THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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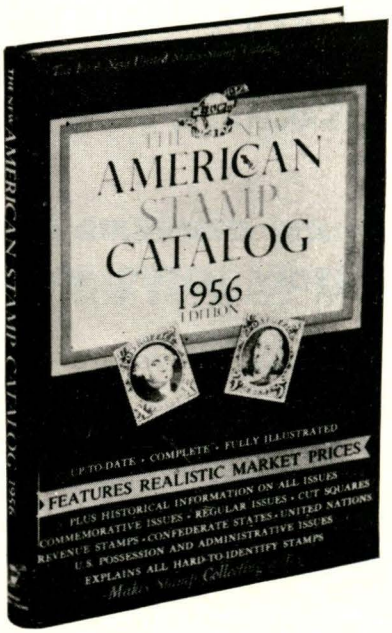
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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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Editorials

Harmful Abuse

Basically stamp collectors are served by two groups——the amateur, and the professional. However from the ranks of both come the greatest services to philately all done voluntarily as a pure labor of love. Philatelic affairs like exhibitions or dinners are managed by both collectors and dealers. Our finest writings have come from both amateurs and professionals. Essential expertising services have been and are continuing to be supplied by both groups. Helpful catalogs have been compiled by both amateur and professional. 99% of all of these vital services are non-profit. As a matter of fact, the contributors usually end up having to pay out their own money to make the benefits of these philatelic services available.

Under the circumstances, it is a remarkable tribute to the vigor of philately that it has had so many dedicated followers, who have gratuitously supplied all this. Contrary to popular opinion, success and accomplishment is not always measured by dollars and cents. The rewards from these services often are many. The prime ones are the appreciation and respect from others for their work. These, above all, stimulate the continuation of these extraordinary contributions.

Recently we had dinner with a very prominent industrialist in this country, who had retired from his manufacturing business about five years ago. Since then he has devoted his entire time to philanthropy. Two years ago he was elected the President of one of New York City's finest hospitals. All of his services are voluntary. In the course of our discussions, he told us of the continuous carping destructive criticisms heaped upon him and his other co-workers. Before his retirement, he had been a high-salaried man. Now he was working just as hard for nothing. But it was his considered opinion that with all the pressure and competition entailed in his salaried work, nothing could equal the castigations he was receiving in his philanthropic work. He remarked without bitterness that it was remarkable to him how much abuse a voluntary worker had to take.

After hearing this, our thoughts immediately turned to philately, where the same situation exists. It is deplorable to hear among both collecting and dealers circles the constant abuse of our great workers. Authors, experts, exhibition committees, workers in philatelic organizations are expected to be supermen. Nothing but perfection will satisfy the gossips. A few mistakes are seized upon as indications of complete incompetence. All of us have heard this type of detractor. Speaking about one of philately's great books, he gleefully announces that he personally has counted 23 mistakes in this book. The hasty conclusion, therefore, must be that the entire book is worthless. Or an acknowledged authority has passed upon thousands of copies of stamps. Once in a while he has rendered an

opinion that is incorrect. This is ground for the derogators to dismiss all philatelic knowledge as non-existent, and to incorrectly conclude that no experts know anything. The list of such abuse is long, and need not be cited instance by instance. Of far greater importance is the constant practice of such aspersions cast upon the small minority, who conscientiously and efficiently toil to serve philately.

It is regrettable that so few rise up to stop this constant flow of abuse. But instead too often because of inexperience, others spread the baseless stories they have heard.

In actual practice the detractors are harming themselves more than those they have made the targets of their criticisms. The quickest and surest way to stem the flow of voluntary services is by demoralizing those who do the work. It is the cause for the paucity of workers, authors and experts in philately. Those, who could make great contributions but withhold their services, reason that there is nothing to be gained by knocking oneself out only to end up subjected to abuse. The finest philatelists usually are asked to serve as judges of philatelic exhibitions. This is hard, difficult work demanding both severe physical and mental effort. It would cost a business thousands of dollars to hire such competent services. Yet what do we generally hear? You no doubt have witnessed the slackers and disgruntled exhibitors spreading gossip about the complete ignorance of an outstanding body of philatelic authorities. One, who has pride in his work, will reason after hearing such calumny that he will not again arrange to take several days away from his business and family, perhaps be out of pocket for his expenses and work long hours only to hear stinging criticisms of his services. A thankless job is to be spurned even with a good financial remuneration.

The next time you hear one of these detractors speak, if you wish to serve philately, tell him to keep quiet. If he happens to write, you may rightfully wonder if he deserves your support. But for the good of whatever your stake in philately may be, don't go about repeating that all philatelic experts are no good, because a few mistakes have been made. Stop abusing our volunteers, the few fine philatelists, either amateur or professional, who have and are continuing to render invaluable services to philately. We know it sounds trite—but if you cannot say something nice, then don't say it. There is entirely too much loose talk among stamp collectors and dealers.

We Can Raise Our Hands

A well known weekly magazine, "The New Yorker" in April 1956 ran the following in the page 1 commentary called *The Talk of the Town*. We quote the opening portion.

"Our Own Baedeker

"Will anyone who has ever heard of Ifni please raise his hand? We thought so. We'd never heard of it ourself until it turned up in a story in the *Times* the other day, as a trapezoidal speck of land on the northwest coast of Africa, uncomfortably pinched between the foothills of the Anti-Atlas Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Ifni made the *Times* on the strength of a report from Madrid that Generalissimo Franco was thinking of recognizing the independence of Morocco and . . . "

Funny thing, but if this question were asked before a group of stamp collectors it seems quite probable that the majority present would say: "Ifni? That's a Spanish possession in Africa that issues stamps, we have a nice collection of them."

A few philatelists seem to argue vociferously that stamp collecting does not teach anything. Let us not argue this question. But the above account in one of this country's most widely read magazines seems to prove the point, that stamp collectors do know a number of facts that others do not. They seem to have received their knowledge from their hobby.

Obituary

Clarence W. Brazer, 1880-1956

An old, familiar face will be missed at 22 East 35 Street, New York City. For more years than most of us can remember, Clarence W. Brazer was a regular attendant at our meetings. He was never the silent one. If a member of the audience, he added interest to the meetings by his questions or learned re-

(Continued on Page 262.)

FIPEX AFTERMATH

FIPEX became history after May 6, 1956. Much —pro and con— has been written about it. The accounts published on FIPEX showed a remarkable range, from almost the pathetic and comic to factual, top-notch reporting. Some wrote with "a dark brown taste in their mouth." While others were most fanciful, describing events, people and stamps that do not appear to have existed. One writer filled up a full page to complain against many whom he thought did nothing but seek praise and publicity. But the greatest portion of this writer's account was devoted to all of his personal activities, which truly were of no interest to his readers. One writer never mentioned the exhibit itself, simply expressing his distaste for the designs of the various FIPEX issues, as if this was a matter of earth-shaking importance. Another performed a truly superb job of comprehensively reporting the entire exhibition section by section, praising where deserved but properly citing weaknesses when apparent; while a second reporter, trying to follow a similar pattern, offset what he intended to be factual reporting by interjecting editorial comment with undue pontificating.

When one realizes the utter vastness of an exhibition like FIPEX he understands that no two pairs of eyes see a certain thing in the same way. Also, some pay attention to only what they want to see. One person for almost ten days never leaves the dealers' booths, so to him success is measured only by the ring of the cash register. Another thinks the dealers' part of an international exhibition is nothing but a cheap midway, and would separate this from the superb array of stamps of the finest collections in the world.

This to our way of thinking depicts the versatility of philately, which seems always to have something for everybody. A packet dealer, or the publisher of a dollar a year stamp paper seems to have little interest in nor understands the attraction of a "Post Office Mauritius" or a "Hawker" stamp. In a similar sense a true collector disdains "first day covers" or "Grace Kelly wedding stamps." This could be tritely summed up— one man's poison is another man's meat.

The main question is a simple one. Is a vast exhibit like FIPEX of benefit to philately? Again there seems to be no typical answer. Everyone seems to have a different



All Photos by Boutrelle

Fig. 1. The crowd waiting to view FIPEX on the opening day, April 28, 1956.



Fig. 2. Some of the exhibits mounted in the frames on the 4th floor of the New York City Coliseum. This was taken just before FIPEX had opened.

opinion, with reasons as varied as the stamps in a general collection. Some came away from FIPEX wondering how any normal person could collect stamps. Others came many times vowing that they would try to build up a collection that would gain a high award at the next exhibition. Some measured success by attendance and publicity. Many simply enjoyed quietly spending time with philatelic friends, examining wonderful stamps, and talking about their philatelic interests. Some seemed depressed by seeing so many expensive stamps which they never could afford to own; while others longingly admired these same stamps secretly hoping to own some in the future.

A number of questions have arisen in the mind of the editor of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. After all, our magazine received one of the four highest awards in the Literature Section. Furthermore, because of our personal participation in FIPEX along with many of the other members of the Club, we wondered whether it would be proper for us to write anything about FIPEX. And if so, in what vein? Should it be as a historian, a reviewer, or a critic? These were not as easy to answer as one may think.

Reaching a decision needed time. FIPEX had been so vast and overwhelming that it took several weeks to settle back to normal. While undergoing emotional strain plus physical fatigue, we reasoned that this was no time to write. So we put aside any review of FIPEX for about a month. Later under more normal conditions we began to put our thoughts on paper.

At first we commenced writing as a historian, or as the president of a corporation issuing an annual report of his company. There was the balance sheet with its assets and liabilities. These are itemized and then weighed against each other to learn whether the past was a success or a failure.

FIPEX, according to our observations, was a success because the assets outbalanced the liabilities. One can only judge by his own past experiences. Comparing FIPEX to other international exhibitions we had seen, we saw it as the best yet. The exhibits were, in general, top grade. Competition was keen and practically no phase of philately was missing. The staging was excellent. The New York Coliseum had the finest lighting ever seen. One noticed practically no shadows. The frames were very fine, certainly a vast improvement over past ones. The representation of collections and philatelists was truly international, far more than in 1947 or 1936.

The whole spirit behind FIPEX seemed to portray the new role of our country's position in the world. As a nation, we have become much more international and liberal. The awards were made upon merit rather than nationality. A precedent in this country's international philatelic exhibitions was shattered when the Grand Award went to South America, and one of the major ones to Italy. Also woman's rights were very evident. For the first time a lady served as an International Judge, while TWO of the SIX major awards went to ladies' collections, with two others winning gold medals.

It is our view, that as far as FIPEX's

liabilities are concerned, these are important to study for future guidance only. One learns by his mistakes, and there were, as expected, many in FIPEX. But to our way of thinking these are best pointed out to those in charge, rather than sounding off in print, if for no other reason than a very basic one.

FIPEX was run by a group of hard working volunteers, who not only tried their best, but slaved for uncounted days. A volunteer worker is to be cherished. His whole remuneration consists of a pat on the back. If philately wishes its best workers to continue to sacrifice their time, which could be better spent upon work that pays, it is very foolish to criticize volunteers even for obvious mistakes. This is why we wish to tell all the FIPEX critics that they have not served philately well.

It may be helpful, therefore, at this point for us to assume the role of critic and discuss some of the liabilities, offering two suggestions for future improvement.

International philatelic exhibitions in the United States have come a long way since our first one in 1913. FIPEX was so vast and complex that we think it was beyond the abilities of most of us. The New York Coliseum is an enormous building. It will stage many exhibitions with industries and hobbies. Practically every one of them will be directed by a paid manager. Philately wishes to remain an exception by asking those in the high positions of responsibility to serve voluntarily. This is too demanding. Let us be realistic and not run a 1926 model. Most every one working for FIPEX not only did so for free, but, in addition, was placed to great expense out of his own pockets. If philately in the United States wishes to stage a mammoth international exhibition every decade, it should arrange to have the director remunerated for his taxing work and great responsibilities.

The other big fault evident in FIPEX was that philately was far too overshadowed by the side-shows. One understands the reasons for wanting side-shows. They are to draw the attendance and help pay the great costs of staging an exhibition. But we believe that this has gotten out of hand. An international exhibition features the finest stamp collections in the world on display in competition. This is the main attraction towering over all else. Again we plead for realism.



Fig. 3. A glass display cabinet placed at the entrance to FIPEX on the 3rd floor containing the actual awards. The large piece in the top center is the Grand Award.

Let us try to have philately the only feature in a future show. If it fails—and we doubt it—then we shall know once and for all. But let's try it. It is a shame to have people bypass the finest stamps in the world to flock to buy Monaco Wedding stamps. It is just like people going to an art museum not to see the paintings, but to buy popcorn. But there is no reason to blame anyone for this. If the majority agree with our views, let's work to rectify a mistake.

Many correctly reported that the crowds flocked around the dealers' booths while the bulk of the frames with the philatelic displays had far fewer spectators. But they incorrectly concluded that this was a matter of choice because people are mostly interested in buying rather than viewing stamps of others, no matter how outstanding the material.

Completely overlooked, however, was a condition that had no relation to philately. The Coliseum was brand new, so was its operating personnel. FIPEX had rented the third and fourth floors. Most all the public came up to the third floor by escalator



Fig. 4. The Official FIPEX banquet at the Hotel Plaza on the night of May 4, 1956. Standing in the rear is Mr. Robert Hoffman of South America, who was asked to rise for acclaim, just after his Uruguay collection had been announced as the Grand Award winner.

and they remained there. There were too few signs prominently placed that called attention to further exhibits on the fourth floor. Furthermore, many who knew of this, asked the uniformed attendants how to reach the upper floor. They did not know. Consequently everyone was milling about on the third floor, while the fourth floor looked like a deserted village. This was proven to us after the show. About twenty of our personal friends and neighbors had visited FIPEX. The great majority of them told us they only saw one floor because either they did not know there was another floor, or if they did know, no one seemed to be able to tell them how to reach the fourth floor. There was no escalator to the fourth floor, and one had to take the elevators situated in the rear of the Coliseum.

The reaction of the few of the public who did land on the fourth floor was most interesting. They told us that they delighted in the exhibits. They noticed that the contrast to the third floor was most remarkable. Something akin, in their opinion, to a difference seen with the Radio City Music Hall and Coney Island.

Thus it seems to be quite plain that if the conditions at the Coliseum had been different and if more people could have been directed to the fourth floor a different result would have been noticed. For instance, if the dealers' booths had been located on the fourth floor under the circumstances as they existed, we believe that their complaints about poor business would have been many and loud.

Now we would like to add some remarks upon the exhibits and the judging. Perhaps because we were on the inside, our views are different from those outside looking in. This was not the first time we had judged at an international exhibition. But FIPEX marked the first time we have heard so very few complaints from the exhibitors themselves. This definitely must be an act of approval. In fact, this is the very first time that exhibitors came up and congratulated us for a job well done. And these were mostly the winners of silver and bronze medals not the major awards.

Various accounts have been read on the judging and the awards, no two being alike. The concensus of opinion strongly indicated that generally this was a very creditable job. This is the score despite of one very critical appraisal from a most respected source.

Here again striving for realism, the basic question hinges on the matter of whether competition helps or hinders the general welfare of philately.



Fig. 5. THE FIPEX International Board of Judges.

Bottom Row (Left to right): H. E. Abt, U. S. A.; J. M. Clary, U. S. A.; G. Turner, U. S. A.; F. R. Bruns, Jr., U. S. A.; W. Stericker, U. S. A.; H. Kricheldorf, Germany; H. D. S. Haverbeck, U. S. A.; A. Bonilla Lara, Chile and C. T. Nearing, U. S. A.

Seated (l. to r.): R. Oriol, Cuba; L. B. Gatchell, U. S. A.; H. M. Goodkind, U. S. A.; J. Buehler, Switzerland; J. R. W. Purves, Australia; S. Glass, U. S. A.; Sir John Wilson, England; T. E. Steinway, Honorary Chairman, U. S. A.; Mrs. L. B. Dale, U. S. A.; W. S. Boggs, U. S. A.; L. L. Shenfield, U. S. A.; V. Greene, Canada, E. C. Krug, U. S. A. and L. Berthelot, France.

Rear Row (l. to r.): E. C. de Meaultsart, Belgium; R. Garcia-Larranaga, Mexico; C. Degler, U. S. A.; S. G. Rich, U. S. A.; C. M. Jephcott, Canada; T. D. Perry, U. S. A.; V. Domanski, Jr., U. S. A.; W. H. Schulze, U. S. A.; J. R. Boker, Jr., U. S. A.; H. R. Holmes, England; G. Menzinsky, Sweden; E. Rathje, Denmark; T. Allen, England; H. M. Buten, U. S. A.; S. Yort, U. S. A.; S. R. Rice, U. S. A.; E. B. Jessup, U. S. A.; H. Fraccaroli, Brazil and F. N. Billingsley, U. S. A.

Judging for the selection of awards depends upon a number of factors. We shall mention some of the more important ones. These are the preliminaries such as setting up the various *classifications* plus *the rules and regulations*. These then constitute a bedrock for the subsequent decisions of the judges. Next there is *the selection of the judges*. Obviously one strives to have the finest international representation. Then there is the ruling of the Directing Committee as to *limited or unlimited awards*. And finally *the degree of competition* is a highly important factor. The severer the competition, the more difficult is the task of selecting the awards.

Let us assume for the moment that all of these factors were planned and executed almost to perfection. Obviously this is impossible because we are dealing with human frailty. We may strive for perfection, but never can achieve it. Under ideal circumstances, philately's finest minds are commissioned to select the few leading collections out of many outstanding ones. There can be only one winner and so on down the line. Some must be disappointed even under the most ideal conditions.

Thus the consequences must be measured. Using a comparison, there is a branch of education today that strives to remove competition from our youngsters' learning. Philately must also decide if competition does more good than harm or vice versa.

The present indications, in our opinion, point to an overwhelming majority in favor of competition. Locally, regionally, nationally and internationally more philatelists seem to demand competitive philatelic exhibitions than would abolish them. Thus again one must weigh the assets against the liabilities. If the results of a great international philatelic exhibition like FIPEX indicate only one disappointed exhibitor out of ten, then the minority must remain that, no matter how noisy or emotional its protestations.

Looking back to FIPEX, it must be stressed that the Rules and Regulations, the selection of the Judges and the determination of the number of awards were *not* done by those who judged, but by various members of the FIPEX Directing Committee. There is

no doubt but that all of this work could have been better executed. Those, who had had great experience with previous international philatelic exhibitions, suspected that all of this work had been left to those whose metier is organizational ability rather than the philatelic know-how, which is essential in planning preliminaries so that the best judges can efficiently act. American philately should learn by this fundamental error, and avoid a repetition in the future.

Some of the Judges in informal assemblages before FIPEX remarked that in past international exhibitions there seemed to be only two ways to gain top recognition of a collection—spend a lot of money, or work hard for 20 years. But if one ever finds an exhibit with the rare combination of money and hard work, this is the Grand award.

One of the greatly improved aspects to the FIPEX judging, which may not have been particularly noticeable to the public, was the increasing recognition given to philatelic research collections, especially those which had left the beaten track to explore the lesser known, unpopular fields.

Obviously, the judging was not perfect. To some, it never will be. Thus improvements can be made, and we hope to see them materialize. But the only practical manner to achieve this is by having those experienced in judging sit down behind closed doors and work out improvements. Insulting volunteers in public is the worst course to pursue. Judging too demands a sacrifice of valuable time and money. How can any dedicated philatelist, especially if his livelihood depends upon stamps either as a dealer or publisher, delude himself that he is helping his business by finding fault with a group of prominent people, who are willing to serve philately as a Board of Judges? If a leading attorney, industrialist or realtor sees that after exerting his best, all he receives is a stinging rebuke for his efforts, he will do the obvious and say, "enough—get some one else!"

One of the chief hues and cries against FIPEX's Board of Judges was the lack of dealers. This is a very complex matter, that has not been able to be practically solved as yet. Perhaps a satisfactory solution will come in the future. But acting as a judge demands two essentials, although most people see only one—philatelic knowledge. It also demands a judicious spirit being willing to weigh the other person's views against your own. Consequently, we must be realistic again. Let you and I sit down to compile a list of the ten best philatelic authorities on U. S. stamps in this country, who are professionals. What do we at once find ? Very few are on speaking terms. Feuds among them have been going on for years. The cause is nothing more than a difference of opinion over some philatelic matter. But if one dealer thinks he knows it all, while another will not sit in the same room with a third, how can you set up a Board of Judges under such circumstances? This situation, incidentally, cannot be blamed upon any British or foreign influences.

Furthermore, some of the most knowledgable professionals refuse to serve as judges because they sincerely believe that since philately is their profession, it is not wise to have them judge collections, that they have handled against others sold by their competitors. This is not a debatable point. It is nothing but reporting what has been told to us. Consequently, the solution rests more upon the stamp dealers than the collectors.

This review of FIPEX has gone to great length at this point. It stands to become boring if we were to debate each of the criticisms levelled against the 1956 exhibition. Thus we shall close upon a note similar to the spirit expressed at the outset of this review.

FIPEX may not have had the greatest publicity, but it did have some fine notices. One was an inspiring message from the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Another was an editorial on April 30, 1956 in what is conceded to be one of the great newspapers of the world, "The New York Times." Let us quote this editorial:

Monday, April 30, 1956

FIPEX

"The dramatic story of communications, uniting all nations of the world by their postal systems," is being vividly told in the new Coliseum this week. The quoted words are not from a paid publicist nor were they inspired by the fancy of a philatelist. They were expressed on a White House letterhead

(Continued on Page 261.)

MEXICO

The Pre-Stamp Postmarks

By JOHN K. BASH

Considering the large amount of philatelic work, which has been done on the stamps of Mexico, it is surprising that so little has appeared in print on any phases of postal history of the country prior to the issuance of stamps in 1856. In fact, the only substantial contribution to this neglected field is an article by S. Chapman, which appeared in the October, November, and December, 1911 issues of "The London Philatelist." In that series, Mr. Chapman, who had access to various original documents, produced some rather interesting information with respect to postal rates, routes and other data, some of which will be drawn upon from time to time in the course of this article.

Mexico has had a long and turbulent history. Originally wrested from the Aztecs by Cortez in the 16th Century, the country, which then included large areas in the western part of the United States, remained in Spanish hands until 1821. Thereupon, due largely to the general weakness of Spain, which was then on the losing end of one of

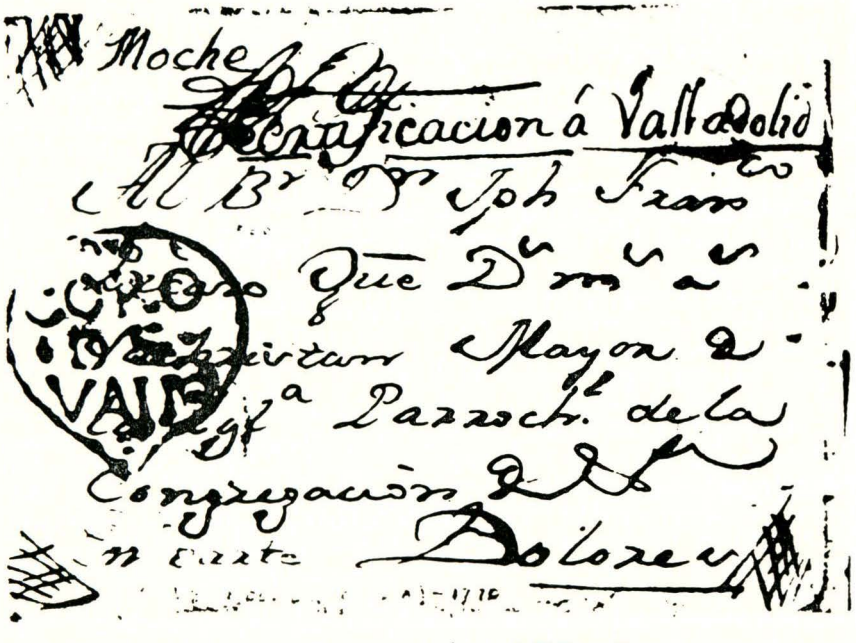


Fig. 1. A registered letter dated 1770 from Valladolid (later renamed Morelia) to Dolores.

the intermittent European wars, Mexico successfully declared her independence.

The new country, however, did not have a stable or effective government, so that after a few more years, in 1835, the territory, which is now Texas, was wrested from Mexico. And still later, in 1848, some 930,000 square miles of territory, including Texas and California, was formally ceded to the United States. A few Mexican stampless covers from these lost areas may be found from time to time, particularly from Texas. All are scarce.

From that point on, the territorial integrity of Mexico remained more or less unchanged, although internal troubles continued. A Civil War in the early 1860's was climaxed by the invasion by the French, and the resultant transient empire of the ill-starred Maximilian, who was overthrown and executed by Juarez in 1867. A quieter period thereupon reigned for the balance of the century.

As a result of all these changes, two general classes of Mexican stampless covers are found. The first is the pre-stamp cover, those reflecting postal use before the first issue of stamps in August 1, 1856. The second group comprises those used after August 1, 1856, resulting largely from the disruptions of the country, whereby at one time or another nearly every post office, even Mexico City itself, was without stamps. In such cases the local postal authorities, after exhausting such expedients as bisected or quadrisected stamps, resorted again to stampless covers, collecting the postage from the sender (prepayment was mandatory after December 20, 1856), imprinting the cover with the town name, a "Franco" or "Franqueado", and usually a rate stamp indicating the amount paid. Such covers are found most frequently used in the period 1860-68, although a few may be found prior to and after these years, even as late as 1881. In the period 1860-68, the collector will find a strong resemblance to the postal conditions of the Confederate States of America—some offices had stamps, some issued provisionals, while many reflected the postage paid by means of a handstamp because they had no stock of stamps.

It is an interesting enterprise to relate the existence of one of these later stampless covers with the historical reason for the lack of stamps in the particular city of origin. To take the simplest case, for example, almost every stampless cover dated in 1867 or early 1868 resulted from the overthrow of Maximilian's Empire by Juarez. The continuation of the 1866 issue with portrait of Maximilian was obviously unfeasible. The provisional issue of 1867 with gothic "Mexico" overprint was therefore introduced. But there were not enough stamps to distribute to any offices other than Mexico City and some of its suburbs. The local offices perforce made shift as best they could. A few cities appeared to have had remainders of the 1861 issue on hand (Mexico, Orizava, Jalapa, Tampico, Puebla, Apam and Monterey*), but these were quickly exhausted. Several districts, such as Guadalajara or Chiapas, improvised local provisional stamps. But the country as a whole, outside the Capital, took recourse to the stampless cover until a new issue of stamps became available in September 1868.

Although this later group of stampless covers yields nothing in interest compared to those of pre-stamp variety, the postal markings found are, by and large, the same as those applied on the stamps themselves, which subject has been reasonably covered by W. T. Wilson in his book, "The Postmarks of Mexico, 1856-72" (1927). Consequently, this article will confine itself primarily to the earlier pre-stamp postmarks and covers. There is, of course, considerable overlapping of postmarks in the pre-stamp and post-stamp period. Some of the cancelling devices seem to have been made of a good grade of wood or metal, so that it is not exceptional to find a particular handstamp doing duty for twenty-five years or longer. This is especially true in the smaller offices, which had a limited volume of mail.

Postal Rates

During the pre-stamp period, rates, except for various special services, depended upon two factors—the weight of the letter and the distance it had to travel. The following quotations from Chapman's article in the 1911 "London Philatelist" indicate the rate structure over much of the pre-stamp period:

*A. Philipp Mendoza—"London Philatelist", May 1946.

"The following was the tariff ruling between 1766 and 1779:—

Single	letter	½ ounce	2 reales
Double	letter	¾ ounce	4 reales
Triple	letter	1 ounce	6 reales
		1½ ounce	8 reales
		2 ounce	10 reales

Above 2 oz., 4 reales per oz. up to 10 oz.
Exceeding 10 oz., 2 reales per oz. up to 20 oz.
Beyond 20 oz., and not exceeding 40 oz., 1 real per oz.
41 oz. and upwards, ½ real per oz.

"The following rates were approved by Order in Council, Madrid, 1st August, 1814, but this tariff, however, was not uniformly observed throughout Mexico, and in some States it is not at all clear what the charges really were:—

	Single letters under ½ oz.	Double letters ½ oz.	Triple letters ¾ oz.	For each ounce
		(Reales)		
1. Letters for Guatemala, Yucatan, Tabasco, Nueva Viscaya*, Coahuila, Sonora, California, Barlovento Isles**, and New Orleans	3	4	6	8

* Nueva Viscaya included the territory now occupied by the states of Chihuahua and Durango with the divisions of Saltillo, Parras and Viesza in the State of Coahuila.
** Barlovento Isles appears to refer to Cuba and Porto Rico.

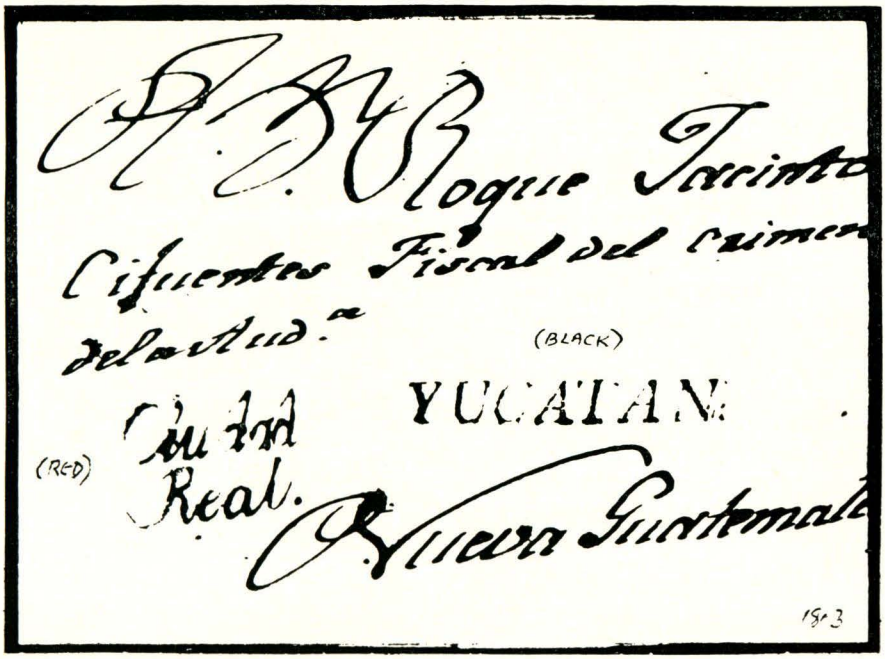


Fig. 2. An 1803 cover bearing the postmark of Ciudad Real, the Spanish name for San Cristobal in the State of Chiapas (then in Guatemala).

2.	Provinces of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Puebla, Mexico, Valladolid***, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas and Guadalajara	2	3	4	6
3.	Spain, Peru, Manila, Caracas and Santa Fe	4	6	8	12"

"Under group 1, heavy correspondence was charged as follows:—

For the first five ounces, 8 reales per ounce; the second five ounces, 4 reales per ounce; the next ten, 2 reales; and the next twenty, 1 real; and all in excess, ½ real per ounce.

Under group 2

For the first five ounces, 6 reales per ounce; next five ounces, 4 reales; next ten, 2 reales; next twenty, 1 real; and all in excess, ½ real per ounce.

Under group 3

12 reales per ounce irrespective of weight.

Each foreign letter was charged double the rates shown in group 3. The charge for registration of letters was $2.00 (16 reales) in addition to postage.

. . . . . .

"In 1826 a tariff divided into four sections was in operation as follows:—

*** Valladolid was re-named Morelia on September 12, 1828.

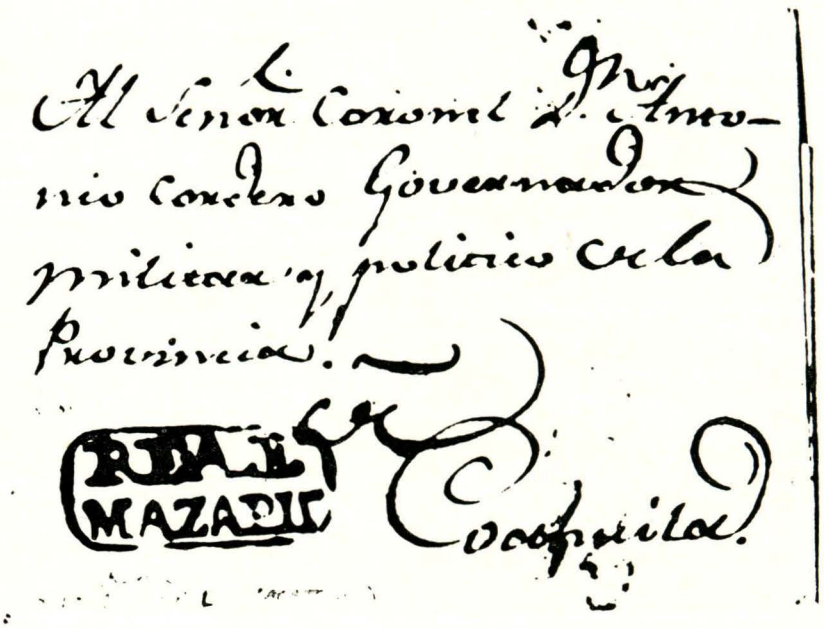


Fig. 3. An 1811 letter from Mazapil in Zacatecas showing the Spanish form of title "Reale Mazapil".

Section One—States of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Puebla, Mexico, Valladolid, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas and Jalisco.

Section Two—Guatemala, States of Yucatan, Tabasco, Nueva Viscaya, Interior Provinces, Tamaulipas, Havana, Barlovento Isles and New Orleans.

Section Three—Spain, Peru, Manila, Caracas, and Santa Fe.

Section Four—Foreign letters which are charged double third tariff rates.

The following are rates for each Section:—

	Sections		
	1st	*2nd*	*3rd*
		(Reales)	
Single letter	2	3	4
Double letter of ½ oz.	3	4	6
Triple letter of ¾ oz.	4	6	8
One ounce	6	8	12
One ounce and a quarter	7	10	—
One and a half	9	12	—
One and three-quarters	10	14	—
Two	12	16	—
From 2 to 5 oz. each additional oz.	6	8	—
5¼ to 10 oz. each additional oz.	4	4	—
10½ to 20 oz. each additional oz.	2	2	—
21 to 40 oz. each additional oz.	1	1	—
41 oz. and upwards each additional oz.	½	½	—

Registration fee, $2.00 (16 reales) in addition to postage.
Newspapers one-third of letter rates.

. . . . . ."

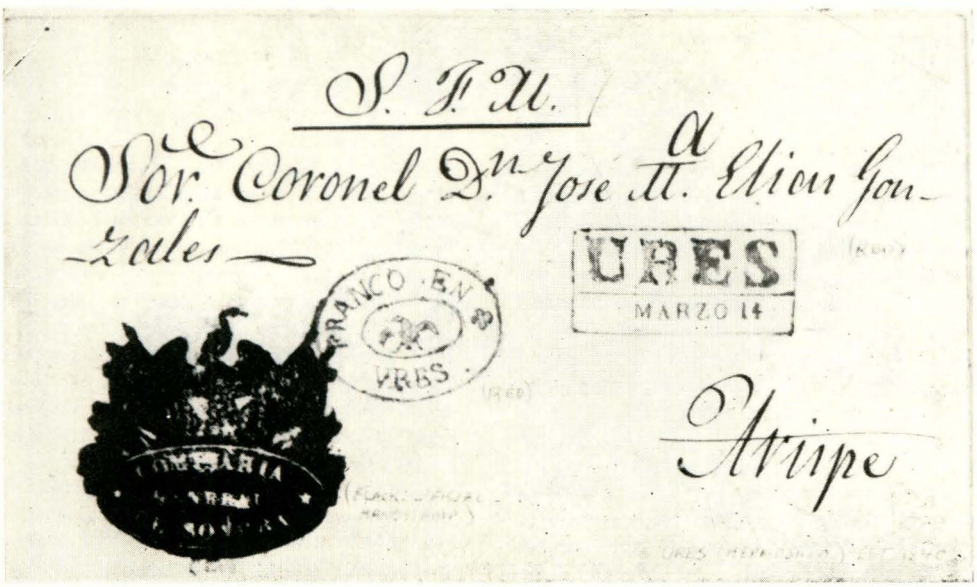


Fig. 4. An official letter from Ures to Arizpe, estimated usage around 1840. Note the two postmarks of Ures and the official seal of the sender.

"In 1832 the following tariff came in force:—

For all Mexican States and Territories, same as those in the first section of the tariff of 1826.

For foreign correspondence dealt with at the port of entry:

Letters up to ¾ oz. ..... 1 real
¾ oz. ..... 2 reales
1 oz. ..... 3 reales

and so on, 1 real for each quarter of an ounce up to 5 oz.
From 5 to 10 oz., 1 real for each ½ oz.
From 11 to 20 oz., 1 real for each ounce.
From 20 to 40 oz., ½ real for each ounce.
Newspapers one-third letter rates.

. . . . . .

"On November 3rd, 1842, a tariff based on distances was brought into use. The tariff was divided into the following sections:

1st ..... 1 to 15 leagues
2nd ..... 16 to 100 leagues
3rd ..... 101 to 200 leagues
4th ..... 201 upwards

	Sections			
	1st	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*
	(Reales)			
Single letter	1	2	3	4
Double letter, ½ oz.	2	3	4	6
Triple letter, ¾ oz.	3	4	6	8
One ounce	4	6	8	10
1¼ oz.	5	7	10	—
1½ oz.	6	9	12	14
1¾ oz.	7	10	14	—
2 oz.	8	12	16	18

Above this, decrease as in former tariffs."

A league, based on a comparison of certain of the distance tables used by the postoffice with a modern map, appears to have averaged about three miles.

Unfortunately, these rate schedules are not of too much practical significance today, because while the distance a letter had to travel is theoretically determinable, its weight in many cases is problematical. The 1842 rates remained in effect until July 15, 1856.

Prepayment of letters did not become mandatory until December 20, 1856, and in the pre-stamp period collect letters considerably outnumber the prepaid ones—except in the case of official mail where the reverse seems to have been true. Apparently there was no rate differential between prepaid and collect letters, except for a short period between July 15, 1856 and December 20, 1856 during which time the collect rates were twice the prepaid. The prepaid letters can normally be identified by the presence of the word "Franco", "Franca" or "Franqueado". The "Franco" may appear as part of the town cancel or as a separate handstamp. A rate marking may or may not be present on such prepaid letters, but usually is. Collect letters bear only the name of the originating city, a rate mark (either manuscript or stamped) and occasionally a date. In this connection, it is not unusual to find the original rate marking obliterated and a new marking in a different color of ink placed on the cover. No doubt, in such cases, the receiving clerk differed with the dispatching clerk as to the correct amount of the charges.

The earliest reference to registered mail mentioned by Chapman is in the postal rate schedule of 1826. The charge here was $2.00 (16 reales) in addition to postage. Chapman's next mention of registry rates was in the July 15, 1856 schedule where it appears as $1.00 (8 reales) plus postage, except where the letter weighed less than ½ ounce in which case the registry fee paid the entire cost. In this connection, an 1847 registered cover has been noted bearing a manuscript notation on the reverse, as follows:

"Certificadas 16 rs.
Francas 03
—
19".

This seems to indicate that there was no intervening change in registry rates.

In any event, a registered cover always bears the word "Certificacion," and each of the corners is struck with an obliterating device, much as the flaps of our registered mail covers are cancelled today.

It might be remarked that it was the general practice of the post office to cut off the front of a registered cover and upon delivery obtain a receipt from the recipient, such receipt to be signed on the reverse of the cut-off front. Some writers have indicated these receipts were kept in the post office files, but there is some evidence that the receipts may have been returned to the sender of the letter where known. For example, in an accumulation of the Delius correspondence the writer found a number of such fronts, dated in the 1860's bearing the Delius firm handstamp and addressed to various Mexican cities. Presumably these fronts must have been returned to Delius after having been signed by the recipient. In any event, the writer has occasionally wondered how many attractive registry fronts, with or without stamps, have been turned down by collectors or sold cheaply because the entire cover was not there!

Figure 1 illustrates the earliest postmarked Mexican cover found by the writer, a registered cover from Valladolid (later Morelia) to Dolores dated 1770. Note the primitive and abbreviated spelling. It is, of course, probable that earlier covers exist, but unfor-

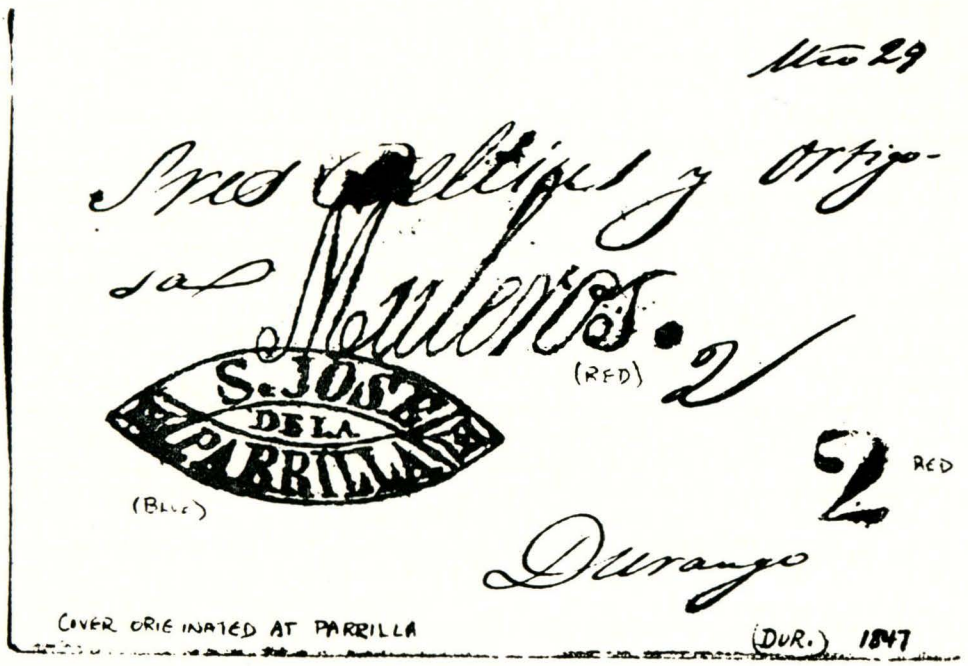


Fig. 5. An infrequent example of a cover bearing the postmarks of two towns, in this case, Muleros and San Jose de la Parrilla.

tunately many likely possibilities are undated. Covers which can definitely be attributed to the 18th century are scarce.

Post Offices And Their Identification

Chapman records the number of main and branch offices as follows:

1824	17	principal offices,	383	branch offices
1846	45	principal offices,	440	branch offices
1854	47	principal offices,	430	branch offices
1868	47	principal offices,	431	branch offices
1875	54	principal offices,	(241	branch offices
			(560	agencies

However, the only comprehensive list of such offices was published in Wilson's "Postmarks of Mexico," and subsequently reproduced with modifications in de Smeth and de Fayolle's "Las Premieres Emissions du Mexique 1856 a 1874." Such a list is almost indispensable to the collector of postmarks in any form, but even with its assistance many problems remain. For example, as in the United States, new post offices were continually being opened while others closed. In a similar manner, there are instances where two or more widely separated offices may bear the same name. Is a particular San Juan del Rio cancel from Durango or from Queretaro? It is sometimes difficult to tell. Wilson's book can be helpful in some cases, but not foolproof since even he has misplaced several such cancels. Probably the writer has as well. A third source of difficulty comes from name changes. Such changes apparently occur more frequently in Mexico than elsewhere, no doubt due to the propensity of various conquering generals to immortalize their names or that of a leading politician or patriot by conferring it on some conquered town or city. As a result of these three difficulties, numerous cancels have been found, which do not resemble any of the names found in the Wilson list of offices. Most of these have been located by reference to early maps or other means, but the precise location of several is still unknown to the writer.

During the Spanish reign it occasionally happened that a city would have conferred on it the title of "Real" (Royal)—usually because of the presence of a lucrative mine. Thus we have "Ciudad Real" (Fig. 2) which later became San Cristobal las Casas, or "Reale Mazapil" (Fig. 3) or "RDS Dimas" (Real de San Dimas—see cancel No. D30—Plate 9). With the passing of the Spanish reign these economiums disappeared although an occasional early postmark would linger on to bring back remembrances of departed royal favor.

The number of towns bearing names of saints is also remarkable. It must be remembered, however, that the Roman Catholic Church was a powerful influence in both spiritual and temporal affairs of Mexico for at least three centuries. Perhaps a spiritual flavor to a town name had some value in converting the heathen Indian.

The Postmarks

The variety and attractiveness of postmarks found on Mexican stamps and covers is probably not exceeded by any country in the world. The bulk of them seem to have been made by native metalsmiths or woodcarvers, each according to his own taste and ability. They range from simple, unadorned straight line cancels to highly ornate designs complete with flowers, eagles, scrolls or other decorations. Mis-spelling of town names and related peculiarities occasionally occur. For example, the office of Guadalupe y Calvo apparently used a cancel with movable type, pieces of which fell out from time to time and were replaced in haphazard fashion. As a result, it is difficult to find two strikes from this office identical in all respects.

Only one cancel type in the pre-stamp era has been noted which appears to be sufficiently stylized to have been supplied by the main post office. This particular type resembles a rectangle, 20 mm. high, divided down the middle by a horizontal line (see cancels No. D3 or GD3, both on Plate 4) with the name of the office in the top section, and month and day in the lower one. This type of cancel appears to have been supplied to many of the large offices beginning in the early 1830's. For example, specimens are noted from Veracruz in 1832, Queretaro in 1834 and Merida in 1835. There are also many cancels resembling the above type in general format, but there are usually differences of size, composition, or type face which leads one to believe that most of them were of local manufacture made in imitation of the "official" type.

As previously mentioned, the majority of smaller offices had but a single town cancel at a time, and indicated prepaid mail by means of an additional handstamp "Franco". Like the town cancels themselves, some of these "Francos" are plain and utilitarian. Others are highly ornamented. Many of the offices, however, maintained a pair of cancels, one incorporating the "Franco" within the cancel, with the collect mail marking bearing merely the town name and perhaps a date. For example, see cancels No. HR10 and HR11, Plate 1 or TX12 and TX13, Plate 2. In the illustrations, which follow, these types are treated as separate cancels. For towns using a separate "Franco," this may also be illustrated, but is not treated as a major cancel type.

The acquisition of a comprehensive collection of Mexican stampless covers would appear to be a lifetime undertaking. Even as far back as 1824 there were 400 main and branch offices, which had increased to 477 by 1854. Some of the larger offices used a dozen or more varieties of townmarks in that period, while the smaller offices would use at least one or two on the average. Yet despite an examination of a number of relatively large collections or accumulations of pre-stamp covers, barely 500 different markings have been located. Many additional cancels have, of course, been noted on post-1856 stamps and covers, and undoubtedly some of these were also used before 1856. However, until some evidence of actual pre-stamp usage appears, this latter group must be considered as falling outside the scope of this article.

Assuming, for sake of illustration, that there are 1,000 different pre-stamp markings (probably a minimum figure), where are the rest? Undoubtedly they are widely scattered, probably to the extent that most readers who take the trouble to check their pre-stamp holdings against the appended listing of cancels will be fortunate to find very many unrecorded. It should also be added at this point that the fact a particular cancel is unrecorded herein is no warranty of rarity. Perhaps many of them exist—unknown, unsung and undistributed.

Which brings up the subject of "archives". Archives are those fabulous holdings of correspondence, mostly preserved by old-time Mexican business establishments, which every collector would like to discover and which still, although infrequently, appear on the market. For example, lot 659 in H. R. Harmer's New York Sale of January 18, 1949 is described as follows:

"An accumulation of over 4,500 cover fronts containing examples of the following pmks: Cerrogordo, Chihuahua, Cuencame,

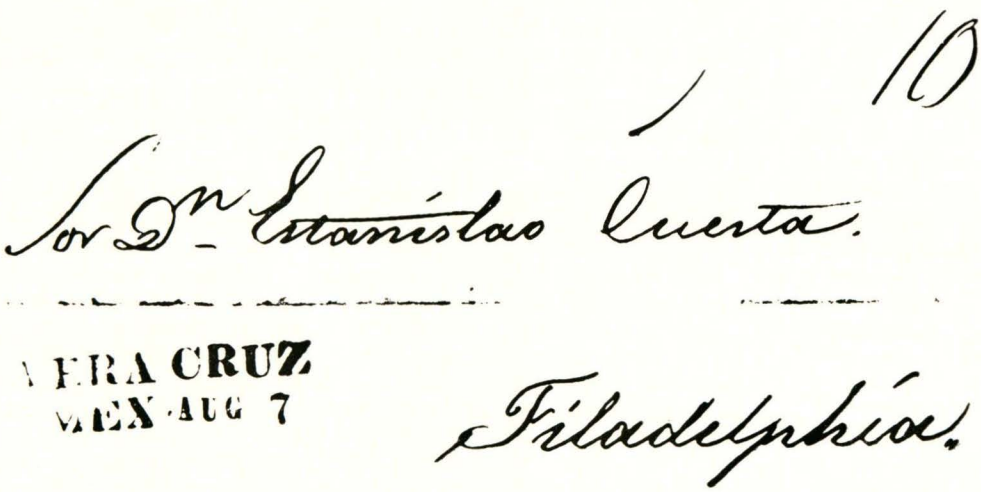


Fig. 6. An 1847 cover bearing the postmark of the U. S. military postoffice in Vera Cruz. From its contents, it had been written in Mexico City and presumably was carried privately to Vera Cruz.

Durango, Guadalajara, Guanacevi, Guad y Calvo, Guichapa, Mapimi, Mazatlan, Mexico, Nazas, Nombre de Dios, Papasquairo, Parral, RDS Dimas, Rio Grande, San Luis Potosi, San Miguel, Zacatecas, etc.

"In some instances there are two or more major types, with impressions in both red and black. Every cover front has been half folded.

"Although the group has been rough sorted, there does not appear to have been any attempt to extract items from the lot and this is confirmed by the vendor.

"An interesting lot for the postal history student. Est. cash value $350-400."

The lot was purchased by a dealer who has since distributed it among collectors. It consisted of covers from the Delius correspondence heretofore mentioned. The Delius family were merchants with main offices in the city of Durango, and correspondence can be found addressed as follows:

Randell and Delius	1843-47
Delius and Ortigosa	1846-48
Delius Hermanos (Bros.)	1849-75

The bulk of the letters bear postmarks of towns within the Delius trade era, namely, the postal districts of Durango, Mazatlan, Chihuahua and Zacatecas. As a result, and due to the large size of this archive, the collector of stampless covers can obtain a fair representation of small towns in this area without too much difficulty. It might be observed in passing that the average estimated value per cover of eight or nine cents in the above lot is no more of a guide to the value of a specific cover than is, for example, the average price per stamp in a mission mixture indicative of the value of one stamp therein. Other substantial archives have, of course, been found.

Another source of material is that which has been taken from various official files. Usually such material consists of a cover face only, but much of it is of an early usage and comprises a major source of examples of early postmarks. Such material may be found chiefly from the postal districts of Saltillo (including Texas), Merida, Campeche and Puebla. It might be observed that much of the official mail consisted of documents of varying size, and that the exterior covering bearing the address and postmark was of the nature of a wrapper. This wrapper was usually trimmed down to manageable size by the finder thus accounting for the predominance of "cover faces."

Unlike the smaller offices in the United States, which frequently used manuscript postmarks in the corresponding period, very few such are noted in Mexico. Therefore, it seems probable that handstamps existed for the bulk of smaller Mexican offices of which no example has as yet been noted.

Covers bearing two different postmarks of the same town are occasionally found, (Fig. 4) but covers bearing postmarks from two different towns are decidedly scarce (Fig. 5). It might also be mentioned that covers occasionally are found with elaborate official handstamps. These handstamps, while adding to the attractiveness of a cover, should not be mistaken for postmarks (see Fig. 4 for example).

The postmarks themselves may be found in a variety of colors. Red ink predominated among the earlier cancels, being gradually replaced by black ink. An examination of the percentage of cancels found in various colors led to the following approximate breakdown:

Black	53%
Red	39%
Blue	4%
Brown	2%
Green	1%
Violet	—

Actually, a good distinct bright green cancel is even scarcer than the 1% figure indicated above. Many of the examples classified as green are in those unsatisfactory blue-green shades which are always open to the suspicion of being changelings. The brown cancels should be a good rich nut brown color, and should not be confused with the red-brown type, which are probably faded reds. Only one violet cancel has been noted, an example from Teocaltiche in 1846.

It might be observed that many specific town cancels may be found in more than one color. One particular office, Guanacevi, used four different colors of ink at various times—red, green, blue and black. Another, Nazas, is found in red, black, blue and brown. Several other postmarks may be found in at least three colors in the pre-stamp period, and a

large number may be found in two colors, usually red or black. Details with respect to the colors noted for particular postmarks are included later in this article.

Determination Of Dates Of Use Of Postmarks

Although very few of the prestamp cancels carry a year date this usually presents no real problem. Envelopes were practically unknown in Mexico in this period, and correspondence was usually maintained through the medium of double letter sheets which were folded, addressed on the outside, sealed with wax and put through the mail. As a result, the entire letter is frequently found intact thus giving us the date of use together with such other interesting information as might be found in the text. However, in many cases, the letter itself will have been detached, leaving only the folded cover front. Fortunately, however, it appears to have been the custom of Mexican business houses to make a notation on the interior of the cover front giving the name of the sender, his location, the date he mailed the letter, the date of receipt and the date it was answered. This plethora of information will usually suffice to date the cover in the great majority of cases.

However, there will be cases where no date appears anywhere. Even with these there are a number of guides. For example, observe the paper from which the cover is made. If it is of thick creamy handmade laid paper, occasionally with an elaborate watermark, it is highly likely to be of pre-stamp origin and probably dated prior to 1840. If it is of a thin, blue paper we can usually date it subsequent to 1840. Naturally exceptions occur. If the cover is prepaid, it may be from any period. However, if it is a collect letter it must date prior to December 20, 1856 when prepayment became mandatory. In the absence of information to the contrary it has been assumed herein that any postmarks found on collect letters were in use in the pre-stamp period, that is, prior to August 1, 1856. Another method which is occasionally helpful is to observe the name of the addressee. If it is known from experience that other covers to the same individual are found

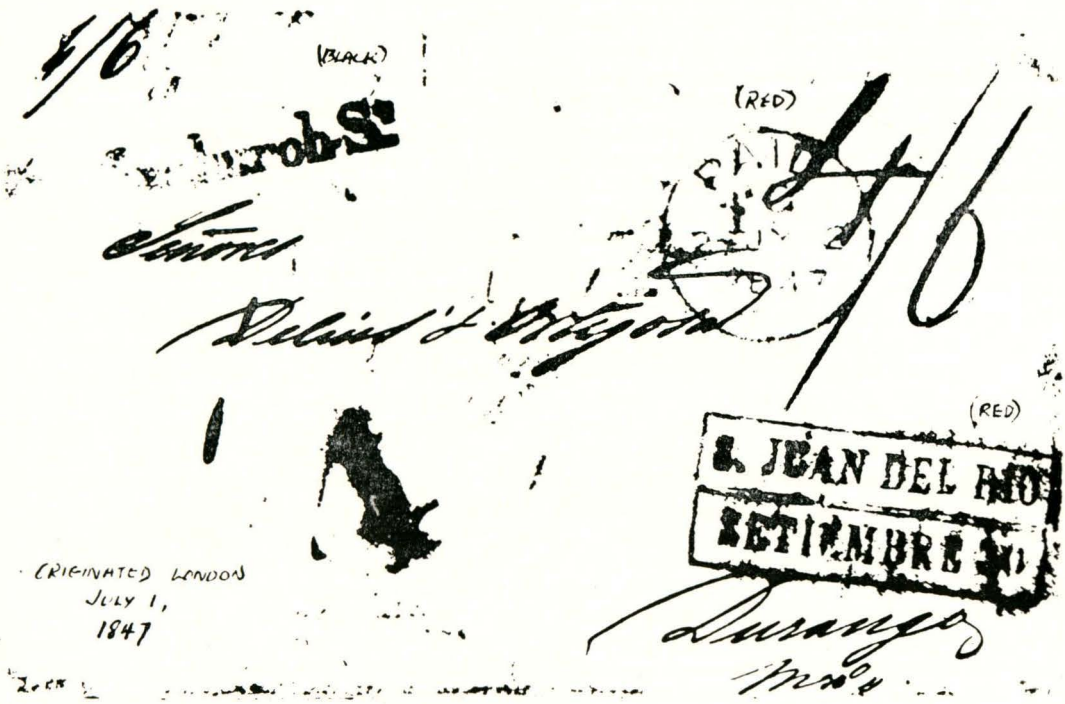


Fig. 7. Another Mexican war cover carried privately through the U. S. lines.

dated, say, from 1843-48, then it is likely that the cover in question is from the same period. In a similar manner, if the cover bears a postmark of which other dated examples are known, one can usually, taking all factors into consideration, place it within a range of a few years.

Mexican War Covers

In the year 1846, due primarily to the difficulties caused by the annexation of Texas in the previous year and certain boundary questions resulting therefrom, the United States declared war on Mexico. General Zachary Taylor with a force of American troops was sent to the Texas, and established a base at Port Isabel, a few miles north of the mouth of the Rio Grande. On May 17, 1846 he crossed that river and occupied Matamoros. Subsequently, he expanded his operations southwards, capturing Monterey, Saltillo, and other cities. The only special postal markings resulting from his efforts were those of his base in Port Isabel, Texas, together with those from another base established later at Brazos. Soldier's mail from his command, including that written in occupied Mexican cities was usually returned to one of these bases for trans-shipment, and was postmarked at that point.

Other United States military forces were also active. The Navy occupied Tampico on November 14, 1846, and in the same year temporarily occupied Tabasco and Laguna. An expedition under General Kearney captured Santa Fe in New Mexico while combined Naval forces, local settlers and other troops took possession of California. No special postal markings resulting from any of these activities are known.

The major effort, however, was headed by General Winfield Scott, who landed at Vera Cruz on March 9, 1847, and captured that city on March 29th. He then proceeded towards the Capital, capturing Jalapa on April 19th, Puebla on May 15th, and after a series of fierce engagements occupied Mexico City on September 14th. The Mexican Government thereupon withdrew to Queretaro. A few more minor military skirmishes took place, chiefly on the Pacific coast and in northern Mexico, but the war was essentially over. An Armistice and Peace Treaty were subsequently signed early in 1848. The last American troops left Mexico City on June 12, 1848 and Vera Cruz on August 1, 1848.

Shortly after his capture of Vera Cruz, Scott established a military postoffice in that city through which passed all soldier's mail from his Command, together with such civilian mail as was addressed to the United States. Several varieties of postmarks are known some of which are illustrated herein (Fig. 6).

It might be observed that examples of Mexican covers used from cities during their occupation by United States troops are rather hard to come by. No doubt, the normal mail services were considerably disrupted, and perhaps in some cases, discontinued. An interesting example is shown in Fig. 7. This letter was mailed from London on July 1, 1847 addressed to Durango, Mexico. At that time all major ports on the east coast of Mexico were occupied by United States troops, although British mail vessels were permitted entry into the ports. This particular letter was probably carried to the port of Tampico. However, the point of entry into the Mexican postal system, as evidenced by the only Mexican towncancel thereon, was at San Juan del Rio, a small city in the inland state of Queretaro, nearly 200 miles from Tampico. Perhaps a commercial representative of the addressee at Tampico collected the letter from the British postal agents and arranged some form of private transportation out of the city. However, this is conjecture.

British Postal Agency Markings

Robson Lowe in his "Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire" (1939) says "It is believed that a British Postal Agency was established in Vera Cruz in 1825 and in Tampico circa 1840. The former was closed in 1874 and the latter in 1876. British adhesive stamps were used from 1865. In 1842 the postal rate to the United Kingdom was 1/ (one shilling) per ½ ounce, and it was reduced to 6 d in 1859."

These Agency markings appear on mail destined to be carried on British vessels leaving these ports. Examples may appear on letters from Mexican cities to England (Fig. 8) or to other European cities, to the United States, or even to other Mexican coastal cities. In the writer's experience the Vera Cruz markings occur more frequently than

the Tampico ones, and that the "Paid" markings are scarcer than the corresponding postmarks found on collect letters.

Miscellaneous Markings

Aside from town cancels, registration and rate markings very few other types of postmarks have been noted. The markings reading "Nueva Espana", Nos. X1 on Plate 15 and X2 on Plate 17, are found on foreign mail originating or passing through Mexico during the Spanish period. Examples are hard to come by.

Marking No. X5, Plate 15, reading "Franco has/ta el Puerto" (paid as far as the port) has been found on letters passing through Mexico City to England between 1825 and 1835 (Fig. 8). The writer suspects that it was a special rate marking used in conjunction with mail destined for the British Postal Agency in Vera Cruz. In other words, the postage was paid to the port, but not beyond.

The marking illustrated as No. X6 on Plate 15 is in the nature of a political slogan meaning "Viva Ferdinand VII", King of Spain. It originated in Linares in the postal district of Monterrey. It was probably used in connection with Ferdinand's first coronation in 1808. Similar markings have been noted on early covers from Guatemala.



Fig. 8. An early (1826) example of the British Postal Agency postmark at Vera Cruz. The Agency marking is in the lower right corner reading "Mexico", which is very faint.

Markings Nos. X3 and X4, both on Plate 15, reading "Devuelta" and "Entregada" ("Returned" and "Delivered", respectively) have been found together on covers originating in northern Mexico and addressed to Mexico City. One such letter was dated at Aguascalientes November 25, 1855 with a notation that it was received April 29, 1856. A possible explanation for this delay (and the accompanying postal markings) lies in the fact that in late November, 1855 the Governor of Guanajuato revolted. Since Guanajuato was across the main postal routes from the north of Mexico to the capital city, it is likely that the mail was delayed until the political situation was resolved.

Values And Scarcity

Like everything else, philatelic values of Mexican stampless covers are determined by scarcity, condition, demand, and probably to some degree by the appearance of the postmark. By this it is meant, that other factors being equal, a fancy postmark heavily adorned with wreaths or scrolls will realize more than a plain straight line cancel. Be that as it may, small unduplicated lots of commoner material have recently brought as little as 25 to 50 cents per cover at auction. At the other extreme an 1807 cover from Bahia (Texas) realized $82.50 (Fig. 9). Mexican stampless covers from communities, which are now in the United States, appear to be fairly valuable property, although no scarcer than those from many cities or towns still in Mexico. No doubt the increased value results from the added demand from various collectors of United States postal history.

Generally speaking, any 18th century postmark is a scarce item. Covers used during the Spanish rule from 1800 to 1821 are hard to locate with the exception of Mexico City, and to a lesser degree, Vera Cruz, Saltillo, and certain other cities in the north of Mexico such as Monclova or Parras. This latter group is represented almost entirely by wrapper faces from judicial or other official correspondence. Possibly climate may have been in part responsible for the greater abundance of covers from northern cities as compared to cities of equal importance in the south. No doubt the hot dry air of the northern deserts was much less destructive of records than the moist tropical air and paper eating insects of the south. However, despite this disadvantage, early covers are occasionally found from cities such as Merida or Campeche, usually official correspondence (Fig. 10). As might be expected, examples from various post offices become more numerous in the 1830's and become relatively plentiful in the 1840's and 50's.

In the accompanying tables the writer has attempted to give an indication of the relative scarcity of each listed postmark. Each such postmark is given a rating, ranging from 1 to 5. Items rated in group 1 are the commonest, while those in group 2 are less so, but still found fairly frequently. Group 3 postmarks are of average scarcity, those in group 4 rather hard to locate, while group 5 represents those which, in the writer's opinion, should be most difficult to find. In preparing these ratings consideration has been given to the contents of a number of collections, the known major archives located, the size of the city of origin, the time and length of usage. No doubt mistakes in judgment have been made. No consideration has been given to relative scarcity of the various colors used for particular postmarks, although it is obvious that in certain instances one color was used much more frequently than another. Consider, for example, the very common marking from Mexico City, No. M9, Plate 7. Over 99% of these occur in red; less than 1% in black. This marking appears to have been used on all collect mail originating in the city between 1834 and 1851. Usage in black is noted only in 1834 and for a short period in 1848 when the city was occupied by United States troops. This in turn raises the question of whether the black usage in 1848 was of a symbolical nature or due to a disruption in the normal supply of red coloring matter for postoffice ink.

Be that as it may, the above ratings must necessarily be relative since probably not more than a few hundred Mexican stampless covers are sold at auction in New York in the course of the average year. Perhaps an equivalent number are sold privately. It seems likely that the demand for this material is increasing. Certainly if any sizeable proportion of the growing number of collectors of Mexican stamps become seriously interested in that country's pre-stamp postal history, many of the presently "common" items will become harder to obtain. On the other

hand, one must not forget that there may be considerable unfound or unmarketed material of this nature still in Mexico and that some of the items now hard to come by may eventually turn up in quantity.

Illustrations And Listings *

Nearly all of the pre-stamp postmarks listed on the following pages are illustrated in the corresponding plates and numbered for ready reference. Some few are not available for illustration having been noted in Exhibitions or in various auction lots which passed into unknown hands. These are described as well as possible. In a few instances the illustrations were copied from auction catalogues, resulting in possible distortion in size but at least preserving the appearance. It might be well to mention that all illustrations have been slightly reduced in size. No cancel is listed which the writer has not seen either personally or through a photographic likeness.

The illustrations are in alphabetical order as per the spelling of the town name in the postmark itself. Towns such as San Cristobal will be found under "S". Antique spellings such as Xalapa (Jalapa) will be found as they occur, in this case under "X". However, the last two plates of illustrations (Plates 16 and 17) are in the nature of addenda and represent discoveries made after the first fifteen plates had been prepared. The postmarks shown thereon are therefore out of sequence with the balance of the illustrations.

Each postmark has been given a code number. The letters in the code number refer to the postal district in which the city or town was located. The postal districts used are those as constituted in 1856. These may not comprise the same territory or offices as, for example, existed in 1820, but the 1856 dis-

* In the process of preparing the plates for the above article, full size photostatic copies were made of over 500 covers bearing substantially different postmarks. The negatives have been preserved. So should any collector or organization desire a complete set of these photostatic copies for reference purposes such sets will be made available for a limited period, providing all costs are prepaid.

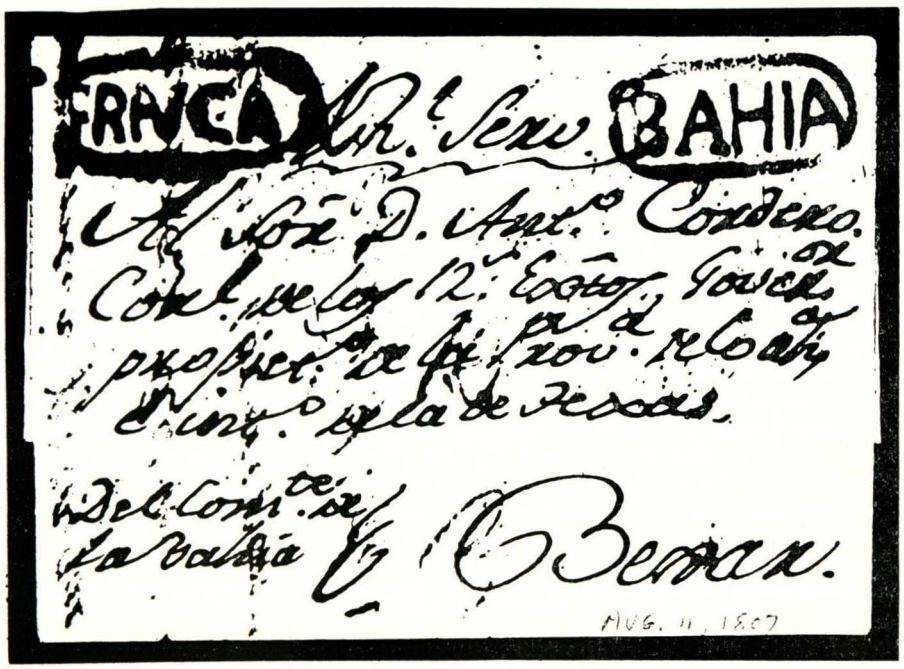


Fig. 9. An 1807 cover from Bahia (now Goliad, Texas).

tricts are more familiar to students of Mexican stamps. Suitable additions have been made for territory lost to Mexico prior to 1856, such as Texas or California.

A list of the districts and code letters assigned follows. Postmarks have not been found from all districts, but probably examples exist.

CODE LETTERS	*DISTRICT*
M	Mexico
AC	Acapulco
AP	Apam
BC*	Baja California
CB	Ciudad Bravos
CA	Campeche
CL	Chalco
CP	Chiapas
CH	Chiahuahua
CR	Cordova
CU	Cuautitlan
CV	Cuernavaca
D	Durango
GH*	Guadalupe Hidalgo
GD	Guadalajara
GN	Guanajuato
HR	Hermosillo
HJ	Huejutla
IC	Isla del Carmen
IX	Ixtlahuaca
JA	Jalapa
LG	Lagos
LR	Lerma
MV	Maravatio
MZ	Mazatlan
MR	Merida
MN	Monterrey
ML	Morelia
OX	Oaxaca
OR	Orizava
PA	Pachuca
PU	Puebla
Q	Queretaro
ST	Saltillo
SL	San Luis Potosi
SY	Soyaniquilpam
SU	Sultepec
TB	Tabasco
TC*	Tacubaya
TM	Tampico
TE	Temascaltepec
TP	Tepeji del Rio
TG	Tixtla Guerrero
TL*	Tlalpam
TJ	Tlalpujahua
TO	Toluca
TA	Tula de Allende
TU	Tulancingo
VC	Veracruz
VT	Victoria
Z	Zacatecas
U	Unlocated
CF	California
NM	New Mexico
TX	Texas
BP	British Postal Agency
MW	Mexican War
X	Miscellaneous

The code numbers assigned within each district have suitable gaps so as to provide for new markings which may later be discovered.

The dates of use in the following tables refer to the individual years of use noted or to the earliest and latest years of usage when a number of different dates have been located. When an exact year of use is not available, the estimated year of use is prefaced by a "c" (circa).

Acknowledgements And Conclusion

A study of this nature is always improved by the help of other collectors. This was forthcoming in generous measure. Special mention should be given to the particular assistance offered by Mr. David Golden and Mr. Edwin Mueller, both of New York, Col. C. S. Hamilton of Washington, and Mr. J. D. Woodward of Philadelphia, all of whom contributed heavily in material, time and general encouragement. In addition, the writer also expresses his grateful thanks to the following gentlemen and organizations who were kind enough to open their collections of stampless covers for review or who provided assistance in other ways:

J. M. Bard, Chicago, Ill., J. H. Beal, Warren, Ohio, C. W. Brock, Fort Worth, Texas, J. T. Fincher, Sinton, Texas, Irwin

* Note—no postmarks as yet located from this district.

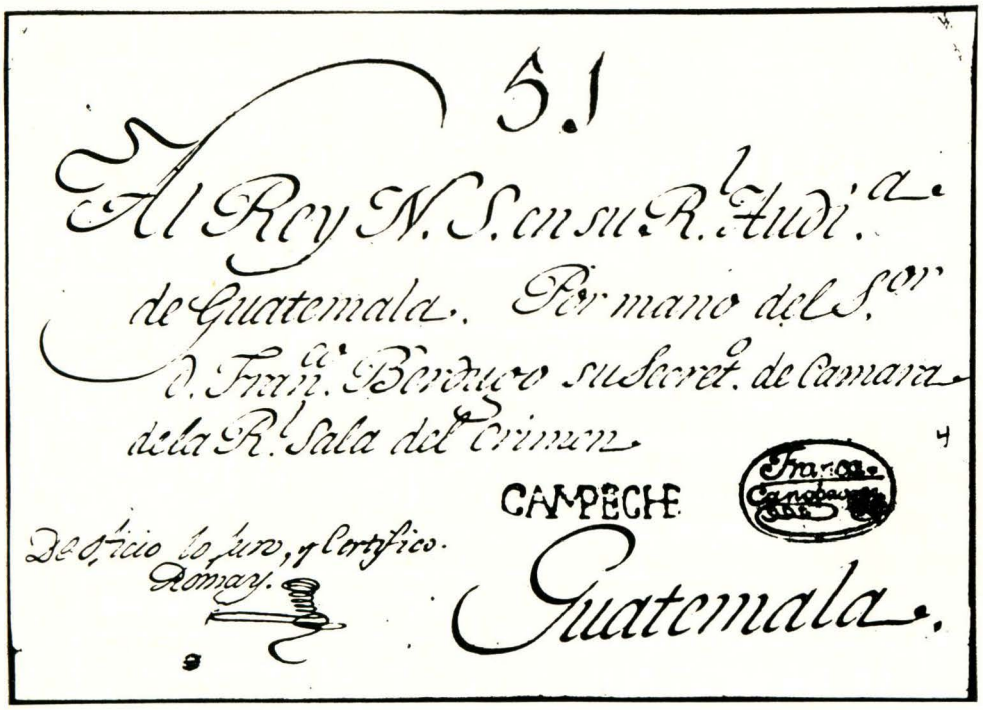


Fig. 10. An early official wrapper front from Campeche to Guatemala. Note the high rate of postage—51 reales. The origin of the "Franca Canobao" marking is unknown.

Heiman, New York, N. Y., Dr. T. R. Love, Denver, Col., Henry Trevor, Mexico.

Abr. Odfjell, Bergen, Norway, Carl Pelander, New York, N. Y., L. M. Ricks, Texarkansas, Ark., Calvert Stier, San Clemente, Cal., C. E. Walcott, New Orleans, La., Otto Yag, LaGrange, Ill., and The Philatelic Foundation, New York, N. Y.

Without the assistance of these collectors, probably insufficient postmarks would have been available in the writer's collection alone to have made this article worthwhile.

In conclusion, it should be reiterated that there are many markings yet to be recorded. Should any reader discover such a marking, the writer would be pleased to examine it or a photostat thereof with the thought in mind that at some future date a supplemental list of new markings may be issued. Address any correspondence to the writer in care of The Editor, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y.

OFFICE	*NO.*	*PLATE*	*VALUE*	*COLOR*	*USED*	*REMARKS*
MEXICO	M1	7	4	R	1800	37 x 6½ mm.
				B	1805, 09	
	M2	7	4	B	1809, 14	39 x 6½ mm.
	M3	7	4	B	1819	35 x 6 mm. incl. period
	M4	7	3	R	1825	34½ x 6 mm.
	M5	7	3	R	1829	38 x 5 mm.
	M6	7	5	B	1811	
	M7	7	3	R	1828, 32	
				B	1834	
	M8	7	4	R	1829, 30	
	M9	7	1	B	1834, 48	Very scarce in black
				R	1835-51	

OFFICE	*NO.*	*PLATE*	*VALUE*	*COLOR*	*USED*	*REMARKS*
	M11	7	2	R	1836-50	
				Bl	1849	
	M12	7	1	R	1852-54	Good strikes uncommon
	M13	7	3	R	1853	
	M14	7	3	B	1854-55	
	M15	7	1	B	1854-56	Good strikes uncommon
	M16	7	2	B	1856	
	M17	7	4	R	1829, 30	Registration
	M18	7	4	R	1849	Registration
	M19	16	5	B	1801	
	M20	16	4	R	1807, 08	41 x 8 mm.
ACAPULCO	AC1	1	5	B	1781	Illust. from auction cat.
	AC2	1	4	B	1852	
APAM	AP1	—	4	B	1846	Seal type oval cancel
Calpulalpam	AP10	2	5	B	1844	
Otumba	AP20	8	4	B	1844, 46	
BRAVOS, CIUDAD						
Chilapa	CB20	3	5	R	1842	
Iguala	CB35	14	5	B	1856	"Yguala"
Iturbide, Ciudad	CB40	3	4	R	1842	"Yturbide"
				B	1844	
Teloloapan	CB45	12	5	B	1844	
Tlapa	CB65	17	5	B	c1845	
CAMPECHE	CA1	2	5	B	c1805	
	CA2	2	1	B	1836-46	
				R	1850-51	
	CA3	2	3	B	1836-37	
	CA4	2	2	B	1838-45	
				R	1852-53	
	CA5	2	4	R	1852	Registration
Hecelchakan	CA20	14	5	B	1840	"Xeceln"
CHALCO	CL1	3	4	B	c1850	
Cuautla Morelos	CL20	8	3	B	1841-45	
	CL21	16	4	B	1843	
Jonocatepec	CL25	14	3	R	1843-47	"Xonaca/tepec"
Texcoco	CL50	12	4	R	c1850	"Tezcoco"
Yautepec	CL75	14	4	B	1844	
	CL76	17	5	B	1844	
CHIAPAS	CP1	5	5	Br	1796	"Ciudad Real" was the Spanish name for San Cristobal
(San Cristobal las Casas)*	CP2	5	5	R	1803, 05	
	CP3	5	5	?	1816	
	CP4	10	3	B	1842, 43	
				R	1843	
				Bl	1854, 55	
	CP5	10	4	Bl	1853	
Chiapa	CP15	3	5	?	c1810	Illust. from photo
	CP16	—	5	B	1800	"Capital/del Chiapa"—seen
Comitan	CP25	3	5	Br	c1800	
				B	1806	
				R	1818	
	CP26	—	5	B	c1805	"Franquado/en Comitan"—in rectangle—seen
				R	1820	
	CP27	—	5	Br	1796	"Comitan" in long oval—seen
	CP28	3	3	R	1849	
Ixtacomitan	CP30	14	5	B	1809-21	"Ystacomitan"
Tapachula	CP65	12	5	B	1815	
	CP66	—	5	B	1830	"Franqueado/en Tapachula" in box
Tonala	CP70	12	5	B	1802	
	CP71	12	2	B	1842-55	
	CP72	12	3	B	1847-52	
Tuxtla	CP75	13	5	Br	c1800	
				B	1805	

Note: * The state of Chiapas was under the jurisdiction of the Captaincy General of Guatemala until 1821.


ACAM BARO
MV10
ACAMBARO
MV11
ACAPULCO
AC1
ACAPULCO
AC2
ACATLAN
PU10
ACAYUCAN
VC20
ACAYUCAN
VC21
AGUAS CALIENTES
Z10
AGUAS CALIENTES
Z11
FRANCO
Z14
CERTIFICA AGUAS CALIENTES
SALIO EN 19 DE Agosto DE 1846
AGUASCALIENTES
NOVIEMBRE
Z12
AGUASCALIENTES
NOVIEMBRE 24
Z13
ALAMO DE PARRAS.
ST15
ALAMOS
HR10
HR11
AMECA
GD10
CF1
ANGANGUEO
TJ10
APAZINCAN
ML10
ARANDAS
GD15
ARIO
ML15
ASIENTOS.
Z20
ATLYXCO
PU20
ATLIXCO
PU21
FRANCO EN ATOTONILCO
PA15
AUSTIN
TX1
AUSTIN
TX2
ST10

Plate 1

OFFICE	*NO.*	*PLATE*	*VALUE*	*COLOR*	*USED*	*REMARKS*
	CP76	13	3	R	1800(?)	
				B	1820-47	
CHIHUAHUA	CH1	3	4	R	c1825	"Chiguagua"
	CH2	3	4	R	1838	"Chiguagua"
	CH3	3	1	R	1839-43	"Chiguagua"
	CH4	3	1	R	1843-55	
	CH5	3	4	R	1852	Registration
Bartolome, San	CH10	13	3	R	1847, 49	"Valle de S. Bartolome"
				Bl	1856	
Batosegachic	CH15	2	5	B	1854	
Conchos, Pilar de	CH30	3	4	B	1844	
				Br	1845	
Cosihuiriachic	CH40	3	4	R	1849-56	"Cosigu/riachi"
Guadalupe Y Calvo	CH50	5	4	R	1837	
	CH51	5	2	B	1842-51	At least ten varieties
				R	1854-56	
Guajuquilla	CH60	5	3	R	1827	"Guaiuquilla"
				B	1856	
	CH61	16	3	B	1852	
Jesus Maria	CH70	7	4	R	1846, 56	
Parral	CH80	9	5	R	1827	
	CH81	9	2	R	1838-51	
				Bl	1855-56	
	CH82	9	3	R	1846-54	
Rosales	CH105	17	4	R	1856	
CORDOVA	CR1	3	2	R	1838-41	
				B	1841-53	
	CR2	3	3	B	c1845	
	CR3	3	3	R	1838	
				B	1847	
CUAUTITLAN	CU1	9	4	R	1843	"Quau-/titlan"
CUERNAVACA	CV1	4	3	R	1842-47	
	CV2	4	4	R	c1845	
	CV3	4	3	B	1856	
	CV4	—	4	R	1839	"Franco en/Cuernavaca" s. l.
Ixtla	CV10	15	5	Bl	1845	"Yztla"
Tasco	CV25	12	5	B	c1850	
Tetecala	CV30	12	4	R	c1845	
Tlaquiltenango	CV35	12	4	R	1845	
DURANGO	D1	4	5	R	1796	
	D2	14	4	R	c1825	
	D3	4	1	R	1838-49	
				B	1852-54	
	D4	4	3	R	1845	Registration
Canatlan	D10	2	4	B	1853	
Canelas	D15	2	4	G	1846-50	grey-green
Cerrogordo	D20	2	2	R	1842-55	
				B	1855-56	
	D21	2	3	R	1844-47	
Cuencame	D25	4	2	B	1833, 51-55	
				G	1835-39	grey-green
				R	1844-50	
Dimas, San	D30	9	2	R	1844-55	Real de San Dimas
Gavilanes	D35	4	2	R		
	M10	7	4	R	1836	
				B	1855	
	D36	4	3	R	1843-53	
Guanacevi	D40	5	3	B	1843, 55	
				G	1846	green infrequent
				Bl	1846	
				R	1847	
	D41	5	2	B	1844, 46, 53	
				Bl	1845, 46	
				G	1846, 51	green infrequent
				R	1847-51	
Guarisamey	D45	5	5	R	1832	
Guichapa	D50	5	2	R	1844-56	


BAHIA
TX5
BAHIA
FRANCA
TX6
BARCA
GD20
Barca
GD21
BATOSEGACHIC.
CH15
BEXAR.
TX10
FRANCA
EN BEXAR.
TX11
BEXAR
TX12
FRANQUEADO
EN BEXAR
TX13
ALPVLALPA
AP10
CAMPECHE
CA1
FRANCO
CAMPECHE
CA3
CAMPECHE
MARZO 26
CA2
CERTIFICACION A CAMPECHE
Salio en 10 de Febrero de 1852
CA5
FRANCO EN
CAMPECHE
CA4
CANATLAN
D10
CANELAS
D15
Franca
Canobao
U1
CARMEN
IC1
FRANQUEADO
EN EL CEDRAL
SL25
CEDRAL
SL26
CELAYA.
Q25
CERROGORDO.
D20
CELAYA
DICIBRE 6
Q26
Franca
ENCERROGORDO.
D21
FRANCO EN
CHALCHICOMULA
PU33
CHALCHICOMULA
PU31
CHALCHICOMULA.
PU30
Chalchicomula.
PU32

Plate 2

OFFICE	*NO.*	*PLATE*	*VALUE*	*COLOR*	*USED*	*REMARKS*
				B	1850	
Inde	D55	14	3	R	1846-50	"Ynde"
				B	1852-53	
Juan del Rio, San	D60	11	3	R	1832-51	
				B	1853-56	
	D61	11	4	R	1844	possibly Queretaro
	D62	11	3	R	1851	
Mapimi	D65	6	2	R	1843-55	
Oro	D70	9	2	R	1845, 50, 51	Real del Oro
	D71	4	4	R	1848-51	
	D72	7	3	R	1851, 52	
	D73	7	3	R	1853, 56	
Muleros	D75	8	3	R	1843-56	
Nazas	D80	8	2	Br	1835	
				R	1843-50	
				Bl	1851	
				B	1852-55	
	D81	8	3	R	1850	probably also exists in brown and black
				Bl	1851	
Nombre de Dios	D85	8	2	R	1839	
				B	1845-55	
	D86	8	3	B	1855	
Papasquiaro	D90	9	2	B	1838-54	
Parrilla, San Jose	D95	10	3	Bl	1845-49	
				G	1850	blue-green
Penon Blanco	D100	9	3	R	1845-50	
Suchil, Valle del	D105	13	3	B	1852-54	
Tamasula	D110	12	4	R	1848	
	D111	12	4	R	1848	
GUADALAJARA	GD1	4	4	R	1825	
	GD2	4	4	R	1832	
	GD3	4	1	B	1844-51	
	GD4	4	2	B	1844-51	
	GD5	4	2	B	1848-50	
	GD6	4	2	B	1850-51	
				R	1851	
Ameca	GD10	1	4	B	c1850	
Arandas	GD15	1	4	R	1835	
Barca	GD20	2	4	R	1833, 34	
	GD21	2	4	B	1855	
Blas, San	GD25	10	4	R	1849	
Cuquio	GD30	4	4	Br	1852	
Etzatlan	GD35	4	4	R	1831	
Guauchinango	GD40	5	4	B	1840, 44	
	GD41	5	4	Br	1854	
Hostotipaquillo	GD45	5	4	B	1854	
Magdalena	GD50	6	3	B	1842-53	
Mascota	GD55	6	3	B	1847	
Sebastion, San	GD60	13	4	R	1847	
	GD61	11	3	B	1848-50	
Sayula	GD65	11	3	Br	1844	
Tepic	GD70	12	4	R	c1830	
	GD71	12	2	R	1837-55	
Tonyla	GD75	13	3	G	c1850	grey-green
Zapotlan el Grande	GD80	15	3	B	1840	
GUANAJUATO	GN1	5	3	B	1832-43	
	GN2	5	4	B	1838	
	GN3	5	1	B	1838-56	
	GN4	5	2	B	1853	
Irapuato	GN35	14	3	B	1834-51	"Yrapuato"
	GN36	14	2	B	1854-56	date sometimes omitted
	GN37	14	3	B	1854	
Leon de los Aldamos	GN40	6	3	B	1838	
	GN41	6	2	B	1849-56	
Piedra Gorda	GN55	9	3	B	1851	
Silao	GN85	11	3	R	1831	
				B	1847-53	

(To be Concluded in the Next Number.)

INDIA

The Stamps of the Feudatory States

By H. D. S. HAVERBECK

Author's Preface

With this, the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST will start a series of articles on the stamps of the Feudatory States of India written by me. This series will run for a period of several years to eventually cover the entire field of these little known stamps. Each article will be complete by itself, dealing with the stamps of one single State. In this way there will be no loss of continuity. Perhaps, when the series is completed, it can be presented in handbook form by The Collectors Club. This will rest largely with the response of the readers and the interest aroused in this esoteric branch of philately.

The lack of general interest in these stamps, although it has greatly increased in the last few years, still remains something of a mystery. Perhaps the fact that the stamps appear somewhat crude, and lack easily readable inscriptions is the reason; or perhaps the poor stamp press publicity that they have had over the past half century also contributes to this phenomenon. The fact remains, however, that most of the great students and collectors of the past have devoted much time to the study and collecting of these "uglies". The Tapling, Ferrari and Hind collections were particularly strong in these stamps. The interest shown in the rarities of the Indian States can best be shown by recounting the fact that Baron Ferrari traded a "Post Office Mauritius" to T. K. Tapling in exchange for a copy of Poonch No. 1.

The stamps of this Indian group have something for every type of collector. If he wants rarity, early Jammu and Kashmir boasts of seven stamps of which fewer copies are known than of "the Post Office Mauritius." If he wants inexpensive stamps, then Hyderabad and Travancore, not to mention several other states, can be completed with a modest expenditure of money. If he wants to study, the field is wide, plating possibilities are abundant; Bamra, Hyderabad, first issues, Jaipur, local printings, Sirmoor Raja's heads, to mention just a few. It is a fact that all forms of production methods can be studied easily, and most of the material with this interesting group of stamps is available to collectors, who are forced to use caution with their stamp budgets. For the Postal Historian, this is a wide open field, in which little has been done. The postal markings are usually simple as well as many times decorative. Finding these stamps on cover is a fascinating chase, because even the most of the common and lowest priced stamps are practically unknown on entire envelopes. For the collector of Twentieth Century stamps, the Indian States also provide a fertile and rewarding field replete with rarities, varieties and interesting other philatelic studies. The Topical collector cannot neglect these stamps. Many of them are beautifully engraved and depicting all manner of animals, maps, bridges, desert scenes, ruins and fierce, mustachioed Rajput Princes. The collector of air mails is perhaps the only one who can find little in this group, except for a few flight covers or privately operated Rocket mails.

This series of independent articles also will serve as a listing and catalogue of these issues. They will attempt to contain the latest and most complete information, not only on the stamps themselves but also on their postal history and the postal stationery. The author intends to provide a complete bibliography with each article. The pricing function of a catalogue is the only place where the

series will not be complete. It will be impossible to give prices in dollars and cents, not only because the very fluctuations of the market often make such an attempt obsolete shortly after it is published. Instead of giving actual prices, the author intends to indicate by symbols the comparative rarity of the individual stamps. The system used will be simple: (*C*) will indicate *common* (found in most collections), (*S*) will indicate *scarce* (found only in the better collections), (*R*) will indicate *rare,* (*RR*), (*RRR*) and (*RRRR*), following the Continental system, will indicate progressive degrees of rarity. This evaluation should be of some guidance to the beginner and advanced collector alike, as it will be based on over twenty years experience in searching for the stamps of these little known and less appreciated Indian States. For the collector of covers and multiple pieces the symbols will be based upon the normal stamp (*N*), *thus* (*4N*) will indicate four times the price of the single stamp is about what the collector should expect to pay, or, (*N*) would mean not to pay a premium for multiples or covers. In the case of covers, an additional symbol (*U*) will be used. This will indicate that the particular stamp is unknown on cover. Surprising is the fact that this symbol will be met with most frequently. For even the commonest stamps are sometimes practically impossible to find on covers.

FARIDKOT

The State of Faridkot lies in the Cis-Sutlej area of the Punjab between Latitudes 30° 13′ 30″ and 30° 50′ North and Longitudes 74° 31′ and 75° 5′ East. It comprises an area of 612 square miles (About one-half the area of Rhode Island), containing 168 villages with a population of 97,934 people. The state was founded by Bhahan during the reign of the Emperor Akbar. The Raja rendered good service to the British during the Sikh war and the mutiny of 1857, and received an addition to his territory. He is a Jat by caste. The annual revenue is Rs. 3,000,000. The State army consists of 200 Cavalry, 600 Infantry and 73 Field guns.

Postage stamps were first issued during the year 1879. The State post office continued to provide its own stamps until the postal Convention with the Government of India came into effect on January 1, 1887. After that date Indian stamps with the name of the State overprinted were used. The scope of this article is concerned only with the locally produced stamps.

The stamps were all printed from single dies struck one at a time. The dies were handcarved by a local seal cutter and were probably made of brass or iron. The color for the impressions was a uniform ultramarine without any regard for denomination distinctions.

The most interesting impression is that of the ½ anna essay (Fig. 1). This die bears the date "1934" Samvet era (A. D. 1877). The state authorities found that this price was too high for the postal needs and the impressions from it were never placed in use. In July, 1884, Major E. B. Evans wrote to the Postmaster of the state enclosing copies of the various designs and questioning him about their use. The questions and the postmaster's answers are given as follows:



Fig. 1. ½ Anna Essay

Q. Were ½ anna stamps like this ever made or issued in Faridkot?

A. Yes, they were made, but they were not issued for use, as they were printed as a model only.

Q. When were they made?

A. In 1884, though the seal had been previously prepared.

Q. When were they issued for use?

A. No use whatever was ever made of them.

Q. In what colors were they printed?

A. In *red* color only."

From this we can establish that the essay had been properly prepared and that it was in red color. Impressions in other colors are



Fig. 2. 1 Folus Stamp

known and were reported during the life of the local post. These can at best be only color trial impressions and were not authorised. Reprint proofs are known perforated 12. These appeared in 1888.

Of the issued stamps the earliest reported is the small oblong stamp (Figure 2). The design consists of inscriptions in Persi-arabic characters in two rows separated by a reticulated border, with a plain double line frame surrounding the whole. The inscriptions translate as follows: "Riyasat-i-Faridkot" meaning Principality of Faridkot in the upper line, and "Tikat-i ek folus" meaning stamp of one folus in the lower. The term folus is derived from the Greek "Obolus" meaning a small coin and was applied in Northern India to the 1 Paisa coin which had a value of ¼ anna. (½ cent at that time).

These stamps were printed singly by hand in ultramarine ink. The impressions were close together and tête-bêche pairs are not uncommon. The paper used at first was of native manufacture showing distinct laid lines. Later white, European laid and wove papers which were easily obtainable in the local bazaars were used without discrimination. Sometimes a rough gum was applied to back of the sheets, but this was not a constant practice. Proof impressions are known in black, green and red.

Sometime during the year 1882 a new design was adopted. (Figure 3) It is more elaborate than those of the first issue. The design again consists principally of inscriptions, which may be translated as follows: The Persi-arabic characters inside the central circle read, "Riyasat-i-Farîdkot", the same as those in the upper part of the oblong stamp. In the circular band surrounding this inscription it is repeated in Devanagari Characters, except that the "D" of "Farîdkot" is omitted so that this inscription reads, "Riyasat Farîkot". In the label at the bottom appears the inscription, "Tikat-i-khatt ek paisa" in Persi-

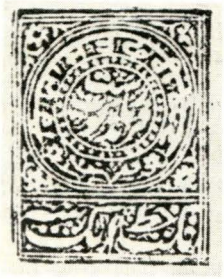


Fig. 3. 1 Paisa, Die I



Fig. 4. 1 Paisa, Die II

arabic only. This may be read as, "Stamp for letters one paisa."

Towards the end of the period of the local post the die for this stamp was lost or broken and new die was prepared. It was a close copy of the first die differing only in size. (Figure 4) It is distinctly larger, measuring 20 x 26 mm. as against 19½ x 24½ mm. for Die I.

The impressions of both Die I and Die II are found only handstamped singly in ultramarine ink. The papers used were European wove varying from white to a paper having a distinct yellowish tone. Die I also is found on laid paper. The largest multiple piece reported is a block of 66, six horizontal rows of eleven impressions. This is believed to have been a complete sheet.

There is a proof of Die I known impressed on stiff yellow card. The proofs of Die II exist in vermilion, black and green.

The commonest cancellation found is three confocal ellipses whose outer measurements are 30 x 19 mm, enclosing the word "Faridkot" in English letters. (Fig. 5). The only covers seen by the author all carry this obliteration. Mr. L. E. Dawson reports the

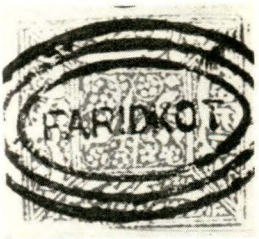


Fig. 5. The Elliptical Cancellation

existence of three other cancellations, 1) a mark consisting of four concentric circles whose outer measurement is 22 mm. 2) a large, heart-shaped seal, and 3) a large circular seal. (Fig. 6). Occasionally these stamps can be found with the obliteration of the British Indian post offices at Ferozepore and Kharar.

On January 1, 1887, the postal convention with the British Indian post office was placed in effect. The local post ceased functioning as of that date. Sometime during the year 1888, there appeared a series of impressions purporting to be stamps available for internal postage in the state. These consisted of the designs of the 1 folus, 1 paisa and ½ anna essay redrawn. The impressions were printed from a plate by photography. The plate of all denominations consisted of 80 impressions (10 x 8). Careful study has proved beyond all question that these labels were never used or intended for use as postage stamps. They were merely fancy reprints or bogus labels made to supply a growing philatelic demand. They can be found in shades of ultramarine, red, vermilion, blue, black, green and yellow both imperforate and perforate 12. Copies occasionally appear bearing the cancellations used by the state post office after the postal convention was signed. These cancellations were applied by favor and do not indicate any postal use. Some apologists for these labels have tried to prove that they were intended for revenue use. There is absolutely no evidence to support even this theory. To the best of our knowledge they are merely labels.

Issued Stamps

Check List

1879. Handstamped from a single die. Imperforate.

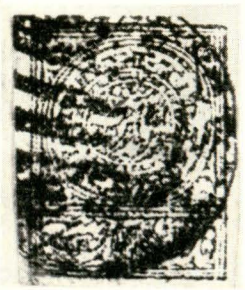


Fig. 6. The Large Circular Seal Cancellation

1. 1 Folus Ultramarine on native laid paper (S)
2. 1 Folus Ultramarine on European laid paper with paper makers wmk. (C)
3. 1 Folus Ultramarine on European wove paper (C)

A. Tête-bêche (R)

1882. Handstamped from a single die. Imperforate.

4. 1 Paisa (Die I) Ultramarine on native laid paper (S)
5. 1 Paisa Ultramarine on European laid paper (S)
6. 1 Paisa Ultramarine on European wove paper (C)
7. 1 Paisa (Die II) Ultramarine on European wove paper (C)

All multiple pieces (4N) Covers (RRR) except No. 7 which is (U).

Essay

1884. ½ anna Red on European wove paper (S)

Proofs of the Essay. (Color trials)

Ultramarine, Vermilion, Black and Green. Reprint proofs are known perforated 12. All on European wove paper. (S)

Proofs of the issued stamps.

1 Folus Red, Black and Green on European wove paper. (S)

1 Paisa (Die I) Blue on stiff yellow card. (RRRR)

1 Paisa (Die II) Vermilion, Black and Green on European wove paper. (C)

(Continued on Page 256.)

THE CLUBHOUSE

Meeting of February 15, 1956

Malta

This evening's meeting was turned over to *Mr. Edwin E. Elkins* former president of this Club, who displayed a formidable part of his Malta collection, and spoke mostly upon the following material:

He began with Malta's early history and the first pieces he showed were documents dating back to the years 1622 to 1662. These are decrees of St. John of Jerusalem bearing large wafer seals portraying various Grand Masters of the Order of the Knights of St. John. In about 1530 they ruled the Island of Malta which then consisted of the Maltese Islands, namely Malta, Comino, Cominotto, and Filfla. Five such documents were in the frames. Mr. Elkins was informed that these bear a postal mark, a cancel—manuscript X—was placed at the top center of each document.

Later postal history from the 18th century was shown as well as some interesting cancellations from the 19th century. One was a paid Malta fancy cancellation. Another was a manuscript marking D. L. C., which meant "designating divine protection." There were some interesting stampless covers from the early 1800's showing disinfected mail. Due to plague, cholera and pestilence, Malta was used as a quarantine station. Sharp instruments were used to make slits in the letters so that they could be fumigated. All such mail was stamped "purified at the Lazaret (hospital)." Some pieces were shown where the authorities did not slit the letters or failed to mark them. However, their condition shows that they were heavily scorched, which was caused by the fumigating process.

Mr. Elkins then discussed the various types of cancellations used by Malta during the middle and latter 19th century on the stamps of Great Britain. There were also many Ship Letters that passed through the post of Malta, some of them received very interesting transit marks either in black or red.

Malta introduced its own stamps in 1861. They were mostly for local use and continued through to about 1885. For instance, the one-half penny Queen Victoria was for inter-island service only. A cover was exhibited with five of these stamps cancelled January 2, 1885 that was used for postage on a letter addressed to Leghorn, Italy. There was a display of this particular stamp showing its many shades as well as several different perforation varieties.

On January 1, 1885 Malta issued its own stamps starting with a series that ranged from one farthing to ten shillings. This issue was well displayed. An interesting variety shown was the 4d. imperforate with an unused pair that formerly had been in the collection of the late King Carol of Rumania. The later issues of the 20th century were beautifully displayed both with stamps and covers. One of the outstanding pieces was the 3d. of the 1922-26 issue with the overprint "postage" inverted. Not only an unused pair, but also a pair on cover was exhibited. Some of the interesting covers were those that had been in ship-wrecks and bore such marks as "damaged by sea." There were also interesting covers used in the last war by the armed forces as well as an official "O.H.M.S." service. Also there were some recent censored covers from World War II.

Malta's only air mail stamp issued in 1928 had an outstanding display. This stamp on cover has become quite elusive. Mr. Elkins showed a block of 4 with such usage along with an unused block of 16.

The postage due stamps received considerable attention. Mr. Elkins pointed out that they were issued imperforate. There was one of an especially interesting variety that occurs on the 2½d. denomination. The numeral "2" in the figure "1/2" is missing. It was shown used on cover, also in a used pair and an unused block of 4. There was an interesting exhibit in the frames showing stamps of other countries used in Malta. For instance, there was one with Italian stamps, and another with French stamps.

Perhaps the most interesting was a Malta ship letter mailed Tuscany to Corfu, that was franked with Tuscany stamps. Another highlight was a cover showing Malta Revenue stamps used for postage.

The audience appreciated this showing, because Mr. Elkins had displayed Malta from its earliest known postal history down to its most recent issues, and he exhibited all of this material in the proper range, such as the stamps themselves, unused and used, interesting cancellations, postal markings, postal history and covers.

Meeting of March 7, 1956

Liberia

Lieut. Gen. C. W. Wickersham entertained the members with his second showing from his collection of Liberia. This collection, which was the culmination of a boyhood ambition, was not formed as a philatelic study but simply for philatelic relaxation. It was the General's desire to share this enjoyment that prompted him to open his albums for the members' pleasure. This year he continued in chronological sequence from his termination point of last March's display.

"What may happen in making stamps" was, to quote the General's own words, the theme of this collection. The display in the frames did indeed bear out his premise. For, from some issues replete with die and plate proofs, color trials and any possible combination of each, the only example of printing indicia not shown was the cloth used by the pressman to wipe the plate. But let us pick up with the 1909 issue.

For this issue and for some of the succeeding issues of Liberia the printer, usually Perkins-Bacon, based their designs on the illustrations in Sir Harry Johnson's book on Liberia. This was especially true of those stamps showing birds and animals, because Sir Harry's illustrations of these subjects were most accurate and detailed.

A plate proof of the 1 cent frame of the 1909 issue was shown printed on both sides. President Barclay was shown on the 2 cent in die and progressive proofs as well as on a lithograph proof. The finished stamp was shown in the correct color and in a block of four with inverted center. The 5 cent illustrating the Liberian Navy produced some humorous remarks. Philatelically there was a block of 35 of the vignette, die proofs in various colors and a block of 4 with the Navy inverted. The 10 cent included all these varieties, except the inverts as well as perforation variations. There was an artist's sketch for the 15 cent denomination verified by Perkins-Bacon. A block of the inverted center of the finished stamp accompanied the display of proofs and color trials. Inverted centers again in blocks of the 20, 25, and 50 cent stamps were displayed. These values too were accompanied by plate proofs and color trials. The 50 cent die proof was enhanced by official handwritten notes on the color to be used—green and black.

The triangular 10 cent stamp was overprinted in 1910 and 1912. All of the perforation varieties as well as the overprinted varieties were present. They included the double and triple prints, inverted on obverse and reverse or printed on both sides. Some of the latter were in large multiples. The provisional of 1918 was displayed in similar completeness.

The Perkins-Bacon issue of 1918 followed a short showing of the 1915-1916 provisionals. This issue too received the same complete attention devoted to the 1909 series. Die proofs abounded in this series. The $5.00 value alone was displayed with 13 different trial colors. Plate proofs were present in multiples, a block of 35 of the 5 cent in black similar pieces of the 15 cent one for frame and another one for vignette. The "skip puppies" or Bommi Fish from the 50 cent were represented by a family of 40 unencumbered by frames.

The Red Cross issue of 1918 as overprinted on the series just mentioned were displayed with the same thoroughness as the prolific mother issue. Each of her many offspring were there. The overprint sans the red color, the shifts, the partial omissions and each of the inverts were shown. A block of 40 imperf of the 2 cent plus 5 cent graced this group. The 2 cent plus $1.00 must have been a favorite of the printer in this issue because shifts, inverts and double crosses were here in profusion.

Although out of chronological sequence but of pleasurable moment were the used examples of the 1893 Registration stamps. The unused copies too were displayed.

The Official stamps contemporary in this showing concluded the exhibit. From 1903 to 1916, varieties to gladden the heart of the Liberian collector or perhaps to disturb the sleep of the philatelic perfectionist prettied the pages of this portion of the display. Inverts, whether of the center or of the overprint, were present in full array of the 1909 issue. The Barclay values were especially attractive.

The outstanding items of the official's showing were the plate proofs and the authorization giving official approval for the colors of the OS overprints. Bearing copies of each stamp and the overprint the official comment read, "These are the colors approved for the OS stamps. The hippo(potamus) to be in black not in brown."

This exhibit was indeed pleasant to behold and the members acknowledged their enjoyment with a spontaneous rising vote of thanks. Liberia is a country whose stamps will always enable the adult to relive the thrill of his boyhood collecting. Such it is for this Club's President as well as it seemed to be for many who viewed the collection. We think that General Wickersham deserves some words of praise for this Liberia showing. As typical of most philatelists, the General studies intently the stamps of Venezuela, his scholarship being evident in this magazine. But no matter how seriously most of us take philately, we also have some stamp collections for fun. Most often a philatelic student is silent about his lighter interests. But contrary to the general rule, General Wickersham enjoyed showing material that simply affords him pleasure in assembling. (*Malcolm G. O'Reilly*)

Meeting of March 21, 1956

The First Issue of Austria

Since its creation, the first issue of Austria has always been a great challenge and a fascination to the serious collector all over the world.

The material displayed brought some of our senior classic collectors back to our halls. This in itself was enough indication that we were in for a most interesting evening. It is the writer's belief that none of the attentive audience was disappointed.

The speaker of the evening, *Mr. Frank Kohn,* was the winner of the Grand Award of the Collectors Club Annual Membership Competition in 1955. Although only part of his collection was displayed in nine frames, his selection of material was such, that he could have interested his listeners throughout the night.

Mr. Frank Kohn began in his very humble way to express his gratitude for being invited by the Collectors Club to speak on the first issues of Austria, and also to have "his first opportunity to speak before an audience of such prominent philatelists". In his preliminary words, he paid great tribute to those, who have done so much in philatelic research and writings, mentioning Mr. Hans Kropf who was the first to publish a monograph on these stamps of Austria more than 50 years ago and after the close of the first World War, prominent philatelists like Artur Ladurner, Dr. Emilio Diena, P. F. de Frank and none other than our own, Edwin Mueller.

Mr. Kohn went on to say, although these gentlemen succeeded in finding a solution to many problems, the serious Austria collector is still faced with puzzling questions, which are waiting for a keen mind to find a satisfactory answer. This refers in particular to the problems connected with the various phases of the manufacture of the stamps. While only scant information dealing with the manufacture of the stamps has survived in official records, documents relative to the introduction of the stamps, their use for prepayment of postage and to other administrative matters are available today. The challenge is to solve problems by conclusions based on empirical findings.

Mr. Kohn then went into great detail to explain the fascinating story surrounding the procedure in the preparation for the first issue. To be able to do justice to the speaker and record all the interesting developments preceding the first issue, we could fill this magazine's pages from cover to cover and still fall short of accomplishments. Therefore, the next best we can do is to offer a short synopsis, while only stressing some of the highlights of Mr. Kohn's lecture.

The design of Austrian Coat of Arms was recommended, and the use of typography for the printing was suggested, but opposition and criticism were voiced by the Director of

the Austrian State Printing Works, Alois Auer von Welsbach. Despite Mr. Auer's protest, the design was accepted with some slight moderation.

On September 25, 1849, a decree was signed by the Emperor, Francis Joseph I, authorizing the use of postage stamps in Austria and fixing June 1, 1850 as the day of issue. Essays were prepared and submitted early in January 1850. As far as is known today, there were in all five sheets, which consisted of two denominations, the 6 Kreuzer and the 1 Gulden. They were printed in various colors, light red, light blue and black on thin white handmade paper. Mr. Kohn stated that only a few copies are to be found now in private collections, all of which have come at one time or another from the official files for the benefit of collectors.

Beginning in February 1850, the actual production of the stamps was ordered with the following denominations, 1 Kreuzer, 2 Kreuzer, 3 Kreuzer, 6 Kreuzer and 12 Kreuzer. The Kreuzer currency was valid in all Austria, including Hungary. For the Lombardy-Venetia stamps the Centesimi (Italian) currency was used. At the time when the stamps were being printed, a Postal Union was formed between Austria, Bavaria and Prussia. This postal treaty established the following rates for one unit of weight, which was the equivalent of about ½ ounce.

Printed matter, 1 Kreuzer—5 Centes
Local letter, 2 Kreuzer—10 Centes
Letters up to 45 miles, 3 Kreuzer—15 Centes
Letters from 45-90 miles, 6 Kreuzer—30 Centes
Letters for distance over
90 miles, 9 Kreuzer—45 Centes
Registration fee, 6 Kreuzer—
and the same was charged for a return receipt.

As a consequence of the treaty, the rates for domestic letters carried over 90 miles were reduced from 12 Kreuzer to 9 Kreuzer. Thus this change in the rate rendered the stamps of the 12 Kreuzer value useless. On March 26, 1850, the State Printing Works were instructed to produce the 9 Kreuzer stamps. Early in June they were directed to destroy all stocks already printed of the 12 Kreuzer stamp. In a report to the Postal Administration, the State Printing Works confirmed the destruction of the printed stock of this value, and only 160 copies were preserved for the official files.

A few copies of the 12 Kreuzer value, which had come in the later years from the archives, are present in various collections. These copies are all cancelled "FRANCO", with the exception of the one copy shown by Mr. Kohn. The first issue remained in use from June 1, 1850 to December 31, 1858, when they were taken out of circulation, and the remainder stock was destroyed.

The speaker in his superb methodical arrangement had his first three frames of display devoted to the preliminary procedure and reference to anything connected with the preparation of the first issue, also photographic reproduction of material unavailable, a reproduction of the Printing Works as it looked prior to 1850, essays, trial colors, proofs, drawings and many other important items, which held such great fascination for the specialist of Austria. Among the interesting items were reproductions of a circular design of 1853, also essays of rectangular design of 1854, designed by Leander Russ and engraved by Carl Kotterba, both reputed artists of the time. The creation of these essays was due to the criticism of the first issue, which had been considered very unsatisfactory and more of a provisional one. From the beginning efforts had been made from time to time to withdraw and replace these stamps by a definite issue, but in spite of the attractive designs of either set, they were rejected for postage stamps. Other items shown were a 1 Kreuzer with the harrow perforation 18, an experiment of the State Printing Works made in 1853. Also a 3 Kreuzer in blue and in black were exhibited, the first being a trial color, the second originating from the proof sheets, which were prepared in 1851 to experiment with different kinds of papers.

Mr. Kohn went on to discuss the ways and means of manufacturing the stamps, which were printed by typography from plate settings composed of individual clichés. These clichés were at first stereotypes and electrotypes later on. The speaker also stated that to his knowledge, none of the stereotypes have been preserved or at least none have come to light so far. Mr. Kohn went on to make a point of the term of "Plate" which in this instance is inaccurate. What is generally understood by "plates" are settings in

fixed form, undivideable unit such as in the case of engraved or lithographed stamps. What was employed in the manufacture of the stamps under discussion was actually settings, composed of individual stereotypes or electrotypes. These could have been taken apart and re-assembled in any different way at any time.

The metal used for the stereotypes was an alloy consisting of 80% lead and 20% antimony, being not sufficiently durable to withstand heavy pressure from printings. The relative softness contributed greatly to a swift deterioration of the stereotypes, and the occurrence of many plate flaws in the final impressions. To improve the appearance of the stamps, defective stereos in the settings were constantly replaced by perfect ones. Occasionally, a number of printings were made from a defective cliché before it was replaced with a new one, because we do find several copies from the identical stereo showing the damage in various stages. Such reference copies can assist one to determine the chronological order of printings made from the same setting. Also there can be several combinations from the same setting because of the elimination and replacement of worn or damaged clichés. It also has been ascertained that some stereotypes had been shifted within one setting during its existence. Although several attempts have been made to reconstruct such plate settings, to the speaker's knowledge such a difficult task has so far not been achieved. Mr. Kohn continued to explain in detail the various aspects of spacing between the panes, referring to the narrow and wide settings, and also to their appearances in the early or later printing.

As mentioned before, the State Printing Works had been dissatisfied with the appearance of the stamps, so in their desire for improvement they had been experimenting with clichés produced by the galvanoplastic process. These clichés called "electrotypes" were capable of withstanding heavy use, but it is safe to assume that they also did not furnish the fine impressions desired, because the idea of employing them was temporarily abandoned.

In 1852 a general improvement was carried out, whereby the working dies of all values were re-engraved, and from these new dies stereotypes were cast and new settings composed. The stamps printed from these plates are different in appearance and are classified as Type III.

The philatelic student had a great opportunity in following the speaker in his explanation of the various distinguishing marks of the design between the Type I and the Type III in all their details.

Then Mr. Kohn went on to tell his audience about the various types of paper which were used for the first issue. Here again the speaker in his methodical way went into such great detail that even a novice could follow him. The first was a handmade paper with watermark, which remained in use until 1854, and from then a machine-made paper was introduced. The variety in papers is plentiful from very thick to a very thin, and one of the most important of these is the laid paper without the watermark which when held against the light shows heavy vertical lines about 1 mm. apart. Only a small quantity of this paper was used in 1852, either by mistake or, as Mr. Edwin Mueller suspects, by a printer, who wanted to replace the missing sheets of the regular paper for which he was responsible. Stamps printed on this kind of paper are great rarities. So far only the 3 Kreuzer and the 9 Kreuzer are known.

Another important variety on the handmade paper is a very thin pelure, which exists on all values. The use of this pelure paper was an experimental to prevent the re-use of cancelled copies. A very interesting explanation was given by the speaker about the ribbed paper, which actually is not a variety. It is believed that the ribbing was applied purposely after the stamps were printed. On this one finds about thirty ribbed lines to 2 centimeters. In order to obtain the ribbing on the paper, the sheet was passed through heated rollers that left its impressions on the sheet. This process sometimes caused paper folds, which are quite characteristic of the ribbed paper variety. The ribbing was used for a short time only, from the end of 1850 until the early part of 1851.

In December, 1854 the machine-made paper was gradually introduced, and remained in use until the end of this issue. The machine-made paper is generally without watermark, however, a stitch watermark has been found. It shows a number of parallel lines arranged in two rows either horizontally or vertically. Other varieties of the machine-made paper would be the cardboard or the very thick

paper, neither being common.

Mr. Kohn in his concluding words about the creation and manufacture surrounding the first issue of Austria, stressed one of the most interesting features of this issue, the printing varieties. There are a great number of them. Some are extremely rare, others rather common. The first of these varieties are the accidental printings on both sides, the great rarities come on the 3 and the 6 Kreuzers, whereas the 1 Kreuzer is more common, being more a product of thriftiness. To avoid a waste of paper when printing the paler shades, it was decided to turn the sheet over and feed it again into the press to be printed a second time on the reverse side in a darker shade. Such printings with impressions on the back are found upright or inverted and mostly shifted.

Another unusual variety is the double print, with one impression colorless. It occurred because two sheets were run through the press simultaneously; that of the regular colored impression appeared on the top of the sheet, and the bottom sheet showed the colorless embossing, which later received in addition the colored impression. Such printings are great rarities. Mr. Kohn's final remarks about the printing dealt with the inks and gum used for the manufacture of this issue. The inks were mineral colors, whereas the gum for the early printings was arabic gum, which is colorless and can be dissolved in water. Later animal glue, which is of a yellowish color and very difficult to dissolve, was used instead.

With his concluding remarks about the manufacture of the first Austrian issue, Mr. Kohn went on to explain some of his material on his selected pages, which were truly a privilege to see. Just to mention a few of these, he showed unused a block of six and a single with the St. Andrews cross attached of the 3 Kreuzer; a beautiful block of six used, printed on both sides; a block of six on cover of the 1 Kreuzer, a block of four on cover of the 2 Kreuzer, a block of six on cover of the 3 Kreuzer, a beautiful block of eight of the 6 Kreuzer, of the 9 Kreuzer Type I a block of four and of Type II a block of five.

All, who attended that evening, must have been richly rewarded by listening to this fascinating lecture on the First Issue of Austria. (*Louis Stich*)

Meeting of April 4, 1956

Postal History: U. S. Private Posts

Mr. Henry E. Abt, who has shown before the Club in this field of "U. S. Locals" in recent years twice, capped all his previous efforts this evening with a comprehensive showing of private postal services in more than a dozen cities, mainly in the period between 1840 and 1860.

In introducing the speaker, Mr. Henry M. Goodkind made graceful reference to his long friendship with Mr. Abt, which began at Cornell University when both were freshmen there in 1921; he then went on to recount the speaker's philatelic attainments.

Mr. Abt explained, at the outset, that the line between strictly private mail service and the "official" authorized Carrier service of the 1840-60 period was a thin one, frequently crossed by the same persons and organizations. His judgment is that many of the items now listed as "Locals" are genuine, officially sanctioned and bonded carrier services' stamps; that perhaps some unofficial services' stamps are still mislisted as Carriers.

Taking the group on a verbal "Magic Carpet" for a trip to the cities involved in the carrier contractual and private services, Mr. Abt began with Boston, detailing the Cheever and Towle service with its relationship to the U. S. post office. At this point he mentioned how collectors in this field make reprints and forgeries portion of their collection, for both study purposes and because these items have interest of their own.

Providence and New Haven, both towns then outgrowing the existing postal facilities like their larger neighbor Boston, next received attention.

Jumping past New York with mere mention of the multiplicity of its private services supplementary to the government postal establishment, Mr. Abt took up the private services of Newark, N. J., with emphasis upon the newly discovered 2-cent stamp of the City Letter Express mail on cover, first publicly shown this evening. The Bayonne City Dispatch, of 1883 in that then scattered-village township, served further to open up the rash of private services established at that time and all promptly suppressed by the Postal Service.

Jenkins' Camden Dispatch, of Camden, N. J. came in for detailed attention, including

the story of the late Eugene Klein's discovery of its stamps. Modern plate proofs and die proofs from the printing material then found were shown in addition to the original stamps.

With a bow to Philadelphia as the city of greatest need and greatest extent of private carrier service, Mr. Abt then conducted the "Magic Carpet" party verbally over Wilmington (Del.), Baltimore, (Md.), Washington, Charleston (S. C.) and New Orleans, with much exposition of the similarity of service and relation to the post office in all these then rapidly-growing cities.

A long quick hop up river brought us to St. Louis. Thence Chicago was taken on, with special mention of the extent to which the rapid growth there from 1850 to 1860 had made the need for contract carriers and private carriers urgent.

Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Lancaster (Pa.) were finally given mention and showing.

Limitations of space forbid our doing justice to this glorious showing, to the clear, penetrating explanations of Mr. Abt and to the convincing evidence with which he clinched his points. (*S. G. R.*)

The Meeting of April 18th

Hyderabad

The program for this meeting was presented by H. D. S. Haverbeck. The topic was Hyderabad, which is one of the largest of the Indian Feudatory States. The lecture was confined to the first five issues of this state covering the years from 1869 to 1905, because this period represented the four methods by which line engraved plates could be manufactured.

The first stamp was issued in 1869 in the denomination of 1 anna. The die was engraved by Rapkin of London and the plate or plates (it is not certain whether there was more than one) were made by Messrs. Nissen and Parker in London. The method employed was the Perkins mill and die process. There were 160 subjects to the plate, 10 x 16, with marginal inscriptions above and below. The display included a range of die essays showing the difficulty the engraver had in properly drawing the Persian characters. The design represents the Tughra, conventionalized monogram of the Nizam, Asaf Jah, the date in the Moslem calendar, 1283, and the denomination, 1 anna. The stamps were printed in Hyderabad using an olive green color. The perforation gauges 11½. In 1880 this stamp was re-issued in a light olive green color perforated 12½. This was available for postage as proved by several examples used on entires. The display included an entire sheet of the reissue impressions.

The second issue was placed on sale in January, 1871, having been prepared during 1870 as can be determined by the date 1284 in the design. This is the so-called skeleton design because it consists entirely of inscriptions on a colorless background. The denominations were ½ anna and 2 annas respectively. There was only one plate used for each value. The plates consisted of 240 subjects, 15 x 16. Each subject on the plates was engraved entirely by hand directly onto the plate by a local engraver. Thus each subject varies. The inscription, "Post Stamp" appears at the top in English, at the bottom in Urdu. The denomination is expressed in four languages—English, Urdu, Telegu and Marathi. These stamps were also re-issued in 1880 in slightly different colors.

As the postal system of the state was rapidly expanding, the government ordered stamps from London in 1870. The making of the plates was entrusted to the London firm of Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. They were to make plates for seven denominations, viz. ½ anna, 1 anna, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12 annas. The time elapsing before the plates would be received in Hyderabad caused the Post Office to have the skeleton type stamps of 1871 prepared.

Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. produced four plates of each denomination. Two plates of each were dispatched on August 30, 1870 and the remaining two on April 24, 1871. This was done in case one shipment should be lost en route.

All of these plates were made by the multiple pantograph system with both eight and fifteen diamond points used. The plates being fifteen stamps horizontally and sixteen vertically, the fifteen diamonds across the plate were used in a few instances, while the eight diamonds, being one half the number of stamps in the vertical strips, were used more frequently twice for each strip. In every instance, each of these groupings has a distinguishing mark, constant throughout,



Fig. 1. A portion of the overflow crowd here at the Collectors Club on the night of May 2, 1956.

some being very obvious and others trifling but none the less present. The display showed the reconstruction of one of the plates of the half anna stamp, illustrating the method of determining the grouping and of placing it in the plate. From proof sheets drawn by the makers of the plates from the few unsevered sheets still preserved and from large blocks, it has been possible to reconstruct much of the entire issue, which consists of 28 different plates.

A change of postal rates brought about the need for a ¼ anna stamp for post cards in 1900. There was first prepared a provisional ¼ anna stamp made by surcharging the ½ anna stamp with the value ¼ anna in Urdu. This was done by handstamping, proven by two entire sheets in the display.

A local engraver was commissioned to prepare two plates for a ¼ anna stamp. This man, Khusrat Ullah, first engraved a die on steel. Then, using this die, he prepared two plates of 96 subjects. The method used was that of taking a copper plate and laying the steel die upon it in position, proceeding to hammer each subject into the copper plate. The study of these plates in the display pointed out the means of differentiating the two plates, and also showed the reconstruction of each of them done with selected blocks and enlarged photos identifying the characteristics of each position.

A period of lively discussion followed in which Mr. Haverbeck went more deeply into the pantograph process and answered many questions concerning it. The members present found this to be a most interesting and stimulating, especially since Mr. Leslie Newman of the well-known printing firm of De La Rue, London, England was in the audience and who challenged Mr. Haverbeck, especially upon his opinions about the use of the pantograph system for the 1870-71 issues.

The Meeting of May 2, 1956

Awards

There seems to be little doubt that in the 60 year history of this Club there were never more people in this building than on this night. (See Fig. 1) Unquestionably the enormous attendance was not only due to the type of program planned, but also to the fact that this regular Club meeting took place during FIPEX when many out-of-town and foreign members were in New York City. The capacity of this clubhouse was severely taxed, and we had heard that some of the people had to be turned away because of the exceptionally large attendance.

The chief attraction of this evening was the presentation of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* to perhaps the great-

est international philatelist of today, *Sir John Wilson* of Great Britain. Before the ceremony, the Governors of the Club had invited a selected group of Sir John Wilson's friends to a dinner at the Champs Elysee Restaurant on E. 40th Street, New York City.

The meeting was opened on schedule by our President, *Lt. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham,* who made a few introductory remarks of welcome. It was fitting that the presentation of this Memorial Award for service to philately was made by Mr. Lichtenstein's daughter, *Mrs. John D. Dale.* (Fig. 2) Sir John Wilson's gracious speech of acceptance stressed the great services made to philately by the one in whose memory this award is annually given. It may be added at this point that it was remarkable throughout all of the FIPEX activities to hear the number of American and foreign dignitaries, who remembered Mr. Lichtenstein through many of the great services he had rendered.

Following this, Gen. Wickersham awarded on behalf of the Club 4 silver medals to the following gentlemen for their past services to this organization:

Malcolm Johnson
Harry M. Konwiser
Thomas F. Morris
William R. Rankin

Then came the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST AWARD for the leading article published in our magazine during 1955. The medal for the best article, Soruth's First Issues, was awarded to *Mr. L. E. Dawson* of Dublin, Eire, who had requested that his friend, Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck receive the medal on his behalf.



Photos by Boutrelle

Fig. 2. Mrs. John D. Dale, daughter of the late Alfred F. Lichtenstein, presenting the 1956 Award created in her father's memory for devoted services to philately to Sir John Wilson, Keeper of the Royal Collection, Great Britain here at 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. on the night of May 2, 1956.

Three Certificates of Merit were given to Messrs. *Frank S. Levi, Jr., V. Rachmanoff,* and *J. F. Westerburg.* It was very pleasing to see that Mr. Westerburg was able to come on all the way from California so that this honor was personally presented to him.

A special Certificate of Merit was given to *Eugene V. Connett 3rd,* and also another Certificate was presented by the editor to *Louis Stich* for his art work and the designing of our new cover of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

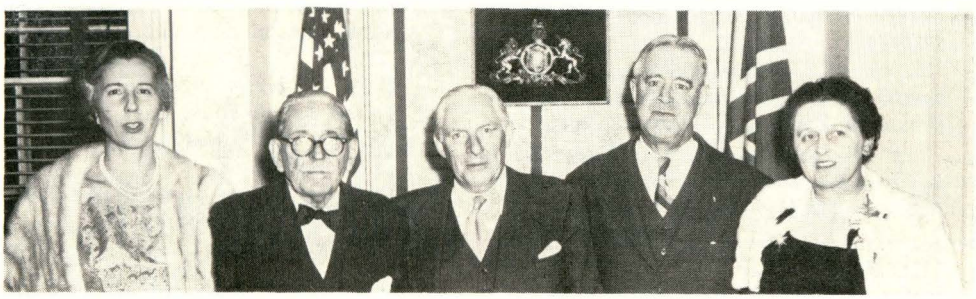


Fig. 3. The principal participants at the Collectors Club meeting on May 2, 1956. Left to Right: Mrs. John D. Dale; Theodore E. Steinway, recipient of the first A. F. Lichtenstein medal; Sir John Wilson; General Cornelius W. Wickersham, President of the Collectors Club and Lady Wilson.

Then following a custom established a few years ago, Volume 34 of this magazine, especially bound in handsome red morocco leather with the respective names inscribed in gold were presented to *Henry M. Goodkind,* Editor, and *Messrs. Winthrop S. Boggs, Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, Edwin Mueller,* and *Stephen G. Rich* of the Editorial Committee for their continued praiseworthy work for this Club.

Upon conclusion of the meeting a number of our out-of-town and foreign members were taken through the clubhouse in small groups by individual members.

Mr. G. P. Raymond presented the following books to be shared by The Collectors Club, The Philatelic Foundation and the Community Service Committee:

The Air Post Stamps of Colombia by F. W. Kessler. Published by the author, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sanabria's Air Post Catalogue. Nicolas Sanabria Co., Inc., New York. 16 Catalogues with Supplements. 1936 to 1954/55.

Scott's Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps. 4th Ed., 1933 and 5th Ed. 1934. Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., New York.

Scott's Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps. 1942 Edition. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

Scott's Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps. 1946 Edition. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

Gibbons' Air Stamp Catalogue. 4th Ed. 1936. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

The Standard Airpost Catalog. 1933 Ed. Edited by Donald E. Dickason. The Berkshire Exchange, Wooster, Ohio.

Yvert & Tellier-Champion Catalogue de Timbres-Poste 1939. Yvert & Cie., Amiens. (French)

American Air Mail Catalogue. First Edition. 1940. American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa.

American Air Mail Catalogue. Vol. I, 1947 Ed. American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa.

American Air Mail Catalogue. Vol. II, 1950 Ed. American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa.

Aero Stamps. A Descriptive Catalogue with Prices by Fred J. Melville. Publisher, Philatelic Galleries, London, England.

Stamp Issuing Countries and Their Currencies by Norman Thornton. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

Portraits on Our Postage Stamps by Edmund B. Thompson. Published by the author, Windham, Conn.

Die Deutsche Luftpost by Dr. Erich Stenger and Carl de Matzenau. Verlag von R. Bredow, Berlin, Germany.

Zeppelin, Transatlantic, Record Flight & Air Race Cover Price List 1948. Edited and published by J. Stephen, Wirral, England.

Axis Issues of Europe and the Philippines 1941-1945. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

United States Stamped Envelopes. 4th Ed. 1951. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, edited by Gordon P. Lewis. Published by British North America Philatelic Society, Brampton, Ontario.

Supplement to "British Stamps" by Patrick Hamilton. Harris Publications, Ltd., London, England.

Stamp Collectors' Annual, 1956, edited by Tom Morgan. Harris Publications, Ltd., London, England.

Practical Philately by R. J. Sutton. Hutchinson's Scientific and Technical Publications, London, England.

The Postal Districts of Mexico, With Related Geographical, Statistical and Historical Information, Part I, by Abraham Odfjell. Published by the author. Gift of the author.

Scott's Dollar United States Stamp Catalogue 1956. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

Scott's Dollar British America Catalogue 1956. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

Scott's Dollar German Catalogue 1956. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

San Marino by Pierson Ostrow. Published and presented by the author.

Postage Stamps of Korea, 1884-1956. Published by the Ministry of Communications, Seoul, Republic of Korea. (Korean and English) Gift of Mr. Yong Chin Choi.

Postwertzeichen der Russischen Landschaftsaemter, Band I and Band II, by Carl Schmidt and A. Faberge. Sektion "St. Petersburg" des Internationalen Philatelisten Vereins "Dresden". (German)

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue 1956, edited by J. C. W. Brown. The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne. Gift of Mr. A. Appleton Lane.

Stamps in Battledress by Joachim Hosang, translated by Peter C. Rickenback. A German Philatelic Review Publication, London, England.

Muller-Mark Alt Deutschland unter der Lupe: Thurn and Taxis XII/XIII. Published by Ewald Muller-Mark, Berlin-West, Germany. (German)

The Czechoslovak Specialist, Vols. X-XVII. Four bound volumes. Gift of Mr. Frank J. Kovarik.

The Collectors Note Book, Vols. I and II. 1904. Gift of Mr. R. Schamber.

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, Vol. XI, 1905-06. Presented by Mr. R. Schamber.

The American Collector, Vols. I and II, 1896. Gift of Mr. R. Schamber.

Argentine Stage-Coach Services by Charles Jewell. Reprint from "Stamp Collecting", London. Gift of the author.

Talks on Stamp Collecting—Its Various Aspects, National, International, Historical, by N. K. D. Naigamwalla. Published by New Times of Burma, Rangoon. Gift of the author.

S. P. A. Membership Directory 1955. Gift of Mr. S. G. Rich.

Spain No. 1 by Elizabeth C. Pope. Reprint from 20th American Philatelic Congress Book. Gift of the author.

Classical China by L. F. Livingston. Published by Livingston and Martin, Baltimore, Maryland.

Stamps, Vols. 89-92. H. L. Lindquist, Publisher, New York. Four bound volumes. Presented by the publisher.

The United States One Cent Issues of 1851-1857 by W. V. Kenworthy and Alfred Diamond. Published by The Society of Philatelic Americans. Gift of the publisher.

Maroc Postes Francaises by Comte Exelmans and Comte O. Pomyers. Editions Yvert & Tellier, Amiens. (French) Gift of Mr. Charles Neidorf.

The National Geographic Magazine, May 1933. Gift of Mr. Harry Holman.

Queensland Numeral Cancellations by Harry S. Porter, F. R. P. S. L. The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia.

Victoria: The Travelling Post Offices and Their Markings 1865-1912 by J. R. W. Purves, F. R. P. S. L. The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia.

Victoria: 1901-12 Issue by J. R. W. Purves, F. R. P. S. L. The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia.

Victoria Half-Lengths Study. Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, England.

Les Timbres-Poste de Monaco - La Serie Charles III by Paul G. Almasy. Editions Paris-Mediterranee. (French)

Ship Letters of the South Pacific by J. Whitsed Dovey, F. R. P. S. L. The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia.

Palestine and Israel by John C. W. Field, F. R. P. S. L. Reprint from "The Aero Field", Sutton Coldfield, England.

Commonwealth of Australia, The Line Engraved Issues of 1914, and the Essays, Die and Plate Proofs of the Georgian 1d. by Major H. Dormer Legge, T. D. Orlo Smith & Co., Melbourne, Australia.

More Special Postmarks. Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England.

Les "Mouchon", Le Classement des "Pasteur" by Wilfred Bentley and Pierre de Lizeray. Le Monde des Philatelists, Paris. (French)

Les Obliterations du Maroc by Georges Chapier. La Philatelie Campinoise, Turnhout, Belgium. (French)

The Postage Stamp Catalogue of People's Republic of China, 1955. Wah Nan Stamp Service, Hong Kong.

Qantas Aeriana 1920-1954 by E. A. Crome. Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England.

Les Postales Militaires du Maroc (1907-1931) by Gaston Tournier. Yvert & Cie., Amiens. (French)

Les Roulettes de 1893 by Pierre Morel d'Arleux. Cahiers Philateliques, Paris. (French)

La Poste Locale du Maroc by H. Hofstetter and others. Yvert & Cie., Amiens. (French)

Les Emissions Locale du Maroc, Lettres de Paris by Comte Exelmans. Editions Internationales, Tangiers. (French)

Les Cachets Postaux de l'Occupation Allemande en Moselle 1940-1944 by Charles Michel. Editions Metz-Philatelie, Metz. (French)

Catalogue des Cachets allemands d'Alsace-Lorraine de 1872 a 1918 by the Societe des Specialistes en Timbres dits d'Alsace-Lorraine. (French)

British Stamps by Patrick Hamilton. Publisher, Peter Davis, London.

John Palmer (of Bath) Mail Coach Pioneer by Charles R. Clear. Published by the Postal History Society, London.

Grandeur et Servitude des Timbres-Poste des Territories Francais (Les transformations non postales) by Henri Janton. Published and presented by the author. (French)

Alabama Postal Roads With Maps 1818-1845, compiled and published by J. H. Scruggs, Jr. Gift of the author.

Alabama Postal History, compiled and published by J. H. Scruggs, Jr. Gift of the author.

Alabama Steamboats 1819-1869, compiled and published by J. H. Scruggs, Jr. Gift of the author.

The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets, 1955, edited and published by the American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa. Gift of Mr. L. B. Gatchell.

Price List of Philatelic Literature, June 1956. Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y.

Price List of New York Central Railroad Cancellations on United States Revenues. Gift of Mr. R. W. Larsen.

L'Iconografia di Vittorio Emanuele II, Attraverso I Francobolli 1851-1877 by Gian Francesco Giaquili-Ferrini. Florence, Italy. (Italian) Presented by the author.

At the Board of Governors meetings held in May and June, 1956, the following new members were elected:

4385 Ellen Cass, New York, N. Y. Collects Canada, British Empire.

4386 Robert W. DeGroat, New Haven, Conn. Collects United States, British North America, Netherlands, Airmails.

4387 Fernan Rodriguez-Gil, Caracas, Venezuela. Collects Costa Rica, Chile, Venezuela.

4388 Major Adrian E. Hopkins, Bath, England. Collects Afghanistan, Hong Kong.

4389 Henry G. Trevor, Mexico D. F., Mexico. Collects Mexico.

4390 Samuel W. Berger, Glen Oaks, N. Y. Collects Central Europe.

4391 Dr. Douglas F. Green, Burlington, Vt. Collects Number Ones of the World, United States, British North America.

4392 Durand Taylor, New York, N. Y. Collects British North America, United Nations.

4393 Dr. Robert S. Breakey, Lansing, Mich. Collects United States.

4394 William C. Aichele, Hollister, Calif. Collects United States Revenues.

4395 Joseph Clary, San Francisco, Calif. Collects Western Territorial Markings.

4396 Louis S. Crosby, Banff, Canada. Collects Prince Edward Island.

4397 William J. Marsh, Washington, D. C. Collects China, Burma, Ryukyu.

4398 Morris H. Ludington, Silver Spring, Md. Collects Bermuda, Bahamas cancellations.

4399 Robert M. Flinn, Albuquerque, N. Mex. Collects crash covers.

4400 Walter Pikula, Detroit, Mich. Collects Trieste, Saar, Germany.

COMING MEETINGS

September 19th

A Dealer's Vagaries. Sidney F. Barrett.

October 3rd

United States, Stampless Covers. Edwin Mayer.

October 17th

British Commonwealth, King George VI issues. Fred'k. Kahn.

November 7th

Annual Competition for Members.

The Collectors Club

Balance Sheet, December 31, 1955

ASSETS

Cash		$ 4,406.55
Deposit with Post Office		15.00
House Replacement Fund:		
Cash in Trustees' account	$ 484.71	
Marketable securities	10,368.19	10,852.90
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund:		
Cash	111.39	
Marketable securities	6,700.00	6,811.39
Life Membership Fund:		
Cash in savings bank		806.00
Collectors Club Fund:		
Cash		2,694.46
Fixed assets:		
Club real estate	65,058.07	
Furniture and equipment	16,458.42	
Library	30,293.35	111,809.84
Unexpired insurance premiums		832.30
		$138,228.44

LIABILITIES, FUND RESERVES AND SURPLUS

Liabilities:		
Federal income and payroll taxes withheld from employees	$ 106.40	
Federal insurance contributions payable	17.50	
Dues paid in advance	306.97	$ 430.87
Fund reserves:		
House Replacement Fund Reserve	10,852.90	
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund	6,811.39	
Life Membership Fund Reserve	806.00	
Collectors Club Fund Reserve	2,694.46	
McCoy Library Fund Reserve	500.00	21,664.75
Surplus		116,132.82
		$138,228.44

Statement of Operations and Surplus

For the Year Ended December 31, 1955

INCOME:

Dues	$ 12,667.23	
Philatelic Foundation, rent	800.00	
Association for Stamp Exhibitions	400.00	
Contributions, study groups	480.00	
Sale of C. C. P. handbooks	268.40	
Miscellaneous	17.79	$ 14,633.42

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Club	9,306.28	
House	6,205.22	15,511.50
Excess of operating expense over income		878.08

COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST PUBLICATION:

Cost of publishing		5,199.12	
Deduct income from:			
Advertising	$ 1,883.79		
Subscriptions	448.13	2,331.92	2,867.20
Net excess of expense over income			3,745.28
SURPLUS, December 31, 1954		$120,997.21	
Transfer of furniture and fixtures from Collectors Club Fund		606.53	
Transfer of accumulated interest from the Membership Fund		24.36	
		121,628.10	
Transfer of funds to House Replacement Fund		1,750.00	119,878.10
SURPLUS, December 31, 1955			$116,132.82

Marshall Granger & Company

Members American Institute of Accountants

Certified Public Accountants

Lincoln Building, New York 17, N. Y.

AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Governors
The Collectors Club
New York, N. Y.

We have made a limited examination of the balance sheet of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of New York State, as of December 31, 1955, and the related statement of operations and surplus for the year then ended. We did not make a complete audit of transactions but we verified the bank balances by independent confirmations.

April 12, 1956.

INDIA

(Continued from Page 242.)

Bibliography

"The Stamps of some of the Native States of India, Faridkot" by Maj. E. B. Evans in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal, Vol. X, pp. 268-271 (1900). Reprinted with additional notes by Mr. L. E. Dawson in Philatelic Journal of India, Vol. 44, pp. 143-146, 158-161 (1940).

"The Native Engraved Stamps of Faridkot" Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal, Vol. I, pp. 192-193, 224-225 (1891).

"Native Printed Stamps of Faridkot" by C. Stewart-Wilson, Philatelic Journal of India. Vol. III, p. 473 (1899).

"Exit Faridkot" by C. Stewart-Wilson, Philatelic Journal of India, Vol. V, pp. 71-72 (1901).

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Over the years, *the Collectors Club* has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

A complete list of all our Handbooks still available can be found on the INSIDE BACK COVER. A recent check showed that the supply of some is dwindling fast, and they will be out of stock soon, not to be reprinted. Better order now what you wish.

BOOK REVIEWS

The PAID Markings of the 3c U. S. Stamp of 1861 by George W. Linn. Published by George W. Linn Co., Sidney, Ohio. 1955. 104 pp. with 4 tip-in plates. Paper bound. Price $1.00.

Although the postage stamp is the hard core of philately, increasing interest in comparatively recent years has gone beyond this. Cancellations and postal markings have become very popular, especially the older ones on United States stamps. This booklet treats in over 100 pages just one type of marking on a single stamp. This demonstrates how intense specializing has become, and what a collector can do with one slight phase of the general picture in what is lumped together as philately.

It is to be expected that, as people specialize intently, they will discover that many of the standard past writings either have not covered a certain field comprehensively, or if they did, much of the information needs correction. George W. Linn mentions specifically the "Herst-Zareski" book on "19th Century United States Fancy Cancellations" that has had a following in this country. In this book's listing of about 90 different types of PAID cancellations, Mr. Linn has been able to identify only 12. Furthermore, the most common PAID cancel is not mentioned in the aforementioned book. Since we have heard from other competent students of early U. S. cancellations similar critical views of the "Herst-Zareski" book, this possibly will stimulate others to cover 19th century U. S. fancy cancellations more fully and more accurately by a piecemeal process. Perhaps collectors now have to refer to the "Herst-Zareski" book with all its faults, because it is the only comprehensive one available.

Mr. Linn certainly has done a complete, competent job. He always is at his best when he does this kind of research. His book written years ago on the Sonora issues of Mexico has stood up as a model for this type of specialty writing. It is only when he dabbles in all aspects of philately, especially as an editorial writer, that he often goes astray. But given a specialty he knows and collects, he is at his best.

Furthermore, one should read specialized books like this one, even if he may not collect the field, for the reason that the reader will find statements written that go way beyond the immediate specialty. We enjoyed reading this book because of the way the author displayed his treatment of cancellations. One may collect cancels of another period and a different country. Nevertheless, he may find Linn's method of classification applicable and practical with all cancellations. Also one always finds sound philatelic common sense expressed by an experienced philatelist. In this connection every one should ponder on Mr. Linn's final sentence:

"Condition conscious collectors never can be students."

How true! The condition conscious collector seems to be nothing but a fussy person, who frets so much over his stamps that he seldom seems to derive any genuine pleasure out of stamp collecting.

Philately of the United States is a vast field. If each specialist can cover his interest as well and thoroughly as Mr. Linn has done in this book, then within time the sum total of all specialists' studies will amount to completion. We wish others would follow Linn's example by making the praiseworthy effort of recording their knowledge. Because Mr. Linn is a practical printer and a keen collector, we hope to see more fine contributions from this well-known stamp newspaper publisher. (*H. M. G.*)

The United States One Cent Issues of 1851-57, A Primer For the Identification of the Types and Varieties by Waldo V. Kenworthy and Alfred Diamond. 24 pp. Illustrated. Paper bound. Published by The Society of Philatelic Americans, S. G. Rich Sales Agent, P. O. Box B., Verona, N. J. Price $1.00.

The Society of Philatelic Americans is to

be congratulated for publishing this most useful and intelligent booklet on these difficult stamps. By treating each portion of the design as a unit and using enlarged drawings to illustrate their characteristics, the differences between the various types become clear and readily understandable. The use of this booklet by any intelligent collector should enable him to identify accurately almost any 1c 1851-57 stamp he may run across. The discussion and illustrations are more detailed than in the specialized catalogue, but by no means as technical as Mr. Ashbrook's monumental two volume work.

Booklets such as this should induce many, who have shied away from our early issues as too complicated, to venture into this field.

More primers of this sort are in order, and we hope for the production of more booklets such as this one. (*W. S. Boggs*)

The Postal Districts of Mexico, Part I. 1956. Written and published by Abraham Odfjell. 99 multilithed pages, 9 x 10, paper bound, limited edition of 200 copies. Available through H. L. Lindquist Publications, 153 Waverly Place, New York 4, N. Y. $5.00.

Philatelic writing, in many respects, is a losing proposition. A worthwhile article or book takes a great deal of time and energy, usually being one of the end results of years of study. From the financial viewpoint, it more frequently than not involves an expense. Even the resulting prestige, if any, is, in most cases, limited in scope and of a non-professional nature. Taking all of these things into consideration, it is clear that the student of any country owes a considerable debt to those, whose writings have added to the interest of his selected specialty.

Mr. Odfjell is one of these dedicated philatelists. A tabulation of his various articles would make an imposing list. However, he has probably been most prolific in his writings on Mexican stamps. Knowing of his special interest in Mexican history and its effect on the postal system, it is not surprising that he should have produced the present work devoted entirely to postal history.

The postal system of Mexico from 1856-1883 was probably unique. The country was divided into postal districts, each containing a head office, usually the chief city in the district. Each head office, in turn, was in administrative charge of the smaller surrounding offices within its particular district. During the above period, the postal regulations required each head office to overprint the name of the postal district on the stamps received for sale in that district. Consequently, the collector of Mexican stamps is invariably led into a collection of various district usages, many of which are scarce enough to challenge the most energetic stamp hunter. Furthermore, the collector of early Mexican stamps is blessed by the presence of a great variety of interesting and colorful postmarks.

This combination of postal districts and colorful postmarks will lead the curious, as it did Mr. Odfjell, into a closer study of the geography and history of the country. In his work, Mr. Odfjell has divided the country into postal districts. He then sets forth a brief summary of the history of each head office, its population, climate, industry and assorted interesting anecdotes with respect thereto. Similar treatment on a smaller scale is then accorded to each sub-office within the postal district. The whole is then seasoned with various philatelic references. The author has obtained most of his statistical data from the scarce but comprehensive *"Diccionario of 1888"* of Don Antonio Garcia Cubas. This is supplemented by experiences drawn from his own travels. For the philatelic data, he has relied on his own knowledge and the works of various standard authorities.

Its usefulness to the specialist is obvious. Many of the towns discussed can no longer be found on maps currently available. Name changes have been plentiful, and some post-offices have undoubtedly passed into oblivion. The rarity of many postmarks becomes more apparent—a remote hacienda or obscure mining town, inhabited primarily by illiterate Indians, cannot be expected to have produced a large volume of correspondence.

From the technical viewpoint, the book contains a noticeable number of typographical errors. This is perhaps to be expected in a work filled with names like Ixmiquilpan or Tlatlanquitepec. Due allowance must also be made for the fact that the work is written in English and based largely on references written in Spanish, neither of which is Mr. Odfjell's native tongue.

The work bears the puzzling annotation "Part I". Since it appears to be reasonably complete in its subject matter, one wonders what additional data are planned for subsequent parts. No hint is given in the text.

This work is not one for the collector, who is solely interested in stamps. The specialist with an interest in the country, the collector of postmarks of the various Mexican towns and cities, the postal historian—all these will find much to repay them therein. (*John K. Bash*)

The United States Five Cent Stamps of 1856-1861 by Henry W. Hill. 76 p.p. Illustrated. Cloth bound. Available from J. Fox, 173 Tulip Ave., Floral Park, N. Y. Price $8.50.

For a period of a year or more, advertisements appeared regularly in various stamp publications, offering to purchase, or requesting the loan of margin and multiple pieces of the 5 cent stamps of 1856 to 1861. These advertisements were sponsored by Mr. Henry W. Hill. His own previous accumulations, his constant continued purchases throughout the world, plus the material made available by interested students, placed Mr. Hill in the enviable position of being able to make this fine compilation of outstanding material in a handsomely bound book, magnificently and profusely illustrated.

The book deals with the uses of the five cent stamps both within the limits of the United States and to foreign countries, combination uses with other values of the 1851-1857 issue, unusual cancellations and also discusses the possibilities of the reconstruction of the two plates of the 5 cent stamps.

The arduous task of compilation in this one volume of so much material, will be most welcome to future students, because as the years roll on, research material of the early United States issues appears to become scarcer and scarcer. Thus the author has made a fine permanent record.

Mr. Hill has made a great effort to reconstruct the plate, known as No. 1, from which the imperforate stamps were printed. However, he states in the introduction, that in his opinion, the reconstruction may never be accomplished, because of the lack of definite plating marks. In the reconstruction of a plate of 200 subjects, definite plating requires a large supply of material in multiple pieces. It would appear that such a supply of the five cent stamps from the first plate both imperforate and perforated is not available, although a number of fairly large-size perforated pieces are known. Time will tell. It may be that the reconstruction of the first plate someday may be accomplished.

The challenge of the reconstruction of the second plate of the five cent stamps is being more eagerly approached by interested students. Some years ago, as stated in the Hill book, identification of the six reliefs (with perhaps some modifications) had been accomplished and with this substantial start, preliminary work on this plate is now proceeding. Undoubtedly the reconstruction of this plate will be completed.

When a book, such as this appears, it creates considerable interest and oftentimes it brings forth material not previously known, or which had not properly been considered, because there had been no clear setting forth of the facts gathered in a compilation such as this. It is hoped that as new material is brought to the attention of the author, he will at a later date publish an addenda or revision of his book, and perhaps at the same time correct the few errors which now appear. (*Mortimer L. Neinken*).

National Currency Stamps of China by William E. Jones. Published by the Author, Wellington St., Hong Kong. 25p. Price ?.

The purpose of this book is to try to fill the gap in definite information between the end of Ma's "Catalogue of the Stamps of China", now long out-of-print, and the author's work on "The Gold and Silver Currency Stamps of China". It has been written as a companion to the latter book.

An attempt has been made to price the majority of the stamps, in terms of the Hong Kong Dollar, and, based on the market prevailing in Hong Kong in 1955.

In the foreword Mr. Jones expresses his thanks to Mr. Chiu Chee Weun, one of the great students of modern Chinese philately.

The book provides a checklist of all known surcharged and definitive issues from September 1945 to 1948, when the Chinese National currency became so inflated that it was superceded by the gold yuan. The numbers given

by Jones are accompanied by the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue's numbers for identification purposes. There is a section dealing with the military posts and illustrations of the types of post marks used by it.

This book is invaluable for the student of modern Chinese philately. Your reviewer sincerely hopes that Mr. Jones will keep up the good work that this and its companion volume have so brilliantly started. (*H. D. S. H.*)

Bolaffi's Catalogo dei Francobolli Italiani. 1956. 1st Edition. Giulio Bolaffi, editor. Published by Societa Culturale Opere Tipografiche, Turin, Italy. 264 pp. plus Index and 48 page Introduction in Italian, Spanish, German and English. Cloth Bound. Price $1.75.

With few exceptions, this magazine's policy is to forego reviews of the customary, commercial, priced stamp catalog. This first edition of a new Italian catalog is one of the exceptions, because it contains a number of useful features beyond the routine catalog pricing and listing.

The first section of this book treats fully all the issues of Italy proper. The second section is a simplified listing by sets only of the "Italian Area" stamps. This includes former colonies, territories, Vatican City and occupation issues.

Those features that we view as unusual are:

1) each stamp is numbered by the corresponding numbers in the five leading catalogs of the world—Scott, Gibbons, Michel, Zumstein and Yvert & Tellier.

2) the "Key to the Catalogue" is given in four languages including English.

3) the text notes, although all in Italian, are relatively complete. Along with many illustrations, one not conversant in Italian will encounter little trouble because of the language barrier.

4) it has highly specialized listings and often illustrations of covers, forgeries, cancellations and other informative data.

5) pages 199-200 have a tabulation of the quantities issued of all Italian commemorative stamps.

We have seen many specialized catalogs from Italy, but none in our opinion, equals the general competent standards set by Bolaffi. We look forward to the promised next edition when the stamps of the "Italian Area" will be treated in specialized rather than simplified form. (*H. M. G.*)

Channel Islands-France Mail Services, 1683-1939 by William Newport. Published by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, London. 20p. $1.00.

Since the formation of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society in 1950, study of the postal history has produced so much new information that the compiling of a comprehensive handbook on the Channel Islands is now possible. Because of the costs involved, it has been decided that publication shall take place in sections over a period of about two years. Each part will be complete in itself.

This booklet deals with the markings applied to letters passing between the Channel Islands and France. There is no discussion of the stamps themselves.

There is no doubt that this work will be beneficial to those students of the postal markings of both Great Britain and France, whose inclination lies in this highly specialized field. As a reference work it is valuable.

The type is clear and easily readable. The stock is of good quality. We hope that the following sections will be as well produced. Many other specialist societies would do well to follow the lead here established. The book is a credit to both the author and the society. (*H. D. S. H.*)

Fezzan, Air Stamps by Sebastiao Amaral, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. 11 pp. Paper Cover. Privately circulated.

This small booklet upon a comparatively unknown few issues of stamps occasioned by wartime conditions in North Africa during the last World War proves exceptionally useful becauses it covers in English stamps that interest in particular, the air mail, the French and Italian Colonial specialists. This reviewer had seen these stamps, unused copies and also some used on covers, but was able to learn little about them. They are listed

and priced in several European catalogs, and in the "Sanabria Air Post Catalogue" in this country. But outside of indicating by high prices that many of these Fezzan air mail stamps must be scarce, other pertinent data seems to have been lacking.

Therefore, this worthy little effort supplies the specialist with much missing information. It is this type of pamphlet—and fortunately philately produces many—that greatly aids in adding to our store of philatelic information. (*H. M. G.*)

Trident Issues of the Ukraine, Part IV, Podolia and Postal Stationery by C. W. Roberts. Published by the Author, Illminster, Somerset, Great Britain. Edition Limited to 250 copies. 7 Plates, 39p. Price 12/6 ($1.75).

This fourth section of the valuable handbook on the Trident issues of the Ukraine maintains the standards of scholarship established in the preceding works. The plates are clear and useful. The various types are tabulated with the stamps upon which they have been found.

It may be, perhaps, quibbling to state that the reviewer somewhat disagrees with the principle of devoting valuable space to long descriptions of the types when the plates themselves are so clear. This is especially true of the long descriptions given to the false trident overprints. We have long maintained that good knowledge of the genuine makes a lengthy, detailed description of the false both unnecessary and, indeed, somewhat pedantic.

The author is to be congratulated upon his coverage of the postal stationery. This important section of the postal history of all countries has too long been dismissed with but a few sentences. It is impossible to make a complete coverage of the field of stamp collecting without considering the postal stationery. We are pleased to see that a larger and larger number of students are coming to this way of thinking.

This book is extremely valuable for the Russian specialist. The student of the stamps of the Ukraine definitely needs it. For nowhere else in the English language can the information be found that is contained in this book. (*H. D. S. H.*)

British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin, now in its third year, has taken on a "new look". This informative quarterly contains articles on the stamps and postal history of these Islands. Among other features it includes a "wants" section and "opinions" service. The Bulletin will be of interest to collectors of these British Colonies.

Information regarding this publication can be obtained from: Hon. Secretary, P. T. Saunders, 1 Wellesley Court, Maida Vale, London, W. 9, England.

FIPEX

(Continued from Page 216.)

by President Eisenhower and sent by him to the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., sponsors of what is familiarly known as FIPEX—the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition.

The FIPEX organizers, largely present and retired business executives, have prepared a spectacle which they anticipate will lure to the Coliseum visitors who will see the world's rarest stamps and the more humble issues—in the phraseology of Mr. Eisenhower, "powerful object lessons in the eternal hunger of men for knowledge and news about their fellow men."

FIPEX has the support not alone of the President. The State Department invited all the free-world lands to participate. More than sixty Governments responded by providing displays of their earlier and present-day postal wares, which are being displayed on thousands of frames in the Coliseum. Some of the nations sent also diplomatic officials. One of the main awards is a silver cup sponsored by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, and the Post Office Department is releasing four commemoratives—a stamp, a souvenir sheet, an embossed airmail stamped envelope and a postcard.

What is going on in the Coliseum may well help, in the words of President Eisenhower, to rouse the American people "to work for that golden day when a climate of peace and goodwill" shall be achieved among nations."

Many a dedicated philatelist saw the international goodwill evident in FIPEX.

(Next page, please.)

Through our work, our contacts with other philatelists from here and abroad, each of us in our small way tried to carry out the sentiments of this country's leader. We think that we succeeded. So now on to a better SIPEX in 1966! Please notice that we did not say "bigger". But philately has a fine group of followers all over the world. It is inspiring to have them and/or their wonderful stamp collections come to this country every decade or so. Let us not fall into the common journalistic mistake of measuring success by quantity. A better gauge is quality, and the stamps shown at FIPEX far outshone the attendance or the publicists who exaggerated the sideshow's sales.

C. W. BRAZER

(Continued from Page 210.)

marks. Often he was an exhibitor. He was so devoted to his Essays and Proofs that he seemed to wish to speak for hours upon them without pause.

Some years back under the late Alfred F. Lichtenstein's regime, Dr. Brazer was *Chairman of the Program Committee* of this Club. He instituted a practice that for some unexplained reason, his successors did not maintain. Clarence Brazer had arranged that the frames in our Exhibit Hall always had stamps on display, usually supplied by some specialty group. This proved not only popular, but demonstrated the mark of a philatelic club. Many resident members would like to see this practice revived as an important community service of this Club.

Clarence Brazer was a prolific writer mostly on the proofs and essays of the United States' stamps. If it is true that the written word lives, then the name Brazer should not be forgotten in philately. He pioneered, as it were, in this field of the artistic production of stamps. He thoroughly understood the art of engraving and brought into philately a realization of the essential role of the engraver. Being an architect by profession, no one was better qualified to explain the art and science of this work.

Mr. Brazer was an exceedingly proud man. It was his great pride that often caused him to be misunderstood by others. Like all of us, he had his faults. But these were far outweighed by his great contributions. Our knowledge of United States stamps is profounder today because of a handful of students who made their knowledge available. Among this small group was Clarence W. Brazer. His voice has been stilled forever. But his writings remain to be read and studied by succeeding generations. Let us not dismiss Brazer's writings nor regard them lightly. A postage stamp is a complex matter, far more than a small piece of paper stuck upon mail. Clarence W. Brazer brought to our attention the technical problems involved in the creation of a postage stamp. We believe that through his writings he will be with us for a long, long time, perhaps rightly bearing the name, "Mr. Essay-Proof".

Some brief mention should be made of Clarence Brazer's non-philatelic career. For many years, he had been a flourishing architect. This writer was privileged to receive from Mr. Brazer a few years ago a handsome colored plate booklet displaying his architectural achievements with churches, office buildings and ornate homes. He was an "old school" architect, so that when the modern came in with its accent upon economy and function, Clarence Brazer found himself unable to reform. His staunch ideals for beauty remained steadfast. He was supremely dedicated to his style. Facing a diminishing demand, he then turned to his hobby and made stamps his profession. But many of the buildings he had designed still stand as fine examples of a certain school of American architecture. Thus one can see with his training and talent why Mr. Brazer turned to the art and creation of stamps as his consuming interest.

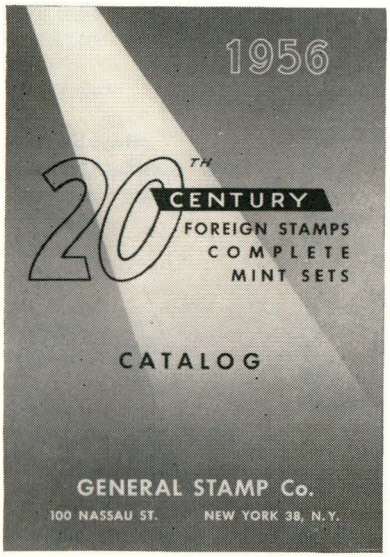
BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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

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

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POSTAL HISTORY AUCTIONS in London (Wednesdays, five or six times a year) include all kinds of material of philatelic interest such as pre-stamp covers, old letters, ship letters, cancellations, postal stationery, etc. The catalogues, with comprehensive descriptions, are unique of their kind and contain much to interest any student of this branch of philately.

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