

CollectorsClub Philatelist



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First Issue Covers to Switzerland

H.R. HARMER

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FINE STAMP AUCTIONS

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A Closer Look at Past Realizations and Future Offerings



Transatlantic Mails from the Collection of Graham Booth, FRPSL

In the mid-19th Century, Transatlantic ships would close their mail bags several hours before their scheduled departure time. Following in the footsteps of Great Britain, in 1853 the US Post Office

Department created a provision for last-minute mail to be placed in special bags and carried aboard. Known as "supplementary mail", the rate was double the normal postage and specific cancellations were typically used to indicate such handling. With the advent of airmail and other means of mail transportation, supplementary mail was discontinued in 1941.

As part of our October postal history sale we will be offering a selection of supplementary mail from the award-winning collection of Graham Booth. We are excited to be able to help bring this fascinating chapter of postal history to life.

What Stories Will Your Collection Tell?

At H.R. Harmer we view ourselves as stewards of the hobby, dedicated to both preserving great collections of the past and building great collections of the future. Following the recent sales of the Provera, Challenger and Boulder Collections, and with several powerful sales forthcoming in the second half of the year, our team has proven its ability to expertly describe and market significant and specialized collections. When you consign with H.R. Harmer, you are joining a long list of discerning collectors who have appreciated the historical significance, romantic intrigue, and aesthetic beauty a world-class philatelic collection can embody. We pride ourselves in building strong relationships with our consignors and telling the story of their collection to our worldwide network of clients.

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The Collectors Club Philatelist (ISSN 0010-0838) is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November by The Collectors Club, 11 W 42ND ST FL2, NEW YORK NY 10036-8008. A subscription to *The Collectors Club Philatelist* is included with dues paid by members of The Collectors Club. Subscription price for nonmembers in the United States is \$70. Prices for foreign addresses and/or other classes of mail are higher depending on actual cost; consult publisher. Subscriptions for outside the United States should be paid in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Back issues \$9, including postage. For a complete list, write the publisher. Claims for undelivered issues will be honored only within six months of the date of publication. Beyond that, replacements will be provided at the single copy price. Periodicals class postage paid at New York, New York 10001 and additional offices. Office of Publication: The Collectors Club, 11 W 42ND ST FL2, NEW YORK NY 10036-8008. Copyright © 2022 by The Collectors Club. All rights reserved. We do not give implied or other consent for copying for more than personal use.

Indexed in Philindex by E.E. Fricks and included in the article index of the American Philatelic Research Library and the Global Philatelic Library. The opinions and statements contained in the articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Collectors Club, its officers or staff.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:

The Collectors Club Philatelist, 11 W 42ND ST FL2, NEW YORK NY 10036-8008.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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President's Message

Lawrence Haber

As I write this, in a matter of days, we will finalize our program for next year, calendar 2023. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the full program will be listed on our website. Did you know that you can register for a program now, even for a program scheduled months away? If your plans change, that's no problem and, more likely, when the automated reminders come, there may be a pleasant surprise, a pleasant reminder.

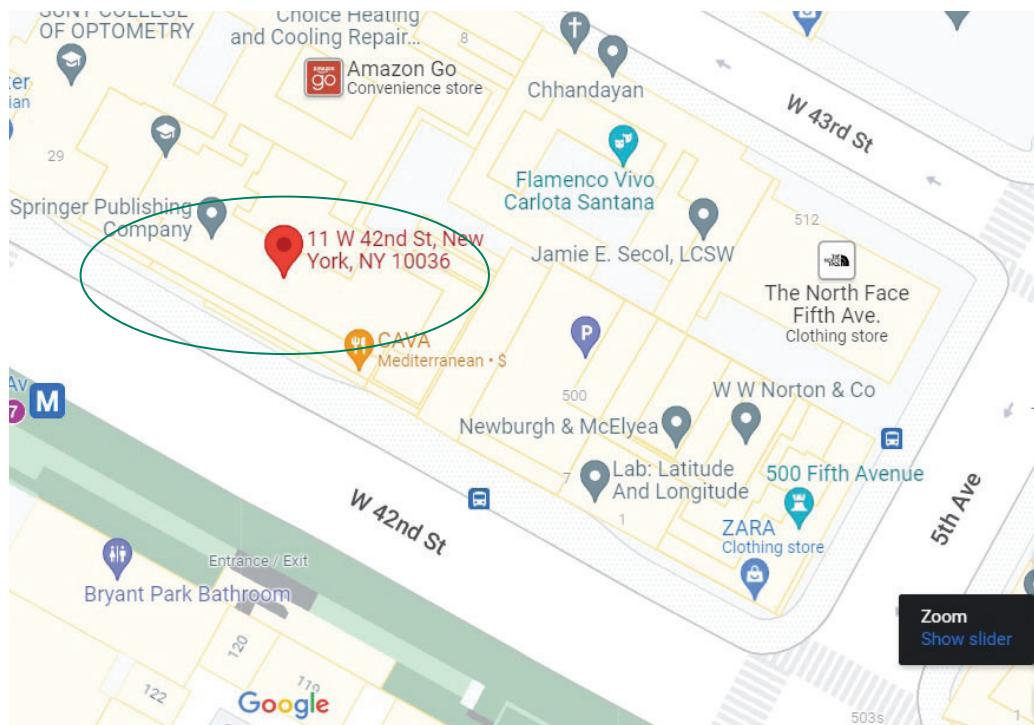
Contrary to any suspicions, our annual program is not assembled in the middle of the night with a Ouija board at hand. Rather, much work goes on in the background. We have a great program committee composed of Steve Reinhard, Wade Saadi, Kathy Johnson, Kimberlee Fuller and Behruz Nassre. This is a superlative group that has not only worked hard to craft an exciting season of programs, but it worked together seamlessly.

We seek to construct a balanced calendar. We are balanced between U.S. and non-U.S. presenters, a good mix of topics that span between and amongst traditional stamp-focused presentations, postal history and topicals and thematics. We also want to ensure we insert presentations from specialist societies and national postal museums. We want a varied and diverse set of programs and presenters. Ultimately, the test – and whether we succeed – is your response. There are two ways we can judge whether we are pointed in the right direction. One is from the number of registrants we have for these programs, and the other is your feedback. You should know that the “numbers” are holding up very nicely, and we consistently attract many people. Yes, attendance is down from where it was at the pandemic's peak, when everyone was locked up. We believe ours is the largest live philatelic audience. Consistently. Now, in terms of feedback, we get emails and comments from folks after every program, but I would encourage you to let us know what you might like to see. Maybe you could even volunteer yourself or someone else. One of the obvious delights of the virtual Zoom environment is that there is no cost of travel or lodging, as there would be for a visit to New York.

We were very disappointed that we had to cancel our annual single-frame competition. This has proven to be one of the most popular events we hold, but with everything going on with the old clubhouse, it was impossible. We very much want to find a way to hold this event in 2023.

Turning to New York, we are fully moved out of our old clubhouse at 22 East 35th Street, and most of our “stuff” is safely in storage. Our office is fully operational and running at our temporary offices at 11 West 42nd Street. We do have

facilities to host local meetings of New York chapters of large national groups; the first amongst these will be the New York chapter of the American Revenue Association. We expect that, as the pandemic continues to recede, in-person meetings will start to resume. We hope this will be slow at first, but there is a natural need, tendency and desire for the social element of our hobby. But, doubtless, it will take a while.



We continue to plow forward on the process of moving into our next home. We are exchanging draft lease contracts with a landlord and hope this will be rapidly concluded. Once we have a signed lease, we will proceed to a build-out of the space to suit our needs. Much of New York real estate in midtown is focused on offices and the like. We are a meeting place, a library and much more, such as a classroom-like setting. Nothing would ever be “move-in ready” for us. The design will need to be custom. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding. This has proven to be a massive operation that has been subjected to the complexities of governmental oversight and our need to contract with multiple parties. We are committed to doing this right and are very excited about the opportunity to bring all of this to completion.

Lastly, before this message concludes, I wish you a wonderful holiday and a safe, healthy and philatelically rewarding new year. Please also make sure you join us for the last program of 2022, a holiday triple-header with short programs on Christmas-, Hanukah- and Kwanza-related philately. I cannot wait.

Editor's Notepad

Wayne L. Youngblood

A Tale of Swedish Pioneers

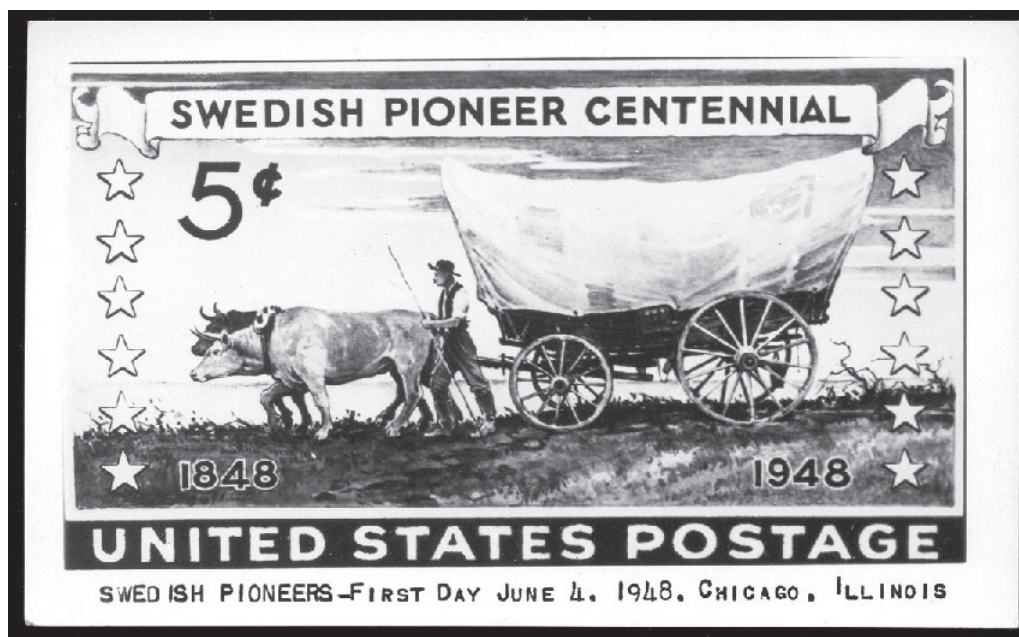


Figure 1 (above). A photographic essay of an original wash drawing for the 1948 5¢ Swedish Pioneer issue, Scott 958. Charles R. Chickering, a BEP artist, designed the stamp in near-record time.

Figure 2 (right). The 1948 Swedish Pioneer stamp as it was issued June 4, 1948.



Shown in Figure 1 is a photographic essay/publicity photo for the 5¢ Swedish Pioneer Centennial issue of 1948. Although there is some disagreement on exactly what constitutes a photographic essay versus a publicity photo (particularly for modern stamps (1950s to the 2000s), in its strictest sense a photographic essay is a photographic image of a finalized stamp design, taken either from the original artwork or from some form of mock-up for a stamp design. Such essays usually differ from the final stamp design in various ways. In that sense, many publicity photos are most definitely a form of photographic essay and – in most cases – the only way those images are available to anyone in the private

sector. Photo essays, both in the more traditional sense (a photo of an essay) and essays in the form of publicity photos, have been distributed to the philatelic press and other hobby professionals since at least the early 1930s. Most of the earliest of these (including many from the 1940s) are now quite rare.

Other than the obvious difference between the image of a wash drawing and engraved lines, this particular photographic essay doesn't differ too much from the final engraved stamp, which is shown in Figure 2, but it does have an interesting story. The stamp was designed, engraved, printed and distributed in less than six weeks, during a year of record commemorative stamp output. The photo essay was taken from an original wash drawing by Bureau of Engraving and Printing artist Charles R. Chickering.

Until the late 1970s, when United States Postal Service stamp output approached – and later topped – 100 face different stamps per year, 1948 was known as the year of the great flood – a flood of stamps, that is. An unprecedented number of special interest and political groups had their way with the U.S. stamp program, yielding a total of 27 different commemorative stamps honoring events, causes and organizations ranging from the American Poultry Industry to the American Turners Society. Caught up in this flood was the Swedish Pioneer issue – a stamp that was neither planned nor seriously considered until just weeks before it was ultimately released.

According to Sol Glass' *United States Postage Stamps 1945-1952*, the idea for the Swedish Pioneer stamp came from Roy Swanson of the Saint Paul, Minn., *Pioneer Press* newspaper.

After some tweaking, Robert J. Twyman, a Republican congressman from Chicago, sponsored a congressional bill (H.J. 251) requesting the release of a series of 5¢ stamps to mark the centennial of the arrival of Swedish pioneers in the Midwest. Presumably, the series would have included 12 stamps to be released in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, the 12 states where these pioneers primarily settled.

Remarkably, the bill passed both houses of Congress (Jan. 19, 1948, in the House, and March 22 in the Senate) and was slipped onto President Truman's desk March 30, 1948, for his signature. Fortunately, Truman vetoed the bill the same day, noting that such a series would not only tax limited stamp production resources at the BEP, but would also likely necessitate the cancellation of the production of other stamps that had already been scheduled for 1948.

No one knows exactly what happened next (or when), but apparently Truman almost immediately had second thoughts about the potential alienation of such a large area of his constituency and reversed his veto – kind of. He wrote a letter of regret to Twyman. Rather than approve the planned series of 12, Truman directed that a single 5¢ stamp would be released to represent the Swedish pioneer

movement. This stamp was to be released June 4, 1948, in Chicago, Ill. Depending on how soon Truman had second thoughts about his veto, this action left the BEP with no more than 41 days to design, approve, engrave, print and distribute the issue. It wasn't even publicly announced until May 11 by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson, less than one month before the stamp's release date.

BEP artist Charles R. Chickering was tasked with designing the Swedish Pioneer stamp. His rendering, which was approved May 10, depicts a Swedish pioneer heading westward with oxen and a covered wagon. Two vertical columns of six stars each represent the 12 previously mentioned states. Full engraving of the design was completed in only a week, and the die proof was approved by PMG Donaldson on May 18. All printing (64.2 million stamps) was completed May 25-29, making the Swedish Pioneers issue one of the fastest-produced stamps in the history of the United States.

The 5¢ denomination, of course, was chosen to pay the then-current surface rate for letters mailed overseas – a rate that was in effect from 1875-1953! The blue color of the stamp followed the UPU color conventions.

Collectors Club Programs 2022-23

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Dec. 7 | Federacion InterAmericana de Filatelia Presentation , Yamil Kouri (Cuba), Guillermo Gallegos (El Salvador) Henry Marquez (Peru). |
| Dec. 21 | Special Holiday Program: Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa , Randy Bergstrom, Dr. Mary Love, Irv Osterer, Greg Philipson |
| 2023 | |
| Jan. 4 | Director's Cut: Smithsonian National Postal Museum , Elliot Gruber, Director |
| Jan. 18 | Philatelic Luminaries: Joseph Hackmey |
| Feb. 1 | One Thing Leads to Another: Using European Mails to Understand Transatlantic Mails , Rob Faux |
| Feb. 15 | United Postal Stationery Society Special Program:
Australian Letter Cards, Didier LeGall;
Early Postal Cards of Britain and Spain, Don Heller;
U.S. Official Stamped Envelopes, Dennis Schmidt |
| March 1 | Champion of Champions Roundtable: Gordon Eubanks, Mark Schwartz, Alfredo Frohlich |
| March 15 | Zeppelin Milestones a Century Ago in the 1920s , Cheryl Ganz |
| March 29 | The Navigators – Commonwealth of Australia High Values, 1963-1974 , Jonas Hällström |
| April 19 | Westpex Special Program , Behruz Nassre |
| April 26 | American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) Special Program |
| May 3 | Scandinavian Collectors Club Special Program , Behruz Nassre |

More details found at www.collectorsclub.org/events

Essential Elements



Figure 1.

The Rising Sun of Biafra

Edward C. Halperin, MD, MA

I am the Chancellor/CEO of a university. While seated in my study at home, I was Zoom interviewing a candidate for a professor's position in microbiology. The faculty candidate's resume indicated that she had made stops at universities on three continents for her undergraduate and graduate studies and post-doctoral fellowship. I asked if that amount of relocating was difficult.

"I am an Igbo," she explained. "And almost anywhere you go in the world you will find other Igbo people to make you feel at home and comfortable in your new community."

She told me that she had immediately taken a liking to our university's central administration building because, on the building's pediment, there was a decorative image of a rising sun. The administration building was a repurposed tuberculosis and polio children's sanitarium from the 1930s. Prior to the discovery of antibiotics, part of the therapy for tuberculosis was fresh air and sunshine – thus the rising sun decorative motif. The rising sun on the building reminded her of home, she said, because it had symbolic meaning.

"That means you're from what we would call, nowadays, southeastern Nigeria, I would guess," I replied. "When I was a teenager, it was the Republic of Biafra for a brief period of time. The symbol of Biafra was a rising sun."

"That's exactly right," she said while staring at me on the Zoom like I was a creature from another planet. "And how in the world do you know that?"

"It's simple," I said, "I am a stamp collector."

I asked her to wait for a minute. I got out of my chair, went to a shelf in my study, and pulled down one of my stamp albums. After I located the album page I was looking for, I pulled out an envelope and held it in front of the computer camera (Figure 1).

"Look," I showed her, "when I was 13 years old I read an article in the stamp collector's column of my local newspaper. It said you could write to a philatelic dealer in London and order the postage stamps of Biafra. I received a reply from London with the price list. I placed an order and they sent me the stamps in this envelope. I put the stamps in my stamp album and, 55 years later, here they are. Look at this one (Figure 2). It shows the rising sun upon the flag of Biafra. A major city in the country was Port Harcourt, wasn't it?"

My faculty applicant was astounded. *"It was Port Harcourt! Please, hold the stamp up again to the camera, I want to take a picture with my cell phone and show my husband. I can't believe that I have met someone who knows about the rising sun of Biafra. Thank you for sharing."*

"On the contrary," I replied, "It is I who must thank you. After sitting in my stamp album for 55 years you're the first person I have had the opportunity to show these stamps to who appreciates them! Now I can truly say I am glad I bought them!"

By the way, she got the job.



Figure 2.

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I Was There

Richard Coffey



Interesting, isn't it, how a philatelic adventure is always on offer when a new acquisition, stamp or a cover, shows up on your desk. The material doesn't have to be expensive or pretty or endowed with provenance. In fact, there is an advantage to a stamp or cover that is "meh" in the marketplace; an uninspiring, unexplored item almost always guarantees a journey – if it's a first for both of you.

When I say journey, I mean adventure: going somewhere, seeing things that you haven't seen before, feeling things in a way that you haven't felt them before, spreading your wings and soaking up stories. It's a blossoming sort of feeling.



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If you happen to be a flower you know exactly what I mean.

Let me give you an example: I bought a cover that lived for a short time in the mail stream of war-torn South Africa during the second Boer War. The cover had been addressed by an unknown person to a prisoner of that war who was being held by the British at Camp Green Point, near Cape Town. The prisoner's name was J.T. Du Toit. If you are wondering why a guy with a French name was fighting with the Dutch farmers against the Imperial British, then, like me, you have a knowledge problem and now you must go look it up. Stamps and covers have a story that they are trying to tell and, as the steward of a collection, we may have to read a bit of back story to understand what the cover is trying to reveal. Of course, reading will turn a few lights on in our heads and may eventually lead to some serious study, possibly some quiet reflection – and, when that happens, your philately will never again be an idle hobby.

If you were already aware that French Canadian farmers, the Huguenots living in the Orange Free State, had been having existential worries about British imperialism for some time themselves (and so sympathized with the Boers), then you are a lot closer to the entryway of this philatelic wonderland of ours than I was – by a long shot.

If, by now, you are wondering what my point is, exactly, you're in good company. I've been wondering about that myself. So, here's how it washes for me:

We philatelists are, above all else, romantics. We like to acquire colorful, official bits of paper, classify them neatly and arrange them precisely – but the heart of what we do is to discover and record the story of our stamps and covers. We do this out of respect by preserving the facts of their labor in this world. These bits of ours chaperoned the mails through history. We study the collec-



Image courtesy: The National Archives UK

tion to understand the stories they hold and then retell these stories for the world to know. We hold a certain romantic stance when it comes to the post. Somewhere in the back of our heads we hear posthorns and the thunder of a mail coach. In my case, that's likely to be my tinnitus, or too many repetitions of Mahler's *Third Symphony*, but, in truth, our collections have been on the front lines of world history, and so we hold them in high regard. Some of us own many bookcases of albums, boxes of covers and piles of philatelic literature, all devoted to our study of the material.

And what is that study, exactly? Reading. Reflection. More reading, note taking, re-reading and viewing the stamp or cover over and over for days, for months and sometimes for years. Asking questions. Coming to understand the birth, the construction, the production and the life of our stamps and covers seems to free a kind of spirit in the collection, such that when we work with the material, we find ourselves removed to another time and place. Really? Well, when I explored the century-old photographs of the British concentration camps in South Africa (such as the one accompanying this article) and read accounts of the war (such as Winston Churchill's experience as a Boer prisoner) and traced the routing of the letter, the cover on my desk began to feel contemporary to my own hopes and fears for our world; and though the torn envelope itself reeked of that day, Thursday, Sept. 13, 1900, I was there.



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2023 Edition

Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps Catalogue 1840-1970

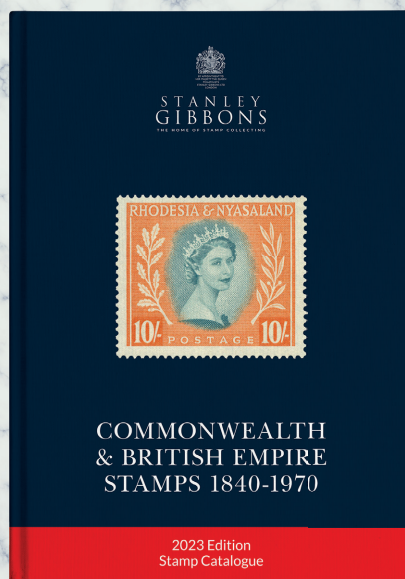
The 2023 edition of the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth & British Empire Stamp Catalogue, still known as 'Part 1' to most, is now available to order.

This comprehensive Stanley Gibbons catalogue covers Great Britain, Commonwealth and Empire countries 1840-1970. The listings include perforation, paper and printing methods, major shades, watermark varieties, important plate flaws, errors, government telegraph stamps and booklets.

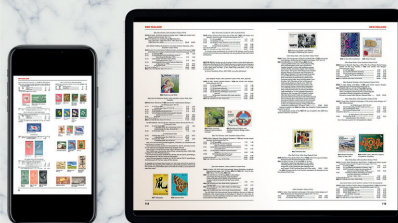
Guidance is given throughout the catalogue on subjects such as unusual usages, overprint settings and forgeries, with additional added to this latest edition.

New for this edition

- Revisions to the Great Britain used abroad listings feature a number of new additions.
- The early issues of Ceylon have been reviewed following the publication of *Ceylon, The Pence Issues* by the Royal Philatelic Society London.
- The 'Wider and more open S' variety in the early official stamps of India are now illustrated with a fully priced listing.
- New notes on New Zealand counter coil pairs.
- New listing of India and Pakistan stamps used in Dubai.
- Illustrated notes on line and comb perforators now added to the Introduction.
- New varieties have been added to a number of countries, including Australia, Fiji and South Africa, while previously listed varieties are now illustrated under British East Africa, New South Wales, the Indian States and others.
- Helpful new notes added throughout, including Burma, New Guinea and Cook Islands.



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▲ **INDIA** 1852, Scinde Dawk ½ a. scarlet, used on piece.

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◀ **HAMBURG** 1859, 9 shilling orange-yellow, four singles on cover to New York. Largest known multiple franking of this stamp and the highest recorded franking of the imperforate issue. Provenance: Collection Rothschild (H.R. Harmer, 1939) Alfred H. Caspary (H.R. Harmer, 1958) John R. Boker, Jr. (1988)

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Get Out the Vote!

What do Al Gore, Hillary Clinton
and Samuel J. Tilden Have in Common?

Barry Jablon



Figure 1. Letter from Samuel J. Tilden Oct. 22, 1869, franked with a 3¢ Pictorial, enclosing a three-page letter on getting out the vote.

In 1869 Samuel J. Tilden was chairman of the New York State Democratic party. He would become governor in 1875 and, in 1876, he became the first person ever to win an outright majority of the popular vote and not become president. The Democrats instead agreed to give all disputed electoral votes to Rutherford B. Hayes and, in return, the Republicans agreed to withdraw all federal troops from the south and end any further attempts at reconstruction, the so-called "Compromise of 1877."

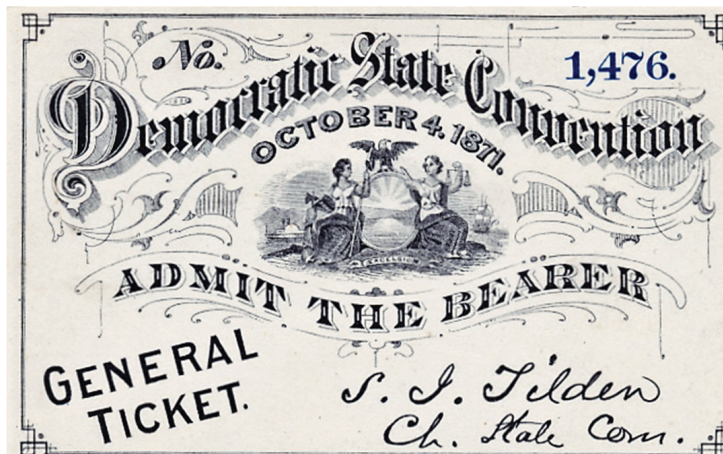


Figure 2: An enclosure from the letter, a ticket to the upcoming New York Democratic State Convention, signed by "S.J. Tilden, Ch. State Com."

Figure 1 shows an October 22, 1869, cover containing a three-page letter from Tilden to a local Democratic organizer in Millville, a small village in the far north-west corner of New York State (since absorbed into the town of Shelby). Tilden gives detailed instructions on how to get out the vote at district level, and encloses a ticket to the Democratic state convention two years away (see Figure 2), which bears his signature.

Tilden's liberal use of underlining makes his letter come alive with the sound of his impassioned voice. Here is his letter with his spelling (including his uneven capitalization of "democrat" and "Republican"), a few dashes and spaces deleted for clarity:

Democratic State Committee Rooms

New York October 20th 1869

Dear Sir—

We appeal to you once more to join with your associates in every election-district throughout the state, in an organized and universal effort to poll the full Democratic vote at the coming election.

1. The first thing to be done for this object is to enroll all the voters of your election-district in the poll-book which we have furnished. If, for any cause, it has not reached your district, do not wait- make one immediately, and enter in it all the voters, classifying them as Democratic, Radical, and doubtful.

The object of doing this is two-fold: First, - to enable you intelligently to direct your efforts by argument and persuasion to the doubtful; and to arrange beforehand for sending after voters who fail to come to the polls, or for bringing those who are unable to provide for their own conveyance. Secondly, - to make it certain that none who could be induced to attend are forgotten in the busy haste of the election day. Unless you have a list to remind you, and enable you to act with plan- system - and rapidity of execution, -you will find, - after the election is over,- that many democrats in your district have not voted. It often happens that twenty or thirty votes are thus lost in one town or election-district, - which a business-like system would have saved; that what our friends have gained,- by extreme efforts and sacrifices, - in several towns or election-districts, - is neutralised by inefficiency in one town or district ---Now, this is not right.

Every man should deem it due to his associates that he contribute his share of effort to the common result.

2. Previous to the election-day every democrat should be seen, -and induced to attend early in the day of the election.—

In all cases when necessary, -conveyance should be provided, and arranged beforehand. Divide up the work - arrange it in season - secure as much co-operation as you can,- and the trouble will be light to each. But do not waste much time on any apathetic co-laborer. Prefer to exert greater energy yourself. Act, with such as will readily join you, but wait for nobody.

3. On the election-day, - an active man should be stationed at the poll, with a list of all the democratic voters in your election-district—either abstracted from the poll-book, or using that book as you find most convenient. Those who arrive should be checked off. Every one who does not come early should be sent for instantly.

In all cases, -where it is doubtful whether it is necessary to send for a voter, -send. The doubt will generally be decided against you. You must therefore, resolve, in such cases, to spend your efforts freely for the sake of certainly, - Count it as nothing, - if it turn out that you have lost a little trouble. Count it much if you have lost a vote which a little more trouble would have saved!

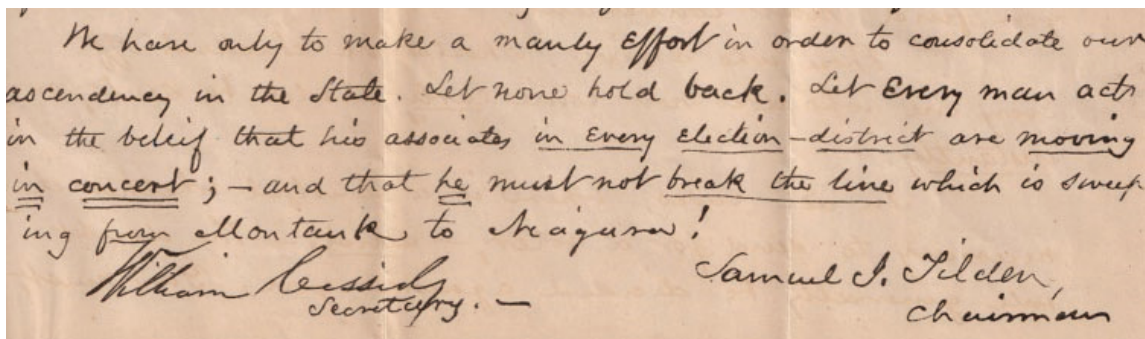
The Republicans have been generally better organised than we are, -and have kept up their system better from year to year. They have swarms of office-holders, -reaching into every election-district of the rural portions of the state, -who make a business of politics. We have to oppose them, -only the voluntary efforts of patriotic citizens, -given to their country, in intervals taken from the avocations by which they obtain a livelihood. We can only appeal to your love of country and of good government, founded on democratic principles. The motive we can offer you is an honest purpose for the good old cause.

In the present State officers, we have done much to accomplish the purpose for which they were originally nominated; made the canals more efficient- reduced the cost of doing business on them- redeemed the State Boards from suspicion of corruption. Our other State nominees are excellent. On a full poll, we have a majority. A sense of failure in the administration of Gen. Grant has demoralized the Republicans. Their apathetic masses can not easily be quickened into life.

We have only to make a manly effort in order to consolidate our ascendancy in the State. Let none hold back. Let every man act in the belief that his associates in every election-district are moving in concert; -and that he must not break the line which is sweeping from Montauk to Niagara!

William Cassidy
Secretary

Samuel J. Tilden,
Chairman



He have only to make a manly effort in order to consolidate our ascendancy in the State. Let none hold back. Let Every man act in the belief that his associates in every election-district are moving in concert; - and that he must not break the line which is sweeping from Montauk to Niagara!

William Cassidy, Secretary. - Samuel J. Tilden, Chairman

Figure 3. The concluding paragraph of Tilden's letter.

Figure 3 displays the letter's last paragraph, signed by the Democratic State Secretary, William Cassidy, and by Tilden, whose signature clearly matches the handwriting of the letter. Millville, N.Y., had fewer than 100 voters of any stripe. Think of Tilden writing this three-page letter in his own hand, not only to little Millville but over and over again to every town in the state. As his campaign poster (Figure 4) shows, the man had energy.

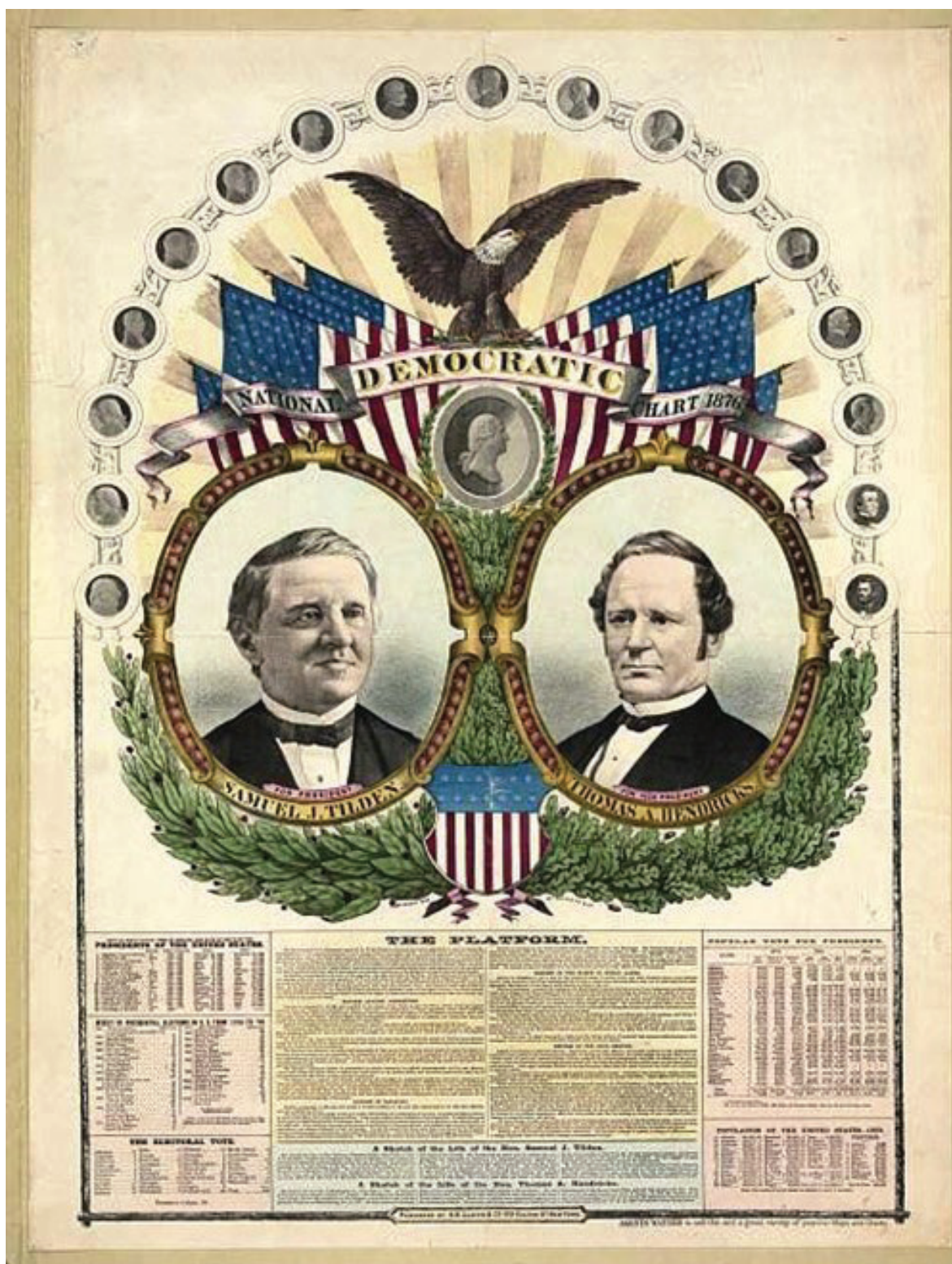


Figure 4. A Democratic campaign poster from 1886 showing the Tilden-Hendricks ticket and the platform.

Costa Rica

First Issue covers to Switzerland

By Gregory Todd AIEP, FRPSL.

Richard Frajola and the late Frederick R. Mayer's book, *The Postal History of Costa Rica to 1883* (Collectors Club of New York, 2008) lists, on page 134, the previously only-recorded first-issue cover to Switzerland. The cover (Figure 1), mailed from San Jose to the Tessin in 1865, bears an 1863 2 reales stamp, tied by barred numeral of San Jose and is also tied in transit in Calais (Dec. 15). This

Figure 1.



cover traveled via Panama and Colon on the RMSP *Ruahane* to St. Thomas and on the *Atrato* to Southampton. The cover also bears a London framed "GB / 1F 60c." exchange marking in black, with the triangular "F / 29" Franco-Swiss Convention marking adjacent applied in Paris (Salles Figure 3166 / Van der Linden Figure 1162). The letter was charged 1 franc due upon arrival. It was, at the time, the sole-known use of a first-issue adhesive on cover to Switzerland.

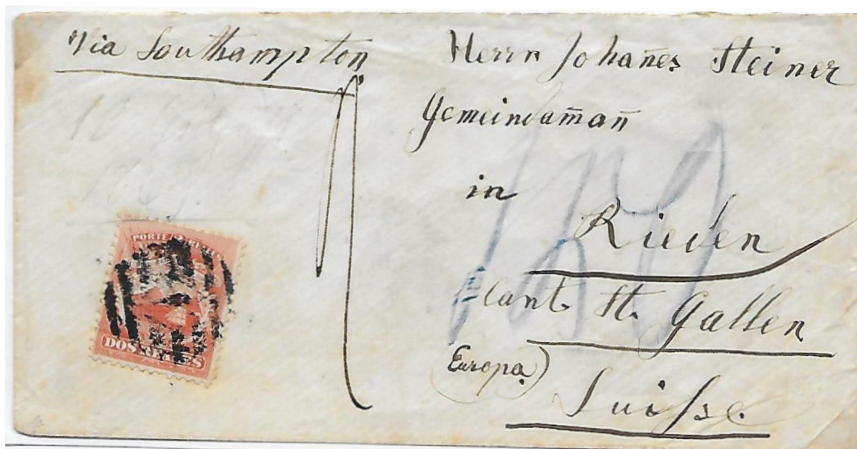


Figure 2.

Figure 3.



Since then, a find of three covers to Switzerland, from a different correspondence, has increased this total to three, together with an unusual "semi-stampless" use. The earlier 1869 stamped cover (Figure 2) from San Jose (Aug. 10) to St. Gallen bears an 1863 2 reales stamp, canceled by the San Jose numeral and is endorsed "via Southampton." Carried by the RMSP steamer *Atrato*, leaving Colon on Aug. 24 via St. Thomas, it is rated as "1s." to pay in manuscript in transit in London (Sept. 15) with 1fr. 50c. to pay upon arrival (Sept. 18).

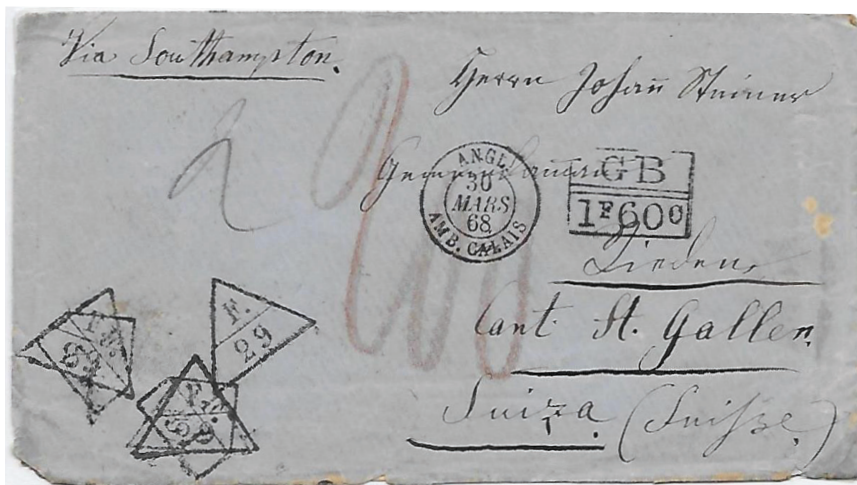


Figure 4.

The second 1869 cover (Figure 3) from San Jose (Nov. 10) bears an 1863 2 reales stamp canceled by the San Jose numeral and is endorsed “via Southampton.” Carried by the RMSP steamer *Atrato*, it again traveled via Colon, but is struck with the British Post Office “COLON code A” date stamp (Parmenter, Gordon & Morton CDS.2) in black. Carried on the RMSP *Neva* via St. Thomas (Nov. 29), it is again rated at “1s.” to pay in London (Dec. 13) and eventually charged at 1fr. 50c. to pay upon arrival.



Figure 5.

These two “new” stamped covers are obviously rare, but it is the third cover that exhibits some unusual handling in transit. This cover (Figure 4), mailed in March 1868, was also endorsed “via Southampton” but this time marked as double rate: more than ½ an ounce. The cover was originally franked with an 1863 4 reales, but by the time the cover had traveled from Colon (March 8) on the RMSP *Douro*, via St. Thomas to London, the adhesive had gone missing from the lower-left corner of the envelope – although a minute trace of same remains. On arrival in London (March 30), the cover was initially struck with the “GB / 1F 60c.” exchange handstamp for Britain’s share and, in Paris, “in transit.” These markings were two strikes of the five-sided “F. / 31” Franco-Swiss Convention marking (Salles Figure 3168, VDL Figure 1164) to denote that the 4 reales adhesive stamp was originally there – this, though, was the wrong Convention handstamp and the area at lower left was again struck with three strikes of the correct “F. / 29” Franco-Swiss Convention handstamp as utilized on the cover in Figure 1. The cover was charged at 2 francs to pay on arrival (April 2) in Kaltbrunn. This cover is, in one way, a tragedy, as the 1863 4 reales adhesive is only recorded on a handful of covers either internally or externally with just three complete covers known to Europe.

References:

- The Postal History of Costa Rica to 1883* by Richard Frajola and Frederick R. Mayer, Collectors Club, New York, 2008. With special thanks for use of Figure 1.
- Early Routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 1842-1879* by Phil Kenton & Harry G. Parsons, Postal History Society, 1999.
- GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings by John Parmenter, Ken Gordon & Rev. C.S. Morton, pub. John Parmenter, 2016.
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1806 “In Case of Capture...” Cover From Tahiti and New South Wales

James Grimwood-Taylor

A. The cover itself, its provenance and the discovery of its contents

Occasionally, the hardened postal historian will hear of a cover that keeps him or her awake at night, because it is so exceptional an item that it is unfair it is in someone else's collection ... One such cover appeared a few years ago in the estate of the late John Levett (past president of the R.P.S., among other things), inexplicably included in a mixed lot in an auction in London. Neither the rare endorsement nor the NSW origin were mentioned, as it was included with 94 other items (!) in a “Balance of collection of Ship Letters” lot. I wish I had viewed it! John had a really good “eye” for rare covers, especially ship letters (though my other favorite, which I did acquire in the same auction, is the 1419 post-Agin-court letter from the three Calais Ambassadors, illustrated in the *RL Encyclopaedia*, Vol. I, p.411); but it was the endorsement and origin of this 1806 cover that kept me awake, not its ship letter mark.

The cover in question (shown below, ex-Alan Robertson as well as ex John Levett) has the relatively common double-oval “Ship Letter/[Crown]/DEAL” mark struck on May 10, 1807, but it is the sender's endorsement above the address that staggered me; *“In case of Capture – it is requested this letter may not be destroyed but forwarded.”* There were no contents in the letter, but it was also endorsed “By Capt. Brooks. To be given to Mr. W. Wilson,” addressed to London (May 11, 1807, backstamp) and charged “1/10” (double the 7d inland 50-80 miles rate, plus double the 4d Ship Letter rate). The addressee's name was almost



indecipherable, but the filing endorsement was most intriguing; *"Governor King, N. So. Wales, 8 Novr. 1806"*.

I have always liked early mail from Australia, so this cover – glimpsed only briefly in a friend's society display – led to the jealousy that kept me awake. After a decent interval, I asked my friend if he still had the cover and (if he did) whether he would consider parting with it; he still had the cover and was extremely kind about it, but the figure he suggested was more than I had ever paid for any pre-1840 cover! However, I needed to conquer the insomnia, so I agreed without demur. A few weeks passed before this treasure finally reached me, and then the real pleasure began; ownership opened the door to a remarkable bout of detective research. I immediately wanted to know what on earth the original letter had said that could have led to its being endorsed in such an extraordinary way.

Thanks to some helpful archival contacts (and the internet), I gradually pieced the story together. Fortunately, I was eventually able to decipher the whole address; *"The Reverend T. Haweis, To the Care of Joseph Hardcastle Esqr., London."* Hardcastle and Haweis turned out to be leading lights in the London Missionary Society (LMS) at the time, and that led me to the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS.) archives in London. There, to my delight, I soon found my cover's original Governor King letter, still endorsed in pencil; *"Cover sold to Mr. Miller, Sevenoaks, 24/9/[19]47."* Miller was a noted collector of ship letters in the 1940s and 1950s and, in those days, missionary societies sometimes sold off letters' outer wrappers and duplicates to raise funds. I have yet to trace the sale of this item in any earlier auctions (Miller died in 1962).

The contents turned out to be as follows:

[*Read 11 May 1807, D.L.*¹]

"Dear Sir,

As delivering over my trust to my successor² has, & will, take more time than I at first expected, induces me to forward the enclosed letter which I received³ from Otaheite.⁴ And as it is probably the latest account you will receive from there I am the more anxious to forward it by the 'Alexander,' Captain Brooks⁵, which I think may arrive in England a month before the 'Buffalo'⁶, therefore the packet I have here⁷ shall be directed to go by that

1. Read to a meeting of the LMS c.May/June 1807; D.L. would have been the LMS filing clerk in London.

2. Captain William Bligh (1754-1817) of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame; he took over as Governor in Sydney in 1806.

3. By the ship *Lucy* on April 21, 1806 – the last vessel to call at Sydney from Tahiti prior to Nov. 8, 1807.

4. i.e. Tahiti; from one of the half dozen LMS Missionaries still working in the islands.

5. The convict transport-ship *Alexander* under Capt. Richard Brooks (c.1765-1833).

6. HMS *Buffalo*, the vessel allocated to take King back to England; see footnote 10.

7. The Tahiti missionaries' March 1806 journal and despatches to the LMS in London, sent via Governor King.

Ship⁸, in which Mr Marsden⁹ & his family return with me. I hope to sail the latter end of this, or beginning of the ensuing, month¹⁰.

I have possessed Govr. Bligh of every circumstance & document I possess respecting the Mission,¹¹ and I have no doubt of his paying every attention thereto which the object requires. Mr Marsden will inform you that he took up a small vessel¹² to carry your letters & that part of the articles you sent for them by the Argo.¹³ She¹⁴ sailed in Septr. & I hope she will get safe.

*With the most respectful esteem I remain, Dear Sir, Your Faithful Humble Servant,
Philip Gidley King¹⁵
Sydney, Novr. 8th 1806.*

[To] *The Reverend T. Haweis, D.D.*"

[LMS Filing note: "Governor King, N. So. Wales, 8 Novr. 1806. No. 3."]

B: The background and context of the Nov. 8, 1806 letter from Philip Gidley King in Sydney

It was relatively easy to identify the main characters in the story...

Philip Gidley King (1758-1808) was a 1787-88 "First Fleet" naval officer (2nd Lieutenant of the *Sirius*, later transferring to the *Supply*, before arrival in Australia); he was in charge of Norfolk Island 1788-96, and then became governor of New South Wales on Sept. 28, 1800, being replaced by Capt. Bligh on Aug. 13, 1806. (see Australian DNB)

Captain William Bligh (1754-1817) sailed with Captain Cook in 1776-80 to the north Pacific and Hawaii; he sailed to Tahiti in 1787-89 and became famous for his unfortunate part in the 1789 "Mutiny on the *Bounty*." He was back in the Pacific Islands in 1791-93, later serving in Europe with Nelson (1801) and then was Governor of NSW 1806-08. (see Oxford DNB)

Rev. Thomas Haweis (c.1734-1820) was a founder-member of the LMS in 1794 and organized its first mission ship (the *Duff*, which sailed to Tahiti in 1796, see Oxford DNB).

8. HMS *Buffalo*.

9. Rev. Samuel Marsden (1764-1838), Chaplain of NSW; also Pacific Islands Agent for the LMS from 1804.

10. They eventually sailed from Sydney on Feb. 10, 1807, but the *Buffalo* did not reach England until Nov. 8, 1807!

11. In Tahiti.

12. The *Hawkesbury*; she was in Tahiti Nov. 26-Dec. 29, 1806, and back in Sydney Feb. 23, 1807.

13. The *Argo*, from England, reached Sydney June 7, 1805; its goods for Tahiti sat in Sydney for more than a year.

14. The *Hawkesbury*; the voyage between Sydney and Tahiti took two months each way.

15. Capt. Philip Gidley King, 1st fleet officer (1788) and NSW Governor Sept. 28, 1801 to Aug. 13, 1806.

Joseph Hardcastle (1752-1819) was a nonconformist opponent of slavery and an evangelical supporter of missionaries; he was a founder-director of the anti-slavery "Sierra Leone Company" from 1791, and a founder of the LMS in 1794 (becoming LMS treasurer from 1795-1816, see Oxford DNB).

Rev. Samuel Marsden (1764-1838) was a friend of King's, being chaplain of NSW from 1793 and (in 1814) the first preacher in New Zealand (see Oxford DNB).

Capt. Richard Brooks (c.1765-1833) captained convict ships to Sydney in 1802 and 1806 (in the latter year arriving on the *Alexander*, which carried my letter on her return voyage); he was wrecked in the Falkland Islands in 1813 and later became a successful merchant in NSW (see Australian DNB).

William Wilson (c.1770-1814) was the 1805-06 agent in London for famous Sydney merchant Robert Campbell (1769-1846); Wilson acted as forwarding agent for NSW governors, and Rev. Marsden, et al.; letters reached him direct to avoid high ship letter postage.

In 1796, the London Missionary Society had sponsored (for the huge sum of £10,000) the sending of the first mission ship to Tahiti; the ship *Duff* sailed from Portsmouth on Aug. 29, 1796, and reached Matavai Bay in Tahiti on March 5, 1797. (It is interesting to note that an earlier Spanish mission to Tahiti, in 1772-76, failed completely.) The *Duff* brought 29 missionaries and artisans (five with wives), but almost all of these left for Sydney in 1798, finding life in Tahiti too difficult. A small group of dedicated missionaries remained, notably John Jefferson (b.1760; died in Tahiti in September 1807) and Henry Nott (1774-1844; he was in Tahiti for 40 years plus). In 1801, a few more arrived; John Davies, James Hayward, James Elder, John Youl, Henry Bicknell, Charles Wilson and William Scott were still there in 1805-06.

Philip Gidley King was in charge of the first settlement on Norfolk Island from 1788-96; he had briefly visited New Zealand as early as November 1793, and took a keen interest in Tahiti from the time of the first arrival of missionaries there in 1797; he visited England in 1797-98 and became a post captain on Dec. 5, 1798. He then left England for New South Wales once more, to replace Governor Hunter on Nov. 26, 1799, finally becoming governor in Sydney on Sept. 28, 1800. From the start of his governorship, he encouraged trade with the struggling missionaries in Tahiti (at his instigation, salt pork was produced in the islands and shipped to Sydney) and helped them whenever he could (though they failed to convert a single islander for some 20 years). But not a single ship was then sent from Sydney to Tahiti between the August 1802 visit of the *Porpoise* and the arrival of the *Hawksbury* at the end of November 1806!

The resilient Tahiti missionaries (principally John Jefferson – who was appointed J.P. in Tahiti by Governor King from Jan. 19, 1801 – Henry Nott and John Davies) were only able to correspond with (and route mail through) Governor King once every few months as westward-bound ships appeared in the islands.

(Eastward-bound ships sadly always arrived at Tahiti merely by accident, and so never brought any mail from Sydney.) By 1806, only a handful of missionaries remained in Tahiti (along with only five or six other Europeans in all), while cannibalism and child murder were apparently still rife there.

On March 1, 1806, a rare ship bound for Sydney appeared in Tahiti: the *Lucy*, Capt. Alexander Ferguson; she was a privateer en route from South America to Sydney with two prize ships. She brought news from Europe (that war had been resumed) and Capt. Ferguson gave some clothes and provisions to the almost destitute missionaries. The *Lucy* then sailed on March 9, 1806, for Sydney (arriving there April 21, 1806) with letters for NSW (including the one which Governor King subsequently forwarded, on Nov. 8, 1806, to Rev. Haweis of the LMS in England) and its *Mission Journal* (from July 29, 1805, to March 9, 1806) for the mission committee (which King himself was to take to London in 1807).

It had been more than seven months since the last opportunity to send mails from Tahiti, and Governor King would have been unaware of any more recent news being sent to London by eastward-bound vessels, so he naturally assumed that the LMS would be anxious for the first news from Tahiti via Sydney for more than four years. He therefore waited for a safe ship bound for Europe to forward the papers from Tahiti as requested (none had become available before Bligh arrived in August 1806 to take over as governor). When King was too ill to return to London as planned in August, he still planned to forward only the letter from Tahiti that he had himself received (as an update for the LMS if it got through the enemy shipping safely), while taking the *Missionaries' Journal* and other papers for London personally. The *Alexander* was therefore chosen to carry this one letter.

King had recovered enough to leave Sydney in November 1806, very soon after the departure of the *Alexander*, but, in the end, could not get away until February 1807, due to lack of "dry provisions." So it was just as well that he forwarded something by the earlier ship. He finally reached England on Nov. 8, 1807, after a very much slower voyage than the *Alexander* enjoyed, so his brief letter of Nov. 8, 1806 (enclosing an equally brief letter from the Tahiti missionaries), arrived in England six months earlier than he did, having been written exactly a year before his own arrival there!

C. The enclosed letter from Otaheite forwarded by King to Haweis in London

So what did the Tahiti missionaries write in their (single-sheet) letter to Governor King, that he subsequently felt happy to forward to the LMS in London, even at the risk of it being captured and read in transit?

Again, the SOAS archives provided the answer; they contain Governor King's Mar. 8, 1806, letter from Tahiti (with address panel, but naturally without postal markings, because it was enclosed in King's "Ship Letter/DEAL" cover) written by John Davies (1772-1855), the Welsh missionary who arrived in Tahiti in 1801 and soon became one of the principal authors of the mission's reports back to

London. (Davies also wrote *The History of the Tahitian Mission, 1799-1830*, published by the Hakluyt Society, 1959.) This letter (originally enclosed in the "In case of Capture" cover) was addressed to "His Excellency Governor King, Sydney, New S. Wales" and reads as follows;

[Read 11 May 1807, D.L]

Matavai, Tahiti, March 8th 1806.

Sir,

We embrace the present favourable opportunity of informing your Excellency that since our last of December 5th 1804 the following vessels have touched at this port, viz the Alexander, Captain Rhodes, from Port Jackson to England, forced here by bad weather; she arrived here June 13th 1805 and departed Augt. 4th. The Myrtle, Captain Barber, from Port Jackson to the N.W. coast of America – he anchored here June 22nd 1805 and sailed July 6th. The Taber, Captain Sowle, an American brig from London bound to India; Captain Sowle, arrived here October 28th and departed November 2nd. The Lucy of London, Captain Ferguson, anchored here March 1st [1806].

We have the satisfaction of acquainting your Excellency that this Island still enjoys peace – the King Otoo¹⁶ (who is now called by the name of his late father, Pomare¹⁷) is in pretty good health – his power seems well established over the Island and he appears to govern with as much prudence as can be expected from him.

We have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that King Pomare has made so much progress towards civilisation that after three or four years indefatigable perseverance he is now able to write and read his native language in a manner that does him great credit.

We think proper also to acquaint your Excellency that the King's treatment of us is both civil and kind though there is no present appearance of his, or his subjects, embracing Christianity; yet we are permitted without restraint to endeavour to plant the Gospel among them.

Respecting the vessel [that] we in our last informed your Excellency was in building for the King, from a variety of causes that have since occurred, a stop has been put to it, and there is now no probability of [its] being completed.

We have nothing further to write, only that we should esteem it a mark of the continuation of your Excellency's favour towards us, if your Excellency will condescend to receive our packet for England and forward it as heretofore.

*We remain your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants,
John Davies¹⁸ for the Society of Missionaries."*

This letter has two different filing endorsements (Governor King's hand): "From Missionaries at Otaheite, March 1806 – by [ship] Lucy," plus (London Missionary Society filing note) "Missionaries at Otaheite, 8 Mar. 1806, No. 1."

16. King Pomare II (1774-1821), the second King of Tahiti; installed by his father in 1791 – regent from 1782.

17. King Pomare I (1742-1803), the first King of Tahiti, unifying the country under his rule from c.1788.

18. John Davies (1772-1855); noted in the James Elder (1772-1836) Australian DNB entry.

So it was that Governor King in Sydney (who had been relieved by Governor Bligh on Aug. 13, 1806, but was too ill to sail home until Feb. 10, 1807) sat down on Nov. 8, 1806, to write a covering letter to the London Missionary Society's "Reverend T[homas] Haweis D.D., To the care of Joseph Hardcastle Esqr. [also of the LMS], London." Inside it he enclosed the most recent (March 8, 1806) Tahitian Missionaries' letter that he had received in Sydney (on April 21, 1806). Meanwhile, he personally brought the "packet" containing their other papers and journal (also received via the *Lucy*) in HMS *Buffalo*, when she finally sailed in February 1807; so these other Tahiti papers did not reach London until November 1807.

The LMS filing notations "No. 3" on the Nov. 8, 1806, King letter and "No. 1" on the March 8, 1806, Tahiti letter that it enclosed, were a puzzle at first. They were written in a different color to the main filing notes, and it is clear that they were added at a later date (c. 1810). All four of these letters have survived in the LMS archives. The "No. 2" letter was one sent from Tahiti by Davies to Hardcastle that has no postal markings on its address wrapper (of the same date as "No. 1," but carried back to England by King personally, along with the *Journal*). The "No. 4" letter was sent by Rev. Marsden from Parramatta on Nov. 8, 1806, to Hardcastle, but its address wrapper did not survive in the archives (it was carried along with the "No. 3" letter on the *Alexander*).

Astonishingly, the Tahiti missionaries had had no letters or instructions at all from England for more than four years, until the small sloop, the *Hawksbury* (Capt. E. Edwards), finally arrived in Tahiti on Nov. 26, 1806. The *Hawksbury* had been chartered in September 1806 by Rev. Marsden (the LMS agent in Sydney for the Pacific from 1804) – specifically to forward the London letters from the LMS brought out in the new governor's ship, HMS *Porpoise* (she had arrived in Sydney on Aug. 5, 1806), plus the goods sent by the LMS in London the previous year (which had been lying in Sydney since their arrival from London on the ship *Argo* on June 7, 1805!). It brought a large package of the LMS directors' letters from London dated 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805 and Feb. 28, 1806 (which had been languishing in Sydney due to the lack of any vessel bound for Tahiti). The *Hawksbury* then sailed back from Tahiti to Sydney on Dec. 29, 1806, taking back letters for NSW and for London (returning to Sydney on Feb. 23, 1807). (The American ship *Taber*, en route from China back to the United States, had left Tahiti on Nov. 2, 1806, bound for Providence, R.I., – not via Sydney but eastwards via Cape Horn – with some of the missionaries' previous letters for London.]

D. The "In Case of Capture..." endorsement

In November 1806, King chose, therefore, to forward the Tahiti letter by the first suitable London-bound ship that sailed after he had received it in April of that year by the *Lucy*. The first ship happened to be the convict transport ship, the *Alexander* (Capt. Richard Brooks, c.1765-1833), that had arrived in Sydney on Aug. 20, 1806, with 14 male and 42 female convicts. It sailed directly back to London (across the Pacific and round Cape Horn) on Nov. 11, 1806, passing Deal on May

10, 1807, and reaching Gravesend on May 11, 1807. The next ship to London (on which King finally sailed himself) was HMS *Buffalo*, which did not leave Sydney until Feb. 10, 1807. Shipping was in particularly short supply at this time because of the Napoleonic Wars; for example, the confirmation of the Oct. 21, 1805, Battle of Trafalgar and Nelson's death did not finally reach Sydney until July 1806.

So why did King add the unusual "*In Case of capture...*" endorsement? Clearly Sydney was very much out of touch with developments in the Napoleonic Wars in Europe at this date; news of captured vessels was regularly received and so the outgoing Governor had no faith in the safety of private ships bound for England. He himself was to travel in HMS *Buffalo*, which was rather more secure, so he forwarded the brief Tahiti letter by the transport ship *Alexander*, while taking the *Missionaries' Journals* and other papers personally on HMS *Buffalo*, three months later. King must have hoped that his endorsement – intended for the eyes of any marauding privateer's captain – might not prevent it being opened, but would perhaps prevent it, being a non-commercial missionaries' letter, from being thrown overboard. If King's departure for London had not been delayed, he would never have sent or endorsed this fascinating letter.

Conclusion

Is this a unique endorsement? I cannot recall having seen anything like it from the Napoleonic (or any other wartime) period. This letter was sent as a cover in which the outgoing governor of New South Wales could forward to London the first letter that he had had from Tahiti for well over a year!

This wrapper, without contents but with exceptionally important postal annotations (one of only a handful of recorded pre-1810 covers from Australia now in private hands), turned out to be connected directly to no fewer than 10 famous individuals of early 19th-century Australo-Pacific history. It was personally addressed and sent by the former governor of NSW acting as a forwarding agent, being carried by a well-known convict-ship captain to the two most important London Missionary Society officers. It originally contained news of the lack of progress of the first significant attempt to install European Settlement in the Pacific area, written by a leading missionary and author, mentioning the first two kings of Tahiti.

I lost more sleep burning the midnight oil to research this cover's story than I did while pursuing and acquiring it; but postal history is like that. Now I can relax, at least until another treasure catches my attention ...

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A Framework for Exhibiting

Mark Schwartz

What is a philatelic exhibit?

This short article is aimed not only at collectors who might be thinking about doing an exhibit for the first time, but also for beginning and maybe even intermediate exhibitors. My objective is to provide a framework for thinking about an exhibit – what it is and is not – and what is the objective of an exhibit. It is informed by several years as a philatelic judge and longer as an exhibitor.

At its most basic, an exhibit is an exercise in **clear** and **concise communication** of a **complete** philatelic story. The specific story may vary, depending on the type of exhibit, such as traditional, postal history, thematic or display. It is made up predominantly (or even entirely) of philatelic material. To emphasize the need to be clear and concise, please note that judges spend maybe 8 hours (480 minutes) at most at the frames judging exhibits. For 40 exhibits, that's 12 minutes per exhibit, maybe two minutes per frame and eight seconds per page. Judges cannot afford to spend significant time on an individual page to try to decipher what the exhibitor means or why an item is important.

Clarity is critical if the reader is to understand what the story is that the exhibitor will tell and to follow it easily through the one to eight or more frames of the exhibit and never lose track of where you are and where you are going. The title page is especially important. It is there you provide: first, the purpose and scope of the exhibit, which tells you in broad terms what the exhibit is about; and second, through the plan, in what order the story will be told, e.g., the beginning, middle and end. The plan is followed page by page, frame by frame, in the headers (and subheaders) on each page; through them you know at all points, exactly where you are in the exhibit.

Are you creating an exhibit or an article?

The term **concise** differentiates an exhibit from an article. When you put together an article, you expect the reader to read every word. Words have their own flow and help color the story and give it texture. The illustrations are there for visual interest and to give context to the text. When you put an exhibit together, it is pretty much the reverse. The philatelic (and sometimes non-philatelic) material is the “star of the show,” often representing many, many years of effort and substantial expense. The text is there to concisely explain the material and to demonstrate philatelic (and at times thematic) knowledge.

If you put too much text in an exhibit, it can pull attention away from the material. It can also hide the key information meant to provide a continuous

Gloucester

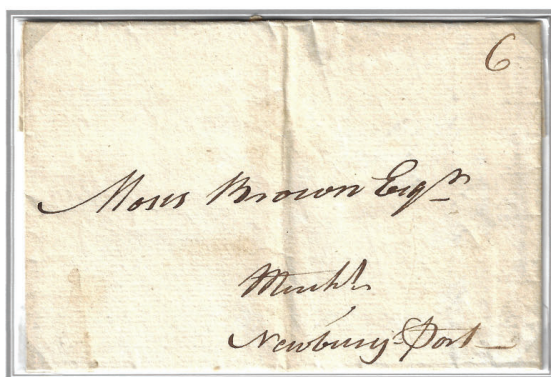
Act of Congress, Feb. 20, 1792 (eff. June 1)

up to 30 miles
30-60 miles

single
single

No Town Postmark

The rate of 6c was for a single letter sent up to 30 miles, per the Act of Congress, Feb. 20, 1792 (eff. June 1)



Gloucester to Newburyport, Mass.

February 10, 1795



Gloucester to Boston, Mass.

August 16, 1793

Misspelled "GLOUCESTER"

The rate of 8c was for a single letter sent 30-60 miles, per the Act of Congress, Feb. 20, 1792 (eff. June 1)

This 43x5mm "GLOUCESTER" SL is known used in 1792-93.

Four examples known.

Figure 1.

thread to the story (such as rates, markings and routes) and make the story hard to follow. I learned that lesson early. At a local club meeting 13-14 years ago, I showed another member, who happened to be an experienced judge, one of the pages from my Boston multi-frame exhibit. He took one look and said, "take out every other word – at least." As I reread the text on the page, I realized that the key points I was trying to make were getting lost in a large amount of much less important text.

Every exhibit has a primary focus (or thread). For postal history exhibits, that tends to be rates, routes or markings. The primary focus needs to be the most obvious information on the page. In my multi-frame Boston exhibit, I organized it by rate period. I consistently put that rate information next to the cover in

12-point type. You should be able to go from one cover to another and from page to page, and easily find that information.

But since the judges look for the exhibitor to demonstrate philatelic knowledge, which is critical to get high scores in the knowledge and research sections of the judging evaluation form, you will want to include other types of philatelic information besides that of the primary focus. In addition to rate information, you may want to include information about the markings on the cover. Such secondary information should be evident, but it should not fight the primary focus of the exhibit for attention. Use a smaller font, indicating its subordinate nature; find a different place for it on the page in relation to the cover. Perhaps enclose it in a small box.

The page shown in Figure 1 is from an exhibit on the *Postal History of Gloucester, Mass. and its Environs*. This page shows how the headers and subheaders let the viewer know where they are in the exhibit. This exhibit is a rate study, and this page covers the first two rate zones of the *Act of Congress, 1792*. Rate information takes the primary focus and is next to the cover in 12-point type. Below that (for the bottom cover) is a description of the marking(s) on the cover in 10-point type as secondary information. Finally, other secondary information is directly below the cover. Consistency in the placement of information makes it easier for judges (and other viewers) to follow the exhibit.

How do I make sure the judges see and understand the most critical material?

Key material in your exhibit needs to be **highlighted**. As noted earlier, judges do not have the time to pore through the exhibit and decide what is most critical to your story, what was the most difficult to find and what was the rarest. Start by telling them **on the title page** how to identify the material in the exhibit. Perhaps you can use a red border around the material or perhaps some other obvious symbol near the cover or stamp. But, in addition to that, tell them why it is important. Terms such as “rare” or “scarce” are too vague. Do you know how many are known? Is it a judgment based on your own research and that of colleagues? Is it from a census by a well-known expert or specialty society? Is it the earliest (or latest) known use of a philatelic marking? Tell them that. It defines the importance and adds to their appreciation of your knowledge and research.

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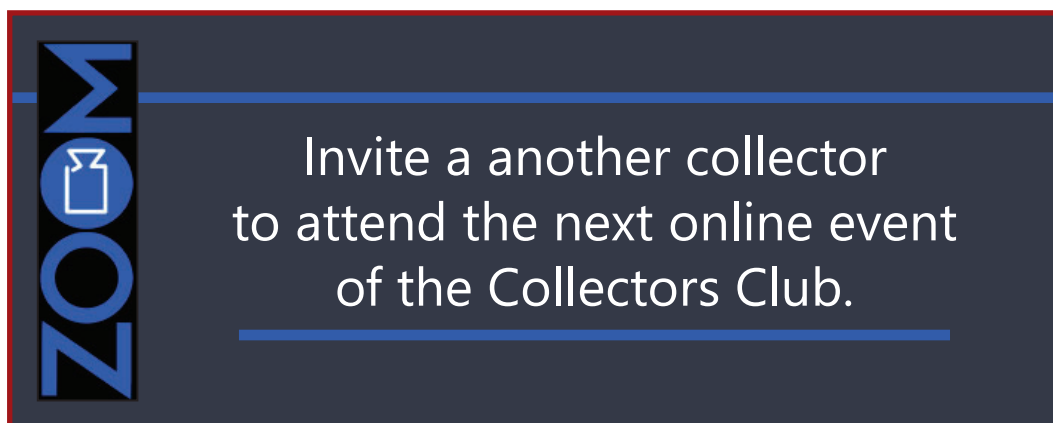
Importance, Condition and Presentation

Three aspects of exhibiting that have not yet been covered are importance, condition and presentation. **Importance** is a topic that generates discussion when judges get together, because it is less tangible than the other criteria judges use to evaluate an exhibit. Part of it relates to the importance of the exhibit to the development of the postal system, importance to the region, the philatelic significance of the subject in terms of its scope and the philatelic interest of the exhibit. For example, an exhibit about a large city such as Boston or New York, with more and varied postal activity, shows a greater impact on philately than one about a small city or a village. A second part is the degree to which the exhibit represents a significant challenge in scope or complexity, whether it is the best example of this subject and cannot be easily duplicated.

Presentation is also less tangible. What impression do you get when standing a few feet away from the frames? Does it have a pleasing appearance? Does it look physically balanced? Do pages look uncrowded? Or is its appearance jarring? Does it have “railroad tracks” where covers in a frame are in a vertical line, or where everything looks crowded and uneven?

Judges also pay attention to the **condition** of your material. Ten points can be given for condition, but they will likely deduct for covers with ragged edges or with stains on them, or for less than well-centered stamps in a traditional exhibit. But judges also recognize that condition reflects the environment. Covers sent from a war zone in a hot humid area are not expected to be pristine. And when the item is one of only a few known, more leeway is usually given for a less-than-perfect item. But for items in less desirable condition, exhibitors should always be on the lookout for better examples.

What is discussed here goes for both multi-frame and single-frame exhibits. But **single-frame exhibits have an additional burden**. They must tell an entire story in a single frame. Be careful not to pick a subject that is too broad to be covered in 16 pages. Pay particular attention to the scope of your single-frame exhibit. You may have to reduce its scope to fit one frame.



Summary

- Be clear and concise; one of the important commandments of exhibiting is “do not confuse the judges.”
- Make sure your storyline is stated up front and is recognizable throughout the entire exhibit.
- Demonstrate your philatelic knowledge but make sure the judges don’t get lost in a lot of extra text.
- Highlight your critical items and tell us why they are critical; obtain them in the best condition possible.
- And make the exhibit pleasing to the eye; you’ve spent too much money and effort not to.

Good luck on your first or next exhibit!

Mark Schwartz

Mark got into organized philately about 15 years ago and has participated at a board level in several major organizations (American Philatelic Society, United States Philatelic Classics Society, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, CANEJ and Boston2026).

He first exhibited in 2008 and has since shown 16 different exhibits. Nearly all have reached the large gold level and 11 have shared 32 grand awards. His *Boston Postal History* exhibit was awarded the Champion of Champions in 2015 and was a candidate for the Grand Prix at NY2016. Three others have won single frame CofC competitions (*Salem Trade Routes*, in 2013; *U.S. Retaliatory Rate*, in 2014; and *Boston’s Use of the 1847s*, in 2020). He is an accredited philatelic judge, has served on CANEJ for the last several years and has co-authored a regularly appearing column on exhibiting in *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer*.

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A Modest Cover Leads to an Interesting What-If

Tom Schier



CCP readers know that philately can serve as an excellent point of embarkation on historical exploration and research, because the stamps, covers and related materials we collect provide contemporaneous perspective and shed light on details and connections that otherwise pass unnoticed. A century-old cover I recently purchased illustrates this point, and led me to a fascinating "What-If" scenario in German history.¹

The cover itself is relatively nondescript, as you can see above. It was sent in April 1921 from a placid town in Wisconsin to Berlin, Germany, during a turbulent time there after the end of World War I. The cover is no philatelic rarity, and apart from the cancellation, it has no markings except a catalog notation near the 3¢ Washington.

The sender and receiver are what stood out for me here. As a collector focusing on Germany (widely defined), I knew nothing of the American Relief Committee for Poles of German Extraction or the Deutschsozialistische Partei (DSP). So I acquired the cover intending to find information about these organizations. This is all I would be working with, as there was no letter accompanying the cover.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find much about the sender, though the cover itself identified Rev. Otto Engel as the secretary of the American Relief Committee for Poles of German Extraction. Google Scholar led me to a reference in *Orphans of Versailles*, a book that traces the history of the populations of eastern Germany in the aftermath of World War I. The author, Richard Blanke, buried mentions in a footnote that Otto Engel was a Lutheran pastor who founded this relief

committee as stories of the mistreatment of Germans in the wake of the Russian retreat from eastern Germany reached the United States.² As I mentioned, there was not too much to go on.


With the addressee, it was a different story: I found good information as well as a little-known historical what-if in my discovery process. It turns out that the DSP, or German Socialist Party, was one of several short-lived right-wing parties that existed in Germany for a few years after the war and into the early 1920s. Based out of Berlin and Munich, the DSP was run by Hans Grassinger. Grassinger was the publisher of the *Münchener Beobachter*, a newspaper that was a precursor to the *Völkische Beobachter*, the Nazi's notorious newspaper. The DSP never gained political traction, and closed shop in 1922 as many of its members migrated over to the NSDAP, as the Nazi party was formally known.

In reviewing materials on the DSP, I came across an interesting what-if that was detailed in recent work of Thomas Weber, a German historian and expert on early 20th-century Germany. In his book, *Becoming Hitler: The Making of a Nazi*, professor Weber lays out historical documentation that in the fall of 1919, Adolf Hitler approached Grassinger and proposed to write for his newspaper and join the DSP.³ At this point in time, Hitler was a near-destitute former soldier with no job, no prospects and certainly no following. This was two years before he joined the Nazi party, which he ended up leading, in short order. Professor Weber relates that Grassinger essentially rejected Hitler's membership in the party and as a writer for the paper.

This is where the fascinating what-if emerges. In his analysis, Professor Weber posits that history might well have taken a different turn if Hitler had been accepted into the DSP and had taken the job as a writer for the *Münchener Beobachter*. At this time, Hitler had not exhibited any of the extreme leadership personality traits that he subsequently developed. Weber frames a plausible argument that Hitler, under the circumstances of the time, might have settled in with a paying writing job and a minor position at the DSP. And, because the DSP was a more developed party, Hitler would not have found opportunity to take the reins and lead a nascent radical party

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to ascendancy, as he did with the Nazi party over the course of the 1920s to ultimately horrific ends.

Under these counterfactual circumstances, Hitler's rise to power at the head of the Nazi party would not have occurred and the 20th century might have plotted a different course. This is not what happened, as we know... that's how what-ifs work. But Weber's analysis sheds light on an inflection point with the DSP at a critical point in German history; researching this cover brought all of this to my attention.

Focusing back on the cover, you might ask with whom Engel was corresponding at the DSP? And what was the nature of their correspondence? Perhaps it related to the relief committee's interest in Eastern German populations noted in Blanke's book. Unfortunately, without the accompanying correspondence, we may never know. But sometimes the journey is more important than the destination. And, in this case, a modest cover led me to the scholarship of Weber and Blanke, and shed light on aspects of a century-old political environment that I had not known.

Further reading

1. The three volumes of Robert Cowley's *What If?* series are well worth a perusal. Published in the late 1990s, they contain essays contributed by experts in the field, such as John Keegan and Stephen Ambrose. Each essay examines a specific historical topic and explores what might have happened if a different outcome had occurred at a critical juncture.
2. Richard Blanke, *Orphans of Versailles: The Germans in Western Poland 1918-1939*, University of Kentucky, 2014.
3. Thomas Weber, *Becoming Hitler: The Making of a Nazi*, Oxford University Press, 2017. See also www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/30/hitler-joined-nazis-only-after-another-far-right-group-shunned-him

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Noted in Passing on the Auction Block

Matthew Healey

Notable items featured here are from recent auctions that were advertised in the Collectors Club Philatelist. Members who do business with these firms should be sure to thank them for their support of the CCP. If you have spotted – or personally bought or sold – an item you feel is worthy of inclusion in the next round-up, no matter the price, please drop a note to secretary@collectorsclub.org



Prussian Eye Candy

€ 4,320

Sellschopp Auktionen, Hamburg: Third Auction, June 11, 2022, Lot 467. Visit sellschopp-auktionen.de

Some covers are like works of art: they display all the elements of the postal process in a harmonious package that is simply lovely to behold. It is no exaggeration to say the cover shown above, offered by the 130-year-old firm of Wilhelm Sellschopp in the third of its latter-day series of auctions, possesses all these qualities. It is colorfully franked with three stamps of Prussia's watermarked, line-engraved first issue of 1850-56: a 1-silbergroschen black-on-rose single, a 2sg black-on-blue strip of three (classic collectors look to this issue as an authentic example of "Prussian blue") and a 3sg black-on-yellow pair. Each stamp is tied by a crisp "517" target cancel, while a boxed datestamp of "Görlitz," nowadays the easternmost town in Germany, snuggles into the upper-right corner. From that town, the folded letter traveled via Aachen, Ostende and Liverpool via British packet to New York, picking up red transit and receiver markings along the way. At its destination, the franking was converted with a boxed red "Paid 25 cents" on top of one of the yellow stamps. Of interest to true postal-history nerds is the weight endorsement at upper left: 19/20 of a Lot. Prior to its standardization in 1856, a

“lot” was equivalent to something between 14 and 18 grams, depending on what part of Germany you were in – in Prussia, it was 14.606 grams. In the words of the auction house, this gem of a cover is “ein ‘Eyecatcher’ für jede Preußen- oder Transatlantik-Sammlung.” (Realization includes 20% buyer’s premium.)



The Experts Have Your Back

€ 6,190

Christoph Gärtner, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany: 53rd auction, June 20-25, Lot 2108. Further details at auktionen-gaertner.de

The one-lira high value from the pre-unification Italian state of Modena (Sassone 11, Scott 9) is one of those classic issues that is worth far more genuinely used than mint (the ratio is about 50 to one). Used multiples are even harder to find, with Gärtner reporting no more than six or seven in existence. This full-margined horizontal pair also happens to be one of those classic items whose backside is just as interesting as the front: one can count at least seven expert signatures, among them a Diena and a Bolaffi, presumably attesting primarily to the authenticity of the six-bar cancel on the front. A handsome and world-class rarity from the House of Este. (Realization includes 23.8% buyer’s premium.)



All Out of 2s and 1s

\$1,298

H.R. Harmer, New York: Spring Sale, June 22-24, 2022, Lot 2441 (advertised in CCP Vol. 101 No. 3). Further details at hrharmer.com

Adirondack Park, created in 1892, sprawls across six million acres of northern New York State, encompassing many remote towns and villages amidst a vast protected wilderness that is larger than the Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks combined. No wonder that, from time to time, some of the smaller post offices in the more remote settlements of the Adirondacks could run out of stamps. In the spring of 1898, as the snows were melting, the tiny hamlet of Wadhams Mills, N.Y., found itself bereft of 2¢ and 1¢ stamps. To make do, the postmaster, G.H. Pierce, decided to cut some of his 4¢ stamps in half. Knowing this was against the rules, he made sure to have his daughter endorse each outgoing letter "Out of 2 & 1¢ / G.H.P.," so the recipients would not be charged postage due. The fix apparently worked and the letters passed. Fewer than 35 went out thus marked before Pierce's stock of lower denominations was replenished, and only a tiny number of these bisect covers have survived. This one, addressed to St. Louis, with a diagonal half of a 4¢ dark brown 1895 Bureau issue (Scott 269) tied across the cut by a clear CDS, is one. (Realization includes 18% buyer's premium.)



A Love poem by Local Post

\$23,600

H.R. Harmer, New York: Spring Sale, June 22-24, 2022, Lot 45, advertised in CCP Vol. 101, No. 4. Further details at hrharmer.com

Rarity, beauty, sentimentality: those were the three words the auction firm used to describe this unique cover, franked with a 2¢ black-on-blue stamp of the short-lived St. Louis City Dispatch. Besides this cover, only one other (used) example of this adhesive (Scott 42L1) has come down to us. Though records are sketchy, the courier is thought to have operated only briefly, around St. Valentine's Day 1851. The cover consists of a lacy ornamental envelope and still bears its original contents, a handwritten poem from a secret admirer. The first letters of each line spell out the recipient's name, Frances, whom the writer compares to a flower. The first letters of the cover's famous past owners – Mekeel, Ferrary, Colson, Boker, Haub – don't spell anything in particular. (Realization includes 18% buyer's premium.)

One of the joys of collecting classic postal history is retracing the sometimes-circuitous routes taken by letters between far-flung locations in the days before regular mail service was established by sea or air. This marvelous 1860 cover from Mauritius, franked with a large-margined pair of “Post Office” 1d red-on-bluish, worn impression stamps (SG 18, Scott 5b), is a great example. From our Western perspective, the origin and destination in and around the Indian Ocean seem like they must be just a stone’s throw from each other. But closer examination – and we might as well pull out the atlas while we’re doing this – shows that was not the case: there was apparently no direct connection between Mauritius and the Dutch East Indies at this time. From Port Louis, the cover first went north to Aden at the mouth of the Red Sea. There it presumably changed boats and sailed east, past Ceylon and into the Malacca Strait. It stopped at Singapore, where it received a “Ship Letter” transit date-stamp on the reverse, before being sent south, past Sumatra, to its recipient in Batavia (known since 1945 as Jakarta). Quite a journey for 2 pence! (Realization includes 18% buyer’s premium.)



The Tortoise and the Lighting Bolt

\$44,250

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, New York: Sale 1263, the George J. Kramer collection of U.S. and Confederate States telegraph covers, Sep. 28, 2022, Lot 52. Further details at siegelauctions.com

The historical intersection of postal and telegraphic operations has bequeathed us many intriguing philatelic items that demonstrate how the old collaborated successfully with the new, as well as how government services managed to integrate themselves – often quite effectively, if not completely seamlessly – with disruptive private enterprise. In the early days of telegraphy, conventional postal systems often provided the “last mile” of delivery for upstart telegraph companies. The printed illustration on this 1850 envelope for the Vermont and Boston Telegraph Line shows a sailing ship, a steamship, a train, a horse and rider, a footman and a tortoise, all superseded by a bolt of lightning propelling a quill-

bearing hand – underscoring the electric telegraph’s bold claim to beating all other forms of communication. A great example of the 1847 5¢, tied by a double strike of a blue dotted grid with a Waterbury, Vt., CDS at left, makes this cover one of the greatest in several categories simultaneously: illustrated, advertising, telegraph and, of course, the 1847 issue. Sold for \$14,300 in Siegel’s 1992 Kapiloff sale, the cover’s realization this time served as vindication of the auction house’s description of it as “the highlight of the Kramer telegraph collection.” (Realization includes 18% buyer’s premium.)



Reeling Them in

CHF 19,520

Le Timbre Classique, Geneva: Sale no. 5, the “Demerara” collection of British Guiana, Oct. 25, 2022, Lot 1035. Further details at letimbreclassique.com

The fall sales from this relatively new auction house, led by Gael Caron and Anders Thorell and based in Paris and Geneva, featured the Large-Gold-medal-winning collection of this popular British colony. More than a dozen of the legendary “Cottonreels” of 1850-51, including all the values and shades except the very rare 2¢, led the offering. The square-cut 8¢ green shown here, with thin frame and initials “E.D.W.,” once belonged to the great Philipp von Ferrary (Sale II, Lot 181, Oct. 1921). Not many collectors can summon the wherewithal to chase these classics – besides their eye-watering prices, their aesthetic appeal would have to be described charitably as an acquired taste. Yet they are an important part of philatelic history, and it is a rare treat to see all of them presented together in one sale. If nothing else, the PDF of this auction catalog is a keeper and worth snagging from Le Timbre Classique’s website for your digital bookshelf. (Realization includes 22% buyer’s premium.)

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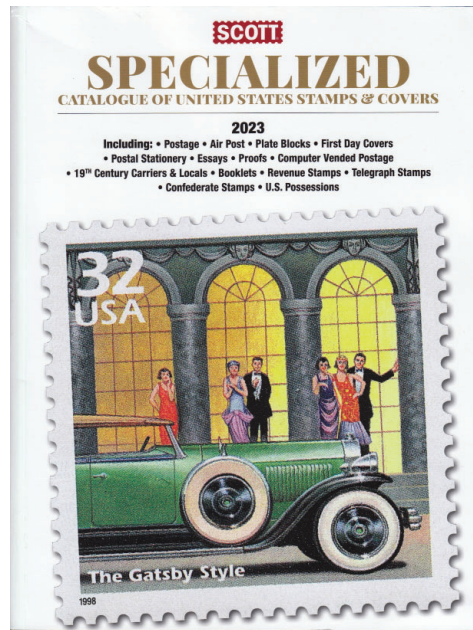
Book Reviews

2023 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, 1,218 pages plus introduction and index, thousands of color illustrations, 8½ by 11 inches, perfect bound, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio. List price \$139.99, available at a discount through Amos Advantage program or from numerous stamp dealers.

October, for many, not only means the continuation of National Stamp Collecting Month, but also the date when the new Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* appears. Most specialists – and certainly most dealers – recognize that the *Specialized* is a necessary investment – if not every year, then certainly every other year. This year is no exception, as the catalog continues to improve steadily with each new edition.

While up-to-date valuing is always important, it is the constant editorial enhancement and continuing evolution of this important reference source that makes it invaluable.

There are many editorial enhancements to be found in this volume, some noted by Scott Editor-in-Chief Jay Bigalke in his introduction and many that are not. These enhancements have become a hallmark of the *Specialized* in recent years, ranging from expanded coverage of shades and plate varieties to on-cover values for various definitive series, and much more. All of these areas continue to be updated and improved regularly, not simply treated as one-time special events. For more than 25 years, special features by leading experts in the field have appeared in the catalog, each of which explains some of these new or improved change to catalog listings for certain areas. These are important lasting reference pieces, as they describe why listings have changed or evolved. Ironically, there are no such features in the 2023 edition, a disappointment, to be sure, but that certainly doesn't mean there were no changes or en-





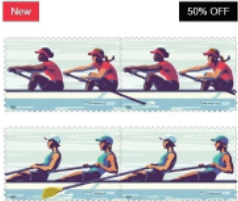

hancements. There are plenty!

Among those enhancements this year are notes regarding premiums for certain cancels on classic-era stamps (as well as notations as to what is

Scott notes that these types of cancels are typical for the time period



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Because the production of Chinese postal counterfeits of U.S. stamps has become so prevalent, Scott will no longer list postal counterfeits of Forever stamps, although it will note they exist for each affected issue in the general listings.

"normal"), rotary press sheet waste and more. One specific note highlighted as important by Editor-In-Chief Jay Bigalke is the inclusion of information on the so-called "Coleman special printing" of newspaper stamps in 1894, as well as how to identify and value them.

As a result of several important sales, numerous changes have been made to the private vending and affixing perforation section, essays and another overhaul of the testing stamp section, to name a few. In the 1873 Departmental Officials section, listings and values have been added for numerous different shades of these increasingly popular stamps. (Spoiler alert: few of these shades are valued much differently than the listing shade, but the listings are very useful to specialists.)

The proliferation of postal counterfeit stamps from China (those stamps meant to defraud the USPS, not collectors) in the past several years continues relatively unabated. As I've previously explained, what happens is that large quantities of postal counterfeits are sold online at more-or-less wholesale (discounted) prices, then are distributed through small bodegas and mom-and-pop shops in larger cities (as well as through smaller online sellers). The purchasers of many of these counterfeits simply think they're purchasing discount postage, not knowing they are illegal counterfeits.

This was confirmed recently, when I gave a talk to a group of non-collectors, none of whom had any idea this was such a huge problem. Despite the fact that there is collector interest in modern postal counterfeits, the tidal wave of new counterfeit Forever stamps (more than 300 major numbers in the last year alone, according to Scott), the decision was made to now list only those postal counterfeits that are denominated or earlier ones (no Forever stamps). While this is a bit of a disappointment to specialists, I applaud the decision; it's just too much to try to keep up with. Footnotes have been added to scores of Forever stamp listings in

the general section to make collectors aware that postal counterfeits exist for those issues.

Other enhancements not specifically mentioned include a number of new listings in the U.S. Essays section (particularly for those in the 1980s and '90s). Similarly, for the first time there are a number of essays listed and illustrated for the Canal Zone!

Let's also briefly explore some valuing information. Of interest to most U.S. collectors is the jump in value for our first two federal postage stamps, Scott Nos. 1 and 2. Used values for these issues jumped from \$350 and \$750 to \$425 and \$900, respectively. According to Bigalke, this is due to continued high demand for these popular issues. Numerous other Classic-era



Essays for the postage stamps of the Canal Zone are now listed and illustrated in the *Specialized*.

rather than the likely \$25 or less as discount postage. The "minimum" value exists only as a guideline for the minimum price a dealer can sell a single for to help make up for the time spent handling it.

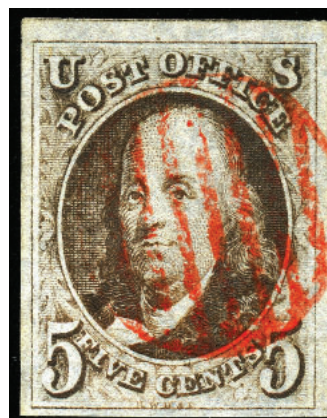
One phenomenon that continues to fascinate me is the rapid rise in values of many post-2000 stamp issues. While the vast majority of 1950-2000 stamps continue to sell at deep discounts from face value (despite the new 30¢ minimum), selected recent

stamps have risen in value as well, with some rarities jumping significantly in value, again, based on several important auctions held this past year.

An important, but perhaps misleading change, is the increase in the minimum value for common unused stamps (such as commemoratives of the 1940s-'60s), which goes from the long-standing 25¢ to 30¢. I say misleading, because those unfamiliar with just how common these stamps are frequently assume that 1,000 stamps with a catalog value of 30¢ are worth \$300,



Listings for essays of modern U.S. stamps – particularly since the 1980s, have been expanded.



Due to continued strong demand, values for U.S. Nos. 1 and 2 increased significantly.

issues continue to post considerable gains each year, including this year. The explanation is fairly simple: collectors and dealers stopped putting aside large quantities of mint stamps years ago, making a smaller available supply. The very topical nature of many U.S. Forever stamps complicates this, as many are purchased and used later by non-collectors, placing significant pressure on these issues resulting in value increases. One of the most dramatic examples is the 2013 Vintage Seed Packets booklet (Scott 4763b). Although the \$50 catalog value (for stamps that originally cost \$9.20) didn't increase this year, I know several dealers who are buying as many as they can at that price. There are many others, such as the 2012 20th Century Poets booklet (Scott 4663a), which jumps from \$40 to \$50.

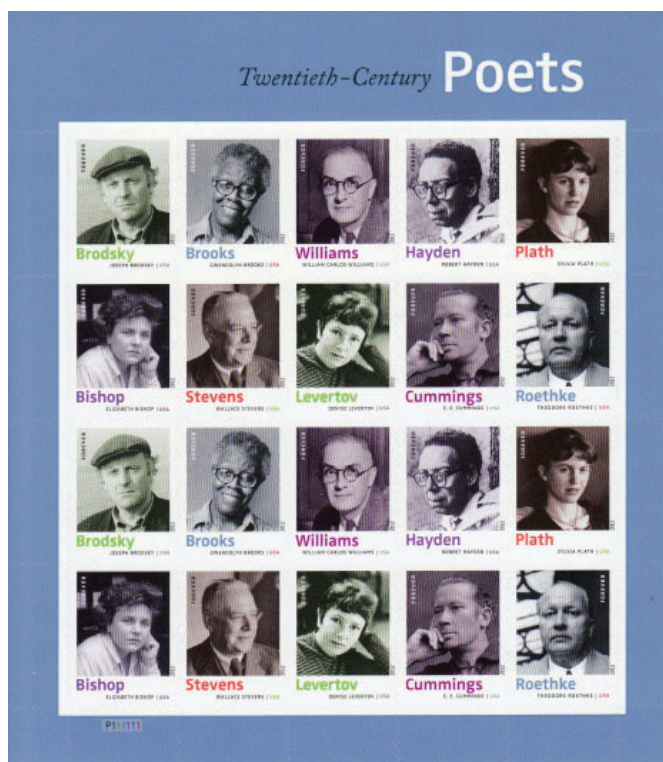


The minimum catalog value for common U.S. mint stamps has increased to 30¢.

The only potential downside of this important volume is that this is the second year in a row where both the graded value section and (more importantly) the identifier have been moved to separate publications. While I feel this is probably appropriate for the graded valuing section, I think most collectors will miss the extremely useful identification section of the catalog, which is, after all, an integral part of an effective and useful catalog.

All in all, the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* remains an extremely vital, important and evolving work for collectors and dealers to familiarize themselves with. There is a wealth of information contained in this annual work.

I am extolling the virtues of a very important volume to U.S. collectors. If you haven't already, do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of the 2023 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. It's worth a very close look indeed.



A number of post-2000 U.S. mint stamps in booklets and panes continue to their strong upwardly march due to high demand and minimal supply.

1867-1870 Da Mentana a Porta Pia, storia postale della Presa di Roma (1867-1870 From Mentana to Porta Pia – postal history of the capture of Rome) by Diego Carraro, Gianni Carraro, Antonio Ferrario, Giuseppe A. Natoli, Marco Panza, Angelo Teruzzi; Zanaria Filatelici Editori in Milano and Associazione Italiana di Storia Postale: 2020. Hardbound, 21- by 30-cm [8¼ by 11¾ inches), XI + 318 pp, color illustrated, price €50 plus postage, available from Zanaria Filatelici, Via Santa Margherita 6, 20121 Milano, Italy; www.zanaria.com; info@zanaria.com. ISBN 9788899249366.

As is known, the process of unification of Italy was far from being smooth and smart. When the Kingdom of Italy was eventually proclaimed on March 17, 1861, the capital of the new nation was Turin (then, in 1865, it was moved to Florence). Rome was still under the Papal State, that, albeit some loss of territories in 1860, had maintained the Lazio region. More than nine years were necessary to see the conquest of Rome and the annexation to the Kingdom of Italy, a period that was not free of skirmishes, whether political or military.

The book is divided into four chapters. The so-called “Questione Romana” (i.e., Roman Question) gathers all those events and facts that led to the annexation of Rome. The authors of the book chose to focus on them at the beginning, as a proper treatment was considered necessary to present and describe the postal implications: at first of the unfruitful Campaign of Agro Romano in 1867; then, in 1870, of the definitive capture of Rome and the end of the Papal State. The Italian army took advantage of the far-fetched return of French forces from Rome, where they were located to defend the Pope, to their motherland, due to the Franco-Prussian war. That is the subject of the first chapter, where readers can find a thorough presentation of about 10 years, from the conquest of Marche and Umbria in 1860 to the transfer of the capital of the Kingdom of Italy from Florence to Rome in 1871. The storytelling is pleasant and is enhanced by the reproduction of coeval documents, letters and prints, all able to revive the events much more than a mere list of facts.

The second chapter presents the fruitless Campaign of Agro Romano in 1867 and its effects on postal communications (breaking and restoring), without forgetting the military mail of Garibaldians and of the French forces. Many details that were previously unknown are now finally disclosed.

The third chapter introduces the postal history of the crucial campaign of 1870, with a very interesting and thorough census of known items (stamps and letters), all properly described and often illustrated.

The fourth and final chapter deals with the civilian mail and the eventual introduction of Italian stamps into Rome and Lazio, probably the most studied



feature in the past, but nevertheless this part of the book, too, considers and presents new data. Besides the analysis of civilian mail during the military actions, blockade letters are described (13 foreign letters are censused [enumerated]), as well as the transition from the Papal postal system to the Italian one. This means, from a philatelic point of view, mixed frankings, first dates of use of Italian stamps, last-known dates of use of Papal stamps, combination of postmarks and cancellations and so on. There is a whirlwind of data well illustrated and explored, again thanks to the reproduction of many documents and letters. Other key points are the analysis of foreign mail over the months when Rome was occupied and finally annexed to the Kingdom of Italy (a feature so far unexplored) and a thorough investigation and census regarding the use of Papal stamps and then Italian ones. The mail of the French expeditionary army is also considered, albeit the soldiers were compelled to leave Rome and Lazio in August 1870 for the motherland, which was under Prussian threat.

The capture of Rome probably represents the culmination of the long process of unification of Italy. Although it was not the last event, its symbolic value is undeniable. For this reason, it sounds strange that a complete treatise was not yet available; there were scattered studies and articles, but not such a comprehensive work, a goal the book by far achieved, going even further by exploiting unknown or barely studied features.

The book is hardbound, lavishly color illustrated and printed on high-quality paper. The edition is bilingual (Italian and French). Whoever is interested in the postal history of the unification of Italy will be able to appreciate the efforts made by the authors to try to arrive at a definitive study and to successfully fill a void in the philatelic literature on that topic; they are to be praised. The book is a must for Italian collectors and, in a broader vision, a very welcome addition to the library of classical postal historians.

— Luca Lavagnino

Luigi Sirotti, *Le Isole Jonie, Storia Postale e momenti della Seconda Guerra Mondiale (1940-1945) (Ionian Islands and moments of the Second World War)*, perfect bound (8½ by 12¾ inches), 198 A4 pages, several maps, color illustrations throughout, limited edition of 200 numbered copies, in Italian, supplement of evaluations of covers, postcards and stamps illustrated in the book, including a listing of the tariffs, published by the author, Milan, 2021, €70 plus postage, available from Vaccari at info@vaccari.it.

The author of this volume is well known to philatelists and postal history collectors for his many books, articles, catalogs and monographs on specialized and often-challenging aspects of Italian philately and postal history. Like his previous book, *British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies* (BOFIC), Sirotti has also relied on the splendid collections of Nuccio Taroni and other major collectors of the brief Italian occupation of the Ionian Islands.



Traditionally called the Heptanese (Seven) Islands (including many smaller islands), the Ionian Islands were occupied by Italy on April 28, 1941, after the German occupation of Greece.

In 1943, the Germans replaced the Italians and deported the centuries-old Jewish community of Corfu to their deaths. By 1944, most of the islands were under the control of the EAM/ELAS resistance movement, and they have remained, in general, a stronghold of left-wing sentiment ever since.

Sirotti devotes several pages to the various phases of the Italian occupation and, from the very start, he keeps his eyes on postal communications and military, political and postal developments.

A chapter is devoted entirely to the hand-stamped and letterpress overprints with a wealth of illustrations, including censor marks and censor labels. We are informed by Sirotti that *"during the Italian and German occupations, as evinced by careful examination of the frankings, the tariffs underwent numerous changes whilst some accessory services were discontinued."*

During the early period of occupation, Greek postal stationery franked with Greek stamps with Italian occupation overprints were used; meanwhile, in early June 1941, a civilian censor office was activated at Corfu by Italian authorities for the purpose of censoring all domestic and foreign-bound mail of the occupied islands; it also operated as a gathering and sorting center facilitating mail exchange with various European countries. All related censor labels and censor marks are illustrated and discussed in great detail.

More space is given to the Cefalonia and Itaca overprints and their rarity when used on mail to Italy and Greece. The use of non-overprinted Greek stamps from Corfu to Italy and Greece and related level of rarity is neatly presented in a chart.

As Italy occupied Zakintos (Zante), it began to hand overprint Greek stamps with the boxed, four lines, "OCCUPAZIONE MILITARE DI ZANTE 1-5-XIX." From April to August 1941, the Zante post office also handled mail from Italian troops deployed in the seven Ionian Islands.

The use of stamps with the boxed four-line overprint on Greek stamps on mail to Italy and Greece and related level of rarity is neatly presented in a chart. The subject matter is discussed in great detail in the ensuing pages.

The technical details and complexities of the Argostoli overprint with movable fonts, beginning with the May to September 1941 use on Greece postal stationery processed by the Italian field post office is examined in its four distinctive types.

The first letterpress setting for sheets of 15 stamps is plated in its variations. A similar hand overprint on 5d. Greek postal stationery is very rare. A chart on pages 146 and 147 wraps up this rare overprint in its uses.

New postal censorship offices were opened between September 1941 and September 1943 at Cefalonia, Itaca, Santa Maura and Zante.

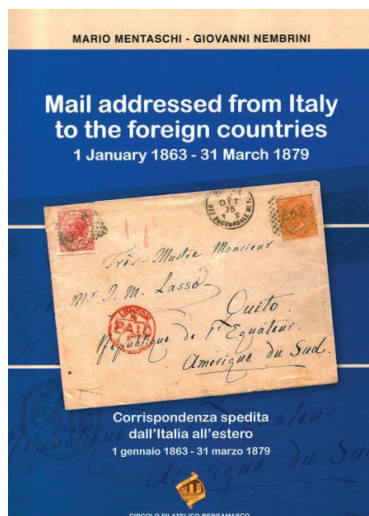
Another chapter covers the plethora of regulations in their original text regarding censorship in colonies and territories; this section alone is very precious to the specialist.

The research is very impressive and detailed; the production is lavish, to say the least. Keep in mind that only 200 copies were printed and their availability will end rather soon.

– Giorgio Migliavacca

Mario Mentaschi and Giovanni Nembrini, Mail addressed from Italy to the foreign countries – 1 January 1863 – 31 March 1879 (Corrispondenza dall'Italia all'estero - 1 gennaio 1863-31 marzo 1879), hardbound, (8 by 11¾ inches), 212 pages, more than 266 color illustrations throughout, maps; in Italian and English, published by Circolo Filatelico Bergamasco, 2021; €40 plus postage, available from Vaccari (info@vaccari.it)

It is quite gratifying to see how philatelic and postal history literature is always on track with the latest research; it is also reassuring to see volumes made possible by the research of two or three scholars “combined.” This book is written by Mario Mentaschi, a well-known name in postal history for his books, which have garnered gold medals at various FIP international exhibitions; the co-author is Giovanni Nembrini, a keen collector of Italian postal history with emphasis on Italy 1850-1900. His collections have won grand prix and gold medals at national and international exhibitions while his articles have been published by *Cursor*es and *Vaccari Magazine*.



The introduction outlines the main subject of this volume: the complexities of unifying Italy, not only politically but also postally. If there were obstacles and difficulties in postal communications nationally, one can only imagine what was communicating internationally.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the exchange of mail between countries was largely regulated by bilateral postal agreements. But by the 1800s, bilateral agreements had become so complex that they began to impede the rapidly developing trade and commercial sectors. Order and simplification were needed by the international postal services.

On March 17, 1861, a Sunday, the Kingdom of Italy became a reality and the integration of various states was in itself a gigantic task. A valid remedy came on Jan. 1, 1863, when the May 5, 1862, law setting new rules was adopted and enforced nationwide. At that point, Italy was unified postally. That turning point is also the starting moment of the postal history examined by this book, with special attention given to international mail rules, procedures and tariffs that, until June 1875, were based on postal conventions with foreign postal administrations. If no convention was signed with a given country, the best practice was to seek the mediation of other countries, such as France and Great Britain.

Postal rates for international mail from July 1, 1875, to March 31, 1879, were regulated by a convention signed in Berne by General Postal Union (GPU) and 22 member countries, including Italy.

This expansion of an organized postal network connected small and large businesses alike to customers everywhere. More progress was made with the advent of the Universal Postal Union, whose convention was endorsed by 32 countries with effect from April 1, 1879. The Mentaschi-Nembrini monograph delves into the postal routes, as well as the chronological evolution of the tariffs within each country.

A lengthy and well-articulated chapter examines the mail sent to other Italian states during the years leading to the unification and after, with special attention to Austrian Venetia, the Papal States and the Republic of San Marino.

The next chapter focuses on mail from Italy to various foreign countries conveyed using various modalities depending on the location of the final destination. On the old continent, foreign countries were reachable using overland routes; for more distant destinations, such as Africa and Asia, the sea routes were served by French and British packets and the Austrian *Lloyd*, which also connected with African countries facing the Mediterranean. Postal communications with the northern New World were served by British and American packets.

Central America and the West Indies were served by British and French packets; postal communications with South America facing the Atlantic were facilitated by French packets; countries facing the Pacific were served by British packets of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. Destinations beyond the Suez Canal were served by the P & O Steam Navigation Co. and by French packets.

In most cases, covers from the Nembrini collection exemplify tariffs and routes and means of conveyance; in other instances, illustrations from other important collections were utilized to give the reader practical examples of what is being discussed.


Mail to European countries and territories is examined in great detail; the countries involved are Austrian Empire, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Gibraltar, German States, Luxembourg, Norway, Russian Empire, Romania,

Countries and British Colonies of North America are next: Canada, Nova Scotia and the United States. Following are Central American countries and colonies: Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas (Danish Antilles), Trinidad and Venezuela. To complete South America, the countries examined are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.

To conclude, this most useful volume comes with an exhaustive table of postal rates, followed by indices of currencies, contract packets, postal conventions, postal markings, as well as a comprehensive bibliography.

Given the vast postal delivery horizon visited by this book, its cost can be considered a bargain, especially if you spot the right cover at a dealers' bourse or in an auction. Additionally, a lot of new information can prove very useful for covers you already have in your collection. In short, this book will pay for itself – undoubtedly a “must have.”

– *Giorgio Migliavacca*

 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Quarterly Publications)		Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation Periodicals Publications Except Quarterly Publications	
1. Publication Title The Collectors Club Philatelist		2. Publication Number 0 6 5 - 9 2 2 0	
3. Issue Frequency Six Times Annually		3. Filing Date 9/30/2022	
4. Issue Frequency Six Times Annually		5. Number of Issues Published Annually Six	
6. Annual Subscription Price \$70 Domestic \$80		6. Annual Subscription Price \$70 Domestic \$80	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 11 West 42nd St 2nd Fl New York, NY 10036-8002		Complete Person Contact Person Andrew Maters Telephone (Include area code) 212 683 0559	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 11 West 42nd St 2nd Fl New York, NY 10036-8002			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (names and complete mailing address) The Collectors Club 11 West 42nd Street, 2nd Fl, New York, NY 10036-8002 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Wayne L. Youngblood 11 West 42nd Street, 2nd Fl, New York, NY 10036-8002 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Same			
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11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgagees, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Full Name Complete Mailing Address			
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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation Membership Organization		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (list press run)		880.0	890
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-Country Paid Subscriptions Sent on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	199.8	200
	(2) Mailed In-Country Paid Subscriptions Sent on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	419.1	492
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	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		769.5	770
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-Country Copies Included on PS Form 3841	0	0
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f. Total (Sum of 15c and 15e)		769.5	770
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation None		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies			
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)			
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)			
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 80% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. WB is printed in the <u>November 2022</u> issue of this publication.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Andrea Martin, Executive Secretary		Date 09/30/2022	

I certify that the information furnished herein is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (for each of the above).

The Collectors Club

Membership Update: June 19 through Aug. 21, 2022

We are pleased to welcome the following new and reinstated members.

Approved by the Board of Governors:

June 28, 2022

Non-Resident

Carlson, Jams D
Cortese, Joe

Middletown, Conn.
Pittsfield, N.H.

Aug. 9, 2022

Non-Resident

Harvey, Brian M.

Rogers, Ark.

Overseas

Nair, Shivshanka; Ambassador

Lisbon, Portugal

Congratulations to our new members. A membership certificate will be forwarded to the address on file for each. Please keep us updated as to current address and email so that we can continue to serve you. Electronic outreach is increasingly important as we continue to expand our offerings. Our website (www.collectorsclub.org) receives ongoing enhancements based on member feedback. Please contact us at info@collectorsclub.org with feedback, comments or questions.

Applications Received

Putney, Christopher J.

Washington, D.C.

Please note that The Collectors Club will be dropping members who are not current with their 2021 and 2022 dues payments. If you feel that there is an error or prior payment has been made, please contact Executive Secretary Andrea Matura at info@collectorsclub.org.

In these uncertain times we are not always aware of events or address changes in a timely manner. Please help by keeping us informed at info@collectorsclub.org. We recognize the many members who have taken advantage of our online facility for applications, and dues/donations payments.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark E. Banchik, Membership Co-Chair
Lawrence Hunt, Membership Co-Chair

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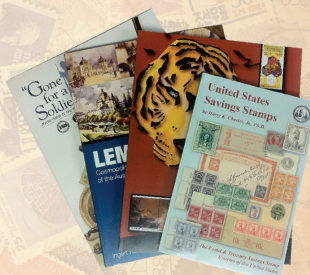
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