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La Posta
Vol. 45, No. 4
Whole Number 260
Fourth Quarter 2014

LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

An Early Postal Card From Yellowstone National Park

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

La Posta Vol. 45, No. 4 Whole Number 260 Fourth Quarter 2014

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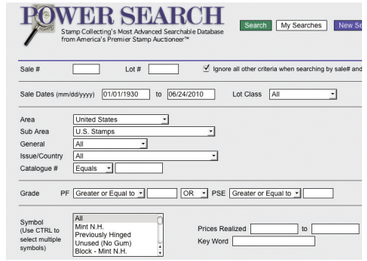

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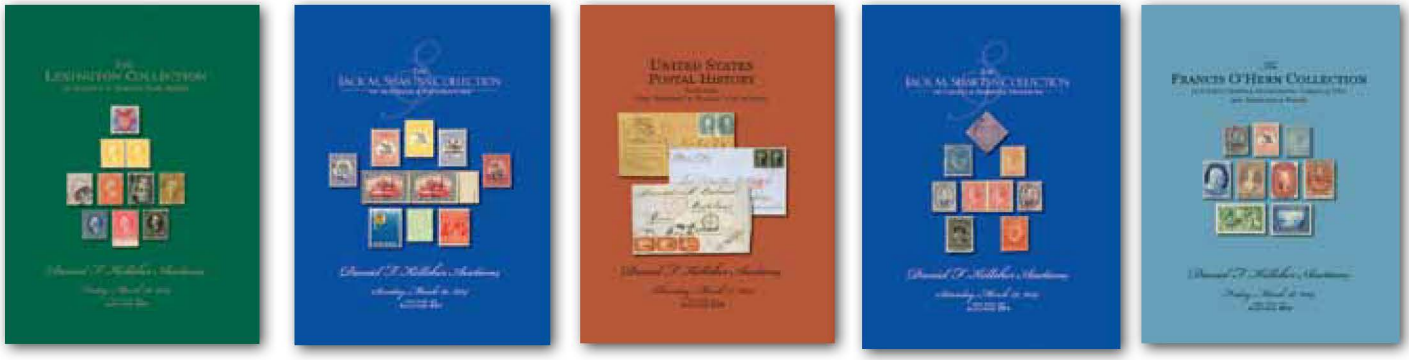

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La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History is published four times a year with issues mailed on or about the 15th of March, June, September and December. Subscription information is available from:

La Posta Publications
POB 6074
Fredericksburg, VA 22403
laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Annual Subscription Rates
USA $32 (4 issues)
Canada $40 (U.S. $)
Foreign $70 via airmail

2015 Article Deadlines
1Q Jan. 10, 2015
2Q April 10, 2015
3Q July 10, 2015
4Q Oct. 10, 2015

LA POSTA
THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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A Sincere Thank You!

This issue concludes our first full year of publishing *La Posta* and we have a lot to be thankful for.

Based upon the comments received, you like the format changes that were made, including the new perfect binding that was instituted with the First Quarter issue and the polybagging has ensured that each issue arrives at your door in undamaged condition.

While the production aspects are important, you buy a journal primarily for its content and, according to the feedback we've received, we're hitting, and exceeding, the mark in this area.

The top researchers and postal historians are providing outstanding features in a variety of American postal history areas and subjects and we continue to solicit the best in the hobby for these pages. Our thanks to all the wonderful authors who have provided material for your enjoyment.

The Richard Helbock Prize

Each year we try to recognize the top articles that have appeared in *La Posta* in the previous year through the award of the Richard Helbock Prize.

Last year, we invited Benefactor members to help the editorial team to select the winners. That worked well and this year, we invite both Sustaining and Benefactor subscribers to participate.

If your name appears as a Benefactor or Sustaining subscriber on page 4, you are eligible to vote.

Benefactors may vote for their first and second choice for what they consider the best article that appeared in any 2014 issue of *La Posta*. Sustaining members may vote for their favorite article.

To vote, just send an e-mail to *pmartin2525@yahoo.com* with Helbock Prize in the subject line. Provide your name as listed on page 4 and the name of the article and author that you consider your favorite (Benefactor and Sustaining) or second favorite (Benefactor only).

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All votes must be received by March 1, 2015.

While our authors fill the pages with outstanding research and content, we could not publish the journal without the support of the triad that provides the financial underpinnings of this journal.

Our sincere thank you to all the subscribers who continue to renew every year. It is gratifying to see names that have on the rolls for 20, 30 and even 40 years.

Our sincere thank you to the growing number of Benefactor and Sustaining subscribers whose extra dollars allow us to continue to make improvements, such as adding more color pages.

Our sincere thank you to the advertisers who support the journal and who allow us to make *La Posta* a one-stop shop for subscribers looking to find the best auction firms and postal history and supply dealers in the country (and even overseas).

And finally, our sincere thank you to the angel whose anonymous contribution allowed us to make the *La Posta* transition possible.

This support is gratifying and allows us to continue to produce a quality journal.

Yes, the holiday season and the end of the year allow us to reflect upon the success of the past year and those who have helped us to achieve our goal of providing the best in American postal history in each issue of *La Posta*.

In appreciation of all your support, this issue is jam-packed with what I believe is a record number of articles and authors. The table of contents list ran so long that we had to move the article deadlines onto the masthead.

Enjoy these fine offerings and, on behalf of the entire *La Posta* team, accept our best wishes for the holidays. May you have continued joy, health and success in the New Year.

Peter Martin

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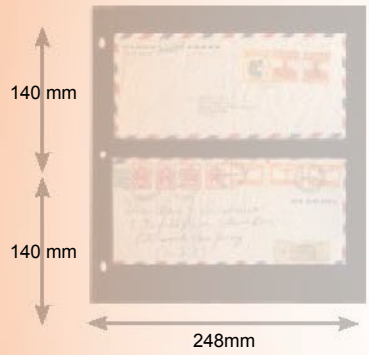

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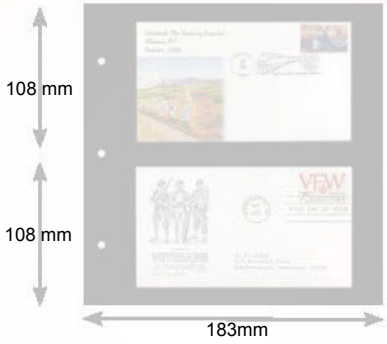

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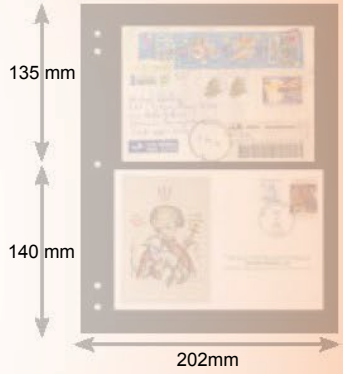

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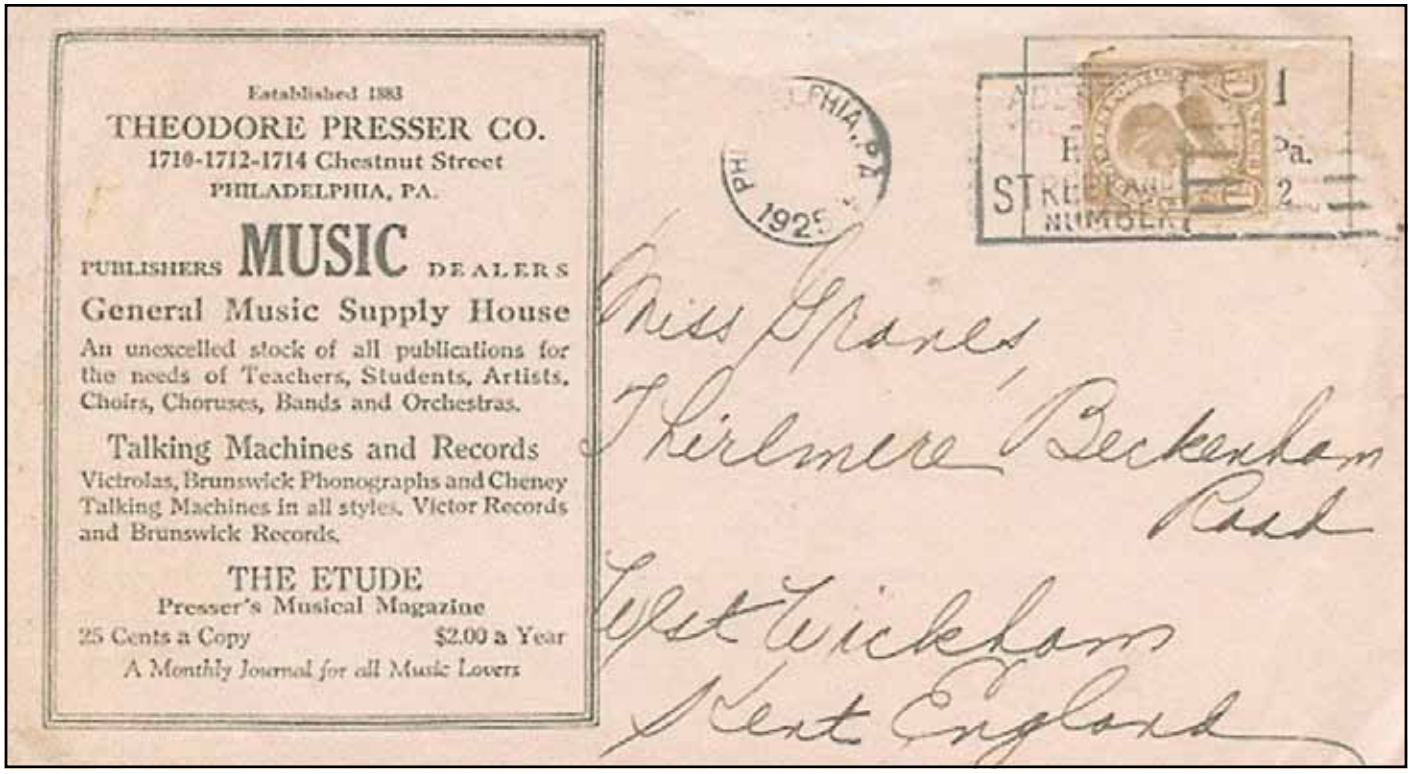


Figure 1: Effective April 15, 1925, the third class matter rate was increased from one cent to one-and-a-half cents, prompting the issue of the one-and-a-half cent Warren G. Harding stamp (Scott 553).

Bisects in the Mails: Illegal But Tolerated

By Richard D. Martorelli

During the 1847 to 1879 period, bisected stamps are seen frequently on United States covers, and many are recognized by the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

After 1879, they were explicitly banned by the United States Post Office Department (POD) because it was too easy to cut apart a stamp that had a cancellation that did not cover the entire stamp, and then use the uncancelled portion as valid postage on a new envelope.

Since then, while there are still examples of on-cover bisected postage stamps found, particularly in the 1900s, these usages are exceptions. This is because it was too difficult to pick out a few envelopes from the millions of pieces of mail.

Postal practice has been to not accept bisected stamp usage when found, but not to spend a quantity of resources to find all examples. In a phrase, bisects in the 20th century were tolerated, but illegal.

The scope of this article is to discuss two exceptions. The first exception is a "public" one. The Postal Service Act of February 28, 1925, increased the U.S. third class (printed matter) letter rate from one cent to one-and-a-half cents effective April 15, 1925. Up to this time, with no fractional rates, there were no fractional postage stamps.

It was only in 1920 that Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes merged their companies to create the Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company. They started using their first postage meter, which had to be approved by the United States Congress because it printed "currency," on company mail, in December 1920.

The first commercial postage meter installations took place in 1922, with early customers including John Wanamaker's department store.

To provide stamps for this new postage rate, therefore, the USPOD issued two stamps. These were the Warren Harding one-and-a-half cent sheet stamp (issued March 19, 1925, with the coil stamp variety issued May 9) and the Nathan Hale half-cent stamp issued April 4, 1925). These values remained in definitive stamp sets until the Prominent Americans of 1965. By this time, postage meters were widespread and, if there were rates needing fractional values, meters were able to provide imprints.

Fractional values on U.S, stamps returned again with the Liberty Bell 6.3 cents coil in 1974. This issue, the first one issued in tenths of a cent, was primarily for use by bulk mailers holding precancel permits.

During the next several years, bulk mail rates were denominated in decimals, as were nonprofit rates and eventually a first class ZIP+4 rate. These were supported by the service-inscribed coil values of the

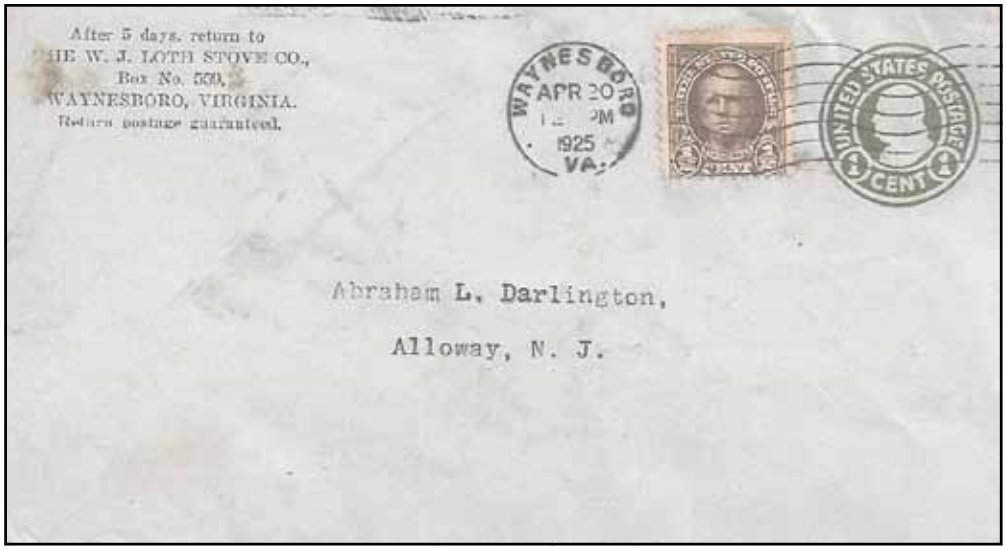


Figure 2: The half-cent Nathan Hale stamp (Scott 551) was issued for use in make-up rates, and the half-cent postage due (Scott J68) was issued to collect increased postage due on third class mail.

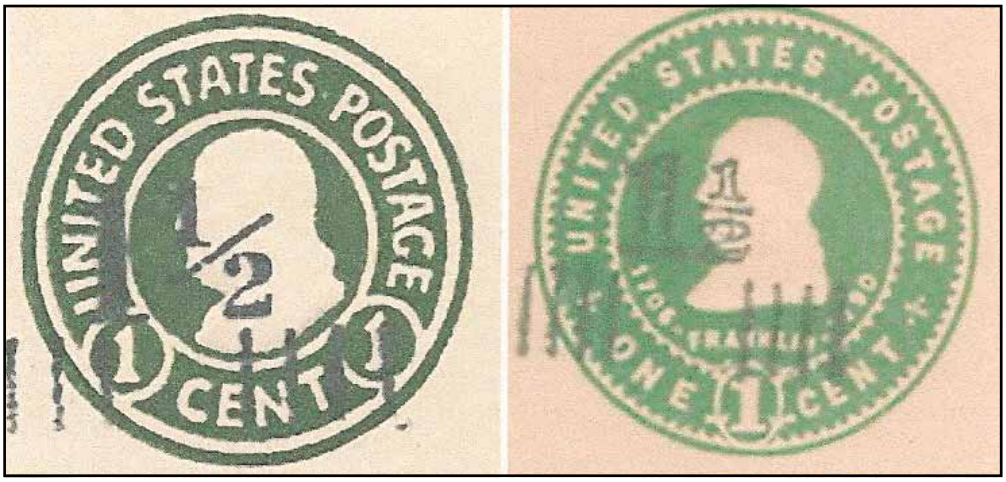


Figure 3: One-cent stamped envelopes from 1887 through 1925 were sucharged with a one-and-a-half cent overprint, creating Scott U486 through Scott U521.

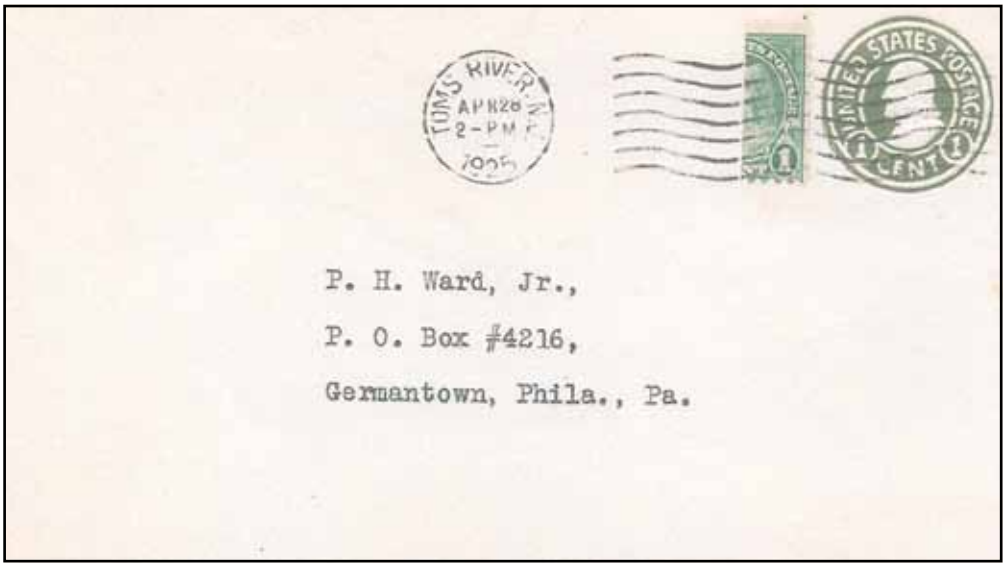
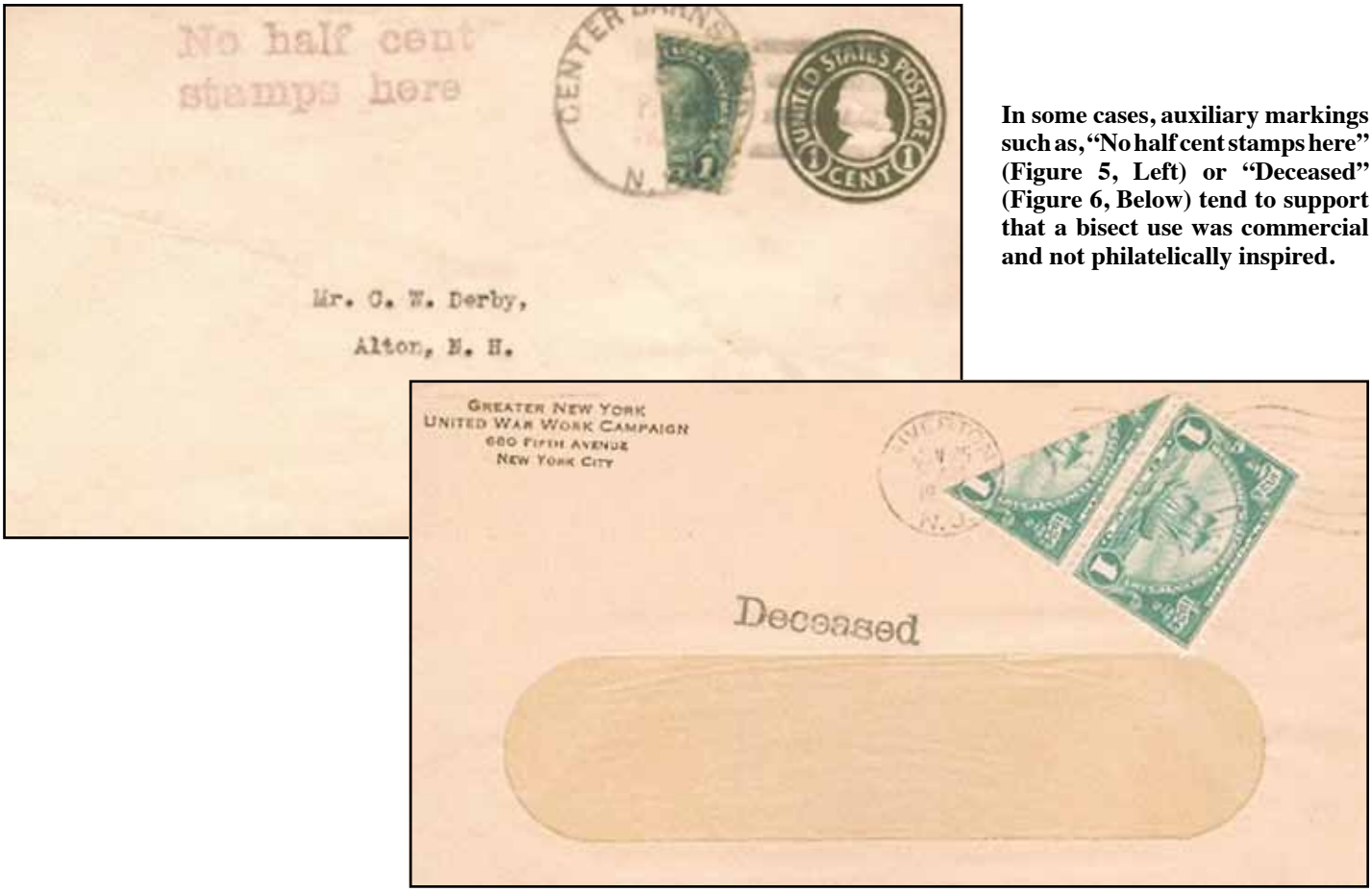


Figure 4: Many philatelists created bisects to document the new third class rate during the April to October 1925 period; postmasters mostly allowed them to pass in the mails.



In some cases, auxiliary markings such as, "No half cent stamps here" (Figure 5, Left) or "Deceased" (Figure 6, Below) tend to support that a bisect use was commercial and not philatelically inspired.

Americana issue in 1976 and the Transportation coils starting in 1981. In addition, the POD anticipated that there would be deficient mailings, and so issued the first half-cent postage due stamp on April 13, 1925, for post office use. This value continued to be included in postage due stamps through the final series issued in June 1959.

Lastly, the POD produced postal stationery envelopes, starting March 19, 1925, with a one-and-a-half cent value.

As in present times, distribution of stamps throughout the Post Office system takes time and was dependent on many factors. Based on subsequent events, it is a reasonable assumption that the half-cent and one-and-a-half cent stamps did not reach all of the post offices in time for the April 15 rate change.

To help meet the need, post offices with International and Universal Model G cancelling machines that had surplus stocks of one-cent Benjamin Franklin envelopes (from 1887 through 1925) were provided with one of two styles of dies to use in the cancelling machines to revalue the envelopes to one-and-a-half cents.

In cases where neither the stamps nor the stationery were available in time, local postmasters either explicitly approved the use of bisected stamps or implicitly tolerated their usage for several months.

Many bisect usages were philatelic creations by, or for, a collector, such as the April 1925 envelope illustrated in Figure 4. There are some usages that may have been legitimate commercial uses, such as the illustrated envelopes with the "No half cent stamps here" (Figure 5) and "Deceased" (Figure 6) auxiliary markings.

The second exception is a "private" one. Here, I refer to the Post Office using bisects of postage due stamps for their collection of deficient postage.

In his Congress Book article, Morrison Ward states, "As with postage stamps, the postmasters sometimes ran out of stamps of certain denominations resulting in the use of bisects." He shows an 1880s and an 1890s example.

In his "Postal History of the United States Large Numeral Postage Dues" article, John Irwin illustrates a short paid triple-weight cover from Louisville, Ky., in 1894 where the deficiency is partially collected by a bisected due stamp.

He states, "The postal regulations regarding postage due bisects is unclear. Although prohibited for prepayment of postage, they are not specifically prohibited for postage due use."

At the Fourth Annual Winton Blount Postal History Symposium, in his presentation titled, "The 1895 Provisional and Bisect Postage Due Stamps: A Result of the Transfer of Stamp Production to the BEP?," Dr. Harry K. Charles Jr. states, "As is well documented

Figure 7: This 1918 use of a biscected two-cent postage due stamp occurred in the midst of the 1918 United States influenza epidemic.

in the case of the Jefferson, Iowa bisects, the bisects were created due to a shortage of one-cent postage-due stamps." Dr. Charles describes the events in October 1895 in Jefferson, Iowa, where 20 bisects were used.

Figure 7 and Figure 8 show two covers that appear to be examples of low-quantity provisional usages dictated by "one-off" circumstances. In the spirit of development of knowledge, I share these items and ask for any information that readers may have to share.

The Figure 7 cover is dated October 2, 1918, and was mailed from an American Red Cross chapter in Seattle to one in Los Angeles.

The envelope was franked with two cents postage, with the sender apparently forgetting that first class postage had been increased in November 1917 to a total of three cents because of a one-cent "war emergency tax," that would be eliminated in June 1919.

The postage deficiency was noted in Los Angeles before delivery, and the cover was marked with straightline handstamp. The very light marking originally read, "Postage due 2 cents," but the post office overwrote the printed "2" with a manuscript "1" for the shortfall. A two-cent precanceled postage due stamp was bisected diagonally from the upper right corner to make a provisional one-cent stamp and was affixed to the envelope.

It is my hypothesis that the need to make the provisional stamp was due to interruptions in normal commercial activities because of the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. At the time this cover was mailed, both cities were in the midst of rising death tolls.

The first flu cases had been reported in Massachusetts only a month before, but the sickness had spread across the country quickly. It was on October 1, 1918, that U.S. Surgeon General Rupert Blue requested the American Red Cross to supply all the needed nursing personnel to combat the pandemic and to furnish emergency supplies when local authorities could not do so promptly enough.

Through its capillary network of divisions and local chapters, the Red Cross provided more than two million dollars in equipment and supplies to hospitals; established kitchens to feed influenza sufferers and houses for convalescence; transported people, bodies, and supplies; and recruited more than 18,000 nurses and volunteers to serve alongside U.S. Public Health Service workers and local health authorities.

The Figure 8 cover is dated October 16, 1925, and was mailed from a farming supply store in Wisconsin to a customer in Cusson, a small town in upstate Minnesota, about 50 miles from the Canadian border.

The one-and-a-half cents postage for this presumed third class item was paid by a permit imprint. This indicates that payment was made at the time of mailing by using an advance deposit account established with the Post Office.

Permit imprint indicia are usually printed directly on envelopes or postcards used in bulk mailings. This system was originally created by the Post Office in 1904, and initially required a mailing of at least 2,000 identical third or fourth class items.

By 1922, the volume requirement was reduced to 300 pieces and had been extended to first class mail, as well as international mail. Starting in 1928, permit imprint mail indicia included a permit number, a city of origin and a postal manual section reference.

While these elements are also included in the indicia for business reply mail, which was stated in 1928, a

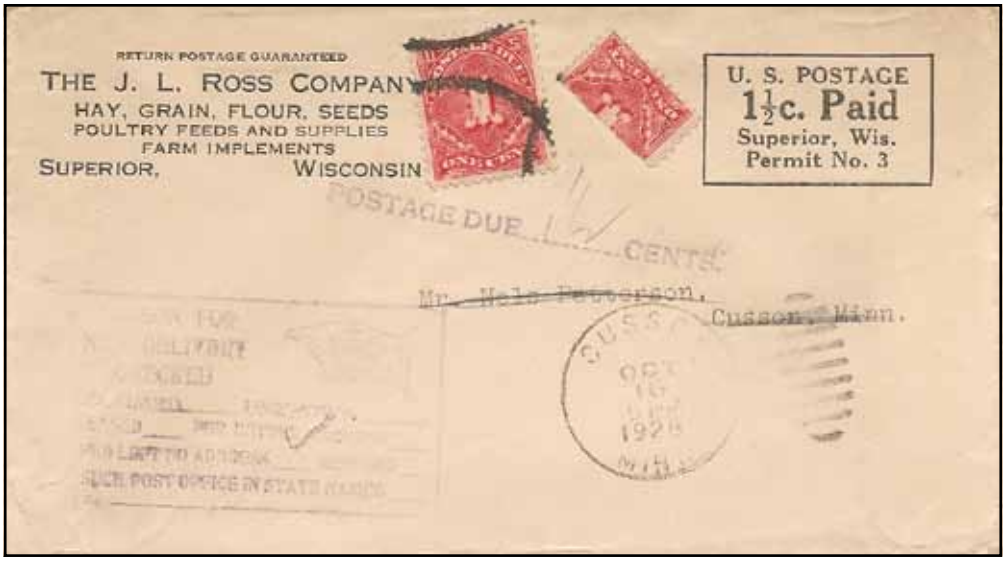


Figure 8: This 1925 use of a biscected one-cent postage due stamp, along with a one-cent postage due stamp, occurred at a very small post office that reasonably had no use for, and did not order, the new half-cent postage due stamp.

difference between the two is that permit imprints, until the 1950s, included a phase of, "x cents postage paid." In the case of this envelope, the addressee had left the area, and provided no forwarding address. Since the sender had noted "return postage guaranteed," the mail piece was sent back to Wisconsin, and the charge of one-and-a-half cents was paid by postage due stamps.

It is my hypothesis that Cusson, Minn., was a very small post office and did not have need for, or receive supplies of, either the half-cent Nathan Hale or the half-cent postage due stamp issued earlier in the year.

There is not much information about the history of Cusson (2014 population = 40). It essentially was built by, and had a station and maintenance yard for, the Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific Railway and its post office was in operation from 1909 to 1929.

The major commercial activities in the area during that time were logging, hunting, and farming. Overall, there was a general sparseness of population in the area at large, and many of the people who lived there were moving out, leading to the closing of the post office four years later.

When this envelope had to be sent back, the postmaster simply cut a one-cent stamp in half to make the required one-and-a-half cents. The postage due stamps themselves were "precanceled" by black ovals while still in sheet form, and the bisected stamp bears just a trace of the black cancel on the right hand perforations at the cutline, consistent with markings on the full stamp.

While it is true that the Post Office had officially disallowed the use of bisected stamps for postage payment in carrying the mail, they appear to have allowed their employees greater latitude in collecting postage due. While not expressly authorized by Washington leadership, there had been, and continues to be, a communication throughout the organization that the local post office needed to do what was necessary to protect the revenues of the United States Post Office Department.

This is evident in the examples of the postmasters of Jefferson and Detroit in 1895, the forwarded through Los Angeles in 1918 and Cusson in 1925, and up through 2014, as evidenced by the carrier pen-cancelled stamps received in my mail today (Figure 9).

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Figure 9: Pen-cancelled stamps used on a large first class envelope received in December 2014.

Nute, G. *Rainy River Country: A Brief History of the Region Bordering Minnesota and Ontario*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004 reprint of 1950 original.

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The Great Pandemic The United States in 1918-1919
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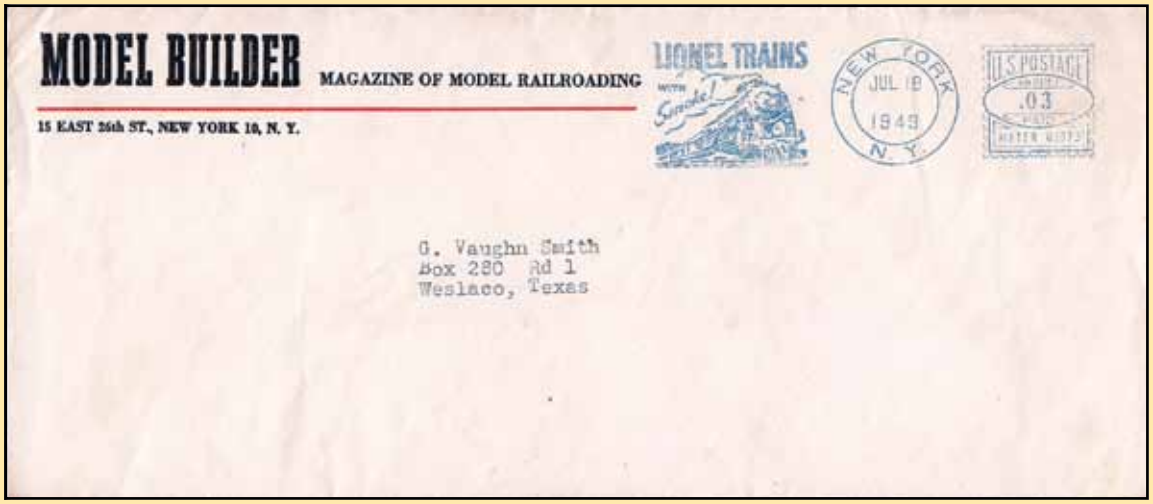
http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/pitney-bowes-inc-history/

(Richard D. Martorelli, Drexel Hill, Pa., is a father and husband who started his collecting with postage dues many decades ago and still enjoys them as part of researching and writing about varied aspects of postal history. He can be contacted by e-mail at: rdmartorelli@gmail.com*)*

A Lionel Trains Meter Slogan



Lionel trains, founded in 1900, were a popular hobby at least through the 1960s. Shown here is a July 1948 New York three-cent meter slogan used by *Model Builder*, the magazine of model railroading. The blue slogan shows a train with the words, 'LIONEL TRAINS with Smoke!'

Figure 1: This 1931 cover is addressed to CSA Founder August Dietz Sr.

Figure 3: UFC handstamp.

An Unusual Great White Fleet Cover to a CSA Icon

By Thomas Richards

The Great White Fleet consisted of more than 100 ships of the United Fruit Company, which was formed in 1899 and over the decades of the early 1900s dominated the trade in tropical fruits (primarily bananas). By the mid-20th century it controlled large parts of various Central and South American countries and had built a vast transportation network.

The United Fruit Company had a large impact on the economies and politics of many Latin American countries. The company even ran the postal service for the government of Guatemala in 1901. Critics believed they had exploitative effects on the politics of the countries and that perceived impact led to the term "Banana Republics" for many of the Latin American countries.

The Figure 1 cover had many features that attracted me. First, the December 11, 1931, cover is to the founder of the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), August Dietz Sr.

Second, it contains a CSA stamp and is tied by a United Fruit Company Steamship Service cancel as a favor cancel. The purser of the SS *Tivives* allowed the CSA stamp to be used. Many of the United Fruit Company's "Great White Fleet" ships were United States Navy vessels declared surplus after the Spanish-American War. Figure 2 shows a photo of the SS *Tivives*. She was one of 13 similar 5,000-ton passenger and refrigerated cargo ships built for the United Fruit Company between 1908 and 1911. She was commissioned as USS *Tivives* (ID #4521) from July 5, 1918, to April 25, 1919. Following more than two decades of further commercial service, she was torpedoed and sunk by German aircraft in the Mediterranean on October 21, 1943.

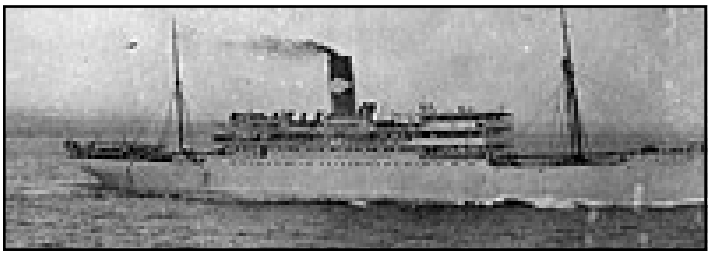


Figure 2: The SS *Tivives*.

Third, of even more interest is that the cover with a CSA stamp entered the U.S. mail system on December 28, 1931, at Philadelphia and was delivered to Dietz in Richmond, Virginia.

Fourth, it was addressed in Spanish to Dietz as the "Vice-Consul Republica del Uruguay" and this makes it more interesting as Dietz was appointed vice consul by Woodrow Wilson during his presidency (1912-20). The United Fruit Company's impact in Latin American countries and Dietz being the vice-consul of Uruguay adds to its interest.

Fifth, as a collector of CSA items and also Christmas seals, the 1931 Christmas seal tied by the United Fruit Company cancel on the reverse (Figure 3) mandated its purchase. To my knowledge no U.S. Christmas seal has been reported tied by a United Fruit Company ship cancel – and, of course, neither has any CSA stamp.

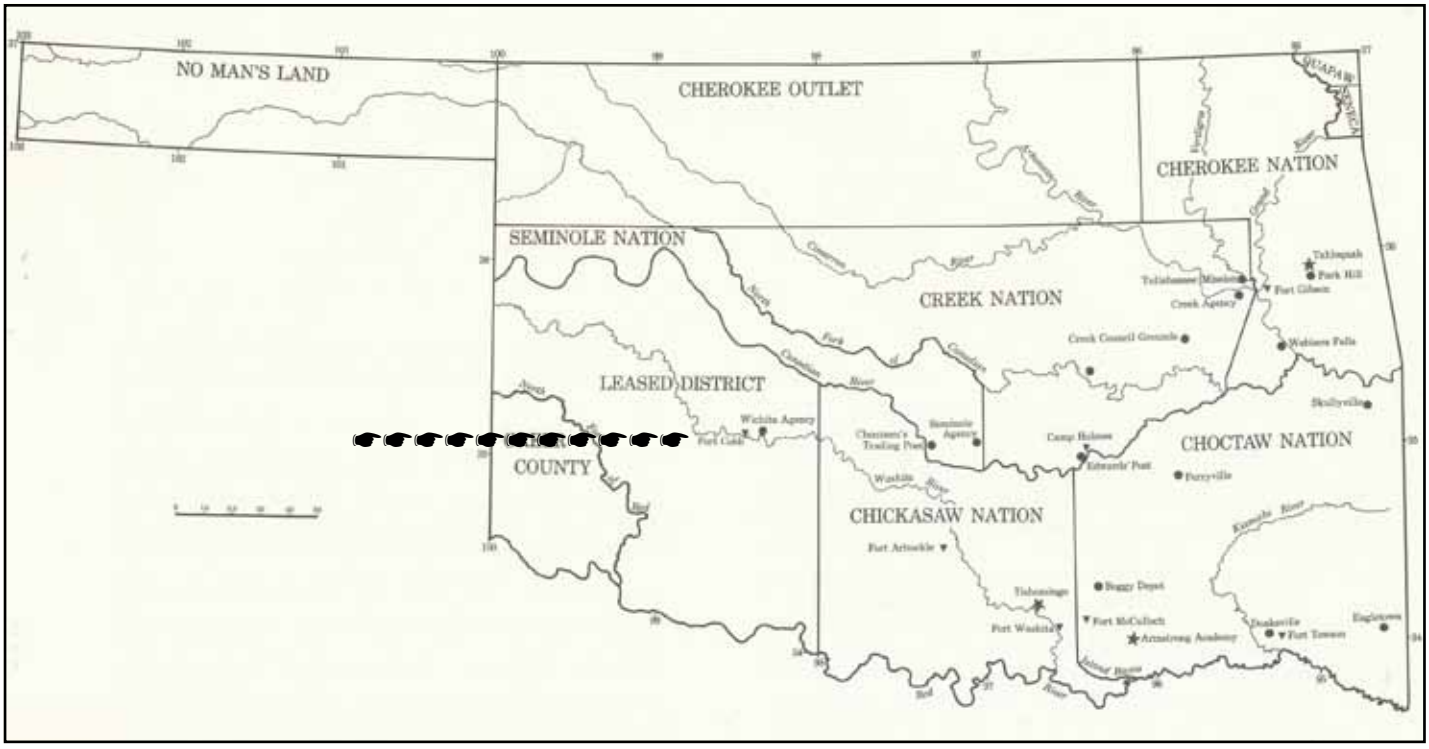


Figure 1: A map showing Fort Cobb and Wichita Agency in the leased district of Western Oklahoma. Sturm was located seven miles north of Fort Cobb.

Sturm, Oklahoma Postal and Other History

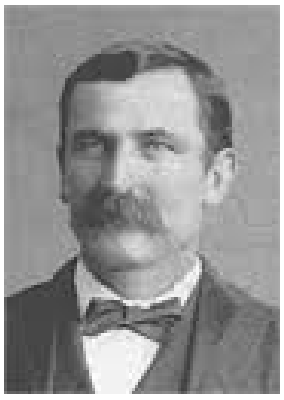
By Joe H. Crosby

The Post Office Years

On February 10, 1902, a post office was established in the town of Sturm, in Caddo County, Oklahoma Territory. The town was named for Dr. Jacob J. Sturm, its first postmaster.[1]

Sturm was located seven miles north of Fort Cobb (Figure 1). Dr. Sturm had arrived in the United States Army's Fort Cobb area when it was first established in 1859 when the Texas Reserve Indian tribes were relocated to the Wichita Agency nearby.

Dr. Sturm died on May 20, 1907, nearly five months before Oklahoma became a state. However the Sturm Post Office was not discontinued until August 31, 1920, when the mail was moved to the town of Fort Cobb. The Sturm town site is now inundated by waters of the Fort Cobb Reservoir.



Dr. Jacob J. Sturm (1825-1907)

The Confederate Wichita Agency Years

This story really begins with a Confederate Civil War letter sent from the Wichita Agency in Indian Territory by Dr. J.J. Sturm, the agency's employee who operated the commissary.

There was no Confederate post office even remotely close to the Wichita Agency in 1865 so the letter was hand carried, probably all the way to Sherman, Texas. The letter's cover is no longer present. It was Sturm's job to distribute the rations of provisions to the Reserve Indians.

Dr. Strmm had come to the Wichita Agency near Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, with the Texas bands in the autumn of 1859. His wife was a member of the Anadarko tribe.

He had been a United States Government Agency employee at the Lower Brazos Agency near Fort Belknap, Texas, for several years before his move to Indian Territory.

Describing Sturm, Gen. R.A. Sneed said, "He was distinguished for his liberality and generosity in the way he treated the Indians. He was personally acquainted with all of them and was very popular and influential among them."[2]

The area passed into Confederate hands on May 5, 1861, immediately after Fort Cobb was abandoned by Federal troops. Federal Indian Agent Matthew Leeper remained in charge of the Wichita Agency under the Indian Department of the Confederate States with Dr. Sturm in charge of the commissary.

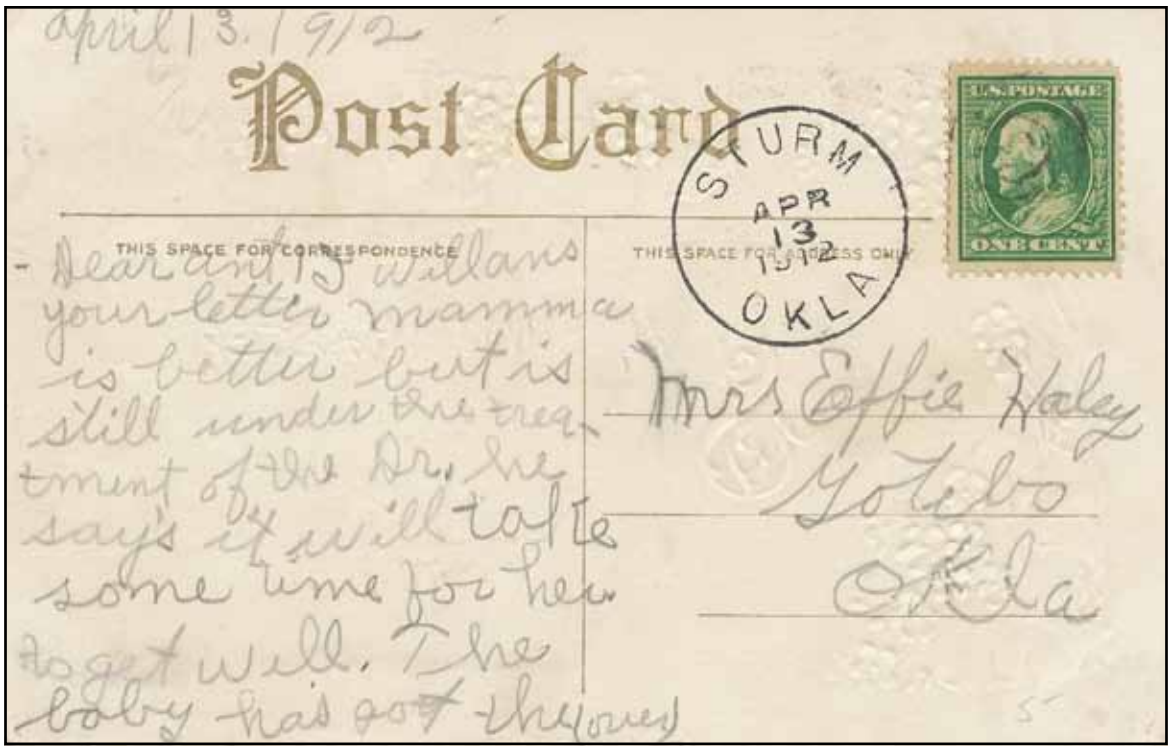


Figure 2: A Sturm, Oklahoma, April 13, 1912, circular date stamp with a light three-ring target killer on a one-cent 1910 Franklin issue that paid the postcard rate to Gotebo, Oklahoma.

About three months later, CSA Gen. Albert Pike negotiated the formal Treaty of August 12, 1861, (ratified December 31, 1861) between the Confederate States of America and the Comanche, Wichita, Caddo, Waco, Tonkawa, Kichai, Shawnee and Delaware (collectively referred to as the Reserve Indians).

Sturm signed as a witness to the treaty with the Comanches of the Prairies and Staked Plain.

In Article XIV, the CSA agreed to provide rations patterned after what had been provided by the United States. These included sugar, coffee, salt, soap, vinegar and, specifically, 20 cows and calves for every 50 persons in each tribe or band and one bull for every 40 cows and calves, plus 250 stock hogs to the tribes combined to be divided, "as the agent shall determine."

The Sturm letter, transcribed here, is dated January 25, 1865, and was sent to Col. Charles B. Johnson in Sherman, Texas. Johnson was a civilian contractor with the Confederate States Army for provisioning Reserve Indians and troops in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

Johnson, in partnership with Marshall Grimes, was engaged in trade in the Indian Territory prior to the war and continued his business operations once the area passed into Confederate hands.

Col. C.[harles] B. Johnson
Contractor
Sherman, Texas
Shoal Creek C N.
Jan 25th 1865

Dear Sir

I have now waited ten days beyond the time that Mr. [John] Shirley [who raised cattle with a partner named Bunger near Pauls Valley] was due here, and he has not come. The beeves I have bought from the 18th Nov. up to this date has cost $987.00 dollars. It has cost some few dollars to get them here and also to build a beef pen. I am still waiting for Mr. Shirley to come when I will make out the certificate of issues as you requested me to make them out for you up to the time of his arrival. I thought it best to wait until he comes. I issued sugar to the Indians, as was done at Fort Cobb until I rec'd your letter when I reduced it to six lbs per hundred rations. When you write to me please let me know the amount of salt allowed. I got three sacks salt from [Ft.] Arbuckle and have issued a little over two sacks. I have to pay for beeves on delivery & if Mr. Shirley does not come up immediately please send me enough money to last for some time. Your funds are safe in my hands and every pound of rations sent. And dollars sent to my care shall be properly accounted for. I did not weigh the flour or sugar. The scales were not in order. One sack sugar was nearly half gone & the sack from when it arrived. There are now here one hundred & eighty five Indians here including 15 Comanches. Gabriel has not come yet and I have heard nothing of him. He is a very slow ox driver. I have not heard a word from the Caddo's since Bunger came down from Fort Cobb. The Chickasaw soldiers were to go after them but failed to do so. They may or may not

be in soon. If the Chickasaws had gone after them they would have been here before now.

If you can accommodate me with the loan of one hundred & fifty dollars until I get money from General [Douglas H.] Cooper [commanding officer in Indian Territory, C.S.A.] or Major [Elias M. Rector, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, C.S.A.] you will oblige me. For any favor I may have done you heretofore in full more than compensated by the kindness you have manifested, and anything I can do for you in future shall be willingly done.

Truly yours,
J. [acob] J. Sturm

N.B. Please send me a few envelopes by Mr. Bunger.
Sturm

(Docketing "from Sturm about beef cattle and money, January 25")

The Ransom of Bianca Babb—1867

After the Civil War, Dr. Jacob J. Sturm would go on to live a very interesting life. In 1867, he ransomed Bianca Babb, a white girl kidnapped by Comanches. That story goes:

On September 14, 1866, a raiding party of Nokoni ("Wanderers," a tribal division) Comanches under Persummy came upon the John Babb cabin near present Chico, Wise County, Texas. John and eldest son Hernando Cortez ("Court") Babb had gone to Arkansas to trade livestock.

The Indians killed his wife Isabel and seized Bianca, her brother Theodore Adolphus ("Dot") Babb, age fourteen, and a young woman houseguest named Sarah Jane Luster (identified as Lizzie Roberts or Sarah J. Roberts in contemporaneous reports). Infant sister Margie Babb was left unharmed.

The prisoners endured a harrowing journey on horseback to the Comanche camps deep in Indian Territory (present western Oklahoma). Luster soon escaped with Dot's aid and eventually made her way to freedom.

When their captors prepared to execute Dot for his role in the escape, he and Bianca defied the Indians, earning their respect and forestalling further harm. Bianca was then separated from her brother.

Kerno, the warrior who had seized Bianca and thus owned her, gave her to his sister Tekwashana, a childless widow, as a foster daughter. Bianca lived the next seven months as a Comanche child, well treated and content. Tekwashana taught her to make camp and swim, pierced her ears, and darkened her blond hair with tallow and charcoal. Their band moved every three or four weeks, ranging over the Oklahoma-Texas panhandle region.

John Babb joined several noted frontiersmen and sympathetic Indians and searched for his children.

Jacob J. Sturm, a civilian agent then out of Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, found Bianca in her camp around April 1867, ransomed her for $333, and delivered her to the post commander. Unlike many other captives, she returned willingly to her family. Dot was ransomed two months later.

John took Bianca to live in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, but in 1881 she returned to Texas. On June 25, 1882, she married Jefferson Davis Bell, an abstractor of land titles. The couple raised a family while living at one time or another in the North Texas towns of Henrietta, Denton, and Greenville, and for periods in California and New Mexico. Babb attributed her wanderlust to her time among the nomadic Indians.

From 1897 to 1900 the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache reservation in present southwestern Oklahoma was divided into individual landholdings under the Jerome Agreement.

Because tribal adoptees were eligible for allotments, Bianca Babb filed to obtain one. She also claimed restitution for her mother's murder and the family's property losses in the fateful raid. She visited the reservation only to find that her adoptive mother had died, but she found other old Comanche friends who advocated on her behalf. Nevertheless, the intertribal council voted to deny her request.[3]

Quanah Parker Surrenders to Dr. J.J. Sturm

During the 1870s, Quanah Parker and his Comanche band of Quahadi warriors conducted raids into Texas that resulted in the Great Plains War.

Army Col. Ronald S. Mackenzie sent Jacob J. Sturm, a physician and the Fort Sill post interpreter, to solicit the Quahadi surrender. Sturm found Quanah Parker, whom he called, "a young man of much influence with his people," and pleaded his case.

In the words of Jacob Sturm, Quanah rode to a mesa, where he saw a wolf come toward him, howl and trot away to the northeast. Overhead, an eagle "glided lazily and then whipped his wings in the direction of Fort Sill."

This was a sign, Quanah thought, and on June 2, 1875, he and his band surrendered at Fort Sill in present-day Oklahoma.[4]

As part of the surrender, Parker agreed to stay on the reservation at Fort Sill, Indian Territory.

The Rest of the Story

By the time Dr. Jacob J. Sturm became the postmaster in a tiny little western Oklahoma Territory town, he had lived longer among the Indians in that area than any other white man.

His life had been filled with stories, tales he became

well known for telling to the Fort Cobb area residents until his death in 1907.[5]

Footnotes

1 Shirk, George H., *Oklahoma Place Names*, Norman, Okla., University of Oklahoma Press 1974; Helbock, in *Oklahoma Post Offices,* lists the establishment date as February 18, 1902. A check of the *Daily Bulletins of Orders Affecting the Postal Servic*e for March 12, 1902, shows the effective date to be as listed by Shirk, February 10, 1902.

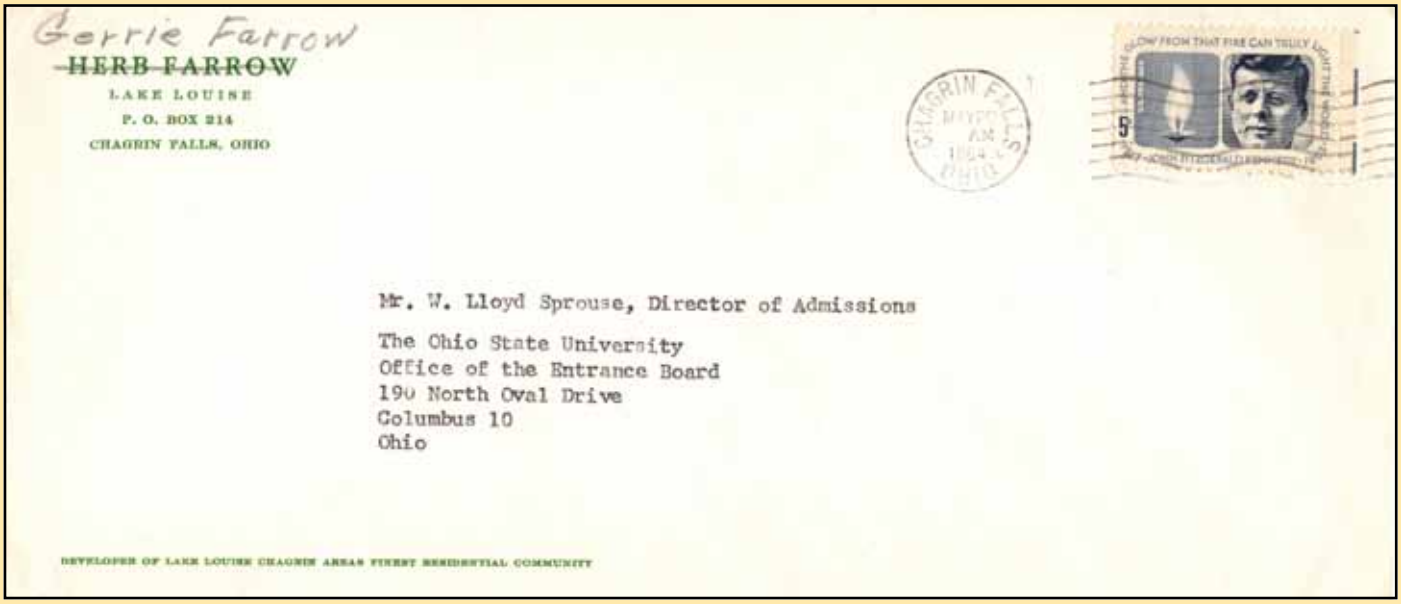
2 Sneed, Gen. R.A., "The Reminiscences of An Indian Trader," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, June 1936, Vol. 14, No. 2, p. 145.

3 *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, July 2003-April 2004, Vol. 107; See also: Zesch, Scott, *The Captured*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004, pp. 58-60.

4 J.J. Sturm, *Journal*, *S248/2 Department of Mo 1875, RG 393, NA*.

5 Dr. J.J. Sturm Dies, *http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page= gr&GRid=72550145*

(Joe H. Crosby is president of the Oklahoma City Stamp Club and a frequent author of Oklahoma and Indian Territory postal history articles. He can be contacted by e-mail at: joecrosby@cox.net*)*



A Five-Cent Kennedy Stamp Commercially Used on the First Day

By Henry Scheuer

The college application process is one of those events that many of us experience along the way to adulthood. Nowadays high school students applying for admission access the Internet for their communications with admissions offices as they choose, and are chosen, by the college or university that they hope will become their alma mater. Of course it was not always so.

Yes, many of us remember this process in the snail mail only days. Especially memorable was the Admission Office letter that was either "fat," usually an indication of being accepted, or a "thin" letter, an indication of a short letter of rejection.

The illustrated cover is mailed from a high school applicant to The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The five-cent John F. Kennedy stamp was affixed to the envelope and received a May 29, 1964, postmark in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, the first day of issue for the stamp. Gerald Farrow, sometimes called Gerrie by his mother was, as it turned out, a successful applicant for admission.

The father in the family, Herb, was a real estate developer in Ohio and used an envelope that advertised one of his housing construction undertakings.

The wording "Developer of Lake Louise Chagrin Falls Areas Finest Residential Community," references a 60-home residential subdivision located in South Russell, east southeast of Cleveland.

Lake Louise was named after the similar-named lake in Alberta, Canada. Herb Farrow's real estate business was located in nearby Chagrin Falls, where son Gerrie went to high school and the family lived.

Today, Gerald Farrow has worked for more than 20 years in the Sheriff's Department in Geauga County, Ohio.

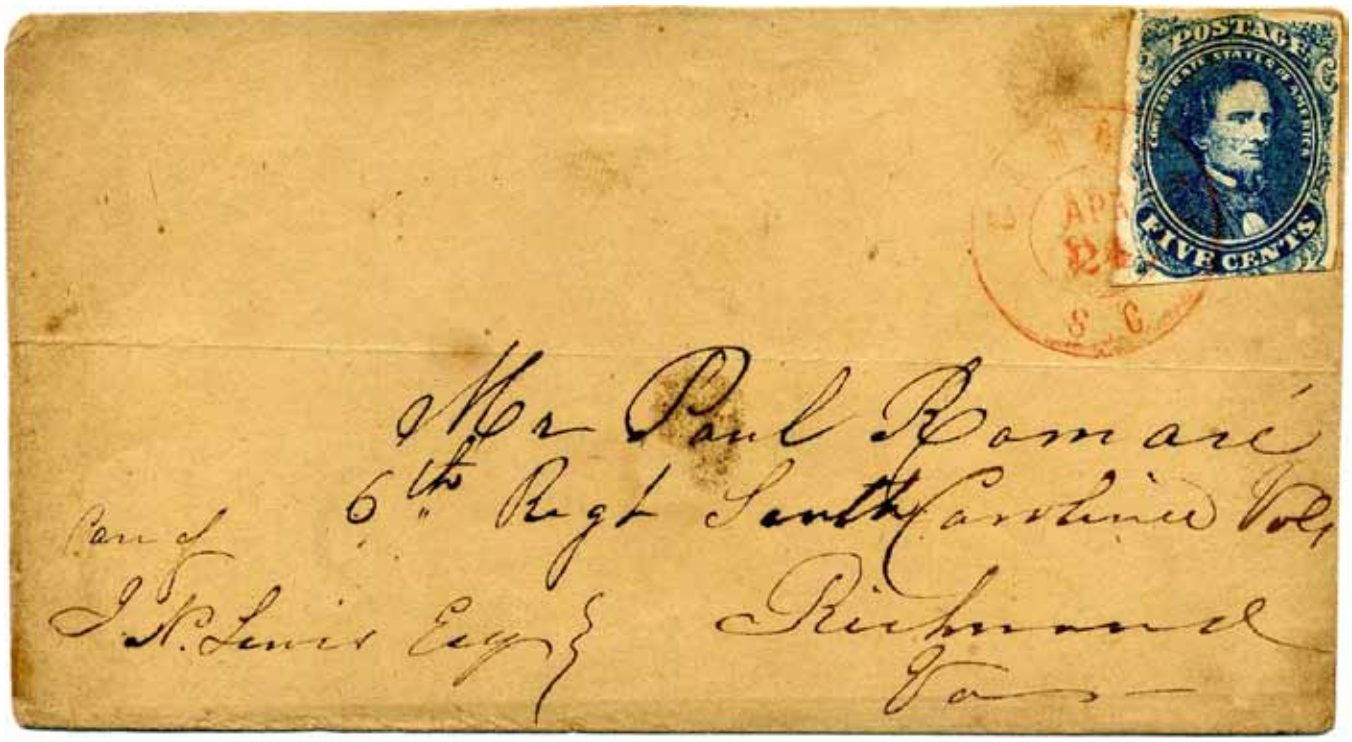


Figure 1: A Confederate cover franked with a five-cent blue lithographed issue tied with a red double-circle postmark from Camden, South Carolina. It is addressed to Swedish-born Paul Romaré.

Paul Romaré: A Swedish Mariner Fights for the Confederacy and Leaves an African-American Legacy

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

Thousands of immigrants and mercenaries served in the Confederate Army, which had an Irish Brigade, a Polish Legion and several German and Mexican divisions. Another notable volunteer division was formed in Louisiana from various European countries; it was under the command of French Maj. Gen. Camille Armand Jules Marie, Prince de Polignac.

Americans of Scandinavian descent during the Civil War period mainly lived in the North, thus the majority of them served in the Union army. Fiercely anti-slavery, for the most part, the freedom-loving Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes could not bring themselves to support the Confederate cause.

According to *civilwarhome.com*, extensive genealogical research has uncovered only about 1,000 Scandinavian-Americans living in states that joined the Confederacy and only 19 soldiers can be found who claimed Scandinavian descent among the Southern forces.

There were many more Scandinavians among Union forces, from a far larger population. Census figures for the decade between 1850 and 1860 show a jump of nearly 55,000 Americans claiming to have been born in Scandinavia.

It would be unusual for Scandinavians not to be attracted to the sea, given their Viking ancestry, and one of Scandinavia's most famous immigrant sons was John Ericsson, a Swede. He was the inventor of modified screw propeller that was critical to naval maneuvering and he also designed the Union ironclad *Monitor*. Admiral John Adolph Dahlgren of the United States Navy was also the son of Swedish immigrants, and went on to fame as the inventor of the "Dahlgren Gun."

One of the exceptions to the rule was Paul Romaré (pronounced ROAM-a-ree), born in Torekov, Sweden in 1828. His father was a sea captain and Romaré's first service as a sailor was on board a ship to the United States. He also sailed to Mexico, the West Indies and ports along the eastern United States coast.

After taking ill in 1850, he settled in Chester, South Carolina, working as a bank clerk. When the

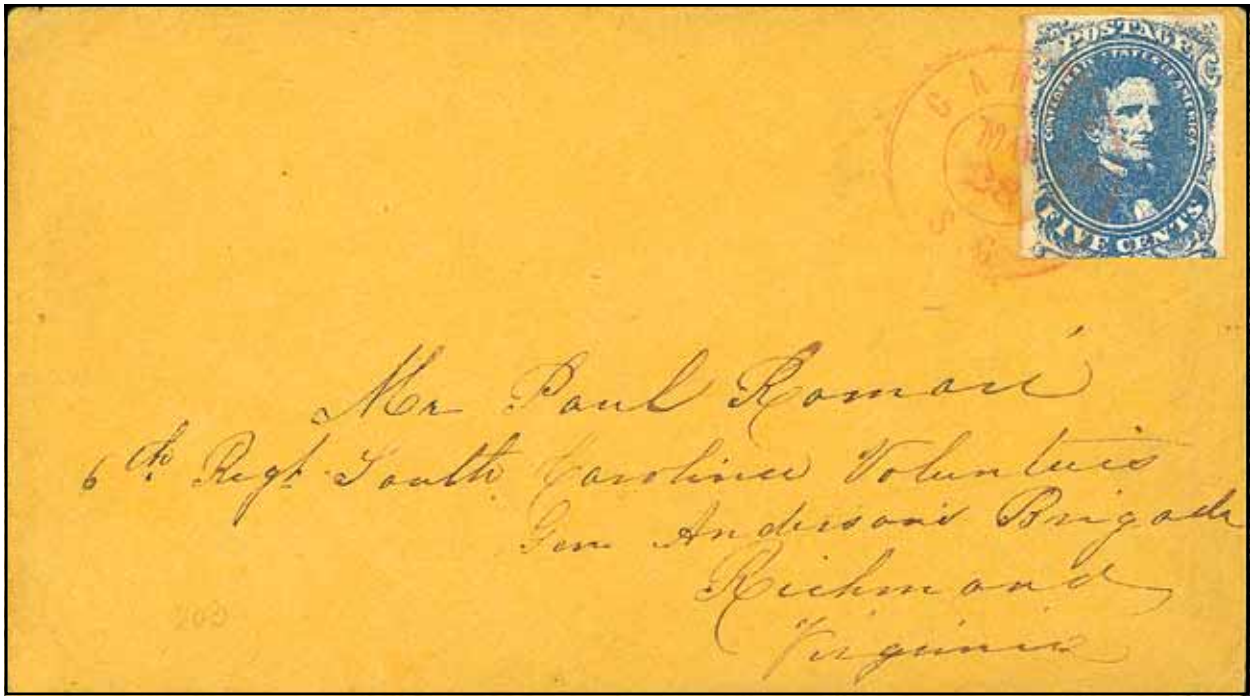


Figure 2: A similar cover from the same Figure 1 correspondence. (*Courtesy Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions)*


PAUL ROMARE,
Prominent Citizen of Atlanta, Whose Serious Condition Is a Cause of Alarm to His Many Friends.

Figure 3: Paul Romaré as portrayed in a photo that accompanied the article "Seriously Ill is Paul Romaré," which appeared in the February 8, 1904, *Atlanta Constitution*.

Civil War started, he volunteered for the Confederate "Chester Blues" and served in Charleston, experiencing the beginning of the war at Fort Sumter where the first shots of the war were fired.

Later, his company was transferred to the Sixth South Carolina Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to quarter master sergeant and fought in the Army of Northern Virginia until November 1863. He then transferred to the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General's Office in Richmond, Virginia, where he remained until the end of the war.[1]

The covers in Figures 1 and 2 are addressed to: "Mr. Paul Romaré, 6th Regt. South Carolina Volunteers, Gen. Anderson's Brigade, Richmond, Virginia."

The photo in Figure 3 is one of Romaré that accompanied the article "Seriously Ill is Paul Romaré," which appeared on page nine of the February 8, 1904, *Atlanta Constitution*. He died that same day in Atlanta.

After the war, he was president of the Atlanta National Bank and was widely respected, becoming a prominent citizen of that city.

One of the most interesting things I found out about Paul Romaré, however, was that he fathered P. Fred Romaré with an African-American woman named Esther.

According to his 1920 passport application and the 1930 United States census,[2] Fred was born December 8, 1858, although his Missouri death certificate states he was born in 1860. These sorts of contradictions are common in genealogical research. My vote would be for the former. His birth is also noted as 1858 on his gravestone. Presumably, the "P" before "Fred" stood

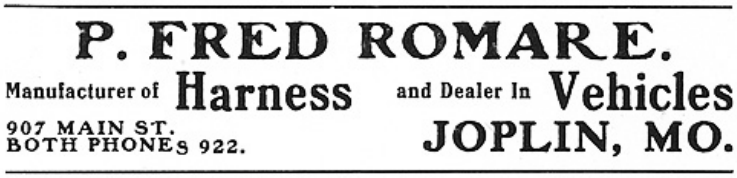


Figure 4: A contemporary ad listing for P. Fred Romaré, known as the "harness king" of Joplin, Missouri. Fred was the mulatto son of Swedish-born Paul Romaré.

for Paul, although that is speculation on my part, as I found no first name on any records.

When the war ended and Paul Romaré moved to Atlanta, he married a white woman and left his mulatto son, Fred, behind in South Carolina.

Between 1880 and 1910, P. Fred Romaré and his wife Rosa moved from South Carolina to Joplin, Missouri. As a youth, he worked as a carriage maker, and he continued that trade in Joplin.

Fred Romaré became a prominent member of the African-American community there, well known for his wide selection of carriages, buggies, and harnesses.

Figure 4 shows a contemporary advertisement listing for his company. He housed his business in a handsome two-story brick building and employed three white men as harness makers.[3]

African-American artist Romaré Bearden (1911-1988) was named after P. Fred Romaré, who was a friend of his great-grandparents.

Bearden's early work focused on unity and cooperation within the African-American community.

After a period during the 1950s when he painted more abstractly, this theme reemerged in his collage works of the 1960s, when Bearden became a founding member of the Harlem-based art group known as The Spiral, formed to discuss the responsibility of the African-American artist in the struggle for civil rights.

It is fascinating that two influential African-Americans can trace back to Swedish immigrant Paul Romaré. There is a story behind every cover, if you look hard enough.

Endnotes

1 Historic Joplin, More on the Early Joplin Black Community, *http://www.historicjoplin.org/?tag=paul-romare,* Accessed October 2014.

2 U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Affiliate Publication Number: T626, Affiliate Film Number: 1205, GS Film number 2340940, Digital Folder number 004660797, Image number 00546, Accessed October 2014.

3 Historic Joplin, More on the Early Joplin Black Community, *http://www.historicjoplin.org/?tag=paul-romare,* Accessed October 2014.

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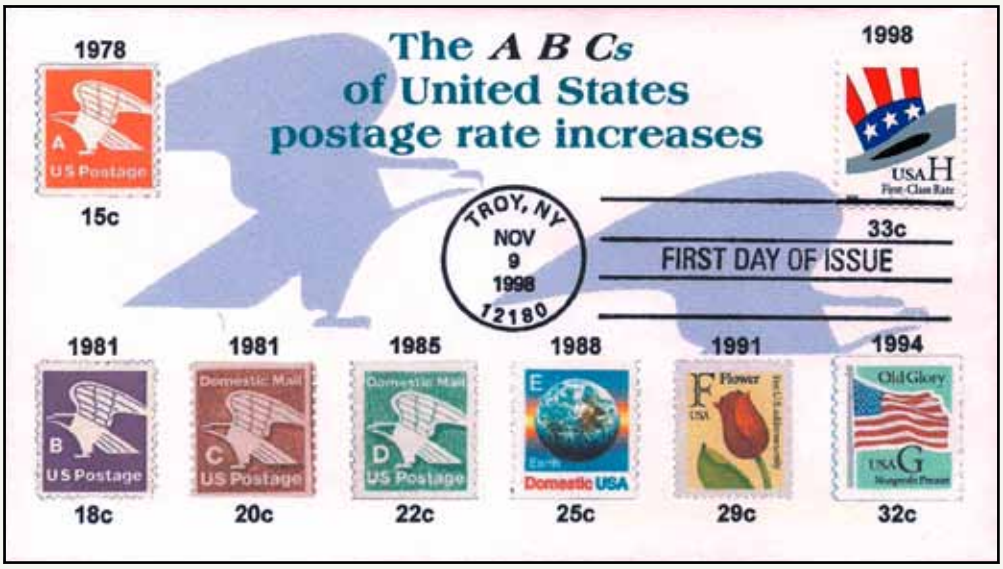


The ABCs of U.S. Postage Rate Increases

By Peter Martin

If, like most collectors, you have trouble remembering the years and rates of twentieth century U.S. Postal Service rate increases, get a copy of this RRAGS first day cachet for the 1998 Uncle Sam's Hat 33-cent rate increase. It shows all the alphabetical rate-change stamps, with year and rate, beginning with the 1978 Postal Eagle A stamp.

Figure 1: This cut square from a March 1909 cover to France features a United States auxiliary marking applied in New York City that refers to a strike by French Post Office officials.

The French Postal Strike of 1909

Returning to the theme of my Third Quarter, 2013 *La Posta* column, "One Strike and You're Stuck at Home: The Effects of Postal Strikes and Civil Unrest Abroad," I have a new earliest documented usage to report. Unfortunately, it is not a full cover, but I'll take what I can get!

The cut square in Figure 1 is from a letter sent from Hot Springs, Arkansas, to France, with a cancellation date of March 8, 1909. When it actually got there is not known, but it was evidently held in New York (the usual foreign mail handling point for mail destined to Europe). The handstamp tells us why: "DELIVERY DELAYED Owing strike French P.O. Officials."

This was surprising to me as the idea that government workers would strike in a European country at this time did not seem credible to me.

But the Internet comes to the rescue again. A *New York Times* article from the March 28, 1909, edition, datelined "Paris, March 27," describes the strike of the prior two weeks as, "a duel between the regularly appointed officials of the Government and the labor union leaders."

The strike was over matters of promotions, pay, and hours of work. But the proximate objective was the firing of M. Simyan, the under secretary of Posts and Telegraphs, who was obstructing the addressing of the issues.

The result of the strike, as described by *The Times*: "The labor union leaders have won. They have won completely, humiliating the Government at every point and demonstrating that the regular officials are powerless against them….

"The French postal strike of March 1909 will go down in history as the most impressive revelation ever given to Europe of the solidarity of labor and the power of labor leaders.

"The original and only demand of the strikers was the head of M. Simyan….(T)hey have got (it), though his formal decapitation will not take place for a few days…."

In fact, M. Simyan was not forced out of office fast enough for the strikers. Though some of their detailed grievances were addressed, in May 1909, the postal workers union leaders again called for a strike. This time there was much less public support for a strike, because the government successfully portrayed the union call as a struggle between the government's ability to provide services and the pretentions of labor unions to dictate to the state.

The May strike effort was ignored in most parts of France, and fizzled out as the government began to dismiss strikers from their post office jobs.

New York 'Stamps Removed' and 'Stamps Detached' Markings

Because foreign mail destined to the United States, and United States mail going to Europe, the Middle East and Africa transited New York City in the late 1800s and early 1900s, New York foreign mail sections developed auxiliary markings that are found on mail originating abroad and from all over the United States.

A class of these excuses the fact that stamps are missing from the envelope.

Most say, "Postage stamp removed (or "detached") before receipt…."

They are easily split into incoming letters from other countries and outgoing letters from the United States being sent abroad.

Figure 2: All incoming mail from abroad that seemed to be missing stamps was marked in this fashion with a boxed message saying that the stamps had come off before receipt. However in this case, there had never been a stamp on this 1915 cover.

Figure 3: This mourning cover originating in Germany was identified as having been sent in 1934. Note that it has the same kind of handstamp as was used on the covers in Figures 2, 4 and 5.

Despite being very difficult to find, I have four examples of incoming covers, all of which have some form of the boxed handstamp seen in Figures 2 through 5. One of these, in Figure 2, is, I believe, improperly marked as having the stamps "removed," as there were never any stamps on the envelope. It clearly indicates in the upper right corner that it is Prisoner of War mail. There is no date discernible on the envelope, but there is a letter inside, in German, dated October 14, 1915.

The Figure 3 mourning cover likewise has no date, and no letter. But it was an Internet purchase, described as: "Germany 1934 stampless mourning cover, railway cancels." How the seller determined that the date was 1934, I don't know. That part of the cancel is missing as it left the cover with the stamp that is gone.

The Figure 2 and Figure 3 covers have identical handstamps, except for the applying office noted. Figure 2 is Penn Terminal Station, while Figure 3 is Hudson Terminal Station.

In Figure 4 we have an incoming cover from 1919 with the same wording, but marked at the General Post Office, New York foreign section.

Finally, in Figure 5, there is another Hudson Terminal marking on a cover with no mailing or

Figure 4: 1919 is the date of cancellation on this cover front originating in Spain. The boxed message was placed by New York's Main Post Office foreign section.

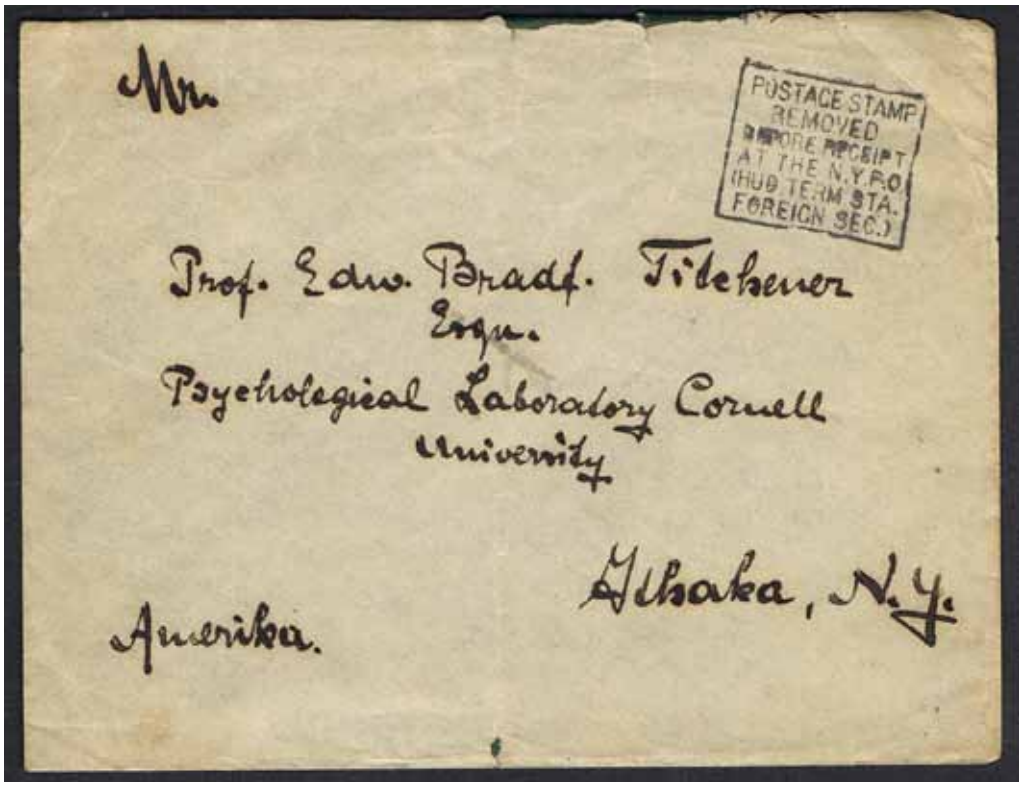


Figure 5: Totally undated by a cancellation or an enclosed letter, this cover has a smaller version of the "Postage Stamp Removed" message handstamp.

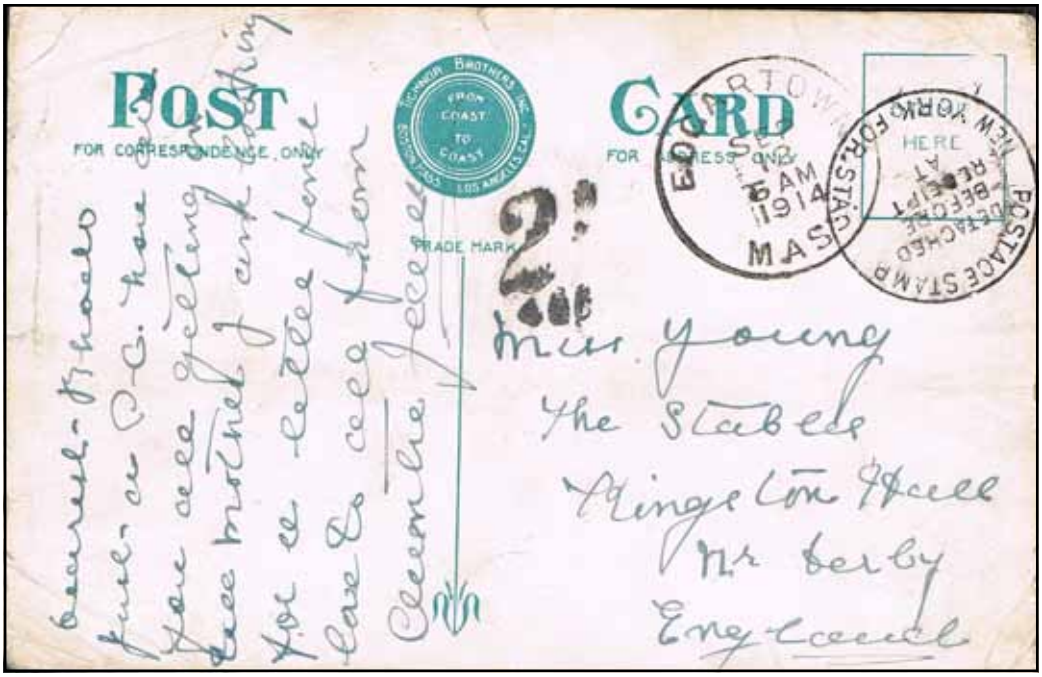


Figure 6: Unlike the boxed messages on incoming covers, outgoing mail where the stamp had gone missing was handstamped with a circled message. The next installment of this column will review what is known about the outgoing handstamps.

receiving cancel and no letter to provide a clue about the date. The print style is slightly different from the Figure 3 Hudson Terminal marking.

So, in sum, what do we have?

1. All four of my incoming covers have boxed handstamps with identical wording, except for the station name. All nine of my outgoing covers, which I will report on in the next issue, have circular markings, an example of which is shown in Figure 6.

2. They date from 1915 to possibly 1934.

3. Three Foreign Section locations are known so far.

4. All four boxed handstamps differ in size and print style.

But, we have a few question marks that are unresolved:

- When did use of these markings begin?
- How long did they last?
- Did other stations use the marking?

Other covers in readers' collections can undoubtedly move us closer to answers.

If you can help, please contact me at: John Hotchner, POB 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or by e-mail at: *jmhstamp@verizon.net*.

In the next installment of this column, I will look at the versions of these marks used on outgoing covers, and a couple of other related New York "stamps missing" examples.

A 1942 Censor Form

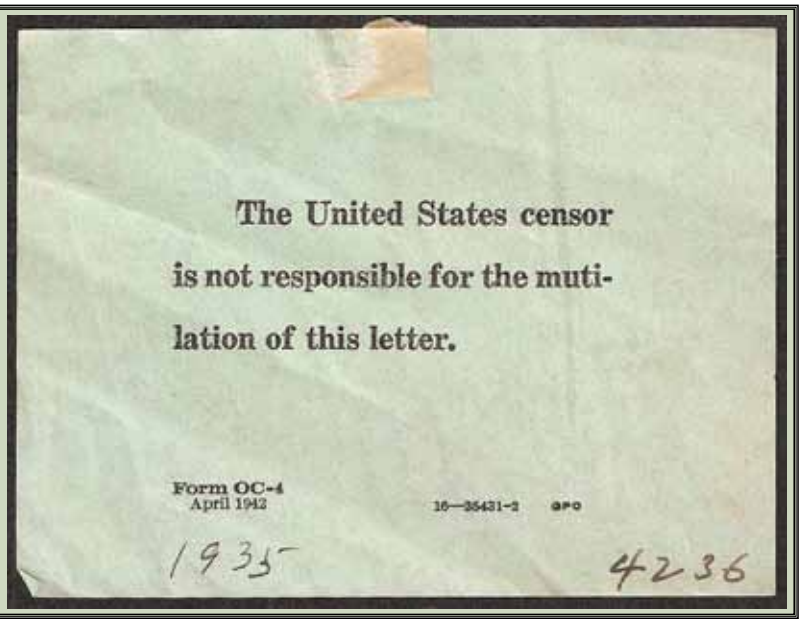
By Peter Martin

At right is a pale-green United States censor form from April 1942. Printed by the Government Printing Office, Form OC-4 was inserted into damaged mail.

The OC probably stands for the Office of Censorship that existed from December 1941 to November 1945.

The printed text reads, 'The United States censor is not responsible for the mutilation of this letter."

The form was produced just five months after the attack on Pearl Harbor and is a seldom-seen piece of World War II postal history.



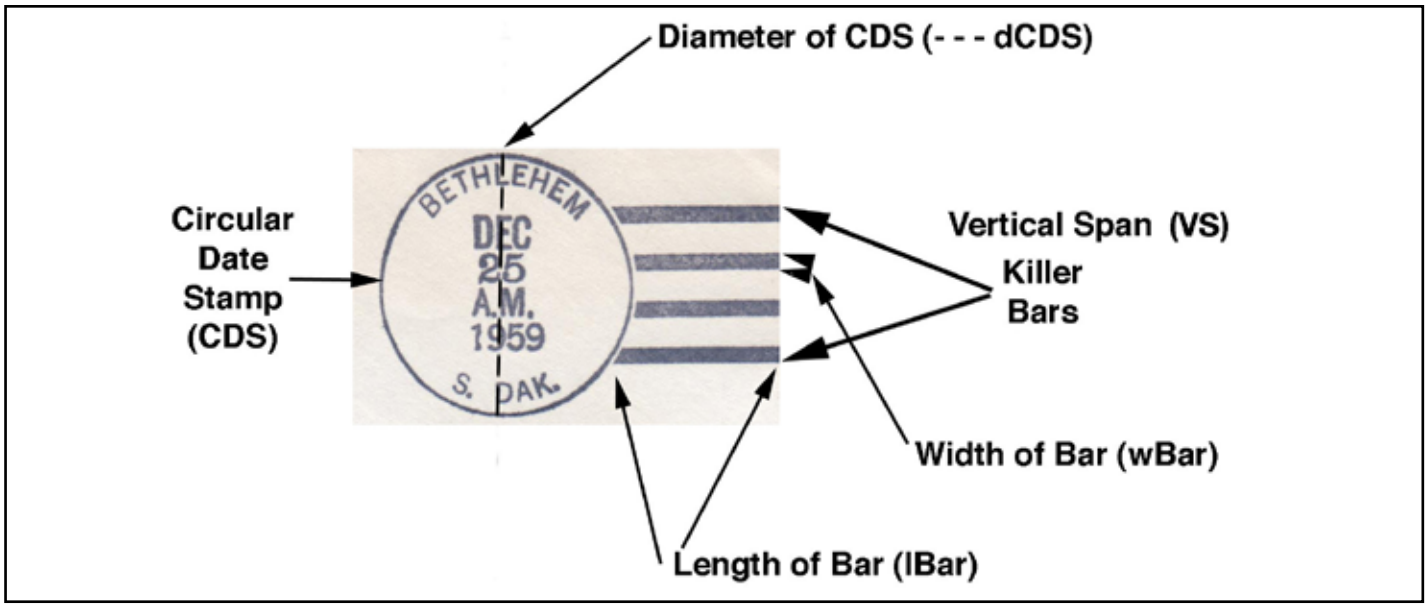


Figure 1: The anatomy of a four-bar postmark. The postmark shown has the curved style of killer bars and sans-serif type.

The Classification of Four-Bar Postmarks Appearing After the Introduction of the ZIP Code

By Christine C. Sanders

In the early 1900s, in an attempt to standardize their postmarks, the Post Office Department provided small post offices with Doane handstamps for postmarking their mail.

These handstamps were issued for only a relatively short time and are considered the forerunner of the four-bar handstamp. The first four-bar was introduced in 1906 and has been the backbone of handstamps in post offices throughout the United States ever since.

During the 108 years that the four-bar postmark has been used, it has undergone a number of changes in appearance.

In the early 1970s, Doug DeRoest and Randy Stehle, with help from Richard Helbock, developed a classification scheme in which the postmarks were placed into different lettered types based upon when they were issued and various physical parameters of the postmarks themselves.[1]

This scheme was well developed for postmarks used up until the introduction of the ZIP code in 1963. However, the scheme was not extended beyond that time.

Thus, in 2012, the Post Mark Collectors Club began gathering data on postmarks appearing after the introduction of the ZIP code that would allow the extension of the four-bar classification scheme up to the present time.[2]

The individuals who have participated in the project are acknowledged at the end of this article.

The purpose of this article is to summarize the findings of the PMCC study that has extended the classification of the different types of four-bar postmarks to include new ones appearing from the mid-1960s to 2014.

But first, a review of the physical parameters that have been used in the scheme to classify the four-bar postmark is in order.

Physical Parameters

The four-bar postmark is a circular date stamp (CDS) with four solid killer bars (Figure 1). There are six major parameters that can be used to differentiate the major types of four-bar postmarks.

1. The diameter of the CDS (dCDS) in millimeters (mm) is one characteristic used to classify the postmarks. However, it was not as useful as other parameters as the dCDS varied only from 30mm to 36mm in four-bar postmarks before the appearance of the modern linear date postmarks in the late 1990s.[3]

2. The vertical span (VS) of the four killer bars in millimeters is measured from the outer edge of the top bar to the lower edge of the bottom bar. This parameter is very useful in separating major types and subtypes of four-bar postmarks.

Figure 2: Examples of early linear date four-bar postmarks with abbreviated year and AM/PM boxes.

3. The width of the killer bars (wBar) has tended to increase with time from one millimeter to three millimeters. However, its use as a distinguishing feature is especially reduced if the postmark is poorly struck.

4. The length of the killer bars (lBar), measured either along the upper edge of the top bar or along the lower edge of the bottom bar, was not used to classify four-bar postmarks encountered before 1963. However, it has become very important with the recently introduced short bar postmarks.[3]

5. The style of the killer bars is based upon the shape of the ends of the bars closest to the CDS. This can vary from curved in a shape that complements the CDS to block (squared ends). Although most four-bar postmarks have curved bars, certain types are characteristically block. Then too, some postmarks have the middle two bars indented away from the CDS.

6. The size or style of type can also be a useful tool in distinguishing four-bar postmarks. Most have block (sans-serif) lettering. However, a few characteristically have serif lettering. In some four-bar postmarks, the style of the numerals is a distinguishing parameter.[4]

These parameters can be used to identify eight major types of four-bar postmarks indicated by the letters A thorough H. Subtypes within some of these major types can also be delineated.

For example, major type F has subtypes F/1, F/2 and F/3. Appropriate classification depends not only upon the quality of the strike, but also attention to the date of the postmark. Some of the earlier four-bar postmarks are very similar and can only be distinguished by the date of use. A review of the earlier A through E postmarks has been recently published.[5]

Early Type F Four-Bar Postmarks

The Type F four-bar postmark appeared in 1936 and was similar to the earlier Types B or D postmarks (Table 1).[5] It had a wider VS (19-20mm) than some of the earlier four-bar postmarks (14-18mm) and the style of the killer bars was usually curved. The Type F four-bar postmarks could be easily differentiated from the earlier types by their date and use of sans-serif type.

In the original classification scheme,[1] two subtypes were identified: the F/1, which had the city name at the top of the CDS and the state abbreviation at the bottom; and the F/2, in which both the city and state were at the top of the CDS and the new ZIP code, introduced in 1963, at the bottom.

A two-letter abbreviation was used for all states in F/2 postmarks. The F/1 four-bar postmark has been found on mail as late as 1980, 44 years after its first date of issue. The F/2 four-bar postmark can still be found on mail today. There were no further types or subtypes identified in the original classification scheme.

More Recent Type F Four-Bar Postmarks

Since its appearance in 1965, significant changes have been made in the F/2 postmark.[4]

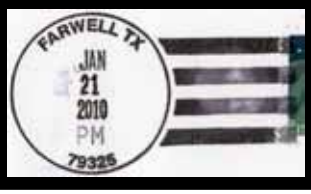
One is a change in the style of lettering and numerals from a vertical (i.e. height greater than width) to a more "squared" appearance (i.e. height equal to width). Postmarks with this feature were designated F/2a as a variant of the F/2 postmark (Table 1). They first appeared shortly after F/2 and have been found on mail as recently as 2013.

Examples have been found on mail from the vast majority of states indicating that F/2a was widely distributed. Data from longitudinal studies indicate that some post offices began with an F/2 postmark when the ZIP code was introduced and then moved on to an F/2a postmark when replacement was needed. Some returned to an F/2 postmark later. The F/2a was the first ZIP code postmark recorded for some post offices.

More extreme changes in the Type F postmark appeared in the mid-1980s (Table 1). A more condensed style of lettering appeared and the numerals for the day changed from a script-like serif to a more

Table 1

Type F four-bar postmarks parameters shown include: EKU – year of earliest known use; LKU – year of latest known use; dCDS – diameter of the Circular Date Stamp; VS – vertical span from the top of the top bar to the bottom of the bottom bar; wBar – width of the bars; lBar – length of either the top or the bottom bar measured at its longest.

	Type	EKU/LKU	dCDS	VS	wBar	lBar
	F/1	1936/1980	31-34mm	19-20mm	2-3mm	>20mm
	F/2	1965/2014	30-35mm	18-21mm	2-3mm	>20mm
	F/2a	1967/2013	31-34mm	18-20mm	2-3mm	>20mm
	F/3a	1984/2014	30-35mm	15-18mm	2-3mm	≥18mm
	F/3b	2005/2014	30-34mm	21-23mm	2-3mm	>20mm

block style. Furthermore, the VS became narrower. Postmarks with these changes were given a new subtype designation—F/3.[4] To date, examples of the F/3 postmark have been found on mail from every state except West Virginia. It is still being used today.

As data accumulated, it was noted that some F/3 postmarks appearing after 2000 had the wider VS of the earlier F/2 subtype. However, since these postmarks still retained the changes in lettering and numerals, they were designated F/3b. Those with the earlier narrow VS were designated F/3a (Table 1).

An examination of the F/3 subtype also revealed significant variations in the lBar that had not been observed with any previous type or subtype (Table 2).

Among the narrower VS subtype F/3a, groups with short (18–21mm), medium length (22–26mm), and long (27–30mm) bars were noted. The long bar group, F/3a(l) was the last to appear among F/3a postmarks.

The F/3b subtype was the last to appear among all F/3 postmarks. As shown in Table 2, examples of all four F/3 subtypes can be found on mail in recent years. Thus, they all appear to have been in use during much of the same time in a number of post offices across the United States.

This is in contrast to the usual pattern of sequential use of the different four-bar postmarks as new types and subtypes appeared; i.e. once a new type had been introduced, a majority of post offices switched to the new type when it was time to replace their old four-bar handstamps.

Table 2

The Subtype F/3 Four-Bar Postmarks

Photo	Subtype	EKU/LKU	VS	lBar
	F/3a(s)	1989/2013	14–16	18–21
	F/3a(m)	1984/2013	15–18	22–26
	F/3a(l)	2000/2014	15–16	27–30
	F/3b	2005/2014	21–23	26–29

This sequential use pattern resulted from the restrictions dictated by the POD (and subsequently USPS) on the source of replacement handstamps available to post offices.

However, the introduction of new self-inking postmarking devices in the late 1980s led to the proliferation of unofficial postmarks in post offices, and these belonged to the F/3 subtype.[6,7]

The greater variation in the size and style of the type used for the information within the CDS of the different F/3 postmarks also supports a larger number of sources for postmarkers than previously used. This trend would continue for the new linear date four-bar postmarks that appeared in the 1990s.

Modern Linear Date Postmarks

In Type A through F four-bar postmarks, three lines were used for the date within the CDS. In the 1990s, linear postmarks appeared in some post offices (Figure 2). Most of these had other unusual characteristics: AM and/or PM boxes and/or only two digits for the year. These were relatively expensive special order postmarks and never became highly prevalent.

However, the general parameters of these postmarks gave rise to a new Type G postmark that became commonly used in the second half of the 1990s and into the 21st century (Table 3). The Type G postmarks all shared common parameters of a linear date, wider VS (19–26mm), and larger wBar (3–4mm).

Within Type G, the majority had a much shorter lBar (10–17mm) than had been previously encountered. Among the short bar Type G postmarks, half had the usual curved style bars and were designated subtype G/1.

The remaining short bar postmarks had an unusual style to the bars. The two middle bars were block style and indented and the circle of the CDS was interrupted in this area. These postmarks were designated subtype G/2 (Table 3). The remaining Type G postmarks had a longer lBar of 18–23mm. These were separated into subtype G/3 (Table 3).

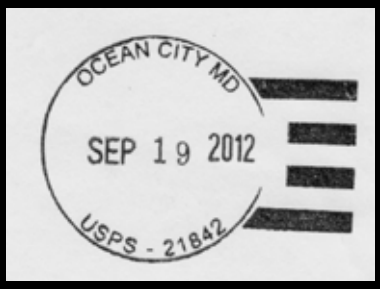
Further analysis of the G/1 postmarks revealed a wide range of dCDS (29–43mm) that had not been previously observed in other types or subtypes.

When further separated upon the basis of dCDS, this parameter for the majority of the G/1 postmarks fell within 29–34mm; a range similar to that occurring within the G/2 and G/3 postmarks (Table 3). Thus, these were designated G/1a.

The remaining G/1 postmarks were placed into

Table 3

The Type G Four-Bar Postmarks



Type	EKU/LKU	dCDS	VS	wBar	lBar
G/1a	1994/2014	29-34mm	20-25mm	3mm	10-16mm
G/1b	1990/2014	35-37mm	20-25mm	3-4mm	10-15mm
G/1c	1990/2014	38-43mm	19-25mm	3mm	12-18mm
G/2	2004/2014	31-34mm	21-24mm	3mm	15-17mm
G/3	2001/2013	32-34mm	22-26mm	3-4mm	18-23mm

Table 4

Type H Four-Bar Postmarks

Type	EKU/LKU	dCDS	VS	wBar	lBar
H/1	2003/2014	28-34mm	15-17mm	2-3mm	11-14mm
H/2	2002/2014	28-34mm	16-19mm	2-3mm	18-24mm

two groups: G/1b with an intermediate sized dCDS (35–37mm); and G/1c with a large dCDS (38–43mm).

Examples of the Type G linear date postmarks have been found on mail from all states except Hawaii. They have also been found on mail from the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Puerto Rico. All three subtypes have been found on mail in recent years (Table 3).

Early in the 21st century, linear date postmarks began appearing with a VS narrower than the Type G postmark. Some had a short lBar (11–14mm) and were designated H/1 (Table 4). Others had a longer lBar (18–24mm) and were designated H/2.

These appeared after Type G postmarks, but both the Type G and H postmarks are still being used today. Examples of Type H postmarks have been found on mail from all states except Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. This probably reflects the smaller collection of this type in the database due to its shorter time of use rather than the true absence of Type H handstamps in these states.

For the modern linear date postmarks, there are a number of variations within the CDS. Although the style of type is usually block with all capital letters, examples of greatly varying sizes of type, serif style and only first letter capital have been found.

More importantly, the information within the CDS and its location is more variable for examples within both Type G and H postmarks.

This is illustrated in Table 3 where at the bottom of the dial, three of the five postmarks shown have only the ZIP code, one has USPS with the ZIP code, and one has only USPS, and the ZIP code is at the top with the city and state.

These three variations can be found among postmarks of the same type and subtype for both the Type G and H four-bars suggesting a variety of different sources for, or models of, these modern linear date handstamps.

Concluding Remarks

From this expansion of the classification of the four-bar postmarks, it is apparent that the number and diversity of postmarks has increased greatly.

In 2014, one can find four-bar postmarks belonging to major Types F, G, and H that represent at least 11 different subtypes on mail traveling within and beyond the borders of the United States. This number does not include a variety of less frequently encountered four-bar postmarks that are similar to these major types but possess slogans either within the CDS or among the bars, or have a double circle, oval, or "smiler" date stamp.[3, 4] Such a diversity among common, yet concurrently used, four-bar postmarks has never been seen before in philatelic history and correct classification can be challenging.

However, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain four-bar postmarks for several reasons. First, many of the small post offices that use these postmarks are closing or have much shorter hours of operation. Then too, many smaller post offices now have the mail mechanically cancelled at a regional facility.

Furthermore, some larger post offices that used four-bar postmarks in those instances that called for a handstamp are now using a variety of circular daters instead. Finally, but very importantly, the plain covers with four-bar postmarks that represent the postal history of tomorrow are being discarded in large numbers today.

The classification and cataloguing of philatelic items is essential to collectors. These activities need to be up to date for items that are still extant and changing over time. Postmarks fall into this category.

Through the involvement of a number of members of PMCC, it has been possible to define several new types and subtypes of four-bar handstamps. However, many more examples of the newer handstamps are needed.

We would like to have examples of each type and subtype from as many states and territories as possible. We would also like to locate earlier or later EKU/LKU if they exist. Additional examples of Types F/3, G/1b, G/1c, G/3 and H/2 are greatly needed.

So, if you find within your collections any postmarks that could help us in this endeavor, we would love to hear from you.

Any assistance with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following members of the PMCC to this project: Robert McCurdy, Nels Christianson, Max Cohen, Bill German, Bob Calhoun, Frank Sutera, Harlan Miller, and Robert Quintero.

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The United States in 1910

Here is some historical context for postal historians doing research about the early twentieth century.

- The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
- Only eight percent of the homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average U.S. wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average U.S. worker made between $200 and $400 per year.
- A competent accountant earned $2,000 per year, a dentist $2,500 per year, a veterinarian between $1,500 and $4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about $5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as substandard.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- The five leading causes of death were:
    1. Pneumonia and influenza
    2. Tuberculosis
    3. Diarrhea
    4. Heart disease
    5. Stroke
- The American flag had 46 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada , was only 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Two out of 10 adults couldn't read or write and only six percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one fulltime servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire USA.

An Early Postal Card From Yellowstone National Park

By Peter Martin

Shown at right is one of the earliest documented usages from Yellowstone National Park, located in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, with parts extending into Montana and Idaho. The park was established by Congress and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872. Yellowstone National Park spans 3,468.4 square miles and remains one of the most popular parks in the United States national park system.

In the early 1880s, to help service visitors to the park, the Northern Pacific Railroad built a train station in Livingston, Montana, that connected to the northern park entrance. This helped to increase visitation from 300 in 1872 to 5,000 in 1883, the year this postal card was mailed.

In those early years, visitors were faced with poor roads and limited services, and most access into the park was on horseback or via stagecoach.

The illustrated two-cent government postal card for international use (Scott UX6) is datelined September 28 (1883) at the Upper Geyser Basin, which includes Old Faithful, one of the most popular geysers in the park. The card is addressed to J.J. Brant, Wildenbach, Lochem, Netherlands.

The postal card is postmarked, with a circular date stamp and target killer, in Livingston on the following day, likely on the day of departure from a vacation visit to Yellowstone. A pencil notation at top left reads, "Via England." Also on the obverse is a Lochem "16 Oct 83" double-circle receiving postmark (Shellen-Dunn Type 2).

Since Montana did not achieve statehood until 1889, this is a Montana territorial usage. To date, I have identified only two earlier postal usages related to the park: a June 2, 1883, cover from the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company and a one-cent postal card dated July 29, 1883.

Postal service was introduced into the park in March 1880. This item, although not postmarked in Yellowstone, is clearly tied to the park by the text in pencil on the reverse. The message, written in Flemish and translated by a member of the APS translation service team, reads:

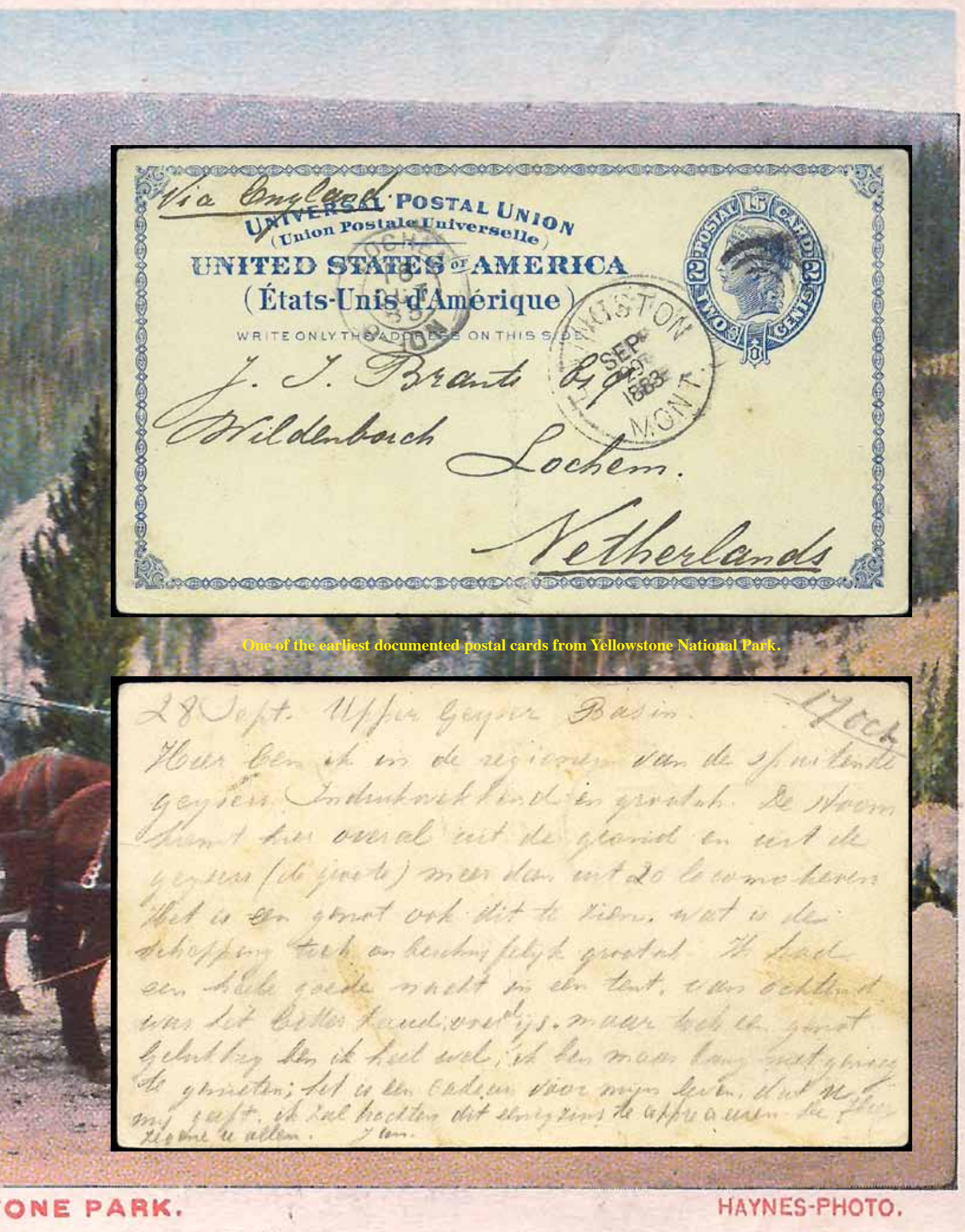
28 Sept Upper Geyser Basin

Here I am in the region of spouting geysers. Impressive and grandiose. The steam comes out of the ground everywhere and out of the geyser (the biggest one) more than out of 20 locomotives. It's also a pleasure to see this. What is the creation indescribably grand. I had a very good night in a tent. In the morning it was bitter cold, ice everywhere but I enjoyed it. Happily I am very well. I just could not enjoy it long enough. It is a gift for life that you gave me. I will try to show my appreciation, the Lord willing.

Signed (unreadable) Jan

The penciled "17 Oct" in the upper right hand corner of the reverse appears to have been written by the recipient on the day that the card arrived.

NO. 143. FOUR-HORSE COACHING PARTY, YELLOWST



One of the earliest documented postal cards from Yellowstone National Park.

Figure 1: Ada, Ohio, letter to Kalida, Ohio.

Bowling Alone: America's Decline in Social Engagement

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

Our coming into possession of nineteenth century mailings from no longer extant academic and religious associations stirred our interest in shedding light on a troubling cultural transition that has taken place in the United States over the past century.

Our story was stimulated by the thesis made popular in the 1990s by Harvard political scientist, Robert Putnam, when he used the metaphor of contemporary Americans "bowling alone," rather than in leagues as was common in the past, as indicative of our becoming more alienated and disconnected from family, neighbors and community.[1]

Join us as we raise the curtain on the Adelphian Literary Society and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and then revisit Professor Putnam's concerns.

Figure 1 is a cover whose neat, calligraphic writing would, nevertheless, prove undecipherable until luck and further sleuthing elucidated the problem. We couldn't discern the individual's given name, although the family name is Kimmerle, and the address is Kalida, Ohio, with the county name also being undecipherable. The reverse shows a floral engraving (Figure 2) with a partially obscured receiving cancellation with the year date of 1886.

Posting was at Ada, Ohio on June 21, with postage paid by a one-cent Franklin stamp (Scott 206). The contents include an invitation to attend the Second Triennial Reunion of the Adelphian Literary Society to be held on July 20, 1886 (Figure 3), and the program for the reunion (Figure 4) is included.

We were able to locate Kalida, Ohio, in northwestern Ohio in Putnam County. Comparing "Putnam" to the lettering on the cover we realized that the writer's drawn-out lettering style was obscuring reading of the addressee's first name. By going to the Federal Census for 1870 we discovered a couple, John and Anne Kimmerle, living in Union County, also in western Ohio.

In the 1880 Federal Census, this couple now lived in Kalida, Ohio and had spawned five children—none of their given names, however, coming close to what appeared on our cover.

And then we got lucky. We discovered biographical sketches of John and Anna in the *History of Putnam County*.[2]

The couple is described as having six, rather than five children. The one missing from the 1880 Federal Census, daughter Marion Kimmerle, was obviously then not living at home. Of course not, for

Figure 2: Reverse of the Figure 1 cover with an 1886 receiving cancellation.

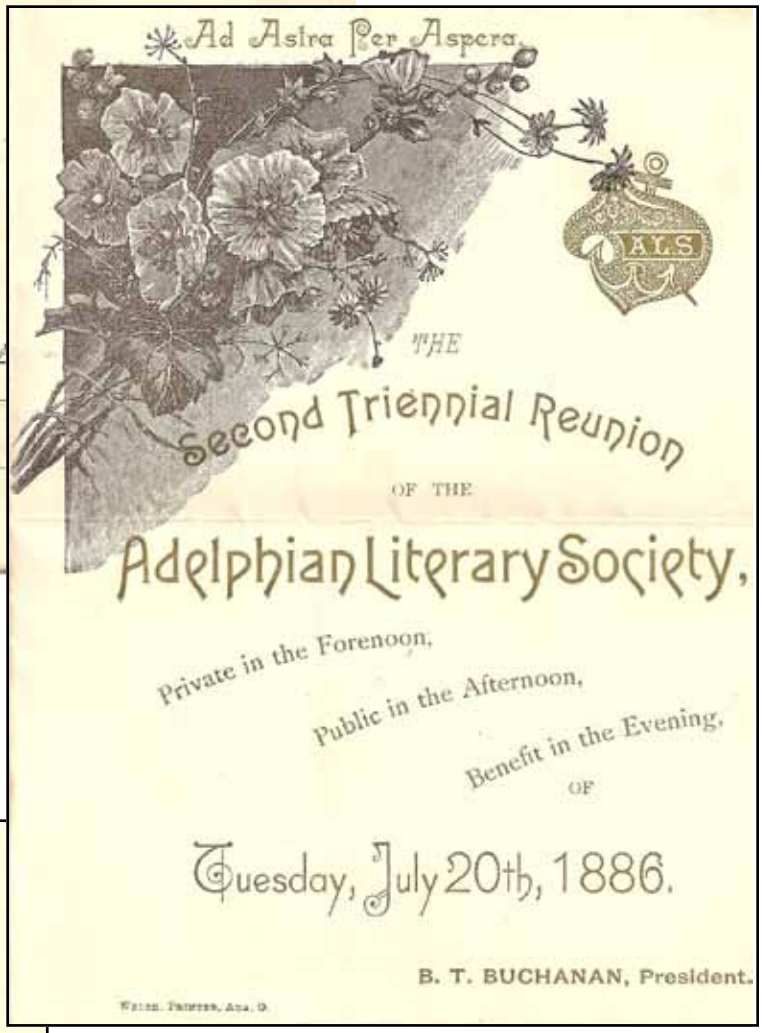
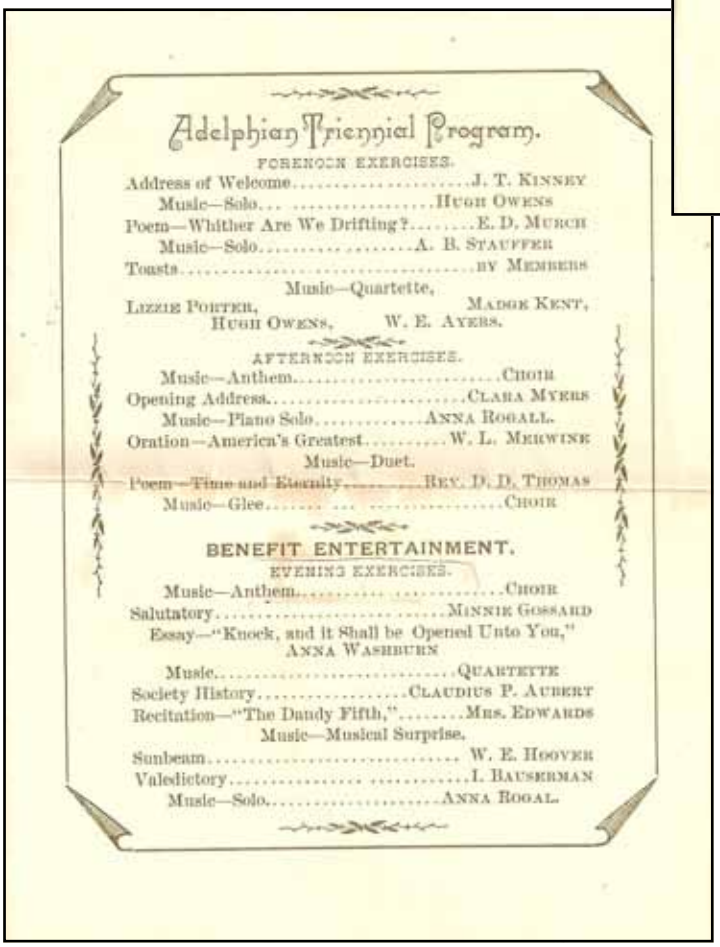


Figure 3 (Right): Invitation contents of a letter to attend the reunion of the Adelphian Literary Society.



Adelphian Triennial Program.

FORENOON EXERCISES.

Address of Welcome.....J. T. KINNEY
Music—Solo.....HUGH OWENS
Poem—Whither Are We Drifting?.....E. D. MURCH
Music—Solo.....A. B. STAUFFER
Toasts.....BY MEMBERS
Music—Quartette,
LIZZIE PORTER, MADGE KENT,
HUGH OWENS, W. E. AYERS.

AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

Music—Anthem.....CHOIR
Opening Address.....CLARA MYERS
Music—Piano Solo.....ANNA ROGALL
Oration—America's Greatest.....W. L. MERWINE
Music—Duet.
Poem—Time and Eternity.....REV. D. D. THOMAS
Music—Glee.....CHOIR

BENEFIT ENTERTAINMENT.

EVENING EXERCISES.

Music—Anthem.....CHOIR
Salutatory.....MINNIE GOSSARD
Essay—"Knock, and it Shall be Opened Unto You,"
ANNA WASHBURN
Music.....QUARTETTE
Society History.....CLAUDIUS P. AUBERT
Recitation—"The Dandy Fifth,".....MRS. EDWARDS
Music—Musical Surprise.
Sunbeam.....W. E. HOOVER
Valedictory.....I. BAUSERMAN
Music—Solo.....ANNA ROGAL

Figure 4: Reunion program for the Adelphian Literary Society.

she was a student at Ohio Northern Normal University in Ada, Ohio, where our investigation would find the Adelphian Literary Society!

Now, dear reader, carefully examine the handwriting and you will see that the flourish of the first letter is an "M", and the drawn-out letters of Putnam County will now become clear and show that the spelling of the first name is indeed "Marion."

Our second cover is thankfully easier to define. Figure 5 shows a letter sent from Lynn, Massachusetts on December 20, 1889, to a Solomon S. Mayberry Jr. in Casco, Maine.

The postage of two cents was paid with a one-cent postal stationery envelope (Scott U294) to which a one-cent Franklin stamp (Scott 212) has been affixed.

The content of the mailing (Figure 6) is a printed application card for the receiver to join the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor; but, not to be completed until they had carefully examined the society's constitution, and by so doing, then "agree, with God's help, to live up to the requirements of the Constitution."

Figure 5: Letter to Solomon Mayberry Jr. posted in Lynn, Massachusetts, to Casco, Maine, December 20, 1889.

This would be no mean feat, indeed, as we will shortly describe.

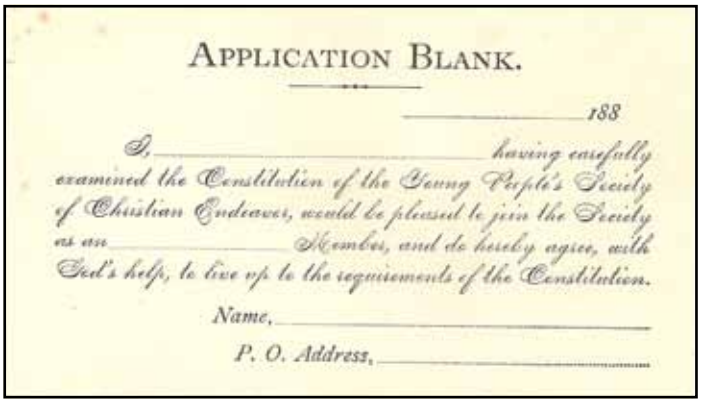
These postal history pieces open an avenue to enter a time when thousands of societies and associations permitted people to communicate, socialize, share intellectual and religious commonalities and thrive in a way that has become progressively more difficult as we communicate through electronic devices, including computers, television, online streaming, etc. Paradoxically, the ease of sitting in an alcove in one's home taking in this expanded world in our own privacy has at the same time displaced a link of personal communication with the rest of the world.

In a phrase, we are better informed yet more greatly isolated. In the long run, we will let you be the judge, but let us now first introduce you to the Adelphian Literary Society of Ohio Northern University.

College literary societies, dating back to the early nineteenth century, are among the oldest forms of student organizations in America.

The Philomathean Society (1813) of the University of Pennsylvania is the oldest continuously extant literary society in the United States. One wag would parody the origins by claiming that his Washington Society "dated back to the glory days of the Jurassic Period of the Mesozoic Era, and as the earth's surface split and sent chunks asunder, a big chunk landed at the very spot where Thomas Jefferson's decomposed old ass lies buried today a few miles from Mr. Jefferson's University, home to the Washington Literary Society and Debating Union." We do appreciate the droll humor of our forbearers.

The literary societies were alternately called Latin literary societies because of their use of Latinate names,


APPLICATION BLANK.

_____ 188

I, _____ having carefully examined the Constitution of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, would be pleased to join the Society as an _____ Member, and do hereby agree, with God's help, to live up to the requirements of the Constitution.

Name, _____

P. O. Address, _____

Figure 6: Application for membership in the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

and were often the precursors of college fraternities and sororities. By the Civil War era there were hundreds of these organizations on college campuses, frequently set up in pairs of opposing organizations, thus allowing for usually friendly intramural debating rivalry, although at times, firecrackers and stink bombs were tossed between "rascally Peithologians" and opposing Philolexians.

Williams College had its Philolgian and Philotechnian societies, Columbia was home to the Clariosophic and Euphradian societies, Wesleyan had its Philologians and Peithologians, and so on.

And, oh yes, the Ohio Normal Northern University (renamed Ohio Northern University in 1903) had the Franklin Literary Society, the Philomathean Society and the Adelphian Literary Society of our cover.

Membership in many of these societies was mandatory and students were assigned to one or the other associations on an arbitrary basis, as with an

odd/even placement. Having two or more societies resulted in a thriving campus life including not just debating, but also music, poetry, reading of essays and establishment of libraries that were often as large as, or larger than, those of the college itself.

The societies were "little republics" with their own laws and elected student administration. We have come across college communications in which the institution would be challenged by a society for considered infractions of student rights or concerns regarding irregularities in legal actions by the school infringing on student activities.

In the 1830s, students began to organize a number of private societies for smaller groups of selected students to function in a more intimate environment, some of which would become secret societies. Many of these would later become the earliest college fraternities and sororities and yield to Greek names and, eventually, the quite ubiquitous usage of Greek initials. Interestingly, Phi Beta Kappa originated as a private literary society prior to 1831.

Over the ensuing century and more, a great many of these societies have become defunct. Many others morphed into the social world of contemporary fraternities, sororities and animal houses.

Yes, one still finds small numbers of literary societies, including the Euglossian Society at Heidelberg University in Germany, the Philalethean at Rutgers, and the Euphrosynean at the University of South Carolina. For the rest though—oblivion—displaced by the Internet, the tweet, Netflix, the iPad, what have you. It is a new world of greater privacy, greater access—and greater isolation.

We turn our attention to our second cover from the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Recall that the invitation for Solomon S. Mayberry Jr. to entertain membership in this society was predicated on his having carefully examined the constitution of the organization, and furthermore, agreeing then, that with God's help, he would live up to the requirements of said constitution.

Indeed, many a marriage ceremony or induction pledge into the armed forces has left a young man equivocating, if not quaking, at the implication of what had previously seemed like such a good idea, but now….Well then, you do appreciate that this invitation is serious business as was the Christian Endeavor Society. But then again, nineteenth century America was a time of great, nay immense, religious fervor, dramatic growth of evangelism, true devotion to missionary work under incredibly trying conditions, birth of religious denominations exploding from the borders of Protestantism and Catholicism—and we could go on, but, we do have an agenda to meet, dear reader, and will stay on tract.

Figure 7: Reverend Francis Edward Clark.

As with our first cover, there is a critical point to be made here. North America at the dawn of the industrial and technical age showed explosive growth in organizations that brought a society together, literally crunched physically together, not infrequently even by the thousands, to experience, share and argue innumerable issues that have been in human thought for millennia. At that time it was truly a contact sport as the Christian Endeavour Society will demonstrate.

Founded as a nondenominational evangelical society in Portland, Maine in 1881 by Francis Edward Clark (Figure 7), a graduate of Dartmouth College class of 1873 and Andover Theological Seminary in 1876, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor would grow over less than three decades from 57 young men in a single New England church to a worldwide organization of four million members scattered throughout the United States, Canada, England, Africa, Australia, India and Japan in 70,761 societies (Figure 8).

Yes, that's a lot of information in one sentence, but it gives you an almost visual image of a time when an idea could bring people into proximity despite what we today perceive as the primitive means of communication and transportation then extant.

Figure 8: Seal of the International Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

Reverend Clark was pastor of the Williston Congregational church (Figure 9) at Portland from 1876 to 1883. His idea was to bring youth to make a commitment to Christ, which he spelled out in his constitution with a terse two-sentence statement.

Clark hoped to establish a "youth ministry" whereby young people were no longer classified with children, not considered capable of active Christian involvement. His goal was "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God." No small order, what with a commitment to attend prayer meetings and committees.

Indeed, a history of the organization[3] reports that there was "much soul-searching before 57 young people and their leaders signed the constitution."

Truth be told, we do not know that the recipient of our cover, Solomon S. Mayberry, age 11 in the 1880 United States Federal Census, thus a 19-year-old when he received this invitation at his home in Casco, Cumberland County, Maine, ever did take that pledge.

If he did, he certainly didn't do it with the invitation enclosure from our cover, since you can clearly see that the card remains blank, even now 125 years later.

Be that as it may, Solomon, the youngest of 11 offspring of Joseph S. Mayberry, who farmed 35 of his 115-acre property, and his homemaker spouse Laura J. Mayberry, left an easily traceable footprint over the decades.

Figure 10 is a copy of Solomon's birth certificate dated December 13, 1869. The 1900 census shows 31-year-old Solomon having moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where he lived with one of his brother's family.

Solomon did not experience military service during World War I based on his more advanced age during the Great War. Subsequent federal censuses through 1940 show him in Lowell, eventually having his own house in 1920, and having several siblings living with him.

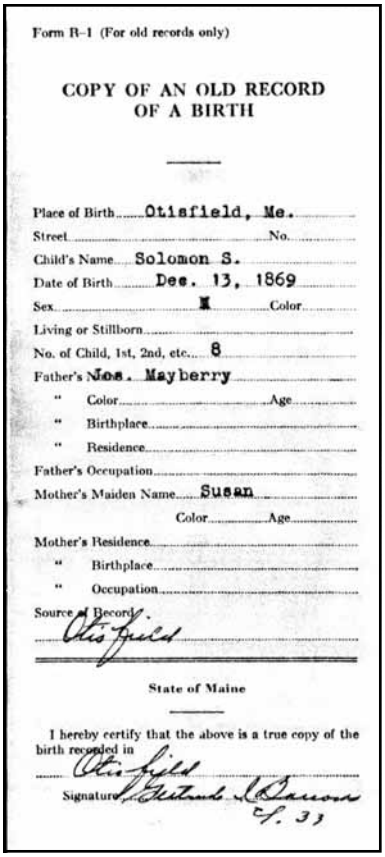
His occupation is that of carpenter until the 1930 census when he is listed as a real estate "proprietor."

Interestingly, Solomon was a Mason dating back to 1907 yet, in 1935, archival material (Figure 11) indicates that his membership was "suspended by Grand Lodge."

The 1940 census indicates that now, at age 71 and a lifelong bachelor, Solomon is retired. At that point we lose track of Solomon, but we believe he would likely not be offended that we appropriated his name and mail to tell our story.

We have some unfinished business yet, before concluding our presentation. First, what became of Marion Kimmerle and the Adelphian Literary Society at Ohio Northern University; and Reverend Clark

Figure 9: Williston, Maine, Congregational Church, 1876.



Form B-1 (For old records only)

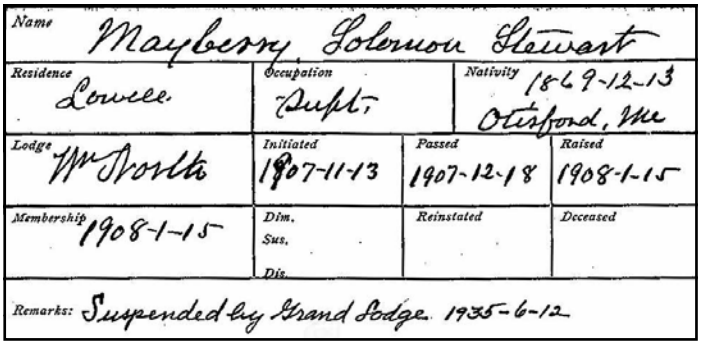
COPY OF AN OLD RECORD OF A BIRTH

Place of Birth Otisfield, Me.
Street No.
Child's Name Solomon S.
Date of Birth Dec. 13, 1869
Sex M Color
Living or Stillborn
No. of Child, 1st, 2nd, etc. 8
Father's Nos. Mayberry
" Color Age
" Birthplace
" Residence
Father's Occupation
Mother's Maiden Name Susan
Color Age
Mother's Residence
" Birthplace
" Occupation
Source of Record
Otis Field

State of Maine

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the birth recorded in
Otisfield
Signature [illegible]
C. 33

Figure 10: Birth certificate of Solomon S. Mayberry.



Name: Mayberry Solomon Stewart			
Residence: Lowell	Occupation: Supt.	Nativity: 1869-12-13 Otisfond, Me	
Lodge: Wm North	Initiated: 1907-11-13	Passed: 1907-12-18	Raised: 1908-1-15
Membership: 1908-1-15	Dim. Sus. Dis.	Reinstated	Deceased
Remarks: Suspended by Grand Lodge 1935-6-12			

Figure 11: Masonic membership record of Solomon Mayberry.

and the Christian Endeavor Society? And finally how do we see our covers relating to Professor Putnam's theory of "Bowling Alone?"

Regarding Marion Kimmerle, the authors regret that her life after college remains a mystery, but not for lack of searching. We suspect this to be commonly the result of the wife assuming the family name of their husband, thus making them all but lost to future research, unless one is fortunate to locate an item such as a marriage certificate giving access to both names. That would not prove the case for our Marion Kimmerle.

We do know however, that prior to her father's immigration to the United States from Germany, he had been married to a woman who died there after the birth of a daughter. After her death, John Kimmerle embarked for America with his daughter and, while in route, met Anna Dittus, a passenger. She volunteered to assist in caring for the child and from this acquaintance sprang a mutual attachment that resulted in marriage when they landed in this country and settled in Ohio. Interesting history indeed.

On the other hand, Marion's affiliation with Ohio Northern University is quite informative. In 1871, Henry Solomon Lehr (Figure 12), a 28-year-old teacher and veteran of the Civil War, accepted a position as a high school teacher in Ada, Ohio.

His one stipulation was that he be permitted to teach a college preparatory class designed especially for training teachers—what in that era was referred to as a "Normal School."

As his reputation grew, the influx of students resulted in the town of Ada establishing the Northwestern Ohio Normal School with Lehr as headmaster and an initial enrolment of 147 students. Lehr had obtained his bachelors degree and eventually, also years later and after many commutes, his Ph.D from Mount Union College.

Coming from a poor background and being one of 11 children of a farmer's family, Lehr insisted on keeping tuition low and strove to use education as a democratizing force. From its inception, the school was coeducational and, despite his strong religious commitment, was nondenominational.

The school grew steadily into the 1880s, adding departments of music, business, agriculture, law, fine arts, engineering and pharmacy.

In 1885 the school became the Ohio Normal University with Lehr being the president and fulltime teacher. His work load was such that at one point he collapsed from exhaustion while teaching a class, but resumed his work load on recovering from the event.

By 1896, the enrollment was more than 5,000 students, yet, its financial situation remained precarious, resulting in Lehr selling the institution

Figure 12: Henry Solomon Lehr, founder of Ohio Northern University.

to the Methodist Church in 1899. Since that time the school has remained in the hands of the Methodist Church, although students and professors of all faiths are welcome.

In 1903, Ohio Normal University changed its name to Ohio Northern University. The curriculum was extensively revamped keeping up with contemporary stricter requirements for accreditation. Figure 13 shows students in chemistry class in February 1909. Note the coeducational makeup of the group.

Henry Lehr would leave the university in 1905, settling in Ada where he died in 1923. His legacy is recalled in The Henry Solomon Lehr Society and an impressive memorial statue (Figure 14) on the university grounds.

Most notable, and what we suspect would make Lehr quite proud, is the fact that now in the twenty-first century, Ohio Northern University is ranked second among Midwest regional colleges by the *U.S. News & World Report*, with colleges of engineering, pharmacy, law, business, and arts & science.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour Society would continue into the 1920s as a highly respected, vigorous organization. Several world conventions held in the United States would witness as many as 75,000 people in attendance.

Indeed, at one time, a convention in San Francisco saw thousands traveling there by train, almost swamping railroad service to the city. Dr. Francis Edward Clark would continue to serve in the presidency until the time of his death in 1927.

In the decades following his death, the society would lose its historic nondenominational character

Figure 13: A coed chemistry class, Ohio Northern University, 1909.

as the individual Protestant sects insisted on creating denominational units. To make matters worse, in the 1940s World War II would decimate the membership in these groups as many young men and women entered military service.

In the post-war years, efforts at retrenchment proved unsuccessful. As societies dropped out, the local and state unions also weakened. The international society, which now operates under the name, Christian Endeavor International, includes groups in the United States, Canada and Mexico but, even so, maintaining a following has been difficult and reports suggest that membership continues to suffer declines.

So that brings us finally to "Bowling Alone." You see, there is a definite method to our madness.

The two societies that we elaborated upon were among countless ones that no longer exist. Yes, some simply became anachronistic and failed to serve a useful purpose, be it political, religious or educational.

Others however lost their way, not because of a fault of their own, rather because of a changing generational perception of what was relevant or not. That is the point that Robert Putnam made.

Rarely is a major construct in society altered for but one reason, and we would agree with Putnam that that would be simplistic. Yet, some things are too obvious to be denied.

His incredible study, albeit with the assistance of numerous understudies (the man published more than 600 articles and 53 books), showed with statistical accuracy that life had indeed changed. People left associations that brought communication to a personal level and switched into a blogosphere. In simple terms, yet, supported by the numbers, the metaphorical bowling on one's own had overtaken a prior society in which communal activity was the name of the game.

Bowling could then easily be shown to be the so-called tip of the iceberg as individuals in droves, particularly the younger generations, went their own way—entertaining themselves in a less social environment that, within its privacy, restricted controversy, conflict and embarrassment—but also human contact.

One looks down when texting, one does not have a need to make eye contact. One may delete a response that seems adverse, rather than respond to it in kind—face to face—where the response may lead to discomfort.

Yes, there have been critics of Putnam's 1995 essay, resulting in this prolific writer countenancing a full-fledged book rebuttal in 2000[4] that the *New York Times* considered admirable.

Of course the naysayers may not be silenced, but that's okay as well. Let the debates go on. Better than no one looking up from their iPad we think.

The point being that associations such as the Adelphian Literary Society, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and thousands of others require an attachment to civil life—whether political, religious, social, educational or what have you. Associations and societies of course continue to exist, but actual "participation" in a meaningful fashion, Putnam asserts, is lacking or declining.

And so we end our story with the fact that contacts among people—what we call "social capital"—is critical for human interaction. Without it we lose our

Figure 14: The Henry Solomon Lehr Memorial statue at Ohio Northern University.

connection to the fabric that we now call society. That's Putnam's message, and one that these two simple covers brought to the authors' minds.

We share these with you, and imagine that it may give you thought in the quiet of an evening's contemplation. The solutions—and there are thankfully possibilities—dear reader, are for another time and venue.

Endnotes

1 Putnam, Robert D., "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy,* 6: 65-78, 1995.

2 History of Putnam County, Ohio
http://www.mocavo.com/history-of-putnam-county-ohio/524674/1030

3 A Brief History of Christian Endeavor
Worldsceunion.org/files/CE-Americas.pdf

4 Putnam, Robert D., *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, New York: Simon & Shuster, 2000.

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1 Francis Edward Clark
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Francis_Edward_Clark

2 Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_People's_Society_of_Christian_Endeavor

3 College literary societies.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_literary_societies

4 History of Ohio Northern
Kennedy, Sarah R., "H.S. Lehr and His School, Ada, Ohio," *The Ada Herald*, 1938, p.38-39

5 Ohio Northern University
http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ohio_Northern_University?rec=2170

6 Henry Solomon Lehr
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Solomon_Lehr

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

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

Figure 1: A contract station postmark from a convenience store at a rest stop on the interstate near Wausau, Wisconsin. This postmark has a mysterious alphanumeric sequence at the base—566120A001.

USPS Contract Station Postmarks

By Terence Hines

For some time the USPS has been allowing private stores to do basic mail processing such as accepting letters and packages for mailing and selling stamps.

These contract stations have their own postmarking devices. Shown here are two from Wisconsin. Figure 1 is from a convenience store at a rest stop on the interstate near Wausau, Wisconsin. This postmark has a mysterious alphanumeric sequence at the base—566120A001.

The Figure 2 postmark includes no indication of where it is from. The mailer on which this postmark appears in not shown in full but the return address shows that the "University Books" in question is on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The "CS 366" refers to the number of the contract station.

One might expect that USPS regulations would require that contract station postmarks include the location of the station. If that is the case, the "University Books" postmark violates that regulation.

Figure 2: A postmark from Contract Station 366 located at University Books on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

(Terence Hines is a college professor who resides in Carmel, New York. He can be contacted by e-mail at: terencehines@aol.com*)*

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

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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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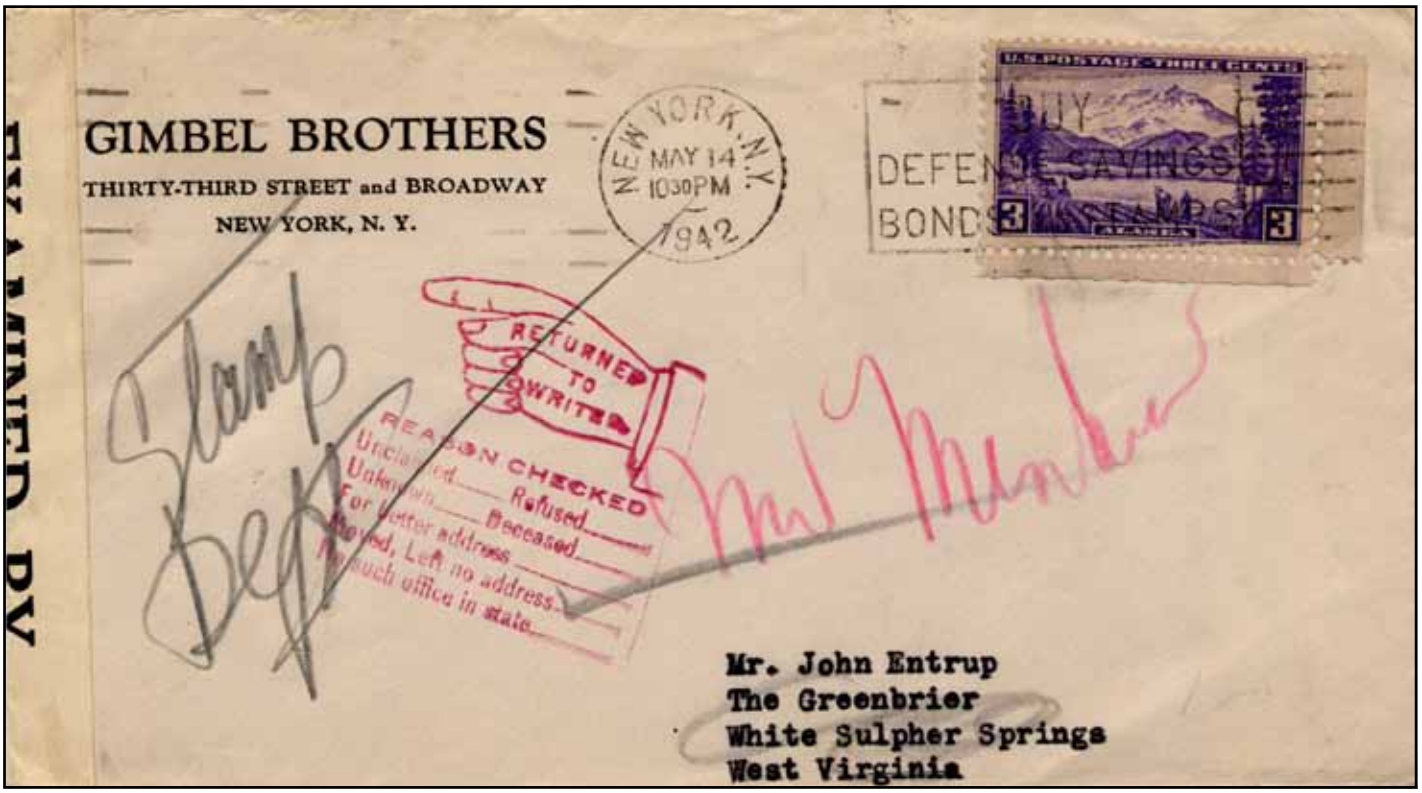


Figure 1: A censored domestic correspondence to an interned low-level German diplomat.

Detained Axis Diplomats in World War II

By Louis Fiset

The two Prexie era covers shown here provide examples of censorship on domestic mail during World War II. Such mail generated within the 48 contiguous states is uncommon. It may be found on mail to and from inmates in penitentiaries, on mail surrendered to customs by travelers entering the United States, and here, on correspondence involving detained members of the diplomatic corps of nations at war with the United States.

Ten upscale hotels in five states were taken over by the State Department to house German, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Italian, Rumanian, Japanese, and Vichy French diplomats, their administrative, technical, and service staffs, as well as their families, until safe return to their homelands could be carried out. The period of detention for the enemy diplomatic corps lasted from December 1941 through February 1944.

The first cover shown here caught my eye because of the New York censor's resealing label on domestic correspondence. The letter was sent from Gimbel Brothers department store and postmarked May 14, 1942. The addressee appears to have been a guest at the upscale Greenbrier Hotel, in White Sulpher Springs, West Virginia. The letter was returned to the retailer because, according to the post office directive, the addressee had moved and left no forwarding address.

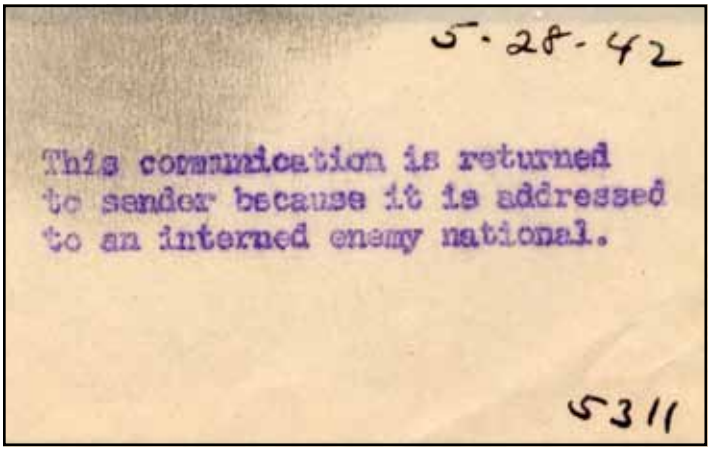
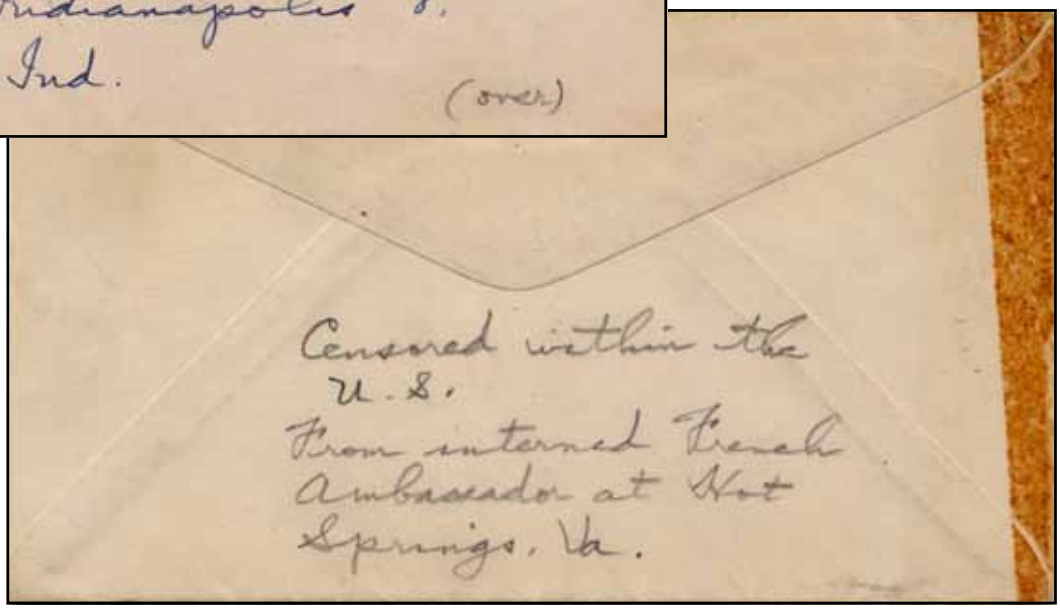


Figure 2: Enclosure explaining the letter's return to sender.

On the return, the letter was first directed back to the "Stamp Dept," then finally, as shown in red pencil, to "Mr. Minkus," presumably the well known stamp dealer and album publisher Jacques Minkus.

Tucked inside the cover was a censor's enclosure

Figure 3: February 1944 censored domestic mail from Vichy French Ambassador Gaston Henry-Gaye, detained at Hot Springs, Virginia.



Figures 4: The reverse of the Figure 3 cover with a pencil notation.

slip, also shown here, explaining to the writer why the letter was being returned.

Johann Diedrich Entrup was a low ranking member of the German diplomatic corps assigned to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. He was involved in "propagating un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries...and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution."

Within hours of Germany's declaration of war on the United States., Entrup and his 434 German compatriots were in State Department custody.

On December 19, 1941, the entourage arrived at The Greenbrier, a haven for wealthy vacationers in peacetime. They departed the hotel on May 5 and left New York harbor aboard the repatriation ship, M.S. *Gripsholm*, two days later.

The second cover was sent by the Vichy French Ambassador Gaston Henry-Gaye, as noted in manuscript on the back side.

From November 17, 1942, until October 1, 1943, he and his entourage were detained at the Hotel Hershey, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. They were then moved to the Cascades Inn, at Hot Springs, Virginia.

The mute cancel provides no hint as to date or location of his detention. However, the New York censor marking was in use from February 1944 to June 1945.

The Vichy French diplomatic corps repatriated on February 15, 1944, aboard the *Gripsholm*, thus suggesting the letter was sent from Hot Springs, Virginia, just prior to his departure.

The mail of detained diplomats provides yet another collecting opportunity for Prexie era enthusiasts.

The Entrup cover's franking is a reminder that 1940s commemoratives also fall within the Prexie era time period.

Reference

Fiset, Louis. "Axis and French Diplomats, Families, and Staffs," in *Detained, Interned, Incarcerated: U.S. Noncombatant Mail in World War II*. Chicago: The Collectors Club of Chicago, 2010, pp. 127-138.

(Louis Fiset is editor of The Prexie Era, *newsletter of the United States Stamp Society's 1938 Presidential Era Committee. He may be contacted by e-mail at: fiset@uw.edu)*

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

Bluejacket Mail: A Postal History of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in the First World War (1917-1919)

***Bluejacket Mail: A Postal History of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in the First World War (1917-1919)* by Bob Swanson. Box Elder, S.D: The author, 2014. Perfect bound, 8.5 x 11 inch, 42pp., B&W illus. Also available on DVD.**

Available for $9.99 from: Robert Swanson, 514 Americas Way #2016, Box Elder, SD 57719. Website: http://swansongrp.com/bob.html

Bluejacket Mail: A Postal History of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in the First World War (1917-1919) is a monograph written by Bob Swanson that is part of the research for his more extensive book, *Domestic United States Military Facilities of the First World War (1917-1919)*.

That book attempts to list all domestic United States military facilities from which military mail might have originated during World War I.

During his research, because of the wealth of information that he uncovered, he decided to tell some of the stories in greater detail than could be done in the larger volume. *Bluejacket Mail* is the initial result of that idea.

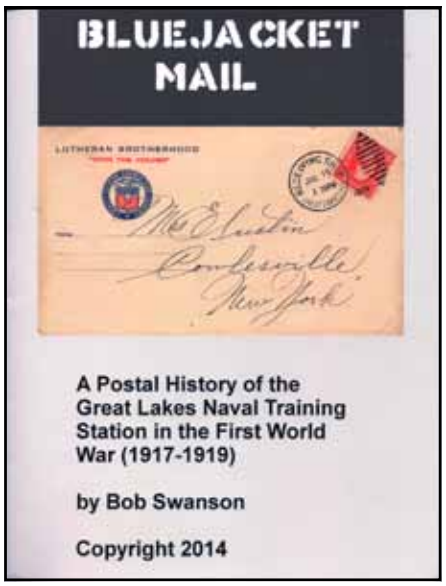
Working from mostly original sources, Swanson cobbled together the story of one of the facilities that the U.S. Navy opened on short notice to support the war efforts in Europe. Unlike Army, and even Marine Corps, facilities that are usually well documented, Navy training camps provide a more daunting challenge because the Navy did not provide a comprehensive listing of their training facilities.

Navy manpower jumped from 70,000 in 1917 to 530,000 by the time the war ended. The Great Lakes facility in Illinois served at least 47,000 sailors, making it as large as many Army camps.

Given those figures, one would expect that considerable postal history from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station should have survived.

Based upon Swanson's research, that is not the case. But, using examples of photographs, postcards, and surviving covers, Swanson documents much of what is available.

Swanson opens the book with a brief introduction, followed by four chapters that cover the Great Lakes Naval Training Station: Background, Postal History, Ephemera, and A Case Study.



The postal history chapter includes covers postmarks and post office details.

"A Case Study," showcases the letters written in 1918 by Carroll Miller, a sailor training at Great Lakes. His letters show the human side of the great influenza pandemic of 1918, along with stories of camp and personal life.

The chapters are followed by two appendices that list camps and schools and sources. A general index wraps up the publication. All three of these are extremely handy for philatelists looking for leads for similar research.

Swanson uses a two-column format throughout with wide margins that makes following the text easy, but his layout is all vertical, leaving much white space on some pages and awkward headings, especial for the main chapters, on others.

The black and white images are almost all from high resolution scans, but many are too small to see details clearly. Some maps would have been helpful.

Despite some of its design limitations, readers will find a wealth of useful research and information that will aid anyone working on Naval and World War I subjects.

Bluejacket Mail can be purchased as a hard copy or on a DVD, where the images are in color. Either makes a nice addition to one's postal history library.

Peter Martin

Figure 1 (Right): A 1913 postal card with a one-cent stamp that was held for postage.

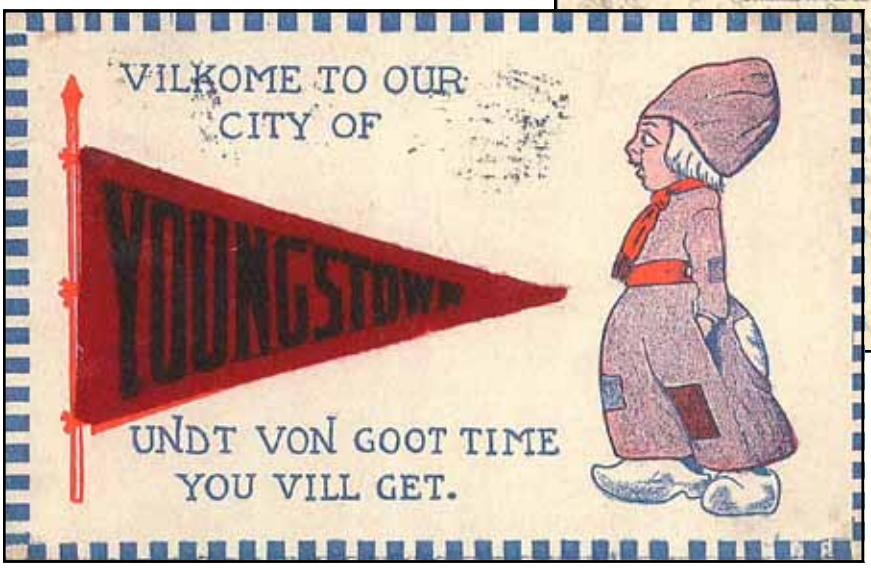


Figure 2 (Left): The felt flag on the front of the Figure 1 postcard was the reason the card was held for another penny of postage.

Postcards with Felt Affixed

In 1913, postcards with felt affixed were required to be mailed at the two-cent letter rate.

The postcard shown in Figure 1 was mailed with a one-cent Washington stamp (Scott 405b) postmarked August (19), 1913, at Youngstown, Ohio. The card was addressed to Akron, Ohio.

Underneath the one-cent Parcel Post stamp is the handstamp "Held for Postage," and at the bottom there is "594, 8/19/13," indicating that the postcard was indeed held for postage.

When the one-cent Parcel Post stamp was received, it was affixed to the postcard and machine cancelled at Youngstown on August 22, 1913.

Now this begs the question of why the postcard was held for postage to makeup the rate for a two-cent letter.

Figure 2 answers the question. The front of the postcard featured an affixed felt flag with "YOUNGSTOWN" on it, thus making it liable for the two-cent letter rate.

The postcard shown in Figure 3 was mailed with a two-cent Sesquicentennial stamp (Scott 627) postmarked Skowhegan, Maine, on September 16, 1926. It was addressed to Portland, Maine. Why was the postcard mailed at the two-cent postal rate? It was because, on April 15, 1926, the postcard rate was increased one cent to two cents, while the postal card rate was held at the one-cent rate.

Now, at the same time, the two-cent letter rate was in effect so it cost just as much to mail a postcard as it did to mail a letter.

Then, on July 1, 1928, the postcard rate reverted back to the old one-cent postcard rate.

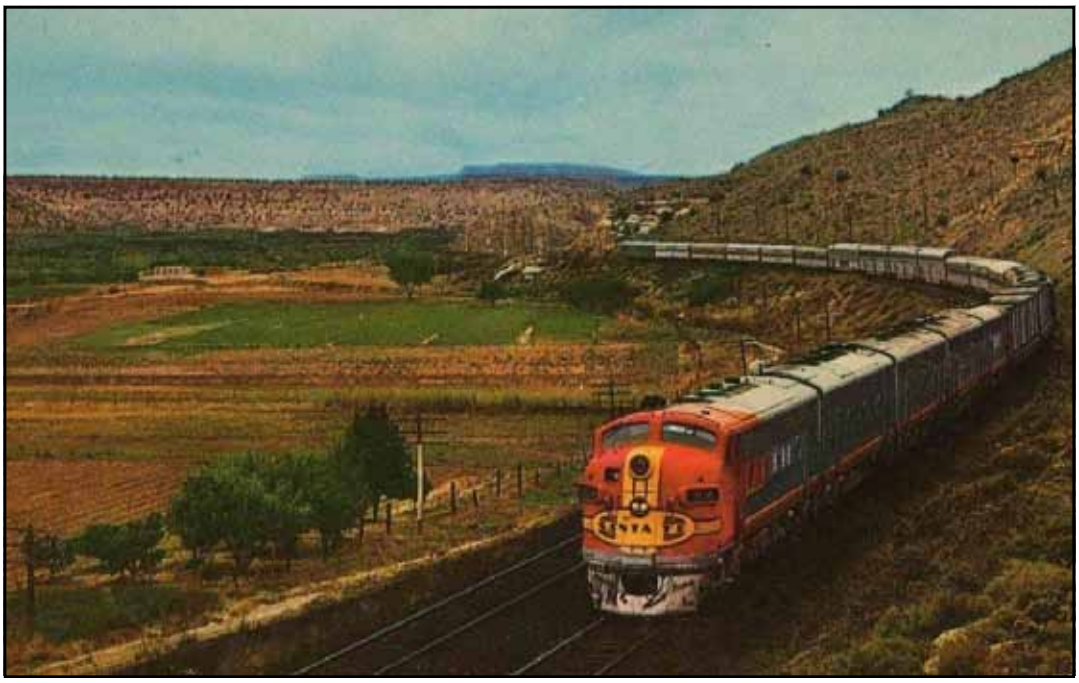
Now comes the punch line for the other side of the card shown in Figure 4. It also has a felt flag affixed that promoted Skowhegan and a radio announcer with words to fit the theme.

However, when the Figure 4 postcard was mailed, postal clerks no longer uprated postcards with felt affixed. Both these postcards were mailed at the two-cent rate, but for different reasons and at different times.

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

Figure 3 (Right):
This September 1926 postcard, mailed from Maine with a two-cent Sesquicentennial stamp, also had a felt flag on the front, as shown in Figure 4 below, but the reason was an April 1926 one-cent rate increase for postcards, not because of the felt.

Happy Holiday Wishes From The La Posta Team



One of the many different Fred Harvey postcards featuring the Santa Fe's *San Francisco Chief*. This one parallels a picturesque route through the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Remembering the *San Francisco Chief*

By Paul Petosky

The *San Francisco Chief* was a streamlined passenger train operated by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (The Santa Fe) between Chicago and the San Francisco Bay Area. It operated from 1954 until 1971.

The *San Francisco Chief* was the last new streamliner introduced by the Santa Fe. It offered the first direct service between Chicago and the San Francisco Bay Area and was the only direct service between those two locations that ran over the tracks of a single railroad. At 2,555 miles, it was the longest single service offered by a railroad in the United States that did not use another railroad's tracks.

The *San Francisco Chief* was one of many trains discontinued when Amtrak began operations in 1971.

The Santa Fe introduced the new streamliner on June 6, 1954. Unlike most Santa Fe streamliners, the *San Francisco Chief* used the Belen Cutoff and traveled via Amarillo, Texas, bypassing the Raton Pass.

In common with Santa Fe's other trains, it terminated in Oakland, California (later Richmond, California), with a bus connection across the bay to San Francisco.

As originally scheduled, the *San Francisco Chief* handled through cars for several cities in Texas, plus New Orleans sleepers conveyed by the Missouri Pacific Railroad in Houston.

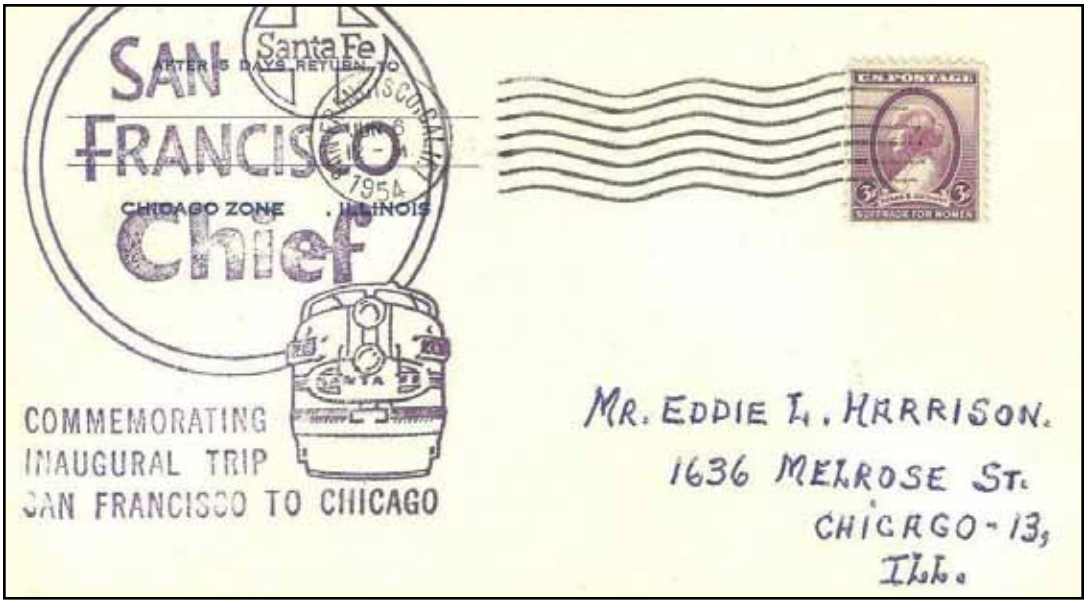
The *San Francisco Chief* carried the numbers 1 (westbound) and 2 (eastbound). It was the only Chicago-San Francisco train to make the entire journey over its owner's tracks; all other trains used at least one other company's route for a portion of the trip.

A typical *San Francisco Chief* ad.

The inauguration of the new train featured a ceremony led by Taptuka, a Hopi chief.

The train used a mix of old equipment from other streamliners and some newly-constructed equipment, including full-length dome cars (called "Big Domes") built by the Budd Company.

Preinauguration publicity touted various amenities such as better reclining chairs in the coaches, "classic and popular music...on individual, push-button type receivers," and bar service on the upper level of the dome car via a dumb waiter.



The *San Francisco Chief* was one of few Santa Fe trains to survive the great purge in 1967-68 when dozens of trains were discontinued.

These discontinuances were prompted in a large part by the cancellation of railway post office contracts in 1967.

Another survivor, the *Grand Canyon*, provided through service to Los Angeles at Barstow, California. Amtrak chose the route of *California Zephyr* for Chicago to San Francisco service, and the *San Francisco Chief* made its last run on April 30, 1971.

The discontinuance of the *San Francisco Chief* marked the end of passenger service on the Belen Cutoff.

Since 1971 there have been periodic discussions between Amtrak and the successive owners of that route (the Santa Fe and the BNSF Railway) about re-routing the *Super Chief*, now the *Southwest Chief*, off the Raton Pass and onto the cutoff.

The Santa Fe was unusual in that, at least until 1963, it didn't operate its own dining cars. Instead, it contracted them out to Fred Harvey, who also operated restaurants in many train stations and hotels in Santa Fe destinations.

A Non-Philatelic, Philatelic Article

By Jesse I. Spector

As I read the most recent of a seemingly endless stream of doomsday letters about the impending demise of our hobby, the thought crossed my mind—you know, maybe they are right.

Well now, that kind of thinking can be a real downer, but what to do if it's true? I mean most of us have our heads buried in the sand and probably have earplugs on as well.

It is sometimes simply too unrealistic coming up with ideas that in the back of our heads simply don't fit with reality, like, say, putting a bag of stamps under the pillow of our three-year-old child hoping that by osmosis he or she will grow up to become a philatelist.

With that in mind I realized a few things: namely, another letter to the editor is like using a teabag over for the fourth time—it really loses something in the taste; and, if you want to make an article out of it, you'd better have something to say—mind you, maybe not the answer, but something meaningful to impart to you hard-core philatelists out there. Okay then, here goes.

I have the typical credentials of a lot of you stamp enthusiasts. I collected United States commemoratives and first day covers as a kid, and then as I got involved with high school and college work and learned about sex and cars, put my "collection" aside and went on to these other critical endeavors, knowing that someday my youthful collection would bring me a fortune when I retrieved it from the cigar box in the basement to pay for my new 1967 Ford Mustang.

Right. Maybe for a steering-wheel knob with the picture of the model in a skimpy bathing suit.

Then, also, there are those of you who never took a hiatus from your collecting spirit—maybe cars and sex and school weren't your thing, or, maybe you found time for all of the above; but, whatever, you kept on going through the decades, and some of you really got our envy up when we read about you in *Linn's*, having sold your fifth or eighth complete collection, this one of Ugandan, eighteen-seventies colonial, overprinted ore-load mining, tax revenue stamps, including the one-of-a-kind goose-feather grey colored variant, for three million dollars after fee deductions at Christies, London.

Yes, somehow seeing your smiling face, all teeth, holding a billboard-sized facsimile of the real check didn't quite warm our hearts as much as that of your trust fund advisor.

Anyway, regardless of which mold you fit—the fair-weather collector who took up the hobby once again decades later after your spouse read you the riot act, that your retirement did not come with an obligatory right to follow them around all day like a puppy dog—no, get a life will you; or, if you never gave up the hobby and had set aside one room of the house that was completely off limits to anyone, yes anyone, except a designated trustee, as per a document you drew up with your lawyer, and the possession of the document held in a safe-deposit box at the New York branch of the Zurich Trust Foundation, Ltd.—there does come a moment of introspection that you think of things like:

(a) What will it be like when I'm no longer here; or (b) What will happen to my collection if there are no more collectors?

Yes, these are the dilemmas we face if our hobby goes belly up. And make no bones about it, that eventuality may come to fruition. For that matter, the latest consensus among astrophysicists is that the earth will contract and implode through entropy in less than 6.5 billion more years. You see, bad things are possible.

As I stated at the onset of this article, if you really make it an article you better have something to say—so here goes.

The postal service has decided to go modern, that is, for as long as it hangs on as a viable entity. The material it offers, while voluminous in quantity, is without saving grace. Indeed, except for the fact that this is a family journal, I would have preferred describing their product for what it is; but, the vernacular would be stricken by the editor's pen—excuse me—keyboard, in a nanosecond.

So, the producer of our life-blood, the postal service, has given in to artistic nihilism and we are stuck with the preceding nineteenth and half of the twentieth century product—material that, most unfortunately, has all the attraction for our younger

generation as last year's I-phone model—you will find more in a New Jersey landfill than in the hands of a low-rider, baggy-pants kid for sure.

I have seen the same thing in some of my other collecting hobbies such as clocks, but not in model railroading or in gun collecting. Force-feeding a new generation is not the answer.

Yes, there will always be younger folks who will derive the pleasure we do and are stewarded into the hobby through individuals, clubs and really, really good programs catering to them at stamp shows. My idea is a bit different though. It's a reflection of our Berkshire chapter of Society of Israel Philatelists (SIP) activities that seems to work, and hopefully is not a flash-in-the-pan.

We meet once a month on a Sunday morning. We don't meet in a Temple basement room that was a renovated former coal bin; rather, we are fortunate to have the use of the hall, so to speak, of renowned philatelist Bob Markovits's house.

We schmooze over bagels and coffee (Dunkin Donuts if I get my way) and donuts. We start on time about 10:30 am and we usually quit right at noon, so we can get home and do the really fun things like rake wet leaves or shovel hard-pack snow or wet mop the basement floor. That means we don't have to get out of bed for an 8 a.m. meeting or schlep home from an evening meeting when we usually like to be in bed by 5 p.m. after our early-bird dinner special at 3 p.m. at Roy Rogers.

We have several members who have lovingly collected extensive philatelic material related to the Levant, including all aspects of forerunner, Palestine and Israel collecting, both stamps and postal history, that allows us almost endless programs of great pleasure. We have members who do not collect in these areas but either collect other areas of philately or are not collectors at all!

They love to come and participate and learn and enjoy. You really don't have to sign a pledge to "collect the right thing" to take pleasure in our undertaking.

In addition, we do ephemera related to the above subjects, or related to Europe or the United States, and we also do "American" philatelic stuff, completely distinct but invigorating. I could go on, but you get the picture.

We usually have a set topic for the meeting that we choose the month before, and this allows folks to go through their own material, or, hit the Internet, or, we will use the fabulous, free SIP programs that are amazingly well done, including downloadable slide presentations of great covers with inscriptions, and wonderful crib-sheets that come with the program for a slide-by-slide interpretation. No college professorship required to do a great presentation I can assure you.

'The postal service has decided to go modern, that is, for as long as it hangs on as a viable entity. The material it offers, while voluminous in quantity, is without saving grace.'

Finally, you might have guessed, or did I take you by surprise, that some of us like to write? I do postal history writing and am an associate editor for *La Posta*, *The Journal of American Postal History*.

My fellow club members generously make available excellent material that would certainly otherwise not be available to me, leading to the writing of some pretty good (at least I think so) articles that are published and reviewed at our meetings. Like they say at the Academy Awards each year: "without them I would not be standing here today."

And now, truly finally. We don't push and we don't pull, but every now and then while talking with a friend we have someone join us on one Sunday morning, and you know something, they have a good time and come back and then become one of the group.

And trust me, our once a year summer picnic and our Chanukah party meeting are not to be missed. Low key, good food and lots of kibitzing.

Yes, we have a number of grey heads or no hair folks, but we also have younger and also sometimes no hair folks who are part of our chapter. In other words we have what looks like staying power.

Now you can never say that 100 percent, but it is what I started out with this article to say, another means for sustaining our beloved hobby—at least until that inevitable implosion just 6.5 billion years from now.

(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.)

Readers with a philatelic "Viewpoint" that they would like to share should submit their comments to the editor.

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 two million 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*.

Mississippi Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen

These photographs are of post offices from Mississippi. A variety of people took these photos over the years. The PMCC Museum's collection has more than 850 pictures from Mississippi that range from black and white views from 1974 to color digital photos from 2014. Note that the Vicksburg and West Point Post Offices have been relocated since the illustrated photos were taken.

Jackson Post Office, Hinds Co., 2000

McAdams Post Office, Attala Co., 1997

Vicksburg Post Office, Warren Co., 2000

West Point Post Office, Clay Co., 2002

Meridan Post Office, Lauderdale Co., 2007

Winona Post Office, Montgomery Co., 2010

Nicholson Post Office, Pearl River Co., 2012

Thomastown Post Office, Leake Co., 2009

Tie Plant Post Office, Grenada Co., 2000

Tunica Post Office, Tunica Co., 2008

Yazoo City Post Office, Yazoo Co., 2000

Tchula Post Office, Holmes Co., 2000

Vossburg Post Office,
Jasper Co., 2012

Tippo Post Office,
Tallahatchie Co., 1989

Nitta Yuma Post Office, Sharkey Co., 1976

Toccopola Post Office, Pontotoc Co., 1995

Nicholson Post Office, Pearl River Co., 1997

Letters

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

The Mystery of Station D—Solved

In the Third Quarter *La Posta,* on page 43, we published the photo at right and posited the question about the possible location of the Station D Post Office.

We received two replies to the question, including one from the USPS, and both arrived at the same conclusion, but they got there from slightly different angles. Their responses appear below.

Louisville Via the *Postal Bulletin*

After reading your article regarding the photograph of "Post Office Station D." in the Third Quarter 2014 *La Posta*, my colleague, Senior Research Analyst Steve Kochersperger did some checking on the man listed as Leo Kaufmann. He found him listed, though spelled with one n as Kaufman, as working in the Louisville, Kentucky, Post Office in 1905. Looking at his salary, he may have been a supervisor or manager, which would account for his not being listed in the Postmaster Finder.

At first, due to the lack of an index we weren't able to track him down as working in 1909 and we were not sure if there was a "Station D" in Louisville at that time, but the information Steve obtained seemed to fit into the clues in your photo.

Subsequently, he found a Leo P. Kaufman listed as a clerk at the Louisville Post Office in the employee registers of 1905 and 1911.

We also verified the existence of a Station D in Louisville. It is mentioned in the *Postal Bulletin* extracts of February 18, 1925, and March 12, 1937, as moving its location, and in the October 20, 1960, noted as having its Postal Savings Depository status revoked. The 1925 item mentions a move to 1513 West Kentucky Street but does not give a previous address, so I don't know if it was ever at an address numbered 962. Also, it appears that multiple cities designated their postal stations by letters, so there were numerous Station Ds.

In short, it can't be determined positively that the picture is of Station D in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1909, but we know there was such an office in Louisville and that it had an employee named Leo Kaufman.

I'm not sure if this will clear up, or deepen, the mystery surrounding your photo.

June Brandt
USPS Research Analyst Postal History
Washington, D.C

Louisville Via the *Postal Guides*

Your picture of Station D is great! Too bad whoever wrote Leo Kaufmann's name didn't add a city, too. Here's what I found:

I started with Jim Forte's list of post offices, and searched for "Sta. D." His list is far from perfect, but it is a convenient listing.

He lists "Sta. D" as having existed in 40 different cities over time, a number that I know is incomplete. I looked those all up in the 1907 and 1912 *Postal Guides* (I don't have any years in between) because at that time they generally listed a street address for lettered stations.

Only about half of the cities on Forte's list had a Station D during that timeframe. The 1907 book didn't have anything with a street number of 962, but the 1912 book did!

In 1907, Station D of Louisville, Kentucky, was at Kentucky and 15th Streets. In 1912, it was given as 962 15th Street! That likely is the one, especially with the KE on the building next door.

I'm not convinced the KE would necessarily be part of a state, but I can't think of what else it might be. A product that John Moore sold would make sense, but I can't think of what it would be. John Moore & Co. Keys? I also have not come up with any city beginning with KE that would have been big enough to have at least four lettered stations.

Leo Kaufmann was probably either the station manager or a clerk at Station D. A station would not have a postmaster, and the Louisville postmaster

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POST OFFICE CHANGES

Sites Changed

KENTUCKY

Louisville, Station D. To 1513 West Kentucky Avenue. Effective October 1, 1925. [17 January.

Louisville, Station E. To east side of South Fifth Street, between Gaulbert and Lee Streets. Effective August 1, 1925. [7 February.

LOUISIANA

POST OFFICE CHANGES

Sites Changed

TEXAS

Littlefield. To X. I. T. Drive, lot 16, block 24 (railroad route No. 111796, mail messenger route No. 250594). Effective March 15, 1925. [10 February.

Wilson. To Tenth Street, between Green and Houston Streets, 531 feet from railway station (railroad route No. 111796, mail messenger

MAIL MESSENGER SERVICE

Changed

NEW HAMPSHIRE

202022. Franklin to 101724 and 101792, at Franklin railroad station (n. o.), 1.12 miles; 101724 and 101792 at Franklin Falls railroad station (n. o.), 0.2 mile; between Main Street Station and 101724 and 101792, at Franklin railroad station (n. o.), 0.3 mile, including exchanges between Franklin and Main Street Station;

Subscription pri per annum. Remittance sho perintendent of D Printing Office, W

STAR RO

The February 18, 1925, *Postal Bulletin* listing the Louisville Station D Post Office.

wouldn't have been at the station. That's why his name doesn't appear on Postmaster Finder. The six days a week, plus an hour on Sunday, I believe was fairly standard in those days.

One source that I have found enormously useful here in Hampshire County is old city directories. They were somewhat like glorified phone books, privately published for lots of cities and towns in New England, and I assume other places as well. Based on what I've seen of them from around here, I would expect Louisville's to list all the stations, their addresses, hours, probably the station manager's name, and possibly the clerk's name, too. There would also be a residential listing, which would likely give Leo Kaufmann's residence, as well as occupation.

If a *Louisville City Directory* from 1909 lists Leo Kaufmann as working at Station D at 962 15th Street. I think you'd have a pretty definitive identification.

I'll bet a reference librarian at the Louisville Library might be able to look that up.

From Google Maps, I see that 962 S. 15th Street is at the corner of Kentucky Street, but it looks nothing like the picture. Today, it's a pretty nondescript industrial area southwest of downtown.

Probably in 1909 it would have been on the outskirts of town, looking about like the background of your picture.

Fun stuff!

Kelvin Kindahl
Easthampton, Mass.

In The News

Confederate Stamp Alliance at London 2015

The Confederate Stamp Alliance will hold its annual convention for 2015 at London 2015 Europhilex. It will be the first time that the CSA has held its convention outside of the United States.

The CSA, founded in 1934, serves the needs of collectors of Confederate stamps and postal history. It publishes the quarterly *The Confederate Philatelist*, offers an authentication service and publishes several essential books.

For further details about London 2015, go to: *www.london2015.net*.

PF Awards Neinken Medal to Cheryl Ganz

On October 23, The Philatelic Foundation awarded its Neinken Medal to Cheryl Ganz for meritorious service to philately. Vice Chairman Donald Sundman made the presentation.

Sundman, who as Chairman of the Council of Philatelists at the National Postal Museum, worked for many years with Ganz in successfully funding and building the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery.

Sundman outlined Ganz's many achievements including her tenure as the chief curator of philately for the NPM. Ganz is currently a member of the CSAC, has authored seven books, and is expert on all things philatelic related to the Zeppelin *Hindenburg*.

Don Sundman and Cheryl Ganz.

Accepting the award, Ganz thanked six philatelic mentors, each of whom made a lasting impression on her. These were Thomas Fuerst, Arthur Salm, Bernard Hennig, Charles Peterson, her husband Felix Ganz and W. Wilson Hulme her predecessor at the NPM. In addition Ganz thanked Professor Richard John, who was in attendance, and whose writing has combined the study of postal and communications history.

The more than 80 attendees of the event enjoyed an evening of food, drink, lively conversation and philatelic comradery.

Past recipients of the Neinken Award can be viewed on The Philatelic Foundation website at *www.philatelicfoundation.org*.

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