



La Posta Publications
POB 6074
Fredericksburg, VA 22403

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

In all of United States philately...
There is no better source for—nor venue for selling—
U.S. Postal History than right here.



info@kelleherauctions.com
www.kelleherauctions.com

Kelleher Auctions

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC

America's Oldest Philatelic Auction House • Established 1885

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



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

La Posta

Vol. 46, No. 2

Whole Number 262

Second Quarter 2015

LA POSTA: THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition

By Charles Neyhart

Vol. 46, No. 2
Whole Number 262
Second Quarter 2015



OUR 46TH YEAR OF PUBLISHING AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY 1969-2015

Resources

@ siegelauctions.com



CATALOGUES AND PRICES REALIZED

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

POWER SEARCH™

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

MY SIEGEL™

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



LOT TRACKER™

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

THE SIEGEL ENCYCLOPEDIA™

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

RARITIES CENSUS

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



EXHIBITS AND MOUNTED COLLECTIONS

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

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

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



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



The "Queen" of First Day Covers

Sold \$115,000



The "King" of First Day Covers

Sold \$172,500

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

Please visit our website at:
www.rumseyauctions.com

email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

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

Consign or Sell To Us Now and let us Feature YOUR Collection!

A Special Message:

Others will buy your United States collection outright and then turn around and sell it at some auction—often for as much as two to three times what you paid for it. It's true.

But Kelleher's personalized services do NOT permit that to ever happen. When you consign or sell to us, we will be pleased to **FEATURE** your fine collection in our auction catalogs—and for special collections consigned to us we can even offer you, the seller, a *personalized auction catalog* all your own.

Call our Owner/Buyers who are available to travel immediately to value your collection. No pressure. No Hassle Market Values will be provided.

If another buyer asks you "*How much do you want for your collection?*" walk away—count on us to candidly advise you as to the current market conditions so that you can receive *the most for your collection*—either in outright confidential sale to us for immediate payment or auction consignment.

Consignments also now accepted for our regular Internet sales—no need to wait for the next public sale. We sell more lots online than any other public auction company.

International Reach—sell to everyone in the market around the world, not just one person or company. Guaranteed results.

It's never been easier to receive full market value by contacting Kelleher's today! You will be glad that you did.



The greatest distinction when it's time to sell is having *your own personalized public auction catalog*—designed by our talented graphic artists and written up by Kelleher's expert professional philatelists.

And printed in full color in our own in-house printing services.

Call now for an in-home appointment!

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions

America's Oldest Philatelic Auction House • Established 1885

4 Finance Drive, Suite 100 • Danbury, CT 06810

Phone: 203.297.6056 • Toll Free: 877.316.2895 • Fax: 203.297.6059

Email: info@kelleherauctions.com

www.kelleherauctions.com





Treat Your Ponies Right! Pony Express Covers Benefit from Philatelic Foundation Certificates *Your Stamps and Covers Will, Too*

Pony Express covers are among the most popular and valuable U.S. postal history items. Herds of them have been examined by the experts at The Philatelic Foundation. After careful study, this lovely cover with a \$1 Pony Express stamp on a 10¢ green entire and a blue oval Running Pony cancellation was determined to be genuine in all respects by our experts.

Why do savvy collectors and knowledgeable dealers turn to The Philatelic Foundation for their opinions? Because PF opinions are respected and add additional value to genuine stamps and covers. Simply put, many stamps and covers are worth more with a PF Certificate than without one.

Submit Your Stamps and Covers Today for a PF Certificate

The same experts who worked on this Pony Express cover will examine your stamps and covers. These experts will access the same multimillion-dollar reference collection, apply decades of scholarship and issue an opinion you can trust.

Call 1-212-221-6555 or visit www.PhilatelicFoundation.org today to download a submission form. Fill out the one-page form and send it to us with your stamp or cover.

Reward yourself with the security of a Philatelic Foundation Certificate – the gold standard of philatelic certificates for 70 years.



The Philatelic Foundation

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



LA POSTA

THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Vol. 46, No. 2

Whole No. 262

Second Quarter 2015

CONTENTS

Play It Again, San Diego

The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition

By Charles Neyhart 7

Confederate Postal History: The Confederate Paymaster's

Property Becomes the National Colored Home

By Patricia A. Kaufmann 28

Early Football Postal History

By Peter Martin 32

A Patriotic Cover and the Johnson's Island

Confederate Prisoner of War Camp

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits 34

U.S. Auxiliary Markings: Mostly Mystery Markings

on Overseas Bound Mail

By John M. Hotchner 44

Postcard Pursuit: A Toledo Scale Co. Business Reply

Postcard: Is it Worth More 'One Way or the Other?'

By Charles A. Fricke 48

Snapshots: Two Early Views of Mailbox Pickups 49

Postal History at the American Philatelic Research Library:

Special Collections and Finding Aids

By Tara E. Murray 50

Advertising Postal History: An Ad Cover for

The Thief of Bagdad

By Thomas Richards 52

South Dakota Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen 54

Tidbits: Alaska's Chilkoot Pass 56

COLUMNS

Publisher's Page By Peter Martin 5

Letters 56

In The News 57

Nostalgia: The 1890s 57

Index of Advertisers 62

Publisher and Editor

Peter Martin

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Office Manager

Advertising Manager

Joan Martin

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Associate Editors

Jesse Spector

Alan Warren

© 2015 *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*.

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

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

La Posta Publications

POB 6074

Fredericksburg, VA 22403

laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Annual Subscription Rates

USA \$32 (4 issues)

Canada \$40 (U.S. \$)

Foreign \$70 via airmail

2015 Article Deadlines

3Q July 10, 2015

4Q Oct. 10, 2015

La Posta Benefactors and Sustaining Subscribers

Benefactors

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

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

Sustaining Subscribers

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

Rowland Austin	Robert R. Henak	John E. Panek	David E. Williams
Henry F. Battestin Jr.	Gary G. Hendren	Robert Peck	Charles Wood
Ryan Baum	Terry Hines	Richard Pesot	
Robert A. Beall	Reginald Hofmaier	Paul Petosky	
Dr. Steven J. Berlin	Don Hofsommer	The Philatelic Foundation	
Henry J. Berthelot	John Hollister	Toivo Ranniko	
John Bigart	Col. Frederick Howland	Thomas S. Richardson	
John H. Bloor	Stefan T. Jaronsky	Robert G. Schultz	
James N. Boyden	Lucien S. Klein	Joseph Sedivy	
Edward H. Brown	Daniel M. Knowles, M.D.	John A. Steele	
Arden D. Callender Jr.	George Kramer	Rex Stever	
Thomas E. Caton	Alfred F. Kugel	Bob Summerell	
Thomas E. Chastang	James E. Lee	Robert D. Swanson	
John Cheramy	Rev. David C. Lingard	Michael Taugher	
Ronald Couchot	Craig Martin	Harvey S. Teal	
Joe Crosby	Steven Miedziak	Norman Tjeltveit	
Dennis Gelvin	Andrew W. Mitchell	Don Tocher	
Ray Getsug	Col. Richard Morain	Thomas Unterberger	
Don Glickstein	James Moses	Timothy G. Wait	
James Green	David Mui	Charles S. Wallis Jr.	
Jim Havlena	Jim Myerson	John Weigle	
Dr. Edwin J. Helitzer	Ray L. Newburn Jr.	Louise Wile	

La Posta Presented in Full Color

We continue to make every effort to ensure that *La Posta* subscribers get the best in postal history. That starts with offering the best postal history authors and articles, continues with offering the best postal history auction houses and dealers as advertisers and ends with providing the best postal history journal in the hobby.

To that end, in each issue we try to offer a large variety of articles and subjects to meet the wide scope of interests of our readership; we provide an easy to read layout and design; we use high quality paper and a sturdy full-color cover; and we moved to a perfect bound journal that is mailed in a polybagged envelope to ensure that it arrives undamaged in your mailbox.

In addition, we have been increasing the number of pages that we offer in color. While much American postal history exists only in black and white, color certainly enhances the images, especially for stamps, cancels, auxiliary markings and color advertising and patriotic covers.

In recent years, the cost of color printing has come down and although it is still significantly more expensive than black and white printing, it has become relatively more affordable.

Many *La Posta* readers have asked that we include color whenever possible and thanks to the contributions of *La Posta*'s Sustaining and Benefactor members we have been able to do so.

In this issue, thanks to special arrangements with our printer, we can give our readers a taste of what a full-color issue would look like. It is the first full color issue in *La Posta*'s 46-year history.

I would appreciate your comments by e-mail or regular mail about whether you like the full-color treatment and if you would be willing to pay \$4-\$6 per year extra to make every issue full color or whether that type of increase would be prohibitive for you.

We'll continue to provide as much color as we can in each issue with thanks to the *La Posta* Sustaining and Benefactor members listed on page 4.

Bill's Place

We've featured the Bill's Place, Pennsylvania, Post Office several times in *La Posta*, and my continued



research into this iconic Lincoln Highway (On the Bedford-Fulton County line near Breezewood) destination, which was once the site of the smallest post office in the United States and is today located under the Pennsylvania Turnpike, has led me to try to make this wonderful bit of American history come alive again for future generations.

The History of Bill's Place, Pa., and the Smallest Post office in the United States is coming together for publication later this year. I'm including a chapter about

reminiscences of Bill's Place by those who worked there, lived nearby or simply stopped for a visit.

I'm also seeking images of artifacts that were once sold or used at the rest stop. Included are photographs, postcards, souvenirs and post office related cards, letters and cancellations.

If you or a family member have a story, photograph or remembrance related to Bill's Place, or have an item that can be photographed or scanned, please e-mail me at pmartin2525@yahoo.com by August 15.

Subscriber Notice

Since taking over *La Posta*, we have spent the past year updating the subscriber database to ensure that we give the best possible service. We have carried some subscribers past their due dates to ensure that they didn't miss an issue.

All subscriber records have now been verified and, due to the cost of producing and mailing the journal, we will no longer be able carry subscribers past their due dates.

To ensure uninterrupted service, please respond promptly to your mailed invoice when it is received. Check your mailing label for your paid-through date. If your label says "Last Issue," your payment is due and you will not receive the next issue unless payment is received prior to the mailing date..

Please also be aware that we have an extremely limited overrun of each issue and may not be able to provide missing issues except in PDF format.

Please contact Joan at laposta.joan@yahoo.com if you have any questions about these changes.

Peter Martin



Protect and Display with G&K



#10 Cover Album

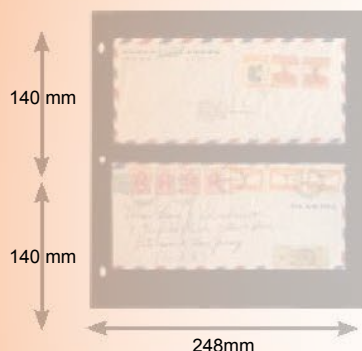
- Album with 25 pages (Page Size 10½x11½") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

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

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

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

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



Cover Album

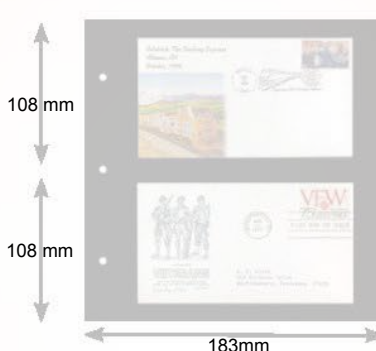
- Album with 25 pages (page size 8⅞x9") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

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

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

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

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



Euro Cover Album

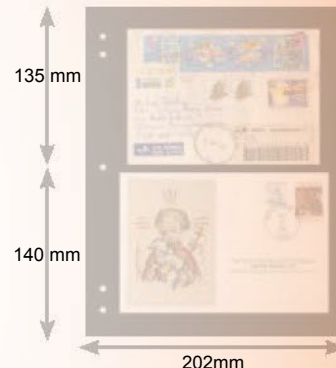
- Album with 25 pages (page size 9x11⅞") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**

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

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

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

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



G&K Ultralight Cover Holders

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

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

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

SHIPPING CHARGES

By MAIL/UPS *: \$7.50 Min. Orders over \$54 ADD 12%,
Over \$100 ADD 10%, Over \$250 ADD 8%

* Some Remote Areas Carry Higher Shipping charges.
PA Residents: ADD 6% Sales Tax

ADD \$5/\$10 Per Parcel on high weight/low cost orders shipped to the 11 Western States & TX
Ask for Shipping Charges to AK, HI, P.R., APO's, FPO's, Foreign

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

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



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

www.subwaystamp.com

Prices subject to change without notice
Not Responsible For Typographical Errors

Play It Again, San Diego

The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition

By Charles Neyhart

The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition was a product of an economic depression, brought to life by a natural promoter who set about to convince the citizens of San Diego to share his confidence in a prosperous future.

The exposition was held at Balboa Park, the venue that hosted the 1915 Panama California Exposition, but this time there were direct federal financial subsidies. The 1935 exposition, which subsequently added a second season, drew over seven million visitors, was nominally profitable to subscribers, injected new demand into the local economy, and set aside funds for improving Balboa Park, a San Diego icon.

This article examines the postal history produced by the California Pacific International Exposition. Part of that history was attributable to the issuance of a U.S. commemorative stamp on opening day; another was influenced by the scope of operations at the exposition post office, and, finally, the U.S. Navy, in its own ways, postally commemorated the exposition.

The objectives herein are to: (1) describe, in some detail, the record of postal history produced during the exposition, (2) identify and interpret factors that affected that record, and (3) discuss related markings from other sources.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive history of the California Pacific International Exposition; that, instead, has been chronicled admirably by many others producing a robust bibliography.¹ Nonetheless, one must know something about it as well as the actions of the post office to appreciate its postal history.

Backdrop to Another Exposition

The year 1933 dawned in San Diego with continued worries about the future. San Diego had lovely weather, but little else. Hope may have been on the horizon, but today was still a much different story, and it would invariably be the same tomorrow. It seemed intractable. San Diego might have had it better than some others, but to its residents, things were getting worse due to economic forces beyond their control. The Great Depression was deepening.

Yet, just over two years later, the California Pacific International Exposition opened in Balboa Park



with a grand celebration. In that short time, several prerequisites coalesced to place this event in San Diego.

Frank Drugan arrived in San Diego in August 1933 looking for new job opportunities after his home and business were lost in a Long Beach earthquake. Drugan had been a sales representative for a national newspaper chain. Whereupon visiting Balboa Park

and greatly admiring the surviving Spanish Colonial-inspired buildings and grounds from the 1915 Panama California Exposition, Drugan believed it could be profitable to stage another exposition at the site and, thereafter, set about to convince San Diego to do just that.

Most buildings from the 1915 exposition, all but four of which had been built as temporary structures, remained in play; only a few had actually been demolished. A committee of business and civic leaders was constituted to put together an exposition. Frank Drugan was its visionary and main advocate and was elected general secretary of the committee when it was incorporated on July 27, 1934.

Organizers looked to the 1933-34 Century of Progress International Exposition in Chicago to transfer many of its exhibits to San Diego when it closed.²

It also adapted that fair's theme—progress—modified in this case to the impact of federal water projects in the southwest and bundled that with the natural beauty of the area.³

Consumer goods and constructive new mechanical inventions were popular staples in Chicago, ostensibly because they portended a better future.

This would be a larger event and to showcase the exhibits the 1915 exposition buildings and grounds would have to be refurbished and new buildings constructed and grounds laid out.

Government support was set in motion in 1933 through the programs of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, including the Civil and, later, Public Works Administrations (1933), the Civilian Conservation Corps (1933) and the Works Progress Administration (1935). These federal programs, in conjunction with California's State Emergency Relief Administration (1933), helped put San Diego back to work.



Figure 1: This panorama, looking toward the northeast, shows the geographic layout of the 1935 exposition at Balboa Park. New additions for 1935 are front and center. The round structure at the bottom is the Ford building. The infrastructure originally from the 1915 exposition is on a main straight east-west axis beginning with the arched Cabrillo bridge (center left) on the west with axial intersections to the north and south. (*San Diego History Center Image No. 79 741-1669*)

Balboa Park, a short distance northeast of the downtown district, was 1,400 acres of former pueblo lands. The almost square park site is topographically divided by north-south canyons into several large mesas, a description applicable to the wider surrounding area. The western boundary of the park is less than a mile up-slope from the waterfront.

The grounds of the 1915 Panama California Exposition, comprising 640 acres, were situated on the large central mesa of Balboa Park. The built exposition was on a gradual rise 300 feet above sea level and was visual from all sides of the city. The picturesque Cabrillo Bridge, built for the earlier exposition, led pedestrians to the west entrance; the east entrance was directly accessed by streetcar and automobiles.

El Prado was the main boulevard that ran through the 1915 exposition's center and connected the plazas at the east and west entrances. The rectangular Plaza de Panama running north-south formed an intersecting axis with El Prado.⁴ Major building groupings were keyed to this axial arrangement. Formal and informal gardens were interspersed in and around this area.

The architectural style was Spanish Colonial, but also informed by Mission, Pueblo and Indian

influences.⁵ Not only were the physical features harmonious with the landscape, the style maintained a link to the early history of the area. Crucial refurbishment of the remaining 1915 buildings was done by the city in 1922 and 1933.

Designing on the Fly

The California Pacific International Exposition committee hired local architect Richard Requa to design new exhibit buildings and prepare commensurate grounds plans for the new exposition. The site chosen by Requa for expansion was in the Palisades area on the lower central mesa extending in a southwesterly direction from the original 1915 plat.

This area was the site of the U.S. Marine Corps camp and parade ground during the 1915 exposition. Requa, who greatly appreciated the 1915 buildings, said "...the (new) buildings should further illustrate the architecture of the Southwest," and proceeded to lay out his central Plaza de America in the characteristic manner of the Latin America cities around which were located new large exhibit palaces.⁶

Anchoring the north end of the Plaza de America was the Standard Oil building and its Tower of the Sun.



Figure 2: The March 15 earliest documented slogan cancel used in 1935 on outgoing San Diego mail. (Courtesy David Savadge)

The buildings were arranged in a semi-circle around the plaza, ostensibly to exemplify the architectural progression from prehistoric to modern times. The architecture of these “palaces” was informed by Maya and Aztec structures in the Yucatan and Mexico and extended to more modern 20th century industrial influences.

Starting from the east and working southward around to the west side of the plaza were the following new structures: Palace of Water and Transportation, Federal building, Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries, Ford Music Bowl, the circular Ford building, California State building and the Hollywood Hall of Fame. The large Plaza de America was adorned with water features, including the magnificent Firestone fountain, and extensive garden elements.

Despite the word “international” in the exposition name, no foreign country funded a building or mounted a major exhibit. Instead, Requa added two groupings of small buildings intended for international education and cultural exchange.

These were the Foreign Nations Haciendas (15 units) in the Palisades and Spanish Village (six units) in the northeast section of the original grounds. The intention was to staff these buildings with consular representatives or commercial agents.

It took some time, but optimistic prospects for economic growth finally convinced the citizenry to financially endorse the exposition. Stock subscriptions, private investment, and, ultimately, public subsidies provided the bulk of the necessary funding, supplemented by fees from exhibitors, concessionaires, the sale of memberships and admissions.

The Federal government provided funding for a building to house its exhibits being sent to the exposition. Additional federal and state funding programs, noted earlier, combined to pay for the

labor and materials costs for the various infrastructure projects.

A major key to success became timing. The monumental job of planning and constructing new buildings, streets and gardens of the new Palisades area, of staging hundreds of exhibits, growing thousands of plants, hiring and training hundreds of employees, making arrangements for restaurants, theatres, health services, security and transportation, and thousands of other details were accomplished by opening day, May 29, 1935.⁷

The Post Office

The U.S. Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., formally recognized the California Pacific International Exposition by authorizing use of a slogan cancel to advertise the exposition on outgoing San Diego mail. Figure 2 shows this 1935 cancel, written in three lines—California Pacific/International/Exposition—in a rectangular box.

The canceling machine used was a high grade electric Universal C model manufactured by the Universal Stamping Machine Company.⁸ The die’s dial is Type CT(2), the killer is Type 400 with the number “2” located in the dial at the 8 o’clock position. (The “400” refers to a rectangular slogan box with attached killer bars extending to the right; the “2” could represent different things since different post offices had different ways of doing things. The number could have referred to a specific machine, die number or a particular postal clerk.) The earliest documented use of this cancel is March 15, 1935.

During the 10-month run-up to the exposition’s opening day, Ernest W. Dort served as San Diego postmaster until he was succeeded by Donald M. Stewart on April 30, 1935.⁹ The 1935 San Diego Post Office scheme is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 4: The central entrance to the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries, home to Exposition Station. This Mayan-inspired building had almost 27,000 square feet of exhibition space. (San Diego History Center Image No. 82 13810)

Lettered postal stations were “classified” units that were operated by career postal personnel; numbered stations were “contract” units operated under a legal contract between the Post Office Department and a private party. Classified stations were more durable with locations selected to provide full service coverage, including mail pickup and delivery, to all major parts of a particular postal domain, e.g., San Diego. Contract stations were conditional and normally located in retail businesses strategically placed in high traffic areas, but there was no pickup or delivery of mail.

Figure 3: Scheme of the San Diego Post Office, 1935

Main Office:	Federal Building, 325 West F Street
Station A:	3945 Fifth Avenue
Station B:	2601 Broadway
Station C:	3830 Ray Street
Station D:	944 Seventh Avenue
Station No. 1:	3355 Adams Avenue (located in Piggly Wiggly Grocery)
Station No. 2:	603 Fifth Avenue (located in Ferris & Ferris Druggists)
Station No. 3:	2602 National Avenue (located in Burston Drug Co.)
Station No. 4:	3785 California Street (located in J.M. Mills Drugs)
Station No. 5:	2985 Imperial Avenue (located in Holmes Grocery)

Exposition Station, on the grounds of the California Pacific International Exposition, was established by order of Postmaster General James A. Farley on April 23, 1935, effective March 19, 1935, until March 31, 1936, inclusive.¹⁰

That order was later modified on March 17, 1936, to establish the dates as March 29, 1935 until September 9, 1936, inclusive, to accommodate the addition of a second season.¹¹

The Post Office Department chose to send a “model post office” to San Diego to serve as Exposition Station. It was staffed by San Diego Post Office personnel.

The May 28, 1935, *San Diego Union* reported:

With all the facilities necessary to handle the business of a city almost as large as San Diego, a complete postoffice was near completion last night in the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries at the Exposition.

Here to watch opening operation of the big branch was Charles F. Anderson, Washington expert, who delivered several hundred bags of mail to Adm. Richard Byrd in Antarctica. In charge of the installation is Ira P. Dawson, travelling mechanic for the Postoffice Department.

The exhibit postoffice was constructed in San Francisco and brought here by truck. The latest developments in high-speed sorting, stacking and cancelling machines will be shown in operation during the Exposition and regular service will be maintained through the office. Eight men will operate it from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. each day.¹²

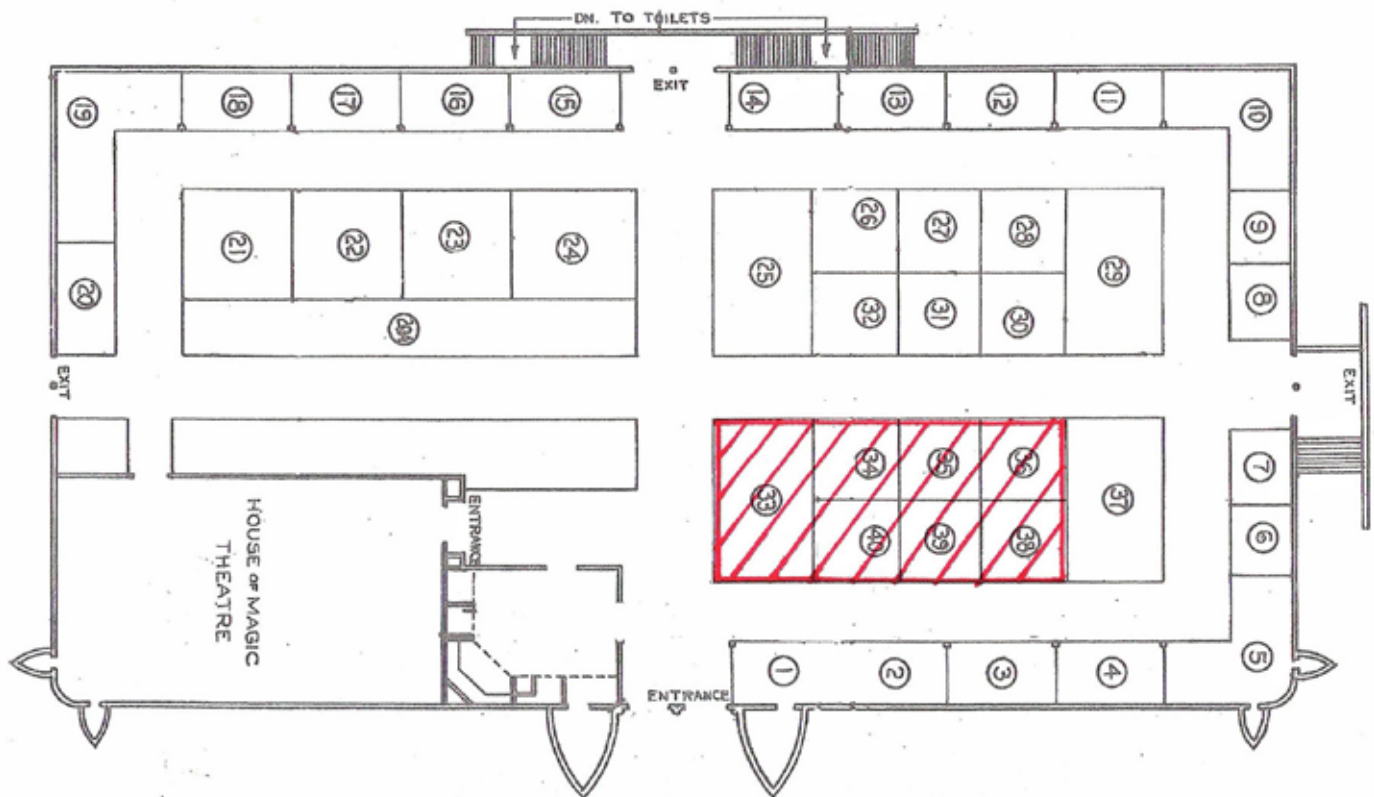


Figure 5: The floor layout of the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries building showing the individual exhibit spaces available for lease. Those spaces with the darkened crosshatch design denote the 1,950 square feet of space allocated to Exposition Station. The lease rate for this space was \$7,094, which was waived. (Courtesy San Diego Public Library, Special Collections)

Hugh C. Street, a senior clerk in the San Diego post office, was named superintendent of Exposition Station and supervised a staff of seven clerks.¹³ Clerks performed multiple tasks including mail processing and handling and window sales. Windows for money orders, registry, parcel post, and sales of stamps and supplies were installed.

Ten mail collection boxes were spaced throughout the exposition grounds.¹⁴ The station was open seven days a week during the first season, but was closed Sundays during the second season. Mail was dispatched daily, excluding Sunday, from the main post office in the morning and afternoon. Postal carriers made one morning and one afternoon delivery and collections picked up during these delivery trips were deposited at Exposition Station for processing.

Based upon staffing levels in effect for the 1915 exposition and considering the addition of the Palisades area to the routing, it is likely that two to three postal carriers were needed on the exposition routes.

Despite its temporary status, Exposition Station was an officially designated classified station just like the four lettered San Diego stations listed in Figure 3 and, thereby, was issued the standard tools of the trade—a steel duplex handcancel and handstamps for registry, money order transactions and parcel post business,

all of which incorporated “Exposition Station” in the marking. Exposition Station also was assigned at least one machine canceller with “Exposition Station” as part of the canceling slogan. This was a high grade (electric power driven and automatic) International Flier machine manufactured by the International Postal Supply Company.¹⁵

The location of Exposition Station was not finalized until early May because the exposition was still negotiating with paying exhibitors for prime space.

A committee of post office personnel had recommended a suitable space in the Palace of Education, which was the remodeled New Mexico building from the 1915 exposition, but a mechanical exhibit had already been arranged for that space. The exposition board, instead, offered space in the Palace of Better Housing or the Palace of Foods and Beverages, both of which were built as part of the 1915 exposition. In fact, the Exposition Station at the time had been located in the former building in 1915 (Commerce & Industries) and in the latter in 1916 (Foreign & Domestic Industries)!

Ultimately, Exposition Station was offered space, free of rent, in the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries, a large rectangular exhibit hall with a linearly streamlined profile suggesting a Mayan

influence. Newly built in the Palisades for the 1935 exposition, it had almost 27,000 square feet of floor space. Fortuitously, Exposition Station was allocated a space measuring 65' x 30' directly adjoining three aisles that was located just inside the main entry doors to the building and physically separated from the exhibits for direct unimpeded public access.

The space was divided into a public lobby and a larger postal work area. The partition between the two areas was made of glass on top of an oak base with brass trim. Exposition Station was purposefully designed and arranged to operate in full view of the public so the "...intricacies of the services may be seen."

However, unlike the 1915 exposition, no separate facility for processing mail from and to the main post office was available on the expo grounds; thus, processing was done at Exposition Station and the additional space was used for this purpose. The Federal government exhibits, including that of the Post Office Department, were mounted in the Federal building, another large new building, next to and directly north of the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries.¹⁶

Opening Day

As reported by Richard Amero, on May 29, 1935, the California Pacific International Exposition opened to great fanfare:

The U.S. Marine Band and Color Guard marched across Cabrillo Bridge and into the Plaza del Pacifico to mark the opening of the Exposition on the morning of May 29, 1935. Unlike the Marines, children paid twenty-five cents and adults fifty cents each to get in. Before the day was over, 45,000 people paid to pass through the gates.

In the afternoon, Governor Frank Merriam opened the doors to the California State Building and Secretary of Commerce Daniel Roper opened the doors to the Federal Building. Formal dedication commenced at eight in the evening. President Franklin D. Roosevelt telephoned his greetings from Washington, D.C. Loudspeakers on the grounds broadcast his words. A chorus of 500 voices at the Organ Amphitheater sang the Star Spangled Banner, then, as airplanes of the U.S. Army's First Wing soared overhead, two orphan girls pressed buttons turning on the lights. Columbia Broadcasting broadcast the ceremonies coast-to-coast from a studio in the Palace of Better Housing.¹⁷

Somewhat lost in the celebration was the first day of issue ceremony for a postage stamp commemorating the exposition (Figure 6). It was accepted protocol to have the event sponsor request from the postmaster general the issue of a commemorative postage stamp.



Figure 6: The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition commemorative stamp that paid the first class postage rate.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Clinton B. Eilenberger announced the forthcoming issue of the California Pacific International Exposition commemorative stamp:

Postmasters and employees of the Postal Service are notified that the Department is preparing to issue a special postage stamp in the 3-cent denomination in commemoration of the California Pacific International Exposition, which opens at San Diego, Calif., May 29, 1935...The central subject of the stamp is a view of the exposition grounds, with Point Loma and San Diego Bay in the distance. ...The new stamp will be first offered for sale at the post office in San Diego, Calif., on May 29, 1935. It will be available for sale at other post offices beginning May 31, or as soon thereafter as distribution can be made...Due to the delay in the issuance of this announcement, packages of covers bearing the postmark of the sender's post office to and including May 29 will be accepted by the postmaster, San Diego, for preparation and canceling with the date of first sale.¹⁸

Regarding this stamp, the *New York Times* wrote:

Although Henry Ford and the New Deal have been at odds most of the time, he is 'getting a break' through the postoffice in the new three-cent stamp to be issued May 29 at the California-Pacific International Exposition at San Diego. A picture of the Ford building at the fair appears in the center of the stamp.¹⁹

Unlike today's elaborate and highly structured first day ceremonies, that for the California Pacific International Exposition stamp was limited. The May 25, 1935, *San Diego Union* reported:

The first page [pane] of the special 3-cent commemorative Exposition stamps will be purchased by G. Aubrey Davidson, chairman of the

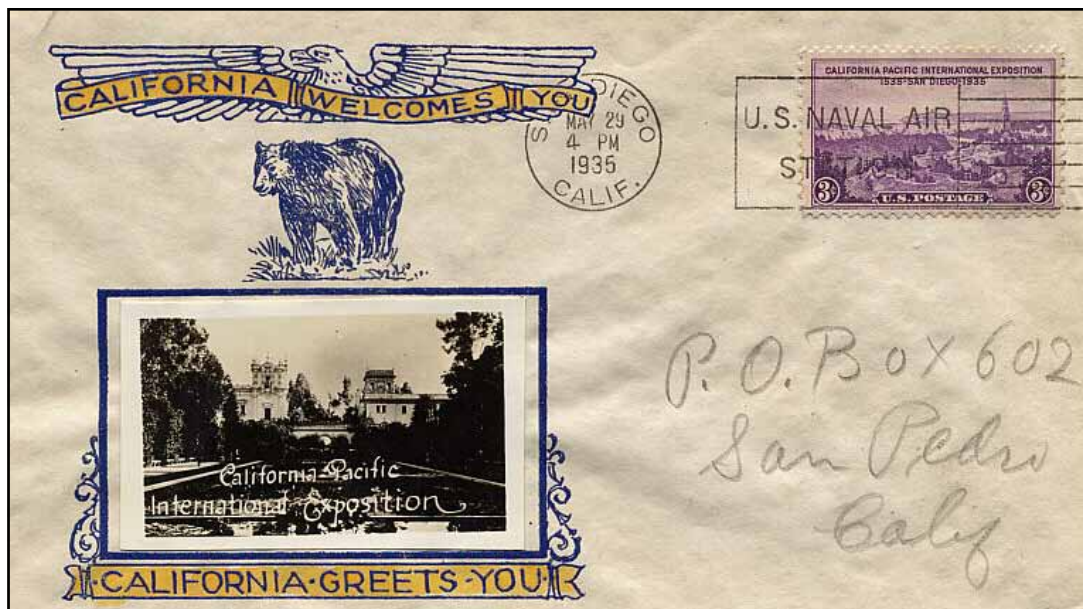


Figure 7: A Walter Crosby first day cover canceled May 29, 1935, in San Diego at the Naval Air Station Post Office. Note the “thermographic” addition of a photograph in the cachet. (Courtesy David Savadge)

Exposition board, at the model exposition postoffice this morning. Robert E. Fellers, superintendent of the division of stamps of the postoffice department, Washington, will make the sale.

When Davidson pushes \$3 across the counter for the sheet of 100 of the purple stamps, the sale of millions of the commemorative issue will officially be started.

Thousands of first-day covers will be sent out through the main postoffice here and the model Exposition office. Meanwhile, hundreds of San Diego stamp collectors will be in line at both offices ready to purchase the stamps on the first day.

The issue will go on sale throughout the nation Friday (May 31).²⁰

Various cachetmakers contributed illustrated cachets that complemented the 1935 exposition and enhanced the look and value of the cover. The 1935 exposition is noteworthy in this regard because of the cachets prepared by Walter Crosby, later to become a renowned and highly influential cachetmaker. Crosby developed a unique “signature style” thermographic process that created a raised effect when printing his cachet; a small photograph was often embedded in the cachet to complete the desired effect. Crosby prepared more than 70 cacheted covers for the California Pacific International Exposition, most linked to scheduled events at and during the exposition. A Crosby exposition cover is shown in Figure 7.

Harold Noble, in addition to servicing his “official” exposition covers as a cachet director for the exposition, energetically sought out naval ship cancellations from vessels negotiating Naval Base San Diego during the two-season run of the exposition, including servicing at least four covers from foreign vessels while in port.²¹

While not as well known as Crosby, perhaps due to not knowing how to make the connection of a particular

cachet to him, he provided a large and varied cache of covers for specialists to add to their collections. (A Noble cachet is shown in Figure 19.)

A Second Season

The originally scheduled dates for the California Pacific International Exposition were May 29 through November 11, 1935. Major exhibitors including Ford, Coca Cola, Libby, Kraft, Standard Brands and the federal government had committed well before the decision to open a second season in San Diego to exhibiting at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas scheduled for June 6 through November 9, 1936 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Texas’ independence from Mexico.

The 1935 attendance of 4.7 million was less than expected, but a realized net cash balance of more than \$315,000, which represented a more than reasonable return to subscribers even after deducting the \$75,000 agreed to be set aside for future Balboa Park upkeep and improvements.

Despite facing objections that there was not much left to wring out of the exposition and the loss of major exhibits to the Texas Centennial, the exposition board decided to proceed with a second season to run from February 12 until September 9, 1936.

Changes to the grounds, buildings and attractions were necessary prior to opening the second season. Much of this affected the newer Palisades area, including a completely redesigned Plaza de America. Striking night lighting was introduced throughout the grounds. New exhibits had to be procured; in some cases carryover exhibits had to be reconfigured and many were displayed in new locations.

The larger exhibit buildings were renamed to reflect these changes. The Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries from 1935, home to Exposition

Figure 8: The standard steel duplex handcancel for counter use.

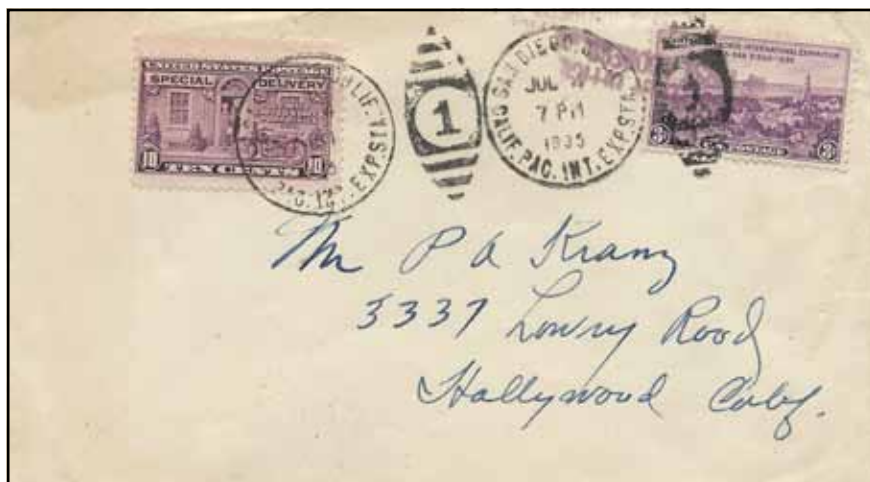
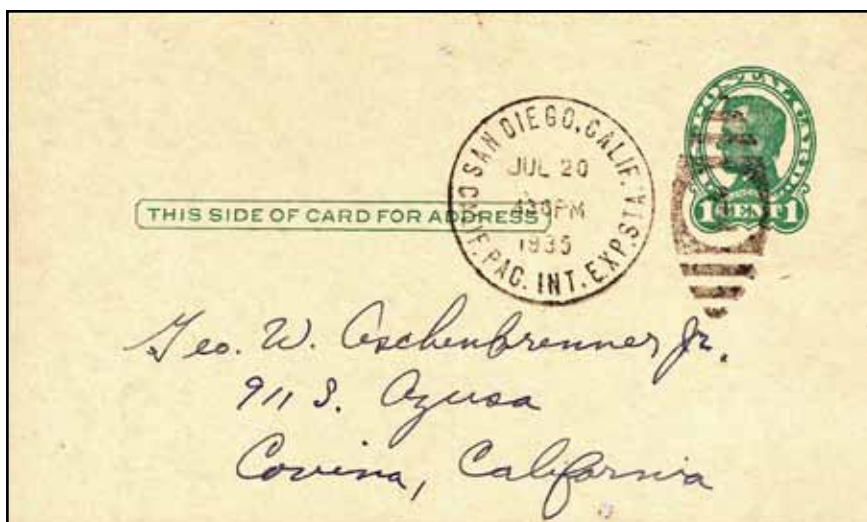


Figure 9: Special delivery service added to this cover required two strikes of SD35-01. (Courtesy John Moore)

Station, was renamed the General Exhibits building.²² By all accounts, though, Exposition Station remained a major tenant in its original location. The November 14, 1935, *San Diego Union* reported:

*The Exposition postoffice in the Palace of Electricity is open for business as usual and probably will remain open without interruption until the end of the [second] session, H.C. Street, postmaster in charge – changed hours – closing at 5 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. and closing on Sundays and holidays and at noon on Saturdays.*²³

A quasi-promotional questionnaire prepared by the exposition and published in the July 10, 1936, *San Diego Sun* asked readers: “Where did I see a United States Post Office in operation?” with the answer given as the General Exhibits Building—confirming that Exposition Station did not change location for the second season.²⁴

Postal Markings

The ensuing discussion employs William Bomar’s numbering scheme which always starts with ‘SD35’ signifying “San Diego 1935” followed by a two digit sequential number.²⁵ This numbering scheme includes markings from the 1936 season.

14 La Posta Second Quarter 2015

Some markings discussed here are difficult to find and, generally, there are fewer recorded postally used examples. Visitors and local residents typically had more convenient options for conducting their postal business, particularly in regard to the special services, e.g., registration.

San Diego post offices were tactically available all around Balboa Park, including hotel territory. Classified and contract stations were well placed to serve visitors traveling to and from the exposition grounds and during sightseeing.

The Coronado Branch Post Office was similarly suited to serve those visitors who elected to room on Coronado Island.

Hotels and other rooming options may well have offered postal amenities as a convenience.

SD35-01 (Figures 8-11)

SD35-01 is a steel duplex hand cancel comprising a circular postmark incorporating the name of the postal station and an obliterator with the numeral “1” in a barred oval. The marking was used in 1935 and 1936 for cancels upon request and the otherwise sundry odd mail piece. A previously unreported third class use is shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10: Third class usage is indicated by the 1½-cent franking and a dial without the month and day of mailing. The cover also includes a perforated exposition label showcasing the Spreckels organ pavilion at lower left. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 11: The right half of the barred oval may have been masked out for esthetic reasons. (Courtesy David Savadge)

The cancel was applied with a full killer oval as expected and, on occasion, with just half an oval as the postal clerk masked off the right half likely at the request of the customer.

The extent of this masking is unknown, but not many examples are recorded. It is likely a scarce marking. There is no reported explanation for this action, but it may have been done to “improve” the esthetic appearance of the cancel relative to the postage stamp. For example, it may have been artistically desired to only subtly tie the right edge of the split oval to the left-side selvage of the stamp, rather than to obliterate the stamp.

First Day Markings

The postal markings used at Exposition Station to cancel the new three-cent California Pacific International Exposition commemorative stamp on May 29, 1935, did not explicitly designate the event as the first day of issue. (The Post Office Department did not introduce the standard “First Day of Issue” machine slogan cancel until July 3, 1937.)

All mail franked with the new stamp and deposited at San Diego postal units and in local mail collection boxes for canceling on May 29 was batched and sent to Exposition Station where it was combined with mail deposited at the station for canceling.²⁶ Collectors who wished to have over-the-counter “handback” service would have to request that at Exposition Station.

Locally, 107,000 first day covers were canceled by machine; 25,000 by hand.²⁷ Nationally, more than 214,000 first day covers were canceled. Per Post Office Department policy, first day covers for the exposition stamp were also canceled at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C., but these are properly dated May 31, 1935, since the stamp could not be issued until May 30, but that date was a holiday — Memorial Day.

Mail deposited for canceling on May 29 also included mail pieces franked with first class postage other than the new three-cent California Pacific International Exposition commemorative stamp. But, because the designated date and city of issue was announced by the Post Office Department, mail franked with other first class postage stamps probably ought to have been culled and canceled with the daily working cancel of the San Diego post office. Some of these items, though, did get through and were canceled with first day markings at Exposition Station.

The three markings used to process first day covers are discussed here. Each of these is marked 9 a.m., May 29, 1935, the only day of use. The most common example is a machine slogan cancel; the other two are handcancels.



Figure 12: A May 29, 1935, handstamp with long killer bars that cancel the exposition commemorative stamp (Scott 773) and the airmail special delivery stamp (Scott CE1). If only one stamp was present, the killer bars would extend past the edge of the cover, unless masked off. (Courtesy John Moore)

SD35-02 (Figures 12 and 13)

SD35-02 is a rubber handstamp with a series of four thin killer bars that are of variable lengths. Bomar notes three lengths—short, medium and long—but that may have been said simply for convenience.

Bomar states that the different lengths were the result of masking out by postal clerks, but the consistent

Figure 13: Short killer bars appear to be masked so as to barely touch only the left side of the postage stamps.



lengths of many examples suggests otherwise. Nonetheless, the use of this marking was undoubtedly affected by the franking.

For example, covers franked with two stamps side-by-side would be easily canceled with a strike of the longest bars. But that canceler would not be esthetically pleasing to see on a cover franked with a single stamp since the bars would extend beyond the edge of the cover and likely leave a smudge at the that point.

The canceler with the short bars may have been popular with collectors who may have desired, as described in SD35-01, to subtly kiss the left edge of the stamp. This cancel is known to have been applied to mail franked with stamps other than the California Pacific International Exposition stamp.



Figure 14: Similar to SD35-02 but the dial abbreviates 'Pacific' and 'Exposition' and the four killer bars (not shown) are somewhat thicker. (Courtesy David Savadge)

SD35-02A (Figure 14)

Similar to the previous marking, the dial of the SD35-02A rubber handstamp abbreviates 'PACIFIC' and 'EXPOSITION' as 'PAC.' and 'EXP.' and the four killer bars are thicker. Examples are scarce, suggesting there was something that might have prevented widespread usage. This cancel may have been used as a back-up device when things got busy in processing

first day covers at Exposition Station. Alternatively, it could have been used off site, i.e., at the main San Diego Post Office, to accommodate certain collectors not wishing to go to Exposition Station.



Figure 15: A May 29, 1935 International Postal Supply Co. machine cancel with an unreported dial type resembling a standard Type D. The cancel is a Type 42.



Figure 16: The California Pacific International Exposition commemorative stamp was also canceled at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C., but these first day covers are properly dated May 31, 1935, since May 30 was a federal holiday — Memorial Day.

SD35-03 (Figures 15 and 16)

SD35-03 is a slogan cancel applied by an International Flier machine die. The postmark is a double-circle, which otherwise shows characteristics similar to the standard International Type D dial.²⁸

The cancel is a Type 42, comprising seven equally spaced horizontal lines with a superimposed three-line slogan: CALIFORNIA/INTERNATIONAL

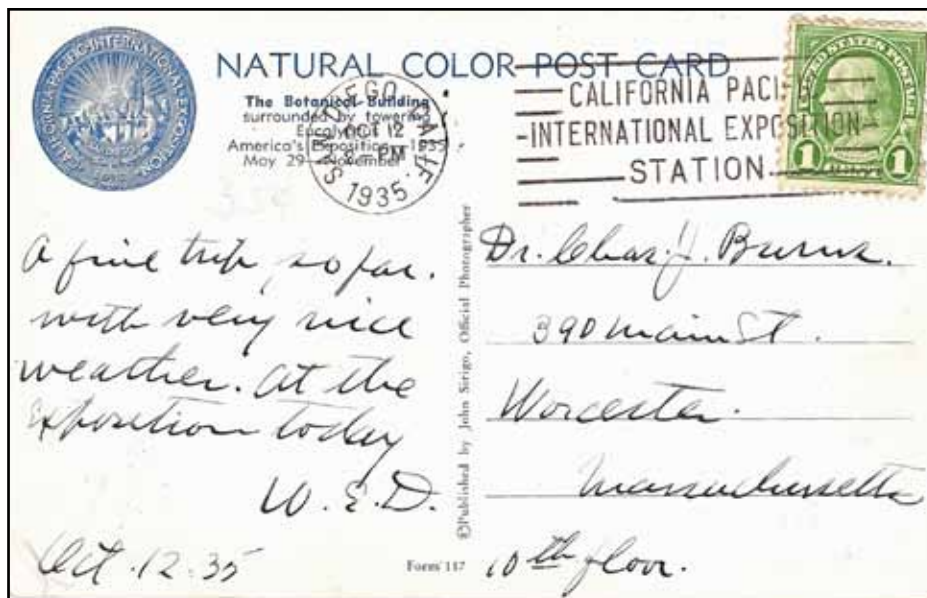


Figure 17: International machine cancel marking D42. The single circle dial would have succeeded the similar double-circle dial on May 30, 1935. The official exposition seal is at upper left.

EXPOSITION/STATION.²⁹ As with SD35-02, this marking has been found on mail franked with postage stamps other than the new exposition commemorative stamp.

SD35-04 (Figure 17)

SD35-04 is an International Flier machine cancel, dial Type D and cancel Type 42, with the same slogan as that in the SD35-03, but the double-circle dial has been replaced with a traditional International single-circle die. This became the working cancel at the station with usage reported to have commenced May 30, 1935. Third class usage during 1935 has been reported.

SD35-04A (Figures 18 and 19)

Bomar makes note of a five-millimeter gap in the lower straight line of the killer bars of the slogan portion of SD35-04 as of September 12, 1935. Machine canceling dies were produced in relief, thus a section of the raised line representing the lowest killer bar was partially broken, probably from a localized impact. Inasmuch as the die continued in use through 1936 without an appreciable increase in the length of the gap, a production flaw or regular wear and tear could probably be ruled out as the cause. Third class usage during 1935 has been reported.

SD35-05 (Figure 20)

The International Flier machine canceler used at Exposition Station in 1935 to produce markings SD35-03, SD35-04 and SD35-04A was replaced by a machine

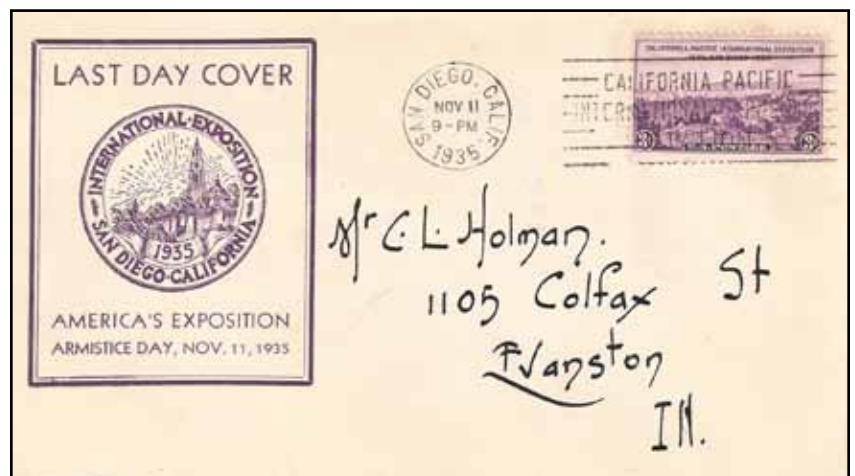


Figure 18: Note the gap in the bottom killer bar on this 'last day' 1935 cover.

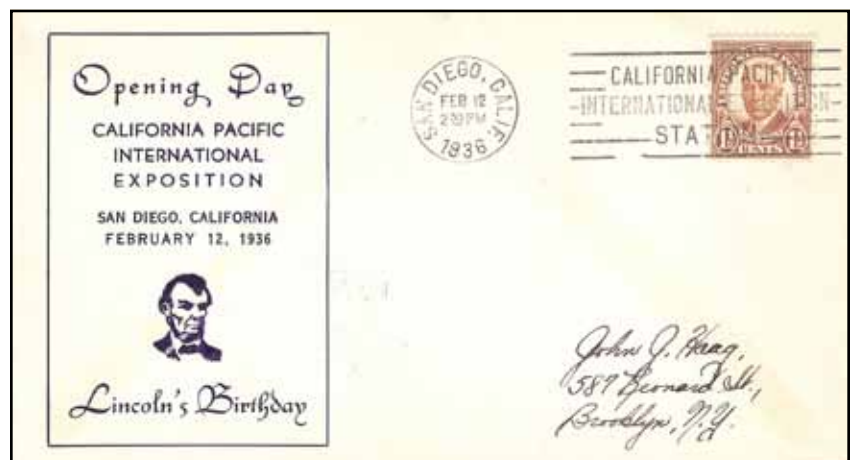


Figure 19: The gap in the lowest killer bar is still present on this second season opening day cover. The unsealed cover was possibly afforded handback service at the 1½-cent rate or it inadvertently slipped through at less than the first class rate. The cachet is attributed to H.A. Noble.

Figure 20: A Universal cancel with the regular slogan, but now superimposed over seven unequally spaced lines. The cover is franked with the California Pacific International Exposition imperforate variety from the Third International Philatelic Exhibition souvenir sheet (Scott 778b). (Courtesy John Moore)



canceler manufactured by the Universal Stamping Machine Co. Bomar reports a last day of use for the International die as March 16, 1936.

The reason for replacement is not known, but International machines were not otherwise in widespread use in San Diego post offices at the time—only two others were in use, both likely the medium grade International Model S. The bulk of machine cancelers in San Diego were Universal models. The machine change out may have been due to a planned or unplanned refurbishing, retirement or reassignment.³⁰

The replacement canceler was a Universal Model C, a high-grade electric power driven automatic machine. The dial was Type CT and the cancel was composed of seven unequally spaced horizontal lines with the slogan CALIFORNIA PACIFIC/INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION/STATION superimposed thereon.

Bomar reports an earliest documented use of May 30, 1936, but there should be earlier uses during the exposition's second season.

SD35-06A (Figures 21 and 22)

SD35-06A is a dated double circle rubber handstamp for registry applied in magenta ink. "REGISTERED" appears at the bottom of the outer circle with "SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (CALIF. PAC. INT. EXP. STA.)" centered at the top of the circle.

The date is expressed in three lines—



Figure 21 (Top): The first registry cover processed at Exposition Station. The registry fee of 15 cents and first class postage of three cents is paid by two nine-cent Washington Bicentennial stamps (Scott 714). The postmark on the cover's face (SD35-02) is nonconforming. (Courtesy John Moore)

Figure 22 (Bottom): Reverse of the registered cover in Figure 21. The two requisite registry circular date stamps from Exposition Station are present. Two Philadelphia receiving backstamps are included—one from the registry division and the other from Station A, the delivery unit for the cover's street address.

MONTH/DAY/YEAR—and appears in the center circle. Two dates are reported both from 1935—May 29 and June 8. The May 29 example, shown in Figures 20 and 21, was the first registered cover (No. 40001) processed at Exposition Station. The signature of Hugh C. Street, superintendent of Station, is part of the return address.

Bomar correctly notes, however, that this cover includes an “erroneous use of SD35-02 on a non-FDC.” The official detailed instructions relative to registry postmarks state:

Before dispatch, the impression of the postmarking stamp must be placed twice on the back of each letter... as nearly as practicable at the crossing of the upper and lower flaps. First-class matter should not be postmarked on the face.³¹

The original (1910) intent of this instruction was to address the problem of postal clerks not checking the reverse side of registered mail for signs of tampering. And, typically, in practice, stamps would be canceled using the postal unit’s dateless double oval utility cancel.

Figure 22 shows two strikes of the Exposition Station registry circular date stamp as required. Note, too, the receiving backstamps from Philadelphia—the first applied by the Philadelphia registry division and a second applied at Philadelphia Station A, the delivery unit for the cover’s street address. Nonetheless, the cover’s markings are technically nonconforming due to the presence of the postmark on the face of the cover.³² Few parties, save official exposition representatives who might deal with sensitive and important matters through the mails, would find a need for this type of secure service. These officials, though, conducted much of this business at their places of employment and would have used a city post office for special services. It is doubtful that visitors would have routinely used Exposition Station for registry services; securing registry service, if necessary, could be accomplished more expediently in the city.

SD35-06B (Figure 23)

SD35-06B is a similar dated double circle rubber handstamp for postal money orders with “M.O.B.” appearing at the bottom of the outer circle. Bomar reports a money order stub for \$3 dated July 16, 1935, which is shown in Figure 23. The stub, in this case from the remitter (sender), is one part that made up a postal money order form.

M.O.B. imprints, as a rule, are difficult to find. Stubs that normally would have been stamped with the M.O.B. imprint, including the money order receipt stub retained by the issuing post office, the advice sent to the payee post office and the official envelope to transmit the advice, were held only for a required

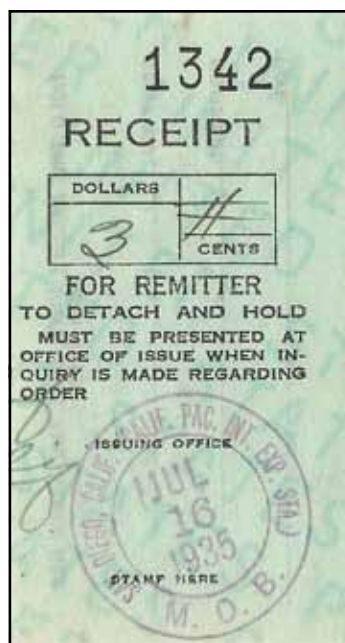


Figure 23: A remitter’s (sender) receipt stub for a \$3 money order procured at the Exposition Station. (Courtesy John Moore)

minimum time by the post offices involved and were then to be destroyed as waste paper.

Finding so few M.O.B. imprints originating at an exposition postal unit may reflect a tendency of patrons to cater to a presumption of increased security or an implicit promise of speedier delivery afforded by purchasing the money order at the “real” post office, usually the main office. But, then there is the very real question of why one would pay the exposition’s daily admission fee for the purpose of purchasing a money order.

SD35-07 (Figure 24)

SD35-07 is another similar dated double circle rubber handstamp for “PARCEL POST.” Parcel post rates for fourth-class matter were determined by weight and postal zone. In 1925, parcel post was extended to third class matter weighing less than 8-½ ounces, but these were subject to single piece rates. Parcel post matter was required to be canceled with only the city name and state.³³

Post offices typically used a dateless double oval handstamp or a roller utility cancel for this purpose. Docketing marks, including the parcel post CDS, identifying the matter as parcel post, were added to assist in sorting.

Three examples have been reported from Exposition Station—February 23, 1935, November 26, 1935, and July 23, 1936. A previously unreported example, dated August 6, 1936, is shown in Figure 24. The sender, Emil Klicka, was a vice-president at Bank of America and served as treasurer of the California Pacific International Exposition. The merchandise being mailed in this case was a coin, called the “San Diego half dollar,” a commemorative coin sold to raise funds for the exposition.³⁴

Figure 24: A third class insured mailpiece with a parcel post circular date stamp. (Courtesy John Moore)

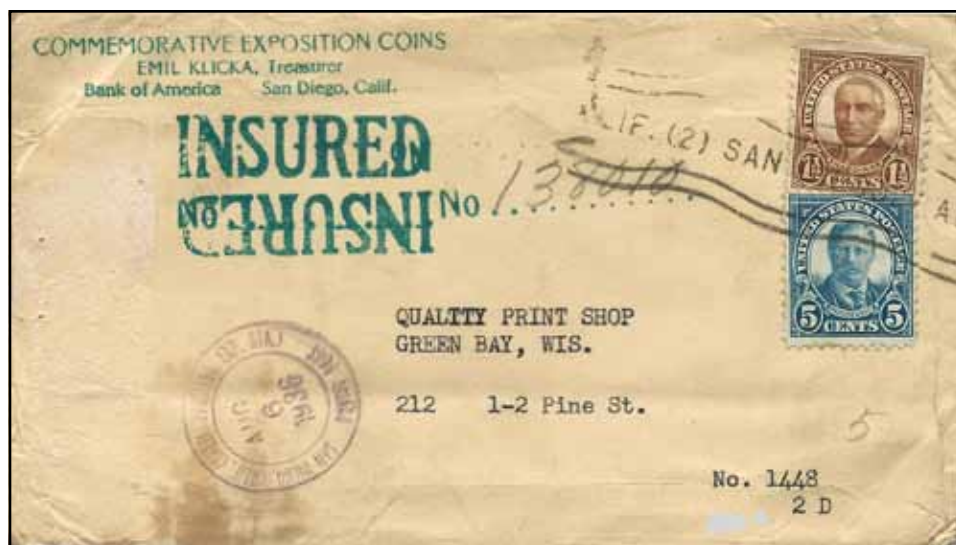


Figure 25: A post office penalty envelope posted by Exposition Station as indicated by the magenta straight-line marking applied in the return address. The cover was postmarked December 2, 1935—after the close of the 1935 exposition. (Courtesy John Moore)

The face of the cover in Figure 24 has a parcel post endorsement as represented by the parcel post circular date stamp, a dateless “SAN DIEGO CALIF.” roller cancel and an “INSURED” handstamp.

The minimum insurance fee is five cents for an up to \$5 indemnity. Thus, rating this cover is as follows: The franking of 6-½ cents paid the five-cent insurance fee (<\$5 indemnity) and 1-½ cents for postage (third class standard at 1-½ cents per two ounces).³⁵

The absence of fourth-class package markings from Exposition Station is not unexpected. One overriding reason is that the marking would likely have been applied to a paper wrapper, the survival of which was problematic. Also visitors to the exposition, who might have used parcel post to send home purchased gifts, for example, would probably not be prepared at the point of purchase to also use the service at the station.

Exhibitors and exposition officials, if needed, could have had parcels prepared and batched for direct dispatch to the main post office.

SD35-07A (Figure 25)

SD35-07A is a rubber stamped straight-line

marking composed on two lines applied in magenta ink —DON M. STEWART/Calif. Pac. Int. Exp. Station.

The marking was used as an identifying utility marking. Bomar reports an example used as a return address on a philatelic cover to England canceled November 26, 1935—after the exposition had formally closed.

In reality, Exposition Station remained open during the transition from the first to second seasons to serve those working onsite. The exposition’s personnel infrastructure, including exhibitors, vendors and staff, remained in place and would have used postal services.

Moreover, the public did have limited access to the exposition through entertainment events, educational programs, and planned tours of the exposition grounds. Additionally, some exposition buildings were not completely closed during the interim period.

A previously unreported example applied to an official post office penalty envelope is shown in Figure 25.

The cancel is dated December 2, 1935, and only the second line of the marking is used as part of a return address in the upper left corner.

The U.S. Navy in San Diego

The U.S. Navy's first enduring incursion into San Diego Bay took place in 1904 with the establishment of a coaling station at Point Loma.

Later, Rep. William Kettner (1913-21), owner of an insurance agency and a director of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, quickly established himself as an advocate for San Diego's harbor development. A skillful promoter, Kettner capitalized on military potential when seeking congressional appropriations for San Diego. His centerpiece was a 12-mile long protected natural harbor and choice property lots available at little or no cost.

He used the opening of the Panama Canal and the 1915 Panama California Exposition as an effective backdrop to his superb lobbying skills. By the 1920s, the forerunner of today's U.S. Navy presence in San Diego and allied specialties had set down roots.³⁶ Kettner's efforts resulted in making the Navy a major factor in the city's development.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was aware of Kettner's interests in promoting San Diego, particularly its harbor and seemed to support those interests. As assistant secretary of the Navy, Roosevelt visited the Panama California Exposition in 1915 and vowed that the Atlantic Fleet would come to San Diego.

As president, the inaugural Fleet Week took place in San Diego during the California Pacific International Exposition, June 10-17, 1935. Seamen could visit the city and were invited to attend the exposition; residents and visitors, in turn, were invited to scheduled tours of the ships. It has long been understood that Fleet Week was held first in San Diego to demonstrate to others in the Pacific region that the U.S. was formidable naval power.³⁷

Most ships by then had operating U.S. post offices aboard staffed by U.S. Navy personnel. That was not always the case, but an Act of Congress, approved May 27, 1908, established the positions of "navy mail clerks" and "assistant navy mail clerks" and therein defined their authority and responsibilities.

These positions would be subject to U.S. postal laws and regulations, as well as any special U.S. Navy regulations. The Congressional Act was implemented by Navy Department General Order No. 74; thus, a post office on board would function just like a civilian



post office. At the time of the California Pacific International Exposition, mail to a ship was routed through the postmaster of ship's home port.

U.S. Navy ship postmarks have been studied extensively, beginning in the early 1930s, in an effort to compile a complete and up-to-date listing of Navy post offices and postmarks.

Early compilations were done by Hale, Frame and Gill using a classification scheme formulated by Locy to differentiate various cancels.³⁸

Part I of that work was published by Billig in 1950.³⁹ Part II of the task was assumed in 1963 by the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, which now publishes the *Catalog of United States Naval Postmarks*.⁴⁰ This catalog lists all ship post offices

and identifies, describes and illustrates all known different postmarks used on those ships.

Bomar listed 126 ships that visited San Diego during the California Pacific International Exposition, a list that is updated regularly by David Savadge. Many ships were in port on multiple occasions. Most on board post offices uprated their daily working cancels with killer bar slogans having some direct tie to a local event or location while in port; others created fancy cancels primarily for philatelic mail.⁴¹

Analyzing the Bomar information, the most popular cancel text was "San Diego" the home port for Fleet Week, followed by "California Pacific International Exposition" and then "Presidential Review" and "Navy Day," respectively.

First and last days, holidays, historical events and Navy proclamations were used but less frequently. Inadvertent misspellings were sometimes part of the marking, including: "Califorina," "Deigo," "Expostion," and "Flet." Bomar data also includes the earliest and last known dates of use of the cancels.

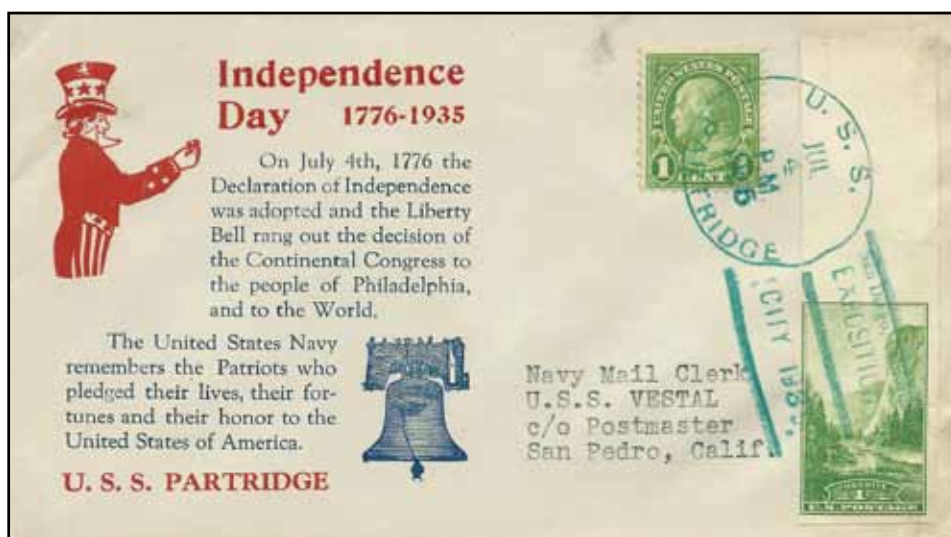
SD35-08 (Figures 26-31)

Bomar's omnibus number designates a naval-related cancel applied aboard a ship ported in San Diego at some time during the California Pacific International Exposition. A small sample of naval covers that make attribution in the postmark to the exposition is illustrated herein and rated according to the cataloging protocols used by the Universal Ship Cancellation Society.



Figure 26: USS *Tuscaloosa* postmark with a 'The Black Warrior' marking commemorating the opening day of the California Pacific International Exposition plus serving as an unofficial first day of issue cover for the exposition's commemorative stamp.

Figure 27: USS *Partridge* postmark celebrating the 1935 Fourth of July in Exposition City, San Diego. (Courtesy John Moore)



The Locy system of classifying postmarks, developed by Dr. Francis Locy beginning in 1929, is a standardized means of discussing postmarks—translating characteristics into an agreed upon shorthand to explain a postmark.

The cancel type is defined by the dial, ship name characters, and the bars. Today, a revised Locy system comprises multiple combinations of dials and killers, and a descriptive list of known variations from the standard in each cancel.

The Locy scheme applies to government-issued devices, procured from multiple contractors over time and to fancy, Type F, cancels that were not issued through regular postal channels, but may have been procured locally when a government cancel may have been too difficult to obtain or it was provided by collectors to the ship. Over time, ships could have had many different postmarks.

Ship Name: USS *Tuscaloosa*
Design: CA 37
Cancel Text: FIRST DAY EXPOSITION
USCS Rating: F (T33a) 1935 B
Illustration: Figure 26

This postmark had changeable type in the killer bars. "F" represents a fancy cancel, i.e., not issued to the ship through standard postal channels or a government-issue cancel not classifiable under the current system.

"T33a" represents the catalog illustration number,⁴² the postmark was used in "1935" and the scarcity factor is rated "B"—limited edition.

In other cancels aboard the *Tuscaloosa*, the Black Warrior design was used as a cachet. In those cases, the postmark typically used was a common Locy Type 3.

Ship Name: USS *Partridge*
Design: ATO 1 38
Cancel Text: EXPOSITION CITY 1935
USCS Rating: 3s 1935 A
Illustration: Figure 27

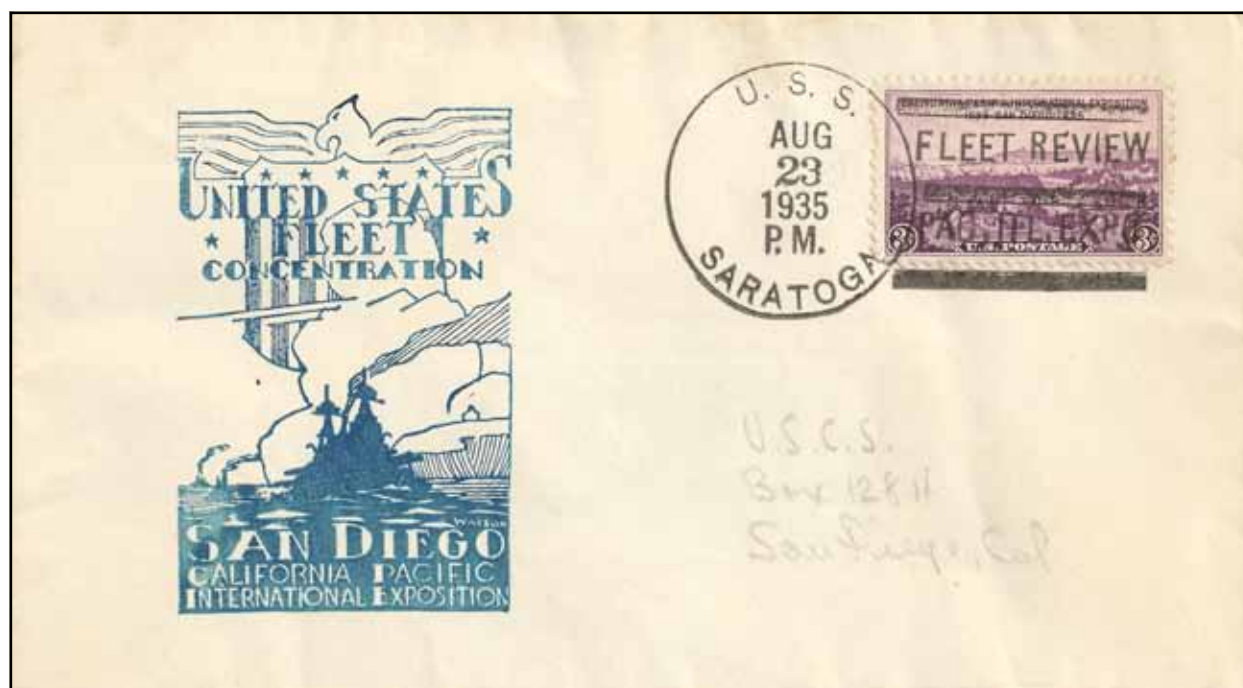
The "3" is a Locy Type 3 dial and killer bar combination, "s" signifies that the letters in "U.S.S." and "Partridge" are in serif (which can best be seen under glass).

The postmark was used in "1935" and the scarcity factor is rated "A"—common.



Figure 28: USS *Omaha* postmark commemorating the 1935 Presidential Naval Review at the California Pacific International Exposition on October 2, 1935. (Courtesy John Moore)

Figure 30 (Below): The aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga* postmark commemorating the fleet assembled at the California Pacific International Exposition.



Ship Name: USS *Omaha*
Design: CL 4
Cancel Text: PRES. VISIT TO CALIF. EXP
USCS Rating: 3s (BC – BTT) 1935 A
Illustration: Figure 28

The “3” again denotes a postmark that has a Locy Type 3 structure. In describing the dial, “s” signifies that the letters in “U.S.S.” and the ship’s name are in serif, “B” means the letters in “U.S.S.” are closely spaced and “C” indicates a period after the ship’s name.

A variant of the Type 3 cancel was introduced in the early 1930s whereby a new mold added a thin straight line next to each killer bar, which might appear either above or below the thicker main killer bar line, i.e., each killer bar was now composed of a thin line and a thicker line.

Variations will exist then depending on the relative positions of the lines, i.e., top (T) or bottom (B), on



Figure 29: A newer variation of the Type 3 cancel whereby each killer bar is made up of a thin line and a thick line. Note, here, the top killer bar has the thin line on the bottom, but on the other two bars, the thin line is on the top. For catalog descriptive purposes, this arrangement would be coded BTT.

each killer bar of the postmark. Thus, the Omaha killer bars are recorded as BTT— the “B” means the thin line is below the thicker line on the top killer bar and “TT” means the thin lines for the second and third killer bars are on top of the thicker lines—see Figure 29.

Note that the killer bars for the USS *Partridge* do not have these thin lines because the postmark was made from an earlier mold that did not include those thin lines. The USS *Omaha* postmark was used in “1935” and the scarcity factor is rated “A”—common.

Figure 31: A USS *Richmond* postmark commemorating the first day of the second season. There was an unofficial handback rate that allowed 1½-cent franking. Typically, the cover owner presented it to the clerk who handed it back after cancelation. (Courtesy John Moore)

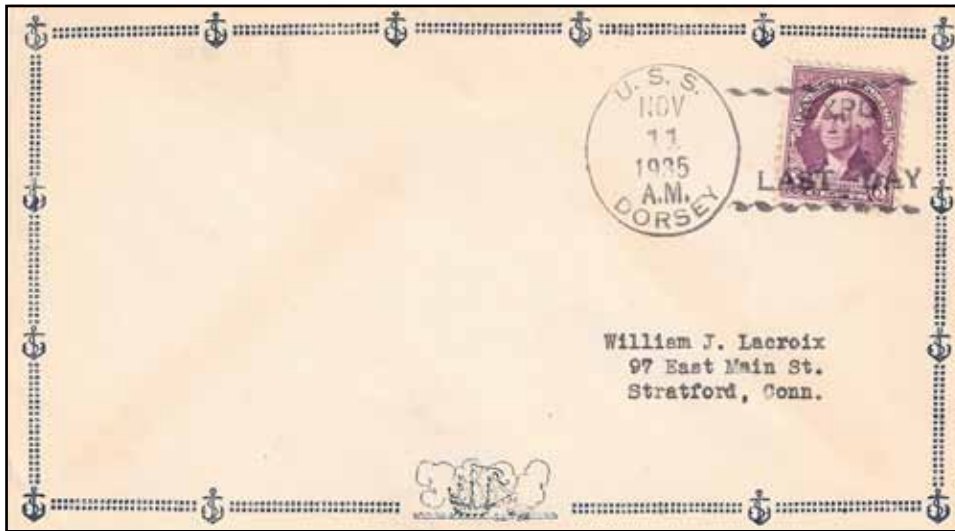


Figure 32: A USS *Dorsey* postmark commemorating the November 11, 1935, last day of the California Pacific International Exposition.

Figure 33: A previously unreported third class use of the exposition slogan cancel to advertise the exposition. Note of the '2' located at 8 o'clock on the dial. A perforated exposition label titled 'Entrance from the Cabrillo Bridge' is lower left. (Courtesy John Moore)



Figure 34: A third class use of the slogan cancel with a '1' located at the 8 o'clock position of the dial. (Courtesy John Moore)

Ship Name: USS *Saratoga*
Design: CV 3
Cancel Text: FLEET REVIEW PAC.ITL.EXPO
USCS Rating: 3 (B – BBT) 1935 A
Illustration: Figure 30

The only question in describing the *Saratoga*'s Type 3 postmark is whether the letters "U.S.S." are narrowly spaced—defined as the spacing does not allow enough room for another letter to be inserted. This is a judgment call, and does match a listing from the *USCS Catalog*. The thin lines of the killer bars are in a BBT configuration, the postmark was used in "1935" and the scarcity factor is rated "A"—common (EDU August 23 and LDU September 2).

Ship Name: USS *Richmond*
Design: CL 9
Cancel Text: 1ST DAY EXPOSITION
USCS Rating: F (R17g) 1936 A
Illustration: Figure 31

This postmark also had changeable type in the killers. "F" is a fancy cancel, "R17g" represents the catalog illustration number, the postmark was used in "1936" and the scarcity factor is rated "A"—common.

Ship Name: USS *Dorsey*
Design: DD117
Cancel Text: EXPO LAST DAY
USCS Rating: Fa (D28) 1935 B
Illustration: Figure 32

"F" represents a fancy cancel, "a" indicates the removal of a usual killer bar (the middle bar), "D28" represents the catalog base code illustration number, the postmark was used in "1935" and the scarcity factor is rated "B"—limited edition.

SD35-09 (Figure 33)

Two different slogan cancels meant to advertise the exposition were used on outgoing San Diego mail during the exposition. The wording of both was the same—California Pacific/International/Exposition in three lines within a rectangular box with seven attached killer bars extending to the right.

One of these cancels, shown earlier in Figure 2, had the numeral "2" located in the postmark dial at the 8 o'clock position. Bomar reports a last use of November 2, 1935.

Shown in Figure 33 is a previously unreported third class use whereby the month, day and time are not included in the dial.

SD35-10 (Figure 34)

The second slogan cancel used on outgoing San Diego mail was also from a Universal C model, but in this case the numeral "1" was located in the dial at the

8 o'clock position. Only a single 1935 third class use has been reported.

Epilogue

"Why does San Diego always just miss the train, somehow?"

The question seems to reflect a deep sense of disquiet—unrealized prosperity, perhaps?

John Spreckels, a longtime prominent and influential San Diego businessman and booster, posed that question at a 1923 business dinner held at the Hotel Del Coronado, perhaps because he no longer had the faith he once did in San Diego's future.⁴³

Change was taking place, and quickly. New things were in, old things were out. The torch was passing. The ability of an individual to now dominate a city was becoming but a memory.

The 1915 Panama California Exposition, because of its indigenous nature and scope and fueled by public spirit and unwavering boldness, was a personal statement made by and about San Diego. It put San Diego on the map and served as a catalyst for future growth and the diversity that invariably comes with it.

By the time of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition, San Diego had become a different place and this exposition would be a different event—with differing local perceptions about its civic worth.

Yet, the 1935 exposition pretty much succeeded in doing what it was intended to do—namely, injecting new demand into the local economy.

The 1935 exposition was nominally profitable as far as those measurements go.⁴⁴ But new spending by visitors for local resources triggered an economic multiplier effect—local spending creates more overall income that leads to more local spending, and so on. This recirculating effect has been said to have been worth almost \$38 million; moreover, \$6 million of improvements were made to Balboa Park.⁴⁵

The postal history of the California Pacific International Exposition is conventional in scope. Exposition Station was created and operated, in most all respects, as a fully functioning classified postal unit. Federal support was instrumental here, which was in sharp contrast to its 1915 counterpart, which was forced to subsist on starvation rations—and it showed.

In 1935, there were a few situations, albeit isolated, where convention was defied by obliging postal clerks. These are sought after artifacts. The issue of a new postage stamp created an extensive and lasting array of collectible postal markings and illustrative cachets.

Finally, the fascinating exposition-related postmarks produced by post offices aboard U.S. Navy ships while in San Diego during 1935-36 add a unique complementary flavor to the postal history.



Figure 35: The San Diego Municipal Gymnasium in 2014, the former Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries, sans its former external adornment, and home to Exposition Station at the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition.

Figure 36: A postcard showing the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries. (Courtesy Mark Stevens)



The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition was the last event of its scale to be held in Balboa Park. Any and all subsequent proposals to do so have not fared well. This isn't a new thread in the community, nor is it truly surprising. There is little common ground now upon which to stand; there are competing interests that have fragmented and feelings have hardened over time.

There seems an inability to find, much less embrace, a common good. Even plans for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Panama California Exposition have been fraught with paralyzing unresolved differences. There are now both winners and losers in the mix—it wasn't always like that.

We know we have a God-given setting and a God-given climate for the good life, yet like any growing adolescent, we are not always confident that we know how to use our gifts properly.

Neil Morgan⁴⁶

Acknowledgements

This is a work of history—attempting to recreate postal events that occurred during the California Pacific International Exposition. I have turned to archival source materials whenever possible. This is supplemented by discussions with capable people who were willing to share their knowledge, opinions and deductions. Many of these individuals assisted me with an earlier study about the postal history produced by the 1915 Panama California Exposition.

The questions posed, viewpoints expressed and interpretations raised in discussions with them were of great interest and motivation to me.

I am again most grateful to John Moore, a knowledgeable and experienced collector of postal history, who provided thoughtful advice and whose generosity in allowing me to use many examples from his amazing collection of covers and other artifacts was instrumental to completing the study.

Thanks go to David Savadge for his continued willingness and efforts to constructively improve projects like these. Thanks go to Steve Shay of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society for his guidance and patience in helping me learn to properly interpret naval postmarks. I can see why Navy postmarks are a popular collecting area.

Research access provided by the Northwest Philatelic Library in Portland, Oregon, and the San Diego County Library, Special Collections, is appreciated. The Collections Department at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park was helpful in finding documents and images for a research topic that, for them, was still unusual.

I also thank the Geisel Library at the University of California, San Diego for allowing me access to its digital database of San Diego newspapers.

Endnotes

- 1 An excellent online resource is: Richard Amero, San Diego Invites the World to Balboa Park a Second Time, California Pacific International Exposition San Diego 1935-1936, at the San Diego History Center. www.sandiedieghistory.org/canpac/35expo99.htm

- 2 The fair closed October 31, 1934.
- 3 The principal project of interest was completion of the Metropolitan Water District Aqueduct from the Colorado River. Water projects—dams, harbors and canals, and bridges—were the subjects of exhibits.
- 4 For the 1935 exposition, El Prado was renamed Avenida de Palacios and the Plaza de Panama was renamed Plaza de Pacifico.
- 5 Florence Christman, *The Romance of Balboa Park*, 4th ed. rev., San Diego Historical Society, 1985, pp. 36-37.
- 6 Richard S. Requa, *Inside Lights on the Building of San Diego's Exposition, 1935: The Dramatic Story of the Organization, Planning and Construction of the California Pacific International Exposition: May 29 to November 11, 1935, 1937*.
- 7 Larry and Jane Booth, "Do You Want an Exposition? San Diego's 1935 Fair in Photographs," *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly*, vol. 31, no. 4 (Fall 1985).
- 8 Not only were these machines electrically powered, but letters also could be faced and stacked. Once loaded onto the hopper, the picking, conveying, cancelling and restacking was automatic.
- 9 Don Stewart served as San Diego postmaster until his retirement on June 30, 1948.
- 10 *The Postal Bulletin*, Washington, D.C., April 23, 1935, No. 16659.
- 11 *The Postal Bulletin*, Washington, D.C., March 17, 1936, No. 16888.
- 12 "Expo Postoffice Nearly Ready for Regular Service," *San Diego Union*, May 28, 1935, p. 9.
- 13 Street joined the Railway Mail Service in 1912, the San Diego Post Office in 1917 and on July 1, 1947 was named superintendent of mails in the San Diego Post Office.
- 14 With permission from the Post Office Department, these collection boxes were painted bright orange with purple trim to harmonize with the official exposition colors.
- 15 San Diego Stations A and B were also using machine cancelers during 1935-36. Station A was assigned a Universal machine, while Station B used an International machine. The dials of these postmarks included the station designation. Based on populations served, these two machines may have been smaller hand cranked machines, unlike the power driven automatic machine at Exposition Station.
- 16 "Exposition Notes," *San Diego Union*, May 3, 1935, p. 3.
- 17 Richard Amero, "The Exposition Gets Underway," California Pacific Exposition San Diego 1935-36, A History of the Exposition from the Richard Amero Balboa Park Collection at the San Diego History Center.
- 18 *The Postal Bulletin*, Washington, D.C., May 7, 1935, no. 16669.
- 19 "Ford Building on Fair Stamp," *New York Times*, May 24, 1935.
- 20 "Davidson Will Buy First Page of Expo Stamps," *San Diego Union*, May 25, 1935, p. 6.
- 21 Dave Savadge, "H.A. Noble and his Cachets for the 1935 California Pacific Exposition," *Western Express*, (December 2007), pp. 650-63. Savadge, in a private communication, noted that in addition to his own more rudimentary cachet designs, Noble used the services of a professional artist, Maude Gunthorp, for his cachets.
- 22 The General Exhibits building was also used to absorb the overflow of exhibits from other buildings. *San Diego Union*, January 12, 1936, p. 10.
- 23 "Plans for Expo Next Year to Take Shape," *San Diego Union*, November 14, 1935, p. 2.
- 24 The newly-named General Exhibits building did not formally reopen until March 8, but Exposition Station remained open there for business as usual. Figure 19 shows a February 12, 1936, opening day cover canceled with a station cancel. The source questionnaire was the first of 10 published by the newspaper between July 10 and 19.
- 25 David Savadge, editor, *William J. Bomar's Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions*, 3rd ed., (digital on CD), Livermore, California, 2007.
- 26 *The San Diego Union* of May 28, 1935 (p. 5) included a photograph of Robert Fellers, post office department, Don Stewart, San Diego postmaster and Edgar Bowman, San Diego assistant postmaster standing in front of a table at the main post office with a sizeable box of covers sitting upon it. The caption says, in part, "More than 70,000 covers bearing the new special stamp commemorating the California Pacific International Exposition are ready to be canceled tomorrow at the Exposition postoffice."
- 27 "Branch Postoffice at Expo, Open Twelve Hours Every Day, Keeps Seven Clerks Busy With Mail for World," *San Diego Union*, June 5, 1935, p. 8.
- 28 The outer dial's diameter is 21 mm. and the content and placement of information within the dial are the same as an International Type D.
- 29 Richard E. Small, *A Checklist of Postal Machine Cancellations*, www.machinecancelforum.50megs.com, 1993, identifies the cancel as a Type 42. Standard references stop at Type 41 as of 1910.
- 30 Conjecturally appealing is the possibility that the flier arrived at Exposition Station as part of the Post Office Department's model post office, and that it had been earmarked for removal and alternative use elsewhere sometime after the scheduled November 11, 1935, exposition closing (later being readjusted for the decision to add a the second season). The flier could have been sent to the Texas Centennial Station in Dallas, which didn't open until June 6, 1936.
- 31 *The Postal Bulletin*, Washington, D.C., November 26, 1910, No. 9735.
- 32 Other collector-contrived covers are known from Exposition Station postmarked May 29, 1938.
- 33 Ostensibly it was undated to obscure the transit time to delivery. Smaller post offices often ignored the requirement and used a dated cancel.
- 34 State legislation approved the minting of no more than 250,000 coins struck at the San Francisco mint and dated 1935. Coins were priced to sell for \$1 plus postage. Sales lagged and in 1936 additional legislation allowed up to 180,000 unsold coins to be recoined with a 1936 date. These were marked to sell for \$1.50. This attempt to create a collectible variety did not sit well with serious collectors as many of these coins remained unsold for years.
- 35 Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postage Rates, 1872-2011*, 3rd ed., APS, 2011.
- 36 This included: Naval Air Station San Diego (1917), Fueling Station Point Loma (1917), U.S. Destroyer Base San Diego (1922), Marine Corps Recruiting Center (1923), Naval Training Center (1923), and U.S. Navy Hospital (1925).
- 37 The Pacific Fleet was split between the battleship group (battleships, carriers, cruisers, submarines and support ships) in San Pedro and the destroyer group in San Diego. The San Diego harbor was judged too shallow at the time for the larger ships. Continued dredging, however, enabled transit of larger ships beginning in the 1930s.
- 38 See, for example: Joseph M. Hale, *Handbook of Naval Postmarks*, 1934. Joseph Frame, John Gill and Dr. Francis Locy were listed contributors to the book. Subsequent editions followed.
- 39 Joseph M. Hale, John E. Gill, et al (eds.), *The New Catalogue of Naval Postmarks and U.S. Naval Postal History*, F. Fritz Billig, 1950.
- 40 David A. Kent, (ed.), *Catalog of United States Naval Postmarks*, 5th ed. Reprinted and Updated, Universal Ship Cancellation Society, 2001. It is also available in CD format from the USCS.
- 41 Only 10 of the ships that were in port during the exposition did not to use a slogan cancel of some sort.
- 42 The illustrations are alpha-numerically arranged by ship name and then by sequential number. In this case, the 'T' is the *Tuscaloosa*, its base number is 33, and this is the second (a) distinctive illustration.
- 43 Spreckels' full comments were reported in: Abraham Shragge, "A New Federal City: San Diego During World War II," *Pacific Historical Review*, 63, 3 (August 1994), pp. 333-61.
- 44 Attendance during the 1936 second season was 2,004,000, a decline of more than 50 percent from 1935. The second season lost \$91,000, leaving a net cash-based profit of \$44,000 for the two year run. Less than one-half of that was transferred to the city for improvements to Balboa Park, which was less than the earlier agreed to amount of \$75,000. Instead, the city relied upon the WPA to provide labor and cash for that purpose.
- 45 Amero, "Chapter 6: The Exposition Closes."
- 46 Neil Morgan, *Neil Morgan's San Diego*, Author, 1963, p. 8.

(Charles Neyhart, a two-time winner of the Helbeck Prize, is a former resident and now a regular visitor to San Diego. He resides in Portland, Oregon, and can be contacted at: charles.neyhart@comcast.net)

The Confederate Paymaster's Property Becomes the National Colored Home

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

Although Civil War Washington, D.C., was the capital of the Union, its inhabitants had a robust population of Southern sympathizers. These Southern allegiances were strongest in the Georgetown section, which was long a separate city within the District of Columbia. It began as a tobacco port in 1751 and was dominated by a few leading families.¹

Georgetown was part of Maryland until 1801, when it became a municipality within the District of Columbia. It was not until 1871 that Congress incorporated Georgetown as part of the city of Washington.²

Richard Smith Cox (1825-1889) was the son of John Cox who was the mayor of Georgetown from 1823 to 1845 and grandson of John Threlkeld, an earlier Georgetown mayor. From 1802-1871, the mayors of Georgetown were elected to one-year terms with no term limits.³ John Cox was an importer, a banker and a slave owner.⁴

Richard Smith Cox, shown in Figure 1, became a clerk in the Paymaster-General's Office of the U.S. Treasury Department circa 1847. From his father, he inherited 55 acres of which approximately 45 acres were in Washington County and about 10 in Georgetown. There, Cox built a large two-story brick house he named Burleith. Burleith is a place name of a small village near the larger Kilmarnock, Scotland. This was apparently the third home of that name, the others built in roughly the same location by earlier family members.⁵

The 1860 census in Washington, D.C., showed Richard S. Cox as married, age 35, born in Washington, D.C., and with \$40,000 in real property and \$25,000 in personal property. The 1870 census of Loudoun County, Virginia, showed him as a married 45 year-old farmer with \$100,000 of real property and \$5,765 of personal property.

In early 1861, just before the inauguration of President Lincoln, Richard Cox was commissioned a colonel in the 8th Regiment of the District of Columbia Militia, sworn to defend the United States.

On March 4, 1861, the Georgetown Volunteer Battalion, under the command of Col. Cox, had the distinction of escorting the carriage carrying President Buchanan and President-elect Lincoln.⁶

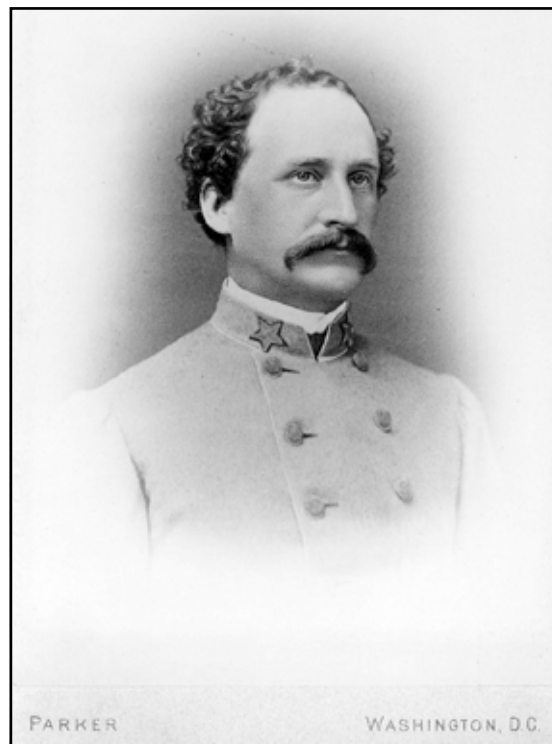


Figure 1: Richard Smith Cox (1825-1889), in an undated photograph, probably taken after the Civil War.

During April 9-27, 1861, Lincoln called on the District of Columbia Militia for the defense of Washington. Thirty-four companies were sworn in to serve for three months. Richard S. Cox was among those who did not report for duty and the newspapers announced his resignation, which was accepted April 25, 1861.

Richard Cox's wife, Mary Lewis Berkeley, was a Virginian whose four brothers had all become Confederate officers. His brother, Thomas Campbell Cox (1829-1882), did not make the same choice. Rather, he took a position in Lincoln's State Department.

On June 10, 1861, Virginia Governor John Letcher commissioned Richard S. Cox as "Paymaster with the rank of Major in the Active Volunteer Forces of the State." The original commission is still in family hands. Obviously, he had more than just the requisite experience from his U.S. job. He became a major on the staff of Confederate Gen. George Washington Custis Lee, the eldest son of Gen. Robert E. Lee.⁷



Figure 2: A Johnson's Island prisoner of war cover addressed to "Maj. Richard S. Cox, Richmond, Va., Care Maj. Gen Butler Comdg Old Point Comfort" from one of his brothers-in-law, a captain in the 8th Virginia Infantry.

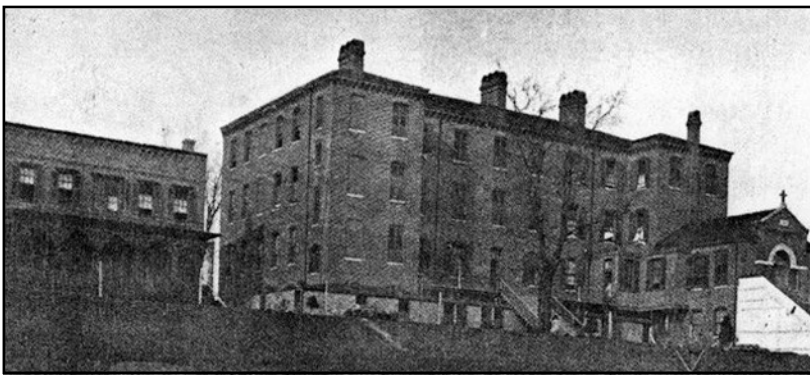


Figure 3: The House of the Good Shepherd, circa 1898. The building at the left, which was used by the institution as a laundry, may have been Richard S. Cox's home, Burleith, which had served as the National Colored Home during the Civil War.

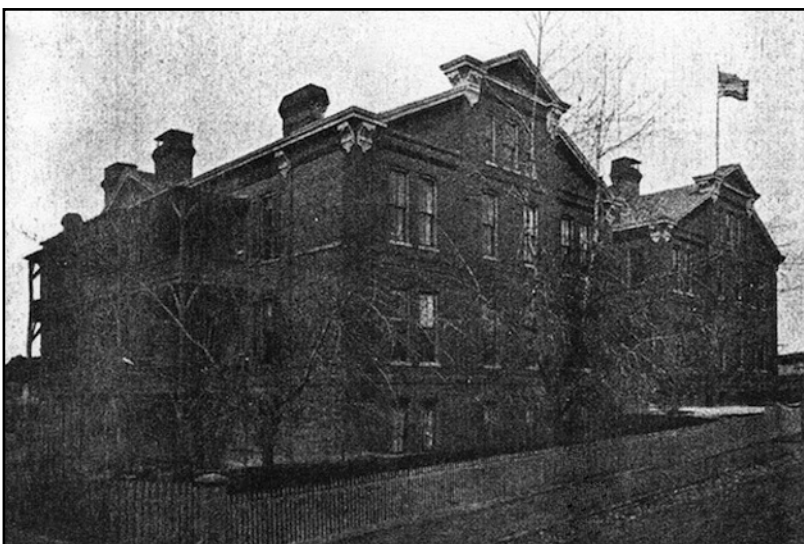


Figure 4: The National Colored Home at 2458 Eighth Street, the building that replaced the hastily erected 1866 frame structure. (Late 1800s photo from the *Report on Charitable and Reformatory Institutions of the District of Columbia*, 1898, pp. 126-28.)

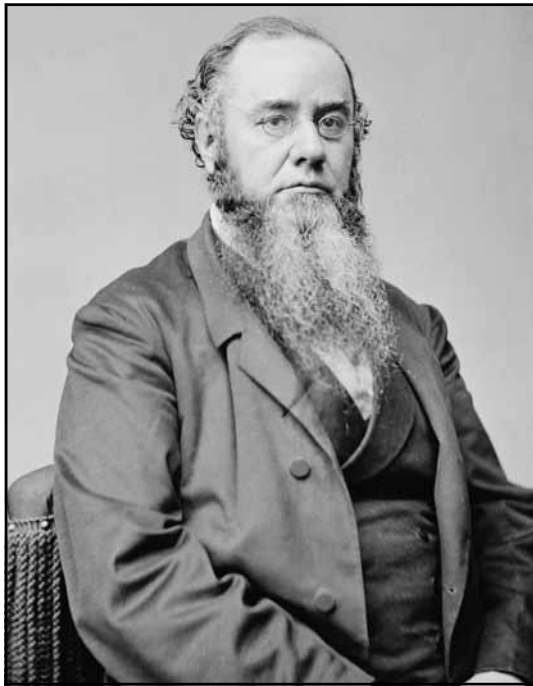


Figure 5: Edwin McMasters Stanton (1814-1869), Secretary of War under Lincoln.

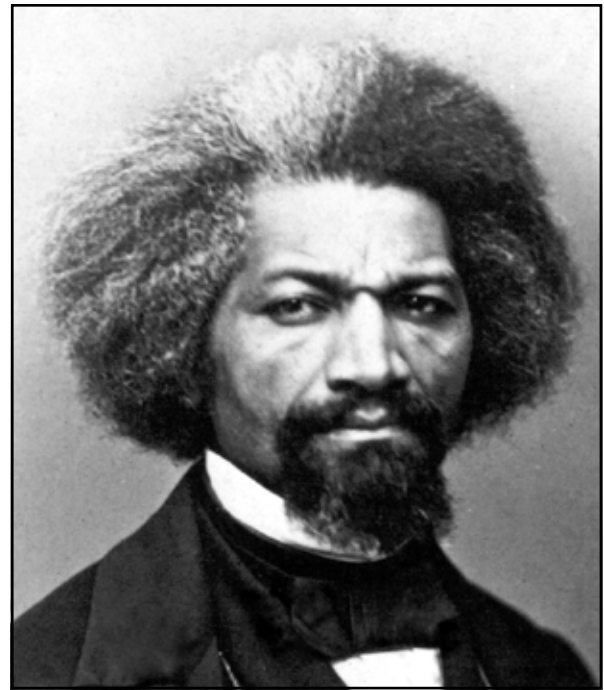


Figure 7: Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), African-American social reformer and statesman.

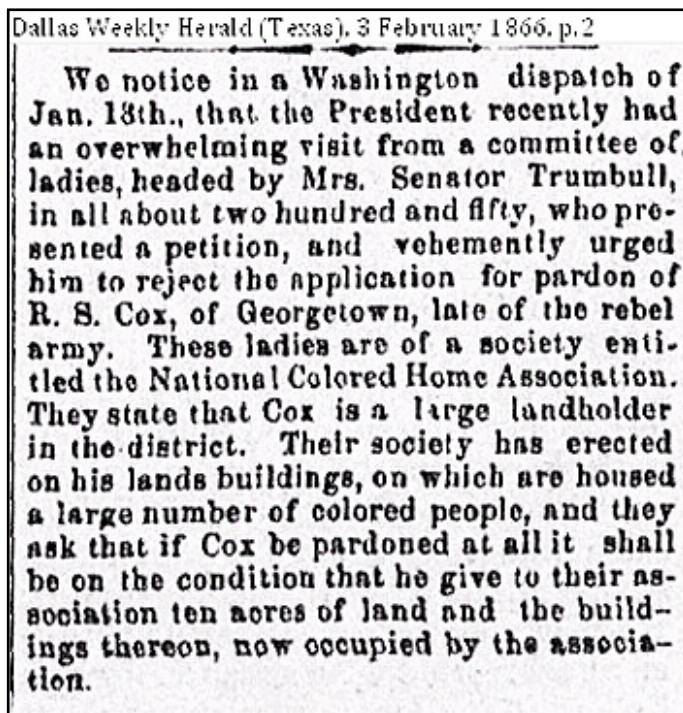


Figure 6: A clipping from the February 3, 1866, *Dallas Weekly Herald* (Texas), concerning Richard Cox's application for a presidential pardon and the petition against it by the National Colored Home Association.

Figure 2 shows a Johnson's Island prisoner of war cover franked with a three-cent rose 1861 tied by a Sandusky, Ohio, January 21, [1864] cds. It is addressed to "Maj. Richard S. Cox, Richmond, Va., Care Maj. Gen Butler Comdg Old Point Comfort" with manuscript examined markings and manuscript "By Flag of Truce Boat." The mandated soldier endorsement at left is of "Wm. N. Berkeley Capt. 8th Va."

William Noland Berkeley (1826-1907) enlisted as a private at Aldie, Virginia, on May 12, 1861, and mustered into Field & Staff of the Virginia 8th Infantry. He rose through the ranks to major. He was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, where he was wounded in the thigh. He was confined at Johnson's Island in 1863, but was released. He was subsequently taken prisoner at Sailor's Creek, Virginia, and yet again confined to Johnson's Island April 9, 1865, until he was paroled June 27, 1865. He was a brother-in-law to Cox, one of his wife's four brothers who served in the Confederate army.

Thomas C. Cox did what he could to protect his absent brother's interests. When some of Richard's property was sold for taxes Thomas bought it in to prevent its loss. But as his brother had left a loyal district to bear arms against the Union, Thomas Cox could not prevent Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (Figure 5) from seizing Richard's property.

Stanton put Burleith at the disposal of an organization of Northern women that cared for fugitive slaves, the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children. On June 1,



Figure 8: Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis (1842-1929), African-American surgeon and medical educator instrumental in the development of Howard University's medical department.



Figure 9: James Wormley (1819-1884), African-American entrepreneur, hotelier and philanthropist; he was born free.

1863, 64 former slaves, most of them children, took up residence at Burleith, Richard Cox's former home.

On June 30, 1865, at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, former Confederate paymaster Cox renewed his allegiance to the United States Constitution and shortly thereafter he applied for pardon. Not surprisingly, the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children strongly protested his pardon. In their 1865 annual report, they stated that nearly \$3,000 had been expended on the premises, while every care was taken to keep the property in good condition.

Figure 6 is a clipping from the February 3, 1866, *Dallas Weekly Herald* (Texas) that shows that news of the Cox application spread clear across the country.

Despite their protests, Cox was pardoned in June 1866 and made efforts to secure an order for the restitution of Burleith. The National Colored Home was moved to a new location at 2458 Eighth Street, in a frame structure hastily erected in 1866.

Figure 4 shows the more stable structure that replaced the original one at that location.

Between 1872 and 1879, the National Colored Home acquired its first black trustees—Frederick Douglass, social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman (Figure 6); Dr. Charles B. Purvis, of Freedmen's Hospital (Figure 7); and Washington hotelier and philanthropist James Wormley. Douglass became the first African-American nominated for vice president of the United States.

What a remarkable turn of fate that the National Colored Home was initially housed within Burleith,

the home of Confederate Paymaster Richard S. Cox, son in a slave-holding family.

Endnotes

- 1 James H. Johnston, "The Divided Capital," *Opinionator*, *New York Times*, August 31, 2012. http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/31/the-divided-capital/?_r=0; Accessed April 5, 2015.
- 2 Georgetown Historic District, Washington, DC, National Park Service <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc15.htm>; Accessed May 10, 2015.
- 3 Lists of mayors of Washington, D.C., Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Washington,_D.C.; Accessed May 10, 2015.
- 4 Carlton Fletcher, John Cox Notes, Glover Park History. <http://gloverparkhistory.com/estates-and-farms/cedars/john-cox/>; Accessed May 10, 2015.
- 5 Carlton Fletcher, *Origins of Burleith*, Glover Park History. <http://gloverparkhistory.com/estates-and-farms/burleith/burleith-history/>; Accessed May 10, 2015.
- 6 "Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln-The Order of Procession," *Washington Star*, March 4, 1861.
- 7 Richard Helm-Adrienne Scott family database. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=richhelm&id=I5626>; Accessed April 5, 2015.

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

Early Football Postal History

By Peter Martin

With the New England Patriots' NFL Deflategate much in the news in recent months, it is an appropriate time to showcase an early bit of football postal history.

Shown on page 33 is a one-cent brown Liberty postal card (Scott UX3, issued July 6, 1873) with an exceptional April 6, 1874, Waterbury, Connecticut, geometric fancy cancel addressed to, "The Manufacturer of Footballs, Naugatuck, Conn."

The reverse reads:

Waterbury, Apr 4th, 1874.

Gents:-

Can you send me eyelet for football no 4; The one in our boys got lost in someway and we are unable to keep the air in the ball.

*Very respectfully yours,
John O'Neill*

No return address is given so it is unclear if the sender ever received a reply. Since the 1870 census reflected a Waterbury population of only 10,826, it is possible that a response to John O'Neill, sent with just a Waterbury, Connecticut, address, would have been delivered.

Also unclear is whether "football No. 4" was a soccer ball or an American football. In all likelihood it was a soccer ball because organized American football was really in its infancy in 1874.

Football and Soccer Origins

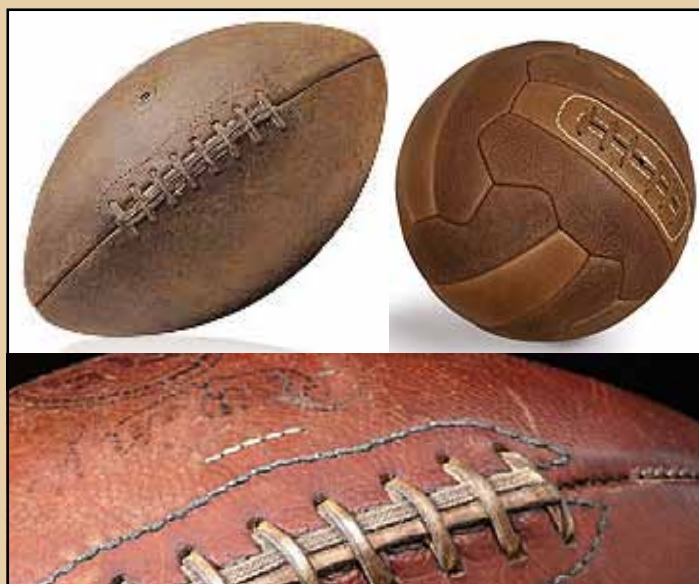
Before the 19th century, football referred to any number of ball games played by foot.

The history of American football can be traced to early versions of rugby and association football (soccer). Both games have their origin in varieties of football played in Britain in the mid-19th century, in which a football is kicked at a goal or run over a line.

American football resulted from several major divergences from rugby, most notably the rule changes instituted by Walter Camp, who played at Yale from 1877 to 1882 and who is considered the "Father of American Football."

The November 6, 1869, Rutgers versus Princeton (then the College of New Jersey) match is usually considered the first game of intercollegiate football. It was played with a round ball and, like all early games, used improvised rules that had as many similarities to rugby and soccer as to the American game.

On October 20, 1873, representatives from Yale, Columbia, Princeton, and Rutgers met at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City to codify the first set of intercollegiate football rules.



While some form of soccer has been around for more than 1,000 years, what would become understood as modern soccer evolved in the 1860s when 11 people from various schools and clubs in London hosted a meeting to create a new set of rules for controlling soccer matches. This meeting ultimately resulted in the development of the Football Association, which was operational by 1869.

Footballs

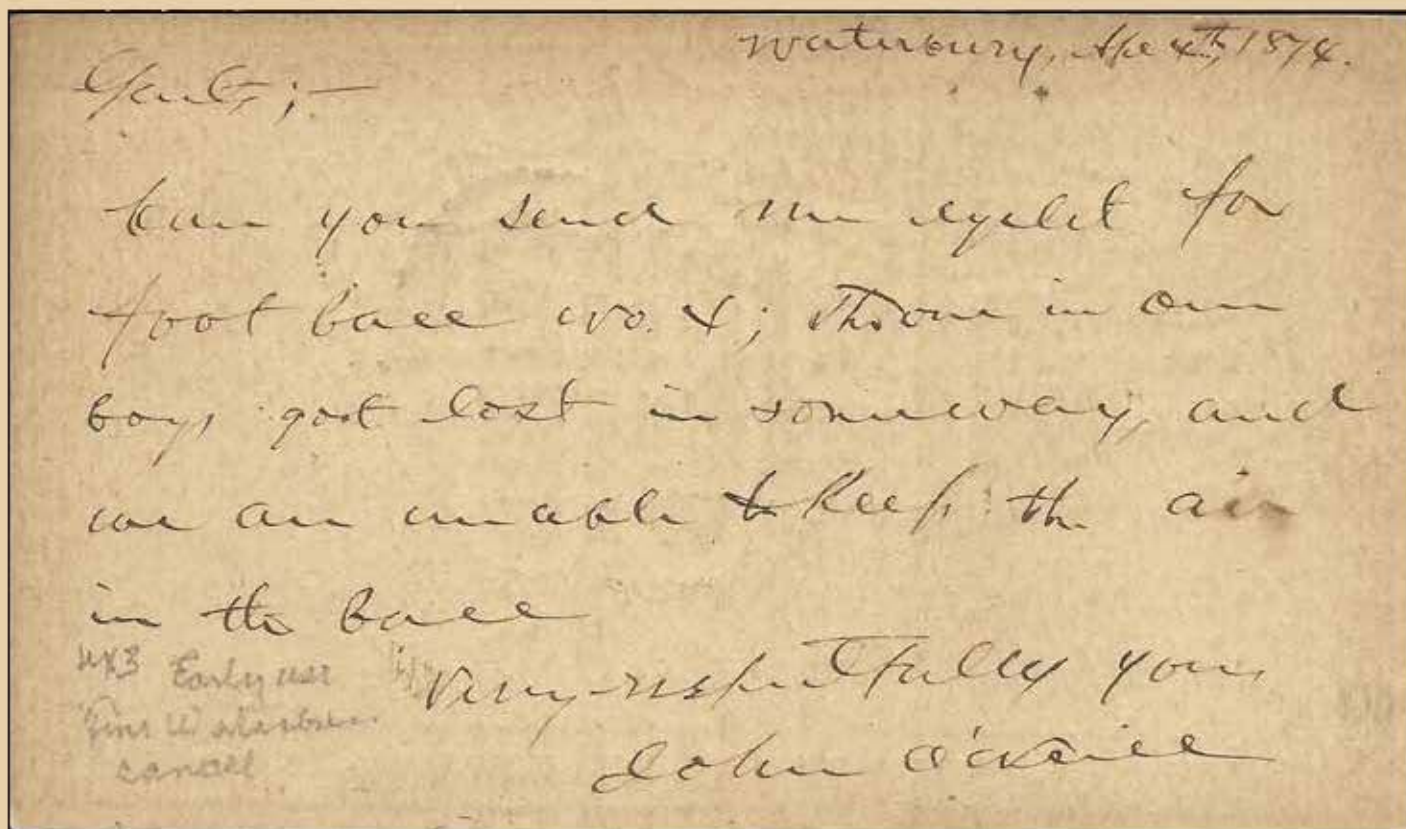
The very first balls used in any kind of football gaming were crafted out of pig bladders; these balls were inflated.

Beginning in the mid 1850s, thanks to inventor Charles Goodyear, Naugatuck, Connecticut, was the rubber capital of the United States.

In addition to the well-known shoes and gloves, Goodyear created a spherical football that sported rubber panels crafted out of vulcanized rubber. These were the most common footballs used in early American football games.

In the early 1870s, the official size of the football was regulated to be 27 to 28 inches in length. This regulation remains in effect. Earlier rules regulated that footballs should weigh 13 to 15 ounces. By the late 1930s, this rule was changed to 14 to 16 ounces.

Soccer games require a ball that is round in shape. The oldest soccer ball that still exists was crafted out of deerskin leather and the bladder of a pig around 1540 in Scotland. The old full-grain leather soccer balls have today been replaced by synthetic leather balls that are waterproof and have latex or butyl bladders. Most are still handstitched.



The front and back of a one-cent Liberty postal card with an exceptional April 6, 1874, Waterbury, Conn., geometric fancy cancel addressed to "The Manufacturer of Footballs, Naugatuck, Conn."



Figure 1: A cover sent from Sandusky, Ohio, to Mrs. Harry Doran, Daleville, Luzern Co., Pa.

A Patriotic Cover and the Johnson's Island Confederate Prisoner of War Camp

By Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits

With thousands of Civil War patriotic covers extant, including huge numbers of well documented, elegant cachet types, when does a humble, stenciled cover warrant an article all to itself?

Well, we believe when it has an intriguing story to tell, based upon a substantial amount of detective work and speculative conclusions that allow the reader to participate in determining whether or not the authors have hit their mark. If you are one who enjoys deductive reasoning—taking what one sees objectively and determining how it originated—then by all means you will wish to read on. And for those of you who may not be enamored with puzzles, we believe our story will still be well worth the read.

Join us as we unravel the story of the only prisoner of war camp designed exclusively to incarcerate captured officers of the Confederate States of America army, and, oh yes, the plot to release them in the Great Escape of the Civil War.

Our cover (Figure 1), whose provenance includes the fourth sale of the Grace Stamp Company on September 15, 1934, aroused our interest, not so much from an aesthetic perspective, rather because of the creativity of the unknown sender in designing its format. What we see is a stenciled American flag containing 13 stars (note the final star just to the right

of the three vertical rows containing four stars each) with the receiver information stenciled into the lower half of the stripes area.

Mrs. Harry Doran in Daleville, Luzern County, Pennsylvania, would receive this cover posted on November 15, 1864, with a three-cent (Scott 65) stamp at Sandusky, Ohio. A most clever presentation, would you not agree?

Well then, why not just stop there, admire the sender's work and move on? No, not so fast for the curious postal historian. Something about the originality aroused our suspicion that the individual had perhaps a bit too much time on his or her hands, raising images of 19th century sailors whittling artistic patterns into pieces of whalebone or soldiers hammering out copper shell casings or miniballs into decorative pieces.

Just a hunch mind you, but one that initiated our search into the Civil War history of Sandusky, Ohio, that might shed light on the patriotic cover and the receiver of the missive, Mrs. Harry Doran.

Let us immediately inform you that the latter half of the 19th century found numerous "Dorans" in both Union and Confederate states. Federal census records, military records, and a host of other public documents failed to shed light on the receiver of this cover in Daleville, Luzern County, Pennsylvania.

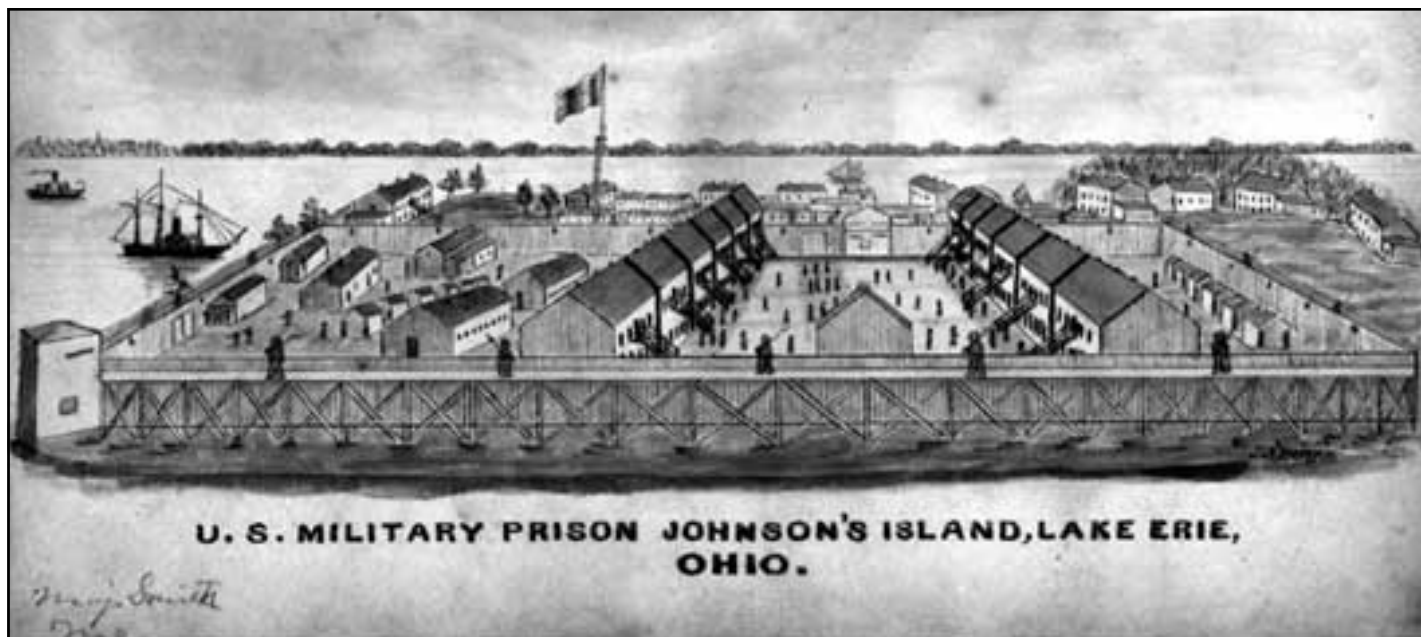


Figure 2: An illustration of the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison for Confederate officers.

Harry Doran was a quite common Irish name and indeed there are many to be found in Pennsylvania and in the Union Army in particular, but none whose geographic, civilian or military history fit the bill.

But not to despair, for we believe it was a Patrick Doran who is indeed our protagonist as we now hope to prove after we first introduce you to the Johnson's Island prisoner of war camp.

Sandusky, Ohio, sits on the south shore of Lake Erie and during the Civil War a 300-acre island, located in Sandusky Bay, just three miles from Sandusky and three-quarters of a mile from shore at Marblehead, Ohio, was the site of the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison for Confederate officers (Figure 2).

It was the only Union prison exclusively for Southern officers, although it also held a small number of regular soldiers, and during its three years of existence almost 10,000 men were incarcerated there, including 26 generals or officers who would become generals after their imprisonment.

Through research into the Sandusky, Ohio, CDC on our cover we were able to easily tie the postal mechanics of the camp with that of the city of Sandusky.

Figure 3 is a facsimile of a rare cover that clearly shows the identical CDC as on our cover from a POW letter sent from Johnson's Island by a Confederate prisoner on February 15, 1863, to Plantersville, Alabama, as part of the "Flag of Truce Mail."

The POW letter was sent to Fortress Monroe, the most important of the several exchange points, where it was then accepted by the Confederate mail system with a "Due 10" into the Confederate system.

Figure 4 is an additional example of the Sandusky,



Figure 3: POW letter from Johnson's Island to Plantersville, Ala., with a Sandusky postmark.



Figure 4: POW letter from Johnson's Island to Boston, Mass., with a Sandusky postmark

Ohio, CDC on a Johnson's Island POW letter sent to Boston, Massachusetts, on May 12, 1865. Thus, Confederate and Union mail was handled through a single postal service in Sandusky, Ohio.

Figure 5: A two-story prisoners' block.



Within several months of the firing on Fort Sumter, it became evident to the Union that the hoped-for quick end to the secession conflict was not to be. A determined South, and weak Union generalship bode a prolonged conflict, and indeed through the duration of the war 1.5 million Union and Confederate men would at one time or another find themselves as POWs.

The Union War Department ordered the establishment of a system of prisons in the north to incarcerate captured Confederates. The Great Lakes area was considered a good location because it was far enough away from neutral Canada to limit escape and freedom by southerners, as well as being far enough from the southern battlefields to prevent raids to release POWs.

Additionally, the waterways were ideal for transport of prisoners. Thus, in the fall of 1861 Col. William Hoffman was assigned the task of finding suitable sites for prisons, with Johnson's Island being chosen.

The island was attractive for a number of reasons including its isolation almost a mile from the mainland, an already cleared area of 40 acres, adequate lumber and fresh water to sustain a prison population of 3,000 inmates and a garrison of 1,000 soldiers.

Additionally, an excellent railhead in Sandusky, just 2.5 miles by boat across the bay would ease the transport of provisions for the facility. Finally, the island was essentially uninhabited except by its owner, Leonard B. Johnson and his family.

Work begun in November 1861 saw the building of 12, two story prison blocks (Figure 5), each floor divided into three large rooms, with a kitchen at either end on the ground floor, and the entire 12 block complex surrounded by a 12-foot-high plank stockade fence. A prison hospital was also located within the stockade.

The Union garrison (Figure 6) was housed in similar buildings outside the stockade and, except for the fact that their meals were of better quality than that of the prisoners, conditions in the bare wooden slat buildings would be quite trying for prisoners and warders alike during the extremely hot summers and cold winters.

The first prisoners arrived on April 10, 1862, most being captured in General Grant's victories in the western campaign against Forts Donelson and Island No. 10. The War Department early on intended the camp to hold both officers and non-officers, but within days elected to restrict this one prison to officers exclusively.

The fact that the composition of prisoners consisted of a great many highly educated men from prominent, well-to-do Southern families, made this POW camp a marked exception to any of the other 38 Union prison camps established during the conflict.

Although conditions in Union prisons could be harsh, they historically never equaled the deprivation that made the name "Andersonville" the personification of bankruptcy of humanity that the Confederacy never was able to live down.

Nevertheless, letters from officers imprisoned at Johnson's Island report privations including temperatures as low as 27 degrees below zero when the winter Lake Erie winds howled across the island, without wood at night for the stoves, scant bedding and shortage of rations, particularly after the horrors of Andersonville became evident in the North.

Col. B.W. Johnson, 15th Arkansas Infantry, at the end of the war, described his experience stating that other reports of satisfactory conditions for POWs on Johnson's Island were, "either written by some Northern writer or some apostate from the South pretending to



Figure 6: Union garrison housing.

give a true account of prison life at Johnson's Island during the Civil War; and I must say was never on the island during the years 1864 or 1865," and then details the litany of issues as described above.

On the other hand, of the 10,000 (some reports indicate as many as 15,000) captives in the prison during the war, the total number of prisoners dying during their incarceration was a recorded 267, the first being Lt. R.M. Ray who was laid to rest on May 25, 1862 and the last being J.L. Hood, adjutant of the 59th Virginia Infantry who was buried on May 2, 1865.

All but two of the dead succumbed to illness. Two prisoners were fatally wounded by guards: Lt. Elijah Gibson who refused orders to return to his prison block after curfew, and John B. Bowles, who was shot during an escape while attempting to scale the stockade fence.

The main reason for the low number of deaths is attributable to the fact that, as officers, many came from wealthier backgrounds and received financial assistance while imprisoned allowing them to use the services of the sutler's store within the prison selling goods to the inmates. Additionally, Northern officials believed officers were deserving of kinder treatment than enlisted men because of their standing in society.

The Confederate cemetery on the island holds 206 grave markers (Figure 7), although some remains are evident by archeological scanning investigation in unmarked graves. Some of the remains were disinterred after the war and returned to their families.

The initial gravesites were marked with wooden crosses and, in 1892, were replaced with Georgia marble markers from money raised by the Robert Patton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (Figures 8 and 9).

All of the wooden markers were replaced regardless of the home state of the deceased, and were transported

by various railroads that assumed the cost, and hauled from the docks to the cemetery by teams of horses furnished by Leonard B. Johnson.

There are three monuments in the cemetery dedicated to the soldiers who rest there. The largest (Figure 10), a dramatic bronze sculpture of a confederate soldier, was dedicated on June 8, 1910. Several hundred people from both North and South attended the ceremony.



Figure 7: The Confederate cemetery on Johnson's Island.



Figure 8: A winter view of the Confederate cemetery on Johnson's Island.

Figure 9: A postcard view of the Confederate cemetery on Johnson's Island.



The bronze memorial was created by Sir Moses Ezekiel, a former Virginia Military Institute cadet who also created the memorial to Confederates in Arlington National Cemetery.

All told, 12 individuals successfully escaped from Johnson's Island with the prisoners reaching the haven of neutral Canada. Many other attempts proved unsuccessful with the prisoners being returned to Johnson's Island.

Earlier during the war, however, it was less essential to consider escape since prisoner exchanges between North and South existed as an alternative.

Additionally, even without an exchange, an alternative to remaining a POW was to sign an oath of allegiance (Figure 11) whereby taking an oath to support the Union would secure one's release (Figure 12).

Because of fierce loyalty to the South, as well as the stigma by their fellow prisoners, only about 50 men chose this avenue. Those signing the oath were immediately segregated away from other POWs and were required to serve one year in the Union army before being fully released. For those choosing this route the return home could prove most unpleasant.

The most audacious attempt at mass escape remains the tale of the USS *Michigan*. During the Civil War a conspiracy was formulated by the Confederacy to break the officers out of the Johnson's Island prison and form a Confederate army that would then proceed to attack Ohio's north coast and the port of Cleveland where they would free the Confederate prisoners held at the large Camp Chase POW camp. The freed men would form an army that would operate across Ohio and create havoc in the north.

The plan began in the summer of 1864 involving Confederate Capt. Charles Cole and Capt. John Yates Beall who were able to infiltrate 10 Confederates into the 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry garrisoned at Johnson's Island.

Confederate sympathizers, infiltrated from Canadian sanctuaries together with Northern Copperheads, about 30 in all, were then to hijack the Lake Erie passenger steamer, the *Philo Parsons*. The plan was to attack the USS *Michigan* (Figure 13) then stationed near Johnson's Island (the first American iron warship, and the only gun boat on Lake Erie) and once gaining control of the warship to direct the *Michigan*'s guns to free the prisoners on Johnson's Island.

Through espionage, Capt. Cole was working as a representative of the Mount Hope Oil Company of Pennsylvania and had gained the trust of prominent residents in Sandusky and of a number of Union military officers. Cole was to host a dinner for the officers of the *Michigan* and drug them just prior to the planned attack from the *Philo Parsons*.

On September 19, 1864, Capt. Beall and 25 men seized control of the *Philo Parsons* and headed for Sandusky Bay where Capt. Cole had planned a dinner party for September 20.

Before Cole could carry out the plot, an officer from Johnson's Island arrived with an arrest warrant. A telegram had arrived earlier that day ordering Cole arrested for spying. On the same evening on the *Philo Parsons*, 17 of Captain Beall's men staged a mutiny and forced Beall to abandon his plan. Cole remained in prison for the duration of the war, while Beall was executed for spying for the Confederacy on February 24, 1865.



Figure 10:
The 1910 dedication of a bronze sculpture for Confederate soldiers buried in Johnson's Island cemetery.

And this brings us full circle back to our stenciled flag cover. We now address the intriguing questions of who might the sender of the patriotic cover have been, what was the nature of his business in the Sandusky area, and in that specific regard, a look at the Union garrison guarding the Johnson's Island prison.

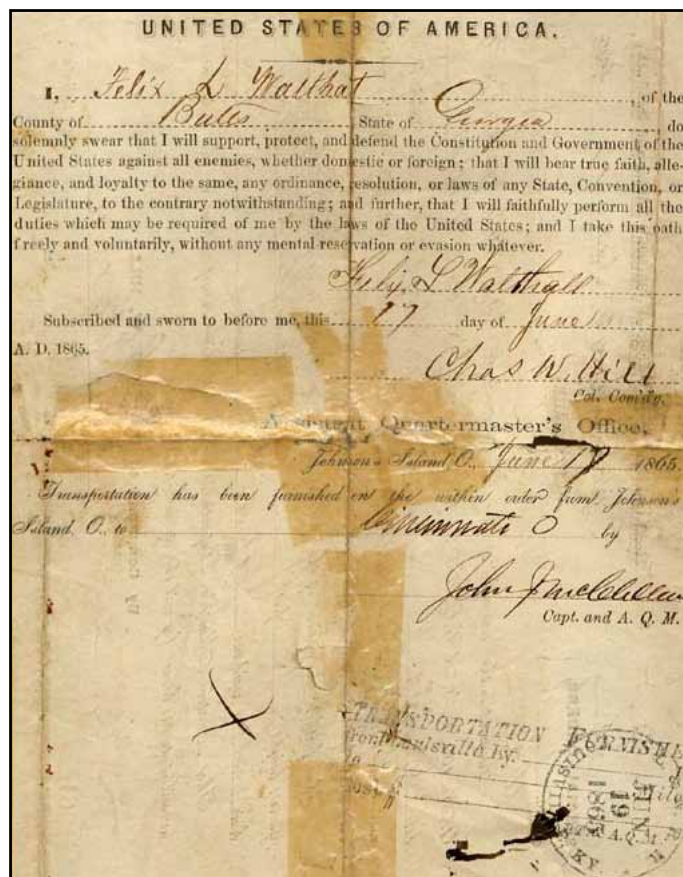


Figure 11: POW oath of allegiance to the Union.

Now then here are the facts: the Union garrison (Figure 14) would consist mainly of the 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI), augmented for a brief period in early 1864 by the 122nd New York, 67th New York, 65th New York, as well as the 82nd and 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The OVI were mainly from the Sandusky area with some soldiers drawn from northern Ohio. Extensive review of the rosters of the six companies making up the battalion finds no evidence of a Harry Doran, or any Doran for that matter, among the OVI.

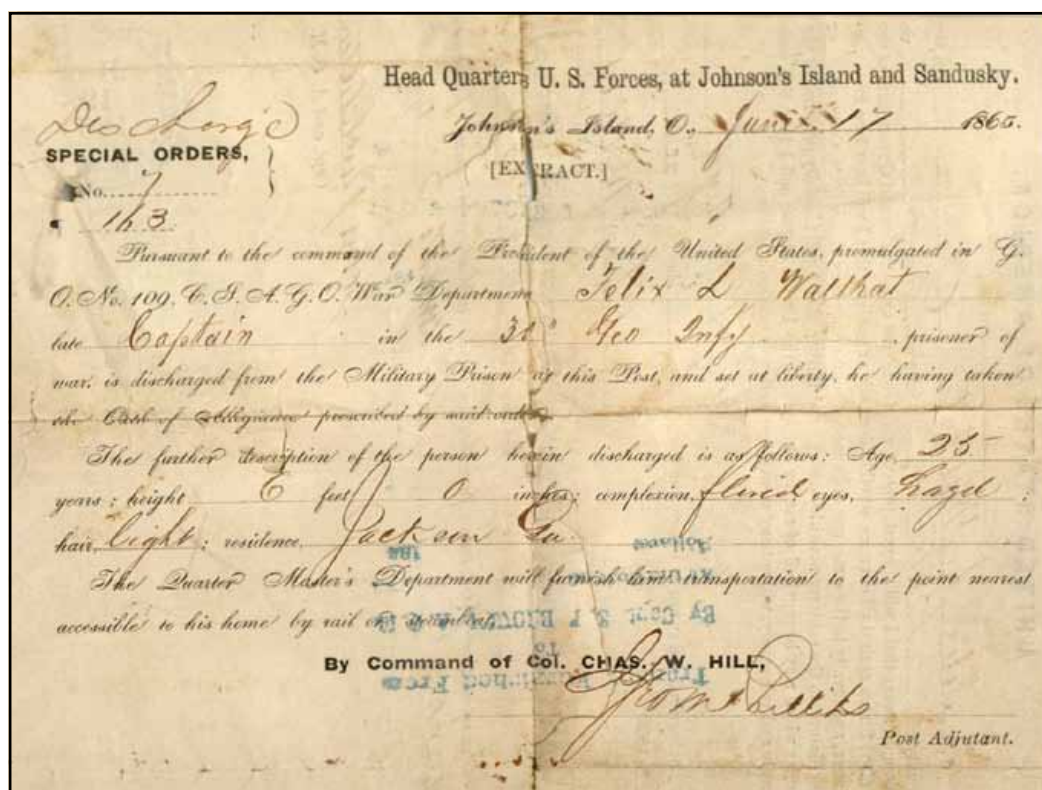
All of the Pennsylvania contingents were transferred elsewhere by the summer of 1864, months before the November mailing of our cover at Sandusky, Ohio. Furthermore, research of the ranks of Pennsylvania Civil War roles, musters and draft records for these specific units, show no record of a Harry Doran.

Now, lest you become troubled with our focus on Harry Doran, one might certainly argue that Mrs. Harry Doran might not have been the sender's wife, or was perhaps his mother, in which case Harry Doran, if living, would have been his father.

True, yet no extant documentation exists for a Harry Doran in Daleville, Luzern County, Pennsylvania, at that time. Let us therefore explain our reasoning for where we now take you.

Of the half-dozen Pennsylvania Union soldiers named Harry Doran who served during the war, none served in the area of Sandusky, Ohio, or on Johnson's Island. Although this statement may, at first glance, seem somewhat dogmatic one can, with patience, trace the battle records of every regiment, and the muster of each regiment through every month of the war—and Harry Doran was not there.

Figure 12: A POW release from custody document.



But, what's most interesting is that in late 1864, the Pennsylvania 6th U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, organized in Washington, D.C., on October 10, 1863, was assigned to Johnson's Island for a short time to protect against possible raids from Canada, as was evident with the September 19-20, 1864, raid we described.

Who were these folks from Pennsylvania? The Veteran Reserve Corps, previously the Veteran Invalid Corps, were Union soldiers who were either casualties of prior battles or soldiers stricken with illness that obviated their being able to serve in front line units, but made them still eligible for auxiliary service in the Union cause. They were then transferred from their former battle regiment into a Veteran Reserve Corps.

Well now, here is where the chill goes up ones spine. On February 6, 1862, Patrick Doran, a 36-year-old farmer from Covington, Pennsylvania, enlisted as a private in the Union Army in his hometown.

Despite excellent records being available regarding his military service, he remains a total enigma with regard to either Federal census information or local historical records. On March 8, 1862, he was inducted into the 107th Pennsylvania Volunteers at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which was organized as a regiment at Harrisburg between February 20 and March 8, 1862.

Remarks on his record indicate that he was "Absent sick since 8-30-62" and was transferred to the Invalid Corp. on April 10, 1864 (Figure 15). Patrick Doran was mustered out of the military on April 7, 1865, as a private, with a discharge letter on record dated April 10, 1865.

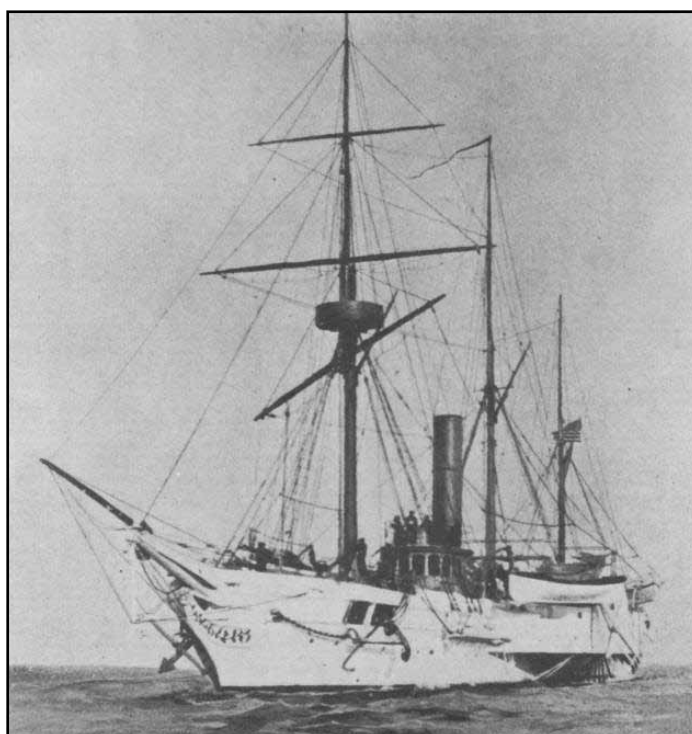


Figure 13: USS Michigan, Union gunboat.

We take a deep breath as we synthesize our thesis, no, not out of trepidation, rather out of conviction that we believe we have found our man.

Patrick Doran was on Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay doing garrison duty at the time our cover to Mrs. Harry Doran in Daleville, Pennsylvania, was meticulously stenciled and then posted on November 15, 1864.

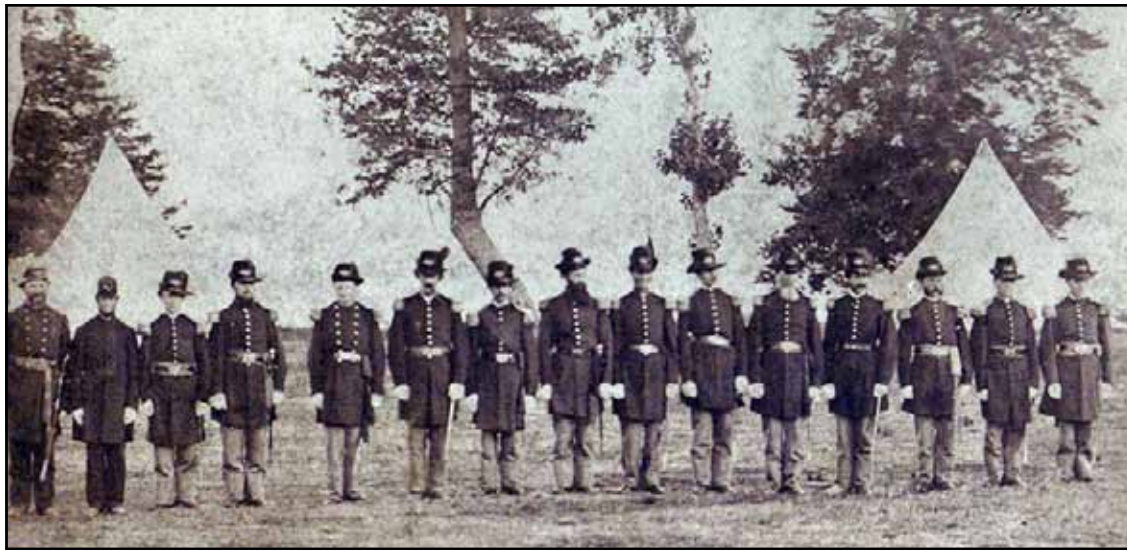


Figure 14: Union garrison, Johnson's Island prison for Confederate soldiers.

Daleville, Pennsylvania, is 115 miles from Covington, Patrick's hometown. It's not that close, but not that far away in a day of rapid railroad connections.

No other Doran comes up in our search of that name among garrison members from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York who might have been in the Sandusky area at that time.

We can never exclude the possibility that someone who was not a Doran at all, but a person living in Sandusky who knew a Mrs. Harry Doran in Daleville, Pennsylvania, 436 miles from Sandusky, stenciled this patriotic cover while Patrick Doran on Johnson's Island did his duty, oblivious to a communication between a Sanduskyite and Mrs. Harry Doran.

The fact that the cover does not state that this is "soldier mail" is not troubling. Postmaster Montgomery Blair, prior to his retirement in September 1864, did permit soldiers to use the franking privilege in lieu of stamps, although the postage was then to be paid by the recipient.

Not until World War I would soldier mail become free. Thus, the presence of a three-cent stamp on this cover in no way excludes the letter being from a soldier rather than a civilian. Although the letter may have been from a civilian, our gut feeling says that this is not as likely as that private Patrick Doran whiled away some of his time stenciling a cover in which he enclosed a letter to a relative in Daleville.

We truly wish that we could go further for the "but, what ifs" that we assure you we also have; yet, we will let you, the reader, decide if our deductive reasoning has enough credibility for heads to nod in the affirmative with a quiet smile on one's face. And, if not...well you certainly did learn some interesting Civil War history, did you not?

Johnson's Island went through two attempts in the early 20th century to become a major resort, but economics and competition with nearby Cedar Point defeated each attempt after but a few years.

Doran, Patrick	F - 107 I	3 - 886
Enrolled: 2-6-62	Ats. Covington	
M. I: 3-6-62	Asst. Pvt.	Ats. Hbg. Pa.
M. O.		
Discharged: 4-7-65		
Age at enrollment: 36	Complexion	
Height	Eyes	
Hair	Occupation: Farmer	
Residence: Covington Pa.		
Remarks: Absent sick since 8-30-62. Trans. 4-10-64 to Inv. Corps. Dis. see letter dated 4-10-65.		

Figure 15. Civil War record for Union Pvt. Patrick Doran.

In 1972 a causeway was completed to connect the island to the mainland at Marblehead Point, and today there are several hundred vacation homes and an increasing number of "McMansions" on the island. The natives however are most interested in maintaining their privacy and do not permit signs on the road from Sandusky to give away the location of the causeway access to the island.

The prison, its two forts and outlier buildings were all dismantled and the lumber hauled away after the war. A tattered volume of a farewell poem to the prisoners on Johnson's Island is one of the few remaining tangible mementoes of that time and place (Figure 16).

All that remains for viewing by the public is the beautifully maintained Confederate Cemetery managed by the Veterans Administration, just a short distance from the causeway on the left just after the four-way intersection.

In the silence of the soldier's cemetery the Confederate soldier on Sir Moses Ezekiel's monument does not look to the south, since this position would be considered retreat. He faces north with a ceaseless vigil. Go if you can, it's well worth the visit...and the memories.

References

Caldwell, James Parks. *A Northern Confederate at Johnson's Island Prison: The Civil War Diaries of James Parks Caldwell*. Edited by George H. Jones. Jefferson: McFarland, 2010.

Island History-Civil War Era Union Guard Garrison

http://www.johnsonisland.org/history/war_guards.htm

Island History-Overview

<http://www.johnsonisland.org/history.htm>

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

<http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=1562&ResourceType=Site>

The Civil War...150 Years Ago...Ohio's Johnson Island Prison, And The Tale of the Magnificent U.S.S. Michigan...(The ship that saved our state!)

<http://lakewoodobserver.cpm/read/2012/02/21/the-civil-war150-years-agoohios-johnsons-island-prison>

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison Archeological Investigation

<http://www.heidelberg.edu/academiclife/distinctive/chma/johnsonisland>

Faded Lines of Gray

<http://fadedlinesofgray.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/ten-reasons-the-union--put-a-confederate-POW-camp-on-Johnson's-island>

Rebel Soldiers Lived and Died in Johnson's Island Prison on Lake Erie

<http://www.docsnnews.com/johnsons.html>

Johnson's Island

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Johnson's_Island

Johnson's Island

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson's_Island

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

http://www.civilwarnews.com/preservation/2011pres/johnsonsisle-bush_p121101.htm

Letters and Diaries

<http://interactive.archeology.org/johnsonsisland/letters-diaries>

Johnson's Island Confederate Prison Cemetery

<http://freepages.gelealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tandnmca/cwjohnsisle/islejohnsons.html>

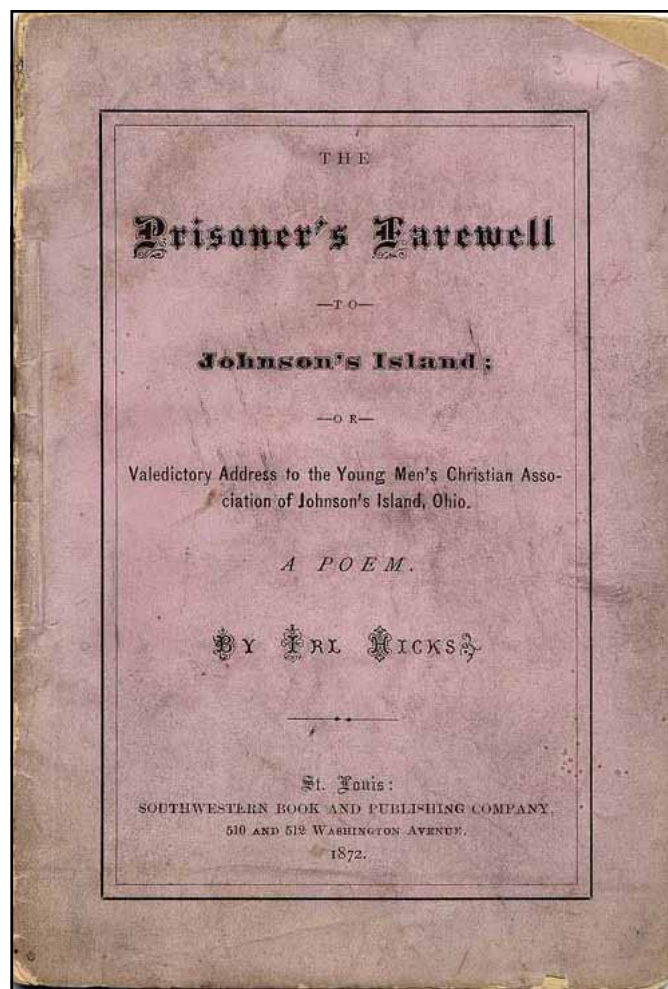


Figure 16. *The Prisoner's Farewell*.

Conditions at Johnson's Island Prison

http://pth.thehardyparty.com/johnsons_island.htm

Civil War Veterans' Card File, 1861-1866

<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp?view=ArchiveItems&ArchiveID=17&F>

(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.)

*Tell Advertisers
"I saw it in La Posta"*

Oklahoma Joe is Still Buying—JUST DON'T ASK WHY!



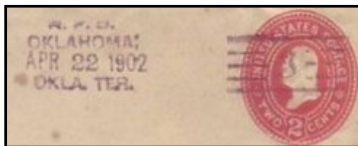
OKLAHOMA AND INDIAN TERRITORY COVERS
 WEATHER FORECAST BACKSTAMPS
 U.S. DESPATCH AGENT AND AGENCY MARKINGS
 19th CENTURY U.S. FANCY CANCELS
 PRIVATE PERFS ON COMMERCIAL COVERS
CROSBY Postmarks—Any State (Not Crosby cachets—No, we were not related)



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



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



POSTCARDS
 CHARLES M. RUSSELL
 BUSTER BROWN
 YELLOW KID
 OKLAHOMA STREET SCENES



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



Alaska Collectors' Club

Postal History from the Last Frontier

The Alaska Collectors's Club is dedicated to developing a wider interest in the study and preservation of Alaska's postal history. Our members have interests in all aspects of Alaska postal history from the earliest covers to the most recent.

Dues are \$15 per year. Information is available from:

Secretary/Treasurer Eric Knapp
 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102
 Anchorage, AK 99508-5377
 E-mail: eknapp@gci.net



Figure 1: An April 3, 1918, commercial letter from New York to Norway.

Mostly Mystery Markings on Overseas Bound Mail

By John M. Hotchner

For the last couple of issues, we have been looking at auxiliary markings associated with international mail, and this installment will continue that theme. But, this trip will have as many questions as answers—and I'm hoping *La Posta* readers may be able to fill in some blanks.

Over the years I have accumulated about a dozen covers that have markings including references to what seem like financial controls. Most are addressed to other countries. The references are to nonpostal rules, for the most part, and I have not been able to find the references, nor have other collectors I know.

Here is a list of the covers, by date of first use of the marking, and with the marking itself (FRB stands for Federal Reserve Bank, I believe):

April 3, 1918: To Norway. "Foreign Exchange USFRB No. 485B and 469C" (Figure 1).

April 22, 1918: To China. "Foreign Exchange USFRB No. 2190" (Figure 2).

November 23, 1918: To Netherlands. "Foreign Exchange USFRB No. 567B and 569C (Figure 3).

December 30, 1918: To Netherlands. "Foreign

Exchange USFRB No. 177B" (Figure 4).

September 18, 1919: To Switzerland. "Foreign Exchange USFRB No. 2181" (Figure 5).

March 4, 1941: To France. "Ruling No. 2 complied with" (partially covered by censor tape.) (Figure 6).

January 8, 1943: To Trinidad. "Board of Economic Warfare. The technical information contained herein has been Inspected and approved for export by the Technical Data License Division, Export Control Branch, Office of Exports" (Figure 7).

December 30, 1943: Florida to Connecticut. "Mailed in conformity with order #19008 Inspected by ____" (Figure 8).

January 10, 1944: Florida to Ohio. "Contents examined or acceptability verified under Order No. 19008 at ____" (Figure 9).

March 11, 1955: To APO 203 (St. Nazaire, France), from New York. "Dispatch prohibited by Order No. 19687. See *Postal Bulletin* January 8, 1943" (Figure 10).



Figure 2: An April 22, 1918, commercial mailing from San Francisco to China.



Figure 3: November 23, 1918, commercial letter from New York to Holland.

The 1918-19 FRB markings are a mystery. It makes sense that there would be controls on financial transactions during and immediately after World War I, but why in September 1919?

Other questions would include:

- Did the numbers in the markings refer to a national system? Or did each bank have its own scheme?
- Or do the numbers equate to a specific bank?
- By whom, when, and where were the markings added to the covers?
- What was the legal basis for the markings?

Just to complicate matters, my folder on this subject has a note about a July 1918 cover from Philadelphia to Moscow, with "Foreign Exchange USFRB No. 118."

Per the backstamp, it reached Moscow in October 1919, but the cover has the additional marking: "Returned in consequence of circumstances of war."

Of course at this time, the United States was engaged in an "intervention" in Russia, aimed at supporting the White Russian opposition to the Communist takeover of the former tsarist government.

The only marking I've pinned down is the Figure 10, "Order No. 19687," and that is courtesy of an article by Tony Wawrukiewicz, titled "Post Office Department Order 19687" in the April 2015 issue of *Auxiliary Markings*, the journal of the Auxiliary Markings Club.

In brief, Order 19687, as presented in *Postal Bulletin* 18539 of January 8, 1943, provides that individual copies of newspapers and magazines could be accepted for dispatch to Army personnel outside the United States only if the wrapper has a certificate reading "Mailed in conformity with POD Order No. 19687." This was occasioned by the heavy demands being made on limited military cargo facilities.

Further, no third class circular matter "should be presented for mailing to APOs overseas, as the War Department advises that it will not be dispatched from ports of embarkation." The Figure 10 cover seems to have fallen afoul of the latter provision.

In Figure 11 is a newspaper wrapper that is addressed to a Naval Operating Base in Adak, Alaska, care of Fleet Post Office, San Francisco. In the upper right corner, in very small red letters, is the necessary, "Mailed in conformity with POD Order No. 19687."

The full text of Wawrukiewicz's article (and an Auxiliary Markings Club membership application form) will be provided to any *La Posta* reader who requests it and sends me a legal size, stamped self-addressed envelope.

If any reader can help with the other markings or has other examples or similar material, I would appreciate hearing from you by e-mail at: jmhstamp@verizon.net or at POB 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Figure 4: December 30, 1918, commercial mail from New York to Holland.



Figure 5: September 16, 1919, commercial letter from San Benito, California, to Switzerland.

Figure 6: March 4, 1941, commercial mailing from New York to France.

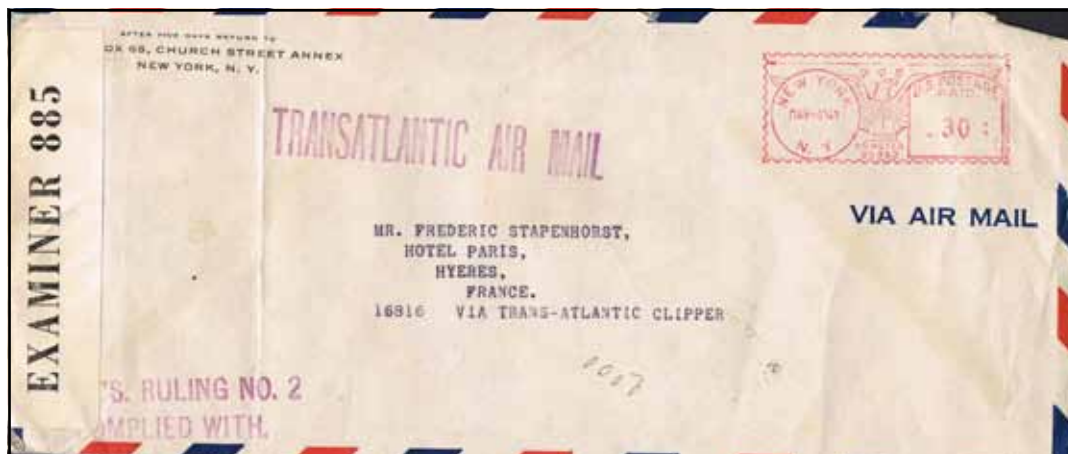


Figure 7: January 9, 1943, commercial mailing from New York to Trinidad.



Figure 8: December 30, 1943, commercial mailing from Hollywood, Florida, to Guilford, Connecticut.



Figure 9: January 10, 1944, registered commercial letter from Miami, Florida, to Columbus, Ohio; back and front.



Figure 10: Third class mailing dated March 11, 1955, from Syracuse, New York, to APO 203 (St. Nazaire, France) refused carriage under provisions of Order 19687.

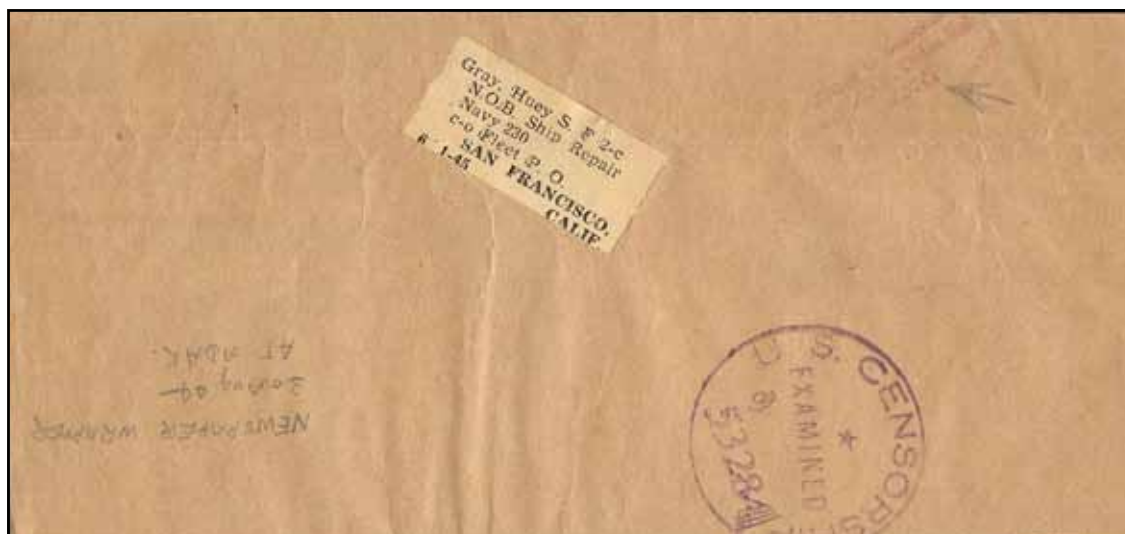
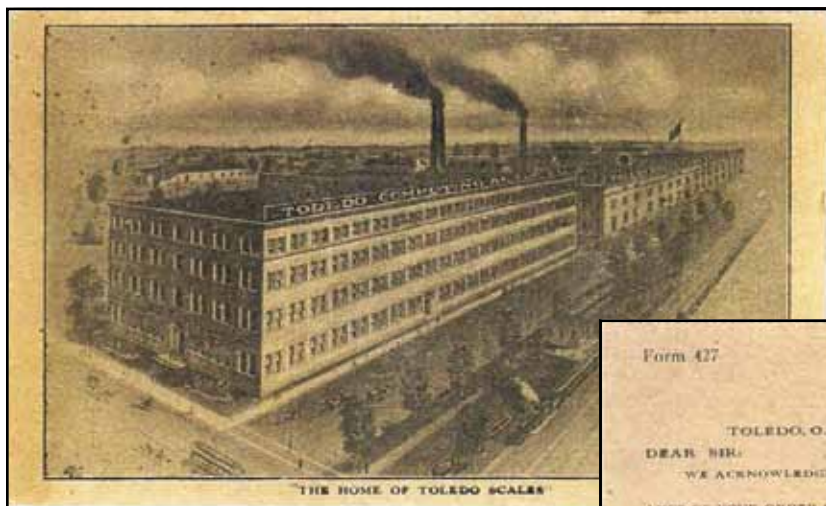


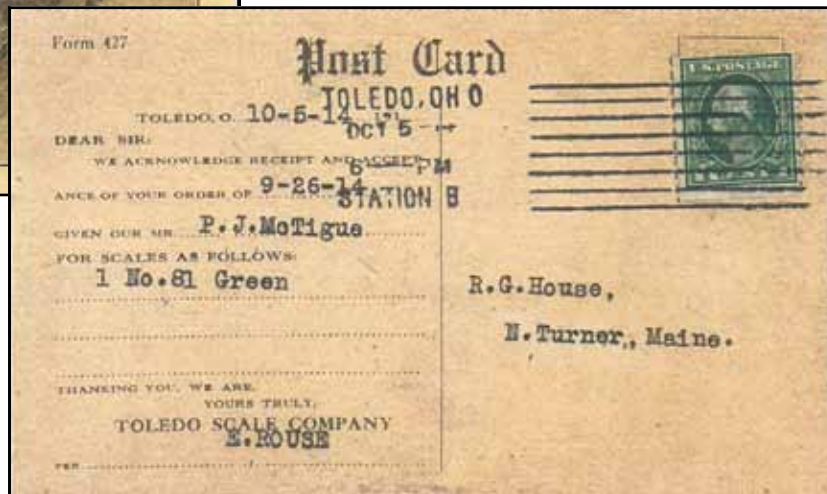
Figure 11: Probably a newspaper, received in Adak, Alaska, in 1944 via Navy Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, sent because the required legend (in small red letters at upper right) 'Mailed in Conformity with POD Order 19687' is present.

Postcard Pursuit

By Charles A. Fricke



The front and back of a Toledo Scale Company business reply postcard.



A Toledo Scale Co. Business Reply Postcard: Is it Worth More ‘One Way or the Other?’

The nondescript postcard shown above is simply a business reply acknowledgement for an order placed by R.G. House of N. Turner, Maine for one No. 81 green scale.

Mailed by the Toledo Scale Co., using a one-cent green Washington coil stamp (Scott 421), the 1914 card is postmarked “TOLEDO, OHIO/Oct. 5/6 PM/STATION B” by a Columbia (D4s/8) machine and addressed to R.G. House, N. Turner, Maine.

The front of the postcard pictures an overall illustration of the Toledo Computing Scale Co., incorporating four-story and a two-story factory buildings with street scenes in miniature, including a railroad train station, the “Wagonworks Station,” with a train alongside.

The impressive picture is enough to ensure that any dealings with the Toledo Scale Co. would be in your best interests.

The Toledo Scale Co. started with Henry Theobald buying the DeVilbiss Computing Scale Co. around 1900. Most scales at that time used spring tension, while DeVilbiss had invented an actual weight (gravity) as a counterbalance pendulum type scale.

One of the promotional phrases used by Theobald was: “No Springs, Honest Weight.”

The company prospered with new models and inventions by anticipating the needs of the public and the national interests.

Over the years there were many changes in organization, ownership and name, but the impressive looking postcard with the two factories serves to emphasize that in the year 1914 the Toledo Scale Co. was in the business of making scales.

So, it now comes down to this, is the postcard more of a valued item for a collector of machine cancels, of topical/scales or of coil stamps on cover (Taking into account that the *Scott Catalogue* value for the one-cent coil stamp on cover (Scott 412/perf 8-1/2) is \$35).

In spite of the singular categories it might be, “All of the above!” This postcard offers an insight into the world of postally used postcards and their relationships to the varied facets of collecting.

(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.)

Have an interesting photograph related to the post office or postal operations? Then send a 300 dpi or better .jpg or .tif scan with a caption to the editor at: pmartin2525@yahoo.com. Please put 'La Posta Snapshots' in the e-mail subject line.

Two Early Views of Mailbox Pickups

Shown here are two early twentieth century photographs showing the pickup of mail from street mailboxes, a scene seldom encountered today.

At right a city mailman picks up the mail using a tricycle-based mail wagon while the below image shows a mailman driving his new mail car while his partner empties a mailbox circa 1912.



Postal History at the American Philatelic Research Library: Special Collections and Finding Aids

By Tara E. Murray
APRL Librarian

I am grateful to editor Peter Martin for the opportunity to share postal history resources from the American Philatelic Research Library with *La Posta* readers. (*La Posta* itself is, of course, one of our most important resources.)

In this first article, I focus on special collections and archives. Future articles will address other kinds of resources and give updates on any new significant postal history collections the APRL acquires.

Over the last couple years, several significant collections of papers related to postal history have found their way to the APRL in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Most striking for its sheer volume (arriving at the library on a tractor trailer truck in July 2013), as well as the wealth of information contained within, was the papers of Thomas J. Alexander.

The collection includes not only the papers of Alexander, a noted postal historian and distinguished author (his books include *1847 Cover Census*, *Simpson's Postal Markings: 1851-1861*, and *The Travers Papers: United States Postal History and Postage Stamps: Official Records*), but also some acquired from Tracy Simpson, John Eggen, Wilson Hulme, and Creighton Hart.

Processing this collection—sorting and organizing the papers, photographs, microfilm, and slides, rehousing them in archival containers, and creating a finding aid—was a monumental undertaking.

The acquisition and processing were funded by a grant from the David T. Beals III Charitable Trust to the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. The USPCS also provided valuable assistance in acquiring the collection and expert advice in creating the finding aid.

This finding aid, available online, provides a detailed description of the collection for researchers. To use the collection, researchers must visit the library in Bellefonte, but the finding aid should provide enough information to determine whether a trip is warranted—or may even provide enough information to allow a researcher to make a scanning or photocopy request.

Browsing the finding aid gives an idea of Alexander's wide-ranging interests: biographical information, notes on the 1847 cover census, Civil War covers, Missouri and Kansas postal history, local posts and express companies, steamship mail, and more.

To access the finding aid, go to <http://stamps.org/Library-Collections> and click on "Subject Guides and



Figure 1: Interns Michael Wilson and Maria Pavon sort material from the Alexander papers.



Figure 2: Archival boxes containing Thomas J. Alexander's papers are ready to be labeled and stored in the APRL's high-density shelving.

Finding Aids," or go to the library's online catalog (<http://catalog.stamplibrary.org>) and search for "Alexander Papers."



Figure 3: The Aaronsburg, Pennsylvania, Post Office. (Courtesy Penns Valley Historical Society)

Another large postal history research collection comes from the estate of Richard B. Graham, who wrote more than 1,000 postal history columns for *Linn's Stamp News* and authored (with Jerry Devol) *Establishment of the First U.S. Government Post Office in the Northwest Territory*, one of the first books digitized by the APRL. Much of the collection has been processed and a draft finding aid created, thanks again to a grant from the David T. Beals III Charitable Trust to the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, but we are still receiving material from the estate so the finding aid has not been completed and published.

The library's archives also include several collections of papers from individual post offices. We have the cashbooks of the Kodol, West Virginia, Post Office from 1939–1952 on microfilm, documents from the Aaronsburg, Pennsylvania, Post Office from 1894–1941, and documents from the Milford, Iowa, Post Office from 1891–1916. The Aaronsburg and Milford collections have been inventoried and finding aids are available on the library website.

As a postal historian, you may have your own collection of research notes, original documents, or other unique, unpublished material. If you are attending the American Philatelic Society StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan this summer (August 20–23), check the schedule for a talk about preserving and organizing your personal archives. The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society has invited me to develop and present this talk.

The APRL has one of the world's largest and most



Figure 4: Fourth Class Postmaster's Account and Record Book from the Aaronsburg, Pa., Post Office documents collection.

accessible collections of philatelic literature. Members of the APRL and the American Philatelic Society may borrow materials directly through the mail and others may access the collections through interlibrary loan. The APRL is open to the public and scholars are welcome to take advantage of photocopy and scanning services or do research on site.

For more information, visit the APRL on the web at www.stamplibrary.org; call (814) 933-3803 and select "Option 3" for the library; or e-mail aprl@stamps.org.



Figure 1: A 1924 color illustrated advertising cover for *The Thief of Bagdad*.

An Ad Cover for *The Thief of Bagdad*

By Thomas Richards

In the First Quarter *La Posta*, Peter Martin, in his interesting inaugural article for a new “Advertising Postal History” column stated, “Advertising covers often provide great historical reminders of people, places and things that were once an important part of daily life.” This is so true and one could argue that the movie silver screens of the world have brought more pleasure to more people than any other product.

The Figure 1 cover shows an advertisement for the 1924 silent movie *The Thief of Bagdad* featuring the mega star Douglas Fairbanks Sr.

Douglas Fairbanks Sr. (May 23, 1883 – December 12, 1939) was an American actor, screenwriter, director, and producer. He was best known for his swashbuckling roles in silent films such as *The Thief of Bagdad*, *Robin Hood*, and *The Mark of Zorro*, but spent the early part of his career making comedies.¹

In 1916, Fairbanks established his own company, the Douglas Fairbanks Pictures Corporation. An astute businessman, Fairbanks was a founding member of United Artists.

Fairbanks was also a founding member of The Motion Picture Academy and hosted the first Oscars ceremony in 1929.

With his marriage to Mary Pickford in 1920, the

couple became Hollywood royalty and Fairbanks was referred to as “The King of Hollywood.” They also formed the Pickford-Fairbanks Studio. His career rapidly declined however with the advent of the “talkies.” His final film was *The Private Life of Don Juan* (1934).

The Thief of Bagdad was one of the most expensive films of the 1920s at a reputed cost of \$1,135,654.65. It is now widely considered one of the great silent films and Fairbanks’ greatest work.

It had a lot of excellent special effects that predated CGI (computer-generated imagery) development and relied heavily on Fairbanks’ athletic capabilities.

The letter in the envelope (Figure 2) is sent to Maude Van Fossen, who had been invited to the filming of *The Thief of Bagdad* at the Pickford-Fairbanks studio.

Ms. Fossen had moved to Los Angeles by this time and the letter was forwarded there. The letter noted that the film was now being shown in New York and they enclosed the special pass (Figure 3) she used to get into the initial filming. They encouraged her to see the completed film. I wonder if she did attend?

The ad cover is a crossover in that it appeals to philatelists and to movie poster collectors. The Figure 4 top poster is a very rare item. It appeared in a 1995

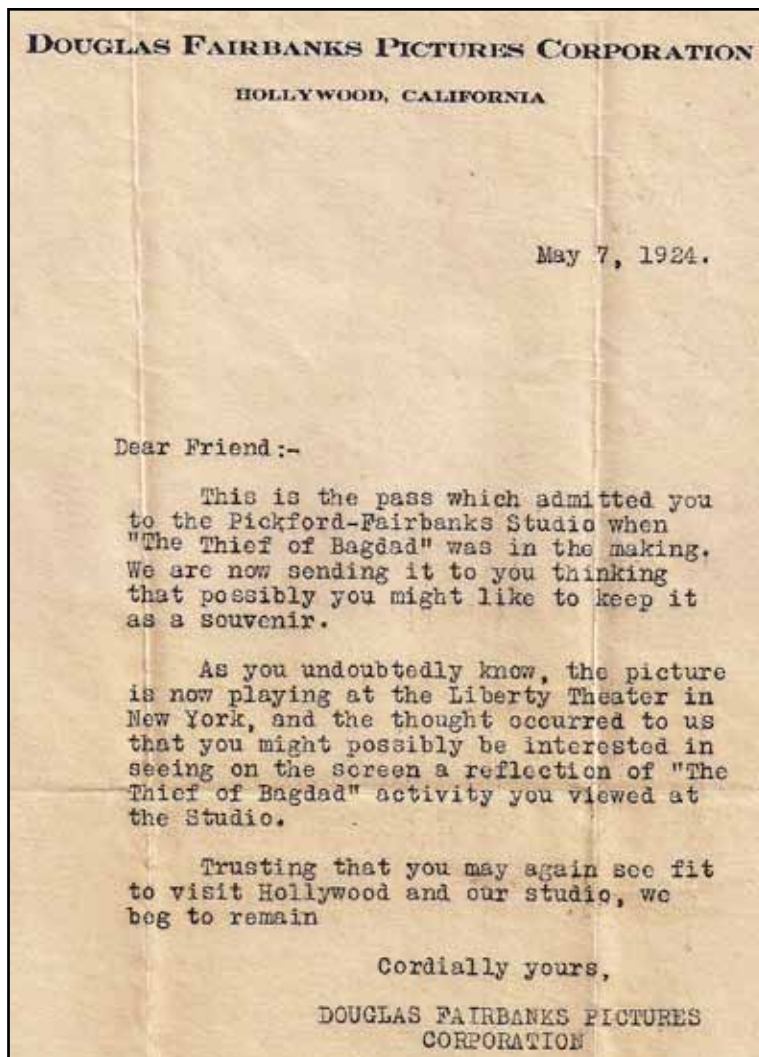


Figure 2: An invitation letter to watch the filming.

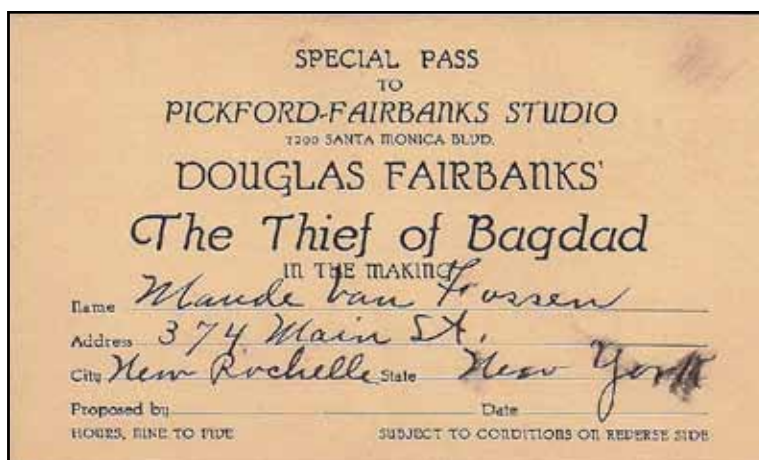


Figure 3: A pass to view the filming.

Christies East movie poster auction catalog and sold for \$23,000.

Endnote

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Fairbanks
 (Thomas Richards specializes in Hollywood postal history and related materials. He resides in Columbus, Ohio, and can be contacted by e-mail at: richardsthomas@sbcglobal.net)



Figure 4: Three *Thief of Bagdad* movie posters. The one at top sold for \$23,000 in 1995.

United States Post Offices

This column features United States post office photographs from the collection of the Post Mark Collectors Club's Margie Phund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Library, which is located in the historic Lyme Village near Bellevue, Ohio. The museum has more than 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.

South Dakota Post Offices

By Steve Bahnsen

These photographs are of post offices from South Dakota. A variety of people took these photos over the years. The PMCC Museum's collection has more than 650 pictures from South Dakota that range from black and white views from the 1950s to color digital photos from 2013. South Dakota has lots of wide open spaces. Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Monuments are in the Black Hills. Rapid City and Sioux Falls are large cities, but most of the state has small towns spread across the prairies. Most post offices are compact, yet modern.



Saint Onge
Post Office
Lawrence Co.
2012



Wounded Knee Post Office,
Shannon Co., 1973



Oelrichs Post Office, Fall River Co., 2002



Oglala Post Office, Shannon Co., 2008



Brentford Post Office, Spink Co., 1998



Claire City Post Office, Roberts Co., 2012



Keystone Post Office, Pennington Co., 1950



**Deadwood Post Office,
Lawrence Co., 2003**



Florence Post Office, Codington Co., 2012

South Dakota



Kyle Post Office, Shannon Co., 1998



Lyons Post Office, Minnehaha Co., 2008



Lesterville Post Office, Yankton Co., 1998

Letters

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

A Special Delivery Death Notice

I found this January 1892 one-cent postal card with a torn 10-cent special delivery stamp at a local antique show. Check out both images and note the message on the card.

Mailed to Robert Wilhelm, Office of Lombard Investment Company, Kansas City, Missouri, the note on the reverse reads:

Robt

Rachel cannot live til morning

Harry

Dated January 4, the Kansas City receiving postmark shows delivery on January 6 at 7 p.m.

The July 1892 cancellation is from Dupont, Kansas. Shortly after this postal card was mailed, the town's name was changed to Pen Dennis.

The Dupont Post Office was moved from Cutts in November 1887. It was renamed Pen Dennis on July 13, 1892 and Pendennis in August 1894. The Pendennis Post Office was discontinued June 28, 1957.

Today, Pendennis is an unincorporated community in Lane County, Kansas. The community was named after William Makepeace Thackeray's novel, *The History of Pendennis*.

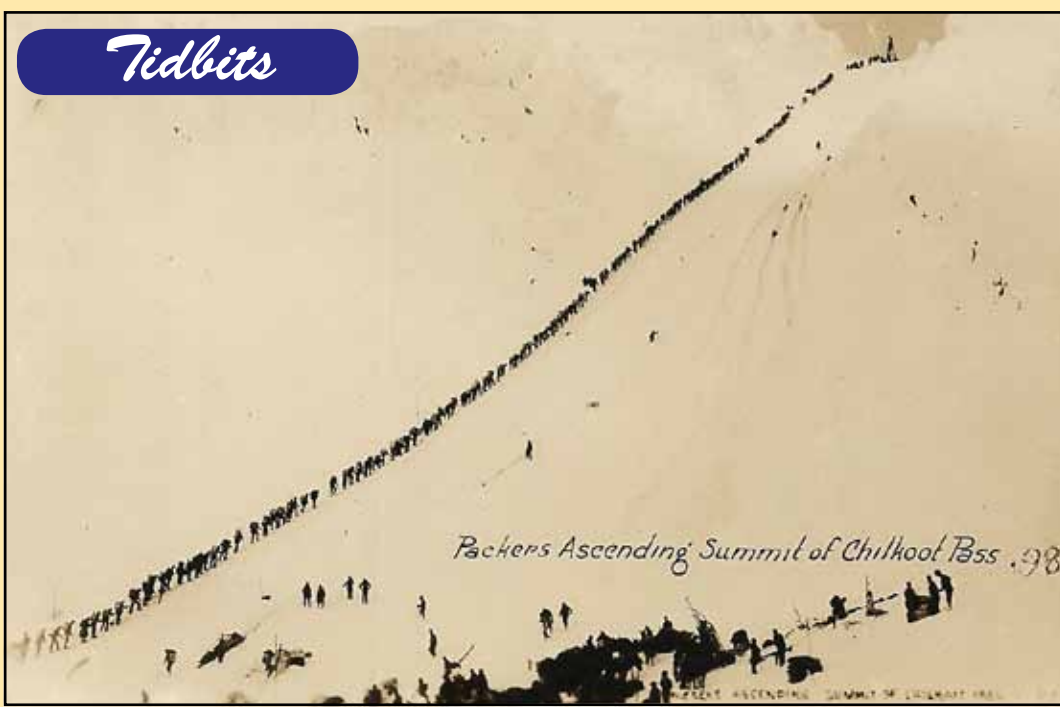
Kirk Andrews
Portland, Oregon



Alaska's Chilkoot Pass

Shown is a detail of real photo postcard titled, "Packers Ascending Summit of Chilkoot Pass, 98." Chilkoot Pass goes through the Boundary Ranges of the Coast Mountains in Alaska and British Columbia, Canada. It is the highest point along the 30+-mile Chilkoot Trail that leads from Dyea, Alaska to Bennett Lake, British Columbia. During the Klondike Gold Rush that began in 1896, the pass was used by prospectors and packers to get through the mountains.

Tidbits



U.S. Presidential Free Frank Named One of Pennsylvania's Top Ten Endangered Artifacts

The earliest known U.S. presidential free frank, held by the American Philatelic Society, has been named one of Pennsylvania's top ten endangered artifacts.

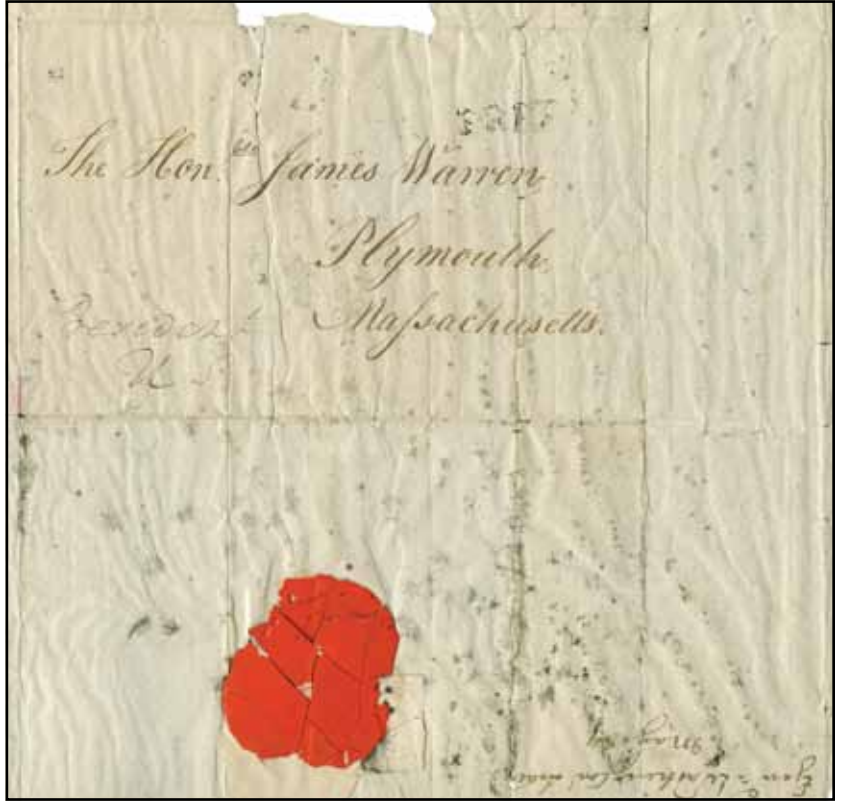
The privilege of U.S. presidents being provided free franking for their postal mailings was first offered to George Washington when he became president in April 1789.

In May 1789, he used this folded lettersheet for correspondence to the Hon. James Warren (1726-1808), and signed it "President/U.S."

Warren was a member of the Sons of Liberty who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill and was paymaster general of the Continental Army. Washington mailed it just weeks following his inauguration, making this artifact the earliest recorded documented use of this presidential privilege.

Following moisture damage from super storm Sandy (the document was stored in a bank vault in New Jersey at the time), the owner donated it to the APS for display.

Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts was a 2013 statewide initiative created by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), the largest nonprofit conservation center in the country.



A cropped image of the APS George Washington free franked lettersheet.

An independent review panel of collections care professionals chose the top ten artifacts from 60 submissions, based on their historical and cultural significance and need for conservation.

Nostalgia

The 1890s

1892

The United States created a new national holiday in 1892. February 12 was declared a national holiday to honor Abraham Lincoln. Washington's birthday (February 22) was established as a federal holiday in 1885. Washington was actually born on February 11 according to the Julian calendar that was in effect at the time of his birth.

1896

In April 1896 Athens, Greece, the Olympics returned after a break of about 2,000 years. Winners all received a silver medal and a crown of olive branches; second place received a bronze medal and a crown of laurel. Gold medals weren't awarded until the 1904 games in St Louis. The 245 athletes,

including 14 Americans, competed in 43 events in nine sports — cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, track and field, weightlifting, and wrestling.

1898

Yukon Territory, named after the Yukon River, (which means "Great River") became a new Canadian territory in 1898. The capital at Dawson moved to Whitehorse in 1953.

1899

Four of Hollywood's most famous stars were born in 1899. Fred Astaire May 10; James Cagney July 17; Alfred Hitchcock August 13; and Humphrey Bogart December 25, Christmas day.

DK Enterprises

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

POB 1881

Silverdale, WA 98383

(360) 692-3818 stamps@dickkeiser.com

US / World Wide stamps and Postal History

Military/Naval Covers

Censored, Internment, POW covers

US/State/Foreign Revenues, and Much More.

Always Buying Visa/Mastercard Accepted

FREE shipping on orders over \$50.00

Visit my website at www.Dickkeiser.com



Don Tocher U.S. Classics

POB 679

Sunapee, NH 03782

(617) 686-0288

Please see me at:

APS STAMPSHOW 2015

August 20-23

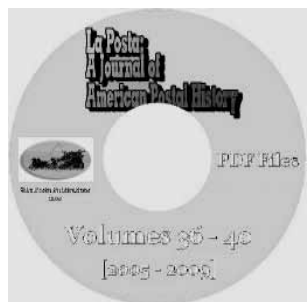
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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

www.postalnet.com/dontocher

ASDA, APS, CSA, MPHS, USPCS

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



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

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

To Order:

Send a check for \$17.50 for either CD, or \$35 for both to: *La Posta*, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; E-mail: laposta.joan@yahoo.com

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



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

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



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

www.JamesLee.com



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



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

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



Fred
Schmitt

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



Since
1953
Schmitt

Investors Ltd.
www.fredschmitt.com

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

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



Your Source For

- La Posta Publications, including
the U.S. Post Offices series
- The 2015 Brookman Price Guide
- Quality U.S. Stamps
- Outstanding U.S. Postal History

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

Brookman Stamp Company
POB 90

Vancouver, WA 98666
(800) 782-6770

E-mail: mjaffe@brookmanstamps.com
Credit Cards Welcome

APS STAMPSHOW 2015

August 20-23

Grand Rapids, Michigan

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

STEPHEN T. TAYLOR

5 Glenbuck Road
Surbiton, Surrey
England KT6 6BS

Phone: 011-4420-8390-9357
info@stephentaylor.co.uk
www.stephentaylor.co.uk

Your American Dealer in Britain



La Posta Publications on CD



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

Choose from any of these postal history titles:

Postmarks on Postcards (2nd expanded edition 2006)

Early Airmail and Aviation in Southern California

San Francisco Postmarks 1847-1900 & Earthquake Mail 1906

U.S. Doane Postmarks

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

Prexie Postal History

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

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

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

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

Pay by U.S. check to: La Posta, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403

E-mail: laposta.joan@yahoo.com

SUBSCRIBE NOW! DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Peter Martin

Publisher

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Sponsor: _____

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

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

La Posta Classified Ads

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

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

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

AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

May 10, 2015

FOR SALE

DPOs, RPOs, SHIPS, DOANES, Expos, machines, military, advertising, auxiliaries, and more! My mail bid sales offer thousands of postal history lots. Write/ call for sample catalog. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th St., Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. E-mail: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: www.postal-history.com. [46-4]

ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING COVERS showing various old products. Many with matching graphic enclosures. Submit collecting interests for free photocopies. John Cuddy, 2768 Willits Rd., Philidelphia, PA 19136. Phone: (215) 552-9855; E-mail: jcuddymailpouch@aol.com. [46-4]

WORLDWIDE POSTAL HISTORY with some USA items Aero: Polar: Military: Maritime and commerical items. Catalogues have a diverse mixture of covers/cards. Interesting items on offer in a Mail Bid sale every two months. Sidney Fenemore Wallasey CH45 1HL England

UK: Website: www.sidneyfenemore.com; e-mail: sfenemore@clara.co.uk. Member APS. [46-4]

WANTED

WANTED: 548 PILGRIM one-cent in-period uses. ie. as due, territorial, precancels, unusual. Prefer without other stamps except uprated or aux. Send scans/photocopies. Doug Weisz, POB 1458 McMurray, PA 15317 weiszcovers@yahoo.com [45-4]

ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING card/covers: Buffalo/Pawnee Bill, Wild West Show, P.T. Barnum, western lawmen; WWI Newfoundland. Mario, Box 342, Station Main, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 3L3: E-mail: northcote1885@yahoo.ca [46-2]

BUY, SELL AND TRADE Doane Cancels of all states. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, POB 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [46-2B]

ALL STATES AND CATEGORIES wanted! Better consignment material always needed for my bi-monthly Mail Bid Sales. Write/ call for consignment details. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Website: www.postal-history.com. [46-4]

WANTED—POSTALLY USED 5-CENT JOHN F. KENNEDY commemorative issue used on May 29, 1964. Interested in buying, selling, and trading. Commercially used uncached covers are especially sought. Please forward photocopies or scans: Henry B. Scheuer, POB 535, Madison Square Sta., New York, N.Y. 10159; E-mail: Henryinnewyork@gmail.com [46-2B]

U.S. FIRST DAY COVERS ADDRESSED TO AND BACKSTAMPED in foreign countries, especially exotic, obscure and newer countries (post-1950). Covers *must* be backstamped in the intended country. No *Poste Restante*. Send photocopies/scans to: Henry B. Scheuer, POB 535, Madison Square Sta., New York, N.Y. 10159; E-mail: Henryinnewyork@gmail.com [46-2B]



La Posta Back Issues

La Posta back issues may be purchased from:

Sherry Straley
1400 Rowena Way
Sacramento, CA 95864

To order back issues call Sherry at:
(916) 359-1898; FAX (916) 359-1963

Support the Advertisers That Support *La Posta*!

Alaska Collectors' Club	43	<i>La Posta</i> Subscriptions.....	60
Brookman Stamp Company.....	59	James Lee.....	59
Classified Ads.....	61	The Philatelic Foundation	2
Joe Crosby	43	Regency-Superior Auctions.....	64
DK Enterprises.....	58	Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.....	C3
Doubleday Postal History.....	64	Schmitt Investors Ltd.	59
Patricia A. Kaufmann.....	63	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries	C2
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	1, C4	Stephen T. Taylor	59
<i>La Posta</i> Back Issues	61	Subway Stamp Shop	6
<i>La Posta</i> on two CDs.....	58	Don Tocher.....	58

La Posta Display Advertising Rates

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

2015 Display Ad Rates (Per issue)				Ad Deadlines	
Space	Size	B&W	Color	First Quarter	February 10
Full Page	7-1/2 x 10 inch	\$175	\$250	Second Quarter	May 10
1/2 Page	7-1/2 x 4-7/8 inch	\$105	\$165	Third Quarter	August 10
1/4 Page Vert.	3-5/8 x 4-7/8 inch	\$65	\$110	Fourth Quarter	November 10
1/8 Page horiz	3-5/8 x 2-3/8 inch	\$40	\$85		

Special Placement

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

NEWS FLASH!

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

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



PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN

10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln DE 19960

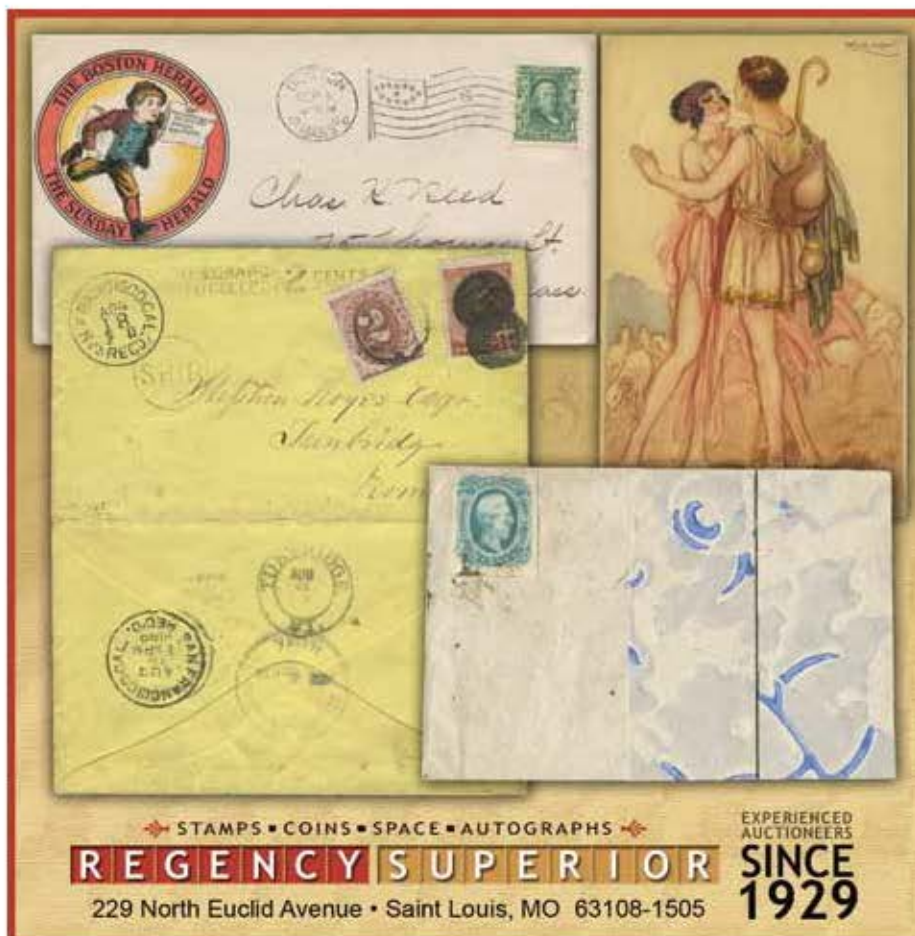
Ph: 302-422-2656 ~ Fx: 302-424-1990

trishkauf@comcast.net

www.csadealer.com

Life member CSA, APS, APRL, USPCS ~

Member ASDA, CCNY, RPSL



STAMPS • COINS • SPACE • AUTOGRAPHS

REGENCY SUPERIOR

229 North Euclid Avenue • Saint Louis, MO 63108-1505

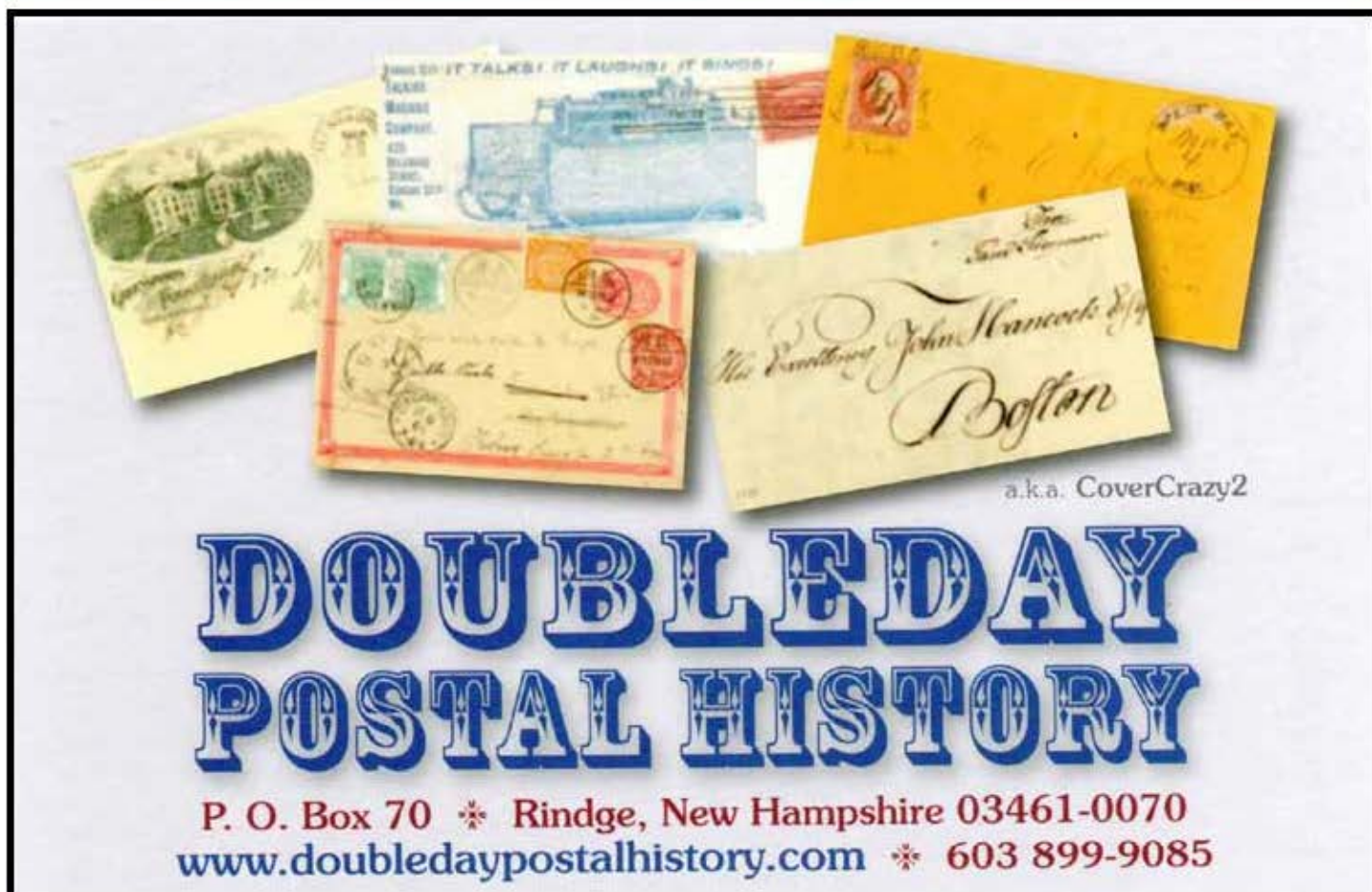
EXPERIENCED AUCTIONEERS
SINCE 1929

YOUR SOURCE FOR BUYING & SELLING AMERICAN COVERS & POSTAL HISTORY

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

complimentary auction catalog
for active bidders

800.782.0066
RegencySuperior.com



DOUBLEIT TALKS! IT LAUGHS! IT RINGS!

MAKES
MAILING
COMFORT
420
BROADWAY
NEW YORK
N.Y. 10013

Mr. President John Hancock Esq
Boston

a.k.a. CoverCrazy2

DOUBLEDAY POSTAL HISTORY

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