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Section 1

Puerto Rico

THE HANDLING OF OFFICIAL MAIL FROM 1856-1871

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and

M. H. SANBORN

OFFICIAL MAIL

We present our studies on the handling of the official mail for the period 1856-1871, dates which mark the most important period of use of the stampless official covers. This period is at once the pleasure and despair of the Puerto Rican specialist. A pleasure, for official mail has furnished us with 95% of the covers found. A source of despair, for the amazing complications found, some of which we have not been able to solve.

We can say without fear of contradiction, that the varied types of official covers found present features that will appeal to collectors of diversified tastes.

Take the subject of cover adornment. Many of the official covers bear large handstamps of the office of origin, and unlike the modern made-to-order-pictorial-cacheted-covers, these markings were required to be stamped on the cover by postal regulations, for except in emergency, the absence of this type of handstamp forced the prepayment of postage by means of ordinary stamps. Many of these identifying handstamps have left us beautiful markings, (see Plate 1) produced by clear cut metal dies made in Spain by skilled artisans, usually featuring as the central design the coat of Arms of the Kingdom, encircled by the proper lettering to designate the department of mailing. In contrast, we have a number of handstamps of minor officials, apparently locally made wood dies, usually featuring as the central motif the lamb and banner found on the Coat of Arms of Puerto Rico. The third type, few in number, consists of only the lettering without ornamental design. Colors of ink used was usually black or blue. In an emergency, instead of the handstamp, a manuscript notation of the official title of the sender is found. In as much as these handstamps were required by postal regulations, they have a real philatelic value to us. We have noted the following:



PLATE NO. 1.

COAT OF ARMS OF SPAIN

Capitan-General-Superior Government (Governor General), San Juan.
 Civil Governor, San Juan.
 Treasurer, San Juan.
 Sub-Treasurer, San Juan.
 Customs Bureau, San Juan.
 Office of Internal Revenue, San Juan.
 Office of Internal Revenue and Lottery, San Juan.



PLATE NO. 1.

Head of the Royal Court (the islands highest tribunal), San Juan.

Court of Finance, San Juan.

Quartermasters Department (Army), San Juan.

Inspector of Local Governments, San Juan.

Customs Houses at Arroyo, Guayanilla, and Humacao.

District Courts at Aguadilla, Arecibo, Caguas, Humacao, Mayaguez, Ponce, San German, and San Juan.

Justices of the Peace atñasco, Ciales, Guayama, Lares, Mayaguez, Pepino, Salinas, San Lorenzo.

COAT OF ARMS OF PUERTO RICO

Municipal-Mayor-Magistrates at Guayama, Mayaguez and San German.

Rural Mayor-Magistrates at Aguada, Camuy, Cangrejo, Guayanilla, Hatillo, Isabela, Lares, Luquillo, Maricao, Maunabo, Moca, Morovis, Patillas, Pepino, Rincon, Rio Grande, Sabana del Palmer, Sabana Grande, San Lorenzo, Yabucoa.

THE ROMAN CROSS

Parish of the Holy Cross, Trujillo Alto.

ORNAMENTAL DESIGNS

Office of Public Works, Western Division at Guayama, Humacao, San Juan.

Office of Public Works, Western Division, Division of Inspection, San Juan.

Military Commander, Department of Mayaguez, Department of Humacao.

Municipal-Mayor-Magistrate at Fernando de la Carolina.

PLAIN LETTERING

Military Commander of the 1st Department, San Juan.

Commander, 3rd Military Department, Aguadilla.

Military Commander of the Department of Ponce.

Capitan-General of Puerto Rico.

Municipal-Mayor-Magistrate at Congrejo.

How did these various officials frank their mail? In a varied number of different ways and combinations, which by the inconsistencies encountered, offer an unusual field for study which we feel we have barely touched. As far as we have seen from cover material, official mail was franked in one of seven different ways:

(I) With stamps of the 1855 Spanish official issue of Spain (Standard Catalogue Spain Nos. 1855-1858).

(II) With both Spanish official stamps and ordinary Puerto Rican postage stamps.

(III) By means of ordinary postage stamps, postage prepaid.

(IV) By means of ordinary postage stamps; postage collected on delivery, the postage stamps being applied to the cover and cancelled at the post office of delivery.

(V) As in (IV), but stamp is not cancelled by post office killer, but is pencancelled and also cancelled with the identifying official handstamp of the office receiving the mail.

(VI) Contrasting with the varied types of cancellation procedure as outlined above, we have the problem of official covers, mailed over a long period of time, from various post offices bearing postage stamps, not one of which was cancelled.

(VII) STAMPLESS OFFICIAL COVERS; these are covers entirely innocent of adhesive stamps, either official or ordinary, but bearing a complete set of postal markings, even to often including the type of special handstamp used otherwise only as a killer.

(VIII) To which we must add brief notes on the trouble that the post office had with official mail delivered by messenger (not sent through the post office) in defiance of postal regulations.

Beginning in the pre-stamp period, manuscript notations on many of the official covers give us a good mental picture as to what the original contents were. The common notation is merely "official mail" which could cover a multitude of sins. We have religious covers from members of the State Church, military covers, but most interesting are the numerous covers that carried judicial documents. "Secret" or "reserved" as to contents obviously referred to political oppression cases, while such wording as "will," "intestate," or "criminal" are self explanatory. There were elaborate regulations on the franking of law court mail in civil suits, where one party was rich, and the other poor, such as:

"Half of the postage to be paid by the rich party, -----63 reales
 "Half of the postage corresponding to the poor party -----63 reales

Total -----126 reales
 "Postage to be paid, half the amount due."

One time at any rate, when the poor man got a break and not a kick.

One of the interesting features of these official covers that should not be overlooked, is the cover material. The envelope came into use much earlier in Puerto Rico than in the United States. For many years the envelopes were hand made by clerks in the office using them, though for large enclosures, such as bulky documents in legal cases, the general procedure was to wrap the contents in a large sheet of paper and seal it. Often upon receipt, the cover was turned inside out, and used again, giving rise to what we term the "reversible cover," a piece of paper bearing two addresses, two sets of postage stamps, and two sets of postal markings, a philatelic "Siamese twin."

The covers, both envelope and wrapping sheet, were made of any material that was handy in the office, such as demonetized stamped paper, outmoded government forms, old circulars, and so on. All of this paper was handmade, some of it of a very fine quality, and often bearing attractively designed large watermarks, either of the manufacturer, or various official coats of arms, of which a page of drawings made from tracings form a pleasing adornment to ones collection.

It will be seen that the curious manner of franking official mail, or in other words *who* sent the mail, *how*, and *why*, is worthy of as detailed an explanation as can possibly be given. This is a matter of some difficulty, as no government ever operated on a more complicated system of red tape that resulted in such a continuous flow of instructions from headquarters as did the Spanish Monarchy during the middle of the last Century. The post office was no exception to this, and our difficulty lies in the fact that often cover markings and methods of franking are either not found in postal regulations, or at variance with them.

Our main source of postal regulations has been Duro's postal history of Spain,⁽¹⁾ where we have so often found the innovations as well as routine matters affecting the Spanish mail service so duplicated on our Puerto Rican cover material, that we can only conclude that the bulk of the postal circulars from the office of the Director General of Posts in Madrid were sent as a matter of routine to the Governor of Puerto Rico for being made effective on the Island. Unfortunately, few of the local instructions to the Puerto Rican postal service have been found, but those found check with similar instructions issued for the Peninsula. Of equal importance with the actual regulations seen, is the circumstantial evidence found in many well documented covers, of postal laws that we have *not* seen.

We give, in their entirety or condensed form, our translations of such postal circulars seen governing the use of official mail if of importance in our studies.

It will come as a surprise to many collectors, not only in the United States, but in Puerto Rico as well, to learn that the Spanish official stamps of 1855 were

(1) Resena Historico-Descriptiva * Sellos * de Espana.

also used in the Spanish West Indies (Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Spain type 02). No standard catalogue with which we are familiar, makes mention of this fact.

Naturally, these stamps used in Puerto Rico are of great interest, and present, in conjunction with the system of handling official mail from 1856 to 1872, a series of amazing and contradictory facts. Indeed, it is not the use of the Spanish official stamps that is of interest, but rather their almost complete absence from covers during the period under consideration, when, according to official documents, official stamps should have been used from 1855 to 1866. The matter is further complicated by the use of ordinary postage stamps on letters, or to go to the other extreme, the complete absence of any adhesive stamps whatever from official covers (termed "stampless official covers" by us). As if the foregoing were not enough, we also find covers bearing both Spanish official stamps, and ordinary stamps!

In Spain, special handstamps for marking official mail were in use over 200 years ago, as seen by a Royal Decree of 1716, providing special markings for certain classes of official mail (Duro page 195).

Our first intimation of the use of special postage stamps for official mail, is found in the Royal Decree of March 16th, 1854, which we give in full, for in this instance, as in many others, common procedures of the Spanish postal service were applied to Puerto Rico.

"Article 1—Effective next July 1st, obligatory prepayment of postage by means of postage stamps on all official mail will go into effect.

"Article 2—For franking the referred to correspondence, there will be the necessary kinds of stamps, differing in form and color from those used on private letters.

"Article 3—The stamps will express, in place of the value, the maximum weight that may be franked by each stamp.

"Article 4—In order that the mail may be considered official, and circulate with the indicated stamps, it is indispensable:

1st that all correspondence be handed into the post office;

2nd that the letters be from some government official or office of the government;

3rd that the letters be addressed to public offices, and not to be addressed in the name of the official in charge of the office.

"Article 5—Proof of the office of origin will be indicated by the envelope bearing the handstamp of the official, or of the office of origin (see Plate No. 1). Lacking this, the letter will be considered as a private one, irrespective of circumstances.

"Article 6—All correspondence claiming to be official, if addressed to a private individual, will be detained and not forwarded, notwithstanding that it may have the handstamp of the office of origin, and be franked with the proper stamps.

"Article 7—Official correspondence for Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines, will be franked as above indicated. *Correspondence from these islands will be delivered free to authorities of the Government in the Peninsula, provided that all conditions set forth in this decree are complied with.*

NOTE: Proof that this Decree in its entirety was intended to be applied to Puerto Rico, is indicated in the wording underlined.

"Article 8—Official mail entering from foreign countries will continue to be paid for in currency.

"Article 9—The documents of law suits or judicial decrees, and those of paupers cases, will circulate in the same manner as up to this date, under the conditions established in articles 14 and 15 of the Royal Decree of the 3rd of December 1845; *(which DURO does not give. Some light on this type of official cor-*

respondence is given by the Royal Order of February 18, 1855, which was put into effect in Puerto Rico ⁽²⁾.) and for the payment of postage, when there is judgment pronounced as to costs, and property from which to collect them, a convenient method will be worked out in conjunction with the Minister of Pardon and Justice.

"Article 10—To each Secretary of State will be given the requisite number of stamps necessary, after a calculation has been made of the amounts of his correspondence that circulated during the past year.

"Article 11—For the distribution of the stamps mentioned in the preceding article, the government officials, provincial and town corporations, and offices that at the present time enjoy the franking privilege (as per the attached list *(not given by DURO)*), will be considered as having the right to receive and send post free, their official correspondence.

"Article 12—The provincial and town corporations, and their suboffices having no right to the franking privilege, will receive (free of charge) double weight letters franked with official stamps, that proceed from a government office. However, said bodies will be under the obligation, when writing to government offices (referring to offices of the Central or Royal Government) to prepay the postage on their letters with the same postage stamps as used by the public on their correspondence.

"Article 13—The governors of provinces, and in this case their other employees, will take all possible steps to prevent the dispatch of official correspondence by means of public diligences, mule drivers, or other similar means of conveyance. At the same time, the proper steps will be taken to see that the accounts and voluminous documents that the provincial and municipal governments send in, shall be paid for in an economical manner. (*Provision for franking this type of mail was specified in Article 16 of the Royal Decree of June 13, 1854 which we give in its proper place*).

"Article 14—Postmasters will be under the obligation to detain all letters and packages that they may consider fraudulently franked, in order to present the case to the superior official under whose administration comes the handling of private correspondence.

"Article 15—The government employee who makes use of official stamps on private mail, or permits the use by others of these same stamps, will be discharged, and will be otherwise punished, in accordance with the gravity of the case.

"Article 16—The Secretary of State will take the necessary steps for the carrying out of the orders given in this Decree.

"Done in the Palace on the 16th of March, 1854.

Signed by the Royal Hand

Signed by the Secretary of State Luis José Sartorius."

Under date of June 13, 1854, we find a further Royal Decree, amplifying the preceding one (Duro pages 35-37) which we quote in part in condensed form:

"The Queen has resolved, in order to carry into effect the provisions of the Royal Decree of 16th of March, 1854 on the franking and payment of official mail, to put in force the following regulations:

"Article 1—The authorities and offices sending official mail, franked with the special stamps referred to in articles 2 and 3 of the referred to Decree, are ordered to hand same in as early as possible to the postmasters, accompanied by a list of the mail on the form, sample of which is attached hereto (Fig. 1) marked form number 1.

"On days on which no official correspondence is handed in, it should be so stated.

"Article 2—Postmasters will carefully check the mail received with its accompanying list, to see if it is correct, and furthermore to see if it agrees with the regulations outlined in article 4 of the referred to Decree. Any mail not complying with the regulations, will be immediately returned to its office of origin.

(2) "Prontuario de Disposiciones Oficiales" Yauco, P. R., 1866.

PARROQUIA DE CIALES.

FACTURA de la correspondencia Oficial que se entrega en este día á la Administración de Correos.

Número de pliegos.	DIRECCION.	SELLOS. Gramos.
	Al Ilmo. Sr. Gobernador Ecco.	
	Al Sr. Colector de Rentas de Manatí	
1	Al Sr. Cura párroco de <i>Utuado</i>	x 5
1	Al idem idem de <i>Manatí</i>	25
	TOTAL <i>2</i> 30	

Imp. Dombell.

Ciales, 2 de Julio de 1891

Conforme.
EL ADMINISTRADOR,



Fig. 1. The official mail forms introduced by the Royal Decree of June 13, 1854 continued in use for many years. Here we are able to show a later type, listing official mail handed in by the State Church at Ciales, Puerto Rico, in 1891. (Preston Collection).

"Article 3—When postmasters find mail which does not contain sufficient postage stamps in accordance with its weight, they will add same in order the mail may not be delayed. Attention of the party responsible will be called to the fact, in order that it may be corrected.

"Article 4—Each post office will open a separate file for each sender of official mail, entering daily the mail received, in accordance with Article 1.

"Article 6—Postmasters will take precautions immediately after receiving all official mail, that the dated handstamp be applied.

"Article 7—The following, unsealed post office departmental official mail will circulate without the necessity of franking:

- (1) All correspondence relative to inter-office accounting.
- (2) Registered letter bills for departmental exchange, containing notices of drafts.
- (3) Notices sent by postmasters to the public, when double weight letters are detained for insufficient postage, or for lack of postage stamps.

"Article 9—All letters from the public to government officials, must be prepaid, otherwise they will not be delivered.

"Article 10—In compliance with instructions set forth in articles 2 and 3 of the referred to Decree, the manufacture of stamps of half ounce, one ounce, four ounces, and one pound denominations, will be proceeded with.

"Article 11—The referred to stamps will be distributed by the various Governors to all of the authorities, and their sub-offices in their Provinces. The Central Offices will be supplied by the Director General of Posts.

"Article 12—When public officials require stamps, they will requisition same from the Governor, who will receive the Provincial supplies from the Director General of Posts.

"Article 14—All official correspondence addressed by authorities or agencies of town corporations or provincial governments, must be prepaid with the postage stamps used on private mail.

"Article 15—Letters directed by government offices or sub-offices to provincial or town corporations, will be prepaid by means of official stamps, excepting single letters whose weight does not exceed half an ounce.

"Article 16—In order to carry out the intent of Article 13 of the Royal Decree of March 16th (*referring to the mailing of accounts and other voluminous material*) correspondence coming from provincial and municipal governments must be prepaid at the following rates:

"The first pound at the rate of one six cuartos stamp (*one half real stamp in Puerto Rico*) for each half ounce; the following five at the rate of one stamp of the same value for each two ounces; and upwards from the sixth to the twenty-fifth pound, at the rate of one similar stamp for each four ounces.

NOTE: Article 16 was revoked by article 4 (effective Oct. st) of the postal circular of June 22nd 1860, which provided that all mail in this classification should be prepaid at the regular rates in effect on private correspondence.

"Article 17—Official mail handed into the post office, must have the following rules complied with:

- (1) The envelope should bear, in addition to the franking stamps (*the official stamps*) the handstamp of the department from which it came.
- (2) The envelope should show the number and value of the stamps.
- (3) The envelope should be presented with an invoice in duplicate (See Fig. 1), showing the number of the letter, number of stamps, and value of stamps.

"Article 18—One of the invoices, countersigned by the postmaster, must be given back to the sender, to serve as a voucher in the provincial or municipal accounting, while the other is to be retained by the postmaster as his voucher.

"Madrid, June 13, 1854

"(Signed) San Luis, Director General of Posts."

Apparently in Spain itself, the supply of official stamps was not always up to the demand, judging by a Royal Order of March 7th, 1856, addressed to Provincial Governors, from which we quote in part: (Duro page 55).

"... when the officials authorized to frank mail do not have the required stamps, it should be so stated on the addressed envelope, stating the reason for their absence, in order to place the responsibility upon the proper party. Unless mail is so marked, it will be treated as private correspondence, and will not be forwarded unless postage is prepaid."

Under date of August 18th, 1856, we find the following Royal Decree:

"In order to combine the good services due the public with the interests of the State with regards to the legitimate income of the post office, it is ordered that the official mail sent by those enjoying the franking privilege, to other officials or offices not enjoying the franking privilege, will be forwarded by the post office and will be delivered to the interested parties, who will be under the obligation to pay postage on the mail received at the rate of one stamp of 4 cuartos (*½ real in Puerto Rico*) for each ½ ounce in weight; said stamps will be stuck on the envelope and cancelled in the presence of the interested party at the time received."

Although not mentioned in the preceding quotation, the applied postage stamps were ordered cancelled with pen strokes (*this is specified in the Royal Decree of July 12th, 1857, Article 6*) and the envelope returned to the post office department to serve as a voucher for stamps so used. Obviously, giving up of the envelope with the cancelled stamps left the recipient of the letter without any documentary evidence that he had paid out money for postage, a condition of affairs that resulted in a postal circular dated September 10th, 1856, in which it is stated that:

"If the mayor-magistrates refuse to return the envelopes addressed to them *(bearing stamps cancelled for collection "of postage in accordance with the Royal Order of August 18th, they may be excused from so doing, by their writing out a receipt, on which will be pasted and cancelled the stamps."*

A year later (September 18th 1857) a ruling similar to the above covered the similar refusal of the military commanders to surrender a postage collect, postage stamped envelope.

Apparently sufficient attention was not being paid by some of the postmasters as to the proper franking of official mail, resulting in a postal circular dated July 12th 1857:

"It having come to the notice of this office that certain postmasters, ignoring the regulations of the Royal Decree of March 16th, 1854, and postal circular of June 13th of the same year, are tolerating the circulation of a number of pieces of official mail that do not bear the proper official stamps."

The above was followed by a further clarifying circular in regards to the basic Royal Decree of March 16th 1854, under date of July 17th 1857: (Duro page 32).

"Article 1—All double weight official letters, from government offices enjoying the franking privilege, addressed to Provincial or Municipal Authorities, will circulate as specified in the mentioned Decree.

"Article 2—All single weight letters, that is to say those whose weight does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce, from the above mentioned Government offices to the provisional or municipal authorities, will be charged postage at the rate of the rate of one postage stamp of 4 cuartos ($\frac{1}{2}$ real for Puerto Rico).

"Article 3—Single or double weight correspondence from the above referred to government officials enjoying the franking privilege, addressed to other government offices or to government officials not included on the appended list will be charged at the rate of 4 cuartos per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce ($\frac{1}{2}$ real for Puerto Rico).

NOTE: We give the listing of officials enjoying the franking privilege for Puerto Rico in a separate place.

"Article 4—All correspondence proceeding from the said Provincial or Municipal Authorities, and from Government officials or employees who are not authorized to use official stamps, must be prepaid, in accordance with the general tariff, notwithstanding the fact that it may be franked with official stamps, and addressed to officials enjoying the franking privilege.

"Article 5—The referred to charges will be entered in column 1, on form 4.

"Article 6—The post office or agency to which may be addressed the official mail mentioned in the preceding regulations, will deliver them to the interested parties upon collecting the charge for a postage stamp of 4 cuartos ($\frac{1}{2}$ real for Puerto Rico) for each $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce in weight, which will be cancelled in the presence of the interested party by means of two crossed lines made with common ink (*this provision was not always followed out, sometimes the killer handstamp was used*).

"Article 7—The amount of the referred to postal charges will be credited on form 4, under the heading "notation for official correspondence on which postage has been paid, and whose value is represented herewith in stamps."

"Article 8—These cancelled stamps will be sent, with form 4 (*together with any other documents*) as they form the vouchers.

"Article 9—The official mail from the economic administration of the diocese sent to the qualified members of the ecclesiastical members of the Provinces, may circulate franked with official stamps. On the other hand, mail from the qualified members of the ecclesiastical party in the Provinces, to the economic administrator of the Diocese, will be considered as private mail, and will not circulate unless postage has been prepaid, according to its weight, by means of the ordinary postage stamps."

Many of our official covers have to do with paupers law suits. There were numerous legal safeguards as to paupers rights in Puerto Rico.

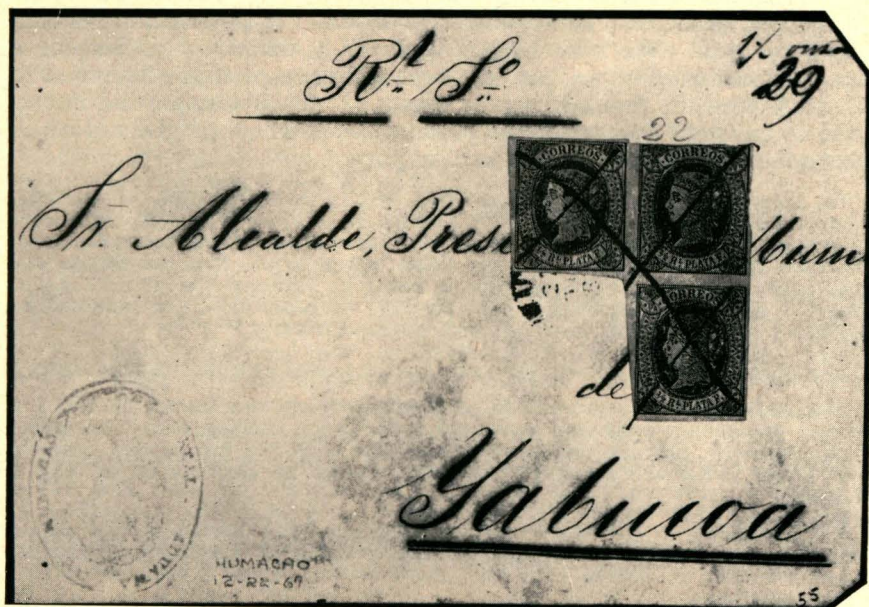


Fig. 2. A cover, on which postage was collected from the addressee, in accordance with of mailing office, showing that they were put on at Yabucoa. Quoted in Article 6. (Preston Collection).

Under date of September 24th, 1859, we find a Royal Order covering the methods to be used in franking legal papers in law suits, when one of the parties is solvent, and the other a pauper :

"With the object of putting to an end any doubts or inconveniences that might appear with prejudice to the good service or interests of the post office department, due to their not being expressly stated in writing in the instructions now in force, the rights that should be complied with in the franking of writs or files of papers between parties to a suit, when one is rich, and the other is poor, and the Queen (whom may God protect) agreeing with proposals made by the Director General of Posts, it has been resolved:

FIRST—When documents are presented for mailing between parties, one of whom is rich, and the defense of the other has been ordered because of poverty, they will be franked, depending on the circumstances, in the following manner:

1st, for the full amount, if the party at whose instance it is being mailed is powerful or rich;

2nd, in accordance with the Royal order of the 18th of February, 1855 (*which we have not as yet been able to locate*) it is at the solicitude of the pauper side of the case;

3rd, paying only half the amount of postage, and noting on the envelope the other half, as is done on official mail and pauper mail if the mail is being sent at the instance of both parties; it being understood that it is so, if the wealthy party, though not having started the lawsuit, recognizes it.

"SECOND—In order to determine which one of the three cases is involved, it is an indispensable requisite that the certification of the clerk of the court writes on the envelope, to be countersigned by the judge or prosecutor, stating at which side the documents have been sent for mailing. Unless these regulations have been complied with, the mail will not be forwarded, unless it is paid for at its full weight. (*Duro, page 80*)."

At the period of postal history under consideration, regulations required the prepayment of postage on all registered mail with the registration fee paid by a stamp of one real. We have seen no registered official covers bearing official stamps. All covers of this type seen, bear ordinary postage stamps. Probably covers exist, with the postage paid by means of official stamps, and the registry fee paid by means of a one real stamp, information which we glean from a postal circular dated June 1, 1860, which says in part:

"In order to remove doubts and the wrong interpretation of various post-masters as to the Royal Decree of December 12th, 1849 (*which we have not as yet been able to locate*) abolishing the registering of official mail, this office, in view of the instructions to this effect, advises you that the obligations that the said order imposes on officials desiring to register official mail, to use the regular postage stamps designated for this purpose, does not remove the right of said officials to frank their mail with official stamps."

Under date of June 22nd, 1860, we find a postal circular that states:

"The mail containing documents of criminal cases, and official mail and pauper writs, proceeding from the courts of justice, for the mayor-magistrates of the town councils, may be mailed in accordance with the formalities prescribed by the Royal Order of February 18th 1855 (*which we have not as yet been able to locate*).

"With regards to the mail that mayor-magistrates direct to the referred to courts, notwithstanding its official character, and even though so expressed on the envelopes, it should have the postage prepaid, as is done with all of its correspondence.

The last important document covering official mail regulations from Madrid headquarters, is the Royal Decree of September 16th, 1863, covering the class of official mail cover most commonly found in Puerto Rico, namely, mail from provincial and municipal officials:

"In view of explanations made to me by my Minister of State, on the necessity of reforming in part the system of franking official mail, I decree the following:

"Article 1—The regulations in regard to the franking of official mail proceeding from the authorities and officials who have the right to use the special stamps on their official mail, will continue in effect.

"Article 2—From the first of next October, the provincial and municipal governments and officials of all classes that do not have the right to use official stamps, will receive free of charge all official mail addressed to them by the State officials or State offices, regardless of their weight.

"Article 3—It is to be understood by official mail franked with the special stamps, as determined in Article 4 of the Royal Decree of March 16th, 1854, provided that all other prescribed regulations have been complied with.

"Article 4—Effective the first of next October, the economic tariff in force granted to the Provincial and town corporations (with reference to special rates on voluminous mail such as accounts) by the Royal Decree of June 13th, 1854 will be revoked. Such mail will be subject to the rules and regulations of private correspondence."

As far as we know, the first issue of Spanish official stamps (1854) was not used in Puerto Rico, or in any of the other Colonies. We are directly concerned with the second issue, that of 1855, all values of which were used in Puerto Rico and Cuba, while we have seen the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 ounce values used on cover from Santo Domingo during the Spanish reconquest of that island republic in 1862. This set was also authorized for use in the Philippine Islands.

There is a puzzling point as to when these official stamps were first used in Puerto Rico. We have seen covers postmarked in 1857, 1858, and 1859, yet the only official postal regulation from the island authorities making the use of these stamps effective that we have found, is dated in December 1861. In other words, the Royal Decree of March 16, 1854 was, according to our seen documentary evidence, held up until December 27th, 1861, whereas we find from cover material

actually in our possession, that Spanish official stamps were used in Puerto Rico as early as November 1857. There is nothing ambiguous at all in the wording of the Puerto Rican circular of December 1861, which refers back not only to the basic Madrid Royal Decree of 1854 establishing the use of official stamps, but also refers to the supplementary postal instructions of 1854, 1856, and 1857, forming what are clearly detailed instructions making effective the introduction of the official stamps of official mail, but we find that such stamps had been in use for at least four years antedating the circular.

The above certainly does not make sense; neither does the postal circular situation covering the putting into use the first postage stamps for use by the general public, where we find a similar paradoxical situation.

We have seen several covers with postage stamps of the 1855 issue used in Puerto Rico in 1855 the earliest date being a September 15, 1855 postmarked Arroyo, addressed to San Juan. A second early date is San Juan to Madrid October 18, 1855, of great importance as franking a letter from the Island to Spain. Where are the postal regulations putting these pioneer postage stamps into service? We could rest much easier, for not having found any postal instructions, we should be able to pass the matter off by the simple statement that they exist, but have not been found, if we had not discovered a decree of the Governor General of Puerto Rico dated July 11th, 1856. This official document gives the basic Royal Decree of December 18th, 1854, giving postal rates effective in Puerto Rico with the proposed first issue of stamps for the island. After giving the Royal Decree in its entirety, the Governor General terminated this document with:

"It having been agreed in the meeting of the Superior Council of Authorities of Puerto Rico over which I presided yesterday, that due compliance must be given to the above cited Royal Decree, and that the postage stamps for the prepayment of postage on private correspondence will be put into use and circulation, I have ordered that the said Royal Decree shall be published in the Gazette of the Government for the instruction of the proper officials, and to inform the public that the referred to stamps, whose values are of half a real, one real, and two reales strong silver currency or their equivalent in clipped coins, will be placed on sale *beginning the 25th of the current month* (July 1856) at all Internal Revenue offices, and at such other places in all towns of the Island as shall be designated by the Treasury Department.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 11th of July 1856.
(Signed) "Andres Garcia Camba"

Could anything be clearer; could anything be more confusing, when we note the date of this document ordering the introduction of postage stamps on July 25th, 1856; when we have seen covers bearing the referred to stamps postmarked as early as *September of 1855*.

Between your two authors Puerto Rican specialized collections of thirty-eight volumes, and an intensive study of the island's postal history and stamps of thirty-one years, represent the sum total of our experiences, yet we are continually finding new matters of interest. Until within the past year, we considered February 18, 1857 as the earliest dated cover bearing the 1855 postage stamps known, so that when we discovered the above quoted Camba decree fixing July 25th, 1856, as the first days sale of the first postage stamps ever to be sold to the Puerto Rican public, we were elated in the possession of such an early dated cover, and in thinking that we knew when the first stamps were used on the Island. Also in the fact that the initial day of sale (July 25th) was to become again famous historically forty-two years later with the landing, at Guanica bay, of the first American troops in Puerto Rico on July 25th, 1898. We were in this very self satisfied position when we saw the first covers bearing ordinary postage stamps postmarked in 1855, ten months before the Camba decree ordering that postage stamps be introduced (*Which might also explain why Puerto Rican specialists develop gray hairs early in life*).

SPANISH OFFICIAL STAMPS — ISSUE OF 1855

I—The Madrid Issue



Fig. 3. The four Spanish Official stamps of the 1855 issue.

DESIGN In an ellipse outlined by two thin lines, the coat of arms of Spain; Castile, Leon, Granada, and Bourbon, encircled by the Collar of the Golden Fleece, with the Royal Crown above. Inscription at top "CORREO OFICIAL" (Official mail); at bottom the weight of mail to be franked by each particular stamp, viz: media onza, una onza, cuatro onzas, or una libra ($\frac{1}{2}$, 1, or 4 ounces, or 1 pound)

Engraved by José Perez Varela, and surface printed (typographed) in black on various colored papers, at the National Stamp Factory, Madrid. Issued in imperfect condition only.

Standard Catalogue No.	Denomination	Stamp Color	Paper Color	
I Medium Paper				
1855	O2	½ onza	black	yellow buff straw (1863) rose (error) gray white (proof)
1856	O2	1 onza	black	rose rose carmine lilac rose salmon white (error) green blue (error) gray white (proof) buff (proof) rose (proof) bright rose (proof) white (proof) yellow brown (proof)
1857	O2	4 onzas	black	green gray green blue green yellow green rose salmon (proof) gray white (proof) white, printed on both sides, (printers waste paper)
1858	O2	1 libra	black	gray blue pale ultramarine rose salmon (error) lilac (proof) gray white (proof) bistre (proof) blue (proof) violet (proof)

				green (proof)
				yellow green (proof)
				bronze (proof)
				white, printed on both
				sides, (printers waste
				paper)
Essay		without value	black	gray
II Thin Soft Paper				
1855	O2	½ onza	black	yellow
				lemon
1856	O2	1 onza	black	rose
				rose carmine
				salmon
1857	O2	4 onzas	black	green
				yellow green
1858	O2	1 libra	black	gray blue

Note: None of the errors listed have been seen used in Puerto Rico.

In our discussion of the ½ real stamp of the second issue of 1856, we have already made mention of the laxity of the Spanish government in supplying its overseas colonies with postage stamps; the manufacture of locally designed stamps in the Philippines over a period of many years; and the possibility that the ½ real stamp was produced locally from new clichés in Puerto Rico or Cuba. Under our discussion of the stampless official covers, we will present positive proof of the lack of supplies of both ordinary postage stamps, and the Spanish official stamps in Puerto Rico.

We do know however, that the shortage of official stamps was so acute in Cuba in 1860, that the local authorities reproduced the entire 1855 set of official stamps in Havana.

It was long thought that these local printings were forgeries made to defraud the post office, but a careful study of the maze of postal regulations on the use of official stamps shows that there would have been no advantage to the forger of these stamps, for there could only have been two objectives in so doing:

- (a) To defraud the government of revenue;
- (b) To enable private correspondence to be passed through the mails free of postage payment by its being franked with official stamps.

Considering the above two points, in the case of the first:

- (a) in as much as these stamps were really not postage stamps, but franks issued for two specific reasons. The first of these was to eradicate the abuse of the mails by unauthorized public officials, while the second reason was;
- (b) a complicated accounting system based on an invoice on which each piece of mail was itemized, which made possible the charging on paper, of the proper government agency for its postage, at the same time crediting the postal service. These official stamps not being sold for currency, but being issued upon requisition to duly qualified officials, had no cash value attached to them, automatically making them a valueless proposition from the forger's point of view.

In a country where the bulk of the correspondence was made up of official mail and not private, forged official stamps franking private correspondence might have escaped detection easily, had the "forgeries" been well executed (which they certainly were not) except for the complicated red tape involved in the mailing of each piece of official correspondence. This routine for qualifying a piece of official mail for the post reaches the acme of government red tape almost incredibly set forth in the postal regulations as follows:

- (1) Proof of the government office of origin to be furnished by means of a handstamp applied to the face of the cover; (see Plate No.)
- (2) Correspondence to be addressed only to public officials, designated by title only, never by personal name;
- (3) Only officials listed in published governmental lists eligible for the franking privilege of using the official stamps, could so frank mail;
- (4) In a great many cases, letters could only be franked by using the official stamps, if addressed to another official also enjoying the franking privilege;
- (5) No piece of official mail was ever allowed to be deposited in a letter drop; it had to be handed in personally to a postal clerk for a careful examination of the cover, which, to the delight of Puerto Rican specialists, must bear:
 - (a) handstamp of government office of origin.
 - (b) in manuscript, number of stamps applied.
 - (c) in manuscript, value of stamps applied.
 - (d) in many cases, the nature of the contents had to be certified on the cover by the proper official.
 - (e) the mail must be accompanied by an invoice in duplicate showing (1) number of letters (2) number of stamps (3) value of stamps (4) official title of sender. One copy of invoice to be given back to sender, one copy to be retained as a voucher for post office accounting for official stamps disbursed. Special printed forms (which we have seen) were supplied for this purpose.
 - (f) Governors' correspondence to town corporations is specifically mentioned to be consecutively numbered, both on the letter, and outside on the envelope. This procedure was evidently extended to all official correspondence, for we find it almost universally used on all classes of government covers.

It will be seen that the above orgy of red tape was too formidable to offer any inducement to the production of forgeries.

The local Havana prints are to be found correctly listed in the Galvez Specialized Catalogue of Spain and Colonies.

(To be continued)

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912,

Of The **Collectors Club Philatelist**, published Quarterly at Federalburg, Maryland, for October 1, 1944.

State of New York, County of New York, SS:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the **Collectors Club Philatelist**, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537 Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

Editor, Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., 22 East 35th St., New York City.

Managing Editor, None. Business Managers, None.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent. or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, Company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City. President, Robert L. Graham, Jr., 22 East 35th St., New York City. Vice President, Edwin E. Elkins, 22 East 35th St., New York City. Treasurer, H. G. Zervas, 22 East 35th St., New York City. Secretary, Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., 22 East 35th St., New York City.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state). None.

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR., Editor.

Pedigree of Rare Stamps

(BERMUDA AND CAPE OF GOOD HOPE)

By the Late CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

(Ed. Note: These notes, compiled by Mr. Phillips, were found among other Collectors Club Philatelist material, and are being published in order that the results of his searches may become more public property.)

BERMUDA

POSTMASTER STAMPS

1848. Issued by W. B. Perot, Postmaster of Hamilton, Bermuda

- 1d. black
- 1d. red on white
- 1d. red on blue

This stamp was first recorded by Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular for July 1897 who describes the 1d in carmine with date 1854.

In 1898 Major E. B. Evans notes that he had been shown a copy of a similar stamp but printed in black and dated 1849, by Mr. W. B. Warhurst. (See G. S. W. XI p. 35).



PEROT STAMPS

FERRARY collection Fifth Sale November 1922

- 1848. 1d. black on blue, cut to shape and slightly clipped, sold for \$1294.00.
- 1854. 1d. red on blue, on complete letter with correspondence, large margin, cut seven-sided sold for \$2470.00.

The purchaser was M. Burrus.

HIND Collection

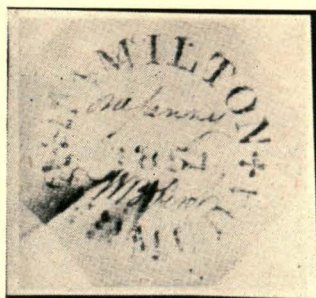


Arthur Hind bought the Ferrary 1d. black for \$1294.00.

In the second Hind sale (May 1934) it was sold for £165. 0. 0. the purchaser being Mr. Thomas Allen. Arthur Hind bought the square red stamp from Richard Roberts. In the sale of May 1934 it was sold for £165. 0. 0. the purchaser being a noted German collector who got into trouble and the stamp was placed in London for sale privately.

These four Perot Stamps were bought by Mr. Richard Roberts early in 1922. They are all in red. They were found in some old correspondence in Hamilton.

The square one was sold to Arthur Hind. The two dated 1854 (octagon) and 1858 (circular) to King George V and the other one dated 1853 (circular) to a collector in the United States.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Feb.-April, 1861 So-called "Woodblock" Errors
In pairs or blocks "se-tenant"

The 1d. blue and the 4d. red "Woodblock" errors are rare but one or both of them may be found in many of the great collections of the world.

Far different is it however when these errors are found in pairs or blocks with the normal variety, such items are real rarities and are only found in a few of the really great collections.

In the kit-bag full of triangular Capes that was purchased by Mr. Stanley Gibbons in 1863 there were many hundreds of woodblocks. Gibbons told me that he did not at first, know, of the existence of errors and he probably sold some at the normal price. One day Mr. Philbrick visited Gibbons at Plymouth and drew his attention to the errors. He started selling these at \$1.00 each but by June 1864 he raised the price to \$3.75 each.

I will now endeavor to list such records as I have found of the errors se-tenant with the normal varieties.



This superb cover, addressed to "Messrs. McMaster & Crump, Graham's Town," is franked with a block of four red woodblocks, three of 1d. and one error 4d.

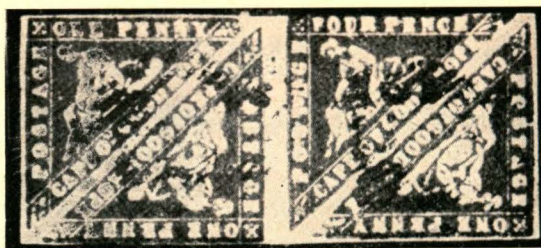
About 1890 it was found in a large quantity of very old papers in connection with an estate that had gone into bankruptcy at Port Elizabeth. In 1902 it was sent to Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Auctioneers in London, who sold it for £350.0.0.

This was eventually sold to George H. Worthington whose collection was bought by A. F. Lichtenstein, who still has it.

There is also a second block of four of the red Woodblocks, three of 1d. and one error 4d.

This was in the second Ferrary Sale, October 1921 and it was sold for \$2650.00 with the tax. It was bought by Mr. R. F. A. Riesco who sold his Cape collection in 1938.

In 1939 Mr. Frank Godden sold this block.



In the Vernon Roberts collection which was bought by Mr. W. H. Peckitt in May 1907 there was still another block of four of the red Woodblocks, three of 1d. and one 4d.

This was on an entire letter sheet dated 26 March, 1861. This block was sold for £685.0.0. The purchaser was Mr. Burrus in whose superb collection it still remains.

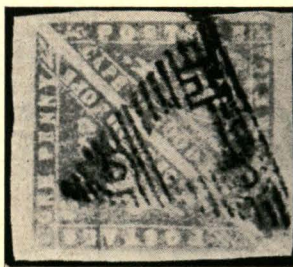
I have records of the following pairs of errors se-tenant with the normal value.

KING GEORGE Vth Collection

Before I left London in October 1922 I commenced to disperse the collection of Henry J. Duveen. In this collection there were pairs of the red and of the blue Woodblocks each one with the errors se-tenant. I sold these two pairs to King George but I am not at liberty to mention the price. Both are still in the Royal collection.

T. K. TAPLING Collection in the British Museum

Here there is a pair of the red Woodblocks 1d.+4d.



A. F. LICHTENSTEIN Collection

This pair came from the collection of Sir W. B. Avery. In the Second Ferrary Sale of October 1921 this superb pair of the blue Woodblocks 1d.+4d. was sold for \$1154.00 with tax, being purchased by Mr. R. F. A. Riesco. Mr. Riesco sold his Cape collection in 1938 and this pair was acquired by Mr. A. F. Lichtenstein.

FRED. W. AYER Collection

When I dispersed the rarities of this great collection in March 1897 I had a pair of the blue Woodblocks 1d. and 4d. This I sold to Geo. H. Worthington.

Mr. A. F. Lichtenstein bought the Worthington collection and later on exchanged this pair for a finer one.



VERNON ROBERTS Collection

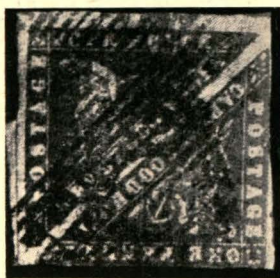
This Cape of Good Hope collection was purchased by Mr. W. H. Peckitt in May 1907. In this there was a pair of the blue Woodblocks 1d. and 4d. It is quite possible that this pair was sold to Ferrary.

R. LILIENFELD in Berlin Exhibition of 1904

Herr. Lilienfeld showed a very interesting cover franked with a single 1d. red Woodblock and a strip of three of the red Woodblocks, the outer ones being the 1d. stamps and the middle one the 4d. red, error. It should be noted that this strip is in the brick-red shade, and as far as I am aware is the only known error in this color.

In the Auction Sale of H. R. Harmer, December 4th, 1939, there was a large cover addressed to "Messrs. McMaster and Crump, Merchants, Grahams Town."

The error is in vermilion and is absolutely perfect, and is the centre of the block of three.



The above is a photograph of a pair of blue Woodblocks 1d. and 4d. which were sold in 1928 by Plumridge & Co. for £680. 0. 0.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1863-64, printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. from the old plates of Perkins Bacon & Co.

The issued triangular stamps were water marked with a fat anchor but De La Rue & Co. made a trial printing on paper watermarked Crown & C. C. sideways of the 1d. deep carmine-red.

It is a rather interesting story of how some of these came on the market:—

In November, 1907, I bought the private collection of a man who had been for many years the chief engraver of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. He kept examples of his work usually in blocks of four, and in some cases in blocks of eight. On the page of Cape of Good Hope stamps there was a block of 8 (four pairs) of the triangular 1d. carmine-red. These, like the other blocks were lightly gummed to his album pages at the four corners, and I naturally thought they were the common stamps watermarked anchor and valued them a few shillings each.

My friend Mr. M. P. Castle, then Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, happened to come in my office before I had commenced to price this collection, and looked it over. When we came to the Capes he jokingly said "Are those on C. C. paper?" I had never thought of this, so we raised them and they were the real rarities!!

This was the most wonderful lot of mint blocks of rare British Colonials that I ever handled. Here are a few items that were in it:

ALL IN MINT BLOCK OF FOUR

Ceylon

- | | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1862 | No wmk. perf. 13. |
| | 5d. red-brown |
| | 6d. deep brown |
| | 9d. brown |
| | 1sh. cold violet |
| 1861 | wmk. Star Rough perf. |
| | 8d. yellow-brown |
| | 9d. deep brown |
| | 2sh. blue |

Hongkong

- | | |
|------|-------------|
| 1863 | 96c. yellow |
|------|-------------|

Gold Coast

- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1883 | 1d. blue, wmk. Crown & C. A. |
| 1891 | 20s. green and red. |

Lagos

- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1884 | 5sh. blue |
| 1884 | 10sh. lilac-brown |

and many more rare blocks of which I have no record. The block of eight of the 1d. wmk. Crown C. C. was cut into four pairs and went into noted collections:

TAPLING collection in Britism Museum

Fine pair.

A. F. LICHTENSTEIN collection.

Fine pair from the G. H. Worthington collection which pair came from me from the above named collection.

Arthur Hind collection sold at auction by H. R. Harmer, June 1934, contained a superb mint pair, which realized £310. 0. 0.



The above three photographs are in the Collectors Club collection but neither the color nor the owners are noted.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE — 1861 WOOD BLOCK ERRORS UNUSED

These are exceedingly rare and I only find records of four copies, two of which passed through my hands.

In January 1896 I bought the old-time collection of William Hughes-Hughes for about £3000. 0. 0. This collection was commenced about 1859 and discontinued about 1874. The owner kept an account of the stamps he purchased (most of the stamps being obtained through influential connections) and he told me that the net cost of the collection in cash was £69. 0. 0. (see M. J., V. I, p. 154.)

The gem of this fine collection was a superb Woodblock Error 4d. red, unused.

This I sold to Ferrary for £500. 0. 0.

In the tenth Ferrary sale in June 1924 this was sold for \$2646.00 with the tax of 19½ per cent. and exchange of 5.40 cents to the franc.

The purchaser was the late Charles Lathrop Pack and it is still in that great collection (soon to be sold by Harmer, Rooke & Co.)

M. Gilbert, the cataloguer of the Ferrary sales said in the catalogue that another unused copy of this rare error was known but I have not found any record of *the other copy*.

In October 1911 I bought a small collection in an album dated 1864. In this I found a Cape Woodblock 1d. blue, error, unused. The stamp was slightly damaged, the lower right-hand corner having a small portion of the point missing, and a little piece missing between the letters "TA" of "POSTAGE." This I sold to Henry J. Duveen.

Mr. H. R. Harmer sold at auction on November 16, 1936 a 1d. error pale milky blue, unused, cut into at bottom and creased. This realized £170. 0. 0.

U. S. Mail First Sorted in Transit in 1862

By WILLIS E. POTTER

Indisputable credit for inaugurating the Railway Post Office service, i.e. sorting mail in transit, belongs to W. A. Davis, a clerk in the St. Joseph, Mo., post office, who conceived the idea and put it into operation on the historic Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad (now a part of the Burlington system) July 28, 1862. At the time the H. & St. Joe began sorting mail en route, it was making connections with the overland mail stages, which carried the mail west from St. Joseph after the famed Pony Express ceased operations in October, 1861.

There is no question in the minds of postal historians about Davis' priority. In confirmation of this, I quote a few qualified authorities:

"In the light of all that the Railway Mail service has grown to be in recent years, it becomes an interesting question as to where the credit belongs for originating this service. Several claimants for the honor have arisen . . . There seems to be no doubt that Mr. Davis (William A. Davis of St. Joseph, Mo.) was the first to distribute through mails in the United States, and the first to have cars prepared for that purpose, as was done by the Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad for the transportation of overland mails . . . A thorough search of the records reveals nothing bearing upon the distribution of through mails earlier than the letter of the postmaster at St. Joseph, which presumably contained the suggestions of Mr. Davis, and led to the experiment in connection with the overland mails."

—"History of the Railway Mail Service," published by order of Congress 1885.

"The credit for suggesting the first step toward the present (R. P. O.) system has generally been given to Colonel G. B. Armstrong, who in 1864 was Assistant Postmaster at Chicago. This is incorrect. Mr. W. A. Davis, a clerk of the St. Joseph, Mo., post office, where the overland mail was made up, conceived the idea in 1862."—(Former Postmaster General Thomas L. James, 1892).

"Recognize services of William A. Davis of Saint Joseph, Mo., as superintendent of overland mail distribution on the cars of the Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad Company from 26th of July to 31st August, 1862, at \$100, and refer to Auditor to pay him that amount."—Official orders, Post Office Department, September 24, 1862.

"The father of railway mail service' was General William A. Davis of St. Joseph . . . The assistant postmaster general at the time, A. N. Seevely . . . said: 'I talked with Mr. Davis in St. Joe during my visit there, preparatory to a trip on the overland stage, and believe that the idea of assorting mail on the cars, instead of delaying them for that purpose in the distributing post office in St. Joseph was entirely original with himself.'"—Walter B. Stevens, **Centennial History of Missouri**.

"The next step in the evolution of the (postal) service was the distribution of overland mail on the line from Hannibal to St. Joseph, Mo. . . . This was in 1862."—History of the Postal Service, Bureau of the Second Assistant Postmaster General.

According to Postmaster General James, Col. Armstrong, who became the first General Railway Mail Superintendent deserves much credit for organizing the system, but W. A. Davis of St. Joseph unquestionably conceived and placed in service in 1862 on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad the first mail sorting car in the United States.

A replica of the original Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad R. P. O. car, which the Burlington Railroad uses on historical occasions, contains a bronze plaque, placed on the car by the Railway Mail Association in 1937 upon the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of the first R. P. O. service, which reads: "Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the First Railway Post Office—Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad (Now part of Burlington Route) West Quincy to St. Joseph, Missouri, July 28, 1862. Presented by the Railway Mail Association, Chicago Union Station, July 28, 1937."

All credit to Col. Armstrong for introducing R. P. O. service on the Chicago & North Western and organizing the Railway Post Office service, but it is not to be forgotten that W. A. Davis of St. Joseph, Mo., conceived the idea and was responsible for America's first R. P. O. car, on the Hannibal & St. Joseph, and that the Railway Post Office service dates from Davis' car in 1862, not from Armstrong's adaptation thereof in 1864.

Some Desirable Philatelic Writings

By STEPHEN G. RICH

An ear kept open and attentive during the first half of 1943 has received the suggestions herein mentioned, from various sources. Some of them have been discussed with various stamp people. Without any guarantee as to their validity, they are presented as possible guides for those anxious to write philatelic material that may be of some service to a fair number of collectors.

The clearest and most evident need is for a good, modern, but not too bulky book on United States 19th Century stamps, including the "specialties" (officials, newspapers, special deliveries, post office seals, and dues). The recent reprint of John N. Luff's book on this period has made the material in it readily accessible. There is, however, a real need for something more after the manner of King & Johl's 20th Century books, but possibly with less full treatment. So much has been discovered about the U. S. 19th Century stamps in the last twenty years, and even in the last five, that a good book, embodying the information now to be had, might well serve many collectors. The grouping of the stamps of one denomination and generally similar design, as done by King & Johl for certain issues, would be a valuable contribution to the collecting of the Bank Note issues 1870-1887, the 1851-57-60 stamps, and those of 1861 to 1868. Ready means for distinguishing the different varieties, such as the different types of the 1c cent 1851-57, might well head each section.

Such a book would be the more valuable if the authors (for it clearly must be the joint work of several) will relegate to footnote position or small type whatever brief statements of past errors in understanding these stamps must be included. Such mention is presumably necessary, in order to guide collectors who may run across or be using these older and inadequate set-ups. No useful purpose will be served by emphasizing such errors, nor by attempting to explain them or their origins.

Such a U. S. 19th Century book, extending to perhaps 350 or 400 pages of about usual 6 by 9 inch size, in usual size type; with statistics minimized; with guesses, hypotheses, and points on which information is lacking mentioned as such; might well be a boon to more collectors than anything else.

The cessation of production of the famous Kohl Handbook as a result of the war might well be an appropriate signal for American stamp writers to tackle the tasks of producing "Kohl style sections" on countries not yet reached. The choice of the countries to write up in such monographs may well be dictated by collector interest. It would be easy, in 1943, to write such a section for Orange Free State or for Transvaal, as recent works have unravelled most difficulties. But there is little interest in those countries. Mexico seems to be of considerable collector interest; and might well inspire some ambitious student to write it as an "Essay for a Kohl Section." The Netherlands are fairly extensively collected, and would make an appropriate subject. Russia is gaining in popularity and is also probably worth attempting.

There is some probability that more collectors will be served, with more benefit, in this way, than by translation of most of the Kohl sections not yet turned into English. Of those not yet brought into our language, the completion of Greece, now under way, might well be followed by the section of France

from 1876 on. The magnificent Part I of Kohl's France, done by Meinertshagen in 1928, remains without its completion. Indeed, further sections covering French stamps from 1928 or 1929 to now, need be written and published to bring the treatment to date. Thus the translations and the "essays" come together on this popular country.

There is a real field for a good handbook that will supplement James Baxter's superb one on the making of stamps by line-engraving. An adequate treatment of typographed stamps (including type-set ones), which form about 50% of the total number of different stamps ever issued, would be of great service. It is quite likely that such a handbook, if extended to cover all non-line-engraved stamp processes, would be even better received. Lithography, including photo-lithography (offset or otherwise), rotogravure, embossing, and other rare methods such as photography (blue-print), handstamping, and even typewriting, (used in a few cases), might all be included. A real discussion of the various perforating machines and their work, including a fairly full record of what sort was used in each country at each period, might well round out such a book.

We do not know yet whether there is interest enough, among enough collectors, to make a monograph on the Independent Mail Routes and the honest-to-goodness "locals" of the U. S. worth while. Certainly there is much information on both of these that ought to be assembled, evaluated, and coordinated. But the case is apparently as with the present writer's pet countries: a few collectors are ardently interested, and the rest of the philatelic world is indifferent.

Therefore, no urging will be given here for a Kohl type essay on Natal; nor one on Uruguay; nor one on Corea; nor even on Newfoundland, on which we have Boggs' excellent recent book. A careful and able author has recently announced an extensive handbook on Canada, perhaps to appear ere this article sees print. A large collecting public is interested in that country; and there is so much recently discovered information about its stamps, that even the best of the older handbooks is by now hopelessly inadequate. Much that has been accepted as authoritative on Canada is now known to be based on exceedingly incomplete information, in some cases so incomplete as to make the older statements actually misleading.

In our days, the need throughout stamp writing is for careful evaluation of the various published statements existing in print on almost every aspect of any country's stamps. No statement, however plausible, may be accepted uncritically. Guesses and assumptions are plentiful, but actual evidence is too often lacking. Calm treatment of the facts supporting rival theories, and of these theories' own merits, is urgently needed at almost every point.

In every field mentioned, there is real need for much more of the actual history of each stamp or issue. The occasion for each issue, the alleged and the real reasons for its appearance, are far more essential and interesting than names of designers and engravers, quantities issued, and so forth. Indeed, accurate reporting of dates and places of first sale to the public, is needed, and even a census of known earliest covers or pieces forms an essential part of writing up any of the older stamps. The rates for which issued, the cancellations found, etc., are all essentials in an adequate treatment of any stamp or issue. Date of sale and date of first use may not even agree, as with the U. S. 1885 Special Delivery stamp, sold before Oct. 1, 1885 for use on mail to be delivered after that date.

Many more subjects than those here mentioned are of worth and interest for articles. The purpose herein is merely to open up the subject, not to make a "final report."

(The End)

The Postmark Stamps and the Postal Cancellations of the Sardinian States

USED DURING THE PERIOD 1851-1863.

By ALBERTO BOLAFFI,

(Continued from Vol. XXIII, No. 3, Page 143.)

Translated by Dr. Dante S. Bolaffi.
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PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
651	TORREBER-RETTI	'57	Ⓒ	29	8	5	X		9	PV
652a	TORRE LUSERNA	P	⊞	10	31	4	V		13	TO
652b			Ⓒ	7			V			
652/I	TORRE PEL-LICE	'61	Ⓒ	7			VII			
653a	TORRE S. GIORGIO	P	⊞	10	8	7	XI		5	CN
653b			Ⓒ	29			XI			
654a	TORRIGLIA	P	⊞	10	41	5	XII		6	GE
654b			Ⓒ	28			XII			
655a	TORTONA	P	L	31	132	2	XII	Straight capitals line postmark known on the I and III issues.		
655b			⊞	10			II	Double circle postmark known through 1859, single circle with indication of the hour thereafter.		
655c			Ⓒ	7			I			
655d			Ⓒ	14			I			

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
656	TRANA	'57	⊙	29	19	6	IX	Blue in 1857	13	TO
657a	TRECATE	P	⊗	10	62	4	IV	Straight capitals line postmark known in 1864.	9	NO
657b			⊙	7			IV			
658a	TRICERRO	P	⊗	10	14	6	IX		14	VC
658b			⊙	29			IX			
659a	TRINO	P	⊗	10	92	4	III		14	VC
659b			⊙	7			III			
660a	TRIORA	P	⊗	10	54	5	VII		8	IM
660b			⊙	28			VII			
661	TROBASO	'53	⊙	29	7	6	X		9	NO
662a	TROMELLO	P	⊗	10	38	6	VIII		9	PV
662b			⊙	29			VIII			
662/	TRONZANO	P	⊗	10	29	4	VII	Black or blue.	14	VC
Ia										
662/			⊙	29			VII			
Ib										
663	TRONZANO VERCELLESE	'63		-			-			
664a	TRUFFAREL- LO	'52	⊗	10	12	7	IX		13	TO
664b			⊙	29			IX			
665	VADO	'57	⊙	29	14	6	X		12	SV
666	VALDENGIO	'56	⊙	29	10	6	XI	Small letters in the inscription.	14	VC
667a	VALDIERI	P	⊗	10	25	4	VII		15	CN
667b			⊙	7			VII			
668a	VALENZA	P	⊗	10	91	4	II	Double circle postmark known on the I issue.	1	AL
668b			⊙	7			II			
669a	VALGRANA	P	⊗	10	22	5	IX		5	CN
669b			⊙	28			IX			
669c			⊙	7			IX			

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
670a	VALLE	P	⊗	10	30	6	VII		9	PV
670b			⊙	29			VII			
671	VALPELLINE	P	-	-	8	6	-		7	AO
672	VALPERGA	'53	⊙	29	31	6	VIII		7	AO
673a	VARALLO	P	⊗	10	32	3	II	Double circle postmark on the I issue.	9	NO
673b			⊙	7			II			
674a	VARAZZE	P	⊗	10	81	4	V	Two types of double circle postmarks; type II is known from 1863 on.	12	SV
674b			⊙	7			V			
675a	VARESE	P	⊗	10	72	4	V		6	SP
675b			⊙	7			V			
675/I	VARESE LIGURE	'62	⊙	7			VII	Blue in 1862.		
676	VARIGNANO	'58	⊙	29		3	V		6	SP
677a	VARZI	P	⊗	10	23	4	VI		1	PV
677b			⊙	7			VI			
678a	VARZO	P	⊗	10	21	6	IX		9	NO
678b			⊙	7			IX			
679	VAUDA DI FRONT	'59	⊙	29	12	7	XII		13	TO
680a	VAUDA S. MORIZIO	'52	⊗	10	20	7	XI	The name of this post office was changed in S. FRANCESCO AL CAMPO on January 11, 1863 (No. 562).	13	TO
680b			⊙	29			XI			
681a	VENASCA	P	⊗	10	27	4	VIII		5	CN
681b			⊙	28			VIII			

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Name	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
682a	VENERIA R.E.	P		10	44	4	V	Diamonds postmark known on the IV issue.	13	TO
682b				7			V			
683a	VENTIMI- GLIA	P		10	62	3	IV	Two types of double circle date postmarks.	8	IM
683b				7			IV	Blue in 1857.		
683c			L	31			XII	The number 85 above the name of the post office of this straight capitals line postmark, of Napoleonic origin, indicates the postal department.		
684a	VERCELLI		L	64			XI	Straight capitals line postmark known on the I issue.	14	VC
684b		P		11	240	2	V	Pen cancellation known on the I and IV issue.		
684c				10			0	Circular postmark known on the I and IV issue.		
684d				7			0	Diamonds postmark known on the IV issue.		
684e		'54		14			0			
685a	VERNANTE	P		10	34	6	X		5	CN

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
685b	VEROLENGO	P	⊙	29	57	7	X	Blue in 1859. Straight capitals line postmark on the I issue. The double circle postmark stamp with lower asterisk and that with lower "C" had contemporary use.	13	TO
686a			⊗	10			VII			
686b			⊙	29			VII			
686c			⊙	7			VII			
687a	VERRES	P	⊗	10	12	4	VI	Straight capitals line postmark known on the IV issue.	7	AO
687b			⊙	7			VI			
687c			L	65			X			
688a	VERRUA	P	⊗	10	8	7	X			
688b			⊙	29			X	There are two types of double circle date postmarks.	13	TO
688/I	VERRUA	'63	-	-			-			
	SAVOIA									
689a	VERZUOLO	P	⊗	10	39	4	VI			
689b	VESIME	'61	⊙	7	13	4	VI	This post office became a Postal Distribution on July 1, 1861.	12	AL
690			⊙	7			X			
691a	VESPOLATE	P	⊗	10	26	4	VIII		9	NO
691b			⊙	28			VIII			
692a	VESTIGNE'	P	⊗	10	14	6	X			
692b			⊙	29			X			

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
705b			⊙	7			IV			
705c			L	31			XII	Straight capitals line postmark known on the 15c of 1863 of Italy, type Sardinia.		
706a	VILLAL- VERNIA	P	⊗	10	9	5	IX		1	AL
706b			⊙	28			IX			
707	VILLANOVA	'53	-	-	30	6	-		14	AL
707/I	VILLANOVA (CASALE)	'63	⊙	29			X			
708a	VILLANUOVA D'ASTI	P	⊗	10	35	4	V		1	AL
708b			⊙	7			V			
709a	VILLANUOVA DI MOND.	P	⊗	10	35	4	VI		5	CN
709b			⊙	7			VI			
710a	VILLANUO- VASOLARO	'52	⊗	10	17	5	VIII	Double circle postmark known on the I issue.	5	CN
710b			⊙	28			VIII			
711	VILLA (Ossola)	'56	⊙	29	10	6	XI		9	NO
712	VILLAR- FOCCHIARDO	'60	⊙	29	23	4	IX		13	TO
713	VILLASTEL- LONE	'56	⊙	29	25	7	IX		13	TO
714a	VILLENEUVE	P	⊗	10	8	6	XI		7	AO
714b			⊙	7			XI			
714c			L	31			XI	Straight capitals line postmark known on the IV issue.	5	CN

PIEDMONT AND LIGURIA

No.	Post Office Names	Year	Symbol	Type	Population	Class	Rating	Remarks	Old Administrative Div.	Present Province
715a	VINADIO	P	☒	10	34	4	VII	Two types of double circle postmark.	5	CN
715b			©	7			VII			
716	VINOVO	'53	©	29	34	7	X		13	TO
717	VIRLE	'60	©	30	18	7	XII		13	TO
718	VISCHE	'56	©	29	24	6	IX		7	AO
719	VISONE	'52	-	-	16	6	-		12	AL
720a	VISTRORIO	P	☒	10	9	4	VII		7	AO
720b			©	7			VII			
721a	VIU'	P	☒	10	32	4	VI	Blue between 1859-1861.	13	TO
721b			©	7			VI			
721c			L	31			-			
722a	VOGHERA	P	☒	10	132	2	0		1	PV
722b			©	7			0			
722c			©	14			0			
723a	VOGOGNA	P	☒	10	16	4	V		9	NO
723b			©	7			V			
724a	VOLPEDO	P	☒	10	11	5	VIII		1	AL
724b			©	28			VIII			
725a	VOLPIANO	P	☒	10	39	5	VII		13	TO
725b			©	28			VII			
726	VOLTAGGIO	'53	©	29	21	4	VII		6	AL
727a	VOLTRI	P	☒	10	122	4	II		6	GE
727b			©	7			II			
728	VOLVERA	'57	©	29	23	6	IX		13	TO
729a	ZAVATARELLO	'52	©	28	18	5	VII	Red in 1860-61.	1	PV
730	ZINASCO	'53	©	29	35	6	IX		9	PV
731a	ZOAGLI	P	☒	10	35	4	IV	Pen cancellation known on the IV issue.	6	GE
731b			©	29			IV			

(End of the list of the Post Offices of Piedmont and Liguria.)

(To be continued)

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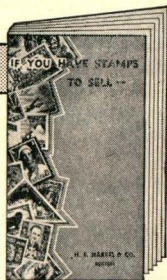
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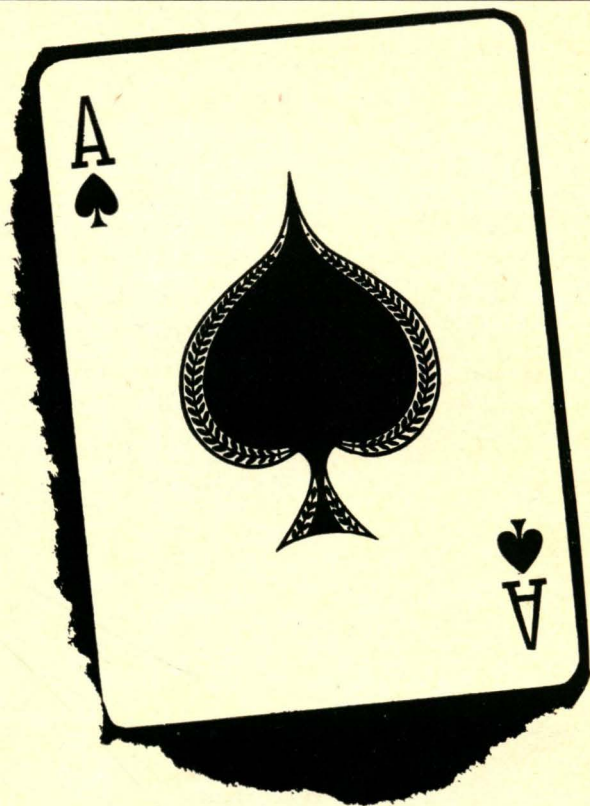
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