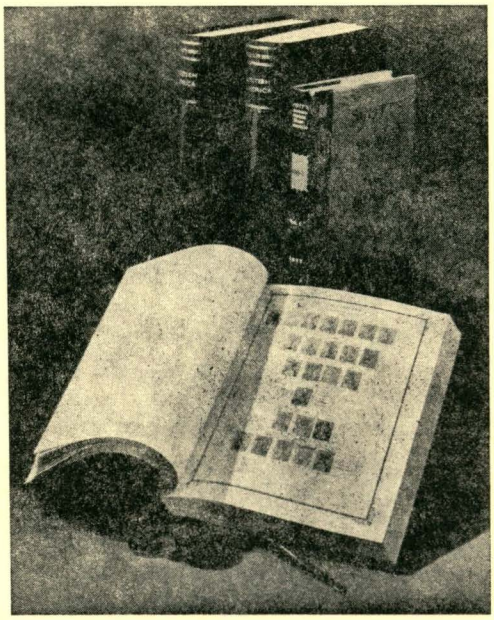


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Volume 48 Number 2
March 1969

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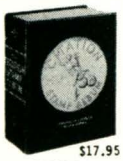
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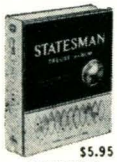
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The Collectors Club
PHILATELIST
Volume 48 Number 2
March 1969

Editorial

Decentralized, Yes! One Organization, No!

For the past few months, the philatelic press has well publicized a proposal to create a national academy of philately in the United States. Most of the written comments have been favorable, supporting the idea of a single center for philately with a museum for exhibits, a central library, classrooms to teach stamp collectors, and also how to become a successful stamp professional. Many feel that such an institution long has been needed in the United States.

On the other hand, a small minority opposes this idea. But so far, to my knowledge, only one, the editor of "The United States Specialist," has written why he holds serious doubts about the need for one central institution for philately. In my opinion, Robert C. Masters' views were both logical and objective.

Another editor — of the "Philatelic Literature Review" — (who actively supports this proposal for a national philatelic academy) in an editorial in the Fourth Quarter 1968 number wrote one paragraph briefly disparaging the critics. He mentioned only one name, to quote: "Others, like Henry Goodkind (who gives so extensively of his time to philatelic pursuits, including editorship of the Collectors Club Philatelist), sees no need for such an Academy."

Since editor Daniel Vooys did not cite one reason for my opinions, it has been suggested that in an editorial I explain why I do not support a proposal for such a new philatelic organization. Its purpose and goals were outlined in a most attractive brochure that was circulated in the Fall of 1968.

In speaking with some of my friends, who are keen and also are working for this project, they tell me that a national academy will close some long-existing gaps in philately in this country. They believe that throughout the United States, too many stamp collectors are "lost," wandering down the path of philately without direction, guidance and much-needed assistance. This probably is true. But what makes one think that a brand-new philatelic organization will or can change this?

Certainly, the idea of a philatelic library is nothing new. There are now six or more in the United States, with at least one more announced in the process of formation. The largest and oldest philatelic library in this country is right here in the Collectors Club, centrally located in the largest metropolitan center of the United States. Also, it is open to the public three afternoons a week. It probably is and has been the most widely-used philatelic library in the Western Hemisphere.

Each year, this magazine reports the Collectors Club annual meetings including a report on the library and its activity. All members, resident and non-resident, may borrow books and bound periodicals. Reading the past reports, one will notice the small percentage of the membership who takes advantage of the library privileges.

Consequently, it is my view that a working and useful philatelic library is solely a local matter. Most people will only borrow or read a book at their local public library. Furthermore, not many stamp collectors and dealers care to spend their spare time reading about philately.

Secondly, teaching stamp collecting by courses in philately has been going on in New York City for almost a quarter of a century. The Philatelic Foundation every year has conducted a course on philately. First, it was held at Columbia University, later transferred to 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. where it still continues. Hollywood, Florida started teaching school children

stamp collecting with a great publicity campaign in the stamp press this year. Courses in philately most likely will be given in other cities in this country having large populated areas.

Again, one interested in learning more about stamp collecting will take a course only if available in his own locality. No one is going to travel more than a short distance to take a course in philately.

As for teaching younger people how to become a successful professional philatelist, this, too, only can be done on a local basis. If I wanted to try to become a successful stamp professional, I would approach those I considered the leading dealers and auction houses in my city (New York) to ask to work for them. It is very doubtful if the heads of the most successful auction houses would find the time and also feel inclined to teach a class on "how they do it." Some of the less successful ones might teach.

A third matter mentioned in the proposed academy of philately brochure is a philatelic museum. The idea sounds great. Often, I have wished that New York, one of the world's largest stamp centers, had a successful philatelic museum. There have been, however, several in this country that no one, who knows the actual situation, would truthfully call "successful." Your attention is called to the the remarks on this subject by Mr. Wallace W. Knox of Oakland, Calif. on page 45 of the January, 1969 number of this magazine. Mr. Knox mentions his frustrating experiences with the British Museum in London, England and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. Many have not forgotten that the philatelic museum in Philadelphia, Pa. did not last for long.

It is trite to say that "ideas are a dime a dozen, but securing the proper people to carry them out is almost priceless." But it is true. Philatelic material has been left to museums, libraries, colleges and similar institutions. The greater proportion are buried in basements and unavailable. A few are on public display like the Miller collection in New York City's Public Library. But what good has it done? First of all, too few know of it and where it is located. Secondly, it has not been properly maintained. The last time I saw it about a year ago, many stamps had become loose from the album pages. Perhaps if one approached the person in charge of this collection about proper maintenance, the reply would be that funds are not available. Thirdly, there is not one competent philatelist on the staff of the New York Public Library.

Furthermore, there are many museums spread throughout this country. The most popular, of course, are the art museums. Public attendance at the less popular museums is very slight. This applies also to a philatelic museum.

The facts of life should be realistically faced. The majority of the stamp collectors and dealers in this country are not readers nor students. I cannot see many collectors from the West, Midwest nor South making a special trip to New York, Boston, Philadelphia or Washington to spend a few days in a philatelic museum and library. True, there will be some, but far from enough to generate sufficient funds and interest to properly maintain and hire an efficient staff for a successful philatelic museum.

There are examples for one to examine carefully of centralized philatelic organizations. One is the Federation of International Philately (FIP). It is run by a small clique in Europe and all of its efforts are devoted to international philatelic exhibitions.

In the opinion of most of the leading amateur and professional philatelists in the world today, FIP is to be far more criticized than praised. (See the "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" of January, 1969). The basic trouble with these centralized philatelic organizations is that they all are run more for the benefit of the few who head it than for the general welfare of philately. Once in a head office, the officers stay on and on. In the United States, FIP representation

is fractional, not covering all of organized philately in this country. Favoritism is far too prevalent in its American operation.

Now for the BIG question! Up to now, I have set forth critical arguments. Do I have any constructive suggestions to see that stamp collectors in this country are better served than they are now? Yes! I think that every one of the larger cities in the United States should have a stamp collectors club with its clubhouse similar to our Collectors Club in New York.

In June, 1968, I was invited to be the banquet speaker at the 75th annual convention of the Texas Philatelic Association in Dallas. This was the subject of my speech. Houston or Dallas needs and deserves a philatelic center. There is sufficient philatelic interest. Also, it is well known that there are Texans who have the means to help support a stamp collectors club. The trouble has been that the wealthy Texan stamp collectors have never been properly approached to see the personal benefits they would derive from a philatelic club in Texas. Instead, they are allowed to continue collecting stamps as hermits.

There are at least ten more large cities in the United States that should have active and successful stamp collectors clubs with their own buildings.

Also, there is no reason why international philatelic exhibitions should not be staged almost every year in a large American city. This would give philately a great boost. I have travelled overseas quite a lot and been fortunate enough to visit most of the larger cities in the United States. Thus, I have been able to observe philatelic activity here and abroad. Compare Sofia with San Francisco; Luxembourg with Los Angeles; Prague with Chicago; Palermo with Dallas or Houston, Texas; Istanbul with New Orleans; Budapest with Atlanta, and Warsaw with Philadelphia, Baltimore or Washington. If these smaller and less prosperous European cities can stage an international philatelic exhibition in one of them every year, certainly the United States should have more than one international stamp show every ten years and not only in a large eastcoast city.

Philately, itself, is daily becoming more splintered, due to the enforced specialization. The general collector has become a memory. People will gather with those who share a common interest. There is nothing wrong with this. Student resistance and riots are sweeping the world, fighting against regimentation and the loss of individuality. People are taking second looks at bigness — big government, big business, big labor unions, and big educational institutions. The present mood is not for a creation of big philately. Rather, it is preferable to permit the individual philatelists to do, say, and write what pleases and interests him.

It seems doubtful if we shall see again a fine book written on the "Postage Stamps of the United States." But there will be some excellent ones on, for example, the 1847 stamps, the 1918 air mail issue, postage dues, and carrier and local stamps. Specialization has not fragmentated philately so that it is in danger of perishing.

Philately in this country can stand many improvements. But as I see it, there are too few with the spare time and the will to work for this. American philately, however, is far from the brink of disaster. It is not a desperate matter of "united we stand, divided we fall."

In my opinion, philately in this country will accomplish much more decentralized than trying to place the control under one roof. Not all sections of the country will be equally successful. But some will be. They can be used as good examples.

Furthermore, the United States is not Great Britain, Switzerland or France. The U. S. A. is a vast country, much larger than all of Europe. Even with the fast planes, travelling long distances does take time and money. I wish that

every American philatelist had the opportunity, as a few of us have had, to attend a Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Hundreds of stamp clubs and societies send delegates. It is a real convention of all of British philately. But the British delegate, who travelled the greatest distance, came to the Congress comparatively going no further than from New York to Boston. Perhaps with space travel or some future great change in travel, American philatelists can meet together like their British colleagues have been doing for fifty years. But this is a long way off, maybe never.

The United States is big, great and prosperous. Each section of our country, if the stamp collectors want it, can and should establish a philatelic headquarters. There could be at least ten. *(H.M.G.)*

Letters To The Editor

Never Hinged Advertised Back in 1905

Following up the letters about the "Never Hinged" craze in the September and November 1968 numbers of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, I have not the slightest intention of joining the ranks of the unhinged. But out of fairly idle curiosity, I was wondering when there was any mention of mint stamps that never had been mounted.

I must confess it did rather surprise me to find such references in advertisements of the early 1900's, when I was searching "Ewens Weekly Stamps News" for details of Edwardian issues of Trinidad.

"Ewens Weekly Stamp News" for December 23, 1905, for instance, has prices for.... "Current and Recent Postage Stamps in Sets. All mint unused condition, well centered, full gum (never mounted)." I imagine that this 1905 reference may be the very earliest.

John B. Marriott
Godalming, England

Greece. "Kohl" English Translation in Five Parts

In the January, 1969 number, the obituary of Hans G. Zervas mentions his English translation of Greece from the "Kohl Handbook" as being published in 1943 as four separate handbooks. I believe this to be in error, because Part 5 was subsequently published in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Often I note in auction catalogues of philatelic literature, when these books come up for sale, they only list Parts 1-2-3-4 as published by the Collectors Club.

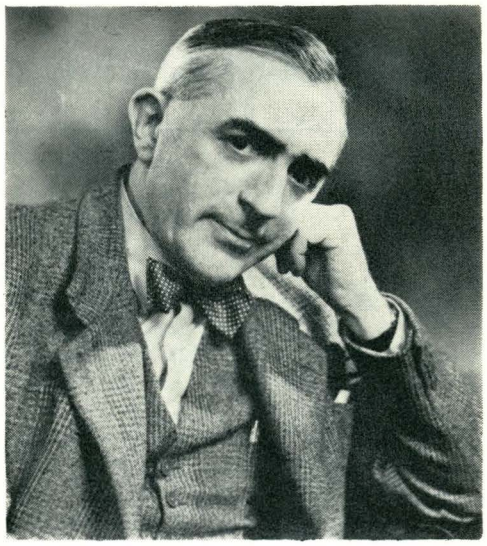
Millard Henry Mack
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Editor's Comment

"Practice what you preach." In the obituary of Mr. Zervas, I should have been more precise. Mr. Mack is correct. During the second year of my editorship of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST (1949) Part 5 of the English translation of the "Kohl Handbook's" Greece was run in a series of three numbers. Mr. Zervas did the German-English translation. The annotation and preparation of the article was done by the late Robert O. Truman; I did the editorial work.

But Part 5 was not later re-issued as a handbook, only Parts 1 to 4. If anyone, therefore, wishes Part V of Greece, he may order Vol. 28, No. 4, Vol. 29 Nos. 3 and 4. From the present inventory, all of these three back numbers are in stock. But there is just one left of Vol. 28, No. 4. *(H.M.G.)*

Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award
H. R. Holmes 1969 Recipient



This year, the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* goes overseas. The Collectors Club's Board of Governors at its January, 1969 meeting unanimously selected *Mr. H. R. Holmes of Great Britain* to be the 17th recipient of America's premier award for "distinguished service to philately."

As has been the practice for several years, the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* committee met here in the Collectors Club last November to recommend qualified candidates for the award to the Board of Governors. The committee consists of the previous medalists, who can conveniently attend this meeting at 22 East 35 Street, New York City.

The Chairmain of the committee submitted the names of candidates to the Board of Governors for their consideration at the December, 1968 meeting. The selection was made one month later.

Mr. Holmes becomes the second Britisher to receive the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.*

A 60-Year Philatelic Career

Mr. Holmes' "distinguished services to philately" covers sixty years, a record that few other philatelists in the world can equal or surpass. To demonstrate this, the highlights of this 60-year great record now follows:

Mr. Holmes began collecting stamps as a young boy. In 1909, when aged only fourteen, he joined "the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors." This was a society run by a boy's magazine. "Chums" is now defunct. The following year, he joined the Junior Philatelic Society in London, England.

Later on, reference will be made to Mr. Holmes's prolific writings on philately. It began way back in 1911 after he had read a paper, "The King and Queen on Postage Stamps," to the Junior Philatelic Society. This was published in the Society's periodical, "The Stamp Lover," Vol. IV, page 136.

In 1912, the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition was held in London, Mr. Holmes exhibited in the Junior Class a specialized collection of Bermuda, which was awarded a silver medal. The next year in Hamburg, Germany, a Junior Stamp Exhibition was staged (Jugendausstellung 1913 Hamburg); the Bermuda collection was entered in it. It was awarded a silver inkstand. That same year, he read a paper before "the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors" on the "Dock Stamps of Bermuda." This was published shortly thereafter in the "World of Stamps." (For the edification of some Americans, it has been a

longtime practice in Great Britain to have an exhibitor and speaker first read a paper which usually is published later in the society's or stamp club's journal. In the United States, many exhibit and speak before stamp clubs, but with the exception of the Collectors Club, New York, N. Y., the remarks are not later published).

1914–1923

World War I broke out in August, 1914 in which Great Britain was involved. Stamp collecting was mostly forgotten. Mr. Holmes did work abroad in foreign countries — Egypt, India, Ceylon, Malaya, China, and Japan. After the War ended in 1918, he served in Geneva, Switzerland as an official of the International Labor Office.

One of the first great international stamp shows was held in London, England in 1923. Work for this began one year in advance. Mr. Holmes was appointed to and served with distinction on the Executive Committee that organized the 1923 International Philatelic Exhibition, London.

Curator and Expert

He became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1929. In 1936, Mr. Holmes was appointed the editor of the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain," a long-established and respected English-language periodical. He was unable to function as the editor of this journal in 1937, but resumed the work in 1938 and continued until 1945.

Mr. Holmes took an active interest in the Royal Philatelic Society, London; in 1941, he was honored by the appointment to the Royal's Expert Committee. Later that same year, he was elected a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London's Council (its governing board).

In 1947, he was given the position of Honorary Philatelic Adviser to the British Museum, and the same year France honored him by the election as a Corresponding Member of the Academie de Philatelie in Paris.

R.D.P. And Many More Honors

In 1956, Mr. H. R. Holmes was elected the Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London and retained that office until he was elected the Society's President in 1961. He remained as the head officer of the Royal Philatelic Society, London until 1964.

Britain's highest philatelic honor (also considered by many the top one in the world) is *the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists*. Mr. Holmes was invited to sign *the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* in 1953.

Two outstanding international philatelic exhibitions were staged in London. The first was in 1950, the second in 1960. For the former, Mr. Holmes worked hard and efficiently as a member of the Organizing Committee; for the 1960 London International Stamp Exhibition, he acted as the Vice-Chairman, a most difficult and arduous task.

More honors have deservedly come his way in the more recent years. In 1967, he received the Harvie-Pirie Award of South Africa for his studies on the stamps of Griqualand West. The next year, Sweden recognized his services to philately with the Nils Strandell Memorial Medal awarded by Sveriges Filatelist Forening. Last year also he was elected an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

International Judge

Twenty-two years ago, H. R. Holmes made his debut as a judge of an international philatelic exhibition. From 1947 to date, he has served as a

judge at practically all the better known international stamp exhibitions. Twice he came to the United States, for FIPEX in 1956 and again for SIPEX in 1966. Here is the complete score:

Copenhagen, Denmark (1947); London (1950); Toronto, Canada (1951); Monaco (1952); Oslo, Norway (1955); FIPEX New York (1956); Johannesburg, South Africa (1960) — elected Chairman of the International Jury; London (1960); international air post exhibition Brussels, Belgium (1963); Istanbul, Turkey (1963); WIPA 1965 Vienna, Austria; SIPEX (1966) Washington, D.C.; Aeropex, New York, N.Y. (1966); Amsterdam, Holland (1967); air mail exhibition Budapest, Hungary (1967); Prague, Czechoslovakia (1968) and the international air post show in Vienna, Austria this same year. Mr. Holmes made his fourth trip to America to act as an international judge for EFIMEX in Mexico this past November.

Author, Editor, And Collector

H. R. Holmes has written many articles over the years for all of the leading British periodicals. There are far too many to list them all. He has written on the stamps of Bermuda, Tibet, Norwegian Byposts, Honduras — the 1877 Issue, and Griqualand West. Also, several very fine philatelic books have been authored by him, the latest one, "The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West," published by the Royal Philatelic Society, London (1966) after having been run as a series in the "London Philatelist."

In 1946, Mr. Holmes was appointed by the Royal Philatelic Society, London to be the editor of its monthly magazine, "The London Philatelist." He served as the editor until 1954.

Over the years, he has been a very versatile collector. Just as with his articles, the list is too long to mention all of the Holmes' collections. But the following will afford a clear picture of his widespread philatelic interests. He has formed collections of Netherlands, Bermuda, Sarawak, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France 1876-1900, Switzerland 1850-1934, Baden, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Siam, Nepal, Tibet, the Bechuanalands, Griqualand West, Transvaal, Hungary, United States Official stamps, and pioneer air mails.

Some Personals

H. R. Holmes, called "Bob" by his host of philatelic friends, is a fine example of not living by the calendar. Although born in 1895, he still can move faster than most people half his age. Furthermore, his appearance does not show his age. His finest attributes, in the opinion of some, is his very active mind, his wonderful philatelic memory, and his sense of fairness. His keen sense of humor should be mentioned, a great asset that unfortunately too many serious philatelic students lack.

By profession, he was associated with one of the leading British newspapers as a press expert, thus qualifying him well as a philatelist with his intimate knowledge of printing. He is retired and now lives with his wife outside London in the British countryside in Hants.

In his younger days, "Bob" Holmes played a fine game of cricket. He still takes an interest in this British sport. When not involved with stamps, he enjoys playing cribbage and dominoes with his wife and old friends from London who come from the big city for a visit.

Due to the centennial celebration of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in April of this year, Mr. Holmes regrets that he and Mrs. Holmes will be unable to come here to New York to receive *the 1969 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* at the Collectors Club Awards Dinner to be held on May 14th. He is anxious, however, to come here to personally receive his award, hoping that mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made for a later date.

(H. M. G.)

Bhutan

Domestic and Foreign Commercial Covers

By H. D. S. Haverbeck

Two years ago I wrote in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST (Vol. 46, pp. 83-95, 159-165, 184) a rather detailed study of the stamps and postal history of the remote Himalayan country of Bhutan. Since that time I have come into possession of some additional material, which I consider of sufficient interest to warrant the publication of some further details regarding the postal arrangements in this small country.

First, I would like to set the record straight for the benefit of certain commercial stamp journalists and editors, who manifest all too often their ignorance of things philatelic. *The Kingdom of Bhutan is not by any stretch of the imagination, a part of Communist China.* It is an independent country allied with the Republic of India, which undertakes to conduct Bhutan's foreign affairs and to come to its aid in the event of invasion by a foreign power.

The postal affairs of Bhutan are conducted by its own government. The Indian Post Office Department has loaned them one of its officials, Dr. K. Ramamurti, to act as postal adviser until such time as a cadre of postal officials, who are being trained, can take over.

Individual stamps and sets can be purchased directly from The Philatelic Officer, Philatelic Bureau, Phuntsholing, Bhutan. The Government of Bhutan has established a wholly-owned philatelic sales agency in Nassau, Bahamas for the purpose of supplying stamps at wholesale to the philatelic trade. No stamps



Figure 1. Cover from Samchi to Calcutta cancelled December 30, 1967, The stamps are (left) Scott No. 76 and (right) an unlisted item. The cover is backstamped Calcutta January 3, 1968. The backstamps are shown with a black arrow in the lower lefthand corner. (All photos by Boutrelle)

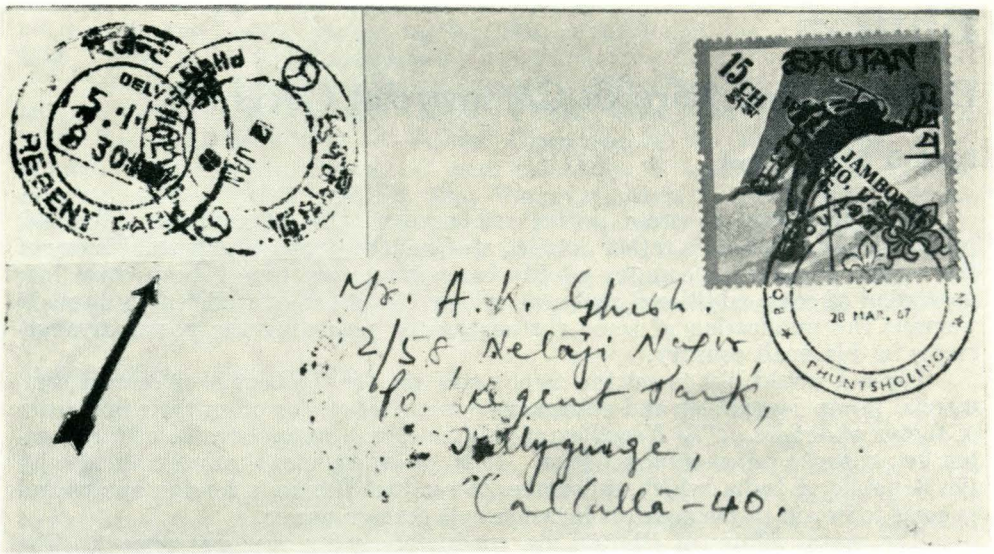


Figure 2. A cover franked with the Boy Scout commemorative stamp which is hit with the special Boy Scout cancellation of Phuntsholing dated March 28, 1967. It was then mailed much later as the two backstamps shown in the upper lefthand corner dated — Phuntsholing January 2, 1968 and Calcutta January 5, 1968 — indicate.



Figure 4. Cover from Tashigang to Botanic Garden, Calcutta cancelled during March 1968. Shown on the bottom is the March 7, 1968 Botanic Garden Calcutta backstamp.

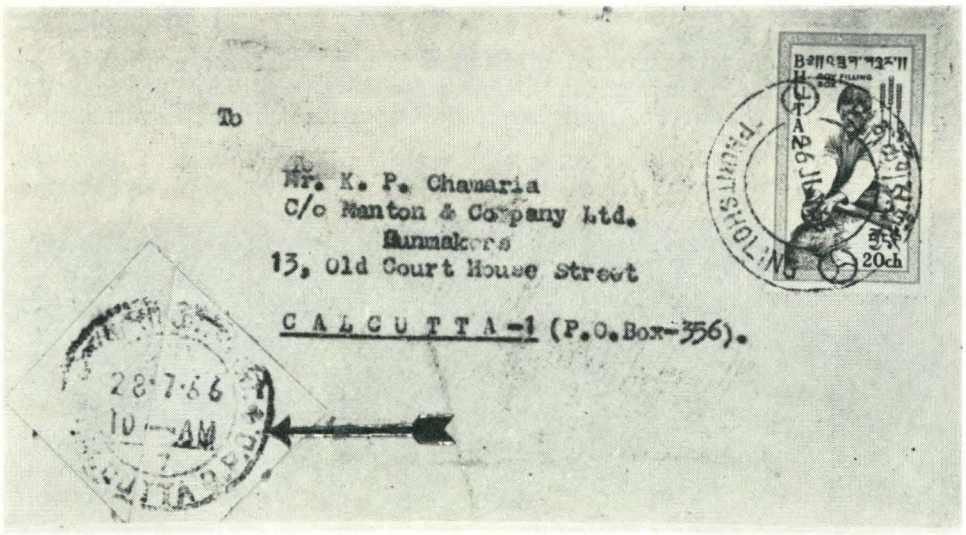


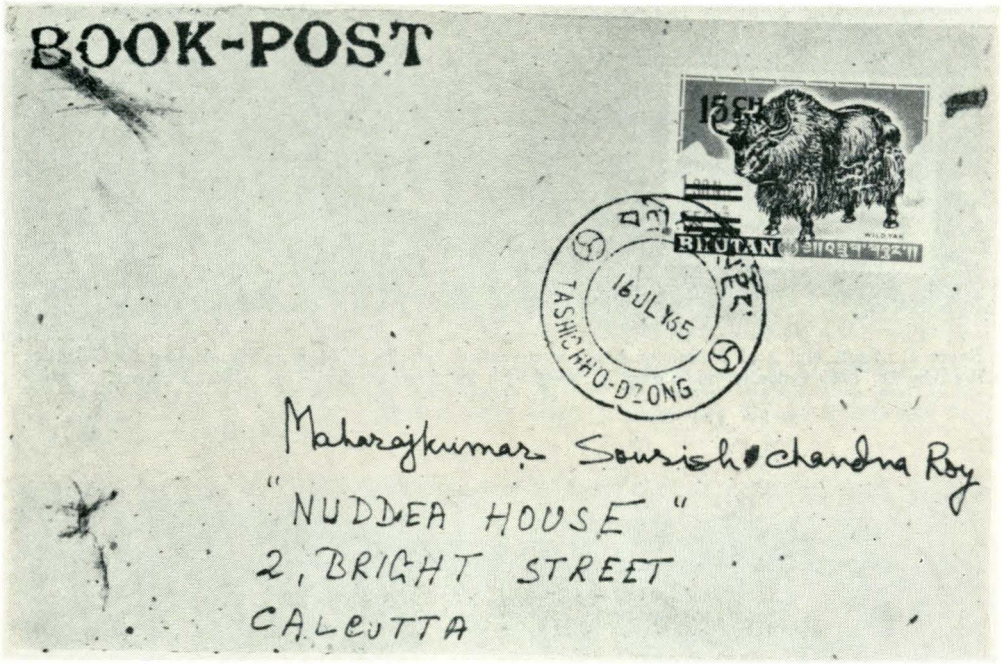
Figure 3. Scott No. 3 of Bhutan on a cover cancelled July 26, 1966 from Phuntsoling to Calcutta. The July 28, 1966 Calcutta backstamp is shown with an arrow in the lower lefthand corner.



Figure 5. Three stamps (from left to right: Scott Nos. 4, 2, and 1) on a cover from Tashichho-Dzong to Calcutta. The date is not distinct enough to identify. The Calcutta backstamp, shown with an arrow in the lower lefthand corner, is dated September 11, 1963.

can be purchased from the Bhutan Trust in Nassau until they are available in the post offices in Bhutan.

The Post Office Department of Bhutan is not under the control of any philatelic syndicate. These statements are made categorically and are subject to verification through the Post and Telegraph Department of the Government of Bhutan.



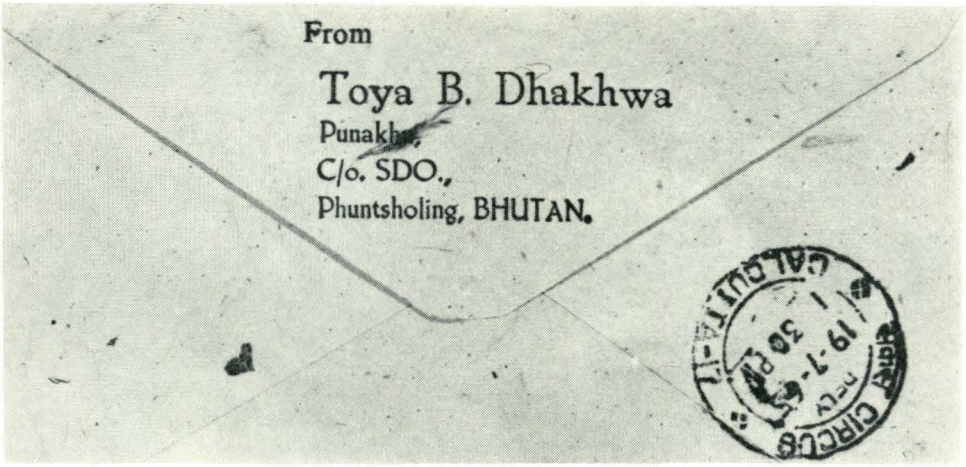


Figure 6. Front of a cover with the Provisional stamp (Scott No. 73) cancelled Tashichho-Dzong July 16, 1965.

Below is a part of the back of the cover showing the backstamp dated Calcutta July 19, 1965.

New Postal Rates

Since last writing on the postal arrangements of Bhutan, I have received notice of a revision of postal rates effective from August 20, 1968. These are published in the "Fortnightly Official Bulletin of the Royal Government of Bhutan" (Vol. II, No. 15) for the week ending 15th August, 1968. It may be interesting to note that this journal is printed at the Royal Government of Bhutan Press, Lungtenzampa. These postal rate revisions are as follows:

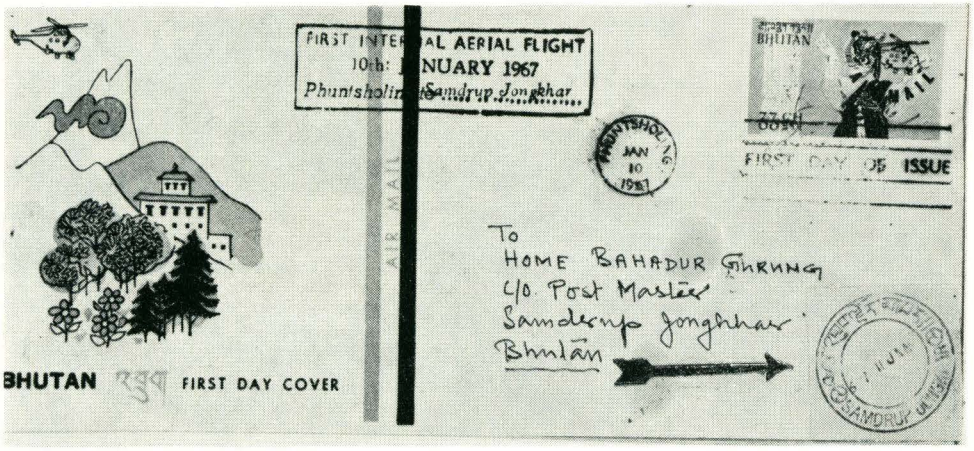


Figure 7. One of Bhutan's air mail stamps with a "First Day of Issue" cancellation dated Phuntsoling January 10, 1967. Above and slightly to the right is the rectangular box cachet of the "First Internal Aerial Flight." The Samdrup Jongkhar backstamp dated July 11, 1967 is shown with an arrow in the lower righthand corner.

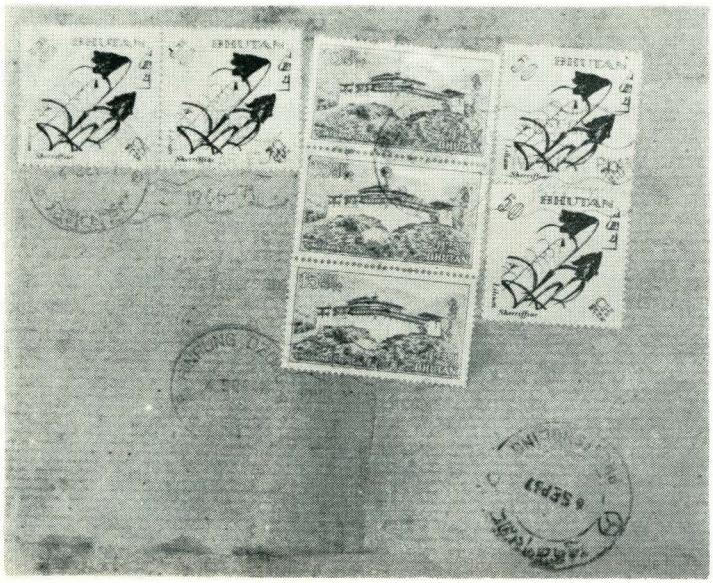


Figure 8. The reverse of a large cover from Rinpung-Dzong via Phuntsoling to the United States with seven stamps all cancelled September 6, 1967. The vertical strip of three stamps in the center is Scott No. 77; the other issue in vertical and horizontal pairs is not catalogued in Scott's. The cancellation on the stamps is that of the Second Five-Year Plan 1966-71.

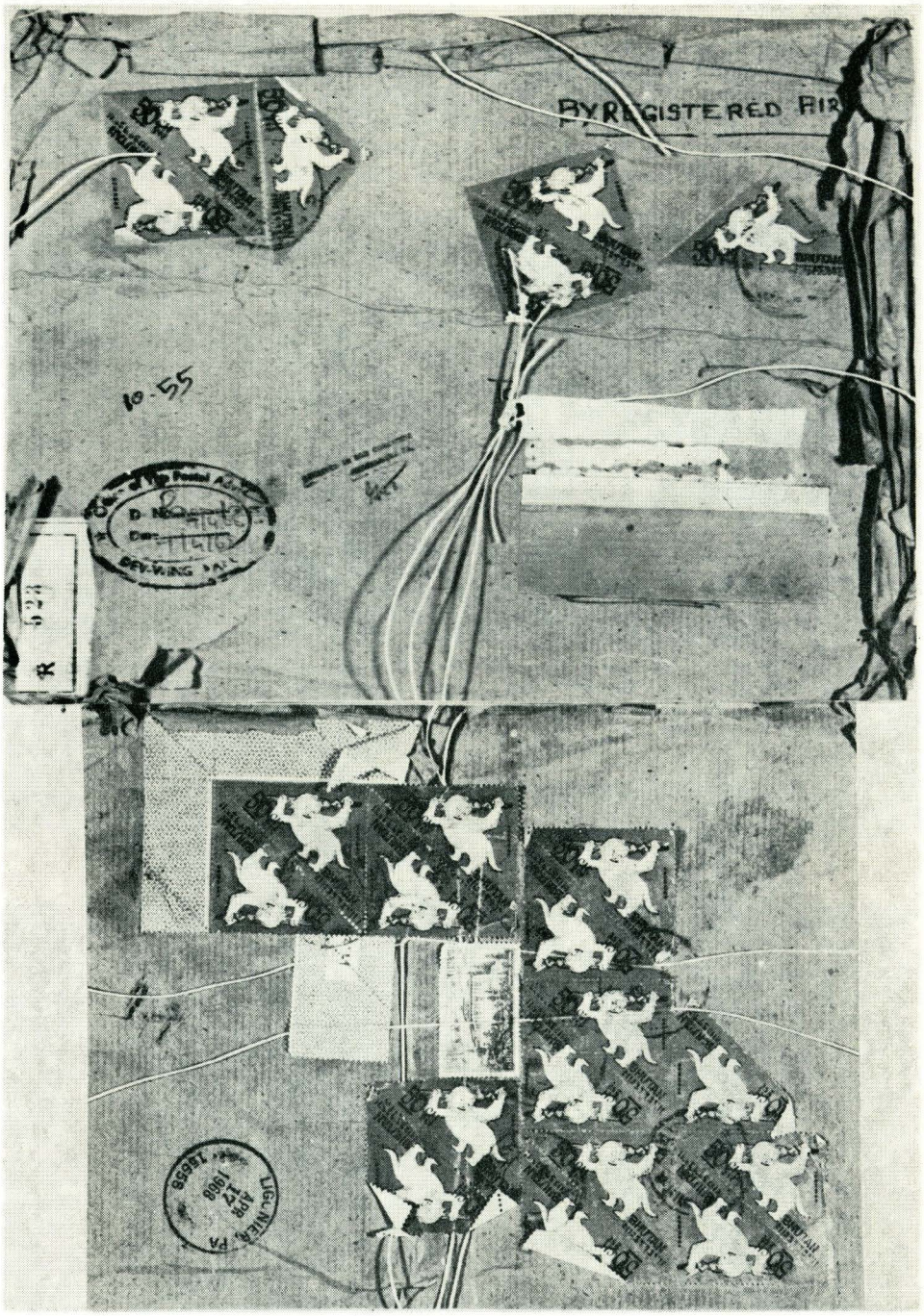


Figure 9. Front and back of registered air mail cover from Dev-wing April 7, 1968 to the United States, showing postal markings as evidence of its full acceptance by the United States Post Office on April 17, 1968 as prepaid. Bears multiple pieces of an unlisted stamp. Note the use of string, sealed down by the stamps to indicate registry use.

(Continued on Page 107)

The Clubhouse

Meeting of November 20, 1968

Mails Via Panama

Colonel James T. DeVoss of State College, Penna. made his fifth appearance as a speaker and exhibitor in the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Room of the Collectors Club, showing a most extensive collection of covers with route markings from Panama. There were 92 pages in the 20 wall frames. Again, selective material was shown on the screen by color slides that Col. DeVoss took himself. He has established a fine reputation as a philatelic photographer.

This turned out to be one of the better 1968 meetings, as evidenced at this club's Annual Meeting held in the beginning of January, 1969. The Chairman of the Program Committee announced the three awards for the finer 1968 meetings. Col. James T. DeVoss' "Mails Via Panama" received one of the two *Certificates of Honor*.

Historical Background

The unique geographical position of the Isthmus of Panama contributed not only to its economic and political influence, but to the importance of its postal history during the 19th century, particularly during that 100-year period prior to July 1, 1881, when Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union. Commerce with the newly developed countries of the Western Hemisphere had been extremely important to the major powers of the world; nothing contributed more to the development of this trade than the establishment of communications.

The first great step in the improvement of communications with Latin America came during the mid-1800's with the establishment of steam packet lines to and from Panama — first by the British in 1845, followed closely by the French, and then by the United States in 1849. With this development came some sort of organization to "the hit and miss system" which had prevailed during the days of the sailing ships. Although several foreign countries maintained mail agents in Panama or charged their diplomatic and commercial consuls with the responsibility of looking out for the mails even prior to the establishment of the steam packet lines, the regular schedules developed by the steam vessels marked the beginning of the "Golden Age" of postal communications via Panama.

Forwarding agents flourished during this "Golden Age." These were express agents, commission merchants or business houses who received letters from their clients. They had to be forwarded to their ultimate destination with Panama only an intermediate transshipment point. One folded letter in the DeVoss Collection written by Wm. Nelson & Co. of Panama, explains to a client that in addition to the forwarding postage, they charged a 12½ per cent commission for this service. They would submit semi-annual statements of the amounts due them.

Col. DeVoss was able to obtain a microfilm file of newspaper, the "Panama Star" and its successor, "The Panama Star & Herald." He has scanned every issue available from Vol. I, No. 1, dated February 24, 1849, through approximately the next 35 years which covered the period of his interest. He paid particular attention to the advertisements and uncovered the existence of many forwarding agents not previously recorded in any philatelic source. In mounting his collection of covers with forwarding agent markings, which represented only one segment of his exhibit, he illustrated both the markings and,

when available, a reproduction of the actual advertisement appearing in the Panama newspaper.

Forwarding Agents

The first forwarding agent in Panama is believed to have been J. B. Feraud who was also the United States Consul in Panama from 1833 to 1838. The black circular marking of this forwarding agent appears on two covers in the DeVoss collection both dated in June 1835. Sent from Callao, Peru, to New York addresses, they both went via Panama and thence to Philadelphia, Pa., where they received a scarce handstamp in red of the Philadelphia full-rigged ship.

Another early forwarding agent was Frederick W. Byrne; covers bearing manuscript and handstamped markings were exhibited. A manuscript forwarding marking of George Fisher previously unreported defied identification until DeVoss located a letter to the editor in the "Panama Star" dated October 4, 1850, which had as one of the signators "Dodge & Co., by G. Fisher." Further research then revealed that George Fisher was the manager of Dodge & Co's. Express. This operated between Panama and Taboga Island, the latter being the island in Panama Bay where the steam packets discharged their passengers and cargo as the tremendous tides at Panama made it impossible for the large ocean-going vessels to use the muddy beaches.

Another previously unreported forwarding agent was J. B. F. Arrivet who was the French Consul in Panama. His handstamp exists in two different styles. E. & T. Serruys & Co. also used two different handstamp markings when they forwarded letters.

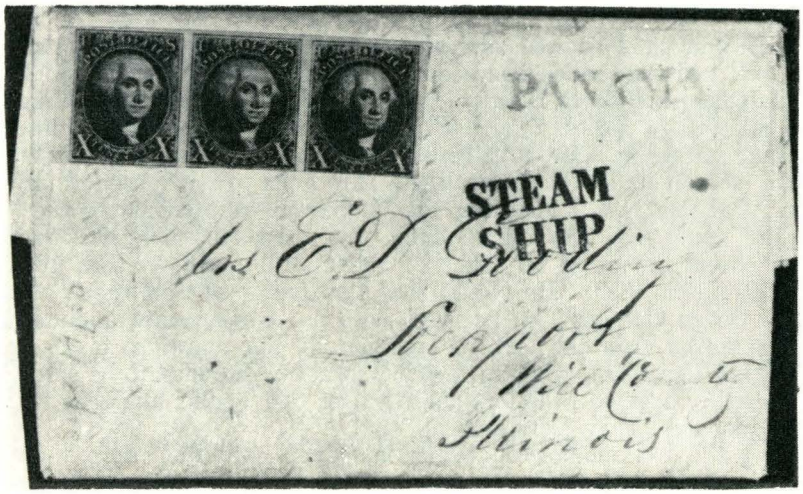
U. S. Consul 1841–49

William Nelson, who served as United States Consul from 1841 to 1849, played an extremely important part in the postal history of the Isthmus. Not only did he forward mail while he was consul (two different markings were exhibited, one of which appears in two different colors) but he became a partner of Charles Zachrisson in late 1849 and together they did business as commission, shipping and forwarding merchants under the name of Zachrisson, Nelson & Co. This partnership was dissolved in 1852 and Nelson continued to operate under his own name for a few years. He later became the Commercial Agent for the Panama Railroad and finally departed Panama in 1872 when he was appointed General Agent of the Panama Railroad Co. for Central America and Mexico with residence in Guatemala.

Nelson recommended the establishment of and was first to be appointed United States Despatch Agent at Panama. This story is a separate chapter in the "Via Panama" book being written by Col. DeVoss. This was published in the "32nd American Congress Book."

Another chapter on "The Forwarding Agents" is expected to be finished soon. This will be published later in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Adams & Co. Express, one of the larger express companies in the United States, had an office in Panama. J. M. Freeman arrived in Panama in 1853 to be the resident agent for Adams & Co. DeVoss exhibited two different forwarding markings which reveal this relationship. In 1855, J. M. Freeman, together with J. K. Stimson, J. Hoey and Josiah Hedden, bought out Adams & Co. Express and operated the New York, California and South Pacific Express under the name of Freeman & Co. The principal office of the new company was located in New York City at 59 Broadway. Freeman moved to the San Francisco office and appointed the Panama firm of Cova & Co. to be the local agents for Freeman & Co. S. de la Cova headed the firm of forwarding agents



A strip of three of the U. S. 10-cent 1847 on an entire with the "Panama" routing marking in the upper righthand corner.

and commissioned merchants which operated in Panama from 1851 to 1857. Covers with the Freeman and Cova markings in red were exhibited. The latter is one of the more common of the Panama forwarding agent markings. In degree of rarity, it falls in the same group as Smith & Lewis, C. J. Fox and Hurtado i Hermanos.

Scarce Markings

Some of the Panama forwarding agent markings in the very scarce category were exhibited by Col. DeVoss. Those were of the Pacific Express Co., A. M. Hinckley, Geo. W. Fletcher, W. P. Maal, R. C. Crompton, F. Gogorza y Ca., L. Ehlers y Ca., H. Lefevre, and L. A. Fernandez y Ho. Another previously unreported forwarding agent marking of Victor Plise in manuscript was shown on an 1855 cover from Valparaiso to France.

Amos. B. Corwine followed Wm. Nelson as United States Consul at Panama and was also the senior member of a partnership doing business as Corwine, Bro. & Co. Although he served as Consul for two different periods (1849-1853, 1856-1861) his three-line handstamp as a forwarding agent is not too common.

Corwine was the United States Consul and the U. S. Despatch Agent at Panama at the time two different shipments of the United States 10-cent 1847's were sent to Panama — 2,500 stamps were received by Corwine on July 16, 1850, and another 2,500 were received on March 21, 1851. The letter rate to the United States at that time was 30 cents. Of the eight recorded covers bearing a strip of three of the 10-cent 1847's, two of them are in the DeVoss collection. The one illustrated here is a lengthy 7-page folded letter dated September 14, 1850, the earliest of the 8 covers. The second 1847 cover shown was a folded letter dated November 27, 1850, addressed to San Blas, Mexico. The stamps on both covers were cancelled by a red circular grid cancellation which apparently had been sent specifically for that purpose to the U. S. Despatch Agent. Col. DeVoss indicated that this cancellation used in the Panama office has not been reported on any stampless cover. The red straight-line "PANAMA" marking, which appears on the cover depicted here, does appear, however, on other covers mailed from Panama.

Counterfeit Marking

Col. DeVoss next showed several covers bearing the scarce "Pan. & San Fran. S. S." marking which has been the subject of several articles by prominent philatelists, including Stanley B. Ashbrook whose article appeared in the "Stamp Specialist" series. Col. DeVoss also possesses the earliest known date of this same marking. He illustrated the differences from the others in his collection; he concludes that he believes this item to have been counterfeited.

The "Panama N.Y." marking, the Caribbean counterpart to the "Pan. & San Fran." one used on Pacific mail, was used only for one month. He exhibited covers depicting all three of the known dates — Jun 10, Jun 23, and Jul 10, all in 1850. He stated that the listing in Sampson's "American Stampless Cover Catalog" is incorrect both as to year date and accuracy of listing. Sampson lists the "N.Y." portion of the marking as an error for "N.G." (New Granada), when in fact it was never intended to be New Granada but was actually applied to letters mailed after the regular mailbags were closed for the Panama to New York mails.

Among the various miscellaneous markings exhibited were the "United States Consulate, Panama" marking applied to diplomatic letters; an oval "Steam Panama" applied in San Francisco to letters posted abroad ship; and an "Independent Line/Ahead of the Mails/Uncle Sam and North Star/Via Panama" oval propaganda marking used on mail carried by Commodore Vanderbilt's steamers. The Independent Line did not have a mail contract with the government of the United States.

British, French, Spanish Markings

The next section of covers exhibited featured the many different British postal, forwarding and transit markings used on letters which went via Panama. Col. DeVoss explained that some of the markings referred to were applied at the office of origin such as the "Paid to/Panama." Others were applied in the British offices in Panama, Chagres, or Aspinwall/Colon, while some, such as the red two-line "Panama Transit," was actually applied in London. These covers included several with unusual rates and routings as well as several combination covers with stamps of both Peru and Great Britain.

Covers which originated in Panama or were hand-carried outside the mails to Panama and mailed through the British office at the location also revealed a vast variety of interesting markings.

A small selection of covers bearing various French markings either applied by the French in Panama or on board the French packet lines serving Panama were exhibited.

Among the Spanish and New Granada markings on covers shown was a red "PANAMA" with large slanting letters dated 1788 and sent to Santa Fe (de Bogota).

Private Markings

The last group of covers exhibited were those showing various private route markings. These had been applied by the writers for the purpose of directing the routing of the letters via Panama. They appeared in several different languages but all referred to Panama.

Throughout the collection was a vast variety of covers, both stampless and with stamps, many unusual rate and due markings, and an excellent representation of many different points of origin and destination. Covers to and from several European countries other than France and Great Britain were exhibited. Nearly all of the Latin countries were also represented. They all had one thing in common; they went "VIA PANAMA."

Meeting of December 4, 1968

Italy. Watermarks and Perforations

Dr. Enzo Diena, the well-known Italian philatelic expert and international judge, travelled all the way from Rome to read the paper that follows on the interesting watermarks and perforations that have appeared on Italian postage stamps from their beginning up to the present time.

The general purpose of this paper is to show that in Italian stamps there is more than meets the eye. The main thing you do not see in a stamp, at first glance, is its watermark.

Old Italian States Watermarks

I am going to deal only with stamps of Italy proper. But, speaking of watermarks, we shall also take a glimpse at the issues of the old Italian States. Lombardy-Venetia had the watermarked inscription "KKHM" running along the center of the sheets of handmade paper on which its first stamps were printed in 1850. A sheet-watermark with the wording "Brief-Marken" or "Zeitungs-Marken" appears again on the "fifth" issue, as from June 1, 1864. The printers of Roman States stamps bought their paper from the many different sources; it so happens that the 3 bajocchi stamp exists with fragments of the papermaker's watermark "Pietro Miliano Fabriano," whereas the 50 bajocchi and the One Scudo are known with parts of the words "Canson Frères," the name of a French papermill located at Vidalon-les-Annonay.

Sheets of stamps of the Kingdom of Naples bear a watermark that includes a pattern of forty Bourbon lilies inside an elaborate framework. Among the stamps of the Duchy of Modena only the top denomination, the One Lira, has a watermark, this being the letter "A," from the name of the papermaker, Amici. The only old Roman State whose stamps are all watermarked is Tuscany. It is again a sheet watermark, consisting, at first, of nine crowns inside a pattern of straight lines, and later (as from 1857) of 78 wavy lines crossed diagonally by the wording "II e RR Poste Toscane."



Dr. Enzo Diena lecturing here at the Collectors Club on December 4, 1968, while pointing out one of the features in his exhibit. (Photo by Boutrelle)

First Watermark Of Italy

The first stamps of Italy proper were unwatermarked, but the "definitive" issue of December 1, 1863, printed in London by De La Rue, had a watermark consisting of 400 crowns arranged in four panes of 100, with the words "Francobolli postali" at top, and bottom, "MINISTERO DELLE FINANZE" on the sides and four small crosses in the horizontal gutter space. On this watermark, the original dandy roll, which had been manufactured in London by Messrs Smith & Son, went on unchanged for more than 65 years, even after the production of the paper had shifted from Turkey Mills at Maidstone, Kent, to various Italian firms including "Pietro Miliani." The Fabriano Mill I have already mentioned in connection with the 3 bajocchi of Roman States. The only variation occurred between 1895 and 1924, when the wording on the sides read "Ministero delle Finanze" instead of "del Tesoro." Between 1924 and 1929, there was also, in a corner of the sheet, the number of the dandy roll and the initials of the papermaker: "CI" or "PMF."

The big change came about in 1929, when the State Printing Works shifted from typography to rotary photogravure for the production of the bulk of Italian stamps. The new presses employed paper supplied in a web; and this had a watermark made up of horizontal lines of 20 crowns. There was a gutter space in the middle, and here ran twice the wording "Poste Italiane"; the same inscription showed also on the outside margins of the web.

End Of Royal Watermark

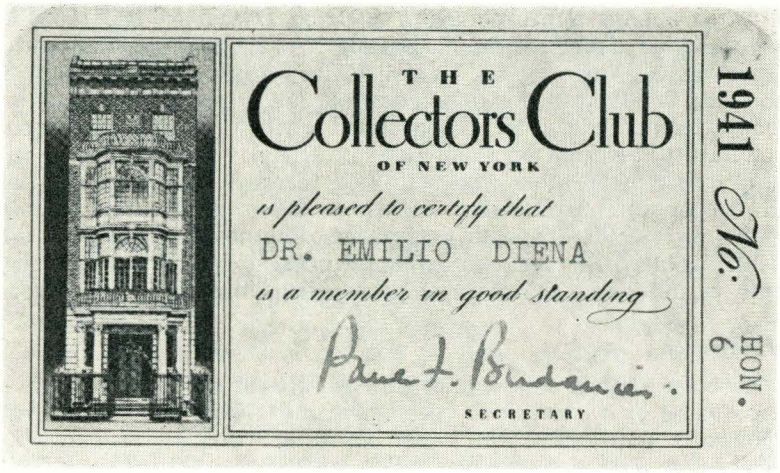
World War II brought an end to the Italian monarchy. Therefore, there was no more use for a "Crown" watermark. But even before the June 1946 popular referendum, that gave birth to the Italian Republic, a more "neutral" watermark had started being used. It was in a shape of a "Winged Wheel," and the arrangement in the web was the same as for the previous "Crown" watermark. It made its bow in May, 1945.

As early as in July, 1946, a "second type" of "W.W." watermark came into use for recess-printed stamps. They were printed on better-grade paper, supplied in sheets; these show a wider, "fatter" kind of winged wheel. A peculiar detail is that this "type 2" watermark is practically always upside down. This happened, as I came to learn years later, because operators in the recess-printing department of the State Printing Works did not call the watermark a "winged wheel," but rather a "snail." Actually, this is what it looks like when placed upside down.

In 1952, even the "W.W." watermark for web-fed presses changed its shape: it became quite round, whereas it had earlier had the shape of a vertical oval. This came to be known as "type 3." All the "winged wheel" watermarks had one shortcoming in common. They were symmetrical both vertically and horizontally. This led to the existence of a large amount of varieties in the position of the wheel (with the tip of the wing at top or at bottom, pointing either at left of at right).

New Star Watermarks

This is the main reason why, as from March, 1955, an entirely new watermark was introduced, consisting of multiple five-pointed stars. These covered the whole surface of the paper. But at the end of the same year, the stars started having a more blurred look and a different arrangement, the stars on the same line being not any more pointed in the same direction. The reason for this change was that production of paper had been moved from Fabriano to a mill at Foggia in Southern Italy, that was only equipped for the manufacture of newsprint, and therefore used "flat" instead of "round" paper-



The 1941 Honorary Membership card of Dr. Emilio Diena of Italy.

making machines. The difference, as far as the look of the watermark is concerned, is that in a "round" machine the watermark bits are sewn on the wire mesh on which paper takes shape, whereas in a "flat" one the watermark (or pseudo-watermark) is just impressed on the paper.

Early in 1958, the old "type 1 Multiple Stars" watermark came back into use. The Southern mill had turned out to be uneconomical, and the production of stamp paper had reverted to the Fabriano mill. For a short time in 1959, this plant manfactured what was apparently "laid" paper. A new drum had been brought into use. Here the vertical wires of the mesh were slightly more raised than the horizontal ones, thus showing on the paper.

In August, 1961, the Fabriano watermark became less distinct, because a new "flat" machine had been purchased. These "blurred" stars with the Fabriano arrangement have since been current on Italian stamps up to the present time.

It should be finally pointed out that many stamps exist with two different types of the same watermark; sometimes this causes marked variations in price that collectors in Italy pay. Some watermarks are much scarcer than others.

Perforations

In the matter of perforations, only two of the Italian States went to the trouble of perforating their stamps: Lombardy-Venetia from 1858 and the Roman States with their "third" issue that went on sale in 1868, i.e. a mere two years before they were taken over by unified Italy.

Most authors now concede that the very first stamps of Italy proper were the printings of the 10, 20, 40 and 80 centesimi of the fourth issue of Sardinia that were perforated and became available in 1862, (Scott's Nos. 17, 19-21) the earliest recorded date being that of February 24, 1862, for the 10 centesimi. The small Turin workshop, where all previous Sardinian stamps had been printed, could hardly cope with the huge task of supplying stamps to the whole of the newborn Kingdom of Italy. It, therefore, had to give up the attempt at perforating the stamps it printed, and it was necessary to revert to imperforates not only for the aforementioned four denominations but also for the 15 centesimi stamps. That one came out in the first months of 1863, (Scott's Nos. 22-23) due to a change in the basic inland letter rate.

Perforated stamps appeared again as from December 1st, 1863, i.e. when the London-printed definitive issue (Scott's Nos. 24-33) was first put on sale. The perforating was done by the British Office of Inland Revenue at Somerset House, London. It was a comb perforation, its gauge being 14 (this is the same perforation found in all typographed British stamps and even on the 1 Franc stamp of Belgium of 1865, London print).

Similar comb perforators were supplied to the Government of Italy when it started its own stamp production venture at the newly-founded State Printing Works in Turin. And this comb perforation 14 remained basic for all Italian stamps until rotary photogravure was introduced in 1929. But there were many more variations in this field of perforations than in that of watermarks.

American Influence

The first big change was connected with the attempt to improve the look of Italian stamps by reverting to recess-printing. This process entails the use of wet paper. Upon drying, the paper can either shrink or stretch, and since the small "boxes" of a comb perforator are of a uniform size, its use can result in very bad centering. It was, therefore, advisable to turn to the more flexible method of line perforating.

The original attempt at recess-printing was a joint Italian-American venture. The Rome subsidiary of an American firm was given for the stamps' design a fine portrait of the King, expressly designed by F. P. Michetti, one of the top Italian painters of the time, and had it engraved on steel by an American engraver, Mr. Savage. This gentleman also took care of the lettering, which bears remarkable similarity to that seen on United States postage stamps of that time. This 15 centesimi "Michetti type" stamp (Scott's No. 93) came out in March, 1906. It had something new besides the design, because it was line perforated 12.

Back To Government Printing

It was perhaps too costly to have the stamps printed by a commercial contractor. In 1909, the production of the 15 centesimi stamp was again entrusted to the State Printing Works. The printing process reverted to the old typography. But the size of the design was slightly larger than that of all other regular stamps. Because of a lack of a perforating comb to suit this larger format, the typographed 15 c. "Michetti" (Scott's No. 111) had also to be line-perforated. In this case, the gauge was 13 x 13½.

This was in some way a provisional stamp, because in 1911 the State Printing Works produced their own recess-printed version of the Michetti design (Scott's No. 123). This was line perforated 13½ x 14 although part of the printing was comb perforated. Earlier that year new recess-printing presses had already been employed by the State Printing Works for the production of four commemoratives marking the fiftieth anniversary of Unification (Scott's Nos. 119-122). These had also been line perforated, the gauge being 14 x 13½.

Line and comb perforations continued until 1929. Some of the most interesting varieties are found in the "Victory" issue of 1921, which exists both line perforated and comb perforated. The latter is unusual because vertically the comb measures 13¾ for the space covering three stamps and 13¼ for the remaining two. I explained this unusual situation in an article for the magazine "Il Collezionista" published a few years ago. Several stamps exist both with line perforation 13½ and 11, including, the scarce "St. Francis" Lire 1.25 of 1926 (Scott's No. 182) and the very scarce 1.75 Lire regular stamp of 1929 (Scott's No. 193a).

New Printing In 1929

The introduction of rotary photogravure in 1929 marked the start of a new era in the perforation of Italian stamps. The German Goebel presses employed for this process included a sheet-perforation unit. The web of gummed paper fed into the press comes out not only printed (in one or two colors) but also perforated (and even cut to sheets). This is a very economical process. Since 1929 the bulk of Italian stamps has the sheet-perforation 14 of the Goebel presses.

It should be noted that the 1929 equipment, consisting of two presses, has been steadily in use for just about four decades. In recent years it has been running for practically 24 hours a day, with an average monthly output of about 250 million postage and revenue stamps. A new Goebel rotary photogravure press was introduced in the fall of 1968; it shows no basic difference from the 1929 model, save for the introduction of an electric eye to insure the better centering of perforations.

Throughout the 1929-1968 period other perforation processes have also been employed, but on much smaller scale. It has been necessary to revert to either line or comb perforation in the following cases:

a) for odd-size stamps with small printing quantities, when it was considered too costly to purchase a new sheet-perforator to fit them; this includes two-section parcel post stamps, until a new arrangement of stamps in panes of 60 was devised in 1954, enabling sheet-perforation to be employed.

b) for stamps in normal sizes with small printing quantities, that were produced not on the big rotary press, but on a small sheet-fed press that was originally intended only for proofs.

c) for stamps printed by photogravure in more than two colors on the small "proof" press.

d) for stamps printed by processes other than photogravure, i.e. photolithography and recess-printing either on wet paper (line perforated) or on dry paper with the "Giori" process (usually comb perforated).

New Modern Presses

In 1957 two new Goebel rotary presses (models "300" and "500") were used. These are web-fed that combine one recess-printing with a photogravure unit. The smaller "300" press contains an electric-eye controlled "oscillating comb" perforator that perforates stamps by single rows as they come out of the final stage of printing. The perforator operates at speeds of up to 1,000 strokes per minute. This causes a terrific amount of noise.

The larger "500" press has a sheet-perforator just like the regular rotary photogravure presses, but the "oscillating comb" is again a part of still another Goebel press, a web-fed four color photogravure machine that was introduced in 1965 to meet the demand for multicolored stamps.

But even in this field of electronics-operated, very high-speed perforators, there is room for research and discovery on the part of keen philatelists. One can find a copy of a stamp that is either wider or narrower than usual. This can occur when the electric eye is "catching up" with some slight case of off-centering; or, better yet, because two copies of the same stamp have a different gauge perforation, due to a change of perforator during the printing.

About The Exhibitor

The editor of this magazine would like to add a few personal notes about Dr. Enzo Diena, because he is a "rare philatelist." We can think of no other *third generation philatelic expert.*

His grandfather, Dr. Emilio Diena, was one of the leading philatelic

students from the latter part of the 19th century until his death in 1941. At the end of the grandson's paper, Dr. Enzo Diena showed the 1941 Collectors Club membership card. It is illustrated on page 95 because it shows that Dr. Emilio Diena was *Honorary Member No. 6 of the Collectors Club.*

The sons of Dr. Emilio Diena maintained the family reputation as philatelic experts. One is the father of Dr. Enzo, Dr. Alberto Diena, and slso his uncle, Mario Diena, who have actively functioned as philatelic experts in Rome for many years. Many American auction houses include in their descriptions of scarce European stamps the words, "signed Diena."

Dr. Enzo Diena joined his father and uncle after he had finished his education. As for his philatelic education, he had an exceptional advantage. He was first taught stamp collecting as a very young boy by his famous grandfather.

He is blessed with another exceptional talent. He is a multilinguist. Being fluent in English, French, German, Spanish and his own Italian, he has for over a decade served as the Secretary of many International Philatelic Board of Judges, including SIPEX here in 1966. Your attention is called to his English writing in the preceding paper. Also, the entire audience on the night of December 4, 1968 was astounded by Dr. Enzo Diena's clear English diction with hardly a trace of a foreign accent and his extensive English vocabulary. *(H.M.G.)*

Board of Governors Open House

December 18, 1968

Following the tradition of the past several years, the last meeting of the 1968 season was hosted by the Board of Governors. This annual "Open House" meeting is traditionally non-philatelic because of the holiday atmosphere that prevails. To give the meeting room a philatelic flavor, however, each Governor is asked to display at least one frame of material from his or her collection. No formal discussion or presentation takes place; rather, the Governors are available for comments about their material subsequent to the meeting. It is a tribute to our membership that most of them showed a lively interest in the items on display. Animated discussions between the exhibitors and the members were observed in various parts of the meeting room.

For the record, the following is a list of the exhibits:

Herbert J. Bloch — *Baden*
Mrs. Rae D. Ehrenberg — *U. S. Christmas Seals*
Henry M. Goodkind — *Mexico's Eagle Air Mail Stamps*
H. D. S. Haverbeck — *Azerbaijan*
Albert H. Higgins — *Aden*
Norman S. Hubbard — *Guatemala*
Alex Rendon — *Bolivian Revenues*
F. Burton Sellers — *Haiti*
Philip Silver — *U. S. Air Mails*
Theodore Van Dam — *Spanish Postal Markings*
Irwin M. Yarry, D.D.S. — *Leeward Islands*

Mrs. McCoy Honorary Member

A special note was added to this year's "Open House" meeting when *a Certificate of Honorary Membership,* previously voted unanimously by the Board of Governors, was presented to *Mrs. Ethel B. McCoy* by President Philip

Silver. *Mrs. McCoy is the first lady philatelist to receive this signal honor of The Collectors Club.* She is an internationally-known collector; her outstanding collections, formed over many years, have received high awards in national and international exhibitions. In addition, she has served as an officer of many philatelic organizations, such as The Essay Proof Society, The Precancel Society and The Postal History Society, to name but a few.

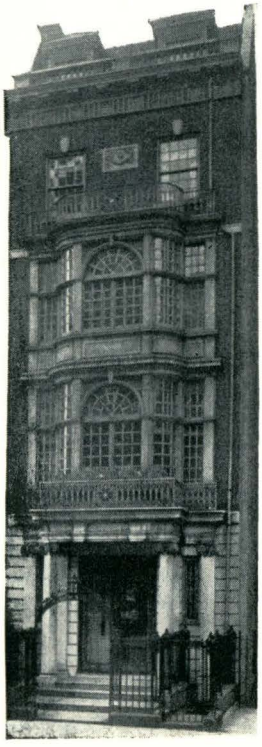
Mrs. McCoy's contributions in service to The Collectors Club have been many. She has served on various committees where she has given willingly in time and effort to promote the best interests of the Club. Although considered on a number of occasions for election to the Board of Governors, her natural modesty prompted her to refuse the offers. Her answer invariably was, "I'm sure you can get someone better."

The value of her gift to The Collectors Club of the famous McCoy collection of U. S. Plate Numbers was adequately spelled out recently by the Chairman of the Capital Fund, Mr. John R. Boker, Jr., when he stated, with reference to the fund balance,

> "This very respectable sum represents the kind and generous donations of many of our members and *the particular generosity of Ethel McCoy whose gift of the 'Walter McCoy Plate Number Collection' in his memory has been developed into a cash addition to the Fund.*"

The members, their wives and guests in attendance all rose to give Mrs. McCoy a well-merited, standing ovation when she received the Certificate of Honorary Membership.

Following this, all went up to the second-floor lounge to take part in the pre-holiday festivities. For want of a more adequate summary, we can simply state that a "good time" was had by all. *(P.S.)*



73rd Annual Meeting

January 8, 1969

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. The President read the notice of the annual meeting mailed to all voting members on December 27, 1968. Next, the President asked the Secretary if quorum of voting members was present. The Secretary replied in the affirmative.

The reading of the minutes of the 72nd annual meeting was requested. In view of the fact that the minutes of the January 10, 1968 meeting had been published in full in the March 1968 number of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, it was moved, seconded and passed that the reading of the minutes of the 1968 annual meeting be dispensed with.

Secretary

Although there was a slight reduction in the total membership of the Club, it is my sincere hope that full membership be attained before the Club's Diamond Jubilee in 1971.

Total Membership January 1, 1968 .	1159
Honorary and Life Members . .	10
	1169

Members lost by death	28	
Resignations accepted or dropped for non-payment of dues	46	
	74	
Members admitted in 1968:		
New	56	
Reinstatement	1	
	57	
Total Membership January 1, 1969		1152
Made up as follows:		
Resident	256	
Non-Resident	745	
Overseas	142	
	1143	
Honorary and Life	9	
	1152	

In 1968, we marked the loss by death of 28 valued members, including four past Presidents.

After I read the list of those no longer with us, may I request that those present rise for a moment of silence in their memory:

Resident Members

Dr. Emory E. Cochran
Seymour Elterman
Harry L. Forman
Robert L. Graham, Jr.
Mrs. John H. Hall
Lt. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham
Herbert P. Woodward
Hans G. Zervas

Overseas Members

Dr. Ricardo D. Elicabe
J. G. Millaard
Paul Schoenmann

Non-Resident Members

Spencer J. Bardens
George W. Caldwell
George H. Deuble
Vincent Domanski, Jr.
John W. Ford
J. G. Glassco
Dave Hahn
Charles S. Hamilton
Clarence M. Jephcott
Adolph Larson, Jr.
Colin MacR. Makepeace
Henry A. Meyer
Walter Pikula
Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury
John H. Small
Frank L. Stultz
Paul Ulanowsky

The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Governors are in order and up-to-date; all correspondence has been attended to; there is no business of consequence in the Secretary's folio.

Before ending this report of my freshman year, I would like to thank all who have given me their support and give credit to the invaluable assistance I have received from our Executive Secretary Mrs. Anne W. Pritchett.

(Alex Rendon)

Treasurer

The Collectors Club operated on a cash budget based upon anticipated Income during the year ended December 31, 1968. Expenses exceeded income

during that year and while approximately $1,000 represents a non-recurring insurance outlay, there is still a deficit which will be charged to surplus.

Your attention is called to the fact that this report is unaudited and is subject to confirmation by our accountants. The certified report* will be published in a forthcoming issue of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

The Treasurer again wishes to emphasize to the membership that dues, sales of publications and advertising income no longer cover rising operating costs. It is only the generosity of a few members in the form of donations, plus some miscellaneous items of income which enable the Club to meet expenses. *(Howard Lee)*

Awards

The main task of this committee is the selection of the recipient for one of the club's most coveted awards, the *Collectors Club Medal* for the best article in our bi-monthly magazine.

Once again there can be nothing but praise for the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. For over twenty years, under the editorship of Henry M. Goodkind, many excellent articles were published.

The year 1968 was no exception, if anything it surpassed the previous years. In making its selections, which were arrived at unanimously, the Committee felt that articles, which appear in installments over more than one year, should be judged in the year in which they are concluded.

For 1968 the COLLECTORS CLUB MEDAL for the best article in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST is awarded to:

Nicaragua, The "Seebeck" Issues by Albert Quast and Dr. Robert Willer.

This article, in five parts, covered a hitherto neglected, difficult field. It should not only be invaluable to collectors, but also should prove to be very helpful in the future in expertizing.

In addition *Certificates of Honorable Mention* are awarded to:

Newfoundland, the Guy Issue of 1910 by Robert H. Pratt
and
Spain, the Cadet Issues of 1901–05 (Scott Nos. 272–286) by Theo Van Dam

Herbert J. Bloch, Chairman; John R. Boker, Jr.; Malcolm G. O'Reilly

Program Committee

The activities of the Program Committee are all too visible to the membership. Twice every month ten months every year you have the opportunity to decide for yourselves whether the committee is functioning in accordance with your desires. The actual work of putting together the program for 1968 was done in 1967. You who have attended the meetings during the year have expressed yourselves. You have already decided that 1968 was a good year. The attempt to give a sound and varied program has been successful. Some speakers were received better than others; some presented a more interesting lecture than others. But from the front of the room, we could judge by the substantial increase in attendance, that the committee had fulfilled its task.

One of the duties that this group is charged with is that of awarding a

*To avoid repetition of many financial statements that in past years have been substantially the same, these will only be published once when the Auditor's Report is later included in this magazine. *(H. M. G.)*

Collectors Club Medal for the best 1968 program. This year we are pleased to announce that this will be presented to *Col. John F. Rider* for his lecture on *Peru* given on June 5th.

Since there was considerable close competition, the committee has decided to present two *Certificates of Honor* to *Creighton C. Hart, "Using Automation in Research of the U. S. 1847 Covers,"* and to *Col. James T. DeVoss, "Mails via Panama." (H. D. S. Haverbeck)*

Editor

From all indications, 1968 appeared to be another successful year, especially from the standpoint of the quality of philatelic knowledge, for our bi-monthly magazine. As in the past, the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST's Volume 47 (1968) continued to have 408 printed pages in the six numbers plus the index to Volume 46 (1967) that was included with the first 1968 number.

The first number of 1969 (Volume 48) is about to be mailed. It, too, will have the separate index of Volume 47 (1968) that I compiled.

Mark down the year 1971 now in your memo book! The Collectors Club will mark its 75th anniversary year in 1971. Also, another great milestone will be reached in 1971 — Volume 50 of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

For this special occasion, it is the editor's hope to bring out a new, updated *Cumulative Index* covering the 50 volumes of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. The last *Cumulative Index* came out in 1960; it covered up to Volume 40. The latter sold out within four years.

Now is none too early to begin to lay plans for the 50-year *Cumulative Index*. The work will require many hours of detailed tabulating and cross-checking. If any member can volunteer some of his spare time assisting with this important task, the editor would be very pleased to hear from him. Believe me, there is a great demand for philatelists all over the world for a *50-year Cumulative Index* of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. *(Henry M. Goodkind)*

Library

The library of the Collectors Club, to keep its acknowledged position as the premier philatelic library in America, is faced with finding solutions to two problems: space and service.

Every year the library receives 2,000 items of philatelic literature for which space must be found on the shelves. At the beginning of this year, it seemed as if the available space on the second floor had been exhausted. So, Mr. Solomon Altmann inaugurated an Archive Section — a room in the basement with controlled temperature and humidity for maximum safety — to house those books that had had least use in the past. In the next months, Mr. John Dowd did the work of rearranging the handbook and catalogue sections and reorganizing the periodical shelves. It can now be reported that the Library has enough room for expansion for the next ten years and that the Archive Section is a working reality.

But the library is not just a storehouse. Its main purpose is to serve those who use it. With this in mind, the Library Committee has begun a two-fold attack on the problem of how to increase service. It had been felt that in at least two areas some definite progress could be made. Firstly, the library should have more material. Therefore a program has been started under the direction of Henry M. Goodkind to acquire, on a systematic and rational basis, those recently published philatelic handbooks that the library now lacks. Secondly, a more efficient means of utilizing material now on the shelves is needed. To accomplish this, an indexing system based on Library

of Congress cataloging methods is to be put into operation. Mr. Ernest Wilkins is planning this work.

In spite of problems of space and service, the library functions, and functions well; a fact, to which the many users it had this year, can testify. That this is so is due to our Librarian, Mrs. Josephine Eldridge, whose helpfulness and kindness make using the library a pleasant and rewarding experience.

(H. D. S. Haverbeck)

House Committee

The House Committee purchased new rugs for the library. The rugs were repaired in the lobby. New window boxes were purchased.

We had a problem of a water leak in the eastside wall of the building. Almost needless to say it took a lot of time and trouble to have it fixed; at last, I believe it is all right.

As our Clubhouse is an old building, I can only advise that every year some repairs and fixing will have to be done. *(Ezra D. Cole)*

Publications

By constitutional definition, the publications committee is charged with the preparation and supervision of all the publications of the Collectors Club. For the past fifteen years, these publications have been divided into two parts: The COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, the official journal of the Collectors Club and a publication of philatelic record; *The Steinway Memorial Publication Fund handbooks.* Since the editor of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST renders his own report this one will concern itself only with the Collectors Club handbooks.

Early in the year we published Handbook No. 20, "The New Hebrides, Postal Stamps and their History" by Nathan Hals and Phil Collas. Hopefully, by the time this report is read, Handbooks Nos. 21 and 22 will be available to the membership.

No. 21 is "The Postal History Of Vermont" by Bingham, Drenan and Slawson. This book occupied a great deal of the committee's time because of the careful editorial work it entailed.

No. 22 will be "New Zealand. The Great Barrier Island 1898-99 Pigeon Post Stamps" by J. Reg. Walker, deceased, edited and annotated by Henry M. Goodkind and Horace L. Chisholm. Since this was a labor of love and a member of the committee was closely involved in its preparation, the chairman did not have the problem of conforming the book to our high standards.

The support of the membership for the activities of the publication committee is most essential. For it is these activities which set the Collectors Club apart and give us the respect of international philatelists. The library and the publications are what keep us from being just another stamp club.

(H. D. S. Haverbeck)

Philatelic Handbooks

Published under the Auspices of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund

Inventory as of December 31, 1968		*Quantity*
No. 1	United States 24c Air Mail Inverted Center of 1918 by Henry M. Goodkind	195
No. 2	Corrientes, The Issues from 1856-80 by Louis Stich	125
No. 3	Venezuela, The Early Stamps by C. W. Wickersham	23
No. 6	Austria, Handbook of Pre-Stamp Postmarks by Edwin Mueller	70
No. 7	United States, The Ten Cents Stamps of 1855-59 by Mortimer L. Neinken	1304
No. 8	Robert Morris, Postmaster of New York by Winthrop S. Boggs	57

No. 10	Confederate States of America, Special Postal Routes by Lawrence L. Shenfield	82
No. 11	French Colonies, The General Issues by Robert G. Stone	184
No. 12	Civil War Prisons and Their Covers by Earl Antrim	599
No. 13	Honduras, The Black Air Mail by Irving I. Green	605
No. 14	The Postage Stamps Of Nepal by H. D. S. Haverbeck	206
No. 15	The Pony Express by M. C. Nathan & W. S. Boggs	382
No. 16	Manchoukuo by Helen K. Zirkle	274
No. 17	United States, The 1851-57 Twelve Cents Stamp by Mortimer L. Neinken	317
No. 18	Afghanistan, Its 20th Century Postal Issues by Frank E. Patterson, III	453
No. 19	United States, The 5c Beacon Air Mail Stamp of 1928 by Henry M. Goodkind	392
No. 20	The New Hebrides, Postal Stamps and Their History by Nathan Hals and Phil Collas	359

Other Handbooks

Brazil Bull's Eye (July, 1943)	7
Greece Part 1	13
Greece Part 2	7
French Morocco (1943-44)	159
Eary American Perf. Mach. (1857-67)	200
C.C.P. Cumulative Index 1-18 (1922-38) paper bound	1

COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

Back Issues Available as of December, 1968

	January	April	July	October
1924	0	1	0	0
1925	0	1	1	0
1926	0	0	0	11
1927	0	0	0	0
1928	1	0	2	15
1929	0	0	0	2
1930	0	0	4	3
1931	1	1	1	9
1932	1	2	2	0
1933	1	1	1	0
1934	1	6	1	0
1935	3	0	2	10
1936	5	4	4	2
1937	9	3	1	2
1938	2	3	0	0
1939	7	53	—	—
1940	6	6	0	0
1941	13	14	5	15
1942	9	12	22	34
1943 (Stern H.B. 34)	39	48	0	45
1944 (Stern H.B. 18)	44	26	2	35
1945 (De La Rue So. Africa) 1	37	39	47	49
1946	7	16	44	44
1947	50	50	53	51
1948	5	30	54	65
1949	22	4	4	1

	Jan.	Mar.	May	July	Sept.	Nov.
1950	5	32	24	35	38	36
1951			(Adequate	Supply)		
1952			(Adequate	Supply)		
1953	0	32	41	47	29	47
1954-1968			(Adequate	Supply)		

(Sol Altmann)

Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

Last year's activities of this committee were thoroughly reported in the 1968 COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST (Volume 47).

In the March number (No. 2) pages 109 to 111 announced the 17th honored recipient of the award along with a detailed biography of Mr. Herbert J. Bloch. In the July number (No. 4), the formal presentation at the May 8, 1968 Annual Awards Dinner was reported in great detail on pages 226 to 230.

Any further words at this time only would be a repetition of the 1968 reports in this magazine. *(Henry M. Goodkind, Chairman)*

Study Groups

There are now fourteen Study Groups meeting at The Collectors Club. We welcome the return of the China Stamp Society, one of our earliest Study Groups, after an absence of several years.

During 1968, three very fine programs were presented to our members by the France & Colonies Group on March 6th; by the British Empire Study Group on March 20th: by the Essay-Proof Society on October 16th. All these were well-prepared talks and exhibits for which Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the respective participants.

In order to properly furnish an analysis of the entire Study Group program, a letter was sent to each one of the groups, requesting pertinent information to assist in this analysis. This is now being reviewed with possible recommendations to the Board of Governors.

On behalf of The Collectors Club, may I extend my best wishes and thanks to the respective Study Groups for their individual continued cooperation and contributions. *(Dr. Irwin M. Yarry)*

Publicity

Eight press releases were sent to all leading philatelic magazines, and also to the major newspapers, attention of the stamp editor on the following:

1) Annual Awards dinner, and the presentation of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award to Mr. Herbert J. Bloch. (This release was also sent to the major philatelic publications abroad).
2) An obituary for our past president, Mr. Herbert P. Woodward.
3) 50th Anniversary of the U. S. air mail meeting of May 15, 1968.
4) Publication of book on the "Postal History of the New Hebrides."
5) The results of the Annual Competition.
6) Sale of certain properties by the Collectors Club.
7) Talk on December 4, 1968 by Dr. Enzo Diena of Rome, Italy on the stamps of Italy.
8) The COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST for 1968.

(Theo. Van Dam, Richard S. Wilson)

Community Service

It is with a sense of disappointment that this report is presented, inasmuch as there was practically no cooperation from the membership.

Despite of the fact that several appeals for contribution of philatelic material were made, it must be reported that unfortunately only four members, besides the chairman, responded.

Due to this lack of interest, it seems that this effort should be discontinued.

(Mrs. Rae D. Ehrenberg)

The President

Your President has just concluded one year in office and it is incumbent

that he give a report of his stewardship. All of you who take the opportunity to read the Constitution and By-Laws know that the President and the other officers are elected by the members of the Board of Governors. On the last Wednesday in each month, the Board meets to consider the problems of the Club. This is their responsibility; it is theirs by virtue of having been chosen by you the members. The President conducts the meeting as chairman of the Board. As I see it, his primary function is to plan for the continuing life of the Club and to give direction to the efforts of the Board chosen by the members for this purpose.

The phrase "continuing life of the Club" refers to the activities it conducts pursuant to its constitution. Thus, we plan programs, continue our publication of the *C. C. P.* — which the Editor tells me will soon be celebrating 50 years of publication, maintain our library for the benefit of the members and the public, and plan participation in the philatelic activities of our region. It is axiomatic that no President can function well without a good Board. I can say with some emphasis that the task of the President this past year was made much easier by a devoted Board of Governors and Officers.

The program for the coming year is now in your hands and you can see that it will provide varied and interesting meetings. The editorship of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, I am happy to say, is in good hands and it will continue to be one of the foremost philatelic publications in the world. The library, one of our most important assets, will come under increased attention this coming year. It is now under the capable co-chairmanship of Mr. Haverbeck and Mr. Goodkind. I am happy to say that several of our members have been working with the Chairmen. Additional volunteers are needed. One of the future projects of this committee will involve the preparation and publication of a comprehensive philatelic index, something never before attempted in philately.

These are some of the things that have come to the attention of the Governors during 1968. As I look back on the reports of the meetings, I note several important items which occupied the thoughts of the Board. Many of them came to the knowledge of the Club members in due course, such as the election of Mr. Boker as Trustee, the selection of Mr. Bloch as the 1968 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, the designation of Mrs. McCoy as an Honorary member and matters of like interest.

On a number of occasions, also, the Board took up matters connected with the Capital Fund. This, as you have heard from me, *ad nauseum*, is my pet project. Indeed, as one whose adult life has been connected with financial matters, it would seem strange if such items did not occupy my efforts for the Club. The income from the fund will provide us with the means of improving the activities of the Club and will pay for the costs of upkeep which keep rising from year to year. Let us hope it will not be necessary to use the income of the fund to pay for possible real property taxes for which, as an exempt institution, we are not presently liable. I am sure most of you have seen stories in the press about the attempt to add such institutions as ours to the New York City tax rolls.

This, then, is the short report of the President. It is both a resumé of what has taken place and what we hope to accomplish in the future with your help. *(Philip Silver)*

The attached reports were read by the Chairmen of the various Committees and Officers of the Club and on motion duly made, seconded and carried, accepted with thanks.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the actions and decisions of the

Officers and Governors during the year ending December 31, 1968 be approved.

Nominating Committee

The following members were selected by this committee meeting on December 4, 1968 for the Class of 1971 of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club:

Ezra D. Cole
Ernest A. Kehr
Howard B. Lee
F. Burton Sellers
Philip Silver
Dr. Irwin I. Yarry

Emanuel M. Reggel, Chairman; Jan Bart; W. Kenneth Minuse; Stanley A. Solomon; Louis N. Staub

Following the reading of the nominations, the Chairman read from the By-Laws & Constitution that: "seven or more members may nominate members for the election of the Board of Governors, by written notice to the Secretary at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the coming Annual Meeting, which names shall be promptly posted on the bulletin board by the Secretary."

The Secretary reported, upon inquiry from the President, that no letters in regard to the further nominations of members to the Board of Governors had been received.

Elections

It was then moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the Secretary cast one ballot for the six names proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Meeting recessed while Governors retired to elect officers for 1969.

Meeting reconvened and announcement was made of the election of the following officers for the year 1969:

Philip Silver, *President*
F. Burton, Sellers, *Vice-President*
Alex Rendon, *Secretary*
Howard B. Lee, *Treasurer*

Meeting adjourned at 9 p. m.

BHUTAN *(Continued from Page 88)*

Postal rates (surface mail)

		*NU**	*CH*
A.	Letters.		
	i. For the initial weight of 20 grams or part thereof	0	75
	ii. For every additional weight of 20 grams or fraction	0	45
B.	Post Cards	0	45
C.	Registered Newspapers		
	For a weight not exceeding 50 grams	0	20
	Every additional 50 grams or part therof	0	10

In addition to the above, there also has been a change in the air mail rates. These are established by adding a surcharge for air service to the surface rate. Useful examples are given rather than a detailed description. The combined rate to European countries is 1 Nu 50 Ch. for the minimum weight; that to the United States is 2 Nu 15 Ch.

For the purpose of bringing up-to-date the record of postmarks as described in the previous article, illustrated are nine commercial covers which have undoubtedly passed through the mails. I show them, in order to try to educate those, who believe, in spite of the evidence produced earlier, that Bhutan does not have a post office for public postal services.

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*Bhutan currency. 100 CH (Chetrums) to 1 NU (Ngultrum). 1 NU equals 14 cents (U. S.)

Bolivia

The "Garcia" Issue Of 1863 (Part 4)

By Alvaro Bonilla Lara

(Continued from Page 22)

APPENDIX II

Decrees

The entire history of the Garcia issue is contained in five documents, all issued in 1863. From the legal point of view, these best permit one to understands the status of the Garcia stamps, and whether or not they were postally used. The five documents are:

a) Decree of February 21. Complete English translation below.
b) Auction for postage revenue, February 21. (See page 279, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 47, No. 5)
c) Circular of March 8. (See page 280, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 47, No. 5)
d) Resolution of March 18. Complete English translation on page 111.
e) Order of April 29. (See page 281, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 47, No. 5)

Decree of February 21

"The Citizen, Jose Maria de Acha, Constitutional President of the Republic and Captain General of the National Army, etc.,

"Considering:

"That experience has proven indispensable, for a better conveyance of epistolary letters, the establishment of the postage stamps.

"That this improvement, as introduced and adopted in every postal zone of the Americas, is a progressive step, that makes an exception of Bolivia, where it has not been able to be taken.

"That such improvement, besides offering faster communications, also provides for a more prompt and accurate collection of the postage revenue.

"That the present mail rates, in addition to being excessively expensive, are not uniform, not proportional and leave room for abuse; in Council of Ministers,

"I hereby decree:

"*Article I.* It is instituted in the Republic the use of stamps for mail.

"*Article II.* The transportation of mail will be as presently made and will be subordinated to present regulations.

"*Article III.* Until the decimal system can be arranged, stamps will have a proportional value to our present monetary system as specified in following sections.

"*Article IV.* Letters will be posted with stamps affixed to the envelopes according to the value of the postage determined by weight, as follows:

"1. — Every letter mailed between States *(Departamentos)* inside the Republic and weighing up to 5 'adarmes' will pay 1 *real**.

"2. — Those exceeding 5 'adarmes' but not more than ½ ounce will pay 1½ *reales.*

*One *real* nominally was worth 12½ cents, U. S. currency. One *Adarme* was equal to 1.79 grams. Thus five *Adarmes* equal ¼ ounce.

"3. — Those weighing more than ½ ounce but no more than 1 ounce will pay 2 *reales.*

"4. — Those letters weighing more than 1 ounce will pay 2 *reales per ounce.*

"5. — Letters mailed within the State will pay half the above rates.

"*Article V.* Letters for foreign mail will pay according to the following rates:

"*To Argentine Republic*

"a) Letters whose weight does not exceed 5 'adarmes' will be charged 3 *reales.*

"b) Over 5 'adarmes' and up to ½ ounce, 4 *reales.*

"c) Over ½ ounce and up to 1 ounce, 5 *reales.*

"d) Over 1 ounce, 3 *reales per ounce.*

"*To Republic of Peru*

"a) Letters whose weight does not exceed 5 'adarmes' will be charged 2 *reales.*

"b) Over 5 'adarmes' and up to ½ ounce, 2½ *reales.*

"c) Over ½ ounce and up to 1 ounce, 3 *reales.*

"d) Over 1 ounce, 2 *reales per ounce.*

"*To Chile and all other South American countries*:

"a) Up to 5 'adarmes', 4 *reales.*

"b) Over 5 'adarmes' and up to ½ ounce, 6 *reales.*

"c) Over ½ ounce and up to 1 ounce, 8 *reales.*

"d) Over 1 ounce, 5 *reales per ounce.*

"*To Europe:*

"a) Up to 5 'adarmes', 5 *reales.*

"b) Over 5 'adarmes' and up to ½ ounce, 7 *reales.*

"c) Over ½ ounce and up to 1 ounce, 9 *reales.*

"d) Over 1 ounce, 6 *reales per ounce.*

"*Article VI.* Registered letters weighing less than one ounce will pay a 4 *reales* fee, in addition to the regular postage fees. One ounce or over will pay 1 *peso.*

"*Article VII.* Letters sent or delivered to post offices without the required postage or without the full payment of the corresponding fee will be charged a penalty set at twice the regular rate. Exception will be made with the President of the Republic and Ministers of State's personal correspondence, which may be sent without stamps. The postal fees will be collected from the post offices to which the letters are addressed.

"*Article VIII.* Every parcel containing printed matter that includes any handwritten instructions or letters will be considered as letters and the full postal rate will be applied. Parcels or newspapers must be prepared for the mails to permit inspection.

"*Article IX.* It is prohibited to open parcels of printed matter delivered for dispatch at a post office. This inspection can be made only at the receiving office, to determine if any parcel also contains letters.

"*Article X.* Civil Court proceedings will be mailed using stamps.

"*Article XI.* Brochures also must pay postage, at the same rates as for parcels, when the weight exceeds 4 ounces.

"*Article XII.* The following types of mail will be carried free and exempt from payment of postage:

"a) Official correspondence of the Ministries of State.

"b) Official correspondence of Political Headquarters.

"c) Official correspondence of Civil, Clerical and Military Courts of Justice of the Republic.

"d) Official correspondence of the Treasury Administration.

"e) Proceedings in criminal law suits.

"f) Official correspondence of foreign accredited diplomats and consular agents, with whose governments Bolivia maintains postal treaties.

"g) National or foreign newspapers.

"*Article XIII.* Mail can be carried by private individuals when:

"a) All correspondence exempt of postage.

"b) Franked letters or with the proper postal rate prepaid by stamps affixed, after the stamps have been cancelled by the post office of the place of origin.

"c) Newspapers and all other printed matter.

"d) Correspondence between places where there are no post offices.

"*Article XIV.* Every person carrying correspondence not included in the preceeding section must deliver it at the post office of destination.

"*Article XV.* Anyone who does not follow the regulations of the preceding Article XIV will be liable to a fine equal to double the amount of the postal fees.

"*Article XVI.* The officer authorizing or permitting the conveyance of personal correspondence inside an official cover will also be liable to fine as specified in the preceeding Article.

"*Article XVII.* The post office or officer receiving this private correspondence, must send it to the post office of the place of residence giving advice of the place of origin, or be liable to the fine designated by Article XV.

"*Article XVIII.* He, who forges postage stamps and sells same, will be prosecuted by criminal trial and punished in accordance with the laws, in the same manner as falsifiers of handstamps or markings of the State.

"*Article XIX.* All letters, after being noted on a delivery list for three successive months, that have not been claimed or picked up by their owners, will be considered dead letter mail.

"*Article XX.* The letters fined according to Article VII, when the fine is not paid, also will be considered dead letter mail. On the front of these letters must be written "Held for fine."

"*Article XXI.* Each Postmaster will arrange quarterly the mail specified in the preceding Article XX, as well as the postponed mail, in one list that will be sent to the Postmaster General at the Ministry of Government. This list will be published in the official newspaper.

"*Article XXII.* All dead letter mail will be held at each respective post office for six months commencing from the day that they were inventoried.

"*Article XXIII.* Every six months dead letters will be destroyed by incineration, including the ones that were not claimed during the period mentioned in the preceding section as well as those whose addresses are impossible to locate.

"*Article XXIV.* To proceed with destruction by incineration, the mail will be previously examined by a Committee selected by the District Attorney, the Postmaster General and a member of the City Council. The examination will include an inspection of the outside to determine if the contents may have any documents or other important objects. If so, the envelope will be opened and, without reading the letter, a record will be made of the name of the sender and the importance of the documents or objects enclosed. If found important, the letter will be deposited in the Post Office together with the envelope resealed; and the judiciary authority or the General Postmaster will proceed to publish a public notice. All other mail will be incinerated, witnessed by the Examination Committee.

"*Article XXV.* Records will be kept of the proceedings. All actions are to be subscribed to by the witnesses and is to contain the quantity of pieces or letters incinerated, the quantity of the ones deposited, to specify name of sender and addressee and the nature of the documents or objects included. This Act will be published in the newspapers for the knowledge of those interested.

"*Article XXVI.* Conveyance of parcels and payments of the corresponding postage will be as follows:

"a) From 5 'adarmes' and up to 20 pounds, 5 *reales* per pound.

"b) Less than 5 'adarmes', 2 *reales.*

"c) Excesses over 20 pounds will pay 2 *reales* per pound.

"*Article XXVII.* Conveyance of Court proceedings, printed or accounting books will be charged as follows:

"a) From 1 and up to 20 ounces, 4½ *reales* per ounce.

"b) Over 20 ounces will pay 1 *real* per ounce.

"*Article XXVIII.* For currency in cash, sent from one post office to another, the following charges must be paid:

"a) From 10 *pesos* and up to 70 *pesos,* fee 1 *peso.*

"b) From 70 and up to 100 *pesos,* 10 *reales.*

"c) From 100 and up to 500 *pesos,* 6 *reales* per one hundred.

"d) Over 500 *pesos,* 5 *reales* per one hundred.

"e) Conveyance of amounts of less than 10 *pesos* will pay only 4 *reales.*

"*Article XXIX.* Carriers are forbidden to carry letters without the corresponding postage stamp cancelled as specified in Article XXIII, paragraph b. Only if considered urgent will the carrier accept a letter without postage stamps. However, the carrier must present it to the post office immediately on arrival or be fined three times the postage fee.

"*Article XXX.* Carriers also are prohibited from carrying parcels with merchandise or cash not included in the postmaster's invoice, under penalty of dismissal.

"*Article XXXI.* It is also prohibited to change the nature of parcels to be carried in the mail pouch in order to defraud the Post Office of postage revenue under penalty of twice the applicable carrying-fee.

"*Article XXXII.* Presently and until the Government can establish the necessary means to manufacture its own postage stamps, the general mail revenue will be offered in an auction sale for one year, on a basis and under conditions that will be determined by the pertinent Minister.

"*Article XXXIII.* This decree will go into effect from the day that any of the bids, referred to in the preceding Article, will be approved.

"The Minister of Government and Justice will be in charge of both the execution and carrying out of the present decree and of its publication and circulation.

"Given at the Palace of the Supreme Government, in Oruro at this 21st of February of 1863. (Signed) Jose Maria De Acha. (Signed) The Minister of Government and Justice — Marceliano Cardenas.

Resolution of March 18

"*Postage Revenue: Approval of the stamp contracts.*

"In regard to the bids made by citizens, Hipolito Cardoso and Justiniano Garcia, Cardoso offering 16,000 pesos and Garcia 17,000 pesos for the year's auction of the general postal revenue, the following resolution has been made:

"Ministry of Government and Justice. Oruro, March 18, 1863.

"Having reviewed the proposals submitted in response to the invitation made on February 21 last for bids for the concession of the general mail revenue; and the proposal of citizen, Justiniano Garcia, being the most advantageous for the National Treasury, because he offers 17,000 pesos fixed as the

base in said call for bids, he is awarded the concession under the following conditions:

"1. — In accordance with the stipulations of the bidder, he shall be the concessionaire for two years commencing June 1 next; upon which date the concessionaire shall have the stamps ready, necessary for the public service in all the principal and subordinate post offices. The stamps' shape shall be rectangular and shall contain in the center the coat of arms of the Republic and around it the inscription 'Correos de Bolivia, Porte Franco, Half Real, One Real, Dos Reales,' according to their face value.

"2. — That the 17,000 pesos, the fee for one year's auction, will be paid quarterly, with a bond guaranteed by collateral of 8,500 pesos in real estate. The payment for the 4,250 pesos due each quarter will be made to the Public Treasury of the State *(Departamento)* of Potosi, from where the government will order its distribution to the other Treasuries of the Republic for the payments due to the different post offices.

"3. — That it is not permissible for the bidder to hire postal employees. However, to safeguard his own interests, the bidder is granted permission to make agreements with the postal inspectors; he will also report to the postal inspectors those employees, who try to defraud him, for the corresponding adjustment. The bidder is also authorized to inspect, on his own accord or through his agents, what concerns his interests at the post offices, such as checking the accounting books, the lists and the receipts.

"4. — That the mail to Peru will pay ½ real less than the rates established in Article V of the decree of February 21 of the current year; the bidder is to collect one half of the postage on all the incoming mail from that Republic.

"5. — That on Article XXII of the aforementioned decree will be understood to include in the exemptions for payment of postage, those who are solemnly declared poor and indigent taxpayers.

"6. — That, as a guarantee to the bidder, the President of the Republic and Ministers of State's mail conveyed subject to Article VII of the aforementioned Supreme decree, must bear a special marking which will be in charge of the Postmaster General.

"7. — That the fees, provided in Article XXVIII of the aforementioned decree for conveyance of currency in cash, are understood to be only for cases when the cash goes directly from one post office to another, without a transfer at an intermediate post office. But, if one or more intermediate post offices are involved, the fee will be increased by 50%. For instance, currency transported from La Paz to Oruro will pay the established fee; but that which has to go through Potosi, or Tarija, or any other post office, will have to pay 50% more.

"8. — That the fines established in Articles XV, XVI and XVII of the same decree will be from 5 to 10 pesos only, for the bidder, and not 20 and 5 pesos as he has proposed.

"9. — That the government, to guarantee the rights of the bidder and a better service by the postal administrations, will promptly issue postal regulations.

"For the proper fulfilment of the present Resolution, pass it to His Lordship the Political Chief of the District of Sucre who, upon acceptance of the bidder's fees, will issue the corresponding contract.

"And previous notification of the bidder, through His Lordship the Political Chief of this District, for the acceptance of the changes hereby made, publish this in the press and register it.

"(Signed) His Excellency. Cardenas."

— The End —

Book Reviews

Railroad Postmarks of the United States 1861 to 1886. By Charles L. Towle and Henry A. Meyer. Published by the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. 379 pages, illustrated, clothbound. Price $10. Available from Melvin W. Schuh, 6 Laconia Rd., Worcester, Mass. 01609.

Just ten years after the specialist group now known as the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society brought out the late C. W. Remele's listing of the postal markings of the earliest years of this country's railroads (1837 to 1861), its imprint appears on this catalogue of railroad postmarks of the 1861-1886 period — an era when use of the iron horse for carriage of mail (as well as passengers and freight) approached a zenith.

The volume appears when use of railroad postmarks is at a nadir, for such postal markings were used almost entirely on first-class mail. Nowadays, the postal service is making little use of the country's railroads to carry anything but second-class mail and parcel post. It's because the Towle-Meyer book covers the postal markings of an era which has ended that it may be regarded as significant documentation in the field of postal history.

Certainly no one can study its illustrations of railroad postmarks and the numerous maps of the routes, where these postal markings were used, without becoming aware of the role played by the rails in the integration of this country's communications. Too, the introductory chapter, calculated to explain the Towle-Meyer classification of railroad postmarks, ranks as about the clearest exposition of the history of mail transportation by rail in the United States that has ever escaped into print.

Charles L. Towle, a railroad man by profession, and the late Henry A. Meyer, a postal historian of first rank, worked together for something like a decade on the preparation of the manuscript for this latest publication of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society.

In the volume's close to 400 pages, the railroad postmarks of the 1861-1886 period are adequately illustrated, classified logically and their usage succinctly detailed. Killers used with railroad postmarks are illustrated, too; the listings take manuscript markings into account. Indexing, with no lack of cross-references, is superlative. The text includes a comprehensive bibliography.

It seems particularly appropriate that the volume carries a dedication to the late William W. Hicks. Not only does it cover a field in which he did significant pioneer work, but it's a book he would certainly have hailed as an example of what a reference work in the field of postal history ought to be.

(William W. Wylie)

New Zealand, The Great Barrier Island 1898-99 Pigeon Post Stamps, by J. Reg Walker. 100 pages. 70 illustrations. Paper Cover. Handbook No. 22 of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016. Price $5.00 postpaid.

There has always been an aura of mystery surrounding these, the first stamps in the world to be issued and used to carry air mail in regular service. Although not government sponsored, the conveyance of mail by homing pigeon enjoyed a brief but busy existence in a competition which approached the level of a feud. Until now, the reasons for this rivalry were vague, and were frequently based on incorrect assumptions garnered from earlier equally erroneous writings. Hopefully this volume, written by the late Mr. J. Reg

Walker of Auckland, New Zealand, who was acquainted with the principals in this drama, will forever dispel the clouds of uncertainty which have obscured the truth.

Mr. Walker's manuscript, written in the 1950's, is more than just a history. It contains a compelling quality which catches up the reader with the spirit of the times, sending him back to share, for an altogether too brief moment, a glimpse into the complicated happenings surrounding the pigeon post.

Without any doubt this is the first reasonably complete chronicle of its sort. Including the history, the stamps, their plating and varieties as well as a timeless catalogue which provides relative value, the book is a well-researched presentation of the known facts surrounding these stamps. As it is more complete and more accurate than any of its predecessors, the book hopefully will erase some of the mistaken ideas which have plagued the field for so long. Facts are firmly substantiated with letters, newspaper clippings, and excellent illustrations which leave no doubt as to the authenticity of the statements made.

Of particular interest is the fact brought out by the manuscript that the "original" *Great Barrier Pigeongram Service* actually started subsequent to the *Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency*. But the "*Agency*" did not start using stamps until after the "*Service.*" It has often been assumed that the "*Agency*" followed the "Service," although it must be remembered that the "*Service*" did not issue the first stamps in any case.

In the appendices, the excellent research of four philatelists are presented in an effort to complete the story of the stamps. Bernard and Cyril H. C. Harmer, the well-known professionals and also specialists in the stamps from New York and London, respectively, Mr. H. L. Chisholm of Australia and Mr. Henry M. Goodkind of New York combined their talents to produce the catalogue of relative scarcity, as well as sections on counterfeits and commemorative flights. The catalogue is a worthy contribution which represents as complete and close an estimate as possible of the present market.

The spirit of this work is well in keeping with the high standards of the quality in "the Postage Stamps of New Zealand," that outstanding reference set which has few equals. Generally, in that series, if a fact is not known, further research is encouraged; no pretense is made that what is stated is truth inviolate. To a large degree, this approach is maintained by Collectors Club Handbook No. 22, and it may well be considered a spiritual supplement to that time-honored series. *(Robert P. Odenweller)*

The Postal History of Jamaica 1662-1860 by Thomas Foster. 180pp. Illustrations. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., London. 1968. Price $15.00.

To the fast-growing list of impressive handbooks on the postal history of British possessions or former possessions, there is now added an excellent one on Jamaica. There are, however, some exceptions. Mr. Foster has searched, for pertinent information, the original records in the General Post Office, London; the Public Record Office; the Calendar of State Papers; the Journals of Assembly; Jamaican Almanacs and the Jamaican Gazette, in addition to articles published in specialized periodicals and secondary books. He has also consulted an amazingly large number, 71, of collectors, dealers, philatelic societies, libraries and museums.

In his preface, Mr. Foster states that his aim was "not one of originality, but was to compile and collate all available information relevant to the subject under one cover and present it in an easily digestible manner." To a great extent he has succeeded.

In narrating the history of the Jamaican Post Office up to 1860, Mr. Foster has drawn heavily on pages 1-15 of Rev. Morton's chapter in the most important book up to now, that was prepared and published in 1928 by Collett, Edwards, Morton and Nicholson under the imprint of Stanley Gibbons. He has paraphrased much of Morton, unfortunately quoted too often without indication most of the same letters and documents, some more fully than Morton, and omitted a few in whole or part; but added some that are extremely interesting.

Beginning with his chapter on Dummer's ill-fated packet service of 1702-1711, he has considerably expanded Morton and arranged the narrative of the growth of the post office much better.

His Chapter on Dummer's ambitious service is the best I know aside from the excellent article by John Haskell Kemble published in the "Mariner's Mirror" for April 1940. Chapters on the Falmouth-based sailing packets of 1755-1841, and on the Royal Steam Packet Company, though presented for their effect on Jamaican postal service, will be of great interest and help to students of other Caribbean colonies.

Appendices A-H add a wealth of material to the history. In them we find a detailed list with dates and commanders of Dummer's ships; a most interesting description of the Jamaican Coffee House and its use by correspondents; a list of Post Office sailing packets carrying mail to the West Indies from 1755 to 1841; a list of Naval Brigs supplied by the Admiralty beginning in the early 1820s; Postage Rates of Jamaica 1662-1860, including Inland Rates; Rates to the British Isles, Ship Letter Charges and Soldiers and Sailors Letters; a list of Postmasters of Jamaica 1671-1860.

The "History" could be expanded, especially in Chapter 7, The Workings of the Inland Post 1788-1860. For instance, Mr. Foster rather abruptly says "Let us look at some of the arrangements for the inland delivery in the outlying parts," then gives the divisions of Jamaica, naming the post roads and post offices in *1840*. Although he had mentioned the district post offices under Dismore in the 18th century, this is his first mention of them in the 19th century. The Jamaican Almanacks *(sic)* of 1812, 1817 and 1824 show this 1840 division with most of the same post offices.

Several of the Appendices need correction, notably "F, A List of Naval Brigs Supplied by the Admiralty for Use as Falmouth Packets." Although Mr. Foster has made some corrections to the list in Robertson's monumental "Maritime Postal History of the British Isles," he has continued some of the mistakes. *Aries* should undoubtedly be the short-lived *Ariel*. No *Aries* appears in the "Official Navy Lists" nor in lists published in "Great Britain Parliament Sessional Papers." The *Ariel* was ordered built in 1818, was launched at Deptford in 1820 and was commissioned as a packet sometime between 25 September and 25 December 1827, Lt. James Figg, commanding. The *Ariel* sailed for Barbados 22 March 1828, carrying London papers to the 20th, and returned safely; but from her voyage to North America, sailing from Falmouth 10 November 1828, she did not return. The official report made to Parliament states that "she was seen standing direct for Sable Island in December by a trading schooner of Halifax . . . the Master . . . endeavored to warn her off without success, and she is supposed to have run on shore within two hours after." She vanished without trace of the 34 persons on board after she left Falmouth, or of the mail.

Part Two dealing with the postal markings comprises about 60% of this book. A great deal of work has been done on Jamaican postal markings in recent years. This compilation, bringing together a great quantity of information on the handstamps, is very well presented and will certainly become the vade mecum for the collectors of Jamaica.

Part Three has British Postage Stamps used in Jamaica, with sections on the "Imperial Issues used at Kingston, and obliterators of Kingston;" "Imperial Issues used at the Post Towns before the Arrival of the Obliterators and After their Arrival;" with a final fascinating section, "Imperial Issues Refused for Postage." Two appendices add statistical information.

Mr. Foster's Parts Two and Three add enormously to information published earlier.

One misapprehension in the Introduction should be corrected. Referring to the uncontested voyages by Spain to the West Indies, Mr. Foster states that "Portugal was out of the running due to fallen fortunes..." Not true, because until after 1550, the wealth of the Indies (East) was pouring into Portugal. The situation was that in 1493, to settle differences between the two most powerful nations, Pope Alexander VI issued a Bull. It divided the globe between Spain and Portugal by a line of demarcation 100 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands giving the right of discovery east of this line to Portugal and west of it to Spain. The Pope issued a second, third and fourth Bull all in the same year. When these proved ineffective, representatives of these nations met at Tordesillas. On June 7, 1494 they signed a treaty with rights west of a line 370 leagues west of the Cape Verdes to Spain.

The format of the book is excellent, most attractive with clear illustrations, with postal markings and statistical material well-arranged for easy use. And it will lie open flat.

But why did the publisher reduce the Moll map of Jamaica to proportions that make it useless, because most of the names inscribed cannot be read even with a magnifying glass? It would have been attractive and helpful at twice this printed size. *(Pamela Taylor)*

Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalogue Part Two. Europe and Colonies. 59th Edition 1969. Illustrated. 1126 pages. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 391 Strand. London WC 2. Price $8.00.

Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalogue Part Three. America, Asia and Africa. 58th Edition 1969. Illustrated. 914 pages. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 391 Strand. London WC 2. Price $7.00.

In the words of Shakespeare "They are not constant but are changing still." These two volumes reflect a very responsible attitude toward the world of philately. Both volumes contain major revisions of listings which would be too numerous to enumerate here. They reflect a desire to present the facts as they are discovered through research of various specialists. These improved listings should help the specialist to understand areas which had previously been somewhat unclear.

According to Gibbons' policy, certain unnecessary issues are being condemned to obscurity in the appendix. This which slows the rate of page expansion, due to new issues, to a mere gallop. This policy is not retroactive and those issues deserving such inverse recognition should breathe a sigh of relief. According to Gibbons, the policy has gained "overwhelming support from the trade and collectors..."

Prices in both volumes reflect the changes resulting from currency devaluations, with the classics increasing in fully expectable form. The middle and modern issues have been kept at roughly the same level to encourage a growing export trade for Great Britain. In preparation for a smooth transition from sterling to decimal currency, certain pricing combinations otherwise expectable in sterling quotations have been eliminated to make prices compatible to the change.

Response to the newly adopted (within the past few years) policy of adding a note to show the premium for centering in certain issues has prompted this to be extended to Sweden and Switzerland in this year's Volume II. More will follow.

These volumes add to Volume I, the British Commonwealth, to make a complete set covering the world. In total treatment, the Gibbons Volumes One, Two and Three are more specialized than the usual catalogues accepted as standard in the United States and can be used by specialists and beginners alike. For some countries, simplification tables are proffered and allow the more general collector to form a more representative grouping of the countries by concentrating on the major issues, sidestepping the varieties which make a country interesting to a specialist.

Although it is unlikely that the Gibbons set will unhorse the traditional Scott's in the United States as a reference source, there are those here and abroad who find the quality and depth of information to be without equal.

(Robert P. Odenweller)

Nihon Yubin Kitte Meikan: Specialized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Japan, sixth edition, compiled by the Kitte Bunka Philatelic Society. 359 pages, profusely illustrated. Clothbound. Published by Kitte Shumi Sha, 3-12-28 Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 1967, with separately bound (paperback) *1967 Addenda*, 16 pages. Price $6.

This is the latest edition (the first since 1959) of Japan's foremost specialized catalogue of Japanese stamps. Known familiarly by the short title *Meikan* (pronounced like the English words "may con," not "me can,") it first appeared in 1941, with revised editions in 1950, 1954, 1956 and 1959. The long-awaited sixth edition is an extraordinarily complete revision; the editors state that 95% of the text has been rewritten. Evidence of this is apparent everywhere, but especially in the long and very useful narrative introductions that precede the listing of each of the regular issue series. For example, the Koban Series of 1876-1892 (Scott 55-84) has nine pages of listings, preceded by four pages of narrative introduction that deal in detail with matters of design, printing, plates and plate-making, paper, gum, perforation, plate imprints, position arrows, colors, the problem of differentiating early and late printings of the 5 rin stamp, cancellations most often found on the series, and finally a short bibliography of specialized articles in various magazines.

The nine pages of listings for this regular series may also be taken as an example of the information provided. There is an illustration (actual size) of *every* stamp, not merely the six basic designs shown in Scott. In fact, each stamp in the series has its own block listing, running to about a dozen lines and giving dates of issuance, suspension of sale, and invalidation (if any); date and number of the official decree authorizing issuance; color, with notes about shades; quantity issued (when known), types of specimen overprints known, and supplementary notes on design elements, peculiarities, varieties, non-postal cancellations, and so on. It is thus no wonder that a series to which Scott devotes a single column (about a quarter of a page) requires thirteen full pages in the Meikan catalogue.

Commemorative issues, of course, require proportionately less space because there are fewer variations in perforation, paper, printing, etc., than in the regular series. But even the commemoratives get individualized treatment; photographs of every stamp, and full details including the style and position of the plate imprint, the official decree authorizing issuance, the marginal inscriptions on the sheet, the value of a first day cover, the names of designers

and photographers or engravers, the size and composition of sheets, types of paper known, and quantities of specimen overprints, as well as a short explanation of the purpose of the issue.

In accordance with Japanese custom, the listings are divided into more categories than Western cataloguers usually adopt. Not only are regular issues for surface mail, regular issues for air mail, and commemoratives put into separately numbered sequences, but also there are separate sequences for several distinctive categories of commemorative or special issue stamps, such as the national parks stamps, the quasi-national parks stamps, the national treasures series, New Year greeting stamps, Olympic Games issues, and so forth. In addition, there are separate listings of Offices Abroad issues, postal savings stamps that were valid also for postal use, military and election-business franchise stamps, stamp currency, and postal stationery cut-squares that were officially accepted as adhesive stamps.

Preceding the main listings is an eight-page study entitled, "Basic Information about Japanese Stamps," by Professor Mishima Yoshitsugu of Tokyo University, the foremost authority on all matters relating to the printing, production, perforating, and gumming of Japanese stamps, past and present. This introduction is a remarkable feat of summarizing basic information, with admirably clear illustrations and diagrams of the various plate imprints, perforation styles, sheet framelines, watermarks, and the physical appearance of stamps produced by different printing methods.

An outstanding feature not yet mentioned is the series of tables of the regular issues perforation and plate imprint varieties. These are scattered through the book as needed, and present specialized information that is not to be found in any other catalogue. They are one of the principal distinctions of the Meikan catalogue, and one of the major reasons why it continues to be the most respected and most useful of the several Japanese catalogues now current.

Except for a regrettably large number of typographical errors, this sixth edition of the Meikan is an impressive accomplishment, greatly enlarging upon the merits of its predecessors. For those who do not read Japanese, however, it is necessary to add that the text is almost entirely in that language. It will, therefore, be difficult for most Westerners to take advantage of the best features of the catalogue. Titles of commemorative issues are given in English as well as Japanese; valuations and quantities of issue, as well as dates of issue, are given in arabic numerals, and should thus be intelligible even to those who do not read Japanese. With a little thought, such readers should also be able to understand the extremely important tables of perforation and plate imprint varieties.

But having said all this, one must still concede that such readers will necessarily miss the long passages of text which contain the bulk of the specialized information not found in any other catalogue. A complete English translation of the Meikan would be invaluable to Western philatelists. But unfortunately no one seems to have the time, ability, and funds that would be required to produce one. *(Robert M. Spaulding, Jr.)*

Altdeutschland Spezial-Katalog und Handbuch 4th Edition, 1968, edited by Hans Grobe. Hannover, Germany. 439 pages, profusely illustrated. Price $15.00.

The fourth edition of "Grobe's Specialized Catalogue of the Old German States" is a great improvement over the third one which appeared in 1963. This is evident not only in expanded content but also in the inclusion of wholly new material.

Physically, the catalogue is well designed; it is sturdily bound and lies flat when opened. The print is large; the illustrations of stamps and postmarks are clear and plentiful. In content, the catalogue lists and prices every variety of every postal issue of the German States up to 1875. The numbering is identical with the Michel system. In addition, the largest known blocks or strips of regular issues, the proofs and essays, telegraph stamps, mixed frankings, reprints, postal stationery, and postal money orders are all listed and priced. A bibliography of further suggested literature is appended to each State's section.

Postmarks and cancellations are not neglected. Indeed, the extent of the listings in this field, both in the pre-stamp period and, of course, during the years of postage stamps, testifies to the diligence of the many students working in this area. This collected data is one of the many valuable features of the Grobe catalogue.

This edition has added a wholly new chapter on postal money orders — the earliest shown dates back to 1714. The chapter on telegraph dispatch forms has been greatly expanded. In fact, there seems to be no section of the catalogue that has not been gone over, so as to remove past misinformation or unclearness of listing or to add newly discovered varieties. However, critical re-editing of this or any other catalogue is a never-ending task. To cite just one example of an item in this edition that must be corrected in the next: a military postal envelope for Baden is listed as being unique. One collector in the United States has several of these envelopes in his collection at the present time.

Prices for the classic stamps of the Old German States are a difficult subject on which to comment — they depend too much on condition. However, recent auction sale realizations indicate that the prices in the Grobe catalogue may be just a little low.

Be advised that there may be some difficulty in obtaining a copy of this 1968 edition. Rumor has it that this edition, in a printing of about 5,000 copies, was completely sold out shortly after its appearance a few months ago.

In summing up, it can be said that, despite some unevenness of treatment, the fourth edition of the "Grobe Specialized Catalogue of Old German States" is a very valuable tool in the organization and understanding of this popular field of collecting interest. *(Ernest C. Wilkens)*

1969 PROGRAM OF MEETINGS

Meetings convene at 8 p. m.

March 19th	— *DANZIG*—Bernard A. Hennig, Chicago, Ill.
April 2nd	— *CZECHOSLOVAKIA* — The Chicago Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, Chicago, Ill.
April 16th	— *ANNUAL COMPETITION*
May 7th	— *THE LOUISE BOYD DALE and ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN COLLECTIONS* — Bernard D. Harmer. New York, N. Y.
May 14th	— *ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER*

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