

The Collectors Club

# PHILATELIST

Volume 44 Number 5
September 1965

# Five Auctions
# In the Harmer, Rooke Tradition

**SEPT. 22, 23, 24 — U. S., BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, FOREIGN**

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**OCT. 13, 14, 15 — A VARIETY OF FOREIGN**

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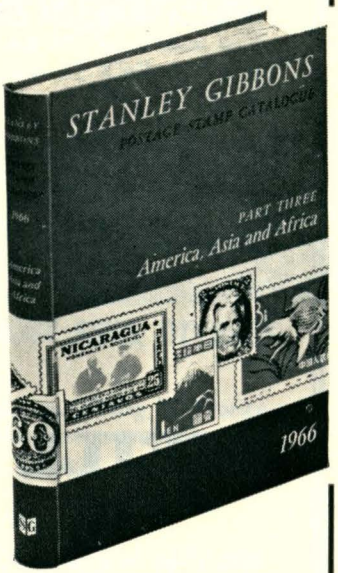


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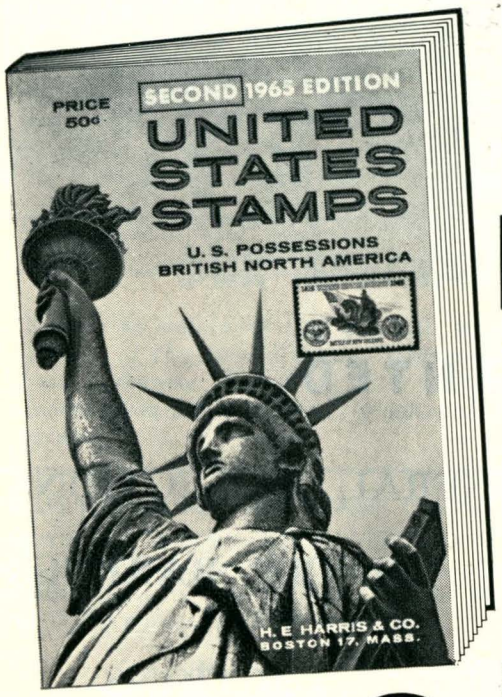
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| **GREAT BRITAIN** | |
| 1d black, unused block of 18 | $9,500.00 |
| 1d black, First Day Cover | $1,500.00 |
| **GREAT BRITAIN** | |
| 2d blue, unused block of 4 | $7,000.00 |
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# The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

Volume 44 Number 5
September 1965

# *Editorials*

## Weep Over WIPA 65

Last June in the old, historical city of Vienna, some of the directors of the *Association For Stamp Exhibitions* were witnessing the outstanding success of that international philatelic exhibition, WIPA 1965.

They had seen, as they pushed past the mob at the entrance of the Hopburg Palace, thousands of people standing in the pouring rain to gain entrance to the show.

Once inside, they had to push through another large crowd and wend their way to get past the large entrance hall where an information booth and the exhibition catalogues were on sale.

It was discouraging to even attempt to stand in line to secure the special WIPA set of six semi-postal stamps, the aerograms or even purchase a special cover or post card for the WIPA cancellations at the special Post Office. One American collector, who vowed he would get these first-day covers, patiently stood in line for over four hours.

Furthermore, never before had these Americans seen people stand in line for an hour or more to view the exhibits in the frames. The wait to see the Court of Honor frames was nearly two hours.

For ten days, events like these were seen. The complete set of stamps was sold out on the opening day, and the exhibition catalogues were sold out by the third day. Also, WIPA 1965 was so vast that it had to be staged in two separate buildings one kilometer (⅝ of a mile) apart.

The entire Austrian exhibition was so outstanding and so successful that these directors of the *Association For Stamp Exhibitions* could not help but contrast what they saw with their frustrations in trying to stage a similar international philatelic exhibition in the United States in 1966. Why? They asked each other. The reasons were evident.

Nowhere in the United States would two magnificent buildings such as the Hopburg Palace and the Messepalast, former royal palaces, be made available to a philatelic exhibition, rent free, as the Austrian government did with WIPA 65. Also, all security guards, clerical help and guides were supplied to WIPA 1965 by the Austrian government.

As a matter of fact, nothing can be expected in the way of assistance to an international philatelic exhibition in the United States from any branch of the federal, state or local governments.

WIPA 1965 had an issue of stamps a year before it opened. Also, it had the government's permission to reprint the famous 1933 WIPA souvenir sheet in a changed color and an overprint "reprint." For the exhibition itself, there were the aforementioned semi-postal set of six and the two aerograms. All issues were in great demand and brought in far more revenue than originally anticipated.

Of course, the Austrian Post Office retained a good part of the revenue from the WIPA stamps. But a percentage was turned over to the WIPA 1965 Exhibition Committee to finance the stamp show.

In contrast, the United States Post Office never has issued one semi-postal stamp and it seems doubtful if *The Association For Stamp Exhibitions* ever could receive permission to reprint the 1926 White Plains souvenir sheet in a new color as a private label, only for philatelic sales to raise money to stage an international exhibition.

Seeing the thousands of visitors at Vienna, Austria, it was realized how

much money all these tourists brought to Austria. It struck the directors that an international philatelic exhibition like TIPEX, CIPEX or FIPEX also could be made an attraction for many foreign philatelists if our government would be willing to cooperate with American philately.

This was the point stressed in conversation among *The Association For Stamp Exhibitions'* directors. Government handouts are never wanted. American philately will finance, stage and control an international exhibition. But certainly more United States government help and patronage can and could be made available to insure the success of a mammoth stamp show.

A large-scale entertainment program always is necessary for the visitors during an international philatelic exhibition. It is realized that we cannot duplicate here two of the WIPA 1965 festivities — a dinner dance in Vienna's old City Hall by the Mayor of Vienna and a reception and buffet dinner tendered by the Chancellor of Austria.

Entertainment of visiting philatelists in the United States must be financed exclusively by private philately. But any funds given to *The Association For Stamp Exhibitions* for this purpose ought to be permitted as tax deductible, while individual entertaining could be regarded taxwise the same as business expenses are. Since the United States Government and the State and City would gain by a large successful philatelic exhibition, it would be to the government's interest to encourage the private patronage of an entertainment program for foreign visitors.

In the field of international philatelic exhibitions, the world is divided into two separate parts. The English-speaking countries — the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia — receive little, if any government support. In fact, in the past, some international stamp shows were completely ignored.

In Europe and parts of Latin America, however, international philatelic exhibitions are staged mainly because of government support and financing. These countries see stamp shows as a boon. It attracts tourists. The sale of special exhibition stamps and souvenir sheets brings in great revenue to the Post Office. In fact, it is so large that there is no trouble whatsoever in permitting a fraction of this postal revenue to go to the exhibition committee.

The difference lies mostly in the matter of financing. Even with our higher standard of living, a successful philatelic exhibition is a great and expensive undertaking that now overtaxes the financial resources of philately. Faced with this fact, the only solution would seem to be having the international philatelic exhibitions in the United States receive some government patronage, as the European countries do.

The present Administration has shown concern over the accelerating rate of American tourism abroad. It seems obvious that a great philatelic exhibition in New York, today considered by many the world's capital city, could bring many foreigners over here if the United States Government would lend its cooperation.

Also, our government has shown an interest in furthering art and culture. Why draw the line eliminating philately and other hobby groups that have such an enormous world-wide following?

As for the Post Office Department, would one semi-postal stamp of, for instance, 5-cents plus 2-cents be so terrible? The 2-cents surtax could help finance the international philatelic exhibition. A break with old-established, conservative practices should receive serious consideration.

Furthermore, the special Exhibition souvenir sheet, as issued in 1956, 1947, 1936 and 1926, could have its sale exclusively in the exhibition hall only during the duration of the international stamp show. This would be a great asset in helping philately through a large paid attendance. The Post Office also would

benefit by the revenue received from the sale of the Exhibition souvenir sheet.

Here is a paradox. The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world. American industry and labor are acknowledged as the world's most advanced. But when it comes to international philatelic exhibitions, European countries with far less resources and wealth far outdistance the United States.

This is not because of a lack of interest, because in our country there are more stamp collectors than ever in history. American collectors are now spending more money on stamps. The directors of *The Association For Stamp Exhibitions,* who saw WIPA 1965, knew that thousands of American philatelists would flock to see a great philatelic exhibition, like the one staged in Vienna, Austria last June. It seemed almost tragic that the problems faced in doing this in the United States at present remain beyond solution. Let us all hope that the day is not too far off when the United States can put on one of the greatest international philatelic exhibitions ever seen.

### Overprint, Surcharge And Overcharge

It was bound to happen. Last November, we wrote objecting to the cheap custom used by some countries issuing a set of commemorative stamps for a famous person or historic event with overprints. It was felt that if a country wanted to honor or memorialize an outstanding person, it should do so in an appropriate, dignified manner by printing a definitive stamp. If a country hoped to gain revenue from philatelic sales, it also should spend some money to make it.

Sharjah, one of the new lands of the Arabian Gulf Dependencies that is truly conscious of philatelic sales, shows bad taste by overprinting its surplus stock of Kennedy Memorial stamps for Winston Churchill Memorials. Why stop there? Later, a Lincoln, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt or other overprints can be put on the "Kennedy overprinted Churchill stamps."

These Arabian, African and Central American countries should realize that overprinted stamps are for emergency use only. When a country decides to honor a famous person with a stamp, if it cannot afford to pay for definitive stamps, it should forget the project instead of applying an inexpensive overprint.

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## Letters To The Editor

### Why the Decline in the Number of Stamp Collectors?

The lead editorial in the July issue of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST pointed out that there has been a decline in the numbers of stamp collectors. I agree with the editor that the figure of 15,000,000 stamp collectors in the United States is completely fictitious. An examination of statistics quoted at the beginning of the editorial would tend to show that there were only a maximum of 800,000 collectors interested in the purchase of mint stamps on the first day of sale. Allowing for an equal number who would normally purchase these items from their local post office, we then reach a figure of approximately 1,600,000 collectors.

If we take some further statistics, such as membership in stamp clubs, not allowing for duplicate memberships, we come up with less than 1,000,000 in organized philately.

The examination of these figures reveals that there has been a considerable decline of the number of collectors. In "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" for July 23, 1965, there is an editorial deploring the lack of interest of youthful collectors. It points out that there was a time when nearly every child had a small stamp collection sometime during his youth. Yet today, from my own observation, perhaps one in ten has at any time shown interest in stamps. Is this because the jet age has made the world smaller? Can the blame really be put on television? Or is it because there is a lack of stimulus? I think that the latter is probably more correct.

Every country in the world is flooding the collector with numerous labels called postage stamps. These are bright-colored, large and gaudy and are seldom seen on mail. When they are bought from stamp dealers I know that these labels have never even seen the country from which they are supposed to come. They are printed in London, Switzerland, Vienna, Rome, the Netherlands and the United States. They are then delivered to a private philatelic agent and distributed to the dealers for sale.

Gone are the days when you could sit in a dealer's office and watch the new issues come into him by registered mail from the Post Office Department of the Lesser Sunda Islands, the envelope franked with the same stamps as were in the package. Instead, today the dealer picks up the telephone, makes a local call and orders the latest stamps from Doggiejar in New York City. The only covers with new issues that I now see have no addresses and are neatly cancelled, "First Day of Issue," although few in the country of issue read or write English. They never went through the mails!

The collector of today goes to an exhibition and sees frame after frame of this modern rubbish. In order to see, he has to pick his way through a jumble of dealers booths devoted to the sale of similar rubbish in an atmosphere that would make Coney Island blush. There are even "shills" to pull in the suckers and some even go so far as to wear matching sweatshirts emblazoned with "Bill's Stamp Shop." The hobby has been so cheapened by all the ballyhoo that it does not and cannot attract a person of serious mind. It is called "Kid Stuff" by the adults but the children themselves sneer at it.

This is the atmosphere of stamp collecting today. Even at the so-called international exhibitions, it is very difficult to find a real stamp. The last one in the United States staged in New York in 1956 was held in such a circus atmosphere that it scared away many serious collectors. The crowds around the dealers booths even kept the jury members from examining the exhibits.

The stimulus required to interest the young people is the one that first interested me and others in my generation. We wanted the opportunity to see the rare stamps of the world; to look at them and to absorb from them some of the joy that a fine object only can give. And to look at them in peace and quiet so that one can spend as much time as one likes examing just one frame. This was the case in 1926 and to some extent in 1936 and also in 1947. It has not been the case in this country since.

It seems that the vested interests in organized philately have become more interested in selling labels to kids than in interesting mature minds in a fascinating hobby. They do not realize that the attraction that brought many of my generation into stamp collecting was the opportunity to become associated with mature minds on a common ground. The main fault with the hobby today is that the mature, educated philatelist is being driven away from stamp collecting. There is no longer any ground where youth can meet with maturity.

The answer to this problem in my opinion lies in the need to provide such a ground. The best way to start this would be to stage a dignified international

*(Continued on bottom of Page 270)*

# United States

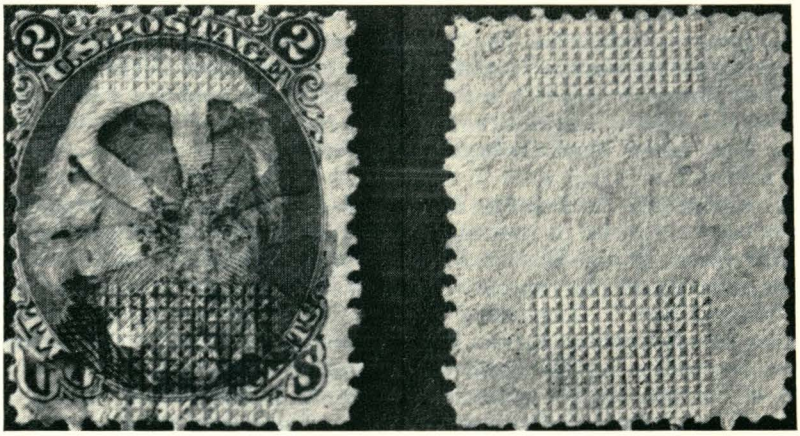
## 2c Black of 1867 With Split D. Grill

By Thomas W. Priester

Last year, in a lot of stamps I purchased, the illustrated stamp was discovered. I identified it as *Scott No. 84 with a D. Grill that was split.*

But I did not find such a variety listed in the Scott Catalogue, nor could I locate any reference to a split grill on the 2c black Andrew Jackson in any existing philatelic literature that I consulted. It is not described in Brookman's book on the 19th century issues of the United States.

To confirm my findings, I sent the stamp to Mr. Eugene N. Costales, Co-editor of the Scott Catalogue and he replied that it was a split D. Grill. In view of this, I believe that my discovery might be listed in the next edition of "Scott's United States Stamp Catalogue Specialized."




The stamp is illustrated both front and back. The latter clearly shows the grill and the number of points can be counted to identify this copy as having a D. Grill split.

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**LETTERS** *(Continued from Page 269)*

philatelic exhibition, without ballyhoo, where fine stamps could be displayed properly in surroundings conducive to study and appreciation.

*H. D. S. Haverbeck*

### Auction Sales

Editor Goodkind's editorial on "Auction Sales" in the July 1965 number reminds me that many years ago I wrote *The New York Times* (before Dave Lidman's time, let me hasten to add) on this subject but without any satisfaction.

As you point out, an auction is, by general definition, carried out by a licensed auctioneer. In the case of the New York papers which cover New York City and New York State, the necessity of licensing is increased in that all city auctioneers must be licensed.

A mail sale, therefore, is not an auction in any sense of the word. I hope your comments will be noted by editors of stamp columns and newspapers alike.

*H. R. Harmer, Inc.*
*Bernard D. Harmer, President*

# Honduras

## Postal History Of Spanish Honduras To 1877 And Its First Postage Stamps Of 1866 (Part 2)

By Irving I. Green

*(Continued from Page 238)*

**The Decree of March 13, 1839**

On October 26, 1838, the Honduran Assembly, in the belief that it carried the majority vote of the towns and the cities it represented, decreed Honduras to be a Free, Independent, and Sovereign State. On November 5, 1838, this same Assembly issued another decree, in which it was declared that "The Free and Sovereign State of Honduras is Independent from the Federal Government, from the other States, and from any other States or Power."

On March 13, 1839, Honduras issued her first postal decree as a Free, Independent, and Sovereign State. A long and careful search and inquiry has failed to reveal the contents of this. That there was a postal decree of this date is verified by reference to it in the subsequent one of March 8, 1847.

It is not know if the Honduran Constitution of January 11, 1839 included in its provisions the inviolability of correspondence transported by mail. However, without the postal decree itself, the only alternative is to generally surmise its contents.

As previously mentioned, on November 5, 1838, Honduras resigned as a member of the Central American Federation. Within the next year, the other four States did likewise, and the Federation ceased to exist. Yet there still remained a fraternal feeling between the Central American States, as evidenced by the Guatemalan Legislative Order of October 25, 1839, which reads: "The Government of the State of Guatemala is authorized to make arrangements with the other States of the Federation, although it no longer exists, so as to maintain and expedite the communications through the medium of correspondence."

While the five States, upon resigning from the Federation, assumed the responsibility of organizing and operating their own postal departments, they each retained in their own postal laws substantially all the important regulations and postal rates of the Federation, especially since they were so occupied in getting other functions of government started. Besides, all of them were tottering on the brink of insolvency. Therefore, the States did not have the time nor the inclination to ponder long in devising new postal regulations when those of the Federation were available to them for the copying.

It is believed, therefore, that the postal rates and many of the regulations of the Federation's Decrees of April 24, 1824 and April 13, 1826 were adopted by all the five States at the beginning of their existence as sovereign entities. As time went on, changes were made to suit their own circumstances. However, it seems quite likely that the provisions of Article 32 of the Federation's 1824 postal decree, the forbidding of private mail carriers, was not adopted, since it could not be effectively enforced. It was not until January 13, 1883 that President Soto, in his Postal Regulations, stated, in Article 2: "The Government had the exclusive right to transport letters and parcels that are classified as correspondence."


Núm. 88 Páj. 478.

EL REDACTOR

OFICIAL DE HONDURAS.

Comayagua Setiembre 15 de 1.844.

El cuerpo del Público forma un tribunal que vale mas que todos los otros juntos—BENTHAM.

Fig. 2. Masthead of "El Redactor".

**The Postal Decree of March 8, 1847**

Published in "El Redactor Oficial de Honduras" of June 25, 1848, was a postal decree of March 8, 1847, signed by the President of Honduras in the City of Comayagua, the capital. It read:—

"A disposition regarding the organization of the Honduran mail as published in the Diario Oficial del Goberno.

"Article 1: There will be established two monthly mails for San Miguel, San Salvador, Omoa, and Trujillo, and in addition, monthly mails are to be established directly for Leon, Nicaragua and Guatemala as soon as these governments agree with this directive.

"Article 2: This capital will have two monthly mails to the Departments of the State and another two mails from the districts to their respective departmental capitals.

"Article 3: The Administrator General will make known the days of the departure of the mail from the capital, Comayagua, as well as the days of arrival as prescribed in the regulations of March 13, 1839, which remain in force provided there is no conflict with the present Decree.

"Article 4: The carriers will be paid one half of the transportation cost which is now collected, and so, too, for overseas and domestic mail, and a quarter part of the transportation cost will be paid for the carrying of letters and bundles of letters (pliegos) that are sent with the mail of the districts to the departmental capitals.

"Article 5: Official mail will be free of postage costs for all authorities and public functionaries of the government.

"Article 6: The mail pouches will be opened just at the proper time by the Administrators in the presence of the court officer or the Attorney-General of the municipality or another magistrate in his absence.

"Article 7: The Administrators will fulfill their duty with care so that the mail carriers shall not be delayed in their departure and use up more time than that specified by the rules pertaining to this aspect, otherwise the penalty will be applied unpardonably for the willful neglect which occurred."

Done in the community of Comayagua, March 8, 1847.
*President Juan Lindo*
*Al Benemerito*[1A] *General Sr. Santos Guardiola*




Fig. 3. President Juan Lindo, as shown on 50c of the 1927-29 issue.

**Attempts at Union**

The dissolution of the Federation in 1839 had left the various states in an odd position. The three central or liberal states — Honduras, Nicaragua, and San Salvador — still adhered to the idea of union and made efforts to procure the concurrence of Guatemala and Costa Rica. For this purpose, a National Convention was called in 1842, and subsequently, another in 1847. But because of the refusal of Guatemala and Costa Rica to send delegates and because of the difficulty of clearly defining the relative powers of the allied States themselves, the attempts at union failed.

Finally, the three Central States, in 1849, sent their Commissioners to Leon, Nicaragua, where they agreed to form a union under the name of "National Representation of Central America." A Constituent Assembly met in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on October 13, 1852, and proceeded with its duties. But mean-

1A. The full title is "Benemerito de la Patria," meaning "well-deserving of his country." This was but one of the many titles bestowed upon Guardiola by the National Congress.

Dunlop's "Travels in Central America" (circa 1850) states: "Guardiola is a man of fiendish instincts but popular with his soldiers, whom he indulges in every way. Yet, he is certainly the best and most successful general of any now existing, and, probably, of any who have appeared in Central America." Bancroft (1887) characterizes Guardiola as a cruel, rough soldier.

Guardiola was appointed Secretary of State in 1848 by President Juan Lindo. In 1849, Guardiola placed himself at the head of a rebellious body of troops and menaced Lindo's administration, but prompt measures were taken to suppress this insurrection, and were carried out without bloodshed. Guardiola was expelled from Honduras and took refuge in Guatemala under the protection of his friend, Dictator Carrera. He did not regain political power in Honduras until 1855, when he forced Cabanas out of the presidency and had himself elected to that office.

while, in Guatemala, the reactionary element induced El Salvador[2] to withdraw her Delegates to the Convention, and Nicaragua soon did likewise. However, to Honduras remains the honor of remaining steadfast to the principle of union.

About the only accomplishment resulting from the abortive attempt at union was the First Postal Convention of November 1852 between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. It read as follows:

"*The First Postal Treaty Between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador*

"As published in 'La Gaceta Oficial Del Gobierno De Honduras,' No. 53, Vol. 1, Comayagua, December 15, 1852, Page 161.

"*The Mails*

"The General Minister of the Supreme Government of the State of Honduras, Government Offices, Comayagua, December 4, 1852. Political heads of the Departments:

"On the 23 November of this year, there was made an agreement by the Commissioners of the Government of Nicaragua and this State Honduras, which was:—

"The undersigned, Licentiate[3] Pedro Zeledon, approved Delegate to the A.N.C. [Asamblea Nacional Centro-Americana] and the special Representative [Commissioner] for the Supreme Government of the State of Nicaragua, and Francisco Alvarado, General Minister from the State of Honduras, and equally empowered, for this purpose, between the two Governments to facilitate the shortest and speediest reciprocal communication by means of the public mail, they have combined with each other in an arrangement, and also including the arrangement that these two States have with El Salvador, to make known the respective authorizations and findings in correct form, and have arranged the following:

"1. As the administration of the mail is under the National Authority, the Government of Honduras will appoint one of its employees for Tiger Island to work for this branch of service with the duty of receiving and despatching all mail which comes from El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras each week, distributing their respective correspondence, and making with the originating administrations arrangements as to their days of despatch, all for the purpose of eliminating left-behind correspondence or mail that might suffer delay in attention.

"2. This employee is subject, above all, to the responsibilities of the laws of the Government of Honduras, which will supervise his conduct to the satisfaction of the other State Governments, and will profit itself by the distribution as well, and please equally three Governments, and thereby also lower its own operating costs.

"3. As this treaty is subject to the approval of the two component Governments, and we have petitioned and hope for its approval by the Government of El Salvador, the Government of Honduras will send it by the earliest mail to

2. On January 25, 1849, the State of San Salvador assumed the title of "La Republica de El Salvador," having in that year adopted the Constitution decreed by the famous Constituent Assembly of 1824.

3. "Lic." is an abbreviation of the Spanish word *licendiado*, which means: 1) a licenciate, a degree in Spanish universities, and the person who has been awarded the degree; 2) (Colloquial) Any scholar in Spanish universities; and 3) a title given to lawyers (this applies to Crescencio Gomez.)

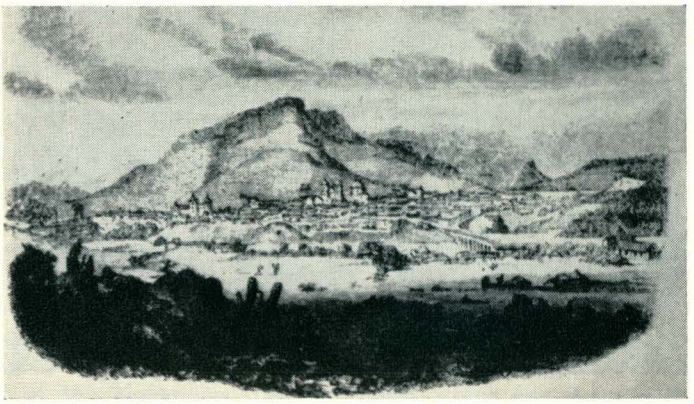


Fig. 4. Tegucigalpa in the 1850's.

Leon, to acquaint the Nicaraguan Government with its details and to get authorization from the Nicaraguan Commissioner to put the treaty into effect and thereupon to write the Administrator of Mail at Leon to learn how long before there will be established the service on Tiger Island, and without prejudice, to make the same arrangement with the Government of El Salvador, in fact for all correspondence that comes from Costa Rica via Nicaragua, and from Guatemala via El Salvador, and for its distribution in the returning traffic. (Movement of mail in the opposite direction.)

"4. The above arrangements, to become effective, require a prior ratification by the Supreme Government of Honduras."

Tegucigalpa, November 23, 1852

*Pedro Zeledon* *Francisco Alvarado*

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Having advised the Supreme Government of the State of Honduras of the contents of the above arrangement, a decree signed by the President, in whom rests the Supreme Executive Power of the State of Honduras, reads as follows:—

"Considering that the above arrangement conforms with the authorization conferred upon the special Commissioner, Minister General Francisco Alvarado, it is decreed:

"Article 1: Approval in all details of the above described treaty and that it will become effective within 30 days from this date. Drawn up in the city of Comayagua, at the Government Offices, on December 2, 1852. Subscribed with my handwriting and title, sealed with the Arms of the State, and countersigned by the undersigned Minister of Relations."

*The President* *Trinidad Cabanas*

*The Minister of Relations* *Ramon Mejia*

"And this decree is transcribed, under supreme mandate, in order to publicize and circulate its contents in the towns of his sovereignity, hoping to be advised of its receipt and accepting the esteem and regards of those compliantly at his service."

D.U.L.[4] Mejia

4. "D. U. L." is an abbreviation for "Dios, Union y Libertad" (God, Union and Liberty), Iturbide's slogan used in conjunction with his Plan of Iguala. This slogan appeared for many years thereafter as the complimentary closing of Decrees, Executive Orders, and even personal letters.

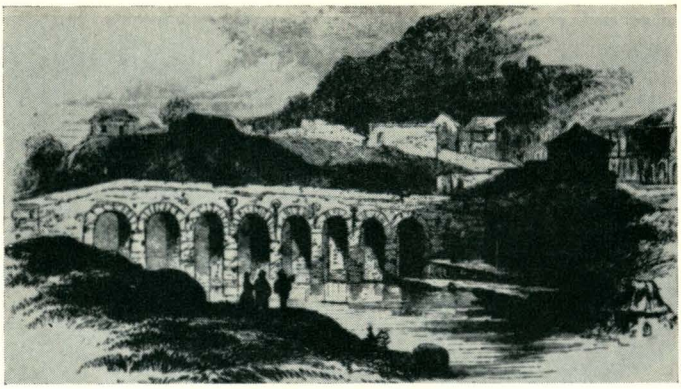


Fig. 5. Bridge at Tegucigalpa in the 1850's.

**Comments On The Honduras, Nicaragua, And El Salvador First Postal Treaty**

The letters "A.N.C." at the beginning of the text of the treaty mean "Asamblea Nacional Centro-Americana." In 1852 there existed one of the short-lived, so-called *Union of Central America,* embracing, in that instance, only Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

"Tiger Island" is the largest island in Fonseca Bay, which is part of the territorial waters of Honduras. On this island, since 1853, Amapala, the main Pacific port of Honduras, has been open to international traffic, as a customs port. The borders of Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador meet on the shore of Fonseca Bay. Prior to 1853, Tiger Island had only a few inhabitants — fishermen — besides a small garrison stationed on the spot where later the town of Amapala was built.

The treaty was signed at Tegucigalpa, in 1852 only a small town, but one with an ideal climate, surrounded by pine-wooded hills. It was much more convenient for the Nicaraguan Commissioner to go there than to Comayagua, the capital.

Incidentally, in 1852, Tegucigalpa was for a short time the seat of the Honduras Government. This was during the emergency created by the invasion of Honduras by the Guatemalan Army sent by President Carrera with the idea of breaking up the Union of Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. As can be noted, this Postal Treaty was duly ratified by President General Trinidad Cabanas,[5] one of the best Presidents that Honduras ever had, and one whose marble statue faces the National University and La Merced Church in Tegucigalpa. This statue is covered with laurel wreaths and flowers every year on the anniversary of his death.

On October 13, 1852, the Constituent Assembly of the Union of the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador met at the suggestion of President Cabanas, but the Union was dissolved, as the States could not agree to various pacts. It had been hoped that Costa Rica would join, but she refused. Guatemala also refused to consider the invitation to join the Union, as Carrera and his Conservatives were bitterly opposed to it.

**Reason for Delay in Publishing the August 1, 1856 Postal Decree**

On August 1, 1856, President Santos Guardiola issued a decree containing postal regulations that superseded those of all previous ones. Curiously, the

5. The likeness of President Trinidad Cabanas appears on the 1893 Honduran postal issue. (Scott Type A9).

decree did not appear in the official newspaper at that time. It was not until September 5, 1865 that a "Reproduccion Oficial" was published in "La Gaceta Oficial." However, on January 24, 1857, the said decree was not only ratified by the Constitutional Congress of Honduras, but specifically was given the force of the "Law of the Land." It was published in the February 10, 1857 issue of "La Gaceta Oficial de Honduras."

The reason for the late publication on September 5, 1865 of the August 1, 1856 decree was that the decree of October 18, 1865, which authorized postage stamps for the first time, was then being formulated. Its Article 15 was to state that the Executive Decree of August 1, 1856 was "to remain in force insofar as it was not contrary to the present regulations." Therefore, the government deemed it advisable to print the nine-year old decree to keep the public and the postal officials informed of postal regulations. Evidently, in 1865, there was still available the original handwritten 1856 decree, a copy of which was in the Journal of the Minister of Finance and which was personally signed by President Guardiola and his Minister, Rojas.

In the official newspaper of 1865, there appeared several other important decrees that were promulgated some years in the past, and it seems that there must have existed in that earlier period unusual conditions that did not permit publishing the decrees when issued. Thus, in order to revalidate them, they were published later on, as was the decree of August 1, 1856.

Delving into the history of that mid-19th century period, it is not at all surprising that the lengthy text of the August 1, 1856 decree was not then published. The fact is that during this tragic period, the official newspapers published, almost exclusively, news of the filibuster invasion by William Walker and his mercenaries in Nicaragua and Costa Rica; their conquest of Nicaragua; and the attempted attacks by other groups of filibusters on El Salvador and Honduras. Also, the papers completely covered the British occupation of Mosquitia and the Bay Islands, as well as the treaties with England.

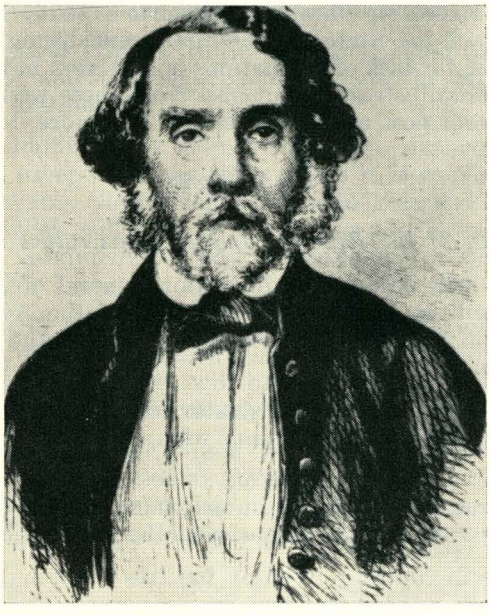


Fig. 6. Jose Trinidad Cabanas.

The issue of January 30, 1857 contained only news of the new Constitutional Congress. Then too, in Honduras, with rare and honorable exceptions, the governments were of short duration, and one revolution or attempted revolution followed another; the Cholera Morbus epidemic broke out twice in the North Coast region and claimed eight thousand lives; and financially and morally the country was fast going to ruin. Several well-organized groups of bandits sacked and killed in some sections of the nation, and a long costly military campaign was necessary to exterminate them. The only good government seems to have been that of Santos Guardiola. But possibly because he ruled with such a firm hand, he was vilely assassinated by members of his own Guard of Honor; and at that time too, the dastardly deed was fully covered in the official press.

It stands to reason, therefore, that under such adverse conditions the publication of lengthy postal decrees, or matters concerning the Postal Department, was not of sufficient importance to get preference in the press with limited space over the reporting of more important national and international events.

Adding further to its already overwhelming woes, the publishing of the official newspaper was further handicapped by the occurrence of several severe rainy seasons during the 1856-1864 period, which prevented the delivery of newsprint and printing supplies from the port of Amapala for as long as two months at a time.

In view of the unsettled conditions from the middle 1850's to the middle 1860's, it can be readily understood why the Postal Decree of August 1, 1856, and its correlative Postal Fee Decree of the next day, were not published at the time they were promulgated.

**The Decree of August 1, 1856**

Published in "La Gaceta Oficial (Escudo de Honduras)," Vol. 6, No. 35. Comayagua, Tuesday, September 5, 1865, Page 3.

"Ministry of Finance of the Supreme State Government

Comayagua, August 1, 1856

"The Supreme Executive Power is pleased to expedite the following Decree.

"The President of the State of Honduras, considering: That the revenue from the post office is, for lack of regulations, manifested in the greatest disorder, not only from the Administrators, but also from those private individuals who have to use the general post offices for letters, Therefore decrees the following:

*Regulations*

"*Section 1a*

"*The Chief of the Revenue and Administrators in General*

"Article 1: There will be an Administrator General of Post Offices, who as Chief of Revenue will be in charge of the rest of the Administrators of this service, and they will render their accounts to him in the manner as required by these regulations.

"Article 2: There will be an Administrator in all those places where there are now post offices and also in those points where the Supreme Government will establish new ones.

"Article 3: The naming of the Administrators will be done freely by the Supreme Government, which will also accept the resignations that are made.

"Article 4: They will continue to enjoy the free franking of their correspondence which had been granted to them in previous laws. They are exempted from military service and duties in municipal offices.

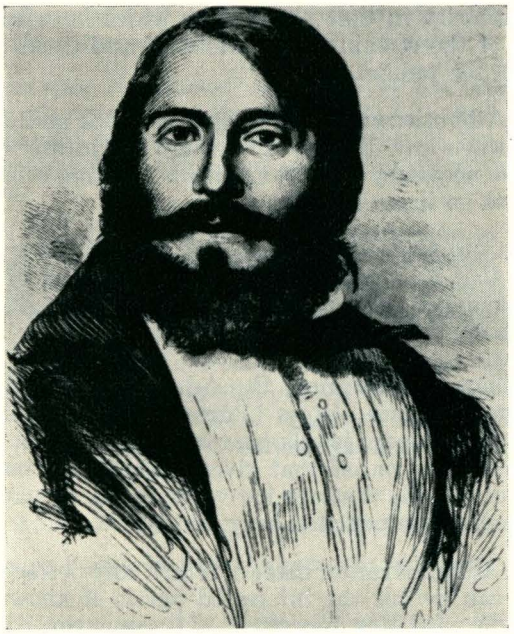


Fig. 7. Santos Guardiola.

*Section 2a*
*Obligations of the Administrators*

"Article 5: Besides the ordinary mails, the Administrator will dispatch the extraordinary mails, sent to them under a superior order.

"Article 6: On the *parte* (Official Notice of Mails) being carried by the carrier will be his name, date, and hour of departure, money he carries, and the postal administration he is destined for.

"Article 7: The Administrators cannot delay the departure of the carriers, without justification, except in those cases where it is convenient to the service of the State, the Supreme Government, or is done because of an order from a superior authority, which will be a written order and is valid for three hours, after which time the Administrator may despatch the carrier without responsibility to either.

"Article 8: Notice will be posted, giving the days the mail will be forwarded, and the time of these days up to which mail will be accepted. After the closing time for mail, acceptance vouchers will be filled out for all the outgoing mail. No mail will be accepted after this closing time unless the letter is free-franked.

"Article 9: The Administrator, upon arrival of the carriers, will examine immediately the state and condition of the pouches; then, he shall open them and check out the correspondence belonging to his post office, comparing it with the respective voucher. This will be done only in the presence of the employees of his office.

"Article 10: After the correspondence has been sorted, the administrator will deliver all the official correspondence "*de officio*" to the Supreme Government

or the Superior Authority in that place, after which he will make an impartial alphabetical listing of the remaining private mail and cause it to be affixed to a prominent place for the public.

"Article 11: The Administrators are obliged to check and observe the pouches, padlocks, etc., and when any damage is encountered in any of these items, they will see to it that the necessary repairs are made, making a note to that effect, so that the mails do not go in an insecure manner.

"Article 12: They will also enter in the *parte* the hour of arrival of the carrier, any and all events that occurred to the carrier, the hour of departure with or without the correspondence; and also if any help has been given, because without this requisite, the amount spent will not be admitted.

"Article 13: Without an exception, the Administrator will not permit to be included in the correspondence *pliegos* (Parcel of letters enclosed in one cover), or "letters" containing money, jewels, and other objects not of paper; and they are not obliged to send any parcel that gives indication of containing the above-mentioned objects, or parcels that are too voluminous, or parcels weighing more than two pounds, unless the pouch is very empty.

"Article 14: The Administrators cannot return any letter that has arrived at the post office, but can permit the interested party, if known, to open it in his presence, so as to add what was forgotten. If a new cover has to be made, the Administrator will demand the old one and burn it.

"Article 15: The Administrators are the custodians of the correspondence, and as such may not let the public lose faith in them by delivering private correspondence of individuals when requested by an authority or public functionary; and so they will refuse to do this.

"Article 16: No package not belonging to them may be registered, even if they are only *liados* (bound together), unless solicitated by an individual who knows with sufficient probability that the correspondence will go to that exact post office; and in case this is done, it will be written on the voucher, and the values of the pieces received will be written on the respective voucher.

"Article 17: When the delivery of any correspondence, addressed to a prisoner is solicited by the court, the Administrator or a competent official will deliver it personally to the proper prisoner, in the presence of the judges, so that it may be opened by those interested. The judge will make use of his discretionary powers, in the cases not clearly defined by law, in conforming with the justice involved.

"Article 18: Letters addressed to prisoners who have died will be delivered to the defense lawyer or the heir, on the order of a judge. This will also apply in the cases of *Syndics* (recorders), bankrupt persons, and those who have gone out of business, but the fee will be collected in all cases.

"Article 19: The Administrators will establish, in their post offices, signs that will indicate the time of arrival of the mails; and if they deem it necessary, they may establish the post of a letter carrier.

"Article 20: The Administrators will see to it that there is a letter box and a window to receive or pass out the correspondence in his post office. No private individual may be present during the packing or unpacking of the mail pouches.

"Article 21: The Tariff and these Regulations should be placed in a prominent

place so as to satisfy any and all doubts of individuals. On the other hand, the locks and keys for the pouches will be kept out of sight.

"Article 22: In the case of a carrier who is ill or has committed a crime, the respective Administrator will immediately replace him with another, meanwhile delivering the delinquent to the judicial authorities in the locality, if possible, and advising the General Administration as to what occurred, without having to note it on the *parte*.

"Article 23: It is the obligation of the Administrator to recover and return to the corresponding Administrators, the seals *("los nemas")* on the registered pieces arriving at his post office. They shall do this when the recipient removes the abovementioned piece, and signs the voucher on the back of the envelope.

"Article 24: Letters that have arrived, from other post offices, for residents of other localities, and that have been charged on the voucher, will be forwarded. The reasons will be entered in the *libro de data* (book of data). Also entered will be the names of the recipients, values contained, where from, and destinations.

"Article 25: The Administrator General has the following obligations:

"1. To take care to see to it that there are sufficient numbers of pouches on hand.

"2. To see that each pouch is equipped with its corresponding lock and keys, and that it is made in such a manner that it can be noted if it has been opened in any other manner.

"3. To order the printing of vouchers, *partes*, etc. for all his administration.

"4. To watch over the performance of the Administrators and to reprimand them, whenever justified, or to inform the government, when the faults are grave, and

"5. To procure the necessary equipment, etc. required in all the post offices of the Administration.

"Article 26: The Administrator General will have an orderly furnished by the Military Commander, to handle the office business of the administration.

*Section 3a*

*Postage and the Franking of Correspondence*

"Article 27: The correspondence for the public will consist of letters, *pliegos*, printed matter *("impresos")* that are brought over to the post office for despatching, whether carried, franked or registered.

"Article 28: "Carried mail" *(porteadas)* is understood to be that sent in by the other Administrators, wherein the recipient pays the postage according to its weight. Franked or registered *("franqueados o certificados")* are those that have been prepaid.

"Article 29: Registered mail may be obtained by paying an additional fee apart from the regular tariff.

"Article 30: Correspondence marked with the official seal *("sello de oficina")* will be franked and its exact value obtained.

"Article 31: An exception to this rule are those letters between private parties

which, although they bear the official seal, are not official. Therefore, no Administrator will accept any packages from any court for franking unless they bear on the *nema* (seal) a description of its contents, such as "Official" or "Official Criminal."

"Article 32: When the pieces are "civil," the interested party will see to the franking, in the *estafeta* of origin, otherwise they will not be accepted.

"Article 33: If both parties are very poor, a judge and witness will attest to this on the *nema*. Therefore, although franked, the value will not be collected until the fortunes of either one have improved. The judge shall then see to it, by virtue of this regulation, that payment is made.

"Article 34: The Administrator shall declare any letter that he knows is private correspondence, but is sent as official, a case of fraud.

"Article 35: All packages being despatched from one *estafeta* to another will have a voucher made out and be carefully packed. If the packages are outside the pouch, they will be well wrapped, sealed with wax, stamped, etc.

"Article 36: Letters addressed to towns where there are no *estafetas* will be sent in care of the nearest Administrator.

"Article 37: The amount to be collected on each "carried" letter, in accord with the voucher, will be marked on the cover, and if, by any reason, there is no voucher enclosed, the letter should be valued and so marked.

"Article 38: Printed matter, tied with string or wrapped with a single wrapper, is to be franked, but the Administrator may make the sender open the package if he suspects that there are letters in it. If, as a result, letters are found, the proper tariff will be collected on these, and they will be sent out as correspondence.

"Article 39: Any piece of correspondence once removed from the *estafeta* will not be accepted again, and the person, who has removed it, will be responsible to the proper owner.

"Article 40: When pieces of correspondence are received that are not in agreement with the value expressed on the voucher, a letter will be sent to the respective Administrator, requesting him to make a replacement, or use his return letter as a voucher.

"Article 41: The delivery of overseas mail in the seaports will be carried out by the Commandant or an authorized person, at the same time that the sanitary inspection aboard ship is being carried out.

"Article 42: All correspondence from outside of Central America, with the exception of that of the Postal Administrators of other countries, will pay the tariff according to its weight, even if franked. All letters destined for foreign addresses will not be accepted for despatch unless paid for in the *estafeta*.

"Article 43: A fine, double the value of all pieces found, will be levied on the carrier, who takes letters without a stamp marking and includes them with the correspondence. All the reasons for assessing the fines will be entered in the book used for the arrival of mails or the carrier."

*Section 4a*

*The Income, Its Collection and Investment*

"Article 44: The income is that received from paid correspondence, "carried

mail,'' registration fees and parcel fees.

''Article 45: From the income all expenses are to be paid incurred in the repairs of the pouches, the purchase of locks and keys, the paying out of the salaries of carriers, and the purchase of all articles needed for administrative purposes.

''Article 46: There will be no charges of fees for the extraordinary carriers sent out by the Supreme Government; their salaries, etc. will be covered by the General Treasury.

''Article 47: When there are not sufficient funds on hand to cover its ordinary expenses, the Administrator will petition the Supreme Government for a voucher on the General Treasury to obtain the amount required.

''Article 48: The correspondence of the President of the State and his Minister will be accepted post free. This will also apply, in time of war, to the *Jefe Politicos* [Political Chiefs — today they are called ''Departmental Governors''] and the military while on campaign. The Administrator will keep a special book for this, where the records, together with the signature of the recipient, if available, are kept.

''Article 49: All pieces completely covered will pay the tariff according to their weight. Moreover, if this is printed matter and the sender opens the package in front of the Administrator, he is free to declare, on the *nema,* the reasons why this is not being sent at the printed-matter rate.

''Article 50: In a separate Decree, the fees for correspondence, parcels, etc. are established.

''Article 51: From the income received, the Administrators will collect a percentage of the value, in money or cash.''

*Section 5a*
*Salaries and Fees of the Administrators*

''Article 52: The salary of the Administrator will be that which is voted on each year by the legislature, and which is authorized in the General State Budget. The Administrators of Omoa, Trujillo, Tegucigalpa, Gracias, and the Llanos de Santa Rosa will receive ten per cent of the income of their respective *estafetas,* and the Administrators of Nacaome, Olancho, Yoro, and Olanchito will receive fifteen per cent.''

*Section 6a*
*Methods of Rendering the Accounts*

''Article 53: All the subordinate administrations will carry two daily journals. One will be for the daily despatches, writing in all the classes of correspondence being sent to each *estafeta,* whether franked or not, and separating the private from official mail. All parcels and registered letters sent, as well as those letters mentioned in Article 24 of this regulation, will be entered. The amount of money given the carrier will also be written in.

''Article 54: The second book will be for the arrival of the carriers, and the number of letters he carries, whether singles, doubles, or triples in rates will be detailed, including those without franking, those ''charged'' *(encomiendas de porte)* as well as the pieces delivered to functionaries, in accordance with Article 48.

"Article 55: On the last day of May of each year, each Administrator will close his accounts, and within fifteen days, send in all invoices, vouchers, etc. to the General Administration, for auditing and accounting. The income collected will also be sent at this time.

"Article 56: If after these fifteen days, any Administrator has not turned in his accounts, the Chief of the Revenue will notify him. If, however, even after being notified, he still does not turn them in, the General Administration of Income *(Direccion General de Rentas)* will be advised, so that under Article 13 of the Organic Law of Finance, action may be taken as the case demands it.

"Article 57: The methods prescribed in Article 49 of the above-mentioned law, in the previous Article, will be followed by the General Administration as well as the sub-administrations in rendering their accounts.

"Article 58: The postal accounts shall be kept in copper pesos, where such currency is in circulation, and in silver reales where these are in circulation.

"Article 59: Each Administrator is responsible for the quantity of reales or copper pesos as represented by correspondence paid; but in the annual rendering of the accounts, letters on which postage was not paid will be carried as cash and be credited in the accounting.

"Article 60: All letters that have been kept for a year, in the General Administration, will be burned, unopened, in the presence of a mayor or whichever judicial authorities are available. An exception are those whose bulk indicates they may contain documents, and these important ones will be saved for delivery to the interested party. A certified copy of the "record of burning" *(acta de quemar)* of the correspondence, will be left with the Administration General, giving the number of letters burned, their value in postage due and origin. This document, in turn, will serve as a voucher.

"Article 61: Those letters, not converted into money *(no realizado)* and showing the *estafeta* of origin, will be returned there, so that the respective Administrator may take the necessary steps, as described previously, unless reclaimed by the interested parties after notification."

*Section 7a*
*The Carriers*

"Article 62: The Administrator General will nominate from twelve to fifteen carriers, and he may remove any whenever he deems it convenient. All other Administrators may appoint, with the prior approval of the Administrator General, the number of carriers they deem necessary.

"Article 63: All carriers should be of good character, healthy, and submissive. They will be prepared to work at the hour established and at the point designated.

"Article 64: They are exempted from military service and municipal offices, for as long as they are carriers.

"Article 65: Whatever the motives, they may not stay longer than necessary in each place where the carriers pass or where they spend the night. Neither will they divulge their orders, nor what they are carrying, in case they have seen the contents of the pouches.

"Articles 66: They will not allow persons not authorized to search the pouches, detain them, etc. In case they are molested, they will ask the local authorities

for assistance, and it will be given, if necessary.

"Article 67: No carrier will allow another to make his rounds using his name, even when he is physically unable to make them. He should notify the local Administrator, or, if there is none, the constitutionally elected mayor, who, in turn, will then despatch the pouch or pouches by a trustworthy person, first recovering from the indisposed carrier the funds for the new one, less the amount already spent.

"Article 68: He will not accept heavy parcels, which will impede his travel, or *pliegos,* or letters not bearing the stamp of the *estafeta* (Article 43). Such letters, however, when received in a place where there are no *estafetas,* will be accepted for delivery to the nearest one. For this service, the carrier will not ask for any stipend whatever.

"Article 69: The carrier should be in a designated place, both before his departure and after his return from his trip. He must especially be in the latter place, since it is there that the Administrator recovers the pouches and interrogates him if necessary.

"Article 70: The Administrators will see to it that the carriers comply faithfully with their obligations, and they will immediately notify the General Administration of all those who, in their opinion, require punishment.

"Article 71: The carrier, who flouts the terms of these regulations will be removed, and if it is a grave offense, will be turned over to the authorities for judgment in accordance with the laws.

"Article 72: Grave offences, in the service, are the following: abandonment of the mails or the *parte;* opening the pouch; searching the *pliegos;* extraction of any piece of correspondence or other object; facilitating the use of the *parte* or the pouch for a criminal action; and finally, allowing another, using his name, to complete his trip.

"Article 73: Those carriers who, without a just reason, delay themselves too much on their trips will be arrested and detained from one to eight days, according to their tardiness.

"Article 74: The Administrator General, as a consequence of the crimes committed against the mails, should ask the authorities for the punishment the guilty party deserves."

*Section 8a*
*General Dispositions*

"Article 75: The authorities in the towns, cities, and places through which the carrier passes will lend assistance if demanded. They cannot detain nor imprison a carrier unless he has committed a crime or a grave offence. Should they do so, they must provide a trustworthy person to continue to carry the pouch on its voyage.

"Article 76: All the inhabitants or transients, of whatever class or condition, should respect the correspondence, and they will be held responsible for any infractions of the law.

"Article 77: All the correspondence will be carried in pouches, under lock and key; or in *pliegos;* or tied in packages, closed sealed, and stamped in their respective Administrations.

"Article 78: The doors of the Administrations should be open, regardless of the hour, when the carriers arrive.

"Article 79: Should the carrier arrive at night, all the official mail should be delivered, if it is a convenient hour. The Administrators, however, are not obliged to distribute the private correspondence at once. They may do so during office hours, or, if they desire and there is still natural light, they may do so after them."

"Given in Comayagua, at the Government House, on August 1, 1856."

*Santos Guardiola, President*

"Sent to the Minister of Finance

And under a Supreme Order I send the above for your knowledge and attention. Please acknowledge receipt."

Your obedient servant,

*Rojas*

**The Ratification of the Decree of August 1, 1856**

(As published in "La Gaceta Oficial de Honduras" of February 10, 1857.)

"General Ministry of the Supreme Government of the State Comayagua, January 26, 1857

"The President has directed the following Decree:

"The President, in whom rests the Supreme Executive Power of the State, inasmuch as:

"The Chamber of Deputies, considering the Postal Decree issued by the Supreme Government on August 1 of the past year, 1856, by virtue of its powers and in conformance with the Constitution, decrees:

"Its approval in all parts of the Postal Regulations of the Supreme Government of August 1, 1856. In consequence, they will become the Law of the Land.

"Passed by the Senate, On January 24, 1857, in the Senate Chamber."

(Signed) *Justo Jose Rodas D.P.*
*Jose Augustin Madrid D.S.*
*Francisco Baraona D.S.*

*The Executive Power of the Senate:* *Mariano Garrigo S.P.*
*Miguel Bustillos*

"Executed in the Government Palace in Comayagua, January 26, 1857."

*Santos Guardiola, President.*

"This Supreme Order is to be sent and publicized throughout the nation."

*Rojas*

**Regarding the Decree of August 1, 1856**

The preamble of the abovementioned decree contains the usual derogatory remarks made by an Administration in power concerning the preceding ones. While the decree is an important one throughout, it contains articles that are especially interesting.

Article 28 clearly permits the sending of mail prepaid or collect.

Article 41 classified Central American mail, not as foreign, but as mail entitled to the same rates as Honduras' own domestic mail; whereas regular overseas mail could only be sent prepaid to the port of embarkation in Honduras, as no private postal treaties existed there other than those with Central American countries.




Fig. 8. 1860 prepaid Tegusigalpa pre-stamp cover.

Article 50 states that in a separate decree, the fees applicable to the present decree will be issued; and from the preamble of the subsequent August 22, 1865 Decree, we learn that the date of this fee schedule is August 2, 1856. Usually, the decree itself contains the new postal rates. But this case is an exception, and unfortunately so, as the fee schedule has not been found, despite an intensive search.

Article 58 states that postal accounts shall be kept in copper pesos where they are in circulation, and in silver reales where copper pesos are not acceptable. This regulation is of importance, and it will be discussed at length in another part of this treatise.

**The Postal Rate Decree of August 2, 1856**

Unfortunately, an exhaustive search has failed to reveal the postal fee mentioned in Article 50 of the August 1, 1856 decree. However, it is known from the preamble of the August 22, 1865 rate Decree that the missing one was dated

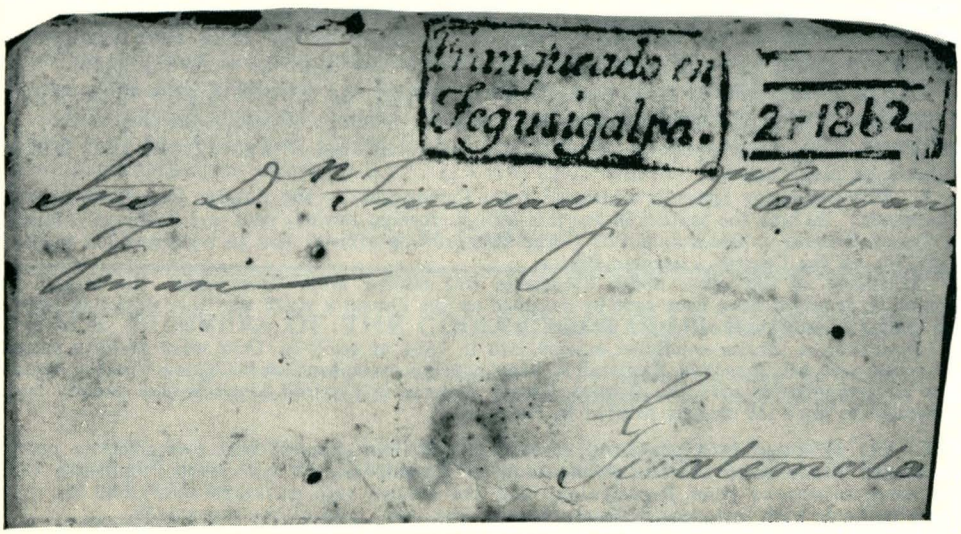



Fig. 9. 1862 prepaid Tegusigalpa pre-stamp cover.

August 2, 1856. As there were no postal rate decrees issued between August 2, 1856 and August 22, 1856, and also since the first postage stamps of Honduras were ordered to be printed late in 1864 or early in 1865 with a face value of dos (two) reales, we are certain, at least, that the basic domestic rate then in force, in conformance with the postal rates of the August 2, 1865 Decree, was 2 reales, equivalent to 25-cents U. S. currency.

Illustrated are three stampless covers of Honduras (Figs. 8, 9, 10). One is from 1860, another 1862, and the third an indeterminate date, although it is believed to be of the 1856-1865 period, since the straight line COMAYAGUA postal marking is identical to those found on the first stamps.

All three covers are addressed to Guatemala City; two are from Tegucigalpa, and one is from Comayagua; the last was sent to the Belgian Consul General there.[6] Both the 1860 and 1862 covers show similar postal markings, one *Franqueados en Tegucigalpa, 2r 1860*, and the other the same except for the date, *1862*.[7] These postal markings clearly indicate the letters were sent with postage of 2 reales prepaid.

The remaining cover shows only a red number "2," which indicates it was sent postage collect for 2 reales. Thus, here is proof that during the 1856-1865 period, the basic rate from Honduras to Guatemala, and, therefore, to all Central American countries, was two reales, the same as the basic domestic rate as shown in the design of the first stamps. There is proof, furthermore, that the mail to all Central American countries could be sent with postage prepaid or collect, at the sender's option, the same as in domestic use, as confirmed by Article 42 of the August 1, 1865 Decree. Also confirmed by the same decree is the ruling that overseas mail (not including to Central American nations) was to be sent prepaid only, meaning prepaid only to the port of embarkation, which was, in those days, usually, Amapala.

These basic rates, put into effect by the decree of August 2 ,1856 and establishing a 2 reales fee for domestic as well as Central American correspondence, are similar to those of the Federation's decree of April 24, 1824; and doubtless the weight factor was also the same, namely for every ½ ounce or fraction thereof. The 1824 decree shows, in addition, that the basic domestic dos (2) reales rate also applied to correspondence mailed to the United States of Central America, Chiapas, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Chile, Islands of the Continent, and Buenos Aires (Argentine Republic); and that 4 reales for each ½ ounce or fraction thereof was the basic rate to all other countries. As the rates of the August 2, 1856 decree appear to conform to those in the 1824 one, it suggests that the missing rates in the March 13, 1839 decree likewise were the same.

It is of interest to note that Guatemala and the United States successfully negotiated a Postal Convention, which was to become effective on September 1, 1862, wherein, among other important considerations, it was agreed that corre-

6. This pre-stamp letter is addressed from Comayagua to the Belgian Consul General in Guatemala. As was the custom in the mid-1850's, foreign nations sent one Resident Minister or Consul General to Guatemala City. The duty of this official was to represent his country there for all the Central American States.

Inasmuch as the cover under discussion was mailed from Comayagua, the capital of Honduras, it might have been sent by someone on the Consul's staff who was stationed there; the Consul himself worked out of Guatemala City.

Doubtless, a similar condition existed late in 1864 or early in 1865 when Medina placed the order with his Consul in England to have postage stamps printed. There is a possibility that an arrangement with the Belgian Consul General in Central America had already been concluded to have the stamps printed in Belgium.

7. The 1860 and 1862 pre-stamp covers are both handstamped with two separate postal markings. The framed two-line *Franqueado/en Tegusigalpa* on both covers indicates that they were forwarded from Tegucigalpa; and the framed rate markings show that the rate was 2 reales in both instances, with the year of one, 1860, and of the other 1862.

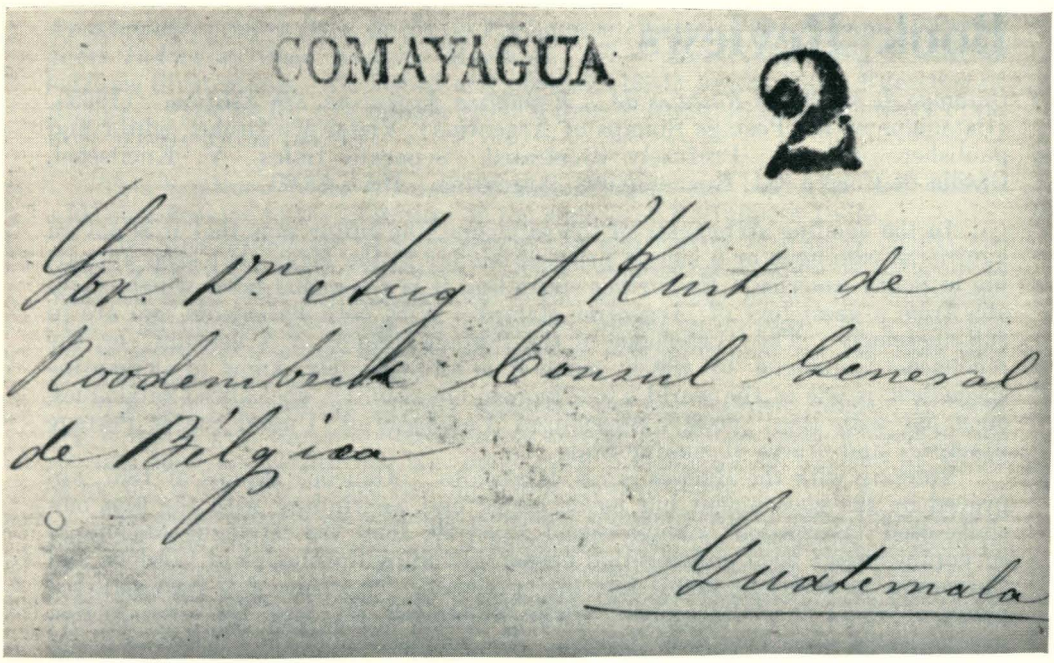



Fig. 10. Comayagua straight-line postal marking, circa 1860.

spondence from Guatemala to the United States was to be prepaid at the basic rate of 2 reales (25 cents U. S. currency) for each ½ ounce or fraction thereof; and that correspondence from the United States to Guatemala was to be prepaid at the rate of 10 cents for each ½ ounce or fraction thereof. Also included in the Postal Convention was a stipulation that no accounting relative to mail between their respective post offices was to be kept, and that the post offices of each nation could levy and retain its own postage revenue.

It seems strange that the United States and Honduras did not also consummate a similar Postal Treaty at that time. Perhaps Honduras' annoyance with the United States resulting from the latter's occupation of Mexico in the recent war, and from Walker's invasion of Nicaragua, were the reasons, although relations between the two nations seemed cordial a few years later, when, on July 4, 1865, they negotiated a Treaty of Friendship, Navigation, and Commerce.

As things materialized, both Honduras and the United States became charter members of the Universal Postal Union at Paris on June 1, 1878; and when its regulations went into effect on April 1, 1879, there was no further need of Postal Treaties among its member nations.

(To Be Continued)

**BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST**

Due to a great demand for back numbers of this magazine, many old issues are no longer available. A list of those on hand appears on page 314 of this number.

Many back numbers on this list are in very short supply, only one or two copies still being in stock. Anyone planning to fill in his file should check this list and order now.

# Book Reviews

*Catalogo de los Sellos Postales de la Republica Argentina, 8th Edition.* (1965). (Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Argentina), Victor Kneitschel, editor and publisher. 460 pp. Profusely illustrated. Separate Index. V. Kneitschel, Casilla de Correo 951, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Price $8.00.

In the opening statements of the catalogue, the editor says that it is not an additional catalogue or a simple pricelist similar to the many that keep appearing in South America. He further states that it is a personal labor which emanates from a great love of Argentine stamps. With both statements, we are in full agreement. The "Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Argentina" or, the Kneitschel Catalogue by which name it is affectionately know to Argentine specialists, is one of the world's best-known, one-country, specialized catalogues, on a par with the "Scott's Specialized Catalogue of United States Postage Stamps," and others of similar rank.

Starting with the Buenos Aires "Gauchito" (Gaucho) stamps of 1857, approved by the government but never issued and, continuing with the first officially used "Barquitos" stamps issued April 29, 1858, the catalogue adequately covers the classic pre-Confederation period, including the stamps of Cordoba and Corrientes in sufficient detail for the specialist. There are five reconstructed plates of 48 of the "Barquitos" stamp illustrated, although the reproduction process leaves something to be desired. The composition of the Corrientes plates is carefully delineated, including the five different sheet layouts. Also included is a fine section of cancellations used on the Corrientes stamps plus a listing of known classic covers showing mixed franking and multiple pieces of note on cover.

Next, the catalogue covers the stamps of the Argentine Confederation in sufficient detail before passing on to the stamps of the Republic itself.

The feature, which impressed this reviewer most favorably and, this applies especially to the forerunners as well as the stamps of the Republic, is the listing of the known, outstanding covers which are called "Piezas Notables" or translated, "Notable Pieces" (on cover).

The catalogue covers all the issues of the Republic until late 1964 and includes sections on ordinary postal issue, air mails, semi-officials, air mail flights, souvenir sheets, officials, telegraph stamps, railroad stamps, essays and proofs. Varieties are fully illustrated with blow-up photographs of the necessary, distinguishing characteristics.

One listing, which makes its initial appearance in this edition of the catalogue, is a section on inaugural flight covers and other special air mail flights including the various South American Zeppelin flights of 1930-1937. The first Argentine flight is given as June 25, 1911 by the Italian aviator, Bartolomé Cattanéo from Rosario to Buenos Aires. What surprises this reviewer is the omission of the flight made by the same aviator on December 16, 1918 from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Colonia, Uruguay, which, to our knowledge as a specialist in the air mail stamps of Uruguay is fairly well documented and should be listed as the first Argentine flight.

Another surprise is a listing for the semi-official issue — the "Pro-Aviación Militar" stamps used on flights during the exhibitions in Rosario on the 14th, 20th, 26th and 30th of September, 1912, with round dated handstamp cancellations of that city. The writer is personally acquainted with several collectors, here in this country, who doubt these semi-official stamps were so used and would be happy to add such pieces to their collections.

To all Argentine specialists, this catalogue is highly recommended. *(P. S.)*

*Apontamentos Sobre Selos da India Portuguesa (Notes on the Stamps of Portuguese India)* by Joao Augusto Marinho. 187+ pages (6¾" x 9¾") with 65 halftone illustrations. Published and printed (1964) by the Clube Filatelico de Angola. Price $3.75. (Available from Wilbur Kattner, 3128 Tanglewood Trail, Fort Worth, Texas 76109.)

This handsome book, printed on coated paper and bound in soft boards, adds significantly to the literature of the stamps of Portuguese India.

The illustrations are of appropriate size and clarity to display clearly the features which the author discusses. Often the illustration alone is sufficient to make the point clear without recourse to the text. Many errors, non-catalogued items, and spurious printings are illustrated, including on page 174, a comparison between the genuine and the counterfeit overprint used for the 1939 New York World's Fair air mail set.

The table of contents appears following the text, headed *Indice*. In passing, it would seem that philatelic authors abroad, as well as those writing in this country, have not yet learned how much more valuable a book becomes by virtue of having a few more pages bearing a well-planned index.

The chapter headings with an occasional comment will indicate the extensive scope of this work. Chapter I is concerned with the catalogues, Eladio de Santos, Simoes Ferreira, Scott, and Gibbons, all of which are referred to througout the book. Chapter II of 36 pages discusses the woodblocks printed in Portuguese India during the period 1871-77. Chapters III and IV devote 16 pages to the crown issue of 1877 and the reprints. The Fournier version of the design is discussed and illustrated.

Chapter V treats the woodblocks and crown issues surcharged in 1881 and 1883. Five of the 14 pages in this chapter are devoted to the falsifications of M. Fournier. The issues of 1882 and 1883 are discussed in Chapter VI, while a brief Chapter VII deals with the King Luiz issue, the only one printed in relief for Portuguese India. The Carlos, Vasco de Gama and various surcharged and overprinted issues are discussed in Chapter VIII. The *Republica* overprints and the bisects, with numerous illustrations of catalogued and non-catalogued items, are discussed in Chapter IX. The Ceres issues are somewhat lightly treated in Chapter X in view of the continuing interest in the challenges presented by the many varieties.

The locally printed "Republica" overprints of 1914 are examined in Chapter XI, while Chapter XII briefly treats in turn the much less difficult surcharges of 1911 and 1914 and the Vasco de Gama Centenary issue of 1925. Stamps of the period 1931-58 and the air mails of 1938 receive their full share of attention in Chapters XIII and XIV, respectively. Postal tax and postage due stamps are discussed and illustrated in the final two chapters of the book.

The author is to be congratulated. While he calls his efforts "notes," many contemporaneous authors would have no qualm about calling a lesser contribution to the literature a treatise. This is a most useful book. *(W. Kattner)*

*Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt Stamps Of The World* by Philip Silver and Jan Bart. ATA handbook No. 48. Illustrated. 47 pp. Paper cover. Published by the American Topical Association, 3500 North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216. Price $3.

This booklet of 47 pages with many good illustrations is one of the best topical books yet seen. It is quite comprehensive, intelligently planned and the reader is offered some fine basic philatelic information.

Roosevelt stamps are comparatively new, the first one that depicted Frank-

lin D. Roosevelt appeared during his second term as president in 1938, when the 150th Anniversary of the United States Constitution was celebrated and a few countries issued stamps for this occasion.

The Mrs. Roosevelt Memorial stamps are much more recent, most of them being a year or less old following her death in 1964. This reviewer would have preferred it if Mr. Jan Bart had separated the memorial issues from those that depicted the Roosevelts when they were alive.

The authors do not pull their punches when discussing issues that had reported irregularities. The circumstances of doubtful validity are mentioned, as, for instance, with the Albania private labels. Unfortunately, Mr. Bart errs by his reference to these as "fakes." They are not; they are "bogus" stamps. At the time of issuance, the San Marino series also was criticized by many philatelic sources here and abroad, but no mention of this appears in this booklet.

The 5th Postal Congress of the American Nations and Spain at its 1946 Convention in Rio de Janiero, Brazil passed a resolution calling upon all member nations to issue postage stamps "in homage of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt." This resolution is available to philately, having been published in full in "The Aero Philatelist's News" of December 1, 1947. Its inclusion in this booklet would have been most appropriate, along with an observation about those American nations that followed this resolution by issuing FDR Memorial stamps and those, such as Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic and Peru, that did not follow the spirit of the congressional resolution.

Also, since stamps such as Malta, Scott No. 253 and New Zealand, Scott No. 254 are listed in this booklet, although they simply have a President Roosevelt association and do not depict him, Russia's 1943 Teheran Conference and 1944 Yalta Conference sets also deserve a listing in this work for the same reason.

This reviewer regrets that he must take issue with the following statement made on page 19 about the Liberia air mail stamp: "The writers have proven conclusively that there was a second printing with a seperate *(sic)* plate." This was disclosed as early as March 1, 1948 by this reviewer in the aforementioned "The Aero Philatelist's News."

Furthermore, the catalogue number of the Liberia air mail is wrong. It is not Scott C38, but C51. This change was made a long time ago, in the 1952 edition. And what is Scott C38a? No such listing was found in the 1965 Scott edition when this booklet was being written.

There are many other slips as the abovementioned, but at the risk of appearing captious, mention of the others does not seem warranted, because from the overall viewpoint this is a very nice little topical booklet that deserves more praise than criticism.

The authors worked hard, all for a labor of love. It is always to the great credit of philately that most of its literature appears, not because of financial gain, but instead solely as a voluntary effort, as true of this Roosevelt booklet.

Because Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only President of the United States, who collected stamps during his entire lifetime, all stamps associated with him should remain a popular topic. Nothing can help this more than a permanent record as this work is. *(H. M. G.)*

**In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.**

# Portugal

## Double Impression Of 20 Centavos 1962 Scout Stamp

By Wilbur Kattner

Two examples of a double impression of the commemorative legend in the border of the lowest value stamp, the 20 centavos (Scott No. 885), of the 1962 Boy Scout stamp set of Portugal were found several months ago by the writer, a specialist in the stamps of Portugal and colonies, residing in Fort Worth, Texas. This report, based upon the research of both the author and the editor of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, including the results of some inquiries made among members of the *Clube Filatelico de Portugal* by Henry M. Goodkind, when he visited Lisbon last May, is an endeavor to present the information presently available regarding this variety.




One of the two copies of Portugal (Scott No. 885) showing the double impressions in both dark gray color printings, the legend on the two vertical and top horizontal panels as well as the central emblem.

The set of six stamps was produced by offset lithography by the Portuguese mint, Casa de Moeda, and the design was prepared by Guilherme Camarinha. The first day of issue was June 11, 1962.

The quantity of stamps of each denomination printed is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $20 | (20 centavos) | 12,000,000 |
| $50 | (50 centavos) | 9,000,000 |
| 1$00 | (one escudo) | 8,000,000 |
| 2$50 | (2.5 escudos) | 2,000,000 |
| 3$50 | (3.5 escudos) | 1,500,000 |
| 6$50 | (6.5 escudos) | 500,000 |

Most catalogs state simply that the stamps are polychrome. However, they are printed in four colors. Those of the 20c, according to Scott are gray, bistre, yellow and black, and the offset inscription is in dark gray. In both examples, the words "18A. CONFERENCIA . INTERNACIONAL . DO . ESCUTISMO . 1961" as well as the centered dots separating them are twice printed, the second impression, equally as strong as the first, being offset about 0.3 mm to the right. The dark gray shading in the large symbol of scouting in the center of the design, is also a double printing, presenting quite a distinct difference from that in the normal stamp, and readily seen once the comparison is made.

Both of the known copies are used, and the only clue to where they were cancelled are the letters appearing in the cancellation of the copy illustrated. At first, it was thought these letters are "GTF;" however, members of the Clube Filatelico de Portugal suggest that they are "CTT," somewhat smeared.

If their suggestion is correct, it must be assumed that the stamp was cancelled in the Central Post Office (CTT) of one of the larger cities such as Lisbon or Oporto. This is an ingenious theory. Inspection of the last two letters, however, leaves the impression there is insufficient room for two adjacent bars on capitals "T's."

The second copy shows only a very small portion on a double circle along the top of the stamp where the double impression is. There is not one letter nor a number to assist or give a clue to its identity. This is not illustrated.

20 centavos is equivalent to about seven tenths of a cent in U. S. currency, and this denomination is used in the mailing of printed matter and to bring the total postage on letters and packages to the required amount. The discovery of the two double impressions was made in a lot of material purchased outside of Portugal, but still in Europe. The fine condition of the two examples indicates that the mail was not roughly used.

**How The Error Occurred**

The stamps in the Boy Scout issue were printed in sheets of 50. Thus, if there were only one sheet of the error printed, one would expect to have a look through 240,000 copies to stand a 50-50 chance of finding one copy. Members of the International Society of Portuguese Philately and dealers specializing in Portuguese material have looked through their collections and stocks; however, no additional stamps have been reported.

Mr. Harry D. Thorsen, Jr., founder and past president of the Scouts on Stamps Society, and the president of an offset printing company has an interesting observation to make in this connection: He wrote in a letter as follows:

> "In the offset lithographic process, the plate never touches the paper, but the impression is offset onto a rubber-covered cylinder, then onto the paper. We often get these double impressions in make-ready when the pressman fails to wipe the rubber impression cylinder clean, before continuing after adjustments. This is really printer's waste."

Mr. Thorsen's remarks suggest the possibility that less than a full sheet of the Scout errors might have been produced as the consequence of the pressman wiping the cylinder only partially clean. His further comment that such material is regarded as printer's waste, would lead one to believe that the early sheets from a press run would receive special scrutiny. Perhaps in this instance, a sheet was partially perfect and had double impressions elsewhere due to careless wiping. If only the properly printed portion of the sheet were inspected, or if it were looked at in a cursory fashion, the entire sheet of 50 might

*(Continued on Page 296)*

# Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

What our readers wish to see is a properly used cover having a common stamp that catalogs for $10 or less. But on cover this item's value is many times the standard catalog price for the stamp off cover, either unused or used.

You may own such material. Then it is hoped that you will send it to The Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

## United States Used in Haiti

Since it gained its independence from France in 1804, Haiti has been a country beset with chronic revolution. Its changes of constitution were almost as frequent as its changes of head of state. Rarely was a president permitted to serve his full term, let alone be a candidate for re-election. Furthermore, the deposed leader's end was usually a bloody one.

Seldom had Haiti been more troubled than in the summer of 1915. Within a few months, it had seen three chiefs of consecutive and successful revolutions "elected" president in proper constitutional form for terms of seven years. This turbulence culminated in the massacre of several hundred defenseless political prisoners at Port Au Prince on July 27-28, 1915, and in the violation of the French Legation where the president had taken refuge from the wrath of his own populace. He was assassinated, horribly mutilated and his parts dragged through the city streets.

In order to prevent further bloodshed and the spread of anarchy, the United States Marines landed in the afternoon of July 28, 1915 from the cruiser, S.S. Washington, taking over the arsenal and other strategic points. Additional troops followed later to occupy other parts of the city. During the next month

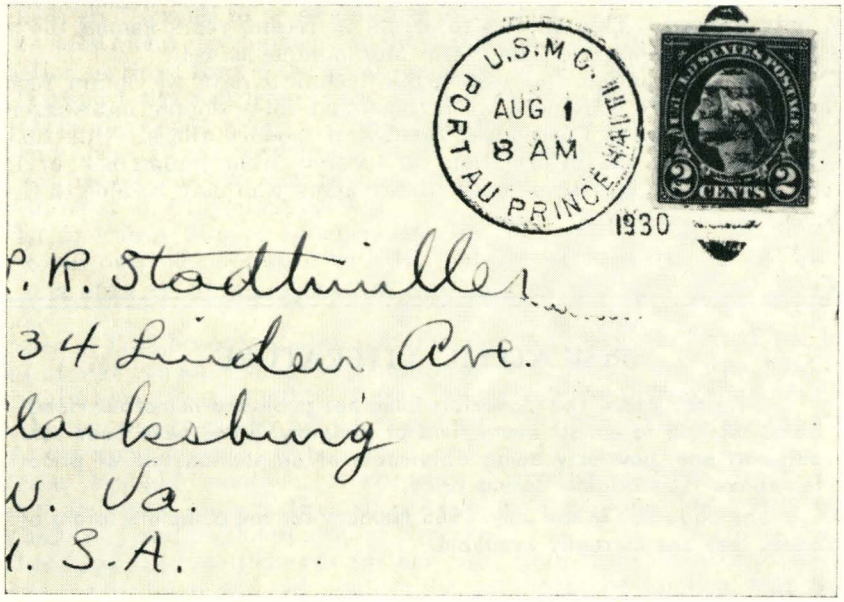



Photo by Boutrelle

further landings were made at the principal ports of Haiti until occupation of the country by the U. S. Marines was complete. This occupation continued until the troops were withdrawn by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934, leaving a permanent mark on Haiti.

During the occupation, the United States supervised not only the finances, customs office, public works and sanitation, but also the schools and postal service. Actually there were two postal services in concurrent operation. The one was the regular postal service of Haiti, operated under close U. S. supervision with the most economical use of available postal paper, which gave rise to the many overprint varieties of Haitian stamps in the 1915-1920 period. The other was used by the U. S. Marine Corps for both internal and external mail. The part of cover depicted here was carried by that Marine Corps mail service from Haiti to West Virginia at the same first class mail rate as then prevailed within the U. S. for domestic mail.

The very common 2 cents coil stamp of the 1922-25 definitive U. S. issue, Scott No. 599, was the only postage required to carry this letter to its destination. It is cancelled with the U.S.M.C. circular cancel of Port Au Prince, Haiti on August 1, 1930. *(F. B. Sellers)*

## PORTUGAL

*(Continued from Page 294)*

very easily pass undetected although some copies had a double printed legend. We have seen a considerable amount of recent printer's waste in philately, but no other instances come to mind where it is evident that it was used to pay postage and went through the mails.

The used condition of these stamps tends to distinguish them. Other recent errors in Portuguese material such as the missing inscriptions in gold of the St. Vincent de Paul issue of 1963 in both the 20c and the 2$80 denominations are known only unused. This applies to errors in recent years among the stamps of the Portuguese colonies of Timor and Mozambique as well.

The more information and responsible technical data we obtain regarding this variety, the more convinced we become that these double impressions may prove to be the greatest Portuguese rarities of modern times. Our thanks to editor Goodkind for the information he secured from philatelists in Lisbon, Portugal. We invite correspondence from readers who may be able to cast further light upon this event.


### PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Over the years, The Collectors Club has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

See page 256 in the July, 1965 Number for the complete listing of books that are currently available.

# The Clubhouse

**Meeting of May 5, 1965**

**Canada 1763-1868**

Mr. William E. Lea, the well-known stamp professional from London, England exhibited and spoke upon portions of his magnificient Canada collection that had been awarded a gold medal in the 1951 Canadian Centennial International Philatelic Exhibition (CAPEX).

Now follows Mr. Lea's lecture.

"We know from the researches made by that great Canadian postal historian, W. E. Durant Halliday, that the French never set up a postal system in Canada but they left something then unique in North America — a postroad between Quebec and Montreal equipped with a regular series of post houses.

The surrender of Montreal a year after General Wolfe's capture of Quebec in 1759 left the British Army in control of Canada. Some rudiments of a postal service were provided but many letters were also sent by private hands.

Canada was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It was not, however, an isolated Colony but an extension of the existing British Colonies in North America. These Colonies had a postal system extending from Halifax to Florida under the charge of two Deputies of the Postmaster General in London. One of these was Benjamin Franklin; he, on learning of the cession of Canada, went immediately to Quebec. There he appointed a young Scotsman, Hugh Finlay, as Postmaster with charge of two sub-offices at Three Rivers and Montreal. Couriers covered the distance of 180 miles weekly in 30 hours. He also arranged a fortnightly exchange of mails with New York, a journey of nine or ten days, to connect with Falmouth Packets. The post office was the first permanent civil service to be established in Canada.

The subsequent development of the Canadian Post Office is the story of the inter-action of three forces, the great distances to be covered in a country where water transport was restricted to the summer and autumn months, and roads, or even tracks, developed slowly. The relationship with the United States to the south and above all the restraining hand of the General Post Office in London, which controlled Colonial Services under an act of 1710 put its own interests before those of an expanding colony.

The American War of Independence of 1774 left Canada with four offices which could only communicate with the outside world when the St. Lawrence River was open or by an occasional slow and expensive overland journey to Halifax.

Peace in 1783 brought the return of the packet service to New York, but the rancors of war remained and communication with New York was erratic until the Postal Convention in 1792. This provided for the interchange of mail between the two countries and for the transport of British mail to Canada through U. S. A. territory in sealed bags.

Peace brought another consequence. Loyalist settlers from U. S. A. migrated and with soldiers from disbanded units founded new settlements between Montreal and the lakes around Niagara.

These and later settlements farther west were widely scattered and their demands for postal service set against the parsimony of London were to cause much friction for forty years. By 1789 post offices were open as far west as

Kingston. Shortly thereafter, one was opened at Niagara to which one trip was made in winter. In summer, mail was sent by water as opportunity offered, contrasting very badly with the service to the neighboring United States post offices.

The charge for letters in 1763 was based on a British Statute of 1710, and was charged on both distance and number of sheets of paper to a letter. As the Colonial currency was on a silver standard, rates were shown until 1785 in Troy weight of coined silver, i.e. penny-weights and grains (marked at the office of origin) and in the equivalent currency in shillings and pence (marked at the office of receipt).

My first page shows a letter from Montreal to Quebec in 1774 with manuscript markings "M.2.16." indicating Montreal 2 dwts 16 grains of silver equal to 11d sterling which is indicated in the lefthand corner. The following pages show straight-line handstamps of Montreal. One dated 1780 to Quebec which shows a manuscript charge of 1/6 and the other from Montreal to Fife, Scotland, showing the addition of a date. An example of the "Oval 'Ship Letter' Montreal" is also shown, this is a scarce franking. I know of only two or three examples. Specimens of the "Oval 'Ship Letter' Quebec with Crown in centre" and the "Quebec fleuron" are shown, also the "red Crown Circle 'Paid at Quebec'."

Examples of the "circular Falmouth Packet Letter" on cover from Dorchester N.S. to Anglesey; "Halifax Ship letter Crown type;" and an example of the very rare "Digby N.S. Ship Letter" are displayed. The "Nova Scotia in scroll" was used exclusively on mail carried by the government contracted steamship "John Harvey" which carried the mails from Halifax to Boston. The letters were to be stamped "U States" when sent to Nova Scotia and "Nova Scotia" when sent to the United States. Due to the small amount of revenue received by the Post Office from this service, which only amounted to £5. 4. 9., i.e. approximately 200 letters, it was discontinued on March 14, 1853 after three and a half months' trial.

In 1854 the packet postage was reduced from 1/- to 6d sterling, 1d to the Colonial Post Office and 5d to the British Post Office. Until January 1, 1857 the individual claim was indicated on each letter, hence the marking "New Bk 1d claim." When prepaid it would be a red "British 5d Claim." This system was abolished in 1857.

The next nine pages are devoted to a remarkable find of early letters from the North West Territory and Alaska.

The writer was Alex H. Murray an emigrant to North America in 1845. In 1846 he was living in St. Louis and had intended joining the California Gold Rush. However, a very serious illness incapacitated him for nine months and precluded him from accompanying his associates. He, therefore, decided to journey north and endeavor to find employment as a fur trader. On the outskirts of Red River Settlement he met a Scottish farmer who offered him hospitality, and on discovering Murray's intentions advised him to stay over for a few days as he was expecting Governor George Simpson of The Hudson Bay Co., who was journeying West on his annual Athabasca Survey.

On Simpson's arrival Murray applied for a position with the Hudson Bay Company and he was advised to travel to York Factory on Hudson Bay. He secured employment as a fur trader. His first assignment was to Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie River in the North West Territory, a journey by canoe which in those days took no less than seven months. Shortly after his arrival, he met and very soon married the daughter of the Chief Trader Campbell.

In 1847 he headed a small group of trappers on an expedition over the




Fig. 1. The 3d on laid paper, possibly the only known used block of four.

Rocky Mountains into Russian America and the Arctic Circle. The purpose of the journey was to establish a fort in this territory and survey the land as far as the Beaufort Sea.

Murray left the Youcon in 1848 joining his wife at Lapierre House. In 1849, he returned to the Youcon with Mrs. Murray and the correspondence starts on their arrival.

The *first* letter is written to his brother James, dated "River Youcon" North America May 20, 1849. (Contemporary maps do not chart the River Youcon so he must have been one of the first white men to reach this northern River). Fort Youcon was just within the Arctic Circle and was therefore in Russian Alaskan Territory. The letter describes the life at Fort Youcon and his preparations for another journey northwards .

The *second* letter was sent by Mrs. Murray to her mother-in-law at Kilmuir, Argyllshire, Scotland, describing the building of the fort and stating that it would soon be completed. She also states that it will be approximately two years before she can receive a reply.

Letter *Number 3* indicates that Murray is back at Fort Simpson under date September 29, 1851. He informs his father that a special opportunity has unexpectedly offered to send a letter as the famous Arctic Explorer, Dr. Rae, had just returned from the Arctic and intended journeying south the next day. Dr. Rae had for two seasons been exploring the Polar Seas in search of Sir John Franklin's expedition which had failed to return after two years.

The *Fourth* letter is headed "Fort Simpson Mackenzie River 25th March 1852" but was not completed there as the manuscript endorsements of the envelope read "Paid 3d. Anderson River District 3." The Anderson River is in the Arctic Circle flowing into Amundsen Gulf, part of the Beaufort Sea. It is interesting to note that the cover received a Sault Ste Marie transit date stamp of 1852, the earliest postmark yet recorded from there.

The remaining five letters from this correspondence are also very interesting — the pages on which they are mounted are self-explanatory, time is too short to give extracts from these.

Prior to the issue of adhesive postage stamps on April 23, 1851, it was possible to prepay the U. S. postage on letters to the United States by affixing either a U. S. 1847 issue 5c or 10c. However, the period when a combination use of U. S. and Canadian stamps was permissible by the regulations was from April 23, 1851 to June 30, 1851 — a period of ten weeks.

A pair of the U. S. A. 1847 5c and a single 10c are shown with the Canadian 7-ring target cancellation.

The contract for printing the first Canadian postage stamps was awarded

to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York, N. Y. and the agent appointed by the Canadian postal authorities in their negotiations with the printers was David S. Kennedy of Wall Street, New York City, who was and had been for a number of years the agent for the Bank of Montreal.

The stamps were produced by the Perkins siderographic method of transferring a design from a steel die to a steel plate, known as "the Perkins' Mill and Die Process."

To this invention must be credited the production of the world's first postage stamp, the British "Penny Blacks" in 1840. I might add that *few collectors in England know that it was an American who produced the first adhesive postage stamps in the world.*

The design for the 3d denomination is attributed to Sir Sandford Fleming, who had designed two postage stamps for the Postmaster General, Hon. James Morris, both these essays — one of 3d and the other 1/- denomination — had a beaver as the design of the vignette. Thus, the design of the lower value was the beaver, it was considered more appropriate that the higher ones should bear the effigy of the Queen and her Consort. Incidentally, it is interesting to observe that the 3d Canada was the first topical stamp issued and also the first adhesive to picture an animal.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200, i.e. two panes of 100, the 6d and 12d in horizontal panes, the 3d in vertical. The dies, transfer rollers and plates were supplied without cost to the Post Office Department of Canada and the stamps were furnished at the rate of 20c per 1000.

The quantities ordered were 100,000 each of the 3d and 6d, and 50,000 of the 12d. The 3d was used for mail within Canada. The 6d for mail to U. S. A. and the 12d for double rate to U. S. A. or single rate to Newfoundland.

Die Proofs of the first three denominations, pulled before the plates were made, are unknown, although I have seen two 12d Die Proofs offered recently in auction, both of which were the Post Contemporary Die with the "cancelled C.E. overpainted with Chinese White."

It has always been my contention that the Black Proofs of Canada are the original ones taken before the plates were put to press and those printed in the color of the issued stamp were taken between printing to prove the state of the plate and therefore were overprinted in some cases with the word "Specimen."

You will see the pages in the frames show plate proofs and a representative

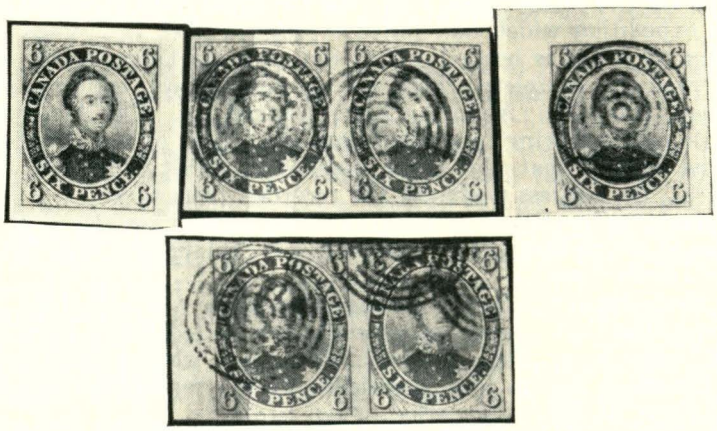



Fig. 2. 6d on laid paper, left to right: a mint copy, a used pair, a used corner copy with sheet margins and (bottom) a second used pair.




Fig. 3. The 12d. Two mint singles and perhaps the finest used pair known (only three used pairs exist).

showing of the laid papers of all values. Perhaps I should draw your attention to the used block of four of the 3d on laid (Fig. 1) which is in extremely fine condition and may be the only one in existence, a mint block is known. The mint 6d on laid (Fig. 2) is also very rare indeed as there were not any fine mint copies in the Pack, Hind or Reford collections and I must say this is the only copy I have seen. The used pair of the 12d is also supposed to be the finest of the three known pairs (Fig. 3).

Mention should be made that there were a number of re-entries on the 3d plate, the two major ones being Pane A No. 47 and Pane B No. 61. I have always been surprised that holders of sheets of these proofs have never ascertained which were fresh entries, i.e. those made before the plate was put to press and re-entries, which were due to certain positions on the plate becoming worn.

In 1856, the printers had experienced so much trouble in handling and gumming the large sheets of 200 that they asked for permission to cut the plates in half making two plates each of 100 subjects. This request was granted and at the time the plates were divided the imprints were added. It is probable that the diagonal scratches which appear on position 31 Pane A of the 3d occurred at this time. All the known copies of this variety appear on medium wove paper. I show three used copies and also a mint block of four with one stamp having the variety.

The 6d plate must have been the finest production of a steel plate in existence at that time as there are no plate varieties of any importance. Indeed the first variety on the 6d plate occurred when the imprints were added in 1856. The imprint below Nos. 97, 98 and 99 was entered too close to the bottom frame. Therefore, it had to be erased and a new entry made in the correct position. This produced definite duplication of the imprint and the framelines below Nos. 97 and 99 had to be redrawn (Fig. 4). You will see two specimens of this variety amongst the thick soft papers.

The 12d plate was extensively re-entered so much so that a normal stamp is much rarer than one showing a re-entry and this is the only case in the whole of philately where such a phenomena occurs.

For many decades there has been a divergence of opinion regarding the papers on which this stamp occurs. I personally am of the opinion that this stamp occurs both on laid paper and medium wove paper. During my experience on the B.P.A. Expert Committee, I have examined and certified stamps on both papers. It is my contention that the medium wove paper was that produced by the printers as a proof sent to the Post Office Department and used by them on official mail to the engravers and their Agent, D. S. Kennedy. I have seen two copies on cover addressed to D. S. Kennedy, and W. S. Boggs in his book illustrates a copy on cover addressed to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson.

Among the pages of the 12d you will observe die proofs in color and compound secondary dies of the 12d and 10c 1859. These are of a post-contemporary nature and were pulled from the original scarred die in 1879 specifically by the order of Albert G. Goodall, President of the American Bank Note Company.

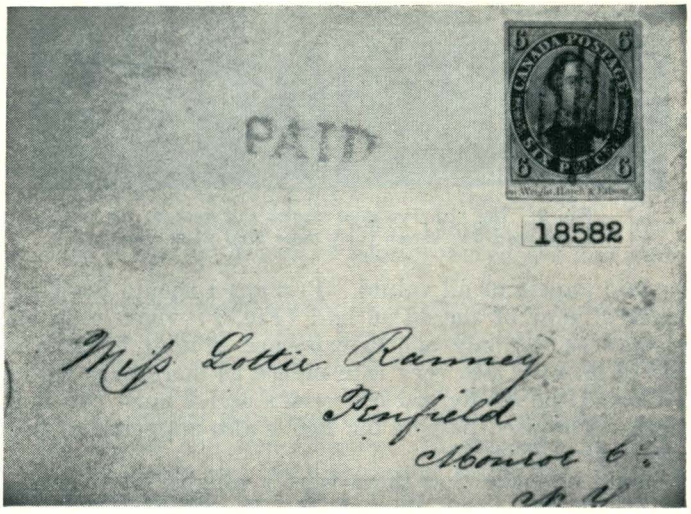



Fig. 4. 6d on thick soft paper used on a cover. The imprint on the bottom is re-entered and the bottom frameline recut.

All values of the 1859 issue occur also in five colors, pulled on India paper and mounted on card.

All subsequent issues on all varieties of papers are shown in the frames, perhaps attention should be drawn to the unused copies of the 6d on Medium Wove, Thick Soft Wove and Thick Hard Wove Paper. This latter (Fig. 5) I consider to be the rarest stamp of Canada, infinitely more scarce than the 12d black mint.

In 1854, the Postmaster General decided to issue a 10d stamp (Fig. 5) to prepay the postage on letters to England, which were forwarded via New York, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson were instructed to prepare a die and plate with a portrait of Jacques Cartier as the motif. The color of the stamps was to be green and to be separated by perforations. However, the printers could not undertake to puncture around the stamps. The engravers pointed out that green ink was inclined to corrode the plates and suggested that the color should be changed to blue, and this was accepted.




Fig. 5. (Left) 6d mint single on thick laid paper that is considered the rarest mint stamp of Canada. (Right) 10d on medium hard wove paper, one of the two known used blocks of four.

Two years later, in 1857 when the 7½d currency stamps were ordered to prepay the postage on letters carried by the Allen Line (Canadian Packet), the engravers on their own accord printed this denomination in green. One sees very little evidence of plate corrosion on these stamps. You will notice an adequate representation of both the values in the frames.

Amongst the covers you will notice one addressed to Her Brittanic Majesty, Queen Victoria, and one to Rev. Wm. Dodgson of Cumberland, the father of the author of "Alice in Wonderland." There is also a mint pair with full o.g. and one of the two known used blocks of four; the strip of four used on cover is extremely rare and perhaps the largest multiple of this value used on cover.

A good representation of the 7½d rate can be seen, the most interesting being a cover to Scotland franked by two copies of the 3d and three of the ½d.

To prepay the postage on newspapers, a ½d stamp was ordered in June, 1857 and a plate of 120 subjects was made by the engravers. A charge of $150 was made for the plate. A mint block of four and a used block of nine (Fig. 6) are shown together with dated singles and pairs on both horizontal and vertical ribbed papers — both these latter are rare.

In 1858, the postal authorities demanded that some type of separation was required, similar to that used in Great Britain. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson Co., immediately contacted William Bemrose of Derby, England, in an endeavor to obtain a perforating machine.

It was coincidental that the New York Engraving companies had just amalgamated to become the American Bank Note Co. Consequently, a rotary rouletting machine which Toppan, Carpenter and Co., had obtained from Bemrose was available to all the banknote companies. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson Co. saw a possibility of a conversion to a rotary perforating machine, so this was done and the pins so spaced to give a measurement of 11.6 to 11.75 over 2 cm. In July, 1858 the machine was ready for work, but it could perforate only sheets of ten rows.

The ½d stamps being in sheets of 120 (12 x 10) were too large for the perforating machine. It was necessary, therefore, that the two last rows of the

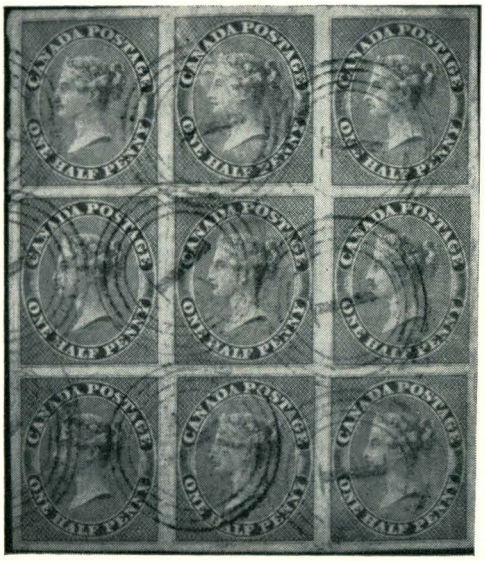



Fig. 6. ½d deep rose on thick wove paper. This used block of nine is one of the two known.




Fig. 7. 1c on laid paper of 1859. Three copies are known, one being in the Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace, London, England.

steel plate were cut off and a new printing in sheets of 100 was made. Special printings were also made of the 6d denomination, because the two colors "brownish grey" and "slate violet" are completely different from the various colors of the imperforated stamps.

However, some sheets of the 3d denomination must have been perforated prior to the October 12th delivery. I show copies of the ribbed paper and also thick hard paper which have not been previously recorded. On referring to "the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of 1909-10," I was amazed to discover the 3d on ribbed paper was catalogued but not priced. Why it was deleted from the catalogue at some later date never will be known, but I am happy to state that it has now been re-instated. Perhaps in the future the thick hard paper will receive catalogue status in Gibbons.

The 1859 issues are perhaps more interesting to the specialists than the Pence issues because they supplied a great number of varieties. On studying these issues Senator Calder and his associates, Lees-Jones, Reford and other prominent specialists had always considered that a number of plates were used to print each denomination.

The most important variety of the 1c denomination is of course that of laid paper, only three copies have been recorded, one of which is in the Queen's Collection in Buckingham Palace, London — the other two are in mine (Fig. 7).

So far as the 5c value was concerned, it was suggested that anything from three to five plates were utilized. However, some ten years ago I was able to establish that only one plate was used for the printing of the 39,800 sheets. This plate was never hardened in order to facilitate the repair by re-entering the transfer roller whenever wear had taken place. It has now been discovered by Geoffrey Whitworth that the 5c plate was repaired on no less than eight occasions — thus giving nine states of the plate.

Students for many years have endeavored to position the many varieties that occurred on this stamp and became confused, because after successfully positioning a variety, they were surprised to discover that stamps from the same position on the sheet showed no evidence of the variety.

Altogether there were thirty-one printings and eight repairs. Thus, any given variety would appear on average in four printings only, as the printings until 1865 averaged 1000 sheets, it meant that not more than 4000 of any of the varieties were printed (in some cases even fewer). Using a 5% survival conjecture, you reach the very low figure that approximately 200 copies of each variety might exist today.

For such varieties as the "Log in Waterfall," the "Tree" variety on No. 10, and the major re-entry, I would think that even this estimate is high. For those students of Canadian 1859 issues, who are interested, I have learned from Mr. Whitworth that the major re-entry only occurred in the last printings in 1867. You can observe from the cover that I show with the major re-entry used in pair

with normal that the date is 19th February 1868 (Fig. 8). To date we have not succeeded in positioning the major re-entry.

The 10c Prince Consort is another very fine stamp which has commanded the attention of students for decades. While I have brought for your inspection a representative showing of this stamp, I am only going to talk about new discoveries which I have made concerning two stamps No. 61 and No. 97, as both these stamps show varieties which continue through the whole of the twenty-six printings.

No. 61 shows marked duplication of both shoulders of the Prince Consort and has been termed "The Double Epaulettes." Careful examination of the stamp or proofs shows a trace of north and side framelines extending into the left margin opposite the side motif. From this I have deduced that the original entry for this was misplaced 11½mm below and a ¼mm to the left, indicating that the transfer roller was turned about half a stamp from its correct position when applied to the plate. The siderographer was not able to completely clear this final entry. Consequently, when the new subject was laid down, the impressions from this position No. 61 show indications of the first entry over both shoulders of the Prince Consort and traces of the Roman Numeral "X" in the thistle motif at the left of the oval. Thus, the flaw on the shoulders are the remains of the words "Canada Postage" from the original entry (Fig. 9).

No. 97 on the plate was a short transfer of the southeast corner and the siderographer had to retouch the background of crossed lines by hand, as well as the side and base lines. This variety is in evidence in all printings up to the eleventh. However, before the twelfth printing, the plate must have been completely re-entered, because the hand-retouch to the background disappears, but the thick recut lines of the side and base lines are in evidence until the 26th printing. This proves the repaired impression on No. 97.

The 12½c are represented by used blocks, one showing the major re-entry and an extremely fine cover to Switzerland with the 72½c rate.

The 17c denomination also is well represented. Perhaps your attention should be drawn to the fine used block of the second printing in slate blue, the covers to Australia via Panama showing the 22½ cents rate and the "6d more

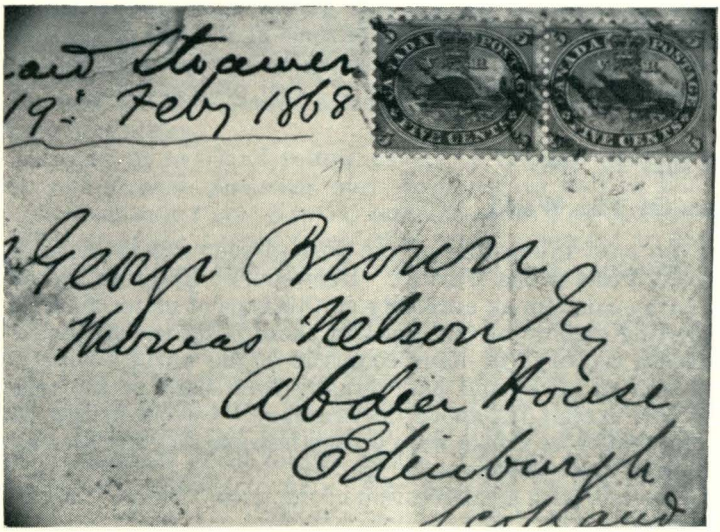



Fig. 8. 1859. 5c with the major re-entry. A pair used on a cover — one normal, the other with the re-entry, dated February 19, 1868.




Fig. 9. 10c 1859, the "Double Epaulettes" variety, Position No. 61. (Left) An enlarged single showing how the variety occured and (right) a block of six Plate proofs.

to pay.'' The cover showing the 27c rate to England via U. S. Packet is very scarce. I know of only one other cover, which was originally in the Argenti Collection, and was from New Brunswick with the 17c and 10c New Brunswick stamps franking the letter.

Last but not least the Proof block of the 17c showing the rare variety ''Burr on Shoulder'' which only occurred on the 11th and 12th Printings was from the last state of the Plate. The position of this variety is No. 7 on the sheet.''

The material exhibited by Mr. Lea was so outstanding that justice could only be done by the many illustrations of some of the fine pieces that he showed. Mr. Lea knew his subject so well that he spoke without reference to any notes. This was a wonderful meeting given by a ''real professional.''

### Meeting Of May 19, 1965

### Private Posts Of The World

Among the most interesting of the past season, was the meeting dedicated to ''The Private Posts of the World.'' Denwood W. Kelly, Jr., whose researches in this field have made him an authority on this type of material, filled the frames with a fascinating display of the issues of those posts which existed (primarily in the nineteenth century) in many countries of the world. Ninety per cent of the material was on cover and had actually been used in the transmission of mail, setting this exhibit far above the ordinary. Covers in this field are most difficult to find and those shown were chosen because they are seen so seldom and are unfamiliar to most collectors.

Opening his talk with a clarification of the term, ''locals,'' Mr. Kelly pointed out the following:

'' 'Locals' is a generic term which has been used over the years to describe any stamp which was restricted both as to acceptance and delivery of mail to a

specific postal area . . . I would define a private post as one operated by an individual, express company, steamship company, or other non-governmental body or group which carried mail for a fee."

"Such posts," he went on, "were operated to supplement inefficient or inadequate postal services, to provide services where none existed, or, in some cases, almost solely to issue and sell their stamps to collectors."

"Locals," Mr. Kelly believes, aid in the specialization and development of the postal history of any country in which a person is interested; form a very important and bona-fide part of postal history generally; offer an excellent field for research for either the postal historian or the student of printing and stamp production; and offer the opportunity to build a "different" collection.

Although not listed in the so-called "standard" postage stamp catalogs, because they were not governmental issues (though some were approved and carried mail under contract, making them semi-official), there are many listings and sources of information for students of the private posts. These consist of specialized catalogs, handbooks, magazines and society bulletins.

"The field of private posts may be divided generally into five main groups," Mr. Kelly went on to say. "These are — steamship and mailboat services, overland routes from city to city, city posts for door to door delivery to and from the government post office, airpost issues and speculative and/or bogus issues."

Among the steamship company posts, Mr. Kelly showed covers of the famed *Danube Steam Navigation Company* in some quantity. Here were many examples of the issues of April 15, 1866, mid-1866, late 1866 and on through 1878. There were also excellent examples of the various postmarks and cancellations used by this important company as well as two covers with the excessively scarce Insurance stamps put out by that organization.

There were also fine covers from the *Hamburg American Packet Company,* the *Austrian Lloyd Company,* the *Russian Company of Navigation and Trade,* the *Turkish Steamship Company* and *St. Thomas, La Guaira and Porto Cabello,* the services of *Robert Todd, J. A. Jessurun* and *Cameron, Macauley & Co.,* which existed during the years 1863-70.

A few off-cover items in this field were also shown to provide completeness. These included *David Bryce's Lady McLeod Stamp of 1847 issued in Trinidad,* items from the *Pacific Steam Navigation Company,* a complete sheet of the emission of *The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.,* a stamp of *The Franco-American Steamship Co.* and the very scarce *Murray River Steam Navigation Company* run by William McCullach.

In the category of overland routes, covers of the *Moroccan posts, Chinese Treaty Ports and Russian Zemstvos* were displayed as well as such odd items as covers of the *Coogardie Cycle Express* established in West Australia by James Healey in 1893, the *Lake Lefroy Cycle Mail* which operated in 1897, and the *Norwegian Missionary Post* and *British Inland Mail* both operating in Madagascar in the nineties.

City posts were represented by covers of the *German private posts, Danish and Norwegian Byposts, Swedish city posts, the Helsingfors city post of Finland, Liannos' Post of Constantinople, French and Polish municipals, and a few scarce United States locals from the exhibitor's home city, Baltimore, Md.*

Mr. Kelly commented particularly on the *Danish Byposts,* the stamps of which are the commonest of all foreign locals. In spite of this, he pointed out, covers are extremely difficult to find. *The Liannos stamps of Constantinople* fall into the same category. Unused examples are to this day, very common, even in complete sheets. Genuine covers, on the other hand, are extremely scarce.

One of the scarcest covers on display was that bearing a copy of the *London Court Bureau stamp of 1890.* This stamp was used on letters collected on Sundays from clubs, hotels and private homes and then posted in the usual way at the nearest point outside the London area so as to insure delivery by the first post on Monday morning.

Finally, there were some selected pages from a collection of so-called "Cinderellas" or phantom stamps, including "issues" from imaginary countries, those seriously prepared "under delusions of grandeur" and bogus issues from countries or places actually in existence. Among these stamps, strangely enough, are to be found many of real charm and interest.

Here were those fascinating issues from such fanciful places as the *Principality of Trinidad, Sedang, Clipperton Island, Bokhara, Brunei, Amoy, Bateke, Amazonia and Counani.*

The Principality of Trinidad and Sedang issues were stamps seriously issued by the dreamer Baron Harden-Hickey and the opportunist David de Mayrenna; one under the delusion that a Utopian dream was about to be realized and the other in the belief that power and wealth lay waiting. Neither were to realize their ambition.

Clipperton Island, Bokhara, Brunei and Amoy represented issues from bonafide localities, made primarily for collectors.

Those of Bateke (supposedly in French Equatorial Africa), Amazonia (a supposed railway company in Brazil) and Counani (supposedly a free state in Brazil) represented bogus stamps from imaginary countries.

Mr. Kelly also showed a most unusual album, "Vol. III of the Imperial Postage Stamp Album," once issued by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of England just for the local postage stamps of the world. Mr. Kelly has been gradually filling it as the stamps come his way and he remarked that "this printed album holds a real fascination for me."

The likelihood of filling every space is, of course, rather remote, since there are a number of spaces for impossible rarities, particularly among the Russian Zemstvos and U. S. locals. This album, like many European albums of the period, included a catalog listing of the various stamps. A matching copy of "The Gibbons Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps of the World" was also shown.

Thus concluded an evening that was both diverting and informative. May the club have many more speakers of Mr. Kelly's caliber both in knowledge and charm. *(Ira Zweifach)*

**Meeting of June 2, 1965**

**Annual Members' Competition**

The writer must confess that, as Co-Chairman of the Program Committee for this year, he looked forward to the annual members' competition with a certain feeling of apprehension. Coming as it did in the same period as the WIPA international exhibition in Vienna, Austria, where many of the members' collections would be on display, it was believed that the quality of our own show might suffer. It can now be reported that all his doubts and misgivings were for naught. The material displayed by members from all sections of the country was excellent enough throughout to furnish the judges with sufficient difficulty in the course of their deliberations. Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield acted as Chairman of the judges. Assisting him were Messrs. Winthrop S. Boggs, Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, Louis K. Robbins and Philip Silver.

Mrs. Rae D. Ehrenberg acted as Chairman of the hosts and hostesses during the week of June 1-4 when the exhibits were on display. She was ably assisted

by Mrs. Ethel B. McCoy and Messrs. Solomon Altmann, Charles W. Brooks, Dudley Hilborn, Paul P. Lindenberg, W. Kenneth Minuse and Emanuel M. Reggel. A special mention should also be made of the committee consisting of Messrs. Nathaniel Litt, George S. Miller, Alex Rendon and Dr. Stanley L. Stutman who helped mount the show. As usual, Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, Chairman of the Exhibits Committee, was in charge of that activity. Certificates of appreciation were tendered all those who helped in their several capacities.

President Woodward opened the meeting on the night of June 2 by welcoming the overflow assemblage and indicating the names of guests and visitors. Then, he turned the meeting over to Mr. Shenfield to announce the names of the winners.

**Grand Award**

First Prize, a handsome sterling silver Revere bowl, was awarded to an unusual display of original research on *Plate One of the 5c United States stamps of 1856 to 1861.* This went to Mr. Earl Oakley of Los Angeles, California, thus continuing a tradition of several years standing, the garnering of the top award by a non-resident member. Mr. Oakley's exhibit contained many lovely covers with multiple pieces that enabled him to determine the method of laying down the transfers.

**6 Awards of Honor**

Six sterling silver bowls, all of equal merit, were awarded to the following exhibits:

A study of the *1894 Postal and Official Stamps of the Republic of Ecuador* by Leo John Harris of Washington, D. C.

*Salvador — early covers* including rare combinations by Norman S. Hubbard of Oceanside, New York.

*U. S. Ship Mail, 1834-1870* by W. Newton Landis of Landsdowne, Pennsylvania.

Covers franked with stamps of the *1869 issue of the U. S.* showing foreign and domestic rates by Millard H. Mack of Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Sports* rarities by Ira Seebacher of Roslyn, New York.

Selected pages from a collection of *Classic Romania* by Dr. André Weiss of Aberdeen, Maryland.

**12 Certificates of Merit**

Twelve exhibits were awarded certificates as follows:

*U. S. Air Mail Covers* by Edward Paul Bender of Woodside, New York.

*Bishop Marks* by Matt C. Dillingham of Palo Alto, California.

*U. S. 1869* issue — mint singles, blocks, proofs, essays, covers by Richard Ellis of Orange, New Jersey.

*Proofs in normal and trial colors of U. S. stamps showing the vignette of President Abraham Lincoln* by Falk Finkelburg of Cambria Heights, New York.

*Papua Air Mail — 1st Provisional Issue* along with full mint sheet of the 3d postage Harrison used for the overprinted air mail by Harry A. Holman of Long Island City, New York.

*Colombia Air Mail, 1920* — philatelic history of the ill-fated Compania Colombiana de Navegacion Aerea by John N. Myer of New York, N. Y.

*Essays and Proofs of the 5c and 10c Newfoundland 1865,* American Bank Note Co. by Robert D. Pratt of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

*China covers* of postal history interest, mainly outport mail without Chinese stamps franked by Treaty Port Locals and Foreign by W. R. Rankin of Winter Park, Florida.

*The 1906 Provisional Issue of Haiti* by F. Burton Sellers of Tarrytown, New York.

*Egypt — French occupation 1798-1801* by Clifford W. Shafer of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Selected pages from a collection of *U. S. 3c stamps of the 1851-1860* issue by Dr. Gerald B. Smith of Woodburn, Oregon.

*Hong Kong Treaty Ports* — selected pages by Dr. Irwin M. Yarry of Woodside, New York.

**Other Exhibits**

*Bosnia and Herzocovina, 1901-1906* perf varieties — Albert Philip Cohen, New York, N. Y.

*U. S. Parcel Post* on Letter Covers — F. W. Doolittle, Jr., Phoenix, Md.

*Unusual Postal Markings* and seldom seen stamps — John F. Field, San Fernando, California.

The Rise and Fall of the *U. S. 1890 issue, 2c* value — W. A. Finnegan, Yonkers, New York.

Trial colors and *Proofs U. S. 1898* issue — Julian F. Gros, New York, N. Y.

Centennial dated *Civil War Patriotic Covers with Confederate stamps* and similar covers with facsimile stamps for comparison — Creighton C. Hart, Kansas City, Missouri.

*Bundi* — a detailed study of the "sacred cow" design, 1915-1941 — Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, Bernardsville, New Jersey. *(Not for competition).*

*Aden* — stamps and covers from the Hadhramaut — Albert H. Higgins, New York, N. Y.

"Centers of Interest" (*U. S. bi and tri-colored stamps with mis-registers* as seen through a jaundiced eye!) — Clyde Jennings, Jr., Lynchburg, Virginia.

*Italy, P. O. in Jerusalem* — Paul P. Lindenberg, New York, N. Y.

*Uruguay* — Nathaniel Litt, New York, N. Y.

*U. S. — fancy cancellations on the 3c Rose 1861* — Dr. Jesse S. Lubitz, Brooklyn, New York.

*French Polynesia cancellations* — George F. Miller, Upper Montclair, N. J.

*France-Europa 1957*, from the original drawing to the used stamp — Mrs. Paulette Neumann, New York, N. Y.

*Cinderella Material* — fantasies, labels and uncatalogued items — John L. Norbeck, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Plate blocks of the *United States 25c Special Handling stamps* — Gilbert L. Peakes, Metuchen, New Jersey.

*Czechoslovakia — Provisional Postage Dues 1918-1919* — Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, Bayside, New York.

*Bolivia — 1867 issue* — Alex Rendon, Long Island City, New York.

*War Covers "Napoleon to Nasser"* — Kevin P. Rogan, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*U. S. 1883 2c Brown* Specialized — Stanley A. Salomon, New York, N. Y.

*Switzerland — semi-official air mail stamps* in sheets — Dr. R. Hasbrouck Shrady, Englewood, New Jersey.

My "Americana" topical collection, mainly *F. D. R. issues from foreign countries* — Dr. Stanley L. Stutman, Seaford, Long Island.

Pages from a *Galveston Postal History Book* — Alex L. ter Braake, Galveston, Texas.

*The Spanish Civil War* — Theodore Van Dam, New York, N. Y.

*The overprinted official stamps of Canada* — Richard S. Wilson, New York, N. Y.

*Early India Cancellations* — H. H. Frenkle, New Orleans, Louisiana.

*Lundy Islands* — John J. Britt, New York, N. Y. *(Not for competition).*

So, another annual members' competition passed into the recorded history

of the Collectors Club. The winners took pride in their awards. As those present circulated again in the exhibit room, post-judging and/or second-guessing the judges' decisions, one could sense the plans being laid for next year's competition. "El ejercicio hace maestro." *(P. S.)*

### Collectors Club "Visits"

### The Royal Philatelic Society, London

On the night of June 17, 1965 the Collectors Club paid a return visit to the Royal Philatelic Society. Eight members contributed pages from their collections and colored slides to be shown in London, England and briefly discussed their material in recorded talks to be played in conjunction with the viewing of the slides.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Norman S. Hubbard, representing the Collectors Club, presented the Collectors Club medal for the best program of 1964 to Captain B. Rogers-Tillstone, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in recognition of the visit paid by the Royal on May 20, 1964.

After this presentation, the meeting was devoted to the slides and recordings of the Collectors Club members. The individual exhibits have been outlined in the previous edition of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, and so it is unnecessary to repeat the descriptions here.

There was a very large, enthusiastic turnout for the meeting and the program was well received. The slides were excellent and contributed greatly to everyone's enjoyment. Unfortunately, the quality of some of the tapes was not good. Two of the recordings could not be understood, but the slides were viewed and appreciated anyway. Mr. Hubbard delivered his talk in person at the conclusion of the recordings.

For the improvement of future programs of this type, two lessons were learned from this experience. First, the quality of the tapes must be improved. Perhaps it will be necessary to engage professional assistance to prevent a repetition of this problem. Second, although slides are extremely effective in displaying individual stamps or covers, they are not very useful where an entire album page containing a number of items are involved. Nothing can be seen except a variety of colored blobs with little clarity or character. Therefore, in the future it would seem desirable to limit slides to individual pieces the appearance of which can be truly appreciated on the screen. *(N. S. H.)*

## 1965 COMING MEETINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| **September 15th** | — *United States, 12 cents 1851-57*—Mortimer L. Neinken |
| **October 6th** | — *Informal Roundtable. Asia, United States, Latin America* |
| **October 20th** | — *Stump the Experts* |
| **November 3rd** | — *The exciting saga of the early Colombia Airmail*—Eugenio Gebauer |
| **November 17th** | — *Members participation*—African countries |
| **December 1st** | — *China—Treaty Port Locals*—H. D. S. Haverbeck |
| **December 15th** | — *Board of Governors Open House* |

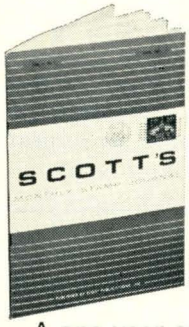
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