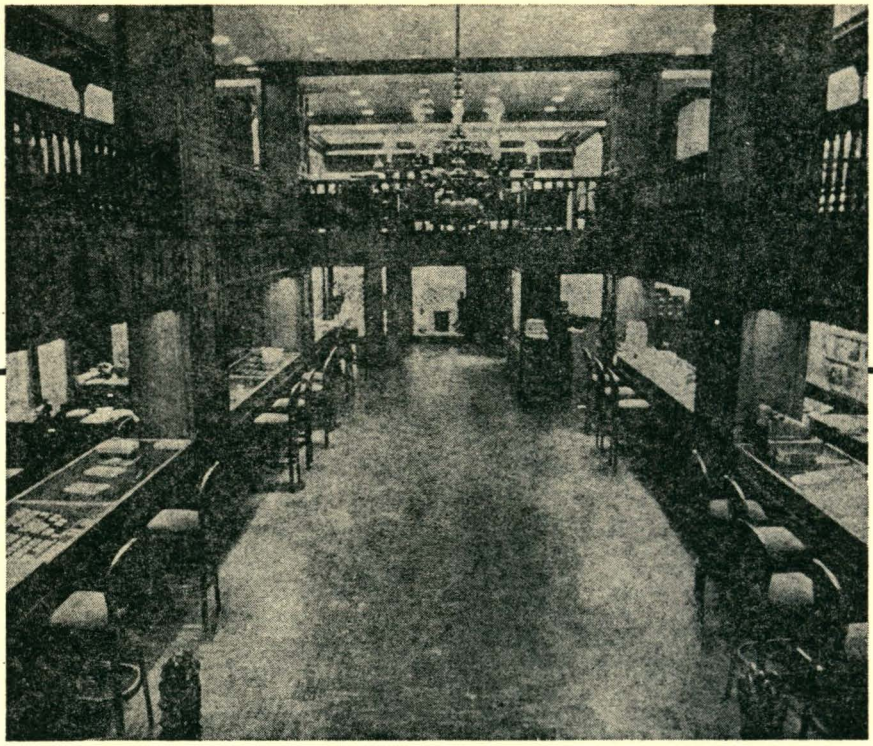


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Volume 52 Number 1
January 1973



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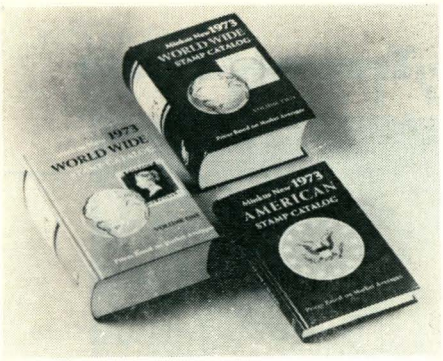
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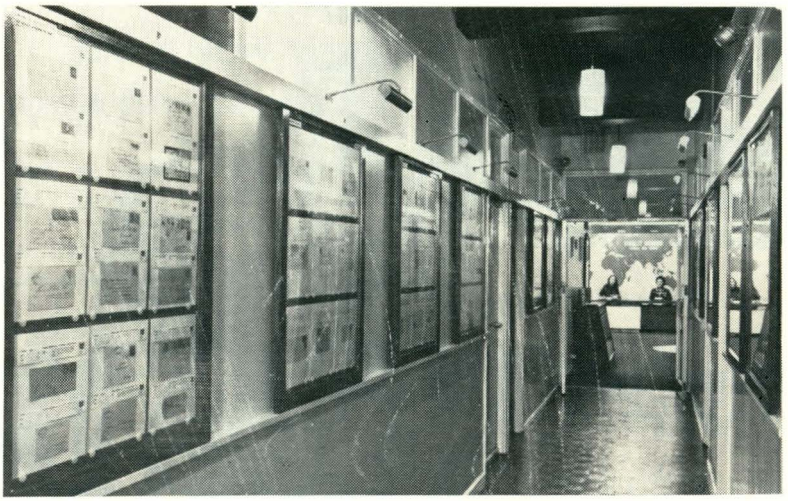
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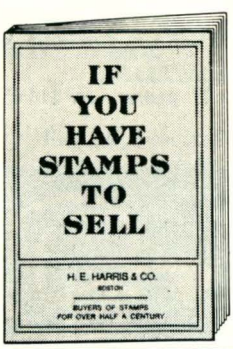
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Liechtenstein's Theodore E. Steinway Stamp

By Ernest A. Kehr

In portraying the late Theodore E. Steinway on its 1.30-franc stamp, the Principality of Liechtenstein pays tribute not only to the first American to be so postally honored for his philatelic attainments, but to the *Collectors Club* as well. There is no philatelic institution with which he was more devotedly associated, nor one which he both loved and served during his lifetime. The number of benefactions cannot be ennumerated for many were given without fanfare, but it is safe to say that without him, philately in general, and the Collectors Club in particular, would not be what they are today.

Theodore Steinway joined the CC not too long after it was founded in 1896, and immediately took a deep interest in its works, programs and development which eventually led to its unquestioned eminence on the American and international scene. Only our European counterpart, the Royal Philatelic Society of London is its peer, and Mr. Steinway was that body's American representative, too.

He was one of the first to recognize and appreciate the importance of literature as an aid to the serious scholar, for he, himself, was an avid reader of every work about stamps and postal history that was published.

In 1922, when the fabulous library of Victor Suppantschitsch — Chief Justice of the Austrian Supreme Court — was offered for sale, Mr. Steinway purchased it, then donated its many volumes to the *Collectors Club* as the formidable nucleus of the Library which now fills several rooms of the club's home.

Until his retirement in 1948, he participated in almost every meeting, and even when he wasn't the main speaker, he added much to other guests' presentations by his fantastic, knowledgeable commentary, whether the subject was devoted to old German States, which were his first philatelic love, or Afghanistan, which he knew chiefly through his intensive reading and study. Over the years he served as the club's treasurer, president and trustee.

Since 1896, the *Collectors Club* shuttled between various rented quarters and, finally, after World War I, purchased its own home in mid-town Manhattan. Unfortunately, when John D. Rockefeller, Jr. planned his Radio City, this had to be sold and again the club moved to rented rooms on the corner of Madison Avenue and 42nd Street. Following the depression in the early 'thirties, Mr. Steinway found a fine house — one of the several private homes designed by the noted architect, Stanford White — and urged the club's officers to buy it. Together with such other stalwarts as Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Hugh M. Clark, John Hall and the Klemann brothers, the necessary arrangements were made. The club treasury couldn't quite pay the $65,000 that was asked, so Mr. Steinway and his colleagues supplied the balance and the institution moved into 22 East 35th Street, in Murray Hill, one of the most fashionable sections of all Manhattan.

Two other institutions which were energetically supported by Mr. Steinway are the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., and The Philatelic Foundation, both of which were created as active, independent yet affiliated organizations of the *Collectors Club*. In their wisdom, Mr. Steinway and his contemporaries realized that were the first International Philatelic Exhibition to be staged in



Liechtenstein's 1972 Series. The Theodore E. Steinway stamp is at the right.



The John Steinway portrait of his father which was used as a model by the engraver.

the United States, in 1913, to become a CC undertaking, philatelists in other parts of America might feel left out. The ASE, consequently, was formed and while most of its most diligent leaders lived in New York, many others from Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities could assume important roles on a truly nationwide scale.

That exhibition, in the Engineer's Club, and the subsequent ones at Grand Central Palace in 1926, 1936 and 1947, all were under the patronage of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., rather than the single *Collectors Club,* even though it was widely known and acknowledged that the CC not only served as headquarters for the organizing committee and provided the basic manpower in making them the philatelic and financial successes they were.

The other of Mr. Steinway's pet projects was The Philatelic Foundation. While there were several undisputed experts in the United States who were eminently qualified to examine philatelic material, there was no unbiased or-

ganization comparable to the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, in London, to undertake such work for any person submitting it for an opinion.

Again, it was felt by the visionaries like Mr. Steinway, that the establishment of a counterpart of the Royal in this country under the aegis of the *Collectors Club* might just have its drawbacks.

Accordingly, after years of careful deliberations, The Philatelic Foundation was created in 1945 as an independent organization as far as the public was concerned, yet truly a closely-allied adjunct to the *Collectors Club*, in which its offices were maintained for its first 25 years.

While its main purpose centered around the expertization of stamps and covers, the Foundation's charter by the State of New York enabled it to undertake educational programs intended to promote interest not only in stamp collecting but the serious philatelic study of them.

Mr. Steinway served not only as one of the many experts on the committee, but also as an officer, giving generously of his knowledge, experience, time and largesse.

When we were invited to propose that American whom Liechtenstein would honor by a stamp in its "Pioneers of Philately" series inaugurated in 1968, it was not too difficult to select Mr. Steinway as one of the major candidates*. After making a list of some 20 philatelists ranging from John Walter Scott through later titans of our avocation, we made a survey among our contemporaries, without those polled realizing the purpose of our questions. Theodore E. Steinway was chosen by so many that he became the unquestioned winner, so we sent his name to Vaduz for final approval by Prince Franz Joseph and his postal staff.

The approval and confidential word that Mr. Steinway had been selected came about mid-1970, with plans for the release of the set (which would also include Dr. Emilio Diena, of Italy, and Andre de Cock, of Belgium) for the end of that year.

Three photographs were sent to Vaduz, as a basis for the engraving of a die by Alfred Nefe for the State Printing Office in Vienna. First was a portrait of Mr. Steinway looking at the page of a Polish stamp which portrayed and was autographed by Ignace Paderewski, a close intimate friend of Mr. Steinway and who exclusively used a Steinway & Sons piano for his composing and concerts. We took this photograph in 1945. It proved unsatisfactory because Mr. Steinway's eyes were at the stamp and not the camera. At that point, we had to take into our confidence, his son, John (who knew nothing of the stamp until then) to procure other portraits. We got one taken by Yusuf Karsh, the Ottawa master, and anther taken by John himself. The latter was selected by designer Adalbert Pilch and finally was engraved on the die.

The stamps were to be released in Vaduz, on Sept. 7, 1972**, but through special arrangements, a number of presentation albums were sent to the United States, that they might be given to Mr. Steinway's widow, Ruth, and other members of the immediate Steinway family on that same day.

These ceremonies were held in Steinway Hall, where many parties were hosted by Mr. Steinway for his friends and colleagues in connection with previous philatelic events of importance. In addition to Mrs. Steinway, sons and grandchildren, several personalities of the musical world and officers of all the national philatelic organizations had been invited to witness the album presentations and to join in a reception that followed.

**Three other names were considered, but Liechtenstein, for one reason or another, ruled them out as possible candidates for a stamp portrayal and tribute.*

***Production difficulties delayed the original release date of 1970, and again, in 1971.*

Fun With Scissors:- The Bisects Of French Colonies

By Robert G. Stone

Among the many kinds of provisional issues of French Colonies (which we categorized and itemized *ad infinitum* in our survey of the provisionals in *Collectors Club Philatelist,* v. 49/5-6, and v. 50/1) the bisects are rather anomalous in character, even curious. It was an infrequent and untypical sort of provisional for the colonies, apparently because the Colonial Ministry had never given any sanction or recommendation for such a procedure, though it knowingly tolerated some of the cases at a time when it was winking at a lot of other more serious abuses of philatelic and speculative inspiration (1900-1906). The only other kind of colonial provisional likewise generally without Ministerial sanction was the use of fiscals for postage — and the cases of that are even fewer than of the bisects.

We suppose that the idea of bisecting could have come to the colonials from observing the practice in a number of British countries or in France, but these were long prior to 1900 whereas all the French colonial bisects are post-1900. One could also say that bisecting is a "natural" idea that anyone might devise independently. But bisects also just "naturally" appeal to philatelists, and thereby seems to come the motivation for many of the French colonial ones.

Although some of these bisects had a local authorization, others none at all that we can find. But nearly all such issues went through the mails and many seem to have had a limited genuine "commercial" or non-philatelic use. As we shall see from examining the circumstances of each case, it is not honestly feasible to pass a single judgment on the whole lot.

Libreville, French Congo, Dec. 1900.

A Paris dealer reported a cover with Congo 1900 stamps bisected at Libreville in December 1900 was offered to him — upon examination it was an obvious fake, he said. *(L'Echo de T.,* 1902)

Guadeloupe, 1903–05

Bisected dues stamps of 60c and 1Fr of the French Colonies General Issues are known cancelled on pieces at Guadeloupe around 1903-05, on the pretense that there was a shortage of 30c and 50c dues stamps while the colony was waiting their pictorial stamps (1905). However, upon inquiry the postmaster at Basse Terre stated that they had "no official character nor value." Furthermore we have seen 30c and 50c dues stamps at Guadeloupe in that period, and they could have made up these frankings with lower denominations, if necessary. *(Coll. de T. P.,* 1905, p. 168, 202). The 60c and 1Fr dues were surcharged in 1903 in large quantities for a speculative issue — the bisects may have been "inspired" by that.

Djibouti 1900–1903

From early 1901 to mid-1903 there was a shortage of some low denominations of postage stamps at Djibouti, which was met mostly by a variety of surcharges and to a limited extent at first by use of a "P.P." (=Port Payé)

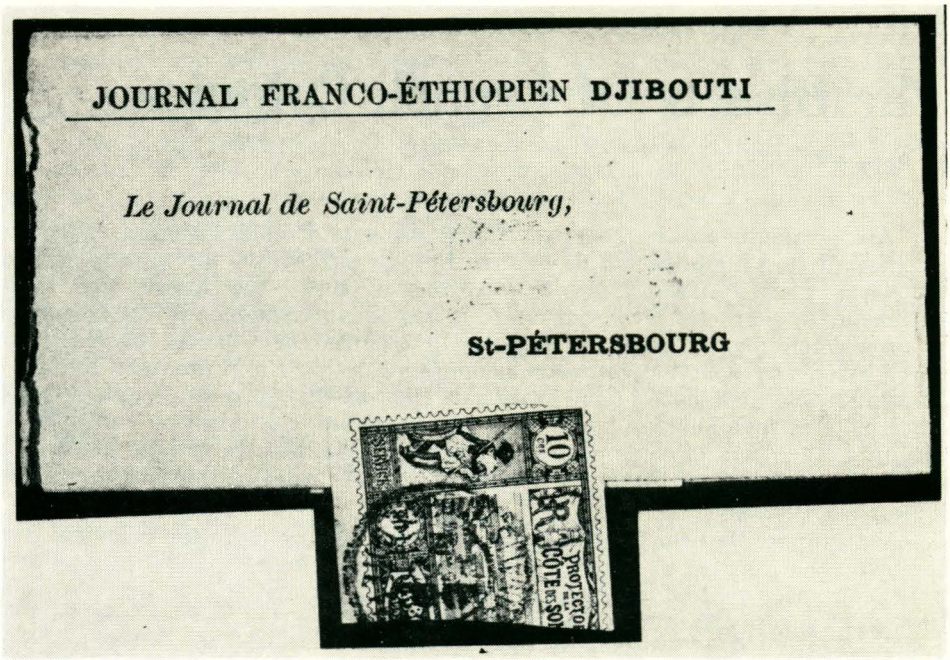


Figure 1. Bisect of the 10c Somali Coast 1894 stamp (Sc. #111a, Yv. #10a) used on a newspaper wrapper of the "Journal Franco-Éthiopien" from Djibouti to Russia, Oct. 2, 1901. The stamp was cut by hand unevenly, possibly by the sender. 5c was the newspaper rate.

cachet in lieu of stamps and by bisects. For the surcharges the colony received cablegrams from the Ministry giving a blanket approval; for use of the "P.P." they apparently did not need Ministerial approval as that was a time-honored method in the French postal system (perhaps not for international mails). But for the bisects they did not have Ministry approval and would not have gotten it if requested.

The *arrêté* of the Somali Coast Governor authorizing the first of the bisects, dated 2 July 1901, sounds ingenuous enough. It does not cite any authority from Paris but merely says that since 15c and 25c stamps are completely out of stock, to meet the needs of the service 30c and 50c stamps of 1894 issues of Obock and Somali Coast are authorized to be bisected and used until new stamp supplies ordered from Paris arrive. The new supplies arrived on 12 July and an *arrêté* of that date promptly rescinded the *arrêté* of 2 July. But the number of bisects to be made was not specified in the *arrêté* of 2 July and they continued to use them for philatelic mail well after 12 July. The *arrêté* of 12 July also authorized 10c stamps to be bisected because Paris had failed to ship new supplies of 5c stamps (though a shortage of those was not mentioned in the 2 July *arrêté*). All three of these bisects were vertical and both sides of the cut stamps were used equally. Practically all the uses of the 30c and 50c bisects we have seen on covers are philatelic (rather scarce), — though the Tristant collection has one cover of each non-philatelic, but the 10c bisects are frequent on wrappers for the local newspaper *(Journal Franco-Éthiopien,* Djibouti) and merchant's circulars sent all over the world — hence commercial in nature. Unauthorized bisects of the 40c of 1900 are reported.



Figure 2. Bisects of the 20c (Sc. #52a, Yv. #53a) and 25c right half (Yv. #54b, Sc. #53b) of Obock 1894 stamps, making a 15c franking on a philatelic local cover at Djibouti, cancelled No. 20, 1901. These were authorized 12 Nov. 1901.

On 12 November, 1901, a new *arrêté* indicated 5c stamps were again exhausted and only a few 10c left in stock, so it was authorized that when the 10c stamps ran out 20c Obock (only) stamps would be bisected for use as 10c (both halves), and that 5000 of the 25c Obock be bisected, the right halves only to be issued at that time for use as 5c stamps and the left halves to be stored in the Treasury for possible future use. This treatment of the 25c bisects is curious and probably unique. The 5c half of the bisected 25c is rather common used commercially on newspaper wrappers. The 20c bisect, very common, is more often seen philatelically used (on postcards), and we do not know on what date they were released to the public though we have one cancelled 20 Nov. *(Note:* Remainders of Obock stamps were regularly sold in the Djibouti postoffice after 1900).

The necessary use of the 10, 20 and 25c bisects probably did not reach beyond early 1902 because many surcharges of 5c and 10c were issued between January and March 1902. The surcharges drew great complaints from philatelists while little was said about the bisects — the surcharges were, however, authorized by Paris!

Although the long-awaited new designs of stamps, printed in recess, began to arrive at Djibouti around August 1902, by 13 June 1903 an *arrêté* indicated the new 2c stamps were already out of stock (possibly due to heavy philatelic purchases for cheap packets and approvals). Therefore the *arrêté* authorized the sale of the 11,000 left-halves of the 25c bisects made 12 Nov. 1901 and held

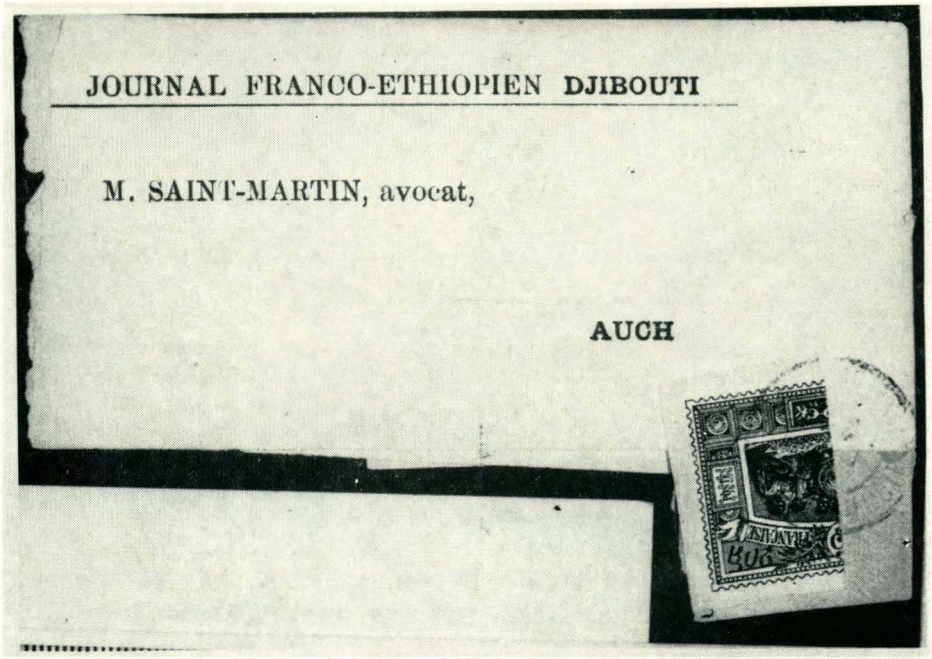


Figure 3. Newspaper wrapper of "Journal Franco-Éthiopien" addressed to France, with bisect of Obock 25c right half (Nov. 12, 1901 issue, Sc. #53b, Yv. #54b) used in December 1901.

in storage since then, until new supplies of 2c stamps arrive. The *Décision* implementing the *arrêté* of November 1901, however, mentioned only 5000 of the 25c were to be bisected — so there is a discrepancy somewhere. But they are common enough anyway. It seems an almost miraculous coincidence that the face value of the bisects held in storage for two years should turn out to be precisely the sole one of the stamps that went out of stock in 1903. Well, some people believe in miracles, but the Somali Coast Governor believed in planning.

That was the end of Djibouti's bisecting ventures. *In fine,* reader, take note: that the bisects were not sanctioned by Paris, that some were used commercially, and that the attribution of the face value of the 25c bisects according to which numeral was left on each half and the holding of one half for two years in reserve is likely unparalleled in postal history.

French India, December 1903

In early December 1903 the Treasury stocks of 5, 10, 15 and 40c stamps at Pondichery were exhausted and a local *arrêté* authorized surcharges to create these values in relatively small quantites. Later in the month, but not specified in the *arrêté,* there was issued a peculiar provisional for additional 5c, consisting of a tall 30c fiscal stamp (for realty deeds) bisected horizontally and the upper half surcharged for 0.05c postage use. Not only is the official status of this bisect uncertain, but the manner of fabrication had some oddity: the stamps were first overprinted in panes of 25 (5 x 5) then cut up by strips of five. Raoul Lesgor has described (in *Fr. Cols. Phil.* #83) one strip which had been so badly cut that the bottoms of the overprint numerals were cut off; instead of destroying it the adjacent cut strips were pasted back together on the back and

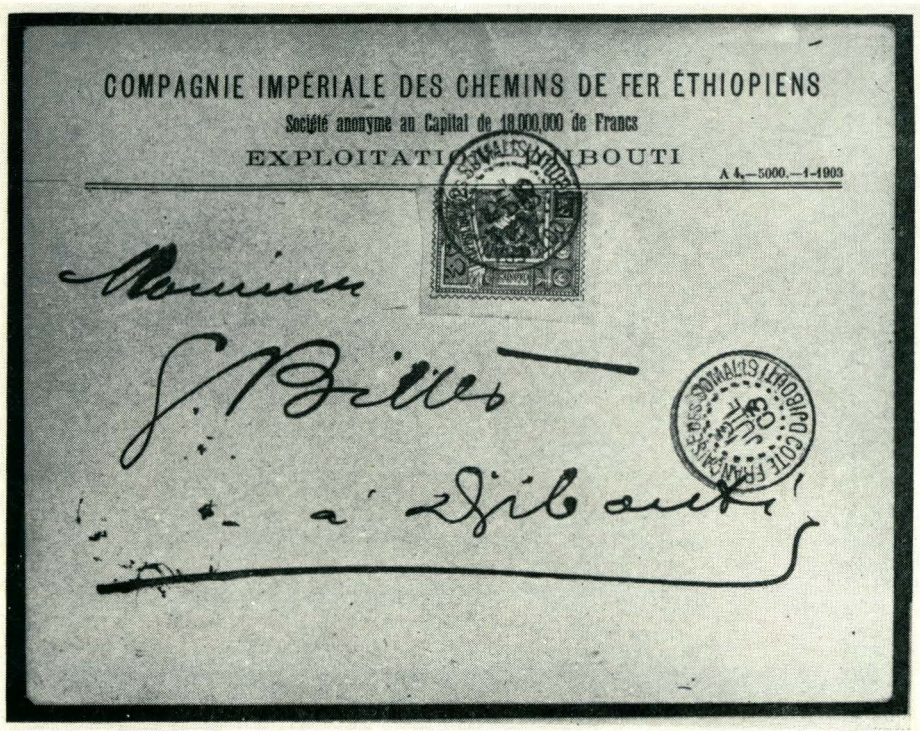


Figure 4. The Obock 25c left half (Sc. #53a, Yv. #54a) issued 13 June 1903, on a philatelic unsealed cover, locally addressed to Djibouti 13 July 1903. This bisect was valid for 2c postage and it could be the proper franking on an unsealed envelope containing printed notices.

recut in the correct position — was it easier to patch them than explain their loss? The bisects are more common than the preceding surcharges and one can find them frequently used commercially.

Madagascar, 1904–1906

Now we come to a very flamboyant affair about which a good deal of argument and denigration have appeared in the press, leaving collectors strewn about in confusion. It began in February-March 1904 when five postoffices in northern Madagascar started using bisects of Diégo Suarez or Madagascar stamps of 10, 20, 30 or 50c which were tied to the covers or postcards by a large cachet worded: "Affranchi ainsi/Faute figurines," or "Affranchissement exceptional/faute de timbres," with slight variations. The quantities were allegedly generally small (less than 1000), some are very rare, and most have been counterfeited or reprinted, or so it is said. The towns using them were Antalaha, Vohémar, Diégo Suarez, Mahéla, and Mananjary. Then in August 1904 Diégo Suarez put out nine more bisects, tied with a cachet reading: "Affranchissement/Spécial/faute de figurines," again mostly in small quantities. In 1905 a rare manuscript cancel tieing a bisect was used at Ambohibe, and finally in February 1906 Vohémar issued another tied by a cachet "0,05/Affranchi ainsi/faute de figurines," fairly common.

These are all catalogued in the Yvert et Tellier and other French catalogues of French Colonies. (Some other places are reported to also have used



Figure 5. French India 5c surcharge on bisect of 30c fiscal stamp (Sc. #24), on a bordered-death-notice cover (5c rate) from Karikal to France, Jan. 1904, cancelled with the famous square killer of dashes inscribed INDE used only at Karikal during 1890's-1905.

bisects, e. g. Sambawa 1907, that have not been catalogued and are very suspect). Of the 27 catalogued bisects only 5 are relative common as "genuines." When used and passed through the mails, as many were, a regular dated postmark also ties the bisect, but unused examples on piece or card are also found, considerably scarcer than the used ones and more difficult to judge for authenticity (if there is such a thing for these).

Undoubtedly some were used commercially, but practically all we have seen have a definite or very suspiciously philatelic look, and some have improper franking (i. e., incorrect rates).

We have not found an authorizing document for these bisects and articles in the literature have denounced them as unnecessary, unauthorized, a speculation, made for collectors, etc. However, in the wake of complaints and queries about them to the Madagascar postal administration, the postal inspector at Tananarive was reported to have put his approval on them after the fact (of the first ones at least). There was allegedly some shortage of lower denominations in many Madagascar postoffices in 1904-08 because (it was said) the Group Type of 1896-1900 and the Zebus of 1903 were not being reprinted while the colony was waiting for a new pictorial set (delayed and not issued till 1908). This may be questioned because meanwhile large remainders of Diégo Suarez, Nossi Bé and Ste. Marie stamps of 1892-94 were being used and reprintings of



Figure 6. An example of one of the Madagascar bisects of 1904, the 20c Madagascar stamp bisected at Diégo Suarez (Yv. #84) cancelled 22 August 1904 on a postcard without message addressed to Nossi-Bé. The tieing cachet (in blue) is one of the commoner ones: "Affranchissement/ Spécial/faute de figurines.-". As usual, entirely philatelic.

the 5, 10 and 15c Group Type of 1900 were sent out in 1905, 1906 or 1907 (indicated by the millésimes). Moreover, when the colony requested permission to make surcharges in 1905 the Ministry cabled to stop the project probably knowing that they were not necessary.

The whole game of these bisects was attributed to postal employees at Diégo Suarez, long a hot-bed of philatelic speculation among French officials, military and merchants there. When the philatelic demand piled up for the scarcer bisects the Diégo Suarez gang reprinted the tieing cachets of the other postoffices with remade cachets having slight differences from the originals. The "experts" and cataloguers have tended to accept only the first ones issued (with earliest or first-day postmarks) as "genuine." The handstamp cachets were probably retained by the postmasters who originally made them and thus they could make reprints at will, which is suspected in view of the wide time span of use of some of them, all addressed to the same parties! Some of the cachets had deteriorated after initial use and the new ones made up for a reprinting were a little different.

In any case, the facts that the bisects all originated in a few northern Madagascar offices around Diégo Suarez at about the same time, and that the quantities were so small that the alleged shortages could not have been really persistent over 2 years, would seem to suggest a purely philatelic promotion.

(To Be Continued)

The First American 'Post' Law

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The North American colonies did exchange letters from their earliest beginnings, but their chief communication was across the Atlantic to the mother country. The letterbooks of the 1620's, 30's, and 40's are filled with references to letters carried across the ocean and between the colonies, particularly in New England. There was, however, no post.

Postal service in the British Empire apparently began in 1482 when the "through post" carried the royal messages. The system was formalized in 1516 according to R. E. Barnhart's *Elizabethan Posts* when Brian Tuke was named by Henry VIII to be Master of the King's Post. When he died, sometime after 1533, John Mason and William Paget took over with the title of 'Master of the Messengers, Runners, and Posts' until 1566.

Until the Act of Queen Anne, the postal system was a farm. This is a royal grant for which the crown received monies and which permitted the patentee to charge what the service would bear within broad limits. Eventually postal rates were published and the farm operated within them. The rights and duties of postmasters and the rates of postages were published by Act of Parliament in 1657, however, the first postal law that applied fully to North America was that of 1660, the Act of 12 Car. II, entitled "An Act for erecting and establishing a post office." It is in regard to this act that the King first wrote concerning the American posts.

Shortly after their initial settlement, the Massachusetts Bay colonists decided they wanted a postoffice. In an undated State Paper entry, located between May and June 1638 we find a petition to Charles I, asking for such an office:

> "1638? 113 Proposals for establishing a post office in New England 'so useful and absolutely necessary', and allow 2d per letter, the least coin there; the King to grant a patent for 60 years. Also for keeping a register of all persons going to, or coming from New England, every passenger to be provided with a ticket at the charge of 1s, as at Barbadoes where 3s is paid. The profits of both offices would not exceed 12£ or 14£ per annum. *Endorsed* 'Mr. Battem'."
>
> Great Britain-Colonial State Papers Vol. 1, p. 275

This request was ignored.

In making this petition, the Massachusetts Bay colonists were apparently ignorant of the fact that such a grant was in direct violation of the postal farm which Withering held at this point, or else they felt their charter exempted them from the patent restrictions of the 'farm' — other disputes suggest the Massachusetts Bay group had a very distinctive view of rights under their charter. Too, in 1635 the Privy Council had adopted a monopoly view of the post. While the monopoly position was not sustained by the 'Long Parliament' in 1642, and was actually struck down in a court test in 1646, it was the policy at the time of the 1638 petition. An even more pragmatic reason for ignoring the request was the extremely small revenue to be expected — 12 to 14 pounds per year, even including proceeds from the passage tickets.

With no reply from England during the following summer communication season, the Massachusetts Court, the local legal authority, acted. It passed a decree on November 5, 1639, (Figure 1), making the Fairbanks house in Boston

1639. 5 November. 441—

Whereas many goods are lost, for want of dewe care taken of them, it is ordered, that before the first month next ev̄y towne shall appoint a house to w^ch all goods shalbee brought wherof the owner is not knowne, or is not in this iurisdiction, to take care of them; a pson shalbee appointed to keepe them safe, & the same p̄ty shall, w^thin one month after hee receives them, deliver a note of them to the marshall, who shall cause them to bee p̄claimed in the open market at Boston; & if the owner come, hee shall pay all reasonable charges; if hee bee not found w^thin a yeare after such p̄clamation, the Court of Assistants shall dispose of them. Every towne not p̄viding such house w^thin the said time shall forfeet 40sh^s for every default; & the m^rshall, or keeper of such goods, being found in default in the trust co̅mitted to them, shalbee punished according as their default & the damage of the goods shall deserve./

Eu^r towne to p̄vide a house to p̄serve lost goods, &c.

442—

For the further p̄venting of the damage w^ch may come by the burning of ground at vnseasonable times, it is ordered, that whosoever shall kindle any fyer in other mens grounds, or in any co̅mon grounds, for the gathering of akrons, or for taking of tobacco, or for any other occation, except the party shall p̄sently put out the same before it spreade, shall (besides full satisfaction for all da̅mages, according to the former order) bee fined 40sh^s; & if the party offending bee not able to pay the fine, or satisfy the da̅mages, hee or shee shalbee punished by whiping, or other corporall punishment, (as the Court w^ch shall have cognisance of the cause shall adiudge;) p̄vided, that this order shall not extend to any person that shall burne any ground for any needfull or fit occation, in the first & second months; p̄vided, also, that it shalbee lawfull for any man to kindle a fyer in his owne ground at any time of the yeare, so as no damage come thereby./

L. to prevent damag. by firing y^e woods, &c.

For p̄venting the miscarriage of letters; & it is ordered, that notice bee given that Rich^d Fairbanks his house in Boston is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas, or are to bee sent thither, are to bee brought vnto; & hee is to take care that they bee delivered or sent according to their directions; & hee is alowed for every such letter a 1^d, & must answere all miscarriages through his owne neglect in this kind; p̄vided, that no man shalbee compelled to bring his letters thither, except hee please./

Boston y^e place for all lette^rs brought beyond y^e seas.

[*269.] Cou^rts jndgm^t ag^t Cap^t Keajne.

*The iudgment of the Court is, that M^r Rob^t Keayne shalbee fined 200^l, whereof 100^l to bee paid before the first month next, & the other 100^l to bee respited till the next Generall Court, whereby the Court may have liberty to shewe favo^r to him if they see cause./

John Vpham is appointed to bee in the place of M^r Parker, who is gone for England to order small businesses in the towne of Waymoth./

Figure 1.

the place appointed for the overseas letter bag. While this act is the first postal law in the American colonies, it was not a post office act as we understand it today. It clearly specified that no one had to use the service who did not wish to do so. Thus, ship captains could continue to drop letters elsewhere and collect their traditional fee and local citizens could make their own arrangements directly with the ship or other parties. What the act did do was *confirm* the traditional 'coffee-house mail' concept and put a legal basis behind a coffee-house fee. It might be noted that the fee did not, according to the Memorial Petition to Charles I, match a local extent coin and probably had to be paid in wampum. The problems of coinage of this period and its conversion values are discussed in my *Postal History of New Netherlands.*

We know from extent letters that Boston merchants did make other arrangements. One such letter is the Yale letter of December 11, 1646 to Boston, another is the Cotton correspondence item of May 17, 1655 concerning William Franklyn's enslavement. Too, we have Captain Thomas Temple's letters to Thomas Povey of February 20, 1659 where he notes he has sent three letters "via Capt. Woodgreene." Povey was named Receiver General of Revenues, and Profits from Foreign Dominions, Provinces and Colonies Payable to His Majesty on September 20, 1661 with a fee of £100 a year.

The New England Commissioners' letters particularly show alternate uses of the mail routes. In the *Colonial State Papers 1620-1669* we find item #885

> "1664? R. N. (Nicolls), R. C. (Carr), S. M. (Maverick) to Ed. Rawson (Massachusetts Secretary). Request to deliver endorsed letters to the Governor and Assistant of the Massachusetts and answer to care of Sam Maverick."

Item #917 is datelined "January 16, 1665 Capt. Breedon's House Boston, George Cartwright to Secretary Sir William Bennet . . ."
Immediately following we find,

> "1/25/65 Capt. Breedon's House. Cartwright to Nicolls 'Has delivered his letters to Geo. Tyte, Master of the *Success* who is this day gone to Nantasquet. Capt. Breedon has sent his letters brought by Winder and Capt. Scarlet for England . . ."

Captain Breedon's is also the dateline on a letter of January 30, 1665, February 7, 1666, and April 19, 1666. We find in item #1009 the following comment on the local mail,

> "6/18/1665 Sam Maverick to Col. Nicolls from Portsmouth at Piscattaqua (Council of King) . . . 'The Mass. have spies everywhere upon all the Commissioner's actions, and particularly upon their letters' . . ."

One of the most intriguing items concerning the New England mails in the early 1600's is found on page 126 of the State Papers. It is #430, dated April 3, 1663:

> "Examination of Sam Wilson, tailor, who had some hundreds of letters to carry to New England including one bundle of news books and a letter given by Hooke (to Rev. Davenport at Boston). Major Thompson gave him several letters but hearing there would be a search withdrew them. Wilson met Thompson on the Exchange . . ."

On April 21st a 1000 pound bond was put up to procure Hooke, 'writer of a seditious letter'.

As these records indicate there was extensive correspondence with England in the early days with hundreds of letters each trip, however, there was no official post office nor any official trans-Atlantic service. Massachusetts did not get an official post office until 1677 when a postmaster was appointed. Official trans-Atlantic service did not begin until 1663. In fact, for dispatches and

public service letters, at least three other colonies established postal laws before Massachusetts.

The November 5, 1639 Massacusetts Bay Act, however, is the first to cover any postal activity and as such is of great interest to postal historians. In developing the activity under this Act until the official establishment of the Boston post office in 1677, I should like to address myself to several questions: Where was the office located? Who was Mr. Fairbanks? How did the operation work? Who was his successor?

Location of the Fairbanks' Office

A careful check of land records in downtown Boston yields the map, Figure 2, which shows the heart of the city as it was in 1640, ten years after John Winthrop brought his followers there in July 1630 to join the recluse, William Baxton, who had earlier settled on the peninsula. High street, in 1640, was Cornhill street in Revolutionary times and is known today as Washington street. The Fairbanks' home is assigned to number 285 Washington — the present site of the downtown office of the *Boston Globe*. King street, in front of the Market Place, was the site of the Boston Massacre. Today, it is known as State street. At the foot of King street was the long wharf in the Revolutionary period. It was on this wharf that the British troops landed to begin the occupation of Boston.

Boston geography has changed drastically over the centuries as land-fill and building programs reshaped the city. The changes were greater than in any other Colonial city in this country. Even in Revolutionary times, the changes had resulted in tearing down most of the buildings around Cornhill and King and new ones were constructed.

In the 1640's Mr. Fairbanks had illustrious neighbors. C. W. Ernst in his *History of the Post Office* notes that four neighbors were governors of Harvard —John Cotton, John Wilson, John Winthrop, and Richard Bellingham. Across the street lived General Robert Sedgewick, the man named to head the British attack upon New Netherlands and the man who did lead the fight in Acadia. Three Massachusetts Bay governors lived nearby — John Winthrop, Richard Bellingham, and John Leveritt. Richard Hutchinson, across the street, was a relative of both Thomas Hutchinson, last royal governor of Massachusetts, and Anne Hutchinson, the Antinomian leader, who founded Rhode Island and New Rochelle, N. Y. Richard Fairbanks was one of Anne Hutchinson's followers.

Richard Fairbanks in New England

Official records contain a considerable body of information about Richard Fairbanks. He arrived in Boston with his wife, Elizabeth, in August 1633 on board the *Griffin*. This ship also carried a relative, Jonathan Fairbanks, and the celebrated John Cotton (1585-1652) the 'Patriarch of New England' and vicar of St. Botholph's in Boston.

Fairbanks joined the church in the '8th month 1633', or immediately upon joining the Boston community. His wife joined a bit later. He was made a 'free man' by the General Court of Massachusetts on May 14, 1634. As one of the Ancient and Honorable Members of the Artillery Company, he was entitled to bear arms. This is significant for British records of Richard Fairbanks will probably be found in the London files of the Ancient and Honorable Members. These have not been searched for data about him.

From 1635 until 1643, Fairbanks held minor local offices. According to D. B. Rutmand's *Winthrop's Boston*, pg. 206, he was the town herder from 1635-8. He also speculated in land. In 1636 he violated the General Court

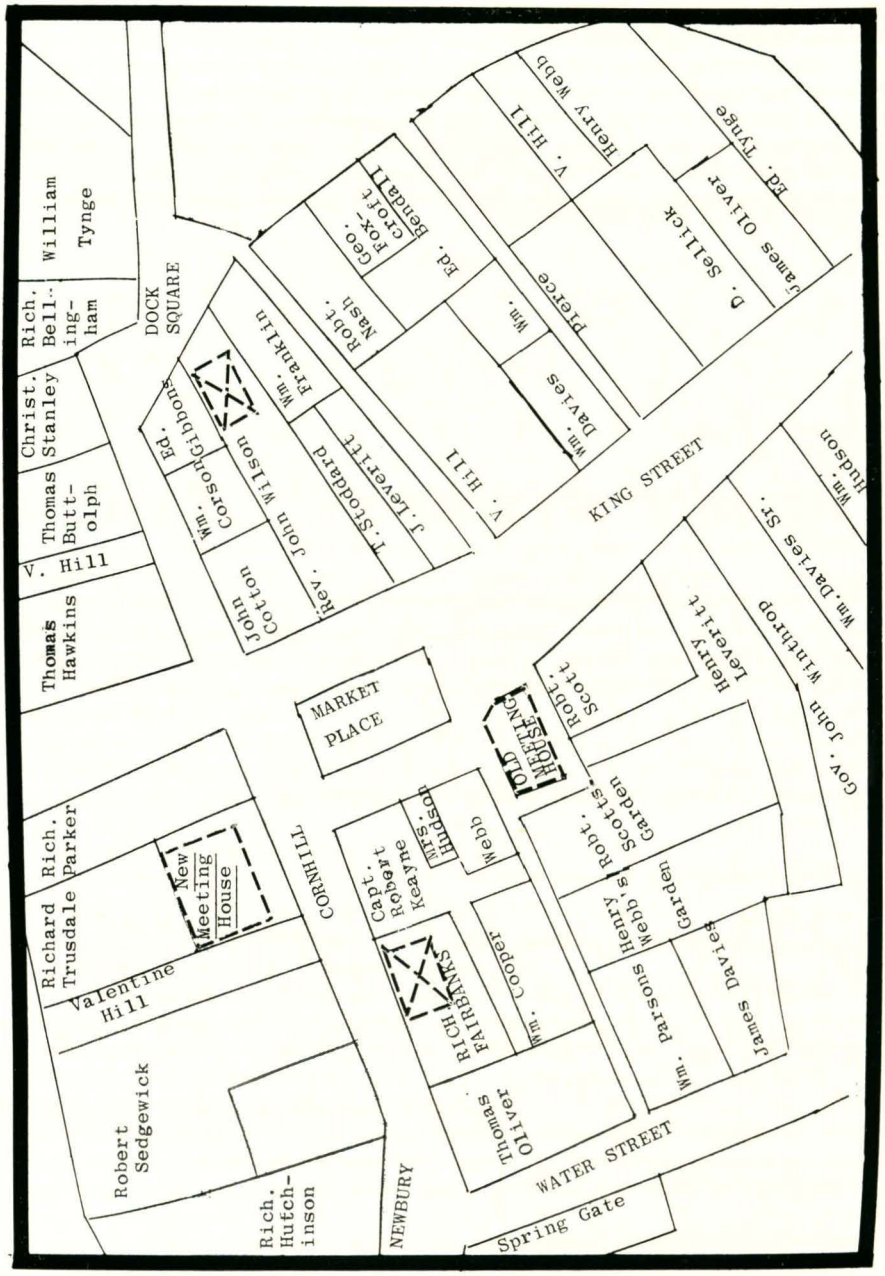


Figure 2. Map of Boston area where Post House was located.

Meeting order of November 30, 1635, that,

"None should sell houses or allotments to newcomers but with consent and allowance of those that are appointed lotters . . ."

He was convicted of having sold,

"to two strangers the towe houses in Sudbury end . . ."

and on the sixth day of the 4th month of 1646 he was fined and the sale rendered forfeit. (The fine is reported as XI—perhaps ten pounds?) Nevertheless in the great allotment of 1637 he was given three and twenty acres. He managed to get onto the committee that handled the land distribution. The result of this activity in lands is that the land records of 1645 show Richard Fairbanks owned the following parcels:

1. One house and grounds bounded with Capt. Keajne on the north, Oliver on the south and High street on the west.
2. Five acres in Fort field.
3. A garden near Bromfield.
4. Four acres in New Fields (in the neighborhood of Allen, Bulfinch and Chambers streets).

On August 1, 1651 he witnessed the will of the shoemaker Robert Turner and in 1652 he received six acres of land in Fort Field from this Robert Turner. This Robert Turner (early Boston was filled with Turners many of them named Robert) died December 3, 1651. He had been married to Elizabeth and had a son, Robert, born March 17, 1652 and who died June 21, 1652.

Religious controversy boiled over in 1637. Fairbanks was a follower of the Reverend John Wheelwright and his relative, Anne Hutchinson. This group, with support from Governor Henry Vane and John Cotton claimed a 'covenant of grace' as contrasted with the Reverend John Wilson's 'covenant of works'. Wilson was supported by Deputy Governor, John Winthrop, and the country magistrates and churches. The elections of May 1637 to the General Court decided the religious issue when Winthrop defeated Vane, who returned to England in disgust. On November 2, 1637, some 58 men, including Richard Fairbanks, who were Antinomians were required to give up their guns and other firearms for,

"holding and expressing opinions that were declared by the church to be dangerous errors . . ."

Apparently Fairbanks recanted for he was allowed to keep his political offices. Further, the next year he was given a valuable privilege, for on May 12, 1638 we find,

"allowed to sell wine and strong water, R. Fairbanks, Boston."

This was the first record of a tavern in Boston. It was only logical, in consequence of this act, that the Fairbanks' house should be the location where the bag for overseas mail would be kept. The tavern was known as the Blue Anchor and it stood for some fifty years. Among the subsequent tenants who owned this land plot were Henry Knox, the Revolutionary general, and the *Boston Globe*. It was not for some years that a second tavern was authorized.

Among the colonial records referring to Fairbanks in Boston are the following:

"November 13, 1644 . . . ye quartieres as shall meet at ye house of R. Fairbanks at Boston on ye 25th Dec. It is ordered that goodman Fairbanks shall have his bill paid him out of the children's money."

"May 14, 1645 . . . send copies to ye said surveyor at Rich: Fairbanks house . . . with the surveys for votes ye 3 committees to ye house of Richard Fairbanks at Boston."

"August 12, 1646. A bill of £69/8/5d being presented to the Committee by Rich: Fairbanks of many particulars as due him from ye country is accepted for a debt of £63/9/0 due to ye country from Mr. Edward Tinge."

"October 7, 1646. Whatsoever appears due to the widow Wilson from the country with respect to her late husband's wages &c. appearing under the Lords houses shee shalbe forwith paid & satisfied by Rich: Fairbanks as farr as that goes to which he oweth the country for the customs of wine . . ."

"November 4, 1646 . . . Richard Fairbanks and Hugh Garrison are licenst for Boston . . . each to pay £15 per annum."

Richard Fairbanks had but two children. His son, Zaccheus, was baptized on December 8, 1639 and died on November 10, 1653 at the age of 14. His daughter, Constance, was baptized on January 10, 1636/7. She married Samuel Mattocke on January 30, 1653/4 with William Hibbins officiating. Descendants of this union are alive today. All subsequent members bearing the Fairbanks name, however, including the one who became vice-president, are related to Jonathan Fairbanks rather than Richard.

The last document we have of Richard Fairbanks is his signature, among others, on the marriage contract dated January 29, 1654. Records of the mid-1600's in New England are poor and we do not know the date of death of either Fairbanks or his wife. Further we have no record of a will. The Fairbanks family, who have extensively researched the early records, make it clear in unpublished correspondence that no particular effort was made to find such a will. We do know that Richard Fairbanks died prior to April 15, 1667 for a lot was conveyed on that date with the notation,

"purchased from the late Richard Fairbanks several years since . . ."

This deed suggests that Fairbanks died probably no earlier than 1664 and possibly as late as 1667.

Pulling the known data about Richard Fairbanks together, we find a relatively young inn-keeper who made his money in land speculation. He would be an extrovert to get into politics and inn-keeping. He may well have left Boston shortly after the marriage of his daughter and the death of his son. There is a serious question if he was connected with the tavern or the post after 1652.

The Blue Anchor Inn

Richard Fairbanks sold the Blue Anchor inn and his home on April 1, 1652 to Robert Turner. According to the record in the *New England Genealogy* series (Vol. 39, p. 383) this Robert Turner was styled the 'vintner' in the deed,

"from Richard Fairbanks conveying the establishment upon which he rebuilt or enlarged the house where he established the Blue Anchor."

This Robert Turner may have been the one that came over as number 24 in the *Blessing Jo:* in 1633/4. He did come over on September 4, 1633. He married a Penelope and among his children was Ephraim (born 12/13/1639), Sarah (born 1/11/1640) and John (1/10/1642).

With the sale of the Blue Anchor to Robert, the 'Vintner', Turner, Fairbanks apparently lost all connection with the mails. Turner seems to have operated the Blue Anchor as a family enterprise until 1664. At that time, on the 9th of 5th month 1664 he gave his son, Ephraim, his 'new built house', to John Toppin's fence. It is an interesting philatelic sidelight that at one point the Philadelphia colonial post office was kept in an inn named the Blue Anchor.

Ephraim was 25 when he received the house. He had been admitted to the Ancient and Honorable Members of the Artillery Company in 1663 and was listed as a 'free man' in 1666. His first child was born 12/3/1663 and he had a son, also named Robert Turner, born June 17, 1665. Ephraim was made an

Ensign in 1675 and is so reported until 1680 when he disappears from the Boston records, probably because he moved out of town.

It is this Robert Turner, the vintner's grandson, who wrote to William Penn on the 3rd of 6th month (August) 1685 giving news of Boston. Included in this letter was the fact that John Wheeler was building,

"a good brick house by the Blew Anchor."

This reference establishes the fact that the 'new built house' plot included the Blue Anchor, for other land references *(New England Genealogy* Vol. 15, p. 323) show that John Wheeler's plot is next to the Turner plot.

Summarizing the Turner data, we find that the elder Robert Turner, who would be of somewhat similar age to Richard Fairbanks — because of similarity of dates of their eldest children — held the captain's bag privilege from 1652 until 1664. Ephraim took over the Blue Anchor, and the privilege, at that time and ran the inn until about 1680. Because of his military involvement in 1675-1677, as an Ensign in King Philip's War, however, Ephraim probably neglected the inn and the captain's bag. Thus, the merchants protested, in their petition of 1677 and asked to have a postmaster appointed.

Ancestry of Richard Fairbanks

Jonathan Fairbanks, who came with his wife, Grace, and six of his nine children on the *Griffin* and Richard Fairbanks, who came with his wife, Elizabeth, are reported to be relatives. Some traditions even make them brothers. We have no direct proof of this, and some negative evidence that they were not brothers. Jonathan was married on May 20, 1617, in England. His will was made on June 1, 1668 and his estate was inventoried on October 16, 1668; he died December 5, 1668. On none of these records is Richard Fairbanks, or his heirs mentioned. We know that English relatives left legacies for Jonathan, but Richard and his family are not mentioned. Thus, on the basis of this negative evidence I would conclude that they were not brothers, or if so, on very bad terms with one another.

L. S. Fairbanks' *History of the Fairbanks Family* traces the family back to 1430 in Kendall, Westmorelandshire, England. There was a John Fairbanks among the descendants (1480-1551) who had a son, Gilbert (1505-3/3/1578). These two are apparently the ancestors of the American Fairbanks. Two lines of descent have been suggested for Jonathan. One, through John of Skircote and his son, John, born in 1586, would make Jonathan about 30 when he married and almost eighty at death. A more likely prospect is through John Fairbanks of Thaighe, Thornton parish, Craven, who had a son born in 1594. There are various Richard Fairbanks in the ancestoral line, but none of a date that can be identified with the colonist Richard. For example, there is a Richard Fairbanks in 1517, nephew of Edward of Sowerby (a Jonathan relative) who lived in Yorkshire. A Richard Fairbanks died November 28, 1547 in Worley.

Because his eldest child was born in early 1637, a trifle over three years after Richard Fairbanks arrived in Boston, I would assume that he was younger than Jonathan. He apparently died one to three years before Jonathan. Thus, it is possible that the search for Jonathan's ancestors (the only one that has been made) failed to turn up traces of Richard Fairbanks, who may even be a child from a former marriage of Jonathan's step-mother.

We do find that a Richard Fairbanks (Hail) married Margret Pollard on June 15, 1607 and that a Richard Fairbanks married a Martha Holdrush on May 28, 1610. Either of these might be Richard's parents.

As hypothesis, I would suggest that Richard was about 20 to 25 when he arrived in Boston in 1633, and that he was newly married. Further, I would

suggest that the relationship was one of cousin to Jonathan. Both the 1607 and 1610 Richard Fairbanks marriages fit these conditions. If either is correct he would have died at about 50 to 60 years of age.

Because a detailed search for Richard's ancestors and circumstances were not made by the Fairbanks family, who descend from Jonathan, and because Richard's descendants — the Mattock family — have not seen fit to explore this female ancestor's antecedants, there is still a virgin field for postal historians. Among the items to be located by the *Colonial America*, or a similar group, are: Richard's will, the inventory of his estate, the death certificate of him and his wife, and probably through the Ancient and Honorable Members of the Artillery Company in London, a check for his specific ancestors. The dissenter church records of England may also help.

Another project is exploration on Robert the elder, and Ephraim Turner, who apparently held the captain's bag privilege through the Blue Anchor and the Act of 1639 until 1677. Were they in any way connected with the messenger services of the period? Do letters mention them in connection with the mails? Both names have been unknown previously to postal historians.

THE ENGLISH POSTAL FARM

1516 Sir Brian Tuke named 'Master of the King's Post', 'Magistrater Nunciorum, Cursorum, sive Postarum'.

post 1533 John Mason (died 1566) and William Paget named 'Masters of the Messengers, Runners, and Posts'.

1566 Sir Thomas Randolph, upon his return from Scotland until his death in 1590.

The foreign post was in the hands of the 'Merchants Strangers' until 1568 when the office fell vacant and they split between the German, Raphael, and the Englishman, Godfrey. The other major foreign system was the 'Merchants Adventurers'. (Domestic Correspondence Eilzabeth Vol. 48 #65).

1583 First comprehensive domestic regulations established on January 14, 1583 by Orders of the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

1591 Queen's Proclamation orders no letters to be sent to or received from any foreign country except by government post eliminated the two major foreign systems.

1607 John Stanhope, the first Baron Stanhope of Harrington, jointly with his son, Charles Stanhope, named 'Master of the Posts and Messengers' with a fee of 100 marks and 'avails and profits'.

1619 Matthew de Quester and his son Matthew the younger named 'Postmaster General for England for Foreign Parts'. Stanhope held this infringed his patent.

3/15/1633 deQuestor senior assigns foreign postmastership jointly to William Frizell and Thomas Witherings. Letters patent granted. Net charge to the crown was £3,400 a year.

July 31, 1635, Thomas Witherings' proposals for a major overhaul of the post accepted and the eight major internal routes were set up.

February 1638, a royal proclamation ratified Witherings' agreement with the French postmaster for a French mail.

1640 Commons sequestered the office to Philip Burlamachi. Witherings, then, assigned his patent to Robert Rich, earl of Warwick. Sequestration declared illegal in 1642. In 1646 the monopoly restraint clauses of the Warwick assignment held void by the courts. Burlamachi acted as agent for Prideaux while Henry Robinson acted as Warwick's agent.

1644 Edmund Prideaux, Attorney General, is given the farm for £5,000 a year as 'Master of the Posts, Messengers and Couriers'.

1650 Some five postmaster patents had been granted, foreign and domestic. Parliament held it was their right to dispose of the office. There were two private posts in this period. One was the post run by John Hill of York which charged 1d a letter in England and 2d to Scotland. The other was run by two undertakers, Clement Oxbridge and Francis Thompson, who charged 2d for 100 miles and 3d beyond.

1653 Foreign and inland posts farmed to John-Manley for £10,000. A note that John Thurloe should take over, by patent, at the end of Manley's contract is also reported. Dr. Dorislaus and Samuel Moreland were the Cromwellian Board of Examiners for foreign letters and read all. Secretary of State Thurloe had basic control over the posts from March 29, 1652 until the Restoration but officially took over on May 3, 1655. Capt. John-Manley was a Justice of the Peace in Middlesex and a Cromwellite. In 1654 he was given, by ordinance, a postal monopoly in England, Scotland, and Ireland and to and from all the other places within the Dominions of the Commonwealth. Thurloe introduced free franking.
The speed of the post was regulated at seven miles an hour from April through September and five miles an hour October through March. There was to be a weekly packet from Dover to Calais, from Milford Haven to Waterford in Ireland and from Chester to Dublin.

1657 Parliament sets rates of postage and rights and duties of postmasters. In 1659 the farm yields £14,000.

1660 Henry Bishop, founder of the Bishopmark, becomes first Postmaster-General under Charles II for a farm of £21,500. An Act for Erecting and Establishing a Post Office was also passed.

1662 Daniel O'Neil, groom of the bedchamber, granted Letters Patent as Postmaster-General and 'Master of all the King's Posts and Couriers in all his Majesty's Dominions'. The farm was for £21,500.

1663 Act for Settling the Profits of the Post Office on the duke of York and his Heirs-Male passed 15 Car. II.

1667 Postal revenue was £25,000.
King orders postoffice in North America to be set up and report to O'Neil.

1674 Henry Bennet, earl of Arlington takes over the royal farm for £43,000. The main office in London has 75 employees. Dockwra begins his penny post March 25, 1680 and on November 23, 1682 it is turned over to the Duke's government office. Dockwra goes to New Jersey as a landowner in 1692; in 1697 he becomes the London comptroller of the post.

1685 Annual revenue from the postal farm is £65,000. On November 23, 1685 Edward Randolph, secretary and registrar of the New England province is appointed Postmaster, until 1689 when Andros government falls following deposition of James II.

1688 Annual postal farm revenue rises to 76,318 pounds. Earl of Rochester is the patentee.

February 17, 1692 Thomas Neale, Master of the Mint is given a 21 year patent for a rent of six shillings a year. Neale appointed Andrew Hamilton on April 4, 1692 to be his American deputy. Through May 1697 receipts on the American service were £1,457 and expenses £3,817. The farm went in 1697 to Dr. Davenant for £90,505 for both inland and foreign.

1699 Neale, prior to his death, assigns his patent to Andrew Hamilton and Robert West for about £1,100 in back salary and advances.

The Carrier Service In Baltimore Prior to 1863

By Denwood N. Kelly

(Continued from Vol. 51, page 354)

Postal Markings

The cancellations to be found on the Baltimore carriers' stamps, while limited in variety, offer an interesting field for study.

Only one handstamped postal marking (Figure 65) is definitely attributable to the Carrier Department, it having been designed for use on bulk mailing of circulars, pamphlets, notices, etc., to avoid waste of time and adhesive stamps. Such use is illustrated in Figure 66 on a small locally addressed envelope. Very occasionally this marking was used as a canceller, probably in error or in haste to quickly cancel the stamps on a large number of letters. Figure 67 illustrates an example of such usage of this handstamp to cancel a blue "Eye" carriers' stamp.



Figure 65. The only handstamp specifically attributed to the Carrier Department.



Figure 66. Small locally addressed envelope, which probably contained an invitation or announcement of some sort, bearing the rare circular handstamp illustrated in Figure 65. (Kelly Collection).

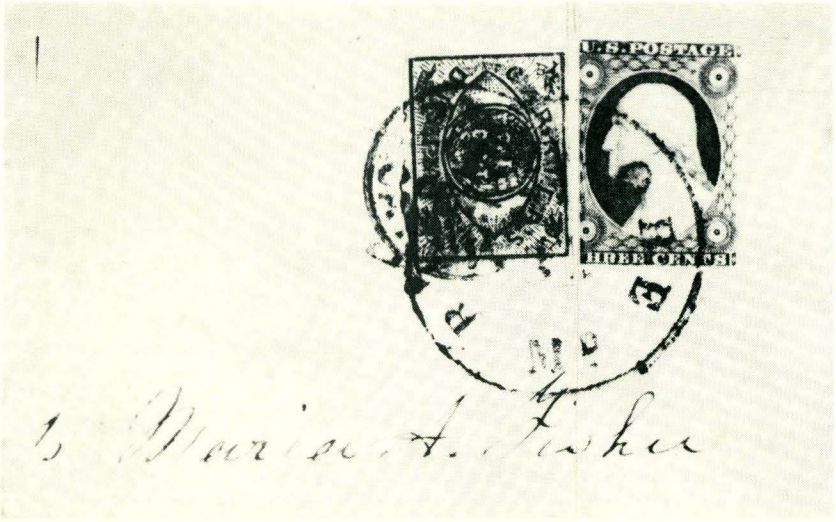


Figure 67. The only known example of the use of the circular carrier handstamp to cancel a carrier stamp. (Ex Straus Collection).

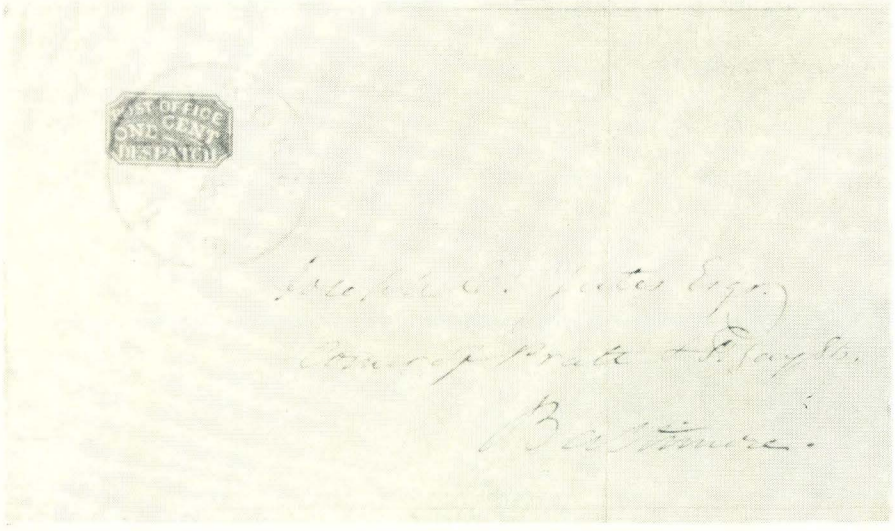


Figure 68. Local cover bearing a blue carrier stamp of the first design (Scott 1LB3) cancelled with a blue Baltimore circular date stamp. (Ex Caspary Collection).

Regular Baltimore postal circular date stamps are not infrequently found on the carriers' stamps, although these semi-official stamps were not supposed to be so cancelled as they prepaid no regular postal rate. Figures 11, 68 and 69 show fine examples of such markings. The cover shown in Figure 68 is a strictly local cover and one wonders why the carriers' stamp bears an official postmark. The two probable explanations are that either (1) the letter was collected by a carrier for normal local delivery, the addressee was found to be on the "do not deliver" list and the letter was turned over to the Post Office to be held for

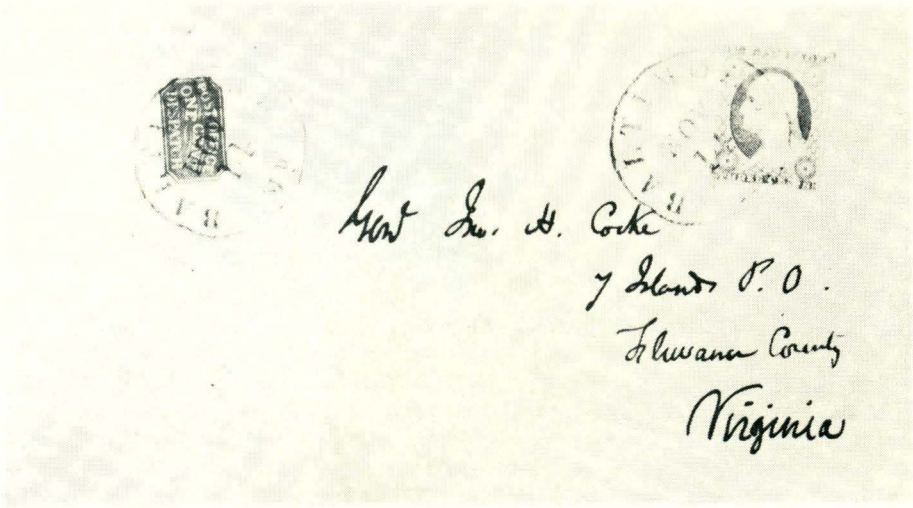


Figure 69. "Outgoing" cover, Nov. 14, 1853, showing a first type carrier stamp (Scott 1LB1) separately cancelled by blue Baltimore circular date stamp. (Ex Straus, Clough Collections).

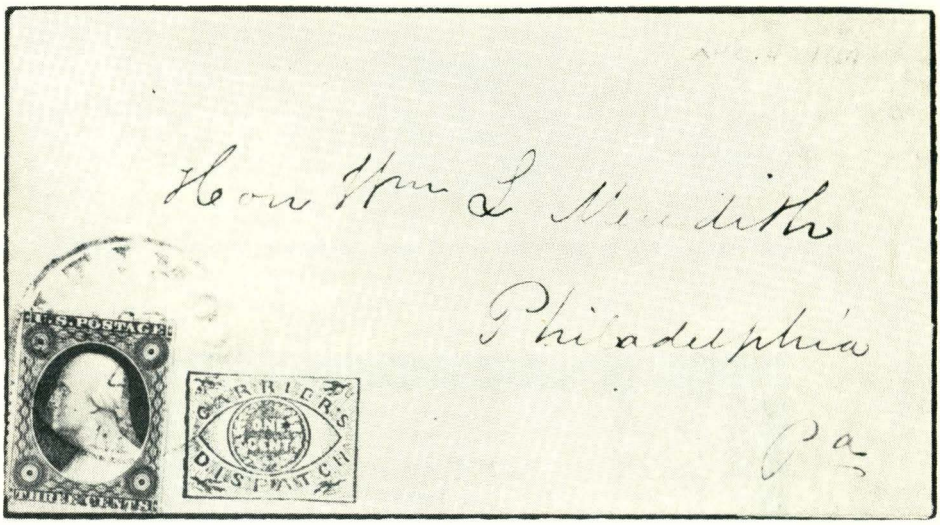


Figure 70. Blue "Eye" carrier stamp, used April 4, 1859, tied along with the U.S. 3c 1857 stamp by blue Baltimore circular date stamp.

pick-up, the postal clerk cancelling the stamp; or (2) the letter was handed in as a drop letter prepaid for carrier delivery and the carriers' stamp so cancelled to show that the letter had passed through the Post Office, the drop letter rate having been paid in cash. Figure 69 shows a very fine cover, the carriers' stamp having merely paid the fee for carriage "to the mails". The unusual feature, of course, is the carriers' stamp being so carefully cancelled by the Baltimore circular date stamp; this was probably done merely by a postal clerk who noticed that the stamp was uncancelled and decided to repair the carrier's omission. The cover illustrated in Figure 70 shows the most usual way in which

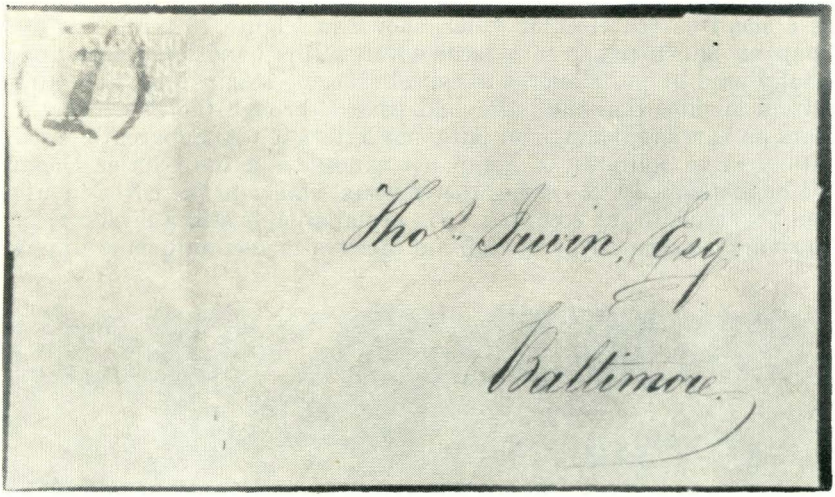


Figure 71. Local cover bearing a red on blue carrier stamp of the first design (Scott 1LB1) tied by the large one-in-circle drop letter rate marking. (Kelly Collection).

carriers' stamps came to receive official cancellations; being placed adjacent to the government postage stamp, it received a portion of the cancellation intended for the regular stamp.

The "1 in circle" postmarks shown on the covers in Figure 71 and 72 are regular government postal markings denoting prepayment of the one cent drop letter rate. When found on a carriers' stamp, they merely show that the letter was handed in at the Post office bearing a carriers' stamp, the one cent drop letter rate paid in cash, and the letter turned over to the Carrier Department for delivery.

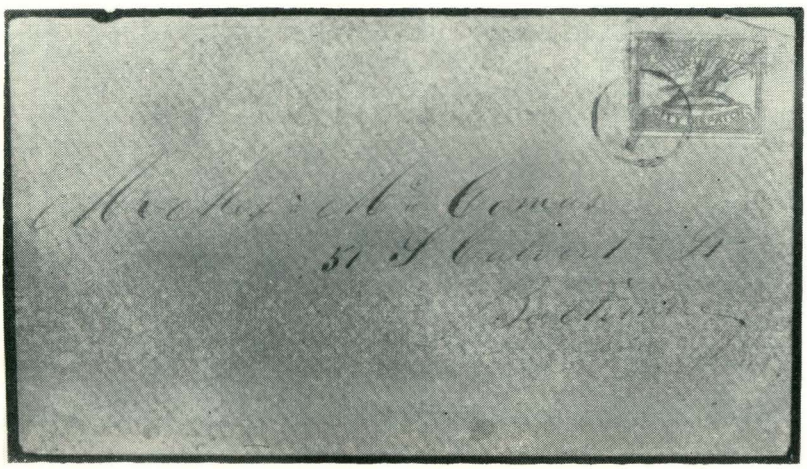
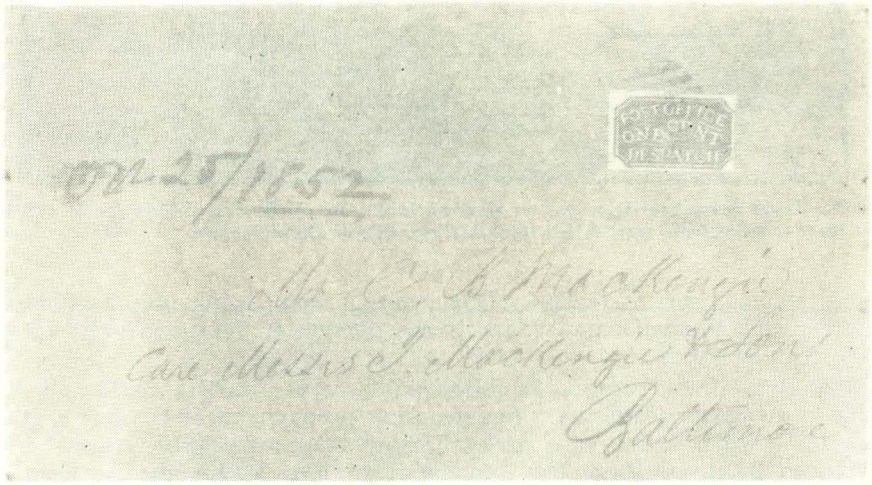


Figure 72. Black "Horseman" carrier stamp tied to local cover by medium-sized one-in-circle drop letter rate marking. (Kelly Collection).

Another handstamp occasionally found, generally on the stamps of the first type, is a small barred circular killer, shown in Figure 73 tying a copy of the red stamp on bluish paper to a local cover. This handstamp was apparently occasionally used by postal clerks to cancel carriers' stamps that were already on drop letters to show that the letter had passed through the Post Office. When it appears on carriers' stamps on outgoing letters it was apparently used either accidentally or to obliterate a stamp not cancelled in the Carrier Department.

The handstamped "X" tying the carriers' stamp to the cover in Figure 74 is the only example so far recorded. Its explanation is still a mystery; probably it was privately prepared by one of the carriers to facilitate cancelling stamps.



Figue 73. Red carrier stamp of the first design (Scott 1LB1) tied to local cover by the barred circle killer which was in standard use in the Baltimore post office in the 1850's.

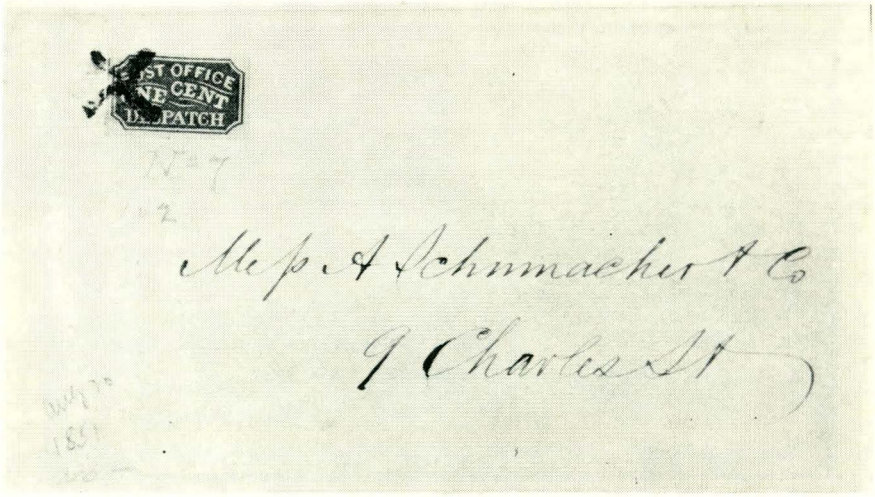


Figure 74. Local cover, Aug. 20, 1851, bearing a red on blue carrier stamp of the first design, cancelled with a handstamped "X".

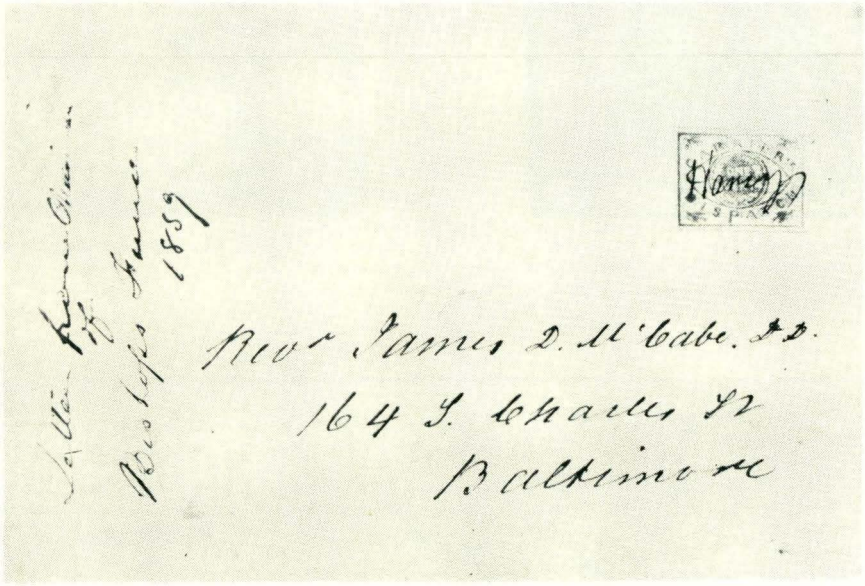


Figure 75. Local cover, April 20, 1859, the red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled manuscript "Harvey". (Kelly Collection).

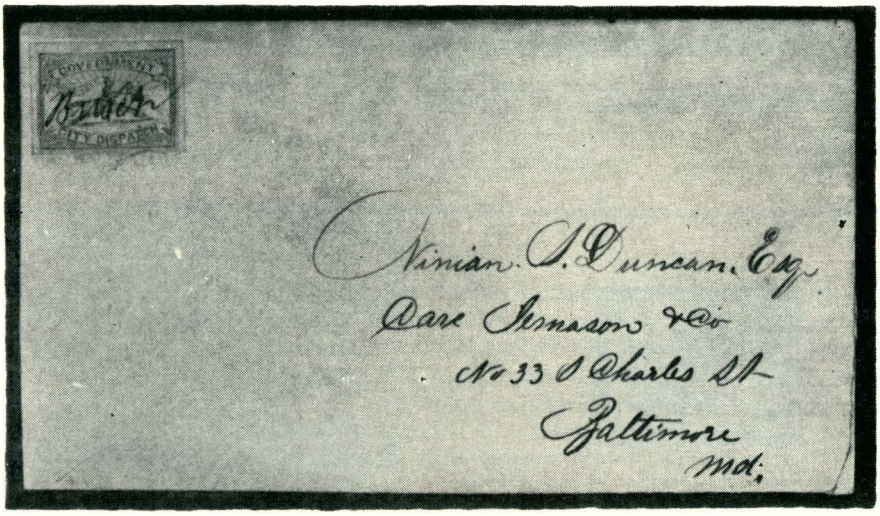


Figure 76. Red "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB9), cancelled manuscript "Busch", on local letter. (Kelly Collection).



Figure 77. Red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled "Hutton". (Middendorf Collection).

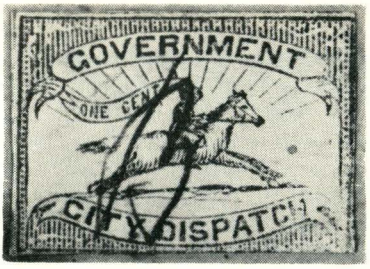


Figure 79a. Red "Horseman" stamp cancelled manuscript "B".

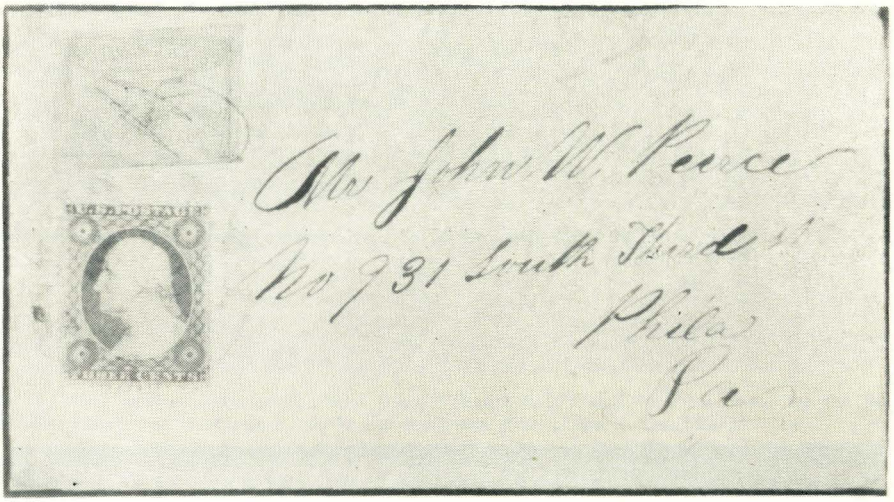


Figure 79. Red "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB9) on outgoing letter, cancelled pencil manuscript "B" (Kelly Collection).



Figure 78. Red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled "King". (Kelly Collection).



Figure 80. Black "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB8) cancelled manuscript "F".

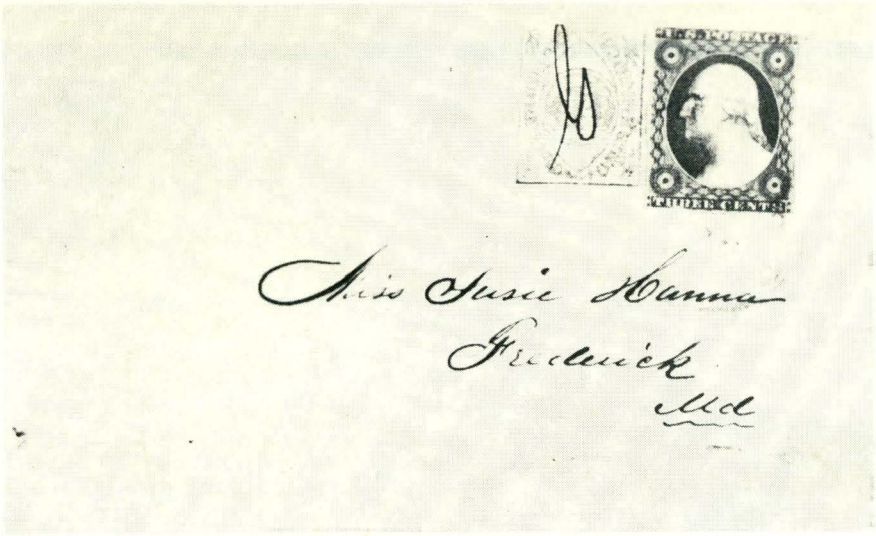


Figure 81. Red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) on "outgoing" letter, cancelled "G". (Kelly Collection).

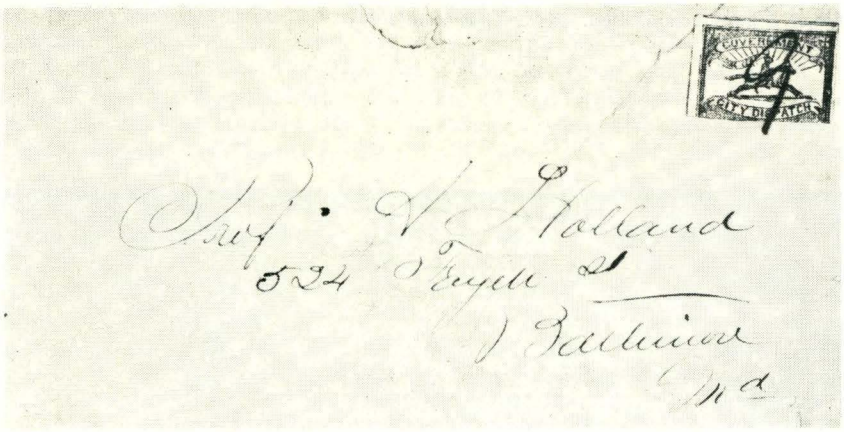


Figure 82. Black "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB8) on locally addressed envelope, cancelled G in another handwriting. (Kelly Collection).

The most usual cancellation to be found on the carriers' stamps is of the manuscript variety; this is to be expected as the carriers were responsible for cancelling the stamps on the letters they collected. Generally these manuscript cancellations took the form of parallel penstrokes, crosses, checkmarks, or mere "squiggles". Only rarely does a full name appear as shown on the red "Eye" stamp on the cover in Figure 75, cancelled by Carrier Thomas Harvey who was appointed in April, 1853. Figure 76 illustrates a cover bearing a red "Horseman" carrier stamp cancelled "Busch" in manuscript, obviously the signature of Henry Busch, carrier from 1855 to 1859. Another nice example of this type of manuscript cancelation is shown in Figure 77, this being from the collection of J. William Middendorf and showing the name of John Hutton, a carrier in 1858. Another example is shown in Figure 78, again on a red "Eye" stamp,



Figure 83. Local letter, the black "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB8) cancelled with a third type manuscript "G", and used in combination with a 1c 1857, indicating an original mailing as a drop letter. A rare combination. (Kelly Collection).

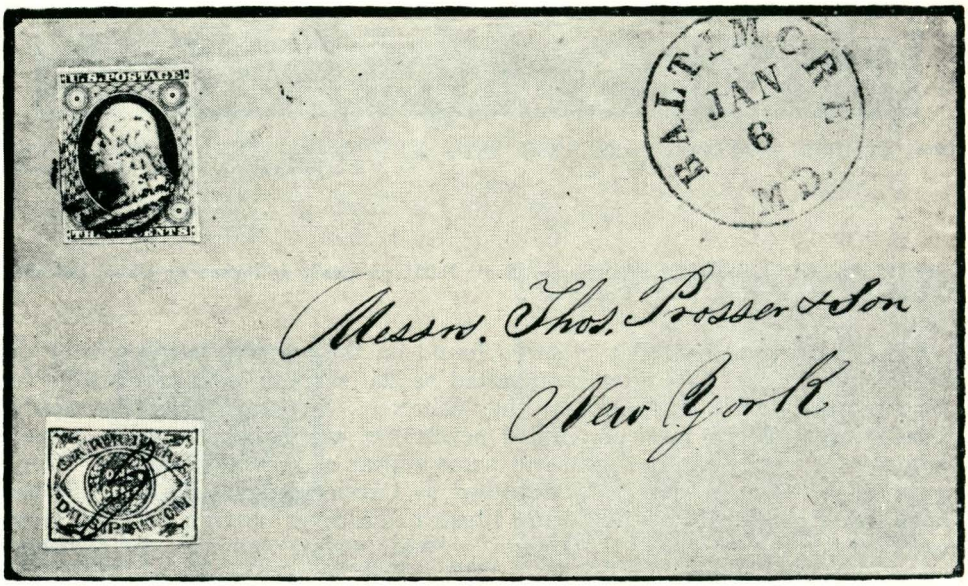


Figure 83a. "Outgoing" letter bearing 3c 1857 and red "Eye" carrier stamp cancelled manuscript "G". (Ex Sinclair Collection).

cancelled by Carrier William J. King, the brother of the probable printers of the stamps. Figure 79 shows a red horseman stamp cancelled with a pencilled manuscript "B" which could be the initial of any one of four carriers (Michael Borland, Charles H. Branson, James M. Brown, Henry Busch) active in the 1855-56 period. Another "B" is shown on the red "Horseman" stamp in Figure 79a. A good example of the manuscript "F" of Carrier John S. Fusselbaugh is shown on a black "Horseman" stamp in Figure 80. Two types of "G" cancellations are illustrated in Figures 81 and 82 and a third in Figure 83; these three "G" types obviously were the work of Carriers Wm. H. Geisendaffer, Conrad Gerhardt and Geo. Frederick German, all of whom were on duty in the 1855-60 period. Still another "G" is shown on the red "Eye" stamp on the cover in Figure 83a. Figures 84 and 85 show examples of a manuscript "H", both of which are thought to be in Thomas Harvey's handwriting; there being a strong similarity in the formation of that letter to that shown in Figure 75. The annual report of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal Companies, May 9, 1859, shown in Figure 86, bears a red eye stamp cancelled "K", obviously William J. King. Two types of "M" are shown cancelling red "Eye" and red "Horseman" stamps, respectively, on the covers illustrated in Figures 87 and 88. Possibly a third type of "M" is shown on the red "Horseman" stamp in Figure 89. The red "Eye" stamp in Figure 90 is cancelled with a large irregular "R" which could be the initial of Carriers Rayhice, Ringrose, Robertson or Rodenstein, all of whom were on duty in the 1857-1860 period. Another variety of "R" is shown in Figure 91. The stamp on the "outgoing" cover shown in Figure 92 is cancelled a "W" in pencil manuscript. The stamps in Figures 93 and 94 show red "Eye" marginal copies with pencil cancellations which are apparently different types of "W" or "M". Edward W. Wartman was a letter carrier in the proper period and one of these initials may be his. The other "W" carriers listed are George Williar who was promoted to Superintendent of Carriers in 1853, and James R. Ward who was listed in 1851, but not thereafter. If either of these marks is an "M" it must be allocated to George L. Mallonee who was a carrier or "Post-office agent" from 1851 to 1854 according to city directories. Mr. Robson Lowe recently showed me an interesting manuscript marking on a red "Horseman" stamp, on the cover shown in Figure 8. He deciphers the marking, which is not too distinctly or too neatly scrawled in pencil, as "DP"—I can find no known carrier with those initials, however. If it is "DR", though, it fits Dominic Rayhice, who had a long tenure of service from 1842 to 1859. On the other hand, it appears as easily possible to be "C.R.P." which fits Charles R. Powell! Such are the frustrations caused by poor and hurried handwriting. Other manuscript cancellations have been seen which may or may not be scrawled initials—there is no point to listing these until they are further verified.

With the idea that it may be useful to specialists trying to identify or verify manuscript markings, a list of all known letter carriers in Baltimore between 1837 and 1860 is furnished herewith. It was compiled from Post Office records in the National Archives researched by Mr. Elliott Perry, and from city directory listings and Post Office notices in contemporary Baltimore newspapers. The individual year dates (1858, 1858-59, etc.) after the various names indicate the editions of the city directories in which the letter carrier listing appeared.

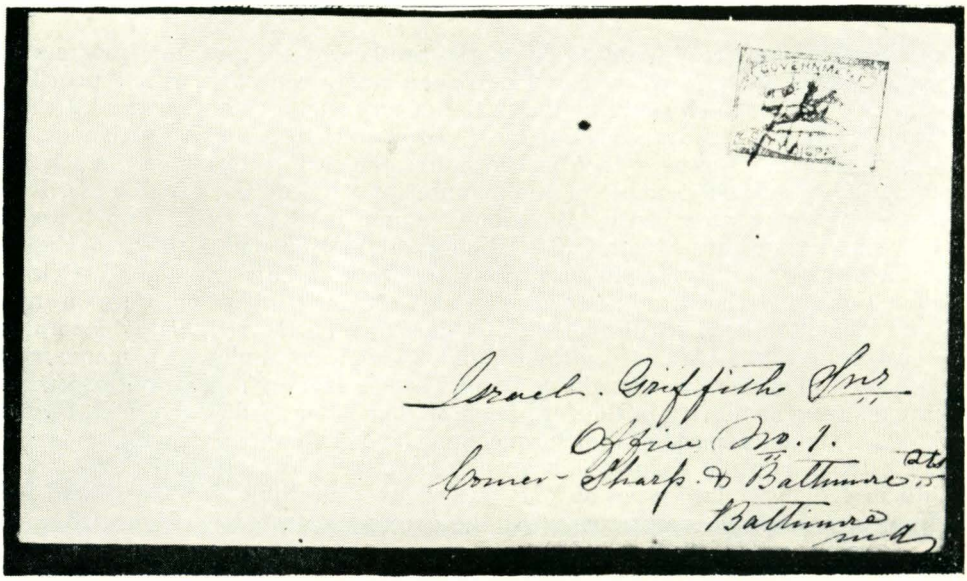


Figure 84. Local letter, red "Horseman" carrier stamp cancelled "H". (Ex Straus Collection).

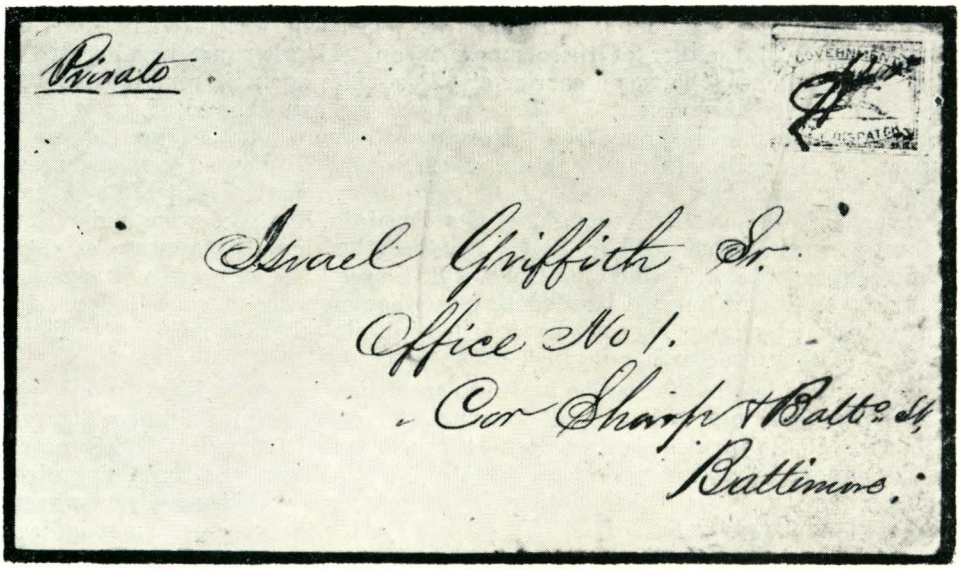
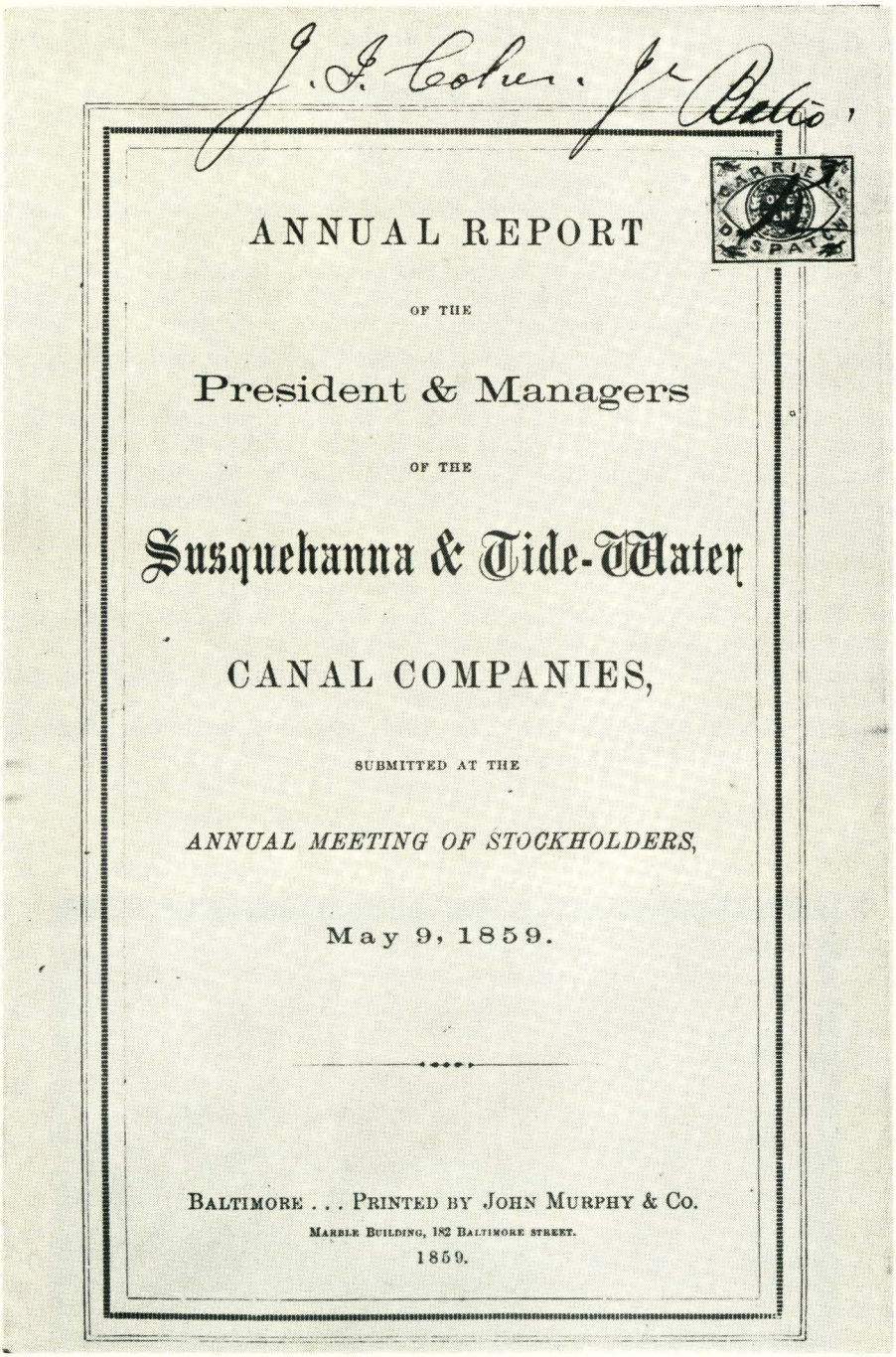


Figure 85. Local letter, pinkish red "Horseman" carrier stamp cancelled "H". (Ex Straus Collection).


J. F. Cohen, Jr. Balto,

CARRIER'S DESPATCH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

President & Managers

OF THE

Susquehanna & Tide-Water

CANAL COMPANIES,

SUBMITTED AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS,

May 9, 1859.

BALTIMORE . . . PRINTED BY JOHN MURPHY & Co.

MARBLE BUILDING, 182 BALTIMORE STREET.

1859.

Figure 86. A financial report, May 9, 1859, bearing a red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled manuscript "K". (Kelly Collection).

Baltimore Letter Carriers

1837–1863

Alou, John F. Succeeded by D. W. Cathell, May 3, 1863.
Bennett, L. W. Appointed July 12, 1849. In charge of District 9, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.
Blinzinger, George F. Appointed April, 1858.
Boland (Borland), Michael 1855-56, 1857-57. Previously a clerk; resigned April 18, 1857.
Branson, Charles H. 1855-56, previously a carpenter. Resigned October 2, 1855.
Brawner, Andrew H. Appointed May 16, 1857. 1858, 1858-59. Previously tavern-keeper, bill broker, druggist.
Briggs, Samuel S. Appointed April 30, 1845, vice E. C. Johnson, removed. 1847-48, 1849-50. Previously brass-founder.
Brown, James M. 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59. Previously drayman.
Brown, Joseph E. Appointed April 3, 1855, vice Charles R. Powell.
Brown, William H. Appointed May 30, 1861, vice W. H. Geisendaffer.
Busch, Henry 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858-59. Previously tobacconist. Registered Aug. 10, 1860.
Busch, John Appointed November 30, 1836.
Cathell, Daniel W. Appointed May 30, 1863, vice John F. Alou.
Cook, Henry 1856-57. Listed as "off. P. Office" 1855-56, previously cabinet-maker.
Darling, John 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59. Previously brick-layer, grocer.
Fusselbaugh, John S. 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59.
Gallagher, John. Appointed July 28, 1841, vice James McNeal 1842, 1843. Previously clerk, died 1844.

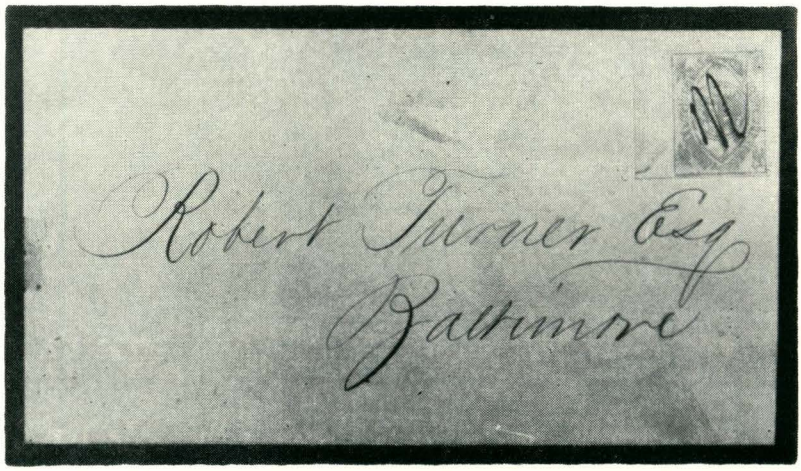


Figure 87. Red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7), Type 9 with bottom sheet margin, on local letter, cancelled manuscript "M". (Kelly Collection).

Geisendaffer, William H. Appointed June 1, 1857. 1858, 1858-59. Previously variety dealer.

Gekler, W. G. In charge of District 14, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.

Gerhardt, Conrad 1858, 1858-59.

German, George Frederick 1855-56, 1858, 1858-59. Previously tavern-keeper; grocer 1856-57.

Gorman, J. Warren Appointed May 30, 1861, vice C. J. Ringrose.

Halton, John J. 1858.

Harvey, Thomas J. Appointed April 30, 1853. 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59.

Hess, George E. Appointed December 15, 1860.

Hinkle, J. W. In charge of District 11, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.

Hoffman, A. In charge of District 6, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.

Holliday, Jesse L. Resigned October 11, 1849.

Hook, Henry F. In charge of District 8, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851. 1853-54. Previously printer, later coal dealer.

Hutton, John "Penny post" 1858.

Hyde, Richard B. Appointed March 11, 1862; removed Sept. 27, 1862.

Jarden (Jordan), Samuel 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59. Previously confectioner.

Johnson, Ezekiel C. Appointed Nov. 3, 1841; removed April 30, 1845; reappointed July 14, 1849. In charge of District 7, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851. 1845, 1851, 1853-54; previously tailor, later grocer, paper carrier, agent for Poor Assn. Tailor 1847-1850.

Keplinger, W. Resigned April 14, 1841.

King, William J. 1855-56, 1856-57, 1858, 1858-59, replaced May 30, 1861 by M. S. Showacre. Previously bailiff.

Kremer, James C. Deceased Dec., 1862.

Kremer, John F. Appointed Dec. 16, 1862, vice James C. Kremer, deceased.

Kugler, Samuel Appointed Sept. 4, 1849, vice Jacob Kurtz, resigned. In charge of District 1, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1951.

Kurtz, Jacob Appointed August 16, 1849; resigned Sept. 4, 1849.

Lanney, Lewis Francis Appointed July 24, 1845. 1849-50.

Latham, Edward Appointed Jan. 15, 1859.

Leas, Charles A. Appointed October 11, 1844, vice E. C. Wells, resigned; replaced by C. R. Powell April 18, 1845.

Leonard, Amasa Appointed Dec. 11, 1844, vice John Gallagher, died. 1847-48, 1849-50. Previously carpenter; collector and agent, in 1851.

Littlefield, Abraham Appointed Nov. 30, 1836.

Lusby, Henry Appointed April 14, 1841, vice W. Keplinger; removed April 16, 1845. 1842, 1845. Previously runner, Franklin Bank; later a painter.

Mallonee, George L. In charge of District 10, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851. "P. O. Agent," 1853-54. Appointed July 12, 1849.

McNeal, James. Resigned July 28, 1841.

McWilliams, John Appointed Aug. 10, 1860, vice Henry Busch, resigned; replaced by John Shandman May 30, 1861.

Mercer, Charles H. Appointed Jan. 1, 1844, vice W. J. White, resigned. 1847-48, 1851. "Clerk in P. O." 1842, 1845, 1849-50; lamp dealer 1853.

Morton, Michael Appointed Aug. 10, 1860.

Musselman, John 1837, 1840-41, 1842, 1845, 1847-48, 1849-50, 1851. Removed Sept. 10, 1850, replaced by John Roundtree.

Offley, Michael Appointed Sept. 27, 1862, vice R. B. Hyde.

Phelps, William Appointed Jan. 15, 1859.

Powell, Charles R. Appointed April 18, 1845; resigned April 3, 1855.

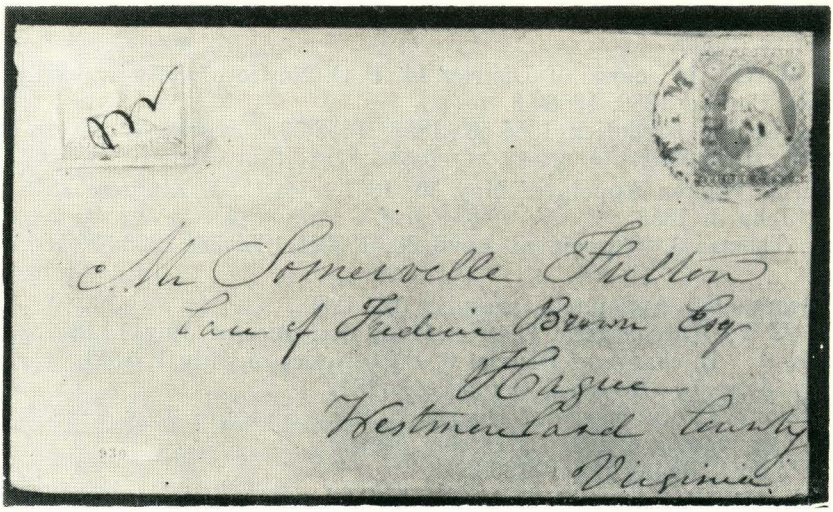


Figure 88. Red "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB9) on "outgoing" letter, cancelled manuscript "M". (Robson Lowe Collection).



Figure 89. Red "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB9) cancelled manuscript "M". (Robson Lowe Collection).

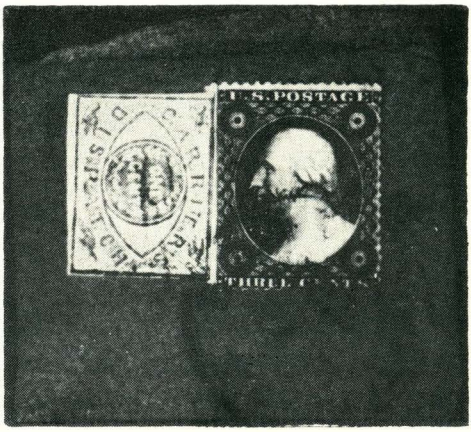


Figure 90. Red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled manuscript "R".

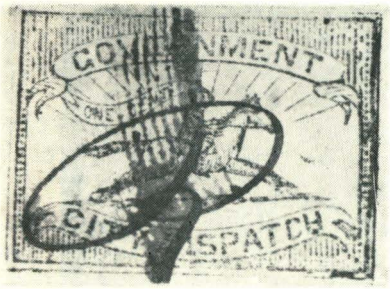


Figure 91. Red "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB9) cancelled manuscript "R". (Ex Waterhouse Collection).



Figure 93. Upper left corner marginal copy of the red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled either "M" or "W". (Kelly Collection).

Rayhice, Dominick 1842, 1845, 1849-50, 1856-57, 1858-59. "Collector" 1851, 1853-54, 1855-57.

Ringrose, Christopher J. Appointed June 1, 1857; replaced by J. W. Gorman May 30, 1861. 1858, 1858-59. Previously feed dealer.

Roberts, Isaac G. Appointed Aug. 16, 1849, in charge of District 12, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851. 1853-54. "Asst. Warden" 1847-48.

Robertson, C. William 1858-59. Previously a printer, 1853-54.

Rosenstein, Joseph G. W. Appointed April 16, 1845, vice Henry Lusby, removed. 1847-48, 1849-50, 1855-56, 1856-7, 1858, 1858-59. "Collector" in 1851, 1853-54.

Roundtree, John Appointed Sept. 10, 1850, vice J. Musselman, removed. Previously and subsequently a music teacher.

Salty, Joseph Appointed Jan. 15, 1859.

Schofield, Henry Appointed Jan. 15, 1859.

Shandman, John Appointed May 30, 1861, vice John McWilliams.

Shaw, Bernard Appointed April 18, 1857, vice Michael Boland, resigned. 1858, 1858-59.

Showacre, Michael S. Appointed May 30, 1861, vice Wm. J. King; however, the P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851 showed him in charge of District 5.

Smith, Joseph Appointed May 26, 1841, declined appointment.

Steener, George Appointed Nov. 30, 1836.

Suter, James W. Appointed March 11, 1862.

Talbott, Thomas E. Appointed Aug. 16, 1849. In charge Dist. 4, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.

Thompson, J. J. Appointed November 30, 1836.

Ward, James R. Appointed Oct. 11, 1849, vice J. L. Holliday. In charge of District 13, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851.

Wartman, Edward W. Appointed Oct. 2, 1855, vice C. H. Branson, resigned. 1858, 1858-59. Previously clerk and tavern-keeper.

Weathers, Joseph Appointed Feb. 28, 1859.

Wells, Edward C. Appointed June 1, 1841, vice Walter N. Wills, removed. 1842, later clerk and wood dealer.

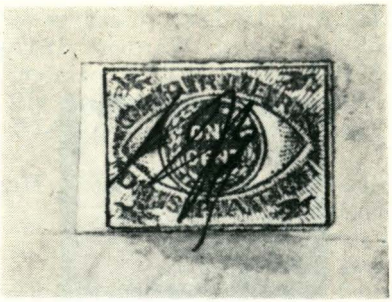
Wells, Peter Appointed Nov. 30, 1836; resigned Nov. 3, 1841. 1819, 1822, 1824, 1829, 1831, 1835-36, 1837, 1840-41.

Wells, Richard C. Appointed Nov. 30, 1836; resigned Nov. 3, 1841. 1837, 1840-41. Previously carpenter.

Wills, Walter N. Removed May 1841, succeeded by Edward C. Wells.



Figure 92. Black "Horseman" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB8) on "outgoing" letter, cancelled pencilled manuscript "W". (Kelly Collection).



Figue 94. Left marginal copy of the red "Eye" carrier stamp (Scott 1LB7) cancelled "M" or "W".

White, William Appointed Nov. 3, 1841, vice "Wells" resigned. 1842, subsequently clerk and stenographer.

Williar, George P. Appointed July 10, 1845. In charge of District 3, P. O. Notice of July 1, 1851; superintendent of letter carriers as of April 30, 1853. 1849-50, 1851, 1853-54, 1855-56, 1856-57 (butcher and confectioner in addition to duties at P. O., 1853-57).

Willis, Thomas A. Appointed February 28, 1859.

The Postmasters of Baltimore and the several locations of the Post Office during the period which has been under discussion are also listed for ready reference.

Postmasters

Joshua Vansant	May 21, 1839 to May 6, 1841
Thomas Finley	May 6, 1841 to April 8, 1845
James M. Buchanan	April 8, 1845 to May 12, 1849
Charles T. Maddox	May 12, 1849 to April 1, 1853
Col. Jacob G. Davies	April 1, 1853 to March 27, 1857
Dr. John G. Morris	March 27, 1857 to April 15, 1861
William H. Purnell	April 15, 1861 to July 28, 1866

Post Office Locations

1816 - 1839	St. Paul Street and Bank Lane
1839 - 1849	Under Barnum's Hotel, Fayette and Calvert Sts. (Figure 4)
1849 - 1851	Northeast Corner North and Fayette Sts.
1851 - Approximately 1880	Exchange Buildings, Gay and Second Sts. (Figure 7)

In closing this article on the Baltimore carrier system, special thanks are offered to the many professional and amateur philatelists who have helped so much by loaning material for study and photographs, making notes or records available, or giving valuable advice and suggestions. Chief among these is Mr. Elliott Perry, who without fail during the past twenty years has made every conceivable type of information and reference material available to me. Mr. Perry W. Fuller of Baltimore has been equally faithful, as was the late Mr. George B. Sloane. Other professionals who have been very helpful are Mr. E. N. Sampson, H. R. Harmer, Inc., Harmer, Rooke and Co., and Mr. Robert E. Siegel. Among the amateur philatelists who have consistently been very cooperative are Mrs. Muriel Bemis Hayes, the Hon. J. William Middendorf II, Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Richard E. Gillespie, and Mr. H. Findlay French, along with the late Messrs. Henry E. Abt, Frank A. Hollowbush, Michael I. Miller, and Philip G. Straus. Interestingly enough, several good English friends have also been signally helpful; Messrs. Robson Lowe, Roland King-Farlow, H. G. N. Fletcher, and Ernest Malinow, along with the late Sir Nicholas Waterhouse and Mr. W. Humphrey Golding, all having loaned items from their collections or supplied useful information. And last, but not least, are the staffs of the Maryland Historical Society and the Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore—these ladies and gentlemen gave unstintingly of their time and help in providing files of contemporary newspapers, city directories, photographs, etc., over a long period of time.

THE END

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 61 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.

The Clubhouse

The Meeting of October 4, 1972

GREECE — Large Hermes Heads

Exhibited by Ronald A. G. Lee, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.



For the past fifty years or more the question "How were the plates made" has been a bone of contention between progressive experts of Greek stamps. Although Alfred Barre states he used certain methods it is now believed he withheld some of his secrets.

I do not propose adding to the controversy this evening. It is generally accepted that all values of the Paris prints and subsequently the Athens prints were made from a single matrix. Somewhere in the transfer from die to plate slight differences occurred which account for the measurement variations we know and recognise today. Whether this be contraction of the gutta percha possibly used for transferring, surface tension or spreading of the soft metal is still a matter for conjecture. The plates were made up in units of 150 subjects (10 x 15). Whole sheets exist and are always quickly bought up by specialists. My collection is fortunate to house ten such sheets. The first stamps were printed in Paris and issued on 1st October 1861 and at that time 97 post offices existed, 86 in Greece, 7 in Turkey and 4 in Roumania. In 1864 when the Greeks took over the Ionian Is. a further 7 offices were added to the listings. Only 40 however had permanent employees, the others were operated through 134 couriers who incidentally also acted as clerk to the mayor of the various towns. The first issues were of excellent workmanship, easily recognised by the fine printing, especially seen in the cheek shading and the delicate spandrels.

I am demonstrating the extremes—from the 1st Paris so beautifully printed through the middle period to the last very poor printing. It is difficult to appreciate that these three examples were printed from the same plate.

The "àsec" or hand method of printing was used for these Paris stamps that is, where the cylinder which passes over the printing plate is only covered with the paper and a decoupage. The "soft" method, used later in Athens has a "blanket" of felt cover on the cylinder as well. A few words on this word "decoupage" . . . a French word really meaning "Fretwork" which is exactly what it looks like. A decoupage sheet is prepared by sticking together several

printed sheets of images from which the white areas and lighter shaded parts have been removed. This, when attached to the cylinder to exactly coincide with the printing surface will produce the extra pressures needed to print more consisely the finer lines of the design.

We show two examples showing the effect of the non-alignment or even movement of the decoupage. The fuzzing or shadowing around the outside of the profile.

In May 1862 the 1st Athens definitive printing was made by this "soft" method and the stamps are much better defined and more even in appearance. The production deteriorated very quickly because of poor workmanship and insufficient attention given to the plate surfaces. The so-called 2nd Athens were made between 1862 and 1867, that is before the plates were properly cleaned for the first time. During this issue the "Zante Error" on the 10 Lepta is recorded with the inverted "10" cypher printed on the face.

By 1868 the printing became so bad that German experts were summoned and given the job of overhauling and cleaning the machines and plates. In the 1868-69 issue of the "cleaned plates series," as we now call it, the colour appears dull and the control figures heavy and coarse. For the following six years several more printings were made but no improvement shows in the general appearance, in fact owing to the poorer papers used many of them even look worse. In 1876 the paper became cream in colour and the inks used were intensified but these can be easily recognised.

About this time the postal rates were changed and two new values were issued a 30 Lepta brown and a 60 Lepta green.

Both values were first produced in Paris and are again of excellent production. The plates were then sent to Athens, but history repeated itself as the subsequent printing were poor. These two values, like the 1 and 2 Lepta stamps, did not have control figures on their reverse.

A new series was produced in 1875 but once again they were poorly printed, the colours darker and coarser and the paper again very poor, as were the controls on the reverse. It was during this issue that the "Sparta Error" occurred on the 20 Lepta blue, where the cypher again appears on the face of the stamp. I do not possess a copy of this error.

The last and final printing of the large heads appeared in 1880 and were in use until 1886 when the Belgium prints of the "small head" appears.

The large Hermes heads were therefore in official circulation for about 23 years.

During the preparation period a great number of proofs and trials were made, sometimes the same sheet being used more than once giving us double and treble impressions even some inverted or sideways.

Just a few of these fairly common 'proofs' that I suppose are really 'printers waste sheets', but nevertheless collectable because they are a part of the story!

These are all part of the story but space prevented me from including these this evening.

I have briefly mentioned "decoupage" and proofs and trials, now a few words on the cypher controls, as they are very important. You will have seen that the first 10 Lepta were printed with the French type large 10, this is simple to recognise. The first Athens 5 Lepta is also pretty easy to spot as the "5" is more squarish and has flat tops. However this was soon changed in subsequent issue to a more rotund symbol and from the 1862 Athens issue, great attention should and must be given to the colour and conformation of these controls. Controls do not appear on the 1 and 2 Lepta but on each other value.

A number of control errors exist, some common but many very rare. To mention just a few, "80" occurs on the 20 Lepta blue and 40 corrected to 20 also on this stamp. Reversed digits on the 10 Lepta and even "00" instead of "10".

Many other variations can be found and they certainly are an added interest to the specialist. Double prints also turn up occasionally but these are very rare. Plate flaws abound in most issues and I am showing one page as an example as to how I deal with these.

A few of these errors — the missing "1" and then the missing "0", reversed and then double all on the 10 Lepta value. The double 40 and in the centre the greatly sought after correction, 20 on 40. The treble 40 is rather good and the inverted 80 is very rare. The last item is one of the major Control varieties existing on most values; the 'key hole' variety.

In most cases major flaws can be followed through consecutive printings often over many years. No attempt was made to correct these errors.

I must at this stage say a few words on color and shades. As with most countries this is still a headache, and many harsh words are still exchanged on this most controversial subject. The famous phrase . . .

"Color is in the eyes of the beholder"

is as true today as when it was first quoted. Everyone of us here tonight see shades differently at various times of our life. Even our intake of certain chemicals can and do affect our optical appreciations. Certainly filament lamps and sunlight complicate our personal appreciation of colour. So one must hold a reasonable balance and collectors of Greek stamps in particular must somehow "color band" or group the hundreds of minor variations that exist. The skill of the workman, the actual pigment and solvent used, the pressures exerted by the press, the texture of the paper as well as the actual process techniques all play their part in this balance and understanding of colour.

I would like to pay tribute to some of the famous pioneers of the past great collectors of Greek stamps, like Strange and Pemberton who started the classification, Dorning Beckton, Alferis and Argyropoulos and others. From their writings and notes I have personally learned a great deal and I am fortunate enough to possess many fine pieces from their collections.

Also to George Photiadis whose major collection is now married to mine and lastly to the great work of Dr. Theodore Groom who plated the issues by his study and research on the cypher controls.

A few interesting sidelines to Greek collecting.

The top copy of this newspaper issued in 1870 contains a report from the International Olympic Committee on the arrangements and details of the forthcoming 2nd Olympic Games.

At least we try to be 'topical'!

Whilst showing newspapers — this is a scarce one of 1874 with the original U.S.A. address label complete. I am told that very few were actually sent out of Europe.

I thought you may care to see the fore-runner of the Greek Mercuries. This label of 40 Lepta was produced in 1831 — 30 years before the first adhesives as a means of producing Dollars — sorry I mean Drachmas to finance refugees from Crete.

Incidentally this, therefore, is the world's first Charity Stamp.

One of the great rarieties of these issues, the 20 Lepta without Control cypher and with quadrille background to the head — used on original lettersheet. It is reputed to be the finest copy extant.

Sex usually rears its ugly head sometime, so I have included the next four slides really for my own enjoyment. I think they are the tops.

a) 1 Lepta pair — chocolate (Paris on lettersheet. I know someone — somehow and somewhere has highjacked one of the 1 Lepta but what the hell — !

Two covers from Sardina to Patras showing the usual postage dues. The top lettersheet, with one of the very early prestamped obliterations. To me — very pretty.

A very pretty lettersheet from Russia to Syra.

This one from Roumania to Syria with a fine copy of the last bicolored series. 5th Head and 3rd Frame.

I think all of these last four slides have real 'sex appeal'. I hope you agree with me.

Now my last slide has rather a special story.

I really included this for the special interest of Dr. Mishrick —

It is an 1874 cover sent from Egypt to Athens transmitted through the Egyptian Bureau in Alexandria to the Greek Consulate. From the official seal it will be seen it comes from the ancient Monastry of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai. This Monastery was built in the year 527 by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian on the site were ancient tradition tells that Moses delivered the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. This cover is indeed a piece linking us with history.

Note this Seal depicting the Monastery together with the 'burning bush' and the Holy Spirit descending from Heaven.

On this heavenly note my display is ended and I return to more mundane things. In this short time and only 150 pages from my collection, which now extends to 25 volumes, I hope I have been able to show something of interest to you all.

Thank you for being so patient and attentive.

The Meeting of October 18, 1972

BERMUDA

Exhibited by Sir Henry J. Tucker, F.R.P.S.L.

The first two frames show pre-stamp strikes which include examples of the double arc date stamp, the Ireland Island PM4 Feb 4, 1842, the P4 and Ship Letter strikes, and the P2 strikes of Hamilton, Ireland Island and St. Georges, of which the mark from St. Georges is much the rarest. The Postmaster stamps section shows the original warrant of reappointment of Perot, and features the Hamilton Postmaster stamp in black on white paper on cover to St. Georges, and in red on both the blue and white papers. The second Hamilton Postmaster stamp is shown on cover as well as a single cancelled with crayon. In rounding out this section, a particularly notable feature is the St. Georges Postmaster stamp (Thies) shown on cover dated July 4, 1861.

The first issue of stamps, typographed by De La Rue in 1865 are represented by plate and die proofs as well as the stamps in large blocks. Covers show the strikes and P5 date stamps of Hamilton, St. Georges, Mangrove Bay, and Ireland Island. Notable are covers to New Zealand (1866) and the rare early use to London Nov. 24, 1865. In the compound perforation section are 3d value blocks and the 1/- imperforate between and at the right. Also of interest are covers emanating from Bermuda franked with stamps from Great Britain.



A full showing of the 1874 surcharges includes singles and a block of the 3d on 1d, all types of the 3d on 1/-, including used pairs with a Roman Capitals pair on a large piece to Turks Island and a single to New York.

The 1875 surcharges are also fully represented with features including the 1d on 2d without stop, a mint block of 16, and, used on a local cover; the 1d on 3d pair and mint block, as well as used on cover to England and locally to St. Georges, the 1d on 1/- surcharge inverted and a number of blocks, and a cover franked with 1d on 3d (4), 1d on 2d, and 1d on 1/- used with 1d rose red to London.

Among the essays and proofs of the earlier issues are the 4d artist's make-ups of the 1880 issue and the color trials of the 1883-1896 issue perforated 12 which include the official Post Office record and a complete set. A feature of the surcharged postal cards of 1893 is the hand painted essay with Edwardian head and a ¼d on 1/- essay in yellow. The Tercentenary issues include master die proofs, all values in imperforate pairs and all values with Specimen overprint ,and artist's makeups of the second issue.

Among the modern stamps are a block of 20 of the "lemon yellow" shade of the 12/6 value of the King George VI issue, the Olympic Games 3d with "Bermuda" and value omitted, and the Decimal Currency variety 2c on 2d of which the first four stamps have the overprint omitted.

Wonderful Gifts
PHILATELIC BOOKS

For over 40 years, The Collectors Club has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

See Inside Back Cover for the complete listing of books that are currently available.

1973 PROGRAM OF MEETINGS

Exhibit opens at 7:30 p. m.

Meetings convene at 8:00 p. m.

January 3rd	— *TANNU TOUVA (and other Esoterica)*—Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, Bernardsville, N. J.
January 10th	— *ANNUAL MEETING.*
January 17th	— *JAPAN*—Lt. Cmdr. M. E. Ruggeiro, Brooklyn, N. Y.
February 7th	— *IRISH PHILATELY*—Joseph E. Foley, Livingston, N. J.
February 21st	— *RARITIES*—The Weill Brothers, New Orleans, La.
March 7th	— *FRENCH COLONIAL PROOFS & ESSAYS*—Robert G. Stone, Biglerville, Pa.
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.

Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons 'Stamps of the World' 1973 (Simplified). Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 391 Strand, London WC2R OLX. 2080 Pages, illustrated. Retail Price £3.80 ($9.25).

This is a notable edition, not only for its enhanced appearance and content. It lists a record 162,400 stamps of the whole world, issued since 1840, with more than 32,000 illustrations, and with realistic, up-to-date prices for virtually every stamp, unused and used. All these features may be summed up in one word — 'unique'.

The new binding for Stamps of the World evokes nostalgia — it has reverted to the old familiar overall orange-coloured cover, while retaining the eloquent 'split-orange' world map on front and back. It is also acquiring another vital statistic — it 'puts on weight' each year and the volume is now a good 2½ inches thick! Neither is the content to be treated lightly — it is the standard guide for the modern stamp collector, beginner, 'general' or thematic.

Published for 36 years as the well-loved Simplified Catalogue, the new Stamps of the World maintains the original style of listing all the basic information, while omitting changes of paper, perforation, shade and watermark, and excluding such issues as locals and postal fiscals. Its pricing has been revised throughout with thousands of alterations made, and it is the only current Gibbons Catalogue for those foreign countries which have not appeared in the European and sectional catalogues. It's an investment in stamp knowledge!

(H. D. S. Haverbeck)

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Vol. 33. Fourth Revised Edition of the Herst-Sampson 19th Century United States Fancy Cancellations. 288 Pages, illus., Cloth Bound. Published by HJMR Co. (Price: $7.50).

There is such a dearth of authoritative works on 19th Century U. S. cancellations that one is apt to receive news of a new publication on the matter with too great expectancy. This probably places the publisher at an unfair disadvantage and accounts for the fact that I was somewhat disappointed in this book.

Billig's 33rd Handbook is a fourth edition of the well-known Zareski, Herst-Zareski, Herst-Sampson work. Although described as "extensively revised", apart from an updating of the value classifications, it differs from the third edition only in that it adds some 30-plus origin clarifications. No new cancellations are shown (in fact, none have been added since the first U. S. edition of Monsieur Zareski's 1947 work) and the cataloging still covers the 1885-1890 issues skimpily and the issues of 1890 on (rich in cancellations), not at all. Finally, the size of each volume has been smaller than the previous one so that the illustrations in this last edition are almost one fourth smaller than the original ones, to the obvious detriment of their clarity.

For anyone who has editions two or three, the value of this handbook may be marginal. On the other hand to those who do not own one of the earlier editions, and until someone fills these gaps in our philatelic literature, this new book remains one of the best referential works available on the subject.

(George W. Karl)

Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue 1973. Published by Stanley Gibbons Limited, 391 Strand, London, W.C.2. 774 pages, all stamps illustrated. Retail $8.95.

The usual thorough job. Rhodesia is listed from May 1966 without prices (for reference purposes). The Bangladesh definitive and Liberation sets are listed but only a note concerning the overprints. British Forces in Egypt have been returned to the catalog. Much work has been done on the Indian States. In Great Britain the Victorian and George V issues are on a upward trend, some as high as 25%. Many of the phosphors of Queen Elizabeth II have been lowered in price. They never were really high but generally overpriced. A literate catalog. *(Abbot Lutz)*

Stanley Gibbons Europe 1 Stamp Catalogue: A-F. Published 1972 by Stanley Gibbons Limited, 391 Strand, London, W.C.2. 468 pages, fully illustrated. Soft cover. $7.95.

Stanley Gibbons Europe 2 Stamp Catalogue: G-P. Published 1972 by Stanley Gibbons Limited, address as above. 576 pages, fully illustrated. Soft cover. $7.95.

Europe 1 starts with the Aegean Islands both Italian and Greek occupation issues through French Colonies, General Issues. Europe 2 from Georgia to Portugal. Printed on good quality paper in an uncluttered presentation. We find the overlarge illustrations for special issues excellent, such as Austrian Kreuzer types as well as the Franz Joseph and Mercury issues. This treatment follows through wherever necessary. Thematic collectors will enjoy the Design Index listing for prolific stamp issuing countries. Campione is listed for the first time. Greekland Pakke-Porto stamps are now listed. One must remember that these are 'Europe only' catalogs and do not list any colonies outside of Europe. The listings of stamp issues are in chronological order, without separation of regular, semi-postal, air mail, etc. may seem disconcerting to the American collector, but it does have its advantages. These are the best English language catalogs for the European collector at this writing. The currency conversion tables in the the middle of the catalogs are helpful but quickly going out of date.
(Abbot Lutz)

The Finnish Shipping Companies and their Stamps. By G. W. Connell. 21.5 x 14 cm. 52 pages. Boards, £1.20 ($2.90 plus postage). Published by The Cinderella Stamp Club.

This book, second in the series of Cinderella Stamp Club Handbooks, fills a gap in the literature available to philatelists interested in these little-known issues of Finland, and in local postage stamps generally. The work comprises a complete revision of articles previously published in *The Cinderella Philatelist,* brought up to date in the light of the most recent knowledge.

The book is well produced, fully illustrated and is sure to attract attention. The retail price has been kept as low as possible for a work of such high quality. The edition is limited to 300 copies.

While they last copies may be obtained from E. W. Stannard, Hon. Treasurer of The Cinderella Stamp Club, 26 Somerset Road, Harrow HA1 4NG, Great Britain. *(H. D. S. Haverbeck)*

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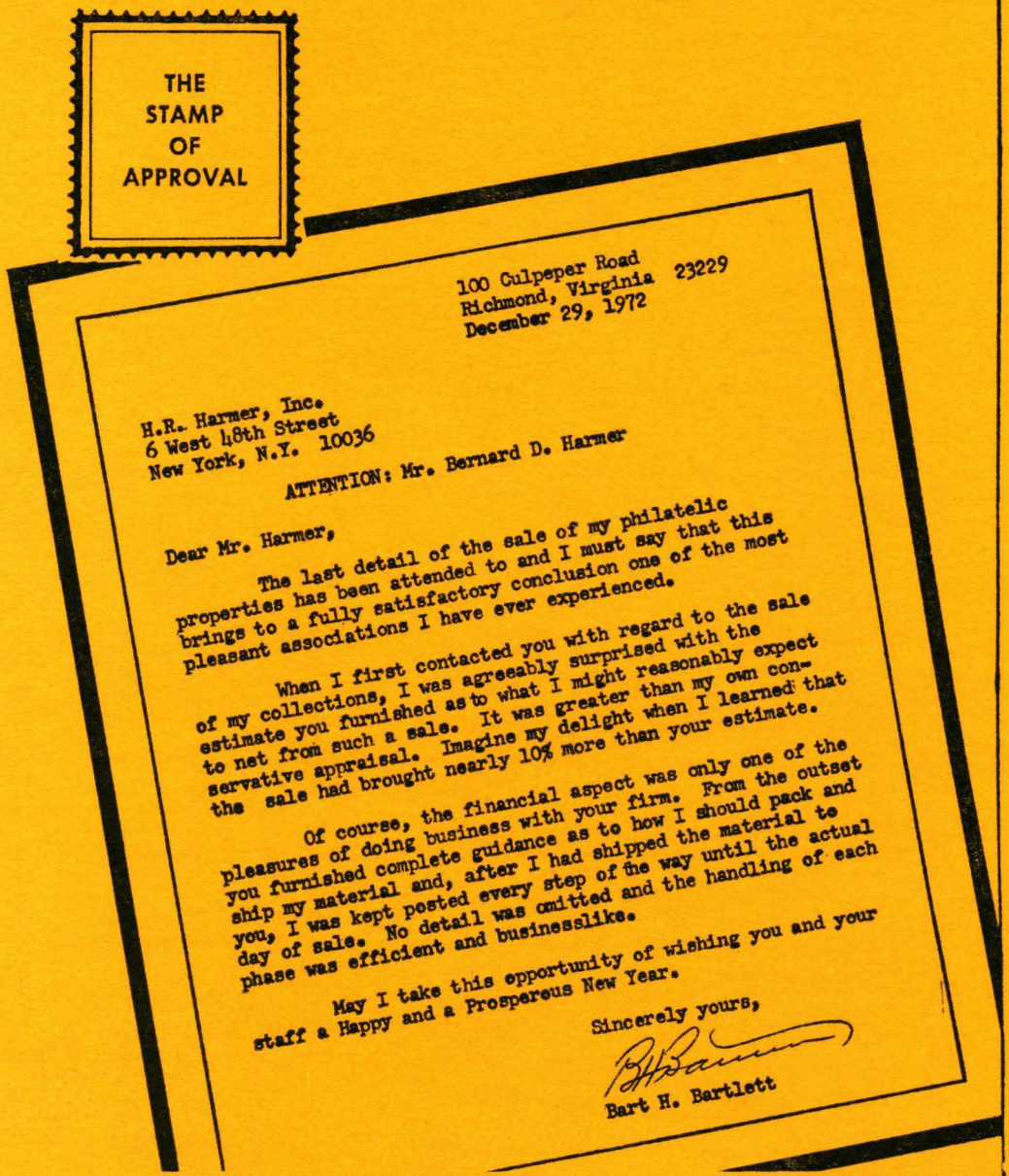
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