

Collectors Club Philatelist



Postal History of Indian Key, Fla.

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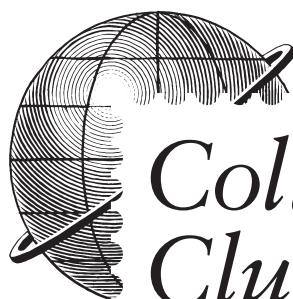
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 CCP are available
 from the editor.



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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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The Collectors Club is open Monday through Friday,
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call ahead if intending to visit.

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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 Collectors Club 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

Lawrence Haber

Welcome to our new home

On May 11, we will welcome members and guests to our new home at 58 West 40th Street. It has been a long time coming.

The last time we opened a new home for the Club was in 1937; it's been 87 years. The last program we held at 35th Street was in March 2020, just as the pandemic was winging its way through our lives. It's been four years – a long time – and May 11 will be a very special time to celebrate.



The evening will begin at our new home with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 6 p.m. At 7:15 or so, we will move over to the Lambs Club, within the Chatwal Hotel at 130 West 44th Street, for dinner and our award presentations.

Four Lichtenstein Award winners will receive their medals: Trish Kaufmann, Jim Mazepa, Randy Neil and Charles Verge – four truly extraordinary philatelists who have made all our philatelic lives better.

We will also mark the publication of Nick Kirke's book on New York City foreign mail.

Back in November, we held our single-frame competition, and we have the awards to bestow on the Grand Award winner, Chip Gliedman, and the Reserve Grand and awards-of-merit winners.

We also will recognize the winners of the best program for 2023, Rob Faux, as well as Scott Trepel, for the best article during 2023 in this journal.

Lest you fear a long, drawn-out, and tedious session of calling out names, please remember this is New York; they named the minute after us.

With the invitation going out in early March, we hope you can join us for what will be a memorable evening.

In October 1937, when Charles J. Phillips, RDP, wrote about the previous home for the Club in this journal, floor plans were printed in his article. With the

advances in our technology, we have a very accurate and lifelike rendering that you can view on the Club's website. We encourage you to do so.

Although we are still in the midst of construction, one can see what will emerge as the finished product. Here, the form will follow purpose. Everything is on one level. The library is in one space. Easy access for everyone. Comfortable. Inviting. Multiple spaces for members to congregate.

One of the greatest fallacies regarding the Collectors Club is that many assume that most of our membership comes from the New York area. Not true. More than 85% of our members live outside New York, from across the United States, North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Australasia. You might wonder, "So, why does this new home matter to me?"

We are now located in the center of New York City; it is one of the greatest cities in the world. We are in the heart of Manhattan. We are close to all forms of transportation, including airports, trains and municipal transport. Your visit can also take advantage of world-class entertainment: Broadway, Lincoln Center, museums, dining and shopping. We will be a warm and welcoming place to visit when you visit the city. It's your Club.

There will be more to us than the opening dinner and its festivities. We will be holding classes and symposia. Once we get up to speed, we intend to make the Club a busy hub of activity.

And, while we have ensured that the Club is accessible, we also recognize that accessibility comes in many forms. To that end, we will also host an open house at the Club on Wednesday, May 15. For those who won't be able to attend the May 11 event, this will be an excellent time to see for yourself.

We look forward to May, but more importantly, we look forward to all the memories we will form from an active and vibrant Club in the heart of Midtown New York City.

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Letters to the Editor:

Clubhouse in Miniature

I just received the latest *CCP* in the mail today (November-December 2023). Congratulations on another fine issue!

Here is a fun photo from the train show at the New York Botanical Garden that might be of interest for a future edition of the *CCP*. The train show includes miniatures of many iconic NYC buildings, so the old Collectors Club clubhouse is in excellent company.

If you'd like to see more of the train show, here's the link:

www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show/

— Tom Schier
via email



Enjoyed “Anonymous” Experience

I can't recall the last time an article resonated as much with me as the one by “Anonymous” in the November-December 2023 issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (pages 334-339).

The collector's entry into the hobby as a kid practically mirrors mine, and I agree with the collector's approaches to acquiring material and caring for it properly.

— Chad Snee
via email

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Editor's Notepad

Wayne L. Youngblood

In the book reviews section this month, beginning on page 116, you'll note that I caught up on reviewing a number of Scott catalog releases from the past several months. Among these new releases are several "derivative" catalogs that have been pulled from the pages of the *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*. As I note in one of those reviews, the 2024 *Specialized* is considerably smaller than the 2023 edition (288 pages smaller), and the 2023 edition was 152 pages smaller than the hernia-inducing 2022 edition, which weighed in at more than five pounds and 1,370 pages.

Among those sections removed are the identifier, stamp values by grade, postal counterfeits, United Nations and proofs and essays.

Like the Scott *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* (all six volumes), which became too heavy and unwieldy, the *Specialized* reached a point of critical mass with the preponderance of new issues. Rather than simply split the *Specialized*, as was done with the standard catalogs (still six "volumes," but 12 books), thought was given to creating the various spinoff catalogs we've seen for the past two years.

Clearly, not everyone was happy with decisions made by Scott (which would be an impossible task), but overall, collectors seem to have adjusted to most of the changes, with the notable exception being the identifier section, which I believe should be an integral part of the *Specialized*.

I've agreed with most of these changes, including the addition of a special proofs and essays stand-alone catalog, which was part of this year's spinoffs. My reasoning, at the time, was that it was much easier for me to use, as well as a less-confusing listing format. What I had not anticipated, however, was the fact that removing these listings from the *Specialized* (particularly since there is no longer a specialty organization for proofs and essays), is that they become all but invisible to all but those who already collect them.

Longtime collector and proofs and essays advisor to Scott, Stephen Knapp, agreed to prepare an article for this issue (which begins on page 92), explaining why this was a short-sighted move by Scott and proposing another way of organizing and splitting the *Specialized* that makes a lot of sense.

While there are many bugs to be worked out, I find the idea of a "Legacy" volume (1847-1947) and "Contemporary" (virtually everything since) highly logical and likely workable.

The idea has already been submitted to Scott Editor Emeritus Jim Kloetzel. It will be interesting to see what potentially develops from this. In the mean time, I recommend a careful read of Knapp's article.

Collectors Club Programs 2024

- March 13 Reply Cards in International Mail – The Story Behind a UPU Oddity, Eric Scherer
- March 20 Bahawalpur Philately - Part 1 (up to 3 October 1947), Sandeep Jaiswal
- March 27 U.S. 1869 24¢ World Tour, Rob Faux
- April 3 A Tour of Our New Clubhouse, Larry Haber
- April 10 Civil War, Dan Knowles
- April 17 Polish Hyperinflation, 100 Year Anniversary, Ron Klimley
- May 8 Temperance, Chip Gliedman
- May 22 Morocco Postal History (1852-1925): an overview on the four foreign post services; French, British, Spanish and German, Maurice Hadida
- June 5 Philatelic Luminary, Joseph Hackmey
- June 19 Danish Royal Family Sex Scandal (1768-1772), Henrik and Ana Mouritsen
- June 26(?) Hawaii, Richard Malmgren, Fred Gregory
- July 10 1918 Czech Scout Post, Frederick Lawrence
- Sept. 4 Mexico, Omar Rodriguez
- Sept. 18 The Irish Brigade, Robert Benninghoff, Brian Callan
- Sept. 25 Boston 2026 Update, Yamil Kouri
- Oct. 9 Canada Military Mail, David Hobden
- Oct. 30 Minnesota First Days and the Evolution of First-Day Covers, Todd Ronnei
- Oct. 27 The Future of Stamp Shows Panel - APS, Westpex & Sarasota, Scott English, Behruz Nassre (moderator & speaker), Liz Hisey
- Dec. 4 Carriers and Locals Society, Cliff Alexander
- Dec. 18 Western Express Postal History, Ken Stach

Please Consider Submitting
an Article to this Journal
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Welcome Home to Our New Home



as we celebrate
Re-Opening our Club

as we honor
Lichtenstein Award Winners
Trish Kaufmann
James Mazepa
Randy Neil
Charles J.G. Verge

as we mark
the release of
New York City Foreign Mail
written by Nicholas Kirke

the date: Saturday, May 11, 2024

The locations:
The Collectors Club
58 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y.
cocktail reception

The Lambs Club
at The Chatwal
130 West 44th Street, New York, N.Y.
dinner and awards presentation

Essential Elements

Prelude to Postal Profusion

Richard Coffey

Whenever I read an article that posits the number of perforation holes per two centimeters of a stamp I own, I go after it like a brook trout for a fly. An aluminum perf gauge comes out of my desk drawer, a slightly newer plastic gauge out of my miscellaneous box, my magnifier desk lamp is switched to high intensity and the “patient” is withdrawn from its long nap in my stock book.

I have no reason to do any of this, but I can spend an hour fussing to confirm a common perforation, though more often I’m refereeing inevitable disagreements between measuring devices and my 80-something vision and cognitive abilities.

It’s a picture of an old man at his hobby. The baggy worn sweater, the ancient pale trousers with a fading spaghetti stain, the slippers that pass for shoes and the bruised, knurled knuckles that protrude – the onion-skin fingers grasping a perf gauge in one hand and pinching a pair of tongs and a stamp in the other, in the nearly hopeless attempt to join the three objects in a field of view obstructed by eyeglasses sliding down my nose and cataracts that have fogged the field.

I now know why old men appear angry most of the time. After spending a half-century learning to acquire the qualities of patience, the ball begins to unravel and your life just becomes a pile of string – and stamp tongs. Yet, old age is a gateway to an opportunity of sorts – lots of time – and, if you’re lucky, it’s inevitable.

It brings to my mind Thurn and Taxis. In my youth, I imagined a Taxis postman leaning into a moonlight gallop across an Alps mountain pass with celerity, post horn in hand and, well ... when I was a little older, I read that riding a horse in the Alps in the dark didn’t turn out well for horse or man or mail. After reading that, a large hunk of the romance I had attached to stamp collecting broke away and disappeared like the Conger ice shelf in Eastern Antarctica. I was left, briefly, facing reality. The Thurn and Taxis post served Europe for 355 years and, if I can’t find some romance in the reality of that longevity, my imagination is failing as well.

Imagine, then, an interim of darkness out of which arose the Holy Roman Empire in pursuit of power in Christendom. In that time Europe was made of hundreds of village-sized kingdoms, each hungry for news of threats and opportunities and so formed royal posts and, yes, night riders, couriers and king’s messengers, who scurried from palace to palazzo sewing polities together with shared divulgence, unifying the dark and dangerous dominions of divided loyalties with the light of the written word.

NOTE: The earliest Thurn and Taxis markings – place-name marks – appeared in the 1730s, produced by handstamps left over from the French post after the wars of Spanish Succession. In 1832, Thurn and Taxis developed a rectangular handstamp (upper right) peculiar to Hamburg. In 1840, the mark appears with only a single-lined octagonal frame.



The Thurn and Taxis Post “came of age” in a Europe of many kingdoms, large and small, where recurrent wars and deadly neighborhood

spats were routine. The House of Taxis negotiated postal agreements and treaties one-to-one with every city and village. At the formation of the German Confederation in 1815, there were 350 independent territories, of which about 40 had any political or economic significance.

THE COVER: An Aug. 29, 1832, single-folded letter from Hamburg to Herrnhut, 350 miles (564 km). In 1840, one German mile equaled about 4.5 statute miles. The rate, therefore, would have been based on about 77 German miles in the currency of the North, silbergroschen (sgr.) The rate in the period was about 6.5 sgr. (15¢) for 50-60 miles; 10.5 sgr. was apparently paid. Until the Austro-German Postal Convention in 1847, weights, measures and tariffs varied from state to state, kingdom, territory and Dutch.

Generally, the greater number of independent territories that a letter had to cross, the more expensive the postage. A letter going southeast from Nuremberg to Regensburg (65 miles) cost twice as much as going northwest from Regensburg to Nuremberg. A letter from Berlin to Rome cost 68¢ through Switzerland, 30¢ via Genoa, 48¢ through Austria.

Though our peasant ancestors could neither write nor read – nor even imagine a need for such skills – the princes of power, secular and religious, had scribes and teachers. It was a princely time, every speck of a kingdom was a rich garden upon which entrepreneurs fed. One such brand, the Tassis family, developed courier services between city-states in 13th-century Italy, building a reputation noticed by Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, who hired the family, Frantz von Taxis, in 1489, as did his son, Philip I of Spain in 1504. With the Holy Roman Empire as a client, the Taxis family, which was vast, young and ambitious, was allowed to deliver and charge fees for official and private mail. The family was granted a patent of nobility by Maximilian I which opened European doors for them for three centuries. The Princes of Thurn and Taxis created and maintained the first public access mail service in Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Hungary, and the low counties. They designed pathways, procedures and postal protocols, which they tested for three centuries; many protocols endured, in principle, to the modern era.

Much has been inherited from the postal past but the centuries of Thurn and Taxis were certainly prelude to the profusion of demand for postal service by the close of the 19th century.

Boston 2026 World Expo

(Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, May 23-30, 2026)

Yamil Kouri, Jr.

The biggest philatelic event in a decade is only about two years away and we want to share with you the exciting progress that has been made in the preparations for this show.

Boston 2026 World Expo, the 12th international philatelic exhibition in the United States, will be held May 23-30, 2026, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

This spacious state-of-the-art facility is conveniently located less than two miles from Boston Logan International Airport, which provides free public transportation directly to the show venue. There is also easy access by regional rail and buses, and it is very close to several major interstate highways. We have secured 352,000 contiguous square feet of unobstructed space, about 25% more than New York 2016, and 42 adjacent meeting rooms of variable sizes. All eight show hotels we have contracted so far are either connected to – or within a short walking distance from – the convention center. The show venue is in the popular Seaport District, which offers a large diversity of restaurants, a brewery and various museums and historical attractions within a short radius. It is also close to the main city center.

I have attended more than 100 international philatelic exhibitions in the last 40 years or so and can assure you that Boston 2026 World Expo offers the most convenient venue in terms of its proximity to the airport, hotels and its location within the city. Visitors will be able to spend more time at the show or at the numerous nearby attractions, instead of having to travel to and from the exhibition venue every day.

There will be many opportunities to exhibit at Boston 2026 World Expo, which has the sanctioning of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). The FIP is the main international body that regulates international philatelic exhibitions. There will be about 4,000 exhibit frames, mainly filled by competitive exhibits in the different FIP-accepted categories. First-Day Cover (FDC) exhibits will also be accepted as an experimental FIP class. A Court of Honor will showcase some of



the world's greatest philatelic rarities, and we are planning a separate VIP section with numerous exceptional individual items.

In addition, there will be several other exhibit groups outside of the FIP-sanctioned show. The Great American Stamp Show has taken a bye for 2026, so the annual American Philatelic Society Champion of Champions competition will instead be held at Boston 2026 World Expo. There will be a Polar Salon, with its own judging corps and exhibit format; a non-competitive German American Salon; the Cinderella World Congress and its exhibits; and, for the first time in an international philatelic exhibition in the United States, a separate section of ephemera exhibits.

Several museums will display important philatelic and historical artifacts, including the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History and the Massachusetts Historical Society. An invitation to participate in the show has been extended to other collectibles societies, as well as regional and national institutions, and conversations are ongoing.

Boston 2026 World Expo is also part of Revolution 250, a group organizing a series of regional activities to celebrate the events that led to the *Declaration of Independence* in 1776.

To make Boston 2026 World Expo more attractive to non-collecting family members, there will be numerous ongoing attractions at the show, such as calligraphy workshops, historical book presentations and signings, museum art displays, printing demonstrations and other activities.

There will be nearly 150 dealer booths, including ephemera and other paper collectibles, a large U.S. Postal Service presence, dozens of international postal administrations, close to 100 philatelic organization/society booths, large areas for beginning collectors, daily U.S. and foreign first-day ceremonies, hundreds of philatelic seminars, conferences and meetings, several live stamp auctions and more.

Even after the show closes for the day the philatelic fun will continue, as many major philatelic organizations are planning evening gatherings at the area's nearby restaurants.

You can find much more information and frequent updates on our website, www.boston2026.org. Your contributions, comments and suggestions are most welcome.

See you at Boston 2026 World Expo!

— *Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., president*
Yamil.Kouri@Boston2026.org

— *Mark A. Butterline, executive director*
Mark.Butterline@Boston2026.org

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5th Baron Huntingfield, Governor of Victoria (1936)
Samuel 2nd Baron Vestey (1936-1954)
Samuel George Armstrong 3rd Baron Vestey (1954-2014)
A Private Connoisseur Collector (2014 -)

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Postal History of Indian Key, Fla.

Thomas Lera

Introduction

On July 21, 1821, Spain transferred Florida to the United States, and four days later, the Territorial Legislature created two counties out of the entire state. Escambia County encompassed most of the panhandle, from the county seat at Pensacola east to Lake City, while St. Augustine became the county seat of the new St. Johns County, which extended south down the peninsula to Key West.

During the following two years, St. Johns County was broken up into smaller counties. On July 2, 1823, by an act of the Territorial Legislature, Monroe County was established as the sixth county in the Florida territory, encompassing the southern portion of Florida.

Key West Mail Delivery

In 1828, five years after Monroe County was established, Key West was incorporated and became the county seat. The population at that time was fewer than 600 people. The main industries by 1830 were fishing and shipwreck salvaging on the reef. On Feb. 18, 1829, the post office was established, with Henry Waterhouse as postmaster, and sometime that same year its first mail contract was awarded to the owners of a small sailing vessel, the *Post Boy*.

Key West residents experienced many mail delays. It was decided the boat should make monthly trips between Key West and Charleston. However, due to many factors, the “monthly” trips were irregular, often requiring two months.¹

Indian Key Post Office and Mail Delivery

In 1824, Silas Fletcher came to Indian Key, a 12-acre island, part of the chain of Florida keys, located halfway between Key West and Cape Florida. He built a general store for the partnership of Snyder and Appleby, which was visited by the shipwreck salvagers, fishermen and the Key West mail boat. Fletcher unofficially collected and delivered mail as a **private post office** and received no financial assistance from the U.S. Post Office Department to aid in the cost of transporting the mails. Transportation costs were to be paid out of the postage collected or made up by the postmaster. On May 21, 1833, the Indian Key Post Office was formally established.²

Henry S. Waterhouse served as postmaster at Key West until April 11, 1833, a year after which, on April 19, 1834, he was appointed Indian Key postmaster. He posted a notice in the *Pensacola Gazette* about the establishment of the Indian Key post office (Figure 1).

New Post Office.

A POST OFFICE has been established at Indian Key, Florida. All letters and papers for persons residing on this Island, at Cape Florida, Kayo-Biscayno, New River, Key Vacas, on board the light ship Florida, or on board any of the wrecking vessels, excepting the Pizarro, will reach their intended destination most readily if mailed for this Office.

H. S. WATERHOUSE, P. M.
Indian Key, (Florida,) May, 15, 1834.

Figure 1. Notice in the *Pensacola Gazette* June 14, 1834.


Schooner *Fair American* carried mail between Charleston, Indian Key and Key West

The *Key West Enquirer's* "Marine History of Entered and Cleared Sloops and Schooners" (on page 3) showed the following listings:

- 10.10.34 *Fair American* entered Key West from Charleston (10.15.34 *Enquirer*).
- 11.06.34 *Fair American* entered Key West Harbor with sundries to master (items not big enough to list) (11.15.24 *Enquirer*).
- 11.15.34 *Fair American* left for Charleston (11.22.34 *Enquirer*).
- 12.13.34 *Fair American* delivered mail and papers from Charleston (12.15.34 *Enquirer*).
- 12.15.34 *Fair American* left for Charleston with U.S. Mail (12.15.34 *Enquirer*).
- "On Saturday last [01.17.1835] about 9 o'clock P.M. a rumbling noise was heard in a direction from Indian Key, and very severe squall followed which continued near ten minutes with great[er] force than has been felt here for many years. The schooner *Fair American* was blown upon the beach, near Browne's wharf, and several boats were damaged and Postmaster Henry S. Waterhouse with his son drowned near Indian Key." (01.24.35 *Enquirer*).

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Mail Route 2482 serving Indian Key

The July 10, 1834, *Advertisement for Proposals for Carrying the Mails of the United States* stated that for the four years, beginning Jan. 1, 1835, and ending Dec. 31, 1838, Mail Route No. 2483 operated from Charleston S.C (or from St. Marks, Florida), by Indian Key to Key West once a month. It departed monthly from Charleston or St. Marks on the first, Key West the 15th and arrived at the port of destination with "all practicable dispatch."³

During this same time period, Charles Howe, inspector of the Indian Key Port, became postmaster on Feb. 9, 1835, after Waterhouse drowned in the aforementioned accident. In 1836, Indian Key became the first county seat of Dade County. In 1844, when the county seat was moved to Miami, the Upper Keys, including Indian Key, were returned to Monroe County.⁴

Indian Key WAY Mail Letter from 1st Lt. Timothy Paige

"WAY" letters routing can be determined from the designation and contents of the letter. The WAY marking on waterborne mail indicated the letter was picked up by a vessel on the "WAY" between post offices and delivered to the next post office reached by the captain contracted to carry the mail in locked pouches. He received a handling fee of 1¢ per WAY letter.

The Figure 2 letter is addressed to "General Roger Jones / Adjutant General" in "Washington City, D.C.," with a red "WAY 26" marking, which included the 25¢ regular fee for a letter going more than 400 miles, plus 1¢ for the WAY fee.

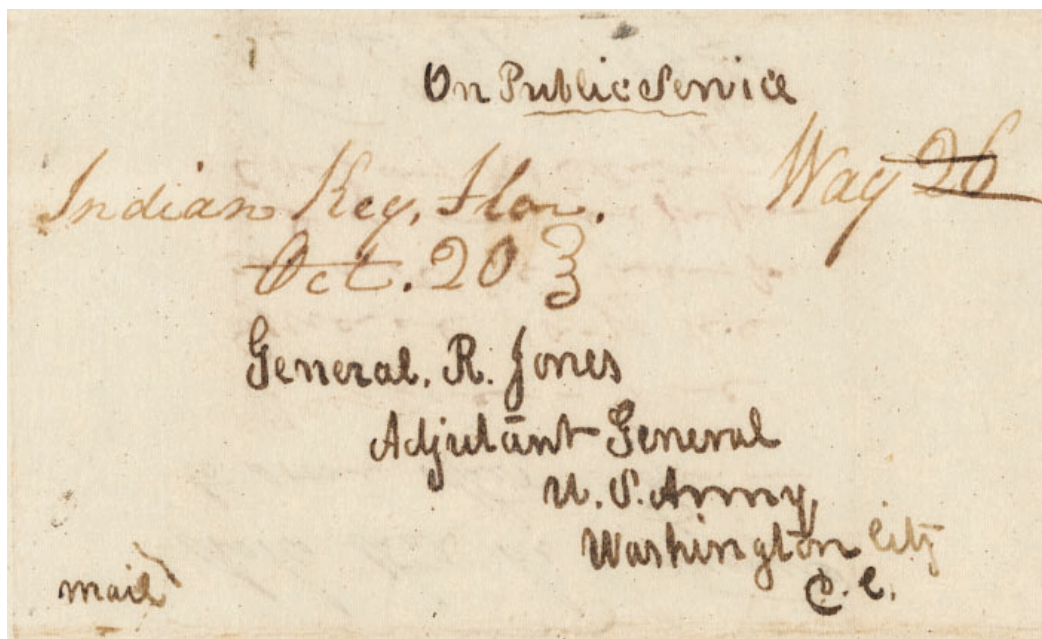


Figure 2. Red manuscript "Indian Key Flor. Oct 20, [1834]" and "Way 26." (Courtesy of the National Archives)

Postmaster Waterhouse did not notice the letter had the words "On Public Service" written on the cover. Had he noticed, the letter would not have been charged the 25¢ postage and, instead, would have been FREE. This was corrected in Charleston, where the postmaster lined out the 26¢. But the word WAY was not lined out because Waterhouse paid the 1¢ WAY fee to the captain who delivered the letter to him at Indian Key.

The letter read:

Garrison of Key West

15 Oct, 1834

General,

Please cause me to be reassigned to some other station. The state of this Island is such that I cannot get along in peace. I am harassed beyond endurance. I pray to get away.

I have the honor to be, General,

Most Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

Timothy Paige

1st Lt. USA Commanding Post and Asst. Commissary Officer

Key West was a difficult place in which to live with the mosquitoes, sand flies and often spoiled food. Lt. Paige had been accused of treating the men badly while trying to maintain order.

First Lt. Timothy Paige Court Martial

Paige received an order to attend a court of inquiry to discuss the allegations of abuse. However, he received the letter one month after the court date. Paige was ordered to attend another court of inquiry in New Orleans in early 1835, where Gen. Gaines suspended him.

The *Key West Post Report August 1835*, prepared by Brev. Maj. F.L. Dade listed, "Timothy Paige, 1st Lieutenant 4th Infantry, Suspended for two years from 31 May 1835 by Order No. 23 dated Memphis, Tenn., 20 May 1835."⁵

Timothy Paige wrote a response to the *Army Navy Chronicle* in reference to the publication's brief notice on his suspension, which was published in the July 16, 1835, issue. He wrote:

"The court awarded this sentence in consequence of the accused having disobeyed the order and summons to attend the court of inquiry.

"The court of inquiry was ordered at the Bay of St. Louis, and the recorder was authorized to summons me as a witness. The summons did not reach me until a month after the court had convened. When I received it, I was the commanding officer of the post of Key West, of a company A.S.S., and AQM, and commander of a public vessel with no officer to

relieve me, neither was anyone sent to relieve me. This was well known to General Gaines when he authorized me to be summoned.

“The record of the court of inquiry shows that it convened as ordered and immediately adjourned to a different place and State, of which I was not notified; and if I had, upon the receipt of the summons, abandoned my post, forfeited my bonds as a staff officer, and gone directly to the Bay of St. Louis, I should have found no court there.

“When I was relieved from my command, I reported to Major General Macomb, Commanding the Army, my reasons for the course which I had taken, and received from him a letter stating that they were deemed satisfactory, and that a copy had been furnished to General Gaines.

“After my arrival at New Orleans and during the session of the court, General Gaines ordered the charge against me for not attending the court of inquiry. General Gaines disapproves of the reasons assigned by the court for suspending me but orders me to be suspended. The record of the court shows that one of the prosecutors, who charged me with injuring his character, was required to appear as a witness and set forth his cause for complaint, refused and failed to do so, and no notice was ever taken of his refusal to obey the summons.”⁶

Key West Commissioned Officers Report May 1836, prepared by Benjamin Alvord, Second Lieutenant, Fourth Infantry Commanding, listed Timothy Paige, First Lieutenant Fourth Infantry as “Absent by permission General Gaines, having tendered his resignation at Fort King Florida on the 25th of February 1836.” It became effective on March 16, 1836.⁷

Examples of Indian Key Postmarks

The *Florida Postal History 1763-1861, 2022 Second Edition*, page 174, has listed only one type of Indian Key postmark. The Type I was a red manuscript “Indian Key Flor.,” found between 10.20.1834* and 11.16.1840* with red manuscript



Figure 3. “Indian Key Flor. Sept 3rd [1837],” red manuscript postmark and “Free” rating. (Courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 83, Lot 63)

postal rates. Three are known to be in private hands and three are in institutional holdings (signified by*).

Thomas Jefferson Smith, Esq., wrote to Aaron Vanderpoel, in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 3, [1837]. The letter was forwarded upon arrival to Kinderhook, N.Y., as noted in Figure 3 by a red “Washington City D.C., Sep. 17 [1837]” circular datestamp and matching “FREE” handstamp. Vanderpoel was a congressman from New York for three terms (1833-37 and 1839-41) and was a close friend of President Martin Van Buren.

The letter reads:

“I wish to ask your friendly assistance in forwarding sundry petitions of the inhabitants of Dade County to make Indian Key a port of entry. You will find the papers in the hands of our delegate Mr. Downing...I left the City of New York last November and have, for the benefit of the climate made this place my residence and am practicing law here...”

Signed T.J. Smith”

The writer, T.J. Smith, along with the founder of Indian Key, Jacob Housman, as well as 30 other residents, had signed a petition to Washington in June 1837 requesting a U.S. ship be stationed there to protect it and Key West from Indian attacks.

Two years later, on Aug. 7, 1840, 134 Indians in 30 canoes, led by Chief Chakaika, attacked Indian Key and killed six people. Brad Bertelli, curator at the Keys History & Discovery Center and an expert on Indian Key, said *“Indian Key’s significance to the Seminole War is that the island demonstrates the desperate nature of the Indians and the steps they were willing to take to fight for what they believed. The attack on Indian Key was unique in the sense the Indians traversed a great distance over water in order to attack, and it is also one of the rare instances where the Indians used one of the island’s cannons to fire at American forces.”*⁸

Late in December 1840, Chakaika was killed by troops led by Lt. Col. William S. Harney.

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Other Indian Key Manuscript Postmarks

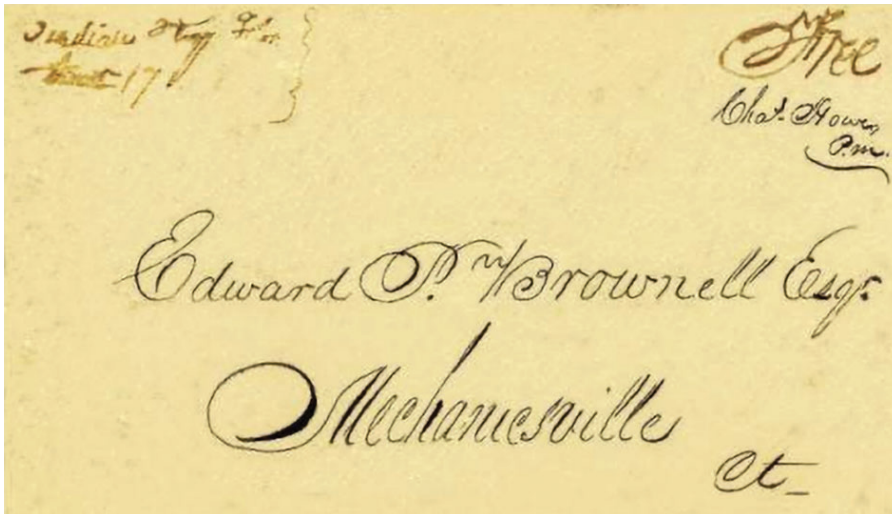


Figure 4. Red manuscript postmark, "Indian Key Flor. Nov. 17, [1839]" and matching "Free" rate. (Courtesy of *Florida Postal History 1763 - 1861*, page 174)

The 1839 folded letter shown in Figure 4, sent to Edward P. Brownell Esq., Mechanicsville, Conn., shows Charles Howe's postmaster notation in black in the upper-left corner. The "Indian Key, Flor." manuscript postmark and "FREE" are in red ink.⁹

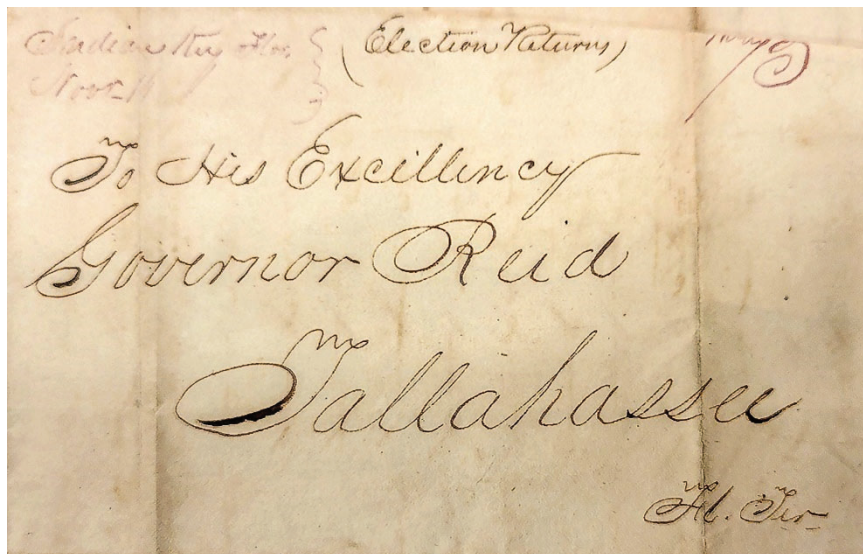


Figure 5. Red "Indian Key Flor. Nov. 16, [1840]" and manuscript "75" rate. (Courtesy of Florida State Archives)

The Figure 5 letter, sent from Indian Key to Governor Reid in Tallahassee, submitted the 1840 election return, which revealed the persons who had been chosen to be part of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida.

Table I: Postmasters' Compensation

Table One: Indian Key Postmaster's Compensation					
Postmaster	Postmaster Appointment	Reporting Data	Postmaster Compensation	Net Accrued Post Office Receipts	Total Income
Silas Fletcher	05.21.1833				
Henry S. Waterhouse	04.19.1834	year ending 06.30.1835	\$16.35	\$27.31	\$43.66
Charles Howe	02.09.1835	year ending 06.30.1837	\$22.59	NR	NR
		year ending 06.30.1839	\$28.04	NR	NR
		year ending 06.30.1841	\$49.13	\$103.78	\$152.91
		07.01.1841 to 03.31.1842	\$87.49	\$181.08	\$268.57
John W. Marshall	03.15.1842	04.01.1842 to 06.30.1842	\$47.42	\$82.29	\$129.71
Luther A. Hopkins	09.14.1842	07.01.1842 to 09.30.1842	\$15.92	\$31.70	\$47.62
P.O. Discontinued 05.29.1843					
William H. Hilliard	11.01.1850	2 qtrs. ending 06.30.1851	\$0.32	\$0.48	\$0.80
		07.01.1852 to 08.05.1852	\$0.04	\$0.06	\$0.10
P.O. Discontinued 08.05.1852					
E. Ware	03.11.1873	07.01.1872 to 09.30.1873	\$12.00	NR	NR
P.O. Discontinued 11.20.1873					
William H. Bethrel	05.05.1880	No Return (NR)	NR	NR	NR
P.O. Closed 09.21.1880					

Indian Key Postmasters' Compensation, based on a commission of 30% on \$100 of letter postage collected, is shown in Table One.¹⁰

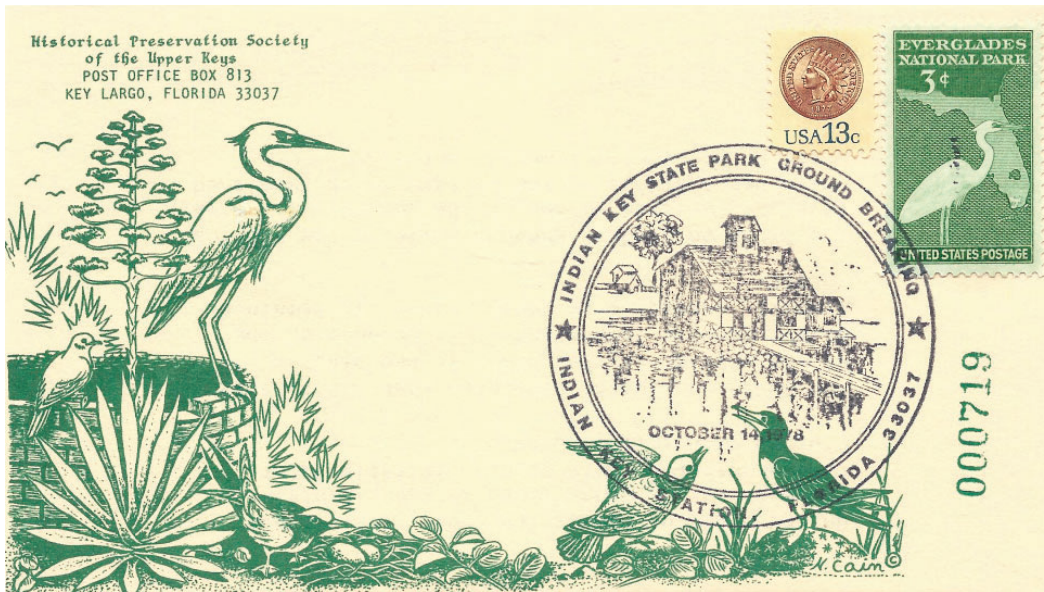
Postmasters were required to transmit quarterly statements to the U.S. Post Office Department, which were recorded in the Florida State Register. The table shows a postmaster's commissions, for one year on postage collected, unless the time period was shorter as indicated in the table.

The postmaster's compensation and post office net accrued proceeds added together total the gross income of the office.¹¹

The amount of commissions stated is after deducting payments to a clerk, or contingent expenses, such as wrapping paper, twine, wax or plain pine boxes for the safe keeping of letters and papers. Invoices and receipts were included with the quarterly report. Rent and fuel were not considered contingent expenses.

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Figures 6a and 6b. Historical Preservation Society of the Upper Keys covers showing Indian Key State Park groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 14, 1978. (From the author's collection)

Indian Key State Park Commemorative Postmark

Figure 6a shows birds painted by James Audubon while he was in the Florida Keys. The Great White Heron stands on the cistern that furnished water to Houseman's Tropical Hotel. Figure 6b shows a street map of Indian Key with the latitude and longitude of the Island drawn by Charles Howe.

The artwork was designed by Keys artist Nancy Cain. Note the two stamps used: the 1947 Everglades National Park issue showing the great white heron against a map of Florida, and the 1978 Indian Head Penny stamp, symbolic of the name and history of Indian Key.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for allowing me to use their images:

Figure 2, from the National Archives and the archivists who located and scanned the image; Figure 3 from the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries Sale 83, Lot 63; Figure 4 from The Florida State Archives in Tallahassee; and Figure 5 from The Florida Postal History Society. I would also like to thank Tara Khan at the Florida Keys History and Discovery Center for allowing me to research the various collections in its archives.

I appreciated for their perspectives and comments: Steve Rinck and Chris Kimball, board members of the Seminole Wars Foundation, and Sandra Fitzgerald.

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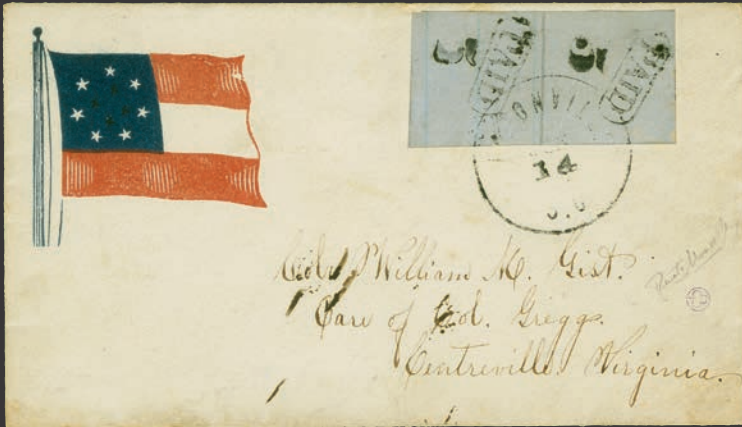
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Odyssey of an Essay-Proof Collector

Rev. Stephen Knapp

I started collecting stamps in late 1957 as a Cub Scout, because on my way to earning a “Wolf” badge I needed a parental signature for “Collecting Things.” But before I earned the badge, my family moved to a new state. The badge never came, but the collecting habit held on and grew stronger into my years as a teenager. I was a stamp club youth leader in 1967, when I attended my first regional philatelic exhibition. There I saw a large die proof for the first time. The “Post Office Department” had prepared a display showing the developmental stages of the 2¢ Frank Lloyd Wright stamp and, in an electric moment, I was transfixed. How could I get something like that? At the local public library I had access to the 1965 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*, and it brought me back to reality. From the listings I learned that modern die proofs were out of the question. No large dies were listed for any stamps after 1953, and very few appeared for stamps after 1933. Worse yet, none of these were in a price range I could even hope to afford.

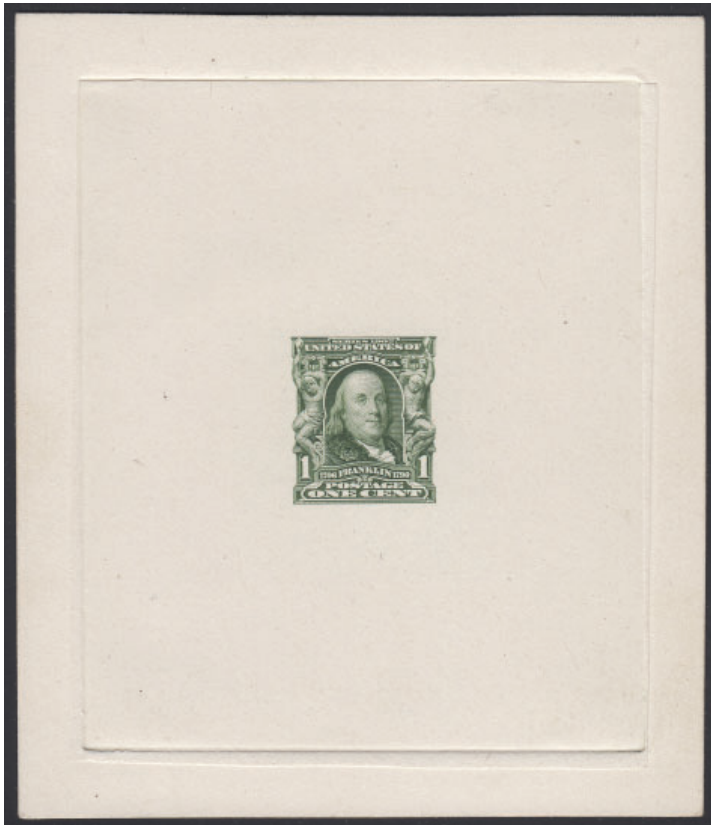


Figure 1. Purchased in 1973 as a Scott No. 300P1. It is, in fact, an unlisted die essay due to shading variant.

Although the *Specialized* showed me that the story for stamps before 1900 was very different, I bought no proofs at all until 1973 when, as a seminary student, I finally broke down and made time payments for a large die proof of U.S. Scott 300 (Figure 1), which I had seen advertised in *Linn's*. It was to be the backbone of a specialized collection; within a matter of months I also joined the (erstwhile) Essay-Proof Society. From the society publication, the *Essay-Proof Journal (EPJ)*, edited at the time by the late Barbara Mueller (a philatelic mentor I had encountered some years before), I learned about the stages of a stamp design that preceded the final die state. Design details that differed in any way from the issued stamp made a proof an essay. Sometime later, I determined that my No. 300 die proof is – in fact – a die essay, a fact that has been confirmed by a well-known specialist in such things. What a kick! From then on, my principal philatelic interest has been focused upon stamp design, not only for postage stamps, but for revenue stamps as well.

Within a year of my joining the Essay-Proof Society, the organization began to serialize, in its journal, a revision of the essay catalog, which had been published by Clarence Brazer in 1941. Falk Finkelberg had inherited the bulk of the Brazer reference notes and, adding his own significant acquisitions and discoveries, he sought to bring them up to date with other new listings and information from the intervening quarter of a century. Brazer's catalog was itself an updated revision of an American Philatelic Society handbook by Edward Mason, which had been published in two parts in 1911-12. Mason, in his day, was updating the work of John K. Tiffany from the *American Journal of Philately*, second series, volume 2 of 1889, due to "... the growing popularity of essays" By 1989, the Essay-Proof Society was of the persuasion that the culmination of this effort over the intervening century should be its orderly incorporation into the chief guiding light for collectors of U.S. stamps, the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*.

Imagine my delight in 1991, when I was asked by Bill Hatton, then assistant editor at Scott Publishing (by then a division of Amos Press), to assist in the arranging of the Banknote Issue essay material for incorporation into the *U.S. Specialized*. At long last, the collecting and study of U.S. essays and proofs would move from philatelic "byway," as editor Mueller had come to describe it, to the philatelic mainstream, albeit "back of the book." U.S. essays occupied 67 pages (58 postage issues, plus nine special services) toward the back of the 1992 *U.S. Specialized*.

Little did I realize at the time that this upward movement in the status of U.S. essays would be the last hurrah of the Essay-Proof Society I had long held in such high honor. Just before autumn of 1993, *EPJ* No. 199/200 (Figure 2) was distributed to the membership, and the Essay-Proof Society ceased to exist. With that, the torch was passed to Scott Publishing (Amos Press). How has it fared? For its first five years in the catalog, the essay section did not change much. In the handoff from the *Essay-Proof Journal*, the extent of its coverage had started at 58 pages for postage and nine pages for special services. By early 1994, the year that

James Kloetzel came on board as assistant editor, it had shrunk to 54 pages for postage and eight pages for special services, mainly due to changes in the handling of pictures and white space. Kloetzel would become the main editor for the *U.S. Specialized* and all other Scott catalogs in late 1994, and remain so for the next 17 years. He retired in 2011, when Scott Publishing, under Amos Press, became simply Amos Media. But Jim has continued as editor emeritus from 2012 to the present, valuing and editing most of the important U.S. sections of the Scott catalogs. During his tenure before and after retirement, the essay section has grown to 91 pages for postage stamps plus 14 pages for special services.

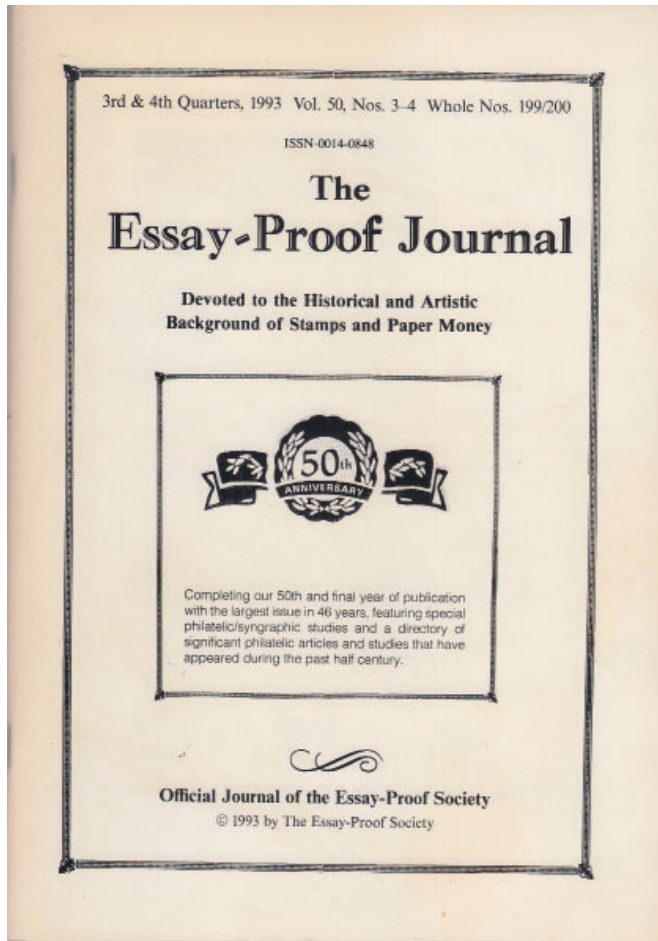


Figure 2. Final issue of the *Essay-Proof Journal* (No. 199/200), 1993.

Most of the growth of the essay-proof “archival” sections is due to advances in research and discovery. But in comparison to the mass of new material being generated by the U.S. Postal administrations of the past three decades, the scope of the new material in the archival sections is insignificant. In 1992, the year the essay section was added to the *Specialized*, the postage stamp listings were up to Scott number 2585. These were arrayed over 182 pages. By 2023, cataloged postage stamps had reached Scot No. 5713 and the listings covered 401 pages, outnumbering the latest essay listings four to one. This phenomenal increase in output is directly

attributable to the singular change in the essential function of postage stamps. In the age of the internet, stamps are less about the cartage of mail, and more about accommodating the politics of constituencies and their numbers. It seems likely that this growth will continue without abatement. What then the catalog?

In purely physical terms, the 2023 *Specialized* catalog measures 8½ by 11 inches (at nearly two inches thick). It consists of 1,280 pages and tips the scales at 3/10 of an ounce less than five pounds! This briefcase behemoth is not the kind of handy tome one carries along under the arm for hours at a stamp bourse. While wandering the aisles one can only hope that the dealer whose booth looms ahead has a copy he or she will let you access. Is it any wonder then that the catalog editors would seek to spin off listings of material they judge as ancillary to the main corpus of postage stamps?

It is certainly the case that the scope and complexity of the essay-proof material coverage in the catalog takes the 2023 listings well beyond the range of what had appeared in the most refined versions of what Brazer and the Essay-Proof Society had achieved in its 50-year span. But we now know that much more remains to be done both in terms of scope and principles of organization. Unfortunately, the removal of the essay section from the catalog proper and spinning of it off as a separate volume (in the 2024 edition), threatens that progress, returning the study of archival material to a niche philatelic byway. The catalog focus of new and mid-range collectors virtually assures this decline. There are many collectors who will only collect what is in the main catalog, so removing the essays and proofs from their context in the same volume that catalogs their related stamps, shrinks the collector base of who can “discover” them.

In an interview reproduced in the December 2023 *Chairman’s Chatter* of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, semi-retired long time essay-proof dealer Jim Lee was asked: “What do you think of the Scott catalog moving essay and proof material to a separate volume?” His reply?

Fatal. Unless they put it back in, it will really hurt the essay and proof market. They should create a Classic U.S. catalog, like they have done for foreign. There is no reason to take it out. You could take out all the post-1940 material and create a second volume. There are a lot of people that would buy that volume because there are a lot of people that collect after 1940. I’m hoping that they will see the error of their judgment and put it back in.

A Two-Volume U.S. Specialized Catalog

Considering the growing mass of material with which we are dealing, there is much to be said for the notion of a “*Classic U.S. Specialized Catalog*.” Or, rather, simply a two-volume *Specialized*. But what would be its contours? Let me suggest a formula for developing such a thing. (The lists that follow here are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)

What belongs in the *U.S. Specialized, Volume 1?* (Legacy)

1. Postage: Any postage stamps issued before 1948.

The present listings begin with the Postmasters' Provisionals and segue into the first government issue of 1847. In 1947, a special observance of the beginning of U.S. postage appeared in the form of a souvenir sheet commemorating the nation's first stamps (Figure 3). Let that souvenir sheet stand as a bookend for the first century of U.S. postage, ending with the year 1947.

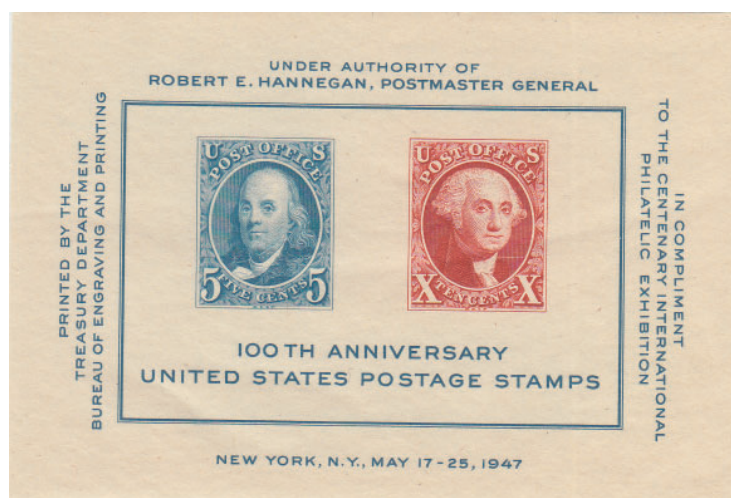


Figure 3. Postage Stamp Centenary souvenir sheet of 1947 (Scott 948).

2. Back-of-the-book (BoB): Stamps for any service that is no longer applied, or for which distinctive stamps are no longer being produced.

There are numerous special postage stamps that were issued for particular kinds of service beyond the realm of first-class mail. Many of these special services are no longer offered, so the stamps devoted to them will no longer increase in number. One of the most extensive is airmail. Mail matter today is routinely carried by air, with no call for a distinctive type of airmail service. Stamps specifically produced to service airmail stopped being produced in 2012 (domestic airmail stamps ceased in the 1970s). So that entire section should appear in the earlier volume of the *Specialized* catalog. The same can be said for special delivery, special handling, postage due and a host of others.

While booklet panes first appeared at the turn of the 20th century, far and away the bulk of the stamps produced in that form are later than 1947. Since specialists would be better served by having all booklet panes together in a single volume, the weight of evidence suggests that it would be part of the second volume.

Collectors of revenue stamps would be better served by grouping them by genre, rather than date. Since far and away the bulk of revenue stamps were produced before 1947, all revenue stamps, including private die proprietary, belong in Volume 1.



Figure 5. Gibson patent essays: intaglio design, with various wave patterns super/supra imposed by letterpress.

The stamps and postal stationery of the Confederacy belong in Volume 1. So also the stamps of Hawaii, Guam, Philippines and other U.S. protectorates.

3. Essays/Proofs: Archive items for any postage issued before 1948, and for any discontinued special-service stamps.

Essays and proofs belong in the same volume in which their issued stamps appear. Such proximity will facilitate comparisons that might otherwise remain hidden or unexplored. Nuances of design can be subtle, so ready comparison is best.

What belongs in the *U.S. Specialized, Volume 2?* (Contemporary)

1. Postage: Any stamps issued, with simplified listings for stamps before 1948.

These “simplified listings” could reproduce the pages presently used for the Scott worldwide *Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps & Covers 1840-1940*, or Volume 1 of the Scott worldwide series.

The logic of this two-volume arrangement is straightforward: Individuals with specialized interest in the material listed only in Volume 1 would be the principal audience for that volume alone. Casual collectors of the full range of postage issues would pursue Volume 2 alone, or might be content with the

standard catalog, Volume one. Serious specialists of the full range of U.S. stamps would require both volumes of the *Specialized*

2. BOB: Any stamps after 1948 for any service currently applied for which distinctive stamps have been or are being produced.

This would include computer-vended stamps, which didn't exist before 1989, so they should be placed with the BOB in the second volume of the *Specialized*.

Postal Cards and Postal Stationery have continued in production and use up to the present. All of both belong in the second volume.

(When a specially designated service ceases, all of its related stamps should relocate to Volume 1.)

3. Essay/Proofs: Archive items for any postage or special service stamps still in use issued since 1948.

I believe that a partitioning along such lines as I am introducing here will ease the overcrowding problem with a better distribution. Specialists in various issues will rejoice that their material is mainly intact within one or the other of the two volumes. My particular interest in advancing the work of essay-proof study can still feature the archival material in the same volume as the resultant stamp issues. This is a more important feature than many might expect, inasmuch as it will allow collectors new to the field to serendipitously discover aspects of stamp design and development. Design is an independent aspect of philatelic study that might call to them from the back of the same book they use to guide them up front. These are reasonable gains for the hobby.

However, I am not so naïve as to suppose everyone would be happy with it. Dealers with broad inventories will be forced to buy both volumes to get full coverage. The same will be said for collectors with broad ranges of interest. But in an environment of growth – and potential growth on a broad scale – open-ended diversity necessarily has a price tag. My basic motivation is unabashedly intended to salvage the specialized study of archival material and keep it accessible even to the uninformed. Patent studies are opening the field, and there are lots of things now coming to light that need to be brought to the awareness of the wider collecting public. This is not the time to divide the data. It is time to divide the catalog between Legacy and Contemporary.

Postscript:

Not long ago I logged in to an online stamp discussion group, and encountered the following thread title: Proof And Essays No Longer In *U.S. Specialized* Scott catalog.

One thread participant observed: *"I was disappointed at losing proofs/essays section in the new Scott Specialized. I assume the reason was they were running out of space."*

I could only agree.

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The Maryland POW Fishing Stamps

David Torre

[Editor's Note: This feature is part of an occasional series of articles in this journal that focus on the considerable historical and hobby resources of the website, www.waterfowlstampsandmore.com. Maintained by Torre, the site boasts much information not found elsewhere.]



Some time ago, I was looking through some albums for interesting items to write about. I came upon a group of licenses from Maryland that I acquired from an advanced collector in the mid 1990s. Each of the licenses was made out to Gilbert D. Cooper of Brunswick, Md., and affixed to each was an unusual non-pictorial fishing stamp that the collector claimed were the only examples he had ever seen. I still have never seen or heard of any others and thought they might make an interesting story. However, at the time all I possessed were the stamps, with no knowledge about Mr. Cooper.

I decided to search Google, in hopes of finding some background information. One of the first items to pop up was Gilbert D. Cooper in Brunswick, Md., with an address and phone number. Recognizing the address and phone number to be the same as on the licenses, my heart raced as I dialed. I calculated that if Mr. Cooper were still alive, he would be 94 years old. After ringing several times, the phone went to an answering machine. I started to introduce myself when, after about a minute, a sweet-sounding woman's voice picked up the phone and spoke.

I thought to myself, this woman must be Mr. Cooper's daughter. After talking for a few minutes she informed me that she was Gilbert's wife, Janette, and, although Gilbert had passed away in 2002, she was six years younger and still here (and still sharp as a tack). I explained who I was and asked if she would be interested in helping me write this story. After asking me a few questions, she readily agreed and we talked for a couple of hours longer. I then realized that with her invaluable contribution and some additional research, I could do this.

Introduction

Before getting to the stamps, a little background is necessary. Gilbert Dewey Cooper was born March 18, 1922, in Lovettsville, Va. Lovettsville is a small town located in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the northern tip of Virginia and was settled primarily by German immigrants in 1836. The 2010 census listed the population at 1,613. Gilbert, son of Millard and Flossie Cooper, was raised and worked on the family farm in Lovettsville, where he also fished, hunted and trapped.

When World War II started, Gilbert was living in the District of Columbia and was single with no dependents. On the first anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1942, Gilbert drove to Richmond, Va., and enlisted in the army. He was 20 years old.

Gilbert, shown in Figure 1, served in the 394th Infantry of the 99th Division of the U.S. Army. He was a machine gunner, serial No. 13143432. After rising to the rank of sergeant, Gilbert was assigned to the European Theatre with the 394th. Shortly after arriving in Europe and exactly two years after enlisting, Gilbert found himself in Belgium – at the Battle of the Bulge.



Figure 1. Machine gun Sgt. Gilbert D. Cooper was 22 years old when he arrived in Europe, during WWII.

The Battle of the Bulge

On Dec. 16, 1944, the U.S. Army began fighting its largest battle in the deep snow of the Ardennes Forest in Belgium. U.S intelligence had determined that the Ardennes sector was weakly defended by the lowest level of German forces, including wounded soldiers, those missing eyes or limbs and the very young and very old. For this reason, the area was chosen to train newly arrived, untested infantry divisions fresh from the states, as well as to rest our own tired and wounded.

In fact, the opposite was true. Forming up around the Ardennes were 30 of Germany's most elite divisions, getting ready for an offensive aimed at splitting the Allied army in two and ultimately capturing the port city of Antwerp. It was the first time the U.S. army would face such a powerful German force in WWII.

When the German offensive began, most of our GIs at the front line were caught completely by surprise and the new German tanks could not be stopped. The new tanks were called the King Tiger (or Tiger 2). The snow further hindered the efforts of the infantry to fight back. They were ordered to hold their positions "at all costs" and only surrendered after running out of ammunition. In the first

48 hours, two out of every three U.S. soldiers were captured or killed as the Germans began their push 60 miles into allied lines.

Allied units from all over France were rushed in to reinforce the "Bulge." However, there was a manpower shortage and many soldiers in these units consisted of converted cooks and mechanics. It was not until the end of December, when the weather broke and General Patton's Third Army arrived, that the momentum began to shift. By Jan. 28, 1945, U.S. forces had succeeded in pushing the Germans back to the initial positions of Dec. 16. One million soldiers participated in the battle, which lasted for six weeks and resulted in 67,000 U.S. and more than 100,000 German casualties.

Prisoner of War

More than 26,000 U.S. soldiers were captured during the Battle of the Bulge, including Sgt. Gilbert D. Cooper. Gilbert was ultimately sent to Stalag 13, near Hammelburg, Germany. Unlike the popular television show, *Hogan's Heroes*, this was a grim time for all U.S. prisoners of war. The experience left Gilbert emotionally scarred and he did not even tell his wife he had been a POW until after they were married. In Janette's words:

"Gilbert told me the day he was captured it was freezing cold and he was in a foxhole surrounded by deep snow. He continued to fire his machine gun until he was overrun by German soldiers and captured. Immediately after being captured the Germans continuously moved him and all the POWs around to avoid having them being retaken by allied troops.

"The POWs were marched nearly non-stop in snow that was three feet high. When their shoes wore out they strapped cardboard on their feet. When their friends dropped, they were prevented from helping them up and they were left to freeze to death. They were given very little food to eat, not out of meanness but simply because the Germans had very little food themselves to share.

"At one point (probably after being incarcerated at Stalag 13), Gilbert was temporarily assigned to help out a German woman whose elder husband was seized by the German army and thrown into the fighting. She was left alone with the exception of one daughter. They had a farm and the Germans had learned that Gilbert had experience working on a farm before the war. While serving on the farm, Gilbert ate animal food and egg shells to avoid starvation."

Freedom

Gilbert D. Cooper's capture was first reported to the International Committee of the Red Cross on Dec. 18, 1944, and the last report was made on May 26, 1945. He spent four and a half months in captivity. On April 6, 1945, U.S. forces liberated the prisoners held at Stalag 13 (Figure 2). However, Gilbert was not among them. According to Janette, the Germans put Gilbert and many of the prisoners on

trains and kept moving them around Germany to keep them from being liberated by Allied forces. Gilbert was not freed until nearly three weeks after the Germans officially surrendered on May 8, 1945.

After being released, Gilbert was sent to France to convalesce (according to Janette he never fully recovered). He was honorably discharged the summer of 1945. He received the following decorations and citations: Good Conduct

Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Theater Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon and the Bronze Star.



Figure 2. On April 6, 1945, a U.S. tank from the 47th Tank Battalion breaks down a fence at Stalag 13. Gilbert had already been put on a train by the Germans.

Return to Lovettsville

Gilbert finally returned to Lovettsville late in the summer of 1945. At this time, Janette was 18 and had just graduated from high school. She immediately went to work in the Maritime Service in Washington, D.C., until the war ended, then worked for a short time in New York City before returning to Brunswick, Md., in 1947.

Upon her return, Gilbert and Janette met through a mutual friend who lived in Lovettsville. Initially, Janette was seeing someone else. When their relationship ended, she started dating Gilbert and within six months they were married. They eventually bought her parents' home (the home where she was raised) and lived together at 206 9th Avenue in Brunswick for 55 years, until he passed away in 2002. Janette continued to live there and died in 2017.

After marrying Janette, Gilbert worked for a railroad, then as a carpenter, finally working for his father, helping to build and remodel houses. He was a carpenter for much of his life until being forced to retire due to eyesight problems.

Prior to the war, for Gilbert, fishing was a casual pastime and consisted of primarily solo trips to nearby Dutchman's Creek in Lovettesville. After the war, he became a more avid fisherman and made frequent trips to various freshwater locations all around Maryland – often in the company of friends. Occasionally he also went out on the Chesapeake Bay with them. Janette believes his increased devotion to fishing was largely self medicating and that the activity was a way for Gilbert to keep his mind off the things he had experienced and witnessed as a POW in Germany.

Gilbert continued to enjoy fishing with his friends until a nail struck him in an eye while working. This left him with impaired vision in the eye and curbed his

enthusiasm for the sport. He continued to fish with his friends now and again, until another accident left him completely blind in the same eye. This occurred during the 1960s and resulted in Gilbert decreasing both the amount of time he spent working and the time he spent fishing. After the accident, Gilbert found himself coming full circle, making occasional solo fishing trips to his boyhood hang-out at Dutchman's Creek.

Gilbert discovered a new passion that would keep him busy for the next 20 years – bottle collecting. Whereas he once traveled the state looking for places to fish, he now did the same looking for places to dig for old bottles.

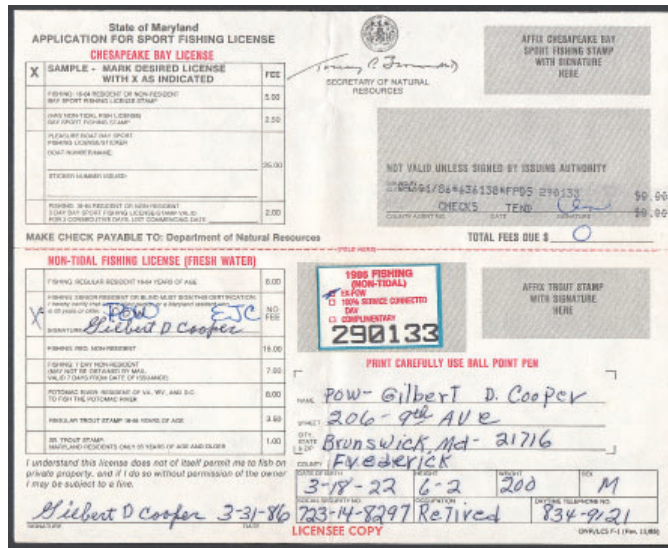


Figure 3. A 1986 Maryland Fishing license showing the various categories of fishermen with the special No Fee stamp affixed. Enlargement is shown near beginning of this article

The POW Stamps

When Gilbert was well into his retirement, his friends coaxed him into going fishing with them again for a period of five years starting in 1986. This was a very fortunate thing for collectors of fish and game stamps. By this point, Maryland had started issuing a combination No Fee fishing stamp that incorporated three categories of sportsmen: 1) Ex-POW; 2) 100% Service Connected DAV and 3) Complimentary. It is not known if the complimentary category on the stamp was also service related. The stamps were die cut, pressure-sensitive self-adhesives.

When Gilbert applied for a fishing license, he was not yet eligible for a No Fee senior license and stamp, as he was only 64. However, his service records confirmed he was an ex-POW and he was issued a free license and the special stamp shown on license in Figure 3.



Figure 4. The stamps from Cooper's 1987-89 licenses, each with the "EX-POW" box checked. The 1989 stamp was the last in the series.

Although Gilbert turned 65 in 1987, he was still issued a POW stamp for three more years. The 1987-89 stamps are similar to the 1986 stamp, with the exception that a place was added in the center to fill in the date issued (Figure 4).

POW Stamps Discontinued

After the 1989 seasons, Maryland discontinued the special stamps. For 1990, Gilbert was issued a new license form with a different type of combination No Fee stamp. This stamp had boxes for 1) Resident [aged] 65 or older; and 2) Resident or Non-Resident [who was] blind. As Gilbert would now have qualified under both of these – neither box was checked on the stamp shown inset in Figure 5. Following the 1990 season, Gilbert finally gave up the sport of fishing once and for all. Gilbert was soon to become a grandfather and this allowed him to spend more time with his family.

SPORT CRABBING LICENSE VALID SEPTEMBER 1 THRU AUGUST 31		FEE	NON-TIDAL FISHING LICENSE (FRESHWATER) VALID JANUARY 1 THRU DECEMBER 31		FEE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RESIDENT NON-COMMERCIAL	\$10.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FISHING: SENIOR RESIDENT OR BLIND	NO FEE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NON-RESIDENT NON-COMMERCIAL	\$20.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FISHING: REGULAR RESIDENT 16-64 YEARS OF AGE	\$8.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JUNIOR/SENIOR SPORT (RESIDENT)	NO FEE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FISHING: REGULAR, NON-RESIDENT	\$15.00
CHESAPEAKE BAY LICENSE VALID JANUARY 1 THRU DECEMBER 31		FEE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FISHING: 7-DAY NON-RESIDENT (GOOD FOR 7 SUCCESSIVE DAYS - ENTER STARTING DATE)	\$7.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAY SPORT FISHING STAMP 16-64 YEARS OF AGE, RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT	\$5.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POTOMAC RIVER: RESIDENTS OF VA, WY, AND D.C. TO FISH THE POTOMAC RIVER	\$8.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAY SPORT FISHING STAMP 16-64 YEARS OF AGE, WHO HAS A CURRENT NON-TIDAL (FRESHWATER) LICENSE	\$2.50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REGULAR TROUT STAMP 16-64 YEARS OF AGE	\$3.50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FISHING: 16-64 RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT 3-DAY BAY SPORT FISHING LICENSE STAMP VALID FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, LIST COMMENCING DATE	\$2.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SENIOR TROUT STAMP NON-RESIDENTS ONLY, 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER	\$1.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASURE BOAT BAY SPORT FISHING LICENSE STICKER BOAT NUMBER 7882	\$25.00	TOTAL FEES \$ - 0 -		

Figure 5. Cooper's 1990 fishing license. Note the stamp (inset) was affixed to the reverse and not visible in this image. The stamp is now designated for a senior or blind person.

Conclusion

Gilbert D. Cooper was an American War hero who fought valiantly in one of the most significant battles in history. The fact that he was captured and became a POW in Germany forever changed his life. After being freed and returned to the United States, he turned to one of his childhood pleasures, fishing, to keep his mind occupied and allow him to cope emotionally.

As an ex-POW, Gilbert qualified to receive special No Fee fishing stamps from the state of Maryland for four consecutive years, 1986-89. It is possible that the stamps Gilbert received are now the the only surviving examples from this unique slice of fish and game philately. For these reasons, both the United States population as a whole and fish and game collectors, in particular, are very much indebted to Gilbert D. Cooper.

I would like to acknowledge the kindness and support that Janette Cooper showed me while working on this post. This was obviously a sensitive subject for her and her family.



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▼ **BREMEN** 1866/67, 5 grote and 10 grote on cover to Havana, Cuba. An attractive and exceptionally rare letter to Latin America.

Provenance: 49th Heinrich Köhler-Auction (1927)
Generalkonsul Borchers (1985)



▲ **CHILE** 1853, First London printing 5 c., vertical pair and 10 c., with red grid cancels on cover from COPIAPO to Córdoba, Argentina. Very rare and most attractive foreign destination cover with the complete first issue.

Provenance: Jean Dupont (1981)
Joseph Hackmey

► **DANISH WEST INDIES** 1871, letter sheet from Matanzas, Cuba, with forwarding agent via St Thomas, with the 'Brazil Line' to Buenos Aires, Argentina, accidentally misdirected via New Orleans. Only one other letter recorded.

St. Thomas



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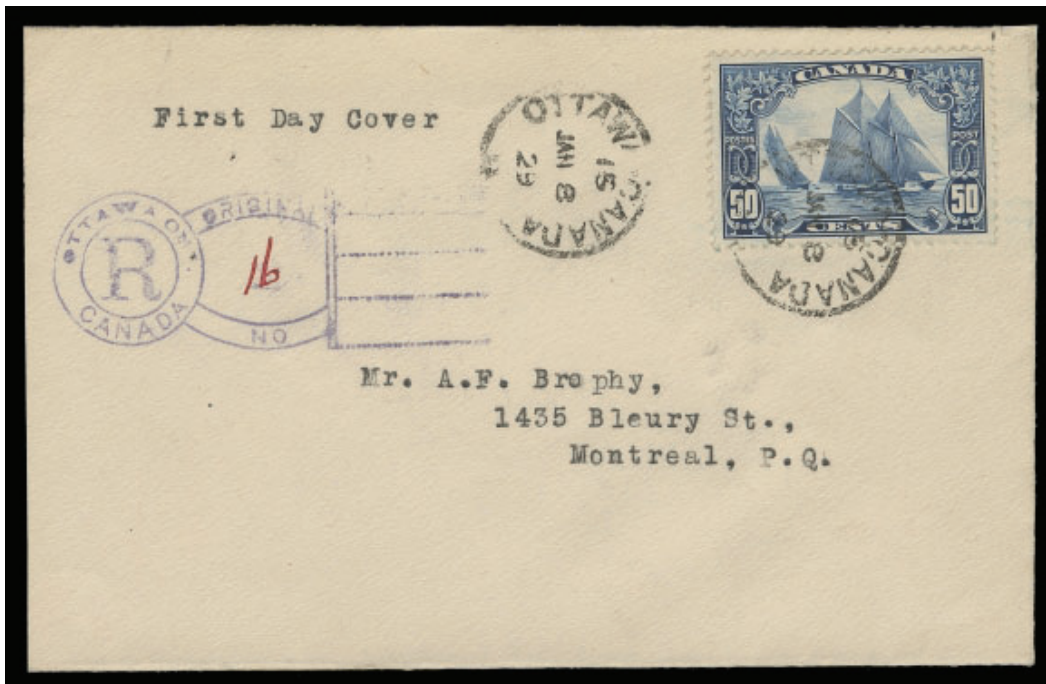
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Noted in Passing on the Auction Block

Matthew Healey

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



Is Blue the Rarest Color After All?

C \$10,665 (US \$7,897)

Eastern Auctions, Bathurst, N.B., Canada: Public Auction, Nov. 15-18, 2023, Lot 645. Further details at www.easternauctions.com

It seems astonishing that a stamp widely acknowledged as one of Canada's most beautiful and certainly most popular—despite hardly being rare—should nonetheless be next to impossible to find on a first-day cover. Yet that appears to be the case with the 50¢ “Bluenose,” nicknamed for the Nova Scotia racing schooner gracefully chasing down the wind in the vignette. The stamp was engraved in New York City as the penultimate value in a pictorial definitive set whose low values featured King George V beneath a scroll that lends the series its name. The Bluenose was issued on Jan. 8, 1929, and although an FDC is listed and priced by Scott at \$5,500, Eastern stated matter-of-factly that “*we do not recall previously offering a Bluenose FDC at auction. Furthermore, we are aware*

of only one other," addressed to the same person. This one was postmarked at Ottawa and has a further Jan. 8 CDS of the Postage Stamp Division/P.O.D. on the reverse, as well as Montreal transit and receiver markings for Jan. 8 and 9. Considering how sought after this FDC is, one must wonder: how many are there, really? (Realization includes 18.5% buyer's premium)



Red Cross Redux

CHF 35,380 (\$40,070)

Corinphila, Zurich: The Richard Schäfer Jr. Red Cross collection, during Nov. 24-Dec. 2, 2023 (Sales 309-320), Lot 9039. Further details at www.corinphila.ch

The iconography of the International Red Cross is obviously closely derived from the national symbols of Switzerland, as befits an organization famously rooted in the neutrality and pacifism of the old Alpine republic. Schäfer, the namesake son of the well-known Swiss philatelic expert and author who passed away last year, offered this thematic collection of "The Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian War," which contains some extremely rare covers documenting a key chapter in Swiss history. Among them is this 1870 cover to Lausanne, bearing a free-frank label of the Comité International de Secours aux Blessés Vevey (International Committee to Aid the Wounded at Vevey). The label's similarity to certain early Swiss federal postage issues merely underscores the organization's Swiss identity. (Realization includes 22% buyer's premium).



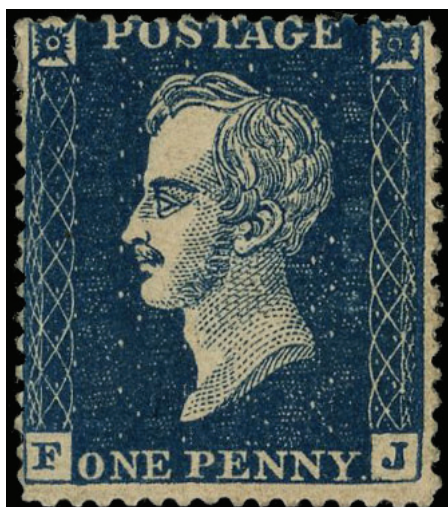


Revenue Revue

\$118

Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, New York: Brian M. Bleckwenn collection of U.S. First Issue Revenues, Dec. 12-13, 2023 (Sale 1304), Lot 1352. Further details at www.siegelauctions.com

The intricacy and sheer beauty of classic revenue designs was on full display in the Bleckwenn collection offered by Siegel in December. Of particular note were numerous rare multiples, cataloged in an online census of classic U.S. revenue pairs, strips and blocks, maintained pro bono at thecurtiscollection.com by the Siegel firm. Yet the true rewards of revenue stamps come when one digs past magnificent multiples such as the imperf block of four \$15 Mortgage stamps (one of three known) that sold for \$10,300; or the \$3.50 Inland Exchange imperf pair (largest multiple extant, with four known) that sold for \$38,350; or even the legendary 3¢ Playing Cards imperf pair (count ‘em, seven) that brought \$50,150. Such eye candy is lovely to behold, but to truly savor the joy of revenue stamps, one must hop onto their magic carpet ride into the social and financial history of the American republic, seeking out the fascinating stories these stamps tell. What, for instance, was a \$20 Conveyance stamp used for? It didn’t pay a tax on streetcars – that was a different kind of “conveyance.” Today we’d call this levy by a more familiar name: real estate transfer tax. Transactions bring together buyers and sellers – sometimes several parties on each side. What could be more logical than for the clerk using one of these stamps to cancel it with the names of all those involved? That’s evidently what happened here: 11 sets of sellers’ initials, to one on the purchasing side, with the date the deal went down – a perfect snapshot of a long-ago transaction, encapsulating what this stamp was issued for – all in a *magically affordable package*. (Realization includes 18% buyer’s premium.)



Prince Albert, Uncanny

£27,600 (US\$34,835)

Baldwins (curated by Stanley Gibbons), London: the J.W. Phillips collection of Great Britain, Part 2, Jan. 16, 2024, Lot 26. Further details at www.baldwins.co

Bill Barrell made no secret of his recent acquisition of this intriguing essay, sharing details about it on social media for several days. The stamp in question is at once familiar and unusual: it is a version of an essay by Henry Archer that is normally only seen in black, brown or red-brown, and frequently imperforate. Offered in the second part of the late John Phillips' superlative collection of classic Great Britain, this example in blue was auctioned by Stanley Gibbons in mid-January under its new auctions brand, Baldwins. So, what is the significance of this essay? Barrell explained:

Henry Archer was an important player in the development of the postage stamp. Prior to 1854, practically all stamps had been separated by cutting them from imperforate sheets, using a pocket knife or scissors. Archer was an Irish gentleman inventor who around 1850 devised the first machine for perforating sheets of stamps to make them easier to separate (the machines would be officially adopted four years later). Archer evidently saw himself as a significant player to the extent that in 1850 he also produced a series of essays using the head of the Queen's Consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, in an attempt to win the stamp printing contract by showing that he could produce, perforate and gum postage stamps more effectively than Perkins Bacon, the firm holding the job at the time. Though unsuccessful, his trials, which exist both imperforate and perforated, are incredibly popular with collectors today. They exist in brown, red-brown, black and blue and some are much rarer than others. Examples in blue are by far the rarest with only three believed to exist. This example (with accompanying certificate), is the only one known in private hands, the other two being in the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Postal Museum. The history of this example is hazy, but prior to my purchase it appears to have been

discovered circa 2004 in the stock of the late dealers Errington and Martin in a small bag labeled 'damaged stamps'! (It does indeed have a thin spot.) It was sold at a public auction in England in 2005 for £38,080 when it was purchased by a dealer and then passed into the hands of a private collector. It was sold at a public auction in Switzerland in 2012 for £34,500. (Realization includes 20% buyer's premium.)



First in France

CHF 110,700 (US\$125,450)

Le Timbre Classique, Geneva, Switzerland: Auction No. 9, Jan. 23, 2024, Lot 1268. Further details at www.letimbreclassique.com

Many classic stamp issues have no surviving first-day covers. Their actual first days of issue may not even be known, the stamps having been quietly placed into use at various times and places with little or no official acknowledgment of any sort – and certainly nothing remotely like the kind of fanfare we are accustomed to for each new issue nowadays. Widespread collector interest in memorializing the occasion of a new stamp issue is a decidedly 20th-century phenomenon; in the 19th century, the appearance of a new stamp had about as much chance of being marked with an FDOI ceremony or special cancel as it had of being televised. On the other hand, certain first days are well known, particularly when they involved a country's first-ever issue: think of Britain's Penny Black (May 6, 1840), the first U.S. national issue (July 1, 1847) or France's inaugural "Ceres" series (Jan. 1, 1849). In rare instances, the stamps happened to be available a few days before they officially came into use; impatient members of the public went ahead and used them prior to their validity. The resulting covers tend to be rare and highly prized. While a normal cover franked with a solo Ceres 20c black-on-yellowish is priced by Scott at \$72.50, the one posted Dec. 31, 1848 – a unique pre-issue use of this stamp – brought six figures in Anders Thorell and Gael Caron's Jan. 23 sale. A "masterpiece of French postal history," known as the Gavray cover, it was posted from the Normandy

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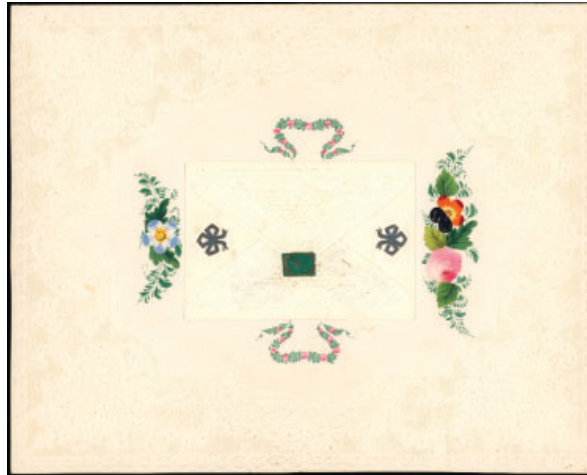
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C.G.

town of that name to a doctor in nearby Coutances. After being canceled once on Dec. 31, it was canceled again the next morning when it entered the mail and reached its recipient later the same day. The Gavray cover was featured in a front-page article in *Timbres Magazine* last year and is accompanied by a Brun certificate. (Realization includes 23% buyer's premium.)





Be Mine

\$35,400

Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, San Francisco: The Valentine sale (Sale 113), Feb. 14, 2024, Lot 1067. Further details at www.rumseyauctions.com

Three Cents are red, One Cents are blue ... If you were seeking the most spectacular use ever of one of the rarest U.S. stamps, you pretty much need hunt no further than the cover in Rumsey's aptly timed Feb. 14 sale of fancy valentines. The 1851 1¢ Type I is one of the rarest U.S. stamps not endowed with a Z-grill or having an inverted center: only one stamp in 1,000 of the imperf 1¢, from position 7 in the right-hand pane of the early state of Plate 1 (7R1E for short) has the distinctive full scrollwork at top and bottom. Just 23 examples are known on cover. This one, with the rarity in a vertical pair with a Type IIIa and accompanied by a 1¢ Type Ib on the backflap and a trio of 1851 3¢ Type IIs elsewhere on the front, is unique in several ways. For starters, it's the only known example of 7R1E used on a valentine. Its most famous past owner, Dr. Hubert Skinner, acquired it from the Weill brothers and held onto it for half a century, penning an article about it for the Nov. 1994 *Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society*. "The fairly early usage of the 1851-56 issues and the attractive arrangement of the stamps on the envelope, clearly qualifies this as a quintessential cover," he wrote. If anything, that's an understatement. The cover measures 8½ by 10¾ inches and is emblazoned with a floral and ribbon design printed in bronze ink. Furthermore, it still has its enclosure, a large card elaborately blind-embossed and bearing a smaller embossed envelope (sealed with a green-and-gold label inscribed "A letter softens the pain of absence") and within that smaller envelope, a Valentine poem. "Such large ornamental Valentine envelopes, though not too common, are fairly typical of the late 1840s and 1850s," wrote Dr. Skinner. Postmarked at Deep River, Conn., and sent to a Miss Eunice M. Chittenden in nearby Westbrook, the cover has no sender's name on the envelope, though the internet reveals that Miss Eunice (1831-1911) eventually married a Mr. Joseph Post and had four children. One can but wonder ... (Realization includes 18% buyer's premium)

Book Reviews

[Editor's note: All book reviews in this issue relate to various products produced by Scott (Amos Media). The U.S. Specialized and a couple of the derivative volumes were released prior to the first of the year (and similar reviews I wrote were published elsewhere). I was unable to review these in the CCP until now. Wayne]

2024 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, 930 pages plus introduction and index, thousands of color illustrations, 8½ by 11 inches, softbound, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio. List price \$139.99, available at a discount through Amos Advantage program or from numerous stamp dealers.

If you are a devoted U.S. specialist (as I have been for many years), along about mid-October your catalog may begin to look a lot like my 2023 edition, shown nearby. Not only is there significant wear and tear from constant use, the binding is beginning to break and pages begin falling out like autumn leaves. This is due, in part, from daily use, but also because the *U.S. Specialized* catalog, over time, has grown to a size that almost becomes self-destructive. The binding simply could not adequately support the number of pages in the volume.

Fortunately, October is the time when Scott releases the new version of its *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*. The 2024 volume is also shown nearby. It is the 102nd edition in this long-running series of essential catalogs.

What is immediately noticeable is that it is considerably smaller than the 2023 edition – 288 pages smaller, to be exact. And the 2023 edition was 152 pages smaller than the hernia-inducing 2022 edition, which weighed in at 1,370 pages and more than five pounds.

Part of this reduction in size, of course, has been the effort to remove certain sections and spin them off into their own small volumes, as was done with both the *Identifier* and *Stamp Values by Grade* sections that were removed from the catalog for the 2022 edition, as well as the Postal Counterfeits section that was removed for the 2023 edition. The 2024 edition features a partial restoration of the counterfeits section, but only up to the introduction of Forever stamps.



The 2024 *Specialized* continues this movement, with both the *United Nations* and *Essays and Proofs* sections removed to be sold separately as individual volumes. Both of these volumes are shown nearby, as well. More about them in a bit.

But these are not the only changes.

Thumbing through the new *U.S. Specialized*, it becomes immediately apparent that images of stamps throughout are about 25% smaller than they have been in recent editions. This is not a bad thing. Not only does this change help reduce the page count, the larger illustrations for most stamps simply aren't necessary. Bravo.

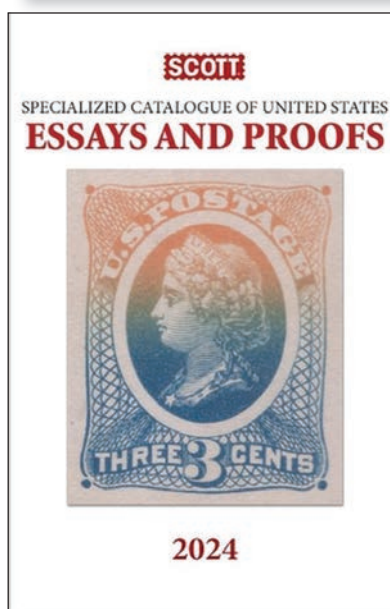
Thus, in the course of two years, Scott has managed to reduce the page count of the *Specialized* by 440 pages, but also has reduced the weight by almost 40% (to a bit over three pounds). This not only helps with shipping costs, but also helps prolong the physical usefulness and lifespan of the catalog.

Now, one can certainly argue that the removal of these various sections makes the *Specialized* less useful, and one could even argue that these moves were a cynical grab for extra revenue, but neither argument holds up under scrutiny. Proofs & Essays, Postal Counterfeits and United Nations are really collected by only a small percentage of those who typically use the *Specialized*.

But there is disagreement. Responding to some of my comments about the spinoff volume, *Essays and Proofs*, longtime collector and Scott consultant for this section (since 1991, when essays were first prepared for listing in the 1992 edition) Stephen Knapp feels removal of the section is a huge mistake, and longtime essay-proof dealer Jim Lee was quoted as the move being “fatal” (to the essay-proof collecting specialty). Knapp’s opinion piece begins on page 92 of this issue.

Indeed, unless a collector is already interested in essays and proofs, he or she will not likely seek out a specialized catalog regarding them, essentially negating the chance encounter with the section while browsing the *Specialized*. Since the Essay-Proof Society and its journal no longer exists (it disbanded in 1993), exposing new collectors to this collecting area is much more difficult.

My biggest beef with all the spinoffs, however, is that the Identifier section really does physically belong with the rest of the specialized catalog to truly help reinforce the fact it is, indeed, a specialized tome. Hopefully it will be restored at some point. I have been told that it is possible the Identifier section will once



again return to the *Specialized*, but nothing has yet been determined.

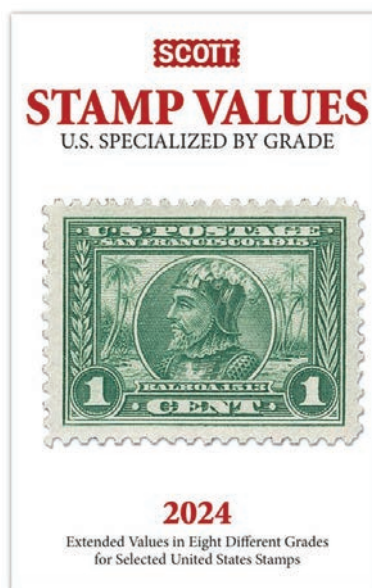
With the physical changes out of the way, let's take a bit more detailed look at the *Specialized* and see what we can see.

Before going further, I feel it is important to note that the values for most stamps continue to reflect true market values for those found in very fine condition. This is particularly true for 19th-century stamps. Very fine, of course, is the exception to the rule for older stamps, so the most commonly encountered conditions are valued lower. This is fairly accurately reflected in *Scott Stamp Values / U.S. Specialized by Grade*.

For decades, collectors and dealers used Scott values (and less so Brookman, Harris and others) as only a general barometer for the trends that stamp values were taking. Retail prices were generally figured at a blanket "percentage of Scott." This no longer seems to be the case for all but the most common issues.

Beginning with its 1988 edition, Scott began to try to reflect the actual retail market values of stamps, not just the trumped-up versions submitted by value contributors to the catalog.

This resulted in a huge market adjustment, with realtime values for stamps headed south because, as mentioned, collectors and dealers had a habit of discounting retail sales of stamps from inflated Scott (and other) "values." These lower values, in turn, bred even lower values, as dealers continued to use "traditional" discounts from Scott. Over time, this artificially induced downward trend corrected itself.



ZOOM

Invite a another collector
to attend the next online event
of the Collectors Club.

The long-term trend is that Scott has become much more adept at divining “true market values” for most stamps. Few can argue with those values now posted for truly very fine stamps (although one can still find many discounted prices). This, of course, obviates the need to mention again that for all but most recent issues, “very fine” is a higher grade than is most commonly encountered.

Still, there are significant value changes, based on available supply versus demand (increased or decreased). As can be expected, most of the value increases affect those stamps that are either in very high demand, or those that are truly scarce.

For example, Scott No. 10, the 3¢ imperf 1851 3¢ issue, rose from \$4,000 for an original gum example, to \$5,500, simply because they are rarely found and verified as such.

Among the areas that have seen the most value changes since last year are the post office seals and test stamp areas, but many increases are also seen in special printings, private vending coils, locals and other somewhat esoteric areas.

Still, many recent Forever and other stamps continue to show strong increases in value as a limited supply goes up against increasing demand – particularly from non-philatelic market sources related to wedding stamps.

One other area that bears mentioning is listings for minor varieties that are now illustrated, listed and valued. Scott continues to add illustrated listings for many stamps with minor variations in design, plate varieties or date changes. Some of these varieties (likely the date changes) will eventually increase dramatically in value, as existing quantities make themselves known in the marketplace.

As a final note, even though the early section of postal counterfeits has been re-integrated into the catalog, listings for modern Forever stamps have not. Scott continues to add footnotes to all issues known to have been counterfeited. Raising awareness of this practice is essential to today’s market, as mint counterfeits begin showing up in the secondary market.

Scott Derivative Volumes

As mentioned earlier, among the sections dropped during the past couple of years in favor of separate volumes are the *Identifier of Definitive Stamp Issues* and *Scott Stamp Values / U.S. Specialized by Grade*. Each has appeared as an independent volume; the *Identifier* retails for \$19.99, the *Stamp Values by Grade* is \$39.99. As with all volumes, these may be obtained either from Scott at a discount (as a member) or from several different supply dealers.

Although there’s not too much to say about either, each is an important part of collecting U.S. stamps.

The *Identifier*, which hopefully will eventually be reincorporated into the *Specialized*, serves a vital function for identifying U.S stamps by design, as well as by other characteristics, including perforation measurements, watermarks, year dates and much more. It is updated annually.

The *Scott Stamp Values / U.S. Specialized by Grade* helps determine the retail value of stamps by grade (or approximated grade), so that one knows whether a stamp is worth a fraction of catalog value or well over the stated value for a stamp in “very fine” condition. Of course, this guide is limited only to valuing by relative

centering. Other features, such as various small faults, heavy cancellations or other characteristics, will affect the ultimate retail value, but it's an important guide to help many collectors understand just how much difference centering can make.

Although I personally find the *Identifier* volume of greatest value (graded values for most stamps may be found easily online and updated frequently), it is helpful to have printed versions of these works physically available.

Coinciding with the removal of listings for United Nations stamps (all three offices) from the *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* is the release of the second edition of the *Specialized Catalogue of United Nations Stamps* (288 pages, plus cover and introduction, \$49.99 list). As with all volumes, these may be obtained either from Scott at a discount (as an Amos Advantage member) or from several different supply dealers.

Although I am not a specialist in the area of United Nations, I appreciate having the separate volume dedicated to this specialty. While I was unable to see any real difference between listings in the *Specialized* and this volume (listings, including proofs and most minor varieties have been covered for some time), I find that handling and viewing the listings is far easier in the stand-alone volume.

My speculative opinion is that most U.S. specialists are grateful for the reduction in size of the *Specialized* (more than 130 pages), and U.N. specialists are glad they do not have to purchase the entire *Specialized* for just the U.N. listings they need. As purely an entertaining side note of no real consequence, the cover of the U.N. catalog identifies it as the "2nd Edition."

The other major section removed from the *Specialized* (as noted earlier) is the section dealing with essays and proofs. The resulting volume has become the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Essay and Proofs* (Amos Media, \$49.99, ISBN 978-0-89-487718-6).

As with the U.N. volume, I don't immediately see any discernible changes in the listings. Scott Editor-in-Chief Jay Bigalke noted that in this edition a number of new Trans-Mississippi essays were added, and there were some listings changes in the Newspapers and Periodicals section.

At first blush, my hands and eyes welcomed this change. The smaller volume is much easier to handle and, in my opinion, the listings are easier to follow than they were on larger pages with more columns in the *Specialized*. More user-friendly is always a plus, in my book.

However, I would seek out this volume because I already collect proofs and essays; if I did not, no real chance encounter would occur.

Proofs and essays already suffer from being invisible to most collectors, who neither understand their significance nor have the opportunity to see their beauty. Almost invariably, when I sit down with a collector or customer and show them a few proofs, they are struck not only by their beauty, but by their affordability as well. They are further dumbfounded when they learn that despite their affordability, most proofs are considerably scarcer than their regular postage counterparts. But I digress.

Having proofs and essays in the *Specialized* is natural; removing them further reduces their visibility from the average collector.

Scott Catalogue of Errors on United States Stamps (19th edition), 250 pages plus introduction and index, hundreds of color illustrations, 6 by 9 inches, softbound, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio, ISBN #978-0-89-487712-4. List price \$49.99, available at a discount through Amos Advantage program or from numerous stamp dealers.

Unlike Scott's other derivative catalogs (such as U.N., proofs & essays and postal counterfeits), the Scott *Catalogue of Errors on U.S. Postage Stamps* does not mean that listings of major errors will be removed from the *Specialized*; quite the contrary. This catalog was started back in the 1980s by the late Stephen R. Datz and, at the time, contained much more comprehensive error listings than Scott.

Over the years, and under the skilled guidance of Jim Kloetzel, the *Specialized* finally earned its sobriquet and listings for major errors became much more comprehensive and accurate.

After Datz sold the catalog to Krause Publications in the late 1990s (I was publisher at the time and brokered the deal), Krause produced several annual editions, maintaining the high quality, with the help of Datz.

Krause, in turn, sold the catalog to Scott in the early 2000s, when Krause abruptly decided to sell its stamp division to focus on selling itself to a larger company.

Scott, of course, recognized the value of continuing to publish this "Bible of errors," and has done a stellar job of producing it since.

While the listings themselves are not significantly different than those found in the *Specialized*, they are all in one place, and divided by category (types of major errors, such as inverts, imperforates and such), which is heaven-sent to error specialists. And, there are listings found in the error catalog that are not found in the *Specialized*, most notably the values of imperforate plate number coils valued by plate or sleeve number.

Because the error catalog is a stand-alone volume dealing with this specific specialty, Scott has developed an extremely informative 10-page section that runs in each volume ("Freaks, Oddities and Other Unusual Stamps"), that clearly explains why striking varieties, such as misperfs and color shifts are different than major errors, why they cannot be listed and helps give some guidance on their valuation as well.

One item of note in this year's edition is the change in quantity of known Candleholder inverts (Scott 1610c). When I broke the story in *Linn's* about the existence of a plate block (which had to have come from a different pane), further investigation led to the discovery that a separate plate strip of 20 existed (it has since been broken), bringing the known total of inverts to 115. It's possible the other 80 stamps from the pane exist as well, but for now that trail has grown cold. Because the market has not yet had time to react to this major news, the values



for these inverts remains unchanged. Singles still have a catalog value of \$17,000, and the plate block is listed for the first time, but does not yet have a valuation.

There are many reasons why the *Scott Catalogue of Errors on U.S. Stamps* is indispensable to anyone with more than a passing interest in EFOs. It's truly the best volume of its kind available.

2024 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps & Covers, 1840-1940, 1,360 pages plus introduction and index, thousands of color illustrations throughout, 8½ by 11 inches, hardbound, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio (ISBN #9780894877117). List price \$179.99, available at a discount through Amos Advantage program or from numerous stamp dealers.

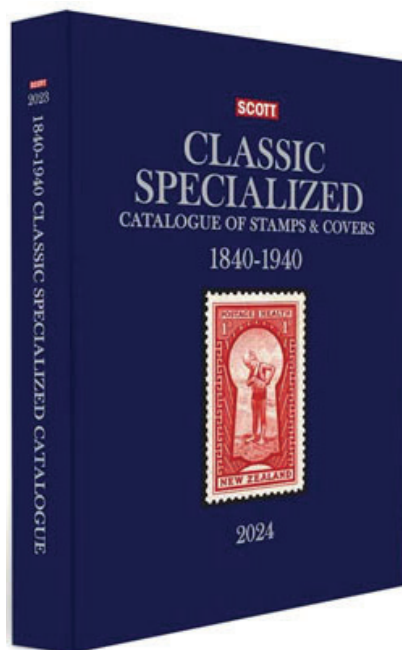
This year marks the 30th edition of this important reference source, which was started as a somewhat experimental volume with the 1994 edition, simply providing listings for classic-era stamps, 1840-1940.

After discussions with the late Sergio Simondo (1943-2023), who felt there was a need for a more specialized catalog for classic-era stamps, as well as one that would value some postal history from the same era, the idea for the *Classic Specialized* was born. Although values for on-cover stamps were added to the 1996 edition, the name was not changed until 1999.

But it's not just specialized and on-cover listings that are found in the *Classic Specialized*. Information found here, but not in the standard catalog volumes of Scott, includes extensive footnoting and explanations, as well as listings for never-hinged stamps, varieties (including color, perforation multiples and others), prestamp postal markings for some countries, some locals and more. These listings continue to be expanded and improved over time.

Indeed, Sismondo worked as a special editorial consultant with Scott for 28 years and, between his vision and hard work, the exemplary leadership of Jim Kloetzel from the beginning and the massive amount of thoughtful labor contributed by lead editor Donna Houseman, each volume has continued to improve by leaps and bounds. This edition is no different, and is something of which the staff at Amos Media can truly be proud. According to Scott Catalog Editor-in-Chief Jay Bigalke, there are more than 12,000 value changes in this year's catalog alone. There are new on-cover listings for Jordan and Syria and an extensive review of listings for Denmark and Rhodesia, among others.

There are scores – nay, hundreds – of additional changes and enhancements to be discovered while perusing this catalog. You also can discover the layers upon layers of improvements over the years that make the *Classic Specialized* nearly indispensable for anyone with a serious interest in classic-era stamps and postal history.



Of note in Bigalke's editor's letter bear repeating here, based on the large numbers of changes found in this edition.

"We encourage users of the catalog to pay special attention to the Number Additions, Deletions and Changes listing found in this catalog. We also strongly suggest reading the introduction, which includes an abundance of important information."



Sergio Sismondo, 1943-2023. Photo courtesy Linn's Stamp News.

True enough; these changes take up almost two full pages of smallish type! Bigalke went on to state that the digital version of the *Classic Specialized* contains many high-quality images of stamps not found in the print edition.

Most collectors are aware of the huge value differences that can occur between stamps that are hinged and those that are in mint, never-hinged condition – particularly for Germany and other European countries, where the values for never-hinged stamps for certain time periods dwarf the standard listings.

Similarly, many stamps that are relatively common used are rather scarce on cover. The listings in the *Classic Specialized* are mostly for the most common use on cover. Still, there are thousands of examples where an on-cover stamp is worth many multiples of a simple used stamp. A few examples follow.

Belgian Congo No. 16, a 5c bicolored stamp issued in 1900, has a catalog value of 70¢ used. However, on cover, the same stamp could sell for \$27.50 or more. Cameroun Scott 226, a 3c magenta stamp that came out in 1940, is extremely common. It has the Scott minimum value of 25¢ for a used example, but on cover it lists for \$37.50. Many French colonies stamps boast similar value differences.

But even more mainstream countries have some whoppers. Canada Scott 74, a ½¢ stamp released in 1898, has a modest catalog value of \$2.75 for a used single. However, properly used on cover, the value skyrockets to \$250! But other countries, including France, Germany, Italy and others, frequently boast some hefty value differences between a used single and one on cover.

For many countries, stamps bearing revenue cancellations are worth considerably less than those that have been postally used. This is not universally the case, though. Quite a few early stamps of Iceland are actually valued higher with revenue cancellations than with postal cancellations.

The editor's introduction closes with an appropriate and well-written tribute to Sismondo, written by Houseman (with memories submitted by Kloetzel).

Harlan Fiske Stone II 1935-2024



Harlan F. Stone, who died on Jan. 31 at 89, was no ordinary philatelist – extraordinary is a better and more applicable term to describe Harlan.

This club knew him well, and his impact was felt well beyond the confines of our walls. It was primarily in the realm of Swiss philately that Harlan made his most significant impact. To sum things up briefly, Harlan achieved remarkable success through exhibiting. He exhibited more than 20 different Swiss subjects, 18 of them recipients of gold medals in four different divisions. Four of these exhibits garnered a total of 10 grand awards. He also received single-frame grand awards with seven other Swiss exhibits. His exhibiting prowess earned him the APS multi-frame Champion of Champions in 2005 for *Switzerland 1862-1883: The Perforated Sitting Helvetia*. In 2002, he won the single-frame Champion of Champions with *Switzerland's Golden Franc*, making him the first exhibitor to win both a multi-frame and single-frame Champion of Champions award.

Stepping outside his focus on Swiss material, Harlan created a multi-frame exhibit on the 1948 stamp honoring his grandfather, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone. This exhibit received gold and special awards in numerous national competitions. Harlan would later donate the material to the Chesterfield (N.H.) Historical Society, the Chief Justice's birth town.

He also distinguished himself as a writer, editor and promoter of philatelic literature. His philatelic interests have also propelled him into service and leadership positions in several philatelic organizations. Harlan served on the board of

trustees of the Philatelic Foundation, the board of directors of the Postal History Society and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists. He held several chair positions with the American Helvetia Philatelic Society and served as its president for many, many years.

During years as a member of the Collectors Club, he made six presentations on Swiss subjects.

Harlan's achievements in writing and editing were no less impressive. He published articles in 11 U.S., Swiss and British journals and periodicals. He served as editor of the *Helvetia Alphorn* (1969-74) and the *Postal History Journal* (1989-99), receiving for the latter the American Philatelic Congress' Diane D. Boehret Award four times for excellence in philatelic periodical literature. This publication also received national gold and international large vermeil literature awards. As Director of Education at the Philatelic Foundation, Harlan published and edited several books and booklets and *The Philatelic Foundation Quarterly*. Harlan was an honorary life member of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society.

In 2006, the American Philatelic Society honored him with the John N. Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research. In 2002, the Consilium Philateliae Helveticae voted him into life membership for his contributions to Swiss philately, making him just the second American to receive this honor. In 2009, he was bestowed with our Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award.

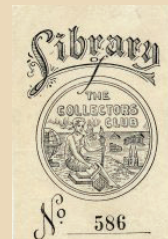
With his wife, Helen Galatan-Stone, Harlan provided significant donor support to philately, including the World Stamp Show NY 2016, the APS' Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship and the American Helvetia Philatelic Society for the promotion of Swiss philately.

Harlan served as a cheerleader and mentor to individual members of the Collectors Club and the AHPS. He always had time for you, and was always willing to provide encouragement and counsel. This was combined with a modest, self-effacing sense of humor. In a 1996 C-SPAN interview about Chief Justice Stone, he described his boyhood memory of the Chief Justice and his watch, which he inherited. Harlan reported, "I'm very happy to have the watch now; it has my initials, too."

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The Collectors Club

Membership Update: Jan. 1 through Feb. 21, 2024.

Approved by the Board of Governors:

Jan. 30, 2024

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Non-Resident:

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Boltz, William G. Seattle, Wash.
Chopra, Dr. Vivak Redwood City, Calif.
Galletti, Greg Mount Airy, Md.
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Martin-Redman, Simon David Fronton-on-Sea, Essex, U.K.
Merritt, Michael Roosevelt, N.J.
Sockbeson, Diedre M. N. Stonington, Conn.
Stillions, Clarence Washington, D.C.

Pending Applications

Non-Resident:

Klaiber, Daniel Chicago, Ill.

We regret to inform you of recent deaths of the following longtime Collectors Club members:

Clark, Nancy Massachusetts
Wynns, John Arizona

We extend our profound sympathies to their families and loved ones.

If you would like to update your contact information, please contact Executive Secretary Andrea Matura at: info@collectorsclub.org.

We look forward to seeing you in person at the upcoming June Napex [Washington D.C., area] event, and at Chicagopex later in November. Our ongoing 2024 online meeting program is in progress. We eagerly anticipate a gala reintroduction of in person activities at the Clubhouse throughout May and June of 2024!

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

Errata:

In the Jan-Feb. issue, the notification of death for Elwyn Doubleday was mistakenly listed as Elwin Doubleday. We appologize for the error.



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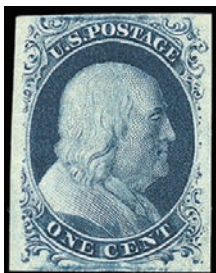
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