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PHILATELIST

Volume 53 Number 2
March 1974

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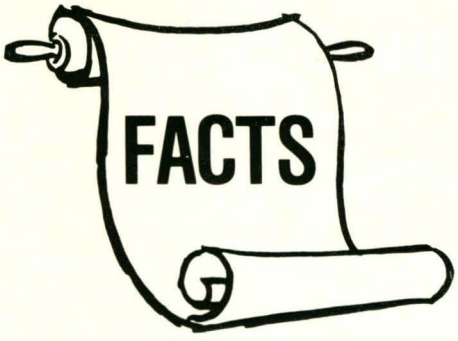
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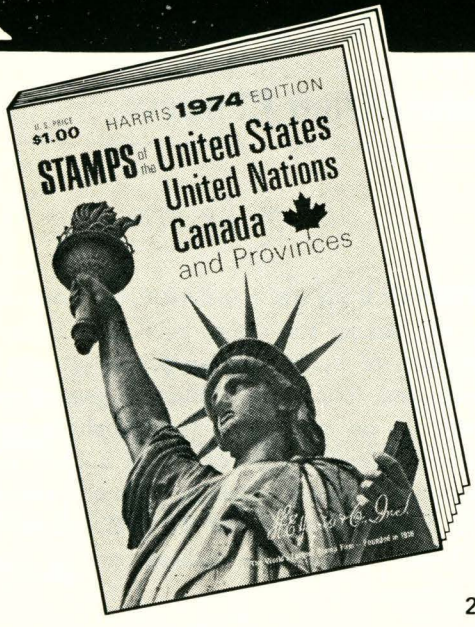
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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

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

Across The Editor's Desk

INTERPHIL '76 GUARANTEE FUND

Directors of INTERPHIL '76 have initiated a guarantee fund campaign to secure working capital for the international stamp exhibition set for May 29-June 6, 1976 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"If the bicentennial year exhibition is to compare favorably with international stamp exhibitions presented by foreign nations we must enlist the support of many collectors, dealers and philatelic organizations," said Robert Stets, president of INTERPHIL '76. Stets stressed the fact that most foreign internationals are financially sustained fully by the host governments. "Here in America," he said, "financing of our internationals has occurred only through the generosity and assistance of the entire philatelic community."

The guarantee fund will operate in the same manner as previous United States internationals. Donors may guarantee any amount they desire, with a minimum pledge of $100. It will not be necessary to send the full amount — just 25% of the guarantee. A pledge of $200., for example, will require only a $50. advance.

Guarantors of previous United States international philatelic exhibitions have had the full amount of their advance refunded after the close of the exhibitions. Considering the experience and know-how of the INTERPHIL '76 organizers, it is reasonable to expect the same success in 1976.

Outright contributions to INTERPHIL '76, a non-profit organization, will also be accepted. Donations, gifts, etc. to INTERPHIL '76 are tax deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes.

"Here is the opportunity for the entire philatelic fraternity to show an active interest by providing financial support towards a successful bicentennial year international philatelic exhibition in the United States," stated President Stets. "The names of all guarantors will appear in our future prospectus and in the official exhibition program," he said.

Guarantee forms may be obtained from: Guarantee Fund, INTERPHIL '76, P.O. Box C, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

The last international philatelic exhibition in this country was held in Washington, D.C. in 1966. By rules of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) an individual country must wait ten years between such affairs. After INTERPHIL '76 it will be at least until 1986 before another international can be run in the United States. INTERPHIL '76 will be the seventh international philatelic exhibition staged in this country.

INTERPHIL '76 is sponsored by Phildelphia International Philatelic Exhibition, Inc.

Working capital is vital to the success of the show. The support and help of all philately will be needed. Send for your guarantee form application today.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award For 1973 Presented To Ernest A. Kehr



At the December 1973 meeting of the Board of Governors, Ernest A. Kehr was unanimously chosen as the 1973 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial award "for distinguished service to philately."

In the 58 years since he began collecting stamps, there has not been one phase or facet of philately which has not been promoted with dedication and enthusiasm by Ernest A. Kehr, this year's winner of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Medal.

As a collector he filled albums with 30,000 varieties of the world's issues by correspondence and swapping before he decided to concentrate on Egyptian stamps and postal history. His first prize was a silver medal won at the National Stamp Exhibition, in Boston, in 1930. Since then his collections have taken gold and special awards for research at numerous national and international competitions.

As a philatelic writer he has been very active. Since 1929, when his first article was published by the old New York "World," Kehr has written more wordage for more different journals on more diverse philatelic subjects than any other author. His articles appeared not only in the leading philatelic journals, stamp news periodicals, metropolitan newspapers, but such distinguished general magazines as "Saturday Evening Post," "Life," "Readers Digest," "This Week," "Think" and "Colliers." His book, "Romance of Stamp Collecting," first published in 1947, set a record as a philatelic best seller, having gone through two editions, fifteen printings and stiil is being sold. Other lesser books intended to encourage the collection of stamps have enjoyed world-wide circulation, and his five works on specialized Egyptian subjects are regarded as definitive reference books.

As early as 1936, the late Fred Melville singled Kehr out as what he described as "the most promising philatelic writer in America." In 1950, he won the Gainza Paz Gold Medal in an international philatelic literature contest in which more than 2,500 entries of all types were judged over a three-month period by 15 members of a jury comprising professional editors and philatelists.

The promotion of philately was undertaken through other communications areas: he has written and presented more than 2,000 radio and TV programs carried by networks and independent outlets for more than 40 years. For 30, he has conducted courses in stamp collecting, especially for teachers and adult youth leaders to show how postage stamp colecting can be used as a valuable extra-curricular tool in education. The first ones were sponsored by the City College of New York, later ones, by the Philatelic Foundation in cooperation with the Collectors Club.

Kehr also has been involved with motion pictures, serving as philatelic consultant for films made in Hollywood ("Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "Man of Conquest," etc.) as well as by foreign postal administrations. His two slide-and-tape productions ("Romance of Stamp Collecting" and "Drama of Stamp Creation") have been distributed by the Philatelic Foundation to many hundreds of stamp and civic organizations and seen by thousands of non-collectors.

Kehr is proudest of his work with hospitalized servicemen. Since Pearl Harbor he has headed Stamps for the Wounded, a completely volunteer committee which collects for and distributes to war victims in VA hospitals. In that time at least 100 tons of contributed stamps, albums, catalogues and accessories have been given to bed and ambulatory patients, about 35,000 of whom started collecting as part of recreational therapy programs and now are enthusiastic about philately.

More recently he started *FREE*dom *STAMPS*, which distributes packets of domestic commemoratives to collectors in Afro-Asian and other lands who could not afford to buy them from dealers. More than 200,000 such packets have been given away in the last 15 years.

Few philatelists are more widely known in foreign nations, for Kehr has been a regular visitor to exhibitions and societies during his many global journeys. He has served as jury member and/or commissioner to more than 30 international shows on all continents since 1946.

His first experience with an international show came in 1936, when he was chairman of the committee that conducted lectures and programs in connection with the show at Grand Central Palace. In 1947 he was vice-chairman of CIPEX, in charge of all public relations activities.

He directed the National Stamp Show, at Rockefeller Center in 1937, and the Penny Black Centenary Stamp Show in the British Pavilion of the 1940 World's Fair. He served on the board of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., since 1934, was its secretary for seven years and now is its vice-president.

As a philatelic purist, he spearheaded campaigns to discourage the production of adhesives aimed at mulcting uninformed and gullible beginners and inexperienced collectors long before there were blacklist or black blot committees. His disclosures of facts surrounding the so-called Popes stamps of Panama, the "Humanity Island" and "Atlantis" swindle issues, led by their failure on the market.

Feeling that philatelic journalists had a responsibility in defending stampdom from exploitation by emerging nations and their commercial agents, he organized the Philatelic Press Club. With it he hoped to get his journalistic colleagues to join him in writing articles and reports that would further serious stamp collecting and study while discouraging publicity for abusive paper offered as postage stamps.

It is fitting that Kehr should have been selected to receive the Lichtenstein Medal, for he attributes his philatelic philosophy to the man in whose honor it was established. Since 1926, when he first met Alfred F. Lichtenstein, he became his protege and life-long friend. Only a few hours before Mr. Lichtenstein suffered his fatal coronary attack, Kehr had enjoyed luncheon with him. It was Mr. Lichtenstein who, with Sir John Wilson and Theodore E. Steinway, proposed him for membership in the Royal Philatelic Society, of London. Before that the young Kehr had been one of only three teenagers who ever were given junior memberships by the Collectors Club; the others were the late Louise Dale and John Steinway.

The work Kehr has accomplished to promote stamp collecting — especially as an instrument to develop international goodwill and understanding, has been recognized on a world-wide scale. For specific work in this direction, he has received such honors as knighthoods by Queen Juliana, of the Netherlands, and Grand Duchess Charlotte, of Luxembourg; Great Cross, Order of Merit, from President T. Heuss, of Germany; Finlandia Award, from President J. K. Paasikivi; Decorations from Popes Pius XII and Paul VI, plus a Papal Knighthood from Pope John XXIII. He also is an honorary life member of the Ibero-American Academy of Postal History, in Madrid.

Because of his activities he has known many of the world's greats who also were stamp collectors and enjoyed talking philately with Kehr: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gen. Mark Clark, Lauritz Melchior, President Ramon Magsaysay, King Carol and Fouad I. He was so intimate a friend of Cardinal Spellman, that when he decided to build his philatelic museum, he asked Kehr to serve as consultant to the architects who designed it.

Kehr presently is a governor of the Collectors Club; trustee of the Philatelic Foundation; Executive Chairman of the Philatelic Press Club; trustee and vice-president of the Cardinal Spellman Museum, and life-fellow of the R.P.S.L.

Experimental Cancellations On The First Post Card Issue Of Great Britain

By Abbot Lutz

Post cards were issued in Great Britain on October 1, 1870, exactly one year after they were introduced in Austria. Public pressure forced the issue of these cards. At the beginning two cards were released — one measured 3½ x 4¾ inches and the other, a smaller one, measured 2⅛ x 4¾ inches. Experimental cancellations were tried on the smaller card.

The postal authorities realized that post cards would be used in large amounts so that faster cancelling devices would be needed to handle the additional volume. All ideas for faster cancelling concepts were tried. Seven different tests were made.



Figure 1. "J.G." Machine Cancellation.

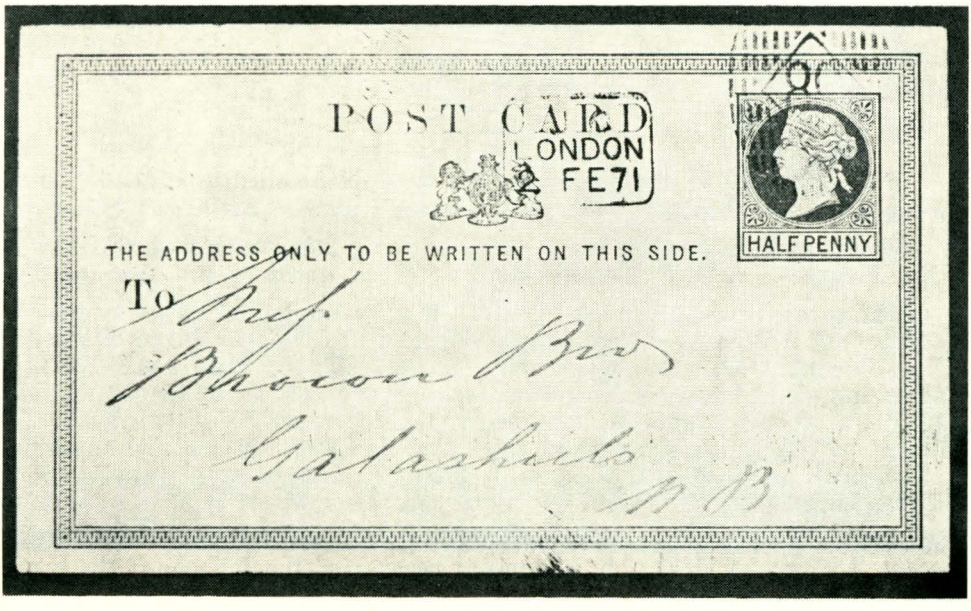


Figure 2. "J.G." cancellation used showing early dating.

The "J.G." Machine. This machine was used in London, according to the records, for the month of January 1871 only. At the end of January it was discontinued. The code letters "J.G." supposedly stand for J. G. Azemar, the inventor of this machine, although this has never been proven. Of the few copies known of this cancellation the dating runs between the 4th and 30th of January 1871. We now have a card dated 2 February 1871. (Figures 1 & 2).

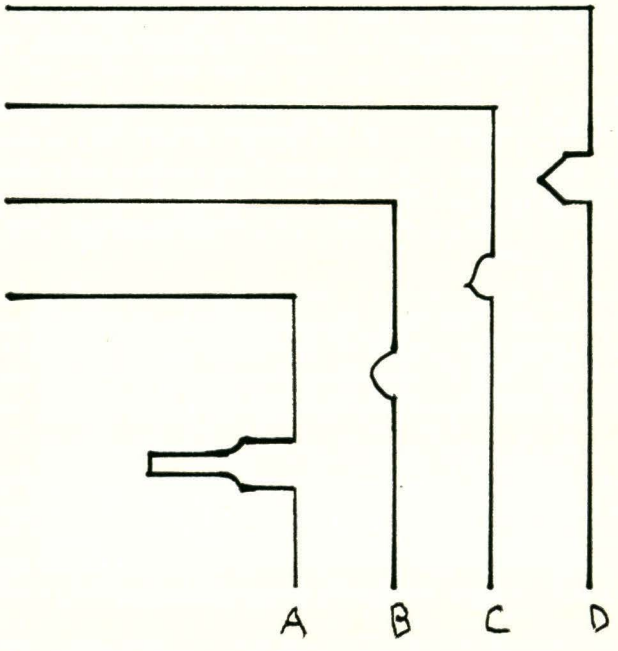


Figure 3. Manchester Side Clips:

A—Plier Cut.
B—Half-round cut.
C—Bracket Cut.
D—Spear Cut.

In Manchester four different side clips were tried and discontinued. They appear to have been made by a train conductor's punch (Figures 3, 4, 5 & 6).

Birmingham, Edinburgh and Liverpool tried a hole punch with a diameter of 3 millimeters. A flood of complaints caused this test to cease rather rapidly.

London tried the perforated "Orb & Cross" cancellation. The inventor is unknown but it is believed that Joseph Sloper of J. D. Sloper & Co., Walbrook House, London, E.C., was the inventor. Sloper had the patent rights for this perforating method from 1858 and had sold three machines to the Circulation Department, London, and one machine to the Liverpool P.O., with an arrow perforation. He might have tried this "Orb & Cross" in his first machine. His machines were ordered on June 5, 1870 at a cost of seven pounds seven shillings each.

The "Orb & Cross" cancellation shown (Figures 7 & 8) is dated on the reverse, 3 November 1870. It is unusual because of the following: the early date, the use on a large size post card, the cancellation is inverted and it is the only copy known.



Figure 4. Example of Half Round Cut.

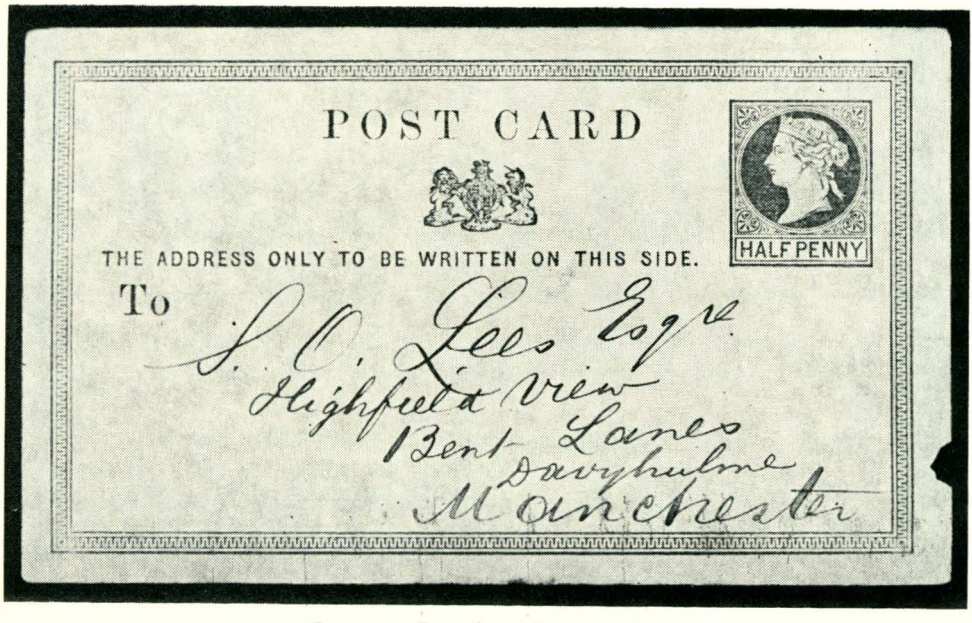


Figure 5. Example of Bracket Cut.

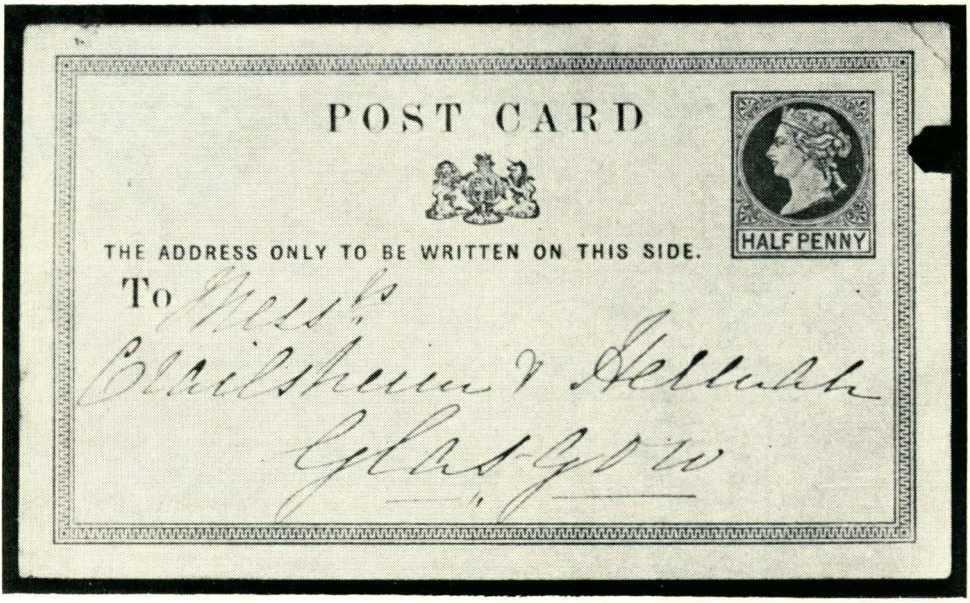


Figure 6. Example of Spear Cut.

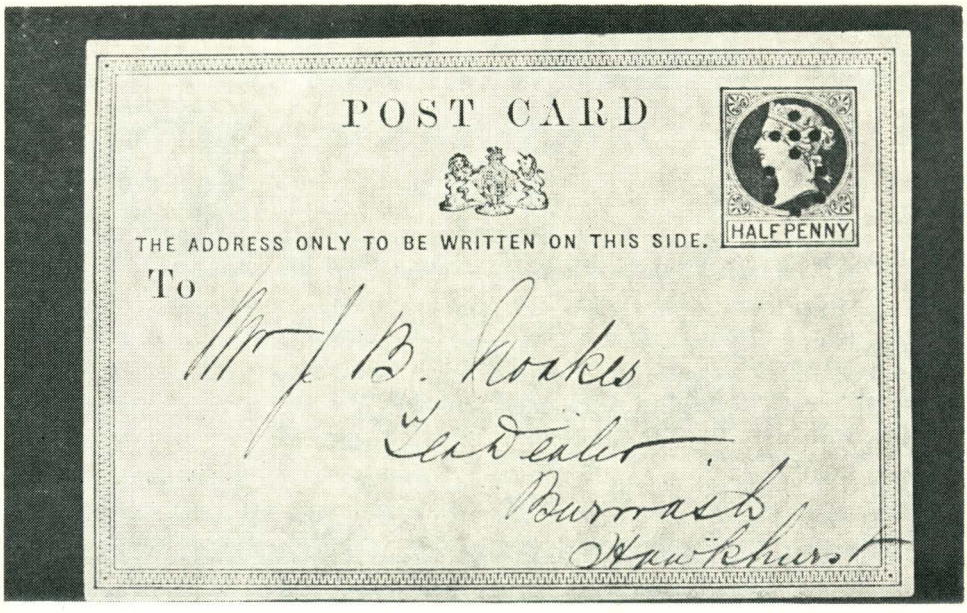


Figure 7. "Orb & Cross" cancellation inverted.

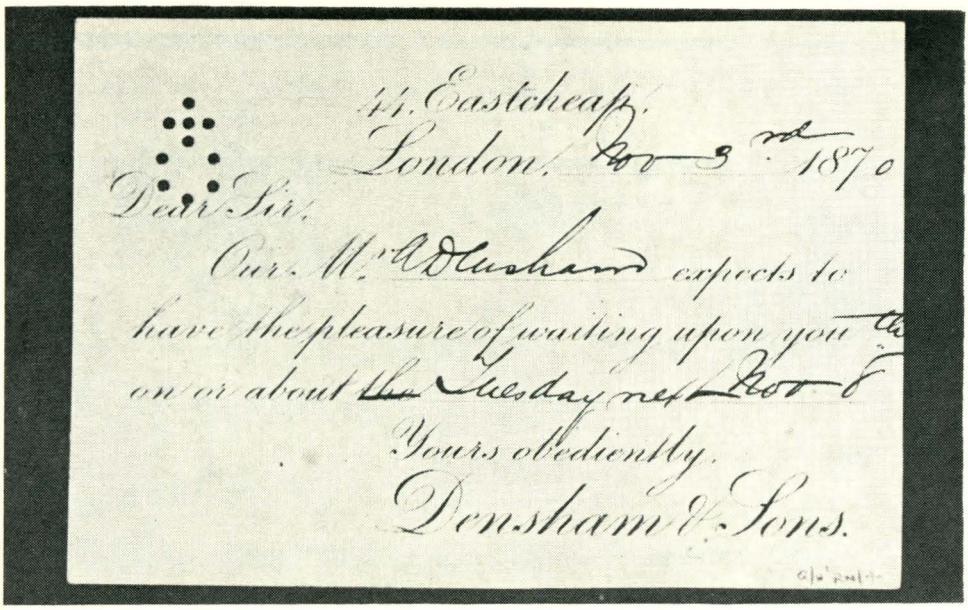


Figure 8. Back view of Figure 7 showing early date.

As to the Sloper Arrow perforations — according to Westley and Dubus* — the earliest date for London use was 8 December 1870 with the last date of use 8 March 1873. For Liverpool first date was 8 August 1871 with last date 5 January 1875. We have a London card dated 24 November 1870 (Figures 9, 10, 11) as well as card dated 15 March 1873. The dating is all predicated on a study written by B. F. Hounsell Dammers in the Postal History Society's Bulletin for June 1948.

The size of the holes on the London machines was 1 millimeter in diameter and on the Liverpool machine 2 millimeters (Figure 12). R. Bradshaw Smith lists both size of perforations as coming from Liverpool in the English Specialists' Journal of January 23, 1897. This confusion can be cleared up since it was found that many Liverpool firms had the back of the cards printed in London and *mailed* from there. We now understand the error.

The machines regularly broke their perforating pins as well as needing constant sharpening. Thus all experiments ceased in January 1875 (Figure 13).

Sloper's patent rights for perforating stamps gave out in 1872 but he still remained in business as the first firm to prepare perfins on license from the British government, which he had received on March 13, 1868. In 1875 Sloper moved to 6 & 7 King William St., London, E.C. and on June 24, 1878 he moved to 20 King William St. corner of Cannon St. where he opened a post office branch for the G.P.O.

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*Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890 by H. C. Westley, page 23 London Cancellations Repairs and Re-cutting by Leon Dubus, pages 100-101.

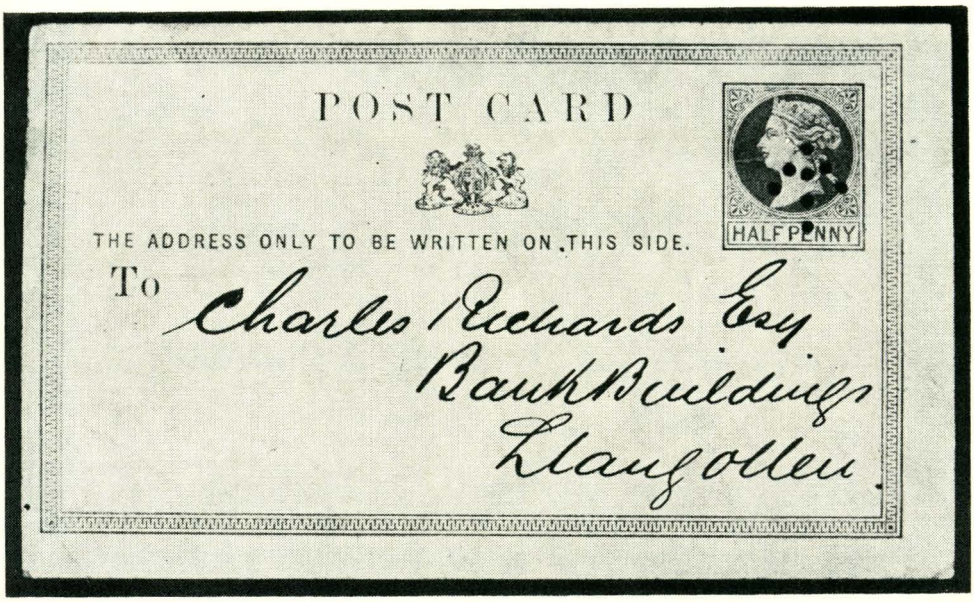


Figure 9. London Sloper Arrow perforation.

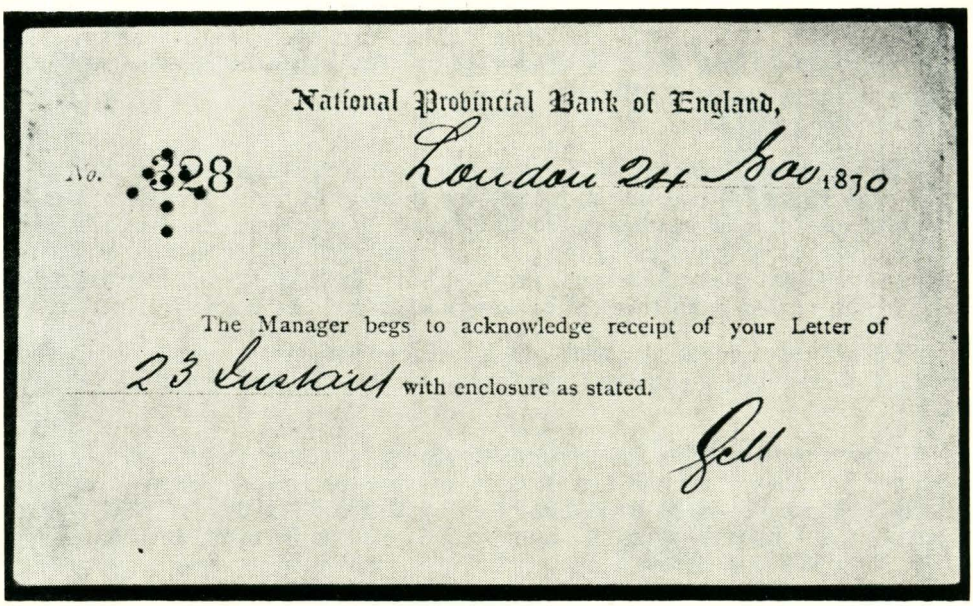


Figure 10. Back view of Figure 9 showing early date.

Joseph Sloper died on June 18, 1890, his sons continued his business. In 1919 the firm moved to 22 Budge Row, E.C.4. In 1941 their premises were bombed out and they relocated at New Bridge Street House, E.C.4 near Ludgate Circus. They subsequently moved to Tower Royal Works, Blackburn Rd., N.W.6 where they are now located, providing the same service of perforating stamps and selling perforating machines.



Figure 11. London Sloper Arrow inverted on card.



Figure 12. Liverpool Sloper Arrow showing one missing pin.

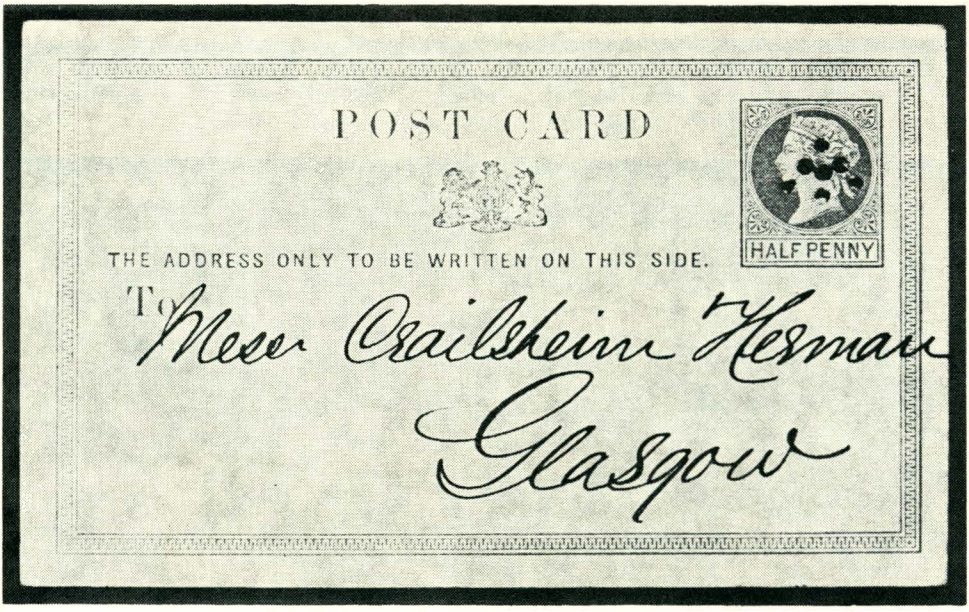
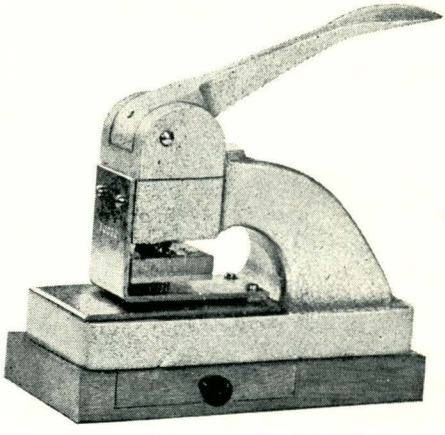


Figure 13. Liverpool Sloper Arrow showing broken pins.

In a recent correspondance with the Sloper Company we asked if any material existed on the original Sloper Arrow perforated machine. The following reply was received: "*. . . but regret to advise you that we are not familiar* with the '*Sloper Arrow Machine*' . . ."

The today manufacture some 60 models of perforating machines starting with a number 2 machine that reads like an update on the original "Arrow" machine. "*Model 2 contains a 'STOP' die to perforate at a limited distance from the edge.*"



MODEL 2

Base 7½″ x 3″
Nett weight 10 lbs
Max. die area
2⅜″ across x 2¾″ deep

The modern Sloper machine, probably little changed since 1870.

The Post Office Seals of the United States

By Ernest A. Kehr *(Continued from Page 37)*

OX8 and OX9

Probably because the GPO had rouletting equipment and it would have been more convenient to do the entire job in one plant, the next two seals listed in the catalogue were rouletted instead of perforated. This began in 1892, with two different rouletting gauges being employed. The one had gauge 5½ slits; the other, gauge 7. The former were punched around all seals in the pane so no straight-edge copies are known. In the latter, some if not all marginal copies were left unpunched as we have seen any number of straight-edge singles and multiples.

Before leaving the OX6-9 seals we must again stress the fact that production quality was wretched and that printing flaws abound. There are all sorts of

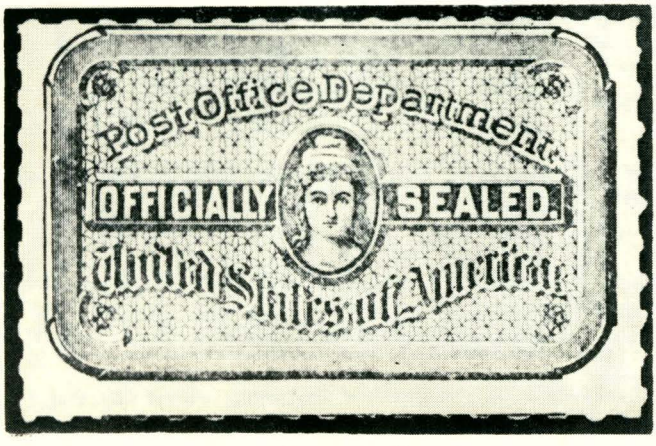


Figure 24. The gauge 5½ roulette.



Figure 25. Post Office seal rouletted 7.



Figure 26. Vertical pair of seals in Gottlieb collection have roulette slits combined with pin-perforations between.

faults: imperfect impressions because of wear or breaks of the typographical surfaces; defective lettering and the like. Indeed, there are so many of them that a seal without at least one flaw is harder to find than one without imperfections.

The Lithographs of 1901–05

In 1901, the Government Printing Office decided to produce Post Office Seals by the easier, cheaper lithographic method. Workmen took existing proofs (or actual seals) of the 1870 Nationals, again substituted a blank frame to cover the imprint at bottom, and made transfers from which the printing stone was created. Mr. Luff remarks that this consisted of 143 subjects (13 x 11,) without either imprint or stone number. With no full sheets known to exist, we have to take his word for this as he rarely mady any statement without having some reference data. Except for the top and left frame lines being thinner, these look very much like the typographed seals. There is one way in which differentiation can be made. In the typographed issue the short line at the left of the inner curve in the lower left corner is broken. In the lithographed this line is complete.

OX10

The first printing was in a yellow-brown, although various other shades, as deep as gray-brown, are known. Other minor varieties of paper, printing and perforation faults exist. Most interesting are those which show misshapen bottom frame panels. These were caused when the transfer to cover the imprint slipped to form uneveness.



Figure 27. Vertical gutter pair without perforations between.



Figure 28. Seal with serious gash at left and under-inked right side.

The Gottlieb collection contains several large imperforate multiples as well as part perf pairs and blocks, all in varying shades of brown. There also are singles in which the gauge 12 perforation holes run through the seal's design, or are so punched that the part of two seals designs are transposed: the right half on the left and the left half on the right.



Figure 29. One of few consistent plate flaws show blob of white above "e" of "Department."

OX11

In 1907, a modified version of the OX10 was produced in blue. This one's similar to the previous issue except that it was reduced in size and is printed in blue on white paper of varying thicknesses.

The seal design of OX10 measures 45 x 28mm; the new one's are but 39 x 24mm. We have no record of how many subjects were in the full printed sheets, but the Gottlieb collection has several units of 20, four horizontal rows of five seals each. Thorp also says that the largest he saw or heard of were 20, but that he also came across panes that had only 10 of the seals.

This writer suspects that the printing surface comprised units of 20, but that he also came across panes that had only 10 of the seals.

This writer suspects that the printing surface comprised units of 20, but that paper was fed into the press at least twice to make up a sheet of at least 40. This conclusion is reached because Gottlieb and Luff both had imperforate blocks and pairs in which gutters are between tête-bêche rows of the seals. The blocks of four in the Gottlieb collection have gutters from 9 to 10mm wide, which if cut in half would yield the narrow margins found around the panes of 20 we mentioned.

Again, varieties abound: there are part perfs of both types; the paper varies in thickness and shades range through all hues of blue, and what must be considered as printers' waste is available. There is one item in the Gottlieb col-

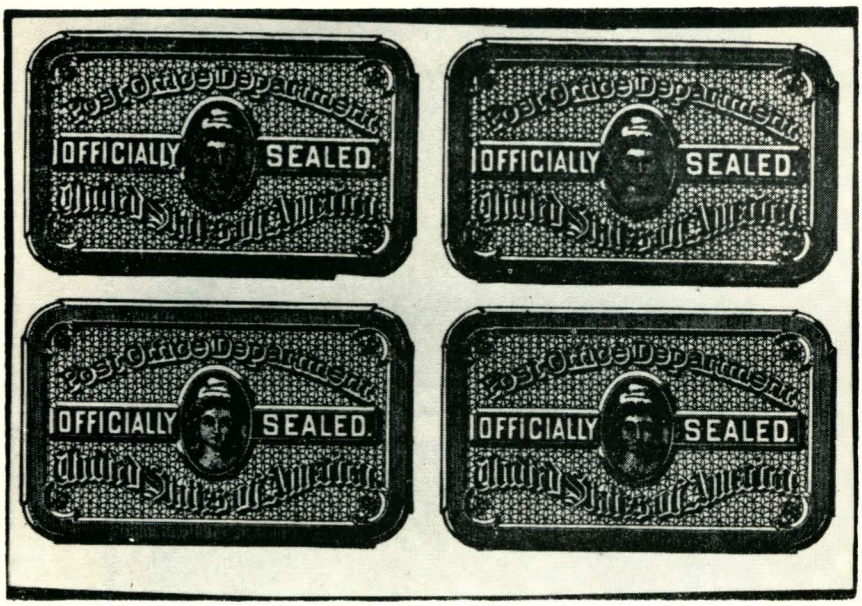


Figure 30. Imperforate block showing variance of inking . . . note difference of clarity of Liberty head.



Figure 31. Vertically imperforate block, horizontal holes cutting into bottom of design.



Figure 32. a & b Examples of mis-perforated seals.

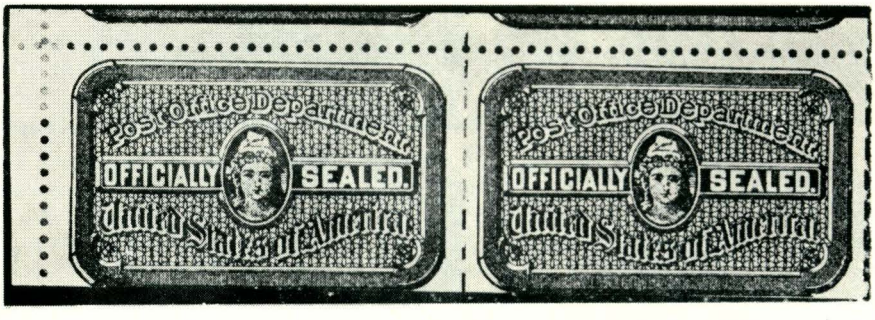


Figure 33. Combination roulette and perforation.



Figure 34. OX11 full pane of 10 for booklets issued to postmasters.

lection that merits attention. It is an imperforate block of four in which the seal designs is doubly printed on what the GPO originally printed as a customs form. In addition some of the seals were printed on paper whose water-mark comprises the Great Seal of the United States, so large that for it all to be recognizable, one must have a block of at least 12 seals.

The blue OX11, which was perforated with gauge 12 holes on a machine the GPO must have acquired in 1900 or 1901, were in use for five years before the next issue came into being.

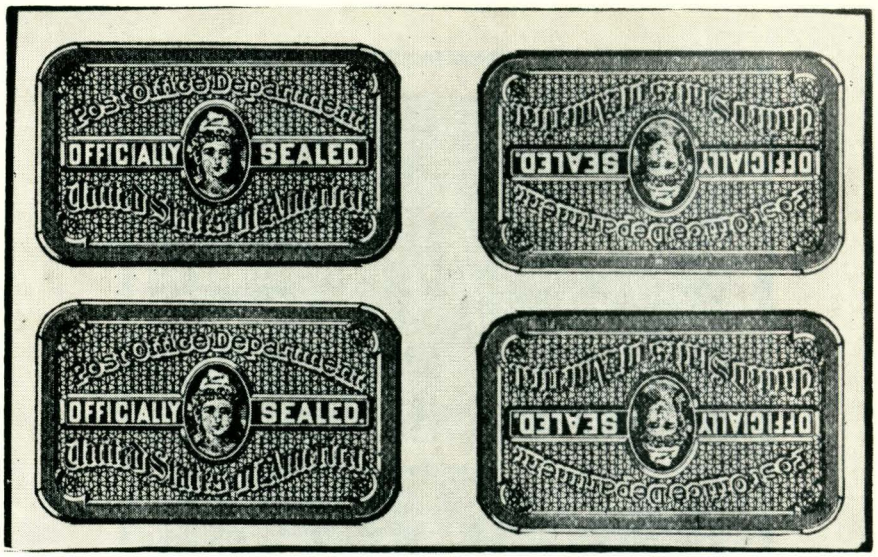


Figure 35. Imperf gutter block with tete-beche arrangement.

OX12–13

In 1912, for reasons known only to the Government Printing Office, stocks of the blue seal were rouletted with gauge 6½ slits on all four sides, and the following year appeared with the *rouletting* in one direction, and with gauge 12 *perforations* in the other. The one listed as the normal had the perforations horizontally and the rouletting, vertically. However, there are specimens that have this combination reversed.

All of the minor varieties and flaws mentioned for the earlier seals of this design are to be found in the 1912 and 1913 ones, including that printed on paper with the Great Seal watermark. A relatively few of the 1913 issue also have been printed on paper with its maker's watermark: "Rolleston Mills" and a small eagle.

The Gottlieb collection has a full pane of this variety which has two San Francisco postmarks (Dec. 12, 1912) handstamped, probably as a favor, in the wide left margins of the pane. This suggests that while Luff and the catalogue give 1913 as the date of the OX13, it most likely was issued in late 1912.

OX14

All of these continued in regular use until 1916, when the seal's color was changed from blue to black, and the paper became pink instead of white or shades thereof.

The shades to be found in this issue range from light gray to a true, deep black, but whether this was due to an actual difference in the composition of the ink, or merely due to light or heavy impressions during the printing operation cannot be definitely stated. We believe it was the latter cause for the ebon ones all seem to be over inked in that the design has a smudgy appearance.

The largest known multiple is one of 20 with gauge 12 holes, but perforated so that all marginal copies are straight-edged. Unlike the blue seal, we have no tête-bêche multiples, but there are some which have perforations running through the stamp design, and one block which has doubled vertical perforation holes.

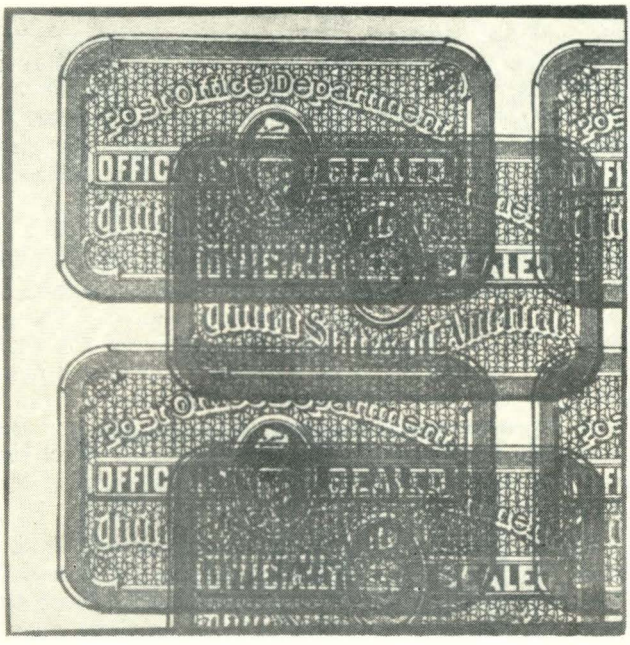


Figure 36. Probably printer's waste, this block has double, mis-placed impressions.



Figure 37. This impression was made on paper already imprinted with a customs form.

OX15

The pink paper was used only for a short year, when white was used for the black seal to give it a rather stark appearance. And like its predecessor, the color varies considerably. It was released in panes of 20, again so perforated that marginal copies are straight-edged. There are imperfs as well as part perfs of both types. The Gottlieb collection also has a corner single in which the top and left sides are pin-perforated.

OX16

In 1919 the next change of design was effected at the GPO. The frame was loosely copied but the interior was rather severely altered. The lettering, "Post Office Department" in Old English characters replaced the shaded Roman of the 1907-18 issue; and "United States of America" was placed immediately below in the upper panel, in modified block letters. The Liberty head vignette was a crude imitation of the one originally engraved by the National Bank Note Company, in 1877, and used for 49 years. The bottom panel is left blank so that the clerk could insert the name of the post-office to the right of "BY," which is imprinted in the panel's upper left corner.

These were issued to the larger postoffices in pads of 100 sheets of 20 seals apiece; the smaller ones received booklets containing an unrecorded number of panes of 10. The latter probably were made by simply cutting the larger panes in half, since those we have seen have perforations on three sides and a straight knife cut along the top or bottom margin. We have also seen full panes in which there is a knife cut at left or right. We must also mention that this seal is the first one to be given a "form number," which is printed in the left margin. The one in the Gottlieb collection has "5-10709." Also worthy of mention is a vertical pair printed on paper that shows an "ICAT watermark," most likely a portion of "Certificate."

Having been in constant use for 28 years, the OX16 is found with more minor varieties that can be conveniently listed. Most notable are the variety of perforation gauges used to punch holes over this nearly three-decade period. They are 8½, 9, 12, 12½, and combinations thereof. Imperfs and part perfs are found in abundance, and so are scores of examples that have printing flaws due to breaks and damage of the printing surfaces.

We endeavoured to get information about the seals produced by the Government Printing Office prior to World War II, but any and all inquiries addressed to its director remained unanswered. In 1943, we approached Isaac (Ike) Gregg, then director of the POD's Press Relations and moonlighting Washington columnist for the "New York Sun." After several months and "at least a thousand telephone calls," Mr. Gregg came up with the following:

"Various changes in the design were made from time to time, (since 1877) the seal now in use having been designed by Frank A. Dony, then chief of the printing section, Post Office Department, at the order of the First Assistant Postmaster General, Daniel C. Roper, in May, 1912.

"The seals used at present are printed at the Government Printing Office. A plate is made and a process of flat printing is used. The seals are perforated. They are supplied by the Government Printing Office to the Division of Equipmetn and Supplies, which Division issued them to postmasters for use when needed."

As philatelists will see, while this information is useful and had not previously, nor since, been reported, it is contradictory.



Figure 38. OX16 pair used to repair envelope damaged during postmarking.



Figure 39. Vertical marginal pair without bottom perfs.

In 1943, Mr. Gregg says that "the seal now in use" was designed and approved "in May, 1912."

The seal used in 1943, came upon the scene in 1919. The one of 1912, on the other hand, has a modified design first introduced in 1877! If Gregg's notes are correct we can but assume that the 1919 design had been made as explained, then shelved and not employed for seven years.

OX17

According to Scott's catalogue, OX17 was issued in 1947, which differs from the previous ones in that it has been rouletted with gauge 9½ slits. Mr. Gottlieb was stricken so could not study this issue before he passed away and does not have any of them in the collection he left. We can therefore mention only the listed varieties: booklet pane of five, and horizontal pair, imperf between.

Quartermaster's Seal

The Scott catalogue lists as OX18 and OX19, seals which closely resemble the regular Post Office issues of 1907-15, but whose panels above and below the Liberty Head and "Officially Sealed" have had their inscriptions changed to "Mail and Record Section" and "Quartermaster General's Office" respectively. No date is given, and Thorp says, "This seal is a complete mystery to me."

Subsequent research by Sloane and Gottlieb led to the discovery that these were issued during the World War I and for use in various places where the American Expeditionary Forces had headquarters in France, in 1918 and 1919.

Mail incorrectly or badly addressed, or addressed to soldiers who could not be identified, was opened at a central office of the Quartermaster General's department known as the Mail and Record Section. After examination of the contents, or search of records to ascertain the addressee's correct location, letters were revealed with one or more of the seals, readdressed and forwarded. If no clue was contained inside the envelope, the letter was returned to sender if that information was given.

The OX18 was printed in blue on white paper and perforated with gauge 12 holes; the other was similar but rouletted with gauge 7 slits. We do not know how many subjects were in the printing surface, but they were issued in pads of 100 panes, each with two vertical strips of five seals. Color, perforation and paper varieties are not scarce but not as abundant as in the regular issues, chiefly because they were not as commonly used.

Copies on cover must be excessively scarce for until he died, Mr. Gottlieb could find none. This is due to the fact that recipients of letters to which they were affixed were in no position to save the envelopes while engaged in their war business.

When on July 1, 1971, the United States Post Office Department became the United States Postal Service, a new seal was introduced. Once we became aware of its existence, we sent inquiries to Washington for information about it, but up to the time of this writing have received no reply either from the Government Printing Office or the Stamps Department of the *USPS*. Acordingly, we can describe it only on the basis of what help our local postmaster provided.

The seal is practically designed and neatly printed, making it the best produced by the GPO in about three quarters of a century. The design comprises a rectagle 38x21mm, within whose double-line frame is "United States Postal Service," at top; the *USPS* emblem below this is flanked by two black rectangles with uncolored "Officially" and "Sealed" block lettering. Under the left block is "by," and space for the name or initials of the clerk using it.

The seal itself measures 45x25mm. The only ones we have seen are issued to postmasters in pads containing 50 panes of five seals apiece, arranged vertically with horizontal rouletting and straight edges at both sides. Each pane has an 8mm tab at the top, inscribed, "Label 21, July 1971," in 3mm block letters.

LABEL 21, JULY 1971



Typeset Seals

Perhaps the most interesting seals for the philatelist who enjoys hunting and study challenges are the so-called Typeset ones used by individual postmasters around the country. Scott's catalogue rightly states, "Little is known of the history and origin . . . "

Mr. Luff had a number of varieties in his collection, along with some penciled notes, but in his 1915 article and listings there are glaring discrepancies with what he noted and what he wrote.

The Scott catalogue lists 22 different ones, but many others have been seen by collectors and more of them apear from time to time. Only in 1973, the Philatelic Foundation received one that had not hitherto been seen.

There are no records available to explain whether these primitively printed seals were provided by the Post Office Department, whether they were made, like th 1845-46 provisionals, by individual postmasters, or whether they were commercially made and sold to postmasters. The first question leads us to surmise that this was highly unlikely. Why should the department have issued any seals other than those produced and distributed through the Government Printing Office?

That some postmasters made their own is evidenced by the several known seals that have the names of specific offices such as Birmingham, Ala.; Northfield, Mass.; Petaluma, Cal., and a few others not listed in Scott's.

Post Office Seals

Not long ago, a heretofore unlisted or unreported seal was submitted to the Philateic Foundation, whose Expert Committee declared it genuine in August, 1973. Printed in black on magneta, it measures 80 x 34½mm and is inscribed, "U.S. POST OFFICE, BERWICK, PA./Opened through mistake,————————, by/———————— OFFICIALLY SEALED," within a decorative frame. The blank lines were for the date and name of clerk who opened and sealed the envelope to which it was affixed.

And that at least one commercial printer made them up for sale can be believed by the several types of seals which are conspicuously similar in text and layout. These are listed as OX25 through OX39.

Personally, we are inclined to suspect that perhaps the typeset seals supplemented rather than substituted for the regular Post Office specimens. As we mentioned, the first seals were intended to seal registered mail envelopes sent between one postoffice and another. Only later were they used to seal *mail damaged in transit.*

The typeset seals have a very definite inscription, "Opened through mistake by," which indicates that they were to be affixed to mail that was not necessarily damaged, but which had been opened in error either by a postal patron (who returned the envelope and contents to the postoffice with an apology) where a clerk placed seals across the opening then either signed his name or asked the patron to do so. That patrons sometimes signed these seals seems to be proven by the fact that the Gottlieb collection contains a cover in which the name and signature on the seal is different from the one of the contemporary postmaster. This one comes from a small town that had only the postmaster as a postal employe.

The biggest problem that faces the collector is the establishment of the genuineness of some typset seals. Mr. Luff had several in his collection which are NOT listed in Scott's, which leads us to believe that he questioned some for the lack of evidence that they had actually been used. Mr. Gottlieb also came across some he questioned.

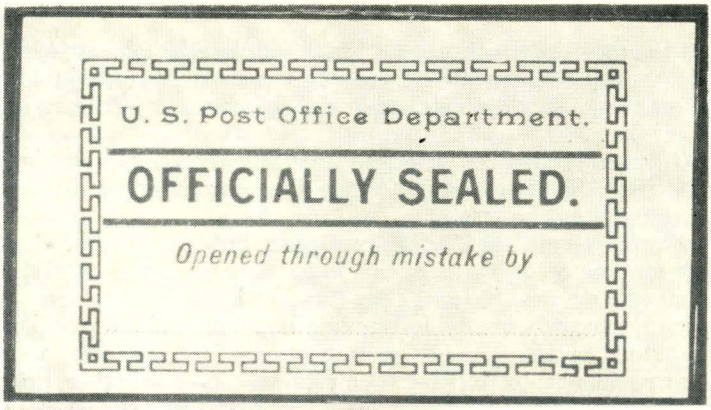


Figure 40. OX28 seal.



Figure 41. Tete-beche block of OX32.

But why should bogus or counterfeited typset seals have been produced? One might recall that at one time this type of postal paper was in greater demand than it is today. And with a market, there always seems to have been at least one obliging faker who would privately produce an item for which an unsuspecting client was willing to pay money.

Because the originals were so primitively hand set, an enterprising person could use almost any readily available printing equipment and copy them from standard type fonts, or go to a local shop and have them printed.

Periphery

Scott's catalogue stops its listings with the typeset seals, but Mr. Gottlieb added other related items to his collection, calling them "The Periphery of Seals." Among them are smaller imperforate, rouletted or perforated rectangle used to indicate that a letter was to be returned to the postoffice and/or the sender.

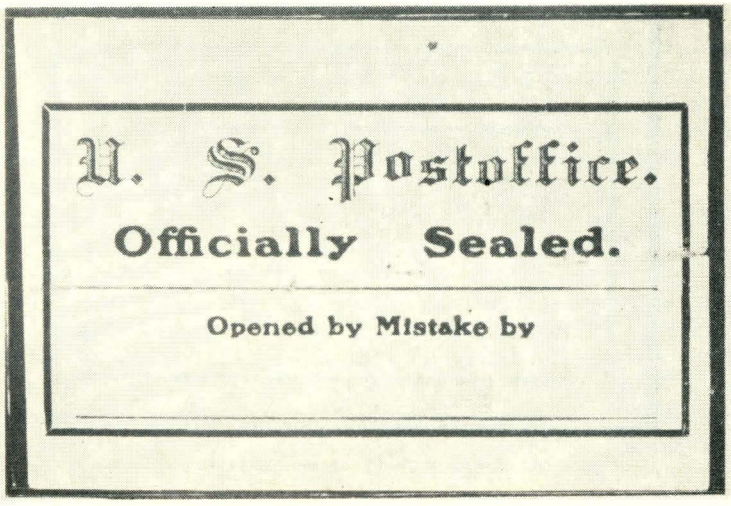


Figure 42. OX38.

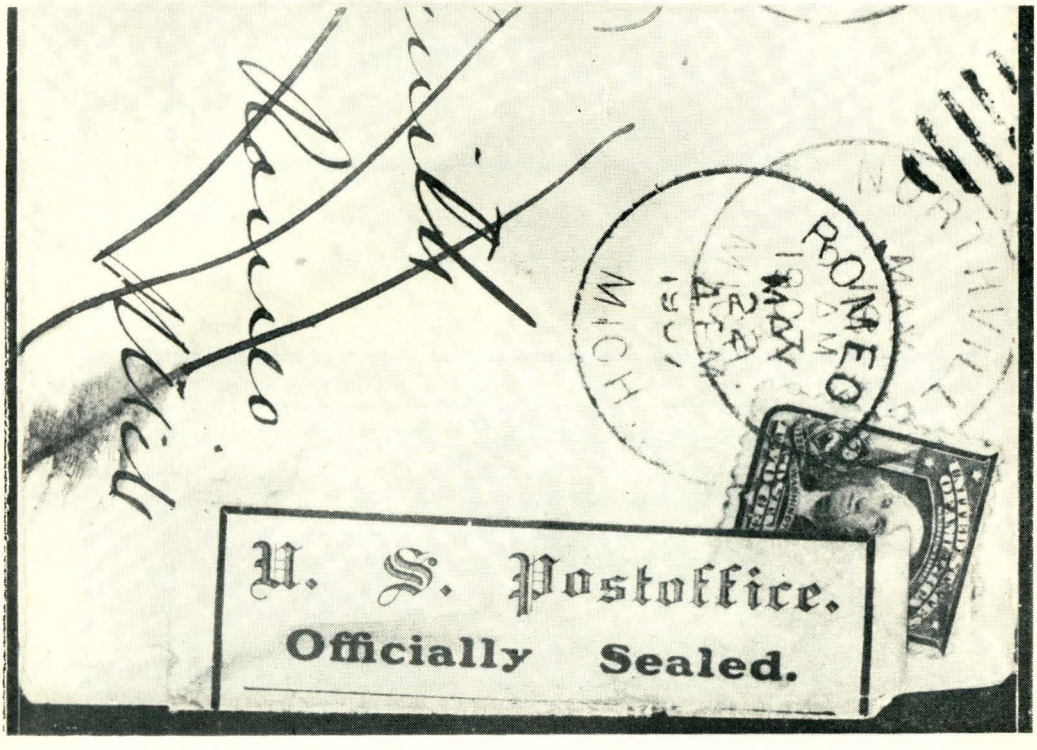


Figure 43. OX38 used on cover.

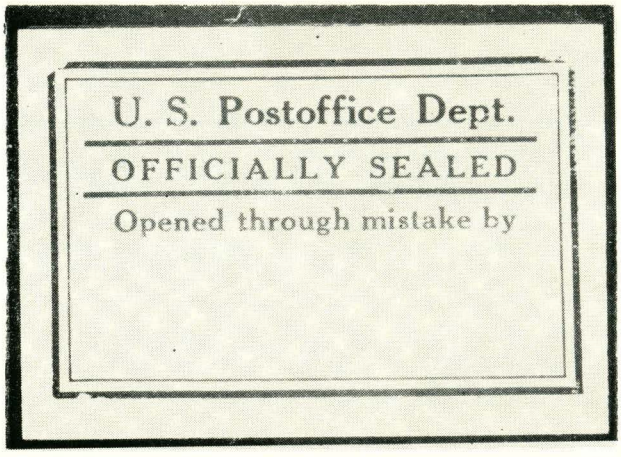


Figure 44. OX35 showing broken outer frame lines.

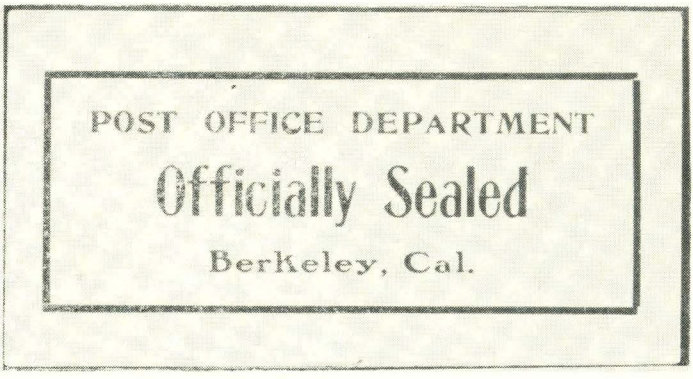


Figure 45. OX45 used in Berkeley, Cal.



Figure 46. Unlisted black on magenta seal used in Berwick, Pa.

U. S. Postage Stamp Agency

During the years that private security printers produced our postage stamps, stocks of them were sent in bulk from New York to Washington, where they were examined by the staff of the U.S. Postage Stamp Agency, a section under the supervision of the Third Assistant Postmaster General. This office made up packages with stamps to fill postmasters' requisitions, either directly to the main postoffice of the large cities, or to individual postmasters of towns.

The packages, after inspection and confirmation were wrapped, then sealed with an adhesive label or seal. We have no record of when this practice started, but the first dated one in the Gottlieb collection is from 1880. This consists of buff paper imprinted with a lathework pattern, in buff-rose, across whose top is, "U.S. Postage Stamp Agency." This is overprinted, in black, "POSTMASTERS RECEIVING THIS PACKAGE (in a wavy ribbon at top)—will please—NOTE ITS CONDITION. If showing signs of having been tampered with, report the same and return this package to 3d Asst. P.M. General, at Washington, D.C. This package should be opened at the end." A facsimile signature of A. D. Hazen, 3d Asst. P.M.G. is at the bottom. It measures 102 x 52mm, not including the blank margins.

Another one, but with the lathework in a bright rose and same text, printed in carmine, also exists, but specimens were not found on wrapper or with date so Mr. Gottlieb never was sure whether this preceded or followed the previously described one.

Some time later, an enlarged version of this seal came into existence. It also is one white paper with a pink lathework pattern, but without the inscription, "U.S. Postage Stamp Agency." The text also was modified to read, OPEN AT END—THE POSTMASTER TO WHOM THIS PACKAGE IS SENT MUST NOTE ITS CONDITION AND CAREFULLY COUNT ITS CONTENTS. If it shows signs of having been tampered with, the fact should be reported to the THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL. If the count shows a deficiency in the contents of the package, or an excess, the case must be treated as indicated in Sec. 120 P.L.&R. The Postmaster should not correspond with the Stamp Agent, but with the Third Assistant Postmaster General. See also Sec. 1088 as to misdirected packages." The signature is in the form of bold Roman caps: "KERR CRAIGE, Third Assistant Postmaster General.

This seal and at least four others of same size and color, but with modified texts or type faces, are known to have been used from 1889 through 1900, since dated covers with them properly affixed are in the Gottlieb collection.

This leads to a question. Until now, we have understood that when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing took over stamp production work from the American Bank Note Company it dispatched supplies of stamps to postoffices around the country, at the direction of the Post Office Department.

Could it be that this information is incorrect, and that stocks were sent to the P.O.D. and distributed from there, as these seals suggest?

Or, were some stocks—the large ones—sent to postoffices in large cities by the BE&P, and smaller supplies sent by the P.O.D.? The latter would seem more than likely for one good reason: in the Banknote days, the Hazen and Craige seals are found on portions of wrappers which must have contained 100 or more sheets; the 1894-1900 ones are only on large manila envelopes that could hold 10 to 25 sheets, folded into at least three parts. These envelopes (which are imprinted, "REGISTERED" in large bold face, red lettering) measure 11 x 5¼ inches. None are known on manila wrappings.



Figure 47. Philippines seal used during U. S. Administration closely resembles those used by the U.S.P.O.D.

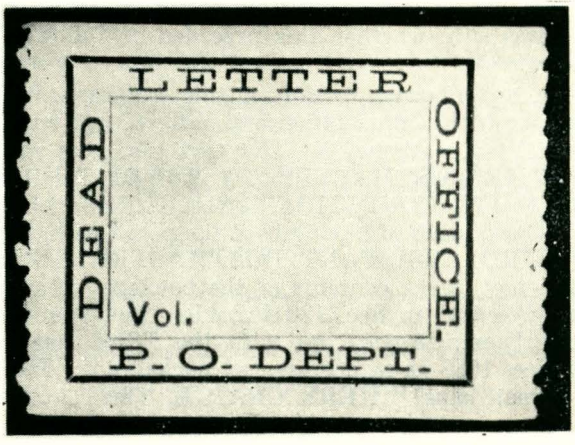


Figure 48. Dead Letter Office seal.

There is one yellow-paper specimen, imperforate and inscribed, in black ink, "Letter returned/by Carrier because the/addressee could not be found." Below a small rule, it continues, "If the address is correct, or there is any other reason why the letter could not have been properly delivered, please send the envelope to the Postmaster, with a statement of the facts, that an investigation can be made." The frame within which all this is contained, measures 29 x 19mm.

The Gottlieb collection also contains two perforated specimens—one on pinkish paper, the other on yellow. The inscription reads, "Letter returned to/the office by Carrier."

A nine-millimeter rule separates this from the remainder, "If the address on this letter is correct, or there is any other reason why the carrier should have delivered it, please send the envelope, with a statement of the facts, to the Postmaster, that he may inquire why it was not properly delivered." All this is inclosed in a frame measuring 30 x 20½mm; with the vertical frame lines running the whole length of the margins.

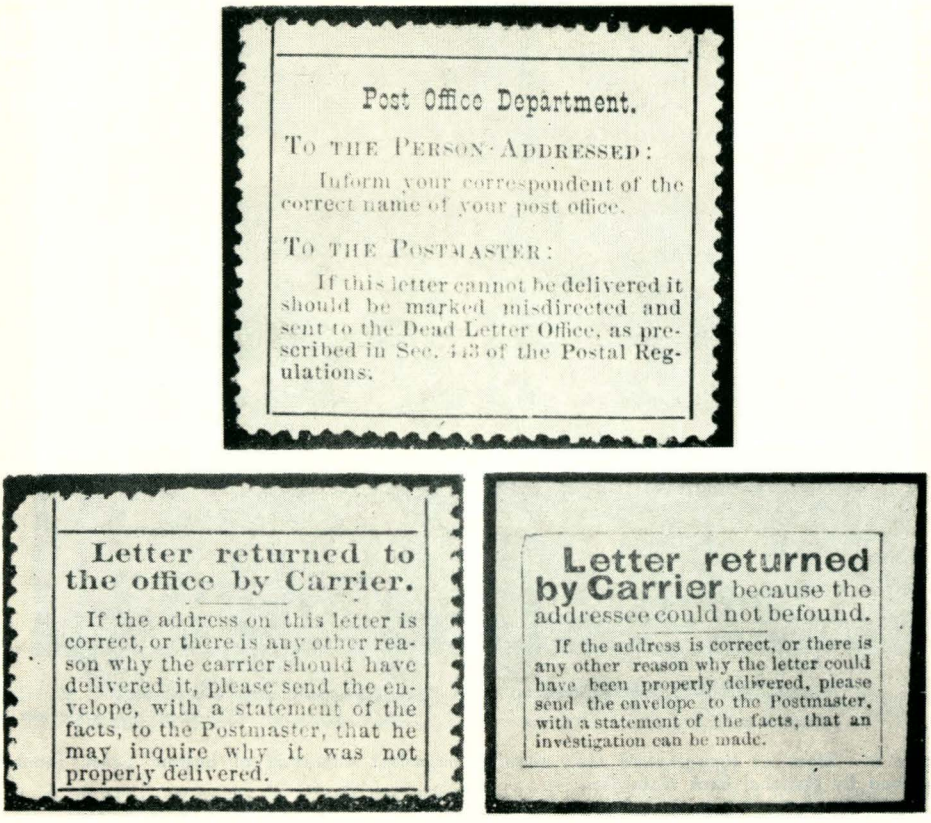


Figure 49. a.b. c. Peripheral seals.

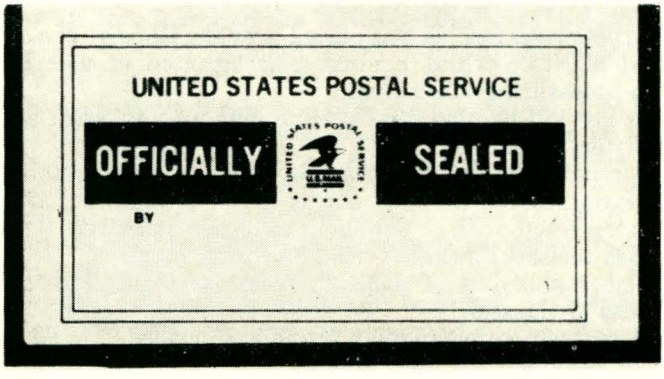


Figure 50. Latest of the Post Office seals, introduced when Post Office Department changed to Postal Service.

Then there is another, printed in black on pale turquoise, and perforated, which reads: "Post Office Department. To the Person Addressed:" and below which is, "Inform your correspondent of the correct name of your post office. To the Postmaster: If this letter cannot be delivered it should be marked misdirected and sent to the Dead Letter Office, as prescribed in Sec. 443 of the Postal Regulations." The frame in which the text is inclosed measures 33 x 28½mm, with the laterial lines running to the edge of the seal top and bottom.

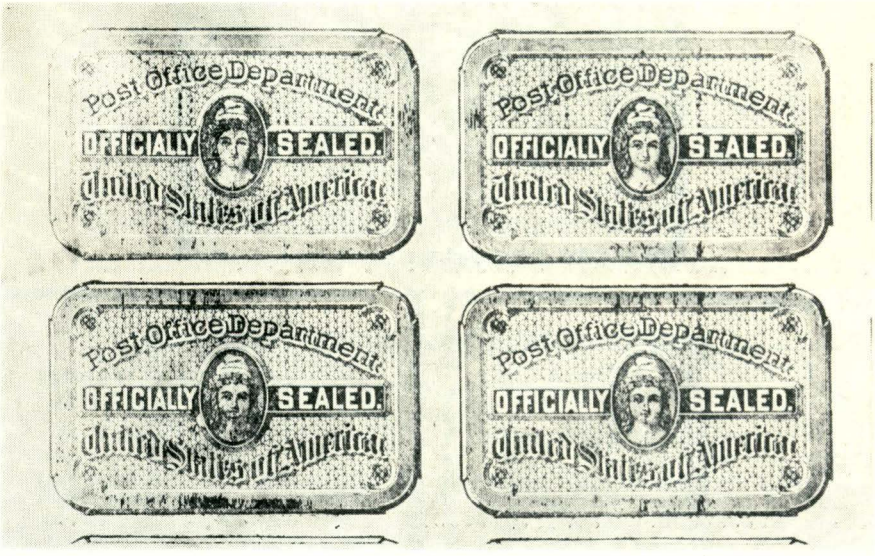


Figure 51. Block of typographed seals showing imperfect alteration of bottom panel, formerly inscribed by National Bank Note Co.

Also included in the Gottlieb "Periphery" material are seals printed and used for the closure of packets of stamps sent to postmasters as they are issued. There are the following:

1. A blue, imperforate seal imprinted with a double lined circular frame containing, "Treasury Department Bureau of Engraving and Printing," 50mm square.

2. An instruction seal which was pasted over the flaps of packages containing stamps, printed black on white, against a background of pale buff lathework, imperforate and measuring 130 x 78mm.

3. Same as last but printed red on white without lathework background, and with slightly different text.

4. A seal prepared by the American Bank Note Company for the delivery of the Overrun Nations stamps. This one is green lathework pattern measuring 142 x 82mm overprinted with a double-lined circle inscribed "American Bank Note Co., "which incloses an eagle's head and three stars.

At lot number and date of dispatch from the plant were handstamped in violet at the sides of the seal.

5. A plain seal whose rectangular frame is inscribed, "Dead/Letter/Office/ P.O. Dept.," in carmine. In the lower left corner of the central open space is "Vol." We have no further information about this one's purpose or use, but the blank center suggests that a postmark was intended for handstamping there. Top and bottom of this 40 x 31mm seal are imperforate, the sides rouletted.

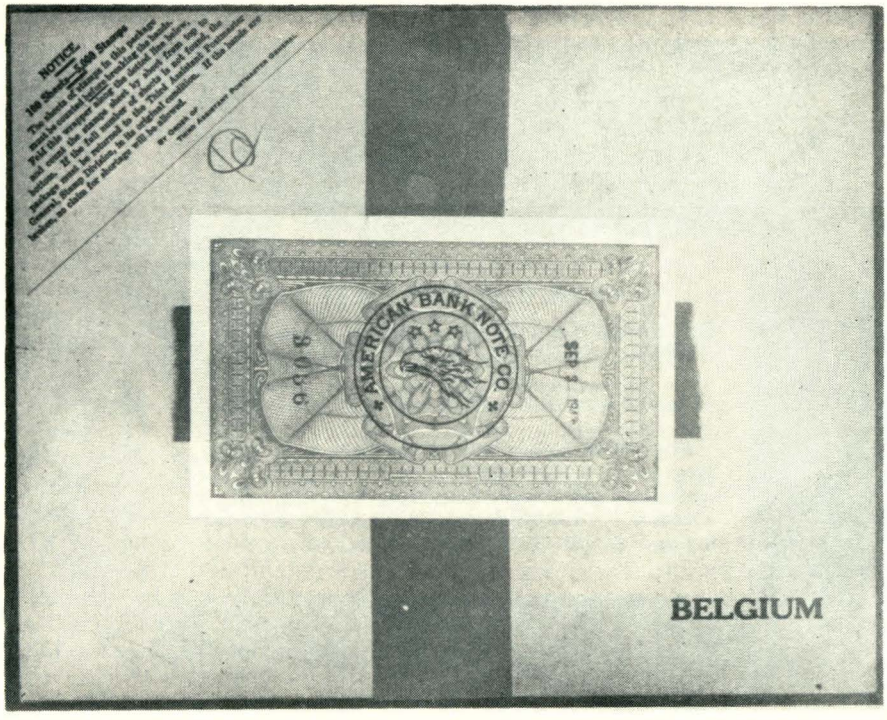


Figure 52. Package seal used to seal packages of Overrun Nations stamps (Belgium, in this case) by the American Bank Note Company.

6. A seal, printed in black on pinkish, and inscribed, "This letter was held at the OFFICE OF MAILING as 'short paid' and forwarded afterwards, upon receipt from the addressee of stamp to cover deficiency." The frame inclosing the text measures 40 x 22mm.

7. A seal, also printed black on pinkish with the text, "After a letter has been sent to its destination, as directed, and returned to writer, it cannot be re-directed and again sent in the mail without additional postage."

This seal has no frame around the text so we can give dimensions only from edge to edge of seal: 79 x 42. The one in the collection is perforated 12 top and right, straight-edged at left and bottom.

8. A seal imprinted in black on white and inscribed, "POST OFFICE, MILWAUKEE, WIS. This package is subject to letter rates of postage because _____ It is returned presuming that you prefer to supply the deficiency in postage, or make the changes necessary to pass it at a lower rate, rather than have the addressee pay the amount due. GEO. H. PAUL, Post-master." This measures 81 x 23mm and is perforated at top, right and bottom; straight-edged at left.

9. A seal, printed in black on white and inscribed, "(NEW YORK POST OFFICE, 4150 ED. 3-50,000) This name is repeated twice or oftener in Directory, with different address in each case, and for that reason the letter could not be delivered. If remailed, additional prepayment will be required and another envelope should be used for its inclosure. HENRY G. PEARSON, Postmaster. N.Y.P.O. Print."

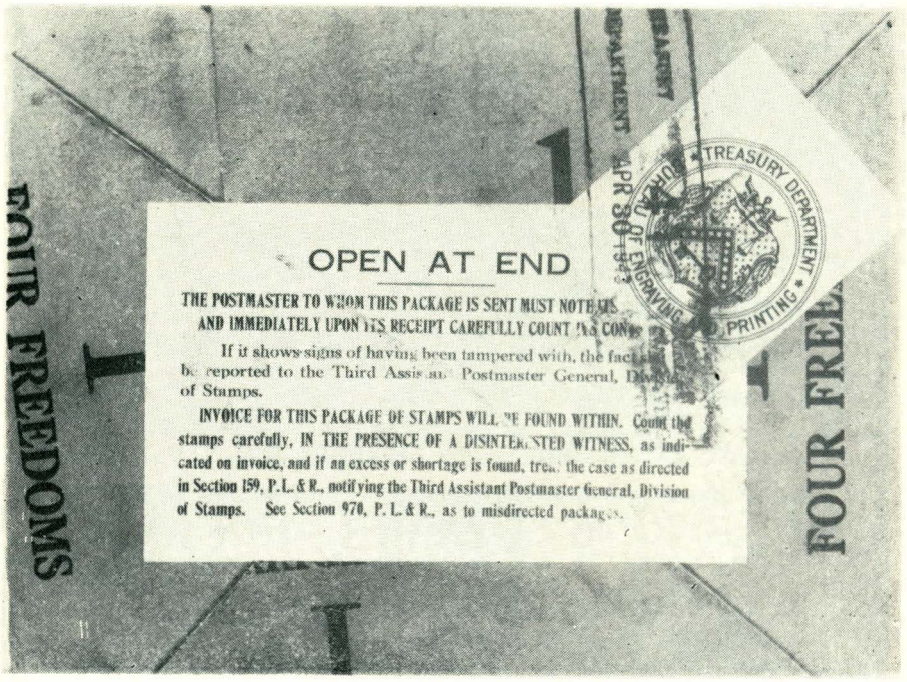


Figure 53. Label and seal used by Bureau of Engraving and Printing to seal packages of stamps dispatched to postmasters, along with the "official seal" of the BEP.

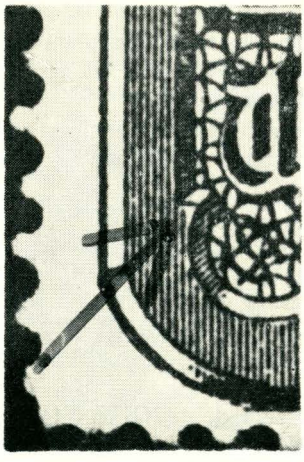


Figure 54. Enlargement of lower left corner showing complete line which identifies lithographed seals.

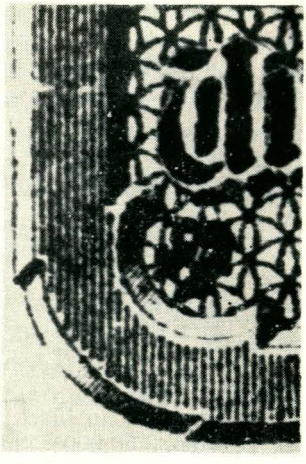


Figure 55. Same corner showing broken line. which identifies typographed seals.

This seal is affixed to a letter mailed in Providence, R.I., and addressed simply, "Mr. John G. Barker, New York, N.Y.,, it is obliterated with a violet handstamp showing a finger pointing towards the seal. Imperforate, it measures 58 x 28mm.

10. A two-part seal, printe din black on buff (unless the latter tint was due to deterioration of white paper over the years,) and inscribed: at left, reading vertically, "*Error in postage...Returned to sender.* From New York P.O." To the right of this and separated by two ruled lines, is, "TEAR THIS OFF BEFORE REMAILING THE LETTER. The postage to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand and Tasmania, is TWELVE CENTS per half ounce, full prepayment compulsory. Stamps to the amount necessary to supply the deficiency should be affixed to this letter before the same is remailed. HENRY G. PEARSON, Postmaster." In addition this seal also has a form number, "(N.Y. 3138. Ed. 5,000. N.Y.P.O. Print."

11. One of the more interesting items in the Gottlieb collection, even though it is not of domestic origin is affixed to an envelope mailed in Alexandria, Egypt, and addressed to the U.S.

It is a white seal imprinted in black, "Der Seepost Hamburg-New York in beschadigte, Zustande zugegangen, daher amtlich verschlossen." (This envelope found in damaged condition by the Hamburg-New York Seapost, hence officially sealed.) In addition to this German seal, there are two United States seals pasted across the opened side of the envelope.

In the Luff collection we find another type of peripheral seal. It obviously was used to seal packets of letters dispatched in New York and destined for transportation to Germany. It is imprinted, "4151)/OFFICIALLY SEALED/ NEW YORK-BREMEN/No.————" It measures 88 x 54mm, and issued in panes of eight subjects. The "4151" most likely is a form number such as is included in many government and business printed matter.

In addition, Mr. Gottlieb collected the Post Office Seals produced by Washington for use in the Philippines and the Canal Zone and has a score of varieties. All seem to be modified copies of those contemporarily used in the United States. He also collected and studied similar seals issued and used by other foreign countries, but they have no relation to U.S. issues and need not be described in this article.

The End

BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

Due to the great demand for back numbers of this magazine, many old issues are no longer available. A list of those on hand appears on Page 128 in this issue.

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

The Clubhouse

The Meeting of January 2nd, 1974

"SHOW AND TELL"

This was a first for the Club! Members were invited to bring with them, and speak up on "a favorite page from their collections."

Despite the proximity to the Christmas and New Year festivities, fourteen members came equipped with one page and four minutes of erudition to widen the philatelic knowledge of the guests (who included thirteen competitors!).

The range of themes was extraordinary, running from a proof of a Canada Revenue stamp to unofficial "Shanghai" overprints with little barred in between.

In confirmation of the democratic (with a small "d") principles of the Collectors Club (with capital C's) all members present were invited (and accepted the invitation) to vote on a 3, 2, 1 point basis for first, second and third.

The results were: First prize, Herbert J. Bloch; second prize, Dr. R. Rosende; third prize, Harold N. Zalstein.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

January 9, 1974

To the Voting Membership:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of The Collectors Club will be held at the Club House, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. on Wednesday January 9th, 1974 at eight o'clock in the evening for the purpose of:

Receiving and acting upon reports of Officers, Election of Governors for the Class of 1976; such other business as may be brought before an Annual Meeting; and action on the following amendments to the By-Laws, duly recommended by the Board of Governors:

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Pursuant to Article 16 of the By-Laws it is proposed to amend Article 5 of the By-Laws as follows:

Article V. Annual Dues

Section 1. The annual dues for RESIDENT MEMBERS shall be fifty (50) dollars.

Section 2. (a) The annual dues for NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS — United States, Canada and Mexico shall be fifteen (15) dollars.

(b) The annual dues for NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS — others, shall be fifteen (15) dollars.

Dr. Norman S. Hubbard
Secretary

Report of The Secretary

The Secretary's report includes two major elements, the Necrology and data on the membership.

It is my unpleasant resposibility to report the loss through death of 31 valued members during 1973. After the reading of their names I request that all present rise for a moment of silence in memory of those who are no longer with us.

Necrology

Resident
Bernard T. Aronstein
Sam L. Bayer
Winthrop S. Boggs
Max Gold
Morris Morton
John W. Nicklin
Richard S. Ruppel

Non-Resident
Ernest J. Affeldt
Harvey S. Bissell
Irwin Bloomfield
M. C. Dillingham
Herbert Dube
Albert Gold
H. Hubert Judd
John B. Kaiser
Fred L. Mandel, Jr.
James E. McCann
Laurence G. Mills
A. J. Mitula, Jr.
Lt. Col. C. H. C. Napier
Hans Nothman
Henry H. Null III
Capt. B. J. Rogers-Tillstone
Robert H. Schoen
Richard J. Van Deusen
Dr. A. H. Warth
Clarence A. Westhaver
Edward L. Willard
Dr. Paul Wolf
Robert W. Yant

During 1973, the total membership of the Club decreased from 1205 to 1175. 47 new members were admitted and 6 were reinstated but 83 members were lost by death, resignation, or non payment of dues.

The distribution of the 1175 members of December 31, 1973 was the following:

Resident members	278
Non-Resident members	743
Overseas	145
	1166
Honorary & Life	9
	1175

Finally, I am able to report that the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Governors are in order and up-to-date, all correspondence has been attended to, and there is no unfinished business of consequence in the Secretary's folder.

In closing my second report as your Secretary I would like to reiterate my statements appearing in my first report regarding Mrs. Anne W. Pritchett. Her dedication to the welfare of The Collectors Club and willingness to shoulder the burdens well beyond the call of duty contributes immeasurably to the over all operations of the Club. We are extremely fortunate to have her services and owe her a debt of gratitude. She is the central part of the functioning of The Collectors Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman S. Hubbard

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer herewith submits the report of the cash position of the Collectors Club Inc. at December 31, 1973.

Once again the operating expenses of the Collectors Club were in excess of income, and the Capital Fund was called upon for a part of their income so that expenses could be paid. This follows the practice of the past several years.

The audited report of the Club's financial position and operations will be published in a forthcoming issue of The Collectors Club Philatelist.

Previous Treasurers have called our income deficiency to the attention of the membership at the annual meetings. It is apparent that these deficiencies will continue in the future as long as costs continue to escalate. It seems to be a foregone conclusion that unless additional income is forthcoming, we will be forced to continue using a part of the income from the Capital Fund to subsidize normal operating costs.

During the past year, the expenses of the Club have been examined for possible savings or cut backs. However, this examination revealed that we are operating at a minimum cost which could only be reduced by impairing the Club's normal functions. It is planned to continue our examination of costs and to seek ways of obtaining increased revenues. A preliminary examination indicates that our deficit for the past year will approximate $14,000.00. It appears that future defiicits will continue to be met by calls upon the income of the Capital Fund.

Albert H. Higgins, Treasurer
Respectfully submitted,

Annual Report of the House Committee for 1973

Two major repairs and several minor ones were necessary to bring the clubhouse into shape this past year. In June the oil burner tank was drained, cleaned and a sludge accumulation of many years was removed. This has resulted in better heating and a more economical use of fuel.

During the summer the front mansard roof of the building was completely resurfaced and new flashings were installed. Strainers and screens were also installed for the gutters and outlet boxes.

Also during that period, the front lobby chairs and those in the library and the lounge were sent out for rewebbing. The drapes in the meeting room and the lounge and the rugs were cleaned. Window locks were purchased for the library and meeting room windows and for those on the 3rd and 4th floors and are in the process of being installed.

There were, in addition, the usual minor repairs and housekeeping chores that occur in the running of any building. All in all, however, the house is in good repair.

It is pleasant to note that the building has become a major point of interest for students of architecture and is a regular stop for antiquarians on walking tours and for those interested in preserving New York's link to the past. Perhaps one day, our club will become a New York landmark.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to Mrs. Pritchett for her part in performing the endless clubhouse chores.

Respectfully submitted,
Ira Zweifach
Chairman

Report of The Awards Committee

Collectors Club Philatelist Medal

This coveted medal for 1973 was awarded to J. R. W. PURVES of Melbourne, Australia for

"HAITI. THE LIBERTY HEADS"

A Re-assessment of the Technical Background:

New Facts and Findings.

This is an excellent research article written by one of the greatest philatelists of all times. In 5 installments, covering no less than 75 pages, it is the last word on a difficult subject.

The Medal for the Best program of 1973

The Program Committee provided us with many extremely fine and interesting showings which made a selection rather difficult. It was finally decided to award this year two medals of equal merit. The "Speakers of the Year" are

JOHN GARTNER, Melbourne Australia for his presentation of "Fiji",

and JOHN LEVETT, Woking, Surrey, England for
"Highways and Byways of French Philately"

Honorary Mentions go to
JOSEPH E. FOLEY, Livingston, N. J. for
"Irish Philately"

and DR. NORMAN S. HUBBARD, OYSTER BAY, N. Y. for
"Salvador".

The Committee wants to point out that among the showings, which were not specifically honored, there were some additional fine presentations.

All the above awards were made unanimously by the two Subcommittees.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert J. Bloch, Chairman

Report of the Publications Committee

This report will combine the report of the Editor of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* with that of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund.

The usual six issues of the *Philatelist* appeared during the year 1973, more or less on time according to schedule. The revenue from the advertising had fallen off somewhat in the middle of the year but the inside front cover was finally taken in the November issue by a new advertiser.

The magazine has continued to improve this year with major articles by philatelists of international stature. We are planning to start a series on United States Postal History for the beginning of the Bi-centennial Period.

As the editor has received no critical comment from the membership directly, he assumes that the offerings have met with the approval of the membership.

The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Committee is working on some further new books which are expected to be published in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
H. D. S. Haverbeck,
Chairman and Editor

Report of The Library Committee

One of the major activities in the Library during 1973 was the preparation of the catalogue of its holdings which is to be published in the Spring of 1974 by the firm of G. K. Hall & Co. This catalogue will serve not only as a working research tool, but also as a monument to the Collectors Club's seventy-eight years of gathering together the literature of philately.

Over these years many men and organizations have contributed toward making the Library as fine as as it is. J. Brace Chittenden and "*The Collectors Club Philatelist*" might be mentioned as two of the more potent contributors. Another source of books and of information on books is the dozen or so specialist societies that regularly meet here. During 1973 there was hardly one such group that did not contribute in some way in our Library.

It is always an agreeable duty to thank our Librarian, Mrs. Josephine Eldridge, for her part in making the Library a pleasant and useful place in which to pursue our hobby.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest C. Wilkens

1973 Study Group Report

Total attendance at the various Study Groups meetings was slightly ahead of 1972. The loss in total yearly attendance by more than one half of the Study Groups was offset by increased attendance at The British Empire Study Circle, The Essay Proof Society and The Philatelic Foundation Workshop.

The major increase which enabled attendance to surpass last years' was the formation of the Italia Philatelic Society in October. With the projected attendance from the Italia group and the resumption of the regular meetings of the American Airmail Society — New York Chapter (Formerly Aero Philatelists), the 1974 Study Group attendance should show a 10% increase.

The American Society of Polar Philatelists has requested permission to use the club facilities every two months. Organizations new to the Collectors Club for annual meetings were the U. S. chapters of The Oriental Society of London and the International Association of Philatelic Journalists. The China Philatelic Society also held its annual meeting at the club house in October.

It would be helpful if members could suggest other philatelic organizations that could benefit from regular or annual use of the club house.

John Dowd

Report of Publicity Committee

The work of the Publicity Committee during the last dozen months was turned out an appropriate number of press releases to the periodicals on our list. In addition to news of the club's normal activities, the releases covered a variety of special accomplishments, including the publication of books by the Steinway Fund.

Credit for the physical work of getting this news out must go to Ira Zweifach, Theo. Van Dam and Mrs. Pritchett since your chairman was handicapped during 1973: two hospitalizations for surgery, a broken arm by accident, plus extended trips to Europe and India.

We hope that during 1974 we will be able to expand the distribution of releases that will honestly reflect the accomplishments and programs of the club as the country's foremost philatelic society and leader in projects that promote stamp collecting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest A. Kehr, Chairman

Report of the President for the Year 1973

This third report of my stewardship as President of the Collectors Club will not report the excitement and novelty of an Anphilex Exhibition which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of our organization in 1971. It will not report the happy news that during 1972 our tax exempt status as an educational organization was reaffirmed by both the Internal Revenue Service and the New York State Tax authorities, as well as our continuing exemption from New York City real estate taxes after protracted review. It will however record another year of progress in the affairs of the Collectors Club as well as to re-emphasize some of the problems that have been discussed in each of my previous reports.

First let us deal with our continuing problem — financial viability. As you have already heard from the previous reports, we have continued to operate at a significant deficit, which takes practically all of the income from the invested Capital Fund. This has prevented us from adding the earnings to the capital in our effort to accumulate a total Fund of $250,000.

As I promised in my report last year, a special Ad Hoc Finance Committee was appointed to thoroughly review club finances. In a series of meetings, a wide ranging variety of possible solutions were reviewed by this committee. As a result of these deliberations a number of positive actions have been taken. Closer monitoring and control of all expenditures by the Treasurer will be undertaken to reduce expenses. Faced with a probable 20% increase in paper cost and a 10% increase in labor cost in 1974 for the Collectors Club Philatelist, it was agreed that advertising rates for the CCP would be increased 50% effective the first of this year. This is the first increase in many years and should help offset publishing costs that have been increasing steadily for the past 5 to 10 years!

Because of increased postal rates the Steinway Fund, which publishes the various Collectors Club Handbooks and is self-supporting but which relies on the Club for mailing services, will increase its postage payment to the club by $500.00 per year.

Although these supplements to income, and reductions in expenses, will help to close our financial gap, other actions are also necessary. Reduction in the number of issues per year of the CCP was considered as an expense reduction item, but was rejected, for the present, as undesirable. Instead the Board is recommending to the membership an increase in dues, on which action will be taken shortly at this meeting. The proposed increases of $15.00 and $5.00 for resident and non-resident members, respectively, should generate about $7,000.00 per year of additional revenue.

Even with these various remedial financial actions, the gap between income and outgo will not be completely closed. We must continue to rely to some extent on the earnings from our Capital Fund to close the gap. Once again this points up the necessity of increasing this Fund from its present level to our goal of $250,000. The Anphilex Committee, which rendered its final financial report in 1973, made a valued contribution to the Fund. In returning some 40% of the Guarantors contributions to them, they suggested that the Guarantors endorse the checks over to the Capital Fund. Happily, many did just this, to the benefit of the Fund. We hope that other members will continue their support of the Fund by special or yearly contributions which may be in the form of cash, philatelic property or securities.

Lest this report begin to sound like that of the Treasurer, let us turn now to some of the accomplishments of your club during 1973. We have continued our efforts to extend the educational and community service facets of our program. The library has continued to expand its services to members and the general public. The Hall catalog of the library holdings has been completed and is now available to other libraries.

The course on stamp collecting offered by the Philatelic Foundation and conducted by a Collectors Club Board member, was again held in our facilities. We have continued to play "host to philately" with our Study Group program and a wide variety of other meetings by specialty groups and other philatelic organizations in our clubhouse. A new Italian study group has been added to our Study Group roster. Continued participation with lounges at the ASDA and Interpex shows has kept the Collectors Club in the eye of the American collector. Your president has also carried the club flag to a variety of philatelic functions in the East, serving as Master of Ceremonies at the Interpex show and as a Judge at the First National Junior Exhibit in Stroudsburg, Pa., the annual SCOPEX show of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society in State College, Pa., the annual ROPEX show of Rochester Philatelic Association in Rochester, N. Y. and at the 25th Anniversary CENJEX of the Federated Stamp Clubs of

Central New Jersey in Eatontown, N. J. Other Board members have served as Judges at these same and other shows throughout the United States and at International shows in Munich and New Delhi, India, to mention only a few. I have continued to represent the Collectors Club on the Philatelic Advisory Panel of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission at its quarterly meetings in Washington, and represented the Club at a special function at the Metroplitan Museum of Art during a Puerto Rican exhibition and lecture series.

The other activities of the club followed the conventional pattern. The Annual Awards Dinner, at which the Lichtenstein Award was presented to our own Governor, Philip Silver, had its venue for the first time at the Tower Suite. This proved to be a fortuitous location and one to which we will return again this year. Another year of excellent programs was enjoyed by a better-than-average attendance, and the outlined 1974 program appears to offer an exceptionally well-balanced selection of outstanding speakers.

Unlike last year, when there was an exceptionally large turnover in Board members, this year has been relatively stable and the Board composition for 1974 is unlikely to be changed from that of 1973. A joint dinner meeting of your Board members with the Trustees of the Philatelic Foundation was held and areas of potential cooperation for promoting the general welfare of philately were considered. This activity will continue in 1974 under the auspices of a joint study committee of Collectors Club and Philatelic Foundation board members.

Blessed with a fine Board of Governors and capable officers and resident staff in support, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving this third year as your President. The only significant problem facing the club as we head into our 78th year is the perennial one of finances. With the corrective actions already taken, supplemented by your approval of the increased dues and active support of the Capital Fund solicitation and a personal effort by each of you to solicit new members so that we may reach our membership quotas, we shall solve even this financial problem. I believe we can point to 1973 as a year of continuing accomplishment by the Collectors Club on behalf of its membership, philately in general, and the general public. We can look forward to 1974 with every expectation that it will be another year of accomplishment.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Burton Sellers,
President

Report of the Nominating Committee December 5, 1973

The members of the Nominating Committee have met and have selected the present incumbent Board members to serve for the ensuing three year term on the Board of Governors of The Collectors Club —

Herbert J. Bloch
John R. Boker, Jr.
Albert H. Higgins
Louis Grumin
Bernard D. Harmer
Ernest C. Wilkens

Respectfully submitted,
Abbot Lutz
Howard B. Lee
Chairman

Book Reviews

Documentatie Postinrichtingen 1850-1906 (Documentation of Postal Installations 1850-1906). Compiled by Frans Blom. Published by "Nederlandse Bond van Verenigingen van Postzegelverzamelaars" (Netherlands Association of Stamp Collectors Societies). Limited edition of 200 copies, 819 (6½x8½) pages plus detailed maps of the Netherlands, looseleaf in two study post binders. Price 40 Guilders, from Eddy C. de Poorter, Director, Parkdreef 111, Budel-Dorplein, the Netherlands.

This is a once in a lifetime work. Fifteen years of persistent labor was spent on it, often from early morning until late at night, and with accuracy that is truly remarkable. All the Postal Installations in the Netherlands functioning during the stated period are listed. All the postal markings supplied these offices are described, with the date of delivery to these offices when recorded in official documents. Further a listing of the connections between the postal installations existing on December 31, 1880. We believe that this work can truly be called unique in the field of postal history.

At first glance the work seems to consist of bundles of different colored paper containing a great number of town names and an even greater number of abbreviations. After reading the introductions and the directions on the back of the title pages for each section (each a different color), once the abbreviations have been mastered, the whole thing falls into place and it becomes evident that this is an ingenious system of providing ready reference to the most minute details.

The book begins with some 40 white pages containing descriptions of the various official and semi official sources used in its compilation, followed by descriptions and the functions of Postoffices, Sub- and Branch postoffices, postal stations, delivery stations, exchange places, letter boxes, etc. followed by explanations of the Telegraph and Telephone offices, the Postal Savings Bank and the registers maintained by all these offices. The official abbreviations are listed of the names of all postal installations and of all the postal forms used during the period.

The second section, printed on green paper, contains the 400 pages of a master listing of all Postoffices, Sub-postoffices and Rural postoffices that existed between 1850 and 1906. The directions for use of the lists are clearly described on the back of the title page. The first column mentions the name of the installation, the date it was established and the type of installation and the dates of changes in status, if any. The second column shows the abbreviated Provinces of each installation, the third column indicates the Postal Installations under whose supervision the listed offices had existed at various dates, while the fourth column shows the number of one of the 38 map sections in which the place can be found. The fifth column shows the connections with other towns, be it by train, steamboat, horse-pulled boat, coach, or just a carrier on foot. This completes the first volume.

The next section, this time on yellow paper, approaches the subject from the other end. It lists all the Main Postoffices with the Sub-postoffices and other installations under its jurisdiction, with the status, the beginning and ending dates of each, as well as the dates and locttions of any changes that took place from 1850 to 1906.

The fourth section, on blue paper, alphabetically lists all the postal installations that received postal marking devices such as: straight line, small round, large round, numeral, etc. and the date each one of these was distributed, plus

the number of instruments that were issued if more than one. (Amsterdam had 167 small round cancelling devices.)

Last, but not least, again on white paper, there are sectional maps of the Netherlands, 38 in all, showing the exact location of the postal installations, distinguishing between the Post-offices functioning as such prior to September 1, 1850, those inaugurated between September 1, 1850 and May 31, 1895 and those between June 1, 1895 and June 1, 1906 and, finally, all the Sub-postoffices that have been in existence between September 1, 1850 and June, 1906.

A truly magnificent work, a little difficult at first for the collector not familiar with Dutch, but with the help of a philatelic glossary of the language, the lists soon become easy to handle and a serious collector of postal history or the cancellations of the country should have no great difficulty in finding the information he is looking for. *(Johannes de Kruyf)*

Barid al-Sa'udiyyah wa al Hejaz wa Najd by M. Max Mayo. 158 pages, soft cover, liberally illustrated. Published by Mr. Mayo and available from him at One Bond Street, New York, N. Y. 10012. Price $17.50 in the U. S. and $20.00 outside the U. S., postpaid.

This new book with a way out title is the first authoritative work on Saudi Arabian philately since 1927. It represents a significant advancement in this obscure field, running the gamut from early Egyptian and Turkish postal operations in Arabia, through the issues of Hejaz and Nejd, right on up to Saudi Arabian material issued in 1973.

The "forerunner" Turkish and Egyptian period is lightly treated, comprising eight pages of cover and cancel illustrations interspersed with text. In the author's words, the area of Ottoman Arabia "is in dire need of more research." Once into the stamps of Nejd, Hejaz, etc. there is a wealth of detail which probably represents the sum total of knowledge, or close to it, on background, dates of issue, errors, color varieties, proofs, etc. The information is presented in catalog form using a puzzling numbering system due to lack of a comprehensive explanation of the system in any one place. The extensive listing of errors and varieties found in the 1921-1926 issues is truly impressive and, for the modern fan, there is a lot of new information on post-1960 adhesives.

One of the more ambitious aspects of the book is the author's attempt to price the material. Pricing is incomplete and, in an area where specific values are very difficult to determine, the data presented are best interpreted as a general rarity guide.

Two areas not covered are the detection of forgeries in the early overprinted issues and post-1917 postal history. Both subjects should be worthy of future publications.

Mr. Mayo's book represents a large step forward in a wide-open, obscure field. Needless to say, it is valuable for anyone interested in Arabian philately. *(R. W. Stuchell)*

The Dictionary of Stamps in Color, by James A. Mackay; Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, 1973, 300 pages, incl. 120 color plates, $19.95.

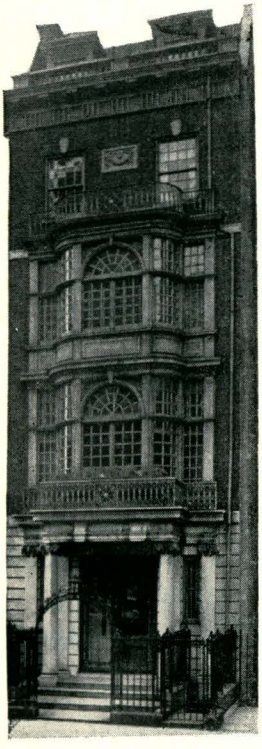
In Webster's *Third International Dictionary* is found the following definition of a dictionary: "a reference book listing terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with a discussion of their meanings and application." This "dictionary" definition is more descriptive than any brief comment I could make on Mackay's book. The book is lavishly produced in a

9 by 12 format and includes 120 pages of color photographs of stamps from various stamp issuing jurisdictions. The text accompanying the plates is divided by continent, and within each area, alphabetically. The photographed stamps are Mackay's vehicle for conveying bits of information about the stamp issuing authority, its history, uses of stamps, etc. This is in addition to an introductory survey of the history of philately. Also included are a world currency table, list of major stamp printers, and a translation of Cyrillic inscriptions.

The physicial appearance of the book puts it into the class of coffee table art books; nevertheless typographical errors are apparent despite the quality of the production. The almost 200 pages of narrative are obviously insufficient in length to make the book authoritative in all or any areas covered. The choice of stamps photographed will likely leave many a specialist wondering why Mackay selected what he did. Omissions of well known stamps will leave some feeling it is not representative. The editorial comments interspersed throughout the text about stamp designs, issuing policies, and history will please some and enrage others. Those who feel strongly about the condition of stamps may be dismayed at the condition of some of the stamps photographed. Of course, every specialist will be able to think of some interesting facts which could have been added to the narrative on his or her favorite country. The absence of any bibliography is regrettable in a book of this type.

Yet, despite the problematic areas noted, the book has a certain appeal which can only be sensed by sitting down and perusing its pages.

(Deborah Friedman)



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