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Vol. 44, No. 1 Whole Number 253 First Quarter 2013

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LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Intoxicated Ground Zero

By Richard S. Hemmings

OUR 44TH YEAR OF PUBLISHING AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY 1969-2013

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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 15th 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
lapostagal@hotmail.com
or by phone in Australia
612-6645-4861

LA POSTA
THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 44, No. 1 **Whole No. 253** **First Quarter 2013**
Website: *www.la-posta.com*

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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

2nd Quarter 2013	April 10, 2013
3rd Quarter 2013	July. 10, 2013
4th Quarter 2013	Oct. 10, 2013

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On Starting Our 44th Year with a Bang

The 2012 year was a very successful one for *La Posta* and, for the first time, we are able to recognize some of the great work that authors have contributed.

Beginning last year, all articles published in *La Posta* became eligible for the Richard Helbock Prize, which honors the best article that appears in a given year. The award is named for the *La Posta* founding editor and includes cash and prizes.

Richard S. Hemmings, from Stewartstown, Pa., a first-time contributor to *La Posta,* captured the inaugural award. The announcement and a complete list of winners appear on page 57.

My thanks to all the authors who contributed articles and columns during 2012. I hope to see all of them competing for the 2013 Helbock Prize.

We begin the 44th year of publishing *La Posta* with a wide variety of articles touching on many different aspects of United States postal history.

The lead article is the second in a planned trilogy about the postal history of New York City's Twin Towers district, an area now known as "Ground Zero." Helbock Prize winning author Richard Hemmings takes a different approach with his "Intoxicated Ground Zero" article by focusing on the postal history of area businesses involved with the sale of beer, liquor, tobacco and narcotic drugs.

February is Black History Month and the dynamic duo of Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits provide us an appropriate article for the occasion with, "The Saga of the 1849 Death of Washington Goode."

A column about Prexie postal history is a new addition to our lineup and the first about this subject is an interesting item titled, "Canada Censor Searches for Secret Message" by Louis Fiset.

Trish Kaufmann adds a different part of Confederate postal history with her discussion of the First Battalion Florida Special Cavalry: 'Munnerlyn's Cow Cavalry.'

Other featured subjects range from auxiliary markings and postcards to meters and town postal history.

John Hotchner reviews how "Country Names Can Cause Delivery Problems;" Charles Fricke tries to answer "Where was this Three-Panel Broadside Mailed?;" David Crotty takes a look at how "The Postage Meter Tops Off Mail Preparation" and longtime contributor Paul Petosky examines "The History of the Wequetonsing, Mich., Post Office."

I think you'll agree that this strong lineup starts the year with a bang!

Auction Catalogs as Literature

I've long been a proponent that many modern auction catalogs should be considered literature and with the receipt of *The Alyeska Collection of Pony Express Mail* catalog by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries I had a prime example. The "book" review appears on page 58.

The *La Posta* Challenge

The *La Posta* Challenge, which we introduced in the Second Quarter 2012 issue, continues to be a popular column. The Fourth Quarter challenge for "The Most Unusual Illegal Postal Usages," brought the largest response to date. Take a look at all the submissions starting on page 51 and send your entries for the First Quarter challenge, which is on page 50.

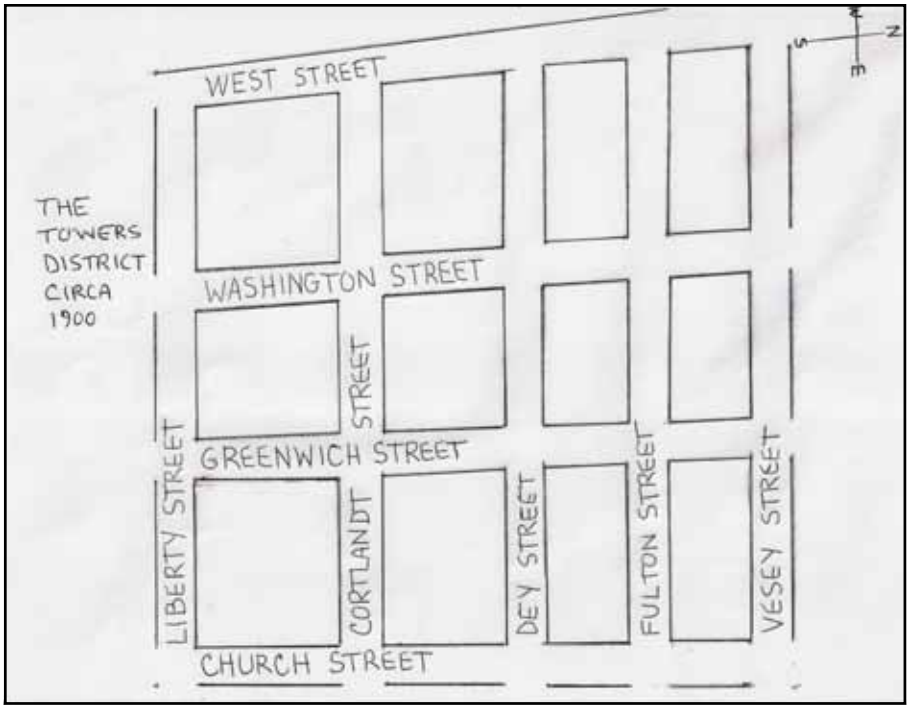
New Advertisers

One of our goals has been to include in *La Posta* all the major dealers and auction houses that offer U.S. postal history. This helps readers by having a one-stop shop for contact information; helps advertisers reach the largest group of collectors of postal history in North America; and helps us to insure that we can bring you the best in American postal history every quarter.

Our newest advertisers are Patricia Kaufmann, a Delaware dealer specializing in Confederate stamps and postal history who also is penning regular articles about the subject for *La Posta*; and Regency-Superior, an auction firm with offices in St. Louis and Los Angeles, that regularly has postal history in its offerings.

We welcome comments about any postal history subject and we'll feature them in the "Letters" section. See page 59 to see what fellow postal historians are saying.

Peter Martin



Map 1: A handdrawn map of the Towers District circa 1900.

Figure 1: This is a business card for the Jersey Hotel, which was named for its proximity to the ferries that took passengers to New Jersey.

Figure 2: A 1900 cover from Smith & McNeil's Hotel, showing the "European Plan" imprint, as well as three Towers District streets.

Figure 3: A 3-cent imperf 1851 issue tied to a Dey St. House cameo corner card cover. Dey St. House was located at 54-56 Dey Street.

Intoxicated Ground Zero

By Richard S. Hemmings

*(**Editor's Note:** This is the second of three postal history articles related to New York City's World Trade Center area. "New York City's Cortlandt Street: One Way to the River" appeared in the First Quarter 2012* La Posta *and won the 2012 Helbock Prize.)*

New York City's Towers District has always had a checkered relationship with the sale of beer, liquor, tobacco and narcotic drugs. Here, I will examine this story through postal history and ephemera.

Definitions

Towers District: The area in Lower Manhattan that housed the first World Trade Center, then became Ground Zero, and finally the new World Trade Center. Portions of this area were called Radio Row before the rise of the first World Trade Center.

Towers District Address: A given street number that would fall into the modern Towers District if the building were still standing. For example, 72 Cortlandt Street is a Towers District address because it stood near the corner of Washington and Cortlandt Streets. If you were standing outside of this building in 1890 and moved forward in time 100 years, you would be in the lobby of 2 World Trade Center.

Parameters

For the purpose of this article, the Towers District is the area in Lower Manhattan bounded by Liberty Street to the South, Church Street to the East, Barclay Street to the North and West Street (essentially the Hudson River. The exact area has changed due to landfill) to the West. Map 1 illustrates this area.

Abbreviations

MWSS: Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup
NWLDA: National Wholesale Liquor Dealers Association
TDA: Towers District Address
WTC: World Trade Center

Introduction

After my first New York City article, "Cortlandt Street: One Way to the River," was published, I received many requests for information. This is part two.

With the word intoxicated in my new title, many readers may be wondering in what direction this new chapter is heading. The answer is simple: They are both parts of a much larger whole.

The history of the area that I call the Towers District is connected to so many different thematics that it would be possible to pick at random and start a collection based on what you are focused upon.

So again, why "Intoxicated Ground Zero?" Two reasons: One, there is great interest from postal historians, advertising collectors and revenue enthusiasts; and two, I have the material available to make this happen. Sit back and enjoy the ride.

Part 1: Hotels and Taverns

Throughout recorded history, mankind has had a connection to substances that bring marked physical and mental changes through ingestion. The first recorded drug is food itself. Early festivals and celebrations were usually accompanied by eating to excess.

Alcohol, especially beer, was discovered early and quickly became important to early man. Evidence of beer is datable to at least 7,000 years ago, and was probably discovered long before that.

In New York, the first culture known was the native Lenni Lenapes. While it is often thought that Native Americans did not have alcohol, some new research shows certain tribes had fermented corn products similar to beer. It is possible the Lenni Lenapes had this.

The Dutch certainly had alcoholic drink. Early ocean-going cultures had to carry liquids with them. Being surrounded by water was only ironic, because it was unfit for consumption.

Ships that crossed the Atlantic had to carry their own water, and they also carried wine and beer. Some vessels are known to have carried more spirits than fresh water. Contemporaneous accounts of Peter Stuyvesant's New York reveal that fully one quarter of usable space was dedicated to the sale and storage of brandy and other alcoholic drinks.

The sailing culture of the Dutch, and later the British, made indelible marks upon early New York. Many of the earliest settlers brought their own styles of wine, ale or port to the New World.

This is how taverns and hotels became the backbone of New York City, and many other cities, as well. This was where money changed hands, where markets were discussed and where mail could be picked up for outgoing ships.

Lower Manhattan had many famous taverns. Fraunces Tavern is today generally regarded as one of the oldest still in service for its original use. Many other hotels rose and fell, and several stood in the Towers District.

Long before the Marriott World Trade Center Hotel, names such as the Dey Street House, Western Hotel and the Courtlandt Street Hotel (note the incorrect spelling) were well known to travelers that came to New York City (Figure 1).

Hotel, inn and tavern were words that were almost synonymous in early New York City. As the distances between towns shrank, specialized watering holes opened that might cater to drinking only, but in the early days, food, drink and lodging were almost always taken care of by one establishment.

As the days went by, this became less true (though today we often think of a good restaurant as being within the confines of a good hotel). In general, in 18th and 19th century New York City a hotel contained a

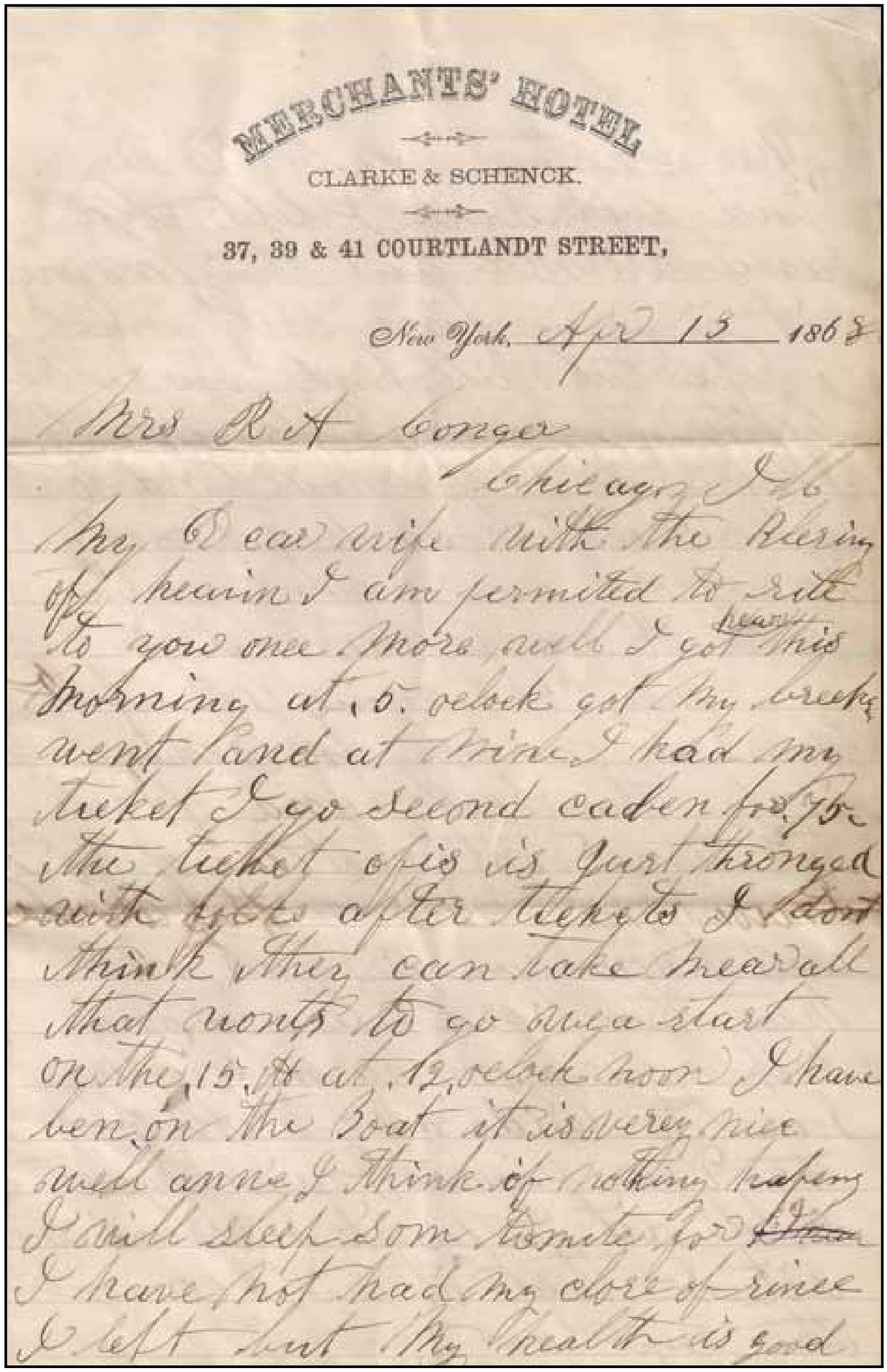

MERCHANTS' HOTEL
CLARKE & SCHENCK.
37, 39 & 41 COURTLANDT STREET,
New York, Apr 13 1868
Mrs R A Conger
Chicago Ill
My Dear wife with the Blesing
of heavin I am permited to rite
to you once more well I got heare this
morning at 5 oclock got my breakf
went and at nine I had my
ticket I go second caben for 75
the ticket ofis is Just thronged
with folks after tickets I dont
think they can take me all
that wonts to go we start
on the 15 th at 12 oclock noon I have
ben on the Boat it is verey nice
well anne I think of nothing hapeny
I will sleep som tomrite for
I have not had my clore of since
I left but my health is good

Figure 4: Stationery from the Merchant's Hotel of Courtlandt (sic) Street. Note that this was actually used by a traveler in Chicago.

Figure 5: The blind-embossed corner card on this entire reads Wines, Liquors & Segars. It is mailed to a hotel. A detail of the embossing is shown below.

tavern). There were a few exceptions. For a time, at 28 Cortlandt Street, stood Taylor's Temperance Hotel. But, by stating the lack of alcohol in the hotel's business name, the owners made their intentions plain and illustrated that it was an unusual setting. Even under the "European Plan" (which meant food was purchased separately), strong drink was almost always available (Figure 2).

In the 1854 *Wilson's Business Directory*, we find 10 hotels that were in what would later become the Towers District. Some of these early hotels held on into the next century, others were around for a shorter time (Figure 3). Many hotels gave stationery and other paper away, so those who traveled often might do a little informal advertising as they moved about (Figure 4).

Also, some of these establishments forwarded or held mail. A few of those used markings that are eagerly sought today for philatelic reasons.

But, most of all, these inns were places to meet. A little alcohol might lead to a rousing conversation, during which news would be shared. The hotel was an essential place to quench both thirst for drink and thirst for knowledge.

Part 2: The Civil War and the Great Warehouse District of the Industrial Age

In 1863, three things occurred that forever changed the face of the city. While the Civil War continued to rage, President Abraham Lincoln had finally received a victory with which he felt comfortable enough to announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

The "victory" was the bloody 1862 battle at Antietam (known as the Battle of Sharpsburg in the South). While it was a devastating battle, even for the Federals, it was good enough for Lincoln to release the Proclamation. This was a move that had previously (in 1862) been considered by many to be political suicide. Then, in July 1863, New York City suffered a series of vicious and murderous disturbances known now as the Draft Riots. Finally, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair created free city delivery, which was a progressive policy in its day. The combination of the creation of non-volunteer fire brigades (a direct result of the Draft Riots) and the new postal delivery laws made for increased usage of street addresses.

This would be a boon for historians, but it also helped the city become more business friendly. That, plus the arrival of many newly freed blacks who entered the work force, gave New York City a new vitality. Many businesses that previously had no presence or a very small office in New York City began to open great warehouses and stores there.

This had a notable influence on the Towers District. It was directly on the water, and many of the older buildings built after the 1835 Great Fire became a cheap haven for business. That business included a great deal of alcohol and tobacco. Take note of the blind-embossed cover with a corner card offering "wines, liquors and segars" (Figure 5). It is addressed

Figure 6: Billhead from Cox & Derry at 70 Cortlandt St. They chose tea and coffee, as well as wines, to be among their groceries.

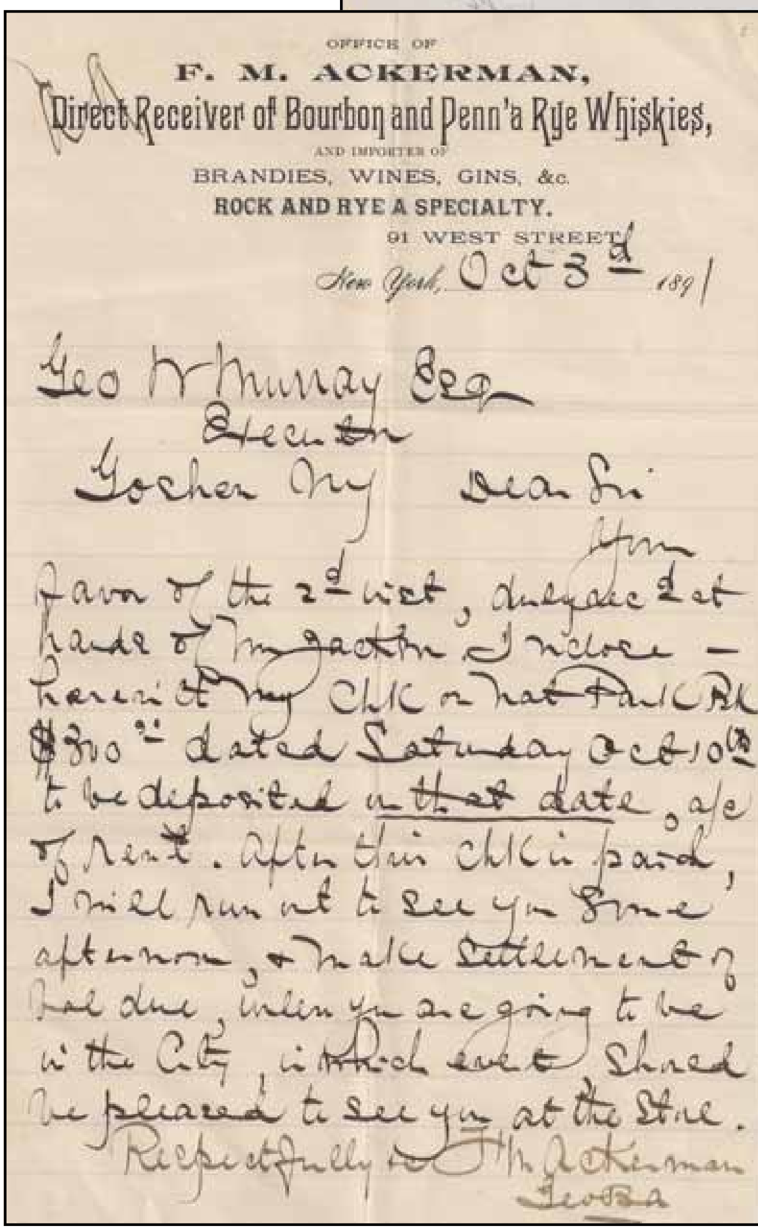


Figure 7: Stationery used in 1891 from F.M. Ackerman, liquor importer at 91 West Street.

to someone in an out-of-town hotel who may have very well been purchasing these items for its own customers. Some companies chose intoxicants as their sole profession. Others hedged their bets and also sold coffee and tea (Figure 6). This particular billhead is made out to the Steamer *Empire State*, an interesting vessel that had three accidents and now sits in 20 feet of water off Bristol, R.I.

But many did, in fact, specialize in alcohol (Figure 7). The heading on this letter, from a F. M. Ackerman reads "Direct Receiver of Bourbon and Penn'a Rye Whiskies, and importer of Brandies, Wines, Gins &c." They were located at 91 West Street in Manhattan. Not really a TDA, this location was within two blocks, just south of Liberty Street.

What stands there today is 90 West Street, sometimes called the West Street Building. Completed in 1907 (just prior to the Hudson Terminals' 1908 opening), this edifice was designed by the famed Cass Gilbert, and brought to reality by structural engineer Gunvald Aus. This pair of luminaries later worked on the famed Woolworth Building. 90 West still stands. It was damaged in the 9/11 attack, so it is relevant to the story. Later, brought back to life lovingly, it became an apartment building.

By the way, you would think 90 and 91 West Street would be on opposite sides of the avenue. But, for about 100 years, this property was across the street from the river. Now, landfill has changed all that, but on streets that only had one frontage, New York City policy appears to have been to allow exceptions for larger buildings.

The way the block system works, large and prestigious buildings almost always get easily

Figure 8: Image from a glass plate negative, circa 1910. Note the Omega Oil sign and the Glen Island Hotel.

remembered numbers. Apparently, the aforementioned old-time whiskey dealer was located on the same plot in 1891 that portions of 90 West occupy today.

During the early 20th Century, facing in from the river and in front of the Towers District itself, the Figure 8 photograph, taken from a glass plate negative, shows many interesting features, including two that relate directly to alcohol and intoxicants.

The Glen Island Hotel at 88-90-92 Cortlandt Street (visible in the center) sold alcohol, and the adjoining building on West Street has a billboard with a sizable Omega Oil advertisement. Omega Oil (Stops Pain) originally had more powerful elements, but at this time (about 1910), it was most likely less potent.

Also from 1910, the advertisement on the reverse of the Figure 9 cover, which was canceled at the Hudson Terminal Post Office and mailed by the North American Distilling Company located at 114 Liberty Street, shows text for a whiskey advertised as Carroll County Club. It has no reference as to which Carroll County they were referring to (and there are a few). I would say Kentucky is the lead contender. Later, that became precisely the point.

Several legal cases involved this ill-fated company, including one that stated the owners were too closed-mouthed about where they actually distilled their whiskey. The company went into receivership within a few years.

Big or small, professional or fly-by-night, alcohol, as well as tobacco and drug manufacturing, made serious inroads on this important part of New York City during the post-Civil War period.

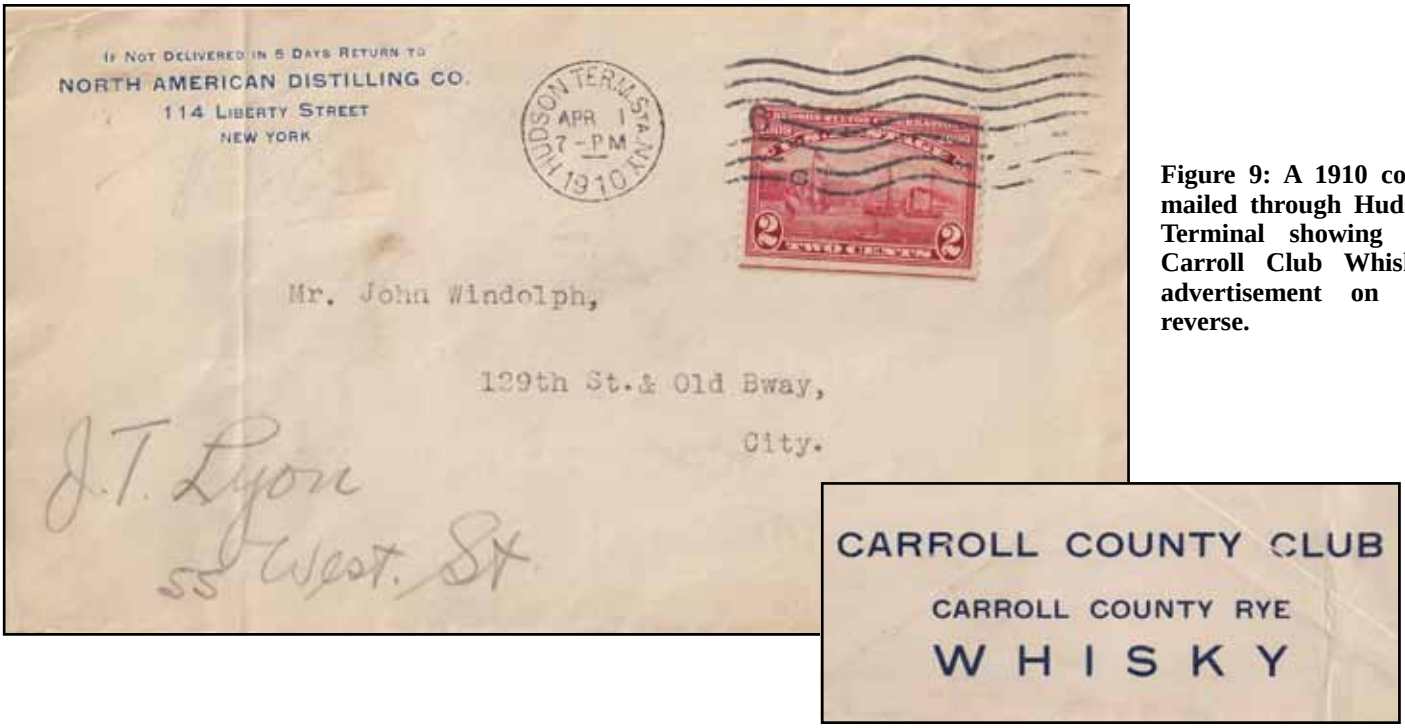


Figure 9: A 1910 cover mailed through Hudson Terminal showing the Carroll Club Whiskey advertisement on the reverse.

Part 3: The Peculiar Case of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup

Before we go much further into the 20th century, let's take a closer look at a company that sold no liquor, but whose many users were feeling no pain, figuratively and literally. When the Civil War brought the dreaded stamp tax back to the United States, the blow was softened by the U.S. government's providing for proprietary companies to have stamps printed for them that had their own company name and logo on them, which became a form of advertising.

These private die proprietary stamps were used by many firms, both huge and tiny. In the arena of medicine, which was as much quackery as cure in the latter half of the 19th century, nearly one third of the companies that availed themselves of these stamps were located in New York City.

This leaves an interesting and unique record of business in the great metropolis. But, only 15 of those companies fall into the area that I call the Towers District. There are some borderline cases, but that is a story for another day.

While many of the patent medicines of this time period were loaded with alcohol or opium products, only one of those 15 had enough in it to be considered for this work. But, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup was no mere exception.

In 1916, the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station conducted chemical studies on common drugs and cures. It might seem a peculiar venue, but they were responsible for the Food and Drug Codes for North Dakota.

They left records of one of the few chemical studies of the drug done *after* the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the Harrison Narcotic Act of 1914 (which set limits on narcotic dosages in commercially available compounds). They stated the oft-quoted factoid that MWSS had a small amount of morphine.

This is, in itself, very deceiving because the drug had already been altered. From roughly 1835 to early 1906 MWSS was a highly potent compound. While the exact dosage is unknown (it wasn't on the product label), it has been said that pre-1906 MWSS contained 65mg of morphine per ounce (which is six teaspoons).

So the suggested dose of a half a teaspoon would contain nearly 6mg of morphine. This dosage was suggested for teething babies, for whom there is *no* legitimate dosage of morphine in current medical literature. In rare cases of cancer 60mg is today considered the top dose (per day) for a child (not an infant).

It is no wonder this popular medicine was called the "baby-killer." One finds modern depictions of MWSS where the amount of morphine is referred to as small. I strongly feel that calling the amount of drug in the pre-1906 product small would border on ridiculous.

It certainly wasn't used only by mothers with cranky babies. Many Civil War amputees found MWSS on their pharmacist's shelves and soon discovered it took the edge off their craving for morphine, which they were weaned off of when it was deemed too extravagant to give them so much dope.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup was the foremost product of the Jeremiah Curtis & Son Company (later the Anglo-American Drug Company). They were located at 215 Fulton Street, a clear-cut Towers District address. If you were standing in front of 215 Fulton in 1890, then moved forward in time to 1990 you would

be in Five World Trade Center, which had U.S. Airways and Charles Schwab, among others, as tenants.

Little is known of the building at 215 Fulton Street in the Towers District. It appears to have been Curtis's manufacture point, warehouse and offices for virtually their entire existence (they were briefly located at 48 Dey Street, another TDA). Its location near the North or Hudson River made it easy to receive imported materials, such as raw opium. How many floors they used in this structure is unknown, but it is known other businesses were in this building simultaneously with Curtis.

When the name of the business was changed to Anglo-American Drug Company (it was done by Jeremiah Curtis' son George Curtis in 1880 to signify their relations with the important British market), they continued to do business in this structure for quite a while.

They were not the only drug company on this block. Study reveals that several other drug companies (Figure 10) were also in this area of Fulton Street. The tantalizing idea of a "patent medicine neighborhood" within the Towers District requires continuing research.

Jeremiah Curtis' stamps include those designated as Scott RS1 and Scott RS66-RS68. This is a bit deceptive because the very first medicine stamp listed in the Scott Catalogue, numbered RS1, is actually the last of these stamps to be issued.

Scott orders its private die medicine stamps alphabetically, and so its numbers in this area have no correlation with dates of issue. After Jeremiah Curtis & Son went through the design process for this the stamp and looked into the possibility of different colors (Figure 11), they used their first stamp in 1863 (though the product had been around since the time when morphine salts were isolated in the 1830s).

Seven basic varieties of MWSS stamps were used. In Scott order, by issue, they are: RS66a (one cent on old paper), RS68a (two cents on old paper), RS68b (two cents on silk paper), RS68c (two cents on pink paper), RS68d (two

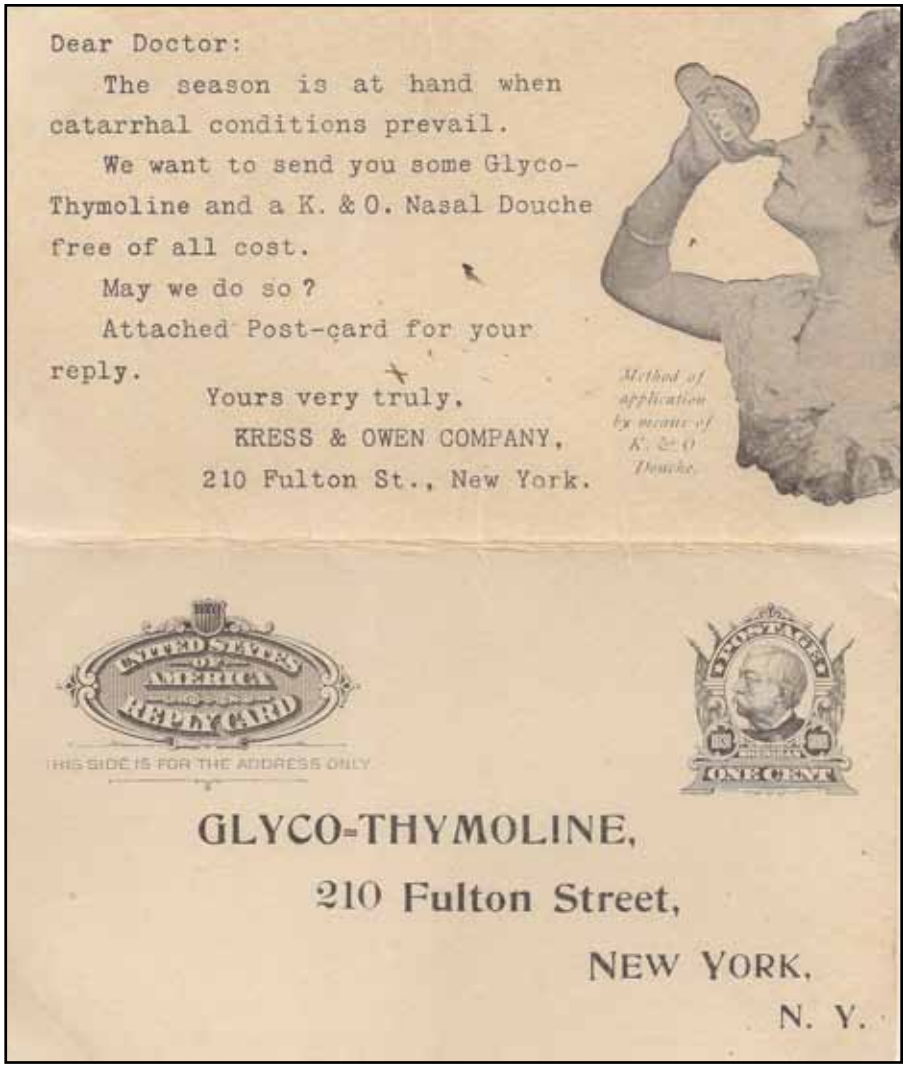
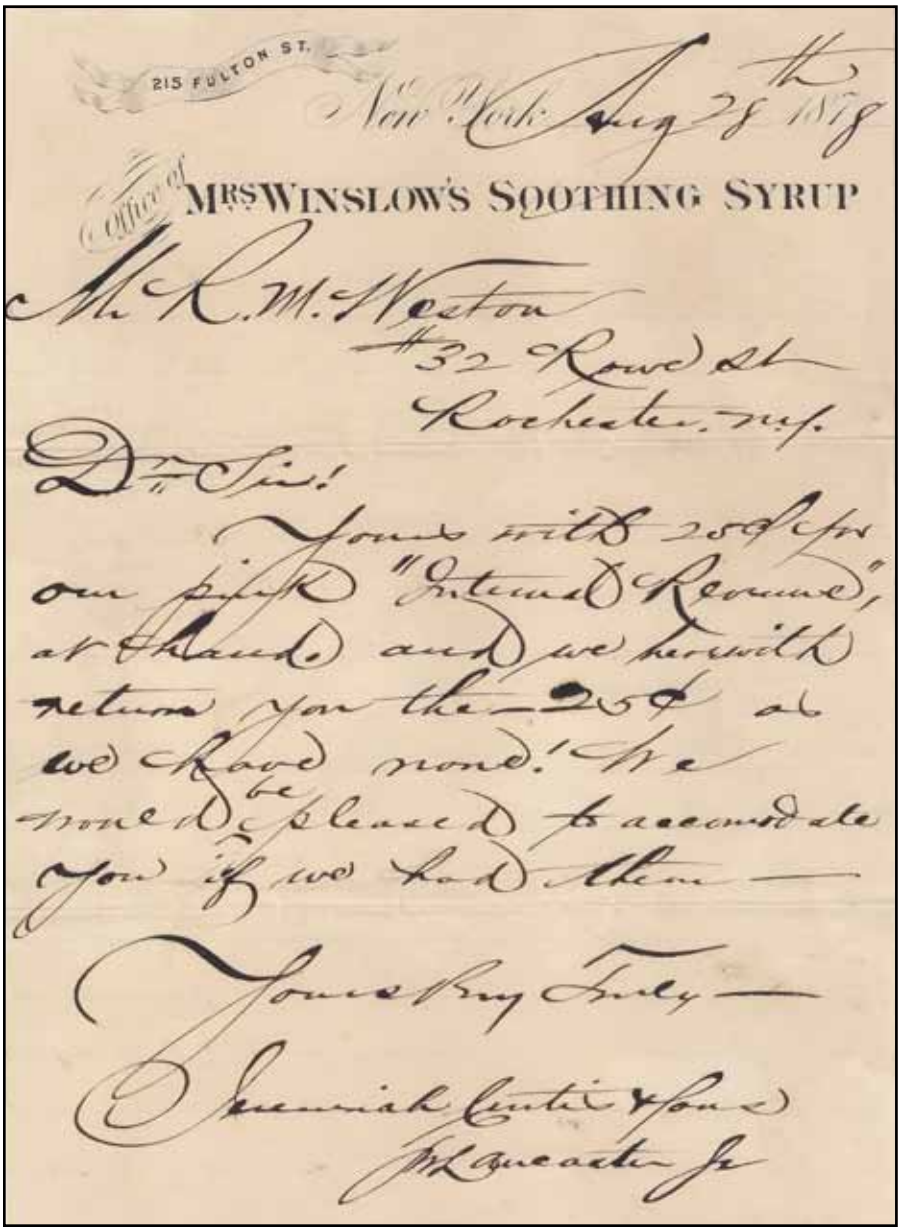


Figure 10: A 1905 1-cent + 1-cent message-reply card (Scott UY4) showing a bizarre advertisement for Glyco-Thymoline (still around today).

Figure 11 (Left): The model for the Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup stamps, as well as a trial color proof in blue.

Figure 12: The complete set of all seven basic Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup stamps.


215 FULTON ST.

New York Aug 28 1878

Office of MRS WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

Mr R.M. Weston
#32 Rowe St
Rochester. N.Y.

Dr Sir!

Yours with 25¢ for one pink "Internal Remedy" at hand and we herewith return you the 25¢ as we have none. We would be pleased to accommodate you if we had them —

Yours Very Truly

Jeremiah Curtis & Sons
per Lancaster Jr

cents on watermarked paper), RS67d (one cent, large "1" on watermarked paper) and RS1d (one cent, Anglo-American Drug Company on watermarked paper).

Jeremiah Curtis had other holdings, some of which resulted in more stamps, but none of his other products had the kick of MWSS (Figure 12). According to my studies Scott RS66a is the first private die proprietary stamp used by a firm in the Towers District.

The stamps depicted a young child clutching a doll. They were said by James Harvey Young to be the only private die proprietary stamps manufactured with a child depicted in the design.

I was a bit surprised by this, but perhaps I was confusing the childlike with the cherubic. The Wells, Richardson and Company issue comes to mind here, which is no surprise as they also made products for children.

The pink and watermarked 2-cent stamps are the hardest to find (though none are truly common). That was recognized even during the stamps' usage as the 1878 letter from Jeremiah Curtis & Sons (Figure 13) to an early collector (R.M. Weston) proves. The letter states that the 25 cents sent to them for a "pink" is being returned as "we have none." That would have been 25 cents well spent!

Figure 13: Stationery from Jeremiah Curtis, with Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup advertising.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup was legal for quite a while. The Figure 14 trade cards both have calendars on the reverse: 1886 and 1888. Notice how young the infants were! Both cards say it is safe for children teething.

One contemporaneous lady stated that in regards to her children: "Just wan teaspoonful of Winslow's an' they lay like dead till mornin'." (quoted in *The Great American Fraud-Articles on the Nostrum Evil and Quacks* by Samuel Hopkins Adams). Indeed!

Still, this was a medicine that did work, at least on the surface. Though very dangerous, morphine certainly stopped teething pain (and anything else the hapless baby was feeling). Young lists this as one of his prime examples of quackery, but it was not a nostrum in the most classic sense of the word, because at least it was effective for something. Young calls this empiric fraud.

MWSS did not have private die proprietary stamps during the Spanish-American War period, but they used precancels on the government issued Battleship Proprietary stamps. The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 essentially ended the era of "Soothing Syrup" style morphine medicines, though MWSS was available unaltered in England until 1930.

Was there a real-life Mrs. Winslow? Advertisements stated that she was Mrs. Charlotte N. Winslow, who was Jeremiah Curtis' mother-in-law. This is repeated over and over on the Web, but Young states she was a figure so shadowy as to approach the mythical. I am going to go a step further and say I don't think she ever existed at all. She was purported to be both a nurse and physician, which seems unlikely.

In addition, women were virtually never nurses in this period (about 1835). Florence Nightingale and the Civil War changed that, but in the early half of the 19th century nursing was a male profession.

Real nurse or quack come-on, Mrs. Winslow gave the Towers District an amazing claim to pharmaceutical fame (Figure 15).

Figure 14: Two trade cards for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. Such cards usually have a calendar on reverse (these are 1886 and 1888).

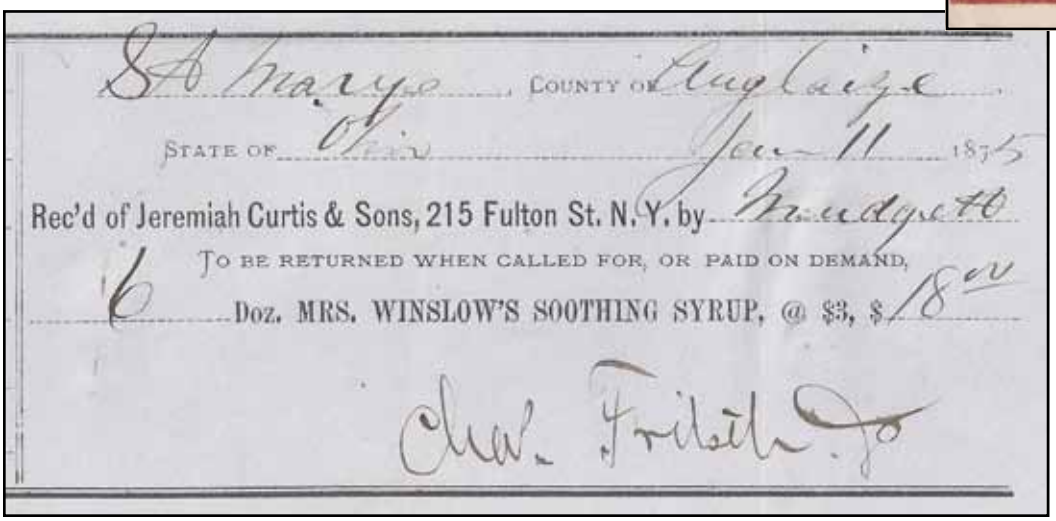


Figure 15: A Jeremiah Curtis receipt, also with a Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup advertising.

Part 4: In 112 Words:
Prohibition Hits New York City

On Jan. 17, 1920, the 112 words of the 18th Amendment became the law of the land. Many celebrated the creation of a social experiment that was intended to rid the United States of many injustices. It is easy, from our vantage point in the future, to see how this effort was doomed to utterly backfire. But, many at the time thought the law would outlast the very mountains and force "sinners" away from the path to which they had strayed.

In Michael Lerner's landmark work, *Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City,* evidence is given that the battle over Prohibition was not only concerned with our nation's largest city, but that it revolved around it. William H. Anderson, the state superintendent of the Maryland chapter of the Anti-Saloon League, arrived in New York City on Jan. 1, 1914. He was a ceaseless temperance lobbyist and the bane of Baltimore liquor retailers and bartenders.

The Anti-Saloon League and its allies had a great year in 1913 with the congressional override of Taft's veto of the Webb-Kenyon Act and the implementation of the 16th Amendment, which allowed the National Income Tax. In 1914, Anderson had one goal: take his campaign to the very heart of the wet universe by making New York City a chess piece in the alcohol debate.

Temperance was not a new thing: colonial Philadelphia physician Benjamin Rush had considered whiskey so dangerous that he wrote passionately to have drunkards cut down on their alcohol consumption by substituting wine laced with opium (Jeremiah Curtis would have loved it). But the crusaders of the early 19th century would hardly recognize themselves in men like Anderson. For six years, beginning in 1914, he worked tirelessly to further the laws that would eliminate the choice involved in drinking. Perhaps no other person contributed as much as this man to bring about the reform laws.

He had help. Many unusual factors combined to make the "Great Experiment" possible. World War I was a major boost for the dry lobby. With grain and food tight and needed overseas, many thought it patriotic to eliminate beer from their diet. This led to the passage of the Volstead Act, which strangely enough, actually took effect after the cessation of hostilities in the Great War.

The liquor and beer industries did not sit idly by. They activated organizations like the National Wholesale Liquor Dealers Association, United States Brewers Association and the National Liquor League.

Actually the NWLDA had been founded in 1901, but it went into full swing as a lobbying force as Prohibition approached. These activist organizations were portrayed as intemperate leeches by the Dry lobby, eager to use their massive power in order to destroy lives. In actuality, they were very disorganized, and the Brewers Association was in battle against the various distillers associations in addition to the drys.

Their strengths were sapped by odd and distracting plans like the NWLDA's idea to join forces with the Anti-Profanity League of America. Ultimately, nothing they did mattered. They failed utterly.

These groups had a direct New York, and especially Lower Manhattan, connection. They were aware of Anderson and the threat he posed to their livelihood. They intended to meet him on the field of battle: namely, the voting booths of New York City.

Some of these organizations collected dues or self-imposed taxes to raise money. The NWLDA issued stamps to collect a tax on all transactions made by members. These stamps, first issued in 1913, had a month and year printed on them. At first, they depicted the Capitol Dome (Figure 16), attempting to visualize the lawmaking process.

In March 1914, a critical turning point for the wet lobby, the labels were altered to show the Statue of Liberty (Figure 17). This was due to Anderson's arrival in New York City, and the beginning of his plan of intimidation. In the stamp we can see a bit of Lower Manhattan, including the Towers District. The Statue of Liberty was used by the wets as well.

The NWLDA was quick to point out that "wet" New York City had more people than over a "half million miles of dry territory." Strangely, the NWLDA stamps are usually not found used in New York City (Figure 18). The metropolis was too densely packed with business (and real property too expensive) to afford wholesale warehouses for liquid.

If the NWLDA stamp is seen on a New York City billhead, it is almost invariably for corks or bottles. Still, the intended point of impact of the NWLDA's battle was New York City, and Lower Manhattan was very much at the center of the storm, as it had been since the Temperance Society had made their headquarters there (Figure 19) in the 19th century.

The Towers District itself did have one kind of merchant aplenty: Tea wholesalers and retailers made up a little over a block on Vesey Street. And this specialized tea section of the Towers District was made very excited by the impending dry laws at first and then the later realized Prohibition (Figure 20).

It was thought that tea and soft drink wholesalers would get rich with the changing times. These tea sellers were depicted as jumping for joy (in the *New York Times*) just prior to the enforcement of the Blue Laws (Figure 21).

Another opponent to national prohibition was William Howard Taft (he felt it was a form of federal meddling into state affairs). In the period between his

Figure 16: NWLDA stamps depicting the capitol dome. These were the last two issued before the Statue of Liberty was used.

Figure 17: NWLDA stamp depicting the Statue of Liberty and a pro-wet Statue of Liberty label.

C254 SALESMAN

Feb 21/17 2 Graham

PAY NONE BUT OUR AUTHORIZED COLLECTOR HAVING WRITTEN AUTHORITY

CABLE ADDRESS "RESSARTS"

Entered

TRADE MARK

Steinhardt Bros. & Co.,

Importers, Distillers & Wholesale Liquor Dealers,

NINTH AVE. & THIRTEENTH ST.

New York. FEB 23 1917

TELEPHONE CHELSEA ONE

M

Dr C E Brayton & Co
C F Willard Prop
Main St
Stonington Conn

TERMS:
60 days Net Cash
or
Less 2% for Cash
if paid in 10 days

NO CLAIMS ALLOWED UNLESS MADE WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF GOODS.

PAYABLE IN NEW YORK EXCHANGE

QUANTITY	SHIPPED VIA New England Navigation Co Pier 40 N R	GALLONS	PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
1/4	Doz Qts Hill Brook Why		7 00	1 75	
1/4	Doz Runwell Jockey Club Why Qts		8 00	2 00	
1	Doz Pints Old Methusalem Why			4 56	
1	Doz ½ Pts Old Methusalem Why		20 00	2 40	
1/4	Doz Gwynnbrook Rye O B 5s		9 00	2 25	
1/4	Doz Old Methusalem Quarts		10 00	2 50	
					13 46

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL PROTECTIVE BUREAU 10 FEBRUARY 17

RECEIVED PAYMENT
APR 26 1917
STEINHARDT BROS. & CO.

WE GUARANTEE THAT ALL PRODUCTS BEARING OUR NAME, COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD & DRUG ACTS, JUNE 30, 1906.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL AND STATE WHOLESALE LIQUOR DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Figure 18: An NWLDA stamp on an unusual document used in New York City. Note that the inscription was changed in 1917 to National Protective Bureau.

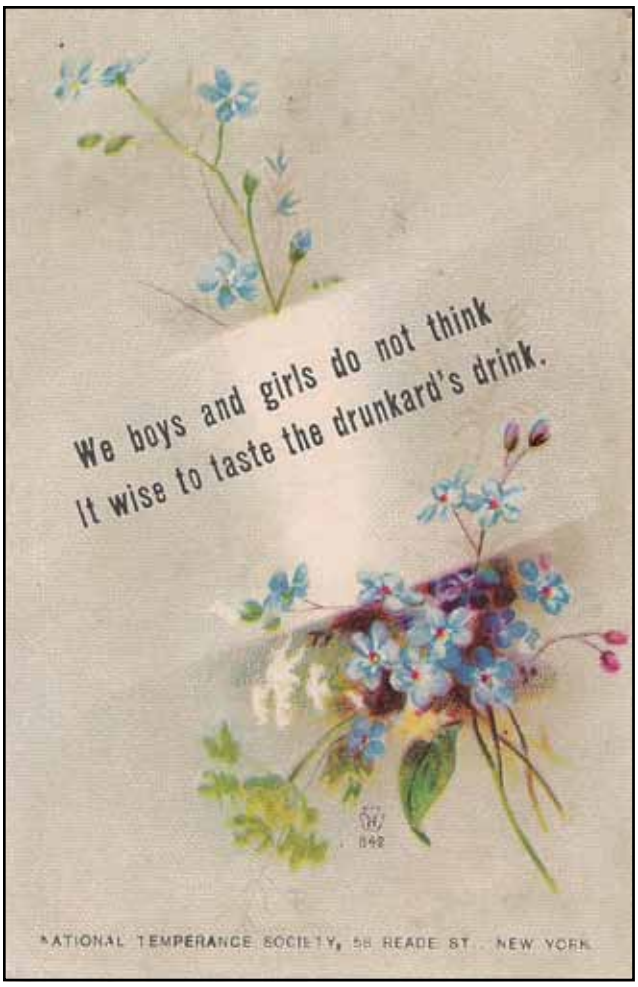


Figure 19: Trade card given out by the National Temperance Society that was headquartered in New York City.

term as president of the United States and his tenure as chief justice, Taft was the national president (1906-1913) or chairman (1915-1919) of the Red Cross.

In this period, the Red Cross had begun its popular Christmas Seal program. These seals usually depicted a winter theme or Santa Claus. But, in 1918, the annual issue depicted a version of the Statue of Liberty (Figure 22). Taft's administrative people wanted the seal to represent their commitment to the war effort, but not to restricting individual liberty (which had, in time, become confused with the war effort). Taft, eventually turned dry himself, but for the last Christmas Seal he approved, the Red Cross echoed the NWLDA's usage of Lady Liberty as a symbol of all liberties.

Figure 20: Tea specialists like A&P, located in the Towers District had little to fear from prohibition.

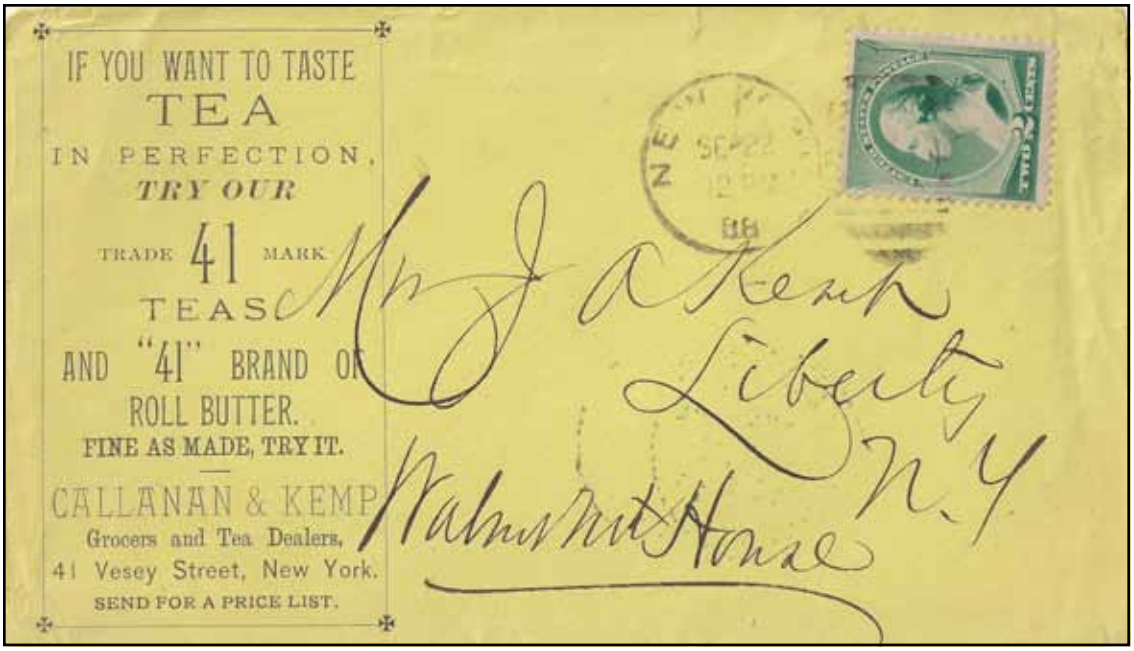


Figure 21: Callanan & Kemp, another tea dealer on Vesey Street, used their address (41) as their brand.

Figure 22: The 1918 Christmas Seal had its own connection to the national debate about Prohibition.

As Prohibition progressed, the Towers District continued to be one of the busiest areas in New York City. Was booze available there? No doubt. Contemporary attempts to list speakeasies can be found, and while the accuracy is somewhat questionable, several sources state that there were "over 2,000 speakeasies in the Wall Street area." These establishments left little paper behind, certainly no advertising covers, but there remains some evidence. Cards were given to known individuals that guaranteed access to "private clubs."

The simplest way to check for alcohol activity in a given area is to look for restaurant openings. This is especially helpful in ethnic areas, and the Towers District had its own ethnic neighborhoods.

One of William Anderson's reasons to come to New York was that it was "a foreign city" composed of ethnic enclaves. Immigrants arrived in New York City and brought their customary drinking to the new world. It was felt by many, if these immigrants could be dissuaded from drinking, then the rest of the city and the country would follow suit.

The Towers District and its adjoining ethnic neighborhoods included Croatians and Syrians. Croatians favor alcohol made from fermented fruit, while Syrians (as long as they are Christian; Muslims frown on drinking) traditionally consume an anise-flavored liqueur. While the 2,000 speakeasies were noted in contemporaneous literature, it is difficult to say how many were ethnic or how many had TDAs. Still, some evidence of drinking exists (Figure 23).

Two New Yorkers who made no secret of their feelings towards Prohibition were Al Smith and Fiorello LaGuardia (Figure 24); both opposed it, though in different ways. Al Smith was the first Catholic person to run for president. Nominated by the Democratic Convention in 1928, he lost, quite possibly due to his religious beliefs. But he stayed with the wets until the repeal of Prohibition was a reality. Later, he was a critic of Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Fiorello LaGuardia, on the other hand, was the Republican mayor of New York City who appealed to Democrats and kept the peace with Roosevelt during his tenure. But he had also always hated Prohibition, and, in 1926, mixed malt extract with near beer in front of 20 newsmen, demonstrating that alcoholic beer could be easily created. He then downed a glass full of the homebrew. LaGuardia felt strongly that Prohibition gave rise to thugs and mobsters. He was proven correct.

New Yorkers like these, and groups like the Association Opposed to National Prohibition, who were hotel lobbyists and businessmen, slowly gained ground and New York City would celebrate repeal after the 1932 election (Figure 25).

The stock market crash of 1929 was another thing that hastened the fall of Prohibition. In addition, the lawlessness and hypocrisy of the 1920s gave way to a housekeeping atmosphere virtually everywhere, and especially in New York City.

By 1933, it was simply a matter of waiting, and on Dec. 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment was ratified. It remains the only time a Constitutional Amendment has been passed with the sole purpose of overturning a previous Amendment. The change was immediate and far-reaching (Figure 26). In a short time the many foes of Prohibition would be battling far greater enemies, leaving this time in the rear view mirror (Figure 27).

Figure 23: Postcards depicting local clubs or restaurants that may have had liquor during prohibition.

Figure 24: Smith and LaGuardia as shown on U.S. stamps. Al Smith was depicted without his iconic and ever-present derby.

Figure 25: 1-cent Postal Card (Scott UX27), with an advertising cachet for repeal ratification. It happened so fast in 1932 -33 that some of the states are wrong. South Carolina, for instance, voted *not* to repeal.

The Outlook for March 4, 1925 341

The Amended Brief Case—Christmas versus The People: contains papers of the case, and 3 strong arguments.

Cigarette Case Flask—As the illustration shows, to all appearances this is a cigarette case—but after it is passed and fails to open for a cigarette case, you remove the corner as shown by unscrewing, and behold— Useful and contains—well, many a laugh.

Traveling Cocktail Set—A handy companion—for a journey. As sure of a welcome as you are. Contains 3 quart bottles, cocktail shaker, cracked ice container, and six cocktail glasses.

Pictures and descriptions from the catalogue of a New York store of unquestionable standing

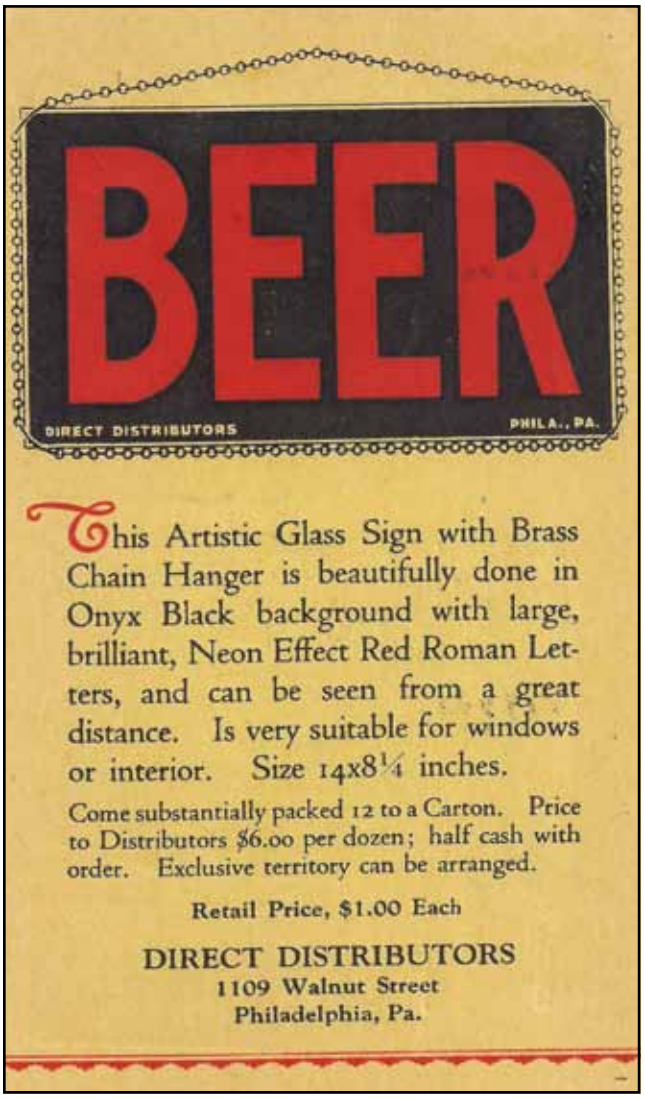


Figure 26: An excerpt from the March 4, 1923, *The Outlook* (Top) that shows a marked contrast with the Beer Signmakers advertisement of April 24, 1933.

Part 5: Later Years—Radio Row, The World Trade Center and Beyond

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup and the vagaries of Prohibition behind us, the Towers District still holds many fascinating connections to the sale and warehousing of alcohol and potent drugs in the 20th century.

As radio became a nearly national pastime, portions of Cortlandt, Greenwich and Washington Streets became known as Radio Row. This area of local small businessmen specialized in radio tubes, parts and other electronic marvels. Most of these businesses had provable TDAs. As their business grew in the 1920s and 1930s, other business, such as chocolate shops and luncheonettes, flocked to this busy area.

It didn't hurt that Hudson Terminal and several other ferry terminals were nearby. Right in the center of Radio Row was their very own establishment for alcohol: the Nussbaum Liquor Store (Figure 28).

Note that the address was worked into the Old Sixty-One Brand, and that the profile on the label appears to be Lincoln (who had his own connection to the number 61). Other liquor establishments were also available. The Cortlandt Liquor Shop was on the concourse of busy Hudson Terminal (Figure 29), so rushed commuters could pick up a bottle on the way home.

Some commuters preferred to drink before they went home. The "cheesecake" matchbook cover from Central Tavern (Figure 30) depicts a war-themed pin-up girl. This establishment was directly across the street from the Liberty Street ferry terminal.

New York City has a long history of its more sleazy bars being located by rail, boat and bus stations. It is entirely possible that this tavern had dancing girls.

Many of the railroads had offices or headquarters in the Towers District. The Figure 31 Special Tax stamps

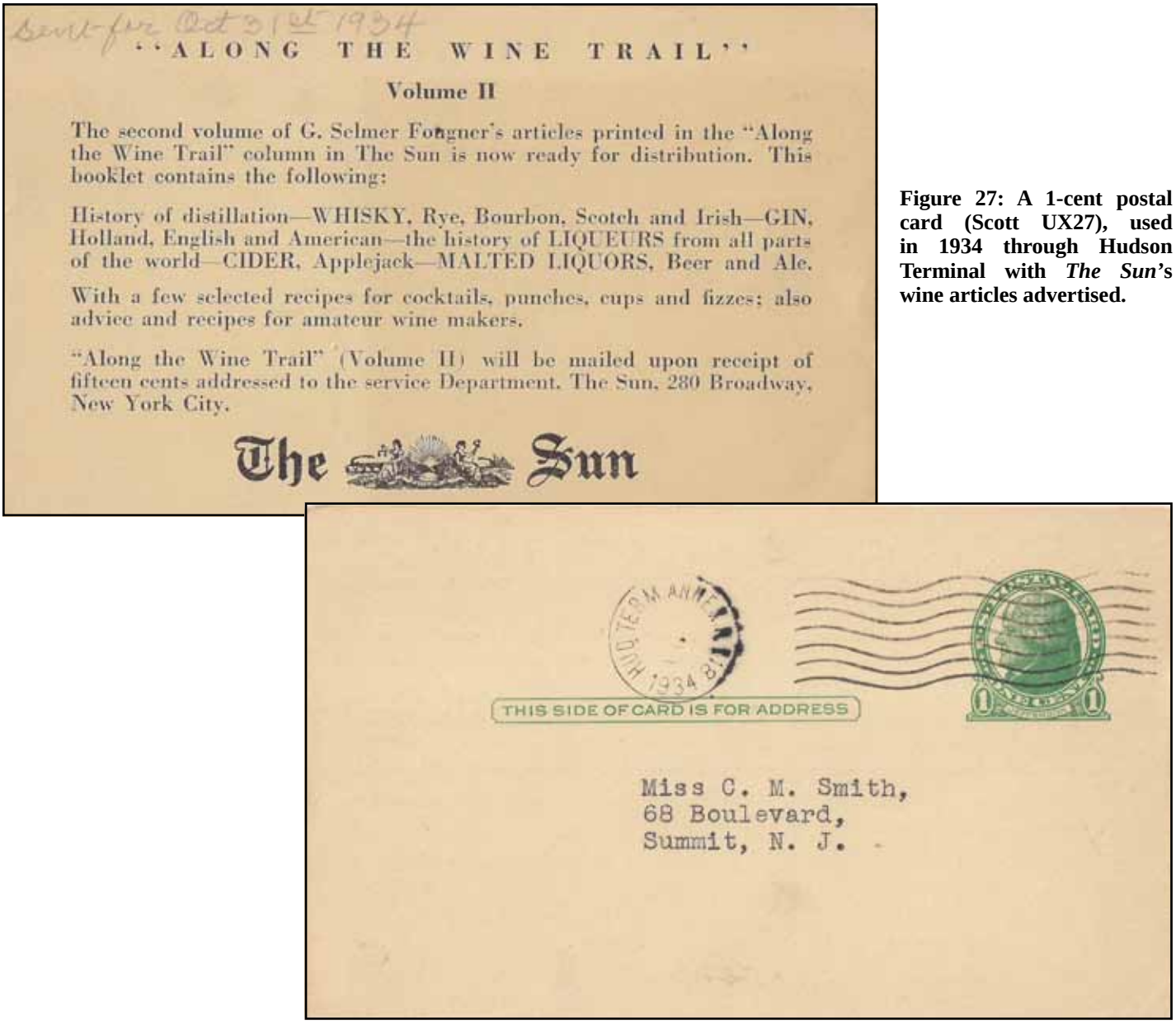


Figure 27: A 1-cent postal card (Scott UX27), used in 1934 through Hudson Terminal with *The Sun*'s wine articles advertised.

for "At Large" liquor usage were issued with a TDA on them, though they were probably kept in the dining car of the Lehigh Valley Railroad line mentioned on the document.

This is a situation frequently encountered on city issued licenses, as well. The old Second Precinct Police Station, closed for a time, was reopened mostly for use as a licensing center.

The Figure 32 Cabaret Employees ID card, issued in 1950, would have been good anywhere in the city's clubs and bars. But it was issued at 156 Greenwich Street, deep in the center of the Towers District.

When the World Trade Center was built, cigarettes and liquor were sold in several area locations. The classiest were, of course, the restaurants at the top of towers, including the Greatest Bar on Earth and Windows on the World, both located at the top of Tower One (the North Tower). Tower Two (South) had a more "natural" high: the Top of the World observatories (Figure 33).

From King Kong to car sales, the iconic towers were probably in more advertisements than any other buildings in the world (except perhaps the Great Pyramid).

The last item is an advertising postcard (Figure 34) for a popular rum. In the illustration, the Towers seem to be dancing. Or, perhaps, they are buckling.

Now, as in all New York City museums, smoking and drinking are prohibited in the 9/11 Memorial. But, I can remember the crowds of cigarette smokers in the plaza at the original World Trade Center. Those days are gone for good.

I hope you have enjoyed this glimpse into New York City history.

Figure 28: Nussbaum Liquor Store labels circa 1940s-50s. Note the "61" and the image of Lincoln.

Figure 29: A Cortlandt Liquor Shop matchbook. The firm was located in the Hudson Terminal complex.

Figure 30 (Right): Two views of the Central Tavern matchbook. 101 West Street was directly across from the ferry terminal.

Figure 31: Two Special Tax stamps for Retail Dealer in Liquors (At Large) used by a railway with offices in the Towers District.

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(Richard Hemmings was born in New York City where he got to experience the end of the golden age of ground level stamp stores. He has been writing for 34 years and is planning a book about New York postal history. E-mail: rhymingvibes@yahoo.com*.)*

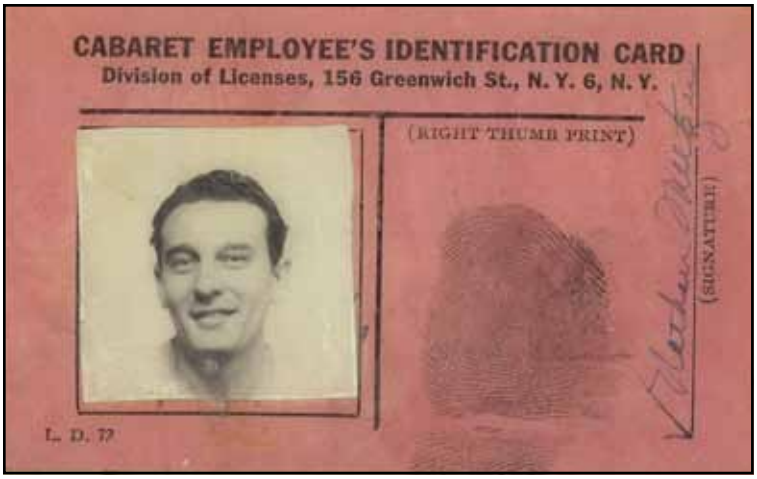


Figure 32: An identification card for a cabaret employee. It has a Towers District address, but was used elsewhere.

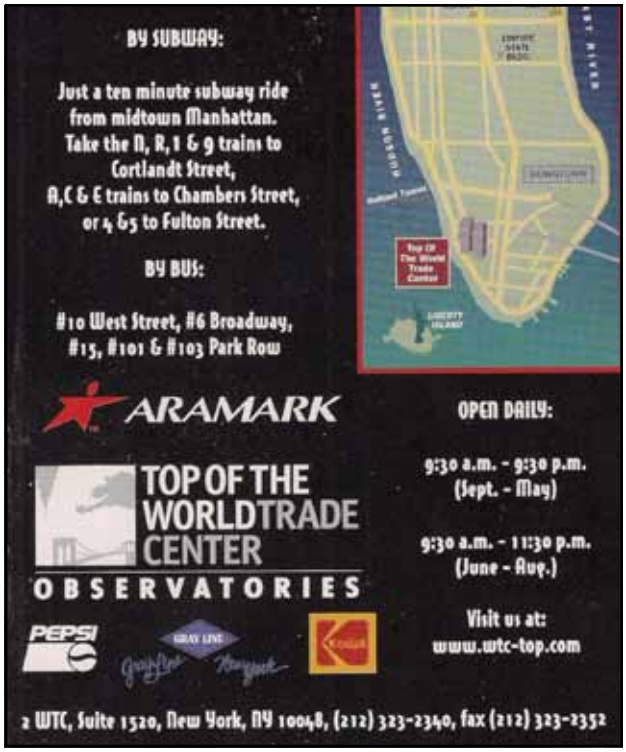
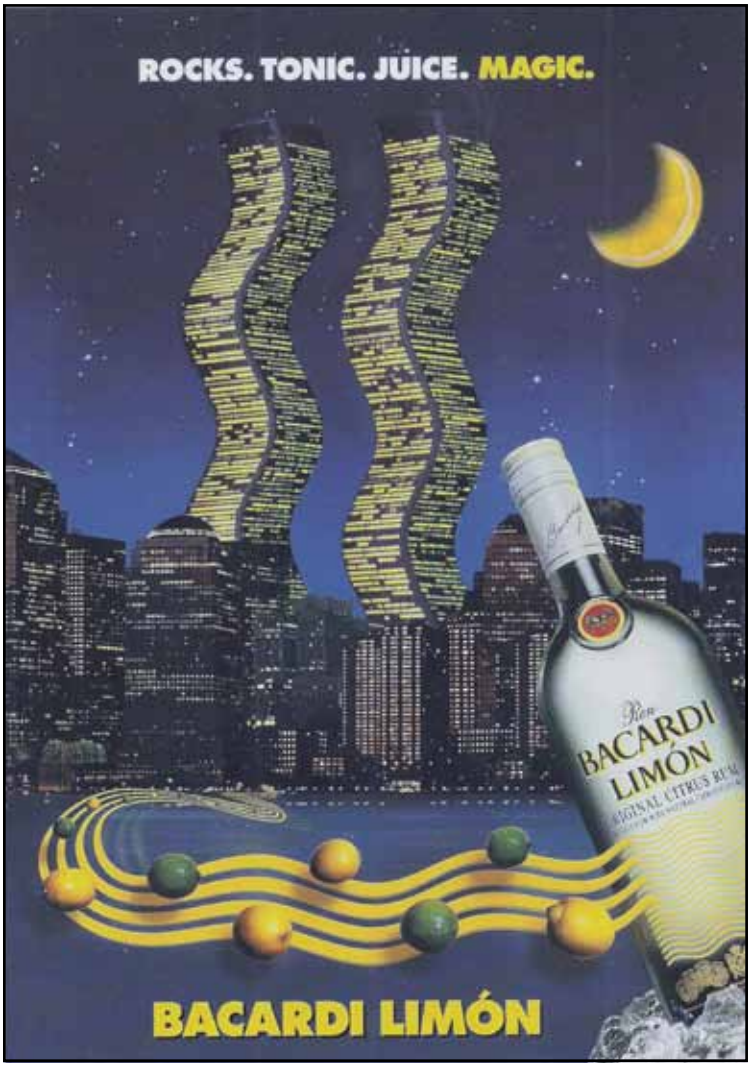


Figure 33 (Right): The brochure is from 1 WTC; the matchbook from 2 WTC. Each had different food and drink opportunities near the top. The Greatest Bar on Earth was affiliated with Windows on the World.



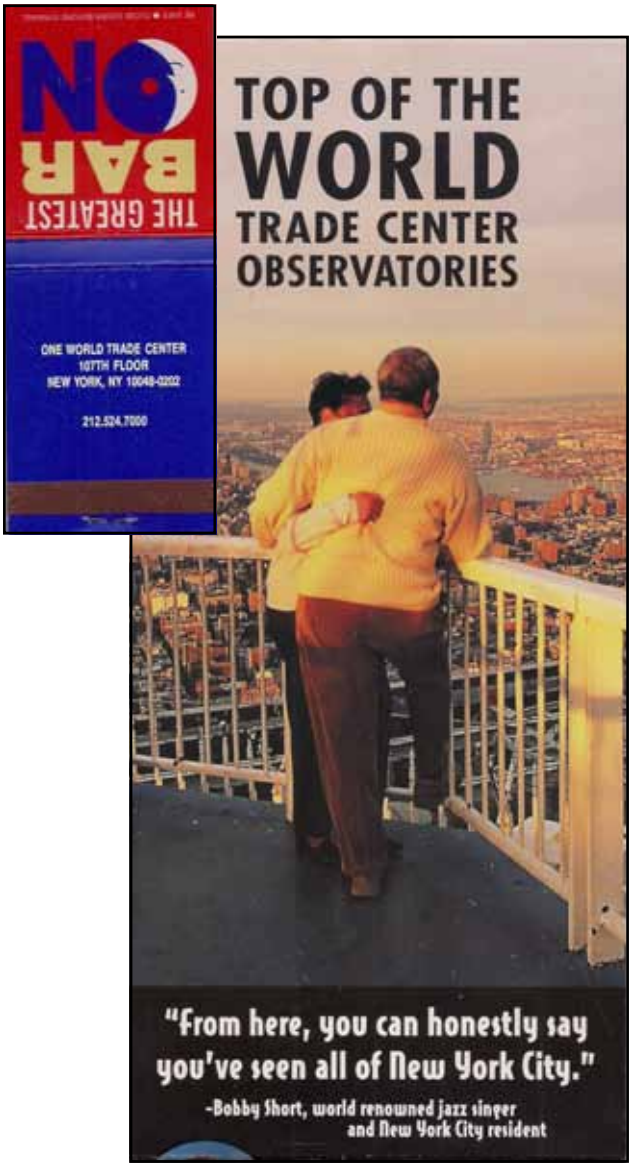


Figure 34: This 1990s advertising postcard displays the World Trade Center, which appears to be dancing. Or is it buckling?

Figure 1: A cropped view of the front of the 1849 lettersheet overlaid onto the message portion of the letter (Figure 2).

'Soon Shall I Hear the Solemn Call, Prepared or Not to Yield My Breath'

The Saga of the 1849 Death of Washington Goode

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

The rain fell steadily on the morning of May 25, 1849, as prison guards carried Washington Goode to the gallows in the courtyard of the Leverett Street Jail in Boston. Weakened from a failed suicide attempt the night before his ordered execution, Goode was prevented from self-inflicted death by the action of prison doctors who staunched the bleeding from where he had slashed the artery in his wrist.

Too weak to stand on the scaffold he was strapped into a chair above the trap door. The 20-year-old black man born in Mercersburg, Pa., who had served with Gen. Zachary Taylor through the Florida War and served as a seaman on steamers and sailing ships from the port of Boston, was offered a cup of water and replied, "This is the last Cochituate water that I shall ever drink."

Despite numerous appeals and petitions for clemency signed by 24,440 Massachusetts residents, including the likes of David Henry Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and William Lloyd Garrison, Gov. George N. Briggs, having previously commuted the sentences of all other Massachusetts' prisoners then under the death sentence, would have none of it when it came to Washington Goode.

The man found guilty in the murder of another black man had vehemently declared his innocence to the very end. At 9:45 a.m., 13 years since the last execution in Boston, the trap door was released, the chair hung several feet below the scaffold, and 25 minutes later the white mask covering Goode's face was removed and a pronouncement of death was attested to.

Goode's trial and execution reverberated nationally for disparate reasons, not the least being claims of judicial miscarriage of justice and racial prejudice; but also including the growing national debate over capital punishment.

Our philatelic presentation will introduce you intimately to the sentiments of the time and the story of Washington Goode.

The folded letter we present is intriguing not only for its exquisite philatelic posting and for the missive's content, but by the fact that it was posted and mailed yet a second time almost three-quarters of a century later. Bear with us as we dissect this piece as one would a very special dessert—one bite at a time. Both that which is evident and that which is implied, we believe, will be worth the wait.

The delicate, light blue folded letter (Figure 1) was initially addressed as follows:

To His Exellency (sic),
George N. Briggs,
Pittsfield, Mass.

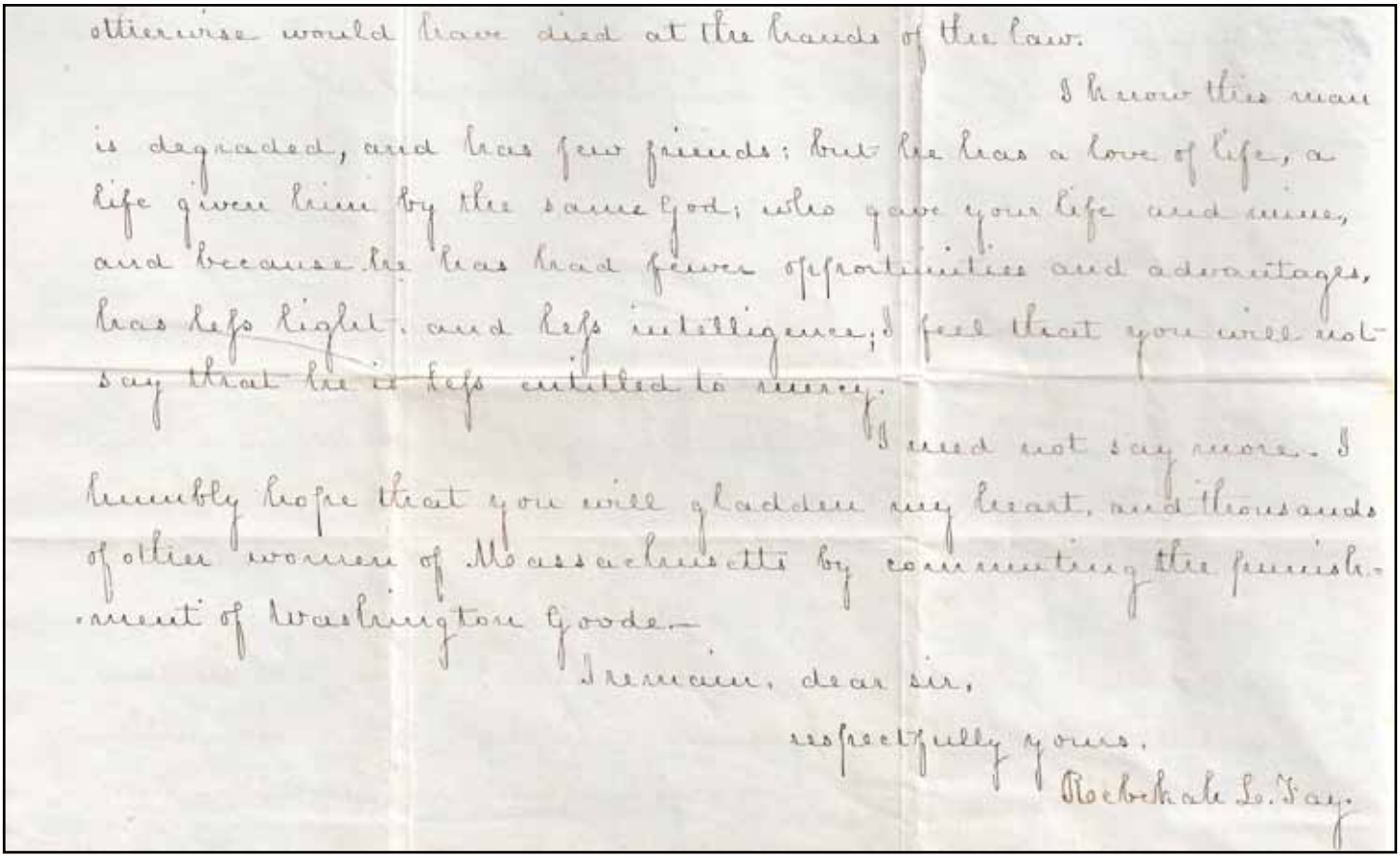
The postage is a pale brown, imperforate, 5-cent Franklin, Scott 1. The postmark is a large (30mm) circular red Boston imprint with a heavy, red circular, seven-bar, socked-on-the-nose killer. The letter is date-marked May 24. All in all, a true beauty.

Unless you are a glutton for old English "s" style in writing, and small print, you will appreciate our printing the slightly over one-page letter (Figures 2 and 3). The content is copied as written, and what may seem like occasional typos are not.

Chelsea May 23rd, 1849
To His Excellency,
G.N. Briggs;
Sir,

I need not ask your pardon for addressing you, where my sympathies thought me to do so- and not my sympathies only, but my sense of right and justice.

I am daily burdened with the melancholy thought that a man is condemned to die this week; upon the scaffold-that man is to take the life of his fellow man and deliberately, and under sanction of law. Hour after hour the thought oppresses me, and I feel that I cannot rest content till I have made an effort to save the victim's life. I need not <u>reason</u> with you upon this matter, my faculties will not furnish a series of arguments in a form, suitable; to be recorded here and yet there are arguments; good and weighty, which have their influence upon me, and say; "this man should not die"- Now my dear sir, can you not convince yourself that this man's life may be saved, and yet society not be in danger? I must believe, I <u>know;</u> that if you felt under no obligations to the law in this case, you would not hesitate one moment. I know that the kindness in every man's heart, calls upon him to save life; and I only hope, that you may in this instance allow your sympathies to guide you; for I am well convinced that you will never regret your act; springing from such a source. On the contrary, you will feel rejoiced, that by the exercise of your power, one human being is allowed to breathe the air of Heaven, who (start of Figure 3) otherwise would


otherwise would have died at the hands of the law.

I know this man is degraded, and has few friends; but he has a love of life, a life given him by the same God; who gave your life and mine, and because he has had fewer opportunities and advantages, has less light, and less intelligence; I feel that you will not say that he is less entitled to mercy.

I need not say more. I humbly hope that you will gladden my heart, and thousands of other women of Massachusetts by commuting the punishment of Washington Goode.

I remain, dear sir,

respectfully yours,

Rebekah L. Fay.

Figure 3: The rest of the Figure 2 letter.

have died at the hands of the law. I know this man is degraded, and has few friends; but he has a love of life, a life given him by the same God; who gave your life and mine, and because he has had fewer opportunities and advantages, has less light, and less intelligence; I feel that you will not say that he is less entitled to mercy.

I need not say more. I humbly hope that you will gladden my heart, and thousands of other women of Massachusetts by commuting the punishment of Washington Goode.

I remain, dear sir,
Respectfully yours,
Rebekah L. Fay

One must pause for a moment to catch one's breath. And while we do so we will attack a most unusual diversion related to our cover. We find a most unusual situation accosting this letter almost 75 years later: on Oct. 21, 1922, this same letter (Figure 1) was posted from Benton Harbor, Mich., for local delivery to A.W. Filstrup. Postage was paid with a block of four Pilgrim Tercentenary stamps, Scott 548, the 1-cent Mayflower stamp. Cancellation is with a CDC Benton Harbor posting and a metal duplex killer.

The recipient's information is a rubber-stamped purple imprint, raising the question if perhaps the sender and receiver are one and the same. The answer is a most unequivocal yes.

According to the website of philatelic dealer Steven J. Statford, A.W. Filstrup was one of the most prolific users of imperforate stamps in the early 20th century. His extensive business travels for The Covel Manufacturing Company resulted in his posting a significant amount of mail to the company in Benton Harbor.

Statford attributes the wealth of surviving imperforate material to Filstrup's philatelic endeavors. Filstrup is listed as a member of the American Philatelic Society in several of the early 20th century issues of *The American Philatelist*. Figures 4 shows two representative copies of his mailings as previously offered on the Internet.

And now, before we move on, a final comment regarding this folded letter. From the perspective of women's gender studies, this letter set off bells and whistles.

We had not previously commented on the penmanship of the letter, or the gender of the writer. Why should we, you might ask? Well, for several reasons. The handwriting is small and quite neat, is it not? When shown to observers for their comments, there was a sense that the handwriting was that of a woman. Not particularly scientific, but do look at the original again and you decide.

The reason we bring up this observation? Note that it is not until the very last sentence in the letter that the writer's identity as a female becomes evident. Possibly

Figure 4: Two examples of mailings by A.W. Filstrup.

just happenstance; however, respect for a woman's opinion in matters of culture, politics, science, etc. would not become a commonplace occurrence until some decades into the 20th century. Switzerland did not enfranchise women until 1971!

Our point is that women's writings, whether in literature, philosophy, science or politics, not infrequently required a pseudonym or other subterfuge in order to be accepted, or indeed even read, by a patriarchal society.

Emily Bronte remained hidden behind a male pseudonym for her superb *Wuthering Heights*, as did scores of others. Emilie Du Chatelet, in her 17th century philosophical epistle *Discourse on Happiness*, did exactly what we suspect Rebekah Fay did in her letter to Governor Briggs: she attempted to conceal her identity as a woman until the reader had the opportunity to get into the heart of the epistle.

The outcome for women's thought and opinion without such machinations was in most instances either gregarious dismissal or outright discarding of material left unread. Fay likely hoped that the governor would have digested her thoughts before literally turning the page.

Washington Goode was dead. Executed for murder. Tried and convicted by a jury of 12 white men, since women or black men could not serve on juries. Found guilty, no less, after but 35 minutes of deliberation. Was justice served? Let us then arrive at our own judgment.

Goode was a seaman serving as cook on the Steamer *William J. Pease* and on the sailing ship *Nancoockee*. When in port in Boston he kept company with a married woman, Mary Ann Williams.

Thomas Harding, also a black seaman and a friend of Goode, likewise kept company with Mary Williams. On the evening of June 28 the men argued over a handkerchief that Harding had given to Williams.

Later that night, at 11 o'clock according to a witness, Harding was attacked and stabbed three times in the chest, as well as sustaining a blow to the head.

A witness, standing about 50 feet away on what was reportedly a stormy and dark night, stated that the attacker was a black male wearing dark pants and a striped jacket.

According to the report in the *Boston Daily Bee*, Washington Goode was arrested at 3 o'clock the next morning, and on July 3, 1848, was indicted for Harding's murder. Strong circumstantial evidence pointed to Goode as the attacker. When arrested, he was in possession of a knife with a 10- or 11-inch blade. The stab wounds on the dead man were reportedly nine inches deep.

The trial of Washington Goode began on Jan. 1, 1849. Because it represented a capital offense, the trial was held before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts and was presided over by Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw. Shaw was one of the most influential jurists in 19th century America. Since none of several witnesses to the attack could clearly identify Goode as the perpetrator, District Attorney Samuel P. Parker built his case on the circumstantial evidence that was previously discussed.

Goode was represented by two young, respected attorneys: William Aspinwall, assisted by Edgar F. Hodges. Aspinwall had not previously defended in a capital criminal case. In their vigorous defense they discredited the testimony of the prosecution witnesses and railed against the circumstantial evidence against their client. Goode, throughout, strenuously maintained his innocence.

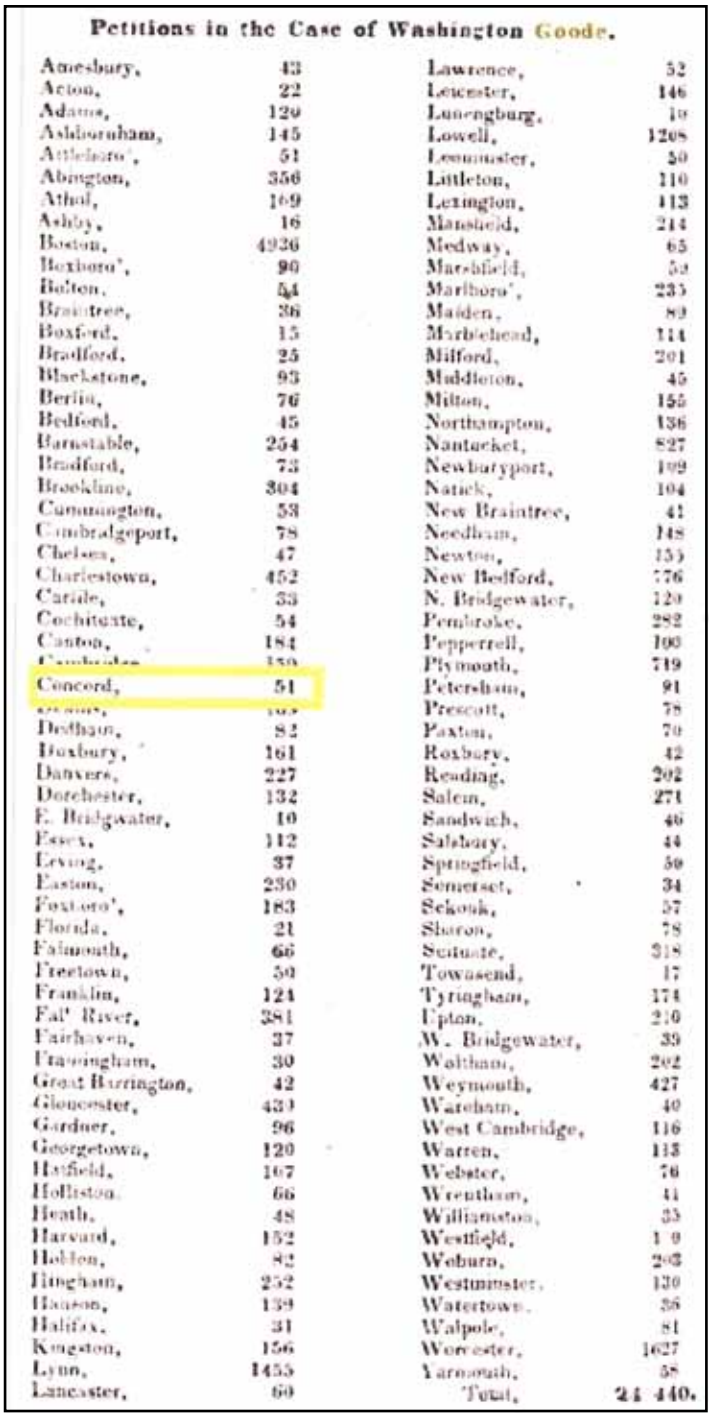
The *Boston Daily Evening Traveler* concluded that, while the evidence was circumstantial, the testimony made it likely that Goode was the assailant. The chief justice turned the deliberation over to the jury after delivering a three-hour speech. Only 35 minutes later, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty as charged.

On Jan. 15, 1849, Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw spoke for an hour and a half during the sentencing phase of the trial. Shaw assailed intemperance and "ungodly" associates in the "dens of crime" that the guilty man

had frequented. The chief justice stated that Washington Goode's life did not offer hope for the governor of Massachusetts to commute the sentence, which he then pronounced as death by hanging, to be carried out on May 25, 1849.

Now that you know the story, and the outcome, we return to the folded letter written by Rebekah Fay, begging Governor Briggs for clemency.

At the very time of Goode's case, a national debate over capital punishment was ongoing. The trial would serve as a rallying point for the Massachusetts Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment to mobilize public opinion to bear on Governor Briggs to commute the sentence from death to life in prison without the possibility for parole. The committee was assisted by Goode's attorneys, politicians, ministers and reformers.



Petitions in the Case of Washington Goode.

Amesbury,	43	Lawrence,	52
Acton,	22	Leicester,	146
Adams,	120	Lunenburg,	19
Ashburnham,	145	Lowell,	1208
Attleboro',	51	Leominster,	50
Abington,	356	Littleton,	110
Athol,	169	Lexington,	113
Ashby,	16	Mansfield,	214
Boston,	4936	Medway,	65
Roxbury',	90	Marshfield,	53
Bolton,	54	Marlboro',	235
Braintree,	36	Malden,	89
Boxford,	15	Marblehead,	114
Bradford,	25	Milford,	201
Blackstone,	93	Middleton,	45
Berlin,	76	Milton,	155
Bedford,	45	Northampton,	136
Barnstable,	254	Nantucket,	827
Bradford,	73	Newburyport,	109
Brookline,	304	Natick,	104
Cummington,	53	New Braintree,	41
Cambridgeport,	78	Needham,	148
Chelsea,	47	Newton,	153
Charlestown,	452	New Bedford,	776
Carlisle,	33	N. Bridgewater,	120
Cochituate,	54	Pembroke,	282
Canton,	184	Pepperrell,	100
[illegible]	159	Plymouth,	719
Concord,	51	Petersham,	91
[illegible]	[illegible]	Prescott,	78
Dedham,	82	Paxton,	70
Roxbury,	161	Roxbury,	42
Danvers,	227	Reading,	202
Dorchester,	132	Salem,	271
E. Bridgewater,	10	Sandwich,	46
Essex,	112	Salisbury,	44
Leving,	37	Springfield,	50
Easton,	230	Somerset,	34
Foxboro',	183	Scituate,	57
Florida,	21	Sharon,	78
Falmouth,	66	Scituate,	318
Freetown,	50	Townsend,	17
Franklin,	124	Tyringham,	174
Fall River,	381	Upton,	210
Fairhaven,	37	W. Bridgewater,	39
Framingham,	30	Waltham,	202
Great Barrington,	42	Weymouth,	427
Gloucester,	433	Wareham,	40
Gardner,	96	West Cambridge,	116
Georgetown,	120	Warren,	113
Hatfield,	167	Webster,	76
Hollistor	66	Wrentham,	41
Heath,	48	Williamston,	35
Harvard,	152	Westfield,	1 9
Holden,	82	Woburn,	203
Hingham,	252	Westminster,	130
Hanson,	139	Watertown,	56
Halifax,	31	Walpole,	81
Kingston,	156	Worcester,	1627
Lynn,	1455	Yarmouth,	58
Lancaster,	60	Total,	24 440.

Figure 5: Petitions offered on behalf of Washington Goode.

An array of nationally recognized and respected men was involved. They would have little more than four months to make their case, yet, during that time obtained 24,440 signatures on 130 petitions to present to the governor, pleading their case (Figure 5). They raised the issue not only of opposition to the death penalty, but to racism as well, as we will address shortly.

As an aside, whereas Henry David Thoreau and a number of his relatives signed petitions, his father, John Thoreau Sr., alive and actively engaged in business, chose not to. We offer a copy of the text of the Concord petition (Figure 6).

We had previously alluded to the fact that at the time of the Goode trial, the last time someone had been previously put to death for homicide in Boston was in 1826. Eight other men, all white, had subsequently had their death sentences commuted to life in prison.

William Lloyd Garrison, editor of *The Liberator,* argued that the "circumstantial evidence of the most flimsy character" raised the issue of the verdict being race-related. It should be noted in this regard that by 1804 abolitionists had succeeded in passing legislation emancipating slaves in every state north of the Ohio River and the Mason-Dixon Line. While blacks such as Goode were indeed freemen, racial segregation and prejudice in the North remained a fact of life.

Because of the threat of unrest developing at the site of the hanging, it was felt unadvisable to have the execution on Boston Common. Instead, the jail yard at the Leverett Street Jail would serve as the site of execution.

As a result of the huge crowds wishing to witness the hanging, many perched on rooftops overlooking the jail yard. The going price for a good view was reported to be $20 or more.

Interestingly, the warden had elected not to accept the plea of a local newspaper to offer Goode the option of receiving ether before the trapdoor was released at the hanging, as had been done prior to a hanging in Brooklyn a few years earlier as a humane gesture.

The rain poured down as the execution was underway. Spectators were packed in the courtyard. One in the crowd was reported to have shouted "down with the umbrellas, and let's see the bloody nigger swing." The assembly sang a hymn selected by Goode that begins:

Soon shall I hear the solemn call,
Prepared or not to yield my breath;
And this poor mortal frame must fall
A helpless prey to cruel death.

The *Boston Post* noted in a postscript to the execution that the governor had unlimited power of pardon that he had declined to invoke for Washington Goode. The *Post* concluded that Goode had not died, rather he had been "murdered." Over 1,000 people accompanied Washington Goode's body to the South Burying Ground. Goode was laid to rest in one of the city's tombs.

We conclude our thoughts with both a philatelic and historical postscript. Were you at all curious as to why Rebekah Fay's letter to the governor of Massachusetts was addressed and mailed to Pittsfield, Mass.? Also, what did you think of the letter being mailed on May 24, 1849, from Chelsea, Massachusetts, 137 miles from Pittsfield, with an appeal for clemency for a man to be executed the next day, May 25?

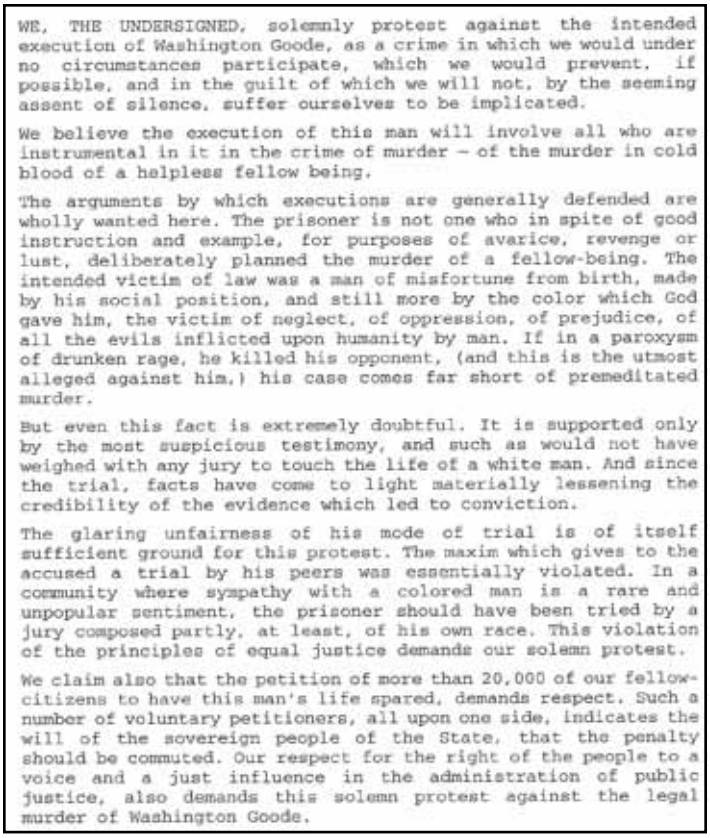
Well, this letter is the gift that seems to never stop giving. Yes, Boston was the state capital in 1849; however, Governor George N. Briggs resided in Pittsfield while governor of the state. Let us briefly enlighten you on the man (Figure 7).

Born in Adams, Mass., in 1796 and moving to Vermont and New York with his family as a youngster, he subsequently studied law and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1818, practicing in Lanesboro, Mass. Elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1831, he served until 1842. Moving to Pittsfield in 1843, he won election to become the 19th governor of Massachusetts in 1844 maintaining his residence in Pittsfield throughout his tenure.

Interestingly, several years after Goode's execution, Briggs was asked to commute the death sentence of Professor John White Webster in the murder of George Parkman at Harvard Medical School in 1850. A pragmatic Briggs did not commute the sentence; since, to do so would have suggested his giving in to the will of Boston Brahmins, at a time when the memory of his refusal to grant clemency to a black sailor, Washington Goode was still fresh in the minds of the people of Massachusetts.

After his years in politics Briggs returned to law practice and a subsequent judgeship. On Sept. 4, 1861, while removing his overcoat from a closet in his home in Pittsfield, a gun fell down. On going to retrieve it, the gun discharged and Briggs was shot. Briggs died a week later and is buried in the Pittsfield Cemetery.

And finally, the matter of Rebekah Fay's 11th hour letter appeal. The authors are troubled with and skeptical of the logistics, and for that matter, the reality of the undertaking. For Fay's letter to travel from Chelsea to Pittsfield, Mass., then to be delivered to the governor and read, and a response favoring a stay made, and the order halting the execution relayed to authorities back in Boston—all within the confines of an, at best, 24 hour period—seems highly improbable.



WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, solemnly protest against the intended execution of Washington Goode, as a crime in which we would under no circumstances participate, which we would prevent, if possible, and in the guilt of which we will not, by the seeming assent of silence, suffer ourselves to be implicated.

We believe the execution of this man will involve all who are instrumental in it in the crime of murder – of the murder in cold blood of a helpless fellow being.

The arguments by which executions are generally defended are wholly wanted here. The prisoner is not one who in spite of good instruction and example, for purposes of avarice, revenge or lust, deliberately planned the murder of a fellow-being. The intended victim of law was a man of misfortune from birth, made by his social position, and still more by the color which God gave him, the victim of neglect, of oppression, of prejudice, of all the evils inflicted upon humanity by man. If in a paroxysm of drunken rage, he killed his opponent, (and this is the utmost alleged against him,) his case comes far short of premeditated murder.

But even this fact is extremely doubtful. It is supported only by the most suspicious testimony, and such as would not have weighed with any jury to touch the life of a white man. And since the trial, facts have come to light materially lessening the credibility of the evidence which led to conviction.

The glaring unfairness of his mode of trial is of itself sufficient ground for this protest. The maxim which gives to the accused a trial by his peers was essentially violated. In a community where sympathy with a colored man is a rare and unpopular sentiment, the prisoner should have been tried by a jury composed partly, at least, of his own race. This violation of the principles of equal justice demands our solemn protest.

We claim also that the petition of more than 20,000 of our fellow-citizens to have this man's life spared, demands respect. Such a number of voluntary petitioners, all upon one side, indicates the will of the sovereign people of the State, that the penalty should be commuted. Our respect for the right of the people to a voice and a just influence in the administration of public justice, also demands this solemn protest against the legal murder of Washington Goode.

Figure 6: The Concord petition.

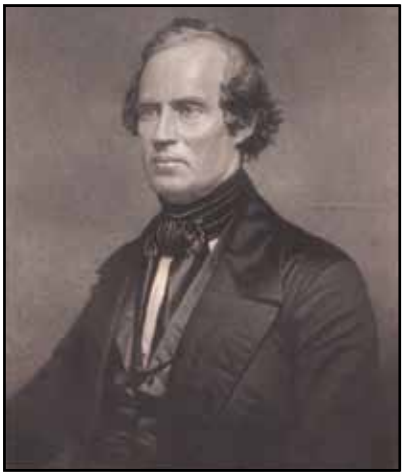


Figure 7: Massachusetts Governor George N. Briggs.

Rebekah Fay has been lost to us despite an intense search through history's archives. We do, nevertheless, obtain a sense of her persona through this single, beautiful missive: an intelligent, sensitive, caring person. Rebekah, with the beautiful spelling of her name, does leave us with a smile on our face, and perhaps, yes, even a tear in our eye.

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

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

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German prisoner-of-war mail sent to Canada and examined by a censor for a secret message.

Canada Censor Searches for Secret Message

By Louis Fiset

(Editor's Note: *This is the first of a regular series of articles featuring the postal history of the 1938 Presidential series, more commonly known as "The Prexies.")*

Occasionally collectors encounter wartime covers with stamps partially or totally ripped off by censors looking for secret messages. The German government went so far as to prohibit the use of stamps on outgoing international mail to prisoners of war and internees, and frequently destroyed adhesives on incoming mail looking for messages designed to elude censors.

This practice by United States and Canada censors was unusual during World War II, which makes the illustration here of particular note and requires some explanation. The six 1-cent Prexies on the cover mailed April 7, 1940, pay the one-ounce airmail rate to Canada. The correspondence was addressed in care of Internment Operations at Ottawa and, following censorship, forwarded to the addressee, a German enemy alien, at one of two internment camps for civilians then in operation.

At the time this cover was posted, Canada had been at war with Germany for seven months. As early as September 1939, German enemy aliens believed to pose a security threat to the nation were arrested under the Defence of Canada Regulations and taken to internment camps established by military authorities to hold them for the duration of the war. In the spring of 1940 two camps were in existence: one at Petawawa, Ontario, and the other at Kananaskis (Seebe), Alberta.

The Post Office Department was instructed to forward all foreign incoming mail for internees to the chief postal censor, Ottawa, where it was to be examined before forwarding.

In the above illustration, the censor has written on top of the row of six damaged and undamaged stamps in red ink a check mark, "Examined," and his initials. The ink is the same color as the initials on top of the boxed censor marking confirming that the damage to the stamps was by the censor.

No doubt Canadian authorities applied this practice of censorship to other incoming mail to internees. The unusual use of six stamps to pay a common airmail rate may have drawn suspicion to this particular piece of mail as it provided ample space to write a lengthy secret message. In 20 years of collecting Canada internment mail this is the first example I have seen.

(Louis Fiset is the editor of The Prexie Era, *the quarterly newsletter of the United States Stamp Society 1938 Presidential Era Study Group.)*

Figure 1 (Right): This airmail letter was sent in 1965 before Basutoland was renamed Lesotho (1966).

Figure 2: Some 14 years after independence, the country of Tuvalu was not known to the postal clerk who handled this letter.

Country Names Can Cause Delivery Problems

The dissolving of colonial empires provided something of a challenge to post office personnel charged with routing mail. Sometimes names changed as colonial entities achieved independence, and people mailing letters could get them back for any of several reasons:

1. Using the new name too soon.
2. Using the old name rather than the new one after the change.
3. Using the correct name, but it not being recognized as valid by a postal person.
4. Using a spelling of the correct name that did not match up with official post office lists.

I have not succeeded in roping in an example of each of these, but can show an example of number one in Figure 1: A letter addressed to Lesotho, Africa, in July 1965. Lesotho used to be called Basutoland. Independence and the official name change came in October 1966, hence the U.S. Post Office did not recognize the location and sent the letter back with a "Returned for better address. Show country of destination in English" marking. The sender crossed out Lesotho and wrote in Basutoland.

Figure 2 is an example of number three: A letter addressed to the country of Tuvalu, a group of nine islands previously making up the Ellice Islands which, together with the Gilbert Islands, made up the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, a stamp-issuing British colony until 1974 when it chose independence. Apparently someone did not get the word, as this 1988 cover, properly addressed, was returned "Undeliverable as Addressed."

An example of number four is shown in Figure 3, addressed in 1990 to the Republic of St. Thomas & Prince Islands; a former Portuguese colony in the Gulf of Guinea, off West Africa.

Prior to independence this area was known as S. Thome' e Principe, the name on their stamps, and that was carried forward after independence in 1975. The anglicized version of that name is not far from the original Portuguese version, but it seems to have flummoxed the U.S. Post Office, which sent it back with a curt, "Insufficient Address."

I would have thought that using the old name rather than the new one after the change would be the easiest of the four examples to find, but the only example I have is not an exact match, and goes back quite a ways to the time when Finland was a Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire (1809-1917).

The cover in Figure 4 was addressed to Finland, Russia, in June 1918, after the Finns had declared their independence in July 1917. This was noted by someone in the New York Post Office Foreign Section, who lined out Russia in red (how appropriate!) but appended a Return to Sender label referencing *Postal Bulletin 11683*, which suspended mail to enemy occupied Russia, including Finland. This was wrong, as Finland

Figure 3: The Republic of St. Thomas and Prince Islands is the anglicized version of the proper Portuguese name, and was not recognized by the postal clerk

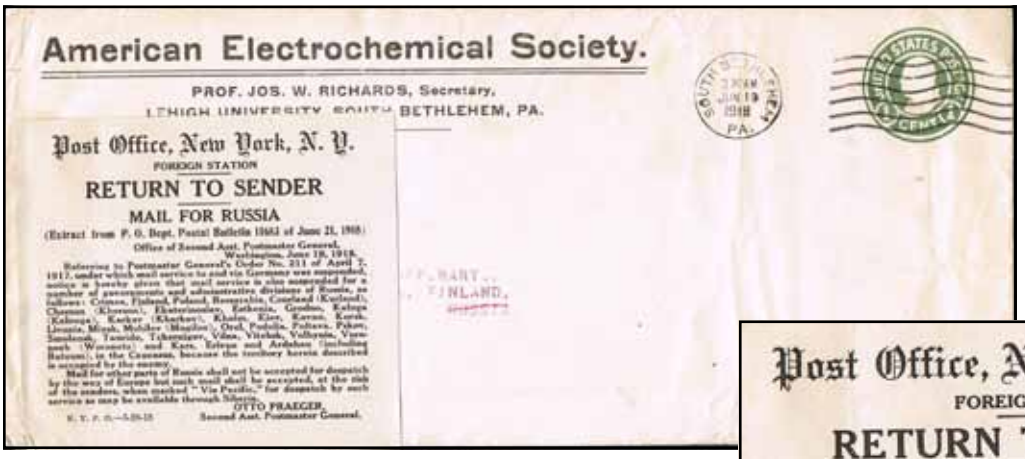


Figure 4: The Grand Duchy of Finland was no longer Russian when this envelope was sent in mid 1918. Yet it could not be sent because mail had been suspended to the entire region due to the war between the Reds and the Whites after the Russian Revolution of late 1917. A detail of the label is below.

was no longer part of Russia, though it was at war with the Russians for most of 1918, and the Russians did not recognize its independence until 1919.

As can be seen, this is an area of auxiliary markings collecting that is rich in history. A final example is shown in Figure 5. Bhutan, remotely placed in the Eastern Himalaya Mountains between Tibet and India, was formed under Tibetan rule in the 16th century, but it was a recognizable self-governing entity by the 19th century when the British gave it protectorate status.

In 1949, it became independent, with the Indian government responsible for its international relations. Yet here we have a cover cancelled in September 2000, properly addressed to the capital city of Bhutan, returned "For better address. Please show name of country or destination."

Bhutan has even been issuing its own stamps since 1962. Perhaps since all mail destined for Bhutan goes via India, "Via India" might have satisfied the post office clerk, but who knows.

In looking through my collection for examples, I found so many different country-of-destination problems that this will be a two-part series to be continued in the next issue.

If you have comments, questions or examples to share, please contact me at: John Hotchner, POB 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or by e-mail at *jmhstamp@verizon.net*.

Figure 5: Properly addressed to Bhutan, this cover was probably bounced because the clerk did not recognize the name of this out-of-the-way country, or it did not indicate 'Via India."

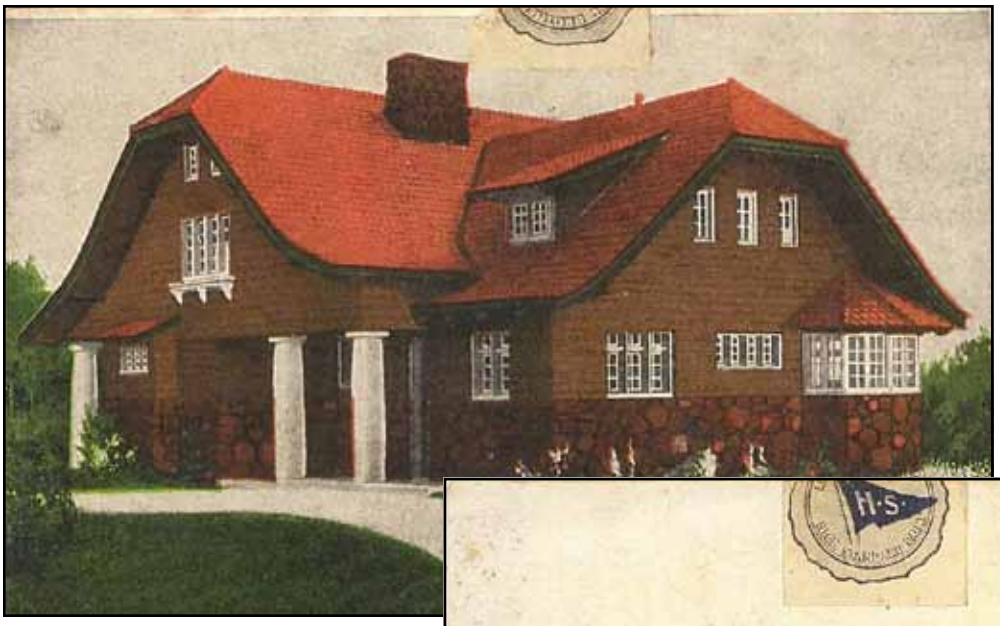


Figure 2: The full-color center front panel showing a luxurious home painted by Lowe Brothers liquid paint.

Figure 1: The top front panel with the mailing address and a 1-cent Washington with an inverted Dayton, Ohio, precancel. The panel was sealed at top with a Lowe Brothers label.

Where was this Three-Panel Broadside Mailed?

Taking into account the intent of promoting the sale of Lowe Brothers liquid paint as advertised, together with where it was mailed, offers a challenge.

The Figure 1 three-panel advertising postcard was mailed with a 1-cent stamp (Scott 405) with an inverted local precancel of Dayton/Ohio and is addressed to Smithfield, Pa. The postcard is sealed at the top with a Lowe Brothers label that has been severed to allow opening the postcard to view the extended panels.

The back of the postcard (Figure 2) has a beautiful overall full-color picture of a luxurious home implying that it was painted with Lowe Brothers liquid paint.

The outside back left panel (Figure 3) has a painter emphasizing the values of the liquid paint and that he stopped mixing his own paint because Lowe Brothers has done it for him with a much better result. At the bottom is the printed address of "Rush & Rhoades, 9 West Main St., Uniontown, Pa." With the three panels fully displayed (Figure 4), it reveals a broadside advertisement with five separate columns extolling the merits of painting in the fall.

1. Noted as "Favorable Weather," it outlines the desirability of painting in the fall.

2. This one is headed "Dry Walls," indicating that fall is the best time to paint due to the winter's dampness (and the spring and summer dryness), all of which convey the fact that Lowe Brothers liquid paint is best used in the fall.

3. "Clean Surface" is next in order and details the fact that spring insects of all varieties are a plague to painting in the springtime and again emphasizing that the best time to paint is in the fall.

4. The "Need of Protection" column implies that the use of Lowe Brothers liquid paint keeps out frost

and protects the building against decay, thus giving the satisfaction of protecting the property.

5. Now we come to the punchline. "Better Work" indicates that painters are not so crowded with work in the fall. This means that you get a better job and can allow more time between coats of paint, thus allowing the surface to dry and harden properly.

The bottom line of copy makes the case for using Lowe Brothers liquid paint.

"Lowe Brothers 'High Standard' Liquid Paint protects houses against the destructive forces of sun, frost and rain and always gives Best Results."

Having delineated the value of Lowe Brothers liquid paint, we come to the enviable task of deciding where and how this item was handled for mailing.

Without a definitive address for the home office of Lowe Brothers in the advertising, but with a Dayton/ Ohio precancelled stamp, we could presume that it was Dayton, Ohio.

But then comes the fact of the printed address of Rush & Rhoades, in Uniontown, Pa. Finally there is the written address of Smithville, Pa., and it being sealed with a Lowe Brothers Liquid Paint label.

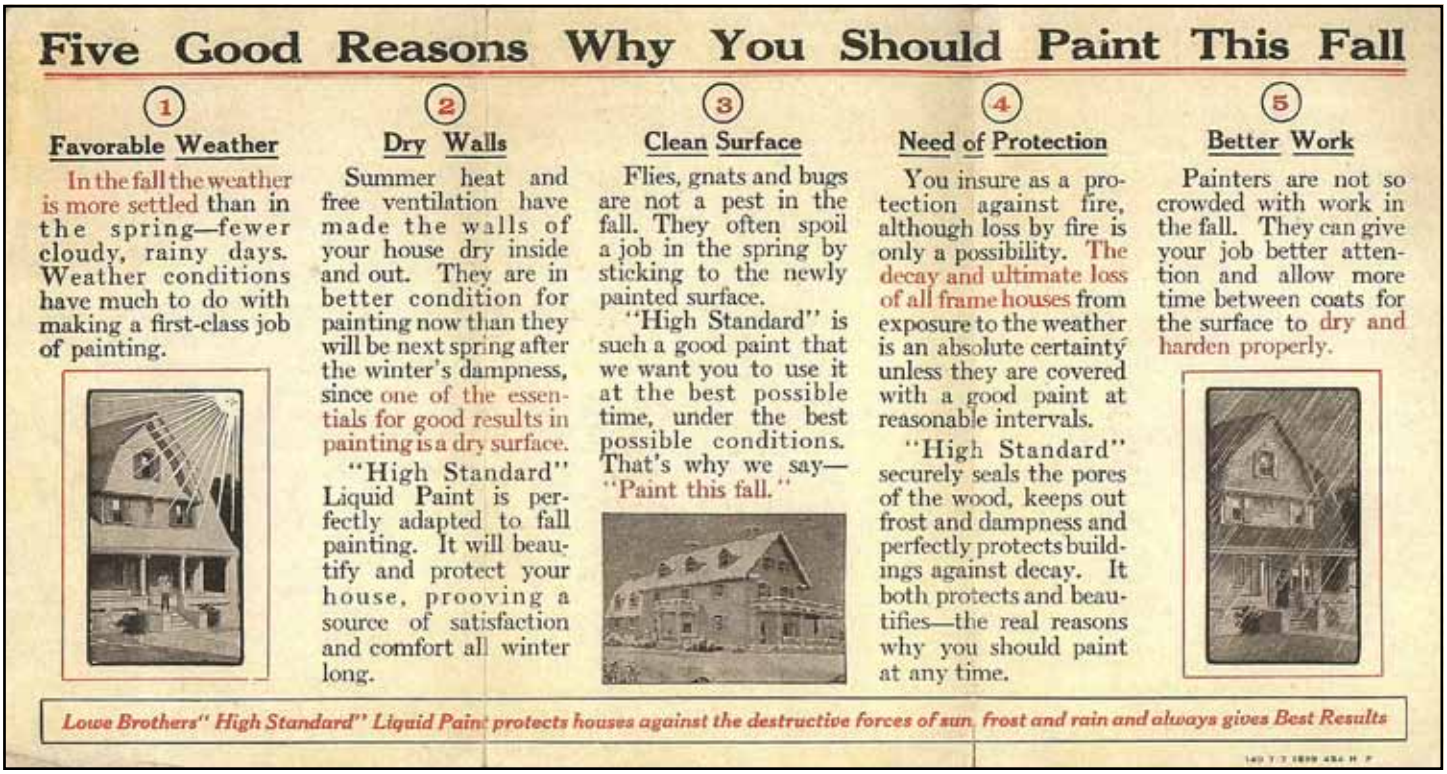
So, was it mailed in Dayton, Ohio or Uniontown, Pa.?

Is having a perfectly desirable three-panel broadside advertising postcard more important than the postal history question of where it was mailed?

That leaves a nice touch to think about!

(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.)

Figure 3 (Top): The ouside back left panel.
Figure 4 (Bottom): The inside three panels.



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.

	CD	Direct Download
_ US Post Offices Vol 1-8 (one CD)	$105.00	N/A
_ US Post Offices Vol 1 – The West	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 2 – The Great Plains	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 3 – The Upper Midwest	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 4 – The Northeast	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 5 – The Ohio Valley	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 6 – The Mid-Atlantic	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 7 – The Lower Mississippi	$19.50	$14.50
_ US Post Offices Vol 8 – The Southeast	$19.50	$14.50

Name:_____ Company: _____

Mailing Address:_____City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____ E-mail: _____

Please allow six weeks for delivery
Prices include postage

Payments by U.S. check to: La Posta, POB 65, Harwood NSW 2465 AUSTRALIA
Or via Paypal to: *rwhelbock@la-posta.com*

Figure 1: A Confederate 10-cent blue frame line tied by Mobile, Ala. double circle postmark on cover fashioned from prewar letter, addressed to: 'Miss Ellen A. Shackelford, Care Hon. C.J. Munnerlyn, Bainbridge, Georgia.' The stamp has a full frame at the bottom, a partial at the lower left and a trace at right. Full four-frame frame-line stamps are quite rare as the frame lines were shared by adjacent stamps.

First Battalion Florida Special Cavalry 'Munnerlyn's Cow Cavalry'

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

A Confederate 10-cent frame-line stamp[1] franks the homemade cover in Figure 1. It is plated as position 82 on the verso in pencil and signed by the late illustrious philatelic student Stanley B. Ashbrook.

While most collectors today are familiar with Ashbrook as a student of U.S. stamps, particularly the 1-cent stamp of 1851-57, many don't realize that he was heavily involved with Confederate philately as well. He was among the first Confederate Stamp Alliance members as member number 2 (the first 81 members were arranged alphabetically) and he served on the first board of the CSA authentication committee along with CSA luminaries August Dietz Sr. and Lawrence Shenfield.[2]

The subject cover was sent, "Care of Hon(orable) C.J. Munnerlyn, Bainbridge, Georgia." The envelope is fashioned from a prewar letter, typical of the "adversity covers" that are represented by all types of paper products from which envelopes were produced during the war.

The scarcity of paper was caused by the South being cut off from supplies from both the industrial North and Europe by the early blockade of Southern ports.

The most well-known and popular use of paper to collectors was from spare rolls of colorful wallpaper, but all manner of paper products were used, including the fly-leaves of books, printed bank checks, military requisition forms, marine charts and so forth. All are extremely collectible.

Charles James Munnerlyn (1822-1898, Figure 2) was of Welsh-Irish origin of old Colonial stock.[3] Munnerlyn's grandfather and six of his brothers fought in the Revolutionary War. Munnerlyn's parents were married in Georgetown, S.C. where he was born on February 14. In 1833 they moved to Gadsden County, Fla. His father was a successful planter and accumulated substantial property. As an only child, Munnerlyn inherited the estate, which included several hundred slaves and his father's plantation "Refuge," located south of Bainbridge near the Florida line.

He was educated at Emory College (now Emory University) at Oxford, Ga., and studied law under the celebrated Judge A.B. Longstreet, its president, after which he was admitted to the bar. He never entered into law practice, however, as his inclinations ran to other endeavors.

Here's how *The Atlanta Constitution* of Thursday, May 19, 1898, described him upon his death:

Colonel Charles Munnerlyn Dead[4]

Bainbridge, Ga., May 18 - (Special.) - Colonel Charles J. Munnerlyn died here last night after a protracted sickness at the age of seventy-six years. He has been ordinary of the county for twelve years. Colonel Munnerlyn stood among the few remaining Confederate congressmen. He represented his district after serving as a private soldier for a long time. He was a true type of the educated southern gentleman and always enjoyed the love and respect of his compatriots. He was a South Carolinian by birth, but citizen of Georgia from early boyhood. Colonel Munnerlyn was one of the wealthy men of the old south, numbering slaves by the hundreds. His sweet and kindly disposition during a long and useful life won for him great host of friends.

Selected portions from a more expansive biography printed in the Wednesday, June 22, 1898, *The Atlanta Constitution* follow.

Brave Confederate Passes Beyond
Hon. Charles J. Munnerlyn
Goes Down Into The Grave[5]

Bainbridge, Ga., June 21. - (Special.) - The death of Colonel Charles J. Munnerlyn, one of the last of the members of the Confederate Congress, removes an elegant gentleman and a true patriot.

Politically he was an old line democrat, from his youth to ripe old age. He was a southern man, every inch. He could not tolerate and despised the northern aggression, which timely precipitated the War Between the States. Therefore, he was in favor of secession, and was a member from this county to the convention that voted the secession of Georgia from the Federal Union. He favored the formation of the Southern Confederacy, and urged the election of Jefferson Davis to the presidency, and was always one of that great statesman's most ardent admirers and closest friends.

When secession was accomplished and war was declared against the south this old Roman, who favored war rather than submission and disgrace, volunteered as a private soldier in the Bainbridge Independents, First Georgia Regiment, shouldered his musket and went to the front at the very first call for soldiers.

Colonel Munnerlyn was perhaps the wealthiest man in Decatur county, the owner among other valuable property of 500 slaves, and yet he enlisted as a private in the ranks and was among the very first to go in the front. During the famous Laurel Hill retreat from northwestern Virginia, the larger portion of the First Georgia Regiment was lost in the Allegheny Mountains for a week without food. This terrible experience broke down Colonel Munnerlyn's health and he was retired from the army on that account.

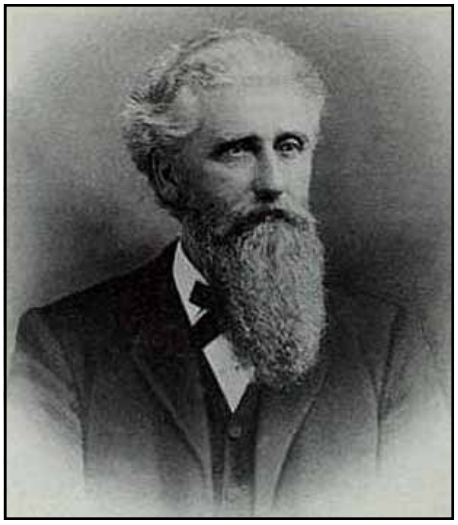


Figure 2: Charles James Munnerlyn was commissioned by Confederate President Jefferson Davis to lead the First Battalion Florida Special Cavalry that became known as 'Munnerlyn's Cattle Battalion.'

Returning home he was elected a member of the Confederate Congress, where he made an able and most efficient congressman. Having voted for the conscript set which was a most unpopular thing for the stay-at-homes and half-breeds, he was defeated for re-election.

Without sulking, but still desirous of serving his beloved south, he once more enlisted as a private, this time in Colonel Scott's Battalion of Cavalry serving in Florida. He was soon detailed by General Batten Anderson on special service.

Reporting to President Davis, who knew and appreciated his merit and patriotism, he was given a major's commission and ordered to Florida, where he was to organize a regiment south of the then military line. It was the duty of this regiment to keep open the lines, and in every possible way to facilitate the collection and forwarding of supplies to the starving army in Virginia.

This duty faithfully performed secured his promotion to a lieutenant colonelcy, which

Figure 3: A Florida Cracker cow and calf.

position he held at the surrender, in view of the uncertain state of affairs, General Sam Jones, commander in Florida, advised him to remain quiet and held himself in readiness to facilitate the escape of any of the officers of the late government who might desire to leave the country.

It thus became his privilege to aid in the escape of Judah P. Benjamin, the Confederate Secretary of War.

The war over, Colonel Munnerlyn returned to his home to appreciate the fact that he had risked all, dared all, lost all for his country, and that his immense wealth was swept away, and that he was left a poor man.

This inevitable he accepted like the gallant gentleman that he was. There was no murmuring, no despairing word from him nor from any members of his family.

To offer a timeline to the *Atlanta Constitution* text, Munnerlyn was elected to represent his district in the Confederate Congress in November 1861 and was defeated in his bid for reelection in 1863.

When Munnerlyn was ordered to Florida, he collected and forwarded supplies, primarily cattle, to the Armies of Virginia. The unit was authorized by the War Department on March 28, 1864, with authority granted to C.J. Munnerlyn on July 7, 1864, to organize the battalion. The First Battalion Florida Special Cavalry became known as "Munnerlyn's Cattle Battalion."

On Dec. 13, 1864, Munnerlyn was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. His "Cow Cavalry" was comprised of nearly 800 soldiers in nine companies. It was their job to protect the Florida cattle herds from roving bands of deserters and Union sympathizers; drive beef cattle north to the commissary depots to feed the Confederate Army; round up deserters; check the nuisance raids conducted by Union troops garrisoned at Fort Myers; assist with scouting and picket duty; assist the blockade running operations, and protect the Salt Works. It became one of the most colorful and effective militia units organized during the war. Several companies of the Cow Cavalry surrendered between May 15-20, 1865; the battalion was formally surrendered June 5, 1865.

Florida Crackers

Some believe the term "Florida Cracker," when referring to native Floridians, has a negative connotation. This is not so. The term stems from the early Florida cowboys and the Confederate cow cavalrymen. Instead of the rope used by Texas cowboys, they wielded long braided leather bullwhips, 10 to 12 feet long, and when snapped over a cow's head, they made a sharp "crack." Thus the term "Cracker" was born.[6]

Florida Cracker cattle[7] (Figure 3) are small to moderate sized animals descended from the original cattle brought to Florida by the Ponce de León in the 1500s. Because of Florida's environment, the original stock developed into a smallish, long-lived and heat-tolerant breed that is quite resistant to parasites and can grow and reproduce on the relatively low-quality forage of Florida grasslands, swamps, and scrub habitats. Their horns tend to point up as they do on Texas Longhorns.

During the Civil War, Florida's cattle industry was the major provider of beef for both sides of the conflict. After the war, Florida's economy thrived mostly due to the cattle trade with Cuba. The thousands of cattle that were traded for gold currency during these times formed the foundation for Florida's agricultural economy. Cattle ranching operations were the beginning of many of Florida's oldest and largest businesses, some still in operation today. Florida was the first territory of the New World to have cattle, as well as cowboys.

After the war, Munnerlyn set about to rebuild his fortune. Even though he had lost hundreds of slaves, he was able to retain most of his land and successfully make the transition to free labor. He was greatly involved in the building of the Savannah, Florida, and Western Railroad. He and his family moved to Bainbridge, Georgia after "Refuge" was totally destroyed in a fire on Nov. 28, 1883. The loss was estimated from $10,000 to $12,000 with no insurance.

Endnotes

1 Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo. *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012), pp. 342-43.

2 Richard L. Calhoun and Patricia A. Kaufmann. *A Concise History of the Confederate Stamp Alliance* (The Confederate Stamp Alliance, Website: *www.csalliance.org/csa-1.htm* Accessed February 2013).

3 *The Atlanta Constitution*, Vol. XXXI, page 3, Atlanta; June 22, 1898. (Website: *www.munnerlyn.info/scrapbook/JAMES_SR/JOHN/Charles_J,Sr/Obit-Charles_James,Sr.htm*.Accessed February 2013).

4 "Colonel Charles Munnerlyn Dead," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 18, 1898, Vol. XXX, p. 2.

5 "Brave Confederate Passes Beyond; Hon. Charles J. Munnerlyn Goes Down Into The Grave," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 22, 1898, Vol. XXXI, p. 3.

6 William Russell. *"'Cracker' The Story of Florida's Confederate Cow Cavalry"* (Website: *www.floridareenactorsonline.com/cowcav.htm*. Accessed February 2013.)

7 Christa Carlson-Kirby. "Cracker Cattle: What are Cracker Cattle and How Did They Get Here?" (Manatee County, Fla., Website: *www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/community-services/kids-pages/our-history/cracker-cattle.html*. Accessed February 2013).

(Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann is a fulltime dealer specializing solely in Confederate States stamps and postal history. She began collecting in the mid 1960s and has been a professional philatelist since 1973. E-mail: trishkauf@comcast.net*)*

The Postage Meter Tops Off Mail Preparation

By David Crotty

In 1837, Rowland Hill, a worker in the British Treasury at the time, wrote a pamphlet titled *Post Office Reform: its Importance and Practicability*. This led to a change in how postage was charged and to the invention of the first postage stamp, issued in May 1840. One need only look for a recent copy of the *Scott Catalogue* to measure the result of that invention.

It has been said that business people immediately saw problems. The first postage stamps came as sheets that needed to be cut up with a scissors and some form of glue was needed to attach them to the letter. This was okay for a few letters, but very difficult if a business had to post a large number of letters.

Even the more thoughtful inventions of perforation and gum did not really improve the situation. For that matter, the postage stamp did not improve significantly during the next 150 years. Business people realized something had to be done to improve the efficiency of mail preparation.

Inventors began to think of ways to use machines to reduce the workload for companies that had large mailings. One idea was a machine that could print a postage stamp on a letter. Joel Hawkins did a search of the patent literature and found that the first known patent awarded for what we now call a postage meter (Figure 1) was given to Hiram Cobb. It seems that Cobb may never actually have built or tested this particular machine.

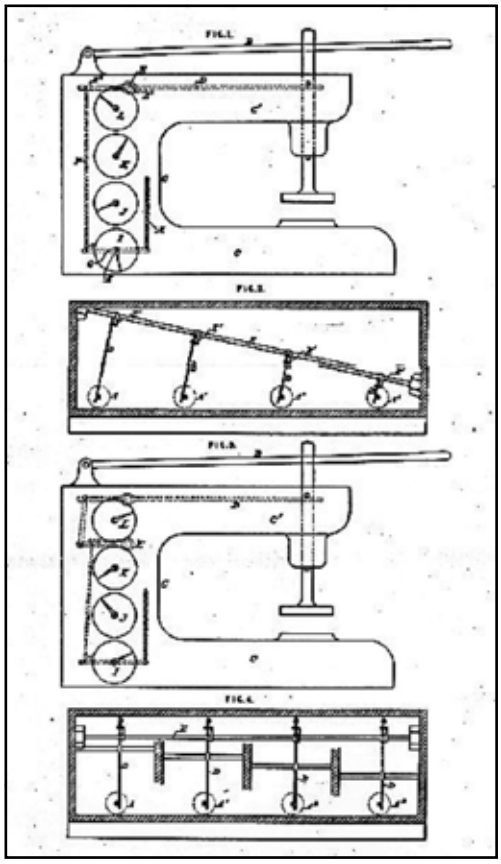


Figure 1: The Hiram Cobb patent, 1881.

The first meter machine to actually be built and tested was the DiBrazza meter (Figure 2). This 400-pound contraption was tested as a means to register letters. A letter stamped for normal mail would be given a registry mark (Figure 3) and paid for by a coin.

The boxes appear to have been tested for about three to four months and removed. Only two examples of the DiBrazza stamp are known. One resides with a collector and one is in a museum. A very similar coin operated machine that registered a letter was tested briefly in Paris by Antal Fodor, a Hungarian inventor. Several examples of marks from this test are known.

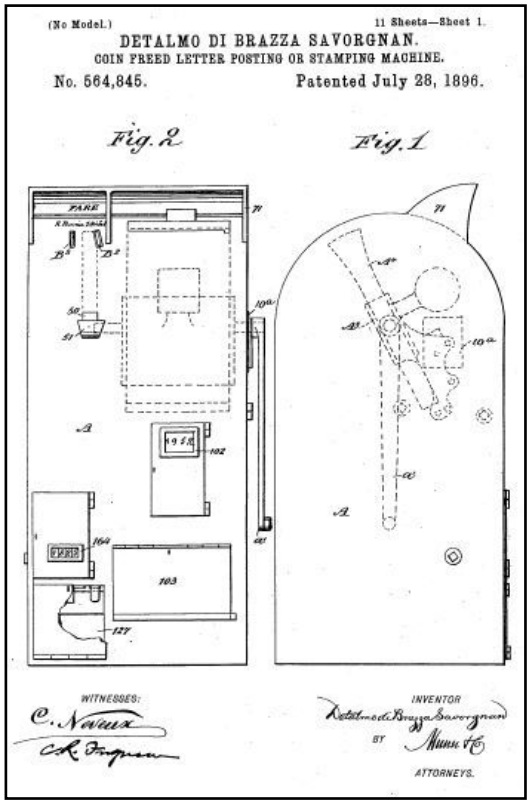


Figure 2: The Dibrazza patent, 1898.

Figure 3: The Dibrazza stamp.

While some were working to develop what was to become the postage meter, others were developing stamp-affixing machines. Companies like Mailometer and Shermack (Figure 4) began to produce stamp coils as early as 1902, to be either vended or to be mechanically affixed to letters.

These companies had to buy imperforate sheets and make rolls of stamps themselves.

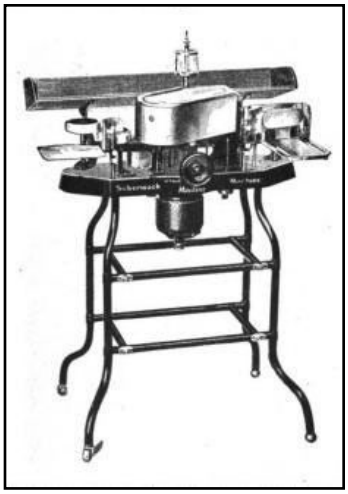


Figure 4: An early Schermack stamp affixer.

Figure 5: The Postmatic 7000SA stamp affixer replacing postage meter on a Hasler machine.

Figure 6: A Kahrs meter, Norway, 1900.

Figure 7:Uchermann-Krag meter, Norway, 1903.

Figure 8: Pitney meter tests, 1912 and 1913.

Today, of course, the U.S. Postal Service sells large rolls of stamps for bulk mail preparation. Some of the machines made to affix stamps today are designed to replace the postage meter in obsolete mailing machines (Figure 5).

Another aspect of adhesive postage stamps was that they needed to be canceled so that they could not be reused. A wide variety of handstamps have been used and are still used today. As early as the 1870s, inventors were beginning to develop machines to replace handstamps. Thomas Leavitt is thought to have been the first to test canceling machines and the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum has several of his patent models in its collection.

Early Postage Meters

The DiBrazza machine fits the definition of a postage meter: an impression that pays for a postal service, is dated and needs to be used immediately.

The next machines to be used to prove payment of postage were tested in Norway in 1900. A machine built by Kahrs (Figure 6) was used at the Oslo main post office. This particular stamp was a receipt stamp, and the clerk would affix an adhesive stamp of the same value to the cover.

In 1903 a second machine was built by Uchermann-Krag (Figure 7). Seven machines were placed in post offices and private firms for a short time. After these tests, Norway discontinued postage meter experiments until the 1920s. The next tests were run in New Zealand in 1904 when two companies, Moss and Wales, introduced several meter machines. These experiments led to commercial acceptance. New Zealand has seen continuous use of postage meters from that time on.

Meanwhile, in the United States, Arthur Pitney began to apply for patents as early as 1904. Pitney was granted two tests of his inventions in 1912 and 1913 (Figure 8).

A number of fliers were sent out during these tests but none of the postally used covers seem to have survived. Pitney printed a number of proofs and a few of those survive as cuts.

As the story goes, a post office examiner noticed that Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes were applying for similar permissions and suggested they get together. The two worked together for some time and began to market a canceling machine and eventually a permit printer machine.

On Aug. 5 1921, Pitney and Bowes, as the Postage Meter Company, placed the first commercial meter (Figure 9). The meter, Model M, was designed to fit into the base of the canceller and permit printer (Figure 10) that they had developed earlier.

The meter impression (Figure 11) was actually identical to the design of permits of the time except that there was an "M" and a number printed vertically between the value box and the townmark.

This similarity caused the U.S. Post Office to order Pitney and Bowes to change the design. As a result they introduced the first oval meter design on Jan. 19, 1922 (Figure 12). All of the Model M postage meters were changed over to the new design by April 15, 1922.

The oval design was used well into the 1940s and was used by nine postage meter suppliers, most of which Pitney and Bowes eventually bought out.

Auxiliary Equipment

The first postage meter was designed to fit into a piece of equipment that had originally been designed to cancel mail. Other pieces of equipment had also

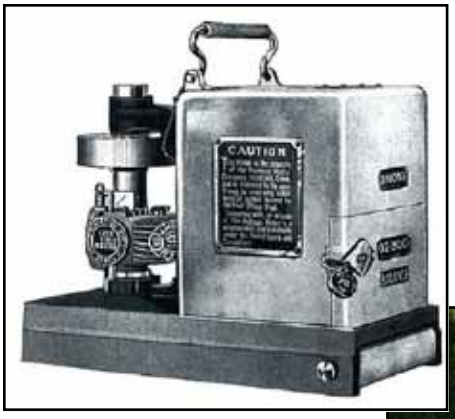


Figure 9: The first postage meter by Pitney and Bowes, Model M.

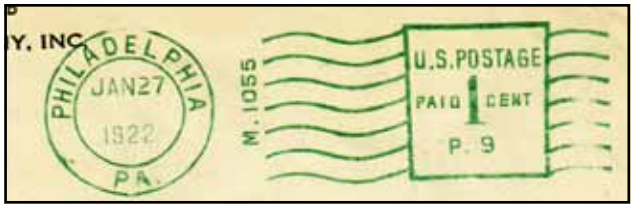


Figure 11: The Model M postage meter impression.

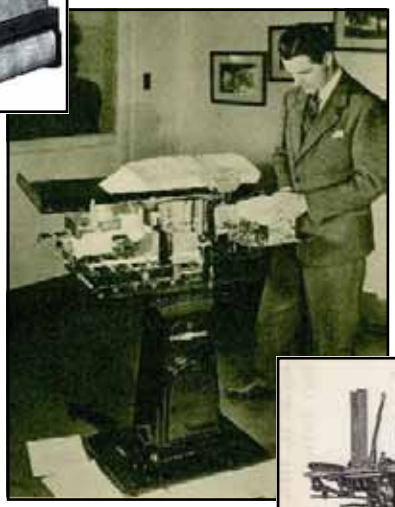


Figure 10: The mailing machine with the first PB Meter

Figure 12: The oval meter design implemented in 1922.

been marketed to assist in the preparation of mail. A collection of office documents of Bircher, a company that sold envelope openers as early as 1920, has provided pictures of early equipment. Many of these pictures (Figure 13) were taken from elaborate letterheads of correspondence found in this collection.

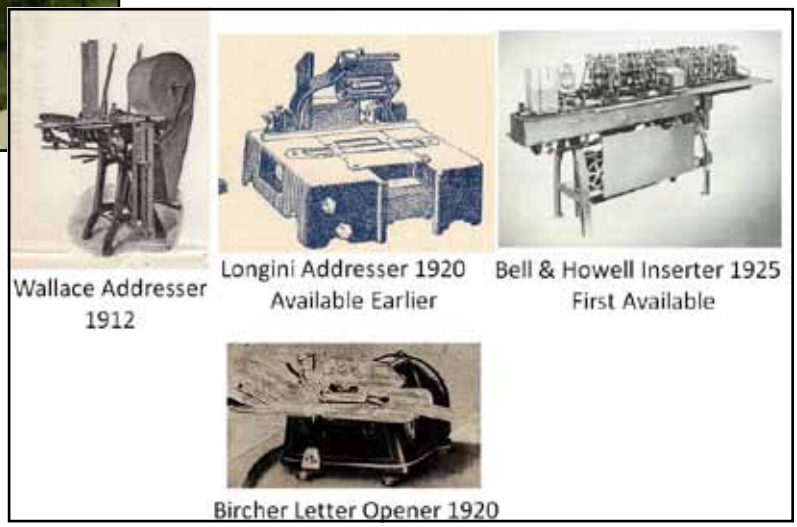


Figure 13: Auxiliary mail handling equipment.

Envelope addressers were sold by Wallace and Longini as early as 1910. An envelope opener was available from Bircher in 1920 that may have been available much earlier.

Bell and Howell introduced what it claimed to be the first folder/inserter in 1925. Of course, already mentioned, were the early stamp affixers.

Today, the vendors of postage meters in the United States, Pitney Bowes, Francotyp-Postalia and Neopost, actually find much of their business to include equipment and services designed to prepare mailings. Large mail preparation shops use equipment that can fill a large room. For example, Figure 14 shows a modern Pitney Bowes printer/folder/inserter.

It must be emphasized that, at the receiving end, a good deal of equipment is needed for post offices to sort the mail. That is another story.

Development of the Postage Meter Mechanical Meters

The early postage meters were completely mechanical. Most had electric motors to run the equipment, but some were small hand crank models. The "meter" part of the equipment that kept accounts of postage available and postage use consisted entirely of mechanical wheels.

The early models were fairly easy to break into and post offices suffered subsequent loss

Figure 14: The Modern Pitney Bowes printer/folder/inserter.

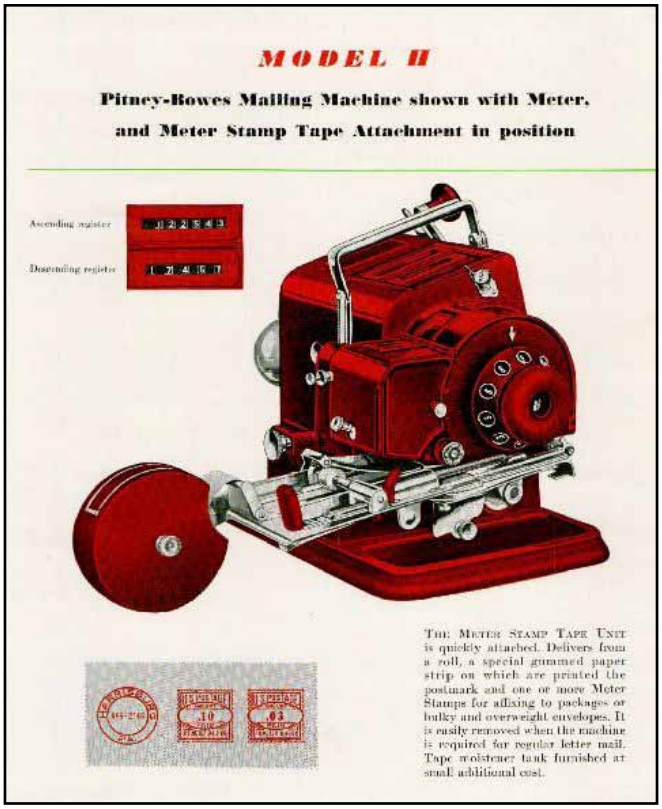


Figure 15: A Model H, fixed-value meter from a Pitney Bowes brochure.

Figure 16: The two types of fixed-value meters.

of revenue. Later models were considerably more sophisticated, but there is only so much an inventor can do to prevent tampering.

The first models, like the Model M in Figure 9, were single value meters that could print just one value. If a different value was required, the first meter was detached from the mailing machine and replaced by another meter. If two values were needed to make up a particular rate the envelopes had to be run twice, once each with the two (or sometimes three) meters needed.

The next advancement was the "limited" value meter (Figure 15). These generally could print three, five or 10 different values. The values were selected by the operator by turning a wheel or moving a lever. If a letter required postage that was not available directly on the meter, the operator would run the letter to print one value, then change to a second value to make up the entire rate with the second (or third) print. There are examples of covers with 10 or more strikes to make up a particular rate.

There were two types of limited value meters (Figure 16). The earliest contained three (or five or ten) square dies, one for each value. The later advancement contained only one die with a hole in the middle. The value figure that was chosen by the operator printed through that hole. Omni-valued meters are able to print any value between zero and some upper value (Figure 17). This made it much easier for an operator to print mail of varying rates or to adjust for a rate increase.

Electronic Meters

As the electronics industry advanced, some electronics slowly began to appear in postage meters as well. The first fully electronic postage meter probably was the 1967 Pitney Bowes Touchomatic. It had a keypad very like the popular touch-tone telephones of that era. Very soon improvements were made so that postage could be added to the meter over the telephone (Figure 18) rather than taking it to the post office.

The electronic meters still printed the meter indicia with a mechanical printer and a die plate, but the electronics now took care of the accounting functions.

This brought a measure of security to the postage meter, but it was still possible to subvert the design. Cases are known where mail preparation sites learned to fool the electronics. A notable recent case reported a scam in which the post office was defrauded about $14 million. This was during the time just before the post office required the obsolescence of all mechanical and electronic postage meters. The USPS and Canada jointly developed the Meter Migration Mandate in which virtually all non-digital postage meters were removed. In Canada, this occurred in mid-2007 and in the United States at the end of 2008. Virtually all meters are now fully digital in these two countries.

Digital Meters

Fully digital postage meters that conducted postage accounting digitally and that printed the indicia using

computer printers began to appear in the early 1990s. Early models printed what appeared to be random numbers next to the indicia. These were actually early security codes that were different for each piece of mail. Ostensively, a postal worker could easily look at a batch of mail from a postal customer and see that each piece was unique, with different numbers. The Pitney Bowes PostPerfect model (Figure 19) was typical of this type of postage meter.

Later, more technically advanced meters appeared with complex barcodes. There appears to have been some experimentation until the USPS settled on the use of a barcode technology known as Datamatrix (Figure 20). Collectors have learned that the Datamatrix barcode can be decoded to an extent. The coding has two sections, public and encrypted.

The public area can be decoded with some modest computer skills. The encrypted area is prepared with CIA quality coding to protect from postal fraud.

The plan is for the USPS sorting facility to be able to automatically scan the Datamatrix postage meter print to determine instantly if the mail piece is franked correctly and by a legitimate postal customer. The equipment at this date has not been installed. The USPS sorting facilities do use hand-held scanners to test incoming shipments from mail producers to test the quality of the sort before acceptance of the load.

The use of this type of barcode has spread around the world (Figure 21). At least a dozen countries are known to be using these types of meters. Not all of them use the cryptography used by the USPS and Canada Post.

Conclusion

A wide range of equipment has been developed to assist in mail preparation. Today, the entire process from the printing of a mail piece, the folding and stuffing of the envelope, sealing and postage payment are automated. Today, there is a mailing machine that prints the meter indicia in red or black and then prints the slogan, address and return address in multiple colors.

Postage can be paid in several ways. Most high volume mailings use the permit rates based on the count of items in the

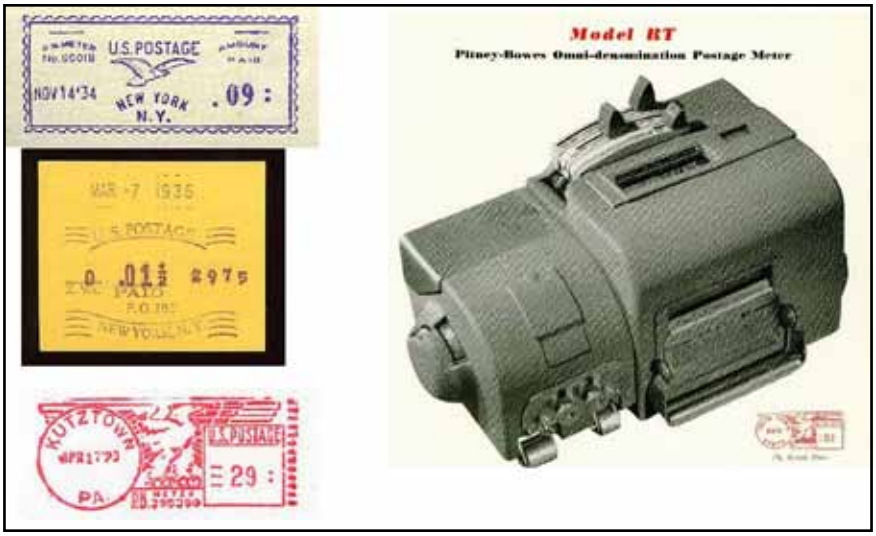


Figure 17: An Omni-value meter.

Figure 18: A fully electronic Pitney Bowes meter and meter image.

Figure 19: Early digital PostPerfect meter imprint.

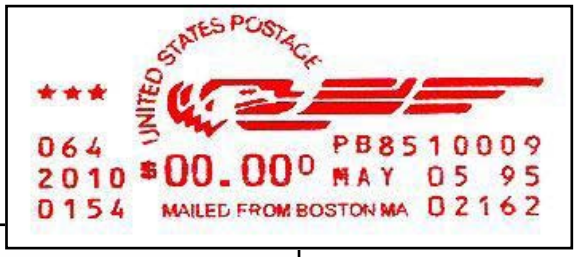


Figure 20: Datamatrix Digital Meter and meter stamp imprint.

Figure 21: Worldwide use of Datamatrix digital meters.

log. Some of the permits can be very colorful and can attract some attention from the receiver, but most are simple squares containing the required text that clue the receiver to the mundane nature of the mailing. A postage meter can be used for high count shipments and some mailers believe that this indicates the mailing might be a little more important and there will be a higher chance that the mailing will be opened.

One of the postage meter's most important advantages is to the small and medium sized mailer who has less than permit quantity mailings. The meter removes the need to carry postage stamps for various rates, and automates the entire postage payment process.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Diane DeBlois and Robert Harris of aGatherin' for providing access to a treasure trove of business letters of early mail equipment companies.

This paper was originally an October 2011 presentation to the Postal History Symposium held at the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa.

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(David Crotty, Ph.D., Park Hills, Ky., is the editor of the Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin *and the APS Writers Unit #30's* The Philatelic Communicator. *He has published a number of philatelic articles about postage meters and aerophilatelic topics. He is a retired R&D chemist who worked mainly in the electroplating field. E-mail:* decrotty@yahoo.com*)*

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*. Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.

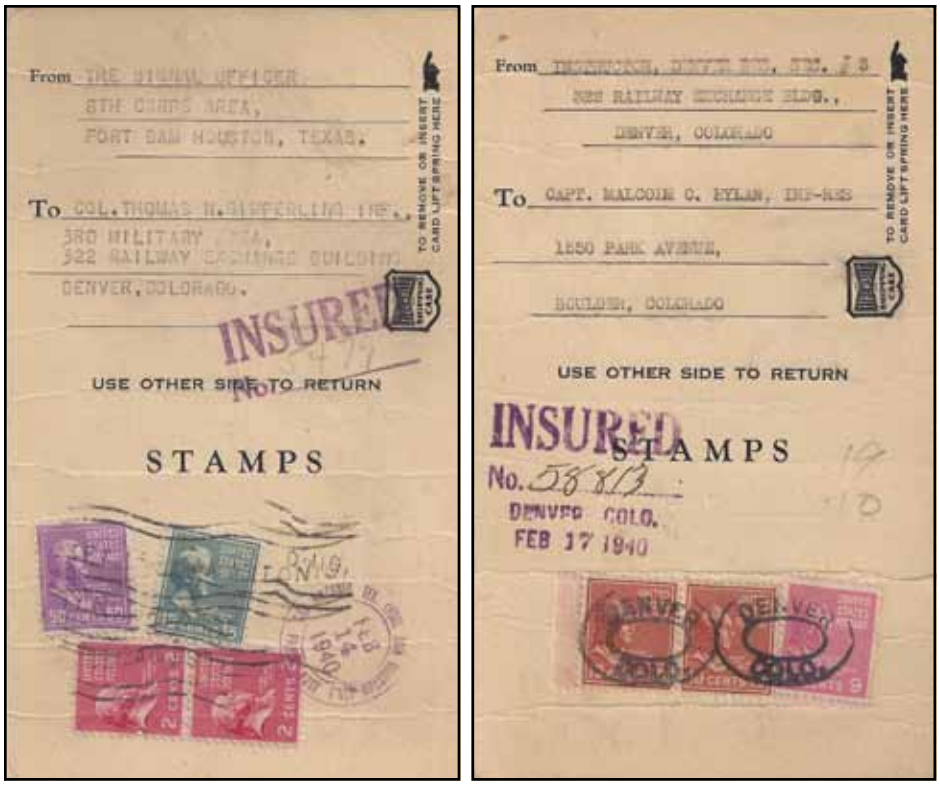
2013-1-1
Prexie Insured Form

Shown are the two sides of a double-sided insured form with the logo for "Fiberbilt Shipping Case" on both sides.

The earliest side, dated Feb. 14, 1940, was sent from the "Signal Officer," at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with 69-cents postage (parcel post) affixed. The reverse, dated Feb. 17, 1940, was sent from Denver with 29-cents postage affixed.

The three addresses seem to indicate a military shipment of some sort. I have never seen one and I cannot find this form in any reference. Any information about the use and rarity of this form would be appreciated.

Richard Nakles
State College, Pa.



Replies for
2012-4-1
Navy Post Office 16129

We received two responses to John Boal's question about what naval facility Navy Post Office No. 16129 belonged to.

The Military Postal History Society publication *Numbered Navy & Marine Corps Post Office Locations, 7th edition, Vol. 3*, by Russ Carter advises on page 229 that Navy 16129 Br was on board the USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793) from Aug. 23, 1945 to Nov. 19, 1945. The cover illustrated is postmarked three days before the number was deleted.

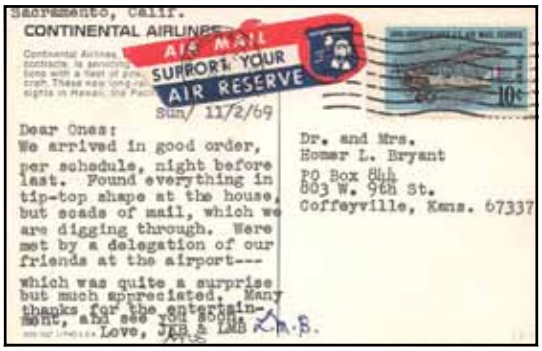
Dennis Pack
Winona, Minn.

Navy 16129 was the USS *Cassin Young*, DD-793, a destroyer. I'm not sure where she was on that date but the postmark definitely belonged to the ship. The number 16129 was deleted on November 19, three days after this cover was postmarked. I'm not sure where the ship was on this date, but quite possibly it was San Pedro (Los Angeles area), since she went in for repair in August.

Steve Shay
USCS Secretary
Freemont, Calif.

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*. Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.



Interesting Airmail Etiquette Usages

The Fourth Quarter 2012 *La Posta* Challenge was to identify the most unusual illegal postal usages that have traveled through the mails.

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

The response was exceptional with some 25 different examples submitted by the entry deadline. They appear on following pages.

From no stamp, to cutout meters and stationery, to foreign usages and a wide variety of Cinderellas, we received a mixed assortment dating all the way back to 1924. Most made it through the mail stream; a few were caught by alert postal employees

The First Quarter 2013 *La Posta* Challenge is to identify interesting airmail etiquette usages like the ones illustrated above. The etiquette must have gone through the mails.

Etiquettes were labels affixed to envelopes and postcards used to help identify mail intended to be flown to its destination. Many organizations, especially airlines and hotels, used the opportunity to also have the etiquettes serve as a means of advertising. For this *La Posta* Challenge, the categories include:

1. Earliest etiquette usage
2. Most recent etiquette usage
3. Most unusual etiquette design usage
4. Smallest etiquette usage
5. Largest etiquette usage
6. Best airline etiquette usage
7. Best hotel etiquette usage
8. Best other advertising etiquette usage

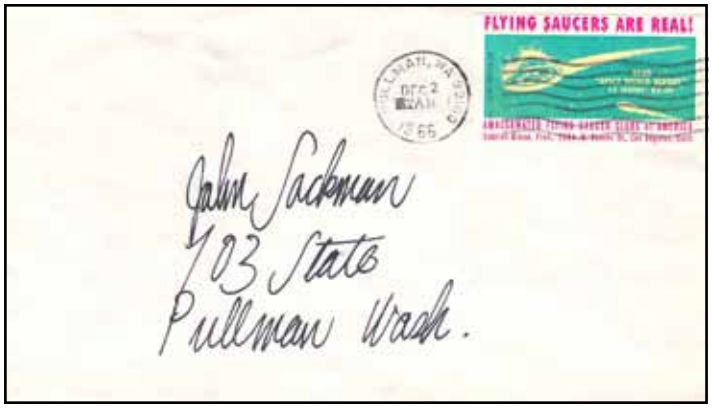
Submissions get extra credit if the etiquette is tied to the cover or postcard by the postmark or other markings.

Submit your entries for interesting airmail etiquette usages by May 1, 2013, to the address at top of the page or via e-mail to: *pmartin2525@yahoo.com*. Be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.

Submission Deadline:
May 1, 2013

The Most Unusual Illegal Postal Usages

Flying Saucer Cinderella

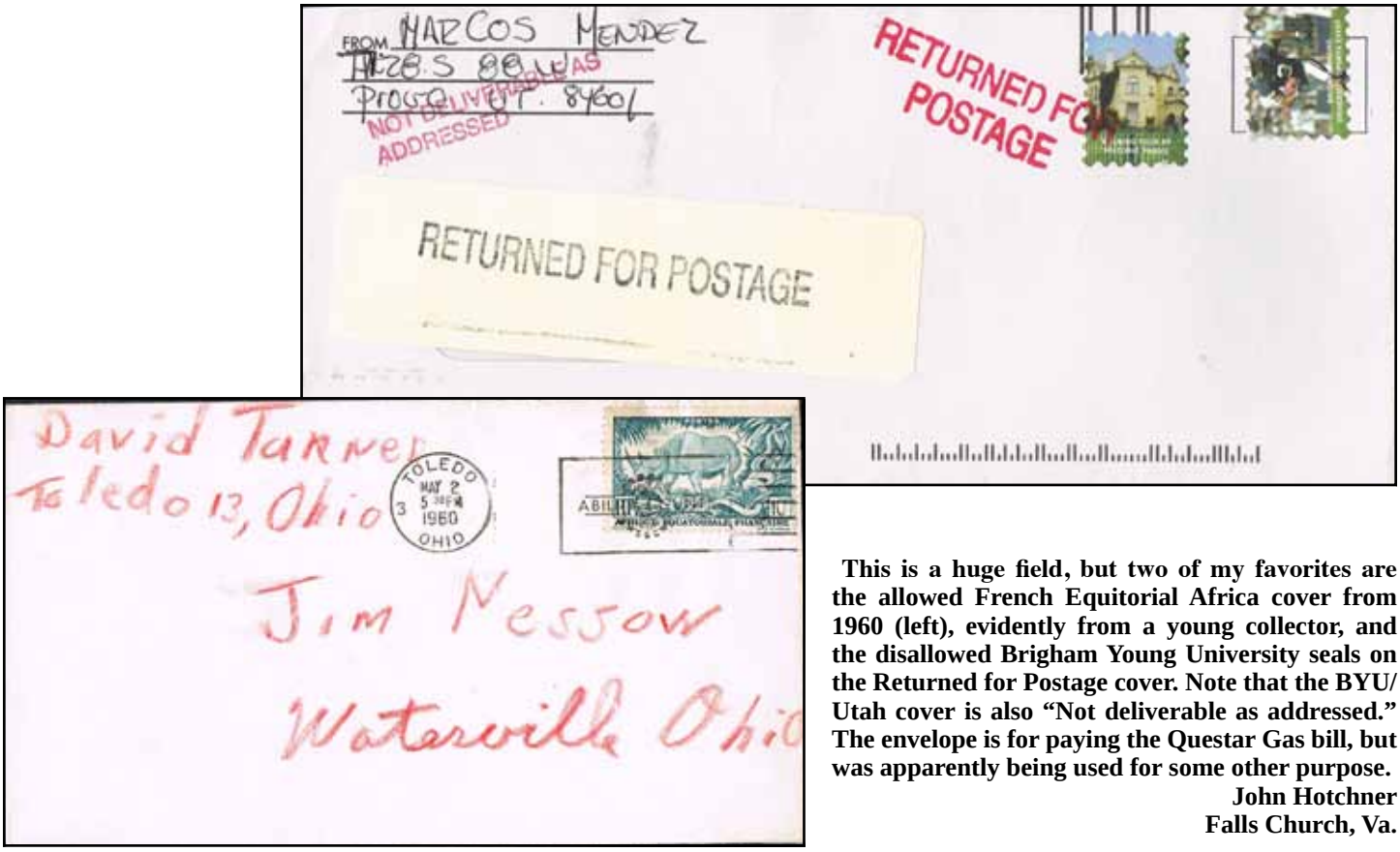


Here's my favorite illegal use example. I found it at an Idaho stamp dealer a few years back and just had to buy it.

Kirk Andrews
Portland, Ore.

Year ago I found a box of covers someone had saved from a 1960s Rexall sweepstakes contest. These are some, but I sure wish I had kept more of them. Shown are illegal uses of three different Cinderellas, stamps from Canada and Mexico and one with no postage at all.

Rod Crossley
Montrose, Calif.



This is a huge field, but two of my favorites are the allowed French Equitorial Africa cover from 1960 (left), evidently from a young collector, and the disallowed Brigham Young University seals on the Returned for Postage cover. Note that the BYU/ Utah cover is also "Not deliverable as addressed." The envelope is for paying the Questar Gas bill, but was apparently being used for some other purpose.

John Hotchner
Falls Church, Va.

Here are 11 illegal usages, ranging from a cutout meter, cutout stationery, three Cinderellas, an airmail etiquette, postal selvedge, a Savings stamp and the usage of stamps from Canada, Mexico and South Africa. All but the Savings stamp seem to have traveled unnoticed to their destinations.

Robert McCurdy
Upper Darby, Pa.

For many years, I've kept a file that I call "Covers That Shouldn't Have Gone Through the Mail." I found four that might be of interest for the illegal issues request.

1. A Netherlands Antilles 15 stamp used with a U.S. 10-cent stamp to make up the 25-cent rate;

2. A "50 Years of Easter Seals" seal used to pay postage;

3. A Bahamas 25-cent stamp used to pay postage. This apparently confused the canceling machines because it was canceled three times;

4. My favorite is not necessarily illegal, but it is different. When the postage increased from 33 cents to 34 cents, one mailer didn't have a one-cent stamp to pay the difference, so he taped a penny to the stamp. The tape that holds the stamp in place shows cancellation marks.

Dennis Pack
Winona, Minn.

Figure 1: A postcard view of Wequetonsing , Mich., circa 1902

The History of the Wequetonsing, Mich., Post Office

By Paul Petosky

This Presbyterian resort town was created by a Presbyterian committee at Elkhart, Ind., where, in 1877, they accepted an offer of 80 acres on Little Traverse Bay.

The original Native American name for this place was Wababikang. It was changed later to Wequetonsing, which was the Native American name for Little Traverse Bay.

In 1882, Wequetonsing became a branch station of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad.

The post office was originally established on May 13, 1886, and spelled We-que-ton-sing, with Josiah R. Laforce as its first postmaster.

It discontinued operations on Sept. 29, 1886, and was reestablished on May 27, 1887. The spelling changed to Wequetonsing (one word) on May 31, 1894.

Located in Emmet County, Little Traverse Township, Wequetonsing was a summer-only post office. On June 1, 1957, Wequetonsing became a contract branch of the Harbor Springs Post Office. Postal archives don't show anyone in charge beyond that date.

From that time forward, depending upon the year, the Wequetonsing Post Office was open two or four hours per day for postmarking mail and buying stamps. It was manned by postal employees from the Harbor Springs Post Office

As of June 1, 2011, the Wequetonsing Contract Branch Post Office no longer had window service for postmarking mail. It only had post office box rentals.

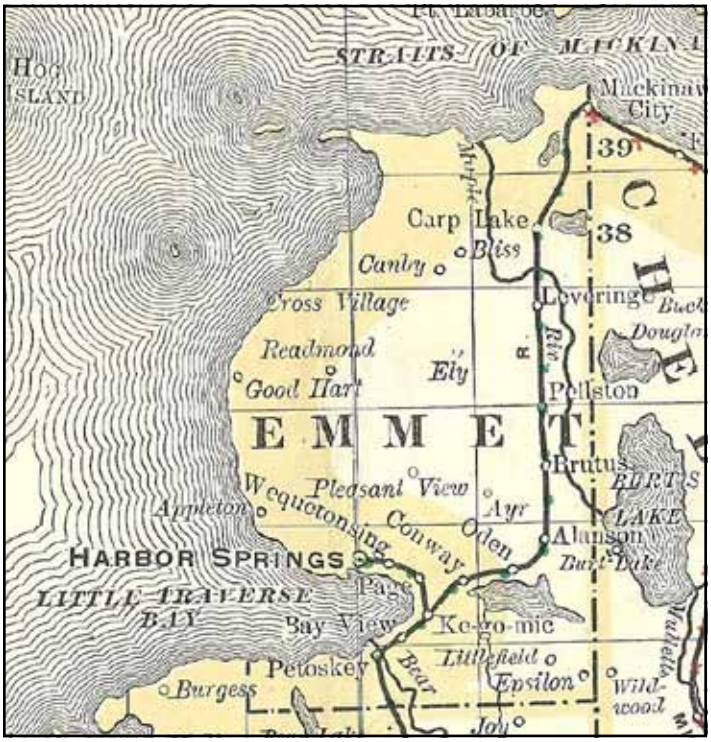


Figure 2: An 1889 Emmet County map showing Wequetonsing in the lower center quadrant.

The post office is operational only in June, July and August.

Located at 15 Second Avenue, this post office is still in the same building that was used as a post office in the 1910 postcard (Figure 3).

Figure 3: The Wequetonsing, Mich., Post Office circa 1910. This building is still in use from June through August to serve post office box rentals (no window service is available).

Figure 4: The building on the left is the Wequetonsing, Mich., Post Office circa 1915.

Wequetonsing, Mich. Postmasters

Postmasters that served at the Wequetonsing, Mich., Post Office are as follows:

Josiah R. Laforce.....May 13, 1886

Discontinued operation on Sept. 29, 1886

Reestablished on May 27, 1887

Spelling changed to Wequetonsing (one word) on May 31, 1894

John S. Brubaker	May 31, 1894
Harriette L. Pratt	May 4, 1897
Harriette L. Judd	April 6, 1899
Lloyd N. Hahn	June 2, 1932 to May 31, 1957

Figure 5: A We-que-ton-sing, Mich., CDS postmark dated July 27, 1893.

Figure 6: A Wequetonsing, Mich., CDS postmark dated June 17, 1902.

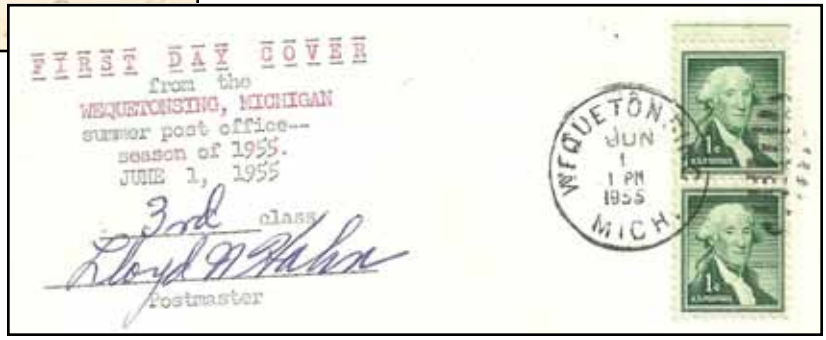


Figure 7: A June 1955 Wequetonsing, Mich., duplex cancelation on the opening of the summer post office.

Views of Wequetonsing, Mich.

Figure 8: The Wequetonsing Railroad Depot circa 1910.

Figure 12: Two later Wequetonsing, Mich., cancels; a 4-bar from August 1958 and a red, double-circle postmark from June, 1, 2011, the post office's last day of window service.

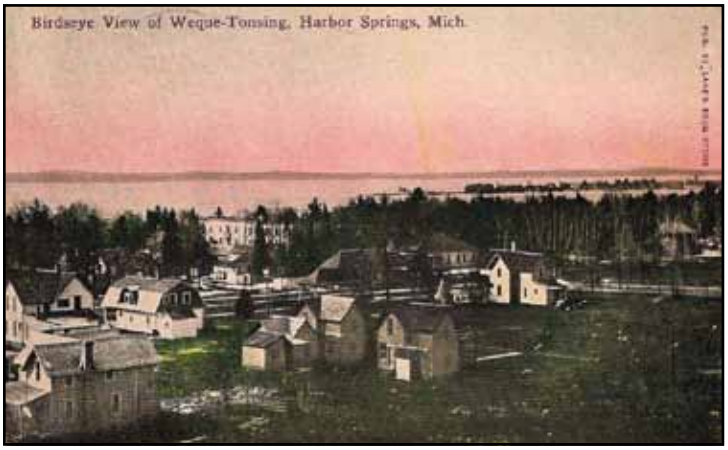


Figure 9: View of Wequetonsing and Harbor Springs, circa 1912.

Figure 10: Wequetonsing Hotel circa 1910.

Figure 13: A circa 1920 view from the train station towards Lake Wequetonsing.

Figure 11: A circa 1907 bird's-eye view of Petoskey, Little Traverse Bay, Harbor Point, Wequetonsing and Roaring Brook.

Richard Hemmings

Ken Wukasch

Tom Richards

Richard Hemmings Wins First Helbock Prize

In January, *La Posta* Publisher Catherine Clark announced that Richard S. Hemmings, Stewartstown, Pa., was selected as the winner of the inaugural Richard W. Helbock Prize for the best postal history article appearing in a 2012 issue of *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History.*

Hemmings' article, which appeared in the First Quarter 2012 *La Posta*, was titled "New York City's Cortlandt Street: One Way to the River," and provided an historical tour of Courtlandt Street, which is located in the Twin Towers district, using postal history and related ephemera as a guide. The article was Hemmings' first contribution to *La Posta* and was featured on the front cover. Hemmings wins cash and prizes valued at more than $500.

Runner-up was Kenneth C. Wukash, San Marcos, Texas, for his article, "My Address is the World's Fair" that appeared in the Fourth Quarter 2012 *La Posta*.

Third Place went to Thomas J. Richards, Columbus, Ohio, for "The Postal History of the U.S. Naval Mission to Brazil" that appeared in the Third Quarter 2012 *La Posta*. Both authors also received prizes.

Articles by Michael Dattolico, Andrew Mitchell, David Straight and three articles by the team of Jesse Spector and Robert Markovits also received votes. Four of the articles appeared in the Third Quarter 2012 *La Posta*, making that the most popular issue of the year.

The Richard W. Helbock Prize is named in honor of the founding editor of *La Posta* who died in 2011. The award is supported by a gift from Catherine Clark.

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.

The Alyeska Collection of Pony Express Mail

***The Alyeska Collection of Pony Express Mail* by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. New York: Robert A Siegel Auction 1038, March 20, 2013. Perfect bound, 96 pp., color illus. Available from Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, website: *www.siegelauctions.com*.**

I've long been a proponent of the sentiment that the best of today's modern philatelic auction catalogs can be considered philatelic literature and with the publication of the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries Sale 1038 catalog I have another excellent example that makes that point.

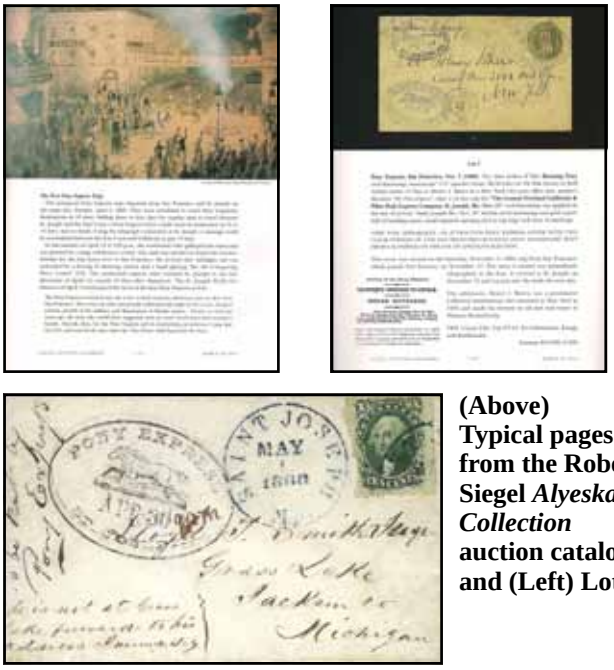
The Siegel firm has become known for its expanded lot descriptions that feature exceptional research, census data, and the extraordinary back stories that come with the items being offered.

Early American stamps and postal history are Siegel's specialty and their treatment of these subjects, from the New York City Despatch Post, to Postmasters' Provisionals, to Hawaiian Missionaries, to Civil War mail and beyond, has brought many catalogs that belong in everyone's reference library.

The 96-page catalog titled *The Alyeska Collection of Pony Express Mail* with the subtitle of "Featuring One of Two Known 'Stolen Pony' Covers" is the firm's latest contribution to the lexicon.

The catalog consists of just 32 lots, leaving the rest of the work to tell the story of the Pony Express, accompanied by period photographs, maps and charts.

The development of the Pony Express, its organization and key leaders, the routes traveled and the stamp issues are all reviewed in 22 pages before getting to the first lot.



(Above) Typical pages from the Robert Siegel *Alyeska Collection* auction catalog and (Left) Lot 1.

Lot 1, a "Way" cover carried on the third eastbound Pony Express trip with a St. Joseph running pony handstamp and a 10-cent 1857 issue (with a $50,000-$75,000 estimate) gets royal treatment that includes 12 pages describing the cover, other known examples and the story of the trip this cover would take during the 1860 Paiute Indian War, including contemporary newspaper accounts of the Pony Express mails during the period.

Lot 3, one of only two recorded Pony Express covers stolen by Indians, gets similar treatment with 14 pages of historical information related to the cover and its journey. Most of the other lots receive at least a full page of descriptive information. A full page of sources consulted is also provided.

The contents of *The Alyeska Collection of Pony Express Mail* auction catalog are worthy of a feature article in *La Posta* or *Western Express*, or even as a stand-alone monograph. Combined with the lots and their descriptions, and the final prices realized, it becomes an essential piece of literature that no Pony Express collector should be without.

For additional information about the catalog, visit the Siegel website at *www.siegelauctions.com* or e-mail *stamps@siegelauctions.com*.

Peter Martin

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*.**

A Late Mr. ZIP

Here's a late submission for the Second Quarter 2012 "La Posta Challenge" for Mr. ZIP usages. It's a Forever meter with the Mr. ZIP logo.

Richard Hemmings
Stewartstown, Pa.

Tidbit Highlights USCS History

I really enjoyed the USCS 20th Anniversary souvenir which you included as a Tidbit in the Fourth Quarter *La Posta*. I am the secretary of the USCS (since 1998) and it's my address that was included in the article.

I recognize most of the signatures, though I never met any of those gentlemen. It is great society history.

Tazewell Nicholson did cachets from the 1930s until the 1990s. Jim Russell was very much a reason why we have documented cancels from some ships during the World War II period and he kept up our postmark archives for years and helped update the *Postmark Catalog*. Sidney Fingerhood is probably in his 90s and is still a USCS member today.

Herb Rommel was a past president. Everett Wallster was also. Clarence Gywnne was too, I believe. George Hill, the addressee, was a very early collector; I have covers with his name from the 1920s. The USCS was not founded until 1932. A neat piece!

Steve Shay
USCS Secretary
Freemont, Calif.

Alaska Postmark Catalog Correction

I just noticed a typo in Bill Helbock's third edition of *Postmarks of Territorial Alaska*. In the listing for Douglas, the illustration labeled Type 13 is actually Type 14—and vice versa. If it ever gets revised, the editors should note this.

Don Glickstein
Seattle, Wash.

Dealer Slowing Down

I have enjoyed my relationship with Bill (who I sorely miss) and Cath over the years. I am reaching 75 years of age this year and I figure it is time to slow down.

I am not going to retire, but I am going to gradually sell off the large mass of nice material I have accumulated over the past 60 years.

I've decided to stop advertising to buy, as the time comes when you just have enough.

I still want to subscribe, of course, as I really enjoy the brilliantly researched articles and commentary.

Fred Schmitt
Northport, N.Y.

Still More Fan Mail

I am grateful that you have kept Bill's legacy going! I've seen nothing else available that matches the quality of the postal history research that you provide in *La Posta* every quarter.

Neal Miller
President, Miller Systems Inc.
Mokena, Ill.

A terrific Fourth Quarter issue! Thanks so much. I collect mail sent to the Fair with receiving marks, so this issue is *soooo* valuable.

Brian Levy
Seaford, N.Y.

I am enjoying *La Posta* very much. Thanks for several great issues. Keep up the good work.

Dennis Pack
Winona, Minn.

I continue reading and enjoying *La Posta* and hope to get time enough again in my personal life so that I can write some more.

Richard Martorelli
Drexel Hill, Pa.

Send your letters to the editor to:
pmartin2525@yahoo.com
Peter Martin
Editor, *La Posta*
POB 6074
Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Beech, Kramer Receive National Postal Museum Honors for Philatelic Achievement

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum has announced that David Beech and George Kramer are the recipients of the 2013 Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award.

The Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award celebrates outstanding lifetime accomplishments in the field of philately, including original research that significantly advances the understanding of philately and postal history, exceptional service to the philatelic community and the overall promotion of philately for the benefit of current and future collectors.

The honorees were selected by the National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists, a body of American and international philatelists, from open nominations submitted this past year. The awards will be presented at a private event on September 20, leading up to the public opening of the new William H. Gross Stamp Gallery on September 22.

David Richard Beech, Great Britain

David Beech

David Beech has made an impact on British and international philately. As curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections since 1983, he built up a philatelic reference library to approximately 10,000 volumes by 2003. In 1991, he became head of the Philatelic Collections.

Beech positioned philately at the British Library as the preeminent library collection of stamps and literature in the world. He is regarded as a scholar and curator extraordinaire, a man of character and integrity. He is a fellow and past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London. During the last 30 years he has had a profound influence on philately, philatelic libraries and postal museums around the world showcasing philately for broad audiences as well as for specialists.

George Jay Kramer, United States

G. Kramer

George Kramer has achieved high levels in many different philatelic pursuits, but his influence has been noticed by the way others have adopted some of his innovations. He started exhibiting in 1975, and has received the A.P.S. Champion of Champions award three times, with "Wells Fargo" in 1986, "Across the Continent" in 1993, and "U.S. Domestic Mails 1776-1869" in 2003. He received the Grand Prix National at Pacific 97 for the latter exhibit and a Grand Prix in Australia in 2005. In addition to his innovations in exhibiting technique, he has written articles and chapters for journals and books, including on Mexican revenues, telegraph stamps, and the Pony Express.

He is a U.S. national-level judge and has served as commissioner for FIP exhibitions in France, Israel, Korea and Washington, D.C. Kramer served for eight years as chairman of the Philatelic Foundation, which culminated in his receiving the Neinken Medal for his meritorious service. In 2005, he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Global Philatelic Library Celebrates Success and Expansion

The Global Philatelic Library (*www.globalphilatelic library.org*) has become a worldwide success as an international philatelic venture. The global-free access to philatelic research from partner libraries has established the library as one of the most significant philatelic developments to have ever taken place.

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum hosted a celebration event to recognize Alan Holyoake, whose leadership helped spearhead the initiative, and the founding partners—Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, D.C., the Royal Philatelic Society London and the American Philatelic Research Library and the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa.

A total of 19 global philatelic libraries are now participating in the project, contributing more than three-quarters of a million philatelic records.

Officially launched June 1, the Global Philatelic Library website, hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society London, is a present-day reality due to the inspiration and dedication of its founding partners. Along with partner libraries around the world, the website establishes a single destination—a centralized gateway—by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries in real time, from any computer.

Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now one click away, providing an invaluable resource to those doing philatelic research.

The Global Philatelic Library now enters a new phase, with a need to strengthen the gateway in order to meet the tremendous global demands being placed upon the existing infrastructure. Continued expansion of participating libraries from around the world and technical enhancements to the system will be priorities moving forward.

'100 Years of Parcels, Packages, and Packets, Oh My!' Launched by National Postal Museum

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum has launched "100 Years of Parcels, Packages, and Packets, Oh My!," a new microsite (*www.npm.si.edu/parcelpost100*) telling the story of the evolution of the Post Office Department's parcel post service.

American's ability to order just about anything—from any seller, no matter how distant—has become a fundamental part of our lives. But before Jan. 1, 1913, sending and receiving packages was a far more complex effort.

The Post Office Department had no package service as such, limiting mail items to four pounds or less in weight. As a result, many Americans began pleading for a national postal parcel post service in the 1880s. Pleas turned to demands after the beginning of Rural Free Delivery mail service in 1896.

Postal officials, who had studied similar services in Europe, joined in the call, asking Congress for funding to expand the postal mandate to cover packages in the United States, but the road to a government-run parcel service was long and torturous.

Parcel Post service would mark the Post Office Department's entrance into an area where commercial interests were already plying their trade. The debate against parcel post centered not on the issue of a government entity competing with private companies, but on the service's possible impact on small-town merchants. Merchants argued that the service would not only ruin them but also bring the decline of other fixtures of rural life—schools, libraries and churches.

The service began on Jan. 1, 1913. At the stroke of midnight, Postmaster Edward M. Morgan in New York City and Postmaster General Hitchcock dropped packages addressed to each other into the mail, racing to be the first to use the service. They were not alone in looking to create a "first" out of the new service. These packages were the first objects officially mailed under the new service.

The first package to be delivered, however, was 11 pounds of apples sent to New Jersey governor (and President-elect) Woodrow Wilson.

"At that time of year when packages of all shapes and sizes have been flying through our various delivery systems, it's fun to take a moment and look at a time when that was a new and exciting adventure," said Nancy Pope, historian and curator at the museum.

National Postal Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25). For more information about the Smithsonian, call (202) 633-1000 or visit the museum website at *www.postalmuseum.si.edu*.

First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately a Success

The First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately, organized by the Institute for Analytical Philately and hosted by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, was held in Washington, DC, November 12-14.

More than 50 philatelists from six countries and across the United States attended the symposium. Eighteen papers and panel discussions were presented on subjects ranging from the chemistry of paper and ink to the identification of security measures to statistical analysis. A wide variety of methods employed for philatelic analysis were discussed. These included various types of chemical spectroscopy, colorimetry and visible light spectroscopy.

David R. Beech, past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London and head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, presented the keynote address.

The symposium also offered a workshop on using the equipment available at the NPM.

The IAP website is at: *www.AnalyticalPhilately.org*. Anyone can request a copy of the "Proceeding of the Symposium," a book that will be published by the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press by mid-2013.

News Reporting

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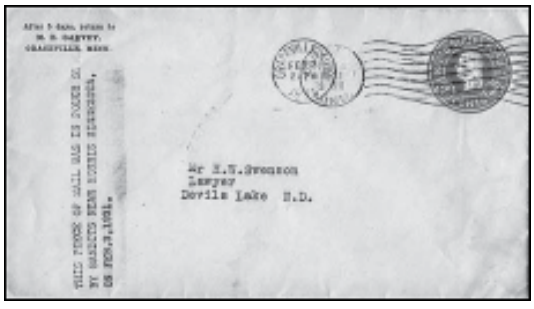

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