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An Authors' Guide for the
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All Collectors Club meetings currently are held online, via ZOOM, and begin at 5:30 p.m. (Eastern). Although there is no cost, pre-registration is necessary.

Collectors Club Programs 2021

April 7	Netherlands Point Cancels - Their Uses and Misuses - John Hornbeck, Washington, D.C.
April 21	The 1929 Air Mail Stamps of India - Markand Dave, Nadiad, India
April 28	U.S. Stamps Issued Prior to the First Federal Issue of 1847 - Cliff Alexander, Larry Lyons, Scott Trepel and Sonny Hagendorf
May 5	South Atlantic Airmail in WWII - Gordon Eubanks, Pebble Beach, Calif.
May 12	Members of the Indian Study Circle Presentation
May 19	Cancellations: Struck on Stamps - U.S. 1851 Imperforate Issue - Part 2 - Wade Saadi, Brooklyn, N.Y.

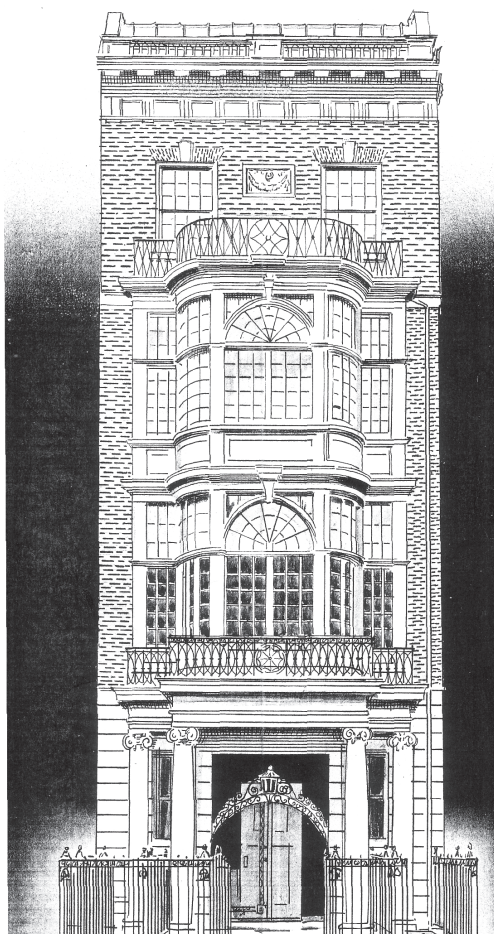
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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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The Collectors Club is temporarily closed due to New York state restrictions to limit the spread of Covid-19. Please check www.collectorsclub.org for updates and resources.

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President's Message

By Lawrence Haber

One of the great pleasures of being president of this club is contacting those individuals who have been awarded the Lichtenstein Award. Elsewhere in this journal you will read more extensively about Patrick Maselis and Mark Banchik, but if I would be permitted to add my perspective...

The Lichtenstein Award process starts with nominations being solicited from our membership, these being considered by a committee headed by Steve Reinhard. All committee members are past winners of the award and the only reason I was admitted to this august group was because of the presidential ex-officio entitlement. There were 10 nominations in total and each was supported by papers attesting to their contributions to the hobby. All the nominees are extraordinary and they have all made huge contributions to philately. I was – and remain – in awe of them all. Choices would not be easy. Four nominees were forwarded to the Board of Governors for its final consideration.

When the board voted, it was clear that for the first time that we were selecting co-winners. The caliber of the nominees made breaking precedent easier than we might have thought. After the vote was completed, I had the honor of informing the winners. When I spoke to each gentleman, one in San Diego and the other as he was about to board a plane somewhere in Europe, I heard genuine surprise, humble appreciation and a quiet undercurrent of emotion. Not only are Patrick and Mark huge contributors to this hobby, but they are good and genuine men, their reactions were humble, they were both very touched and appreciative. There is no question that the process worked.

The question then naturally follows: having had to defer last year's annual Lichtenstein dinner on account of Covid-19, but what of this year's event? (You'll recall that John Barwis was selected last year.) But, first, I must digress.

Having been diverted by matters viral, we have come to recognize that in 2021 The Collectors Club will celebrate its 125th anniversary: 1896 to 2021. *And*, in addition, this journal, celebrates its 100th anniversary. These are two estimable events we must mark.

Circumstances present their difficulties, but we would like to strive for a very special event occurring over a two-day period in New York on Nov. 10-11, in which we will mark the 125th anniversary of this club, the 100th anniversary of this journal, bestow the Lichtenstein award on three individuals and maybe, more importantly, start to bring us all out of the dark places we have had to be in while this virus has had its way with us all. We recognize the difficulties and the challenges, but we expect that we will be almost all vaccinated, that New York City will be reopened and that life will start returning to normal. We understand the challenges, but we believe we have to persevere, since otherwise we surrender to despair.

Specifically, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, we will hold our single-frame competition in the Clubhouse and we hope that this will be an exhibition for the ages. In the evening, we will arrange multiple dining and entertainment options for all attending.

On the evening of Nov. 11, we will hold a special dinner at a landmark location to mark our multiple anniversaries and honor our award winners. As I write this in late February, I expect that many will have concerns and some trepidation, but we will only hold this event provided we have confidence in the prudent health measures in place. We have all come too far and dealt with too much to do otherwise.

Oh, and did I mention that we will be preparing a very special book, *100 years of the Collectors Club Philatelist*? This book will contain the best, the most representative and the most evocative articles that have appeared in this journal. It is going to be great.

We have started work on all the details and as those details firm up we will be sharing those with you. But please, circle these dates. No need to make a commitment now. Get your single-frame exhibit in shape and please stay safe and healthy because it is going to be a great and safe party.

Editor's Notepad

by Wayne L. Youngblood

As I write this we are about to mark a full year of the Covid-19 global pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on so many aspects of our global and national economy, businesses and social lives.

In our little corner of the world, virtually all major shows, club meetings and other events – both national and international – have been canceled, with many of those rolling cancellations extending well into at least the middle of this year, and perhaps beyond (several August and September shows have already canceled). And, of course, our own Club House has been closed as well.

I've written here and elsewhere about just what a fantastic job the Collectors Club has done throughout the pandemic to quickly adapt to the unexpected and unwanted changes that were thrust upon us last year – a case of making lemons into lemonade to be sure!

While CC members have always looked forward to attending meetings in Manhattan whenever possible, that anticipation has now turned global, as our online presentations have experienced unprecedented growth and success. In addition, the hobbywide outreach effort of making the entire run of the CCP available – free – online, has been a shot of goodwill heard round the world.

There's no question that, with the ongoing rollout of Covid vaccinations, we're all looking forward to in-person meetings, stamp shows, gathering with friends and other signs of a return to some semblance of "normal," perhaps as early as later this year.

But it's also very important to note that the efforts of the Collectors Club and other organizations to make the hobby more widely accessible through technology is a lesson well learned, and one that won't be abandoned by most in post-pandemic times. It's kind of ironic and amazing just how much we've gained throughout the hobby as a result of this "loss."

Please watch the website and this journal for more, as conditions begin to change.

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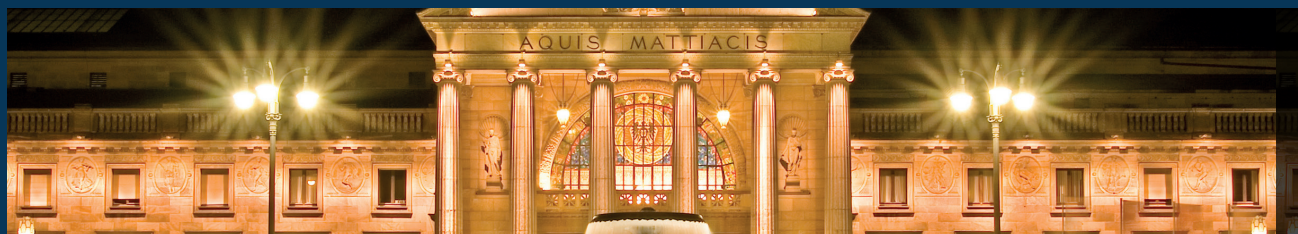
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HIGHLIGHTS

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The Christopher King Collection (Part II)

German States The ERIVAN Collection – 5th Auction

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Mark Banchik and Patrick Maselis are Joint Recipients of 2021 Lichtenstein Award



Mark Banchik



Patrick Maselis

The Collectors Club is proud to announce that two individuals, Mark Banchik and Patrick Maselis, will receive its prestigious Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Philately in 2021.

Banchik is a retired physician administrator who lives in San Diego, and Maselis is an agricultural industrialist who lives in Roeselare, Belgium. Banchik is also a past president of the Collectors Club and serves on its board of governors; Maselis is the immediate past president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and currently the president of the Club de Monte-Carlo.

This marks the first time the award is being given to more than one person.

Traditionally, the Lichtenstein award is formally given at a springtime dinner in New York City, but due to the continuing global pandemic, plans for a dinner this year have not yet been finalized. Last year's dinner honoring the 2020 recipient, John Barwis, was canceled, as were a majority of philatelic gatherings around the world.

Mark Banchik

Like many collectors, Banchik exhibited a tendency toward accumulation at an early age. Perhaps it started in elementary school with some really interesting U.S. President "stamps" that were printed on each tiny student milk carton. Obviously, the teacher was not a collector – young Mark's carefully stashed (and

possible slightly smelly) hoard disappeared from inside his classroom desk one dark and stormy day...

Banchik has been fortunate to have had many role models to shape his philatelic outlook over the years. Besides his parents, Seymour and Barbara, who were prominent in the philatelic community, many well-known philatelists have been family friends – some were also customers at the family's luncheonette.

Organizations such as the Collectors Club, the Philatelic Foundation and the American Philatelic Society were practically an extension of home. Becoming a serious collector without belonging to these groups was inconceivable, so Banchik gradually immersed himself in organized philately, eventually taking on leadership roles. Collecting was a household affair, with family trips to Balpex, at the Maryland State Fair and Inner Harbor and other stamp shows.

Banchik's collecting "bug" was never far from the surface, and it re-emerged after a period of living and studying in Mexico. Upon his return to New York in the early 1980s, Banchik began concentrating on Mexico. His landlord and neighbors in Mexico had had first-hand experiences with the U.S. interventions and revolutionary-era events around 1914; this inspired Banchik's 1914-era exhibit, which was followed by collections centered on earlier events and the U.S. Westward Expansion.

Jim Mazepa encouraged Mark to embrace classic Mexican philately, introducing him to groups outside Manhattan, such as the Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (Mepsi), devoted to the postal history of Mexico. Banchik became increasingly active with Mepsi and rose to becoming president and chairman.

One highlight of Banchik's collecting life revolved around a major sale of key Mexican material in New York about 1995. Banchik hosted several out-of-town Mepsi members at his home in Great Neck, N.Y. He invited more than 40 people over for dinner but "forgot" to let his wife, Lillian, in on the plan! Luckily, both the Long Island Rail Road and a local restaurant came to the rescue.

Banchik's past and present philatelic leadership responsibilities have included the Collectors Club board of governors (treasurer, vice president, president); the APS (board of vice presidents, expert, member of the Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges); the American Philatelic Congress (president); the American Air Mail Society (president); Mepsi (president, chairman, fill-in editor). He is also a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a member of the Club de Monte-Carlo.

Banchik is a multiple U.S. Grand Award recipient, international exhibitor, philatelic judge and international jury trainer. Participating in many local, national and international exhibitions has allowed him to see how the best and brightest succeed in making our hobby a little better.

Volunteering, mentoring and giving back are ways Banchik hopes to give recognition to the many who have helped guide him in the past. His fervent wish is to repay those who helped him by building the framework that will allow future collectors and philatelic leaders to thrive.

Patrick Maeselis

When he is not traveling or collecting stamps, Patrick Maselis, who lives in Belgium, runs a company that produces wholesale and consumer grain and cereal products. He also devotes himself to numerous other business and civic obligations.

But when it comes to philately, he is passionate about sharing his talents and visions worldwide. Maselis is the world's leading collector and scholar of Belgium, its colonies and the Free State of Congo. He is a Large Gold international exhibitor, researcher, author of many published books and articles and a gifted speaker.

His presentation on Belgium's early "Medallion" issues at the Collectors Club in March of 2020 was one of the best-attended gatherings there in many months and, as it happened, the last one before the pandemic enforced a shutdown of in-person activities.

Among the philatelic honors Maselis has collected are signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and receiving the European Academy of Philately's "European Philatelic Merit" award. He is a member of the Collectors Club, which honored him in 2010 with its award for best meeting presentation, on the Congo.

Maselis is an international leader in organized philately. His service has included being president of the Club de Monte-Carlo; immediate past president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London; past president of the Royal Belgium Academy of Philately; a council member of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum; first vice president of the European Academy of Philately; corresponding member of the Academie de Philatélie (France) and the Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal (Spain); honorary member of the Russian Philatelic Academy; and the Club of Elite Russian Philately.

But perhaps his most special contribution to the hobby has come as a promoter: Maselis is a philanthropist who likes to make quiet differences to affect the future of our hobby. He has sponsored international trips for promising young philatelists, including the Young Philatelic Leaders of the American Philatelic Society. He has financially supported advertising to promote an international philatelic show. He organizes international gatherings and dinners of fellow collectors to share the joy of stamps and postal history and ensure the future connections that are vital to sustaining the hobby.

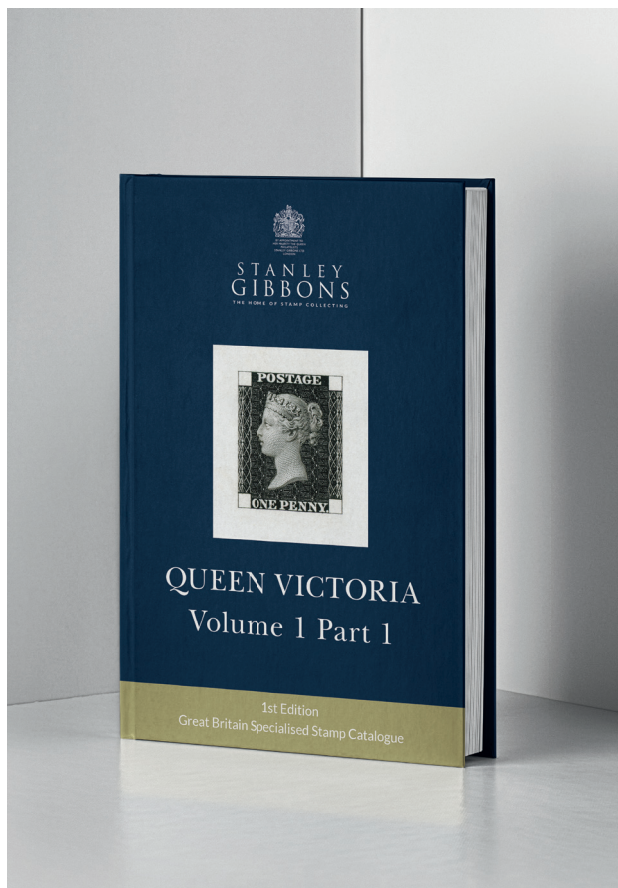
Perhaps most impressive of all, Maselis has traveled to every country in the world – all 195 of them. Invariably, on each of his travels he sends out hundreds of souvenir postcards to friends and acquaintances to encourage the understanding of contemporary philately.

* * *

Alfred F. Lichtenstein (1876-1947) was widely considered one of the greatest American philatelists of the first half of the 20th century. The award in his memory was established by the Collectors Club in 1952, and its first recipient was Lichtenstein's good friend and co-founder of the Philatelic Foundation, Theodore Steinway. In past years, the award has been given to a single recipient.



More information can be found at www.collectorsclub.org



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The Díaz De La Reguera Correspondence

The Earliest-Known Private Letters Sent From El Salvador (1545-48)

Joseph Hahn / Guillermo F. Gallegos

This article was originally published in ACADEMVS No. 19 in July 2015. ACADEMVS is the journal of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History. We appreciate its consent to translate the article to English.



Map of the Audiencia de Guatemala, by Nicholas Samson, 1683

Historical Context – El Salvador in the 16th Century

The territory that is now El Salvador was first settled between the years 11,000 and 9,500 B.C., by migrant tribes coming from the north. The earliest-known permanent settlements started around 1,400 B.C., and the area subsequently developed similar cultural development patterns as the rest of Mesoamerica, with strong influence from the Maya and Central Mexico. By the early 16th century, most of the territory was incorporated in the Kingdom of Cuzcatlán, ruled by the Pipil tribe.

The first European explorers arrived in the area in 1522. The conquest of the Kingdom of Cuzcatlán was done in the following years, but it was a lengthy affair that started in 1525. The same year, San Salvador was founded as the first permanent Spanish settlement, subordinated to Guatemala, which, in turn, was a

dependent of Mexico. Pipil resistance forced the abandonment of the town from 1526-28, until it was founded again at another location in 1528.

The first decades of the colony were very precarious, with constant threats of another Pipil rebellion and the occasional arrival of competing Spanish factions coming from Panama. By the 1540s, the situation had stabilized and San Salvador was moved to its current location in 1545.

The first-known letter sent from Central America was sent on April 11, 1524, by conqueror Pedro de Alvarado to Hernan Cortes, conqueror of Mexico, relating his expeditions in Guatemala. By 1527, the government of Santiago de los Caballeros, capital of Guatemala, had assigned a space in its building for the administration of mail, which was transported by individual messengers as there was no organized land mail service until the middle of the 18th century. Regarding maritime mail, during the 16th century the authorities in Guatemala could send ships to Spain without the knowledge of the authorities in Mexico, until this practice was forbidden by a Royal Order on Oct. 9, 1612.

It is assumed that San Salvador exchanged mail at least with Santiago de los Caballeros in Guatemala since its founding, although the first reference of a letter sent from San Salvador appears in a record of the Guatemalan *Cabildo* (government) on Feb. 12, 1530. The letter, which has not been found, was sent by the Cabildo of San Salvador and carried by Martin Gonzalez. It mentions the arrival of Spanish troops coming from Panama, and requests help to defend the town. The records in Guatemala also mention the exchange of letters between Francisco Orduña, a Cabildo member, and Martin de Estete, leader of the invading forces, before his retreat to Nicaragua in March 1530.

The death of Pedro de Alvarado in July 1541 was the direct cause of the earliest-recorded surviving letter coming from San Salvador. It was sent from the San Salvador Cabildo to Emperor Charles I on Nov. 5, 1541, requesting the appointment of a certain individual as a substitute of the deceased Alvarado. The request was not granted.

The move of San Salvador was also mentioned in three letters sent in 1548 to the Emperor, Prince Philip (later Emperor Philip II) and the Council of Indies. However, all these letters are considered official correspondence.

Alonso Díaz de la Reguera

The correspondence from Alonso Díaz de la Reguera mentioned in this article was acquired in 1991 by the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley, and was studied in depth by Antonio and Adelaida Cortijo Ocaña in his work *Cartas desde Mexico y Guatemala (1540-1635) – Letters from Mexico and Guatemala (1540-1635)*.

According to the Cortijo Ocaña, Alonso Díaz de la Reguera was one of the conquerors mentioned by Bernal Díaz del Castillo in his *Historia Verdadera de la Conquista de la Nueva España (True History of the Conquest of the New Spain)*.

Díaz de la Reguera arrived at Mexico in 1521 to participate in the siege of Tenochtitlán, the Aztec capital. After the conquest of Mexico, he joined the expedition of Alvarado to Guatemala. The *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala (Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala)* mentions him as one of the founders of

Santiago de los Caballeros, and he appears in documents between 1524 and 1529 as accountant and treasurer of his Majesty and as notary, secretary and regent of the Cabildo. He returned to Spain in 1540, leaving his relative Gómez Díaz as the administrator of his properties in the Province of Guatemala.

Alonso signed with Gómez Díaz a contract in which he granted Gómez the administration of his properties (houses, lands, towns and Indians) in exchange for receiving 50% of the earnings generated in a period of five years. Three years later, Gómez requested an extension of the contract, under the argument that the properties were not generating any earnings. From then on, Gómez continued for years, claiming the lack of earnings and/or delaying the few remittances to Alonso, while in the meantime becoming one of the richest landlords in Guatemala, because of both the administration of Alonso's properties and his marriage to the daughter of Gaspar de Cepeda, another wealthy Guatemalan landowner.

Alonso justifiably felt cheated by Gómez, and by 1580 he considered suing his relative, although it is not known if he actually did. During these years he prepared a summary of his relationship with Gómez and the latter's breach of the contract terms. It is possible that to support this statement, he annexed to this summary several related documents, among them seven letters he received. Five of these were sent by Gómez from Santiago de los Caballeros, Mexico City and San Salvador between 1541 and 1545, one sent by Gaspar de Cepeda from San Salvador in 1548 and one sent by Miguel Díaz from Buitrago de Lozoya (a town close to Madrid) at the end of the 1540s. The two letters sent from San Salvador, one by Gómez in 1545 and the other by Gaspar de Cepeda in 1548 are the earliest examples of private mail known sent from the present-day territory of El Salvador.

Letter No. 1: Sent by Gómez Díaz from San Salvador to Alonso Díaz in the village of Medina del Campo (Aug. 1, 1545)

The first of the letters were sent the same year that San Salvador was being relocated at its present site. The letter started mentioning that Gómez had received, since 1540, five letters sent by Alonso from Spain, and that he had replied to all of them, although the replies had not seemed to reach their destination. Although here it is mentioned that Gómez's letters had not reached Spain, the documents that Alonso annexed to his statement in 1580 included four letters sent before this one, which could be the aforementioned.

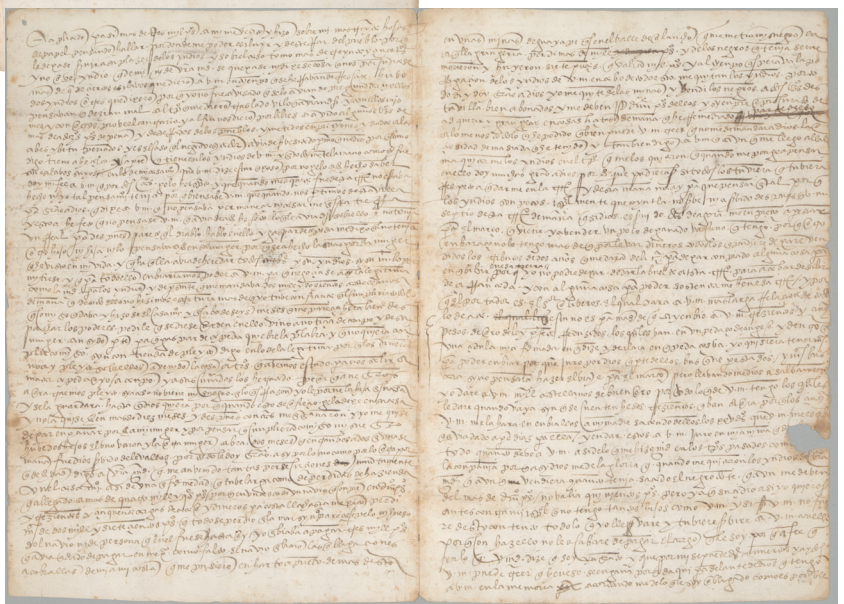
The letter elaborated about the loss of Indians in his properties and their redistribution among other Spanish settlers. It explained the local resistance to the ordinances coming from Spain and other political events in the Indies. Gómez also shared the details of his wedding, confiding that he married for interest and his conflict with his father-in-law Gaspar de Cepeda for not fulfilling his share of the agreement. Finally, as in previous letters, he complained about his commercial misfortunes, stating that he wanted to return to Spain and giving different explanations of why he was delayed in his payments to Alonso. Gómez sent with this letter 300 pesos in gold for Alonso and 50 for his mother.

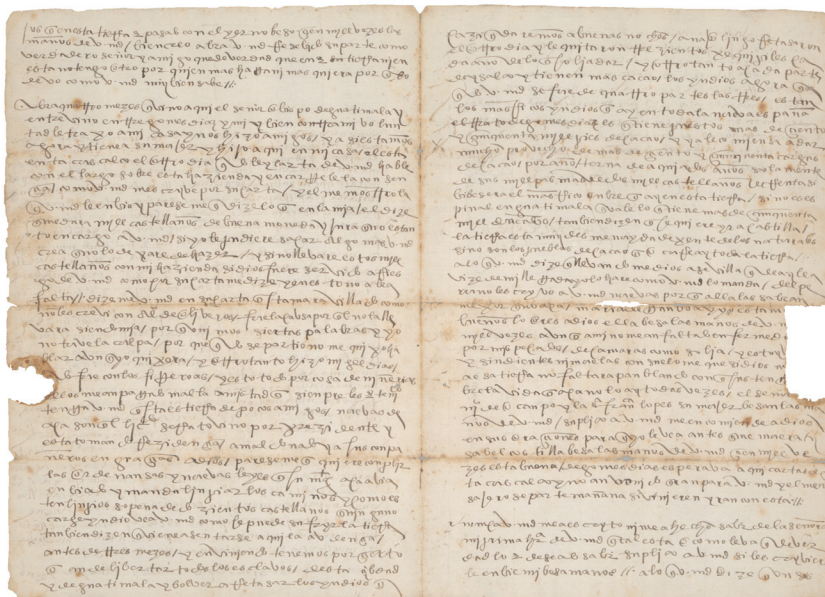


Above and left: Letter No. 1, sent from San Salvador to Medina del Campo, August 1545, pages 1, 6, 2 and 3. Documents relating to the estates and interests of Alonso Díaz de la Reguera in the Province of Guatemala and San Salvador, 1540-1549: and related materials, 1540-ca. 1750, BANC MSS 92/83 z:7, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.



Right: Letter No. 1, Sent from San Salvador to Medina del Campo, August 1545, pages 4 and 5. Documents relating to the estates and interests of Alonso Díaz de la Reguera in the Province of Guatemala and San Salvador, 1540-1549: and related materials, 1540-ca. 1750, BANC MSS 92/83 z:7, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.





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In the archive of Alonso Díaz de la Reguera there are no more letters from Gómez after this one. However, a power of attorney granted by Gaspar de Cepeda's daughter (Gómez wife) to Alonso Díaz in 1559, authorizing him to take possession of his deceased father's properties in Spain, would seem to prove that they were still in contact by then.

Letter No. 2. Sent by Gaspar de Cepeda from San Salvador to Alonso Díaz in the village of Medina del Campo (Sept. 10, 1548)

Similar to the previous one, this letter mentioned that Gaspar de Cepeda had received, on Aug. 25, 1548, a letter from Alonso Díaz, together with another two, one of them for Gómez. Cepeda explained his conflicts with Gómez and confirms that the latter had become very wealthy. He ended by commenting that he would return soon to Spain, carrying one thousand castellanos (coins) for Alonso sent by Gómez.

The importance of the Alonso Díaz de la Reguera Archive

The correspondence coming from the Alonso Díaz de la Reguera archive is very significant for both El Salvador and Central America in several ways. Historically, their content is relevant for the first-hand information they provide about the first years of the Colonial Period in Guatemala and El Salvador, a time that has very few primary sources.

From a postal history standpoint, besides being the earliest-known private mail sent from San Salvador, both letters mentioned the constant exchange of mail between Spain and Central America during the 16th century, an almost unknown aspect, as the region did not have any type of organized postal service until the creation of the *Correo Mayor* of Guatemala at the start of the 17th century.

We thank The Bancroft Library for its authorization to reproduce the following documents in this article:

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By a Vertical Line on the Face: The Introduction of Postcards with Divided Address Side

Per Gustafson

The early 1900s were the years of a global “postcard craze.” Since the introduction of the first prepaid postal stationery cards in 1869, postal cards had mainly been used by businesses for commercial correspondence. But as new printing techniques allowed the mass production of illustrated cards, the picture postcard rapidly became a popular way of sending images and short personal greetings to family, friends and acquaintances, near and far. Picture postcards first appeared in commercial production in the 1880s, started to gain popularity – primarily in Europe – in the 1890s and turned into a global mass phenomenon during the first years of the new century.¹

An important event in the development of the picture postcard was the introduction, in 1902, of the divided address side. Previously, the address side had only been used for the address, whereas personal messages had been written on the image side. But when the address side was divided by a vertical line, the left half could be used for personal correspondence.

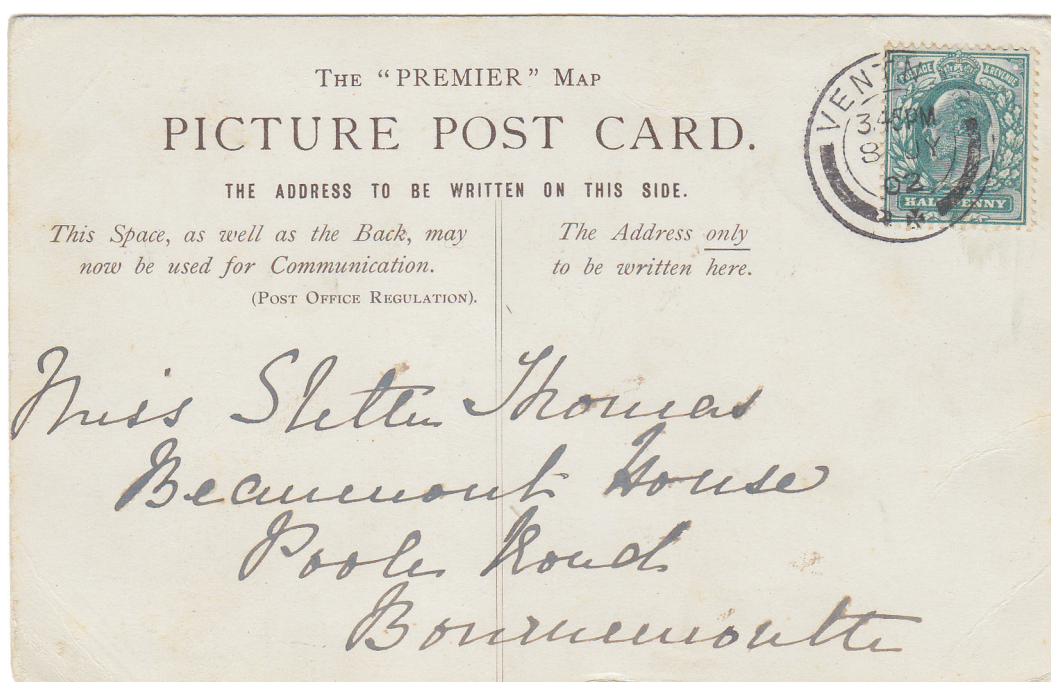


Figure 1. U.K., inland use, July 8, 1902. ½d postcard rate. Earliest divided card recorded by the author.

When the divided address side was introduced, it was not in accordance with the current rules of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Yet postcards with divided address side – in this article described as “divided postcards” – rapidly became popular and came to be used in many countries before the UPU finally decided to accept them, in 1907. This caused considerable problems in international mail

exchange. Thousands of frustrated correspondents all over the world had to pay postage due for divided cards that were not accepted at the postcard rate.

At the same time, postal authorities in many countries made efforts to facilitate the use of divided cards. This makes the introduction of divided postcards an interesting episode in international postal history.² This article examines that episode and how the postal treatment of early divided postcards was affected by national rules and practices, international agreements of various kinds and UPU rules.

The article draws on a range of data from different countries – postal regulations, newspapers, archival records, more recent postal history literature and correspondence with other postal history collectors. Of particular importance was the discovery, in the Swedish National Archives, of a file containing all international correspondence of the Swedish Post Office between 1903 and 1906 on the subject of divided postcards.³ This file showed in detail how the question was discussed and how agreements were made between national postal administrations prior to the 1906 UPU Congress.

An additional source of information is a survey made by the international bureau of the UPU in November 1905.⁴ All members were asked four questions about their rules and practices regarding divided postcards:

- 1) Are divided cards permitted for inland use in your country?
- 2) Have you made agreements with other countries about accepting divided cards? If so, which countries?
- 3) Does your country strike “T” [tax] marks on outgoing divided cards to countries with which you have no agreement?
- 4) Do you charge postage due for incoming cards without “T” marks from countries with which you have no agreement?

Replies from 48 of the member states were published by the international bureau between December 1905 and May 1906. These replies give useful information about the situation at the time of the survey.

Introduction of the Divided Address Side

The invention of the divided address side is attributed to German postcard manufacturer Frederick Hartmann, who produced cards for the British market. In response to a query from Hartmann, a message from the British Postmaster General was published in the *Picture Postcard Magazine* in January 1902:

... postcards may bear on the front, i.e. address side, a continuation of the message, or the name and address of the sender, or even an advertisement, so long as such matter does not interfere in any way with the legibility of the address.

This message did not refer to any new postal regulations, but to existing rules, in force since 1897. Yet it has been interpreted as the *de facto* acceptance of divided postcards in the United Kingdom.⁵ There was also a letter published in *The Times* of Jan. 30, 1902, referring to a communication from the secretary of the British Postmaster General, confirming that writing on the left-hand half of the address side of postcards was permitted.⁶

Yet, for some reason, postcards with a dividing line on the address side did not appear until the summer of that year. Figure 1 shows a very early divided card, postmarked July 8, 1902, with the characteristic phrase "This Space, as well as the Back, may now be used for Communication."

The divided address side was not in accordance with then-current UPU regulations, which said that only the address and other postal notes were allowed on the address side of a postcard. Any personal correspondence should be written on the "back" of the card. This meant that the first divided cards could only be used within the United Kingdom. If sent abroad, with messages written on the address side, they did not qualify for the postcard rate but required letter postage.⁷

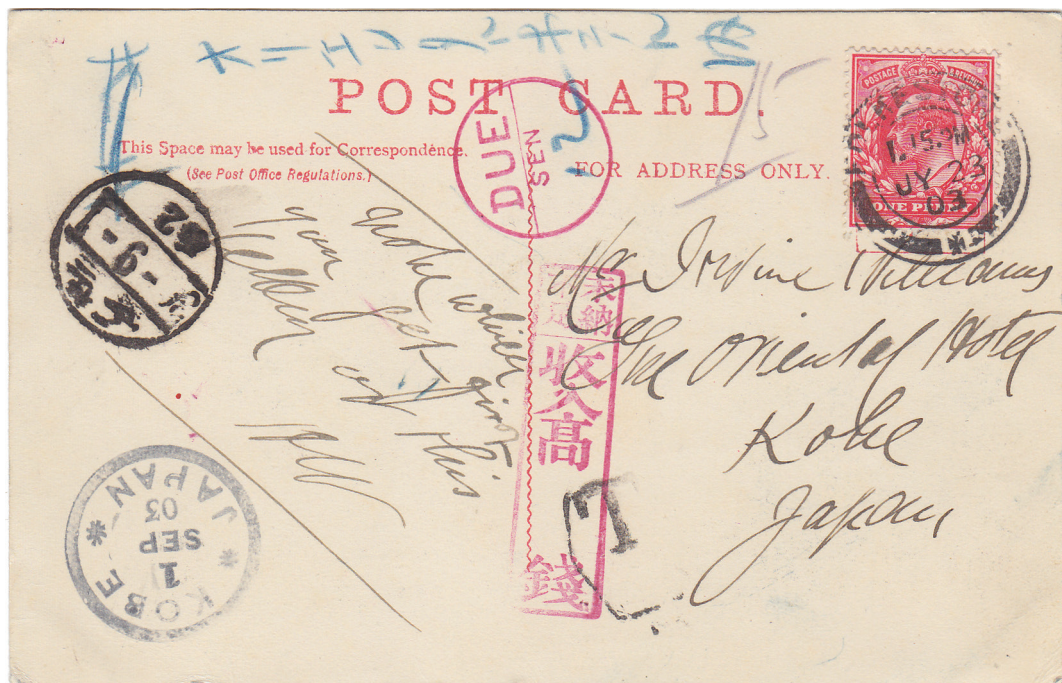


Figure 2. United Kingdom to Japan, July 23, 1903. 1d postcard rate, 12 sen postage due.

Figure 2 shows an example of this. It is a divided card sent to Japan in July 1903 with only postcard postage (1d) and was taxed as a letter because of the short message written on the address side. The addressee was charged 12 sen postage due – twice the difference between the British foreign postcard rate and letter rate converted to Japanese currency. Relatively soon, many British divided cards came to have printed instructions, saying that messages on the address side were only allowed for inland mail. This had some effect, but many cards continued to be sent abroad with correspondence on the address side.

From 1903 onwards, divided postcards spread to other countries. Correspondents and postcard collectors appreciated the cards, as they provided more space for correspondence and left the image side "clean." Among the countries that allowed divided cards already in 1903 were New Zealand, France, Canada, Switzerland and Portugal.⁸

Other postal administrations followed suit – important countries, such as Russia, Austria, Hungary and Australia in 1904⁹, and several other European countries in 1905.¹⁰ Among the last countries in the world was the United States, where divided cards were not allowed to be sent until March 1907.¹¹ Figure 3 shows a divided postcard, with correspondence on the address side, sent during the first month it was allowed. The card has a printed instruction: “After March 1, 1907, this space may be used for a written message, using a one-cent stamp.”

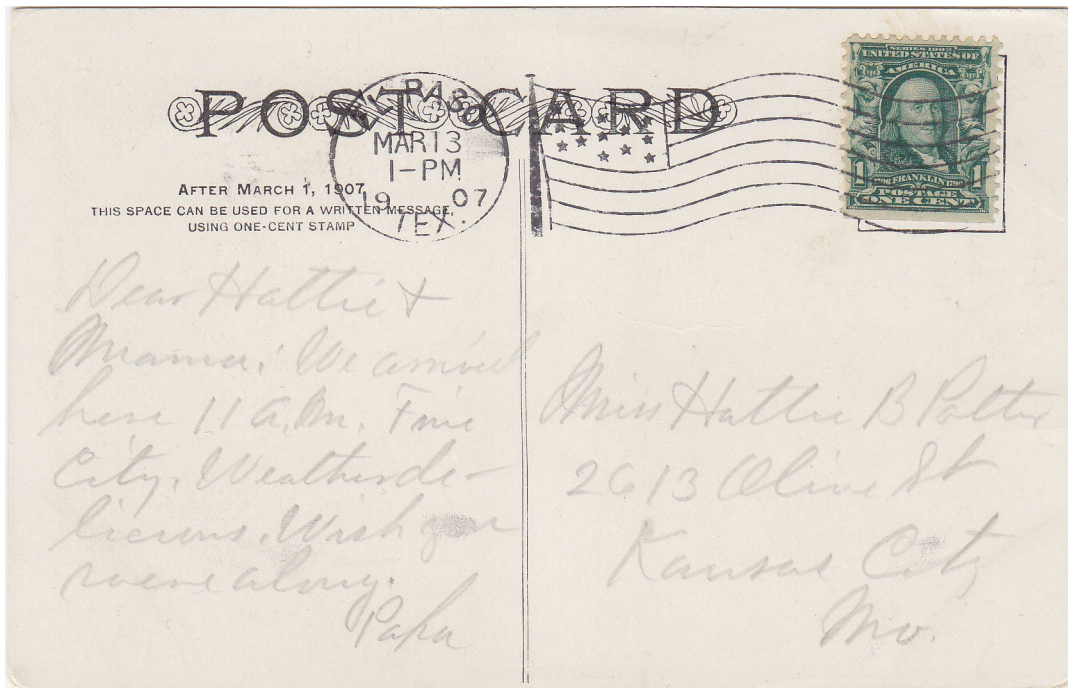


Figure 3. United States, inland use, March 13, 1907, at the 1¢ postcard rate.

Organizing the International Exchange of Divided Cards

In international mail exchange, divided cards were to be taxed as letters if they had correspondence on the address side, due to the then-current UPU regulations. But already in November 1903, when France decided to accept divided cards, the French Post Office took an initiative to enable their international use. A letter was sent to the other UPU members, informing them that France would suggest to the next UPU Congress that divided cards should be accepted in international mail exchange. In addition, the letter asked whether the other postal administrations would be willing to exchange divided postcards with France at the postcard rate with immediate effect, i.e. before the question had been settled by the UPU.¹² Some countries seem to have responded favorably to the French inquiry. Yet many postal administrations wanted to await an eventual revision of the common UPU rules, rather than to make agreements on a bilateral basis, as suggested by France.

The next UPU Congress was to be held in Rome in 1904. However, the congress was postponed, for political and administrative reasons, and would not be held until 1906.¹³ In the meantime, more and more countries allowed the use of divided cards. Increasing numbers of such cards were also sent abroad and surcharged as underpaid letters. The need to facilitate the international

use of divided cards became urgent, and the French suggestion about mutual acceptance became part of the solution. Many countries made bilateral agreements about exchanging divided postcards at the postcard rate. In addition, several countries made unilateral decisions to accept divided cards in incoming mail, outgoing mail or both. The Imperial Penny Postage scheme, in force in most of the British empire since late 1898, also made it easier to use divided postcards internationally.

The UPU Congress in Rome was finally held in spring 1906 and a decision was made to allow divided cards in all international mail exchange.¹⁴ The decision entered into force on Oct. 1, 1907, but the UPU members could choose to apply the new regulations earlier – which many members did.



Figure 4. Italy (UPU Congress in Rome) to France, May 23, 1906, with 10 centesimi postcard rate (bilateral agreement) and 25 centesimi registration fee.

Figure 4 shows a registered divided postcard (yes, there is a faint dividing line!), sent from the 1906 UPU Congress in Rome, with postmarks and a registration label from the special post office of the congress. Despite the message on the address side, the card could be sent at the 10 centesimi postcard rate as a bilateral agreement between Italy and France was already in place.¹⁵ In addition, there was a 25 centesimi registration fee.

Thus, from the introduction in 1902 until the full UPU acceptance in October 1907, the treatment of divided cards sent internationally depended on an interplay between bilateral agreements, unilateral decisions, various national practices, one important multilateral arrangement (the penny postage scheme) and the earlier UPU regulations, which did not allow postcards with messages on the address side. In addition, rules and practices were in more-or-less constant change. The following sections illustrate this, and the confusion it caused among both correspondents and postmen.

Bilateral Agreements

The French Post Office initiated bilateral agreements in the letter sent to other UPU members in November 1903. A first round of agreements was announced in a French postal bulletin in May 1904. From May 16 onwards, divided cards with messages on the address side were allowed in the exchange between France and 13 other countries and, in addition, to all French colonies.

Over the following two years, an intense correspondence about the exchange of divided cards took place between postal administrations around the world. Numerous agreements were made between different pairs of countries at different points in time. They were usually announced in postal circulars or bulletins. In the post offices, lists with "permitted" countries had to be updated as new agreements were made, sometimes on a weekly basis. For example, France announced 48 different agreements between May 1904 and October 1906¹⁶ and the United Kingdom announced agreements with more than 50 different countries and territories between December 1905 and August 1906.¹⁷

Figure 5 shows a card sent from France to Italy in late May 1904. Italy was one of the first countries to make bilateral agreements with France, and this card was accepted at the 10 centimes postcard rate the first month that agreement was in force.



Figure 5. France to Italy, May 28, 1904, 10 centimes postcard rate (bilateral agreement).



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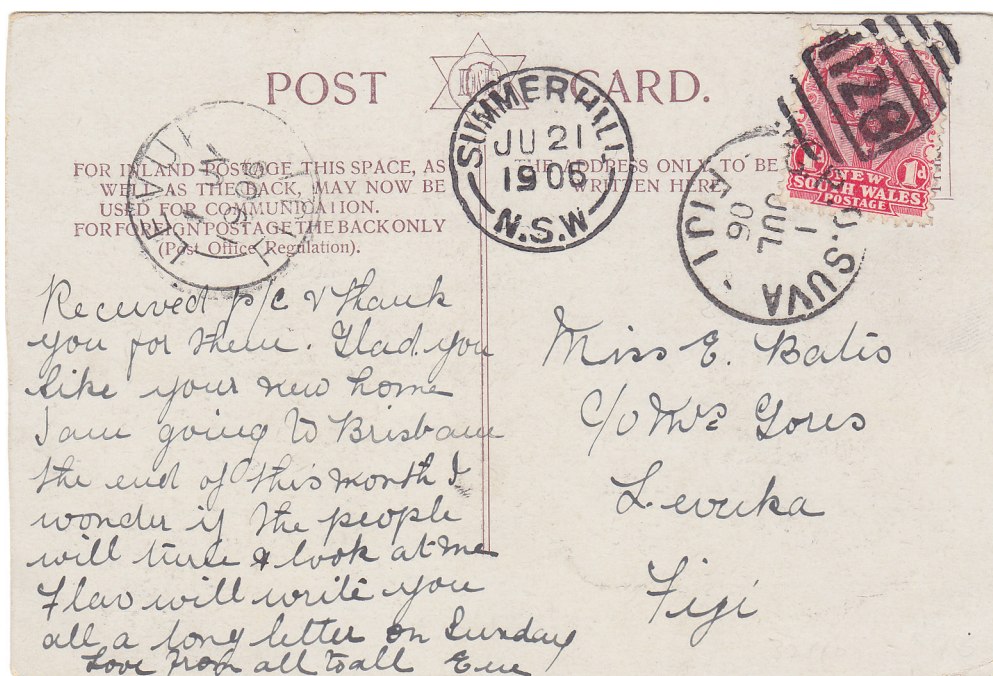


Figure 6. New South Wales (Australia) to Fiji, June 21, 1906, 1d postcard rate (bilateral agreement).

Most agreements involved European countries, but there were also initiatives in other parts of the world. For example, the commonwealth of Australia made a number of agreements, mostly with other British colonies. Figure 6 shows a divided card sent from New South Wales to Fiji in June 1906. The bilateral agreement between Australia and Fiji was recorded on May 14, 1906, just before the end of the Rome Congress.¹⁸ Once the Rome Congress ended, however, relatively few new bilateral agreements were reported. Several countries instead began to apply the new UPU regulations about acceptance of divided cards shortly after the congress.

Bilateral agreements were usually mutual, allowing divided cards to be sent at the postcard rate in both directions between the countries involved. But there were exceptions, where divided cards could be sent at the postcard rate in one direction, but required letter postage in the other. For example, Germany allowed inland use of divided cards in February 1905, and at the same time decided that no postage due should be charged for divided cards arriving from abroad. It seems that Germany also informed other European countries about this policy. Several countries therefore announced, in the spring or summer of 1905, that divided cards could be sent to Germany with only postcard postage. Yet divided cards sent from Germany to other European countries required letter postage until at least Sept. 1, 1905.¹⁹

The purpose of bilateral agreements was to facilitate the international use of divided cards. Yet, as agreements were made with different countries at different points in time, it became difficult for the public to keep track of current regulations. The card shown in Figure 7 was sent from Sweden to Spain in July 1905 with 10 öre postcard postage. At that time, Sweden had made bilateral agreements with six different European countries, but an agreement with Spain was not announced until late January 1906;²⁰ the card was therefore surcharged

as a letter. The Swedish post office applied a "T" and a tax mark indicating a deficiency corresponding to 12½ French centimes. A Spanish tax mark shows that the addressee had to pay 25 centimos postage due – double the deficiency in Spanish currency.



Figure 7. Sweden to Spain, July 21, 1905, 10 öre postcard rate, 25 centimos postage due.

At times, even postal clerks made errors and applied tax marks on cards sent to countries with which bilateral agreements were already in place. Figure 8 shows an interesting card from Australia to the United Kingdom, sent on Nov. 22, 1905, at the 1d postcard rate. A bilateral agreement about sending divided cards at the postcard rate from Australia to the United Kingdom was recorded by the Australian Postmaster General on that same day.²¹ The card was initially surcharged as an underpaid letter, with a tax mark indicating a 10 centimes deficiency. But information about the agreement apparently reached the post office in Melbourne later that day, or at least before the card was sent off to the United Kingdom. The tax mark was therefore deleted and no postage due was charged upon arrival. It also happened that postmen failed to apply tax marks in cases where they should have done so.

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Imperial Penny Postage

The Imperial Penny Postage represents a special case in the postal treatment of divided postcards. UPU regulations gave members the right to make agreements about lower postal rates than those decided by the UPU. This was often done by neighboring countries. A more far-reaching initiative was taken

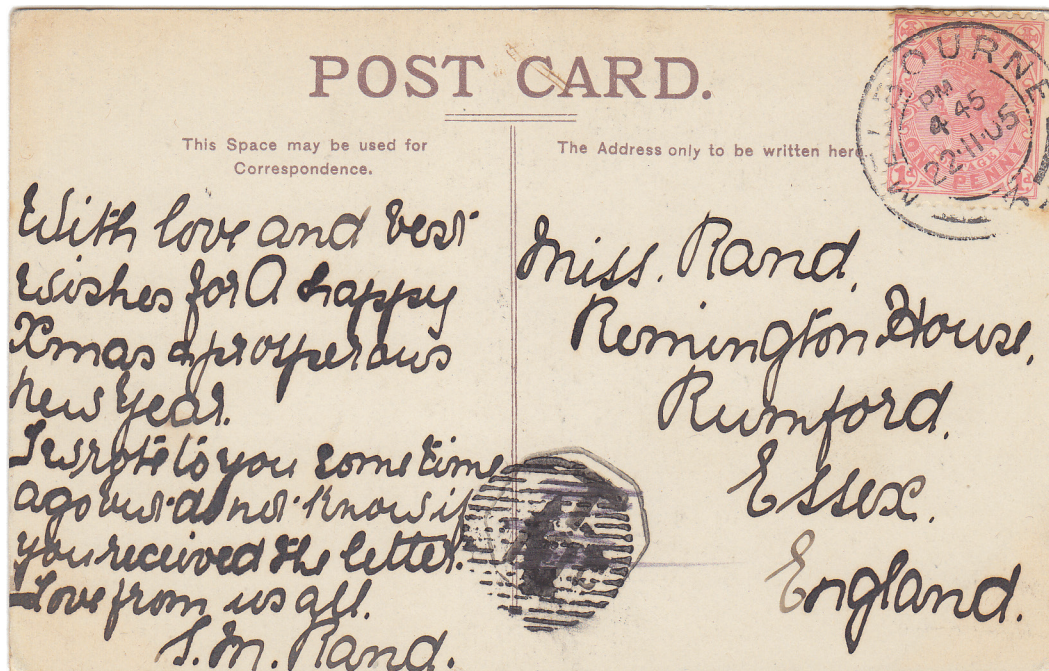


Figure 8. Victoria (Australia) to the United Kingdom, Nov. 22, 1905, 1d postcard rate, tax mark obliterated (bilateral agreement).



Figure 9. United Kingdom to Malta, Aug. 15, 1903, 1d imperial penny postage.

by postal officials of the United Kingdom and members of the British Empire on Dec. 25, 1898, with the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage. Among the members of the penny postage scheme, letters of ½ oz., as well as postcards, could be sent for one penny, which was the normal foreign postcard rate. Membership in this scheme was optional, but most British colonies, dominions, protectorates and other related territories joined, either from the start or in the following years. The most important exception was Australia, which was not part of the penny postage scheme when divided cards were introduced.²²

As the penny postage applied to both letters and postcards, divided cards with correspondence on the address side could be sent at the normal foreign postcard rate in most parts of the British empire. Figure 9 shows an early example of this. The card was sent from the United Kingdom to Malta in August 1903 with 1d postage, some nine months before the first bilateral agreements were made about divided cards in international mail exchange.

Unilateral Acceptance of Divided Postcards

To further complicate matters, many postal authorities made unilateral decisions to facilitate international exchange of divided cards. As suggested by the previously mentioned UPU survey, postal authorities might decide to abstain from striking tax marks on outgoing postcards, to abstain from charging postage due for divided cards that arrived from abroad without tax marks, or both. In certain cases, divided cards could therefore be sent at the postcard rate even if no bilateral agreement was in place.

The card shown in Figure 10 was sent from Austria to Sweden. A bilateral agreement between these two countries was announced in a Swedish postal circular on March 30, 1906. Yet this card, sent on March 1, 1906, was still accepted at the 10 heller postcard rate. The reason for this was unilateral decisions taken by both countries. Austria had made a unilateral decision, published on Feb. 28, 1905, that no tax marks should be struck on outgoing divided postcards. Sweden, for its part, had made a unilateral decision to abstain from charging postage due for incoming cards arriving without tax marks, whether or not a bilateral agreement was in place. That decision was in force since April 1, 1905, when divided cards were allowed for inland use in Sweden.²³

A few countries went even further and decided that no postage due should be charged for incoming cards – even if they arrived with tax marks. Russia made such a decision in December 1903.²⁴ Figure 11 shows a divided card from the United States to Russia, sent in October 1906. The United States did not allow outgoing divided postcards until March 1, 1907.²⁵ Consequently, this card received a 15 centimes tax mark in New York, indicating the difference between the foreign postcard rate (2¢) and letter rate (5¢) in French currency. Yet the Russian post deleted the tax mark and charged no postage due, in accordance with its unilateral decision.

Somewhat surprisingly, the United States had made a similar decision in late June 1906.²⁶ This decision meant that incoming divided cards were not surcharged in the United States, even if they arrived with tax marks. At the same time, the United States applied tax marks on outgoing divided cards only if the postcard rate was paid. No wonder the public got confused!

Unilateral Non-Acceptance of Divided Postcards

In international mail exchange, it was normally the post office of the sending country that should signal, with a “T” (tax) mark, if a postal item was underpaid. But if mail arrived without tax marks, the post office of the receiving country could still charge postage due “in case of obvious error,” according to UPU.



Figure 10. Austria to Sweden, March 1, 1906, 10 heller postcard rate (unilateral decisions).



Figure 11. United States to Russia, Oct. 5, 1906, 2¢ postcard rate. The U.S. tax mark was deleted on arrival (unilateral decision by Russia).

rules.²⁷ Several countries charged postage due for divided postcards arriving from abroad even if they did not have tax marks from the sending country.

The United States systematically treated incoming divided cards as underpaid letters until the decision in late June 1906 to accept cards from abroad at the postcard rate.²⁸ The card shown in Figure 12 was sent from the Dominican Republic in February 1906. The card arrived in the United States without tax marks, probably due to a unilateral decision by the post office of the Dominican Republic to abstain from applying tax marks on outgoing divided cards.²⁹ Yet, when the card arrived in the United States, the addressee was charged 6¢ postage due, representing twice the difference between foreign postcard and letter rate.



Figure 12. Dominican Republic to the United States, Feb. 7, 1906, 2 centavos postcard rate, 6¢ postage due (unilateral decision by the United States).

Several European countries also charged postage due for divided cards arriving without tax marks, at least up until the date when they accepted divided cards for domestic use. The U.K. continued surcharging incoming cards until December 1905 when they announced their first bilateral agreements about international exchange of divided cards.

One potential problem with applying the rule about “obvious error” was that there was no indication of missing postage from the sending country. It was therefore up to the post office of the destination country to determine how much postage due to charge. That sometimes led to additional errors, as the difference between foreign postcard and letter rates was not the same in all countries.

Another “unilateral” practice was to apply tax marks on transit mail. There was no explicit support in UPU rules for this practice, yet available material shows that it occurred in a few countries. The most prominent case was Germany. The German Post Office announced on Sept. 4, 1906, that divided

postcards could be sent to non-European destinations. But prior to that date, the German post consistently struck tax marks on all divided cards sent outside Europe, including transit mail, regardless of bilateral agreements or unilateral decisions made by sending and destination countries.

Figure 13 shows a divided card sent from Hungary to Brazil in August 1906 with 10 fillér postage for the foreign postcard rate. By then, Hungary had made a unilateral decision that tax marks should not be struck on outgoing divided cards and Brazil did not charge postage due for incoming cards without tax marks.³⁰ But when the card passed through Germany, it received a German tax mark (partly covered by a Brazilian postage due stamp), and the post in Brazil charged postage due accordingly. There is no visible note about deficient postage, but 240 réis due represents twice the difference between Hungarian postcard and letter rate.



Figure 13. Hungary to Brazil, August 25, 1906. 10 fillér postcard rate, 240 réis postage due (because of German tax mark applied in transit).

Tax marks on transit mail are also known from the United Kingdom and the United States. In the United Kingdom, divided cards from British colonies that passed through London might receive tax marks if they had only letter postage. I have also seen two cards to Canada, sent from Germany and Martinique, with U.S. tax marks. However, these tax marks may have been struck in error by postal clerks who did not notice that the destination was Canada and not the United States.

Divided Cards Sent with Letter Postage

Before the exchange of divided cards was permitted between a given pair of countries – by a bilateral agreement, by unilateral decision(s) or by the UPU rules from the 1906 Rome Congress – divided cards with correspondence on the address side did not qualify for the postcard rate, but required letter postage. Postcard writers were often not aware of this. In several countries, the postal

authorities and the producers of postcards tried to inform the public that correspondence should not be written on the address side of cards sent abroad, or that this was only allowed to certain countries. Printed instructions to this effect often appeared on the address side of divided cards – in France such an instruction was even prescribed by the postal regulations.³¹

The possibility to write a message on the address side and apply letter postage was rarely mentioned in such instructions. Moreover, those few correspondents who knew the rules mostly preferred to write their messages on the image side rather than paying the more expensive letter rate. Divided cards with correct letter postage are, therefore, difficult to find.



Figure 14. Germany to France, May 23, 1905, 20 pfennig letter rate.

The card shown in Figure 14 was sent from Germany to France in May 1905. Divided cards were allowed for inland use in Germany from February that year, but could not be sent to France with postcard postage until September.³² The sender was aware of this and applied 20 pfennig letter postage.

Figure 15 shows a postcard from Australia (Victoria) to Japan on Nov. 23, 1905. The overseas postcard rate from Australia was 1½d, but this card has 2½d letter postage. There is no recorded agreement between Australia and Japan, so letter postage was required. What makes the card particularly interesting is a short article printed in an Australian newspaper on Nov. 22, 1905 – the day before the card was sent:

POSTCARDS. With reference to the arrangement recently made as regards postcards for transmission within the Commonwealth [of Australia], and between the Commonwealth and New Zealand, for the face of the cards to be divided by a vertical line, the space to the left of the line to be utilised, if desired, for a written communication, and to the right for the address, the postal authorities advise the receipt of a notification



Figure 15. Victoria (Australia) to Japan, Nov. 23, 1905. 2½d letter rate.

from the Japanese postal administration that cards divided as described above have been forwarded to Japan, where they are not allowed to circulate as postcards, and are therefore surcharged on delivery with double the deficient postage.³³

It also happened that letter postage was paid in situations where this was no longer necessary due to recently made bilateral agreements or unilateral decisions. In such cases, one may guess that the sender had been informed that the addressee had been charged postage due for a previous card.

Conclusion

The introduction of divided postcards is an interesting episode in international postal history. From 1902, when the divided address side first appeared in the United Kingdom, until 1907, when universal acceptance was granted by new UPU regulations, divided cards caused considerable confusion and frustration among postmen and correspondents around the world. This article has shown how and why divided cards were accepted at the postcard rate, surcharged as underpaid letters or – much less often – sent with letter postage.

The absence of common UPU regulations, together with the large volumes of postcards sent internationally during the early postcard craze, provoked a situation that reminds one of pre-UPU conditions. National postal administrations made numerous bilateral agreements about accepting divided cards at the postcard rate. Various unilateral decisions and practices also came to play an important role, as did the Imperial Penny Postage scheme for most parts of the British empire. Even though these agreements and decisions mostly aimed at facilitating international mail exchange and the use of divided postcards, the result was an array of constantly changing rules and practices. In the early 1900s, this was a real challenge for postal administrations, postmen and correspondents. Today, it is a fascinating subject for postal history collectors.

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- ⁵ Tonie Holt & Valmai Holt, *Picture Postcards of the Golden Age: A Collector's Guide* (London: Postcard Publishing Company, 1978), pp. 38-41. The 1897 rules were in *The Inland Post Warrant*, June 16, 1897, point 7.
- ⁶ John Copeland, "Picture Postcards," *The London Philatelist*, vol. 126, June 2017, page 291.
- ⁷ UPU, *Convention of Washington, June 15, 1897, Together with the Detailed Regulations for Its Execution*, XV.1 and XV.7. However, divided cards could also be sent to other members of the Imperial Penny Postage scheme, as discussed later in the article.
- ⁸ New Zealand: Alan Jackson, *Extracts from New Zealand Postcards Rates and Regulations to 1939*, Postal History Society of New Zealand Handbook No. 21, 1984; France: *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes et des Télégraphes* (France), No. 13, November 1903; Canada: Allan L. Steinhart, *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1871-1911*, (Toronto: Mission Press, 1979); Switzerland: Administration des postes suisses, *Ordres de service*, No. 129, 23 December 1903 (PTT-Archiv, P-14-2_1903); Portugal: O Ministro e Secretario de Estado dos Negocios das Obras Publicas, Commercio e Industria, Decreto of Dec. 24, 1903, published in *Diario do Governo* No. 293, Dec. 29, 1903.
- ⁹ Russia: Circular from the Head of the Russian Post and Telegraph, No. 21, Feb. 16 [29], 1904, quoted in: Poststyrelsen i Finland, *Bihang till Poststyrelsens i Finland cirkulär*, No. 3, March 1904; Austria and Hungary: Ernst Bernardini & Helmut Pfalz, *100 Jahre Österreichische Portomarken*, (Vienna: Authors, 1994), page 208; Australia: *Western Mail*, "Pictorial post cards," Dec. 10, 1904.
- ¹⁰ James Peter Gough, *The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union: The Postal Card Worldwide, 1869–1974*. (London: Royal Philatelic Society London, 2019), p. 811.
- ¹¹ *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* (USA), Nov. 1, 1906.
- ¹² Postverket, Kanslibyrån (089, F1A:180), *Internationella illustrerade brevkort 1903-1906*, unpublished archival records, The National Archives, Stockholm/Arninge.
- ¹³ Postverket, Kanslibyrån (089), F1A:89 Wienkongressen 1891, Washington 1897, Rom 1906 (The Post Office, Sweden, documents concerning UPU congresses 1891-1906), unpublished archival records, The National Archives, Stockholm/Arninge.
- ¹⁴ UPU, *Convention of Rome, May 26, 1906, Together with the Detailed Regulations for Its Execution*, XVI.2.
- ¹⁵ *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes et des Télégraphes* (France), No. 5, May 1904.
- ¹⁶ *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes et des Télégraphes* (France), 1904-1906.
- ¹⁷ *Post Office Circular* (U.K.), 1905-1906; see James Peter Gough, *The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union: The Postal Card Worldwide, 1869-1974*. (London: Royal Philatelic Society London, 2019), page 814.
- ¹⁸ Postmaster General ledger, AP236/6, *Postal Alterations* Vol. 2, National Archives of Australia, Adelaide (information supplied by Martin Walker).

¹⁹ *Amtsblatt des Reichs-Postamts* (Germany), No. 42, Vf. 65, 1905.

²⁰ Per Gustafson, "Divided postcards: Their introduction and early postal history in Scandinavia," *The Posthorn*, 2014, Vol. 71, No. 3, pp. 6-18.

²¹ Postmaster-General ledger, AP236/6, *Postal Alterations* Vol. 2, National Archives of Australia, Adelaide (information supplied by Martin Walker).

²² *The Mercury*, "Penny Postage: Australia Congratulated," May 3, 1911, page 5.

²³ Sweden: Per Gustafson, "Divided postcards: Their introduction and early postal history in Scandinavia," *The Posthorn*, 2014, Vol. 71, No. 3, pp. 6-18; Austria: Ernst Bernardini & Helmut Pfalz, *100 Jahre Österreichische Portomarken*, (Vienna: Authors, 1994), page 208.

²⁴ Circular from the Head of the Russian Post and Telegraph, No. 121, Dec. 10 [23], 1903, quoted in: *Poststyrelsen i Finland, Bihang till Poststyrelsens i Finland cirkulär*, No. 9, September 1905.

²⁵ *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* (USA), Nov. 1, 1906.

²⁶ *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* (USA), June 29, 1906.

²⁷ UPU, *Convention of Washington 15 June 1897, Together with the Detailed Regulations for Its Execution*, regulations VIII.5 and VIII.7.

²⁸ *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* (USA), June 29, 1906.

²⁹ UPU, message from the international bureau, No. 1448/72, March 15, 1906.

³⁰ UPU, messages from the international bureau, No. 5054/270, Dec. 28, 1905 (Hungary), and No. 633/32, Feb. 5, 1906 (Brazil).

³¹ *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes et des Télégraphes* (France), No. 13, November 1903, and No. 5, May 1904. See also Per Gustafson, "Divided postcards with postage due 1902-1907," *The London Philatelist*. Vol. 124, June 2015, pp. 194-208, Figure 22.

³² *Amtsblatt des Reichs-Postamts* (Germany), No. 2, Vf. 2, and No. 42, Vf. 65, 1905.

³³ *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Postcards," Nov. 22, 1905.

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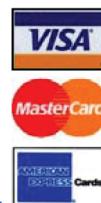
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The Imperforate 4-Skilling Portrait of King Oscar (Scott No. 4a) Norway's Most Valuable Stamp and the 1856-60 Issue (Scott Nos. 2-5).

By Georg Størmer FRPSL

The imperforate 4-skilling Oscar

Since the second half of the 19th century, Norwegian stamp collectors searched old family correspondence hoping to find an imperforate 4-skilling stamp with portrait of King Oscar (Figure 1), Scott No. 4a. The normal perforated stamps were used in large quantities as postage on single domestic letters and might, at the time, have been bought from dealers in bags of 1,000 for less than \$5 U.S. equivalent.



Figure 1. The imperforate 4-skilling Oscar canceled FREDERIKSHALD April 11, 1862. Ex Dr. Per Gellein Norwex 80.

In the library of Oslo Filatelistklubb "OFK," founded Dec. 11, 1886, there are philatelic books going back to the 1860s. We find the first information about the imperforate 4-skilling stamp in the monthly circular *Nordisk Frimærkeblad*, dated Oct. 31, 1886. In a footnote on page 19,¹ Mr. Ulleberg, the editor, writes that the 4-skilling Oscar "also exists imperforate, very rare."

The founders of OFK corresponded with European philatelists and probably exchanged information about the imperforate 4-skilling stamp. The first foreign reference in the library appeared in the widely read *Handbuch für Postmarken-Sammler*, published in Leipzig 1888.² On page 273 we are told that Mr. Moschkau, the editor on several occasions, had handled used examples of the imperforate 4-skilling, but that the stamp was not issued officially. Prices were only indicated for perforated stamps.

Census of the imperforate 4-skilling stamp

Recently Tore Berg, the president of OFK, and the author made a census of the imperforate 4 skilling by going through documents in the OFK library. Each item and its provenance were recorded and illustrations were scanned. It was helpful that all items were canceled with dated postmarks "p.m." (Figure 1), and thus were easily distinguished. The 38 recorded items were illustrated in *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* 2/2020 pages 47-54.³

Cancellations

The imperforate stamps were used from 1861-63 and had mostly the same shades of blue as the original 4-skilling issue (Scott No. 4) printed in 1856. The only exceptions were the stamps canceled Frederikshald April 4, 1862 (Figure 1), which all have a distinctly greenish-blue color (Scott No. 4d).

The recorded postmarks are indicated on the map (Figure 2), by numbers: 1. Housund, 2. Frederikshald, 3. Laurvig and 4. Christianssand. The locations are all within 300 km from Christiania (today Oslo) and easily reached overland.

The earliest postmark was Hougsund, Feb. 19, 1861. The latest cancellation was Christianssand, March 12, 1863.

Interestingly, the postmarks were concentrated around certain dates. Most items from Hougsund were canceled Feb. 19, 1861, all from Frederikshald were postmarked April 11, 1862, and all from Laurvig were July 26-27, 1862. The Christianssand cancellations with sans-serif capital letters were dated around the turn of the year 1862-63, while the Christianssand cancellations with large Roman capital letters had dates in early spring 1863 (dates are difficult to read).



Figure 2. The map shows the locations of the 38 imperforate stamps recorded.

The following is a review of the 38 recorded items, with selected illustrations. Pairs or larger multiples are not known:

1. **Hougsund** (today Hokksund, a small industrial town West of the City of Drammen): six items recorded.

The single item shown in Figure 3 was canceled Feb. 19, 1861, the earliest-dated imperforate 4-skilling stamp. Four singles, of which three are defective



Figure 3. These two items were both exhibited by members of Kristiania Filatelist Klub at the Frogner Jubilee Exhibition in July 1914. The cover, which was sent to Christiania (now Oslo), with the imperforate 4 skilling, was canceled March 9, 1861. The single imperforate stamp, canceled Feb. 19, 1861, was also exhibited by Mr. Abraham Odfjell RDP (1881-1960) at the exhibition held by the Bergen Filatelistklub in October 1919. Author's collection (AC).

(badly separated) and two covers (one damaged) are recorded, all printed in the original blue of 1856. All are postmarked "HOUGSUND" in February-March 1861, with sans-serif capital letters (postmark issued 1859).

2. Frederikshald (today Halden): seven items recorded.

The seven recorded items are all broad-margined examples in the scarce greenish-blue shade. They are all canceled April 11, 1862, with the pre-stamp **FREDERIKSHALD** postmark with large Roman capital letters, issued 1848 (Figures 1 and 4).

In my collection there is a cover canceled at Frederikshald Aug. 24, 1863, with 5 perforated stamps in the scarce greenish-blue shade (Figure 5), an indication that a package of both perforated and imperforate sheets of the 4-skilling stamp was received.



Figure 4. Imperforate 4 skilling canceled Frederikshald April 11, 1862. AC



Figure 5. Single folded letter with five examples of the perforated 4-skilling stamp in the scarce greenish blue shade, sent from Frederikshald via French mail from Hamburg to merchants Louis Sebert at Saint-Brieuc, Brittany, France Aug. 24, 1863, with 26 skillings total postage. AC

3. Laurvig (Larvik today): eight items recorded.

A total of eight singles are recorded, all with nice margins. They are canceled LAURVIG July 26-27, 1862, with small Roman capital letters (postmark issued 1858, Figure 6).

4. Christianssand (Kristiansand today): 17 items recorded.

The imperforate 4-skilling stamps canceled at Christianssand were apparently used in two distinct periods: nine singles and two part-covers canceled "CHRISTIANSAND" with sans-serif capital letters (postmark issued 1858) from November 1862 through January 1863 and six singles canceled

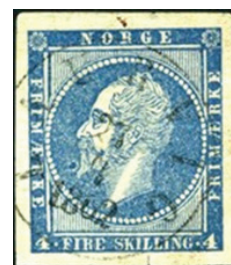


Figure 6. Imperforate example, canceled Laurvig July 27, 1862.

Figure 7. The imperforate 4 skilling, illustrated by two singles and one on cover front, all canceled at Christianssand. One single stamp and the cover front were canceled with sans-serif capital letters (1858) Jan. 8, 1863 and Nov. 29, 1862 (to Balestrand on the Sognefjord, North of Bergen). The other single on large piece (reduced) was canceled March 8, 1863, with large Roman capital letters (1848). This item was discovered in Stavanger in 1942 and was exhibited for the first time by the Norway expert F.C. Moldenhauer at Norwex 80. AC



in early spring 1863 by the pre-stamp "CHRISTIANSSAND" postmark with large Roman capital letters (issued 1848) and unclear dates (Figure 7).

Plating studies

The illustrations in Tore Gjelsvik's RDP book, *The Skilling Oscar Stamps*,⁴ pages 58-77 and a plating study by the late Norwegian expert C.M. Henriksen (now in my collection), made it possible to find the sheet position for 27 imperforate stamps among the 38 recorded examples. This was helped by five imperforate stamps in my collection, plus several high-quality scans.

The plating of the imperforate 4-skilling stamp is difficult due to a number of white and blue spots that we don't find on Gjelsvik's illustrations. His illustrations were based on the first printing of 1856, and the changes I notice are due to subsequent plate wear in the 1860 printing and rust spots from storage during 1856-60.

The 10-by-10 subject table pictured in Figure 8 illustrates the sheet positions of the current 27 plated stamps. For each item the combination of sheet position and postmark is indicated by colored letters. For instance, the green F in position 11 tells us that an imperforate stamp canceled "FREDERIKSHALD" is found in this position.

The plated stamps with each type of postmark are found at locations all over the sheet. This indicates that the stamps were likely originating from wholly imperforate sheets, rather than from strips or blocks from only part of the sheet. There is no systematic occurrence of imperforate stamps in horizontal rows. This is different from the imperforate British Twopence Plate 9 (Scott No. 29b) of March 1861, described in the study by Jane Moubray RDP in the *London Philatelist* May 2020.⁶ The Twopence was probably perforated by a comb perforating machine rather similar to the one used for the Oscar issue, but it is likely that the "Norwegian" perforation equipment was more damaged than the British (more about perforation following).

Sheet 10x10. Positions of the Imperforated 4 skilling Oscar

									CS
F			CS						
			CS		CS		F	CS	
H/L			F		L		H		
CS			F						
		L							
L					L			CA	
H	H		CA						H
				F		F	F/CA		L

CS = Christianssand
 (Sans-serif capital letters),
 CA= Christianssand
 (Large Roman Capital letters),
 F= Frederikshald,
 H = Hougsund,
 L = Laurvig

Figure 8. Sheet positions and postmarks for the 27 identified imperforate items in the sheet of 100.

The plating study seems to indicate that the imperforate stamps came from four separate imperforate sheets, and not from five sheets, as concluded in the past. Early philatelists believed that the two types of the Christianssand postmarks CS (sans-serif capital letters from 1858) and CA (the pre-stamp postmark of 1848) proved the existence of two separate imperforate sheets. Based on the plating study (Figure 8) it is as likely that one imperforate sheet was split in two halves for two different customers, and that each half was used at different times and canceled with the use of the two different Christianssand postmarks (1848 and 1858). Further material or better scans may, of course, confirm or change this picture.

The Background

The first Norwegian stamp, the imperforate 4-skilling Coat of Arms, (Scott No. 1) was printed locally and issued Jan. 1, 1855. The use of stamps for the prepayment of 4-skilling postage for a single-weight domestic letter was so popular that the 2 million issued stamps were sold out in two years. It was soon clear that there was also a need for 8-skilling stamps – and even higher denominations – because of the growth of foreign mail with extensive use of multiples (Figure 9).

The Oscar stamps

In January 1855, only days after the release of the first Norwegian stamp (Scott No. 1), and after several negative press comments, it was felt desirable to have a new issue of stamps with perforations and a better design. It was also decided that both 4- and 8-skilling stamps were going to be needed.



Figure 9. Folded letter with a strip of six of the first Norwegian stamp with “Double-foot” variety on the right stamp (Scott Nos. 1 and 1a), sent from Bergen Oct. 11, 1856, to codfish merchants Maingay, Robin & Co at Naples in the Kingdom of The Two Sicilies. The letter was sent by the privately owned paddle steamer *Bergen* to Hamburg and, from there by Thurn & Taxis through Germany, Austria and Lombardy. Postage was 24 skilling to the border between Austrian Italy and the Roman States. The recipient in Naples paid an additional amount of 38 Grana equalling 35 skilling! (manuscript 38 faded due to cleansing). AC

In 1855 the Norwegian economy was strong due to the effects of the Crimean War (CCP March-April 2020, page 88). The Norwegian Department for the Interior “the Department,” responsible for the Norwegian Post Office was therefore willing to spend considerable amounts on quality stamp production. As a first step, the Department contacted the Consul General in London to get his assistance in selecting printers.

In February 1855 negotiations were held with the reputable firm Thomas De La Rue in London. The firm was eager to obtain new contracts based on the technology it used in 1855 for the “surface-printed” issues of Great Britain (Scott No. 22) and the East India Co. (Scott Nos. 9 and 10). An offer was subsequently received from De La Rue with a price estimate about 75 % higher than the comparable cost for Norway No. 1.

On July 1, 1855, Sweden had issued a series of five stamps in different colors and denominations (Scott Nos. 1-5). A Swedish alternative had now become realistic. Assisted by the Swedish Post Office, the Department contacted various suppliers and decided on an offer from the engraver P.A. Nyman in Stockholm who had supplied an attractive proof with a portrait of King Oscar similar to the portrait on the then-circulating large silver coins (Figure 10).

The contract with Nyman for 6 million 4-skilling stamps and 2.2 million 8-skilling stamps was entered into on Dec. 13, 1855. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 on strong, handmade “wove” paper made at Tumba Paper Mill, owned by the Swedish National Bank. The paper was nearly twice as thick as the paper used for the early prints of the first Swedish issue Gjelsvik,⁴ page 42.



Figure 10. One Speciedaler 1855 (= 120 skilling, a little less than \$1), with portrait of King Oscar of Norway and Sweden.

Nyman's printing process, traditional "letterpress" or typography (an obsolete term), used small bits of paper laid over each cliché "coupages" to make the printing details clearer. This method had been used for the first stamps of France (1849). Nyman's result was found satisfactory, but clearly not as good as the "surface-printed" stamps by De La Rue where details were even sharper.

In the contract with Nyman it was specified that "the sheets should be perforated and so well gummed on the back that it is impossible to remove them from letters to which they have been stuck without being torn to pieces," Gjelsvik,⁴ page 27.

It was also agreed with the Swedish Post Office that *"The Swedish civil servants who are responsible for the supervision of the production of the Swedish postage stamps, will also undertake the same services for the production of Norwegian postage stamps in Stockholm, and the Department will of course pay these civil servants accordingly."* Gjelsvik,⁴ page 28.

The complete correspondence with De La Rue and Nyman, etc., has been translated into English and published on pages 9-38 in Tore Gjelsvik's book, *The Skilling Oscar Stamps*.⁴

The perforating of stamps had been pioneered in Great Britain and brought into official use in 1854. (Scott Nos. 8 and 10). The equipment for the so-called "comb perforation" had been developed by Henry Archer and others and the technology sold to the Inland Revenue (the Treasury) at Somerset House. The principle of the comb machine is that the pins are arranged in a fashion similar to a hair comb. Thus, three sides of a stamp are perforated at one time, the perforation in one operation of a complete horizontal line of perforations, plus the vertical sides of the stamps below that horizontal line.



2 skilling
February 1857



3 skilling
June 1857



4 skilling
January 1857



8 skilling
December 1856

Figure 11. The Oscar issue (Scott Nos. 2-5) in mint blocks of four, with issue dates below, illustrates the excellent perforation of these stamps. Only five mint blocks of the 8-skilling stamp are recorded. AC



Figure 12. The earliest-recorded cover with both 4- and 8-skilling Oscar stamps, sent March 2, 1857, to sailcloth makers Aug. Möhlmann & Co. in Hamburg. The 20-skilling denominated stamps were canceled "253" at Sandefjord. Due to winter conditions at Hamburg, the letter was sent overland via Svinesund and Sweden to the Swedish-Norwegian post office in Hamburg. Correct "winter postage" was 21 skilling, but the letter was accepted without additional postage, due to lack of suitable lower-denomination stamps. Even more unusual, was that letters in transit via Sweden were not supposed to be paid with stamps until July 1857.

The paper is fed under the frame in which pins are supported. The pins are driven through the paper into a plate pierced with holes corresponding to each pin. The paper is pushed further under the machine till the next horizontal row is in exactly the right position below the vertical pins above, and the operation is repeated. The pins were interchangeable and the holes in the plate were supposed to be cleaned regularly.

The Archer comb equipment was manufactured by David Napier & Sons. The perforating equipment used by Nyman was probably one of those machines. The stamps were perforated 13, with clean-cut holes, and the quality was excellent (Figure 11). According to John Easton, *Postage Stamps in the Making*,⁵ page 237-239, it was typical of the letterpress printing process that the gum was applied before the printing and before the perforation.

The first countries after Great Britain to issue perforated stamps were Sweden, in July 1855; Norway, in December 1856; and the United States, in February 1857. More information about perforation and "gumming" of stamps may be found in John Easton's book,⁵ pages 219-237.

The first 2 million of the 4-skilling stamps were delivered from Stockholm on June 5, 1856, some six months after the signing of the contract. Another 2 million were delivered July 23. The rest of the order, 2 million 4-skilling and 2.2 million 8-skilling stamps, were sent from Stockholm Nov. 1, 1856. The 8-skilling stamps (Scott No. 5) were issued as soon as they were available at the Postal Cashier in Christiania Dec. 21, 1856. The 4-skilling (Scott No. 4) was probably distributed by the Postal Cashier in the first days of January, when the 4-skilling Coat of Arms, (Scott No. 1) was sold out.

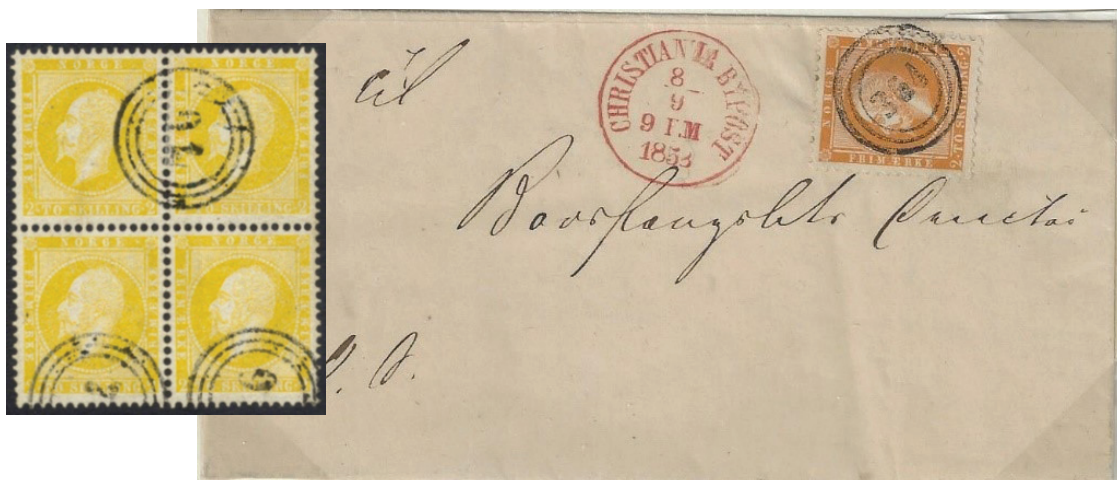


Figure. 13. The cover was sent by the town post to the local prison on Sept. 8, 1858. The stamp was canceled with the 364 Christiania town post marking and the envelope by red "Christiania Bypost" town post mark. Ex Jared H. Richter coll. AC

In late 1856 and 1857, Norwegian stamps were either canceled with numeral handstamps (Figures 9 and 12) or, exceptionally, by grid cancellation (Figure 16). Pen cancellation was used at the smallest offices. The cover should be canceled by a dated handstamp (Figure 12). Only from Jan. 1, 1859, were the post offices instructed to use their dated handstamps to also cancel postage stamps. The earliest-recorded dates of use for the 8- and 4-skilling

are, therefore, with numeral cancellations on a limited number of covers with dated handstamps (Figure 12). The earliest cover with the 8 skilling was sent from Bergen Jan. 15, 1857, and for the 4-skilling, from Christiania Jan. 13, 1857. All recorded cancellations and postmarks are illustrated in Tore Gjelsvik,⁴ pages 189-230.

In July 1856, the Department decided to introduce a local postal service in Christiania with 2-skilling postage for single rate letters (Figure 13). One million yellow 2-skilling stamps (Scott No. 2) were again printed by Nyman in Stockholm and issued early February 1857. The earliest-recorded use of the 2 skilling is Feb. 16, 1857. The 2-skilling Oscar was also found to be useful on foreign mail when postage rate was a multiple of

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Figure 14. The second-earliest recorded letter with 2-skilling Oscar to a foreign destination. The letter was sent April 17, 1857, from 317 Tønsberg by ship to Hamburg and further by Prussian railroad to importers of wood products Brantjes & Co., Purmerende, Holland. The "summer-postage" to Holland was 30 skillings. AC



two (Figure 14). After the printing of the 2-skilling, the printing plates for the 4-, 8- and 2-skilling stamps were sent to Norway.

The Figure 13 block of four, canceled with 76 Frederiksstad is the only-recorded 2-skilling block with numeral cancellation. Ex Lars Amundsen (AC).

It did not take long before it was felt that a 3-skilling stamp was also needed. Postage rates to foreign destinations were often uneven amounts, and it was deemed necessary to have 3-skilling stamps as a make-up value to avoid unpaid foreign letters.

In March 1857, a new request was sent to Nyman for one million 3-skilling stamps. The question of color had been left open. Apparently Mr. Nyman suggested a lilac-grey color similar to the Swedish 6-skilling stamp (Scott No. 3). To make a qualified decision, Nyman had 3-skilling stamps printed in yellow, blue and lilac grey (Figure 15), to compare with 2- and 4-skilling issues under different light conditions.



Figure 15. The 3-skilling color essays on horizontally laid paper were printed to make a decision on the color for the new 3-skilling issue. They are unique among the Norwegian classical issues and were found among the remnants from printers Nyman in Stockholm. There were originally 100 blue, 55 yellow and 60 lilac grey discovered, of which roughly half remain today. They were exhibited for the first time at Kristiania 1914. AC

Figure 16. The earliest-recorded use of a 3-skilling stamp on cover front June 23, 1857, to ship brokers Kirck at Helsingør, Denmark. The strip of five used as 15-skilling "summer postage" to Denmark was canceled onboard the government-owned paddle steamer *Christiania*, bound for Kiel (now Germany) with the rare Sandøsund 11-bar grid handstamp, which had also been used on Norway No. 1. AC



The first sheets of 3-skilling stamps (Scott No. 3) were sent from Stockholm May 28, 1857, and were probably issued to the public on June 6. The earliest-recorded use of the 3-skilling stamp is June 23, 1857 (Figure 16). A full set of the Oscar stamps is shown in Figure 17 on cover.

Information about the plating of the 3-, 4- and 8-skilling stamps, with detailed illustrations, is found in the CCP 1926-30⁷ and in Tore Gjelsvik,⁴ pages 58-138 (also 2 skilling).

Since all the imperforate 4-skilling stamps were canceled in 1861-63, it is natural to have a close look at the events in those years.

The supplementary printing of the 4-skilling stamp

In early 1860 a survey of remaining stocks at all post offices showed that the supplies of 2-, 3- and 8-skilling stamps were sufficient for at least three years' consumption, while the inventories of 4-skilling stamps were critically low. This was primarily due to the sharply increased use of 4-skilling stamps on domestic letters. The postal service had now become dependent on a new supply of 4-skilling stamps. No alternative was available, as there was not a sufficient stock of 2-skilling stamps to allow extensive use of pairs as a replacement. Bisects of 8-skilling issue had been prohibited since March 20, 1858 (Figure 23).

The Norwegian postal administration had discussed with a local printer having a new issue made by lithography, a lower-cost solution (Scott Nos. 6-10). Norway had not yet recovered from the effects of the worldwide banking crises of late 1857 (CCP March-April 2020, page 88), and it was important to reduce costs. But a lithographed issue would not be ready in time to meet the demand for the 4-skilling stamp (Figure 18).

King Oscar died July 8, 1859, but in the summer 1860 the Department decided against waiting for new stamps with the portrait of the new King Carl XV. It was planned instead to use the old 4-skilling printing plate. On July 16, 1860, a contract for an additional four million 4-skilling stamps was signed with Carl



Figure 17. The entire Oscar issue on a cover to Camsoe, near Stade, Hannover, sent from 77 Frederiksværn March 25, 1858, via Svinesund, Sweden, and the Hannoverian post office in Hamburg. The cover, with 25 skilling postage was 3 skilling overpaid. The correct "winter-postage" was only 22 skilling in 1857-59: 19 skilling to Hamburg and onwards to Stade 1 Sgr. (= 3sk.). This is the only recorded four-color Oscar cover to Germany. AC

Axel Nyman, who had inherited the business from his recently deceased father P.A. Nyman, but apparently was less experienced.

The new agreement was identical to the original contract of Dec. 13, 1855, except that Mr. C.A. Nyman promised to have an additional supply of 4-skilling stamps delivered either at Gothenburg before Oct. 17, or at Copenhagen before Oct. 30, 1860, to reach the last steamer of the season bound for Christiania. This would mean an extremely short production time of less than 3 months, compared with 6 months for the 1856 issue.



Figure 18. The earliest-recorded use of the lithographed 1863 issue, with 24-skilling on a cover to Constantinople, with 35-skilling "Summer postage." The letter was sent by private ship from Bergen on Oct. 20, 1863 to Hamburg and onwards by Prussian and Austrian mail. This is the only-recorded cover with a lithographed stamp used in combination with 8-skilling Oscar, which was already sold out in October 1863. The 3-skilling Oscar was available until January 1867. AC

One can imagine how the printers worked day and night to meet the tight schedule and, indeed, were able to deliver the first 1.6 million new 4-skilling stamps on time. These were sent from Stockholm Oct. 17, 1860, and via Malmö arrived in Christiania as early as Oct. 30. This extraordinary effort was sufficient to cover the immediate needs for the 4-skilling value. We may call this “the express delivery.”

The rest of the order, 2.4 million stamps was ready by Dec. 21, 1860, but were not shipped to Christiania until April 27, 1861, when sea transportation again was available, Gjelsvik,⁴ page 40.

How did we get the imperforate 4-skilling Oscar? The express delivery and quality problems

Further supplies of 4-skilling stamps were urgently needed at certain Norwegian post offices. It is interesting to note that the imperforate stamps all originate from high-growth industrialized towns, mainly exporters of wood-products and related shipping activities. These towns were probably top priority when the new 4-skilling stamps became available at the Postal Cashier in Christiania November 1860.

It has long been clear to philatelists that the supplementary order of 4 million on July 16, 1860, was printed in several shades of blue, and that the greenish blue (Scott No. 4d) was only a small part. This shade, including the even scarcer pale greenish blue (Scott No. 4e), or “milk blue,” had probably occurred in the preliminary stages of production as the printers struggled with the mixing of color components to achieve a printing ink similar to the color of the 1856 issue. It is, therefore, logical that greenish-blue stamps originate from the earliest printing that formed part of the 1.6 million “express delivery” from Stockholm on Oct. 17, 1860.

The imperforate stamps and other perforation errors known were probably due to damaged or worn equipment after perforating more than 10 million stamps (100,000 sheets) in 1856-57. Little experience in dealing with such problems made it difficult to perforate several sheets in one operation, (five sheets, according to John Easton⁵ page 219). This resulted in a few completely imperforate sheets or with faulty perforations (Figure 19). The problems continued until maintenance and modifications of the equipment was carried out sometime in the summer of 1860.



Figure 19. A strip of 3, with faulty perforations (two-directional), plate positions 91-93, canceled at Christianssund Aug. 27, 1862. AC

The irregular stamps should, under normal circumstances, have been accounted for as “printers’ waste” and eliminated at the control in Stockholm. The supplementary contract of July 16, 1860, clearly stated that Swedish civil servants should be responsible for the supervision of the production, Gjelsvik,⁴ page 28 (in English) and *Norges Frimerker 1855-1924*,⁸ page 27.

Today, one may wonder how the imperforate sheets could pass the control in Stockholm without a tacit understanding between the Norwegian and the Swedish Post Office. The greenish-blue shades were obviously less problematic to inspectors. Due to time pressure, the Norwegian Post and the local post offices must have accepted the imperforate sheets, since the imperforate Norway number one (Scott No. 1) had been in use only three to four years before, and the post offices were familiar with the use of scissors to separate those stamps.

Nearly 20% of the imperforate 4-skilling stamps are canceled at the industrial town Frederikshald, important exporters of wood products to Europe. Frederikshald probably received a large package of 4-skilling sheets from the postal cashier. These sheets were likely all in the greenish-blue shade from the express delivery (Figures 1, 4 and 5) and here an imperforate sheet was found. According to old practice, the imperforate sheet was probably cut by scissors into strips of 10 at the post office and thereafter into individual stamps, as was usually the case with Norway No. 1 (Figure 9). These stamps were all used April 11, 1862.

In the collection of the late Norway expert F.C. Moldenhauer Jr., there was a used strip of three stamps with faulty perforations (a two-way misperforation), which under no circumstance should have passed the control (Figure 19).

The strip of 3 is canceled at Christianssund Aug. 27, 1862, and not at the “imperforate town” of Christianssand. The strip is from the lower-left corner (positions 91, 92 and 93) and does not belong to an imperforate sheet, as illustrated in Figure 8, but from a badly perforated sheet.

Early prices for the imperforate 4-skilling stamp

The first indication of a market value was found in the local Christiania newspaper *Dagbladet*, dated March 6, 1890 (Figure 20). The reader was told that a Norwegian collector had sold an example of the 4-skilling Oscar without perforations to a Danish colleague for 50 kroner (about \$13 USD), while the same

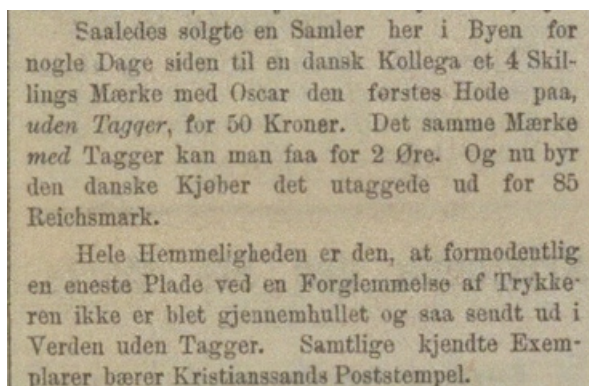


Figure 20. From Christiania newspaper, *Dagbladet* of March 6, 1890.

stamp with perforations was available for only 2 øre. (appr. ½¢ US). The Danish colleague was now offering the stamp for 85 Reichsmark (about \$20 USD). The reader was also told that “all known copies have the Kristianssand postmark,” such as the one found on the Figure 7 stamp.

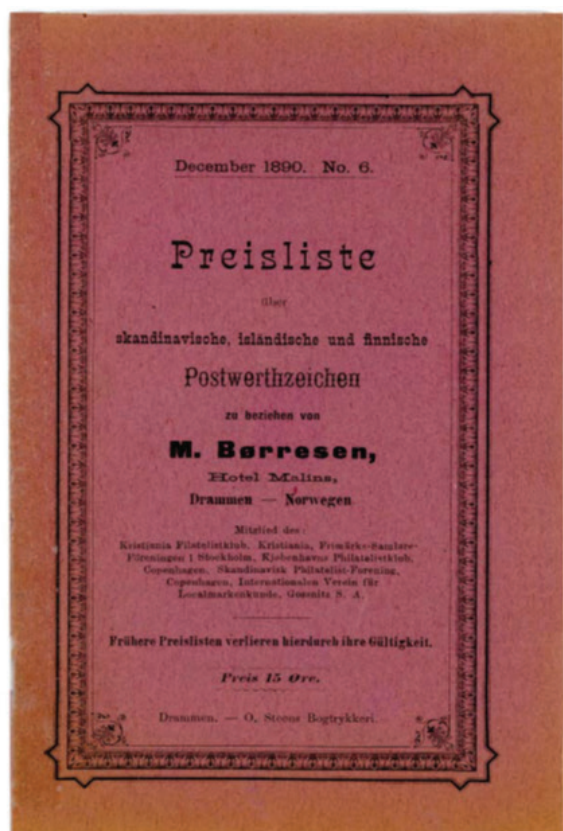

In the OFK library we find another price indication in M. Børresen’s German-language

Preisliste from December 1890 (Figure 21). Here the price for the imperforate 4-skilling stamp was NOK 75 (about 20 USD). This was equal to the offering price in the *Dagbladet* article nine months earlier. We note that the price for the unused Norway No. 1 was only six kroner (\$1.50 dollar) and in used condition as little as 20 øre or 5¢ US. The price of 10 ordinary 4-skilling Oscar was only 20 øre or some 5¢.

In 1890 the annual salary of Norwegian junior civil servants was on the order of 1,000 kroner (\$250 USD), so a month's income was needed to buy the imperforate 4-skilling Oscar. By comparison, in modern Norway the stamp still costs roughly a month's salary.

In 1890 there were obviously a number of collectors who were willing and able to pay \$20 USD for the imperforate 4-skilling Oscar. One such collector was Philipp Ferrary (1850-1917), who accumulated most of the top philatelic rarities of the world. According to Wolfgang Maassen's fascinating book, *The Mysterious Philippe De Ferrari*,⁹ much higher amounts were paid for rare items.

As a matter of fact, Ferrary did have an example of the imperforate 4-skilling Oscar. At the sixth Ferrary auction in Paris, April 25, 1923, the imperforate 4-skilling Oscar appears in lot number 425, along with some 30 other Norwegian rarities, which together sold for FF 4,100 (about USD \$300), as shown in Figure 22. This amount was, at the time, equivalent to six months' income for a senior civil servant.

Nr.	Norwegen.	Eingekauft.		Verkauft.	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
		1 Sk.	10 Sk.	1 Sk.	10 Sk.
		Sk.	Ø.	Sk.	Ø.
1.	1854. 4 Skilling, blau.	6.00		0.20	1.60
2.	1856. 2 — gelb.	2.50		0.50	4.00
3.	— lila.	2.50		0.50	4.00
4.	— dunkel blau.	1.50		0.05	0.20
4 a.	— hellblau.	1.00		0.05	0.20
4 b.	— blau ungeschnitten			75.00	
5.	8 — roth.	2.50		0.20	1.50
6.	1863. 2 — gelb.	3.00		1.00	8.00
7.	3 — lila.	5.00		4.00	
8.	4 — blau.	1.00		0.05	0.20
9.	8 — roth.	2.50		0.20	1.75
10.	24 — braun.	1.50	14.00	1.00	8.00
11.	1867. 1 — schwarz.	0.25		0.15	1.00
12.	2 — gelb.	0.25	2.00	0.15	1.00
13.	3 — lila.	1.50		0.35	3.00
14.	4 — blau.	1.00		0.05	0.20
15.	8 — roth.	1.50		0.15	1.00
16.	1872. 1 — grün.	0.15	1.00	0.10	0.50
17.	2 — blau.	0.20	1.50	0.10	0.75
18.	3 — roth.	0.25	2.00	0.05	0.20
19.	4 — violett.	0.40	3.00	0.15	1.00
20.	6 — braun.	2.00		0.15	1.00
21.	7 — —	0.75	5.00	0.20	1.50
Posthorn schraffirt.					
22.	1877. 1 Øre, grau.	0.03	0.20	0.03	0.15
23.	5 — orange.	0.20		0.05	0.15
24.	5 — hellblau (im Oval grüne Ziffer)	0.40		0.05	0.15
24 a.	5 — dunkelblau.			0.05	0.20

Figure 21. Price list from M. Børresen, Drammen, December 1890.

Lot N°	Nombre
*425. NORVÈGE. 1854. 4 s. bleu (3, deux obl. dont un percé en lignes). 1856. Série complète nuances différentes du lot précédent + 4 s. bleu non dentelé, obl. sur frag., moitié de 4 s. bleu, obl. sur grand frag., paire vertic. du 3 s.	

Figure 22. The Ferrary Collection, Lot 425 of the sixth Ferrary auction, April 25, 1923.

Unfortunately, individual stamps were not illustrated, but one object is easily recognizable: A half 4-skilling Oscar used as 2-skilling stamp on a large piece of letter, as shown in Figure 23.

The imperforate 4-skilling Oscar is, by no means, Norway's rarest stamp, but it has, for more than 100 years, fascinated collectors. Wealthy philatelists have been willing to pay high prices. Another famous stamp "The Double Foot" variety (Scott No. 1a) has never reached a similar price (Figure 9).



Figure 23. A large piece with a half 4-skilling Oscar provisionally used as 2-skilling for local postage in Christiania March 8, 1858, a similar postmark to that shown in Figure 13. This piece was part of Lot 425 of the sixth Ferrary auction. The half 4-skilling was canceled 364 Christiania local post and by the red "Christiania Bypost" March 8, 1858. Bisects were not valid for postage after March 20, 1858, and only one other item is recorded, canceled March 5, 1858.

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Acknowledgements Thanks to Jane Moubray RDP and Tore Berg, president of OFK, for interesting discussions and useful comments; and to Norway experts Finn Aune, Hans Enger and Erik Olafsen for providing excellent scans. I also wish to thank Kjell Åge Johansen FRPSL, the OFK librarian for helping to find information in old books, circulars and auction catalogs.

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10. Størmer, Georg, *Norway 1855-68. The first three issues*, paper read to The Royal Philatelic Society London, May 9, 2019.

For clarity, "AC" means: "in the author's collection."

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Journal of Philately and Deltiology No. 1
Peter C. Jeannopoulos, Editor, 2020

Giorgio Migliavacca Wins Picardi Award for Best Thematic & Postal History Article

Giorgio Migliavacca, who writes many of the book reviews found in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, recently won the Picardi Award at the Jan. 9, 2021, Annual General Meeting of CIFT (Italian Centre of Thematic Philately), aired via Zoom. Migliavacca's article, published by *Storie di Posta* in November 2019, was titled "*From Anzio to Rome: errors and horrors.*" Committee members summed up the elements that impressed them with the following words: "The winning author describes the events and often erroneous decisions made by the Allies during the months between the Anzio landing and the liberation of Rome, with a historical in-depth study with a rich illustrative apparatus, without overdoing the historical aspect and with particular attention to the postal service, managing to interconnect thematic elements with the postal-historical ones, thus demonstrating how they can have a high level of interpenetration."



Michele Picardi was a famous thematic collector and an international juror, author of countless articles, signatory of the Italian Golden Roll of Philately, and member of the prestigious Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History.

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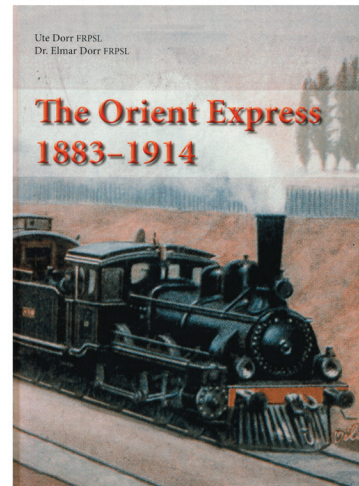
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C.G.

Book Reviews

The Orient Express 1883-1914, by Ute Dorr FRPSL and Dr. Elmar Dorr, FRPSL, Schwäbisch Gmünd: 2020, hardbound, 30 by 21 cm, 168 pages, color illustrated. Price €49 plus postage, available from Ute Dorr, Pistoriusstr. 3, 73527 Großdeinbach - Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, utedorr@web.de. No ISBN.

Along with the Trans-Siberian railroad, the Orient Express is the worldwide symbol of travels by train, always fascinating dreamers of journeys of yesteryear, or simply enthusiastic readers of crime novels such as *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, or even fans of movies. The train ran once a week, and later twice a week, between Paris and Constantinople. Initially in 1883 the route was Paris-Strasbourg-Munich-Vienna-Budapest-Bucharest-Varna and thence to Constantinople by ship. Two years later, the route changed beyond Vienna, going through Belgrade and Sofia. However, in 1888 Constantinople could only be reached straightforwardly by train; the duration of the journey significantly changed, from about a week to less than three days (68 hours). In the period between 1883-1914, there were eight variants of the Orient Express route.



A banal reflection should allow us to recognize the importance of this railroad from a postal history point of view, but how to implement a study or a collection when the Orient Express railroad never exercised the role of traveling post office? Yes, it might seem strange, but it was so; mail was transported in closed bags on the basis of the agreement between postal authorities and the company running the Orient Express (C.I.W.L., Compagnie Internationale des Wagons Lits). So other methods and approaches of investigation had to be found and that was the authors' choice, correctly described as an empirical method. The work is structured by adopting three elements, as it was specified in the second chapter: postal items classified under the post offices operating in Constantinople, Ottoman and foreign ones; variants of the train routes; the different information material regarding the Orient Express, namely vignettes, straight-line and oval markings as routing indications. All these elements were therefore investigated empirically; that is, by acquiring data from the authors' and other private collections, and from Swiss, Austrian, German, British and U.S. auction houses.

In those years Constantinople was indeed a fundamental junction for communications with the Middle East. That is the reason why postal historians do know the presence of foreign post offices in the capital of the Ottoman Empire, in particular German, Austrian, Rumanian, Italian and French ones. A brief review of these post offices, including of course the Ottoman one, is presented in the third chapter with a list of known postal markings. The localization of the post offices on the map of Constantinople is also provided. Interestingly, the Romanian post office was located on a ship and lasted only five months, from February to July 1896.

According to the method previously mentioned, the authors paid particular attention to the role of the stamp-like vignettes inscribed “Express d’Orient” that exist in three colors (red, brown and black, see accompanying images, courtesy of the “Census of Orient D’Express Labels on Cover,” <https://1887jubileeissue.com/the-stamps/commonwealth-overprints/british-levant/census-of-orient-dexpress-labels-on-cover/>). The labels were distributed in Constantinople and were employed in the years 1883-93. These labels seem to have worked like directional markings, as well as a system of advertisement, since C.I.W.L. built and managed the luxurious Pera-Palace Hotel in Constantinople in 1892. The study focuses only on those labels used on postal items actually carried by the Orient Express; in other words, consistent with timetables. It is definitively agreed that the labels were used solely on correspondence originating from Ottoman, German, British and Austrian postal branches. All the known items are listed: 42 red labels, three brown and eight black. Having experienced discoveries of dangerous forgeries, the authors chose to devote some pages for an analysis of the labels through transmitted light microscopy, which surely turns out to be a useful and important tool for collectors.

The same approach, matching route variants and timetables, is applied when considering straight-line and oval markings. The authors arrive at a list of 14 items mailed from Constantinople, 30 from other cities and 18 with the oval markings used by the offshore Rumanian post office, albeit its limited duration. In the penultimate chapter, the authors summarize their results and draw the conclusions, once again in a clear and systematic way. The bibliography is extensive, listing sources from collections, auction catalogs and databases, philatelic articles and travel guides. Thorough indexes close the book.

I think the topic could be developed in fine exhibits of postal history (subclass 2C) or open philately, well supported by the information provided in this work that allows readers, too, to become absorbed in the atmosphere of Europe throughout the rather peaceful years before World War I. The book is lavishly illustrated. It was originally published in German in 2019, but now is also available in English, which is surely an incentive towards a larger diffusion. Thanks to Ute and Elmar Dorr, we can enjoy a complete treatment of a subject – previously underestimated – that eventually has deserved a suitable audience.

— Luca Lavagnino



Joseph J. Geraci (1934-2020)



The philatelic world learned, a few weeks ago of the death, sometime during late 2020, of Joseph J. Geraci. Joe, an intensely private man, was an integral part of the early team of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and a highly respected member of many prestigious philatelic organizations, including the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, The Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History, the Unione Filatelica Subalpina, The Italy and Colonies Study Circle, Postal History Society (NY) and many others too numerous to mention. He was well known to many members of the Collectors Club as well.

In 2008, Geraci was honored with the Stanley B. Ashbrook Cup by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society for his exceptional *annotated Index of the Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Issues* – an effort he began in 1988. It was completed in 2007, with such thoroughness, he was lauded by many throughout the hobby. He wrote many important articles for the National Postal Museum publications; he edited *Mare Nostrum* (an Italy and Colonies publication) and contributed numerous articles to *Fil-Italia*. Additionally, he wrote more than 50 articles for Italian Postal History periodicals. "Foreign Postal History in Other Journals" was his extremely useful and regular contribution to the *Postal History Journal*. He served as president of the Postal History Society from 2011-16.

Born in Newark, N.J., in 1934, Geraci's Master's thesis was titled *An Economic History of the Development of the USA Post Office 1639-1789*, showing an early love

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for postal history. His primary career was in accounting and financial planning. In 1985 he joined the National Philatelic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution (then a part of the National Museum of American History), where he remained until his retirement in 1999, seven years after it became the National Postal Museum, as we now know it.

An avid stamp collector since the age of 10, Geraci acquired some truly outstanding rarities, including eight of the legendary Hawaiian “Missionary” stamps. He was also an expert in transatlantic mail between Italy and the United States. In addition, his own collection of the 1847 issue of U.S. stamps (Scott 1 and 2) was exhibited at the museum.

Among his many contributions to the NPM, Joe assisted in creating the finding guide to the Haywood Music Collection and the virtual exhibit, *Exploring Cuba's Postal History*.

He also wrote the 1995 *From Nashville with Love* exhibit of early U. S. stamps and covers for the NPM, as well as selecting and mounting all foreign stamps for the pull-out exhibit frames at the NPM.

In 1996, when the NPM attempted a reunion of sorts of the 24¢ Inverted Jenny, Joe wrote the Jenny Class Reunion exhibit. More than 20 of the inverts were “reunited” at that time.

Joseph will be fondly remembered by family and friends, as well as by many philatelists and postal historians worldwide for his many articles, brilliant research and great expertise.

Although it is difficult to say that anyone truly “knew” this affable, but intensely private and frugal man, Joe was broadly appreciated with a great deal of fondness throughout the hobby.

According to longtime NPM team member James O'Donnell (who also helped greatly with this obituary), it was discovered after his death that Geraci left his entire estate to the Smithsonian Institution, and his entire collection to the NPM.

— Giorgio Migliovacca
and Wayne L. Youngblood



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The Collectors Club

Membership Update: Dec. 16 - Feb. 23, 2021.
We are pleased to welcome the following new members.

Approved by the Board of Governors

Jan. 13, 2021: Non-Resident

Hunt, James	Raleigh, N.C.
Harmon, Russell PhD	Raleigh, N.C.
McLaughlin, David M.	Whitby, Ohio
Moriarty, Denis James	Los Angeles, Calif.
Polizatto, Vincent	Vienna, Va.

Feb. 23, 2021: Non-Resident

Berlin, Dr. Steven	St. Thomas, USVI
Burke, William	Mt. Washington, Ky.
Burlingame, Michael	Langhorne, Pa.
Carithers, Richard Bruce	Dacula, Ga.
Judge, Richard	Racine, Wis.
Perry, James	Lumberton, Texas
Streepy, Kurt	Bloomington, Ind.

Overseas

Lajar, Victoria	London, UK
Richards, Simon	Wallingford, OX UK

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.

We note with sadness the passing of:

Guy Dillaway
Long-standing member, Weston, Mass.
Uty Ruhrs
Trade/Advertiser; London, UK
Alan Watson
Long-standing member, Falkirk, Scotland

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.

Please note that electronic membership dues notices have been sent. Current email addresses help us serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Banchik; Membership Co-Chair
Lawrence Hunt; Membership Co-Chair

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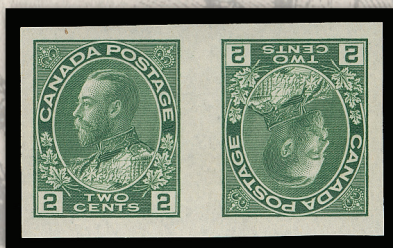
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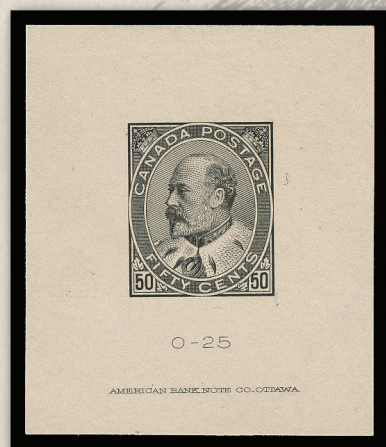
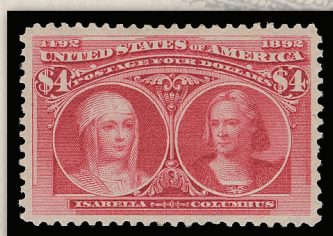
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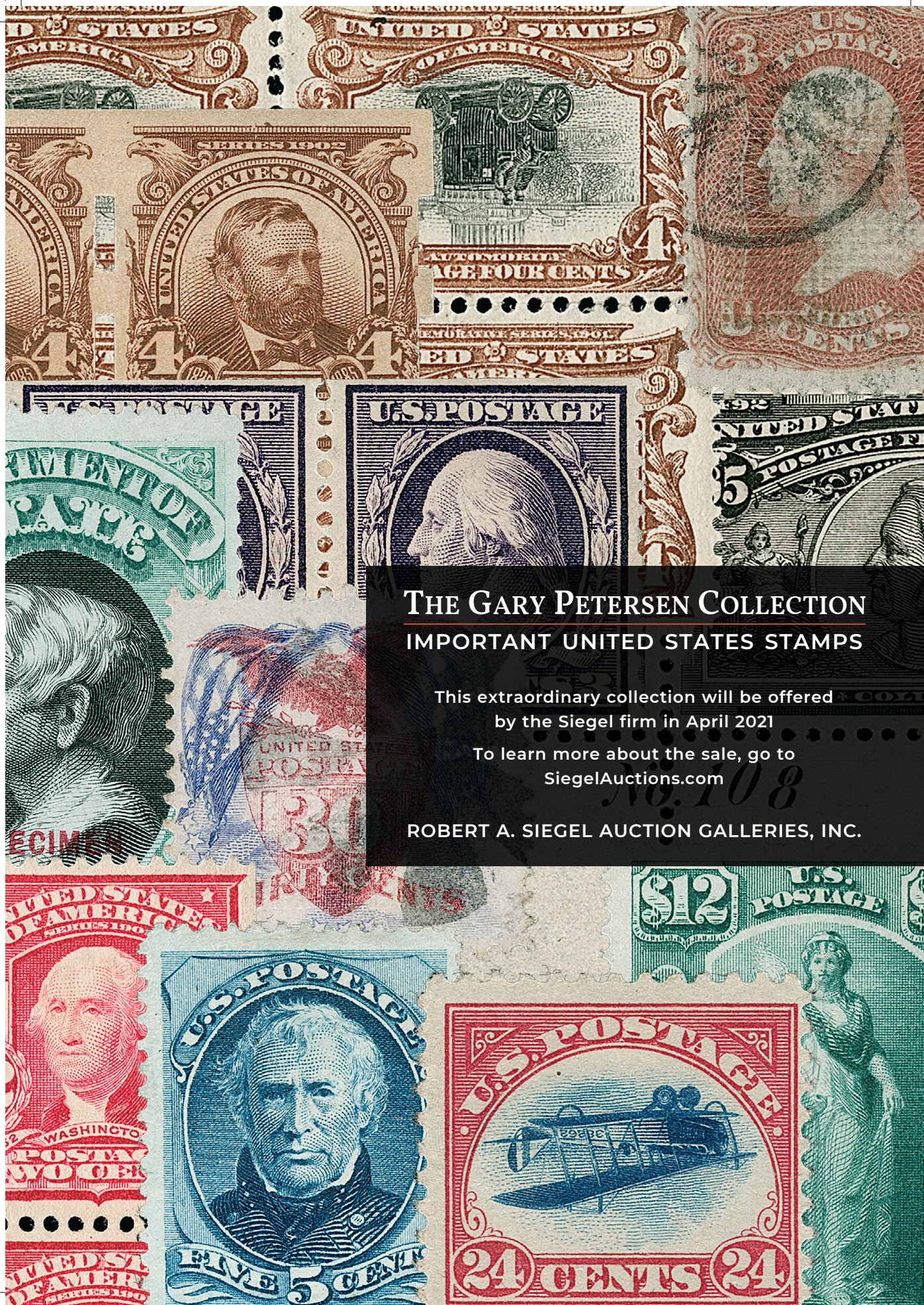
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