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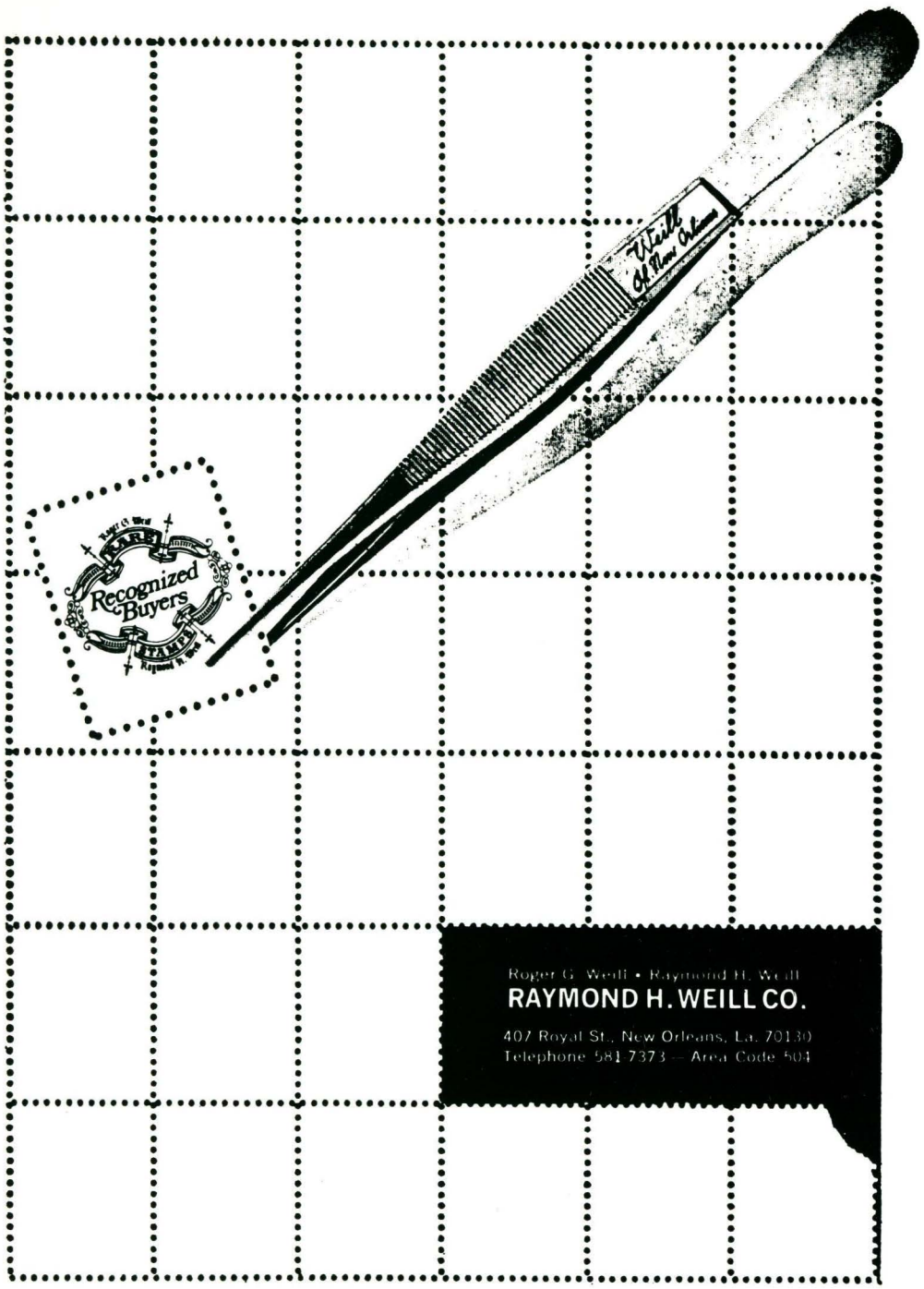
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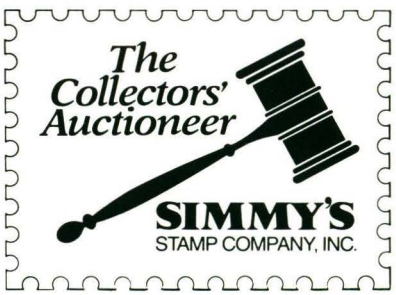
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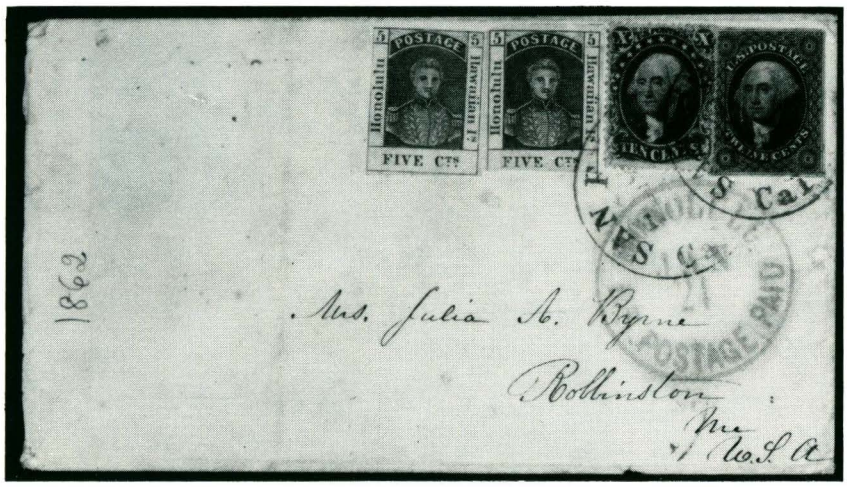
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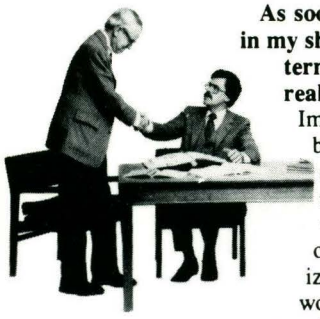
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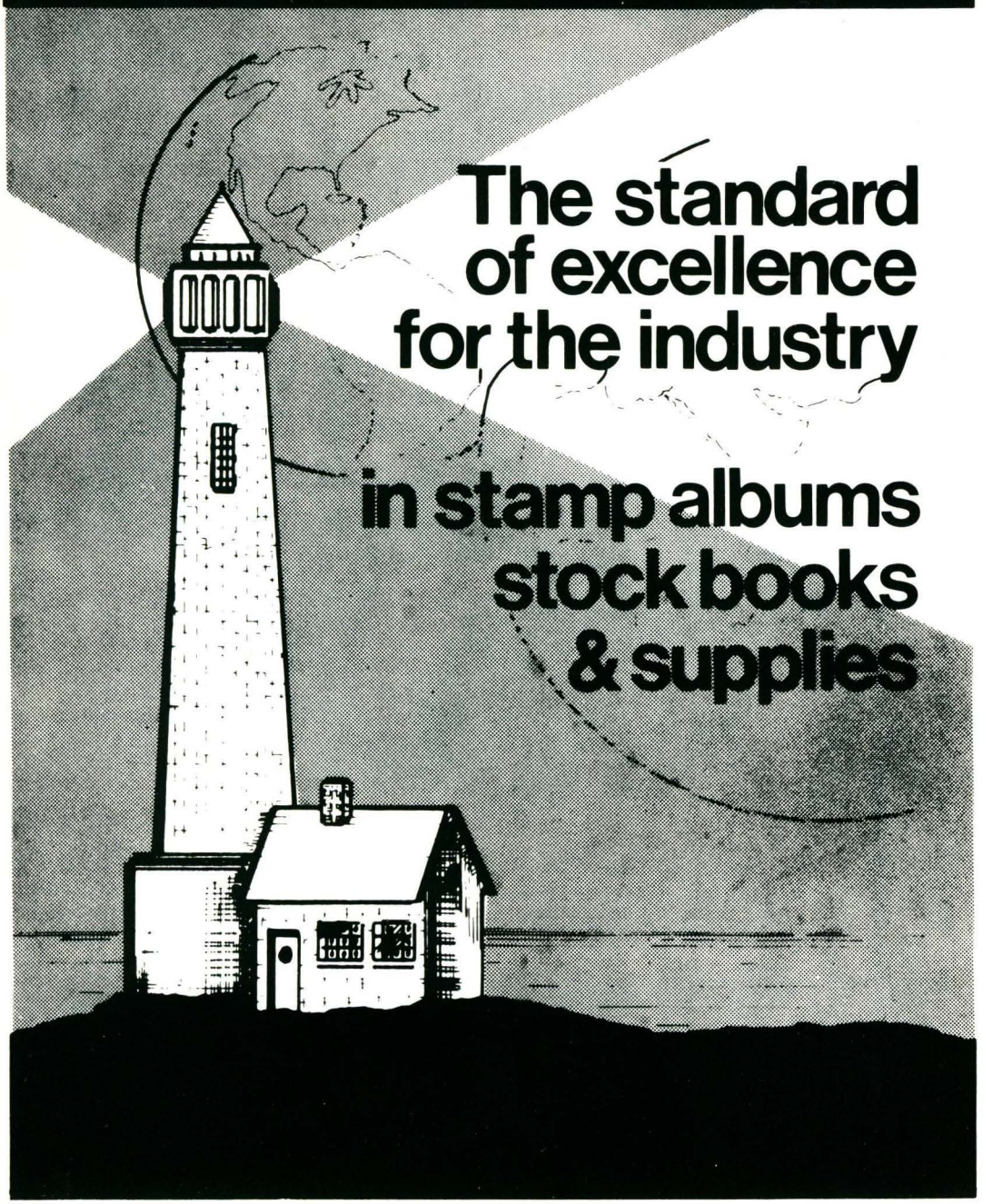
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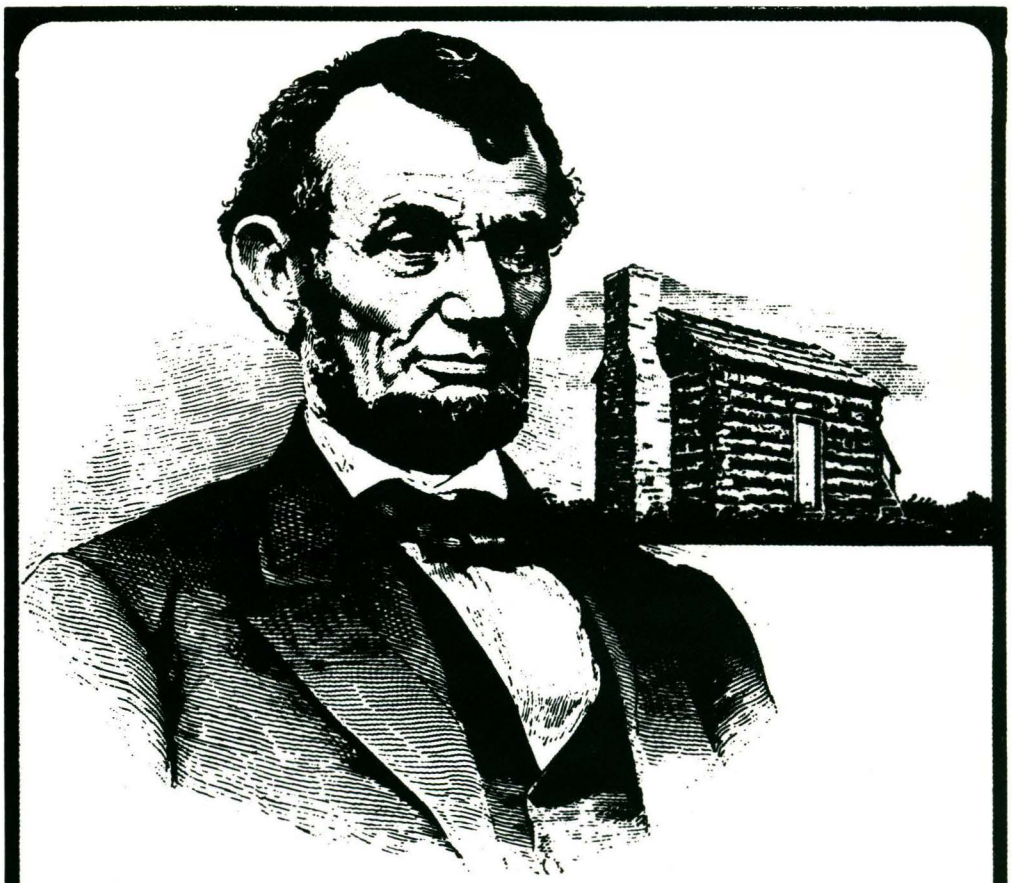
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The Collectors Club Philatelist

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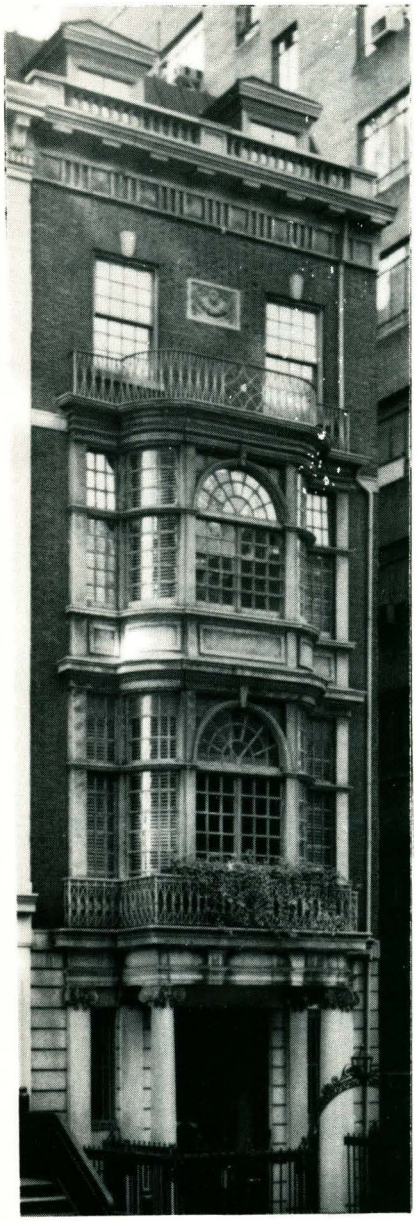
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Adams & Co.'s Express— The Melbourne, Australia, Branch

Allan A. Levy

Few philatelists realize that Adams & Co., the great American express company, had a branch office on another continent. The story of the great American express companies is a fascinating one and has always held the interest of this writer, but the discovery that Adams & Co. had a branch in his own home town spurred him into examining early Melbourne newspapers and directories in the hope of shedding some light on the history and activities of this branch. This article provides a brief summary of the operations of the company in Australia and then provides a philatelic survey of all the covers known to this writer.

The first permanent settlement of Victoria (known as the Port Phillip District prior to its separation from New South Wales in 1851) took place in 1834, and Melbourne was settled in 1835. By 1851 Melbourne had become the largest and most important town in the state. The discovery of gold in Australia on February 12, 1851 was made in New South Wales, but the greatest goldfields were located in Victoria, and the history of the state from 1851 to the 1860 is dominated by gold discoveries and the ensuing rushes. By 1852 Melbourne had become the jumping off point for the thousands who arrived to search for gold.

Among the first migrants to arrive were Americans. Before 1852, only one American ship had ever visited Melbourne (the "Australian" from Boston in 1849), but American influence quickly made itself felt, and commerce began in earnest during 1853 when 134 American ships docked in Melbourne. Most of their passengers were destined for the goldfields, but a number

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stayed on in Melbourne so that by the end of 1853 there were an estimated 200-300 American residents of the city, mostly merchants.

Two of these residents were Freeman Cobb and George Mowton, who came to establish a branch of the American express company Adams & Co. Freeman Cobb was in charge of the California freight, parcel, and gold dust department of Adams & Co.'s New York office from 1850 to 1852. He was young, had a good business education, and was very efficient and diligent about his duties. But Cobb did not stay long. Having obtained some wagons from the United States (which he seems to have ordered before he arrived in Australia), he left Adams & Co. to establish (together with three other Americans) the largest Australian carting company of the nineteenth century, Cobb & Co. He quickly made a fortune and returned to the United States in 1857. Soon after, he became a silent partner in Freeman & Co. and ceases to be of interest to this story.

George Mowton was Adams & Co.'s agent in Cincinnati and was an efficient man of impeccable manners and character, but he was not suited to the task of establishing an express business in Australia. He lacked a thorough grounding in business, banking, and exchange, a lack that handicapped Adams & Co. throughout its tenure in Australia. The company had decided to open its Melbourne office because of representations by a company of steamship owners who assured Adams & Co. that their ships would make regular trips between New York and Melbourne. A steamer was in fact built for this purpose (the *Golden Age*, 3000 tons) and was advertised as ready, but little freight and less passenger interest caused the abandonment of this venture. No other regular line was ever started and thus the inability of Adams & Co. to find regular facilities to transport freight, combined with Mowton's inability to develop substantial business in Melbourne and adverse local interior road conditions, led to the abandonment of the Melbourne venture by 1855. Heavy losses were sustained, but Mowton seems to have been retained by the company, merely recalled to the United States, later turning up as the agent at some valuable coal fields in Trevorton, Pennsylvania.

The first advertisement for Adams & Co. in Melbourne appeared in the Melbourne newspaper *The Argus* of May 14, 1853 and is here quoted in full:

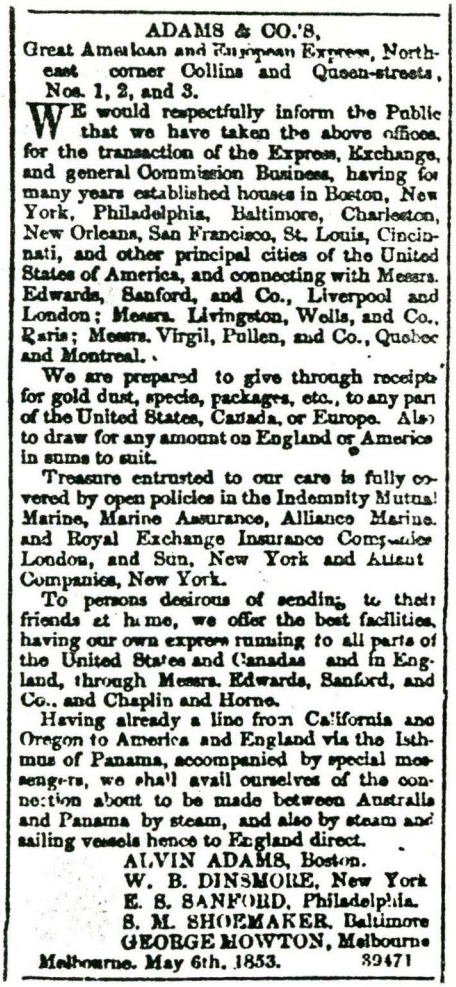
> ADAMS & CO'S EXPRESS, We shall despatch our first Express to England and America per Steamer "Harbinger", on Saturday, 14th inst. Through receipts given for gold dust, specie, and packages of all descriptions, fully covered by Insurance, and delivered as addressed in any part of England or America. Drafts on England, Canada or United States, in sums to suit, of amounts not under £5. Commissions executed in either of the above places.
> ADAMS & CO
> North-east Circus, Queen and Collins-streets, May 11th, 1853.

Mowton's name first appears in an early Adams & Co. advertisement in *The Argus* issue dated May 23, 1853 (although the advertisement is dated May 6, 1853). See Fig. 1. A report in *The Argus* on July 6, 1853 provides details of the July 4th celebrations orangized by Americans, one of which was George Mowton, vice president of the committee. Mowton is listed in the 1855 Melbourne Directory, but that is his only appearance.

Another early advertisement appeared in *The Argus* on May 17 and is here quoted in full:

> STEAM-SHIP HARBINER, GOLD-DUST, valuable Packages or presents, sent by this Steamer to England or America, fully covered by insurance, and for which receipts will be given. Such packages will be delivered as addressed without further trouble to the shipper, all expenses being pre-paid here.
> ADAMS & CO., North-east corner of Queen and Collins-streets, up stairs.

In mid-1854 a major consolidation of Adams & Co.'s American operations took place, with the Eastern, Southern, and Western Express and the Harnden Express, Kinsley & Co., and Hoey & Co.'s Charleston Express joining to become the Adams Express Company. Alvin Adams was its first president. Early in 1855 Adams was succeeded by G. W. Cass. In the summer of 1854, advertisements in the New York *Journal of Commerce* and elsewhere announced that Alvin Adams, Wm. B. Dinsmore, E. S. Sanford, and S. M. Shoemaker had dissolved their partnership with D. H. Haskell. The four owners of Adams & Co. in the eastern states decided to terminate their office in California, but agreed to cooperate with I. C. Woods and D. W. Haskell, who as partners had assumed the sole proprietorship of Adams & Co.'s California Express.



ADAMS & CO.'S,
Great American and European Express, North-east corner Collins and Queen-streets, Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

WE would respectfully inform the Public that we have taken the above offices for the transaction of the Express, Exchange, and general Commission Business, having for many years established houses in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, New Orleans, San Francisco, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other principal cities of the United States of America, and connecting with Messrs. Edwards, Sanford, and Co., Liverpool and London; Messrs. Livingston, Wells, and Co., Paris; Messrs. Virgil, Pullen, and Co., Quebec and Montreal.

We are prepared to give through receipts for gold dust, specie, packages, etc., to any part of the United States, Canada, or Europe. Also to draw for any amount on England or America in sums to suit.

Treasure entrusted to our care is fully covered by open policies in the Indemnity Mutual Marine, Marine Assurance, Alliance Marine, and Royal Exchange Insurance Companies London, and Sun, New York and Atlantic Companies, New York.

To persons desirous of sending to their friends at home, we offer the best facilities, having our own express running to all parts of the United States and Canadas and in England, through Messrs. Edwards, Sanford, and Co., and Chaplin and Horne.

Having already a line from California and Oregon to America and England via the Isthmus of Panama, accompanied by special messengers, we shall avail ourselves of the connection about to be made between Australia and Panama by steam, and also by steam and sailing vessels hence to England direct.

ALVIN ADAMS, Boston.
W. B. DINSMORE, New York
E. S. SANFORD, Philadelphia.
S. M. SHOEMAKER, Baltimore
GEORGE MOWTON, Melbourne

Melbourne, May 6th, 1853. 39471

Fig. 1. Adams & Co.'s Great American and European Expresses advertisement of May 23, 1853.

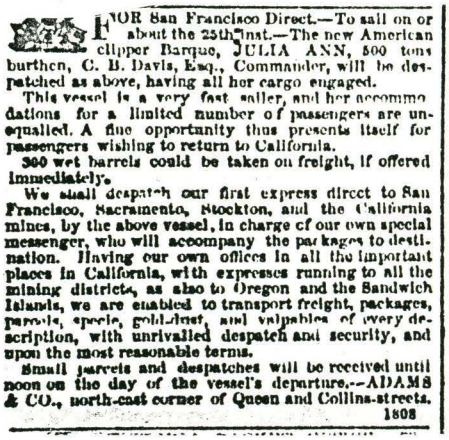
An advertisement appearing in the *Melbourne Morning Herald* on June 1, 1855 announcing the dissolution of the partnership is quoted in full:

> The following Notices are taken from the California papers of May 12, 1854:
> ADAMS AND CO. 69 Collins-street west, Melbourne.
> May 21, 1855
>
> PUBLIC NOTICE
>
> The co-partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned, transacting business as Bankers, and Express Carriers in the State of California, and in the eastern States of the United States, under the name, firm, and style of Adams and Co., expires this day by limitation.
> Dated San Francisco, May 12, 1854.
> (Signed) ALVIN ADAMS, W. B. DINSMORE, E. S. SANFORD, W. M. SHOEMAKER by C. E. Bowers, their attorney in fact

The undersigned, composing the firm of Adams and Co., of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and all other principal cities and towns of the Eastern States, will hereafter carry on the Express and Forwarding Business to or from the said cities and towns in the Eastern States, and the city of San Francisco. San Francisco, acting as our Agents.
Dated San Francisco, May 12 1854.
Signed ALVIN ADAMS, W. B. DINSMORE, E. S. SANFORD, S. M. SHOEMAKER
By C. E. Bowers, their attorney in fact.

The company did not stay long at its Queen and Collins Streets address. It is listed in the Quarterly Melbourne Directory of 1853 at "69 Great Collins-street, west" and also in 1854 and 1855, but then disappears until 1862. In that year the directory shows "Adams & Co." under "Brokers, Agents and Commission Agents. Shipping and Lightering" at a new address, 53½ Flinders-street, west. This is the last listing of Adams & Co. to be found in Melbourne directories.

The first express to the west coast of the United States was dispatched on the clipper *Julia Ann* which departed Melbourne for San Francisco on July 25, 1853. An advertisement publicizing this express appeared in *The Argus* of July 6 and is reproduced as Fig. 2.



FOR San Francisco Direct.—To sail on or about the 25th inst.—The new American clipper Barque, JULIA ANN, 500 tons burthen, C. B. Davis, Esq., Commander, will be despatched as above, having all her cargo engaged.

This vessel is a very fast sailer, and her accommodations for a limited number of passengers are unequalled. A fine opportunity thus presents itself for passengers wishing to return to California.

300 wet barrels could be taken on freight, if offered immediately.

We shall despatch our first express direct to San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, and the California mines, by the above vessel, in charge of our own special messenger, who will accompany the packages to destination. Having our own offices in all the important places in California, with expresses running to all the mining districts, as also to Oregon and the Sandwich Islands, we are enabled to transport freight, packages, parcels, specie, gold-dust, and valuables of every description, with unrivalled despatch and security, and upon the most reasonable terms.

Small parcels and despatches will be received until noon on the day of the vessel's departure.—ADAMS & CO., north-east corner of Queen and Collins-streets.
1808

Fig. 2. Advertisement from *The Argus*, July 6, 1853.

Adams & Co. also ran expresses to various coastal and inland towns of Victoria, and of course a large proportion of its business eminated from the goldfields. A typical advertisement detailing the services provided is reproduced as Fig. 3. This advertisement appeared in *The Mount Alexander Mail* (a newspaper with a large circulation on the Victorian goldfields) of December 8, 1854.

The company also established a branch at Sydney, although it seems to have been short-lived. Adams & Co. is listed in the 1855 Sydney directory as "Bankers, Queens Place", but does not appear in any subsequent editions.

Conditions on the Victorian goldfields were very primitive, and the roads connecting the goldfields with Melbourne were hardly any better, making any form of transport to and from the

ADAM'S & CO'S
GREAT AMERICAN & EUROPEAN EXPRESS.

WE would respectfully inform the Public that we have made an arrangement with Messrs Raleigh, Locke, Thorp and Co. to run our "Express" to Sydney and Geelong by their steamers, and shall commence doing so on Monday, the 11th instant. We intend conducting the business in the same manner as done by us in the United States and England. Packages of all descriptions will be received at our office daily, for Geelong until half-past ten, a.m. and for Sydney on the day of the sailing of the London and Governor General steamers.

Each steamer on which we send our Express will be furnished with an Iron Safe, and our agent will accompany each Express to destination.

We are prepared to give receipts for Banker's Parcels, Gold Dust and Specie, which will be delivered immediately on the arrival of each steamer.

Bills, Drafts and Notes, collected at Sydney or Geelong, and proceeds returned by next Express. Orders for Goods or Packages to be sent by our Express will be carried free.

Our waggons will call for any package too bulky to be carried by hand, free of charge to the shipper.

Our agents at Sydney and Geelong will attend to business of any nature.

Our Express to the United States, England and the Continent, will be despatched, as usual, by each first-class steamer and sailing vessel.

Bills of Exchange drawn on any of our houses in the United States or England in sums to suit.

ADAMS and Co. 69, Collins-st. west.

Offices: Geelong, R. Wilkinson, next door to Mack's Hotel. Sydney, F. W. Clarke and Co. 6, Jamieson-street.

27 34

Fig. 3. Advertisement from the *Mount Alexander Mail*, December 8, 1854.

goldfields irregular and haphazard. These conditions forced the abandonment of Adams & Co's services to the goldfields. An advertisement appearing in *The Melbourne Morning Herald* of July 3, 1854 announces the discontinuation of Adams & Co.'s agencies in the various goldfields (which are not named except for Bendigo where their agency remained active), because of "unsatisfactory express lines."

The Victorian Postage Act of 1855 extended the provisions for sending certain classes of parcels by post to include overseas

destinations. This brought a quick end to business for Adams & Co. The latest advertisement for the Melbourne branch is dated in June, 1855, and the company ceased business about that date.

Philatelic Description

Very little has been written about the Adams & Co. Melbourne branch. In an article titled "Burdell's Express" in *The Stamp Specialist Mahogany Book* (New York, 1947) J. R. W. Purves described a front bearing a red Adams & Co. handstamp and gave a short and rather incomplete account of the operations of the company.

An embossed shield cachet reading "ADAMS & CO./AMERICAN/ & / EUROPEAN/EXPRESS/MELBOURNE/N.S.W." is listed in *The Forwarding Agents* by Kenneth Rowe (Toronto, 1966) and given an 1853 date. This cachet is imprinted on the flapside of all the three covers known, and is always in blue.

The Charles F. Meroni collection of United States postal history sold on November 12, 1952 by John A. Fox, contained three of the covers described in this article.



Fig. 5. The earliest reported cover from the Adams & Co. Express from Australia.

Great Britain.



ADAMS & CO.'S EXPRESS.—By the famous Clipper and Royal Mail Packet LIGHTNING, to sail hence for Liverpool, 10th April, we forward our next regular Express, to the care of our agents, Messrs. Edwards, Sanford and Co, conveying gold-dust, valuable packages and small parcels (with or without insurance), to every part of the continent of Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the British Provinces of North America.

Gold dust delivered at the Bullion Office, Bank of England, or the U.S. Mint, Philadelphia, and returns forwarded or proceeds placed to account of shipper.

Bills of Exchange—on Messrs. Adams and Co., in nearly every city of the United States; and upon Messrs. Edwards, Sanford and Co., London, for the United Kingdom, payable at sight—furnished up to the latest moment previous to the vessel's departure.

We forward every description of parcels by the ships of this and the White Star Line of Packets; also by every good opportunity.

Agents: G. W. Haycock, Bendigo; H. Whi in, Telegraph Store, Maryborough; G.D. M'Cormack, Moorabool street, next Victoria Hotel, Geelong.

ADAMS & CO., express and forwarding agents, 69 Collins street west. 9583 m 31

Fig. 4. Advertisement from *The Melbourne Morning Herald*, March 29, 1855.

The earliest cover known to me from the Adams & Co. express (Fig. 5) bears one of the two known examples of the red octagonal "ADAMS & Cos / EXPRESS / MELBOURNE / N.S.W." handstamp. The cover also bears the embossed shield cachet in blue on the flap. The cover was carried by a company messenger to Liverpool where it received the oval "FORWARDED BY EDWARDS, SANFORD & CO. LONDON, NEW YORK & LIVERPOOL" handstamp. (Edwards, Sanford & Co. were Adams & Co.'s agents in Liverpool and are named in several of their advertisements. One such advertisement, from *The Melbourne Morning Herald* of March 29, 1855 is reproduced as Fig. 4.) The cover bears a Liverpool cds dated August 18, 1853 (the date the letter arrived in Liverpool from London) and probably left Melbourne in late May or early June. The cover is addressed "per Europa," which sailed from Liverpool on August 20, 1853 and arrived in Halifax on the 29th and in Boston on the 31st. The rate was 20 cents and the "5 CENTS" handstamp in red is a

credit mark. The *Europa* was of course a Cunarder of 1834 tons launched on July 15, 1848. Its maiden voyage was from New York on June 23, 1849. Its last trip was in 1866 and it was sold in 1867.

The only other example of the octagonal handstamp known to me is on the front mentioned earlier now in the collection of the late J. R. W. Purves. It is addressed to Adelaide, South Australia, and bears a Victorian 1/- imperforate adhesive tied by a Barred Oval 1 cancellation and additionally bearing Melbourne (September 1854) and Adelaide (September 13, 1854) date stamps.

Three covers are known to me originating from Adams & Co. in the United States and addressed to Melbourne. Two of these covers bear the embossed red shield "ADAMS & CO. / EXPRESS / 16 WALL ST. / NEW YORK" and are addressed to "Mr. Robt. R. Carrington Purser of Steamer 'New Orleans' care of Geo. Mowton Esq. Adams & Co. Melbourne Australia." There are no other postal or company markings. (The steamer *New Orleans* was the key ship in Charles Morgan's drive to a shipping empire. It was 762 tons and was completed in 1846. It set Morgan on his way to a Carribean shipping monopoly on mail to Mexico.) One of these covers is marked "Duplicate" and is in the late J. R. W. Purves collection; the other cover was once in the Charles F. Meroni collection (lot 1047). It was formerly lot 1658 in the Knapp Sale. As it was the original, it went on the *Illinois*. The letter enclosed is a fascinating one. It is a discussion of the "curse of drink" and refers to Joe Hawes of Hawes & Co., a rare western express. Hawes was an agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. and took over the remains of the Gregory express in May 1853 and lasted until 1857. Reportedly there is a handstamp of his reading "J. W. Carrington, Agent" which ties neatly with Robert Carrington on the New Orleans.

The Purves cover inscribed "Duplicate" has a manuscript notation "Sent original per 'Illinois' via San Francisco yesterday" inside the flap. However, as the addressee had moved on, the cover was enclosed in a larger one and addressed "care of Sheppard & Alger, Sydney, N.S.W." This outer cover also bears the blue embossed shield cachet of the Melbourne Adams & Co. branch. It has a manuscript "4" denoting the post office charge of 4d for carrying the letter from Melbourne to Sydney, and bears Melbourne (October 3, 1853) and Ship Letter Sydney (November 6, 1853) datestamps. (The *Illinois*, 2123 tons was George Law's ship which first sailed to Chagres on August 28, 1851; when launched it was the "fastest steamer in the world.")

The third cover sent from the United States, also ex Meroni (lot 1046), bears a larger type embossed shief "ADAMS & CO. / EXPRESS / 59 / BROADWAY / NEW YORK" and bears the same address as the first two. This cover is inscribed "pr Julia Ann" (probably the 372 ton barque built in Maine in 1852), being the ship that

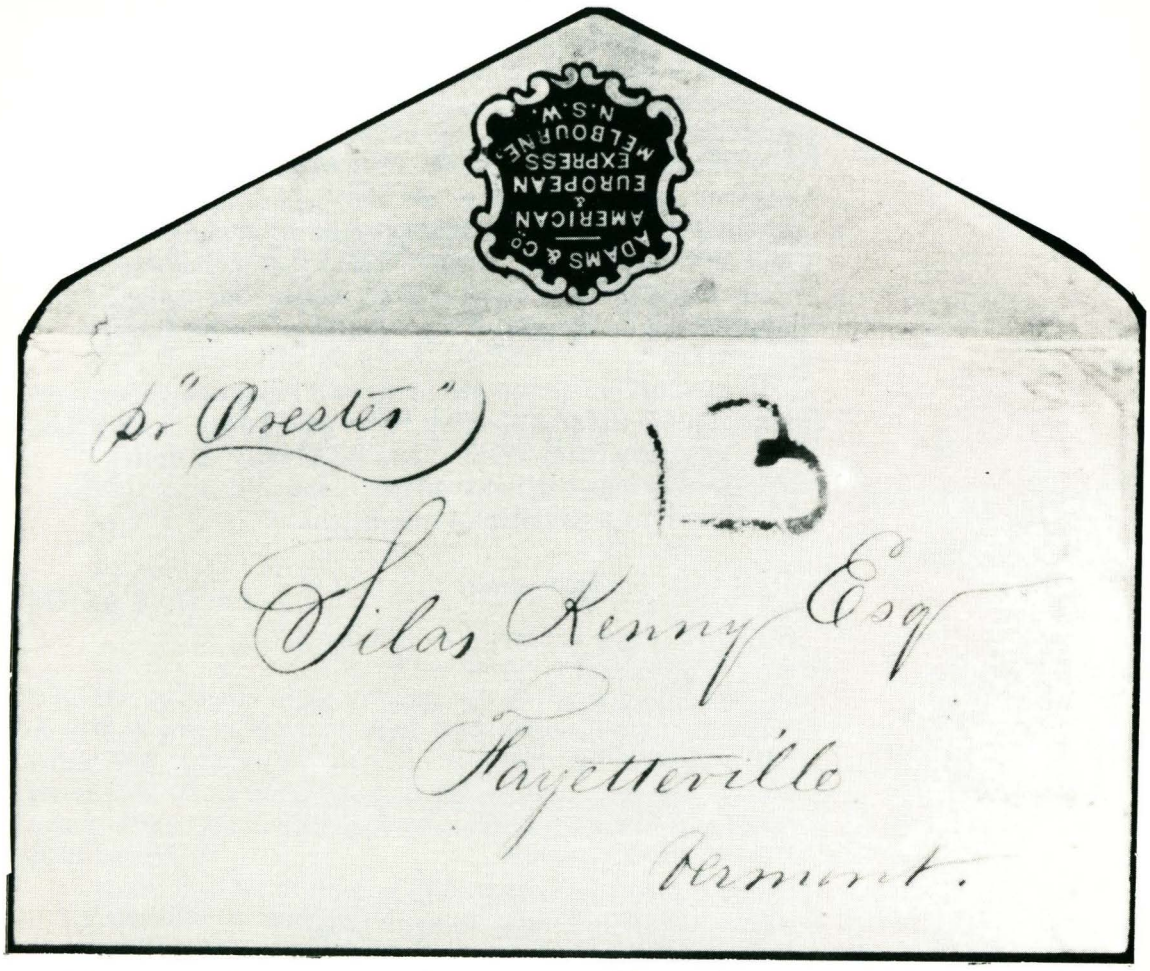


Fig. 6. This cover was apparently carried out of the mails from Australia to the United States.

carried the letter from Sydney to Melbourne, and bears ship letter datestamps for Sydney (January 21, 1854, in black) and Melbourne (January 30, 1854, in red).

Finally, another cover is known bearing the blue embossed shield cachet on the flap and it was once in the Meroni collection (lot 1044). The cover (Fig. 6) is addressed to "Fayetteville, Vermont" and inscribed "pr 'Orestes'", a ship which is listed in the shipping columns of *The Argus* as having been "cleared out" on March 25, 1854. This vessel was a sailing ship that took the mails officially to Australia at some point. It left Gravesend March 19, 1853 but was damaged on the trip and had to return. The cover may have been carried on the first return trip after the accident. The cover does not bear any postal markings and was privately carried to the United States. The significance of the manuscript "13" marking is not clear. It is possibly a control number indicating the thirteenth letter in the batch.

It is not clear why the blue shield cachet, and the octagonal handstamp described earlier, are inscribed N.S.W. instead of

Victoria. By the time Adams & Co. began its operations in Melbourne, Victoria had been separated from New South Wales for almost two years. One explanation advanced is that the handstamp is an old one dating from the time Melbourne was part of New South Wales (i.e. before July 1, 1851). It seems unlikely that the establishment of the Melbourne branch was planned as early as 1850 or 1851; the news of the Victorian gold discoveries would not have reached the United States before late 1851, and by then the Port Phillip District had become the Colony of Victoria. The most likely explanation is that of error or oversight on the part of the designer of the handstamp.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude and great appreciation to Mr. Calvet M. Hahn who was of incalculable help in adding many relevant bits to my original draft, information that was not available to me in this part of the world and for many helpful suggestions.

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First Stamps of Serbia: The 1866 2 Para Green Newspaper Stamp, The So-Called "Error of Color," Is No Error

Mirko R. Rasic

Until the discovery of new documents in the Belgrade archives in 1970, it was believed by most students (including the pre-World War II Serbian expert Eugen Darocco) that the 2 para green of the Coat of Arms issue was an error in color. Then a report of the Commission, after the first printing of April 26, 1866, revealed:

> To the Minister of Finance. Referring to your order (A#2250) the Commission composed of the undersigned, reports that in their presence at the State Printing Works, 1944 copies of the 2 para stamps and 2040 stamps of the 1 para stamp were printed. The first are on lilac-gray paper and are printed in dark green color. The others are on pale-rose paper, in yellowish-green color.
>
> The work of the Commission completed, the nonusable material has been destroyed and the stamps handed to the Management for safekeeping.
>
> [Signed] *Radoje Sarcevic*
> *Nikola Petrovic*
> *Adolf Jaksa*

Unfortunately, this report contradicts another document signed by the same Radoje Sarcevic, No. 2855, November 10, 1866, in which the Home Office recommended that the State Printing Works print (for the third time) 10,000 copies of the 2 para and 6000 copies of the 1 para stamp in the old design, on the same paper, and in the same colors as those printed in the first and second printings (April 26 and May 19, 1866).

Mr. Sarcevic, head of the Post and Telegraph section, would not have expressly mentioned the first printing if both values

Collectors Club Philatelist Vol. 61, No. 3, May 1982. The Collectors Club, Inc.
0010-0838/82/3/151-153 $3.00 + $0.25

were printed in shades of green because the 2 para of the second printing was done in a brown shade. Mr. Sarcevic, who was present during the previous two printings, would have known that the 2 para of the first printing was not brown but green. Had it not been for this contradiction, there would have not been any doubt that the color of the 2 para of the first printing was green and not brown.

Recently, after a search of more than 10 years, I found the facts to solve this puzzle, as everything prior was only speculation. I found a copy of this stamp in dark green color (position 11 of the sheet known in brown) with margins wide enough at the top and left, which proves that the 2 para in green was a separate printing. In accordance with the report of April 26, 1866, it must be considered the first printing.

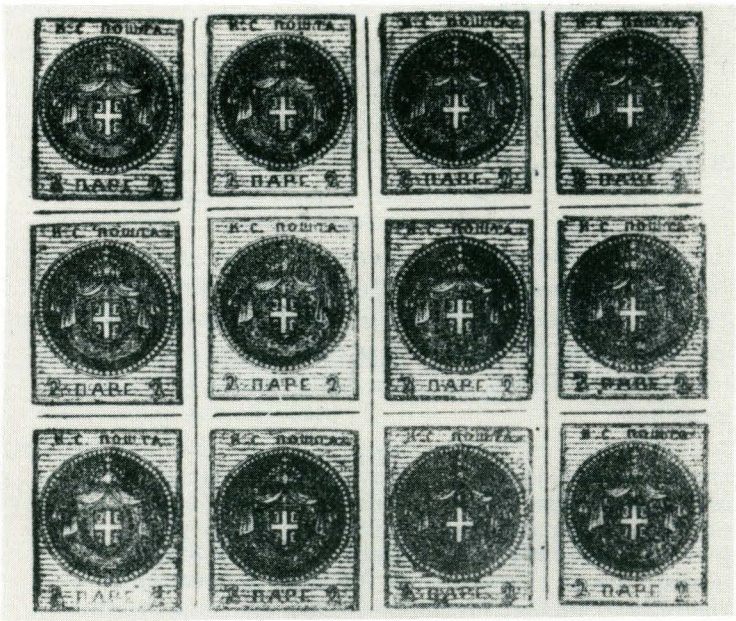


Fig. 1. The second printing of the 2 para Coat of Arms issued May 20, 1866 on thick paper.

From the left parting line, this stamp appears to be actually position 7 in all printings in the brown shade. They all have the middle verticle dividing line broken between positions 6 and 7. (Figs. 1 and 2.) The same break is visible on the 2 para green (Fig. 3), which is position 11 of the brown shades. This means that the stamp actually was position 7. This is confirmed by the little visible left of the upper dividing line. In all sheets of the 2 para brown position 11, this line travels, on the left, nearly to the end. However, above position 7, it is a little shorter and bends downwards.

From the above facts, it appears that the setting of the position in the first printing of the 2 para green was different from the later one in brown. I have not yet been able to determine if the other positions of the stamps also changed.

The Commission's report of April 26, 1866 states that the color of the 1 para is yellowish green on thick pale-rose paper.

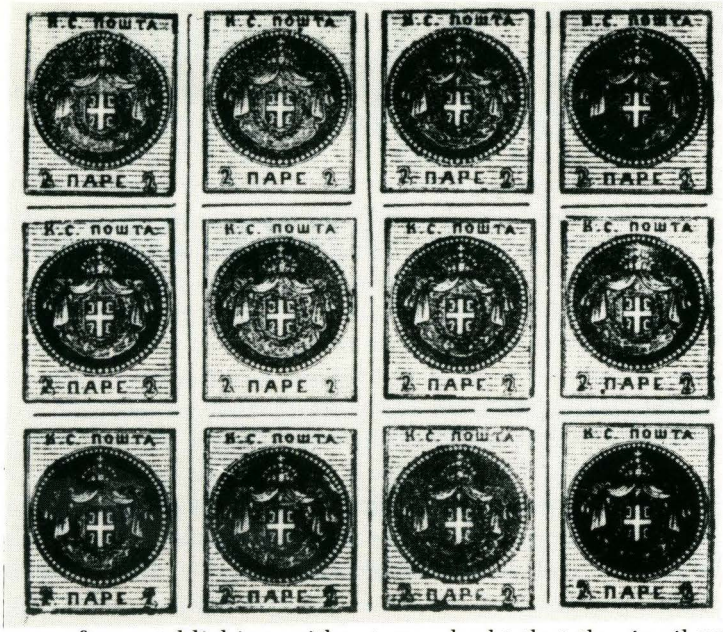


Fig. 2. The third printing of the 2 para Coat of Arms of November 15, 1866 on thin paper showing a break of line below position 7.

Only now, after establishing without any doubt that the April 26 report did not err as regards the color of the 2 para, I am inclined to believe that it also did not err as regards the color of the 1 para, and that the first printing of the 1 para was indeed yellowish green on thick pale-rose paper.

Further study is required to determine how other 1 para stamps (the dark green on thick and thin papers and others) are to be listed. The problem is the scarcity of the dark green stamps on thick paper with sufficient margins to show the dividing lines. No doubt a copy will eventually surface to settle this matter as has been the case with the 2 para green. We now have to settle which are the second and third printings of the 1 para. It was established long ago that the 1 para dark green on thin, colored-through paper belongs to the fourth printing of these stamps.

Fig. 3. The 2 para green Coat of Arms. The arrow at left shows the break of the left dividing line; the arrow at top shows the downward bend of the upper dividing line.



An Introduction to British Newspaper Duty Stamps

H. Dagnall, M.A.

The writer of this article is the co-author of a recently published book on newspaper stamps*, which deals comprehensively with the stamps: their legal background, their use, and the social effect of the tax and the postal arrangements for newspapers. The book includes a catalogue listing with illustrations of all the different types of stamps and it is our type numbers that are quoted in the following article. All illustrations in this article are from this book.

The beginning of the "Taxes on Knowledge"

Broadsides and newspapers were the media in early 18th-century Britain. Great changes in both religious and political ideas were taking place on the continent, overseas trade was increasing, and importers needed commercial and shipping intelligence. At home the political scene was arousing widespread interest. Information on all these matters was disseminated chiefly by the newspaper; on the other hand, it was the broadsides and the less respectable cheap newspapers that gave vent to anti-government sentiments. Strict censorship of the press had been relaxed some time earlier, and since 1695 the free press had become a reality, with the result that newspapers increased in number and influence.

The last government of Queen Anne was finding its efforts to end the expensive War of Spanish Succession severely hampered by Whig criticism, so in January 1712 the Queen called on Parliament to consider ways to reduce the growing menace of libels. Bills to curtail the freedom of the press were rejected, but the same result was achieved indirectly under the

**The Newspaper & Almanac Stamps of Great Britain & Ireland* by John H. Chandler & H. Dagnall. Great Britain Philatelic Society, obtainable from Peter High, 5 Ravens Close, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2LD. 1981.

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0010-0838/82/3/154-162 $3.00 + $0.25

excuse of increasing revenue. An Act of 1712 (10 Anne c.19) imposed a large number of new taxes "...to Raise large Supplies of Money to Carry on the present War, until Your Majesty shall be enabled to Establish a Good and Lasting Peace."

Among the many items to be taxed were newspapers, pamphlets, paper, and advertisements (a group of duties that were later to become the notorious "Taxes on Knowledge"). The tax on the usual half-sheet size of newspaper was a halfpenny and was collected by means of a stamp impressed on the paper. The important thing to note about the duty is that the paper had to be stamped *before* it was used for printing. This meant that all paper destined for newspaper production had to be taken from the mill to the Stamp Office (initially situated in Lincoln's Inn, but transferred to Somerset House in 1787) to have the stamp printed on it, then transported to the newspaper printing office. To print a newspaper on unstamped paper was an offense; it was also an offense to offer an unstamped newspaper for sale, or even to possess one.

The Act had the intended effect of drastically reducing the number of cheap newspapers published.

Stamps of the 1712 Act

Interesting as the social impact of the 1712 Act is, the purpose of this article is to describe the stamps associated with the newspaper duty, so we must pass on to the halfpenny stamp itself. The design is illustrated in Fig. 1. No record now remains of who designed the first newspaper duty stamps, but whoever he was produced two interesting and artistic designs, one of which (the design of Fig. 1) lasted almost unchanged through the life of the Duty, from 1712 until 1870.



Fig. 1. The halfpenny stamp printed from an engraved plate.

The design consists of a Tudor Rose and a Scotch Thistle, both growing from the same leafy stem. At the top is St. Edward's Crown and towards the bottom is the personal motto of Queen Anne—SEMPER EADEM. Below this is the value and the whole is draped in heraldic mantling bunched at the top corners. A One Penny stamp (Fig. 2) was also produced for the whole-sheet rate, but this was hardly ever used and the design was not perpetuated, the few whole-sheet newspapers being stamped with two halfpenny stamps.

The stamps were at first applied by handstamps, but this was a slow process and in 1715 a change was made to engraved (intaglio) copper plates from which twenty-five stamps could be printed simultaneously.

The images (or dies as they are called) were arranged in three rows of 9, 8, and 8 as illustrated in Fig. 3. The individual dies were numbered consecutively below the design (the die number) and the plates themselves were serially numbered below the



Fig. 2. The one penny stamp of lion design.

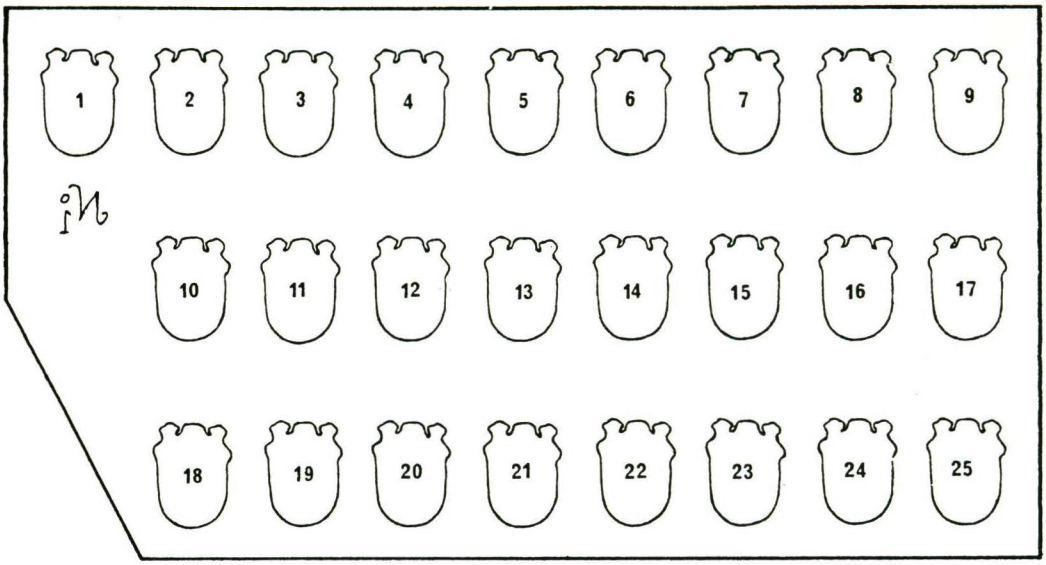


Fig. 3. Layout of units on the first halfpenny plate.



Fig. 4. Die 568 bearing the seventh recut marks.

projecting die of the top row. After a short while it was found more convenient to work with pairs of plates, so they were always made and repaired as a pair.

Being of copper, the plates soon showed signs of wear and, when the impressions from them became faint, each pair of plates was sent back to the engraver for the design to be deepened. A record of this repair was made on the plate by lines engraved in or around the die number, and since some of the halfpenny plates were repaired as many as eight times, the stamps acquired quite elaborate ornaments in the process (see, for example, Fig. 4). These marks are termed recut marks.

When a plate was made or repaired a proof impression was taken for record purposes. Fortunately most of these proof books are still extant and information derived from them through the research of John Chandler is given in our book.

Two engravers were responsible for engraving the plates at the Stamp Office between 1712 and 1756. John Rollos produced the first plates and continued until his death in 1743, when he was succeeded by John Pine. Their different workmanship can be easily distinguished, that of Rollos being finer, clearer, and more consistent than that of Pine.

Printing the Stamps

Staff in the newspaper section of the Stamp Office consisted of "Rolling Press Printers" assisted by "Wetters of Paper" and by "Layers and Takers of Paper off, on and from the Rolling Presses". Paper for stamping was issued to the wetters of paper who dampened it ready for printing*. The rolling press printer would ink a plate, remove the surplus ink, and polish clean the top unengraved parts of the plate. He would then move to the

second plate of the pair and prepare that in the same way. Meanwhile the layer of paper arranged twenty-five sheets of paper on the first inked plate, with their corners overlapping in three rows corresponding to the plate layout, so that each corner picked up the impression of one die only (see Fig. 5). This done, the printer ran his heavy rolling press over the paper to complete the process, leaving the taker off of paper to remove the sheets and set them out for drying and their eventual trip to the warehouse to await collection.

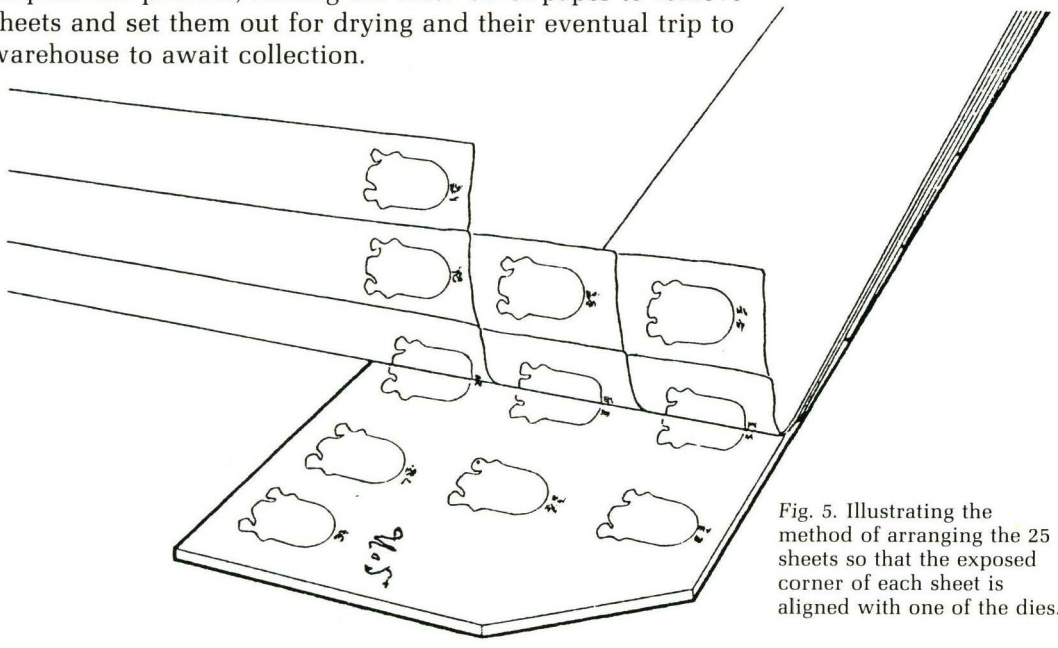


Fig. 5. Illustrating the method of arranging the 25 sheets so that the exposed corner of each sheet is aligned with one of the dies.

Occasional incorrect positioning of the paper resulted in parts of the stamp being missed or parts of two dies (or more) appearing on one sheet. If the sheet covering the ninth die of the upper row were set too low, then part of the plate number appears also, but it is seldom that the whole of this appears. The ink used was red.

Pamphlets

Under the 1712 Act, newspapers printed on more than one sheet of paper were exempt from newspaper duty and instead were assessed as pamphlets which paid the very much lower rate of two shillings for every sheet contained in *one* copy of the issue, not for every copy as in the newspaper duty. Some newspapers used this rule to evade the newspaper duty by printing on a sheet and a half of paper, thereby becoming liable to the more advantageous pamphlet duty, but this loophole was removed by an act in 1725.

*Handmade rag paper was of uneven texture and had to be dampened to soften it. If hard and dry it could not be satisfactorily pressed into the recesses of the engraved plate and would fail to pick up the ink.

The War of Spanish Succession, which had been the excuse for introducing the duties, ended in 1713, but 1756 saw the commencement of the Seven Years' War, another expensive undertaking which again had to be financed partly from stamp revenue, so in 1757 the newspaper duty was increased by the imposition of "an additional duty of one halfpenny." In this way the half-sheet rate was changed from one halfpenny to two halfpennies—a form which legally was not the same as one penny. It was, therefore, necessary to indicate this increase in a similar manner on the stamp, namely by adding a second HALFPENNY scroll underneath the original one. This method of indicating the increase had a practical basis as well as a legal one, for it enabled existing halfpenny plates to be converted easily into ones for the new rate. The plate and die numbering for the new stamp began again from one, so the altered plates had changed die numbers. Nevertheless close comparison of the stamps can identify some of the altered plates.



Fig. 6. Type 7 (top) and Type 7a (bottom).

The need to finance the War of American Independence led the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord North, to add yet another halfpenny to the newspaper duties in 1776. As previously, an extra HALFPENNY scroll was added, this time at the top of the stamp. Some of the existing 1d plates were altered to the 1½d rate and new plates were made.

The next increase did not even have the excuse of war behind it, for when William Pitt the Younger added an extra halfpenny in 1789 it was done in a time of peace. The extra HALFPENNY scroll was this time added at the bottom to produce a stamp denoting the value of 2d.

The twopenny rate lasted for only eight years, until 1797 when Pitt added, not a single halfpenny this time, but three-halfpence at one go, taking the half-sheet rate to 3½d. Naturally this created considerable resentment among newspaper proprietors and the public, especially those who were concerned with the reform societies.

To cater for the new rate the top scroll was changed from HALFPENNY to HALFPENCE and the word THREE was added above it; in addition, a fourth HALFPENNY scroll was added at the bottom to produce Type 7 or 7a (Fig. 6).

A new feature on these stamps is the indication of discount (16 per cent). Right from 1712, the acts had allowed a discount for prompt payment of the duty but this did not appear on the stamp. The amount of discount varied with time but it was not until 1797 that the discount allowed had to be shown in the stamp. The reason for the change was that not all newspapers were now entitled to discount and it was necessary to ensure that stamps purchased at a discount were used only by those newspapers which qualified for it. Those that did not qualify used a stamp (very rare) without the discount wording.

The plates for the 3½d duty fall very obviously into two groups, the difference between them being such as to suggest that they are the work of two different engravers. In type 7 the lettering above the top scroll is compact and neat, the successive lines of HALFPENNY at the foot of the stamp are more or less of the same length, and the die numbers are regular. Whereas in type 7a the top lettering is bolder and more flamboyant, the HALFPENNY lines spread out fanwise as they descend, and the die numbers are larger and irregular. Plates 17-20 have a major error where the top two lines have been telescoped into one by the omission of "Pr.Ct.Dis" (type 7b, Fig. 7). Varieties of a more minor nature can be found—for example, in die 170 the "N" of HALFPENCE is a mirror image of what it should be, an error that was never corrected (Fig. 8).



Fig. 7. Type 7b.

The Duties Consolidated

By 1789, the Commissioners of Stamps had been permitted to consolidate the various increases into a stamp that showed the total duty only, but because the old system of altering the plates by adding extra wording was both convenient and economic, the Commissioners took no immediate advantage of this permission. However, in 1802, when there was no concurrent change of rate to worry about, a new 3½d stamp made its appearance (type 11, Fig. 9). The general design is basically the same as that of the previous stamp, but the motto is now that of King George III—DIEU ET MON DROIT—and the Irish Shamrock is included.



Fig. 8. Stamp of Type 7 with reversed "N."

In 1815, towards the end of the war with France, the duty was raised to fourpence, the highest it was to go. The stamp was similar to that of type 11 but with the top and bottom scrolls changed to read FOUR PENCE.

By this time, a century after the introduction of engraved plates, newspaper circulation had grown very considerably with the result that a large number of plates had to be made and repairing was of poor workmanship, later recuts of the 4d stamp being very coarse. In spite of an increase in staff, the Stamp Office was finding it difficult to cope with the task of stamping the tremendous quantity of paper required daily for newspapers and it was looking for ways of speeding up the process.

Fig. 9. Type 11, the consolidated threepence halfpenny.



The year 1829 saw the start of a series of experiments to this end, with a change to letterpress printing. The size of the sheets of paper produced by papermarkers had gradually increased and it was difficult to arrange twenty-five sheets to align with the dies on the plates, so the letterpress plates were made smaller, still in pairs but one plate contained twelve dies and the other thirteen. No die number appears.

Letterpress printing from multiple image plates did not prove



Fig. 10. Handstamp Type 24.

very satisfactory and it was soon replaced by handstamps. Although each sheet had to be stamped separately, the process was found to be quicker overall and thereafter no more multiple plates were used.

The handstamps were numbered within the design with a letter and a serial number, the A series (type 24, Fig. 10) for the 20 per cent discount stamp and the B series for the 4 per cent discount stamp.

The high rate of duty aroused great opposition and several societies were active in pressing for a reduction of the tax. One concession was granted in 1825: the privilege of free postage was allowed to all stamped newspapers*, but the Government did not reduce the tax until 1836.

The Distinctive Dies



Fig. 11. Distinctive die for a British newspaper.

By 1835-1836, reduction of the newspaper duty had become a political necessity due to increasing agitation on the part of the reform societies. It was brought about by an act (6 & 7 Wm. IV c76) which went into effect on September 15, 1836. The basic duty was reduced to 1d, but papers exceeding a specified size were charged either 1½d or 2d.

An addition to the bill during its passage through Parliament was the requirement that the name of the newspaper should be incorporated in the stamp, thereby giving rise to one of the most interesting series of stamps—the Distinctive Dies. The reason for this was primarily to increase the control the government had over newspapers that did not pay the advertisement duty because they could not now obtain their stamped paper from another newspaper. The change also enabled the government to ascertain the true circulation figures of opposition newspapers.

The design takes the form illustrated in Fig. 11 with the name of the periodical (abbreviated if necessary) on the left and the type of duty (newspaper, supplement, or additional) on the right. This right-hand inscription was integral with the duty die, but the left-hand inscription was a separate die which could be fastened to and used with any duty die. All discounts were abolished except in Ireland where they were shown on the stamp in place of the right-hand duty inscription (Fig. 12). As before, the stamp conferred the privilege of free postage.



Fig. 12. Distinctive die for an Irish newspaper.

In 1852 stamping by machinery was begun at the London Stamp Office and was adopted as the normal practice there. By this time provincial offices for stamping newspapers had been opened in Manchester, Edinburgh, and Dublin, but the amount of paper being stamped at these offices did not warrant the cost of machinery and stamping by hand was continued.

*Previously most newspapers that were circulated by post were carried under the personal frank of a member of Parliament or one of the clerks of the roads, but abuse of the franking privilege was widespread and the change in 1825 merely legalised what had become common practice.

The Compulsory Stamp Becomes Optional

> From and after fourteen days after the passing of this Act it shall not be compulsory (except for the purpose of free transmission by the post) to print any newspaper on paper stamped for denoting the duties imposed by the law on newspapers, and no person shall be subject or liable to any penalty or forfeiture for printing, publishing, selling, or having in his possession any unstamped newspaper.

The Act referred to was 18 Vic. c27 and with the above words it abolished the compulsory payment of newspaper duty from June 30, 1855, so after 143 years the role of the stamp was completely changed. The act allowed newspapers to be printed on unstamped paper, but permitted copies to be stamped if it was desired to send those copies by post free of charge (or abroad at privileged rates).

The Black Stamps

The reduction in newspaper duties in 1836 was followed by a rapid rise in the number of newspapers printed and, although faster presses were installed, the necessity for using stamped paper in sheet form prevented the maximum speed being achieved in practice. By the middle of the century, the circulation of *The Times* has risen to 400,000 copies weekly. Stamping the paper for this output was full-time work for nine stampers at the Stamp Office, and this, with the additional labor involved in handling and warehousing the paper, was becoming a serious problem.

The Times office too was in difficulties, created largely by the cost and delay in transporting paper to and from the Stamp Office and having to know in advance whether "newspaper" or "supplement" stamps had to be ordered. After much discussion, the proprietors of *The Times* were permitted to impress the stamp on their own premises, incorporating it in the type matter of the newspaper itself. The dies were under control of an excise officer and a lockable counter or "tell-tale" recorded the number of stamps printed.

The design of the one penny stamp is shown in Fig. 13. Because it was included as part of the newspaper form, it was printed in black. The arrangement proved so successful and convenient both to the stamp office and to *The Times* that two other papers successfully applied to print their own stamps: the *Illustrated London News* in 1857 and the *Stamford Mercury* in 1859.



Fig. 13. The one penny stamp (die G1) printed in black, used by *The Times*.

Repeal of the Newspaper Duty

The first day of October 1870 saw the introduction of reduced postage rates for all types of printed matter, newspapers included. As the postal benefits conferred by the newspaper

stamp were now matched by the normal postage arrangements, the newspaper duty had no further use and was abolished.

The American Stamps

No article intended for American readers on British newspaper stamps would be complete without a reference to the corresponding American stamps. The disastrous attempt by the British in 1765 to extend the Stamp Acts to the American colonies is well known, but what may not be so familiar is the fact that the plates for the newspaper stamps were similar to the British ones in format, production, and use. Both were produced by the same engraver and stamps from them were printed on the same presses at the stamp office; the paper stamped in London was then dispatched to the chief towns in the colonies. So the British stamps are indeed the forerunners of the American ones.

This survey of the stamps associated with the British Newspaper Duty is of necessity extremely brief and has omitted much of interest and importance; in particular it may have created the false impression that the stamp is an end in itself. The truth is that the newspaper stamp should not be studied in isolation; it is closely associated with the political, social, postal, and newspaper history of the time. But for these aspects, as well as for much more information on the stamps themselves, I must refer readers to the book mentioned at the beginning of this article.

Rajkot Registration Fee

Dhirubhai Mehta

The existence of the postal administration in Rajkot, a former Indian State in the Kathiawar Peninsula, was first brought to light in an article by the late Frank Cowen ("Indian Rajkot State Previous Unrecorded Facts of Its Postal System and Postal Paper," *Collectors Club Philatelist,* November 1955). In that article, the author acknowledged the help rendered his study by Mr. A. T. Sanghvi. Mr. Cowen recorded only the postal stationery: the cards—single and reply—and the envelopes. While the fee structure for registration is the major subject of the present work, it is appropriate to review a *précis* on the Rajkot postal service for perspective.

That the postal service of this state remained unrecorded is due mainly to the lack of adhesive stamps. This is despite the example of the neighboring State of Junagadh, popularly known to philatelists as "Sorouth."

Rajkot did not issue printed stationery but used blank cards through the long existence of its postal service. Rubber handstamps of different designs and basic denominations were used on the cards and envelopes to indicate the prepayment of postage and fees. The state did not establish a full range of postal services, perhaps due to cost considerations or to the area of Rajkot State, which intermingled with others on the peninsula. Those services that were made available were created to make communications less expensive for the state's subjects. Although no evidence of "Service Mail" exists, the various departments of the state may have taken advantage of the service.

The State Posts must have been carried by government couriers and may also have used the Imperial Posts where post offices existed. It is intriguing to think that the postal administration was made a responsibility of the District and Session Judge of Rajkot. In Junagadh, the state education department, through its education officer, ran the postal administration of Saurashtra (Jungadh) and the postmaster was headquartered in Jungadh. Schoolmasters manned local post offices (as was the practice in the Indian Post Service). This was

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convenient in most of the places where schools were established.

Mr. Cowen referenced the availability of registered mail service for postal cards as well as letters. However, the fees, the methods, and the procedures for booking and delivering registered articles, receipts, etc., have never been dealt with in detail.

In his article, Mr. Cowen stated: "A registration service was provided, both envelopes and cards were so treated for an additional levy of two annas." No doubt the fee for cards and envelopes would be uniform. The large number of cards and covers in my collection, and the postal history materials available, raise many questions about the postal rates and the collection of fees.

The only denominations were 3 pies for cards and 6 pies (half anna) for letters. In the case of the letter, the half anna rate presumably was for a weight of 2½ tolas. What would have happened if the weight exceeded 2½ tolas or if the article were to be registered? One can presume that the additional payment would be collected in cash at the time of booking the registered item, and the additional fee paid for which a proper receipt would be given. It appears the registration fee was 1½ annas. There were no markings indicating a fee, only a marking indicating the registered status of the item and the number. There were no registration labels (such as were in use in the Indian Post Office).

When additional charges for registration were paid, these were indicated on the receipt issued by the post office. Such receipts also give details such as the registration number, postal charges, the name and address of the sender, the signature of the clerk receiving the article, and a description, i.e., whether it was a card or envelope.

On a receipt dated 22.4.29 for a registered postal card, the charges are 1 anna 9 pies. The card rate was 3 pies so we can conclude the registration fee was 1 anna 6 pies. The receipt form is rectangular, six inches long by three and one half inches wide. It was required to state the postage "affixed" on the article as well as the registration fee paid, similar to the practice of the Indian Post Office for receipts.

Another receipt shows total charges of 3 annas. Mr. Cowen suggested the registration fee was 2 annas and postage a half anna for a cover. If the weight exceeded 2½ tolas, additional postage would be required.

The plain cards and envelopes had the rubber stamp applied to indicate the postage paid. If a letter weighed more than 2½ tolas, the additional postage would have to be paid in cash. This appears to have occurred primarily in the case of registered letters, as I have not seen any large cover which would have had contents weighing more than 2½ tolas, requiring additional

postage. This, however, cannot be confirmed except for registered items where the postage would be indicated.

Another receipt, dated 8.9.1938, shows postal charges of 3 annas and refers to a cover. It is possible that registration fees had been raised to 2 annas from the 1 anna 6 pies that existed in 1929. The postage would be 6 pies, the denomination mentioned on the cover, and 6 pies for additional weight. It could be, then, that the half anna prepaid the "stamped cover" with an additional charge of 2½ annas. The receipt is rectangular, 6 inches by 3 inches.

A later receipt, dated, 1.3.1943, shows postage charges of 3 annas, 6 pies. It is possible that the rate was a half anna, plus another half anna for additional weight, and 2½ annas for registration. In that case, the fee probably was raised another half anna since 1938. Perhaps the letter was fairly heavy and was rated 1½ annas for postage and 2 annas for registration. A third possibility exists, that the additional half anna was for an acknowledgement.

At the time of delivery, the post office prepared a receipt for signature by the addressee for their own use. The receipt included the information on the receipt given the sender. It is not clear if "acknowledgement due" service was in vogue (for which a separate charge would have been levied and received in cash). If such a service existed, I assume the charge would have been 3 pies, the card rate.

The fee structure needs further study before definite conclusions may be drawn. One can safely surmise that the fee was 1 anna 6 pies in the beginning of the service, and later increased to 2 annas. The fees were collected in cash.

Morvi Postage Due

Kusum and Dhirubhai Mehta

It is not unusual for an article, posted for transmission through the mails but insufficiently prepaid, to be assessed a postage due fee; typically, such fees are double the deficiency in the postage and special markings are used to denote the postage due.

In Morvi state, when a letter or postal article was found unpaid or insufficiently prepaid either at the post office or in the course of transmission, the usual practice was to use an oval-shaped marking to denote the status. The postmasters were required to note full details of such articles and to make detailed entries in a register called "The Not Paid Register."

One of the covers bearing an oval-shaped postage due markings is illustrated in Fig. 1. It bears the words "Anna Due" in Gujarati in the center of the oval with space to write the amount owed. The cover was posted at Navlakhi (Morvi) and addressed to Direct Iron Merchants, Morvi. It bears an outward postmark of Navlakhi dated 5.2.39 (the date is not very clear) and the endorsement "Refused" by the postmaster with a note: "The addressee refused to accept, hence returned to sender" and duly signed and dated by the postmaster (9.2.39).



Fig. 1. Letter postmarked 5.2.39 showing the oval postage due marking.

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0010-0838/82/3/166-168 $3.00 + $0.25

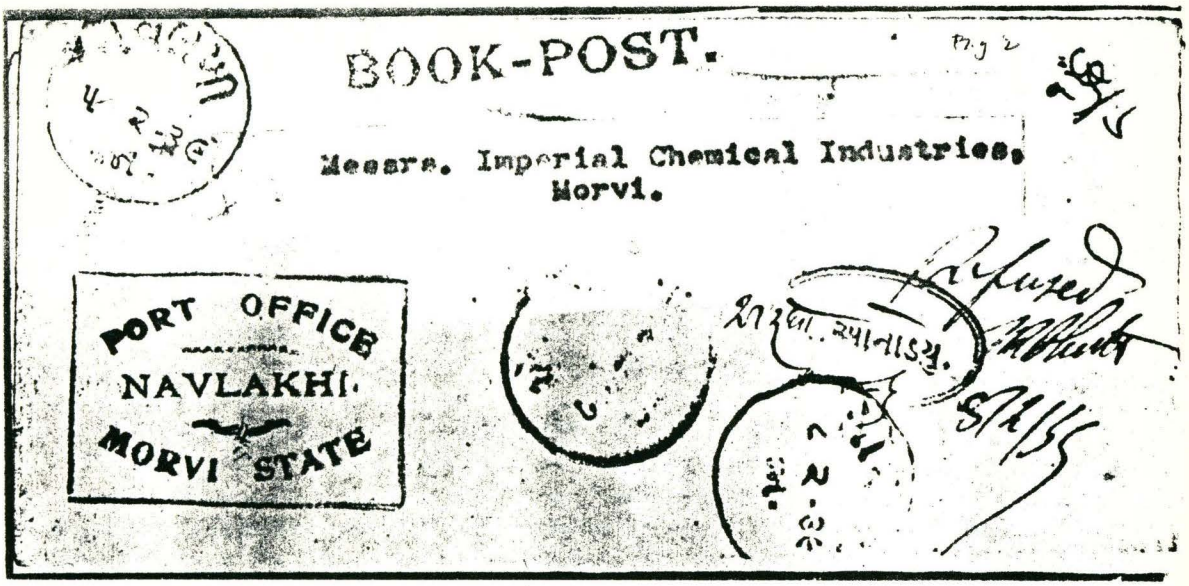


Fig. 2. Another letter from the same mailer, also by book-post, and also showing the oval postage due marking, similarly rejected by the addressee.

It is not evident why the letter was marked Postage Due and assessed the fee for which the oval marking is used. The cover, a book-post—presumably some cyclostyled or printed information sheet—does not bear any postage stamps and therefore it could be assumed that it was official and a free frank was available (the Navlakhi Port was a state department). However, the cover does not bear the usual inscription "On Morvi State Service" or "State Service" or for "Darbari Work" or "Darbari Post" or any other such indication. The cover also lacks the signature of the sender and his office which would normally be required to use the free frank by any of the state departments. Such a procedure was required by the Imperial Post for its own departments for use of Service postage stamps, and (nearer home) also by the Junagadh Post.

Since double the deficiency in postage was recoverable, the cover was marked one-half anna postage due as the article purported to be a book-post. The minimum book-post rate was 3 pies for the first 5 tolas. The rates were revised effective September 1, 1942, when the book-post rate was increased to 6 pies for 5 tolas.

It may be of interest to note that the Navlakhi post office functioned under the stationmaster of the Morvi State Railway. Navlakhi was a busy port, a transit port for visitors to Cutch via Navlakhi who reached Navlakhi by rail and took a regular ferry service provided between Navlakhi and Mandvi (Cutch). A large number of dhows and vessels from the gulf area anchored at Navlahki. Even cargo ships from Europe anchored at Navlakhi and discharged cargo intended for Saurashtra.

The Not Paid Register was divided into nine columns in the example which we have seen. The middle part of the form covers "Details of Not Paid" articles. The nine columns are (1)

serial number, (2) date, (3) address, (4) details of the article such as card or cover, (5) amount to be collected, (6) signature of postman, whether the amount is collected or not, (7) if not, the reason therefor, (8) signature of the postmaster, and (9) space for the stamps to be affixed after recovery in cash from the addressee or the sender (as the case may be).

The postmaster would enter the details in the columns provided in the register and the procedure followed was that, after the amount due was collected, the postman would sign in the register attested by a witness. The signature of the postmaster is then placed after the necessary stamps have been affixed and defaced. The value of stamps affixed was the same as recovered as postage due. If the unpaid item was not accepted by the addressee, the postmaster was required to make suitable remarks, viz. "Not Received by the Receiver" or "Receiver Not Present," etc. If the postage due could not be recovered, an appropriate entry was required to be made in the register, also giving the reasons for non-recovery, and endorsed by the postmaster.

Postage due labels were introduced and the postal marking was presumably withdrawn (although later use of the postal marking cannot be ruled out). The use of the label is not frequently encountered and it is also possible that not all post offices may have been supplied with the labels. An article in the *Philatelic Journal of India* (September 1977) refers to the blue label with the amount of postage due written by hand. Not many examples of the use of the labels are known and, therefore, the period of use and the offices provided with such labels cannot be established at this juncture in the absence of records.

Printed Numbers of United States Plate and Position Blocks

Dr. Alois J. Erlach

The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing from time to time releases the number of United States stamps printed in each issue. In 1963, the Bureau published a listing of the numbers of *commemorative and airmail* stamps printed, particularly for the older issues. However, the number of plate number and position blocks of each issue is quite different and can vary significantly from issue to issue.

Plate number block collecting is quite popular for modern issues and is important for older ones. It became necessary to determine plate numbers when specialists began, early in this century, to reassemble panes and sheets by assigning copies to positions based upon characteristics of engraving and wear ("plating"). Today, few high caliber exhibits of early material are considered truly representative unless plate number blocks or strips are present.

Auction results show the value attached to plate blocks; however, the value of a stamp or a plate block is dependent upon a variety of different factors. Scarcity, or relative abundance, of examples is one of the more important ones. This is shown in a comparison of two issues: the 50 cent Trans-Mississippi (Scott 291) and the 5 cent Norse-American (Scott 621).

Scott Number	Stamps Printed	Ratio $\frac{\text{sheet stamps}}{\text{plate blocks}}$	Plate blocks Printed
291	530,400	100/4 = 25/1	21,216
621	1,900,985	100/1 = 100/1	19,009

This calculation of the printed numbers of plate blocks tells only part of the story. The number of *arrow blocks* of the Trans-

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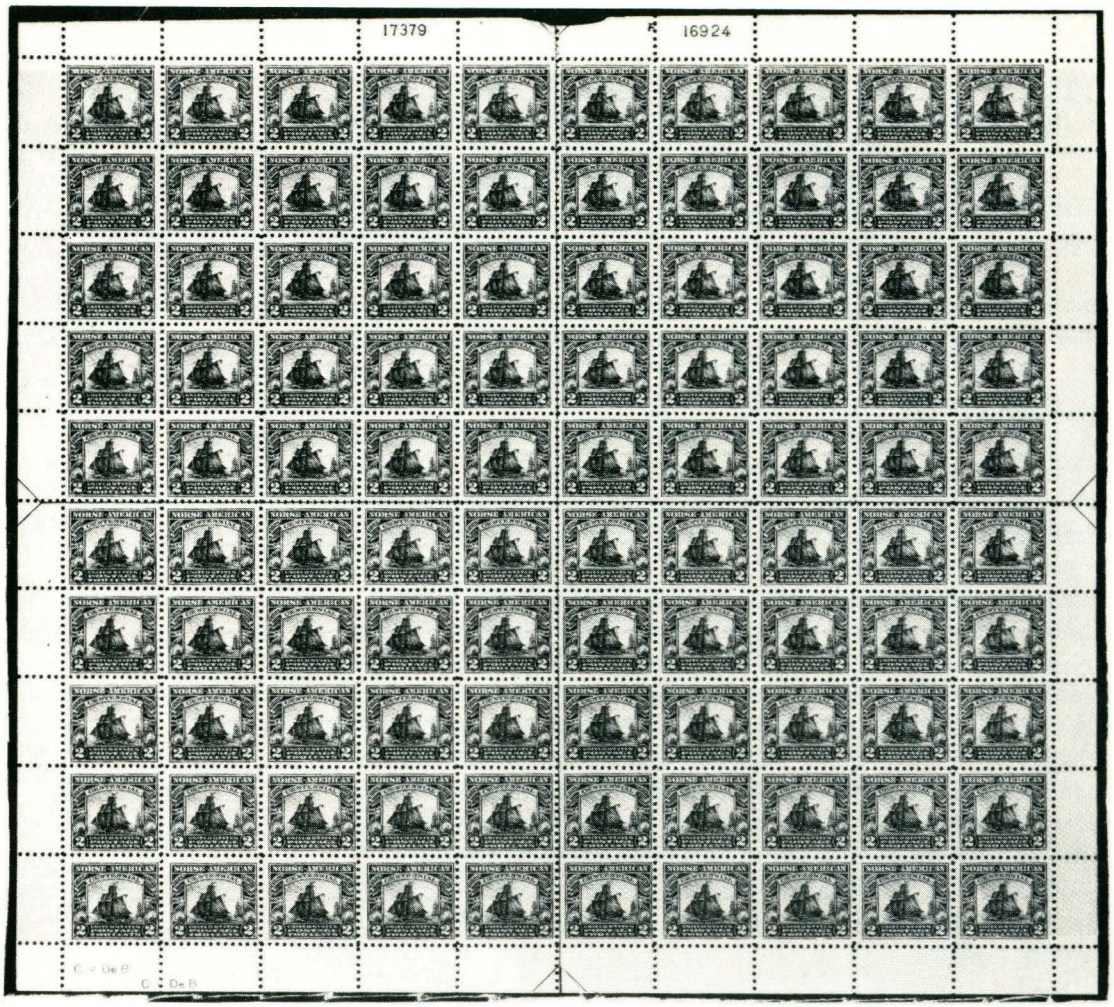


Fig. 1. The 5 cent Norse-American showing arrow blocks at all four sides as well as the centerline. This is a bi-colored issue so that two plate numbers exist on the one plate block.

Mississippi issue is half the number of the plate blocks. For another series, those of the Farley period (Scott 756-765), the number of centerline blocks is one quarter that of the plate blocks.

In the tables below are shown the printed number of plate blocks, centerline blocks (C), arrow blocks (A), and gutter or cross-gutter blocks (G) for the commemorative and airmail issues in the Farley Series. Blocks are listed in decreasing order of scarcity. Obviously, of greatest interest are the blocks of the 24 cent airmail invert (Scott C3a). With one pane of 100 stamps, there could be only one plate block (which was illustrated in the May 1976 *American Philatelist*). Too, there is only one left arrow and only one centerline block. There are two margin blocks: one, ex *Lilly,* was illustrated on the outside back cover

of the 1980 Scott United States catalogue; the second, the so-called Princeton block, was shown on a Harmer's of New York catalogue for June 8, 1976.

The same airmail issue, *sans* invert, is interesting too. There were between 3000 and 4000 of the variety with the red "TOP" missing, giving a potential for from 30 to 40 plate blocks. Of the variety with the red "TOP" inscription, there were between 6000 and 8000 stamps printed, with between 60 and 80 plate blocks possible and the same number of right and bottom arrow position blocks. Following the tables I have brought together a summary of the background of the red "TOP" inscription.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
	1893 Columbian Exposition Issue			
230	1 cent	Plate	100/2	8,983,911
231	2 cents	Plate	100/2	29,291,775
232	3 cents	Plate	100/2	230,025
233	4 cents	Plate	100/2	383,631
234	5 cents	Plate	100/2	704,965
235	6 cents	Plate	100/2	94,151
236	8 cents	Plate	100/2	213,131
237	10 cents	Plate	100/2	330,339
238	15 cents	Plate	100/2	31,539
239	30 cents	Plate	100/2	12,345
240	50 cents	Plate	100/2	4875
241	$1	Plate	100/2	1101
243	$2	Plate	100/2	911
243	$3	Plate	100/2	553
244	$4	Plate	100/2	527
245	$5	Plate	100/2	547
	1898 Trans Mississippi Issue			
285	Trans Miss 1 cent	Plate	100/4	2,839,736
285	Trans Miss 1 cent	A	100/2	1,419,868
286	Trans Miss 2 cents	Plate	100/4	6,388,832
286	Trans Miss 2 cents	A	100/2	3,194,416
287	Trans Miss 4 cents	Plate	100/4	196,980
287	Trans Miss 4 cents	A	100/2	98,490
288	Trans Miss 5 cents	Plate	100/4	307,766
288	Trans Miss 5 cents	A	100/2	153,883
289	Trans Miss 8 cents	Plate	100/4	117,088
289	Trans Miss 8 cents	A	100/2	58,544
290	Trans Miss 10 cents	Plate	100/4	185,190
290	Trans Miss 10 cents	A	100/2	92,595
291	Trans Miss 50 cents	Plate	100/4	21,216
291	Trans Miss 50 cents	A	100/2	10,608
292	Trans Miss $1	Plate	100/4	2276
292	Trans Miss $1	A	100/2	1138
293	Trans Miss $2	Plate	100/4	2248
293	Trans Miss $2	A	100/2	1124

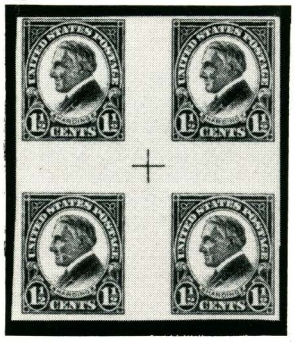
*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
	1901 Pan-American Exposition Issue			
294	Pan Am 1 cent	Plate	200/4	1,828,030
295	Pan Am 2 cents	Plate	200/4	4,195,194
296	Pan Am 4 cents	Plate	200/4	114,742
297	Pan Am 5 cents	Plate	200/4	144,026
298	Pan Am 8 cents	Plate	200/4	98,439
299	Pan Am 10 cents	Plate	200/4	100,874
	1904 Louisiana Purchase Issue			
323	1 cent	Plate	100/4	3,191,168
324	2 cents	Plate	100/4	7,709,296
325	3 cents	Plate	100/4	181,704
326	5 cents	Plate	100/4	277,068
327	10 cents	Plate	100/4	160,448
	1907 Jamestown Exposition Issue			
328	1 cent	Plate	200/4	1,547,743
329	2 cents	Plate	200/4	2,989,959
330	5 cents	Plate	200/4	159,612
	1909 Lincoln Memorial Issue			
367	Perforate	Plate	400/8	2,967,743
368	Imperforate	Plate	400/8	25,674
368	Imperforate	A	400/4	12,739
368	Imperforate	C	400/1	3185
369	Bluish paper	Plate	400/8	12,740
	1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Issue			
371	Imperforate	Plate	280/8	15,011
371	Imperforate	A	280/4	7504
371	Imperforate	C	280/1	1876
	1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration Issue			
372	Perforate	Plate	200/8	2,421,154
373	Imperforate	Plate	240/8	7216
373	Imperforate	A	240/4	3,608
373	Imperforate	C	240/1	902
	1919 Issue			
537	Victory Issue	Plate	400/8	1,991,704
	1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Issues			
548	1 cent	Plate	280/8	3,942,234
549	2 cents	Plate	280/8	5,601,066
550	5 cents	Plate	280/8	323,474
	1923 Harding Memorial Issue			
611	Imperforate	Plate	400/8	180,000
611	Imperforate	C	400/1	22,500
612	Perf. 10	Plate	400/4	7700



Scott 369 imperforate centerline block.

Harding imperforate cross-gutter block.



*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
	1924 Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary Issue			
614	1 cent	Plate	200/8	2,055,120
615	2 cents	Plate	200/8	3,110,136
616	5 cents	Plate	200/8	226,360
	1925 Lexington-Concord Issue			
617	1 cent	Plate	200/8	624,600
618	2 cents	Plate	200/8	1,063,840
	1925 Norse-American Issues			
620	2 cents	A	100/3	273,147
620	2 cents	Plate	100/1	91,049
620	2 cents	C	100/1	91,049
621	5 cents	Plate	100/1	19,009
621	5 cents	C	100/1	19,009
621	5 cents	A	100/3	57,027
	1926 Issues			
628	Ericsson M&M.	Plate	200/8	811,220
630	Exhibition sheet	Plate	100/1	107,398
627	Sesquicentennial	Plate	200/8	12,309,276
	1927 Issues			
643	Vermont	Plate	200/8	1,598,996
644	Burgoyne	Plate	200/8	1,025,138
	1928 Issues			
645	Valley Forge	Plate	400/8	2,026,606
646	Molly Pitcher	Plate	160/4	244,000
647	Hawaii, 2 cents	Plate	160/4	138,000
648	Hawaii, 5 cents	Plate	160/4	36,497
649	Aeronautics 2 cents	Plate	200/8	2,053,690
650	Aeronautics 5 cents	Plate	200/8	412,788
	1929 Issues			
651	George Rogers Clark	Plate	100/2	333,693
654	Edison flat	Plate	400/8	633,584
655	Edison rotary	Plate	400/4	2,101,947
657	Sullivan	Plate	400/8	1,029,037
658 to 668	Kansas overprint except 1 & 2 cents	Plate	400/4	average 26,733
669 to 679	Nebraska overprint except 2 cents	Plate	400/4	average 28,510
680	Fallen Timber	Plate	400/8	586,765
681	Ohio River	Plate	400/8	653,618
	1930 Issues			
682	Massachusetts Bay	Plate	400/8	1,480,015
683	Carolina-Charleston	Plate	400/8	504,311
688	Braddock Field	Plate	400/4	256,094
689	Von Steuben	Plate	400/8	664,870

*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
		1931 Issues		
690	Pulaski	Plate	400/4	965,594
		1931 Issues		
702	Red Cross	Plate	200/4	1,981,492
703	Yorktown	Plate	200/3	375,471
	1932 Washington Bicentennial Issue Set (3-10 cents only)			
704 to 715	Washington-Bi	Plate	Average (except 1 & 2 cents)	1,404,407
		1932 Issues		
716	Olympic Winter	Plate	400/4	511,028
717	Arbor day	Plate	400/4	1,008,693
718	Olympic Runner	Plate	400/4	1,688,853
719	Olympic Discus	Plate	400/4	523,761
724	Penn	Plate	400/4	499,490
725	Webster	Plate	400/4	495,385
		1933 Issues		
726	Georgia Bicentennial	Plate	400/4	617,192
727	Peace of 1783	Plate	400/4	733,824
	1933 American Philatelic Society Issue			
730	Century of Progress 1 cent	Plate		456,704
731	Century of Progress 3 cents	Plate		441,172
733	Byrd Antarctic	Plate	200/4	114,718
734	Kosciusko	Plate	400/4	451,377
		1934 Issues		
735	Byrd souvenir	Plate	150/25	811,404
736	Maryland	Plate	400/4	462,583
737	Mother rotary	Plate	200/4	3,864,782
738	Mother flat plate	Plate	200/4	308,644
739	Wisconsin	Plate	200/4	1,290,508
		1918 Air Pist Issues		
C 1	6 cents	A	100/3	101,978
C 1	6 cents	Plate	100/1	33,958
C 1	6 cents	A or C	100/1	33,958
C 2	6 cents	Plate	100/1	37,938
C 2	6 cents	A or C	100/1	37,938
C 2	6 cents	A	100/3	113,930
C 3	24 cents	Plate	100/1	21,348
C 3	24 cents	A or C	100/1	21,348
C 3	"Top" missing 3000 (approx.)		100/1	30
C 3	"Top" printed 6000 (approx.)		100/1	60

C3 centerline block.



*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
	1923 Air Post Issues			
C 4	8 cents	Plate	400/8	128,291
C 5	16 cents	Plate	400/8	106,185
C 6	24 cents	Plate	400/8	105,715
	1926-27 Air Post Issues			
C 7	Maps 10 cents	Plate	280/8	1,202,651
C 8	Maps 15 cents	Plate	200/8	623,892
C 9	Maps 20 cents	Plate	200/8	704,654
C 10	Linberg	Plate	200/8	815,167
C 12	Winged Globe	Plate	200/8	2,293,602
	1930 Graf Zeppelin Issues			
C 13	65 cents	Plate	200/8	3741
C 15	$2.60	Plate	200/8	2451
C 14	$1.30	Plate	200/8	2897
C 18	Zeppelin 50 cents	Plate	200/4	6481
	1935-37 Transpacific Issues			
C 20	25 cents	Plate	200/4	204,108
C 21	20 cents	Plate	200/4	255,892
C 22	50 cents	Plate	200/4	185,706
C 24	Winged Globe	Plate	200/4	394,763
	1952 Honolulu, Hawaii			
C 46	35 cents	Plate	200/4	377,536
	1934 National Parks Issue			
740to 749	Parks perf	Plate	200/4	average 7,781,830
750	APS Souvenir S	Plate	120/20	511,391
751	Trans-Mississippi SS	Plate	120/20	793,551
	Special Printing ("Farleys") Center Line Blocks			
752	Peach Issue	G	400/1	8186
753	Byrd	C	10,203	10,203
754	Mother	C	200/1	11,946
755	Wisconsin	C	200/1	11,474
756	Parks, 1 cent	C	200/1	16,088
757	Parks, 2 cents	C	200/1	13,733
758	Parks, 3 cents	C	200/1	10,840
759	Parks, 4 cents	C	200/1	9113
760	Parks, 5 cents	C	200/1	8622
761	Parks, 6 cents	C	200/1	8238
762	Parks, 7 cents	C	200/1	8414
763	Parks, 8 cents	C	200/1	8193
764	Parks, 9 cents	C	200/1	8126
765	Parks, 10 cents	C	200/1	8224
771	Air, Spec. Del	C	200/1	6852

*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

Scott No.	Description	Type	Ratio*	Blocks of Type Printed*
	1935 Special Printing ("Farleys") Plate or Arrow Blocks			
752	like Sc727	Pl or G	200/4	32,745
753	Byrd 3 cents	Pl or A	200/4	40,815
754	Mother 3 cents	Pl or A	200/4	47,785
755	Wisconsin 3 cents	Pl or A	200/4	45,898
756	Parks, 1 cent	Pl or A	200/4	64,352
757	Parks, 2 cents	Pl or A	200/4	54,932
758	Parks, 3 cents	Pl or A	200/4	43,361
759	Parks, 4 cents	Pl or A	200/4	36,453
760	Parks, 5 cents	Pl or A	200/4	34,491
761	Parks, 6 cents	Pl or A	200/4	34,953
762	Parks, 7 cents	Pl or A	200/4	33,658
763	Parks, 8 cents	Pl or A	200/4	32,772
764	Parks, 9 cents	Pl or A	200/4	32,504
765	Parks, 10 cents	Pl or A	200/4	32,898
	Special Printing ("Farleys") Cross Gutter Blocks			
766	Century 2 cents	G		43,972
767	Century 3 cents	G		38,184
768	Byrd	G		171,008
769	Parks 1 cent	G		167,976
770	Parks 3 cents	G		129,552
771	Air Spec Del	Pl or A	200/4	27,410

A = Arrow Block G = Gutter Block C = Center Block

*Ratio of sheets of stamps to blocks is calculated by dividing the quantity of stamps issued (derived from Scott's *Catalogue of United States Stamps*) by the number of blocks printed.

In March 1918 the printing of special airmail stamps of 24¢ was proposed; Postmaster General A. Burleson had expected delays and had ordered as precaution engraving plates of 400 subjects to be prepared for fast delivery of large volumes. The first printing was possible on May 13 at 8 a.m. Blue was selected as the first color and 16,000 stamps were printed. When, after noon, the red second color printing started, the first two sheets of 400 stamps showed half good stamps, half with inverted centers. The printing was immediately stopped. The errors occurred when two engraving plates for red prints *of 100 subjects* (of Upper Right and of Lower Left) were by mistake exchanged on the day before when the engraving plates of 100 were combined to plates of 400 subjects. The four errorpanes of 100 contained two different forms: The airplanes were all inverted but two panes showed the blue plate numbers inverted in a bottom margin while the other two panes had the red plate number inverted in a bottom margin. The printed 400 sheets were cut and the 400 good stamps immediately delivered at the afternoon of May 13 to the post offices in Washington. Three of the inverted panes were heavily crossed-out and later destroyed,

but one sample was preserved and taken to the Postmaster General. Burleson ordered first the addition of the words "Top" beside of the plate numbers in the engraving plates. But such an addition was impossible to the inverted red plate number sitting in a bottom margin in inverted form. The postmaster agreed that the two incorrect engraving plates of 100 should be rearranged and then the remaining blue prints printed. After this change, all prints were finished in order. However in the Upper Right panes, the red word "TOP" was missing but nobody observed it in the haste (the former inverted red plate number was now on its correct place in upright form but without the word "TOP"). In the evening the bulk of the stamps was cut; on the next forenoon the delivery could be performed to all predesignated post offices. When the rest of the 400 sheets were cut on May 14, the missing word "TOP" was discovered and the word was afterwards printed on a few panes, probably to till 5 pieces.

On order of the Postmaster General, the plates of 400 were disassembled on the evening of May 13 into single plates; only the Upper Left plate of 100 stamps was used further for printing of the airmail stamps. For a detailed study of the inverted center issue, see Henry M. Goodkin's *Unites States: The Twenty-Four Cent Air Mail Inverted Center of 1918* (New York: The Collectors Club, Inc., 1956).



Scott C3 with missing red "TOP."

C3 with the "TOP" inscription.



The Question of Dollars and Sense as Applied to Philately

Harrison D.S. Haverbeck

While strolling through the hall at a recent local stamp show, I was particularly interested in the conversation of two collectors. Qouth number one: "That certainly is a grand collection of China!" But it was number two who made the statement about which I should like to say a few words. His reply went something like this: "It's all very fine saying what a fine collection, but then the chap who owns these stamps has plenty of money and it means simply going to a dealer and buying whatever you may require. Stamp collecting is all right for rich people, but with my small amount of spare cash, it's useless trying to get a decent collection together."

Rather a dismal way of looking at the situation. Let us consider the full meaning of this too common statement. Is it necessary to be wealthy in order to get enjoyment out of the hobby? Is there no chance for the man of less exalted means? Is the great Mogul to dominate all things and leave his poor friends out in the cold? I think not.

Our friend, in making the above statement, overlooked one very important point—namely that early Chinese stamps are rare and are, of course, beyond his reach; but are there not *less expensive* countries which appeal? It is obvious that triangular Capes, early Mauritius, British Guiana, or Alexandria Postmasters are only for the fortunate minority; but, then, why give up collecting? Surely such an excuse is feeble in the extreme. If the collector choses an area which suits his means, why should he not be able to assemble a specialized collection as good—in its way—as a specialized collection of a more expensive country or district? It is not necessary, in fact it is quite useless, to grumble because one cannot touch certain countries. *All the rarities in their infancy were cheap.*

It has always been a source of wonder to me why collectors

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invariably take up a country which is generally both beyond their experience and means. Surely a small country complete is better than a large one incomplete. Those collectors who imagine that all small and less expensive countries can be bought complete, if sufficient capital is available, would do well to try their luck in the stamps of Saudia Arabia. The reason for mentioning Saudia Arabia is because I do not doubt that these stamps will require hard searching, although the rarest regularly issued stamp catalogues for less than $100. Ask your favorite dealer or auctioneer how frequently they see some of these interesting issues. At the best, there isn't much. The same may be said for Tannu Touva or for the stamps of the emerging African nations. How frequently have you seen stamps of the Central African Empire, the commercially used stamps of the Trucial States, or covers used internally in the Congo, to name but a few?

A small, unpopular district may afford as much pleasure and amusement as a larger one and at the same time keep one within reasonable bounds. Old issues are all very grand in their way, but is it not a treat to see some new countries, new issues, new novelties? It would, at any rate, be a change from the everpopular old stamps, old countries, all so nice to look at, but as far out of *our* reach as the Cullinan Diamond!

If you have only a small budget, set out to make an unpopular country or district look attractive and interesting. Provide information for publication on your area of interest and when you are an old man, well then, your "new" will have become "old" and "seasoned" and the small outlay will have multiplied if you have made a sensible choice.

Moral: Don't give up collecting on account of the Dollar question but remain with your stamps, and in the end you won't regret it. As Ezra D. Cole has said: "When you buy to know and love, you can later sell over and above."

Meeting Schedule for 1982

May	
5	Astro Philately Lester Winick Homewood, Illinois
12	Annual Awards Dinner
19	Newfoundland Robert H. Pratt Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June	
2	Special Deliveries Robert Markovits Middletown, New York

SUMMER RECESS

September	
15	The Beacon Airmails Philip Silver Elberon, New Jersey
October	
6	5 cent and 10 cent 1847 Issue Duane Garrett Tiburon, California
October	
20	Grenada Postal History W. Danforth Walker Springfield, Virginia
November	
3	Civil War Patriotics Robert Paliafito Phoenix, Arizona
17	Blackjacks, Stamps and Covers Barbara Fosdyke Pomona, California
December	
1	Junior Nite
15	Board of Governors Open House

Publications Received

Argentina

Dr. Mario D. Kurchan, *Argentine Postal History 1760-1870 - Study of Forged Cancellations Forerunners, Maritimes*, Ediciones Nunez, Buenos Aires, 1976, 95 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

Australia - States

E. Williams and P. Collas, *Northern Territory: A Postal History 1824-1975* with 1979 supplement, Society of Australasian Specialists, 1977, 178 pp., plus 16 pp. loose leaf. Purchased with library funds.

Austria

Karl Huber, *Altoesterreich Lexikon*, Verband Oesterreichischer Philatelisten Vereine, 1980 (?), 277 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

British West Africa

P.O. Beale, *The Twenty-five Pounds Stamp of Northern Nigeria*, British West Africa Study Circle, 1981, 9 pp., illustrated, softbound. Gift of E. E. Fricks.

J. F. Ince, *The Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery of the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos 1874-1906*, British West Africa Study Circle, 1979, 20 pp., illustrated, softbound. Gift of E. E. Fricks.

John Sacher, *The postal history of Lagos; the early mail and the handstruck stamps and postmarks*, British West Africa Study Circle, 1978, 67 pp., illustrated, spiral binding. Gift of E. E. Fricks.

Canada

George Wilcox, *History of Rural Mail in Canada*, Reprint, Public Affairs Branch of the *Canada Post*, 1975, 74 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

Catalogs - General

Minkus Stamp Catalogs, 1) France, Monaco, Andorra, 2) Scandinavia, Baltic Countries, 3) Russia, Minkus Publications Inc., New York, N.Y., 1981, 140, 134, 178 pp. respectively, illustrated, softbound. $5.95, $5.95, $6.95. Gift of the publishers.

Denmark

Hans Schonning & Erik Paaskesen, *Fire Rigsbankskilling - Pladning af Plade III og IV*, Aarhus Frimaerkehandel, Bruunsgade 42, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark, 1981, 128 pp., illustrated, softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the publishers.

Finland - Catalogs

Finland Frimaerkskatalog 1981-82, 46th Edition, Lauri Peltonen Ky, Hangoe, Finland, 1981, 296 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

France

Peter Boner, *Frankreich 1849-1900 Handbuch und Katalog*, Peter Boner Philatelie und Graphik GmbH Bruchwiesenstr. 18A, 6074 Roedermark, West Germany, 1981, 183 pp., illustrated, softbound. DM 33.50. Gift of the publishers.

Jean Storch et Robert Francon, *Specialisé France: Les Timbres-Poste au Type Semeuse Camée de 1907*, Vol. I published by the authors, 1981, 221 pp., illustrated, softbound. Gift of France & Colonies Philatelic Society.

Great Britain

The British Philatelic Federation, *1981 Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory*, The British Philatelic Federation, 1981, 136 pp., softbound. £3.00. Gift of the publishers.

John H. Chandler and H. Dagnall, *The Newspaper & Almanac Stamps of Great Britain & Ireland*, G. B. Philatelic Publications, Hempstead, Saffron Walden, Essex England, 1981, 302 pp., illustrated, hardbound. Price not indicated. Gift of H. Dagnall.

Great Britain - Postal History

Bruce Auckland, *Postal Markings of Scotland 1808*, published by author, 1978, 144 pp., illustrated, hardbound. Purchased with library funds.

Vivien J. Sussex and Sidney S. Shelton, *Continental Mail Service 1793-1815 especially by Yarmouth packet boat*, East Anglia Postal History Study Circle. 1978, 96 pp., illustrated, spiral binding. Purchased with library funds.

Great Britain - Regionals

Stanley Gibbons, *Collect Channel Island Stamps*, 10th Edition, Stanley Gibbons Publications, Ltd. 1982, 64 pp., illustrated, softbound. £1.65. Gift of the publishers.

Stanley Gibbons, *Collect Isle of Man Stamps*, 6th Edition, Stanley Gibbons Publications, Ltd. 1982, 40 pp., illustrated, softbound. £1.65. Gift of the publishers.

Hong Kong

Lee C. Scamp and Harmon K. Fine, *Hong Kong Arrival Markings*, The Hong Kong Study Circle, 1980, 142 pp., illustrated, spiral binding. Purchased with library funds.

Israel

Jerzy Kucharski, *The Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land 1940-1947*, Society of Israel Philatelists Educational Fund, 1981, 74 pp., illustrated, softbound. Gift of Lou Robbins.

Jordan

K. C. R. Souan, *Philatelic History of Jordan 1920-1982. El Dorado Rarities*, published by author, P. O. Box 8090, Salmieh, Kuwait, 1982, 111 pp., illustrated, softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the author.

Postal History - Maritime

S. Ringstroem and H. E. Tester, *The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World. Part 1: The Caribbean*, Skogs Boktryckeri AB, Trelleborg, Sweden, 1977 (?), 166 pp., plus price list, illustrated, hardbound. Purchased with library funds.

United States

Martin A. Armstrong, *U. S. Definitive Series 1922-1938*, 2nd Edition, Martin Armstrong Enterprises, 1980, 115 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

Martin A. Armstrong, *United States Coil Issues 1906-38*, 2nd Edition, Martin A. Armstrong Enterprises, 1980, 124 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

Martin A. Armstrong, *Washington-Franklins 1908-1921*, 2nd Edition, Trenton Publishing Co. Inc., 1979, 224 pp., illustrated, softbound. Purchased with library funds.

Elliot Perry, *Pat Paragraphs. Compiled by George T. Turner and Thomas E. Stanton*, Bureau Issues Association Inc., Takoma Park, Md., 1981, 648 pp., illustrated, hardbound. Purchased with library funds.

Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, American Philatelic Society, 1980, 362 pp., illustrated, hardbound. Purchased with library funds.

R. H. White, *Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps*, Vols. I to IV, Philatelic Research Ltd., P. O. Box 320, Germantown, Md. 20767, 1981, 66, 56, 55, 60 pp. plus color plates, in two slip cases. Illustrated, loose leaf in hardbound files. $35.00, per volume plus postage plus $10.00 per binder. Gift of the author.

United States - Catalogs

Minkus New 1982 American Stamp Catalog, 27th Edition, Minkus Publications Inc., New York, N.Y. 1981, 397 pp., illustrated, softbound. $9.95. Gift of the publishers.

United States - States

Merolla-Crowther-Jackson, *Rhode Island Postal History: The Post Offices*, The Rhode Island Postal History Society, 1977, 136 pp., illustrated, hardbound. Purchased with library funds.

Book Reviews

Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps Vol. I: 1847-1868 by Roy H. White. Loose-leaf 5-hole punched high quality paper pages (74 of text and 24 color plates). Available without binders ($10) or slipcases ($5) (which are extra) for $35 postpaid from Philatelic Research Ltd., Box 320, Germantown, Maryland 20767.

This is the book Roy White wanted to do at the Pilatelic Foundation and was for various reasons unable to produce. His *Color in Philately* was the substitute. This *Encyclopedia* presents the largest selection of true-color photographs of the classic issues yet published. As such it is a desirable work to have for any classic collector or investor. Nevertheless it is both a very frustrating work to deal with and there are important gaps in the photographs that make it far less useful than it might have been.

One problem that carried over from White's previous work is the lack of coordination between the text and color charts. The consequence of this poor editing is that the reader must pay unusually close attention if he is to obtain the benefits of this work. Pages must be read closely and use instructions followed carefully. This work cannot be used as a casual reference; study is necessary.

Examples of the lack of coordination follow: The last item on Plate I-16 is identified as Scott No. 65; in the text it is identified as No. 88 which it is. The first item on Plate I-17 is described as brownish lake, but the text and Ashbrook called it carmine lake. The third item on this plate is called pale rose pink but the text refers to it as a pinkish rose. Both 70c items on plate I-20 are identified differently in the text, e.g., deep violet and blue violet rather than dark violet as on the plate. The text for I-23 identifies the pale yellow on the plate as a "lemon yellow".

A particularly dangerous error occurs on plate I-17 where the carmine and browish lake shades of No. 65 are described as No. 66 used. As No. 66 was not regularly issued and came out much later, there are no canceled copies. Because of the high price of No. 66 and the low price of No. 65, this error in publication could cause someone to pay an excessive price for a canceled example of No. 65 in the lake shade.

There is a layout problem resulting from the way in which the holes are punched in the color plates. Mr. White abjures us not to touch these with our fingers so as to preserve the color values. However, as designed, there is a minor problem in this for the plates have color on the left. Thus, in normal leafing through the text the fingers slide over the color side rather than the back of the sheets.

This volume has omitted a number of stamps and colors, most notably the blues of the 1851 issue and the black stamps. Mr. White refers us to Neinken's book for the blues, but not everyone has that work which is now fairly expensive. As for the blacks he does not see a need. Nevertheless, I've seen advanced collectors baffled over the "full" black and 'intense black' designations when they did not have a color comparison. Thus it is this reviewer's hope that Mr. White will consider a supplemental volume to cover these and other omissions some of which will be discussed below.

It seems most appropriate to discuss this work issue by issue where a focus upon the weak and strong points can enable purchasers to make appropriate notes in their copies. In using this work, the reader should carefully observe Mr. White's viewing instructions if they wish to gain maximum advantage, as some color differences that appear quite minor to the eye make a big difference in value.

5¢ *1847:* Omitted from the color charts

are three Scott color listings. There is no representation of Scott No. 1c, the red orange, and no example is given of the rare orange of 1851—a very rare shade if it is not a color changling. There is an unused example known. Strangely, there is no item identified with what Scott calls the brown shade. While it is understandable that the 'color committee' might wish to reform the catalog designations, it would still have been appropriate to give paranthetical designations of catalogued colors. To be commended is the careful segregation between the dark brown of the 1847 printing and that of the March 15, 1848 printing (2nd printing).

Collectors would have been better served had both red and black cancels been illustrated on the orange-browns and brown oranges. The red cancels do bias the readings as Mr. White footnotes. It is helpful, however, to have the brown-oranges of the December 1850 printing (5th printing) segregated, although it is not clear which is the deep and which is the dark shade in Chase's designation. A date identification of those shades not identified in Chase's nomenclature would also have been helpful.

3¢ orange brown: Full color charts of Nos. 10 and 11 are available and it is regrettable that one was not reproduced here. They are far more useful working tools than the partial and somewhat atypical results published by Mr. White. Because certain shades are rare and valuable, it is difficult to see why they were omitted. Particularly important are the omissions of the true copper shade—I had occasion to compare the Newbury 'copper' with the coppery example illustrated and the difference is dramatic. As this shade commands a premium and is usually misidentified, Mr. White would have done a service to illustrate it. Another strange omission is the experimental orange brown which is found both in 1851 and 1852. I recently bought a plate 1 late example from 1852 and found it nowheres close to any item illustrated by White. It is useful to have the yellowish orange brown but why was the reddish orange brown omitted? And the brown orange brown?

Scott No. 11: Mr. White correctly notes that the brownish carmine of this shade is known in 1851 but ducks the problem of designation as to whether the date of use or the shade determines the catalogue number. It would have helped had the fairly common reddish brown carmines of 1852 been compared with the brownish versions. Further, there is no example of the 1852 claret which should be compared with the 1857 claret. Only one example of the 1853 dull reds is offered and it is far from the palest version known. The deep version is close to the 1854 rose red and the color committee incorporates it with the rose reds apparently.

A pale and deep shade of the yellowish rose reds of 1856 nicely handles the problem of shade range. It is regrettable that a similar comparison of the brownish carmines was not included, particularly to contrast them with the 1852 brown carmines. Serious omissions are the two rare 1856 shades—the pinkish and the orange brown. As both command premiums, collectors should be informed as to their color. Amonette's copy of the orange brown No. 26 is quite distinct. Only about six covers are known of this scarce shade.

Among the 1857 shades, I note that the purple claret can be found in a much paler version while there is a whole range of brownish clarets; at least one of the paler brown versions would have helped. Again the illustrations omit the rose brown as well as the two rare shades—the grey claret and the plum. It is true that an oxidized No. 26 plum is shown elsewhere, but this example is way off the true color. Dr. Amonette reports only about 25 examples in his records so that it is important that a true color illustration of a premium stamp be included.

5¢ and 10¢ 1851s: Even under poor lighting conditions, the difference between

the dark red browns and the red-browns can be seen from Mr. White's examples. What is not noted is the existence of a pale red brown that is not dissimilar from that of No. 28. I have seen it on cover used in the Spring of 1857 before No. 28 was issued. The 10¢ greens correctly represent the shades although White appears to be making a case for a blue-green in 1851-6. It is unfortunate he does not illustrate this to support his argument.

Scott Nos. 25, 26 (3¢ perforated): While both a pale and regular claret of 1857 is offered, the latter appears slightly oxidized and a deeper version also exists. It would have helped to have one of the pale purple clarets as well as the deep version shown. While the text refers to a deep yellowish brown, what is offered on the color chart is a "dark"—and probably oxidized—yellowish brown. The brownish carmine selections effectively show the range of color, but a second dull red would have been helpful. The three orange browns shown all appear somewhat atypical for the 1857-9 orange brown. (I record an example of 6/20/59). This shade appears to me to differ from the 1856 imperforate version.

5¢ 1857: This stamp is one of the more controversial color items as Mr. White notes. The problem is particularly with the Indian reds which command a heavy price premium probably unjustified by the minor distinction from the red browns. It is particularly unfortunate that a toned example is used in the second row. Mr. White does make a convincing case that there has been misidentification of the Indian reds by the expert committees, and rumor has it that it is virtually impossible to get an Indian red certificated today. While the brick reds selected are not the most typical they are adequate to alert collectors to the appropriate shade. The inclusion of a brown No. 29 on the same plate was an excellent idea. The other shades of No. 29 have to be assumed from the similar shades of Nos. 30 and 30A.

5¢ Type II, 10¢ green perforated: The 5¢ shades appear typical although it would have been appropriate to sublabel the dark orange-brown the deep orange brown of the catalogue. The greens are less satisfactory for the yellowish green appears to be a toned copy while the bluish green looks like it passed through a detergent bath.

Scott Nos. 37-9 (24¢, 30¢, 90¢): In discussing the red-lilac of 37b, the text refers to the color plate which contains no stamp so designated. Either the 37 dark grey lilac is what was meant (in which case it is misnumbered) or the color committee disagreed with the designation and no 37b is offered. This stamp has a violet dye colorant similar to that of the 1861 issue. Regrettably, an issued 30¢ yellow orange was not included along with the proofs so as to cover the problem of substitution, particularly as the proofs can be "distinguished by color" according to Scott.

1¢ 1861s: Again, in this stamp, the color designations do not correspond to the issued stamps. There is no bright blue issued stamp or a dark blue. As Mr. White convincingly stated earlier, proof colors differ. The indication that a slight reddish hue will automatically class this stamp as ultramarine is useful. The indigo's are quite scarce and have long been a subject for discussion. With this publication it is now possible to have a common reference point for future discussion. This is a decided plus.

The 1861 pigeons, pinks and roses: Plates 14 and 15 are two of Mr. White's favorites. He has attempted in the first to show the rare shades as they appear off cover or in their original form by subtracting yellow while all but one example on 15 are as modified by the envelope tone. As all three shades have the same composition and are probably differed only as a result of light exposure over time, it is important to handle the rare shades carefully. These two pages should save many collectors money now being paid for roses or rose-pinks labeled pink. Note the purple cast to the pigeon blood and the blue cast to the pink. It is in-

teresting to see that the left stamp of the middle row is called pigeon blood in the text but is labeled deep pink on the color plate. Despite the soiled paper I see a purple cast and would vote with the text not the color committee. To me it is pigeon.

The 3¢ rose of 1861: Comparison between this plate and the preceeding two makes the pink/pigeon differences quite clear. This reviewer would have liked to see the No. 65 shades yeardated as was done with the earlier 3¢ issue. It should be noted that the last stamp of I-16 is misidentified as No. 65 when it is No. 88. Plate I-17 continues the shades showing some of the changes that occur over time, particularly as the later printings were grilled. This plate is quite deceptive in the lake shades as earlier noted and the orange vermillion (3¢ scarlet) which appears a bit too orangy for my taste. The middle stamp of the page could be a lake No. 65 or an 88a.

The 5¢ buff: The text on this elusive stamp is quite interesting and revealing. The differences between the olive yellows and the buffs is quite clear from the color plate but the brown-yellows and buffs are quite similar in several cases and several specialists have questioned the separations. Some olives look toned or washed.

1861 greens: Strangely omitted is No. 62B which is an important stamp to show in this area. I have seen examples that are almost blue green. It is unfortunate that the only dark green shown is on very toned paper. It was a nice stroke to include a cleaned 68 green to show what can happen.

24¢ 1861s: This section alone is worth the price of the book, for it gives a good analysis of the steel blues and how the chemical changlings sold as such occur. There are a few typos—the date of the violet is 1861 not 1961 and the reference to No. 24 is actually to 24¢. The text is particularly difficult to follow and needs close reading, particularly as designations on the color chart don't match in a number of instances. The greyish lilac on the top row referred to in the text is designated lilac on the chart (I-1). The alterations induced on plate I-22 strongly suggest that before any premium is paid for the scarcer shades of the 24¢ that the stamp be color analyzed by a competent authority.

30¢ and 90¢ 1861: The 30¢ stamp is illustrated with an example in lemon or pale yellow which is not catalogued for No. 71, nor is the scarce reddish orange which is quite a distinct shade. The color committee has also indicated that an additional shade for the 90¢, an ultramarine blue, might be considered as a basic variety. Again, the problem is that the author and the color committee have failed to give subidentifications to fit the standard catalogue listings.

The 5¢ 1861-66 issue: This is not a terribly difficult issue to follow; however, there is some question about the "fire" shade of No. 75 which differs from what a number of collector specialists believe it should be. Again, in No. 76, the terminology used does not match the catalogue although the text indicates that it does.

In sum, this is a useful work that needs to be carefully studied and used. It can save collectors money, but it will also frustrate them as they try to use it. Some of the key elements that can cause problems have been covered in this review which is far more extensive than normal for just this reason. Color is a major philatelic problem and a work that is as basic as this one deserves full treatment. It is a recommended buy with the qualifications noted above. *Calvet M. Hahn*

The Dealer's Guide to Chemical Restoration of Postage Stamps. National Stamp Service, 2661 Ida Way, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33406. 40 pp. $18.

The first philatelic chemist we ever met was named Anderson, and he had one of the smaller offices at 116 Nassau Street. Everything is relative, and a small office in a building of small offices was a small office indeed. The Morton Building, as 116 was once called (after its builder, Levi P. Mor-

ton, a Vice President of the United States), in one of its periodic remodellings early in this century, built a number of tiny rabbit warrens, which lent themselves admirably to the jewelry business. At one time, the twelve story building had dozens of jewelers, each making jewelry in an office little larger than the space occupied by a chair and a worktable.

As mass manufactured costume jewelry came in, many small jewelers went out, and the stamp dealers took over their tiny spaces. As the dealers expanded and offices next to them became empty in the Depression, their spaces grew. Back in 1935 we started with a single office at $20 per month rent; when we left New York for the country in 1946, our rent was $150 and we occupied what had been four individual offices.

After the war, when the insurance business expanded from nearby John and Fulton Streets, the frequency of rent increases induced many stamp dealers to move uptown. Rents were no cheaper there; in fact it was quite the opposite. But facilities were better and certainly more modern. What made Nassau Street in the 1930s and 1940s was its nearness to Wall Street. But after the war, many of the stockbrokers moved uptown as well and Nassau Street lost its philatelic charm. Today many of the century old buildings along Nassau Street which once housed stamp firms now are occupied by insurance firms.

No one knew Anderson's first name; he answered to Andy. Andy kept his philatelic sources a secret, but they undoubtedly were some of the larger banks. A couple of times a week, he would bring to his tiny office an armload of envelopes which held securities being mailed to the banks where he obtained his stamps. Andy was careful. He never allowed the charwomen who cleaned the offices to empty *his* waste baskets; the names of those banks were too precious to him.

We are willing to bet that we are the only one who ever entered Andy's office. To anyone passing by, it looked like one of the many unrented offices in the building. There was no name on the door. One advantage we had was that we were on the same floor with Andy, and he always hit us first with his daily treasures.

Just what Andy's knowledge of chemicals was we will never know. After all, in the 1930s, Andy was in his late fifties or early sixties, and he has long since turned in his tongs. But on a wall shelf above his tiny work table, Andy had a couple of dozen bottles of liquids with odd colored substances in them. Some could straighten out creases, others no doubt lightened postmarks; one we know from the smell contained collodion, used to attach broken perfs to each other to make a restored block.

Lest anyone think Andy was engaged in illegal activities, let's nail that right here. If he knew how to remove postmarks chemically, we are certain he never did it. And when he repaired a tiny closed tear, or reinforced a block, he would invariably call the attention of the prospective buyer to what had been done.

The five dollar red and blue Liberty was the high value coming through. One must remember that meters had not yet come into common use. Perhaps ninety per cent of the mail from bank to bank involving securities was franked with stamps. Andy's flat price on Scott #573 was 35 cents per copy for his finest grade. Many came through with perforated initials; his price on these was a flat $10 per hundred, as they ran. Blocks did not merit a premium; over the years we bought thousands of them from Andy at $1.40 each.

The $2 blue Capitol (#573) was seldom used. If the $5 stamp did not cover the postage needed, the bank would usually work out the balance with the $1, #571. Andy's price on the $2 blue was 30 cents each, and he got a good premium for blocks on this one. He would usually have several dozen blocks of the $5 for every block of the $2. We still regard it as much scarcer than

the $5, especially in nice condition, although Scott does not agree with us. (The catalog says $40.00 for the $2 block, and $22.50 one. Nonsense!)

As late as the late 1930s, occasional $5 Franklins (#524) would show up in Andy's stamps. He would get 50 cents for these. Along about 1938 or so, he sold us some lovely blocks of this item. Registered mail is supposed to be cancelled with the nameless oval, now as then, and it is against regulations to cancel the stamps with a canceler showing either date or town. But Andy had come in with some large blocks of the $5 Franklin, and contrary to P.L. & R., some clerk had cancelled them with his first class mail handstamp. There it was, reading TRENTON, N.J., as big as life, for all the world to see.

The next day we were on the Pennsy en route to Trenton, and we soon found the Main Post Office. Yes, indeed, they did have some $5 stamps, and when we saw that they were green and black, we bought some plate number blocks of eight at $40 each. We only had enough money for two of them, and one ordinary block, as our capital then was not too extensive and $100 was all we could afford.

We had no trouble selling the plate blocks within a day or two, with enough margin to cover the railroad fare, lunch in the diner, and enough left over to take the good wife to dinner. (A dollar bought the finest steak dinner then with everything that goes with it.) Maybe we were in too much of a hurry to sell them; each $40 spent then would enable one to have a block which lists at $1400 in Scott, and often brings more than that figure.

What brought all this to mind was receipt of a modest, card bound 40 page book entitled *The Dealer's Guide to Chemical Restoration of Postage Stamps.* Is it any wonder our thoughts went back to Andy? The book sells for $18, and according to the front page, "This Guide is not intended for sale to the General Collecting Public." The author's name is not shown, but correspondence with the publisher indicates that he is a competent pharmacist, and an equally competent philatelist as well. He understands filters, and quartz lights. He talks intelligently of the differences in stamp papers, and an added plus to the book is the fact that he discusses in simple language how chemicals can be used to detect repaired stamps, cleaned stamps, and even forgeries.

If you have a stamp that has been affected by grease, you need morpholene and pyridine, whatever they are. (We would rather sell the stamp in its stained shape, and let the buyer play the alchemist.) Sealing wax? Tar? Tobacco? Crayon? These are just a few of the dozens of things that can depreciate the value of stamps. You will need a good many more chemicals than Andy had, to become a philatelic chemist this year, but this is the price we pay for civilization. When we were kids, castor oil cured almost everything at ten cents per bottle. Now stomach aches come in 468 different classifications, with thousands of subtypes, and it takes a different anti-biotic pill to cure each one—at $2.65 per pill!

We pass no judgement on the moral values anyone may respect (or not respect) in making stamps more attractive for the ultimate buyer. To some, putting a lightly creased stamp in a stamp press is a philatelic sin. To others, there is nothing wrong with using an art gum eraser to remove a pencil mark that was applied by a postal clerk too lazy to reach for his canceler.

Cleaning a stamp to make it appear unused is not only unethical, but it is illegal, since Uncle Sam figures someone may use it a second time, to the detriment of postal revenues. But what of the effects of what philatelists call "foxing", or "Oxidation"? That process will soon cause a stamp to turn to dust if it is not arrested; is it unethical to use chemicals to stop the deterioration, and to restore the stamp's appearance to what it was before the process started?

We cannot speak for the next man's con-

science. As stated, we solved the problem for ourselves by selling the stamp "as is". "Accessory before the fact" did we hear someone say? How many reading this would prefer to have the stamp destroyed? The day that repaired stamps, or stamps in need of repairing are to be destroyed would find the most valuable stamp in the world, the one cent British Guiana of 1851 (it sold for $280,000) slated for destruction. And let's not forget the Hawaiian "missionary" stamps that bring upwards of $25,000 or more. Printed on the flimsiest paper, not a single unrepaired example is known!

Herman Herst, Jr.

Manual of Philatelic Judging, by the APS Judges Accreditation Committee, Bernard A. Hennig, Chairman. The American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 800, State College, Pa. 16801. 58 pages, softbound. $5.50 ($4.40 to APS members).

Nothing serves to generate more heated discussion and acrimony in philately than an examination of exhibition judging. It seems, almost, that the weeklies publish a piece on judging whenever circulation flags, using the resulting controversy as a larger newspaper would use a story on a sensational murder or industrial accident. The situation isn't helped by the apparent lack of articulateness by most jurors to explain the basically subjective nature of their art. Too, the desire to clothe the process with some sort of "scientific objectivity" has caused no end of confusion. It is strange that this should be so, given that so few stamp collectors engage in exhibiting or even view the exhibits at the various shows.

Bernard Henning is to be commended for grasping the nettle and for clearly describing the process. His discussion of the changing criteria as an exhibit advances from local to international competition is enlightening; it took this reviewer a number of years to learn what the reader can find in ten minutes. Of particular importance is the emphasis given to the philatelic material and what the exhibitor does with it. How many exhibits have we all seen that started with a good idea and faltered due to a poor development (or perhaps confusion on the part of the exhibitor as to his ultimate purpose in showing that particular exhibit) or to a lack of material.

Presentation is accorded an entire chapter, not because it is the main determinant of the philatelic worth of an exhibit (it isn't), but because so many ascribe more weight to this aspect of a showing than is warranted. Pitfalls that detract from the effective demonstration of the primary focus of an exhibit are pointed out. Since much of this must be interpreted in today's judging context, we can expect that some of the feeling about presentation will change as philately slowly evolves.

As classic adhesives have escalated in price beyond the reach of all but the most affluent collectors, cover collecting, in the past 15 years, has provided the outlet for much philatelic energy. Consequently, postal history has finally been accorded its own classification for exhibitions, and its own chapter in this book. A substantial amount of space is devoted to explain what postal history really is; the penchant for the trade to tout any cover as a "real postal history showpiece" has served to confuse many people and, no doubt, disappointed many exhibitors when their prized cover collection of the postmarks of Murray Hill Station, New York has received little recognition. The hints and FIP guidelines for judging postal history are worth the price of the book and reveal the mental processes that occur when an exhibit is evaluated.

In years gone by, a discussion of thematic and topical philately would have provoked almost as much controversy as one about judging. Recently, this has been muted as topicals have achieved their own recognition at the international level. However, the rules (Henning points out there are several sets) are somewhat different. Still, of primary importance is the focus, or point,

of the collection. If this is fuzzy or not well thought out, the exhibit will fare badly. Presentation is of somewhat greater importance although the philatelic element remains paramount.

A short chapter is dedicated to the hardy literature judges and the principles and criteria they use for decision-making. Since this information has not been previously published in so readily available a form, it is most valuable to have it here. The book concludes with a list of the exhibitions currently qualified to send their grand award winners to the Champion of Champions competition annually; this list will change with time but is helpful.

The APS is publishing a series of handbooks all with a long, pocket-sized format. This makes the handbook very accessible as it fits neatly into a jacket pocket or a purse; the "human engineering" forethought will aid in making the series widely used. *EEF*

La Lupa di Bari, by Felice Maiocchi. 1981. 136 pp. Paperbound. Studi Filatelici e Storico Postali s.a.s., via Martelli, 8-50129 Firenze, Italy. Illustrated. No price indicated.

Calculating the value of various features of covers (whether markings, multiples or mixed frankings) has been a problem for postal historians and collectors for many years. This book, covering an issue that spanned the five years following World War II, does much to suggest a solution, or at least an approach to one solution of that problem. Although it is written in Italian, it is still possible for someone not familiar with that language to follow the tables by use of a two-language dictionary, perhaps in combination with the "Philatelic Vocabulary in Five Languages" available from the Philatelic Foundation. Such effort is worthwhile.

Each of the possible variables that may occur with the use of these stamps is given a set of tables which apparently cover all possibilities. Condition is assumed to be of the highest since these are modern issues—anything of lower grade is subject to a 50 per cent to 80 per cent reduction in value. The same reduction is levied against philatelic creations or items generated out of the normal era of use. Assignment of points (each valued at 3000 lira or about $2.50 at the time of publication) is based on the personal observation of the author, and calculations are made first by adding and then by multiplying for any unusual features which may require such recognition.

With may possible varieties and types of the basic stamp, including watermark, perforation, plate varieties and papers, points are allocated for unused, used, on piece, and on cover. From that point on, the treatment is purely one of postal history elements.

Periods of use are established, following the seven published rate changes that took place from 1944 through 1948. The various issues of stamps which could be used in combination with the wolf stamp are listed, value by value, with points assigned for use in each of the remaining rate periods to the end of 1948. Illustrated examples follow, with the point assignments broken down as allocated by the author, and are quite easily followed once the basic allocations are understood. Sections devoted to colors and types of cancellations as well as to special uses complete this unusual study.

Drawbacks of this work are relatively minor. The most obvious is that of the language barrier. One may hope that an English version might be possible (even if only to translate the tables), although demand might be limited for it. The arrangement of the numerous tables requires some study before they become clear. A suggestion to any who would use this book is to evolve a sequence of evaluating any cover in a logical order, assigning points from each of the tables as warranted. As it is here arranged, however, the book depends on an individual understanding (given by the text) of the desirable elements of these covers before deciding which tables to consult to

arrive at the necessary conclusion. A final question remains, and unfamiliarity with this issue is the source of the question: do the points arrived at by this analysis accurately reflect the value of the covers involved? If so, and I suspect such is the case, the approach is a valid and a commendable one for the depth and complexity of its treatment. I cannot recall any earlier work that has attempted to cover in quite such detail all the elements of a cover and how they contribute to the value of the item.

The author's conclusion contains a point worth remembering: a modest stamp can provide the basis for research, study, diversion, and a focus for a thorough study of postal history. I consider this book essential for those interested in this issue (a modern area worthy of their attention) and for those who might wish a model for possible approaches to value determination of covers in their own areas of collecting.*Robert P. Odenweller*

Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917, Volume 2, edited by Victor E. Engsrom and Reidar Norby. 1981. Scandinavian Philatelic Society, Washington, DC 20044. 272 pp, illustrated, hard-bound. $61.75 + $2 insurance.

While Volume 1 of this study was devoted to the islands postal history and early markings, this new one is devoted to their adhesive stamps and postal stationery. Within its pages the editors have assembled every known detail about the postal paper issued by the Danish administration before the United States purchased the islands in 1917 and changed their name to the U. S. Virgin Islands. Because of this history, specialists have long included these Danish issues with our own domestic stamps.

Adding philatelic spice to the issues is the abundance of printing flaws, most of which is recorded in this tome. This enables the collector to know what exists and then to enjoy the hunting for material. The illustrations are most helpful, for each has one or more arrows to locate the microscopic variations that distinquish different printings and sheet positions. (Pictures of covers, on the other hand, have not been properly photographed and are unclear. While the stamps on them cannot be identified—except by captions—the postal markings, which are important, can be read.)

The text explains the printing materials and processes used in the production of stamps, cards, and envelopes. Valuable too, are the many tables which reveal settings of the different printings, the dates during which they were used, the quantities printed, and kindred data.

The thoroughness with which the book was compiled is exemplified by the section devoted to stamped envelopes. Not only are the imprinted stamp designs considered but "impressed" or "compressed" watermarks are classified according to four major and twelve minor types, with a few "double" and "phantom" ones catalogued as well!

Editor Engstrom opens the book with, "Like the building of Jumbo-Jet planes, no sooner are they in production than they are out-dated, and in a similar fashion, the research of today leads to new discoveries tomorrow. Even the philately of a land that ceased producing adhesive stamps more than 60 years ago is not, and probably will [never] be, complete and perfect."

Possibly so. But with this elaborate addition to the field's literature, it's going to take some patient, intensive study to add anything to what this book gives the truly serious specialist-scholar! *Ernest A. Kehr*

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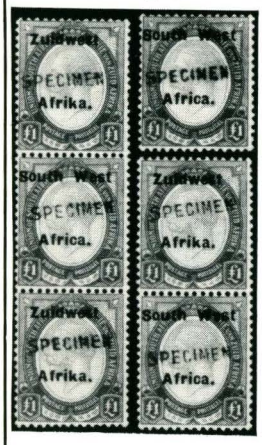
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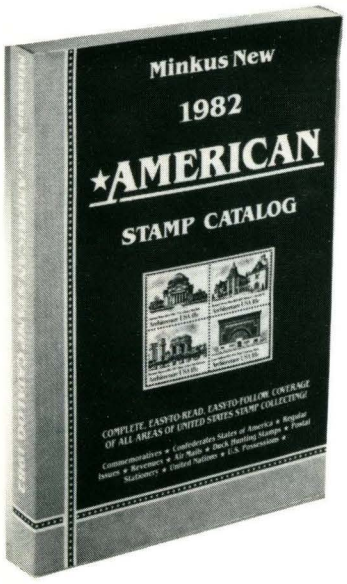
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