

The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

Volume 44 Number 3
May 1965

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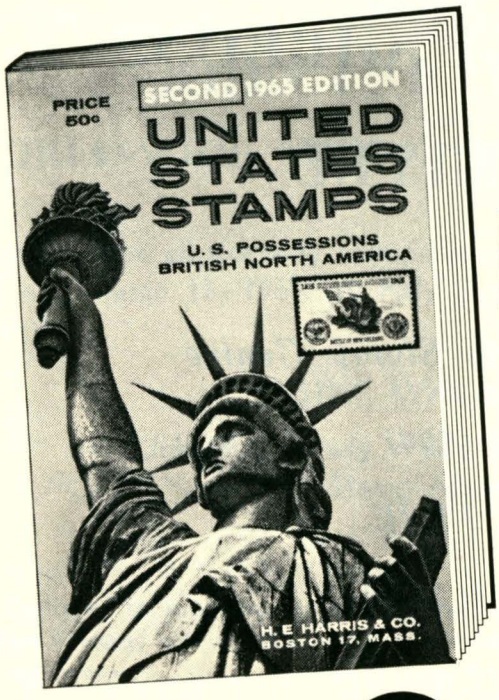
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The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

Volume 44 Number 3
May 1965

Editorials

Oh! Death Where Is Thy Souvenir Sheet?

This editorial column in the January, 1964 number proposed that a series of memorial stamps for President John F. Kennedy be issued by the United States, instead of a single 5-cent stamp. Our commemorative stamps, with few exceptions, all are for domestic first-class mail.

It was thought, in view of world conditions, and the impact that President Kennedy's assassination had upon people everywhere, that memorial stamps for foreign mail, both postage and air mail, should be issued.

Although the reaction about our suggestion was, with one exception, most favorable, philatelic opinion had no influence. The United States Post Office Department issued only one 5-cent Kennedy Memorial stamp. Consequently, any American collector can buy this stamp for a nickel, and no doubt, for free, find a used copy on his mail.

Then, in May of 1965, an 11-cent aerogram was issued. But this is postal stationery, an item that many stamp collectors do not collect.

But the postal administrations in other parts of the world had far different ideas for Kennedy Memorial stamps. They decided that it was all right for the late President's own country to memorialize him with "a nickel stamp." They would not.

It is true that some of the leading American nations, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia followed our country's pattern and issued just one stamp with a low face-value. But not little Paraguay. President Kennedy was a wealthy man, so this poor South American republic wanted stamp collectors to pay lots of dollars for their Kennedy Memorial issues.

Then, there are those new African and Asian countries. They, too, issued stamps, not one, but a long set. But this was just the start. The same stamps were offered for sale imperforate at ten times the prices of the perforated set. Incidentally, postal conditions have changed. For the last fifty years, there is no longer any need for imperforated stamps.

Not satisfied with a long Kennedy set of stamps, souvenir sheets were printed and sold. These sheets, too, came both perforated as well as imperforated. And the asking prices of some are at least $50.00, not a good old U. S. nickel.

Before us are a few advertisements for Kennedy stamps clipped from the current stamp papers. Here are some prices for souvenir sheets — one country, $58. for the perforated sheet and $95. for the imperf.; another $57. and $59., respectively; a third $29. and $95. One Arabian Gulf nation, with an unpronounceable name, has an imperforate Kennedy souvenir sheet that is so valuable that the selling price cannot be advertised. It is available only on a "Price on Request" basis.

In view of these developments, one remembers how conservative we were in our January, 1964 editorial when a proposal for a few Kennedy stamps with an approximate face value of fifty cents was made.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that some of the United States closest and oldest allies such as Canada, France, Great Britain and Australia have not as yet issued Kennedy Memorial stamps. Also, in view of President Kennedy's forefathers as well as his close ties with Ireland, we thought that "The Emerald Isle" would be the fiirst foreign country to memorialize our late president with a postage stamp. At the time of this writing, Ireland has yet to announce a Kennedy Memorial Issue.

Many of the designs on these African and Asian Kennedy Memorial stamps and souvenir sheets are not in good taste. They recall tragic memories, especially those showing the young Kennedy children at the President's funeral in Washington, D. C.

Now, one can expect anything. Reading the life story of the assassin, Oswald, in one of our popular magazines, it was mentioned that this young man had collected stamps. This would make a nice design on some African or Asian Kennedy Memorial stamp. The design could show young Oswald, when he was in Minsk, Russia, working with his stamp collection.

There is another puzzling matter with these expensive Kennedy Memorial souvenir sheets. Some of the stamp organizations, who report on new issues, blackball these items. Several large New York City stamp dealers inform us that this blackball advice is completely ignored and that these Kennedy Memorial souvenir sheets are "selling like hot-cakes."

It seems logical that by the end of this year, the Kennedy Memorial "topic" will have run its course. But this does not signify "the end." As Kennedy Memorial issues come to their final chapter, Winston Churchill issues are right there to take their place.

Yes, with the recent deaths of great world figures, such as Sir Winston Churchill and President John F. Kennedy, stamp collectors can aptly say: "Oh! death where is thy sting?" Perhaps the last letter, "g," should be altered to a "k."

Stamp Collecting Is All-Powerful

The "New York Times" ran the following from which portions are quoted:

"Eden Says Roosevelt Was Reckless"

"London, Sunday, March 21, 1965 (UPI)—The Earl of Avon, who as Anthony Eden was Britain's wartime Foreign Secretary, has criticised President Franklin D. Roosevelt for 'recklessness' during World War II. . ."

"The criticism of the late President came in the final volume of the former Prime Minister's memoirs, 'The Reckoning' . . . . . "

"Roosevelt was familiar with the history and geography of Europe," Lord Avon wrote. "Perhaps *his hobby of stamp collecting* (Italics are ours) helped him to this knowledge, but the academic yet sweeping opinions which he built upon it were alarming in their cheerful recklessness. He seemed to see himself disposing of the fate of many lands, Allied no less than enemy."

The reaction of other philatelists, of course, is not known. But in our view, the general public regards stamp collecting as trivia, as a harmless pastime of youngsters and eccentric adults.

Trivia, not at all! Just the opposite!! We have it from no less of a great authority than Great Britain's former Prime Minister that were it not for stamp collecting, the world, the map of Europe and our lives since 1946 would have been far different. Why stamp collecting may prove to have been more influential than atomic and nuclear energy.

Britain's Roll Of Distinguished Philatelists

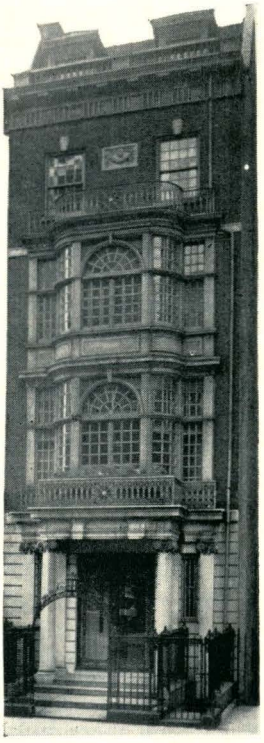
Word has reached us that *Lt. General Cornelius W. Wickersham* of New

York City, a Past President of the Collectors Club, was elected to sign *the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* during the course of the 1965 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The Roll was instituted at the 1921 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, at which time King George V was the first to sign.

In 1959, General Wickersham was elected by the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club to be the recipient of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.* A sketch of his long and distinguished career appears in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST of March, 1959.

Since its inception, many American philatelists have been elected to sign The Roll. If one cares to investigate, it seems probable that he will see that every American not only was a member of the Collectors Club, but also active in its welfare, as is true of General Wickersham.

For more than a decade, General Wickersham has contributed a number of articles on Venezuela, Colombia and Liberia to the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. Therefore, it is of special significance for the Editorial Committee of this magazine to note this British honor to one of our dedicated members.



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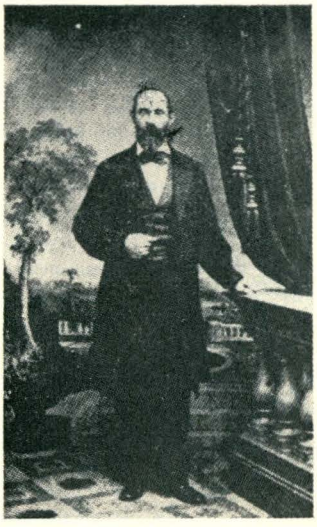
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Samuel W. Langton

California's Greatest Independent Expressman

By M. C. Nathan



Samuel W. Langton

Beyond doubt, in my opinion, "Sam" Langton was the most energetic mail carrier[1] in California during the gold rush, and for many years thereafter. Therefore, this is the reason for the superlative title to this article. Before delving into the history of the various Langton expresses and franks used in connection with them, and the saga of this hero to the miners of his time, it may be well to explain briefly the philatelic significance of the word "expressman" and the meaning of "Western franks."

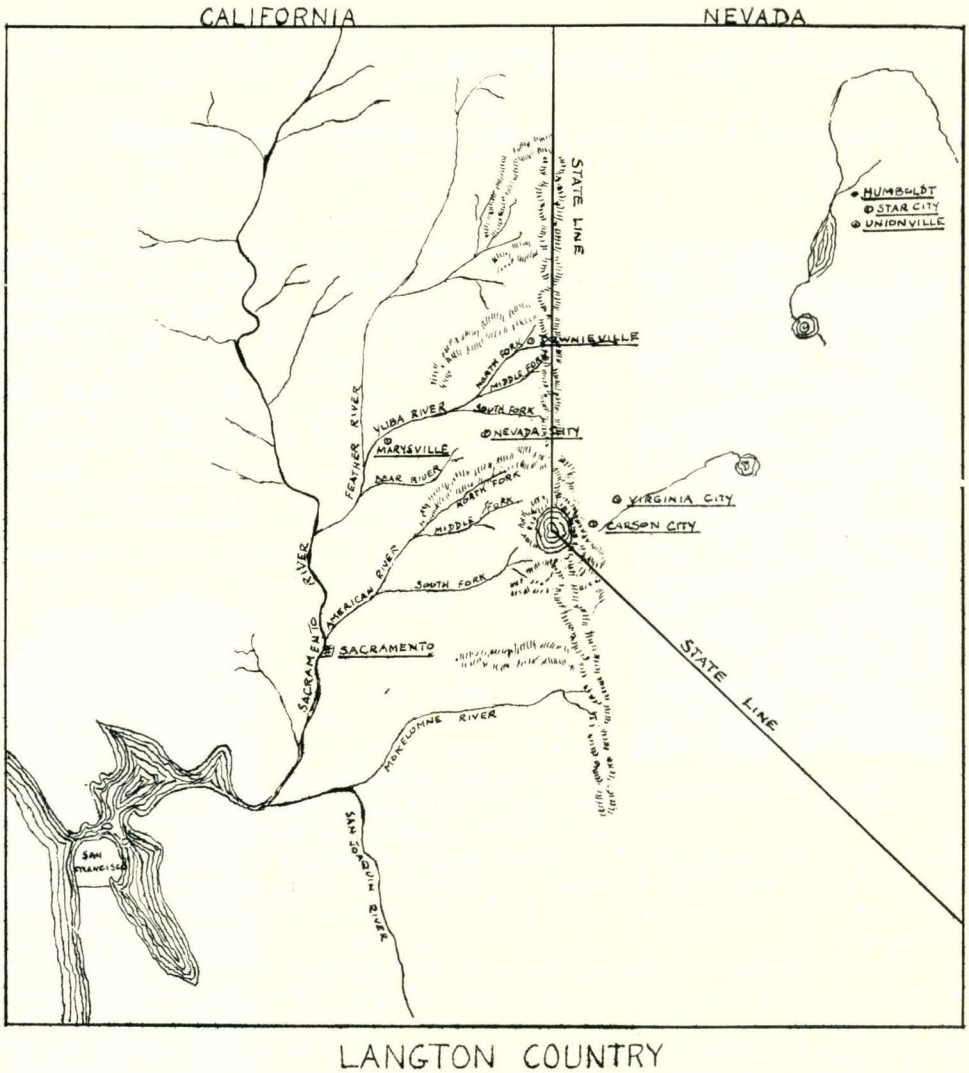
In 1837, "an under-sized, delicately built, sanguine-looking young man"[2] by the name of William F. Harnden left his employment as a conductor and ticket agent for the Boston and Worcester Railway, and came to New York City seeking a better job. Here he met James W. Hale, a "local celebrity, who afterwards extended his fame by promoting a cheap postal system in opposition to the government." Hale told Harnden that there were many inquiries from merchants and brokers seeking prompt transportation for their letters to Boston and Providence, so why didn't he handle this traffic and call the enterprise "The Express?" This he did, and, as a result, began the "Express" business in the United States of America with Harnden as the first expressman.

Harnden's business grew by leaps and bounds, because he and his men were constantly on the alert. Eventually, through his express-forwarding business to Europe, he personally became so engrossed in an emigration venture that his local express business was neglected. Consequently, this gave Alvin Adams and others an opportunity to compete with greater courage and faith than Harnden could. Thus, much of the express business, that Harnden had developed, was transferred to the newcomers. Being a frail man, Harnden overexerted himself trying to give too much service for too little money in his emigration venture. On January 14, 1845, he died a poor man.

On To California

In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California. The rush of miners and others from all over the world to the goldfields was on; all of which constitutes one of the most thrilling epochs of American history. The miners were constantly on the move looking for gold in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Some succeeded in finding the colorful lucre; others, not so successful, became merchants, bankers, or tried other avocations.

A few, sensing that the United States Post Office Department could not cope with the unprecedented amount of mail to be dispatched and distributed to and from far-off California and its remote mining sites that were so difficult of



A hand-drawn map showing the territory in California and Nevada where Samuel W. Langton's expresses operated.

access, decided to become expressmen.

At first there were one-man expresses, carrying not only letters and newspapers, but also they were entrusted with gold dust and packages as well. Fees for this service at first were very high, as much as five dollars per letter at times. But gold dust came rather easily to a lucky miner, so that he was glad to get tidings from home at any price.

Next came the larger organized express companies, such as Adams & Company (an offshoot of the present well-known Adams Express Co.), Wells, Fargo & Co. and others. The competition became keener with resultant smaller fees for letters and other mail.

Much has already been written about the western expresses and expressmen in general, and also about some in particular. The purpose of this article is to

deal only with one very interesting expressman. He was the lifeblood of his express business. The romance and history of the expresses as a whole will not be commented upon any further except to offer a general conclusion that they were a great service and necessity in lieu of poor governmental postal service.

Western Franks

What are "Western franks?" My old friend and fellow collector, Ernest Wiltsee[3], answered this very well when he wrote[4]: "A frank was the imprint at first handstamped, or written in manuscript, of an express company, upon the letter or paper carried, stating the name of the Express Company, frequently also the name of the town where affixed, whether the carriage of the letter or paper had been paid, or unpaid, and whether it was to be collected . . . . Any letter or paper so handstamped was said to be 'franked,' and from this word the title of our western franks was derived." Later, according to law, franks were printed on government postally embossed envelopes (see Figs. 9 to 13).

Since the United States Post Office Department could not supply the desired postal service in the West in the early days, the "franked" covers (envelopes) and sealed folded letters supplied this deficiency, and in that way these covers were in reality philatelic. As a matter of fact, there was such a preponderance of express over postal usage, that due to public demand the Post Office Department in January, 1855, continued to allow the express companies to carry letters, provided they were prepaid with the full government postage in addition to express fees. It was not until 1895, when the government's postal service had become completely organized, that Congress passed a law prohibiting the carrying of mail under any circumstances by the private express companies. This legislation marked the end of a rivalry for the carriage of mail that existed for many years between the express companies and the United States Post Office Department.

It might be well to point out at this time that the collecting of "Western



Downieville: From a lithograph published by Sam Langton, Expressman.



Fig. 3. Langton Express Office in Downieville.

franks,'' in addition to philatelic interest, also has an absorbing historical interest. Western lore is very fascinating. Most of the surviving covers disclose on their faces much Western history with names of camps, bars and flats where gold had been mined. Then too, the contents of the letters explaining the trials and tribulations of the miners vividly depict the exciting history of the placer gold country. As Wiltsee said, ''that it is for the history they (the letters) convey and represent, as well as for the romantic period of the great Gold Rush which called them into being, and also for the great rarity of their occurrence to-day, that the collecting of Western franks becomes so attractive.''

Langton The No. 1 Expressman

After thirty years of research in the field of independent expressmen who carried the mails in California, I have come to the conclusion that the greatest was Samuel W. Langton. In asserting this, I do not belittle the efforts of other conscientious expressmen such as Everts, Whiting, the Todds, Gregory, Hunter, Ballou, Reynolds, Snowshoe Thompson and many others. But Sam Langton stuck to his trade longer than all the others — fifteen years to be exact — through adversity and many other hardships. Finally, he was accidentally killed in the pursuit of his express business. He was merely a boy when he started in February 1850, and he did a man's job right from the start.

Sam Langton was born at Washington, D.C. on February 14, 1830. After receiving his elementary schooling, he became a printer. When war with Mexico broke out, he volunteered early and served with credit in Captain Digg's Company attached to Colonel Hughes' regiment, District of Columbia volunteers.

At the close of the war, he returned to his home in Washington, D.C. to resume his printing trade. But becoming imbued with the excitement attendant with the discovery of gold in California on January 24, 1848, he left Washington in February 1849, arriving in San Francisco in July of that year, after an arduous journey.

With the goldfields as his ultimate destination, he tried his hand at mining in the vicinity of Nevada City. He pursued this for about six months without much success. Langton must have seen a greater chance of getting his share of the profits from gold mining by serving the miners rather than mining himself, because we find by his advertisements[5] that in February 1850 he had established himself in the express business between Marysville and Downieville, with headquarters at Downieville, high up in the Sierra Mountains.

Marysville To Downieville

The road (if one can call it that) from Marysville to Downieville via mining camps, was bad. To reach the mining camps was very difficult, because they were situated in the deep and almost impenetrable canyons of the Yuba River. Langton, a young man of only nineteen years, at first worked the territory by himself. Starting at Marysville in the Sacramento Valley with his mail and parcels, he would go in a ranch or "mud" wagon as far as Dobbins Ranch, then on foot or horseback to Downieville by way of Nevada City. It is difficult to appreciate the type of terrain it was necessary to cover unless one actually has transversed it himself. Even today many of these ghost camps remain almost inaccessible, as mining long ago was abandoned out there. Except to see the beautiful scenery, or to do some hunting and fishing, there is little or nothing to attract commerce and industry at present to this inaccessible region.

Too Much For One Person

It soon became evident to Langton that he could not continue to give good service all by himself. This is learned from William T. Ballou, the pioneer expressman of the Southern Mines who recorded the following in his memoirs,

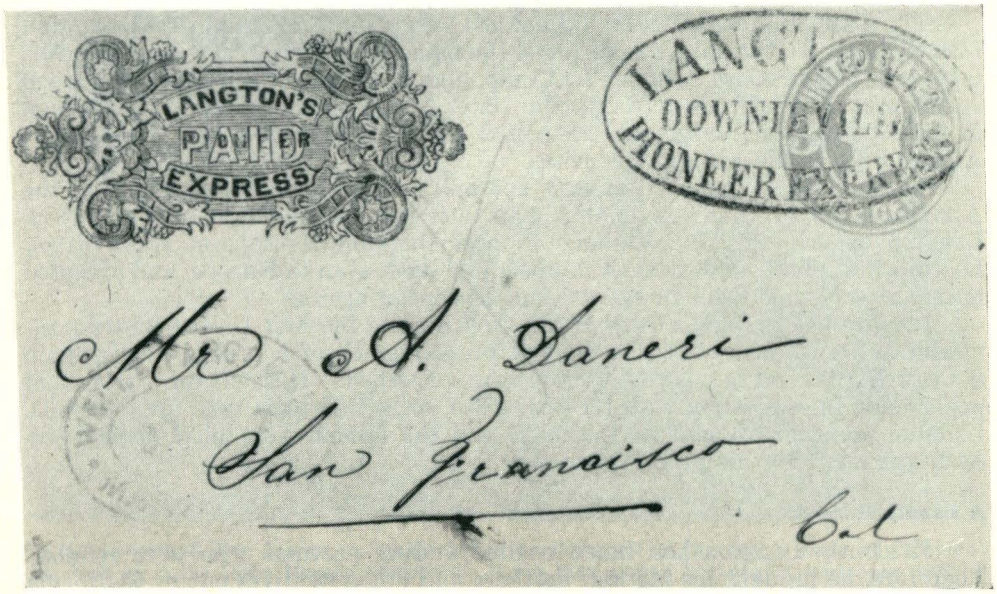


Fig. 4. The not too common printed frank of "Langton's Downieville Pioneer Express."

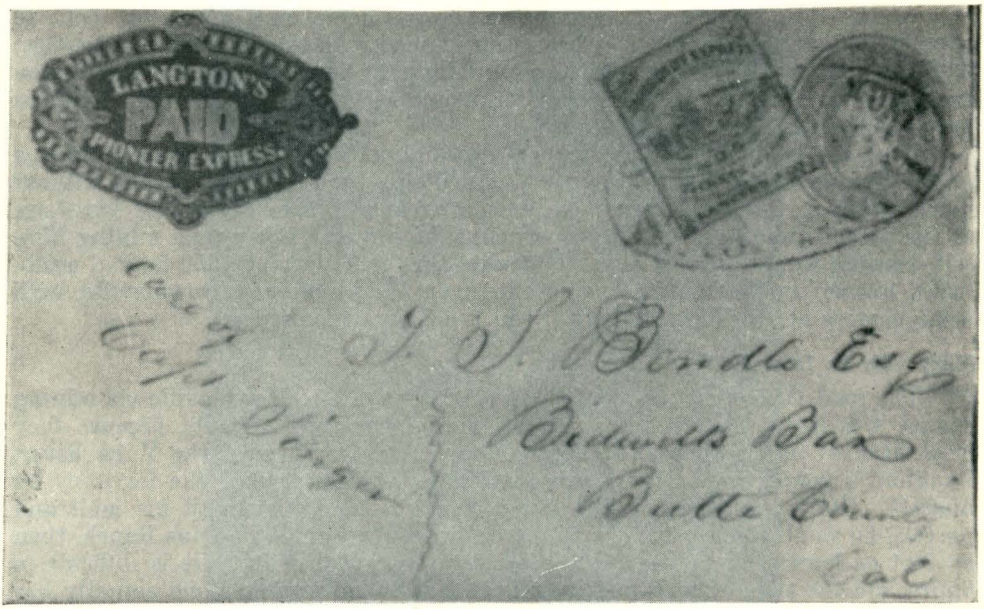


Fig. 5. The Humboldt stamp tied with the Langton Unionville handstamp.

"I sold my branch line out to them, to the Adams Co., and I went to the Northern mines, went in with Sam'l. W. Langton in the 'Yuba Express.' I sold out to him afterwards. After that I abandoned the Express in California and went into merchandising at Downieville and Forest City."

Later, Ballou went back into the express business, this time in British Columbia.

The association with Ballou did not last very long. In March, 1851 Langton formed a new partnership, and changed the name to "Langton & Co.'s Express," taking in as partners, Samuel L. Clapp and Z. White. The new company's agents were E. W. Tracy at Marysville (later to become a prominent expressman in his own right in Oregon), Freeman & Co. at Sacramento, and J. Spear at Adams & Co's office in San Francisco.

Through these agents, Langton not only was able to handle mail to the Atlantic seaboard, but also to ship gold dust for the miners. In April 1852, Langton opened "S. W. Langton's Pioneer Banking House" on Main Street, Downieville, where he bought or shipped gold dust, even to Europe, and executed letters of exchange through eastern and European agents.

On October 7, 1851, Edwin W. Haskell became the first United States postmaster at Downieville, but this did not present much of a problem to Langton & Co.'s Express as far as competition was concerned. Haskell ran a store and poker table in connection with the post office, so he had little time for the mails. Langton transported most of the mail, and the miners were glad to pay him $2.00 per letter for his prompt service.

A Family Business

Evidently Langton had much trouble finding partners who were reliable. Therefore, he brought his mother, brothers and other relatives out to California to help him. He needed people whom he could trust and who could keep up with

his great stamina and vitality to make his various ventures successful. By November of 1853 his partnership with Clapp and White had been dissolved, and a new one formed with his brother, W. T. Langton. This was called "Langton & Bro's Treasure, Package and Letter Express," using the rare frank "Langton & Bro.'s Express."

Roads had improved to some extent. But with the pressure of competition from the major express companies beginning to have its effect upon his business and the inability of his brothers to be of much help to him, he sold out to Adams & Company in the latter part of February, 1855. But he was forced to take the business back, when Adams & Company failed a few days later. The failure of Adams & Company almost also forced Langton into bankruptcy and he never regained the high financial status he once had possessed.

Constantly Changing Partners

Undaunted by this reversal, Langton eventually formed another partnership with N. W. Wilkinson, a Marysville banker, and Charles F. Stone of San Francisco[6]. He extended his line from Marysville to Sacramento and San Francisco, taking the name of the well-known "Langton's Pioneer Express." Even Langton's brother could not keep up with him, because no mention is found of him being in the express business after the sale to Adams & Company.

Stone withdrew from the new partnership on September 5, 1856, "by mutual consent[7]," and became the San Francisco correspondent of Langton's Pioneer Express. Records do not indicate how long Wilkinson continued, but presumably not much longer, as his chief interest was banking, not express.

The longer distance of the run from Marysville to Sacramento and San Francisco was too much for Langton to handle by himself, so he frequently made connections with both Freeman's Express and Pacific Express Company at Marysville for this long route. Finally in 1859, Langton gave up the longer

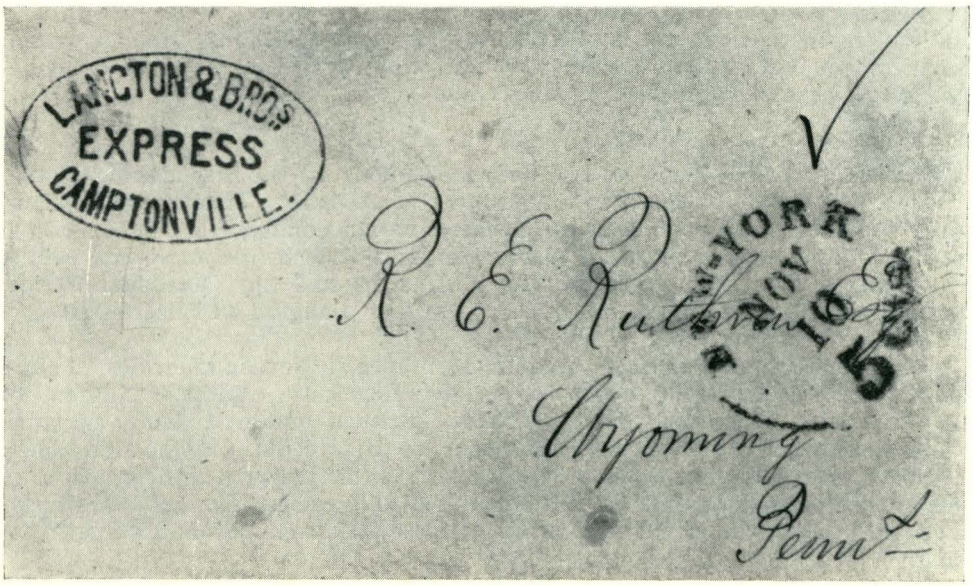


Fig. 6. Langton & Bros. Express messenger picked up this cover at the mining camp of Camptonville, high up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was then carried by Langton messengers until it reached New York, where it was placed in the U. S. mail. Probable year date 1855. Langton handstamp in black.

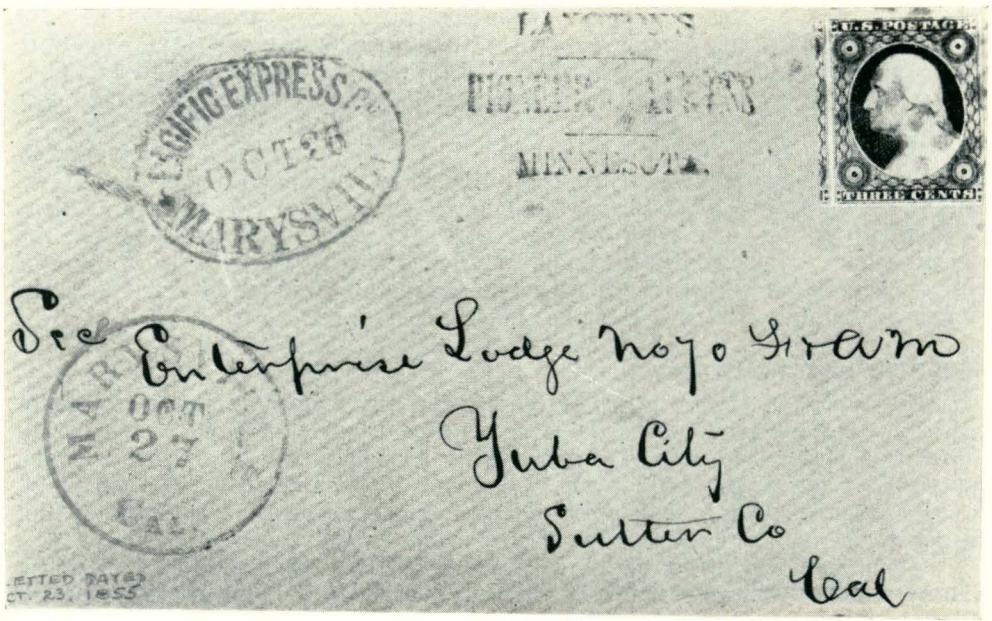


Fig. 7. The only known Langton handstamp of the California mining camp, Minnesota. For lack of a three cent embossed envelope, per Post Office regulations, a 3c 1851 stamp was used. Langton carried the cover from Minnesota, California, to Marysville, where the Langton messenger handed it over to the Pacific Express Company for delivery to Yuba City. Instead of delivering it themselves, Pacific Express dropped it in the Marysville U. S. Post Office, where it was cancelled, and let the Government be the postman. (A very rare and unusual cover.) Minnesota handstamp in red; Pacific Express handstamp in blue; Marysville postmarks in blue.

route altogether, and made arrangements with Wells, Fargo & Company, even having them pick up mail occasionally nearer his headquarters at Downieville and near Nevada City instead of Marysville.

Expansion To Nevada

On July 1, 1859, the "Nevada Journal" published the first account of the discovery of the Comstock Lode in the State of Nevada.[8] This brought on another "Gold Rush," even causing Langton to immediately form "Langton's California and Nevada Express," which ran from Downieville to Nevada points via Henness Pass. It is not known whether he had any partners in this Nevada venture, although he continued to use the "Langton's Pioneer Express" franked envelopes on this new route.

In February 1860, Langton organized a branch in Nevada known as "Langton's Humboldt Express," which ran from Carson City, capital of Nevada, to the Humboldt (northern Nevada) mines. Because of the difficulty on this route, Langton had to charge an additional fee of 25 cents per ½ ounce, using a rare adhesive stamp for this increased rate. It is not known definitely how long this adhesive stamp was used, but it is believed to have been for a comparatively short time only, because only five or six of these stamps on covers are known to exist.

H. B. Phillips, a well-known philatelist in his time, wrote the following in "Filatelic Facts & Fancies" of October, 1896:

"The stamp is lithographed, in color, dark brown, on a firm, medium whole cover paper of fine texture. There are no varieties known and the stone was

therefore doubtless made from a single die and during its life was not retouched. The date of issue was about 1861, but as yet has not been precisely determined."

The following advertisement, which appeared in the Carson City, Nevada, newspaper in July of 1864, vividly describes Langton's Nevada operation:

LANGTON'S

PIONEER EXPRESS

Leaves Carson City at 9 o'clock A.M. and
2 o'clock P.M.

Empire City, Silver City, Dayton
Gold Hill, Virginia, Downieville
San Juan,
Nevada,
Downieville

and all the principal places in Sierra,
Plumas, Nevada and Yuba Counties, California

LANGTON'S

PIONEER EXPRESS

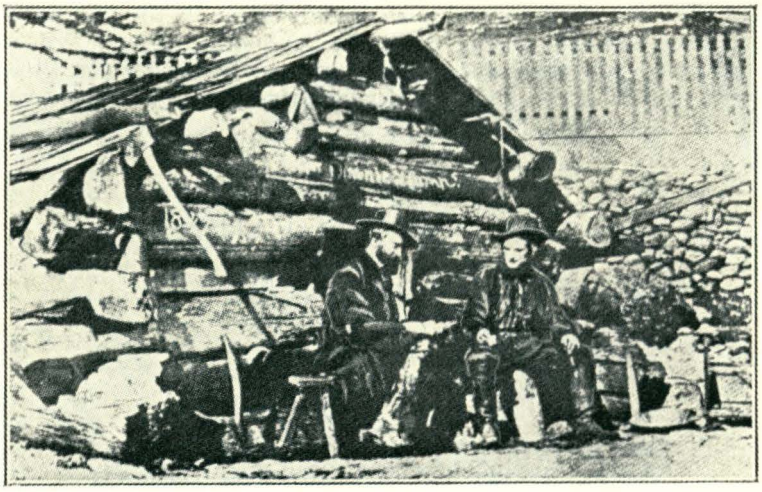
For the

HUMBOLDT MINES

Leaves Carson every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday
for Unionville, Star City, Santa Clara, Port Royal,
Humboldt City and Sierra District.



Fig. 8. Another Langton frank indicating a pick-up by Langton at Eureka City, Sierra County, high up in the mountains; taken to Downieville and then by messenger to Marysville, where the U. S. 3c '51 stamp was cancelled. Cover then delivered by postman to Yuba City across the river. Vintage - 1855. Eureka City handstamp in red; Downieville in black; Marysville postmarks in blue.



Sam Langton, Expressman, and Major William Downie, pioneer of Downieville in front of the latter's cabin.

Letters, packages and treasure transmitted with dispatch and security.

Langton continued with his expresses, diligently conducting his business in two states, California and Nevada. While attending to his express business he was accidently thrown from his buggy in Silver City, Nevada Territory on the night of August 12, 1864, sustaining injuries that resulted in his death on August 24, 1864, at the age of 34 years, 6 months and 10 days.[9] Langton was survived by a wife and three children, an aged mother, brothers, some other relatives and a host of friends everywhere to mourn his death.

His family tried unsuccessfully to carry on the business, but none of Langton's family had the business ability nor energy to carry on. In 1865 they had to sell the express company to Lamping & Co.'s Express. Soon thereafter, Lamping sold out to Wells, Fargo & Company.

Langton The Man

This account should not terminate without relating some things of interest about this energetic young man. They all tend to bring out his fine character, even under adverse circumstances.

Take, for instance, Major William Downie, the founder of Downieville, who in his book "Hunting for Gold," published in 1893, had this to say about Langton:

"To few men do the miners of the early days on the Yuba owe a greater debt of gratitude than to Sam. While the halls of Congress resounded with long-winded speeches about the admission of California to the Union; while we were being victimized by crafty adventurers, Sam was climbing the hills with his little budget of letters to make the miner in his brush shanty glad with news from home. Summer and winter he toiled away, ever faithful to the discharge of his self-assumed duties. In the scorching sun, across swollen rivers or through mighty snowdrifts Sam Langton made his way to our camps, bringing tidings and messages that were looked for with impatience . . . . I cannot proceed without saying a few more words about Sam Langton and his family.

They came from Washington City and met a fate in California which was absolutely tragic. They were rich and influential at one time, but the heavy failure of the (sic) Adams Express Company (Adams & Co.'s Express) practically ruined them financially, and the family is now almost extinct. Sam Langton was killed in (sic) Virginia City (actually Silver City next door) by a fall from



Fig. 9. The very scarce Langton printed frank used from Cherokee, Butte County, and carried by Langton messenger outside of the mail to San Francisco. Langton handstamp is in blue.

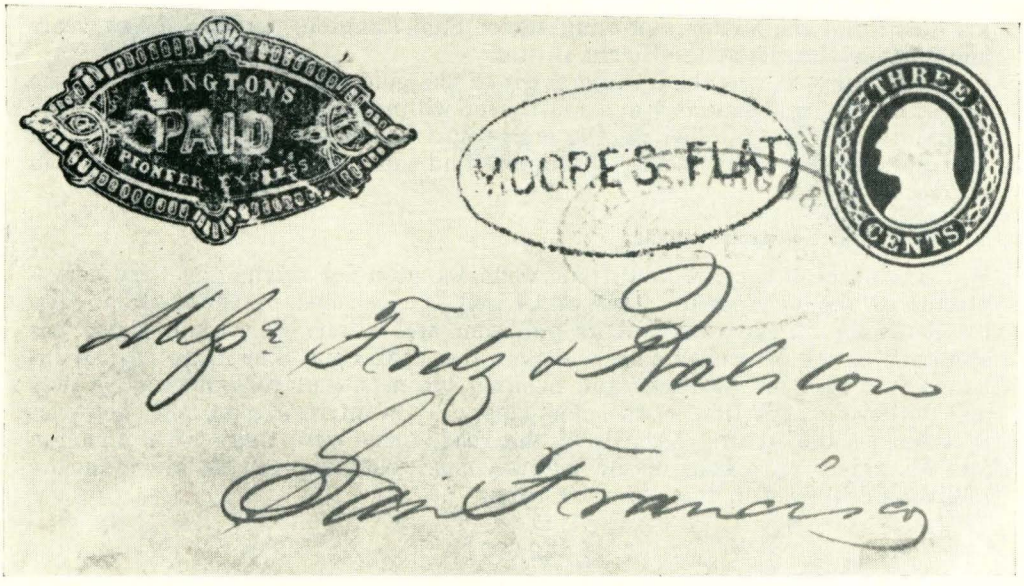


Fig. 10. Langton picked up this cover at Moore's Flat, a small mining camp in Nevada County. It was turned over to Wells, Fargo & Co., for delivery to Fretz & Ralston, predecessors of the present Bank of California. Moore's Flat handstamp in black; Wells Fargo handstamp in blue.



Fig. 11. At Monte Cristo, a very small mining camp high up in the Sierra Nevadas, Langton picked up this "3 cent star die" stamped envelope. He took it down to Marysville, where he turned it over to Wells, Fargo & Co., for delivery at San Francisco. This is the only Langton "Monte Cristo" handstamp known. Langton handstamp in red; Wells Fargo handstamp in blue.

his carriage; a younger brother died in poverty in San Francisco some years ago; and another brother — Tom Langton — was sent to the insane asylum at Stockton, but has since so far recovered as to hold, at present, an official position at that institution. One of the sisters pined to death grieving for the loss of her husband, a noted mountain express rider, who lost his life in the execution of his duty; and the widow and daughter of Sam Langton, perished a few years ago in an avalanche at the Sierra Buttes."

Sam Langton was the leading spirit of the gold-mining region in which he operated. He was generous to a fault, ever willing to help a relative, friend or acquaintance. He fulfilled all the obligations which he had contracted as an expressman. He commanded the respect and admiration of all who came in contact with him.

A Printer And Newspaper Owner

Having been a printer by trade, Sam Langton for a long time was a proprietor of the newspaper, "Sierra Citizen," published in Downieville. His brother, John C. Langton, was its publisher and editor. His brother also was secretary of the Masonic Lodge and Sam was a Mason. Sam Langton had his hands full with his expresses and banking business, and consequently, he was able to devote little time to the newspaper. It is interesting to note, however, that besides the natural hazards of the road, there were times when Langton and his riders were held up by highwaymen. Notices, such as the following then would appear in the "Sierra Citizen":

$2,000 !

REWARD

MY EXPRESS WAS ROBBED TO-DAY, between this place and

Forest City, by the following persons: A man about 5 feet 6 inches high, light hair and complexion, spare face, no whiskers, aged about 25 years; a man about 5 feet 2 inches high, red face, chunky built, light hair, aged about 25 years; a youth of dark complexion, about 5 feet high, and aged about 18 years. The latter resembled a Spaniard. All these had on black coats, dark pants, and low black hats, and were armed with double-barreled guns. The last man had a very large bowie knife. All talked good English.

The amount stolen was about $3,000 in Forest City gold dust, and I hereby offer a reward of one-third of the amount for the apprehension of the thieves and recovery of the money.

S. W. Langton

Downieville, July 30, 1855

A Reward of $1,000 will be paid for the apprehension and delivery to the Sheriff of Sierra County the above described persons, or one equal proportion for either of them

P. C. Shaffer
County Judge of Sierra County

Downieville, July 30, 1855

The newspaper, the "Alta California" of San Francisco on September 9, 1856 wrote the following: "Langton's expressmen now travel, says the 'Sierra Citizen,' around with double-barrelled shotguns, ready for any emergency that

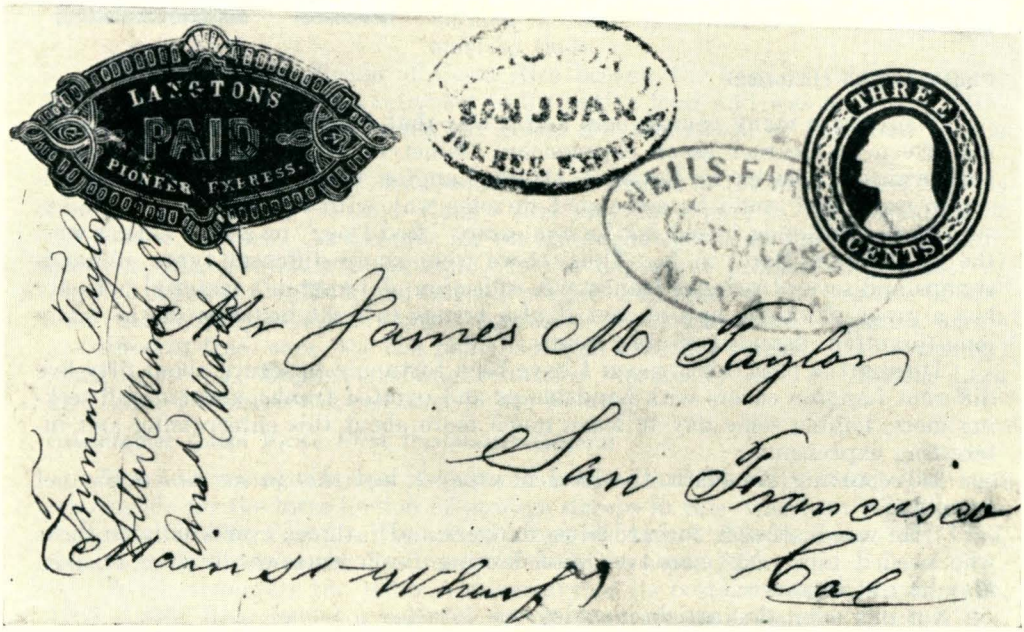


Fig. 12. Langton's Pioneer Express carried this cover from North San Juan, Nevada County, to to Nevada City, where it was turned over to Wells, Fargo & Co., for delivery at San Francisco. Year date — 1858. Langton San Juan handstamp in black; Wells Fargo handstamp in blue.

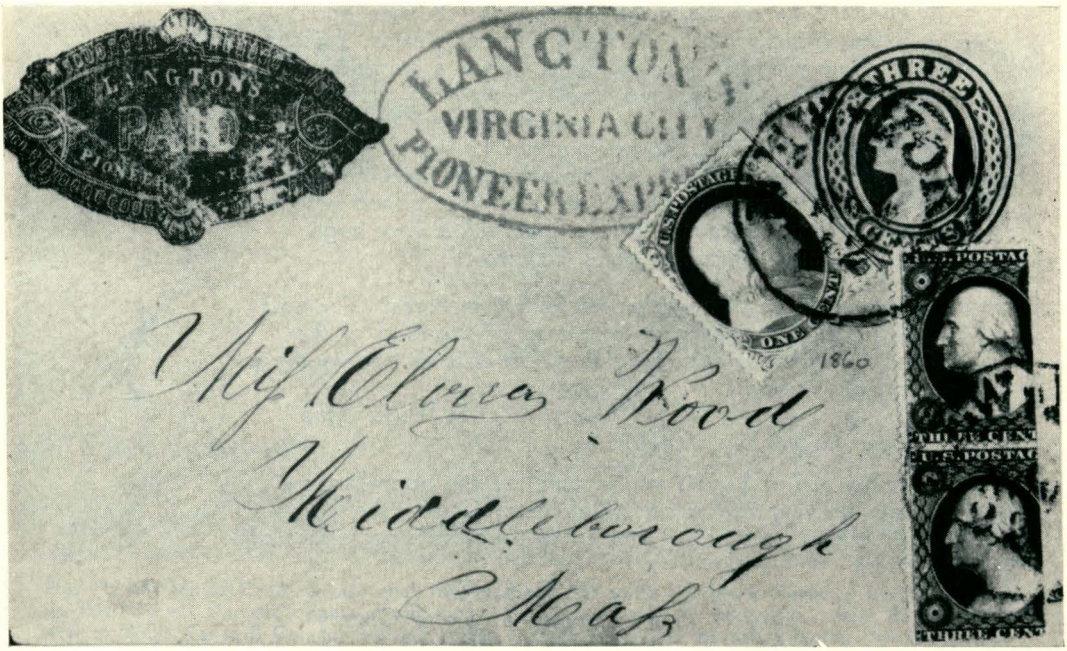


Fig. 13. From Virginia City, Nevada, Langton messengers or agents carried this unusual cover outside of the mails to New York. According to year date on enclosure it is 1860. Langton handstamp in red.

may arise from the presence of robbers, now so numerous in the mountain regions.''

Philatelic And Historical

There were many camps, bars and towns that Sam Langton served during his fifteen-year career as an expressman. Ninety-three of these are known in California and eleven in Nevada. Often, Langton would try to have a handstamp made that could be associated in some way with the name of the camp, such as the little dog in red ink for the camp, ''Red Dog,'' or a long oblong with the word ''LongBar'' in it. Thus, there were many different types of handstamps and several printed franks. A collection of Langton's material not only has a great philatelic appeal, but it also brings to light histories of the many long-forgotten, deserted mining camps. ....

During the past thirty years I have been fortunate to secure about fifty-five different Langton covers with handstamps and printed franks, and am still seeking more, hoping some day to learn much more about this enterprising and interesting expressman.

In reporting his death, the local newspaper had this to say about Samuel Langton:

''He was insensible to hardships, dangers and fatigue; ever kindly to those who needed him. No man ever died leaving fewer enemies or more friends. May he rest in peace.''

On this note, this article is ended.

(Continued on Page 157)

1965 A. F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award To Alvaro Bonilla Lara of Chile



Established in 1952 for *distinguished services to philately,* thirteen philatelists have been the recipients of the world-famous *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.* All have been English-speaking; ten were from the United States, one from Great Britain, one from Australia and also one from Canada.

For the first time, the philatelist chosen for the 1965 award by unanimous vote of The Board of Governors of the Collectors Club is a Spanish-American, *Mr. Alvaro Bonilla Lara of Santiago de Chile, Chile.*

Although this award is for distinguished services to philately, Mr. Bonilla Lara also has had a distinguished career outside of stamp collecting.

He was born in San Jose, Costa Rica on November 3, 1903 and was educated there. In 1922, he came to Chile where he attended the university for his degree as a doctor of law. He remained in Chile, practiced law in Santiago and married there.

When President Picado of Costa Rica became the head of this country in 1944, Alvaro Bonilla Lara returned to his native land and was appointed *Minister of Finance,* serving during the entire administration of President Picado from 1944 to 1948.

In 1945, he was one of the Costa Rican delegates to the first United Nations Conference in San Francisco, Calif., thus playing a part in the formation of the United Nations. As a result, for the last eight months of the Picado Administration, Mr. Bonilla was appointed to the important position of *Minister of Foreign Affairs.* In 1948, he returned to Chile and resumed the practice of law.

(Incidentally, there always is confusion about the name. Spanish names are different from ours; the last name is a man's mother's name. Consequently, many people in English-speaking countries incorrectly call A. Bonilla Lara Mr. Lara. The correct appellation is *Mr. Bonilla*).

Grandfather Costa Rica's First Postmaster-General

The first postage stamps of Costa Rica were introduced in 1863. The man responsible for the introduction of postage stamps in this American republic was Recaredo *Bonilla* Carrillo, the grandfather of Alvaro *Bonilla* Lara. In 1863, Recaredo Bonilla was the Postmaster-General of Costa Rica.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of its postage stamps, on June 26, 1963, Costa Rica issued a colorful set of four air mail stamps (Scott C362-C365). The 2 Colones (Scott C363) has its design with its first Postmaster-General, Mr. Bonilla, the grandfather of the 1965 recipient of the *Alfred F.*

Lichtenstein Memorial Award.

Alvaro Bonilla Lara never knew his grandfather, Recaredo Bonilla Carrillo. But it is of interest to note that one of the grandchildren of Costa Rica's first Postmaster-General collects the utilitarian pieces of paper that his grandfather had introduced. Little did grandfather know in 1863 that, one of the things he started, later would afford his grandson so much pleasure.

The Stamp Collector

Now, for philately. As true of most all of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* medalists, Mr. Bonilla has been collecting stamps since boyhood and it has remained his life-long hobby. Obviously, the stamps of his native country were his prime interest. Therefore, over many years, he assembled what was without question the most extensive collection of Costa Rica. The time came when there was so little more to be added, so that in 1961 the Costa Rica collection was sold at auction in New York City. As proof of the great status of this collection, it was the first time in the history of stamp auctions that one sale was exclusively Costa Rica.

Currently, Alvaro Bonilla Lara has special interests in Bolivia, Chile and Guatemala, both with their philately and postal history.

In addition, he intently studies stamps and has paid much attention to postal forgeries and counterfeits of Chile. There are also two interesting sideline collections. One is of stamps that were prepared for use but never placed on public sale. There are about 280 of such unissued stamps and Mr. Bonilla now has 250.

The other interest is "real off beat." These are postage stamps overprinted for revenue (fiscal) use. Being the latter, very few such stamps are listed in any postage stamp catalogue. This is a truly pioneer field on which practically nothing has been written nor recorded.

Philatelic Editor and Author

In 1933, Alvaro Bonilla Lara played an active role in the reorganization of the *Sociedad Filatelica de Chile* and since then he has held the following posts in that Society — 1934 Librarian, 1935 Director of Auctions, President 1936-41 and again in 1953 to 1955.

This Society also publishes a respected journal, one of the best in South America. Mr. Bonilla was editor of the "Gacita Filatelico" from 1933-36. In 1936, the name was changed to "Chile Filatelico" and he edited this from 1936 to 1943, when he had to relinquish this work to return to Costa Rica.

In 1953, he resumed the editorship of "Chile Filatelico" and he is still doing it. Alvaro Bonilla Lara not only edits this journal, but there is seldom a number that does not have at least one article with his byline.

Most all of Mr. Bonilla's philatelic studies have been published in Spanish and in many different Latin American periodicals. Also, he has written several articles in English. These were published by the "Aero Philatelist Annals" and the "Essay Proof Journal." At present, he is working on a manuscript on the Garcia stamps of Bolivia. This will be written in Spanish, translated into English and published as a future article in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Philatelic Judge And Expert

Due to his studies of postal forgeries and counterfeits, Mr. Bonilla was appointed to the *Expert Committee of the Sociedad Filatelica de Chile.* He is still very active in this work and has been this committee's president. Also



Recaredo BONILLA Carrillo shown on the 100th Anniversary of Costa Rica's first postage stamps (Scott C363). (Courtesy of Scott Publications, Inc.)

leading Expert Committees and individual experts throughout the world consult with him, because of his profound knowledge of Chilean stamps.

He has been called upon often to judge national stamp shows in Chile. Also, six times he has served as an international judge — in Buenos Aires (1950), New York (FIPEX 1956), Rio de Janeiro (Santos Dumont 1956), Argentina (1958), Buenos Aires (1960) and (1962).

Alvaro Bonilla Lara, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, has had a distinguished career in law, national and international politics and, of course, in philately. He is a great music lover. Thus, when he visits New York, it is difficult for him to decide whether to first see his philatelic friends and drop into the Collectors Club or to go to the Metropolitan Opera House to hear his favorite opera.

From personal experience, this writer has seen the high esteem that most all philatelists in South America have for Mr. Bonilla. He is truly one of the great philatelists in Latin America, and it is fitting and deserved that *the 14th recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award is Alvaro Bonilla Lara of Santiago de Chile, Chile. (H. M. G.)*

Samuel W. Langston

(Continued from Page 154)

Bibliography

1. "One of the results of our gradual development was the appearance at our camp of expressmen or mail-carriers, as they should more properly been called." *Hunting For Gold* by Major William Downie, a prominent pioneer, for whom the town of Downieville was named. Book was published in 1893.
2. *Harper's New Monthly Magazine,* No. CCCIII, Vol. LI, August 1875, in an article entitled "An American Enterprise."
3. Ernest A. Wiltsee was the author of *Gold Rush Steamers, Pioneer Miners & Express* and many interesting express articles. His famous collection has been preserved in the in the history room of the Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco.
4. *Western Express Franks, Their Origin, Necessity and Use.* The American Philatelist, Vol. 46, No. 6. March, 1933.
5. *Sierra Citizen* Downieville, October 20, 1855, and *The Golden Era* San Francisco, August 10, 1856.
6. *San Francisco Evening Bulletin,* November 23, 1855.
7. *San Francisco Herald,* November 1, 1856.
8. Thompson & West's *History of Nevada.*
9. *Carson Weekly Independent,* Saturday, August 27, 1864.

Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

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

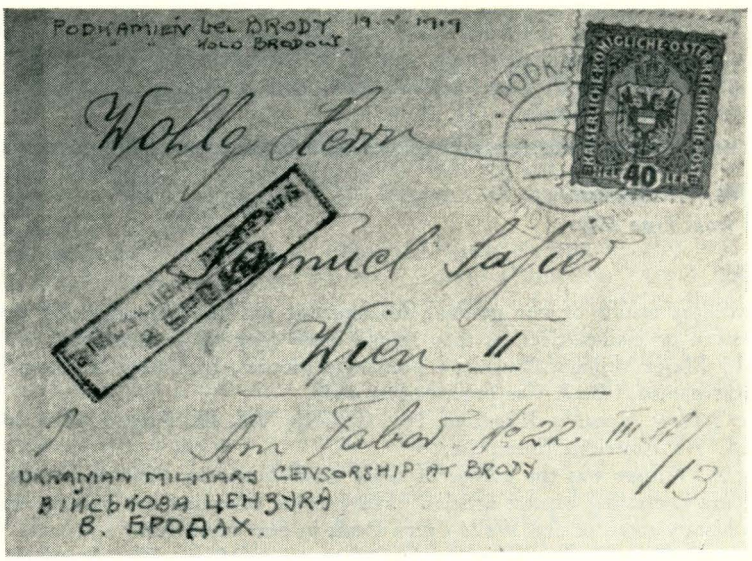
You may own such material. Then it is hoped that you will send it to The Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

Ukraine 1919

Polish-Russian War

Following the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the Ukraine — that vast rich country lying to the east of Poland and Romania, and north of the Black Sea — established its own autonomous government. Its independence was very short, as it became one of the republics of the U.S.S.R. in 1919.

That same year, the newly independent Republic of Poland, wishing to reconquer the territories lost to Soviet Russia since the first partition of Poland in 1772, invaded the Ukraine. But after some initial successes, the Polish forces finally were repulsed by the Russians.



The cover illustrated is an interesting philatelic souvenir of that short Polish-Russian war. The envelope is franked with a 40 heller Austrian stamp of the 1916 issue. The cancellation on the stamp reads: "PODKAMIEN bei BRODY, kolo BRODOW, 19.V.1919," and there is a framed censor's marking, reading, according to the translator I consulted, "Ukranian Military Censorship at Brody." *(Derek Palmer, Santiago de Chile.)*

The Clubhouse

Meeting of January 6, 1965

British Commonwealth

The members participation "British Commonwealth" meeting brought out seven good displays and an interesting series of talks on them. Participating were the following members:

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, who made these comments about his four frames of *the British Colonial Posts in the Virgin Islands.*

A brief outline was first given to cover the postal history of these islands of the Caribbean embracing the early Danish islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John (which since 1917 are the present American Virgin Islands), and the British Virgin Islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda and dozens of smaller islands acquired in 1666. The early history of these islands is told and retold in the tales of pirates and buccaneers nesting in these remote islands.

Postal items from these parts are most elusive and extremely scarce. The well-known Codrington correspondence has only one item from St. Croix in 1805 and three others with postal markings as transit points with "straight-line Tortola" and one with the scarce "I. * St. Thomas" on an 1818 cover. The cover shown is dated 1825 from St. Croix with the scarce Leeward Island (F-almouth) circular datestamp in green. A British Postal Agency was opened at St. Thomas circa 1850 and the types of markings' "Paid at St. Thomas," "crown circle" and the "St. Thomas fleurons" are shown.

Between 1865-1879 British stamps were used at St. Thomas cancelled "C51" in several types and some examples are shown used on many of scarce values up to the 5/. The covers are from many points of origin in the West Indies with transit markings, forwarding agents, all too numerous to describe in this report.

The British Virgins are covered by individual stamps which were issued in 1866, cancelled at Tortola "A-13." Prior to the use of the definitives, British stamps were used from 1858-1869. These are all extremely scarce and covers from this period are unrecorded. Later issues are shown up until 1890, when they were replaced by Leeward Islands stamps. These are used in the Virgins with the "Tortola c.d.s. A-13 and A-91" cancels. In 1899, the postal issues reverted to a definitive set up to the 5/. The general issues of Leeward Islands also were valid for postage, and combination covers are on display. This has continued up until 1956, when the Leeward Islands stamps were withdrawn.

The Danish island of St. Thomas with its excellent port was the seat of the British Post Office as early as 1832. With the introduction of steam, the mails were speeded up and were handled through St. Thomas. This port became the chief transit point for mail from South America, North America, Europe and the West Indies. Practically all the major steamship lines had agencies at St. Thomas, with the British in the forefront of this vast postal business, since there were only two government post offices at St. Thomas — a British and a Danish, both carrying on in one building.

The literature on the Virgin Island postal history is meager except for a few articles and an excellent series in the "American Philatelist" by Robert G. Stone, "St. Thomas From Cover to Cover."

As far as the British Islands, no covers of the first issue or the British stamps Used Abroad on cover are known. None of the outstanding British West Indies collections sold in the past twenty years had any covers. The Tows Collection did contain a remarkable lot of the "C-51" covers, but these are re-

latively plentiful since they were all used from St. Thomas. It is possible that this port so overshadowed Tortola, that practically all the mails were used from there. All this is obviously history brought up-to-date with the British Virgin Islands stamps being valued in U. S. currency due to the importance of the American Virgin Islands and the beautiful port of Charlotte Amalie at St. Thomas.

Next, Mr. Edward W. Trench showed two frames of *Canadian Covers* as follows:

1st. Frame — Hundred years of Canadian Covers with a Martial Aspect 1860-1960.

Included were:

U. S. Civil war Patriotic used from Brighton, Ontario to U. S. in 1862. Canadian "Contingent covers" from the Boer War. World War I covers for German Internees & P.O.W. in Canada. Canadian cover to Bahamas with the Bahamas Special Delivery stamp used from Canada in 1918. (Bahamian stamps were available in Canada to Canadian soldiers stationed in the Bahamas) as well as World War II Internment covers from Canadian Forces with the U. N. Forces in Sinai and Cyprus.

2nd Frame — Canadian Covers as "Window Dressing 1870-1910."

Included were:

Advertising covers from commercial firms and for special events including Fairs and the Diamond Jubilee of 1897. Semi-patriotic covers and cards — vintage 1897-1900. The 2c purple De La Rue envelope — entire used — month of issue in February 1899. Commercial covers with pair of 50c King Edward VII used in 1910.

The next exhibit was by Paul P. Lindenberg, who showed in two frames *Great Britain, King George V issues, Control Numbers.* These control numbers started originally with the one penny lilac of 1881, the half penny vermilion and half penny green of Queen Victoria. Also in the King Edward VII set, only the half penny and one penny stamps carry such controls, but with the George V series all denominations were marked.

At first, the printers, De La Rue & Co., put only letters at the right lower corner of the sheet of 240 stamps. Each letter signified a printing period which ran either from April to September or from October to March of the following year. In 1904, De La Rue started to add figures, such as "$" for "1904." In this way one can, at least theoretically, observe "A13," "B13" and "C13," all belonging to the same calendar year, but to different printing periods.

Control numbers on the first half penny and one penny stamps of the King George V design are rather scarce, but those of the final set rather common, at least for the denominations up to three pence, whereas the higher ones became more elusive.

When the printing contract was transferred from De La Rue to Harrison and Sons in 1924, the latter used a smaller type of letters and figures. Since these stamps have also a different watermark, identification is easy.

Besides, all 6 pence stamps were manufactured by Somerset House, the State Printing establishment, on especially coated paper, since this value was used mostly for revenue purposes. The value, therefore, shows also a different type of letters and figures.

All these control numbers are listed in the "Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Bri-

tish Commonwealth'' imperforated and perforated through at the lower sheet margin; the ''Kohl Handbook'' even gives for each control number the time of issue by month and year.

The fourth exhibit was by Mr. Howard Lee, remembered for his fine delineation on the stamps of Montenegro, who again with *Brunei* showed what can be done with a philatelicly unpopular country. He had written about most all the material he displayed in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST Vol. 41, Nos. 4, 5 and 6. In one frame, Mr. Lee showed a cover with the 1895 locals of Brunei. All such local covers also carry Labuan adhesives to pay the international postage.

Brooketon was a Sarawak post office in Brunei. After the latter had instituted its own postal system in 1906, this marking was used on Brunei stamps for a short period in 1906-07 until replaced by the Muara marking. Examples of both Brunei and Sarawak stamps with the Brooketon marking were shown.

The first overprinted issue on cover are uncommon; one was shown. Earliest known dates of use for various stamps were exhibited. No actual ''First Days'' are known, so that a study of dates on the cancellations is the only way of determining earliest usage. Mail carried on the three RAF survey flights during 1930-1931 were displayed. Such covers bear special markings.

The Japanese Occupation was represented by unoverprinted Brunei stamps used there in October, 1944 prior to the introduction of the Japanese overprints. These were also shown on cover. After the war (1945-1946) Sarawak and North Borneo stamps overprinted ''BMA'' (British Military Administration) were used interchangably throughout British Borneo. Examples were shown.

Finally, a history of the Seria post office was presented, commencing with the earliest date known (January 15, 1936) showing all types of postmarks and a photograph of the post office building.

In a one-frame display, Nathan Hals gave an eleven-page scan of the interest to be found in *New South Wales Used in New Caledonia and the New Hebrides.* He paused briefly to illustrate what is becoming a common complaint in collecting certain periods, when he showed two ordinary covers with the 1908 British provisionals of the New Hebrides and said that they were of interest simply because they were uncommon examples of correct postage used on non-philatelic mail. Then, he illustrated a ½d. and 1s. of the same 1908 provisional issue by showing their differentiation, on cover, from the multiple ''CA'' on the same denominations.

He closed by showing a commercial cover of the 1929 *Par Avion* provisionals of the New Hebrides franked with a single 5d. of the 1925 series addressed to Sydney, Australia. With it, he displayed an example of a fraudulent *Par Avion* strike on a stamp off cover. It is presumed that commercial covers are quite scarce. Out of the lot of about 800, that were made up and handled on July 16, 1929 flight, most seem to be philatelic.

Mr. Henry M. Goodkind exhibited in one frame *all of the air mail stamps of New Guinea.* A preponderance of covers were shown illustrating every one of the air mail stamps New Guinea issued before World War II.

The first air mail route in New Guinea was created for a rather unusual reason. After goldfields had been developed in the interior, mail, quite obviously had to go to and from the coast to the mines. Unfortunately, several times there occurred a rather rude and permanent miscarriage in the mail's delivery. Investigation revealed that the postal messengers had been waylaid, and murdered, sometimes even being eaten by cannibals.

Many of the covers served to illustrate the good service done by British stamp dealers, who prepared philatelic covers for use in this area. Without them, it would be very difficult to find the stamps used, since the use of air mail in this area was usually restricted to the carrying of machine parts and gold shipments. Consequently, only the higher values were used for this purpose, and not much mail fell into philatelic hands.

When the Pound was $4.80, New Guinea issued a £2 and £5 air mail stamp. These were seldom, if ever, used on covers, but only on the heavy parcels with shipments to or from the goldfields. Generally, these high denominations were affixed to a tag that was attached to the heavy parcel. Mr. Goodkind showed two tags, one with the £2 and the other with the £5.

These parcels received rough handling in transit. Consequently, many copies of these two high denomination New Guinea air mail stamps were damaged or badly creased. Mr. Goodkind cautioned against securing repaired cancelled £2 and £5 stamps.

The final display by Ira Seebacher showed a typewritten cover (see illustration) from London to New York, mailed September 5, 1872. Contents of the letter detailed how the machine it was typed with operated, how it could be purchased and a somewhat skimpier outline of a companion machine of somewhat different capabilities (contents of the letter now follow).

Edmund T. Davis, Esq.,
19 Nassau St.,
New York. U. S.

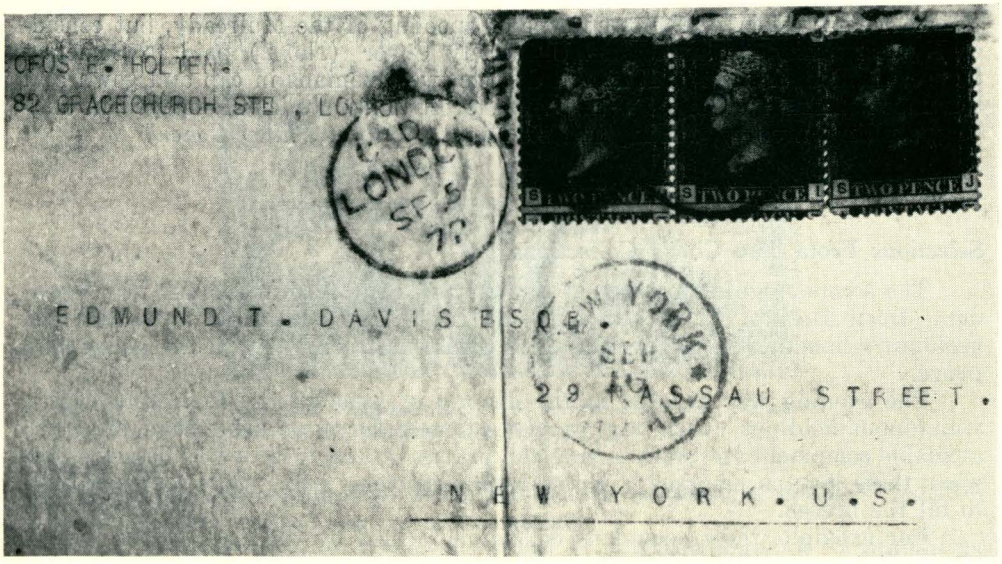
London E/C. 30 August, 1872
82 Grace Church St.,

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed favor of the 5th inst. duly to hand. In the "Mechanics Magazine" you have about as good a description of the "writing-ball" as can be given. This is a specimen of its writing. We make it of two distinct forms — one with flat support for the paper, of which I enclose a woodcut (this being written on an apparatus of that form) the other with a cylinder to carry the paper (that being the form more particularly described in the Mechanic's Magazine).

Our prices are: for an apparatus like this £100 (one hundred pounds sterling): for an apparatus with cylindrical support for the paper £60 (60 pounds stlg:). Net cash on delivery in London. As yet we have not been able to make them fast enough to have any stock & therefore only make them to order. We could deliver two or three instruments about three months after receipt of your order, but should have to ask you to be kind enough to send part of the amount with the order & to instruct somebody here to receive the instruments when ready & pay the balance.

Each form of the instrument has its particular advantage. On this form it is rather easy to lay the paper on, it being simply laid on a flat horizontally placed board or slate and the carbonized paper may then be laid loose on the top, thus enabling the writer to examine what he has already written, this is found to answer best in telegraph-offices & for the ordinary letter-writing, moreover as you may apply several layers of white & carbonized paper alternately and take up to 10 copies at one operation in that manner. The apparatus with cylindrical support on the other hand will enable the expert to attain a higher rate of speed as all is written in one continuous line & there is no turning of the support from one line to the next as on this apparatus, thus saving the time occupied in doing this. It has been found that an expert can for a short time write up to 16 letters in a second but such rapidity could not be attained by all, only by people having specially pliable fingers, besides which even those could only keep it up for 5 or 10 minutes at a time. We consider 8 letters per second to an average speed after some practise and 10 letters to be about the maximum that anyone will be able to keep on for any length of time. This we look upon for the present as a very satisfactory rate of speed, and are glad to see from your letter that you are of the same opinion. We beg also



to enclose a specimen of writing done on the other form and hoping to be favored with your orders, we remain

Dear Sir, Yours very obediently
Holten & Co.

While work on the development of a typewriter, as we know it today, was done many years prior to the writing of this letter, it was desultory and did not result in any machines that could be produced in quantity and commercially sold until just about the time of this letter.

The contents of the letter reveal that it was written by one of the first such commercially available machines. That it was a pioneer is best indicated by the fact the writer referred to it once as a "writing-ball" (lower case, incidentally) and several times as an "apparatus" or "machine." This loss for a name indicates that if the word "typewriter" was then known, it was regarded as the private property of an individual, whether inventor or manufacturer, and had not then attained generic use.

As described, the "writing-ball" did not use a typewriter ribbon but impressed letters on paper through a thickness of carbonized paper. That this paper existed in various colors is visually indicated by the letter itself. Its contents are black, the name of the addressee in red and the recipient's name in blue, undoubtedly a versatility of the machine the writer was proud to display.

Mr. Seebacher said he was hardly maintaining that this was the earliest known typewritten letter in existence, but he said he suspected it might well be one of the earliest known of any typed by a machine commercially available. He pointed out that the method by which it must have worked was remarkably similar to that used in some of the new I.B.M. typewriters that employ a ball on the surfaces of which the various letters are raised. The ball rotates to make the proper impression at the command of the typist's fingers.

Mr. Seebacher additionally showed two Mulready caricatures from his sports stamp collection which he stated were quite probably just about as early as any material available to this field of thematic philately. One was a hand-colored Fore's Hunting Envelope (No. 4) of a series designed by Doyle for Fore's, a manufacturer of prints and frames, 41 Picadilly, London. The cover, backstamped Jersey, Ja. 21. 18 1 (probably 1841), is addressed to Guernsey.

The other cover, of the same type of spoofing of the Mulready, but considerably less flashy, is an Oxford University Cover (No. 2) paid to Somerset House, London, August 7, 1840 and depicts two Oxonians in cap and gown and a number of small vignettes with people, presumably students, engaged in angling, sculling, archery, rowing and strolling. *(Albert Philip Cohen)*

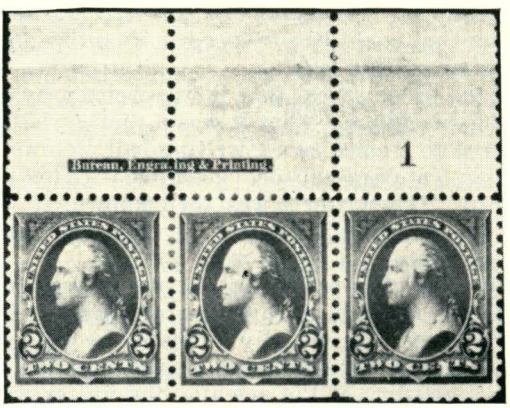
Meeting of January 20, 1965

Selections From The Club's Collections

The second regular meeting of January was the first under our new President, Dean Herbert P. Woodward, who has kindly consented to replace his geologist's hammer for a gavel on such occasions, rocky though the going may prove.

The evening was devoted to the display of some of the Collectors Club's voluminous holdings which, regrettably, embrace far more fields than there are available competent lecturers to sing the praises of and to properly describe just what these stamps embrace. Notwithstanding this, brave souls were enlisted to fill the breech.

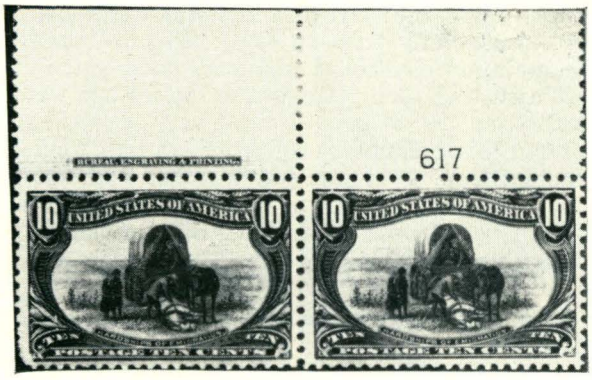
For example, the tremendous collection formed by the late Walter McCoy of all the known existing printing plate numbers of the United States from the beginning through to 25,000 is a holding of the club's which is breath-takingly complete, magnificiently valuable and a remarkable source for checking, in some instances, the papers and plates used and prepared by various printers, the overlapping use of plates with several types of watermarked paper and other important philatelic information.



The first stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing obviously had Plate Number 1. From the McCoy Collection.

It fell to John R. Boker, Jr., to discuss the McCoy collection. Mr. Boker stated that the collecting of plate numbers very probably started because people had run out of things to collect, philatelically speaking, and cast about for something new. "At first they formed their collections in strips of three showing the Bureau's imprint," Mr. Boker pointed out. "Today it is in blocks of four or of six which means those who go backwards in time to round out their collections are stymied as they get back to that period when a strip of three was considered sufficient to meet the early plate number collector's tastes."

"Much of the spadework in this field," Mr. Boker pointed out, "was done by the Bureau Issues Association which made a complete listing of all the exist-



The 1898 Trans-Mississippi 10c denomination with plate number 617 (McCoy Collection).

ing basic numbers and stamps, even through the watermark changes, together with a complete documentation where possible.''

One of the pioneers in the field was Hugh Southgate, a Westinghouse engineer who worked in the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the mid-twenties, and so had a tremendous advantage in securing examples for his collection as they came off the presses. The late Arthur Owen was another of the pioneers, who had perhaps an even better collection although he did not have all plate numbers.

Mr. Boker dwelled at some length on the difficulty of getting everything as it came along. He mentioned the 12c Cleveland compound, a particular plate number of which has proved excessively rare. ''Stamps from this plate,'' Mr. Boker explained, ''were all precancelled. Bert Hoover, hearing about them at the time, wrote for matched blocks but got just an upper left plate.'' Mr. Hoover saved this lone block and it has proved unique.

Others got into the field, some unintentionally. Mr. Boker mentioned both Messrs. Durland and Crane. They had been first interested in shades of the Presidentials and through their search, they discovered the definite link between certain distinctive shades and their corresponding plate numbers. Obviously the chronological succession of these numbers reflected the variations in the inks as continued printing created various shades and departures from the exact original color. Thus, these men learned to treasure certain plate numbers above others because the scarce shades were the printings from these particular plates.

''Of coils,'' Mr. Boker said, ''these were indeed the toughest since most of the coil plate numbers do not exist today (they were all completely or partially cut away).'' Mr. Owen, however, had some sort of connection and was able to get the coil waste from the plates of the 1929 issue.

Some of the particular rarities were pointed out in the McCoy collection. Most popular at their appearance were the Trans-Mississippi plates but some later numbers of the McCoy holding are the scarcest, perhaps due to the fact they were not popular at the time. Mr. Boker pointed out that Nos. 86 and 87 were missing. ''Perhaps they never went to press,'' he ventured. He also pointed out the fact that in the run of numbers could be found stamps only issued with ''Guam'' overprints, newspaper stamps, postage dues and others. ''As the need arose for each issue, it was assigned a plate number, then was printed. It is indeed lucky the plates and strips still exist of some of these,'' Mr. Boker said.

He smiled as he recalled that the late Joseph Rich had a collection of the

plate numbers only — just the selvage and not the stamps. His rueful tone drew a laugh. But a later interpolation by a member of the club was to explain that the Rich accumulation mentioned was made merely to determine the types of paper that were used with each plate and so the selvage was sufficient to make the determination.

"I would not call this a 'numbers collection' as that would be down-grading it," Mr. Boker summed up. "It was put together with the emotional feeling that a husband-and-wife team can bring to a collection. Perhaps it was really all Walter's collection except for the Trans-Mississippi values. There, I suspect, perhaps it was Ethel's collection."

Mr. Boker also had a few words to say on two frames of a collection of the early issues of Ecuador, an anonymous donor having given it to the club. Or, perhaps more correctly, it was a donor known to the club but whose name and generosity was not made known to the meeting.

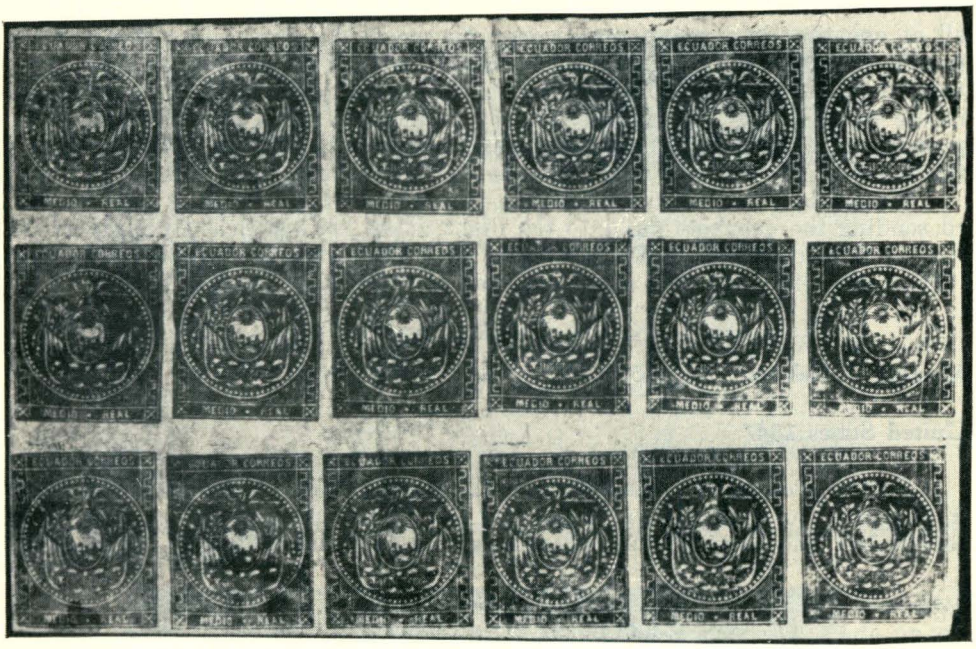
In essence, Mr. Boker said that Ecuador is not a popular country, even "somewhat miserable" philatelically. Several factors tend to magnify this. Material on cover is scarce. Until a rather large find in a courthouse about two years ago, covers were even more difficult to find. Moreover, some grand but unique pieces are in the Smithsonian's collection.

Mr. Boker takes a dim view of institutionalized collections, perhaps overlooking that some belonging to the Collectors Club are just as institutionalized as any in libraries, museums and college vaults. He mentioned three collections of Transvaal, all institutionally owned and among them containing just about all of the truly great Transvaal material, therefore beyond any availability to collectors. Hence a once popular country is dead philatelically as well as politically.

Nevertheless, the early issues of Ecuador, while "not attractive," are available, off cover, at a modest cost and in rather surprising quantities. "If a few people were seriously to start collecting these issues and go for the cancellation varieties such as towns, diamonds, grids, stars and others with interesting cancels, these stamps would soon be valuable and expensive. Of course, they are terribly rare on cover," he said, "but since they are cheap, many minute differences can be sought and collected; the stamps are available."

Mr. Boker pointed out that the collection in the frames was lacking the first issue with quadrille paper and was a rather good beginning but far from a fine collection. He mentioned some of the differences of opinion that exist on the Ecuadorean early issues, citing that while the 4 reals of 1865 is known on cover as well as a bisect on cover, there are some who maintain the stamp is bogus because no decree has ever been found for the issue. It was inferred that, to an extent, the matter of decrees, where Mr. Boker is concerned, must be treated flexibly; that the too literal acceptance of everything philatelic based only on the contents of decrees is a form of philatelic blindness.

The next collection that was discussed was a very small selection of full sheets from the extensive Liberia collection owned by the club and a gift from its former president, General Cornelius W. Wickersham. Unfortunately, the General was not present and just as unfortunately there were no Liberian experts present. The discussion of these frames by Ira Seebacher was brief and rather glossy. Shown were sheets of the 1905 through 1909 issues as well as the Registration stamps of that era. The latter were printed in sheets of 39 (3x13) and, as Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck later pointed out, were no larger because they were printed by Perkins, Bacon which had two size presses and printed the Liberian issues of that era on the smaller presses rather than the huge ones which were for panes of 240 stamps.



The large multiple piece of the first stamps of Ecuador, block of eighteen of the ½ real shows the reason their appearance has not attracted too many to collect this country. (Photos by Boutrelle)

Here again, the stamps are, or at least for many years were, plentiful but the covers scarce. Many of these issues were sold as remainders to German stamp dealers, who promptly cancelled them and sold them as cancelled-to-order stamps. They were for years available in packets and because of their color and peculiarly exotic flavor, usually occupied a prominent position under the glassine windows of the packet envelopes. Mr. Seebacher pointed out the wealth of errors that existed on these issues — inverted centers, double and inverted "OS" overprints, imperforates, etc. None of the varieties so mentioned were shown.

The final speaker of the evening was Ezra D. Cole, Rotarian and rosarian. Mr. Cole prefaced his remarks by expressing his gratefulness to the many fine philatelists, past and present, who gave so generously the many collections to the Club that it now boasts. "Not least of these is this collection of small die-proofs, the gift of Julian F. Gros," Mr. Cole said. Since Mr. Gros was present but modestly refrained from discussing his gift, it fell to Mr. Cole to carry on. "I'd like to have them myself," he said of the proofs. "It was no inconsequential gift. We all owe these people a lot (applause)."

"This was originally the Southgate collection, wasn't it Julian?" Mr. Cole asked. Mr. Gros agreed it had been. "Well, I've never seen any other as complete and as far as I know, no other was ever formed," the speaker continued. It was revealed that these proofs had been made in connection with the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915 and given away — "in lieu of lulu," said Mr. Cole, a man peculiarly conversant with New York State politics though living in Nyack, a town that has been geographically though vaguely identified as somewhere east of the Alleghanies. Presumably, the recipients of the proofs were important people. The die proofs were printed one by one, not from full plates which would have made them plate proofs.

Some of the proofs are individual rarities, Mr. Cole pointed out, but the greatest rarity of all was to see such a collection in its entirety. "Seeing them

all at one time is a unique experience for me,'' Mr. Cole said. Some of the proofs, however, lacked the rich color and freshness of the stamps themselves, more than likely due to the fact the colors were not too faithfully reproduced in the reprinting. Nevertheless, they were then, and are now pretty valuable property to have been given away, given either by the government in 1915 to a favored few, or later generously donated by Mr. Gros to the Collectors Club.

Following a rather brief discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned sending the members out into the night at an hour sufficiently early to delight Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Pritchett who can vouch for Milton's accuracy: ''They also serve who only stand and wait.'' *(Ira Seebacher)*

Meeting of February 3, 1965

United States 1847

On the evening of February 3, 1965, the members and guests of the Club were treated to a magnificent display of the United States issue of 1847. Unfortunately, the owner of this collection and the scheduled speaker, *Mr. Edward*



Fig. 1. A used block of four of the 5-cent 1847. Used blocks of the United States first postage stamp are much scarcer than unused.

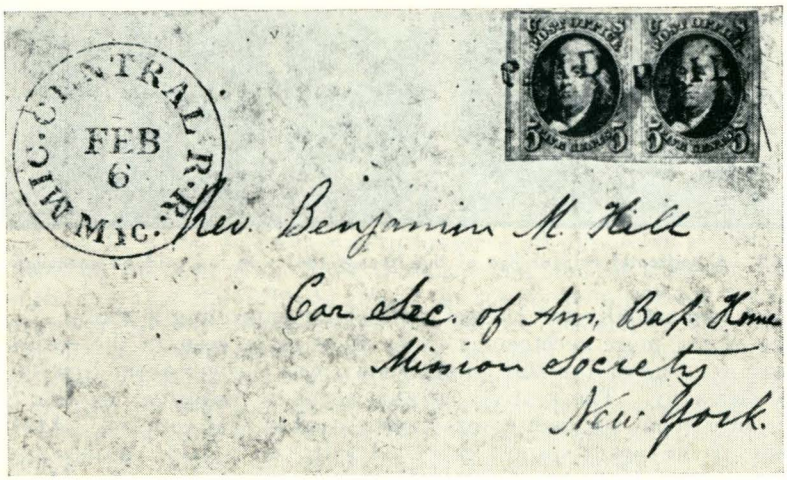


Fig. 2. A pair of the 5-cent 1847 on a cover with two "Paid" strikes and "Michigan Central Railroad" postmark on the left.

A. Ring, at the last moment was unable to be present. Mr. Ring was able, however, to leave his collection at the Club, and color slides were made up of much of his material, thanks to Messrs. Bernard D. Harmer and Adrien Boutrelle. Mr. Ezra D. Cole was kind enough to step in for Mr. Ring and to speak about these slides, as they appeared upon the screen.

The first showings were of proofs and trial color proofs of the 1847 issue. An orange trial color proof in block of six overprinted "Specimen" was displayed. Included also were full sheets of the proofs of both the 5 and 10-cent 1875 reproductions of these stamps.

The 5–Cent Stamp

The 5-cent stamp of 1847 was first displayed in multiples. It was pointed out that the vertical pairs were much scarcer than the horizontal ones. This was due to the general practice of cutting the sheets up into horizontal strips in the post offices at the time. An unused block of four with sheet margin was shown on a truly distinctive bluish paper. This was followed by a fine unused block of six.

In the used multiples, a true gem was displayed in a block of four with a perfect St. Louis, Missouri strike in red. The used block of four of this stamp is much scarcer than one in unused condition (Fig. 1). A used block on a piece of a cover addressed to France was then shown. It was indicated that this cover undoubtedly had another stamp affixed originally in addition to the four to make up the correct rate.

Coming to the cancellations on the 5-cent stamp, a wide variety of strikes and colors, including a fine example of a rare green star, were exhibited. There was displayed a target cancellation, undoubtedly indicating use from Canada as this strike was not employed in the United States at that time. Next on view was a fine railroad cancel of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad. Numerous "Paid" cancels were shown. The various "5" markings were well represented, with the plain "5," the "5" in circle and the scarcer "V" in circle. A generous showing of contemporary design cancels concluded the cancellation exhibit. Mr. Cole then pointed out that, in spite of the variety of cancellations seen, according to postal regulations at that time it was the much maligned pen-



Fig. 3. A horizontal strip of five of the 10-cent 1847 with red gridiron cancellations.

cancel that was actually the correct method for cancelling a stamp.

Some of the more spectacular items were to be seen in the covers of this 5-cent stamp. One of the star pieces shown was a cover from New Orleans to Koblenz, Germany. The scarcity of this cover is indicated by the fact that there are only about six such covers known used to that country. Another gem was a pair of the 5-cent stamps cancelled with two "Paid" strikes and with a fine strike of the Michigan Central Railroad also on the cover (Fig. 2). A further beautiful cover showed the stamp tied on by the famous Binghamton herringbone cancel.

The 10–Cent Stamp

Turning to the 10-cent issue of 1847, those in attendance were again treated to a further fine display. One of the truly remarkable items to be seen during the evening was a horizontal strip of five of the 10-cent stamp with red gridiron cancellation (Fig. 3). This was a magnificent and exceedingly rare piece, unique at the present time. Another fine item was a vertical bisect of the 10-cent stamp tied on a piece with a circular red town cancellation. Mention was made of the far greater degree of scarcity of these vertical bisects as compared to the more common diagonal ones.

As with the 5-cent stamp, there was a generous and detailed showing of various cancellations on the 10-cent stamp both on and off cover. To take just one example from the many, a beautiful cover was displayed franked with a pair of the 10-cent stamps with a "Steam" strike in blue on the side. This item had travelled up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Louisville.

A final slide was displayed with the 10-cent used in combination with the 5-cent stamp, appropriately incorporating together in one item the two stamps on exhibition that evening. This cover, addressed to New York City, was cancelled with a circular strike of the Naugatuck (Conn.) Railroad in red and red "Paid." Another extraordinary item.

After the showing of the slides, Mr. Cole concluded with a few clarifying remarks about the double transfers in the plate of the 5-cent stamp, with particular reference to the "D" type transfer and the problem of its source. He stated that it was his belief that this transfer originated in a re-entry when the plate had been cleaned in late 1849.

As the meeting was brought to a close, those present expressed a disappointment that Mr. Ring was unable to attend, but all were delighted to have inspected and studied his collection, at least to provide a most enjoyable and informative evening. *(William Hubert Miller, Jr.)*

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 186 of this number.

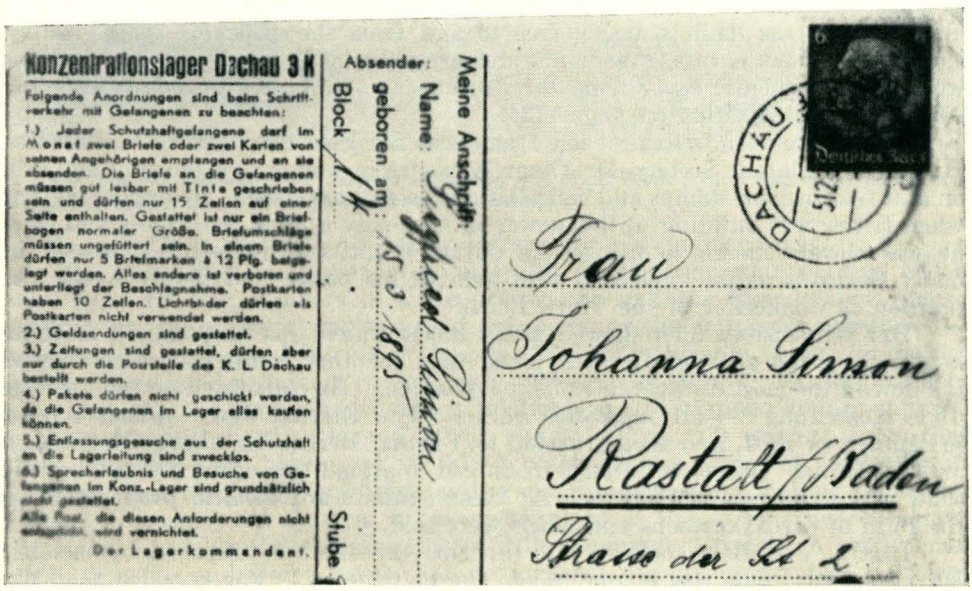
Meeting of February 17, 1965

Judaica Historical Philatelic Society

Jan Bart was introduced to the club by Vice President Philip Silver. After an opening humorous remark about this introduction, Mr. Bart proceeded to explain to the gathering the inner workings and the aims of the Judaica Historical Philatelic Society, explaining that the society was founded in 1963 by a handful of people, whose sole aim was to preserve all philatelic, numismatic and related material pertaining to Jews, Judaism and Jewish subjects. He elaborated on the fact that the ultimate aim of the society is to provide for sometime in the future, archives to preserve such material for posterity. The society also engages in disseminating material on these subjects to its members, conducts studies and issues a bi-monthly journal where this information and new discoveries are written up and explained. Within the short time of the society's existence, it has now more than two hundred members, with an adequate treasury to take care of any further needs and is thriving considerably.

The first speaker who exhibited Jewish Nobel Prize Winners on stamps was Mr. Al Shankman, who showed stamps and covers covering the following Jewish Nobel Prize Winners — Ilya- J. Mechnikov, Paul Ehrlich, Fritz Haber, Albert Einstein, Henri Louis Bergson and Neils Henrick David Bohr. Mr. Shankman spoke of these men giving the reasons for their having won the Nobel Prize, gave dates of their birth and death and explained why the various countries honored these men with postage stamps.

Then Paul P. Lindenberg was introduced. He displayed three frames of material, which he called "the Road from Tel Alamana to Tel Aviv." This showed the various stages of communications dating back as far as the twelfth century before the Christian era and bringing it up to the present time to Tel Aviv, Israel, including the forerunners of the Turkish, Italian and Russian Levant stamps, some of which are scarce items.



A postal card mailed from the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp. (Sam Simon Collection).

Stating that in his own opinion, "Israel's Independence in 1948 came about because of man's inhumanity to man, when Adolph Hitler eliminated more than six million Jews from the face of the earth — and the Jews of the World then saw the need for a homeland. However, that did not come about without the pain and the suffering of the millions, who were enslaved and imprisoned in the death camps and work camps of Europe," Mr. Bart next introduced Mr. Sam Simon, who in three frames showed only a portion of what many consider the greatest collection of Concentration Camp covers in the world.

Mr. Simon, impassionately then narrated almost the complete postal history of these concentration camps and ghettos, moving his audience visibly and arousing great interest as evidenced by the deathly silence of the interested capacity audience which attended this meeting. In this display Mr. Simon showed covers, many of them scarce indeed, from almost every concentration camp in Europe and the ghettos of Warsaw and Lidzmannstadt. He pointed out particularly the variations in the imprints on the covers, censors marks and returned envelopes, and even death certificates of the victims in these camps and postage due claim cards for their bodies. This was perhaps the most moving part of the entire evening because it made a most solemn impression on everyone.

Calling him "The Cinderella Man of Philately," Mr. Bart introduced Albert P. Cohen, who had a most unusual showing of a Jamaica World War I label, that in his own words he described as a "or is it a stamp?" This was issued during the 1914-18 war years privately, and sanctioned by the Colonial Government of Jamaica to raise funds for the British Red Cross Society, the creation of a Jamaica Aeroplane Fund and a Fund for the Relief of Suffering Jews in Poland. He described how Mr. Lewis Ashenheim, a solicitor practicing in Jamaica, was the moving spirit behind "The Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League" who sponsored this "label" with the full support by the postal authorities and the governor of the island.

Of the twenty thousand Pounds eventually collected by these labels, it was proportionally divided among the three abovementioned causes. A franking privilege was extended Mr. Ashenheim, where his signature over the label was able to allow the mail to travel free to and from the offices of the collecting agency. Various covers, overprints and errors were illustrated in the talk, as well as the authentic cover from the Postmaster of Jamaica authenticating the display (see illustration on page 173).

The next person to exhibit one frame was the Vice President of the Judaica Historical Philatelic Society, Dr. Oscar Winkelstein who gave a showing and talk on anti-semitism on stamps and cancellations as well as labels. He explained that when Hitler was building up his power in Germany during the 1920's and 30's, he was clever enough to utilize the dormant anti-semitic feelings present in many Germans at the time, and thus enlarge his power and finally secure the position as Chancellor of the Third Reich.

Dr. Winkelstein then showed many labels which this propaganda machine kept infiltrating all over Germany, and then in other countries which showed the Jew in the most unfavorable manner possible. He elaborated on the "Ewige Jude Austellung" — an exposition called "The Eternal Jew," which started in Munich in 1937, and then traveled to Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Magdeburg and Chemnitz. School children were forced to attend this dastardly anti-semitic show and write essays about it. At these exhibits anti-semitic propaganda in the form of cards, cartoons and labels were sold.

Lastly, Jan Bart took over to describe the exhibit prepared by member Harry J. Sobel who was introduced to the audience. It was revealed that Mr. Sobel had been an inmate of a Hungarian Work Camp and he showed a piece

In case of reply please quote the date of this letter and the following No. 2562/31.

General Post Office,

Jamaica, 7th February, 193 1.



Dear Sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 26th Ultimo, I have to inform you that the Red Cross labels to which you refer were issued by the "Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League" in November 1915 and were not available for the prepayment of postage. The objects of the League were voluntary assistance to the British Red Cross Society in the great European war (1914-18), the creation of a Jamaica Aeroplane Fund and a fund for the relief of suffering Jews in Poland.

The labels were sold to the public at half penny each for voluntary use on correspondence and were never available for the prepayment of postage.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Postmaster for Jamaica.



A letter from the Postmaster for Jamaica explaining why these World War I Red Cross labels have a Judaica connection. (Albert Philip Cohen collection).

of Mr. Sobel's concentration camp uniform with the number on it.

Mr. Sobel made a rather unusual study of the triangular patches which were worn by the prisoners in the concentration and the forced labor camps. A different color patch was assigned prisoners in the following categories — political (red patch), Jehova's Witnesses (violet), emigrants (blue), antisocial (black), convicted criminals (green) and homosexuals (pink). If the prisoners also were Jews, then another yellow triangle was overlapped in an opposite position forming the six-cornered Jewish Star of David. It was explained that these triangles were later used in various cancellations after the liberation in 1945 as commemorative markings and were also placed on stamps issued by Poland, Germany and Austria in commemoration of the various prison camps. Mr. Sobel's exhibit also contained beautifully illuminated pages, an art learned while in camp and which turned out to preserve his life at the time. It was quite evident that Mr. Sobel possesses great artistic ability, showing that there is usually some good even in the worst evils. *(Jan Bart)*

Auditor's Report

THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 1964

ASSETS

CURRENT FUNDS:			
Cash in Banks:			
Chemical Bank New York Trust Co.	$ 581.56		
Bowery Savings Bank	905.39		
Seamen's Banks for Savings	837.73	$ 2,324.68	
Petty cash fund		50.00	
Due from advertisers, etc.		298.18	
Prepaid insurance		486.12	
Deposits with post office		60.00	
TOTAL CURRENT FUNDS			$ 3,218.98
PLANT INVESTMENT:			
Real estate		$ 69,780.87	
Furniture and equipment		17,502.67	
Library		30,293.35	
TOTAL PLANT INVESTMENT			117,576.89
OTHER FUNDS:			
House Replacement Fund:			
Marketable Securities	$23,121.26		
Cash - Seamen's Bank for Savings	1,648.57	$ 24,769.83	
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund:			
Marketable Securities	8,788.85		
Cash - Seamen's Bank of Savings	222.00	9,010.85	
Theo. E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund:			
Cash - Manhattan Savings Bank		3,718.96	
Insurance Fund:			
Cash - Bowery Savings Bank		1,000.00	
Life Membership Fund:			
Cash - Bowery Savings Bank		350.00	
Capital Fund - No. 1:			
Cash - Union Dime Savings Bank		7,083.87	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS			45,933.51
TOTAL ASSETS			$166,729.38

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

CURRENT FUNDS:			
Membership Dues Received in Advance		$ 408.51	
Federal Income Taxes Withheld		164.70	
N. Y. State Tax Withheld from Employees		18.60	
Social Security Taxes Payable		134.52	
Reserve for Anticipated Street Assessment		2,500.00	
Surplus (Deficit) - Current Funds		(7.35)	
TOTAL CURRENT FUNDS			$ 3,218.98
PLANT INVESTMENT			117,576.89
OTHER FUNDS:			
House Replacement Fund		$ 24,769.83	
J. Brace Chittenden Memorial Fund		9,010.85	
Theo. E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund		3,718.96	
Insurance Fund		1,000.00	
Life Membership Fund		350.00	
Capital Fund - No. 1		7,083.87	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS			45,933.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL			$166,729.38

THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND SURPLUS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1964

INCOME:			
Membership Dues		$ 17,419.04	
Interest on Savings Bank Accounts		258.24	
Contributions	682.50	$ 18,359.78	
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Office		3,866.29	
Club Activities		2,003.81	
House		4,337.55	
Library		2,896.39	
Contribution to Chittenden Fund for Stock Purchase		368.68	13,472.72
			$ 4,887.06
COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST: (Publication)			
Cost of Publishing		$ 9,505.97	
Less:			
Advertisting	$ 3,822.22		
Subscriptions	165.50		
Sales	302.50	4,290.22	5,215.75
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER INCOME			(328.69)
Surplus—January 1, 1964			321.34
Surplus—December 31, 1964			$(7.35)

R. T. LINGLEY & CO.
Certified Public Accountants
55 Liberty Street
New York, N. Y. 10005

To The Board of Governors
The Collectors Club, Inc.
New York, New York

We have examined the balance sheet of The Collectors Club, Inc. as of December 31, 1964 and the related statement of operations and surplus for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the assets and liabilities of The Collectors Club, Inc. at December 31, 1964, arising from cash transactions and the revenues collected and expenditures made by it and changes in fund balances during the year then ended on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Very truly yours,
R. T. LINGLEY & CO.

New York, N. Y.
February 18, 1965

1965 COMING MEETINGS

May 19th — *Local stamps of the World*—Denwood N. Kelly, Jr.

June 2nd — *ANNUAL COMPETITION*

Summer Recess

Book Reviews

Carrying British Mails Overseas. By Howard Robinson. Published by New York University Press. 327 pages (5½″ x 8½″). 15 illustrations and 7 maps. Price $7.50.

Howard Robinson, in one book, has attempted to tell the whole story of the British overseas mails. Commencing with the carrying of royal dispatches by couriers in small boats across the English Channel during the reign of Henry VIII, he progresses through sail and steam to the development of worldwide services, touches on submarine cables and wireless, and finally ends with modern air mail.

Considering that he spans more than 400 years and covers routes to all parts of the world, which changed with war and peace and modes of transportation, he embarked upon a most ambitious undertaking. He accomplished his objective creditably, writing a book that is often not easy reading, because of the names, dates, figures and places that are crowded in, but that nevertheless, contains much that is interest holding and downright fascinating.

Many books have been written that enlighten the reader on a limited field, such as transatlantic mail or the routes to India. Professor Robinson has put them all together and enabled one to get a broad perspective and a basic understanding of everything that is important to a working knowledge of the birth and development of Britain's global postal service.

The early packets, small and built for speed, fought not only the perils of the sea but also the attacks of foreign war ships and privateers. One Appendix lists those taken during the American Revolution with their captors. Others give the same information for the French War of 1793-1802, the Napoleonic War and the War of 1812. With the advent of steam, the fighting was no less bitter — but then the battles were between civilian steamship lines for mail contracts and subsidies.

Falmouth and its sailing vessels get considerable attention, beginning with its selection as packet port in 1689. The larger, faster steamships caused it to lose out later to Southampton and Liverpool, where the harbors were more useful and better adapted to rapid inland communications. By 1850, the Falmouth era had ended.

There is a wealth of material on the transatlantic services in the packet days — to the West Indies, to the North American Colonies and to South America. The introduction of steam, the Cunard contract and the rivalry among the lines for the American mails are well told.

The all-sea route to India around Cape of Good Hope had been a monopoly of the East India Company for 200 years. In 1813, after the Napoleonic Wars, it was opened to private traders. As Oriental trade increased, better communication became essential. The author gives a splendid account of the development of routes through Egypt, involving steamers from Bombay to Suez, across 80 miles of desert, down the Nile to Alexandria, and thence on to Britain. Postal services on both coasts of Africa and service to Cape Colony get proper attention.

A chapter is devoted to Australian mails before the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, where serious problems existed because of the great distances and limited number of colonists. These problems were compounded in the case of New Zealand. In 1840, five vessels from Britain carrying colonists to Port Nicholson took from 102 to 173 days for the voyage! At first New Zealand mail was trans-shipped from Australia. Then Pacific routes were developed —

first to the Isthmus of Panama and later to San Francisco and across the United States by rail.

The book includes some rate and ship letter information, an account of Elihu Burritt, Ocean Penny Postage and the formation of the Universal Postal Union. It hits all the high spots, although much is omitted, as of necessity it must be in a single volume.

There are innumerable footnotes and a helpful bibliography. The path is well marked for the reader who wishes to pursue the subject and develop further information.

The index is somewhat lacking. One can only locate facts about the *Unicorn* and the *British Queen* by looking under "Cunard Line" and "British & American Steam Packet Co.," respectively, yet the *Britannia* and the *Sirius* are indexed by name!

All in all "Carrying British Mails Overseas" is a good source of knowledge and a book that should be in the library of every postal historian and ship letter enthusiast. *(Wallace W. Knox)*

Primele Mărci Postale Romînești, 1858-1865, by Val. Tebeica. 210 pp. and 26 Photo-Plates, on high gloss art paper, hard blue linen cover, illustrated, published by Editura Meridiane, Bucarest, Romania (1962). Issue: 3000 copies plus 190. Price 40 Lei.

The author is a writer, known for articles on exploration and travel, *Val. Tebeica.* The book was published by *Editura Meridiane,* Bucarest in January, 1962. The Romanian version was issued in 3190 copies, the French (Les Premiers Timbres-Poste Roumains 1858-1865) and the German (Die Ersten Rumänischen Postmarken 1858-1865) in 615 copies each. We have no record of the Hungarian title or number of copies, but we know that such an edition was made and sold.

The book's contents cover the first five issues of Romania, which means the first two issues of Moldavia, the two issues of the United Principalities (Wallachia and Moldavia) and the Prince Cuza issue.

But from the beginning the author endeavors to give a good historic background. Against this, we should then visualize the developments from July, 1858 — when the first stamps were issued in Moldavia — until June, 1866 when after Prince Cuza's forced abdication (February, 1866) the stamps bearing his effigy were withdrawn.

This first chapter gives us important details as to the slow and uneven development of postal services, their connection with mail-coaches and other means of transport, the nationalization of the post, its union with the telegraph service and, finally, some details as to the role and scope of the foreign postal facilities in the two Romanian principalities.

After these 40 introductory pages come the first postage stamps, the famous Bull-Heads of Moldavia. In this second chapter, we encounter the official documents, the authentic details as to printing, distribution to post offices, postal tariffs, postal routes, cancellations, and the very important description of each of the four (27-54-81 and 108 Parale) stamps. The author brings here two original contributions. He gives a list of all copies still in official collections in Romania and the first record as to the existence of stamps cancelled in Husch. (Romanian Academy — one copy; Romanian State Archives — the second copy). On pages 74-75 of the original Romanian version, the author compiles a list of all cancellations known to him, and their colors. This should put an end to the fraudulent copies, which one encounters occasionally on the market and some-

times shown in great International Exhibitions, and which carry *black* cancellations. The *black* ink was never used on the first issue of Moldavia.

This second chapter is not as complete as one could have expected. Recent studies, published abroad, on the Moldavian stamps, had identified many more copies than those mentioned in Val. Tebeica's book.

Also, had he taken the trouble to underline the existence of one or two varieties, as for instance the 54 Par. with the extra vertical line after the second "O" in "PORTO," one would have welcomed details as to the early and late dates recorded for each value and each post office, and a full set of reproductions of the actual markings used on the Bull-Head stamps. Perhaps a later edition will correct this shortcoming.

But before going further, let us underline another genuine contribution made by the author. He deals with the famous "cut-square stamps" with the *Bakeu* cancellation. The evidence, which he brings and the arguments he uses, makes it very convincing that no "square-cut" stamps were ever sold and used in Bakeu (in Romanian Bacău), which disposes of another set of counterfeits circulating on the international stamp markets, some of them with Certificates of very well-known experts, who should have known better.

The third chapter deals with the second issue of Moldavia, the 5, 40 and 80 Parale stamps issued on November 1, 1858 and used till May 1, 1862. The history of the numerous printings, the variety of papers used, the distribution of the different printings to post offices, the characteristics of each denomination, the cancellations used and the postal tariffs of those years, all are well presented and discussed.

The controversy over the 5 Parale *with frame intact* and *broken frame* is mentioned and dealt with (we hope forever). There were no 5 Parale stamps with broken frame ever put into use. There can be no such stamp with a genuine cancellation.

In this third chapter, a little more light on the main types of the 40 and 80 Parale stamps would have been welcome. We regret there is no mention that only a dozen or so copies of the 80 Parale with the frameline intact are known. Why not make it clear that the second type is that with a break in the vertical frameline over the second "R" in "SCRISOREI"? Why not explain that type three — with the left vertical line affected — is not known before the second half of 1860? ?

This chapter suffers from lack of information as to the postal routes and actual post offices. The omissisions might be imposed from above, given the fact that the three Southern counties of Bessarabia restored to Romania after the Paris Conference on the Crimean war, and then re-occupied by the Russians in 1878, are now once more under Russian Government. It is as well to remember that the town markings of *Bolgrad, Kahul (Cahul)* and *Ismail* remind us of those counties — all of less incidence than most of the other Moldavian cancellations. Here again, one could have highlighted the very rare tête-bêche used pairs of 40 and 80 Parale, and insisted a little more on the use of *Franco* (in Cyrilic lettering) postmarks of the pre-philatelic era. Such postmarks are not only scarce, but also significant from a postal history point of view, as they were distributed to post offices which had not been issued with a proper obliterating mark.

And thus we come to the fourth chapter, that of the "United Principalities." The two separate Romanian provinces were united under the same ruler (1859) and step by step had fused their institutions. In May, 1862, it was the turn of the postal services. This chapter brings us the intermediary stages rather clearly, and allows the Western collector, not familiar with Romania's history, to understand the puzzling marks he had encountered on letters circu-

lating between the two Principalities. But Val. Tebeica sets forth also the factual evidence required to sort out the two distinct issues — 1862-63 and the 1864 — of the United Principalities. He has taken the trouble to give all known quantities as to printings and distribution. He explains also the difference between the handprinted issue of 1862-63 and the machine-printed one of 1864. This, of course, is important as the 3 and 30 Parale stamps of the 1864 issue (40 to the sheet, instead of 32 of the previous issue) were the only ones to be put into use — the low denomination in June and the high one in September 1864. Both were withdrawn on December 31, 1864. This gives a clear indication as to their scarcity in genuinely used condition. Nevertheless, one should point out here that even so the 3 Parale stamp on laid paper in used condition, remains a much scarcer stamp than the 1864 stamp of the same denomination on wove paper.

The chapter on the Prince Couza issue has the merit to bring in a condensed form a lot of very useful information. Here collectors of Romania will find the details as to the two different 20 Parale plates. The first, with 192 stamps to the sheet (as those of the 2 and 5 Parale) was superseded by a 200 transfer stone, with an additional row of eight at the top righthand corner of the sheet. The stamps of the first stone can be recognised by the wider horizontal gutters. This and other details could have been given at greater length. Also missing are the retouches and the distinguishing characteristics of the low value stones used for the 2 and 5 on laid paper. Nevertheless, Romanian stamp collectors will find much to learn from the documentation as to the main "fabricated" items, which have puzzled certain people soon after the War. It is proved beyond any doubt that no mixed frankings ever existed.

The 25 photo-plates, which end the volume, illustrate some of the first issue Moldavia stamps known to the author. While far from complete, this repertory is extremely useful.

In conclusion we can state that, in spite of the aforementioned shortcomings, Mr. Val. Tebeica's book is a very serious effort and study of the first five issues of Romania. *(Dr. L. N. Cristea, London, England)*

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume 30 (1964). 201 pages, illustrated. Published by Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y., 11432. Price $7.50.

With this volume Mr. Billig brings to a close his series of "Philatelic Handbooks" which were started in 1942. It is fitting at this time to take a survey of the entire series of these books. Mr. Billig is to be congratulated for his efforts as a philatelic anthologist. He has preserved in a more or less convenient form much philatelic writing that most likely would be lost in the bound volumes of periodicals, only a few having indices.

On the other hand, the information in most cases is dated and the reader is not made aware of this. Philatelic knowledge, like any other form of knowledge, is always growing and changing, as new facts are recorded and new theories developed. The reader is entitled to know, when he picks up a book published in 1965, that the data recorded in that book was first published twenty years or more earlier. One should be apprised that the original article is here repeated without any comment, editorial or otherwise, indicating that the information has been corrected and also amended to bring it up-to-date. An anthology in any other field would clearly show the date of validity of the information, or would be editorially corrected with proper references footnoted.

Despite these drawbacks and with proper indexing, the Billig series of hand-

books can provide an excellent cross-section of philatelic studies! This deserves attention.

The current Volume 30 contains five articles reprinted with one exception without comment. The five are: 1) "The Zemstvo Gazetteer" by Fred W. Speers. This is a gazetteer of the stamp issuing Zemstvos of the Russian Empire with a cross index according to Zemstvo and Province; 2) "Turkey, 1863," Plating by Hugo Griebert. 3) "Turkish Cancellations" by Adolf Passer re-arranged by Paul P. Lindenberg. 4) "Turkey, Distinguishing Marks of the Originals," by Herman Schloss. The latter is combined with a reprint from "Album Weeds." This is an interesting cross-section, of which the most valuable part is the section on the cancellations. 5) "Phantom Stamps" compiled by L. N. and M. Williams. While this may be useful to a newcomer, it first appeared around 1942 and is now quite out-of-date.

The book is well produced with clear type and stout binding. It will prove interesting, as were the other 29 volumes, to those whose specialties are contained in it. However, it must be repeated that the reader should be aware of the fact that the Billig handbooks have reprinted old articles with no attempt made to add any new knowledge nor to correct mistakes in line with new information that has become available since the time of original publication. In other words, the articles all contain valuable philatelic data but unfortunately, all lack updating. *(H. D. S. H.)*

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste Sports et Scoutisme. 6th Edition (1965). Clément Brun, Editor. 156 pp. (5¼" x 7"), illustrated, paper cover. Brun & Son, Paris, France, publisher. Price 6 Frs. U. S. distributor, Elholm's For Stamps, 825 Hayes Avenue, Racine, Wis. 53405.

The appearance of this, the sixth edition of the Brun Catalogue on sports and scout stamps, ought to be proof positive that enough copies of previous editions had been sold as to warrant the appearance of this, the sixth annual edition.

The thought occurs to this reviewer that any such catalogue for collectors, as this annual publication must be, those guided are in the somewhat tender position of being informed no better than the value and authority of the guide. It is with profound resignation and dismay that we have to report that, far from having improved in six editions, this catalogue is still a monumental mess of misinformation, no information and part information.

This catalogue is very much an imitation of the Yvert & Tellier catalogue, even to the use of Y & T catalogue numbers. Like the well-known French general catalogue, it includes no information in many cases as to the design of the stamps, no first dates of issue, no information concerning printing methods, the names of designers and engravers, the extent of validity of the sets and stamps listed, the quantity issued or the dates of the events commemorated, all basic and necessary information, this observer believes, in the formation of a topical collection. So as a handbook, this catalogue is a wide miss. As a pricelist, it is a condensation and repetition of what may be found in Yvert & Tellier.

But as a checklist of the available stamps to be found on the subject covered, it is widest of the mark and no amount of suggestions for added inclusions seem to stir the editors one whit. Some of these exclusions are purely arbitrary, such as all of Germany's "Braune Band" issues. Presumably horse racing is not a sport, because Mr. Brun excludes these issues, while including the 1964 Equestrian set of Romania where, suddenly, it is permissible for inclusion.

The Tourist set of Lebanon issued in 1936 with its skiers on the downhill

slopes of the hills on which the famed Cedars of Lebanon flourish are included, but missing are stamps portraying a similar scene issued as air mail stamps in 1945. Also missing are other valid stamps such as the Bluenose shown racing its American Challenger on the 1929 issue of Canada, the Costa Rican Roosevelt set issued, as the decree indicates, to raise money for a Costa Rican sports team's visit to the Barranquilla Games; Tripoli's Circuit of the Oases set; the Gordon Bennett and Challenge Cup issues of Poland, and literally dozens and dozens more. Nor are any examples included of sports stamps overprinted, such as the gold overprints on the 1896 Olympic set of Greece. Obviously, in such a haphazard and arbitrary list, one can find no sign of the hundreds of varieties of normal issues that one might reasonably expect in a work supposedly covering a rather limited collecting area, and which all specialized catalogues offer.

As said previously, this publication is now in its sixth year. It is presumably a guidebook for many. We find it is no more than the merest gloss. It is not a handbook, not a checklist and only a very ordinary sort of pricelist at best. Yet it is used as a guidepost by evidently many, who through ignorance, feel that it is definitive.

Catalogue de Timbre-Poste La Flore (Flowers). 6th Edition (1965). Clément Brun, editor. Brun & Son, Paris, France, publisher. 119 pp. (5¼" x 7"), illustrated, paper cover. Price 6 Frs. U. S. distributor, Elholm's For Stamps, 825 Hayes Avenue, Racine, Wis., 53405.

Again, many of the remarks above pertain to this edition as well. There is a vast amount of information that should be contained and is not. Nor is there any attempt to dig out information for the reader. For example, the 1947 set of stamps of Colombia depicting orchids is described as "Orchides diverses" surely a sloughing off of the editor's obligation to identify each orchid. This is what the topical collector of flower stamps wants. Where the information was readily available, it was included. Where it was too much trouble, it was omitted. Since this is not a field of particular interest to this reviewer, we have no way of assaying how complete the listing is. We rather suspect in this area it is similarly as incomplete as the one on sports.

Catalogue de Timbre-Poste La Faune. 6th Edition (1965). Clément Brun, editor. Brun & Son, Paris France, publisher. 158 pp. (5¼" x 7"), illustrated, paper cover. Price 6 Fr.

Mr. Brun has again issued three specialized catalogues on topical subjects — Sports and Scouts, Flowers and the third one on Fauna. All three run similar in appearance, in price, and what was said about the contents of the other two, apply also to "La Faune." *(Ira Seebacher)*

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Stanley Gibbons 'Elizabethan' Postage Stamp Catalogue, First Edition, 1965. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 321 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, Section 1, Aden to Azores, edited by Alexander D. Gage. Published by Higgins & Gage, Inc., Pasadena, California. 57 pages. Illustrated.

Scott's Guidebook to Stamp Collecting by L. N. and M. Williams. Published by Cornerstone Library, New York. 1965. 159 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of Scott Publications, Inc.

Sieger Ersttagbrief Katalog, 6. Auflage, 1964. Sieger Verlag, Lorch (Wurtt.), Germany. 264 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Sieger Weltraumfahrt Spezial-Katalog, 3. Auflage, 1965. Sieger Verlag, Lorch (Wurtt.), Germany. 207 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Postryttaren, Postmusei Arsbok 1964. Edited and published by the Postmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden. 147 pages. Illustrated. Swedish text. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. W. Kenneth Minuse.

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume 30. Edited and published by Fritz Billig, Jamaica, N. Y. 1964. 201 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of Mr. Billig.

Die Briefmarken von Serbien by Ing. Vladimir Fleck. Heft 23 der Schriftenreihe Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt am Main. 1965. 31 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Stamps. Bound Volumes 125-128. Gift of Mr. H. L. Lindquist.

Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part V, by S. D. Tchilinghirian and W. S. E. Stephen. Published by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain. 1965. 80 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the authors.

Antecedents of the American Bank Note Company of 1858 by Foster Wild Rice. Reprint from The Essay-Proof Journal. 27 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the author.

The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939 by R. G. Shelley. The Spanish Civil War Study Group Handbook No. 3. 30 pages. Illustrated. Paper cover. Courtesy of Mr. Theo. Van Dam.

Jamaica, A Review of the Nation's Postal History and Postage by Alfred N. Johnson. Publication of the American Philatelic Society. 1964. 62 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the author.

Vatican Notes, Vol. IV, No. 8-Vol. XI, No. 4. Courtesy of Rev. Herbert A. Phinney.

The Lincoln Log, Vol. 1, No. 1-Vol. 3, No. 1. Courtesy of Mr. Harry L. Anderson.

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition. Gift of Mr. H. M. Goodkind.

Brun Catalogue de Timbres-Poste Sports et Scoutisme 1965. Editions Brun et Fils, Paris, France. 156 pages. Illustrated. French text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Brun Catalogue de Timbres-Poste La Flore 1965. Editions Brun et Fils, Paris, France. 119 pages. Illustrated. French text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Brun Catalogue de Timbres-Poste La Faune 1965. Editions Brun et Fils, Paris, France. 158 pages. Illustrated. French text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Topical Issues of 1964 with 1965 Catalog Numbers. Compiled by Bob Allison. American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 20 pages. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Chiu's Supplement, Vol. 9, No. 8-Vol. 11, No. 6. Gift of Mr. A. Appleton Lane.

Gifts were received also from:

Messrs. Robert G. Stone, H. M. Goodkind, Samuel J. Hollander, Philip Silver, Sol Whitman, W. Kenneth Minuse, Richard S. Wilson, Solomon Altmann and Dr. Santiago Hernandez Ron.

Purchased by the Library:

Ocean Mails by Philip Cockrill. Reprinted by Janet Van Den Berg, Worthington, Ohio. 1965. 34 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound.

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Season 1964-65

Date	Contents	No. of lots	Realizations
Sept. 21-24	United States and Foreign	2158	$ 79,635.50
Oct. 6-7	United States and Foreign	1312	46,800.50
Oct. 13-15	Air Post and Foreign	1544	51,815.50
Oct. 20-22	British America	1260	81,482.00
Nov. 4	"Thomas A. Matthews" Air Post Collection of United States, Canal Zone & Philippines. *(the record price of $15,500 for a United States stamp was obtained for the 24c inverted center at this auction).*	232	87,010.50
Nov. 5, 6	United States, Hawaii & Philippines	758	69,107.50
Nov. 17-19	British Commonwealth	1362	61,482.50
Dec. 1-4	United States, Souvenir and Miniature sheets, Switzerland, British North America, Zeppelin, and Rocket Flights, General Foreign.	2275	101,284.00
Jan. 5-7	United States and Foreign	1802	66,479.50
Jan. 18-20	United States	977	75,366.00
Jan. 26-28	"Errazuriz" Collection of Foreign issues.	1620	81,198.00
Feb. 2, 3	"Fleckenstein" United States	804	45,275.50
Feb. 24, 25	United States	907	42,384.00
March 8-11	British Commonwealth	2563	104,282.00
March 30, 31, Apr. 1	Air Post Stamps and Covers	1462	50,181.50
April 5-7	United States and Possessions	1363	80,942.50
April 12-14	United States and Foreign	1933	92,763.00
	Total to April 30		$1,216,472.00

Future Auctions

May - July ..... Estimated $300,000.00

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