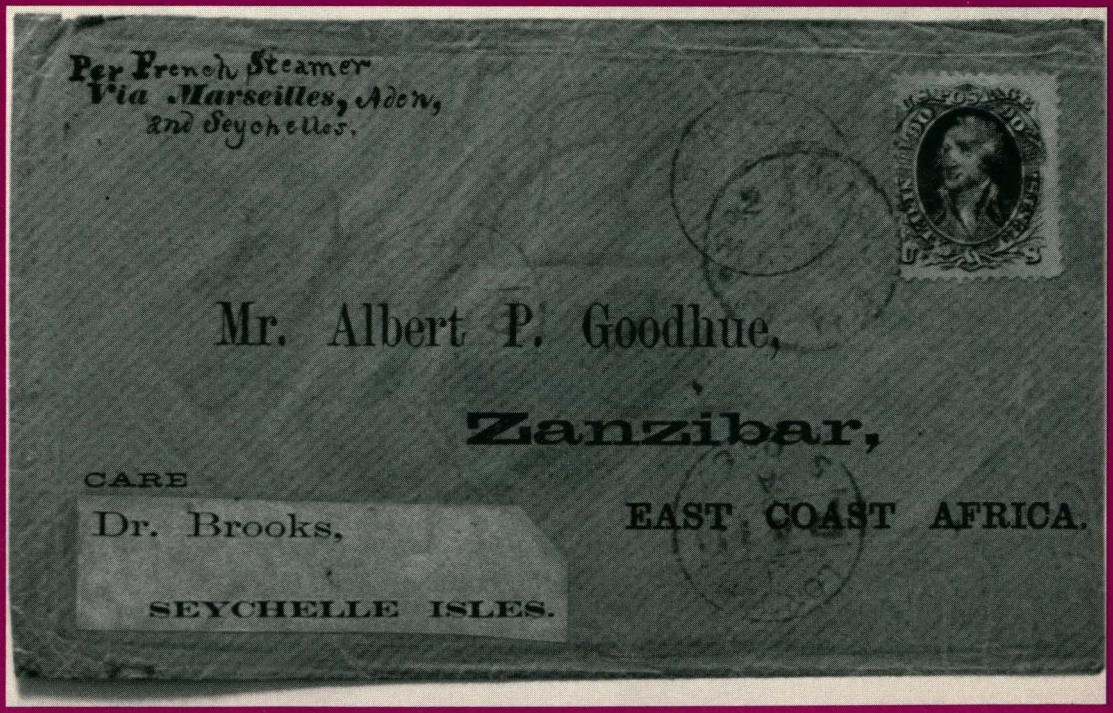
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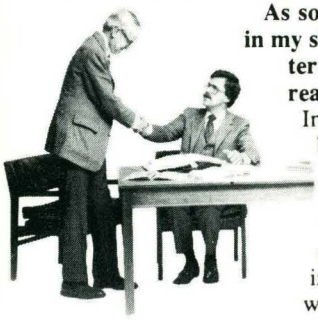
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Volume 62, Number 5 **September-October 1983**

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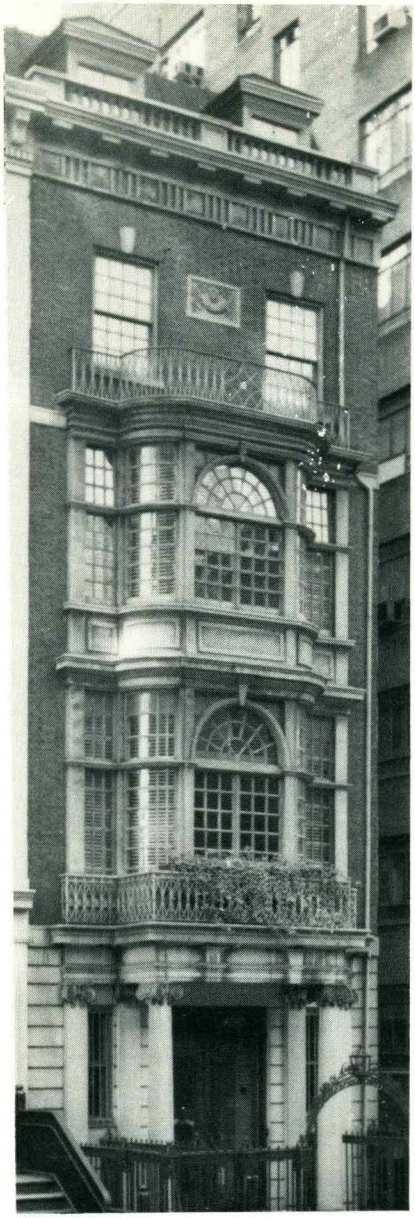
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A 90-Cent Goodhue Cover

Chalmers M. Yohn

Luis F. Emilio was an herbs-and-spices dealer who lived and had his bank account in Salem, Massachusetts. Emilio's business must have been a prosperous one—otherwise, why would he carry a self-addressed envelope of Albert P. Goodhue's to San Francisco?

There are at least three reasons why Emilio might have carried this envelope all the way across the United States: (1) to see whether he could get herbs and spices by way of San Francisco, (2) to use it in opening up a store in San Francisco, or (3) to try to send a letter from San Francisco to Zanzibar by way of the steamer *Great Republic* (Pacific Mail Steamship Company) on her first trip to China.

These three possibilities, however, are just educated guesses. Emilio's true reason for carrying the envelope to San Francisco is unclear—just another of the frequent mysteries that confront the student of United States postal history.

Before leaving San Francisco, Emilio wrote "Luis F. Emilio San Francisco Aug 29/67" on the back of the envelope, on the left-hand side. This was probably done for future reference. He then carried the cover back to Salem.

There are two possible routes, both by ship, for Emilio's return to Salem: (1) by way of Panama, or (2) by way of Nicaragua.

For the Panama route, Emilio would have had to leave San Francisco on August 31, 1867 aboard the Pacific Mail Steampship Company's *Sacramento* (Captain Caverly). The sailing date would ordinarily have been September 1, but since that fell on a Sunday, the sailing was moved to August 31 (see *The New York Times*, 31 August 1867). When the *Sacramento* reached Panama, its passengers and cargo were transported by train to Aspinwall (Colon), a distance of about fifty miles. Each passenger had to pay his own train fare, which was $25, or about 50 cents a mile (see p. 264 of Ernest A. Wiltsee's *Gold Rush Steamers*). From Aspinwall, the passengers and cargo sailed to New York on the *Arizona* (Captain Maury). The *Arizona* left Aspinwall on September 12, 1867, and arrived in New York the following September 21 (see *The New York Times* of 21-22 September 1867).

For the Nicaragua route, Emilio would have had to leave San Francisco on August 30, 1867, aboard the Opposition Line's *America* (Captain E. Wakeman; see *The New York Times*, 30 August

1867). On reaching San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, the *America*'s passengers and cargo crossed the twelve miles of land to Virgin Bay and were then transported by steamer across Lake Nicaragua to San Carlos (see pp. 50-68 of Wiltsee's *Gold Rush Steamers*). From San Carlos, they traveled the San Juan River by steamer to San Juan del Norte (Greytown). From there they sailed to New York aboard the *San Francisco* (Captain Howes), arriving on September 20 at 2 a.m. (see *The New York Times*, 20 September 1867).

It seems clear that Emilio left San Francisco either on August 30, 1867 aboard *America* or on the following day aboard *Sacramento*. An earlier ship would have been inconsistent with the San Francisco date that Emilio wrote on the back of the cover. A later ship would have failed to get the cover to the east coast in time for its bank marking and postmarks. Traveling from San Francisco to Salem overland, which required 26-30 days, would no doubt have taken too long a time to be the way that Emilio actually went.

The question is, then, which of the two water routes did Emilio take, the one via Panama or the one via Nicaragua?

It is the opinion of this author (the current owner of this cover) that Luis F. Emilio, a man of some means and standing, would not have spared money by traveling steerage (the lowest fare), given the inferior quality of steerage accommodations. Accordingly, this author checked the list of cabin passengers arriving in New York on September 21 aboard the *Arizona* (the Panama route). Emilio's name does not appear on that list (see *The New York Times*, 21-22 September 1867). There was no listing of steerage passengers. An attempt was made to check the cabin passengers arriving the previous day aboard the *San Francisco* (the Nicaragua route), but *The New York Times* contains no passenger list whatsoever for that



Fig. 1. Bank marking on the back of the cover.

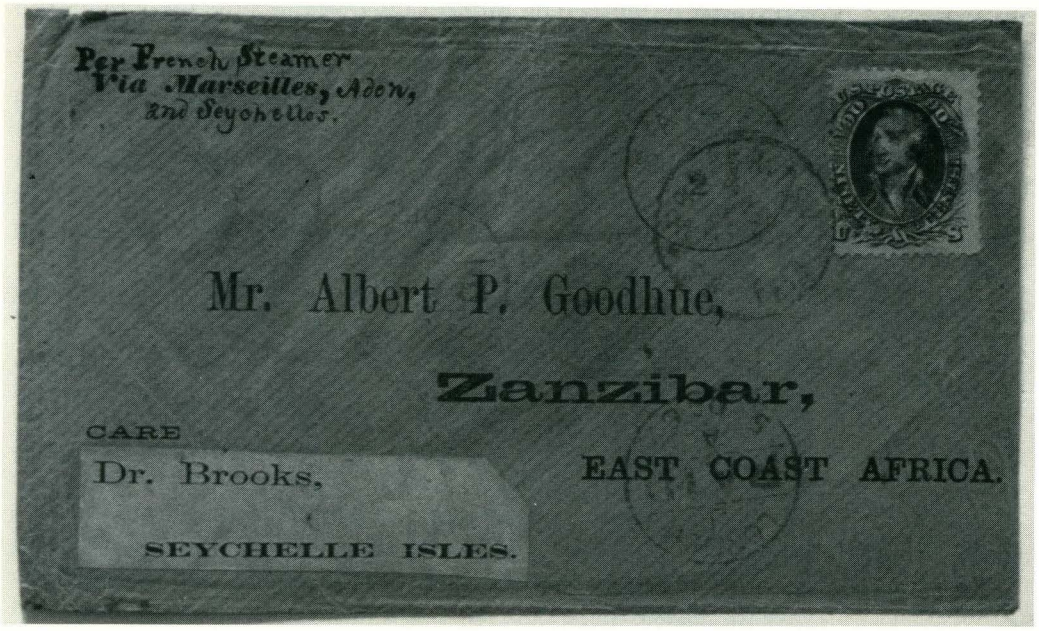


Fig. 2. Salem, Massachusetts, postmark.

arrival. Since Emilio's name does not appear on the list of the *Arizona*'s cabin passengers, it seems likely (in the author's opinion) that Emilio made the trip east by way of the Nicaragua route.

At any rate, Emilio had arrived in Salem by September 24, for on that day he obtained a bank draft at the Salem Savings Bank. Emilio enclosed that draft in his letter and added red sealing wax. The bank placed a marking on the back of the cover, on the left-hand side (Fig. 1).

Emilio then mailed his letter at the Salem Post Office (see Fig. 2 for the Salem postmark). It was, as I noted earlier, self-addressed to Mr. Albert P. Goodhue of Zanzibar, in care of Dr. Brooks of the Seychelle Isles, and was franked with a 90-cent stamp (Scott 72).

The January 1955 issue of the *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly* contains, on page 30, a group of cancels from the collection of Wilbur W. Davis. The cancel received by the stamp on Emilio's letter is shown as No. 45 in that group(Fig. 3) and is listed on page 29 of that issue as a Salem cancel. The cover then went fourteen miles southwest, to Boston, where it was postmarked September 25, 1867, with a "BOSTON BR. PKT PAID" marking (Fig. 4).

British mail sailed from Boston every other Wednesday, including Wednesday, 25 September 1867. On that particular day, British mail sailed from Boston on the Cunard steamer *China* (Captain Hackley; see *The New York Times*, 25 September 1867). Emilio's letter, which was routed to go by British mail, left Boston that day aboard the *China*, as the cover's London postmark confirms.

The October 4, 1867 issue of the *Times* of London carries a report that the *China* had passed Browhead signal station at 11 p.m. the previous day on its way to Queenstown (now Cobh, a port in

southwest Ireland). The report says that the letters were to reach London at 6:35 a.m. on October 5.

The October 5 issue of the *Times* of London reports that the *China* arrived in Queenstown at 2:50 a.m. the previous day, landed ninety sacks of mail there, and then left at 3 a.m. for Liverpool.

After leaving the *China*, Emilio's letter was transported to London in time to be postmarked there on October 5. The London postmark (Fig. 5) appears on the front of the cover under those of Salem and Boston.

The date of the London postmark provides confirmation that the cover did, in fact, leave Boston on 25 September aboard the *China*. Had the cover left Boston two weeks later (the next time British mail sailed from Boston), the date of its London postmark would have been impossible. Had the cover left Boston two weeks *before* it actually did, the dates of its Salem and Boston postmarks would have been impossible.

From London, the cover went to Zanzibar "Via Marseilles." This routing direction, "Via Marseilles," can be seen on the front of the cover, in the upper left-hand corner.

In the 1860s, there were two main routing instructions for United States mail head for the Far East: "Via Southampton" or "Via Marseilles" (see p. 12 of *Ashbrook Special Service*). Mail routed via Southampton crossed the Atlantic to England by British (Cunard) or American packet and then traveled from Southampton in British mail ships to Gibralter and then across the Mediterranean to Alexandria, Egypt. Mail routed via Marseilles likewise crossed the Atlantic to England by British or American packet, but then saved time by crossing the English Channel and going by train through France from Calais to Marseilles, where it was loaded onto British mail ships bound for Alexandria.

Sending a letter via Marseilles was more expensive than sending it via Southampton (see p. 12 of *Ashbrook*). The additional cost (six cents U.S. for each quarter ounce) was what France charged for the passage from Calais to Marseilles.

The postage rates for sending a letter from the United States to Zanzibar via Marseilles or via Southampton can be found in the *Post-Office Directory for 1863*, though not under "Zanzibar." On p. 97 of his book *Ashbrook Special Service*, Stanley Ashbrook wrote: "If you have tables for foreign rates the chances are that you will not find 'Zanzibar' or 'Seychelles Isles' listed but mail to these places was listed under 'Mauritius.'" This is true of the table "Foreign Postage" on pp. xv-xvii on the *Post-Office Directory for 1863*; neither Zanzibar nor the Seychelle Isles is listed, but Mauritius is.

The rates for Mauritius, which apply to Zanzibar, are found on p. xvi of the table. The rate for Mauritius "Via Southampton" is 33 cents for a letter not exceeding one-half ounce. The rate for Mauritius "Via Marseilles" is 39 cents for a letter not exceeding one-quarter ounce and 45 cents for a letter exceeding one-quarter ounce but not exceeding one-half ounce.

Mail routed "Via Southampton" was dispatched from Southampton on the 4th and 20th of each month. Mail routed "Via Marseilles" left London on the 10th and 26th of each month (see p. 12 of *Ashbrook*). Emilio's letter consequently remained in London from Saturday, October 5, until Thursday, October 10. It then left London by "British closed mail," which means that it was placed in a mailbag and received no further postal markings for the remainder of the trip to Zanzibar.

From London, the letter went by train to Dover, crossed the Channel to Calais, then across France by train to Marseilles, on the Mediterranean.

On the front of the cover in red is a large 2 $^{80}2$. This means it was a double-rate letter (2 × 45 cents), with Great Britain getting 80 cents and the United States retaining the other 10 cents. Great Britain paid all fares for the letter from London to Zanzibar, including the cost of the letter's train ride across France.

The *Times* of London of this period reported train journeys from London to Paris as taking twelve hours. Allowing for the additional distance to Marseilles, the letter would no doubt have reached that city sometime on October 11, thus allowing it to leave Marseilles the following day aboard the British mail ship *Nyanza* (British mail left Marseilles by steamer on the 12th and 28th of each month).

The *Nyanza*, a ship of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, had been in the Marseilles harbor since 8:30 a.m. of October 1 (see *Times* of London, 2 October 1867). It was being held there for quarantine due to the cholera epidemic on Malta, which is where the *Nyanza* had been just before coming to Marseilles (see *Times* of London, 30 September 1867). The *Nyanza* left Marseilles on October 12, arrived at Malta at 6 p.m. on October 14, and then left at midnight for Alexandria (see *Times* of London, 16 October 1867). The *Times* of London carries no notice of the ship's arrival in Alexandria, but it probably arrived there sometime on October 17. The *Nyanzia* left Alexandria at 4 p.m. on October 18 for a return voyage to Southampton.

Emilio's letter could not have gone through the Suez Canal because that Canal was not yet completed (it had been begun in April, 1859 but was not opened to navigation until November, 1869). When it did open, the British Post Office prohibited the carrying of mail by ship through the canal until 1874 (see Alan Robertson's *The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles*, p. B.45).

Instead, the letter traveled from Alexandria to Suez by train, as the railroad from Alexandria had been completed to Suez by 1859. At Suez, the letter was loaded aboard a steamer of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (see Robertson). If this particular steamer was bound for Mauritius, the letter would have been dropped off at the Seychelles on the way. If the steamer was not headed for Mauritius, then the letter would have been put off at Aden, where it would have awaited a Mauritius-bound steamer.

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Elliott Perry, William T. Robey, and the 24-cent Air Mail Invert

Philip Silver

On page 14 of his monograph *United States The 24-cent Air Mail Inverted Center of 1918*, Henry M. Goodkind makes the following statement:

> For example, Mr. Elliott Perry often relates his memories of these May 1918 events. Mr. Perry maintains that he still has some of the original correspondence but unfortunately has mislaid it, not being able to make it available for our purposes.

The Goodkind monograph was published originally as an article in the March, 1956 issue of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*. Goodkind died in 1970, while Perry passed away two years later. Perry never published anything after Goodkind's article about his connection with the 24-cent air mail invert or its original purchaser, William T. Robey.

In a letter to Mrs. Ethel B. McCoy dated November 23, 1953, Perry states he had checked his "R" files but had not located the correspondence. There are other statements made in that letter, which will be touched on later in this article.

In another letter to Mrs. McCoy dated June 3, 1957, Perry states that he has located the Robey correspondence. The carbon copy of that letter is too light for proper reproduction here. Because it sheds much light on the May, 1918 events and Perry's connection with them, however, it is being published here in full:

June 3, 1957

Dear Ethel:

What I suspected was likely to happen did happen yesterday. My younger son, wife and two grandsons were here and when looking for a document of Robbie's which was thought to be here I came across the Robey letters.

One short letter postmarked at Washington 8 AM on May 15, 1918, refers to a telegram Robey had sent me about the 24c invert sheet—"the only one in existence at this date." Four names penciled by me on the back of Robey's note sheet are evidently the other people who Robey approached, viz; Percy Mann, Stanley Gibbons, Percy Doane, and Wendover Neefus.

Other pencil notations are "$50,000" and "$500" which I believe was Robey's price for the invert sheet and the average price for each of the 100 stamps necessary to make the total price for the sheet.

Another penciled notation is my intended reply to Robey's letter, but that reply is crossed out and marked "not sent." However, Robey wrote me on May 20, 1918, after his return from New York and referred to a letter I wrote him on May 16th. (*)

Robey's letter of May 20, 1918 closes;—"Wish to notify you that all negotiations for the sheet are at an end, as I have come to the final conclusion that the same is not for sale at any price."

The envelope in which this letter came was also found. It shows the letter was registered at the New York Ave. Station on May 20, 1918.

Two other Robey letters found with the others were written before he bought the 24c air mail sheet, and naturally do not mention it. One is dated May 11, 1918 and the other (undated) bears indication that it was written at the same period.

What is your pleasure regarding these letters?

Sincerely,

(*)So far as is known my files do not contain a copy of my letter of May 16, 1918, but if there was a copy it probably is still here somewhere in the house.

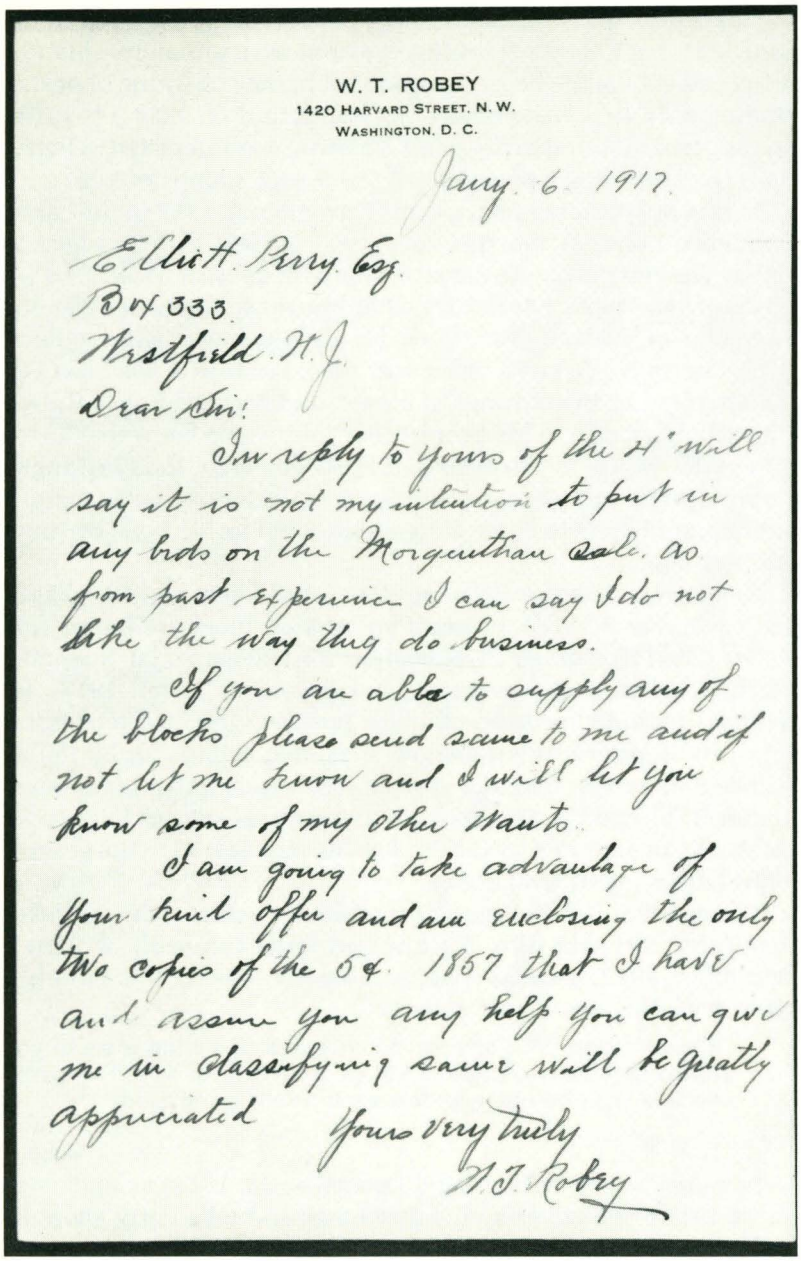
Having introduced the subject as above, it might be useful to detail the chronology of how Perry's letters to Mrs. McCoy and others that will be cited later in this article came into my possession.

Gilbert E. Foster and his wife, Ruth, had been lifelong friends of Elliott Perry and his wife. They were also neighbors in their home town of Westfield, New Jersey. After Perry's death in 1972, his wife retained his correspondence files. Before her own death several years ago, Mrs. Perry gave that part of the correspondence that referred to Robey and the invert to the Fosters.

Gilbert Foster called me at my home on July 22, 1980. "Gib," as he is known to his friends, had been following some of my articles in the philatelic press, and he wondered if I would care to write the story about Perry's involvement with the 24-cent air mail invert. If so, he would turn over to me all the files in his possession.

My reaction to the offer was instantaneous. I told Gib that I would be proud to write the story. Though my reaction and my promise to write the story were instantaneous, the writing has lagged due to a natural propensity for putting things off until tomorrow, and because of several other articles already started, which had to be completed first.

Many stories have been written about Robey, the finder of the 24-cent air mail invert, and several apocryphal tales have found their way into print. The one he most vehemently disclaimed (in his own February 19, 1938 article in *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*) concerned the person who was on line ahead of him at the New York Avenue branch of the post office in Washington, D.C. Robey labeled that story "absolutely false, for at the time that I made my purchase there was no line and no one was ahead of me at the window."



W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jany. 6 1917.

Elliott Perry Esq.
Box 333
Westfield N.J.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 4th will say it is not my intention to put in any bids on the Morgenthau sale. as from past experience I can say I do not like the way they do business.

If you are able to supply any of the blocks please send same to me and if not let me know and I will let you know some of my other wants.

I am going to take advantage of your kind offer and am enclosing the only two copies of the 5¢ 1857 that I have and assure you any help you can give me in classifying same will be greatly appreciated

Yours very truly
W T Robey

Fig. 1. Earliest letter in the Robey-Perry correspondence. Robey asks for assistance in classifying copies of the 5-cent stamps of 1857.

Others, in writing about Robey, have indicated he was not much of a collector. On page 10 of his monograph, Goodkind refers to Robey's collecting interests as follows:

> We hold a theory that Mr. Robey was seeking to buy plate number blocks or sheets. We have read that his particular specialty was new issues of the United States with plate numbers.

Further, on page 26 of his monograph, Goodkind refers to Robey's collecting interests: ". . . or possibly his stamp collections were of nominal value."

The correspondence between Robey and Perry in my possession

begins with a letter dated January 6, 1917. It is shown as Fig. 1. It indicates that Robey's short involvement with philately—his 1938 article states that he became interested in the collecting of postage stamps only two years before his lucky find on May 14, 1918—already had matured to the point where he was interested in Perry's help in classifying two copies of the 5-cent stamps of 1857.

At this point there is a gap until November 8, 1917 in the correspondence between the two men. I cannot tell if this is because Robey was not purchasing at all for his collection or because he was buying from others. I do know that he bought stamps from Wendover Neefus of Hudson, New York, because in a later letter to Perry, Robey gives Neefus as a reference. Also, because it has been well documented in the writings of others, and because Robey himself intimated as much in his own 1938 article, we do know that he was a frequent visitor at the offices of H. F. Coleman, the Washington stamp dealer, and probably purchased some of his needs there. In subsequent letters to Perry, Robey states that he has been buying at auction, too.

The correspondence between Robey and Perry picked up again on November 8, 1917. In rapid succession there are letters from Robey dated November 15, November 19, November 20, November 24, November 30, December 7, and December 17 (all 1917). His requests included unused officials, postage dues, and a complete set of India proofs or surcharged specimen stamps for all the departmental series, revenue stamps, etc. Apparently his requests matured into purchases, because there are references to payment by checks in amounts of $12.50, $18.50, and $11.50 in the group of eight letters mentioned above.

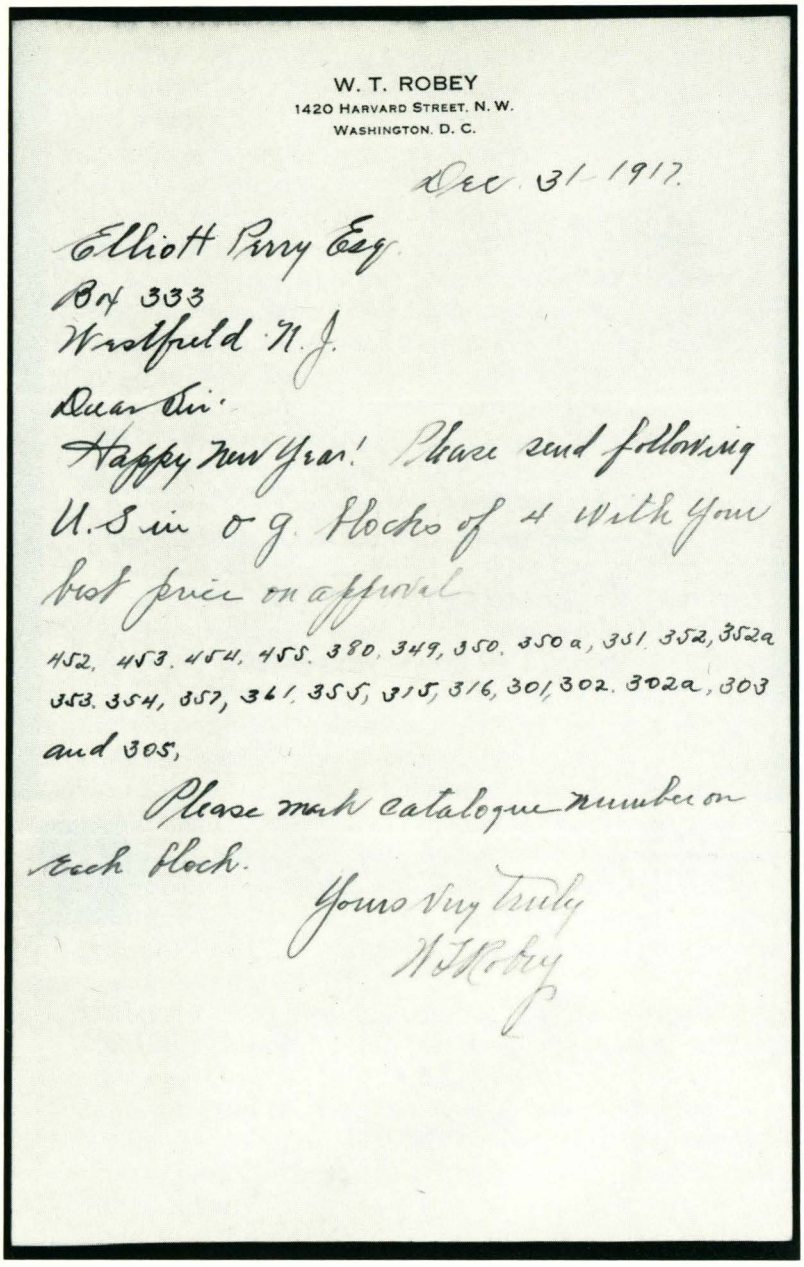
It seems that Robey found customers for some of the approvals that Perry had sent him. An undated letter (probably written in December, 1917, because it appears among those of that month) is quite revealing about this activity:

> Since writing the above have succeeded in selling some of your approvals. I enclose check of $38.85 to cover those sold. This party's check is O.K. You may no fear about it not being good.
>
> Yours truly,
> W. T. Robey

In Robey's next letter (dated December 28, 1917) he encloses a check for $17.85 covering his purchases and tells Perry about his collecting interests:

> I have never started to make a collection of anything but the U.S. stamps, not even the Colonies and think it will be sometime before I start on these as I believe money put in the old U.S. stamps now will in a few years be worth much more and will prove a good investment for anyone procuring same now. This is the reason I have never started a general collection of all countries. My collection is nearly complete from 1869 to date except some of the revenues.

The full extent of Robey's collection, quite apart from what he indicated in his December 28, 1917 letter, becomes reasonably apparent in his final 1917 letter, which is reproduced here as Fig. 2.



W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dec 31 1917.

Elliott Perry Esq
Box 333
Westfield N. J.

Dear Sir:

Happy New Year! Please send following U.S. in o.g. blocks of 4 with your best price on approval

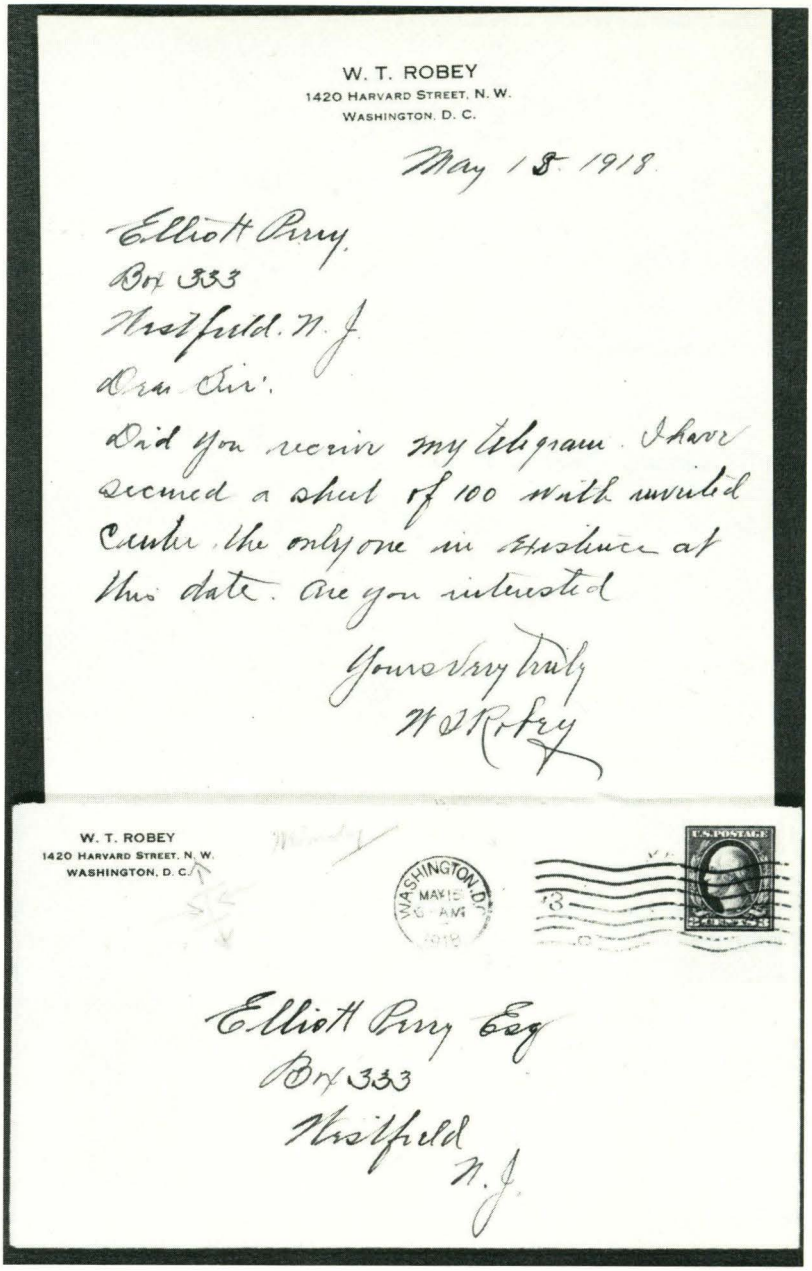
452, 453, 454, 455, 380, 349, 350, 350a, 351, 352, 352a
353, 354, 357, 361, 355, 315, 316, 301, 302, 302a, 303
and 305,

Please mark catalogue number on each block.

Yours Very Truly
W T Robey

Fig. 2. Robey's letter requesting o.g. blocks of four for his collection.

The correspondence continued through early 1918, until May 11, only a few days short of his fateful May 14 purchase of the 24-cent invert sheet. This letter, incidentally, is the one mentioned by Perry in his June 3, 1957 letter to Mrs. McCoy. Robey the purchaser has become Robey the seller in the interim. In a letter of March 23, 1918, he boasts of having purchased a block of the 5-cent Taylor stamps for $6 and selling it for $12, "which gave me a good profit on same." In the May 11 letter, Robey offers Perry another block of the 5-cent Taylor "perfectly centered with the American



W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 18 1918.

Elliott Perry.
Box 333
Westfield. N. J.
Dear Sir:
Did you receive my telegram. I have secured a sheet of 100 with inverted center the only one in existence at this date. Are you interested

Yours Very Truly
W T Robey

W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 18
10 AM
1918

U.S. POSTAGE
24 CENTS

Elliott Perry Esq
Box 333
Westfield
N. J.

Fig. 3. Robey's letter to Perry notifying him of the purchase of the 24-cent air mail invert sheet.

Bank Note imprint at the bottom. This is another one I have recently picked up and will accept $15.00 for same if you can use it." There is a small pencil notation in Perry's handwriting at the bottom of the letter: "$15.00 too much. Interested at $12.00."

The foregoing recital of the dealings between the two men should forever dispel the notion that Robey was not much of a collector, or that he was primarily a plate number collector. He was sufficiently sophisticated about United Stamps to know about all the previous invert errors and, because it had been widely publicized that the

24-cent air mail stamp was to be issued in two colors, he had gone to the post office (as probably others must have gone as well) on the chance he might be lucky enough to buy inverted vignette stamps—if indeed any resulted from the printing process and had escaped the watchful eyes of the postal examiners.

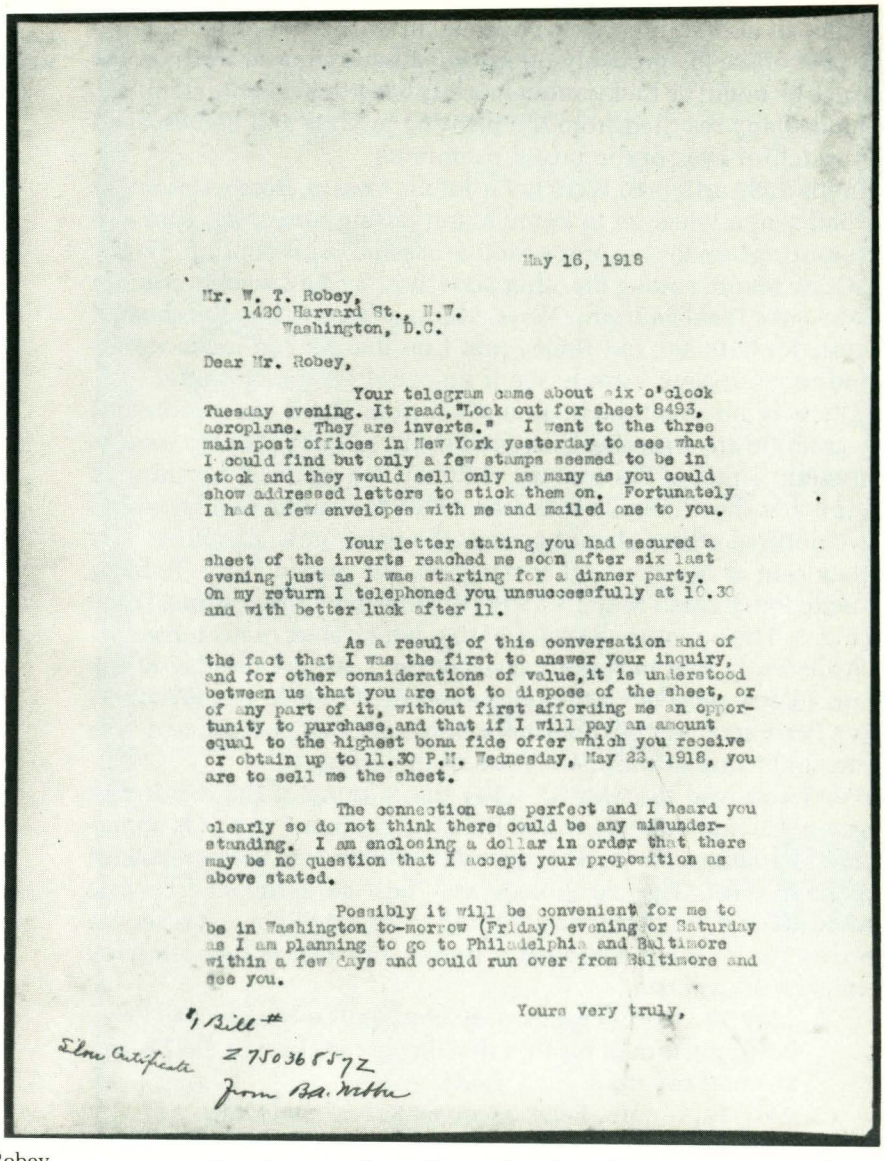
In his 1938 article in *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Robey states that he had sent a telegram to Percy Mann telling him of his find and "requesting him to give proper notice of same in his column." Percy McGraw Mann, among his other activities, wrote a weekly column in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. Mann offered to buy the sheet of inverts for $10,000, but Robey told him that he had made up his mind to go to New York to see if he could get a better offer.

There is no mention in Robey's article about the sending of telegrams to anyone other than Mann but, as New York City was the philatelic center of the country, if Robey had made up his mind to peddle his sheet there, it was reasonable to assume that he would have notified others about his find. We know now, of course, that Robey sent at least one other telegram, the one to Perry. Robey's letter to Perry dated May 15, 1918 (Wednesday) is reproduced here as Fig. 3. The opening sentence of that letter refers to the telegram.

Apparently that telegram was sent on Tuesday, the day of the "find." Perry received it the same evening. The next day (Wednesday), Perry scoured the three main New York City post offices to see if he could find additional sheets of the errors.

Perry received the May 15 letter the evening of the day it was written. He immediately called Robey at his home and, it is apparent, offered him some sort of proposition relative to the purchase of the error sheet. The chronology may best be delineated by first reproducing in full Perry's May 16, 1918 letter to Robey. It is shown here as Fig. 4. What it indicates (to me, at least) is the following sequence of events:

1. May 14, 1918 (Tuesday), Robey sends a telegram to Perry notifying him of his find that day of the sheet of the 24-cent air mail inverts.
2. May 14, 6 p.m., Perry receives Robey's telegram.
3. May 15 (Wednesday), Perry scours three of New York's main post offices to see if he can locate other 24-cent air mail inverts.
4. Stocks of the normal 24-cent air mail stamps are so depleted that post office clerks will sell only stamps for which a purchaser could show addressed envelopes.
5. Perry sends one letter to Robey by the first May 15 flight from New York to Washington.
6. Still on Wednesday, May 15, but after 11 p.m., Perry reaches Robey by telephone.
7. Perry states he was the first to answer Robey's inquiry, and stipulates that because of that *and other considerations of value* (this is legalese and indicates he may have received advice from an attorney) Robey is not to dispose of the sheet



May 16, 1918

Mr. W. T. Robey,
1430 Harvard St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Robey,

Your telegram came about six o'clock Tuesday evening. It read, "Lock out for sheet 8493, aeroplane. They are inverts." I went to the three main post offices in New York yesterday to see what I could find but only a few stamps seemed to be in stock and they would sell only as many as you could show addressed letters to stick them on. Fortunately I had a few envelopes with me and mailed one to you.

Your letter stating you had secured a sheet of the inverts reached me soon after six last evening just as I was starting for a dinner party. On my return I telephoned you unsuccessfully at 10.30 and with better luck after 11.

As a result of this conversation and of the fact that I was the first to answer your inquiry, and for other considerations of value, it is understood between us that you are not to dispose of the sheet, or of any part of it, without first affording me an opportunity to purchase, and that if I will pay an amount equal to the highest bona fide offer which you receive or obtain up to 11.30 P.M. Wednesday, May 22, 1918, you are to sell me the sheet.

The connection was perfect and I heard you clearly so do not think there could be any misunderstanding. I am enclosing a dollar in order that there may be no question that I accept your proposition as above stated.

Possibly it will be convenient for me to be in Washington to-morrow (Friday) evening or Saturday as I am planning to go to Philadelphia and Baltimore within a few days and could run over from Baltimore and see you.

Yours very truly,

Bill #

Silver Certificate Z 75036572

from Ba. Mthe

Fig. 4. Perry's letter to Robey agreeing to purchase the invert sheet.

without giving him first refusal and a chance to equal any best offer Robey may have received.

8. Perry sets a time limit on the requested option: 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, one week later.
9. Perry encloses a dollar bill as one consideration of value with his May 16 letter, and states that he will be in Washington on Friday, May 17, or Saturday, May 18.
10. In the lower left corner of the May 16 letter, Perry notes in ink the serial number of the $1 silver certificate he encloses.

I would like to digress for a moment to consider the May 15 letter (Fig. 3) that Robey had sent to Perry. From Perry's May 16 letter (Fig. 4) it is clear that Robey's letter was received by him on Wednesday, May 15, the same day that Robey sent it. May 15, 1918

was the date of the first flights between Washington and New York. Students of these flights know that several legs of the flights were flown successfully, including New York to Philadelphia, Philadelphia to Washington, and Philadelphia to New York.

The flight from Washington to Philadelphia, as is well known, came to grief near Waldorf, Maryland. Lt. George Leroy Boyle, the pilot of that leg, had been instructed to follow the railroad tracks as a guide in addition to using his compass. He did, except that he followed the southbound tracks instead of the northbound tracks.

According to the best evidence gathered and analyzed by United States aerophilatelists, the mail in the sacks for the May 15, 1918 Washington-to-Philadelphia flight was returned to Washington by motor truck and was flown out the next day, May 16.

If you will refer to Fig. 3, you will note that the cover is postmarked at Washington on May 15, 1918 at 8 a.m. In view of Robey's involvement with the 24-cent air mail stamp, one may wonder why he chose to send the letter to Perry by first-class mail. The May 15 first flight was scheduled to take off several hours later. Certainly at 8 a.m. he had enough time to get an air mail stamp and affix it to the cover for the flight. In any event, he did not, and he missed an opportunity to create an historical item for the delight of U.S. aerophilatelists. Of course, had he sent his letter by the first flight, it would have arrived in New York and in Perry's hands on May 16 instead of May 15.

In any event, Robey's letter "flew the rails" between Washington and New York. In 1918, train service between these two cities had an elapsed time of just under six hours. So, counting arrival in New York City, sorting of the mail at the main post office near Pennsylvania Station, routing by truck to New Jersey, and delivery to Perry's home in Westfield "soon after six last evening" on May 15, we have a record of a truly remarkable postal feat. And only for three cents, the wartime first-class rate! Postal authorities please note.

According to Robey's 1938 article, he left Washington for New York on Friday afternoon, May 17, and arrived about 9 p.m. Awaiting him at the Hotel McAlpin "were Percy Doane the well known dealer and Elliott Perry, 'Himself.' " Robey told them he had refused an offer of $10,000 for his sheet.

Apparently, Robey was under the impression that Perry was going to be in Philadelphia that day, because several hours after his departure for New York on May 17 Robey's wife sent a telegram care of the Western Union office in Philadelphia (see Fig. 5). It bears a Washington May 17 date at 5:20 p.m. It will be noted that the telgram was received at the 15th and Chestnut Streets office 28 minutes later on the same day, at 5:48 p.m. Coincidentally, this was only two short blocks from the office of Eugene Klein.

But was Perry there to receive it? A good question and not susceptible of easy answer. In any event, the telegram is part of the Robey-Perry correspondence, and somehow found its way to the

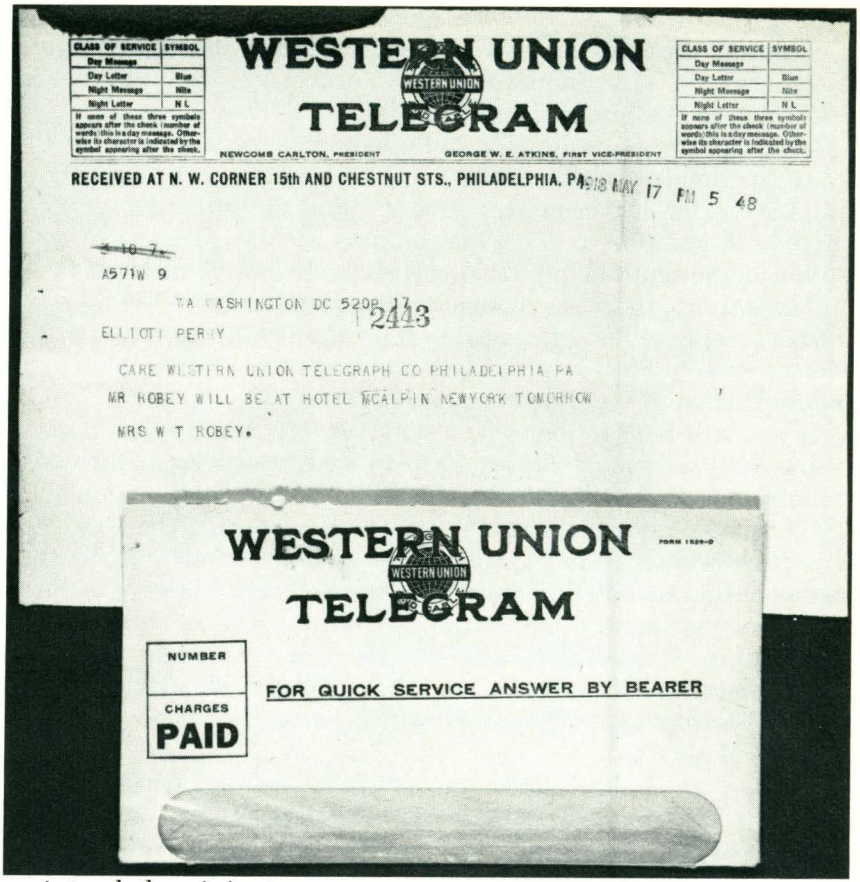


Fig. 5. Telegram sent by Robey's wife to Perry on May 17, 1918.

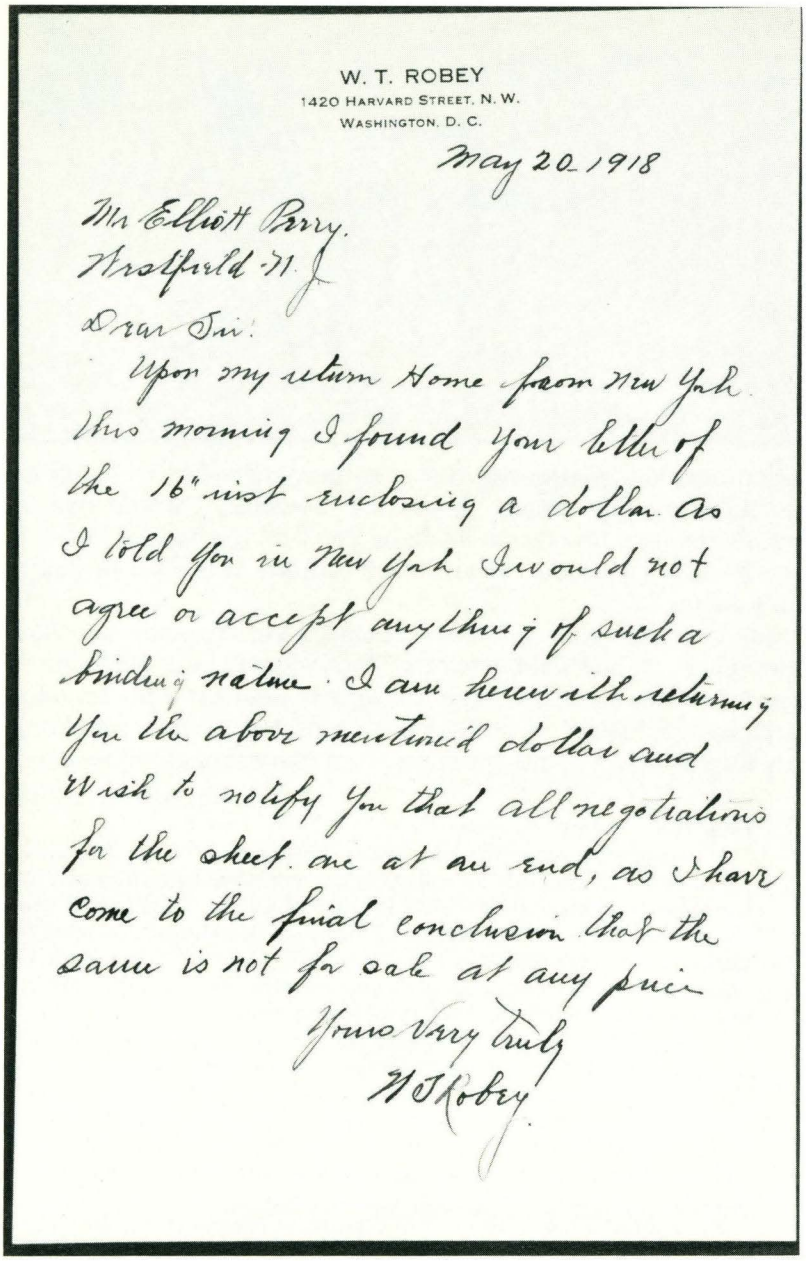
intended recipient.

On Saturday, May 18, Robey tried unsuccessfully to see Col. Green at his office at 111 Broadway. He then continued on to the Stanley Gibbons office in lower Manhattan, and there got manager Eustace B. Power's offer of $250. Subsequently, he walked over to the office of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, just a few short blocks away, and received their offer to dispose of the sheet on a commission basis.

Upon returning to the Hotel McAlpin, Robey found John J. Klemann, Jr., waiting for him with his $2500 offer. That evening Robey telephoned Mann in Philadelphia and told him that he had decided not to sell his sheet. Robey informed Mann that he would return to Washington on the next day, Sunday. Mann asked Robey to stop off first in Philadelphia. When Robey arrived, Mann took him to see Eugene Klein, who gave him the (eventually) successful offer of $15,000.

But what happened to Perry during these two days of Saturday and Sunday? Unfortunately, there is a gap for these days, but is must be remembered that Perry believed that he had an option to purchase the sheet, as he had written in his letter of May 16.

Klein's option to purchase Robey's sheet was due to expire on Monday, May 20, at 3 p.m. Shortly before that time, Klein tele-



W. T. ROBEY
1420 HARVARD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 20 1918

Mr Elliott Perry.
Westfield N. J.

Dear Sir:

Upon my return Home from New York this morning I found your letter of the 16th inst enclosing a dollar. As I told You in New York I would not agree or accept anything of such a binding nature. I am herewith returning You the above mentioned dollar and wish to notify you that all negotiations for the sheet are at an end, as I have come to the final conclusion that the same is not for sale at any price

Yours Very Truly
W T Robey

Fig. 6. Robey's letter of May 20, 1918 to Perry notifying him that his offer of May 16 is not accepted. Though Robey knew at that time (8 a.m.) that Klein's option was still in effect, he states that the sheet "is not for sale at any price."

phoned Robey to tell him that he would pay the $15,000 price. Robey agreed to deliver the sheet to Klein in Philadelphia on Tuesday, May 21.

To foreclose Perry's belief that he had a purchase option (as expressed in the May 16 letter), Robey sent him a registered letter dated May 20. It is shown as Fig. 6. The envelope in which is was sent is shown as Fig. 7. I cannot tell when Perry received the letter, because there is no further correspondence between the two men. It is reasonable to assume, however, that there was no continued

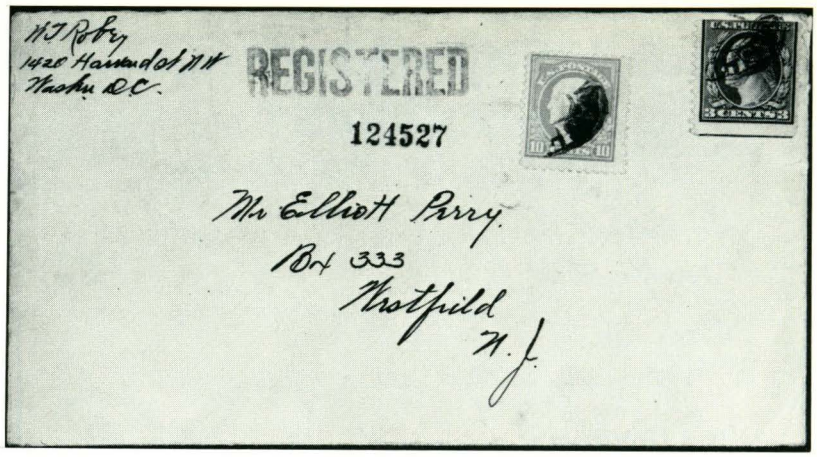


Fig. 7. The envelope in which Robey's May 20 letter was sent.

dealer-customer relationship, because there are no further letters in the file in my possession. In passing, however, I would like to include the pencil notation made by Perry on the back of Robey's May 20 letter. It reads, "Deal Closed Sunday May 19th in Phila. Percy Mann."

Earlier in this article, reference was made to a November 23, 1953 letter that Perry had written to Mrs. McCoy. It will be quoted here at length because it sheds some additional light on who actually purchased the sheet from Robey. Robey's 1938 article mentions only Eugene Klein as the purchaser, but Perry thought otherwise:

November 23, 1953

Dear Mrs. McCoy:

It was good to have the nice chats with you at the ASDA show.

I have taken my co-laborer from other work and he will search for the Robey correspondence until it is found. I re-check of the "R" file shows the letters are not there, as I told you. But I have seen them in quite recent years and know they are here. They would never have been thrown out intentionally as I had in mind printing the story of my connection with the find myself sometime.

I have told few people about it and the only time I recall mentioning it was at a dinner of one of the air mail societies in New York at the time of the 1947 show, at which time I learned of Vincent Domanski's connection with the matter. I believe he furnished part or all of the money by which the Philadelphia group purchased Robey's sheet. Percy Mann, who was one of the five dealers Robey approached, did not have that kind of money.

Two of the other dealers were Wendover Neefus and E. B. ("Useless") Power. I do not recall who was the fifth dealer, but I know he was not alive in 1947, as I was surprised to learn that any of the Philadelphia group were living. In fact, other than Percy Mann, I never knew who put up the money, or were_____the group.

Fig. 8 reproduces Perry's penciled notations on the reverse of Robey's May 15 letter. It will be noted that he mentions Percy Mann, Stanley Gibbons, Percy Doane, and [Wendover] Neefus. If we were to guess at the name of the fifth participant in the group which put up the money, it would be Vincent Domanski. His name, as noted previously, appeared in Perry's November 23, 1953 letter to Mrs. McCoy.

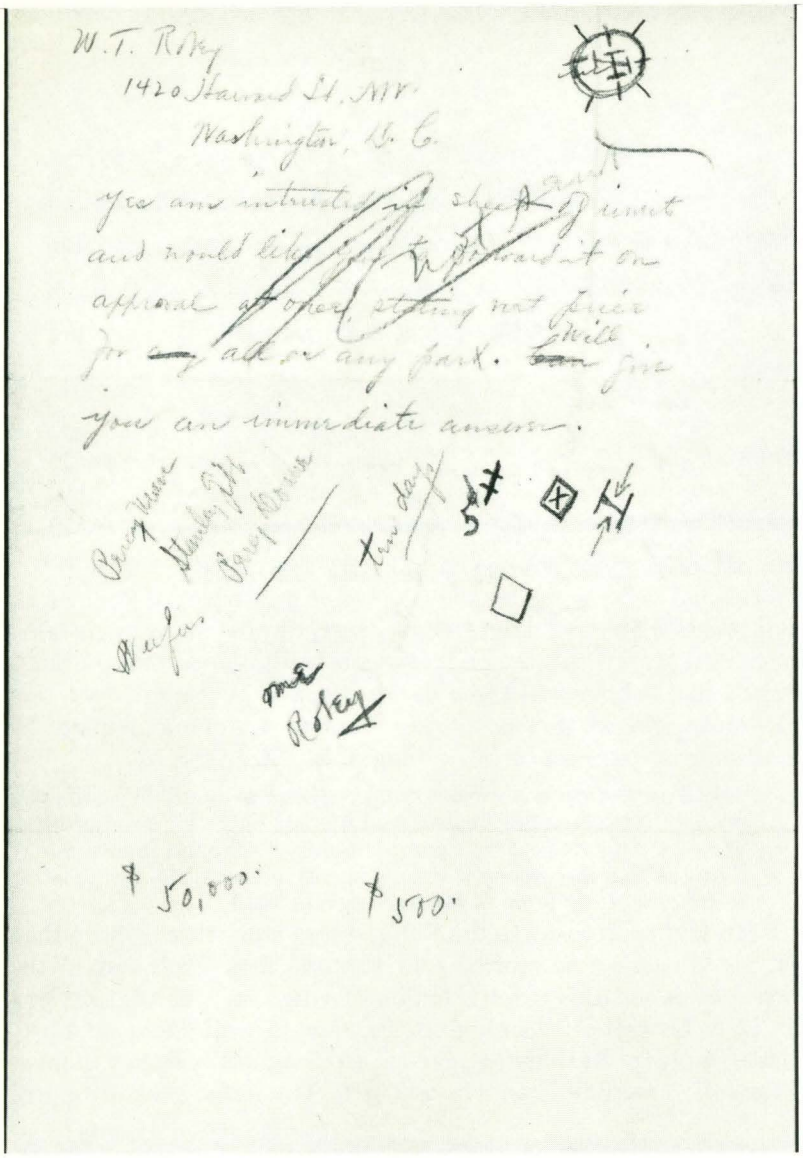
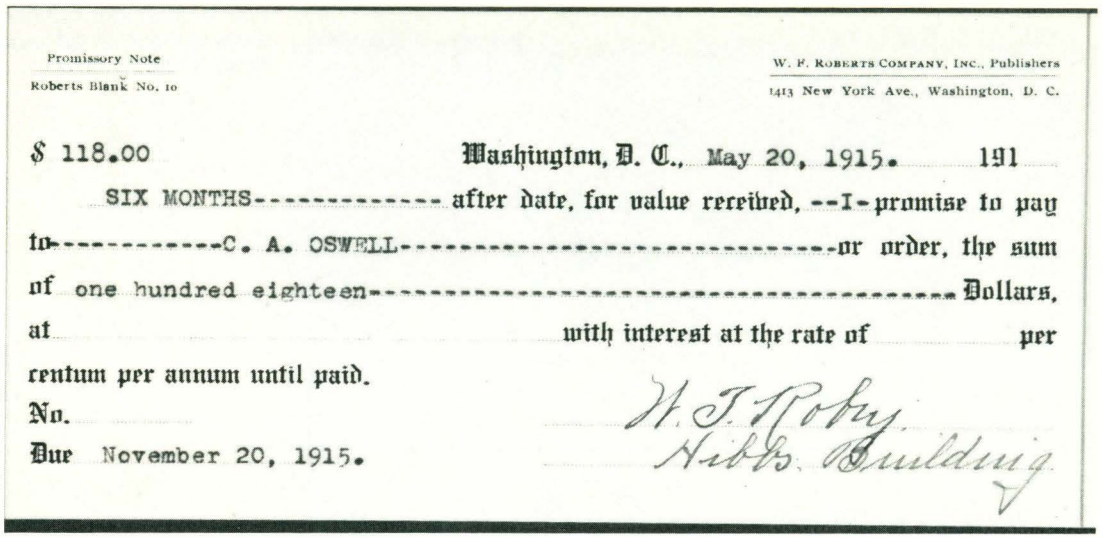


Fig. 8. Penciled notations made by Perry on the back of Robey's May 15 letter.

The penciled notations Perry made on the back of Robey's May 15 letter may not be clearly discernable in the photograph. Previously, Perry had mentioned them in his June 3, 1957 letter to Mrs. McCoy. But the message he intended to write to Robey was not spelled out. For the record, that message reads as follows:

W.T. Robey
1420 Harvard St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Yes am interested in sheets of inverts
and would like you to forward it on
approval at once, stating net price
for all or any part. Will give
you an immediate answer.



Promissory Note

Roberts Blank No. 10

W. F. Roberts Company, Inc., Publishers

1413 New York Ave., Washington, D. C.

$ 118.00 Washington, D. C., May 20, 1915. 191

SIX MONTHS---------- after date, for value received, --I-promise to pay

to----------C. A. OSWELL----------or order, the sum

of one hundred eighteen---------- Dollars,

at with interest at the rate of per

centum per annum until paid.

No.

Due November 20, 1915.

H. T. Robey

Hibbs Building

Fig. 9. Robey's May 20, 1915 promissory note in favor of C. A. Oswell.

The intended letter is crossed out with the words, "Not sent."

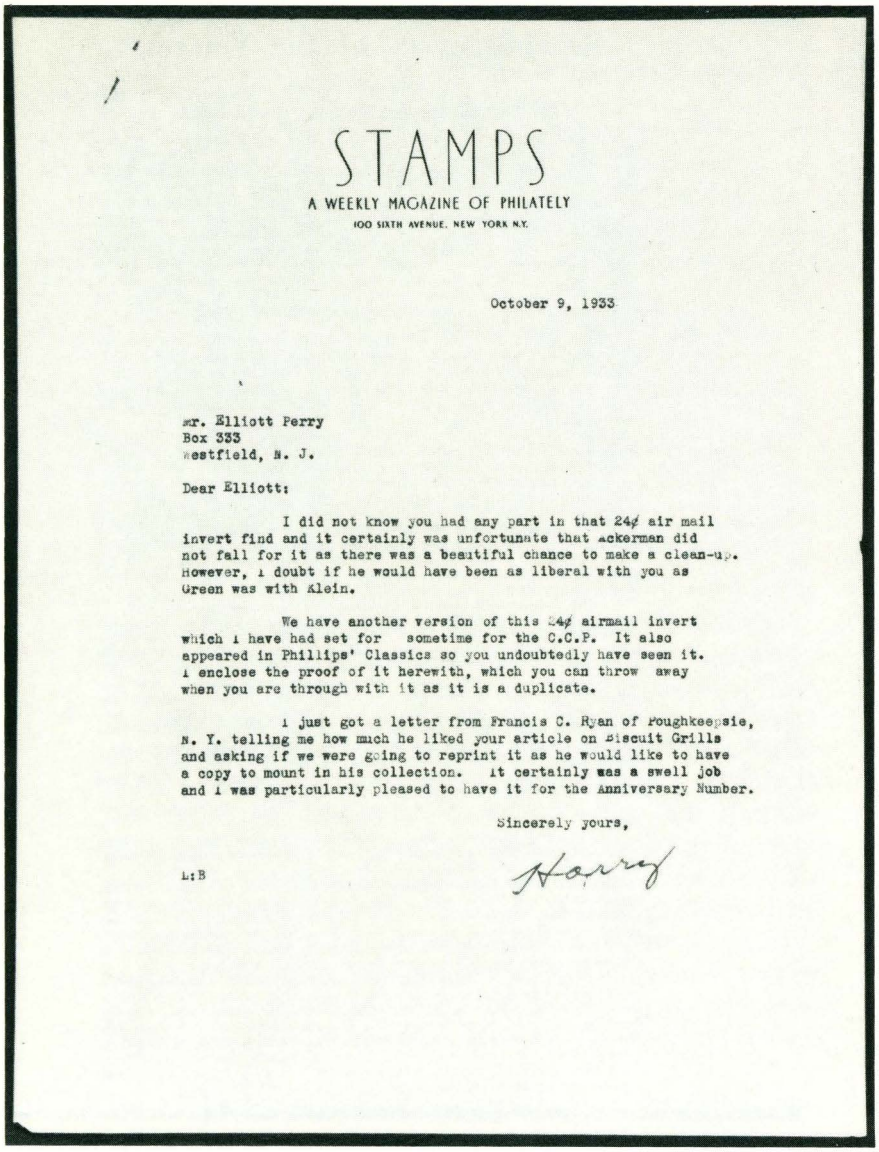
So ended Perry's chance to become the purchaser of Robey's air mail invert sheet. In a letter to Harry L. Lindquist many years later, he states that he thinks he might have been the successful purchaser if he had "shoved $11,000 under his nose that night."

I would like at this point to return to a statement made by Goodkind on page 26 of his monograph:

> It has been alleged in stories told to collectors that Robey's life was not too fortunate after he had sold his $24 sheet for a net profit of $14,976. This caused him and his family to expand their mode of living so that the money was soon spent. In time he had little left to show except the fame of his purchase in 1918.

I can add something to the Robey-Perry story that is more than just an allegation of stories told to collectors. Included in the correspondence file is a letter to Perry written on June 14, 1921 by a Mr. C. A. Oswell of Washington, D.C. Mr. Oswell enclosed a promissory note for $118 dated May 20, 1915 signed by Robey in favor of Oswell. The note is shown as Fig. 9. The letter reads (in part):

> 1864 Wyoming Avenue
> Washington, D.C. June 14/1921
>
> My dear Perry:
>
> Here is a note of Robey's he gave me some years ago. I think a note is good for 7 years. This is the only way you can get square on him. Ask him to send you a collection of U.S. stamps, then keep what stamps that amount to the value of the note. Or better still write and tell him (after you get his selection of stamps) you have a note you bought from me and you will deduct the amount in stamps. Then he will write you saying I took a book of his stamps valued at some $60 dollars. Then that will leave you $50 without the interest. So you can get something out of him that way. Don't let him know you have my note or he will never send you any stamps. He lost his house I understand so there will be nothing to attach in that line although I believe he has loads of stamps.
>
> Tell him to send you $100 or $150 worth of stamps. After you receive them, then let him know you bought his note from me. He



STAMPS

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF PHILATELY

100 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK N.Y.

October 9, 1933

Mr. Elliott Perry
Box 333
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Elliott:

I did not know you had any part in that 24¢ air mail invert find and it certainly was unfortunate that Ackerman did not fall for it as there was a beautiful chance to make a clean-up. However, I doubt if he would have been as liberal with you as Green was with Klein.

We have another version of this 24¢ airmail invert which I have had set for sometime for the C.C.P. It also appeared in Phillips' Classics so you undoubtedly have seen it. I enclose the proof of it herewith, which you can throw away when you are through with it as it is a duplicate.

I just got a letter from Francis C. Ryan of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. telling me how much he liked your article on Biscuit Grills and asking if we were going to reprint it as he would like to have a copy to mount in his collection. It certainly was a swell job and I was particularly pleased to have it for the Anniversary Number.

Sincerely yours,

Harry

L:B

Fig. 10. Lindquist's October 9, 1933 letter to Perry in which he intimates that Ackerman could have backed Perry financially in the purchase of the invert sheet.

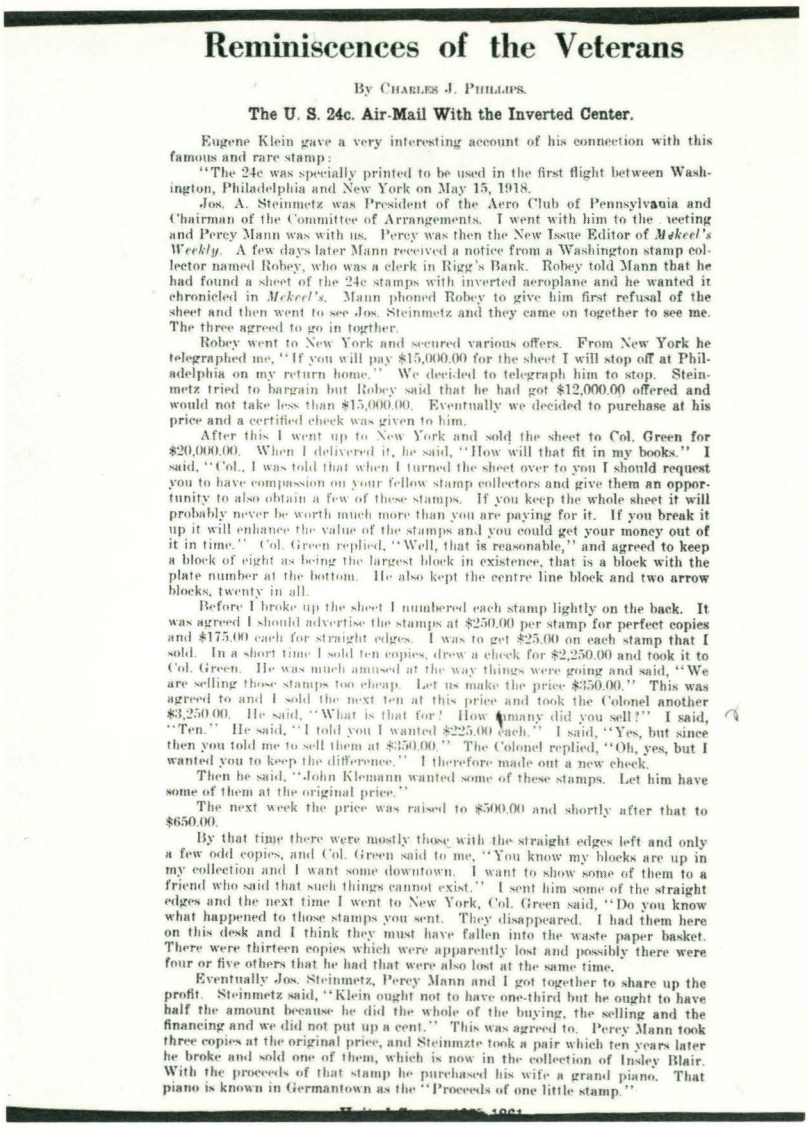
quite Hibbs Sept. 1920 so you are supposed to have that note before he left Hibbs. Don't you think it will work out all right or get some one else to do the trick. We don't care as long a we get anything out of him.

Let me hear from you and what you think you can do about Robey. You or some one order the stamps then give him the note in payment.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. Oswell

Apparently Robey owed Perry a sum of money for stamps he had purchased and had neglected to pay for. The debt obviously was outstanding three years after Robey's lucky find. Thus it would appear that, for whatever reason, he had fallen on hard times. And, if Oswell's statement is true, he had lost his home as well. There is no indication what action, if any, Perry took with reference to

Fig. 11. Galley proof of Phillips' article quoting Klein's account of the events leading up to his purchase of the invert sheet.



Reminiscences of the Veterans

By Charles J. Phillips.

The U. S. 24c. Air-Mail With the Inverted Center.

Eugene Klein gave a very interesting account of his connection with this famous and rare stamp:

"The 24c was specially printed to be used in the first flight between Washington, Philadelphia and New York on May 15, 1918.

Jos. A. Steinmetz was President of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania and Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements. I went with him to the meeting and Percy Mann was with us. Percy was then the New Issue Editor of *Mekeel's Weekly*. A few days later Mann received a notice from a Washington stamp collector named Robey, who was a clerk in Rigg's Bank. Robey told Mann that he had found a sheet of the 24c stamps with inverted aeroplane and he wanted it chronicled in *Mekeel's*. Mann phoned Robey to give him first refusal of the sheet and then went to see Jos. Steinmetz and they came on together to see me. The three agreed to go in togther.

Robey went to New York and secured various offers. From New York he telegraphed me, "If you will pay $15,000.00 for the sheet I will stop off at Philadelphia on my return home." We decided to telegraph him to stop. Steinmetz tried to bargain but Robey said that he had got $12,000.00 offered and would not take less than $15,000.00. Eventually we decided to purchase at his price and a certified check was given to him.

After this I went up to New York and sold the sheet to Col. Green for $20,000.00. When I delivered it, he said, "How will that fit in my books." I said, "Col., I was told that when I turned the sheet over to you I should request you to have compassion on your fellow stamp collectors and give them an opportunity to also obtain a few of these stamps. If you keep the whole sheet it will probably never be worth much more than you are paying for it. If you break it up it will enhance the value of the stamps and you could get your money out of it in time." Col. Green replied, "Well, that is reasonable," and agreed to keep a block of eight as being the largest block in existence, that is a block with the plate number at the bottom. He also kept the centre line block and two arrow blocks, twenty in all.

Before I broke up the sheet I numbered each stamp lightly on the back. It was agreed I should advertise the stamps at $250.00 per stamp for perfect copies and $175.00 each for straight edges. I was to get $25.00 on each stamp that I sold. In a short time I sold ten copies, drew a check for $2,250.00 and took it to Col. Green. He was much amused at the way things were going and said, "We are selling those stamps too cheap. Let us make the price $350.00." This was agreed to and I sold the next ten at this price and took the Colonel another $3,250.00. He said, "What is that for? How many did you sell?" I said, "Ten." He said, "I told you I wanted $225.00 each." I said, "Yes, but since then you told me to sell them at $350.00." The Colonel replied, "Oh, yes, but I wanted you to keep the difference." I therefore made out a new check.

Then he said, "John Klemann wanted some of these stamps. Let him have some of them at the original price."

The next week the price was raised to $500.00 and shortly after that to $650.00.

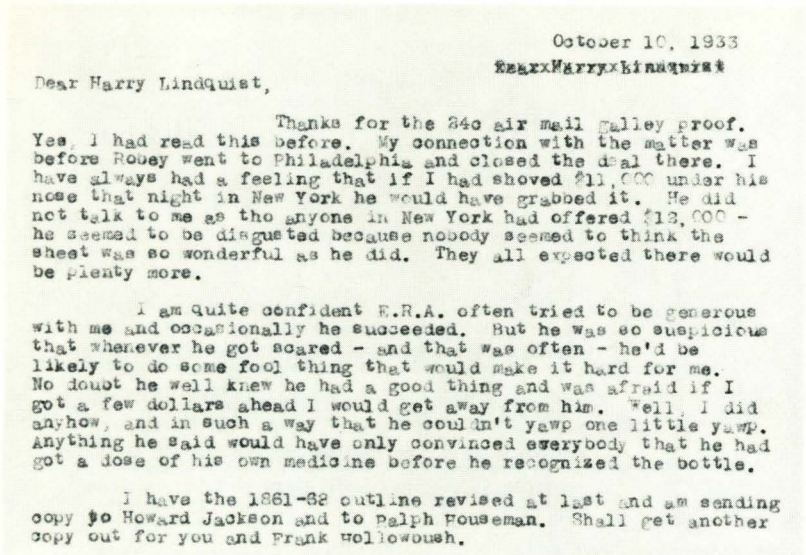
By that time there were mostly those with the straight edges left and only a few odd copies, and Col. Green said to me, "You know my blocks are up in my collection and I want some downtown. I want to show some of them to a friend who said that such things cannot exist." I sent him some of the straight edges and the next time I went to New York, Col. Green said, "Do you know what happened to those stamps you sent. They disappeared. I had them here on this desk and I think they must have fallen into the waste paper basket. There were thirteen copies which were apparently lost and possibly there were four or five others that he had that were also lost at the same time.

Eventually Jos. Steinmetz, Percy Mann and I got together to share up the profit. Steinmetz said, "Klein ought not to have one-third but he ought to have half the amount because he did the whole of the buying, the selling and the financing and we did not put up a cent." This was agreed to. Percy Mann took three copies at the original price, and Steinmzte took a pair which ten years later he broke and sold one of them, which is now in the collection of Insley Blair. With the proceeds of that stamp he purchased his wife a grand piano. That piano is known in Germantown as the "Proceeds of one little stamp."

collecting from Robey on Oswell's promissory note.

As noted at the beginning of this article, Perry never did publish the story of his connection with the 24-cent air mail invert. That he intended to write the story is evident from a series of letters he wrote to several individuals, including those written to Mrs. McCoy. Because they are of more than passing interest to the full story of Perry's involvement with that famous error, they are excerpted here as follows:

1. Fig. 10. In this letter from Harry L. Lindquist, reference is made to the late Senator Ackerman who, it is intimated, would have put up the money to purchase Robey's sheet.
2. Fig. 11. This is the galley proof of the article mentioned in Lindquist's October 9, 1933 letter to Perry. There is one obvious error in the article: according to Klein, Robey was a



October 10, 1933

Dear Harry Lindquist,

Thanks for the 24c air mail galley proof. Yes, I had read this before. My connection with the matter was before Robey went to Philadelphia and closed the deal there. I have always had a feeling that if I had shoved $11,000 under his nose that night in New York he would have grabbed it. He did not talk to me as tho anyone in New York had offered $13,000 - he seemed to be disgusted because nobody seemed to think the sheet was so wonderful as he did. They all expected there would be plenty more.

I am quite confident E.R.A. often tried to be generous with me and occasionally he succeeded. But he was so suspicious that whenever he got scared - and that was often - he'd be likely to do some fool thing that would make it hard for me. No doubt he well knew he had a good thing and was afraid if I got a few dollars ahead I would get away from him. Well, I did anyhow, and in such a way that he couldn't yawp one little yawp. Anything he said would have only convinced everybody that he had got a dose of his own medicine before he recognized the bottle.

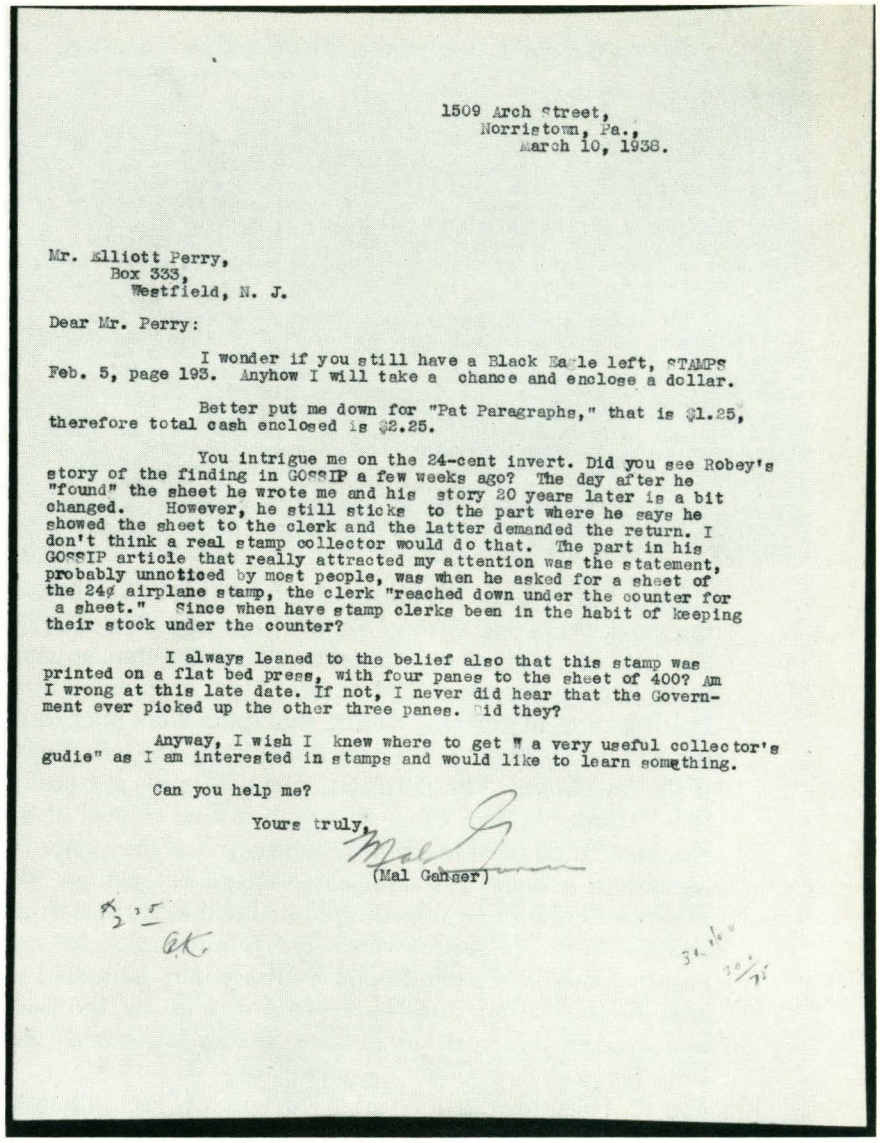
I have the 1861-62 outline revised at last and am sending copy to Howard Jackson and to Ralph Rouseman. Shall get another copy out for you and Frank Hollowbush.

Fig. 12. Perry's reply to Lindquist's October 9, 1933 letter. Perry refers to the possibility that Robey might have grabbed his $11,000 offer if it had been "shoved . . . under his nose."

clerk in Rigg's Bank. We know, of course, that he worked for the stock brokerage firm of W. B. Hibbs and Company. The fifth investor, whose name Perry had forgotten, appears to have been Joseph A. Steinmetz. Also, it appears, from Phillips' article (quoting Klein), that there were only three partners in the deal to purchase Robey's sheet: Klein, Steinmetz, and Mann. The pertinent part of Klein's account is that "Mann phoned Robey to give him first refusal of the sheet and then went to see Jos. Steinmetz and they came on together to see me. The three agreed to go in together." We may reasonably conclude, therefore, that the partners in the deal to buy Robey's sheet were Klein, Steinmetz, and Mann, and that the others mentioned by Perry may have had no part in the actual purchase. (This article, by the way, appeared in the April, 1934 issue of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.)

3. Fig. 12. These are the first two paragraphs of Perry's October 10, 1933 reply to Lindquist. The remaining paragraphs are of no interest for our story. The initials E.R.A. in the second paragraph probably refer to Ackerman.
4. Letter of February 18, 1938, from Lindquist to Perry. "I will be looking forward with interest to your article on the 24 cent airplane invert, and any additional light thrown on the subject should be welcomed rather than otherwise."
5. Letter of February 19, 1938, from Perry to Lindquist: "Probably won't release the 24c air mail invert story until the U.S. Stamp Catalog is fixed up so it doesn't contradict itself so often."
6. Fig. 13. In this letter to Perry, Malcolm Ganser reiterates his belief that the 24-cent air mail stamps were "printed on a flat bed press, with four panes to a sheet of 400?" It is hoped

Fig. 13. Letter of Malcolm Ganser to Perry, March 10, 1938. Ganser states his belief in 4 panes of 100 stamps to make a sheet of 400.



1509 Arch Street,
Norristown, Pa.,
March 10, 1938.

Mr. Elliott Perry,
Box 333,
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Mr. Perry:

I wonder if you still have a Black Eagle left, STAMPS Feb. 5, page 193. Anyhow I will take a chance and enclose a dollar.

Better put me down for "Pat Paragraphs," that is $1.25, therefore total cash enclosed is $2.25.

You intrigue me on the 24-cent invert. Did you see Robey's story of the finding in GOSSIP a few weeks ago? The day after he "found" the sheet he wrote me and his story 20 years later is a bit changed. However, he still sticks to the part where he says he showed the sheet to the clerk and the latter demanded the return. I don't think a real stamp collector would do that. The part in his GOSSIP article that really attracted my attention was the statement, probably unnoticed by most people, was when he asked for a sheet of the 24¢ airplane stamp, the clerk "reached down under the counter for a sheet." Since when have stamp clerks been in the habit of keeping their stock under the counter?

I always leaned to the belief also that this stamp was printed on a flat bed press, with four panes to the sheet of 400? Am I wrong at this late date. If not, I never did hear that the Government ever picked up the other three panes. Did they?

Anyway, I wish I knew where to get "a very useful collector's gudie" as I am interested in stamps and would like to learn something.

Can you help me?

Yours truly,

(Mal Ganser)

that Mr. Ganser finally found his "very useful collector's guide," and that he did "learn something," or at least that the stamps were printed in sheets of 100.

7. Letter of March 11, 1938, from Perry to Ganser: "The 'very useful collector's guide' referred to is the U.S. Stamp Catalog (Scott's) 1938 edition. . . . . Yes I have long understood that two or three other sheets or panes of the invert were found by the Dept. and destroyed.* I believe the stamp clerk who sold the sheet to Robey did see it at that time even tho the Robey stories of what happened may not agree.

"I don't recall that Robey mentioned anything about the

*In his acceptance speech for the Alfred E. Lichtenstein Award on May 11, 1983, George Brett mentioned his findinan informal report indicating seven sheets were found in the Post Office Department's stocks.

400 subject-4 pane-plate and sheet. But he did seem very positive that no other sheets than his would come on the market. The 400 subject plate of four panes is all news to me. Think of the difficulty in obtaining decent registration! Max Johl states (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, July 1935, p. 168) 'This stamp was printed and issued in sheets of 100 subjects.' Max ought to know.

"Yours for less bunkum and more facts."

8. Letter of December 29, 1943, from Perry to Harry L. Jefferys: "Henkels was certainly 'all wet.' Robey told me the story at the time and I had some collateral evidence that it was correct and that his sheet would be the only one to get out unless one had been sold before his and the sale was stopped until the three stocks had been searched.

   "Robey had been a customer of mine and had not been collecting long. When he got the sheet he notified five people including myself and I was the first to answer. All he wanted was $50,000 for the sheet. I had dinner with him at the Commodore when he brought it to New York and had it in my hands. New York was scared because the bottom had just dropped out of the 5c error and they thought Robey was wrong and there would be plenty of the sheets. My own customer [Ackerman?] was out of town and I was helpless.

   "None of the printed versions fully agree with what Robey himself told me at the time."

9. Letter of February 25, 1944, from Perry to Harry L. Jefferys: "Walter Scott told me that he himself took the gum off the 'no gum' copies. They were found in an envelope stuck together and had to be soaked to separate them. Col. Green is said to have intended to prevent re-perforating of the straight edges by taking them to the Collectors Club and publicly burning them. Evidently these were what he got together and carried around in his pocket until they adhered."

Finally, as noted in much of the correspondence quoted, it was Perry's desire to publish the story of his connection with Robey and his famous sheet of stamps. He never did. On the envelope that contained the correspondence given to me by Gilbert Foster there is an adhesive label. On it is written:

"THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY"
24 CENT INVERTED AIR MAIL SHEET
W. T. ROBEY

Could this have been the title of Perry's intended article?

Interesting and Unusual Items from a Specialized Collection of China

Part III of an Article by Carl A. Kilgas

The First Postage Stamps of China: The "Large Dragons"

Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Chinese Customs, first presented the National Post Office idea to the Imperial Government in 1861. It took him seventeen years to convince skeptical Imperial officials to sponsor an issue of stamps for prepayment of postage—the first step in establishing a unified national postal system for all of China. Even then, it was considered officially to be only an experiment and was confined to the Treaty Ports in northern China—an "experiment" that was to last eighteen years!

On March 23, 1878, Hart was authorized to act. He directed the Tientsin Customs Commissioner, Gustav Detring, to accept mail from the general public at Chefoo, Newchwang, Peking, and Shanghai. A daily mounted courier service was set up between Peking and Tientsin and an order for the needed postage stamps was immediately placed.

A great deal of thought and consideration was given to the choice of a suitable design for the First issue.[35] As early as 1877, De La Rue of London produced essays in the form of small seals for Chinese stamps and embossed envelopes. Other, more practical essays prepared by the Customs in 1878 included:

- a pagoda (a design that must have been created by a non-Chinese, since it had only six stories while Chinese tradition requires seven, nine, eleven, or thirteen!)
- a ceremonial elephant (a Buddhist design)
- a dragon with five claws (to make it "imperial")

[35] Ireland, Philip W. *The Large Dragons* (London, 1978), Chapter 2, "Designs and Essays of China's First Stamps."

This latter design was finally approved, with minor alterations.

Fig. 19 shows proofs, which were prepared in the colors decided upon. Type I has the "extra circle"—a security marking removed upon approval of the die and before a second set of proofs was prepared to determine if any recutting was necessary.

After the extra circle had been filed off, some of the cliches were not wiped very clean. On these we find specks of filing residue in the area where the circle has been removed. These are referred to as "Proof Dots." Their location can be measured in millimeters and they remain constant through all printings. They provide additional means for identifying each cliche for plating.[36]

The first printings (setting I) were in sheets of twenty-five (5 × 5). To give a basis for plating, each cliche in setting I is given a number, in sequence from 1 through 25, starting in the upper left corner and proceeding horizontally from left to right. Multiples with cliches arranged otherwise indicate a different setting. By referring to characteristics peculiar to a particular printing, even a single item may be properly identified with a specific printing or setting.

Three major printings, perf 12½ and unwatermarked, are easily identified:[37]

1. 1878 "Thin Paper"—semi-transparent
   Paper thickness (in millimeters)
   1 Candarin: .05
   2 Candarin: .04-.045
   5 Candarin: .05
   Perforations: clean cut



2. February 1882 "Wide Margin"—cliches farther apart
   Paper thickness (in millimeters)
   1 Candarin: .06 (Pelure .04)
   2 Candarin: .04-.06
   5 Candarin: .04
   Perforations: clean cut



[36] Ireland, *op. cit.*, Chapter 6, "Identifying the Cliches."
[37] Ireland, *op. cit.*, Chapter 5, "The Printing."

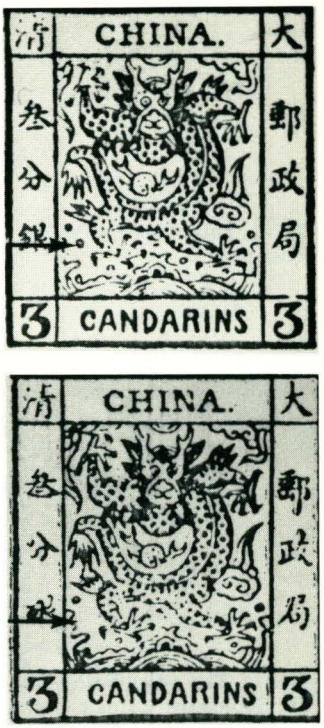


Fig. 19. The two types of proofs: left, type I with the extra circle on thin, white wove paper; right, type II with the extra circle removed.

Fig. 20. First printing of the Large Dragons on semi-transparent paper.

Fig. 21. Second printing with wide margins.

3. March 1883 "Opaque Paper"
Paper thickness (in millimeters)
1 Candarin: .06
2 Candarin: .05-.07
5 Candarin: .06
Perforations: (early) clean cut; (later) very rough



Fig. 22. Third printing on opaque paper.



Fig. 23. The 3-Candarin with the September 23 date from Tientsin.

Newly discovered evidence confirms the 5-Candarin was shipped to Tientsin on July 18, 1878 and the 3-Candarin on July 22.[38] No information for shipping exists on the 1-Candarin, but a single copy dated August 27 at Newchwang has been recorded. The earliest dates for the 3-Candarin are July 29, September 13, and September 23 (all at Tientsin)[39] ; for the 5-Candarin, these dates are October 2 (Peking), with the earliest cover October 5 (also Peking), using a horizontal strip of three 5-Candarins.



Fig. 24. Watermarks on the Large Dragons.

[38] Whang, J. B. "A Clear Confirmation of the First Date of Issue of the First Customs Dragon Issue" in *Postal Research Quarterly*, no. 1, January, 1981.
[39]Bowker, Howard F. "Early Cancellations of China's First Issue" in *China Clipper*, vol. 29, no. 4 (May 1965), p. 59.
[40]Kauder, Warren G. "Customs Post Cancellations" in *China Ciipper*, vol. 30, no. 3 (March 1960), p. 43.

In 1925, M. D. Chow reported a copy of the 1-Candarin wide margin had been found watermarked "ON" in large double lined capital letters.[41] Since then about a dozen copies—all wide margin—have been recorded, two on the 3-Candarin, the rest on the 1-Candarin. So far the letters "CK," "KE," "KT," "MO," "ON," "K," and "T" have been found.[42][43] The three illustrated are watermarked "CK," "ON," and "MO." Only one of the above combinations, "KE," fits into the previous concept that the watermark was "ORIGINAL TURKEY MILL KENT." Honki Wong, a distinguished Asian scholar, suggested in a talk at ASIAPEX '80 in San Francisco[44] that "MOCKTON BASTED MILLS KENT" should be further explored.

Further study should include an identification of each cliche found with a watermark which would help in aligning the letters in a logical position. Care must be taken, since a few watermarks are not only in reverse position but also appear aligned sidewise!

The only official comment was to the effect that probably a few remainder sheets used by the statistical department for other purposes were erroneously included in the stamp printing stock.[45]

Unusual Cancellations

Chefoo lies across the Gulf, south of Port Arthur, one of the principal ports-of-call in northern China. The proper Chinese name for the port is "Yen T'ai," but foreigners arbitrarily called it "Chefoo" (actually the name of a large village on the opposite side of the bay). Thus we find two types of posting cancels: "Chefoo Customs" and a Chefoo "Seal," in characters reading "Yen T'ai."

The Chefoo-to-Shanghai cover (Fig. 25) shown here is reported to be the earliest with a Yen T'ai Seal cancel.[46] On the reverse is a

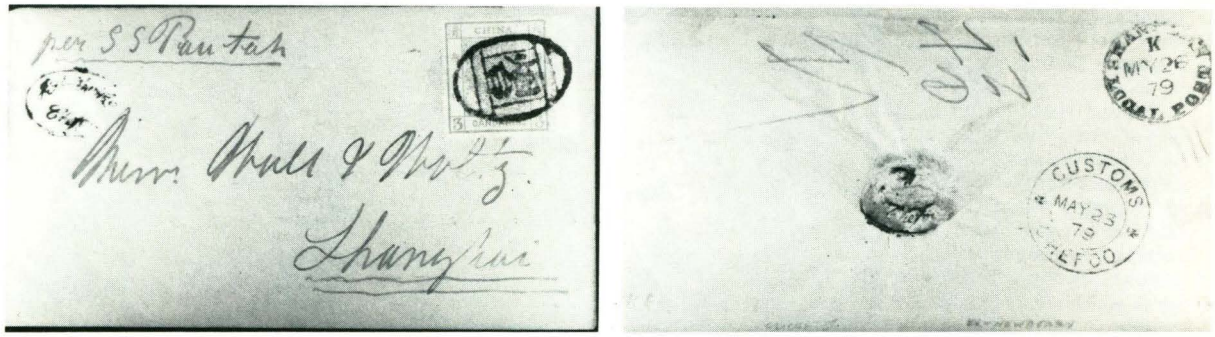


Fig. 25. Chefoo to Shanghai cover with earliest reported Yen T'ai seal cancel.

[41]M. D. Chow (ed.), "A Handbook of Chinese Postage Stamps Watermarked", in *Philatelic Bulletin*, vol. 1, no. 1 (September-October 1925), p. 12.
[42]M. Mizuhara Collection, "Chinese Maritime Customs Post" (vol. 1, 1978), p. 58.
[43] Beckman, S. E. and A. L. "The Paper Maker's Watermark on the First Customs Issue" in *Journal of Chinese Philately* vol. 28, no. 5 (June 1981), p. 112.
[44]Wong, Honki. Talk given at ASIAPEX '80 in San Francisco. Reference cited in *Collectors Club Philatelist*, vol. 47, no. 3, p. 153.
[45]Mencarini, Juan. Paper read at Shanghai Philatelic Society meeting of February 2, 1922. Reprinted as a supplement to *China Clipper*, vol. 29, no. 6 (September 1965).
[46]Chien, E. K., *Prize Selections from the ROCPEX '81*, Chefoo cover, p. 57, February 1982.



Fig. 26. "Small numerals" cancelations on 1-Candarin Large Dragon.

"Chefoo Customs" with a posting date of May 23, 1879 and a Shanghai Local Post receiving date of May 26. Most Chefoo Customs cancels were used properly—on the envelope as a posting date record. They are difficult to find as a cancelation on a stamp. Fig. 26 illustrated is the scarcest—it has "small numerals" for the day of the month and was used for a very short time.

Chinkiang, an important inland port, is at the intersection of the Yangtze river (112 miles west of Shanghai) and the Grand Canal, the connecting link to Tientsin and Peking, the only link between Shanghai and these northern cities during the winter months when Tientsin is icebound. The mounted courier route distance between Tientsin and Chinkiang is 778 miles. Two types of Circular Dated cancels were used (see Figs. 27 and 28).



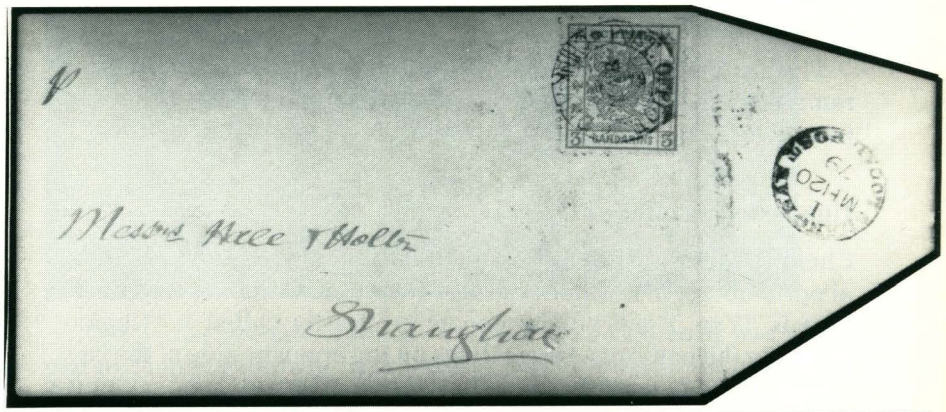


Fig. 27. The earliest reported cover with the "POST OFFICE CHINKIANG" marking, which was in use for only a few weeks. The date is March 18, 1879.



Fig. 28. The normal "CHINKIANG CUSTOMS" cancel is usually found on the 3-Candarin stamp. Few have been found with the 1-Candarin. Other markings include, on the reverse, a blue receiving "SHANGHAI LOCAL POST" for April 26 and a "SHANGHAI CUSTOMS" transit for the same date. The cover has a routing indication via Yangtze steamer Fu Mo and the "CHINKIANG CUSTOMS" marking is dated April 25, 1886. A red seal wax imprint, for D. M. David, is also on the reverse.

Newchwang is the only Treaty Port in Manchuria. When the British settlers arrived, they did not like the location of Newchwang, some forty miles upriver from the coast, so they moved to

[47]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, Chinkiang Post Office cover, p. 55.
[48]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, Chinkiang Domestic Cover, p. 77.

the port of Ying K'ou right on the coast. In order to meet the requirements of the Treaty Port designation, they simply changed the name of Ying K'ou to Newchwang!

"NEWCHWANG CUSTOMS" dated cancels were most commonly used. With the appearance of the second issue (the "Small Dragons") in 1885, a large Seal cancel was authorized. Less than half a dozen Newchwang seal cancels on the first issue have been recorded. The seal characters read "Niu" for "cattle" and "Chuang" for village. Perhaps, had the settlers known the meaning of the characters, they would have preferred to have kept the name Ying K'ou (or "regimental harbor")!

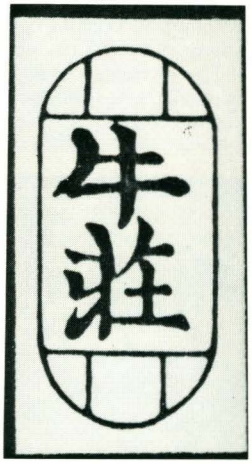




Fig. 29. Large seal "NEWCHWANG CUSTOMS" dated cancel on Large Dragon.

The importance of the Peking "ON SERVICE" Customs Official cover (Fig. 30) is the date: February 17, 1882. The "wide margin" date of issuance was considered to be in June, 1882 until this cover was found showing the use of the 3-Candarin in February.[49] Also of interest is the use of the 1-Candarin emerald green, from the last printing of the "thin paper" printing. The strip of 5-Candarins is from setting II, with cliches 18, 11, 3, and 25.



Fig. 30. Detail of Peking "ON SERVICE" customs official cover with February 17, 1882 date showing the 3-Candarin large margin printing variety.

[49]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, Earliest Wide Margin Cover, p. 65.

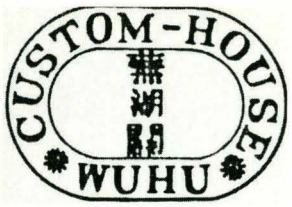


Fig. 31. Very little is known about this "WUHU CUSTOMS HOUSE" marking except that it is seldom found on the first issue. The vertical characters in the center are the equivalent of the English wording.



Fig. 33. A single line rectangle, type II, is reported to have been used in Newchwang and, later (November, 1884), in Shanghai. The chop has only been found on the Large Dragons.



The centuries-old custom of the Min Chu, or "People's Letter Writing Agencies," where the sender usually paid half the letter fee and the receiver the other half, was a hard one to break with the introduction of adhesives, which required the prepayment of postage. Frequently, delivery messengers would insist on collecting an additional fee even when adequate postage stamps were evident.

To combat this practice, an interesting vertical chop (15 × 29 mm) with two vertical rows of characters (reading at the left "Don't Ask Don't Give" and at the right "Letter Labor Already Paid") was to be used in a conspicuous place on the envelope. In a few instances it was used to cancel the stamps. Two types have been found (Figs. 32 and 33).



Fig. 32. The double line rectangle prepayment education marking occurs in black and violet, probably from Tientsin, type I.

Registration markings usually appear on the envelopes, but in some instances they have been found to have been used to cancel a stamp. Two types were used on the Large Dragons (Figs. 34 and 35).

Use of a chop with characters for "Protected and Sealed" was probably personal, not official, to indicate that a letter was very important. The characters "Hu Feng" mean "Protected and Sealed" and were either written or placed across the flap of an envelope with a 20-mm circle chop. Its use to cancel a stamp is most unusual (Fig. 37).

Perfins are very uncommon. The one shown in Fig. 38 has the initials "NCH" for the North China Herald.

International Mail, Outgoing from China

China was invited to join the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) in 1879, but did not do so as uniformity in postal services was lacking. The I Chan, Min Chu, and the lucrative local and foreign post offices were all in active competition with the newly formed stamp-issuing Customs Postal Department. The Emperor remained totally indifferent, as he was more than satisfied with his I Chan and the Min Chu letter agencies for the people—so why change?

Without membership in the U.P.U., China's stamps were valid only in China. They were necessary to carry mail, at least at the foreign postal rate, to the Chinese Customs Port Office at the outgoing port of departure, Shanghai, where it was forwarded to one of the foreign post offices (probably selected for the earliest mail ship out of Shanghai). To send the item to its overseas destination, a







Fig. 34. (left) Rectangle (54 × 9 mm) with 4 mm high "REGISTERED" in blue has only been seen on the earliest settings. (above) *Fig. 35.* Oval (15 × 29 mm) with 14 mm high "R" in center has been seen only on the last settings with Tientsin in black and Shanghai in blue. This registration marking is very similar to the type used in many British colonial post offices.



Fig. 36. (above) A small rectange (20 × 10 mm) with letters "C.P.D." for the Customs Postal Department. *Fig. 37. (right)* Chop with characters for "Protected and Sealed."

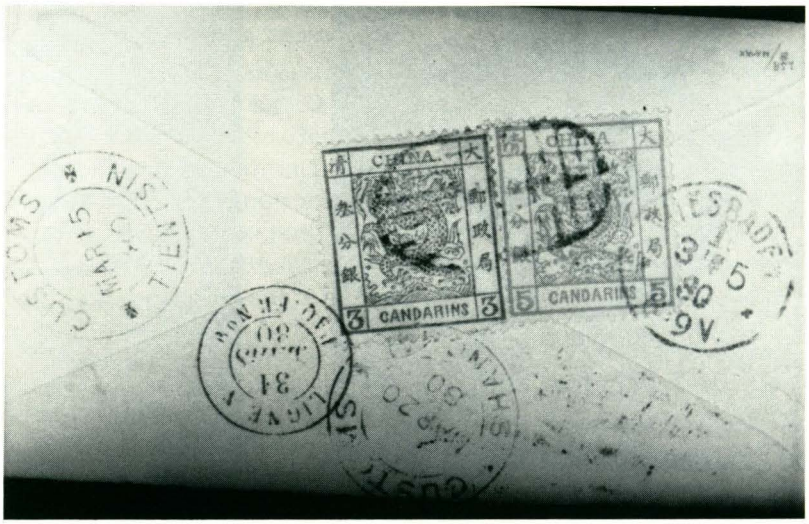




Fig. 38. Perfin for North China Herald.



Fig. 39. Addressed to Frau Detring, wife of the Tientsin commissioner of customs in Weisbaden, this cover shows the "5104" killer assigned by the French to Shanghai. The "TIENTSIN CUSTOMS" marking for March 15, 1880 is on the reverse with the adhesives marking the 8-Candarin rate with the "SHANGHAI CUSTOMS" transit marking for March 20. The French maritime "Paquet Bot Ligne N" in blue is dated March 31. The total transit time, indicated by the Weisbaden receiving marking of May 3, was 49 days.



U.P.U.-member's stamps were required.[50]

Uniformity in rates was established in November 14, 1879.[51] The letter rate to Europe, via Marseilles or Southampton, was 8 Candarins. Although in effect for two years, very few covers have been recorded with this rate on mail outgoing from China (Fig. 39).[52][53]

On November 15, 1882, a uniform international rate of 9 Candar-

[50]Sieh, Ping-wan. "Study of Combination Cover" in *Cheng's Stamp Journal*, vol. 2, no. 1 (September 1977), p. 12.

[51]Sieh, Ping-wan, and J. L. Blackburn. *Postal Rates of China 1867-1980* (Taipai, 1981), part II, table I, p. 1.

[52]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, Cover with Early 8-Candarin Rate, p. 61.

[53]Lesgor, Raoul, and Meade Minnigerode. *Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues, 1849-1876, Offices Abroad* (New York, 1948).

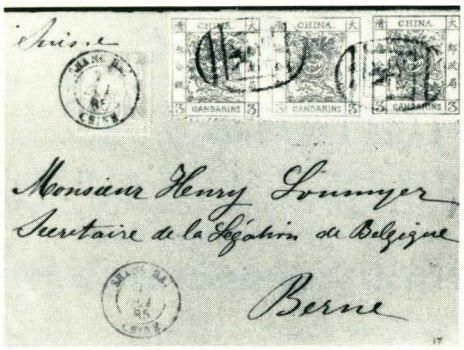


Fig. 40. This example of the 9-Candarin rate is addressed to Berne. On the reverse is the "I. G. OF CUSTOMS" for October 2. The Large Dragons are canceled with a Peking blue seal (Padget type 4). The French 25-centimes adhesive is canceled with the French Shanghai post office transit marking for October 7,1885. There is also on the reverse the French railway "Macon Mt Ceis" transit marking (November 16) en route from Brindisi, a Swiss Railway Post Office marking for November 16, and a Berne receiving marking for the same date.

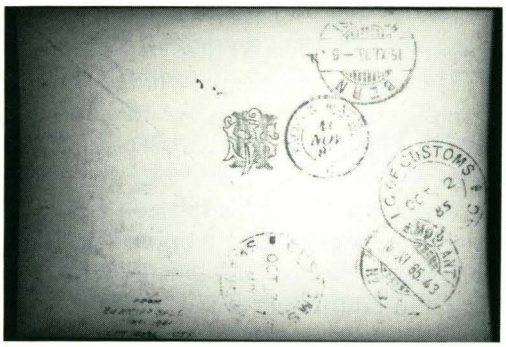




Fig. 41. An inbound cover from Lurgan, Ireland, posted on February 5, 1880. The routing was via Brindisi to Hong Kong. The 3-Candarin adhesive covered the domestic rate and shows the "SHANGHAI CUSTOMS" transit marking for March 22. There is also a "TIENTSIN CUSTOMS" receiving mark for March 27.

ins per half ounce to Europe was set (Fig. 40).[54] Webb states that "very few examples of inland bound first issue covers have survived—perhaps a half dozen"[55]. Eight have now been recorded. The illustrated cover (Fig. 41) is from the William Hancock correspondence and is the only one forwarded from Shanghai to Peking.[52] Hancock was with the Customs in several locations in China.

To be continued

[54]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, p. 75.
[55]Webb, F. W. *Philatelic and Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports of China and Japan* (Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1961), Chapter 31, "Chinese Imperial Post," p. 67.
[56]Chien, E. K., from ROCPEX '81, Lurgan Cover, p. 59.

Philatelic Judging

Part III of an Article by Robert P. Odenweller

Overall Factors Which Affect Philatelic Judging

Primarily, the effectiveness of a philatelic judge is directly related to his experience and knowledge. There exist, however, a number of psychological influences that can have a subtle effect on any judge's ability, especially one who is not aware of the existence of these forces. Let us consider the development of a new judge, starting with his first approach to judging. Then we will discuss how he may gain effectiveness with experience, concluding with an analysis of psychological factors that affect judges and the means to counteract some of them.

It is perfectly natural for a new judge to tend to be highly subjective in his approach to judging, particularly if he has had relatively little guidance from experienced judges. He will either like or dislike an exhibit, but he may not be able to say why, particularly with any consistency. Presentation will have a strong effect on his judgment, especially if the area covered by the exhibit is unfamiliar to him. Bias of friends and fellow collectors will color his perception. Generally, this subjectivity will be due to inexperience, the influence of his philatelic habits, and his personal bias.

As experienced is gained, however, the judge's aesthetic sense should evolve. While retaining the appreciation of the material he is viewing, his ability to judge the material will develop on the sounder lines of why an exhibit is or is not good. It is quite likely that with this process of maturation there will be a reversal of judgments; exhibits that were previously criticized are now praised, while some that were formerly enjoyed may now be seen as less effective. More objective criteria will be exercised, whether consciously or unconsciously, in reaching more lasting and valid judgments.

Certainly an aesthetic sense is needed in judging. With the almost limitless range of possible subjects of philatelic exhibits, aesthetic feel is an important consideration in any evaluation. New approaches to exhibiting are are continually evolving, requiring that judges maintain open minds. Existing standards will constantly be under the pressure of refinement, and new standards will be established as required by the acceptance of new techniques. As a result, there will always be discrepancies between individual

preferences, but as long as judgments are based on experience and knowledge, they must be accepted as valid.

A new judge should be aware that the quality of an exhibit does *not* depend on its reputation, tradition, or price. There are those with superficial knowledge and a feeling that "old and expensive" are good. New judges should ignore the tendency to subscribe to this feeling. For one thing, the condition and depth of the exhibit could make it worthy of only a minor award, regardless of the subject (such as a collection of low quality Great Britain "penny blacks").

What is it that makes one collection ordinary and another great? The ability to make this determination is primarily based on experience. Differences in personal experience, psychological errors, or prejudices may begin to explain individual preferences. Some may be inherent in our philosophical attitudes. In general, though, well trained, experienced judges will agree quite consistently in their overall appraisals of exhibits. Disagreement frequently occurs when the panel includes a less experienced judge or judges who are less familiar with the subject or exhibit in question.

There is much to learn from those with more experience, but every judge, however experienced, has blind spots. Guidance comes from many sources, but the judge must remember that he will have to reach his own decision. Variation in opinion, even among experts, is the reason that a panel of judges is necessary for the best evaluation, and the panel should have in-depth experience in evaluating exhibits of the types displayed with some common basis of judgment. Otherwise the result is a collection of personal preferences, not a vote on quality.

A truly exceptional philatelic exhibit is one that his more than just balanced. There should be a blending of all the necessary elements in such a way that they complement each other synergistically, or so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. It is this type of exhibit which is rarely encountered, but well remembered while all others quickly fade from memory. The new judge should approach such an exhibit with caution, since the initial judgment of a top quality exhibit is apt to be superficial and untrustworthy if he has not had experience with exhibits of similar quality.

Viewers of philatelic exhibits may be divided into three groups. The first consists of those who look but do not analyze why they like an exhibit. They simply react, usually to the presentation of the stamps rather than on any more complex basis.

The second group is more ordered in its appreciation of the exhibits. These individuals try to analyze the elements of an exhibit and why they like or dislike it, but without any specific guidance on the features that should be taken into consideration. Occasionally they will establish their own criteria of good and bad, which often will fail to match the generally accepted criteria. Obviously, if this is the case, their results will differ from those of

the judges.

The final group is the judges. They must base their observations on the agreed-upon standards. Generally, with the best of judges, personal perferences do not come into play or are consciously ignored. Considerable experience is essential. Although a judge may not care for a particular area, he may still be a good, dispassionate judge of exhibits in the area.

Experience is the essential factor in any good judge for a number of reasons. Without it, he may judge his first exhibit hopelessly far from its proper level, since the frame of reference provided by experience is missing. Inexperienced judges, lacking a standard or a frame of reference, tend to drift in their evaluations as a series of exhibits of the same type is encountered. Apparently, the inexperienced judge "learns" as he proceeds through the series of exhibits. If all the collections are poor, he may tend to rate the best too high. Conversely, if all are very good, he is likely to rate some of them too low. Even a very experienced judge, when asked his opinion of a single exhibit, may find it difficult to rate it correctly, although he is likely to be more nearly correct in his judgment than an inexperienced judge. Statistical methods may be employed to determine the reliability of the judges and their results as they will reveal drifts in scoring. (This will be the subject of a later part of this series.)

An obvious difference between experienced and inexperienced judges is the general inability of the latter to tell why he ranked a collection as he did. Frequently, he may come to the correct conclusion but for the wrong reasons. Often, this makes communication between judges difficult.

A word of caution seems to be called for at this point. A detailed analysis of the difficulties facing judges may give the exhibitor and non-judge the feeling that any chance for a fair evaluation is all but impossible. Fortunately, this is not the case. In spite of what seem to be vast hurdles, international judges and most national judges I have observed reach very consistent results for a great majority of the exhibits that they have considered.

Psychological Factors in Philatelic Judging

Philatelic judging depends primarily upon the visual input of the exhibit, but psychological factors may alter the perception of the exhibit in subtler ways. An excellent but highly technical book on the judging of wines has provided the basis for some of the analysis which follows.[1] Although we are dealing with two basically different subjects, wine and stamps, the psychological factors are surprisingly similar. Let us examine each of the psychological errors that may bias judgment.

Sequence and Contrast Error. Perhaps the most common error,

[1]Amerine and Roessler, *Wines, Their Sensory Evaluation* (San Francisco: W. H. Freeman Co., 1976).

this is the prejudicial selection of one exhibit over the others on the basis of its placement in the sequence of consideration. In practice, the first exhibit considered tends to be preferred. Probably this is due to the lack of an immediate frame of reference for purposes of comparison, or perhaps that a judge is apt to be less critical at the outset. One possible way to minimize the effects of this tendency is to have each judge start at a different place in the sequence of exhibits to be considered.

The contrast error appears simple but is by no means simple to interpret. It resembles in some ways the sequence error and may take different forms. For example, an outstanding exhibit is considered first, followed by one of much lower quality. The second exhibit will often be rated lower than it should because of the contrast with the first. The converse may also be true. A fine exhibit which follows a poor one may be rated inordinately highly due to the contrast between them. On the other hand, a sequence of equally poor exhibits will appear to deteriorate in successive order, unless a good exhibit intervenes. Awareness of these tendencies must be taught to the new judge.

Stimulus and Related Errors. When irrelevant criteria are used to make a judgment, the stimulus error appears. For example, an exhibit allocated a large number of frames might be ranked higher by a judge because he may feel that the frame allotment is due to the importance of the collection, and smaller exhibits might be ranked lower for similar reasons. One attempt to cure this problem at the international level has been to assign a fixed number of frames to various categories (five frames to previous vermeil or lower award winning exhibits, and ten frames to gold and above). There are obvious disadvantages to this treatment (lack of available material to make a ten-frame exhibit without inordinate repetition if, indeed, at all—Ionian Islands, for example).

Logical Error. The logical error occurs when characteristics that are desirable in one exhibit are transferred to another because they are logically related. For example, multiples of the issues of a country after, say, 1865 may be reasonably available and not even necessarily hard to get, while those of earlier issues may be all but nonexistent. To downgrade an exhibit for lack of the latter is an unjust application of the logical error.

Leniency. Leniency is another form of stimulus error. One is more apt to make particularly lenient judgments on an exhibit's level when speaking to the exhibitor or a friend. The opposite may also occur: downgrading an exhibit because the judge does not know, or worse, does not like, the exhibitor.

Equality Error. The equality error takes place when one feature of an exhibit is of particularly notable quality, such as highly effective presentation. The other attributes needed for a high award will often be given more favorable ranking than otherwise deserved by the material on display. The converse also applies: a very poor feature of an exhibit can drag it down to a lower level than it should

normally attain.

Association Error. Another form of the stimulus error is the association error, the tendency to repeat previous judgments. This is again more prevalent among inexperienced judges.

Middle of the Road Error. This error is committed by the timid or inexperienced judge who is afraid to making the wrong judgment. If a number of exhibits about which he is unsure are to be considered, he will tend to evaluate them at a middle range (silver or vermeil) which is subconsciously the safest course. More than one grand award winner at a previous show has fallen prey to this error and received a silver medal from judges who did not understand the material on display.

Pride Error. Not all errors are made by inexperienced judges. The pride error is most often encountered when a judge of moderate experience feels that his reputation requires that he know more than he actually does. In these cases, he will make a judgment of an exhibit based on factors other than the material, possibly relying on some knowledge of its reputation. He tends to feel ashamed to admit ignorance of an area being judged, as not in keeping with the image he wishes to project. Great judges do not commit this error. Any judge who refuses to admit that some of the preceding errors affect his considerations probably suffers from the error of pride.

Familiarity Error. A final error may be called the familiarity error. This arises when a judge is too familiar with the area being judged, either as a top expert in it or as one who has formed a great collection of it, or both. In many instances, he will render a harsher verdict on the exhibit because it does not develop the material as he would, or because of a subconscious feeling that he would not like to allow another collection to match his achievement. Paradoxically, an exhibitor may suffer by having a judge who is a top expert in the area that he is exhibiting.

The opposite can also occur. The same judge may feel that his particular area of expertise deserves elevation beyond that which it might ordinarily be justified in reaching. He will push for a higher award and offer justification by pointing out some feature which may appear significant to those less familiar with the subject, but which they otherwise may not be able to check or refute. Judges tend to look to the guidance of those who are particularly knowledgeable in a specific area, and are far less ready to challenge them once judgment is made, making this a particularly insidious problem.

One way to avoid this could be to have the very knowledgeable judge indicate the strengths and weaknesses of the exhibit in question without indicating an award level. The other judges could then ask how significant some of the points may be in the overall framework, after which they, not the knowledgeable one, could first suggest an award level. This would start to avoid the complete dominance that could be exerted by one individual.

In this and in the preceding instances, the examples given are

one or few of many possible ones. Other examples are not only possible, but predictable. Some judges may commit both opposing sides of the same error on different exhibits at the same show.

In summary, awareness of these psychological errors may not be enough. The judge who wishes to increase his reliability should review them often, particularly just prior to starting to judge. Even better, the chairman of the jury should make it a part of his pre-judging briefing to mention them and to caution the judges about their existence. It may be too much to hope that all of them will thus be avoided, but perhaps just by bringing it to their attention, most will receive some consideration and conscious avoidance during the judging process. If this brief exercise is followed, it is quite logical to assume that the consistency and accuracy of judging results will be much improved.

Editor's Note

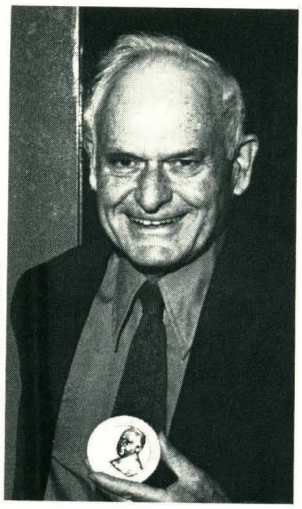
The following corrections should be made to the text of Philip Silver's "The Beacon Air Mail Stamp of 1928 Revisited" as it appeared in the May 1983 issue of *Collector's Club Philatelist*.

Page 132, top line	Change Air Mail Society to American Air Mail Society
Page 132, paragraph 2, sixth line	Change "his" to "Goodkind's"
Page 132, last paragraph, next to last line	Change "III" to "II"
Page 134, line 14	Add next to "19642" the following: "not used"
Page 143, eighth line from the top of the page	Change "mostly applied first" to "Most likely to applied first"
Page 148, third line from bottom of page, and Page 149, first paragraph, fourth line	Change "Trip" to "Train"



Fig. 7. The widest size variations found: 39 × 31mm and 42 × 32mm.

Awards Dinner 1983



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADRIAN BOUTRELLE

The Collectors Club held its annual Awards Dinner at the Towers Suite of the Time-Life Building on May 11, 1983. A most enjoyable affair, the dinner was hosted by President Louis Grunin, who acted as master of ceremonies. Dr. Norman Hubbard was the recipient of the medal for the best program during the past year for his presentation "Chile" on February 3, 1982. In Dr. Hubbard's absence, the medal was presented to his son, of whom we hope to see more in the coming years.

The award for the best article in *Collectors Club Philatelist* was a joint presentation to Dr. Fred Reed and Paul van Reyen for "The Posthorn Watermark of the First Issue of the Netherlands, 1852," which appeared in the January 1982 issue.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award presentation to George Brett. After a humorous introduction by Philip Silver, the previous awardees gathered around to honor Mr. Brett. In accepting the medal, he spoke extemporaneously with a most thought-provoking speech. Noting that he was a student, like Win Boggs, not a builder of great collections, he modestly said how honored he felt. He recounted a story from one of his other hobbies, mountain-climbing, to indicate the wonder of it all.

Mr. Brett noted how many areas have yet to be studied in U.S. philately, pointing to needed work on the 1847 dies, papers from the 1870 to 1910 period, and cut reliefs and engraving from 1950 to the present. He asked Mr. Silver, as a final parting, the number of sheets of the inverted 24-cent airmail found in Post Office stocks after the Robey find and then stated that he had seen an informal report indicating seven additional sheets had been discovered.

Book Reviews

Classificação dos Selos Tipo Ceres de Portugal e dos Açores [*Classification of Ceres-type Stamps of Portugal and Azores*], by António Lopes Ribeiro. Published by Filamundo, 1200 Lisboa, Portgual (available in North America from ISPP Literature Service, 64 Ricker Road, Kinnelon, N.J. 07405). 38 + 42 pp, illus. $3.50.

The familiar definitives picturing Ceres, Goddess of Agriculture, issued by Portugal between 1912 and 1931 (some of which remained valid until 1945) form a fertile field for the specialist. As with any long-running definitive series, varieties abound and their differentiation is limited only by collector whim and fancy. The present volume is a reprint of the original 1956 edition of a volume which, rather than being the final word on a complex subject, attempted to provide the collector at any level with a simple hierarchal system for classifying his material.

The value of Ribeiro's effort lies not in the text written for the (relative) novice but in 42 pages of charts subdividing the "Ceres" by, in order, denomination, perforation, paper, and shade. That the catalogue numbers used are 1955 Yvert is no problem, because *every* catalogue lists the "Ceres" somewhat differently and, as Ribeiro sagely observes, his object is not in providing a means to identify an isolated stamp (as, say, catalogue 417xAb); rather it is in giving a "working" classification scheme which will save collectors from futilely searching for 417xAb (catalogue value 2 cents) which exists only in the eyes of the long-dead catalogue editor. Thus this small volume is useful—this is what I have found—rather than scholarly. For the scholarly approach (this is what should exist) Marques' *O Historia do Selo* which is based on careful study of mint records and documents (which conflict in many respects) or the still unpublished "definitive" book on Ceres by the late Col. Magalhães, is recommended.

As for coverage, Ribeiro includes the basic 1912 die and its 1930 retouch, as well as these stamps in various overprinted forms: Acores, Revalidado, Assistencia, and surcharged new denominations. But he excludes the simpler de la Rue (London) issue without signatures at the bottom as well as any discussion of proofs and essays. On the minus side, only the more spectacular plate flaws (CQRREIO and CORREIC) are covered, and there is no rarity or pricing information given. The charts can be profitably used by anyone whose knowledge of Ibero-American languages extends to reading the labels on a bodega shelf or beyond, and they will make sorting that accumultion you've kept un-worked-up a pleasure rather than a chore. *Stephen S. Washburn*

The Connisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings. 6th edition, 1982. London: Connisseur Publications, 184/186 Portland Road, London SE25 4QB, England. 92 pp. £2.75.

The collecting of the Machin printings has reached a large segment of the stamp collecting community and changed many collectors into philatelists. This catalogue is excellent for both the beginner and the specialist. Starting with good introductory notes it runs the gamut from pre-decimal printings through the present and includes the regional issues as well as booklet panes. One may find as many as eighteen different listings for one value, all look alikes to the untrained eye and priced from 20 pence to £150.

This book is extremely well illustrated. Prices are in English pounds with some astoundingly high as well as low prices. The knowledgeable collector can still find a lot of this material in dealer stockbooks without specialized pricings.

It was interesting to note that in discussing the sculpture done by Machin of the Queen's head no mention was made of the head potter at Wedgewood who helped make this beautiful piece of art.

Abbot Lutz

Publications Received

Werner Elias

Austria—Postal History

Christine Kainz. *Post in Österreich 1945/1946*, 1978. Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Vienna. 90 pp, softbound. Gift of the author.

Christine Kainz. *Briefzensur in Österreich 1945-1953, 1978, 1979 [reprint from vols. 1 and 2 of Österreich. Jahrbuch für Postgeschichte und Philatelie]*. 65 pp, softbound. Gift of the author.

Austria—Serials

Philatelistische Forsehungsblätter (Nos. 1967/1 through 1980/20). Österreische Forschungsgesellschaft für Philatelie und Postgeschichte, Graz, Austria. Softbound. From the library of the late Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch.

Canada

H. G. Washburn, ed. *Official Catalog of Canada Precancels*, 14th ed., 1983. Gilbert W. Noble, P.O. Box 931, Winter Park, Fla. 32789. 56 pp, ill., softbound. $3.50, $4 in Canada. Gift of the publisher.

Catalogues, General

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue. Part 8: Italy and Switzerland, 2nd ed., and *Part 16: Central Asia*, 2nd ed., 1983. Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., London. 270 and 214 pp respectively, ill., softbound. £6.85 and £8.95, respectively. Gift of the publishers.

Commonwealth

Roger Lee. *The Postal History of British New Guinea and Papua, 1885-1942*, 1983. Robson Lowe Ltd., London. 111 pp, ill. £16. Gift of the publishers.

Commonwealth, Catalogues

1983 Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue, 1983. Bridger & Kay Ltd., 24 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LP. 215 pp, ill., softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the publishers.

Cuba

Dr. Roberto M. Rosende. *La Chambelons—La Revolucion de Febrero 1917 Su Legado Filatelico*, 983. 11 pp, ill., softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the author.

Fakes and Forgeries

John Barefoot. *Forgery and Reprint Guides: No. 2, Alace and Lorraine; Nos. 5-6, Samos Express; Nos. 7-8, D.D.S.G.*, all 1983. J. Barefoot (Investments) Ltd., 5 Bootha, York YO3 7BN, England. 24, 36, and 31 pp respectively, all ill., softbound. £1.50, £3, and £3 respectively. Gift of the author.

Great Britain—Channel Islands

Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue of Stamps and Postal History, 2nd ed., 1983. Stnaley Gibbons Publications Ltd., 451 pp, ill., softbound. Price £8.25. Gift of the publishers.

India

D. S. Virk. *Indian Aray Post Offices in the Second World War*, 1982. The Aray Postal Service Assn., New Delhi. 360 pp. Price $15. Gift of the U.S. distributor, Postal Covers, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, N.Y. 10509.

Nigeria

N. M. Jones, ed. *Nigeria Stamps 1914-1936*, 1983. The West Africa Study Circle, 10 Cornfield Rd., Seaford, Sussex BN25 1SW, England. 31 pp, softbound. Price $3. Gift of the publishers.

Peru

Herbert H. Moll. *Historis Postal y Filatelica del Peru*, 1983. ABC S.A., Casilla 5595, Lima, Peru. 190 pp, ill., softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the author.

Switzerland

Walter D'Aujourd-hui. Schweiz: Neu-Klassierung der 'Strubel' Ausgaben Sitzende Helvetia ungezähnt, 1954-1862, 1982. Schweizer Philatelisten Verein, Basel, 64 pp, ill. Price not indicated. Gift of the author.

Topicals

Gustav Datjen, Jr., and L. Boyd Norris. *Handbook of Roosevelt Philately*, 1983. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Philatelic Society, 154 Laguna Court, St. Augustine Shores, Fla. 32084. 101 pp, ill., loose leaf. $15 $3 for the binder. Gift of the publisher.

United States

John C. Chapin. *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, 1983. The Collectors Club, New York. 116 pp, ill, hardcover or softcover. Price $19.50 and $12.50, respectively. Gift of the publishers.

Gilbert W. Noble, ed. The Noble Official Catalog of Bureau Precancels, 64th ed., 1983. Gilbert W. Noble, P.O. Box 931, Winter Park, Fla. 32789. 236 pp, ill., loose leaf. Price $6. Gift of the publisher.

Jonathan W. Rose, ed. *The 1982 Register*, 1983. United States 1869 Pictorial Research Associates. 124 pp, ill. Price not indicated. Gift of Elliott Coulter.

United States, Military

Theo. Van Dam and Richard W. Sackett. A Valuation Guide for A.E.F. Covers (1917-1923), 1983. Published by the authors, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, N.Y. 10509. 22 pp, ill., softbound. Price not indicated. Gift of the publishers.

United States, Revenues

American Revenue Association. *Shift Hunter Letters—U.S. Revenue Varieties*, 1983 [reprint]. The American Revenue Association, Rockford, Iowa 50468. 35 pp, ill., softbound. Price $7.50. Gift of the publishers.

United States, Serials

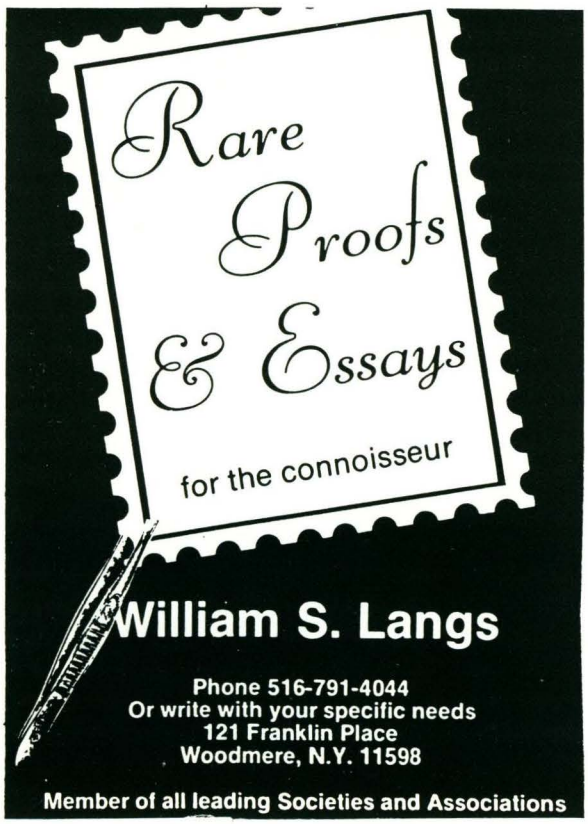
1982 American Philatelic Congress Book, 48th ed. American Philatelic Congress, Inc., P.O. Box 937, Brookhaven, Pa. 19015. 164 pp, ill. Price $15 to members, $17.50 to non-members. Gift of the publishers.

United States, States

New Jersey Postal History Journal, vols. 1-5, Nos. 1-25, 1973-1977, 1983 [reprint]. New Jersey Postal History Society, 28 Briar Lane, Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920. 89 pp, ill., softcover. Price $10. Gift of the publishers.

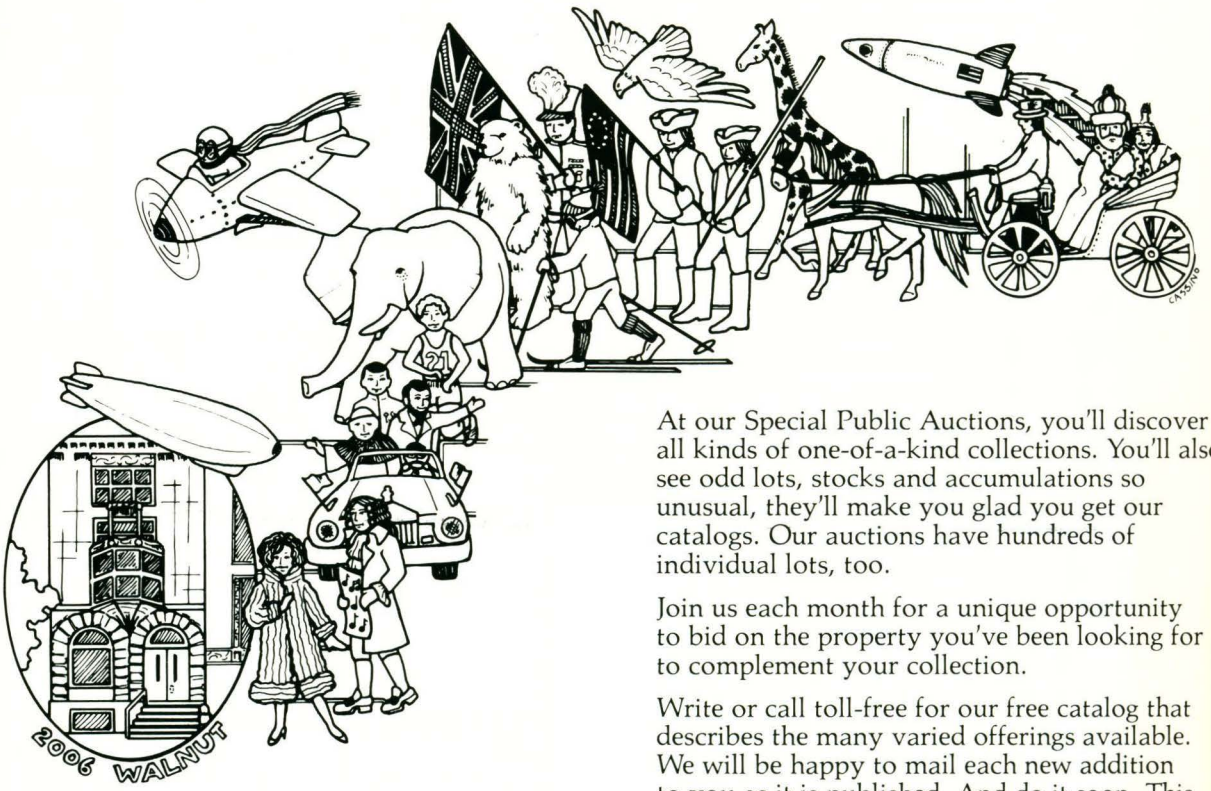
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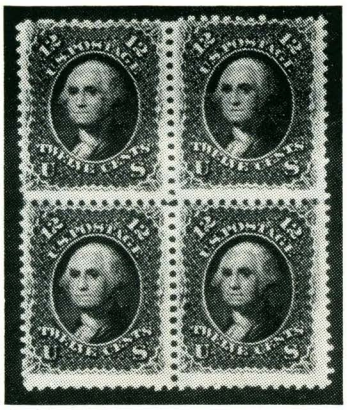
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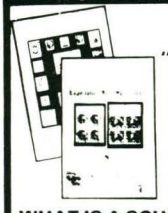
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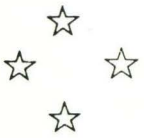


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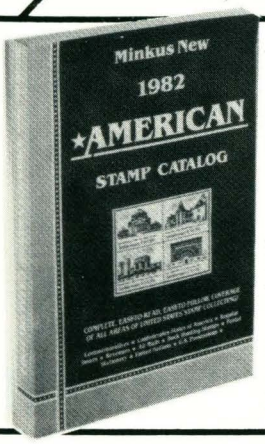
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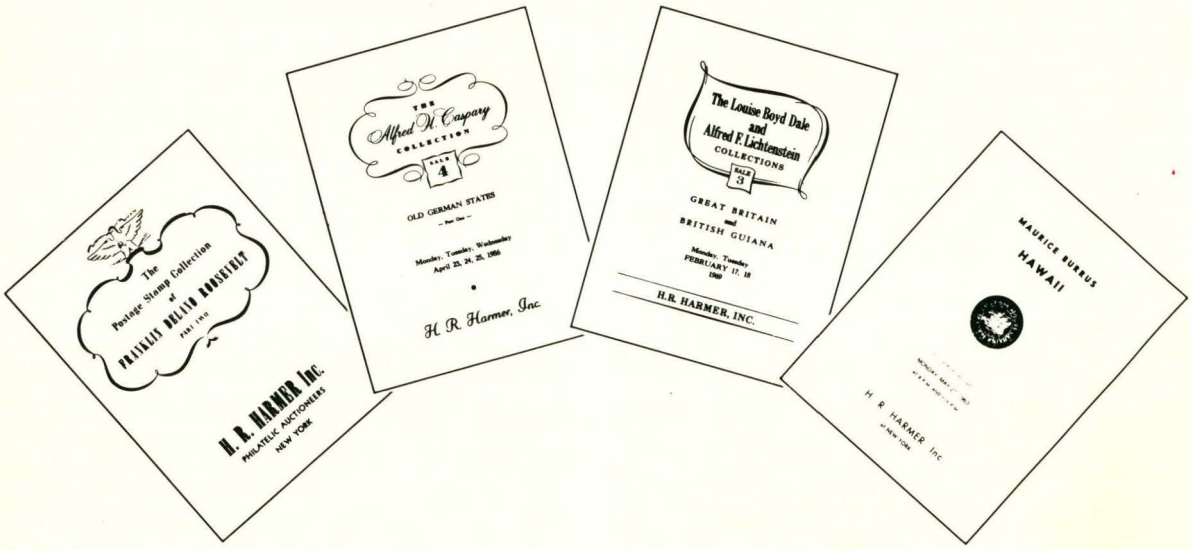
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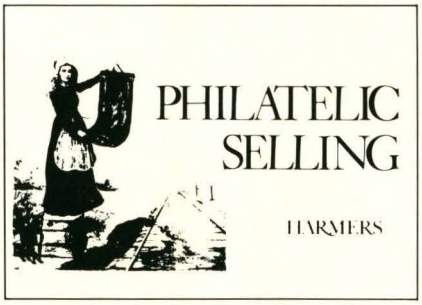
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