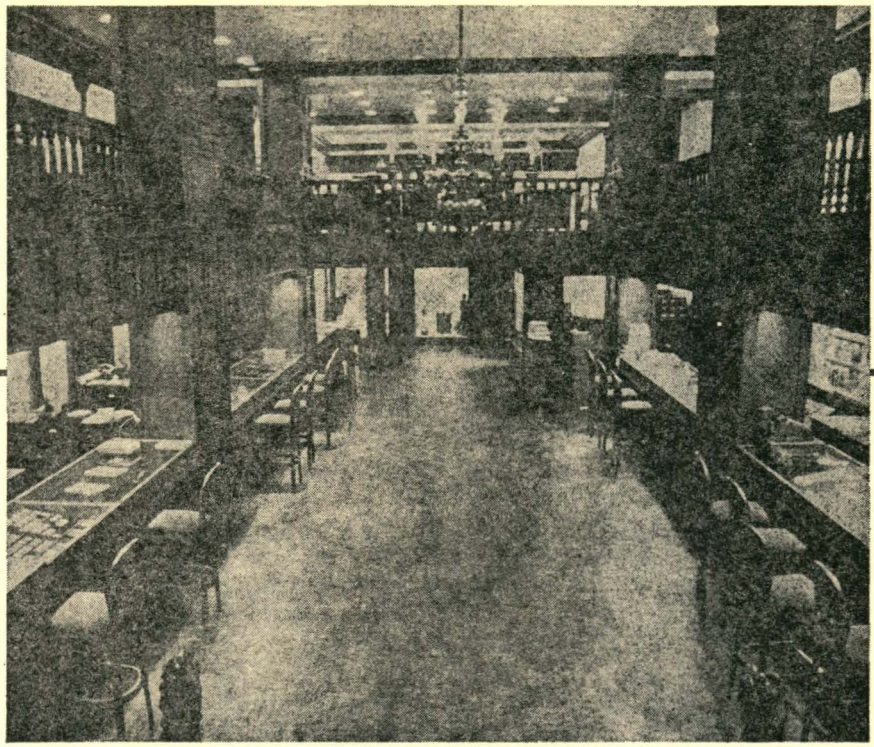


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Volume 52 Number 2
March 1973



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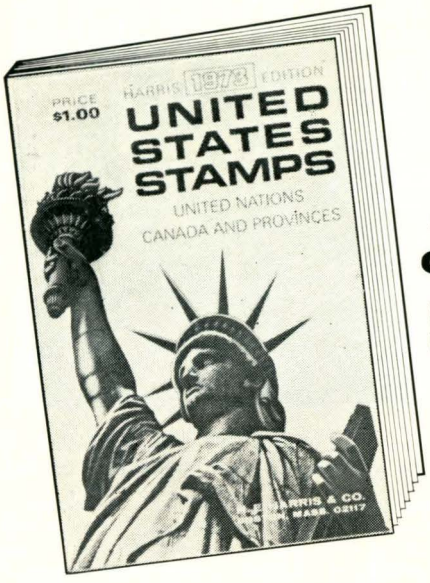
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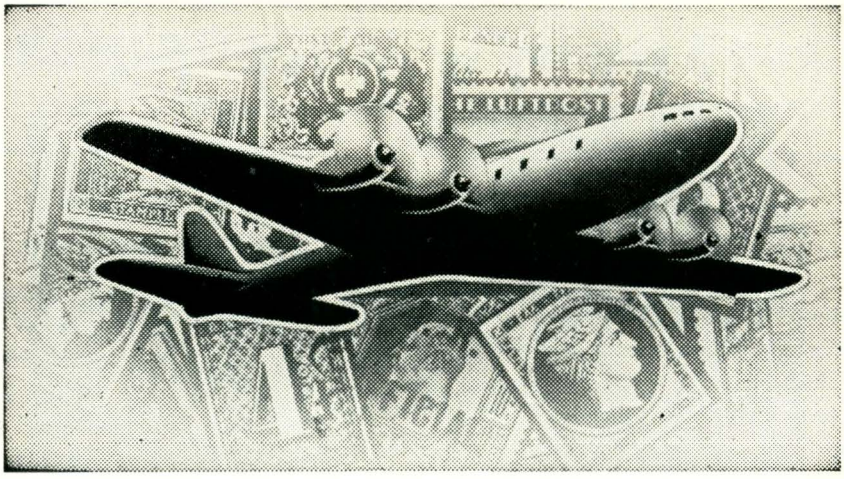
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March 1973

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Editorial

Postmark Prostitution

By Ernest A. Kehr

Ever since the Bishop mark was introduced as the first postal marking over three centuries ago, they represented government testimony as to where and when a piece of mail was entrusted to postal service. Authorities used every precaution and exercised every care in applying them to letters; any tampering or falsification of the markings were illegal and banned by strict regulations.

The validity of a postmark and an administration's integrity in its use was so universally recognized that criminal and civil court cases were decided on the basis of evidence supplied by postmarks.

But today, many postal authorities are so anxious to enjoy profits by catering to stampdom's market that they have been prostituting postmarks just as they've exploited the uniformed with their entirely unnecessary adhesive issues. Cancellations are applied to made-to-order covers in a way that leaves both philatelically meaningless.

A "postmark" no longer assures one that a cover has been mailed from a specific place at a specified time or on the date indicated by the postmark.

Not only is this practice deceitful, it is downright illogical and stupid. And the worst part of it all is that so many collectors without the foggiest appreciation for honest philately are being duped.

Perhaps the most foolish example of false postmarks is that of Ghana. When its postage dues were issued in 1958 and 1965, covers bearing only complete sets of the dues were obligingly prepared and given a "first-day of issues" obliteration.

Only recently the head of the Jersey "postal administration" mailed a letter to those philatelic journalists as had been giving this Channel Island's stamps publicity. Dated Oct. 10, 1972, it explained that as a token of appreciation a first-day cover of the forthcoming Silver Wedding Jubilee stamps was inclosed. It bears a Nov. 1, 1972 date—applied at least 21 days before! When queried about the illegitimacy of such a marking, the official replied that Jersey was thoughtfully accommodating the many collectors who appreciate having nice first-day covers of new stamps.

Floods of such philatelic trash seem to be coming from all parts of the world with consistently increasing frequency, yet as far as we know, there has not been a single objection from philatelists generally and those who head so-called watch-dog committees, in particular. The latter black-blot and black-list objectionable adhesives, yet they say nothing about deceptive postal markings.

Our own Postal Service (and before it, the Post Office Department) has not only condoned but actually participated in this fraud since at least 1937, when it became common practice to designate a single place as the venue for first-day ceremonies and postmarking of new adhesives.

With so many demands for first-day covers, it became physically impossible to process them all on the actual day of issue. Staffs of extra personnel are normally hired weeks in advance, to begin preparing covers and postmarking them. And if this cannot be done (as it usually isn't) by the definite date of release, it continues for long afterwards, until all orders are filled or damaged covers replaced.

We all recall the surprise release of the Project Mercury stamp on Feb. 20, 1962. Supplies had been sent to about 100 postoffices across the land as soon as John Glenn's capsule was safely recovered from its Space mission, and hundreds of thousands of the new stamps were placed on envelopes and hurriedly mailed on Feb. 20. But lest collectors be offended, the Post Office Department announced that it would process first day covers as long as orders for them were received. Not only were these covers given the Feb. 20 postmark until well into July, but they were cancelled not in Cape Canaveral, Fla., as indicated by the obliteration, but by a machine set up in Washington!

In the case of the 1969 Moon Landing air-mail, the Post Office Department proudly announced that the Sept. 9 postmark had been applied to nearly 10 million covers between then and the following March.

When the Yellowstone stamp of the National Parks Centennial was officially issued, the Postal Service again placed postmarks inscribed, "Yellowstone Park, Wyo.," on covers actually cancelled in the capital or 2,000 miles from the indicated place.

One of the most deceptive examples of illegitimate postmarking is found in the records of the UN. It is common knowledge that ever since the world body began issuing adhesives (although it has no postal service of its own) collectors' covers have been given first-day postmarks for as long as six months after the date indicated. Because this is common practice it has not been challenged and continues. But there was one instance which can be called a fraud of the first calibre.

On Oct. 4, 1965, an Alitalia plane brought Pope Paul VI and his party to New York's International Airport. We were privileged to accompany His Holiness, bringing some 8,000 souvenir covers that subsequently were distributed by the late Cardinal Spellman. Another batch of more than 25,000 covers previously prepared by dealers and collectors and mailed in the Vatican Post Office were carried by a subsequent plane which arrived only on Oct. 5. They reached the UN hours after the Pope had returned to the Vatican, yet each of them was backstamped at the UN with a marking dated Oct. 4. The head of the UN Postal Administration explained this blatant prostition of backstamping as a "favor to collectors who would otherwise have been disappointed to know the covers were not really carried by the Papal party's plane."

The appropriate organization concerned with the protection of collectors against exploitation was apprised of this highly irregular procedure, with ample documentation. Yet, until now it has not published or uttered a single word of protest or objection.

Perhaps the collection of all such covers is so widely popular that a fraudulent postal marking is taken for granted and accepted by the ill- or misinformed hobbyist who likes pretty pictures and immaculate, unaddressed items. But to palm them off as postal or philatelic specimens compounds the tort of producing them.

The Federation Internationale de Philatelie has been "protecting stampdom from abusive stamp-issuing practices" by listing adhesives, which if present in an entry of any show under its sponsorship, would disqualify the collection. Isn't it high time that something concrete were done to blacklist or blackblot spuriously *postmarked* covers?

Haiti: The 'Liberty Heads'

A Re-assessment of the Technical Background: New Facts and Findings

By J. R. W. Purves F.R.P.S.L.

There are still a number of fields (in many countries) which have, in the past, been apparently well explored but which in the light of further knowledge and of improved methods of attack—demand a "new look" by modern students.

I have always felt this about the 'Liberty Heads' and accordingly started collecting them, in a modest way, some twenty years ago.(1) However, until the Tows and later the Hennan collections came on to the market, little turned up in the way of large pieces and, when those two collections did finally appear, my eyes were set on other targets which meant that there was little left in my pockets for Haiti. More recently, however, I read about the coming appearance on the market of the Abbott collection. I had read about that in English Journals dating from about 1897 on and reckoned that this was perhaps the last chance of acquiring material in multiple pieces without which no study could be carried very far.

The upshot of this was that about 90% of the Abbott material offered in multiple pieces was acquired by the author. It has now been studied intensively and worked in with all my other material. The study has amply justified the belief that a 'new look' *was* desirable and it may even produce a few more collectors because the technical background to these (and other Haitian) stamps has a great fascination and, for collectors, a practically unique character. Once the technical pattern is discerned these classic examples of a more primitive surface-printing procedure are, contrary to established belief, not very difficult to understand.

The present study, like all studies, leaves a few points unsettled but as it has progressed as far as the writer can take it himself it is presented in the hope that others will be able to fill in the remaining gaps in our knowledge.

The new study has been divided, for convenience sake, into *eight* parts, viz:-

Part 1 The Imperforate Issues
Part 2 The Perforated Issues
Part 3 Marginal Markings
Part 4 Essays and Proofs
Part 5 The Postal Forgeries
Part 6 Collector's Forgeries
Part 7 Town Cancellations
Part 8 Appendices

PART 1

THE IMPERFORATE ISSUES — Literature and Collectors

Before plunging into this subject let us pay tribute to three pioneer publications in this field.

---

1. The present is the writer's *second* venture into the field of Haitian research. His first study, on the 'Large Palms' issue of 1891, was published in the 'Collectors Club Philatelist' for September 1960, at pps. 217-232.

The *first* came from that stalwart of earlier days, Theodore Moens of Brussels. Stimulated by the errors contained in an article by J. B. Leavy in the "American Journal of Philately" for February, 1898 Moens contributed a new study of these stamps to "Le Timbre-Poste" later that year. The whole of this article was translated into English and the translation appeared in "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" for 30 September 1899 (pps. 64 to 68 inclusive).

The *second* is the series of articles by L. L. R. Hausburg found in the "London Philatelist" for May 1912 (pps. 121 to 125 inclusive) and for June 1912 (pps. 138 to 142 inclusive).

The *third* were some articles by B. W. H. Poole. These mainly appeared in "The Postage Stamp" for June 1914 and the "Philatelic Gazette" for August to November 1914.

Little, if anything authoritative has — so far as I know — been published on the stamps themselves since the Hausburg and Poole articles.

Subsequently both Ferrars Tows and Clarence Hennan in the United States made great collections (including plating studies) of these issues but there is nothing to show that they made any new findings of consequence or that, if they ever did, they put anything down in writing, apart, in Hennan's case, from some interesting work on the Postal History side. The work of Moens and Hausburg, of course, comprised *both* the imperforated and the perforated issues..

The technical background

The following note appears in the Gibbons' catalogue after the listing of the Imperforate Issues. The italics are writers:-

"This issue, as well as the next, is printed from electrotyped plates of 50 (10 x 5 with figures of value inserted by plugs) in sheets of 200 (according to Hausburg(2)) and the stamps can be plated by minor flaws. In the above issue the 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c were printed from *one* plate and the 1c and 20c from *another, each of which has identifying minor flaws.*(3) The tête-bêche varieties result from inverted panes."

Two of the main results of the present study (and there are many others) are to demonstrate — I hope beyond question — that

1. The *one* plate only, which I shall call 'Plate 1' — was used for *all* values of the Imperforate series.
2. Only *two* plates were used, in succession, for the first type of Perforated stamps (S.G. 7-20). These, which will be called Plates 2 and 3 respectively, were quite distinct from Plate 1, as well as from one another. Plate 2 was used for all those perforated stamps described in Gibbons as "Plate I" or "Plate II". Plate 3 is the *same* as that described in Gibbons as "Plate III".

To ascertain the basic truths of these rather tantalizing issues it has been necessary to study, in some depth, each stage in the process of plate production, relating these to the various types of constant plate variety met and vice-versa. When there are no archives to assist the only hope of progress lies in the careful examination of the *internal evidence* presented on the stamps themselves. While Hausburg's pioneer work was of his usual standard of excellence the significance

2. Hausburg also inclined to the belief that as many plates were prepared, in the case of the imperforates, as there were values (see p. 123 of his article). These aspects will be treated in full detail later.

3. This adopts the '2 plate theory' put forward by Poole. This also will be fully discussed at a later stage.

of certain types of variety — and the necessity for their study — seems to have escaped him. He was, like many others of his day, mainly concerned (in his collecting) with the completion of his 'platings'. So too were Tows and likewise my old friend Clarence Hennan. The background did concern Hausburg to *some* extent but not, as these articles will show, sufficiently.

Another major result of this study is to show that *three* different techniques of plate production, each *an improvement* on the last, were employed for the Imperforates (S.G. 1-6), the Perforates (S.G. 7-20) and the last Perforates the so-called 'Re-engraved' types (S.G. 21-23) respectively.

The most useful way to demonstrate the conclusions arrived at in relation to the Imperforates is first to follow a strictly chronological order for the procedures of plate production adopted, as follows:

The Die

The design is said to have been the work of M. Laforesterie, a Haitian Sculptor and to have been engraved on wood (as a 'die') by M. G. Richard, of Paris, whose firm also produced the stamps.(4)

There is no reason for disbelieving any of these statements although there is now every reason for believing that the firm referred to was a relatively *small* one, using somewhat rudimentary methods and possessing somewhat limited equiment. Certain of the mistakes made by earlier writers arose out of a failure to comprehend the fact that the Richard establishment did not possess the scope of these, say, supervised by Barre and Hulot. Far from it.

There is, of course, nothing very unusual about a "wood-cut" die. Such dies (usually engraved on box-wood) are found frequently in the 'classic' and not too infrequently in the 'middle' period of stamps.

What is unusual however is that such dies could *not* (like steel or copper dies) be used to stamp lead moulds wherewith to produce the necessary surface-printing electrotypes. Before stamping any such moulds it was therefore necessary to produce a *working* die (or dies) of *metal* from which lead moulds *could* be struck. The working die had therefore to be a copper electrotype (or successive electrotypes) probably produced via a *wax* mould (or moulds) taken from the woodblock die. Since copper by comparison with steel is a comparatively soft metal the stamping of 50 lead moulds may on occasion have required the use of *several* "working" dies, all single copper electrotypes.

The moulds and the electrotypes

That the moulds *were* metallic (almost certainly of *lead*, the commonest of all moulding materials) is shown by the presence of constant "*double-strike*" varieties. These don't seem — to date — to have been recognised as such. They are duly set out in Appendix A which describes the 'secondary' characteristics of the 50 imperforate sheet positions and two of them (both of a major character), on Nos. 21 and 49 in the sheet respectively, are illustrated.

The evidence, in my opinion, certainly shows that the plate (Plate 1) comprised a clamped together assemblage of 50 individual electrotypes. The *poor alignment* throughout the imperforate sheets is one of the things that demonstrates this. Of course *this* is no new finding since the earliest of the students — Moens and Mahé — were agreed on that head. Hausburg, however, thought this assemblage was again reproduced to provide separate plates for each value. I cannot agree with this.

4. See "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" for Sept. 30, 1899.

I will add that it is also my belief that not only were 50 lead moulds stamped but that these were used — presumably in electrolytic baths of a primitive nature and small capacity — to grow single *one*-impression electrotype shells. 50 of these shells, duly backed, mounted and trimmed provided the clichés for the printing plate. This made separate trimming work necessary on the individual clichés and meant a slight lack of uniformity in the overall size of the various single electrotypes. This was unquestionably the main factor contributing to the poor alignment throughout the sheet.

For Plates 2 and 3 (not used for the imperforates) it will be shown that each printing plate consisted of two electrotypes ,each of 25 (5 x 5) subjects, each produced via one 'master-electro' of the same size, and *each* duplicating the same "primary" peculiarities (which therefore appear *twice* in the sheet of 50) as appeared in the "master". Further, that this working "master" was itself a *five* times duplication of an *earlier* 'master' which consisted of one horizontal row of *five* single electrotypes. We shall see this all in detail later. Suffice to say at this stage that when *these* Plates were produced (Plate 2 was produced about June, 1882 and Plate 3 about March, 1885) it *was* possible for Richard to grow up to a 25 subject elctrotype in a single bath.

It could, conceivably, be argued that a similar procedure was employed for Plate 1 except that at the finish the 25's (or smaller units) were cut up into individual units which, used with certain types of printing press, would have resulted in giving the "plate" a greater resiliency (and less rigidity) than if larger multiple subject electrotypes had been used. Many examples of this sort of thing are met, for instance, in the electrotyped stamps of Norway and Denmark of the 70's and 80's, where one finds the same "primary' type occurring in various positions in the sheet but in a higgledy-piggledy fashion, and in no regular order.

Had this procedure been followed for Plate 1 one would certainly find "primary" flaws of some kind, each occurring on *more than one* position (though not regularly) in the sheet.

The actual position provides a *complete negation* of this supposition. I have examined — quite minutely — some copies of all values covering the 50 sheet positions. I have found no "primary" varieties (usually these are *white* breaks or flaws) such as one meets commonly in the sheets from Plates 2 and 3. The constant characteristics — small and large — met on each of the 50 positions — are *individual* to that position, and to that position alone.

There is a limited class of semi-exception to this which, however, arise from a wholely *different* cause. There are a number of positions, in each sheet, which show varying degrees of extra thickness (i.e. extra color) in the circle lines under the "E D", "P U" etc. These, in my view, are unquestionably 'sub-types' — due to the working die picking up some foreign matter (usually a tiny piece of lead torn out of a mould) and to that foreign matter continuing to adhere to the die over the stamping of a *number* of moulds.

At this stage one can speculate why, if it was possible to grow a multiple subject electrotype in a suitable bath, was it necessary to use the primitive and cumbersome method indicated above? Everything that then appeared and the improved techniques that subsequently followed (for Plates 2 and 3) indicates, very strongly, that *it was not possible*. We shall see, in the next section, that if it was not possible, only the *one* plate of 50 subjects (10 x 5) could have been used for the imperforates. At this stage let me say that this is only one of a number of arguments supporting the Purves *"one plate theory"* as against the Poole *"two plate theory"*.

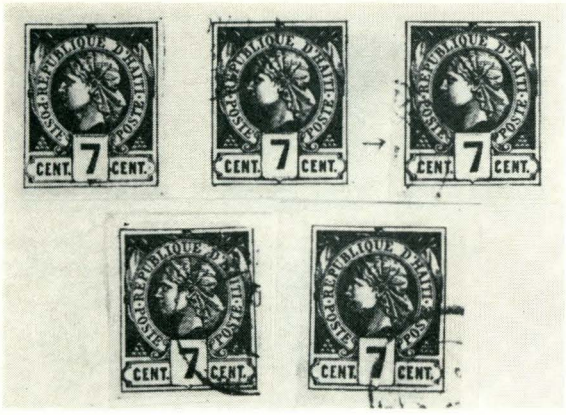


Figure 1. "Damaged value tablet" varieties of Plate 1. Found in the 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c values but not in the 1c and 20c. Positions 10 ,28, 29, 49 and 50 respectively. See appendix A also for details.

The printing plate (excluding the plugs) and the sheets of 50

In my holding are the following numbers of the different values of the imperforate series. They comprise a total of 998 stamps, as follows:-

1c — 217 (55 being used) : 2c — 207 (33 being used) : 3c — 176 (48 being used) : 5c — 111 (75 being used) : 7c — 209 (121 being used) : 20c — 78 (64 being used).

These figures are merely set out to indicate the background from which the findings set out have been made. There may well be more material than I possess in one or two other collections. All I am saying is that my own material has been sufficiently substantial to produce the results I required.

Positions examined (in most cases they are represented by several copies, and at least *two*) are as follows:-

1c: all 50 positions
2c: 49 positions: Missing 16
3c: all 50 positions
5c: all 50 positions
7c: all 50 positions
20c: 46 positions: Missing 2, 15, 16, 17.

Other collectors doubtless have some or all of the positions I have not seen, but this hiatus can have no effect on the contents of this monograph.(5)

All of my material has, I repeat, been examined minutely and the results may be summarised as follows:

The 1c and 20c *do* exhibit common features but *all those* features are *shared* by the other values — the 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c. These other values in their turn share certain additional (*new*) "secondary" flaws not found on the 1c and 20c. Various classes of constant "secondary" variety are met throughout. There are, for instance, the positions showing a 'damaged value tablet', see figure 1. Likewise the same varieties showing "colored lines across tablet" (top or bottom) occur in the same positions in the sheet in *all* values. See figure 2. Similarly with the "double-strike" varieties (Figures 3, 4), the 'sub-type' varieties (see before) and the many *white* flaws, including breaks in frames etc. etc. All these will be found set out in Appendix A.

5. Mr. Sellers has now been kind enough to show me all the positions not previously examined by me. Suffice to say that they only serve to confirm the findings now set out.



Figure 2. Examples of the various "colored line" varieties across the value tablet. All Plate 1, positions 6, 6, 9, 9, 10, 27 and 30 respectively.



Figure 3. "Double strike" varieties. Plate 1, Positions 21 and 49.



Figure 4. "Double strike" varieties. Plate 2, Positions 38 and 46.



Figure 5. Position 6 of Plate I. The variety noted by Poole on the 1c and 20c values only, the result of a too light "make-ready."

The *only differences* in the sheets for the various values — apart from those now to be described — are *more apparent than real* and are due to the use of different 'make readies', following the plugging, for printing each value. The use of a heavier make-ready (e.g. in the 3c) means much more printing emphasis in the *colored* details, particularly certain colored marks which are constant and are found between certain impressions. With a lighter 'make-ready' (as was unquestionably employed for the 1c and 20c) the general impression is lighter and the various colored markings show up much less prominently and sometimes *not at all.*

There are *also* certain *colored* markings, e.g. in the 5c and 7c respectively which are constant but *only for the one value.* These generally occur in or around the tablet of value (though not always) and I think are due to the presence of ink clogs or perhaps to irregularities in the surface of a particular plug.

Constant abnormalities due to 'damaged tablets' are to be found, in *all* values, on Nos. 14, 18, 19, 27, 37, 38, 43, 45 and 46 in the sheet. Similar abnormalities are found on the 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c sheets which are *not* found in the 1c and 20c values. These occur on Nos. 10, 28, 29, 49 and 50 in the sheet. The other flaw found on No. 29 (and not to be seen on the 1c and 20c values) — and also doubless arising during a plugging in — shows:

A white diagonal flaw across the middle of the left hand scroll. All of which brings us to this:-

If two separate plates were employed for the 1c and 20c *and* the 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c respectively they must have derived from a 'master' of 50 which contained the first nine 'damaged tablet' varieties noted and all the same flaws save 29 (of all the other kinds) noted as being found in all values. A possible alternative would be that the plate used for the 1c and 20c was itself used as a 'master' to produce the other plate. Poole's view was that the plate used for the 1c and 20c was "constructed from the plate used for the 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c".

Here we arrive at the second and probably most conclusive of the arguments *against* the "two plate theory". It is this.

Once a 'master' (albeit a small one) is employed in the stamping of even one mould and the growing from that mould of an electrotyped replica of the 'master' it is *inevitable* (even in 1971) that *new 'secondary' varieties* will be created in the replica which did not occur in the master. Using a 'master' of 50 *many* new 'secondary' varieties would have been expected to arise. The *only* new 'secondary' varieties (apart from No. 29) that did arise (in the six positions noted) were "damaged tablet" varieties. *These could only have arisen in the course of a new 'plugging', certainly not in the process of duplication from a 'master'.*

To be convinced of the *inevitability* of the creation of new 'secondary' varieties in the above circumstances one has only to look at the position revealed by students in other countries.

Take, for instance, the 1872-91 Issues of Holland (both 'King's Heads' and 'Figures of Value' types). These electrotyped stamps were produced using 'masters' of 25 or 50 as the case happened to be. 'Secondary' varieties galore are to be found and make plating a practical possibility. So it is with many of the Danish and Norwegian issues from the 1870's on. Whatever the 'primary' types involved there are large numbers found of different 'secondary' varieties. Again, take my own Victoria studies of 1869-75. Here "masters" of 30 or 60 (the latter for the 'little ½d') were employed and the abundance of 'secondary' varieties has made it possible to complete the plating. Many other instances can be found.(6)

In fact they can be found in the *perforated* 'Liberty Heads'. Here, as the second section of this work will show, many new 'secondary' varieties (only occurring on one 25 group) arose in the process of duplicating — from the same 25 'master' — four new 25 impression electrotypes. Two of these comprised Plate 2 and the other two Plate 3.

How, if perfect duplication were not possible, at a later period, with a 25 'master', could it have been possible at an earlier period, with a 50 master?

One can over-dramatise, even in Philately. Suffice to say it was not possible. Only the *one* plate could have been concerned.

Perhaps this point has been over-elaborated, but it has been necessary to emphasise the non-feasibility of the Poole "two plate theory", particularly in view of its adoption by Stanley Gibbons. The distinguishing flaw which Poole noted as occurring in the 1c and 20c values only, on No. 6 (see Figure 5) in the sheet can, I firmly believe, be fully explained by the lighter "make-readies" employed. With the heavier make-readies used for the other values this weakness was always obscured by the extra inking. It is relevant to say here — in view of the necessity for de-plugging and re-plugging — that a *separate* 'make-ready' would be required for the printing of *each* value.

The plate used for the 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c values was therefore only a *later state* of the same plate as was used for the 1c and 20c values. We shall, when we come to deal with Plate 2, meet many instances or different "states" of the same plate. There I am able to show the creation of 'damaged tablet' varieties at no less than *seven* different stages. Once, of course, a new 'damaged tablet' variety arose it continued to appear during the remainder of the period for which that particular plate was used.

It is all a question of *progression* and the main factor in determining that progression (and, for the first time) the exact order of the first six printings from Plate 2 has been a careful study of the 'damaged tablet' varieties.

Again to summarise. No one has suggested — or can suggest, on the evidence to be given — that seven different plates were employed under the present heading 'Plate 2'. Precisely the same phenomena (the 'damaged tablets') are found in the Plate 1 printings as in the Plate 2. There is no reason for ascribing either to any other cause than a fresh plugging or pluggings. *That* very important subject — and its effect in creating certain types of constant variety not otherwise found in surface-printed stamps — will now have our attention.

Plugging—and the varieties it created

The original design, and hence the electrotype impressions bearing the same, had the value tablet in the form of a 'shield', with a straight top and the usual *curved* shapes at its base.

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6. Study reveals that even the confident Hulot was no more successful (in the French stamps) in avoiding the creation of large numbers of 'secondary' varieties than was anyone else.

(i) The first point to be made is that it was manifestly impractical to use plugs of the *same shape,* i.e. they could not fit the curves. In my opinion all plugs were strictly *rectangular* in shape and they were all necessarily cut to the *same* size. Their bottom edge would therefore stand just above the area where the shield lines (at either side) *started* to curve.

(ii) There can also be little doubt that the *top* edge of the plugs fell short of the top edge of the value tablet in the main electrotyped design.
I think this result served *two* purposes. It enabled an easier removal of plugs once printing of one value had been completed, and secondly it made it difficult to damage the base of the *head* in the course of plugging. This, in the main electrotyped design, was — it will be seen — very close to the top of the shield.
Where the plugs needed to fit, and then rather snugly, was at the *sides.*

(iii) I believe that the necessity of using *rectangular* shaped plugs (for the shield shaped area) was *foreseen* at the start and that the die (or more probably the electrotype *"working die"* or dies produced from it) was *"packed",* perhaps with lead, in the blank areas above the top of what was the plug area and below the base of that area (around the curved part of the shield) respectively. This packing would have been slightly below type-height but it did mean leaving the *same* rectangular-shaped area or *"bed"* (which made it comparatively easy to fit the plugs) on *every* electrotype impression produced via the working-die or dies.

(iv) I also believe (see subsequent discussion for more detail) that pluggings (and consequently printings) were made in the order 20c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c.

(v) In the 'plugging' work it was necessary to use a small hammer and a small wedge, each probably of wood. It would not have been possible to make "fitments" using one's hands only.

We come now to the *two* classes of constant variety created in the course of the plugging process. Had these previously received the attention they deserve this particular research field would have provided much less interest for me.
These are: A: "Colored lines" running across the top and/or bottom of the value tablet.

B: "Damaged tablet" varieties.

Class A: A careful examination shows that these, where they occur, are *constant,*[7] in respect of a particular sheet position, for *all* values and that their appearance differs for each sheet position where they are found. As to how well they show up depends on the lightness or heaviness of the particular 'make-ready' employed for the value in question. They are therefore less pronounced in the 1c and the 20c than, say in the 3c or the 5c but *they are there,* all the time. How did they arise?

I believe that they are the result, during the *first* plugging of a new plate, of the creation of *ridges* in the top and/or bottom sides respectively of the rectangular 'bed' designed to fit the plug and found, as we have seen, on every electrotype impression on the plate.

Note that these lines, whether in the top or the bottom of the tablet, always appear along *the line* of junction of what would have been the top and/or bottom edges of the plug and the adjacent edges of the surrounding 'bed' respectively.

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7. This fact was first recognized by Poole who included many of these indications in the Plating Guide he published (for Plate 1) in the 'Philatelic Gazette' for August 1914 et seq.

Although one printing succeeded another these "colored line" varieties (often, themselves, indented) appear to have altered little or at all, which suggests that when following the first plugging, it came to fitting the other numbered plugs, most of the fitting work required to be done only on the *sides* of the plug. This thought, in its turn, is confirmed — most particularly — by the progressive appearance, over the period of the use of Plate 2, of many new 'damaged tablet' varieties, which we will now discuss.

Examples of 'colored line' varieties are illustrated, for each of Plates 1, 2, 3. They are most useful checks, particularly for used stamps where the cancellation may wholely or partly obscure other characteristics.

Class B: This type of variety *was* recognised by Moens. He said, in 1898 (see the S.G. translation) :

> "The changing of the numeral plugs caused a certain amount of damage to the frames of the shields; the lines are found broken or bent so as to form one or sometimes two scallops."

He went on to illustrate the most prominent of all these varieties which he had seen in the 1c, 5c and 7c and which he expected existed in all values. (This variety was a *second* state of an already damaged left side of the tablet, and was No. 17 in the sheet of Plate 2. J. R. W. P.)

Occasionally (e.g. on No. 45, Plate 2) damage was done to the bottom or to the top of the shield area but damage to the *sides* is commoner and generally more noticeable. Moens mentioned these varieties but only 'en passant'.

They can, perhaps, be most clearly considered as 'damaged reliefs' because they arose from damage to the reliefs (i.e. the borders of the shield) surrounding the plug area and were caused by the use of the hammer or edge already referred to. Although I believe most were caused during the *insertion* of plugs it is possible, on occasion, that some damage arose during the removal of plugs.

THE NUMERAL PLUGS

Several new lines of thought have emerged here.

1. *Regarding the position of the numeral inside the value tablet, i.e. its centering or lack of it:*

In this case I believe "punches" engraved in recess in steel were used onto which were forced under considerable pressure, thin sheets of copper. To procure this pressure something of the nature of a 'drop-hammer' (or other heavy weight) or of a coining press would have been required. These sheets were then cut up to provide the necessary rectangular size for the separate plugs and mounted to complete a plug for insertion in the plate. Alternatively the whole stamped sheet of copper was mounted and then cut up into units of the required size. In the process of cutting up it occasionally happened that the numeral concerned was left *badly centered* on the rectangular plug. It was either too high or too low, or too much to the left or to the right, or both. This abnormal positioning of course persisted on the completion of the plugging and in various cases provides a good 'plating' check on the position of a particular stamp in the sheet.

In other words any bad positioning of the numeral on the printed stamp arose not from careless plugging but from the position of the figure on the plug itself.

2. *The 20c tablets:*

In *this* value, whether one considers Plate 1, Plate 2 or Plate 3 one sees, very quickly, that there is no constancy whatsoever in the *relative positions* of the '2' and the '0' on any one sheet position. We may divide the 20's into



Figure 6. Differences in level between figures "2" and "0" on 20c. Plate 3, positions 14, 24, 16, 36 left to right.

three general classes, viz.:

(a) cases where the '2' and the'0' are more or less level;
(b) cases where the '2' is *higher* than the '0';
(c) cases where the '2' is *lower* than the '0'.

However, inside *each* of the above classes there are many variations. In (b) and (c) there are differences of level which are so marked as to create a major variety, in other cases the differences of level are smaller. So far as I can see no *one* type of '20' is to be found because *no two positions are exactly alike*. If the levels resemble one another the *spacing* and the *comparative slopes* differ. See Figure 6.

Only one inference can be drawn from these facts i.e.:

That the 2's and the 0's were produced on the copper sheet in *separate* operations, using '2' and '0' punches respectively. In the finish one had fifty or more '20' plugs, all differing from one another. Such a procedure, however tedious it might appear to us, seems to be the sole explanation.

Once again these differences of level on the printed stamp do not arise from careless plugging. They were inevitable once such a difference arose in the plug employed. In the 20c, the (a), (b) and (c) indications provide valuable confirmation for plating many of the 50 positions, in any one of the 3 printings.

20c: Plates 1, 2 and 3: Lists of the sheet positions showing a substantial difference in *the levels of the figures '2' and '0'*.

1. '2' noticeably *above* the '0'.

Plate 1: 5, 7, 33, 34, 36, 40, 43, 47, 50
Plate 2: 4, 5, 17, 24, 27, 29, 32, 35, 44, 45, 46, 47.
Plate 3: 2, 8, 12, 14, 15, 24, 25, 28, 35, 39, 41

2. '2' noticeably *below* the '0'.

Plate 1: 10, 12, 14, 23, 38, 42.
Plate 2: 3, 13, 16, 18, 23, 25, 28, 31, 34, 43.
Plate 3: 6, 9, 10, 16, 29, 30, 31, 36, 43.

NOTE: In the *Plate 1* sheet *nine* positions have still to be examined (2, 4, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20, 29, 48) and in the Plate 2 sheet six positions (1, 19, 30, 41, 42, 48). All fifty positions in the Plate 3 sheet have been covered.

Another common form of constant abnormality (a form of damage which seems to have developed as *further* pluggings were made) is a weak S. W. corner to the '2'. So far this kind of variety has been seen as follows:-

Plate 1 sheet: 22. *Plate 2 sheet*: 4, 34, 35. *Plate 3 sheet*: 4, 5, 12, 14, 22, 29, 30, 31, 36, 41, 45.



Figure 7. 20c. Right of shield missing. Imperforate, Plate 1, Positions 3, 30 and 46. Perforated, Plate 3, Positions 24, 33 and 43.

3. *What happened to the plugs after removal from a plate?*
There is now every indication (see later for details) that after the printing of a value and the removal of the plugs they were put away in a box and produced again when a further printing was required.

Apart from 'centering' there are comparatively few constant abnormalities met in the earlier plugs but it has proved possible in each of the 2c, 3c and 20c perforated values, to find the same plug defect occurring in different positions in the sheet, according to the printing in which it is found. See Appendix. These plug defects for the 2c and 3c are set out in the section dealing with the perforated stamps but some are illustrated here.

4. *A special form of constant plug variety:*
There are cases — found here and there in all values (see Appendices) — where *the left or the right side of the shield is missing* (Figure 7). In very nearly all such cases *no damage whatever* occurred to the shield on the impression concerned. The failure of the frame to print was simply due to the fact that the plug had tilted slightly upwards on that side so that the plug edge along that side is very slightly *higher* than the adjacent shield relief. The result is that the latter *does not print.* Cases can be met where the same sheet position, for one value of a series, shows the side of a frame printed whereas in another value of the same series it is missing. This is a problem of *levels,* and not of damage.

To Be Continued

Stampless Period Troy House Hotel Markings

By Robert Dalton Harris

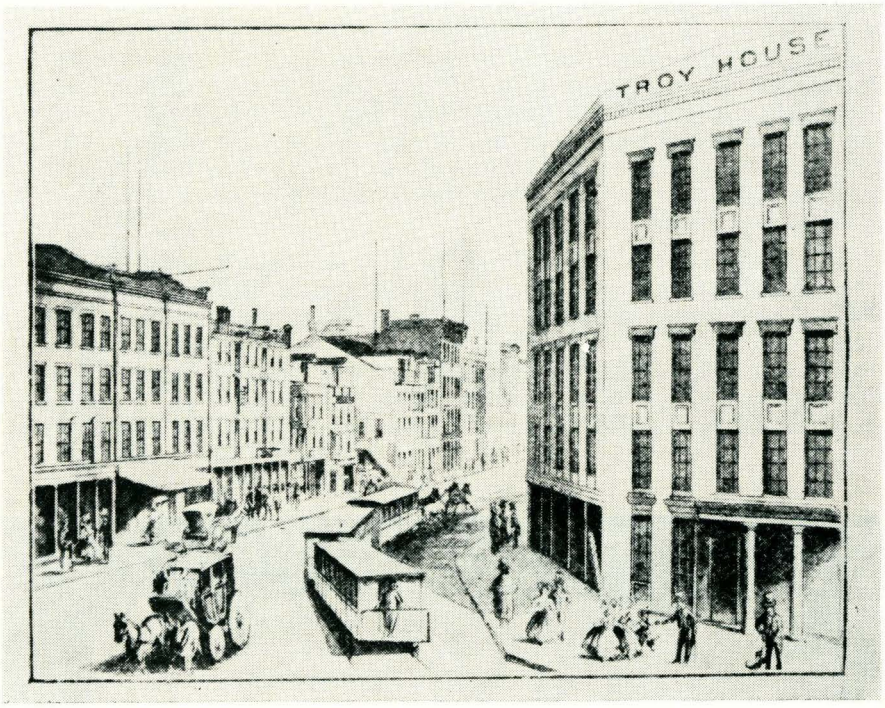


Figure 1. The Troy House was an important part of main street Troy in 1846.[4]

In terms of the number of handstamps, the Troy House in Troy, New York, was probably the most prolific of the hotels in identifying themselves on stampless period mail. Many hotels are known to have applied handstamps to letters during the 1840's and 1850's of the stampless period [1] and in some cases we can be quite certain that some specified postal service was rendered by the hotel. Usually, this would have been merely to convey letters to and from the nearest post office, but in some cases prominent hotels acted like express companies illegally carrying letters over post roads in direct competition with the USPOD.[2] In many cases, and in the case of the Troy House in particular, we have no clear picture of what postal service, if any, the hotel may have provided to those letters bearing its handstamp.[3] We shall examine the recorded mail bearing the

1. Known stampless period hotel handstamps are listed by E. N. Sampson, *American Stampless Cover Catalog,* pp. 194-6.
2. Private communication with Calvet Hahn (May 3, 1971) confirms that Howard's Hotel, for example, provided a private mail service between New York City and Troy with letters to points beyond finishing their journey by the US mails. Konwiser and Mason in *The Stamp Specialist,* Vol. 1 Pt. 2, p. 171, may be trusted perhaps to list only those hotels who actually are known to have independently carried the mails. The Troy House is not included.
3. G. B. Sloane in "Stamps", Oct. 6, 1956, p. 13 summarises the uncertainty in just what services the hotel handstamps may have indicated.
4. This illustration appears with the caption "View of River Street in 1846" in A. J. Weise, *Troy's One Hundred Years,* p. 133.

four known Troy House handstamped markings for what we might infer about the handstamps' postal significance.

The site of our Troy House, the east side of First Street at its intersection with River, was originally leased for a blacksmith shop by James Wardwell from Jacob D. Van der Heyden in 1790.[5] After purchasing the land in 1794, Wardwell sold it in 1797 to Capt. Henry Slason for the Eagle Tavern. From Slason, the lot went to Platt Titus in 1803. It was under Titus that the Troy House was established as the town's premier hotel: in 1824 its parlor hosted Troy's formal welcome of the Marquis de la Fayette. When Titus died in 1833, Archibald Kidd took up the management and, in turn, relinquished it to Andrew Watrous in 1838. In Watrous' Troy House, the first of the known Troy House handstamps was wielded.

Only three examples of the Watrous Troy House blue oval marking have been recorded [6] and but one of them has been positively identified for the year — 1843. The example shown in figure 2, with the May 24 dated blue Troy townmark T-6,[7] must have been sent during the years 1843-45 to comply with the range of use of both the blue ink with T-6 and the 12½ rate. The wording of this handstamp, "FORWARDED/FROM/TROY HOUSE," suggests that the hotel may have carried the letter to the Troy Post Office some two blocks distant.

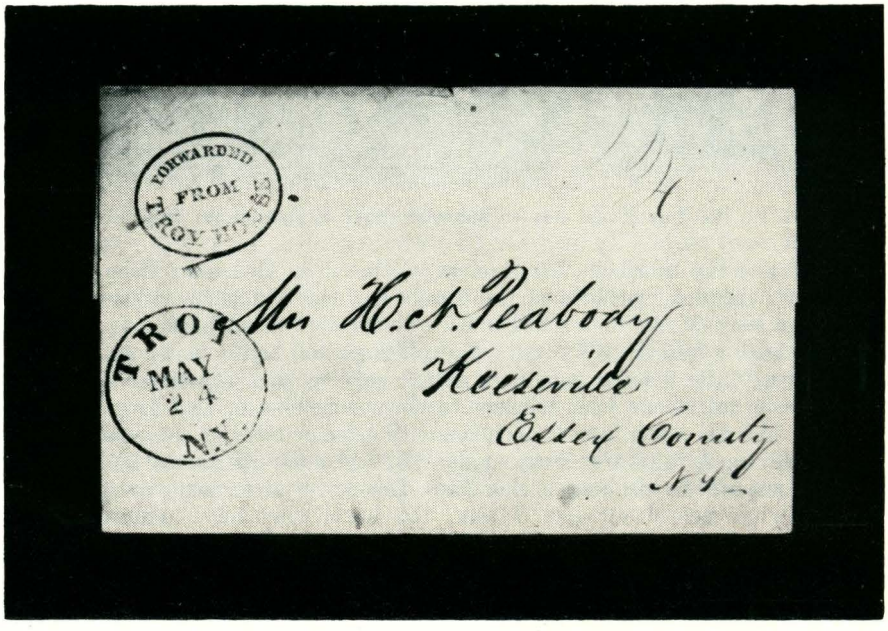


Figure 2. The 28 x 24mm blue oval used by the Watrous Troy House ca. 1843.

5. Troy House history is amply covered by A. J. Weise in *The City of Troy and its Vicinity*, pp. 300-1, and in various places in his *Troy's One Hundred Years*.
6. The range of covers reported in this article owe much to the records of Calvet Hahn.
7. Designations and data on stampless period Troy postal markings are taken from R. D. Harris, "American Philatelist", Vol. 84, #6 pp. 527-34, & #7 pp. 598-606 (1970).

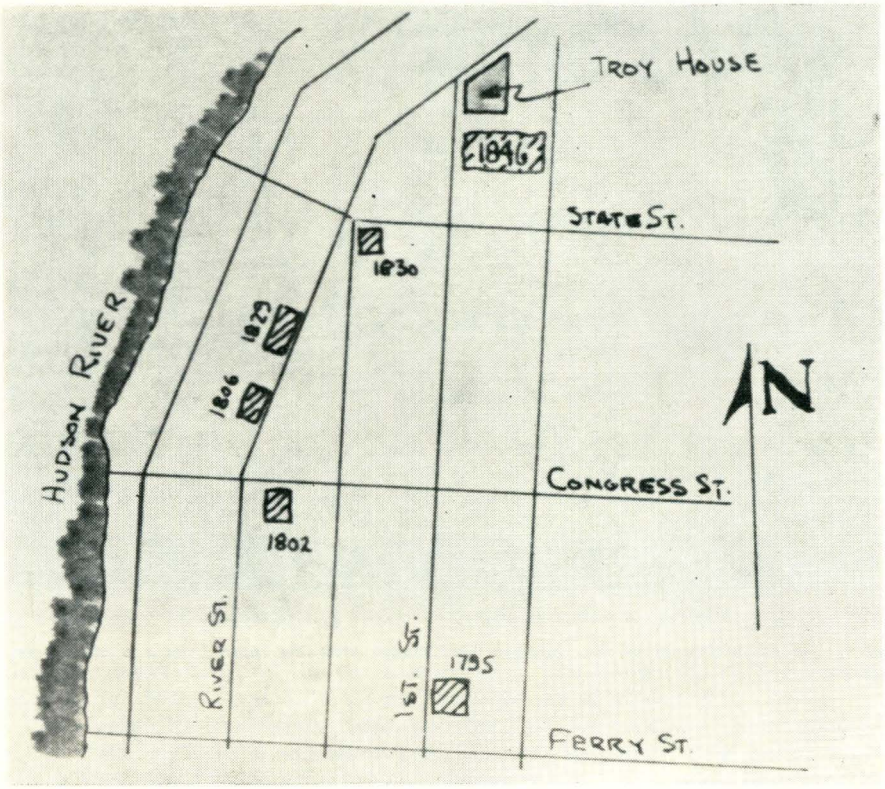


Figure 3. From its first site in 1795, Troy's post office began a slow journey to the magnetic Troy House.

Troy's post office was established in 1795,[8] some distance from the site of the future Troy House, and then spent the next 50 years wandering ever closer. The location in 1843,[9] during the period that Watrous was applying his oval handstamp, was "down the block and around the corner," a distance that some of the genteel patrons of Troy's best and most popular hotel might gladly forego in favor of a small fee payable to an hotel employee.

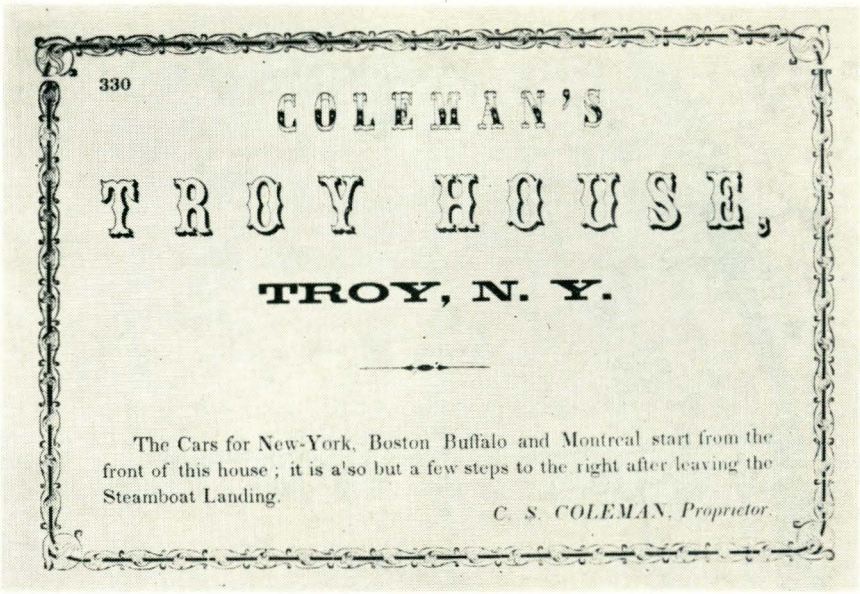
It is likely, though, that the Troy House provided mail carriage strictly for the convenience of its customers. And the example that we have displayed in Figure 2, being written on a rather informal faintly lined tablet paper, indicates at least in this case that the patron furnished his own stationery.

In 1845, the Troy House went to Charles S. Coleman and Charles Rogers. Then in 1847 Coleman assumed sole management and continued until a two year closing of the hotel in 1854-55. Coleman's reign in the Troy House provides us with the remainder of the known stampless period markings from the hotel.

Coleman wasted no time in introducing his own handstamp in black ink on letters leaving his hotel. The earliest reported strike is May 1847 and the Sept. 18, 1847 strike of Figure 5 seems to complete the scant record of this marking.

The first of the Coleman handstamps may have badly deteriorated by the Fall of 1848 when it was apparently replaced by a crude unboxed 26 x 17 mm

8. R. D. Harris, ibid.
9. A. J. Weise, Troy's One Hundred Years, p. 240, lists the sites of the Troy Post Offices.


330

COLEMAN'S

TROY HOUSE,

TROY, N. Y.

The Cars for New-York, Boston Buffalo and Montreal start from the front of this house ; it is a'so but a few steps to the right after leaving the Steamboat Landing.

C. S. COLEMAN, Proprietor.

Figure 4. An advertisement of the Coleman Troy House probably taken from a contemporary city directory.

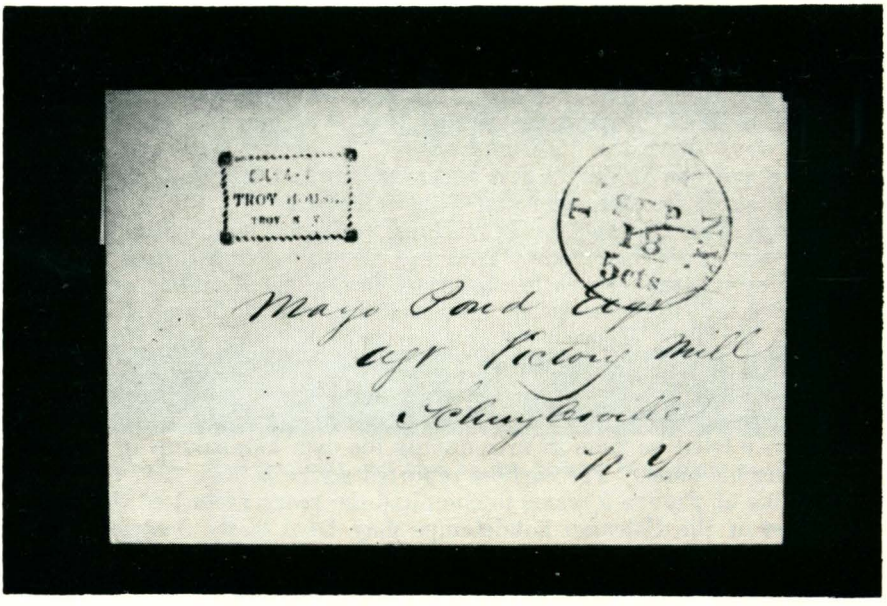


Figure 5. "COLEMAN'S/TROY HOUSE/TROY, N.Y." in 24 x 17mm wavy lined box. Note the resemblance of setting of this handstamp with the advertisement of Figure 4.



Figure 6. The 26 x 17mm unboxed Troy House handstamp reported in use only for the Fall of 1848.

straightline handstamp of the same wording. The known dates for this marking are all in 1848 — Sep. 17 & 23 and the Oct. 19 of Figure 6.

The straightline marking, itself, did not last for long and was replaced before the close of 1848 by another rendition of the wavy line boxed marking differing from the first chiefly in the setting of the hotel name in mixed upper and lower case letters. This latter marking seems to be the most common of the Troy House handstamps with four examples being reported for the period Nov. 2, 1848 to May 18, 1850.[10] The later examples display considerable wear to the embellishments forming the corners of the frame.

In May 1846 the Troy Post Office had moved into the Athenaeum Building to be just next door to the Troy House when Coleman assumed command. Even the most genteel of Coleman's customers probably would not have paid to have their letters conveyed the few feet to the post office. But they might have dropped their letters into a box in the hotel lobby for free carriage to the mails. These letters would be handstamped by the hotel more for the sake of advertising than for any indication of a postal service rendered. But the identity of writing paper leaving the pens of different Troy House patrons provides us with yet another possibility for the Troy House handstamps: they may have been used to print the heading on courtesy letter sheets.

We have found two instances of letters written from the Troy House by different correspondents but, as identified by the embossed stationer's imprint, on the same stationery. A search of approximately 100 letters sent from Troy during this same period disclosed but a single additional letter on either of these stationeries so we feel confident that we are not dealing in coincidences. Anyway, the first instance matches a Nov. 2, 1848 letter written by a hotel patron and bearing a strike from the second of the wavy line boxed handstamps with a letter of Dec. 16, 1848 written by Charles S. Coleman himself. The Coleman

10. In Sampson, ibid, this markings seems to have been confused with its similarly styled predecessor.

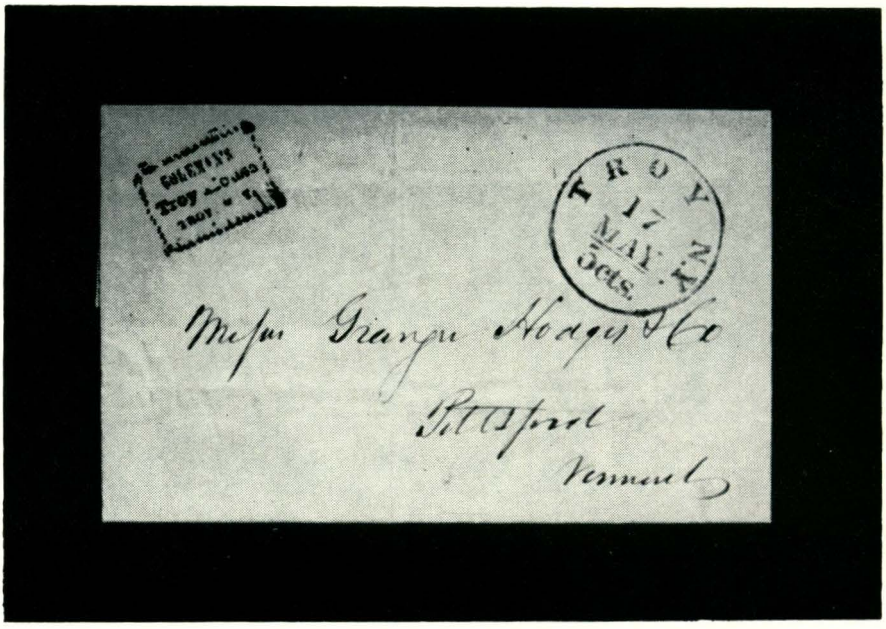


Figure 7. The second style of the wavy line boxed Troy House handstamps differs from the first in the mixed setting of "Troy House". This cover is dated May 17, 1850.



Figure 8. The stationer's imprint found on letters written from the Troy House Nov. 2 and Dec. 16, 1848.



Figure 9. The stationer's imprint common to letters written from the Troy House May 17 and May 18, 1850.

letter is datelined "Troy House" but bears no hotel handstamp. But both letters display a stationer's imprint indicating an Albany supplier.

The second pair of letters with matching stationer's imprint were sent from the Troy House with the second of the wavy line boxed handstamps on May 17 and May 18, 1850. In this case, the stationer's imprint reads something like "COLT & GRAY."

Even if the Troy House customers did not pay for transmission of their letters between the hotel and the post office, they might have paid for the stationery. We do not know what sort of free services were expected of a hotel in the mid 1800's and we shall probably never know precisely what the Troy House handstamps may have denoted in terms of money exchanged and services rendered. We suspect, though, that these Troy House stampless period hotel handstamps anticipated the corner card advertising of later eras. Indeed, from the period when envelopes gained favor over the folded letter sheet, we have just such a stampless envelope with a neat Coleman's Troy House corner card. The

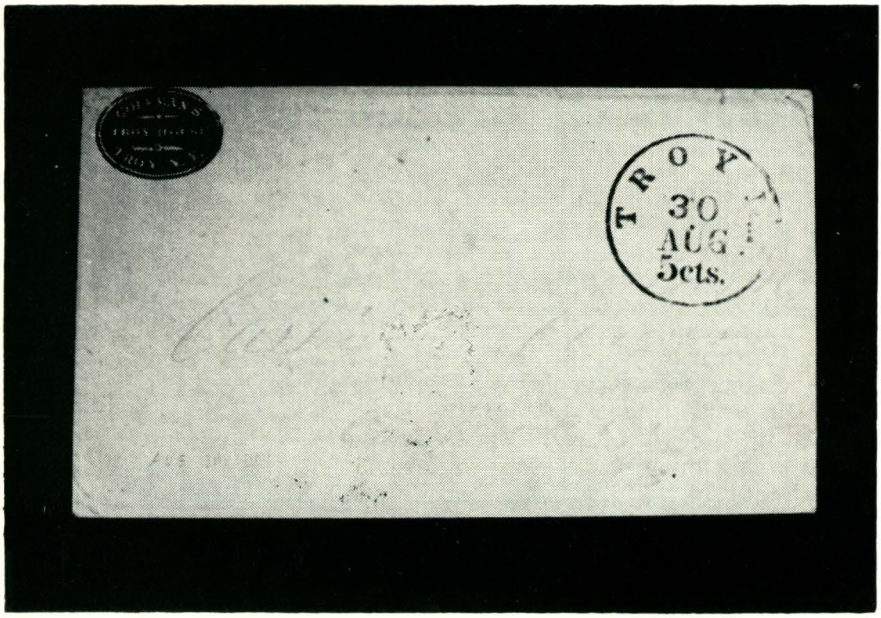


Figure 10. The blue oval advertising corner card provided by Coleman to his customers ca. 1851-53.

cover bears a blue strike of T-7B which puts the marking after the 1851 rate changes. A pencil notation identifies the year as 1851, but, were we skeptical, we would assign the cover to the period 1851-53 (the shop was closed 1854-55, remember).

So, we have found no definite evidence that the Troy House hotel handstamps indicated any postal service. The Watrous marking with the "FORWARDED . . ." wording might imply some carrier service without revealing whether or not fees were charged. Certainly no carrier fees would have been levied during Coleman's management of the hotel when the post office was only next door. But, during Coleman's time, the handstamps may have been connected in some way with the hotel-furnished stationery and were probably engineered to take advantage of the advertising possibilities presented by the letters from the pens of patrons.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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

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

Fun With Scissors:- The Bisects Of French Colonies

By Robert G. Stone

(Continued from Page 21)

The "Oxus" Bisects October–November 1905

Strictly speaking this was not a colonial bisect but one of French stamps sold by the postal agent on board the mail packet "Oxus" on the Reunion-Marseille run, calling at Madagascar, Djibouti, etc., on the way. Appearing on hundreds of postcards from this boat while steaming in the Indian Ocean during October-November 1905, one immediately suspects the clerk got the idea from seeing the Madagascar bisects of 1904-05. Or perhaps the dudes in Diégo Suarez talked him into it when the boat called there in early October. Quite unauthorized, likely unnecessary, even fraudulent, the "Oxus" splits are not recognized by Salles in his exhaustive work "*La Poste Maritime*" nor by any catalogs. But the fact remains they all went through the mails without question or due charge, and if 99%+ were philatelic we can show you one that was non-philatelic to all appearances. And of course they have been roundly denounced in the press as a *bêtise, escroquerie,* etc. Nevertheless they are curious for several reasons.

From early October 1905 the mail clerk on the Oxus pretended there was a lack of 10c French stamps in his stock on board (a value much used for franking travellers' postcards). At first he collected postage in cash and struck the cards with a handstamp: "Port Payé/paquebot-poste OXUS," forwarding them stampless. That was quite legitimate but not exciting; — and why did he not use 1, 2, 4 and 5c stamps? Soon he started bisecting 15c lined-Sower type stamps (horizontally) to use instead of 10c stamps; — why 15c rather than 20c stamps? Anyway, travellers on board in collusion with the mail clerk made up about 2000 cards addressed to friends or relatives or themselves in France and posted them with the bisects. The bisects were cancelled with the postmark of Ligne V, Marseille à Reunion (or Reunion à Marseille), No. 4. We have seen several hundred of these cards postmarked 19 Oct., 25 Oct., or 14 Nov., dates when or just after the boat called in certain ports where the senders bought the picture postcards to mail (Diégo Suarez, Tamatave, Reunion, Nossi Bé, Djibouti, etc.). The cards and often the stamps were also handstamped with a purple-inked cachet, of which there were three types: "Affranchissement spécial/faute de timbres a 10 cent.", "OXUS," or "Paquebot-Poste/OXUS." The latter two types were normal purser's cachets for such packets, but the first one was made up for the occasion and resembles those of Madagascar, probably confected at Diégo Suarez. The "OXUS" mark is seen only in combination with the first type; the third type was used only on the 14 November postings, mainly in combination with the first type.

As the mail agent collected 10c twice for every 15c stamp bisected he made a profit of 2½c per card. The postal administration in Paris, when they became aware of it, denounced the issue as unauthorized and chastised the clerk. The middle of the Indian Ocean is a long way from Paris else the agent could not have run his game uninhibitedly for 6 weeks. If we assume the clerk was honest, it would seem that his stock of 1, 2, 4, and 5c and 20c stamps was also low, otherwise he should have used these before splitting 15c, or stuck with his "PP" cachet. If we may be allowed a little further speculation — perhaps he initially



Figure 7. An "Oxus" bisect of the 15c grey-green lined-Sower French stamp of 1903 cancelled "Marseille à La Reunion L.V. No. 4" (Salles #2307/4) 25 Oct. 1905, on a picture postcard of Majunga, addressed to a girl in Cherbourg. Probably mailed when the boat was at Nossi-Bé. The cachets in this case are "Affranchissement spécial/faute de timbres a 10 cent." and "Oxus" (a purser's cachet).

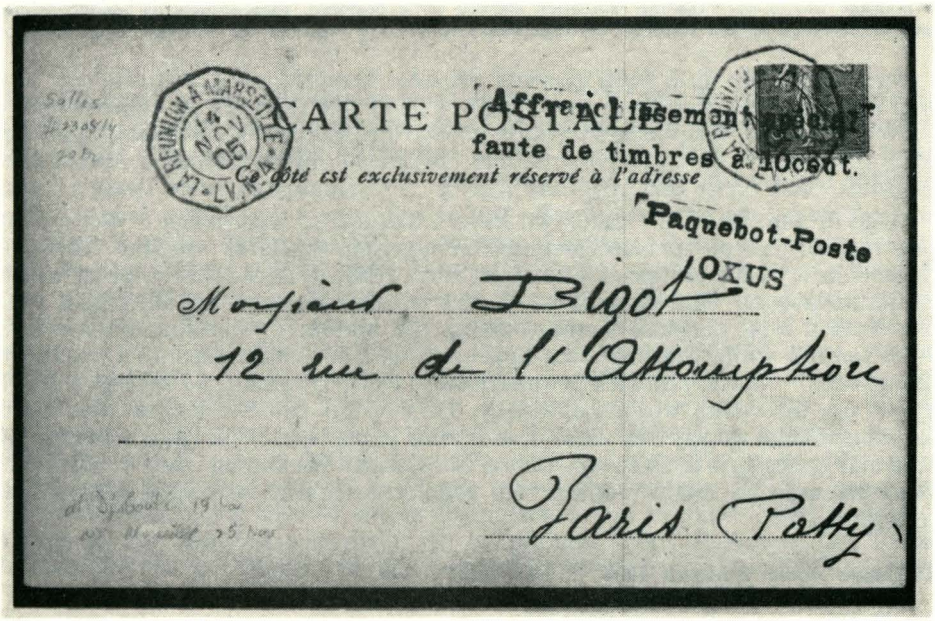


Figure 8. "Oxus" bisect on picture postcard of Djibouti, mailed 14 Nov. 1905 to Paris and cancelled with "La Reunion a Marseille L.V. No. 4" postmark (Salles #2308/4), while the boat was at Djibouti or had just left for Aden. Addressed in same handwriting as Figure 7, no message just a signature on recto. The sender put a serial number on each card he sent, so he could check back in France whether all arrived. The same cachet ties the bisect as on Figure 7 but the second cachet is a different purser's mark: "Paquebot-Poste/OXUS".



Figure 9. Postcard with picture of the "Oxus" boat, with a vertical gutter pair of the 15c bisects, postmarked as in Figure 8 and same cachet but no purser's mark. Message written at bottom to Madame Durant-Court, Cap Diégo, Madagascar, gives no hints of anything philatelic, but says the boat is steaming into Aden. Not clear why the pair of bisects (=15c), but perhaps because the message was longer than the regulation allowed for a postcard. These postcards had no printed space for message on the verso, as the regulations up to 1910 required the message to be on front.

borrowed the idea of the "PP" cachet from seeing the use of them made at Djibouti in 1901, and when he got to Diégo Suarez and saw those fancy Madagascar bisects he just couldn't resist, especially when told the Madagascar inspector had said it was o.k. to use them.

One of the "OXUS" cards we have is sort of a *superchérie* — the stamps are a vertical pair of the bisect with gutter between, cancelled with the "Réunion a Marseille L.V. No. 4" postmark of 14 Nov. 1905, plus the first type of cachet mentioned above. The card is a picture of the Messageries Maritimes boat *Oxus* with a long personal message across the bottom (—nothing philatelic in it —) written while the boat was approaching Aden, addressed to Cap Diégo, Madagascar. Now a postcard required only a 10c franking; of course a single half of the 15c stamp would have done the job, but two 15c halves adds up to 15c — or should we say the clerk was laying it on thick this time, heading for home and eager to use them up, unless he thought the sender had written such a long message on front (contrary to regulations) that he should charge him the letter rate.

The Gaoua Bisect, 2 March 1908

The Gaoua is a crown-jewel (of a virgin queen at that) of the bisects, unsung by catalogs, dealers or collectors; unsullied by promotion, dubious motivation or philatelic covers; unauthorized but honestly made in presence of the whole community; unknown to the administration and undenounced by it, postally and philatelically pure as the wind-driven dusts of its savannah home.



Figure 10. Bisect of 20c French Soudan stamp of 1894 (Sc. #11) made at Gaoua, Upper Senegal and Niger, cancelled 2 March 1908, on cover to Nimes, France. Very rare non-philatelic provisional —less than 40 bisects were used on that date. It took 49 days to reach destination; travel was very slow then in West Africa.

And how did that ever happen? All we know is what is in an obscure note in *Collectionneur de Timbre-Post,* 1908, p. 168, where Arthur Maury quotes a letter from a correspondent stationed at Gaoua, Upper Senegal and Niger, in 1908: — "On March 2, the day of the (weekly?) mail from Gaoua, the native postal clerk found himself short of stamps of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10c, that is all the values that could be used to make up a franking of 10c. The mail was very heavy that day, including a rather large number of correspondences. Some of it was franked with the few stamps still in stock, the rest with 20c stamps diagonally bisected. This operation was made in the presence of a major part of the European personnel there. The clerk could not foresee the lack of stamps, because the evening before a sub-officer had taken 15 francs in stamps to send in an envelope in place of buying a money order, the Gaoua postoffice being authorized to issue money orders to within the colony only. In every case the franking (by bisects) was correct. The post nearest to Gaoua is that of Diebengon at 80km, by foot naturally, and it also lacked stamps for several days. The post office which might have furnished stamps to Gaoua was Bobo-Dinilan, 205 km away, but there was insufficient time to obtain them from there by mail. The number of stamps of 20c bisected was about 40 or perhaps less. This was the French Soudan 20c (Group Type), the new issues (Faidherbe, etc.) not having arrived yet."

The only other reference to this bisect we have ever found is in *L'Ami de Timbres,* 1909, p. 267, where the editor illustrates a cover he had with a 20c Soudan bisected from Gaoua dated 7 Mars 1908 (misread for 2 March?). It is not listed in Tristant's survey of colonial provisionals. We are happy to illustrate our own Gaoua cover herewith; there is certainly nothing philatelic about

it. Another cover with a 25c stamp in addition to the 20c bisect, registered franking to Paris, was recently sold by the Proud-Bailey Co.;—it was incorrectly described in their catalog but in a letter the firm indicates it was the 20c bisect cancelled March 6, 1908 — either the date was misread or the shortage of stamps continued until the next week's mail. In any case the Gaoua may be rarer than a Mauritius "Post Office" (if anybody cares).

The scene where the whole literate community stands around to watch the bisecting operation must be unheard of in postal history — and it surely was a good way to keep the operation as immaculate as its conception.

It should be mentioned that Maury probably could not accurately read the unfamiliar native names in his correspondant's handwriting — the other postoffices mentioned were probably Diebougou and Bobo-Diolasso, the only places with similar names recorded as postoffices in Upper Senegal and Niger in that period. Gaoua is an isolated place in the far south of French Soudan (later part of Haute Volta) near the Ivory Coast border. The postcffice was opened around 1900-02; when the colony of French Soudan was renamed "Sénégambie et Niger" in 1904 and "Haut Sénégal et Niger" in 1906, there was a long lag in changing the postmarks and stamps, which explains why Gaoua was still in 1908 using French Soudan stamps.

The Libreville Bisects of 1910

Here we uncover a side-splitting caper of local amateurs out to make a few francs from gullible collectors. But alas, their creations went through the mails (or at least into and out of a postoffice) so we have to have a look at them — no *a priori* bias, you know. Dated between October and late December 1910 or January 1911, a considerable number of covers have turned up mailed at Libreville, Gabon, for delivery to local Libreville addresses, franked with postage insufficient by 1c or 5c from the required 10c. The postage due on the 1c-deficient covers was 2c (twice the deficiency) and collected by a diagonal bisect of the 4c black General Issues of French Colonies dues stamp, with a handstamp cachet reading: "TAXÉ AVEC MOITIÉ/DE 4c FAUTE DE 2c" (the cachet sometimes tied the bisect, sometimes not). The covers deficient 5c and charged 10c due had diagonal bisects of the 20c green General Issues dues stamp and a cachet reading: "Taxe avec moitie/de 20 faute de 10," sometimes tieing the bisect. Some of these covers have the regulation T-in-triangle mark, some do not. The handwriting and addresses on many of the covers are identical. A few of them were mailed from elsewhere in Gabon or on ships nearby to Libreville. The implications are that 2c and 10c dues stamps were out of stock there at that time. What seems to give away this postal-charade is that in the same period we find a number of covers mailed similarly with deficient postage, the due collected with dues stamps of the very denominations alleged out of stock — and the handwriting looks like some of that on the bisect covers!

Obviously a collusion between the post office personnel and local residents was involved. Montader reported in *Postillon* that a government functionary, noting that 2c dues were apparently out of stock, made up many deficiently-franked covers addressed to his relatives, friends, and servants, etc., to obtain the provisional. Yet it remains unclear who started this racket — a genuine shortage, the postal clerks, or importuning customers. It got worse in time: several versions of the 4c/2c cachet are found, differing in size, one being said to be a "reprint" or forgery of the other. Also we suspect backdating of the postmarks on some of the covers which bear stamps of the January 1911 issue



Figure 11. A Libreville dues bisect cover, postmarked 2 Nov. 1910. The postage stamps total 9c, 1c deficient for prepaying the 10c rate. The 2c due is collected by a 4c (presumably, as the numeral half of the stamp was cut off) black colonies dues stamp of 1885. Cachet "Taxé avec moitié/de 4c faute de 2c."

of Gabon cancelled in December 1910! By 1911 hundreds of these covers were being offered in bookstores in France at 10 francs each. Over the years they keep popping up in auctions or dealers' stocks at rather exhorbitant prices. The number we have seen offered is not to suggest they are common but not rare either; we guess at least 300-500 were made. No authorization for them has ever been trotted forth. In fact, 1910 was a dues crazy period in Gabon — we note from Bas Kouilou postoffice in December 1910 many covers with General Issue dues handstamped "GABON" (the registry label cachet), and in June covers are reported from Leukolele with postage stamps used as dues and cancelled T-in-Triangle. For years a lot of gallimaufry had been going on at the Libreville postoffice, which the Inspector for the Colonies reported in 1911: irregularities of all sorts, falsified records, defalcations of funds, etc. — a deficit of 15,000 francs among other things. Beside these tricks the bisects were a childrens' pastime, but there might be a connection. Who knows?

Ft. Sibut, Oubangui–Chari, May 1911

The postoffice at Ft. Sibut, Oubangui-Chari, ran out of 10c stamps during May 1911 and bisected some 20c stamps of French Congo (1900 issue) to accommodate 10c frankings. This was reported by a correspondent of the *Journal des Philatélistes*, 1911, p. 119, and quoted by Maury in *Coll. T.-P.*, 1911, p. 356. The postoffice claimed only about a dozen such bisects were used, but the correspondent thought it was about 22. Orders were given by the head office at

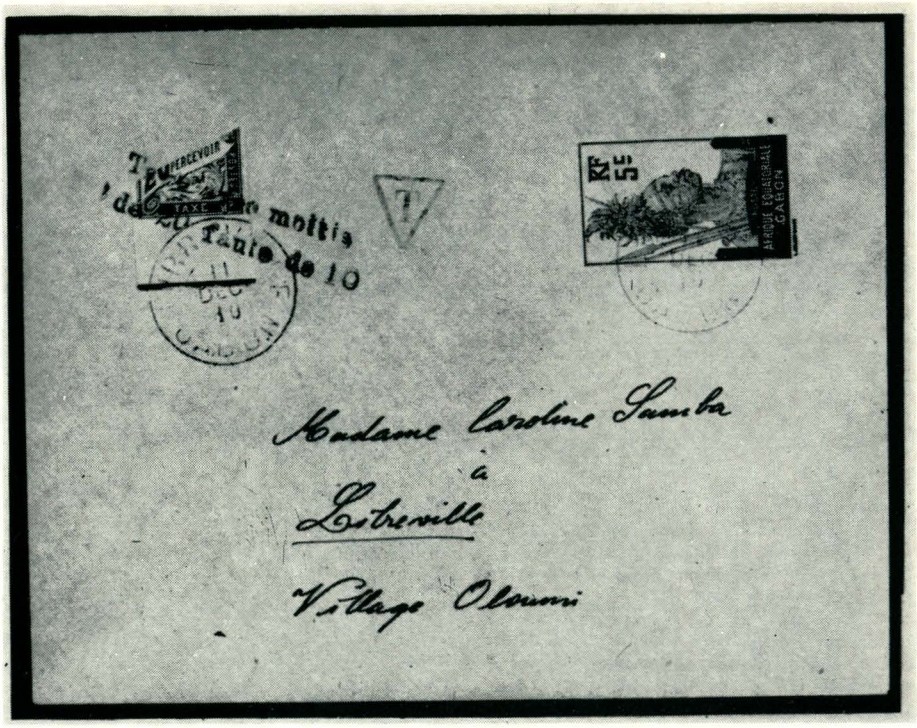


Figure 12. Libreville dues bisect of 20c green colonial dues stamp of 1906 for collecting 5c due, cancelled on 11 Dec. 1910. This cover was underpaid by 5c hence 10c due. The cachet reads: "Taxe avec moitie/de 20 faute de 10". The 5c stamp is of the 1911 issue inscribed "Afrique Equatoriale Gabon" which was not supposed to have been available at Libreville before January or February 1911; thus the postmark was apparently backdated.

Bangui that no more bisects were to be made and that when stamps were lacking to forward the letters to Bangui in a sack with a money order for the amount of postage required. The postmaster at Bangui would then put the stamps on them. We do not know of any covers with this bisect and it may be as rare as the Gaoua.

Ivory Coast, 1913, 1916, 1921, 1926

We have a note in our files, without reference, that 10c Ivory Coast stamps were bisected at Touba sometime in 1913. (Touba was a small place where a lot of philatelic cancelling-to-order of stamps occurred in the 1900-15 period.)

The Yvert et Tellier specialized catalog records a 20c stamp vertically bisected used at Drewin, Feb. 2, 1916, and a 50c vertically bisected used at Grand Bassam 18 June 1921. No further information is available and these may only have been used on one day or for a short period, evidently without philatelic exploitation.

Tristant *(Feuilles Marcophiles,* #150, p. 88) reports a 20c stamp bisected at Abidjan, April 19, 1926.

Dahomey, 1920–21

The Yvert et Tellier specialized catalog notes that in 1920 the 10c stamp of Dahomey was bisected at Savé to use for 5c frankings. The 50c was bisected horizontally at Savelou during September and October 1920, which we have used on a cover of 27 Sept. addressed to Porto Novo for the proper 25c letter rate at

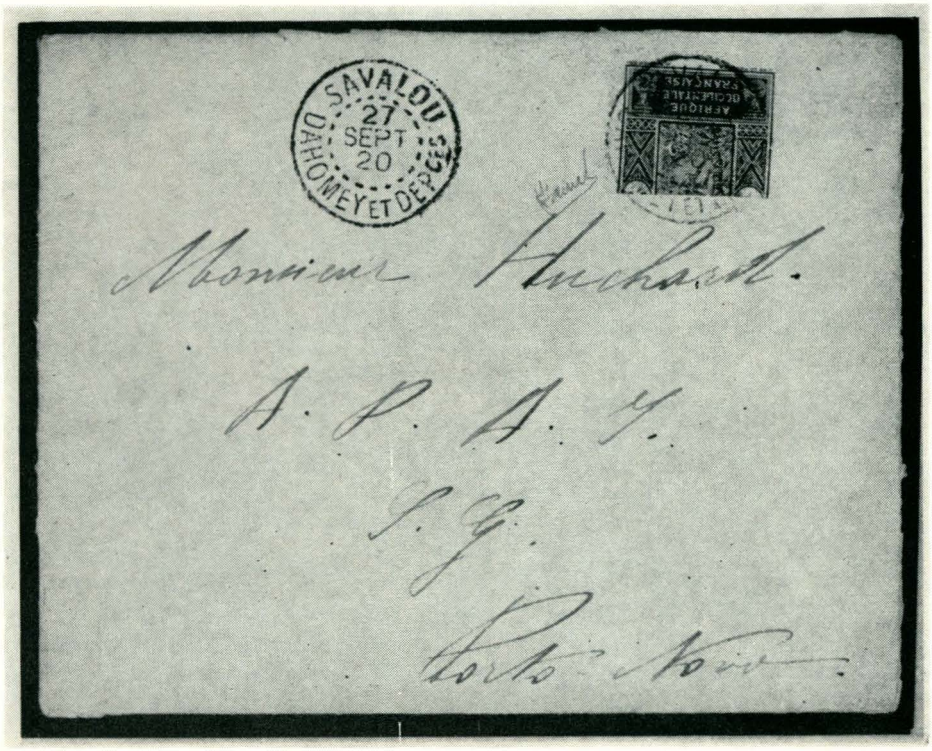


Figure 13. Dahomey 50c stamp (Sc. #64) horizontally bisected for a 25c franking on a respectable-appearing cover from Savelou, 27 Sept. 1920, to Porto Nove.

that time. Rochette reported in *L'Echo de la T.* (#1112, p. 282) that the 50c is found diagonally bisected on 30 Oct. 1920 and that bisecting was authorized for a short time owing to shortage of 10c and 25c stamps. The Yvert et Tellier catalog also mentions the 50c being bisected either vertically or diagonally, used for a few days in November 1921 at Paouignan for 25c frankings. R.B. in *Bull. Phil. du Midi* #59 and #61 states that bisects of the 50c were used at Cotonou, 23 Sept. 1920 to late 1921, and at Porto Novo 16 Oct. 1920 to late 1921. Yvert et Tellier note the 50c Dahomey dues stamp of 1914 was bisected for 25c postage use at Ouidah, Nov. 20, 1920. Finally we have a philatelic cover from Bohicon to Cotonou, 15 Nov. 1920, with a vertically bisected 10c in addition to 20c face in 1, 2, and 5c stamps, making a 25c franking. Tristant *(op. cit.)* reports a 30c diagonally bisected at Bohicon 15 Dec. 1920, which implies 15c stamps were lacking.

Thus we have numerous indications of probable shortages of 10c and 25c (and possibly 15c) stamps at a number of postoffices in Dahomey at intervals from early September 1920 to late November 1921, and that they were probably authorized or at least tolerated by the Dahomey central postal administration. There was philatelic exploitation of some or all of these but it must not have been very great nor well organized, else we would see many more of them.

Brazzaville, May 1922

The Yvert et Tellier catalogue mentions a cover seen with a bisect of the 50c Middle Congo stamp cancelled at Brazzaville, 27 May 1922, addressed to Dijon, France. We have found no other reports on this.

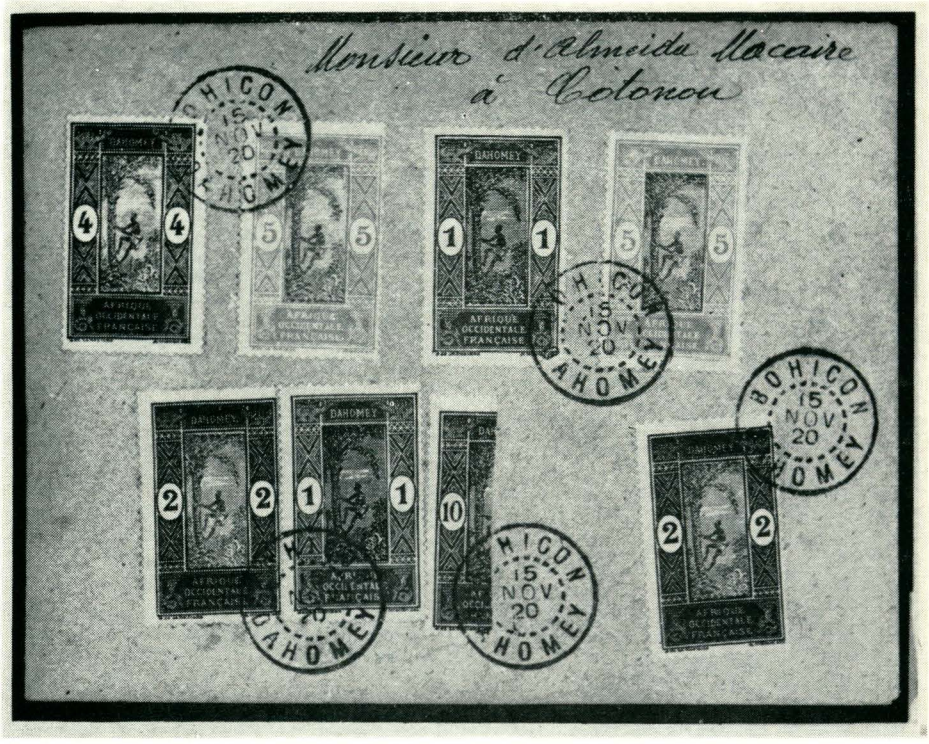


Figure 14. Philatelic cover with 10c Dahomey stamp (Sc. #47) vertically bisected plus 20c in 1, 2, and 5c stamps to make the 25c letter rate, from Bohion 15 Nov. 1920 to Cotonou.



Figure 15. Chinese envelope, locally addressed at Papeete, Tahiti, without any postage stamps (25c rate), a 50c due collected by a bisected 1fr due stamp of French Colonies 1905, cancelled 9 June 1923. Handstamp "T" and due charge in crayon. Note that the stamp is a top sheet-margin copy, with the cut from the adjacent row of stamps extending across the margin, showing that the bisecting was probably done with a paper cutter taking diagonal rows of a pane (5x5) at each cut. Probably philatelic use.

Tahiti, June 1923

A number of covers are known with the 1fr brown on straw French Colonies postage-due stamp of 1905 diagonally bisected at Papeete in June 1923. They may all be philatelic, as the one we illustrate appears to be. A cover with it is reported originating in New Caledonia and one from Moorea. The letter rate was 25c and unfranked letters would be charged 50c due (2 x the rate unpaid). Oceania was still using the 1894-1905 General Issue dues until 1926 and its stock of them was possibly getting low in some denominations already by 1923. They were no longer being printed after 1905-1908 but Paris had stocks to distribute well into the 1920s. Colonies that were using the General Issue dues in the 1920s finally had to have provisional overprints by 1925-28, so we judge that Paris was still supplying some of them up to that time. But it seems Oceania could have used lower denominations of dues in combination to make up the 50c charge.

Cameroun, 1927, 1929

Yvert et Tellier catalogue notes that the 1fr blue (1926) stamp was seen bisected and pen-surcharged 50c, on covers from M'Banga dated 15 April, 1927, and from Nyombé April 8, 1927, and Jan. 14, 1929. The rarity of these does not suggest philatelic promotion as they are very small postoffices.

Postlude

If any generalized pattern is discernible in this history, it is only that the earlier bisects were associated with the philatelic and speculative issues of all sorts made in most colonies during 1900-1906, due to laxity in the colonial administration at all levels; whereas the later ones (1908-) were mostly isolated local happenings without prior approval or direction of higher offices, on a very small scale, and more or less justified by genuine temporary shortages of stamps. The postal validity and philatelic exploitation were not necessarily correlated to presence vs. absence of official authorization or approval. As we have pontificated before, the existence of an official decree is no assurance of genuine need, and the absence of such authorization is no proof of lack of genuine emergency. If that sounds like a moral for postal historians, so be it.

The skeptic might ask: why bisect when surcharging or use of "PP" cachets was an available alternative? A fair answer is that surcharging was already under a cloud of disapproval at the Ministry unless prior authorization was obtained; the "PP" cachets were probably not available at all small postoffices. Also clerks may have been wary of collecting cash without putting on stamps as it exposed them to accusation of fraud. The logic for bisecting at remote posts when emergencies arose is thus evident.

The End

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 128 of this number.

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

The Clubhouse

The Meeting of January 3rd

Tannu Tuva and other Esoterica, Harrison D. S. Haverbeck

Philately offers perhaps the most diverse range of subjects for a devotee to collect. The question of "What to collect?" is one that puzzles both the amatuer and serious collector; perhaps because of the tremendous variations the hobby offers. It is Mr. Haverbeck's belief that the only way to completely enjoy philately and realize its fullest potential as an entertaining pastime is to answer this question in the simplest way: collect what you like. The unusual, the esoterica, often hold the most appeal, as they leave so much room for study and research, controversy and bewilderment.

Tannu Tuva

Tannu Tuva is, needless to say, a place about which most people know little or nothing. Located in northwest Mongolia, its history begins in 1920 with the White counterrevolution, led by Baron von Ungern-Sternberg. He led two attacks; one in 1921 on Chita, in Siberia (which failed) and another in 1922, on Kizil, the capital of Tannu Tuva (which also failed). By 1926, Tannu Tuva was an autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Its first stamps were printed in Moscow on Russian paper, bearing star and diamond watermarks. Provisionals were issued in 1927, along with the first pictorial issue, lithographed in Moscow. 1932 brought about a change in alphabet to the Cyrillic alphabet, and surcharges and overprints entered the postal scene. The Scott catalog declared later issues speculative, and refused to recognize the pictorial issues appearing between 1934 and 1938. Sets of perforated and imperforated stamps exist, and covers which *were passed through the mails.*

An airmail series was published in 1934, appearing also on covers. Again, these covers bear backstamping at Lucerne, Switzerland, and were accepted despite the *absence* of a Moscow cancellation. The airmails can be found on many backstamped covers. Not shown are stamps that appeared between 1939 and 1941, exhibiting numerous variations in numbering machine surcharges. In 1943, a local series of 25 kopeck stamps came forth, causing great controversy today. Tannu Tuva *is* a philatelic entity, and it remains that the Scott catalog does *not* give all the facts that pertain to the validity of these covers. The case can be argued against the existence of Tannu Tuva's postal system, but the facts indicate that the stamps were actually used.

Indian States

The Indian Feudatory State of Bahawalpur celebrated the 100th anniversary of the British alliance under the rule of Sir Sadiq Mohammed Khan Abbasi V by issuing a 1 anna stamp in 1933. Covers bearing these stamps of the British Alliance Centenary were mailed from Sadiq-Garh to Deh-Rawai. A very strange puzzle poses itself: supposedly, no stamps for postal use were isused to this state until 1947.

The discovery of new stamps is perhaps the most satisfying reward of philatelic research. Charkhari issued in 1922 and 1930 provisional stamps that are unlisted in the major catalogs, yet were officially issued according to state authorities, a fact recorded by R. F. Stoney. The Kishengarh 1 rupee stamp, in dark green, was issued in 1904, made from a plate impression of 16 subjects,

In 1903, Kishengarh printed ½ anna stamps in pink: 6 copies on a plate of 8 copies. Two framed blank spaces appear — why? A genuine postal cancellation appears on the first stamp of Nandgaon, a cover issued in 1892, Mr. Haverbeck owns both of the two that are known to exist. Poonch is represented by a large block of ½ anna stamps autographed by Rajah Buldeo Singh on the reverse.

Idar is a small state, near Ahmedabad, in the Bombay Presidency. These stamps were first seen in March of 1941, although state authorities confirmed their issuance in 1939. They were issued in booklets containing eight sheets of four stamps. They were printed by M. N. Kothari and Co., Bombay. The most noticeable feature was that in position 1 of the sheet, Idar was spelled as Jdar. Sometime in 1941, a second variety of this first stamp appeared catalogued as with colored panels. The whole design is composed of half-tone dots. The error Jdar had now been corrected. October 21, 1944 reported the second issue, printed by P. G. Mehta and Co. in Himatnagar. There were four denominations and there were at least two printings of all the values except possibly the 4 annas. The impression of the printing was generally heavier in appearance, and the background of the central oval was more blotchy. The following varieties exist and were shown, but it is doubtful some of them were ever issued for the public postal use: imperforated between horizontally, imperforated between vertically, and with badly misplaced perforations, sometimes cutting the stamp in two. Strips containing three impressions of a standard block of four were exhibited. The 1¼ anna denomination appearing in 1945 has been condemned as clandestine by Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. There were 3 printings of this denomination: a genuinely used cover shows the postal use of this denomination: How? Why?

Persia

These single copies in the finest possible condition constitute a gentleman's collection of 19th century Persia.

North Vietnam

The stamps to be discussed were those issued by North Vietnam in the period between 1951 and 1954. These were issued prior to the Geneva Conference which divided North and South Vietnam. Consequently, these stamps did duty not only in Tonkin but also in Annam and Cochin China. Ho Chi Minh led a Communist-inspired nationalist revolution against the French in Indochina. The first definitive stamps appear in 1948, rather crudely printed on various native papers. Examples were exhibited in the frames. The issues became decidedly philatelic in 1954. Official stamps with denominations expressed in kilos of rice were also in use. One of the most interesting of the exhibits was an envelope addressed to Ho Chi Minh inscribed "Respectfully submitted to Uncle Ho." This and several other covers shown had been smuggled through French lines by courier.

Morocco

The display of the Morocco local posts was divided into two sections: the Cherifien Post and one dealing with the various courier systems established by the merchants of the larger towns. Previous to 1892, postal services to the interior were performed only by the Sultan's Cherifien Service and the Private Local Post run by I. Brudo.

In the early days, special couriers were used to carry state messages, decrees, official letters, etc. between the Sultan and his ministers. In the 1860's an

organized service of native runners were used to convey official dispatches between the French consul at Tangier and the French plenipotentiary at Fez.

It is believed that in 1884, Sultan Mulay Hassan authorized these runners or "rakkas" to carry a certain amount of private correspondence, that is the first instance of a national post office in Morocco.

No stamps were in use at this time, letters were frequently lost or not delivered and the service was generally unreliable. This was probably the fault of the rakkas who very often did not reach their destination due to the hostility of the local tribesmen. Examples of these letters with their handstamps are shown.

Due to this irregular and undependable mail service from the coast to the interior, private interests organized various postal services. Between the years 1891 and 1906, eighteen of these enterprises were organized over sixteen different routes. Some of them were sponsored by private individuals, some by firms that used the routes as a connecting link between their representatives in the various towns.

Some routes were recognized by the French and the British authorities and local stamps can be found with the cancellations of the foreign agencies.

The local courier posts were established between many of the principal towns. Among those exhibited were:

El Ksar to Ouezzan: a French service operating for just one month. The service disbanded due to the opposition of the Grand Shereef of Ouezzan.

Fez to Meknes: a French service, working with the British Post Office where the stamps were also sold, existed from January of 1891 to May 27, 1901.

Fez to Sefro: a French service operated by A. Cohen was in existence from 1894 to 1901.

Mazagan to Azemour to Marrakesh: established in 1897 by M. Messod Bensimhon, suspended in 1899.

Mazagan to Marrakesh: the post of Isaac Brudo established January 1891, operating through 1899. Also between these towns there existed an Anglo-Italian Consular Post. This post was established by the Italian Consul Signor Morteo in conjuction with M. Spinney, agent for the British Post Office. The post began operation in January of 1897 and closed down on December 9, 1898. It was operated in competition with that of Brudo. The stamps were on sale at the British Post Office in Mazagan.

Mogador to Agadir: this post had a very brief existence during 1900 and was organized by Spanish merchants.

Mogador to Marrakesh: in 1892 a short-lived post was established by Meyer S. Maimaran. In June of 1895, W. Marks and Co. also established a post between these towns. This post existed until 1899.

Saffi to Marrakesh: a post created by Isaac Brudo and under the charge of Joseph André. It was established in 1899 and lasted under a year.

Tangier to Arzila: a Spanish post opened on December 1, 1895 and closed 1898. It was organized by Aaron Cohen.

Tangier to El Ksar: A Spanish post opened in August of 1898 and believed to have been closed in the summer of 1899.

Tangier to Fez: this service, the second private post inaugurated in Morocco, was begun on July 1, 1892, the service run in cooperation with the French official posts. On January 1, 1893, the service was taken over entirely by the French government but the stamps remained in use until April 1.

Tangier to Larache: a post was operated by James Nahon during 1898.
Tangier to Tetuan: a post was opened in 1897 by Salvador Hassan, a Portuguese banker whose head office was in Tetuan with branches at Tangier and El Ksar. The post had a very short life.
Tetuan to Chechuan: a French service was opened on Dec. 1, 1896. This post lasted only about 3 months for lack of clients.
Tetuan to El Ksar: A French service operated by Si Allal Abdi. It was run for a short period in 1897.
This display concludes the program.

(Jeanne M. Haverbeck)

1973 PROGRAM OF MEETINGS

Exhibit opens at 7:30 p. m.

Meetings convene at 8:00 p. m.

March 21st	— *THE GERMAN SUBMARINE STORY*—Bernard S. Hennig, Chicago, Ill.
April 4th	— *POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY NIGHT*—Dr. W. Reiner-Deutsch, New York.
April 18th	— *CLASSIC NEWFOUNDLAND*—Col. Robert H. Pratt, Milwaukee, Wisc.
May 2nd	— *ESSAY PROOF NIGHT*—W. Kenneth Minuse, New York.
May 9th	— *ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER.*
May 16th	— *THE MERRY WIDOW SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP OF THE UNITED STATES (E7)*—Robert L. Markovits, Middletown, N. Y.
June 6th	— *SALVADOR*—Dr. Norman S. Hubbard, Oyster Bay, N. Y.
	Summer Recess
September 19th	— *JEWELS FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC*—John Gartner, Melbourne, Australia.
October 3rd	— *HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF FRENCH PHILATELY*—John Levett, Woking, Surrey, England.
October 17th	— *PHILATELIC JUDGING.*
November 7th	— *PHILATELY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL*—John C. Chapin, Washington, D. C.
November 21st	— *G.R.I.'s OF THE WORLD*—Wolfgang Heinrich, Saugerties, N. Y.
December 5th	— *PHILATELIC PHOTOGRAPHY*—Ernest A. Kehr, Richmond Hill, N. Y.
December 19th	— *BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN HOUSE*—Robert P. Odenweller, Theo. Van Dam, Co-Chairmen.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award For 1972 Presented To Philip Silver



At the December 1972 meeting of the Board of Governors, Philip Silver was unanimously chosen as the 1972 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial award "for distinguished service to philately."

For Mr. Silver, this caps a philatelic career that began in 1939 shortly after the birth of his son, David. Working in the Comptroller's Office with Mr. Silver was Harold Baer, then the Law Secretary to the Comptroller, presently a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. Acting upon the latter's suggestion, Mr. Silver started a collection for his newborn offspring. The son's interest was minimal; the father's continued unabated to this day.

Early Philatelic Interests

Starting with a collection of mint sheets, first day covers and plate blocks of United States stamps, Mr. Silver gravitated to topical collecting. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945, many countries issued stamps in his honor. So, a "Rooseveltiana" collection was started. Later, after a meeting with other topical collectors, he started a sports stamp collection. This contract with early topical collectors led him to join with others as an organizer of the first topical stamp society in this country, Topical Philatelists. He served as Secretary and Treasurer and also as Business and Advertising Manager of "The Topicalist," the first topical publication in the United States. His articles on "Rooseveltiana" eventually led to the publication of the American Topical Associations' handbook on "Rooseveltiana," which he co-authored with the late Jan Bart.

Interest In Air Mails

A chance introduction to several air mail collectors, started him in the field of air mail collecting. He joined Aero Philatelists in 1951, subsequently being elected to its Board of Directors. He served this organization as Secretary for three years. In 1959, he was elevated to the Presidency and served in that capacity for three years as well.

Mr. Silver's attraction to air mail stamps caused him to give up several of his other interests including his collection of 19th and 20th century United States and Confederate States of America. Finding that a collection of air mails of the entire world was beyond his reach — even today there are few such collections — he concentrated instead on the air mail stamps of the United States and of the smallest South American country, Uruguay. Today, he is recognized as a leading authority on the air mail rates of the United States.

The Collectors Club

In 1952, he joined the Collectors Club of New York. Several years later, the late Henry M. Goodkind, then editor of The Collectors Club Philatelist, asked him to "write-up" one of the Club's meetings. He complied and, for many years after, his reports on philatelic presentations at Club meetings were a standard feature of that world renowned publication.

In 1961, Mr. Silver was elected to the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club. One year later, he was elected Secretary of the Club and served in that office for three years. Next came three years as Vice President. He was then elected to the Presidency and served in that capacity for three years from 1968 to 1970. In 1971, he was elected a Trustee, a position he still holds.

In 1972, at the urging of the governors, he agreed to serve as Treasurer, until a replacement could be found. In addition, he has served as Chairman, Co-Chairman, or member of almost every committee in the Club. He was responsible for the formation of the Capital Fund in 1964 and has served as its Co-Chairman with Mr. Boker, since that date.

Other Philatelic Activities

Mr. Silver has served philately in many other offices. In addition to his activities in the Collector's Club, Aero Philatelists, and Topical Philatelists, he is presently a Vice President of the American Air Mail Society and the President of the Uruguay Collectors Club. Mr. Silver is also an alternate member of the American Revolution Bi-Centennial Commission, a Director of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions and a Vice President of the recent ANPHILEX Exhibition which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Collectors Club.

Mr. Silver has contributed his talents to philately in other ways. He is an accredited judge of the American Philatelic Society. He served as a Judge of the Junior Section during the 1956 FIPEX Exhibition in New York and has judged a number of national and regional shows in several parts of the country.

He is a member of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. On that committee, he specialized in the difficult area of surcharges and overprints.

Mr. Silver has not neglected the exhibiting side of philately. He twice received Awards of Honor at Collectors Club Annual Competitions for Confederate States and United States air mails. His collections have won grand awards in SOJEX and SEPAD. In international competition, he has received many

major awards, including a small-gold at the 1966 SIPEX Exhibition in Washington, D.C. In international air mail competition, here and abroad, he has received a number of gold medals plus special awards for research.

In addition to his membership in the Collectors Club, Mr. Silver is a fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a member of the American Philatelic Society, Society of Philatelic Americans, American Air Mail Society, Jack Knight Collectors Federation, Metropolitan Air Mail Cover Club, Uruguay Collectors Club, Essay Proof Society, etc.

Writing Activities

Although Philip Silver has served philately well in many executive and administrative capacities, his first love is writing. Over the past 20 years, more than one hundred of his articles have been published in the Collectors' Club Philatelist, "STAMPS," Linn's Weekly Stamp News, Western Stamp Collector, "First Days," "Covers" magazine, and, last but not least, in the AERO Philatelist Annals. He was Assistant Editor of the Aero Philatelist Annals from 1959 until its demise in 1971. After the merger of Aero Philatelists and the American Air Mail Society is legally consummated, he will be the editor of the publication to be issued by the merged organization.

In addition, Mr. Silver has served on the editorial committee of the Collectors Club Philatelist since 1962. He is a section editor of the American Air Mail Catalog and a contributor to the Sanabria Air Post Catalog.

Previous Recognition

Mr. Silver's efforts on behalf of philately have been recognized on several previous occasions. He received the RICHARD S. BOHN Memorial Award for distinguished services to Aerophilately and the Metropolitan Air Mail Cover Club Award for outsanding serives to Aerophilately. Last year, at the annual awards dinner, he was honored with the Collectors Club medal for distinguished service.

Also, because of his philatelic activities, he presently has two biographical listings — Who's Who in the East and the Dictionary of International Biography published in London, England.

Schooling

Mr. Silver was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 18, 1910. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the City College of New York where he majored in Spanish. In his undergraduate days, he was elected to Sigma Delta Pi, the national honor society in Spanish. He also completed graduate studies in that field at Columbia University and the National University of Mexico.

Subsequently, he enrolled in the Baruch School of Business and Public Adminstration of the City College with a major in Accountancy. While completing all of the requirements for the master's degree in business adminstration, he was elected to membership in Beta Alpha Psi, the national honor and professional fraternity in accounting. He is a registered public accountant of the State of New York and a member of the American Accounting Association.

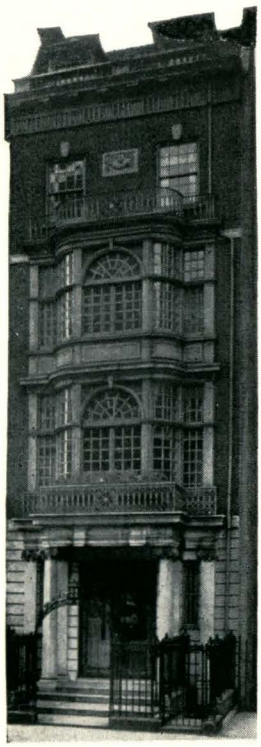
Also, in his undergraduate days, Mr. Silver took courses in the City College School of Engineering and qualified upon examination as a Junior Assistant Civil Engineer.

Outside of Philately

Philip Silver has spent almost 46 years in government service. For 19 years of that service, he was the Chief Accountant responsible for all claims filed against the City of New York. Almost a year ago, Mr. Abraham D. Beame, Comptroller of the City of New York, appointed Mr. Silver Chief of the Bureau of Law and Adjustment, where he administers a staff of almost 200 employees. In that position, with major legal responsibilities, he is the first person to serve as Bureau Chief who is not an attorney.

Conclusion

Philip Silver becomes the 22nd honored recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, joining a fellowship of some of the most distinguished philatelists in the world. He started a collection for his son, ended up owning one of the foremost collections of United States air mail stamps ever assembled and contributed his services to philately in the process.



THE COLLECTORS CLUB

22 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

1972 Officers

F. Burton Sellers ..... *President*
H. D. S. Haverbeck ..... *Vice-President*
Norman S. Hubbard ..... *Secretary*
Albert H. Higgins ..... *Treasurer*

Governors

Class of 1973	*Class of 1974*	*Class of 1975*
Herbert J. Bloch	Ezra D. Cole	H. D. S. Haverbeck
John R. Boker, Jr.	Ernest A. Kehr	Norman S. Hubbard
Albert H. Higgins	Robert A. Siegel	William H. Miller, Jr.
Louis Grunin	F. Burton Sellers	Robert P. Odenweller
Bernard D. Harmer	Philip Silver	John D. Dowd
Ernest Wilkens	Ira Zweifach	Lawrence L. Shenfield

Trustees

John R. Boker, Jr. H. D. S. Haverbeck Philip Silver

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

Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting held January 10th, 1973 for Year 1972

The meeting called to order at 8:15 p. m.

The President read the notice of meeting dated January 2nd, 1973. The Secretary advised that a quorum was present.

It was moved, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the last annual meeting and to approve the full report as published in the Collectors Club Philatelist in March and May, 1972.

The attached reports were read by the Chairmen of the various Committees and Officers of the Club and on motion duly made, seconded and carried, accepted with thanks.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the actions and decisions of the Officers and Governors during the year ending December 31, 1972 be approved.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented. In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws this report has been posted on the Bulletin Board for thirty days. The Secretary advised that no additional nominations had been received.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. The following Governors were elected to the Class of 1975:

Harrison D. S. Haverbeck
Norman S. Hubbard
William H. Miller, Jr.
Robert P. Odenweller
John D. Dowd
Lawrence L. Shenfield

Replacements in the Class of 1973:

Louis Grunin
Bernard D. Harmer
Ernest C. Wilkens

Replacement in the Class of 1974:

Robert A. Siegel

The President welcomed the new members to the Board of Governors and expressed his appreciation to the retiring Governors.

Mrs. Sophie Buser, Co-Founder and Chairlady of the Women's Philatelic Society, presented the attached resolution advising that the Women's Philatelic Society has disbanded after nearly forty years and presenting the Collectors Club with its financial assets and physical assets. Mrs. Buser presented the President with a check in the amount of $3,478.95. The President expressed the thanks and appreciation of the Club to the Women's Philatelic Society for its thoughtfulness in giving its assets to the Club.

Meeting recessed while Governors retired to elect officers for 1973.

Meeting reconvened and announcement was made of the election of the following officers for the year 1973:

F. Burton Sellers, President
H. D. S. Haverbeck, Vice-President
Norman S. Hubbard, Secretary
Albert H. Higgins, Treasurer
H. D. S. Haverbeck, Trustee

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Secretary's Report

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

It is my unpleasant responsibility to report the loss through death of 21 valued members during 1972. After reading of their names I request that all present rise for a moment of silence in memory of those who are no longer with us.

Necrology

Resident

Edith M. Faulstich
Peter G. Keller
Ludwig P. Raubenheimer

Non-Resident

Saul Aronson
William C. Bole
Hans Borchers
Lester C. Brookman
Edwin M. Erickson
John J. Gelbach
Donald K. Grieve
Dr. Rene Hamer
Frank R. Hutchison
Charles F. Orgel
Walter J. Quelch
William H. Russell
Raymond V. Seaman
John B. Sherman III
Fred W. Speers
Edward J. Sullivan
Hal G. Trump
J. Irving Wolf

During 1972, the total membership of the Club increased from 1177 to 1205. 95 new members were admitted and 5 members were reinstated. These additions more than offset the 81 members lost by death, resignation, or non payment of dues.

The distribution of the 1205 memebrs of December 31, 1972 was the following:

Resident members	286
Non-Resident members	765
Overseas	145
	1196
Hon. & Life	9
	1205

The 286 resident members are the most we have had in many years. We are only 14 short of the goal of 300 resident members and, hopefully, a determined effort will permit us to teach that objective.

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

In closing I would like to express my thanks to Mrs. Anne W. Pritchett for her valuable assistance and cooperation. Unless one is involved in the operation of the Club, it is almost impossible to realize the extent of the activities and responsibilities which she undertakes routinely with little fanfare or recognition. We are extremely fortunate to have her devoted services and owe her a large debt of gratitude. She is as close to being indispensible as anyone I can imagine.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman S. Hubbard

Report of the Treasurer

The opening sentence of several of the past reports prepared by the Treasurer for the annual meeting was as follows:

"The Collectors Club operated on a cash budget during the year——" I consider this a euphemism of the first order. Of course the budget was paid for in cash. As of this moment, I know of no philatelic organization which pays its bills with scrip. Thus, to the unititiated, the assumption might be that the Club had all the cash it needed to operate. Nothing could be further from the trues. Actually, for the past two years, at least, the income generated by dues, sales of publications, etc., has not been sufficient to pay for all the operating expenses of the Club.

These expenses have been increasing for quite some time. As an example, the net deficit for printing the Collectors Club Philatelist in 1971 was $5,605.55. Although final figures have not been tabulated as yet, this deficit will probably increase by more than $2,000.00 for 1972. Printing costs like others in our economy have been on an inflationary spiral.

Most of the Club's other expenses have increased over the past several years while the income has been relatively stable. As a result, the net deficit for 1972 will be somewhere in the neighborhood of $15,000.00

Most of this deficit has been eliminated in recent years by transferring the income generated by the Capital Fund to the General Fund account.

At this point, it might be proper to incorporate a few words about the Capital Fund. The assets are in excess of $170,000.00 and the income derived from the fund is between $12,000.00 and $13,000.00 a year. The income from the Capital Fund also paid for the major part of the improvements completed duirng our 75th Anniversary year. Plans are currently being made by Mr. Boker and myself, as co-chairmen, to augment the principal in the near future so that it will approximate the original goal of $250,000.00. In that event, the annual deficits will not frighten the wits out of the officers and governors.

A detailed audited statement will soon be prepared by our auditors. A certified report will then be published in a forthcoming issue of The Collectors Club Philatelist.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Silver, Treasurer

Report of the House Committee

After the refurbishing of the club house during the previous year, 1972 has been a fairly quiet one for the House Committee. Among the many chores disposed of in this period were the installation of a telephone in the elevator to meet insurance demands, the painting of the cellar steps and the addition of new illumination to light them. Several chairs in the lounge have been repaired, new signs have been placed on the men's and ladies washrooms, a new clock has been purchased for the meeting room, pictures are being hung and repositioned. Rugs have been cleaned and all the usual problems that occur in a building of

this kind have been taken care of — oil burner repair and adjustment, touch-up painting, etc. etc.

Bids are being entertained for the complete air conditioning of the meeting room and other portions of the house with the hopes that such an improvement can be made within our budgetary allotment.

All in all, the club resains in good shape considering its age and stands as a splendid example of the architectural genius of Stanford White.

Respectfully submitted,
Ira Zweifach

Report of the Library Committee

During 1972 the Library gained approximately 500 shelf-feet of much needed space through the installation of a modern sliding-stack storage system in the basement. Although the books and periodicals stored there are enclosed in a compact area, they remain accessible with relative ease.

We would like to take this occasion to thank the many Club members, societies and publishers who donated philatelic publications to the Library during the year. One especially notable gift must be mentioned, that of the Warren G. Kauder collection of Chinese and Japanese philatelic literature. Dr. Kauder's library contains over 150 titles, including many runs of scarce periodicals and a number of valuable secondary sources of information concerning this popular philatelic specialty.

The members of the Library Committee join with the Library's many users in offering our appreciation to the Librarian of the Collectors Club, Mrs. Josephine Eldridge, whose helpfulness and kindness make the Library such a pleasant place in which to pursue our hobby.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest C. Wilkens

Report of the Publications Committee

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

The usual six issues of the Philatelist appeared during the year 1972, more or less on time. The advertising held steady, aided by increased space being taken by some our regular advertisers and the addition of some new ones.

The magazine has been improved by the addition of some new writers on a regular basis. The editorial bias this past year has been more in the direction of Postal History than in past years. We have material in preparation that will restore the editorial balance which we would like to have.

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

The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Committee has published one book during the year, "A Postal History of Spain" by Theo. van Dam. The rising costs of printing forced us to make this a paper bound book and to price it at $12.00.

The Committe has two additional books in the works, which, hopefully, will be published during the coming year.

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

Report of the Awards Committee

Collectors Club Philatelist Medal: The Committee likes to point out that for this medal only those articles are eligible which appear in their entirety during the year or which end during the year for which it is given. Unfinished articles on the other hand remain eligible for the year in which they are concluded.

Once again the Collectors Club Philatelist contained many fine and interesting articles. The Committee selected as the winner of the 1972 Collectors Club Philatelic Medal

Calvet M. Hahn
for *The U. S. EXPRESS MAIL*
The Steamer Oregan Handstamps,

a very interesting treatise on U. S. Postal History, which appeared in 2 installments.

Honorary mention is awarded to

Robert L. Markovits
for *UNITED STATES*
The 10c Registry Stamp of 1911

which appeared in 3 installments in 1971 and 1972.

The Medal for the Best Program of 1972:

The Program Committee provided the Club with many unusually fine showings with no less than 6 of the speakers coming from abroad. The Committee awarded the Medal of "Speaker of the Year" to

Sir Henry J. Tucker of Bermuda

for his showing of *BERMUDA,* a wonderful evening of outstanding material presented in an extremely fine way, coupled with great knowledge and original research.

Honorary Mentions go to
Jose Gonzalez Garcia, Lisbon, Portugal for *PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE COLONIES.*
Giorgio Bizzarri, Rome, Italy for *ROMAN STATES, First Issue and Bisects.*
Wilber H. Schilling, Minneapolis, Minnesota for *UNITED STATES.*

The Committee also wants to mention the outstanding evening provided by Mrs. Edith Faulstich, since departed, when she lectured on her favorite subject POSTAL HISTORY, running the whole gamut from 2600 BC to the Modern Era.

All the above awards were made unimously by the 2 Subcommittees.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert J. Bloch, Chairman

Study Group Activities at the Collectors Club

In its dedicated effort to assist and encourage serious philatelic activities among groups which are financially unable to maintain their own meeting facililties, The Collectors Club has continued to make its building available to them without charging rental fees. During the 15 months ending Dec. 31, 1972, logs which we introduced to keep a permanent record of this activity indicate that no fewer than 21 different Study Groups used the club for 59 meetings at which 2,377 members of these societies came to our home.

The Collectors Club also made its facilities available to the Philatelic Foundation for the conduct of its annual Work Shop course to train teachers and other youth leaders as an educational instrument for their youngsters.

Because of the ever increasing unwillingness of the citizenry to expose themsedves to crime on New York City streets, three study groups decided to disband and discontinue meetings at the Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest A. Kehr, Chairman
Study Group Committee

Report of the President for the Year 1972

A year ago when I rendered a report on my first year of stewardship as President of the Collectors Club, it was to report a most exciting year of activity which culminated in the Anphilex exhibition and its attendant philatelic and social affairs. While the year of 1972 just concluded was not as exciting, it was a challenging one, and one that left us, as we headed in to 1973, with several of the same major problems that were described in my report for the year 1971.

The major problem as recognized by all of you from the Treasurer's report, I am sure, as one of finances. The expense of operating the club and clubhouse continues to substantially exceed income from dues and miscellaneous sources. It is only the revenue derived from the Capital Fund investments which permits us to continue this deficit type of operation. However this diversion of investment income to meet operating expenses is hindering us in our goal of increasing the Capital Fund to $250,000 by adding earnings to principal. The earnings are now just sufficient to cover our operating deficit.

It is obvious that club finances require a thorough review promptly. Appointment of a special ad hoc committee to consider these monetary problems is an early order of Board business. Among the solutions to be considered are increased dues, significant augmentation of the Capital Fund, reduction of expenses, curtailment of services, increasing income from sources other than dues, and the like. Blessed with many sound businessheads on the Board I am confident that we will proceed rapidly to acceptable, permanent solutions.

Not all our news is quite so grim however. Both the Internal Revenue Service and New York State authorities have reaffirmed our tax exempt status as an educational organization. Thus we shall continue to be able to accept contributions with the assurance that the donors are entitled to both Federal and State Income Tax deductions. This should help us in meeting our aforementioned financial problems.

In keeping with our charter as an educational organization, the Board has been seeking to extend the educational and community service aspects of its existing programs. The international character of our meetings, membership and services are being emphasized in press releases. Availability of the library to the public is being stressed, and we are collaborating with the G. K. Hall Company in the preparation of a catalog of the contents of our library which will be available to other libraries and educational institutions. The Community Services Committee will be enlarged and is seeking additional opportunities to use philately as an educational and therapeutic tool in schools and hospitals. We continue to make clubhouse facilities available for an extensive and active Study Group program, and for use by the Philatelic Foundation in presenting its excellent course on philately. The Library itself has continued to grow and has now largely completed its move of some material to the fourth floor room and the new "rolling shelves" storage area in the basement. During the year we also welcomed the addition to our library of the late Dr. Warren G. Kauder collection of philatelic literature on China.

As you have already heard from the House Committee additions and repairs to the club's physical plant were minimal this year in light of the extensive renovations undertaken in 1971, our 75th Anniversary Year. A new clock, a telephone in the elevator for safety purposes, and some chair repairs were the most significant items. More suitable air conditioning of the meeting room, and possibly other areas of the club, is still under consideration, but our financial situation prevents considering any extensive installation.

Other activities of the club followed the usual pattern. Some very fine programs were offered in a season of programs that featured an exceptionally large number of overseas speakers. The annual member competition attracted the smallest number of entries in many years, although the usual outstanding material was shown. In view of the decling interest in this program, it has not been included in the 1973 roster, but may be restored in future years. The program for 1973 seems to be a well-balanced series with "something for everyone" and some outstanding speakers scheduled.

The Annual Awards Dinner this year returned to the Tavern-On-The-Green where the Lichtenstein Award was presented to Dr. Soichi Ichida, the noted philatelic student of Japan. It was also my privilege on this occasion to present the President's Medal to my immediate predecessor, Mr. Philip Silver, for long and valuable service to the club. With his recent election as Trustee and also Treasurer, he is one of the few, if not the only, club member to have held every elective office in the club. Participation in the Interpex and ASDA shows was continued and the usual Open House of the Board of Governors brought a climax to the club activities in 1972.

A rather unusual "manpower turnover" was experienced on the Board during 1972. Acceptance of an overseas position led to the mid-year resignation of the Vice President, Alex Rendon, and increased personal and business responsibilities prompted Richard S. Wilson, Secretary, and Howard B. Lee, former Treasurer, to submit resignations at about the same time. The Board missed these experienced officers and members, but was fortunate to find promising interim replacements in Messrs. Louis Grunin, Ernest C. Wilkens and Robert A. Siegel. These same gentlemen are now nominated as candidates for the unexpired portions of their predecessors terms. At year end Mr. Theo Van Dam tendered his resignation because of business reasons, and Mr. Stanley Rice requested that he not be renominated after 16 years of continuous Board service because of his extended absences from the area at his winter home in Florida. The nominating committee, as you will hear, has proposed Mr. Bernard D. Harmer, a former Board member, to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. Van Dam's term, and Mr. John D. Dowd to succeed Mr. Rice. The other 5 incumbent Board members have been nominated to succeed themselves, thus making a slate of 10 nominees whom you will shortly consider for election.

To replace Mr. Wilson as Secretary, the Board chose Dr. Norman S. Hubbard, and as Mr. Rendon's replacement as Vice President, Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck, a former Club President and current Trustee accepted the responsibility. We trust that our efforts have met with your approval.

To the resigned and retiring Board members I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the Board and membership for their service to the club. I particularly wish to express gratitude to Mr. Stanley Rice for his long Board service and generous patronage. His counsel will be missed in Board circles, but we all wish him well as he enjoys increased relaxation away from the rigors of metropolitan life.

So as we head into our 77th year, I believe we can look back on 1972 as another good year among the many that your club has enjoyed. Our membership in all categories showed small increases, which is a good symbol of progress. While the problems that face us in the coming year are formidable, so are our past accomplishments. I have no doubt that with the continued support of our membership, we will meet all the challenges ahead and discharge the club's responsibilities to its membership and to the community.

Respectfully submitted.
F. Burton Sellers
President

January 1973

The Collectors Club, New York, N. Y.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On September 28, 1972 the Womens Philatelic Society of New York held the last meeting at the Statler Hilton Hotel to disband our society after nearly forty successful years. The attendance had dropped off to a low minimum in spite of interesting programs offered. It seemed our society had outlived its purpose as a women's stamp club since today most stamp clubs welcome ladies into membership.

At this meeting following a majority vote it was resolved that the Collectors Club should become beneficiary of our financial assets provided said Club would also accept our physical assets which would be reduced in size to a minimum bulk.

Here are the reasons for our choice:

1. Whereas Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, the original sponsor of our society and a distinguished member of the Collectors Club had used his influence to secure for our founding meeting its spacious auditorium then located at 30 East 42nd Street.
2. Whereas the Collectors Club made available to us their club room for all our regular meetings without charge until the Collectors Club moved to its own building at the present address.
3. Whereas the Collectors Club invited us to use its auditorium and the twenty large frames which adorn its walls for our annual exhibitions.
4. Whereas the Officers and other distinguished members of the Collectors Club gave us their wholehearted support with knowledgeable advice in philately to foster our interests.
5. Whereas many members of the Collectors Club served us as judges for our exhibitions or enhanced our programs as interesting guest speakers.

In deep gratitude for the kindness extended to us by the Collectors Club we are now presenting you with this check of $3,478.95 and our physical assets.

While we regret deeply the demise of our society where we shared the joys of our beloved hobby we are nevertheless proud of our achievement through these years in fostering the interest in philately amongst women. As you may know some our members obtained highest awards in competitive exhibitions.

In behalf of my committee I extend to you best wishes for continued success in maintaining philately on its highest level as it has done for more than seventy-five years.

Respectfully yours,
Sophie Buser
Co-Founder and Chairlady

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