



La Posta Publications
POB 6074
Fredericksburg, VA 22403

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 811
Toledo, Ohio.

Satisfying the postal history specialist,
whether buying or selling, for over 125 years.



Urgently buying ALL collections
Especially United States &
Specialty Areas. Consignments
Also Accepted.
CALL NOW TOLL FREE
877.316.2895

Be sure to send, call
or email us for the
Auction Catalog for
our next sale.

Kelleher Auctions

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC
America's Oldest Philatelic Auction House
Established 1885

20 Walnut Street • Suite 213
Wellesley, MA 02481
781.235.0990 • Fax: 781.235.0945

info@kelleherauctions.com
www.kelleherauctions.com

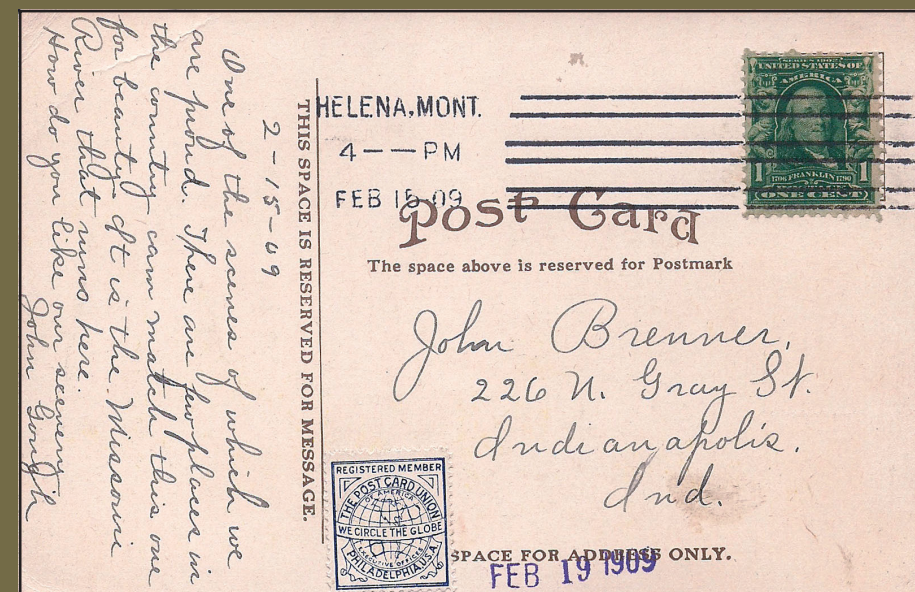
4 Finance Drive • Suite 100
Danbury, CT 06810
203.297.6056 • Fax: 203.297.6059



LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 45, No. 2
Whole Number 258
Second Quarter 2014

We Circle the Globe:
The Post Card Union and Their Private Stamps



By
**Richard S.
Hemmings**



OUR 45TH YEAR OF PUBLISHING AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY 1969-2014

Resources

siegelauctions.com



CATALOGUES AND PRICES REALIZED

Images and descriptions for all current sale catalogues are available from our website, as well as all sales going back to 1992, our Rarities sales from 1964 and selected name sales.

POWER SEARCH™

Search by Scott number or keyword through all of the sales at our website. The best resource in philately for research.

MY SIEGEL™

Save your Power Searches as want lists. We will automatically notify you when a match is included in an upcoming sale, whether it's as broad as any Columbian issue, or as narrow as a 241 graded 98. The most powerful want list in philately.

Name	Upcoming	Email	Options
2 on cover	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
199	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
Austria	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
British North America	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
Confederate States	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
All	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
Special Postings All	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
US Possessions All	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
Washington D.C.	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete
NY PSE 95 Plus	✓	✓	Run Edit Delete

LOT TRACKER™

Never miss another lot because you were away from your computer. Log into My Siegel™, then set up notifications to get texts and/or emails 10-30 lots before yours comes up (live bidding is still through Stamp Auction Network).

THE SIEGEL ENCYCLOPEDIA™

This feature of our website contains a wealth of information gleaned from decades of philatelic research by the dedicated philatelists at Siegel.

RARITIES CENSUS

The up-to-date census data for 19th and 20th century U.S. rarities are a valuable resource for buyers, sellers and researchers. Every recorded example of almost 40 different rare stamps is described and, in most cases, photographed.

Stamp Collecting's Most Advanced Searchable Database from America's Premier Stamp Auctioneer™

Sale # Lot # ☒ Ignore all other criteria when searching by sale# and

Sale Dates (mm/dd/yyyy) 01/01/1930 to 06/24/2010 Lot Class All

Area United States Sub Area U.S. Stamps General All Issue/Country All Catalogue # Equals

Grade PF Greater or Equal to OR PSE Greater or Equal to

Symbol (Use CTRL to select multiple symbols) All Mint N.H. Previously Hinged Unused (No Gum) Block - Mint N.H. Prices Realized Key Word

EXHIBITS AND MOUNTED COLLECTIONS

Downloadable PDF files of some of the top exhibits ever formed. See how others collect and benefit from their original research.

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Downloadable video documentaries tell the stories of stamps and covers. This is the ideal way to introduce philately to others.



SCHUYLER J. RUMSEY AUCTIONS IS IN NEED OF STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY!



The "Queen" of First Day Covers

Sold \$115,000



The "King" of First Day Covers

Sold \$172,500

THE TIME IS NOW TO SELL INDIVIDUAL RARITIES OR ENTIRE COLLECTIONS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GROWING MARKET, A PROFESSIONAL CATALOG AND PROMPT PAYMENT. PLEASE CONTACT US SHOULD YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR CONSIGNMENT OR DIRECT SALE.

Please visit our website at:
www.rumseyauctions.com


email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

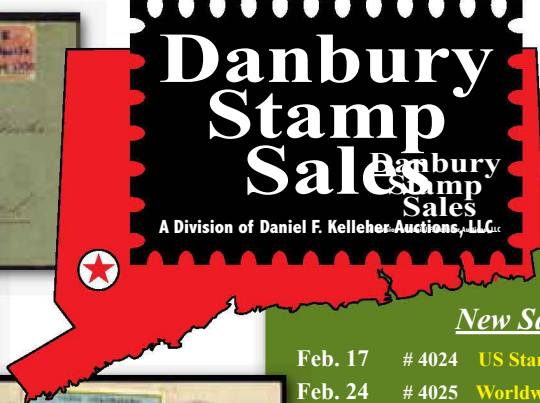
Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

47 Kearny Street
San Francisco
California 94108
t: 415-781-5127
f: 415-781-5128

A great source for LaPosta Readers!

Our weekly Internet auctions close every Sunday night at 11:59 pm—and feature a wide range of desirable United States postal history. Become a bidder!





Danbury Stamp Sales
A Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC

Upcoming Weekly Internet Sales
Closing every Sunday at 11:59 PM

New Sale Every Week!

Feb. 17	# 4024	US Stamps, Fancy Cancels & Postal History
Feb. 24	# 4025	Worldwide/British Stamps & Postal History
March 3	# 4026	Airmail Flights with Gerhard Wolff's Zeppelin PPC's & Worldwide Stamp Dealer Corner Cards
March 10	# 4027	US Stamps, Fancy Cancels & Postal History, Including Federal & State Revenues & Plate Blocks
March 17	# 4028	Worldwide/British Stamps & Postal History
March 24	# 4029	US Stamps, Postal History & Fancy Cancels Including Federal & State Revenues & Plate Blocks

www.kelleherauctions.com

BECOME AN ONLINE BIDDER!

Get in on the action on our **Danbury Stamp Sales' fabulous Weekly Web/Internet Sale** closing at **11:59 PM EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT** **Danbury Stamp Sales division's big Weekly Internet/Web Auction Sales.** An overwhelming array of wonderful United States & Worldwide stamps and covers—usually well over 5,000 outstanding lots from \$25 to the \$1,000s.

View the catalog and lot images—and bid in **ALL** of our Public Auctions and Web/Internet sales directly from our website: www.kelleherauctions.com



Consignments for upcoming sales or Outright Purchase welcomed. Contact us today to discuss your needs!



Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC

America's Oldest Philatelic Auction House • Established 1885

info@kelleherauctions.com
www.kelleherauctions.com

4 Finance Drive • Suite 100
Danbury, CT 06810

203.297.6056 • Fax: 203.297.6059



You Have Made a Stamp Investment... Now Get Quality Assurance



Not all stamps are what they appear to be.

7 Ways the Philatelic Foundation Can Help You

1. The Philatelic Foundation certifies your stamps and covers, giving you confidence on your purchases.
2. We grade stamps, which can add value to your collection.
3. Our experts check your stamps for faults such as thins, tears and scuffs.
4. We evaluate your stamps against improvements such as regumming and reperforating.
5. PF experts detect fake cancels and markings.
6. When helpful, we will conduct a scientific review of your stamps and covers.
7. The PF provides tax deductions for your donations.

Call 1-212-221-6555 or visit www.PhilatelicFoundation.org today to download a submission form for single or multiple items. Fill out the one-page form and send it to us with your stamps or covers.

**Visit our new website
PhilatelicFoundation.org**



The Philatelic Foundation
341 West 38th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(212) 221-6555
www.PhilatelicFoundation.org



LA POSTA

THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 45, No. 2

Whole No. 258

Second Quarter 2014

CONTENTS

We Circle The Globe:

The Post Card Union and Their Private Stamps

By Richard S. Hemmings 7

Mary White Ovington and the Fight for Racial Equality

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits 15

A Black Jack Use from the Old Capitol Prison

By Patricia A. Kaufmann 21

A Mt. Rainier Cover Censored in World War I

By Peter Martin 27

U.S. Auxiliary Markings: Askew APO and FPO Covers

By John M. Hotchner 29

The Modern Challenge:

The U.S. Postal Service Sorts the Mail

By David Crotty 34

Junk Mail with a Twist

By Don Tocher 43

Postal Forms Project Expands

By Russ Ryle 44

What is a Sergeant's Office?

By James L.D. Monroe 45

Postcard Pursuit: Odd-Shaped Postcards

By Charles A. Fricke 46

Twisters Destroy Pilger, Nebraska

..... 49

Town Postal History: Snow Shoe, Pennsylvania

By Paul Petosky 50

Nebraska Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen 52

COLUMNS

Publisher's Page By Peter Martin 5

Book Reviews 48

Ask La Posta 49

Letters 54

In The News 56

Index of Advertisers 62

Publisher and Editor

Peter Martin

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Office Manager

Advertising Manager

Joan Martin

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Associate Editors

Jesse Spector

Alan Warren

© 2014 *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

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

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

laposta.joan@yahoo.com

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

3rd Quarter 2014

4th Quarter 2014

1st Quarter 2015

July 10, 2014

Oct. 10, 2014

Jan. 10, 2015

La Posta Benefactors and Sustaining Subscribers

Benefactors

La Posta Benefactors contribute \$75 or more for their subscription. Benefactors recognize that the *La Posta* journal, along with its books and e-books, are a vital force that helps build and sustain interest in American postal history. Benefactor and Sustainer contributions go beyond just supporting the journal and help fund our research and publishing endeavors. We give our special thanks to the following individuals for contributions above and beyond:

Albert Aldham	Larry Haller	James K. Oliver	Robert Stoldal
Gary Anderson	Dave Hamilton	Alan Parsons	W. L. Strauss
Rex J. Bates	Kenneth L. Hamlin	Robert Quintero	James R. Stultz
William E. Brooks	Russell Lang	Robert D. Rawlins	John Tollan
Mike Brown	Dr. Richard Londo	Henry B. Scheuer	Ray Woodman
John A. Cheramy	Millard Mack	Larry R. Sell	Kenneth C. Wukasch
Richard F. Curtin	Robert L. Markovits	Dr. Michael Senta	
Elwyn J. Doubleday	Bernard D. Mayer Jr.	Timothy M. Sheehan	
Norman Elrod	Robert McCurdy	Gus Spector, M.D.	
Edward Fisher	Burnham S. Neill	Jesse Spector, M.D.	

Sustaining Subscribers

The following individuals and institutions have contributed financial assistance to *La Posta* in excess of their subscriptions and we are proud to list them as our Sustaining Subscribers. We are indebted to them for their generous support. Without it *La Posta* could not continue to exist.

Joseph J. Adamski	Joe Crosby	James E. Lee	Robert G. Schultz
Raymond Agren	Matt Dakin	Rev. David C. Lingard	Michael Serdy
Bill Arata	Robert M. Ebner	Larry Dean Maddux	Lawrence Sherman, M.D.
Ryan Baum	Sidney Fingerhood	Craig Martin	James E. Shew
Robert A. Beall	Dale Forster	Larry McBride	Joseph Sedivy
William R. Beith	Myron Fox	R. C. Randy McEwen	John A. Steele
Dr. Steven J. Berlin	A. E. Gaddy	Steven Miedziak	Rex Stever
Henry J. Berthelot	Ray Getsug	Lynn I. Minneman	Bob Summerell
John Bigart	James Green	Andrew W. Mitchell	Robert D. Swanson
John H. Bloor	Raymond S. Hadley	Col. Richard Morain	Michael Taugher
James N. Boyden	Dr. Edwin J. Helitzer	David Mui	Norman Tjeltveit
Roger S. Brody	Robert R. Henak	Ray L. Newburn Jr.	Don Tocher
Chip Brown	Gary G. Hendren	William A. Nix	Timothy G. Wait
Edward H. Brown	B. Clyde Hutchinson	Larry Oliver	Charles S. Wallis Jr.
Maurice M. Bursey	James H. Inverarity	John E. Panek	John Weigle
Arden D. Callender Jr.	Stefan T. Jaronsky	Robert Peck	David Wessely
Thomas E. Caton	Gordon E. Katz	Norman Pence	David E. Williams
Thomas E. Chastang	Lucien S. Klein	Paul Petosky	Wayne Worthington
Walter S. Clarke	Daniel M. Knowles, M.D.	The Philatelic Foundation	John Wright
David C. Collyer	William Kolodrubetz	Toivo Ranniko	
Vince Costello	George Kramer	Thomas S. Richardson	
Ronald Couchot	Alfred F. Kugel	Paul C. Schroeder	

Monograph Update

In the Fourth Quarter, 2013 *La Posta*, I announced plans to reestablish the issue of *La Posta* monographs. The concept was to have an annual subscription with enough subscribers to support the production of such a series.

Unfortunately, when the monograph subscriber series deadline of June 1 arrived, we had not obtained the needed minimum of 50 subscribers to make this a viable program. A number of readers provided comments and it seems that the big sticking point was not knowing which monographs would be part of the annual program.

Therefore, the subscriber series has been cancelled and we will return the checks received to date, along with a discount coupon that can be used towards the purchase of future *La Posta* publications.

While the subscriber series is dead, it does not mean that we will not be producing new monographs. It simply means that we have to go back to the drawing board and come up with a different approach.

We continue to be in contact with authors and organizations that have appropriate material for *La Posta* monographs and we'll provide further updates when these come to fruition.

If you're working on a project that you would like to have considered, please contact me at: pmartin2525@yahoo.com

As always, your thoughts and comments are welcome.

More and More

As you look through this issue you'll find a wide variety of authors and subjects and you'll find even more color pages. We continue to seek the best authors and articles to showcase in these pages and to have a variety of subjects in each issue. We welcome new and experienced authors. If you have an article idea, long or short, contact me so that we can get you into the *La Posta* schedule.

Michael Jaffe and Brookman Stamp Company

As with bringing you the best American postal history authors and articles, we also bring you the best in dealers and auction houses that feature American postal history.



Our goal is to make *La Posta* a "One Stop Shop" for postal historians so that any time you want to contact a postal history dealer or auction house, all you have to do is pull out the latest copy of *La Posta*.

With that thought in mind, we welcome dealer Michael Jaffe and Brookman Stamp Company to our growing list of advertisers.

Jaffe has long been known as one of the top Duck stamp dealers but the acquisition of the Brookman Stamp Company a number of years ago greatly expanded the scope of his business.

His recent purchase of a six-figure collection of advertising covers has brought him squarely into the sights of postal history collectors. My page 27 article about a fabulous World War I censored national park cover is an example of the type of material being offered. You can visit the Brookman website at: www.brookmanstamps.com

E-mail Addresses

On your subscription renewal form you'll note that we ask for your e-mail address. If you have one, please provide it. To save on the ever-rising cost of postage, we will use e-mail to notify you when it is time to renew your subscription.

Please note that your mailing label now also includes your subscription expiration date. If your label reads 2Q14 (Second Quarter 2014) or earlier, your renewal is now overdue.

PayPal

As I reported in the last issue, we are now set up to accept PayPal. If you would like to pay for your subscription using PayPal, please e-mail: laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Summer has arrived and we extend our best wishes for a safe and enjoyable season.

Peter Martin



Protect and Display with G&K



#10 Cover Album

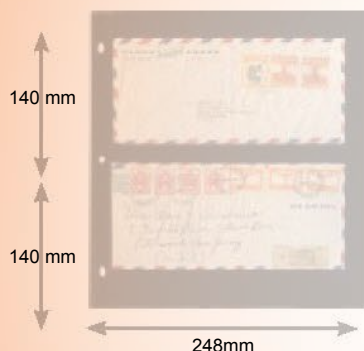
- Album with 25 pages (Page Size 10½x11½") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

- Black-back two-sided 2 pocket pages (holds 100 248x140mm covers)

ZGK-822A \$47.59, **\$33.31**

- Same with all-clear pages (holds 100 covers or 50 viewed from both sides)

ZGK-822AC \$47.59, **\$33.31**



Cover Album

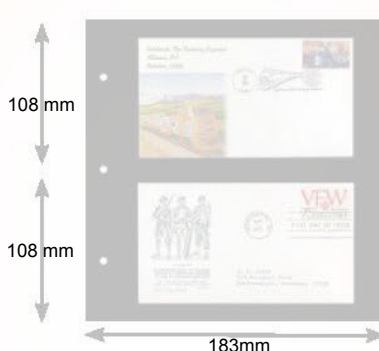
- Album with 25 pages (page size 8⅞x9") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

- Black-back two-sided 2 pocket pages (holds 100 180x108mm covers)

ZGK-838A \$31.17, **\$23.38**

- Same with all-clear pages (holds 100 covers or 50 viewed from both sides)

ZGK-838AC \$31.17, **\$23.38**



Euro Cover Album

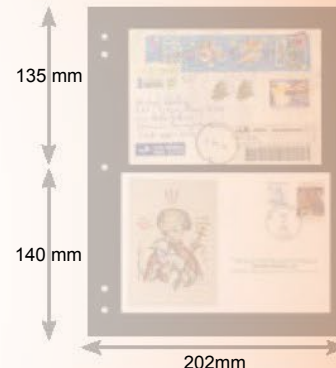
- Album with 25 pages (page size 9x11⅞") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

- Black-back two-sided 2 pocket pages (holds 100 202x135mm covers)

ZGK-850A \$37.25, **\$27.94**

- Same with all-clear pages (holds 100 covers or 50 viewed from both sides)

ZGK-850AC \$37.25, **\$27.94**



G&K Ultralight Cover Holders

- Crystal clear safety vinyl
- Top loading, ⅛" lip for easy insertion
- Free of chemical softeners, shrink proof
- Ultralight 4 mil front and back panels are firm but flexible
- 30% Lighter - 30% Lower Price

Size To Fit	Size	Pocket Size			per 100	per 1,000
Plate Blocks	4¼x3"	(98x68mm)	ZGK-864CU	\$20.46	\$16.37	\$153.46
Approval Cards	6¼x3½"	(153x88mm)	ZGK-834CU	25.08	20.06	188.10
Postcard	6¼x4"	(153x98mm)	ZGK-836CU	26.61	21.29	199.58
U.S. Covers	7¼x4⅞"	(182x103mm)	ZGK-838CU	30.40	24.32	228.00
European Covers	8x5¼"	(197x128mm)	ZGK-850CU	36.48	29.18	273.60
European Covers #2	7¼x5¼"	(183x128mm)	ZGK-850CU1	36.48	29.18	273.60
US Full Sheets	9¼x11"	(231x270mm)	ZGK-820CU	83.58	66.86	626.85

America's (and the World's) Largest Stamp Collecting Supply Company



SHIPPING CHARGES

By MAIL/UPS *: \$7.50 Min. Orders over \$54 ADD 12%,

Over \$100 ADD 10%, Over \$250 ADD 8%

* Some Remote Areas Carry Higher Shipping charges.

PA Residents: ADD 6% Sales Tax

ADD \$5/\$10 Per Parcel on high weight/low cost orders shipped to the 11 Western States & TX

Ask for Shipping Charges to AK, HI, P.R., APO's, FPO's, Foreign

Phone: 1-800-221-9960 Fax: 1-888-221-9960

Email: custserv@subwaystamp.com Phone: 814-946-1000 Fax: 814-946-9997



2121 Beale Ave, Altoona, Pa 16601 - Dept. L

www.subwaystamp.com

Prices subject to change without notice

Not Responsible For Typographical Errors



Figure 2: The Union News Company operated venues in transportation hubs.

WE CIRCLE THE GLOBE: **The Post Card Union and Their Private Stamps**

By Richard S. Hemmings

Many of you know me as the “Ground Zero Guy.” I am studying the area where the World Trade Center stood and what was there before and after it was built. If you read my articles for *La Posta*, you know I call this the Towers District.

But, sometimes learning does not occur in an exact straight line. This article deals with something that came to my attention while researching the Towers District, and it took me not to New York, but rather to Philadelphia.

One of my many New York City interests is UNCO stamps (Figure 1). UNCO, the Union News Company, was one of the largest distributors and retail sellers coast to coast of newspapers, magazines, comic books, cigarettes, postcards, playing cards and all manner of sundries.

They had the exclusive contract to sell such items at New York City ferries, bus stations, railroad terminals and all transportation hubs (Figure 2). They also ran luncheonettes and restaurants. They grew to offer such items all over the country, even on the trains themselves. Virtually every Union Station had a Union Newsstand run by UNCO.

Because the Towers District had so many transportation hubs, this company had several locations in this limited space. UNCO was broken up under anti-trust laws in the 1950s.

One item they moved a great deal of was postcards, which were in the midst of their golden age during the time UNCO was at the wheel. They were a huge seller for UNCO. Think about it: you have a few minutes



Figure 1: Union News Company stamps.

before your train arrives; why not write to the folks at home or on the job? UNCO began to mark postcards with their logo so that no confusion would exist as to who owned the profits (Figure 3).

Many of these cards were not manufactured by the UNCO people, but once in an UNCO newsstand

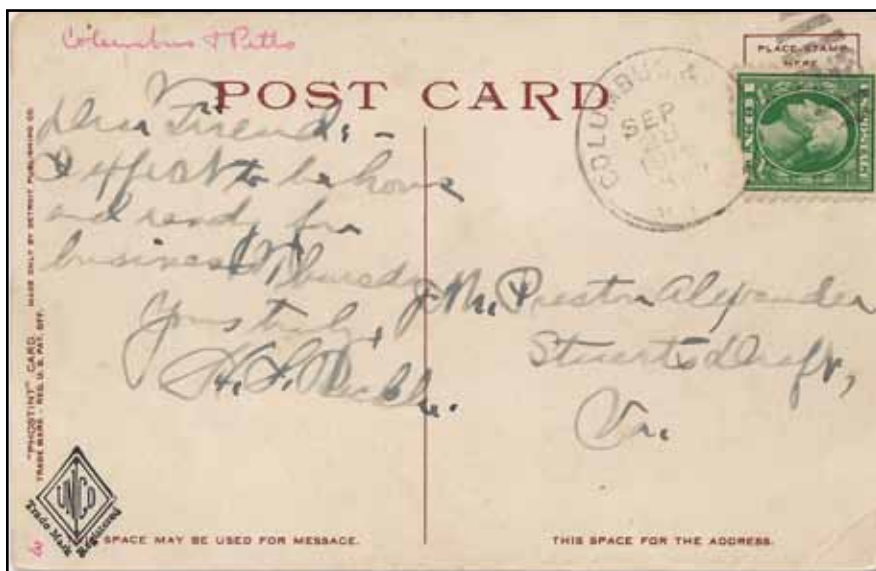


Figure 3: Union News Company overprint (bottom left) on a postcard.

the sellers wanted to make it clear it was all theirs. Whether or not the UNCO labels were ever used for this purpose remains unclear. But, in the process of searching for UNCO's connection to the world of postcards, I discovered another interesting label, the Post Card Union stamp (Figure 4).

For a short time I thought this might be a similar business label (the word Union being present in both UNCO and Post Card Union led to the discovery). But, in actuality, The Post Card Union was a society for people who wanted to make their postcard collection grow through exchanging cards directly with other collectors.

Since we are stamp collectors I think a little basic knowledge of postcard collecting is in order. Some basic postcard abbreviations include RPPC (Real Photo Post Card), UDB (Undivided Back) and DB (Divided Back). Some familiar terms that are different in the deltiological universe are stamp box (stamp collectors use that term when describing postcards, but it can also refer to what we call a stamp collar, which is quite relevant, as you will see) and standard size (a postcard measuring 3.5 x 5.5 inches).

At the dawn of the 20th century, postcards evolved very rapidly, so a timeline is useful. The "idea" of a card, useful for conveying a short message cheaply, goes back to 1840 when a card was created and mailed, perhaps as a joke, depicting the Penny Black, England's first stamp.

The first commercial attempt to create a postcard was Lipman's Postal Card. This was a misnomer, as this was actually a postcard (it needed a government stamp to be mailed). Soon, some countries started issuing postal cards with printed stamps. The United States issued its first postal card (some called it a penny postal) in May 1873.



Figure 4: The Post Card Union stamp.

At this point the Post Office Department was the only entity that could make cards to pass through postal channels; however, a way to get around this regulation was to print colorful designs on the reverse of postal cards. Usually seen in conjunction with some manner of exposition, these cards are the true grandfathers of the modern card.

The interest in these cards was so great that, in 1898, Congress passed a law allowing Private Mailing Cards to enter the market. Each card had to be inscribed Private Mailing Card—Authorized by the Act of Congress on May 19th 1898 and the usual postage had to be prepaid as with all manner of mail. There were tight restrictions and many postcard manufacturers could not adjust.

Still the cat was out of the bag and on December 24, 1901, the old regulations were replaced by a new law. The words "Post Card" were placed on the mailing side. During this period, the address was all that was allowed on this side (other than the stamp and postmark). This Undivided Back period continued until the law was changed on March 1, 1907.

The already steady flow of postcards turned into a torrent with the new regulation that allowed users to place messages on the address side of the card. The line separating the two sides led to the Divided Back period.

In the midst of the UDB period, a new phenomenon occurred: postcard societies. These organizations existed for one purpose: to get as many postcards for their members as humanly possible. There was certainly more than one. I personally know of at least four, all of which exchanged cards through the mails.

They included the Busy Booster Club of Hammond, Indiana, the intellectual-sounding Society for the Promulgation of Post Cards and the Jolly



Figure 5: Two examples of the Uncle Sam stamp collar.



Figure 6 (Below): Handstamp devices.



Jokers, who issued a house organ called *The Southern Post Card Magazine* from their Nashville, Tennessee headquarters.

But, it was the most successful of these societies that issued the stamp that I am currently studying. The Post Card Union had a reputed 10,000 members

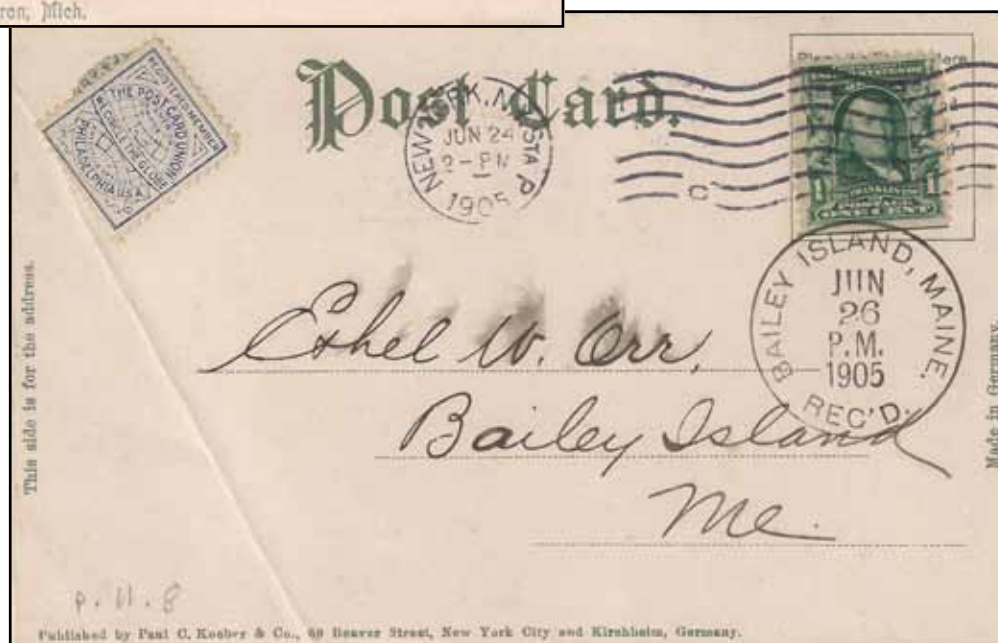
at their peak. I do not know the exact date when they formed, but it appears they were in business from about 1904 to 1910.

When you have a postcard society, you need a base from which members can draw names to exchange from. The Jolly Jokers had a newsletter, and I assume



Figure 7: The blue-green stamp. Notice the straight edge. These may have been issued in booklets.

Figure 8: The Post Card Union stamp on this card is perf 11.8.



at least some of the contacts originated in their pages. The Post Card Union advertised in magazines. They offered a roster from which you could pick out people to exchange with. They also issued handstamps to mark the cards (so you would know you were dealing with a bona fide member) or stamps to stick on. It's my theory, but not proven fact, that the handstamps (and printed cards) predate the labels. I believe the handstamps were too spotty and the society made the stamps to take their place. However, the reverse may be true.

So, from my research these are the different types of devices used to show you were a member of the Post Card Union:

1. Green Uncle Sam stamp box (collar) printed on UB postcards (Figure 5)
2. Black Uncle Sam stamp box (collar) printed on UB postcards (identical in design to device 1).
3. Handstamp, circular, various colors (Figure 6 shows types 3 and 4)

4. Handstamp, square, (resembles label without perfs) various colors

5. Label, in blue-green perf. 12, possibly issued in booklets (Figure 7)

6. Label, in blue, perf. 12

7. Label, in blue, perf 11.8 (Figure 8)

8. Label, in blue, perf 14

As I said, the order is not proven. The perf 11.8 may have been caused by machine malfunction. I do not have a large enough census to say for sure.

All the Uncle Sam stamp boxes I have seen are UB, and, if used, from that time period. However, issuing actual cards (not something that was added by the member) may have been simultaneous with one of the stamp or handstamp types. It certainly appears to be an inefficient way of promoting the society. It would increase postage (shipping the cards to the member) and printing costs. I doubt that the society wanted to be in the actual postcard business.



Figure 9: Example of the Lillian Clarkson correspondence.

Figure 10: Both sides of a card with a revealing message: 'Having just become a member of Post Card Union would like to change (sic) cards with you.'



From the very few advertisements I have seen for The Post Card Union, the “home” address for the club can be ascertained. It was 1020 Arch Street in Philadelphia. The building may have included 1022 Arch Street as well.

This gives us some information because 1020 Arch Street was the main selling point for the Friends Bookstore. This bookstore also printed many Quaker related flyers and documents. So, it is possible that the stamps, and the stamp box cards were printed on a

Quaker-owned press, perhaps even within the walls of the bookstore. It’s certainly an interesting idea, but by no means proven as yet.

If the labels were the omega of this enterprise, as I suspect, they may have been conceived because the handstamps were unclear and of varying quality. Many of the handstamps I have seen are muddy and difficult to read. Perhaps mixing their handstamp with an unknown quantity like a members ink pad just wasn’t professional enough. At any rate, sometime during 1905

Figure 11: Label on the picture side.

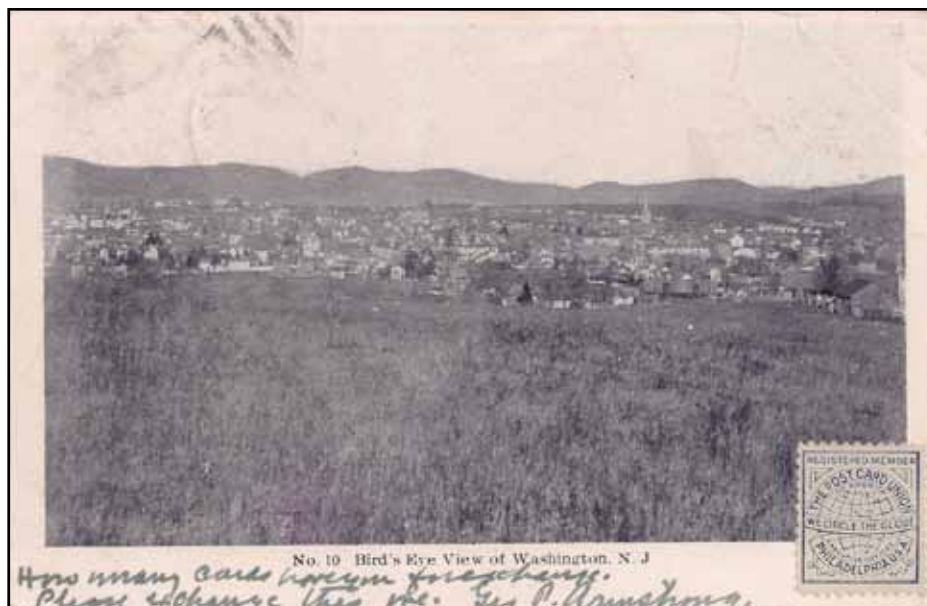


Figure 12 (Below): Label on the picture side tied by stray cancel ink.

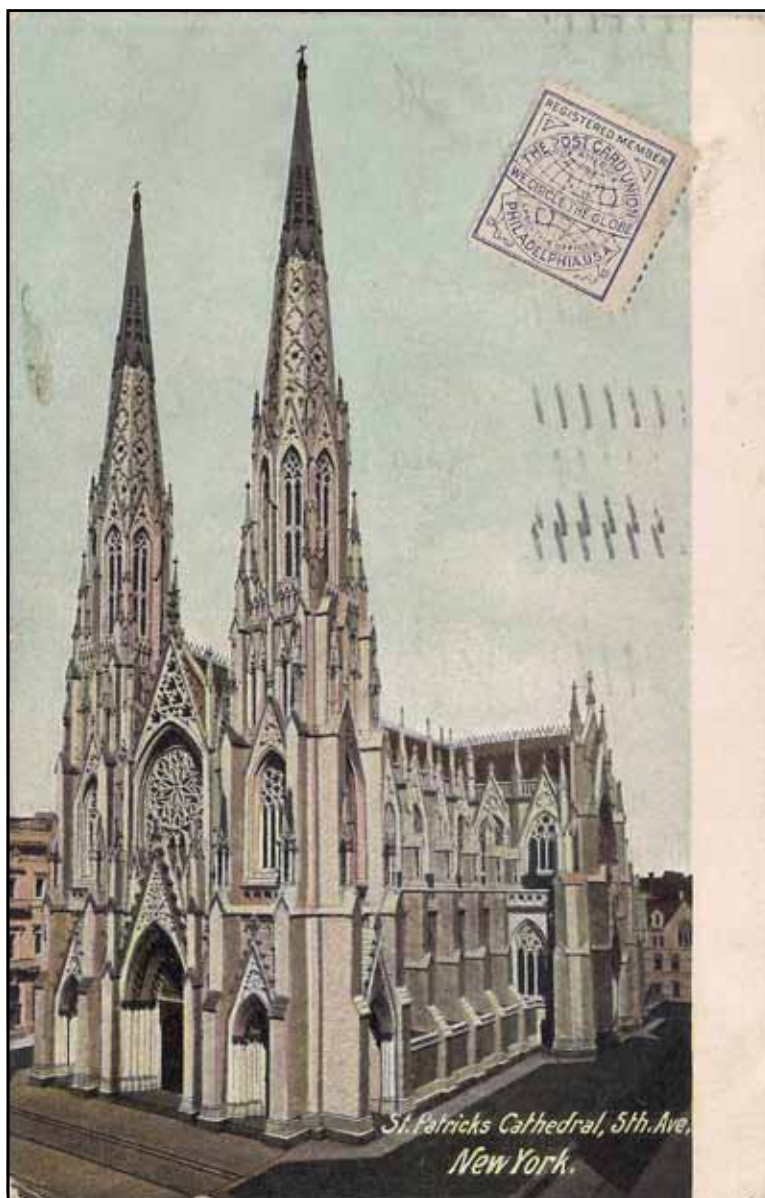


Figure 13 (Below): Two postcards with labels on the message side.

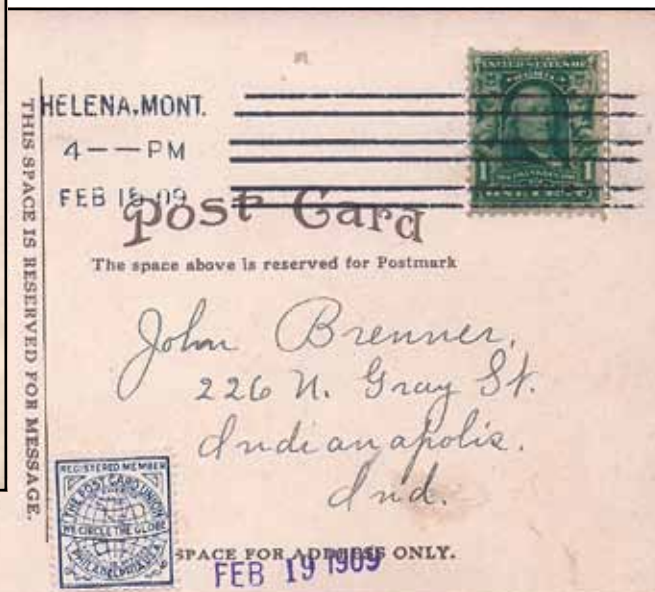




Figure 14: Label tied by the machine cancel.

Figure 15: The Post Card Union label on a card with a fancy address side.



the Post Card Union introduced their labels. Despite their beauty and clear appearance, they are quite hard-to-find today. It is possible they were just too expensive for the Post Card Union to print for members.

One of the reasons that I have a few examples of these cards to share is the Lillian Clarkson correspondence (Figure 9). I don't know much about her, but she was apparently a young lady (at the time) who enjoyed exchanging cards with other Post Card Union members. She kept her cards in an album, and her children or grandchildren left the album as part of an estate in 2012.

The buyer sold her cards on the Internet and I bought all the ones that had the stamp on them. Many of these cards had messages (Figure 10), which give a snapshot into the daily collecting of postcards after the turn of the century. The down side is that this skews my knowledge of how many of each stamp was issued. Of the 12 examples of the final label (device 8), 11 are from the Lillian Clarkson find. No Lillian Clarkson cards have been seen on the other types.

So does this mean the last label is the most common, or is it just a coincidence?

Another curious thing is the placement of the labels. Sometimes they are on the picture side (Figure 11), and sometimes that even gives a crude "tie" when a bit of cancel ink touches the stamp (Figure 12).

More often than not, they are on the address side of the card (Figure 13) and sometimes the collectors' dream occurs and they are tied by the cancel (Figure 14). I have also seen the label on unused cards, which probably means they were sent under separate cover.

The stamps lean to the East Coast, but I have seen western and foreign usages. The postage stamp on these cards is usually Scott 300, but others are possible.

How can you help? If you know anything that I don't, please let me have the information. Types of the stamps and usages, any information about their connection to the Friends Bookstore and especially sheet size --or any unused multiple or single are desired.

The stamp shown at the beginning is the only off cover label I have seen. Unusual postal history usages or



Figure 16: The Busy Booster Club.

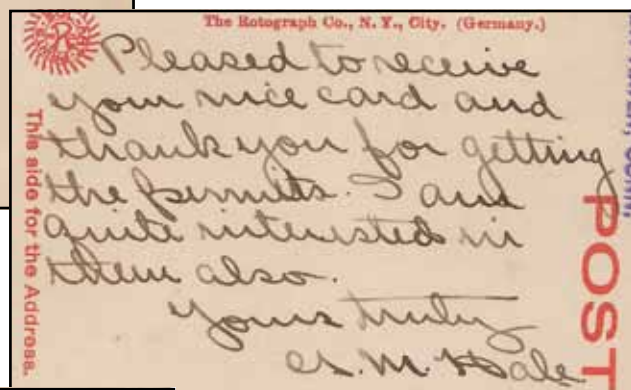


Figure 17: Detail of Figure 16 message that mentions 'permits.'



Figure 18: One last label tied to a card.

late usages are also needed. Especially attractive cards make interesting pieces (Figure 15). If you don't want to part with these labels please send a scan. Perhaps I can update this information in the future. There are still many questions!

And then, there is the Busy Booster Club. There is virtually no information extant about this midwestern club. But, they issued a label (Figure 16). I have only seen four Busy Booster stamps. They all have (so far) an odd thing in common. The label is always next to the postage stamp. All four are tied, not only by the postal cancel, but also by a private handstamp. Perhaps, it was required of members. Notice that the sender's return address is stamped in ink that matches the Busy Booster handstamp. The request or demand that members put the

label right next to the stamp may have upset the Post Office Department. Other label-issuing entities (think Christmas Seals) had problems at the beginning with the USPOD. The message on the Busy Booster card (Figure 17) has an odd comment: Pleased to receive your nice card and thank you for getting the permits. I am quite interested in them also....

When you are a collector, there is always something interesting headed your way. I think I will leave you with one more example of a tied Post Card Union stamp (Figure 18) in hope that it inspires you to examine your collections for more postcard society inspired mailings.

(Richard S. Hemmings won the inaugural Helbock Prize. E-mail, rhyminvibes@yahoo.com)

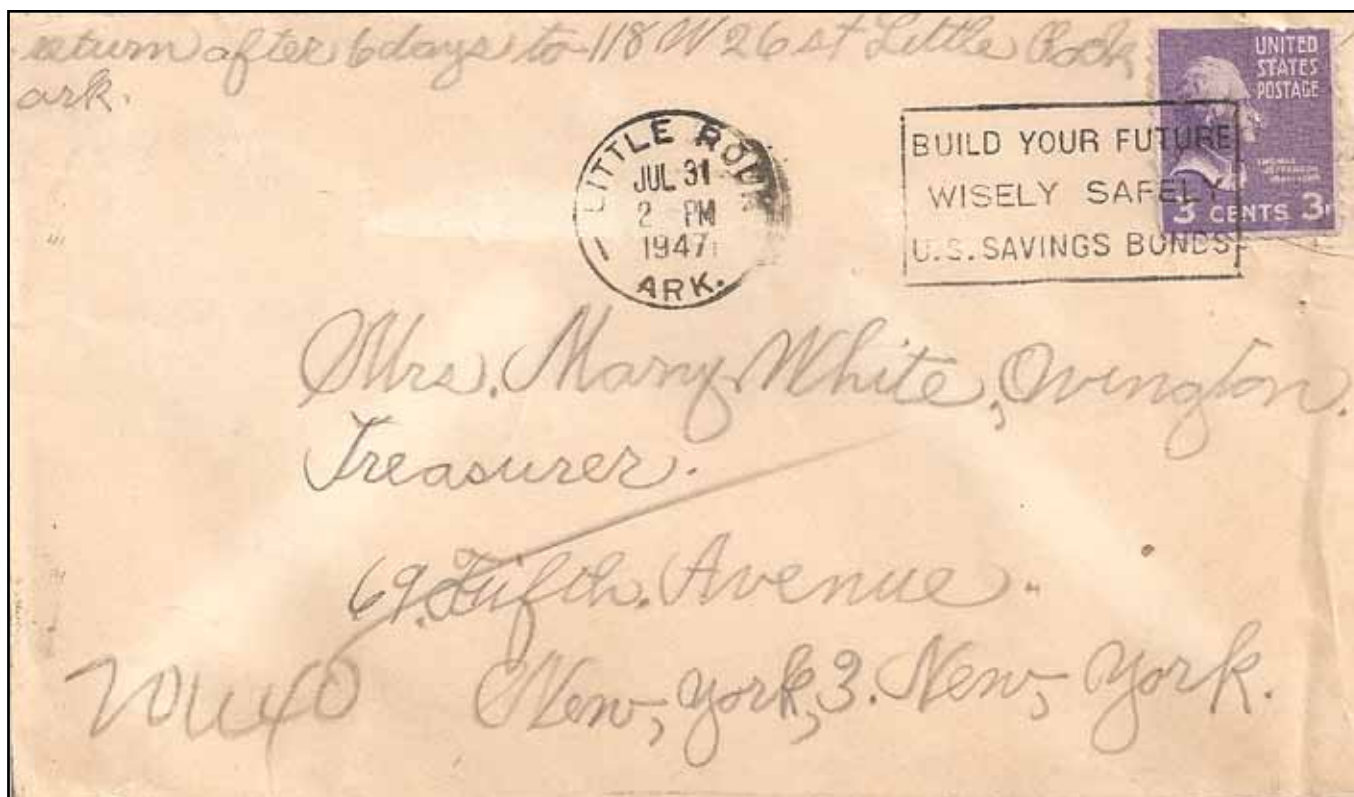


Figure 1: The 1947 cover for a letter addressed to Mary White Ovington at NAACP headquarters in New York City.

Mary White Ovington and the Fight for Racial Equality

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

Our cover reminded us of the story of a mother who responded to the fact that while her child was perhaps not the greatest beauty on the planet, “once you get to know her she’s just the greatest love you can imagine.”

In a similar vein, our child is a slightly tatty, mid-twentieth century cover (Figure 1) with a return address of 118 W. 26th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, addressed in pencil to Mrs. Mary White Ovington, Treasurer, at 69 Fifth Avenue in New York.

Once our story is told we believe you too will develop an enlightened affection for this philatelic piece. Join us as we introduce you to a remarkable woman, Mary White Ovington, and her life-long commitment to bringing racial equality to an unruly and resistant United States in the first half of the twentieth century. And with great pleasure let us also introduce you to the St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, which coincidentally is located at—yes you guessed it—118 W. 26th St. in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Figure 2:
Mary White Ovington.

We were initially attracted to this cover by the somewhat patrician name, Mary White Ovington. Although the name did not result in immediate name recognition, it was vaguely familiar and, in any case, sounded interesting.

And the fact that it was addressed to Ovington as “Treasurer” of what we had yet to determine, but was on Fifth Avenue, made it all the more intriguing.

The letter was posted in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 31, 1947, and postage was paid with a Presidential issue, Jefferson three-cent (Scott 807) stamp. The *piece de resistance* for us proved to be none other than the palpably careful scripted penciled handwriting,

inexplicably suggesting to us a sense of great care being given to addressing the missive.

The vignette that this scenario created was compelling and, in the long run, would prove to be consistent with the facts of Mary Ovington’s role in our story and the likely nature of the unknown sender.

Our initial curiosity concerning Mary White Overton

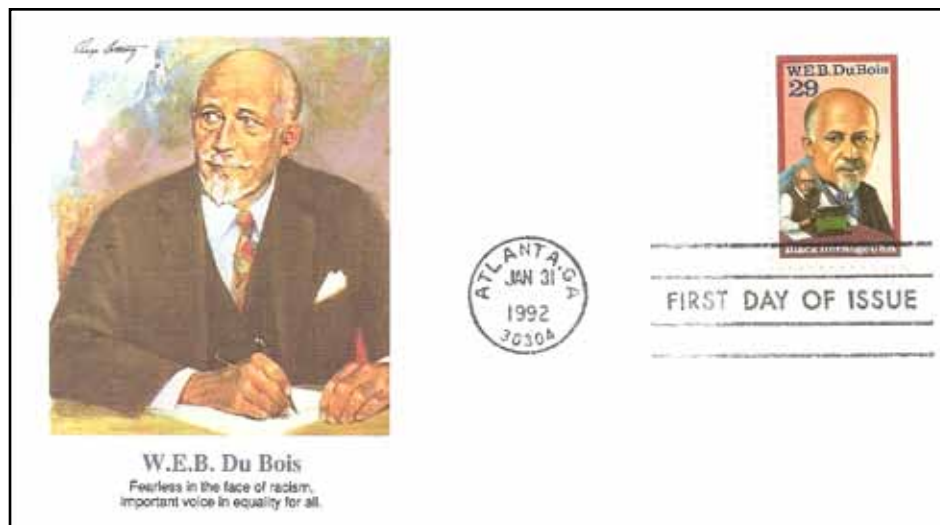


Figure 3: W.E.B. DuBois Black Heritage series stamp on a first day cover.

(Figure 2) proved to be on the mark. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 11, 1865, into an affluent family of Unitarians who were abolitionists and women's rights advocates, Ovington would wear many hats and support a multitude of noble causes during her eighty-six year life. None would be more passionate and consuming to her than combating the virulent racial discrimination pervasive in early twentieth century American life.

Certainly the apple did not fall far from the tree considering that her parents and grandparents were acquainted with leading abolitionists of the nineteenth century and were also Unitarians, practicing a rationalist approach to life.

Ovington said it quite succinctly when she stated: "I believe in no absolute truths and that man's progress when he makes any is not the result of slogans but of work...and issues should be decided not on the merits of publicity, but, shall we say, on the merits of the greatest good to the greatest number." Ovington was clearly a rationalist, and a Utilitarian to boot.

Ovington's entrance into the fray of racism would require a gradual awakening to the reality of discrimination in America, since her patrician upbringing to an extent sheltered her from outside influences. She attended the Packer Collegiate Institute, a prestigious girls' school in Brooklyn, New York, from 1888 to 1890, followed by two years at the Harvard Annex (later Radcliffe College) from 1891 to 1893. There she was a research assistant to a renowned economics professor and socialist, William J. Ashley, whose teaching and politics would influence her future career direction and writing.

Ovington was forced to leave college after the second year, never to complete her degree, when her father's business as a merchandiser of china was decimated in the financial panic of 1893. She obtained employment

as the registrar at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and two years later assumed work in a new tenement built by her employer, Frederick B. Pratt. In this role she was introduced to the plight of the working class and during the next seven years she would first help found and then run the Greenpoint Settlement House in Brooklyn. The purpose of Greenpoint House was to help improve the abject living conditions of subsistence workers and their families.

Ovington's transition into the civil rights arena harkened back to her family's belief in equal rights for emancipated slaves. She was also profoundly impressed with the sentiments of the iconic, civil rights advocate, Frederick Douglass, whom she heard speak at a Brooklyn church in 1890.

Near the end of her tenure at Greenpoint, years later in 1903, she credits a speech given by Booker T. Washington at the Social Reform Club as the epiphany to her lifetime focus on racial equality. Washington related to his white audience the fact that Northern racism, while not as institutionalized as in the South, was every bit as disabling for blacks in the North. After hearing Washington speak, Ovington made the decision to alter her life's work and to pursue further settlement activities among black people.

Ovington sought the advice of Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch, the head of Greenwich House Settlement. Simkhovitch obtained a fellowship for Ovington with the Greenwich House Committee on Social Investigation studying employment and housing problems in black Manhattan.

Ovington resigned her position at Greenpoint, took up the fellowship, moved into an all black neighborhood and, in 1911, published her findings in an exceptionally well received work, *Half a Man: The status of the Negro in New York*.



Figure 4: W.E.B. DuBois Celebrate the Century 1900s stamp (bottom row, second from left).

Her study would conclude that white prejudice prevented blacks from ever developing their full potential in society and that by denying the black race such expression whites “restricts its education, stifle its intellectual and aesthetic impulses and make it impossible to fairly gauge its ability.”

Mary Ovington had entered the milieu that would drive her insatiable spirit for the next half century. Of the many renowned individuals who would make up her coterie over the ensuing decades, the one person who clearly stood out from the crowd would be William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, better known as W.E.B. Du Bois.

Descended from free people of color in Haiti and raised in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, this Harvard educated iconic figure was a socialist, civil rights activist, sociologist, educator, writer, poet and scholar, whose life is clearly beyond the scope of our story, except to say that from Mary Ovington’s first encounter with him in 1904, the two would become among a handful of the most influential people to wage the battle for racial equality in the United States.

Du Bois had been among the founders of the Niagara Movement in 1905, a black civil rights organization named for the “mighty current” of change the group espoused.¹

It was shortly after a massive race riot in Springfield,

Illinois in 1908 that Ovington responded to a call by socialist William English Walling to create an organization to come to the aid of blacks. Many others responded to the call as well, resulting in a national conference being held on Lincoln’s birthday in 1909 to discuss the need to protect the civil and political rights of African-Americans.

The conference would lead to the formation of the National Negro Committee and the subsequent creation of a permanent organization in 1910—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)—where Ovington was appointed as its executive secretary.

Many years later, one of her biographers, Carolyn Wedin, would write that from her perspective Mary Ovington was the founder of the NAACP: “... she single-handedly pulled in and kept together the radicals, the socialists, the journalists, the writers, the newspaper owners, the Blacks and the Whites, the Jews and Unitarians into the 20th century cause of justice, freedom, and sanctuary from lynching of Black Americans. You don’t have to take my word; you shouldn’t. You should go to her own story and the story of this cause.”²

Wedin is referring to Ovington’s 1947 autobiography, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, a great read that is still in print.

Mary White Ovington spent the next thirty-seven years holding various positions in the NAACP. She served on the executive board from its founding until her retirement in 1947, as director of branches from 1919 to 1932, as chairman of the board, and as treasurer from 1932 to 1947.

Ovington’s commitment to the NAACP was not to the exclusion of numerous other endeavors that, each on its own merit could consume a good part of one’s waking hours.

Her work with the National Consumer League aimed at eliminating child labor. In the women’s suffrage movement, she worked for the inclusion of African-American women in the movement’s organization—no mean feat in an era of blatant social segregation. She was a radical socialist and a member of the Socialist Party, exploiting her leftist views to benefit the role of racial integration.

She was a pacifist who, in her reminiscences published in 1932, said about the belligerents in World War I: “I had not the slightest use for the cause of which either side fought. I liked Germany better than any other European country, and I couldn’t see, with England’s record in Ireland and India, why she should be considered less imperialistic than her neighbor. They seemed all tarred from the same brush. Had the war been to end some form of slavery, I doubt whether my pacifism would have held.”



Figure 5: Mary White Ovington and W.E.B. DuBois NAACP commemorative medal.



Figure 7: Frederick Douglas Civil War issue stamp (second row, center)

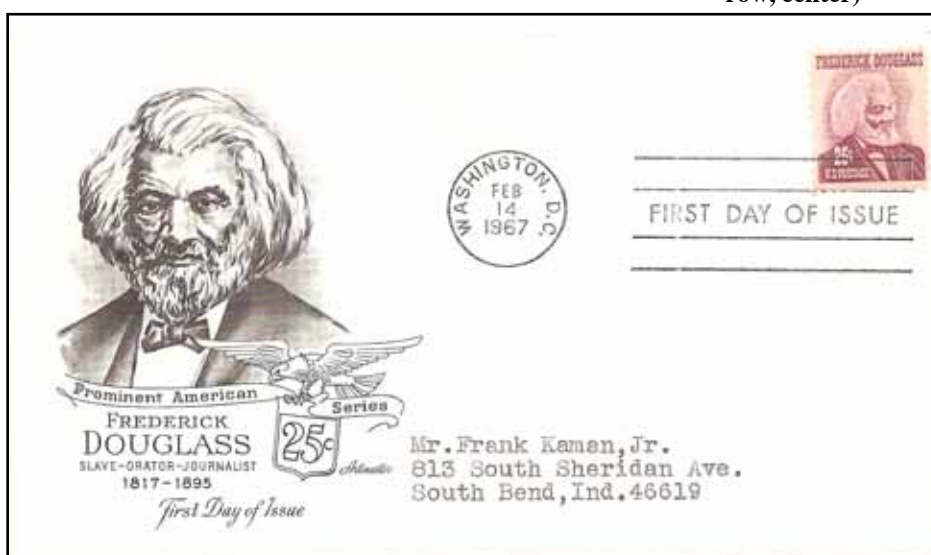


Figure 6: Frederick Douglas Prominent American series stamp on an Artmaster first day cover.

Finally, Ovington was a peripatetic writer and journalist for much of her life contributing articles to many newspapers as well as writing a book review column syndicated in many newspapers. As a writer, Ovington wrote works of nonfiction as well as novels and children's books.

Ovington retired as a board member of the NAACP in 1947 as her health began to fail. She removed herself to the Berkshire home she had maintained for many years as a retreat in western Massachusetts and died on July 15, 1951. Her ashes reside in the chapel at the Unitarian Community Church in New York City.

As philatelists, we take satisfaction in the knowledge that our avocation and hobby not only studies the transmission of the mails, but honors those we believe are deserving of recognition.

In that vein, let us recall that W.E.B. Du Bois was honored in 1992 with a Black Heritage series stamp (Scott 2617) for his work as writer and civil rights leader (Figure 3). Du Bois would again appear on postage stamps in 1998 as part of the Celebrate the Century 1900s pane (Scott 3182), in which he is portrayed as a social activist (Figure 4).

Finally, he and Ovington were portrayed on a

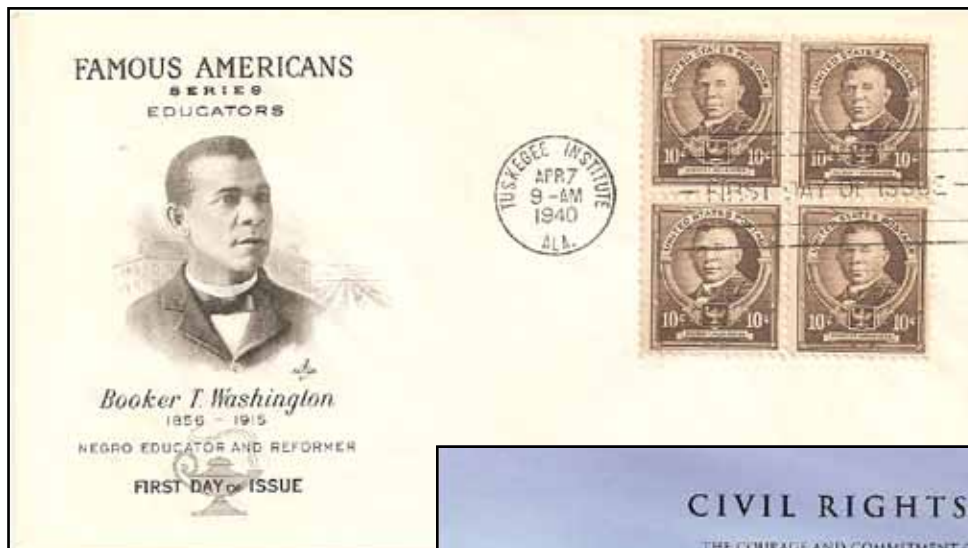
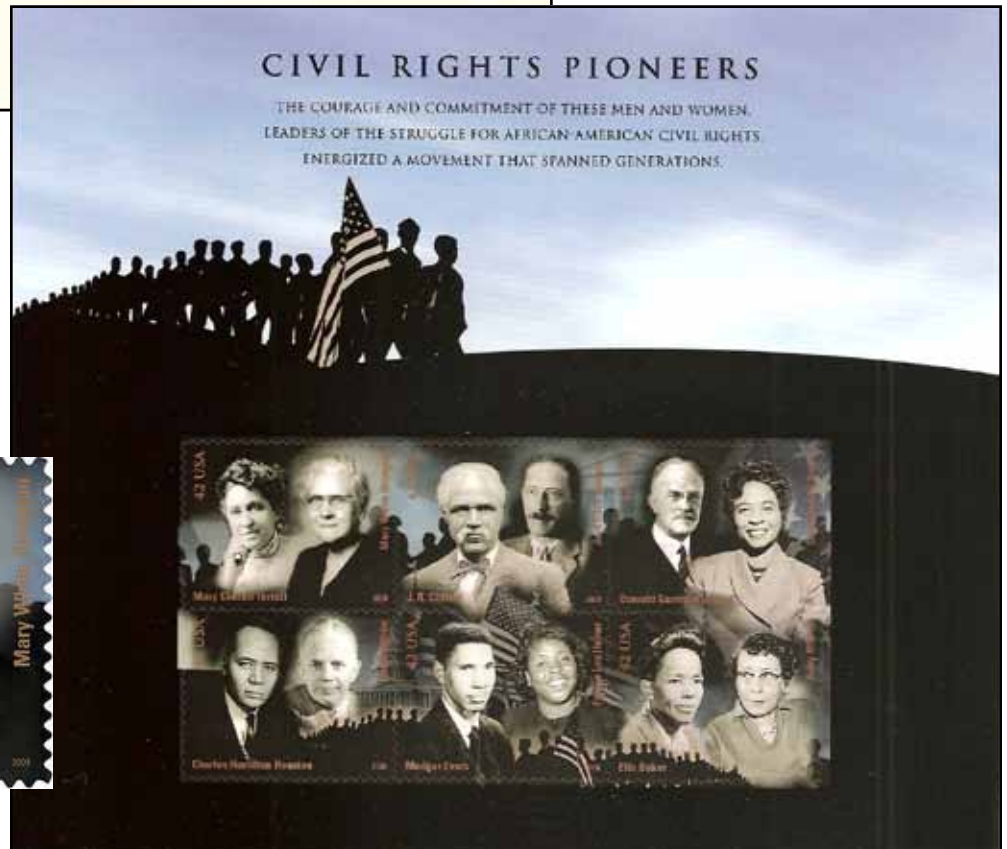


Figure 8: the 10-cent Booker T. Washington American Educators series stamp on an ArtCraft first day cover.

Figure 9: Mary White Ovington and Mary Church Terrell Civil Rights series pane and stamp.



lovely commemorative medal produced in their honor by the NAACP (Figure 5).

Frederick Douglas, who early on would greatly influence Mary Ovington's convictions towards civil rights, first appeared on stamps in the 1967 Prominent Americans issue (Scott 1290, Figure 6). He would make his second appearance in the 1995 Civil War issue (Scott 2975) on the sheet of twenty dominant figures of the conflict (Figure 7).

Booker T. Washington made a great impression on Ovington and he would be honored with a postage stamp in the 1940 American Educators series (Scott 873, Figure 8).

And, indeed, our Mary White Ovington would receive her honor in 2009 with her depiction, together with Mary Church Terrell, in the Civil Rights series of United States postage stamps (Scott 4384, Figure 9).

We conclude with the thought we posited at the outset of this piece regarding the sender of the missive that led to our investigation. This envelope spoke volumes to us. We did not have the sender's name, but the return address at 118 W. 26th Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, led us to a Google search of Little Rock, Arkansas. We had little expectation that honing in on 118 W. 26th Street would prove informative now sixty-seven years after the fact, but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Dear reader, if you have ever experienced a shiver going up your spine this was one of those occasions. Enlarging the image, a magnificent edifice came into view (Figure 10). We then came upon the inscription: St. John Baptist Church. We had arrived home.

The St. John Missionary Church was organized on July 28, 1890, and the history of the congregation



Figure 10: St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

states, “it continues to be a pillar of the South End community.” Eleven pastors have led this African-American congregation since its founding, with the current pastor, C. Dennis Edwards I, serving now for thirty-four years. The prior edifice is gone but the grounds and the new edifice maintain the spirit of the old.

Life has been breathed back into the carefully penciled communication to the “Treasurer” of what we now know was the NAACP office in New York, as this dramatic picture from the window of the office reveals, with a flag informing passersby of another black lynching having occurred in America on the prior day (Figure 11).

We, of course, do not know the contents of the letter, but with our search completed and the story of Mary Ovington presented, we can be quite certain that the writer was an African-American member of St. John Baptist Church. Perhaps the missive was NAACP business or possibly a donation.

Then again, considering that the letter was postmarked July 31, 1947, and Ovington was retiring because of poor health, perhaps it was a note of thanks and appreciation. While we cannot but speculate on the nature of the missive we would like to believe it was the latter possibility. That would certainly be in keeping with what we surmised as the “character” of the cover that first attracted our attention. Musings that will remain just that—intriguing findings from a cover explored.

Endnotes

- 1 Niagara Movement
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niagara_Movement
- 2 Mary White Ovington, *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*: New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1947.

References

Unitarianism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarianism>



Mary White Ovington: Founder of the NAACP

<http://harvardsquarelibrary.org/unitarians/ovington.html>

Mary White Ovington Biography

<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/racialjustice/a/ovington.htm>

NAACP History: Mary White Ovington

<http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history-Mary-White-Ovington>

Mary White Ovington

<http://www.25uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/marywhiteovington.html>

Mary White Ovington

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

(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.)



Figure 3: A local prisoner-of-war drop cover franked with a two-cent Black Jack from Alex Gobble, incarcerated in the Old Capitol Prison, to Professor B.S. Hedrick.

A Black Jack Use from the Old Capitol Prison

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

United States and Confederacy Issue Stamp with Same Portrait

The United States two-cent Black Jack (Scott 73), shown in Figure 1, is a popular stamp with U.S. collectors and has been the basis of more than one important collection, as well as many articles and even books. Collectors of Confederate postal history are equally interested in this issue, although it is seldom encountered on Confederate mail.

The earliest recorded use of the Black Jack is July 1, 1863, on an off-cover stamp and July 6, 1863, on cover.¹ By that July 1, 1863, date the Civil War had been raging for more than two years and it would be less than two years until Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House.

In 1863, the one-cent U.S. carrier fee was abolished. The new Black Jack stamp paid the two-cent rate per one-half ounce for local or drop letters and a new third-class rate for newspapers, periodicals and a wide variety of other mail matter, at a rate of two-cents per four ounces or fraction thereof.

The stamp pictured the seventh U.S. President,



Figure 1: Mint, never hinged top sheet margin copy of the U.S. two-cent Black Jack from the Alan B. Whitman collection sold in 2009. (Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries)



Figure 2: An unused example of the Confederate two-cent 'Red Jack' from the author's stock.

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845). Jackson was born in the Waxhaws region that straddles North Carolina and South Carolina (exact location unknown) but considered himself a South Carolina native.

Figure 4: The letter enclosed in the prisoner of war cover from Alex Gobble thanking Professor Hedrick for providing books for Bible class.

Old Capitol Prison
Washington City D.C.
January 18th 1864
Prof. B. S. Hedrick
Dear Friend,
I am happy to inform you
that your present of books
directed to me for the use of our
Bible Class has been received.
I hereby tender to you my
and also the class's sincere
thanks for the same. May
God abundantly reward you for
the same shall be our prayer.
I am well at this time
and would be glad your would
call and see me at any time
that you can make it convenient.
Very Respectfully, Alex Gobble

He represented Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate before being elected by a landslide to become president in 1828.²

The Confederacy used the very same portrait for its two-cent stamp³ as the United States. It is alleged that when the South got news of the North issuing a stamp depicting one of their own heroes, they printed one with the same portrait. Not surprisingly, the Confederate issue is known as the two-cent "Red Jack" and is shown in Figure 2. The Confederate version is imperforate, as are all the Confederate general issues except for a small number that were experimentally perforated.

The only way this popular stamp can be found on a piece of Confederate mail is if it crossed the lines into the Confederacy from the United States (technically

prohibited, but not infrequently disregarded) or was addressed to, or from, a Confederate prisoner held in a U.S. prison to a city or town in the North.

If we were to split straws, the latter is a completely U.S. postal use, but it is eagerly and traditionally collected by Confederate collectors due to the Confederate prisoner connection. Such uses are cataloged in the 2012 *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* as well as the predecessor Dietz catalog series.

They are also studied and cataloged in specialized volumes such as *Prisoners' Mail from the American Civil War* by Galen D. Harrison and *Civil War Prisons and Their Covers* by Earl Antrim.

Figure 3 shows a cover bearing a two-cent Black Jack on a local prisoner-of-war drop cover franked



Figure 5: The Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C. Negative by William R. Pywell (1843-1886); positive by A. Gardner (1821-1882). (Library of Congress photo)

with a two-cent black tied by Washington, D.C. January 22, 1864, double-circle datestamp and duplex target cancel. It is addressed to Professor B.S. Hedrick, Patent Office, Washington City, D.C.

This stamp is seldom seen on covers with any connection to the Confederacy. The handstamped examined marking is *CSA Catalog* Type PWH-02 Type A,⁴ one of the scarcer handstamped censor markings overall, although it is the most common of the five recorded types from Old Capitol Prison.

The original letter, shown in Figure 4, is from prisoner Alex Gobble and datelined "Old Capitol Prison, Washington D.C. January the 21st/64" in which he thanks the recipient for sending him some books for Bible class.

Benjamin Sherwood Hedrick (1827-1886)

Professor B.S. Hedrick was an educator, chemist, and anti-slavery leader born in Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1827. He attended the University of North Carolina and was first in his graduating class.

The president of UNC recommended Hedrick to former governor William A. Graham, secretary of the U.S. Navy, for a clerkship in the office of the *Nautical Almanac* in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Graham made the appointment and, while in Cambridge, Hedrick took advanced courses under prominent scientists at Harvard College. Although offered a position as professor of mathematics at Davidson College in 1852, Hedrick declined it, deciding instead to return to his alma mater when the opportunity arose.

In January 1854, the University of North Carolina appointed him to the chair of analytical and agricultural chemistry. When he entered upon his duties at UNC in 1854, he took no part in the constant discussions of the subject of slavery but, in 1856, an article by Hedrick



Figure 6: Rose O'Neal Greenhow, one of the famous tenants imprisoned at Old Capitol as a Confederate spy in 1862, with her daughter "Little Rose." (Library of Congress photo)

was published in the *North Carolina Standard* in which he opposed slavery and endorsed John Fremont and the Republicans. Professor Hedrick was brought up in a family and community in which anti-slavery feeling was common and his life in the North had strengthened his belief that slavery was evil.

The Hedrick papers housed at Duke University show that he was dismissed from the university in 1856 for these opinions.⁵ In the papers at Duke, one



Figure 7: The November 10, 1865, execution of Henry Wirz, commandant of the Confederate Andersonville Prison, near the U.S. Capitol moments after the trap door was sprung at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. Note the soldier springing the trap, the men in trees and the Capitol dome beyond. (Photo by A. Gardner, 1821-1882, courtesy, Library of Congress)

letter from Mary Ellen Thompson Hedrick recounts UNC students burning Hedrick in effigy. For his own safety, Hedrick was warned against traveling in North Carolina until after the presidential election.

For a time, Hedrick lived in New York, where he was employed as a chemist and then as a clerk in the mayor's office. He also lectured and taught at such institutions as Cooper Union.

In 1861, he went to Washington, D.C., to seek a job with the newly elected Republican government. There he was successively appointed assistant examiner, examiner, and chief examiner in the Chemical Department of the U.S. Patent Office, remaining with that agency until his death.⁶

Alexander J. Gobble (also Goble, Gabel)

Alex Gobble served in Company K, 15th North Carolina Infantry during the Civil War. He enlisted July 15, 1862, at Wake County, North Carolina, as a private. He was taken prisoner September 14, 1862, at Crampton's Gap, Maryland, and imprisoned at Fort Delaware from which he was exchanged November 10, 1862.

24 *La Posta* Second Quarter 2014

He is listed in military records as AWOL in November 1862. He was returned to duty in May 1863. He was taken prisoner again October 14, 1863, at Bristoe Station, Virginia, which resulted in his imprisonment at Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C.

On February 3, 1864, he was transferred to Point Lookout Prison, Maryland. He was exchanged in May 1864. Yet again he was captured April 2, 1865 at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, only days away from Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox. He was confined at Hart's Island in New York Harbor where he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 19, 1865. He was undoubtedly very glad to be done with the war and his various prison accommodations.⁷

Old Capitol Prison

Old Capitol Prison received its name because for four years (1815-19) it had housed Congress after the Capitol burned in the War of 1812. It had been a private school, boarding house and hotel before being turned into a jail in July 1861. It was used to house many who were arrested after President Lincoln suspended habeas



Figure 8: Genuine cover to which a fake W.P. Wood examined marking was applied.



Figure 9: Genuine W.P. Wood examined marking from the cover in Figure 1.



Figure 10: Fake W.P. Wood examined marking from the cover in Figure 8 with the defining characteristics circled.

corpus in May 1861. What is commonly referred to as Old Capitol Prison really consisted of two distinct buildings locally known as Old Capitol and Carroll, the latter so named from its having been the property of the distinguished Carroll family. The site is today occupied by the U.S. Supreme Court Building.

For most of the war, W.P. Wood was superintendent of the prison, although he was relieved late in the war by G. Weest.

Old Capitol held a wide assortment of prisoners, e.g., political prisoners, Confederate prisoners of war, and suspected Confederate spies. Many famous prisoners were inmates there, such as Rose O'Neal Greenhow (Figure 6) who took her eight-year old daughter, "Little Rose," to jail with her and continued to use the young girl as a subversive courier during the

five months of her imprisonment. In due course, Mrs. Greenhow was deported to the Confederate States, traveled to Richmond and took up new tasks.

She sailed to Europe to represent the Confederacy on a diplomatic mission to France and England from 1863 to 1864. Off Wilmington, North Carolina, near Fort Fisher on October 1, 1864, the USS *Nippon* chased her returning ship, the British blockade runner *Condor*, aground.

Greenhow knew that if she were captured again, she would return to prison. She was carrying important Confederate dispatches and \$2,000 in gold for the cause. Against the captain's better judgment, insisting that she be taken ashore, she boarded a small lifeboat that overturned in the mountainous surf. The weight of the gold in her reticule (small netted handbag)

pulled her under, and her body washed ashore the next morning. Greenhow was given a hero's funeral and buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina, her coffin wrapped in the Confederate flag.⁸

Also an inmate at Old Capitol was "La Belle Rebel," Belle Boyd, a 19 year-old Confederate spy, as well as the dashing Confederate raider General John Hunt Morgan and the Lincoln assassination conspirators, some of whom were hanged in the jail's courtyard on July 7, 1865. The list of illustrious inmates is lengthy.

On November 10, 1865 Heinrich Hartmann Wirz, better known as Captain Henry Wirz (ultimately Major), was hanged there after an agonizing incarceration and trial while he awaited news of his fate. Wirz was commandant of Camp Sumter, more popularly known as Andersonville Prison, and widely considered a scapegoat for war crimes due to the ghastly prison systems, which exhibited appalling conditions in both North and South. The Wirz execution is shown in Figure 7, a well-known photo in the Library of Congress.

Fake W.P. Wood Examined Markings

The W.P. Wood handstamped "examined" marking used on the cover in Figure 1 was the target of a faker's skill. These covers have been around for a number of years and were discussed by prisoner-of-war student Galen Harrison⁹ in a 2001 article in *The Confederate Philatelist*, official journal of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Harrison has cataloged approximately two dozen of them to date.

The majority of these fake covers bear the common three-cent rose 1861 issue (Scott 65) with a Washington, D.C., postmark and are addressed to Northern addresses. Of the initial twenty suspect covers that Harrison examined, none of them had the original enclosures while many of the known genuine covers do have enclosures. There was a lot of mail from Union soldiers stationed in Washington during the war. These covers are relatively inexpensive and dressing up a common cover with a scarce prison examined marking proved too tempting for some enterprising philatelic swindler.

Three of the recorded fake handstamps are on envelopes with various Confederate stamps and Richmond postmarks to make them appear as though they were through-the-lines inner envelope uses.

The general instructions promulgated by individual Union military commanders in charge of exchange points were that letters were limited to personal matters and be limited to one page in length. The envelopes were to be endorsed by the prisoner and Confederate postage had to be prepaid or sent "due" for the recipient to pay (only for soldiers).

Letters were to be enclosed in an outer envelope

with proper U.S. postage applied and were to be addressed to the commander at the exchange point. Similar instructions were implemented by the Southern commanders for northbound flag of truce mail exchanges. Thus the outer envelope was usually discarded at the exchange point and the inner envelope with contents would continue on its way in the Southern postal system with the appropriate postage. Covers that were not discarded and bear the postage of both Union and Confederacy are much scarcer and more desirable.

The cover shown in Figure 8 bears one of the dangerous fake W.P. Wood examined handstamps. These turn up at auction, on eBay and in unsuspecting dealer stocks. If you are interested in this area of collecting, it would pay you to know what to look for before buying.

The following are the characteristics of the Old Capitol Prison fake handstamp.

- The W.P. Wood handstamp is well struck and in an upright position on all of the recorded covers. On the genuine covers, the handstamp is often partially struck and at various angles or even upside down. The subject Black Jack cover is a perfect example of this.

- The fake handstamp has a distinct break in the outer frame above the "A" in "PASSED." This is an important constant on all of the fakes. The break is not present on the genuine handstamps.

- There are also distinct differences in the lettering of the handstamp between the fake and the genuine, particularly in the words "MILITARY PRISON."

- There is a short horizontal bar just preceding the "S" in "SUP" that is constant on all the fakes. The bar is not present on the genuine handstamps.

- The letters on the fake handstamp have a thicker, more mottled appearance than the genuine.

Figure 9 shows a close-up of the genuine W.P. Wood handstamp used on the subject Black Jack cover while Figure 10 shows the fake version of that handstamp applied to the cover in Figure 8.

Conclusion

Old Capitol Prison covers are popular with Confederate collectors because the examined markings are varied and unusual and the background stories of correspondents are often fascinating. Galen Harrison records 94 covers known in his Civil War prisons opus.¹⁰

While the W.P. Wood examined marking presents a potential threat to collectors, it is not hard to recognize if you know the characteristics presented in this article.

Endnotes

- 1 Chad Snee, ed., *2014 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, Sidney, Ohio: Scott Publishing Company, 2013, p. 26.

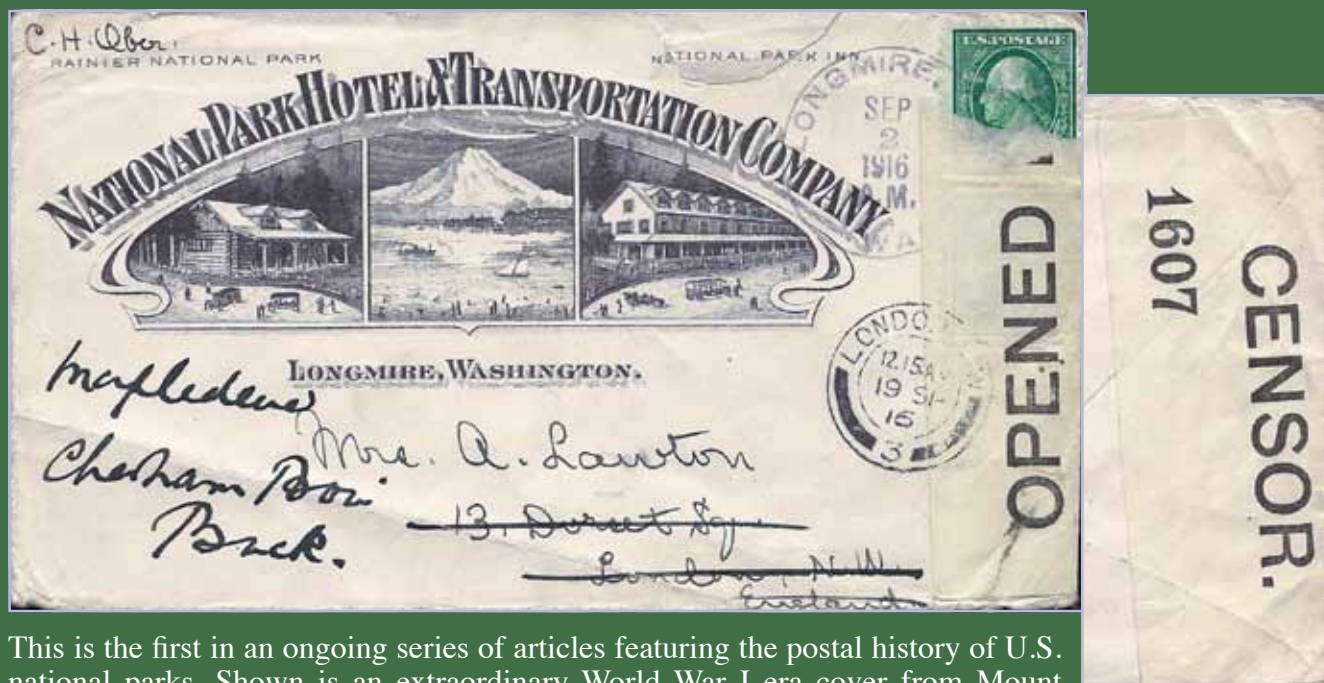
- 2 University of Virginia, the Miller Center. *American President: A Reference Resource*, <http://millercenter.org/president/jackson/essays/biography/2> Accessed May 2014
- 3 Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012, pp. 339-40.
- 4 Kaufmann, *et al*, p. 491.
- 5 Benjamin Sherwood Hedrick, *Guide to the Benjamin Hedrick Papers, 1848-1893*, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University Libraries. <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/hedrickbenjamin/> Accessed May 2014.
- 6 J.G. de Roulhac Hamilton, Henry McGilbert Wagstaff, editors, *The James Sprunt Historical Publications: Benjamin Sherwood Hedrick*, Vol. 10, No.1, Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina, 1910.
- 7 Civil War Soldier Records of North Carolina "Go," <http://www.censusdiggins.com/nc-civil-war-go.htm> Accessed May 2014.
- 8 Ishbel Ross, *Rebel Rose, Life of Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Confederate Spy*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1954. pp. 268-72.
- 9 Galen Harrison, "Fake Old Capitol Prison Covers," *The Confederate Philatelist*, Vol. 46, No. 5, Whole No. 324, pp. 156-64.
- 10 Galen D. Harrison, *Prisoners' Mail from the American Civil War*, Gerald V. Stewart Educational Trust Fund of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, 1997, pp. 116-18.

(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)

U.S. National Park Postal History

A Mt. Rainier Cover Censored in World War I

By Peter Martin



This is the first in an ongoing series of articles featuring the postal history of U.S. national parks. Shown is an extraordinary World War I era cover from Mount Rainier National Park in Washington sent to London, England. Found by dealer Michael Jaffe, it features an extremely rare advertising design for the National Park Hotel & Transportation Company, a park concessionaire. The design includes the two hotel buildings then-located at Longmire, which is located inside the park and is accessed from the park's western entrance. The Longmire hotel illustrated on the right still operates and, until recently, included a post office, one of three that have operated within park boundaries. The hotel building on the left no longer exists. The center image shows Mount Rainier from a distance. The CDS postmark is from the Longmire Post Office and is dated September 2, 1916, A.M. The letter reached London more than two weeks later where it was opened by Censor 1607 (on reverse) who applied the censor tape over the two U.S. stamps and whereafter a September 19 London double circle postmark was applied. Mrs. A. Lawton had relocated and the letter was forwarded to Buckingham. This is the only World War I era censored letter from a national park that I have recorded.



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
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 1-8 (one CD)	\$105.00	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 1 – The West	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 2 – The Great Plains	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 3 – The Upper Midwest	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 4 – The Northeast	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 5 – The Ohio Valley	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 6 – The Mid-Atlantic	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> US Post Offices Vol 7 – The Lower Mississippi	\$19.50	\$14.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: Cath Clark, POB 65, Harwood NSW 2465 Australia
E-mail: turtledragon@helbock.net

U.S. Auxiliary Markings

By John M. Hotchner

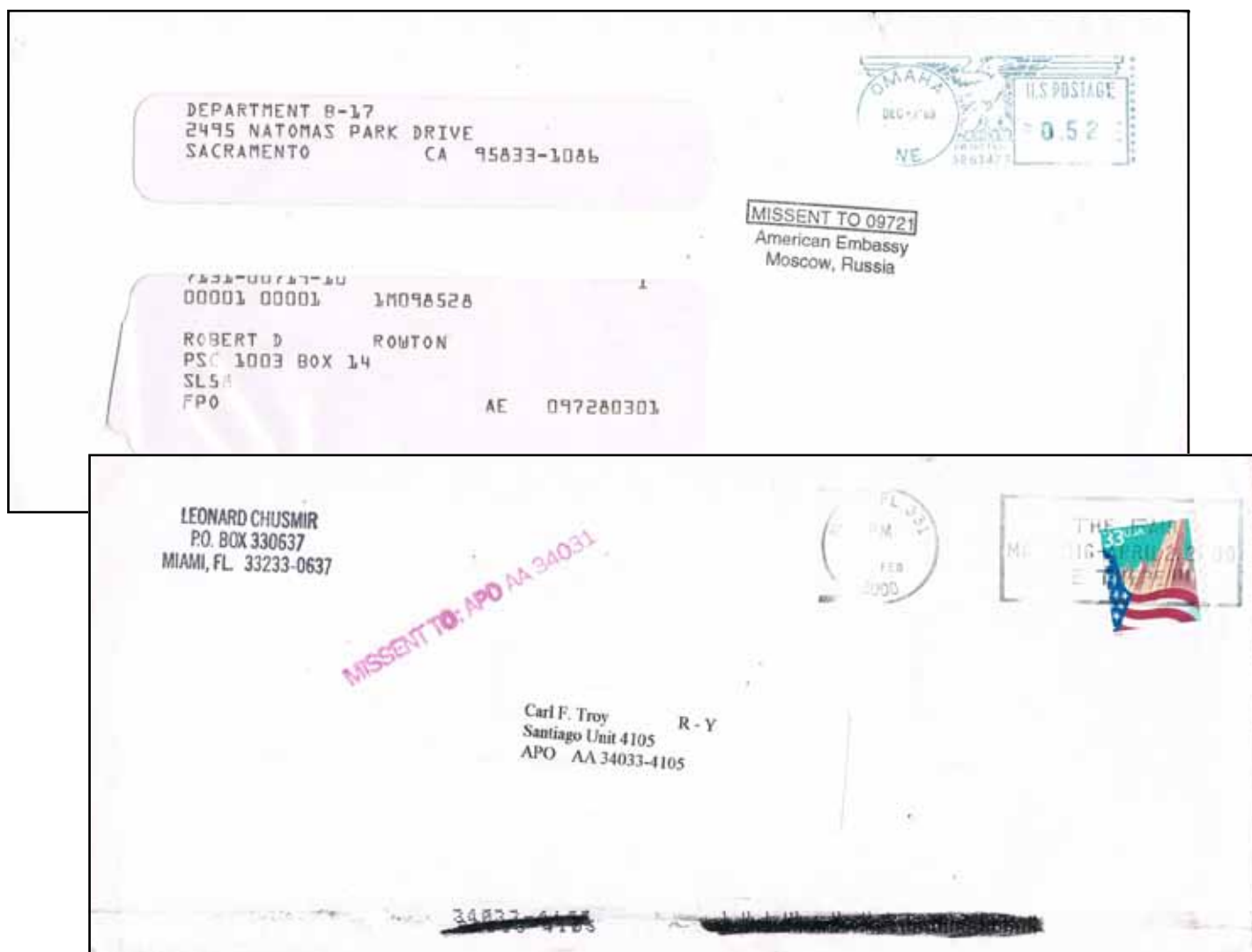


Figure 1: Addressed to a Fleet Post Office in Iceland, the 1993 cover at top was missent to the American Embassy in Moscow, Russia. Below it is a 2000 cover addressed to the American Embassy in Santiago, Chile, that somehow went to the embassy in Lima, Peru.

Askew APO and FPO Covers

This article continues the series on mail addressed for delivery abroad, which has been the focus of the last five columns. There will be a few more.

Collecting U.S. Army (or Army-Air Force) Post Office and Fleet Post Office covers is a huge field, and one that I have not pursued with much diligence since my collecting focus has been other-than-military mail. But some unusual examples of APO/FPO covers that ran into difficulties have accumulated and I'll share them in this column.

Much of what I have accumulated is on mail addressed to American diplomatic posts abroad, as I tripped over them in the course of my professional

life. The simplest of these is missent mail, as shown in Figure 1.

The top (1993) cover is one that was addressed to the American Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland, but somehow got rerouted to the American Embassy in Moscow, per the small neat message on the cover.

This must have happened often enough that the Moscow embassy had the professional handstamp made.

Note that FPO AE is part of the address. AE marks the destination as being somewhere in Europe.

Below the AE cover in Figure 1 is one addressed in 2000 to APO AA 34033 in Santiago, Chile. The

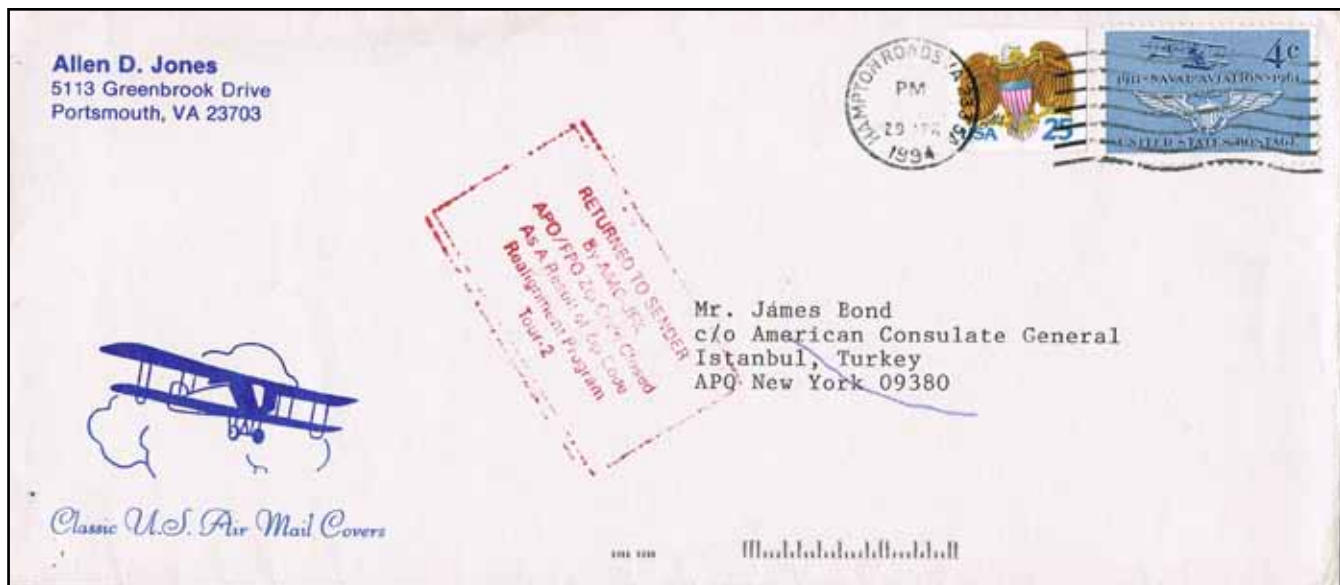


Figure 2: What was the Zip Code Realignment Program? This 1994 cover to Istanbul, Turkey, was returned to sender because the realignment program had eliminated APO 09380.

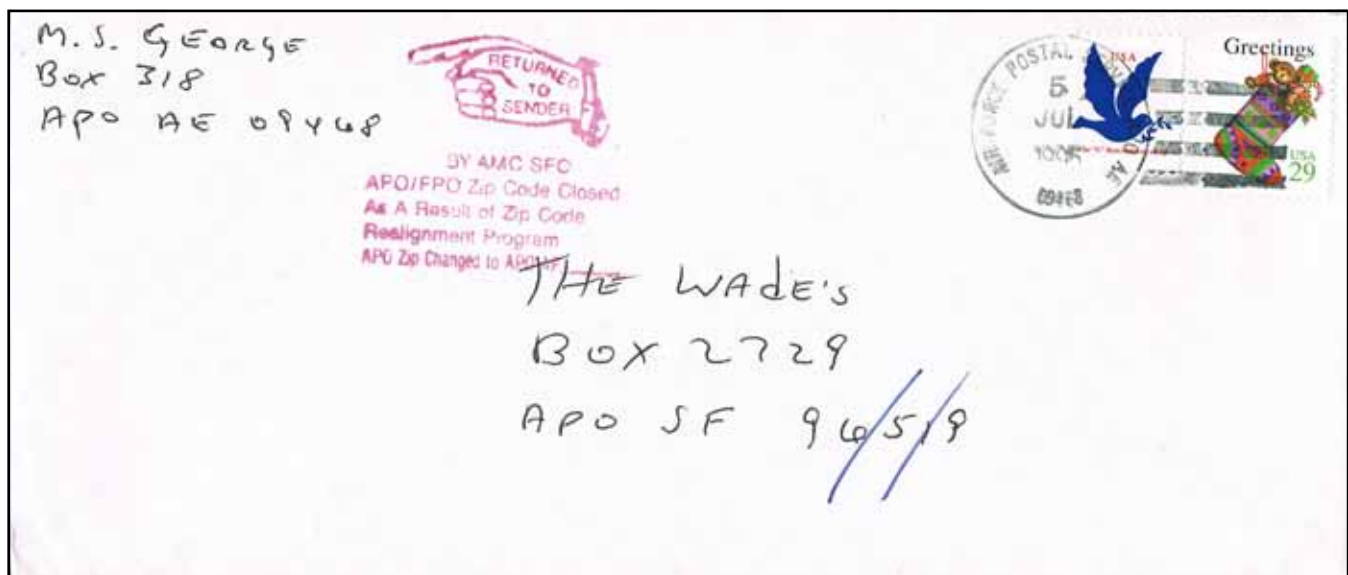


Figure 3: APO 96519, somewhere in the Pacific region, was eliminated by the Zip Code Realignment Program, so this cover could not be delivered.

AA marks the destination as being in the American Republics region. It was misrouted to APO AA 34031, Lima, Peru. Both would have been forwarded to the correct destination by means of the diplomatic pouch.

Google has failed me as regards the ZIP Code Realignment Program in the mid-1990s. We have two covers to look at here.

In Figure 2 is an April 1994 cover addressed to APO New York 09380, supposedly the American Consulate General in Istanbul, Turkey.

It has a handstamp reading, "Returned to Sender by AMC/JFK. APO/FPO Zip Code Closed As A Result of ZIP Code Realignment Program Tour 2."

Indeed, 09380 does not seem to be a currently operational Zip code, and Istanbul currently has a different number. (Note that the cover is addressed to James Bond, though not *the* James Bond!)

Figure 3 is a July 1995 cover from APO AE 09446 to a Pacific area APO SF 96519. It also is currently not in use.

The handstamp reads, "Returned to Sender by AMC SFO APO/FPO Zip Code Closed As A Result of Zip Code Realignment Program. APO Zip Changed to APO AP ____."

The blank is not filled in. The AP designates posts and units in the Pacific Ocean area.

If a reader can explain the Zip Code Realignment Program as it applied to diplomatic and military mail, I would be happy to get that information to share with *La Posta* readers. My contact details will be found at the end of this article.

A more ordinary undeliverable cover is shown in Figure 4. It is dated in 1951 and is addressed to APO 2460. Since this is before the advent of five digit APO numbers and should be only one, two or three numbers, it was sent to the APO Directory Service (per the back stamp), which could not locate the addressee.

Therefore, it is returned with a Return To Sender (RTS) handstamp reading, "No Such APO Served By P.M., San Francisco, Calif."

Covers from one overseas location to another make for an interesting subspecialty. In Figure 5 is a small three-cent Prexie cover that originated at Lindsay Air Station in Wiesbaden, Germany, addressed to a civilian address in Frankfurt, Germany.

Had it gone in the German post, the cost would have been somewhat more than three cents, and the time for delivery would have been considerably less.

Instead, APO mail went back to New York, where it went into the international civilian mail. It looks like the APO unit in New York started to send the envelope back to the sender as it was five cents underpaid for international surface mail (note the American marking "Returned for ____ Additional Postage"), which they could have done as there is a clear return address on the back.

But for some reason, they proceeded to send the letter to the German address postage due. New York rated the cover "T30" gold centimes, which the German authorities converted to the blue "60" pfennig.

However, when the letter was delivered, the addressee refused to pay the postage due, and a "refused" label was affixed by the German authorities.

Did the cover make its way back to the sender? I would guess that it did, otherwise it would have been destroyed as undeliverable.

But how? Through the APO system? And would the sender have had to pay the postage due to get it back? Probably not, and there is no evidence the postage due was paid.

A later cover, dated 1981, is shown in Figure 6. It was mailed from APO 09055, the Personnel and Administration (PANDA) section of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Brussels, Belgium, to an officer on temporary duty with NATO's Allied Forces, Northern Europe Headquarters. (AFNORTH) in Norway.

Because he was on TDY (temporary duty), the locator service at APO 09084 had no record (see the handstamp at bottom of the cover) and returned the letter to SHAPE headquarters.

A curiosity is that 09084 did not have its own postmark in 1981, so the back of the envelope is backstamped from APO ("Air Force Postal Service") 09085.

The addressee on the South Africa-origin cover in Figure 7 was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile, and the address was the correct APO AA 34033 ZIP code. That meant it went through the APO office in Miami, which added the RTS notice handstamped, "No Registered Mail To This APO," and sent the letter back to South Africa.

The Figure 8 cover is one that I sent in 1984 to a locally hired employee at the American Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, as I had promised her some information once I got back to Washington, D.C.

Up to that point I had not realized that only American staff had APO privileges. So the letter was returned to me. I have since gotten another one of these dated 1951, so this is a long-standing rule.

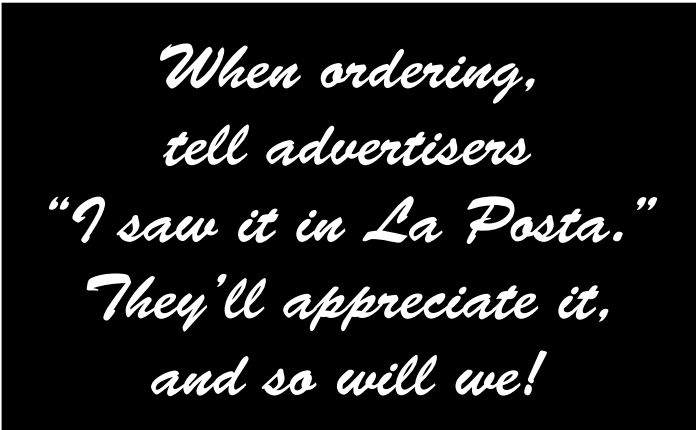
Finally, let's end with an odd 1954 cover (Figure 9) that did not go by way of APO, but rather was destined for the office of the Army attaché at the American Embassy, Tel Aviv, by way of diplomatic pouch; and therefore addressed to the Department of State in Washington, D.C.

The next time someone asks you when international postage is needed on a domestic sending, you can answer that it is personal mail directed to the Department of State for inclusion in the diplomatic pouch that needs international postage.

The Figure 9 handstamp reads, "Return to Sender Returned by State Department Foreign Postage Rate Required. Postal Bulletin Jan. 29, 1953. Obliterate this endorsement when remailed."

I am sure that I have only skimmed the surface of APO and diplomatic mail in this article, and would be glad to have comments or reports of additional examples.

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



*When ordering,
tell advertisers
"I saw it in La Posta."
They'll appreciate it,
and so will we!*



Figure 4: This 1951 cover had an APO number (2460) with at least one too many numbers since this preceded ZIP Code APOs.

Figure 5: The markings on this little cover show that it was underpaid for international service, yet it went from Germany to New York, then back to Germany where the addressee refused to pay the postage due.

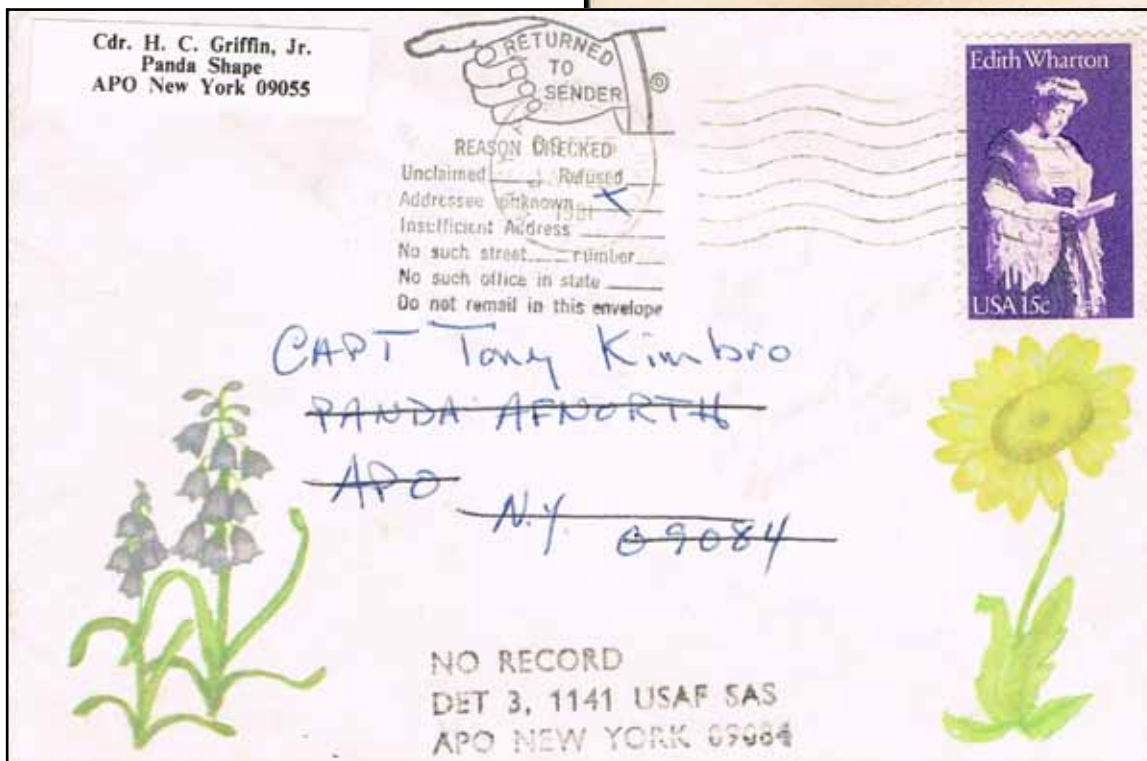


Figure 6: The APO numbers on this 1981 cover reveal that it went from Brussels, Belgium, to Norway, but could not be delivered because a temporary duty U.S. Air Force officer was not listed in the unit directory.



Figure 7: Sent from South Africa to an embassy officer in Santiago, Chile, this cover was returned to South Africa from the APO unit in Miami because registered mail could not be sent to that APO via the APO system.

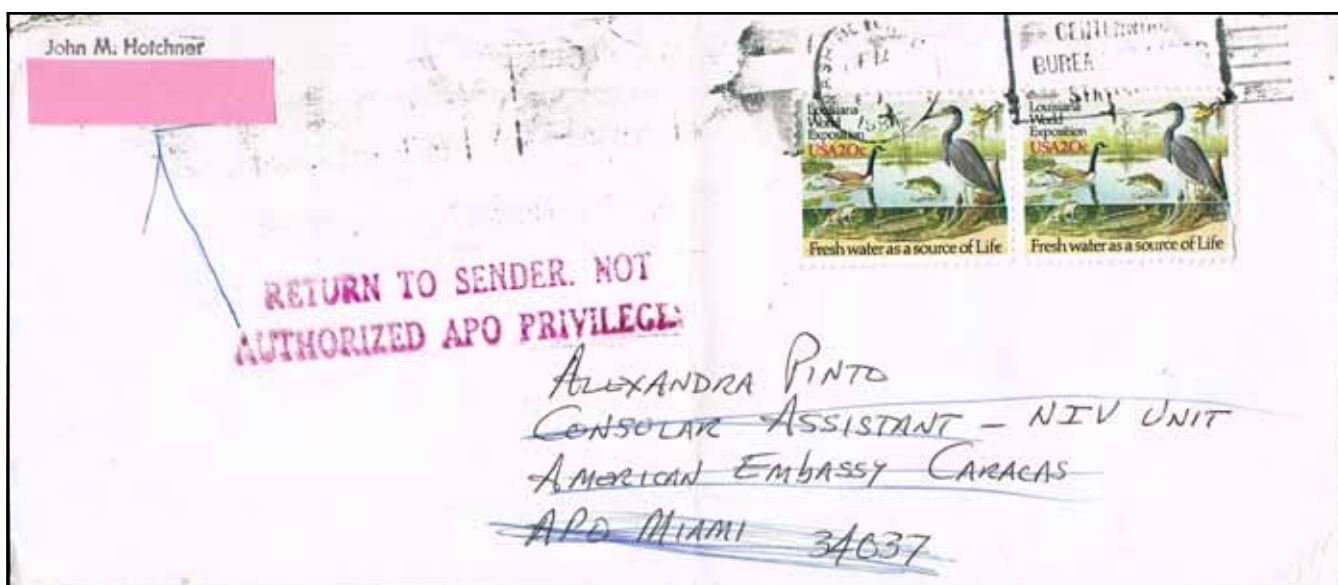


Figure 8: APO privileges are limited to American permanent-change-of-station staff. This does not include locally hired personnel, which resulted in this cover being returned.

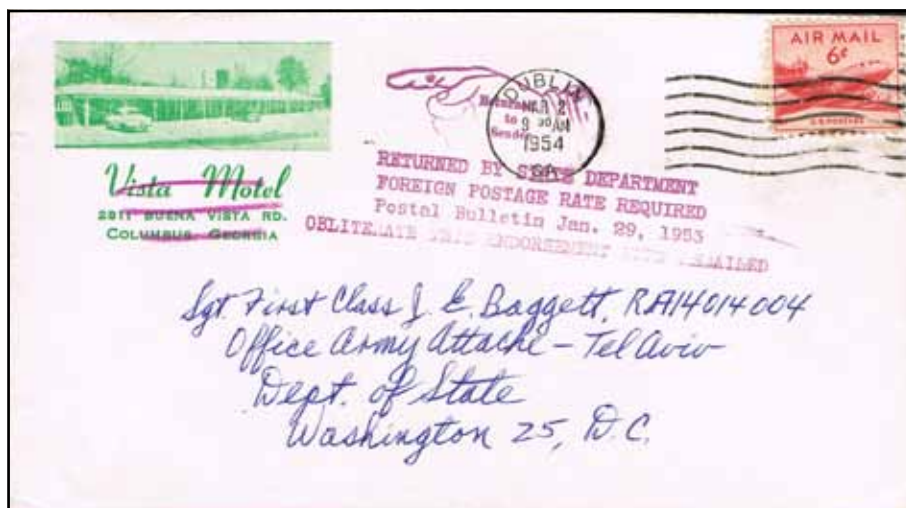


Figure 9: APO-addressed mail requires only domestic postage, but diplomatic mail being sent by pouch required international rate postage as shown by this 1954 cover.

The Modern Challenge

The U.S. Postal Service Sorts the Mail

By David Crotty

Introduction

Collectors tend to look more closely at incoming mail than most folks. There are a number of markings on most mail that are made by the United States Postal Service, but some mail has no markings at all.

There is usually a set of orange lines on the reverse of a cover and a set of black lines on the front. Sometimes there is a cancel across the top front. Sometimes the cancel is missing. Sometimes this cancel is the old style date circle with wavy killer bars, despite the overwhelming presence of the modern spray-on cancels. Sometimes there is an odd date printed somewhere on the envelope.

Questions about these often appear in philatelic journals. Sometimes the reasoning in the questions reaches conspiracy theory levels, or presumed postal worker laziness, incompetence or sneakiness. The true answers come from an understanding of how the post offices of the world sort the mail.

*Postal Technology International*¹ is a free quarterly magazine that discusses international postal topics and sponsors Post-Expo each year in a European city. A March 2010 editorial notes the early fears workers had when machines began to take their jobs.

The Luddites were the first to rage against the machine in 1811 and destroyed early weaving equipment in the United Kingdom. The first labor union is traced to eight farm workers who organized in Dorset, England, to protest the lowering of wages in 1830. These gentlemen were shipped to Australia for their efforts.

The editorial goes on to insist that automation has “never really resulted in greater unemployment.” While some may dispute that rather oversimplified sociological statement, no one will deny that automation is here to stay and it has and will continue to change the way we do things. One operation that has changed a lot is the preparation and sorting of the mail.

During Colopex 2008, a group of Meter Stamp Society members were provided a tour of a commercial sorting facility that provided a first-hand look at portions of the sorting process. This facility, run by PSI, a Pitney Bowes company, performed a presort service to its customers.

Outgoing prepared mail from a number of companies is blended and given a high level sort that

reduces the average postage charged by the USPS. This sorting process gave the mailer an overall lower cost. It also reduced the workload on the USPS sorting stations. We were told that the final product was sorted into trays that went directly to carriers at local post offices. As we will see, that might not have been entirely correct.

Three years ago, my brother, who worked as an ET at a sorting facility in Montgomery, Alabama, provided drawings and an explanation of how the sorting process works. Subsequently, I was provided a short tour of the sorting station in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the methods of the time were written up.²

Later, I obtained a tour of a Canada Post mail sort facility near Hamilton, Ontario,³ where updated processing was being installed.

This article will provide a brief discussion of the various barcodes and what they do. Then the sorting steps will be described to illustrate how a mail piece might be treated depending upon how well it was prepared before shipment to the USPS sorting facility.

News articles show that the USPS has about 461 sorting facilities situated around the country. To date, about 140 locations have been closed and 90 more are slated for closure in 2014. Here, I will show how new equipment and operating practices have made those changes possible.

Three Important Barcodes

The barcodes on mail pieces are what drives the sort process. It happens that the new postage meter indicia have Intelligent Barcode Indicia (IBI) barcodes. These help the USPS keep track of postage meter users, but the coded date in the barcode has little to do with sorting. The three sorting barcodes are:

1. FIM (Facing Identification Mark)⁴

2. ICS (Identification Code Sorting, aka ID Tag)

3. IM (Intelligent Mail Code,⁵ aka 4CB, 4-State Barcode or OneCode) that is rapidly replacing the older Postnet⁶ code.

For this discussion, I will sometimes use the term IM to include the older Postnet code that is still used by some mailers and some USPS sorting facilities.

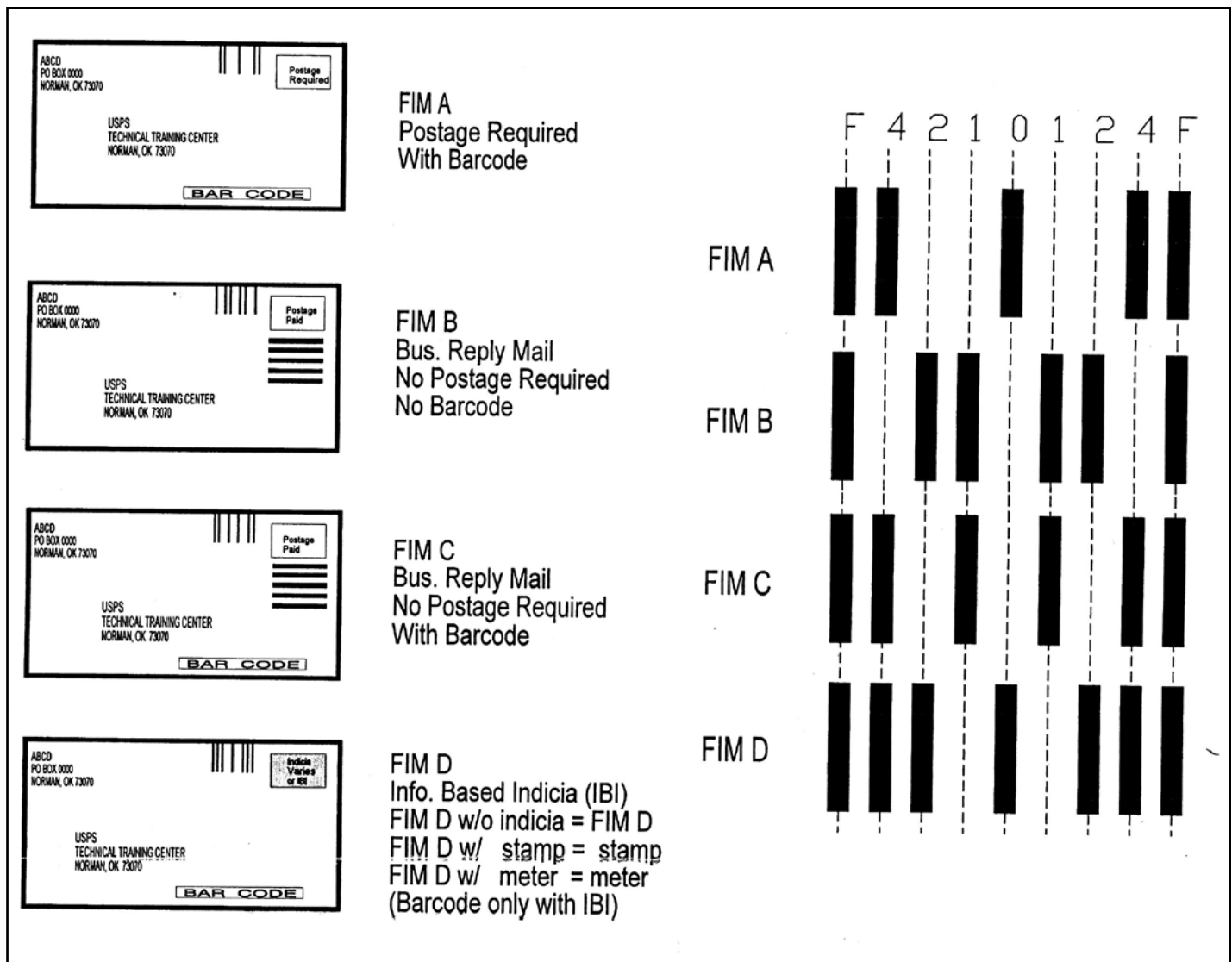


Figure 1: FIM barcodes. (USPS Training Materials¹¹)

FIM Barcode

The Facing Identification Mark (FIM) is usually preprinted by the mailer on a return envelope. There are four types: A, B, C and D (Figure 1). The FIM code is a group of lines preprinted just to the left of where the postage stamp is usually placed.

FIM A. The barcode most people see is FIM A. It is used on envelopes that are enclosed with billings that the customer is expected to return with a bill payment. This envelope will need a postage stamp. The FIM A indicates that postage is required, the stamp on the envelope will need to be cancelled, *and* that there is an IM or Postnet code with the address to the biller.

The FIM A envelope usually gets an adhesive stamp but a postage meter indicia might be used for a small office. This is where the postage meters get cancelled most often. This FIM A code also means that the sorting facility will not have to use OCR to attempt to read the address. All the address information is in the IM or Postnet codes that can be easily read by

final sorting equipment, saving considerable upfront processing. Once the FIM A cover is cancelled it is dumped into a bin that will be moved directly to final sorting.

FIM B and C. Both of these are used on business reply cards or envelopes like those found loose in magazines. FIM B is prepared without the IM or Postnet barcode and FIM C is prepared *with* the IM code.

The FIM B is extremely rare. A business that wants a reply always provides its own address and virtually always provides the IM or Postnet barcode too.

FIM D is a mixture. It is expected that the envelope will have either:

1. the new IBI (Intelligent Barcode Indicia) postage meter stamp, or
2. a precancelled stamp like the presort, nonprofit organization, etc.

FIM D indicates that the address also has a proper IM or Postnet barcode.

The FIM A always gets cancelled. FIM B, C and D never get cancelled, with one exception. If the USPS determines that a shipment from a large mailer has dated meters that are incorrectly dated, that mailing will either be dated at the USPS sorting facility or, more commonly, sent back to the mailer for correction. Sometimes this error shipment is run through a special machine (either at the USPS or at the mailer) that puts a date somewhere on the envelope.

All FIM mail (except FIM B) is collected at the front of the sorting system and taken directly to the final sort because of the presence of the IM or Postnet code. A lot of mail does not have FIM codes and usually has to be processed to determine the address and to have the proper IM or Postnet code printed on the envelope.

IM and Postnet Barcodes

IM and Postnet barcodes, usually printed under the address, are the ultimate key to sorting the mail. If this code is present the USPS can skip four of the five sorting steps. The Postnet⁶ code replaced the earlier Planet⁷ code and is being replaced by the IM code (OneCode⁵). The USPS wanted this change to be mandatory as early as 2006 but yielded to mailer objections. The full changeover occurred in January 2013. Bulk mailings without the IM do not get discounts.

The Postnet barcode, Figure 2, is fairly easy to decode by hand⁶ and usually contains just the ZIP+4 along with the postal carrier's "stop" code, usually the street address.

The IM code, Figure 3, is much more complex and generally cannot be decoded by hand. The complexity of the code is explained^{5,8} in a number of documents and the USPS has provided a sample computer code for mailers. There is an online decoder for the IM code.¹⁰

Perhaps the most useful document for the curious is a document⁹ that contains the fields that should be in the code, which include the mailer's ID and the ZIP+4 and the mail carrier stop.

A mail stop is the identification of each stop that a mail carrier makes on the route. For a street it will be mailbox number. For an apartment or office building it will be the room or suite number. Once a mail piece has the IM or Postnet barcode it is ready to be machine sorted to the carrier route stops.

If a mailer has placed the IM code with the address, that mail lot can be sent directly to the final sorting step saving the USPS considerable work. If the IM code is missing on a mail piece it must be processed through three major subsystems to resolve and print the code.

Identification Code Sorting (ICS, aka ID Tag)

A mail piece that does not yet have an IM or Postnet code is placed into the AFCS/OCR that will

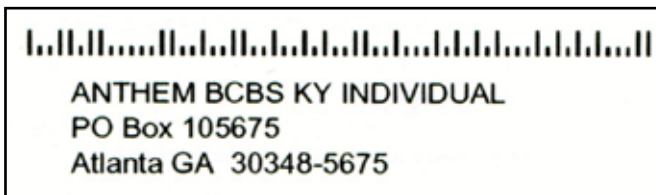


Figure 2: Address with Postnet code.



Figure 3: Address with USPS Intelligent Mail barcode.



Figure 4: Red Identification Code Sorting (ICS) or ID tag.

be described in more detail. The AFCS/OCR puts an orange line barcode on the back of the mail piece, Figure 4. This is the ICS or ID tag that identifies the piece through the rest of the sorting process. That code can, at some time in the future, identify exactly which machine printed the ID tag and when it happened.

Further analysis can usually identify which truckload brought the piece into the mailroom and sometimes which mailbox held the piece. The computer system keeps this ID tag on file. Should the IM code printed during the sort process become defaced later in processing, the system can use the ID tag to retrieve the necessary information and reprint the IM code.

A mail piece that has the IM code printed by the mailer will not have the ID tag because this step is not necessary.

Barcode Summary

A mail piece (metered, permit or precancelled stamp) that arrives presorted and with an IM or Postnet barcode with the address goes directly to the final sort step and does not get the ID tag, and does not get a cancel even if it has stamp (usually a presort stamp).

A single mail piece that has an IM code might be detected in early sort stages to skip later steps, but it will get an ID tag.

Postage meter mail should not get a cancel, but 10 years ago it sometimes did. It will not get an ID tag if it is part of a presorted shipment. It will get the ID tag if it is loose or part of a small batch. Out-of-date-postage-meter mail may get a datestamp somewhere on the envelope from the mailer or from the USPS.

Typed and handwritten addresses without the IM code go through the entire sort process. Some rather

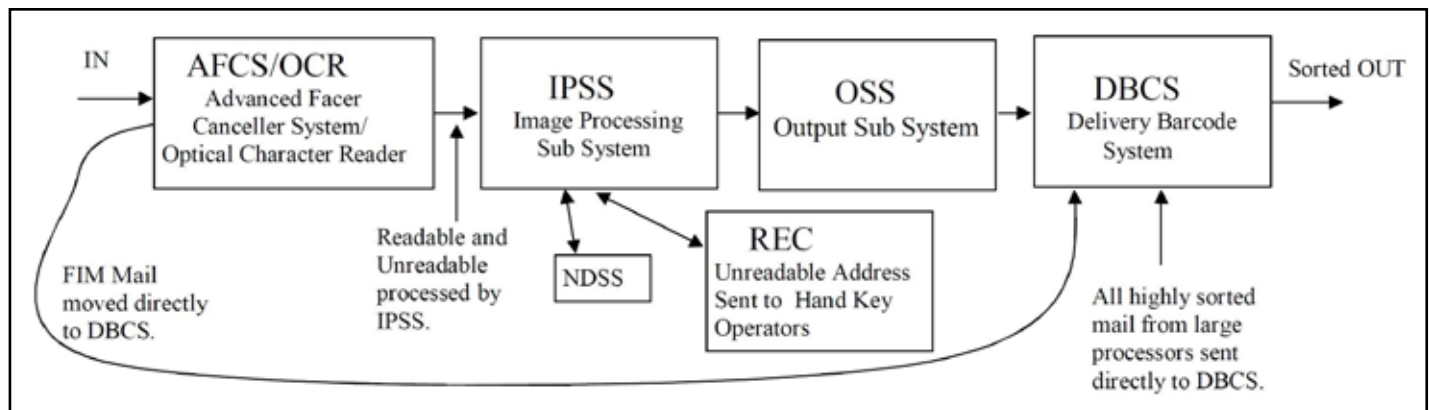


Figure 5: A simplified diagram of the sorting system.

large mailers still have not committed the expense of installing the IM code and pay higher postage as a result.

The Sorting Process

With these barcodes in mind, the simplified block diagram of a typical USPS sorting system as used in Montgomery, Alabama and Cincinnati, Ohio, is shown in Figure 5. The equipment used in the United States is largely made by Siemens. The software and OCR (optical character recognition) is provided by Lockheed Martin. Slightly older equipment requires three different machines to perform one sort cycle with largely manual movement of mail trays in between.

The newest equipment, not yet installed in some facilities, does a full cycle with one machine. Our tour of the Canada Post facility³ near Hamilton, Ontario, showed this newest equipment type manufactured by Toshiba being installed as we watched.

Edger/Facer—General mail comes to the sorting facility in bags and boxes. The first machine separates out machinable items from flats and parcels. The machinable mail goes into the system as shown in Figure 5. Flats and parcels are sorted in separate systems that are becoming almost as automated. Much mail is prepared and presorted by the mailer and arrives by the truckload in trays that skip this step.

Advanced Facer Cancellor System/Optical Character Reader (AFCS/OCR)—At the beginning of the process shown in Figure 5, all general collected mail with or without barcodes that is presented to the AFCS/OCR (shown in Figure 6) will get an ICS ID tag on the back. The FIM mail will be identified and FIM A, C and D items will go directly to the final sort step,

Delivery Bar Code Sorter (DBCS)—In this step, an image of the piece is lifted for all remaining mail, with or without barcodes. The image is analyzed by the OCR software to determine the address and/or the barcode information. If the OCR is successful, the data is sent to the IPSS (Image Processing SubSystem;



Figure 6: AFCS/OCR equipment at the Cincinnati Distribution Center. (David Crotty)

really a big computer room) as a “header” and the ID tag without the image. If the OCR is not successful, an image of the piece is sent to the IPSS for further processing. The OCR can read some handwritten addresses and is getting better at this. The AFCS can distinguish between adhesive stamps and meter/personal postage due to the different UV tagging on these forms of postage payment. Adhesive stamps get cancelled. Metered mail and personal postage (aka custom postage) do not get cancels. On occasion, the AFCE in some locations has been set to cancel both, but this is considered improper.

Image Processing SubSystem (IPSS)—The IPSS is really a large computer room. This system handles data headers for which the OCR was successful, as well as headers with images where the OCR was not successful.

IPSS takes the data headers produced by the AFCS/OCR and compares the address with the National Directory SubSystem (NDSS). The NDSS is a database that has every mail stop and post office box

in the nation. When a match is found, the information is stored in a Decision Storage Unit (DSU) within the IPSS. Additionally, the data is forwarded to a national database of results.

The ID tab on the back of the mail piece is the reference used to access the data in the DSU and the national database of results.

For the headers with an image that the OCR could not resolve, the images are forwarded to one of the Remote Encoding Centers (REC) where a human keyer will look at the image and hand key the address data.

Once the REC keyer resolves the image, the data is sent back to the IPSS to be stored in the header for those mail pieces. Note that the REC may be far away from the local sorting facility. Physical mail that is being handled by the REC is boxed and set aside until the results are ready.

The link to the National Directory (NDSS) automatically handles address corrections for the millions of people who move each year and report a forwarding address.

Some sorting facilities now have DBCS that can automatically print a new address for the mail piece while other facilities require an off-line operation to print and affix the new address.

Output Sub System (OSS)—The OSS physically prints the IM barcode on the front of the mail piece for all mail for which the address has been successfully resolved by either the OCR or the REC.

The OSS matches the ID tag header with each mail piece and physically prints the barcode on the piece. The Postnet barcode is now used only in the oldest sorting facilities, with all other facilities now using the Intelligent Mail code.

There are two types of OSS systems in use. The DIOSS is able to print a new address label for forwarded mail. The CIOSS cannot handle forwarding and these systems off-load forwarded mail to be handled separately.

Orphans—A small amount of mail fails to be resolved by the OCS and by the REC. These items are off-loaded and individuals at the plant have to resolve them by hand and add a five-digit ZIP code, either by hand or with a special printing machine.

The route carrier gets this package along with the sorted boxes and has to integrate this into the route mail for the day. This nonmachineable mail is about five percent of the total.

Delivery Barcode System (DBCS)—The DBCS, Figure 7, is the final and most important subsystem. All mail that has an IM or Postnet barcode printed by the previous steps or by the mailer is sorted down to the route carrier stops in trays ready to be delivered.

As mentioned earlier, FIM mail, mail with IM codes, and presorted mail go directly into the DBCS



Figure 7: DBCS equipment at Cincinnati Distribution Center.
(David Crotty)

without processing through the AFCS, OCR, IPSS and OSS steps.

Because of automation, the carrier no longer needs his or her morning to sort the mail. The boxes are ready to be loaded on the truck. The carrier gets two sets of boxes, one for the small machineable mail and one for the larger nonmachineable flats, catalogs, magazines, etc. The flats in the recent past had to be sorted in a more manual procedure. However, the Flat Sorting System (FSS) is going online in many facilities.

Summary

Each sorting facility is responsible for a certain number of United States ZIP codes. The mail that enters the plant gets sorted three times, first to sort out mail that goes to other parts of the United States or to foreign countries. Then it takes two cycles to sort down to the route carrier mail stops.

The development of most of the systems described here began in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It took about five years for all the systems to get deployed throughout the USPS.

The Montgomery P+DC got into the swing of things in 1995 when the first stage of image processing, IPSS, arrived. In the early days they were very happy to get a good first pass read on 50 percent of the mail, but that system also took over the address correction task (mail forwarding), a major step.

Until very recently, the basic system did not change but upgrades have been added. New generations of computers, OCR software, etc., have been installed.

Today, they get 90-97 percent good first time reads depending on the season. When handwritten Easter, Christmas and Valentine's Day cards show up the read rate goes down, for example. As the system became more efficient the USPS was able to reduce the number of manual REC keying centers and has closed a number of older sorting centers.

Also, parallel sorting systems for the larger



Figure 8: New all-in-one Siemens DBCS-6. (Web-based USPS Newsroom)

mail items and for packages have been developed and approach the automation of the sorting system described here.

In recent years, the equipment suppliers have developed new equipment that can perform the AFCS, OCR, OSS and DBCS all in one machine, with the IPSS computer systems in a different room. With these new machines, the sort procedure requires three passes (as is required for the older DBCS). The first pass sorts out mail that needs to go to foreign countries and to other USPS sorting facilities. Then it takes two more passes to sort the local mail down to the carrier route stops. The new machines avoid the physical mail transfers from one subsystem to the next during each pass.

The new machines, one model is known as DBCS⁶ (Figure 8), can handle larger and thicker mail. As these machines get worked into the system the current restrictions of the size of machineable mail may get relaxed.

Much of the mail sorting is done at night with a few machines still running through the day to handle late shipments or seasonally high volumes. This procedure gets the mail on the road by morning in most cases, either to other sorting facilities or out to the local post offices for delivery.

When mail volume was rising (before the Internet era), this worked well. Now, with lower mail volume a number of plans have been proposed to reduce costs.

The number of facilities could be reduced almost by half if the sorting process continued through the day, for example. That would slow the delivery of mail and may require more personnel to man that facility's day shift.

Keep in mind, of course, that as these systems were introduced during the 1990s when many smaller local manual sorting facilities were closed even as mail volumes were increasing, and those facilities had replaced the manual sorting at almost every local post office.



Figure 9: A USPS first class tracking test with a box of five or ten tracking labels.

The new equipment improved efficiency by eliminating some physical mail transfers between machines, but the equipment is expensive. One of the hidden advantages in the newer methods is that they are barcode driven. The USPS is experimenting with services that were previously impossible.

For example, in January 2012 a test was conducted in the Washington, D.C., area to enable the tracking of ordinary first class letters.^{12,13}

A package of ten barcodes was sold for \$2.99 at most post offices in the cities around Washington, D.C. The barcode placed near the postage stamp was automatically read and tracked using the normal www.USPS.com tracking service.

After that experiment ended, the USPS reconfigured its flat and package program to include tracking with the pricing of Priority Mail and some other packages and it can be purchased for library and media mail. The tracking number for these types of mail is automatically assigned at the point of sale, or a new tracking label can be used by large mailers. First class mail must be bumped up to Priority Mail to obtain tracking.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Patrick Crotty, a retired ET at the Montgomery P+DC for the helpful discussions with describing the sorting processes and the recent installations of newer equipment and to David Walton, USPS corporate communications, who obtained the necessary permissions for me to tour the USPS Cincinnati Area Distribution Center with Prescott Bellaire, manager in plant support.

My thanks also to: Jim Ashby, Joe Angelucci, Otto Bergman, Charlie Gore, Joann Lenz, Zeb Vance and other Meter Stamp Society members who helped me to understand various operational details.

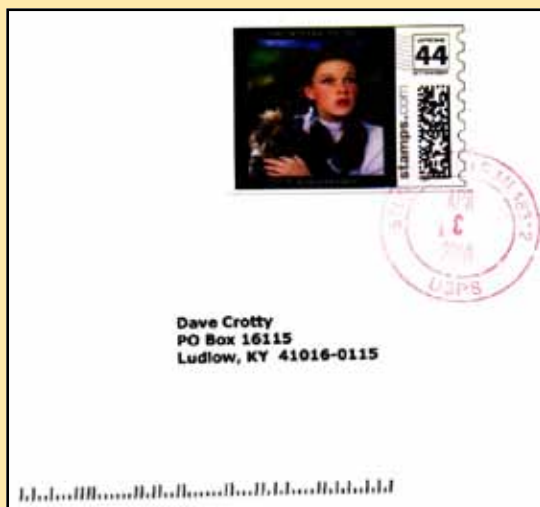
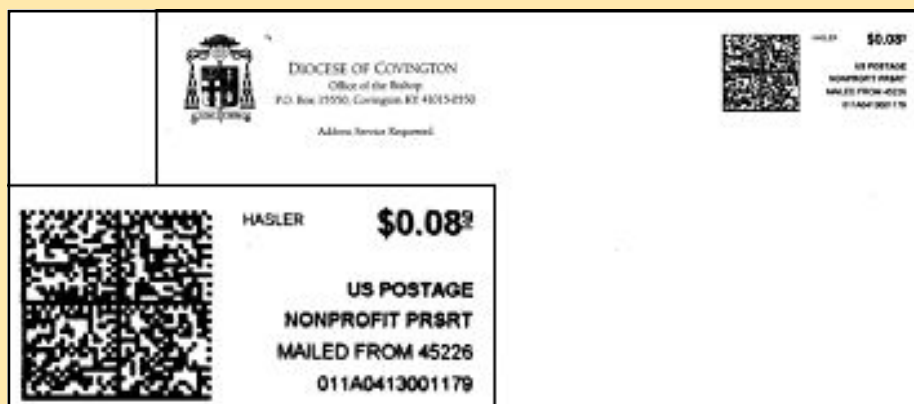
Mail Processing Quiz

By David Crotty



Question 1: Why did one meter (B, right) get a spray-on postmark and the other (A) did not? Both envelopes have an ID tag on the envelope reverse. Neither had the IM or Postnet barcode in the original address. Both have an OSS Postnet code printed at the bottom front of the envelope.

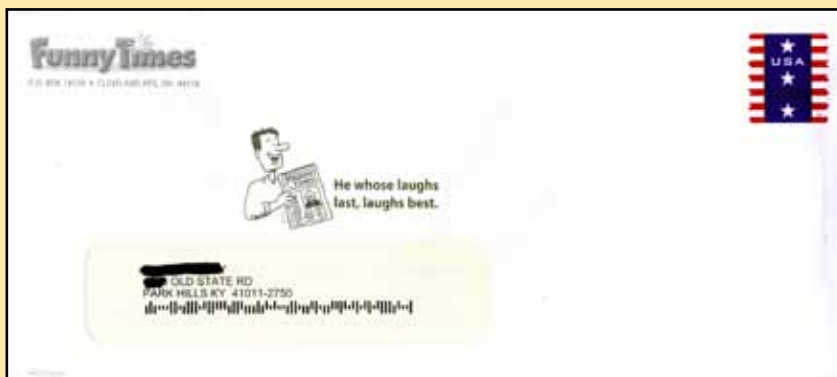
Question 2 (Right): Why does this window envelope *not* have the ID tag on back and *not* have the OSS Postnet printing? The insert shows nonprofit presort service.



Question 3: Why does this Personal (custom) Postage postcard have a handstamp cancel, an OSS Postnet printing *and* the ID tab on reverse? Note: It is a philatelic cover prepared by a collector.



Question 4: Why does this commercial cover with a Stamps.com stamp have a cancel on the stamp, the OCC Postnet printing and the ID tab on reverse?



Question 5: Why does this stamped cover have no USPS sorting marking of any kind?

Answers are on page 41.

References

- 1 *Postal Technology International*, Surrey, United Kingdom: UKIP Media & Event Ltd, quarterly.
- 2 Crotty, David. "Sorting the Mail at the USPS," *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin*, 62 (2, 288) 1 (2010).
- 3 Crotty, David, and Thorne, Robert. "Canada Post Sorts the Mail," *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin*, 63 (4, 294) 8 (2011).
- 4 Wikipedia article: *Facing_Indentification_Mark*
- 5 Wikipedia article: *Intelligent_Mail-Barcode*
- 6 Wikipedia article: *POSTNET*
- 7 Wikipedia article: *Postal_Alpha_Numeric_Encoding_Technique*
- 8 <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=intellmailmailpieces>
- 9 https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_mailpieces/documents/tech_guides/SPUSPSG.pdf
- 10 ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=encodertool
- 11 USPS Training Materials
- 12 www.presort.com/2011/12/27/usps-to-market-test-first-class-tracer/
- 13 Postal Regulatory Commission Report, Docket MT2012-1, November 7, 2011.

(David Crotty, Ph.D., Ludlow, Kentucky, recently retired as a research chemist in the electroplating industry and now teaches part time at community colleges in the Cincinnati area. He is the editor of the *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin* and *The Philatelic Communicator*, journal of the APS Writers Unit #30.)

Dates and Cancels

1. The AFCS can distinguish postage stamps from meters and personal postage by the phosphorescence (normal stamps) and fluorescence (meters and custom postage products). It can cancel either, or both, if set to do so. Normally, only stamps receive a cancel. In March 2014, most sorting machines were programmed to use a shortened cancel on meters and custom postage to provide date history for tax mailings. This experiment seems to have ended by June 2014.

2. In the old days the sorting facilities had an OCR model with an auxiliary printer that printed a date. If a metered mail shipment had the wrong date, the facility used this date printer to add the correct date. Most of these machines are obsolete, but some plants can still add a date if necessary to help a shipper.

3. Today, if a metered mail shipment is found to have an old date, it is returned to the mailer to be dated. Mailers know this now. If they have production issues and a shipment's metered date is incorrect, the mailer will run it through a dater. The dot dates we see under the meter stamp today (See Question 1), are printed at the mailer and seldom, if ever, at the USPS sorting plant.

4. The traditional way for a mailer to correct the date is to run the mail through the postage meter to print a zero postage print, usually on the reverse of the envelope. This is still rather common.

5. The OCR (optical character reader) cannot read the date from a postage meter. Improper dating is caught by spot checks of trays by hand held scanners operated by dock personnel at the USPS facility receiving dock.

Answers to Quiz Questions

Question 1A: Entered AFCS, meter recognized, no cancel, gets ID tag, OCR successful, OSS prints Postnet.

Question 1B: As 1A, except spot check shows bad date. Needed to be redated. See the sidebar above.

Question 2: Properly prepared bulk shipment entered at DBCS for final sort.

Question 3: Handstamp added as favor to sender. AFCS recognized Personal Postage stamp, no cancel, gets ID tag, OCR successful, OSS prints Postnet.

Question 4: 2003 date. No Postnet in address. Run during early times when AFCS was set to cancel both stamps and meters/personal postage (see sidebar above), gets ID tag, OCR successful, OSS prints Postnet code.

Question 5: This cover with presorted postage stamp was prepared properly with the IM code with the address. The entire shipment was probably sent directly to the proper local sorting facilities where it bypassed all early sorting steps and was sent directly to the DBCS step for sorting to carrier stops.

I AM STILL BUYING—JUST DON'T ASK WHY!!!

OKLAHOMA AND INDIAN TERRITORY COVERS
WEATHER FORECAST BACKSTAMPS
U.S. DESPATCH AGENT AND AGENCY MARKINGS
19th CENTURY U.S. FANCY CANCELS
PRIVATE PERFS ON COMMERCIAL COVERS
“CROSBY” POSTMARKS—Any State (Not Crosby cachets—No, we were not related)

COVERS ADDRESSED “IF NOT DELIVERABLE TO ADDRESSEE, PLEASE HAND TO _____”
(THE WEIRDER THE BETTER)

WILEY POST COVERS
A & M COLLEGE CANCELS AND
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION FRANKS
ILLUSTRATED MAIL PHOTOGRAPHY & RELATED
MULTICOLOR GUN COVERS
OKLAHOMA CIVIC ADVERTISING
MULTICOLOR A.B. SHUBERT, FUR BUYERS COVERS

POST CARDS
CHARLES M. RUSSELL
BUSTER BROWN
YELLOW KID
OKLAHOMA STREET SCENES

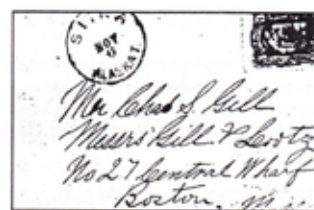
JOE CROSBY
5009 BARNSTEEPLE CT., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73142-5405
E-mail: joecrosby@cox.net

Alaska Collectors' Club

Postal History on the last frontier



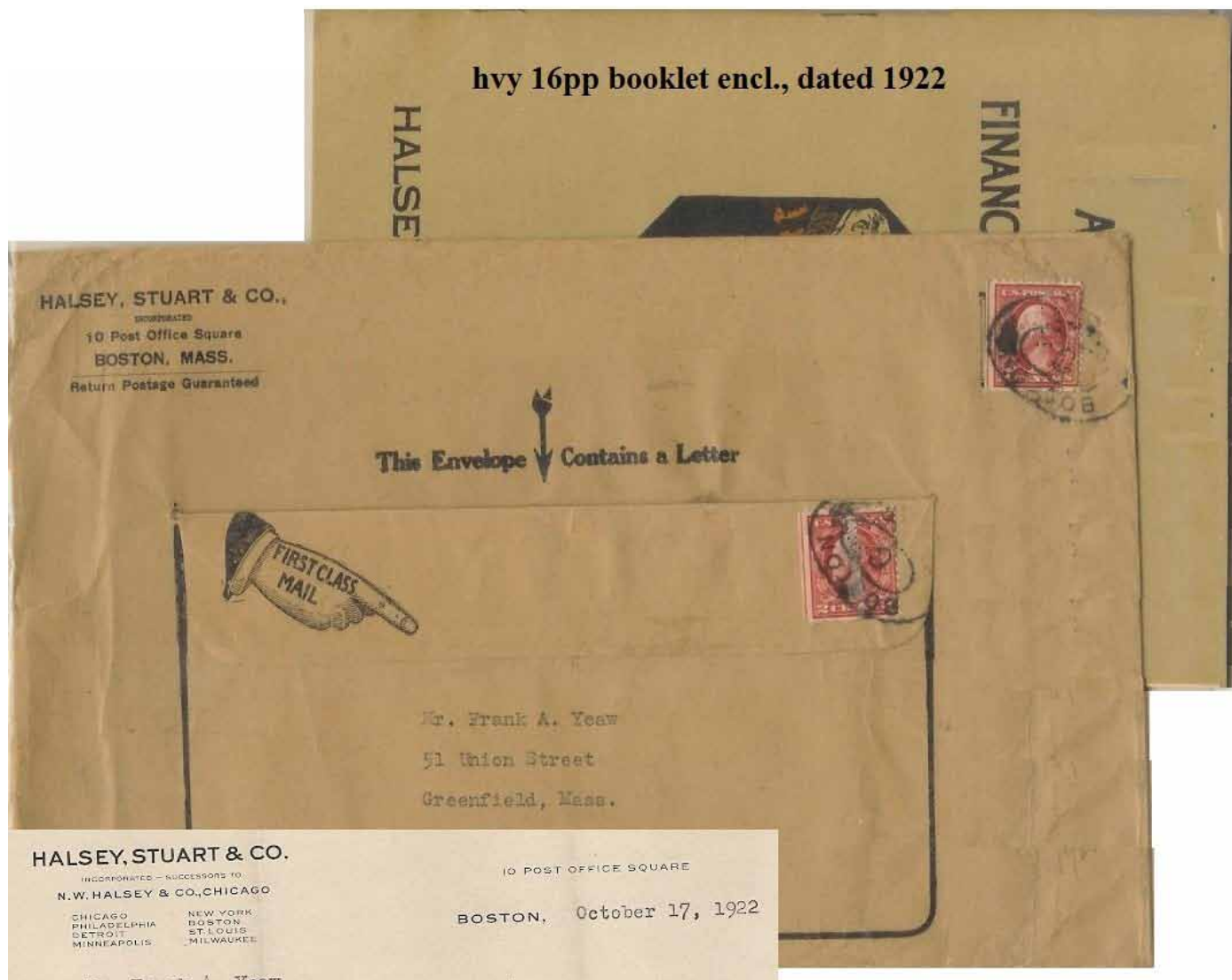
Alaska Postal History,
From the earliest



To the latest

The Alaska Collectors' Club is dedicated to developing a wider interest in the study and preservation of Alaska's Postal History. We have members in all aspects of Alaska postal history from the first covers to the latest events

Dues \$15 per year.
Information available from:
Eric Knapp
Secretary/Treasurer
4201 Folker Street, Unit C102
Anchorage, AK 99508-5377
E-mail: eknapp@gci.net



Junk Mail with a Twist

By Don Tocher

This large envelope was sent at the two times the third class rate of one cent per two ounces. It contained a large sixteen-page booklet (dated 1922). Attached to the large envelope was a small envelope/pouch. Each envelope is franked with a perfined U.S. Scott 499. The smaller envelope contained a first class letter with a pitch offering the sender's "money making program."

This arrangement was very much in accordance with Post Office Department regulations regarding the mixing of first and lower class services in the same package. It's just that most third class mailers did not usually obey the regulations as assiduously as did the Boston-based Halsey, Stuart & Co.

(Don Tocher can be reached at: dontocher@earthlink.net)

**Encourage friends to subscribe today
or make *La Posta* a gift.
See the subscription form on page 60.**

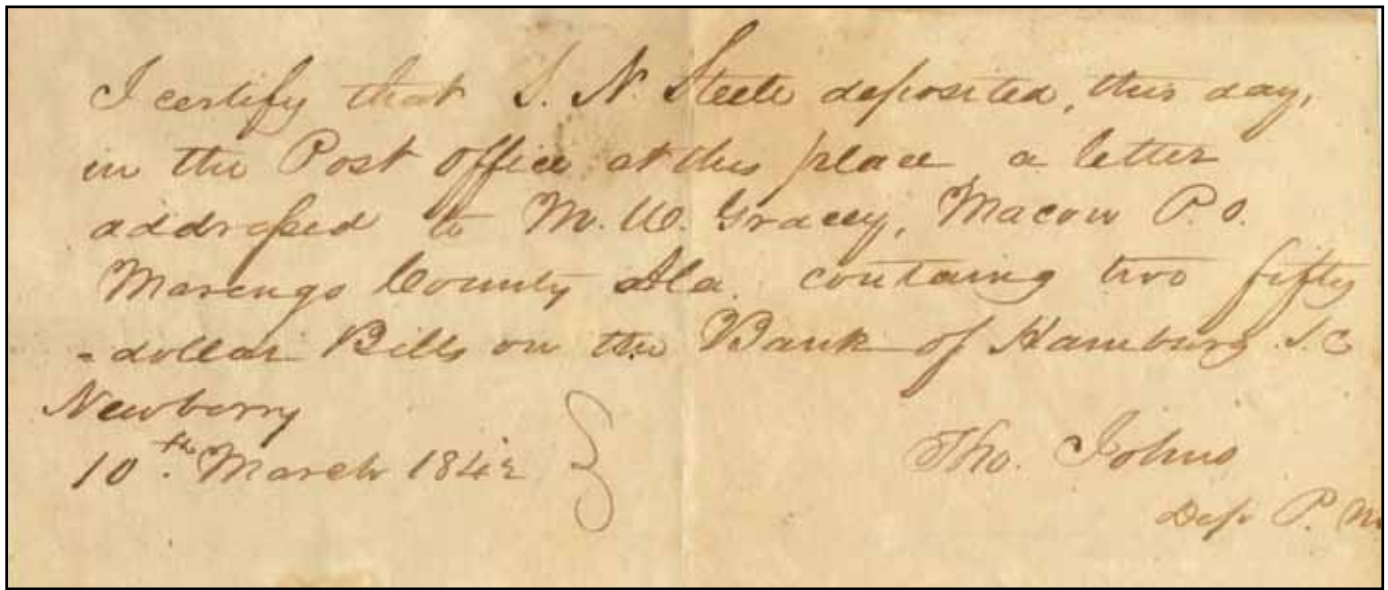


Figure 1: A Post Office Department manuscript certification regarding the loss of valuable mail.

Postal Forms Project Expands

By Russ Ryle

Postal regulations as early as the 1830s required proof that a letter that went missing in the mail contained valuable contents.

The Post Office Department did not provide a printed form to be used to document the fulfilling of this instruction by the sender of a letter upon mailing. Postmasters used improvised manuscript statements to meet this requirement (Figure 1).

Section 220 of the "Postal Laws and Regulations of 1847" clearly restated this requirement.

"No reported loss will be investigated by an agent, unless satisfactory evidence is produced, either by the certificate of the postmaster (at the mailing post office), or some other disinterested individual that the money or other valuable thing was deposited in the post office."

Introducing a New Columnist

Here is a short summary of a longer story. My great grandfather was a postmaster at a small general store countertop post office around 1890. My grandfather was a rural mail carrier from 1938 to 1958. My parents gave me an old maroon *Minkus World Wide Stamp Album* for my eighth birthday in 1956.

When I was about ten, my grandmother gave me a postcard from her youth postmarked at her father's

post office. By the time I was fourteen I was more interested in the old postcard than filling the blank spaces in the album with stamps. I still am.

My main research interests during the last fifteen-plus years revolve around registered mail. I became the custodian of the family archives with the passing of my parents in 1996. It contained several registered covers and some registered forms from back in the days of the family post office.

My search for a good reference book covering registered mails yielded bits and pieces of this story but no reasonably complete summary except for the earlier time period before my items.

I met David Straight while on the hunt for later information. David and I enjoyed more than eight years of sharing information about registered forms prior to his untimely passing in 2012. Humbly, this writing is an attempt to carry forward the postal forms column that David established in *La Posta*.

Now for the really good news. Information shared is history saved. Tony Wawrukiewicz has allowed a spreadsheet of postal form data that he initiated, which David and I have been contributing to over the years, to be put to good use.

Also, the APRL has agreed to host a publicly available postal forms database and assist in its

development and maintenance. The installation of their new updated computer server should be completed by the time this column appears in *La Posta*. They will then load open source database management software that will be the engine driving the forms database.

A Google groups postal forms discussion list has been established. To participate in this group, contact Tara Murray at the APRL.

Any project is only as valuable as the number of folks who benefit from it and use its results. The group is in the process of refining the project mission statement.

We are discussing exactly what is a postal form and how it relates to other types of postal papers. We now can add images of forms and PDF files of larger multi-page items. The earlier spreadsheet software did

not support this capability. Hopefully, by the fall of this year, if not sooner, the initial version of this database will be available online. *La Posta* reader help in providing images of forms from their area(s) of interest will be sincerely appreciated.

The spreadsheet concentrated on card and single sheet forms that were numbered by the USPO when issued. Multiple printing editions of many forms need to be documented. We intend to include earlier unnumbered forms.

Today, when you go to the post office, what was once a form is now a cash register type slip. Yes, these function as a postal form, too. The one thing consistent over time is change.

(Russ Ryle can be contacted by e-mail at: theryles@theryles.com)



What is a Sergeant's Office?

By James L.D. Monroe

The above Sergeant's Office local Confederate semi-official cover is remarkable for two reasons.

First, this cover is the only one known to have survived the Civil War.

More importantly, it represents a very interesting bit of Virginia history. If you were asked what a "Sergeant's Office" was, you would most likely be totally stumped or make a guess that it was somehow related to the Confederate Army.

But you would be incorrect. The answer is that it means "Sheriff's Office."

Sheriffs were first appointed in Virginia in 1634. The term "Sheriff" was changed to "Sergeant" when Norfolk, Virginia, became a borough in

1736. The term remained in use until the late 1960s when the designation "Sheriff" came back into use again.

The cover has a Norfolk, Virginia, December 1861 blue cancellation on a five-cent green CSA Scott 1. It has docketing indicating that it was answered on December 29, 1861, by Alexander Donnan, a member of the Petersburg, Virginia, City Council. The corner imprint, showing an eagle, cornucopia, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's official motto "*sic semper tyrannis*" (thus always to tyrants), is quite striking.

(Capt. James L.D. Monroe, SC, USN (Ret.) can be contacted at: jim@confederatecovers.com)

Postcard Pursuit

By Charles A. Fricke



Figure 1: An odd-shaped postcard mailed in 1948 from Rincon Annex, San Francisco, at the three-cent first class letter rate.

Odd-Shaped Postcards

Postcard innovations during the past one-hundred-plus years tell the story that there was always a new concept being published.

Take for example the odd-shaped 5-1/2 by 11 inch cardboard and die cut postcard shown in Figure 1. It was mailed at the three-cent first class letter rate using a three-cent Jefferson Prexie stamp (Scott 842) and is postmarked "San Francisco, Calif., Rincon Annex, Jul. 26, 1948 2 PM." The postcard is addressed to Kansas City, Missouri.

The left side of the postcard is set aside for a message with a dividing line on which it is noted "FIRST CLASS MAIL • DO NOT BEND."

The odd-shaped postcard does not easily reveal why it is so shaped until one looks on the other side, shown in Figure 2. Here, it becomes obvious that it is in the shape of the state of California.

The long printed message and the colorful and picturesque segments serve to offer and with the printed message provides some humor in its descriptions of places of interest to be seen in touring California.

The odd-shaped 5-3/4 by 10-3/4 inch cardboard and die-cut postcard shown in Figure 3 can easily be recognized as being in the shape of California, much like the postcard in Figure 1.

As before, it was mailed at the three-cent first class

letter rate with a three-cent Soo Locks commemorative stamp (Scott 1069) that is postmarked Carmel, Calif., July 19, 1955, and is addressed to Quincy, Illinois

Once again the left side has a space for a message with a dividing line on which it is noted, "FIRST CLASS MAIL • PLEASE DO NOT BEND."

The other side of the postcard, shown in Figure 4, offers a different approach to the intent of the postcard.

In this case, the entire postcard has tiny sketches in color of the important places and things to see in the entire state of California. The crisscrossing of roads makes it easy to see the interconnections between locations.

All in all, it was a rather clever idea to cover the entire postcard with things to see and do. But it makes one wonder if maybe the California shaped postcard in Figure 1 inspired John S. Anderson, San Francisco, to use the basic idea by Max Poschin, Glendale, California, and to expand it by using a different concept on the picture side.

As a passing comment, the local post office informed me that to mail an odd-shaped postcard like this today would require 65 cents in postage: 45 cents for first class mail and 20 cents for being non-machinable. I wonder if they still sell these California-shaped postcards today.



Figure 2: The front of the Figure 1 postcard.

Figure 4: The front of the Figure 3 postcard.



Figure 3: Another odd-shaped postcard mailed in 1955 from Carmel, California, at the three-cent first class letter rate.

(Charles A. Fricke, the 1981 American Philatelic Society Luffaward recipient for distinguished philatelic

research and a longtime postal card specialist, lives in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania)

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.

More Stamp Counterfeiting: The Perfect Crime by H.K. Petschel. Sandpoint Idaho: HKP Publications, 2014. Perfect bound, 6 x 9 inch, 208pp., B&W illus., \$28.

Inked Print: United States Postal Counterfeits Illustrated by H.K. Petschel. Sandpoint Idaho: HKP Publications, 2014. Perfect bound, 8.5 x 11 inch, 102pp., color illus., \$40.

Both books are available from: Keokee Books, 405 Church St., Sandpoint, ID 83864. Website: www.keokeebooks.com

H.K. Petschel, a former postal inspector who investigated many of the postal counterfeits of the 1970s and is a recognized authority on counterfeit stamps, has published two more books on the subject.

His first two books, *Spurious Stamps* and *Stamp Counterfeiting: The Evolution of an Unrecognized Crime* introduced the subject to a wider audience and were well received. *Stamp Counterfeiting* covered the period from 1894 to 1940.

Petschel's third book, *More Stamp Counterfeiting: The Perfect Crime*, begins where *Stamp Counterfeiting* left off and covers stamp counterfeiting as it became of interest to organized crime, a period that started in 1940 and continues today.

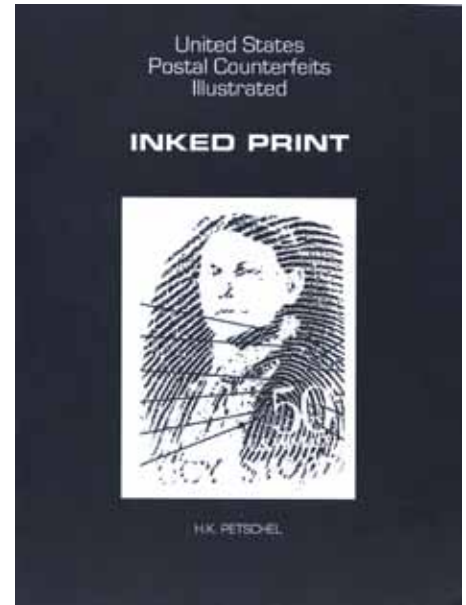
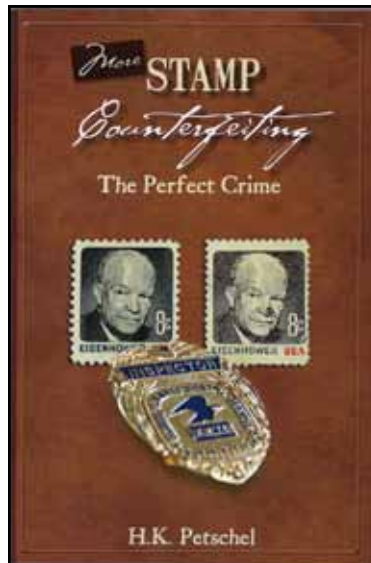
More Stamp Counterfeiting is divided into seven chapters, each covering a specific counterfeit issue or group of issues and providing the story of how the counterfeits were made, distributed and discovered, the people who were involved and how the case was solved.

Petschel has an engaging style when he discusses cases in which he was involved and he provides insights and commentary that bring the crimes to life.

For cases in which he was not involved, Petschel researched newspapers archives, police records and the National Archives to uncover the stories. In the last chapter, he even includes a discussion of cases from Canada and other foreign countries.

Fourteen black and white illustrations accompany the text.

In his final thoughts, Petschel reviews how counterfeiting impacts postal operations and the USPS's bottom line and observes that the current nondenominated stamps are, "one of the dumbest ideas that any postal bureaucrats ever came up with."



Inked Print: United States Postal Counterfeits Illustrated, also released in 2014, is Petschel's fourth book and is in a larger 8-1/2 by 11 inch format.

This tome is an illustrated guide to United States postal counterfeits that combines the efforts of John Hotchner and others who put together an award winning exhibit on the subject that resulted in the first catalog listing of postal counterfeits that initially appeared in the 2013 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamp and Covers*.

While it has no table of contents, the index at the back identifies the organization as following the stamp in Scott Catalogue number order.

The descriptive text for most issues is minimal and the layout is haphazard in appearance.

Illustrations are in black and white and color and vary greatly in quality depending upon the source documents. In most cases, the stamp images have been significantly enlarged to help in identification and detail images of critical differences between the real and counterfeit stamps have also been provided.

While a better and more consistent layout and organization would really benefit this work, there is still a lot of useful information within its pages.

Since there is so little philatelic literature about postal counterfeits, both of these books, produced by an individual with a passion for the subject and the real-world experience that enables him to tell the complicated stories, deserve the attention of anyone with a desire to learn more.

Peter Martin

“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.

Seeking the Bills Place, Pennsylvania, EDU



2014-2-1

Bills Place, Pennsylvania

For many years Bills Place Pennsylvania, championed the title as the “Smallest Post Office in the United States.” The post office opened May 2, 1935, but the earliest documented use is currently August 28, 1935. Can any reader provide an earlier documented usage? If so, please send a scan to the editor at: pmartin2525@yahoo.com.



Twisters Destroy Pilger, Nebraska

The post offices of Nebraska are featured in this issue beginning on page 52. As we were going to press, word came that the town of Pilger, Nebraska, had been hit by tornados Monday night, June 16, 2014. Pilger, in Stanton County, was hit by one of twin twisters, which roared for miles through northeast Nebraska. The tornadoes were of roughly equal size, about a mile apart. The northern twister, confirmed as an EF4 tornado, struck the town before the two merged, according to the National Weather Service. The farming town of approximately 325 people lay in ruins with the loss of two lives and with at least nineteen others going to the hospital. Up to 75 percent of the buildings in Pilger were heavily damaged or destroyed, including much of the small downtown, leaving piles of bricks that had been storefronts in the street. Included in the destruction was the town's post office, shown above in a 1993 photo. With the current U.S. Postal Service emphasis on downsizing and closing post offices, it could well mean that the Pilger Post Office will not reopen. (Steve Bahnsen)



Figure 1: The current Snow Shoe, Pennsylvania, Post Office is located at 105 South Moshannon Avenue. It opened September 24, 1960. Prior to moving into the new building, the post office was at Schaffer's Drug Store, next door to the current structure.

Snow Shoe, Pennsylvania

By Paul Petosky

The original Snow Shoe was laid out on an eminence 850 feet above Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, or about two thousand feet above sea level, by Samuel Butcher on September 1, 1794. The several lines were known as the Snow Shoe Camp Surveys, and the place was first called Snow Shoe Camp.

Tradition of more or less accuracy has it that it took its name from the adventure of a party of white hunters, who were overtaken by a snow storm on the old Chinklacamoose Trail, leading to Clearfield, and who finally made snow shoes on which they walked into the Bald Eagle Valley settlement.

Where Snow Shoe now stands, there was once an old Indian village. White hunters or explorers wandering into this locality later found some discarded snowshoes at the old Indian camp.

Some early settlers of Snow Shoe were John Betchtol, Samuel Askey, Perry John Lucas, John Singleton, John Long, Baptist Lucas, John Mayer,

John Holt, Samuel Gunsallis, Joseph Keeler, John Bowes, Nicholas Fye, William Mulhollan, Jacob Kunes, and River Tom Lucas, as he was called. These were considered the first settlers in and around Snow Shoe, dating perhaps from as early as 1815.

James Uzzell was the first settler, in what is now the borough. He came in 1850 and engaged in coal mining. The town plot was laid out in 1858.

Coalmines have formed the chief industry, especially since the forests were denuded of the timber, once a major industry. The Snow Shoe Post Office was established on March 21, 1859.

The Bellefonte and Snow Shoe Railroad was completed in 1859 and was constructed by residents of Philadelphia, most of whom were Quakers, or friends.

The cost of the construction was about \$204,734, and was paid for as work proceeded, leaving the company free from debt when the first train passed over the track.



Figure 2: This old photo of the Snow Shoe Post Office was taken during the 1930s when it was located at 301B South Moshannon Avenue. The post office operated from this building from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Snow Shoe was incorporated from Snow Shoe Township on August 16, 1907.

During all these years, Snow Shoe has been a center of great activity, great volumes of coal and timber finding their way to eastern markets from the hands and labor of its industrious men and women.

Snow Shoe is a beautiful mountain village, with all the benefits of good water, high altitude and scenic splendor.

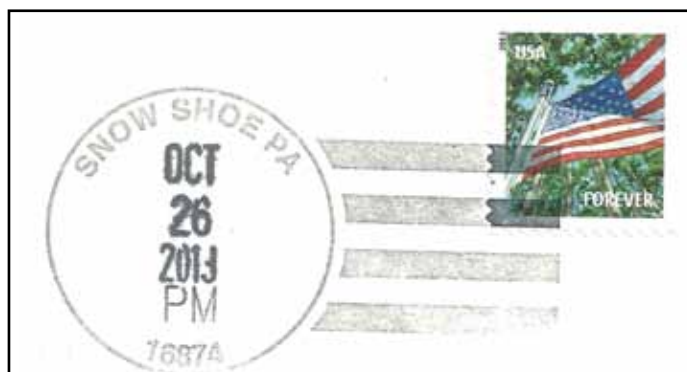


Figure 3: The current Snow Shoe four-bar postmark.



Figure 4: The entrance to Snow Shoe. The Snow Shoe Post Office covers two rural routes. One route has 690 customers and the other has 135, including Mountain Top. Snow Shoe also has 175 post office box customers.

Snow Shoe, Pennsylvania Postmasters

Originally established as WESSINGTON on June 22, 1858, with P. Benner Wilson as its first postmaster, the name was changed to SNOW SHOE on March 21, 1859, with John Hutchison as postmaster.

Adam Crissman.....December 27, 1861
 Joseph H. Crissman.....December 18, 1873
 George Shirer.....July 25, 1878
 Oliver M. Sheetz.....December 21, 1885
 James I. Yarnell.....April 8, 1889
 John A. Kelly.....September 20, 1893
 James I. Yarnell.....October 2, 1897
 Robert C. Gilliland.....June 2, 1915

Eversley T. Haynes.....March 19, 1920
 William A. Sickel.....July 1, 1921
 Eversley T. Haynes.....May 21, 1932
 Joseph Murray Gilliland.....April 27, 1933
 James W. Sullivan.....September 30, 1953
 Eversley W. Russell.....January 10, 1961
 Robert L. Clink.....March 10, 1961
 Barbara A. Paul.....October 25, 1986
 Debra K. Meyers.....November 29, 1990
 Sophie M. Cingle.....January 12, 1991
 Stephany Pavao.....July 31, 2012
 to present

Located in Centre County using ZIP code 16874

United States Post Offices

This column features United States post office photographs from the collection of the Post Mark Collectors Club's Margie Phund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Library, which is located in the historic Lyme Village near Bellevue, Ohio. The museum has more than a million and a half postmarks from all over America and a photograph collection of more than 50,000 United States post offices. Both are the largest collections in the world. Information about PMCC, the museum and more post office views are available at www.postmarks.org.

Nebraska Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen

These photographs are of post offices from Nebraska and come from cities large and small. A variety of people took these over the years. The PMCC Museum's collection has more than 950 pictures from Nebraska. They range from black and white views from 1958 to color digital photos from 2014.



Morse Bluff Post Office, Saunders Co., 2011



Ellsworth Post Office, Sheridan Co., 2007



Macy Post Office, Thurston Co., 2011



Denton Post Office, Lancaster Co., 1988



McGrew Post Office, Scotts Bluff Co., 2007



Fremont Post Office, Dodge Co., 2011



Fort Calhoun Post Office, Washington Co., 1994



Omaha Post Office, Douglas Co., 2011



Burchard Post Office, Pawnee Co., 2003



Butte Post Office, Boyd Co., 2012



Marquette Post Office, Hamilton Co., 1993



Brunning Post Office, Thayer Co., 2012



Bee Post Office, Seward Co., 2011



Geneva Post Office, Fillmore Co., 2011



Dalton Post Office, Cheyenne Co., 2008



Max Post Office, Dundy Co., 1991



Dixon Post Office, Dixon Co., 2011



Bingham Post Office, Sheridan Co., 1992

Nebraska

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 letter metered on September 11, 2011.

A 9/11 Envelope

This is in response to the third installment of Mr. Hemmings article in the Third Quarter 2013 *La Posta*.

Attached (shown above) are a full size and a close up scan of an envelope that I personally received. It was metered for mailing in New York, N.Y., on September 11, 2011, and has a USPS postmark of New York on September 12. I had the fortune (good or bad) to be in New York for business on September 10 and 11.

My work was around 114th and Broadway, and my hotel was at 58th and 5th. All work was suspended that day, and a scramble ensued to get hotel rooms as all traffic in and out was suspended. Eventually I did get a room again in my hotel, and stayed the night of the 11th until I could jam myself onto a train out of New York on the 12th.

The scanned envelope contained my hotel bill for the three nights.

As a collector and one who is appreciative of history, I count myself fortunate (yes, goodly) to have been part of that day, and to have this item of real, commercial postal history.

Rich Martorelli
Drexel Hill, Pa.

A Slice of History

Norman Pearce's selection of covers on page 55 of the Second Quarter 2013 *La Posta* not only display a variety of air mail etiquettes, they also present a slice of history.

The first cover has an illustration of the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. It was built in 1911 by W.B. Skirvin, a real estate developer and oil man. It fell

on hard times and closed in 1988, much in need of renovation and repair. After many plans to restore this blot on downtown, it finally reopened in 2007 as the Skirvin Hilton Hotel after a \$50 million renovation.

It was recently chosen by AAA as one of its favorite historic hotels. Skirvin's daughter, Perle Mesta, attained renown in the mid-20th century as Washington, D.C.'s "hostess with the mostest."

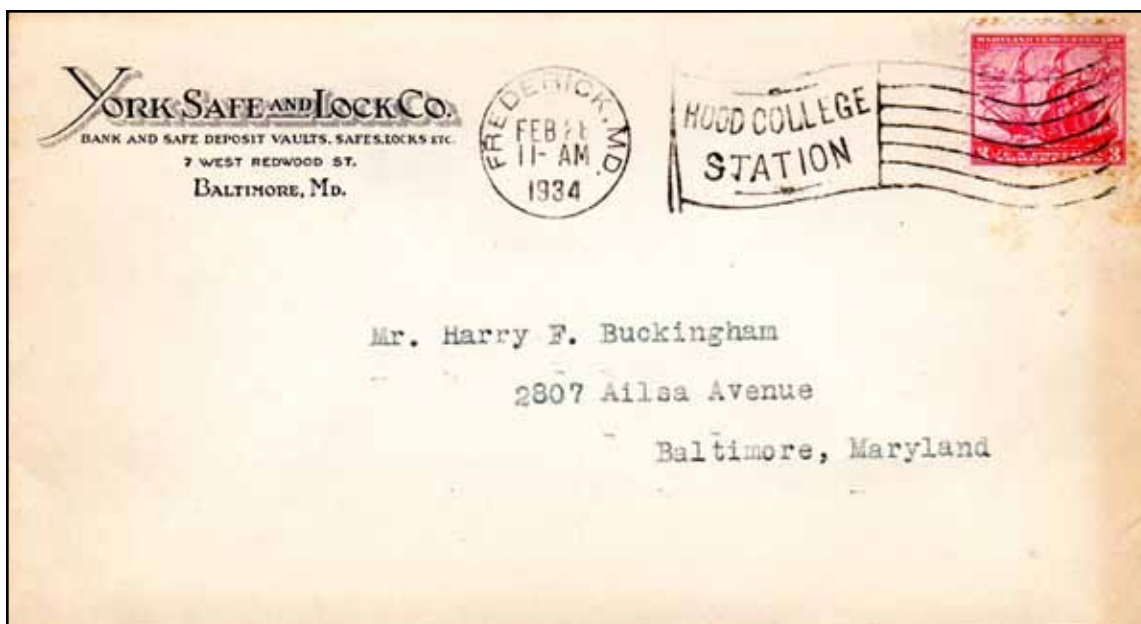
The second cover has the interesting corner card of George Shirk, a successful attorney, philatelist, historian and a mayor of Oklahoma City. Shirk wrote for the Oklahoma Historical Society's journal about the early history of the mails in Oklahoma, among other topics.

His series on post offices in Oklahoma became the basis of his *Oklahoma Place Names*, still the definitive work on the subject.

He also was involved in research about the Heavener Runestone, a large flat stone discovered near the town of Heavener, Oklahoma, with an inscription in runic characters declaring it was placed around the year 1000 by a Scandinavian expedition that penetrated so far into the heartland of America. As I recall, he finally came to the conclusion that it was genuine, not a hoax. The question is still unsettled.

The third cover is addressed to Chickasha, Oklahoma, a place name whose definitive origin is lost in the fog of history. Most students, including Shirk, believe it was a misspelling and mispronunciation of Chickasaw. (The Chickasaw Nation has become an economic engine, with hotels, casinos, horse racing tracks, manufacturing companies and other operations.)

The fourth cover shows an illustration of the



A collector asks if this is the earliest known use for 1934 Maryland Tercentenary stamp?

Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City. Its implosion was caught in a striking photograph as it was in the process of falling, on Kodak film, of course. The photo was used in Eastman Kodak advertising for many years as an illustration of the excellence of its products.

Wes Leatherock
Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Monograph Concept

In response to your request for comments about the monograph subscriber series concept, I would like to say that I like the concept and would buy in but I would like to know some of the possible subjects that would be covered. Perhaps more people would sign up if they knew some (not necessarily all) of the monographs being planned.

Count me in to subscribe to the monograph series if it goes forward.

Christine Sanders
Englewood, Fla.

The *La Posta* Challenge

La Posta looks great. I'm sorry that more people aren't contributing to "The *La Posta* Challenge" column.

Here are a couple of ideas for future columns: The cancel that made me laugh out loud; or the longest town name and shortest town name markings; or a contest for around-the-world covers with prizes for the most stops, the most countries, the longest time in transit and the farthest distance traveled.

Joe Crosby
Oklahoma City, Okla.

An Earliest Known Use?

Is there a way to validate a possible earliest known use cover? The attached (shown above) picture shows a 1934 Maryland Tercentenary stamp used about a month early. If anyone can provide information, please contact me by e-mail at: jacklynch2006@yahoo.com.

Jack Lynch
via e-mail

Send your letters to the editor to:

pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Peter Martin

Editor, *La Posta*

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

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

pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Peter Martin

Editor, *La Posta*

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Smithsonian Launches 'Indians at the Post Office'

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian have collaborated to create the digital exhibition, "Indians at the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal-Era Murals." The exhibition features 27 murals in post offices across the country depicting American Indians.



During the New Deal era, the U.S. Treasury Department's section of painting and sculpture, in a nonrelief effort, established a "48 states" art competition to commission artists to create public art in post offices. The competition resulted in the painting of 1,600 murals in post offices and federal buildings nationwide.

"Four hundred of these post office murals depict American Indians, and they will be the focus of this ongoing collaborative project of the National Postal Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian," said Allen Kane, director of the National Postal Museum. "We look forward to adding new images and stories every year."

The National Museum of the American Indian has closely examined 1,630 black-and-white images of these murals and sculptures provided by the U.S. Postal Service, which showed that of the 400 murals containing American Indians, only 24 were created by American Indians. Most of the artists participating in these visual stories were entirely unfamiliar with the region connected to the post office to which they were assigned, and most, unless they were a Native themselves, were unfamiliar with Indian culture.

"The long-range goal of the 'Indians at the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal-Era Murals' online exhibition is to publish 21st-century critiques of the 400 murals to address both virtues and inaccuracies," said Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

"The goal is to have as many murals as possible researched and written about by American Indians, particularly from the areas and cultures depicted." Collaboration with tribal college faculty and students from the various regions is planned to address, interpret and provide commentary on the murals.

The National Postal Museum is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., across from Union Station. The museum is open daily from

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information about the Smithsonian, call (202) 633-1000 or visit the museum website at www.postalmuseum.si.edu.

The National Museum of the American Indian is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere—past, present and future—through partnership with Native people and others. For more information, visit the museum website at: www.AmericanIndian.si.edu.

Marty Emery

'Pacific Exchange: China & U.S. Mail' Exhibit Opens at National Postal Museum

"Pacific Exchange: China & U.S. Mail," a new exhibit opened March 6 at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

The exhibit showcases the National Philatelic Collection's outstanding Chinese and U.S. postage stamps and mail, most of which have never been on display. The exhibit tells the story of the Chinese and U.S. relationship through the unique lens of stamps and mail. It taps into America's strong interest in China and promotes a richer understanding of the two countries.

Today, China and the U.S. are the world's two largest economies, major powers that often cooperate strategically. They also share a complicated history. The two have been World War II allies and Cold War enemies, partners and rivals. Using mail and stamps, the exhibit brings a human scale to Chinese-U.S. relations, and also explores Chinese immigration to the U.S., now home to four million Chinese Americans.

Located in the Postmasters Gallery within the museum's new William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, the exhibit features outstanding U.S. artwork and die proofs related to China and the Lunar New Year and is organized into three thematic areas: commerce, culture and community. The sections about commerce and culture focus on the decades between 1860 and 1980, including very rare proofs of stamps from the Chinese Bureau of Engraving and Printing (1912–1928). The section on community tells the story of Chinese Americans from the Gold Rush to today's celebration of the Lunar New Year.

"Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping told an American audience that 'Our two countries are neighbors on opposite sides of an ocean,'" said Cheryl R. Ganz, museum curator. "This exhibit illustrates how we communicated as neighbors from mail by ship in 1849 to President Richard Nixon's visit to Mao Zedong in 1972." The exhibit runs through January 4, 2015.

Marty Emery

Meter Library Moves to PHF in Arizona

The Meter Stamp Society's library has been added to the Postal History Foundation's Peggy Slusser Memorial Philatelic Library in Tucson, Arizona.

Rick Stambaugh, current president, and Joel Hawkins, immediate past president, of the Meter Stamp Society recently placed more than one hundred books, catalogs, machine handbooks, and ten postage meter machines with the Slusser Library in Tucson. These are from their own libraries, as well as from the MSS library itself.

Stambaugh and Hawkins have exhibited meter material, with award winning results, at many APS exhibitions. These markings are certainly examples of modern postal history, and the machines that create them are complex devices from a wide range of manufacturers.

Stambaugh and Hawkins have used this research material, as well as their own collections, to create and publish a catalog of U.S. meter marks that is available from the MSS website: www.meterstampsociety.com.

Paul Nelson

Spellman Museum Releases Colonial Postal History Symposium Papers

To honor its first fifty years of heritage and building toward its second half century, the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History hosted a symposium May 2, 2013, in Weston, Massachusetts.

The speakers, a distinguished group of postal historians, delivered remarkable insights into early American and Colonial postal development, leading to the growth and development of this country.

Joining presenters Yamil Kouri, Timothy O'Connor, Mark Schwartz and Ed Siskin in the published papers, were two other experts in the field, Steven Walske and Robert Abensur.

From Indian Trails to the Birth of a Nation is a book that combines the papers from the symposium with two other original research papers.

The book covers the story of the development of America's postal systems and the growth of the United States with a depth not often seen. From the earliest postal systems in what would become America, to blockade run mail during the Revolutionary War and Spanish colonial history in what evolved to become southern and western American states, are all featured.

The book is available from the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History for \$45 soft cover and \$60 hardcover. Their website is: www.spellman.org.

Nancy B. Clark

U.S. Postal History Societies Online

E-mail additions and updates to:

pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Alaska Collectos Club

E-mail: eknapp@gci.net

Auxiliary Markings Club

www.pmarkings.org

Colorado Postal History Society

www.coloradpostalhistorysociety.com

Empire State Postal History Society

www.pspociety.org

Machine Cancel Society

www.machinecancel.org

Michigan (Peninsular State Philatelic Society, Michigan's Postal History Society)

www.home.earthlink.net/~efishercol

Military Postal History Society

www.militaryphs.org

Mobile Post Office Society

www.eskimo.com/~rkunz/mposhome.html

New Jersey Postal History Society

www.NJPostalHistory.org

North Carolina Postal History Society

www.ncpostalhistory.com

Postal History Foundation

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Postal History Society

www.stampclubs.com/phs/index.htm

Postmark Collectors Club

<http://www.postmarks.org>

Postal History Events

Sept. 12-14 Bellefonte, Pa., Postal History Symposium and Aerophilately 2014

DK Enterprises

APS, NSDA, USCS, MPHS, TSDA, SRS, ARA

POB 1881

Silverdale, WA 98383

(360) 692-3818 stamps@dickkeiser.com

US / World Wide stamps and Postal History

Military/Naval Covers

Censored, Internment, POW covers

US/State/Foreign Revenues, and Much More.

Always Buying Visa/Mastercard Accepted

FREE shipping on orders over \$50.00

Visit my website at www.Dickkeiser.com



Don Tocher U.S. Classics

POB 679

Sunapee, NH 03782

(617) 686-0288

Please see me at:

August 21-24

StampShow

Hartford, Conn.

October 17-19

Sescal

Los Angeles, Calif.

See unusual U.S. Postal History items,
including military (Civil War-World War II),
on my website:

www.postalnet.com/dontocher

ASDA, APS, CSA, MPHS, USPCS

4,800 Pages of *La Posta* on Two Discs



La Posta volumes 31-40, covering the years 2000-2009—that's 4,800 pages—on two CDs priced at \$17.50 each, postage paid to anywhere on the planet.

All articles may be referenced using the PDF “bookmark” feature on each disc, and complete searches are easily conducted by way of the built-in PDF “keyword” search function.

To Order:

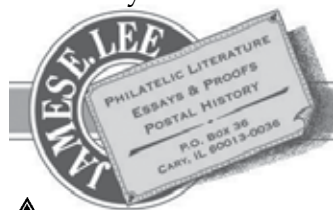
Send a check for \$17.50 for either CD, or \$35 for both to: Cath Clark, POB 65, Harwood, NSW 2465 Australia; E-mail: turtledragon@helbock.net

We are America's key buyer of
the kind of material you see here.



Essays and Proofs
U.S. 1861 Issue Stamps
& Postal History
Fancy Cancells
Civil War Letters & Covers

When selling, always be sure to get our offer
for your collection...first. Call us.



Phone: (847) 462-9130
Email: jim@jameslee.com

www.JamesLee.com



INSTANT CASH for U.S. & Foreign Covers!!



IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE
COVERS, SEND THEM TO ME
FOR MY IMMEDIATE OFFER
AND INSTANT CHECK: (All countries)
Registered mail, Better Individual
Items, Zeppelins & Flights, Maritime,
World Wars I and II, all Military and
Navals, Historical Covers/Letters, Rocket
Mail, Crash Covers, Expedition Mail,
Arctic and Antarctic, Prisoner of War
Mail, Stampless, Airmails, Catapults,
Expositions, Classic Postal History of all
kinds, censored covers and much, much
more!...and please: *No First Day Covers
and no stamps!*

Ship your covers to
us today! We'll reply
quickly & repay your
postage.



FREE! Download "Postal History
Treasures," our colorful newsletter, by
going to our website.

Fred
Schmitt

Since
1953

**Schmitt
Investors Ltd.**

www.fredschmitt.com

Member: Manuscript Society,
ASDA, APS, USCS, PTS (London),
CSDA (Canada)

P.O. Box 387-LaP • Northport NY 11768 • Phone: (631) 261-6600 (24 hours)
Fax: (631) 261-7744 • E-Mail: fred@fredschmitt.com



Your Source For

- La Posta Publications, including
the U.S. Post Offices series
- The 2014 Brookman Price Guide
- Quality U.S. Stamps
- Outstanding U.S. Postal History

To see our full line-up, visit our website at:
www.brookmanstamps.com

Brookman Stamp Company
POB 90

Vancouver, WA 98666

(800) 782-6770

E-mail: mjaffe@brookmanstamps.com

Credit Cards Welcome

APS StampShow Hartford, Conn. August 21-24

U.S. Postal History & Covers
Colonial to Prexies; maritime, destinations,
DPOs, railroads, Confederate, territorial,
expos, possessions, express & military

STEPHEN T. TAYLOR

5 Glenbuck Road
Surbiton, Surrey
England KT6 6BS

Phone: 011-4420-8390-9357

Fax: 011-4420-8390-2235

info@stephentaylor.co.uk

www.stephentaylor.co.uk

Your American Dealer in Britain



La Posta Publications CD Clearance Sale



With **Free Shipping!** The more you order, the bigger your discount!

Choose from any of these postal history titles:

Postmarks on Postcards (2nd expanded edition 2006)

Early Airmail and Aviation in Southern California

San Francisco Postmarks 1847-1900 & Earthquake Mail 1906

U.S. Doane Postmarks

Passed by Army Censor: A Catalogue of U.S. Army Censor Markings 1941-42

Prexie Postal History

A Catalogue of Non-Standard U.S. Postmarks 1900-1971

Illustrated Price Guide to U.S. APO Cancels of the World War II (not shown)

1 CD — \$17.50; 2 CDs — \$29 (\$14.50 each); 3 or more CDs — \$12.50 each

Direct download discount available! Receive \$6 off any individual purchase if you choose a direct download from the Internet instead of a CD. All CDs are available as direct downloads. Allow 14 days shipping for mail orders.

Pay by U.S. check to: Cath Clark, POB 65, Harwood NSW 2465, Australia

E-mail: turtledragon@helbock.net

SUBSCRIBE NOW! DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

We hope that you have enjoyed our journal and I wish to cordially invite you to become a subscriber.

La Posta is published four times a year and provides research, news and information regarding all aspects of American postal history. With a subscription price of just \$32 per year, most of our readers consider us to be the best bargain in postal history today.

I hope you will find *La Posta* worthy of your support. If so, please take a moment to fill out the form below and send us a check in the amount of \$32 to begin your subscription with our next issue.

Sincerely,

Peter Martin

Publisher

Yes, I'll give *La Posta* a try. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$32.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Sponsor: _____

Make checks payable to **La Posta Publications** and mail to: **POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403**

*The \$32 per volume rate applies to U.S. domestic addresses only. Please consult page 3 for current foreign and Canadian rates.

La Posta Classified Ads

GET YOUR MESSAGE TO THE LARGEST AND BEST INFORMED GROUP OF POSTAL HISTORIANS IN AMERICA

Word counts do not include your name and address, which are free. Query if you have ads of more than 100 words. Send payment to: *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403. E-mail Joan at laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Word Count	Per Issue
1-30	\$5
31-50	\$10
51-75	\$15
76-100	\$20

AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

August 10, 2014

FOR SALE

ANNOUNCING A NEW WORLD WAR I MONOGRAPH by Bob Swanson: *Bluejacket Mail: A Postal History of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station During the First World War 1917-1919*. Available in interactive e-book and a 42-page paperback formats. Includes many illustrations plus summaries of a rare sailor's correspondence. Website: <http://swansongrp.com/bob.html>; E-mail: bobswanson@gmail.com [45-2S]

POs, RPOs, SHIPS, DOANES, Expos, machines, military, advertising, auxiliaries, and more! My mail bid sales offer thousands of postal history lots. Write/ call for sample catalog. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th St., Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. E-mail: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: www.postal-history.com. [45-4]

ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING COVERS showing various old products. Many with matching graphic



La Posta Back Issues

La Posta back issues may be purchased from:

Sherry Straley
1400 Rowena Way
Sacramento, CA 95864

To order back issues call Sherry at:
(916) 359-1898; FAX 916-359-1963;
E-mail sherry@4agent.org.

enclosures. Submit collecting interests for free photocopies. John Cuddy, 2768 Willits Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19136. Phone: (215) 552-9855; E-mail: jcuddymailpouch@aol.com. [45-4]

WORLDWIDE POSTAL HISTORY with some USA items Aero: Polar: Military: Maritime and commercial items. Catalogues have a diverse mixture of covers/cards. Interesting items on offer in a Mail Bid sale every two months. Sidney Fenemore Wallasey CH45 1HL England UK: Website: www.sidneyfenemore.com; e-mail: sfenemore@clara.co.uk. Member APS. [45-4]

WANTED

BUY, SELL AND TRADE Doane Cancels of all states. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, POB 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [45-3B]

ALL STATES AND CATEGORIES wanted! Better consignment material always needed for my bi-monthly Mail Bid Sales. Write/ call for consignment details. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Website: www.postal-history.com. [45-4]

WANTED—POSTALLY USED 5-CENT JOHN F. KENNEDY commemorative issue used on May 29, 1964. Interested in buying, selling, and trading. Commercially used uncacheted covers are especially sought. Please forward photocopies or scans: Henry B. Scheuer, POB 535, Madison Square Sta., New York, N.Y. 10159; E-mail: Henryinnewyork@gmail.com [45-3B]

WANTED—U.S. FIRST DAY COVERS ADDRESSED TO AND BACKSTAMPED in foreign countries. Exotic, obscure, low population, and newer countries (i.e., post-1950) are particularly wanted. All covers MUST be backstamped in the intended foreign country. No Poste Restante covers. Please forward photocopies or scans to: Henry B. Scheuer, POB 535, Madison Square Sta., New York, N.Y. 10159; E-mail: Henryinnewyork@gmail.com [45-3B]

Support the Advertisers That Support *La Posta*!

Alaska Collectors' Club.....	42	<i>La Posta</i> Subscriptions.....	60
Brookman Stamp Company.....	59	<i>La Posta</i> U.S. Post Office Series.....	28
Classified Ads.....	61	James Lee.....	59
Joe Crosby	42	The Philatelic Foundation	2
DK Enterprises.....	58	Regency-Superior Auctions.....	64
Doubleday Postal History	64	Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.....	C3
Patricia A. Kaufmann.....	63	Schmitt Investors Ltd.	59
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	1, C4	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries	C2
<i>La Posta</i> Back Issues	61	Stephen T. Taylor	59
<i>La Posta</i> CD Clearance Sale.....	60	Subway Stamp Shop	6
<i>La Posta</i> on two CDs.....	58	Don Tocher.....	58

La Posta Display Advertising Rates

Display ads may be run on a contract basis for one-to-four insertions. You may change ad contents provided the new camera-ready copy is supplied by the ad deadline. Contract rates are as follows:

2014 Display Ad Rates (Per issue)			
Space	Size	B&W	Color
Full Page	7-1/2 x 10 inch	\$175	\$250
1/2 Page	7-1/2 x 4-7/8 inch	\$105	\$165
1/4 Page Vert.	3-5/8 x 4-7/8 inch	\$65	\$110
1/8 Page horiz	3-5/8 x 2-3/8 inch	\$40	\$85

Special Placement

Page 1	7-1/2 x 10 inch	\$325	\$375
Inside back cover	7-1/2 x 10 inch	\$325	\$375
Inside front cover	7-1/2 x 10 inch	\$325	\$375
Back cover-3/4p.	7-1/2 x 7-1/2 inch	\$375	\$425
2pp. centerspread	16 x 10 inch	\$800	\$995

2014 Ad Deadlines	
Third Quarter	August 10
Fourth Quarter	November 10

Payment is due with ad submission. There is a 10 per cent discount for contracts of four or more issues if the full year is paid in advance.

Rates are for camera-ready ads submitted as a PDF. No bleeds.

Additional charges may apply for special services. Ad prep is available at an additional charge. Rates start at \$20 for a 1/8 page, text-only ad. Inquire for a specific quote.

E-mail your ad to Joan Martin at: LaPosta.Joan@yahoo.com
or send to: *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Payment by U.S. bank check to: *La Posta* Publications.
Phone: (540) 899-7683



- 40 years as a professional in Confederate philately—collecting, researching, and writing about Confederates since the 1960s.
- Extensive online retail stock of Confederate stamps and covers. No computer? We can work it out. I will personally help you build your collection.
- “No stupid questions” policy—I’ll help educate you on Confederates.
- My website is far more than a retail outlet. I offer a “Confederate Primer Online” to help you as well as an archive of countless fascinating articles, columns and other resources.
- Let me be your specialized auction agent; I attend major Confederate sales around the country.

Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Confederate States Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (CSA Catalog) published in November 2012. She is a past president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, as well as a regular columnist in *The American Stamp Dealer and Collector*, *The Confederate Philatelist* and *La Posta*. A member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Service since 1996, she is currently serving on the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

Put me to work for you! Let me help build your collection or, if that time has come, give me the opportunity to maximize your return on the collection you have so lovingly built. No collection is too big or too small.

NEWS FLASH!

Confederate States Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History (CSA Catalog) available

for \$150 postpaid. **This important volume is now sold out through the publisher, the Confederate Stamp Alliance, but I still have a number available.** The lineal descendant of the Dietz Catalog, this groundbreaking work has color throughout with over 10,000 valuations and information derived from primary sources that are found nowhere else in any philatelic publication. If you specialize in Confederates or have a comprehensive U.S. philatelic library, this is a “must have.” **ORDER NOW while still available.**



PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN

10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln DE 19960

Ph: 302-422-2656 ~ Fx: 302-424-1990

trishkauf@comcast.net

www.csadealer.com

Life member CSA, APS, APRL, USPCS ~

Member ASDA, CCNY, RPSL



Your Source for Buying & Selling American Covers & Postal History

Postmarks • Military Mail • Postal History Exhibits • Auxiliary Markings • Town Markings • Civil War Mail by Rail • Airmail • Fancy Cancels • Advertising • Ship Mail • Postcards • Crash Mail • Astrophilately

✦ STAMPS • COINS • SPACE • AUTOGRAPHS ✦

REGENCY SUPERIOR

Experienced Auctioneers Since 1929

229 N. Euclid Avenue • Saint Louis, MO 63108

complimentary auction catalog
for active bidders

800.782.0066

RegencySuperior.com

a.k.a. CoverCrazy2

DOUBLEDAY POSTAL HISTORY

P. O. Box 70 ✦ Rindge, New Hampshire 03461-0070
www.doubledaypostalhistory.com ✦ 603 899-9085