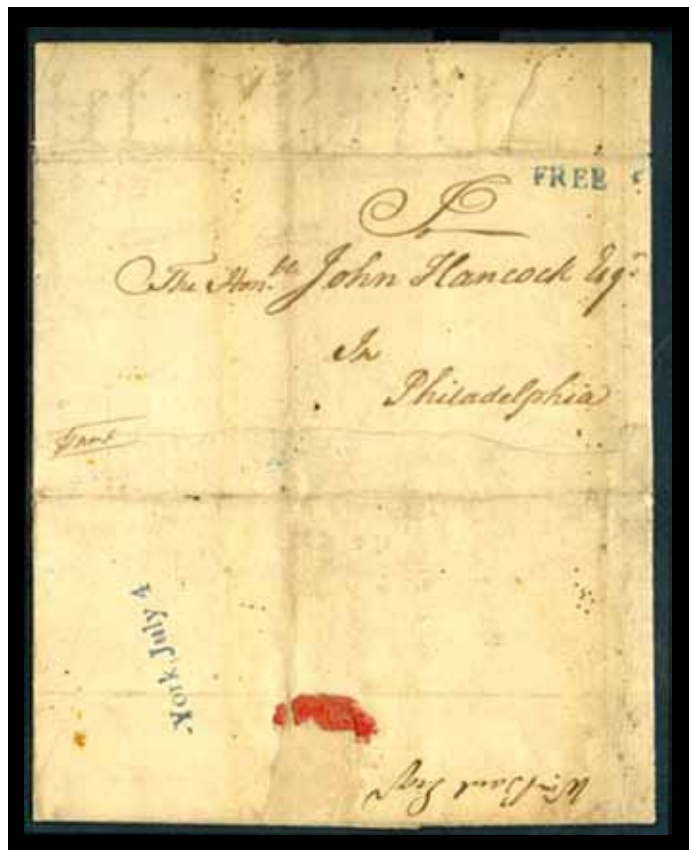
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# LA POSTA

## THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 43, No. 4

Whole No. 252

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Website: [www.la-posta.com](http://www.la-posta.com)

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*La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History* is published four times a year with issues mailed on or about the 20th of March, June, September and December. Subscription information is available from: La Posta Publications, c/o C. Clark, 315 Este Es Road, Taos, NM 87571

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### *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*

#### Annual Subscription Rates

USA	\$32 (4 issues)
Canada	\$38 (U.S. \$)
Foreign	\$70 via airmail

#### Article Deadlines

1st Quarter 2013	Jan. 10, 2013
2nd Quarter 2013	April 10, 2013
3rd Quarter 2013	July. 10, 2013
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## Happy Holidays!

We have another strong line-up of articles in this issue headed by Kenneth Wukasch's unique approach to World's Fair postal history.

Also in this issue, beginning on page 24 is David Straight's second, and final, column about postal forms. Sadly, just days after submitting his column, accompanied by a note that he was looking forward to traveling, including out of the country, came word that he had suffered a massive stroke, to which he succumbed.

David was only 57 and had just retired from his post as a university librarian. He was looking forward to working on multiple research projects and, because he now had some free time, he agreed to be a columnist for *La Posta*, focusing upon U.S. postal forms, an understudied area for which he was a subject matter expert. He was an excellent writer and had a style that allowed him to make complex subjects very readable.

I've known David for many years and worked with him on the Board of Trustees of the American Philatelic Research Library, where he took a leadership role in the APRL union catalog project, as well as co-chairing the highly popular Blount Symposium. He will be sorely missed. His obituary appears on page 59.

As one door closes, another opens. I'm delighted to report that Trish Kaufmann will become a regular *La Posta* contributor with columns about Confederate postal history. Trish has long been one of the leaders in the Confederate Stamp Alliance, including past service as CSA president. She carries the honorary title of "General."

She was also the lead editor for the just released *Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* and her first *La Posta* column, which appears in this issue, focuses on that subject, including a history of previous Confederate catalogs.

The new *CSA Catalog* is a gem, full of new information and finds and a more than worthy successor to past editions.



Another fantastic new book is featured in the "Book Reviews" section. The Philatelic Foundation's new three-volume boxed set, *Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870* is superb in all respects and has received well deserved commendations from throughout the hobby.

A third book, written by lead author Kenneth Wukasch, also breaks new ground. The *Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition* is a companion volume to his earlier *Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition* and is reviewed by Publisher Cath Clark.

Besides the review, Cath, in her "Publisher's Page" column beginning on page 8, provides the details about her August trip to Sacramento and the American Philatelic Society's Stampshow.

The *La Posta* Challenge, which we introduced in the Second Quarter issue, had a Third Quarter problem when a printer delay in mailing that issue ran into the deadline for responses. We have adjusted the deadline to avoid this problem in the future but be aware that, if you miss the submission deadline, we will still try to include your entry in that issue, or the subsequent one. See the "Smallest Post Offices" candidates beginning on page 47.

Please continue to provide us feedback about what you like and what you'd like to see. We welcome comments about any postal history subject and we'll feature them in the "Letters" section.

We extend to you some season's tidings and cheer, in color, on page 67. May you, and your family, have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!

*Peter Martin*



## From Behind the Booth at Stampshow 2012

Stampshow 2012 in Sacramento was a four-day horn of philatelic plenty for the throngs of attendees who came through the door, looking to buy, sell, browse and catch up with collecting friends.

Held August 16-19 at the downtown convention center, it was a sparkling, well-run show sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, one of the two nationwide shows it held in 2012.

*La Posta* had not set up at a stamp show for six years, and we hadn't been at a national-level show for some 15 years!

Since I was attending the Harmer & Schau Auction, a last-minute decision was made to go ahead and set up a booth to promote the journal. I'm so glad that I did, as I was able to reconnect with many collector and dealer friends, and was able to meet a number of subscribers for the first time.

People loved getting the very attractive journals from the first part of this year as free samples, and I was totally out by Sunday. For many, they had not heard of *La Posta* before, so this was a great way to spread the word that there is a nationwide journal dedicated solely to American postal history.

We've gained some 30 new subscribers after the second quarter of this year, and the show certainly helped boost this number. It was also nice to have some former subscribers "re-up" after visiting our booth. A warm "thank you" to all of you subscribers who dropped in to see me.

I was located next to Don Tocher & Webster Stickney, and it was nice to know they'd have my back if I had to desert the table for a few minutes. I was just opposite the extensive exhibit area, which was quite popular with visitors. But, alas, between staffing my table and visiting other dealers, I didn't find the time to have a gander myself. There was also an interesting and varied slate of speakers, and more society meetings and social dinners than you could shake a stick at.

I did manage to attend a special event, the Writers Unit #30 breakfast, where *La Posta*'s founder, Richard



W. Helbock, was inducted into the Writers Hall of Fame. I also attended a very enjoyable annual dinner put on by the NSDA where I had the best Chinese buffet this side of the Pacific.

Having traveled from Australia for the show, I staffed the booth mostly on my own, and with a little help from subscriber friends—some of whom I could not have done without.

Firstly, I must thank Sherry Straley, our back-issue supplier, for graciously hosting me at her home, sharing her postal history

and auction wisdom, and helping me get all those sample boxes of *La Posta*'s to the venue.

Secondly, to Steve Edmondson who saved my bacon and spent a lot of hours behind the table very graciously and knowledgeably entertaining and informing visitors about all aspects of postal history (not just Tennessee).

Thirdly, to Randy Kimes, for getting me through that first long day and for running secret stealth errands for me.

And fourthly, to dealers Diane DeBlois and Rob Harris of Agatherin' for their genuine warmth and good company. If ever there were good will ambassadors for postal history, it resides well and truly with these two exceptional people.

Thanks also to Ken Wukasch, Louis Fiset, and Dale Forster for their help and good company, to the Weinstocks for making me feel welcome, to Larry Maddux for safely delivering back issues and postmarkers to the Oregon Stamp Society, and to anyone else who might have given me a coffee break that I may have forgotten to mention.

Most of all, thank you to the many people who came by just to thank me for keeping the journal going and to offer compliments and encouragement.

*Catherine Clark*

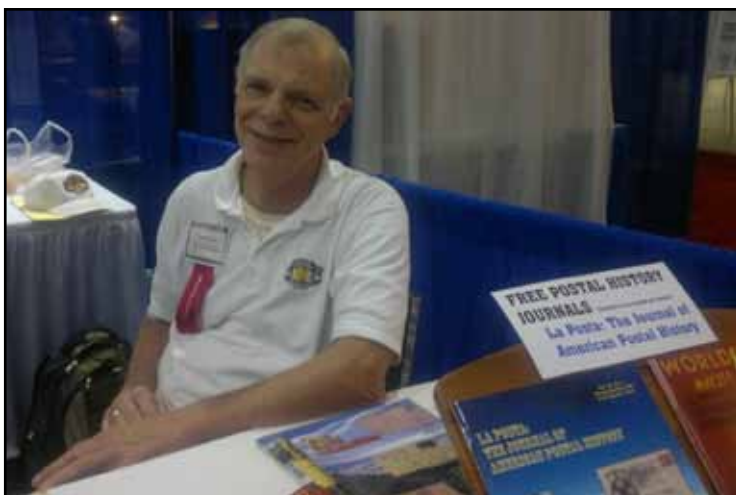




Publisher Catherine Clark at the *La Posta* booth at the APS Stampshow 2012.



Larry Gibson promoting an upcoming Daniel Kelleher auction.



Randy Kimes at the *La Posta* booth.



England dealer Stephen Taylor at his booth.



Steve Edmondson always gets the last word.



Sherry Straley, the *La Posta* back issue provider.





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The Frederick Childe Hassam painting "House Of Gardens, Horticultural Building" overlaid with return addresses from the fair.





Figure 3: The morning lineup of postal clerks at the Chicago World's Fair Station Post Office.

## My Address is the World's Fair

By Kenneth C. Wukasch

They had come to the White City from every corner of the globe. While some sought economic opportunity, most just wanted to visit, learn and be entertained. However, among the first things recommended to the visitor or employee to do upon arrival on the fairgrounds was to register to receive mail. Some registered directly with the World's Fair Post Office, others with the exhibit in which they were employed, while still others registered in their respective state or national building.

This article will illustrate and describe examples of overseas and domestic mail that was received on the fairgrounds during the six months of Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

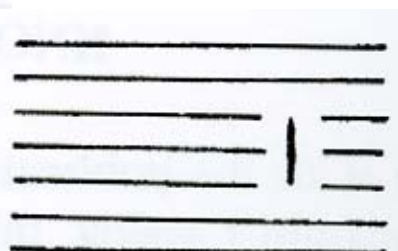
Delivering mail on the fairgrounds was difficult. Postal carriers had to remember specific names along the midway, for exhibits or within the 10 government

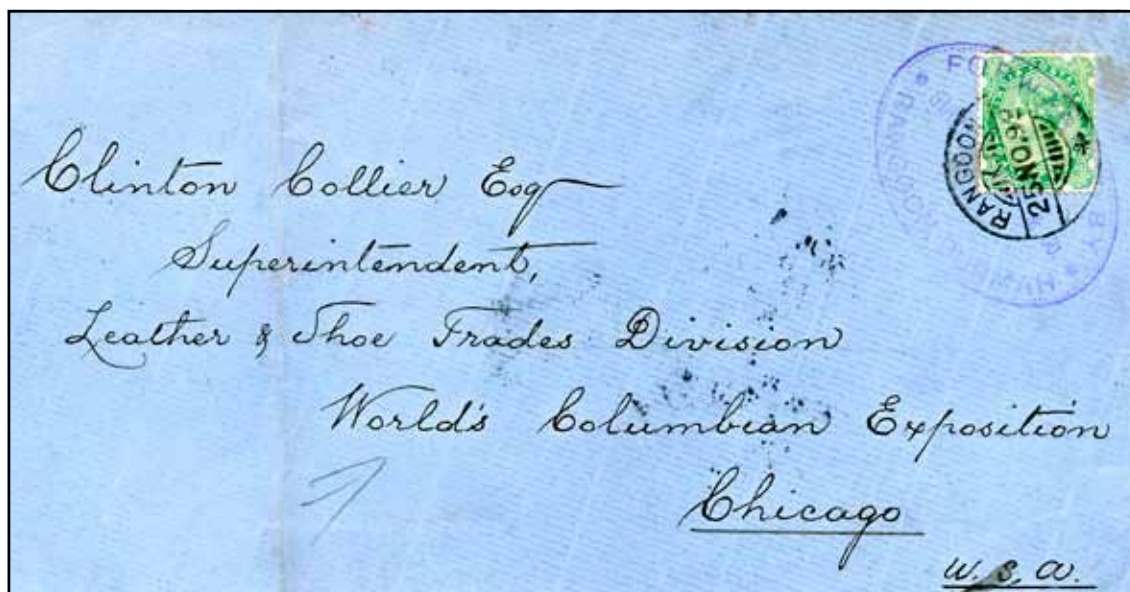


Figure 1 (Left): World's Fair Station "REC'D" handstamp.



Figure 2 (Below): World's Fair Station International machine cancel used as a receipt marking.





**Figure 4: Cover mailed from ‘Rangoon, Burmah,’ to the Leather & Shoe Trades Division on the fairgrounds.**

buildings. By October 1893 the World’s Fair Station Post Office was handling mail equal to the volume of an American city with a population of 75,000. According to the 1893 *Report of the Postmaster General*, 7,292,387 pieces of mail were received at the World’s Fair Station Post Office for delivery on the fairgrounds. In May 1893, Postmaster General Bissell had issued the following order to expedite mail delivery:

*Mail matter intended for delivery on the Exposition grounds should be plainly addressed, “World’s Fair Station, Chicago, Ill.,” giving if possible also the precise locality in the grounds to which the matter is to be delivered, so that carrier delivery can be easily effected.<sup>1</sup>*

These instructions however, were not always followed. “Often the letters are merely addressed to the ‘White City’ or the ‘Fairy City’ and the sender expects the carrier to do the rest.” If a letter was undeliverable on the fairgrounds it was held until called for:

*In the Inquiry Division where mail is held which is simply addressed to unknown individuals at the fair grounds, 3,724 were delivered to persons asking for them. This does not indicate the number of inquiries made for letters by the visitors to the Government Building, however, almost every person who visits the building and discovers the post office seems to feel it his duty to step up to the window and ask if there is a letter for him without first giving his name. Supt. Hastings says that of those who make the inquiry not more than half expect a letter. Most of them know there are none for them before they ask, but that is their way of paying their respects to Uncle Sam while they are on the grounds. It frequently happens that a letter is*

*found for someone who made the inquiry idly and then the clerk is cheered with the remark: ‘Well, I declare, I never expected a letter. I wonder who could have written to me here.’<sup>2</sup>*

Even though Congress had established a national commission with broad powers over the world’s fair, it was really the local directors, superintendents, managers and foreign officials that supervised the daily functions of this great exposition.

### **The Receiving Office of the World’s Fair Station Post Office**

The World’s Fair Station Post Office was divided into two mail sections. The first was the mailing division, located in the north half whose responsibility it was to handle outgoing mail.

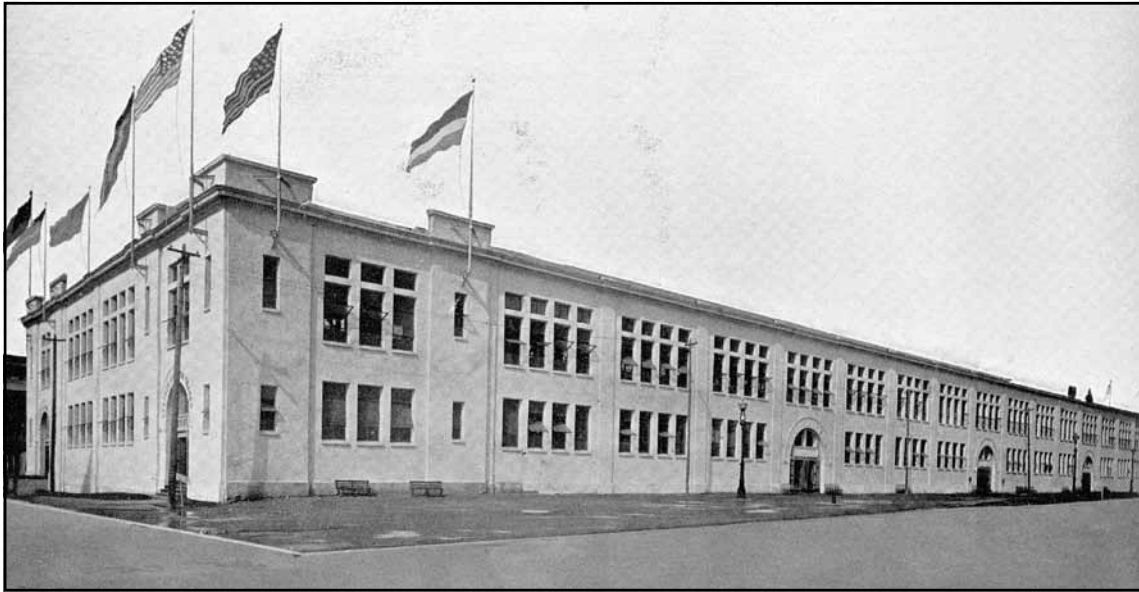
The second half, called the city division, was located in the south end and was responsible for all incoming mail. This inbound mail was delivered to the post office by rapid mail wagons after pickup from the Illinois Central Railroad terminal.

Following the unloading, the sacks were dumped onto the “opening table” that was located directly under the gallery. After the mail received either a hand or machine backstamp, it was made up into delivery routes using the tenant double cases.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 1 shows an example of the “WORLD’S FAIR STATION, REC’D” handstamp; Figure 2 shows the seven-bar International machine, “WORLD’S FAIR STATION” receipt marking. While the International machine cancel is more commonly found today, with most usages in September and October, the “REC’D” marking is definitely rare.

Only 22 examples of the “WORLD’S FAIR STATION REC’D” marking have been documented.<sup>4</sup>





**Figure 5: The Leather & Shoe Trades exhibit building.**

After backstamping, each letter carrier then had to weigh his sack, as shown in Figure 3, and join the morning lineup to deliver mail on the fairgrounds.

### **Inbound Overseas Mail**

Figure 4 illustrates a Nov. 25, 1892, cover mailed from “Rangoon, Burmah,” to “Clinton Collier, Superintendent, Leather & Shoe Trades Division, World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago, U.S.A.” with a “Bombay” transit marking on the reverse.

As superintendent, Collier was in charge of collecting and placing exhibits in the Leather and Shoe Trades Exhibit Building (Figure 5). This building, among the last erected, was located on the shore of Lake Michigan, south of the Grand Central Basin, between the Krupp gun exhibit and the Forestry Building. The exhibit “contained all the domestic exhibits of leather, boots and shoes, rubber boots and shoes and those of the allied trades, and also the exhibits of leather in all forms from foreign countries.”<sup>5</sup> On the second floor, there was even exhibited a fully operational shoe factory.

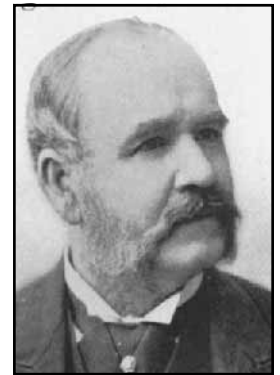
Arthur Renwick, the New South Wales executive commissioner (Figure 6), was appointed by a commission issued Sept. 28, 1891, under the great seal of the colony.<sup>6</sup> The New South Wales Building (Figure 7), known as Australia House, was located adjacent to the Spanish and Canadian buildings.

Figure 8 shows a cover mailed from “TOULOUSE, FRANCE, JUIL 14” to Willie O. Campbell c/o The Honorable A. Renwick, Australian Department, Exposition, Chicago. The cover was receipted by a “WORLD’S

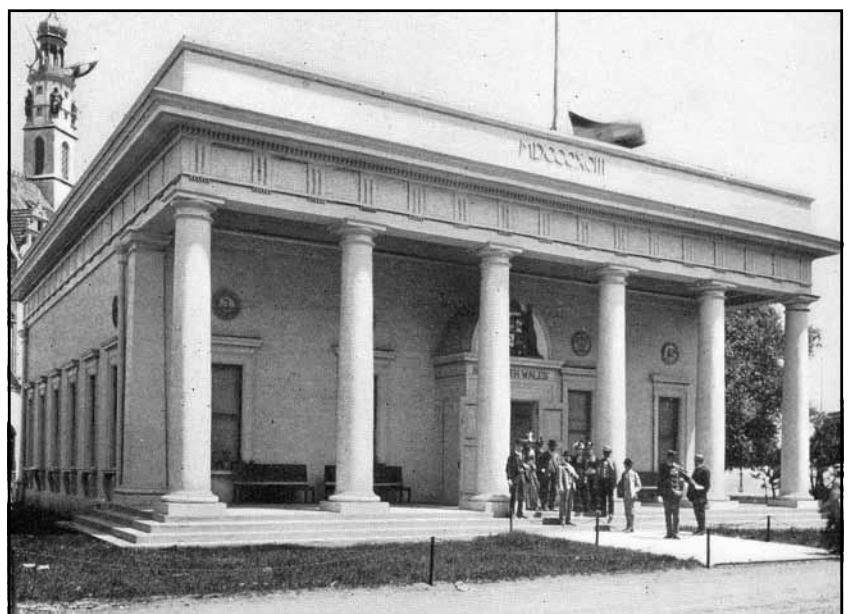
FAIR STA. JUL 21, REC’D” marking on the reverse (Figure 9).

One of the most exciting exhibits on the Midway Plaisance was the Volcano Building shown in Figure 10.

A cover postmarked, “HILO, HAWAII, SEP 28, 1893” with a “HONOLULU, SEPT 30, 1893,” transit marking and with a 1-cent and two 2-cent Hawaiian “PROVISIONAL GOVT. 1893” overprinted stamps affixed is illustrated in Figure 11.



**Figure 6:**  
**Arthur Renwick, the**  
**commissioner of New**  
**South Wales.**



**Figure 7: The New South Wales Building, also known as the Australia House.**



Figure 8 (Left): Cover mailed from Toulouse, France, to the Australian Department.



Figure 9 (Above): Enlargement of "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, JUL 21, 1893, REC'D" handstamp on the reverse of the Figure 8 Arthur Renwick cover.

This cover was addressed to "Mr. H.J. Lyman, Volcano Building, Midway Plaisance, Chicago, Ills." On the reverse was applied a "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, OCT. 22, 1893," International machine, Type I, receipt marking.

Henry J. Lyman (Figure 12) was a student at Cornell University who chose to register with the Volcano Exhibit to receive mail while visiting the World's Columbian Exposition. Lyman, the grandson of missionaries, was born in Hilo in 1872 and would later be appointed postmaster of Kapoho, Hawaii, in 1912.<sup>7</sup>

If getting mail to the appropriate exhibitor on the fairgrounds was difficult, then seeing that each exhibit was delivered correctly and safely must have seemed a monumental task. The first exhibits received were from Bolivia and reached Chicago in October 1891.

After arrival of an exhibit in the United States, the Department of Transportation was responsible for their handling from railroad cars to points of installation on the fairgrounds.<sup>8</sup> Because buildings were frequently incomplete, exhibits often had to be stored.

Figure 13 illustrates a warehouse receiving exhibits from trains. Figure 14 shows a multicolored 11-1/4 x 4 inch shipping label removed from the Java exhibit. The label was printed, "JAVA, WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION U.S.A. COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, EXHIBITS FOR COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, Name of Consignee or Agent W.R. GARRISON, Point of first arrival in the United States: SAN FRANCISCO, U.S.A." A large "D" directed the exhibit to its appropriate location.

In Figure 15, a Dominican Republic TRES CENTAVOS TARJETA, "penalty" postal card is shown mailed Aug. 26, 1893, at the printed matter rate to "Frederick Ober, Convent de la Rabida, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill., USA." Ober had been appointed

commissioner by the President of the United States to represent Cuba, Porto Rico, Jamaica, Hayti, Santo Domingo and the other West India islands.<sup>9</sup> His office was located on the fairgrounds in the Convent of la Rabida (Figure 16). On the reverse of the card is a "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, SEP 8, 1893", International machine receipt marking (Figure 17). In the message, the writer is thanking Commissioner Ober for sending him a copy of *In The Wake Of Columbus*.

Another interesting postal card mailed to the exposition is the International message-reply (UPSS MR3) shown in Figure 18. This card was posted aboard the "U.S. GERMAN SEAPOST, JUL 6, 1893" and addressed to "Mr. John Mueller, Chicago, World's Col. Expo, Machinery Hall, German Dept."

A photo of a U.S. German Sea Post Office is illustrated in Figure 19. Upon arrival in Chicago, it received a transit, "CHICAGO, JUL 15, 11AM, '93" marking and then was receipted with a "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, JUL 15, 12 M, '93, REC'D," handstamp.

The reply card (Figure 20) was subsequently posted, "CHICAGO, ILL., JUL 15, 10 PM, 1893" and addressed to Mr. Hermann Fromm, Leipzig, Germany, who received it on July 28, 1893.

Perhaps the most attractive example of overseas inbound mail to the exposition is the "2 SN, EMPIRE OU JAPON, UPU REPOSE" postal card shown in Figure 21. The card was addressed to "K. Ishikawa Esq., Japanese Tea House, World's Columbian Exposition."

It was mailed from "TOKIO, JAPAN, JULY 13, 1893" and received a "YOKOHOMA, JAPAN, JULY 14, 1893" transit marking. It is of interest that the card did not receive a Chicago or World's Fair receipt marking upon arrival. The Japanese Tea House (Figure 22) became one of the most popular exhibits at the World's Fair.<sup>10</sup>





Figure 10 (Left): Photo of the Hawaiian Volcano exhibit building.



Figure 11: Cover mailed from Hilo, Hawaii, to H.J. Lyman.



Figure 12: H.J. Lyman, a student who had registered to receive mail at the Volcano exhibit.



Figure 13: Some of the warehouses that received and stored World's Fair exhibits.



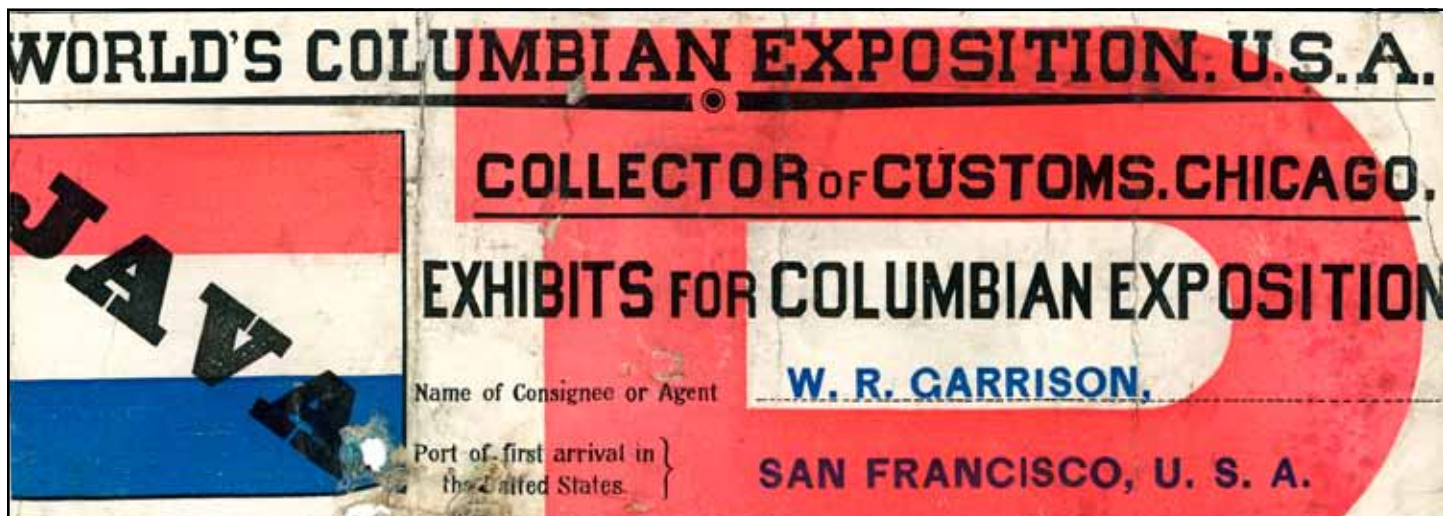


Figure 14: A colorful shipping label from the Java exhibit.

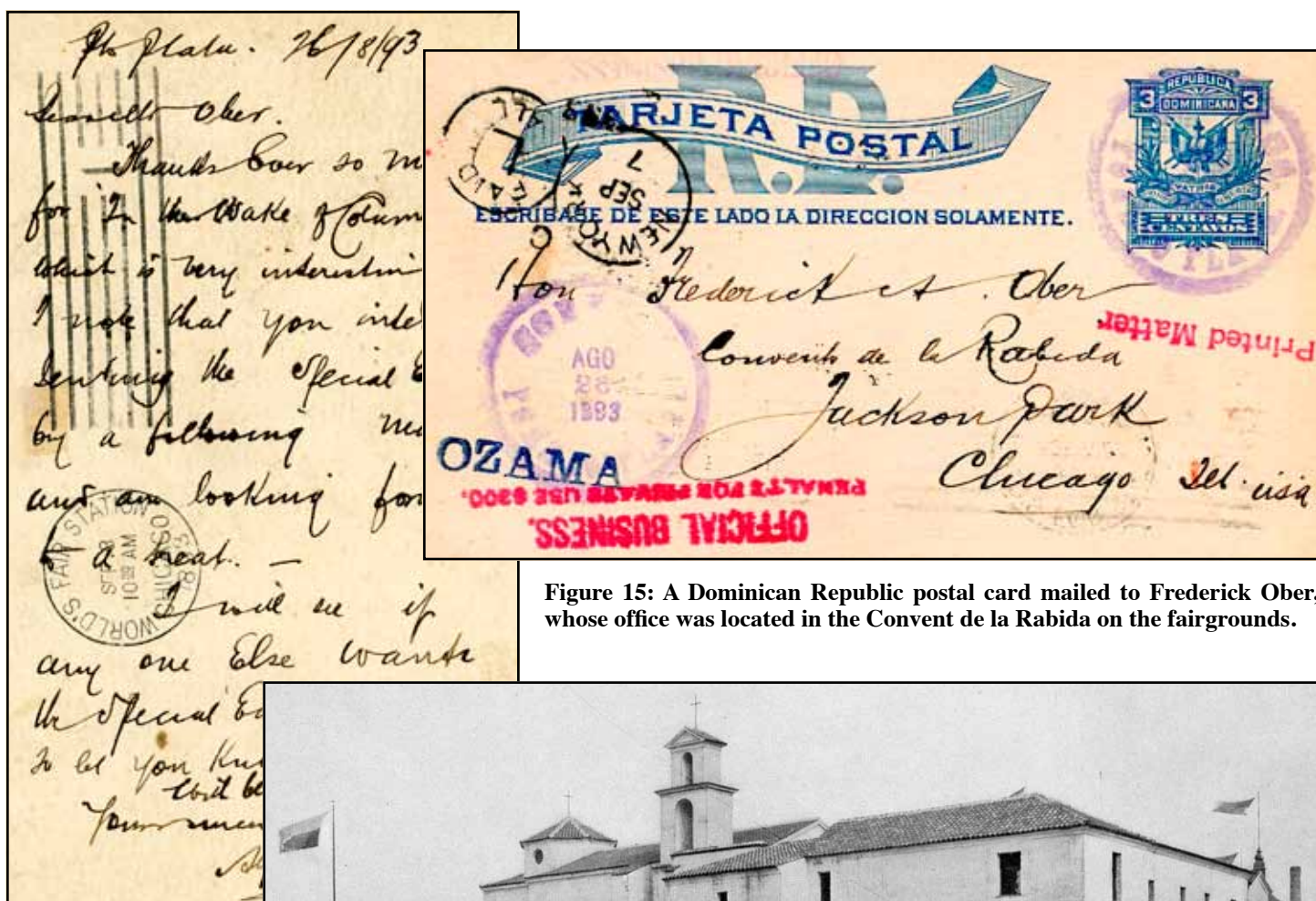


Figure 15: A Dominican Republic postal card mailed to Frederick Ober, whose office was located in the Convento de la Rabida on the fairgrounds.

Figure 17: World's Fair Station International machine receipt marking on the reverse of the Dominican Republic postal card.



Figure 16: The Convento de la Rabida.



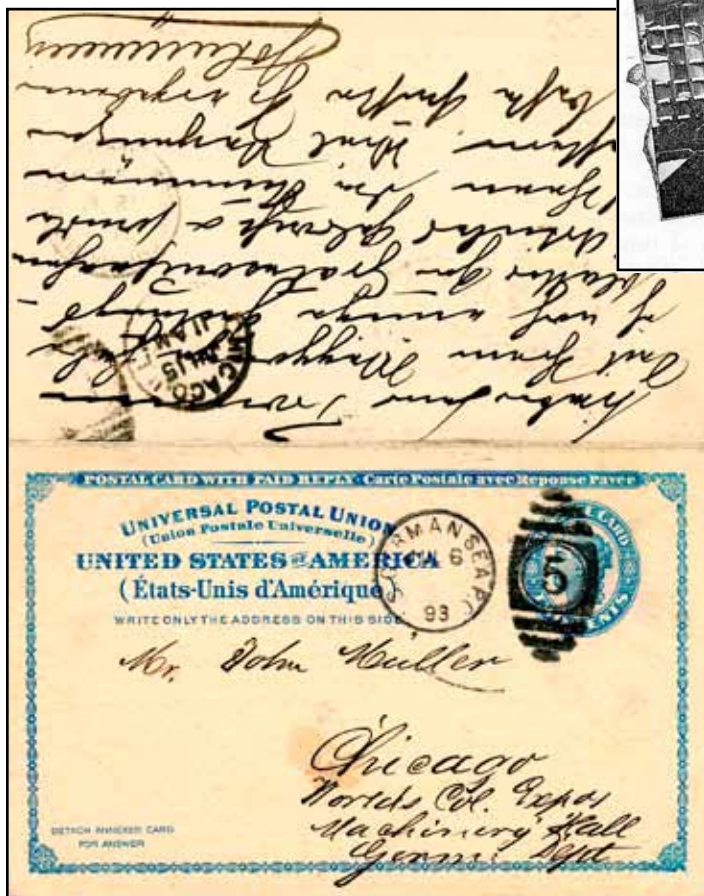
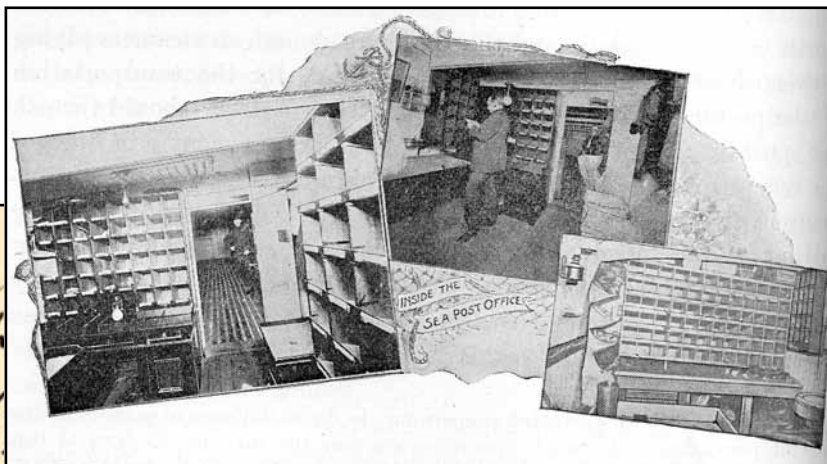


Figure 18: International message-reply card (UPSS MR3) message-side, mailed at sea and addressed to the Machinery Hall, German Department and backstamped "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, JUL 15, '93, REC'D."

Figure 20 (Right): International message-reply card (UPSS MR3) reply-side, mailed from Chicago to Leipzig, Germany.



Figure 19: Postcard showing a U.S. German Sea Post Office.



### Inbound Domestic Mail

Like thousands of Americans in 1893, Mr. F.H. Ross of Sharon, Pa., wanted to attend the exposition but had little money. In September, he wrote this letter to W.G. Lowry, the manager of the Ward's Natural Science exhibit, soliciting a job:

*Dear Sir: I learn through Mr. Leslie (John) that you have charge of an exhibit in the Anthropological Building and that you will leave soon for school. I write to inquire if it is such an exhibit as I could take charge of and, if it is, whether I could get it when you leave? I see no other way now for me to visit*

*the "fair" than by making at least my expenses while there, and I most surely do not want to miss it entirely. If there would be a chance of my getting it would you be kind enough to let me know and also what numeration. I suppose there is at least enough to pay expenses. If other arrangements have been made, do you know of any other employment I could get wither on the grounds or where I would have an opportunity of visiting there occasionally. (preferably the former) In sending me an early reply, you will very greatly oblige.*

F.H. Ross  
#18 Prindle Ave.





Figure 21: Japanese postal card mailed from "TOKIO, JAPAN" to the Japanese Tea House exhibit.

Figure 22: The Japanese Tea House.



Sharon, Pa, 9/11  
 Mr. W. G. Lawry  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Dear Sir: - I have  
 Mr. Leslie (John)  
 Love charges  
 in natural science  
 the Anthropology  
 and that you  
 soon for each  
 to inquire if I  
 exhibit as I  
 charges of an  
 whether I can  
 when you leave? I see  
 no other way now. Love

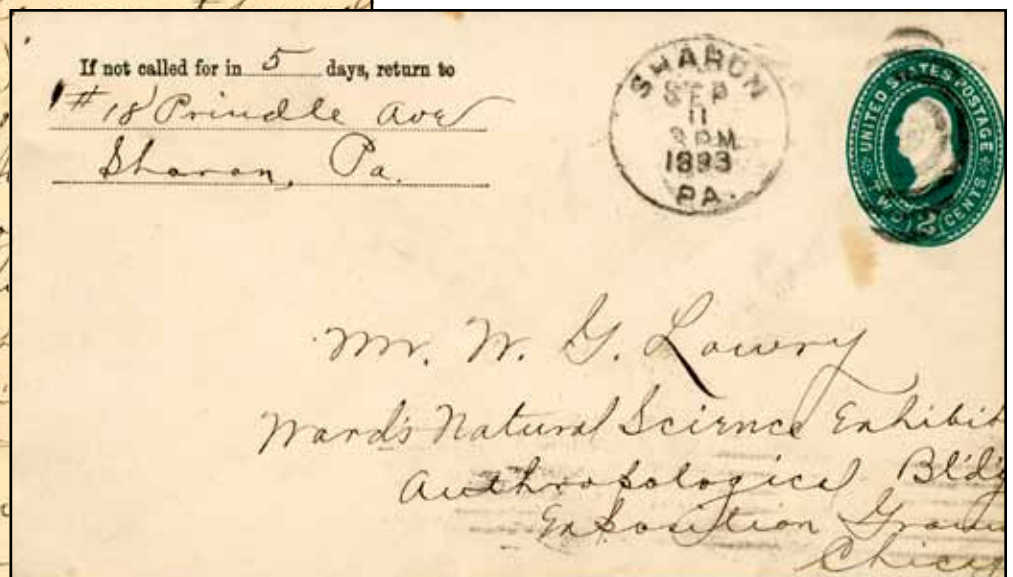
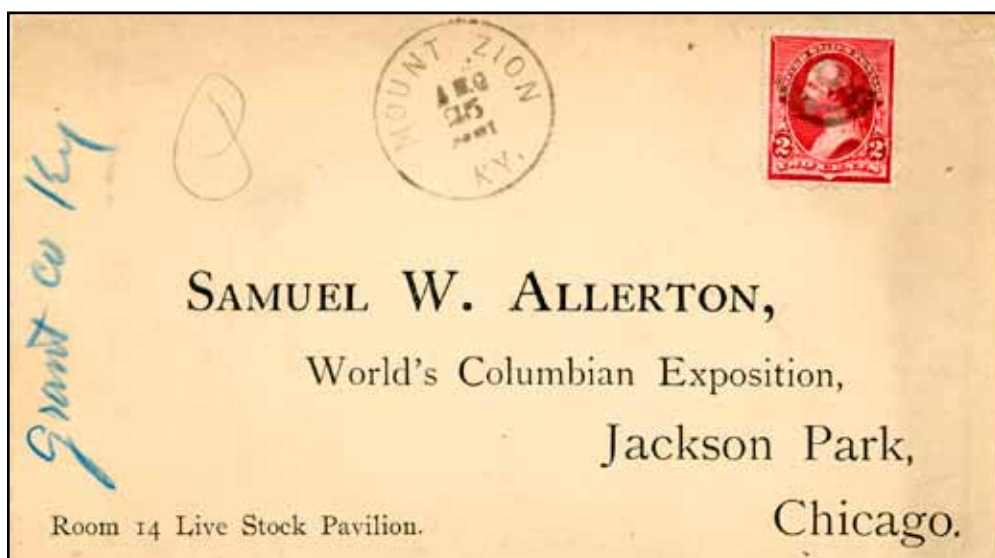


Figure 23 and 23a: Letter with cover from F.H. Ross soliciting a job at the World's Fair.





**Figure 24: The Anthropological Building.**



**Figure 26: Cover mailed from Kentucky to Samuel W. Allerton, Live Stock Pavilion.**



**Figure 25: Samuel W. Allerton, fair's commissioner of agriculture.**

Figure 23 illustrates both Ross' letter and cover posted, "SHARON, PA., SEP 11, 3 PM, 1893" and addressed to "Mr. W. G. Lowry, Ward's Natural Science Exhibit, Anthropological Bld'g, Exposition Grounds, Chicago." It was received with an International machine "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, SEP 12, 11-AM, CHICAGO 1893," marking on the reverse. Figure 24 shows a photo of the Anthropological Building.<sup>11</sup>

Unfortunately, by September 1893 expenditures were being curtailed at the World's Fair and most job seekers would be disappointed.

One individual who was certainly not disappointed with the volume of mail that he received while at the fair was Samuel W. Allerton (Figure 25). As Commissioner of Agriculture, Allerton was a prominent Chicago livestock dealer, banker and political personality.<sup>12</sup> Allerton had been defeated by Carter Harrison in a run

for mayor in 1893. Figure 26 is a cover mailed from "MOUNT ZION, KY, AUG 25, 1893," to "Samuel Allerton, World's Columbian Exposition, Jackson Park, Chicago, Room 14 Live Stock Pavilion."

Interestingly, although this cover was clearly addressed to Allerton on the fairgrounds, it was received at the Chicago Post Office.

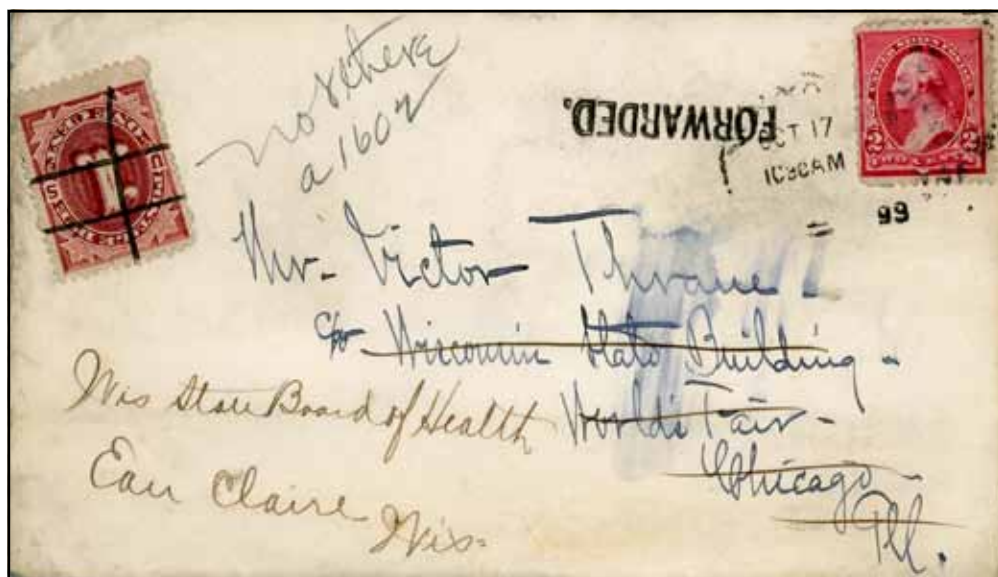
Figure 27 shows an undelivered cover mailed from "CLEVELAND, OHIO, OCT 16, 1893" with a 2-cent (Scott 220) affixed, to "MR. VICTOR THRANE, Wisconsin - - - Building, WORLD'S FAIR, CHICAGO, ILLS." that was received at the "CHICAGO, ILL, OCT 17, 1893" post office.

An attempted delivery was made to the Wisconsin Building, but Thrane apparently had already left the city. The postal carrier then wrote in pencil, "Not there, a 1602." The cover was held by the World's Fair Station



Figure 27: Undelivered mail to "Mr. Victor Thrane, Wisconsin Building" with a red pointing hand "RETURNED TO WRITER" marking.

Figure 28: Cover to "Mr. Victor Thrane, Wisconsin Building" that was forwarded to his address in Eau Claire, Wis.



post office for three weeks before it was hand stamped with a red pointing hand, "RETURNED TO WRITER, From World's Fair Sta., Chicago, Ill. P.O., NOV 8, 1893." It was received in Cleveland on November 9.

Only eight pointing hand, "RETURNED TO WRITER" markings have been documented.<sup>13</sup>

The following day another letter, shown in Figure 28, arrived on the fairgrounds for Thrane, this time from, "NEW YORK, NY, OCT 17, 1893" and backstamped with an International machine "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, OCT 18, 1893" marking. The postal carrier simply lined through, "Wisconsin State Building" and after inscribing "Not There a 1602" wrote his forwarding address, "Wis State Board of Health, Eau Claire, Wis." A 1-cent postage due stamp (Scott J22) was affixed to pay for the forwarding service.

On May 29, 1893, the Brinks C.C. Express Company sent a 1-cent postal card (UPSS S8, Figure 29) to the officials of the Montana State Building. The Brinks Company informed them on the reverse of the card (Figure 30) that their "order to remove Flower Stand from Rand St. to No. Montana State Building

was not executed" since their previous order had not yet been paid for and they "take nothing to the Fair unless it is prepaid." The card was receipted when it arrived at the fair with a "MAY 30, '93, WORLD'S FAIR STA. CHICAGO, ILL., REC'D" handstamp. I have documented only three "WORLD'S FAIR STA. REC'D" handstamp markings on postal cards.

Another piece of mail that received a "WORLD'S FAIR STA. REC'D" handstamp is the cover in Figure 31. It was mailed by the "RUSSIA CEMENT CO., GLOUCESTER, MASS.," from "BOSTON, MASS., MAY 26, 4-AM, 1893" with a 2-cent Scott 220 affixed. It was addressed to "Mr. Ruben Brooks, World Fair Fisheries Department, Chicago, Ill."

Upon arrival on the fairgrounds, it received a "MAY 27, '93, WORLD'S FAIR STA., CHICAGO, ILL., REC'D" handstamp (Figure 32). May 27 is the earliest reported date for this marking.

When a registered letter or parcel was received for delivery at the World's Fair Station Post Office, a registered delivery card was required to be completed and returned to the sender.



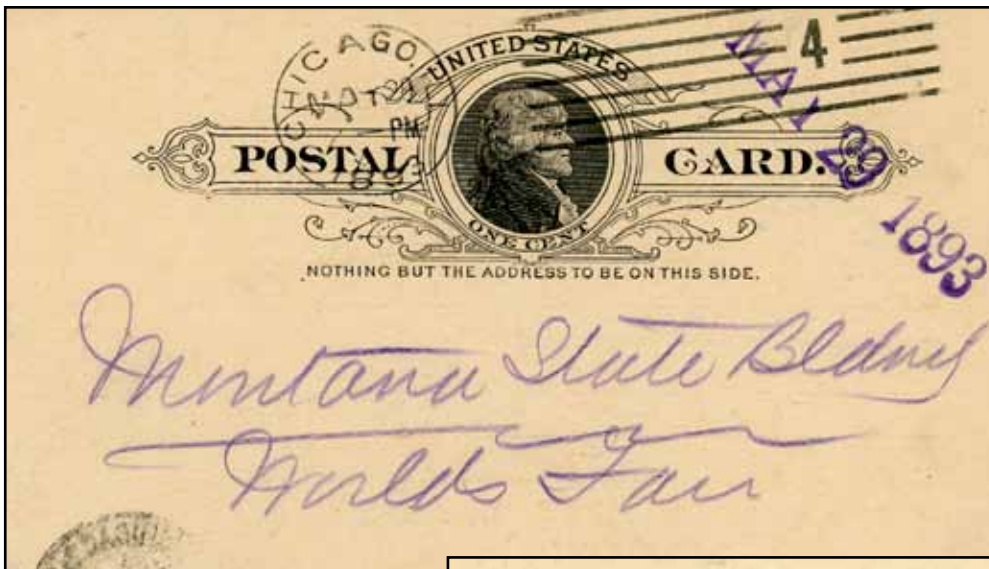


Figure 29. “Brinks C.C. Express Company” (UPSS S8) postal card mailed “CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 29, 1893” to the “Montana State Building World’s Fair.”

Figure 30: Reverse of the “Brinks” postal card notifying officials with the Montana exhibit that the flower stand that they had ordered delivered to their building would not be “executed...unless it is prepaid.”

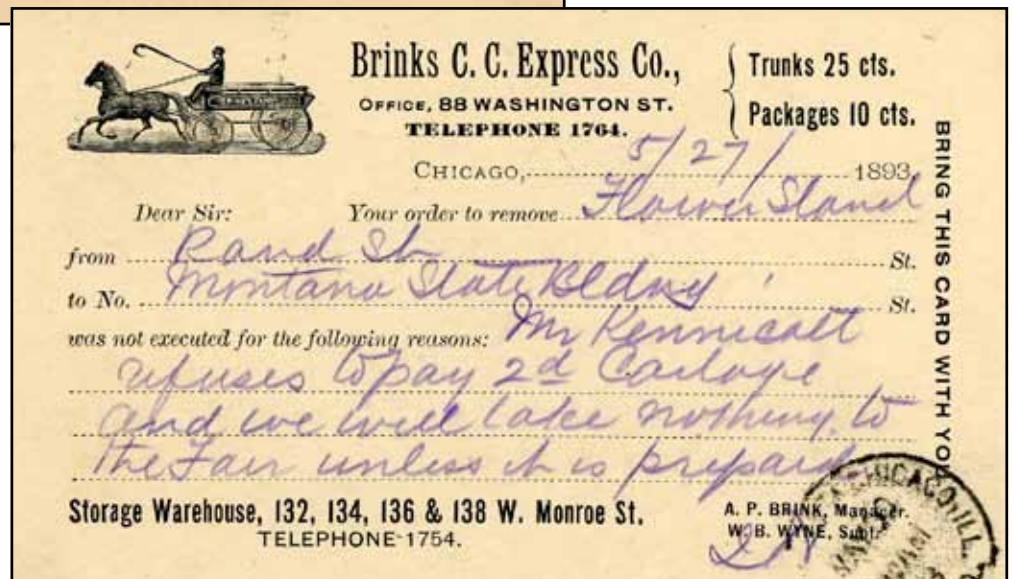
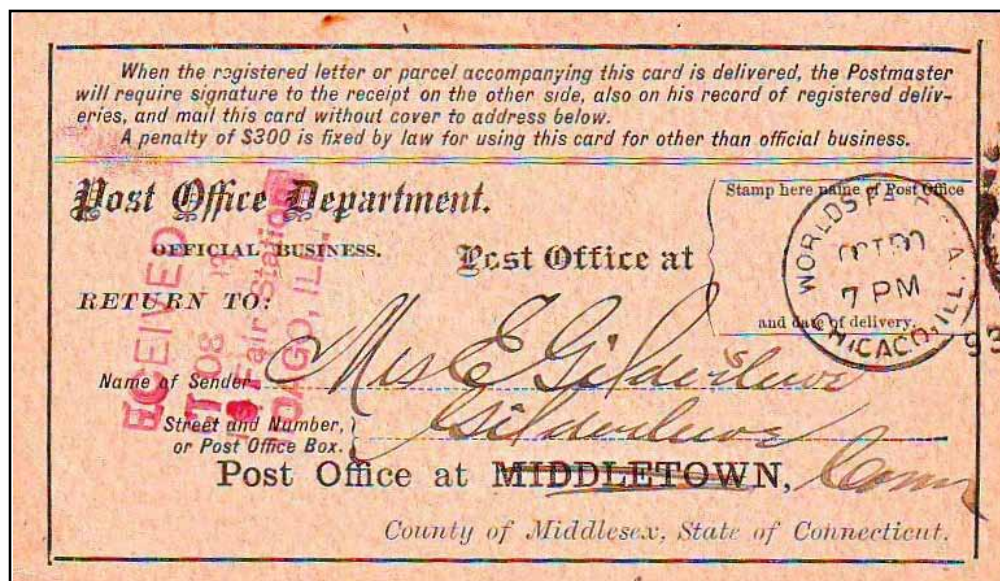


Figure 31: Cover mailed to Ruben Brooks from the “Russia Cement Co.” and backstamped with a “MAY 27, '93 REC'D” World’s Fair Station handstamp.



Figure 32: Enlargement of the Figure 31 “MAY 27, '93, WORLD'S FAIR STATION, REC'D” backstamp. This is the earliest documented use of this marking.



**Figure 33:** Registered delivery card for letter or parcel handstamped with two World's Fair Station markings: "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, OCT 30, '93" duplex "2" handstamp in black, and "RECEIVED at the World's Fair Station, OCT 30, 1893" handstamp in red straightline letters. October 30 was the closing day for the World's Fair. Note that the number "30" in the "RECEIVED" marking is inverted.

Figure 33 shows such a card handstamped with the red straightline, "RECEIVED at the World's Fair Station, OCT 30, 1893." The date was closing day at the fair. This is the latest known use of this rare marking.

Figure 34 shows the May 12 earliest known use of this marking on a piece from a parcel delivered to the Horticultural Building.

It is important to note that while domestic inbound mail to the World's Columbian Exposition is uncommon; overseas inbound mail is rare. Apparently, very little of this material has survived for today's philatelists to collect and research. Perhaps one day, a researcher will develop a census of each piece of inbound mail describing their markings and documenting its country of origin.

*(Dedication: This article is dedicated to Dr. Harvey Karlen who was my mentor in the study of the postal history of the World's Columbian Exposition. In 2006, while visiting his home in Oak Park, Ill., I expressed my growing interest in collecting and studying inbound mail to the fair. He agreed that this was a long-neglected study area and suggested that I might one day write an article entitled, "My Address is the World's Fair.")*

*(Kenneth C. Wukasch, San Marcos, Texas, is the author of the Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition and the Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition. E-mail: kenwukasch@yahoo.com)*



**Figure 34:** Enlargement of the earliest documented use of the red "RECEIVED" marking on a remnant from a parcel dated, "MAY 12, 1893."

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> James B. Campbell, *The World's Columbian Exposition Illustrated*, May 1893, The Campbell Publishing Company, 159 Adams Street, Chicago, p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> "Delivering Letters at the Fair," *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, Oct. 22, 1893, p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> *The Official Directory of the World's Columbian Exposition*, (Chicago: W.B. Conkey, 1893), p. 150.

<sup>4</sup> "Census Report on World's Fair Station Marking," *La Posta*, July 2007, p. 55.

<sup>5</sup> Rossiter Johnson, *A History of the World's Columbian Exposition*, Vol. II, (D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1897), p. 197.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* p. 426-427.

<sup>7</sup> *Men of Hawaii*, Vol. I, Edited by John William Siddall, Published by Honolulu Star Bulletin, Limited, Territory of Hawaii, 1917, p. 183.

<sup>8</sup> Rossiter Johnson, Vol. I, op. cit., p. 317.

<sup>9</sup> Rossiter Johnson, Vol. II, op. cit., p. 364.

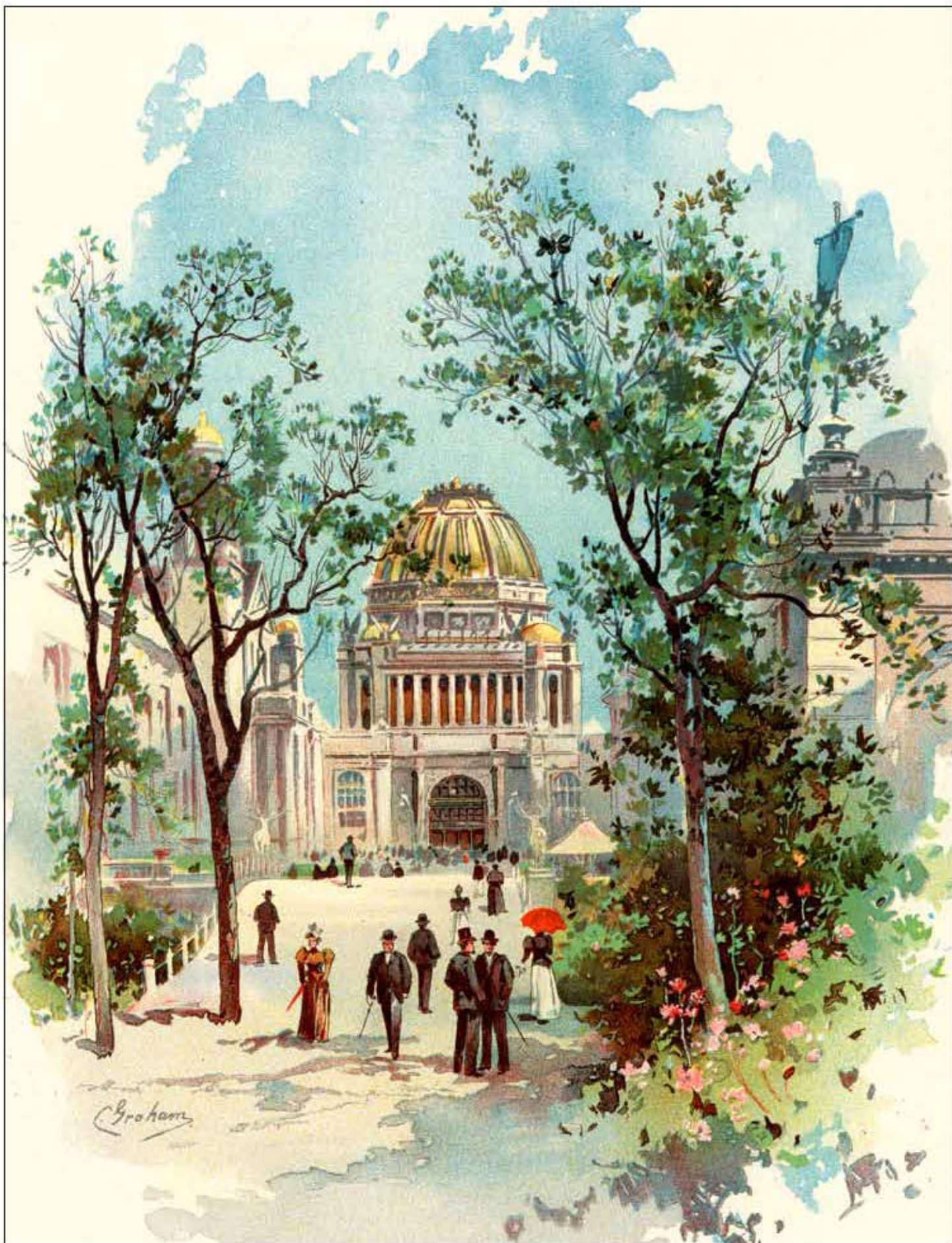
<sup>10</sup> James W. Shepp & Daniel B. Shepp, *Shepp's World's Fair Photographed*, Globe Bible Publishing Co. 358 Dearborn Street, Chicago, 1893, p. 245.

<sup>11</sup> Rossiter Johnson, Vol. I, op. cit., p. 314.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* p. 312.

<sup>13</sup> "Census Report on World's Fair Station Markings of the World's Columbian Exposition," *La Posta*, Autumn 2010, p. 33.





An 1893 watercolor print by Charles Graham: "Looking South from Wooded Island" at the World's Columbian Exposition.  
Fourth Quarter 2012 *La Posta* 21



# The 1893 World's Fair Station Post Office

By Kenneth C. Wukasch



**Figure 1:** The view from the gallery of the World's Fair Station Post Office. Clerks can be seen at work in north end.

*(Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from Chapter 8 of Kenneth Wukasch's new book, Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition, which is reviewed on page 58.)*

Perhaps the ultimate challenge to the collector of 1893 World Columbian Exhibition cards is finding them mailed from the special World's Fair Station Post Office (Figures 1 and 2). In order to obtain this postmark a person had to actually be on the fairgrounds. Visitors could either drop the card in one of the approximately 150 letterboxes (Figure 3) that had been placed around the grounds or hand it to one of the window postal clerks inside the post office.

If the card was dropped into the letterbox it would be picked up and carried by mail wagon to the World's Fair Station, where it would receive either an American or International machine cancellation.

The American machine can be identified by a single circular dial postmark that is inscribed, "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, 1893" (Figure 4). The six-bar canceller has a blank die space and contains no city name.

The machine supplied by the International Postal

Supply Company of New York can be identified by a single circular dial inscribed, "WORLD'S FAIR STATION, CHICAGO, 1893" (Figure 5) with a seven-bar canceller and numeral "1" inscribed in the die space. This new electric machine canceller could postmark and cancel the stamps on 40,000 letters and cards an hour, only requiring one man to operate it.

When personally handed to a postal clerk the card would receive a handstamp cancel and then be placed in the stack for outgoing mail. The words with wide spacing, "WORLD'S FAIR STA., CHICAGO, ILL." with date and time were inscribed within the circular dial. This cancel (Figure 6) was a simple black oval duplex "2" with the year "93" between the postmark and the canceller. This is the most common type of World's Fair Station postmark found on these postcards.

Even though the World's Fair Station Post Office officially opened in February 1893, these three types of markings are only known from May through December 1893. Figure 7 shows examples of the three types of World's Fair Station markings found on these postcards.





Figure 2: A frontal view of the World's Fair Station Post Office taken after closing.

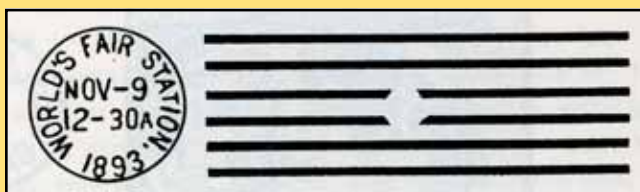


Figure 4: Six-bar American rapid machine electric canceller provided by the American Postal Machine Company of Boston.

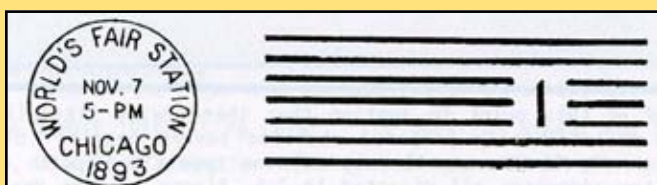


Figure 5: Seven-bar International Postal Supply Company of New York machine canceller. These machines not only canceled the mail but provided an exhibit of the most modern methods of postal service available in 1893.

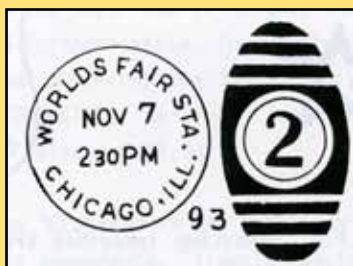


Figure 6:  
Duplex "2" handstamp. This type of cancel was applied only on those cards personally handed to the postal clerk at the World's Fair Station Post Office.

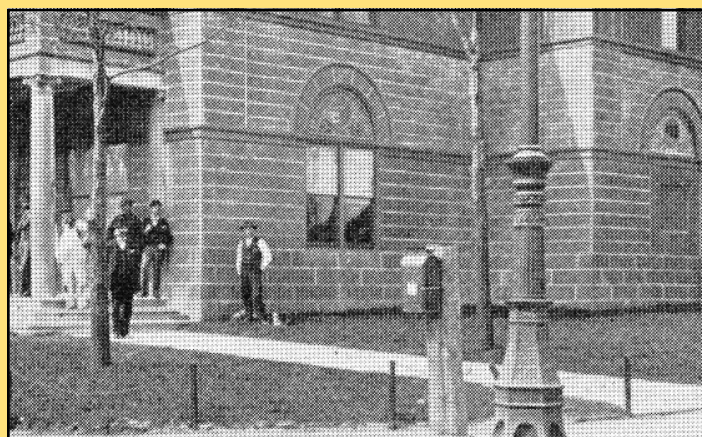


Figure 3: This photo was taken outside of the South Dakota Building. A letterbox is mounted on the pole in the foreground.



Figure 7: All three examples of World's Fair Station postmarks are shown on these ESMC cards. World's Fair Station markings are extremely rare when found on any of the privately printed post cards.



## Postal Forms

Figure 1: The dispatching postmaster described the registered letter, signed the lower left corner of the registry bill, and supplied the address to which the card should be returned on the verso. On Dec. 31, 1883, Registered Letter No. 409, addressed to the R.H. Macy & Company department store, was sent in Registered Package Envelope No. 331 from Fort Bridger, Wyo. to New York. A clerk acknowledged its receipt with the boxed purple handstamp in the lower right corner and postmarked the verso on Jan. 8, 1884. Large post offices, such as New York, added their own tracking numbers, '65788,' for delivery.

## U.S. Registry Bill Cards 1879-1911

By David L. Straight

*(Editor's Note: This is David Straight's second and final column about postal forms. Shortly after submitting this column he suffered a massive stroke. His obituary appears on page 59.)*

Like the return receipt cards, discussed in my previous article, gray registry bill cards (Figure 1) were introduced in 1879. They were also sealed into registered package envelopes with their related registered letters and are often collected for their cancellations, especially from dead post offices (Figure 2).

However, registry bill cards served a different function. They were not used for as long, were used in smaller numbers, and many were destroyed by postmasters as waste paper.

Postmasters, dispatching registered mail, prepared a registry bill as an inventory, or packing list, that was enclosed in each registered package envelope or registered package tag. Whereas a return receipt card was prepared to accompany each registered letter or parcel, only a single registry bill card was prepared for all registered letters mailed in the same registered package envelope. Return receipts were returned to the person who had mailed the registered item, while registry bills were returned to the postmaster who had dispatched the registered mail.

When a registered package envelope was cut open at the delivery post office, the contents were compared to the registry bill and inspected for condition. Any errors on the bill or letters in poor condition were noted before the registry bill was endorsed by the postmaster,

postmarked, and mailed back to the sending post office (Figure 3). Bills for international registered letters were returned by the U.S. exchange office post office, not the foreign post office of destination. (Figure 4)

After the registry bill cards were returned to the originating postmaster, he filed them for one year in case an investigation should arise. Thereafter, they were treated as wastepaper, to be sold with the proceeds deposited in the U.S. Treasury. Many fourth class postmasters, not having access to wastepaper dealers, stored old post office records, including these gray cards, in barns and attics until they were uncovered by scholars and collectors decades later.

Registry bills were a vital link in the chain of receipts that provided security for registered mail. They assured delivery postmasters that nothing had been lost or stolen from the registered package envelopes while in transit. Their return informed the sending postmasters that their registered letters had arrived safely at the delivery office. A registry bill that failed to match the contents of its registered package envelope, or that failed to return in a timely manner, was immediately investigated and reported as it might signal a mail theft.

Registry bills, printed as two different forms side-by-side on one sheet of paper, were among the original forms when registered mail was introduced in 1855. Used in tandem, the registered letter bill on the left and the return registered letter bill on the right, served the same function as the cards. However, which postmaster completed each form, when the forms were



Figure 2: Rock, in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, from which this card accompanied the first registered letter in the final quarter of 1888, had a post office from 1862 until 1893. The delivery office, Darnall, in Keye Paha County, Neb., whose postmark is on the verso, only had a post office for seven years, 1884 until 1891.

Figure 3: Registered Letter No. 3 from Stella, in Patrick County, Virginia was “Rec’d in bad condition at Lowell, Mass.” Such damage markings are uncommon on registry bill cards.

Figure 4: The Eureka, Utah, postmaster dispatched Registered Letter No. 206, for Mrs. Eliza Deruelmaien in Nurnberg, Germany to New York, the major exchange post office for Europe.

separated, and how the forms traveled changed several times during the quarter century before the cards were introduced in 1879.

In February 1879, Postmaster General David McK. Key discontinued return registered letter bills and introduced new registered letter bills (Figure 5) that served the same function as the previous two forms.

More significantly, registered package envelopes now remained sealed until they reached their delivery office, instead of being opened, sorted, and repackaged in the distributing post offices.

Before the end of the year, registry bills, “of the new card form,” replaced the paper forms. Although they were designated Form No. 1550, the number was not printed on them for several years. The earliest cards I have seen with the form number are from 1899.

Like the return receipt cards, gray registry bill cards were part of the streamlining of registry procedures in 1879. They combined the communications efficiency of postal cards with penalty imprint franking, replaced two paper forms, and eliminated a need for yellow post office business envelopes. Not only were the new forms labor-saving for postal employees, but the Post Office Department realized savings through both the purchase

of fewer envelopes and a reduction in the weight-based transportation charges paid to the railroads.

The gray cards had only four lines for listing registered letters. Rather than sending lots of registered package envelopes with only four registered letters in each, high volume post offices were permitted, “Special bills in sheet form (old style) may be used by large post-offices when necessary.”


In 1903, Third Assistant Postmaster General Edwin C. Madden instructed all postmasters to pack as many registered letters going to the same post office as, “it is possible to place and seal properly in one Registered-Package Envelope.” If it was more than four pieces, “the sheet form of registry bill (Form 1551) must be used.” Coexistence with sheet registry bills meant that the gray card bills were used primarily for dispatches to or from small post offices with low daily registered mail volumes.

I have never seen a gray registry bill card that originated in a large post office, was returned to that post office, and escaped destruction as waste paper; such would be scarce. The overwhelming majority of gray cards that I have examined originated in small post offices and list only a single registered letter.

**REGISTERED LETTER BILL.**

SEE NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE RESPECTING  
THE USE OF THIS BILL

Registered Letters from *Chicago Ills* 1879



Registered Number of Letter.	TO WHOM ADDRESSED.	OFFICE OF FINAL DESTINATION.	Forwarded in Reg. Package Envelope No.
36	<i>P. M.</i>	<i>Chicago Ills</i>	35
37	<i>Continental Insurance Co.</i>	<i>Chicago Ills</i>	33
8277			

*David B. Allen P. M.*

**Figure 5: Two registered letters were mailed from Covert, Mich., to Chicago on Aug. 28, 1879. The gray Registry Bill cards replaced this final paper version of the Registered Letter Bill as supplies were exhausted. Old paper forms are known used as late as January 1881 from Choconut Centre, Broome County, N.Y.**

card bill; I have not seen an “outlook” tag envelope.

Beginning on Dec. 1, 1907, registry bills were eliminated for all domestic registered mail (Figure 7). This included registered mail addressed to U.S. naval vessels abroad, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. post offices in Samoa. Thereafter registry bills were to be used only when sending registered letters to a U.S. exchange office for delivery in foreign countries, the Canal Zone, the Philippines, or the U.S. post office in Shanghai.

New style registered package envelopes had spaces on the front for listing the registry numbers of its contents. If there was only a single registered letter enclosed, the number of the registered item and the number of the registered package envelope had to be the same. The postmaster general completely ended the use of registry bills, both gray cards and sheets, in January 1911. This roughly

The use of registry bills, both the gray cards (Form 1550) and the sheets (Form 1551), ended gradually in the first decade of the 20th century. Starting with New York in January 1901, more than three dozen post offices were authorized to dispatch third and fourth class registered packages using registered tag envelopes “without (gray card) registry bills” (Figure 6).

In February 1905, Madden reported, “An experiment having demonstrated the feasibility of dispatching single third or fourth class registered parcels in registered-package envelopes unaccompanied by a registry (gray card) bill, it has been deemed advisable to extend this privilege to the post offices named below.”

The offices named were Baltimore, Brooklyn, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Louisville, New York, St. Louis, Washington, D.C. and Salem, Mass. Registered package envelopes used in this manner were to “bear a notation to the effect that the registry bill is omitted by authority of the Department.”

Madden announced an experiment in October 1905 with “outlook” registered package tag envelopes, a style of window front envelope that used the return receipt card to provide the address and required no registry

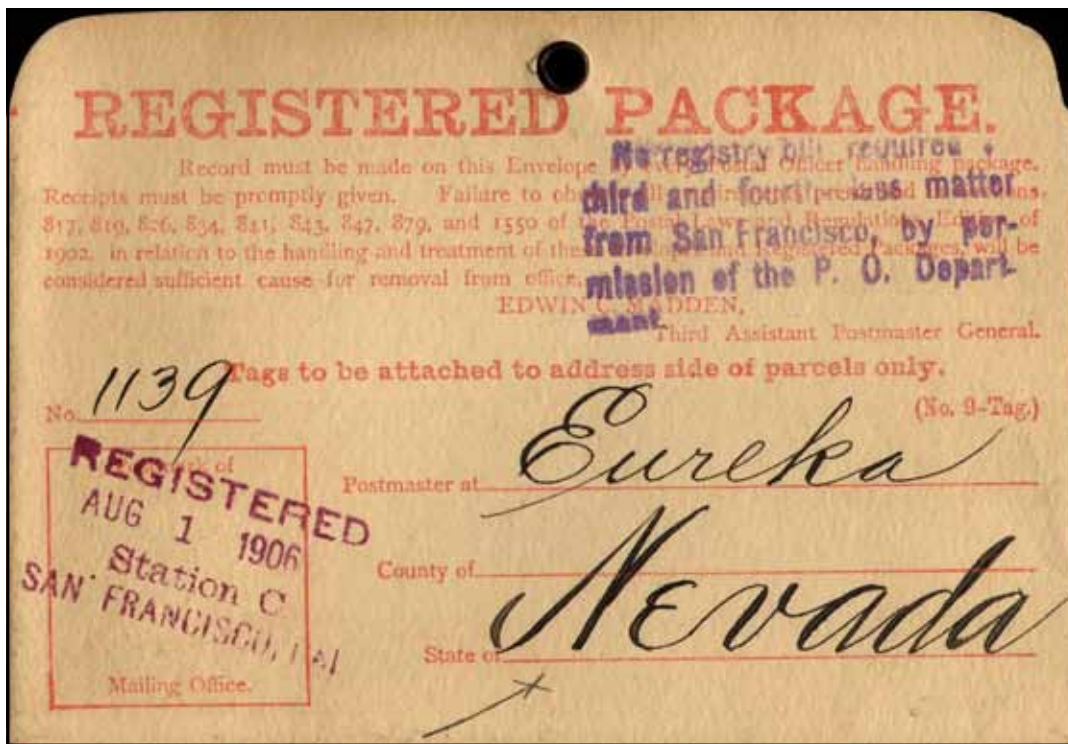
coincided with the elimination of registered package envelopes at the end of 1910 and the introduction of new registry handstamps in January 1911.

Auxiliary markings unique to the registry process are one aspect of collecting registry bill cards. Prior to the 1879 reforms, receiving postmasters were required to mark the return registered letter bills with the word “Correct,” if they had no errors, along with the date, city, and postmaster’s name before returning them to the originating post office. Many postmasters used handstamps incorporating all the required elements; these “Correct” handstamps can be found on early gray cards (Figure 8).

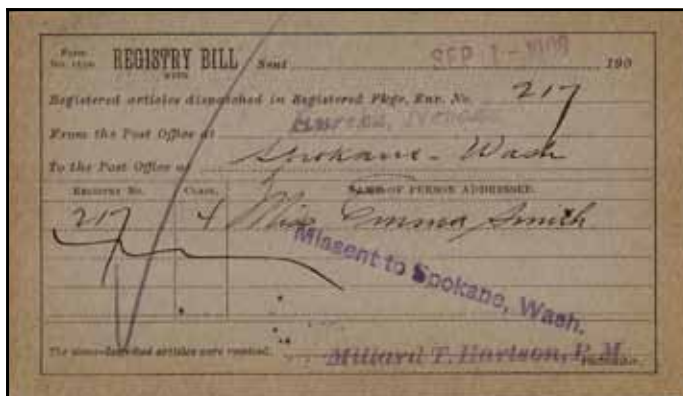
*The Postal Law & Regulations* prescribed that a diagonal line should be used to mark through the unused sections of the Registry Bill. If the receiving postmaster applied that line, it was to be a wavy line. Larger post offices had auxiliary handstamps to use when the diagonal lines were missing (Figure 9).

As the Post Office Department required registry for much of its internal business, registry bills that accompanied mail to the Department show some interesting uses (Figure 10).





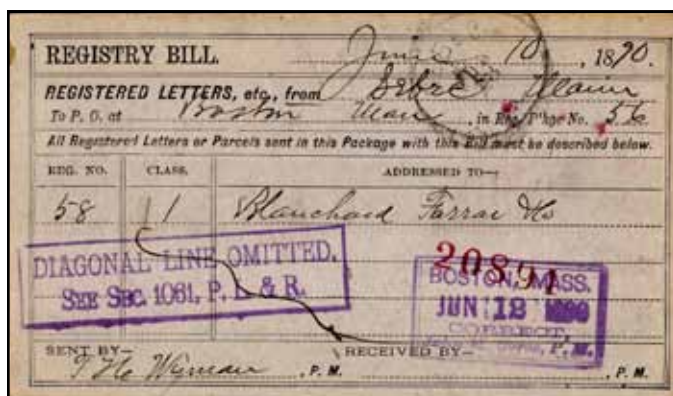
**Figure 6: While this 1906 registered package tag from Station C, San Francisco contained no gray registry bill, it still held the orange return receipt card. The required text, “No registry bill required on third and fourth class matter from San Francisco, by permission of the P.O. Department” alerted the receiving postmaster in Eureka, Nev., to the exception in the standard procedures.**



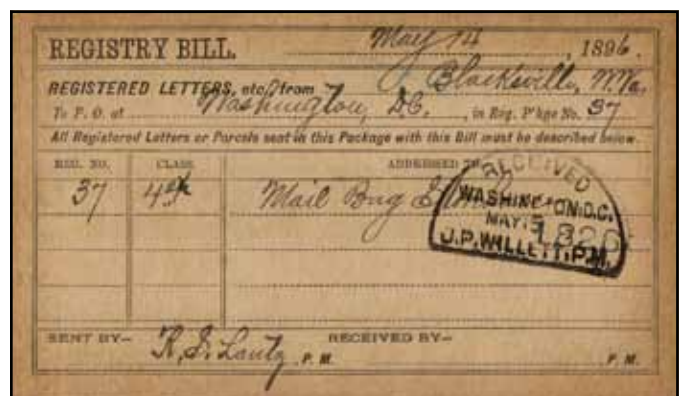
**Figure 7: A registry bill, used from Eureka, Nevada nine months after their discontinuance was marked ‘Missent to Spokane, Wash.’ before its return.**



**Figure 8: Although the word “Correct” was no longer required, the postmaster at Portland, Maine, continued using his six-line handstamp designed for the previous paper Return Registered Letter Bills.**



**Figure 9: The Boston Post Office added the wavy diagonal line and reminded the postmaster at Sebec, Maine, to follow the instructions by adding the boxed purple handstamp, ‘DIAGONAL LINE OMITTED. See Sec. 1061. P.L. &R.’**



**Figure 10: The May 14, 1896, Registry Bill from Blacksville, W. Va., that accompanied a fourth class parcel, most likely containing surplus mail bags that had accumulated in the post office, to the mail bag storehouse in Washington, D.C.**



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Figure 1: A 1-cent Grant postal card (Scott UX10) addressed to "Eli Long Esq."

## Card Counting and the Civil War General

By Jesse I. Spector

Card counting in blackjack, while not illegal, may result in one's rapid expulsion from a casino if detected by the house. Nevertheless, there is indeed something admirable about an individual's capacity to retain significant quantities of information in one's memory-bank to permit, lest one is caught, the potential for beating the house at its own game.

Well now, I must immediately disavow having such commendable capabilities and, in reality, have not infrequently searched the house for my eyeglasses when, alas, they were perched on my head. But, in one recent instance of philatelic discovery, I was indeed blessed in making a score predicated on some memory synapses being in the right place at the right time.

Allow me to introduce General Eli Long, multiply wounded Civil War hero and lawyer, who came to my attention as an afterthought while attending the fall 2011 National Postage Stamp Show in New York City.

While sitting at the booth of a dealer specializing in covers, I was methodically, albeit somewhat hastily, leafing through a box containing hundreds of New York state covers and cards.

A 1-cent Grant postal card (Scott UX10, Figure 1) addressed to "Eli Long Esq" in beautiful calligraphy, classic for the 19th century, with a stamped in red lettering Bluff Point, N.Y., address and a five-bar Station G, Boston, October 28 (year obscured) machine cancel with an obverse (Figure 2) indicating a mundane

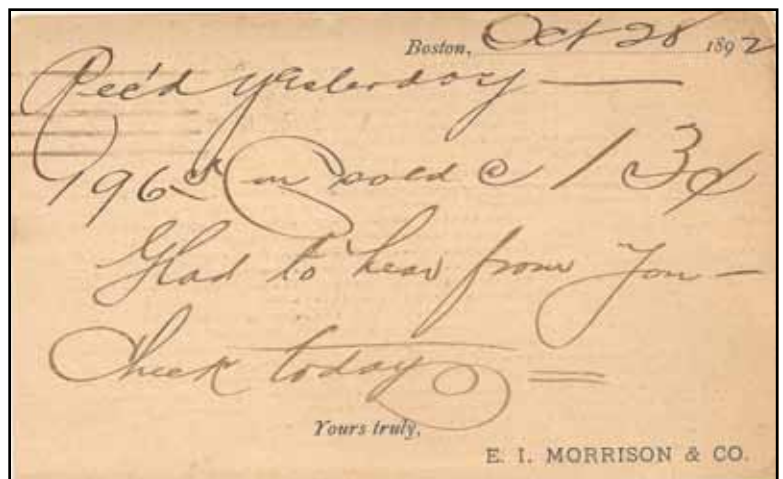


Figure 2: The reverse of the Figure 1 card.

commercial missive, passed through my hands in a matter of nanoseconds- so much for Attorney Long.

Somewhat over an hour later, fatigued from warmth in the overheated 1930s art-deco New Yorker Hotel, and contemplating the forthcoming ritual, sumptuous meal at a Yonkers Greek diner with my philatelic excursion group prior to driving back to Massachusetts, I was closing in on the last handful of covers and cards when I crossed paths with a 1-cent Jefferson postal card (Scott UX12) with CDC duplex from Mount Morrison, N.Y. to "Gen. Eli Long, Bluff Point, Yates Co. N.Y." in the Finger Lakes region (Figure 3).

A slow-motion déjà vu was unfolding. Dinner



Figure 3 (above): A 1-cent Jefferson postal card (Scott UX12) addressed to "Gen. Eli Long."

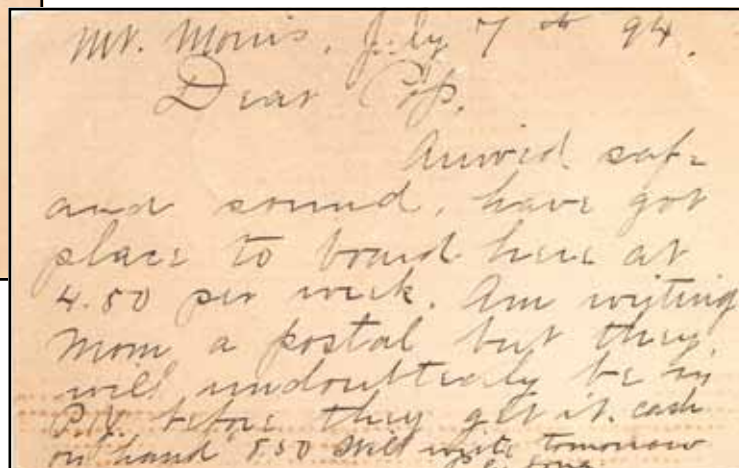


Figure 4: The Figure 3 obverse.

beckoned, heat and fatigue were taking a toll, perhaps time to chuck it in, but let's just flip to the card's obverse (Figure 4) before calling it a day.

Most interesting! The note was written on July 7, 1894, to "Dear Pop," a somewhat unusual and informal greeting for one's father in this late Victorian era indeed, especially to General Long, even if you are his son. Well, P.C. Long informs dad that he arrived "safe and sound," found a boarding house for \$4.80 per week, plans to drop mother a postal note, has \$8.50 in his possession and will write father a missive the next day.

Although I detected no sound of one-armed bandits being pulled, nor jangling bells and flashing lights as a cascade of quarters crash into the till of a rare lucky winner, I sensed an apparent jarring of my neurosensory memory bank streaming me a message to think again, long and hard, about something familiar.

Right, Long, a general, no that's not familiar, but vaguely Long, a lawyer. Okay, very much a long shot, and it's almost time to pack up and eat, but what the heck, one quick trip to that part of the box worked-over an hour earlier. And there you have it: the UX10 in my left hand, the UX12 in the right. It is time to meet General Eli Long, attorney at law (Figure 5).

Eli Long was born on June 16, 1837, in Woodford County, Ky. At the age of 18 he graduated from the Kentucky Military Institute at Frankford, Ky., (Figure 6), and in July 1856 he entered military service with the United States 1st Cavalry holding the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Lt. Long subsequently served in a variety of outposts on the western frontier of the United States, participating also in the Cheyenne Expedition confronting hostile Indians.

At the onset of the Great Insurrection in 1861, he was stationed at Fort Lyon where his success in capturing a company of Confederates on their way to



Figure 5: Gen. Eli Long.

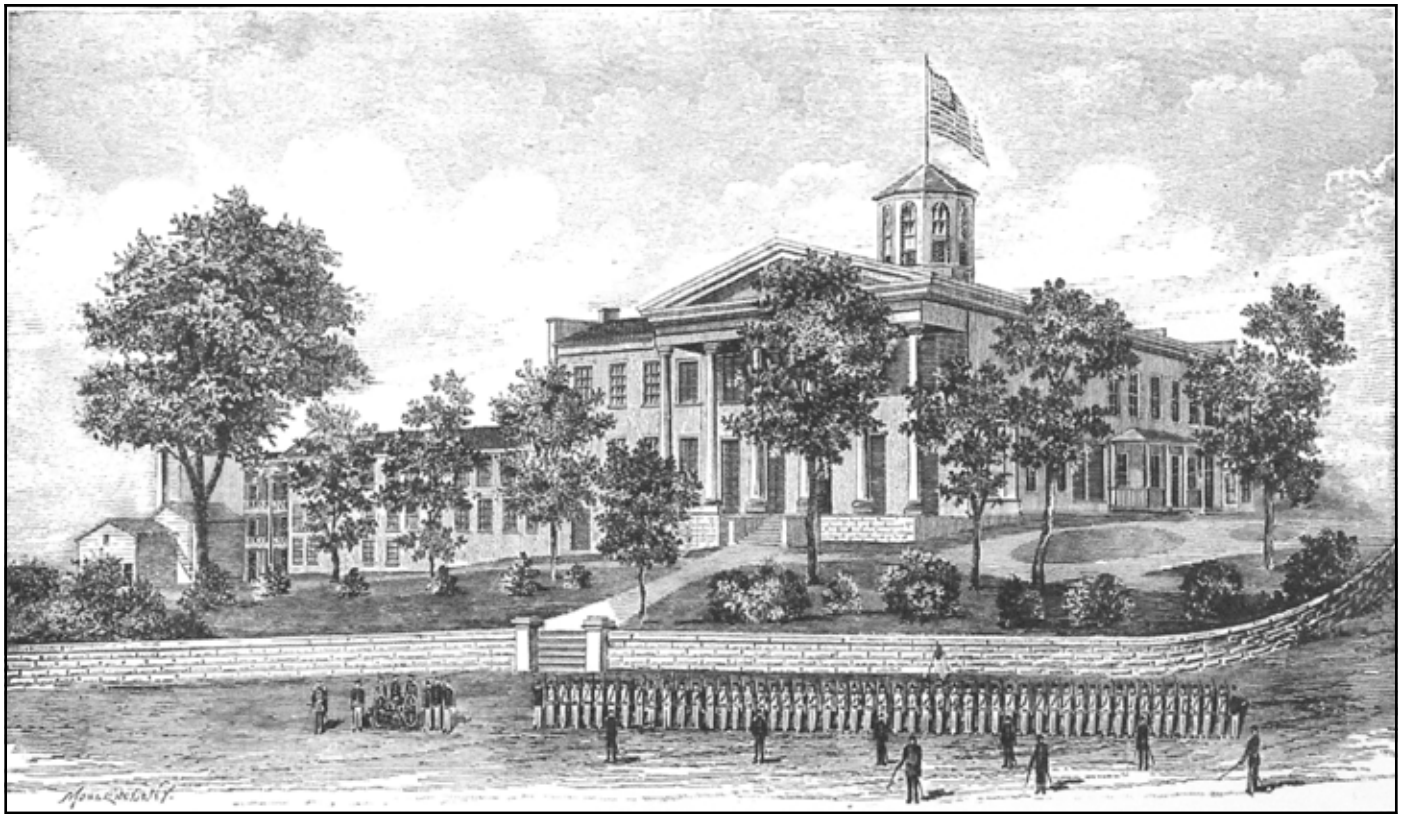
Missouri resulted in his promotion to 1st lieutenant, and within several more months, a further promotion to the rank of captain.

Captain Long was then responsible for organizing the 4th Ohio Cavalry in the Western theater of operations and, at the recommendations of Generals Sherman, Rosecrans and Thomas, was promoted yet again, to the rank of colonel; all of this transpiring by the age of 25.

Eli Long's accomplishments in the Civil War were not only prodigious, but also amazingly heroic, as well as frighteningly perilous.

He saw action in numerous battles, including the Tullahoma campaign, Stones River, Chickamauga, Farmington Knoxville, Selma and the Atlanta campaign. He was with General Buell at the battle for Louisville,





**Figure 6: The Kentucky Military Institute at Frankford, Ky., where Long graduated at age 18.**

and served as escort for Gen. Rosecrans at Stone River in December 1862, where he sustained serious wounds from which he fortunately recovered.

Long's gallant service was rewarded with promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the volunteer army on Aug. 18, 1864, and his assuming command of the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Division, Cavalry Corp.

At the battles of Chickamauga, McMinnville and Farmingham, he led charges, resulting in his being twice wounded and, on one occasion, having his horse shot out from under him. It was said that he always smoked a pipe while leading a charge.

Long was responsible for routing Confederate Gen. Wheeler at the battle of Calhoun, and similarly defeating Gen. Roddy at the battle of Moulton. He was wounded once again at the battle of Lovejoy.

On March 13, 1865, Long was brevetted brigadier general in the regular Army for gallantry during Wilson's Raid on Selma, Ala. Gen. Long had led the 2nd Division in a charge on an entrenchment resulting in its capture; but during this encounter he sustained a severe head wound from which he yet again recovered.

By the conclusion of the Great Insurrection, Gen. Eli Long had been wounded five times and had been cited for personal gallantry five times.

For his accomplishments he was brevetted major general in the regular Army, as well as major general of volunteers in March 1865. He was mustered out of volunteer service on Jan. 15, 1866, with the rank of major general of volunteers, retiring from the volunteers

with that rank on Aug. 16, 1867, and retiring from the regular Army with the rank of brigadier general on March 3, 1875. So much for the truly remarkable military career of this courageous Union general, our "Dear Pop" of P.C. Long's missive in 1894.

Following the war Gen. Long married a fellow Kentuckian, Jane, in 1866. He served as professor of military science and tactics at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., from 1868-1870.

He was also involved in "army work" in Washington, D.C., and subsequently earned a law degree, although I was unable to resurrect historical records for details concerning this aspect of his career.

He did indeed practice law and resided in Plainfield, N.J., according to the 1880 Federal Census. By that time his five children included Margaret, age 10, Eli, 9, Sarah, 5, Percy, 4, and Laura, 3.

Jane, five years the general's junior in age, is listed as a housekeeper and clearly with this large and young brood that indeed she was. It is also evident that Percy is our P.C. Long, writer of the 1894 postal card to "Dear Pop" when he was 18 years of age. Some time thereafter the family relocated to Bluff Point, N.Y., where, based on various documents, they remained until at least 1896.

Of note is the fact that older brother, Eli Long Jr. had become a medical doctor, and his 1948 *New York Times* obituary reported that he had been the medical director for Bankers Trust Company in New York until his retirement in 1941.

Finally, the Longs again uprooted, this time

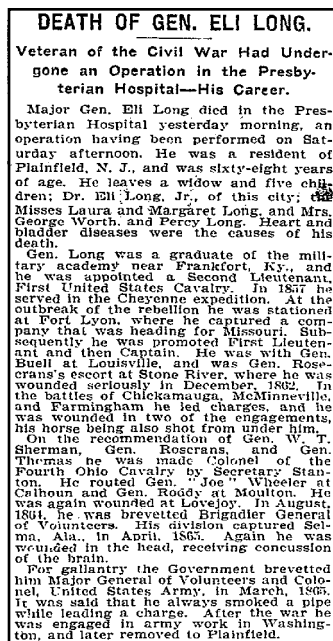


Figure 7: The 1903 *New York Times* obituary for Gen Long.



Figure 8: Gen Long's burial plot in Scotch Plains, N.J.

returning to Plainfield, N.J., as evidenced by the 1900 Federal Census, which indicates that Eli and Percy had flown the coop, while the three girls remained at home, although by this time Sarah had married George North, a New Jersey broker. The couple resided with the Longs.

In 1903, Gen. Long, now also Attorney Long (he variously refers to himself as either an army officer or a lawyer) was admitted to Presbyterian Hospital in New York City with "heart and bladder disease." He underwent surgery for uncertain reasons, but several days thereafter, on Jan. 5, 1903, succumbed to his illness at age 68, leaving as survivors his widow, Jane Long and five children. His *New York Times* obituary is shown in Figure 7.

Gen. Long is buried at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains, N.J., in Section A, Division A, Row 4, Lot 90 (Figure 8). His *New York Times* obituary stated that he was a resident of Plainfield, N.J., at the time of his death, indicating a move from Bluff Point, N.Y., some time in the last decade of his life.

We do indeed have an afterword regarding General Long's son Percy. The *Harvard Alumni Directory*

for 1910 and 1913 informs us that Percy Carr Long attended Harvard in 1894 and 1895. We then find a draft registration card for World War I that shows him residing in New York City with his occupation as that of a publisher.

He lists his closest relative as "Mrs. General Eli Long" residing in Plainfield, N.J. Finally, we find Percy in the 1930 United States Federal Census residing in New York City with his wife Caroline, she, having been born in New York of German parents.

He is now 53 years of age, Caroline is 42 years old and they have been married for 17 years. His occupation is recorded as "editor, newspaper publisher." At that point, regrettably, the trail goes stone cold, even though one would have thought the preceding information to afford the opening of a few more doors.

My thoughts now return to the photograph of General Long in his Union Army uniform. His stylish hair, not at all anachronistic for contemporary times; the absence of mutton chops, otherwise so common during the Civil War; the shaggy, handlebar mustache, actually very appealing on his handsome face; and the narrow, sideward-glancing gaze, wickedly penetrating.

Several times during the writing of this manuscript I attempted to refer to the general as "Eli" but each time I found myself compelled to readdress him by his full name or by his rank. I believe this reflects, to a great extent, the respect I innately registered for him.

A product of the 19th century frontier, someone from contentious Kentucky where slavers and abolitionists would duke it out during the war and where the general chose the Union, most likely I imagine, or hope, for reasons based on morals and virtue.

He was a man possessing vast courage, enough to quiet down a goodly number of wanna-bes, I'm sure. Clearly he was an individual with skills, vision and goals who made the end of the Civil War not an end in itself, rather the beginning of the next phase of a most productive life.

As is not infrequently the case with postal history, there remain elusive unmet ends. We don't know enough about Eli Long. Was he a Teddy Roosevelt-like figure? Well, he looks it and he certainly was hell-bent for leather, was he not?

Yet there is something about the "Dear Pop" that Percy Long addresses that makes me think he had a quiet way about him. Seems he could put an arm around his son and chat, and look at his daughters with a loving glance. Seems also I can almost hear the creak of the leather girth and saddle as he mounted his horse in a more distant part of his life. So be it Gen. Long, so be it.

(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.)





## U.S. Auxiliary Markings

# Christmas Seals Where They Shouldn't Be

**By John M. Hotchner**

For those who communicated by mail, certainly the majority of citizens in the early years of Christmas seals, introduced in the United States in 1907, the difference between seals and valid U.S. postage should have been clear. But after 1907, there is no shortage of examples that indicate otherwise.

In 1907, Christmas seals were sold in a limited geographic area—Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia, and care was taken to inform buyers that they did not substitute for postage.

Beginning with nationwide sales in 1908, it was harder to reach all users with that message and, since they generally contributed a penny per seal, it is possible that they thought it paid for postage.

Figures 1 and 2 are postcards showing attempts to send mail using the 1908 national seal. In the first instance, the card was mailed from Providence, R.I., to a Massachusetts address. The Post Office Department caught it, and somehow figured out who sent the card. It is marked "Held For Postage," and the sender was informed of the need for a postage stamp. It was duly received and the card remailed from Providence in January 1909.

But what happened if the sender could not be determined? Well, either the addressee could be billed, or the Post Office, at its discretion, could deliver the mail postage due, as happened with the Figure 2 card.

Another card, shown in Figure 3, has a 1909 seal, and the “Held for Postage” message, but also a handstamped “This is the mail/letter/package for which you sent postage.”



**Figure 3: The addressee on this 1909 card with a Christmas seal in the place where a postage stamp should go was directed to send in the proper postage prior to delivery.**

This indicates that the addressee was sent a card from the mailing post office asking for the postage to be paid before the card would be delivered.

A final 1909 card with a local Wisconsin seal as postage is shown in Figure 4. It is also “Held For Postage,” which was received from the mailer who thoughtfully provided her entire name, so the Post Office would have known whom to dun for the missing penny stamp. Both the original and the follow-up cancellations are from Racine, Wis.

Enough of this type of problem existed that the Post Office Department issued a rule, Order No. 5620, in the *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* dated July 1, 1911, prohibiting the affixing of



Figure 4: An unusual usage of a local Christmas seal was the cause of the Racine, Wis., Post Office going back to the mailer for proper postage.



Figure 5: Postal error caused this cover to be “Unmailable” based on the presence of the 1914 seal. Such usages were specifically outlawed in 1911, but subsequent modifications of the rule allowed for seals to be placed on the front of covers during the month of December.



Figure 6: A 1946 Christmas seal block probably led to this cover being marked “Unmailable” despite the fact that the proper 3c postage is paid by a meter, most easily seen above the portrait of Emily Bissell.

nonpostage stamps on the address side of mail. This was modified in the Aug. 29, 1911, issue that specified that this rule applied only to seals that resembled postage stamps in form or design, or that bore numerals calculated to cause them to be mistaken for postage stamps. Christmas seals would certainly fit the former description, if not the latter (there being no indication of value).

*The Daily Bulletin* of Dec. 11, 1911, modified the rule further by suspending its application from December 8 of that year until Jan. 1, 1912, and this seasonal exception was provided in subsequent years as well. One can imagine that some postal employees were confused by the rules, or simply were not informed of the later modifications.

In Figure 5, we have a Madison, Wis., cover mailed with a 1914 seal that was returned as “Unmailable” (the

handstamp ties the seal to the cover) because as another handstamp says, “Stamps other than postage stamps not permitted on face of envelopes.”

A much later example of a cover marked “Unmailable” may have been a victim of this problem. Figure 6 is a 1946 cover bearing a center block of that year’s seals, including the portraits of four pioneers in the anti-Tuberculosis movement.

It was mailed in New York City on the first day of the release of the 1946 Christmas seal. How do we know that? Look closely and you will see that the three cents postage has been paid by a meter. Was that missed by the clerk handling the cover? If so, one would have expected a postage due charge, or the “Held for Postage” process to have been in play, as that was still done in the mid-1940s.

Instead, the “Unmailable” handstamp was used,





Figure 7: Destined for Germany, this 1909 cover was refused international service because of the presence of the 1909 seal on the front. It is not entirely clear, except in the context of the cover in Figure 8.

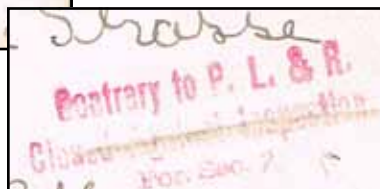
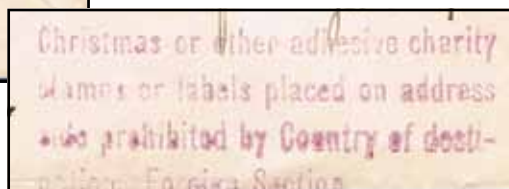


Figure 8: This 1914 cover says explicitly that the country of destination (Germany) would not accept mail with seals on the address side of envelope.



indicating that the clerk objected to the presence and location of the large block of nonpostage stamps.

Finally, let's look at a couple of international mailings to Germany. The first, in Figure 7, is a 1909 cover, sent prior to the 1911 U.S. prohibition on seals on the front. It bears an untied 1909 seal.

Seals without a tie usually are discounted as being meaningless but, in this case and in context, it is significant. There is a handstamped marking "Contrary to P.L.&R. (Postal Laws and Regulations) Closed against inspection, For. Sec. 7." The "Closed against inspection" is penciled out, as that was not really the problem.

The presence of a seal on the front of a cover to Germany was the problem and the proof is the 1914 cover in Figure 8 with a specifically tied 1914 seal cancelled in Chicago. The cover has been handstamped

"Christmas or other adhesive charity stamps or labels placed on address side prohibited by Country of destination. Foreign Section." It was probably added in New York City.

Unlike held-for-postage, postage due, and unmailable examples, these latter two covers are hens teeth. So far as I am aware, they are unique. Both were first shown in the late Randy Stehle's article "Auxiliary Markings – Prohibitions on Charity Stamps, Labels and Seals" appearing in the March 2001 issue of *La Posta*.

Readers who are able to report additional examples of covers destined abroad that were refused for the presence of Christmas seals are requested to report them to me by writing to: John Hotchner, POB 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or by e-mail at [jmhstamp@verizon.net](mailto:jmhstamp@verizon.net). I will share any such reports in a follow-up article.



Figure 1: The address side of a 1906 two-panel color advertising postcard.

## Waiting at the Church: An Early Two-Panel Advertising Postcard

What could be more of a travesty than a bride in her wedding dress waiting at the church for the bridegroom to come, but he doesn't appear.

This could never have happened if you bought your Prince Albert, tuxedo or evening dress from Bean Bros. in Auburn, Maine.

This fact is brought to light by the oversized two-panel advertising postcard shown in Figure 1. The card was mailed with a 1-cent stamp (Scott 300) with a third class postmark of New York, N.Y., 1906 and addressed to P. Clough, Auburn, Maine.

Pictured on the address side of the postcard is the bride in her wedding dress standing on the steps of the church with a decidedly downward cast look of despair.

Pictured coming around the corner is a messenger with a letter in his hand that is apparently from the bridegroom. The picture is titled: "Waiting at the Church." There is also a short poem.

*Chorus*

*There was I waiting at the church  
Waiting at the church; waiting at the church  
When I found he'd left me in a lurch  
Lor-How it did upset me  
All at once he sends around a note—*

*—Continued on next page*

On back of the address side of the postcard, shown in Figure 2:

*Here's the very note—*

*This is what he wrote—*

*Can't get away to marry you today*

*My togs aint ready*

The note itself read:

*Dear Mary*

*Can't get away to marry you today*

*my togs aint ready*

*Yours lovingly*

*Bill*

Now the bride to be is sitting on the steps of the church with a really dismayed look.

However, the advertisement on the next panel titled "Waiting at the Church" (Figure 3) quickly explains that the International Tailoring Company of New York and Chicago will ensure all the aspects of the best in attire and in time for the wedding.

The back panel (Figure 4) goes into more details about the International Tailoring Company and that the best togs can be found at Bean Bros., Auburn, Maine.

So had Bill bought his attire at Bean Bros. he would have been on time and there would be no bride waiting at the church for his arrival.





Figure 2: The back of the address side.

In retrospect, the two-panel advertising postcard, with two full color pictures of the bride, offers the collector a nice oversized advertising postcard from 1906.

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

**Waiting at the Church**

**ANY** a poor fellow has been upset because his togs didn't show up at the proper time, but so far as the INTERNATIONAL are concerned, this sort of thing is entirely eliminated. The enormous size of their plants and their great facilities for handling thousands of customers precludes the possibility of petty failure. Everything is conducted in a systematic and scientific way, thereby insuring promptness and perfection of detail. In the art of clothes making, the International Tailoring Company of New York and Chicago are undoubtedly supreme. The most exclusive tailor cannot produce anything finer than their Prince Albert, Tuxedo or Evening Dress. Every detail is just as it should be—from the quality of the fabric to the fitting excellence of the finished garment. It goes without saying that their business suits are equally perfect. No house in America has such a range of nobby styles and fabrics, and certainly no other tailor can offer such price inducements. \* \* \* \* \*

Figure 3: The third panel.

**WE** take great pleasure in sending you this card and trust that you will answer it with the favor of a call. We commend the International Tailoring Company of New York and Chicago to you, not so much because they are the largest house doing this sort of business, but because they are reliable in their finished production. As far as your needs are concerned, no one can possibly supply you better.

The range of fabrics is bigger than any, and the styles are all that they ought to be. And the making's above reproach.

Come in and see us and we'll show you something nobby for Fall

**BEAN BROS.**

**Auburn, Maine.**

P.S.—We have special bargains to offer you NOW. Take advantage of it

Figure 4: The back panel.

# Carriers and Locals Society

The Carriers and Locals Society's mission is to encourage the collecting and study of United States carriers and locals. Its principal areas of interest are:



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Benefits of membership include the C&LS's award winning journal, its auctions and on line access to back issues of *The Penny Post*. To join, or renew your membership, visit our website at [www.pennypost.org](http://www.pennypost.org).

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**Machine Cancel Society — <http://www.machinecancel.org>**

**Michigan (Peninsular State Philatelic Society, Michagan's Postal History Society)— <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~efisherco/>**

**Military Postal History Society — <http://www.militaryphs.org>**

**Mobile Post Office Society — <http://www.eskimo.com/~rkunz/mposhome.html>**

**New Jersey Postal History Society — [www.NJPostalHistory.org](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org);**

**[Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org)**

**Postal History Foundation — <http://postalhistoryfoundation.org>**

**Postal History Society — <http://www.stampclubs.com/phs/index.htm>**

**Postmark Collectors Club — <http://www.postmarks.org>**



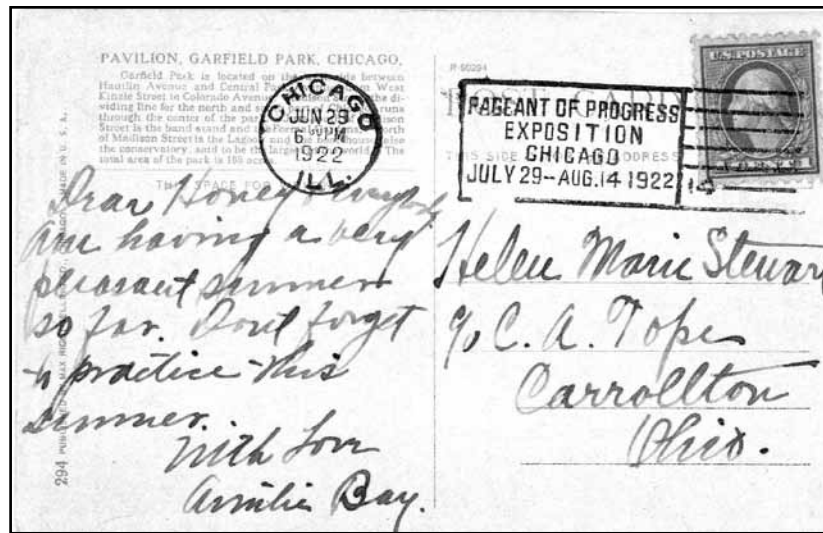


Figure 1: Postmark June 28, 1922. "Pageant of Progress Exposition," Chicago. Universal machine slogan.

## 1922: A Year of Resurgence Seen Through Postal Slogans

By Michael Dattolico

Throughout United States history, the country has faced grave peril. British troops invaded the United States in 1812 and burned Washington, D.C., before England was defeated in 1815. The Civil War was a time of desperate fighting when every casualty was an American. The Japanese attack in December 1941 threatened our existence as a sovereign nation. The social and military upheaval of the 1960s deeply divided Americans, while the war against terrorism and threat of nuclear holocaust continue to test our will.

America has endured other calamities equally fraught with danger. One was the series of catastrophes from 1917 through 1922 that pushed America to the brink of national disaster. That five-year period seemed like the world's end to many Americans.

The United States entered World War I in April 1917 filled with resolve. But, by November 1918 the country had suffered 116,516 casualties, 48,909 of whom were killed in action. The great influenza pandemic appeared in June 1917 and ravaged the world until 1919. Nearly 700,000 Americans died of the disease. Whether cut down by weapons or disease, thousands of U.S. citizens died on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

This was a volatile period when Americans were buffeted by waves of hopelessness. The 1919 "May Day Riots" stoked fears that anarchists might overthrow the democratic government and replace it with a Bolshevik dictatorship. Mail bombs were sent to national leaders, and a horrific bombing of Wall Street stunned the country in September 1920.

Strikes by American workers added to the nation's misery. A steel strike began in September 1919, and

continued through January 1920. Boston policemen walked out. Seattle was nearly shut down by striking workers. A series of coal mine wars commenced in West Virginia in early 1920. Race riots plagued the country throughout 1919 and 1920, leaving a trail of heartache and destruction from coast to coast.

But the plight that devastated nearly everyone was the depression that began in 1920. Continuing through 1921, it became one of America's most severe deflationary downturns as the value of goods, especially farm products, steeply declined. Manufacturing output fell to historic low levels; auto production alone declined 60 per cent in 1921. But the deepest wound was high unemployment.

Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover urged President Warren G. Harding to take action. He convened the President's Conference on Unemployment in September 1921. Comprised of 300 prominent leaders of industry, banking and labor, Hoover's committee attacked the problem with creativity and vigor. Branch committees were established in states having substantial numbers of men out of work. Sub-branches were formed in local communities, and mayors' emergency committees were set up in 31 cities.

Those efforts forged a closer working relationship between local governments and Washington. At its core, Hoover's forum was successful because it pushed local and state groups to take decisive action, backed by broad federal assistance.

There is little doubt that projects created by the Unemployment Committee and local counterparts in late 1921 reached fruition in 1922. There is much



Figure 2: Postmark July 12, 1922. "Fashion Pageant," St. Louis. International machine slogan.

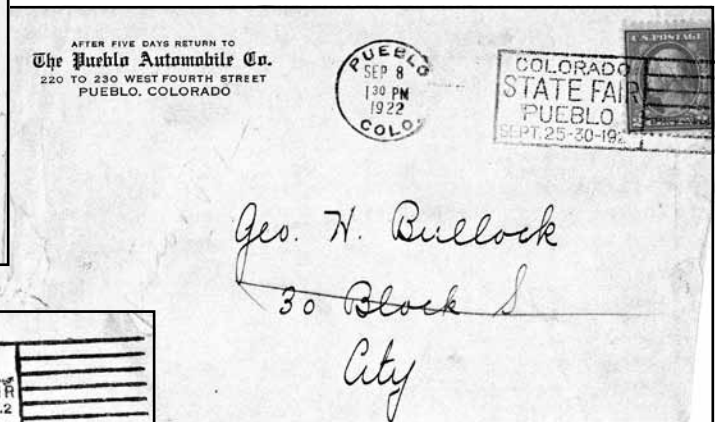


Figure 3 (Above): Postmark Sept. 8, 1922. "Colorado State Fair Pueblo." Universal machine slogan.

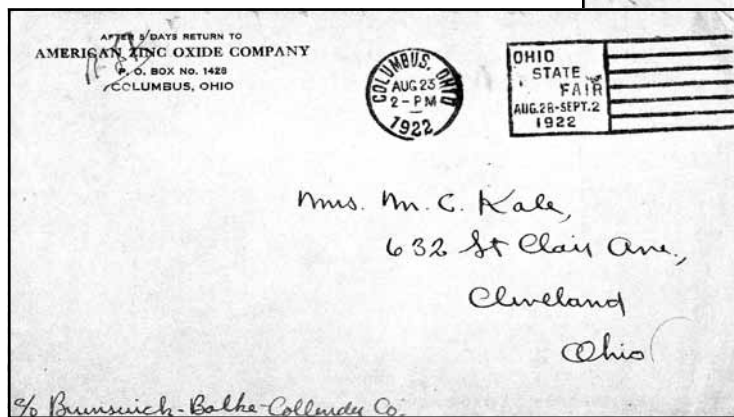


Figure 4 (Left): Postmark Aug. 23, 1922. "Ohio State Fair." International machine slogan.

certainty, too, that the 1922 expositions, exhibitions and fairs helped revitalize the economy. People formerly without hope attended the events, confidence in the economy was rekindled, and a robust recovery began in 1923.

Effects of the war, social strife, economic downturn and subsequent recovery can be tracked by the postal slogans on the period's mail. The predominant slogans seen from 1917 through 1919 were war-related ones concerned with buying government bonds and conserving food.

Many post-war slogans consisted of routine postal reminders, although they also promoted newly opened national parks. Fire prevention slogans were prevalent. Federal spending cuts forced the armed forces to reduce manpower effective Sept. 30, 1921, yet slogans exhorting young men to join the Army and Navy appeared at the same time.

But slogans on 1922 mail reflected a new wave of economic energy sweeping the United States. Figures 1 through 12 show slogans promoting events that led to the recovery.

The 1922 slogan cancels chart is a listing of similar slogans seen on 1922 mail. Readers should note the predominant use of International and Universal machine cancelers and that some events were already annual activities touted by promotional slogans. Various state fairs are examples.

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



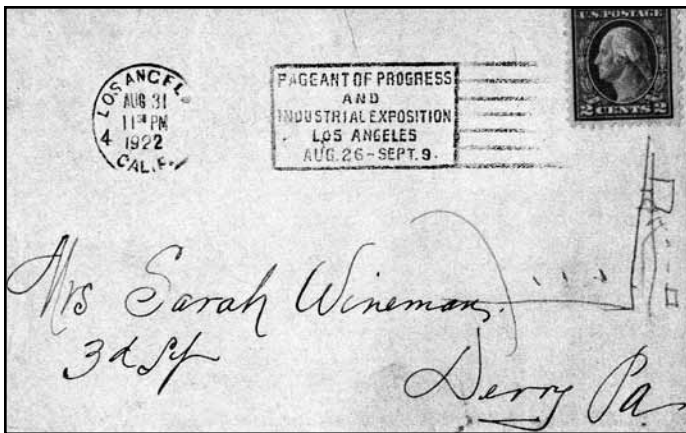


Figure 5: Aug. 31, 1922, "Pageant of Progress and Industrial Exposition," Los Angeles. Universal machine slogan.

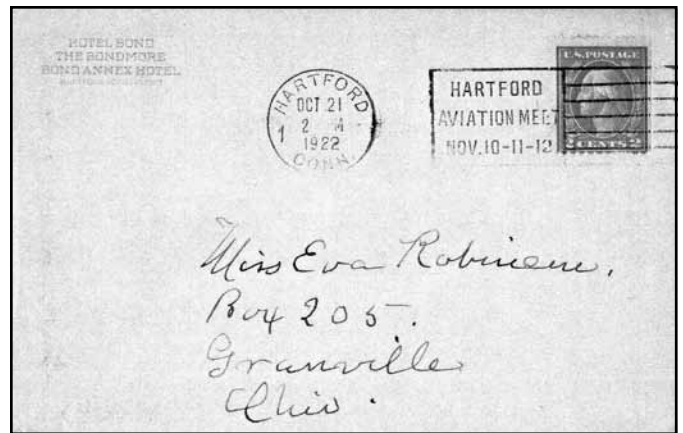


Figure 9: Oct. 21, 1922, "Hartford Aviation Meet." Universal machine slogan.

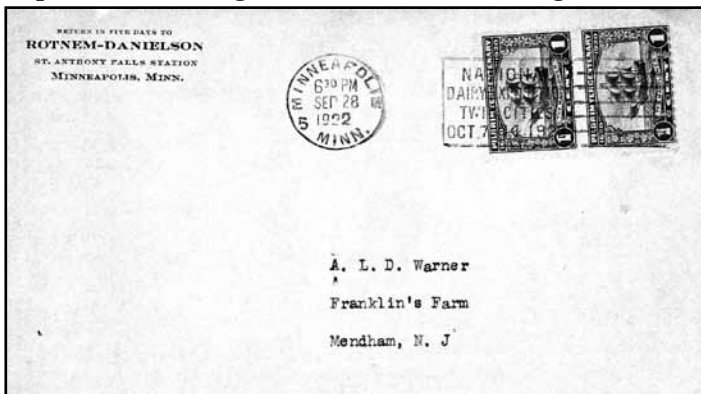


Figure 6: Sept. 28, 1922, "National Dairy Exposition," Twin Cities. Universal machine slogan.

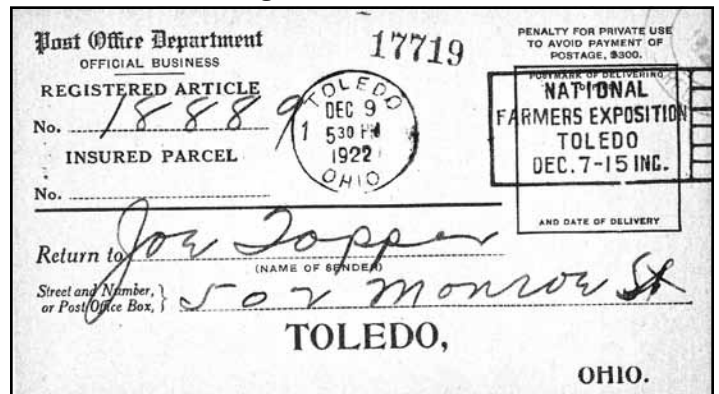


Figure 10: Dec. 9, 1922, "National Farmers Exposition," Toledo. Universal machine slogan.



Figure 7: Sept. 20, 1922, "International Aero Congress." International machine slogan.

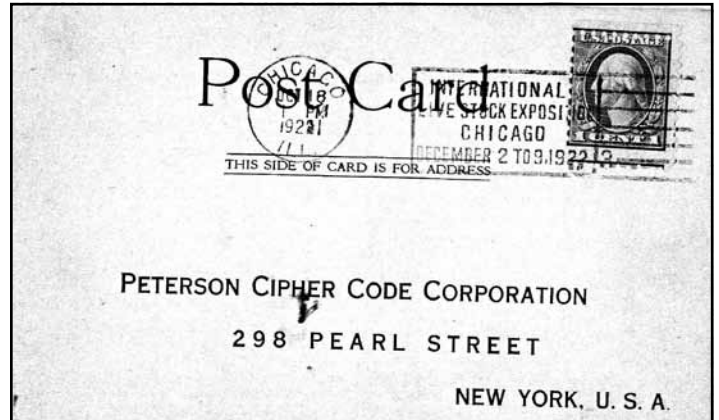


Figure 11: Oct. 18, 1922, "International Live Stock Exposition," Chicago. Universal machine slogan.

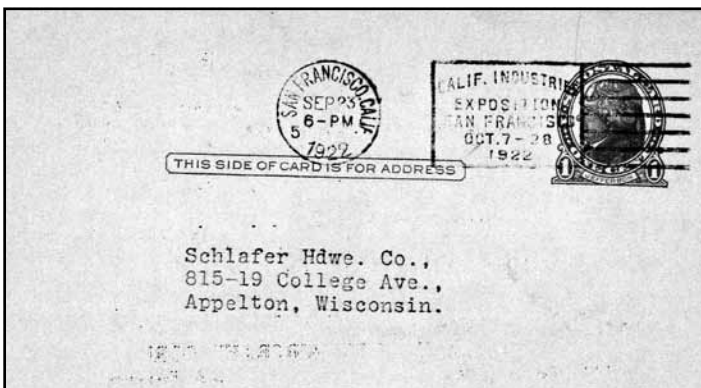


Figure 8: Sept. 23, 1922, "California Industries Exposition," San Francisco. International machine slogan.

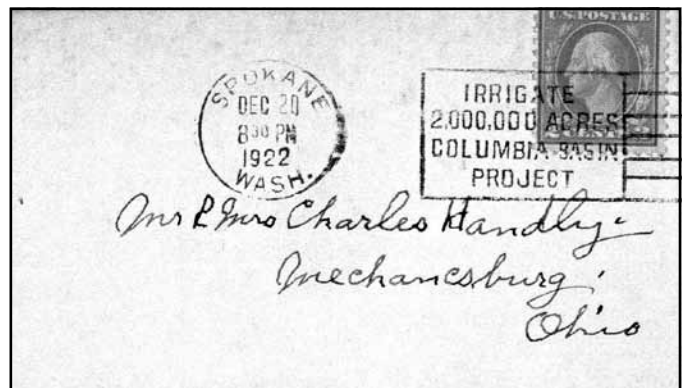


Figure 12: Dec. 20, 1922, "Irrigate 2,000,000 Acres Columbia Basin Project." Universal machine cancel.

# 1922 Slogan Cancels

<b><u>Slogan</u></b>	<b><u>Cities</u></b>	<b><u>Machine Type</u></b>
Alabama's Seaport Development Means Alabama's Prosperity.	Mobile, Alabama	Universal
American Legion Nat'l Convention Oct. 16 – 20.	New Orleans, Louisiana	Universal
American Philatelic Society Convention Aug. 14 – 17, 1922.	Springfield, Massachusetts	Universal
American Royal Live Stock Show Nov. 18 – 25, 1922.	Kansas City, Missouri	Universal
Arkansas State Fair Little Rock Oct. 9 – 15, 1922.	Various Arkansas Cities	Universal
Atlantic City Pageant Sept. 6-7-8, 1922.	Atlantic City, New Jersey	Universal
Baltimore Week October 22nd to 28th	Baltimore, Maryland	International
Chicago Boys Week May 19-25-1922	Chicago, Illinois	Universal
Colorado State Fair Pueblo Sept. 25-30-1922.	Pueblo, Colorado	Universal
Corn Palace Exposition Sept. 25-30, 1922	Mitchell, South Dakota	Universal
Cuero, Texas Nov 9 – 10 – 1922 (Running Turkey)	Cuero, Texas	American
Electrical Show Lancaster Oct. 18 – 19 – 20 – 21 – 1922	Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Universal
Fifth Southern Textile Exposition Oct. 19 – 25, 1922.	Greenville, South Carolina	Universal
50th Anniversary Hutchinson & Reno County Kansas State Fair Sept. 16 – 22, 1922.	Hutchinson, Kansas	Universal
Fourth Annual Convention American Legion Sept. 21 – 23.	Logan, Utah	Universal
G.A.R. National Encampment Des Moines Sept. 25 – 26 – 27 – 28.	Des Moines, Iowa	Universal
Industrial Exposition Toledo Sept. 21 – 30, 1922.	Toledo, Ohio	Universal
International Health and Safety Exposition Nov. 17 – 26. 1922.	Oakland, California	Universal
Iowa State Fair Des Moines Aug. 23 – Sept. 1.	Des Moines, Iowa	Universal



# 1922 Slogan Cancels

<b><u>Slogan</u></b>	<b><u>Cities</u></b>	<b><u>Machine Type</u></b>
National Carmen's Exposition Toledo Dec. 7 – 15	Toledo, Ohio	Universal
Near East Relief Clothing Bundle Day June 14	Richmond, Virginia	Universal
Old Home Week Aug. 17-18-19-20-1922.	Lansdale, Pennsylvania	Columbia
Old Home Week 150th Birthday July 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 – 1922	Sunbury, Pennsylvania	Universal
Reunion 35th Division Wichita, Kansas Sept. 25 – 27, 1922	Wichita, Kansas	Universal
San Angelo Fair Oct. 17-21, 1922	San Angelo, Texas	Universal
Semi-Centennial University of Arkansas June 10-14 Fifty Years of Service, 1922	Fayetteville, Arkansas	Universal
64th Anniversary Lincoln-Douglas Debate Freeport Aug. 26, 1922	Freeport, Illinois	International
South Dakota State Fair Huron Sept. 11 – 15, 1922	Huron, South Dakota	Universal
The Central States Fair and Exposition Aug. 18 – 26, 1922	Aurora, Illinois	Universal
Third Anniversary Greater Norfolk Fair Sept. 4 – 9, 1922	Norfolk, Virginia	Universal
32nd Div. Reunion Madison – Wisconsin Aug. 26 – 29, 1922	Madison, Wisconsin	Universal
Tri-State Fall Festival Oct. 21 – Nov. 4, 1922	Covington, Kentucky	International
Virginia Historical Pageant – Richmond, Va. May 22 – 28, 1922	Richmond, Virginia	Universal
Visit Cleveland's Exposition Sept. 18 – 28, 1922	Cleveland, Ohio	International
Visit Phoenix Arizona April 24 – 29 United States GOOD ROADS WEEK	Phoenix, Arizona	Universal
Visit the Four County Fair Suffolk, VA. Oct. 24 – 27	Suffolk, Virginia	International
Wisconsin Products Exposition – Milwaukee Dec. 14 – 20	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Universal



## ***United States Post Offices, Volumes 1 through 8*** **Compiled by Richard W. Helbock**

The *United States Post Offices* series is the first complete listing of all of the United States post offices that have ever operated in the nation. The listings are based on the U.S. Post Office Department's "Records of Appointments of Postmasters," but contains data that has been refined by numerous postal historians who have published listings of the post offices that operated in individual states.

*United States Post Offices* is a single set of CDs that contain the name, county and state location, dates of operation, and scarcity index value for each and every independent post office to have operated in the nation. Hard-to-find historic maps show early county boundaries, and post office listings are presented both in PDF and Excel spreadsheet format, making them readily searchable and sortable.

This remarkable series was researched and written over a period of 14 years, commencing in 1993 with Volume 1- The West, and concluding in 2007 with Volume 8 – The Southeast. Originally published as books by La Posta Publications, they are available now only on CD or by direct download. The late Richard W. Helbock published *La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History*, for 42 years, and conducted nearly 100 auctions of American postal history.

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A 1942 World War II patriotic cover honoring Capt. Colin Kelly, one of the first heroes of the war.

## A World War II Patriotic Cover for Capt. Colin P. Kelly

By Peter Martin

Patriotic covers are an interesting form of postal history. Many are printed in color and are quite attractive. Some tell a tale that makes them even more significant.

The above patriotic is one such item. On the surface, this somewhat worn cover looks ordinary. It bears a common 3-cent Win the War stamp (Scott 905) that pays the then-current first class rate and is cancelled with an equally common machine cancel from Lower Lake, Calif. The envelope, addressed to Great Falls, Mont., has a Nov. 14, 1942, date stamp that puts it as being mailed during the first year of the United States' entry into World War II.

The cachet, in blue and red has four American flags, an eagle and a photo of a young Army officer surrounded by a blue oval. The text below the photograph reads, "CAPTAIN COLIN P. KELLY/of the Army, who gave his life after his/plane destroyed a Japanese battleship."

War creates many heroes and despite promises to the contrary, over time, people do forget the sacrifices made on their behalf. In this case, we have a philatelic reminder that helps to jog our memory and to invite newer generations to get acquainted with one of the first heroes of the war.



Colin Purdie Kelly Jr., born in Madison, Fla., in 1915 and a 1937 West Point graduate, was one of the first Army officers to pilot the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress in the Far East.

On Dec. 10, 1941, just days after the Japanese Pearl Harbor attack, Capt. Kelly and his crew flew a solo mission deep into territory where the Japanese held absolute air superiority. They had no fighter escort. As they flew north toward Formosa, they passed over a large Japanese landing on the north coast of Luzon. Kelly dropped his only three 600-pound bombs and hit the Japanese cruiser *Natori*.

With its bomb bay empty the B-17 headed back to Clark Field. As it approached Clark, the bomber was hit by enemy Zeros and burst into flames. Kelly stayed at the controls of the badly-damaged aircraft so that the surviving crewmembers could bail out. As his copilot moved to the upper escape hatch, the bomber exploded, hurling the copilot clear of the aircraft.

The B-17 crashed about five miles from Clark Field. Kelly's body was found at the site. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and, later during World War II, the United States liberty ship *SS Colin P. Kelly Jr.* was named in his honor.

## 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.



Three illegal usages that appear to have made it through the mails (clockwise from top): a 1953 Boston slogan cancel ties two S&H green stamps; a pair of 1930s era Washington, D.C., fancy cancels tie a 10-cent Brown & Bigalow playing card revenue stamp (Scott RF23); and a 1945 Newark, N.J., machine cancel ties a 1-cent New York bedding stamp.

## The Most Unusual Illegal Postal Usages

The Third Quarter *La Posta* Challenge was to identify the smallest post offices in the United States as evidenced by a philatelic or paraphilatelic item.

Covers, postcards, postmarks, cachets or even photographs or newspaper articles were eligible, as long as there was a printed claim of being the smallest, post office.

Because of a printer delay in mailing the third quarter issue, many readers did not receive their Third Quarter *La Posta* until just before, or after, the deadline listed for submission. Therefore, the response was limited, but thanks to reader Paul Petosky, we do have a wide variety of candidates to consider. They appear on pages 47-49.

The Fourth Quarter *La Posta* Challenge is to identify the most unusual illegal postal usages that have traveled through the mails.

Through the years, ever since the postage stamp

was invented, people have attempted to use items other than postage stamps to get their mail items to intended destinations. Revenue stamp, poster stamps and even S&H green stamps have been used. Some made it through the mail stream unnoticed, some were caught by postal employees and rejected and some were sent on their way but assessed postage due.

Three of my favorites are shown above.

No matter how the postal item was treated, your submission is eligible if something other than an official government stamp were used.

Submit your entries for the most unusual illegal postal usage by Feb. 1, 2013 to the address at top of the page or via e-mail to: [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.

**Submission Deadline:**  
**February 1, 2013**



# The Smallest Post Office in the United States



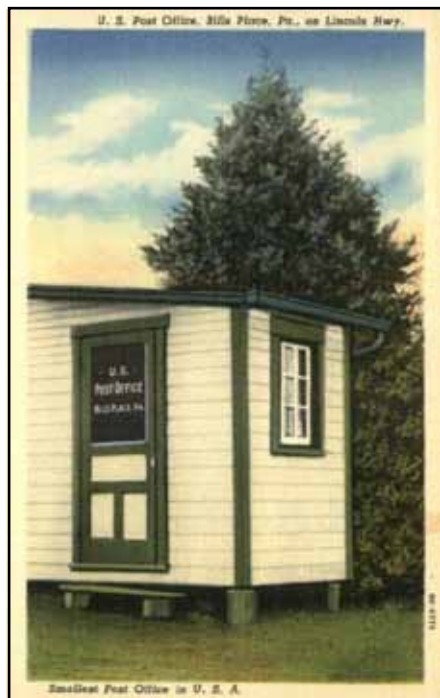
## Virginia, Calif.

The Virginia, Calif., Post Office was only in operation from 1890-1900 but it drew the attention of others as one of the smallest post offices. A 1900 reference in *The Bay State Philatelist* describes it as, "situated on the road between San Diego and Escondido, and receives two mails daily except Sunday. The original existence of the structure was in the form of a piano box. It is 6 feet long, 5 feet high and 3 feet wide, and its 'box equipment' consists of five locked drawers."

Len McMaster  
Capon Bridge, W. Va.

Submitted By Paul Petosky

## Bills Place, Pa.



Bills Place, Fulton Co., Pa., Population 6. Inside dimensions: 4'4½" by 7'3". Is located between Bedford and Fulton County on Route U. S. 30. Fulton County is the only county in Penna. that has no railroads, rivers or poor houses.

## Cooley, N.Y.



## Elm Hall, Mich.



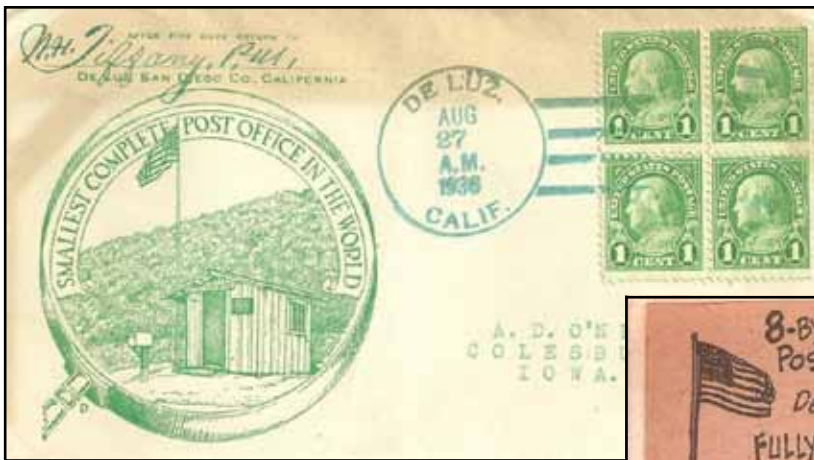
The post office has seen many locations since its beginning. Starting with the first postmaster, Baron Blanchard, it was located in his log house. Jabez Hawkins was the next postmaster and he re-located the post office in his store. After this it was usually located in the business establishment of whoever was the postmaster at the time. When Seneca Sly was the postmaster in 1897 the post office was located in the Rice block, likely the Exchange Hotel. Mrs. Brooks store was the post office back in 1910. It then went to Delbert Hicks General Store where it remained until it was located in the structure at 5025 N. Lumberjack road.

The small 8 by 16 Ft. building started life as a summer cottage at a nearby lake then served as a watchman's shanty at a Riverdale turkey farm. Harold Cook who owned the IGA store bought the building in 1944 and had it moved to its present location. The next year, 1949, when Phyllis Rockafellow was named postmaster she bought the building and turned it into the village post office.

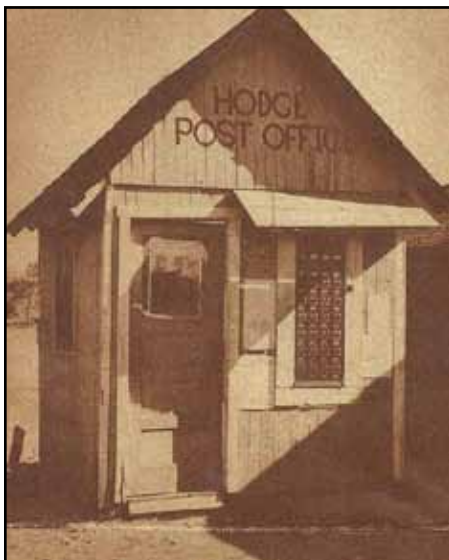
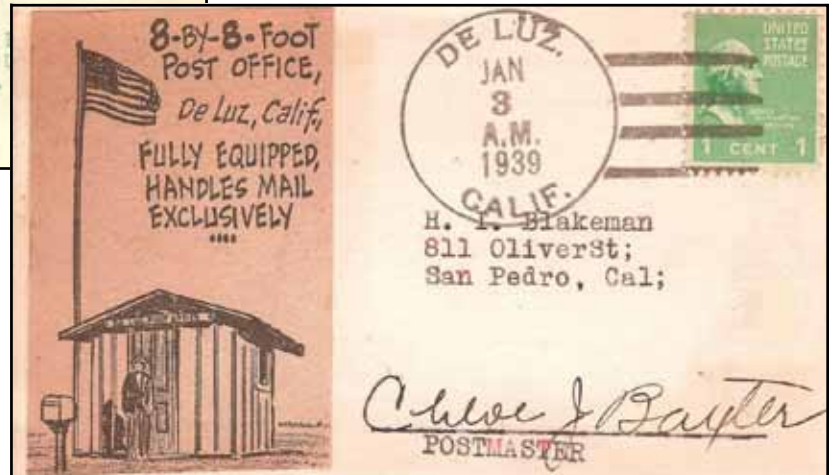
While the Elm Hall post office is the smallest in Michigan there are two other post offices in the United States that are smaller in size. Ochoppe Florida, Zip 33943, is the smallest at 7 Ft. 3 inches by 8 Ft. 4 inches, the post office at Muddy Illinois Zip 62965 is next smallest at 7 Ft. 3 inches by 10 Ft. 6 inches. The Elm Hall post office is likely the third smallest in the country.



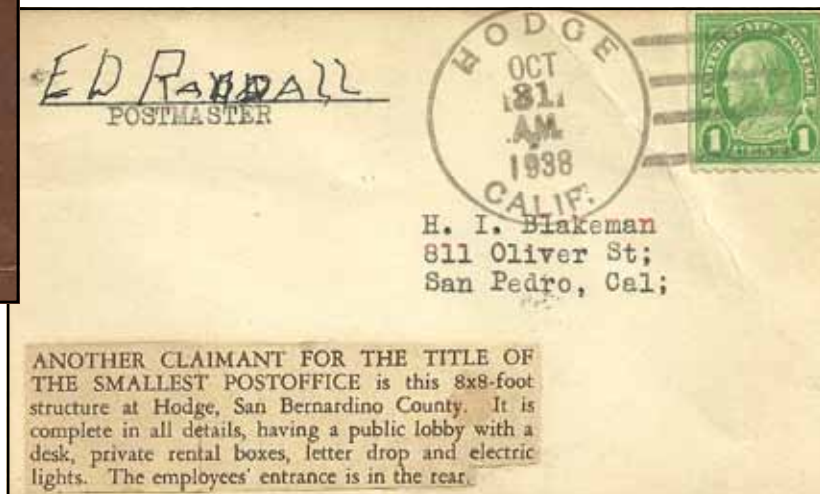




**De Luz, Calif.**



**Hodge, Calif.**



ANOTHER CLAIMANT FOR THE TITLE OF THE SMALLEST POSTOFFICE is this 8x8-foot structure at Hodge, San Bernardino County. It is complete in all details, having a public lobby with a desk, private rental boxes, letter drop and electric lights. The employees' entrance is in the rear.



**Kaweah, Calif.**

#### KAWEAH POST OFFICE

The Kaweah Cooperative Colony was a Utopian project started in 1886. Unable to secure title to the land, the organization ceased to exist after 1892, leaving as one of its tangible reminders the Kaweah Post Office, one of the smallest in the United States.



## Sugartown, La.

Submitted By Paul Petosky

## Fort George, Minn.



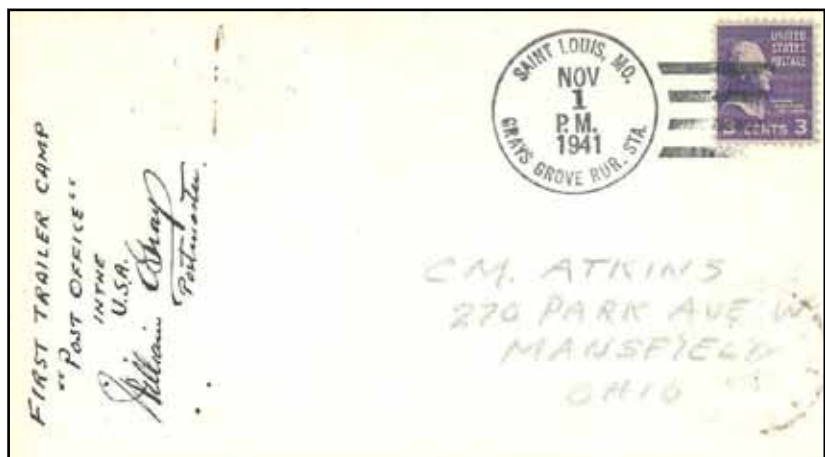
## Wheeler Springs, Calif.



## Grimshawes, N.C.



## Grays Grove Rural Station, St. Louis, Mo.



## 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.

To date, there has been no response to question **2012-2-1**. Send in your questions today.

### 2012-4-1 Navy Post Office 16129

I am trying to find what naval facility Navy Post Office No. 16129 belongs to. I collect only California covers and I always relied on Richard Helbock for help in finding the location for these Navy post offices. I am hoping it is in the Los Angeles area, given the return address.

**John P. Boal**  
Upland, Calif.



## Tidbits

### A USCS 20th Anniversary Autographed Souvenir

By Peter Martin



The Universal Ship Cancellation Society, founded in 1932, promotes the study of the history of naval vessels, naval postal markings, and other postal documents involving the U.S. Navy and other maritime organizations of the world. It is the only organization in the United States devoted to Navy and maritime covers, and is one of the oldest specialized postal history societies in the world.

In 1952, the society held its 20th anniversary convention in Newark, N.J. G.S. Hill, a resident of Philadelphia, apparently couldn't make it to the convention so a group of members took a Douglas Hotel postcard, had it cancelled with a June 7 USCS Convention station cancel, autographed it and sent him the souvenir. Notice how the stamp was centered at the right so that the four-bar cancellation would be a clear imprint. What a thoughtful group of friends.



The *U.S.C.S. Log* is the society's official publication. For more information about the group, write to: USCS Secretary, 747 Shard Ct., Fremont, CA 94539 or visit their website at: [www.uscs.org](http://www.uscs.org).



## 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).



Former Tariffville, Conn., Postmaster Dorothy Wilkinson sorts the mail.

### Tariffville Follow-Up

Andrew Mitchell, the author of the Third Quarter *La Posta* article, "Tarriffville: The Modern Death of a Post Office," provided the above follow-up photograph of Dorothy Wilkinson, who served as the Tariffville, Conn., postmaster from April 4, 1932, to Sept. 29, 1957.

Send your letters to the editor to:

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

Peter Martin

Editor, *La Posta*

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

### More Fan Mail

The new format is excellent. My subscription renewal is enclosed.

**Dr. Steven J. Bahnsen**  
Chicago, Ill.

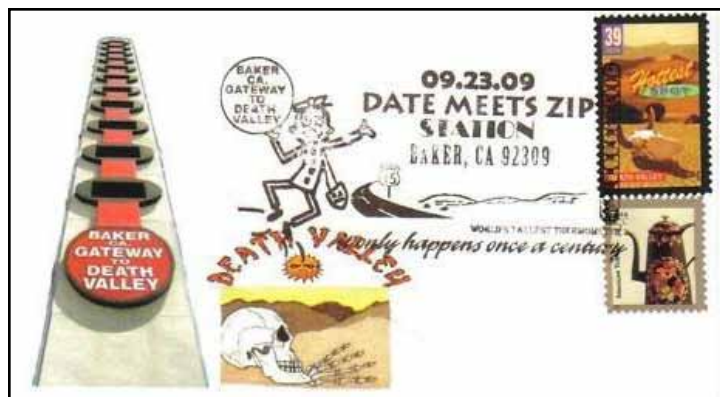
I was very pleased and impressed with your Third Quarter *La Posta*. It's extremely user friendly, fresh, colorful and enjoyable!

**Gus Spector**  
Phoenixville, Pa.

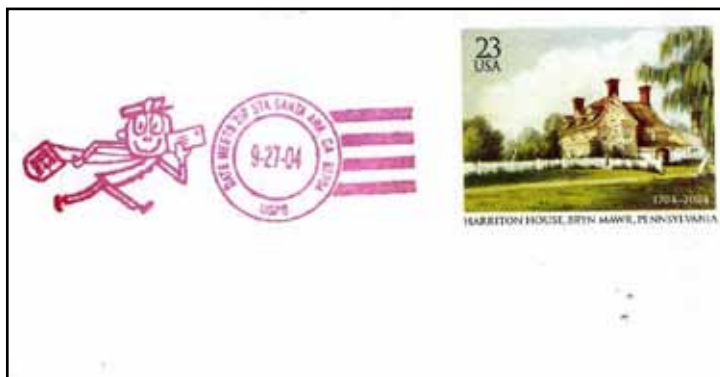
### Date Meets Mr. ZIP

The Third Quarter *La Posta* was quite interesting. I noted the "Date meets ZIP" entry on page 52. I have two in my collection: Baker and Santa Ana, Calif. I collect only items from California. I also collect repeating, or sequential postmarks: 10-10-10, 6-7-89, or palindromes: 11-02-2011.

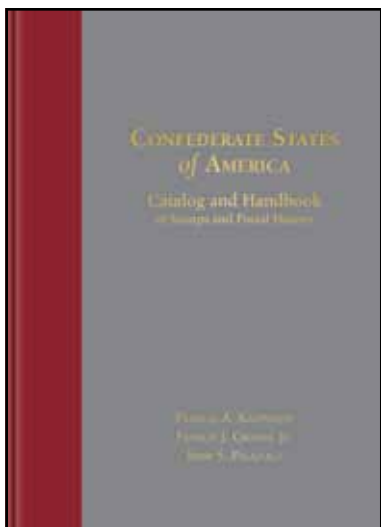
**John Boal,**  
Upland, Calif.



Baker, Calif., postmark 9-23-09, ZIP code 92309



Santa Ana, Calif., postmark 9-27-04, ZIP code 92704



## Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History

*The Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* edited by Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo. Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012. Hardbound, 7-3/4 x 10-3/4 inch, 528pp., color illus.

Available for \$125 postpaid from: Confederate Stamp Alliance  
c/o Larry Baum, 316 West Calhoun St., Sumter, SC 29150.  
Checks should be made out to the CSA.

## Producing a 21st Century Confederate Catalog

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

*(Editor's Note: The Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History was released in November to much fanfare. Here, the lead editor provides a thorough discussion of the new catalog and the editions that preceded it. Having examined the new book, I can attest that it is indeed an impressive work, both in terms of content and production quality.)*

### The 20th Century Confederate Catalogs

Although published information about various aspects of Confederate philately dates back to the 1870s, it wasn't until the early 1920s that authoritative information began to become available to collectors.

In 1929, August Dietz Sr. published *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America* (Figure 1). To this day, this historic endeavor remains the most definitive work about Confederate stamps and postal history. Dietz (Figure 2) produced three versions, a standard edition (cloth), a library edition (quarter-bound leather), and a deluxe edition (all leather binding, printed on laid paper and a special insert).

The popular 1929 *Postal Service* book was followed in 1931 with the publication of his first catalog of Confederate stamps, the *Dietz Specialized Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America* (Figure 3). It was augmented with a supplement in 1932 and followed by subsequent editions of the *Dietz Catalog* in 1937, 1945, 1959 and 1986.

Dietz was born in Prussia in 1869, not long after the American Civil War. He moved with his parents to Richmond, Va., in 1871 and began collecting as early as 1880. As an engraver trained in lithography and typography, Dietz understood the printing processes necessary for the preparation of the various Confederate postage stamps.

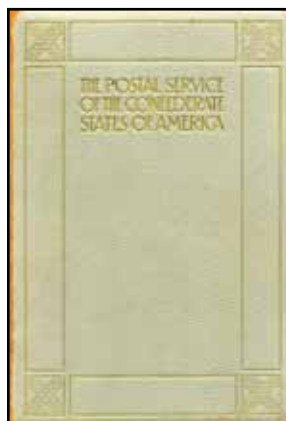


Figure 1: The cover of the deluxe edition of the 1929 Dietz *Postal Service* book.



Figure 2: August Dietz Sr.

With his in-depth knowledge of printing and interest in Confederate postal history, it has long been speculated that Dietz obtained some of his information directly from the postmasters, printers and/or clerks that had firsthand knowledge of many of the actual philatelic items used during the Civil War. This was verified in my personal files by original correspondence between postmasters and Dietz.

By 1896, Dietz was the editor of *The Virginia Philatelist*, a monthly stamp magazine printed in Richmond. He started his own company, the Dietz Printing Company, in Richmond in 1901.

In 1924, he began writing informative articles on the subject of Confederate postal history to aid the increasing number of Confederate collectors. He operated his printing firm with his son, August Dietz Jr., as business manager, and published *The Southern Philatelist* (1924-1929), *The New Southern Philatelist* (1929-1933), *Stamp and Cover Collecting* (1933-1936),





**Figure 3. The 1931 Dietz Catalog and title page; the first Confederate catalog.**

and *Stamp and Cover Collecting Review* (1937-1939). Each of the publications on which he worked contained articles related to Confederate philately, including new finds, plating research, illustrations of postal markings and answers to questions from collectors.

By mid-1934, a small group of serious Confederate collectors was beginning to emerge. In February 1935, Dr. Marye Y. Dabney, another enthusiastic Confederate collector and friend of Dietz, wrote to him and suggested that an organization be formed for the more intensive study of Confederates, the exchange of relevant data, and the dissemination of acquired knowledge.

The name of the organization suggested by Dabney was the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), a name that endures to this day. Predictably, Dietz was the first president, as well as the first member given the honorary title of “General” in 1948.

The Berlin Philatelic Club bestowed the Lindenberg Medal on Dietz in 1938. He received the very first Luff Award from the American Philatelic Society in 1940 for “Exceptional Contributions to Philately” and the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Medal for Distinguished Service to Philately in 1955 by the Collectors Club of New York.

Dietz died in Richmond in 1963 and was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in 1964.

### **A 21st Century Confederate Catalog**

In October 2006, the Confederate Stamp Alliance announced the acquisition of the rights to *The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, which was published in 1986.

Patricia A. Kaufmann was appointed editor in chief and chose respected Confederate students Francis J. Crown Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo (Figures 4 and 5) to round out the editorial team. The lead team was augmented with extensive input and assistance from dozens of Confederate students who contributed in their areas of specialty.

After six long years of effort, the 2012 *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, more casually referred to as the *CSA Catalog*, is off the press and in user hands. At 528 pages, it is almost twice the size of the last catalog produced in 1986. In the 2012 volume, the stampless listings alone are almost the size of the 1986 edition.

Each revised edition of the *Dietz Catalog*, since its first publication more than 80 years ago, has seen many new listings. With the 1931 edition, the basic format was set and remained the same through the final 1986 edition.

The new *CSA Catalog* is by no means a simple revision of prior catalogs. The 2012 *CSA Catalog* takes a new approach, incorporating many of the basic features of the old *Dietz Catalog* but building the actual contents from the ground up.

To accomplish this task, the editors began with the listings contained in the 1986 *New Dietz Catalog*. They also mandated that every listing in the 2012 *CSA Catalog* be verified by an image of the item. In cases where no image could be found, the listing was retained as a legacy listing and indicated by an asterisk. Information was derived from original period documents where possible, rather than repeated from the often-conflicting statements of prior publications.

In comparing prior published works and catalogs, one invariably finds conflicting information. One of the most noticeable examples of this is in the section of “Independent State and Confederate Use of U.S. Postage.” In order to ascertain the actual dates of secession and admission for each state, the editors re-examined the secession and admission processes of each state from original period documents. Where the results are subject to more than one interpretation, or vary from previously accepted dates, the editors set forth their explanation for the change in extensive notes.

The “General Issues” section has been greatly expanded and enhanced with enlarged color images, enabling students to truly study the various issues. The CSA 10¢ blue lithograph, for example, has one Scott number but is, in reality, three different designs and produced by two different printers. To aid the collector, there is a cross-reference to *Scott Catalogue* numbers with each listing as appropriate.

The new “Perforated and Rouletted Stamps” section was created from the files of the late W. Wilson Hulme, which the family graciously allowed us to use. This little understood area is now presented with detailed explanations of the officially perforated stamps, as well as the accepted privately rouletted stamps. The geographic areas from which they were used are generally the names by which they are known, for example, the Baton Rouge roulette or Shenandoah Valley roulette.

The “Postmasters’ Provisionals” section is far more detailed than in prior editions, over four times the size of the 1986 *New Dietz*, and includes information such as the earliest recorded dates of use and uses from other towns. The 2012 catalog corrects what is considered by most students to be a major mistake in the 1986 volume and returns stampless covers to that section, instead of intermixing them with handstamped and adhesive provisionals. The “Government Imprint” section has been completely overhauled with a new intuitive numbering system and separated into three sections: Official, Semi-Official and State Government.

Although most Confederate semi-official imprints include the branch of government, it is not always easy to determine to which department they belong. This is further confused by state semi-official imprints prepared by branches of state governments that mirrored the same branches of the Confederate government.

Some of these imprints bear no indication of either Confederate or state origin. The editors made every effort to list the semi-official imprints under the proper department, bureau, service, district, division or army of the Confederate and state governments.

New catalog sections include Confederate Mail Carrier Services, Way Mail, Indian Nations, Covert Mail, Generals’ Mail, a guide to Advertising Covers, a glossary and new revelations about the Arizona Territory and New Mexico.

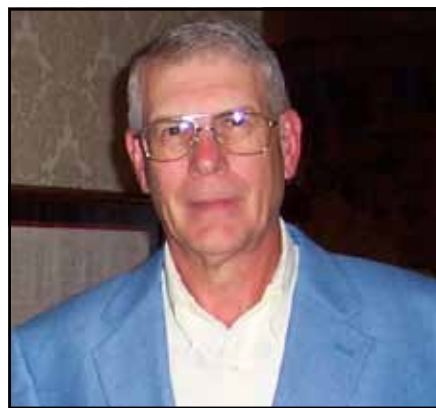
Other sections, while presented briefly in former catalogs, have been expanded to such a degree that they can almost be considered new sections as well. For example, the “Confederate Railroad Markings” section fully explains the role of railroads in handling the mails, the role of the station agent and the route agent’s markings, as well as the revised listings themselves.

“Private Express Company Mail” is divided into two different categories: private across the lines express service and mail handled by express companies within the Confederate states. “Suspension of Mail across the Lines” includes some of the rarest and least understood mail as postal service in the seceded states was interrupted by the U.S. Post Office Department. “Trans-Mississippi Mails” presents both official and private mail services, some of which are completely new listings, such as Captain Bernos’ Express, J.M. Barksdale’s Express, E.W. Black’s Express, and I.W. Sturdivant’s Express, which join the more well-known listings of Arthur H. Edey’s 5th Texas Regiment Express and E.H. Cushing’s Express.

The “Fakes and Facsimiles” section has been completely redone to include those most commonly encountered by collectors, along with brief biographies of those who produced them. The Confederate Stamp Alliance anticipates publishing a more in-depth book on this subject in the near future.



**Figure 4: Catalog Editors Patricia Kaufmann and Jerry Palazolo at Kaufmann’s booth in Richmond during the CSA 75th anniversary celebration at APS Stampshow 2010.**



**Figure 5: Catalog Editor Francis J. Crown Jr.**

This 21st century catalog takes advantage of all of the advances in technology that have occurred in the past quarter century, including publication in color. Much of the material in this catalog can be found in no other catalog or publication. Updates to listings will be uploaded in the future to: [www.csacatalog.org](http://www.csacatalog.org).

More information about the catalog and CSA membership is available at [www.csacatalog.org](http://www.csacatalog.org) and [www.csalliance.org](http://www.csalliance.org), as well as from Patricia A. Kaufmann, 10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln, DE 19960.



# Confederate Postal History in the New CSA Catalog

Shown are examples of some of the postal history items featured in the new *Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*.



From Top to Bottom:  
New Orleans Postmasters' Provisional used on a Confederate 10-star flag patriotic cover.

Steamer *Vicksburg* use with patriotic corner card.

CSA Frame Line tied by Mobile, Ala. double circle postmark on James Battle packet boat cover.



CSA 1 tied Richmond cds on Virginia imprint cover.

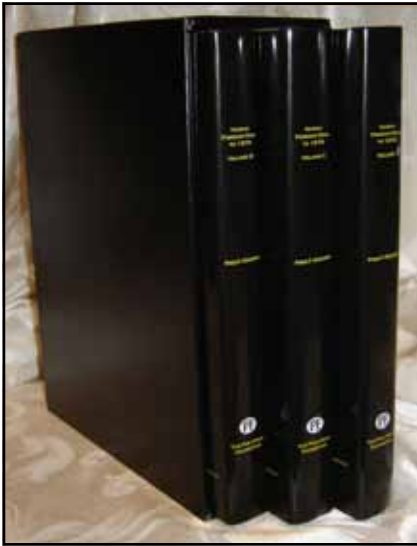
CSA 5 on advertising cover from Greensborough, Ga.

Camp Chase, Ohio, prisoner of war cover with postage of both U.S. and C.S.A. across the lines to North Carolina via the exchange point at Old Point Comfort, Va.



## Book Reviews

Publishers, editors and authors who would like to have books considered for this column may submit review copies to: Editor, *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403.



### *Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870*

*Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870* by Fred F. Gregory. New York: The Philatelic Foundation, 2012. Three volume hardbound set in matching slipcase, 8-1/2 x 11 inch. Volume I, 427pp.; Volume II, 458pp.; Volume III, 384pp., color illus.

Available for \$195 plus \$15 S&H (through Dec. 31, 2012) from: The Philatelic Foundation, 700 West 40th Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10018; Website, [www.PhilatelicFoundation.org](http://www.PhilatelicFoundation.org)

As a subject, the stamps and postal history of Hawaii always seem to receive special treatment.

The 1948 *Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History* by Meyer & Harris was, at 424 pages, the standard work for the stamps and postal history of Hawaii and one of the earliest works to give comprehensive coverage to a state postal history.

The November 1995 *Hawaii Advertiser* collection was highlighted by a three-volume cased set of auction catalogs produced by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. It still ranks as one of the top auction catalog presentations in the hobby.

Hawaii was one of the first states to get a significant website. *Post Office in Paradise* ([www.hawaiianstamps.com](http://www.hawaiianstamps.com)), a collaborative research website for studying the stamps and postal history of 19th century Hawaii, won the FIP Best website award as early as 2001.

Today, we have a beautifully treated three-volume set with a matching casing to cover *Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870*.



Author Fred Gregory

Written by Fred F. Gregory, who was recently inducted into the Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame and who, coincidentally, is the creator and author of *Post Office in Paradise*, this work represents more than 40 years of research. That period of study has allowed the author to gain a thorough understanding of Hawaii's complex early postal system.

When examining this production, one of the first things one notices, after the jet-black slipcovers and casing, is the weight of this three-volume edition. One can build a good pair of biceps by doing curls with this hefty set.

From a production standpoint, this set of books is first class. Beginning with the sewn binding that allows the pages to lie flat, to the high quality paper stock with gilt edged pages, to the attached bookmark ribbon, to the gold letter embossing on the leatherette cover and the glossy dust cover, everything has been done to enhance the presentation of the contents.

Private donations to the Philatelic Foundation, helped to underwrite the publication of this set, making the \$195 prepublication price a comparative bargain.

Back in the 1980s, when work on this edition was initiated, the project was intended to be an update of the classic Meyer and Harris book. As time went on, the project evolved into an entirely new set of books.

The result, while long in the works, was worth the wait. *Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870* is clearly the definitive reference in the field of Hawaiian postal history. It has built upon the Meyer and Harris book and added new research, hundreds of high-quality illustrations, period maps, and a thorough treatment of complex subjects.

Gregory traces the development of the kingdom's postal system in the first two volumes, showing how the mail was sent to and from Hawaii, and goes on to



explain the complex set of 19th century rates. Gregory has divided the island's postal history into eight periods based on its treaties. This information makes it easy to decipher the mixed frankings found on early Hawaiian covers.

This set also shows the relationship between Hawaii's postal system and the development of steam transportation, the Pony Express, new overland routes, and the transcontinental railroad.

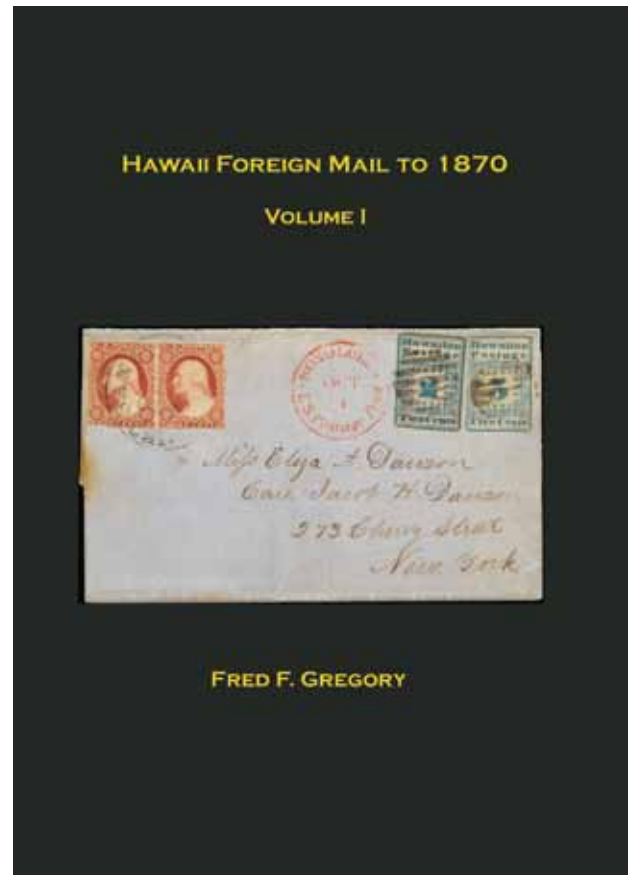
Volume III features illustrations and complete census records, including Honolulu straightline and missionary covers, Boston Engraved Issues, and Honolulu PAID oval marks.

The highlight in this volume is the list of every Hawaii ship arrival and sailing from 1800-70. For the first time, collectors have access to complete information on every route, rate, marking and documented cover for this period.

Later volumes are expected to cover Hawaii postal history from 1870-1900, including local and interisland mail and postal markings; and postage stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, official stamps and local stamps.

*Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870* was first released at Stampshow 2012 in Sacramento where it was entered in the literature exhibition and came away with a gold medal and the Writers Unit #30 Grand Award for Literature. I expect that it will be the first of many such awards.

*Peter Martin*



## Ralph, Mich. : A Century Old Post Office Closes

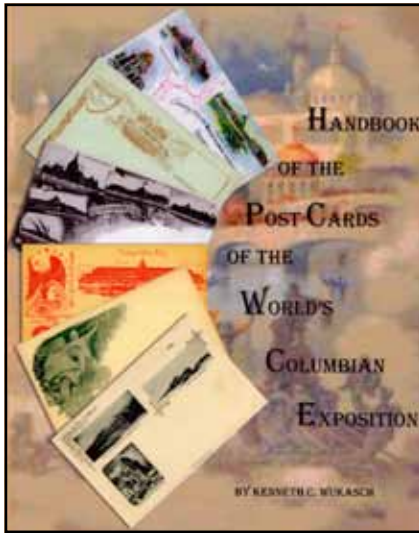
In mid-November, residents of Ralph, Mich., a community in Dickinson County whose ZIP code was 49877, were given two weeks notice before having to say goodbye to their over-century-old post office. The Ralph Post Office's last day was November 30.

The 12-foot by 14-foot post office was established in 1904. At the time of its closing, the post office was open only two-and-a-half hours a day during the week and an hour-and-a-half on Saturdays.

The Cootware family, who had been running the post office for the past 25 years, said that the small financial compensation wasn't enough for them to keep it open.

"I'm going to miss seeing the people," Ralph Post Office Manager Cheryl Cootware said. "I see everybody everyday of the week. This is where you find out what's going on in town."

Residents who don't want to use a mailbox now have to drop off and pick up their mail in a cluster box placed outside the Ralph Town Hall building. Anyone who wants to mail packages will have to bring them to the Felch Post Office. (*Submitted by Paul Petosky*)



### *Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition*

*Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition* by Kenneth C. Wukasch. Brookpark, Ohio: Velocity Direct LLC, 2012. Perfect bound, 8-1/2 x 10-7/8 inch, 95pp., color illus.

Available for \$30 plus \$4.95 S&H (\$14.95 foreign) from: Kenneth C. Wukasch, 300 Alpine Trail, San Marcos, TX 78666 or via PayPal to: [kenwukasch@yahoo.com](mailto:kenwukasch@yahoo.com)

Ken Wukasch, author of the landmark *Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition*, has gone the extra mile to complete the story with his new *Handbook of the Post Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition* (Note that postal cards, published under government license for commercial overprints are differentiated from privately produced postcards).

The official Goldsmith government postal sets printed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (WCE) are legendary among postcard and ephemera collectors for their exquisite designs of expo buildings set on a bright white background. Many a proper postal historian will have the Goldsmith sets and similar cards among their treasures, whether mint or postally used.

But other cards—not so pretty, but more scarce—were also produced and they tend to be the more challenging ones to obtain, not just because of their relative scarcity, but because less is known about them. Although there has been a dearth of literature on the subject, unfortunately, they have often included poor illustrations and out-of-date valuation guides.

Wukasch's handbook not only illustrates in color all of the known postcards printed for the WCE, but also

presents an easy-to-use comprehensive guide to all of the known publishers, a numbering system, an Earliest Known Use (EKU) and Latest Known Use (LKU) listing and a value guide. For those who want to delve further into the rich history and collectible value of the full range of Columbian cards, including those that were postally used, Wukasch's book is just the ticket.

Imagine yourself in 1893 at the fair in your most dapper Sunday attire—a top hat with tails—or a bustled gown and ostrich-feathered hat, strolling down the wide avenues of the enchanted “White City” by the lake.

Eagerly queuing at one of the new-fangled vending machines in the sweltering heat, you are anxious to purchase a packet of the Goldsmith souvenir postal cards. But, as often happened, you find the machine empty and it's not even 11 a.m. What to do?

With so much unfulfilled demand, it didn't take long for other nonsanctioned commercial interests to sniff out the opportunity for profit. During the six months that the fair was held, a handful of (mostly Chicago) publishers entered the competition for fair-goers' pocket coins. For instance, although the Envelope and Stamp Machine Company had lost out to Goldsmith to print the official postcards, they were granted the concession to sell “White City” stationery, stamps, and envelopes. In a clever move, these were conveniently placed in hotel lobbies.

Wukasch has detailed the history and intent of each of the publishing companies and their cards, either commercial advertising or souvenirs, while warning the reader about fakes and reproductions.

While other publishers quickly put out a range of private postcards, most were not as pretty (the Seliger cards being a notable exception) since these were printed on inferior quality card stock. Plus, they cost a penny more to mail than the official government cards, so today they tend to be harder to find in general, and some are quite difficult to find postally used.

Catherine Clark

**Submit books for review to:**  
**Editor**  
***La Posta***  
**POB 6074**  
**Fredericksburg, VA 22403**



### David Straight 1955-2012

Postal historian David L. Straight died Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012, in St. Louis following a massive stroke. He was 57. He had recently retired as a professional librarian from Washington University in order to devote more time to his family and philately.

At the university he managed the renovation of a former department store into a modern library. This work initially involved supervising the construction of 15 miles of high density electronically controlled shelving and relocation of more than 300,000 volumes into the new climate-controlled space.

His knowledge as a librarian and his avid use of libraries for philatelic research placed Straight in a unique position to provide advice and consultation for the movement of the American Philatelic Research Library into the Match Factory in Bellefonte, Pa., and its planning for the future relocation within the new building.

Straight was the longtime editor of the Webster Groves Stamp Club newsletter *Bear Tracks*. He wrote columns for *Stamp Collector*, *American Philatelist*, *American Stamp Dealer & Collector* and *La Posta*.

From 2003 to 2011, he wrote an informative "Colophon" column for *Philatelic Literature Review* about forthcoming and in-progress publications and research.

His writings also appeared in *Scott Stamp Monthly*, *Brookman Times*, *Postal History Journal*, *Illinois Postal Historian*, *German Postal Specialist*, *Postal Stationery*, *Auxiliary Markings*, *Philatelic Communicator*, and *Linn's Stamp News*.

Straight's collecting and exhibiting interests focused on back-of-the-book areas such as postage due and pneumatic tube mail, as well as St. Louis postal history. More recently he researched postal regulations and post office forms. He presented an annual Boy Scout stamp collecting merit badge workshop.

He served organizational philately in many capacities, including secretary-treasurer and council member of the American Philatelic Congress, vice president and director-at-large of the American Philatelic Society, board chairman for Stamp Camp USA, board member of St. Louis Stamp Expo, and trustee of the APRL.

At the time of passing, he was vice president of



David Straight

the Postal History Society and a member of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists.

Straight was a co-founder and co-chairman of the Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, held alternately at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., and the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte. The annual event brings philatelists and academics together.

He was a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and earlier this year he was recognized by St. Louis Stamp Expo with the Elizabeth C. Pope award for lifetime contributions to philately.

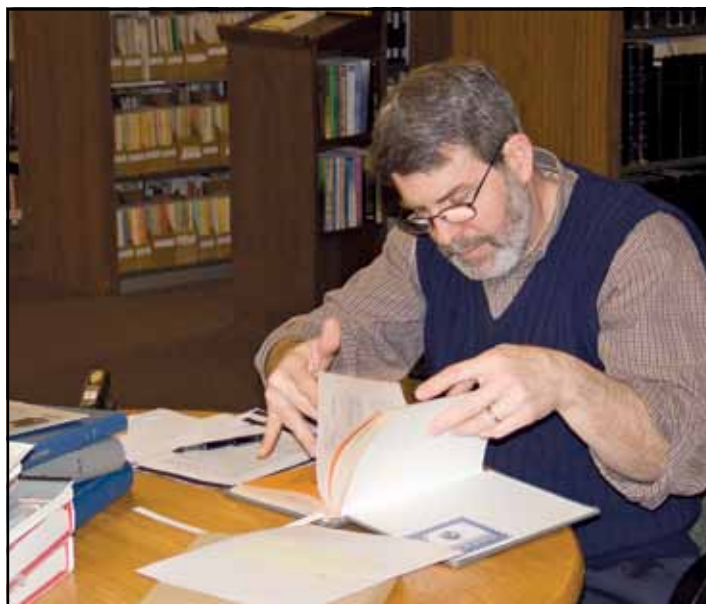
Straight joined Washington University's library system in St. Louis in 1978. From 1980 to 1993 he managed the library's audio-visual and micrographic collections, established the video collection, and computerized finding aids to the microform collection.

As librarian, since 1993, he developed efficient storage and retrieval facilities and procedures, established web-based finding aids for government documents, and led a project to digitize 19th century maps.

Straight was also active in his parish food pantry and worked with Habitat for Humanity.

Straight is survived by his wife Carol, his mother, a son and daughter, two sisters and two brothers.

Alan Warren



David Straight doing research in the APRL. (Courtesy APS)



### National Postal Museum Receives Rare Mail Item for Display in the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery

George Kramer, a well-known philatelist, has donated for display in the new William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, a piece of mail that was mailed to John Hancock from New York via the Constitutional Post, a mail system created by American revolutionary leaders to compete with the British Post Office.

The letter, illustrated above, was postmarked July 4, 1776, the date that the Second Continental Congress, meeting at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, approved the Declaration of Independence. No postage was charged because Hancock was president of the Congress.

The mail piece will be part of "Gems of American Philately," a dramatically lit space within the main gallery, where visitors can examine 13 of the rarest and highest value gems in the world of philately, including the most famous U.S. stamp, the 1918 Inverted Jenny.

"The museum is honored and excited to receive this rare philatelic item," Allen Kane, director of the museum, said. "Millions of onsite and online visitors will now have the opportunity to see this spectacular rare gem."



G. Kramer

### Warren Receives Peterson Award

*La Posta* Associate Editor Alan Warren is the recipient of the second annual Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Lifetime Achievement Award for furthering knowledge through philatelic literature.

Warren's passion for philatelic literature is well known and dates back to his collegiate days. His writings have appeared in more than 60 philatelic journals in the United States and abroad including feature articles, columns and news items. He is a past president of the APS Writers Unit #30.

### Hoak Wins Mueller Award

The fifth annual United States Stamp Society Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article published during 2011 in *The American Philatelist* has been awarded to Frank M. Hoak III for his December 2011 article, "U.S. Naval Ship Cancels of December 7, 1941."

Hoak is a retired U.S. Navy captain with more than 40 years experience in operational intelligence. He has published numerous articles about naval history and is a worldwide traveler with membership in the Traveler Century Club and more than 210 countries logged.

### Brittain Selected for 2012 CSA-NPM Scholarship

Harry G. Brittain, PhD, has received the 2012 Confederate Stamp Alliance and National Postal Museum Scholarship for his project "Infrared Spectroscopic Study of the 10-Cent Jefferson Davis Stamps Issued by the Confederacy During 1863-1864."

While the engraved stamps issued by the Confederate States of America during 1863-1864 have been widely studied, very little forensic analysis has been conducted on these stamps. Using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy coupled with Attenuated Total Reflectance sampling, recent studies have identified the components in the inks used in the two printings of the Confederate (CSA 13) 20-cent George Washington.

Brittain will conduct FTIR-ATR studies on the 10-cent Jefferson Davis stamps issued by the Confederacy (CSA 11-12) to determine the nature of the printing inks used in these issues, CSA 11 and CSA 12 blocks bearing the Archer & Daly imprint and the Keatinge & Ball imprint will be analyzed. Since these blocks represent the development of the inks used in the printings, their analysis will serve to create a timeline for the various types of inks used to print these issues. This information will then be used to assign approximately printing timelines for issues not containing an attached imprint.



### National Postal Museum Launches Digital Memory Book

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum recently announced the launch of its new digital memory book, *People and the Post* ([www.memorybook.si.edu](http://www.memorybook.si.edu)). This site will collect and publish stories from current and former employees of the U.S. Postal Service (and its predecessor, the Post Office Department).

The memory book offers 15 story categories for employees to choose from when leaving their stories, and it allows individuals to leave and supplement their memories with text, video, audio and photographs.

Mail and the post have been a fundamental part of the American experience from its earliest days. America's popular culture is filled with visual and written allusions to mail and the service. Post offices, letter carriers, mailboxes, stamps, letters and packages all are part of the national shared culture.

While most Americans easily recognize the uniformed letter carrier, few know much more about the majority of postal employees who process and manage their daily mail. The National Postal Museum encourages current and former postal workers to change this dynamic by sharing their work/life stories with the general public, and it invites the general public to take a moment to learn more about the men and women who move the nation's mail.

This initiative will help the museum chronicle the rich history of the post by capturing the institutional knowledge of the people behind it. These stories showcase the depth and breadth of the history of the U.S. postal system and its contributions to American history.

"The history of America's postal workers is that of the nation," Nancy Pope, historian and curator at the museum, said. "For instance, we feel the emotion of the moment when Phyllis Woods of Ohio shares her story of the night when workers went about their business in silence and shock following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"John Kelly of Colorado talks about the evolution in the workplace from mechanization 'where you were literally strapped to the machine' to automated machines that left postal workers 'running around picking up after it.' These are stories both common to other industries and also reflective of the giant organization that moves the nation's mail."

"We are excited to offer postal workers the opportunity to tell their insightful and amazing stories," added Allen Kane, the museum director.

### 1943 Postcard Finally Arrives

News directors usually have a good time with stories of mail that arrives after an exceptionally long period of time after being posted. Here's the latest such story. It's about a postcard that found its way to the correct address, although not the intended recipients, after 70 years.

The postcard was sent during World War II, postmarked on July 4, 1943, to Pauline and Theresa Leisenring of Elmira, N.Y. It was mailed by their parents, who were visiting their brother at Camp Grant in Illinois. The card reads:

*Dear Pauline and Theresa,*

*We arrived safe, had a good trip, but we were good and tired. Geo. looks good, we all went out to dinner today (Sunday). Now we are in the park. Geo has to go back to Grant at 12 o'clock tonight. Do not see much of him. We are going to make pancakes for Geo for supper tonight. See you soon.*

*Love Mother, Dad.*

The two Leisenring sisters died decades ago, but at their old house in Elmira live Hannah and Madie Podgorny, two young girls from a different family.

Hannah, a seventh grader, told her hometown *Star-Gazette* newspaper that she plans to use the postcard as part of an upcoming history project.

Laura Rundell, the girls' mother noted that, "It was delivered in mint condition. We were so shocked. It's a treasure that just showed up in the mailbox with our address on it."

The Rundells have found some cousins of the Leisenrings and have offered the postcard to them.

## News Reporting

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

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

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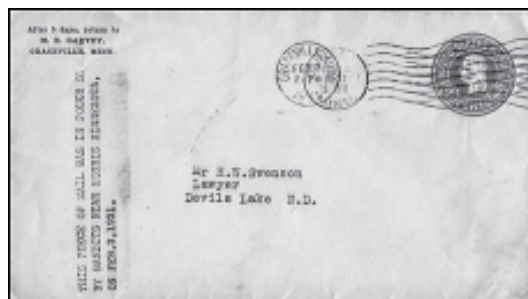
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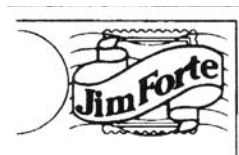
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*La Posta* backnumbers may be purchased from:  
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An index of all backnumbers through Volume 28 has been completed by Daniel Y. Meschter and is available on the *La Posta* website at [www.la-posta.com](http://www.la-posta.com).

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*Publisher Catherine Clark*

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