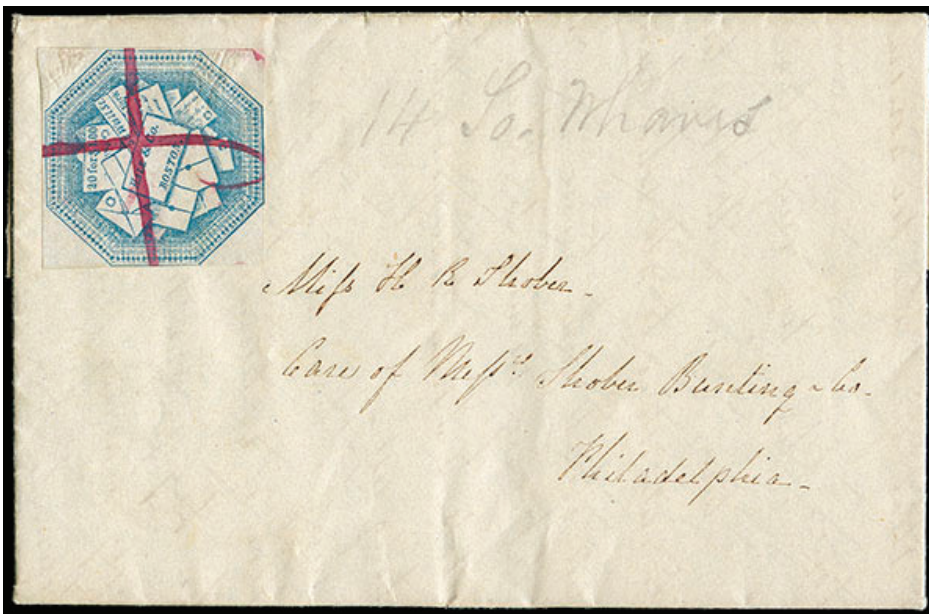


Collectors Club Philatelist



Part 2: History of the Independent Mails

BALDWIN'S | 1872

STANLEY
GIBBONS
ESTABLISHED 1856

THE
HAY MORGAN COLLECTION
of King George V

PART I

September 2024



Find out more
www.baldwins.co

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Editor:

Wayne L. Youngblood
wystamps@gmail.com

Layout and Design:

Jason E. Youngblood
jyoungblood@gmail.com

Publications Committee:

John Barwis, RDP
 Robert Gray
 James Grimwood-Taylor, RDP
 Matthew Healey
 Daniel M. Knowles, MD
 Robert P. Odenweller, RDP
(member emeritus)

Advertising Manager:

Robert Gray
robertgray@me.com

Book Review Editor:

Dr. Luca Lavagnino, Europe

Editorial Correspondence:

wystamps@gmail.com

Business Correspondence:

58 W 40th St, Second Floor,
 New York NY 10018
 Tel. (212) 683-0559
email: info@collectorsclub.org

Website:

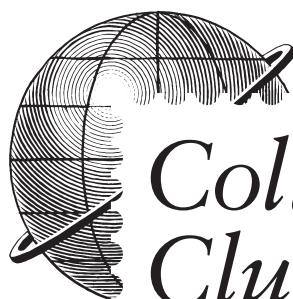
www.collectorsclub.org

Executive Secretary

and Librarian:

Andrea Matura
collectorsclub@collectorsclub.org

Authors' guidelines for the
 CCP are available
 from the editor.



Collectors Club

Essential Elements: A Proto-Postal Paradigm: Will's Coffee House Richard A. Coffey	202
Two Seminars to be Held at Collectors Club	204
Boston 2026 World Expo	206
The Independent Mails Cover Survey: Part 2, History of Those Services David R. Wilcox PhD	210
Montgomery: Thomas Welsh Covers Revisited Steve Feller	224
As Simple as Apple Pie ... an interview with Liz Hisey Olivia Gilmer	240
Noted in Passing on the Auction Block Matthew Healey	242
Departments	
President's Message	195
Letters to the Editor	200
Editor's Notepad	198
2024 Speaker Schedule	198
Book Reviews	246
Membership	254
Index to Advertisers	256

The Collectors Club Philatelist (ISSN 0010-0838) is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November by The Collectors Club, 58 W 40th St. Mezzanine, NEW YORK NY 10018. A subscription to *The Collectors Club Philatelist* is included with dues paid by members of The Collectors Club. Subscription price for nonmembers in the United States is \$70. Prices for foreign addresses and/or other classes of mail are higher depending on actual cost; consult publisher. Subscriptions for outside the United States should be paid in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Back issues \$9, including postage. For a complete list, write the publisher. Claims for undelivered issues will be honored only within six months of the date of publication. Beyond that, replacements will be provided at the single copy price. Periodicals class postage paid at New York, New York 10001 and additional offices. Office of Publication: The Collectors Club, 58 W 40th St. Second Floor, NEW YORK NY 10018. Copyright 2024 by The Collectors Club. All rights reserved. We do not give implied or other consent for copying for more than personal use.

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

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:
The Collectors Club Philatelist, 58 W 40th St. Second Floor, NEW YORK NY 10018.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

58 W 40th ST, MEZZANINE, NEW YORK NY 10018
(212) 683-0559

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

Officers

President	Lawrence Haber
Vice President	Robert Gray
Secretary	Matthew Healey
Treasurer	Roger S. Brody, RDP
Chief Technology Officer	Joan Harmer

Governors

Class of 2024

Ozan Gurel
Mark E. Banchik
Alan R. Barasch
Stephen Reinhard
Robert G. Rose

Class of 2025

Robert Gray
Lawrence Haber
Matthew Healey
Daniel J. Ryterband
Wade E. Saadi, RDP

Class of 2026

Roger S. Brody, RDP
Vincent Cosenza
Joan Harmer
Kathryn Johnson
Behruz Nassre



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.

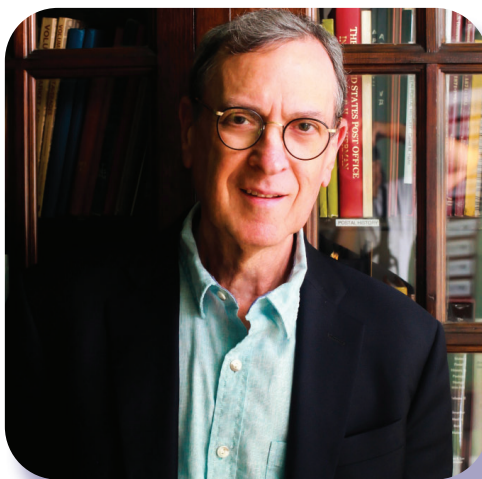
President's Message

Lawrence Haber

If you build it, they will come.

The location of 58 West 40th Street is certainly not a baseball field in the middle of a cornfield in Iowa – far from it. But we built it and they (you) will come.

In May, we held three significant events in our new premises. On May 1, we held an open house for everyone who worked on the project that took us cross-town from East 35th Street. This event was followed by a gala dinner on the 11th and then (finally) an open house for members on the 15th. Our correspondents tell us that they were pleased with the new place. If you have yet to visit, we hope to see you there soon.



We built it, but our work is only beginning.

Following four years of a pandemic and our move, our task is to re-invigorate and bring life and vigor into the Club's premises and make it a beehive of activity.

We got off to a strong start with the Siegel auction firm holding a showing for the Bill Gross collection and then the second session of the Gross auction itself. The company's use of the Club demonstrates a good beginning.

But while we will encourage auction firms and others to use the Club, it is more important to see it used by you, our members.

Certainly, you are all familiar with our biweekly Zoom programs. These served as a real oasis for many of us during the pandemic and are still a very strong feature of our Club. The number of people who view these programs – and do so regularly – is a real inspiration, and is a positive reflection on us all. We remain committed to Zoom to deliver content to the broad philatelic community. We have offered all our presenters the option of conducting their programs from our premises. We have already held our first hybrid meeting with Chip Gliedman, who presented on "Temperance." We expect to continue these efforts.

However, we must do more to encourage person-to-person connections than the traditional speaker-at-a-podium format.

You may have seen the announcement of our series of seminars. [*Editor's note: If not, you'll find more information on pages 204-205.*] We are beginning with a session in September, "Understanding Machines," led by Steve McGill, followed in October by a seminar on intermediate/advanced exhibiting led by Bill Schultz. We are very excited about these and hope to build on their momentum. Our new Club has multiple locations where seminars and meetings can be comfortably held. These range from tables of four to a seminar room that easily holds 10, the library table with 12 and the presentation room's capacity of 50.

Some specialty groups that used the Club as a gathering place have returned, and we hope to see more of them and others.

One of my issues is that the group I describe as "the exhibitor class" is very well served by the "organized" hobby. We see exhibitors at shows and at our various venues; much we do as a hobby is geared around their needs. But, those who do not exhibit – those who are not connected – are the ones I would like us to touch. They are underserved and, I suspect, are missing out on much that the hobby can offer. They either have no idea what exhibiting is, or are put off by exhibiting and consequently are not well connected with their peers in the hobby. It is also likely that exhibiting will never interest them, and they are not likely to pursue exhibiting. Many have excellent material but no venue to share their enthusiasm for their collecting. So, how can we better serve these people?

You would have seen emails regarding a "different type of exhibition." What is this about? Well, as it says, there are no rules, judges or scores; just the pleasure of sharing and discussing fabulous material. Informally. You have the freedom to do as you choose. Please do not ask what or how. That is up to you. All we ask is great material and a willingness to informally explain your passion.

We have 18 of the most beautiful frames in the hobby. They can be used for regular exhibit pages or album pages. They can accommodate almost anything. The key is getting people out of their stamp room and into a venue to share their treasures. The word "exhibition" is not meant as an exhibition blessed by CANEJ (Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges) or the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie), but as "an exhibition" in the sense of an art exhibition: placing wonderful material on the wall to be appreciated. I think this can be a very exciting and wonderful outlet for those without an interest in rules and regimes.

So, my message to you is, how about it? Drop us a line. You have nothing to lose, and no one will stand in judgment.

**Keep up to date
with what's happening in our club:
www.collectorsclub.org**

The British Empire Specialist

Pre-1936 Aden to Zululand

Stamps, Varieties and Postal History Bought and Sold.



**We are important Buyers of British Empire,
German Colonies, Worldwide and US Rarities
and Specialized Collections.**

Are you trying to fill those pre-1936 gaps in your collection?
We can help you build your collection with our extensive
mint and used British Empire stock.

Our Public Auctions offer an important and comprehensive selection
of Great Britain and British Empire in all price levels.

Call us today and ask us how we can help you!!!
Email or fax us your Want List today!!!

Free British Empire Public Auction Catalogue on Request!



Colonial Stamp Company

5757 Wilshire Blvd., Penthouse 8, Los Angeles, CA 90036 USA

Tel: +1 (323) 933-9435 Fax: +1 (323) 939-9930

Toll Free in North America - Tel: 1 (877) 272-6693 Fax: 1 (877) 272-6694

E-Mail: Info@ColonialStamps.com - URL: www.ColonialStamps.com

Members of: ASDA, PTS, IFSDA, APS, CSDA



Editor's Notepad

Wayne L. Youngblood

You may have noticed this issue contains a bit of a bonus. It is a 23-page booklet promoting the new Nicholas Kirke book, *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878*, a two-volume tome that appears set to become a must-have in most U.S. philatelic libraries. You'll find Scott Trepel's insightful review of the book on page 246.

Your complimentary booklet is a small pocket guide, intentionally small and portable, so that you can carry it comfortably and easily to a show. It's intended to be used as a quick guide to NYCFM cancels and help you do a quick search to see if that cancel is already in your collection. It can also be used to keep as a handy inventory of NYCFM cancel holdings.

New postage rates

Effective July 14, postage rates will rise for the second time in 2024. The new rates include a 5¢ increase in the price of a First-Class letter from 68¢ to 73¢ (representing a bit more than a 7% increase). Most other rates will increase as well, some more dramatically than others. Some of those rates most commonly encountered by collectors are shown as follows:

Product	Current Prices	Planned Prices
Letters (1 oz.)	68¢	73¢
Additional Ounce	24¢	28¢
Non-Machinable Surcharge	44¢	46¢
Domestic Postcards	53¢	56¢
International Postcards	\$1.55	\$1.65
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.55	\$1.65

Collectors Club Programs 2024

- 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

The Brigham Estate Province of Canada Part IV



Public Auction
October 4, 2024



Eastern Auctions Ltd.

P.O. Box 250 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z2 - Canada

Telephone 1(506) 548-8986 - Toll Free 1(800) 667-8267

email contact@easternauctions.com - website www.easternauctions.com



Letter to the Editor

This is in response to Jan Berg's comments in the May-June *Collectors Club Philatelist* (page 134), regarding my article in the January-February *CCP* (page 30), the W.A. Cooper Samoa cover article.

First, I would like to thank Berg for taking the time to write. I was aware of the fire at Postmaster Davis' store/post office, but had not considered the possibility that the cover I choose for colorant analysis was canceled-to-order.

For my purposes, whether a cover is philatelic or commercial is of no importance, since it is authentic.



Front and back of a cover from Samoa to England, registered mail, unsigned.

It should however be noted that not all registered Samoa mail matter items were signed "PM Apia Samoa" as an accounting feature for charges to be collected for U.S. postage and U.P.U. fees by W.A. Cooper on such mail transiting San Francisco.

There are at least 86 "Hawkins" registered mail¹ examples. I have seen 10 or so to date and all are missing "PM Apia Samoa" on the cover reverse as is shown on the accompanying cover. Each has a different combination of Samoa stamps. These covers are obviously philatelic and were sent to Samoa to become canceled-to-order examples for collectors.

With the large number of covers in this correspondence, it was unlikely that Davis had 10¢ and 3¢ U.S. stamps on hand; these stamps were most likely applied in San Francisco by W.A. Cooper. It should also be noted that the test results of the "black Samoa cancel ink" indicates this was not an ink in use in 1889, 1893 and 1894, but was a synthetic dye or a mixture of dyes. On April 18, 1895, the Apia circular date stamp (CDS) tests as was shown in the article as Prussian Blue ink. My effort with the W.A. Cooper 1895 cover is forensic to uncover the dye used by both San Francisco and Samoa post offices.

— Mel Kravitz

1. Robert P. Odenweller, *The Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa*, R.P.S.L Press 2004.

Please Consider Submitting
an Article to this Journal
wystamps@gmail.com



Essential Elements

A Proto-Postal Paradigm

Richard Coffey



While fishing for postal history in a backwater auction, I spied a faded Two-penny British handstamp on an 1825 cover. Thanks to muscle memory, a far more reliable auction partner than my fading cognitive functions, I placed my bid with a tap of my finger

Once hooked and landed, the cover spent a month or so beyond my comprehension until one rainy afternoon I noticed – with a sharp philatelic yelp – that the address was Will's Coffee House, Lincoln Inn, London.

Will's was the name one of London's first coffee houses, established by Will Urwin in about the late 1600s and frequented by guys such as Isaac Newton, Alexander Pope, Samuel Pepys, John Dryden and Jonathan Swift, and university intellectuals who were popularly called The Wits for they could be counted on to spew forth poetry, riddles, scientific theories and amusing idle chatter as well as essays on topics of the day.

The coffee houses of Oxford and London were known as penny universities, as one penny would buy a cup of coffee and a place at the table to attend the

day's lectures. And, yes, it was mostly a guy thing during those dark and unhappy days of the moral austerity.

And, of some interest to postal historians, the coffee house of which there were several thousand in London alone by the close of the 17th century, had become an exchange of sorts – of ideas as well as sureties and financial propositions, many of which arrangements turned into disasters that attracted barristers and thus a pressing need for legal correspondence. The coffee houses became the nursery of fixtures in our modern life, much as Lloyds of London, which was nurtured in 1680 when Edward Lloyd opened a coffee shop on the Thames and began exchanging global marine intelligence. The increasing business correspondence of such fellowships contributed to the demand for an affordable local post in London – duly noted by William Dockwra, who founded a London Penny Post in 1680, featuring a one-penny rate and multiple daily deliveries – a service that became so popular and profitable that after three years the Duke of York forced Dockwra to surrender his patent to the government.

All the while, the coffee house became a sort of proto-post office where letters were exchanged, where mail could be held and so addressed. The London coffee house became a destination – an address in a sea of a quarter-million people where an individual might be found.

A principal attraction, of course, was coffee, which was discovered, according to an Ethiopian tale, when some goats became agitated after eating the reddish berries in the year 900. This created chaos and upset the goat herder who threw the berries into a fire – where they soon roasted and expelled a tantalizing aroma. Several centuries later, the berries were roasted for human consumption to a delicate perfection in Turkey, then discovered by English mariners and brought home to old Blighty, where coffee became a principal English refreshment – far healthier than Thames River water and less socially disruptive than several pints of ale. Considered to be at least as medicinal as a cuppa tea, coffee-inspired cafes were established worldwide by the 19th century – enabling a human passion for fraternity with an eye on the potential for profitable association.

And, like most moments of early postal history, the coffee house culture evolved and became men's clubs and trade associations, secret societies and fraternal polities but left behind enormous postal footprints in the sands of time.



Wherever | Whenever
www.collectorsclub.org
keep up with club news

Two Seminars to be Held at Collectors Club

The first two seminars in a planned ongoing series will be held at the Collectors Club Clubhouse on Sept. 16. Details of each are presented as follows:

Understanding the Machin Series

Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Steve McGill

The Collectors Club is delighted to announce a *one-day seminar* on Great Britain's popular Machin-head series of Queen Elizabeth II definitive stamps. This will be the first in a planned series of seminars held at the Collectors Club on a wide variety of worldwide topics, from the classics to modern issues.

This beginner- to intermediate-level seminar will cover the basics, including how to collect the series, the finer points of identification, album challenges and much more. The seminar is open to Collectors Club members and non-members alike.

Steve McGill is one of the world's leading experts in the Machin series, having won many national-level grand awards for his exhibits on specialized aspects of the stamps. He is the author of numerous articles on the Machins and has previously given classes on them at the American Philatelic Society Summer Seminar in Bellefonte, Pa.

Both a continental breakfast and lunch will provided to seminar participants.

The cost to attend is \$75 for members of the Collectors Club, or \$100 for those who are not yet members.

For further information and to reserve your place at this seminar, please go to: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thecollectorsclub/1286151>.



Intermediate/Advanced Philatelic Exhibiting

Sept. 16-18, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bill Schultz

We are delighted to announce a *three-day* seminar on intermediate and advanced philatelic exhibiting. Like the Machin Series seminar, this is part of our new series of seminars held at the Collectors Club on a wide variety of world-wide topics.

As previously mentioned, this is a three-day seminar.

Intermediate/Advanced Philatelic Exhibiting will discuss how to win Large Gold medals at WSP shows. Improvement of existing/future exhibits will be the focus. The seminar is open to both Collectors Club members and non-members.

Bill Schultz is one of the world's leading experts on exhibiting. He is a retired philatelic chief judge who served the hobby in that capacity for almost 20 years. He is the author of an enormous number of articles on exhibiting and has previously given classes on exhibiting at the American Philatelic Society Summer Seminar in Bellefonte, Pa.

Both continental breakfast and lunch will provided daily during the seminar.

The cost is \$175 for members and \$200 for those who are not yet members.

For further information and to reserve your place at this seminar, please go to:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thecollectorsclub/1286754>



Boston 2026 World Expo and Philatelic Organizations

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

Yamil Kouri, Jr.



Since 1913, decennial international philatelic exhibitions in the United States have had a reliable base of financial support. This has mainly consisted of the United States Post Office Department/U.S. Postal Service, philatelic dealers, foreign postal administrations, auctioneers, exhibitors, individual donors and philatelic organizations that make donations, purchase booths on the show floor and buy advertising.

To date, Boston 2026 has enjoyed an unprecedented level of support from philatelic organizations, including national and local clubs, specialized societies, regional philatelic federations, philatelic exhibitions and study groups. Some of these organizations with strong financial positions, thanks to their large endowments, have already made very generous contributions to Boston 2026. Many other smaller organizations with limited resources have given more modest donations. The amounts of the contributions range from a few hundred dollars to \$100,000.

The fact is that every level of support goes a long way to help make Boston 2026 a successful event. As of the end of May, 32 philatelic societies, clubs and other organizations have contributed to Boston 2026. These include three designated as a "Society Major Sponsor" (\$50,000) and another three designated as "Society Sponsor" (\$25,000).

Several leaders of philatelic organizations that have made large contributions to Boston 2026 tell me they consider their donations as an investment in the future of the hobby and as their duty to promote exhibiting and learning. At the

same time, they realize that Boston 2026 gives them a great deal of visibility and exposure to the tens of thousands of visitors expected to attend. This is clearly a mutually beneficial partnership.

The Collectors Club has chosen to share a super booth in the front of the dealer bourse area with the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and the Philatelic Foundation.

Boston 2026 is committed to ensuring the presence of as many philatelic organizations as possible during the show. To facilitate this there will be two types of society booths, large hardwall booths and smaller pipe and drape booths.

Several of the major supporting societies will be in large hardwall booths located either in the dealer bourse area or in an adjacent area that we call "Society Row." The latter will be near the landing of one of the two sets of escalators leading from the main lobby/registration area down to the show floor. The cost to the societies that wish to have a hardwall booth in Society Row will be close to the amount that the show decorator charges Boston 2026 to build and furnish them.

Most of the other society booths will be within one of five regional pavilions. These hard-walled pavilions will house exhibits, societies and post offices focused on different geographical regions. Society booths in the pavilions will be pipe and drape, not hardwall. Boston 2026 will make every effort to match each specialized society with its respective geographic areas, or to place them in the location of their choice.

Questions & Answers

Q: Do all societies need to take booth space to participate in Boston 2026?

A: No. It's completely okay for a participating society to not have a society booth. Some participating societies will only hold meetings, conferences or social events at Boston 2026, without having a society booth on the show floor.

Q: How much do society booths cost?

A: Societies located in the Dealer Bourse area pay the same booth fees as dealers. Societies taking hardwall booths in Society Row (next to the Dealer Bourse), will pay booth fees that are close to the amount that the show decorator charges Boston 2026 to build and furnish them. Societies taking pipe and drape booths in one of the regional pavilions are not charged a fee. But Boston 2026 does request a donation that is in proportion to that society's ability to pay.

Q: What if a small philatelic organization wants a booth but cannot afford to pay anything?

A: Boston 2026 will not turn away any society that cannot afford to pay. We will supply booth space in an appropriate pavilion without payment.

Q: Are there non-monetary requirements to obtain a society booth?

A: Yes. A standard contract needs to be signed governing society utilization of Boston 2026 resources (such as booth space, meeting rooms, social events at the convention center). The most notable requirement is that all society booths need to be manned at least seven hours a day (most show days will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Q: Can different groups share the same booth?

A: Yes. And this is encouraged as it can help those societies that might otherwise have difficulty meeting the society booth staffing requirement.

If you are a member of a society and wish to have a presence at Boston 2026, please contact, Mark Schwartz, our Society Chair, at mark.schwartz@boston2026.org.

Boston 2026 is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so individual donations may be tax deductible. All donations are most welcome. Please visit our website, www.Boston2026.org.

See you at Boston 2026 World Expo!

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



Did you know...
...that there are many CC
meeting presentations available
to members on our website?

www.collectorsclub.org

You don't have to live in
Manhattan to be an active,
involved and happy member of
the Collectors Club.

This is just one of the many,
many member resources
available to you!

BALDWIN'S | 1872

**STANLEY
GIBBONS**
ESTABLISHED 1856

THE FORMER SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM PART II

22 August 2024



After the astonishing success of Part I, achieving a white glove, we are proud to announce that the second auction in the series will be held at Baldwin's Auctions, 399 Strand, on August 22nd 2024. The Three King's Collection will be available to view in London from August 1st.

Find out more
www.baldwins.co

The Independent Mails Cover Survey

Part 2: History of These Services

David R. Wilcox PhD

What follows is a brief history of the independent mails suggested by surveying the 1,005 known franked covers as described in Part 1. This history pulls together in one place all the data revealed from the surveys already discussed (as such, there is some necessary redundancy). Hopefully, more surveys in the future will add to the picture. However, since few covers survived, the basic story will likely go unchanged except in the details.

A history of the independent mails based on the surviving covers

The history of the independent mail era began at the start of 1844, although Hale was active at least in organizing his company in late December of 1843.³ The American Letter Mail Company (ALM) produced the earliest-known use of a postal adhesive (5L1) during the fourth week of January (EKU Jan. 25, 1844, the Garner cover from Baltimore to New York City). Figure 15 illustrates the Garner cover. It is the earliest-known use of a non-government postal adhesive on an inter-city postal cover in the Western Hemisphere. Some researchers feel this may have been the very first day of service overall.⁴

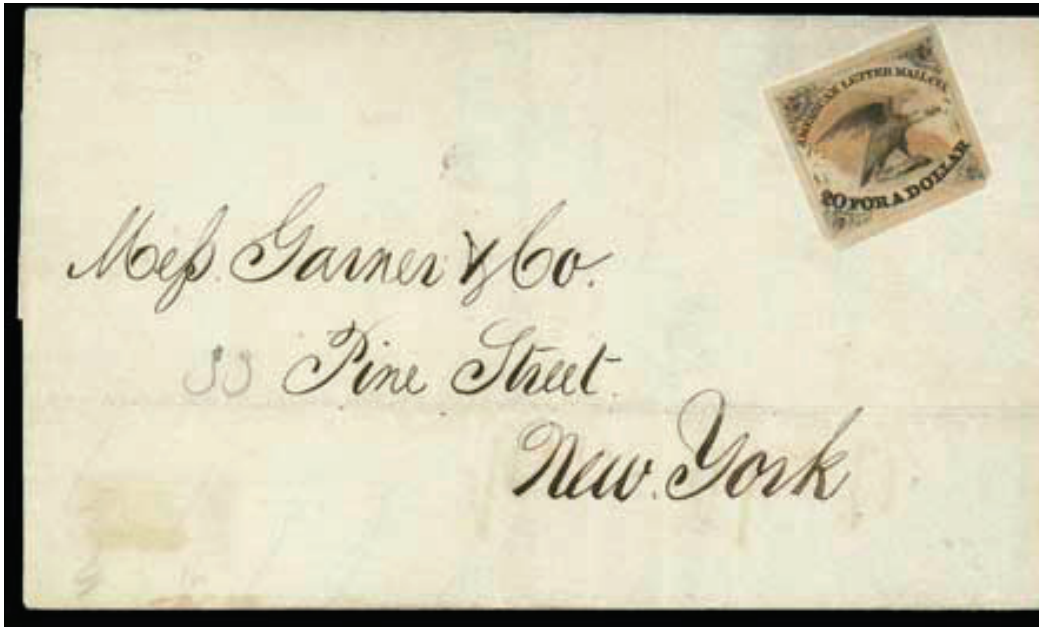


Figure 15. The Jan. 25, 1844, Garner cover, which originated in Baltimore, franked with ALM's 5L1. It is the first-known inter-city cover with a non-governmental adhesive stamp in the Western Hemisphere.

Figures 16 and 17 show two other postal firsts generated by the independent mails. The Shober cover shown in Figure 16 was sent from Boston to Philadelphia by Hale and Co. It is franked by its first issue (the blue 75L1 with the street address not removed) and dated June 2, 1844. This is the first appearance in the Western Hemisphere of a precanceled stamp on a cover. The "X" cancel was applied to sheets prior to use of the single stamps to pay the postage. Notice the crossing lines run to all four edges of the stamp but never cross onto the cover itself. For all precanceled stamps, the precancel never ties the stamp to the cover.

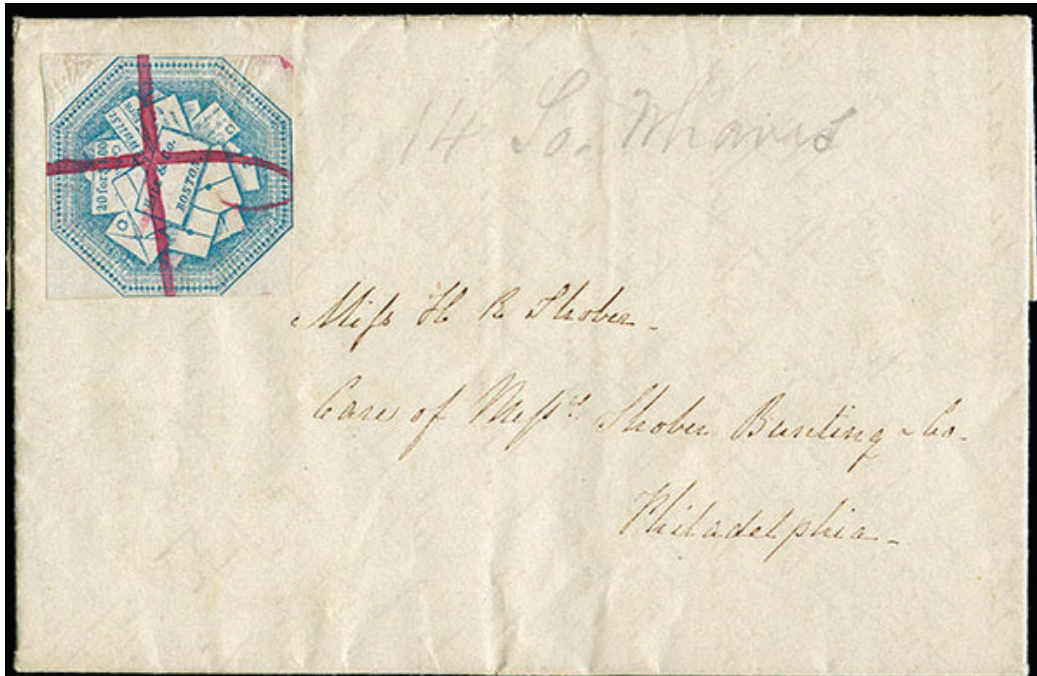


Figure 16. A Hale 75L1 blue, canceled with crossing magenta lines. This is the first precanceled stamp used on a cover in the world.

The cover shown in Figure 17 is the earliest-known use of W. Wyman's 149L1. It was sent from Boston to NYC on Aug. 28, 1844, and the stamp pictures a locomotive similar to some trains active in the northeastern United States at the time. This stamp and its use represent the first locomotive pictorial stamp used on cover in the world.

**Keep up to date
with what's happening
in your Club:**

www.collectorsclub.org



Figure 17. Wyman's 149L1 (1844) was the first postal adhesive in the world to picture a locomotive.

Hale and Co. was the only other significant independent mail carrier active during the first half of 1844 until the beginning of summer (around early June). Hale's earliest franked cover dates from March 1844, exactly seven weeks after ALM (EKU March 14, 1844, the Loew and Co. cover from NYC to Boston).

Both company's dated covers produce a bell-shaped curve of activity over that period, peaking near midway through the spring. The curves are about equal for NYC, New England and the Philadelphia-NYC corridor. Based on surviving franked covers, there was apparently, however, little measurable independent mail activity in Upstate New York throughout this initial period.

Of course, as is true for the remainder of this overview, the U.S. government mail produced stampless covers throughout the independent mail era in all regions. However, the government would not officially produce postal adhesives until July 1, 1847 (some postmasters as early as 1845).

Following the spring, we can see an explosion of independent mail activity as the summer of 1844 began. Why there seems to be a very slight dip or hesitation shortly before this explosion is unclear, but ALM's proprietor, Lysander Spooner, expressed frustration in a later 1849 letter that he had become disillusioned. His intent was to drive a challenge to the government's right to a monopoly of the mails all the way to the Supreme Court. The government was aggressive with its attacks on these private mail carriers, but it was not interested in Spooner's fight to reach the Supreme Court.

A government court trial involving ALM employees was winding down into late May 1844, so this may be just one of the reasons for public hesitancy at that time to use the independent mails.⁵ However, this slowdown did not last long.

Pomeroy and Hale were the cause of the summer explosion. While it is true that Hale was ultimately the dominant post of the independent mail era, Pomeroy's mail handling was comparable to Hale during July 1844.

In addition, Hale and ALM were active in Boston early, but Hale gradually dominated Boston mail delivery. Hale and Co., through its networks, grew its empire, although its activity decreased after the *Act of March 3rd* (1845). ALM even seemed to decrease its Boston activity significantly into the Spring of 1845.

Pomeroy, along with (Wells') Letter Express, were the primary independent mail companies carrying mail to and from upstate New York and the entire West beyond Buffalo. Their dominance was so strong, that when Pomeroy was forced out of business under government pressure, almost no franked mail was being delivered by the independent mails into Upstate New York (such as Albany, Rochester, Watertown and Buffalo). Shortly after Pomeroy's closing, Wells also closed. Now, not only was mail no longer being carried to Upstate New York by these companies, but they also stopped carrying mail West to such cities as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Milwaukee.

Since this vast region became a void of independent mail activity upon Pomeroy's demise and the government continued its deliveries, this was – in essence – a takeover that summer by the government of mail flowing between NYC and Upstate New York and the West. This appears to have been a major part of the government's intent, since it arrested employees, restricted use of the railroads and fined the independent mails. Pomeroy was a key target, and his company succumbed to government pressure first.

ALM was the third most active of these early companies. As the summer of 1844 began, ALM's founder (Lysander Spooner) finally sold to a new owner yet to be identified; David Sands Brown in Philadelphia has been suggested,⁶ but the owner's name remains a mystery. As the summer progressed, this new owner took ALM to another peak in activity, about equal to the spring peak. Besides New England, ALM was most active in the Philadelphia-NYC corridor involving mostly Philadelphia, but also, low levels of activity from Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

The distribution of ALM covers showed a slight rise through the summer of 1844, but did not contribute significantly to the general explosion of activity seen that summer. ALM's activity in the Philadelphia-NYC corridor switched from initially being mostly active carrying mail into Philadelphia, to carrying significantly more mail away from Philadelphia. Hale, on the other hand, initially carried little mail into Philadelphia, but by 1845, the company became the dominant force in Philadelphia's mail delivery from outside. Hale was expanding westward.

The 1844 summer explosion of activity was highlighted by Pomeroy in Upstate New York and Hale in New England, especially delivering mail into NYC. At that time (and later) NYC was a major commercial and financial hub for the young nation. There was also mail flowing out of NYC to all regions, of course,

but never as strong as the flow into the city. Covers carried by the independent mails also flowed into and out of Boston from New England. This Boston flow was primarily due to the activity of Hale and Co., which was the dominant force in this region. However, throughout the entire 1½ years, the overriding flow of mail was toward NYC.

The summer of 1844 signaled a promising future for many of these companies. At its peak, Pomeroy equaled – and may have exceeded – Hale’s activity during that rather brief time. Unfortunately, this would not last. The government targeted Pomeroy to try and stop revenue loss caused by the independent mails. ALM and Hale were likewise attacked.

The government attacks on Pomeroy hit hardest when the railroads and steamboat companies that Pomeroy depended upon were contracted by the U.S. government to avoid the independent mail carriers. Fines were levied, and proprietors and employees of the independent mails were arrested.

Hale was clearly the giant, but the government focused intently on Pomeroy. The government may have rightly perceived that Pomeroy, in concert with (Wells’) Letter Express, was poised for an assault on the West that perhaps the government could not easily match. Hale was making inroads on ALM’s territory in Pennsylvania, but Hale would not show strength there for another half year. Pomeroy became the key target for the government, and Pomeroy was the first to go.

Finally, Pomeroy apparently saw the end approaching that summer. It is possible Pomeroy also had continuing interest in express mail handling of packages through his previous association with Livingston and Wells. This secondary interest may have prompted Pomeroy to abandon carrying letters. This was because, at that point in time, the government’s primary revenue loss was with letters, not package delivery. Therefore, in late summer 1844, Pomeroy’s Express announced it would close its offices.⁷

Pomeroy announced this office closure in early August 1844, but not surprisingly, the cover survey data suggests he allowed his offices to stay open preparing for the closure until at least the end of the month. This is most clear for the Pomeroy red (117L5) and the Pomeroy lake (117L6) issues apparently used from NYC to the Albany area. The blue issue (117L3) seems to have been used by Pomeroy around Rochester, N.Y., and the black issue (117L4) in areas of the Mohawk Valley, but also Buffalo and Watertown. These latter two issues continued weakly as outliers just a few more weeks into mid-September. Then they also ceased.

After the closures, Pomeroy’s black-on-yellow general issue (117L1) continued to appear on covers likely carried by agents of (Wells’) Letter Express which had promised its support, publicly honoring these Pomeroy stamps. It is possible some of these agents had originally been Pomeroy employees, since the two companies worked closely together in delivering mail earlier in the summer to and from the population centers of the West, past Buffalo.

One surprising and noteworthy observation from the distribution data is that Pomeroy's single-color issues (blue, black, red and lake) stopped appearing on cover prior to his regular black-on-yellow general-purpose issue (117L1). Because only the black-on-yellow issue continued after the closings, this may suggest the four single-color issues were only available to apply on letters when the offices were open.

Pomeroy's dominance in Upstate New York was probably critical for the success of both Hoyt's Letter Express and (Wells') Letter Express. Hoyt's Letter Express made a brief appearance serving the Rochester, N.Y., area. However, Hoyt's efforts ended with very few covers surviving. The company probably lasted only for about eight weeks, based on the franked covers known today. Figure 18 shows a conjunctive-use cover between Hoyt and Pomeroy.

This cover is franked by two Hoyt stamps, and this pair is the only Hoyt stamp pair known. The upper stamp has a printing error where the word "letter" has a "c" inserted to read "letterc." The cover required a vertical pair of Pomeroy's 117L3 blue to make it into NYC. A Boyd's Express Post handstamp and "Paid J.T.B." show Boyd's City Express received the cover from Pomeroy to deliver it to its final 66 South Street destination near NYC's East River shorefront. Therefore, this was a triple conjunctive-use cover that probably originated south of Rochester, N.Y. It likely traveled the Genessee Canal up to Rochester on Lake Ontario (by Hoyt), and then carried toward Albany and down the Hudson River (by Pomeroy) to its final destination in NYC (by Boyd).



Figure 18. A triple conjunctive-use cover carried from Rochester, N.Y., to New York City.

Based on the surviving franked covers, the (Wells') Letter Express, under Henry Wells, lasted at least 38 weeks in the summer of 1844 (Pomeroy lasted only 17 weeks or so). Wells worked in collaboration with Pomeroy, moving mail to and from the West through Buffalo. This company released four issues (two uncommon), but the volume of mail carried was much lower than Pomeroy's, and it depended in part on Pomeroy for some of its business (although Wells did carry some mail directly to NYC). When Pomeroy closed, Wells honored Pomeroy's stamps and persevered, but even (Wells') Letter Express appears to have gradually closed by December 1844 (officially announced a month earlier).

Brainard & Co. had a minor role in Upstate New York (especially along the Hudson Valley) but also apparently decreased most efforts carrying mail upstate. Although Brainard did continue after the others had folded, this company appears to have mostly carried mail from Albany to NYC, not away from NYC into the upstate areas as Pomeroy had done. Based on the franked cover that survived, Brainard seems to have become a niche player in 1845.

When the surviving franked covers are graphed, it appears that Upstate New York was receiving essentially no significant mail delivery from any independent mail carrier by the end of 1844. Of course, there may have been sporadic covers that did not survive and stampless covers are not included in this survey, but it appears, at that time in 1844, only the government mail served this region in a meaningful way. One might assume this was the goal of the government's legal attacks all along.

In the Philadelphia-NYC corridor, there was a switch in roles as ALM gradually, but clearly, focused on carrying mail away from Philadelphia to NYC and beyond. Early on, Hale was practically absent from this mail traffic away from Philadelphia. However, Hale slowly dominated most mail flowing *toward* Philadelphia. In late spring 1845, Hale even drew some eastward activity from Baltimore that had been previously minimally involved in mail traffic by the independent mails.

Hale seemed to be moving its success in New England into the Philadelphia market. With Pomeroy and Wells gone, Hale was finally poised to conquer the Western states. Hale may have slowly succeeded in dominating this Philadelphia region, as it had dominated New England, if the government had not stepped in and ended Hale's efforts. We, of course, will never know, since Hale was not only finally blocked by a government decree, but all the independent mail companies were forced to stop activity and close their doors permanently on June 30, 1845.

Unsuccessful business strategies and poor profits did *not* close down the independent mails. The U.S. government forced them to close *due to* their success and profitability, which was taking away from government revenues. These were remarkably successful private ventures, by apparently well-run companies, which ran into conflict with the needs of a much larger government postal

system. Contrary to America's love of our individual entrepreneurial spirit, it was the government as a whole that became threatened and had to impart the final control.

Despite the government attacks needed to squelch Pomeroy's company, over-all independent mail activity elsewhere continued into the end of 1844 and early 1845. But, with Pomeroy's closing, the totals from Boston to Philadelphia, based on the franked covers, gradually decreased (although still well above the early spring 1844 activity before Pomeroy became involved).

Before the independent mail story ended, New York City continued its thirst for information flow through late 1844 and early 1845 until the end. Through the 1844 summer and fall and then the spring of 1845, three small companies (Hartford Mail Route, Overton & Co. and W. Wyman), focused predominantly on delivering New England mail along the Boston-NYC corridor. The flow of franked mail to NYC was respectable, but mail flow away from NYC by these three small companies was minimal (only 5%).

One possibility is that these small companies may have focused on delivering legal and financial documents to NYC that required no reply.⁸ Perhaps this was similar to Brainard's activity along the Hudson River in New York State, especially into 1845. This hypothesis deserves further research.

Hartford Mail Route specialized in mail flow from upstate Connecticut into NYC. Wyman and Overton concentrated their efforts along the Boston-NYC shore. The data shown in Figures 9 and 10 (Part 1) suggest that Wyman may have been slightly more successful than Overton for a period of time (although stampless cover data by Bowman may refute this⁹), but Wyman appears to have finally sold out to Overton by the beginning of 1845. This may have been due in part to Wyman's poor health and subsequent death.¹⁰

The *Act of March 3rd* (1845) spelled the end of the independent mails. By this act of Congress, there was to be no more mail handling by private firms between cities on the govern-

Time proven Showgard® Mounts...

–Showgard Mounts are the choice and recommendation of experienced collectors.

–For over 25 years Showgard Mounts have proven perfectly safe for stamps under every climatic condition in all parts of the world.

–It is a philatelic fact that collectors switch to Showgard Mounts as they gain in experience. It's a sensible idea to start and save with Showgard Mounts. At dealers everywhere. Available with Dark Display or clear see-through background.

**For Free Sample and Size Gauge
Please Write**

VIDIFORMS CO. INC.
Showgard House
115 North Route 9W
Congers, NY 10920



ment's postroads after a June 30, 1845, deadline. This was defined as railways and waterways, not just the roads. Not surprisingly, mail handling decreased throughout the spring of 1845 and up until the June deadline. The companies, no doubt, were still in the hunt for profits, but the public confidence in them may have been waning.

By June 30, 1845, the government was promising lower rates and possibly better service. Based on data from the survey (Figure 9, Part 1), ALM seems to have slowed some deliveries into NYC from New England, and also into Boston by late May. This was about one month before the June 30 deadline. It is possible ALM no longer considered these areas as profitable as before, and/or the demand and public interest were decreasing.

ALM stopped using its workhorse adhesive, the black 5L2 by the end of May 1845, and it started using up what might have been remainders of its blue 5L3 stock. It is unclear if these blue stamps were being used as "unusual service" stamps in the final weeks or, perhaps, ALM was just running out of the regular black adhesive issue.¹¹ There were deliveries into the final weeks of June 1845 by Hartford Mail Route, Overton and Hale, but by July 1, 1845, the reign of the independent mails was over.

These private enterprises were prohibited from carrying mail on government postroads between U.S. cities. However, for the U.S. Congress to pass the *Act of March 3rd* that called for the June deadline, the U.S. government was forced to drop its mail rates to levels comparable to the independent mails. The country was calling for postal reform, and the U.S. Congress had to respond to its voters.

The independent mails demonstrated it was possible to lower rates, maintain timely deliveries and still generate revenue. These entrepreneurial companies were forced to close their doors, despite their economic success. However, the entrepreneurial spirit of American commerce had succeeded in lowering the government postal rates.

In 1845, this was a significant success for commerce and the growth of the nation. Although America's character has historically owned and encouraged the entrepreneurial spirit it holds within, here the country had to suppress that very same spirit because it exposed the government's own flaws.

At first, the government suppression seems un-American, but perhaps it is as American as we are and may ever want to be. In addition, there is something about a human idea surviving nearly 250 years that makes one want to respect the success of our idea of "entrepreneurial freedom" and hope it stays around.

Footnotes

Part 1

1. Wilcox, David R., "Correspondences of the U.S. Independent mails 1844-45," *Collectors Club Philatelist* 2023, Vol. 102:6 pp. 340-368.
2. Trepel, Scott R., "Independent mails: A Historical Overview" Introduction to *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Part 2

3. Gutman, Michael S., "Hale & Company," Chapter 7 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.
4. Bowman, John D., "American Letter Mail Company," Chapter 1 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.
5. Wilcox, David R., "The 'CC' Cancels of the American Letter Mail Company Stamp, Part 4," *Penny Post*, 2018 26:1 pp. 48-71.
6. Ibid., "Part 13: The American Letter Mail Company: The Mysterious New Owner," *Penny Post*, 2019 27:4 pp. 36-58.
7. Snow, David W., "Pomeroy's Letter Express," Chapter 13 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.
8. Stimmell, Gordon, "W. Wyman's Express Mail" Chapter 16 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.
9. Bowman, John D., "Overton & Co." *Penny Post*, 2020 21:1 pp. 46-56.
10. Op cit., Stimmell
11. Op cit., Wilcox, "Part 9: Robinson's Blue Eagle ALM Covers," *Penny Post*, 2006 14:4 pp. 20-21.

Useful Reference for Further Studies

American Letter Mail Co. (ALM)

- Bowman, John D., "The First Adhesive Stamp of the American Letter Mail Company and Its Proofs and Reprints: Pt 4" *Penny Post*, 2007 15:4 pp. 2-21.
- Bowman, John D. & Gordon Stimmell., "American Letter Mail Company - Part III, Lysander Spooner, Proprietor," *Penny Post*, 2007 15:3 pp. 30-34.
- Bowman, John D., "American Letter Mail Company in Baltimore, Part V," *Penny Post*, 2010 15:4 pp. 39-48.
- Bowman, John D., "American Letter Mail Company," Chapter 1, pp. 24-49 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.
- Roth, Steven M., "Census, with Occasional Commentary: Covers Carried by Private Mail Posts in Baltimore, Maryland" *The Chronicle*, 1997 49:1 pp. 11-22.
- Wilcox, David R., "Survey of the Scarce Blue American Letter Mail Company Stamp, Part 1," *Penny Post*, 2017 25:4 pp. 22-51.
- Wilcox, David R., "The 'EHB' Cancels of the American Letter Mail Company Stamp, Part 3," *Penny Post*, 2018 26:1 pp. 22-47.
- Wilcox, David R., "The 'CC' Cancels of the American Letter Mail Company Stamp, Part 4," *Penny Post*, 2018 26:1 pp. 48-71.

Wilcox, David R., "Part 9: The American Letter Mail Company: Robinson's Blue Eagle ALM Covers," *Penny Post*, 2018 26:4 pp. 42-68.

Wilcox, David R., "Part 13: The American Letter Mail Company: The Mysterious New Owner," *Penny Post*, 2019 27:4 pgs. 36-58.

Brainard & Co.

Gutman, Michael S., "Brainard & Company" Chapter 4 pp. 74-82 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Lyons, Larry, "Brainard & Co. Clearing Up Misconceptions and Presenting a Census," *Penny Post*, 2006 14:1 pp. 51-71.

Lyons, Larry, "More on Brainard & Co.," *Penny Post*, 2006 14:2 pp. 11-16.

Lyons, Larry, "Brainard's Express," *Penny Post*, 2006 14:2 pp. 17-20.

Lyons, Larry, "Even More on Brainard & Co.," *Penny Post*, 2006 14:4 pp. 20-21.

Hale & Co.

Gutman, Michael S., *Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company* (Michael Gutman publisher), 2005.

Gutman, Michael S., "Hale & Company 1843-1845 Update," *Penny Post*, 2009 17:2 pp. 36-39.

Gutman, Michael S., "Hale & Company" Chapter 7 pp. 93-335 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Roth, Steven M., "Census, with Occasional Commentary: Covers Carried by Private Mail Posts in Baltimore, Maryland," *The Chronicle*, 1997 49:1 pp. 11-22.

Roth, Steven M., "Census: Covers Carried by Private Mail Posts in Baltimore, Maryland (an Update)," *The Chronicle*, 1997 49:4 pp. 254-255.

Wilcox, David R., "Correspondences of the U.S. Independent mails 1844-45," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2023 102:6 pp. 340-368.

Hartford, Conn., Mail Route

Frajola, Richard C., "Hartford Letter Express" Chapter 8 pp. 336-363 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Hoyt's Letter Express, Rochester, N.Y.

Gronowski, Stephen L., "Hoyt's Letter Express Combination Covers," *Penny Post*, 1994 4:4 pp. 27-28.

Snow, David W., "Hoyt's Letter Express," Chapter 9 pp. 364-372 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Letter Express (Wells)

Snow, David W., "Wells' Letter Express" Chapter 11 pp. 376-422 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Lyons, Larry, "The Dwight Johnson Correspondence carried by Wells' Letter Express," *Penny Post*, 2004 12:4 pp. 47-51.

Overton & Co.

Bowman, John D., *Overton and Company-Independent Mail, 1844-45, Carriers & Locals Society* (website exhibit)

Bowman, John D., "Overton & Company" Chapter 12 pp. 423-435 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Bowman, John D., "Overton & Co.," *Penny Post*, 2020 21:1 pp. 46-56.

Hahn, Calvet M., "Overton & Company, Part I Introduction by John Bowman," *Penny Post*, 2011 19:2 pp. 47-56.

Hahn, Calvet M., "Overton & Company including Damon, Wyman, City Mail, Part II," *Penny Post*, 2011 19:3 pp. 42-56.

Hahn, Calvet M., "Overton & Company City Mail, Part IV by Calvet Hahn, illustrated by Larry Lyons," *Penny Post*, 2013 20:1 pp. 46-56.

Pomeroy's Letter Express

Snow, David W., "Pomeroy's Letter Express" Chapter 13 pp. 436-490 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Lyons, Larry, "Pomeroy Letter Express and the Value Erased Stamps," *Penny Post*, 2019 27:2 pp. 4-36.

Wilcox, David R., "Correspondences of the U.S. Independent mails 1844-45," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2023, 102:6 pp. 340-368.

W. Wyman, Boston, Mass.

Hahn, Calvet M., "Overton & Company (Including Damon, Wyman, City Hall) Part III," *Penny Post*, 2011 19:4 pp. 37-48.

Stimmell, Gordon (updated by Michael Gutman from *The Chronicle* 2001 53:3), "W. Wyman's Express Mail" Chapter 16 pp. 499-516 in *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies* (Michael Gutman editor), 2016.

Wilcox, David R., "W. Wyman: Survey Reveals Possible Plate Format," *Collectors Club Philatelist* 2023 102:5 pp. 304-311.

**Explore our website and see just how much more
the Collectors Club can offer!**

www.collectorsclub.org



THE COLLECTORS CLUB

CORINPHILA – YOUR CO WILL BE IN THE BEST CO

The Peter Hørlyck Collections of Postal Stationery for Nigeria, Cameroon and Sudan

To be offered 2024–2025



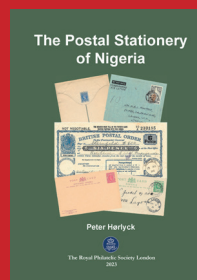
Peter Hørlyck (1963–2021)

“Nigeria may not seem the obvious choice of country for a specialist in postal stationery. With a rather limited set of postal stationery classes and issues involved, the number of pages in the Higgins & Gage catalogue is very small. Furthermore, with most issues up to 1960 printed by De la Rue and with their high quality of work, not many varieties are found. However, when we include the precursors from Lagos, Oil Rivers/Niger Coast Protectorate and Southern Nigeria, and if we look beyond the Higgins & Gage catalogue, a whole new world is unravelled with many possibilities of specialisation turning up, as well as many mysteries.”

Peter Hørlyck FRPSL (1963–2021)

The Nigeria collection is undoubtedly the best ever formed, and with all three being spectacular in coverage, quality and rarity, it is unlikely such an important specialised study will be seen in this depth and breadth in the future, if ever again.

In 2023, the Royal Philatelic Society London, published Peter’s book ‘The Postal Stationery of Nigeria’. The book is the authoritative work on Nigerian Postal Stationery, containing over 400 colour illustrated pages of detailed research, comprehensively presented.



*The book by Peter Hørlyck,
published by The Royal Philatelic
Society London (2023)*

Single-Owner Sales, and Catalogues, are our speciality!

As the oldest stamp auction house in Switzerland, situated in the international financial centre of Zürich, we at Corinphila Auctions really know the market.

The most specialised philatelic knowledge, fastidious presentation and an international customer base with strong purchasing power guarantee the highest prices.

Single-Owner Sales, and Catalogues, are our speciality!

NSIGNMENT MPANY



Founded in 1919



1889. German 10pf Envelope in Light Blue (Size 147x115 mm). Registration from KAMERUN 31/3/1891 to Mainz.



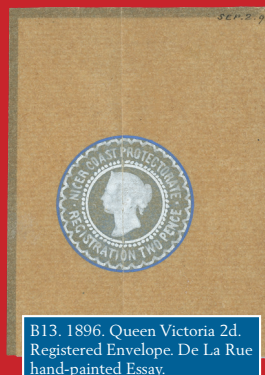
1908. Large Camel Type 1 1/4 Registration Envelope Size G. Mixed franking from KHARTOUM 3/11/1909 to Wurzburg.



1899. Egyptian 5m Postal Card overprinted SOUDAN and surcharged 4 Milliemes. From KHARTOUM 9/11/1903 to Copenhagen, double impression of the surcharge.



1902. King Edward VII 2d. Registered Envelope Size G, Unfinished State and Finished State on Vermillion Cream Laid Paper.



B13. 1896. Queen Victoria 2d. Registered Envelope. De La Rue hand-painted Essay.

Contact us now !

We believe in printed and physical formats. It is a passion of ours that printed presentations of all material entrusted to us is at the heart of our business and fundamental to the service we give our clients. We print auction catalogues with all items entrusted to us.

WWW.CORINPHILA.CH



CORINPHILA AUKTIONEN AG
WIESENSTR 8 · 8032 ZURICH · SWITZERLAND
Phone +41-44-3899191
www.corinphila.ch



CORINPHILA VEILINGEN BV
AMSTELVEEN · NETHERLANDS
Phone +31-20-6249740 · www.corinphila.nl

Montgomery: Thomas Welsh Covers Revisited

Steve Feller

From 1850 to 1860 the population of the capital city of Alabama – Montgomery – increased by 87% and reached 8,843. Yet, in 1861 it was, for a few months, the center of the new Confederate States of America and the center of the world. In the 2020 census Montgomery shrank 2.5% to just over 200,000. It has a rich philatelic and numismatic history. Montgomery itself was founded in 1818, named in 1819 and became the capital of the state in 1846.



Figure 1. Alabama State Capitol Building, January 2023. Jefferson Davis stands to the left in front of the building (Photo by Steve Feller).

Alabama seceded on Jan. 9, 1861. A founding member of the CSA, Alabama hosted the provisional congress in February 1861. The new government was announced Feb. 4, 1861, and the new president was inaugurated two weeks later on Feb. 18, 1861. A statue of Jefferson Davis still stands in front of the capitol building, as shown in Figure 1.

Nearby is the spot where Davis stood to become president, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. The spot where Jefferson Davis stood to become president of the Confederate States of America (Photo by Steve Feller).

Shortly after forming the CSA government, the Post Office Department was set up in a building at the corner of Washington Avenue and Perry Street. That building is shown in Figure 3.

*Write a Letter
to the Editor!*





Figure 3. The CSA Post Office Department was established in this building, shown from the front and side, in Montgomery (Photos by Steve Feller).

It is interesting to note that this building is still in use by a marketing firm, ironically named STAMP. A marker has been placed at the site by the Montgomery Area Stamp Club (Figure 4).

**Explore our website
and see just how much more
the Collectors Club can offer!**

www.collectorsclub.org



Figure 4. Plaque outside Confederate Post Office Department Building (Photo by Steve Feller).

The building has evolved over time. In 1955, the Figure 5 picture was taken.



Figure 5. Confederate Post Office Building in 1955, from Peter Bannon's *The Organization of the Confederate Post Office Department at Montgomery*.

Immediate differences are noted over the 68-year interval; compare Figures 3 and 5. The current view, after a significant renovation, appears to be truer to the Civil War-era appearance.

Note that this is not the location of the post office where the provisionals were issued. From Oct. 1 1860, to April 1, 1875, the post office (as opposed to the post office department building) was, according to Bannon, in the Montgomery Theater Building (Figure 6). It occupied the ground floor.



Figure 6. The site of the Civil War Montgomery Post Office was the Montgomery Theater and then Webbers Department Store (<https://www.alabamapioneers.com/john-wilkes-booth-was-in-the-first-play-held-at-the-old-montgomery-theatre/>).

However, in 2014 it suffered a partial collapse as shown in Figure 7. The building was removed in 2017 and recycled in other building projects in Montgomery.



Figure 7. The partial collapse of the old Montgomery Theater, site of the Civil War Post Office (<https://www.wsfa.com/story/28986639/montgomerys-webber-building-sold-for-dollar-set-for-deconstruction/>).

Thomas Welsh was appointed the U.S. postmaster in Montgomery in 1857 and, consequently, became Confederate postmaster from the start of the new government. He served the CSA a little more than two years in this position and died in 1863, as postmaster, at the approximate age of 60. Interestingly “Squire Welsh,” as he was known, lived at the same street intersection as the CSA Post Office Department building.

The postal history of Montgomery has been covered by several authors. In the five-year period centered in 1936, Charles J. Phillips published surveys that included the Montgomery covers. In 1980 Francis Crown Jr. summarized the surveys of Charles J. Phillips and Frank E. Hart. Hart built upon the Phillips survey and added greatly to it. The resulting “T(homas) Welsh” surveys, are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Then, in 2007, Van Koppersmith produced a detailed report on these covers in an article in the *Confederate Philatelist*. In it he updated the Crown Survey; this is also placed in Table 1.

In a major update and method change, Frank Crown currently maintains an interactive Welsh census on the *Civil War Philatelic Society* webpage (www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org/).



59XU1 or MON-AL-E04 5¢ red	
59XU2 or MON-AL-E05 5¢ blue	
59XU3 or MON-AL-E06 10¢ red	
59XU4 or MON-AL-E07 10¢ blue	

Table 1. The four Montgomery provisionals used in the statistical study presented here. Images courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

For purposes of comparison, this article deals with the four most common and basic T. Welsh covers I’ve examined.

Also, surveys list all of the provisional varieties including the revalued T. Welsh covers and rare non-T. Welsh stamped ones. Another survey appeared in 1960 in Peter Bannon’s, *The Organization of the Confederate Post Office Department*

at Montgomery. However, this survey appears to be largely a restatement of the Phillips survey and is thus not independent and is not included here.

From these data it is possible to estimate the number of extant T. Welsh covers from any year. The method is linear extrapolation of the existing data. Linear expressions for the data with correlation coefficients were found for the four most common provisionals. (to provide suitable statistics); these, too, are shown in Table 2. The reported surveys were 88 years apart and this bodes well for the accuracy of the extrapolation. The r^2 values (correlation coefficients) are almost all greater than 0.90; this indicates that they are strongly linear. See Table 2 and Figure 8 for the correlation results. An estimate of the time it takes to discover new covers is also shown in the table and was found by the inverse of the slope.

	Phillips -1936	Crown- summarizing Phillips and Hart 1980	Koppersmith -2007	Crown online survey (January 27, 2024)	Linear relationship and correlation coefficient (r^2)	Estimated time to add a new cover to the survey = 1/(slope) of the linear regression
59XU1 or MON- AL-E04 5 cents red	29	45	72	90	Number in a given year = $0.6868(\text{year})$ – 1305.6 $r^2 = 0.937$	1.50 years
59XU2 or MON- AL-E05 5 cents blue	12	14	19	19	Number in a given year = $0.088(\text{year})$ – 158.9 $r^2 = 0.901$	11.4 years
59XU3 or MON- AL-E06 10 cents red	8	14	23	26	Number in a given year = $0.2113(\text{year})$ – 402.08 $r^2 = 0.964$	4.73 years
59XU4 or MON- AL-E07 10 cents blue	3	5	12	13	Number in a given year = $0.1225(\text{year})$ – 235.11 $r^2 = 0.887$	8.16 years
Total	52	78	126	148	Number in a year = $1.1087(\text{year})$ – 2101.7 $r^2 = 0.942$	0.902 years

Table 2. Thomas Welsh Provisionals over time with linear regression details and time estimates for new finds.

The best way to estimate a number for a given year in the near future is to take the current census results and the slope of each cover type's linear regression multiplied by the change in years to predict the future. For example, we could predict the number of 59XU1 covers known 10 years from now in 2034 to be:

$$90 + 0.6868(10) = 97 \text{ covers with a total for all covers in 2034 predicted to be } 148 + 1.1087(10) = 159.$$

Some T. Welsh covers are shown in Figures 9, 11 and 12.

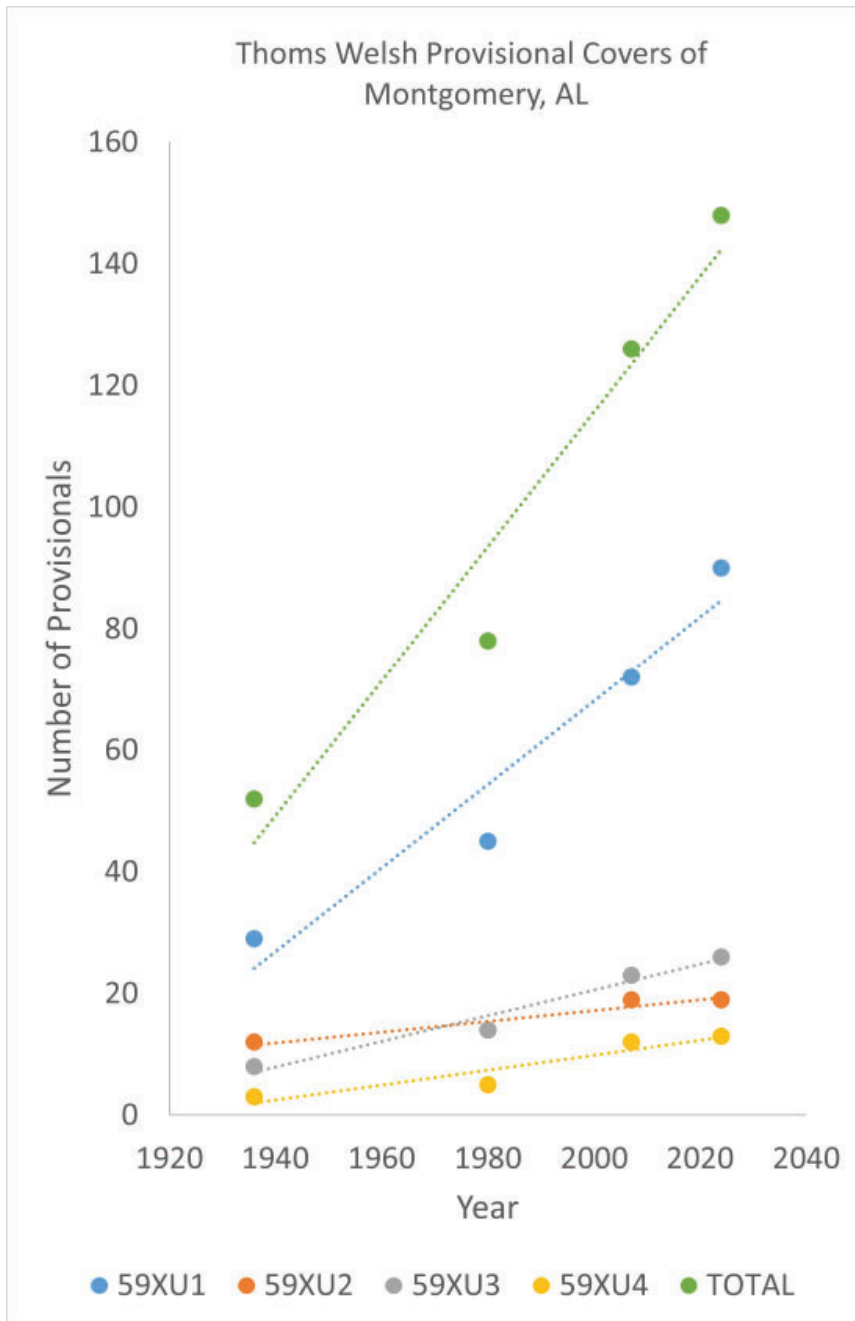


Figure 8. Number of Thomas Welsh Provisional Covers with linear best fit results, see Table 2.



Figure 9. Provisional cover 59XU1 or MON-AL-E04 with red 5c T. Welsh marking (Photo by Steve Feller).



Figure 10. Image of the Montgomery Hall Hotel. It no longer exists.

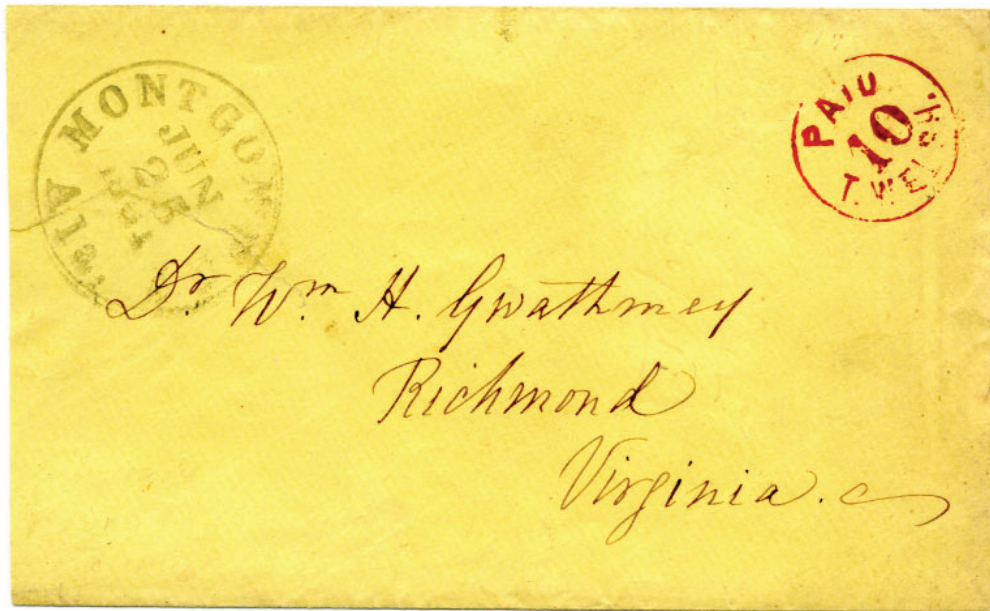


Figure 11. Provisional cover 59XU3or MON-AL-E06 with red 10¢ T. Welsh marking (Image by Steve Feller).



Figure 12. Provisional cover 59XU2or MON-AL-E05 with blue 5¢ T. Welsh marking (Image by Steve Feller).

In summary, new T. Welsh covers are being found at the rate of about one per year.

The Bannon survey has additional information. The date of the postmark is listed for each cover. These are summarized in Table 3. It can be seen that the red T. Welsh surcharges on the covers were issued before the blue ones, with some overlap. Bannon recorded usage of red from June 5, 1861 for both 5¢ and 10¢ covers, whereas the blue 5¢ and 10¢ covers were first seen Sept. 14, 1861, and Oct. 3, 1861. This is in some contradiction with the latest *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, which gives the dates as June 4, June 16,

Year	Date	5¢ red	5¢ blue	10¢ red	10¢ blue
1861	June 5	1		1	
1861	June 7	2			
1861	June 16			1	
1861	June 20	3			
1861	June 23	1			
1861	June 24	1			
1861	July 6	1			
1861	July 21	1			
1861	July 24	1		1	
1861	July 31	1			
1861	Aug. 2	1			
1861	Aug. 4			1	
1861	Aug. 6			1	
1861	Aug. 12	2			
1861	Aug. 23	1			
1861	Aug. 25	1			
1861	Aug. 29	1			
1861	Aug. 31	1			
1861	Sept. 1	1			
1861	Sept. 11	1			
1861	Sept. 14	1	1		
1861	Sept. 15	2			
1861	Sept. 16	1			
1861	Sept. 18	1			
1861	Sept. 21			1	
1861	Oct. 1		1		
1861	Oct 3		1		1
1861	Oct. 14			1	
1861	Oct. 23		1		
1861	Oct. 25				1
1861	Oct. 26		1		1
1861	Oct. 31		1		
1861	Nov. 7		1		
1861	Nov. 8		1		
1861	Nov. 11		1		
1861	Nov. 27		1		
1861	Dec. 11		1		
1862	Jan. 7		1		
1862	Feb. 16	1			

Table 3. Date of issue for each Montgomery T. Welsh cover in the Bannon Survey.

Oct. 1 and Oct. 3. Thus, a new earliest date of Sept. 14, 1861, was found for the blue 5¢ surcharge (59XU2 or MON-AL-E05).

Montgomery also released the first Confederate currency and bonds. The currency is rare and famous. The notes were printed in New York City and shipped south. Shown in Figure 13 is an extremely important note. It is the earliest-known Confederate note, signed in Montgomery on the first day Confederate notes were available, April 5, 1861. According to Raphael Thian, clerk for the Federal Government and author of *Register of the Confederate Debt*, a mere 24 notes were



Figure 13. The oldest surviving Confederate paper money note, Fricke T-3, with serial #6 (Image by Steve Feller).

signed that historic first day, of which three are known to have survived. The lowest-numbered note of the three to survive, according to noted numismatist and author of *Collecting Confederate Paper Money, Field Edition, 2014*, Pierre Fricke, is the \$100 serial No. 6 note shown here.

Shown in Figure 14 is a \$1,000 Montgomery-issued bond of the Confederate



Figure 14. A \$1,000 Confederate Bond issued in Montgomery to the Bank of Charleston. This is Ball-Simmons Type 10 (Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions).

States. It is dated May 10, 1861, and was issued to the Bank of Charleston. This was shortly before the capital moved to Richmond at the end of May 1861.



Figure 15. Plaque at the Alabama State Capitol that recognizes the return of Montgomery to Union control at the end of the Civil War (Photo by Steve Feller).

All Collectors Club presentations are currently held online, via ZOOM, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (Eastern). Although there is no cost, pre-registration is necessary.



Three days after Gen. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, Montgomery did as well to General Wilson. This is also recorded at the Alabama capitol by a plaque.

Acknowledgements

I'm grateful for Frank Crown pointing me to the online census that may be found on the Civil War Philatelic Society webpage.

References

Peter A. Brannon, *The Organization of the Confederate Post Office Department at Montgomery* (self-published in Montgomery), 1960.

Douglas B. Ball and Henry F. Simmons, Jr., *Comprehensive Catalog and History of Confederate Bonds, Second Edition* (BNR Press, Port Clinton, Ohio), 2015.

Francis J. Crown, Jr., editor *Surveys of the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals* (Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, Mass.), 1980.

Pierre Fricke, *Collecting Confederate Paper Money, Field Edition 2014*, (self-published, Sudbury, Mass.), 2014.

Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (Confederate Stamp Alliance), 2012.

Kenneth S. Katta, "Thomas Welsh, Postmaster, Montgomery, Ala., Endorsed Cover," *Confederate Philatelist* 30 (2) pp. 43-45, 1985.

Van Koppersmith, "Montgomery Postmaster Provisional Handstamps," *Confederate Philatelist* 52 (4) pp. 119-126, 2007.

Kathy Staples, "Do you fall within the 5 cents or not: Thomas Welsh's Post Office Montgomery, Alabama" *Confederate Philatelist* 63 (3) pp. 35-41, 2018.

Raphael Thian, *Register of the Confederate Debt* (Quarterman Publications, Boston, Mass.) 1972.

Heritage Auctions Archive, <https://www.ha.com/heritage-auctions-hall-of-fame-best-prices-realized.s?ic=browsecategory-all-sold-121515>

<https://www.alabamapioneers.com/john-wilkes-booth-was-in-the-first-play-held-at-the-old-montgomery-theatre/>

<https://www.wsfa.com/story/28986639/montgomerys-webber-building-sold-for-dollar-set-for-deconstruction/>

<https://www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org/resources/censuses/crown-illustrated-censuses/>
(for the use of members of the *Civil War Philatelic Society*)

LE TIMBRE CLASSIQUE

We are your partner for
Swiss stamps & covers



Do you consider selling
your collection
sooner or later ?

Call us today!

Anders Thorell 011 41 78 717 82 94
Gaël Caron 011 41 79 102 43 21
Geneva Office 011 41 22 760 11 11

31, route de Troinex
1234 Geneva, Switzerland

◆
info@letimbreclassique.com

◆
www.letimbreclassique.com



See More for More Security: VSC 8000

The Video Spectral Comparator (VSC) sets new quality standards within the philatelic auction sector. State-of-the-art technology for precise analysis of cancellations, overprints and embossing.

Your purchases are protected like never before, exclusively at Heinrich Köhler, using the VSC 8000. For long-lasting enjoyment of your collection.



Address

Hasengartenstr. 25
65189 Wiesbaden
Germany

Contact

Phone +49 611 34 14 9 0
WhatsApp +49 172 666 72 45
Web www.heinrich-koehler.de
Email info@heinrich-koehler.de

T
O
R
R
A
T



As Simple as Apple Pie ...

an interview with Liz Hisey

Olivia Gilmer

It is a commonly heard story: A stamp collector has his or her first encounter with the hobby as a child, often under the guidance of a family member. Life marches on, and it is not until decades later that the seeds that were planted rekindle that individual's desire to collect.

This narrative, however, is not the one to which Liz Hisey conforms. In fact, for most of her life, Hisey had no connection to stamp collecting whatsoever. When asked if she could recall any encounters with philately during her childhood, only one instance came to mind: One day, Hisey's sister walked down the stairs of their home and handed their father a stamp, which she declared she had "just cut off an envelope"; it was a Penny Black. At the time, Hisey was not able to grasp the rationale behind her father's frustration at the sin that had just been committed. It would be many decades later that Hisey would have her next encounter with philately.

Hisey spent the earlier years of her marriage dropping her late husband off at various stamp shows, then swiftly taking herself into town to do some shopping. On one occasion, she intended to follow her usual routine of dropping Bob off at a show (this time in Biloxi, Miss.), but was compelled, albeit somewhat reluctantly, to join him for the first time. "That day," Hisey stated, "the weather was lousy and the shops in Biloxi were lacking." With nothing else to do, she thought "Why not – I might as well go and see what this is all about." On that day, Hisey vividly remembers coming across the exhibit of a female exhibitor, Ruth Caswell. Caswell presented an array of pictorial literary-themed mail in an arrangement that immediately captured Hisey's imagination: "I looked at the exhibit and thought, that looks fun; I could do that – it's interesting. She is telling a story, it's not just about stamps." Since that first encounter with organized philately, that is exactly what Hisey has been doing – telling stories.

Hisey began collecting illustrated mail, followed by postcards. After several years of exhibiting and winning a few gold medals, Hisey established herself as one of the hobby's leading figures. Alongside her role as an exhibit judge, a position she has held since 2007, Hisey is instrumental in insuring the smooth operation of her local shows and holding the position of American Philatelic Society director-at-large.

The cover pictured in Figure 1 shows a piece of illustrated mail, advertising an apple-peeling contraption from the early 20th century. Hisey picked up this cover at the very beginning of her collecting journey, and immediately proclaimed, "This is an exhibit." The exhibit would take the spectator on a journey through the creation of an apple pie.

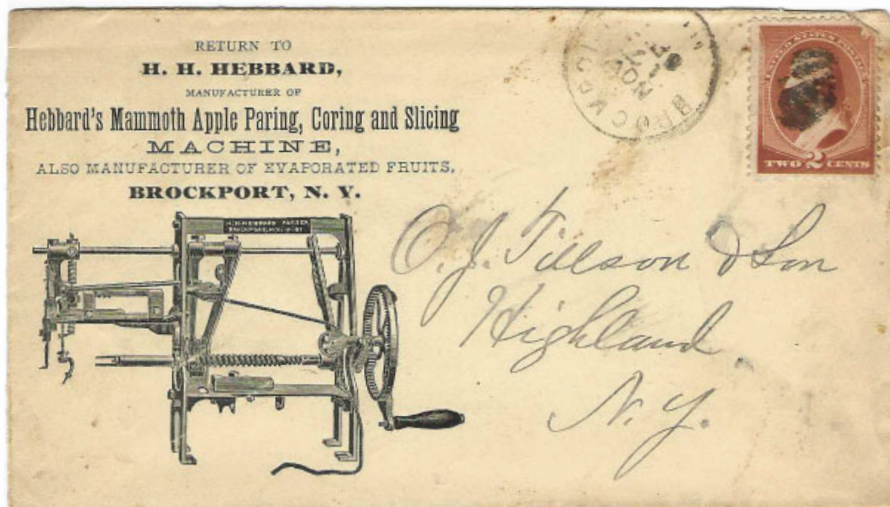


Figure 1. An illustrated mail cover showing an early apple-peeling machine.



Figure 2. This cover illustrates a rolling pin, furthering Hisey's apple pie story.

For years, one piece of this thematic puzzle – a vital component of any homemade pie, a rolling pin – eluded Hisey. Her search finally ended when a dealer approached her at a show in Boxboro, Mass., stating, “We found you a rolling pin.” Pictured in Figure 2 is that cover, showcasing an elegant green rolling pin made of glass.

Hisey will be the first to tell you that it is the sentimental connection she feels towards pieces in her collection, rather than their monetary value, that is most important. Above all, Hisey emulates the feature that initially drew her into the philatelic world and inspired her to create her own exhibit – the ability to tell a captivating and creative story through a collection.

Liz Hisey demonstrates that there is no “correct” way to approach philately. One can still become as accomplished and respected a collector as Liz, no matter when and how an involvement with organized philately begins. Hisey’s advice to a new collector is simple: “Find a subject you are passionate about, be open to the various rabbit holes you may go down and accumulate.”

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

A Sizzling August

\$31,860

Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, San Francisco, Calif.: The Dr. Armando Grassi collection of classic U.S. (Sale 117), April 25-28, 2024 (the Westpex sale), Lot 3125. Advertised in CC Philatelist Vol. 103, No. 2. Further details at rumseyauctions.com

One of the best parts of a “name” sale has nothing to do with stamps or postal history: it’s the opportunity to read the introduction to the catalog describing the person whose collection is being offered, and to learn who they are (or were), how they approach their collecting and perhaps something about their personal relationship with the auctioneer and how it developed over the years.

This is certainly the case for the sale of this truly impressive collection of classic United States stamps put together by Dr. Armando Grassi, an Argentine-born pioneering neonatologist whose accomplishments include setting up a neonatal intensive care unit from scratch. “He has always been fascinated by the transition from fetal life to the outside world,” according to the bio in the Rumsey catalog. A history buff as well as a scientist, Dr. Grassi continues his collecting of postal history, with a focus on U.S. external mail routes and the Crimean War. Virtually all of the lots in the present sale, which include the issues from 1847-83, are superb examples – highly graded and flawless. It was hard to pick just one to summarize. The 90¢ Washington of 1861 shown here is one of the legendary “August Issue” or *Premiere Gravures* (First Designs), and was formerly listed as Scott 62. Since 1991, the First Designs have been relegated to essay status and are listed deep in the back of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* (and, as of last year, in a different volume altogether). Of all the controversial decisions taken by Scott catalog editors in recent decades, probably few rankle with the trade as much as this de-listing; the First Designs, though not sold through post offices, were distributed through other official channels. Many major auction firms have refused to recognize the change in status and continue describing the First Designs by their old Scott numbers – you’d be hard-pressed to



find an auction listing for Scott 72-E7h, this 90¢ stamp's proper designation. Regardless of its classification, this is a stunning stamp, one of 22 known and one of just six in sound condition, that did its owner proud. (Realization includes 18% buyer's premium.)



Singapore Slingshot

£93,600 (\$119,500)

Baldwins (curated by Stanley Gibbons), London: the Former Singapore Philatelic Museum collection, Part I, March 28, 2024, Lot 9. Advertised in *CC Philatelist*, Vol. 103 No. 2. Further details at baldwins.co

Institutional collections of philatelic material are only very rarely returned to the market, so this sale was exceptional even before considering its contents. And the contents were nothing less than exceptional. Having decided to reimagine itself as a children's museum, the Singapore Philatelic Museum (which operated from 1995 to 2020) opted to dispose of its holdings of classic Straits Settlements philately through Stanley Gibbons, whose auction operations are now part of Baldwins. Among the many standout items is this quintessential cover bearing all four of India's first issue, the 1854 lithographed stamps: the ½-anna blue, 1a red, 2a green and 4a red and blue, the last a typically cut-to-shape example from Head Die I. Four covers exist showing all four stamps from India's first issue; the other three (two of which appeared in last May's "Magnolia" sale by Siegel Auction Galleries) all originated in India, whereas this one was posted in the colony of Singapore, which used Indian stamps until the first Straits Settlements issue in 1867. Addressed to Ireland on Dec. 2, 1855, with a red printed endorsement "Per Overland via Southampton" and boxed "India Paid," this is surely one of the most colorful and eye-catching covers ever. It formerly resided in Tay Peng Hian's grand prix exhibit of Singapore – he bought it in a 1986 Feldman sale – and it was acquired by the museum in 2000. Nice to see it back in private hands again. (Realization includes 20% buyer's premium.)



End of the Line

\$354

H.R. Harmer, New York: The Erivan Haub collection of the United States, Part 10, April 30, 2024, Lot 54. Sale advertised in CC Philatelist, Vol. 103, No. 2. Further details at hrharmer.com

The late, great German-American collector, Erivan Haub, amassed impressive collections of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Zeppelin mail, as well as one of the most far-reaching collections of the United States and all its bits and pieces. He energetically pursued not just general postal issues, but also postmasters' provisionals, territorial issues, carriers, locals and private expresses, not to mention a wealth of postal history showing how these myriad bits of colored paper did their job carrying the mails. So thoroughgoing was Haub's collection that it has taken H.R. Harmer 10 sales to dispose of just the U.S. material. All good things must come to an end, of course, and the 10 sales, which began in 2019, concluded this spring with a bang. Many of the stellar items in this final episode had previously graced the collections of famous names such as Ferrary, Burrus, Dale-Lichtenstein and Boker. It would be tricky to pick a favorite from among the many legendary items: the Unionville, S.C., Confederate postmaster's provisional pair on a patriotic cover (Lot 230, realized \$55,000); the 13¢ "H.I. & U.S." Hawaiian Missionary on cover to Persia (Lot 35, \$240,000); or the unique Pony Express cover to Switzerland (Lot 101, \$750,000). But there were many humbler items in the sale no less deserving of admiration. The carriers and locals – in particular – tell the fascinating story of how mail delivery developed in America's cities during the 19th century, often in a cat-and-mouse game between private enterprise trying to best serve the needs of businesses and a government trying to assert its monopoly over the mails. The cover shown here is especially charming: sent by the Broadway City Express Post Office in New York to a librarian on Cedar Street, it bears an oval 2¢ frank and a charming, octagonal label depicting a train. The folded letter is internally dated Nov. 13, 1851, serving as a reminder that locals and expresses were picturing trains on stamps more than a decade before any government-issued postage did so. (Realization includes 18% buyer's premium.)

CHRISTOPH GÄRTNER AUCTIONS

In philately you can discover something new every day ...

Consign or sell now! ALL BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Discreet and high-quality advice from our experts
- Free Valuation
- Fast and reliable handling
- Consignments & Outright Purchase
- Excellent consignment conditions, free of any additional costs ("flat fee all-inclusive")
- Send us your material free of charge as a parcel with DHL or Fedex
- Very strong international client network
- International auctions 3 times a year
- Reasonable commissions for the Brokerage of consignments

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR:

- Rare stamps worldwide
- Covers before 1950 of all areas
- Specialised collections
- Thematic collections – all topics
- Picture postcards & postal history
- All types of coins
- Medals, banknotes & paper money
- Complete estates
- Large accumulations & dealer stocks
- Special objects & varia



www.auktionen-gaertner.de
www.cg-collectors-world.com



THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
Consignment to our auctions or
Direct sale for cash.



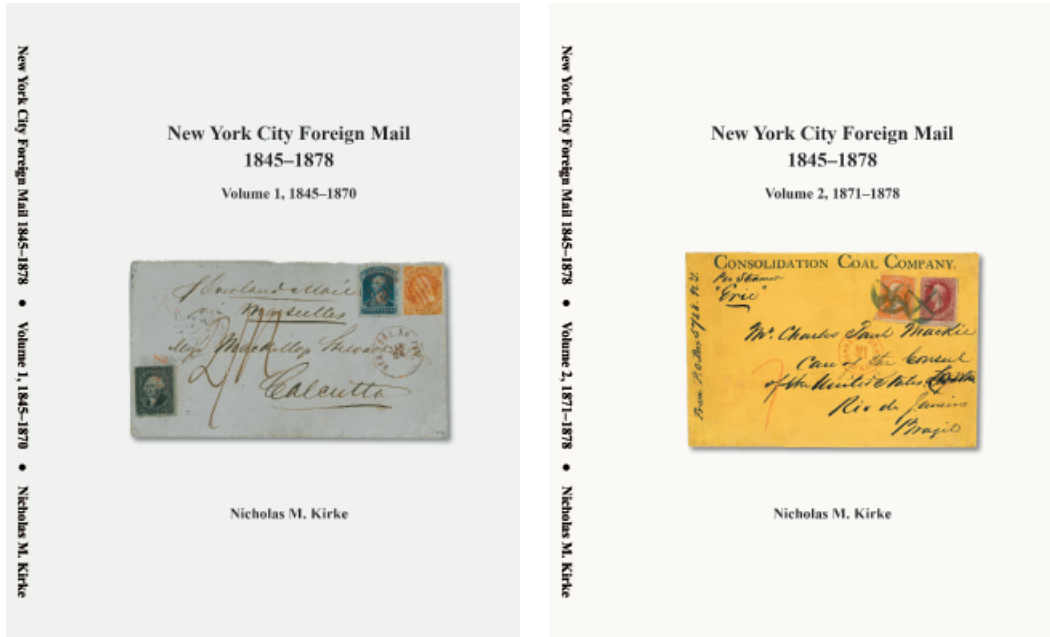
GET IN TOUCH WITH US!
+49-(0)7142-789 400
info@auktionen-gaertner.de

Auktionenhaus Christoph Gärtner GmbH & Co. KG
Steinbeisstr. 6+8 | 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany | Tel. +49-(0)7142-789 400
Fax. +49-(0)7142-789 410 | info@auktionen-gaertner.de | www.auktionen-gaertner.de

C.G.

Book Reviews

Nicholas M. Kirke, New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878, 2 volumes (consecutive page numbers 1-767), hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9975119-0-1, 7-3/4 x 10-1/2-inch pages, Collectors Club, 2024, \$130 for members, \$145 non-members. First-time new members receive a 50% discount. For ordering information, email infor@collectorsclub.org



What should a philatelic book do? The answer to this question is important, because unlike novels, movies, Broadway shows or luxury hotels, philatelic books should be judged by how well they achieve specific goals, not as a form of art, entertainment or experience. While aesthetics and readability are factors to consider, there are elements of a philatelic book that are more significant in judging its merits.

Here is my answer to the question, summed up in the Three I's:

- Inspire – will the book inspire others to acquire and study the subject material?
- Inform – is the information factual and well-organized to create utility value?
- Innovate – does the book move the subject forward with new theories, new analysis and new examples?

In all three Is, the new book, *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878*, by Nick Kirke, is a resounding success. Only a brutish reviewer would allow the flaws in Kirke's book to undermine its significance as a major contribution to philately.

This review offers some criticism, but it is intended as constructive commentary that will help collectors and professionals better understand and use Kirke's book. Regardless of any nitpicks over details or disagreements I have

with Kirke's approach, this two-volume *tour de force* on New York (that is, *United States*) foreign mail is an essential addition to every philatelic library. In fact, for selfish reasons, as a person who makes a living selling the subject material, I am tempted to buy extra copies and give them to anyone who shows the slightest interest in cancellations and covers, because the first "I" – to inspire – is perhaps Kirke's greatest gift to the hobby, with this book and with his many other contributions.

Two volumes packed with photos and information

The book comprises two volumes: Volume 1 (Chapters One through 16, pages 1-334) has a chronological range from 1845-70, and Volume 2 (Chapters 17-30, pages 335-767) from 1871-78. Both volumes begin with the same short introductory sections on international postal treaties and steamship companies. Volume 1 has a lengthy foreword (the author's biography) and an introduction to "New York Foreign Mail" (the traditional term). Volume 2 contains the indexes and appendices. There is a separate, smaller "guidebook" style pamphlet that goes with the hardcover volumes, titled "Quick Reference to Cancel Classification Numbers Shown in Chapter One, pp. 35-54."

Chapter One, "Changes to the Genre," sets forth Kirke's proposed renaming of the subject matter from New York Foreign Mail to New York City Foreign Mail. He states:

A succinct definition of what constitutes New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) might therefore be expressed as 'Outbound foreign letter mail entering the US postal system in New York City and receiving a NYFM cancel.'

This is the essence of Kirke's definition and lays the groundwork for renaming the subject cancels to New York City Foreign Mail (more on this later in the review). Kirke also introduces his chronological treatment of cancels in the book's listings and removal of circular mail and printed matter from its scope.

Later in the same chapter, Kirke outlines his new classification system for cancels, which uses the earliest-known date of use (EKU, according to Kirke's records) as the hyphenated six-digit prefix; for example, 73-12-18 (Dec. 18, 1873). This identification number is followed by a letter suffix identifying the design type: GR=grid, WG=wedge, SGEO=simple geometric, IGEO=intricate geometric, and PIC=pictorial. Using the EKU to label the cancel means that the identification label can change (more on this later in the review).

The explanation of the system is followed by the listings of NYCFM cancellations, which begin with an 1850 standard seven-bar grid. It skips to 1858 (eight-bar grid) and then to 1860 with another standard grid. The non-standard cancels are not introduced until 1862. The total number of cancels listed is 315, a big step up from previous listings. Arranged chronologically, the design types

are interspersed throughout the 315 listings, and there is no cross-reference. This means if a user wants to see all of the star cancels, he or she has to comb through all of the listings.

Chapter Two is a brief history of New York City and a detailed description of the post office and the foreign mail department. It is very informative and has contemporaneous illustrations from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (Jan. 3, 1857). Further development of the post office and its designation as a foreign exchange office in 1849 are followed by the move from the Old Dutch Church location to a new building at City Hall Park in 1875. However, for some reason, additional information about the post office (including more floor plans) is presented in Chapter 29 in Volume 2. I think all of this related content should have been presented in continuity in one chapter at the beginning.

Chapter Two also presents Kirke's statistical analysis of mail volume and an explanation of how the Foreign Department processed mail. The chapter concludes with an examination of survival rates for New York City Foreign Mail covers and an attempt to estimate the total number of cancellation devices that would have been required for the mail volume (as estimated by Kirke).

Chapter Three delves into what Kirke calls "The Forgotten Fancies," the cancellations that Dr. Hubert C. Skinner argued were predecessors of the 1870s NYFM types (more on this later in the review). Kirke states:

The expanded time frame allows us to see that the New York City Foreign Mail Department used many attractive fancy cancels well before the traditional NYCFM start year of 1870. These cancels qualified using standard NYCFM criteria as bona fide NYCFM. Some laid the seeds for later more complex designs used in the 1870s.

Chapter Four explains five variants of letters that were handled by the Foreign Department of the New York City post office, but did not originate in New York City:

- 1) Transit mail that entered the mail in another U.S. post office and passed through New York City;
- 2) Letters originating in another country that were carried privately to New York City and then placed into the U.S. mail;
- 3) Letters originating in another country with a U.S. address that were prepaid with non-U.S. and U.S. postage, with a NYCFM cancel – Kirke states there is only one of these "atypical" covers known, a U.S.-Danish West Indies mixed franking;
- 4) Inbound steamship mail with a NYCFM cancel (another "atypical" use); and
- 5) So-called "bootlegged" letters that were carried privately to New York City and posted with U.S. stamps, paying the rate from the United States to another country. Kirke notes that most of these letters were actually carried in

parcels of bundled letters, for which postage had been paid – the parcels were then opened by the New York City forwarder and mailed as separate letters.

Kirke devotes an entire chapter (Chapter Five) to the “Migration of Domestic Cancels for Use on NYCFM.” This arcane, yet interesting, subject establishes a direct correlation between cancellation devices that were used in one department of the New York City post office and then migrated to another part. Kirke shows numerous examples of the crossover from Domestic to Foreign, and fewer of Foreign to Domestic. In my opinion, some of the examples Kirke uses are not actually the same cancels – similar, but demonstrably not from the same device – but his point about migrating devices is still valid.

Chapter Six is a short explanation of Supplementary Mail service with illustrations of covers with the well-known markings and NYCFM cancels applied in red. Kirke introduces a new numbering scheme for the Scott-listed Types A, D, E and F. By Kirke’s own admission, his new (more logical) classification system will probably not catch on with collectors accustomed to the Scott *Specialized* letters, so he uses both throughout the book.

Chapter Seven is a “NYCFM Prologue (1845-1849),” which discusses the type of foreign mail covers with stamps and cancellations that preceded the 1850 NYCFM start date. In this chapter Kirke explains his book’s construct:

The material embraces a prologue period 1845-1849, a composite period 1850-1862, then 14 chapters covering cancels with first known use within the individual years 1863 to 1876. The material closes with a composite epilogue 1877-1878. Cancels are grouped chronologically within their year of first known use.

Users who prefer to have this type of introductory outline at the beginning of a book will be frustrated trying to find it. It appears on page 107 in the chapter titled “NYCFM Prologue (1845-1849).” I plan to use a lot of Post-It tabs to mark this and many other instances of useful information in unexpected places.

Chapters 8-16 (pages 113-334) are a chronological listing of the items and cancellations from 1850 through 1870, each chapter beginning with “New York City Foreign Mail,” followed by the years or year represented in that chapter. However, it is important to remember that the Kirke numbering system is based on the earliest-known use (EKU) of a cancel, but the latest use could be a year or years later. So, if one has a NYCFM cover dated 1869, the cancel might be in an entirely different chapter or volume, depending on the EKU date. This will inevitably create some confusion for users.

Volume 2 continues the chapters, starting with 1871 (Chapter 17) and ending with 1878 (Chapter 23). These are followed by seven more chapters on related subjects. I found the chapters on the manufacture of New York City domestic cancels (Chapter 27) and development of the Old Dutch Church Post Office especially

interesting (Chapter 29), but as noted earlier, I think the post office information in two chapters (in different volumes) should have been consolidated into one.

Volume 2 also contains a chapter with statistics of NYCFM material used in the book, which is basically a photo reference to covers by destination (including Kirke's count of known examples), followed by some estimates and counts of stamp usage by issue, types of covers and stamped envelopes. Without a census to support the counts and estimates, it is impossible to verify the accuracy of the data (or update them); however, a cursory review leads me to believe the relative rarity of different destinations and issues is accurately presented.

The three Appendices are of great utility value. Appendix One is an index of destinations, but unfortunately it is arranged by city, not country, so finding all of the covers to a country with a lot of cities listed will be time consuming. The general index is a subject index and seems to be very comprehensive. There are indexes of shipping companies and ships, which is very useful.

Appendix Two is a Bibliography, but a glaring omission is the absence of auction sale catalogs and auction firm websites, which seems odd, because the book frequently refers to past sales.

The third Appendix, and final section of the book, is called "End Pieces" and contains Kirke's thoughts about the future of philately, his experience exhibiting and participating in organized philately, and a tribute to Badger, his beloved English Springer Spaniel who passed in 2019 after 14 years by Kirke's side. The very last statement comes from Kirke's wife, Kamila, who has been an indefatigable supporter of Kirke's philatelic pursuits and worked diligently on the book, redrawing hundreds of cancels by hand so they can be readily seen and studied. The editing and layout are credited to Seija-Riita Laakso.

Not your father's philatelic book

Throughout the book, Kirke has included very personal comments about people and events in his lifetime of collecting. It is jolting for anyone accustomed to reading philatelic books written in a more academic style. One might object to this approach until reading Kirke's own statement of intent on page 587 under the heading "Self-aggrandizement":

*My viewpoint is somewhat shaped by the fact that my book shelves are laden with learned philatelic books, brim full with dry, un-illustrated information which rarely seemed to correspond with my collection interests over 60 years. **That is exactly what I do not want my book to be like.***

A great many philatelists are professional, highly literate people who bring correspondingly academic professionalism to their work; by comparison my book may quite reasonably be perceived as light-weight and too assertive.

The biography that begins Volume 1 includes an impressive black-and-white photograph of Second Lt. Kirke, standing near a Wessex helicopter on the flight deck of the HMS *Bulwark* off the coast of Aden in 1967. Looking at this picture of a younger Kirke in military uniform, the term *bad-ass* comes to mind. In Kirke's biography there are also photos of him reunited with his father, a few stamps and covers, a French ceramic statue and a *Peanuts* cartoon.

Elsewhere, one will find somewhat incongruous anecdotes about collecting experiences, effusive tributes to collector friends and professionals and photos of a penguin and hedgehog. (As a personal note, I was relieved to make it to the end with only one mention of me personally, in a footnote citation and without a photo of a jackass.)

NYFM versus NYCFM – redefining the genre

My personal experience with New York Foreign Mail and its associated cancellations goes back to the late 1970s. I was a teenager when I first met Seymour Kaplan, a postal history dealer and collector of Bank Note Issue covers. Kaplan's collection was acquired by Stephen Albert, a Pulitzer Prize-winning modern composer who dealt in postal history. Albert's nickname was the "Flea," a tribute to his high energy movement from one booth to another at stamp shows in pursuit of covers. Albert's fantastic collection of Bank Note Issue covers was ultimately sold in a private treaty catalog produced by Richard C. Frajola (it can be downloaded on his website, <https://www.rfrajola.com/>).

More than 30 years ago, the late Dr. Hubert C. Skinner introduced the idea that New York Foreign Mail cancellations did not begin in 1870, as defined by tradition. With a geology professor's logic, Dr. Skinner emphatically argued that the earliest dedicated foreign-mail cancels started back in 1845 and, by the 1860s, had evolved into handcarved geometric and pictorial designs. These were the direct antecedents of the cancels traditionally described as New York Foreign Mail cancellations and referred to with the NYFM initials.

Kirke has fully embraced Dr. Skinner's pre-1870s New York Foreign Mail concept, as have many collectors and specialists. However, Kirke has taken it further. He wants to change the moniker from "New York Foreign Mail" (NYFM) to "New York City Foreign Mail" (NYCFM) and redefine the genre. He argues (in his book and in personal correspondence) that the mail generated within New York City and bound for other countries is the true "New York City Foreign Mail" (NYCFM), but it was a small fraction (he estimates 10%) of the total volume of foreign mail handled by the New York Foreign Department. The area where the Foreign Department operated was separately located within the post office and specifically dedicated to processing the huge volume of international mail that passed through New York. Kirke estimates that 90% of that mail did not receive the types of cancels under discussion.

This is where I and some others disagree with Kirke. Having read the book and Kirke's arguments for inserting the word "City" into the subject title, I remain unconvinced that five words (and one extra letter) define the subject any better than four. Of course, Kirke can propose the change – that is his author's prerogative – but we will have to see if everyone follows suit. For those who use database searches, it means separately typing "NYCFM" and "NYFM" to locate records (or "New York City Foreign Mail" and "New York Foreign Mail"). That would be a justifiable price to pay if it corrected a previous error, but the idea that "New York Foreign Mail" is too generalized a term to describe a subset of mail handled by the New York Foreign Mail office seems like unnecessary semanticism to me.

Cancellation numbers based on chronology

Another concern I have is with Kirke's numbering system for cancellations. Beginning with the 1933 Bartels pioneering list of New York Foreign Mail cancellations, through the 1942 Milliken catalog, the 1968 Van Vlissingen-Waud catalog, the 1990 Weiss catalog and the 1995 Cole catalog, efforts have been made to devise a lasting numbering structure for these cancellations. All have failed the test of time. I remember Bill Weiss calling me to complain that we were not using his new numbers in auction catalog descriptions. Weiss never minced words, and my response was equally blunt. I told him nobody cares about his numbers and it was too labor-intensive for our describers to look them up.

My problem with Kirke's new identification system is the use of the earliest-known date (EKU) as the main component of the identification label. While the EKU date (and latest date) are useful data points, they will not work as identification labels, because EKU dates change. Therefore, today's 74-03-03-IGEO could become tomorrow's 74-02-15-IGEO. There is no way for users to correlate the two. And, without a dated example, a user trying to identify a cancel will be lost in the woods. This date-based nomenclature is also a nightmare for database users. If one cancel changes names multiple times (or even just once), then searches in databases will produce inaccurate results.

Systems for classifying and identifying cancellations must have a consistent naming element to permit searches. Kirke's does not. While the chronological element is helpful as a data point, it should not be used as an identification label.

Semantics and nomenclature aside, the book is fantastic.

By far the most exciting and enticing feature of Kirke's book is the cancel-by-cancel, cover-by-cover, survey of New York City Foreign Mail in chronological order. Never have so many covers with New York City cancels applied at the Foreign Mail Department been presented in one publication.

The appeal of this content crosses into numerous collecting areas. It is not simply a cancellation book. It is an in-depth study of the tremendous variety of

international letters processed through the New York post office, with the focus on cancellations and markings. While Kirke includes detailed notes about the ships, routes and rates involved with each cover, the visual impact of the covers themselves, all pictured in color, is difficult to overstate.

In my opinion, Kirke's book will be the much-needed defibrillator for the subject and the market for classic U.S. covers to other countries. In recent years, the emphasis has been on routes, rates and accounting. While those aspects of foreign-mail covers are important to academics trying to understand the covers – or to exhibition judges trying to dictate how exhibits should be organized – they are somniferous to most collectors. Kirke's book is the opposite – it makes me smile, not yawn.

Kirke has also come up with some very interesting information about the cancels. For example, for years I have used the term "Horse's Head" to describe the right-facing profile of an equine creature. Kirke has reproduced a newspaper article announcing the arrival of a zebra at the New York Central Park Zoo (page 227), in proximity to the earliest use of the cancel. Thus, the name Zebra Head is born.

The Soldier's Head cancel on a 15¢ 1866 Issue (Scott 77) cover dated April 21, but without the year, is shown on page 231 (Figure 12-48). Kirke evidently agrees that the year date is 1866, based on other recorded Soldier's Head covers. This is significant, because it makes this cover the earliest-recorded use of the 15¢ Lincoln stamp and places its issue date close to the April 15 date of Lincoln's assassination one year earlier.

Once the reader reaches the spectacular 1870s intricate geometric designs, the appeal of Bank Note Issue covers with NYCFM cancels is irresistible. I know of no other area in international philately that offers covers with such color and character. They are the eye candy of postal history, and Kirke's book is the candy store.

I have no doubt that Kirke, the author, will inspire, inform and innovate with this two-volume book. Some of his ideas will be debated, and undoubtedly some will be proven wrong or will be superseded by something better. However, he has left his indelible mark on the historical study of the mails, and for that, as well as his military career, I shall consider him *bad-ass*.

— Scott R. Trepel

Please Support our Advertisers as they support
this Publication!



The Collectors Club

Membership Update: April 6 through June 23, 2024

Approved by the Board of Governors:

May 7, 2024

Non-Resident:

Brandon, Keith Michael Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, U.K.

May 28, 2024

Resident:

Zaklad, Matthew G. Brooklyn, N.Y.

Zuckerman, Edward New York, N.Y.

Pending Applications

Resident:

Bhattacharya, Apratim White Plains, N.Y.

Schussel, Ricky New York, N.Y.

Non-Resident:

Farah, Juan L. Pinecrest, Fla.

Ismirnioglou, Angelo Laguna Hills, Calif.

McRee, Timothy Claremont, N.C.

Nunez, Nestor C. South San Francisco, Calif.

Pritchard, J. Fred Littleton, N.C.

Smith, Randolph Chevy Chase, Md.

Valdez, Alexa Laguna Nadal, Calif.

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

Cwiakala, Charles (Chuck) Park Ridge, Ill. May 11, 2024

Goldberg, Perry Chicago, Ill. June 28, 2023

[recent notice]

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

We look forward to seeing you in person at the upcoming August Great American Stamp Show (GASS) and September Nojex events, as well as ChicagopeX later in November. Our ongoing 2024 remote "Zoom" meeting series is in progress. We eagerly anticipate the ramping up of "in-person" activities at the Clubhouse throughout 2024!

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Banchik, Membership Chair



David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS

Sell your stamps with a trusted partner

Our philatelists are close to you



1861 Woodblock 1d vermilion mint block of four with virtually full original gum, one side just cut into, some creases and minor toning, lovely fresh colour, a stunning multiple and **a unique mint block, one of the most important items in South Africa philately**, missing from some of the most important collections of Cape as it has been so rarely offered, ex Dale-Lichtenstein and Indusophon. **Sold for £147'600 in June, 2021.**



Bruce Weinman (East Coast)
bruce.weinman@davidfeldman.com



Vivek Chopra (West Coast)
vivek.chopra@davidfeldman.com

Thanks to the presence of our agents on the East and West coasts, we are closer to you than ever. Our agents are happy to travel anywhere in the US to meet with clients.

Contact us to take advantage of our proximity and gain access to the international market.



David Feldman
International Auctioneers

Office 1-800-470-0457
info@davidfeldman.com



www.davidfeldman.com

Index to Advertisers

Page	Advertiser	Page	Advertiser
197	Colonial Stamp Company	90-91	H.R. Harmer, Inc.
222-223	Corinphila Auctions Ltd.	238-239	Heinrich Köhler
199	Eastern Auctions, Ltd.	237	Le Timbre Classique
255	David Feldman	256	Minuteman Press
245	Christoph Gärtner	Inside Back Cvr.	Schuyler Rumsey
Inside Fr. Cvr., 209	Stanley Gibbons	Back Cover	Robert A. Seigel
		217	Vidiforms Co., Inc.

Please Remember ...

**Those who advertise
in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*
are supporting both our organization and
the hobby in general.**

**If you purchase stamps or covers
from these fine companies, please let
them know you saw their ad in the *CCP*.**



Philatelic Book Printing

Soft Cover Books | Hard Cover Books | Auction Catalogs | Publications
Magazines | Newsletter Printing & Mailing

Minuteman Press is a printing company that is dedicated to the philatelic community and the growth of the hobby of philately. To honor this commitment Minuteman Press will donate \$100 to the American Philatelic Society for every book quote for a job exceeding a quantity of 250 books. So, if you are in need of a book printer who cares about philately and your philatelic printing contact Minuteman Press.



Steven J. Heaney
CEO & Philatelist
steve@mmptoledo.com

5847 Secor Road | Toledo, OH 43623 | 419.472.0505 | mmptoledo.com

SCHUYLER J. RUMSEY AUCTIONS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE SALE OF:

CLASSIC MEXICO: THE OMAR J RODRIGUEZ 1861 SECOND ISSUE COLLECTION BY DISTRICT



This collection features the scarce 1861 Hidalgo Issue. It is one of the most complete collections ever formed by district with over 90% of the 278 different stamps that have survived needed to complete the set. Stamps are handpicked superb singles or multiples on and off cover, with many on pristine covers. Many items are unique and have not been on the market in several decades. This important collection will be offer in the Fall of 2024. Visit our website for coming information regarding this exciting auction.

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

415 781 5127

| srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

| visit us at www.rumseyauctions.com

A PORTION OF

THE
WADE SAADI

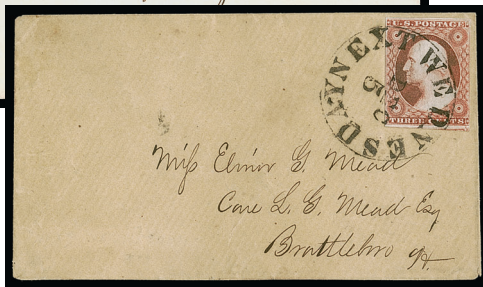
STRUCK

ON STAMPS
COLLECTION

1¢-3¢ 1851-1866 ISSUES



The collection formed by Wade Saadi, one of American philately's greatest collectors and contributors, will be offered by the Siegel firm in September.



For online listings and bidding, go to siegelauctions.com

Robert A. Siegel



ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

America's premier stamp auctioneer since 1930

21 WEST 38TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018
PHONE 212-753-6421 • EMAIL: STAMPS@SIEGELAUCTIONS.COM