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PHILATELIST

**Volume 50 Number 3
May 1971**

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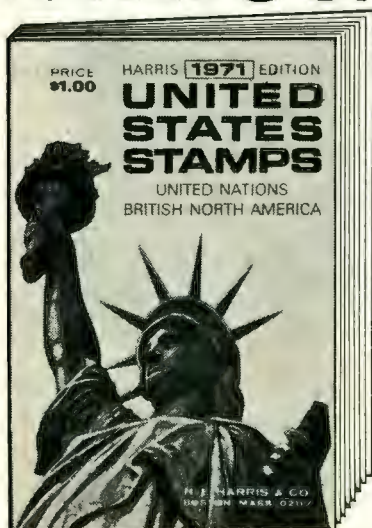
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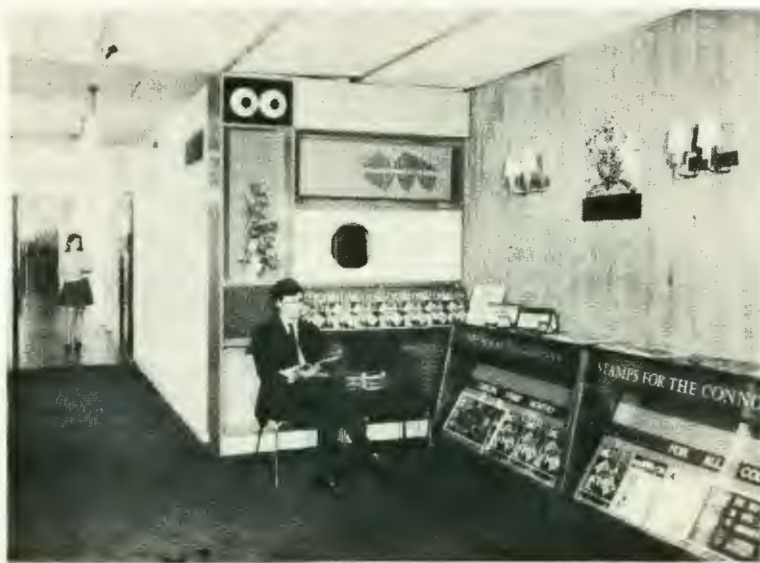
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The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

Volume 50 Number 3
May 1971

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22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016

Across The Editor's Desk

Mr. Ira Seebacher
The Collectors Club Philatelist
22 East 35th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

February 9, 1971

Dear Mr. Seebacher:

In your Editorial in the January, 1971 issue, under "Across the Editor's Desk," you state:

1. "Right now the Foundation is so heavily loaded that some specimens cannot possibly make it there and back within three months — or even four."

2. "The Foundation, for one, mails back its "patients." The date on such a mailing should be the governing factor for the return of a lot. If it takes five months—then it takes five months. If it takes three—so much the better."

Both of these statements are incorrect and lead us to believe that you are not familiar with the operation of the Philatelic Foundation Expertizing Service, particularly in regard to the time lag between the receipt and return of "patients."

The following is a chart of items received, processed and returned since November 6, 1969. Needless to say we would have been delighted to furnish these statistics before publication, had the request been made:

<i>"Patients"</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Processed</i>	<i>Time lag</i>
<i>Numbered</i>	<i>between</i>		
31 951 - 32 200	Nov. 6 & Dec. 1, 1969	Jan. 5, 1970	8 - 5 weeks
32 201 - 32 458	Dec. 1 & Dec. 29, 1969	Feb. 2, 1970	8 - 5 weeks
32 460 - 32 700	Dec. 29 & Feb. 1, 1970	Mar. 2, 1970	8 - 4 weeks
32 271 - 32 950	Feb. 1 & Mar. 10, 1970	Mar. 30, 1970	8 - 3 weeks
32 951 - 33 200	Mar. 10 & Apr. 8, 1970	Apr. 27, 1970	7 - 3 weeks
33 201 - 33 450	Apr. 8 & May 1, 1970	May 25, 1970	7 - 3 weeks
33 451 - 33 700	May 1 & May 18, 1970	June 22, 1970	8 - 4 weeks
33 701 - 33 950	May 21 & June 23, 1970	Aug. 31, 1970	*12 - 9 weeks
33 951 - 34 200	June 23 & Aug. 14, 1970	Oct. 12, 1970	*14 - 8 weeks
34 201 - 34 450	Aug. 18 & Oct. 8, 1970	Nov. 9, 1970	*11 - 8 weeks
34 451 - 34 658	Oct. 15 & Nov. 17, 1970	Dec. 7, 1970	7 - 3 weeks
34 659 - 34 950	Nov. 17 & Dec. 14, 1970	Jan. 11, 1971	8 - 4 weeks
34 951 - 35 200	Dec. 14 & Jan. 7, 1971	Feb. 8, 1971	7 - 4 weeks

*This unusual time lag in 1970 was occasioned by two factors: (1) The summer recess which gives our voluntary workers a well earned rest, and (2) the London International Stamp Exhibition, which drew practically all of the officers of the Foundation, Members of the Expert Committee and consultants, not only for the period of the Exhibition, but many went early and stayed late.

As you will observe, in normal circumstances, "patients" are returned from two months to three weeks from the date of receipt. This has been our "batting average" for the past several years, and covers the processing of 250 to 300 "patients" a month, which also precludes any backlog.

As the implied "heavily loaded" Foundation, and three, four or five months time lag between receipt and return is misleading, we would be most grateful if you would kindly arrange to publish this letter in the first available future issue of the Collectors Club Philatelist.

Very sincerely yours,
JOHN H. HALL, JR.
Chairman

cc: Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck, Editor
Collectors Club Philatelist

Afghanistan

A note on the earliest known marking of the 1839-42 War
And the other markings of that campaign

By Winthrop S. Boggs

Editor's Note

This is the first of what we hope are a series of authoritative articles on the postal history and postage stamps of Afghanistan during the reign of the Amirs Sher Ali Khan, Abdurrahman Khan and Habibullah Khan, a period of fifty years from 1870 to 1920. The first article herewith, however, is a brief note on the British Military Post during the First Afghan War of 1839 to 1842.

Mr. Boggs has studied these stamps for upwards of thirty five years and, until recently, had one of the outstanding collections of this little understood country.

Since the publication of the handbook on Afghanistan by the late Sir David Masson and B. Gordon Jones by the Philatelic Society of India in 1906, little if any authoritative writing has been published on the 19th Century stamps of this country. "Afghanistan, Its Twentieth Century Postal Issues" by Frank E. Patterson III, as its title indicates, treats only with the twentieth century stamps. (H. D. S. H.)



Figure A. Sketch map showing places from which letters bearing handstruck stamps are known.

Introductory

The fear of invasion of India through Afghanistan which had occurred several times before in history was constantly on the minds of British officials during the 19th Century. French and Russian intrigues in Persia and Central Asia led to the first of the British efforts to control the foreign affairs of Afghanistan.

The attempts of Amir Dost Mohammed to enlist Russian aid in recovering Peshawar from Ranjit Singh ruler of the Punjab led to the First Afghan war of 1838 to 1842, when the British endeavored to restore the deposed Shah Shujah to the Afghan throne in the belief that he was more favorable to their interests.

A British army commanded by Lt. Gen. Sir John Keane left Quetta (in Baluchistan) in April 1839 commencing the operations in Afghanistan. A tortuous political and military campaign followed which finally ended disastrously with the retreat of the British from Kabul in 1842, a retreat in which only one European, Surgeon William Brydon, and a few sepoy and camp followers survived. British prestige suffered a loss and there was an appalling amount of human suffering. The Postal Service of this ill-fated war will be briefly discussed.



Figure 1. AFGHANISTAN PAID (Type A). Struck in red on a letter from Jellalabad Nov. 15, 1839 the earliest Afghan marking known. (Formerly in the writer's collection).



Figure 2. AFGHANISTAN PAID (Type A) marking in red on a letter from "Costan" (Kohistan) Oct. 23, 1840. (Formerly in the writer's collection).

Postal Service 1839 to 1842

A military Postal Service was established, and one of the instructions was to the Postmaster General of Bengal, who on the 26th of December 1838 was told "to furnish them with stamps, etc. to enable them to conduct the duties of the Department according to the rules established."⁽¹⁾

The routes of course varied depending on the positions of the various troop units, but a fair volume of mail was handled at Quetta, Kandahar, Ghazni, Kabul and Jellalabad.

Letters from this campaign although scarce are well known. Many have no indication of use from Afghanistan aside from the superscription, but a small proportion do bear the handstamped impression of one of the three devices used by the Postal clerks. These handstruck markings are much sought after by collectors of Campaign material, and of course form an interesting introduction to a collection of Afghan Postal History and stamps.

1. For a detailed study of the postal history of this campaign see THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST AFGHAN WAR 1838-1842 by Colonel D. R. Martin, Royal Engineers (Retired). Special Series No. 18, published by The Postal History Society 1964.

This work is the writer's chief source of information on this phase of Afghan Postal History aside from the two letters formerly in the writer's collection.

The Handstruck Markings of the First Afghan War of 1839 to 1842

The earliest cover we know of from this campaign is from the Douglas correspondence which is dated at "Candahar May 15, 1839," but does not, however, bear any Afghanistan markings.

Regarding the instructions to the Postmaster General of Bengal quoted previously Col. Martin remarks:

"He evidently did little about this for the first recorded Handstruck stamp from the Army is dated May 1840 at Cabool."

As a matter of fact the earliest cover we know of bearing an Afghanistan marking is a letter from the Eddy correspondence dated Jellalabad, Nov. 15, 1839, which has a poor impression in red of the AFFGHANISTAN PAID stamp, type A (Figure 1).⁽²⁾

This is earlier by almost six months (177 days to be exact), than the earliest date given in Col. Martin's excellent work.

From this it would appear that the Postmaster General of Bengal attended to the procuring of the required handstamps more promptly than first thought. (Figure 2).

Illustrated here are the three types of handstruck markings used.⁽³⁾

With this episode the Postal System of Afghanistan ceases until the final accession to the throne of Amir Sher Ali after his triumph over his opponents in 1869. This campaign has been extensively documented on the Military and Political aspects, most of which are not readily available. However "*THE FIERCE PAWNS*" by Patrick A. Maerory, published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1966 is excellent.



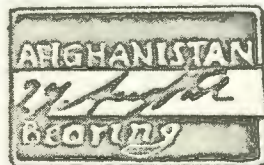
Type A
Red

Used approximately from Nov. 1839 to Dec. 1840.



Type B
Red

The author knows of only one definite example of this marking, dated at Kabul, 10 Dec. 42.



Type C
Black

Used approximately from Aug. 1842 to Oct. 1842.

2. This cover was formerly in the writer's collection, as was the cover illustrated herewith.
3. The drawings of these markings are from Col. Martin's work, by courtesy of the Postal History Society.

PRIVATE POSTS IN BALTIMORE 1844 - 1860

By DENWOOD N. KELLY

(Continued from Page 96)

City Despatch Post

1846-1847

(Scott Nos. 103L1-103L9)

In the section on the brief Baltimore phase of the operation of the American Letter Mail Company, an interesting newspaper account of the trial in the U. S. District Court on March 17, 1844 was quoted in full. In it there appeared testimony of one Malcolm W. Mearis who had been employed by Baltimore Postmaster Finley in his investigations of the activities of the mail route. It would seem to be a good guess that Mr. Mearis, having seen the result of this case, came to the conclusion that the Post Office Department would continue to be successful in its contention that railroads should be considered as post roads over which the Federal Government enjoyed a legal monopoly for the transportation of mail, and that employees of independent mail routes could not be considered as "special messengers" for the purpose of evading the law. To conjecture a bit further, he may have been thinking of a business which he could start and perhaps was intrigued by the private carriage of mail. At this time in our postal history there was considerable public discontent with the government postal service because of high rates and, often, poor service and many people were thinking in terms of establishing private mail services. Realizing that private transportation of mail between cities was certain to be suppressed, what would be more natural than for a thoughtful young man to entertain the idea of establishing a business for the strictly local delivery of letters within a city, where the streets had not as yet been officially designated as post roads? This would not have been an original idea as the City Despatch in New York had begun operations in 1842 and achieved considerable success. In Philadelphia, just 100 miles to the north, a city despatch post was also in operation, that of the well known D. O. Blood & Co., which operated so successfully for many years. Whatever Malcolm Mearis' thoughts may have been, very early in 1846 he determined to establish such an enterprise. From January 23-29 of that year the following advertisement appeared in "*The Sun*."

"CITY DISPATCH POST—The undersigned, desirous of being useful to his fellow-citizens, begs to inform them that he has established a CITY DISPATCH POST similar to those in the other large commercial cities of the Union, by which persons at the most distant points of the city may communicate with each other without delay or trouble, and at a very small expense. It has been found conveniently useful in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, and is now sustained and encouraged by all classes — and the undersigned in offering himself to the public pledges all that fidelity and industry can do to make it a convenient and useful establishment and only asks in return the confidence and support of his friends and the public. 100 boxes will be posted at different points of the city, specially enumerated by bills. The charge will be upon a communication delivered to any point of the city 2 cents, and letters to go out of town will be regularly mailed for 1 cent, which must be paid at the box. I will receive at the Golden Horse, Howard Street, quarter before nine; at Mortimer & Mowbray's

ten minutes before nine; Taylor, Wilde & Co., and Sun Office until five minutes of nine o'clock, letters to go East, which will be carried by me to mail agent at Lower Depot, by fast horse, for 2 cents each. Notices delivered for associations and clubs at a small charge. Also small packages delivered to any point of the city. Good Collections attended to for a small per centage.

MALCOLM W. MEARIS

Persons will please direct their communications so that there may be no mistake in their delivery.

REFERENCES

Z. Collins Lee, Esq.	Hugh McEldery, Esq.
Lambert Gittings, Esq.	T. Yates Walsh, Esq.
Geo. M. Robertson, Esq.	Jas. O. Law, Esq.
Wm. H. Watson, Esq.	

And business men generally.

MALCOLM W. MEARIS''

It is interesting to note that one of Mearis' references was Z. Collins Lee, the U. S. District Attorney who had prosecuted the case against the American Letter Mail Company in which Mearis had appeared as a prosecution witness.

On January 28th the same paper commented editorially:

"City Despatch Post — This establishment, which has been in operation but a few days, we are told already gives promise of abundant success. The letters and packages have been gradually increasing daily, to an amount entirely unexpected by the proprietor. It will be found a great convenience to the public, if it is managed with spirit and promptitude."

The City Despatch Post was listed in *Matchett's City Directory* for 1847 as follows:

"City Despatch Post — Cor. North & Baltimore Sts., basement."

There was no mention of Mearis either as the proprietor or in an individual listing. No such listing appears in the 1848 issue. The first listing of Malcolm W. Mearis appeared in the 1851 issue, showing his residence at 16 South Albemarle Street and a business affiliation with the firm of Busch & Co., tobacconists, 20 Center Market. He was not listed again until 1857, 1858, and 1859, when he appeared as a magistrate of the fourth ward and living at 6 Albemarle Street. From small advertisements or other notices found in "*The Sun*" in January, 1856, Mearis at that time was a justice of the peace, advertising conveyancing services, the administration of oaths, etc. In January, 1857 he was advertising as justice of the peace of the middle district, with offices at Tripolets' Alley and Second Street (now Redwood Street). He disappeared from directory listings and newspaper advertisements thereafter.

Mearis' City Despatch office was in the basement of the Jarvis Building at the corner of North (now Guilford Avenue) and Baltimore Streets. In the same building on the first floor was a well known book shop, known as William Taylor's Book Store. Apparently in late October, 1846, Mearis sold his despatch post to Mr. Taylor, who operated it under the management of one R. K. Ford. The announcement of this transfer appeared in *The Sun* from October 20, 22, 1846:

"City Despatch Post. — This establishment having passed into the hands of Mr. WM. TAYLOR, will now be conducted in such a manner as to insure its success, and make it a most convenient medium of communication to the public.

RATES—On all letters to be delivered in the city, two cents will be charged. Those immediately for the Post Office one cent, to be paid for at the BOX, otherwise they will not be mailed.

Notices for Societies, Circulars, Catalogues, Invitations to Parties, Balls, Funerals &c., served at a low charge, by the hundred, by calling at the office, BASEMENT of Jarvis Buildings, immediately under Wm. Taylor's Book Store.

Persons will please be particular in their directions, and they may rest assured of a prompt and speedy delivery of their letters.

WANTED—An industrious BOY, of good character. Apply to
R. K. FORD, Agent
for the Proprietor"

On November 4th the following advertisement appeared, showing the locations of mail boxes which had been erected by the Post.

"CITY DISPATCH POST.—The following list will be of service to all persons sending LETTERS through the CITY DISPATCH, as it will show the location of each Box:

Mortimer & Mowbray, Fancy store, corner Baltimore and Charles sts.

Roberts' Drug store, cor. Baltimore and Hanover sts.

Globe Inn, Baltimore, near Howard street.

Graham's Drug store, cor. Baltimore and Eutaw sts.

Perkins' Drug store, cor. Baltimore and Green sts.

Monsarat's Drug store, cor. Pine and Lexington sts.

McDonald's Tavern, Paca near Lexington st.

Tenknaus Grocery, cor. Paca and Mulberry sts.

Standford's Shoe store, cor. Lexington and Green sts.

Perkin's Drug store, cor. Green and Franklin sts.

Tilton's Grocery, Eutaw, near Monument st.

Golden Horse Tavern, corner Franklin and Howard streets.

Bain's Drugstore, cor. Saratoga and Howard sts.

Orrick's Drug store, cor. Lexington and Eutaw sts.

Thompson's Grocery, Lexington near Charles st.

Guy's Tavern, Monument Square.

European House, corner South and Lombard sts.

Rea's Clothing store, cor. South and Pratt sts.

Hardware store, corner Light and Pratt sts.

U. S. Hotel, opposite Depot, Pratt street.

Ridgley's Drug store, cor. Howard and Pratt sts.

Clan's Grocery, cor. Hanover and Lee sts.

Egerton's Lottery office, cor. Gay and Pratt sts.

Duhurst's Drug store, corner Pratt street and Dugan's wharf.

Healey's Grocery, cor. President and Pratt sts.

Pitt's Drug store, cor. Pratt and High sts.

Tucker's Drug store, corner Pratt and Eden sts.

Logan Hall, corner Bond and Bank sts.

McAllister's Magistrates Office, corner of Bond and Alice Anna sts.

Latournau's Magistrates Office, Thames street, near Broadway.

Hopkins' Drug store, corner Broadway and Canton avenue.

Fowler's Grocery, corner Baltimore and Eden sts.

Barber Shop, corner Aisquith and Orleans sts.

Ward's Tobacconist, Gay st., near Ensor.

Green's Grocery, corner Gay and High sts.

Benjamin's Pawn-broker, cor. Gay and Harrison sts.

City Hall, Holiday st.

Sun Office, corner Gay and Baltimore sts.

Susquehanna Railroad Office, North st.

Taylor's Book Store, Nos. 5 and 6 North st.

The new arrangements having been completed, hereafter Letters, Papers and Small Parcels will be taken from the Boxes three times each day — at 7½ and 11, A.M., and 3, P.M., and delivered with care and promptness.

City Letters at 2 cents each, and Post Office Letters at 1 cent-letters for the Post Office must be paid at the Box (1 cent) or they will not be mailed.

Notices for societies, Circulars, Invitations to Parties, Balls, Funerals, &c., served at a low charge, by the hundred, by calling at this office.

Paid Stamps for sale, at WM. TAYLOR'S Book Store, North street and, also, at the Office, BASEMENT JARVIS' BUILDING, under Taylor's Book Store.

R. K. FORD, Agent."

On the 7th a brief advertisement appeared, telling the public of a special late collection for outgoing mail.

"CITY DESPATCH POST—A NEW FEATURE. TO MERCHANTS AND OTHERS.—Letters for the South and East can always be mailed if left at Office of the CITY DESPATCH 10 minutes before 9 A.M., and 8 P.M. for the East only. By this arrangement Letters which would otherwise be delayed, will be in time for the Mails. Letters 2 cents each, payable at the Office No. 6 BASEMENT JARVIS' BUILDING.

R. K. FORD, Agent"

Finally, from November 16th to 21st, a promotional advertisement appeared, stating that the Post was in full and effective operation.

"LETTERS! LETTERS!! LETTERS!!! — The CITY DESPATCH POST is now in full and effective operations, and its conveniences and usefulness to the public, it is hoped, will insure it a liberal share of patronage.

Letters delivered safely and promptly to all parts of the city for TWO CENTS each. To the Post Office ONE CENT. The boxes are conveniently located throughout the city.

Circulars, Bills, Cards, &c., served at a low charge by calling at the office, No. 6 BASEMENT JARVIS' BUILDING. North Street.

R. K. FORD, Agent"

No stamps or postal markings which can definitely be associated with the Taylor-Ford operation have been recorded, despite the statement in the advertisement of November 4th that "Paid Stamps" were on sale at both Taylor's Bookstore and the Despatch office. No covers from this period have been recorded. In early January, 1847 the Post was apparently still in operation as a newspaper advertisement of a coal dealer contained the postscript, "Orders sent through any of the Despatch Post Offices will be promptly attended to."

On March 22, 1847 the following brief advertisement appeared in "*The Sun*."

"HAVING BOUGHT THE CITY DESPATCH POST, of R. Wilton, this is to inform the public that I will myself attend to the punctual delivery of all Notices, Letters, &c., placed in the Boxes, to any part of the city, or Post office.

WM. H. HAHN"

The identity of William H. Hahn, the new owner of the City Despatch Post, is not known, nor have I been able to find any clue to the identity of R. Wilton, from whom Hahn purchased the Post. If this was a continuation of the Mearis-Taylor sequence, Wilton must have bought it from Taylor early in 1847. There is always the good possibility that this last advertisement pertains



Figure 11. Se-tenant pairs of the Mearis stamps, the only multiples known (Ex Caspary and Lilly collections)

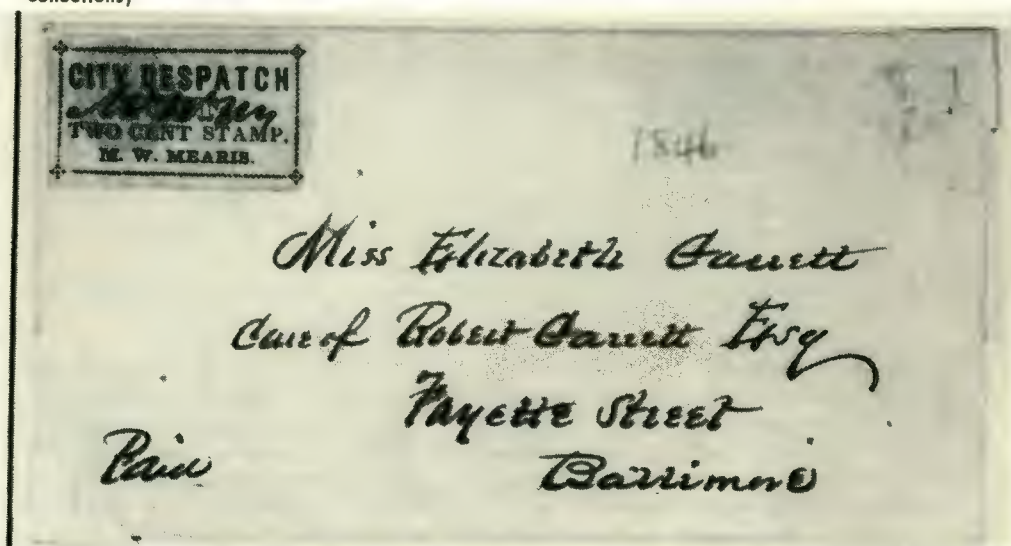


Figure 12. Mearis 2c stamp on local Baltimore letter. (Princeton University Library collection)

to an entirely different operation, started up by R. Wilton possibly about the time of Valentine's Day in 1847. In any case, no adhesive stamp or hand-stamped markings identifiable to either Wilton or Hahn have been discovered.

Mearis issued type-set adhesive stamps for the franking of letters carried by the City Despatch Post. These stamps are listed in Scott's Specialized U. S. Catalog, #103L1 to 103L9, and are of one and two cent denominations. As the advertisement pointed out, the one cent stamp was to be used for letters to go out of town which would be carried to the post office, whereas two cents was the rate charged for local delivery. This rate was the same as that of the post office carrier service in effect in Baltimore at that time.

Figure 11 illustrates two se-tenant pairs of these stamps which were in the collections of the late Alfred H. Caspary and Josiah K. Lilly. To my knowledge these are the only multiples of the Mearis stamps in existence. The late George Sloane told me that Mr. Caspary had found these stamps in the so-called "junk box" of a well-known Paris dealer many years ago and had bought them for a mere pittance. At the Caspary sale in 1952 these pairs brought \$320 and \$425, respectively, and at the Lilly sale in 1967, \$600 and \$700.

Covers bearing the Mearis stamps are very rare, only a handful being known. A lovely one, in the collection of the Princeton University Library, is illustrated in Figure 12. This was found in the Robert Garrett family correspondence in Baltimore some years ago and presented to the Library by a descendant. The stamp is not cancelled but is affixed to the folded letter by a red wax seal which shows through in the photograph, appearing almost as a canceller.

Another fine Mearis cover was in the Caspary collection and is illustrated in Figure 13. The stamp was cancelled by a diagonal pen stroke and the regular Baltimore post office circular date stamp ties the stamp to the cover. The stamp is of one cent denomination and paid the rate to the post office. The blue "Five in Oval" of the Baltimore post office also appears on the cover indicating the rate of postage to Sandy Spring. This cover realized \$320 at the Caspary sale. The date of use was February 18, 1846. This cover has been in philatelic hands many years as it bears on its face the monogram "CEC" of Charles E. Calman, the New York dealer of the 1880's.

Mr. Caspary owned another one cent Mearis stamp, on a small piece, which realized \$220 in the sale of his collection. It is illustrated in Figure 14 and is cancelled by the blue Baltimore circular date stamp, the date of use being February 18, 1846. It is of a different variety from those illustrated and listed in the Scott Catalog.

In the collection of the late Frank A. Hollowbush there was a beautiful cover, Figure 15, Baltimore, (March 22, 1846), to Philadelphia, bearing an uncanceled Mearis one cent stamp. This cover had formerly been in the Henry C. Needham collection.

Mr. John R. Boker owned a lovely stampless cover locally delivered and bearing a circular handstamp inscribed "City Dispatch Post Baltimore" in yellowish red ink. This cover (Figure 16) was discovered in 1950 in an original find in Annapolis, Maryland and its date of use was April 28, 1846. A manuscript "3" appears on the cover; I cannot explain the significance of this figure, as Mearis' advertised rate for local delivery was 2c.

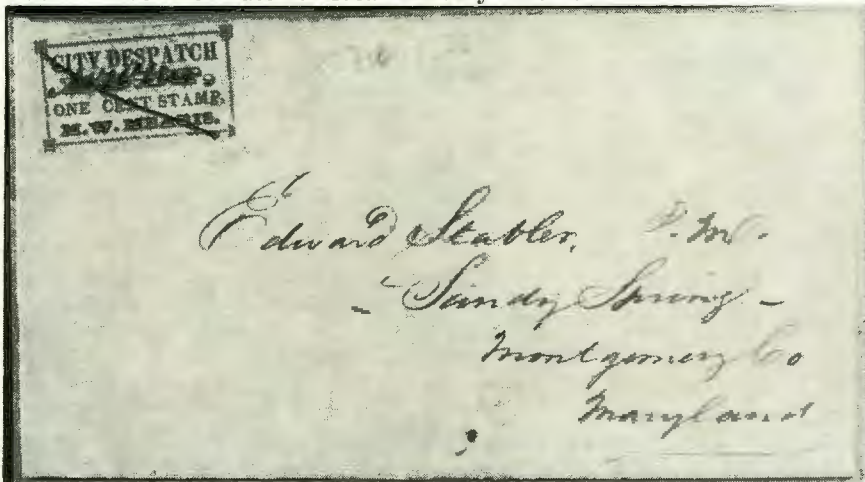


Figure 13. Mearis 1c stamp tied to outgoing letter by blue Baltimore circular date stamp, February 18, (1846). (Ex Caspary collection)

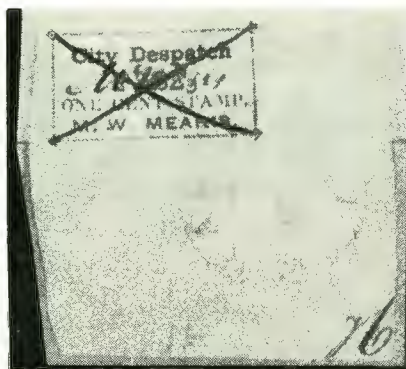
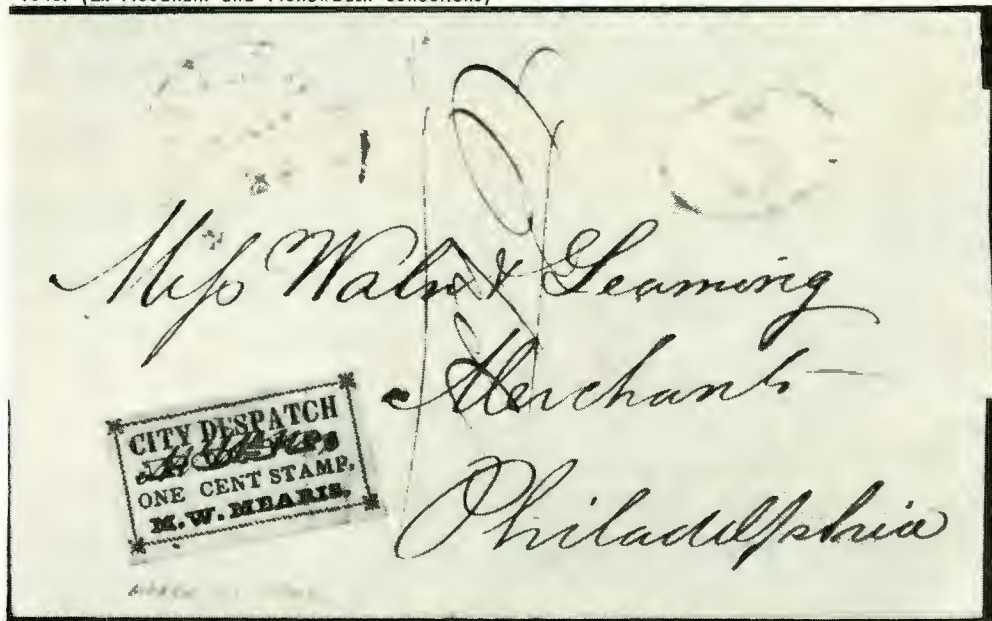


Figure 14. Mearis 1c stamp tied to a small piece of cover by blue Baltimore circular date stamp, March 6, (1846). (Ex Caspary collection)

Figure 15. Mearis 1c stamp uncanceled, on entire letter from Baltimore to Philadelphia, March 22, 1846. (Ex Needham and Hollowbush collections)



For a number of years there has been speculation as to whether this handstamp was associated with Mearis' post. Another cover bearing this circular handstamp comprised lot 703 in the 8th Caspary sale of March 18-21, 1957 — it was addressed to New York and also bore a red circular date stamp of "Baltimore Railroad, Apr. 6" and a red oval handstamp of Boyd's City Express, April 7, 12.00 and "PAID/J.T.B."

Several years ago the writer obtained a cover from an original find in Baltimore, which ranks as one of the great philatelic "tragedies" in his experience. It is illustrated in Figure 17, which shows quite clearly the nature of the tragedy. Someone at one time tried to "skin off" the stamp and merely succeeded in tearing off about half of it. The real importance of this cover, however, is that it also bears an impression, in yellowish red, of the circular City Despatch Post handstamp, thus proving the Mearis origin of the marking. I have not been able to record any other example of this handstamp used in connection with the adhesive stamps.

Another type of handstamp was also associated with the Mearis operation; it consisted of a small rectangular box of acorns connected by loops, measuring 25 x 11½ mm., and enclosing the words "CITY DESPATCH." Figure 18 illustrates this marking on a locally delivered letter, dated June 1, 1846, the handstamp being struck in brick red ink. I have recorded three other examples



Figure 16. Local Letter, April 28, 1846, bearing Mearis' circular handstamp "City Despatch Post BALTI MD." in yellowish red ink Manuscript "3" (Ex Boker collection)

Figure 17. Local letter, undated, bearing a fragment of the Mearis 2c stamp and the circular handstamp of the City Despatch Post (Kelly collection)



of this handstamp, one in my collection being dated June 20, 1846 and another in the collection of the late Frank Hollowbush, containing a doggerel, self-composed Valentine, not dated.

The third is struck on a locally addressed letter which also bears a fragment of a Mearis 2c adhesive stamp which someone has unsuccessfully attempted to peel off or which has been partially eaten away by insects. As in the case of the cover in Figure 17, the Mearis origin of the "City Despatch" handstamp is apparently proven by this cover.

There is little doubt that the various types of the Mearis stamps were created simply by a small local printer's employment of the varying fonts of type and printer's rule in his possession to make up the printing plate, both values in their several types appearing in the plate. The size of the plate or finished sheet is unknown, the few copies of these stamps which are extant being insufficient to permit reconstruction. It would be logical to expect the sheet size to have been such that the combination of 1c and 2c stamps would total to some amount which was a multiple of 5c. I would hazard the guess that the plate used to print the stamps was of ten subjects, five one cent and five two cent stamps, arranged in two vertical rows. Scott lists the two denominations as being printed on both white and bluish wove paper. The types which I have recorded so far are:

One Cent

- Type A. 1. Corner ornaments — Dot in diamond
 2. "City Despatch" — Block, upper case letters
 3. "Post" — Narrow ("P" under "Y," "T" under "A")
 4. "One Cent Stamp" — Serifed, shaded, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Serifed, upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines
 a. Top, over "Y," "S" and "AT"
 b. Right side, opposite base of "T"
 c. Bottom, under first "stop," second "M," and "I"
 d. Left side, opposite base of "P"

This type is shown as the right stamp in the first of the Caspary pairs in Figure 11, and, with the exception of the frameline breaks, is Scott's Type L212.

- Type B. 1. Corner ornaments — Dot in diamond
 2. "City Despatch" — Block, upper case letters
 3. "Post" — Wide ("P" under "IT," "T" under "TC")
 4. "One Cent Stamp" — Serifed, shaded, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Serifed, upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines:
 a. Top, over "Y," "S," and "AT"
 b. Right side, opposite the base of the "T"
 c. Bottom, under the stop after the first "M," the second "M," and the "I"
 d. Left side, opposite the base of the "P"

This type is shown as the right stamp in the second of the Caspary-Lilly pairs, in Figure 11.

- Type C. 1. Corner ornaments — Flower
 2. "City Despatch" — Serifed, upper case letters
 3. "Post" — Wide ("P" under "C," "T" under "C")
 4. "One Cent Stamp" — Serifed, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Serifed, bold face upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines:
 a. Top, over "Y," "S" and "T"
 b. Right side, opposite the base of the "T"
 c. Bottom, under the "W," the second "M" and the "R"
 d. Left side, opposite the base and top of the "O," and the "C"

This type is shown on the Caspary cover of February 18, 1846, Figure 13, and is Scott's Type L211.

- Type D. 1. Similar to Type C, but the only frame line breaks are:
- a. Top, over "e"
 - b. Bottom, under second "M"

This type is shown on the "Leaming" cover, Figure 15, and is Scott's Type L211

- Type E. 1. Corner ornaments — Dot in diamond
2. "City Despatch" — Serifed, bold face upper and lower case letters
 3. "Post" — narrow ("P" under "Y," "T" under "P")
 4. "One Cent Stamp" — Serifed, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Block, upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines:
 - a. Top, over "ty," "e" and "t"
 - b. Right side, opposite the base of the "T"
 - c. Bottom, under the left leg of the "W," under the left leg of the second "M," under the left leg of the "A," under the "A," and under the final stop.
 - d. Left side, opposite the base of the "P" and "M"

This type is shown on the small piece of cover from the Caspary collection, Figure 14, and does not match any of the Scott types.

Two Cents

- Type F. 1. Corner Ornaments — Dot in diamond
2. "City Despatch" — block upper case letters
 3. "Post" — narrow ("P" under "Y," "T" under "A")
 4. "Two Cent Stamp" — Serifed, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Serifed, upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines:
 - a. "Top, over "y," "S" and "AT"
 - b. Right side, opposite the base of the "T"
 - c. Bottom, under the first stop, the second "M," the "I," and "MP"
 - d. Left side, opposite the center of the "P"

This type is shown as the left stamp in the first Caspary pair, Figure 11, se-tenant with the One Cent Type A, and is Scott's Type L212.

Type G. Similar to Type F, but there is no break in the bottom frame line under "MP"

This type is shown on the Garrett cover, Figure 12.

- Type H. 1. Corner Ornaments — Flower
2. "City Despatch" — Block upper case letters
 3. "Post" — Wide ("P" under "C," "T" under "C")
 4. "Two Cent Stamp" — Serifed, upper case letters
 5. "M. W. Mearis" — Serifed, upper case letters
 6. Breaks in frame lines:
 - a. Top, over "Y," "ES," "AT," and "TC"
 - b. Right side, opposite the base of the "T"
 - c. Bottom, under the first stop, the second "M," and the "I"
 - d. Left side, opposite the base of the "P"

This type is shown as the left stamp in the second Caspary-Lilly pair, se-tenant with the One Cent Type B, Figure 11, and is Scott's Type L214.

I have seen only one counterfeit of a Mearis stamp. Illustrated in Figure 19, it was shown to me in 1952 by the late George B. Sloane, who said it was the only one he had ever seen. It is considerably smaller in size than the originals, measuring $24\frac{1}{2}$ by $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the outer edges of the corner ornaments,

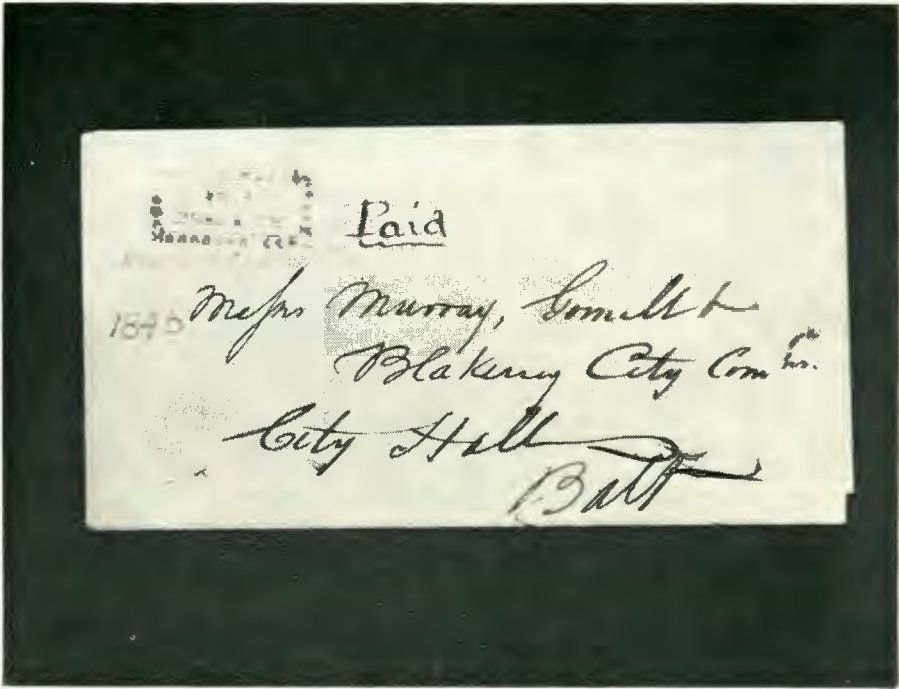


Figure 18. Local letter, June 1, 1846, bearing Mearis handstamp "CITY DESPATCH" in a rectangular box, struck in brick red. (Kelly collection)



Figure 19. The only recorded counterfeit of a Mearis stamp (Ex Sloane collection)

as compared with the 33 x 18 1/2 mm. of the originals. It was printed on grayish, slightly mottled, thin wove paper and Mr. Sloane speculated that it may have been copied from an illustration in a catalogue or the Needham articles.

Lot 702 in the 8th Caspary sale of March 18-21, 1952 comprised a folded entire letter, shown in Figure 20, addressed to Messrs. Oelrichs & Lurman, Baltimore, to which had been affixed an impression of the circular City Despatch Post handstamp, struck in orange red on white wove paper. The "stamp" also bore in manuscript, "3 paid M." In my opinion this is a faked cover, the "adhesive stamp" consisting of a genuine impression of the handstamp, cut from a stampless cover and further embellished by the addition of the manuscript inscription.



Figure 20. Local letter, December 21, 1846, to which has been affixed an impression of the circular "CITY DESPATCH POST" in orange red on white wove paper, with an added "3 paid M". Probably a made-up cover. (Ex Caspary collection)

Johnson & Co.
City Despatch Post
(Scott No. 90L1)
1848

As early as 1845 Matchett's City Directory listed an Ezekiel Johnson as a letter carrier, living at 109 South Bond Street. Johnson was one of the bonded carriers working for the post office carrier service in 1842 and is listed in the advertisement of that service as being in charge of one of the seven districts, the depot for receiving letters being at the corner of Thames and Market streets, Fell's Point. From 1847 to 1850 Johnson was listed in the city directory as a tailor, still living at 109 South Bond street. From 1851 to 1854 he again showed up as a letter carrier, and in 1856 as a grocer, with a store at Gough and Regester Streets. In 1857 he appeared as a paper carrier, living at 95 South Bond Street, and in the 1858-59 edition, "agent for Poor Association" still at the Bond Street address. All those addresses were within a few blocks of each other, in the eastern section of the city. The only newspaper record that I have been able to find consists of one advertisement and two editorial comments in "*The Sun*" just prior to Valentine's Day of 1848. On February 12th the following small advertisement appeared over Johnson's name:

"City Dispatch Post.—Ho! for Valentines!—The public, by advertisement, have been made aware that the subscriber has for some time had in operation the City Dispatch Post, for the purpose of delivering all

kinds of communications at the earliest moment, in any part of the city. St. Valentine's Day, being near at hand, he has thought it not amiss to remind the public that any communication placed in the regular boxes will be promptly delivered; and at the same time to state, that he has been permitted to place boxes in the Bookstores of Messrs. S. E. Smith, Jas. S. Waters, Cugle & Berger, J. W. Bond & Co., N. Hickman, J. Moore, Wm. Taylor, J. B. Keller, and John Murphy—all in or near Baltimore street, where communications may be left. Those depositing may rest assured of a prompt delivery.

EZEKIEL C. JOHNSON''

That same day an editorial appeared, in which Johnson's City Dispatch Post was mentioned. This editorial, reprinted below, was typical of the kind that appeared in papers at that time and which mentioned, as a little extra advertising, the names of various firms whose paid advertisement appeared elsewhere in the paper.

"The advent of St. Valentine.—The preparations making for the privileges of St. Valentine's day by the beaux and belles of Baltimore, but more especially by the latter, the present being "leap year," exceeds those of any previous recurrence of Cupid's Festival. The ladies are "out a shopping" in good earnest, and we doubt not the carriers connected with the Post-office, as well as those of the City Dispatch Post, under the enterprising management of Mr. E. C. Johnson, who has placed his boxes at every prominent point of the city, will go forth at all hours of the day heavily laden with tender epistles, gaily ornamented with hearts and darts, loves and doves, flowers and bowers, streams and beams, Cupids, Venuses and Adonises, all gaily painted, if not elegantly and accurately drawn, on choice gilded sheets, with gold rings, illuminated edges, and lace borders, enclosed in richly ornamented envelopes, such as we see exposed for sale at the establishment of Mr. Smith, adjoining the Sun office; Mr. Keller, No. 226 Baltimore street; Messrs. Taylor & Co., of the Jarvis Buildings; Messrs. Cugle & Berger, No. 254 Baltimore street; Humphrey Moore, Pratt street, between Light and Charles; Mr. Joseph Robinson, No. 117 Baltimore street, Mr. A. P. Burt, No. 7 West Baltimore street, near the bridge; Chickering & Brother; No. 162 Pratt street; and Geo. Steever, No. 23 Pennsylvania avenue. During the past week their stores have been thronged with visitors, of both sexes, old and young, grave and gay, all intent on securing the first choice to suit their tastes and fancies, but their supplies seem to be inexhaustable, and we doubt not to-day they will all be crowded equal to the toy and confectionery stores on a Christmas eve. Monday will evidently be a day of festivity to the unmarried, and we wish pleasure to all in the exercise of the general privileges of its recurrence—to the fair and the young, the sunny smile and light heart consequent upon the reception of a missive, and to the sterner sex the softening influences which gently, but irresistibly will bring forth the riches of the heart."

Finally, on February 14th the following short news item appeared.

"Valentine's Day.—We learn that up to 8 o'clock last evening no less than eight thousand Valentines had been dropped in the letter box at the City Post Office, whilst the boxes of the Dispatch Post were all filled to over flow. Numerous extra carriers have been engaged for their early delivery to-day, and they will doubtless have a busy time of it, as they were pouring in, up to a late hour last night, in an almost continued stream. We hope that there will be but few among the number calculated to cause other than pleasant feelings to the recipients, otherwise the privileges of the day will be grossly violated."

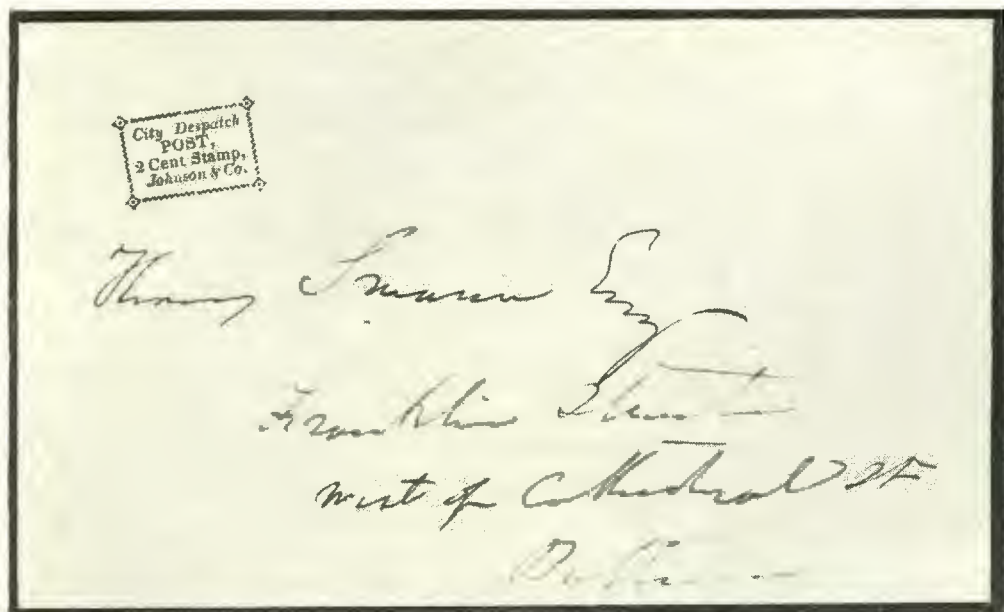


Figure 21. Local letter, February 18, 1848, bearing an uncancelled copy of the rare stamp of Johnson & Co., Scott No. 90L1. One of the two recorded examples of the stamp (Ex Caspary, Lilly collections)

Other than the above minimal information, I have been able to find nothing of concrete nature. Two covers bearing examples of Johnson's adhesive stamp have been recorded. The first, illustrated in Figure 21, bears a fine uncancelled example of the stamp and the enclosure is dated February 19, 1848. This cover was in the Caspary collection and realized \$800 in the sale of that collection in 1956. It was sold again in the Josiah K. Lilly sale, on September 14, 1967, for \$1,100.



Figure 22. Local letter, January 25 (1848), bearing right marginal copy of the Johnson & Co. stamp, Scott N. 90L1. The second of two recorded examples. (Ex Caspary collection)

The second cover, badly charred as though retrieved at the last possible moment from a fire, was also in the Caspary collection. It was written by the firm of Wallis & Thomas to a Mr. James Dull and bears the date of January 25th, with no indication of the year; it is shown in Figure 22. This cover realized \$425 at the Caspary sale.

I have been able to record no additional copies of this stamp either off or on cover. Due to the paucity of material, it is not possible to give any definitive information about printing varieties or the size of the printing plate or sheets. The stamps were printed by typography, the plates having been prepared from an original typeset design. Exclusive of the small diamond-shaped corner ornaments, the design measured 17 by 11 mm. and the stamps were printed in black on lavender wove paper. Apparently Johnson used no cancelling device.

From the information at hand it would seem to be a good guess that Johnson decided to strike out on his own in the early part of 1848 after having worked as a letter carrier several years for the post office carrier service. As was so often the case with beginning private posts, he chose the period just before Valentine's Day so that the extra holiday mail would give him a nice start in business. Apparently he lasted little more than a few weeks—otherwise more of his stamps would have survived. He then must have become a tailor and then, in 1850 or 1851, again was employed by the post office carrier department.

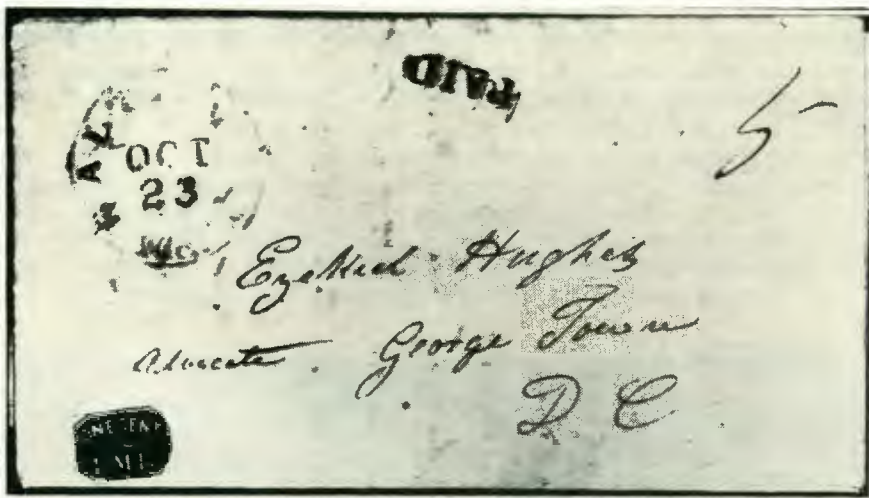


Figure 23. Letter from Baltimore, October 23, 1849, to Georgetown, bearing the mysterious "ONE CENT E. M. B." label.

**E.M.B.
1849**

This post, if such it was, is a complete mystery. The first written reference to it appeared in "Stamps" of December 30, 1944 in the column of the late Harry M. Konwiser. He described a cover, which is illustrated in Figure 23, and speculated that this might be a previously unknown Baltimore adhesive carrier stamp.

The stamp in question is printed in reddish-brown on blue paper, the design measuring $14\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ mm. and is inscribed simply "One Cent- E.M.B." It is not dissimilar in general appearance to the first issue of Baltimore post office carrier stamps.

The stamp appears on a folded letter which is dated October 21, 1849. A manuscript "5" and the standard Baltimore circular date stamp and "Paid," in blue, are the postal markings on the cover.

At the time Mr. Konwiser was shown this cover he asked several students in the Baltimore and Washington areas if they could unearth anything in the city directories, but to no avail. Mr. Konwiser misread the initials on the stamp as "L.M.B." instead of "E.M.B.," but a search of directories for names with matching initials has revealed nothing definitive. I have found an E. W. Butcher listed in the Baltimore City directory as a musical instrument maker in 1851, who may be a likely suspect. As the original listings for city directories were prepared in manuscript it would have been quite easy for a printer, setting type from such lists, to confuse a W for an M, or vice versa. This is mentioned only because of the existence of Butcher & Sandy's Despatch Post in 1849. Thus, there is a bare possibility that this "E.M.B." label was one prepared by E. M. Butcher who was running a small despatch post at the time and a few weeks later formed a partnership with Mr. Sandy.

No newspaper advertisements with even a remote connection with such a despatch post have been found.

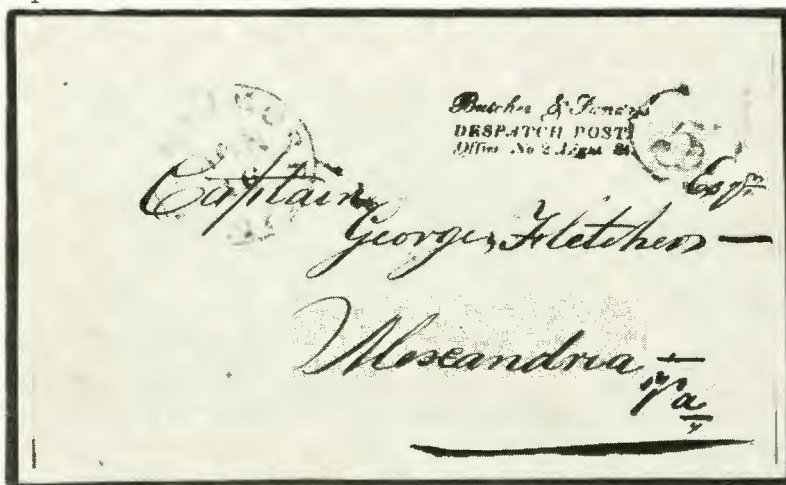


Figure 24. Letter from Baltimore, November 13, 1849, to Alexandria, bearing the only recorded example of Butcher & Sandy's Despatch Post handstamp. (Robson Lowe collection)

**Butcher & Sandy's Despatch Post
1849**

In the Frank A. Hollowbush collection there was a beautiful cover, now owned by Robson Lowe, bearing a three line hand stamp inscribed "Butcher & Sandy's Despatch Post — Office No. 2 Light Street." This cover is illustrated in Figure 24 and there is a pencilled date inside of November 13, 1849. The actual letter has been removed, probably at the time the cover was first placed in philatelic hands. There is also a pencil notation indicating that this cover was sold by the old Nassau Stamp Company on April 29, 1895.

The over-all measurements of the three lines appearing on the despatch post's hand stamp are:

Butcher & Sandy's — 36½ mm.

Despatch Post — 31 mm.

Office No. 2 Light Street — 31 mm.

The heights of various letters in the first line are about 3½ mm. for the capitals and 1½ mm. for the lower case letters. The letters in the second line are 2 mm. high, as are the upper case letters in the third line. The hand stamp is struck in black ink.

Also on the front of the cover is a regular Baltimore circular date stamp and a "5" in an oval, both in blue.

A search of newspaper advertising reveals nothing that can be specifically connected with this Post. The 1849-50 directory lists no Butchers other than the firm of Butcher & Share, confectioners. There appears a Sands, engraver and copper-plate printer in the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, and also a Samuel Sands of the firm of Sands and Mills, Book and Job Printers in the Jarvis Buildings.

In the 1851 directory there appears E. W. Butcher, musical instrument maker, 16 East Baltimore Street. This is the man previously referred to in the section on the mysterious E.M.B. Post. There also appears Samuel A. Sandy, Engraver & Copperplate Printer, Old Merchants Bank Building. This person is obviously the same as S. A. Sands, also in the previous edition of the directory, the difference in the last letter in the surname again emphasizing the kind of error that so often appeared when the type was set from manuscript copy.

The general appearance of the hand stamp used by this Despatch Post is such that would be expected if it had been prepared by an engraver and copper-plate printer such as Samuel A. Sandy. It would be my entirely unsupported guess that the hand stamp was prepared by S. A. Sandy and that either he, or perhaps a son, was in partnership with Butcher in this enterprise. It is quite possible that Sandy furnished only some minor financial support, of course, leaving the mail handling entirely to Butcher.

Whatever the origin of this post it, too, was obviously one which enjoyed a very short life. Only this one example of its hand stamp has been recorded.

Stringer & Morton's One Cent Despatch

1850-1851

(Scott No. 134L1)

The small, rather unattractive stamps issued by this post are among the least scarce of the Baltimore private post stamps, although they are far from common. Apparently, a good deal of planning went into the creation of this operation and the owners willingly spent a fair amount of money in advertising. However, their effort and expense went for nought as the post lasted only one week over three months. To this day the actual identity of the two partners remains a mystery, although the rest of the short history of the enterprise is the most completely documented of all the Baltimore posts. The first advertisement of this firm appeared in "*The Sun*" of October 11, 1850. Quoted below, it consisted simply of a notice that two letter carriers were wanted.

"One Cent Dispatch.—Two YOUTHS, from the ages of 16 to 20 years, who can bring unquestionable references for sobriety, industry and honesty, and who are well acquainted and capable of taking charge of a Box Route from Light street to the Point, to Collect and Distribute Letters for the "ONE CENT DISPATCH," can secure the same by an immediate application at the Principal Office, 202 BALTIMORE STREET."

On October 16th a long half column advertisement appeared over the name of Stringer & Morton in which the beginning of the service was announced.

ONE CENT DESPATCH

WILL BALTIMORE SUSTAIN IT?

Believing there exists a *necessity*, thereby presenting an opening to test the *experiment*, the undersigned have determined to spare no pains, or means to give the citizens of Baltimore a cheap, expeditious and safe

LETTER DESPATCH

To do this they have consulted and adopted that system from among the many now in successful operation in other cities which, to them, seems best adapted to carry out and meet the exigencies of an effective and cheap means of communication between citizen and citizen.

We have districted the city into SIX DISTRICTS, placing a person in each, to give *his undivided attention* to visiting the boxes, which we have placed at convenient points, and distributing communications, which we pledge ourselves shall be faithfully done **FOUR TIMES EACH DAY**, for a mere nominal sum — **ONE CENT EACH, PRE-PAID.**

HOURS OF DELIVERY:- *Eight* and *ten* o'clock in the Morning — *two* and *five* o'clock in the Afternoon. The Messengers will make an Evening Collection from their Boxes at *eight* o'clock for Letters to be Mailed. And for the accommodation of Merchants and others, we shall receive at the Principal Office, No. 202 Baltimore Street, Letters until 8½ o'clock, P.M. for the Northern Mail, being *one hour after the close of the Mail at the Post-office.* A Special Messenger will be despatched to mail them at the President street Depot.

STAMPS may be had at any of the Box Stations, and at the Bookstores of Messrs. Murphy & Co., Lucas, Taylor and Robinson; Messrs. Benteen & Willig, Jr's. Music Stores; and at our Office.

BOX STATIONS.—*South-west District.*—Corner Hanover and Baltimore sts.; corner Paca and German sts.; corner Baltimore and Greene sts.; Three Tun Tavern, corner Paca and Pratt sts.; Infirmary, Lombard st.; corner Howard & Pratt sts.; corner Eutaw and Conway sts.; corner Barre and Sharp sts.; corner Barre and Hanover sts.; corner Hanover and Camden sts.; corner Hanover and Pratt sts.; Washington Hotel, Pratt st.; corner Charles and Pratt sts.; Smith's American Hotel, Pratt st.; Guy's U.S. Hotel, Pratt st.; Pratt st. Depot; No. 9 Light st. wharf; corner Barre and Light st.; corner Lombard and Light sts.; Fountain Hotel, Light st.; corner Charles and Lombard sts.; corner Lombard and Hanover sts.; corner Sharp and Baltimore sts.; General Wayne Inn, Baltimore st.

Northwest District.—Corner of N. Charles and Baltimore sts.; corner N. Howard and Baltimore streets; corner N. Eutaw and Baltimore sts.; Eutaw House; corner Lexington and Eutaw sts.; corner Lexington and Paca sts.; corner Green and Franklin sts.; corner Howard and Franklin sts.; corner Howard and Madison sts.; corner Charles and Centre sts.; corner Park and Saratoga sts.; Western Hotel, corner Howard and Saratoga sts.; corner Charles and Saratoga sts.; corner Fayette and Liberty sts.; Counsellor's Hall, Lexington street; Law Buildings, St. Paul street; 254 Baltimore sts.; Smith's bookstore, Howard street.

North-East District.—Corner Holliday and Saratoga streets; corner Gay and Saratoga sts.; corner Gay and High sts.; corner Chestnut and Ensor sts.; 34 N. Gay street; corner Calvert and Baltimore sts.; Argus office, N. Gay St.; corner Fayette and St. Paul sts.; Barnum's City Hotel; No. 10 Calvert st.; Calvert street Railroad Station; No. 112 North st.; 4th door North of Saratoga st.; corner Saratoga and Calvert streets.

South-East District.—Corner of Baltimore and Harrison streets; corner Baltimore and Lloyd sts.; corner of Baltimore and Front streets; corner of Baltimore and Eden streets; corner of Lombard and Broadway; corner of Lombard and Bond streets; corner of Pratt and Eden sts.; of Pratt and Caroline sts.; corner of Pratt and High sts.; corner of Pratt and President sts.; corner of Pratt st. and MacElderry's wharf; corner of Lombard and High streets; corner of Market space and Fish Market; corner of Water and Calvert streets; corner of Pratt and South sts.; Citizens' Union Line, South street wharf; foot of Spear's wharf; corner of Spear's wharf and Pratt street; corner of Calvert and Pratt

streets; Exchange Hotel; European House, Thames street; Powhatan Hall, Broadway; J. Stansbury's Apothecary, Thames street; Wm. Read's Apothecary, Broadway; Royston's dry goods, Broadway; Biede's Apothecary, do.; Hopkins' do., corner of Broadway and Eastern avenue; W. F. Rayner's dry goods store, do.; Alex Armstrong's do.; 189 Broadway; S. Wolf's corner of Eastern avenue and Broadway; Monserrat's Apothecary, 139 Broadway; S. W. Read's do., 112 Broadway.

In locating the Despatch Boxes, should we have omitted any point where one would be found an accommodation to the neighborhood, we will cheerfully meet the wishes of its citizens, by at once putting a Box at the place suggested.

No deliveries on Sunday.

STRINGER & MORTON

All Letters must be pre-paid.

From the above it can be seen that four deliveries daily were to be made



Figure 25. Enlarged photograph of a relatively unoxidized Stringer & Morton stamp.

and that the city had been divided into six districts, in each of which a number of mail boxes were conveniently located. A total of 90 such boxes had apparently been erected. The stamps were to be on sale at all box locations and several other book stores. Following this notice, and in the same column, there appeared another lengthy notice that Stringer & Morton had purchased the City Express, added to the teams, and were establishing regular express routes for the delivery of packages, freight, baggage, market baskets, etc.

The following day, October 17th, a news item appeared which merely recited the fact that the post was a convenience to the citizens and that similar services were quite successful in other cities, particularly New York and Philadelphia. One phrase of the story seems to suggest, obscurely perhaps, that the proprietors were not Baltimoreans. This phrase was, "Messrs. Stringer and Morton have taken an office in this City, at No. 202 Baltimore Street . . . and have established a despatch post and city express."

On October 19th an advertisement appeared to the effect that 2,000 letters had passed through the despatch the day before, and offering \$10 for proof of failure for non-delivery of this large number of letters. The same day Stringer & Morton advertised for two additional carriers. During the next three months numerous advertisements appeared, primarily lists of letters undeliverable be-

cause of inadequate addresses. Some of the advertisements were highly promotional in nature, emphasizing the trustworthiness of the service. A good example is that which appeared on October 24th:

BENEFITS OF THE "CENT DESPATCH."

THREE PROTESTS PREVENTED!

\$50 FOR A FAILURE!!

Three of our Special Messengers were despatched yesterday for parties *twenty minutes* before the closing of the banks, who, from some oversight or other cause, would have failed to have met their business paper in time to save them from a protest, had it not been for the ready information and speedy punctuality of finding the parties by our trustworthy messengers. We will pay \$50 for proof of any failure caused by the negligence of our messengers of anything entrusted to their delivery.

On October 26th there was another advertisement for more carriers. On November 9th a minor change in the hours for delivery appeared in the following advertisement:

ONE CENT DESPATCH.

CHANGE OF HOURS FOR DELIVERY.

FROM AND AFTER TO DAY, until further notice, the Delivery of Letters by the ONE CENT DESPATCH will be at 8 and 11 A.M. and 2 and 4 P.M. The Evening collection for the Eastern Mail at 8 P.M. from the boxes, and 8½ P.M. from the principal Office, 202 Baltimore street, between St. Paul and Charles streets, *being one hour after the close of the mail at the Post Office*, will be continued and may in all cases be relied on.

Letters should be in the Boxes *fifteen minutes* before the hour of distribution, to ensure the earliest despatch.

Letters for the Post Office are as certain to be mailed through our "Despatch" as if the writer carried them in person.

STRINGER & MORTON

In another space on the same day the public was notified that better boxes had also been added on the corner of Fremont and Baltimore Streets; corner of Pine and Fayette Streets; Ashland Square; Mayor's Office, Holliday Street; and corner of Gay and Lombard Streets.

By this time the post had apparently been plagued by unfranked letters and on November 16th a short notice appeared:

LAST AND POSITIVE NOTICE.—We have, up to the present time, delivered and mailed all letters placed in our Boxes, among which there have been hundreds not *pre-paid*, and for which we have not received one cent compensation. Believing, all must now be acquainted with our terms of delivery we shall permit all Letters not *pre-paid* to remain dead in our office, and take no further account of them.

STRINGER & MORTON

From then on the only advertisements were lists of misdirected letters until, finally, on January 21, 22, and 23, 1851 the following notice of the demise of the post appeared.

ONE CENT DISPATCH.—Having concluded to stop the "One Cent Dispatch" *for want of patronage*, we would give notice to all persons having any of our STAMPS on hand, that they can return them to our office and *receive their money*.

STRINGER & MORTON, Proprietor

The City Express section of the business, however, continued on for some time, several months at least, as advertisements of this service continued to appear in the papers.

Thus, we see that the actual life of the "One Cent Dispatch" was from about October 15, 1850 to January 21, 1851, a period of just over three months. It is no wonder then that so few of the adhesive stamps issued by this post have survived. Not only was the life of the post so short, but the number of letters which it handled was obviously small as it ceased business for "want of patronage." One also receives an additional clue to the overall rarity of stamps and covers carried by any of the private dispatch posts in Baltimore when one considers the fact that the Stringer & Morton stamps are among the least rare of all the Baltimore locals.

As for the stamp itself, the overall size of the design was 15 x 11 mm. and it was negatively printed in bronze gold on a black surface-colored paper with a slight glaze, so that the inscription appeared in the black of the paper and the background is gold. On most copies seen today the ink has oxidized to such an extent that it is very difficult to see the design at all. The enlarged photograph, Figure 25, was made from one of the least oxidized examples I have ever seen. The stamps resemble rather closely the small stamps of the contemporary Blood's Penny Post of Philadelphia and I think they were obviously patterned after that design. This resemblance has led to speculation that the proprietors, Stringer and Morton, may have come to Baltimore from Philadelphia and, perhaps, had even been former employees of Blood. I can offer no meaningful comment on this theory, although I have never found in any of the Baltimore directories any satisfactory reference to either of these men individually.



Figure 26. Drawing of the Stringer & Morton handstamp for use on bulk mail and letters handed in at the office.

The City Dispatch had a circular handstamp, Figure 26, inscribed "BALTIMORE CITY DESPATCH & EXPRESS - PAID." I have seen only one example of this handstamp used to cancel the adhesive; it is illustrated in Figure 27, and is in the collection of Mr. John R. Boker. I have two stampless covers in my collection bearing this marking, and I am sure that it was used in the main office for marking bulk mail or letters handed in over the counter.

Covers bearing Stringer & Morton stamps are not excessively rare and the private post stamps are generally not cancelled in any way whatsoever. I do not recall seeing one with a manuscript marking of any sort. Of those covers I have recorded, the ratio is about evenly divided between purely local covers and those addressed out-of-the-city. In my collection there is a local cover, Figure 27a, bearing the typical blue Baltimore circular date stamp and the small drop letter "2" in red; a Stringer & Morton adhesive is affixed to the upper left corner. If this cover is genuine, i.e., if the private post stamp "belongs" on it, it must have been picked up at the drop letter window and delivered to the addressee, with whom Stringer & Morton had an agreement for such service. Candidly, however, I find this difficult to accept.

On those Stringer & Morton covers addressed to other cities, the normal Baltimore postal markings are generally found. One, in my collection, Figure 28, bearing only the dispatch post hand stamp and addressed to Philadelphia, has merely a manuscript "5." It is my guess that Stringer & Morton took this letter to the train and handed it to the route agent for transmittal to Philadelphia. Another, illustrated in Figure 29, appeared in an H. R. Harmer sale in

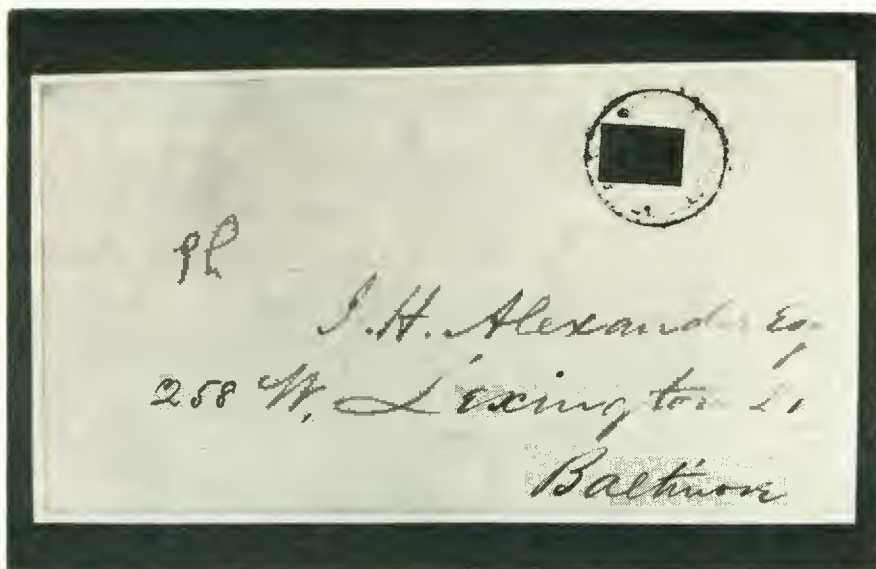


Figure 27. The only recorded example of the Stringer & Morton handstamp used to cancel one of their adhesive stamps (John R. Boker collection)

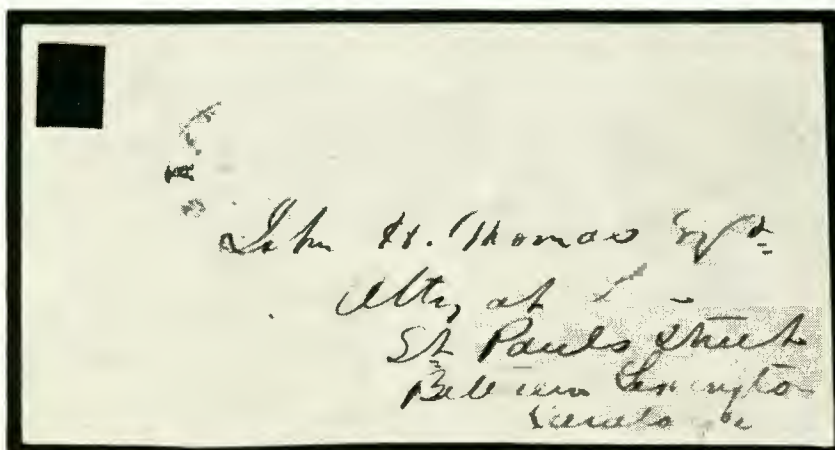


Figure 27a. Local drop letter, December 16, 1850, bearing a Stringer & Morton stamp, ostensibly to pay for delivery to the addressee, of a piece of mail picked up at the Post Office by a messenger of the despatch post. (Kelly collection)

1954 and bears a large blue "PAID" partially struck on the bottom edge of the cover. I cannot identify this marking, although the color of the ink is not dissimilar to that used in regular Baltimore post office markings.

Various fantasies or forgeries of Stringer & Morton stamps have appeared over the years, but only one is dangerous in any way. In it the design measures $15\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and it is printed in a bright gold on very shiny purplish black surface-colored paper and the lettering is all just a shade larger than that of the originals. The real "giveaway," however, is the fact that the colors are reversed: in the original the design is a negative one printed in gold on black paper so that the inscription is in black, while in the forgery the printing is in gold on black paper so that the inscription is in gold.

By far the most common forgery, really a fantasy, is that illustrated in Figure 30, and was produced by S. Allan Taylor. I have examples of this forgery in black on pink, yellow, green and lavender glazed paper, and also in light brown on white and yellowish paper. A third fantasy, also attributed to S. Allan Taylor, is illustrated in Figure 31; I have this in black on white, purple and flesh colored papers, and understand that it appears in other fancy colors.

In 1953, the late George B. Sloane sent me a photograph of a forgery, illustrated in Figure 32. He reported it in black on blue glazed surface-colored paper. I have never seen another example.

Finally, Figure 33, illustrates another common fraud. I have this only in black on a light lavender paper.



Figure 28. Letter from Baltimore, November 1, 1850, to Philadelphia, bearing a strike of the Stringer & Morton handstamp and a manuscript "5", the latter probably written by a route agent on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore R.R. (Kelly collection)

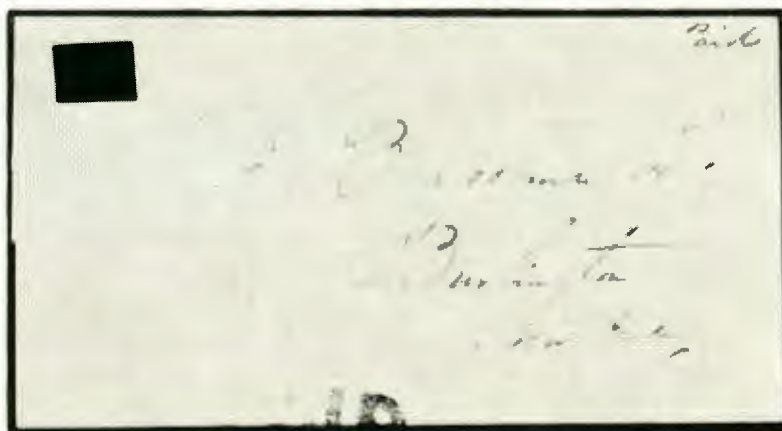


Figure 29. Undated letter from Baltimore to Burlington, New Jersey, bearing the Stringer & Morton adhesive stamp and part of an unidentified large blue "PAID".

To Be Continued

Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

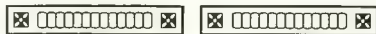
What our readers wish to see is a properly used cover having a common stamp that catalogs for \$10 or less. But on cover this item's value is many times the standard catalog price for the stamp off cover, either unused or used.

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



The above cover shows the added use of a common one penny red British stamp, so that letters for the night mail, to catch steamers departing from Liverpool, could be posted up to 6:45 P. M. at the Glasgow District offices and up to 7:30 P. M. at the main Post Office. This is an uncommon use.

Mel C. Nathan



Considerable time will be saved if all correspondence with regard to advertising copy, prospective articles, and other pertinent details of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* be sent to me at the following address:

H. D. S. Haverbeck
Bramble Hill
Post Rd.,
Bernardsville, N. J. 07924

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The Meeting of November 4th, 1970

Ottoman Empire Postal History — Robert W. Stuchell

Ottoman Empire postal history holds a special fascination because of the wide variety of postal markings, languages, and lost territories encountered in building a collection. Nineteenth century Turkey was a much larger country than the one we know today, encompassing many different nationalities, and the decay of this vast empire can be followed closely through postal history. A long list of Turkish post offices closed between 1877 and 1918 as military setbacks, both large and small, moved the borders back and successor states assumed postal responsibilities.

To illustrate the extent of these lost territories, one can find cancels from all or part of the following sixteen countries: Albania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Roumania, Russia, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Cyprus. Turkish postmarks originating from these countries must be considered forerunners and are probably collected by as many non-Turkish specialists as students of Turkish material. Thus, there is a much wider community of interest in Ottoman postal history than might at first be anticipated.

There are difficulties peculiar to collecting early Turkish material, not the least of which is language. During the Ottoman period Turkish was written in Arabic script, making some familiarity with Arabic highly desirable if not necessary for the specialist. In addition, one occasionally has to cope with addresses and messages in Greek, Armenian, Hebrew, and a variety of Slavic languages. Here, the need for some outside help is almost unavoidable.

Dates are also a bit of a challenge. Ottoman Turkey used the Turkish Reformed Civil Calendar which began on March 1 and differed from that of any other Moslem country. To convert a Turkish Civil Calendar date to its equivalent Gregorian or Western date:

From 1256 - 1316 - add 584 to the year, 2 to the month, and 12 to the day.
From 1317 on - add 584 to the year, 2 to the month, and 13 to the day,
up to the equivalent of March 1, 1917. From then on,
add only 584 to the year. On March 1, 1917 the
Turkish calendar was synchronized with the Gregorian
calendar and the beginning of the year was moved to
January 1.

Being able to interpret the Turkish Civil Calendar is often the only way to accurately date postal material, even when a Western date is shown in the cancellation. Many postal clerks, especially in small towns, paid no attention to the accuracy of the unfamiliar Western date slugs and the Turkish date (shown in Arabic) must be relied upon.

Still another problem for the collector is that many towns were known to the Turks by completely different names than internationally used, e.g. Constantinople was Der Aliye or Der Sa'adet, Damascus was Es Sham, and Adrianople was (and still is) Edirne. Along the same lines, as new countries arose on former Turkish territory they replaced many Turkish town names with local ones, especially in the Balkan area. Thus, Filibe changed to Plovdiv in Bulgaria, Uskub became Skoplje in Yugoslavia, etc. Because of the many variations and changes, early period maps, gazetteers, travel guides, etc. are extremely helpful in locating Ottoman post offices.

Turkey initiated its civil postal service in 1840 using Tatar couriers to relay the mail on horseback. Each piece of mail was weighed and the postage and weight recorded in the upper left hand corner in Arabic script. A round or oval handstruck negative seal postmark was applied, usually at the point of origin, but sometimes on arrival. These first markings were generally inscribed "An janibi posta hane (town name)," with the date the cancelling device was issued at the bottom. The inscription translates, "On behalf of the post of (town name)." There were only about 58 post offices in operation from 1840-1860, half in Asia and half in Europe. Postage was almost always paid by the addressee during this period. A representative cover is shown in Figure 1.

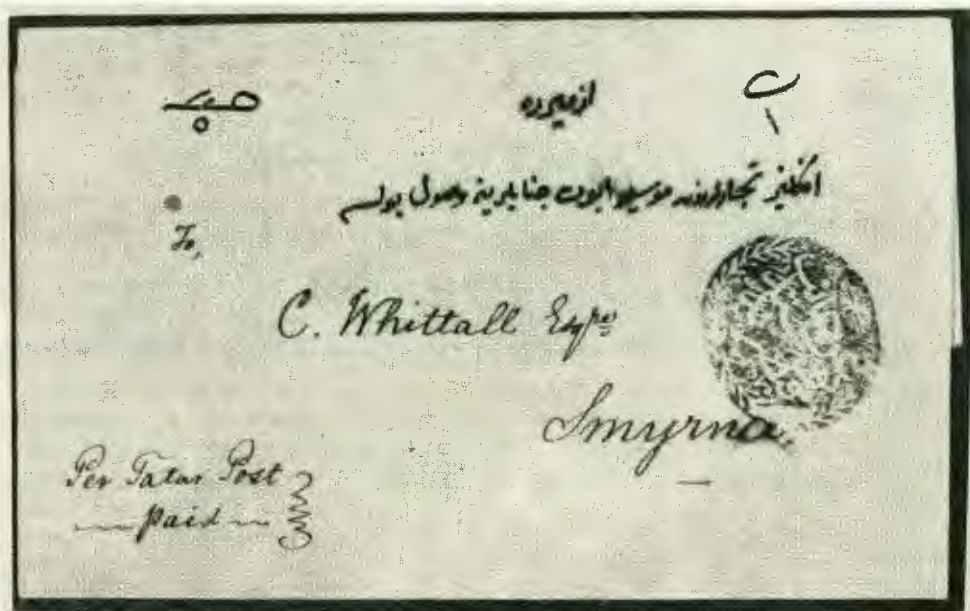


Figure 1. Turkish prestamp cover from Kaiserie, in central Turkey, to Smyrna, July 23, 1847. Shows prestamp negative seal "AN JANIBI POSTAI KAISERIE 257" (On Behalf of the Post of Kaiserie 1841). Manuscript notation in upper left indicates 3 drams weight and 5 piastres postage.

The first cancellations appeared in 1863 with the introduction of the first postage stamps. These chops were crude rectangular affairs composed either solely of lines and dots or of grids of dots with a town name or the word "Battal" (cancelled) in Turkish in the center. The markings were discontinued in 1865 when the lithographed first issues were withdrawn. An example from this period is shown in Figure 2.

A new family of cancellations appeared in 1865, prepared for use on the typographed issue of that year. There were three types of cachets showing the town name in Turkish and the number "81" (denoting the year 1281, or 1865) surrounded by either double-circle, triple-rectangle, or triple-hexagon frames. Some of these 1865 chops can be found used as late as 1905.

The rather decorative framed cancels of 1865 must have been a success because they were followed by great number of all-Turkish framed markings of various types from 1866 on into the early twentieth century as hundreds of new post offices opened. Many frame types were used including single, double, and triple circles, ovals, rectangles, hexagons, and octagons. In addition, a number of unframed Turkish markings were used as well as various negative seals somewhat like the pre-stamp seals of the first period, but with different inscriptions. Many of these all-Turkish cancels bear the date the chop was made and issued as part of the design.

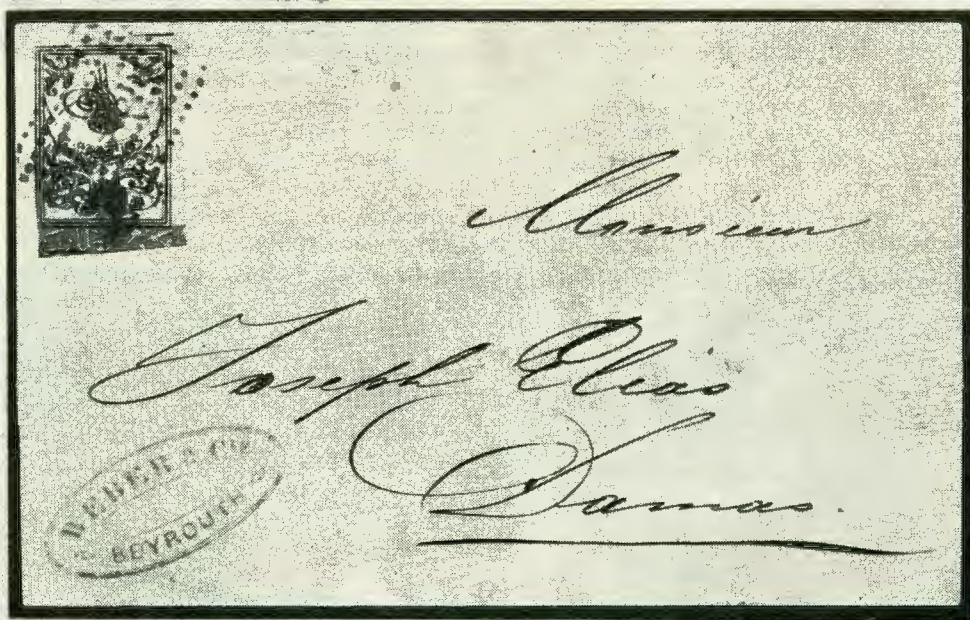


Figure 2. Turkish cover from Beirut to Damascus, November 24, 1864. One piastre value of the First Issue, Third Setting, tied by earliest-type cancel consisting of a rectangular grid of dots with the word "Battal" (cancelled) in the center.

The last significant obliteration change came in 1876, right after Turkey joined the Universal Postal Union. As a member, Turkey was required to develop cancellations for international mail which showed the Western date and the town name in a universally known European language. French was chosen since it is the official language of the U.P.U. and, in 1876, bilingual stamps and cancellers came to the counters throughout the country. In addition, large cities like Constantinople and Smyrne received all-French circular date-stamps for international mail. It should be mentioned, however, that a few bilingual Turkish/French cancellers were employed as early as 1867 in Constantinople and its suburbs.

Bilingual cancels evolved from 1876 to 1918 through four basic types, three circular and one octagonal, with many sub-types. General format was to put the town name in Turkish at the top and in French at the bottom, with the Turkish and Western dates in the middle. In practice, bilingual cancellations were by no means restricted to international mail and found wide internal use.

During the stampless period from 1840 to 1863 postal rates were geared to weight and the time it took to deliver a letter, i.e. 1 para for 1 postal hour distance for a letter up to 3 drams weight (1 dram equals 3.2 grams) and $\frac{1}{2}$ para more for each additional dram. Forty paras made one piastre and one postal hour usually equalled about 3 miles. Progress was necessarily slower in certain mountainous areas in Asia Minor and the Balkans.

From 1863 to 1865, the internal rate was reportedly 20 para to 2 piastres and the external rate was 8 piastres, rising by increments of 8 piastres. There is very little in the way of documentation on rates from 1865 to 1876, except one reference to an internal rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pastres to 6 piastres in the mid-1870's. Rates from 1863 to 1876 probably continued to depend on travel time and weight.

New, simpler rates were established in 1876 in connection with Turkey's joining the Universal Postal Union: 1 piastre for ordinary inland internal letters,

20 para for port-to-port internal letters, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ piastres (50 paras) for foreign letters. The foreign letter rate was lowered to 1 piastre in 1880 to compete with the many foreign posts in Turkey. There do not appear to have been any further changes until January, 1918 when the ordinary letter rate was increased to $1\frac{1}{4}$ piastres.

The Meeting of February 17th

Imperial Russia by Members of Rossica Society

Despite inclement weather, the meeting room of the Collectors Club was filled on February 17th, 1971; when the agenda called for a lecture by members of "Rossica" Society on the subject of the Imperial Russian Posts.

The President of the Rossica Society, Mr. Kurt Adler, who was to have lectured on the subject of early Russian postal history, was taken ill, and could not attend. At the conclusion of his introductory speech, Mr. Kehr, program chairman introduced Mr. Joseph F. Chudoba, Secretary of the Rossica Society, who gave a brief lecture regarding the postage stamps and their usage.

Among the topics discussed were the meanings of the various cancellations on the stamps and covers which were displayed. There were hundreds of "dotted" numerals; which included circular "dotted"; "dotted" hexagons (Nikolai Railroad) "dotted" rectangles; "dotted" ovals (Border Posts); "dotted" truncated triangles and others. Among the display of the "dotted" hexagons was a cover with the numeral "11" which was sent to Warsaw, Poland from the Nikolai Railroad station in St. Petersburg which was the capitol of Russia at that time.

One of the interesting items was a cover cancelled in 1858 with the double-lined Yarmarka of Nizhni-Novgorod; where the annual Merchants Fairs were held. The letter was addressed to a person in Moscow, and the writer stated in his letter that he was having a fine time at the Fair, but that he needed more money.

The circular numeral cancellations of Russian stamps used in Poland were also displayed, as well as cancels used on railway mail cars and stations in that area. Russian stamps used in Constantinople, Turkey and Alexandria, Egypt were also shown.

A short lecture was given regarding early Russian postage stamp printing methods, errors and forgeries.

Upon the conclusion of the lecture by Mr. Chudoba; Mr. Kehr introduced Mr. Norman Epstein, Treasurer of "Rossica" Society.

Mr. Epstein related his fortune experience that, while purchasing a lot of stamps from a dealer several years ago, he found a used copy of the 35 Kopeck stamp of 1902 issue with the center inverted. This is one of the most valuable stamps of Russia. He had it expertised and it was judged to be genuine. It was one of those stamp collectors dreams, which in this case turned out to be true. From there on he spoke of the printing and usage of the Russian Zemstvo stamps. It was pointed out that these stamps were used to pay postage from small towns to the nearest large town where there was an Imperial post office, from whence the mail was dispatched to its destination. This fee was in addition to the regular Imperial postage charges, since the early Russian postal system did not have the facilities to pick up and deliver mail to various rural areas. It allowed these areas to have their own stamps printed, specifically stating that such stamps should not be of the designs of the stamps issued by the Government in St. Petersburg.

Various persons in the audience requested information regarding the usage of some of the later issues of the stamps of Russia, particularly the pictorial issues of Soviet Russia during the period of 1933-1935. It seems as if the stamps issued during this period are difficult to get on covers. Two covers were shown with stamps of the 1935 Sport set. Mr. Kehr explained that in his travels to philatelic exhibitions in Europe, he had seen material shown of this period; which is very rarely shown in exhibitions in the United States.

In conclusion there was some reminiscence about the old times and the greats in Russian philately. In the audience was Mr. Harrison D. S. Haverbeck who recalled when the first group of Russian collectors and specialists met in New York. Among those were S. V. Prigara who had done immense research work in the field of the stamps of Imperial Russia; V. Rachmanoff who was a specialist in the field of Polish and Russian stamps; N. Savitsky who was well known to all Russian collectors; Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury who specialized in the Romanoff issues of 1913. All of these specialists have passed away. Among us we still have H. Aronson who was Secretary of the old Russian-American Philatelic Society, President Kurt Adler of the Rossica Society and a few other Russian philatelists who have more than a quarter of a century's experience in the field.

It should also be pointed out that the Rossica Society is a strictly non-political organization devoted exclusively to the philately of the Russian Empire, U.S.S.R., Ukraine, Transcaucasia, Mongolia, Tannu-Tuva and all related fields. The Society publishes a Journal twice a year, which is sent to all members in good standing. The Journal has won numerous awards for literature, both in the United States and abroad in International Philatelic Exhibitions.



THE COLLECTORS CLUB

22 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

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Book Reviews

THE CONGRESS BOOK 1970. Edited by David C. Stump. Published by The American Philatelic Congress. Hard cover, 226 pages, illustrated available from Robert B. Brandeberry, 58 Salisbury Drive, Wilmington, Delaware, 19809, \$6.00 postpaid.

The annual American Philatelic Congress Book contains the various elements one has come to expect of these books in recent years. The articles concern a variety of philatelic subjects which range from general to restricted, from familiar to obscure. Few readers will find interesting all the articles in this book, though conversely, most will find at least one subject which appeals to their individual tastes.

Basically I would divide the articles into three groups: Those which are of interest for reason of content and style of treatment; those in the form of introductory notes followed by a checklist of the different items involved; and those which are of restricted interest, so specialized that few readers would give them more than cursory examination unless the subjects happen to be within the reader's field of interest.

It is lamentable that none of the articles displays much, if any, true research by their authors, as generally each article is a report on an individual subject or a compilation of the presently known facts into a single, concise study. Also, though it is difficult to find new things to say about the classics, such articles are not rare as to justify their absence from this year's Congress book.

The articles divide quite evenly into the three groups mentioned above. The first category deserves attention and recognition in this space and will receive it. Articles in the second category are a useful reference source and though similar in basic content to those of the third group, the two groups are, by format, worthy of distinction as separate types. Listing in the third category does not necessarily mean that the subject is not interesting, but I found that often after reading them I knew far more than I ever really wanted to about the subjects. Such is left for the enjoyment of the specialist in the field.

Treating the first category items in the order they are found in the book, one first comes upon the Postal History of the James River and Kanawha Turnpike by Alex L. Ter Braake. This is an in depth history of the early days of West Virginia and makes fascinating reading even if not all the history is directly connected with postal history. It is a thorough treatment of the subject from the early nineteenth century to and through the Civil War period and is well illustrated.

The House of Nesbitt by Thomas W. Blinn will attract stamped envelope enthusiasts with a well illustrated history of the first types to be used in the United States showing watermarks and varieties, with hints for identification of various printings.

Adversity Covers of the Confederacy by Brian and Patricia Green is a handsome study of turned covers and paper substitutions due to lack of supply caused by war shortages. Amply illustrated with covers of each type, the explanatory notes give one the impression of viewing a well written up display at an exhibition.

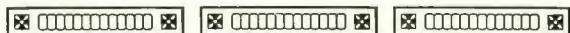
The Guam Guard Mail of 1930 by Lawrence S. Clark is a well written report on the many aspects of this small but interesting service which lasted for exactly a year on that strategically located dependency.

Postage Due Stamps and Usages of French Colonies by Robert G. Stone offers a history of postage dues referenced to French colonial use well illustrated and covered by comments on each form of use. Of particular interest are the author's remarks concerning the probable future of postage due collecting.

The final article in the book concerns the Maude Expedition, 1918-1925 by William Benfield. This is a history of a partially successful attempt to investigate the Arctic ice cap and the postal history, predominantly philatelic in nature, which arose from efforts to raise money for the expedition.

Whether any of the above subjects is of interest to the potential reader of the 1970 American Philatelic Congress Book or not, they and the other, more specialized, areas of study are worthy of an afternoon of browsing if only to acquaint the reader with the habits of collectors of areas outside their own sphere of interest.

(Robert P. Odenweller)



Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue. 73rd edition. \$6 plus 50c postage and handling.

Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Catalogue. 7th edition. Paper back. \$4.50 plus 50c postage and handling.

Stanley Gibbons Foreign Sectional Catalogues; Benelux, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Scandinavia, Switzerland and United States. Initial editions. \$2 each, plus 25c postage and handling.

Stanley Gibbons Stamps of the World. Edition. Hardbound. 1,800 pages. \$8 plus \$1 postage and handling.

(All Stanley Gibbons Catalogues are published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. of London and are priced in Britain's new decimal currency. Available in the U. S. from StanGib, Ltd., 595 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017).

For the season when Britain changed its money to a decimal system, Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London made changes in the 1971 editions of its philatelic catalogues which are every bit as epochal as Britain's abandonment of monetary calculations in pence, shillings and pounds.

The changes in Stanley Gibbons Catalogues indicate what the well-established London firm feels is the logical solution for problems imposed on the catalogue maker by the wholesale production of new stamps in all parts of the world, advances in publishing costs which make traditional catalogues too expensive for many collectors and finally the fragmentation of philatelic interests which reduce the utility of general catalogues to a majority of collectors.

Stanley Gibbons plans to continue publication of its British Commonwealth Catalogue with its well-known semi-specialized listings of the stamps of Great Britain, its past and present colonies, its dominions and entities traditionally regarded as British. This oldest of Stanley Gibbons Catalogues is to carry on the firm's traditions in the best sense.

For the British Commonwealth collector whose dominant interest is more or less contemporary issues, Stanley Gibbons produces the paperback Elizabethan Catalogue, listing the stamps produced during the reign of the present sovereign by Great Britain and Commonwealth countries.

It's in the listing of the stamps of other than Commonwealth countries that Stanley Gibbons is making its most radical break with tradition.

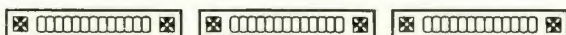
For 1971 it has brought out nine sectional catalogues, each covering a group of countries which are consistently collected. The Benelux volume in this series of paper backs, for example, provides listings in the best Stanley Gibbons style for the stamps of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The Israel volume includes listings for Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria as well as Israel. The Switzerland volume includes listings for Liechtenstein.

These nine sectional catalogues provide 1971 listings for stamps of 38 countries whose issues until now have appeared in the Europe and Colonies and America, Asia and Africa volumes of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. More of these sectional catalogues are scheduled for publication during the coming two or three years for Stanley Gibbons plans to phase out its publication of general catalogues for other than British Commonwealth countries.

While many collectors will undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to obtain a catalogue of convenient size and at an attractive price listing the stamps of a country or group of countries in which they are interested, others will probably regard it as an imposition to be compelled to buy a lot of small catalogues instead of one or two large ones. Unless today's catalogue buyers accept these sectional catalogues making their debut this season, the Stanley Gibbons organization will have to seek another solution to the problems of contemporary philately these paperbacks are expected to solve.

Aware that there are collectors who want a catalogue covering the whole world in one volume, Stanley Gibbons publishes its "Simplified" Catalogue of stamps of the world. This catalogue's listings ignore perforation and watermark differences. It enjoys a certain popularity in the United Kingdom, but it has never enjoyed any real acceptance in the United States.

(William W. Wylie)



HJMR Priced Guide to Philatelic Literature — Second Edition. Edited by: Irving Hagler, Helen Hagler, Robert Hagler, Larry Resnick. 509 pages. Paperbound \$5.00. Clothbound \$7.50. Published by HJMR Co., P.O. Box 308, North Miami, Fla. 33161. (February, 1971).

This is a large book, in physical size, scope and content. The subtitle suggests it is intended to be a "Master List of Philatelic Literature," and as any student of the literature will attest, that is a large and very ambitious objective.

The essential value of this publication lies in the fact that HJMR Co. is in a position to supply each one of the 50,000 listings of philatelic books, articles, catalogs, and periodicals, and a price is quoted for each item.

In terms of content, the first 195 pages are devoted to listings in detail of worldwide, general catalogs, periodicals, auction catalogs, serial publications and philatelic handbooks, including a complete index to the contents of the 30 volume Billig Handbook Series, owned and distributed by the HJMR Co. Pages 196 thru 244 list publications on the philately of the United States, U. S. Possessions, and Confederate States, subdivided into some 90 headings with especially thorough coverage of U. S. Auctions, U. S. Postal History by States, Postal Stationery, Precancels, and Confederate States.

The next 185 pages list literature of Great Britain and Colonies past and present, subdivided alphabetically, and individual categories listed alphabetically according to author. The balance of the book contains listings of South and Central America, Africa, Europe and Asia, and, as is to be expected, the listings of France and Colonies and Germany and its former Colonies are particularly extensive, with many references given to the French and German language literature. Pages 501 to 509 contain double column index listings by subject and the index is finely detailed to make it a fast and accurate key to the listings of the preceding 500 pages.

Obviously, it is impossible for any single publication to contain a complete listing of all the philatelic literature that has appeared in the past 130 years since issuance of the first stamps, but HJMR Co. has made a substantial stride in that direction.

A History of Wreck Covers Originating at Sea, on Land and in the Air by A. E. Hopkins. Third Edition, published by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S. W. 1., 180 pages. Price \$10. U. S.

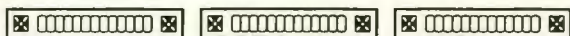
First published in 1940, with a second edition in 1948, this third edition was prepared by the late Adrian E. Hopkins in 1966 prior to his death in 1967. With the desire to complete her husband's work, Brenda Hopkins got together the manuscript and illustrations making this book possible. It is now published in a limited edition as a memorial to the famous author who contributed so much to philately and to the study of postal history.

Adrian Hopkins, in addition to his interest in the collecting of wreck covers, also formed many other collections. He was of a charming disposition and was a delightful conversationalist. He was a founder member of The Postal History Society and contributed greatly to the world of philately through his many studies and writing ability.

There is a Foreword by Sir John Wilson Bt., K.C.V.O., and a Tribute to the author by The Postal History Society. The book consists of three parts devoted to Casualties at Sea, Accidents on Land, and Casualties to British Overseas Aircraft. There is an Index; and the contents of each part are arranged chronologically. The book has been produced on art paper which has allowed the many half-tone illustrations to be inserted in the text.

This volume is truly a fine memorial to a man who contributed so much to the pleasure of philately through his many studies and ability to record this knowledge for the benefit of others.

(Albert H. Higgins)



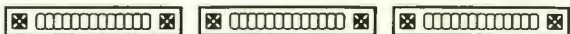
Learning Through Stamps by Elizabeth and Klaus Gemming. Three 64-page books (*The World of Art*; *Around the World*; *Portraits of Greatness*). Published by Barre Publishers, Barre, Mass. \$4.95 each.

A first glance at these three books impresses one with their excellent layout and superb reproductions of stamps presented in a topical fashion. But there their appeal to the philatelist stops.

It is obvious the authors love their activities in presenting stamps whose pictures have an interesting story to tell, but one of the earliest sentences suggest that they have only a superficial knowledge of the hobby when they refer to duplicates as "extras."

The titles indicate the fields covered, all of which are illustrated by an appropriate stamp. But when one realizes that these vast cultural and historical areas are discussed in 64 pages each, the superficial brevity becomes conspicuously obvious; the wordage quite puerile.

The trio—first of several others promised for subsequent publication—probably will introduce some youngsters to the fascination of stamp collecting if they pick them up in a library. And for that we should be grateful. (E. A. K.)



Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialized Catalogue. Vol. I, Queen Victoria (\$6); Kings Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI (\$6) and Queen Elizabeth II (\$4.50). Available in the United States from StanGib Ltd. 959 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017.

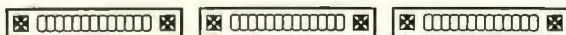
These three volumes provide the specialized collector with detailed information on all the postal adhesives Great Britain has issued since the Penny Black appeared in 1840. Their listings delineate concepts of philately prevailing in the land where the prepayment of postage had its beginnings and for this reason they're likely to surprise and even disappoint those collectors who assume that any "specialized" catalogue will have the scope of the Scott reference work with that title.

The Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialized Catalogue deals only with adhesive postage stamps. Existence of revenue stamps, postal stationery, Christmas seals and the like is ignored completely. But the listings of postal adhesives are developed to the Nth degree, demonstrating dramatically how intensive the study of a postage stamp can be. There's nothing superficial about this specialized catalogue. It deals at length with every British postage stamp, taking note of everything about every one which has even slight philatelic significance. Despite the complex character of the listings and the taxonomy involved the classification is logical, explanations are succinct and the three volumes reveal philately as far more than the simple mounting of stamps in an album.

Three years ago Stanley Gibbons Ltd. launched its Great Britain Specialized Catalogue by publication of a single volume covering the stamps issued during the reign of Queen Victoria. Two years ago the volume listing stamps of George V and VI and Edward VII and VIII was published. For 1971 the Catalogue was completed by publication of a volume listing the stamps issued during the reign of Elizabeth II.

The third is the largest of the three volumes with 320 pages as compared to 269 pages for the 3rd edition of Vol. I and 266 for what is identified as the 2nd edition of Vol. II. Of its 320 pages something more than a third of the space (120 pages) is devoted to the commemoratives and other special issues. Another third of Vol. III is needed for the listing of the Wilding definitives, in use about 16 years and which provide British collectors with a wealth of varieties rivaling the line-engraved issues of the Victoria era.

Both Vol. I and Vol. II of the Great Britain Specialized Catalogue were revised for the 1971 editions released as Vol. III was published to complete the series. And while this reviewer doesn't feel competent to comment on the pricing, it may be assumed the Stanley Gibbons editors priced these catalogues as conscientiously as they described varieties in this essential reference work for the serious student of British postal adhesives. (William W. Wyllie)



Katalog Postanskih Maraka Jugoslavenskih Zemalja 1970. 492 pages, completely illustrated, all stamps, overprints and miniature sheets. Cloth bound. Published by the Yugoslav PTT. Available in the United States and Canada from Urostamp Co., 2505 Fleetwood Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45211. Price \$8.

Here is the perfect catalogue for Yugoslavia, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Fiume, Slovenia and Occupation issues (includes all World War II local overprints), completely detailed. Quantity printed is listed in most instances as well as exact date of issue. The language is Serbo-Croatian, which is a difficulty, but the basic facts come off the pages quite easily.

Pricing is realistic. The Yugoslav dinar is priced at seven cents and is hard currency at this time. The pricing starts at $\frac{1}{3}$ of a penny per stamp. For example, Yugoslavia B1 is priced at $\frac{2}{3}$ of a penny mint against Scott's six cents. Yugoslavia C55 mint is priced at \$56.00, a \$3.50 rise from the 1968 catalogue against Scott's \$75.00. These are the actual market prices. Some interesting small rises have been recorded against their last catalogue of 1968.

From page 469 to 488 they list all issues with their numbers and show the equivalent numbers for Zumstein, Yvert and Michel.

It would be helpful if the distributor prepared a mimeographed listing of Serbo-Croatian philatelic terms with their English equivalents and put it into each catalogue shipped. (Abbot Lutz)

Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World. Section 8 — Haiti to Hungary, 1967, 59 pages. Price \$2.00. Section 9 — Iceland to Ivory Coast, 1968, 174 pages. Price \$5.00. Both profusely illustrated. Punched for small 3 ring binder. Edited by Edward G. Fladung. Published by Higgins & Gage, Inc., 23 No. Santa Anita, Pasadena, California, 91107.

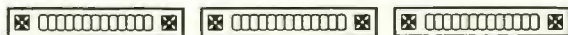
With apologies for this late review. They are now up to Section 15. But the lateness permits the writer to advise that the sections noted above have been corrected and prices amended. With each new section Higgins & Gage have shown the seriousness of their work by additions, deletions, etc.

Pricing to some collectors is of prime importance. With pricing one can establish the rarity of the item. Dating is by year only — month and day are not noted. First day enthusiasts please take note.

The additions and corrections on the Indian States have been many. It would be interesting if Mr. Haverbeck would some day comment on this area. The Italian section has been very helpful with material not noted in the Bolaffi, Sassone or Gloria catalogues. A great deal of this Italian material is unpriced; the sequence and varieties, with illustrations, are excellent, especially the Money Order section.

A new page of price corrections on all the Ireland material shows fantastic jumps from 1968 to the addenda sheet of 1970. Postal Card #1 originally listed at \$1.25 and .75 is now \$12.00 either way. Letter Card #1 originally \$1.50 and .75 is now \$14.50 either way. This goes right through the list with about five price drops as well.

Individual country catalogues are available on some countries from other publishers, but it is nice to have it all together. (Abbot Lutz)



The Noble Official Catalog of the United States Bureau Precancels. 53rd edition, Jan. 1971. Published by Gilbert W. Noble, Box 931, Winter Park, Florida 32789. Price \$4.00.

The Noble Bureau catalogs have long been recognized by the philatelic fraternity as being the definitive work on this phase of the precancel hobby.

The current edition consists of 192 pages, 5½ x 8½, bound with white spiral plastic.

The editor, Horace Q. Trout, has done his usual authoratative job on the catalog listings (through Dec. 7, 1970), while Dr. G. C. Mynchenberg has done the pricing.

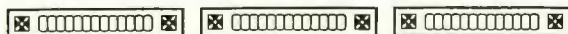
Following the customary format, the introductory pages present a well-planned and highly informative review of the subject. The main body of the catalog contains a compendium, priced and illustrated, of all Bureau precancels as they were issued by the several States — in alphabetical and chronological order. There are then several pages devoted to the listing of Bureau precancels on playing card revenue stamps; also some statistical tables, as well as the usual advertising.

There is no need to go into a detailed discussion of the catalog listings or prices compared with those in the prior edition, for there appears to have been a minimum of new listings (about 25) and only a handful of price changes (about 50). It may even be suggested that the 53rd edition was unnecessary — an addendum to the 52nd edition would have been sufficient!

Generally speaking, prices in the Noble catalogs do not reflect actual market realizations, since the majority of low and medium priced Bureaus change hands at from one-quarter to one-half catalog. However, the scarcer items, in extra fine condition, will often bring prices approximating the listed values.

The production of the catalog leaves something to be desired. The printing was rather carelessly done by a photocopying method on a fairly thin, uncoated paper. As a result, there is a tendency towards blurring, especially in the text and in those illustrations where small-sized letters are used. The paper is somewhat translucent, so that one is annoyingly aware of the printing on the reverse of the page he is reading.

(David Bennett)



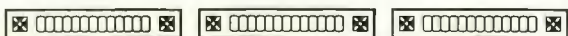
Collectors Club Members Opportunity to Participate in ANPHILEX

The organizing committee for *ANPHILEX*, the non-competitive stamp exhibition scheduled for the Walford-Astoria from November 26 to December 1, 1971 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Collectors Club, has informed me of the availability of a limited number of frames for use by members of the Collectors Club.

Any member desiring to exhibit one frame of his favorite material on a non-competitive basis is invited to apply for a frame. Frames will be of the usual 3' by 4' dimensions, accommodating from 9 to 16 pages depending on page size. There will be no charge for the frames. Since the number of frames available is limited to about 100, they will be provided on a "first come, first served" basis. As many members will want to participate in this outstanding anniversary show, you are urged to apply for your frame immediately.

Send your request for a frame reservation, indicating in a general way what you intend to exhibit, to *ANPHILEX*, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016. Please act promptly so that you will not be disappointed.

F. Burton Sellers
President



The following have qualified for membership in The Collectors Club and have been duly elected by the Board of Governors:

- 5456 Donald E. Hallinger, Pasadena, Calif. Collects Revenues, Spanish Civil War.
- 5457 Hugh D. McPhail, Detroit, Mich. Collects Great Britain and Colonies, Scandinavia, Local Posts.
- 5458 Ing. Augusto Eichelmann R., San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Collects Mexico, Cuba, Spain, United Nations.
- 5459 Irving Weinberg, Philadelphia, Pa. Collects 6c Banknote issue 1870-82.
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There is on hand a comprehensive stock of back numbers of this magazine. Not all, mostly the earlier issues, are available. Furthermore, the supply of others is down to five copies or less.

If interested in back numbers of the magazine, write to — Executive Secretary, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016 for further information.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

- THE CONGRESS BOOK 1970. THIRTY-SIXTH AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS, David C. Stump, Editor. Published by The American Philatelic Congress, Inc. 225 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- SCOTT'S STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE 1971, Volume II. 127th Edition. Scott Publishing Co., Omaha, Nebraska and New York, N. Y. 1556 pages. Illustrated. Hard Cover. Courtesy of the publisher.
- SCOTT'S SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES STAMPS 1971. 49th Edition. Scott Publishing Co., Omaha, Nebraska and New York, N. Y. 722 pages. Illustrated. Hard Cover. Courtesy of the publisher.
- STANLEY GIBBONS GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED STAMP CATALOGUE, Volume 1, Queen Victoria. Third Edition. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 1970. 269 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- STANLEY GIBBONS GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED STAMP CATALOGUE, Volume 2, King Edward VII to King George VI. Second Edition. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 1970. 266 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- STANLEY GIBBONS GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED STAMP CATALOGUE. Volume 3. Queen Elizabeth II. First Edition. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 1970. 320 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- A HISTORY OF WRECK COVERS ORIGINATING AT SEA, ON LAND AND IN THE AIR, Third Edition, by A. E. Hopkins. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England. 1970. 180 pages. Illustrated. Hard Cover. Courtesy of the publisher.
- AMERICAN AIR MAIL CATALOGUE, Volume Three, Fourth Edition. Deluxe Edition. Published by The American Air Mail Society, Cinnaminson, N. J. 1970. 571 pages. Illustrated. Hard Cover. Gift of the Society.
- THE CENSOR MARKINGS OF SURINAM 1940-45 by Frank W. Julsen. Published by the Netherlands Philatelic Society, Chicago, Illinois. 1970. 38 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- PHILATELIC HANDBOOK FOR KOREA 1884-1905 by Korea Stamp Society, Helen K. Zirkle, Chairman of Editorial Committee. Collectors Club Handbook Number 23. Published under the auspices of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund. 1970. 128 pages. Illustrated. Hard Cover.
- NUMBERS IN EARLY INDIAN CANCELLATIONS 1855-1884 by D. R. Martin. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England. 1970. 140 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
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- U. S. WARSHIPS OF WORLD WAR I by Paul Silverstone. Published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y. 1970. 304 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of the author.
- HANDBOOK ON U. S. LUMINESCENT STAMPS 1970-71 Edition by Alfred G. Boerger and John S. Stark. Published by Alfred "Tag" Boerger, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. 112 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

- CATALOGUE OF VARIOUS NORTH AMERICAN CINDERELLA STAMPS by Sherwood Springer. Published by Sherwood Springer, 3761 West 17th Street, Hawthorne, California 90250. 36 pages. Illustrated. Cardboard cover. Gift of Mr. Louis Alfano.
- CINDERELLA STAMPS by L. N. and M. Williams. Published by Heinemann, London, England. 1970. 152 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
- SPECIALE CATALOGUS 1971 VAN DE POSTZEGELS VAN NEDERLAND EN OVERZEESE RIJKSDELEN. 30th Edition. Published by Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postaelhandelaren 's-Gravenhage. 575 pages. Illustrated. Dutch text. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. Johannes de Kruif.
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- CATALOG CORRELATOR FOR THE STAMPS OF FRANCE. Published by The France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. 1969. 32 pages. Paperbound. Gift of the Society.
- PHILATELY AND POSTAL HISTORY. AN INTRODUCTION by Col. Leonard H. Smith, Jr. Published by N. H. Smith, Clearwater, Florida. 268 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the author.
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- STANLEY GIBBONS BRITISH COMMONWEALTH STAMP CATALOGUE 1971. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 698 pages. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.
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- CATALOGO ESPECIALIZADO GALVEZ DE LOS SELLOS DE ESPANA, Manuel Galvez Rodriguez, Editor. Published by Carmichael & Co. Ltd., Brighton, United Kingdom 1960. 392 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of Mr. Theo. Van Dam.
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An outstanding collection from Queen Victoria issues to the present reigns, will come under the hammer at our Drury House Auction Rooms as part of this sale.

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QUITE A YEAR!

1970 may not go down in commercial history as the finest of the 20th Century, in fact it may have some difficulties in getting itself rated, when the report cards of 2000 A.D. are published, in the upper half of the class.

Philatelically, however, it could certainly have been much worse, with an average easing of price levels that, on the Stock Market, would have been welcomed as more close to miracle than fact.

And so we, at Harmers, as these words are penned prior to the New Year, are more than pleased with this hobby of ours and are more than pleased that we have had the opportunity to see so many great collections pass through our hands, not least of which were naturally the final auctions of the "Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collections".

In all, we sold for Mrs. Dale or for her Estate, over so many years of pleasant relationship, for the extraordinary total of \$3,455,574 which is by far the largest amount sold by one auctioneer for one person's philatelic holding.

Without taking into account Private Treaty transactions our auction figure for 1970 was \$3,715,478, of which only some \$800,000 was from Dale sales, leaving almost \$3,000,000 sold for countless philatelists, Estates, beneficiaries, charitable organizations, etc.

And so we look forward to 1971 with the same keen expectations that we will be able to help both potential buyers and potential vendors as we have in the past and that—who knows—it may also be the "Year Of The Jets And The Giants"!

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