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La Posta

Vol. 45, No. 3

Whole Number 259

Third Quarter 2014

LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

The 1915 Panama California Exposition

By Charles Neyhart

Vol. 45, No. 3
Whole Number 259
Third Quarter 2014



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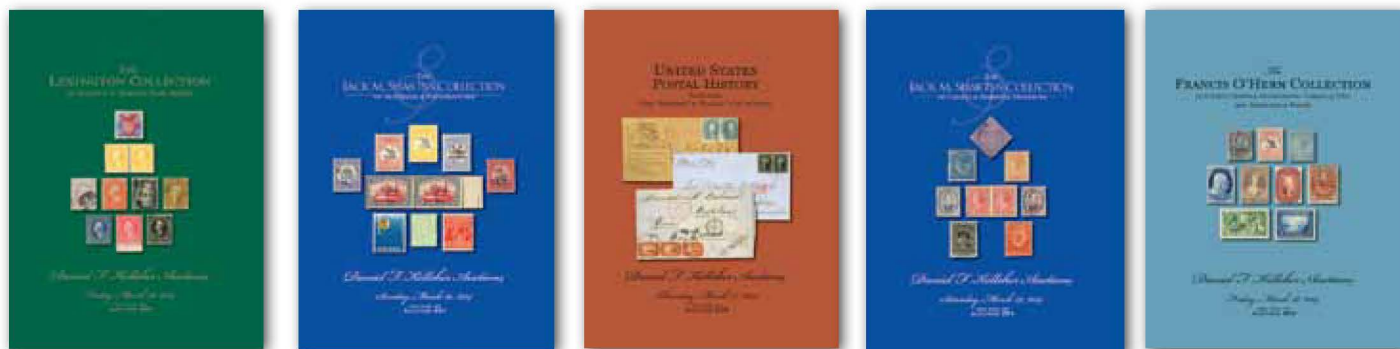
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LA POSTA

THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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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

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Town and County Postal History

Based upon responses to the *La Posta* monograph series and in speaking with collectors at a number of shows, there seems to be a significant interest, by at least a section of postal historians about getting town and county postal histories into print.

Depending upon the state, town or county these would usually have a small, but perhaps diehard, audience. They usually involve a lot of work to produce but would make a significant contribution to local and state postal history.

La Posta has featured a variety of this material over the years and it's an area that deserves continued attention and focus.

With this in mind, I'm making a call for anyone who is working on a town, city or county postal history and who would like to get it published to contact me. Shorter histories will be featured in *La Posta*; longer histories will be considered for monographs.

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

Additional thoughts and comments are always welcome.

Third Quarter Gems

This Third Quarter *La Posta* features another stellar lineup of authors and articles led by an exceptional study of the postal history of the 1915 San Diego Panama California Exposition by Helbock award winning author Charles Neyhart.

Don Glickstein offers a very interesting feature about the earliest documented use of a government postal card in Alaska and Trish Kaufmann provides an entertaining look at a Confederate planter who went to war. In their social postal history forum, Jesse Spector and Bob Markovits take us into the area of religious infighting in the 19th century Protestant Episcopal Church.

Also, U.S. Auxiliary Mail Columnist John Hotchner continues to explore the world of problem mail; Russ Ryle examines a postal form that patrons weren't supposed to see; Charles Fricke reviews another postcard usage and Steve Bahnsen provides a colorful look at North Dakota post offices.



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.

Advertiser Offerings

Two of America's leading auction houses offered exceptional postal card material in September.

Daniel F. Kelleher Auction's September 11 Auction 656 featured the two-part sale of, "The Constellation Collection of U.S. Advertising Postal Cards," and "The Constellation Collection of U.S. Postal Card Fancy Cancels & Usages," while Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries September 18 Sale 1080 offered "The 'Georgian' Collection of United States Postal Cards."

If you missed these sales, the auction catalogs will be a tremendous resource.

Also, Michael Jaffe and the Brookman Stamp Company continue to add outstanding advertising covers from a recent six-figure purchase to its e-Bay and online offerings. You can visit the Brookman website at: www.brookmanstamps.com.

In addition, Subway Stamp Shop has just produced its annual overstock clearance flyer for books and stamp supplies. Additional items will be added to this list in the near future. For details go to: <http://www.subwaystamp.com/sept2014.pdf>

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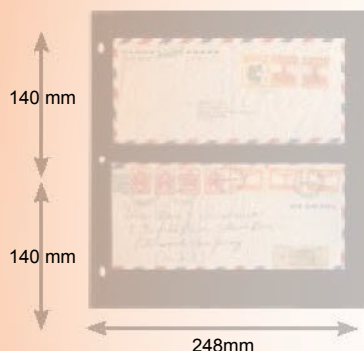
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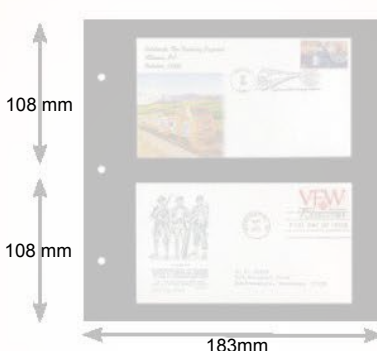
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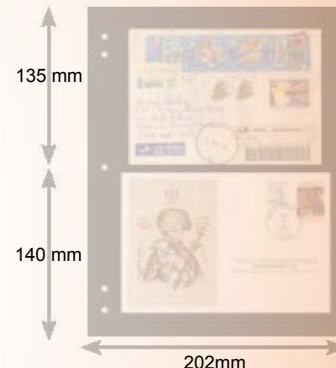
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‘A Knife in the Back’

The 1915 San Diego Panama California Exposition

By Charles Neyhart

After almost three years of planning, with tangible actions taken, with money raised and spent and with assurances to the contrary, the San Diego organizers of an exposition celebrating the planned 1915 opening of the Panama Canal failed to receive government approval to do so. That, instead, went to what was to be the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

Hopes to then stage a concurrent, but smaller, event in San Diego with a reduced government endorsement were dashed by political maneuvering that left San Francisco with the full favor of the government and its money and influence.

When confronted by this ostensibly terminal setback, Joseph W. Sefton Jr., a banker and acting director-general of the sponsoring San Diego organization “...snarled that San Francisco had given San Diego ‘a knife in the back.’”¹

Despite the rebuff, and spurred by a competitive spirit, the San Diego organizers and citizenry persevered and staged its Panama California Exposition in 1915. Comparisons with the much larger Panama Pacific International Exposition are inevitable and are particularly telling when studying the postal history left behind by the two events.

The latter is represented by a rich and varied postal history, whereas, that of the former seems, at first, rather unexciting. Nonetheless, the act of studying that postal history has merit because it is a local history and fully reflects the civic character of the event—it is neither imposing nor powerful, but dutiful and unadorned.

The objectives here are to:

1. Describe the nature and extent of the postal history produced during the exposition.
2. Identify and interpret those factors that affected the record of that postal history.
3. Reset the expectations one might reasonably have about that postal history and its place within the



specialized exposition category. There is no need to marginalize the quantity or quality of this postal history; by its nature, it really couldn't be anything other than it was.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive history of the Panama California Exposition. That has been chronicled admirably by many others, producing a rich and detailed bibliography.² Nonetheless, one must know something about it as well as the actions of the post office to appreciate its postal history.

Backdrop to an Exposition

On July 9, 1909, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce took up the idea of staging an exposition to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal, then tentatively scheduled for 1915.³ This seemed to make sense—San Diego would be the first port of call on the Pacific coast.

That this idea was so quickly embraced so fully in San Diego was due to what typically drove similar undertakings: boosterism and prospects for personal wealth. An exposition would leverage San Diego's untapped physical assets and its social aspirations to promote economic growth and civic recognition.

The city of San Diego at the time had a population of 39,578; Los Angeles and San Francisco were substantially larger by multiples. The downtown area, called New Town, had been platted in 1867 after which the city center quickly migrated from the Presidio in Old Town four miles to the north. This ultimately reoriented the city to the waterfront and the economic potential of San Diego Bay. Mexico was 15 miles to the south, but the area experienced sporadic troubles from the Mexican Revolution.

The U.S. Navy had not yet taken up large and permanent residency in the area; that didn't begin until after the exposition. But, what it may have otherwise lacked, San Diego did have good weather.

Funding for the exposition infrastructure was raised locally through a robust stock subscription program and the passage of a series of park and other municipal bond issues.⁴ Two million dollars was raised in this fashion by 1910 and five million by 1911.

City Park, a short distance northeast of the downtown district, was selected as the site for the exposition. These 1,400 acres of pueblo lands, originally part of a much larger tract, were first set aside for public use by Spain in the 18th century, a designation that was confirmed once again when City Park was formally established by the city in 1868.

The almost square park site is topographically divided by north-south canyons into several large mesas, a description applicable to the wider surrounding area. The western boundary of the park is less than a mile up-slope from the waterfront.

A master plan for park improvement, started in 1902 and finalized in 1905, led to a conversion of desert scrub land into usable open park spaces with varied vegetation, green belts, gardens, walking paths and recreation facilities.

The name “Balboa Park” was formally adopted in 1910. Groundbreaking for the exposition was held July 11, 1911.

The exposition grounds, comprising 640 acres, were situated on the large central mesa of Balboa Park. The built exposition was on a gradual rise 300 feet above sea level and was strikingly visual from all sides of the city.

Cabrillo Canyon abuts the west side, with Florida Canyon on the east. The picturesque Cabrillo Bridge, built for the exposition, led pedestrians to the west entrance; the east entrance was directly accessed by electric streetcar and automobiles.

El Prado was the main boulevard that ran through the exposition’s center and connected the plazas at the east and west entrances. The rectangular Plaza de Panama, running north to south, formed an intersecting axis with El Prado. Major building groupings were keyed to this axial arrangement.

To the south of El Prado and extending in a southwestern direction were the bulk of the smaller exposition buildings and the popular Spreckels organ pavilion. Formal and informal gardens were interspersed in this area.

The architectural style was Spanish colonial, but also informed by Mission, Pueblo and Indian influences.⁵ Not only were the physical features harmonious with the landscape, the style maintained a link to the early history of the area.

This style was so different, and perhaps purposely so, from the traditional grand, imposing buildings signifying power and majesty that were common to expositions, including San Francisco in 1915.

All but four major buildings out of 26 constructed for the exposition were considered temporary — wood frame structures covered in hemp, metal screen and stucco. Six U.S. states had their own buildings, as did five California counties. No foreign country, including those from neighboring Central America, mounted exhibits.

San Diego organizers did not have access to the universal exhibits typical of an international fair, but neither were they constrained by their absence.

Exhibits focused on “visualizing” agricultural development opportunities in the U.S. southwest and how those could be realized and brought to market through San Diego and the Panama Canal. Practical and engaging exhibits replaced static displays of finished products as being more interesting. Outdoor hands-on demonstrations were prominent, concentrating on large scale and intensive farming methods.

The Panama California Exposition opened New Year’s Eve 1914 and concluded December 31, 1915. In contrast, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened February 20 and closed December 4, 1915.

U.S. Post Office Department Washington, D.C.

It was not until 1913 that the U.S. Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., formally recognized the Panama California Exposition by authorizing use of a slogan cancel to advertise the exposition.⁶

In a July 1, 1913, letter to Representative William Kettner (D-San Diego), First Assistant Postmaster General Daniel C. Roper, wrote:

“...I have to inform you that in view of the fact that the exposition was officially recognized by Act

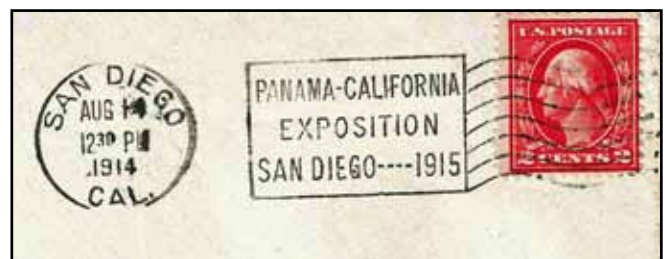


Figure 1: A slogan cancel used in 1913 and 1914 on outgoing San Diego mail.

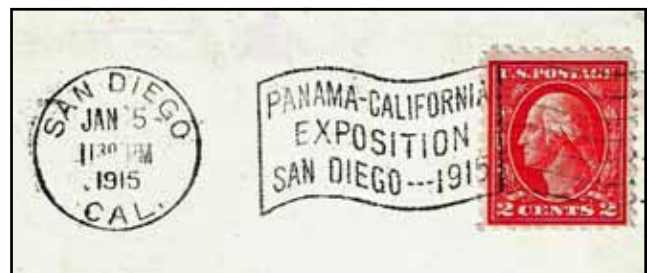


Figure 2: A slogan cancel used in 1914 and all of 1915 on outgoing San Diego mail.



Figure 3: The U.S. Post Office and Custom House, commissioned April 5, 1913, as it looks in 2013. This was the main post office during the Panama California Exposition. Today, it is the Jacob Weinberger U.S. Courthouse.

*of Congress, May 10, 1913 (H.R. 4234), a special die reading "Panama-California Exposition—San Diego 1915," has been ordered and it will be forwarded to the postmaster as soon as it can be manufactured."*⁷

An example of this slogan cancel used in 1913 and 1914, but only in the San Diego Post Office, is shown in Figure 1. The canceling machine used was a high grade electric Universal Model C manufactured by the Universal Stamping Machine Co.⁸

The die's dial is Type CT, the killer is Type 410.3. (The '410' refers to a rectangular slogan box; the '3' represents the year 1915.)

A revised design with the same slogan in a wavy box, shown in Figure 2, was used in late 1914 and all of 1915 in San Diego. Again, the machine used was the Universal Model C. The dial is again a Type CT, the killer is now Type 430.3. (The '430' refers to a wavy slogan box as opposed to the earlier rectangle.)

Unsurprisingly, no new U.S. postage stamp was issued to promote the exposition.⁹ The Post Office Department did approve establishing a postal station on the exposition grounds, but its funding was subject to negotiation with the local post office. The department paid the direct leasing costs for the structures and furniture and fixtures. Operating costs, the bulk of which were labor-related, were negotiated periodically as dictated by performance or milestone events.

Exposition Station Panama California Exposition

Charles H. Bartholomew was appointed San Diego's postmaster in 1908. San Diego was a presidential class

post office and in 1915 comprised the main office in the Federal building, a branch on Coronado Island, two lettered classified stations and eight numbered contract stations.¹⁰

Bartholomew, an exposition supporter, nonetheless seemed unwilling to push boundaries with Post Office Department relative to staffing levels and operating costs. His surviving administrative correspondence gives the impression of one who was repeatedly confronted by departmental demands to better manage costs associated with the exposition.¹¹

Exposition Station was approved by Postmaster General Albert Burleson on December 5, 1914, effective December 15.¹² The local press made note of this:

"Word was received yesterday that the United States government will establish a Postoffice at the Exposition grounds in the Commerce and Industries Building. It will be under the direction of Postmaster C.H. Bartholomew. Boxes will be placed at intervals about the grounds so that letters or postcards may be mailed at the most convenient place.

*In addition to the main office a sub-station will be located between the south gate and the pepper grove. The Postoffice and the sub-station were recently authorized by Postmaster General Burleson."*¹³

Describing Exposition Station, Bartholomew noted:

*"... three clerks and three carriers will be assigned there first and if more are needed they will be sent there. Money orders, registered matter, parcel post, stamps and general delivery will be installed."*¹⁴

Despite its temporary term, Exposition Station was an officially designated classified station just like



Figure 4: El Prado looking west. The 1915 location of Exposition Station was in the Commerce & Industries building with its two high pavilions on the immediate left. The station was moved and downsized in 1916 to the larger Foreign & Domestic Industries building on the immediate right.

San Diego Stations ‘A’ and ‘B’ and was issued the standard tools of the trade—a steel duplex handcancel and handstamps for registry, money order transactions and parcel post business, all of which incorporated “Exposition Station” in the marking.

To set up Exposition Station, the Post Office Department preferred to lease facilities that were, after all, going to be temporary. The July 14, 1914 minutes of the exposition executive board made note that the Department had advised postmaster Bartholomew that:

“... the department would not purchase equipment for the post offices but that it might lease a site from the exposition and thereby enable the exposition to build the building and purchase the machinery.”¹⁵

The board was agreeable and proposed a monthly rent of \$500 to cover costs. After a series of back and forths, the final agreement, as reported in the executive board minutes of December 8, 1914, was that the exposition would construct a sub-station and install and equip a station on the grounds in exchange for a rental in the amount of \$1,200 for the year (later reduced to \$1,191.53) to be paid quarterly.

Space was allocated to Exposition Station in the Commerce & Industries building that fronted El Prado. There is no evidence to suggest that the site selected was based on meeting the postal needs of potential

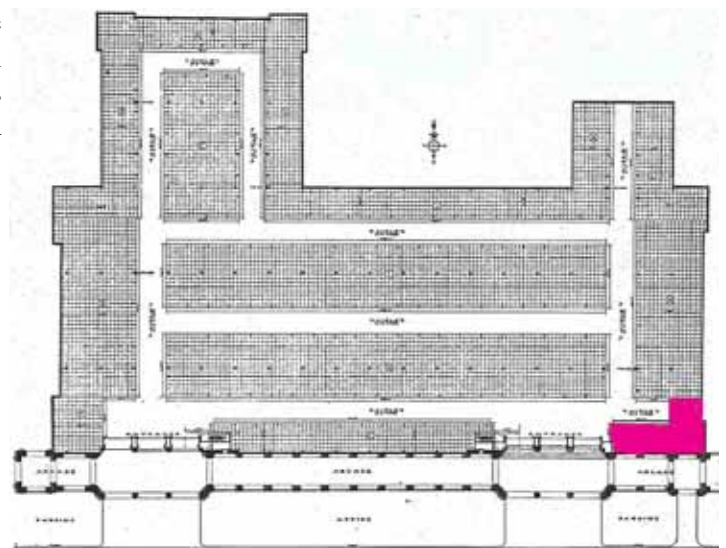


Figure 5: The floor layout of the Commerce & Industries building. El Prado fronts the building along the bottom of layout. Exposition Station’s 1915 location is the darkened area in the lower right corner.

users; rather, it was almost certainly based on price and space availability. The sub-station, a simple box-shaped building to serve as a transfer point for mail and parcel post, was built between the south gate and the pepper grove near a suitable access roadway at a cost of \$1,309.37.¹⁶ The exterior of the Commerce & Industries building is shown in Figure 4.

The station, comprising all of 225 square feet of



Figure 6: The white arrow points to a wall-mounted mail collection box at a store selling magazines and sundries on the exposition amusement midway called the “Isthmus.” The author has found two such boxes along the midway. ‘U.S. MAIL’ is embossed on the front of the metal box. (Image 91:18564-2597, San Diego History Center)

Figure 7 (Below): A white arrow on the right points to a pedestal style mail collection box mounted along El Prado near the east entrance (behind the camera). The inset of that same mail collection box is at lower left. (Image UT-2597, San Diego History Center)

floor space, was located just inside the doors to the west pavilion of the building. Under the supervision of Postal Inspector F.M. Trout, the exposition was responsible for building an enclosure for the station, including the fronting postal screen with the individual service windows and for supplying necessary office equipment. The floor plan of the Commerce & Industries building is shown in Figure 5.¹⁷

Alas, the official map of the exposition grounds did not properly place Exposition Station; instead, it labeled the small sub-station, which was away from the action, as “Postoffice and Freight” and then compounded this inaccuracy by giving it incorrect map coordinates.¹⁸ In addition, there is no evidence that the location of the station was publicized through signage on the grounds.

The station was originally staffed by three clerks and three carriers. Michael J. Hagan was named superintendent.¹⁹ Twelve mail collection boxes were spaced throughout the grounds (see Figures 6 and 7).

Mail was dispatched daily, excluding Sunday, from the main post office at 6:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to the sub-station where it was sorted by the carriers.

Carriers made one morning and one afternoon delivery and made collections on these delivery trips for dispatch to the main office at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A messenger service was established between the main office and Exposition Station effective December 29, 1914.²⁰ The style of mail collection boxes used was relatively new to San Diego and could be wall-mounted, post-mounted (often on light posts) and pedestal mounted. No combination mail/package receptacle was reported on exposition grounds.



1916—The Exposition Goes ‘International’

As early as the summer of 1915, unofficial deliberations were taking place between the San Diego and San Francisco exposition operators that eventually led to the transfer of some exhibits from the Panama Pacific International Exposition once that event concluded on December 4.

In October, the San Diego group committed to

extending the exposition through December 31, 1916. Nineteen nations were scheduled to exhibit during 1916.²¹ The Panama California Exposition formally closed December 31, 1915.

The following January and February were spent realigning the exhibits. Those being transferred in from San Francisco would be installed in the larger buildings along El Prado and, in most cases, extensive interior remodeling was necessary. The Commerce & Industries building, the home to Exposition Station, was closed for two months to install a new exhibit (which included a “working” beaver dam) and renamed the Canadian building.

Smaller buildings were kept open and regular band concerts and military parade marches kept exposition visitors entertained during the transition. The Panama California International Exposition was dedicated March 18, 1916.

In a December 18, 1915, letter, Charles Bartholomew notified the Post Office Department that the exposition would likely continue through 1916 and requested a temporary continuation of Exposition Station under the same terms as the present lease pending a new contract.

The December 27, 1915, reply approved the request but urged a reduced rental rate. In January, Exposition Secretary H.J. Penfold proposed to relocate the station directly across El Prado to the Foreign & Domestic Industries building and offered the space at \$500 for the year, the estimated cost of rebuilding the postal screen and doing the necessary electrical wiring. This was approved by the Department in mid-February.

Perhaps unbeknown at the time, the Foreign & Domestic Industries building was a much less than ideal location for the station. The building, essentially two large buildings adjoined at right angles, contained the greatest amount of floor space on the exposition grounds and the installed 1916 exhibits were among the largest.

However, the number and placement of exterior doors were insufficient for the building’s size and layout, which made traversing the interior of the building inefficient, particularly if one was looking for Exposition Station. Based on the known terms of agreement between the exposition and the Post Office Department, the station was almost certainly downsized and then fit after the fact into the greater mix of exhibits.²²

Once again, there is no evidence that the location of the station was publicized anywhere on the exposition grounds; and, once inside the building, trying to find it may have been deemed impractical.

On January 17, 1916, Bartholomew forwarded to Washington, D.C. a resolution from the Chamber of Commerce requesting a postal cancel reading “Panama-California International Exposition at San



Figure 8: A slogan cancel used during 1916 on outgoing San Diego mail.

Diego—1916” in capitals in a wavy box. This was approved and the earliest documented use is February 11. This cancel was produced using San Diego’s Universal Model C. The dial is Type CT, the killer is Type 430.4 (The ‘430’ is the wavy shaped slogan box; the ‘4’ refers to 1916). An example is shown in Figure 8.

A statistical report, dated January 26, 1916, prepared by Bartholomew notes, among other things, that staffing at Exposition Station had been reduced to one or two clerks and two temporary carriers.²³

It is not clear exactly when this occurred or for what reason, but it was undoubtedly initiated in Washington, D.C. At the outset, the Post Office Department almost certainly provided a supplemental start-up appropriation to get the station staffed and ready for business.

And it would have been prudent to try to wring any existing operational slack from the San Diego office to support the station. And it would make good sense to monitor business to identify efficiencies that could translate into cost savings subject to recapture.

The staffing reductions at Exposition Station may have taken place all at one time or, alternatively, on a piecemeal basis. Two dates stand out here as possible decision points: June 30, 1915, the end of the federal government’s fiscal year, and December 31, 1915, the originally scheduled closing date of the exposition and notionally the start of the 1916 extension.

Because the station was temporary, only a base level of service was ever contemplated and supported. The staffing reductions, if based on an accurate assessment of staffing needs, strongly suggest the station was simply not doing much business.

Assigning two carriers from the temporary pool to replace three, presumably regular, carriers was probably due to a greater need for regular citywide carriers.²⁴

The following example illustrates the pressure on Bartholomew to control costs. During parts of 1915 and 1916, Bartholomew was unable to meet targets for reducing carrier vacation costs, an inability he attributed largely to increased citywide business from the exposition.

Perhaps in recompense, he proposed in a July 11, 1916, letter to the Post Office Department to reduce the station's two temporary carriers to one temporary carrier plus one average hour of overtime. He justified this by claiming lower than expected exposition attendance and that much of the exposition space was occupied by foreign exhibits "... *that do not receive as much mail as exhibits that occupied the space in 1915.*"

In a July 21 reply, the Department rebuffed his proposal and, instead, stipulated that the two temporary carriers be placed in the substitute carrier pool and be replaced by two auxiliary carriers at an overall reduction of cost.

Bartholomew, though, tried to be helpful when he thought he could. H.J. Penfold, the exposition secretary, wrote to Bartholomew on behalf of exhibitors who were requesting special delivery service be offered on Sundays.

In a May 2, 1916, response, Bartholomew explained that the mail contract did not call for a Sunday trip and that Exposition Station had never been open on Sunday. He further pointed out that to provide special delivery service in the regular way would require the services of a station clerk and messengers.

But rather than refuse the request outright, Bartholomew offered to extend regular Sunday special delivery service from the main post office directly to the exhibitors if the exposition rules prohibiting the use of motorcycles and automobiles on exposition grounds would be waived for this purpose.

Bartholomew must have reasoned that any marginal increase in cost from this option would be less, and more palatable, than the cost of an additional station clerk and messengers.

Statistics tell a mixed story here. Postal receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915 were \$265,000, up from \$210,000 the previous year.²⁵

Similarly, receipts for calendar year 1915 were \$300,535 up from \$265,065 the previous year. This increase was undoubtedly due, in large measure, to the exposition.

However, the staffing reductions at Exposition Station suggest that mail volume there was not adding much to the total and that postal resources were needed elsewhere to handle the increase.

Exposition attendance declined by 17 percent from 1915 to 1,697,886. Profit also declined producing a two-year net of \$34,000 plus \$10,000 of unpaid subscriptions, though not including the physical improvements to the park or the economic multiplier effect on visitor spending.

Exposition Station was formally discontinued January 31, 1917. No station markings are recorded from 1917.²⁶

Postal Markings

William Bomar lists 39 identified 1915-16 exposition postal markings.²⁷ Only eight of these were applied by the San Diego post office; the remainders were applied at other California post offices. The ensuing discussion employs Bomar's numbering scheme that always starts with 'SD' signifying 'San Diego' and either '15' or '16' for 1915 or 1916 markings. These are followed by a two digit sequential number. (The double circle markings struck in magenta ink on facing slips are reproduced courtesy of David Savadge.)

For some of the markings discussed here, an obvious question will be why are there so few recorded postal examples? The best answer is that visitors and local residents usually had more convenient options for conducting their postal business, particularly in regard to special services.

San Diego post offices were tactically available all around Balboa Park, including hotel territory. Classified Station A, north of Balboa Park, and contract Stations Numbers 1, 5 and 6, south of the park, would have been well-placed to serve visitors traveling to and from the exposition grounds and during sightseeing.²⁸

The Coronado branch post office was similarly suited to serve those visitors who elected to room on Coronado Island. Hotels and other rooming options may well have offered some postal amenities as a convenience.

Contemporaneous collector interest in Panama California Exposition postal markings was revealed in Schuyler Rumsey's Sale 33, The Westpex Sale (April 23-26, 2009).²⁹

Seven cover lots in that auction had Exposition Station markings addressed to W.H. Schneider of Cleveland, Ohio. (A similar array exists from the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.)

Schneider, a philatelist, was one of 15 founding members of the Cleveland chapter of the American Philatelic Association, today's American Philatelic Society. This chapter was later renamed the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club.



Figure 9: The Exposition Station duplex handcancel, SD15-01.

Figure 10: A steel duplex handcancel used in 1915. The printed design in the upper left was adopted as the official seal in 1914.

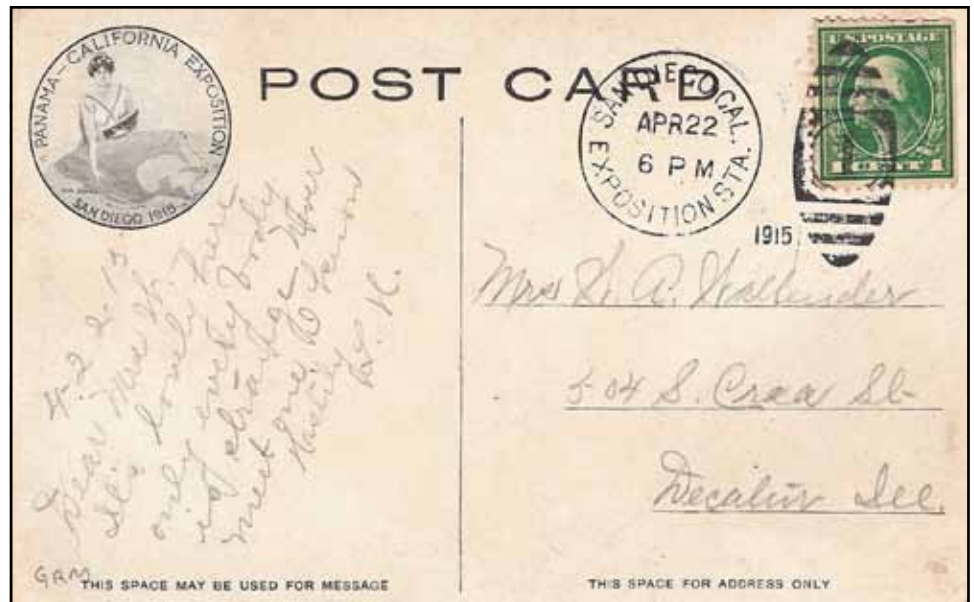
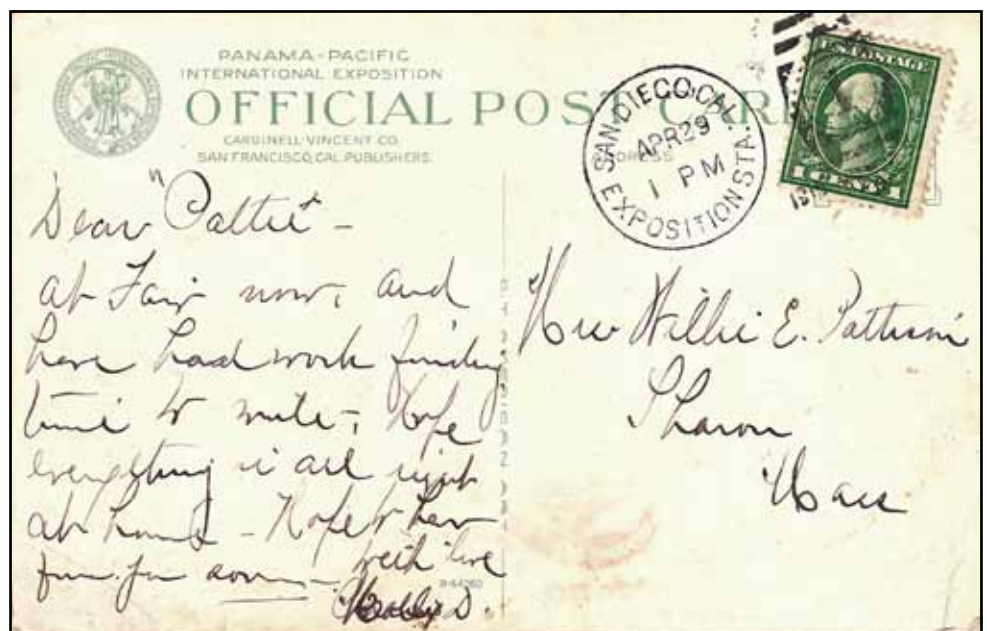


Figure 11: Double strike of the duplex cancel on a cover franked with a total of four-cents postage to meet the double-weight rate for first class postage. (Courtesy John Moore)

Figure 12: An odd juxtaposition—the card is an official postcard of the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco canceled with SD15-01 at the Panama California Exposition in San Diego.



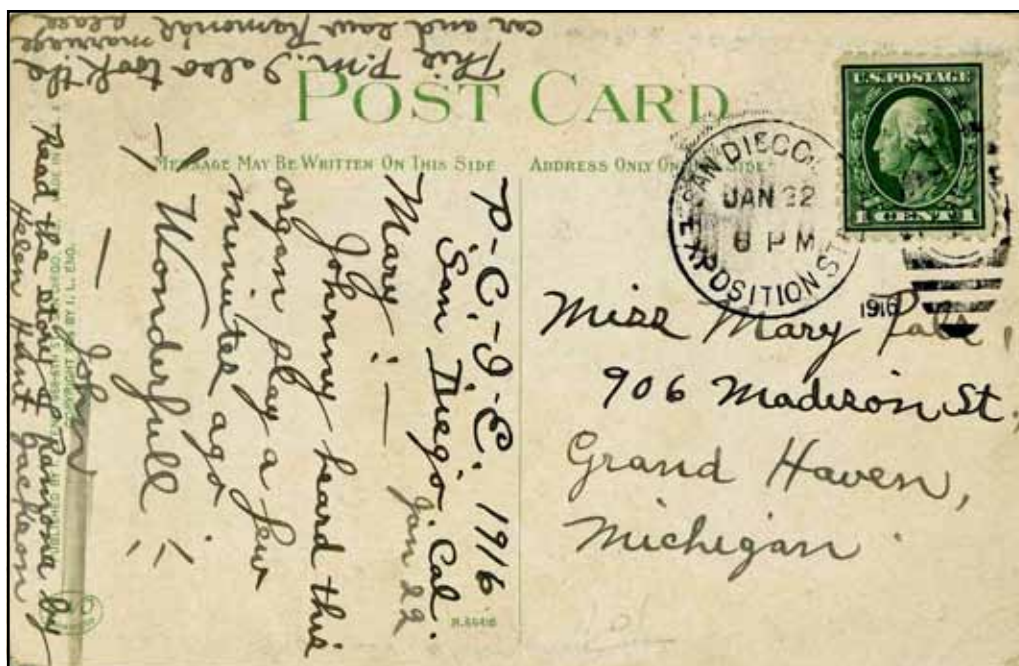


Figure 13: A previously unreported January 22, 1916, usage of the 1916 steel duplex handcancel. This is one of only 13 known dates of use in 1916. (Courtesy John Moore)

Schneider's exposition covers, based on the manner of their franking, were collector-inspired and at least one is seriously contrived and potentially improper.

Noticeably absent, to date, is the stereotypical "omnibus" handback cover or card with a full array of different markings carefully placed on the item.

SD15-01

A steel die duplex handcancel comprising a circular postmark, a barred oval-shaped obliterator and the year date '1915' placed between (Figure 9). All known examples show a '1' in the oval.

Bomar notes: "... these are not as scarce as previously thought, with several hundred known." Further, he suggests a value multiple on cover of seven and one-half times over cards. A used example is shown in Figure 10.

Figure 11 shows a cover canceled by two strikes of the duplex cancel. The four cents in postage, paid with a three-cent parcel post plate number single and a one-cent Panama-Pacific single, suggests a double-weight first class letter. The station clerk, or sender, simply ensured that both stamps were canceled.³⁰

Slightly more than two million people visited the exposition during 1915, which would suggest that SD15-01 should be far more common than it is.

This leads me to believe that only mail deposited directly at Exposition Station received this marking and that mail collected from the collection boxes spread throughout the exposition grounds was dispatched directly to the main post office for canceling.³¹

No San Diego classified station, including Exposition Station, was provided with machine

cancellers. Thus, it appears that, with very limited exception, the policy was to have all mail canceled at the main post office where the machine cancellers were located.

SD16-01

This marking is the same as SD15-01 above except that it was used in 1916. Therefore, the duplex device required a revised year date. This is a scarce marking — 13 dates are currently documented.³² There are undoubtedly more, but, based on the number of recorded examples to date, likely not a significant number. This is somewhat of a mystery.

The January 13 and January 22 (Figure 13) examples of SD16-01 are interesting because Exposition Station was, from a practical standpoint, ostensibly inaccessible to the public because of the interior remodeling being done to prepare the larger exhibition buildings for the new exhibits coming from San Francisco.



Figure 14: A proof strike of the SD16-02 registry handstamp on a facing slip.



Figure 15a: The face of a registered cover paying two cents in first class postage and the 10-cent registry fee, canceled by four San Diego double oval utility cancels. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 15b: The reverse of the registered cover in Figure 15a showing two strikes of the Exposition Station registry marking, SD16-02, and two Cleveland, Ohio, receiving backstamps. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 16: A handback favor endorsed by Exposition Station Superintendent Michael J. Hagan. Notice the heretofore unreported straight-line marking in magenta in upper right, ‘Exposition Station, San Diego, Cal.’ (Courtesy Schuyler Rumsey)

Both the station’s original location, the Commerce & Industries building, and its future location, the Foreign & Domestic Industries building, were closed to the public for remodeling.

Based on a series of entries in the Bartholomew correspondence, it seems reasonable to conclude that the station was not moved across the street to the new location until early-to-mid-March. But, because the station was just inside the right front doors of the Commerce & Industries building (see Figure 5), limited postal accommodations must have been expedited for those actively searching them out.

There is no evidence to support the possibility that the duplex device had become damaged or misplaced; the dates of known examples are spread right through 1916. But something was different now that had the effect of suppressing use of the cancel.

It may be worth considering what was suggested earlier, namely that relocation to a less than optimal physical location in 1916 could have led to a reduced volume of postal foot traffic. Patrons were simply taking their postal business elsewhere.

SD16-02

Figure 14 shows a dated double circle registry handstamp made of rubber and applied in magenta ink. Dated postmarks of this type were supposed to be moved to the reverse of registered mail effective 1910 to address the problem of postal clerks not checking the reverse side of registered mail for signs of tampering.³³ The face of the registered letter would be expected

to include a San Diego dateless double oval utility cancel³⁴ and a hand-entered outbound serial registry number.

A 1915 postally used example sent from Exposition Station to Cleveland, Ohio, in the Schneider correspondence is shown in Figures 15a and 15b. The cover is franked with two cents in first class postage using a Panama-Pacific stamp with the 10-cent registry fee paid by a combination of stamps (five-cent Jamestown Exposition, four-cent parcel post and a one-cent Panama-Pacific) that are tied by four strikes of a San Diego dateless double oval utility cancel.

There are two strikes of SD16-02 on the reverse of the cover and two Cleveland double circle receiving backstamps—the first applied by the Cleveland registry division and a second applied at Cleveland Station B, the delivery unit for the cover’s street address. (The machine numbers in red on the face and reverse were applied by the Cleveland registry division and Station B, respectively, upon receipt in order to document the chain of custody of the registered letter.)

Bomar notes a possibly postally used example dated July 26, 1916, on an official business envelope. This may have been a July 26, 1915 example in which the double circle registry postmark is stamped on the face of an official post office penalty envelope.³⁵

The address block reads: “Compliments of/ Exposition Station/MJ Hagan” handwritten on three lines. Michael J. Hagan, as noted, was superintendent of Exposition Station at that time. Clearly, the cover is a souvenir handback. However, the cover does include

a previously unreported rubber stamped straight-line marking in magenta ink: “Exposition Station, San Diego, Cal.” on one line that could be used as an identifying utility marking. This marking can be seen in Figure 16. The two known proof strikes of SD16-02 on facing slips are both from 1916—June 17 and December 9.

Few parties, except official exposition representatives who might deal with sensitive and important matters through the mails, would find a need for the safeguards offered by this type of secure service. These officials, though, conducted much of their business at their place of regular employment and would have likely used a closer city post office, particularly for special services.

It is doubtful that visitors would have planned to use Exposition Station for registry services; securing registry service, if necessary, could be accomplished more expediently in the city.

SD16-03

A dated double circle rubber handstamp for postal money orders applied in magenta ink. Again, two proof strikes on facing slips are both from 1916—June 17 and December 9.

Presumably, the same marking was available during 1915. No postally used examples are recorded. It is remotely conceivable that an exposition official or exhibitor could have made a vendor payment using a postal money order drawn on Exposition Station and then attached the stamped handback money order receipt to a copy of an invoice as proof of payment, although none have been reported.

Documents that normally would have been stamped with the M.O.B. imprint, including the money order receipt stub retained by the issuing post office, the advice sent to the payee post office and the official envelope to transmit the advice, were held only for a required minimum time by the post offices involved and were then to be destroyed as waste paper.

The absence of used M.O.B. markings from the exposition may reflect a tendency of patrons to cater to a presumed increased security or an implicit promise of speedier delivery afforded by purchasing the money order at the “real” post office, usually the main office. But, why would one pay the exposition’s daily admission fee in order to purchase a money order?



Figure 17: A proof strike of the money order business handstamp on a facing slip.

SD16-04

The introduction of parcel post on January 1, 1913, significantly changed the treatment of fourth class mail. It embraced all mail matter not defined as first-, second- or third-class matter and not exceeding 11 lbs. in weight or greater in size than 72 inches in length and girth combined.³⁶

By 1915, these limits had been increased to 50 pounds and 84 inches and remained at those levels until 1918. Parcel post rates for fourth class matter were determined by weight and postal zone.

Parcel post matter was only required to be cancelled with the city name and state.³⁷

Larger post offices could order dateless dies made specifically for this purpose. Other offices used the dateless double oval cancels that are most commonly associated with parcel post.

Docketing ancillary marks identifying the matter as parcel post were then added to assist in sorting. In some cases, that marking was similar to the dated double circle handstamp shown in Figure 18.

If a parcel post item originated at Exposition Station, the stamps would have been canceled by the San Diego dateless utility cancel and the double circle parcel post marking applied as an auxiliary marking to specify the class of mail.

No used examples are reported from the station. The same two dates—June 17 and December 9, 1916—exist as proof strikes on facing slips.

As with SD16-03, the marking was undoubtedly available during 1915. The absence of the station’s parcel post marking is not surprising. One big reason is that the marking would likely have been applied to a paper wrapper, the survival of which was obviously problematic. Also, visitors to the exposition, who might have used parcel post to send home purchased gifts, for example, would probably not be prepared at the point of purchase to also use the service at the station.

Exhibitors and exposition officials, if needed, could have had parcels prepared and batched for direct dispatch to the main post office; in some cases, the former group may have found it more economical to ship some matter out as bulk freight.



Figure 18: A proof strike of the parcel post ancillary handstamp on a facing slip.

Slogan Cancels

Once the 1916 slogan cancel reading “Panama-

Table 1
Machine and die data for the Panama California International
Exposition California city slogan cancels.

Bomar #	City	Machine Manuf.	Die		Machine Type
			Dial	Killer	
SD16-05	Pomona	American	B	26	Stoddard
SD16-06	Santa Monica	American	B	26	Stoddard
SD16-07	Long Beach	Columbia	K	S3	Columbia
SD16-08	Redlands	Columbia	K	S3	Columbia
SD16-09	Riverside	Columbia	K	S3	Columbia
SD16-10	San Bernardino	Columbia	K	S3	Columbia
SD16-11	Santa Barbara	Columbia	K	S4	Columbia
SD16-12	Santa Rosa	Columbia	J	S5	Columbia
SD16-13	Alameda	International	D	42	Model L
SD16-14A	Los Angeles	International	D	42(1)	Rapid Flier
SD16-14B	Los Angeles	International	D	42(2)	Rapid Flier
SD16-14C	Los Angeles	International	D	42(3)	Rapid Flier
SD16-15A	Los Angeles –STA C	International	E	42(1)	Rapid Flier
SD16-15B	Los Angeles –STA C	International	E	42(2)	Rapid Flier
SD16-15C	Los Angeles –STA C	International	E	42(3)	Rapid Flier
SD16-15D	Los Angeles –STA C	International	E	42(4)	Rapid Flier
SD16-16	Oakland	International	D	42	Rapid Flier
SD16-17A	San Francisco	International	D	42(1)	Rapid Flier
SD16-17B	San Francisco	International	D	42(2)	Rapid Flier
SD16-17C	San Francisco	International	D	42(3)	Rapid Flier
SD16-17D	San Francisco	International	D	42(4)	Rapid Flier
SD16-18	Bakersfield	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-19	Berkeley	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-20A	Fresno [wide spacing]	Universal	CTi	430.4	Model C
SD16-20B	Fresno [narrow spacing]	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-21	Pasadena	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-22	Sacramento	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-23	San Diego	Universal	CT	430.3	Model C
SD16-24	San Diego	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C
SD16-25	San Diego	Universal	CT	410.3	Model C
SD16-26	Stockton	Universal	CT	430.4	Model C

California International Exposition At San Diego—1916” in a wavy box (see Figure 8) was authorized, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, taking a page from the 1910 playbook of the San Francisco Chamber, contacted their counterparts in the larger California cities, i.e., those with post offices using machine cancellers, requesting that they petition the Postmaster General for permission to use the Panama California International Exposition slogan cancel on their own outgoing mail.

Eighteen post offices agreed to this request and a total of 28 machine cancel dies were requisitioned by the Post Office Department on their behalf.

Bomar markings SD16-05 through SD16-22 and

SD16-26 comprise the slogan cancels used by other California cities during 1916. These cities used machine cancellers provided by four different manufacturers: American Postal Machine Co., Columbia Postal Supply Co., International Postal Supply Co. and Universal Stamping Machine Co.

The record of automating the canceling function and integrating it into postal operations is well known to postal historians. Technology drove this record, but its evolution was shaped to no small extent by congressional oversight and appropriations.

Relevant here, and for this time period, is that the Post Office Department routinely acquired machines through lease from multiple manufacturers basically to



Figure 19: American machine flag cancel Die B26. (Courtesy John Moore)

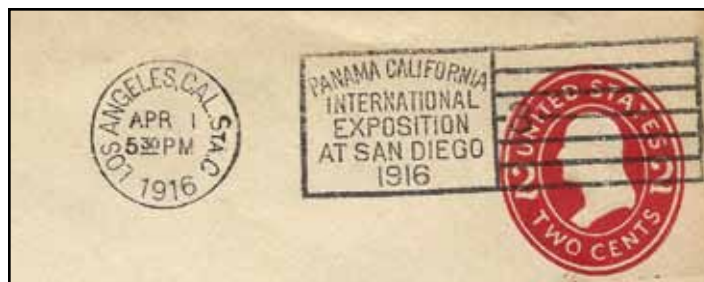


Figure 23: Los Angeles Station C International machine cancel die D42 (3). (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 20: Columbia machine cancel Die KS3. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 24: The letters making up the name 'FRESNO' in the top postmark dial are more widely spaced than those in the bottom dial. (Courtesy John Moore)

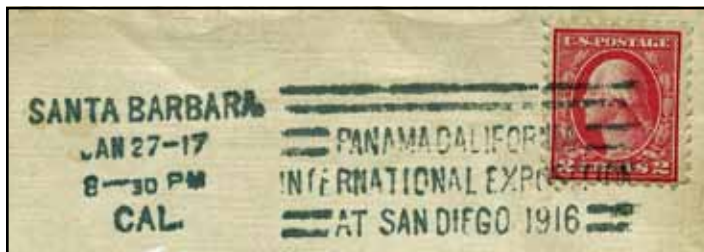


Figure 21: Columbia machine cancel Die KS4. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 25: The scarcest machine cancel. (Courtesy David Savage)

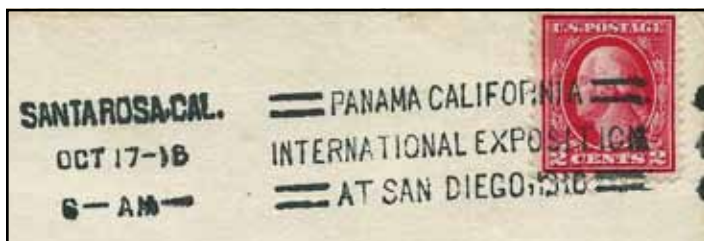
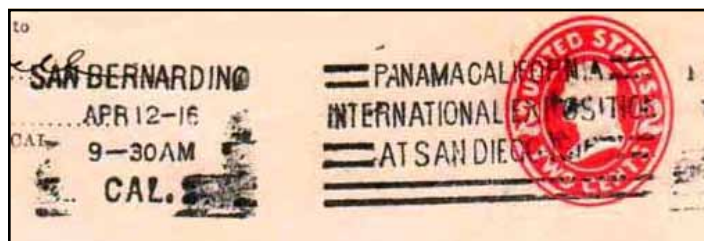


Figure 22: Columbia machine cancel Die JS5. (Courtesy John Moore)



preserve competition within an otherwise small group, to support continued R&D and native innovation, and to maximize labor cost savings accruing to the department.

Table 1 adds machine type and die data to the Bomar slogan cancel information for 1916.³⁸

Some clarifying comments regarding this table are in order.

- Differentiating die markings from among hand-cranked machines, power driven but not automatic machines and power driven automatic machines may not always be clear cut. Normally, high- and medium-grade electric machines were assigned to first and second class post offices and the hand-cranked machines were assigned to third class offices; but other factors sometimes intervened in this scheme.

For example, the American flag cancels, SD16-05 and SD16-06, are listed in Table 1 as being from a high-grade American Stoddard machine. But, the 1916 populations of Pomona and Santa Monica were both fewer than 15,000, suggesting that these cities might have used the medium grade American No. 1 electric nonautomatic machine or even the similarly designed but hand-powered No. 1 machine. The Santa Monica cancel is seen in Figure 19.

- All postmark dials, with the exception of the Columbia postmarks, are circular in shape and further defined by size and the nature and placement of information. The Columbia dials here are rectilinear—a 'J' has three straight lines; a 'K' has four straight lines. 'S' represents the exposition slogan—S3 is an eight-line killer type with the slogan beginning at top and a



Figure 26:
A tied original Panama California Exposition seal in a perforated sticker format. In this case it is tied by the 1909 San Diego flag cancel. (Courtesy John Moore)

pair of solid lines at bottom; S4 is an eight-line killer type with a pair of solid lines at top and the slogan beginning on next line; S5 is a six-line killer type with the slogan text at the top, middle and bottom. (See Figures 20-22.)

- The Model L International machine was hand-cranked; the Rapid Flier was an electric automatic machine. The former produced shorter killer bars on the right side of the rectangular slogan box—the overall lengths of cancels from the two machines were 45mm and 55mm, respectively.

- The main Los Angeles post office used an International 'D' dial; Los Angeles Station C used an International 'E' dial that included the addition of 'STA C' to the standard Los Angeles dial. The numerals in parentheses in the International killers for Los Angeles, Los Angeles Station C and San Francisco refer to a sequential number printed in the killer bars. The numbers could mean different things since different post offices had different ways of doing things—inherent in this was a need to keep track of something. The number could have referred to a specific machine, die number or a particular postal clerk. (See Figure 23.)

- The wide and narrow description for the Fresno markings refers to the spacing between the letters in the word 'FRESNO' in the postmark dial and not to the thickness of the letters. (See Figure 24.)

- The scarcest slogan cancel is San Bernardino (Columbia), which was active for only 68 days, March 4 to May 10, 1916. Fewer than 10 examples have been confirmed. (See Figure 25.)

- Third class use has been reported for Long Beach, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Station C and Oakland. Others may exist.



Figure 27: Official corner cards for 1915 (left) and 1916 (right). The 1916 design was also used as an exposition seal after removing the mailing information. (Courtesy John Moore)

Ephemera—Seals

The first official promotional seal was approved by the exposition executive board on October 27, 1909.

Based on a design submitted by O.F. Ahring as part of a civic-sponsored contest, the seal depicted a ship traversing the locks of the Panama Canal (Figure 26).

The board was quite liberal in authorizing use of the seal for promotional purposes.



Figure 28: Advertising sticker produced for Aetna Life Insurance Co. at both 1915 expositions.

The firm of Gauge & Ewalt Printers printed 500,000 stickers in up to two solid colors. An approved rubber stamp marking was also available, as was printed stationery.

A second seal, which may have been designed by C.A. de Lisle-Holland, was approved August 25, 1914, and used at the exposition thereafter.³⁹

This rather confused design is described in the executive board minutes as:

“... a map of North America and the Panama Canal, with a ship route running from New York through the Panama Canal and up to San Diego and the figure of a woman with the ship in her left arm and pointing with right hand at the spot on the map where San Diego is.”

This design was shown earlier as part of Figure 10. A “new seal” design was announced in the January 5, 1916, *San Diego Sun*.⁴⁰

The article described in some detail the major elements making up the ornate design of the “Panama California International Exposition, 1916” seal and said that it: *“... would probably appear on all exposition stationery and literature, and will be used by business firms in California.”*

The seal was used on the cover page of the exposition’s official daily program and also embossed on the formal invitations to the March 18, 1916, Panama California International Exposition dedication ceremony.

Bomar also shows this as an official corner card alongside a similar, but different, design for 1915 (see Figure 27). No business use has been recorded.

An unknown number of “unofficial” labels were printed during the exposition, some of which were ads sponsored by businesses and California cities and counties. Figure 28 is an example.

Epilogue

San Diego owes much to the 1915 Panama California Exposition. The public spirit and unwavering boldness not only helped define San Diego as a community in the broader context but it left a tangible civic resource—Balboa Park—that is much revered today.

A fewer number of structures than expected were torn down after the exposition; surviving buildings were fortified and converted to military, cultural, civic and commercial purposes over time. Enough good people found enough good reasons to keep much of the exposition infrastructure in place and to expand upon it. Balboa Park was later used to stage the larger California Pacific International Exposition, 1935-36.

If not for the raft of statewide slogan cancels, the postal markings left in the wake of the exposition would be a meager lot for sure. The small numbers of reported postally used “Exposition Station” markings

should not be a surprise. This is especially true for the special postal services—registry, money order and parcel post, which are seldom found in great numbers from expositions. The operational reality is that Exposition Station was neither designed, nor expected, to do more or less than any other classified San Diego postal station despite the prominence of the event to which it was attached.

The relative anonymity of the station was a function of the operating constraints imposed by both the Post Office Department and the contracts signed with the exposition board. The Post Office showed little interest in impressing the public or in convincing them of its intrinsic worth, unlike what it did with its attention-grabbing exhibits of postal artifacts and the fully functional model post office operating at the exposition in San Francisco. The latter occurred on the main stage; the former was merely a perfunctory local engagement.

By most accounts, the 1915 Panama California Exposition was a success, but the 1916 “international” extension was not so much. Carryover expectations may have been too high. Several things depressed the 1916 attendance—the very nature of the exposition’s new major exhibits were so different and variable and created too much distance from the practical and unifying 1915 theme; there was new and viable regional competition for visitors; the war in Europe and Mexican border troubles dampened spirits and domestic travel plans; and heavy flooding in January caused unexpected damage.

It also took time to retool for the rollout of the 1916 exposition. With much to do in too short a time, planning naturally suffered. Exposition Station lost its more convenient 1915 location and its new location was inferior in almost all respects. It is no surprise that foot traffic declined in 1916.

Procedurally, San Diego postmaster Charles Bartholomew followed standard protocol in setting up Exposition Station. He did what he had done earlier to set up San Diego’s two other classified stations—arranging a proper location at the right rents and staffing it with the right mix of personnel at the right cost. Of course, these decisions were made with the advice and consent of Washington, D.C., who treated the provisional Exposition Station effectively as a cost center. That meant there was no outward incentive for the station to want to do more business if it might risk incurring additional cost. This, regrettably, precluded a better site location (especially in 1916), a bigger operational footprint with more user amenities, the offer of a full array of current postage stamps and more creative franking opportunities, and better overall visitor outreach by treating the Station and its work as an exhibit in its own right.

And don't judge San Diego by the standard of previous expositions. It isn't fair. We are all new in the business. We had no precedent to cling to. We were forced to proceed on entirely new lines, make our own way irrespective of what others had done.

D.C. Collier, Director-General—1914⁴¹

Acknowledgements

This is a work of history attempting to recreate postal events that occurred during the Panama California Exposition. I have turned to archival source materials whenever possible.

This is supplemented by discussions with capable people who were willing to share their knowledge, opinions and deductions. The variety of questions, viewpoints and interpretations raised in those discussions was helpful to me.

I am most grateful to John Moore, an experienced collector of postal history, who provided thoughtful advice at all stages of this study and whose generosity in making his resources available to the study is unmatched. Special thanks go to David Savadge for his continued willingness to constructively assist me in projects like these. Thanks also go to Jim Mehrer for his expertise and to Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions for continued support from its archives.

Research access provided by the Northwest Philatelic Library of Portland, Oregon is appreciated. The Collections Department at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park was helpful in finding documents and photo images for a research topic that, for them, was most unusual. The colorful exposition seals interspersed throughout the article are courtesy of the Special Collections & University Archives, San



Diego State University Library & Information Access.

(Charles Neyhart, a winner of the Helbeck Prize, can be contacted at: charles.neyhart@comcast.net)

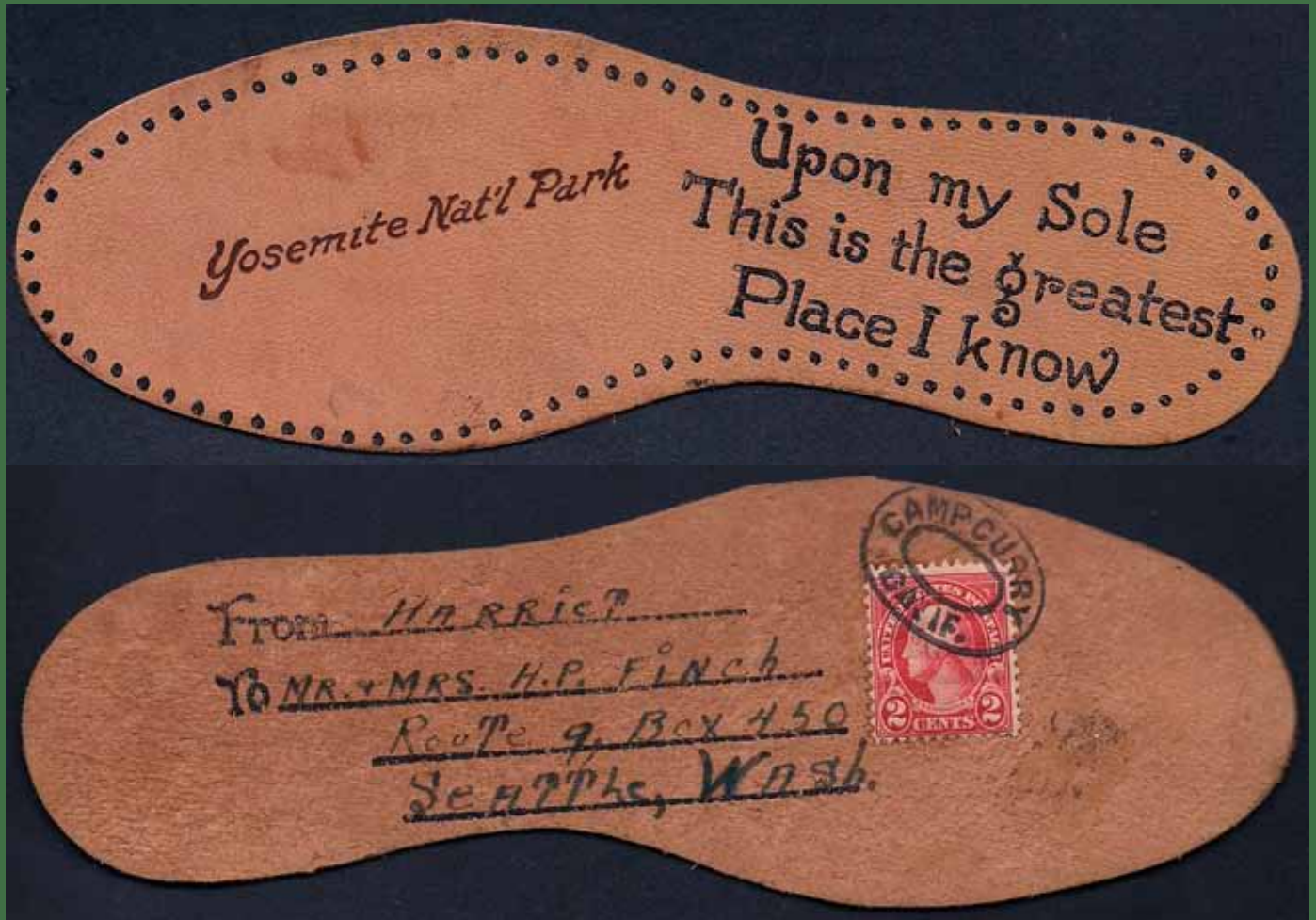


Endnotes

- 1 Richard W. Amero, "The Making of the Panama California Exposition, 1909-1915," *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly*, v. 36, n. 1 (Winter 1990), pp. 3, 5.
- 2 An excellent online resource is: Richard Amero, *Panama California Exposition 1915-1916, A History of the Exposition* from the Richard Amero Balboa Park Collection at the San Diego History Center. www.sandiegohistory.org/pancal/sdexpo99.htm
- 3 The Panama California Exposition was organized on September 3 and soon thereafter registered with the state of California.
- 4 When San Francisco organizers expressed their own intent to stage a 1915 exposition, John D. Spreckels, a prominent San Diego businessman and son of "sugar king" Claus Spreckels, stepped forward with a pledge of \$100,000 to the San Diego exposition. As one might expect, Spreckels invested extensively in expo-related business opportunities.
- 5 Florence Christman, *The Romance of Balboa Park*, 4th ed. rev., San Diego Historical Society, 1985, pp. 36-37.
- 6 A similar cancel was approved for the Panama Pacific International Exposition in 1911.
- 7 William Kettner Papers, MS 29, San Diego Historical Society Research Archives.
- 8 Not only were these machines electrically powered, but letters also could be prefaced and stacked. Once loaded onto the hopper, the picking, conveying, cancelling and restacking were automatic.
- 9 On the other hand, Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock approved the Panama-Pacific series of four commemorative U.S. postage stamps on October 5, 1912 to be placed on sale January 1, 1913 to publicize the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.
- 10 For comparative purposes, the 1910 administrative scheme of the post office was the main post office and only four contract stations. Classified stations were more durable, operated by career postal personnel and with locations selected to provide full service coverage, including mail pickup and delivery, to all major parts of a postal domain. Contract stations were conditional, operated under a contract between the Post Office Department and a private party and typically located in retail businesses strategically placed in high traffic areas, but there was no pickup or delivery of mail.
- 11 *Charles H. Bartholomew Postmaster Letterpress Book* (Dec. 1915 – Nov. 1916), MS 232, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA. The book is a compilation of carbon copies of outgoing administrative correspondence dating from December 1915 through November 1916. There is no incoming correspondence, nor is there a way to know whether the outgoing correspondence is complete. The book's pagination is sequentially complete, but it appears the numbering was done after-the-fact. Nonetheless, it is an unexpected and useful archive.
- 12 *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, Post Office Department, Washington, Saturday, December 5, 1914, No. 10605.
- 13 "Uncle Sam Plans Postoffice at Panama-California Fair," *San Diego Union*, December 2, 1914, p. 2.
- 14 "News from the Federal Building," *San Diego Union*, December 17, 1914, p. 11.
- 15 Panama-California Exposition Administrative Collection, MS 263, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.
- 16 *Report on the Panama-California Exposition to April 30, 1916*, W.J. Palethorpe, Auditor.
- 17 The location was Aisle 4, Sections N and O. Panama California Exposition, *The Official Guide Book of the Panama California Exposition San Diego 1915*, 20th Century Press, San Diego, 1914.
- 18 Similarly *The Official Guide Book* fails to provide user information about Exposition Station in its "Special Information" section, which otherwise describes access to police, information bureau, telephones, checking stations and rest rooms.
- 19 Hagan was promoted to superintendent of the Coronado branch office effective February 1, 1916 and was replaced at Exposition Station by Joseph A. Conniff. Michael Hagan retired from the San Diego Post Office in 1947 as superintendent of money orders.
- 20 *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, Post Office Department, Washington, Saturday, January 20, 1915, No. 10642.
- 21 The war in Europe made it difficult to return many exhibits to their home countries. San Diego, thus, served as a temporary safe harbor.
- 22 Insufficient time prevented a proper updating of public exposition materials for 1916. It is surprising today how little documentary evidence exists from 1916 "International Exposition."
- 23 Some wording on the form creates ambiguity regarding the number of clerks still assigned to the station. Bartholomew, p. 69. One clerk working a then regular 10-hour shift could have staffed the station.
- 24 During this time, Bartholomew had to contend with mail delivery to visitors at hotels and rooming houses and with a San Diego population that had grown from 39,578 in 1910 to 92,449 in 1916.
- 25 Bartholomew received an automatic \$100 salary increase as a result of the postal revenue increase for the fiscal year.
- 26 *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, Post Office Department, Washington, Saturday, October 20, 1916, No. 11480.
- 27 David Savadge [Editor], William J. Bomar's *Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions*, 3rd ed., (digital on CD), Livermore, California, 2007.
- 28 Station No. 1 was located in Marston Co. Department Store, Fifth Avenue & C Street; Station No. 5 in Richards Drug Co, 1270 Fifth Avenue and Station No. 6 in Marsh Drugstore, 771 Seventh Street.
- 29 An unknown number of covers from this correspondence are known to have had exposition seals added to them after-the-fact to enhance their appearance. Inasmuch as the cancels and other official markings on these covers have not been altered by this action, the covers fulfilled their intended function and retain their historical significance as described here. It is unknown how many covers are affected or of any remediation undertaken by their owners. Information regarding this was first brought to my attention by David Savadge.
- 30 Two points should be made about the cover's franking. First, the use of parcel post stamps on any mail matter was permissible effective July 1, 1913, the end of the restricted period. Second, I doubt this cover was purposefully overpaid—the Schneider correspondence had other legitimate double strikes of SD15-01, namely two special delivery covers dated May 15, 1915.
- 31 Bomar had hypothesized that there were no provisions for pick up or delivery of mail on the exposition grounds. These contentions have been found herein to be otherwise.
- 32 These dates are: January 13, January 22, March 17, March 28, April 19, May 6, May 12, June 22, June 27, September 14, October 13, December 9 and December 23 (2).
- 33 *The Postal Bulletin*, Washington, D.C., November 26, 1910, No. 9735.
- 34 This is sometimes called a "mute" cancel, but I believe that is more correctly a cancel without date, year, or name of the place the postal item was posted.
- 35 This was Lot 2200 of Sale 33, *The Westpex Sale*, Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, April 23-26, 2009.
- 36 Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postage Rates, 1872-2011*, 3rd ed., APS, 2011.
- 37 Rumor was that it was undated in order to purposefully obscure the transit time to delivery.
- 38 Sources used: Frederick Langford, *Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, 4th ed., Author, 2008; Reg Morris, Robert J. Payne & Timothy B. Holmes, *The Columbia Story*, (7 vols.), Machine Cancel Society, 1994-2001; Arthur H. Bond, *International Machine Cancels, 1888 to 1910*, U.S. Cancellation Club, 1974; Bart Billings, *Universal Stamping Machine Company Machines & Postal Markings 1909-1920*, Machine Cancel Society, 1988, and Richard E. Small, *A Checklist of Postal Machine Cancellations*, Unpublished manuscript, 1993.
- 39 Some might attribute this to Director-General H.O. Davis who introduced this at the August 25 executive board meeting as a "new" design. However, the executive board had approved a design by de Lisle-Holland at its June 2 meeting, but the minutes do not include a description of it.
- 40 "Exhibits Installed; Seal Is Designed; Women's Board Honored," *San Diego Sun*, January 5, 1916, 9:4.
- 41 Walter V. Woehlke, "Staging the Big Show," *Sunset, The Pacific Magazine*, v. 33, n. 2 (August 1914), p. 346.

A Leather Postcard From Yosemite

By Peter Martin



Leather postcards were very popular in the early part of the twentieth century and they came in all shapes and sizes. Most were acquired at tourist destinations and a good percentage of the purchased cards were mailed to friends and relatives as a novelty to showcase the fun the people were having on their trip. Unlike today, when these leather souvenirs would clog up the high speed U.S. Postal Service machinery, these cards actually went through the mail stream. The old leather postcards are much more difficult to find today and obtaining one mailed from a national park is unusual. The illustrated postcard from Yosemite National Park in California reads, "Upon my Sole/This is the greatest/Place I know" on the front. The reverse bears a red two-cent Washington from the 1922-25 Regular issue series neatly tied by a rare "CAMP CURRY/CALIF." mute double oval postmark. The two-cent Washington was first issued in 1923, dating the mailing of this postcard to the mid-to-late 1920s. Camp Curry was a tented camp opened by David and Jennie Curry in 1899 for visitors who wanted to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite at a modest price. The pair advertised, "A good bed and clean napkin with every meal" for just \$3 per day. Entertainment played an important role in the success of Camp Curry with nightly performances of the famous Firefall, now banned. By the time this postcard was mailed, Camp Curry had a dance pavilion, pool hall, soda fountain, nightly movies, a swimming pool and a gas station. During her visit, "Harriet" bought this postcard from one of the park vendors and mailed it to Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Finch in Seattle. Camp Curry, today called Curry Village, remains a popular destination within Yosemite National Park and still offers inexpensive lodging in the shadow of Half Dome and Glacier Point. Yosemite became a national park on October 1, 1890, and today receives about four million visitors per year.



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

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

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

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

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Confederate Postal History

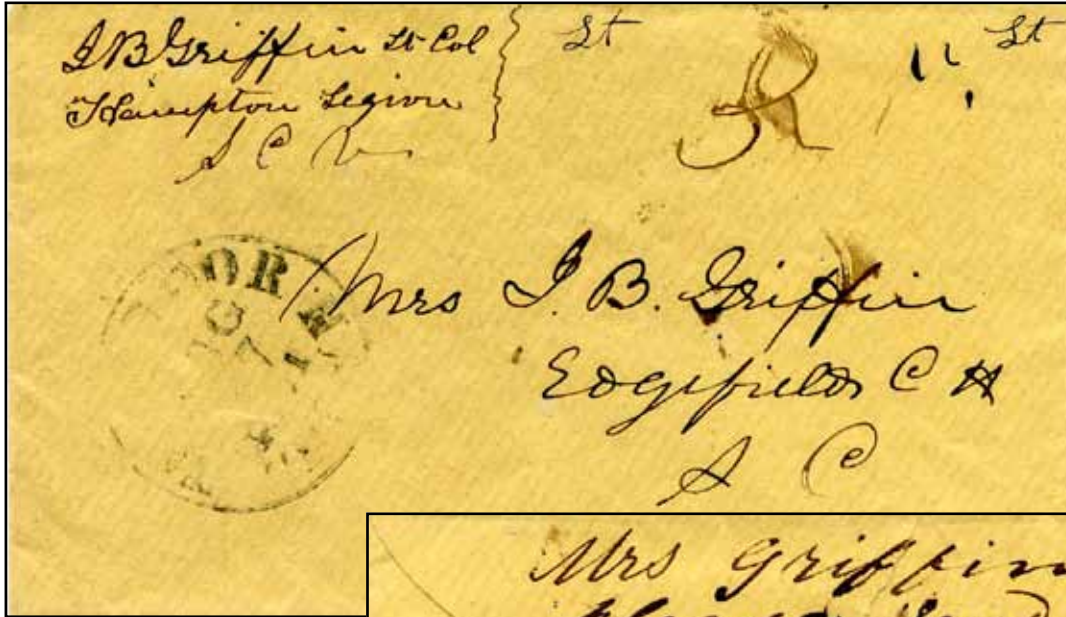
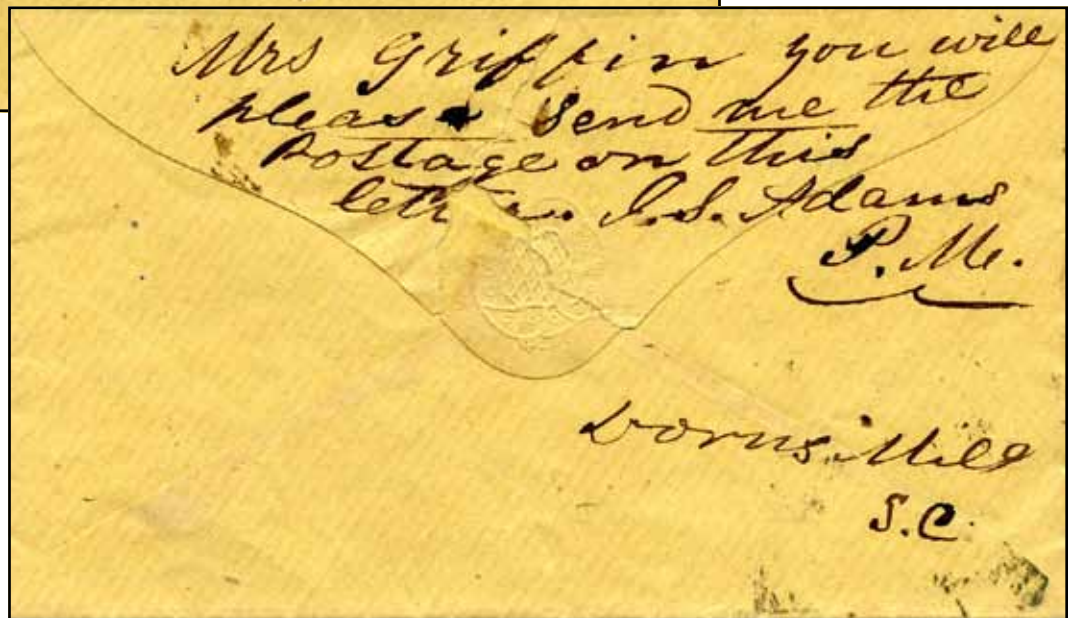


Figure 1: Envelope postmarked Tudor Hall, Virginia, Aug, 17, 1861, from Lt. Col. J.B. Griffin, Hampton Legion SCV to his wife, franked with manuscript [due] 5 with postage to be collected from the recipient.

Figure 2: On the back of the Figure 1 envelope is a note from the receiving postmaster to Mrs. Griffin asking her to send him the postage for this letter.



An Aristocratic Planter Goes to War

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

An Officer's Postage Due Cover

The receiving postmaster's note on the back of the Figure 1 soldier's cover initially caught my attention but, once I started to research him, the officer who wrote the letter home to his darling wife really captured my imagination.

The envelope is an ordinary soldier's cover from Tudor Hall, Virginia. Serious Confederate postal history students know that Tudor Hall was the post office for soldiers in the field at the Battle of Manassas or the Battle of Bull Run, as it is known in the North.

The cover is addressed to "Mrs. J.B. Griffin, Edgefield C.H., SC" with a simple scrawled manuscript "[due] 5" at the upper right and the endorsement of "J.B. Griffin, Lt. Col., Hampton Legion, SCV" at upper

left. SCV stands for South Carolina Volunteers. As was often the case during this time period, the postage due marking was understood and not necessarily written out. If paid in advance, it would have been appropriately marked as paid.

Basic Confederate postage rates at this time were determined by weight and, initially, by distance. In all but a few cases, letter postage was required by law to be prepaid, although unpaid letters were accepted and marked with postage due by some postmasters throughout the war. Exemptions to the prepayment requirement included soldiers' letters and other mailable matter.

The Act of July 29, 1861 permitted Confederate military personnel to send all types of mail without

prepayment of postage. The postage was collected on delivery from the recipient. Postage rates were the same as if prepaid. All such mail was to be endorsed with the name and unit of the soldier. In the case of officers, they were to also include their title.

On the back of the cover, shown in Figure 2, is a note from the receiving postmaster to the recipient, “Mrs. Griffin you will please send me the postage on this letter. J.S. Adams, P.M., Dorns Mill, S.C.”

This was still early in the war. The date of the postmark is August 17, 1861. Mrs. Griffin may or may not even have been aware that she needed to pay the postage since the act was only dated a little more than two weeks before.

James Benjamin Griffin (1825-1881) Hampton Legion

Hollywood handsome Jimmie Griffin did not go off to war as an ordinary soldier. The wealthy 35-year old planter of Highland House Plantation took with him two slaves, two trunks, his favorite hunting dog and his favorite horse, as well as other tangible amenities.

He left behind seven children twelve years old and younger, as well as his wife Leila (Eliza Harwood Burt 1829-1922 of Sunnyside Plantation) who was eight and a half months pregnant.

Jimmie Griffin was first married in 1847 to 15-year old Emma Rebecca Miller who died in childbirth with their second son in September 1850. Griffin was remarried to Leila in 1853. His two marriages produced nine children in all, not including the child who died with his first wife.

The 1860 Edgefield District, South Carolina, slave census showed that Griffin owned 61 slaves and 1,500 acres, of which 700 were improved. Only one person in the county younger than Griffin had more slaves.

In 1860, the mean for slave owners was 14 slaves. For the entire 1860 slave census of the Edgefield District, the mean number of slaves was 4.2.

In April 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis wanted to raise a “legion of honor.” Wade Hampton was authorized to create this legion and thus Hampton Legion was mustered into Confederate Service on June 19, 1861. It was composed of eight companies of infantry, four troops of cavalry and two batteries of horse artillery. They were the flower of Confederate manhood.

James B. Griffin enlisted as a major in the Field & Staff of South Carolina Hampton Legion Infantry, Unassigned, Army of the Potomac. After the initial enlistment of one year, Hampton Legion separated into different units.

Hampton Legion was prominent at the First Battle of Manassas but Major Griffin was stationed at Camp Ashland, near Ashland, Virginia, on July 21, 1861, thus

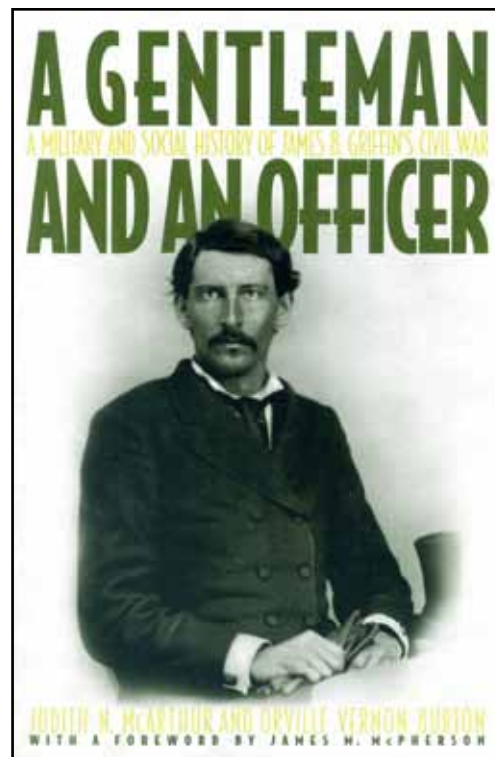


Figure 3: Dust jacket from a book of J.B. Griffin's published wartime letters to his wife.

not present at First Manassas. On the death of Colonel B.J. Johnson, killed in that battle, Maj. Griffin was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, assigned to command the infantry. Griffin's appointment was confirmed on August 15 and he took rank from July 21. He declined appointment to full colonel.

Various mentions of Lt. Col. Griffin may be found in the *Official Records*. In a report dated May 7-8, 1862 by Col. Wade Hampton, commanding Second Brigade, to Major James H. Hill, Hampton notes, “I take great pleasure in saying that the conduct of officers and men met with my entire approval. Colonel Griffin, in command of the Legion, handled them admirably.”

While researching Griffin, I took a couple of wrong turns before finding the ultimate source—Griffin himself. My search ratcheted to the top when I found the wonderful book with the handsome dust jacket shown in Figure 3: *A Gentleman and an Officer: A Military and Social History of James B. Griffin's Civil War*.

Judith N. McArthur and Orville Vernon Burton collected 80 of J. B. Griffin's letters written during the

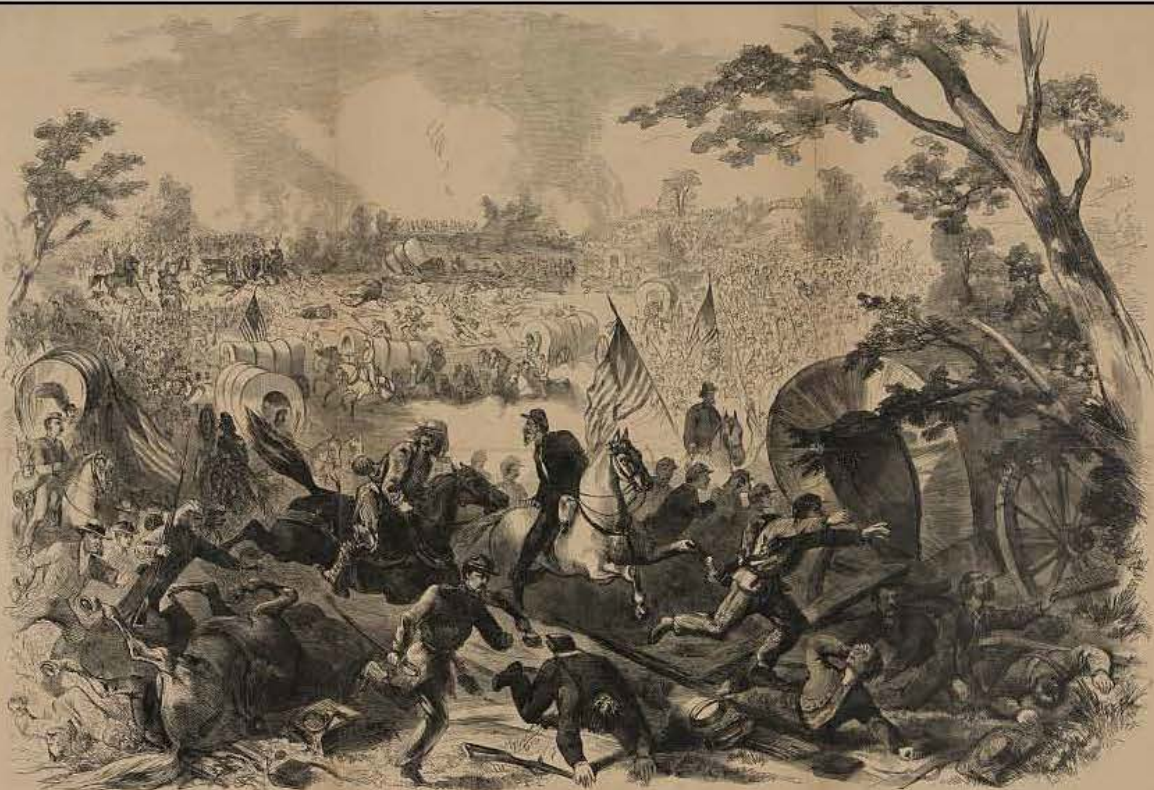
Opposite—

Figure 4 (Top): The First Battle of Bull Run, chromolithograph by Kurz & Allison Art Publishers of Chicago.

Figure 5 (Bottom): An 1884 wood engraving, published by the J. Howard Brown Co., of the First Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, Sunday afternoon, July 21, 1861. (Courtesy Library of Congress)



BATTLE OF BULL RUN.



THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN, VA. SUNDAY AFTERNOON JULY 21, 1861.



Figure 6: Gravestone of J. B. Griffin. Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Texas.

war to his wife, Leila Burt Griffin, and interspersed them with appropriate, well documented historical commentary and highly detailed footnotes. In these letters, Griffin describes secret troop movements in various military actions such as the Hampton Legion's role in the Peninsula Campaign. He relates the march from Manassas to Fredericksburg, the siege of Yorktown, the retreat to Richmond, and the fighting at Seven Pines, where Griffin commanded the legion after Hampton was wounded. After the unit's dissolution in 1862, Griffin joined the South Carolina Home Guard, where he remained until the end of the war.

Before buying the book, I noted in online research that Griffin was struck by lightning and subsequently dropped at reorganization. I found the specifics of that incident related in Griffin's own words in Letter 15.

It was dated September 17, 1861, a month after the subject cover of this article; it described in detail how he was almost killed when he and two others were trying to secure a ridge pole (long pole that runs the length of a tent) when a bolt of lightning struck the pole. It killed "Dr. Buist's boy" (slave) instantly and dropped Dr. Buist and Griffin in a heap. Griffin described his left side from shoulder to foot as completely paralyzed and described how doctors worked on him for an hour and a half to restore circulation.

I commend *A Gentleman and an Officer* as a great read to anyone interested in riveting Civil War history. It is readily available online. The actual Griffin letters are a privately held family collection in the possession of Griffin's great-grandson. Photocopies, as well as newspaper clippings and genealogical research, are at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

As you might correctly surmise by the current location of the Griffin correspondence, J.B. Griffin

made his way to Texas in 1866, having lost nearly everything of monetary value during the war. Along with many other Southerners, Griffin and his family had "Gone to Texas" or "GTT"—a note often found posted on abandoned properties in the South after the war. Griffin is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. His gravestone is shown in Figure 6.

Conclusion

My initial research on the subject cover yielded little save that Griffin enlisted as a major, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was in Field & Staff Hampton Legion Infantry. Sometimes generating so little information is a good thing; it only causes me to dig deeper. I also found that this cover was an old friend. It was Lot 560 in Auction 29 of John W. Kaufmann, Inc., which was the official auction of the Confederate Stamp Alliance held in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 16, 1976. It was a captivating reacquaintance.

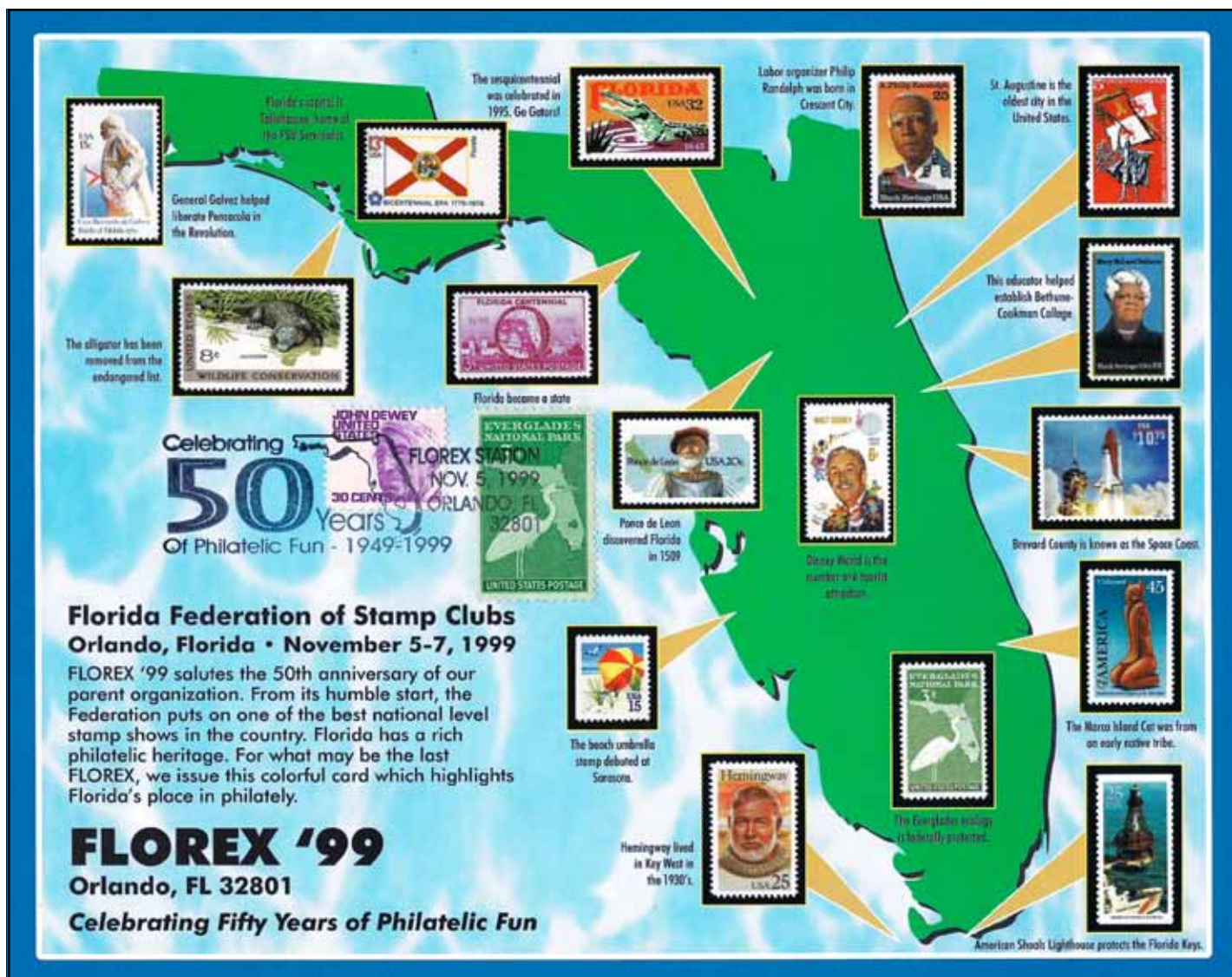
The J.B. Griffin tale is a lamentably typical one of a wealthy Southern family who lost virtually everything in the war. There are no photos of Highland House Plantation, but when it burned in 1864, the *Edgefield Advertiser* described it as "the largest and most elegant [mansion] in our vicinity." Fortunately, Griffin's business experience stood him in good stead when he moved forward to pick up the pieces of his life in his newly adopted state of Texas.

For membership or other information about the Confederate Stamp Alliance, e-mail Trish Kaufmann at: trishkauf@comcast.net.

Endnotes

- 1 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. 31-35.
- 2 Find A Grave Memorial #54957800, Accessed July 2014. Emma Rebecca Miller Griffin. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=54957800>
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- 4 GenForum, James II Griffin, 1782-1855, Edgefield SC; s/o ARW Pvt SC Militia James & Frances. <http://genforum.genealogy.com/griffin/messages/9222.html> Accessed July 2014.
- 5 *Edgefield County, South Carolina Largest Slaveholders from 1860 Slave Census Schedules and Surname Matches for African Americans on 1870 Census*, transcribed by Tom Blake, October 2001, p. 461B. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ajac/scedgefield.htm> Accessed July 2014.
- 6 Clayton E. Jewett, editor, *The Battlefield and Beyond: Essays on the American Civil War: Conflicting Words: New Dimensions of the American Civil War*, LSU Press, May 2012.
- 7 Ulysses Robert Brooks, *Butler and His Cavalry in the War of Secession, 1861-1865*. Columbia, South Carolina: State Co., 1909, p. 48.
- 8 McArthur, Burton, pp. 119-123.
- 9 McArthur, Burton, pp. 305-306.
- 10 McArthur, Burton, p. 24.

(Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann is a fulltime dealer specializing solely in Confederate States stamps and postal history.)



Souvenir Card Documents End of Florex in 1999

By Peter Martin

Florex was a popular American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately show that was usually one of the last major shows of the year. The winter show was a favorite, not only of Floridians but also of northerners wanting to get away from the winter weather.

The show was operated by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. In 1999, the aging leadership could not find replacements and decided to cease operations after holding Florex '99 and celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Florex '99 was a big hit with philatelists from all over the country joining the locals in their final endeavor. A variety of special events were held and souvenirs were created, including the one illustrated here. The souvenir card features an outline of the state of Florida and features United States stamps with a Florida relationship.

Sixteen stamps were included with arrows linking

them to the area of the Florida map that identified their relationship to the state.

A 30-cent John Dewey and a three-cent Everglades National Park stamp were cancelled with the show postmark that read: "FLOREX STATION/Nov 5, 1999/ORLANDO, FL/32801" and "Celebrating 50 Years Of Philatelic Fun—1949-1999."

After the shut down, the show was subsequently resurrected by a new group that held shows in a much smaller fashion. In 2003, the Florida Stamp Dealers Association committed to resurrecting the show with the goal of reinstating its World Series of Philately status. The group received support from the Central Florida Stamp Club and, in 2008, the show again became part of the World Series of Philately.

The event, held this year during December 5-7 at Central Florida Fairgrounds & Expo Park in Orlando, is now called: FLOREX—The Florida State Stamp Show. The show website is at: www.florexstampshow.com.



Figure 1: The earliest documented use of a government postal card in Alaska is this June 1879 one-cent card addressed to Portland, Oregon.

The Earliest Documented Use of a Government Postal Card in Alaska

By Don Glickstein

The earliest documented use of a government postal card in Alaska relates to a missionary pioneer, exploration—and murder.

The card came to light in a recent auction, its first sale in 15 years. This is the card's story.

America's First Postal Card

The Scott UX3 postal card shown in Figures 1 and 2, which catalogs used for \$3.50, sold for \$1,050 (plus 15 percent commission) in a May 15, 2014, H.R. Harmer auction. Its previous sale was in 1999, when it went for \$143 in a Matthew Bennett auction.

Most postal patrons of the time recognized the one-cent brown-on-buff card with an image of Liberty as America's first postal card. Collectors, however, classify it as the country's second postal card, issued in June 1879. Although it has the same design as the first card issued in 1873, it has a smaller, often hard-to-see, watermark showing the initials of the U.S. Post Office Department. The Post Office printed about 208 million copies of the second card, nearly seven times as many as the first.

The Cancellation

The card's cancel has a double impression of its dial, with a single impression of a multi-ring circular cork cancel. The post office worker probably saw that his first impression was weak and cancelled it a second time.

What's clear is from where the card was mailed: Fort Wrangel, Alaska. While the Harmer catalog's description said the cancel's year is 1870, that's incorrect. Under magnification, the year in the cancel matches the year that the sender wrote on the back side: 1879. The confusion comes from the double impression and light bottom arc of the circle in the nine.

The Harmer catalog also incorrectly noted that the cancel was unlisted in *Postmarks of Territorial Alaska*, the definitive reference written by *La Posta* founder Richard W. Helbock.

It's actually a variation of Helbock's Type 4 with its sans serif town font and serified date. Helbock's illustrated example, from 1881 or 1882, is missing the year in the dial. It may be that the numbers had accidentally popped out of the cancellation device at the time of the cancel.

Helbock gave the Type 4 cancel a 1986 valuation range of \$500 to \$1,000. Needless to say, it is rare, and it represents a new earliest documented use of Type 4.

Fort Wrangel

According to archeological dating, people have lived in the Fort Wrangel area of Alaska's southeastern panhandle for 9,000 years. It's Alaska's third oldest community, and the only one to have been governed by four nations: the native Tlingits, Russia, England, and the United States.



Figure 3: Alaska's Fort Wrangel, circa 1908–1913. The newly rebuilt Saint Rose of Lima Church can be seen at the right of the photo. (Alaska Digital Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives, ca. 1896–1913, UAF-1981-192-22)

Young and Muir would again travel together in Alaska later that year; Young would eventually publish a book about their experiences, *Alaska Days* with John Muir.

The Card's Recipient

Information about the card's addressee, Father V. Capella, appears lost to history. But the card was sent to Capella in care of the "Most Reverend Archbp. Seghers."

Fr. Charles John Seghers (Figure 4) was 40 years old at the time. He was born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1839, orphaned at a young age, and raised by his uncles. Ordained as a Roman Catholic priest at 24, he was immediately assigned to the Diocese of Vancouver Island, located in the capital of Canada's British Columbia province.

The diocese was part of the Archdiocese of Oregon City, which also served the state of Oregon, Washington Territory, and Alaska Territory.

Alaska would become Seghers' passion. He would take five missionary trips there while serving as the bishop of Vancouver Island, archbishop of the Oregon City diocese, and voluntarily back again to Vancouver Island and Victoria.

On his fifth and last trip, in 1886, he visited remote missions along the Yukon River in interior Alaska, accompanied by a lay aide, Frank Fuller. Fuller had tried to become a Jesuit, but was turned down because the Jesuits felt he was mentally unstable.

Despite warnings, Seghers nonetheless took Fuller with him as he headed to Nulato, a major trading post (300 air miles west of Fairbanks) and site of a Catholic mission that Seghers had founded in 1877—northern Alaska's first.

On November 27, Seghers and Fuller stayed the night in a fishing camp smokehouse about 25 miles east of Nulato. The next morning, sometime between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., Fuller took Seghers' rifle and shot



Figure 4: Fr. Charles John Seghers

him in the chest. Seghers died at once. Fuller was eventually found guilty of manslaughter.

Segher's body was returned for burial in Victoria, and a nearby 300-foot outcropping on the Yukon River was named in his honor: Bishop Rock.

The Card's Sender

The card is signed with the initials "J.A." Given its context, it can only be Fr. John Althoff (Figure 5), one of Seghers' trusted lieutenants.

He was born in Haarlem, Holland, in 1853, so at the time he wrote the card, he was Seghers' junior by 14 years. The Oregon diocese was Althoff's first assignment—but within a month of his arrival in summer 1878, Seghers took Althoff with him to southeastern Alaska. Althoff probably returned with Seghers to Portland, Oregon, by year's end.

The young priest had impressed the bishop. He assigned Althoff to return to Alaska in 1879 to establish the territory's first Catholic church.

On May 4, Althoff opened the Saint Rose of Lima



Figure 5: Fr. John Althoff

Church in Fort Wrangel. From Fort Wrangel, he ministered to Catholics in Sitka, offered the first mass in Juneau, and conducted missionary work among the Tlingits. When gold was discovered, he traveled a couple of hundred miles upriver from the mouth of the Stikine River near Fort Wrangel to the Cassiar mining district for missionary work.

Sometimes, he had to deal with unrealistic expectations of those back in the states who didn't understand the primitive conditions in Alaska.

In a January 13, 1882, letter, he wrote to the editor of a Catholic newspaper in New York about an article that criticized the diocese's Alaskan efforts. He explained that priests were scarce in Alaska due to the diocese's poverty.

He, Althoff, had been the only priest for three years covering all of Alaska. Moreover, the article's suggestion to hold fundraising fairs and bazaars in Alaska was unfathomable.

"Who can possess such a premature mind...?" he asked the editor. "For such an occasion, the ladies would even have to be imported since there is not a single Catholic lady in all of Fort Wrangel." He added that he wished that some of the wealth that was "so lavishly spent in some large Catholic centers in order to build big fine churches" would be used to "send more laborers into the vineyard for the purpose of building spiritual temples."

Althoff left Alaska by the end of 1885 to work in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Still, he returned to Alaska periodically for the next decade.

In 1895, the Alaska diocese was separated from Vancouver Island's. Although Althoff was offered the Alaska bishopric, he declined. He lived in Victoria and later Nelson, British Columbia, where he died in 1925 at age 70.

As for the Fort Wrangel church, it was torn down in 1898 due to disrepair. A new one opened 10 years later. Saint Rose of Lima Church remains an active parish.

Father Althoff's request

Althoff wrote his postal card in French, most of which is legible. It reads:

Omnici Jime [?]

I received your very short letter, but it is true that it promises me another soon.

Please buy me two issues of the Sentinel (July 3) and, if it is not too much to ask, please ship them to:

1) Mr. J. Althoff via the station at Haarlem. (Europe-Holland)

and 2) The Reverend A. Schockins, St. Joseph's, Jersey City Heights, New Jersey

The Sentinel says it's true when it announces that we have to do [...] Have you now visited Victoria? And the father [Louis] Eussen accompanied the archbishop to Portland, didn't he? So you have traveled with him. Farewell, or rather bye, for now.

Best to you

J. A. [John Althoff]

Wrangel, July 16, 1879

The *Sentinel* he referred to was the *Catholic Sentinel* newspaper of Portland, Oregon. Two Catholics had started the paper just nine years before, in 1870, largely because a Protestant minister was continuing a false accusation that a priest had incited the 1847 Whitman Massacre.

Thirteen missionaries and their families were killed in retaliation for Indian deaths by whites, incursions into their land, and a belief that the missionaries intentionally caused a deadly measles epidemic that was killing Indians but not whites.

The July 3 issue featured several stories about the arrival of the new Archbishop Seghers in Portland. Althoff wanted to share the news with a colleague in New Jersey, as well as with a relative—possibly his father or brother—back in Europe.

There's no record of the New Jersey priest, but the church he worked at had been founded to serve Irish laborers building a railroad tunnel. In 1879, the church's rector was Fr. Robert Seton, grandson of Elizabeth Seton, the first native-born American canonized as a saint.

Fr. Eussen had been Althoff's traveling companion on the trip from Holland to the United States the year before. Eussen's first assignment was in the then-remote Alberni, a port on Vancouver Island about 125 miles northwest of Victoria. Eussen probably went to Alberni by a longer boat route.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to: Jon DeBellis of the *Catholic Sentinel*, who provided a copy of the issue to which Fr. Althoff referred and to Juliette Martin, French Consular Agency, Seattle, for her help in translating the postal card text.

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Photo Credits

Figure 3: Alaska Digital Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Archives, ca. 1896–1913, UAF-1981-192-22.

Figure 4: Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

Figure 5: Alaska Digital Archives, Alaska State Library, Historical Collections, ASL-PCA-14.

(Don Glickstein specializes in government postal cards with nonphilatelic uses from Alaska, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. He's traveled through much of the North, from the Panhandle to Nome, Kodiak to Palmer, Unalaska to Churchill, Manitoba. One of his prized possessions is a polar bear-shaped license plate he got in Yellowknife, NWT. He encourages folks to join the Alaska Collectors Club, which advertises in La Posta. Contact him by e-mail at: don6glickstein@gmail.com)

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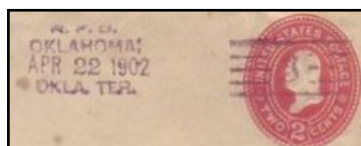
OKLAHOMA AND INDIAN TERRITORY COVERS
 WEATHER FORECAST BACKSTAMPS
 U.S. DESPATCH AGENT AND AGENCY MARKINGS
 19th CENTURY U.S. FANCY CANCELS
 PRIVATE PERFS ON COMMERCIAL COVERS
CROSBY Postmarks—Any State (Not Crosby cachets—No, we were not related)



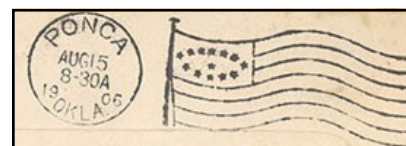
COVERS ADDRESSED "IF NOT DELIVERABLE TO ADDRESSEE,
 PLEASE HAND TO _____" (THE WEIRDER THE BETTER)



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 A & M COLLEGE CANCELS AND
 AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION FRANKS
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U.S. Auxiliary Markings

By John M. Hotchner



Figure 1: These covers were held to be too small for the international mails. The top cover from 1974 shows the proper 10-cents postage to Canada. The bottom cover from 1988 was also underpaid by five cents.

International ‘Form of Mail’ Problems

Continuing with our review of auxiliary markings reflecting problems in international mail, let’s begin to look today at a category I’ll call “form of mail” problems. This is mail addressed to other countries that the post office refuses because of problems with the mail piece itself, or the contents of the envelope. I’ll split this into three parts, as follows:

1. Envelope problems
2. Postage problems, and problems with contents
3. Censorship/Wartime problems

This article will deal with envelopes—and also post card—problems.

By far the most often seen problem is envelopes that were too small. The Figure 1 bottom cover was mailed in December 1988, and was first flagged as being underpaid. It bears a handstamp saying that five cents additional postage beyond the 25 cents paid was required on mail to Canada. (The rate for surface mail between April 3, 1988, and Feb. 3, 1991, was 30 cents)

This was superseded by a “return to sender” handstamp saying that “The minimum dimensions for address side of international mail is 5-1/2” x 3-1/2”.” Curious wording for sure since the back and front of the cover are precisely the same size.

The minimum size requirement for letters was effective July 1, 1971, as agreed by the members of the Universal Postal Union, at the UPU Congress of Tokyo in November 1969.

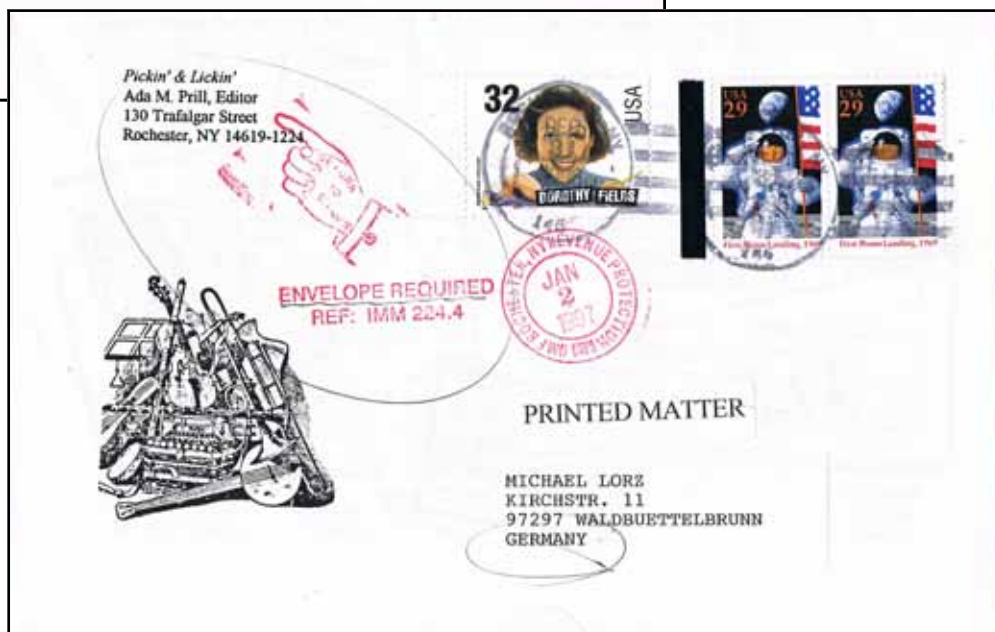
The earliest of my “too small” covers, shown in Figure 1 top, is from 1974. It says, “Unmailable – undersize for foreign mailing,” but does not give the helpful guidance on what minimum size would be required to be acceptable.

Another class of problem is window envelopes. There are two types: open windows where there is no protection of the address, and windows where the address is protected by a thin see-through plastic strip pasted to the inside of the envelope.



Figure 2 (Above): This pair of covers was unmailable because of the windows. The bottom cover has no protection over the address. The top cover does have protective plastic over the address portion, but no more than one window panel was permitted.

Figure 3 (Right): Open-sided mailed matter was not acceptable because of the possibility of damage to the piece, so ‘Envelope Required.’



In brief, open windows are not acceptable in international mail under any circumstances, as shown at the bottom of Figure 2. Closed windows are acceptable, but only if there is just one window.

The 1979 cover at the top of Figure 2 has the plastic protection, but two windows, or panels, making it ineligible. The third class of problems stems from the fact that the U.S. Postal Service has required mail going abroad to be bound; that is not to have open edges.

A printed matter (stamp club journal) addressed to Germany is shown in Figure 3, with a handstamp

“Envelope required, Ref. IMM 224.4,” referring to the *International Mailing Manual*.

A mail piece to Canada, shown in Figure 4, has a different formulation of the same message: “Return to sender. Canadian mail must be completely sealed around all four sides.”

Going to the other end of the spectrum, and perhaps calling into question the handling of the Figure 3 cover, is the printed matter cover to Germany in Figure 5, which says, “Return to sender. Must not be sealed.” There was a rationale for this. As with domestic mail, the envelope could not be sealed so that

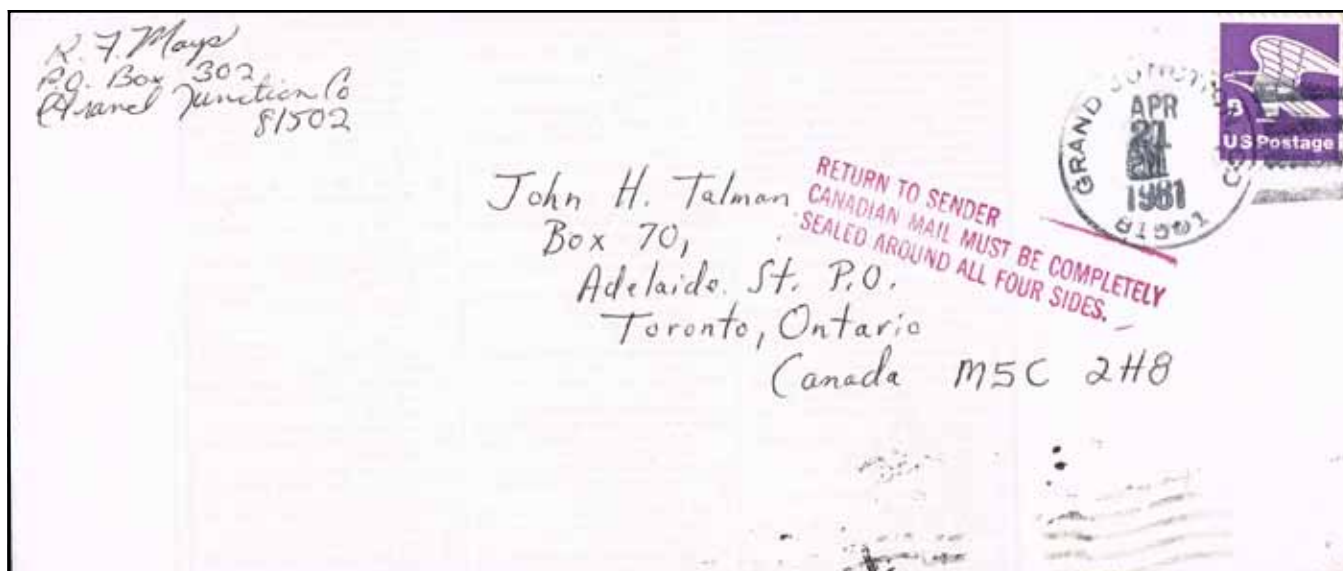


Figure 4: This trifolded paper was refused as the piece had to be ‘sealed around all four sides.’

Figure 5: Printed Matter required that the back flap be open to facilitate inspection.



Figure 6: Airmail envelopes could only be used for air mail. Since the sender could not be asked for additional postage, the letter was sent by surface mail.



Figure 7: The 29 cents paid by meter on this envelope was fine for domestic mail, but well short of the amount needed for international surface rate mail.



Figure 8: While there are reduced rates for sorted and bundled mail that can be handled and delivered more easily in the United States, no such system exists for mail destined abroad. So this piece was rejected and returned to the sender.

it could easily be opened by postal authorities to verify its acceptability as printed matter. Because this piece could not be opened, it was charged an additional two cents postage.

In Figures 6 and 7, we have two additional rate problems; the first being a foreign version of a problem seen often enough on pre-October 1975 domestic mail (at which point air mail was abolished in favor of all first class mail going by the fastest available means).

When there was a separate rate class for airmail, airmail envelopes could be used only for airmail letters.

The Figure 6 cover, mailed in 1954 when the international airmail rate was 15 cents, is underpaid for that service. Ordinarily it would have been returned to the sender for the additional postage, but the sender

had not provided a name or return address; thus "Sender Unknown," and handling of the letter as surface mail.

The Figure 7 cover to Germany was metered with only 29 cents postage that, in May 1993, was the right amount for domestic first class postage. The international surface rate was then 70 cents, so the envelope was handstamped, "Domestic rates not applicable for international mails Please check your international rate chart."

Figure 8 shows a blanket prohibition on certain types of mail on an Indonesia-addressed cover: "Presort/Bulk rate/Non profit are not acceptable in foreign mail." The reason was simple: reductions in rates offered by these classes of mail reflected decreased handling in domestic mails and did not translate to foreign mail handling.

TO: Fairfield, Ala.
Postmaster _____ (Office of Mailing)

RETURN TO SENDER

This article is returned for delivery to the sender, as it is not transmissible to destination for the reason noted below:

GIFT PARCELS TO GREECE CONSISTING OF USED CLOTHING PROHIBITED -- UNLESS THEY ARE CLEAN AND SO DESCRIBED ON CUSTOMS DECLARATION FORM 2966.

PARCEL NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS. (SEE P. M. 252) **EXPORT LICENSE SYMBOL NOT SHOWN ON WRAPPER OF PARCEL.**

See Postal Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Sect.	Postal Bulletin of: <input type="checkbox"/>	Country item in Directory of International Mail <input type="checkbox"/>
FROM EXCHANGE OFFICE INTL. EXCH. UNIT NEW ORLEANS, LA.		PER J. GRAY
POD Form 2911 Apr. 1959		16-74902-1 GPO (OVER)

EUROPEAN

Figure 9: This Return to Sender card was attached to a package addressed to Greece. Its message is both specific and complicated. Did their rules apply to packages addressed to other nations?

Finally, we have in Figure 9, a highly unusual “Return to Sender” form (POD 2911, April 1959) that has been separated from the package to which it was attached when returned to the sender.

On the front it says, “Gift parcels to Greece consisting of used clothing prohibited – unless they are clean and so described on customs declaration form 2966. Parcel not in compliance with export control regulations. (See P. M. 252) Export license symbol not shown on wrapper of parcel.”

On the back it really goes into detail: “Description of contents of parcel on customs declaration (Form 2966) contrary to instructions in P.M. 231.612C General terms such as used clothing, presents, merchandise,

samples, and the like will not suffice. The exact quantity and value of each kind of article must be stated. The material of which the articles are composed must be shown. Not more than one gift package may be mailed per week to one addressee under general license ‘gift’ (See P.M. 252.234.)”

Presumably many more of this kind of Return to Sender card reflecting rules for other countries might be out there waiting to be found and reported.

As always, reader feedback is welcomed by the author, as are additional reports of covers that could fit into the categories discussed in this article.

(Contact John Hotchner at POB 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041; E-mail, jmhstamp@verizon.net)

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The Mystery of Station D

By Peter Martin

I acquired the above photo many years ago, but I have not yet been able to identify the location of the illustrated post office. Perhaps a *La Posta* reader can help to solve the puzzle.

Here are seven clues:

1. The post office is clearly identified as Station D, meaning that there were likely at least three other stations, an indication that this post office was in at least a middle-sized city.

2. Written in manuscript in pencil on the back of the photograph is, "Aug 20th 1909."

3. Also on the back, a small, noncontemporaneous label with text in ink reads, "One of these is Leo Kaufmann." No postmaster by that name is currently listed on the USPS Postmaster Finder website.

4. The number on the upper doorframe at left appears to be 962.

5. Based upon the "Open Daily" sign with hours in the middle window, this was a seven-day-a-week post office, even open for an hour on Sunday.

6. Looking at the surrounding buildings, Station D appears to be in a residential area.

7. The partial lettering on the sign at right includes "KE" at bottom where a city or state name usually appears. The KE could be the beginning of Kentucky but, more than likely, it's a city name.

Readers who spot other clues or who wish to offer an opinion about the location of the post office should e-mail the editor at: pmartin2525@yahoo.com.

A Form Postal Patrons Were Not Supposed to See

By Russ Ryle

The U.S. Post Office uses many forms for internal purposes that postal patrons never see.

Shown in Figure 1 is an example of Form 3039 properly stapled to the offending envelope as instructed. I carefully detached the form, printed on now crumbling almost newsprint quality paper from its now equally fragile envelope, providing a better view of both. We are lucky this example has survived as long as it has.

Apparently the postmaster at East Hampton, Connecticut, was reported for not canceling properly the three one-cent stamps paying the first class postage on this item. The Connecticut cancel clearly ties at least one of the stamps to this cover. The bold pen and ink "X" obliteration was apparently added by the postmaster at the Stock Yard Station, in Chicago.

The wording on the form indicates that it may have seen regular widespread use. Was the problem of mail being received beyond the point of mailing uncanceled that widespread? Clearly, retrieving a piece of uncanceled mail from its recipient was the more difficult step in this reporting process.

This is an invitation for *La Posta* readers to submit images of forms with a short write up for publication in future columns.

I will pass any images received to the Forms Project, now located at the American Philatelic Research Library and American Philatelic Society.

Tara Murray will be leading the forms discussion group through the process of designing the structure in which forms data will be stored.

Please contact Tara Murray at tmurray@stamps.org to join the forms group on Google groups and be a part of the project.

The Forms Project at the APS/APRL is progressing. The new computer server is operational. The Omeka software package is being installed as this column is being written. This package is the next generation beyond the relational database software packages currently in use.

Hopefully, by the time this column is printed, we will have created a first version Omeka home and be loading form information and images.

The David Straight collection of forms was auctioned by Regency Superior at Stampshow. It is hoped the winner of the big lots of forms sold in this

Figure 1: A Form 3039 properly affixed to an offending envelope.

auction will make images of many of them available for inclusion in the forms project.

Straight listed most of the forms in the database we now use as the foundation of the forms project, but we still need their corresponding images.

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

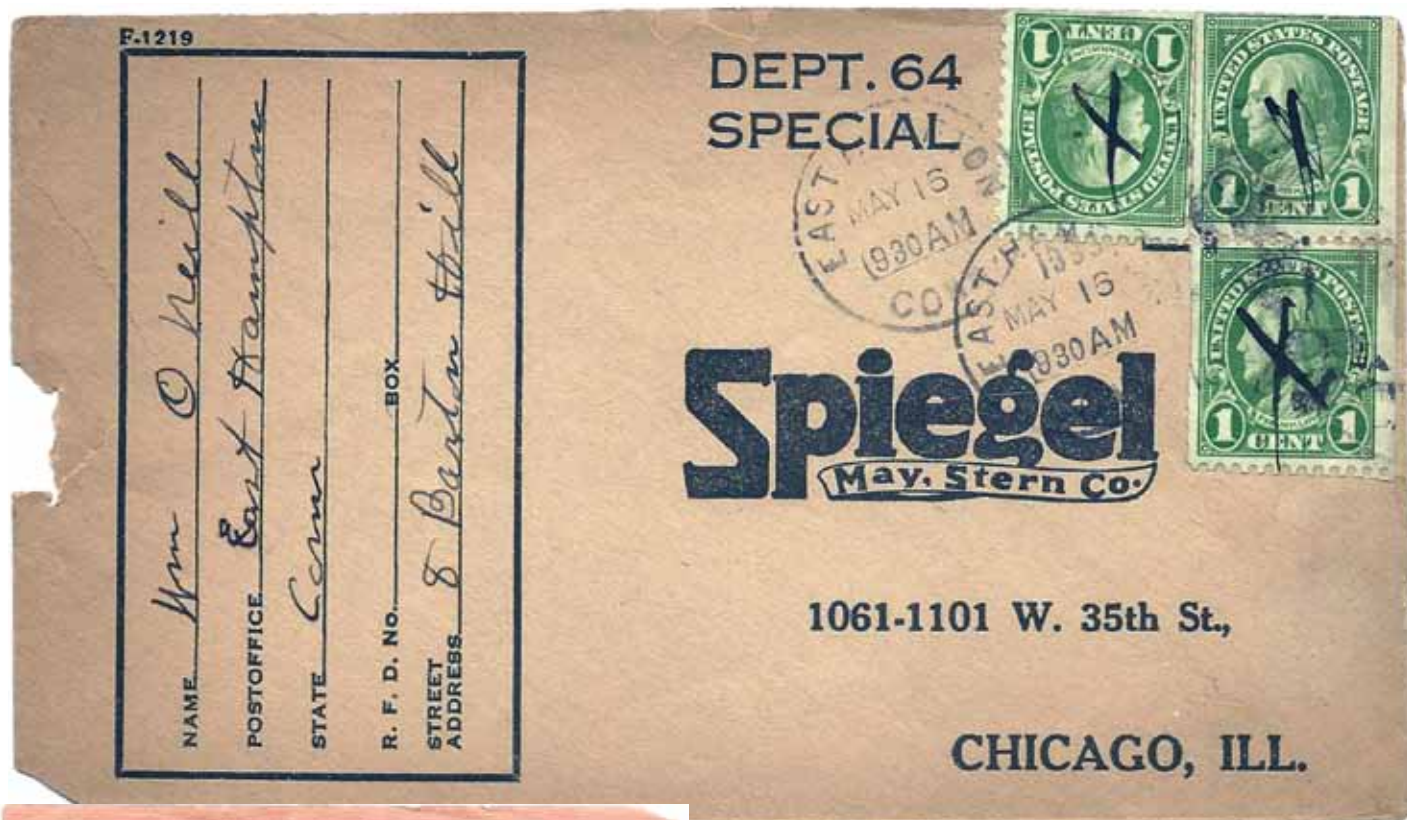


Figure 2: A letter mailed from East Hampton, Connecticut, without a proper cancellation.

Form 3039

UNCANCELED STAMPS

I have to report the receipt of one piece of first class matter, (Class)

bearing uncanceled stamps of the value of three cents,

mailed on May 14 1933 9:30 (Date) (Hour) am

at East Hampton (Post Office)

Conn (State) (Station)

Reported by Postmaster at Stock Station
Chicago, Ill.

NOTE.—Postmaster making this report will please retain slips until end of week and then arrange them alphabetically by States and cities and send same, together with, when practicable, the envelopes or wrappers of the matter reported, in a penalty envelope addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Finance, Washington, D. C.

5-0290 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Figure 3: Form 3039 showing its clear instructions for use.

Join the APS/APRL Forms Project

Contact Tara Murray at tmurray@stamps.org to join the Forms Project on Google groups.

Postcard Pursuit

By Charles A. Fricke

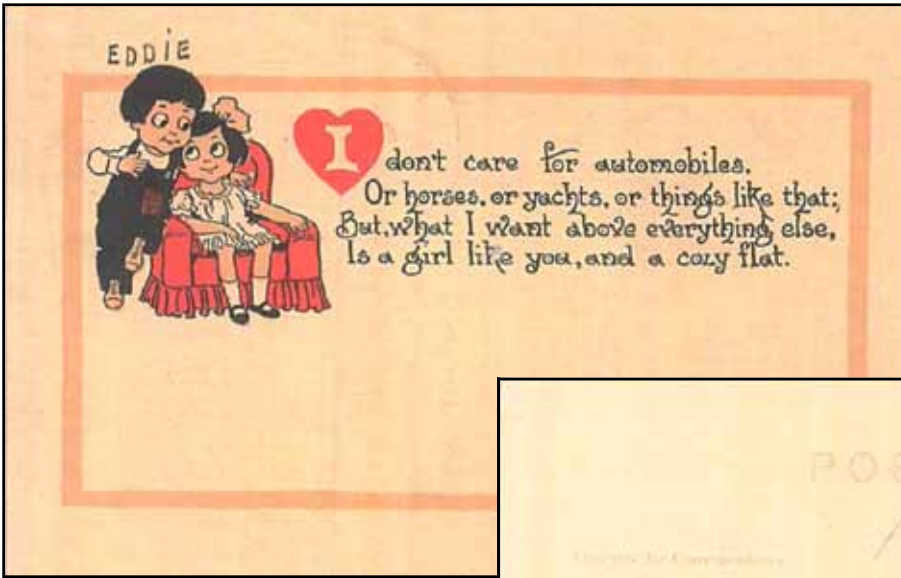


Figure 1 (Right): A nice example of an unpaid postcard with a one-cent postage due stamp.

Figure 2 (Left): The front of the Valentine's postcard.



Eddie's Postcard to Frances Cost Her a Penny!

It's seldom that you see such a nice example of an UNPAID postcard (mailed without postage) as the one shown in Figure 1.

The postcard is postmarked "TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y., FEB. 13, 1913," with a duplex handstamp and addressed to, "New Brighton, Staten Island, N.Y.," and bears an affixed one-cent postage due stamp (Scott J38) tied by a "NEW BRICHTON, N.Y., REC'D., FEB. 14, 1913," receiving postmark.

Notice the "NEW BRICHTON, REC'D" postmark appears to have a "C" instead of a "G" in Brighton.

Both Thompkinsville and New Brighton were local communities on Staten Island and the short turnaround between postmarks of 7:30 p.m. (February 13) and 6 a.m. (February 14) indicates that there was a quick delivery between the two post offices.

The other side of the Valentine postcard, shown in Figure 2, attests to "EDDIE" having a crush on Frances, as evidenced by the saying on the card.

*I don't care for automobiles,
Or horses, or yachts, or things like that;
But, what I want above everything else,
Is a girl like you, and a cozy flat.*

But what Eddie forgot to mention was that he was also a cheapskate by not affixing a one-cent stamp on the postcard and mailing it unpaid with the one-cent postage due to be paid by Frances.

However, we'll never know the outcome of the sending of the card by Eddie. Did Frances reciprocate the affection as pictured by the two figures coupled with the explicit message?

Especially after Frances had to pay the one-cent postage due! Then again, she still saved the valentine postcard.

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

The Canon on Ritual

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

We preface our discussion by admitting at the outset that rarely in our extensive exploration of postal history have we been so blindsided by the nature of a cover we chose to research.

After all, so we thought, an 1875 cover addressed to the dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York City might invite exploration, but, heaven knows, it wouldn't create much of a stir, and in the long run would probably prove an unlikely point of departure for a meaningful article. As things were to unfold we would be proven to be dead wrong.

Our protagonist, Rt. Reverend Professor George Franklin Seymour, S.T.D.,LLD, and Bishop of Springfield, Illinois (Figure 1) a man of peripatetic temperament as a prolific writer, powerful orator and founder and first president of Bard College, would find himself in the center of a great 19th century controversy within the Protestant Episcopal Church, that would pit High Church against Low Church movements regarding religious ritualism, in a seething confrontation for control.

As we enter the fray we ask you to look closely at the visage of Bishop Seymour, for he exudes a palpable sense of strength, with a gaze that bespeaks a smoldering fire within. In this instance looks are not deceiving, and the bishop would require the steadiness and courage of that visage to carry him through the ecclesiastical battle that was to ensue.

Our cover is addressed to "Rev. Prof. Geo. F. Seymour DD, Dean of the Gen. Theol. Seminary, New York City" (Figure 2).

A somewhat incomplete CDS in lovely blue ink indicates a Providence (how appropriate) Rhode Island posting on May 25, 1875, the year evident from docking on the reverse (Figure 3). A three-cent Washington (Scott 158) stamp pays the postage, with a heavy duplex blue cancel. A red imprint "4187" is to the left of the CDS. The reverse indicates an inked receiving notation on May 26 by a "Bp Clarke," and is distinct from the scripted penciled docking with the date of May 25, 1875.

Our story begins benignly enough with a *New York Times* article on September 18, 1874 (Figure 4) presenting a biographical sketch of Reverend



Figure 1: A photo of Rt. Reverend Professor George Franklin Seymour.

George F. Seymour, professor of the General Theological Seminary in New York City, who was reported in an article the preceding day to have received notification that he was to be conferred as the new Episcopal bishop of Illinois.

The *Times* biography does make the point, however, that the rules of the Episcopal Church in this proceeding requires confirmation of the Bishopric by both the Assembly of Bishops as well as the standing committees of the assemblies, the House of Deputies; in other words, from two separate bodies. Since the confirmation had not yet been accomplished, the Reverend Seymour tactfully declined to make additional comments.

We further glean from the article that the reverend was a native of New York City, the son of Isaac Seymour, treasurer of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Reverend Seymour was a graduate of Columbia College in 1850, and attended the Theological Seminary where he now taught, having been ordained in 1855.

In the late 1850s he was the founder and first president of Bard College, at that time called St. Stephen's College until a name change to Bard College in 1934. He subsequently served as rector of several Episcopal churches in the New York area, and in 1865 was installed as professor of ecclesiastical history at the General Theological Seminary.

In a subsequent article in the *Times* on October 3, 1874 (Figure 5) a humble Reverend Seymour would graciously accept the Bishopric of Illinois that the Committee on the Consecration of Bishops had reported on favorably. All that remained was approval by the House of Deputies, a basic formality so it was thought.

However, a disturbing article in the *Times* just one week later (Figure 6) reports that the nomination was postponed while the Committee on Canons was confronting "excited debate" over "ritual practices and ceremonies," the outcome of which was that the bishopric would be denied Reverend Seymour.

Whereas a majority of the members of the House of Deputies had voted in favor of the nomination, the actual number of favorable votes did not reach that required to confirm his consecration. The reason



Figure 2: A cover addressed to Reverend Seymour at the General Theological Seminary in New York City.
Figure 3 (Top): The reverse of the Figure 2 cover.

given by members voting against the confirmation was the sudden dramatic publication of accusations that Reverend Seymour was guilty of “strong ritualistic tendencies” and “high” Anglo-Catholic theological views, which in their eyes made him unfit for the position in the new climate of 19th century religious liberalism in America.

And how did this most unexpected negation occur? The Reverend Professor George Franklin Seymour would be denied by way of an aggressive personal assault on, not only his presumed religious practices, but on his character as well, by the Episcopal bishop of Western New York, the Rt. Reverend Arthur Cleveland Coxe DD, LLD (Figure 7).

Join us now as we enter the furious, religious turmoil of an era that would encompass not just the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (The Episcopal Church) but the entire structure of Western Judeo-Christian thinking in 19th century America.

We assure the reader at this juncture that we do not intend to embark on a leaden, theological tome guaranteed to sedate one’s psyche; rather, to bring this postal history experience to its just conclusion—the outcome of a dynamic confrontation between two powerful figures, who, contrary to Christian ethic of turning the other cheek, would confront one another in a gladiatorial contest that would be documented in

THE NEW BISHOP OF ILLINOIS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF REV. GEORGE F. SEYMOUR—INTERVIEW WITH THE BISHOP ELECT.

A dispatch in *THE TIMES* of yesterday announced the election of Prof. Seymour, of the General Theological Seminary of this City, to the Bishopric of Illinois. A reporter called on Dr. Seymour yesterday to inquire if he had received official notice of his election, and in reference to probable acceptance. The reverend gentleman replied that he had as yet received no official notice, though he was the recipient Thursday morning of a private telegram from a friend in Chicago, announcing the action of the convention. He was informed by the dispatch that a committee had been appointed to communicate the result officially to him. Until the official communication was received he could say nothing as to the probability of his acceptance or declination. It would be indelicate to express a decision in regard to an honor which had not yet been conferred on him officially. In any event the action of the Diocesan Convention of Illinois must be confirmed by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which is to meet next month, before its election of Bishop could be complete. It was a rule of the Episcopal Church, he said, that if a diocese elects a Bishop more than six months prior to a meeting of the General Convention, which assembles every three years, then the approval of a majority of the Bishops and of the standing committees of the different dioceses of the United States shall be necessary to confirm the election. But if the election occurs within six months of the meeting, then it must be ratified by the two houses of the general convention when in session. In the present instance the action of the Diocese of Illinois occurs within six months of the next General Convention, which is to meet Oct. 7, and consequently goes before that body for confirmation. The

Professor remarked that he had many duties to perform and a work before him at the seminary, and he could not at the present time give any indication of his probable action in case of his official notification.

Rev. George F. Seymour is at present Rector of "St. Mark's Church in the Bowery," and also Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the Episcopal General Theological Seminary. He was born in New-York City in 1829. His father was Isaac N. Seymour, for many years Treasurer of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. He commenced his classical education at the Grammar School of Columbia College, and graduated from the college itself in 1850. He studied at the General Theological Seminary in the years 1851-54, and was to have been ordained Deacon by Bishop Wainwright, but pending the ceremony that Bishop died, so that he was one of the first on whom Bishop Potter laid hands. This was on Dec. 17, 1854, the third Sunday in Advent. In September, 1855, he was ordained Priest by Bishop Potter, in Zion Church, Dobb's Ferry. His first charge was a mission station at Annandale, Dutchess County, N. Y. After remaining there about six years, during which period the stone church endowed by Mr. John Bard was erected, and a college for the training of young men for the seminary was organized and chartered by the name of "St. Stephen's College, Annandale," and of which he became the first Warden. He resigned to enter upon the Rectorship of St. Mary's Church at Manhattanville. In 1862 he was called to Christ Church, in Hudson, N. Y., where he remained about one year. In 1863 he was called to St. John's Church, Brooklyn. At the annual meeting of the Trustees of the General Theological Seminary in 1865, Mr. Seymour was elected to the chair of ecclesiastical history, which had been endowed by the late Mr. Stuyvesant, and named by him, after his own church, "The 'St. Mark's Church in the Bowery' Professorship." The name is still retained, although St. Mark's Church has been removed from the Bowery. Prof. Seymour has also of late years filled the office of chaplain of the "House of Mercy" at the foot of Eighty-sixth street, an institution for the reclamation of fallen women, and has also been Superintendent of the "Society for Promoting Religion and Learning," an association in aid of young men preparing for the ministry. The bishopric to which the action of the Illinois Convention elects Prof. Seymour, is that made vacant by the death of the late Bishop Whitehouse. The newly-elected Bishop, though ranked among High Churchmen, has never been a partisan.

Figure 4: A biographical sketch of Reverend Seymour in the September 18, 1874, *New York Times*.

the minutest detail by the archivists of the Episcopal Church in what would come to be known as Project Canterbury¹ as well as intensely detailed by the lay press.

For you see, the ferment evident in the United States at that time was not about apostasy or secularism—no it was about liberalism. A deeply religious society was attempting to break the bonds of what was considered mind numbing ritualistic practices, and to experience a more personal religious spirituality. And this was true across the spectrum of religions in America.

Mainline churches were losing their flocks to evangelical churches as early as the 1820s and 1830s,

with newer denominations bringing charismatic religion into the forefront through prayer meetings, church camps, revivals, tabernacles, and the list goes on. These were firebrand experiences indeed, hurling away the traditionalism of Calvinism and Quakerism and "isms" of all kinds that made the individual a meek spectator in the hands of a seemingly fossilized church structure.

The traditional experience had become anathema to the young breed of hearty settlers moving across the country from their former fixed colonial past on the eastern shores. And rest assured it permeated religion of various faiths.

THE BISHOPRIC OF ILLINOIS.

REV. DR. GEO. F. SEYMOUR, OF THIS CITY,
ACCEPTS THE OFFICE—HIS LETTER TO A
COMMITTEE OF THE LATE CONVENTION.

At the recent Episcopal Convention of the Diocese of Illinois Rev. Dr. George F. Seymour, of the General Theological Seminary, of this City, was elected Bishop of that diocese. The following is a copy of his letter accepting the position :

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Sept. 25, 1874.

My Dear Brethren :

Your official notice of my election to the Bishopric of Illinois, the signing of my testimonials by all the clerical and lay delegates present at the convention, and your request on their behalf that I would accept the high and holy office thus tendered me, and pledging on their and your part a cordial welcome and hearty support, has been received. No one could have been more surprised than I was when I learned, a little more than a week ago, of the result of the election in the Convention of the Diocese of Illinois, which you have so kindly communicated to me. I was utterly unprepared for such a summons. I could not bring myself to listen to the call were it other than it is. I am now charged with many trusts, and have my heart bound up in many works. The General Church has bid me reach her candidates for holy orders ecclesiastical history, and for nine years I have been at my post, growing to love my duties more and more, and finding in my pupils, in their gratitude and affection, an ample recompense for all my toil.

Through God's providential dispensation I have been called upon to take the oversight of this great theological school for nearly half the period of my service as a Professor, and its interests and worth, by the Divine blessing, have prospered in my hands, and now there open before me brighter prospects of success than ever before.

Figure 5: October 3, 1874, *New York Times* article as Reverend Seymour accepts Bishopric of Illinois.

The Jewish experience from the 1850s on would see the emergence of the Reform movement as an escape from the fixed ritualistic experience of Orthodox and Conservative Judaism.

Catholics would attempt to confront their ritualism in a similar fashion, although with far less success due to the onerous fear of excommunication, a negating force to many, but not perhaps to the heartier rebels.

And paradoxically, the Episcopal Church, which was the American offshoot of the English Anglican Church, and in many ways the church epitomizing a "Protestant, yet Catholic" church, adhering to many of the traditional practices of Catholicism while nominally Protestant, would be the very body attempting to bring down Reverend Seymour's nomination, when leaders in the church itself began invoking greater freedom from the High Church Anglo-Catholic liturgy of the past—a desire to do away with conservative ritualism, and with it Reverend Seymour!

Reverend Arthur Cleveland Coxe, if one reads the

THE CHURCH CONVENTION.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FAVORABLE REPORT ON THE NOMINATION
TO THE VACANT BISHOPRICS—A NEW
CANON PROPOSED TO SUPPRESS RITUAL-
ISTIC PRACTICES—A LARGE AMOUNT OF
ROUTINE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

The business session of the Episcopal Church Convention opened yesterday morning at 11 o'clock and adjourned for the day at 1:30 P. M., in order that the chapel might be prepared for divine service to-day. Before the regular proceedings commenced, the morning service of the Episcopal Church was said by Rev. G. A. Easton, of California, Rev. Dr. Vandewater, of New-York, and Rev. Dr. Paret, of Pennsylvania. The benediction was pronounced by Bishop Green, of Mississippi. The galleries, owing to the inclemency of the weather in the morning, were not as well filled as on the previous days, but there was, nevertheless, a large number of the general public present. Soon after the convention organized, Rev. Dr. Crooke, Chairman of the Committee on the Consecration of Bishops, reported favorably on the nomination of Rev. Edward R. Wells to the Bishopric of Wisconsin, and the nomination of Rev. George F. Seymour as Bishop of Illinois. Action on this report was deferred until Monday, when an excited debate is expected, but as the reporters will then be excluded, no report of the discussion can be given. A memorial was presented from the Diocese of Pittsburg, praying for the establishment of a Court of Appeals. It was referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution. Several memorials on the Nicene Creed were referred to the Committee on Canons, and memorials for the formation of new dioceses were referred to the appropriate committee. Several amendments to the canons were proposed and referred, and a new canon of considerable importance was introduced by Rev. Dr. Lewin, of Maryland. It proposes ritual uniformity and provides for the suppression of ritual practices and ceremonies. It was referred to the Committee on Canons, and when it comes before the House for discussion, a long and interesting debate is sure to take place. In connection with the same

Figure 6: October 11, 1874, *New York Times* article about the postponement of Reverend Seymour's nomination.

transcripts carefully, had it in for Reverend Seymour from early on in their association. Coxe had graduated from New York University in 1838 and was a prolific poet.

He graduated from the General Theological Seminary in 1840, was rector at several Episcopal churches and wrote assiduously on proper church canon, particularly attacking Roman Catholic practices and Vatican doctrines.

In the late 1860s he was consecrated as bishop of Western New York. He was known for never shying away from controversies, particularly taking on various Catholic clergy. His theological works were prodigious and broad in scope. He was not a man to be trifled with.

Words that were used regarding Coxe's dislike of Reverend Seymour included "bitter intense hatred," "vindictive," "malicious," and those just for starters.

It seems that for a number of years Reverend Coxe, while at times working most cordially with Reverend Seymour on jointly editing a church publication, had a seemingly paranoid dislike or jealousy of Seymour, and would be forever questioning mutual associates to sniff out any wrongdoing that might be attributed to Seymour.

Apparently none was forthcoming until Coxe attacked him after the Bishopric of Illinois was offered to Seymour in 1874. At that time and without warning, Coxe published a diatribe in *The Churchman*, the major national publication of the church, accusing Reverend Seymour of practicing and teaching certain rituals intrinsic to Catholicism that were not the accepted practices of the Episcopal Church, including, most egregiously to Coxe, the concept of the Sacrament in Episcopal church service as distinct from its perception in Catholic belief and practice.

Coxe then went on to accuse Seymour of lying regarding his beliefs and practices of ritual, and furthermore accused Seymour of having invited the Rt. Reverend Charles Chapman Grafton to stay at the Theological Seminary in New York over several days, and allowing him to teach the seminary students in unauthorized lectures on topics incompatible with Episcopal teachings.

Reverend Grafton, the future bishop of Wisconsin, was considered by some church leaders as having too radical views of Anglo-Catholic ritual, not to the taste of those who wanted more concrete separation from Roman Catholic practices and beliefs.

The accusations made by Coxe against Seymour, to which Reverend Seymour could not adequately defend himself before the confirmation vote was taken, resulted in his losing the election for consecration as bishop of Illinois.

One can easily picture the Rt. Reverends Arthur Coxe and George Seymour now eyeball to eyeball

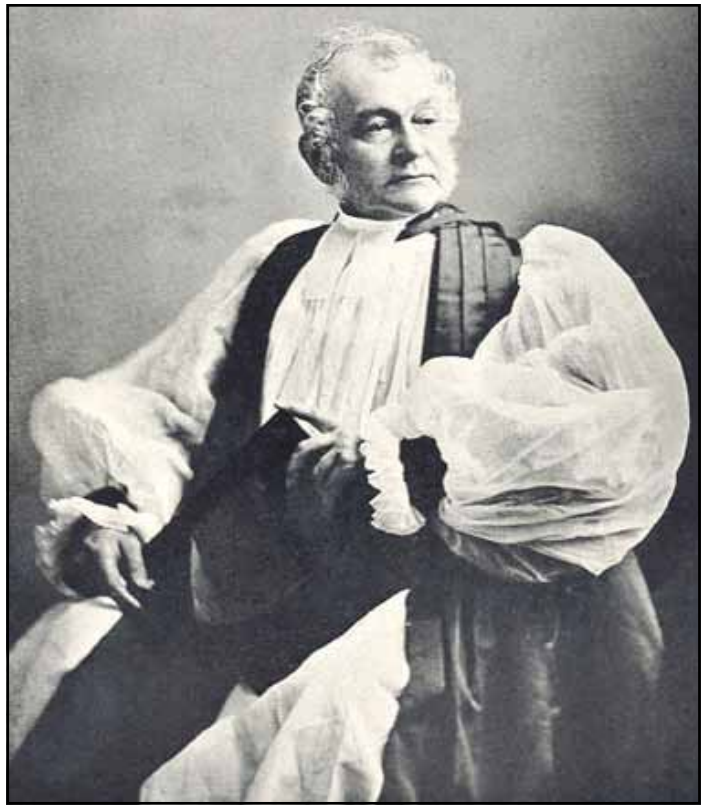


Figure 7: Photograph of Rt. Reverend Arthur Cleveland Coxe.

in combat, and that it was. In Reverend Seymour's publication, *Assault of the Bishop of Western New York upon the Dean of the General Theological Seminary and the Dean's Reply*,² Seymour would publish the full transcripts of Reverend Coxe's accusations, as well as Reverend Grafton's denials under oath of having been invited to stay at the Theological Seminary at the behest of Seymour, or having given unauthorized lectures to the students, and Reverend Seymour's point by point rebuttal to the accusations brought against him by Bishop Coxe.

Despite Seymour's tactful dialectic in his rebuttal, one can almost taste the bile of animosity that existed between these two men of God. The 40 pages of *The Assault* are mesmerizing in the intensity of ill will.

So, who won? Why, Reverend George Franklin Seymour won. Shortly after the 1874 debacle, to make up for the technical knockout brought on by the vote in the House of Deputies, he would be rewarded by the faithful with being elected dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York in 1875.

As further signs of confidence in attempting to rectify what we can only label as ecclesiastical McCarthyism, Seymour was invited to rectorships in Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere, all of which he declined. He would hold numerous ancillary positions in the Church and then in 1877 would truly receive his just reward.

On December 19, 1877, he was unanimously chosen to become bishop of the new Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, when the Bishopric of that state was divided in two, due to the population growth in the Midwest.

He would share the state with Bishop James DeKoven, who had also been pilloried by Reverend Coxe, but who had survived the initial ordeal and had then been confirmed to the Bishopric of Illinois, the position offered and then denied to Reverend Seymour.

But, not so fast, for on April 7, 1878, the *New York Times* would report that Dr. Seymour would decline the offer (Figure 8)! Seymour would state that he was aware of the anxiety created by his not having offered a speedy response, and that it resulted from “my grave and painful doubts as to what was my duty in the premises.”

His friends and trusted members of the Theological Seminary wished for him to remain in his post as dean and “I have reached the conclusion that it is my duty to follow the advice and continue to serve God in the humbler sphere which he has assigned to me.”

But a moment, dear reader, for the story does not end on that note. In a made for Hollywood ending the *Times* would then report the startling about-face news on June 12, 1878 (Figure 9) that Reverend George F. Seymour had indeed been consecrated as Bishop of Springfield, Illinois, in a ceremony held at Trinity Church in New York City in the presence of 10 bishops and crowds so dense that the church was filled to overflowing, with the rest, “gathered under the organ gallery...suffering all the discomforts of a crush.”

Yes, you see, the Church would not take “no” for an answer. In May 1878, following Reverend Seymour’s declining the position, the Diocese of Springfield met yet again to reaffirm by unanimous vote their choice. Dr. Seymour felt constrained under such pressure to accept. At the consecration of Bishop Seymour, presiding Bishop Clarkson of Nebraska would say:

“It is not without opposition that our brother-elect has been called. The Church is jealous concerning the soundness in the faith of her chief Pastors, and a whisper of suspicion is enough to excite alarm. There is no question that he whom we are to consecrate has been diligent in teaching, faithful in ministering the Gospel to the poor and to the lost. Strange misconceptions are there in this world, and when some controversy touching things expedient or accidental has arisen a man finds imputed to him beliefs most contrary to his thoughts or acts which never entered his mind. Subsequent allegations have proven to be purest misconceptions.”

Bishop Seymour would marry Mrs. Harriet Atwood (Downs) Aymar in Trinity Church on July 23, 1889.

He would go on to write and preach, with an output of an astounding number of books, sermons, addresses, charges and contributions to the religious and secular press. Rt. Reverend Seymour died at Springfield, Illinois in December 1906.

Reverend Arthur Cleveland Coxe, bishop of Western New York would continue to preach and publish until the time of his death in July 1896. He is buried at Geneva, New York.

We could not find evidence of reconciliation between the two bishops through our investigation of Bishop Seymour’s writings from the mid 1890s time period; but, we suspect that Seymour would have been too discrete to reopen this dialogue in public, that is, unless stung once again, which appears not to have been the case.

The Episcopal Church in the 20th century and to the present time is better known for “High Church” Anglicanism—ritually more inclined to use incense, a higher degree of ceremony, formal hymns and clerical vesting in cassocks and surplice.

Bishop Seymour, we feel certain, would have been quite pleased with this format. Then again, we can only wonder what the bishop would think, or say, regarding the remarkably liberal stance on social issues of the current church with regard to same-sex marriage, the ordination of women, homosexuality and birth control.

Indeed, in 2006, Katharine Jefferts Schori would become the first female presiding bishop of the church. Perhaps, he might say, “I have fought my battles in my time; now permit me my peace in your time.” Well, just a thought on our part, Bishop Seymour, just a thought.

Endnotes

- 1 Project Canterbury. The Two Settlements. The Catholic and the Reformation. Our Duty of Obedience to Both Alike.
<http://anglicanhistory.org/usa/gfseymour/settlements1894.html>
- 2 Project Canterbury. Assault of the Bishop of Western New York upon the Dean of the General Theological Seminary, and The Dean’s Reply.
<http://anglicanhistory.org/usa/gfseymour/assault1875.html>

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- Project Canterbury. The Canon on Ritual, and the Holy Eucharist
<http://anglicanhistory.org/dekoven?canon.html>
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http://s560.com/docuwiki?book:297.george_franklin
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<http://sangamon.Illinoisgenweb.org/1904/seymour.htm>
- George Franklin Seymour papers, 1856-1882
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- Arthur Cleveland Coxe
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Cleveland_Coxe

(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.)

A BISHOPRIC DECLINED.

REV. DR. SEYMOUR DECIDES NOT TO ACCEPT THE OFFER TO PRESIDE OVER THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The following letter has been addressed by Rev. Dr. George F. Seymour to the Committee of the Springfield (Ill.) Episcopal Diocese, who recently informed him of his election as Bishop:

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, WEST
TWENTIETH-STREET AND NINTH-AVENUE,
NEW-YORK, April 5, 1878.

MY DEAR BRETHREN: In the note addressed to you under date Dec. 26, 1877, in reply to your official communication announcing to me my unanimous election to the bishopric of Springfield, Ill., I employed the following language: "If ever the question comes really before me to determine, be assured I will meet it promptly. In the fear of God, and as beneath His bar of judgment, I shall do my best to reach a right conclusion, and immediately apprise you of the result." The question did not so come to me until the latter part of March. I may have seemed to you, in your very natural anxiety for a speedy answer, to have waited beyond a reasonable time in giving my response, but the truth is, dear brethren, I never faced the matter as a real issue until I received the official letter of the venerable presiding Bishop, a little more than two weeks ago, informing me that a majority of the standing committees and of the Bishops had consented to my consecration. It is only necessary for me to make known to you my decision, and yet I may be permitted to state parenthetically that my delay has been owing to my grave and painful doubts as to what was my duty in the premises. Those whom I have consulted, and who have a right to speak, my own Bishop, other Bishops, and the majority of the members of the standing committee of the General Theological Seminary, strongly advise me that the interests of the Church at large will be best promoted by my remaining where I am. My hesitation shows how profoundly I am moved by the claim which Springfield has upon me. It is an act of stern self-denial for me to say what I am about to say, that under all the circumstances I have reached the conclusion that it is my duty to follow the advice given to me with such unanimity,

Figure 8: April 17, 1878, *New York Times* article as Reverend Seymour declines Bishopric of Illinois.

HEAD OF A NEW DIOCESE.

CONSECRATION OF BISHOP SEYMOUR.
IMPRESSIVE SERVICES IN TRINITY CHURCH—
TEN BISHOPS AND MORE THAN ONE
HUNDRED AND FIFTY CLERGY PARTICI-
PATE—SERMON BY BISHOP LAY.

Old Trinity Church has seldom, if ever before, contained so many clergymen as were yesterday gathered beneath its majestic arches to take part in and witness the consecration to the Bishopric of Springfield, Ill., of Rev. George F. Seymour, Dean of the Theological Seminary. The service yesterday was appointed for 11 o'clock. Before 10 o'clock the doors were surrounded by crowds, and when they were opened and the ladies and gentlemen rushed in, a good many were disappointed to find that every pew was marked "occupied," and that a season of patient waiting was before them. A few persons who had cards of invitation were first provided with seats, and the rest gathered under the organ gallery and suffered all the discomforts of a crush. There was no elaborate decoration of the church for the consecration service. A calcium burner above the great organ threw a glare of light upon the chancel and altar, bringing out distinctly all the delicate carving of the Astor memorial, and making the faces of the clergy in the sanctuary easily distinguishable at the back of the church. Before the service Mr. Henry Carter played a fantasia upon the Sicilian hymn, by Lux, a prelude by Petri, and an adagio by Dusset. The vestry door was thrown open at 11 o'clock, and a line of clergymen in surplices marched in couples down the left aisle. When the head of the line had reached a point half-way up the middle aisle it halted, the end of the line being then but half way down the side aisle. The clergy were about 150 in number. At a short interval followed the choir of Trinity, numbering 34 persons, who sang, "The Church's one Foundation," and behind the choir came the Bishops who were to take part in the consecration services. As the line of clergy was reached it divided, making a passage, through which walked the choir, Bishop Potter, of New-York; Bishop Quintard, of Tennessee; Bishop Neely, of Maine; Bishop Harper, of New-Zealand, who wore the bright red Oxford hood over his episcopal robes; Bishop Scarborough, of New-Jersey; Bishop Clarkson, of Nebraska; Bishop Odenheimer, of Northern New-Jersey; Bishop Lay, of Easton; Bishop McLaren, of Illinois, and Bishop Southgate. Behind the Bishops marched the Bishop-elect, clad in the rochet, over which was to be worn the episcopal garment conferred during the ceremony. The choir and Bishops, and a second body of clergy who accompanied them, took their places in the chancel, the Bishops within the communion-rail and the clergy in the stalls. The Bishop-elect occupied a chair at the head of the aisle in the body of the church, between Rev. Dr. Dix, of Trinity, and Rev. Dr. Hodges, of Baltimore. The rest of the clergy then took the seats which had been reserved for them in the body of the church, occupying about half the seats in the centre of the church. Then there was a desperate

Figure 9: June 12, 1878, *New York Times* article Reverend Seymour consecrated as bishop of Springfield, Illinois.

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.

North Dakota Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen

These photographs are of post offices from North Dakota, a state with huge, open prairies and friendly people. Most towns are small and have postal facilities to match. A variety of people took these over the years. The PMCC Museum's collection has more than 600 pictures from North Dakota that range from black and white views from 1976 to color digital photos from 2014.



Bismarck Post Office, Burleigh Co., 2005



Brinsmade Post Office, Benson Co., 1993



Gackle Post Office, Logan Co., 2005



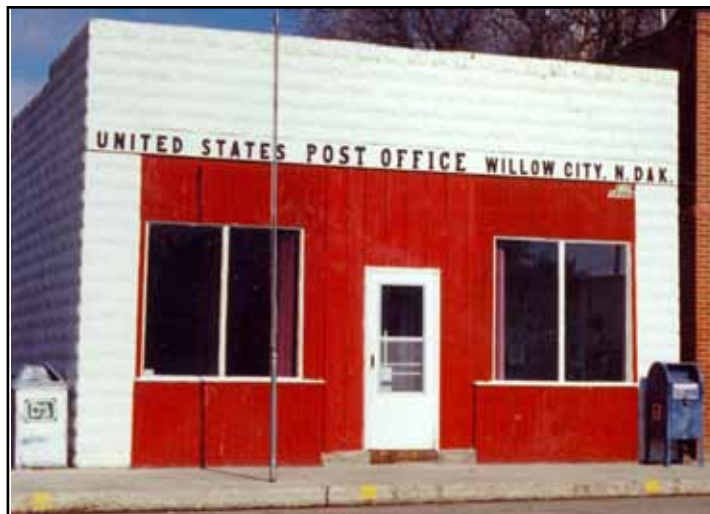
Above: Ambrose Post Office, Divide Co., 2011

Below: Horace Post Office, Cass Co., 2008





Shields Post Office, Grant Co., 1993



Willow City Post Office, Bottineau Co., 1993



Gardner Post Office, Case Co., 1980



Tuttle Post Office, Kidder Co., 2005

North Dakota



Marion Post Office, Lamoure Co., 2008



Cleveland Post Office, Stutsman Co., 2000



Grafton Post Office, Walsh Co., 2012

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.



Figure 1.

A Dangerous Donation

In July 2013, Rick Whyte, a member of the AFDCS Auction Committee, passed away. Since his passing, his mail has been forwarded to his sister-in-law, residing in Los Gatos, California.

In October, she contacted the AFDCS to inquire what she was to do with a large Priority Mail envelope addressed to, "American First Day Cover Society, % Rick Whyte." The envelope contained a number of uncached and common cached FDOI postal stationery covers. However, there was no way to identify the sender because there was no note or letter inside, and the envelope was mailed with no return address. She was instructed to send the material to me because it was apparent that the material was a donation to the AFDCS auction.

Upon receiving the envelope (Figure 1), I was surprised to find a form taped to the bottom left indicating that it had been examined by a U.S. Postal Inspector, "pursuant to 39 CFR 233.11" and "cleared

for processing" on September 9, 2013. That regulation gives the USPS authority to open and inspect a mailing without a search warrant or permission of the sender or addressee when there is suspicion that it contains a bomb, explosive material, firearm, or anything else that could be considered dangerous.

On November 5, I met with a U.S. postal inspector in Pasadena to gather more information about this interesting piece of modern postal history.

Because he knew the inspector (J. Resendez) who examined the envelope, he informed me that the inspection took place at the GMF in Santa Clarita, California. He told me that suspicion about the contents of the mailing were raised because

1. The mailing violated the "13 ounce rule" (i.e., any envelope weighing more than 13 ounces mailed with stamps must be presented to a postal clerk for mailing);
2. There was no return address;
3. The envelope was "thick" due to its contents.

It was apparent that the envelope was dropped into a corner mailbox or a mail slot in a post office.

He then said that the envelope was probably not opened by the inspector because, according to his training, there didn't appear to be any imminent danger. There was no leakage of liquid or powder, and the envelope was flexible enough to eliminate the suspicion that it contained a weapon or bomb.

Two days after the inspection, the envelope was processed in Santa Clarita for mailing to Whyte. While it is difficult to see the cancel on the Wave stamp and Flag stamp at top right, I was able to do so using a strong magnifying glass.

After processing in Santa Clarita, the envelope was sent to Whyte's local post office for delivery. Once there, it was forwarded to his sister-in-law. She shipped it from her local Los Gatos post office to me on October 9 using a \$6.15 postage meter. The tracking label was placed on the envelope when it was sent from Los Gatos.

Figure 2 shows the Priority Mail label placed over another label, the latter arousing my curiosity. It is rubberstamped with a black "cancel" that reads "ROUND DATE" within a circle, all of which is about



Figure 2: An unusual "Round Date" rubberstamp.

the same size as a black plug ("bullseye") cancel. Since the postal service does not use such a "cancel," I can only conclude that the original sender used his/her own rubberstamp to request the envelope be cancelled with a round dater.

This is the first mailing that I have ever received that was examined by a USPS postal inspector.

Michael Litvak
Pasadena, Calif.

In The News

NPM Launches iPhone/iPad App that Brings Exhibit Objects to Life

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum launched a new app that brings exhibit objects to life. MagnifiAR is an augmented reality app for the iPhone and iPad that allows museum visitors to unlock additional layers of interpretive content for select artifacts in two of the museum's exhibitions—"Pacific Exchange: China & U.S. Mail" and "Mail by Rail."

After downloading the free app from Apple's iTunes Store, visitors point the camera of their mobile device at select exhibit objects and images. The fun, interactive and family-friendly app highlights stamps, artwork and artifacts that trigger video footage, images, trivia and games to connect visitors to exhibit objects in meaningful ways.

In "Pacific Exchange: China & U.S. Mail," an exhibit that looks at the relationship of the two countries through the study of stamps and mail, visitors can go on a safari hunt and bring animals to life. Finding seven specific exhibit objects will unlock surprising information. Locating the Chinese Giant Panda stamps from 1973 connects visitors to the National Zoological Park's two live panda cams to witness Mei Xiang, Tian Tian and baby cub Bao Bao in their cozy habitat. Discovering the Chinese black-necked crane stamp launches a video of the cranes performing exotic dances.

"This new app encourages families to engage with exhibit artifacts in a fun new way at the National Postal Museum," said Allen Kane, director of the museum.

"Mail by Rail," an exhibit where visitors explore the story of the Railway Post Office, allows visitors to experience life on the rail in the early 20th century. Postal clerks aboard the mail cars could sort 600 pieces of mail per hour. When visitors point their device at one of the enlarged photos in the railway mail car, a video will launch showing how mail clerks sorted mail aboard a train.

Instead of stopping at every small town to transfer the mail, railway mail trains were fitted with catcher arms that snatched mailbags off of cranes.

Visitors can view a 1908 silent black-and-white film demonstrating how "mail-on-the-fly" worked by pointing their device at the train catcher arm on display in the exhibit.

Viewed through the app, the exhibit's "Mail by Rail" sign brings to life Owney the dog, the unofficial mascot of the Railway Post Office in the late 1800s, who invites visitors into the exhibit's railway mail car.

Visitors without an Apple device or smartphone may check-out an iPod Touch at the museum's information desk.

Marty Emery

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