THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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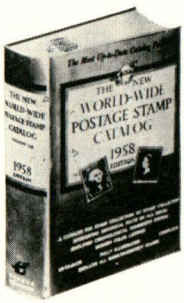
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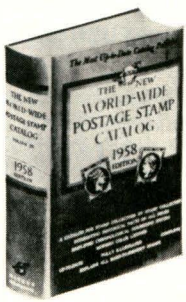


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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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Editorials

Philatelic Judges

For the first time in our memory, a major United States philatelic organization has made a constructive step towards establishing standards by which Judges for International Philatelic Exhibitions may be chosen. *The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.* at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 2, 1957 adopted by unanimous vote the report of a special committee appointed for the purpose of establishing such standards.

The Text of the first part of this report follows:

"In the opinion of this committee the following are necessary criteria:

1. The person must be a philatelist. The guide to the establishment of this should be based upon one or more of the following: Winning of a major award at one previous International Exhibition (Major Awards considered as silver or higher), or publication of at least one recognized, authoritative handbook, or be the author of a standard reference article or series of articles, or be a member in full standing of a recognized expert committee."

This is indeed a major statement of policy, and one which should bear some weight with the persons or committees entrusted with the task of selecting Judges. It is necessary that this policy be given the widest possible dissemination both at home and overseas.

Let us pause for a moment and analyze the meaning of the criteria set up in this report. Very simply the main thought expressed here is that a candidate for an International Judge must be known for his ownership of collections, for his own research work and be recognized as a top specialist in at least one field. This does not include one engaged in philatelic work that is fundamentally journalistic, commercial or promotional, unless there is also evident philatelic achievement to accompany it. This eliminates those who ride on the outer fringes of philately by reason of a facile pen or a silver tongue and do not own the top-notch collections. There is no attempt made here to exclude those who are engaged in the commercial end of philately for a living, but rather the way is opened for the commercial philatelist, who is in his own right a recognized specialist, to rightfully receive recognition for his own research and study.

While this report is a step in the right direction, we do not think that it has gone quite far enough. There is the essential question of the open mind. The awards given by Judges at an International Exhibition are to be given to the collection, *not* to the exhibitor. The tendency to favor individuals

must be stopped. Personalities should not be allowed to influence the award. Nor should the monetary value of an exhibit be considered paramount. The open mind also means that the Judge must be able to abide by the rules established by the exhibition committee whether or not he entirely agrees with them. There has been too much of a tendency to sidestep the rules in order to favor certain individual exhibitors. Favoritism among Judges should be minimized, if not completely eliminated.

Then, finally, there is another aspect of the problem that cannot be overlooked. A Judge is, in a sense, an ambassador of his country. He should represent the finest in American philately or in the philately of the country he represents. He must also be acceptable as a representative of his country to the other members of the Board of Judges. His reputation and opinions must be respected internationally, based entirely upon his grasp and dedication to philately.

Up to now we have confined this discussion to Judges of International Exhibitions. But is it not a fact that these same requirements can equally well be applied in the field of the National Exhibitions? Are not the criteria equally important there? We think so. We believe that the only basic difference is one of degree. We look upon the National Exhibition as being a proving ground for future International competition. Then, the Judges for these shows should be considered by the same basic requirements. In fact, we should add to the criteria for an International Judge that the candidate should have had previous extensive experience as Judge at National shows, having established a reputation as a keen philatelist acting always in a fair, unbiased manner.

Now that these standards have been formalized by the long-established *Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.* that has run every International Philatelic Exhibition in the United States, we feel that the next logical step to be taken is to convene a board representing the major philatelic organizations in this country. This selection board should be charged with the duty of choosing a panel of candidates for Judges, who are qualified for both International and National Exhibitions. It might even be possible to go a step further and select two panels, one for each type of show. When the selection board has completed and published its findings, the names of those chosen for the panels should be made available to all exhibition committees and to the Federation Internationale de Philatelie to guide these bodies in their selection of Judges from our country. This step, in our opinion, will be one of the major accomplishments in organization, that the body of philately has made since the first stamp collection was started. It will place Exhibitions in their proper prospective as a measure of achievement of individual collectors.

(*H.D.S.H.*)

Stamp Saver — A Useful Term

Some years ago in these editorial columns, H. D. S. Haverbeck suggested that separate definitions for "a stamp collector" and "a philatelist" would prove useful. The term "philatelist" should apply to those interested in advanced collecting, while "a stamp collector" would be considered the typical space-filler.

The reaction was generally favorable, except from some non-Collectors Club members, who objected to this idea as snobbish and discriminatory. The latter maintained that philately covered all phases of stamp collecting. Therefore, all collectors are philatelists.

Since then a new group of people have entered philately. These people are neither "philatelists" nor "stamp collectors." They buy stamps for speculation only. They do not know the meaning or use of any philatelic accessory. Albums, catalogs, hinges, and all the other rudimentary requirements for collecting stamps are beyond their ken. When you meet this type of speculator, he usually says: "Oh! I *save* stamps. Do you?"

The constant repetition of the phrase "saving stamps" sparks an idea. It may be very useful to place these speculators in a distinct class, applying the term they so often use. Let's call the speculators—stamp savers—because this is exactly what they do. They save stamps, place them in various means of storage, hoping to sell in the future at a profit. Instead of buying Government Savings Bonds or using a Savings Bank, they save stamps.

Consequently within the statistics of mil-

lions of stamp collectors, one finds "philatelists", "stamp collectors", and "stamp savers." (*H. M. G.*)

The Library

In the May 1957 issue of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST the first of a new series of the library's "wants" was published together with editorial comment germane to this listing. To date the response to this appeal has been such that I, as Chairman of the Library Committee, find it difficult to express my feelings.

Ambiguous?

Yes! And so it is meant to be. From a membership of close to 1200, only five have responded to our appeal. This is an insignificant number from a statistical viewpoint, but a highly significant one as a measurement of member interest in the library. True, not everyone would have access to out-of-date periodicals and government publications. But neither did all five members who responded to the appeal. Three donated items the library needed. The other two offered funds to pay for missing items if they could be purchased.

Let us look now at the alternative meaning of the second sentence. Here indeed it was difficult to *adequately* express our appreciation for the presentations made to the library. A polite formal thank-you letter could not suffice when each of the three members who responded with material did so, not just to fill a gap in our list of missing issues, nor to dispose of something, but instead willingly sacrificed something of interest and value to him, that others might better benefit from the use of his gift. Such is the generous giver. Let us quote from each of the letters of transmittal.

Stephen G. Rich "—they are from my personal file but as long as I know the club needs them I could not keep them".

Curtis B. James "—I hate to part with my copy but I will get more satisfaction out of knowing that the library has greater use for it than I do".

Stanley Hodziewich "—For sometime I have been hoping to find a proper place for them and I am happy I can fill so many gaps in the collection".

Each has made a sacrifice for the benefit of the Club. Won't you too, do what you can? Check again the lists of library wants that have been published and plan to examine those forthcoming. The entire list will be reissued at a later date, but we do not plan to hold up the binding of periodicals that are still missing only one or two numbers. Provision will be made for tipping in the missing numbers when they become available. Unbound periodicals are not available for circulation. But as it is one of the library committee's aims to make available to the entire membership as much of the collection as is possible we shall need your help toward this end.

Special mention must be made of the munificent gift of Mr. Hodziewich. Within days after the last copy of this magazine had been sent to the members and subscribers,—the one listing the items making up his gift,—six members within one week visited the club to consult *the United States Postal Guides* in the library's collection. This is truly an indication of the value of these books as works of reference. (*Malcolm G. O'Reilly*)

Free Use of Knowledge

Some philatelists would be well advised not only to read but to practice the legend printed upon the United States 1954 commemorative stamp marking the 200th Anniversary of the founding of one of the world's great universities, Columbia. This reads: *"Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof."*

Possibly because stamp collecting is a possessive hobby, there are some, who treat their philatelic knowledge as if it were something to be hoarded as an individual possession. Perhaps every one of us have had the frustrating experience of writing to, or contacting another fellow philatelist seeking some particular knowledge, which we had been led to believe he had, but being refused co-operation. Or one has been working upon a study that eventually he hopes may materialize in a research article. Thus a conscientious attempt is made to corral as much information as possible from anyone having knowledge upon the subject. However, some choose to hold back.

Unfortunately, some philatelists refuse to cooperate and withhold their knowledge as if it were something personal. Consequently, in the concept of liberal education, they are breaking one of its cardinal rules. Man has the inalienable right to the knowledge and its free use. This does not except philatelists. A continuation of this bad practice will not redound to the benefit of philately, and those who persist in denying the free use of their philatelic knowledge rightly deserve severe criticism. (*H. M. G.*)

Obituary

Bertram W. H. Poole

Just about the time that the September, 1957 number of this magazine was being mailed, a long philatelic career came to an end. B. W. H. Poole died in Pasadena, Calif. on September 8, 1957.

THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST need not publish an obituary of Mr. Poole, because on page 68 of the March, 1957 number, one can find a lengthy write-up of his career, which followed an article written by B. W. H. Poole on "Bolivia's 5c. Condor Stamp of 1866-67". Anything now penned would be more or less redundant.

However, one significant matter can be noted. Mr. Poole will rank among the small circle of philately's most prolific writers. The September, 1957 number of this magazine published his article on "Gold Coast's First Victoria Design". This possibly marks the last one of a long, long record. If so, this magazine feels a certain satisfaction over this coincidence.

Philately in this country can use another "B. W. H. Poole", whose writings were of great service, because they were both popular and accurate. Philatelic articles now lack a good middle ground. There is little or nothing for a collector between the neophyte and philatelic student. The present difficulty is that the writers for the beginner have sacrificed accuracy for a popular style, whereas our scholarly works are mostly too scientific for the collector, who is just commencing to take philately seriously. Mr. Poole was one of the few authors, who constantly and interestingly, served this "middle class" collector. His passing has left a void, that should be filled for the welfare of philately in this country.

In recognition of the long and dedicated philatelic career of B. W. H. Poole, the Board of Governors of THE COLLECTORS CLUB at its regular meeting of September 25, 1957 passed the following resolution:

"The Board of Governors of The Collectors Club, in regular meeting convened on Wednesday, the 25th of September, 1957, hereby resolve that the demise of their member, Bertram W. H. Poole, is profoundly regretted and state that his presence in the philatelic world will be sorely missed. His voluminous and valued philatelic works will continue to serve as a remembrance of his service to philately.

"Be it further resolved that the family of Bertram W. H. Poole be informed of the above resolution."

In case of a change of address,
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COMING MEETINGS

November 20th

Surcharges and Expertization — Herbert Bloch.

December 4th

Research, one stamp, one issue, or Postal marking—Competitive display by members.

December 18th

"Aden"—Albert H. Higgins.

VENEZUELA

The Pre-Stamp And Stampless Cover Period

By C. W. WICKERSHAM

Until 1830, Venezuela was part of Colombia. The posts were administered under Spanish sovereignty until 1811, but after that date by the Colombian authorities until the separation in 1830. From that year to the time of the issue of the first Venezuelan stamps in 1859, the normal method of payment of postage was either by cash at the post office or by forwarding mail for payment by the recipient.

In the case of foreign mail, there might be prepayment of part of the postage, the balance to be paid by the addressee. After 1859 these older methods continued for some time. The forwarding of foreign mail without adhesive stamps is known at least as late as 1879. There were possibly special reasons for this. It took time for postmasters and others concerned to get used to the change. Venezuela did not join the Universal Postal Union until 1880. Most of the known covers franked with the early issues of Venezuela stamps are addressed to Venezuelan towns and represent domestic rather than foreign use.

Another reason may well have been the shortage of stamps or their complete absence in some or all post offices from time to time during the first twenty years of stamps. From March, 1871 to August, 1873, for instance, the only Venezuela stamps available at all were the First Escuelas issues.



Fig. 1. La Guaira 1828 folded letter, with Colombia postmark in red.

This was a period of over two years. The situation was certainly not an encouragement to abandon older practices with which all had been familiar.

To return to the pre-adhesive stamp period:—in some offices a handstamp was used including the word "FRANCA", to show prepayment, or "DEBE" to show postage due. Few post offices in the country had rate marking devices, but several had these handstamps.

Most of the covers or folded letters that have survived from these early days were mailed in La Guaira, Caracas, or Porto Cabello. Of those that have survived, a number were addressed to England or France. They show a variety of postmarks, including numerals, entry marks, rate and weight marks, as well as figures of charges or of postage due. Many are marked to go by packet or by English packet. The slim numeral manuscript or handstamped numerals are not to be confused with the heavy Venezuela numerals of weight or rate, which we will shortly describe.[1]

There were few towns of any size or commercial importance, or where there were many literate inhabitants in Venezuela, in these early days. It is probable that in the period from the thirties to the seventies of the last century, less than ten per cent of the population were white. These were of Spanish descent. There were, however, quite a few foreigners, including active Dutch, German, and other European commercial houses, as well as British and American traders. It is largely to the business houses and to French and English merchants that we owe surviving covers, as well as the foreign mail and steamship postmarks and the famous La Guaira "Locals".[2]

Colombian Postmarks

The description of Venezuelan covers prior to 1830 belongs to the postal history of Colombia; but it is interesting to note that Colombian postmarks were used for some time afterwards. Such covers are found as late as 1842. The mark used at LaGuaira was

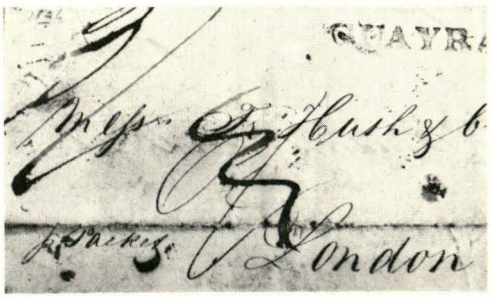


Fig. 2. 1826 La Guaira cover with unframed "GUAYRA" straight-line in red.

in the form of a large oval in red about 54 mm. across with the words "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" and "Guayra Franca".

A similar red postmark was used at Maracaibo as late as 1841. This mark on a cover formerly in the writer's collection reads "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" and "Maracaybo - Debe". It is addressed to Senor Juan Bettolacci - "Del Comercia de San Jose de Cucuta". The cover is also marked with a manuscript "2rs" in black, undoubtedly meaning that two reales was the rate to be collected.

"Guayra" Straight-line

Another early postmark consists of the "GUAYRA" unframed straight-line capitals in red. This must be rare, as it has been seen only on two folded letters from La Guaira to London. One is dated in 1825 and the other 1826. No later use is known to the writer. (Fig. 2)

The Double Circles

By 1843, at latest, a large double circle postmark was in use at La Guaira, Caracas and possibly elsewhere. It is found in black, blue, red, or green. It consists of two concentric groups of circles with the words "CORREO DE VENEZUELA" between the main circles and "GUAIRA FRANCA" or "CARACAS FRANCA" or "DEBE" in two lines in the center.

[1] The word "cover" is used throughout to include folded letters, which were far more common in the early days than modern envelopes. Occasionally "folded letter" is used where there may be a reason to distinguish one from a modern envelope.

[2] The LaGuaira "Locals" are incorrectly so designated in the catalogs. They were really Foreign Mail Steamship stamps, duly authorized for such use by the Venezuela Government. For a description of these stamps see THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 36, No. 1, p. 5.

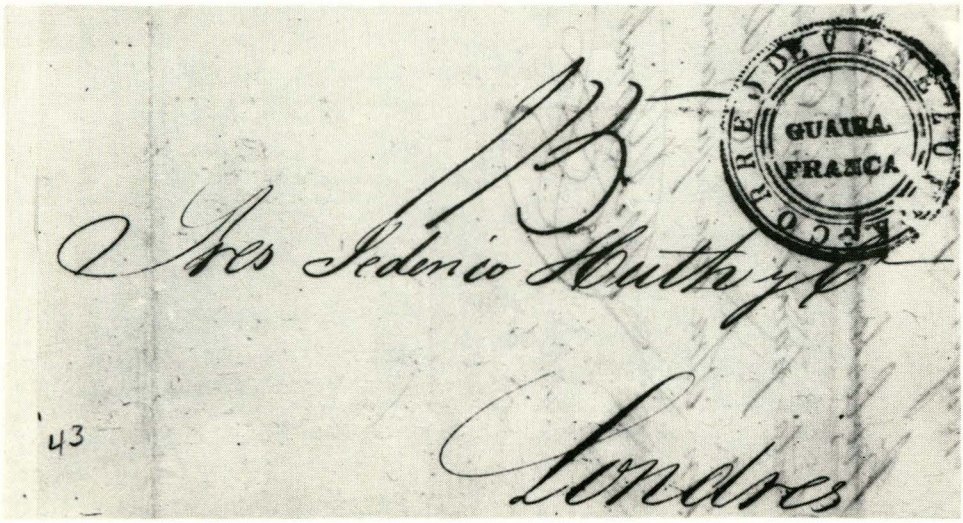


Fig. 3. LaGuaira Double Circle, Type A, in red on 1843 cover to London.

There are two distinct types of this mark, which we may call Types A and B respectively. In Type A there are *three* circles in the inner group, and two (or three) in the outer, one rather thin and the outermost usually thicker. The small ornament is directly under the center of the inner inscription. The diameter of the mark is about 34 mm.

In Type B, there are only *two* circles in the inner group, and the diameter of the whole mark is nearer 33 mm. As used in Caracas, the small ornament is well to the left of the center of the inner inscription. The La Guaira use is at once distinguished by the spelling of Guaira with a "Y", instead of an "I" as in Type A.

Early covers with the double circle postmark examined by the writer may be listed as follows:

Double Circle, Type A
Black

(La) Guaira Franca 1844 to London
(La) Guaira Franca 1849 to St. Thomas
(La) Guaira Franca 1849 to London
Caracas Franca 1846 to Bordeaux
Caracas Debe (18??) to La Guaira
Caracas Franca 1847 to London (three)
Caracas Franca 1849 to La Guaira
Caracas Franca 1849 to London
(with double oval black "Libre de Porte")
(See Fig. 5)

Red

(La) Guaira Franca 1843 to London
(La) Guaira Franca 1845 to London
(La) Guaira Franca 1845 to Paris
(La) Guaira Franca 1845 to Bordeaux
(La) Guaira Franca 1846 to London
(La) Guaira Franca 1847 to London
(Color nearer maroon than red)
(La) Guaira Franca 1847 to Bordeaux
(La) Guaira Franca 1847 to Paris

Type B

Black

Caracas Franca 1851 to Bordeaux
Caracas Franca 1854 to Paris
(La) Guayra Franca 1850 to London
(La) Guayra Franca 1852 to Bordeaux
(La) Guayra Franca 1853 to Marseille
(La) Guayra Franca 1856 to Bordeaux

Evidently Type A was used in the 1840's, and was succeeded about 1850 by Type B, which was used during the next decade. No double circle of either type in red, blue, or green was used in Caracas, so far as now known. Caracas stuck to black, but La Guayra had a leaning to colors.

This postmark, Type B, was also used as a cancellation after the introduction of stamps.



Fig. 4. Caracas Double Circle, Type B, on 1851 cover to Bordeaux via England.

The Caracas Libre De Porte

By 1849 Caracas had a large handstamp in black in the form of a double oval. Each oval consists of two lines set close together. Between the ovals appear the words "CORREO DE VENEZUELA" and star, while within the smaller oval are the words "CARACAS—LIBRE DE PORTE". The whole marking is 45 mm. by 24 mm.

The only examples of this mark known to the writer are in black on covers to London in 1849 and 1850. The use of this mark could not have been extensive.

The Dated Town Mark

In 1845 or possibly earlier, a dated postmark was in use. This was in circular form, the name of the town and two short curved lines being set up to form a circle or ring, with the month, day, and year appearing in the center. In one of the later Porto Cabello covers, the year comes first, the month and day following. In all others examined, the month and day come first and then the year. This mark has been seen in red as a backstamp on an 1845 Porto Cabello cover and in red (1) and green (1) on two 1849 La Guaira covers, all to London. It has been



Fig. 5. Caracas Double Oval on 1849 Cover to London.

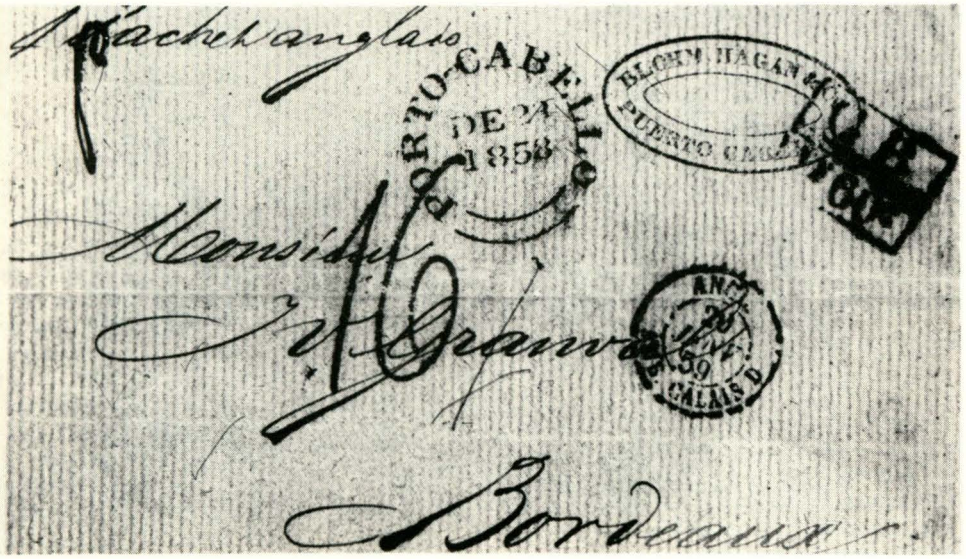


Fig. 6. Dated "Porto Cabello" on 1858 cover to Bordeaux.

seen also in black as a postmark on 1858 and 1859 covers to Bordeaux from Porto Cabello by British ship. Because of the difference in length of the names of the two ports, the curved lines are longer in the mark as used at La Guaira.

The similarity of this mark to certain early British postmarks especially some of those used abroad will be noticed at once by all students of British postmarks. British postal agencies existed at Porto Cabello and La Guaira and the postmark was used for ship letters to England and the Continent.

The Weight or Rate Numerals

To the collector of early Venezuela stamps, the numeral marks found on used specimens, are among the most interesting features of used Venezuela. As students of this fascinating country know, all issues up to 1880, and especially the first issues, are found from time to time cancelled with a heavy numeral.



Fig. 7. 1846 Cover with Venezuelan numerals "½".

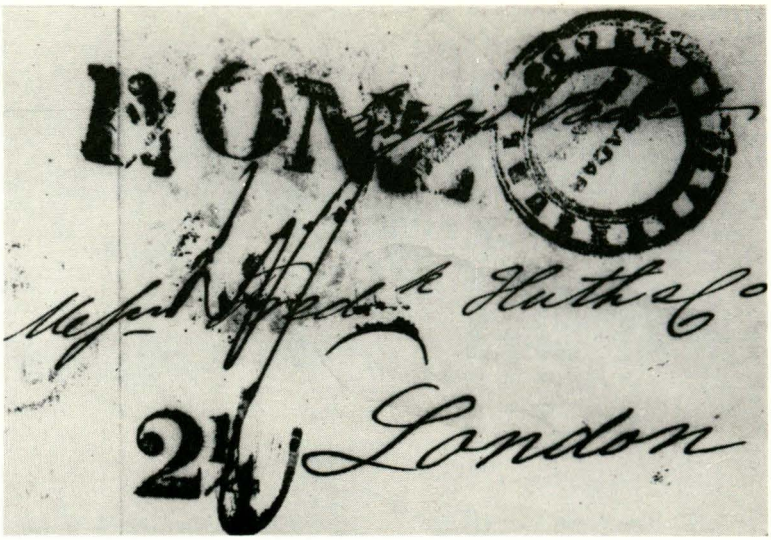


Fig. 8. 1847 Caracas Cover to London with Venezuela Numerals.

This is sometimes in black, sometimes in color. What is the meaning of this odd cancellation?

It has been said in explanation that when the first issue of Venezuela stamps appeared in 1859, few towns in Venezuela had cancelling devices and that the weight or rate marks were therefore employed to cancel the stamps. Yet, as we have seen, the principal towns and ports, such as Caracas, La Guaira and Porto Cabello had been using handstamped postmarks for many years and could doubtless continue their use *until they were supplied with new devices.* The large double circle postmarks were still in use at Caracas and La Guaira in the late 1850's. New postmarks for cancelling came into being in 1859. Possibly a more likely explanation is that some of the smaller towns or post offices had only these rate or weight marks, and so used them until cancelling devices were somewhat tardily supplied. But they were also used at Porto Cabello, as the writer has examined a Porto Cabello cover to Valencia with the medio real yellow of the coarse impression (1859) cancelled with a black "O".

The earliest pre-stamp cover seen by the writer with the Venezuela numeral is one from Caracas to Bordeaux in 1846. From that time on the use is frequent. The 1846 cover is postmarked with the Caracas Franca double circle, Type A, in black. It bears also the "Colonies" mark, the Boulogne French entry mark, and the French numeral 20. The Venezuela numerals are "½" in black.

Prestamp covers with Venezuelan numerals formerly in the writer's collection were as follows:

From Caracas

1846 to Bordeaux "½"
1847 to London "1½ ONZ" and "2"
1847 to London "1¾ ONZ" and "2¼"
1847 to London "1 ONZ" and "1¼"
1849 to London "1 ONZ" and "1¼"
1849 to La Guaira "½"
1849 to London "¾ ONZ" and "1"
1850 to London, "¾ ONZ" (Note 3)
1850 to London "1 ONZ"
1851 to Bordeaux "2"
1854 to Paris "½ ONZ" and "3" (Note 4)
1857 to Bordeaux "2"

From La Guaira

1849 to St. Thomas "10" (1 ONZ)
1849 to London "½ ONZ"
1852 to Bordeaux "2" (two)
1852 to Marseille "2"
1853 to Marseille "2"

[3] The numerals appear sideways on this cover.
[4] The "½" appears sideways.

1855 to Marseille "2"
1856 to Bordeaux "2"
1858 to Bordeaux "4"

From Barquisimeto

18(45-9?) to Caracas "1½" (in red)

The frequent use of the numeral "2" after 1850 on covers to the continent indicates its use as a rate mark (or possibly a route mark), as the covers themselves give no sign of being more than ordinary weight. The earlier marks with the word "ONZ" (ounce) must be weight, or combined weight and rate marks.

Where two sets of numerals appear, as in the 1847 Caracas cover to London, the second is believed to be either a correction, or a rate mark.

A point of interest and possible value is that no numerals between numbers 5 and 9 appear, during the pre-stamp period, on any covers seen by the writer. Nevertheless, these missing numbers—i. e., 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9—as well as the other numerals, are all found used as cancellations on stamps of the first issues.

It seems probable, therefore, that while only the more important post offices in Venezuela had regular postmarks, many post offices were equipped with numeral handstamps to mark the weight of the letter or other material passing through the mails, or the rate to be applied to the particular transit.

So they were occasionally used from 1859 on, principally in those offices which had no postmarks, or alternatively with them, where they existed, and this use continued until 1880 and possibly later, although stamps with the true numeral cancellation become progressively scarcer after the first issues of stamps.

A few numerals appear in blue or red when used as cancellations for stamps. The zero (which is the "O" of "ONZ") is not uncommon in blue and is also known in red. The "2", "2½", "6" and "8" are known in blue as cancellations, although they are rare in this color. During the pre-stamp period, no numerals have been seen except in black, with the one exception noted.

Business Corner Card Handstamps

The use of business corner card handstamps was common. The earliest seen on

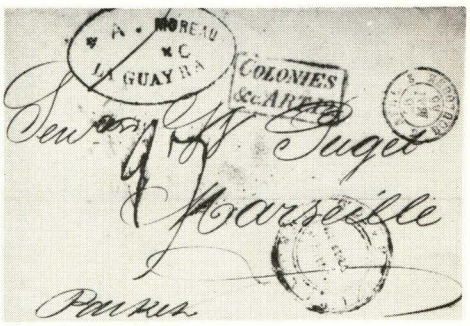


Fig. 9. 1845 La Guaira Cover with Handstamp of A. Moreau.

stampless covers is that of A. Moreau of La Guaira in 1845. This consists of an oval frame with the words "A. Moreau C - La Guayra', and two small decorations, all in blue. It is evidently a handstamp, and is the forerunner of many similar marks, some of which were used in later years to cancel or pre-cancel fiscal stamps.

The following commercial handstamps on pre-stamp covers have been noted:

La Guaira

A Moreau—Blue oval with names of firm and town. 1845
Louis Depeton—Double oval in green with names of firm and town. 1856
Luis F. Garcia—Double oval in black with names of firm and town. 1858

Porto Cabello

A. Bielenberg & Co.—Double oval in blue with names of firm and town. 1847
Pascal Chartier & Cie.—Similar. 1852
Chartier Y Roo—Similar. 1854
Rafael Calzadilla E Hijos—Similar in green. 1857
Rafael Calzadilla E Hijos—Same in dark green. 1858
H. Lange & Co.—Similar in greenish blue. 1859
Blohm Hagan & Co.—Similar in blue. 1859

Caracas

E. Henriques—Similar in blue. 1857

These commercial markings are not all precisely the same in size, shape or arrangement. But they are generally similar to each other and suggest a common custom.



Fig. 10. 1819 La Guaira cover with "Southampton Ship Letter".

Foreign Marks on Venezuela Covers

Various foreign marks are found on the mail sent abroad. These include hand-stamped and manuscript markings. They are not Venezuela postmarks or cancellations, but as they are found on Venezuela covers and some are found "cancelling" stamps in later years, a brief account should be given.

Southampton Ship Letter

An 1819 folded letter from La Guaira, addressed to Messrs. F. Huth & Co., London, is hand-stamped with the words "SOUTHHAMPTON—SHIP LETTER" in a plain rectangular frame. The cover also shows portions of the La Guayra, Republic of Colombia, postmark, and a British manuscript "4/3" (four shillings three pence). This is the only Venezuela cover bearing this ship letter mark known to the writer.



Fig. 11. 1831 Caracas cover to Bordeaux with "Pays d'Outremer".

"Pays d'Outremer"

A Caracas folded letter of 1831 to Bordeaux is stamped in black with the words "PAYS D'OUTREMER—PAR BORDEAUX" enclosed in a plain rectangular frame. This is the only Venezuela cover known to the writer with this mark.[5]

French Double Circles

Covers for France arriving at Boulogne or Calais were stamped with a small double circle with the name of the French port of entry and the nationality of the packet—i. e., ANGL(AIS), in the case of mail transported by British packet. These marks are often of great value, as they not only show the name of the port and the nationality of the packet, but are also dated, the day, month and year appearing within the inner circle.

These marks are in red or black. They were in use at least as early as 1842. Yvert dates them from 1839. The red color appears to have been used at first, as the black has not been seen before 1852. Use continued for many years.[6]

The well known octagonal French packet postmark has not been seen on any Venezuela covers prior to 1859.

[5] Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postale de France etc., Yvert & Cie. 1929, p. 406.

[6] A different wording was sometimes used to read AMB. CALAIS, etc., and omitting the figures "2" and "3".



Fig. 12. French Double Circle on 1844 La Guaira Cover to Bordeaux.

"Colonies" Mark.

On many letters from La Guaira, Caracas, and Porto Cabello addressed to France during the period from 1844 to 1856, there appears a handstamp in red, consisting of a rectangle enclosing the words "COLONIES —&c ART. 13". On La Guaira covers the reference is sometimes to "ART. 12" or "ART. 18" (a cover to Bordeaux). The references to "ART. 13", etc., are doubtless to the articles of agreement between the British and French governments with respect to the carriage of the mails, entered into in 1843.

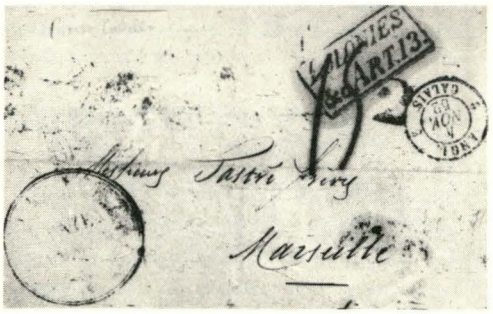


Fig. 13. 1852 La Guaira Cover to Marseilles with "Colonies" Mark.

The Partition Mark

The partition mark was used to indicate the partition of rates based on the bulk of letters, according to the agreement between Great Britain and France. It is common and well known on covers of the period of stamps. It was in use, however, and appears on Venezuela pre-stamp covers by British packet to Bordeaux via England and Calais dated 1857, and later dates. These covers are from Caracas, La Guaira, and Porto Cabello. The partition mark is a rectangle with two parallel lines across the length, dividing it into two small rectangles. In the upper part are the letters "G B", and in the lower "1F60c". (See Fig. 6). The color is black.[7]

[7] See Hennan and Jewell, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST for January 1951, p. 55.

The 1F60c was the *rate* for accounting between Great Britain and France per unit of 30 grammes (almost equal to one ounce) for handling in bulk mail destined for France via Great Britain. It was not an indication of the postage due by the recipient of a stampless letter.

"Yndias" Straight-line

The mark was obligatory on mail from the Spanish Carribbean area, due to a royal decree of August 26, 1764, by King Carlos III of Spain. It is found on three covers from Venezuela examined by the writer, all from La Guaira to Spain in the 1840's. The mark is in red in capital letters and in one case reads "DE YNDIAS". The others lack the

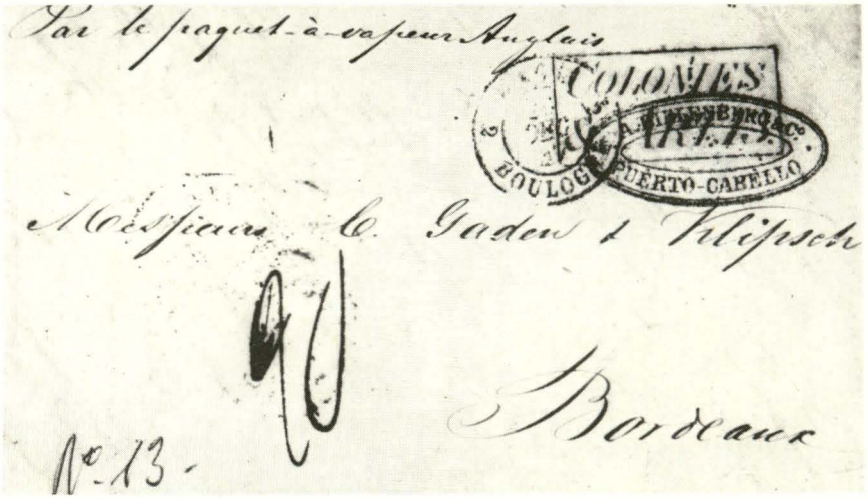


Fig. 14. 1847 Venezuela Cover with French and Venezuela Numerals.

"DE". All three bear also Spanish rate marks in red. Probably these covers went to Spain via Porto Rico, Cuba or other Spanish possessions, where the covers were marked. Venezuela, of course, had long ceased to be a Spanish possession.

"Islas de Barlovento" (Windward Islands)

This postmark in red capital letters is also rarely found on Venezuela covers to Spain. The writer has examined two such covers from La Guaira to Bilbao. Both letters are dated in 1846, and both covers bear Spanish rate marks, also in red.

Manuscript or Handstamped Foreign Numerals.

Foreign numerals in black appear on pre-stamp covers in the mails to Europe from an early date. These are usually true manuscript in the case of letters to Great Britain. But the great majority of the covers to France are handstamped with manuscript-appearing numerals, usually 8, 10, 16, etc., beginning in the 1850's. They are easily distinguished from the heavy Venezuela numerals by their likeness to manuscript numerals.

a. *Mail to France.* Letters addressed to Bordeaux, Paris, or Marseilles during the 1830's, 40's, and 50's, were often carried by British packets and moved via Southampton or London, and thence via Calais or Boulogne. A few proceeded to the French port of St. Nazaire. Doubtless there were other routes, but these seem to have been the principal routings.

The French numerals appear to be in two categories, namely manuscript numerals or handstamp in the form of manuscript during the earlier period, and handstamped in better form from about 1857, or possibly earlier. The latter look like manuscript, but are all alike, that is, without the variations shown by true manuscript markings, and they are in better shape or form.

Common numerals during the earlier period are as follows: 20; 15; meaning 20 decimes (2 francs) and 15 decimes (1 franc 50 centimes) respectively.[8]

A few covers to France have other numerals. The 1831 cover to Bordeaux (Fig. 11) shows only a manuscript 2, which is probably in error for 20 decimes, the "O" being omitted. The 1845 La Guaira cover to Marseilles (Fig. 9) is marked 27, meaning 2 francs 7 decimes. An 1854 Caracas cover to Paris is marked 45, presumably meaning four francs 5 decimes (4½ francs).[9]

[8] See Yvert catalog, p. 73, referred to in Note 5.

[9] In French manuscript of the period, a 4 was written like a manuscript capital N, and a 2 sometimes resembles our 9. The French 9 was usually somewhat humbacked and with a straight tail, whereas the tail of the 2 was usually bent or curved.

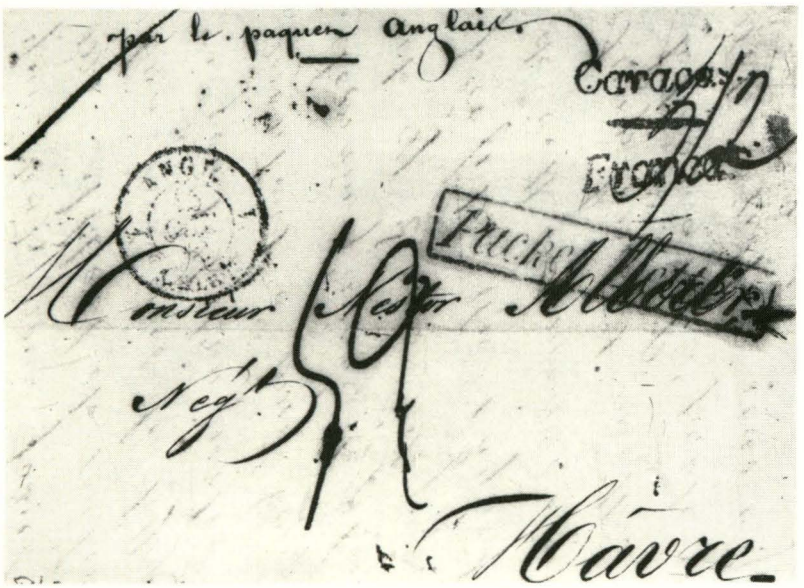


Fig. 15. 1842 Caracas cover to Le Havre, showing both English and French numera's and Caracas Franca.

A most interesting Caracas cover to Le Havre by English packet to England and thence via Calais has both the English manuscript "3/2" and the French manuscript "52" (52 decimes). It is also marked with a handstamped "Packet Letter" in red, and must have been carried by an expensive ship. It is important to note that the cover was marked "Franca" in Caracas.

The second category of French numerals on Venezuela covers to France begins at least as early as 1857. These are handstamped on the cover, and the numerals examined are 8, 10, 12, 16, and 24. As they refer to decimes, the meaning is 80 centimes, 1 franc, 1 franc 20 centimes, 1 franc 60 centimes, and 2 francs 40 centimes respectively. Covers from 1857 to 1879 formerly in the writer's collection, including several covers franked with La Guaira "local" stamps, bear one or another of these numerals.

b. *Mail to Great Britain.* The stampless cover to London from La Guaira, dated 1819, stamped "Southampton Ship Letter" (Fig. 10), shows the mark "4/3" in large black manuscript. Covers to Great Britain of several dates in the 1820's and 1830's often show a manuscript "3/". These were carried from South America by English packet. Several of these covers bear Colombia postmarks for La Guaira, as they were mailed before Venezuela separated from Colombia, or before La Guaira ceased using this postmark. Covers to London dated in the early 1840's are usually marked "2/3"—i.e., 2 shillings 3 pence—but by 1847 the rate must have been lowered, for similar covers to London in that year and in 1848, 1849, and 1850, from Caracas and La Guaira by English packet are marked "2/"—i. e., 2 shillings. This was apparently unaffected by small variations in weight, since the Venezuelan weight marks stamped on these covers include "¾ ONZ", "1 ONZ", "1 ONZ (and) 1¼", and "1¾



Fig. 16. 1859 Porto Cabello cover to Bordeaux showing handstamped French numeral "16" (1 franc 60 centimes).



Fig. 17. 1850 Caracas Cover to London with English Manuscript Numeral "2/".

ONZ" (and) "2¼ ONZ". An 1843 cover is known, however, marked "1/5", and an 1847 cover to London showing Venezuelan marks of "1½ ONZ (and) 2" bears the English manuscript "4/"—i. e., 4 shillings.

These English marks are in true manuscript and therefore vary from each other as much as the handwritings of different people may vary.

Stampless Covers After 1859

The forwarding of foreign mail by stampless covers continued for nearly twenty years after the first issue of Venezuela stamps. The early issues of stamps were in comparatively small numbers, and for at least one period no stamps were available other than the first Escuelas issues.[10] Stamps were something of a novelty and the La Guaira "locals" were not government issue, although authorized, and in any event were only designed to prepay postage part way. These conditions undoubtedly contributed to the fact that we find stampless covers in use as late as 1880, and an occasional occurrence even later. We also find British stamps used on Venezuela letters carried by British ships from 1869 to 1879, and French stamps on Venezuela covers via French packet to Europe during much the same period. While earlier issues began to have their effect, it was not until the 1880 'correos' issue of Venezuela stamps, which were specifically designed for the payment of postage on letters to be sent abroad, as well as for general use, that the number of Venezuela stampless covers in the foreign mails really dwindled away.

During the period between 1859 and 1879, the foreign marks are much the same as in the earlier period. The French numerals continued (of the second category). Stampless mail to England was still marked with a manuscript, for instance, "1/-"—i. e., one shilling—as shown by two 1877 covers from Ciudad Bolivar to London. The "G.B." partition mark was still in use in 1867.

But a rapid change in the postmarks is to be noted. More mail to the continent was carried by French packets. The well known octagonal French packet dated postmark appears in 1867 and succeeding years. The new La Guaira single lined blue or black cancellation comes into use, as well as other Venezuelan cancellations. The older Venezuela postmarks are rarely found after 1859. They were replaced by the devices ushered in by the age of adhesive stamps.

[10] March, 1871 to August, 1873.

THE CLUBHOUSE

Meeting of September 18, 1957

U. S. 20th Century Member Competition

The 1957-58 second half portion of the regular twice-a-month programs opened with a competitive display and talks on the United States Twentieth Century stamps.

Five members considered their material of sufficient interest for presentation. *Mrs. Rose C. Reiner, Mr. Ira Seebacher, Mrs. Rae D. Ehrenberg, Mr. Henry M. Goodkind* and *Dr. Stephen G. Rich* participated in the competition.

Mr. Harrison D. S. Haverbeck who presided, appointed Miss Ethel Harper and Messrs. Julian Gros and Malcolm G. O'Reilly to judge the competition.

Mrs. Reiner displayed two frames of commemorative stamps on First Day covers commencing with the Hawaii commemorative issue of 1928 and continuing through subsequent years. Many of the covers were of family association as well as philatelic interest, having been addressed to her late husband Mr. I. G. Reiner, a man well-known for his philatelic interests.

Mr. Ira Seebacher, the renowned proponent of topical collecting, specifically sports on stamps — the games not the individuals — selected the Federal Duck Hunting Permit stamps for his showing. He pointed out that the central design of these stamps were decided by an open artist's competition, not the usual approach to current United States stamp designs. The first thirteen Duck stamps were shown, starting with the 1934 issue designed by Mr. J. N. Darling and continuing through 1946 of which Mr. Robert W. Hines was the artist. A complete series of plate number singles, or sheet margin copies with the plate number printed on the adjoining selvage, were in the frames. All four positions for every plate were shown. From 1945 on the reverse of these stamps were printed with an instructional inscription, which also has a plate number. This plate has a number in only one position. The outstanding item in Mr. Seebacher's display was an imperforate pair of the 1934 Duck stamp of which only 28 are reported to exist. Issued during the Farley Postmastership they are akin to the special series which now bear his name that a number of collectors hold with infamous association rather than revered respect.

Mrs. Ehrenberg displayed the imperforate issues of the postage series commencing with 1906 and ending with 1923 2-cent Harding Memorial. The Farley imperforates of 1935 were omitted from her competing exhibit due to lack of display space. The 1908 5-cent blue Lincoln imperforate was represented by a block of four. Mrs. Ehrenberg's story of its acquisition prompted Mr. Alan Fernald to relate the good fortune of the Detroit Stamp Club the members of which had some 1600 copies pro-rated among them at face value in the early 1900's.

The other imperforates, with the exception of the 1906 4-cent value, which exists only with Schermack type III private perforations, were presented in pairs or blocks. Some of the privately perforated values were included in the presentation to demonstrate the Post Office Department's reason for issuing these stamps in the imperforate state for use in vending machines.

Selected pages from a highly specialized collection of the 1928 5-cent "Beacon" air mail were shown by Mr. Goodkind. Prior to the actual presentation of his display he explained that as a philatelic investment (sic) this collection would never compare to the more popularly traded issues of today, but that for wealth of pleasure and interest it held no peer. Mr. Goodkind selected this stamp for two reasons: one, it was illustrative of the many problems inherent in the printing of a bi-colored stamp under the then contemporary professional printing conditions; two, the reason for this apparent incongruity—the mass production of a low face value stamp under difficult and expensive printing conditions. The latter incongruity he resolved by the explanation of its very inception. It was designed, printed and used

for the purpose of publicizing the low air mail rate and promote its wider public use. This premise was supported by the number of pieces in the collection cancelled with the slogan "Air Mail Saves Time".

In his display the examples of recuts, double transfers, the numbers of plates used, the gamut of various stamp sizes resulting from paper shrinkage, the many variations of perforation mutilation, and the range of shadings of reds and blues, were all indicative of the printing problems attendant to the preparation of the more than 106 millions of this stamp which were issued. Nor did Mr. Goodkind neglect the contemporary cancellations on the stamp. They too were displayed in detail.

At the conclusion of his presentation Mr. Goodkind gave a copy of his paper to this reporter. If only this would establish a precedent.

Dr. Rich had selected coils for his exhibit. Commencing with the issues of 1923 and terminating with the 3 and 6 cents coils issued in 1932, his display included not only the normal stamp, but starting tapes and ending trailers as well. Where available he included the grossly off-centered examples showing part of the plate number. An example of the non-removal of a rejected strip of the 3 cent Stuart coil was also shown.

Mr. Rich has attempted to obtain examples of all types of precancelling on these coils. The Bureau and City types and their major variations as stereo joins, etc. were well represented. But the Mail-order-precancelled copies have proven elusive and Dr. Rich regretted that he did not have examples of each. Dr. Rich expressed the pleasure that he too had derived from forming this collection of what he modestly called "wastebasket" material.

In announcing the awards for the competition, the judges explained that while they had decided to limit the awards to two certificates rather than the usual three, they did not wish to depreciate the quality of the other exhibits nor to detract from the philatelic presentation of all the exhibitors, but instead, wished to enhance the appreciation of two awards which they made.

This reporter, as spokesman for the three judges, made the announcement as follows:

FIRST AWARD: *Imperforate Postal Issues* (Mrs. Rae Ehrenberg).

SECOND AWARD: *1928 5-cent Beacon Air Mail* (Henry M. Goodkind)

Certificates signed by the judges were presented to the winning exhibitors as the meeting closed. (*M. G. O'Reilly*)

Meeting of October 2, 1957

Colombia Cubiertas and States

A full house heard *our President, Lieutenant General C. W. Wickersham,* describe his newly acquired collection of Colombia Cubiertas and States, and show selections from the collection which filled all the frames. He explained that as a boy the insured letter stamps of Colombia had attracted his attention, and that after disposing of his Venezuela collection, which had been shown at the Club in past years and was the basis of his articles in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST and of a handbook soon to be published, he decided to form a collection of the Colombian Cubiertas and States. He stated that he had been fortunate in obtaining the whole stock of a former dealer, as well as other collections and lots, and that this must be regarded as a "beginners" 19th Century collection. A good beginning!

General Wickersham then gave a brief outline of the history of Colombia in the last century, noting that before 1810, when Spanish rule was ended, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador formed the State of Greater Colombia, under the dominion of Spain. In 1830-32 they split into separate countries, and what is now Colombia (including Panama) became the Republic of New Granada, changing its name in 1858 to the Granadine Confederation. Three years later, this was changed to the United States of New Grenada, and in a few months to "Estados Unidos", the United States of Colombia, which it remained until 1885, when the name of The Republic of Colombia was adopted.

He then turned to the frames showing the Cubiertas—insured letter stamps—the largest stamps known to philately and the only ones with such combined characteristics—postal, insurance, and seals. All denominations, unused and used, of the issues from 1865 to 1892-93, were shown.

In the 1865 issue the yellow blue and rose colors in the national flag were hand-painted.

A very small imprint below the inner frame line reads "Lit. de Ayala i Medrano—Bogota, 1865", showing that these Cubiertas were lithographed by Ayala and Medrano of Bogota. The 25c denomination reads "Certificacion sin contenido", i. e. certificate without contents, whereas the 50c denomination reads "Certificacion con contenido", certificate with contents. Both denominations are dated "186 _", and a used copy was shown where the date of use was August 14, 1865.

The second issue, 1867, consists only of the 50c denomination with a new design. The flag, whose colors of yellow, blue and rose, are again handpainted, flies to the west, instead of to the east as in the first issue. The lettering inscriptions, ornaments etc. are in black, instead of brown and yellow. The certificate is "con contenido", with contents, and the date 186__ as before. The imprint reads "Lit. de Ayala, Bogota". Unused specimens, and used dated 1872 and 1873 were shown.

In the 1870 50c, where the yellow, blue and red colors of the banner, a new design, were not handpainted, two full covers were shown, with adhesive Colombian stamps on the front, and the Cubiertas on the reverse, held to the cover by wax seals at each corner. One is from Ibaque to Bogota, dated April 23rd, 1875 for 130 pesos with the 10c 1874 adhesive, and the other from Ibaque to Honda with the 5c 1870 stamp.

The later printings of this Cubierta were also shown including the 1877 ("Centavos" without white shading), 1879 with "Colombia" and "Cinquenta" on colored ground, 1880 with printed date "18__" instead of "187__", and the watermarked ribbed papers. General Wickersham said that the so-called 1879 printing might be in fact earlier, as one used specimen shown was dated 1878 and another on full cover was dated 1875.

Later issues showed the change from "Estados Unidos" to "Republica" in 1887. He showed the bluish papers, a 1 peso of 1890 on cover, and in the new design on colored paper (except for the higher values) the "PESOS" error of the 1 peso vermilion unused and used. The latter, on piece, was for the transmission of 700 pesos from Bogota.

In the 1892-93 issues, with "Republica de Colombia" in straight line panels, which were shown used and unused, the imprint below the bottom frame line reads "Villaveces - Bogota", thus giving the name of the printer of these stamps. Among others the 20c error on salmon buff (instead of yellow) and the 50c error on buff (instead of green) were noted.

After the Cubiertas, General Wickersham turned to the adhesives of the states and the Tolima cubiertas. He explained that before the re-organization of the government in 1885, the sovereign states composing the nation, exercised almost full rights of sovereignty, and that for some years afterwards they continued to issue their own stamps and to operate their own postal systems as departments. All of the stamps shown were lithographed except the type-set and handstamped issues, and except for the 5 and 10 pesos of the Bolivar 1882 issue which were engraved.

A large number of full sheets were shown. In Antioquia, these included several of the 1889-90 issue, and a full sheet of the 5c red on yellow of the typeset 1888 Medellin issue. Various errors of color and imperfs of the 1889-90 were included as well as earlier stamps of this state.

The Bolivar issues were especially well represented, starting with the 10c green of the first issue (1863) used on piece. This is the smallest adhesive stamp in philately and a classic rarity. Thus the exhibit included both the smallest and the largest stamps known. A number of the 10c red, unused and used were shown, and unused blocks of four and six of the 1 peso.

The 1879 and 1880 issues included a number of stamps on the bluish laid papers, blocks of the stamps imperforate, a block of four of the 10c 1880 printed on both sides, and specimens of the 20c error of color, green, of the two issues.

Full sheets of all denominations of the 1882 issue of Cundinamarca highlighted the showing for this state. Full sheets of the 5c blue of the next issue, both the ordinary and the re-drawn, were there, as well as large blocks of the 1886 stamps.

In Santander full sheets of the first six stamps issued by the state were particularly noticeable. On the sheet of 100 of the 10c red violet of 1886 the "CINCO CENTA-

VOS" error (instead of "DIEZ") appeared in two positions, namely Nos. 11 and 26 in the plate. The sheets of all three of the 1c, 5c and 10c of this issue in the collection have nine stamps side-ways, constituting the bottom row.

Several of the Tolima items require mention. The typeset stamps of the first issue (1870) included a vertical strip of three, the two upper being the 5c denomination and the bottom stamp the 10c, a vertical pair of the 10c, a vertical strip of five of the 5c on blue, and a 5c on quadrille. The white wove and the buff papers were represented as well as the blue and blue quadrille.

Besides various large blocks of the later issues, and Eagles with short or long wings, some imperforate, General Wickersham showed full sheets of 100 of all denominations of the 1884 issue, including the 10 pesos, the sheet of the 2 pesos showing the "value omitted" variety in five positions, namely the last five stamps in the sixth horizontal row.

Finally, the Tolima Cubiertas rounded out the exhibit. This part of the collection was strong in the tri-colored early stamps including the "187 _ " and "18 _ " dates; lithographed by Paredes of Bogota, and a vertical strip of 3 of the 10c of the later tri-colored issue, with the "188 _ " date. The 50c vermilion of 1886 with accents over the "A" and last "I" of "Certificacion", among others were in the collection.

All told the exhibit covered an interesting field with many items not often seen by collectors, the full sheets and large blocks being particularly rare and effective in appearance. As usual in the case of General Wickersham's collections, condition was given special attention, as well as the mounting and written descriptions of the stamps.

As a "beginners" collection, the exhibit aroused a great deal of interest and later discussion on the part of the audience, which included two ladies from Colombia, three gentlemen from Argentina, a philatelist from Japan, a member from Denver, Colorado, and many others.

At the Board of Governors meeting held on September 25th, 1957, the following new members were elected:

4500 Nicholas A. Georgantas, New York, N. Y. Collects Greece, U. S. Plate blocks.

4501 Bernard Ring, Brooklyn, N. Y. Collects Dutch Indies, Japan.

4502 William A. Wilkinson, Norwich, Conn. Collects United States, Great Britain and Colonies.

4503 Samuel J. Hecht, Philadelphia, Pa. Collects Israel, Vatican, Egypt, United States.

4504 Rear Admiral Leo A. Bachman, USN (Ret.), Vienna, Va. Collects Latin America before 1946, Chaco War.

4505 Dr. Grosvenor W. Bissell, Buffalo, N. Y. Collects India, Convention and Native Indian States, Indian Revenues, Early Indian Cancellations, India Used Abroad.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 1958, Volume II. Scott Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y.

Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad, Part I, Constantinople, The Danubian Principalities, Bulgaria and Roumelia, by S. D. Tchilinghirian and W. S. E. Stephen. Publication of The British Society of Russian Philately, Bristol, England. Gift of the authors.

Specialise Berck Catalogue France, Colonies Generales, 16th Edition, 1849-1958. Ed. Berck, Paris, France. (French)

United Nations Stamps of the World by Fred F. Breidenbach and Edgar H. B. Parkin. Published by the American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Gift of Mr. Edgar H. B. Parkin.

Catalogue des Marques et Obliterations de la Poste Maritime Francaise. Photo copy. Presented by The Study Circle of the French Colonies (General Issues). (French)

Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue 1958, Part I. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

The Case of the Premieres Gravures of 1861 by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from The Essay-Proof Journal. Gift of the author.

(Continued On Page 293)

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS

A Postscript

By EUGENE V. CONNETT 3rd

It has been my observation that the published word is more permanent than a tombstone—an unhappy fact that many a writer has discovered to his dismay. However, in spite of its dangers, the published word can and often does bring to light much additional knowledge in its wake. Since the appearance of my article on the Maldives,* I have received further information from several parts of the world. Believing that it may be of some interest to record the new pieces of enlightenment that have come my way, I am adding this postscript to the original article.

Perhaps I may add a rather shocking remark: my correspondence indicates that far too many readers of this sedate journal seem to be interested in the Maldive Islands for themselves, as well as in the purely philatelic aspects of these exotic atolls. Therefore I feel justified in pandering to these lower instincts of some of my readers to a certain extent.

In view of the fact that the Maldives have recently made the front page of the New York papers, in regard to the new airfield which the British are activating on the island of Gan at Attu Atoll, which will be a stop on the Africa-Australia jump of British air liners, I quote a few lines from the *Commonwealth Survey—A Record of United Kingdom and Commonwealth Affairs,* issued by the Central Office of Information, London. "The islands have long enjoyed the protection of the United Kingdom. . . . When in 1948 Ceylon became a sovereign state within the Commonwealth, a new agreement was signed between the Sultan and the United Kingdom Government. This provided that the islands should remain under the protection of the Crown, that their external affairs should be conducted by, or in accordance with the advice of, the United Kingdom Government, that the United Kingdom Government should refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of the islands, and that the Sultan should afford such facilities for HM Forces as were necessary for the defence of the islands or of the Commonwealth. A new agreement between the United Kingdom and the Maldivian Government, reaffirming the provisions of the 1948 agreement, was signed on 1st January 1953". Having buttoned up the present state of affairs, officially, let us turn to some matters philatelic.

In a letter dated February 25, 1957, Flt. Lt. Frank H. Skinner, R. A. F., stationed at Negombo, Ceylon, writes me that there is no F. P. O. on Gan, and that all mail is flown to Colombo by R. A. F. aircraft and mailed from there.

The 2c Overprinted Issue of 1906

In my previous article I noted that the first printing of the 2c denomination of the overprinted issue of 1906 was red brown, and that the second printing was orange brown. This information was taken from contemporary writings in the philatelic press in England.

The regular Ceylon issue of 1904-5 was used for overprinting the 1906 Maldivian stamps, and the 2c color was red brown. It was not until 1911 that the orange brown 2c value of Ceylonese stamps appeared, so it is obvious that the latter could not have been overprinted in 1906. If I had realized this sooner, I would not have spent two years seeking the 2c overprinted orange brown

* THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. 35, No. 6 (pp. 339-357).



Fig. 1. This cover is a somewhat unusual example of a foreign visitor using the presumably correct amount of postage on a letter to a country other than Ceylon or India.

stamp, which apparently does not exist. Gibbons No. 1 of the Maldives should be listed as red brown, not orange brown.

Now as to the 5c of the overprinted issue: this does exist in dull purple, as listed in Gibbons, and also in deep purple. I have both, so that establishes the fact. We may therefore assume that the listing of the deep purple in the contemporary press as being the second printing of the overprinted issue, is correct.

Postal Rates

In December 1955, two covers were mailed at Malé. The first was an unregistered air mail letter addressed to England, carrying 75 lares of the 1950 issue. This cover (Fig. 1) obviously not a philatelic cover, establishes the air rate from Malé to England.

The second cover was mailed by Lieut. Ronald G. Shelley, R.N., to himself in England, and was registered. He says: "The stamps on this cover were on sale and I bought most of the remaining stock. . . . The clerk at the Malé Post Office worked out that it would cost 1R 25 cents for me to send this envelope by registered mail—air mail from Colombo." This amounts to 125 lares or cents, and establishes the rate for a registered air mail letter via Colombo to England. (Fig. 2).

But the most unusual item in connection with this letter is shown in Fig. 3. It is the receipt for his registered letter given to Lieut. Shelley by the Malé post office clerk. The form is printed in black, with the details written in purple. This blank was torn from its stub along the right side, where it is perforated. I wonder how many of these registry receipts are reposing in collectors' albums?

The cover shown in Fig. 4 is interesting for two reasons: it shows the 10 lares rate of May 1952, and the unusual instance of

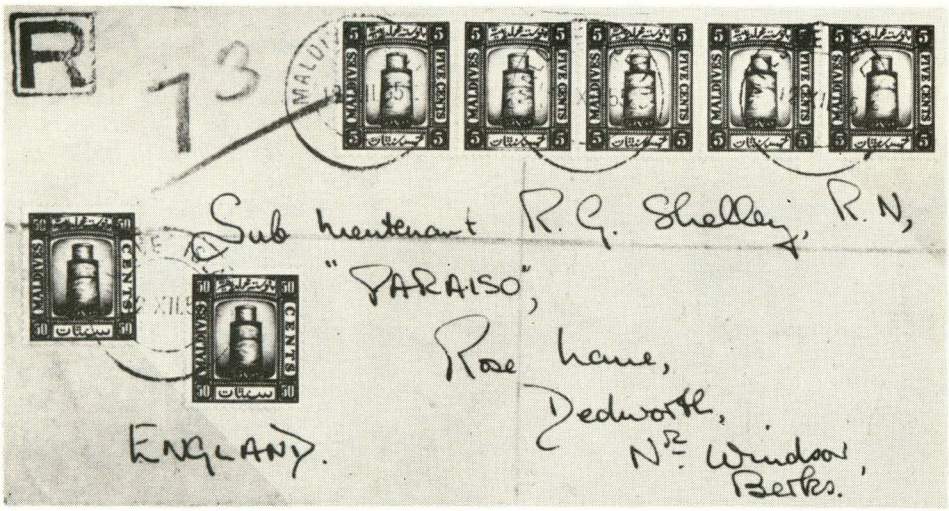


Fig. 2. Lieut. Shelley writes that "the stamps on this cover were on sale and I bought most of the remaining stock." He adds "the clerk at the Malé post office worked out that it would cost 1R 25 cents for me to send this envelope by registered mail—air mail from Colombo".

the postage stamp being placed on the front of the cover instead of in the customary position as a seal on the flap of the envelope, as shown on the cover in Fig. 5. This latter cover shows the 20 lares rate in July 1952. Up until now it was known that the change of rate from 10 to 20 lares took place "sometime before October 1952". These two covers show that the increase occurred sometime between May 19th and July 22nd of that year, a good example of how one patiently works out postal history problems through the study of covers.

Since my summary of the probable rates of postage in my first article, Mr. Gale J. Raymond has sent me two commercial covers dated 1916, which bear the 5 cent rate, so we know that this rate was in force at that time. It would be interesting to know of any further covers with this rate later than 1916, as well as covers bearing the 6 cent rate earlier than 1933, so that we might more closely pin point when these rates changed.

Registered Mail

In the previous article a registered cover dated January 31, 1910, addressed to Seabright, N. J. was shown. It carried two full sets of the 1909 issue, and was therefore open to suspicion of being "philatelic." In Fig. 6 is shown a registered cover dated September 18, 1909, addressed to New York and carrying 35 cents postage of the 1909 issue, as against 40 cents on the Seabright cover. In my opinion, the New York cover is less open to suspicion, but recalling my remarks about the dreadful permanency of the published word I shall leave it to the reader to decide which of these rates deserves precedence.

Mail from the Out Islands

A number of covers dated 1955 and 1956 carrying the 10 cent stamps of the 1909 De La Rue engraved issue have been accumulated. In several instances, it is obvious that the stamps were *glued* to the envelopes, the original gum probably having deteriorated in the humid climate of the Maldives. Apparently there was a surplus of this particular stamp on hand as late as 1956.

In this connection look at the cover in Fig. 7, from the collection of Mr. G. J. Raymond, and read the exceedingly interesting story of the mail from the out islands of the Maldives. It was written by Mr. H. L. N. Papenfus and appeared in the August 24, 1956 issue of the British weekly, *Stamp Collecting*.

"The Maldive Islands . . . with only one post office which is at Malé, have a very interesting way of dealing with mail from the outer islands of the group. In the larger of

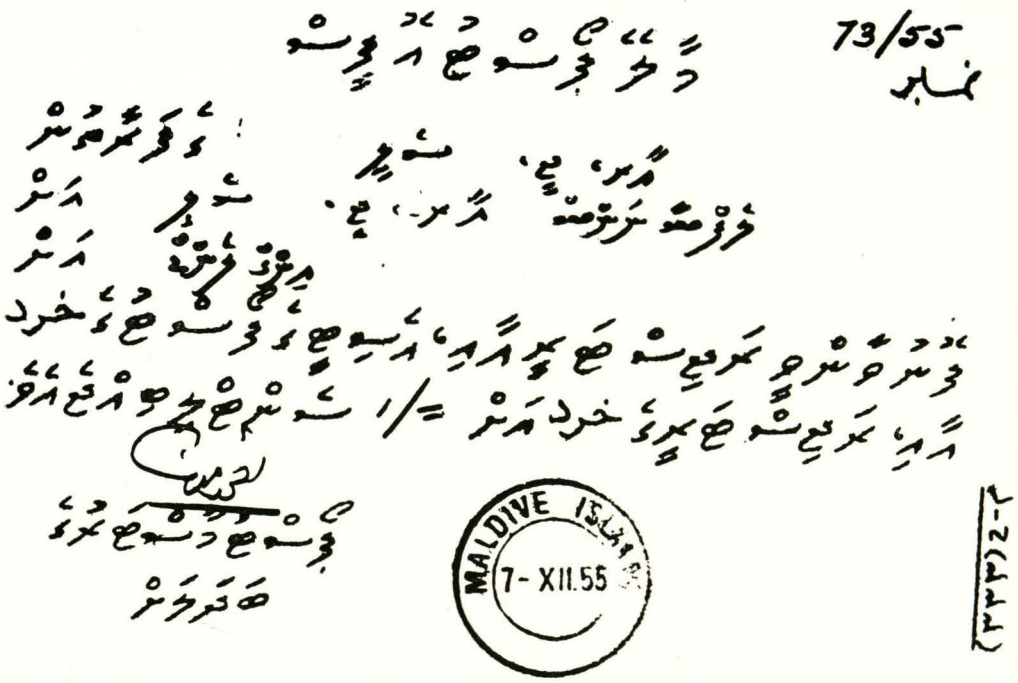


Fig. 3. This is the receipt for a registered letter which was given to Lieut. Shelley when he mailed the letter shown in Fig. 2.

these outer islands the Maldive postal department has agents who are supplied with a stock of stamps but with no hand stamp to cancel them. Stamps are affixed to any mail there is, which is then handed to the agent, who makes up the mail bag. This is probably sealed but not locked, and is handed to the master of the next sailing boat going either to Malé or Colombo.

"When the bag is sent to Malé it is handed over to the post office there and the mail cancelled with the 'MALDIVE ISLANDS' double-ring dated cancellation which, it will be noted, bears the name of the islands only. . . .

"Mail taken direct to Colombo seems to be dealt with in two different ways. The ship's master hands the mail bag over to the Colombo post office, where the stamps are cancelled by a blue or red pencil mark and the Colombo date-stamp applied alongside. (See Figure 7.) Covers exist with the date-stamp used to cancel the stamp and also with the stamps uncancelled but with the date-stamp alongside. The mail is then delivered by Colombo post office in the normal way. On many occasions when the ship's master cannot take the mail bag to the post office he hands it over to the ship's agent, who removes his own mail and distributes the rest himself. Mail dealt with in this way usually has the stamps uncancelled."

One of the reasons for the extraordinary prevalence of the 10 cent stamps of the 1909 issue on comparatively recent mail, may be that the agents in the out islands still have supplies of this stamp.

Mr. Raymond has furnished two covers mailed to Malé from the out islands. (Fig. 8) On one we see the 10 cent 1909 stamp. The rate within the Maldive Islands is obviously 10 larees; the cover bearing four 3 larees stamps is probably a case of the writer not having stamps of the correct denomination available, and unable to obtain them from the Atoll Chief—the local postal agent.

Maldivian Money

You may recall that in my first article it was mentioned that Lieut. R. G. Shelley, R.N. found a scant supply of paper money in circulation at Malé when he visited the islands in 1955. In a recent letter from Malta

he enclosed a ½ rupee Maldivian note, printed on a heavy parchment-like paper, which is reproduced in Fig. 9. Now that the British are busy making an airport at Gan, one would suspect that Maldivian money will definitely be superceded by British and Ceylonese currency. So it seems worthwhile to show this little known and well worn note. The notes of the same design get progressively larger as the values increase. The central design is similar to that on the 1950 issue of postage stamps.

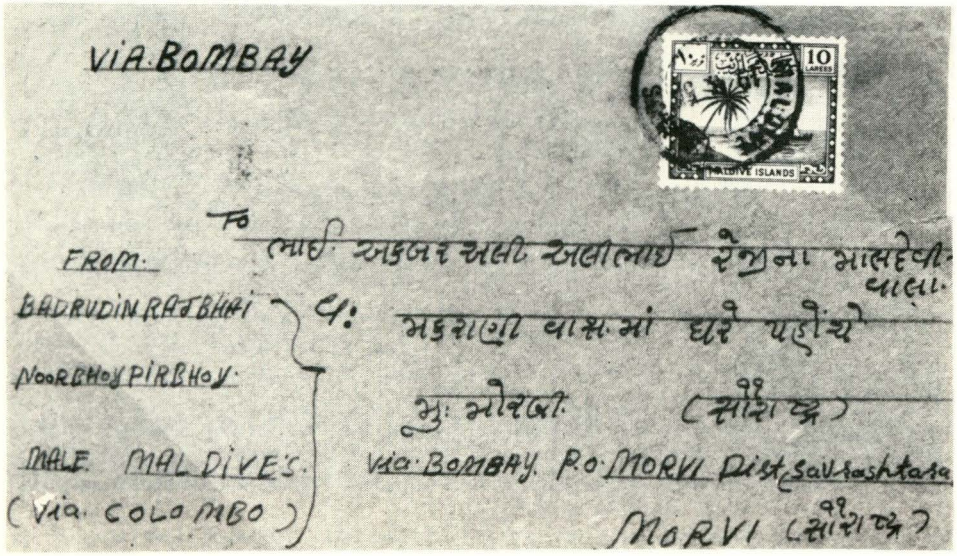


Fig. 4. This cover is interesting because it is one of the few examples which show the postage stamp on the face of the envelope. Many other covers show that it was customary to seal the flap of the envelope with the stamps used.



Fig. 5. Showing the usual location of stamps on envelopes from the Maldives. This cover carries the 20 lares rate on July 22, 1955, while Fig. 4 carries the 10 lares rate on May 19, 1955.

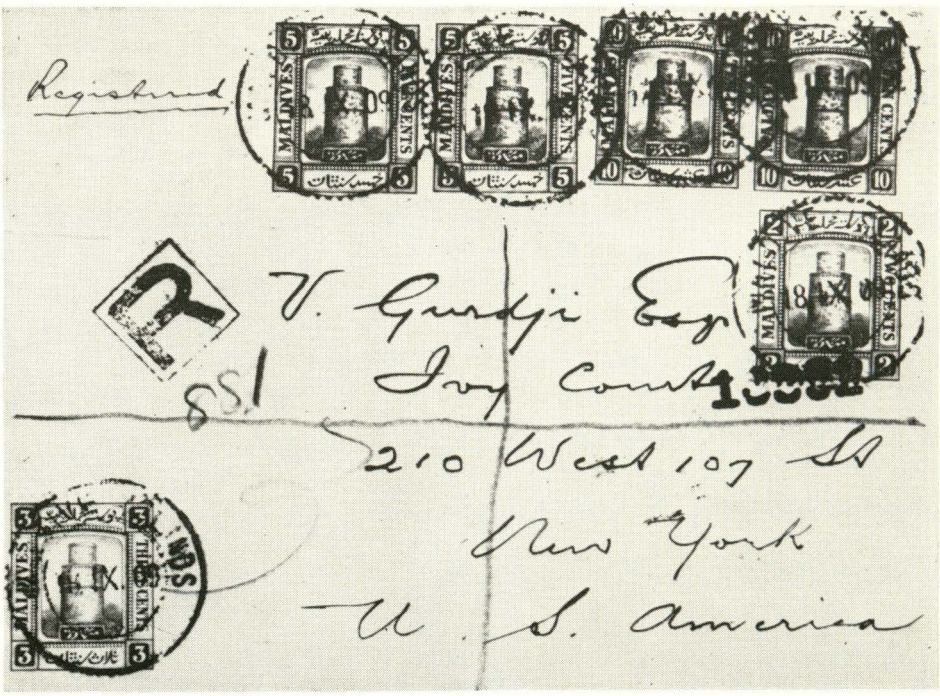


Fig. 6.

Further Historical Notes

In a rare book entitled "The Maldive Islands, Monograph on the History, Archeology and Epigraphy," by H. C. P. Bell, CCS (Retired), Colombo 1940, there appears on pages 63 and 64 the following:

"Postal Communication

"In 1906, the Maldivian Government, desirous of inaugurating a regular Mail Service between the Maldive Islands and Colombo, obtained the ready assent of the Ceylon Government to the establishment of a Post Office at Malé.

"Postal Regulations and Instructions, made as simple as possible, were furnished from Ceylon; the rates of Postage in use in India being adopted for the Maldive Islands.

"The 'Ceylon Six Cents' Stamp, overprinted 'Maldive Islands' was utilized as the first Maldivian Postage Stamp, [Obviously an error.] and supplied to the Maldive Government at actual price of paper and printing.

"These stamps were valid for postage from the Maldives only; the revenue from their sale, at face-value, going to defray the cost of the Malé Post Office and conveyance of Mails to Ceylon.

"As further aid, all Postal Stores required were provided by the Ceylon Government at lowest rates.

"This provisional form of Postage proving to be inconvenient, the following year (1907), the Maldivian Government agreed to have its own Stamps struck from a key-die and key-plate specially provided. Note: Supplies of Stamps are obtained by the Maldivian Government direct from the manufacturers, De La Rue & Co., with whom the die and plates have been deposited.

"The Postage rates fixed are:—From the Maldives to Ceylon and India, Ceylon Inland rates; to other countries, Postal Union rates. Four denominations of Stamps in all rule: Stamps of two (2) cents, five (5) cents and ten (10) cents for postage to Ceylon and India; to make up postage for other countries stamps of three (3) cents are available in addition.

"Parcel postage rules to Ceylon only.

"As the Maldivian Government considered a system of 'Registration of Letters' indispensable, both for itself and the resident

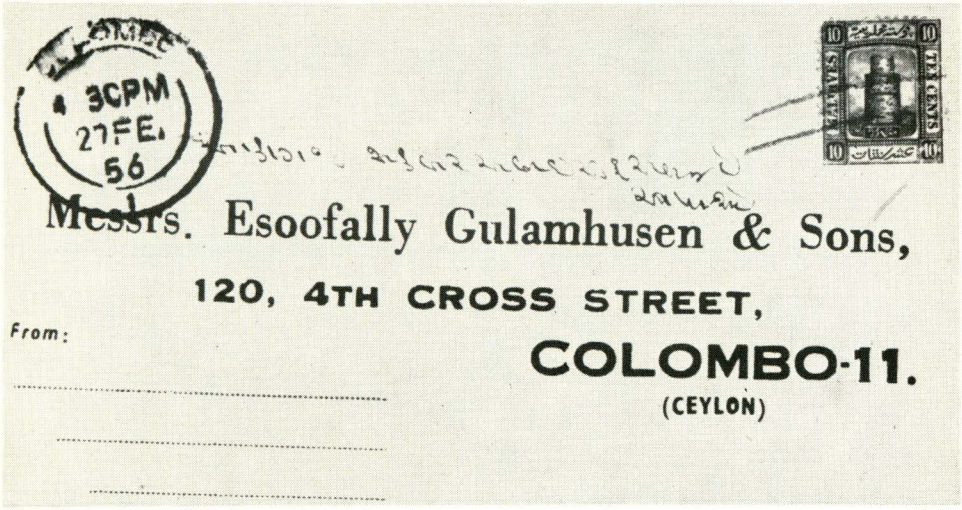


Fig. 7. This is a letter direct to Colombo from one of the out islands, with the stamp cancelled in colored pencil. Note the use of the 1909 issue in 1956.

Foreign Merchants, the Ceylon Government acquiesced; subject to the proviso that it could accept no responsibility for the transit of letters between this Island [Ceylon] and the Maldives, those Islands being outside the Postal Union."

Save for the fact that the "Ceylon Six Cents" stamp was not overprinted, these remarks appear to be of considerable interest. Bell's Monograph is regarded as the definitive work on the Maldive Islands.

In December, 1956, Messrs Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, England, wrote me the following letter: "We have read with great interest your article in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST and have endeavoured to turn up our records to see if we can be of any further help to you. Although we now list the 1935-37 issues in our own catalogue separately under vertical and horizontal watermarks, we are sorry to say that we did not do so when the stamps were first issued, so we have no record of the relative dates of appearance. We have, however, amongst our records the enclosed letter dated 1912, which may possibly be of interest to you."

The letter which they enclosed follows: "Colombo 11 Feby 1912. Dear Sirs: I am in receipt of your letter of the 9 ult. I am sorry for the trouble the P. M. of the Maldives is giving you & there is no remedy for it. The islands are governed by a native of the place who is styled 'Sultan' & he has ministers, also natives, to help him. I understand that the P. M. is a relative of the Sultan & that is perhaps why he is so indifferent to your demands. The whole group of islands is under the protection of the British and as a mark of respect to the throne, the Sultan annually sends a tribute of dry fish etc. to the Governor of Ceylon as representative here of the King. However, the Governor here has no jurisdiction over the Sultan & cannot therefore get him to do anything. In extreme cases where British subjects, when shipwrecked, are badly treated by the natives, or when there is a quarrel between the Sultan and his Ministers a gunboat is usually despatched to restore order & the matter is speedily settled. If you are in need of stamps of the present issue I will be able to procure some for you at 15 per cent over face value to include all costs, provided you take them in sheets of 60 each." I hope that Messrs Whitfield King ordered a good supply of sheets at this favorable rate!

The following letter from Mr. Rowland P. Pollard of Vermont is very interesting as it tells how some of the old "Ceylon hands" sent and received their mail from the Maldives. "I was in Ceylon in 1930/32 with what was then the Standard Oil Co. of New York, and one of my duties was to do the Maldives and Seychelles business. About the only things needed by the islands were cloth and kerosene. I was interested in the kerosene trade in which we had very strong competition from Shell. Trade was by country



Fig. 8. Two covers from the out islands to Malé.

boats, that is, sailing boats—dhows, junks or whatever name one wanted to call them.

"The master, or tindal, was the letter carrier, the only one as far as I know. I gave him my letters and he brought back money and letters from the dealers in the islands. Once a year a steam boat went to the islands, and sometimes a warship stopped there. This boat took the only regular mail of the year, I think. It was a Government of Ceylon boat. Then once a year the Maldivians came to Colombo and paid tribute in kind. It was quite an event and all the Maldivians in town were out in force.

"The traders in the islands, as far as I know, were all Borahs, this is, Ismaili Mohammedans, followers of the Agha Kahn. The Maldivians were Tamil-like people, smaller than the average and of course sailors or fishermen mostly.

"One time or another I did business with nearly every port between the Persian Gulf and Zanzibar and Ceylon to the Seychelles. It was all in sailing boats and the captains always carried the mail without stamps."

Free Franking

Mr. Gale J. Raymond has kindly sent me a letter which he received from the Postmaster General at Malé in 1953. (See Figure 10.) It reads as follows: "I was been requested by M/s. E. G. Adamaly. Their agents here has given me full permission to open the letter and deal accordingly.

"I am very sorry to delay you, your letter and the stamps. As to your request I am sending all seven envelopes and returning to you. With regard to getting stamps there is no any other way except if you can send Ceylon Currency.

"I will write to you in near future. Hoping that you will be excused for the trouble caused. Thanking you. Yours faithfully,

M. Didi
Postmaster Gen."

But the most interesting thing connected with this letter is the official envelope in which it was sent. Fig. 11 has no stamps, but a small boxed "FREE" handstamp in purple measuring 17 x 6½ mm. It is evident that both Ceylon and the United States overlooked the fact that the Maldives are not members of the Universal Postal Union, and courteously forwarded this letter, recognizing the Postmaster General's free frank.

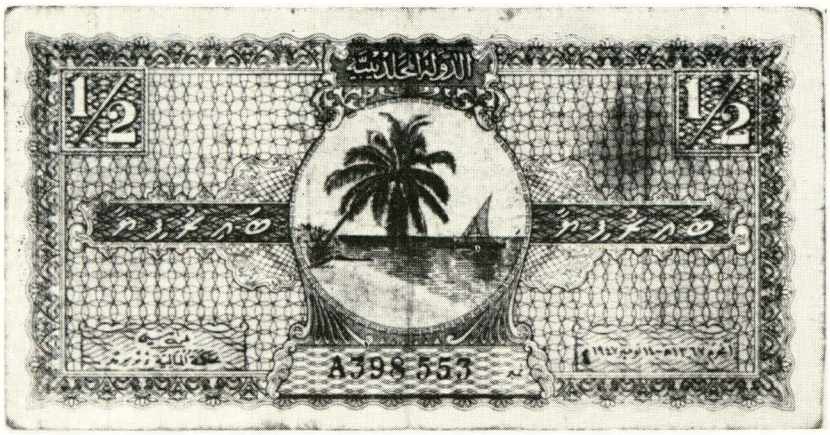


Fig. 9. Half rupee note.

Recall that in my first article I mentioned another official envelope addressed to San Francisco in 1937, which carried 22 cents in stamps of the 1933 issue.

Government of Maldives Postmark

Shortly after the appearance of my first article Mr. Gale J. Raymond called my attention to a postmark, only parts of which appeared on a stamp because the mark was too large to show up in its entirety. I found that I had an Edward VII Ceylon stamp carrying "ment of Mal" in its postmark cancellation. Mr. Raymond had quite a few other Ceylon stamps with parts of the mark, the dates on his varying from 1911 to 1931. In Jal Cooper's book, *India Used Abroad,* was illustrated a ½ anna Indian stamp on piece showing this postmark, which we now know read "Government of Maldives—Malé" although the reproduction in the book did not show the first word clearly. The date is 18 feb 20.

By great good fortune, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. sent me the back of a cover which is illustrated in Figure 12. It carries a beautiful strike of this mysterious postmark, and on the flap of the cover is printed in black, "Government of the Maldives. Malé" showing that this was an official envelope.

Strangely enough the date in the mark is 10 July 1906, just two months earlier than the opening of the post office at Malé. It is a pity that the front of this envelope had been removed, as it might have shown what use was made of the letter. However, this cover does show that a handstamp was in use by the Maldivian Government before it had a post office, and the appearance of the mark on various stamps until at least as late as 1931, shows that the mark continued to be used by the Government for some years.

Collectors should examine their used stamps very carefully as they may have examples with parts of the mark on them. The mark measures 31 mm in overall diameter, the inside circle measuring 20 mm. Apparently this appears chiefly on Edward VII and George V stamps of Ceylon, although several other instances have been reported as mentioned above.

Other Postmarks on Maldivian Stamps

In the collection of Mr. John F. Field are several stamps of the De La Rue engraved issue of 1909 on which appear postmarks reading NERE, with a date in the center, and three stars on the opposite side of the circle. As nearly as one can estimate the circle measures 26 mm. in diameter. There are at least three towns in India listed as NERI, in the UPU book. Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs, Director of *The Philatelic Foundation,* tells me that many instances of phonetic spelling occur in the postmarks of India, and that in his opinion this NERE mark may well be from NERI. Two of the stamps carrying this postmark are the 10 cent denomination while one is the 2 cent.

Three other stamps of the 1909 issue—two 2 cent and one 10 cent—carry a postmark reading AMIAVAH. This is a double circle measuring about 25 mm. in diameter,

the inner circle measuring 13 mm. There is no date in this mark.

As I can find no islands in the Maldives bearing any resemblance to these names, I am assuming that they are receiving marks, in the absence of any further information on them. Several other undecipherable postmarks on Maldivian stamps in Mr. Field's collection lead one to believe that there may be more instances of this type of marking on the 1909 issue, there being 22 such stamps in this group.

Mr. Gale J. Raymond is fortunate in having a correspondent living in Malé, and after

THE POST OFFICE,
Maldive Islands.

Male, 17th May 1953.

Lieut. S. J. Raymond, USAF.
C/o. H. S. Raymond.
1604 Carr Avenue.
Memphis, 4, Tenn.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Raymond.

I was been requested by M/s. E. S. Adamaly & Co. Male. as there are no Shop of M/s. E. S. Adamaly. their agents here has given me full permission to open the letter and deal accordingly.

I am very sorry to delay you, your letter and the stamps. As to your request I am sending all seven enlops and returning to you. with regard to selling stamps there is no any other way except. if you can send Ceylon Currency.

I will write to you in near future. Hoping that you will be excused for the trouble caused. Awaiting you. Yours faithfully,

Post master Gen.

Fig. 10.

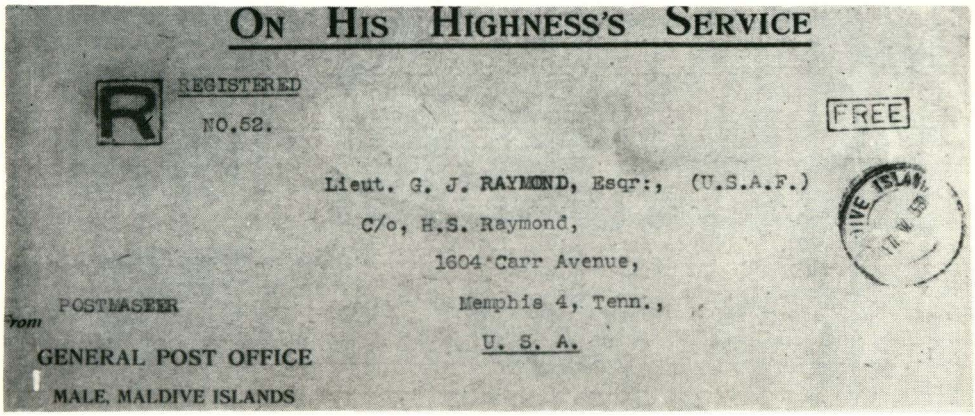


Fig. 11. Cover bearing FREE handstamp.

much effort has received impressions of all the hand stamps now in the possession of the post office at Malé. Through Mr. Raymond's kindness I am able to reproduce these hand stamps. Fig. 13.

Counterfeit Postmarks

On December 26, 1956, Mr. M. H. Robertshaw, a collector of Maldivian covers, wrote me: "I have had a mixed batch of Maldives 'in piece' sent me. Half were postmarked with the genuine postmark but the higher values had a forged postmark; the 2 1 & 3 1 obsolete also were forged postmarks. The type of paper they were on was not the usual envelope paper and the postmarks all placed at the base had the usual two circles but *sine* any letters except in one or two instances a smudged SE? and date line also a smudge." Collectors should be on the watch for these fake postmarks, as some have appeared in this country—notably in Seattle, Wash.

Ceylon Stamps in Maldivian Mail

We know that after the overprinted issue of 1906, the stamps of Ceylon without overprint were made the official stamps of the Maldives until the appearance of the 1909 issue. But we also know that Ceylonese stamps have been used for many years on letters posted in Malé.

Mr. Raymond writes me: "Robson Lowe says that most of the Maldives mail to Ceylon is in actual practice usually posted with Ceylon stamps after arrival at Colombo. I had a cover actually posted to me at Malé with Ceylon stamps in 1949, hoping to get the Maldives postmark, but as you can see it received the Colombo postmark." In Figure 14 is shown this cover, bearing the corner card of GOVERNMENT DISPENSARY, Malé, MALDIVE ISLANDS. Not only are the stamps of Ceylon used on the cover, but they were cancelled with the Colombo postmark. Apparently non-membership in the U. P. U. is responsible for this recent use of Ceylon stamps on Malé overseas mail. But this usage is obviously irregular, as other overseas letters illustrated in my first article clearly show. (See also Figures 1 and 2). In a letter from Mr. Tom Morgan, Editor of the *Philatelic Magazine,* he says that a letter from the Postmaster General at Malé did not bear a Maldives stamp; "it was franked with a Ceylon issue which confirms my suspicions that the Maldives can only be locals." Mr. Morgan's suspicion would be more valid if it were not for the many covers sent overseas, as well as to India and Ceylon, which bear Maldivian stamps. (See Fig. 13).

However, there is mounting evidence, now that Ceylon is an independent country and its former links with the Maldives are less intimate,* that letters from the Maldives to overseas, via Colombo, must carry Ceylon postage to avoid difficulties with the U. P. U. countries. Meanwhile a large number of present day covers to Ceylon and India, franked with Maldivian stamps, are obviously passed through the Colombo and Bombay post offices. It is possible that there is a special postal treaty between these three countries, or at least an informal understand-

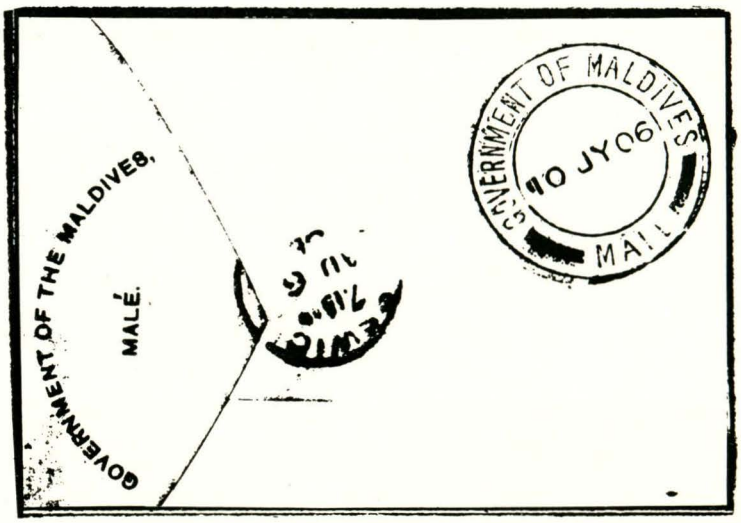


Fig. 12. A portion of the back of an official envelope carrying the "Government of Maldives — Malé —" postmark, dated two months before the post office was opened on Sept. 9, 1906.

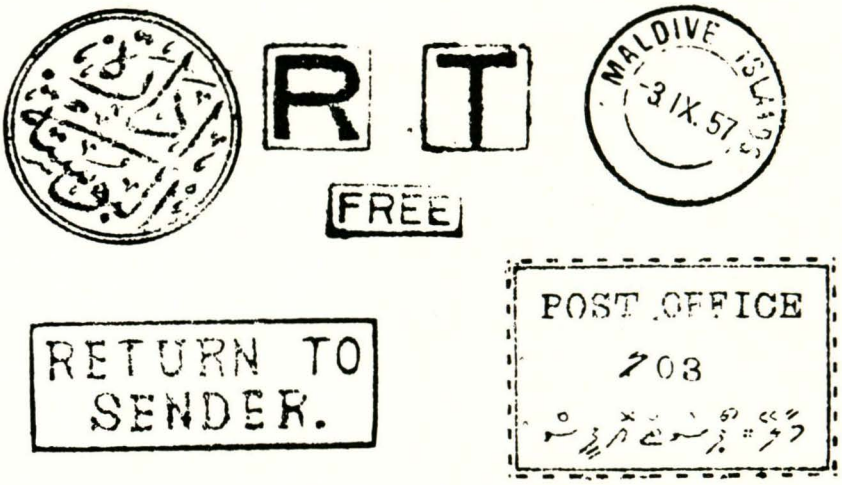


Fig. 13. Handstamped impressions of all available postal markings in Malé. (Courtesy of G. J. Raymond). The circular stamp with Arabic inscription reads "Post Office Administration".

* Under date of March 7, 1957, the Colombo correspondent of the *London Times* reported that Mr. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, told the House of Representatives in Colombo on March 5th that he was thinking of staking Ceylon's claim to the Maldive Islands. The House greeted the statement with laughter and it was assumed he was joking. He said: "We have quite a good claim, as it was once a dependency of ours." The House greeted this with laughter. Mr. Bandaranaike then said: "I am quite serious about it. I shall take that up quietly in due course." This, too, was greeted with laughter. Apparently a good time was had by all!

ing, which honors Maldivian stamps on mail to Ceylon and India, the two countries with which the Maldives do most of their business.

The 1933 Issue

One reason for my aversion to "philatelic covers" is that they so often confuse the student endeavoring to determine postal rates; but for once I have come across one that may actually contribute something to solving a problem. Mr. John Field has a



Figure 14. Letter from Government Dispensary, Malé, Maldive Islands, bearing stamps of Ceylon cancelled in Colombo.

cover dated September 1, 1934, addressed to an English dealer who had a penchant for such things. It carries a complete set of the 1933 issue EXCEPT THE FIVE CENT value. You may recall that in my first article I questioned the accuracy of the more or less accepted belief that the 5 cent denomination of this issue appeared after all the other ones were available. Does this obviously "philatelic" cover bear testimony that the 5 cent value had not appeared as late as September 1934? I am not yet ready to agree that it does, but cite this cover as additional, if slim, evidence against me.

There are two shades of this 5 cent stamp of 1933 with horizontal watermark. Could it be that the first printing of these stamps was exhausted early in 1933, and a second lot reached Malé during the second half of 1934? If you will reread my remarks about the design of this issue in the first article, you will understand my apparent stubbornness.

This brings to mind the mention in my first article of a 10 cent green stamp of this issue with horizontal watermark of a decidedly different shade from others in my collection. The darker shade appears blue under the ultra-violet light, while the lighter shade looks green. Also I have two different shades of the two cent stamp with horizontal watermark, the darker of which appears green under the ultra-violet light, while the lighter shows as blue gray.

Recently I have seen many more of the lighter shade of 10 cent green than of the darker shade. This might indicate that the latter was an earlier printing. The same is true of the two cent gray shades. In any event, there were undoubtedly two printings of at least three of the denominations of the horizontal watermarked issue of 1933.

The 1956 Issue

Mr. Tom Morgan in the *Philatelic Magazine* of December 28, 1956, wrote: "The catalogues list the current Maldive Islands stamps as having been issued in 1956 but, in sending me specimens, the Postmaster General Malé Headquarters says they were issued on March 7, 1954, on the occasion of the new Sultanate celebration." In view of the fact that Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. have written me that they printed the stamps in 1955 it seems that a miracle has been performed by the Postmaster General. In my previous article I stated that the American Ambassador in Ceylon received from the Sultan shortly after their appearance a set of these new stamps in early April, 1956; these stamps reached me on April 26th. It is possible that these stamps may have been ordered to commemorate the accession to the throne by the new Sultan in 1954—after his accession. They certainly were not ordered by Amin Didi when he was President of the Maldivian Republic with the idea of commemorating his success-

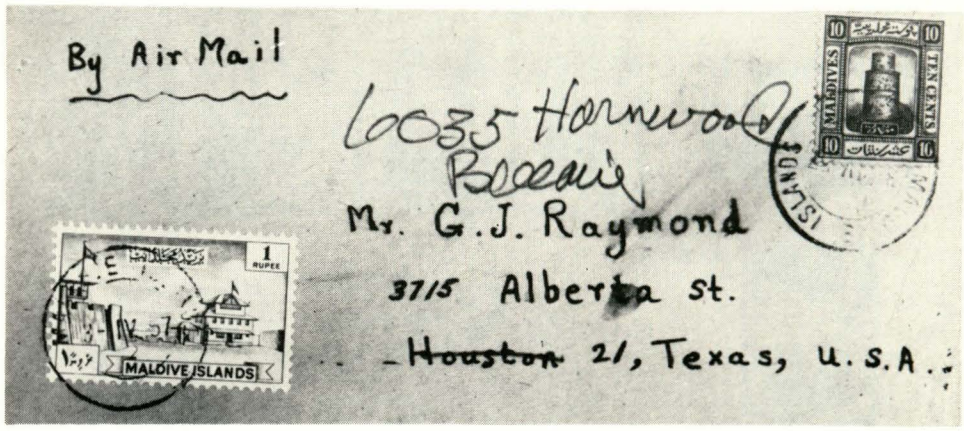


Fig. 15. This cover was mailed at Malé on March 4, 1957. The rate 1 R 10 cents for this air mail letter is made up of the 1909 and 1956 issues. Another instance of the use of 10 cent 1909 stamps on present day mail. Why be a member of the U. P. U.?

or's elevation to the throne! I am sure that we may accept the date of 1956 which is given in the catalogues as being correct.

In the July 20, 1956 issue of *Stamp Collecting* there appears this note: "NEW MALDIVES: DATE OF ISSUE. Further information on the probable date of issue of the new Maldive stamps, to which several references have been made, comes from the Bombay Philatelic Company. This firm reports that they received supplies on May 28th last and according to information given them it is understood that the stamps were actually released in April or early May. It is said that the authorities in the Maldives are 'now exercising strict control over the sale of the stamps and are making it *available only to genuine buyers for postal use only'.*" The italics are mine and express my surprise on having seen a very considerable supply of sheets in the stock of the Bombay Philatelic Company! Also I mention without comment that a friend of mine has just received full sheets of this issue cancelled to order in Malé. (Although I sure would like to comment!)

Mr. Raymond sent a list of questions to be answered by the Post Master at Malé, and on September 7, 1957, Mr. A. M. Mahir, the present Maldivian Postmaster at Malé replied. Here follows a summary of the questions and answers. Is there an airmail service from Malé to Ceylon? No. What is the postage rate from Malé to U. S. A. for ordinary letter by sea mail? 25 larees for the first ounce and 15 larees for each additional ounce. The Registry fee is 30 larees. Have the Maldive Islands yet applied for membership in the Universal Postal Union? They will apply very soon. Are Maldives stamps used on mail from the Laccadive Islands? No. Is a Maldives post office expected to be opened at Addu? Yes, very soon. Name of the postal agent at Gan Island? The Atoll Chief. The Atoll Chiefs are also the postal agents at Hittadu and Fua Mulaku Islands. Have there ever been any other post offices in the Maldives besides Malé? No. Does the Malé Post Office have a supply of Ceylon stamps for use on mail to far countries? We had that custom sometime back but not now. Was the Government of Maldives postmark applied at the Malé Post Office? Yes. Does this mark still exist? No.

It has probably been rather evident to you in reading these articles of mine that at times I have felt a bit exasperated about the apparent lack of precision, shall we say, which appears to have been exhibited by the officials of the post office at Malé. In the June 1957 issue of "The National Geographic Magazine," Alan Villiers cites his experience at the Malé post office in a most interesting and beautifully illustrated article on "The Marvelous Maldive Islands," from which I quote with permission. After reading his remarks I cannot find it in my heart to be too severe with the employees of the post office. Villiers says:

"Some stamps, please," I said, "for a letter to the United States." The clerk looked up and grinned. "Ah, stamps. Yes, yes," he said, not making much of an effort to produce any. He had only one hand to work with, which seemed a little strange. Even stranger was the fact that with the other hand he was slowly manipulating a piece of twine, which led mysteriously upward out of the barred and glassless window beside him. Through this the twine seemed to disappear into thin air. . . .

I turned inquiringly to my guide, Mr. Ibrahim Didi, the all knowledgeable one, who was also a customs and postal clerk, when there was nobody about to guide, which was often.

"He likes kites," answered Mr. Didi: "All men in the Maldive Islands like kites. Look!"

I followed the sweep of his eyes into the clear blue sky of the monsoon morning outside. There, sure enough, was a kite performing skillful acrobatics, five or six hundred feet up. . . .

And so, my fellow students of Maldivian philately, the next time you are tempted to froth at the mouth because of the vagaries of the post office at Malé, go thou and do likewise—fly a kite!

A Bibliography

The former U. S. Ambassador to Ceylon, Col. Philip K. Crowe, has kindly sent me a list of the books on the Maldives in his library. It is believed to be a complete list of available books on the islands.

Title	*Author*	*Published*	*Date*
Voyage of Pyrard de Laval (3 volumes)	Laval	London	1837
Fauna and Geography of the Maldives (3 volumes)	Gardiner	Cambridge	1901
Ibn Battuta	Gibb	London	1929
Journal of the R. A. S. (Royal Asiatic Society)		Colombo	1932
The Two Thousand Isles	Hockley	London	1935
The Maldive Islands	Bell	Colombo	1940
The Maldive Islands	Didi	Colombo	1949
The Maldive Islands	Didi	Colombo	1952
Maldives	Didi	Malé	1953
Maldives (A long chapter in "The Diversions of A Diplomat in Ceylon.")	Crowe	Princeton	1957

CLUBHOUSE

(Continued From Page 278)

The One Cent Franklin of 1857-60 Used to Prepay the Carrier Fee by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from The Perforation Centennial Book. Gift of the author.

The Secret Mark on the 15 Cent Webster by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from The Essay-Proof Journal. Gift of the author.

Auction Catalogue of the Alfred H. Caspary First Sale. H. R. Harmer, Inc., New York, N. Y. Gift of Mr. Herbert J. Bloch.

Foreign Mail Service in American Ships. Debate in the 48th Congress, 2nd Session, 1885. Washington, D. C. Gift of Mr. George A. Weiler.

Philatelic Journals. Gift of the Aero Philatelists.

1957-1958 Philatelic Societies Year Book. Publication of The British Philatelic Association, London, England.

United Nations Postage Stamps. Publication of the United Nations Department of Public Information, N. Y.

Deutsche Zeitung fur Briefmarkenkunde (DBZ), Vols. 29 and 30, 1954-1955. Gift of Mr. Frederick A. Brofos. (German)

L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Nos. 370, 375, 382 and 384, 1908. Gift of Mr. Paul Lindenberg. (French)

(Continued On Page 301)

BOOK REVIEWS

Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad by S. D. Tchilinghirian and W. S. E. Stephen. Part I Constantinople, The Danubian Principalities, Bulgaria and Roumelia. 96 pages with illustrations. Published 1957 by The British Society of Russian Philately, 20, Bayham Rd., Knowle, Bristol 4, England. Price 30/- ($4.50).

This is the first of another ambitious series of standard works undertaken for the British Society of Russian Philately by Mr. S. D. Tchilinghirian and others. The driving power behind these works is without doubt one of the finest philatelic minds of the twentieth century, a scholar of the old tradition of accuracy and completeness, but with it all not pedantic.

Very little has appeared in philatelic literature on the subject of the extra-territorial Imperial Russian Post Offices. In fact, little of any importance has been written about Russian philately since the death of S. V. Prigara. There are, of course, two very good reasons why Russian Postal History in general has been neglected. First, there is the difficulty in obtaining accurate information, as the Russian postal archives are closed to us. The student has to rely mainly on a few meagre excerpts from documents to be found occasionally in philatelic writings of the last century. Secondly, the lack of material is a serious handicap. Because of the small size of the Russian stamps, blocks or at least pairs are needed in order to have the whole postmark. While covers are more desirable, they are scarce except from a few sections of European Russia.

This book is a masterpiece of orderly and clear arrangement, and, what is of great importance to the student, a section on the Russian language and the Cyrillic alphabet is included. There is also an excellent historical section, which fills a much needed purpose in covering the background of the post offices and supplies much data that would take the philatelist years to find in standard historical texts. The illustrations of the postmarks are clear and carefully made. Lists of the stamps upon which the markings have been found are given in each section.

The area covered in this first volume is that immediately contiguous to the Black Sea area of the Russian Empire. Although it might have been better to have treated the Turkish Empire posts as an entity, this reviewer cannot find fault with the treatment given to the City of Constantinople. If the readers will bear in mind that the second part of this work will cover the remainder of the Turkish Empire, there should not be any confusion. The Russian posts in the Danubian Principalities, Bulgaria and Roumelia, are completely covered in this volume.

We are presented in this work with a model of what this reviewer considers to be a fine example of scholarly philatelic writing. All the information is clearly arranged and easy of access to the reader. He sums up this review by thinking that here is a book that should serve as a guide for future writers on postal history. That is postal history as he believes it should be written, with due concern for the stamps as well as for the markings. It is a book that he would have liked to have written himself.

We definitely recommend this book to all students, not only of Russia but also for general interest. The philatelist will find it fascinating reading. It will help him to enjoy happy hunting of the stamps and covers he is seeking. (*H. D. S. H.*)

The Numeral Obliterations and Instructional Marks of the Channel Islands. By William Newport and John Simpson. London, 20 pp. paper, Mid-1957. To be had at 75c from Channel Islands Specialists' Society, 122 Woodyates Road, London, S. E. 12, England.

Here is another unit in that Channel Island series of handbook pamphlets, of which we have taken notice from time to time as they came to our hands.

The various 409's of Jersey, 324's of Guernsey, 965's of Alderney, are pictured, ac-

(Concluded On Page 308)

RAJPIPLA

Feudatory State of India

By H. D. S. HAVERBECK

The State of Rajpipla, erroneously spelled Rajpeepla in most catalogues, is located in the Rewa Kantha area of the Bombay Presidency. It lies not far from the Gulf of Cambay between the Nerbudda and Tapty rivers. Its geographic co-ordinates are 21 degrees 23 minutes and 21 degrees 59 minutes North Latitude; and 73 degrees 5 minutes and 74 degrees East Longitude. At the time of issuing stamps, the population numbered approximately 60,000. The total area of the state is 1514 square miles comprising one town and 211 villages. The Capital is the city of Nandod.

The family of the Raja derives its origin from the Raja of Ujjain. They are by caste Rajputs, and carry the name of the Bhaonagar family. It has ruled in Rajpipla since 1470. The state pays a tribute of 65,000 rupees annually to Baroda. It maintains an army of 566 infantry. The Raja is entitled to a salute of 11 guns.

Rajpipla is one of the states that has given little trouble to philatelists. Its stamps and postal stationery have been straightforward. It is most interesting to note that the issuance of postal stationery preceded that of adhesives. We shall consider the issues in chronological order.

The exact date of the issuance of the letter sheets has not been definitely determined. But a study of the papermakers embossed devices leads us to believe that it was no earlier than 1875. The earliest embossed date found is 1874. The series consists of four denominations printed by typography in black ink on thin white wove paper bearing the maker's watermark of "Dorling & Gregory". The denominations are 1, 2, 3 and 4 pice.

The design of the impressed stamp which is found in the upper right corner is substantially the same for each denomination. It consists of a circle divided horizontally into two half circles, surrounding an inner circle containing the denomination. In the upper half circle appears the inscription, "Rajpipla Dak" (Rajpipla Post) in Gujerati characters. In the lower half circle is an ornamental design of leaves. At the upper left of the space for the address, on all four denominations are three Gujerati characters which read "nobr" meaning number. There is no other inscription upon the 1 pice letter sheet. (Fig. 1) On the 2 pice there is inscribed in English, "Registered" in the upper center, and "From Nandode Post Office—Unkleshwar" in two lines in the lower left

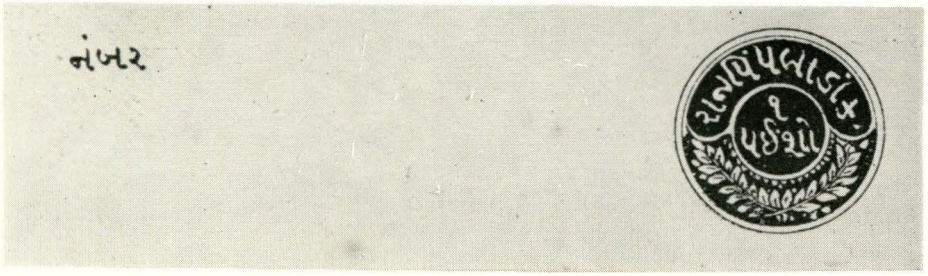


Fig. 1. The upper portion of the 1 pice letter sheet.

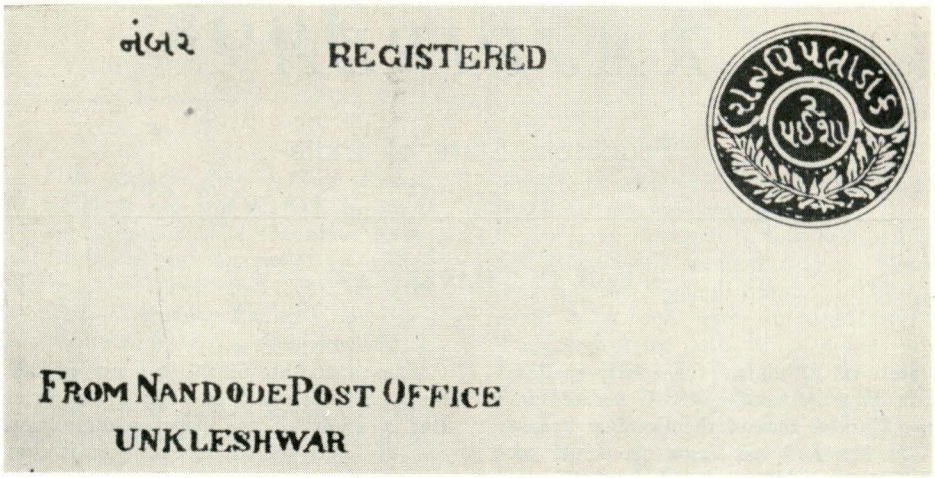


Fig. 2. 2 pice letter sheet.

corner. (Fig. 2) On the 3 pice appears, again in English "Rajpeepla State Post Office—Rewa Kanta" in two lines in the lower left corner. (Fig. 3) On the 4 pice there is a Gujerati inscription in two lines in the same position which is translated, "Nandode Post Office—Unkleshwar Gujerat". (Fig. 4)

The four denominations were all printed together upon a large sheet of paper measuring about 16 x 12 inches, which was afterwards cut into four. By a study of guide lines the arrangement has been determined to be:

2 Pice
3 Pice

The 2 pice letter sheet has been reported on yellow paper. This is believed to be a proof.

While the letter sheets are fairly common in unused condition, it is interesting to note that they are extremely scarce used. In figures 5 and 6 are illustrated the only two used specimens that the author has found. The cancellations are not at all similar to

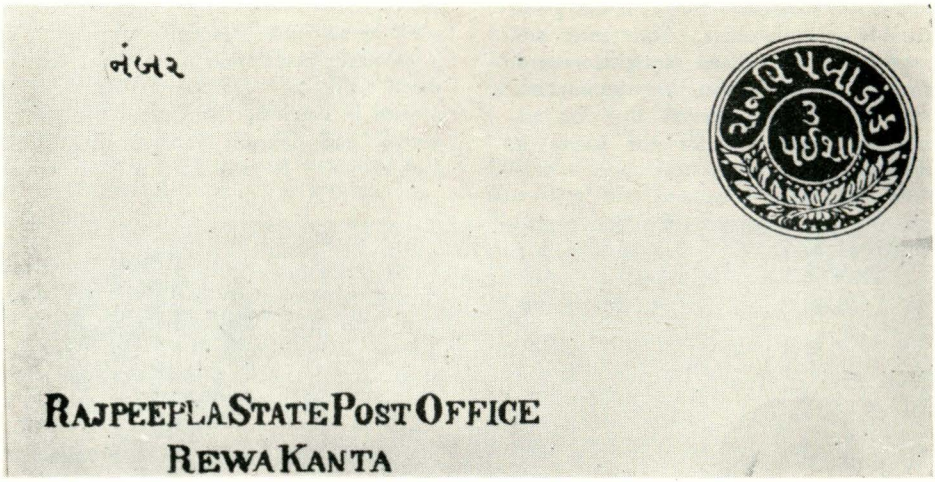


Fig. 3. Upper portion of 3 pice letter sheet.

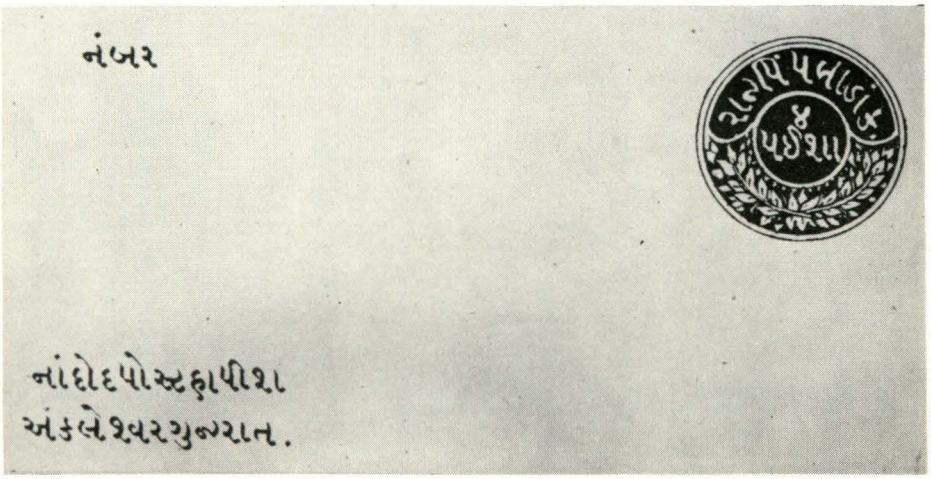


Fig. 4. Upper half of 4 pice letter sheet.

those found upon the adhesive stamps.

The paper bears a maker's watermark, "Dorling & Gregory" in large outline capitals repeated approximately 8 inches apart. A portion of this watermark usually appears on each letter sheet. Major Evans reported seeing a single example of the 2 pice sheet on yellow paper in 1902. This is believed to have been a proof impression.

The first adhesive stamp of Rajpipla appeared in 1880. It is chronicled in both "Le Timbre-Poste" and "The Philatelic Record" in November of that year. "Le Timbre-Poste" stated that it had been issued on June 1, 1880. M. Moens also assigned that date to its appearance. The great scarcity of covers has made it impossible to verify this attribution.

The simple square design of the stamp can be seen in figure 7. The central circle bears crossed swords surrounded by an inscribed band, enclosed in a hexagonal frame with curved sides. The inscription around the upper part of the circular band reads, "Raj-



Fig. 5. One of the few examples known of a used letter sheet.

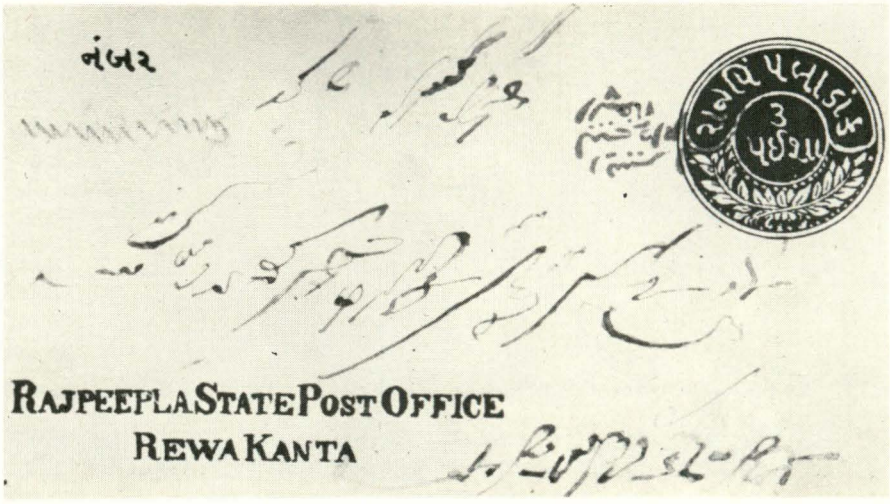


Fig. 6. Another scarce used letter sheet.

pipla Tapal" (Rajpipla Post) and that in the brackets below "Hashil" (Possibly "Value"). The characters in the upper corners are "e" and "k", those in the lower, "Pai" and "So" (Ek Paiso = 1 pice, a quarter anna).

The stamp was printed by lithography in sheets of 64 (8 x 8) on white wove paper. (Fig. 7) There is a colored frame line to the sheet at the top and right only about 8 mm. from the stamps. In the bottom margin is an oblong tablet bearing the same inscriptions as upon the stamps. The size and positioning of the transfer report has not been determined. But careful study of the sheets leads us to believe that the two frame lines around each stamp were drawn in by hand separately around each subject. This would indicate that each subject in itself constituted a separate transfer report.

The stamps are perforated 11 by a single line machine. Sometimes a thick brown gum was applied by hand after perforating. The color of the stamps is blue, with a variety of shades ranging from a milky blue to dark blue.

In the latter part of 1880 two additional denominations appeared—2 annas printed in green and 4 annas in red. The design of the 2 annas stamp shows an upright sword in an oval surrounded by the same inscription as appears on the 1 pice. (Fig. 8) The whole is set off with a pearl and floreate design with the denomination, "Be Ana" (two annas) in a horizontal tablet at the foot. The design of the 4 annas repeats that of the 1 pice surrounded by a square zigzag border. The denomination is given as "char Ana" (four annas). (Fig. 9) Both stamps are lithographed in sheets of 20 (4 x 5) upon thin, toned wove paper. There is a colored line at the top of the 2 annas sheet 3 mm. away from the stamps. The 4 annas sheet has colored lines at the left and bottom of the sheet, 4 mm. at the side and 5 mm. away at the bottom. There are constant defects in the designs of these stamps, which may be used as a guide in plating.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

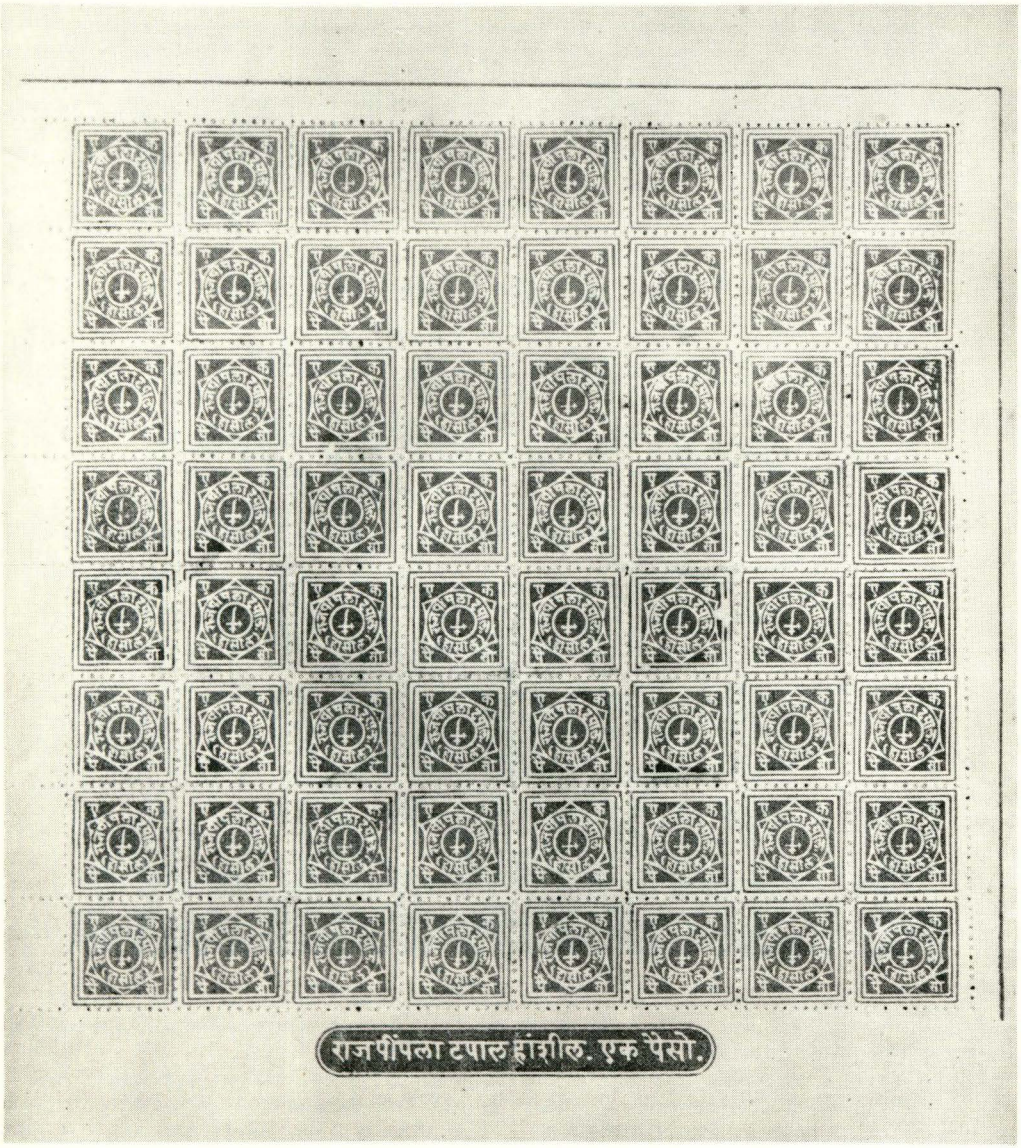


Fig. 7. Complete sheet of the first adhesive stamp.

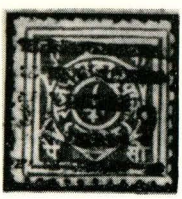


Fig. 10.

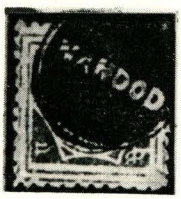


Fig. 11.

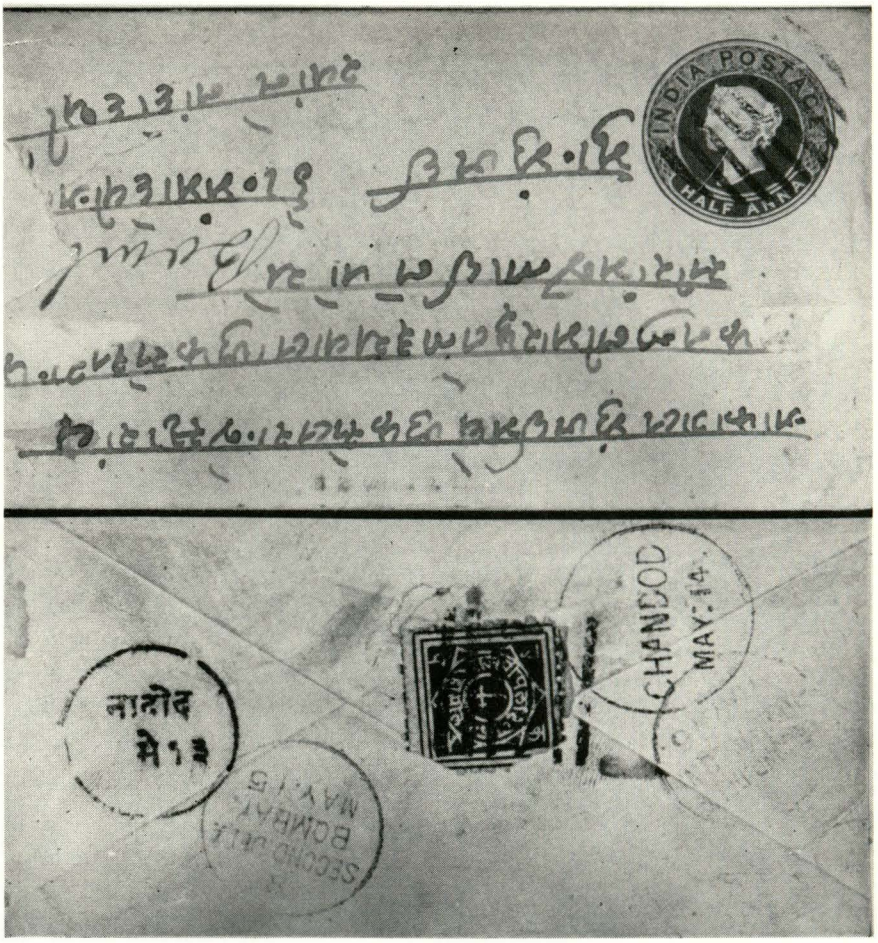


Fig. 12. Front and back of a cover bearing the 1 pice stamp showing the postmark and cancellation.

Photos by L. W. Giles

The perforation gauges between 12½ and 13, there being 38 holes in a space of 60 mm. The stamps were issued without gum.

These two stamps differ so greatly from the 1 pice, both in the style and execution of their designs, and in the nature of their paper and perforation, that they must be considered the work of different craftsmen. It is thus somewhat logical to consider them as different issues. But there is no actual proof that they were not issued at the same time.

Rather crude counterfeits of all three stamps are known. There is no report of any proof impressions.

When these stamps were first chronicled in 1880, a 2 pice stamp was stated to form a part of this set. It never seems to have been issued because no copies have ever been reported. "Le Timbre-Poste" in May, 1884, reported an 8 annas stamp in the design of the 2 annas but in the color of the 4 annas. This stamp also has not been seen. Fiscal stamps were issued in 1889 in a somewhat similar design, but bearing a crescent moon in place of the sword.

In the year 1886 (?) postal stationery was again used. This time stamped envelopes of the denominations of 2, 3 and 4 pice were

issued. The same design as with the earlier letter sheets was used. They were printed on white laid paper in a size 136 x 79 mm, uniformly in black. These are exceedingly scarce items.

The cancellations usually found on these stamps consists of a rectangle of four thick horizontal bars inclosing the Devanagari characters "RA" and "1" separated by two short thick bars parallel to the others. (Fig. 10). There also exists a circular black seal inscribed "NANDOD" in white. This is illustrated in figure 11 through the courtesy of Mr. T. W. Ward. The author has also seen portions of a device similar to the design of the 1 pice stamp used as an obliterator. It has not been seen in sufficient detail to copy, thus no illustration is given.

Check List

1880, June 1 (?) Lithographed on White wove paper. Unwatermarked. Perf. 11

1 Pice	Blue (shades)	c	s	Multiple pieces 4N. Covers RRRR

1880, Nov.-Dec. (?) Lithographed on toned wove paper. Unwatermarked. Perf. 12½

2 Pice	Green (shades)	s	R	Multiple pieces 4N Covers RRRR
4 Pice	Red	s	RR	Multiple pieces N Covers U

Became obsolete at the end of 1886, when the post was taken over by the Indian Post Office.

Postal Stationery

1875 (?) Letter Sheets

1 Pice	Black	s	RRRR	
2 Pice	Black	s	RRRR	Proof of 2 pice reported on yellow paper.
3 Pice	Black	s	RRRR	
4 Pice	Black	s	RRRR	

1886 (?) Stamped Envelopes

2 Pice	Black	RRRR	U
3 Pice	Black	RRRR	U
4 Pice	Black	RRRR	U

Bibliography

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Vol. XI, pp. 60-64. "Stamps of Rajpeepla" by E. B. Evans
Philatelic Journal of India, Vol. XLVII, pp. 14-16
Philatelic Journal of India, Vol. XLVII, pp 14-16
(Reprint of Evans Article with notes by L. E. Dawson)
Die Ganzsache, 30 Jahr. No. 2 (April, 1956) p. 11 *"Die Ganzsachen der Indischen Feudalstaaten, 17, Radschpipla,"* Dr. W. Pohlig.

CLUBHOUSE

(Continued From Page 293)

Catalogue of the Jewish National Fund Stamps, 1902-1950. Compiled and published by Eng. Jsidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.

Simon's Catalogue of Israel Stamps 1958, 9th Edition. Published by The Israel Philatelic Exchange Club, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.

The New American Stamp Catalog, 1958. Minkus Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y.

The Holyland and Middle East Philatelic Magazine, Vol. I, Nos. 4, 6, 7 and 8. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.

Mosden Israel Catalogue 1957. Mosden Stamp Company, London, England. *Gift* of Mr. Martin Taub.

Bolaffi Catalogo dei Francobolli Italiani 1958, III Edizione. Societa Culturale Opere Tipografiche, Torino, Italy. (Italian)

CANADA

Duplex Cancellations

By E. A. SMYTHIES

Definition

A duplex hammer is a time- and labor-saving instrument, invented and adopted by postal officials just a hundred years ago, which at one stroke shows the two essential features of all postal cancellations, i.e. it records the place, date, and time of despatch, and simultaneously kills the stamp. For this dual purpose all duplex consist of two parts, a dater and a killer, fixed side by side. In Canadian duplex, practically all daters are circular and practically all killers are barred, being fixed at approximately 3 o'clock and within 4 mm. of the dater, with the bars usually parallel to the axis of the hammer. Any strikes which break these two rules are most probably false duplex, i. e. strikes from two different instruments which happen to fall close together, but one or two abnormal exceptions will be recorded later.

Initial Use

Duplex cancellations were first introduced into Canada in 1860, as recorded by Boggs,* from whom we quote:—

"To D. G. Berri, London, England

23 Feb 1860

I am directed to forward to you for execution the within requisition No. 38 for dated stamps, *having attached to them horizontal cancelling bars.*"

The requisition included four hammers each for six largest towns, i. e. two indicating "AM" and two "PM", and two hammers each (one "AM" and one "PM") for 16 other towns. The general pattern was left to Mr. Berris' discretion, who, in fact, submitted three different patterns, presumably as samples. Two of these are illustrated in the accompanying plate, Fig. 1 (Toronto) and Fig. 2 (Montreal). The Toronto pattern proved unsatisfactory, while the Montreal pattern was adopted as the standard for the remaining towns.

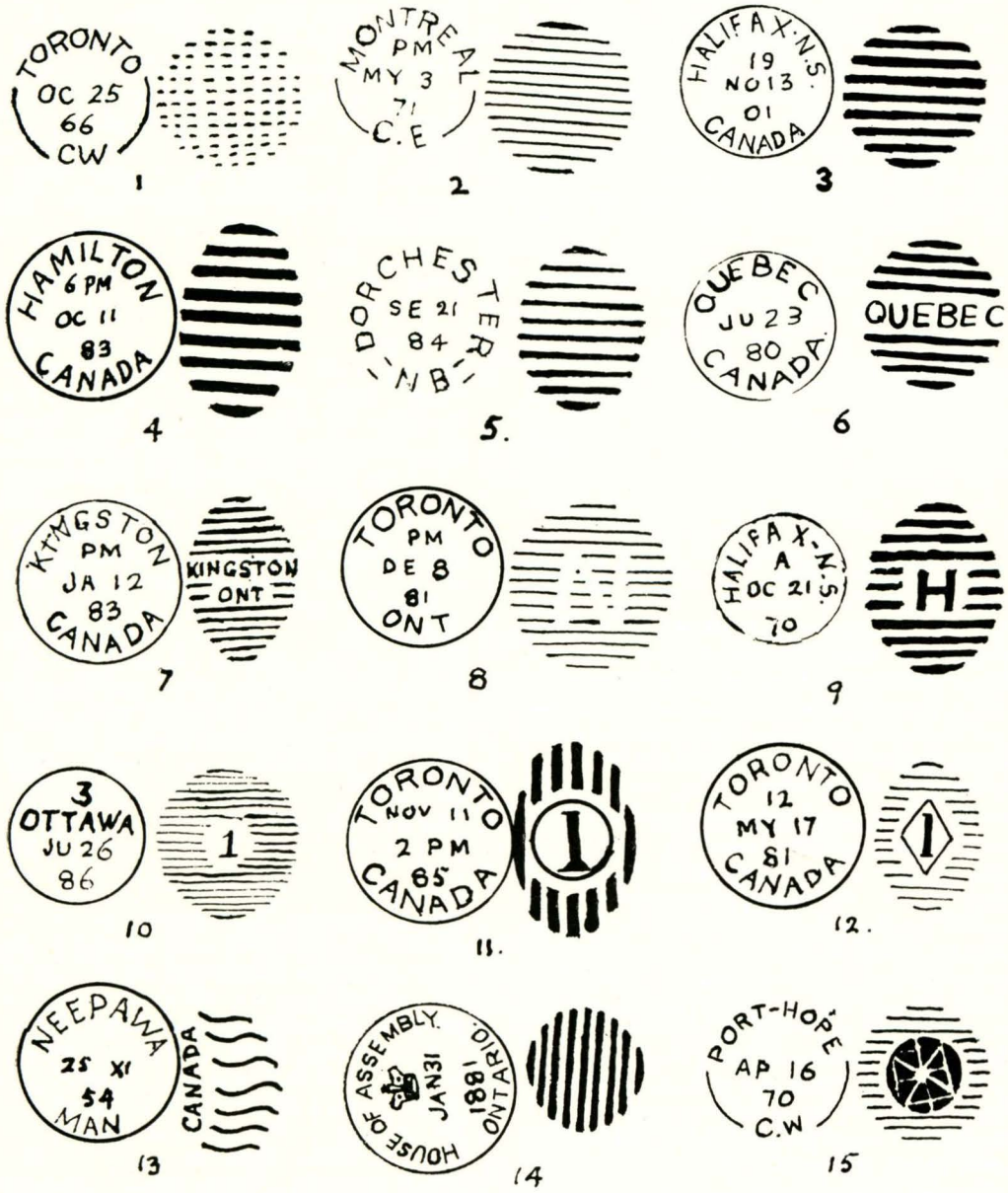
It may be noted that in Canada duplex cancels have been issued only to the larger towns. This first requisition for 22 towns was less than 2% of the post offices then in existence. In fact by 1900, although the number of post offices using duplex had increased to about 150, this also was less than 2% of the total number at that date.

Evolution of Canadian Duplex

Starting from this single standard type (Fig. 2) in 1860, a remarkable range of different types evolved during the next 40 years. Some towns, of which Montreal is a good example, kept mainly to variations of standard types, i. e., circular killers with unbroken horizontal bars of varying thickness and number (Figs. 2 and 3). Other towns, of which Toronto is the supreme example, experimented with a wide range of abnormal types (Figs. 4 to 12), some handsome and attractive, others bizarre and highly original. It will simplify matters if we trace the evolution of standard types and abnormal types separately.

Standard types. Changes in the killer were naturally limited, since by definition "standard" includes only circular killers with unbroken horizontal bars. In the 1860's we find 12 or 13 thin bars (Fig. 2), in the 1870's fewer—10 or 11—thicker bars, in the 1880's and early 1890's more—13 to 15—thin

* W. S. Boggs "The Postage Stamps of Canada", Vol. II, page E.5.



bars, and in the late 1890's a reversion again to 9 thick bars (Fig. 3). These changes suggest that the authorities could not make up their minds whether a larger number of thin bars or a smaller number of thick bars produced the best killers.

Changes in the dater are more interesting and closely connected with two factors:—(i) the historical development of the Dominion, and (ii) the continually increasing amount of post office work. Thus, from 1860 to 1868 we find in the dater the letters "CE" or "CW" (Figs. 1 and 2); after Federation in 1868 the instrument manufacturers were ordered to substitute ONT, QUE, etc. (Fig. 8), while from about 1881 onwards we find

the word CANADA.

As post office work and the daily number of clearances increased, so the time-marks and indicia indicating times of cancellation varied. As McLellan † has pointed out:— "Small towns with only one outgoing mail in the day did not use any time indicia, medium towns with two clearances use AM and PM, larger towns use 1, 2, 3, 4, or A. B. C., while the largest towns indicated exact time in differing ways". This procedure is well illustrated by the progressive changes in Montreal duplex, which in the 1860's had "AM" and "PM" only (Fig. 2) in the 1870's progressed to numbers 1, 5, 7, 8, 10 to indicate mail posted or stamped at those hours, in the 1880's exact time, 8AM, 5PM was shown (Fig. 11), and in the 1890's higher numbers, 10 to 24, being exact hours by the 24 hour clock, (Figs. 3, 12). It is one of the unexplained puzzles of Canadian philately why these indicia numbers were for many years regarded as—and labelled—"Clerks' numbers", when they were obviously not so. It was undoubtedly the intention of the authorities to indicate *when* mail was despatched, not *who* despatched it. Inquiry from the P. O. Dept., Ottawa has established that there is no official evidence in support of the "Clerks' numbers" idea.

Abnormal types. By contrast with the "Standard" types, the main interest in abnormal types is the quite astonishing range and variety of killers brought into use. It would be impossible in this article to describe and illustrate all these interesting and picturesque types, but a selection of them in the accompanying plate will give some slight idea of their variety. Figs. 4 and 5 show oval killers with unbroken bars, a type used only in eight towns. Incidentally the Dorchester duplex (Fig. 5) is one of the very few duplex known with no outer circle around the dater. (Early daters to 1876-78 had a partial outer circle, and thereafter a complete outer circle). Figs. 6 and 7 have the name of the town both in the killer and dater, a type recorded for six towns only. Figs. 8 and 9 show an initial between broken bars, "N" for Toronto North Branch, "H" for Halifax.

Figs. 10, 11, and 12 show three types of killer enclosing a number of which there are many varieties. Fig. 10—Ottawa—had a remarkably long life of over 20 years, and the killer part was also used as an early precancel, in which state it is decidedly scarce. Figure 11 is an exceptional type with vertical instead of horizontal bars, used only in Toronto and four of its suboffices. This type with No. 5 (Riverside Branch) is one of the major rarities in duplex. Fig. 12 is another scarce type which will be mentioned again later.

These 12 illustrations are all examples of duplex from the Victorian era. However, the use of duplex has continued to the present day—in a very short time Canadian duplex will celebrate their centenary of use!—and Fig. 13 is an example of a modern duplex. It would swell this article to inordinate length if it included the numerous varieties of duplex used during the Edwardian, Georgian, and Elizabethan eras.

Figs. 14 and 15 are two examples of freak duplex which occasionally turn up to add interest to the subject. Fig. 14 shows "The House of Assembly" duplex, Ottawa, ONT. It was noted earlier that any strikes where the killer breaks the "3 o'clock rule" and "parallel to axis rule" are most probably false duplex, but here we have a genuine duplex which breaks both rules! The killer is at 6 o'clock to the dater and slightly tilted. Examples in my collection, all showing identically these freak characters, include a cover with the very early date of "Jany. 1881" in blue, more blue strikes dated 1884, 1886, 1896, and black strikes of 1897 and 1900. The majority of these are dated March, evidently an active month for the "House of Assembly" post office.

Fig. 15. Port Hope was one of the 22 towns that received duplex hammers made by Berri in 1860, which continued in use until 1869. In that year the Postmaster of Port Hope, like a few hundred other postmasters all over Canada, made for himself some cancels from corks, and by cutting a hole in the killer of his duplex and inserting a cork, ingeniously made a unique type of duplex! The life of the cork evidently was comparatively short, as we have examples of three quite different corks used in this duplex, one (a solid blob) dated December 1869, a second

(Concluded On Page 308)

† "Maple Leaves", June 1957, page 304.

UNITED STATES

Postal History of the District of Maine in 1795

By ARTHUR HECHT

An examination of postal records now in the custody of the National Archives, Washington, D. C. shows that the year 1795 provides an unparalleled representation of mail service in the District of Maine during the eighteenth century. Procedures for the operations of local post offices; decisive instructions to deputy postmasters; establishment of postage rates for letters, packets, newspapers, magazines, and periodicals; commissions allowed to deputies; and authorizations for the development of main and cross post routes had been given the necessary impetus by the postal legislation of 1792 and 1794. The ledgers for 1795 contain the last and the only complete accounts about compensations paid to deputy postmasters and mail contractors and the postal receipts of Maine post offices.

Deputy Postmasters

Recommendations and/or a petition for the establishment of a post office and the appointment of a deputy postmaster were often submitted simultaneously to the Postmaster General. Upon creation of a post office and the approval of a person to serve as deputy postmaster, the Postmaster General offered the appointment to an individual and enclosed with his letter to him a bond and oath to be executed. The bond was completed with "sufficient sureties" (two), dated and the oath subscribed to and taken. After these forms were returned to the General Post Office (not officially known as the Post Office Department until June 8, 1872), the newly appointed deputy postmaster was sent his commission, a table of United States post offices showing their distances to the seat of the Government, a copy of the most recent postal laws and regulations (extract of portions of the 1794 postal legislation), a copy of a map of the United States (probably the one prepared by Abraham Bradley and finally published in 1796); a saddlebag or portmanteau with a key for opening it, postal forms (accounts of letters received and sent, accounts of ship letters, accounts of dead letters, quarterly accounts, post bills, etc.), a table of postage rates (Act of May 8, 1794, Sections 9 and 10), and ledgers.

The postal legislation contains specific instructions relating to the conduct and assignments of deputy postmasters. A deputy postmaster was characterized as "a man accurate and punctual in business and of perfect Integrity, who would probably give extra Satisfaction to the people of [a community]." The instructions pertain mainly to the hours of attending post offices; scheduling of mail service; rating of letters, packets, newspapers, and magazines; computing commissions; and keeping accounts of expenditures for necessary operations. In New England deputy postmasters were occasionally delegated to represent the Postmaster General in handling details about letting of mail contracts. They arranged for publishing proposals for mail contracts in local newspapers, receiving mail transportation proposals, and awarding mail contracts to "competent" contractors, whose terms were considered reasonable by the General Post Office. The management of a satisfactory contract sometimes resulted in a $10 bonus for the deputy. After a mail contract was approved and a copy sent to the General Post Office, the deputy postmaster proceeded to care for the bond and oaths of the mail contractor, the purchase and/or disbursement of saddle-bags to post riders, and the submittal of regular reports to the seat of the Government concerning irregularities of mail service.

Post Offices

Correspondence, lists, and ledgers of the General Post Office show that forty-two post offices in the District of Maine were in operation during 1795. The names of these offices, their annual receipts, names of deputy postmasters and dates of their appointment, and compensations paid to deputies were as shown on Page 307.

Mail Routes

The Post Office acts of 1792 and 1794 authorized the establishment of post routes throughout the United States. The Postmaster General was instructed to enter into mail contracts for periods not exceeding eight years. However, in 1795 mail contracts were let for about one year, and they generally became effective on January 1. The act of 1794 also authorized for the first time the conveyance of mail by stage wagon or carriage. In most instances, contractors employed post riders as mail carriers, and this was true in Maine. Travelers often carried letters, and people were inclined to be faithful about forwarding public letters, thus extending the postal service.

By 1795 the following main post road between Passamaquoddy and Portsmouth, together with mileages between offices, was in operation:

Post Office	*Mileage*
Passamaquoddy	—
Machias	20
Chandler's River	8
Pleasant River	9
Narraguagus	15
*Gouldsborough	16
Sullivan	12
Trenton	12
Bluehill	10
Penobscot	13
*Frankfort	8
Belfast	12
Duck Trapp	12
Camden	7
Thomaston	7
Warren	7
Waldoborough	12
*Bristol	(not shown)
*Nobleborough	(not shown)
Newcastle	10
Wiscasset	10
Bath	13
Brunswick	12
North Yarmouth	17
Portland	14
Biddeford	18
Wells	10
York	20
Portsmouth	10

* Not a post town during 1795; however, it is mentioned in postal legislation because of its "situation and circumstance."

The mail service from Passamaquoddy to Penobscot was performed by John Fullerton for $290 per annum. The mail contract was transferred to John Grindle on October 1, who carried the mail until the end of 1795 for $84.50. From Penobscot to Warren, covering the period October 4, 1794, to December 31, 1795, Samuel Russell served as mail carrier for $300 per annum. Although there are no references to public mail service between Warren and Wiscasset, the mail over this portion of the main post route may have been carried by private post riders. The Wiscassett-Portland mail was handled by Caleb Graffam for $64 per annum. From Portland to Portsmouth two weekly mails were carried by Josiah Paine for $450 per annum. The mails left Portland on Sunday and Thursday at 5 P.M., arrived at Portsmouth on Monday and Friday at 6 P.M., left Portsmouth on Tuesday and Saturday at 6 A.M., and arrived at Portland by 6 P.M. Paine's mail contract was transferred to Samuel Gragg on November 1 for $272 per annum.

The existence of private post riders, who were paid directly by the patrons they served, became an important development of the United States postal service. Such mail service led to the authorizations by Congress in 1792 and 1794 for cross post routes. They served as feeders to the main routes, so that it was hoped that any surplus income from the latter would be diverted to meet the expenses of operating the cross post routes. However, the expenditure for conveying mail by horse on cross post routes was in almost every instance greater than its income.

In 1795 there were very few cross post routes in the District of Maine. James Stevenson served as mail contractor for the mail route between Northampton Court House and Dover for $533.32 per annum.

Post Office and Period	*Deputy Postmaster*	*Date of Appointment* *	*Receipts*	*Compensation to Deputy Postmasters*
Bath	Dummer Sewall	August 25, 1790	$32.55	$127.20
Belfast	James Nesmith	January 1, 1795	2.44½	10.78
Berwick (From Nov. 4)	William Morris	November 4, 1795	.34	1.59
Biddeford	Benjamin Hooper	December 21, 1790	34.46	144.71
Blue Hill (From Feb. 8)	Andrew Witham	January 1, 1795	3.35	8.57
Brunswick	Andrew Dunning	March 20, 1793	11.74	51.43
Camden	Joseph Eaton	January 1, 1795	3.81	12.98
Canaan	Samuel Weston	October 2, 1795		
Chandler's River (From July 1)	William Tupper	April 1, 1795	1.13	3.72
Duck Trapp	Joseph Adams	January 1, 1795	2.28	10.66
Fairfield		October 1, 1795		
Gray (From April 1)	Joseph McLellan	March 9, 1795	.31	1.66
Green	Benjamin Merrill, 3d.	October 1, 1794		
Hallowell Court House	James Burton	August 12, 1794	21.76	88.56
Hallowell Hook	Nathaniel Dummer	January 1, 1795		
Machias	Ralph H. Bowles	January 1, 1795	17.81	62.08
Monmouth	John Chandler	January 1, 1795	1.39	4.42
Narraguagus	Thomas Archibald	January 1, 1795	4.05	10.71
Newcastle	John Farley	July 1, 1795	4.13	20.70
New Gloucester	Nathaniel Cort Allen	January 1, 1795	4.04	15.51
Norridgeworth				
North Yarmouth	Paine Elwell	June 12, 1792	12.56	48.53
Passamaquoddy	Lewis Frederick de Lesdernier (or D'Lesdernier)	January 1, 1795	12.86	45.10
Penobscot	David Howe	January 1, 1795	15.12	83.19
Pittston	Barzillai Gannet	January 1, 1795	5.10	31.12
Pleasant River	Joseph Patton	April 1, 1795	2.50	5.91
Portland	Samuel Freeman	December 3, 1789	187.26	811.84
Prospect	Benjamin Shute	January 1, 1795	2.14	8.52
Sullivan	Paul Dudley Sergeant	January 1, 1795	1.30	6.36
Thomaston	James Dexter Wheaton	January 1, 1795	10.61	39.83
Trenton	Donald Ross	July 1, 1795	4.47	16.60
Vassalborough (From Oct. 1)	Jeremiah Fairfield	October 1, 1795		
Waldoborough	John Head	January 1, 1795	5.08	21.03
Walpole	Samuel Grant	April 1, 1795		
Warren	---------- Burr	October ----, 1773		
From July 1	Rufus Crane	July 1, 1795	4.47	21.86
Waterborough From Oct. 2	Andrew Burley	October 2, 1795	.18	.43
Wells	Joseph Storer	December 20, 1791	30.71	117.29
Winthrop	Benjamin Allen	January 1, 1795	1.05	3.35
Wiscasset	Ebenezer Whittier	November 28, 1791		
York	Daniel Sewall	June 12, 1792	40.28	103.65

* Certain records have disappeared with the passage of time and to arrive at an approximate date with as much accuracy as possible, it is necessary to depend on the accounts submitted by the deputy postmasters and letters written to them or about them.

The route between Portland and Pittston was let to Matthias Blossom for $212.52 per annum. In August the mail schedule for this route was altered so that the mail left Portland every Wednesday at 6 A. M., arrived at Pittston at 6 P. M., and returned to Portland on the next Tuesday evening at 6 P.M. This cross post route was extended to Wiscasset on November 1, increasing the distance 20 miles, and Blossom was allowed $30 more for carrying the mail until the end of 1795. Effective November 1, the following cross post routes were inaugurated: (1) Hallowell Hook to Norridgeworth, let to Peter Gillman, Jr., for $164 per annum; (2) Wells to Dover, let to Josiah Paine for $175 per annum; and (3) Pittston to Plumstead, let to John Rodrick for $100 per annum.

Accounts

The system of accounting by deputy postmasters was handled in a routine manner. At the end of every three months the deputy submitted to the General Post Office transcripts of accounts of letters and newspapers received and sent, ship letters received and receipts for the monies paid for these, letters sent by sea from the post office, printer's accounts receipts for advertising unclaimed letters, a bill for dead letters, post bills, receipts for contingent expenses, and quarterly accounts. The quarterly accounts from local post offices were consolidated in the General Post Office and then submitted to the Treasury Department every three months.

In the last decade of the eighteenth century the troublesome postage rates for letters were changed. There were nine rates established covering eight zones up to 450 miles, and one rate beyond that distance. A flat rate of 25 cents for mail sent more than 450 miles meant a savings to the people of Maine. These rate changes evidently produced the expected results for the post revenue from the District of Maine towns increased in spite of the moderate development of mail service on post roads.

CANADA

(Continued From Page 304)

(cut in 8 segments) dated February and March 1870, and the third (Fig. 15) in April 1870.

In possession of *The Philatelic Foundation, New York,* there is a large proof book (20″ x 14″ x 180 pages) of Canadian cancels, covering the period 1876-1902. Thus before concluding this article, we take the opportunity to record with gratitude that by the kindness of the Chairman and Secretary of *The Philatelic Foundation,* we were able to utilize in our researches on duplex the valuable material contained therein. Out of 10 to 15,000 strikes in the book, 135 were duplex, of which several are otherwise unknown at present (for example Fig. 12) and the dates of manufacture of a large number of types have been authentically established

In conclusion, it may be noted that the total number of different duplex of the Victorian era recorded to date is slightly over 300, spread over about 150 different towns and post offices, so that a reasonably complete collection of these interesting and attractive cancels is not an impossible proposition. But for adequate strikes, single stamps are of little use. Covers, cards, or cut-outs are desirable. The study of cancellations is a branch of philately that is steadily increasing in importance and popularity. Knowledge and study of Canadian duplex is rather surprisingly, one of the very few branches of Canadian philately that has until recently been comparatively neglected. Consequently, there is good scope for further research, as this article has demonstrated, although it has only touched the fringe of the subject.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued From Page 294)

curately dated, and adequately described. The "instructional" or due markings of the three islands are likewise adequately covered.

As with the previous units, it is difficult to evaluate without seeming to praise too much, because the needed tasks have all been completely performed. Given this particular type of postal history study, the method and content here applied, seem to fit the needs precisely. (*S. G. R.*)

BIG COLLECTION

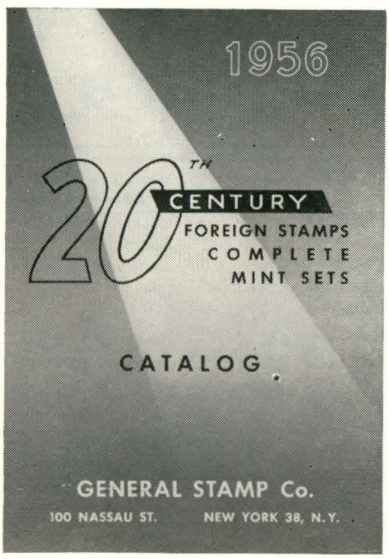
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