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# The Collectors Club Philatelist

May-June 2020

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An Authors' Guide for the  
CCP is available from the  
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## Collectors Club Programs 2020

**Due to New York state restrictions to limit the spread of Covid-19, all Club programs through June are postponed. Please check [www.collectorsclub.org](http://www.collectorsclub.org) for updates and information.**

- Sept. 9 How to put together a Postcard Exhibit, Elizabeth Hisey, University Park, Fla.
- Sept. 16 The Amazing Local Posts of Philadelphia, 1843-1861, Dr. Vernon Morris, Jr., Sebring Fla.
- Oct. 7 New York Valentines, Dale and Dione Forster, Portland, Ore.
- Oct. 21 Netherlands Point Cancels – Their Uses and Misuses, John Hornbeck, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 4 CC Single-frame Exhibition, Dr. Louis Pataki, Chair.
- Nov. 18 The Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the South East European Connection to the Americas and Australia, 1939-1941, Ratomir Zivkovic, New York, N.Y.

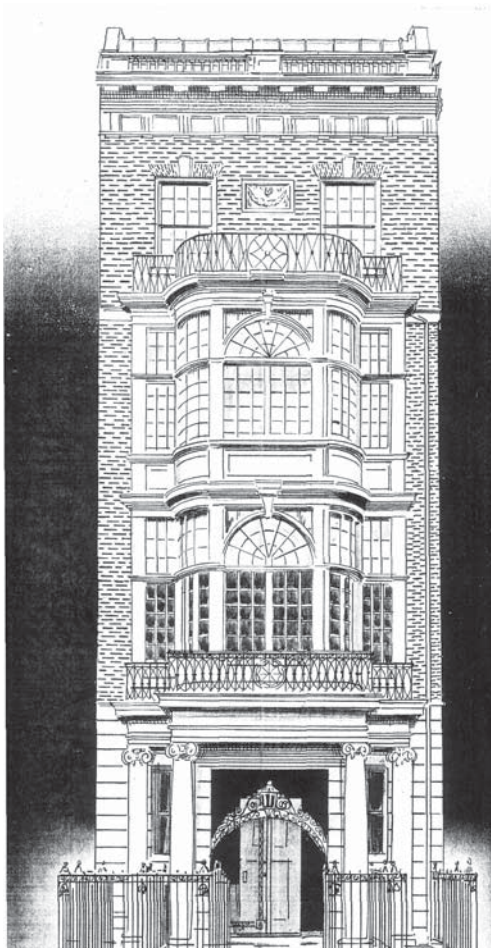
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# THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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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](http://www.collectorsclub.org) for updates and resources.**

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**The Collectors Club Philatelist *is an international specialty journal serving the needs of hundreds of collectors worldwide. It serves as the journal of record for the CCNY as well as publishing stimulating and helpful articles for collectors of many levels and specialties. The Collectors Club Philatelist strives to publish accurate philatelic information and serves as a forum for communication among members of The Collectors Club.***

# President's Message:

## Unexpected Challenges

By Lawrence Haber

I am writing this message for the May/June issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* during the third week of March. For more than two weeks, we have had our daily routines disrupted as we practice the latest neologism, social distancing. As you read this, you have a much better idea of how all this plays out than I currently do. I envy you. I hope my envy is well placed.

To paraphrase Dr. McCoy (from the *Star Trek* TV show), "I'm a stamp collector, not an epidemiologist," so there is really nothing that I can add regarding these circumstances other than what I've heard. No point in parroting back my misinformation, so I am not going in that direction.

We, at the Collectors Club, have focused our attention on trying to minimize the voids this virus has created in our philatelic lives. To this end we have implemented the following two initiatives:

- Select individual videos of our programs have been posted on the home page of the Club's website and are freely available. Every few days we have refreshed the highlighted video with a new selection. The balance of our video library remains restricted to our members.

Viewers (members and non-members) will discover a wealth of material. We have been repeatedly enriched by talks given by some of the world's leading philatelists. Would it be too bold to suggest we possess the most extensive video catalog of philatelic presentations? If you haven't yet done so, I urge you to have a look and listen to some of these programs, especially those topics new and unfamiliar to you.

- We were pleased to begin a series of live virtual meetings.

Recorded programs on video might lack the sense of immediacy you miss from your visits to the Club. Philately, generally, is a hobby practiced on one's own without social engagement. With all the show and meeting cancellations, we lose that human element. The wonderful benefit of online meetings is that we can pierce through and "touch" viewers directly, in real time. I hope you have availed yourself of the opportunity. Please be sure to share your feedback with us.

Have I reminded you that virtually all past issues of this journal have been digitized and made available on our website? This is an extraordinary amount of intellectual wealth made available at the click of a mouse.

Lastly, I suspect I am not the only one with a mountain of material that has been awaiting my scrutiny and placement in my various albums and stock pages.

When all of this is over and done (hopefully soon) I would hope that we can look back and think about the useful things we have accomplished during this period while in limbo.

As we have previously shared, in light of the circumstances, we have had no

alternative but to reschedule the Lichtenstein awards dinner to Wednesday, Oct. 21. The date we selected is just prior to the Nojex stamp show. Might we suggest that you combine both these events in your plans? I look forward to seeing many members at the dinner and hopefully at the show as well.

Prior to the Lichtenstein, we will have a chance to catch up in Hartford at the Great American Stamp Show, Aug. 20-23. Before the opening of GASS (on Wednesday Aug. 19), we are co-sponsoring a dinner with the RPSL. I, for one, cannot wait. At the show itself, we will be sharing a table with our friends from the Philatelic Foundation. I am sure we will be much relieved to see normalcy return to the philatelic calendar and much else.

In closing, I hope that you have traversed this experience well and that we will share many happy days ahead.

---

## Editor's Notepad

by Wayne L. Youngblood

As I was editing Henry Scheuer's article on Joseph Rich (which begins on Page 136), I was reminded of what a wonderful time it is to be a philatelist! In his article, Henry makes use of many traditional philatelic research tools, but also uses YouTube, Google Earth and other resources to greatly enhance and add interest to his piece.

Not only do we have the incredible resources of the world's philatelic libraries and postal museums at our fingertips for direct research, but we also have nearly limitless other sources of information to aid whatever information we seek. Among these (although by no means limited to them) are the Library of Congress (particularly useful for high-resolution historical images as well as documents), numerous university libraries, historical societies and many other repositories of information that are – increasingly – coming online. I also am frequently able to find important and useful information through *Newspapers.com* and *Ancestry.com* (both of which do require a subscription).

But it doesn't stop there. Learning specific search commands in Google or other search engines (such as a strong Boolean search) can yield pay dirt in a very short amount of time. Briefly, a Boolean search enables you to utilize search terms in quotes, utilizing modifiers to narrow the results. Thus, a search for Collectors Club (no quotes) brings up more than 57 million results, or every document that contains either the word Collectors or Club. "Collectors Club" (in quotes), narrows results down to 7.9 million, because the search engine is directed to search for that specific term. "'Collectors Club' and 'New York City'" (a Boolean search with specific searches "Collectors Club" and "New York City" joined by the modifier "and") narrows it further still, to 79,000 results, because the engine is now searching for the two specific search terms together. Other modifiers, including "not" and "or" also can be used to tailor your results. This can include images as well.

Obviously, the Collectors Club and New York City are pretty broad searches, but if you want to focus on a specific collectible this can really help.

Large Bank Notes yields 576 million results. "Large Bank Notes" drops that number down to 19,000, and the Boolean "Large Bank Notes" and "covers" narrows it further. You get the idea...

But that's still not all. I frequently find that I am able to locate additional examples of stamps, covers and other items through various searches on eBay. It doesn't matter that I'm not shopping for these items; these searches help enable me to know what else exists in the marketplace, as well as being able to see what they look like.

The bottom line is there's a huge wealth of free and low-cost information available without ever having to leave your desk! What will you find?

## We still need articles...

It's just possible that during this challenging time you have more time at home with your stamps. So, while you're doing the types of research I just outlined, you may consider preparing an article for the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.

Whether it is a short piece detailing one of your favorite items, a test balloon for an exhibit you are contemplating or a major reasearch piece you've been working on for several years, your fellow members will very much enjoy reading what you have to offer. Or, perhaps you'd like to offer feedback on something you've recently seen in the *CCP*. Although we don't receive many, letters to the editor are always welcome.

Since the editorial cupboard is currently nearly bare, articles of all lengths are welcomed, ranging from short pieces of a few hundred words, with a single piece of art, to much longer articles, such as the ongoing (and fascinating) series of articles on the Malayan coconut issues. A good average length is 1,200-1,500 words (with up to 10 pieces of art), but I always encourage authors to not focus on a specific word count; take however many words you need to adequately cover your subject.

When submitting articles, please do not attempt to format them in any way or embed images; that's a part of the editing process.

Please submit text as a Word document if possible (or even as the body text of an email), and send images separately, preferably scanned at least 300 dpi or larger. Captions are preferred and should be submitted along with the text of the article.

If you have any questions about submitting, please feel free to contact me, either by email ([wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)) or by phone. Thank you in advance!



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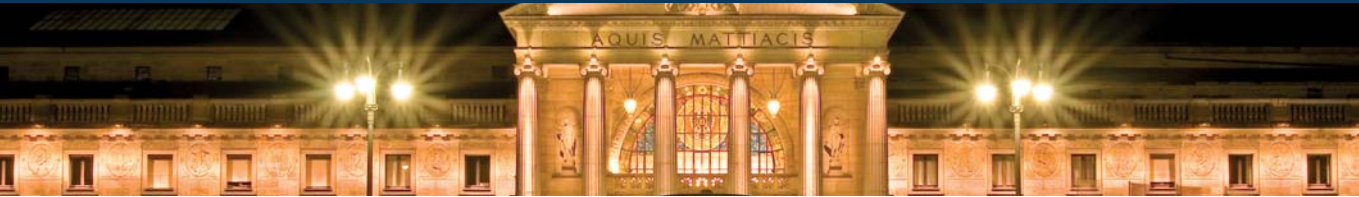
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Port Said, 1870



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Provenance: Royal Collection of Queen Elizabeth II, Collection Antonini (1992), The Cihangir Collection (2000), The Samir Fikry Collection (2011), shown among the World Rarities at Monaco 2009



◀ **R.O.P.I.T** 1868, The famous cover with block of 4 + 2 pairs 10 para from Chios to Constantinople – The most important cover of Russian Levant and one of the most important covers of Russian philately!  
Provenance: Pierre Mavrogordato, John R. Boker, Jr., Mertens Collection, Dr. Raymond Casey

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# Joseph Rich: CC Member No. 1

by Henry Scheuer

Joseph Salomon Rich was member No. 1 of the Collectors Club. His generous gifts of philatelic literature throughout several decades of his life significantly contributed to the Club's extensive research library.

In 1936, Dr. J. Brace Chittenden, former Club president, described Rich as member No. 1 of the Collectors Club. Not only was he a collector, promoter and student, but his service included holding the offices of governor (1903, 1924-32), president (1908-09), librarian (1903-06, 1927-29) and treasurer (1929-30). He became an Honorary Life Member in 1931.

The first-day cover world notes that Rich was one of the first American collectors to have prepared envelopes for stamps postmarked on their first day of issue. He prepared an envelope to commemorate the new special delivery service: the 10¢ special delivery initially placed on sale on Oct. 1, 1885; and an envelope for the first United States commemorative stamp: the 2¢ value of the Columbian Exposition series initially placed on sale Jan. 1, 1893.

Rich was even involved in collecting thematically or topically when he formed a collection of "stamps of the countries affected by the Boer War." He exhibited the collection at the Royal Philatelic Society in London, and it was disbursed after his son Stephen's death in 1958.

Joseph Rich – more than any other person – recognized that the hobby of collecting postage stamps and postal history could be described, as John W. Scott observed, as the study of "the Science of Philately."

Although stamp collecting is often a hobby enjoyed in solitude, the Collectors Club is a place to meet others who enjoy the many different aspects of stamps and postal history. Remembering that postage stamp images depict the culture and history of the country, and postal history studies how information was communicated through the written word, we are all engaged in the study of "the Science of Philately."

Joseph Rich's father, Salomon, was born June 17, 1817, and emigrated from Prussia. He boarded a ship in Bremen and arrived in the United States in the late 1840s. In 1852, he completed his petition for naturalization. Restrictive laws in Prussia, enacted as early as 1813, made it difficult for Jews to own businesses and even to get married. As a result, thousands of Jews immigrated to the United States.

Salomon Rich settled in San Francisco, Calif., then a sleepy little port town. In 1848, there were only 850 inhabitants, but by 1850, the city's population exceeded 20,000 and swelled to 35,000 by 1852.

So many Jews had migrated to San Francisco that, by the 1850s, almost 10% of the population was Jewish, a higher percentage – at the time – than New York City.

On Jan. 22, 1856, Salomon Rich married Matilda Platzek, a 21-year-old German Jewish immigrant. Their five children were born in San Francisco: Frances (Fanny, 1857), Joseph (1860), Jacob (1862), Therese (1865) and Emmanuel, later known as Michael (1867).

Joseph Rich, 1860-1932,  
CC Member No. 1

Salomon Rich established a woolen goods importing business. By 1858 his business activities had grown to such an extent that when Louis Warszaur's hat and shirt business failed, he was listed as a significant creditor, claiming an amount more than four times the amount claimed by Levi Strauss, the well-known San Francisco businessman.

The 1860 United States Federal Census indicated that Salomon Rich's "personal estate value" was estimated at \$3,000, about \$85,000 in today's dollars.



As Rich's business activities continued to expand and succeed, he became one of the original 32 trustees of the newly formed Occidental Insurance Co. in 1865.

The company advertised extensively in California newspapers. The advertisements stated that the company would "insure against loss by fire on any dwelling house, buildings, merchandise or other property, situated in the State of California. The largest sum they will take on in any one risk is \$30,000."

Demand for this type of insurance was obvious because San Francisco had many wooden buildings, prone to fire. One of the most famous fires of the period was "The Great Fire of 1851" that destroyed much of the city.

While still residing in California, the 1866 *New York City Directory* indicates that Alexander and Salomon Rich had established a business at 85 Maiden Lane, in lower Manhattan, New York City. Two years later, when Joseph was eight years old, the Rich family moved east.

Joseph began to collect stamps as a teenager, around 1876. After graduating from the Charlier Institute, then a well-known private New York City high school, he continued his studies at the College of the City of New York, now the City College of New York, graduating in 1880.

Two years earlier, while still a student, his father, Salomon, passed away. He is buried at Salem Fields Cemetery, in Brooklyn, New York, the final resting place for many 19th-century prominent New York City German-Jewish families.

His widow, Matilda, arranged to erect a mausoleum in her late husband's memory at a cost of \$ 2,300.

When Salomon's estate was probated, it was disclosed that \$ 5,000 was left to his son, Michael, to be invested in "lawful securities" and the interest was distributed semi-annually to Salomon's sister who remained in Prussia, living in Schwerzen.

His widow, Matilda, was left with \$ 5,000 in trust, invested in mortgage secured notes or United States Government securities, and "all my furniture, my horses, harness and carriages, the family residence, its lot and all lots of land as long as she stays unmarried." She never remarried.

Joseph Rich's philatelic interests were broad in scope and began to expand and mature in the 1880s and 1890s. He was interested in many aspects of stamp collecting, including Confederate States, U.S. postal cards and Korea (Korea). His interest in the study of the various forms of written communications, including United States Telegraph stamps, resulted in the publication of *United States Telegraph Issues*, co-authored with his son, Stephen, and published in 1947, 15 years after Joseph's death.

Other philatelic interests included an interest in the new Special Delivery service that began on Oct. 1, 1885, and the release of the new 10¢ Special Delivery stamp.

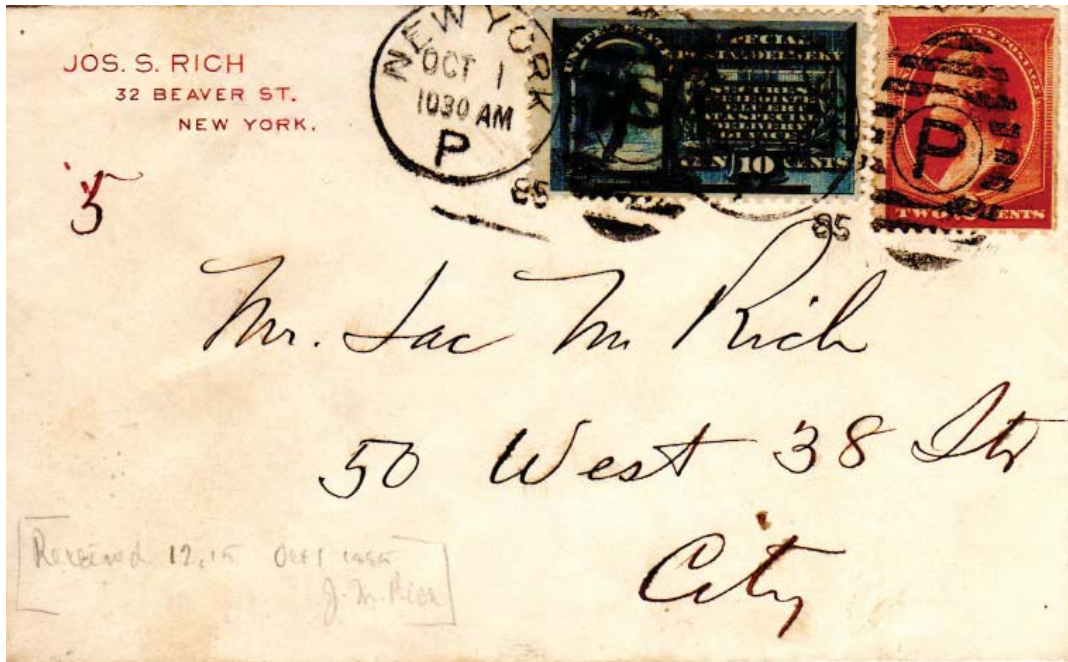
Very few of these stamps are known postmarked Oct. 1, 1885, the first day of issue, although the stamps were available at 555 towns, according to U.S. Post Office Department records.

Rich prepared an envelope, addressed to his younger brother and fellow stamp collector, Jacob, and arranged to have it postmarked on Oct. 1.

This envelope, addressed to the family home at 50 West 38th Street in New York City, is shown on the facing page.

Jacob was a sickly, short man (5 feet, 3 inches) who never married and lived at home with his mother until his death at the age of 40, on March 20, 1903. His death certificate lists the cause of death as Chronic Pachymeningitis. This disease is an inflammatory disorder causing thickening of the dura mater, a membrane around the spinal cord and brain. Jacob may have suffered from chronic headaches, seizures, cranial neuropathies, paralysis and impaired coordination (ataxia). Jacob's last will and testament indicated that the value of his personal possessions was approximately \$27,000, or approximately \$750,000 in current dollars.

According to the census of E1 first-day covers and predated covers, conducted by Henry Gobie, author of the definitive work about United States Special Delivery stamps, *The Speedy*, only six or seven covers were then known with the Oct. 1, 1885, postmark. Robert L. Markovits, an avid, dedicated student and researcher of United States Special Delivery stamps, updated this census in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, May-June 2001, page 133. Markovits increased the number of documented covers to nine. A further update, expanded with provenance information, now increases the number of reported Oct. 1, 1885, covers to 12:



Oct. 1, 1885, first-day cover of the first special delivery stamp (Scott E1), created by Rich and sent to his brother on personal stationery.

1. Sept. 29, 1885, Floyd Court House, Va., to Columbus, Ohio. Received in Columbus on Oct. 1, carried by a special delivery "messenger boy" (ex-Markovits, Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, June 1, 2016, Sale 69, Lot 1022, illustrated and discussed in Robert L. Markovits' article in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, May-June 2001, pp. 133-139). (Philatelic Foundation Nos. 74,015 and 537,792).
2. Sept. 30, 1885, 7 a.m., Illion, N.Y., to Boston, Mass. Received in Boston on Oct. 1, carried by a special delivery "messenger boy" (ex-Peltz, Willard, John Hay Library, Brown University collection).
3. Sept. 30, 1885, 12:30 p.m., Milwaukee, Wis., to Clinton, Clinton County, Iowa (discovered at stamp bourse, *Linn's Stamp News*, May, 1982) (Cover Alliance Auction, McCusker, Mellone & Piscina, Sept. 23, 1989; McCusker Sale 70, Lot 444; Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions LLC, June 25, 2019, Sale 725, Lot 259, AFDCS Certificate 1994)
4. Oct. 1, 1885, 7 a.m., Altoona, Pa., to Altoona, Pa. (ex-Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, Dec. 19, 2007, Sale 950, Lot 2465; see *Collectors Club Philatelist*, July 1940. PF 461339).
5. Oct. 1, 1885, 8 a.m., Meridan, Conn., to Norwalk, Conn. (ex-Wheeler).
6. Oct. 1, 1885, 12 midnight, New York, N.Y., to Catskill, N.Y. (ex-Fisher, Koslow, Markovits, Stampazine, Oct. 1959; Irwin Heiman Auction, March 20-12, 1959; Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, the Westpex Auction, April 27-30, 2017, Sale 74, Lot 1543).
7. Oct. 1, 1885, 12:30 p.m., New Haven, Conn., to Hartford, Conn., (Spink USA, June 13, 2019, Auction 169, Lot 159).
8. Oct. 1, 1885, Clifton Springs, N.Y., to Orange, N.J. (Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, June 1, 2016, Auction 69, Lot 1023, PFC 537793).

9. Oct. 1, 1885, Rochester, N.Y., to Rochester, N.Y. (Siegel Auction Galleries, March 31, 2005, Sale 894, The Dr. Alfred S. Martin Collection, Part 2, Lot 702).

10. Oct. 1, 1885, 9 a.m., Charleston, S.C., to Charlestown, S.C. (PFC 125068).

11. Oct. 1, 1885, Atla & M(?) Train 6 to New York City (ex-Getlan, Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 1129, 2016 Rarities of the World, May 31, 2016, Lot 441, PFC, Decline Opinion 104290).

12. Oct. 1, 1885, 10:30 a.m., New York-Station P, N.Y., to New York, N.Y. (ex-Rich, Moe, Siegel Auction Galleries, May 18, 2001, Sale 846, Lot 2351; Kuppertsmit Philatelic Auctions, Aug. 16, 2014, Chesney Collection [Ronald Moe], Sale 1, Lot 198, APS No. 157632). This is illustrated cover.

On Sept. 11, 1886, a committee of stamp collectors met in New York City, formed a new organization and named it the American Philatelic Association, later renamed the American Philatelic Society. When Joseph Rich joined, he became member No. 26.

Joseph Rich also took note of the first United States commemorative stamp series, the Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago. He addressed an envelope to himself, affixed the new 2¢ Columbian Exposition stamp, and obtained a Jan. 1, 1893, postmark. That cover, shown on the facing page, was last sold at auction on May 22, 2007, by Matthew Bennett International, in Sale 316, Lot 112: "The Aristocrat Collection of First Day Covers and Earliest Documented Usages."

Collecting United States government-issued stamps began in the late 1840s. The first two stamps were placed on sale as early as July 1, 1847, in New York City. Page 3, column 1, of the July 2, 1847, issue of the *New York Herald* reported:

*"Post Office, City of New York, July 1, 1847—Prepaid stamps have been received from the Post Office Department, of the denominations of five and ten cents, and will be sold only at the Post Office, by Mr. Monson, the Cashier at his office, between the hours of 9 o'clock A.M. and 3 o'clock P.M.*

*ROB'T H. MORRIS, P.M."*

Sadly, no examples of these stamps are known postally used on July 1, 1847. There is one July 2 cover known, bearing a pair of the 10¢ value.

Postage stamp collecting began over the next 20 years, as more and more stamps were issued by countries worldwide.

Organized philately, the study of "The Science of Philately," began in New York City by the late 1860s. Finally, organized philately began to bring collectors and dealers together to share their interests.

John Walter Scott, born in England in 1845, went to San Francisco in 1865 to seek gold, without success. In 1867, he moved to New York City and founded Scott Stamp and Coin Co.

In February 1868, Scott, known as "The Father of American Philately," began to publish *The American Journal of Philately*. He viewed the editorial charge of this paper as dealing with the study of "the Science of Philately." The publication initially listed newly issued stamps from around the world. It was published monthly and, by 1883, became a quarterly publication that focused on advertising the Scott standard stamp catalog, paper money cata-



Rich also created this FDC of the 2¢ columbian, last sold in 2007 in “The Aristocrat Collection of First Day Covers and Earliest documented Uses.”

log, coin chart manual, silver coin catalog, copper coin catalog and illustrations of copper coins.

Although Scott felt that his journal was the first philatelic journal to be published in the United States, S. Allen Taylor from Albany, N.Y., published *Stamp Collectors' Record* from 1864-76. In fact, according to a tabulation of the number of philatelic journals in publication by *The Philatelist* magazine, discontinued publications were barely outnumbered by newly issued titles. The number of philatelic journals in circulation increased to a total of 40 by 1889.

In New York City, one of the earliest philatelic organizations was The National Philatelic Society, which was organized in 1874 and incorporated in 1890. It held its first meeting on July 19, 1868, at 34 Liberty Street, the same address as John Scott's business. The National Philatelic Society's initial goal was “to spread the study of philately amongst the people.” Over the next decade, meeting minutes, list of officers and details of members in attendance were chronicled in *The American Journal of Philately*. By the late 1880s, meetings were held once or twice a month, but usually fewer than 15 members attended.

As J.W. Scott's stamp, coin and album business grew, he moved to 75-77 Nassau Street in 1874 and subsequently to another lower Manhattan location, 146 Fulton Street.

Concurrently, the city of New York was undergoing formative changes during the 1880s. The Brooklyn Bridge was initially opened to traffic on May 24, 1883, and the consolidation of the five boroughs into a unified city, composed of The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Richmond (Staten Island), occurred Jan. 1, 1898.

The 19th century was also the gilded age for organizing and incorporating men's social clubs in New York City. Approximately 133 clubs, with about 38,000 individual members, existed in the greater New York City area. Most of the clubs were organized for social purposes and entertainment. Prominent New Yorkers sought to replicate the style of the “great clubs of London, which gave a tone and character to the society.” Some clubs were established to study architecture, visual and theatre arts, film, culinary, fashion, literature, music and archaeology.

In 1902, the W.S. Rodsiter directory of these clubs, *City Men of New York*, was compiled as a reference standard.

Only about half of these clubs survive, many thriving mainstays of the New York City scene. Most of the clubs were male only. Many of the oldest surviv-

ing clubs owned their own distinguished buildings, serving as a clubhouse and meeting place. Most of these clubs have common areas, dining facilities, indoor sports facilities and hotel-like rooms to accommodate guests. The oldest of these clubs, along with their date of organization or incorporation are listed following, along with a description of their purpose, paraphrased from their websites.

**National Academy of Design (1825).** "Promote art and architecture in America through instruction and exhibition."

**The Union Club (1836).** "An urban social club for well-to-do New Yorkers discourages salesmen and where nobody pushes himself and barges in."

**The New York Yacht Club (1844).** "NYYC conducts an annual regatta, competes in team racing and match racing and transatlantic yacht races."

**The Century Association (1846).** "Its main activity is conversation."

**The Harmonie Club (1858).** "Provide members with superior services for dining, entertainment, athletic facilities and thought-provoking programs."

**The Union League Club (1863).** "A social club providing members and guests a quiet sanctuary and relief from the hustle of the city."

**The University Club (1865).** "A premier social club offering dining, luxurious accommodations, social events, extensive athletic facilities and the world's largest and finest club library to its members."

**The Harvard Club (1865).** "The club offers programming and events, athletic facility and an oasis of calm to its members."

**The New York Athletic Club (1868).** "The club encourages and supports amateur athletics. Additionally, it has a magnificent dining room and 187 overnight guest rooms."

Over the years, several at-one-time prominent clubs have ceased to exist including The Calumet Club, The Colonial Club and The Reform Club.

The **Collectors Club** began by renting space in larger buildings. Finally, in 1937, the Club moved into a permanent home at 22 East 35th Street. The image shown on the facing page illustrates a picture of the Club with a 1936 Ford two-door sedan parked in front. This newly discovered photograph was recently found in the bowels of the Collectors Club's vast archive holdings!

Joseph Rich began his involvement in organized philately on April 4, 1888, attending a meeting at The National Philatelic Society. Rich's generous gifts to philatelic literature began at this meeting, when he donated a bookcase for the library.

On Oct. 10, 1888, Joseph married Gertrude Gottheil, daughter of the prominent pro-Zionist Reform Rabbi Gustav Gottheil. He was Temple Emanu-El's third rabbi, and its spiritual leader from 1873 to 1903. Among his greatest achievements was the founding of the "Sisterhood of Personal Service."

When Rabbi Gottheil passed away, on Feb. 21, 1904, as a sign of charity, generosity and an indication of being "well off," Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rich donated a handsome ark, pulpit, reading desk and cover, perpetual lamp and the *Scroll of the Law* as gifts to the synagogue.

Quite sadly, their marriage lasted only 19 years. Gertrude died of heart disease on Nov. 22, 1909, at the age of 49, after being in ill health for about a year.





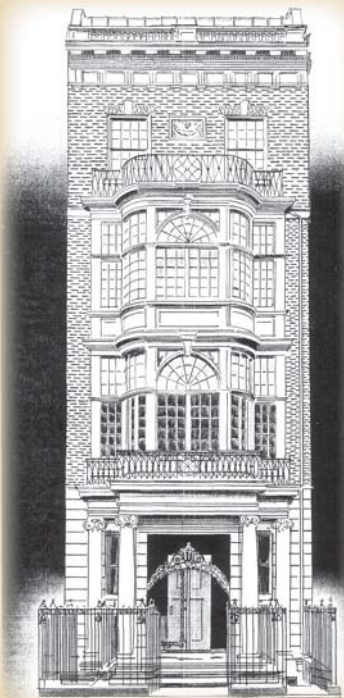
Joseph Rich entered the stamp business by joining the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. in 1895, succeeding Henry Collin as secretary-treasurer. The Scott company moved from lower Manhattan to 12 East 23rd Street, across the street from Madison Square Park in April 1889. In 1893, a renumbering of streets resulted in the address changing to 18 East 23rd Street.

When Rich joined Scott, John Luff had been employed there for about one year. Luff headed the approval department and edited the *American Journal of Philately*, co-edited the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* and edited the Scott stamp auction catalogs for the rest of his working life, except for a brief stint with the Stanley Gibbons firm, until he retired in November 1914.

Rich was in charge of publications, including the pages of the International albums, the Modern album and the Scott stamp catalogs from 1898 to 1913. Joseph Rich was also secretary and treasurer during his 18 years, from 1895 to 1913. He sold some of his collections during the 1890s and into the 1910s, but retained others throughout his life.

Scott Stamp & Coin held its last coin auction on May 15, 1896, and its "coin person," Lyman H. Low, left the firm. It took five auctions to liquidate the numismatic stock and the coin and medal department closed.

On June 24, 1886, an organizing committee started a project to form a special group for stamp collectors. Joseph Rich was one of a group of 100 stamp collectors and dealers who purchased shares of stock in the Collectors Club for \$25, which provided the working capital needed to establish a club to function as a headquarters for philatelic activity in New York City.



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On Aug. 22, 1896, a couple of paragraphs appeared in the *American Journal of Philately*, announcing "The Club Project." It acknowledged that the establishment of a philatelic club in New York (i.e. Manhattan), "to combine the social features with matters pertaining to stamp collecting" began. Although the project was not yet successful, due in part to out-of-town collectors not joining in great numbers, a circular was prepared and mailed to collectors who had already expressed interest, as well as a list of subscribers to date. The goal was to establish a club house and ask for financial support.

By Sept. 26, 1896, a lease was secured at 351 Fourth Avenue (now Park Avenue South, part of a Bank of America complex). There were 84 "shareholders," plus five committee members. This first home included a billiards room and a smoking room, as well as meeting rooms for members of several other stamp clubs that predated the formation of the Collectors Club (including the National Philatelic Society and The Manhattan Philatelic Society). At the time, it was quite common for collectors to be members of several stamp clubs.

Interested collectors met on Oct. 5 and adopted a constitution, by-laws and a Board of Governors. The Collectors Club's founders stated its purposes as:

*"The maintenance of reading and assembly rooms; the promotion of social intercourse among the members; the encouragement of the best interests of philately by mutual improvement in and the dissemination of literary and historical knowledge relating thereto by all proper means and for other lawful literacy, social and historical purposes."*

By October 1896, the Club moved to another rental space at 316 Fourth Avenue. The library was on the second floor and included "a bookcase, a writing table and several chairs."

In March 1906 the Club once again moved, this time to 24 West 26th Street, where three rooms on the second floor were rented.

The years 1906-11 were a period of steady decline. The library suffered, as did all matters pertaining to Club life.

The Panic of 1907 was a six-week stretch of runs on banks and trust companies in New York City. It occurred during an economic contraction that began in May 1907 and ended in June 1908. In October 1907, a failed stock manipulation scheme that attempted to corner shares of United Copper Co. failed. A run on New York City banks and trust companies followed. Share prices of common stocks declined by 50% and the economy weakened greatly. Production fell by 11 percent and imports fell by 26% during this brief period. Nationwide unemployment rose from 6.9% in 1907 to 16.4% in 1908.

As mentioned, period of steady decline followed, affecting nearly all matters pertaining to the Club.

When Charles J. Phillips wrote *The History of the Collectors Club* in October 1935, he described Gilbert Jones, "and about eight to ten of his cronies using the Club almost exclusively for gambling and little attention was paid to Philately." Phillips continues to recount "that records from this date until 1910 are practically non-existent." This period predates the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, so notices of meetings, election of officers and such were usually sent to the philatelic press.



Phillips' search of many stamp journals found very few notices, also suggesting greatly reduced activity.

In 1908, Joseph Rich was elected president of the Collectors Club and reelected in 1909. By June 1909 the Club's address was listed as 14 East 23rd Street, close to 18 East 23rd Street where Scott Stamp and Coin was located.

A video showing the general location of the Collectors Club and Scott's offices may be found on YouTube (a screen capture is shown at right). Please search for the video titled "Surreal Old Timey Film of New York City in 1911" ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXRnGwbrnOo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXRnGwbrnOo)). The

Left: Scott Stamp and Coin, located at 18 East 23 St.

Below: 18 East 23 St. today (on left), 14 East 23 St. (on right).





scene is near Madison Square Park, looking south toward the Flatiron Building at the intersection of 23rd Street, Fifth Avenue and Broadway. The Club, as well as the offices of the Scott Stamp and Coin offices, were on 23rd Street, a bit beyond the far left of the Flatiron Building image (offscreen, about a half-block to the left of the Hotel Bartholdi), which appears between the 1:25 and 1:30 minute mark. The entire film is extremely interesting to see.

Joseph Rich was actively involved with the Club and witnessed its ascent in 1911, when Albert Lichtenstein joined, in 1912 when Theodore Steinway joined and in 1913 when the Club provided \$250 in support of the first International Philatelic Exhibition held in the United States. The Exhibition was held at 25-33 West 39th Street, the home of the still-standing Engineering Societies' Building. This building is worth noting because it is a New York City Designated Landmark and appears on the United States Register of Historic Places.

As the Club moved in 1911 to Park Place, on the 2nd floor (above Kalil's restaurant), then in 1913 to East 42nd Street, then in 1917 to the first floor at 120 West 49th Street and in 1931 to a third floor space at 30 East 42nd Street, the Club continued to attract members.

Club membership was about 100 in 1913, growing to more than 250 by 1923, 650 by 1926 and just slightly fewer than 700 when Rich died in 1932.

Joseph Rich's lifelong dedication to the Collectors Club and its library was key to establishing the Club as a place worth joining and enjoying, with knowledge derived from studying "The Science of Philately."

Toward that goal, Rich's considerable and tangible achievements include:

**April 4, 1888:** Donated a bookcase to the National Philatelic Society library.

**1898-1905:** Received various gifts to the Club including those of Deats and Rich, as well as volumes loaned by Chas. T. Harbeck.

**1926:** Incorporated the Joseph S. Rich library of splendidly bound books and a collection of albums.

**1926:** Oversaw the purchase of the Senor Busch library, a fine collection of South American philatelic literature.

**1928:** Participated in the establishment of the J. Brace Chittenden Memorial, with Theodore E. Steinway and the William R. Ricketts Foundation.

**1928:** Received the gifts of the philatelic library of the late Henry Cole Quinby, publisher of the *Stamp Collectors Journal* (Lake Village, N.H.), and a portion of the W.R. Ricketts library.



Joseph Rich's tombstone. He is buried at Salem Fields Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Joseph Rich's mother, Matilda, died in 1920. An early 20th-century publication, the *Annual Record of Assessed Valuation of Real Estate in the City of New York*, showed that Matilda Rich owned 10 properties in Manhattan with an estimated total value of \$406,500 (worth approximately \$ 11.8 million in today's dollars). Over the years, the value of her assets fluctuated, as economic times changed. By the time of her death, real estate holdings were substantial and enabled the Rich family to live quite comfortably.

Two years later, on Jan. 26, 1922, Joseph Rich married Elizabeth Hayman.

Joseph died on March 19, 1932, while residing at 490 West End Avenue in Manhattan. He never fully recovered from a stroke that left him partially paralyzed one-and-a-half years prior to his death. He is buried in the family plot at the Salem Fields Cemetery in Brooklyn. The inscription on Joseph Rich's grave-

**The Collectors Club Philatelist** *is an international specialty journal serving the needs of hundreds of collectors worldwide. It serves as the journal of record for the CCNY as well as publishing stimulating and helpful articles for collectors of many levels and specialties. The Collectors Club Philatelist strives to publish accurate philatelic information and serves as a forum for communication among members of The Collectors Club.*

stone, "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done the Victory of Life is Won," a hymn that is often sung at Easter. In 1932, Easter fell just eight days after Rich's death.

Stephen G. Rich, one of Joseph's two sons, collected stamps and postal history of France, Poland and the State of New Jersey. He created several award-winning collections in areas as diverse as Orange Free State, the Boer War and the Cape of Good Hope Triangles. He was a prolific writer, authoring *Philately of the Anglo-Boer War of 1895-1902* in 1943.

He was an ardent collector of precanceled stamps and edited *The Precancel Bee* from Feb. 1, 1933, to Jan. 21, 1941. He moved the operation from Nebraska to New Jersey, closer to his home.

Stephen Rich was an important member of and active officer of the Society of Philatelic Americans (S.P.A.). He served as an officer from 1938 until his death on Aug. 10, 1958.

Additionally, Stephen Rich published the *Bureau Print*, and various catalogs and handbooks. As an author, he completed and published *United States Telegraph Issues* in 1947, after Joseph wrote significant portions of the publication during his life.

The story of Joseph Rich continues after 1932. Letters Testamentary, were obtained on April 6, 1932, by the executors, Friend L. Tuttle, Stephen G. Rich and Stella K. Newborg. The Collectors Club and the Bethel (Maine) Library Association were named in the will, but the value of the legacy was undetermined. The major beneficiaries of Joseph's will were his two sons, Stephen and Gilbert, and his wife, Elizabeth.

After Stephen's death, his will was probated and it was discovered that the father's (Joseph) assets had never been distributed and the estate remained open. The lawyers representing Joseph Rich's son's (Gilbert) estate approached the sole surviving executor, Friend L. Tuttle, and requested him to file an executor's account. Finally, on Feb. 2, 1960, Tuttle filed an account for the period from March 19, 1932, to Aug. 10, 1958.

Originally the three executors of the Rich estate were Stephen G. Rich, Friend L. Tuttle and Stella K. Newborg. Joseph Rich's death occurred in the depths of the Great Depression. Real estate values declined quite severely, thereby greatly diminishing the value of a real estate-laden estate. Zubin Jelveh's Sept. 9, 2009, article in *The New Republic* stated that "home values in the burrough (sic) (Manhattan) flat-lined, falling by 69 percent to reach a new low at the end of 1932 and hovered around that value until the end of the 1930s. A typical house bought in the beginning of 1920 would have retained only 50 percent of its initial value two decades later." Sadly, Joseph Rich's estate suffered significantly in value.

Although a decades-long delay in distributing the assets of the estate is clearly unacceptable, the surrounding events might help possibly explain Mr. Tuttle's delay and inaction. Finally, 100 years after his birth, the story of Joseph Rich ends.

**Additional Reading:** *An Informal History of The Collectors Club*, by William W. Wylie, reprinted from the Anphilex '71 Catalogue.

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# Finding Private Ryan; An Irish Brigade WWI PoW Cover

Robert Gray

Sometimes a single cover prompts an investigation revealing an interesting piece of history. Finding Private Ryan was just that kind of opportunity. World War I was fought amongst the great empires of the day – Britain, France and Russia as the Allies, and Austro-Hungary, Germany and the Ottoman Empire as the Central Powers. Nationalist movements became active in many parts of the world as these empires were viewed as more vulnerable. For Britain the big threats were in Ireland and India. The Germans could see this as well and developed plans to exploit it.

The war was only a few months old and already thousands of allied prisoners were being held in Germany, including Irish and many Muslim soldiers from both the British and French colonies. For the Muslim prisoners the Germans established the Halbmondlager (Crescent moon camp) in Zossen within a few miles of Berlin. This was a Jihad camp with propaganda urging the prisoners to join the fight against their colonial rulers. Less well-known at the Zossen camp was a group of Irish prisoners of war who had agreed to return to Ireland to participate in the planned Easter Uprising of April 24, 1916.

Sir Roger Casement was a career British diplomat knighted for his humanitarian efforts, and an Irish nationalist. He made his way to Germany from the neutral United States to discuss the idea of raising an Irish Brigade to fight the British in Ireland. At the time, a British army brigade included 4,000 men. The Germans were to train, arm and transport them to Ireland to fight for Irish independence. The efforts at the Halbmondlager and with the Irish Brigade were failures, resulting in only a few soldiers willing to switch sides. The “Irish Brigade” included only about 55 soldiers, despite nearly a year of recruiting efforts amongst the thousands of Irish prisoners of war. Ultimately, only Roger Casement and a few Irish Brigade members reached Ireland before the Easter Uprising. The other Irish Brigade members remained in Zossen. Casement was captured, tried, his knighthood revoked and he was hung.

This search for Private Ryan was prompted by the Zossen cancellation on the cover shown in Figure 1. What was an Irishman doing at that camp? A Google search of “Ryan Zossen Connaught” brought his story to the first item in the search. Private Michael Ryan had enlisted in the British Army in 1903. He was in France by Aug. 14, 1914, with the Connaught Rangers. Following his capture by the Germans, Ryan was first brought to Limburg camp with thousands of other Irish prisoners. Its not known why or how he decided to join Casement’s Irish Brigade, but he did sign as his name and military number appeared on the Brigade list. Those joining were brought to the Zossen camp around July 1915 and were given uniforms and weapons training. A few months after the failure of the Easter Uprising, July 3, 1916, the Irish Brigade members were moved to a camp at Danzig-Troyl (Gdańsk, Poland).

The Brigade members had special privileges, including the ability to work outside the camp. At least one went and worked in Berlin. There was also a list

of 11 “problem” men including Pvt. Ryan. He had been cited for drunkenness on Jan. 30, 1917. It’s likely whatever privileges he had were revoked. On Aug. 23, 1918, there was a trial of two Irish prisoners, one of whom was Michael Ryan, for seriously wounding and resisting authority. He served a three-month and two weeks stay at a punishment camp called Quadsow (Kwasowo, Poland). An investigation of this incident is preserved in the National Archives at Kew. After the armistice, Pvt. Ryan made his way to another PoW camp and then was later repatriated to Britain. He was discharged Sept. 12, 1919. On Sept. 14, 1921, his Star Clasp and Roses medal was re-issued and he was allowed to keep his other medals. Most of the Irish Brigade was not as fortunate and had to forfeit what benefits might have accrued to a PoW.

The cover front (Figure 1) has a few German-language hand stamps, which require explanation. The cancellation is from Zossen on 23-4-16 (April 23, 1916). The double-circle hand stamp with Brief-Stempel (Letter stamp) in the middle and “KOMMANDANTUR DER GEFANGENENLAGER ZOSSEN” (Commandant of the prisoner camp Zossen) in the circle is typical of a PoW cover from this period. A second hand stamp, “Kriegsgefangenensendung” (prisoner of war program) appears above the F.a. abbreviation, which stands for Frist abgelaufen (Deadline expired). The German plan was to delay the letters from PoWs for at least 10 days to dilute the intelligence value of any possible information they might contain. The F.a. abbreviation signifies that the letter has had its delay and could be released. There is also a faint Geprüft (checked) hand stamp on the cover indicating some level of censorship.



Figure 1. Cover front of PoW letter and unfranked from Zossen Germany to Norwich, England.

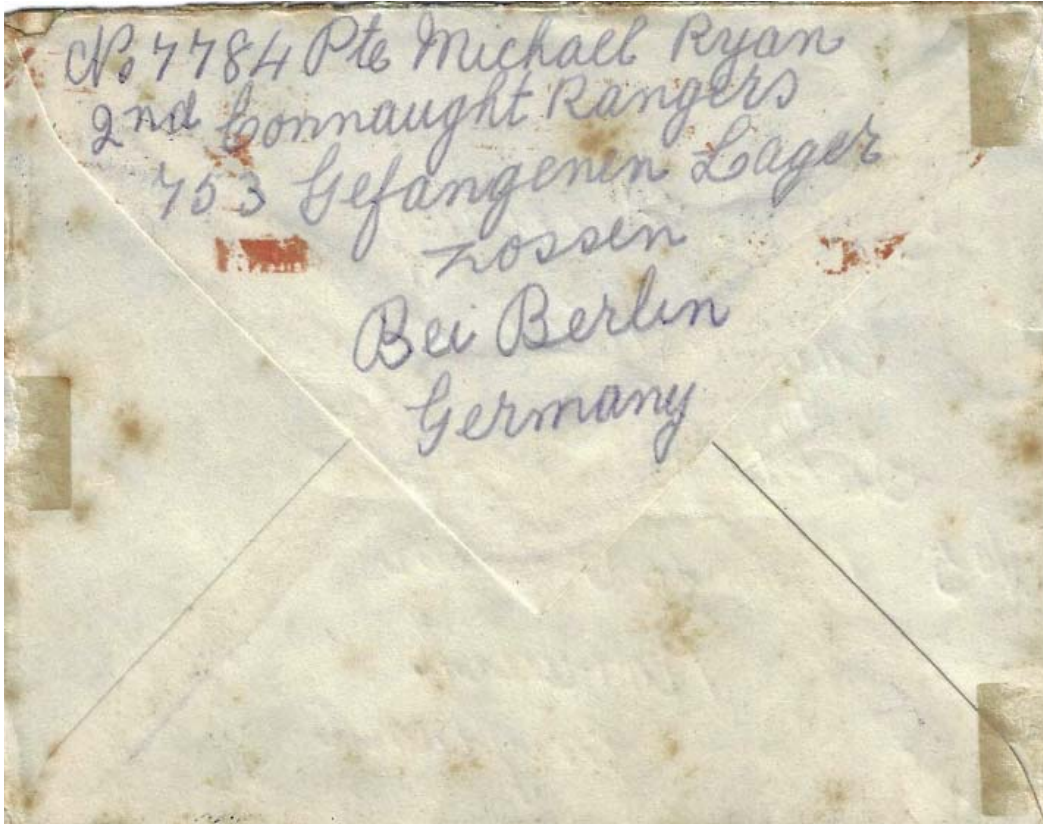


Figure 2. Cover verso showing return address of prisoner. No. 7784 in the sender's address matches with the list of Irish Brigade roll book.

The cover verso contains the sender's address and identity. Figure 2, reads "No 7784 Pte Michael Ryan, 2nd Connaught Rangers, 753 Gefangenen Lager, Zossen, Bei Berlin, Germany." Irish Brigade covers are likely very scarce. There were only 55 men at Zossen for roughly 12 months. If they sent or received an average of four covers per month, this would amount to no more than 2,640 total generated. Assuming survivorship of 1%, one might expect 26 covers to be extant; the reality is probably fewer. The connection of a PoW to the Irish Brigade is easily overlooked.

The Irish brigade members came from 15 different British army regiments. The regiments and numbers involved are shown in the table at right. Covers from the Zossen and the Danzig-Troyl camp addressed

Men	Regiment or Unit
20	Royal Irish Regiment
9	2nd Connaught Rangers
5	Royal Dublin Fusiliers
5	Leinster Regiment
3	Royal Irish Rifles
3	South Lancashire Regiment
2	Irish Guards
2	Royal Artillery
1	Royal Irish Fusiliers
1	Royal Munster Fusiliers
1	Royal Inniskillings
1	South Irish Horse
1	Somerset Light Infantry
1	Bedfordshire Regiment
1	South Staffordshires

Figure 3. Gutter pairs of Irish stamps celebrating the life of Roger Casement, Scott 214-215 (1966).



to or from these units should be further investigated for any possible connection to the Irish Brigade.

After the war Michael Ryan is not noted in books and journals and it is assumed he lived a quiet life until he passed in 1960. Roger Casement joined the pantheon of Irish Easter Uprising patriots. His image is on several Irish stamps including the ones shown in Figure 3.

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# Caveat Emptor – Buyer Beware!

By Mel Kravitz R.P.S.L.

## Abstract

The recent appearance of significant numbers of *new* China Large and Small Dragon postal history finds at several different auction houses and through private sales offerings has prompted the following analysis. This is to warn prospective buyers to seek British Philatelic Association certificates on expensive items. Significant improvements in laser etching<sup>1</sup> technology has aided the forger in quickly producing Customs Post CDS and seal cancel devices. This analysis discusses such items.



Figure 1a (above). May 18, 1883, USPA Shanghai CDS and cork-canceled 5¢ U.S. Taylor stamp, with the added ½ oz. letter rate of 7 candarin. Wide-margin stamps on cover front, Customs/Peking seal origin canceled. The Postal Tariff asked that only UPU-country stamps be placed on the address side of a letter. This was not strictly adhered to. Forgers wishing to “cover” text with a stamp may place stamps on the cover front.

The sudden appearance of a major new item – with no history or provenance – is a flag indicating possible forgery. Buyers need to have a good auction history library, a collection of Customs Post cancels for comparative analysis and historical knowledge of Customs Post handling of mail, all gained from an extensive library and communication with peer collectors. A buyer seriously considering such a purchase *must* condition the purchase on submission to the BPA where all of these conditions can be met.

This altered cover was sent to me for review and possible purchase at the end of August 2019.<sup>3</sup> I reviewed the cover and felt the Customs CDS cancels were recent creations, the Peking seal cancels crude

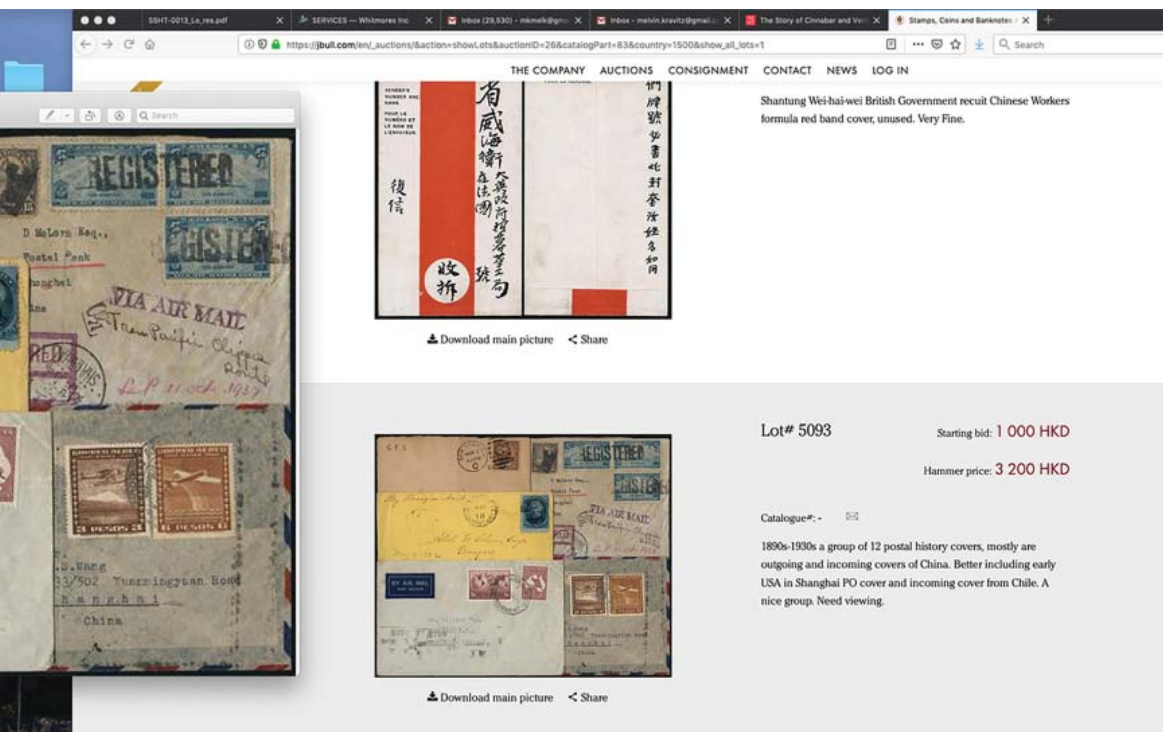




Figure 1b. Cover reverse, I.G. of Customs Peking CDS, dated May 5 1882, Customs/Tientsin May 6 1882, CDS Customs/Shanghai May 12, 1882, transit stamp, San Francisco Transit stamp and Michigan arrival Stamp. The Customs Post, seal, Customs/Shanghai CDS and I.G. of Customs/Peking markings can be created today using a laser etcher machine. The gum stains on the Large Dragon stamps are a “nice” touch.

and I indicated no interest. In early November, I found evidence of the original cover (Figure 2), proving my review was correct. It is obviously a forgery! All 12 covers sold at auction on July 7-8, for HK\$3,200, with commission ~US\$500.

Figure 2. Shown below (in a screen shot from auction) is the Figure 1 cover before alteration, as it appeared in the John Bull Summer Sale, with a group of 12 incoming and outgoing mail items to Shanghai. This was John Bull 2019 Summer Sale, Lot 5093.<sup>2</sup>



Since there are only 11 known authentic mail matter U.S.-China Large Dragon items, including two incoming and nine outgoing, if authentic, these items would bring very high prices at auction. If original, this cover would likely sell at auction for ~US\$100K-\$200K – *Caveat Emptor*, “Buyer Beware.”

### **What was the original cover?**

The original was mail sent directly from the U.S. Postal Agency Shanghai on May 18, 1882, to Michigan; the USPA origin, San Francisco transit and Michigan town arrival stamps are all authentic. This type of mail matter, sent from any Shanghai UPU Post Office to any foreign destination is raw material for the forger. China was not a member of the UPU during the Large Dragon or Small Dragon period, currently where large prices for postal history items are being achieved at auction. As such, outgoing mail from the Spring of 1879 entering the Customs Post at any Port post office would require Customs postage. There were two ways of doing this: 1.) Either by the sender applying a Large Dragon 3 candarins stamp on the reverse of the cover to pay the domestic postage to the Shanghai Customs Post Office, while simultaneously applying the appropriate UPU foreign postage on the address side for transmission overseas. This was called the “prepaid method”; 2.) Alternately, the Postal Tariff issued Nov. 15 of each year, defined the postage required for mail sent overseas with no UPU foreign postage applied by the sender at the Customs Post Office of origin. For ½-oz. letters to the United States in May of 1883, the rate was 7 candarins. This was the “fully paid” method of handling mail. The letter would be forwarded to the Shanghai Customs Post Office, where the postage was calculated at its origin as 3ca. for the domestic charge and 4ca. representing the foreign postage. The Customs Post Office at Shanghai would then apply the equivalent foreign postage, in this case the U.S. 5¢ Taylor stamp. This letter was then forwarded to the U.S. Postal Agency for transmission to the United States by steamer.

### **What other mail matter items are targets of forgers?**

Mail destined for – or leaving – China during the Large and Small Dragon period 1879-96 can be organized into the following five categories:

**1) Maritime Customs employees.** Mail to or from Maritime Customs employees from 1879 to December 1882 would have 5ca. or 3ca. Large Dragon stamps affixed to the cover’s address side or front, paid for by the Customs Postal Dept. There are some 25 total known authentic incoming letters, most are from the “Hancock” correspondence. After December 1882, a “Customs Mail Matter” handstamp was to be used and postage stamps reserved for general mail use. There are known exceptions; a postal card sent to the Customs Library Customs/ Wenchow from the United States in 1885, was Supplementary charged with a Large Dragon 1ca. stamp canceled at Customs/Shanghai. However, known “Hancock” forgeries exist.<sup>4</sup>

**2) Legation mail.** Mail addressed to the British, French, German or other country legation personnel in Peking would normally be bundled at the respective Shanghai UPU post offices or British mail in Hong Kong, for overland delivery in winter when the sea was ice-bound, to Tientsin, or by steamer in the spring, summer or fall, when the sea was clear of ice to the port



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of Tientsin, Tangku. Such mail never entered the Customs Post and the fee was paid on Dec. 15<sup>5</sup> each year, based on the number of packets or bundles. Messengers picked up and delivered this mail to Peking legations. Examples do exist for "loose" legation mail handled with "To Pay" handstamp markings by Customs/Shanghai, sent in summer or winter and, in rarer cases, with canceled 3ca. stamps. Loose legation mail arriving at Customs/Tientsin by the sea route would be stamped on the address side with the Customs/Tientsin CDS in red and a 3ca. stamp added and seal canceled, indicating a supplementary fee to be collected from the addressee. Postal history legation mail is a prime target of forgers, adding Custom stamps and cancel CDS in an attempt to represent loose legation mail.

**3) Missionary mail. (1880-85).** Mail to China from the United States, destined for U.S. missionaries in Northern China had their mail bundled by the USPA in Shanghai for overland winter or steamer delivery to the port of Tientsin Tangku for delivery to the USPA Tientsin office. This for messenger delivery to Peking, Paotingfu, Tungchow, etc. This mail never entered the Customs Post. It was picked up and delivered by missionary messengers from Tientsin.<sup>6</sup> Any mail from the United States in this period with Large Dragon stamps canceled at Customs/Shanghai to a missionary in North China is most likely a forgery!

These surviving covers can be easily be manipulated with fake Customs stamps and CDS cancels.

They have authentic origin, transit and USPA arrival marks. The USPA Tientsin did not datestamp this mail; that is, there is no known correspondence from the Consular office in Washington authorizing this.

No examples of such a CDS is known to exist. After 1885 such mail entered the Customs Post. Following these category offerings are two recent offerings of altered covers.

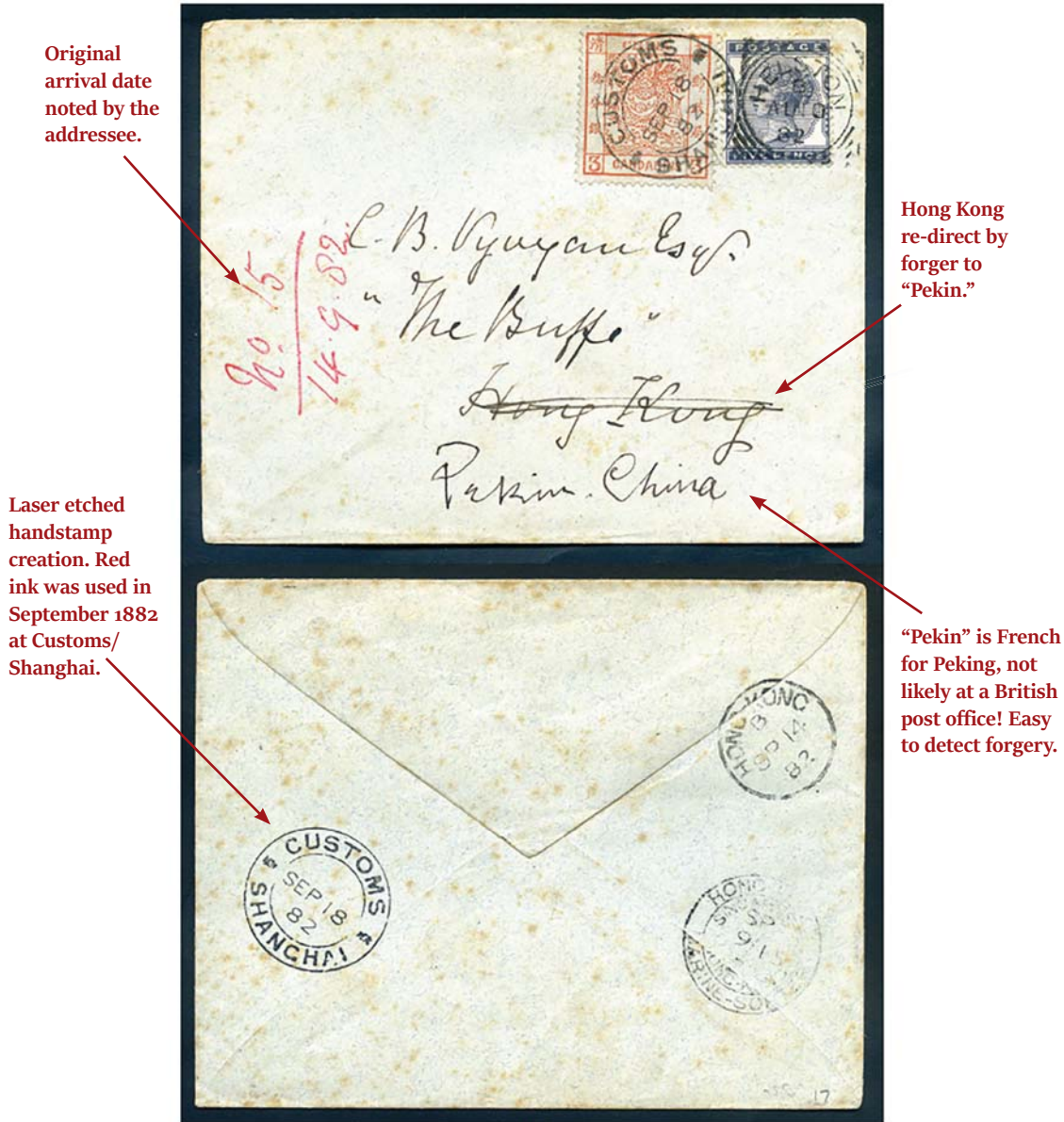
**4) Subscriber mail.** General users or businesses could subscribe to the Customs Post office in the port where they lived and worked; as such, this mail was free of supplementary dues fees and markings. Payment was made once a year on Dec. 15.<sup>7</sup> The post office kept book records of such mail users and their letter dates. They visited to pick up mail at the Customs Post Office or had messenger agents deliver such mail. This type of mail can easily be forged by adding Customs stamps and fake Customs marks.

**5) Redirected mail.** Mail sent to Hong Kong as a final destination or to Shanghai as subscriber mail can have the destination address changed and Custom Post stamps or "To Pay" marks added, along with forged seal and Customs CDS cancels. This is a very common forgery target.

Following are examples taken from redirected mail, missionary mail and subscriber mail. These items are from a recent auction catalog, the others are from private-sale offerings. The following is strictly based upon comparative analysis to existing known good items. I have not forensically examined any of these items personally.

## Mail to Hong Kong redirected to "Pekin":

Figure 3 (from auction catalog).<sup>8</sup> Mail to an addressee in Hong Kong, arrived, as noted in red, Sept. 14, 1882, from England to Hong Kong. Three blatant errors by the forger: (1) arrival date noted by the addressee, (2) the use of French "Pekin" for Peking, not likely at a British Post Office, (3) Customs/Shanghai used red as a color of cancel ink in September of 1882.<sup>9</sup>



347

Figure 3. Authentic origin and Hong Kong arrival cancel marks, forged Customs/Shanghai CDS marks.

347

1882 An incoming Large Dragon cover from England to Peking, bearing Great Britain QV 5p 'HELSTON' cancel, alongside Large Dragon 3 cands brown red, tied by 'CUSTOMS/SHANGHAI/28.9.82' cancel. On reverse with double ring 'HONG-KONG/MARINE-SORTER/SINGAPORE TO HONG-KONG/9/15.9.82' ship cancel, Webb type No.2, plus 'HONG KONG/14.9.82' transit, 'CUSTOMS/SHANGHAI/18.9.82' transit. Extremely rare and unique cover. Photo

*This newly discovered cover is believed to be the only known Large Dragon cover with the 'Marine Sorter' cancellation. We have found no other record of a similar item. According to Webb the latest use of this cancellation is 11/17 August 1882, hence this cover is one month later than Webb's record. An excellent show piece for an exhibition collection.*

HKS 700,000 - 800,000

**Missionary U.S.-China Large Dragon incoming combination cover 1880-85:<sup>12</sup>**

To date, only one authentic incoming U.S.-Large Dragon China combination cover is known in the classical 1879-86 period. This is the “Oieson” cover from the Meiso Mizuhara collection. Auctioned in the Spink January 2016 Estate Sale 16012, Lot 1682.

Laser-etched creation, using black ink, when Customs/Shanghai was using red ink.



Figures 4a and 4b. An 1883 (Jan. 23) 3¢ U.S. postal stationery envelope uprated with 5¢ U.S. Garfield, addressed to Rev. Horace R. Smith (missionary), transited San Francisco Jan.29, 1883, arrived at USPA Shanghai on March (?). Transit CDS and 3ca. Large Dragon stamp on cover front and canceled Customs/ Shanghai March 2, 1883, with black ink. Indistinct “I.G. of Customs Peking” arrival CDS.

**Comments:**

1. This mail never entered the Custom Post; it was forwarded from the USPA Shanghai to the USPA Tientsin and missionary messenger delivery to Rev. Horace R. Smith in Tungchow (Peter L. Koffsky, Page 6<sup>10</sup>).

2. Customs/Shanghai was using red as an ink color on March 2, 1883, as noted on the Authentic Meiso Mizuhara cover from the Spink 2016 Estate Sale 16012, Lot 1694,



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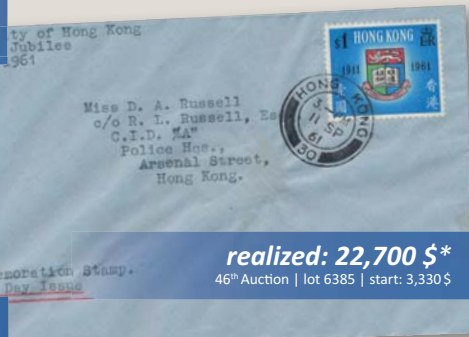
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which is shown in Figure 5. That cover transited Customs/Shanghai on March 2, 1883, the same day as the Figure 4 Smith cover, and was canceled in red ink (James Whang Page 342<sup>11</sup>).

The cover shown in Figure 4 and the Figure 6 missionary incoming Large Dragon U. S. China combination cover, if authentic, would be the second and third surviving mail to China from the United States. It would be incredibly rare and would demand very high prices at auction. Both are *new* creations, apparently appearing in 2019.



1694

**French Post Office**

1694 ☒

1883 (28 Feb.) opened-out envelope to Oxford bearing, on the reverse, wide margin 3ca. dull scarlet [16] cancelled by a central strike of Chefoo seal in black with the despatch c.d.s. alongside, Customs Shanghai (2.3) in red plus Oxford arrival (16.4); the address side with France 25c. (showing a dramatic pre-printing fold) tied by a slightly smudged strike of "SHANG-HAI/CHINE" c.d.s. with a second strike alongside. Fine and scarce mail from Chefoo.

The 3ca. pays the internal rate, the French stamps applied by the sender.

This is the earliest recorded Large Dragon combination cover sent from Chefoo

HK\$250,000-300,000

**PROVENANCE:**

Sir Percival David, November 1965

**LITERATURE:**

James Whang Large Dragon covers, number 214

Figure 5. From the Meiso Mizuhara collection, cover back, Spink<sup>13</sup> Sale 16012, Lot 1694. Transited Customs/Shanghai on March 2, 1883. The color of the CDS ink is red. Black ink is a flag indicating possible forgery. Here we see the importance of a reference library, auction reference catalogs, as well as knowledge of the history of the USPA in China, all coming together. Library that was referred to in uncovering the "Chew" forgery.

Missionary U.S.-China Large Dragon incoming combination cover 1880-85:<sup>16</sup>



Laser-etched creation; black ink was not used in September 1882 at Customs/Shanghai.



Figures 6a and 6b. An 1882 (July 20) envelope from Litchfield, Conn., to Peking, China, with U.S. 5¢ Taylor cork-cancelled, transited San Francisco July 2?, arrived at the USPA Aug. 31, bearing China 3ca. Large Dragon stamp canceled Sept. 2, 1882. On reverse Customs/Shanghai transit CDS in black ink and "I.G. of Customs Peking" arrival CDS.

**Comments:**

1. This mail never entered the Custom Post and was forwarded from the USPA Shanghai to the USPA Tientsin and missionary messenger delivery to Rev. Henry Blodget in Peking (Peter L. Koffsky, Page 6<sup>14</sup>).

2. Customs/Shanghai was using red as an ink color on Sept. 2, 1882, as noted on the authentic Meiso Mizuhara cover from the Spink 2016 Estate Sale 16012, Lot 1690, which is shown in Figure 7. The cover transited Customs/Shanghai on Sept. 3, 1882, the day after the Figure 6 Blodget cover, and was canceled in red ink (James Whang, Page 342<sup>15</sup>).

## Census of Customs/Shanghai red cancels on outgoing and incoming covers 1882-83

For Large Dragon covers, the "Customs/Shanghai" double-ring CDS is found in red, either as departure or transit markings, on nearly all covers recorded between Feb. 13, 1882, and Feb. 12, 1883, except for a Customs dater of March 11, 1882, recorded in black, and a Customs dater of June 28, 1882, recorded in blue. Black cancellations are also sometimes encountered on loose stamps during this period (David Chou collection contains "Feb 23 82," "Apr 21 82" and "Nov 8 82" dates). After March 11, 1883, James B. Whang (Page 342) writes that "the Customs Shanghai transit CDS once again begins to appear in black instead of in the more usual red." The September 1882 closest cover is shown below, this mail to the United States from Tientsin, transited Customs/Shanghai on Sept. 3, 1882.

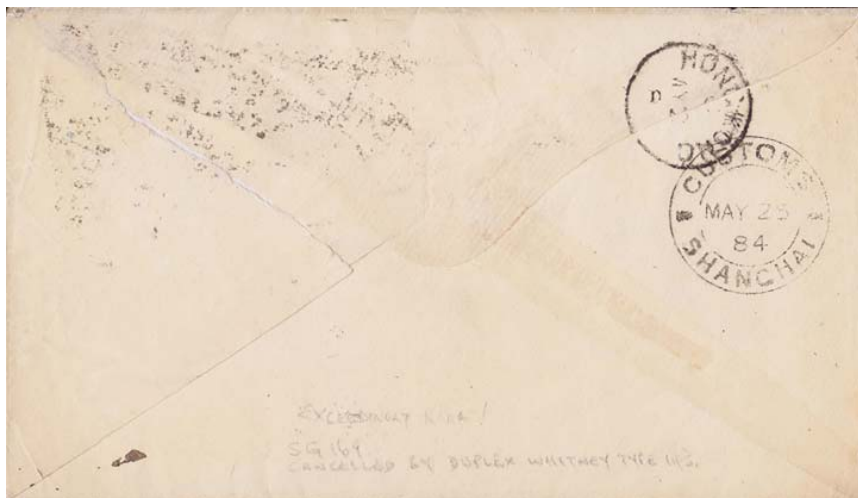
This is from the Meiso Mizuhara collection, Spink Sale 16012 January 2016, Lot 1690.<sup>17</sup>



Figure 7. An 1882 (Aug. 30) Customs/Tientsin origin mail to the United States, transited Customs/Shanghai CDS in RED on Sept. 3, 1882, one day later than the subject cover.



Subscriber England-China Large Dragon incoming combination cover:<sup>18</sup>



Figures 8a and 8b. An 1884 (April 13) subscriber mail to Shanghai via Hong Kong BPO. This mail arrived in May (?) at Hong Kong, reverse CDS. Both origin and Hong Kong transit cancel marks are authentic. The forger need only “redirect” the mail to Peking and add the laser-etched Customs/Shanghai May 25, 1884, CDS to create a valuable philatelic item from a more common few-hundred-dollar U.S. auction item.



Figure 9. A comparison of Chew, and the Figure 8 Subscriber Customs/Shanghai CDS marks. Note the identical “M” in “MAY” – same device used, the same font in all Customs Post Office marks.

## Conclusion

The time between the end of the John Bull Summer Sale in July 2019 and when I was shown shown the forged “Chew” cover as a possible purchase item was – at most – six weeks. This rapid turnaround highlights the need to expose this and other current forgeries permeating the market. The speed of production of this forgery is only possible with today’s cancel stamp technology, a derivative of the laser etcher, which can produce Custom Post cancels similar to those shown on the three covers discussed. In Figure 10 are recently produced test cancels from Newchwang port, a seal and Customs/Newchwang CDS similar to those shown in this article; note the modern U.S. postage stamp, indicating a modern fabrication. Forgery of cancels is as old as stamp collecting, and today’s technology simply makes it faster to implement.

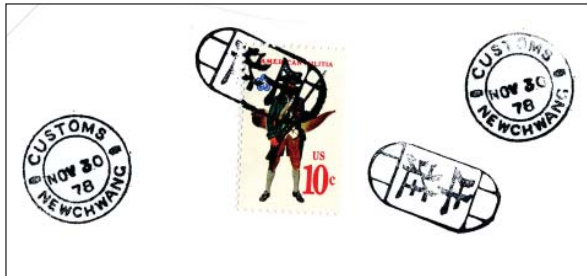


Figure 10. Recent “creations,” of seal and Customs/Newchwang CDS. This is the reverse of a cover sent in October through the U.S. Postal Service domestically. It was fabricated and donated to the author to test the laser etcher capability to help expose forgeries. Knowledge is power!

The “Achilles Heel” of the forger is the ink used in creating a forgery. Uncovering forged covers using current technology tools is, in essence, the use of forensic ink testing. The VSC 6000/8000<sup>19</sup> machines, as an example, can give a percent spectral amplitude vs wavelength plot of ink on a suspect item. This machine is a comparator, and one can eliminate forgeries by comparative ink analysis to a known good sample. If in doubt on the authenticity, or if purchasing an item with no provenance, seek a professional opinion at the BPA. Remember, a “fool and his money are soon parted.”

### Footnotes

1. [www.cct-uk.com/applications.htm](http://www.cct-uk.com/applications.htm)
2. John Bull, Summer 2019 Sale Lot 5093, Page 24.
3. Richard Frajola, Fig. 1a and 1b forged cover sent to author for review, email Aug. 30, 2019.
4. Zurich Asia, March 30, 2019, Sale Lot 508, Lugan stamps Duplex /316 canceled, one is canceled /716, forgery sold for HK\$50,000. A genuine cover was sold by Interasia in its December 2018 Sale, Lot 51, for HK\$1.5 million.
5. Maj. Richard Pratt, *Imperial China, History of the Posts to 1896*, Christies Robson Lowe, Page 265.
6. Peter L. Koffsky, *The Consul General's Shanghai Postal Agency 1867-1907*, Page 6.
7. Maj. Richard Pratt, *Imperial China, History of the Posts to 1896*, Christies Robson Lowe, pp. 264,265.
8. Zurich Asia, Sept. 29, 2019, sale, Lot 347.
9. James B. Whang, *A Comprehensive Illustration On Covers of Chinese Large Dragons*, Page 342.
10. Peter L. Kopffsky, Page 6.
11. James B. Whang, Page 342.
12. Richard Frajola, offered for possible private purchase, email Oct. 9, 2019.
13. Spink, Meiso Mizuhara, *The Exhibition Collection*, Jan. 2016, Sale 16012, Lot 1694, Page 190.
14. Peter L. Koffsky, Page 6.
15. James B. Whang, Page 342.
16. [www.philamercury.com/covers.php?id=28304](http://www.philamercury.com/covers.php?id=28304)
17. Spink, Meiso Mizuhara, *The Exhibition Collection*, January 2016, Sale 16012, Lot 1690, Page 183.
18. Richard Frajola, offered for possible private purchase, email Oct. 9, 2019.
19. <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/forensic-laboratory/index.html>



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# Malaya's Timeless Design IX

## Crown Colonies

Lin Yangchen

### Malaya stamp perfins

Occasionally, one encounters a piquant juxtaposition of the agrarian and the industrial: the woodcut design of the coconut definitive, perforated with machined holes reminiscent of the punch cards in early computers, as if heralding the dawn of the digital age.

The so-called perfin, standing for "perforated initials" or "perforated insignia," is, in fact, a security marking used by companies and government departments to deter unauthorized use of their stamps. They were originally known as spifs for stamps perforated with initials of firms (Alderfer 1999). Stamps were legal tender and could be misused by greedy employees to buy goods such as bread, cheese and ale (Alderfer 1999).

Compared with true dot-matrix print, perfin letters have fewer dots and a more primeval character, as the latter's holes do not conform to a grid. They imbue the coconut definitive with a touch of elegance and add another dimension to its typographic diversity. In the companies they represent, they embody the globalism and cosmopolitanism of Malaya.

Samuel type d21 perforator (1940) of De La Rue (Cockburn 2010), which was individually applied to stamps (Freeland 2010). The word "SPECIMEN" marks a stamp provided to postmasters and postal administrations as a reference sample, and invalidates them against postal use. Perfins have a drawback here: The numerous holes may coincide with important design or print details. On the left is a philatelic conformer with nicely centered strikes of both the perfin and the multiple script ca watermark, while on the right is its rebellious cousin.



At right: A perfin from Boustead & Co., an asset management and corporate finance company established in Singapore in 1828 that has grown from strength to strength with the country to this day. This example was applied by a die used by the Singapore office (Turnbull 2017).



Far right: A larger, scruffier die used by the Penang office of Boustead & Co. (Turnbull 2017). A perfinned stamp is viewed less favorably on the market if the perfin cuts into the sides, but the author sees beauty in the human touch of perfin production.

Right: The Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland (Netherlands Steamship Co.) had a motto with the same initials: *Semper Mare Navigandum* (“Always Sail the Seas”). It later merged into Nedlloyd, which in turn became part of the world’s largest container shipping line, Maersk Line. The perfin’s holes are large even for the oversized font, distorting some of the letters and making it hard to read.



Various multiples of stamps bearing the “Borsumij” perfin, as described in the text.

Stamps carrying the purported Borsumij perfin glow like a 15th-century perforated Egyptian mosque lamp. Some of the perfins are upright, some are inverted and the one at bottom right is inverted and reversed. Only one is a perfect hit, the second from left in the bottom row, and it shows that it is the perfect size for the small-format definitives of the British Empire. The perforator appears to have been single-set and hand-held. The two 2-by-2 blocks of unseparated stamps (upper left and upper center) appear to have been punched one stamp at a time instead of being folded and punched all at once. It looks as if the two stamps in the right-hand column of a given block were punched first upright, and the block rotated in the hand to punch the remaining two stamps, which would explain why their perfins are upside down.

This perfin is thought to have belonged to the powerful Borneo-Sumatra Trading Co. (Turnbull 2017), known in its home language as Borneo-Sumatra Handel Maatschappij or Borsumij. Its headquarters were at The Hague, and branches were scattered throughout the Netherlands East Indies (Grove & Sugiyama 2013). Singapore was its only branch in Malaya. The office was presumably housed in the Borsumij Building on 41 Robinson Road. An advertisement of office space boasted of an electric lift and “all modern conveniences.” Borsumij traded widely on steamships and dealt extensively with Chinese merchants (Campo 2002). It monopolized commodities in the region,

from coal and rubber to tobacco to fish and forest products (Campo 2002, Grove & Sugiyama 2013). Using smaller vessels, its agents ventured as far as the upper reaches of remote Bornean rivers.

Right: Damar penak, a resin, was one of the Malayan forest products traded by Borsumij. It was tapped by minimalist native climbers from the tree *Balanocarpus heimii* (family Dipterocarpaceae) for use as varnish (Meinwald & Messer 1990). Damar from other species of dipterocarp was used for various purposes like sealant for burial jars and fuel for lamps (Meinwald & Messer 1990, Mahdi 2007).



Left: Different hole sizes from the Asiatic Petroleum Co. Competing British and Dutch petroleum companies, Shell Transport & Trading Co. and Royal Dutch Petroleum Co., set up this joint venture in 1903 to develop markets in the Far East. The upside-down perfin includes what could be a small control

hole or code hole in the lower left corner denoting a specific machine, although control holes are usually of the same type as the regular holes.

Right: Perfins from the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, which was closely allied with British colonial trade in Asia. It merged with the Standard Bank in Africa in 1969 to become Standard Chartered, with headquarters in London. The perfin comes in three different



sizes, from (left-right) Singapore, Penang and Kuala Lumpur. The Singapore version has stops and in this example exhibits a beautiful transitional phase between embossing and perfin, showing “crescent moons” of partially punched-out circles (new English word coined by author in 2017) of paper, and fiscally canceled with the rubber stamp of the same company.



Left: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (hsbc) was involved in the management of colonial government accounts in Penang and Singapore. See McClaren (2004) for more background on the bank and its perfin. There are eight possible orientations of the letters, arising from the common practice of folding blocks of stamps to be punched simultaneously.

Right: Part of the h in an hsbc perfin. Stamps perfinned in folded blocks sometimes leave their punched-out bits in other stamps facing the opposite way when the block is separated.





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The Yokohama Specie Bank had numerous branches in Japan, London, New York, China, India and southeast Asia, and was a foreign exchange heavyweight (Yamazaki 1992). Perhaps because of that, it was the paymaster of the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II and became the Bank of Tokyo in 1946.



Left: Ysb perfin on cover, traveling between the Singapore and London branches of the Japanese bank in 1936. Relationships would be complicated by war five years later.

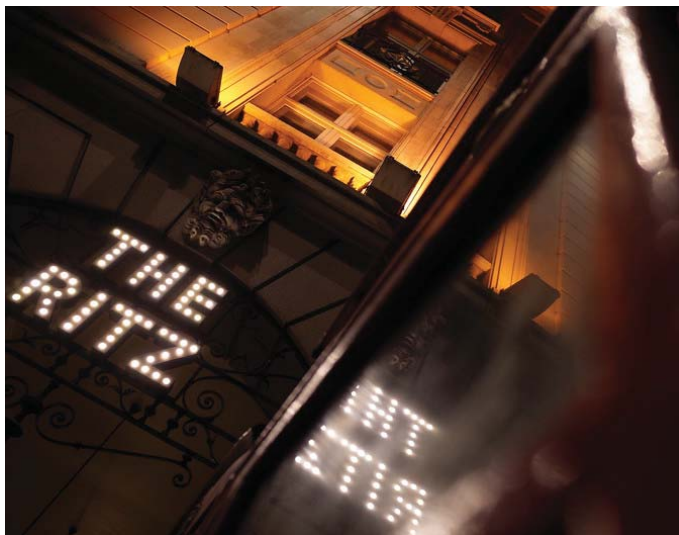


Left: The address lines on the above cover appear to have been made by a typewriter, but a very unusual one with perfin-like embossed dot type and small caps. The machine had the typical heavy punctuation marks and a black-and-red ink ribbon. The words bear the characteristics of typewritten text. Multiple instances of a given letter seem to have

come from the same type element with the same baseline shift. The letter "a" is always bottom-heavy, as would have been produced by a mechanical type element always hitting the paper at a slight angle. The relatively large vertical shifts of the upper-case capitals indicate the use of a mechanical shift key. The author speculates that the dot type was meant to save ink and maximize reuse of the ink ribbon.

Right: Perfin-style lettering is sometimes used to project a glitzy image, like the façade of The Ritz in London. The perceived font size and weight can be tuned by changing the number of dots in a letter.

Photo: Lin Yangchen for Agence Coconut-Press.





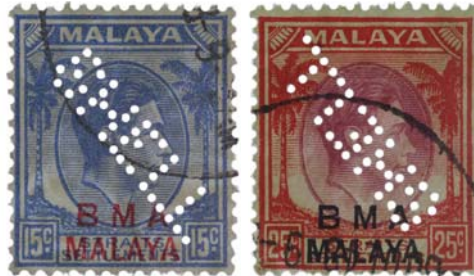
Right: McAlister & Co. started in 1857 as a pearl auctioneer, but expanded into an agent for everything, including wine, cement, pharmaceuticals, fire engines and life insurance. It was acquired in 1971 and lives on as part of United Engineers Limited.



Left: Perfins of Law Yew Swee & Co., dealer in a wide variety of goods from wines and tobacco to fashion to hardware,

construction materials and stationery. Law (1881–1954), born in Penang, set up his business after several years as a civil servant in Kuala Lumpur, which now has a street named after him. These stamps, spanning the reigns of three monarchs, would have been privy to the day-to-day gossip of the company, perhaps from the vantage point of a secretary's drawer. The perfin on the QEII stamp is missing a hole.

Right: Perfins from Royal Dutch Shell, one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world. In 1945, Shell's Danish headquarters in Copenhagen, at the time being used by the Gestapo, was bombed by Mosquitoes from the Royal Air Force. In the 1950s Shell was the first company to use a computer in the Netherlands.



ge-up g,” ed  
 il-nd-for od-ar-at of ing  
 un-em-ion rug ng, ing

**South-east Asia is a hot spot for illegal fuel trading, with its island-dotted waters providing cover for small-scale smuggling of oil products across borders. But the regularity and audacity of the thefts at Shell's refining facility – some of which took place during working hours – stand out.**

cau, Rall wor and lan sec for wo acc the mig T cou dit me inv “ ch

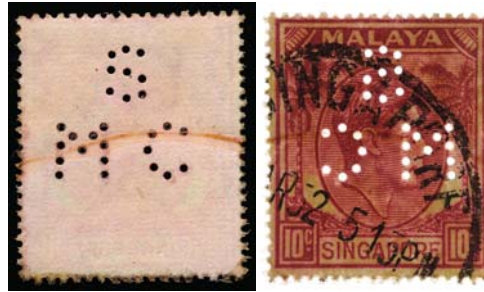
Left: Even today, multinational companies have a hard time negotiating the nooks and crannies of the Malay archipelago. In 2018 Reuters explosively revealed that \$150 million in oil had been stolen from Shell over the previous four years. The story was reproduced on the Business cover page of *The Straits Times* (above). Just imagine what it was like during BMA.

Right: Municipal Commissioners, Penang. It was in use throughout the Malayan Emergency, despite matching the acronym of the Malayan Communist Party.



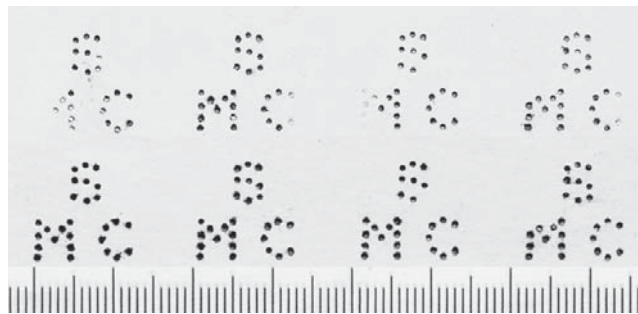
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Postwar “SMC” perfin (1947–74). The conventional way of displaying perfin is to show the back of the stamp over a dark background (left), but the stamp’s design cannot be seen in relation to the perfin. In the imaging technique developed by the author, however, uniform illumination from under the stamp “spotlights” the perfin amidst a darkened but visible stamp design and, in this case, the defective “singaporf” datestamp.



The perfin machine that applied the above “SMC” perfin, made by reputed firm Joseph Sloper & Co. in London with a setting of four dies in a row, was rediscovered at a flea market by Yong (2011). In fact, Sloper was the pioneer of postage stamp perfin; his proposal to so protect merchants from the theft of their stamps was approved by the General Post Office in Britain in 1868.

The machine has a large hinged lever that – when pressed downwards – drives four sets of pins into a horizontal strip of four stamps. Two separate strikes on plain paper (right) show a horizontal periodicity



of 2.05cm, which corresponds quite precisely with the width of the coconut definitive. Even more interesting, however, is what actually happens when it is being operated (Lin & Yong 2017). The lower row of perfin (above) is the output when one depresses the lever fully, with complete letters throughout except for the chipped M on the extreme right. The upper set, punched with less force and incomplete travel of the lever, displays additional flaws in truncated Ms, as well as holes with incomplete removal of paper. This demonstrates that the human hand can spawn striking variations and flaws from a single machine and even from a single set of pins.



Left: Truncated “M” in reversed and inverted forms. The author has also seen an example with only one stem of the “M” remaining, making the perfin look like “SIC.”

Right: Mis-estimation was common with the hand-operated machines in the realm of perfin production.

Far right: Double perfin are relatively rare.



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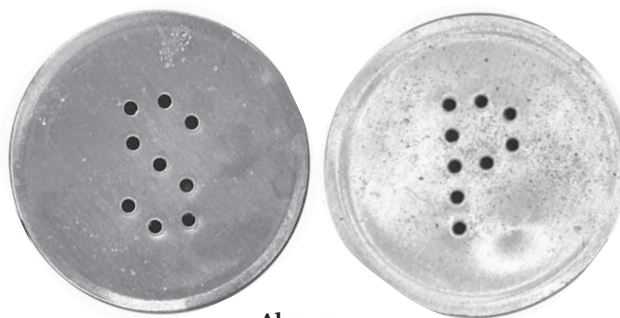
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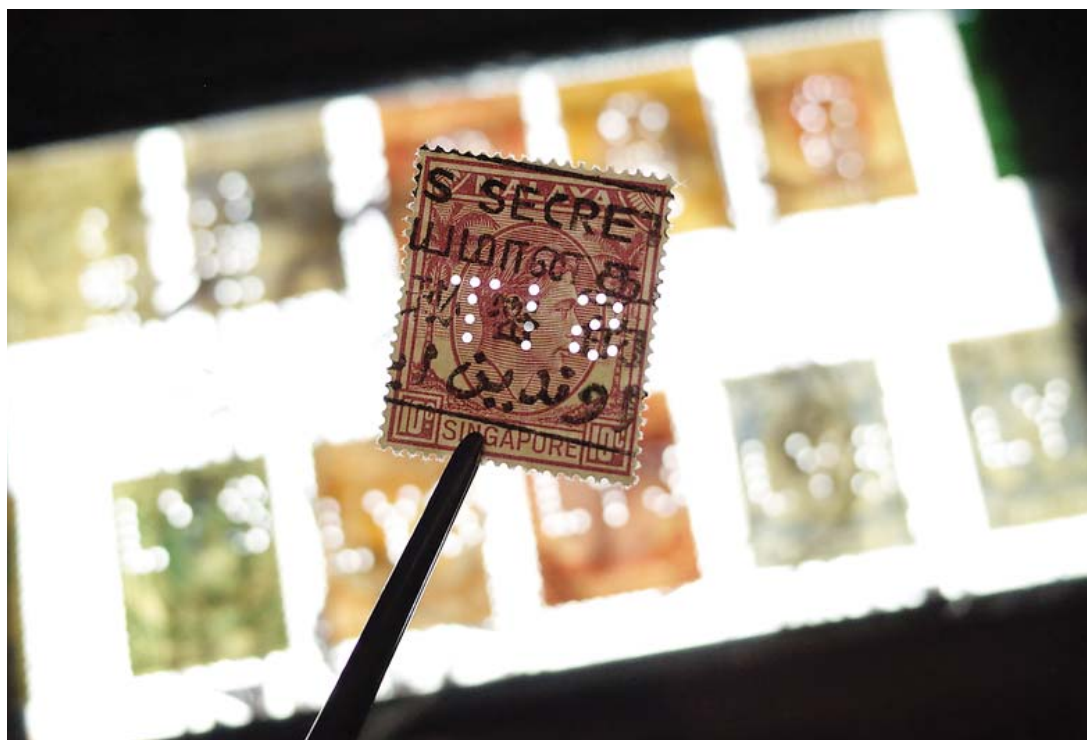
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Below: Perfin of the Singapore Improvement Trust, set up in 1927 to clear slums and improve sanitation. It oversaw the construction of Singapore's very first flats to house the growing population. Blocks built in four architectural styles remain standing at Dakota Crescent. The trust was superseded by the Housing Development Board in 1960. On the stamp is the "your vote is secret" postmark made for the 1955 general election. It features Latin, Tamil, Chinese and Jawi scripts representing the four main races in the local community that came to live together in the new sit flats. The People's Action Party was only a year old and Lee Kuan Yew was in the opposition.



Above:  
The author was chowing down on a mixed grill at Bosphorus Kebabs in London's South Kensington District when he noticed that the salt and pepper shakers had the same number and arrangement of holes as the letters in the SMC and APC perfin.



See Dewey (1971), Hall (1986, 1987), Giffen (1989, with corrections in *The Perfin Society Bulletin*, 1991, 254:9–10), Lavender (2002), Peters (2008a), Cockburn (2016c), Turnbull (2017) and Michel Houde's online database for perfin of Malaya, and Hill (2015) for a review of perfin production methods.

Documentation of Malaya perfin remains incomplete, while primary sources are eroding with the passage of time. Forgeries are by no means unknown in the perfin world – some have even been made using the original machines – and it is impossible to be sure without a complete reference of dies and settings. Moreover, it is not clear whether the pins in perfin machines could have been bent or lost with wear and tear, further complicating perfin taxonomy.

## A Side Excursion; The Coconut Bus

A public bus promoting Singpex 2019, held July 31-Aug. 4, 2019, promoted the philatelic show heavily – inside and out!

**License plate:** SMB3053M

**Model:** MAN A22 NL323F

**Chassis no.:** WMAA22ZZ2D7001811  
(made in Germany)

**Engine:** D2066 LUH32 (turbocharged  
10518 cc)

**Bodywork:** Lion's City Hybrid  
(Gemilang Coachworks, Johore)

**Domain:** Bukit Batok Interchange,  
Bulim Depot

**Operator:** Tower Transit, formerly  
operated by SMRT

**Services known to have operated:**

66, 77, 106, 143M, 173, 173A, 177, 913E, 941, 945,  
947, 951E, 990

Singpex livery first reported on June 10, 2019,  
by Facebook user Goh Hee Zhong. Singpex livery  
was last seen by Lin Yangchen on Aug. 18, 2019.

**Designer:** Wong Wui Kong



*[Editor's Note: This is the ninth of several installments by Yangchen on his deeply specialized interest in the extremely diverse Coconut definitives of Malaya. He has not only studied these stamps from virtually every aspect for many years, he also has exhibited, including at World Stamp Exhibition 2015 in Singapore. His exhibit, The Stamp That Took Malaya by Storm – Graphic Design and Diversification, reflects only a small portion of Yangchen's extensive study and expertise regarding these stamps. The exhibit – and this work – has relevance to virtually anyone considering the evolution and study of a specific stamp design or issue. His entire study, including updates, as more information becomes available, appears on his personal website, [www.linyangchen.com/philately](http://www.linyangchen.com/philately). His extensive list of references is found on his website as well: [www.linyangchen.com/Malaya-stamp-literature](http://www.linyangchen.com/Malaya-stamp-literature).]*

**Note:** The next installment of this ongoing and important series will continue with the Crown Colonies era, leading with a plate number study.

# At the Clubhouse

*Meeting of Feb. 19, 2020*

**The British Military Administration of Malaya  
Peter Cockburn, Balcombe, United Kingdom**

Peter Cockburn traveled from the United Kingdom to grace the frames of our Club with a most interesting history of the stamps and postal history during the British Military Administration of Malaya.



In short, plans were made by the Malayan Planning Committee in London for the reoccupation of the Malay Peninsula from the Imperial Japanese Authorities as early as 1943. However, after the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, the early capitulation of the Japanese forces saw some chaos and ill-preparedness in the country for restoration of the prewar status quo. The

earliest date for the arrival of Allied troops was Sept. 3 and, by Sept. 24, Maj. Gen. Sir Ralph Hone, himself a philatelist, issued orders that postal services were to resume, albeit without the use of postage stamps as the overprinted stamps were delayed and none were available.

There were prewar stocks of Straits Settlements stamps in London with the Crown Agents, in Kuala Lumpur with the Malayan Postal Service and in Sydney, Australia, and India (probably Bangalore) as a result of deliveries failing to reach their intended destinations before the outbreak of war in the Far East.

Over a period, all these sources of stamps were used after overprinting by various printers, all using plates provided by De La Rue through the Crown Agents.

Peter showed stamps printed from each of the sources mentioned and further printings that were made during and after the cessation of hostilities. He illustrated this with examples from each of the printers, at each location and demonstrated their use both as postage and revenue stamps for the prepayment of postal charges

or stamp duty on documents. There were very few errors or omissions of the overprinted stamps but a major double overprint on the 25¢ was shown.

The postwar printing of the \$5 orange, perforated "SPECIMEN" with missing perforations on the center stamp. Believed to be unique.





(Above): The largest known group (14) of the 1c BMA stamps altered fraudulently to 50¢ from a parcel wrapper with 2 contemporaneous Singapore stamps and the company chop of the National City Bank of New York.

Below: A block of 20 across from the only known sheet showing doubling of the BMA overprint in the two columns to the left and the marginal column to the right. The intermediate stamps have a second albino overprint.



Owing to the almost complete destruction of infrastructure and postal facilities during the Japanese Occupation, much post office equipment was lost. This resulted in the provisional local manufacture of town-named date stamps and registration labels. Many of these interesting items were shown, along with revenue stamps specially printed for the BMA. Specimen stamps were demanded by the UPU but, in some cases, a few of the stamp values were unavailable to the Crown Agents and were requested from the overseas printing locations. These have different positions of "Specimen" perforations and are exhibited along with a very unusual specimen strip of three with the perforations missing on one stamp.

In 1948, a clerk at the National City Bank of New York in Singapore forged a number of 50¢ stamps by changing the denomination and dyeing the paper of 1¢

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A circular letter sheet franked 2¢, which was 1¢ too little. The first postage due stamps (two 1¢ stamps being twice the deficiency) were used May 14, 1947, but went uncollected. A second pair was added on May 16. The stamps are from different printings.

stamps. For a while, no doubt, this was highly lucrative, and it produced some of the most iconic pieces for collectors of this period. The largest known accumulation of these forged stamps yet found on a single piece was shown.

Owing to the failure of the British Government's proposals to restructure the country as the Malayan Union, BMA stamps were in use for far longer than was ever anticipated. New issues of the States and Singapore were issued from 1948 onwards, but it was not until 1951 that all States had their own stamps, so BMA stamps were widely used until mid-1952. In some cases, especially as revenue stamps, they were still in use long after that. They were finally invalidated in 1956.

Peter's amicable personality and attention to detail made it a great evening for the large crowd.

— Wade E. Saadi

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# Book Reviews

**The Fathers of Philately Inscribed on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, by Brian J. Birch, 320 pages, 8¾ by 11½ inches, hardbound, dust jacket, Royal Philatelic Society London, 2019, ISBN 978-0-900631-95-5, £60 plus shipping from the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, UK.**

Author Brian Birch has contributed enormously in the field of biographies compiled by him in his pursuit of the history and literature of our hobby. In this volume he provides biographies of a group of 43 Philatelists who were designated the Fathers of Philately.

A committee of the London Stamp Club, ca. 1919, decided to honor living philatelists who had served the hobby with distinction. Each person would be presented a diploma and be named to the Order of Philatelic Merit. After further deliberation, it was decided to have these august individuals sign a roll that then became the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

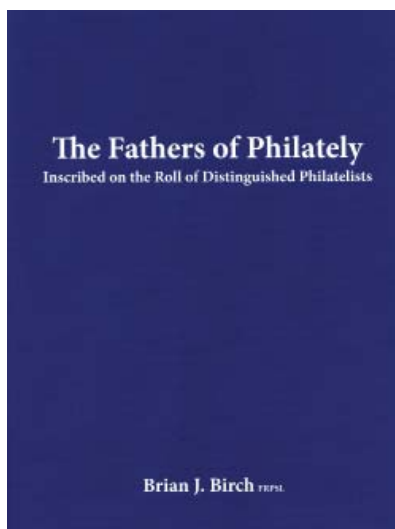
During 1920-21 the requirements were finalized and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain instituted the RDP. After an initial group was approved, there would be elections of three new members annually. King George V was pleased to have his name appear at the head of the roll. The scroll was designed and in the side panels were the names of 43 "Fathers of Philately" who were deceased individuals that had served the hobby.

Many of the Fathers are easily seen to be significant contributors through name recognition. However, many other names are rather obscure. The original notes and records that were used to determine the list of the fathers are lost. Thanks to the considerable efforts of Brian Birch, the profiles of all 43 Fathers of Philately comprise this book.

Those who are best known include the Earl of Crawford James Ludovic Lindsay, Edward Loines Pemberton, Jean-Baptiste Philippe Constant Moens, Thomas Keay Tapling, Philipp La Rénotière von Ferrary and John Kerr Tiffany. Indeed, their profiles run 8-10 pages each. Lesser-known individuals may have two to three pages of text.

The biographies include portraits or photographs. Each profile ends with an extremely detailed list of literature sources, in chronological order, which sometimes includes examination of birth, marriage and death certificates, as well as online references. Although there are 42 chapters reflecting the names that appear in the 42 panels, one entry combines the brothers Georges and Martial Caillebotte, who established one of the major collections at the time.

The first appendix is a compilation of those Fathers of Philately who exhibited at major shows worldwide between 1881 and 1919. An index of the names of all persons mentioned in the text refers to the appropriate page numbers. A separate listing shows the birth and death dates, where known, for the same list of people.



The content, design and binding are first rate and serve well to document significant philatelists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The technical aspects of the book are exemplary with the exception of two instances in the dust jacket of the use of "lead" instead of the proper "led."

– Alan Warren

**Mail across the Oceans – From the beginning to 1875; La correspondance à travers les océans – Des origines jusqu'à 1875, by James Van der Linden, in cooperation with Jozef Bernard Lux and Paul Wijnants; published by le Musée des Timbres et de Monnaies de Monaco, December 2019, hardbound plus color jacket, 296 A4 pages (21 by 29.7 cm) in English plus 296 pages in French, replete with color and black and white illustrations and maps; bibliography and table of contents, €60, postage included. Purchase contacts: [patrick@maselis.be](mailto:patrick@maselis.be) (order form at: [www.monacophil.eu/en/downloads/HR\\_MonacoPhil2019\\_A4\\_CatalogueOrderForm\\_EN.pdf](http://www.monacophil.eu/en/downloads/HR_MonacoPhil2019_A4_CatalogueOrderForm_EN.pdf)).**

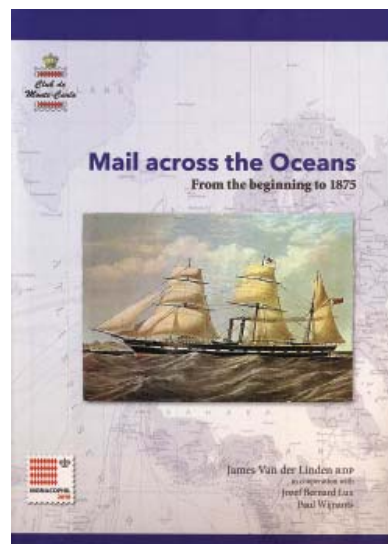
If you collect maritime mail, this is the book you will consult the most: easy to read, easy to answer your questions, authoritative, documented, wide-ranging and factual.

The author of this magnificent volume is well known as a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and author of the popular standard reference book on transit marks. Former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, Patrick Maselis in his foreword stated that *"It would be particularly difficult to summarise the volume of information, which consists of conventions, regulations and decrees linked to the maritime postal service across five continents."* On his part, Van der Linden points out that *"this work is intended to serve as a practical handbook covering all the different packet ship lines, with a short description of each line, a map showing the routes (missing from many studies), the names of ships used by the lines (often found in letters) and, finally, an overview of the specific stamps that appear on letters transported via these lines."*

The main subject of this book can be rather intricate and to see the down-to-earth approach of the author implies great knowledge and a first-class communication talent; qualities that are not encountered too often. His familiarity with the literature on the subject has brought to his attention to the areas that needed more research and clearer presentation. In fact, this is a book that can easily be appreciated by non-collectors.

The opus is divided into five parts: North and South Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the multiple-ocean crossings mail.

The North Atlantic section elaborates on Spanish packet mail, the Dutch lines and the French transatlantic lines. The chapter on the steamships serving the Caribbean provides valuable information about the British line and the Spanish, German and French mail routes. Equally fascinating is the section focusing on the steamship service to North America, with specific attention to British, French, American, Spanish, German, Belgian, Norwegian and Dutch lines.



Part II examines mail conveyance to and from the South Atlantic using sailing packets for Spanish, Portuguese, British and French mail. Steam packets expedited the delivery of letters and packets by French, British, Italian and German lines.

Part III focuses on the conveyance on the Indian-Atlantic Ocean postal routes performed by sailing packets and British and French steam packets.

Part IV explores – in great detail – the Pacific Ocean mail crossings. Before 1840 the service was initially performed by Italian entrepreneur Pedro Alessandri between 1827 and early 1832; in 1828 an English merchant in Valparaiso competed on the Valparaiso-Callao route. The turning point came in 1835, when a plan was devised to launch a steamship line from Valparaiso to Panama and from there taking the overland route crossing the isthmus and thus facilitating the conveyance of mail to the West Indies, England and Europe.

In 1840, the task was undertaken by the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., sailing from the United Kingdom to the Pacific coasts of South America. This important development gave Panama a prominent role in the conveyance of European mail to the Pacific west coast. This overland route was greatly improved by the 1855 inauguration of the Panama railroad. The book examines all the aspects of the “Panama Transit,” which led to a faster conveyance of mail to and from New Zealand and the Australian Colonies.

In his preface, Van der Linden points out that the multiple ocean mail crossings have been, for a long time, a neglected but engaging area that had not received much attention by postal history scholars. Part V scrutinizes the mail that had to sail through two or three oceans to reach its destination. This magnum opus ends with a 10-page bibliography.

Having succeeded in completing such a colossal work, congratulations are due to the author for such a great achievement that will be very beneficial to collectors and scholars worldwide. Here you have 360 degrees, a truly comprehensive view of oceanic postal conveyance. The text is bilingual, the book is lavishly produced and illustrated and it is a veritable milestone in postal history literature.

A message posted on the Amazon page offering this book to global buyers states that it is “unavailable due to high demand.” I trust that it is available at the source mentioned at the beginning of this review. It would be wise to secure this splendid volume before it is out of print.

– *Giorgio Migliavacca*

**Foreign Military Activity in the Russian Civil War 1917-1923, by Edward Klempka, 384 pages, 8¼ by 11¾ inches, card covers, perfect bound, British Society of Russian Philately, United Kingdom, 2019, £50 plus postage from the Society, mail@bsrp.org.**

The author, Edward Klempka, was also editor of the British Society of Russian Philately’s journal. Unfortunately he died Dec. 11, 2019, at age 68. His book records the foreign forces intervention in the Russian civil war, from the Czar’s abdication until the formation of the USSR, using postal history. The organization is simply alphabetical by country from Belgium to Yugoslavia. Each country section contains illustrations of pertinent mail.

Belgium participated with a volunteer armored car machine gun corps. Since they were not officially on active service they used franking on their mail. Canada was more committed to the war, as it supported many British units. Six thousand Canadian troops were stationed in North Russia, Siberia, South Russia and the Caucasus. A table lists the Canadian numbered box censor handstamps.

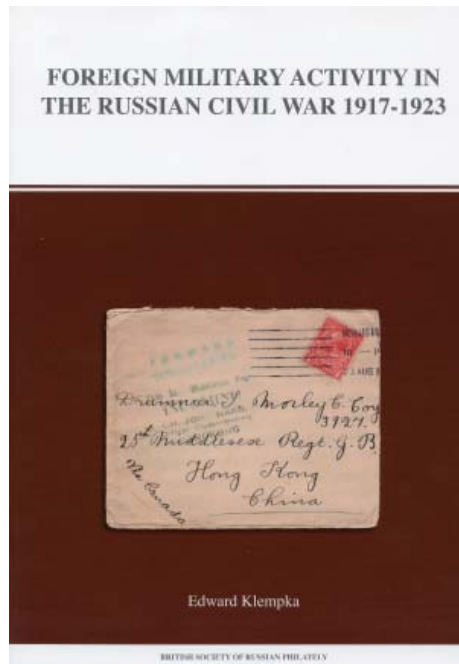
China furnished non-combatant labor corps with thousands of men. However, surviving mail is limited, due to the low level of literacy. The Czech Legion operated in the Ukraine, Siberia and Manchuria. The United States intervened in Siberia to support the Czechs. A table identifies Czechoslovak field post office cachets with numbers, locations and dates.

The mail of British Empire forces from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are difficult to identify and very little has survived. Klempka does not show any examples. France had its hands full with its war, but still provided support to Russia in areas such as training and medical. Examples of French mail are shown from North Russia, central Siberia, Vladivostok, South Russia, Ukraine and Georgia, as well as the neighboring areas of Lithuania, Poland, Romania and elsewhere. Germany's military presence in Batum, Caucasia and the Crimea is mentioned, as their objectives to obtain minerals and oil were the same as the Allies.

The largest section of the book pertains to Great Britain's roles as interventionist in the Russian Civil War. British field post offices were often used by other allied troops. British unit mail is displayed from operations in North and South Russia, Siberia, Transcaucasia and Transcaspia, Baltic States, Poland, hospital ships and Armenian and Russian refugee camps in Cyprus.

Greece was engaged for a short period of time, principally in the defense of Odessa. India had field post offices in Baku, Batum, Krasnovodsk, Petrovsk and Tiflis. Italy at first remained neutral, but then entered the war with detachments in North Russia, Siberia and South Russia. Japan was extensively engaged in eastern and central Siberia, Manchuria and Korea. The author analyzes several pieces of Japanese mail, pointing out censor numbers, unit names and FPOs, including Sakhalin Island.

Poland's 1st Corps was active in Russia and even issued overprinted stamps and postal stationery. Poland forces also occupied Belarus, Ukraine and Central Lithuania. Tables of the FPOs in those three areas provide number, location and dates of operation. Romania was involved with several operations during the war, including the occupation of Moldova and Pokutia, the volunteer army in Siberia and Ukraine and the Russian military mission to Poland.



The Nordic countries provided support and volunteer service in the Baltic States and participated in the White Movement, with forces from Finland, Denmark and Sweden. Swedish material shown includes a telegram and a Swedish Red Cross postcard. Turkey was considerably involved as revealed with mail from the Turkish occupations of Batum and the Caucasus area excluding Batum and the Turkish military force in Ukraine (Galicia).

The United States, of course, was a major factor in the intervention in Russia. Klempka categorizes the pertinent mail as North Russia, Siberia, the Russian railway service corps, USA naval support and the military mission to Poland. Several U.S. postal and registry markings are clearly reproduced. Censor markings are tabulated with type, size and side notes. Mail is shown that is associated with the protection of the Trans-Siberian Railway and some ship's mail related to naval support activities.

The last country in the book is Yugoslavia and mails, as well as telegrams, are illustrated from Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian units. The author also reproduces some examples of field postcards from a POW named Anton Kucic but describes them as "dubious unit handstamps" that were possibly either philatelic in nature or, more likely, forged. A couple pages of POW mail conclude the main part of the text.

One appendix has historic photos of FPOs and traveling post offices. Another illustrates some examples of mail reflecting foreign military assistance before the abdication of the Czar. A third appendix shows eight covers that surfaced after the main part of the book had been completed. The book ends with a bibliography and a list acknowledging the many people who helped the author.

The A4 page size allows for large images of the covers. They are nicely laid out and, more importantly, they enable the viewer to see clearly some very rare material from this turbulent period of Russian history

– Alan Warren

**La Famiglia Tasso e le poste nello Stato di Milano in età spagnola (1556-1650); The Tassis Family and the posts of the State of Milan during Spanish rule (1556-1650), by Marco Gerosa, Camerata Cornello, June 2019, in Italian, perfect bound, 216 A4 pages (21 by 29.7 cm), replete with black and white illustrations and maps; bibliography and index, €25 plus postage & handling, available from the publishers: Tassis Museum, email: [info@museodeitasso.com](mailto:info@museodeitasso.com); and Vaccari: email: [info@vaccari.it](mailto:info@vaccari.it).**

After four decades of research and related books published by the Postal History Tassis Museum of Camerata Cornello near Bergamo, the imposing mosaic of postal communications in Italy and – by extension – in Europe is showing a clearer and larger picture that will take many more years of research tesserae to complete. In the meantime, a massive amount of information, previously unavailable, is now shared with postal historians, academicians and collectors worldwide.

The Tassis Museum multi-faceted initiatives have successfully materialized through the untiring work of postal history academician Gianfranco Lazzarini, who for decades served as Mayor of Camerata Cornello. Under his leadership at least 12 major monographs have been published, this being the latest.

After the publishing initiatives that have reconstructed a large portion of the history of the Tassis family, this new volume completes the research of the branch of Simon Tassis, the towering postmaster of the Habsburgs in Milan and Rome during the crucial early decades of the 16th century. His sons, Ruggero and Antonio, are meticulously investigated through the painstaking research carried out by Dr. Marco Gerosa to place them in the proper historical, administrative, postal and political context.

As so aptly put by Pavia's University Professor Matteo Di Tullio in his preface to Gerosa's work *"the archival research is ample and carefully carried out at various Italian and foreign archives; the ability to unravel from such a mountain of documents the relevant facts considerably qualifies this research which, like all the works at the frontier of knowledge, will surely stimulate new and interesting studies."*

The volume on Simon Tassis published in 2008, with Italian and English text, also explored Ruggero and Antonio Tassis; however, Gerosa who had contributed crucial research to that volume has had more than 10 years to add new information and double-check printed sources that inevitably contain some inaccuracies.

Ample space is given to Simon's son Ruggero Tassis, his wife, Lucina Cattaneo, and their offspring. Before the father's death, King Philip II of Spain granted Ruggero the right to succeed Simon as postmaster general of the State of Milan, a post he held from 1556 until his death in 1588 at 57 years of age. He was the commander in chief of postmasters throughout Lombardy and beyond: the latter including Volargna and Castelnuovo in Venetian territory; Castelluccio and Marcaria belonging to the Duchy of Mantua; as well as Rovereto and Vò belonging to the Bishopric Principality of Trent in South Tyrol. These out-of-state posts enjoyed a strategic location and were part of a far-reaching setup initiated by Simon that included posts in hot spots of the Most Serene Republic of Venice, such as Ponte San Marco, near Desenzano, Coccaglio and Martinengo, the last two being passed on to Ruggero. Following in his father's footsteps, in 1579 Ruggero opened a postal operation in Brescia, headed by a postmaster. During the course of time, Venice aired her displeasure for this Milanese infiltration which, by 1571, included Rivoltella "and other places in Brescia's territory." In 1582, Venice took some decisive steps to relocate and take control of two Milanese posts in Venetian territory; nevertheless, this flexing of muscles did not put an end to the Milanese intrusion, which was still alive and well 20 years later.

Under the vigilant eye of Ruggero, the Ordinario couriers regularly serving at pre-set days the most critical postal artery of the Italian peninsula Milan-Rome-Milan, were instructed in the mid-1570s to ride day and night,



thus cutting in half the delivery time – from 14-15 days to six to seven days. In times of epidemics, the unexpected could happen to the couriers; during 1575 the courier on duty on the Venice-Milan route was intercepted at the border with Brescia by the commissioner of Milan's Health Tribunal, who ordered the temporary seizure of three dispatch cases filled with letters and two bundles for the purpose of disinfecting the mail entering the Milanese State. The courier himself was undressed and washed from head to toe with vinegar. After this procedure, the courier was given "cleaned" clothes, the confiscated mail, which had been duly treated, and a health pass permitting him to go to Milan.

The chronic malaise of the Habsburg's finances had caused problems for Simon, who had to use his savings to keep the postal service going; a generation later, his son Roger found himself in a similar – if not worse – situation.

The Guild of the Merchants of Milan had its network of messengers delivering mail to Genoa, Venice, Lyon and, when needed, even as far as Flanders, France, and other countries. This postal network is confirmed by documents of the 1430s. As time went by, the service improved and expanded. Since 1518 the Lombard capital had a memorandum of understanding regulating the interaction with the Milan-bound courier linking the Bavarian postal epicentre of Lindau on Lake Constance to Lombardy via Fussach and the Alps. Beginning in 1474, without scheduled departure or arrival time, the service, which constituted the shortest route between Milan and Lindau, conveyed mail, guided travelers and transported goods. In 1518 the Guilds of the Merchants of Milan and Lindau signed a memorandum setting the weekly periodicity and other crucial details. The 330-kilometre route, passing through Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, was covered in five and a half days. Intermodal transport proved reliable enough; in fact, the courier went by boat across Lake Constance and Lake Como, by horse and wagon through the plains of the River Rhine and Lombardy and with mules through the gorges north and south of the 2,113-metre-high Splügen Pass.

The competitive couriers of the merchants had been a thorn in Simon and Roger's side; the early symptoms of a clash manifested themselves in 1556. The legal dispute turned into a rollercoaster; the merchants' couriers were subjected to a series of humiliations, including the seizure of mail, while Venice aimed at preventing their activities within her republic. The controversy came to an end in 1592 with a ruling of the Milanese Senate favorable to the merchants; nonetheless, the story did not end there.

Ruggero Tassis died on Oct. 19, 1588, leaving many unresolved problems for his heirs. At the top of the list was the fact that his general postmastership could not be passed on to his children because he had been granted only one-lifetime title to the post.

At the twilight of the 16th century, the Milanese posts went through a transition; the post of Postmaster General was entrusted to Giacomo Filippo Zonio on Nov. 1, 1588, reportedly an individual with no connection with Roger's sons. In May 1593 he was replaced by Oliviero Panizzone Sacco as acting postmaster general; his proactive demeanor was unpopular with postmasters and government officials. In 1596 the post was given to Ercole Appiani, who

had paid no rent or commission to both Don Juans de Tassis father and son postmasters general of the King of Spain.

During the 1600s the Milanese economy suffered so many drawbacks that even a shortlist would take up a lot of space; the real problem, though, was the steady decline of Spain as a super power. Skilled workers and artisans were leaving Milan for nearby places and states. This, in turn, strengthened foreign competitors resulting in loss of exports. For example, in 1604 gold thread manufacturing technology mastered in Milan was exported employing highly skilled artisans emigrating to France, and metalworking artisans emigrated to Lyon.

As Philip III of Spain ascended the throne, Milan was unprepared for the winds of change that ensued. Don Juan de Tassis-Acuña and Don Juan de Tassis-Peralta Jr. held the titles of Postmasters General of the King. On June 14, 1599, Philip III gave control of the posts of the State of Milan to de Tassis father and son as postmasters general of that state – a title they could retain for two generations. As pointed out by the author of this book neither of them ever visited Milan and its postal headquarters; instead, they delegated their administrative powers to Ruggero's widow, Lucina Cattaneo.

In 1599, after many tribulations, Lucina Cattaneo Tassis had managed to secure an extortionate lease that gave her the administration of the Milanese posts, initially from her cousins – the Tassis-Villamediana – and, later on with great difficulties, from Giovanni Battista and Geronimo Serra, the new Genoese owners of the Milanese posts whose story will follow soon. Luckily enough, Lucina was assisted by a competent and highly experienced deputy postmaster general by the name of Ottavio Codogno, who in due course became the author of acclaimed postal guides.

In 1619 Lucina died and her surviving sons, Ottavio and Francesco, made attempts to gain control of the Milanese post office, but negotiations with Don Juan de Tassis-Villamediana carried out by Codogno on their behalf in Madrid lasted almost a year. The transaction never materialized because of the exorbitant sum requested by Don Juan de Tassis-Peralta and Villamediana.

On May 21, 1604, at Valladolid, Don Juan Sr. de Tassis-Acuña, Peralta and Villamediana, with the approval of his wife Donna Maria de Peralta, and son (Don Juan de Tassis-Peralta and Villamediana), who was the heir of the Count's titles and privileges, decided to sell the Milanese posts to the Genoese nobleman Battista Serra (1576-1643) for 47,000 ducati (362 pounds of fine gold). This transaction was made possible through some financial assistance and high-level contacts of his uncle Girolamo (Geronimo) Serra (1547-1616) and was to remain valid throughout the lives of Don Juan, father and son. Battista Serra reiterated the uncle's role as a business partner in a 1609 document; this, however, would have later repercussions in the form of inheritance claims by family members. Meanwhile, Don Juan Sr. died on Sept. 12, 1607; as a result, Don Juan Jr. de Tassis-Peralta-Villamediana became the sole Postmaster General of the King of Spain.

On Dec. 6, 1617, a year after his uncle's death, Battista Serra secured full control and perpetual right (usually four or five lifetimes) to the Milanese posts from Philip III for 38,000 ducati.



In 1638 Battista Serra sold 50% of the Milanese posts to his brother-in-law, Paolo Francesco Doria of Genoa for 50,000 ducati. The two families were closely interrelated through marriage and business. The postal intrigue did not end there, because the transaction did not receive royal assent, due to a law that made offices and fiefdoms indivisible. The next few years saw complex lawsuits between the Serra and the Doria. The Count of Oñate Tassis – Villamediana had, in the mean time, agreed to appoint Giovanni Battista Serra official administrator of the office of Postmaster General of the State of Milan; this development, together with the death of Battista, on July 16, 1643, brought an end to the litigation between Doria and Serra on condition of producing regular financial statements and paying a lease of 40,000 silver reales to Oñate over a period of three years.

Very little has been written in the past about Ruggero’s widow; however Gerosa’s chapter on Lucina Cattaneo-Tassis is extensive, well researched and rich of informative and detailed footnotes – a method also used throughout the book.

The second part focuses on family events, business and problems of the Milanese Tassis; Ruggero’s brother Antonio is portrayed in a five-page biography, the same treatment is given to the sisters and sons. The second chapter of Part II deals with the developments and problems that resulted in the withering of this branch of the Tassis family tree. Part III visits the dwellings, palaces and postal headquarters of the Tassis; additionally, the book discusses the fiefs, estates and assets of the Milanese dynasty.

The bibliography is vast; there is also an index of the parts and chapters but, unfortunately, there is no general index of names, places and topics, which would have been valuable to other researchers.

The State of Milan was under Spanish rule from 1535-1714; in 1714 the *Treaty of Baden* put an end to the Spanish Succession War and, as a result, the former State of Milan, as well as the Duchy of Mantua, were formally ceded to the Habsburgs of Austria, who ruled them until the French takeover by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1797. I hope that Gerosa is already working on a second volume that will cover the remaining years of Spanish rule of Milan from 1650-1714. For its rich contents and the very low price, this is a book not to be missed.

– Giorgio Migliavacca

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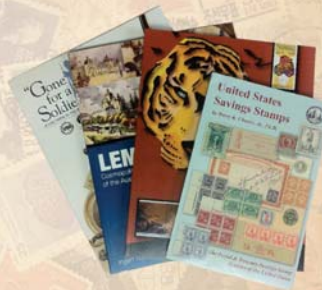
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