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Volume 54 Number 4
July 1975

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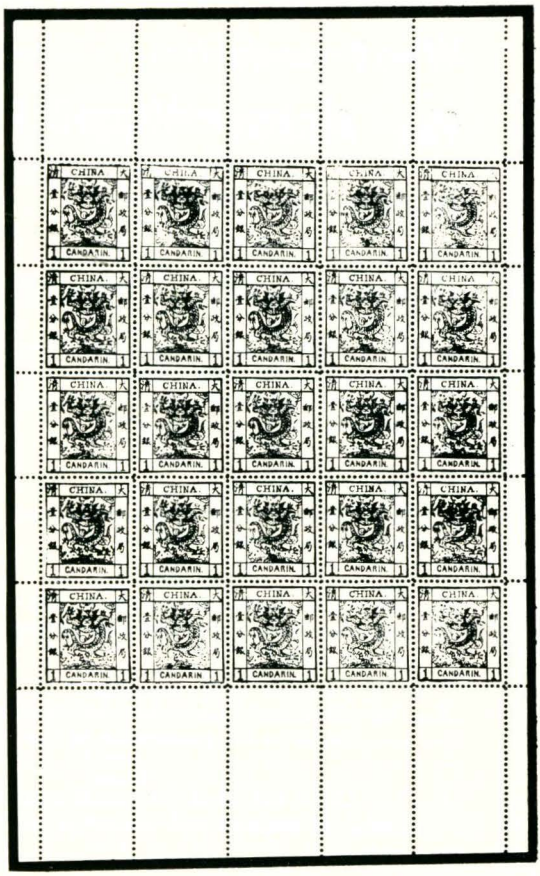
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The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

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Letters to the Editor

The Samoan Palm Tree Issues

In his article on the "Samoan Palm Tree Issues, 1886-1900" which appeared in the January issue of the "Philatelist," Robert P. Odenweller has accepted A. R. Burge's conclusion that the first shipment of the VM 7 paper was not received in New Zealand till about November 1888 (see; "New Zealand Stamp Collector 1973, *53* (4), 105-112), hence the printing of Palm Tree stamps of Nov. 5, 1887, must have been on HM 6 paper.

The evidence from contemporary New Zealand stamps, however, shows that the November 1888 date for the receipt of the first supplies of the VM 7 paper cannot be correct. I recorded my earliest dates on stamps of New Zealand printed on VM 7 paper (pages 25-6 of Vol. IV, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand) as December 29, 1887, on the 1d value, January 10, 1888, on the 2d, April 1888 on the one shilling and May 1888 on the 6d value. The early 1888 dates on the 1d and 2d values are confirmed by numerous other examples in my collection and cannot be due to accidental date errors. It is, therefore, an indisputable fact that the VM 7 paper was first used at the Government Printing Office for N. Z. stamps *before* December 29, 1887, and the date of *receipt* of the first shipment of this paper must have been still earlier.

Yet, Mr. Burge states (page 120), "The first shipment of the VM 7 paper (37 reams) was made in September 1888." The *only* interpretation of the incomplete Printing Office records which is consistent with the factual stamp evidence is that the shipment of the VM 7 paper in September 1888 was *not* the first, and that there must have been at least one earlier consignment received in N. Z. late in 1887.

The November 1887 printing of the Palm stamps of Samoa could, therefore, have been either on this paper or on sheets of the earlier HM 6 paper still in stock at that time.

K. J. McNaught
Hamilton, New Zealand

I would like to comment upon certain matters referred to by Mr. R. P. Odenweller in his paper on the Palm Trees of Samoa (January C.C.P.). This would have been done earlier, but my copy of the journal only reached me two or three weeks ago, surface mails being what they are.

As the person most quoted in Mr. Odenweller's article I feel that, although what I have to say may not add greatly to the present knowledge of these stamps, it is important that what is said should be as accurate as possible as, I understand, the whole paper is to be reprinted in handbook form.

Mr. Odenweller has so far covered the present position of the Palm Trees very well, indeed. The information in "Vol. V, Postage Stamps of New Zealand," was very sketchy concerning the perf 12½ and 12 x 11½ printings since certain records of the New Zealand Government Printer were not then available. It was when the late John Powell of Sydney insisted, in an article in "Stamp Collecting" (Oct. 3, 1968), that his 6d, perf 12½ was a stamp and not a proof, as had been stated in "Vol. V," that I decided to see if he was right. One interesting thing led to another and the result was my first article in "Philately from Australia" (March 1969) where I was able to show that his 6d was, in fact, part of a very small printing of all values made in 1891. The comment on page 20 concerning the number printed of the 6d is not quite right. Originally, R. J. G. Collins in his "Catalogue of the Stamps of the Dependencies of New Zealand — 1952," had noted the figure as 2,400, which seemed to fit in with a small printing. Later, it was found to be 24,000 — the comma had been transposed between the 2 and 4 as 2,4000, and in a later transcription, the last 0

was dropped.

My allocation of the printing of Nov. 5, 1887, to the 7mm paper and not the 6mm, has been touched upon by Mr. Odenweller. Here again, based on the facts then known, this was a reasonable assumption. However, in view of Mr. Odenweller's suggestion that these stamps could be on the 6mm paper, it became necessary to see if this also could be proved. A detailed examination of the paper, issues and printing records was made, the results of which were published in "The New Zealand Stamp Collector" (Dec. 1973 — Vol. 53, No. 4). Besides showing that this particular printing must have been on the 6mm paper, the possible reasons for the use of the 4mm in 1890 became apparent.

In his footnotes on page 21, Mr. Odenweller makes reference to the use of the 4mm and 7mm papers, suggesting that the printer may have used up old stocks. It has to be appreciated that the ordering of stamps and watermarked paper was in the hands of the Stamp Duties Department and the Government Printer had no say in what paper was used for a specific order of stamps. With each order, he was supplied with the requisite number of sheets required for the job. The serial numbers were recorded for security reasons and all sheets issued to him had to be accounted for to the Custodian of Stamps, either as good or damaged sheets. He would have no stock of watermarked paper.

The records available covering the period in question showed that not only were several different watermarked papers then being used for postage stamps, fiscal stamps, postal notes, beer duty stamps, etc., but that there was a definite shortage of paper specifically for postage stamps between Sept. 1888 and the end of 1890. The 6mm paper had been used up by the former date and new 7mm paper had been ordered from De La Rue, a first batch of which (37 reams) had been sent out in Sept. 1888. No more was shipped until September 1890. This was the period when the 4mm paper was used for postage stamps in addition to its normal use for fiscals, beer duty stamps and possibly postal notes. Davis' (John Davis, Postmaster of Samoa) order for the supply of additional stamps — the subject of the printing of May 1890 — would have amounted to about 1320 sheets, allowing for spoilage. This is insignificant when compared with the paper required for stamps, etc. printed for the New Zealand Post Office at that time. The following table will give some idea of this amount. The period covered is from Oct. 1890 to Dec. 1891:

Stamps, etc. Printed	*Sheets*
Sideface stamps	162,215
Life Insurance	4 000
Fiscal	4 897
½d Newspaper	24,766
Samoa. Cook Islands	1,452
Beer Duty	5.736
Postal Notes	44,108
	247,174

Paper Issued	*Sheets*
Postage paper — 4mm	17,470
Star Newspaper	55,870
Postal Note paper	19,363
New postage paper	158,000
	250,703

As the detailed records for this particular printing period are missing from the archives it can only be assumed, as pointed out by Mr. Odenweller, that the last of the first shipment of the 37 reams of 7mm paper was issued for this order of Palm Trees. And to make up the balance, a ream or so of the 4mm paper, which in turn had all been issued by Nov. 1890, was used.

The dates shown in the tables of the printings are those on which the stamps were delivered to the Custodian of Stamps, not the actual date of printing. I believe with Mr. Odenweller, that separate printings of the stamps could well have been made on the two papers within a few days of each other with the total order delivered to the Custodian on May 9,

1890.

Mr. Odenweller's solution as to the large printing of the 2/6 value of March 24, 1893, (page 22) is that the printer made a mistake and that this value was printed instead of the 2½d. This was the overseas rate and the denomination most used. If this was the case, why did not Davis order a further supply of the 2½d when the consignment arrived in Apia? No further printing was made until after the fire on April 1, 1895, so he apparently had adequate supplies of this value. Another explanation is that Davis ordered 250 sheets of 120 stamps each, but the order was passed on to the printer by the Stamp Duties Department as 250 Post Office sheets (240 stamps per sheet). This did occur later with some orders for the Cook Islands when double the quantity was printed. The total sheets printed of the 2/6 up to, and including, the May 1890 printings was about 100 less than the 4d, and 1/1. Davis may have ordered a further supply of the 2/6 to balance his stock.

I am looking forward to the next installment of Mr. Odenweller's article as I find these stamps and their history of great interest. The time taken in studying the records is often compensated for by new discoveries quite unrelated to the matter in hand as, for example, the entry in April 1901 of a printing of only one sheet of 120 stamps of the 8d pictorial of New Zealand on 7mm paper (sheet #486502), but this, of course, is a matter for New Zealand specialists.

A. R. Burge F.R.P.C. N. Z.
Wellington, New Zealand

Robert Odenweller replies:

The letters from Dr. McNaught and Mr. Burge commenting upon the first part of my series on the Palm Trees of Samoa touch upon a number of points, some of which I had considered and omitted from the text on the basis that they were too detailed for the level of treatment accorded the subject.

Mr. Burge's letter corrects and amplifies many of the areas in which he has been directly connected, bringing new records to light. His explanation of the sequence of paper orders by the Government Printer and supply by the Stamp Duties Department is an interesting confirmation of procedures.

Mr. Burge also raises anomalous points regarding my theory on the printing of the 2/6. I labeled my opinion a "possible solution," and I readily admit that other solutions may have equal validity. In defense of my theory, I would suggest that the rate of initial demand for the 2½d could have been higher due to the introduction of a new design and value (which was expected to be used regularly), but that after the initial drain on supplies to satisfy philatelic demand, the use rate stabilized at a more realistic level. It could have been between the high early demand and the later stabilization that the 2/6 misprinting was made with Davis realizing after delivery of the "wrong" value that a reorder would not be necessary. Obviously, this is a point that cannot be proven or disproven and other theories should be given due consideration.

The remaining area touched upon by Mr. Burge concerns that which is also the subject of Dr. McNaughts letter. Clearly, here the final word has yet to be said. Dr. McNaught's possession of VM7 sideface stamps cancelled in late Dec. 1887 and Jan. 1888 that there must have been a supply of the VM 7 paper sometime prior to those dates. The post office records, which Mr. Burge has combed so diligently, shows that 37 reams of VM 7 paper were sent out in Sept. 1888. It is my understanding that some of these records are missing, (as reported by Mr. Burge in "The New Zealand Stamp Collector,") and that it is conceivable (certain, by Dr. McNaught's evidence) that an earlier supply of VM 7 paper was available very late in 1887. This is an excellent example of "comparative philately" at work. Yet, it forces a return, at least to some degree, to the uncertainty of which paper — VM 7 or HM 6 — was used for the Nov. 5, 1887, Palm

Trees printing. I am glad that these questions were raised at this time, they will serve to guide future research along these lines.

After careful consideration of the points raised. I still must favor the idea that HM 6 paper was used for the Nov. 5, 1887, printing because:

1. It seems logical to expect that the time between printing and use of stamps of the second sideface issue was quite short, making it possible that the first use of the VM 7 paper was in early December or late November 1887 and later than the printing in question.

2. New stocks of paper could be expected to see first use for the stamps of the "parent" country which ordered it.

3. The observed frequency of known copies of the stamps should mirror the numbers printed. Since the July 6th printing involved either 9,360 of each value, and the November 5th printing would raise these figures for the lower 3 values to 33,600 or 33,840, either a "flat distribution" of equal numbers will be known for all values, supporting the single printing idea, or the lower 3 values will be far more plentiful, which would support the combined printings theory. The observed data may be seen in the following table.

	A	B	C
Value	*Known Copies*	*Comb. Printings*	*Single Printing*
½d	7	.021%	.073%
1d	12	.036%	.128%
2d	8	.024%	.083%
4d	2	.021%	.021%
1/-	3	.032%	.032%
2/6	1	.010%	.010%

The 6d value is not considered here as it was involved in an entirely separate printing in a quantity much larger than those in the first printing. The number of copies in Col. A include the total reported in such major holdings as McNaught, Burge, Powell and three other specialists. The percentages in Col. B are those of the known copies with respect to the numbers printed of the three lower values. The combination of the two printings yields a much higher basic number of each printed, therefore the numbers known must be higher to reach the same percentage as the higher values. For those statistically inclined, the mean of these percentages is .024% with a standard deviation of .009%. This means that the larger majority of observations will be from .015% to .033%, a fairly flat distribution. In such a small sample this may still be considered a reasonably higher statistical correlation.

On the other hand, in Col. C the percentages are reported as if the only printing of perf 12 x 11½ on HMG paper was that of July 6, 1887. In this case the percentages of the lower three values is much higher than the others. This might be interpreted as a higher use and retention rate of the more postally valid values. However, a comparison with other contemporary printings (perf 12½ and the two perf 12 x 11½ groups) shows a fairly flat distribution over all values, leading one to expect similar percentages to be known of each value in a given printing with respect to numbers printed. In this case the mean is .058% and the standard deviation is .045%, a much lower statistical correlation than the first.

These arguments do not constitute an iron-clad defense of the theory, but are presented in the interest of accuracy. In either case, the Palm Trees, perf 12 x 11½ on HM6 paper, are an issue of considerable rarity.

I very much appreciate the close attention given to my efforts by such top experts and researchers as Mr. Burge and Dr. McNaught. It is this scrutiny that preserves the accuracy of philatelic writing for those who later may wish to further study this fascinating area.

The 20-Cent Parcel Post Stamp

I have read with much interest the article on the 20-cent Parcel Post stamp in the March issue of the CCP.

For a long time I have hoped to find someone especially interested in this stamp so that I could pass along a bit

of "family" information. Perhaps you can verify it should you care to do so.

The stamp design was from a photograph in which General "Hap" Arnold was the pilot — long before he was a geenral, of course.

Mrs. Arnold was a college classmate and life-long close friend of a relative of mine. When the latter mentioned my interest in stamp collecting during one of their visits together, Mrs. Arnold told her to tell me that General Arnold was piloting the "plane pictured on the 20-cent Parcel Post stamp." She added that it was the plane, not its pilot, which was important, but she liked to think of it as her husband's stamp.

In view of the importance of the stamp in aviation postal history, and of General Arnold in aviation history itself, perhaps the above information takes on added importance after more than 60 years. Another instance of his belated recognition, perhaps, as well.

Maryette B. Lane
St. Petersburg, Florida

General Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold graduated West Point in 1907 and in 1911 was assigned to the Aviation Division of the Signal Corps. He became Chief of the Army Air Forces and, in 1944 was made General of the Army and later, General of the Air Force, both "five-star" ranks. He died in 1950.

The Editor

Kehr Editorial

It seems I am always responding to editorials when written by Ernie Kehr!

His editorial on stamp investments are either biased in their offering in the first case or tend toward new issues in the latter case. There are, however, exceptions to both as has been proved on many occasions.

There was recently published a book by Richard H. Rush and the Editors of U. S. News and World Report Books, "Investments You Can Live With and Enjoy." This was a guide to 18 collecting hobbies, including stamps. The basis of the stamp report was the sale of a "philatelic portfolio" brought together, with no knowledge on the part of the purchaser, in 1943 and 1944. "A prominent New Yorker" instructed the Guaranty Trust Company of New York to buy stamps from J. W. Scott, which purchases were placed in the clients' safe-deposit box until sold following his death in 1973

The stamps were passed by H. R. Harmer, inc. and the writer, sensing a future story, ensured that cost prices (obtained from the bills) be noted on all the lots.

It should be borne in mind that nearly everything was against a successful investment. Firstly, the man at the bank presumably was not a philatelist and relied on the J. W. Scott Company to supply satisfactory material; secondly, the company did not apply themselves too conscientiously to their task, often supplying two or three of the same set at different times and thirdly, the prices charged reflected a rather generous mark-up as compared with levels at that time.

Despite these drawbacks the result, from an investment point of view, was most pleasing. The cost and sale prices were:

Br. Com.	Cost	$13,000	Sold	$ 30,000
Foreign	Cost	$20,000	Sold	$ 58,000
U. S.	Cost	$ 9,000	Sold	$ 60,000
		$42,000		$148,000

This represents a net profit of $76,000 on a cost of $42,000 over a period of 10 years, amounting to 18% per annum with the profit applying on a capital gains basis had the owner sold during his life-time.

It is my belief that a cross-section of philatelic items purchased today at market levels, of a quality standard of "fine" or "better," the better items certified as to authenticity, would prove an admirable investment. What is more, the investor, unless he is very careful, will, before long, start to enjoy the stamps and — horror of horrors — may become a collector or even a philatelist.

Bernard D. Harmer
New York, N. Y.

THE COVERS OF THE SIBERIAN AEF

A classification system for covers used by members of the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia during World War I with comments on the Cancellation and Censor Markings.

By David Opperman

The sale in the latter part of 1973 and early 1974 of the late Edith Faulstich's award-winning collection of covers used by the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia demonstrated the strong interest in postal history that exists today. Held at the Robert A. Siegel auction galleries, the more than 400 covers and collateral material brought extremely high prices despite the large quantity of material. In fact, the wealth of material in the sales belies the scarcity of the covers.

Mrs. Faulstich, at the time of her death in 1972, had the distinction of being among the foremost collectors and authorities on the postal history of the Siberian AEF. Many of her covers were "one-of-a-kind," obtained by her from veterans who took part in that expedition. She had an appreciation of their rarity shared by only a few other specialists in the field.

This study is based on an examination of over 1000 covers and post cards, including the Faulstich collection which were sent to the States from Siberia by civilians, diplomats, relief organization workers, soldiers, sailors, marines and their comrades and the personnel of the Russian Railway Service Corps (RRSC). In fact, all the major Siberian AEF collections in this country known to the author have been included. It attempts to show the relative scarcity of each type of cancellation and censor marking used by these groups in Siberia during World War I.

The military intervention of the United States and its allies in Siberia near the end of World War I is a colorful chapter in that great conflict. Scholars are still debating its justification, accomplishments, results, etc. But while the historical debate continues, the postal historian can piece together a fairly clear picture of the operation of the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok, Siberia.

From a postal history point of view, the intervention of the U. S. may be classified in relation to the establishment of operations of the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok. Such a classification of postal covers could be as follows:

I. Forerunner Covers (1914-Sept. 24, 1918)
   - A. Relief Organization Workers and Technical Personnel
   - B. Trops Enroute to Siberia
     1. From Fort McKinley, Philippine Islands
     2. From Camp Fremont, California
   - C. AEF and RRSC in Siberia Before Postal Agency Established
     1. Civil mail of Russia and China
     2. Censored but uncancelled covers
     3. Tsuruga steamboat covers

David Opperman is the librarian of the War Cover Club and is a leading authority on the U. S. campaign in Siberia.

II. The U. S. Postal Agency Period (Sept. 25, 1918-Mar. 23, 1920)

A. Cancellations
1. Temporary Shanghai, China Handstamp (Sept. 25, 1918-Oct. 17, 1918)
2. Large Rubber Handstamp (Oct. 18, 1918-Dec. 18, 1918)
3. Small Steel Handstamp
a. killer #1 (Dec. 20, 1918-Mar. 23, 1920)
b. killer #3 (known used on Dec. 20, 1918, only)
4. Registry Cancellations

B. Censor Markings
1. Manuscript
2. Typewritten
3. Rubber handstamps
a. unit censors
b. base censors
4. Gummed censor labels
5. Combined U. S. and foreign censoring

C. Miscellaneous Postal Markings
1. Registered mail
2. Money orders
3. Stations 1, 2, and 3
4. Ship cancellations
5. Railway Post Office (reported but not extant)

D. Types of Postal Stationery Related to the AEF
1. Safe arrival post cards
a. handwritten
b. comercial post cards
c. AEF post cards
d. YMCA post cards
2. Field Service post cards
3. POW post cards
4. Folded letter sheets
a. U. S.
b. Japanese
5. Special post cards
a. American Library Association Christmas Card
b. YMCA and Knights of Columbus picture post cards
c. Japanese picture post cards
6. Special illustrated envelopes

E. Envelope Corner Cards and Letterheads
1. YMCA
2. Red Cross
3. Knights of Columbus
4. War Department
5. Russian Railway Service Corps
6. Personal corner cards

F. Civil Mail
1. Philatelic
2. Red Cross
3. American Library Association

III. The Post-Occupation Period (Mar. 24, 1920-Nov. 19, 1922)
A. Ship Cancellations
B. Red Cross Mail
C. Russian Island Mail

The above classification follows the flow of events from the earliest American involvement in Siberia. It begins with the Red Cross relief efforts shortly after the start of World War I and ends with the removal of the last Marine detachment from Russian Island in Vladivostok Bay on Nov. 19, 1922. Closely following Red Cross involvement, American technical personnel, principally railroaders, were in Siberia making surveys of the Trans-Siberian Railroad for the Russian government. Their reports initiated the formation of the RRSC, the quasi-military group which landed on Russian soil months before our troops arrived.

Personnel for the RRSC were recruited from the railroads of the U. S. and the general manager of the Great Northern Railroad, George H. Emerson, was commissioned a colonel and put in charge of the outfit. All were given commissions as majors, captains, and lieutenants, but were not sworn into the army even though they wore army clothes and sidearms. They sailed for Russia on Nov. 19, 1917, months before President Wilson decided to send troops there to help the Czechoslovaks trying to return to the Western Front via Vladivostok.

When the RRSC arrived in Vladi-

vostok on Dec. 14, 1917, they were unable to land because of ice in the harbor and lack of available quarters on shore. They returned to Japan for the winter and did not return to the mainland until the spring of 1918. Some of them proceeded to Harbin, Manchuria, arriving on March 3rd. The remainder arrived in Vladivostok on August 11, 1918, eight days after the August 3rd decision of President Wilson to send troops to Russia.

Our first troops, sent from Fort McKinley in the Philippines, landed in Vladivostok on August 15, 1918. Troops from Camp Fremont in California arrived soon after. As the U. S. Postal Agency was not yet operational, the troops used whatever means they could to communicate with home. Covers are known mailed through the Russian, Japanese, and Chinese postal systems, the latter principally from Harbin where units of the RRSC were stationed.

One of the principal relief agencies in Russia predating our military involvement was the American Red Cross. Thousands of German, Austrian, Slav, and Hungarian prisoners of war were interned in Russia and Siberia. The Red Cross worked in such camps all across Siberia, providing recreation, books, food, and helping with medical and dental care and mail. Covers from these Red Cross workers and the POW's all passed through the civil mails prior to the establishment of our postal agency.

The order authorizing the postal agency was issued on Sept. 12, 1918, nearly four weeks after the arrival of the first troops from the Philippines. Censor markings were available and used by the postal agency shortly after its establishment, but a cancelling device had not yet arrived. Therefore, the earliest Siberian AEF "forerunner" covers have the censor marking struck in the upper right hand corner of the envelope where the cancellation normally would have appeared. As soon as the temporary Shanghai, China, steel handstamp was place in use on Sept. 25, 1918, the censor marking was applied in the lower left corner and was continued in that location from then on.

One of the scarcest known foreign mail markings of the Siberian AEF are the "forerunner covers" from very early Russian civil mail, the Tsuruga steamboat covers. The Russian civil mail system forwarded certain mail to Japan via the tsuruga Steamboat Line which sailed from Valdivostock to Tsuruga, Japan. A few AEF covers in transit to Japan for forwarding to the United States received this cancellation.

The authorization for the establishment of 2 postal agencies provided for a postal-agent-in-charge. Shortly thereafter, Stephen A. Cisler departed for Vladivostok to become the first such agent. Since a handstamp specifically for agency use in Siberia was not immediately available on such short notice, a steel handstamp was temporarily substituted reading "U. S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, China." Used for approximately three weeks, this cancellation is seldom seen and appears only rarely in philatelic auctions.

On October 18, 1918, the first cancellation, a large rubber one, specifically made for the agency in Vladivostok appeared (Fig. 1). At least four "first day" covers with this cancellation are in the hands of collectors. This cancellation does not command appreciably higher prices on the philatelic market than the small steel handstamp that followed it, though it is much scarcer, probably because collectors are not aware of its limited use through Dec. 18, 1918.

Two types of the small steel handstamp are known. The cancel with the number "1" in the killer bars is the most common of all Siberian AEF cancellations. Compared to the temporary Shanghail cancel in use only three weeks and the large rubber handstamp used for two months, this cancellation is indeed a common one since it was in use for a year and three months. However, a similar cancellation with number "3" in the killer bars

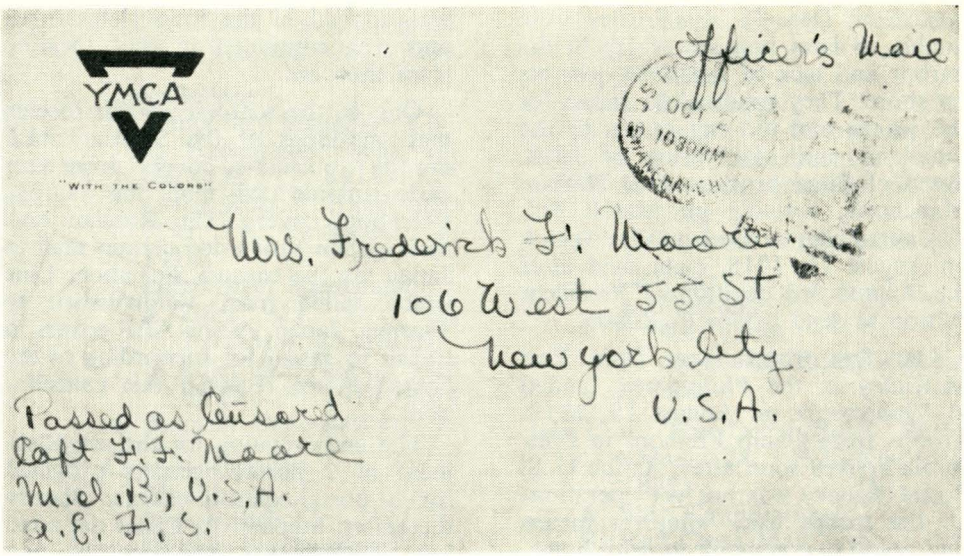


Figure 1. The temporary Shanghai, China handstamp used by the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok, Siberia.

is the rarest of all. Only one copy appeared in this study of 1000 plus covers. Speculation concerning the existence of the number "2" in the killer bars exists with some basis in fact, but none have as yet been reported in the philatelic press (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. The scarcest known of all Siberian AEF cancellations. – The small steel handstamp with "3" in the killer bars.

Censor marking varieties abound from the Siberian AEF and range from the very common (if anything from this expedition can be called common) to five types where a dozen or fewer examples are known. Some censoring was indicated by manuscript endorsement and some by typewriter, but the usual method of indicating that a letter had been censored was by use of one of the fourteen known rubber handstamp censor marking devices. Few auction catalog descriptions try to distinguish between them, consequently "sleepers" can be picked up by the knowledgeable buyer if he has an opportunity to examine the covers before bidding. (Fig. 3).

Most censoring was accomplished by officers in the individual unit to which the soldiers were assigned. Officers censored their own mail, sometimes by manuscript endorsement or by typed certification that the letter was censored as they typed the address on the cover. The bulk of the mail, howeevr, was from enlisted men and their covers were usually censored by a local censoring officer. It was possible, however, for an enlisted man to have his letter censored at base headquarters by the base censor if he did not want an officer in his unit reading his correspondence.

Various gummed censor labels appear on Siberian AEF covers, but it is difficult to establish when the censoring occurred and the label applied. That gumemd labels were used by the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok

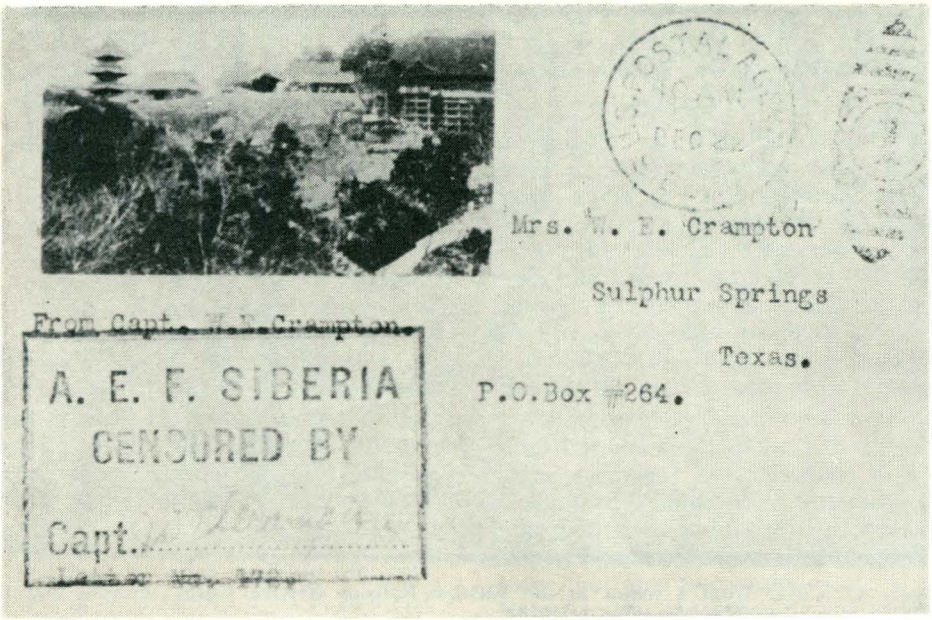


Figure 3. Seldom seen censor marking used on colorful Japanese illustrated stationery.

seems clear, as one is known tied to a cover by the small steel handstamp. It is equally likely, however, that some were used by censors in Japan and elsewhere. At any rate, the gummed labels do not have the words "Siberian AEF" on them as the censor handstamps do. They are, therefore, omitted from this study.

For the specialist, a few covers exist showing some form of U. S. censoring in combination with Russian, Chinese, or Japanese censoring. These occur on letters from the RRSC and the AEF which were placed in the civil mail after unit censoring, instead of being forwarded through the postal agency in Vladivostok. Our soldiers seemed to have used every possible means to send mail home and on every possible kind of stationery and post card that they could get their hands on. Many of these are now found in collections.

The post cards and stationery used by the troops provide an interesting side line for specialists in the Siberian expedition. Most are quite scarce but are not included in the tables that follow, since they were not an integral part of the functioning of the U. S. Postal Agency.

An astonishing variety of corner cards exist on mail from the RRSC and AEF. There is great depth in certain organization corner cards, such as the YMCA with 16 varieties, but there is also a broad range of other organizations. A few people even used their own printed corner cards. If one considers every type of corner card used by each organization or person, over 50 distinct colllectible varieties have been recorded to date. But, as in the case of the postal stationery, data on the occurrence of each variety is outside the scope of this study.

Another interesting classification of mail passing through the postal agency in Vladivostok is "civilian" mail. Most of the men of the AEF used the free franking privilege, consequently, postage stamps are seldom found on these covers. However, all covers from nonmilitary personnel using the agency had to have stamps affixed. Therefore, covers from Red Cross workers, YMCA workers and diplomats, had

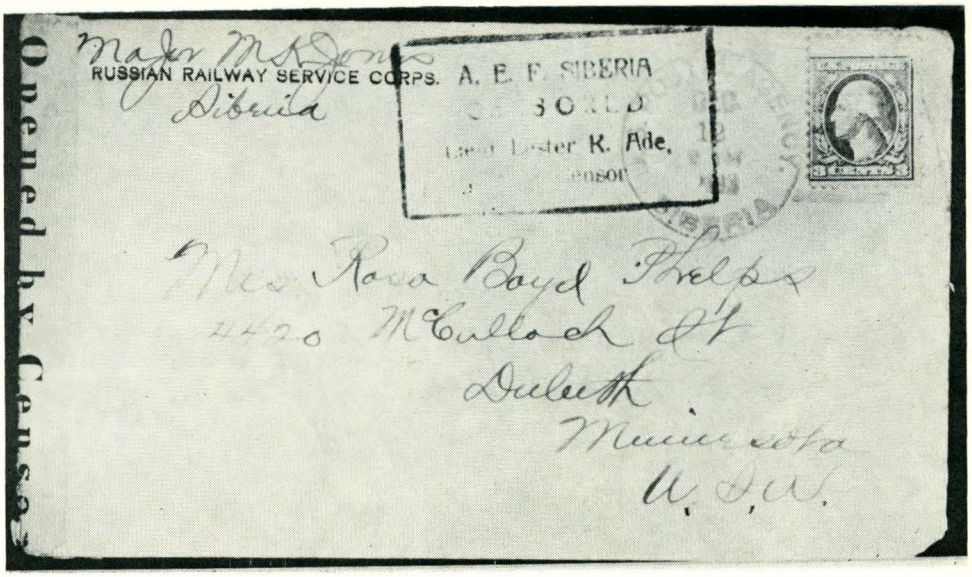


Figure 4. Cover from a major in the Russian Railway Service Corps showing that the RRSC did not have free franking privilege.

postage affixed to them. Included in this category of postage paid covers are at least three types of philatelic covers sent to Siberia by the well known dealer of that time, A.C. Roessler of East Orange, New Jersey for cancelling and censoring. Even the RRSC had to use stamps since they were not "soldiers" and did not enjoy the free franking privilege. Interestingly, in a recent court case granting full military status and veterans benefits to the men of the RRSC against the recommendation of the U. S. Government, the lack of free franking privilege was one fact used by the government to support its case that RRSC personnel were not military men. (Fig. 4).

The postal agency established at Vladivostok provided all the normal services that the troops in France received such as registered mail and money orders. Registered letters are extremely scarce, but a number are represented in U. S. collections. One such registered cover is unique in that the postal clerk used the money order handstamp instead of the registry handstamp and the cover carries a

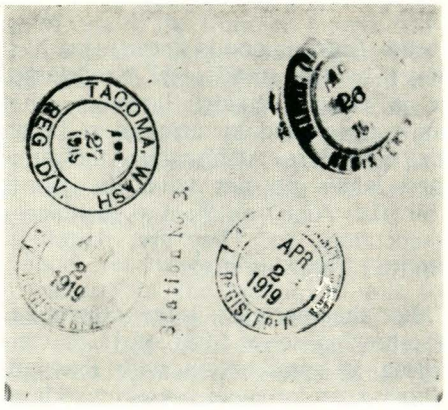


Figure 5. Registered letter markings on letter posted at Spasskoye, Siberia, where Station No. 3 was located.

"M.O.B." cancellation instead of a registry cancellation! (Fig. 5).

Money order stubs are found in some collections as collateral material, but they serve a more useful purpose for the specialist. Prof. C. D. Brenner in the early 1950's discovered that the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok had field stations numbered 1, 2, and 3 at Verkhne-Udinst, Khabarovsk, and Spasskoye, respectively. (Figs. 6-7-8). Our troops were

Station No. 1 **Station No.2** **Station No.3**

Figure 6. **Figure 8.** **Figure 7.**

scattered for 2,000 miles along the Trans-Siberian Railroad protecting certain sections of it from marauding bandits and Red Russians. Apparently these stations were established to serve our men in the interior of Siberia. Only one cover, a registered one, is known backstamped, "Station No. 3." No examples of "Station No. 2" or "Station No. 1" used on covers have been found. However, money order stubs confirm the existence of all three, since "Station No. 1," "Station No. 2" and "Station No. 3" appear on them.

The money order marking illustrated in Fig. 9 is known used at Stations No. 1, 2, and 3 but none have been seen from the U. S. Postal Agency in Vladivostok. Of the seven money order stubs examined and the one known usage on cover, one is from "Station No. 1," two are from "Station No. 2." The remaining four stubs and one cover are from "Station No. 3." A common "M.O.B." marking was in use at all three stations (Fig. 9) until late 1919 when there was a shift in the lettering relative to the date on the marking from "Station No. 3." (Fig. 9).



Figure 9. Money order marking used at Stations 1, 2 and 3.

At this point it does not appear that the killers "1" and "3" used in the small steel agency handstamp have anything to do with "Stations 1" and "3" at Verkhne-Udinsk and Spasskoye. Killer #1 was definitely used in Vladivostok as confirmed by many post cards and letter correspondence. The one known example of "3" in a cancellation cannot definitely be tied to Spasskoye and, in fact, its early date, Dec. 20, 1918, may even be prior to the arrival there of our troops.

Another classification of cancellations from this expedition is from warships stationed or operating in the vicinity of Vladivostok. Not only are cancellations found from the *Brooklyn, South Dakota, Alabny,* and *New Orleans,* but also two varieties of "U. S. Navy" in the cancelling device are recorded. Apparently troopships did not have their own post offices, but covers from the *Saturn, Thomas,* and *Logan* are known with other cancellations. Thus, a rich variety of naval cancellations are found, especially since most of the warships have cancellations both with and without "Vladivostok, Siberia" between the killer bars.

A word about Railway Post Office (R.P.O.) cancellations from Siberia. None have ever been recorded, although the postal agent, Mr. Cisler, reported to Prof. Brenner that they were used.(1)

Although the final contingent of the army sailed from Vladivostok on April 1, 1920, the latest known cancellation used by the troops is Mar. 23, 1920. Mr. Cisler stayed on, closing the agency on July 10, 1920. Agency cancellations are not known during the late March to early July period. Other cancellations are known however, and give rise to what is referred to in the above classification as the Post-Occupation Period. Fig. 10, a Russian Island cancellation, is an example of such a cancellation.

1. Brenner, C. D., "The A.E.F. in Siberia," **War Cover Club Bulletin,** Vol. VII, Whole No. 4, January 1953, page 3.



Figure 10. Cancellation used on Russian Island in the bay just off Vladivostok where the Marine radio station was located.

American personnel, especially Red Cross workers, technical advisors, and diplomats were not evacuated simultaneously with the U. S. Army. Therefore, U. S. naval vessels continued to operate in the area and a small detachment of Marines continued to man a radio station on Russian Island in the bay just off Vladivostok. Civilian mail franked with Russian stamps, ship cancellations, and mail from Russian Island constitute a postal record of this final phase of U. S. involvement in Siberia which came to an end with the closing of the radio station and the departure of the Marines on Nov. 19, 1922.([2])

The evidence of U. S. activity on Russian Island is rare, indeed, consisting of just two items in this study. One is the registered cover using the distinctive cancellation, "U.S.N.R. Sta. Russian Isl. Vladivostok, Siberia," shown in Fig. 10. The other is a cover from a private in the Marines with a handwritten return address "U. S. Marine Barracks / Russian Island / Siberia," and cancelled by the *USS Albany*. Only one or two other copies of the Russian Island cancellation are known according to the late Robert S. Gordon, a specialist in U. S. cancellations from foreign countries. ([2],[3])

There is no certain way of ever knowing how many Siberian AEF covers are held in collectors hands or which may come to light some day through new discoveries. Nevertheless, the more than one thousand covers on which this survey is based undoubtedly is quite representative of what exists today. These include the holdings of specialists, such as the late Mrs. Faulstich, the dealer stock of the Chicago professional, Mr. Samuel Ray, which probably is the most extensive of its kind in the country today and collections of philatelists who own only a few of these items. Therefore, the frequency of occurrence of each cancellation and censor marking recorded in this study should provide an excellent guide to rarity. Since the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., will probably never become available on the philatelic market, data for its holdings is given separately in the tables in case collectors wish to exclude that data from their calculations of rarity. Early and late dates of use are also given, since short periods of use are in themselves an indication of probable scarcity.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

2. Notes, **War Cover Club Bulletin,** Whole No. 39, Aug. 1963, page 492.
3. Notes, **War Cover Club Bulletin,** Vol. XI, Whole No. 6, June 1965, page 75.

CANCELLATIONS

Table 1.

Occurrence of Cancellations of the
U. S. Postal Agency, Vladivostok, Siberia

	Total No. of Cancels Recorded	Cancels in Smithsonian
Shanghai, China — Temporary (Fig. 11)	52	17
Large Rubber Handstamp (Fig. 12)	194	60
Small Steel Handstamp, Killer #1 (Fig. 13)	698	176
Small Steel Handstamp, Killer #3 (Fig. 14)	1	0
Registered (Fig. 15)	10	1
	955	254

Shanghai, China

This temporary cancellation seldom appears with a clear strike. In fact, more often than not, it is barely legible. However, its scarcity would indicate that a collector should not pass up any opportunity to acquire an example. It is known used with "10:30 AM" as the indicated time in the cancel through Oct. 2, 1918 (Fig. 11). After that date no hour of the day is indicated other than "AM." Earliest date of use: Sept. 25, 1918; latest date: Oct. 17, 1918. Color: black.

Large Rubber Handstamp

As soon as the regular "U. S. Postal Agency, Siberia" handstamp, a large rubber one, arrived it was placed into use, immediately replacing the temporary Shanghai cancel. The time in this cancel is always "9 AM" and no varieties of it are known. Though it appears nearly four times as often as the Shanghai cancel, it is still quite elusive. Fine strikes are frequently found, but due to its large size a portion of the cancel is often off the cover, particularly the killer bars (Fig. 12). This cancel is never confused with any of the others. Earliest date of use: Oct. 18, 1918; latest date: Dec. 18, 1918. Color: black.

Small Steel Handstamp, Killer #1

This is the Siberian AEF cancellation most commonly seen. It represents 73 percent of the cancels in this study. The time in this cancellation is always "10 AM," but an interesting variety occurs in it. In late 1919 the date and the time slugs were changed in their relative positions. Early examples are normal in character with the date appearing above the time. (Fig. 13). However, beginning about Oct. 23, 1919, the "10 AM" appears above the date and continues in that position throughout the remainder of this handstamp's usage. This fact can aid in the identification of certain strikes where the year is unclear. Earliest date of use: Dec. 20, 1918; latest date: Mar. 23, 1920. Color: black. It is worth noting that neither the large rubber handstamp nor this one are known used on Thursday, December 19, 1918. Therefore, the latest date of the large rubber cancellation and the earliest date of this cancellation may be subject to change.

Small Steel Handstamp, Killer #3

Little is known or can be inferred about this handstamp since only one example is known. It is classed as a separate handstamp rather than a subtype of the previous one since the existence of Field Stations Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have been confirmed. This handstamp may actually be an example of Station No. 3 (Fig. 14). However, as indicated earlier, present evidence seems to indicate otherwise. Only date used: Dec. 20, 1918. Color: black.



Figure 13.



Figure 14.

Registered Mail Cancellations

Because the registry handstamp was used not only as a cancellation, but was also applied two or more times as a backstamp on each registered letter, there is almost always at least one good strike on each cover. Although these cancellations all seem to be uniform as indicated in Fig. 15, the supplemental markings used to record the number of the registered letter varies, and two distinct types have been identified. Type I (Fig. 16), was used at the postal agency in Vladivostok as shown by the return address on several letters which gives "Vladivostok" rather than "AEF Siberia," as is customary on most other covers. The marking measures 42½ mm. by 10 mm. This marking has a chipped lower left corner that occurs as a constant variety on covers dated from May 1919 through the last known cover in February 1920.

In the earlier discussion of this classification system, it was mentioned that one registered cover also had a backstamp reading, "Station No. 3" (Fig. 8). The Type II marking (Fig. 17) occurs on this cover. Shorter and thicker, it measures 40½ mm. by 24 mm. overall with the interior rectangle measuring, 27½ mm. by 9 mm. These markings (Fig. 8 and Fig. 17) are the single usage of these handstamps that occurred in this study. The straight line marking of "Station No. 3" used on the registered cover is identical to the "Station No. 3" marking used on money order stubs to indicate the offce

Table 2

Characteristics of Siberian AEF Registered Covers

Cover Date	Reg. No.	Type	Return Address	Notes
1-20-19	880	I		
*	893	I	Am. Red Cross, Vladivostok	
4- 2-19	3310	II		Backstamped Station No. 3
5-23-19	2218	I		chipped corner, M.O.B. cancellation
9- 4-19	495	I		
9- 9-19	551	I		
9-21-19	691	I		chipped corner
12-23-19	1268	I	Hdqtrs AEF Siberia	chipped corner
1-10-20	1363	I	Hdqtrs 31st Infantry	chipped corner
2-27-20	1654	I	Vladivostok	chipped corner

* The cancellation is not clear but the latest known date of use of the censor marking on the cover is in January 1919.

of origin.

The registered cover referred to earlier, with the money order marking used as a cancellation, originated in Vladivostok and has the Type I chipped corner registered number marking. It is dated May 23, 1919.

Earliest date of use of the registry markings: Jan. 20, 1919; latest date: Feb. 27, 1920. Color: violet.



Figure 15.



Figure 16. Type I.



Figure 17. Type II.

It would appear from Table 2 that the number system for registered covers from Vladivostok built up to over 2200 and then started all over again in mid-1919. A new consecutive series was underway by September 1919 and continues into 1920. The registry number, "3310," entered at Station No. 3 on April 2, 1919 seems quite large for an outpost at Spasskoye. Perhaps the first digit refers to Station No. 3 with numbers in the 3000 series assigned to the station. If so, this would be cover, number 310. However, this is purely speculation.

CENSOR MARKINGS

The Norona[4] classification of censor markings used in Table 3 is somewhat modified from its original form as several new discoveries have been

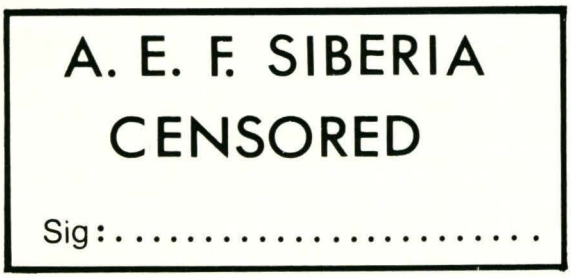


Figure 18. Type C–1.

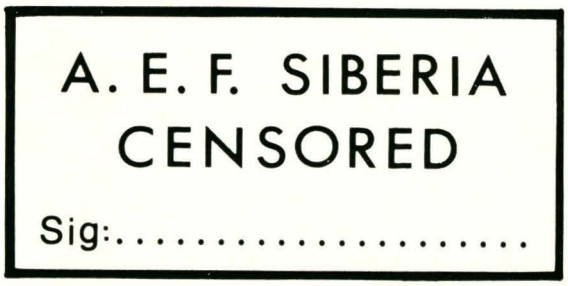


Figure 19. Type C–2.

added since it first appeared in 1932. Also, Norona's type C-4 is a gummed censor label which cannot be definitely tied to use at the postal agency in Vladivostok, although another type of gummed label can be. Since the gummed labels omit reference to the Siberian AEF, they have been omitted from this study, although about ten different ones have been noted on such covers. Therefore, there are fourteen distinctly identified Siberian AEF censor markings known to date. It should be noted that some covers have cancellations, but were not censored, and some covers, such as forerunners, have censor markings but no cancellations. For this reason, totals in Tables 1 and 3 need not be the same.

4. This classification first appeared in **Postal Markings,** Vol. 2, Nos. 10 and 11, October and December 1932. The classification has been expanded as new varieties came to light.

Table 3

Occurrence of Censor Markings
of the
U. S. Postal Agency, Vladivostok, Siberia

Norona Classification of Censor Markings	Total Number of Censor Markings	Censor Markings in the Smithsonian Collection
C- 1 (Fig. 18)	422	116
C- 2 (Fig. 19)	176	73
C- 3 (Fig. 20)	54	13
C- 5 (Fig. 21)	22	2
C- 6 (Fig. 22)	1	0
C- 7 (Fig. 23)	54	12
C- 8 (Fig. 24)	26	2
C- 9 (Fig. 25)	8	3
C-10 (Fig. 26)	61	10
C-11 (Fig. 27)	34	8
C-12 (Fig. 28)	10	1
C-13 (Fig. 29)	5	1
C-14 (Fig. 30)	58	5
C-15 (Fig. 31)	12	4
Totals	943	250

C-1 Unit Censor

C-1 and C-2 are quite similar but can be easily distinguished in clear strikes. In C-1 the "B" in "Siberia" is to the right of the "R" in "Censored." This is the most common of all censor markings, accounting for 45 percent of those examined. C-1 always has an officer's written signature but, since it was used so frequently, no attempt has been made to list the various officers whose names appear in it. Unlike some of the later censor markings of late 1919, where signatures are omitted, this marking always occurs with a signature, even on the latest known date of use, March 4, 1920. (Fig. 18).

C-1 measures 72 mm. by 34½ mm. although this may vary ½ mm. or so according to the pressure used in applying the marking to the cover. Purple is the most common color, but black, red, green, and blue are found on occasion. It was used on forerunner covers before the regular agency canceller arrived so an exact earliest date of use cannot be determined. Earliest date of use recorded with a cancellation: Oct. 2, 1918; latest date: Mar. 4, 1920.

C-2 Unit Censor

Censor marking C-2 (Fig. 19) has the "B" located to the left of the "R," a change of position from that noted in Fig. 18. This is the second most common type and is recognized as a distinct type only by specialists in the field. Size measurements are the same as that of C-1. Auction catalog descriptions often do not mention the major differences in censor markings, let alone minor differences such as this. C-1 and C-2 together account for 63 percent of all censor markings. Since they are the mainstays of censor markings, they are sometimes found in battered condition because of the wear they received. As with C-1, C-2 also occurs with many, many different signatures which are not listed. Over half of the markings are in purple, but black and red have also been found. Earliest date: Sept. 25, 1918; latest date: Feb. 5, 1920. Also used on forerunner covers, the precise date of earliest use of C-2 may never be known.

C-3 Unit Censor

This censor marking accounts for

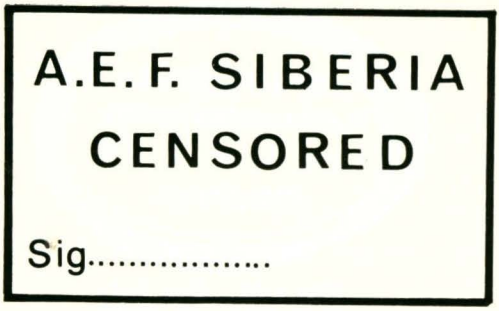


Figure 20. Type C–3.

only a little over 5 percent of the consor markings and must be regarded as scarce. It is sometimes confused with C-1 and C-2 in poor strikes, but can always be distinguished by its shorter length — 63 mm. It is 39½ mm. wide. Meant for use with an officer's signature, it occurs with a wide variety of names. Earliest use: May 15, 1919; latest date: Sept. 18, 1919. The color is black. (Fig. 20).

C-5 Unit Censor

C-5 (Fig. 21) is often confused with C-11, a base censor. C-5 "Censored," in its wording (Fig. 21), whereas the other has "Passed As Censored." Usually, careful examination will indicate which marking it it. Also, there is no reference to "Base Censor" in C-5 as in C-11. The C-5 censor marking was used quite late in the tenure of the postal agency which, of course, is one reason for its scarcity. It is not known used with officer signatures in manuscript, as the policy of

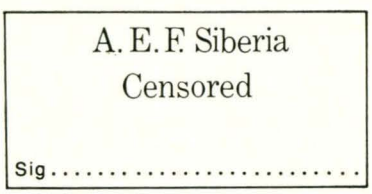


Figure 21. Type C–5.

having the censoring officer sign the censor stamp seems to have been abandoned by some units late in the summer of 1919 before this censor marking was used. Measurements: 44 mm. by 19 mm. Earliest date: Oct. 1, 1919; latest use found in this survey, Dec. 13, 1919. A later use, Jan. 6, 1920, has been reported in the literature. Color: black 2nd blue.

C-6 Unit Censor

This censor marking is not only the scarcest of all Siberian censor markings, but it is also the one most shrouded in mystery (Fig. 22). As can been seen from Table 3, only one example appeared among all the collections, dealer stocks, and auctions covered by this survey, although another one is described in the December 1932 issue of *Postal Markings.* The cover in this survey is dated February 27, 1917, well before our troops arrived in Russia. The other one is dated January 18, 1921 long after our troops had departed. Both covers are civil mail with postage affixed. Apparently there was a detention center where mail was held, censored and later forwarded to its destination after cancelling. This is the case of the 1921 cover. Both examples of C-6 are in purple. Current efforts of the author are directed at identifying the censoring official through the written initials appearing in the censor marking.

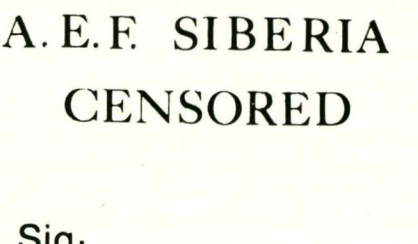


Figure 22. Type C–6.

C-7 Base Censor

Lt. Lester K. Ade was the first base censor assigned by the AEF in Siberia. Prof. Brenner corresponded with him as did Mr. Cisler, and much information was gained. Since Ade was the first base censor, this marking is the earliest of the six known base censor markings. No written signature occurs in it — Ade's name is set in type (Fig. 23) As is the case with C-1 and

C-2, the marking is found on forerunner covers posted before the postal agency acquired its regular cancelling device. One cover, however, which had its enclosed letter intact, was dated Sept. 12, 1918.

Earliest cancelled cover: Oct. 12, 1918; Latest date: Jan. 6, 1919. The early strikes are in purple, later ones may be found in black. Measurements: 55 mm. by 31 mm.

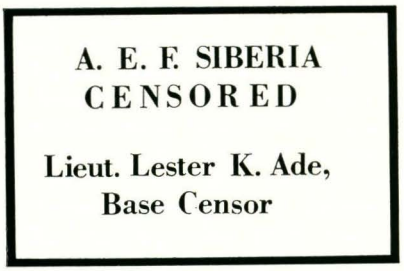


Figure 23. Type C–7.

C-8 Base Censor

Lt. Ade's name appears in a second censor marking within a double ring oval (Fig. 24) Why the rectangular first marking was phased out in January 1919 and a second one put into service in February 1919 is not known. This second censor marking was in use for only two months, whereas Ade's first censor marking was in use for four months, making it twice as common as C-8. C-8 is quite similar to C-10 and may be confused with it in poor strikes. However, the cancellation date should help in identification, since C-8 was used much earlier in the year than C-10 was. Black is the usual color for C-8, but it is occasionally found in purple. Earliest date: Feb. 1, 1919; latest date: Mar. 31, 1919.

C-9 Base Censor

This is one of the very desirable base censor markings since it probably was in use for about one month (Fig. 25). Apparently a Lt. H. R. Bartow 2nd, another censor, took over Lt. Ade's duties in early April 1919, as Ade's signature is not seen after that and Bartow and his companion



Figure 24. Type C–8.

are the only ones seen in April. The fact that the Bartow censor marking was not used after May is somewhat of a puzzle as a later base censor marking is known used in June and July 1919 with two written "H.R.B.s", obviously Bartow's initials. Why Bartow should have discontinued using a printed signature and started using another censor marking that required the signing of his initials is not known. Color: black or purple. Earliest date: Apr. 19, 1919; latest date: May 7, 1919.

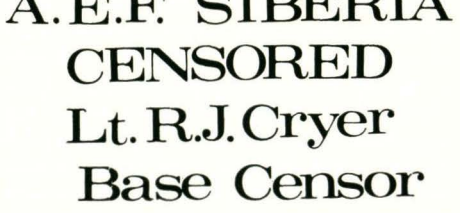


Figure 25. Type C–9.

C-10 Base Censor

The most frequently seen base censor marking, C-10, (Fig. 26) does not have a printed name in it as do the previous three types. It has a blank space for the censor in which to write his name or initials. It was used by a variety of people, since the buildup of our troops to nearly 10,000 men made base censoring duties far greater than one man could handle. A full written name is never found in C-10, only initials. The most frequently found initials are, "H.R.B.," "J.C.R." and "R.G.B." Toward the end of August

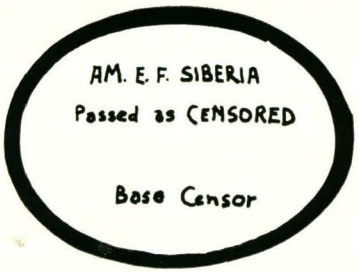


Figure 26. Type C–10.

1919 initials are no longer found in the markings and the blank space is unfilled. Colors used for C-10 are blue, purple and black. Earliest date: June 3, 1919; lates date: Sept. 29, 1919. An interesting sidelight on the use of C-10 is that some of the philatelic mail sent to the postal agency by Roessler to be returned to himself has the C-10 marking used by the civilian censor, S. A. Cisler, the postal agent in charge at Vladivostok.

C-11 Base Censor

C-11 (Fig. 27) seems to take up where C-10 left off as far as chronological use goes, making it the latest base censor marking encountered. As mentioned in the discussion of C-5, it is quite similar to that mainly in style and type. It was used late, giving rise to speculation that the censor devices were made by the same person or firm. C-11 is slightly longer in length than C-5 and measures 49 mm. by 19 mm but it must be kept in mind when measuring rubber handstamps that they are not rigid and the measurements can vary plus or minus a millimeter according to the intensity of the strike. It has been noted that initials disappeared from the C-10 censor marking in August 1919, and none at all appear in C-11, since it was used late in the occupation. There is probably a greater variety of colors used with this censor mark than any other, blue, purple, red, black, and green all exist. Earliest date: Sept. 4, 1919; latest date: Mar. 17, 1920. Since the last troops departed on April 1, 1920, this censor marking was probably in use until they left.

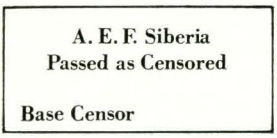


Figure 27. Type C–11.

C-12 Base Censor

Lt. R. J. Cryer, along with Lt. Bartow, censored mail in April 1919, following Lt. Ade, who had censored all the mail requiring base censorship up to that time. In use for less than a month, C-12 (Fig. 28) is one of the five seldom found Siberian censor markings. Lt. Cryer's written signature (Fig. 28) with a C-1 unit censor, exists dated Apr. 2, 1919. It can be inferred from this that April 3rd is the

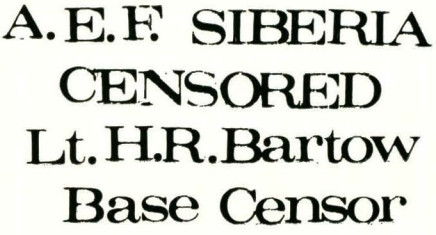


Figure 28. Type C–12.

earliest possible date that he could have assumed base censoring duties. Earliest known date: Apr. 5, 1919; latest date: Apr. 17, 1919. It is found in black.

C-13 Unit Censor

In Delf Norona's original classification, censor markings C-12 to C-15 were unknown. Because of new discoveries after 1938, this classification is being added, beginning with C-13 (Fig. 29). Three of the four markings, C-12, C-13, C-15, are rather rare. Though C-13 has a line for the censor to sign his name, it seems to have not been generally used. This marking is found only with the signature of W. E. Crampton. Captain Crampton, a prolific writer, sent over 200 letters to his wife from Siberia, each one numbered on the face of the envelope. Yet, of the covers studied in this survey, only

four have a C-13 marking.

In many cases, Capt. Crampton merely typed "Censored" on the envelope and signed his name, the privilege of an officer. The fifth known use of this marking is on a letter from a private for which Capt. Crampton acted as the unit censor. Color: black; measurements: 53 mm. by 33 mm. Earliest date: May 14, 1919; latest date: April 14, 1920. It has been noted earlier that the expeditionary forces departed on April 1, 1920, but certain military personnel remained behind to act as interpreters, supply intelligence information and to man the radio station on Russian Island. Capt. Crampton was one of the men who did not return to the United States when the Siberian AEF departed on April 1st.

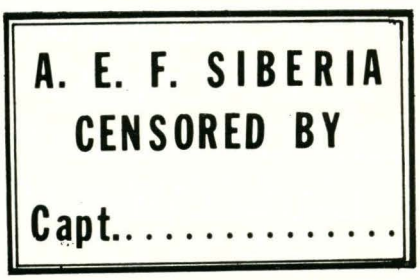


Figure 29. Type C–13.

C-14 Unit Censor

The C-14 censor (Fig. 30) marking is actually a family of censor markings with several different varieties created by different censor numbers in the lower left-hand corner. It is known used with the numbers 1, 2, 5, and 7 in the corner. Numbers 3, 4, and 6 have never been reported. It is also quite possible that C-14 exists without any number at all, but it is not easy to tell if that is the case or if the censor marking was poorly struck, causing the number to be omitted.

Either because of faulty spelling or sloppy workmanship in making C-14, "MILITARY" is actually spelled "MILITARV" and "A.F.F." appears in the censor instead of the correct, "A.E.F." Strikes are clear enough to

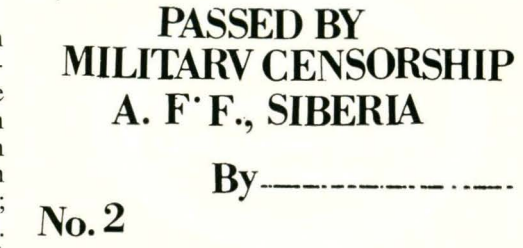


Figure 30. Type C–14.

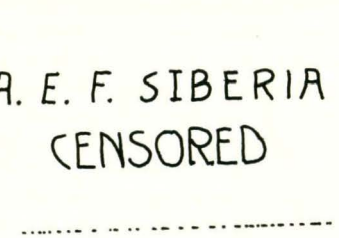


Figure 31. Type C–15.

indicate that these are, indeed, spelling errors, and a constant variety of this marking, since 47 of the 58 strikes can be identified with the "V" and the "F." The other 11 strikes are poor and cannot be clearly distinguished as to the exact lettering. No examples are known with correct spelling.

Certain numbers appear with this marking far more frequently than do others. With the exception of one officer who cannot be identified, all officers signing their name in this censor marking were attached to Headquarters, General Staff, AEF. It is entirely possible that this was the unit censor created for the General Staff. In all but three cases, the officers used the censor marking on their own personal mail. It was never used with initials and a full written signature was never missing, even though it was used after the date when some of the other censors were dropping names and initials from their markings. Table 4 shows the frequency of appearance of each number and how many times it has been found used by each officer.

Table 4.

Information on the Varieties of Censor Marking C-14

Variety	Officer's Name Using C–14	Number of Times Found	Number Total of Strikes	Colors Observed	Earliest Date	Latest Date
No Number or Number Indistinct	Capt. Laurence B. Packard	1	7	black	Feb. 17, 1919	Dec. 30, 1919
	Lt. Col. R. L. Eichelberger	2				
	Col. George H. Emerson	4				
No. 1	Capt. Laurence B. Packard	2	39	violet, blue	Mar. 1, 1919	Mar. 23, 1920
	Lieut. J. R. Northrup	37				
No. 2	Capt. Laurence B. Packard	3	7	black, blue violet	Nov. 23, 1918	June 4, 1919
	Capt. F. F. Moore	3				
	Lieut. J. R. Northrup	1				
No. 5	Capt. J. N. Powers	2	4	red	Nov. 7, 1918	Mar. 10, 1919
	Capt. F. F. Moore	1				
	Capt. James E. McKenna	1				
No. 7	Name indistinct	1	1	not observed	Jan. 30, 1920	same

grand total 58

C-15 Unit Censor

This very scarce censor marking (Fig. 31) has never previously been illustrated in philatelic literature. It has been known for some time, as four examples were in the collection that the Rev. Floyd S. Leach formed in the 40's and 50's and which eventually formed the basis for the Smithsonian collection. It was also well represented in the Faulstich collection. Only one example was seen outside of these two collections. There is reason to believe that it was made locally because of the unusual form of the letters A, C, N and D. Every example of it is signed in full by an officer and there is a good correlation between date of use and the officer whose signature appears. For example:

January 1919	— 5 examples	—	all signed by A. L. Zacharias
February 1919	— 1 cover	—	C. Fribley
March 1919	— 1 cover	—	O. C. Watson and A. K. Lincoln
April 1919	— 1 cover	—	Fred J. Darling
May 1919	— 1 cover	—	Fred J. Darling
June 1919	— 1 cover	—	
July 1919	— 2 covers	—	

August 1919	—	no covers	— W. L. Bradberg
September 1919	—	no covers	—
October 1919	—	no covers	—
November 1919	—	no covers	— W. S. Grenoble

Color: purple. Earliest date: Jan. 10, 1919; latest date: Nov. 28, 1919.

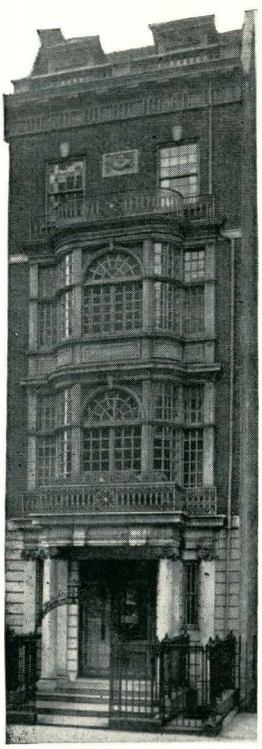
The author is deeply indebted to many, many Siberian AEF collectors who have generously loaned material for copying and study. The Chicago dealer, Mr. Samuel Ray, made his dealer stock available for study and his helpful comments are greatly appreciated. Comments are invited from readers who have questions or new information to report.

Additional References

Estep, Raymond, "John F. Stevens and the Far Eastern Railways — 1917–1923," **Explorers Journal,** Vol. XLVIII, No. 1, March 1970.

Norona, Delf, "Postmarks and Censor Marks of the AEF in Siberia," **War Cover Philatelist,** Vol. 2, No. 7, November 1938.

Opperman, David R., "Mail Service To The AEF in Siberia and North Russia," **SPA Journal,** Vol. 24, No. 7, March 1962.



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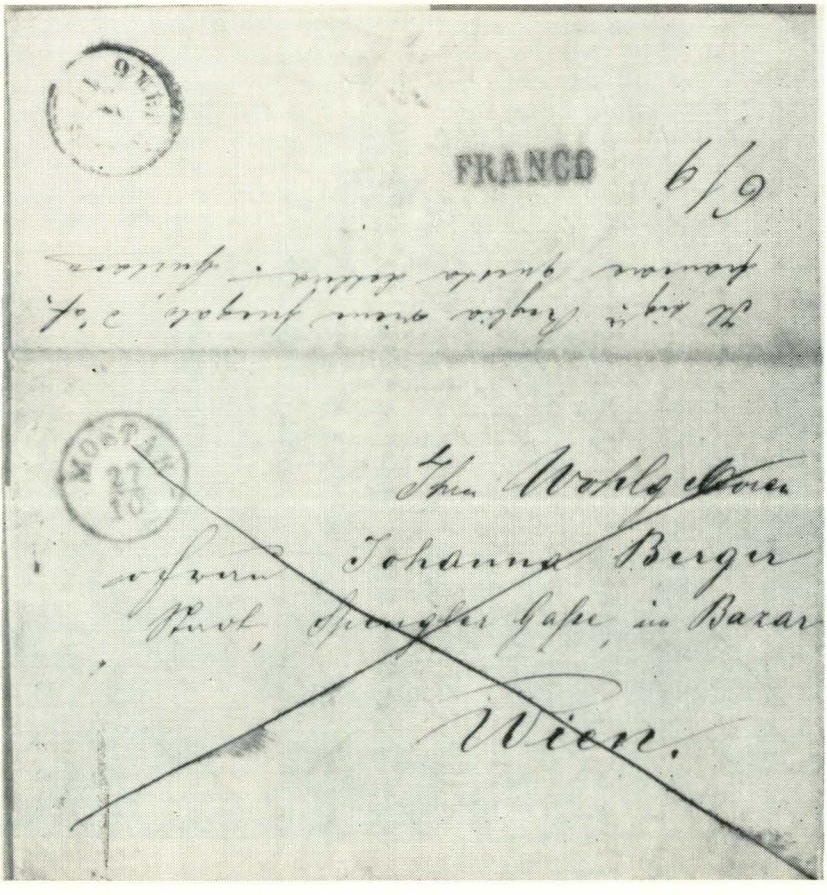
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AUSTRIAN CONSULAR POST OFFICE AT MOSTAR
A NEW DISCOVERY

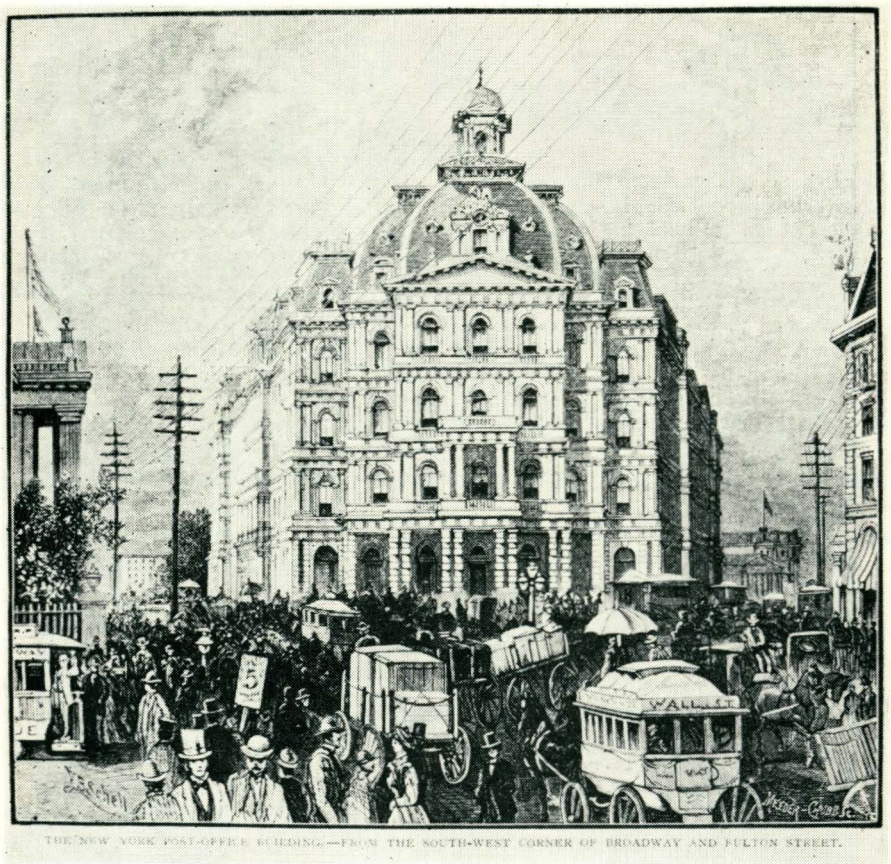
By Mirko R. Rasic

It has long been known that the Austrian Consulate General in Sarajevo maintained a regular courier service for official and private mail sent to the border town of Brood in the early 1850s. Nevertheless, no cover with the Austrian postmark used in Sarajevo has ever been recorded. All of the letters from the Austrian Consulate, of which a great number are known, bear no Sarajevo postmark and the charge to deliver them to Brood was paid in cash. Such covers merely have an Austrian postage stamp on them cancelled with the Brood postmark. There is no indication of how they reached Brood.

It has also long been known that Austria, in the early 1850s, opened Consulates in Mostar and Banjaluka. It was assumed that these Consulates also maintained regular courier service to the border.

Now, a cover dispatched in 1851 has been discovered. It carries the bluish green Austrian postmark of Mostar 27.10, the red transit postmark of Metkovic 4.11 and "franco" in the same color as the Mostar postmark. It is addressed to Vienna and contains on the reverse the figures 6/9, indicating that postage to the border was 6 kreuzer and from the border to Vienna, 9 kreuzer paid in cash. There is also a note in Italian: "Il Sig. Reglis viene pregato d'affrancare questa lettera. Gustavo." (Mr. Reglis is asked to pay postage for this letter. Gustave).

It presents a new challenge for the collectors of the Austrian Levant.



THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE BUILDING.—FROM THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF BROADWAY AND FULTON STREET.

The New York Post Office Building. — From the south–west corner of Broadway and Fulton Streets.

THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE

By Edward Eggleston

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night . . . ." really meant something back in 1878.

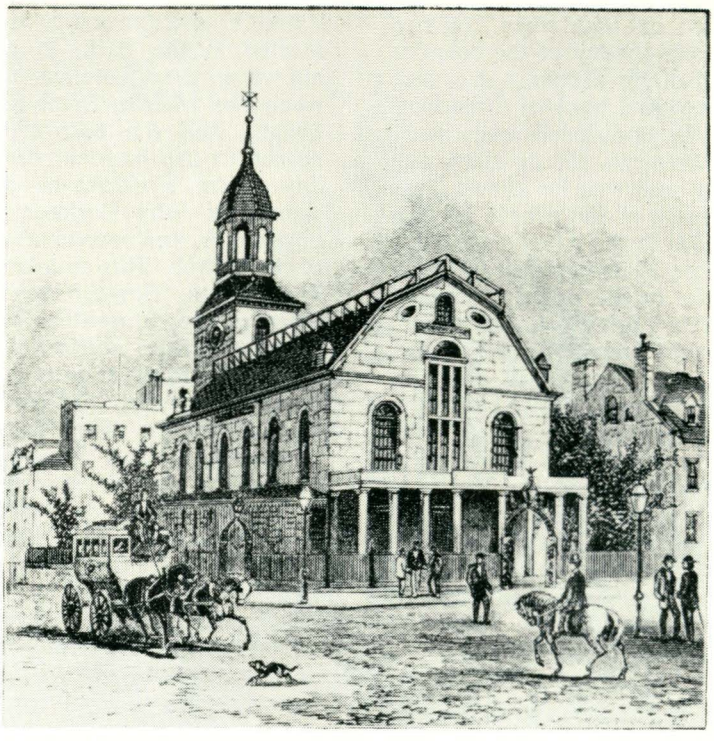
This entertaining piece of postal history appeared in the May 1878 issue of Scribner's Magazine. Written by Edward Eggelston, still remembered for his realistic novels of pioneer Indiana — "The Hoosier Schoolmaster" and "The Hoosier Schoolboy," it describes the inner workings of the New York post office, the dedication to duty and the sincere effort to serve, of the men who worked the mail in those halcyon days almost a hundred years ago.

The Editors

In the good old days when Franklin was postmaster-general of the colonies and kept all of his accounts in a nice little memorandum book of three hundred pages, he introduced many wonderful improvements for the time, and it is actually said that he almost took away the breath of the people by proposing in 1760 to run a wagon to carry the mail from Philadelphia to Boston once a week. In the postal system of that time, New York was a way station, where the bold fortnightly rider from Philadelphia was accustomed, perhaps, to change his horse, or hand the Boston mail over to his successor. In 1775 the revolutionists established a "constitutional post-office" in New York, in place of the unconstitutional one which the British had kept. This constitutional post-office was kept by Mr. William Goddard, at Holt's printing-office. It may be interesting to the reader to know that the printing-office was "in Water street, near the coffee-house." The post went "to Mr. Bradford's, at the coffee-house in Philadelphia." There seem to have been just as many coffee-houses in the two cities as there were post-offices — namely, one in each place.

When the British troops evacuated New York, the post-office was set up at 38 Smith street. Sebastian Bauman, the first postmaster under the Federal government, kept the office in his grocery store at 662 Broadway; then at 51 Wall Street; later at the corner of what is now Wall and South William,—then Smith street,—and finally at 29 William street. In this last house General Theodorus Bailey found the office, and here he continued it for more than twenty years, in a room twelve by fifteen feet. There were one hundred and forty-four wooden letter-boxes in the window. In 1825 the office was moved into the Academy building in Garden street, at which time eight clerks and eight carriers did the postal business of the city. Thence the post-office went into the Merchant's Exchange in Garden street, the number of the boxes having grown to three thousand. Here the great fire of 1835 found it and burned it. It was then located in the Park, in the building known as the "Rotunda," until 1845, when the Middle Dutch Church was bought, and the post-office removed nearer to the business center of that day. There is extant an old circular, signed by John Lorimer Graham as postmaster, and ornamented with a cut of the church. This circular extends an invitation to "view the interior arrangement of the establishment." This old church, with its numberless additions, so familiar to the present generation of New Yorkers, continued to be the resting-place of the office for thirty years, until in August, 1875, the location was changed to the imposing new building at the lower end of City Hall Park. And now, in the new office, the employees, embarassed by the clumsy devices of government architects who knew nothing of the needs of the service, sigh for the old church, where no awkwardly placed pillars cramped their assorting-tables, increased the distances, and embarrassed their work.

But the enterprising Dr. Benjamin Franklin, with his little memorandum account-book and his ambitious weekly stage-wagon from Philadelphia to Boston—stopping, may be, to leave a few letters at a coffee-house in New York—would have rejoiced could he have foreseen how perfect a machine the modern metropolitan post-office would become. For what the heart is to the body, that is the post-office to the commerce of a great city. Unobstructed postal communication is one of the first requisites of business. A mistake or delay in the delivery of an important letter may entail bankruptcy, may bring any kind of serious misfortune to somebody. In the days when horses and the sails of schooners were the best motors known, and when a man's loose pocket-money was exhausted in paying the postage on a single letter, neither commerce nor social life had come to depend on the mails. People did without expeditious communication between New York and Philadelphia, as we today do without daily intercourse with Puget's



The old post office.

Sound. But we have now so long lived next-door neighbor to the other great cities of the country, our social and business affairs have come to be so intimately entangled with those of people a thousand miles away, that the interruption of mail trains, even for a single day—by a railway strike, for instance—throws the whole intricate machinery of our modern life out of gear. The very perfection of postal organization has brought about a state of things in which that perfect organization is indispensable. Forty years ago, what we now call expedition was out of the question. To-day every letter received in New York is stamped with the hour of its arrival, and a single hour's delay in its delivery is a grievance to be grumbled at by the receiver and hunted down by the post-office.

But did you ever reflect how difficult of achievement is this wonderful accuracy and dispatch? Nearly one hundred and thirty-four millions of letters, papers, and packages were delivered through the New York post-office in 1876, and the rate is ever on the increase. If to this inconceivably large number of parcels delivered, you add the like number sent out to all parts of the country through all manner of complex routes, and to this again all the vast foreign and local mails in transit, which are made up, assorted, or sent forward through this office, you will have some glimmering notion of the amount of organizing and administrative ability needed to manage so vast and so complex a business. There are over twelve hundred men in the service of the New York post-office, and yet so perfectly is everything adjusted, that the letters dropped into the central office at the closing hour for the up-town mail are faced-up, stamped, assorted, pouched, and carried to the station of the Elevated Railway in just nineteen minutes. And in this vast establishment, where everything is of necessity done with the utmost rapidity, and where there is an

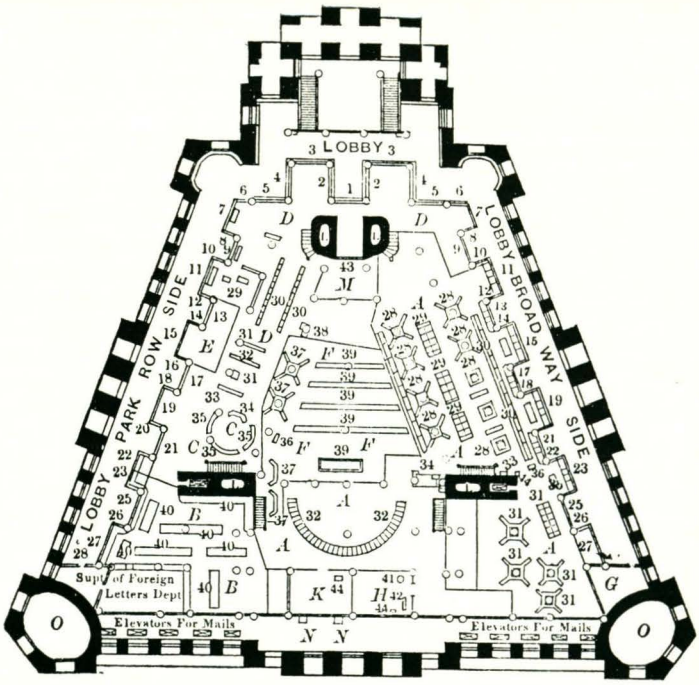
infinitude of intricate details, it is almost impossible for a clerk or a carrier to make an error that cannot be traced directly back to him.

We hear much about the accuracy of the English postal system, and the wonders achieved by the London office. But the New York service is certainly not less efficient, and, in some respects, it is very much better. The difficulties of the New York office are much greater than those of any metropolitan office abroad. London sends about twenty mails a day, while New York sends eighty-four, and receives eighty-six mails a day. The whole number of post-offices in Great Britain and Ireland is but about ten thousand, and these are compactly situated within a small territory, while in the United States there are over thirty-seven thousand (37,575) offices scattered over all the wide territory from one ocean to the other, and reached by many connecting and intricate routes. The problem which confronts the New York post-office is, therefore, many fold more difficult of solution than that of the London office. For we must remember, also that the schedules of the mail trains in England are under government control, and have by consequence a certain fixity, while here the time-tables and connections are regularly upset every spring and fall, and are liable to change at any time at the pleasure of the railways; yet the New York office has mastered these difficulties, and it would seem hardly possible to make human minds and human hands work with more accuracy and expedition than they do in the metropolitan post-office.

Armed with Postmaster James's authority and his personal request to the superintendents that every detail of the business shall be open to our inspection, and that no desired information shall be withheld, we get on one of the lifts and descend into those sacred precincts to which no outsider is ever admitted except by rare favor. Let us go to the bottom of the matter by beginning in the basement.

Here, first of all, we see the leathern bags and the canvas pouches. To prevent confusion, the present postmaster hit upon the plan of having the pouches for each service made of different appearance from those meant for other uses. There is no danger that a pouch for foreign service will go by mistake up the North River, for it has a wholly different physiognomy. The pouch for the city branches is also unique. The registered letter pouches are quite the aristocracy of mail bags, and nobody can by any chance mistake one of them for any of the common herd of plebeian pouches. You would as soon think of hiring a young man with white neck-tie and lavender kids to shovel coals into your cellar, as to think of putting to common uses one of the registered-letter bags with its beautiful stenciling and its thirteen symbolical stripes. The pouches are all made of the very best goods, and with many curious devices for safety from pilfering and from water, and for the detection of robbers. So unlike every other sort of bag are the mail-bags, that any person outside of the service found with one of them in his possession, or even with part of one, is forthwith arrested for a thief. Perhaps, even more curious than the registered-letter pouch is the "catcher pouch," cunningly arranged for the taking up of mails at a way station by a train on the fly. Many of these devices are the ingenious work of Mr. Boyle, the contractor for the canvas bags, whose exhibition of this sort of manufacture at the Centennial Exhibition attracted much attention from foreign governments.

When a bag has been once used, and after each successive use, it is sent down into this basement and thoroughly inspected. If it is at all out of order, it is sent at once into the repair shops. These shops in the basement were planned by Postmaster-General Sewell, and have already resulted in a saving of eighteen thousand dollars to the government. This office is a supply station for all the mail bags used in the country, and they are stacked up here by thousands in great bins.



GROUND PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

BROADWAY SIDE.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, Lock-box delivery; 11, drops for letters and printed matter for delivery in New York City; 12, window for reception of bundles of letters for delivery in New York City; 13, drops for Middle States, Canada and Newfoundland; 15, drops for Southern States; 17, drops for New England States; 18, window for reception of letters and packages too bulky for the drops; 19, 21, 23, drops for Western States and Territories; 22, window, superintendent domestic distribution department; 25, window and drop for reception of circulars; 27, window for sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes in sums less than one dollar; 28, cases for separation and distribution of letters for outgoing domestic mails; 29, tables upon which mails are verified, and letters made up in mail packages; 30, table for post-marking letters and canceling stamps; 31, cases and table for distribution, separation of circulars, and making up same in mail packages; 32, large case for pouching letter packages; 33, indicator of telegraph from Sandy Hook; 34, table for opening pouches of incoming mails; 35, superintendent domestic distribution department; 36, machine for post-marking postal-cards.

PARK ROW SIDE.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Lock-box delivery; 12, superintendent post-office delivery window; 13 and 14, general delivery—ladies' window; 15 and 16, general delivery—gentlemen's window; 17, call window—carrier delivery; 18, general newspaper delivery—window; 19, 20, 21, lock-box delivery—newspapers; 22, drop for newspapers, books, and merchandise, packages for United States, Canada, and Newfoundland, and window for sale of stamps—foreign mails; 23, supplementary foreign mail window; 25, drops for North and South America—foreign; 26, window for reception of mail from ship-masters; 27, drops—Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceanica; 28, window—superintendent foreign mails; 29, office of superintendent post-office delivery; 30, two tables and cases for box-assorters; 31, opening-table for mails received; 32, table for making up mails for branch offices; 33, case for distributing newspaper mails for branch offices; 34, case for distributing newspaper mails for box delivery; 35, cases for distribution of papers for general delivery; 36, superintendent carriers' delivery; 37, cases for distribution of mails for carriers; 38, post-marking and canceling table; 39, tables and cases for use of carriers.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.—40, Tables for stamping and distribution of foreign letters; 41, telephone connected with stables of contractor for carrying mails; 42, indicator for arrival and departure of mails, and connected with large indicator, No. 43; 43, large indicator for arrival of mails; 44, speaking-tubes and call-bells connecting with assistant postmaster's offices.

When you stand without in the lobby, on the Broadway side of the great new post-office building, you see letters dropped in all day long. There are separate drops for foreign letters, and places of deposit for all sorts of domestic mail matter,—from that which is to go to Harlem, to the letters meant for Texas, or Arizona, or Alaska. You ask, What becomes of all these? What is the great human machine that seizes and distributes these countless letters to the four quarters of the globe?

If we stand on the inside, we see the letters coming through. There is something weird and mysterious about it. One sees no hand, there is no regularity about the intervals, but now one, now

three letters are dropped, and all up and down this side of the office letters are being pushed in by unseen hands, and are dropping in a strange, irregularly intermittent way, with a muffled rustle and slapping upon the tables beneath.

The first thing to be done is to "face up" the letters,—to put them all with directed sides facing the same way. New York's largest correspondence is with New York, and at the table where drop-letters come through, sits an old man, with a kind of short-handled rake,—perhaps I ought to call it a hoe. As fast as the letters fall upon his table he rakes them toward him and faces them up ready for the stamper. Every stamp has its number, and by that number any miscarried or delayed letter can be tracked through all the hands that have handled it. The envelope will tell a post-office official whether the letter was posted at a lamp-post, dropped at one of the stations, or at the central office, and upon what tables it was stamped and made up in the mail. If it is tardy in arriving at its destination the superintendent of the mailing department can fix the reponsibility of the delay. The system by which this is achieved was devised by Mr. Thomas L. Ames, the present postmaster.

After the stamper comes the separater, who puts the letters for each mail together; after him the mail-maker, who verifies every letter in each mail, ties them into a bundle and puts on each a printed label marked with its destination, and stamped with his own name. When the packages are opened on the postal car, the route agent marks whatever errors there may be in them upon the labels and returns these to the New York post-office. A rigid account of these errors is kept, and every man's percentage of correctness for a given time is set opposite his name, on a sheet that is conspicuously posted in the office. Some men have become so accurate that they will have for some months a clean record, not having made a single mistake in the mailing of a letter. This accuracy is one of the tests upon which the salaries are graded from time to time, and there is consequently the liveliest emulation in the matter.

But expedition is also of great importance. If you step in here on a day when a steamer has arrived you will see how fast men can work. A marine telegraph at the north end of the building gives information of the approach of a mail steamer while she is yet "outside the Hook," and by the time the great load of foreign mail arrives the post-office decks are cleared for action. On one day in October last, for instance, three hundred and twenty-eight sacks of mail matter were landed from the "City of Chester," and one hundred and twenty-eight at the same time from the "Hermann." And that was on Monday, the day when the number of letters to be dispatched is always larger than on any other day. For Sunday is the day for writing and mailing social and family letters, and the number taken from the street boxes at 9 P. M. of that day is immense. So that when steamer-day and Monday come together, these stampers, separaters, mail-makers, pouchers and dispatchers are up to their eyes in work.

When the mail-maker has tied up his letters they go to the poucher, who assorts them, throwing the several packages with unerring aim into their several divisions, arranged like large pigeon-holes in a semi-circular form. These pigeon-holes slope downward toward the back, and even while the poucher is throwing, the dispatcher may be affixing the pouches at the back, opening a sliding door and emptying the mail into the bags, which are immediately locked and sent off to the wagons of the contractor, George K. Otis, waiting at the door. Here is a telephone hanging by a pillar. If there is a mail of size extraordinary, the dispatcher has only to speak the word to this instrument and it is distinctly heard at the stables in Wooster street, a good two miles away.

The newspaper tables in the basement are among the most curious. The

straight pitching and the rapid distribution are perpetual wonders to an outsider. The papers and letters are not all assorted to separate offices, but what are called "mass states and territories,"—mails for the whole of a distant state or territory in a single package— are sent to be distributed on the postal cars. Some notion of the vastness of the business may be had from the fact that two hundred and forty-six bags went out to New England and Canada, on the day of our inspection.

There are two other curiosities in this department. Postmaster James found that deaf mutes could be used for some of the work, and there are now three engaged in stamping, and one in sorting. "When we get two noisy men," said the assistant superintendent," we put a 'dummy' between them and so secure quiet."

The other thing that interested us was the arrest of lottery matter. The law gives the post-office power to stop all matter of this kind. But the lottery men resort to many ingeniou stricks to defeat the vigilance of the office. There are always newspapers on their last legs, with a respectable reputation, but very few subscribers. The lottery swindlers buy up one of these and fill the outside with the usual innocent reading matter, while they stuff the inside of the paper with puffs of their scheme of capital prizes and lovely frauds. The edition is suddenly swelled, and it is mailed to the list of names which have been assiduously gathered by the harpies. One such transformation had been detected on the very day of our first visit, and the whole edition stopped.

Of the whole number,—nearly a hundred and fifty millions of letters and packages a year at this time,—about one half are distributed through boxes, at the central office, about one-fourth by carriers, and about one-fourth are sent to the stations in other parts of the city. Every letter received here is stamped at once with the hour of its arrival. All letters coming in be-

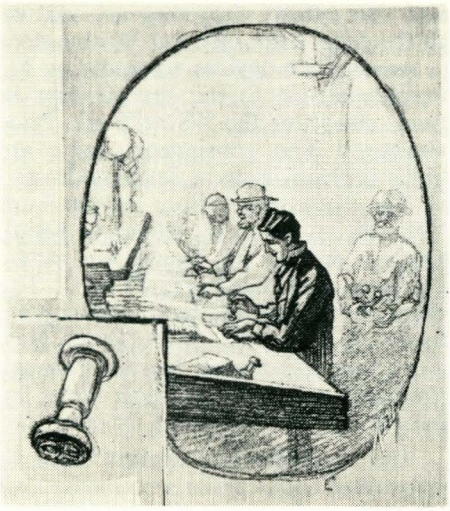


Pouching case for newspapers.

tween ten and eleven o'clock in the morning are stamped "11 A. M." When the hour turns, the stamper wipes his stamp clean of ink, lays it away in a drawer and takes a new one with the next hour upon it and proceeds again. The greatest care is exercised to have the stamp legible. In London a machine is used for stamping, but here it is found that nothing is so good as the human hand. These stampers are incredibly swift and dexterous, in their alternate period stamping of a letter and the ink-paid.

From the stamper the letters go to the assorters. The letters are separated into box letters, carrier's letters, and letters for the branch offices. The assorter for the boxes has to distribute to each of the windows of box delivery its letters, and, to do this, he must remember twenty thousand names, and at what window each one of this twenty thousand gets his mail. The letters should be addressed to the box number, but in most cases they are not. Though Jenkins & Company are always addressed at 97 Fiddler Street, their letters must always be put in box 9,775, let us say, which box is at a certain window, which window the assorter must always keep in his head associated with Jenkin & Company of Fiddler Street, and with some thousands of names besides. Moreover, there is a John Jenkins & Son in Huckleberry lane, whose letters must be kept separate and sent through carriers, and there is another Jenkins & Company at 73 Vandernocker street, whose box is at another window. Besides all that, the firm at 73 Vandernocker street has the whole building, so that when a letter comes addressed to Titus Oates at that number, it must be evident to the infallible assorter that the said Titus Oates, of whom he has never before heard, is in the employ of the Vandernocker street Jenkins & Company, and that the letter must not go to the carrier for the street, but into the box of the house of Jenkins & Company, located at 73 in that street.

The greatest pains are taken to find the address to which a letter should



Stamping.

go, so that it shall not fall into the general delivery. To return to our friends of the name of Jenkins, for instance. Here is a letter addressed to "John Jenkins, New York." Now, the directory may show us twenty of that name, we will say, from the railway president to the cab-driver. But on the upper left-hand corner of this letter, it says, that this letter, in case of non-delivery, is to be returned to Peters, Smith & Hubbard, dealers in garden seed, in Spring Garden street, Philadelphia. The clerk to whom the assorter has referred the matter, hence concludes that the letter does not belong to John Jenkins of the firm in Fiddler street, for he finds that firm is engaged in the manufacture of real Cremona violins; nor to the John Jenkins of the firm in Vandernocker street, for that manufactures real Orange County milk and butter. But, as the firm in Huckleberry lane are seed dealers, he sends it there on trial. But, should there be no sign of any kind on the letter other than the name, and should the name be a common one, the letter must needs take its way to the Dead Sea of the general delivery, where there is an average of thirteen thousand letters awaiting claimants. Twice a week letters are advertised,

and every thirty days they are sent up to the dead-letter office at Washington.

Among the devices for securing accurate delivery is the list of ships in port, cut from the "New York Price Current." The consignees' name are given in this list, and a letter addressed to Ole Knudsen, sailor, on the bark "Thor," is sent to the house of Knud, Olafsen & Co., 75 Downtown street, consignees of the bark, "Thor." The clerk shows me a letter that has gone astray. It is marked "R. H. Dana, New York," and he draws his pen through the name of New York, and writes the proud name of Boston in its place.

The assorters for carriers have to remember each carrier's boundary. All the odd numbers, we will suppose from 701 to 741 Broadway, are in one carrier's district. But the even numbers on the other side of the street are differently arranged. These he must also remember with an infinitude of other things; for instance, the Equitable Building at 120 Broadway is a place of delivery for thirteen hundred names, and there are other numbers as populous. The assorters for city stations are fined for every error which sends a letter to the wrong station, and the system is so perfect that the error is always fixed on the man who makes it. Ten of these assorters, the quickest and most accurate, get fourteen hundred dollars a year each, fourteen get twelve hundred, and five get ten hundred and twenty,—not a large wage for so much skill and mental quickness.

At the hour of the departure of carriers, the delivery department is full of animation; the men in their uniforms pass from one assorter's table to another and take, each from his own box, all the mail deposited therein, while the impassive assorter goes right on throwing mail into the box for the next delivery. Then you will see the carriers at a long counter which is divided by little raised partitions into compartments, each making his mail into a conveniently arranged bundle. In a carefully prepared report on file in the office, I find that during the year 1876, the carriers handled—*i.e.,* collected and delivered—in all, over one hundred and thirty-six millions of pieces (136,61,116),—an average of three hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and fifty-four pieces to the man.

When a carrier cannot find the person to whom a letter is addressed, he enters it in his log-book. He sets down the address of the letter, the reason for its non-delivery, anl a few cabalistic initials which describe it "M." "M. R." "C. D." "D. R.," and such-like initials stand for "Mail," that is a letter from outside the city; "Mail Request," that is, the same kind of a letter with a request for return to writer; "Card Drop," a postal-card dropped in New York, and so on. These books explain a great many of the complaints made against the service by showing that the fault lay somewhere else. The letters which ultimately fail to find owners are sent to the dead-letter office, but the lost postal-cards are tied into bundles to be burned. Here they are—thousands that have baffled the diligence of the clerks and carriers; they will be sent down-stairs presently in charge of a clerk who will see them fed to the fire under the boilers, and thus they will help to lift the elevators.

All the boxes to-day are lock-boxes of a new pattern, and they are very convenient. But some of the great houses get mails too large for the boxes. Some of these send hand-trunks for their mail. Keys to these trunks are kept in the post-office and at the business house; the messenger cannot unlock them in transit. Here is a rough pine box in which the "Herald's" mail is stored; the Fourth National Bank has a similar one. The Importers' and Traders' Bank gets the largest bank mail, and they send a truck for it. But the very largest mails of all are those of the two great dry goods houses of A. T. Stewart & Co., and H. B. Claflin & Co. Their letters number about two thousand a day each. They have trustworthy messengers who give their whole time to the transportation of the mail to and from the post-office. Houses with good messengers do not often complain of the service.

There are mistakes, of course, in the

service, and there are mistakes of correspondents that the service must correct, and hence the need of the inquiry office for missing and dead letters; at the head of which is the second oldest clerk, Mr. Hallett, who has served the office more than fifty years. When a valuable letter has gone to the dead-letter office, been opened and returned to the writer, if the writer is in New York it comes to this department where it must be receipted for before it is delivered. To this room come all the packages that are "short paid." By law they should go to the dead-letter office; for though a short-paid letter goes to its destinataion if one full postage is paid on it, a short-paid package does not. But where the business card of the sender is on the package a note is sent to the firm informing it of the detention of the parcel and a second chance to pay in full is thus given. This is done out of pure courtesy, from a desire to facilitate business; but for this voluntary service the office rarely gets thanked, but often censored for not sending forward the package. Eighty such notices of short-paid parcels were sent out on the day of my visit. These mistakes are often made by the largest houses, and sometimes consist in paying fifty-one cents on a parcel which should have fifty-two. In many cases no clew to the sender can be found. Here they show me a forlorn copy of SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY, which somebody, having read it, is kindly sending to a friend in the country. But alas, it has but three cents postage, and not having enough to pay its fare it will never get to cousin Sallie out in Pennsylvania, but will waste its sweetness in the desert of the dead-letter office.

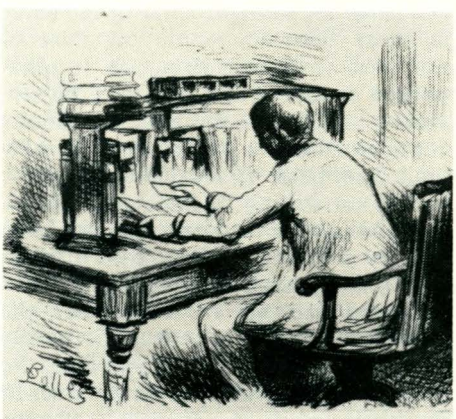
Some of the bundles which they show us here are too long for the mails, not properly packed. Here is a naked auger bit with a directed tag, and alongside of it a coil spring. Either of these would make havoc in a mail-bag. They show us also a package of vials,—one of these medicine bottles is already broken, and though the post-office people may feel never so sorry for the ailments of the folks in the country which ailments would all be cured on receipt of this physic, they cannot carry any liquids in glass. Only yesterday, they tell me, forty pieces of wedding-cake in nice pasteboard boxes tied with the delicatest white ribbon, were dropped into the mail. But bride-cake is more than even the post-office can digest, and the unsentimental clerks were obliged to arrest the cake, which somebody was to have dreamed on. I saw a box of it, and the grease had already struck through. Among the articles that have been stopped in the New York office was a roll of butter, a package containing chicken-on-toast, and a string of trout sent in from New Jersey.

One principal branch of the business carried on in this room is the seeking for letters that have gone astray. The complaint-book shows that the office is able to get some account of the letter in more than forty-nine per cent of the cases brought to its notice. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the service is not found in fault. Somebody complained that a pair of shoes sent by mail had been stolen; but the office found, on writing to the sender in Indianapolis, that the shoes had not been sent by mail at all. In one case of complant, the person to whom the letter was sent was out of town when the carrier tried to deliver it. It is hardly right to put upon the post-office the duty of keeping the people in town to get their mail. A revenue collector complained that his returns had not gone forward to Washington, and a few days later he found the document in his own office. Another man complained that a check had been lost in the mail. The letter turned up, and the stamp on it showed that the sender had mailed it three days too late, and thus gained time by throwing the blame on the post-office. Many a debt is paid by money said to have been lost in the mail. In one case a country bank complained; but is was found that their check had been sent to the wrong bank in New York. A merchant, who was in distress about a check stolen in the mails, found it safely shut up in his own check-book. A great stir was made

over the loss of a check of $800. Look opposite the complaint here in the book, and you will see this entry, "The writer of the letter had carried it five days in his pocket."

In this office a list of all the fictitious concerns is kept, and all letters going to them are stopped and sent to the dead-letter office. Seven or eight hundred names of concerns without existence are kept on a list here. They are technically called "saw-dust people," and the post-office uses its utmost endeavor to defeat their schemes for swindling the public.

Here come also the misdirected letters, whose direction cannot be corrected by the clerks down-stairs. A clerk sits surrounded by a semicircle of the directories of all the principal cities.



The directory table.

In most cases he does not have to consult them. He knows that a letter to Peter Blank, Camden Street, New York, should read Camden Street, Baltimore. This sort of mistake is very common, and, what is curious, is more often made by banks than by any other kind of business houses. A boy who can write a good hand sits down in a bank addressing letters to correspondents, and New York is in his mind; he puts it down, in place of Jersey City or St. Louis, and the letter goes wrong. The average of misdirected letters sent up to this department is over 500 a day; the day I was there last it ran up to about 1,000.

The most difficult of these go to Mr. Stone, who is called "the blind man," perhaps because he can decipher an inscription that is utterly illegible to any other man in America. His most difficult cases are the foreign letters. Here is a letter directed to "Sanduik," which he makes out to be Sandy Hook. Sometimes the arrangement of the name and address is curious.

For Mr. thomas
Smith Bridge
port post-office
Conn. America

is very plain when you once understand that it is "For Mr. Thomas Smith, Bridgeport, Conn., America." But when a man says "Hoio," how is anybody but a blind man to know that he means Ohio? One letter reads, "Bet Feet Rue de Agua." Now the blind man knows that "Rue de Agua" is Spanish for Water street, and that there is a Water street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. "Lysram, Warner Co.," he translates into Luzerne, Warren Co.; and "Common County, P. A." is made into Cameron County, Pennsylvania. But who would guess that "Overn C. D. Learey," in one line, means that it is to go to Auburn, in search of C. . L.? One letter is directed to "Kunstanzer Brauerei, S. I., Amerika." Mr. Stone recollected the fact that Constance's Brewery is at Stapleton, Staten Island, and the letter is sent there. He reads "Ioël" into Iowa, and "te Pella in Yomah" he makes it go to Pella, in the same state. Nor does Ohio get off with one miss. Here is one letter that wants to go to "Stadt Hioh Zunsounaati, Strasse 15,"—that is, to State of Ohio, Cincinnati, Street 15. But that is not all. This other one wants to reach the same city; but it has a bad spell of another kind, for its direction runs "Scitznaty." And then "Pizzo Burg Messessip," is sent to Vicksburg. Michigan is spelled "mutting." "Glass works Berkshire" is sent to Pittsfield, in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, where there is a glass factory. But the hardest one I saw was addressed to "John Hermann Schirmen," in one

line, with the wonderful word "Staguekaundo" for the rest. Mr. Stone cut the word in twain, and read it "Chautauqua County," while he translated the whole into "John Hermann, Sherman P. O. Chautauqua County, N. Y."

But there are some which even a blind man cannot make out. One letter in rather a good handwriting is very vaguely addressed to "Mackay, Esq., Amerique." Another reads: "Too much of this. "From your affectionate son, Anton Hiemburger."

In this case the close of the letter has been copied exactly by some one who did not understand the language. Instead of too much of this, there is really too little. But here is a case where the top of the letter has been imperfectly copied in the same fashion. It reads: "Tuesday Evening, Nord America."

If Tuesday Evening should see this article, he will know that his letter has gone back again to Europe.

Some mistakes are curiously common. About twenty-five letters come from Europe every week directed simply to Westchester County. Some institutions are given to making mistakes. The Bank of Montreal sends its letters into this department to be corrected as often as any business house on the continent.

Letters of value need some greater security than is afforded by the ordinary mail system; hence the registered letter department. The old registered letter system was rather worse than nothing, for since the registered letter went into the ordinary mail-bag its registration was an advertisement to a post-office thief this was the letter to take. But of late the system has been carried to a high degree of perfection. Last year 369,000 registered letters were sent out of the New York office, and though six or eight of these failed to reach their destination, there are but three that have not been accounted for, and the responsibility for these will soon be fixed. Under the present system, the envelope containing registered letters is receipted for by every person into whose hands it goes, and a package of registered letters, or a registered-letter bag, is never opened except in the presence of two persons. The system of accounts is exceedingly perfect, though to an outsider very intricate. The books show the name of every clerk who handles a package or letter, and of the clerk who verified the number of letters in every package.

The registered letter department is indeed a complete post-office within a post-office. It is located in a gallery, and no one is admitted but clerks in the department, each of whom carries a special key to the room. The locks of the registered-letter pouches are peculiar, and the keys are only intrusted to those who have to do with the registered-letter bags. Here in New York the key is fastened in the safe, and the several pouches must be taken to the clerk in charge at the safe and unlocked by him, so that it is always known into whose hands the contents of every pouch pass.

The foreign registered mail is made up independently, and about nine hundred bags are used for the foreign service alone. The foreign government sends these bags back inclosed in their own, and the New York office returns the foreign pouches in the same way. The foreign mail is often of great value. Many millions in government bonds are sometimes in the office at once for shipment abroad.

Large shipments of gold are now intrusted to the registered-letter mail. One thousand dollars in gold weighs less than four pounds, and is consequently within the limit of a mailable parcel. Twenty-five of these thousand-dollar parcels are put in one box and sent through the mail. This office also receives and registers all the postage stamps and postal-cards for the whole country. The postal-cards are sent in boxes.

Besides the precautions for safety already described, there are innumerable other guards set up. When a registered letter is inclosed in a registered pouch and sent out to be delivered at Augusta, Georgia, advice of that letter is sent to the postmaster at Augusta

in the ordinary mail. Having received this bill and failing to get the letter, he knows at once that something is wrong. Between certain offices of importance, registered mail-pouches are sent daily whether there is anything to go in them or not. Two such pouches are sent to Albany, and awhile ago a dispatch came to the New York post-office:

"Only one registered bag received. Did you send two?"

On receiving this, Mr. Forrester, the superintendent of the registered letter department, hastened to the Grand Central Station, where he telegraphed ahead and intercepted at Syracuse the bag that had gone astray.

In the New York office the accounts of incoming and outgoing letters are carefully balanced like a cash balance every evening, and not a man is allowed to leave the department if the balance is not correct. One night the men were kept until nearly morning looking for a letter that had dropped through a crack in an old table, and lodged in the folds of a worn-out mail-bag, and so got kicked into a corner during the search. At another time the office was at its wit's end after a night of search it was found that an absent-minded man had carefully deposited his pen in the safe and put the missing package in the pen's place in his table drawer.

Of a million and half (1,573,633) of letters and packages handled in the New York office, in 1876,—the latest year reported at this writing,—not a single one was lost. The country offices are not so vigilant. Three hundred and seventy-three letters came to New York last year unsealed; and these contained over twenty-six hundred dollars in currency, and more than three thousand in checks.

One of the latest and most important improvements in postal communication is the money order system, but it is a department which has fewest details of interest to the general public. In 1865, the first full year of the money order business, the New York office paid 28,921 orders, while in 1876 the orders paid amounted to 555,663. The amount of money paid on orders in 1876 was over six millions. During the year 1877, the number of orders ran higher than in the previous year, but the aggregate amount of money sent was less. This department is a pretty accurate barometer of the state of trade, and the present gradual improvement in commercial affairs shows itself in the business of this department during the last quarter of last year.

When an order is presented for payment the clerk receiving it writes a check on the paying teller, who stands at another window. This check is put upon a belt rotated by a tiny steam engine and carried to the teller. This dainty little engine is enough to make a boy delirious with happiness. The superintendent shows us little pigeon-holes for each of the great publishing houses where duplicate orders are kept always ready for them. When you sent a money order for SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY, the postmaster in your town made out an exact duplicate, except that he put *your* name in the duplicate, and this last he sent to the New York office, where it was deposited in the pigeon-hole which is labeled with the name Sribner & Co., until its mate, which you sent, should be presented for payment.

The English money order department is not so accurate as the New York office. Some time ago Mr. Plimley, of the New York money order department, wrote to the London office, pointing out discrepancies in their two two official lists of money order offices. The New York office had only examined three or four letters of the alphabet in the London Official Guide, and pointed out the errors in them as examples. The London office thereupon issued a circular making the corrections pointed out, but no others. The English department also requires the New York office to make out duplicates for orders on England, while it refuses to furnish similar duplicates for this country, leaving that also to be done in New York. The foreign orders are often carelessly filled; some of them are orders payable in "Washington, U.

S."—a very puzzling address.

In the auditor's office the whole business of detecting the errors of other offices is carried on. An average of sixty dollars a day is collected on matter improperly charged elsewhere. It is also the business of this office to examine packages for articles which are forbidden to be sent. One package which had contained grasshopper eggs when it started had hatched out on the journey, and the little creatures escaped through an opening in the box making a very lively mail. Everything is found in the mail sooner or later, even alligators.

Here one sees the system of paying postage on periodicals in bulk, a system said to have been first suggested from the office of this magazine. Here are stamps that only the most enthusiastic collector will ever add to his list. They cost too much, and they cannot be had after they are cancelled. The publisher pays his postage on the whole wagon load of matter delivered at one time, and the clerk affixes stamps not to the packages but to the stubs from which the receipt is taken. Here is one hundred and forty-two dollars paid with eight stamps, including two for sixty dollars, and here we see a larger amount, $204.58, paid with five stamps, viz.: three of sixty dollars each, one of twenty-four dollars, one of forty-eight cents, and one of ten cents. Any amount up to about two hundred dollars can be paid with five stamps. A publisher can buy these stamps if he wishes, and pay his postage with them; but as it locks up a large amount of money there is but one publishing house in New York that chooses to keep a stock of them. None of the large denominations have been sold to collectors from the New York office. A foreign government bought some for samples, but they were so expensive that the agent brought them back and wished to return them. The office could not receive them, but they were sold to a publishing house at a discount. On the floor below you will see the large Fairbanks scales on which the publishers' mails are weighed.

The stamp business belongs in the department of the cashier, and in his office all large amounts are sold. In one of the galleries I saw boxes containing thirty-seven thousand dollars' worth of envelopes and postal-cards, and the stock of stamps on hand at the same time was a hundred and thirty thousand dollars' worth. The new York office orders one million of postal-cards at a time. In little rooms fronting on both lobbies you will find the sellers of stamps in small quantities. To render the keeping of their accounts as simple as possible, each stamp-seller has his own "capital," and buys stamps at the cashier's counter, like an outsider, paying cash for them. These stamp-clerks are subjected to all sorts of vexatious and amusing encounters with queer people. There is one old man who regularly brought a copy of the same paper every morning to be weighed, then bought his one-cent stamp and affixed it. There are men of means who never buy but two or three stamps at a time, though they buy every day. They are, probably anxious to retain the use of their money to the last moment, like the man who always sits in the rear of the last car on the train, so as to save the interest on his fare while the conductor is collecting from the rest. One man on being asked by a stamp-seller if there was any writing in the book which he offered to post, gruffly replied: "It's none of your business." The clerks at the stamp windows, remember the ill-natured people. As we stood inside watching the stream of faces passing the window, and the clerks answering a steady torrent of questions, one of them said: "There is the man that called me a brute one day; we have a way of remembering these people."

In spite of all the care taken to insure the safe transmission of valuable letters, inclosures, and money orders, people will continue to send money through the ordinary mail, sometimes in considerable quantities; therefore the utmost pains are taken and with surprising success to make even the ordinary mail safe from depredations.

But the unregistered mail will always suffer from theft, while human nature is what it is. The aim of the post-office department is, by care in appointments and by the use of the skill of expert detectives, to reduce this to the minimum. In the rooms of the special agent of the post-office department, in the New York post-office building is the center of the detective operations of the department for the metropolis. Mr. Sharratts, the agent, has a genius for the work; full of irrepressible energy, eager, tireless, you will find him sometimes strolling in the lobbies, watching the messenger boys, who, all unsuspecting of his vigilance, are peeping into their employers' boxes at unwonted hours, or doing worse. Sometimes from above I have seen him watch the coming and going crowds like a fish-hawk balancing over his prey. Sometimes he will lift his hat to a man. You think he is greeting a friend. This man is a detective, and the hat-lifting is a sign perfectly understood between him and Mr. Sharratts. His rooms overlook the great first floor where the letter mail is handled, so that nobody knows when his eye is on a suspected employé of the office.

In his rooms there is no machinery —nothing to show the immense work done—but two or three clerks. You would not think that from this office the mails coming and going from New York are guarded. Nor will you get much account of methods by inquiring. The vigorous detective does not relate blood-curdling stories, or take the public into his confidence. Mr. Sharratts tells us that he has a victim in the inner office now, "telling what he knows about farming." Which means that a rascally messenger who has been robbing the mail between his employer's office and the post-office, is left alone in that room to write out a full statement of his pillferings.

"You can come in here if you want to," says the special agent, "and take a view down Broadway." We are thus admitted to the private office, where, Mr. Sharratts, making show of ignoring the criminal at the desk, points to the view down the street, bids us be seated, and thus gives us a chance to see the poor victim to whom the fear of punishment is now applying the rack. He is not a bad-looking boy of sixteen, with flushed face and bitter tears in his eyes. The special agent takes up his now completed confession and reads what is written. Then he leans over and says some rapid words that we cannot hear, shakes his head threateningly to the young man, and bids him come again in the morning. For the moment the rack releases its grasp, and he is allowed to go free until the next day. The confession tells how he has plumdered letters of over a hundred dollars in money. In his confession, he euphemistically calls it "stopping" them. To soften the name of a crime is the first step toward committing it. He says he spent the money on "theaters, apples, and things." Mr. Sharratts says as he looks over the paper, "He lies. That is not all." The young fellow had told only what he supposed had been found out. The rest will be extracted from him painfully and in installments. It is curious how a bright boy like that can be so weak in common sense and moral feeling.

Mr. Sharratts has demonstrated that most of the plundering of the mails is outside of the post-office. He has found that thousands of letters have been stopped by a single messenger. The special agent has almost never failed to reach some result, outside or inside of the office, in every case of letters of a house having been stolen. Detection is only a matter of time, and would seem to be almost as inevitable as death.

"Fine merchants," says Mr. Sharratts, "who draw checks on tinted paper and do business in a gilt-style, will send their mail to the office by a little boy whose salary of two dollars a week is half the support of a mother and two children in an attic tenement. The boy's lunch is a little piece of bread and butter tied up by his mother. He is beset by the temptations of the Italian stalls, the chestnuts, bananas, pies, and what-nots. You know" adds the special

agent, dryly, "what a gulf there is in a boy's inside. Some day a companion suggests that he can hook a few stamps off the letters and exchange them for pies. And presently the fine merchant is berating the postal service for the loss of his letters."

Sometimes the thief is inside the office, and then the toils are slowly and surely wound round him. His habits are studied, his day and night life is known, his accomplices spotted, and when at last the favorable moment comes, the unfaithful servant meets a swift doom and is sent to prison for a terrible term of years. But the greater part of the thefts are outside. In a drawer in one business house were found three thousand letters; in another case the remains of fifteen hundred were hidden away. In yet other cases, the fault lies higher up than with the messenger. It suits the convenience, now and than ,of some rascally house to complain of lost letters where no letters have been lost. So that the special agent must unravel a problem full of intricacies and complications before he finds the depredator.

Under Mr. James's administration a system of genuine civil service has grown up. He has steadily resisted the demands of politicians that good clerks shall be removed on account of their lack of efficiency in ward politic. It is said to be a beautiful sight to see him send for a superintendent and ask what kind of a man the clerk is, in the presence of the "statesmen" of the Assembly district who are urging his removal. A good report from the superintendent, and a polite, "You see, gentlemen, that it is impossible to remove him," ends it, except that the ward statesmen never think well of the postmaster's efficiency after that.

There is a notion prevalent that with every change of postmaster a pretty clean sweep of employés is made. But only one hundred and four removals have been made in Postmaster James's five years, and of this number eighty were for drunkenness. This vice at one time made sad havoc among the rank and file of employés; but there is at present an efficient post-office temperance society, and there have been some remarkable reformations, while a sentiment in favor of temperance has diffused itself through all departments of the office.

That clean sweeps have not been made is sufficiently shown by the time of service of some of the clerks. In the delivery department you will see the venerable figure of the patriarch of the office, Mr. Charles Forrester, Sr. He entered the service as clerk in 1825, when the office had just been removed out of its twelve by fifteen feet quarters at the corner of William and Garden streets, where the postmaster, General Bailey, lived upstairs over the office for twenty years, and closed his office when he went to dinner. Mr. Forrester has been in the office now for fifty-two years, and may well call himself by the title of which Southery was so proud: "A man of letters by profession." Mr. Forrester's father was a clerk in the office before him, having served under General Mailey from 1808, and his son, Mr. Charles Forrester, Jr., is now superintendent of the registered letter department, so that the post-office may be said to run in the family. Mr. John H. Hallett, chief of the inquiry office for missing letters, lacks but a year of having served as long as Mr. Forrester, Sr.

While others have advocated it in theory, Postmaster James has exemplified civil service in practice. Promotions and salaries are now based partly on length of service, partly on a careful system of testing the correctness of work done, partly on conduct, and partly on a periodical re-examination. This examination is not a test of the clerk's knowledge of the names of the extinct volcanoes in the moon, but a trial of his expertness in his work. For instance, the clerks who are distributing matter in the mailing department were recently required to place correctly 2,200 cards, containing the names of all the post-offices in Ohio, in a series of pigeon-holes labeled with the names of the counties in that state. One man succeeded in making the distribution in two hours and twenty minutes, with

only thirteen errors. The best man at the New York table was yet more remarkable. He put the whole two thousand eight hundred and forty cards bearing the names of the post-offices in this state into their proper counties in one hundred and five minutes, with but a single error. Awhile ago, there was a competition for the vacant chief clerkship at a table, and the lowest man of all, by sheer excelence, took the place.

In the delivery department, the box assorters, whose wonderful memory of twenty thousand names I have described above, are tested by the distribution of cards containing 2,000 names of persons and firms holding boxes. A little over a year ago, when these examinations were begun, the highest man on the list received a mark of ninety for correctness, while the lowest ran down to sixty. At the last trial seven were marked over ninety-nine per cent. for correctness. The swiftest assorted the whole two thousand cards in forty-five minutes, the slowest—a new man, perhaps—was more than four times as long. But the very lowest of the whole twenty-nine received sixty-seven as the percentage of correctness and expertness. Such is the improvement wrought by the stimulus of emulation. Perhaps this is better shown by the average of the whole force, which, under this severe test, was, in July, 1876, but sixty-four, while in September, 1877, it attained ninety. The salaries are graded in part by the results of these examinations.

Nearly all the higher offices of the New York post-office have come up from the ranks. Even Mr. Pearson, the assistant postmaster, rose from a clerkship in the office and passed through the various grades in the railway postal service (of which he was one of the originators) before attaining his present position; Mr. Gaylor, general superintendent of the city delivery, began as a $600 clerk; Mr. Forrester, superintendent of the registry department, began as a $600 clerk in the distribution department; also Mr. Wareing, the assistant general superintendent of the mailing department, told me frankly that he came in as a porter. Mr. Yeoman, the superintendent of the same department, began as a stamper, on a salary of three hundred a year, and so on through the list. All but one of the nineteen superintendents of branches entered as clerks. In short here is civil service of the most approved kind in successful operation in the best conducted of all the government institutions.

The clerks are quite satisfied to go down if they are beaten down. Under the old system, a man in the post-office had but little chance for promotion, except by the intrigue of some political clique. In giving men a chance to be something, and a perpetual stimulus to their ambition, Mr. James has undoubtedly wrought a marvelous improvement in the service. But he has done better than that; for by opening a door of hope to a man one makes him a man. Men no longer expect removal on the caprice of ward committee. The office offers them a career, and they have every stimulus to faithfulness and excellence. It is found that the least efficient clerks in the office are generally those backed by the most eminent names, while the poor fellows who have no hope but in winning the favor of their superiors by fidelity and excellence are altogether the most valuable.

The swarm of applicants for places in the office are tested by examinations also, but these look more to their general intelligence. I was permitted to see some of the very original answers on the examination papers. One question, "What has been your clerical experience?" is a veritable *pons asinorum* to the applicants, and many are the donkeys who are lost here. Most of them take clerical in its ecclesiastical sense. One man answers that his clerical experience has been "Catholic," and so through all the denominations. One man responds by saying, "Have taught in a Sunday-school." Another many has not had any occasion to deal with clergymen, for in answering the question as to his "clerical experience," he breaks out, "Well, I was

never sick a day in my life." There are others who give the term a wider sense. One answers, "Compositor;" another, "Working as porter in a store;" while a third hits it exactly when he says, "Making horse-collars." The geographical questions are quite as troublesome. On one paper the large rivers in the United States are "North River and East River," while another applicant, when he is required to name the British Possessions in America, rises to the occasion and answers, "Laying the Atlantic cable and visit of the Prince of Wales." In these papers we find the Black Sea put into the Arctic Ocean, the prevailing religion of Turkey set down as "Protestant," and "Garibaldia" made to be King of Italy. To the question: "What nation assisted the United States in the war of the Revolution?" we have answered, with perfect naïveté, "The Irish." When one man was required to state into what three departments the government of the United States was divided, he answered, with the promptitude of a lightning calculator, "Philadelphia, New York, and Boston." But another man of more statesmanlike cast of mind wrestles with the same question and divides the government into "feder, judishel, and navel."

More and more as we look through the complicated details of the office do we feel the pervading influence of the head. Everything is carefully centralized, and a wonderful unity is given to every movement of the office. For instance, all the letters of the various superintendents on matters pertaining to business of their departments, are sent up to the room of the assistant-postmaster at three o'clock. Mr. Pearson, who is second in authority in the office is the embodiment of accuracy and painstaking. He receives and examines these letters checked only with the initials of the clerks who write them. They are then sent forward to the postmaster, who signs every one of them, so that the correspondence all receives the signature of Mr. James, and no one else is known or allowed to speak for the office. In this way a perfect supervision of the business of all the departments is maintained.

Here is a large room with shadowy reeds and ferns, green stalks, and other plants of elegant form, frescoed in light anl shade on the walls. The windows look off down into the ceaseless roar of Broadway and over into the somber quiet of St. Paul's ancient church-yard. On the sofas in this elegant room are generally several gentlemen,—Congressmen, merchants, eminent foreigners perhaps, waiting to take their turn in speaking to the postmaster, who sits at a table in the middle of the office. Mr. James is an active man of alert faculties and prompt decision. There is not a trace of official snobbery about him. He is an easy, gentlemanly, unspoiled and entirely American man, with a world of human kindliness and good fellowship. He is an organizer and administrator of a very high order, and is himself the pervading genius of the office. He will generously boast of the excellence of his lieutenants, without leaving any room for merit in himself. But you have only to talk with superintendents or subordinates to find out that Mr. James is the postmaster. He is always in his office in business hours, and I was told that he had come down at four o'clock on the morning of one of my visits to attend to the transfer of an Australian mail for England to a Cunard steamer sailing at seven. The mail of one hundred and eighty-two bags had reached San Francisco three hours after the departure of the mail, and had been sent forward on a special train to overtake the regular mail. In New York Mr. James accomplished its transfer in one hour, the aim being to beat the Red Sea mail, with which our service is in lively competition.

On another occasion, the steamer "Germanic," of the White Star Line, anchored off Sandy Hook in a furious gale to receive the Australian mail, dispatched by Mr. Cortis, the agent of the Line, down the bay in a steam-tug, from which it was transferred in a "crate."

I went into the office a total stranger to the postmaster, and without any predilections in his favor, except what

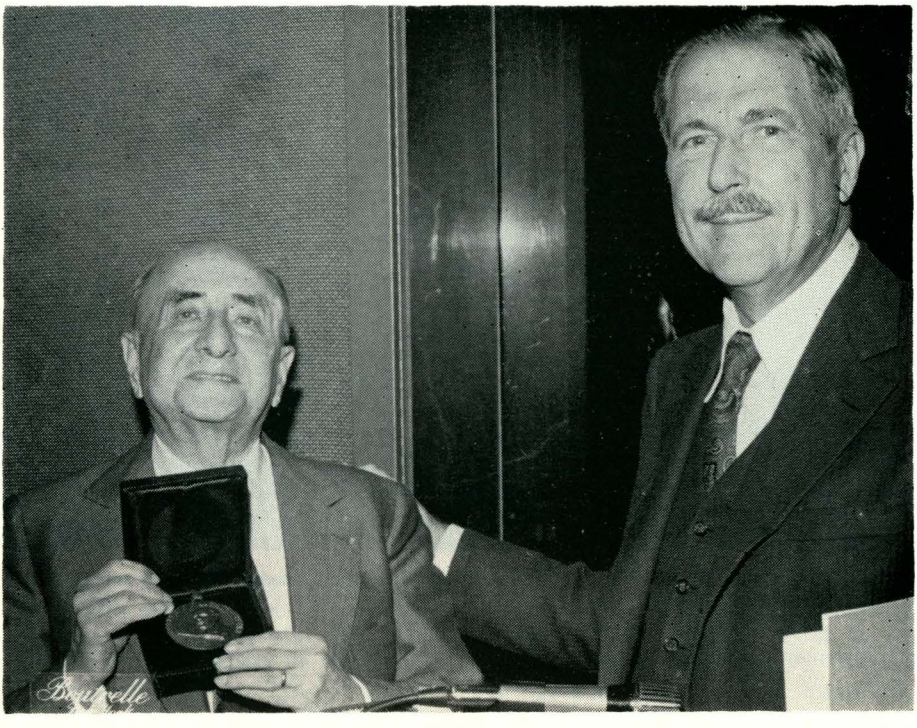


Portrait of Thomas L. James.

had come from the praises of the service I had heard from business men. But everywhere I found not only admirable system and thorough discipline, but what is more important and more difficult of attainment, a cordial and even zealous *esprit de corps*. To produce this a man must be a natural leader of men. The postmaster's inspiration is felt in every rank of the service. Wherefore, it only remains for me to add my voice to the rest, and to say that of all who have had charge of the metropolitan post-office, from colonial times to the present, Mr. Thomas L. James will go into history as the great postmaster of New York.

The Clubhouse

The Annual Awards Dinner



Guest of Honor, Dr. Joseph Schatzkes, receives the Lichtenstein medal from John R. Boker.

Ninety-six members, their wives and guests gathered on the evening of May 14th at the Tower Suite of the Time & Life Building in New York to honor the 1974 recipients of the club's major awards.

The guest of honor was Dr. Joseph Schatzkes, the eminent philatelist from Neuilly, France, winner of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Philately. Introduced to the group by John R. Boker who also presented him with the Lichtenstein medal, Dr. Schatzkes delighted the audience with his reminiscences of his early collecting days.

Also receiving awards were Ernest A. Kehr who was presented with the Collectors Club Philatelist Medal by President Haverbeck for his outstanding article, "The Post Office Seals of the United States," which appeared in the January-March 1974 issues of the club journal.

Herbert Bloch, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the medals and certificates for the best programs given at the clubhouse during the past season. Two medals of equal merit were given to W. R. Hart of London for his talk on "Natal," and to W. R. Frazer, also of London, for his talk on, "Sudan." Dr. A. S. Mishrick of Manhassett, N. Y. and L. A. Parker, another Londoner, received honorary mentions and certificates for "Egypt, Proofs and Essays" and "Iceland." Keith and Alison Harmer accepted for the British winners.

(Continued overleaf)



Ernest Kehr, winner of The Collectors Club Philatelist medal, gets his award from President Haverbeck.

Dr. Mishrick accepted in person.

President Haverbeck, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the out-of-town members and guests. Mrs. Dhirubhai Mehta from Bombay, India, took honors as the guest who had traveled farthest.

It was an enjoyable evening marked by good fellowship and good food. We would like to offer special thanks to Ira Zweifach for his dinner arrangements which were in such good taste, literally and figuratively.

(Abbot Lutz)

1975 PROGRAM AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Exhibits Open 7:30 P.M.
Meetings Convene at 8:00 P.M.

September 17	— *AUSTRIA: FOUR POWER OCCUPATION*—Henry O. Pollak, Summit, New Jersey
October 1	— *CUBA—FOUR PERIODS OF POSTAL HISTORY*—Dr. Roberto M. Rosende, Yonkers, New York
October 15	— *PUERTO RICO*—Raul Gandara, Santurce, Puerto Rico
November 5	— *CANADA — SPECIAL AIRMAILS*—Chester S. Forrest, New York, New York
November 19	— *A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STAMP DEALER*—Stephen W. Braham, Hounslow, Middlesex, England
December 5	— *SWITZERLAND POSTAGE DUE PROCEDURES*—Werner K. Elias, Jamaica, New York
December 17	— *BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN HOUSE*



ANNE W. PRITCHETT

1906 - 1975

The death of our Executive Secretary, Anne Pritchett, on May 7th, was a loss that will not easily be forgotten by the members of this organization. A good friend and a devoted worker, she will be missed not only by those who worked with her, but by the throng of members and visitors whom she greeted and assisted in the more than twenty years she was employed by the club.

The blow was sudden. Although she had been hospitalized for many weeks, she had returned to the club and was presumably on the road to recovery. Her death was totally unexpected by those close to her.

Born in Grand Rapids sixty-nine years ago, Mrs. Pritchett was a transplanted New Yorker. Before coming to the club she had worked for many years as secretary to Frank Gilmore, the theatrical producer, and when the American Federation of Radio Artists was formed in 1937, became that group's Membership Secretary. She came to The Collectors Club in 1954 when she and Mrs. Eldridge answered an ad placed in the New York Times by Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, then secretary and now president of the club. Hired on the spot, the club became her home and place of business until the end.

A lively woman with a deep interest in the theatre, she also was fond of dogs. The spaniels owned by her and Mrs. Eldridge, and later the pugs, Peter and George, were club fixtures for many years.

During her tenure at the club she gave unstintingly of herself in her efforts to serve the organization and foster its cause. Indeed, women such as Mrs. Pritchett are few and hard to find.

She was laid to rest beside her husband, Charles, on Monday, May 12th in Arlington National Cemetery.

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19	**PORT ELIZABETH**	Hotel Elizabeth	John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
20/22	**DURBAN**	Royal Hotel	Robson Lowe, John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
22/25	**JOHANNESBURG**	Carlton Hotel	Jackie Norman
26	**PERTH**	Sheraton Hotel	John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
26	**MELBOURNE**	c/o Robson Lowe International	Robson Lowe only
27	**ADELAIDE**	Park Royal Hotel	John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
27	**MELBOURNE**	c/o Robson Lowe International	Robson Lowe only
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SEPTEMBER

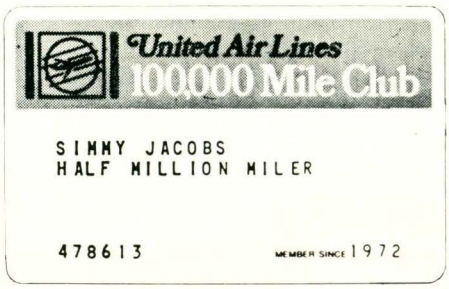
1/2	**MELBOURNE**	c/o Robson Lowe International	Robson Lowe, John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
3/7	**SYDNEY**	Menzies Hotel	Jackie Norman
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17	**LOS ANGELES**	c/o W. C. Tatham	John van Haeften, Jackie Norman
18/21	**NEW YORK**	Waldorf Astoria Hotel	John van Haeften only
18/21	**TORONTO**	B.N.A.P.S. Convention	Robson Lowe only
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21/23	**NEW ORLEANS**	c/o Raymond H. Weill	Robson Lowe, Jackie Norman
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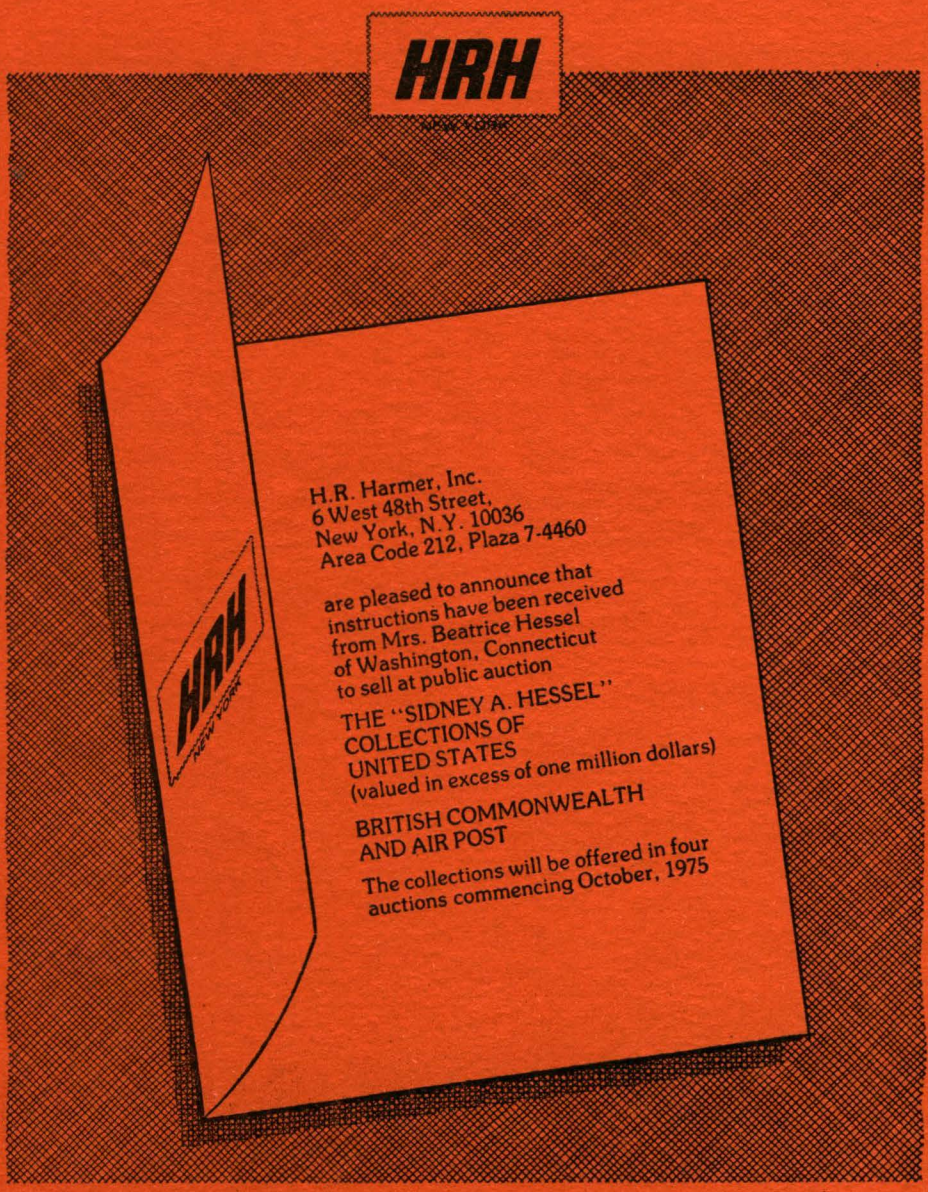
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