

The Collectors Club *Philatelist*



The Journal of the Collectors Club since 1922

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 4

\$10



David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS

After the success of Part I, David Feldman International Auctioneers proudly present Part II of

The TOMASINI COLLECTIONS

of Classic
Great Britain
& Sicily

ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED
PHILATELIC EVENTS OF THE YEAR!

After more than 60 years, Mario Tomasini's legacy returns. It is the re-emergence of absolute quality at a level modern philately rarely sees.



October 4 & 5, 2026

www.davidfeldman.com

The Collectors Club *Philatelist*

Editor & Advertising Manager: Tony Bard

Telephone (WhatsApp): +44 7977 989812

editor.ccphilatelist@gmail.com

Publications Committee:

John Barwis RDP

Robert Gray

Matthew Healey

Daniel M. Knowles

Executive Secretary and Librarian:

Andrea Matura

collectorsclub@collectorsclub.org

Front cover: 1870 Ballon Monté miniature envelope carried out of Paris on the balloon *Le Godefroy-Cavaignac*, and eventually delivered to what became the Bronx in New York City. The background image is derived from the front page illustration, *Night Ascent of A Balloon, Chemin de Fer Nord, Paris* of The Graphic, published in England on January 21, 1871. See page 204.

Guidelines for submitting articles for publication in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* are available from the Editor.

Feature Articles

Boston 2026 World Expo—What a Wonderful Show It Was **200**

Every Cover Tells A Story—2. To the Five Boroughs. Part 2: The Bronx
Matthew Healey **204**

Duttia State: An Unrecorded Variety Hidden in Plain Sight
Vivek Chopra & Danforth Walker RDP FRPSL **212**

Yugoslavia 1989: The Provisional 700 Dinar Overprint Types on the Mail Coach 220 Dinar
Svetislav Jelic **216**

The Postal Service between Great Britain and Denmark 1807-1814
Chris King RDP Hon FRPSL **221**

A 1919 Victory Stamp Cover with a Doubly Interesting Backstory
Jacob Alex Klerman **228**

Boston 2026: Selections from Club Members' Large Gold Medal Exhibits. Part 1.
Tony Bard **233**

Regular Columns

The President's Message **196**

Editorial Musings **203**

The Clubhouse Chronicle **245**

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 2026 by The Collectors Club. All rights reserved. We do not give implied or other consent for copying for more than personal use.

Indexed in PhiLinx 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.

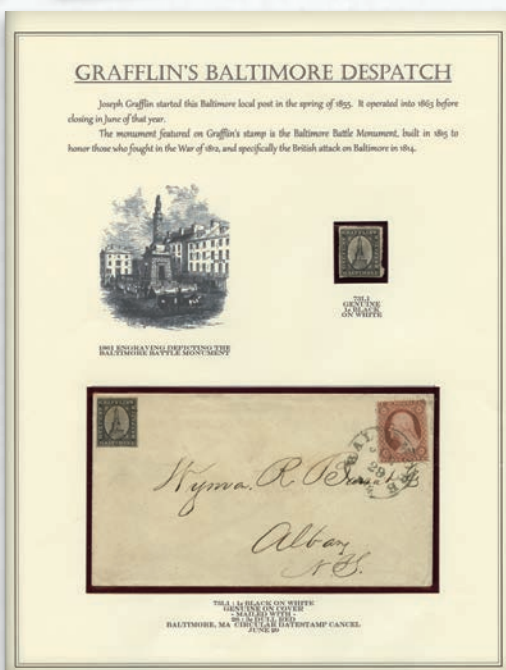
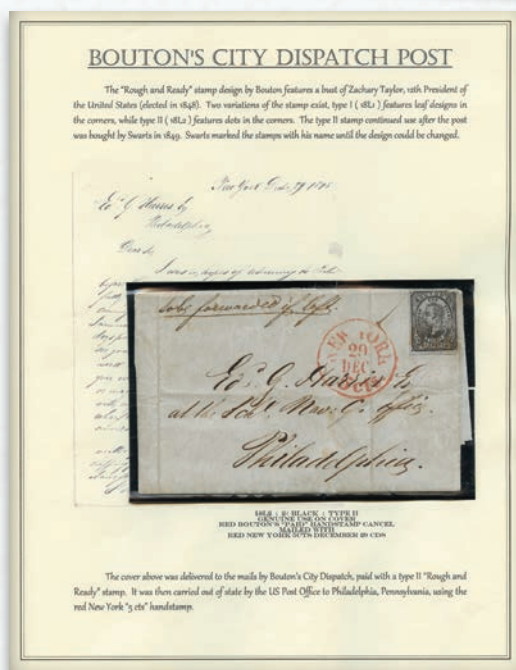
CHERRYSTONE

PHILATELIC AUCTIONEERS

Selections from

The Farrell Collection of U.S. Local Posts, Carriers, Independent Mails & Express Stamps

Coming to Auction in Late 2026!



Cherrystone Auctions is honored to present a dedicated sale featuring selections from the renowned Farrell Collection, one of the most important holdings of U.S. local posts, carrier stamps, independent mails, and express stamps ever formed.

Members of the *Collectors Club* are invited to receive a **complimentary copy** of this special auction catalog for their philatelic libraries.

To reserve your copy, please **scan the QR code**, visit: <https://bit.ly/42dT6wl> or email: alexh@cherrystoneauctions.com

www.cherrystoneauctions.com





FOUNDED 1896

58 W. 40th St., Mezzanine, New York, NY 10018

(212) 683-0559

www.collectorsclub.org

info@collectorsclub.org

The Collectors Club is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Robert Gray
Vincent Cosenza
Matthew Healey
Roger S. Brody RDP

GOVERNORS

GOVERNORS EMERITI

Mark Banchik
Roger S. Brody RDP
Stephen Reinhard

CLASS OF 2026

Vincent Cosenza
Joan Harmer
Kathryn Johnson
Behruz Nassre
Steve McGill

CLASS OF 2027

Alan R. Barasch
Jere Dutt
Andrew Kelley
Larry Lyons
Robert G. Rose

CLASS OF 2028

David Fritz
Robert Gray
Matthew Healey
Daniel J. Ryterband

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Lawrence Haber

The President's Message

My Take on the Big Show at Boston

Bob Gray



You can tell by my selfie that Boston was exhausting. It was, however, well worth the effort. The exhibition hall was enormous filled with exhibits, dealer and society booths and more. The show included many seminars, dinners, and special exhibits one of which included Queen Elizabeth's Rolls Royce. Another was kinetic Lego structures. The US Post Office was a major site for philatelic fun as well.

The Collectors Club had a huge booth shared with two other philatelic associations. We had a lot of booth traffic and with many visitors mentioning how much they appreciated the Club's webinar program.

The Club's joint dinner with the US Philatelic Classics Society at Boston 2026 seated 200 guests on the 51st floor of the Prudential Building, which permitted a magnificent view of the city. Our thanks go to Carol Bommarito and Dr. Vernon Morris who organized this amazing opportunity to be with our fellow philatelists.

Many awards were presented with the highlight for me representing the Collectors Club was awarding two Lichtenstein Memorial Awards. The 2025 award went to Dr. Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., President of Boston 2026; and for 2026 to Alfredo Frohlich. Both awardees are also signers as Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London and recipients of the American Philatelic Society Luff Award.

Dr. Steven Berlin presented the Collectors Club with a signed copy of his *Mail Robbery Postal History (From Around the World)*, and the American Society of Polar Philatelists donated a copy of Hal Vogel and Serge Kahn's *Cold War: Polar Military Conflict Mail*.

New Club member Dieter Michelson, Global Philatelic Network Managing Director, donated four Edition D'Or books for our library.

In June the club hosted an HR Harmer auction of Japanese Dragon covers and several individuals attending this have since joined the Club. A second auction is planned in November.

This summer we will take a break from the webinars. The club remains open, so if you find your way to NYC please stop by. We will be preparing the program for the 2027 webinars and some special events for the fall of 2026.

The Club will be convening at NOJEX, a World Series of Philately exposition from October 2-4 and I hope to see you at the club or at NOJEX.



The Collectors Club Single-Frame Competition

Wednesday, November 11th, 2026

The annual Single-Frame Competition is one of the most energetic and exciting events at the Collectors Club.

As always, the exhibition will be judged by a crew of qualified judges with a Grand, a Reserve Grand, and several Awards of Merit being presented. The Holyoake Friendship Cup will be bestowed on the exhibit voted most popular.

Members may apply for up to two single-frame exhibits.

Exhibits may be sent via FedEx, but we prefer participants to attend the competition.

If the frames are oversubscribed, priority will be given to maximizing the number of participants as well as to the date of receipt of entry.

The deadline for entries to be received is the close of business, Friday, October 16th.

The exhibition setup will be on Wednesday, November 11th, between noon and 4 pm.

All exhibitors will be invited to a special dinner after the frames are taken down.

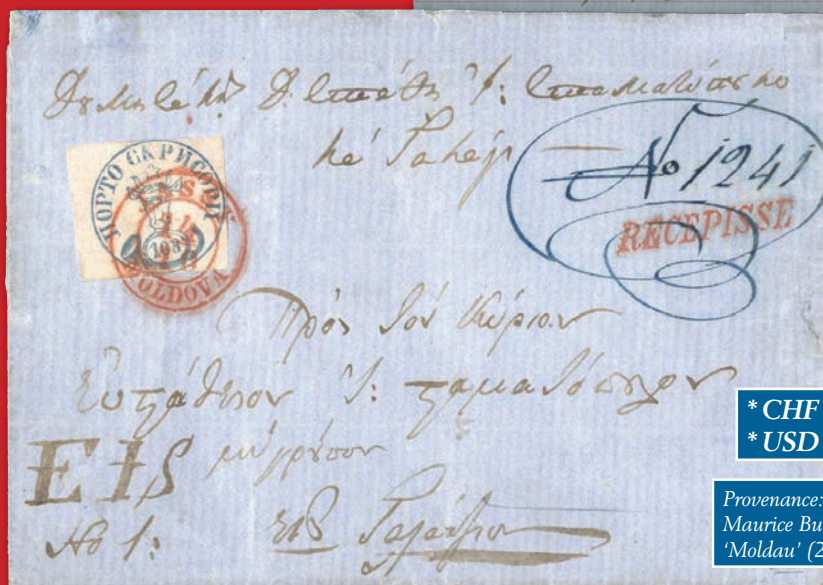
Exhibit takedown will take place on the Wednesday evening.

The link to instructions and the entry form is on the front page of the Club's website at <https://www.collectorsclub.org>

CORINPHILA AUCTIONS – YOUR CONSIGNMENT WILL BE IN THE BEST COMPANY



* CHF 33'210.-
* USD 42,177.-



* CHF 28'290.-
* USD 35,928.-

Provenance:
Collection Steindler (1972)
Collection Antoine (1992)
Collection Bosphoro (1994)
Gordon Torrey (1997)

* CHF 67'650.-
* USD 85,916.-

Provenance:
Maurice Burrus (1962)
'Moldau' (2013)

CORINPHILA AUCTIONS – CLASSIC STYLES!

We operate our business since 1919. Selling in Swiss Francs is a quality assurance financially. Continuously we run auctions in traditional formats: printed auction catalogues for all material offered; shipped in thousands to all its destinations; parallel ONLINE presentations; starting prices as the only reserve; to verify our transparency, our auditor testifies on our website in his report the plausibility and the correct processing of the accounting for vendors and buyers; auctions as LIVE performances.

5.
 Da Prof. Dr. Dr.
 Johann Baptist Ennsperger
 & G. G. G.
 in
Wien.
 19. Weio.



+41-44-38 99 191
www.corinphila.ch

Boston 2026 World Expo—What a Wonderful Show It Was

The arrival of America's once-a-decade international philatelic exhibition, after years of anticipation, did not disappoint.

From the 23rd to the 30th of May, several thousand collectors descended upon the Massachusetts Convention Center near the Boston seafront to spend more than a week immersed in the world's greatest hobby. The mood was vibrant, and visitors' reactions to the world-class exhibits, dealer offerings and wide range of meetings and social events were generally enthusiastic.

For the Collectors Club, the gathering was an opportunity to shine. Our joint reception and dinner with the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society on Saturday, May 23 took place at the top of the famous Prudential Tower, with its magnificent, 360-degree views of Boston and its suburbs.

We made use of the occasion to ceremonially bestow the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Philately on the 2025 recipient, Yamil Kouri, and the 2026 recipient, Alfredo Frohlich. This was but the first of a weeklong series of elegant dinners, receptions and soirées, proving that the social aspect of philately is, for many, the paramount attraction at major shows.

By day, the Collectors Club shared a "super-booth" near the front of the exhibition hall with the Philatelic Foundation, the USPCS and the US Stamp Society. Dozens of visitors stopped by throughout the week to chat, ask questions and pick up a complimentary copy of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, and we signed up several new members.

Halfway through the week, the annual signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists took place. We noted with pride that the handful of new honorees included two of our own members, Alex Haimann RDP and Jon Aitchison RDP.

On the exhibition front, it was extremely gratifying to note that a majority of those taking Large Gold medals at Boston 2026 were also members of the Collectors Club—a list appears on page 202.

Our congratulations to them and to all of our members who exhibited at the show or volunteered to make it a success.



Lichtenstein awardees past and present gather for a customary group portrait. Left to right: Mark Banchik (2021), Cheryl Ganz RDP (2016), Roger Brody RDP (2014), Chris Harman RDP (2022), Alfredo Frohlich (2026), Chris King RDP (2019), Yamil Kouri RDP (2025), Jim Mazepa (2024) and Steve Reinhard (2017).



President Bob Gray presents Lichtenstein medals to Yamil Kouri for 2025 (left) and Alberto Frohlich for 2026 (right).



The two members of the Collectors Club who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at Boston 2026. Left: Jon Aitchison—who also officiates as Keeper of the Roll. Right: Alex Haimann.

Recent Club Members' Successes

Nick Kirke's *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878* Wins the 2026 Crawford Medal



The Crawford Medal is awarded annually by the Royal Philatelic Society London for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form. This year, it has been awarded to *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878 (Volume 1: 1845-1870)* by Nicholas M. Kirke FRPSL, published by the Collectors Club.



Daniel Ryterband Awarded the Museum of Philately's Second Rowland Hill Medal



Daniel Ryterband has been awarded the Rowland Hill Medal by the Museum of Philately for his exhibit, *A Country Divided: Effects of the American Civil War on the Mails*. The medal was presented during the Royal Philatelic Society London's dinner held in Boston in conjunction with the Boston 2026 World Stamp Show. The medal reflects the Museum's commitment to preserving exceptional stamp and postal history collections while promoting, educating, and inspiring the public through philately.

Daniel Ryterband (left) receiving the Rowland Hill Medal from Chris King RDP.

Collectors Club Members' Large Golds at Boston 2026

Bogdan Pelc *Postal History of Kingdom of Poland 1858-1865* | Cheryl Ganz RDP *Zeppelins & the United States* | Chris King RDP *Anglo-Danish Mail c.1800-1875* | Daniel J. Ryterband *A Country Divided: Effects of the American Civil War on the Mails* | Daniel M. Knowles *Handling American Domestic and International Mail 1860-1869: The Decade of Turmoil, Expansion and Resurgence* | Dwayne O. Littauer | *Pre-UPU Mail Between the United States and Bremen* | Gordon E. Eubanks *First Federally Issued Postage Stamps of the United States* | Murray A. Abramson *Geographic Expansion of Commercial U.S. Mail to Foreign Destinations via Airmail (1922-41)* | Nicholas Kirke *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878 (Volumes 1 and 2)* | Patrick Maselis RDP *The Medallion Issue of Belgium: 1849-1863* | Steven C. Walske *La Débâcle: Postal History of the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War* | Vernon R Morris, Jr. *Evolution & Impact of Blood's Local Post: 1842 to 1862* | Vernon R Morris, Jr. *Transition of American Mail from British Colonial to USPO: 1685 to 1799* | Eigil Trondsen *Cunard Line: The Ships and the Transatlantic Mail 1840-1867, the Monopoly Years* | Jan Berg *Pre-Colonial Madagascar Domestic and International Postal Services*.

For Part 1 of selections from the above stamp and postal history exhibits, see page 233.

Editorial Musings

Thanks Boston, That's A Wrap (But Not a Lobster Roll)!

Tony Bard

I can be easily satisfied in certain situations, like getting home from Boston without bronchitis (courtesy of GASS 2025) or Covid (PhilaKorea, 2025). My trip out wasn't stress free. The problems began as soon as I left for the airport. Traffic conditions and journey time estimates (90 minutes), meant I'd check in even earlier than my wife's 2 hour strict minimum requirement.

That was the plan. Four hours later (!) I got to the check-in desk, after the motorway had been closed twice while I was en route. OK, I'd made it. I was the last person to check in and the flight was closing in five minutes.

I should point out that three weeks earlier I had impulsively decided to publish my first book, based on the Tapling Collection's USA and Hawaii sections. Boston would be the perfect opportunity for a "soft" launch. The finished books arrived three days before my departure.

Back to check-in. I decided to take 70 books from the print run of 100 with me. I worked out these could fit into 3 cases, with just enough room left for a change of socks! I was pretty certain by calculating weight of the books, that I wouldn't be overweight. That was until I put the first bag on the scale, which was when I realised I had forgotten to include the weights of the cases. The smallest bag was just under the limit, but that meant my two larger cases were definitely going to be overweight. To cut the story short, thanks to a helpful beyond measure Virgin check-in person (there's a proper title for the job, but it escapes me), I unpacked the two excess baggage offenders and sent three boxes of books through as additional baggage. I made the flight.

I arrived in Boston more relaxed, but after 90 minutes waiting at immigration found that all the books but only two of my bags had arrived. What joy. Turned out the missing one had all my clothes in - it would, wouldn't it? Anyway, the bag arrived on day one of the show, which was when I realised that because of the chaotic packing and repacking, the case's keys were no doubt still on the floor near the check in desk at Gatwick airport. The hotel maintenance guy swiftly fixed the problem, removing the padlock in under ten seconds. Now that last glitch was sorted, I was finally ready to enjoy what Boston 2026 had to offer.

My main non-philatelic target was an authentic lobster roll. As it turned out the average price for this delicacy was beyond the pocket of somebody from a soon to be third world economy like the UK! And the show? Well, most of you who didn't visit will have heard back from friends or read the reports. High spots were the Joint Dinner, meeting more Club members in person, and almost selling out of my book—a big surprise. An international always restores my faith in humanity, as none of the unpleasantness in the world manages to pollute the atmosphere. No one cares where you're from, or what your politics or biases might be. It's all about the mutuality of philately. Low spots? Average coffee, \$15 sandwiches in the food court and a strong belief that eight days for a show is three or four too many. Overall, I would rate the show good, and there were plenty of elements that other exhibitions could learn from, although it helps when your national postal service fully supports a show, as USPS demonstrated brilliantly. And to round my trip off perfectly, my hearing aid went AWOL on the return flight, but the Virgin cabin staff literally took my chair apart and recovered it. Isn't travelling a delight?!

Every Cover Tells a Story—2

To the Five Boroughs. Part 2: The Bronx

Matthew Healey



Figure 1. October 1870 cover from Paris to Morrisania, New York, prepaid with 70 centimes French postage. Carried out of Paris by ballon monté Le Godefroy-Cavaignac, and then to the USA through normal postal channels. 2 cents credit applied on arrival in the USA.

Four years ago, I wrote an article for this journal describing an 1865 cover mailed from Dublin to New York. I titled it, rather optimistically, “To the Five Boroughs, Part 1...” My ambition was to do a series featuring noteworthy 19th century covers addressed to each of New York City’s five boroughs in turn: Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

The first piece (see *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 101, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2022) was mailed in April, 1865 from the Liffey waterfront to a tiny, rural post office in what was then called Harsenville, NY, but would later become part of what was known simply as the Upper West Side. As the vast majority of mail addressed to New York City in the nineteenth century went to the southern end of Manhattan—nowadays the Financial District—the Harsenville cover was a rare outlier.

The continuation of this series has been slower than anticipated. Covers to Brooklyn are not terribly hard to find, and I have one or two in my collection addressed to present-day Queens and Staten Island. The Bronx, however, has proven devilishly elusive. So it was with great delight that I spotted the fabulous ballon monté cover from the 1870 siege of Paris in Schuyler Rumsey’s sale during Boston 2026.

This tiny, folded cover, shown in Figure 1, was described, not inaccurately, as addressed to New York. But just above that designation was another word: *Morrisania*.

Eureka!

I had known that I would be unlikely to find any nineteenth century covers addressed specifically to “Bronx, N.Y.,” as the borough was not created until the consolidation of modern New York City in 1898. Until that time, the area was a sparsely settled group of towns and villages belonging to Westchester County. Even as late as 1900, the entire population of the future borough was less than 200,000. The key was to locate a cover addressed to one of those individual settlements.

Jonas Bronck, the legend goes, was a Swedish farmer who began tilling the soil on Lenape land around 1639, having leased about 500 acres from the Dutch East India Company and local tribes. The stream running down the east side of his property became known as Bronck’s River, a name it still holds today, albeit with modern spelling.

Richard Morris served in Oliver Cromwell’s Parliamentary army after the conclusion of England’s Civil War of 1642-1651, and spent time in Barbados before arriving in New York and purchasing, in 1670, a piece of what was then known as Bronckslan. He and his young wife died shortly after, leaving an infant son, Lewis. Richard’s brother, also called Lewis, arrived with his wife from Barbados to bring up the baby heir.

Young Lewis grew up to be the first lord of what would become Morrisania manor. He also served as the eighth colonial governor of New Jersey until his death in 1746. Morristown, NJ, is named for him.

One of his sons, Lewis Morris Jr., served as Speaker of New York’s colonial assembly. He grew the Morrisania estate to over 2,000 acres, owned 40 to 60 slaves, and served as a judge on the High Court of Admiralty. He died in 1762.

In 1776, one of his sons, again named Lewis, signed the Declaration of Independence. Another son, Gouverneur Morris, would help draft the United States constitution.

The Morris estate was looted and burned by British soldiers during the Revolutionary War; Lewis would offer the land as a potential site for the U.S. capital. In 1840, Gouverneur II (son of Mr. “We the People”) allowed a railroad to be built through the property. In 1846, the parts of the modern borough closer to the Harlem River, including the Morrisania estate, were incorporated into a town called West Farms. Two years later, the younger Gouverneur Morris donated a portion of his estate to skilled workers to establish the village of Morrisania, which—thanks to the railroad—grew steadily until it was incorporated in 1864.



Figure 2. *Detail of View of Morrisania from Harlem* (Source: Wikipedia).

This in turn cemented the place name for posterity, as the village would eventually become the present-day Bronx neighborhood of Morrisania. A mid-nineteenth century print showing a view of *Morrisania from Harlem* is shown in Figure 2. It captures the quiet idyll along the river channel, although the bridges hint at the development to come.

At this point in the narrative, I allowed my attention to wander to the actual addressee of the letter: Mrs. Isabelle Zborowska, “Care of Mr. Martin Zborowski.” This is a relatively uncommon name (in comparison to, say, Morris) and therefore one that should be somewhat easy to trace. I had read that there was an influx of Slavic immigrants to Morrisania by the turn of the twentieth century, so I wondered whether this cover was early evidence of that demographic shift.

As it turns out, Zborowski was a fake name.

A real estate developer whose original name was Martin Ryerson Zabriskie, the future “Mr Zborowski” grew up in New Jersey. Perhaps a distant descendant of Polish nobility, he was evidently respectable enough in society to marry Anna Elliot Morris, a great-granddaughter of the signer, Lewis Morris. The couple acquired a parcel on the family estate where they built a house in 1858 or ‘59, which they named “Claremont”. The home drew the admiration of many for its fine terraced lawns and sweeping views.

Accounts vary as to when exactly Martin assumed his new name and aristocratic pretensions, but this cover shows it had already happened by 1870.

Martin and Anna had four children; their daughter, also Anna, married a Comte de Montsaunin. Their youngest, William Elliott, perhaps envious of his sister's noble title, embraced his father's love of European aristocracy and married Margaret Astor, lately the Baroness de Stuers, in 1892, on the same day she caused a scandal in high society by becoming the first Astor to get a divorce.

The couple moved to England to escape the social opprobrium, and there Elliott (he dropped the name William) Zborowski developed a passion for racing, first on horses and later in motor cars. He would be killed in 1903 driving his Mercedes up La Turbie hill during a race in Monaco. Their son, Louis, followed in his father's footsteps as a renowned racer, building the cars that would be immortalized by Ian Fleming in "Chitty Bang Bang" until Louis, too, was killed in a car crash during the Italian Grand Prix of 1924. He was just 29.

Where does our Isabelle fit into all this?

Turns out, Martin's wife Anna had died in 1864. Two years later, Martin was sailing for France. A passage from *Recollections Grave and Gay*, published by a Mrs. Burton Harrison in 1911, recounts what happened next:

In October, 1866, my mother and I sailed in the ship "Arago" for Havre, the passenger list made up of many New Yorkers known to each other... [among the] people we knew on board were Mr. Martin Zborowski, of New York—whose wife had been a Morris—with his sons, John, or "Laddie," and Elliot, and his young daughter Anna, now the Countess de Montsaunin, of Paris. A young Southern widow, Mrs. Hewitt, formerly Miss Belle Key, of Mississippi ... was taking a little blonde daughter, Marie Hewitt, subsequently the handsome Mme. Wilkinson, of Paris, to be put at Mme. Grenfell's school in Paris. It was hardly a surprise to us when some months later we were bidden to the marriage of Mr. Zborowski with Mrs. Hewitt. Afterward we saw much of their conjoined families abroad and in Westchester County where Mr. Zborowski had a charming home.

Martin's wedding to Isabella (or Belle), the daughter of Peyton Key of Kentucky, took place at the American Embassy in Paris in 1867. After their marriage, according to a contemporary syndicated newspaper account, they traveled to Poland:

An American Beauty Abroad.

Among the many famous beauties whom our city boasts, none were ever so much admired, probably, as the brilliant and fascinating Miss Belle Key, who married the late Col. James Hewitt, C.S.A. (who was killed at Chicamauga), and after remaining in great seclusion abroad, was married to a distinguished and wealthy Polish gentleman, residing in New York, about a year ago. The happy couple are now visiting Poland. The Warsaw Courier of Nov. 2 makes the following allusion to an American family recently visiting that city. The persons alluded to are Mr. Martin Zborowski (Zabriski), of Morrisania, and his beautiful and accomplished wife:

During the representation at the theatre on Saturday night, all eyes were turned on the parterre-box at the left of the stage, and really the curiosity of the spectator was more than gratified, for in the box was seated a lady, splendid in beauty, and glittering in precious stones.

We admit, in all frankness, that we have never seen such a diadem as that which crowned the classic brow of this beautiful creature; and so, also, with the collar of oriental pearls of great price, joined by stars of diamonds, yet even less perfect than the neck which they surrounded. We are informed that the husband of the lady belongs to one of our illustrious families, a member of which settled in America 200 years ago, and that he and his wife are now on a visit to this country, where his ancestors—its honor and its glory—formerly lived. These distinguished personages have already traveled for some years in Europe, and intend to honor Warsaw with their presence for a few weeks.

These were times of upheaval in Europe. The Franco-Prussian war broke out in the summer of 1870 and Paris was soon besieged by Prussian forces. The only way mail could leave the city was by balloons filled with lighter-than-air coal gas. 65 of the 66 successful launches (one balloon, *The Jacquart*, was lost over the Irish Sea) carried an estimated 2.5 million letters out between September 23, 1870, and the armistice in January 1871.

The vast majority of the mail was addressed to places within France, but a few were forwarded abroad, including to the US. Several ballon monté covers to New York are documented but a comprehensive census does not, as far as I know, exist yet. The number going to the Bronx? Probably just one.

The cover's auction description identified the balloon which carried this letter as *Le Godefroy-Cavaignac*, which departed from Orléans Station, Paris, on October 14, 1870. The balloon also carried three passengers, 170 kg (375 lbs) of mail in four bags, six carrier pigeons (other sources give four) and some freight. This was the eleventh *ballon monté* departure of the siege of Paris. It was piloted by Edmée Godard, aged 68, whose family were responsible for the construction of 32 balloons that escaped Paris, i.e. nearly half the total.

Among his passengers was Count Émile de Kératry (1832-1904), a soldier and an elected politician who went on to raise the "army of Brittany" in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat the Prussian forces. He was accompanied by his chief of staff Mr A. Jay, and a M. du Quesneau, a Commandant or Major in the French National Guard.

The flight covered 256 kilometers (159 miles) before landing at Brillonnen-Barrois in the Meuse département, almost 5 hours after taking off. As it transpired, the landing point was actually in enemy-controlled territory, but the pilot, all the passengers and the mail (which also included one letter to Russia and one to Ireland) avoided capture. We do not know the pigeons' fate!

The three-color 70 centimes franking on the cover is made up of the 1863-70 Lauré 10c, 20c and 40c values, which are tied by the Paris numeral "8" star cancel and double-circle "PARIS/2E/2 OCT / 70" datestamp, and there is a strike of the red New York "2 / CENTS" credit handstamp applied on arrival.

Martin and Isabella had no children together. They must have returned to Paris shortly after the war, because she died in 1873 at the age of 38 and is buried in Père-Lachaise cemetery.

On her grave stands a pillar, where her name is inscribed as Ysabelle Key Zborowski. The pillar is surmounted by a graceful bust, presumably her likeness (Figures 3-5).



Figure 3. Grave of Ysabelle Zborowski at Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris.



*Figure 4. Memorial inscription:
"YSABELLE
WIFE OF MARTIN ZBOROWSKI
OF NEW JERSEY
AND DAUGHTER
OF PEYTON RANDOLPH KEY
OF KENTUCKY
DIED AT PARIS JUNE 30 1873"*



Figure 5. Bust, perhaps of Ysabelle.

Martin Zborowski died in 1878. In 1874, the town of Morrisania had been annexed to New York City, the first area added outside of Manhattan. A few years later, the Third Avenue Elevated railway was extended there, resulting in a further influx of residents. The modern world was fast encroaching on the idyllic landscapes of the old farms.

The Zborowski estate passed to the city of New York in 1884 and was turned into Claremont Park, the mansion later becoming the Bronx headquarters of the New York City Parks Department. A map of the proposed park, indicating the former Zborowski and Gouverneur Morris estates, is in Figure 6 and a photo of the house is shown in Figure 7. In the late 1880s, consideration was given to holding the 1892 Columbian Exposition there.



Figure 6. Detail of "Part of Ward 24" in Robinson's Atlas of the City of New York, 1885, showing the proposed Claremont Park and Zborowski Mansion.



Figure 7. The Zborowski Mansion, Claremont Park. (Source: Valentine's Manual)

It is remarkable how much human history can be carried by such a tiny envelope.

Sadly, the mansion was razed in 1938; today a gazebo stands on the spot. Morrisania, unfortunately, descended during the twentieth century into poverty and urban blight, with the South Bronx becoming one of the poorest areas in the United States.

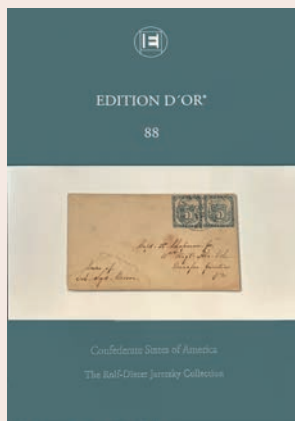
Author's note

The research process for this article did not involve conventional methods in places like the Collectors Club library, as the philatelic details of the cover itself had been settled by the time I acquired it; instead, the story of the addressee was researched entirely online using Google and its built-in AI tool, Gemini. These led to repositories of primary sources such as Ancestry.com and FindaGrave.com, in addition to the obvious assortment of Wikipedia pages, community blogs and the like. How to be confident these results are reliable? I applied old-fashioned methods of corroboration, cross-examination and common sense—the three C's, if you will.

Many sources, even historical primary sources, can get details wrong. For example, Isabelle's gravestone gives her father's name as Peyton Randolph Key; further digging, however, shows her father was in fact the less-famous Peyton Adams Key. Some sources state that Martin Zborowski was born in Poland; clearly, that was not the case. In a few cases, I just had to admit I didn't know something: for example, the exact date the Claremont mansion was built is given variously as 1858 and 1859. The New York City Parks Department even stated for years that the house was built by Elliott Zborowski, even though he was just a newborn at the time!

Several times, I had to revise portions of the narrative as more reliable facts came to light. My initial assumption had been that Isabelle was Martin's child; I had forgotten that in the nineteenth century, women were often addressed in "Care of" their husbands, as if they were minors. The most surprising and serendipitous result came via Gemini, which steered me to Mrs. Harrison's obscure memoir and its key passage about the ocean crossing. That really tied a lot of strings together, and I would never have found it on my own.

The provenance of the cover itself—in particular, how and when it first came on the philatelic market—is not fully known to me. It is accompanied by a Swiss certificate, so at some point it was presumably in a European collection. If any readers have further information, I would love to learn it. I can be emailed at matthewhealey@gmail.com



Confederate States of America The Rolf-Dieter Jeretzky Collection Edition D'Or, 88

If you would like one of the 4 copies
kindly donated to the Club, this can be purchased
online at www.collectorsclub.com

Duttia State: An Unrecorded Variety Hidden in Plain Sight

Vivek S. Chopra and Danforth Walker RDP FRPSL



Figure 1. Duttia State location.



Figure 2. The Duttia 1896 ½ Anna black on blue-green wove paper with control handstamp, SG5, which was sold as lot 272 in the Stanley Gibbons auction on May 11, 2021. All corner shamrocks are set at 45 degrees angles. (Image source: Museum of Philately, <https://www.museumofphilately.com/rarity/315>)

The former Princely State of Duttia (today known as Datia), located in central pre-1947 India (Figure 1), is believed to have first produced stamps in 1893, based on four examples in the H. D. S. Haverbeck sale, which consist of the state's control stamp applied within a red ruled outline with manuscript inscriptions. The first typographed stamps appeared in 1894, and these as well as all subsequent issues feature the Hindu god Ganesh. The first typeset issues, which were produced in very limited numbers, have fascinated and intrigued collectors of the Indian Princely States.

In May 2021, a remarkable Duttia stamp achieved a record realization of £69,600, establishing a benchmark for the Indian States. Accompanied by a BPA certificate identifying it as the 1896 "½ Anna Black on Blue-Green, SG5", the stamp was widely accepted as a classic rarity within the established framework of Duttia philately (Figure 2).

Yet, as is often the case in our field, closer scrutiny reveals that even the most celebrated items may warrant re-examination. This paper revisits this important example and proposes that it is not a standard SG5, but rather a previously unrecognized die (cliché) variety—SG5 var. SG5 is believed to be extremely rare, with fewer than four examples known to exist, so one can only imagine the rarity of this SG5 var.

The starting point of this reassessment lies in a seemingly small, yet highly significant detail: the orientation of the "clover" (or "trefoil") ornament in the upper left corner. In the accepted "Trefoil" series (so called because of the use of repeated three-leaf ornaments to form the stamp's border), the second issue design of Duttia which includes SG5, the upper left clover is aligned vertically, while the other three corner ornaments are positioned at approximately 45 degrees (Figures 4a-4d show various examples from the same series). However, the 2021 example clearly shows the upper left clover also inclined at 45 degrees (Figure 3), i.e., matching the orientation of the other three.



SG5 alignment



Regular Trefoil issue alignment

Corner ornament upright.



"SG5 var" alignment



Stationery indicium alignment.

Corner ornament at 45°.

Figure 3. Corner ornament alignment variations



Figure 4a.



Figure 4b.



Figure 4c.



Figure 4d.

Figures 4a--d Trefoil issues. (a) SG4a, ¼ anna without control handstamp, black on orange wove paper. (b) SG5a, ½ anna without control handstamp, black on blue green wove paper. (c) SG6, 2 annas black on yellow wove paper. (d) SG7, 4 annas black on rose wove paper. All show the original trefoil alignment to be at 45 degrees angles in three corners except for at top left which is upright at 90 degrees. Also note the deeper shade of blue-green in the stamps in Figures 2 and 7.

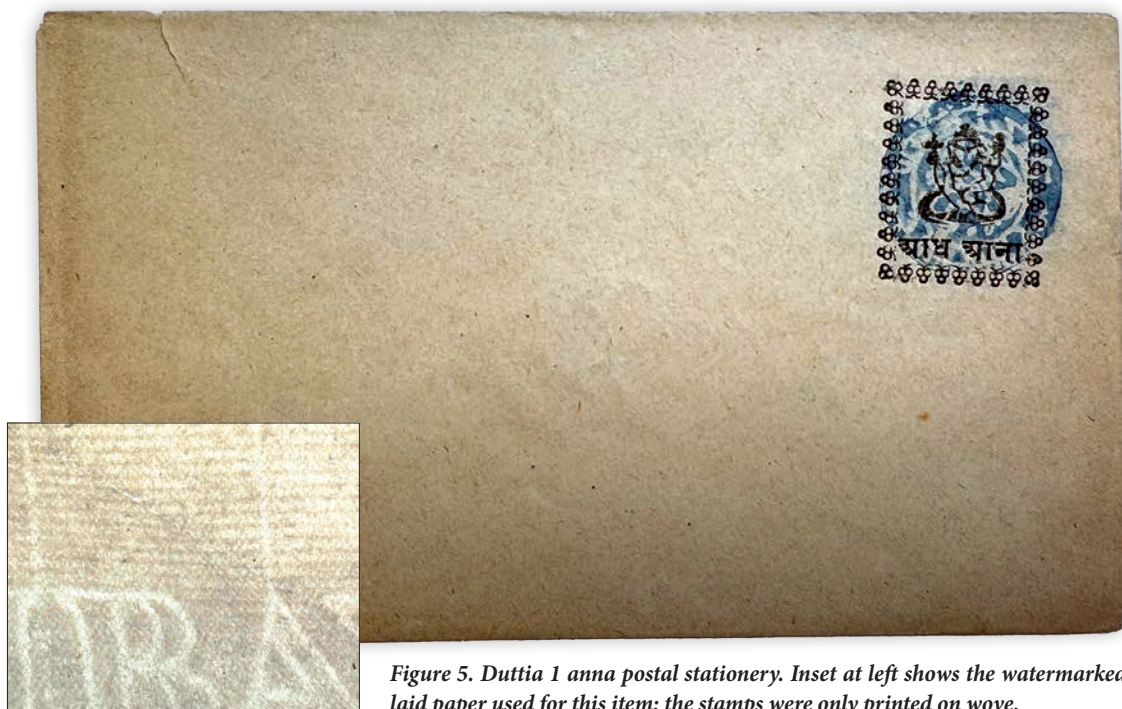


Figure 5. Duttia 1 anna postal stationery. Inset at left shows the watermarked laid paper used for this item: the stamps were only printed on wove.

This feature corresponds precisely with the design seen on Duttia postal stationery indicia, where all four corner ornaments are symmetrically angled. Duttia stationery (Figure 5), however, was printed on laid paper (Figure 5 inset), unlike the wove paper used for the stamps.

Several points support the interpretation that the die originally prepared (or modified) for postal stationery was later used to print adhesive stamps:

- Duttia postal stationery is consistently found printed on local foolscap laid paper, typically watermarked (Figure 5 inset).
- The postage stamp under discussion is printed on bluish-green wove paper, consistent with the Trefoil issues (SG4a to 4d).
- Examples of Duttia postal stationery bearing the above design printed on wove paper have not been recorded.
- The last four Hindi characters for the denomination “Anna” are perfectly aligned at the top, whereas the first two of these characters of the word in the Trefoil issues are out of alignment with the others (Figure 6).

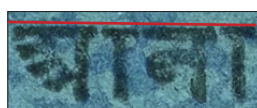


SG5 recorded example.



Regular Trefoil issue.

Lettering not level at top.



“SG5 var” new discovery.



Stationery indicium.

Lettering level at top.

Figure 6. The distinct differences in lettering alignment.



Figure 7. One of the two other recorded examples of SG5 var, showing the angled top left corner ornament and the even alignment of the Hindi characters for “Anna”.

It should also be pointed out that the blue-green shade of paper used for SG 5var is a deeper shade than that seen on typical SG5 and SG5a printings.

These features are consistent across at least two additional examples examined by the author (one of them shown in Figure 7).

It is plausible that the original die used for the second issue exhibited an asymmetrical clover design, later corrected for postal stationery use. This corrected die appears to have been reused for a small number of adhesive printings, giving rise to the variety now proposed as SG5 var.

It is important to acknowledge that the original classification of the 2021 example as SG5 was intuition and experience based on paper and denomination. However, philately evolves through careful observation and comparative study.

The new discovery sold in May 2021, and with the additional examples now known it should therefore be regarded as a distinct variety—SG5 var.—arising from the use of a modified or transferred die, a “cliché error”.

This reassessment underscores the importance of specialist philatelic knowledge and a keen eye for detail!

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the owners of the additional SG5 var. examples for making them available for examination and for kindly providing images for this article. Grateful thanks are also extended to Ricardo Verra FRPSL, David Feldman RDP FRPSL, Joël Feldman, Guy Croton and Gregor Gaetjens for their valuable insights and comments. Trefoil stamp images (Figures 4a-4d) are from lots 120-123, Postiljonen 247th and 248th International Stamp Auction, March 17-20, 2026. See https://auction.postiljonen.se/en/cat/12624/lots?pos_von=120&pos_bis=136&losbereich_title=Duttia

References

- Deschl, E. F. (1994). *The comprehensive India states postal stationery listing*, The author, North Bergen, NJ.
<https://sgbaldwins.com/stories/elephant-well-never-forget>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQxQ_NXvw38
 Olds, Phill (n.d.). *The postal stamps of Duttia 1893 to 1921*, the author, UK.

Yugoslavia 1989: The Provisional 700 Dinar Overprint Types on the Mail Coach 220 Dinar.

Svetislav Jelic

Issue background and development

The mail coach has long been a widely used motif in stamp design around the world, recognized as a universal symbol of early mail transport and communication. In line with this broader tradition, the Yugoslav Post also issued a stamp featuring this motif. Their depiction reflects both the historical development of postal services and their enduring identity in visual postal heritage.



The definitive stamp featuring the mail coach with New Year's greeting card design was issued on December 6, 1988. Designed by artist Dimitrije Čudov, an employee of JUGOMARKA—the enterprise responsible for producing stamps for the Yugoslav Post.

Figure 1. Imperforate pair.

This issue was printed by the Institute for the Manufacture of Banknotes (ZIN) for use on regular letters at the first weight tier in domestic postal traffic, in accordance with the postal rate from October 5, 1988. The stamps were printed on ordinary paper by offset lithography, with matt white gum, and issued in comb perforation 13¼.

The mail coach, as the central design element, was subsequently extended beyond adhesive stamps. Čudov, the JUGOMARKA artist, illustrated the motifs for the postcards and postal stationery issued on March 22, 1989, retaining the coach as the dominant feature.

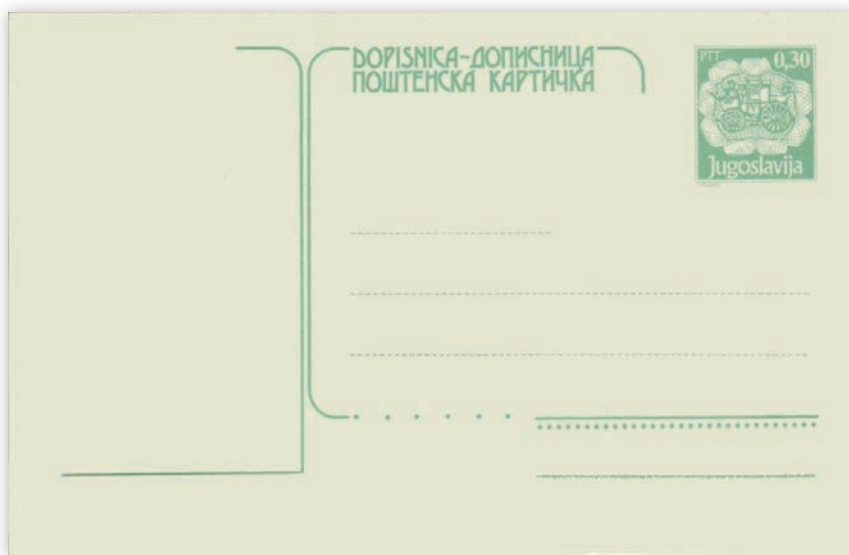


Figure 2. 0.30 dinar postal card featuring the mail coach design indicium.

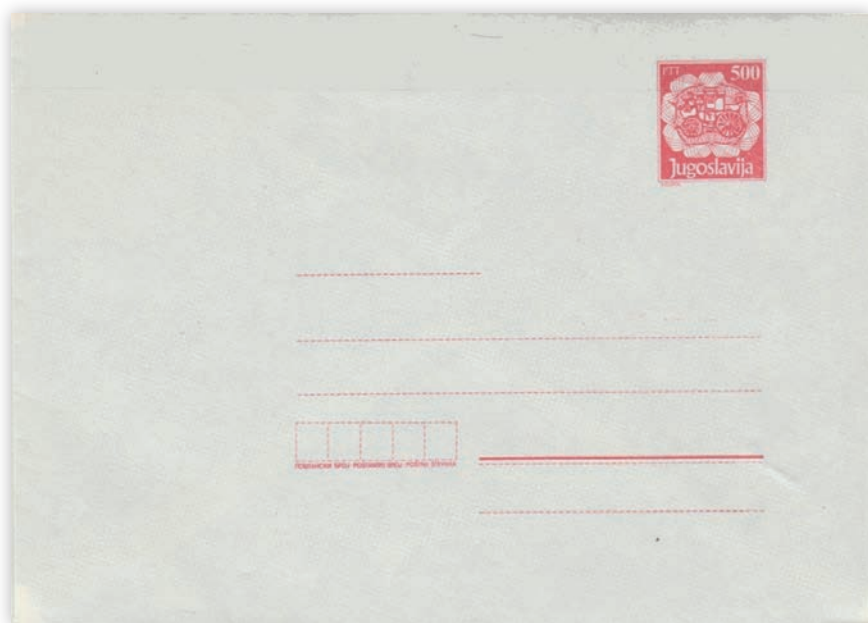


Figure 3. 500 dinar postal stationery envelope featuring the mail coach design indicium.

Rate change as the trigger for the 700 dinar overprint

On July 20, 1989, the postal rate for sending inter-city postal cards in domestic traffic was increased from 400 to 700 dinars — a change that forms the central point of this analysis. The Yugoslav Post anticipated the increase and acted in advance: on July 19, it issued a stamp overprinted with the new face value of 700 dinars over the original 220 dinar definitive issue, thereby ensuring continuity in postal operations during the transition.

This reflected a deliberate effort to maintain visual and thematic continuity across different segments of postal production. This reuse of the established motif ensured recognizability and coherence within the postal system, while adapting the design to the functional requirements of postal cards and stationery in everyday domestic use.

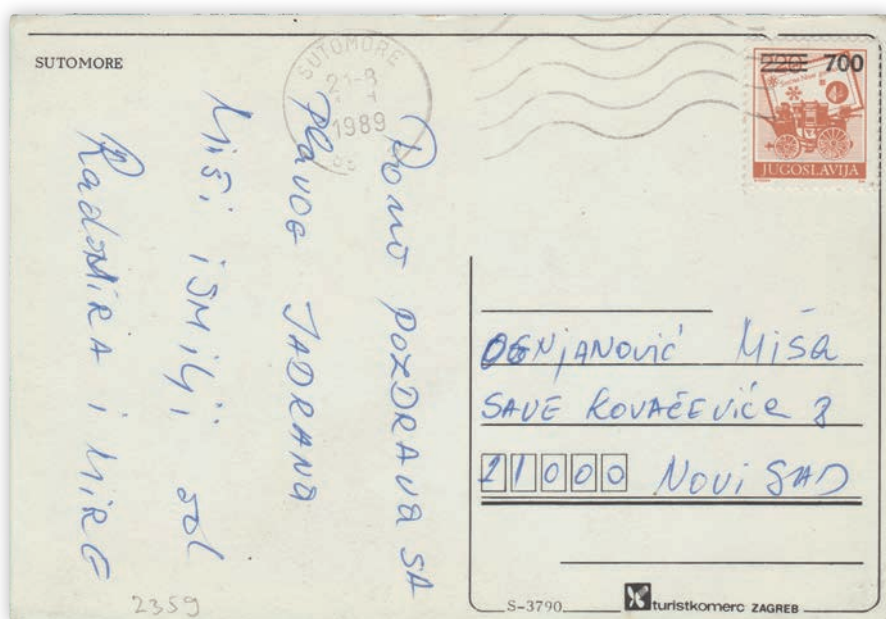


Figure 4. Inter-city postal card sent on August 21, 1989, franked with the 700 dinar overprinted on 220 dinar stamp.

Technical analysis of the 700 dinar overprint

The new 700 dinar overprint was applied in black by letterpress (typography). The old denomination was cancelled by three horizontal parallel bars, and the new face value was impressed alongside in the upper right corner of the stamp.

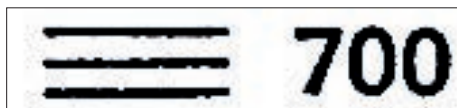


Figure 5. The 700 (dinar) overprint enlarged, and with background removed.

Ever since this overprinted issue debuted, philatelists have categorized the overprints into two types: thick and thin. In the lower left section of the counter sheet, these variations are striking enough to be readily identified by the naked eye. For decades, this remained the standard perspective on the issue, accepted as a simple surface-level distinction without the need for deeper technical analysis.

Even on today's philatelic market we find only "thick" and "thin", or Type I and Type II overprints offered, sometimes erroneously described as "errors".

Overprints classification

By using modern technology for deeper analysis, it reveals that there are in fact six distinct overprint types, the illustration and classification of which are shown in Figure 6.



Type I: Basic overprint, with straight thin bars and digits.



Type II: Straight thin bars and uneven sized digits 700.



Type III: Straight thin bars and thickened last digit 700.



Type IV: Slightly thickened bars and uneven digits.



Type V: Bars thickened at right and thickened digits.



Type VI: Thickened uneven bars and digits.

Figure 6. The six Types of overprint.

Of particular interest is the fact that overprint Type I appears on 80 of the 100 stamps on the sheet (Figure 7), while the remaining types are found only on some stamps on the first four positions of the last five rows — the so-called "block of 20".

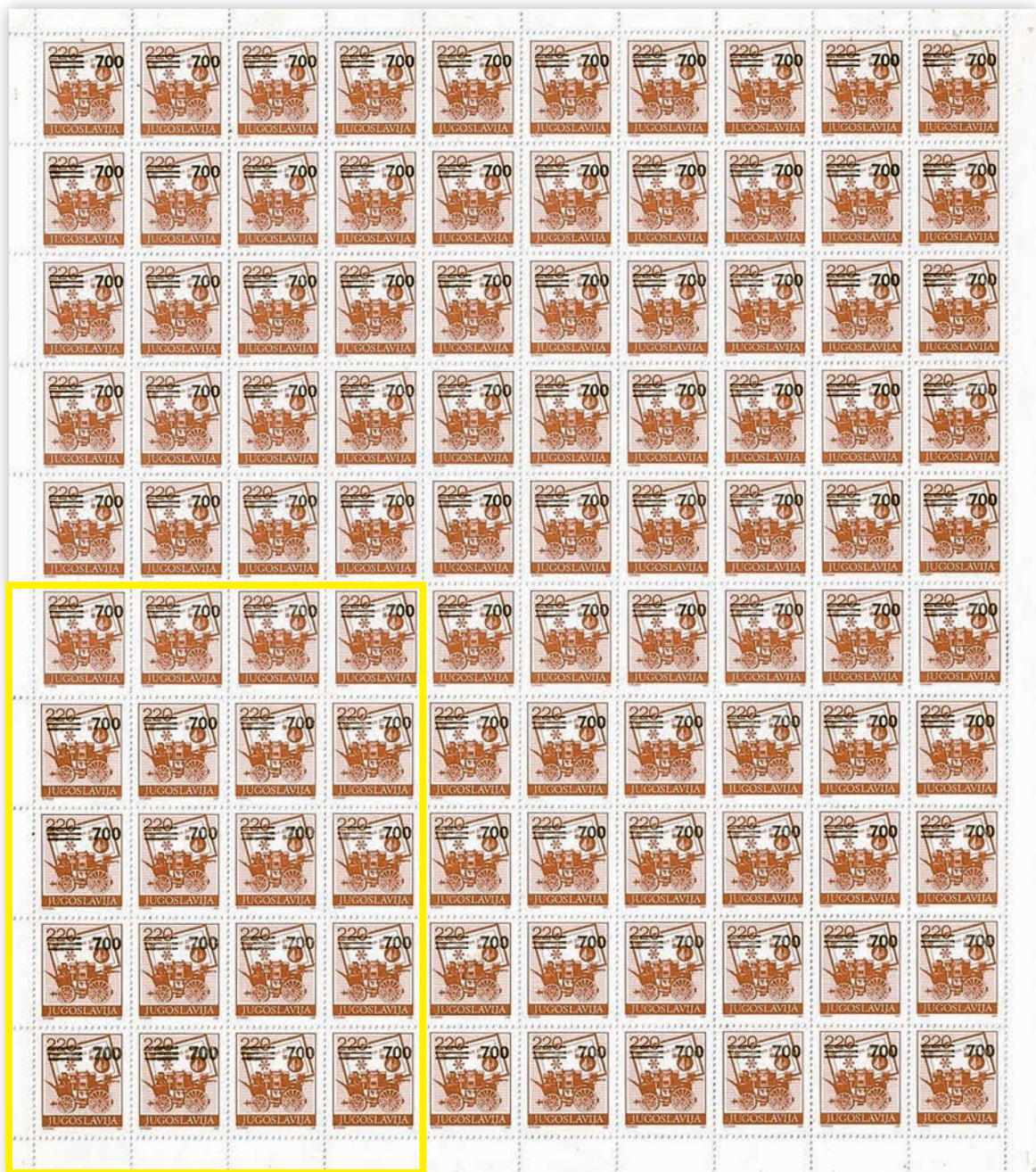


Figure 7. The counter sheet of 100, with the “block of 20” outlined in yellow..



Figure 8. Block of 20 showing the six different overprint types.

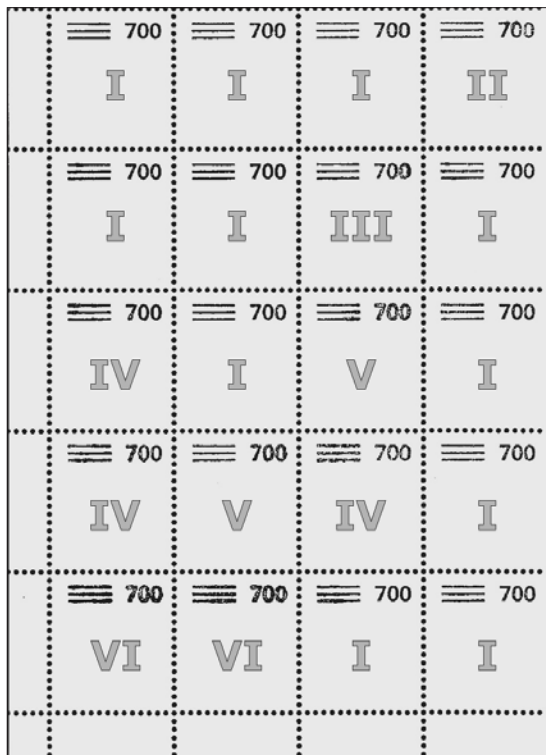


Figure 9. Positional layout of the different overprint types in the block of 20.

Forged overprints



As provisional issues with overprints occupy a special niche in traditional philately, precisely because of the varieties that may be found, this issue too is not without its forged overprints.

Figure 10. Forged inverted overprint.

Comparative analysis of the genuine and forged overprint with negatives



Figure 11. Genuine typographed overprint, with clear ink squeeze around the digits. Bar measures 8 mm.

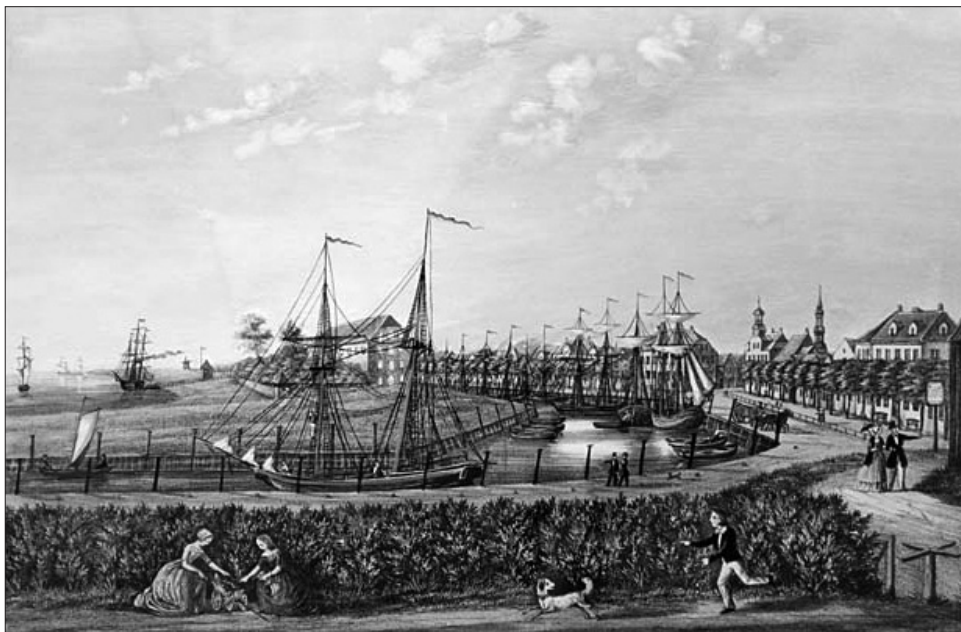


Figure 12. Forged digital overprint heavy black ink, with no ink squeeze around the digits. Bar length 7 mm.

The 1989 Yugoslav Mail Coach overprint serves as a compelling example of how a seemingly simple provisional issue can reveal rich technical complexity under modern philatelic scrutiny. While the market has long been satisfied with a basic “thick vs. thin” classification, the identification of six distinct overprint types found in the “block of twenty”—adds significant depth to the study of this period.

The Postal Service between Great Britain and Denmark 1807-1814

Chris King RDP Hon FRPSL



Der Hafen von Tönning um das Jahr 1800 (*Tönning Harbour in 1800*). Source: Collection of the Museum der Landschaft Eiderstedt, St. Peter-Ording, Nordfriesland.

The letters in this article demonstrate the speed with which commercial enterprises re-established trading relationships as the Napoleonic Wars drew to a close, although they must have been frustrated at the delays in the postal services as the armies that had dominated Europe for more than twenty years, gradually returned to their barracks and to civilian life.

J. P. Suhr & Søn was a Copenhagen trading house which existed from 1749 to 1897. It originated with Johan Peter Suhr (1712–1785), who in 1728 entered into apprenticeship with the linen merchant Oluf Hansen Aagaard, at his premises in Gammeltorv in Copenhagen. On November 22, 1748 Suhr married Aagaard's daughter, Anna Dorthea; and on the death of his father-in-law in the following year, he assumed control of the business.



Under Suhr's direction the enterprise prospered. While continuing its retail activities, the firm progressively expanded into wholesale commerce and established trading connections with Norway, the Baltic ports and the Netherlands. Its principal commodities included iron, grain and salt, a portion of which was conveyed to Copenhagen in vessels owned by the house itself. In the course of time the business developed into one of the most substantial mercantile establishments in Copenhagen.

Ole Berendt Suhr (1762-1815), head of J. P. Suhr & Søn in 1814.

Postal historians interested in Denmark will know the company from its voluminous correspondence which has survived in significant numbers. There are folded letters to and from Great Britain, and this article considers three of them.

The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars lasted almost continuously from 1792 until 1815, separated briefly by the Peace of Amiens (1802–1803). Trade was severely interrupted by the Continental System, a continental embargo by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte against the British Empire from November 21, 1806 until April 11, 1814. Napoleon issued the Berlin Decree on 21 November, 1806 in response to the naval blockade of the French coasts initiated by the British government on May 16, 1806. The embargo ended on April 11, 1814 after Napoleon's first abdication.

As Napoleon's armies moved ever further east, postal communications between Great Britain and Europe became increasingly difficult. With the fall of Hamburg on November 19, 1806, followed by the British bombardment of the Danish capital from August 16 to September 7 and seizure of 64 vessels, including 18 ships of the line, all northern European ports were closed to British trade. Postal connections continued and smuggling grew, but there was very little post between Denmark and Great Britain between August 1807 and March 1814.

The letter dated July 28, 1807 (Figure 1) was certainly carried on one of the last two packet ships, the *Lord Nelson* or *Lady Nepean* arriving at Tønning in the Danish Duchy of Schleswig on August 15-16, until the service resumed in 1814.

George Hart, the British packet agent in Tønning wrote to Francis Freeling, Secretary of the General Post Office:

On board His Majesty's Packet Lord Nelson at sea: August 18th 1807. On Saturday last the 15th inst. Captain Stewart of the Lord Nelson Packet arrived at Tønningen with the mails of the 8th, and being on his way through the Town to deliver as customary the Mails and Dispatches at my office, he was suddenly surrounded by several Danish Officers, attended by Soldiers who, looking into the Waggon and perceiving the Mails, ordered the Driver immediately to proceed to the Danish Post Office.

Following the British bombardment of Copenhagen, the burning of the city, and the seizure of the Danish fleet, Denmark was forced by circumstance to enter into an alliance with France. This led to a formal declaration of war against Britain by the Prince Regent on August 16, 1807.

On October 31, 1807, Denmark joined the continental system, a coalition intent on blocking British trade with mainland Europe, in a formal treaty with France signed at Fontainebleau. This led to seven years of conflict known as the Gunboat War during which, on March 14, 1808, Denmark declared war on Sweden. The conclusion was the Treaty of Kiel, signed on January 14, 1814.

This was a disaster for Denmark, causing the loss of Norway to Sweden, Heligoland to Great Britain, following the bankruptcy of the state on January 5, 1813. The value of the banknotes in relation to silver reached its lowest point, at 9 per cent, in September 1813, and inflation over the year reached 300%. This had a major impact on postage rates. Danish paper notes and silver currencies were not exchangeable at par until 1838.



Figure 1. July 28, 1807 Entire commercial letter sent from Newcastle to Copenhagen. Paid 2/4d being 10d inland and 1/6d packet post. Danish postage 7 Lybske Schilling. Sent via London (July 31), Harwich and Tönning, where it was seized by Danish soldiers following the outbreak of hostilities at Copenhagen, finally arriving on September 26.

The letter in Figure 2, dated February 8, 1814, as noted by the writer, is the first possible since July 28, 1807. George Dunn & Sons, owners of the Whitefield Colliery in the Parish of Ryton, in the County of Durham, wish to resume trade with J. P. Suhr & Søn of Copenhagen. Coincidentally, we know that the latter sent a letter dated February 12, which presumably crossed with this one, also seeking to resume trade.



Figure 2. February 9 1814, Entire letter sent from Newcastle to Copenhagen. Marked 2/6 being 10d inland (1/- less 2d 52 Geo III c 88) and 1/8d packet postage. The French occupation of Lübeck saw the Danish postal services expelled from the city, and an alternative was set up at Stockelsdorf on the city's border with Danish territory. This letter was routed Newcastle-London-Harwich-Brielle-Amsterdam-Wildeshausen-Lübeck-Stockelsdorf-Copenhagen. Marked "16" (Lübeck Skilling) plus 1 LSk additional to Stockelsdorf = 17 (LSk). Postage from Stockelsdorf to Copenhagen was 11 LSk, making a total of 28 LSk. At 3.22 Danish Skilling to the Lubeck Skilling, this equals 90 Skilling, multiplied by an inflation factor of three, equals 270 Skilling ("270" in manuscript in bottom panel"), marked on reverse with Danish karte number "224".

Both companies had quickly followed up on the opportunities offered by the signing of the Treaty of Kiel only a few weeks earlier. The reopened service was announced on February 8.

Gentlemen

The day is at length arrived when we may with safety & with pleasure renew our long interrupted correspondence; & we flatter ourselves our commercial intercourse will again revive & be carried on in the same friendly manner as formerly.

On our part, having still the Whitefield Colliery which is now in very high perfection, we are fully prepared to supply our friends with any quantity of coals of the very best quality. As the season is fast approaching when ships will sail for the Baltick, we are very desirous to receive your orders as soon as possible, being persuaded that the first arrivals of coals at your port must do very well. The prime cost here will be nearly the same as in 1807, we having made no alteration in our price, but there is an addition of about 1/- fChar [i.e. "per chaldron" – a measure of weight or volume for coal] to the King's duty. We have to lament the death of two of your old acquaintance Mr Cram, & Mr Henderson senr, the former died about 3 years ago, the latter in this year; Pearson and Thomson are both very well, and we dare say will pay you a visit when circumstances will permit. We were very glad to receive a letter the other day from Mr. K. Wulff who is now in London preparing for a voyage to the East Indies; it afforded us the utmost pleasure to learn from him, that he left you in good health so late as last December, but our joy was damped by the melancholy acct of your son's death; we condole with you most sincerely on this sad event, & doubt not you will support the affliction with due resignation to the will of the Supreme disposer of Events.

We have little more to add at present than to assure you that, we are most anxious to recommence our old trade & every possible attention will be given on our part, to render it mutually advantageous & pleasant as herefore.

We are Gentlemen Your most Obedient Servants Geo Dunn & Sons.

P.S. You will please notice an alteration in the firm of our house, having on the 1st Instant, taken Mr Cuthbert Dunn into partnership; he is our premier's 2d son. G: D: & Sons.

Replied 30 April 1814.

The next letter, Figure 3, dated April 2, follows on from the first, and is also in reply to a letter sent on February 12, 1814, by J. P. Suhr & Søn. Clearly, George Dunn (1753-1833), who had sunk the pit at Ryton in 1800 was keen to retrieve the business lost by the intervention of the Napoleonic Wars.

Newcastle 2 April 1814

Messrs Johan Peter Suhr & son

Gentlemen

We have received with much pleasure your esteemed favour of 12th Feby & most sincerely congratulate you on the peace now so happily concluded between our two countries, & trust that we shall again resume our friendly intercourse.



Figure 3. April 2, 1814, Entire letter from Newcastle via London and Harwich to Copenhagen, arriving 30 April. Directed via Cuxhafen but carried by the Henry Freeling packet to Helvoetsluys in Holland. Then routed Amsterdam-Wildeshausen-Stade-Glückstadt, as Hamburg was occupied by French forces until the end of April 1814. Prepaid 2/6d - 10d to London (1/- less 2d 52 Geo III c 88) plus packet rate 1/8d to Brielle. Then Holland-Stade 17 Lybske Skilling (LSk) and 4 LSk Stade-Glückstadt = 21 LSk: Glückstadt-Copenhagen charge 11 LSk making 32 LSk. Converted to Danish RBS - 32×3.2 exchange rate = 102.4 RBS. Inflation factor 3 = 307.2 RBS. "307" on front but "306" marked on reverse.

We wrote you 8th Febry containing nearly all the information required by your letter, but are afraid from the uncommon severity of the winter you may not have received it so soon as we expected.

We still continue proprietors of Whitefield Colliery which is now in high perfection, and the cost of a cargo here will be nearly the same as when we last shipt them for you in 1807, we have made no addition to our price but there is an advance of about 1/-fChar on the Kings duty.

Lead is now selling at £30 pfodder {per fodder, a measure of weight for lead} for refined & £29 for common, but expected to be higher soon, particularly if we should have a general peace, which is not improbable.

We cannot yet say what the freight of coals will be to your part, but as the expence on shipping in our country has risen very much since our last connections with you, & freights to all parts are in consequence much advanced, we think they will not be less than £20 fkeel [per keel: the “Builder’s Old Measurement”, a standard method used in England from approximately 1650 to 1849 to calculate a ship’s cargo capacity for taxing and registration purposes) to Copenhagen, this however is only our opinion, but you may rely that you shall not pay more than is current when we have to execute your orders.

In other respects we shall be happy to deal with you in the same liberal manner as formerly & every attention shall be paid to your interest on all occasions.

Geo. Dunn & sons

P.S. Having sent our former letter via Gothenburg we hope you may have received it ere this.

However, we shall forward this via Cuxhafen, in the hope you may receive it sooner.

Neither of the 1814 letters followed the route expected by the writer. The mails were badly affected by the weather in February 1814 with Gothenburg being ice-bound in mid-February, and no mail arriving from there until April 7. The German rivers were also affected by ice, with the *London Morning Post* reporting on April 9 that “The Elbe is still so obstructed by ice that direct communication with Cuxhafen is not possible.”

Bibliography

Abildgren, Kim (2010). “Consumer Prices in Denmark 1502–2007”, *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 58: 1 ISSN 0358-5522.

Feldbæk, Ole (2001) “Denmark in the Napoleonic Wars: A Foreign Policy Survey”, *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 26: 2, ISSN 0346-8755.

Märcher, Michael (2010). “Danish Banking before and after the Napoleonic Wars: A Survey of Danish Banking, 1736–1857”, in Talvio, Tuukka and von Heijne, Cecilia (eds.), *Monetary Boundaries in Transition: A North European Economic History and the Finnish War 1808–1809*, Swedish History Museum, Stockholm, pp.127-43.

Tabcart, Colin (2019). *British Long Distance Mail Packets 1793–1815: Rates, Routes and Ships Out and Home*, Colin Tabcart, Fareham. ISBN 978-0-9548407-3-0.

A 1919 Victory Stamp Cover with a Doubly Interesting Backstory

Jacob Alex Klerman

Meriam Webster defines “poetic justice” as “an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded usually in a manner peculiarly or ironically appropriate” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/poetic%20justice>).

Perhaps the cover displayed in Figure 1 meets that definition; perhaps the story is more complicated. To understand, some backstory is appropriate.



Figure 1: St. Louis MO to Wiesbaden, Germany, December 31, 1919.

I am preparing an exhibit of US mail to Germany during World War I. This cover seems like an appropriate end to that exhibit. World War I had begun in the summer of 1914; the US had entered the war in the spring of 1917; fighting had ended with the Armistice at 11am on 11 November 1918; and, the Versailles Peace Treaty was signed 28 June 1919. This cover was postmarked 31 December 1919, the last day of 1919.

The Cover.

On March 13, 1919, the US had issued the 3¢ Victory Commemorative. As Akaki (2023; see also Swain, 2019; Starkweather, 2011) notes, the 3¢ value was appropriate for the “War Rate” but was quickly obsoleted by the return of the first class single rate to 2¢ on July 1, 1919. Thereafter, the stamp was only useful as a makeup for higher rates.

This cover is an example of such a makeup rate. It is a UPU registered single, for which the rate was 15¢. That rate was properly paid by an uprated 2¢ Washington Circle postal stationery entire with 7¢ and 2¢ Washington-Franklins, a 1¢ Panama Pacific Commemorative, and our 3¢ 1919 Victory Issue commemorative.

Other markings are conventional. On the front, there is a magenta 1911 Type 2 “REGISTERED” handstamp (Straight, 2008) and a magenta “Return Receipt Requested” handstamp. On the back, there are two strikes of the conventional, magenta, St. Louis, Merchant’s Station (#65) registered dater, and a Wiesbaden, Germany receiving mark for January 19, 1920.

Total travel time was 20 days. In the pre-war period, normal travel time was closer to ten days, but transportation in Germany had not returned to pre-war speed. In part, this was because, starting in November 1918 and continuing through June 1919, German reparations to France had denuded the country of most of its railway locomotives and cars. So, this timing seems reasonable.

Philatelic Context.

While fighting had ended in November 1918, the Treaty of Versailles would not be signed until 28 June 1919, and the war’s postal consequences continued through most of 1919. Shortly after declaring war (4/6/1917), the US had suspended mail service to Germany (Klerman, 2018, 2025). Mail service did not resume with the Armistice. Only parts of Germany were occupied by Entente forces (the area west of the Rhine and small bridgeheads to the east of the Rhine). Mail service to those areas resumed April 10, 1919. Mail service to the balance of Germany would not resume until July 17, 1919, shortly after the treaty was signed (see Klerman 2026a).

Figure 2 displays an early cover from immediately after full resumption of mail service. It is a simple UPU single from Philadelphia, PA to Wahren (near Leipzig), Germany, with a red sticker “Business letter”. The letter was mailed July 21, 1919 and would have made the first post-resumption sailing of the Scandinavian Line United States on July 22, 1919.

Starting in late-1915, the British had started lifting US mail to Germany (and other countries) on neutral steams and censoring them. Often, the censoring identified something problematic and the mail was not forwarded to the addressee. Starting June 23, 1919 and continuing through (roughly) the end of August, the British censors re-reviewed held mail. Personal correspondence was destroyed; business correspondence was forwarded (Mark, 2000, pp. 169-170, 244).



Figure 2: Philadelphia, PA, to Wahren, Germany, July 21, 1919.

Figure 3 displays an example. It is a registered (business) letter from Baltimore, MD (March 15, 1916). The letter passed through the New York Foreign Mail office the next day (March 16, 1916). It was likely placed on the Scandinavian America Line *Hellig Olav* which sailed on March 17, 1916. That turned out to be unfortunate. This was the first Scandinavian America Line sailing to be censored (Klerman, 2026b).

Look carefully, there are two different “OPENED BY / CENSOR” labels. Looking at the front of the cover, the one to the right was applied first; likely in early April 1916 when the British initially censored mail on this sailing (see *New York Times*, April 4, 1916). Something about the contents caused the British to hold the cover.

In the summer of 1919, the British re-reviewed the contents. The censors released the cover; the post office applied the magenta boxed “RELEASED BY THE / BRITISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES” (as in: “late delivery is not because of the post office”) and forwarded the cover to Germany. The Wiesbaden backstamp implies that the cover arrived August 24, 1919.

Thus, the cover in Figure 1 is an appropriate conclusion to an exhibit about US mail to Germany during World War I. It was mailed on the last day of 1919. By then, the postal effects of the war were finally concluded. The 3¢ 1919 Victory stamp gives the cover a certain “poetic justice”; mail from the victorious United States to defeated Germany.

Akaki (2023) displays a wonderful solo franking of the 1919 Victory stamp and asks: “Could there be a more appropriate use of this stamp?” I think this cover comes close!



Figure 3: Baltimore, MD, to Tübingen, Germany, March 15, 1916.

Business Context

When I first saw the cover in Figure 1, I thought it was too good to be true. Mailed on the last day of the year—with the 1919 Victory—stamp, the cover must be philatelic. I no longer think so.

Look carefully at the sender and the addressee. The letter is from Carl (with a “C”) Hirsch in S. Louis to Karl (with a “K”) Hirsch in Wiesbaden. A coincidence? The internet does not think so.

The address for Wiesbaden is modified by “Aukamm” in quotes. Since the 1950s, this area has been the location of a large US military housing complex. In 1919, Dr. Hans Guradze was opening the Alfred-Erich-Heim orthopedic clinic there. This was the beginning of the development of this area as a medical center.

Now look again at the address “Karl Hirsch” is preceded by “Herrn Gartenarchitekt”; in English that would be a title; sometime like: “Mr. Garden Architect”, or more colloquially landscape designer. In Germany in this period, this was an official credential.

Julius Hirsch (1856-1912) had built a prominent and successful landscaping firm in the Aukamm district of Wiesbaden. In the early 1900s, his sons Heinrich Franz Karl Hirsch (1881-1956) and the more prominent Frederick Wilhelm Hirsch (1887-1957) entered the business, taking over on their father’s death in 1912, shortly before the start of the war. (Note 1)

It seems likely (but not certain) that the sender Carl (with a “C”) Hirsch at 904 Morrison Avenue in St. Louis (a multi-story brick building in the Soulard/LaSalle Park, working class neighborhood of German immigrants, near the local Anheuser-Busch Brewery complex) was a cousin or close relative of the addressee Karl—with a “K”—Hirsch in Wiesbaden (likely named after the same relative as the address Karl—with a K—Hirsch).

The later years of the war had been a period of true famine for German civilians (Vincent, 1985). As of 1918, Germany was defeated. Food shipments had only restarted in late March 1919. The full blockade would only be lifted with the signing of the peace treaty in June 1919. German civilians were suffering. Poverty was everywhere. Likely, this registered letter contained money to help family members financially.

Discussion

A simple registered cover with the 3¢ 1919 Victory Commemorative appears to have a rich backstory. Those with other insights are urged to contact the author at KlermanStamps@gmail.com

Note

1. Several web references (and some help from google ai to locate and google to translate) fill in the story. In German, see: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Hirsch_\(Gartenarchitekt\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Hirsch_(Gartenarchitekt)) and <https://gartentexte-digital.ub.tu-berlin.de/archiv/Gartenkunst/Jg.34/B01.pdf>. Also, see this one in Polish: <https://www.slubice24.pl/poznaj-slubice/slubice-wczoraj-i-dzis/5674-wilhelm-hirsch-projektant-zieleni-miedzy-folwarkiem-i-wieza-kleista>

References

Akaki, Bob (2023). “The WWI Victory Issue, Scott 537”, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 102: 5, pp.299-300.
Klerman, Jacob Alex (2018). “World War I Suspension of Mail to Germany”, *The United States Specialist*, No. 1056, pp.69-74.

Klerman, Jacob Alex (2025). "World War I Suspension of Mail to Germany: An Update", *The United States Specialist*, No. 1141, pp. 113-119.

Klerman Jacob Alex (2026). "Resumption of US Mail to Germany after WWI", unpublished manuscript.

Klerman Jacob Alex (2026). "Onset of Censoring of US Mail to Germany and Northern Neutrals", unpublished manuscript.

Klerman Jacob Alex (Forthcoming 2026). "Resumption of US Mail to Germany after WWI", *The United States Specialist*, No. 1157 [August] pp.367-374.

Mark, G. (2000). *British Censorship of Civil Mails during World War I, 1914-1919*, Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, UK.

Starkweather, A.W. (2011). "FDCs of the 1919 Victory Stamp", *First Days*, 56, p.8.

Straight, David L (2008). "The Modernization of Registered Mail", *The United States Specialist*, 80, 3, pp.105-109.

Swain, Steve (2019). "The WWI Victory Commemorative: Symbolic and Challenging [Scott 537]", *First Days*, 445, p.14

Vincent, C.P. (1985). *The politics of hunger: Allied blockade of Germany, 1915-1919*, Ohio University Press, Athens, OH.



Boston 2026: Selections from Club Members' Large Gold Medal Exhibits–Part 1.

Tony Bard

Not all Club members had the opportunity to attend Boston 2026, and I would surmise that many who did visit the show may not have viewed all of the eventual Grand Prix and Large Gold medal exhibits.

Space naturally prevents the inclusion of complete 8-frame exhibits in the pages of the *CCP*, and if our journal could be expanded infinitely, I personally would love to be able to feature selections from many more Club members' entries. However, as that is impossible, please enjoy the selections that follow. I am grateful to all those winners who provided scans for this "pet project" (it's something that I have introduced in a number of other journals that I edit). The sheets are published on a first come, first served basis, so I will be publishing those contributions which missed the print deadline in the next issue as Part 2.

The featured exhibits display a wide variety of topics and treatments. Many contain items that are unique, but this is not designed to be a "Boston Beauty Pageant" (my original working title for this column, which I soon dropped!). Instead, it is an effort to provide access to the work of our fellow Club members, and to appreciate elements of their exhibits such as presentation, research and how the subject matter is treated: factors which apply to all exhibition entries, regardless of the intrinsic value of the material involved or medals won.

The Medallion Issues of Belgium 1840-1866

Patrick Maselis RDP

The Medallion Issues of Belgium 1849-1866

Introduction

This exhibit of the "Medallion" Issue of Belgium has been developed over a period of more than 40 years and deals with all aspects of this long running classic issue. From the first essay endorsed in the hand of the creator, Robinson, "1st State" each chapter is displaying a careful selection of exceptional material in terms of quality and rarity.

Objective

The objective is not to show all existing papers and shades for each plate. This has been done repeatedly in the past. Over the 16 years period of usage, 26 plates (first plates of 200 and as of 1861 plates of 300) were used to produce the 4 values: 40c, 10c, 20c and 1c. The idea is to show for each value extraordinary items for each plate. This includes all important varieties and large units among which the largest blocks known of the 20c and 40c imperforated of the 40c both used and unused. Cancellations, markings and special usage are dealt with in separate sections. For the first time both the first date and the last day of use of the Medallion stamps are shown.

Treatment/Plan

- Frame 1 deals with all existing essays including the "Commission Period" when experiments were made with overprints on basic stamps for enhanced security - all of which are probably unique.
- Frame 2-6 are devoted to the study of the issued stamps starting with a presentation of the different issues.
- Frame 6 also presents all possible different usages of the Medallion stamps, two of which (sample and telegram cover) are the only known examples.
- Frame 7 deals with unusual and rare cancellations, postmarks and instruction markings.
- Frame 8 is devoted to foreign destination covers including a number of mixed frankings with stamps of other countries.

Criteria for selection of material

The collection shows for each plate important and rare items including gutter pairs, plate numbers, year imprints, marginal inscriptions, earliest date known, significant varieties, large units and unusual frankings. Some remarkable items are highlighted with a red frame. Amongst the absolute highlights are:

- The famous Burris cover with an exceptional franking of 17 40 centimes stamps of the first issue with framed watermark.
- A letter forwarded with the first Dutch issue added as payment for reposting, and
- The spectacular cover to Norway with a three-colour franking made up by privately perforated stamps.

The study of the perforation shows for the 10c stamps printed from plate I. These originals from a few old imperforate sheets returned to the central administration, which were perforated and redistributed to post offices.

Personal research & Literature

The selection of material from all major Medallion auctions over the past decades is in itself an expression of research. A lot of items shown in this collection have been the subject of numerous articles published in Le Philatéliste Belge. At the same time the exhibit built on other students of the issue and important publications such as the works of Jules Crustin, Luc Van Pamel and Yves Verboom. Many important pieces have been added and the collection has been completely restructured since it was published in Volume XLII of Edition d'Or in 2013 and since the special hand-out for a presentation at the Collectors Club was prepared in 2020.

Timeline for the use of the Medallion Issue



[Page enlarged for clarity]

The Medallion Issues 1849-1866



The Medallion Issues 1849-1866

3. 1858 Printing



Block of 16 including the 'Nal' variety, the most important one known to date.
Ex Fennel

The Medallion Issues 1849-1866

The Plates of 200 stamps
40c Single Plate

1849 Issue

Multiple



Ex Bureau

Zeppelins & the United States

Cheryl Ganz RDP

Zeppelins & the United States

Exhibit Plan	Frame
Precursor Great Britain: Royal Air Force	
R34	1
Experimental Era United States: Navy	
ZR1 Shenandoah	1
LZ-126 / ZR3 Los Angeles	1-3
ZRS4 Akron	3
ZRS5 Macon	4
Demonstration Flights Germany: Luftschiffbau Zeppelin	
LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin	4-6
Scheduled Service — End of Era Germany: Deutsche Zeppelin-Reederei	
LZ-129 Hindenburg	6-8
Key	
• Dates are flight dates from log books, which often do not match postmark dates.	
• # recorded = published	
• # known = census research to date	
• [] exhibitor's published research	

A study of mail flown by British, American, and German zeppelins to, from, and within the United States during the 1920s and 1930s, including trial and drop mail of LZ-126 before its delivery.

Official (post office authorized) and unofficial (privately carried by crew or passengers) flown mail trace the story of how zeppelins flew mail across the continent and oceans, providing military, political, and commercial services that shortened delivery times over long distances and captured the public's imagination. Zeppelins helped establish various air postal routes, with *Hindenburg* providing the first regularly scheduled, entirely by air, post service between Europe and North America. Although a number of disastrous crashes ended the role of zeppelins in the postal network, the zeppelin era served as a crucial segment in the development of air mail.

What Is a Zeppelin?

Zeppelins are rigid airships built by 1) Luftschiffbau Zeppelin GmbH of Germany, 2) Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation of USA, or 3) designed from captured military zeppelins in World War I.

Royal Air Force H.M.A. R34

Built by William Beardmore and Company of Inchinnan, Scotland, based on the design of zeppelin L33; flew March 1919–January 1921, until damaged in flight and mooring

Transatlantic Flight

First roundtrip flight over the Atlantic Ocean

Precursor

East and Westbound



East Fortune, Scotland,
—Mineola, N.Y., USA,
on transatlantic flight 6,
July 2-6, 1919

Mail dispatched from Air Ministry office by Charles Cole Jr. to his wife. After landing, handed over next morning at Hempstead; surface letter rate from Great Britain was 2½ d, but this sender paid the inland letter rate of 1½ d. 3 known.



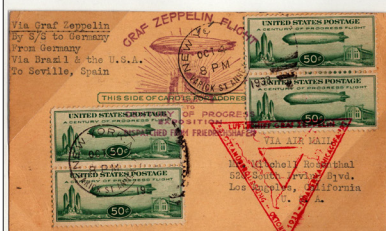
References

- Cheryl Ganz, *U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights* (Chicago, USA: 2021).
Dieter Leder, *LZ-129 Hindenburg: Zeppelin Crash Mail* (Germany, 2012).
Sieger Zeppelinpost Spezial-Katalog (Germany: Hermann E. Sieger, 2001).
Michel Zeppelin- und Flugpost-Spezial-Katalog (Germany: Schwabenberger Verlag, 2025/2026).
Dan Grossman, Cheryl Ganz, and Patrick Russell, *Zeppelin Hindenburg* (Great Britain: History Press, 2019).

Mineola, NY—Pulham, Great Britain, on Atlantic flight 7, July 9-13, 1919

Mail dispatched from NYC to Hempstead, NY; transported from Pulham by special military messenger to London, where R34 postmark applied; surface letter rate to Great Britain was 2d; two mail bags contained letters and newspapers.

LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin Chicago Flight



Friedrichshafen—Seville, Chicago flights 347-354, October 14-31, 1933
Sent to Germany by ship in order to connect with the zeppelin;
\$2 zeppelin postcard rate; 294 letters but only 4 postcards recorded.



Miami—Seville, Chicago flights 351 and 354, October 24-25 and 28-31, 1933
Flown Miami to Akron, where the letter was removed and reloaded three days later for Europe. 50¢ Miami to Akron + 50¢ Akron to Seville = \$1 unpublished rate. Few known.



Miami—Friedrichshafen, Chicago flights 351-352 and 354-355, October 24-November 2, 1933

50¢ paid but no postcard rate to Europe published; no postcards
Miami-Europe recorded by Post Office Department. 2 known.

Postcard Rates

The rate for postcards was the same as for letters. However, because these were different types of mail, the post office separated and counted postcards. Postcards were only 2 ½ % of the USA mail.

Miami \$1 Rate

The United States Post Office Department did not announce a rate from Miami to Europe. As a result, when mail arrived in Miami with \$1 postage destined for Seville or Friedrichshafen, clerks had to innovate. Letters were removed in either Akron or Chicago and then reloaded in Akron for the final legs. Some letters did not fly the final legs to Europe by zeppelin.

Miami \$1 and Postcard Rates



Akron—Seville, Chicago flight 354, October 28-31, 1933

Sent from second landing in Akron; 50¢ zeppelin postcard rate; 1,127 letters but only 91 postcards recorded.



Miami—Friedrichshafen, Chicago flights 351-352 and 354-355, October 24-November 2, 1933
Flown to Chicago, where the letter was removed and sent by train to Akron. In Akron it was loaded aboard for the final two legs of the flight; 50¢ Miami to Chicago + 50¢ Akron to Friedrichshafen = \$1 unpublished rate. Few known.

La Débâcle: Postal History of the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War

Steve Walske

La Débâcle: Postal History of the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War

Background: This exhibit traces the evolving conflict through letters mailed at French and German fieldposts, military-related mail, and siege mail. On July 19, 1870, France's Second Empire declared war on King Wilhelm's Prussia. By August 7, German armies had pushed the French into disorderly retreat toward Metz and Paris. By late September, four French army corps had surrendered along with Emperor Napoleon III at Sedan, five were encircled in Metz (which fell on October 27), and the remaining two were besieged in Paris. After the Sedan debacle, the Third Republic replaced the Second Empire, but no French armies remained in the field to protect it from the advancing Germans. In the face of this crisis, the new republic, based in Tours, successfully constituted new armies for national defense.

Accordingly, the war can be divided into two parts. The initial imperial phase consisted of two campaigns: the **Campaign in Alsace-Lorraine** and the **Campaign in the Ardennes**. During the second phase of the war, new French republican armies fought the Germans in four campaigns: the **Campaign for Paris**, the **Campaign on the Loire**, the **Campaign in the North**, and the **Campaign in the East**. Hostilities ended shortly after the January 28, 1871 capitulation of Paris. Both phases of the war incorporated sieges of fortified cities such as Metz and Belfort.

Postal Background: The French and German military mail-handling facilities (fieldposts) were centralized at the divisional level. However, the French imperial fieldpost organization gave way to local organizations for the four campaigns of the second phase. It was not until the January 28 to March 7, 1871 armistice period that an attempt was made to again integrate the French fieldpost service across all sectors. By contrast, the German service remained intact, even as their armies spread out in the final phase of the war. Both sides extended free-frank privileges to military personnel, so the vast majority of fieldpost mail is stampless and franked mail is rare.



February 16, 1871 German "Garde Landwehr Division" postmark used at besieged Paris.

Scope, Study and Presentation: Mail from every major French and German military unit is included, and every stage of the war is represented. Particularly notable are strong sections of balloon mail and line-crosser mail from the various sieges. Considerable original research is reflected in locations and divisional affiliations of the fieldpost bureaus. Notable items are highlighted in bold type.

Campaign in Alsace-Lorraine

Siege of Metz Balloon Service: September 5-15



Some recovered letters, or "papillons," were forwarded inside of another envelope, or "enveloppe de réexpédition." Fewer than 15 from the pharmacists' service are known.



Dated September 8 in Metz - 6th Pharmacists' balloon left September 11 with 50 letters Postmarked September 14 in occupied Forbach - then defaced to conceal French origin



Placed in above envelope and posted unpaid on September 15 in nearby Saarbrücken, Prussia Routed via Prussia to Paris on September 18 per blue entry mark - caught in the Paris siege Carried out of siege by postmen Brare and Gême on September 21 - arrived September 23

Escaped from two different sieges

French Naval Campaigns

Naval Concession Rate: July 24 - March 7



The July 24 military free frank applied to personnel actively engaged in the war. On September 24, this was extended to all naval personnel at foreign stations, except that Paris balloon mail still required a 20 centimes franking.



Posted January 12 in besieged Paris - left January 13 on the balloon "Général Faidherbe" 20c military rate to armored corvette "Belliqueuse" at New Caledonia - arrived March 26 Postmarked January 14 at Ste. Foy landing spot - routed to Marseille on January 16 Ligne V and P&O steamships from Marseille via Egypt to Australia and then Nouméa Addressee had returned to France - letter forwarded by naval ship to Toulon on June 10 Addressee had joined the aviso "Bruat" at Saigon - letter left Marseille again on June 17 Forwarded via Egypt and Hong Kong (July 15 Ligne N postmark) to Saigon on July 19



French armored frigate

Campaign to Suppress the Paris Commune

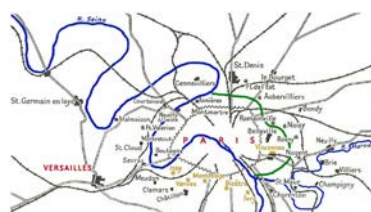
Historical Summary: April 6 - June 10



- Paris Commune was proclaimed on March 28, 1871
- Postal blockade of the Commune began on March 31
- Federal Armée de Versailles was formed on April 6-23
- Armée de Versailles re-captured Paris from May 21 to 28
- Normal postal relations with Paris resumed on June 7
- Armée de Versailles returned to Versailles on June 10



Posted May 3 in Clerval - addressed to a soldier in the Armée de Versailles at Meudon 20c prepaid in cash to postman - confirmed by a ¼ 80c stamp over manuscript "P.P." Fewer than five quartered 80c Bordeaux Issue covers are known



Map of the German occupation line (green) and Commune forts (gold)

Transition of American Mail from British Colonial to USPO; 1685 to 1799

Vernon Morris

Transition of American Mail from British Colonial to USPO; 1685 to 1799

Purpose: By the end of the 18th century communication needs of 5 million Americans required an organized and efficient postal system. This 8 frame postal history exhibit reviews 115 years of postal development.

Historical Background: England's first official post office began July 1, 1635. Settlements in the present day United States of America were slow to appear, and written communications was usually with Europe rather than other North American colonies. In December of 1672 New York began a very short lived domestic post for several months confirmed by 2 archival examples. In 1685 the population reached 180,000 and New York restarted domestic postal service, with 3 likely inter-colony examples available to collectors. During the reign of Queen Anne, by Act of Parliament, in 1711 Great Britain established a "General Post Office for all Her Majesties Dominions" for the entire British empire with direct control of all postal activities including the power to open letters. Due to the uncertainty of delivery on high seas and/or through Indian land, prepayment was not expected. On July 26, 1775 the Continental Congress established an American post. Severe inflation occurred during the Revolutionary War and Confederation Period. Not until the First Postal Act of 1792 to March 2, 1799 was payment required in US dollars.

Organization: Chronologic appearance of 5 major rate periods, each a decade or more. Rates were based upon distance and weight. Given 7 minor short live rate periods during the Revolutionary War, the total number of rate periods is 11.

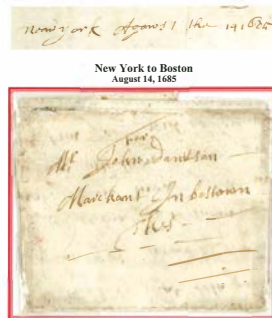
1. Forerunners 1683. Frame 1
2. Act of Queen Anne 1711. Frame 2
3. Act of King George III 1765. Frame 3
4. Transition 1775. Frame 4
5. Continental Congress Post 1776. Frame 5 & 6
6. Confederation Congress Post 1782. Frame 7
7. United States General Post Office 1792. Frame 8

Treatment: All periods begin with a shaded box in left upper corner with adjacent rates. Postal milestones announced at top of page by red text box. Above each cover is the origin, destination, date, and significance. Important covers in red frame with red header. Many idealized postmarks nearby. Rate and route description below or aside. Rarity does not include unobtainable archival material. Historical context usually at bottom and lightly shaded. All pages read left to right.

Importance: Very special examples include two 1685 domestic inter-colony examples; second earliest domestic postal rate in the Western Hemisphere; earliest and latest recorded Queen Anne covers; earliest recorded postmark of New Jersey, Maine, Florida, Washington DC, and present day West Virginia; earliest Committee of Correspondence cover; the only cover to an American post office in present day Canada; earliest Congressional Congress rated cover, and earliest mourning cover in the Western Hemisphere.

Philadelphia became the most populous 18th century English speaking city in the Western Hemisphere, home of Ben Franklin's workshop, home of the Continental Congress, signing of the Declaration of Independence, signing of the United States Constitution, and the nation's capital during the final decade of the century.

Second Earliest Recorded Inter-Colony North America



New York, NY to Boston, MA is 190 miles.

For
Mr John Danilson
Merchant in Boston

The need for written communication to other colonies was recognized in 1672 by NY Governor Lovelace, 1683 by Pennsylvania Governor Penn, and 1684 by NY Governor Dongan.

On March 2, 1685 Dongan proposed a post along the east coast charging 3d per 100 miles. Above is very possible to have traveled there on. Earliest available of three known available to collectors during this index year was May 9, 1685.

United States Post Office 1792 to 1799 Effective June 1, 1792 Ended March 2, 1799

Distance in Miles	Single	Double	Triple
Up to 30	6 cents	12 cents	18 cents
31 to 60	8 cents	16 cents	24 cents
61 to 100	10 cents	20 cents	30 cents
101 to 150	12 to 15 cents	25 cents	37 to 45 cents
151 to 200	15 cents	30 cents	45 cents
201 to 250	17 cents	34 cents	51 cents
251 to 350	20 cents	40 cents	60 cents
351 to 450	22 cents	44 cents	66 cents
Over 450	25 cents	50 cents	75 cents

Alexander Hamilton First Secretary of Treasury
Philadelphia to Bath, ME
December 1, 1794



Alexander Hamilton the First Secretary of the Treasury from September 11, 1789 until January 31, 1795, with assistant and successor Oliver Wolcott signature on cover's upper left. Hamilton was instrumental in the formation of a National Bank in 1791 and US Mint in 1792 with decimal gold and silver coinage.

An orphan from the Caribbean island of Nevis, Hamilton rose to become an aide to George Washington at the Battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Monmouth, and climactic Yorktown. In a two party political system Hamilton supported Jefferson over Burr. Hamilton died on July 12, 1804 from a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr.



Dual 1804 Hamilton & Burr

FREE

George Washington First President United States
New York to Philadelphia



George Washington has been called "Father of his Country." His political career began as Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses 1758 to 1775. Commander in Chief of the Continental Army June 19, 1775 to December 23, 1783. First President of the United States April 30, 1789 to March 4, 1797. The Franking privilege was not extended to the executive branch of new government until February 20, 1792. George Washington died on December 14, 1799.

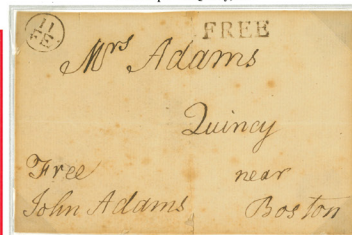
Aaron Burr US Senator
New York to Philadelphia
March 7, 1797



Aaron Burr was US Senator New York 1791 to 1797, and third Vice President of the United States under Thomas Jefferson 1801 to 1805. His political career ended after a duel with Hamilton. He lived in exile from 1808 to 1812 in England.

FREE FRANKS

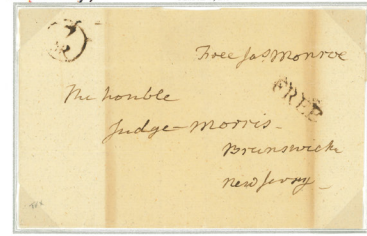
John Adams Second United States President
Philadelphia to Quincy, MA



John Adams was the First US Vice President until March 4, 1797, and Second US President. As delegate to the Continental Congress in 1776 assisted Jefferson drafting the Declaration of Independence. Special Envoy to France 1777 to 1779, died on July 4, 2026 - the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, hours after Jefferson's death.

FREE

James Monroe US Senator
Philadelphia to Brunswick, NJ
March 7, 1794



James Monroe was US Senator from Virginia November 9, 1790 to May 27, 1794 until sent by President Washington to serve as Ambassador to France. Monroe served in the Continental Army at Valley Forge where he formed a close relationship with Lafayette and John Marshall. Monroe was the last founding father to serve as US President from 1817 to 1825 during which time he signed the Monroe Doctrine, a foreign policy landmark, and the Missouri Compromise. Monroe had been Secretary of State 1811 to 1817 and Secretary of War 1814 to 1815; Governor of Virginia in 1811, and Ambassador to Great Britain 1803 to 1807. Like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson he died on July 4th (1831).

Serbia 1880 – 1915: The Three Kings

Vladimir Milic

SERBIA 1880–1915: THE THREE KINGS

SCOPE. The aim of this traditional exhibit is to present the development of Serbian definitive stamps — excluding commemorative issues — from the first dinar-para decimal issue of November 1st 1880 through the reigns of three kings, ending with their withdrawal following the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Serbia during the Great War in late 1915.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. The Obrenovich dynasty ruled Serbia for most of the 19th century. Serbia achieved international recognition at the Congress of Berlin in 1878 and Prince Milan Obrenovich proclaimed the Kingdom of Serbia on February 22nd 1882. The following three decades the country underwent significant social and administrative changes also affecting the postal service. Dinar-denominated stamps were issued as a result of monetary reform based on the decimal system, as provided for by amendments to the Postal Act of December 19th 1879 [3]. Serbian stamp issues up to the Great War featured the portraits of three rulers from two dynasties: King Milan Obrenovich IV, King Alexander Obrenovich V, and King Peter I Karageorgevich.

TREATMENT & EXHIBIT PLAN. The exhibit is organized chronologically into three sections, each corresponding to the period when one of the three Serbian kings occupied the throne: Milan IV, Alexander V, and Peter I. Within each section, the material is presented by issue and includes essays and proofs, different printings, paper, colour and perforation varieties, errors, and both normal and rare postal usage.

King Milan Obrenovich 1880-1890		King Alexander Obrenovich 1890-1903		King Peter Karageorgevich 1903-1915			
Frame 1	Frame 2	Frame 3	Frame 4	Frame 5	Frame 6	Frame 7	Frame 8
I.1. 1880/84 issue "King Milan in General's Uniform"	I.1. 1880/84 issue "Colonel's uniform"	I.2. 1894/1900 issue	I.3. 1900 issue 10 PARA Overprint I.4. 1901 issue 15 PARA Overprint I.5. 1901 issue	I.7. 1903 Proofs Unpublished I.8. 1903 Provisional issue	I.2. 1905 issue The "King Peter Karageorgevich"	I.3. 1915/16 issue "King Peter with Cap"	

IMPORTANCE. This exhibit features an exceptional concentration of rare material, much of which is being shown publicly for the first time at a stamp exhibition. These items are clearly highlighted on the exhibit sheets, with several listed as **REMARKABLE ITEMS** right. Many of these items are recorded in only a few examples and are absent even from the most prominent collections of classic Serbia.

Serbian philately has been extensively researched and supported by several definitive published works (see literature references). Despite this, the present exhibit introduces multiple new research findings. The material has been critically analyzed and placed in a new analytical context, establishing new documented conclusions and published research results.

KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH. The literature listed below provides a general framework, but the exhibitor's research has resulted in several completely new findings or has led to changes in the existing knowledge.

All new research results are highlighted with: 

I have published my research:

- "Kingdom of Serbia 1903: The First Bicolour Issue - Essays and Proofs", The London Philatelist, Volume 135, No. 1532, pp 18-23, RPSL, London, January-February 2026
- "Principality of Serbia: The 1880 Paris Essays for the First Dinar Issue", Collectors Club Philatelist, Volume 105, No. 2, pp 107-111, CCNY, New York, March-April 2026

REMARKABLE ITEMS.

- 1 Essays for issue 1880 Sheet 1
- 1 First Day Cover of Issue 1880 Sheet 4
- 1 The largest recorded 1 DIN multiple, 1890 Sheet 18
- 1 Bisected 20 PARA of 1894/1900 issue Sheet 29
- 1 10 PARA - The new discovered type Sheet 33
- 1 The largest recorded multiple 15 PARA Sheet 35
- 1 1 PARA essay in lil Sheet 37
- 1 One-color proofs of 1903 issue Sheet 41
- 1 2x PARA die in blue Sheet 48
- 1 20 PARA essay for 1911 issue Sheet 57
- 1 DIN error - black violet instead lake Sheet 59

HIGHLIGHTING.

-  Double frame in red - description in red
Highlights remarkable items.
-  Single frame in red
Highlights important items.

LITERATURE REFERENCES.

- [1] E. Demuth, The History of Serbia Stamps
- [2] M. Rasic, The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Serbia
- [3] Dr. V. M. Kadosch - The Principality of Serbia 1830-1882

Vladimir Milic, SERBIA

King Milan Obrenovich 1880-1890 King Alexander Obrenovich 1890-1903 King Peter Karageorgevich 1903-1915 Paris Essays 

I.1. 1880 Issue "King Milan in General's Uniform"

The 1880 issue (Milan in general's uniform) represents the last regular stamp issue of the Principality of Serbia and is associated with Prince Milan Obrenovich (reigned 1869–1890; King from 1882).

It was introduced as part of the monetary reform and modernization of Serbia, following the adoption of the dinar-para decimal currency system.

It is often regarded as both the last issue of the Principality and the first issue of the Kingdom, remaining in use until 1890 (abandonment of King Milan).

Paris essays (C. Dumont, Paris)

Before the final engraving, Dumont prepared four different designs. Not adopted for final production.

Extremely rare – only 5 recorded examples:

- Black essays without denomination (2 recorded)
- Red essays with face value "20" (2 recorded)
- Blue essay with face value "20" (1 recorded, unique)

The portrait of Prince Milan in general's uniform is shown in an oval, with face value in a plain field instead of hatched lines

Black 2 items recorded.



Blue 1 item recorded.



Red 2 items recorded.



1 The first systematic classification of these Paris essays I have published in:

"Principality of Serbia: The 1880 Paris Essays for the First Dinar Issue", Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 105, No. 2, pp. 107–111, CCNY, New York, March–April 2026.

I.1. 1890/94 Issue "King Alexander in Colonel's uniform"

5 PARA - green



Printed at the State Printing Works in Belgrade in sheets of 100 (4 blocks of 25).
Typographed on white paper; perforation 13 : 13%; mostly of medium thickness (0.085-0.090 mm).

Issue was valid from the 3rd of March 1890 until the 5th of November 1894.

Complete set of all denominations in gutter cross block.

Only two complete gutter cross block sets are recorded.

1 DINAR

Part of the sheet consists of four blocks of 15 (3x5) stamps divided by narrow vertical and wide horizontal gutter. Outside seal margin were removed by printers. The first printing - color pale violet, yellow gum.

Largest recorded multiple of the 1 DINAR.

Ex Bustamante collection.



The set all values in gutter cross block.
The largest 1 DINAR multiple

20 PARA - yellow



25 PARA - blue



50 PARA - brown



10 PARA - red



15 PARA - violet



Postal History of Kingdom of Poland 1858 - 1865

Bogdan Pelc

Postal History of Kingdom of Poland 1858 - 1865

The period of the postal history of the Kingdom of Poland presented in this exhibit illustrates the development of postal services in all facets of the Kingdom of Poland (KP), including all recorded and available tariffs, post offices, and railway postal services.

From 1858 to 1865, letters sent abroad had to be prepaid in cash, as neither Russian stamps nor Poland No. 1 were permitted for international mail from KP. These stamps were valid only for correspondence sent within the Kingdom of Poland, to Imperial Russia, and to the Grand Duchy of Finland. Examples of such correspondence are shown in the exhibit, many of them recorded in only a single known example (highlighted with red frames).

This time was historically very important for Poland, as the Kingdom of Poland established 1815 was a state with some autonomies but still under big Russian influence. After the fall of the unsuccessful November Uprising in 1831 Kingdom of Poland began in 1850s to regain autonomy, including in postal administration. This culminated in the introduction of the first Polish stamp (referred to as 'Poland No. 1') with national features such as Polish vocabulary and Polish letters. The eagle being in the centre (on the so-called medallion) on 'Poland No. 1' was to have a Polish eagle imprinted on the shield on the chest, however, this did not happen technologically in the production of the stamp. In 1863, after the unsuccessful January Uprising, autonomy is curtailed, resulting in the reintroduction of Russian stamps and stationeries by the postal service. However, postal requisites (such as cancellations and other postmarks) remained unchanged.

Plan of the exhibit

- Usage of Russian stamps and stationeries from 1st January 1858⁽¹⁾ to 31st March 1860⁽²⁾
 - Pen cross and town postmark cancellations from January to April 1858 r.
 - Incoming Post.
 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd weight tariffs and postal fraud.
 - Town Postmarks Used as Cancellations—Rare and Previously Unrecorded Examples
 - Usage of the Russian stationeries
- First Polish stamp from 1st January 1860⁽³⁾ to 31st March 1865⁽⁴⁾
 - Usage by postal districts.
 - Railway stations and ambulances cancellations.
- Letters paid in cash.
- Polish stationeries in the Kingdom of Poland from 1 January 1860⁽⁵⁾ to 31 March 1865⁽⁶⁾
 - Polish stationery for 10 kopecks.
 - Warsaw city post.
- Letters to the Grand Duchy of Finland.
- Re-introduction of Russian stamps and stationeries from 1 February 1865⁽⁷⁾.

The exhibit is arranged according to the timeline, kind of postal services provided and for the interval of validity of the first Polish stamp based on 28 postal districts which were on 27 March 1858 assigned by 269 numbers. Later, additional numbers from 270 to 345 were assigned to newly established post offices. New postal districts were created in Kibarty (No. 282) on 1 July 1862 and in Łódź (No. 182) on 1 December 1862.



Postal History of Kingdom of Poland 1858-1865



There existed 345 post offices in Kingdom of Poland during the period showed, making it impossible to show them all in this exhibit. Particularly interesting and rare items typical of this period of postal history, are presented. From some post offices, no letters or even cancellations are known to date, and from some they are known only on stamps.

The different calendars used in the Russian Empire and in the Kingdom of Poland (and the rest of Europe) lead to the need to mark the date with (G) or (J).

Poland No.1 was only allowed in Kingdom of Poland, KP to Imperial Russia and KP to Great Duchy of Finland. Foreign letters had to be paid in cash. The rates 1858-1865 were always the same:

1 lot (about 12.5 grams)	10 Kopek
every additional lot	10 Kopek

Recorded used multiples of Poland No.1

pair	showed in this exhibit
stripe of three	showed in this exhibit
block of four (miq)	showed in this exhibit
stripe of 5	showed in this exhibit
stripe of 5+1	in Museum Wrocław (Poland)

Map of the 28 postal districts with the main post offices and postal routes marked according to Bojanowicz's monograph [1].



Because many of the items presented are unique (only one is recorded in the literature or to my knowledge), this will be indicated with a "U" for exceptional items. The mark "C" is used for items with certificates or guarantees.

Literature (extract):

- [1] M.A. Bojanowicz, „Królestwo Polskie. Polska Nr 1 Na Tle historii Poczty.”, 1993, Wrocław
- [2] W. Polański, „Znaki i Marki Pocztowe w Polsce w XVIII i XIX Wiek (1780-1870), 1922, Kraków
- [3] K. Hellman, J.C. Stone, „Agathon Faberge Portrait of a Philatelist”, 2017, Finland
- [4] H.v. Hoffmann, „Zakaznoye - Rekomandir. Die eingeschriebenen Postsendungen im Kaiserreich Russland vom Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zum Ende des ersten Weltkriegs 1918”, 1993, Hamburg
- [5] H. Kupce, „Kaiserreich Russland - Postgeschichte” Tom I-IV, 2006-1009, Sinzing

- Usage of Russian stamps and stationeries from 1st January 1858⁽¹⁾ to 31st March 1860⁽²⁾
 - Pen cross and town postmark cancellations from January to April 1858 r.

Shortly after the first Russian stamp was introduced in Russia and the Kingdom of Poland 10, 20 and 30 kopecks of the second issue were introduced. Recent research suggests that the stamp for 10 kopecks of the first and second issue was originally the same stamp. However, perforating machines imported from Austria were unable to perforate in time and so a cut stamp was introduced on 1st January 1858, followed shortly afterwards (or simultaneously) by a perforated stamp.

Second weight letter franked with Russia No.1 and Russia No.2



Letter from Warsaw to Vilnius, dated 4 March 1858, tariff of 20 kopecks for 2 lots. The letter was franked with 10 kopecks from the first and second issues. This is the only known mixed franking of stamps of these editions in the territory of the Kingdom of Poland and as an item of great importance for Polish and Russian philately.

This letter was exhibited at the Philatelic Salon in Monaco as world rarity.

Ex Buschbayew.

- First Polish stamp from 1st January 1860⁽³⁾ to 31st March 1865⁽⁴⁾
 - Usage by postal districts - Beginning



Letter from Gombin to Warsaw dated 4 January 1860⁽³⁾. Earliest known usage of the first Polish stamp - Poland No. 1. The town postmark "GOMBIN" in a frame in black and the handwritten date "4/1".

The only recorded letter with the earliest known date of use.

1860
S.J. Poznański
Gombin den 4 Januar [...]

WARSAWA town postmark used until January/February 1860 with the date of arrival of the letter 5 January. The stamp was cancelled with "234" - Gombin.

Provenance: ex Mekhtrens, ex Rachmanow, ex Bojanowicz

Anglo-Danish Mail c.1800-1875

Chris King RDP Hon FRPSL

Anglo-Danish Mail c.1800-1875

This exhibit charts the changing postal rates and routes between Denmark and the United Kingdom, and vice versa through the nineteenth century until both countries became founding members of the General Postal Union which came into force on 1 July 1875. The final page shows a first day of use for the 2½d stamp issued by Great Britain for the new GPU rate.

The exhibit begins with the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte to First Consul of France and its postal consequences for the disrupted British and Continental mails during the Napoleonic Wars and charts the reduction and simplification of postal rates during the period.

There was no postal agreement between Denmark and the United Kingdom before 1846, and while both charged postage based broadly on weight and distance, the British largely controlled the packet boats and other ships that exchanged mail at either Hamburg or Altona - although many other ports were used depending on conflict or weather. Most routes are shown in the exhibit, together with material showing the inland rates payable, and those charged for the packet service.

Ship letters offered a parallel service to the packet boats, by 1832 the service from Harwich to Hamburg had given way to ships departing from the River Thames, and the long sea crossing gave way to the shorter Channel crossing with virtually all mail carried by rail via Belgium and The Netherlands to Hamburg for onward transmission to Denmark from the end of 1853.

Distances and weight were calculated using different standards, with the Danish mile being 7.532 km and the Danish Lod weighing 15.6 grammes, while the British Ounce was 28.35 grammes - making the postal weight steps different in the two countries. Initially each country treated registered mail differently, postal agreements saw prix courants bearing mixed frankings between Danish and British stamps, and when stamps were permitted, at times neither country issued stamps which could exactly prepay the published rates.

With the Treaty of 1846 all through postal rates were agreed, meaning that mail for the first time could be paid to destination, and the following 30 years saw rates fall from the prohibitive levels at the beginning of the century to 2½d or 20 øre in 1875.

The exhibit shows chronologically the key developments in mail between the two countries, with all basic postal rates and routes illustrated. Where possible different routing and payment handstamps are shown.

1	The North Sea Packets during the Napoleonic Wars	1797-1806	8	Danish West Coast Ports	1851
2	North Sea Packets	1807-1814	9	Price Circulars	1851-1874
3	The British Fleet	1807	10	Privately Carried Ship Letters	1855-1865
4	North Sea Packets Resume	1811-1814	11	Reducing Rates: 11½d, 10½d, and 9d; 39, 34 and 30 Skilling rates	1854-1864
5	Thames Ship Letters and Packets	1828-1845	12	Reducing Rates: 9d, 8d, and 4d; 32, 30, 24 and 14 Skilling rates	1864-1866
6	Hull Ship Letters	1841-1845	13	Reducing Rates: 4d, 3d, and 2½d; and 14, 10 Skilling and 20 øre rates	1866-1875
7	The 1846 Postal Convention	1846-1853			

Much of this material is difficult to acquire and rarity statements are included in the descriptive text or indicated in the right hand header thus .

Bibliography: British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840-1875. Jane & Michael Moubray. Briefverkehr vom Vereinigten Königreich nach Skandinavien vor Juli 1875. Brauer & Kirschneck. An Introduction to the Postal History of Denmark 1625-1950. David Cornelius. Danske Frimærkefrankerede Forsendelser til og fra Udlændte 1851-1905. Karsten Jensen. British Long Distance Mail Packets 1793-1815, and Vol. 2, The Harwich Packets 1816-1834. Colin Tabear.

6. Hull Ship Letters

All-in Ship Letter from any post office in the United Kingdom
Outgoing Ship Letter 8d: 10 January 1840 - 30 September 1846

 **Liverpool - Copenhagen**
Earliest letter with stamps to Denmark.



22 July 1841, Part folded letter (contents removed) sent from Liverpool to Copenhagen via Hull and Hamburg, bearing four single 1840 plate II Twopence blue stamps paying the all-in 8d ship letter rate valid from 10th January 1840. Mail from Great Britain to Denmark at this time was prepaid to Hamburg with the recipient paying the Danish postage from Hamburg to the destination.

Cancelled with Maltese Cross and date stamped LIVERPOOL, JULY 22 1841 K, and HULL SHIP LETTER for Hull - Hamburg transit.

Manuscript marks 4 Schilling Courant for Elbe postage converted to 13 Danish Skilling and 2½d (Elbe postage in Skilling / Postage from Hamburg to Copenhagen at 29 Skilling per ¼ Loth from 1818-1851). 42 Skilling was paid by the recipient. The 4 is the Danish postal list number.

This is one of the two earliest known letters sent to Denmark with stamps. (E) RPSL.

9. Price Circulars

Price Circulars under later arrangements

 **Carried Privately London - Copenhagen**
Franked 2 RBS Farslew
 **One Penny Red and 4 RBS combination**
Newcastle on Tyne - Hadsund



 22 July 1851, Price Circular sent from London to Copenhagen. Carried privately to Copenhagen and handed in for delivery by the Foot Post noted 35, being the waybill number. Danish postage prepaid with 2 RBS Farslew plate II No. 5, type 1, cancelled with three ring mute canceller and with Foot Post handstamp type 6, recorded 1849-1867 in blue green. One of two recorded. (E)



 24 June 1852, Price Circular sent to Hadsund in Jutland from Newcastle on Tyne via the Danish Post Office in Hamburg with K.D.O.P.A. HAMBURG 24 6 (1852). Paid with Penny red-brown and Thiele first printing 4 RBS postage stamp. Both stamps cancelled with three ring mute canceller in Denmark. The 1d postmarked by barred numeral 545 for Newcastle on Tyne. One of two items recorded with this franking. (E)

Circular 1850/4 amended by Circular 1857/7 of 18.5.1852 permitted this arrangement in Denmark. From June 1851 Danish stamps could be added to price circulars in Great Britain for postage within Denmark. Official notification was issued on 18 May 1852 and the routing agreement via Altona continued until 3 December 1853 when the Altona packets were withdrawn, and new procedures were required for circulars sent via Ostend by rail.

13. Reducing Rates: 1866-1875

2 ½ d UPU rate 01.07.1875 - 30.09.1907

First day of General Postal Union
First Day of Issue 2½d Rosy Mauve



1 July 1875, Surface-Printed 2½d rosy mauve, plate 1, lettered AL, blue paper, Anchor wmk., perf. 14, tied by barred duplex 96 LONDON JY 1 75 sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, with commercial cachet F & PH GOLDSCHMIDT and arrival datestamp on reverse KØBENHAVN 3 7.

First day of issue and of first day of the GPU. Cert. Holcombe (1981).

Adolph Trier & Goldschmidt was founded on 1 January 1857 - one of the first Danish trading houses to operate independently of the Hamburg markets.

Text of the Treaty Concerning the Formation of a General Postal Union, Concluded Between Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, The United States of America, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, The Netherlands, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the countries above enumerated, have by common consent, and subject to ratification, agreed upon the following Convention:

ARTICLE 1: The countries between which the present treaty is concluded shall form, under the title of General Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence between their post-offices.

ARTICLE 2: The stipulations of this treaty shall extend to letters, post-cards, books, newspapers, and other printed papers, patterns of merchandise, and legal and commercial documents originating in one of the countries of the Union and intended for another of those countries.

ARTICLE 3: The general Union rate of postage is fixed at 25 centimes for a single prepaid letter.

ARTICLE 19: The present treaty shall come into force on the 1st of July, 1875.

BERNE, October 9, 1874

The Offset Lithographed Washington-Franklin Heads

Andrew Kelley

The Offset Lithographed Washington-Franklin Heads

THIS EXHIBIT studies the origin, production, varieties, and uses of the United States Washington-Franklin heads printed by offset lithography, produced between 1918 and 1922. It includes the lithographed test stamps and a brief sampling of the lithographed revenue stamps that preceded the offset issues. It also includes the private perforations and postal forgeries of the offsets.

Context

These are war issues. Before these "offsets," the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used lithography only for revenue stamps and non-stamp documents, such as checks and bond tints. Due to World War I, however, high-quality German ink components were unavailable. On three occasions, poor-quality replacement inks damaged the Bureau's intaglio plates, forcing it to resort to lithography to meet demand prompted by the War and the war tax imposed by the 1917 War Revenue Act.

• **Three-cent stamp shortage, March 1918.** After the war tax increased the letter rate to three cents, the Post Office Department consumed 25 million three-cent stamps per day. But gritty ink wore out engraved plates faster than the Bureau could replace them; it could produce less than half the demand by intaglio.

• **One-cent stamp shortage, late September 1918.** One-cent stamps were in demand to update items for the war tax. But gritty ink again rapidly destroyed intaglio plates and the Bureau could not meet demand.

• **Two-cent stamp shortage, March 1920.** When the war tax expired and the first class rate returned to two cents, the Bureau thought it had stockpiled sufficient intaglio plates to meet demand. But poor-quality ink damaged many of them, forcing the Bureau to use lithography for a third time.

Importance

• The offsets are the United States' first departure from intaglio-printed postage stamps and are the only Bureau-issued postage stamps printed entirely by lithography.

• The offsets were the United States' workhorse stamps for five years, including during much of WW I. They were printed in huge quantities: 1.5 billion one-cent, 9.3 billion two-cent, and 5.1 billion three-cent stamps.

• The adoption of lithography was a pivotal step in the progression toward modern production techniques.

Development and Organization

The exhibit is organized chronologically by issue (see timeline below). Within each issue, the exhibit considers plate making, printing, and perforation varieties, then rates and uses.

Especially important items are matted in blue. Contextual information is shaded blue. Postal rates are set in italics. Certificate numbers are noted for expertized material. Counts of certified items refer to certificates from the American Philatelic Society (APS), the Philatelic Foundation (PF), and Professional Stamp Experts (PSE). Original research and discoveries are indicated with a magnifier icon.

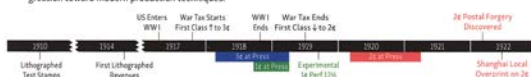
Exhibit Plan

1. Antecedents
 - Offset lithographed test stamps
 - Sample of offset lithographed revenue stamps
2. The Three Cent Issues
 - Regular issues
 - Experimental 12½ gauge perforation
3. The One Cent Issues
 - The End of the Offset Era
 - Shanghai local overprint
 - Toledo and Brooklyn postal forgeries

References

Lybarger, Donald F. *The United States Issues of 1918–20*. American Philatelic Society, 1933.

Exhibitor's articles in *The United States Philatelist*: "The Earliest Documented Use of Scott 535 Was Certified in Error," 96, no. 2 (Feb. 2023): 90–92; "A New Type of the Retouched on Cheek Variety on Scott 528B," 95, no. 4 (Apr. 2024): 160–66; "Authenticating Scott 530C—Triple Impression on the Three Cent Offset," 94, no. 5 (May 2023): 218–25; "Accounted For: Markings on the Washington-Franklin Heads," 94, no. 6 (June 2023): 277–85; "New Hand-Altered Plate Number Varieties—On Scott 525, 526, 528, 528B, 529 and 530 and a New Census of Hand-Alterations," 93, no. 12 (Dec. 2022): 558–71; "Untangling the Scott Stamp Forgery of the 2c Washington-Franklin Head—Scott 528A(CF)," 93, no. 10 (Oct. 2022): 461–78; "New Variety Reported on Scott #538A—Foreign Object on Offset Roller," 93, no. 11 (Nov. 2020): 515–18.



2. The Three Cent Issues

Printing Varieties: Partial Impressions and Foreign Objects

Partial Impression—Type IV



Partial impression from paper fold or overlapping sheets in press. Ink smear from touching sheet while ink was still wet.

Foreign Matter on Printing Plate—Type IV



Foreign matter stuck to printing plate covered the design and created a grainy blob. Only known example, discovered by exhibitor.

Foreign Matter on Offset Roller—Type IV



Foreign matter transferred ink from the plate, but smeared the impression and "bridged" the offset roller creating white halo around object. (See 2c section for illustration and detailed explanation.) Only known example on the 3c; other known examples are in the 2c section of exhibit. Discovered by exhibitor.

Partial Impressions—Type IV



Likely from press startup or cleaning. Two of ten reported examples, all from a single pane purchased in Topeka, KS.

Foreign Matter on Paper—Type IV



Foreign matter stuck to paper during printing then detached, carrying away part of the design. One of two examples known on the offsets. (See 2c section for other example.)

3. The One Cent Issues

Printing Varieties: Double Impressions

Presswork Double—Impression Offset Horizontally Through Press Once



"Presswork" doubles were created by a press malfunction and only went through the press once. Not found on the imperforate.

Unique Double Impression "Extra" Plate Number From 3c Plate



Only documented example of an offset with plate numbers from two different issues on one stamp. Created when the Bureau reused paper with a partial impression from a 3c plate to print 1c stamps.

Purple 3c plate number printed between Dec. 21–23, 1918, when plate 9533 at press. 1c impression added between Jan. 3–6, 1919, when plate 9517 at press. Black mark on stamp evidently from precanceling; discovered in Pontiac, Michigan, in a batch of precanceled stamps.

True Double—Two Different Plate Numbers and Impression Offset Vertically and Horizontally Through Press Twice



Impressions on true doubles are offset horizontally and (slightly) vertically. Much less common than presswork doubles.



One of three known 1c plate blocks with two different plate numbers—a true double impression. The two plate numbers, 9674 and 9676, demonstrate that the block went through the press twice. (Both plates at press Jan. 15–16, 1919.)



"c" Doubled Under the "4"

4. The Two Cent Issues

Printing Varieties: Preprint Paper Folds

Type Va



Imperforate—Type Va



Type VII



Preprint Paper Fold—All Color Missing—Only Known Examples

Front—Type V—Discovery Copy



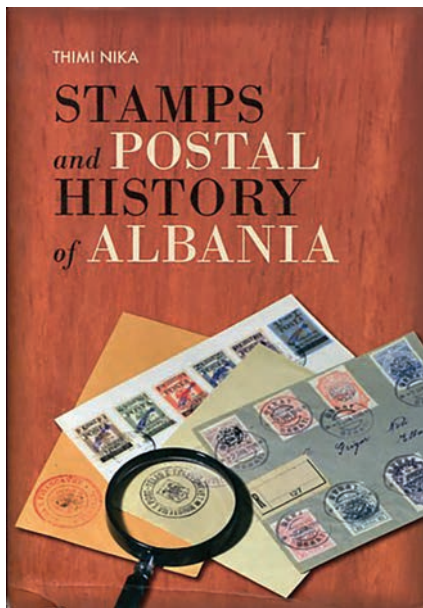
Reverse—Type V



One subject printed on reverse due to preprint paper fold. Discovered by exhibitor, the right block is the basis for a new listing of a "color missing" error in the leading specialized catalog. The left block is the only other known example. Arrow on right block is likely an alignment guide mark (discussed previously).

Book Review

The Stamps and Postal History of Albania, by Thimi Nika, Mediaprint, Tirana, 2015. 425 pages. Reviewed by Allan D. Smith.



“Albania is the most romantic country in Europe, probably in all the world. It is a lawless land where might makes right, and parts of it are as forbidding to the foreigner as darkest Africa.”

So wrote journalist Frederick Moore in 1906 (*The Balkan Trail*, p. 219). Something similar might also be said of the philately of Albania. The many obscure local, provisional, and bogus issues, together with numerous forgeries of primitively produced stamps and overprints, may repel some collectors, while attracting the more adventurous.

Up to now, the available literature on Albanian stamps has been produced by Western European and American writers. At last, we have a book on the subject by an Albanian collector and scholar, the late Thimi Nika who passed away in 2018. Nika had been involved with stamps for most of his life, as a collector, as editor of *Koleksionisti*, the journal of the Albanian Association of Philatelists, and as a member of the Albanian State Commission of Stamps, the official body that reviews and approves stamp designs.

The first thing to be said about this book is that it is beautifully designed and produced, with color illustrations of Albanian stamps and covers of the past 100 years (though omitting many of the “wallpaper” issues of the communist period). It is a pleasure just to hold it and browse through the images.

Aside from its aesthetic appeal, the book adds to the existing philatelic literature on Albania in three main ways. It opens with an extensive introduction to this literature, not only naming the titles, as in an ordinary bibliography, but discussing the various authors and their contributions to the field. Included are the works of Albanian philatelists, little of whose work is translated or known outside the country.

Secondly, the book records Nika's extensive researches into the official government archives concerning stamp issues, their exact dates, quantities issued and quantities subsequently destroyed. This is information unavailable anywhere else. While it may seem tedious to the average reader, it is of deep interest to specialists.

Finally, the book concludes with an essay on the artists who contributed to the design of Albania's stamps, starting with Qemal Butka, designer of the issue celebrating the 25th anniversary of Albanian independence in 1937. These stamps, with their dramatic allegorical imagery of Albanian emancipation from Turkish rule, are familiar to all collectors of a certain age who began collecting the world as children. Thimi Nika was a man of aesthetic sensibility, an art collector as well as a philatelist, with a deep appreciation of the artistic accomplishments of his countrymen.

The fascination of Albania's stamps, especially the early ones (1913 to 1945) derives from the country's complex history. The small group of nationalists who declared independence in 1912, in the coastal city of Vlorë, controlled very little of the territory eventually incorporated into the country. A unified kingdom had barely emerged when World War I broke out, and the territory experienced waves of occupation and the setting up of short-lived provisional governments, each of which had its philatelic consequences.

The 1920s, which saw the emergence of a unified Albania, first as a republic, then as a kingdom, were also a tumultuous period with many stamp issues overprinted to reflect political changes. World War II brought annexation by Italy followed by Nazi occupation. After the war, the country fell under the control of the notorious dictator Enver Hoxha, who installed one of the most isolated and repressive communist regimes of all time. Only in 1990 did Albania finally emerge as a more or less normal country.

A familiarity with this history is essential to understanding Albania's stamps, but Nika does not go into it in detail, preferring to focus on the stamps themselves, and the details surrounding their production. The classic work on Albanian philately, which covers both the historic background and the early stamps and postal history in depth, is *The Stamps and Posts of Albania and Epirus, 1878 to 1945*, by John S. Phipps. As Thimi Nika freely acknowledges, this classic work is still an essential resource for all Albania collectors. His own book does not supersede it but adds to it by extending the story up to 2013 and providing the perspective of a native Albanian who lived through the difficult communist years and the country's emergence into the modern world.

One of the aspects of Albanian philately that would never be accessible to us except from within the country, is the correspondence to and from people imprisoned during the communist period. Nika has explored this area and written a study of it, detailing the intricate rules that had to be followed in order to satisfy the paranoid censors. He shows images of some of the rare covers that survive from the correspondence of these prisoners.

While this book is a pleasure to hold and peruse, the text presents some difficulties. It is highly technical, as is to be expected, but the wording is awkward at times. The translator is clearly not a native English speaker and makes mistakes (using the word "texture" to mean "text," to cite one example). Nevertheless, the book is a beautiful and indispensable contribution to the philatelic literature on Albania. The stamps are presented in an attractive way, and should appeal to collectors hungering for new realms to conquer.

The background image shows a sophisticated interior space, likely a clubhouse. The floor is covered in wide-plank wood arranged in a herringbone pattern. On the left, a wall of light-colored wood features several built-in shelves, some of which are illuminated from within. In the center-right, there is a bright green modular sofa. In the foreground on the right, a portion of a black leather armchair is visible. The ceiling consists of dark wooden slats with recessed lighting. In the background, a glass-walled room and a desk area can be seen.

THE CLUBHOUSE CHRONICLE

Membership News
Club Programs Calendar
In Memoriam
Program Previews

THE CLUBHOUSE CHRONICLE

Membership News

The following new members were approved by the Board of Governors:

June 30, 2026

Resident

Thomas G. Meier, Yonkers, NY

Non-Resident:

Ahmed Aobuesh, Chico, CA

Semaan Bassil, Beirut, Lebanon

Joseph G. Bock, Cottonwood, AZ

Shane C. Dietrich, Kensington, MD

Tobias Huylmans, Nierstein, Germany

Ryan T. Lee, Portsmouth, RI

Teela Pongpakdee, Sioux Falls, SD

Dietrich Michelson, Oberursel, Germany

Anthony Brian Port, Salem, OR

Alfred Schmidt, Haldensleben, Germany

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Barasch, Membership Chair

2026 Club Programs Calendar

September 2 *From Perkins, Bacon to De La Rue. The Story of the 1879 and 1880 GB Tenders* Howard Hughes

Please note that the preview for this presentation will be posted on the Club website.

September 16 *East Germany. The Cold War Propaganda Forgeries 1953-1957*
Oliver Wyrтки

September 23 *The Hindenburg Crash Cover: A Philatelic Icon* Cheryl Ganz RDP

September 30 *Indian Stamps Used in Iraq* Akthem Al-Manaseer

October 14 *Poland. Airmail of the Siege of Przemyśl (1914-1915)*
Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski

October 28 *GB QV Surface-Printed issues: An Inside Look at How We Up dated and Expanded the SG Specialised Catalogue* Matthew Healey

November 4 *The Postal History of the American Civil War* Dan Knowles

November 11 *Single-Frame Competition*

November 18 *Early Transatlantic Mail* Carol Bommarito

December 2 *Panel Discussion on the Hobby's Future*

December 9 *Governors' Open House*

December 16 *Postcard exhibiting* Liz Hisey

In Memoriam

Robert “Bob” Paul Odenweller RDP

September 19, 1938 – May 26, 2026



Bob Odenweller, distinguished philatelist, author, editor, exhibitor, and internationally respected authority on the stamps and postal history of New Zealand and Samoa, passed away at the age of 87.

Born on September 19, 1938, in Colón, Panama Canal Zone, Bob was the son of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Joseph Odenweller Jr., a career United States Army officer, and Robina Katherine Watson Odenweller. Raised in a military family, he grew up alongside his siblings Charles, Peter, and Robin.

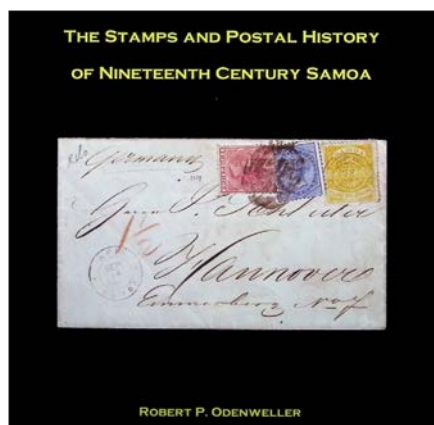
Bob attended Swarthmore College before transferring to the United States Air Force Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and served as a pilot, attaining the rank of captain before leaving military service in 1966.

Following his Air Force career, Bob devoted himself to philately, a field in which he would become one of the world's foremost scholars and leaders. Joining the Collectors Club of New York in 1964 and the American Philatelic Society in 1968, he quickly established a reputation for meticulous research, intellectual rigor, and a passion for sharing knowledge.

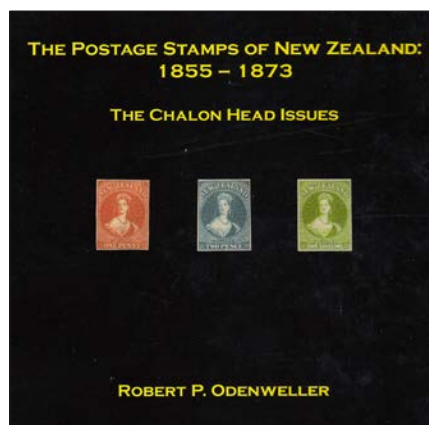
Over a career spanning more than five decades, Bob authored landmark works that transformed the study of Pacific philately.

His books *The Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa* (2004) and *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand 1855–1873: The Chalon Head Issues* (2009) remain essential references for collectors and historians worldwide. He also wrote extensively for leading philatelic journals and served for more than twenty-five years as a columnist for *The Philatelic Exhibitor*.

Bob's leadership extended throughout the philatelic community. He served as editor of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* from 2005 to 2012, guiding the publication through its transition to full-color production. He held numerous positions within the American Philatelic Society, the Philatelic Foundation, the Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie, the Collectors Club of New York, and the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie. As an accredited judge, expertizer, mentor, and organizational leader, he influenced generations of collectors and researchers.



Details of the front covers of Bob Odenweller's classic studies of Samoa and the New Zealand Chalon, Head issues.



His scholarship and service earned many of philately's highest honors. In 1991, he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, one of the field's most prestigious recognitions.

He received the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Contributions, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Philatelic Achievement Award, the Royal Philatelic Society London's Crawford Medal, and numerous other international distinctions. He was named an Honorary Fellow of both the Royal Philatelic Society London and the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

As an exhibitor, Bob achieved extraordinary success, winning the American Philatelic Society's Champion of Champions award in 1973 and the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Grand Prix d'Honneur in 1980. His exhibits on Samoa and New Zealand set enduring standards for philatelic research and presentation.

Beyond his achievements, Bob was known for his generosity, integrity, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to advancing philatelic knowledge. Through his writings, exhibits, expert opinions, and leadership, he helped shape modern philately and inspired collectors around the globe.

He leaves behind a legacy in the philatelic community and among all who benefited from his scholarship, friendship, and dedication to the preservation of postal history. His contributions will continue to inform and inspire future generations of collectors, researchers, and historians.

Memorial contributions may be made to philatelic research organizations, libraries, or educational institutions dedicated to the study and preservation of postal history.

Bob P. Odenweller is survived by his loving wife, Jane, his children Liesl and Joy and grandchildren, Anna and Keoki.

Roger Brody RDP

In Memoriam

Harry A. Olivar, Jr.

October 8, 1963 – May 15, 2026



It is with great sadness to report that Club member Harry Olivar died tragically in a traffic accident on Friday, May 15. The accident occurred in central Georgia and Harry's stepson, David Jackson, was also killed. Harry's wife, Leigh, was seriously injured but, as of this writing, has been released from the hospital and is expected to recover. Harry leaves behind his wife and four sons: Jordan, David, Harry III, and Robert.

Harry was 62 years old and was the Chair of the National Securities Practice at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, the world's largest business litigation and arbitration specialist. Harry served 26 years at the firm and was a titan in the legal community, recovering over \$4.9 billion in verdicts, judgments, and settlements on behalf of plaintiffs and appearing against nearly every major financial institution in more than twenty cases involving mortgage-backed securities.

Harry's partners, associates, and staff remember him as an extraordinary mentor whose unassuming manner, impeccable judgment, and genuine warmth made everyone feel that they belonged. His many professional honors included recognition in Chambers USA, Legal 500, and The Best Lawyers in America. He was also selected to the Lawdragon 500 Hall of Fame.

Outside of his legal practice, Harry supported civic and community service in the Los Angeles community and elsewhere. He and Leigh were devoted patrons of the Pasadena Playhouse, and Harry served on the Board of Directors of the Stone Trust and La Salle College Preparatory School. Harry received his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1989, where he served as Executive Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Yale University in 1985.

Harry became a stamp collector in his youth and, like everything Harry did, he became a giant in philately. I believe that Harry formed the most comprehensive and highest quality "traditional" United States stamp collection of all-time. The depth, breadth, and quality of his collection is astonishing. He took as much pleasure in acquiring common used stamps from the mid- to late-twentieth century as he did the highest quality classics. Harry served on the Board of the Philatelic Foundation since his appointment in 2018 and was Treasurer at the time of his passing. He supported numerous philatelic clubs and societies, most recently becoming a member of the Club de Monte Carlo. He was also recently appointed to the Council of Philatelists at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

On a personal note, Harry was a close friend, and his loss leaves an immeasurable void. He exemplified the values of integrity, kindness, and care for others in everything he did. Harry was never flustered, always sensible, and always optimistic. When you engaged with Harry, he gave you all his attention. In my opinion, Harry was always the smartest person in the room, but those who knew him best will recall his incredible humility and patience. Harry set the standard for the rest of us to strive towards – he was an exceptional human being who was loved and respected by everyone who knew him. He was a true builder of communities who positively impacted everything and everyone he touched. I am deeply grateful for our friendship, the time we spent together, his generosity, and his influence on me in philately and all aspects of life. Harry will be deeply missed.

Daniel J. Ryterband

Clubhouse Program Previews

September 16, 2026. Oliver Wyrtki

East Germany. The Cold War Propaganda Forgeries 1953-1957

It began as a parody label, turned into an instrument of sabotage, and inspired collectors and philatelic forgers. The propaganda forgeries of East Germany by the Action Group Against Inhumanity (*Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit* or KgU) during the height of the Cold War represent philately in action and illustrate a colorful and dramatic period in Cold War Berlin.

The KgU was a home-grown, West Berlin anti-communist organization with an extensive list of contacts in the Russian Occupation Zone. The CIA began funding its operations and providing operational guidance to the KgU in 1949, confirmed in 2007 with the declassification of CIA internal documents and the opening of the East German security services (Stasi), and KgU files held in German archives.

The KgU used multiple means to disrupt the East German authorities, including leaflets, mail, forged letters and documents, and forged stamps to sabotage, confuse, misdirect, and otherwise reduce the operations and efficiency of the East German economy.

Join us as Oliver Wyrtki discusses the KgU, its creation of the ten parody/forgery stamps, and their use as part of the KgU campaign during the height of the Cold War.



The first KgU stamp to appear in March 1953, with the head of the East German President, Wilhelm Pieck, shown with a noose around his neck and the inscription "UnGerman Undemocratic Dictatorship".

A parody of the East German Five-Year Plan series showing a worker demanding free elections from Party Secretary Ulbricht with a hand and note directing him to return to Moscow.



A symbol of the KgU from the letterhead of a membership application, 1949.

September 23, 2026. Cheryl Ganz RDP

The Hindenburg Crash Cover: A Philatelic Icon

On its first North America trip of 1937, German zeppelin LZ-129 *Hindenburg* burst into flames while landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, on a rainy evening. It suffered total destruction in 34 seconds. The disaster took 36 lives and destroyed most of the 17,000+ pieces of mail aboard. Less than 400 pieces of mail survived, of which half remained unburnt in a sealed container.

The May 6 *Hindenburg* disaster was the first aerial tragedy captured on film. The next day, the newsreels were in theaters and newspaper headlines reached Europe. A “perfect storm” moment, when a spark ignited loose hydrogen mixed with oxygen, has been debated ever since to determine the cause.

On September 23 at the Collectors Club, Cheryl Ganz will talk about *Hindenburg*’s important role in bridging continents with the first, regularly scheduled North Atlantic airmail service, the disaster, survivor experiences, the handling of salvaged mail, and collector investigations. Her stories are the result of studying this mail for over 50 years.

Smithsonian National Postal Museum curator emerita and past president of the APS, Cheryl has authored articles and books on zeppelins, edited and co-edited a zeppelin journal for thirty-seven years, and currently administers a zeppelin collector Facebook group. Currently, she is part of a team creating a free, online, illustrated zeppelin post catalog that launches September 1 at www.zeppelincatalog.org.

Attend Cheryl Ganz’s in-person presentation or webinar to learn the answers to the following! How could any mail survive *Hindenburg* burning? Did the passenger who wrote this card survive the disaster? Why did this *Hindenburg* crash card receive a paquebot cancel?



September 30, 2026. Akthem Al-Manaseer

Indian Stamps Used in Iraq

The presentation covers the Indian postal service in Iraq, which started in 1868 and ended in 1918. The topic spans the reigns of three British Monarchs, and some ten different postal cancellations were used until October 1914. The talk will also cover the I.E.F (Indian Expeditionary Force) stamps with different Field Post Offices used during World War I.

After surveys by the East India Company in 1856-1860, Postal Agencies were established at principal ports and trading centers around the Arabian/Persian Gulf. Normal Indian stamps and stationery were used.

Bussorah or Busreh in the south of Iraq, is the largest city had many names throughout its history, Basrah being the most common. In Arabic, the word *Başrah* means “the overwatcher,” which may have been an allusion to the city’s origin as an Arab military base against the Sassanids. Others have argued that the name is derived from the Aramaic word *basratha*, meaning “place of huts, settlement.”

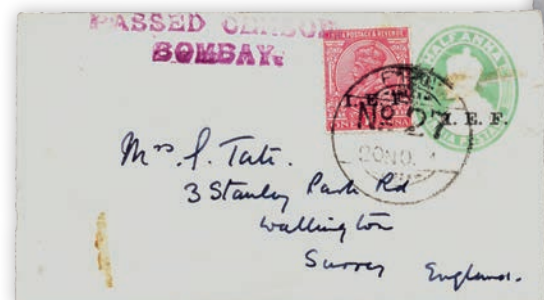
In 1914, HMS *Espiegle* participated in the action for the capture of Basra in 1914. War was formally declared on November 5, by which time the *Espiegle* had dropped anchor at Saihan. On November 7, the 16th infantry Brigade made a landing on the Turkish shore at Fao, covered by the guns of *Espiegle*. On November 17, the Turks abandoned Basra, and on the 21st *Espiegle*, accompanied by HMS *Odin*, forced a passage up the Shatt al Arab and anchored opposite the custom house (Evening).

The Indian Post offices closed on April 30, 1919.



May 8, 1868. From Bussorah to Bombay, cancelled by the “357 + BUSSORAH” duplex. Earliest recorded Date by Parsons 26 November 26, 1868. Unrecorded Early Date.

September 14/16, 1873. From Busreh to India with one anna 1865 India stamp canceled by the “BUSREH + 19” duplex.



November 20, 1914, from FPO 27, which was with the 17th Brigade. Earliest date recorded by Proud for mail from the Indian Expeditionary Force “D”.

Sparks

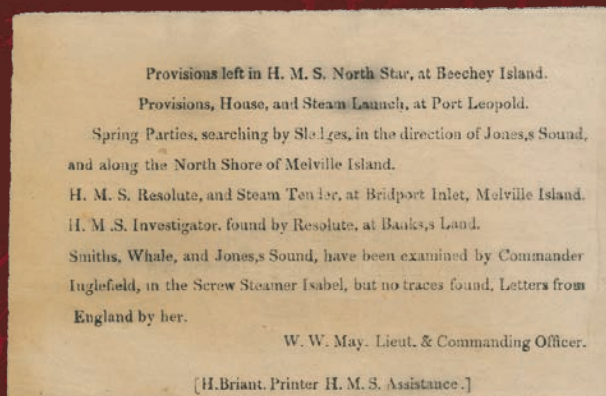
INTERNATIONAL

Fine Postal History,
Stamps & Historical Documents

OTTAWA | CANADA

613-567-3336 | info@sparksinternational.ca

sparksinternational.ca



June 18th, 2026 - Lot 691
1852/54, the Sir John Franklin Search Expeditions,
balloon-dropped message

Realized \$10,500

BARD PHILATELY

IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF
THE TAPLING COLLECTION. THE UNITED STATES AND THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

The Tapling Collection:
The United States and
The Hawaiian Islands



Foreword by David Beech MBE FRPS,
Former Curator, The British Library Philatelic Collections

Introduction by Richard Scott Morel
Curator, The British Library Philatelic Collections

Concept, Editing and Layout by Tony Bard FRPS.

The first in a series, in association with the British Library Philatelic Collections, dedicated to reproducing the previously unpublished contents of the world-famous collection formed by Thomas K. Tapling, which extends to over 4,500 pages.

All of the Tapling US postmasters' provisionals, locals, carriers and postage stamps, plus the Hawaiian issues, are included in this 192-page full-colour volume.

With the Boston 2026 World Expo celebrating both American philately and the 250th anniversary of independence, this volume was published on 15 May.

The first impression is limited to 100 copies.

Order your copy online at www.bardphilately.com or
for more information email info@bardphilately.com



HEINRICH KÖHLER

Germany's Oldest Stamp Auction House

Your trust in Heinrich Köhler will pay off

Germany's Oldest Stamp Auction House Proven Excellence Since 1913

Whether you are looking to acquire a rare masterpiece or pass your life's work into the best possible hands, Heinrich Köhler combines over a century of tradition with cutting-edge innovation to ensure your goals as a consignor or buyer are met with excellence.

Why Global Collectors Choose Heinrich Köhler:

- **Scientific Precision:** We utilize the **VSC 8000** for forensic authenticity testing and **"ProFi"**, our AI-powered digital "Provenance Finder," to trace the history and rarity of your stamps in mere seconds.
- **Unmatched Security & Stability:** As an industry pioneer, we are certified according to **DIN ISO 9001:2015** and hold the **CrefoZert** credit certificate with a perfect score of 100/100 points—guaranteeing you a financially rock-solid partner.
- **Emotional Presentation:** Your stamps deserve more than a listing. We produce high-end, **award-winning catalogues** and use expert "storytelling" to ignite the passion of the world's most serious bidders.
- **Global Reach, Local Expertise:** Through the Global Philatelic Network, your collection is presented to a premium international audience in the world's most lucrative markets, from Wiesbaden and Zürich to New York and Hong Kong.

Your collection is exceptional. Its sale should be, too.

Contact us today for a discreet consultation and professional valuation.



Heinrich Köhler Auktionshaus GmbH & Co. KG

Hasengartenstr. 25
65189 Wiesbaden, Germany

Phone +49 611 34 14 9 0
WhatsApp +49 172 666 72 45

Web www.heinrich-koehler.de
E-mail info@heinrich-koehler.de



SAXONY 1855/63, 1 Ngr. and two copies 2 Ngr., together with 3 Pfennig coat-of-arms on cover from Merane to the Royal Prussian Consulate in Jassy, Romania. An attractive three-colour franking with a rare destination.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA 1908, the 'KIETA' provisional, one of the rarest stamps in colonial philately.

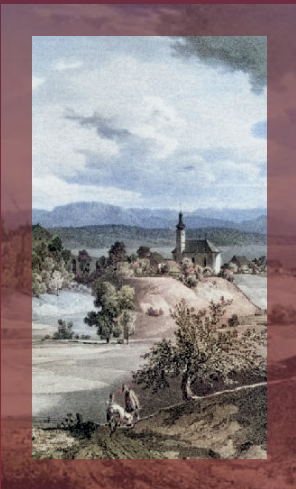
KIAUTSCHOU 1900, 5 Pf on 10 pf., overprint type 9a, with a hand-stamped overprint of 5 Pf. The print run of the original stamp with type 9a comprises only 13 possible copies. A great rarity and the only registered copy.

AUSTRIA 1850, unissued 12 Kreuzer blue, with fresh colour and wide margins, cancelled by straight line 'Franco'. One of the great rarities of Austrian philately in perfect condition. Just another 4 examples with the 'Franco' handstamp have been recorded.

Provenance: Sammlung Rothschild (1947), 208. Heinrich Köhler-Auktion (1973)

Bavaria 1850/58, 3 Kreuzer blue as additional franking for domestic postage to re-directed cover from Naples to Munich, forwarded to Starnberg. A unique combination.

Kiautschou, German Post Office



View of Starnberg

Public Auction Announcement

General Sale - August 25-27, 2026

Featuring Outstanding British North America,
including Mail to Newfoundland



Nova Scotia 1853 One penny,
the phenomenal "Dale-Lichtenstein"
mint OG example



1860 6p orange, spectacular
corner mint OG example



1862 1p violet brown on thin hard paper,
a choice and very rare mint block
- one of only four known

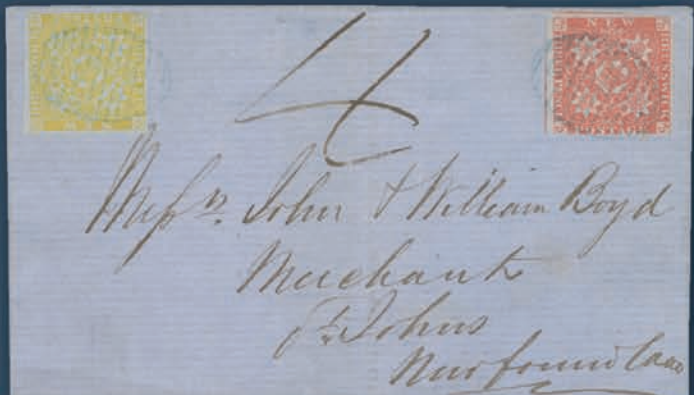


One of the "Crown Jewels" of philately
A glorious Nova Scotia 2sh6p rate cover to India



1857 6p heraldic
Perkins Bacon
die proof

1857 1sh heraldic
Perkins Bacon
die proof



An extremely rare New Brunswick cover with unique
franking to Newfoundland



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



Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions



When choosing an auction house, you should also consider the things they don't sell.

Knowledge. Experience. Integrity. Things that cannot be bought, bartered or sold. Yet they're responsible for realizing the highest prices for your stamps. At Rumsey Auctions, we've built our reputation on these qualities as much as on the impressive financial results we achieve for our clients. Please call or email us and let us show you how much we can do for you.

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

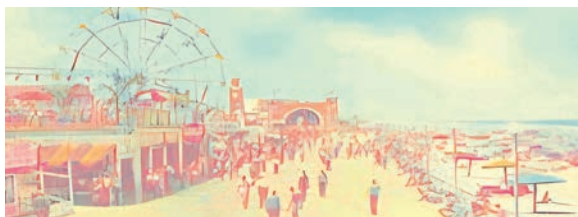
THE
MAGNOLIA
COLLECTION
POSTAL HISTORY OF TEXAS



The second sale of the Magnolia Collection of Texas Postal History features an outstanding array of items from the Civil War period, including rare Confederate postmasters' provisionals.



The Boardwalk Collection



Outstanding United States Stamps

The Boardwalk Collection was formed by a gentleman who spent 75 years collecting stamps, starting as a boy and acquiring rarities over the last 40 years of his life.



These two outstanding auctions begin the Fall 2026 sale season at Siegel.

Robert A. Siegel



For buyers or sellers, Siegel Auction Galleries offers unparalleled expertise, a worldwide client base, financial reliability, intelligent marketing, and the best internet resources and search tools.

ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

America's premier stamp auctioneer since 1930

21 WEST 38TH STREET, 7TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018

Phone (212) 753-6421 • Email: stamps@siegelauctions.com