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Volume 50 Number 6
November 1971

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The Collectors Club
PHILATELIST
Volume 50 Number 6
November 1971

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ANPHILEX '71

Friday, Nov. 26	11:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	7:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes for the day
	7:30 P. M.	Gala Champagne Buffet for the benefit of The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library, Inc. $50.00
Saturday, Nov. 27	10:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	4:00 P. M.	Open House, Collectors Club, for members and guests
	9:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes for the day
Sunday, Nov. 28	12:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	7:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes for the day
	7:30 P. M.	75th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Starlight Ballroom, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Dress optional. $20.00
Monday, Nov. 29	10:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	11:00 A. M.	U. N. Tour, Luncheon in Delegates' Dining Room (1:00 P. M.) $9.00
	3:30 P. M.	New York Public Library special display of the "Treasures of the Library" open to ticket holders for the Champagne Buffet
	9:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes for the day
Tuesday, Nov. 30	10:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	1:30 P. M.	Matinee of the new movie "Fiddler on the Roof", Rivoli Theater $4.00
	9:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes for the day
Wednesday, Dec. 1	10:00 A. M.	Exhibition opens
	1:00 P. M.	Exhibition closes

Editorial

The *Collectors Club Philatelist* at the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

A "magazine of record" performs a necessary service. It is dedicated to preserving knowledge, which often is done with a sacrifice to popularity. The students and researchers in any field require a medium for the preservation of their knowledge. Our circulation, therefore, is relatively limited; but, unlike the more popular stamp papers, our publication is retained much more widely for reference and study. This is an essential service, appreciated mostly by the informed philatelist or postal historian. This service is one of the basic functions of a Learned Society which the Collectors Club has continued to carry out over the years.

Looking back over the fifty volumes so far produced, one may take great satisfaction in the wide range of countries, periods and subjects covered. One should not look at what has been published, but rather note what has been omitted. We would venture the opinion that in the long history of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* very few specialities have been omitted. Over the more than 125 years of stamp collecting, there have been at least five hundred stamp papers in the English language alone. The list in other tongues may run to double this number. Yet, of them all, less than seven now extant can equal or exceed our record for continuous regular appearance.

Fifty years of continuous publication have been completed with this number For twenty-three years your editor has been actively concerned with the preparation of this magazine, during the past year and a half he has had the full responsibility. We trust that the service that has been performed so well in the past will continue and that our members all over the world will continue to be brought into close contact with their club.

H.D.S.H.

Across the Editor's Desk

Dear Fellow Member:

The Christmas gift season will be here almost before we know it. And here's a wonderful way to bring happiness and gratitude to each of your philatelic friends or relations.

The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund has ready for your selection nineteen volumes of handbooks covering a vast field of Philately — each book written by an outstanding authority in the field. These handbooks, profusely illustrated and beautifully printed, are published by the Fund as a service to world-wide Philately and supported by our membership at large.

Look at the list of these books on page 330 each one replete with up-to-the-minute knowledge of popular Philatelic fields. Many ardent collectors have not only made appropriate gifts of these books, but place them in their own libraries, local stamp clubs or public libraries.

And aside from bringing pleasure and knowledge when you give such a book, you are aiding one of the greatest publishing projects in all Philately.

Use the convenient order form on the list, please, and enclose your check to cover. Not often do collectors, professionals, or friends of Philately have a veritable Philatelic Book Shop to choose form. Please make your choices early!

With heartiest greetings of the Season, I am

Very sincerely yours,
H. D. S. Haverbeck
Chairman, Theodore E. Steinway
Memorial Publication Fund

ANPHILEX '71 to Commemorate 75th Anniversary Of the Collectors Club

Over 25 Million Dollars Worth of Stamps on Display

ANPHILEX '71, the international philatelic exhibition taking place in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City from November 26 to December 1, 1971, will be the focal point of the festivities marking the 75th anniversary of the Collectors Club.

This jubilee exhibition will have over 25 million dollars worth of stamps on display including most of the world's great philatelic rarities. These rarities have never before been assembled at one location for the inspection of the general public. *ANPHILEX '71* represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to see these "Aristocrats of Philately."

In addition to the Aristocrats, international gold medal collections from all parts of the world will be exhibited by invitation only. The foremost philatelists will be showing their gems acquired over years of collecting and study.

The United States section will cover the whole range of U. S. philately in one integrated display combining the material from the finest collections in existence. All phases will be included from the rare Postmasters' Provisionals through the regular issues to the essays, proofs, envelopes, revenues, carriers, private posts, and Possessions.

There will also be a "*Collectors Club*" section in which members of the *Collectors Club* will exhibit one frame of their favorite material. The wide diversity of collecting interest within the *Collectors Club* will be demonstrated here.

All together there will be 600 frames of the highest quality at the exhibition. In addition leading professionals will have dealer booths at which collectors can search for additions to their collections.

The major national philatelic societies will have hospitality lounges where their members can renew old friendships.

Admission fees are $5.00 for a single day, $2.50 for a child, or $10.00 for a season ticket, $5.00 for a child. All visitors will receive at no additional charge the *ANPHILEX* catalogue which includes the history of the *Collectors Club* as well as the descriptions of the exhibits.

Aristocrats of Philately at ANPHILEX '71

A highlight of *ANPHILEX '71* will be the special section devoted exclusively to the world's greatest philatelic rarities. Heading this section will be the most valuable postage stamp, the one cent British Guiana of 1856, and the most valuable cover, the one bearing two copies of the one penny "Post Office" Mauritius stamp of 1847.

The United States will be represented by the cover bearing the unique Alexandria Postmaster's Provisional 5 cents on bluish paper, the unique block of four of the 1869 24 cents with inverted center, the block of four of the 1901 two cents with inverted center, and the plate block of four of the 1918 24 cents Airmail with inverted center.

From Hawaii comes the wonderful combination cover of the two cents and five cents Missionaries of 1851 together with a pair of the U. S. 3 cents of 1851.

The two greatest rarities of Europe, both color errors, will also be on display at *ANPHILEX '71.* The Sweden error is the 3 skilling of 1855 in orange rather than the normal blue green. Only one copy of this has been found. The Baden error is the 9 kreuzer of 1851 on green instead of lilac-rose paper. Three copies are known, two of them on covers. One of the covers will be among the Aristocrats.

Other Aristocrats at *ANPHILEX '71* include the Cape of Good Hope cover bearing the 1861 4 pence in red rather than blue se-tenant with the one pence red, the Brazil strip of three of 1843 consisting of two 30 reis stamps and one 60 reis stamp, the unique "Black Honduras" airmail stamp of 1925, and the marvellous Japanese cover bearing multiples of the 1871 issue.

Gold Medal Collections at ANPHILEX '71

International gold medal collections of the following countries will be exhibited in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, from November 26, 1971 to December 1, 1971:

Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Bermuda
Bolivia
Brazil
British Honduras
Canada
Chile
China
Denmark
France
Great Britain
Greece
Hanover
Hungary
Japan
Mauritius
Modena
Netherlands
Newfoundland
Oldenburg
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Schleswig-Holstein
Sicily
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Thurn and Taxis
Trinidad

In addition, the finest collections in the world of a number of other countries will be on display.

Professionals at ANPHILEX '71

The following outstanding professionals will have booths in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel during *ANPHILEX '71:*

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Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London
Raymond H. Weill Co.
Irwin Weinberg Rarities

Collectors are cordially invited to examine the material for sale at the booths and make known their needs for future opportunities.

ERRATA

We apologize for the following omission and error in the July issue, Volume 50, page 216. The article is "The Revenue Stamps of the U. S. Virgin Islands by Serge A. Korff. The omission occurs in the listing of the Third Issue, where there should be: $100 Dollar, pink on green. There are two lines of transposed type directly below this listing. This is immediately obvious to the interested reader.

(H. D. S. H.)

AFGHANISTAN

Fifty Years of the Amir's Post 1870 to 1920

A Series of Articles

By Winthrop S. Boggs*

*Former Governor Collectors Club, New York, Sometime Fellow Royal Philatelic Society, London, Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

The Country and Its People

Afghanistan is situated in the heart of Asia, and today is a comparatively small country of approximately 245,000 square miles in extent; a little smaller than Texas, or a little larger than France.

The boundaries between Afghanistan and her neighbors were not finally fixed until about 1940. The vagueness of the boundaries was the source of much acrimony in diplomatic circles and the cause of numerous "border" incidents. At one time Kashmir and a considerable portion of territory north of the Amu Darya or Oxus river were nominally in the Afghan Empire.

The present Afghan state began to emerge in 1747 when Ahmed Shah threw off Persian control and founded the Durani dynasty, and with the support of his fellow Sirdars established himself as the Amir of Kabul. Since the Amir's power and control depended on his ability to secure the consent of the other feudal lords, ascension to the throne was the cause of many internecine wars, general turbulence and anarchy so that the country as we know it today cannot be said to have been formed until Sher Ali became Amir of Kabul in 1870, and it was not until half way through the reign of Abdur Rahman (1890) that a "Kingdom of Afghanistan" was stabilized and a coat of Arms adopted. From that time onwards Afghanistan has moved into the stream of nationalism and economic interdependence that forms the milieu of our present civilized communities.

The history of the country and its geography are more fully covered in the biographical notes of the various Amirs and in the Postal history notes in later pages.

Ethnically the country is divided into various tribal groups of Afghans and Pathans, which predominate, but there are many other minor racial strains.

The majority of the people are Moslems of the Sunni sect, and Islam is the established state religion. Even today the country is one of the most othordox of Moslem states.

Persian and Pushtu are the principal languages spoken both being written in the Persian Arabic alphabet. In the 19th and early 20th century few Afghans except officials and nobles were able to read or write.

These notes are necessarily brief because of the fact that the Postal services in operation during the period embraced in these articles were primarily run as a source of revenue for the Amir, and were almost entirely used by traders and bankers, almost all of which were Hindus, or other foreigners, so that a detailed discussion of the inhabitants contributes little or nothing to the understanding of the stamps and their use.

As far as the geography is concerned the rudimentary postal system established by Sher Ali in 1870 and continued by his successors can easily be comprehended when we discuss the various routes established up to 1920.

SHER ALI KHAN

Amir of Kabul

(June 1863-June 1865, January 1869-January 1879)

Sher Ali Khan was born in the city of Kabul in 1823, the fifth[1] of the eighteen sons of Dost Mohammed Khan, (Amir of Kabul 1826-1839, 1843-1863). At the time of his birth it seemed unlikely that Sher Ali would ever become Amir. However, the successive deaths of Mohammed Akbar[2] and Ghulam Haidar,[3] his two oldest sons and heirs designate, caused Dost Mohammed to look with favor upon one of his younger sons. Therefore, in 1858 he named Sher Ali as successor to the throne, passing over the two surviving older sons, Mohammed Afzal, Amir of Balkh and Mohammed Azim. This decision was individually resented by the other brothers but as long as their father was alive they had little opportunity to stir up trouble.

Upon the death of Dost Mohammed on June 9, 1863 after a long illness, Sher Ali was installed as Amir but was soon faced with the rivalry and/or open rebellion by several of his brothers, including Afzal, Azim, Amim and Sherif Khan.

Nevertheless, by imprisoning his eldest brother Afzal and out manouvering his other brothers, Sher Ali held the throne in a precarious sort of way for almost two years. In 1865, he lost his favorite son and heir apparent Mohammed Khan in battle against Amim and Sherif Khan. The loss grieved him so sorely that for a time his reason was affected.

In May 1866 Sher Ali was defeated near Spidaba by an army from Balkh under the command of his nephew Abdur-Rahman,[4] whose father Afzal was then released from the Ghazni prison in which he was held by Sher Ali, and proclaimed Amir of Kabul. The British, however, refused to recognize Afzal as such, insisting that Sher Ali was still the rightful Amir.

After his defeat Sher Ali retreated southward but in January 1867 was again defeated near Khelat-i-Ghilzai, and Kandahar was occupied by Afzal's troops. Sher Ali withdrew to Herat where he managed to retain some semblance of authority and regrouped his forces.

In October 1867, Afzal died of cholera and his brother Azim, hastening to Kabul from Ghazni had himself proclaimed Amir. Abdur Rahman who was busy fighting Sher Ali's army in Kohistan had hoped to succeed his father Afzal but acknowledged Azim as ruler. The two were soon quarreling, and with the Kabuli forces divided, in March 1868 Yakub Khan, the oldest son of Sher Ali, regained possession of Kandahar for his father. In July of that year father and son advanced towards Ghazni where Azim's army was assembled. The latter, gradually deserted by his troops, took flight, and on the 8th of September 1868, Sher Ali re-entered Kabul after an absence of forty months. Retreating northward, Abdur Rahman kept the flag of rebellion still flying in Balkh and gathered another army in the name of his uncle, Amir Azim.

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1. Sher Ali was the first son by a favorite Populzai wife, who was the number two of the four wives of Amir Dost Mohammed.
2. Died in 1847
3. Died in 1858
4. Abdur Rahman became Amir in 1880 (see Biographical note in a later article)



Figure A. Map of Afghanistan.

Finally on January 3, 1869 Sher Ali won a complete and final victory over Azim Khan near Ghazni, who then retired to Persia. Returning to Kabul Sher Ali began the task of consolidating his rule, and bringing order to his chaotic and turbulent country.

One of his first acts was to agree to a meeting between the Viceroy of India, the Earl of Mayo and himself at Umballa, British India. This meeting took place in March 1869. On the whole it was successful, although Sher Ali failed to get either a treaty of alliance or recognition of his dynasty. The Viceroy did agree that he personally was the rightful and defacto Amir, and assured him of the friendship and support of the British Government.

Unfortunately at this time Russia and Great Britain were engaged in a struggle for power in Central Asia, a struggle that had been going on for some thirty years. Russia had been slowly but steadily creeping across the area and taking over the various Central Asian Khanates in the process.

During the 1860's the Russian advance resulted in the occupation of Khokand and Khiva in 1864, the "temporary occupation" of Samarkand in 1865, and also of Tashkent the same year. In 1867 the new province of Russian Turkestan was created, and the Kingdom of Bokhara became a subsidiary ally of the Czar. In 1868 Samarkand was annexed.

This rendered the situation as regards Afghanistan especially delicate by reason of its strategic geographic position and its uncertain boundaries. It was the British concern for the safety of India which occasioned the intermittent and frequently acrimonious negotiations between Great Britain and Russia for fifty years. The situation became particularly acute during the first half of 1878, when the British and Russians confronted each other at Istanbul and war seemed iminent.

Sher Ali did his best to avoid offending either party in this diplomatic struggle, but found himself constantly under pressure from both the Russians and the British, each of whom were determined that neither should gain the advantage in Afghanistan.

Finally, the acceptance of a Russian Envoy at Kabul in July 1878, precipitated a crisis. The British insisted upon the reception of a British Mission and a letter from the Viceroy of Indian announcing his determination to send such a mission was received in Kabul early in September, 1878. Unfortunately the Amir's youngest son, and heir apparent Abdulla Jan had died three weeks before on August 17 and the grief stricken Amir delayed answering the letter. In the meantime, Russian diplomatic activity in Kabul continued. Finally, on November 2, 1878 the British dispatched an ultimatum (expiring on the 20th), to Sher Ali. The Amir continued distracted and vacillating. Failing an answer on November 21st the British invaded the country with three columns by way of the Khyber Pass, Kurram Valley and Quetta (then parts of Afghanistan), defeated the troops of Sher Ali in a series of engagements and occupied Jalalabad.

On December 13, 1878 Sher Ali departed from Kabul, after installing his eldest surviving son Yakub Khan as regent.[5] He then went north with the

5. Sher Ali had five sons:

I Mohammed Ali, killed in battle June 6, 1865

II Yakub Khan, became Amir-February 1879. Abdicated October, 1879 and remained in exile in India until his death.

III Ibrahim Khan.

IV Ayub Khan, formerly Viceroy of Herat. Died in Iran.

V Abdulla Jan, nominated heir apparent 1873, and died of illness August 17, 1878.

Russian Mission but was unsuccessful in obtaining any military support from the Russian commander in Samarkand. Returning to Balkh he died, literally of a broken heart on February 21, 1879 at the age of fifty-six, and was buried in the Holy Mosque of Ali, at Mazar-i-Sherif.

Thus ended a rather tragic career. Whatever his faults Sher Ali endeavored to bring some measure of progress and peace to his strife torn country. He introduced the printing press, and began the publishing of printed books. To Postal Historians and philatelists, however, his most significant achievements were the establishment of a public postal system, the issue of postage stamps, and the introduction of a basic fiscal system utilizing stamps revenue and stamped paper.

The Postal History of Afghanistan during the Reign of Sher Ali 1870 to 1878

The Amir Sher Ali, upon his return to Kabul on April 16, 1869, after his conference at Ambala, British India, with the Viceroy of India, Lord Mayo, proceeded to carry out various reforms and innovations. These he hoped would help his turbulent country towards peace and economic progress.

Among these innovations was the introduction of a postal system modeled after that of British India by which he was greatly impressed during his brief visit to that country.[1]

We say "introduced" rather than "founded" advisedly, for there existed from as early as 1750 a system of horse and foot messengers. The mounted couriers were called "Chapars" or "Chuppers," while the foot messengers or runners were known as "Qasids" or "Cossids."

There were three categories of these messengers, to wit:

1. *STATE COURIERS,* who carried the Amir's official correspondence, known as "Qasidan Sarkari";

2. *GOVERNMENT COURIERS,* for the use of high officials of the government;

3. *PRIVATE MESSENGERS,* who were under contract with various traders.

The first two almost invariably traveled on horseback, while the private carriers were mounted only if their employer was affluent enough, otherwise on foot. The majority of private messengers were foot messengers.

There is also ample evidence that by 1869, if not earlier, there existed a system of transporting letters by raft down the swiftly flowing Kabul River from Lalpura 55 miles upstream from Peshawar. A portion of an article by Mr. A. F. Zahid of Peshawar (Pakistan) in "The Philatelist"[2] follows:

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1. "The Amir, on his return to Cabul initiated English improvements with amusing promptitude. He appointed night watchmen and a judicial offices to hear petitions from the Citizens. *He established post offices.*—He organized a Council of State, composed of thirteen members, as a constitutional body for advising him in all departments of the Administration." From the Life of The Earl of Mayo by W. W. Hunter, 2 vols., 1876 London, Smith Elder & Co.

2. THE PHILATELIST for April 1964, published by Robson Lowe, Ltd, London

"Post Sent by Waterways

"Lalpura is on the North bank of the river Kabul just opposite to Dakka and the distance by road from Peshawar Cantonment is 43½ miles, 30 of which are through extremely rough hill country. Usually this route was traversed in 3 days with a stop at Landikotal and Jamrud. The speed with which these two covers traveled between Lalpura and Peshawar points to the fact that they traveled by "Shanaz" (raft) made of timber or more likely buffalo or goatskin, and floated down the swiftly flowing Kabul river. This system of conveying the post was very rarely adopted owing to the danger of loss in the river itself apart from the presence of the Shilmani and Mulagori tribesmen. However in spite of these difficulties we find that this route was being used till as late as 13th April 1883 (the date on the 12th known cover). The actual number of covers sent by the waterways can only be guessed, but the total surviving has been estimated as a dozen."

"All these covers were sent to a religious recluse named Sayyed Ali Abbas, and nicknamed Pir Lal Badshah (Saint Red King) formerly an Afghan Allowance holder. He had settled at Sultanpur, a village near Dina Railway Station in the Jhelum District. This village has now been submerged under the Mangla Dam. I am indebted to Sayyed Sardar Ali Shah, one of the grandsons of the late Saint for his help in obtaining these interesting and possibly unique covers."

Covers Despatched from Lalpura by Rafts

Lalpura	*Peshawar*	*Lalpura*	*Peshawar*
1. 19.5.1869	20.5.1869*	7. 21.7.1873	21.7.1873
2. 14.10.1870	14.10.1870	8. 16.5.1874	16.5.1875
3. 24.6.1871	25.6.1871*	9. 1.11.1874	1.11.1874
4. 2.7.1871	3.7.1871*	10. 10.8.1875	10.8.1875
5. 1.10.1872	1.10.1872	11. 19.9.1875	19.9.1875
6. 14.11.1872	14.11.1872	12. 13.4.1883	13.4.1883

* These covers were put into the post office at Peshawar the following day as a night post office was not in existence at that time."

The various messenger services mentioned, however, did not constitute a general public postal system as we understand one. Consequently, there was no indigenous organized post office in Afghanistan until that established by Sher Ali in 1870.

As a basis for his Postal service Sher Ali used the messenger services already in existence. He established definite routes, set fixed fees and provided postage stamps and devices to cancel them. He thus made it possible for anyone to send and receive letters for a nominal fee, while at the same time providing further income to his treasury. He introduced revenue stamps and stamped paper to pay the impost on bills of exchange, receipts, court fees and similar documents as was the practice in British India.

He established a printing office which produced these various postage and revenue stamps as well as other needed government documents.

It is quite probable the Postal system was a monopoly as it was in British India, further the rates were so much less than the cost of hiring private messengers that with few exceptions everyone having letters to the towns served by the Amirs post office availed themselves of it. Thus the volume of mail soon became considerable.

Sher Ali's Postal System

From the time Sher Ali returned to Kabul from India in April 1869 and the first issue of postage stamps in 1871, various steps had to be taken. Postal routes had to be set up, relay stations arranged, for the messengers and post offices established.

As originally organized the services operated on only two routes, with four offices. The head office of course was Kabul. From there one route went generally east by south to Peshawar, in the northwest Province of British India,[3] with one intermediate office at Jellalabad, approximately halfway between Kabul and Peshawar. In 1876 or possibly earlier, another office was established at Lalpura, on the north bank of the Kabul river, directly opposite Dakka, there being a ferry at that point. This office was approximately halfway between Jalalabad and Peshawar.

The other route went west from Kabul over the Ak Robat pass of the Hindu Kush mountains, to Haibak then northwest to Tashkurghan. There were no intermediate offices.

These routes were the entire extent of the Postal Service during the reign of Sher Ali. In fact this was the extent of the service until about 1884, some three years after Abdur Rahman became Amir, when an office was established in Kandabar, and a route went southwards to Quetta in British Baluchistan.

The routes established by Sher Ali were probably functioning as early as May 1870. We know the Kabul-Peshawar route was, for the Illustrated London News, May 7, 1870 stated: "The Ameer of Afghanistan has established a postal service between Cabul and Peshawar."[4]

Further evidence is provided by the Report of the Post Office of India for the fiscal year 1870-71 (Apr. 1 1870 to Mar. 31, 1871) which stated "Arrangements were made for the carriage of letters between Peshawar and Cabul triweekly by the Amir's post."

The Indian Postal Guide for April 1875 states:

"Letters for Cabul, if fully prepaid with ordinary Indian inland postage, are forwarded to the Indian Frontier Post Office at Pashawar and there made over to the Postal Agent appointed by the Ameer of Kabul. Mails are forwarded by the Agent about three times a week." (Foreign Post. Para. 5).[5,6]

The route from Kabul to Tashkurghan was in all probability opened at the same time as the route to Peshawar. In this however we are dependent on covers to or from Tashkurgan. The earliest cover seen is dated "21 Ramadan 1288," i.e. Dec. 4, 1871 addressed to Tashkurghan.[7] Other covers from this route with earlier dates may exist, and enable the opening date of the Tashkurghan route to be more precisely determined.

Reference to the map will show that these routes together form a continuous line from Peshawar in northwestern India to Tashkurghan in Northern Afghan Turkestan. This was the age old principal trade route between India and Central Aisa.

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3. Now in Pakistan
4. P. 471 First column
5. As far as known to the Author this is the only instance of a Foreign P. O. on British territory.
6. FURTHER POSTAL HISTORY OF THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR 1878-81, etc. by Col. D. R. Mastin, R. E. (Ret'd.). Postal History Society Special Series No. 12, 1961.
7. It is a 1288 Savar, Plate B, type 14, re. the collection of the late Major Adrian Hopkins of Bath, England.

The post, however, was used chiefly by traders and bankers (the latter being almost entirely Hindu), since the vast majority of the populace was illiterate. Nevertheless the volume of letters conveyed by the post was much greater than generally realized. Many of the letters to Tashkurghan were for destinations in Central Asia, and consequently are for all practical purposes lost to philately. In addition only a small proportion of the stamps and covers have survived, much of which is unsuitable for collecting.

By estimate the Kabul-Peshawar route handled some 75% of the volume, while the other route to Tashkurghan only 25%.

Examination of dated covers shows the minimum transit time on the Kabul-Peshawar route to be four days, and the maximum time was eleven days, while the average was five days. The Kabul-Tashkurghan route being much longer and over more difficult terrain with altitudes as high as 15,000 feet, the passes over the mountains often being closed by snow. A week was the minimum transit time on this route.

The Postal Rates

The attempt to determine the postal rates during Sher Ali's reign has been a most interesting and fascinating problem. In the absence of documents such as legislative acts or post office regulations, we perforce had to arrive at our conclusions from covers bearing Sher Ali stamps and our knowledge of the rates during the reigns of Sher Ali's successors.

By careful examination of over five hundred Sher Ali covers to determine the postal routes established by Sher Ali, the author believes that the rates of postage during the period of Sher Ali's reign were also determined.

Sher Ali's immediate successor was Abdur Rahman, who became Amir in 1880, and established a flat rate of 1 abassi per misqal. The author assumed that Sher Ali had levied the same basic rate of 1 abassi per misqal, and then endeavored to determine what the denominations of shahi and sanar would frank.

Before going further it is necessary to discuss rather fully the weight and monetary systems then in use, and the Moslem Calendar.

1. The Moslem Calendar

During the period covered in this book the Moslem, or Islamic Lunar Calender was used almost exclusively.[8]

The Islamic Calendar began on July 15 622 A.D., the traditional date of the Hegira or Mohammed's flight with a few adherents from Mecca to Medina. The Moslem year date is frequently suffixed by the letters A.H. i.e. Anno Hegira.

This calendar consists of twelve months alternating 29 and 30 days duration, a total annual period of 354 days. An intercalary day is inserted approximately every 33 months. Thirty three lunar-years equal thirty two solar years.[9]

The first issue of Sher Ali stamps is dated "1288" (A.H.) and the last issue "1295" (A.H.), that is from 1871 to 1878, the precise period of each of the Islamic years according to the Gregorian calendar is given at the head of the discussion of each year's issues.

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8. Occasional covers are found dated according to the Samvat Calendar which began April 12, 57 B. C., and is used by the Hindus of Northern India. It is divided into 12 months of 30 or 31 days, named according to the Zodiacal signs.

9. The conversion of Moslem dates to Gregorian equivalents will be discussed in a later article.

2. The Monetary System

During the entire period (1870 to 1920 A.D.) covered by these articles the Afghan coinage was based on the silver Kabuli Rupee of 12 Shahi. The Rupee was divided into small units and which were half rupee or kran, abassi, or tanga, sanar, shahi and paisa The table below shows the relations among these units:

Shahi	Sanar	Abassi	Kran	Rupee	Paisa
Shahi = 1	½	¼	1/6	1/12	5
Sanar = 2	1	½	⅓	1/6 (2/12)	10
Abassi = 4	2	1	⅔	⅓ (4/12)	20
½ R = 6	3	1½	1	½ (6/12)	30
1 R = 12	6	3	2	1	60

In 1881 the currency equivalents were:
Kabuli Rupee = 12 annas Indian = 1 shilling sterling = 24c U. S.
1 shahi = 1 anna Indian = 1 d English = 2c U. S.

Generally however, the Afghan currency was at a discount so that the Kabuli Rupee was only worth 16 cents, thus a shahi was about 1½ cents.

3. Weights

As far as the system of weights is concerned only those used to calculate the amount of postage required on a letter are of interest. This is comparatively simple as the only weight used as a basis for these calculations is the Misqal which equals 4.56 grams or .1184 ounces, or barely over one tenth of an ounce. Thus the basic rate of 1 Misqal for 1 abassi meant that an abassi (about 6 cents) would frank a letter weighing 1/10 oz. or less.

In determining whether the rate on a cover is correct, when such covers have been forwarded from Peshawar to other places in India or vice versa, it is frequently helpful to correlate the Afghan and Indian Postal rates. In order to assist collectors to do this we give a table showing the relationship between Afghan and Indian weights, with their equvalents in grams and ounces.

Relationship of Misqals, Tolas, Grams and ounces:

Afghan — 1 Misqal = 4.60 Grams = 0.395 Tola = 0.169 oz.
India — 1 Tola = 11.66 Grams = 0.41 oz. = 2.52 misqals.
English — 1 ounce = 28.35 Grams = 2.43 Tolas = 6.17 misqals.

Indian Postal Rates from 1869 to 1898 were:

Up to ½ Tola: ½ anna (6 Pies)
½ Tola to 1 Tola: 1 anna (12 pies)
Each additional Tola or fraction 1 anna (12 pies)

Converting

½ a up to ½ Tola = 5.831 grams = 0.2057 oz. (1/5 oz)
1 a from ½ Tola to 1 Tola = 11.662 grams = 0.4114 oz. (2/5 oz)

Thus a ½ a stamp would convey a letter weighting 1.26 Misqals or 1¼ misqals in round numbers. Since there are covers from Afghanistan to India bearing Indian postage or postage due the relationship between the Afghan Postage and the amount of Indian postage is necessary. It must be kept in mind that double rates were collected on unpaid letters in British India. Thus a letter requiring pre-payment of ½ a if unpaid would be marked Postage

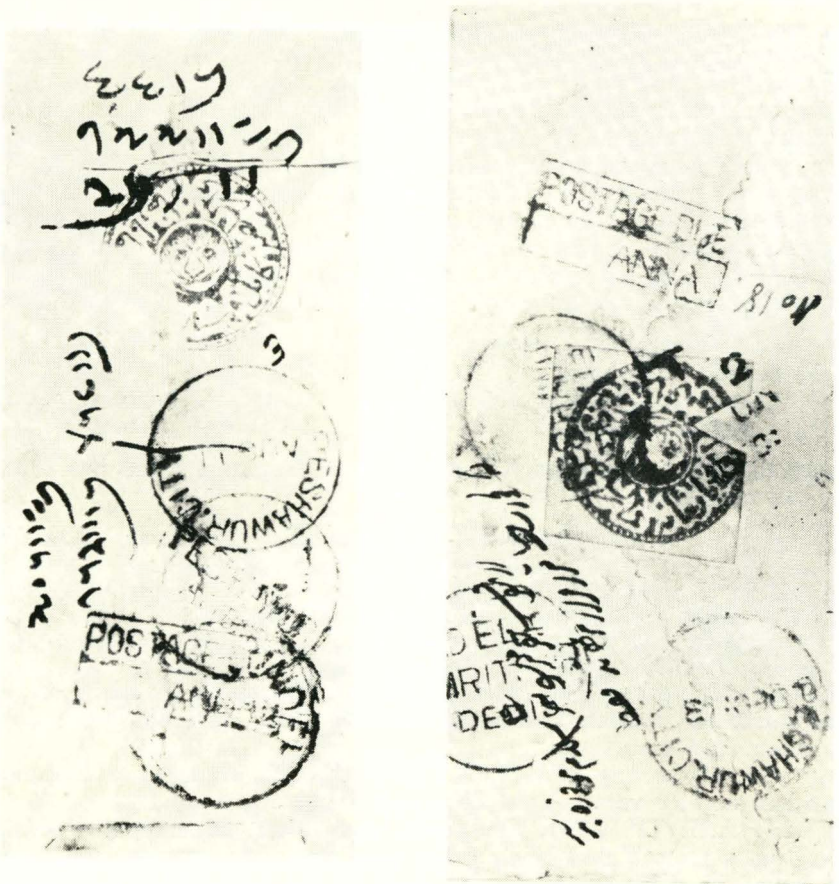


Figure 1. Two Afghan covers showing Indian "Postage Due—Anna" marking.

Due 1 anna. Generally if only one anna was due the "1" was not filled in — thus the handstamp would merely read Postage Due Anna. (Fig. 1).

We observe that letters commonly bear shahi, or sanar stamps and in India are only assessed 1 anna — indicating that they are under ½ Tola in weight. More important a cover is illustrated bearing an Abassi purple of 1293 — with an Indian ½ a stamp, still only assessed 1 anna indicating that it was over ½ Tola but under 1 Tola.

If the Afghan rate is 1 ab (2 sanar = 4 Shahi) for a letter between 1 Misqal and 1½ misqals then this weighed between 0.4 and 0.6 Tola nearer 0.6 to warrant additional postage due.

In passing, readers are reminded that from 1852 to 1869 the Indian postal rate was ½ anna for letters not exceeding ¼ tola and 1 anna for letters exceeding ¼ tola but less than ½ tola.

This means that letters not exceeding .27 grams or .103 oz. would be carried for ½ anna. Thus letters weighing as little as one-tenth of an ounce were commonly handled by the Indian Post Office.

In view of the above considerations the Postal Tariff set up by Sher Ali in 1870 must now be considered.

As mentioned previously in endeavoring to determine the Postal routes during Sher Ali's reign over 500 covers bearing Sher Ali issues were examined many bearing in manuscript the Moslem date, month day and year: While the route each cover travelled and the date of use noted when possible, all were carefully tabulated according to the amount of postage on them and whether or not there was additional Indian Postage paid.

Every cover which still had its enclosures (making certain that the enclosure was complete on that it did not contain several letters) was carefully weighed.[10]

From this study it was concluded that throughout the entire period of 1870 to 1920 the basic letter rate was *1 abassi for 1 misqal.*

Thus the original rate structure during Sher Ali's time was as follows:

Weight	Rate
Up to ¼ misqal	1 shahi
½ misqal to 1 misqal	4 shahi = 2 sanar = 1 abassi
¼ misqal to ½ misqal	2 shahi = 1 sanar

Since the two routes from Kabul were rated separately the rate structure in 1870 was as follows:

From	*To*	*Kabul*	*Jalalabad*	*Peshawar*	*Tashkurghan*
KABUL		——	1 rate	1 rate	1 rate
JALALABAD		1 rate	——	1 rate	2 rates
PESHAWAR		1 rate	1 rate	——	2 rates
TASHKURGHAN		1 rate	2 rates	2 rates	——

Thus a letter under ¼ misqal in weight would require 1 shahi from Kabul to Peshawar or any intermediate office, and vice versa, or Shahi from Kabul to Tashkurghan, and vice versa.

Any letter from any office that passed through Kabul, say Peshawar to Tashkurghan or vice versa would require 2 shahi, i.e. 1 sanar.

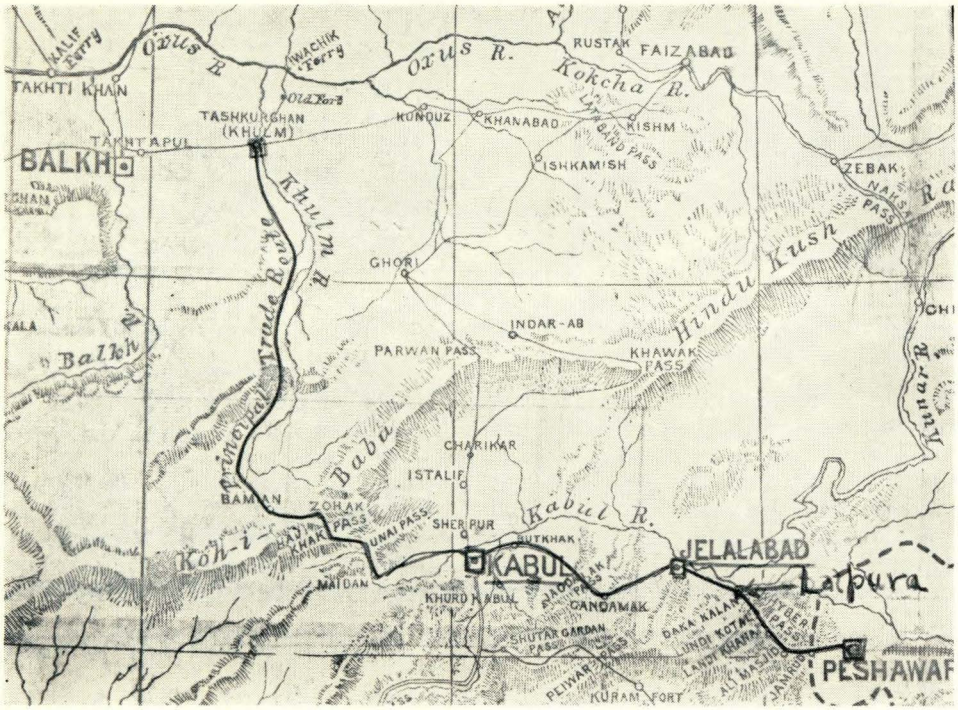
In 1293 A.H. (1876-77), the postal system was somewhat re-organized. The two routes from Kabul being taken as a single continuous route, and the stamps issued in different colors for each of the post offices for accounting purposes. Thus early in 1876 the rates were made uniform at ¼ misqal for 1 shahi between any two offices. Further an additional office, Lalpura, was opened. This office was between Jalalabad and Peshawar, directly across the Kabul river from Dakka.

The evidence for the change in the rate structure is based on the fact that prior to 1293 A.H. (1876-77) no cover was found from Peshawar or Jalalabad to Tashkurghan or vice versa bearing less than 2 shahi (1 sanar) postage, whereas in 1293 A.H. and later covers bearing only 1 shahi for the same routing were found.

As mentioned previously the Indian Postal Service carried hundreds of thousands of letters which weighed less than one-tenth of an ounce, and in fact native covers with contents weighing as little as 0.02 (1/50th) oz. have been seen. Furthermore quite a few of the covers bearing Afghan stamps with enclosures weighed only 0.025 (1/40) of an ounce.

The comparatively high rate of postage was met by the use of flimsy paper for letters and envelopes and by the all too frequent (and deplorable) practice of cutting the stamps to shape.

10. The covers with enclosures were weighed by Mr. Malcolm O'Reilly of Lever Bros., who had available to him scales that could give weigths accurate to one one-thousanth of a gram.



Map showing main postal routes.

The Operation of the Postal Service

The Postal System as organized and operated by Sher Ali was only for the conveyance of letters. There was no parcel post service, nor was there a system for registered letters.

The letters handed in at the various office were sorted according to their destinations, said packets being enclosed in small bags and conveyed by Postal Couriers that left Kabul for Peshawar and vice versa twice a week. Each courier covered a stage at the end of which he passed his bag on to another courier and in return received a bag in exchange to take back to his starting point. The stages varied in length depending on the terrain. Just how many stages there were on the route between Kabul and Peshawar is not konwn but it is known that there were 20 military stages on this route varying from 6 to 14 miles in length but averaging about 10 miles each. The route to Tashkurghan had some 25 stages, each averaging 12 miles, the extremes being 20 miles for the longest and 4 miles for the shortest.

It is quite probable that the postal stages corresponded more or less with the military ones. No definite evidence is at hand as to the frequency of the Kabul to Tashkurghan service but it was probably weekly at least.

As the volume of mail increased no doubt the frequency of service was increased on this route.

As we will see later, the problem of meeting the demand for stamps without increasing the cost or production time was skillfully met.

The 10¢ Registry Stamp of 1911 United States

By Robert L. Markovits

(Continued from Page 289)

First month covers likewise are difficult to come by — apparently the clerks did not 'push' the new stamps, or maybe, they were only initially available in the larger post offices — who knows?

In the author's collection are covers dated December 2, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, and 20 plus several during the rest of the month. In 1911, the 17th was a Sunday. This is strange usage since the post office was not generally open for business. Since all registry covers had to be handled personally by the Registry window clerk, a Sunday use is desirable. The most likely explanation for this cover is that the postal clerk had Monday morning blues and failed to change the dating device or it may be that larger post offices kept registry windows open during weekends before Christmas and this might be a legitimate Sunday cover.

I have searched for a cover on which it was specifically indicated that the registry service was not given to the letter and finally, a cover marked "FOUND IN ORDINARY MAIL" was located. (Fig. 11). This adds credence to the withdrawal notice.

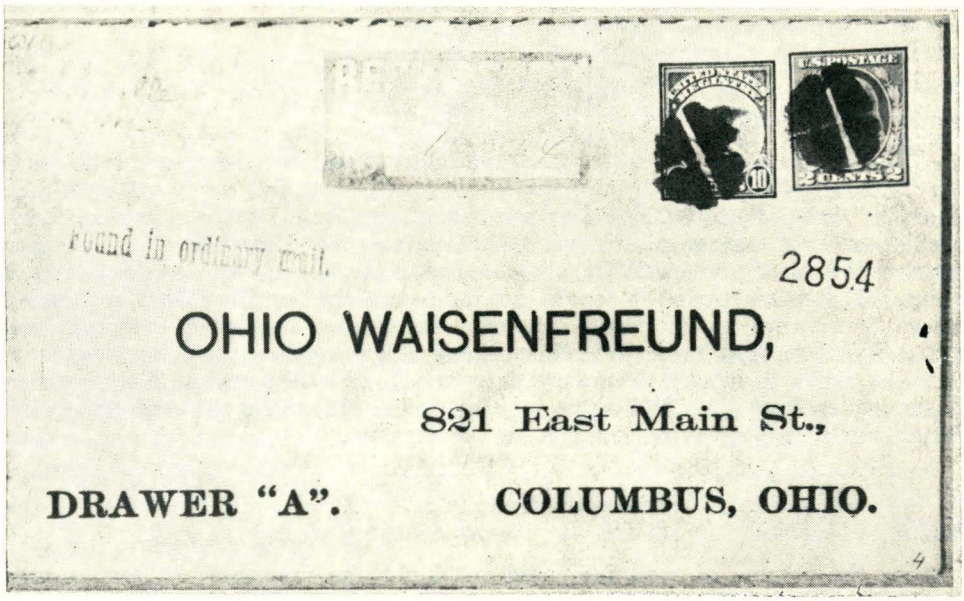


Figure 11. "FOUND IN ORDINARY MAIL" marking, probably applied at Columbus, Ohio, indicating the reason alleged by the Postmaster General for withdrawing the stamp in 1913.

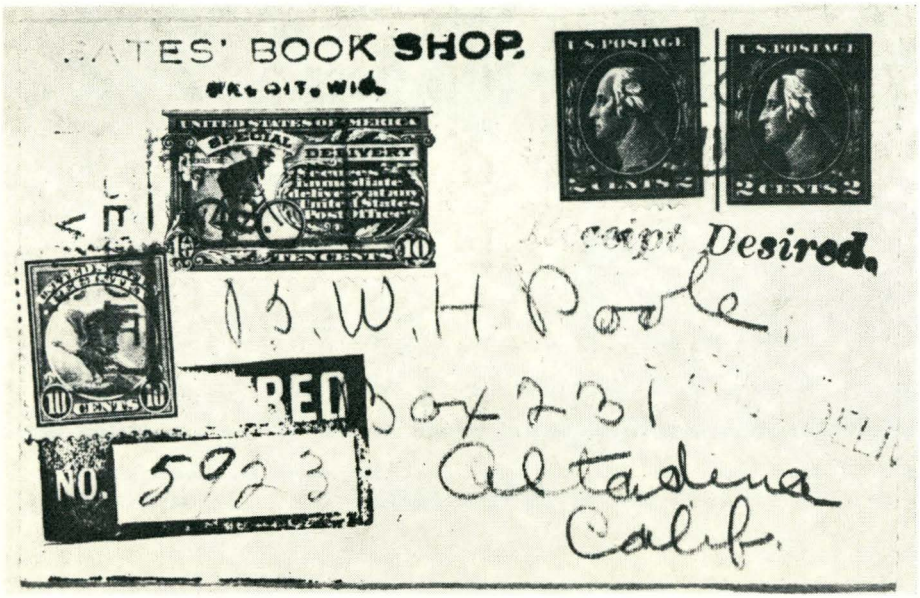


Figure 12. Registered special delivery mail uses are rare. Note "receipt desired" marking, and box cancel from Belart, Wisc. to Altadena, Ca.

Combination covers with the registry stamp are not often found. This includes uses of three or four stamps on one cover as well as registry and special delivery service given to the same envelope. (Fig. 12). A few are in my collection, including one spectacular one used from Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914.

Figures 13 and 14 represent two of the greatest rarities in the issue. The free franking privilege available to members of Congress and the Executive departments did not include registry fees, so these had to be prepaid by stamps.

Fancy cancels are few and far between on this issue. Regulations provided for killer cancels and not year date and town markings to be used for cancelling the front of the cover — town and date marks were supposed to be used only on the rear. In some towns, these regulations were more honored in the breach than in the performance, but most postmasters did comply. One finds mainly parcel post type killers on the stamp, target cancels, box cancels with the town name included, numbers and in one town in Puerto Rico, the letter "R." Occasionally, the straight line town marking or fancy oval was used to cancel the stamps. Finally, some clerks used the REGISTERED mail killer handstamp to cancel the stamps on the face of the covers. But almost all the mail was duly backstamped.

Directory markings are not often found on the registered covers since people were generally quite careful about putting an extra 10c — big money in 1911 — on a letter to someone unknown. Known are markings such as "Deceased," "Unclaimed," "Return to Writer," and notices about the condition upon receipt. One amazing cover even bears a "DEAD LETTER OFFICE" cancel (cover originally mailed in Puerto Rico to Dominican Republic). (Fig. 15).

Although there was no charge for providing a return receipt in 1911, there were several markings which indicated that such service was wanted; for instance, depending upon the degree of politeness of the postmaster who ordered

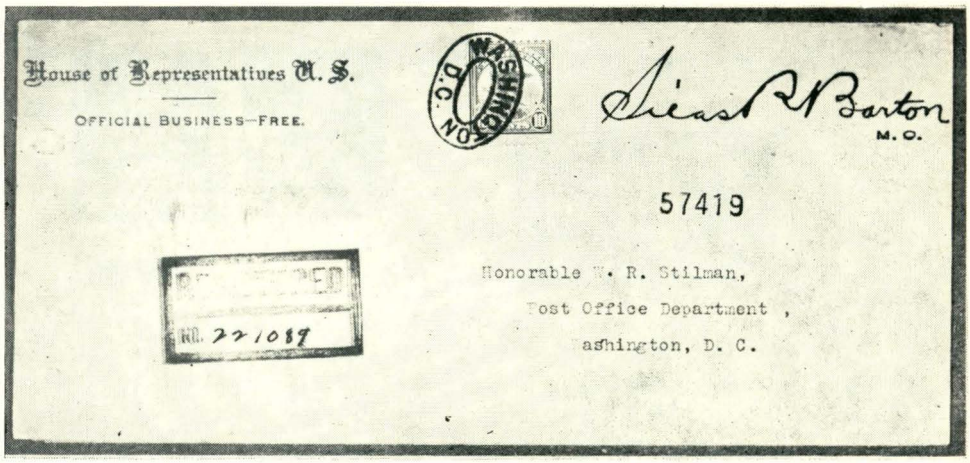


Figure 13. The Congressional Free Frank privilege did not include the registration fee, so Congressman Silas R. Barton had to pay the fee by stamp.

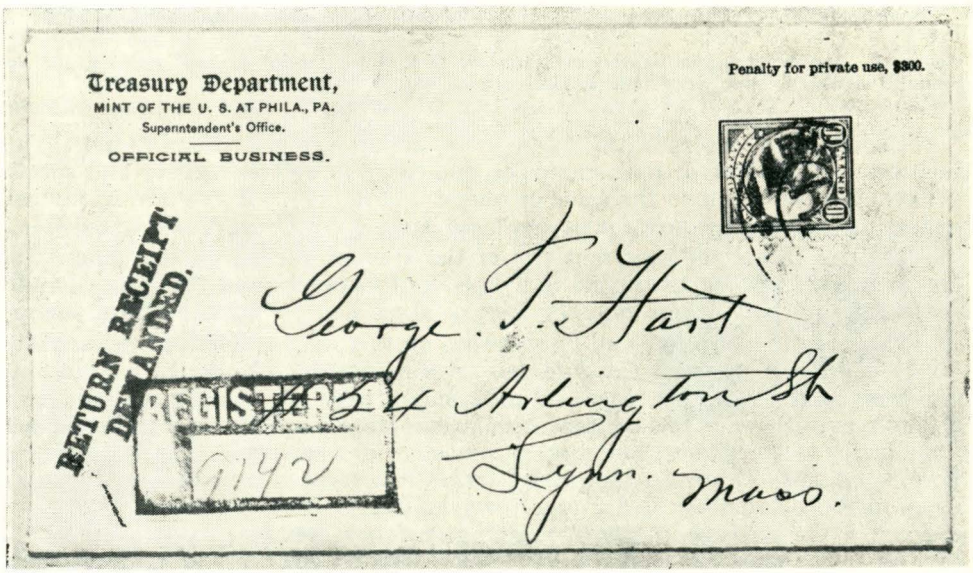


Figure 14. The Executive Department Penalty Frank likewise did not include the registration fee, so the registry stamp was added.

the handstamp, some said RETURN RECEIPT (a) requested, (b) desired, (c) demanded, or (d) required.

Since covers usually have the single rate of first class postage prepaid, double weighted first-class covers are nice to own.

Although air mail was in its infancy during the main decade of the use of this stamp, I have yet to see the first issue United States air mails used on a registered letter prior to 1920, and but two covers bearing the first issue air mails (Figs 16-17). Used later are known.



Figure 15. Dead Letter Office, "Inconu, Desconocido", at San Juan, P. R. to Santiago, Dominican Republic. This envelope spent two years in the Dead Letter Office (and fifty years in Philatelic hands) at San Juan, P. R. from Arecibo, P. R.

In 1911, the United States consisted of forty-six States. It was not until February 14, 1912 and January 12, 1912 that Arizona and New Mexico, respectively, joined the union. No collector has yet located a 10c registry stamp used from the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico — good hunting; in fact, my own collection still lacks covers from eight states to have the stamp used from each State in the Union, and the District of Columbia.

And do not forget to check the name of the addressee. In my collection is a cover addressed to Hon. Woodrow Wilson, then governor of the State of New Jersey. My collection gives equal time to Governor Charles Whitman of New York.

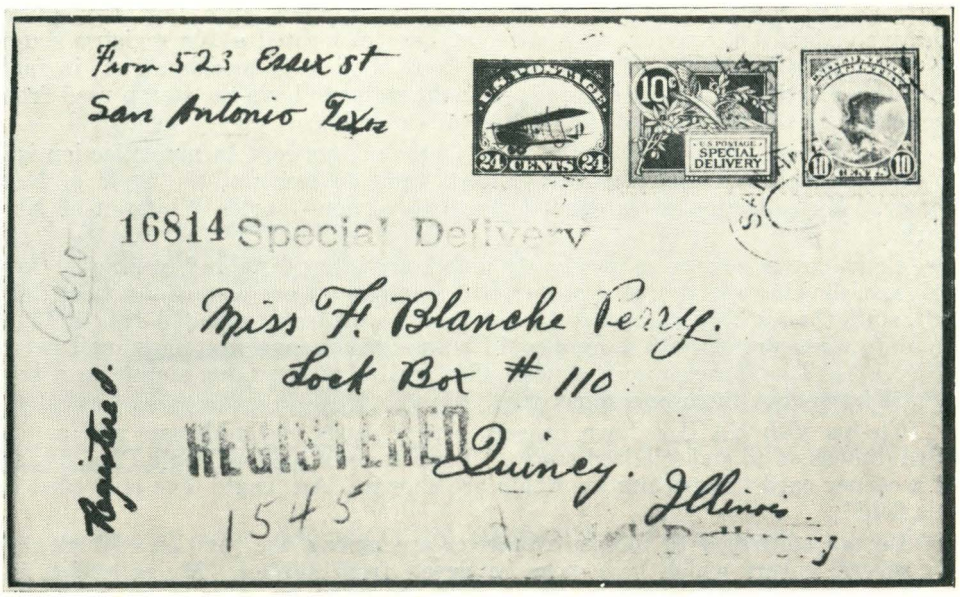
Combination covers, as previously noted, are interesting and unusual. Covers exist showing registry and parcel post stamps and are among the most difficult, since the registry stamp had been formally withdrawn prior to July 1, 1913, the date when parcel post stamps could be used to prepay first class mail rates. (Fig. 18). I have never seen a post office seal or postage due stamp on a registered letter, but these uses must exist.

Tie-ins with EAGLE town cancels, corner cards and addresses add a nice third dimension to a specialized study. Town cancels such as Eagle Pass, Texas, or a corner card illustrating an Eagle are shown. An 'eagle' eye is needed in this field!

Covers addressed to foreign countries are among the rarities. Illustrated are several covers which have been retrieved from abroad. My collection includes uses to Austria, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, New South Wales, Norway, Nova Scotia, Philippines, and Switzerland.

The author's collection has three covers mailed on board ships. They are most spectacular items. Most ships at that time did not have registry facilities. Noted are covers mailed on the U.S.S. Michigan and the U.S.S. Wyoming.





Figures 16-17. Air Mail Covers. Both addressed to members of the Perry family, one in Quincy, Ill. and the other in San Antonio, Texas. The covers also bear a special delivery stamp, which is superfluous on the cover with the 24c C3 air mail since this stamp also included special delivery service. The Illinois cover has the 6c stamp and so the special delivery had meaning.

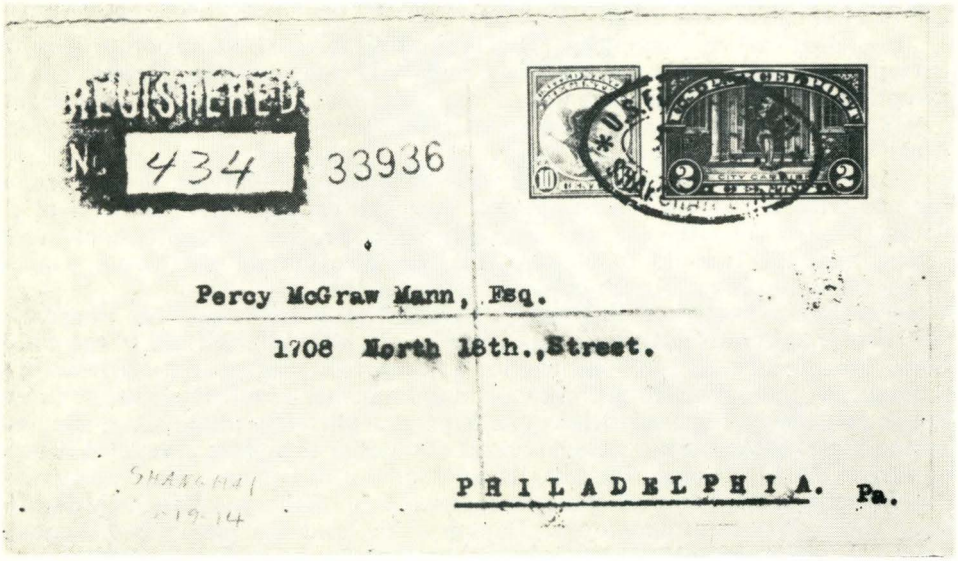


Figure 18. Parcel Post Combination Cover. U. S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, China (January 19, 1914) to Percy McGraw Mann, an added factor.

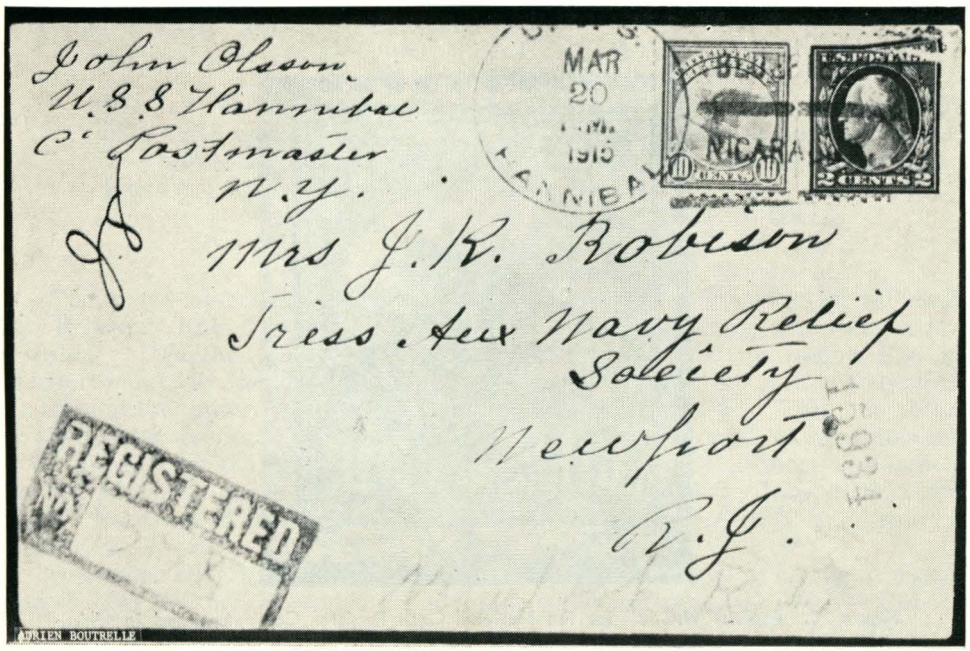


Figure 19. Gunboat Cover — U.S.S. Hannibal (off Nicaragua in 1915).

Gunboat diplomacy in Nicaragua is illustrated by a cover mailed on the U.S.S. Hanibal, a rare usage. (Fig. 19).

As noted earlier, combination covers showing unusual stamps other than the current one cent, two cents, and two cents stamped envelope variety are the exception; the clerks took what was easiest for them and applied it to the covers.

Try to locate this stamp used on an advertising cover if you want a year's worth of searching. If you are lucky.

And, if you collect postal cards with unusual combinations, do not ask me for one with a registry stamp, since I have never seen such an 'animal'; I doubt it exists since the fee was usually paid to protect the contents of an envelope, although it could be possible if a card was sent to give notice pusuant to a legal contract calling for registered mail notice.

Perfins are known on this stamp, although they are rare. The purpose of perfins is well known but worth repeating here. Reg. 562, Para. 5 of the PMG' Regs, provided "that for identification purposes only — not for advertising — it would be permissible to perforate letters, numerals or other marks on United States postage and special delivery stamps provided the whole space occupied by the identifying mark does not exceed one-half inch square and the holes are no larger than 1/32 of an inch in diameter."

I finally located two off cover examples. One of these was used by the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, Ohio, and the perfin is "Diagonal, 5-5-5 1/2" (Fig. 20); the other is marked "Fox."

I know of a copy used by the Old Colony Trust Company of Boston, Massachusetts, in the Stump collection. Also known are perfins for CUD/AHY, GT (Guaranty Trust Co., N.Y.C.) and a letter D, not further identified. Perfins were authorized, by the way, on May 8, 1909 and were very popular — even the automatic vending machine users (Schermacks) wanted them. I have never seen a private perf used in conjunction with a 10c registry stamp although they were in vogue at about the same time.



Figure 20. Perfin: "N.C.R." for the National Cash Register Company, used in Ohio.

To Be Continued

PRIVATE POSTS IN BALTIMORE 1844 - 1860

By DENWOOD N. KELLY

(Continued from Page 305)

Ricketts & Hall
1857
(Scott No. 127L1)

No. 4 Rechabite Hall enjoys the distinction of being the only address in Baltimore of the 1850's which two private posts used for their main offices. In 1853 Isaac Cook had used this room in the fraternal hall at the northwest corner of Fayette and Frederick Streets for his office. Just four years later another dispatch post, operated by Ricketts & Hall, was domiciled in the same room. Several collectors, including Henry C. Needham, have expressed the opinion that Ricketts & Hall succeeded to the business of Cook's Dispatch, but I have found no indication whatsoever that this is true. In fact, I am sure there was no connection between the two posts other than the incidental one of the same office space. If Cook had remained in business for four years, his stamps would be far less rare.

While on the subject of rarity, it should be recognized that the circular stamps issued by Ricketts and Hall are among the real rarities of United States locals. I know of only a half dozen copies in philatelic hands.

The only advertisement directly attributable to the dispatch is the following which appeared in *The Sun* of February 10 and 11, 1857, and which is worded as though it was an initial announcement:

"ONE CENT DISPATCH,
INSIDE"

Pre-pay Your Postage! Pre-pay Your Postage!! The undersigned offer their services to the public for the prompt delivery of all Letters, Valentines, &c., that should be offered to our care. Postage in advance. Paste the stamp where the letter is sealed.

RICKETTS & HALL,
No. 4 Rechabite Hall,
Corner of Frederick and Fayette sts.

The above advertisement, which ran only two days, appeared on the first day, February 10th, without the last sentence, "Paste the stamp where the letter is sealed." Whether this was an error which was corrected the second day, or an afterthought by the advertiser, I do not know. At least one customer heeded the admonition, however, as can be seen in Figures 77 and 78. This fine cover of which both front and back are illustrated, was discovered in Washington, D. C., in 1913, by the late Howard C. Beck, a prominent Baltimore philatelist. The late Philadelphia dealer, Eugene Klein, showed it to me in June, 1942, after which I lost track of it until it appeared as lot 856 in the Josiah K. Lilly sale of September 14, 1967.

One other advertisement has been found which may or may not be of significance. On Monday, December 23, 1856, the following appeared in "The Sun":

WANTED — An experienced DELIVERING AGENT, and three or four men of good address, to engage in a light lucrative business. Apply all this week to VIRTUE, EMMINS & CO'S 2 Rechabite Hall, Fayette St., near Gay. 1t*



Figure 77 & 78. Front and back of Ricketts & Hall cover, Baltimore, February 17 (1857), to Washington (Ex Lilly collection).

The reference to the delivering agent and the light lucrative business are both suggestive of a dispatch post in its organizational stage. The date, three days before Christmas, would seem to have no real significance. As I understand it, Christmas cards were not in widespread use in the mid-nineteenth century; even if they had been, just three days before the holiday was hardly the time to advertise for carriers if an efficient delivery service was envisioned. The Virtue, Emmins & Co. address at No. 2, Rechabite Hall, probably next door to the No. 4 of Ricketts & Hall, seems almost too close a connection to be coincidental.

The identities of Ricketts and Hall, the individuals, have never been definitely established. The Ricketts listing in the 1856-59 city directories are not very revealing:

John Ricketts, printer, 4 N. Holliday St. home, 167 N. Exeter St. (1856-59)
David F. Ricketts, druggist, 143 N. Gay St. (1856)
David Ricketts, druggist, 187 E. Baltimore St. (1858-59)
David Ricketts, printer, 127 N. Exeter (1858-59)
Ryan & Ricketts, type founders, 9 N. Holliday St. (1858-59)

I suspect that the printer listing for David Ricketts in the 1858-59 director was an error; the first name should probably have been John. My choice from the above would be John Ricketts, the printer. His business address at 4 N. Holliday St., and that of Ryan & Ricketts, the type founders at 9 N. Holliday St., were hardly a block from the Rechabite Hall. Admittedly, however, all this is purest speculation.

Among the Halls, however, we do have a slightly better candidate. The "possibles" from directory listings are:

Jacob F. Hall, clerk in post office, 48 S. Poppleton St. (1857)
Robert Hall, tailor, 4 Rechabite Hall, home 308 Aisquith St. (1858)
Amasa C. Hall, agent Baltimore S. S. Co. (1855, 1856)
Amasa C. Hall, agent Parker Vein S. S. Line (1855, 1856)
Amasa C. Hall, agent Cromwell's S. S. Line (1855, 1856, 1857, 1858-59)
Amasa C. Hall, shipping merchant (1860)

My friend, Elliott Perry, thinks there is a good possibility that Amasa C. Hall was the partner in question. Prior to 1855 an Amasa C. Hall was listed for several years (1850-54) in the New York City directories as an agent either at Pier 18 or Pier 12, North River. Henry C. Needham stated in his "Concise History" that Amasa C. was the Hall of Hall & Mills, the dispatch post which operated in New York City in 1847. The supposition would be, of course, that Amasa opened a dispatch post in Baltimore after he arrived there from New York.

My choice is, of course, Robert Hall, the tailor whose business address was the same No. 4 Rechabite Hall, according to the 1858 directory. The compilation of names for this issue would have been made in the latter part of 1857, the same year in which Ricketts & Hall operated the dispatch from that address. The sequence seems to be too close to be merely coincidental. Although I have found no advertisements or other information to specifically support the theory, I think that Hall went into, or possibly went back into, the tailoring trade after

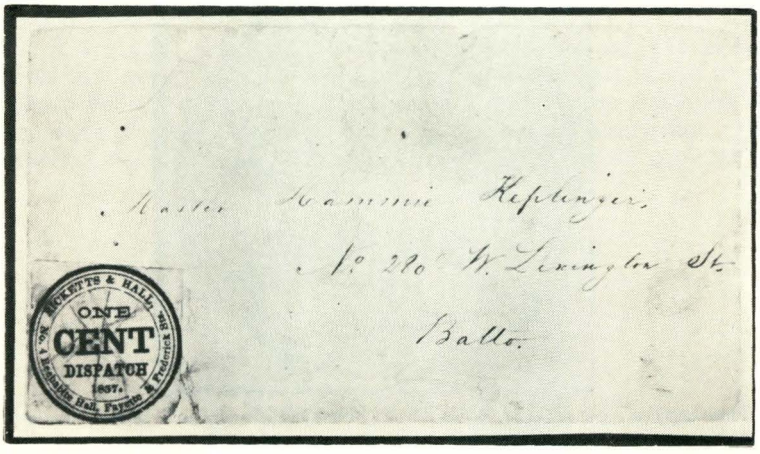


Figure 79. Local cover bearing the only recorded Ricketts & Hall stamp that is not cut to shape. Cancelled crossed lines in pencil. A Valentine is contained in the envelope.

his short-lived venture into the dispatch business.

Another Ricketts & Hall cover was discovered in an original find in Virginia in late 1969. Shown in Figure 79, the envelope bears the only Ricketts & Hall stamp so far recorded which is not cut to shape. It is manuscript cancelled in pencil and has a slight imperfection in the lower right corner which does not involve the design. Addressed to a young boy, the envelope encloses a Valentine of the period; there are no postal markings of any sort on front or back.

The only other cover attributable to Ricketts & Hall or their successor, if any, is that shown in Figure 80, comprising the center portion of the local stamp, uncancelled, affixed to the front of a U. S. 3c stamped envelope cancelled at Baltimore, May 15, 1857. The envelope is addressed to Mr. George N. Forney of Hanover, Pennsylvania and, according to a notarized affidavit of which I have a

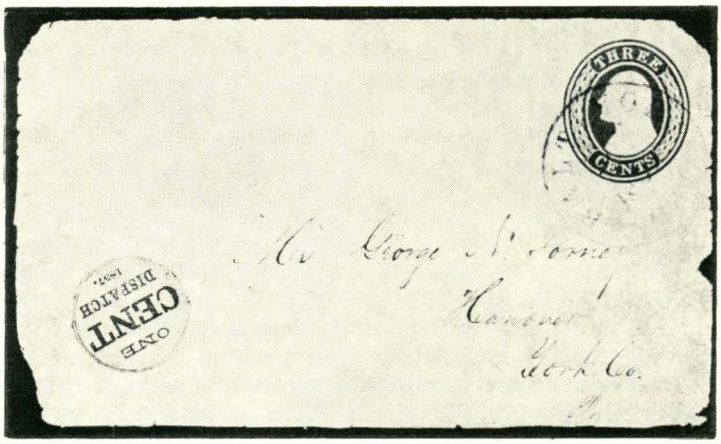


Figure 80. Front of a U. S. 3c stamped envelope bearing the center portion of a Ricketts & Hall stamp, Baltimore, May 15, 1857, to Hanover, Pennsylvania. This may indicate a later owner of the dispatch post. (Robson Lowe collection)



Figure 81. Fine copy of the Ricketts & Hall stamp cancelled by a swirl of pencil marks. (Ex Caspary collection)

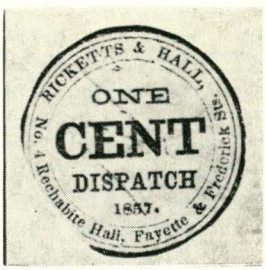


Figure 82. Slightly trimmed copy of the Ricketts & Hall stamp, discovered in Baltimore in 1912. (Ex Hollowbush collection)

photograph, was found amongst his papers in 1909 by one Robert O. Wirt, also of Hanover. The outer inscription of the Ricketts & Hall stamp has been trimmed off so that only that portion reading "ONE CENT DISPATCH 1857" remains. This fascinating cover, now in the collection of Mr. Robson Lowe, was reported and illustrated in the *Philatelic Journal of America* of August 15, 1910, along with a brief unsigned article, probably written by Charles H. Mekeel, who considered it a carrier usage. I find this theory a rather untenable one as the "Eye" and "Horseman" types of Baltimore carrier stamps were both in common usage at the time and there would have been no need for a "provisional" type unless the sender tried to fashion his own from a left-over private stamp. Another theory, also unproveable but perhaps more probable, is that Ricketts & Hall had sold out to an as yet unidentified successor who removed the identification of the previous owner. Eugene Klein showed me this cover also in 1942; it subsequently passed into the collection of the late Frank A. Hollowbush.

In addition to the Ricketts & Hall stamps on the covers discussed above, I have been able to record only three off-cover stamps. The Alfred H. Caspary collection contained a very fine used copy, cancelled in pencil, which is illustrated in Figure 81. Another, Figure 82, used as the illustration in the Scott Specialized U. S. Catalogue, was apparently discovered in Baltimore in 1912 by one Walter E. Smith; a copy of a notarized affidavit to this effect is in my possession. Mr. Harry M. Lindsay, now deceased and for many years an employee of the old Scott Stamp and Coin Co., told me in 1937 that he had been responsible for the Scott listing, this stamp having been shown to him when he was a dealer in Baltimore. The stamp bears a pencil cancellation which appears to be a rough "H," similar to that on the cover in Figure 79. At one time it was in the Frank A. Hollowbush collection. Finally, the Maurice H. Burrus collection contained an off-cover copy of the central position, with the outer inscription trimmed off as in the case of the copy shown in Figure 80. The Burrus copy (Figure 83)



Figure 83. Central portion of a Ricketts & Hall stamp, the outer inscription having been trimmed off in similar fashion to the stamp shown n Figure 80.

would seem to support the theory that the trimming off of the firm name had some specfic significance.

From the six recorded examples, the following constant die characteristics have been noted:

1. The outer end of the serif at the bottom of the right leg of "H" of "DISPATCH" is missing.

2. The upper serif of the right leg of "N" of "ONE" is bent slightly downward, to the inside.
3. The "1" in "1857" is raised and the "5" lowered in relation to the alignment of the other numerals.
4. The "R" of "RICKETTS" touches the circular line above it.
5. The inner circle is cleanly broken beneath the "H" of "HALL" and over the "te" of "Fayette."

I cannot definitely decide, from the limited material available for study, whether this stamp was printed by lithography or typography, although I incline to the former. The original die, however, was clearly prepared from type and printer's rule, the above constant flaws being characteristic of that method of production.

In summary, I would estimate the life of this dispatch post, with possibly two different proprietors, at not more than five months in early 1857. Judging from the rarity of the stamps, the volume of mail handled must have been extremely small.



Figure 85. Bogus Winans City Post stamps, originally attributed to Baltimore.

The overall scarcity (in all but two instances "rarity" is the better word) of the stamps issued by the Baltimore private posts is well illustrated by the following tabulation of stamps and covers that I have been able to record in over twenty-five years of searching. Obviously, not all existing copies have been recorded, but I am satisfied that the great majority are represented in this tabulation. In the cases of the American Letter Mail Company and Hale & Company, the tabulations are only for those stamps known to have been used in Baltimore.

Post	*Scott No.*	*On Cover*	*Off Cover or on Piece*	*Total*
American Letter Mail Co.	5L1	2	—	2
B. POST (Handstamp)	—	2	—	2
Butcher & Sandy's Despatch Post (Handstamp)	—	1	—	1
M. W. Mearis' City Despatch Post	103L1	1	—	1
"	103L2	1	—	1
"	103L3	1	—	1
"	103L4	—	1	1
"	103L5	1	—	1
"	103L6	—	1	1
"	103L6A	—	1	1
"	103L7	—	—	—
"	103L8	—	1	1
"	103L9	—	—	—
"	103L10(?)	—	1	1
" (Circular handstamp)	—	4	—	4
" (Rectangular handstamp)	—	4	—	4
City One Cent Dispatch	47L1	1	—	1
Cook's Dispatch	51L1	3	2	5
Davis' Penny Post	57L1	3	9*	12
" (Circular hdstp.)	—	1	—	1
Despatch Post (Hdstp.)	—	1	—	1
E. M. B.	—	1	—	1
Grafflin's One Cent Dispatch	73L1	10	21	31
Hale & Co.	75L5	7	—	7
" (Handstamp)	—	5	—	5
Johnson & Co. City Despatch Post	90L1	2	—	2
One Cent Despatch (Wiley)	112L2	6	15	21
" (Handstamp)	—	1	—	1
Ricketts & Hall One Cent Dispatch	127L1	4	2	6
Stringer & Morton's One Cent Despatch	134L1	15	3	18
" (Handstamp)	—	3	—	3
Wood & Co. City Despatch	148L1	4	—	4

* Includes 4 genuine Davis stamps fraudulently applied to stampless covers.

FRAUDULENT BALTIMORE DISPATCH POST STAMPS

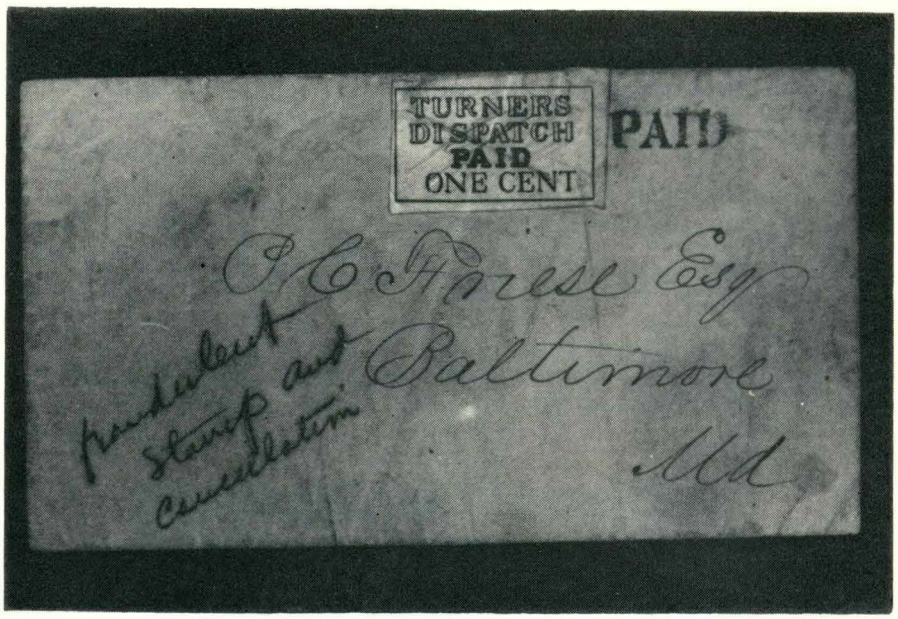


Figure 84. Bogus Turner's Dispatch stamp "on cover". (Kelly collection, Ex Babcock, French collections)

I know of no better term to describe the many fraudulent "stamps" foisted on the collecting public many years ago than Elliott Perry's "hoary old imposters" unless it be the delightful British term, "Cinderellas." Call them what you will, they have their fascination and form a definite part of the overall picture to the interested collector of private posts. In some cities, of course, there were perfectly legitimate dispatch posts which issued no adhesive stamps, but for whom (some ten to twenty years later) obliging dealers like S. Allan Taylor provided what purported to be genuine stamps.

TURNER'S DISPATCH

One of the lesser known frauds, and one which is actually quite scarce, is that labelled "TURNERS DISPATCH" and illustrated "on cover" in Figure 84. In design vaguely reminiscent of, and probably inspired by, the stamps of Malcolm W. Mearis' City Dispatch Post, these labels have been known for a long time to a relatively small number of collectors. Elliott Perry attributes them to one Walter P. Ginitty, who is known to have created varieties which he "planted" in original correspondences so they would be discovered under circumstances which would make them seem to be authentic. According to Mr. Perry, on at least one occasion Ginnity made a sizeable philatelic find in Baltimore; and was most active in the 1890's.

The first reference in the literature that I have found was an illustration of the stamp in Elliott Perry's "Pat Paragraphs" No. 35 of March, 1938, and a brief note that the illustration was by the courtesy of Harry L. Jefferys who "had long owned two copies, each on a Baltimore local letter." About a year later, in the May 22, 1939 issue of Mekeel's "Weekly Stamp News" Dr. W. L. Babcock illustrated in his column a cover bearing a Turner's Dispatch label and

a handstamped "PAID." He thought it was genuine and mentioned that he was "now able to show a cover carrying this label" after referring to recent mention of the Dispatch in some notes on express labels. The cover illustrated in the Babcock column is the same as that in Figure 84, although it did not then bear the endorsement, "Fraudulent Stamp and Cancellation," placed thereon by my old friend, H. Findlay French, before he kindly added it to my collection. I have another copy on a small envelope from which the lower right portion has been torn and which bears no markings other than the address. The two Jefferys covers ultimately passed into the collection of Mr. Frank A. Hollowbush; they were addressed to Edward Israel and P. Friese. Mine are addressed to J. Robert Israel, Esq., and P. E. Friese, Esq. Both the Israel and Friese correspondences were large ones and have been in philatelic hands for many years; apparently Mr. Ginnity was on the scene early. It is surprising that more Turner stamps have not turned up; probably Ginnity succeeded in fooling no one and gave up on that particular enterprise.

The Turner "stamp" is printed in dark blue on fairly thin, faintly yellowish, wove paper and the outer measurements of the design are 35 x 19 mm. I know of no other colors and, although, there must be others in existence, I have recorded only the four discussed in these notes.

WINANS' CITY POST

According to the late George B. Sloane, these venerable imposters, Figure 85, go back at least to November, 1862, when George Hussey was printing them in four denominations: 2c black on white, 5c black on yellow, 10c black on green, and 20c black on red. J. Walter Scott also produced them and in the 1880's provided spaces for them in his albums. S. Allan Taylor also contributed a set, along with many color variations, and there are ten other variations in design, indicating that a number of additional persons also got into the act!

Charles H. Coster, in his "The Private Posts of the U.S.A." published in Moens' "Le Timbre Poste" in 1882, attributed the stamps to Baltimore, saying they were "described on the authority of Mr. Scott." Both Elliott Perry and I have researched Baltimore papers and directories and have found nothing to indicate that a private post of this name ever existed. Winans was a very well-known family name in Baltimore in the latter half of the nineteenth century, due primarily to the prominence of William Ross Winans, a manufacturer of locomotives and builder of railroads.

The design of the stamps is intriguing. George Sloane described it as a winged bottle streaking through the night sky and the late E. R. Vanderhoof said that it was obviously allegorical and if it was supposed to represent a cannonball or bomb, the artist had "strangely disproportioned his limning and taken liberties in ideating any projectile I ever head of." According to Sloane, in his "Stamps" column of October 10, 1953, Elliott Perry commented that the design might have represented some kind of hand grenade, perhaps something used in the Crimean War in 1854. Perhaps Mr. Perry was closer to the truth than he realized. I suspect the artist, inexpert though he was, tried to depict a rocket with wings to denote speed. And "Rocket" was the name of the English Stephenson locomotive of some thirty years before the stamps made their appearance, but still almost a transportation byword at the time. Winans, prominent locomotive and railroad builder, was appearing frequently in the public press in the 1860's, particularly because he had a railroad construction contract with the Russian government; this name, too, was identified with transportation. Quite a tenuous connection, to be sure, but not beyond the realms of possibility.

Regardless of their origin or the now shadowy idea behind the design, there is no doubt that the labels were entirely spurious from the start.

The End

The Clubhouse

The Meeting of September 22nd — Arthur Salm

Old German States — Thurn and Taxis

The Tassis can be traced back to Homodeus de Tasso (1251-1309). They came from Camerata and Cornello in the Bergamasco Alps and became known as mail couriers. Members of their family served in this capacity the Popes, the Republic of Venice, the City of Naples, the Dukes of Milan.

The name "Tasso," later "Tassis," originates with Mount Tasco near Cornello. Its translation is "Badger," and the badger is found in all crests of the Tassis. They later added "Thurn," and since then Thurn & Taxis has been their family name, and the tower added to the crest.

Emperor Frederic III used Roger de Tassis for mail service in Tirol in 1457. Maximilian I, his son, made Janetto Tassis his postmaster in 1489. Janetto was assisted by his brother, Francesco, or Franz, often called the inventor of the posts.

Early the Tassis made Brussels their headquarters. They lost the Belgian possessions during the Spanish War of Succession and then established their postal headquarters in Frankfurt.

During the 1866 war between Prussia and some of the German States the Prince of Thurn & Taxis sided with the opponents. Prussia used this occasion to force Thurn & Taxis out of the mail business.

The Thurn & Taxis postal system ended after less than 15 years of issuing postage stamps and about 350 years after its founding and existence within the same family. Its postal treaties were with Spain, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands; England and the United States.

Its significance is in the early establishment of relay stations, maintenance of strict timetables, dependability in its services during war and peace, and delivering the mail wherever it was addressed.

While the 3 million thalers paid Thurn & Taxis by Prussia in 1867 was far less than the 7 million demanded by Taxis, it was only half as much as the United States paid Russia about the same time for Alaska.

The Thurn & Taxis of today are landowners in Germany, Canada and South America. They own breweries, metal-working industries and banks.

Franz Josef of Taxis died in July, 1971, and is said to have left his successor, his nephew, Prince Johannes, a fortune worth well over 1 billion dollars.

Their cultural interests are extensive. Among these they maintain in Regensburg, Bavaria, the present seat of their administration, a library (staffed by 7 persons) of close to 200,000 books, including originals of handwritten bibles, compositions of most composers of the baroque and earlier periods and, of course, all the originals of the postal treaties they made.

Although usually listed under German States, Thurn & Taxis was only a postal administration, not a country.

Thurn & Taxis was a late-comer in issuing stamps.

Its membership to the German-Austrian Postal Union conditioned use of stamps on January 1, 1852.

The printing and cliche order was given to C. Naumann in Frankfurt in October, 1851. Fuess of Hanau supplied the colored paper for the first issue.

It was necessary to use the Silbergroschen denomination in the North, the Kreuzer denomination in the South. 3 Kr. equal approximately 1 Sgr. Therefore, a 1 Srg. stamps has the same color as a 3 Kr. stamp of the same issue — or a 2 Sgr. stamp is of the same color as the 6 Kr. stamps.

Nauman completed the production of the plates and the first 10½ million stamps within about 2 months, and all post offices had their stamps before Sunday, January 1, 1852. With the exception of the four high values designed by F. M. Kepler of Petersburg, all stamps for the Northern district are of only one design — and all stamps for the Southern district are of only one design. These two designs are strongly related. In addition to a beautifully ornamented framework, a large figure is presented on a square or circular patterned background.

The first issue — 1852 — was printed in black on colored paper.

The second issue — 1859 — was printed in the same color as the paper of the first issue, but on white paper.

The third issue — 1862 — brought certain color changes, conditioned by the Rules of the Universal Postal Union.

These first three issues were not perforated.

The fourth issue — 1865 — had the same colors as before, with rouletting.

The fifth issue — 1866 — was the same as the fourth, but with the roulette in color.

The flat press printing plates consisted of 150 individual cliches, tied together by strings, 10 horizontal, 15 vertical. Naumann had to supply the plates of 150 cliches plus 20 spares each. Only the high values of the second issue were made of cliches containing 6 specimens. The printing plates and original dies have been preserved.

The margins of all Thurn & Taxis sheets are wide, but the spacing between stamps of the first four issues incredibly narrow. It varies from 1/10 of 1 mm. to ¾ of 1 mm. The horizontal or vertical neighbors are often not properly aligned, and, therefore, 98% of all imperforated stamps of Thurn & Taxis are cut into. For unknown reasons the margins of the sheets were mostly cut off. Used stamps of the fourth and fifth issues with sheet margins are scarce.

With the exception of some temporary plates of the first printing all cliches are of copper.

The rouletting of the fourth issue was done by iron strips having a piercing edge. This grid was pressed over the stamps. But due to the narrow space between the stamps, and their poor alignment, as well as the imperfect fit of the spacing in the grid, only one stamp in a sheet of 150 is well centered.

The administration realized this and solved the problem in the fifth issue which was only in use for 10 months.

In producing the fifth issue, the individual cliches were separated, and the piercing irons laid between the stamps before the printing block was again tied with string. The piercing edge of the irons was slightly raised above the surface of the printing plate. The irons were thus colored with ink as the rest of the printing surfaces, and, therefore, you have the colored roulette in the fifth issue of the Thurn & Taxis. Used copies of this issue are the least common.

The direction of the irons is not the same on all stamps. On some the horizontal strip is continuous. On others, the vertical. But it is always the same for a specific stamp within the same issue. However, a stamp of the fourth issue may have the continuous iron horizontal while the fifth issue has it vertical.

In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

The following have qualified for membership in The Collectors Club and have been duly elected by the Board of Governors:

5497 John B. Sherman III, Leucadia, Calif. Collects Ireland.
5498 Irving Piliavin, Madison, Wis. Collects United States, British North America.
5499 Drew A. Nicholson, Pawling, N. Y. Collects Fieldpost of the Herero Rebellion.
5500 Kenneth Kloss, Rockville, Md. Collects Booklets, Advertising on stamps, Perfins, Foreign Precancels.
5501 John Forrest, London, England. Collects cancellations.
5502 Arturo Toro, Jr., New York, N. Y. Collects Latin America.
5503 Lucien S. Toutounji, Arlington, Va. Collects Middle East, Western Europe.
5504 David L. Fortnum, Poole, England. Collects Canada, Japanese occupation of Malaya.
5505 Jack Luder, Zurich, Switzerland. Collects classic rarities.
5506 Val A. Luck, Davis, Calif. Collects Haiti, Canada, Liechtenstein.
5507 Donald F. Dahlquist, M. D., Houston, Texas. Collects Austria, Luxembourg, United Nations, Philatelic literature.
5508 F. J. Zamora-Pamies, M. D. Mayaguez, P. R. Collects United States, Fauna, Flora.
5509 Allan E. Markoff, Middletown, N. Y. Collects United States Airmails.
5510 Derek P. Whitmarsh, Seattle, Wash. Collects Australia, Boer War. British Colonial stampless covers.
5511 Adrian Hernandez, Caracas, Venezuela. Collects Venezuela, Cuba.
5512 C. H. A. Grady, San Marino, Calif. Collects United States plate blocks.
5513 Lynne S. Warm, Metairie, La. Collects United States First Bureau Issues, Spain, Vatican, France.
5514 Peter H. Cohn, Boise, Idaho. Collects United States and Foreign.
5515 Helmut Wolff, Caracas, Venezuela. Collects Haiti.
5516 John H. Levett, Woking, England. Collects France and Colonies, Great Britain, Africa.
5517 Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr., Brooklyn, N. Y. Collects France.
5518 David A. Flood, Bellefonte, Pa. Collects Germany, British Colonies, Postal History.
5519 Leo R. Lowe, Irving, Texas. Collects India and States, Pakistan, Japan.
5520 Charles A. Schafer, Augusta, Ga. Collects United States Classics, Airmail.
5521 Fernando Robles, New York, N. Y. Collects Arctic and Antarctic.
5522 W. Ford Connell, M.D., Kingston, Canada. Collects Canada, New Brunswick, Ireland, Zanzibar.
5523 Fiorgio Bizzarri, Rome, Italy. Collects Roman States.

Considerable time will be saved if all correspondence with regard to advertising copy, prospective articles, and other pertinent details of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* be sent to me at the following address:

H. D. S. Haverbeck
Bramble Hill
Post Rd.,
Bernardsville, N. J. 07924

Book Reviews

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Stamp Collecting by Otto Hornung. 309 pages, 900 illustrations, 150 in colour. Published by Hamyln Publishing Group, Ltd. Hamlyn House, Feltham, Middlesex, England.

If this were just another research book, it would rank as one of the best. It is more than that, however. It is the most comprehensive, enlightening and readible book on philately, its origin, what it was yesterday and what it is today.

If you are a "new comer" to the field, this book would serve you well and help you avoid the pit-falls. If you are an "old timer," there is a lot that is new for you. We have gone from the most ancient forms of carrying the mail, the introduction of the postage stamp, the origins of collecting, the refinement of the hobby, the "boom" in the issuing of stamps and the advent of "topical and thematic" collecting.

Virtually, all the facts are here. From the forgers to the phony issues from non existant countries, the commemorative issues that were issued to make money and not to serve "postal needs" or even reflect the soundness of the country that issued them.

In the "Forword" written by H. R. Holmes, former President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, he states "Otto Hornungs book is different from all that have gone before." It is.

The illustrations, which abound, are really beautiful. To see in color some of the really great stamps and covers of history is something in itself, but to couple this with sections on various philatelic elements is superb. If you ever wondered "what a good cancel looks like," you will see plenty here. If you have wondered how a judge looks at your stamps, you get a first class lesson on judging with rules and guides laid down by F.I.P. and good common sense.

The "tools of the trade" are covered. Glasses, gages, stock books, "to hinge or not to hinge" and all the in's and out's of the hobby. The comments on soaking are perhaps a little troublesome because the author recommends placing the wet stamps face up after soaking and this can cause them to stick again, but this is about the only minor complaint.

The author takes us from the "quipa" or knot letter on a long journey through the history of the birth of the Penny Black, the historic Mauritius Post Office stamps and the famous H. R. Harmer auction where Raymond Weill paid $380,000. for the cover bearing the two one penny stamps. Of course the British Guiana classic is here with many more celebrities. One of the charms of this book is the romance that it conveys. The illustration of a recruiting poster for the Pony Express which reads "Wanted, Young Skinny Fellow, not over 18, Orphans Prefered" is but one of a number of marvelous embellishments. We see the development of the post box, the cancelling devices, the birth of the Post Horn, "clapper mail," ships mail, airmail and even concentration camp mail.

Mr. Hornung takes us along on the roads with the post coaches, the family of Thurn and Taxis, the first catalog on stamps and some of the great forgers, swindlers and collectors. We learn the story of reprints, propaganda issues, occupation issues and go right along to the advent of the "thematic and topical" era.

His considerations of the thematic and topical collector are realistic and basic. With the demand for the "classics" and the price, the evolution of the thematic and topical for the mass of the collectors becomes meaningful. He shows the way to both good topical and good thematic collections and even the way in which they shuld be judged by those to whom such collections have seemed "less than appealing."

The author does not spare the stamp issuing policies of our day. Citing an example of Burundi issuing stamps for the Winter Olympic games when hardly anyone living on the border of the Congo could be expected to be participating is one of many. The greed of the dealer and the wish to defraud come through as well. From the private perforations on German stamps which a group of dealers did and made $30,000 in the process, to the business of "regumming" for those with the "never hinged syndrome." We learn the art of "repairing," "watermarking" forging and just about every shady trick that can be done with a stamp. We also are treated with advice on "who the experts are" when there is a question of doubt.

There is no "doubt" about this book. It must stand as one of the "greats" in philately. No stamp club, library or serious collector should miss seeing it or owning it. *(Viola Ilma)*

The Taylor-Made Fenian Essays. By Joseph E. Foley. Published jointly by The American Philatelic Society Inc. and Eire Philatelic Association. 24 pages, bristol paper cover. $1.25, postpaid, from A.P.S. Central Office, Box 800, State College, Pa. 16801. (A.P.S. members are entitled to a 20 per cent discount).

Two years ago a 1-cent Fenian "essay" changed hands for $4,800! Now the question arises whether these "essays" were actually created by the great master of bogus philatelic art—S. Allan Taylor.

For many decades these labels generally were regarded as "postage stamp essays" produced by or for the Fenian Brotherhood, an Irish-American revolutionary secret society.

These "essays" have been held in high esteem by philatelists and postal historians who are interested in Irish philately. They consist of three designs in denominations of 1, 3 and 24 cents, and on Oct. 23, 1967, the Irish government gave them greater stature in philatelic annals by reproducing the designs of the 1- and 24-cent denominations on a special commemorative set honoring the centenary of the Fenian Rising.

The official Irish Post Office press announcement even acknowledged the designs were "essays" and then stated they were "prepared in the United States by the Fenians at about the time of the Rising and intended by them for use in an independent Ireland . . ."

But some members of the Eire Philatelic Association, a unit of The American Philatelic Society, were commencing to have doubts about the "essays," and one of that group's most talented research writers, Joseph E. Foley, went to work to gather all loose ends, sifting fact from fiction, and then adding his own ingredient of philatelic sleuthing to produce a strong case to prove the S. Allan Taylor "theory."

Foley cleverly titled the monograph, "The 'Taylor-Made' Fenian Essays," and after two years of fact-finding, he put it all together in a well-documented and illustrated presentation that was first published in the March 1971 issue of "The American Philatelist."

The booklet appears on high-gloss stock, permitting clear-view halftone illustrations of some previously uncorrelated material, including Irish Republic bonds issued by the Fenians.

The "Taylor-Made" story is both fascinating and intriguing and pieces together a fantastic philatelic jigsaw-type puzzle. *(H. D. S. H.)*

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. I. Published by Scott Publishing Co., 604 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., 10020. 774 pages plus addenda and index, Illustrated. Price $8.00.

In Vol. I of Scott's three volume 1972 *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* there are 13,090 new prices.

One of the new prices is bound to attract attention in the world of stamps: the $325,000 valuation for British Guiana No. 13, the 1c black on magenta provisional of 1856, sometimes called "the world's rarest postage stamp. This is the highest price for a single postage stamp ever quoted in Scott's Catalogue. We question the term "Rarest" as there are other stamps equally scarce, one only being now known; however we cannot fault its Public Relations, it is the most publicised.

Of the 13,090 price changes in Scott's new Vol. I, 2,850 are in the listings of United States and Possessions, 7,006 in the British Commonwealth, 3,171 in Central America and Latin West Indies, and 63 in United Nations. The price changes represent trends in the contemporary market noted by Scott's editors. We see the price changes as continuing the trend that was established some years back. We do not see any improvement in the comprehensiveness of the listings or in the consistancy of the treatment.

The latest new-issue increment seems especially impressive when it is remembered that the 1972 edition is appearing for the first time in a three volume format. Its first volume no longer includes the South American countries.

Most of the desirable United States material acquires higher prices, although the increases are conservative as a general rule. The "Without Lumin. (error)" minor varieties of recent United States stamps have been deleted. The editors correctly take the position that these deviations from the normal are essentially freaks of production and could occur on all "tagged" stamps. It has been learned recently that the luminescent coating can be fraudulently removed.

In the British Commonwealth listings generally the market seems strongest for the classic material, for commemoratives issued before distribution to the philatelic market became as efficient as it is now, and for single stamps with a special appeal to topical collectors, such as those relating to sports and space activity or picturing stamps and postal markings.

The three volumes of the 1972 Scott Catalogue are of approximately equal size and retail at $8.00 each. Lexotone bindings reduce the weight and bulk of the Catalogue considerably. Volume II, listing countries from Afars and Issas through Jugoslavia, will be published in October and Volume III, listing countries from Karelia through Zambesia, will appear in November. There will be no single-volume edition. *(H. D. S. H.)*



Die Deutsche Päckchenfeldpost Teil der Deutschen Feldpost, 1939-1945 (German Army Parcel Mail Part of the German Army Mail 1939-1945) (German Language) by Hans Wimmer. 88 Pages. Illustrated. Published by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde e.V. D-846 Schwandorf, Brennestrasse 1, West Germany. Price $3.50.

This neat and well illustrated volume is a work of great historical as well as postal historical interest. It furnishes the details of the organization and transportation regulations of Army Mail. It lists all of the known official and unofficial stamps together with a list of all known Army Parcel Mail markings. There is an important list of all Army Parcel Mail Stations, Air Force and Navy post offices with many illustrations of the stamps and markings.

The volume certainly maintains the tradition of fine, detailed philatelic studies for which the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde has become famous. *(H. D. S. H.)*

The Postal History of Papua and New Guinea 1945-1970 by J. H. Harrison and V. A. Rutherford. A joint publication of the Papuan Philatelic Society and The Society of Australasian Specialists. 1971. 111 pages and 11 maps. Price $5.00.

Any collector of the stamps of Papua and New Guinea would certainly be interested in this new handbook on the postmarks of the Territory. The authors have done a commendable job in assembling the data on each post office along with copies of all of the circular date stamps.

The main body of the book is arranged alphabetically by office. Listings range from a two sentence description under ERAVE (and a copy of the postmark) to eight full pages for PORT MORESBY. This includes 36 different postmarks ranging from the Dead Letter Office to first day cancels, machine cancellers and including the everyday c.d.s. The eleven pages of maps of each of the administrative districts is extremely valuable. One thing which is lacking is a listing and illustrations of the various special pictorial postmarks that have been used.

The handbook is published by a photo-offset process on 8½" by 11" paper punched for a three-hole looseleaf notebook. This will make it much easier to add and delete pages as revisions are published.

The handbook may be ordered from Mr. V. A. Rutherford at 1209 Mayfield Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19803. *(R. S. W.)*

Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue 1972 Edition. 756 pages. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London, WC2R OLX. Price £2.50 ($6.25 approx.)

Nothing could demonstrate the importance and value of this new edition of the world's most famous catalogue more forcibly than the current Gibbons' advertisement which, referring to the old edition, commands: 'Chuck it out! — it's obsolete'. The new catalogue represents a year's 'hard labour', editing and revising, adding the annual crop of new issues and effecting the many improvements which make it essential for the new stamp season.

Even the "look" of the new catalogue is different — its title is in a new, bold type-style, with a complete change of stamps in full colour on the cover, front, back and spine. Open it and you find a new-style, easy-to-read Index of countries in larger type than before. The information pages are similarly improved and expanded, and the Philatelic Glossary has been rearranged to advantage. Stamp prices have been thoroughly revised in accordance with market trends, especially for Great Britain and British Post Offices, with West Indies, Australia and the Pacific Islands, the Mediterranean group, and the early and middle issues of Canada, New South Wales and Tasmania, New Zealand and some of the African territories.

Numerous countries and issues have been revised with improved — and in some cases completely rewritten — notably Fiji 1874-81 and the later provisionals; Indian Native States (a happy hunting-ground for collectors of the 'weird and wonderful'), New Zealand — the famous Penny Universals; Orange Free State — the fascinating 'VRI' overprints; Samoa; Rhodesia; South Africa, first issue; Virgin Islands; and the Zanzibar overprints and provisionals of 1895-98.

Last but not least, 'omnibus' issues are shown with set prices in new, tabulated form. In short, the new *British Commonwealth Catalogue* fully maintains its reputation, enhanced last year by the award of a gold medal at 'Philympia'. *(H. D. S. H.)*

Zumstein Catalogue of European Stamps 1972, 55th edition. 1,284 pages. Illustrated. Editors: Zumstein & Cie, prop. Hertsch & Co., CH-3001 Berne. Price $12.00.

Due to the never ending increase of new stamp issues, the present Europe Catalogue had to be enlarged by 40 pages. The postal administrations, not paying any attention to the warning voices, throw a continuous flow of new issues on the market. So, the collector is forced to restrict his activities on a few countries only and to put more attention on specializing. The proof for this tendency is to be found at stamp exhibitions of local, national and international character.

Consequently, the changed kind of collecting had its influence on the new catalogue as well. Specialities, e.g. perforation and color varieties, have increased much more in value than the normal issues.

Many improvements and modifications have been included in this edition. The Recess printed definitives of Danmark since 1933 and the landscape stamps of France from 1929-33 have been more clearly defined. The Austrian Building series 1949-60 have been reworked and the catalogue includes now, too, the issues of the Danube Steamship Company.

Regular supplements to the catalogue will be found in the Berner Briefmarken Zeitung. As the catalogue itself, these supplements bring reproductions of every stamp design, so that it will be easy to arrange the collection even up to the latest issue. *(H. D. S. H.)*

Zumstein Catalogue Switzerland/Liechtenstein 1972. Contents: all the stamps of Switzerland including telegraph and railway stamps and all the issues of Liechtenstein and Campione d'Italia, as well as the listings of the United Nations Postal Administration issues for Geneva, completely priced and illustrated. 288 pages. Price: $1.50.

The Switzerland/Liechtenstein Catalogue for 1972 has appeared. Market fluctuations have been carefully watched and taken into consideration. Price increases are rather numerous in the field of the classic issues. The nicely illustrated volume in German and French is a valuable source of information, giving also the quotations of unused and used blocks of four, FDC and from mint and used singles. *(H. D. S. H.)*

1971 COMING MEETINGS

November 3rd	— *75th ANNIVERSARY NIGHT.*
November 17th	— *ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY NIGHT — Royal Philatelic Society, London.*
December 1st	— *UNITED STATES 19th CENTURY — Louis Grunin, Spring Valley, N. Y.*
December 15th	— *BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN HOUSE.* — *Ernest A. Kehr, Chairman.*

The Library

Periodicals recently acquired by the library.

The following periodicals are now being received by your library. Frequently the publisher was unable to supply complete runs of the back issues. If you have copies of these publications and can supply us with originals or Xerox photocopies they will be appreciated by future researchers.

Belgium Study Circle News Letter edited by Tom Jones, England.

Bulletin du Club Philatelique D'Haiti. Gift of Mr. Burton Sellers. Current status unknown. Last issue in file December 1958 Number 5.

Essex Post devoted to the study of the history of postal communications within the County of Essex, Great Britain. Ceased publication upon merger with The East Anglia Postal History Society.

Filatelia, Boletim Informativo Para os Colecionadores dos Selos das Nacoes Unidas. Adalberto Marcus, Rua Barao De Itapetininga 262, s/306 Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Germania, magazine of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society. M. F. Fails, editor, 4 Fleet Street, Landore Swansea, Glam SA1 2JZ, England.

International Precancel Journal, devoted to the study of precancels of the world except those of the United States [of America]. International Precancel Study Circle, Mr. Arthur L. Guess, Editor, 2700 Bellefontaine Street, Houston, TX., 77025.

Irish Philately, the Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle. Editor, W. G. Meredith, 16 Gallwey Avenue, Birchington, Kent, England. Subscription $5.00 a year.

Liechtenstein Study Circle Bulletin, J. Beken, Secretary, 30 Lingwood Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex, England.

London Postal History Group Notebook. "Purpose to let London Postal Historians know who is researching what, to solicit aid and information and to revise previously published information." (Note Book No. 1 page 2). P. A. Forrestier Smith, 6 Church Manor, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, England.

Meter Stamp Bulletin, Journal of the Meter Stamp Study Group. John C. Mann, Secretary, 19 Chartham Road, London S.E. 35, England.

New Orleans Collector, published by The Crescent City Stamp Club, 306 Gallier Hall, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

Norden, the quarterly publication of the Hull and District Scandinavian Study Circle. Editor, Ernest H. Wise, 76 Plane Street, Hull HU3 6BX Yorkshire, England.

Persian Study Circle Bulletin. Secretary B. Lucas 99 Moseley Wood Drive, Leeds LS16 7 HD, England.

The Puffin, Newsletter of the Lundy Specialists Society. Editor B. N. D. Chinchen, 97 Chamberlayne Road, Eastleigh, Hants., SO5, 5JJ England.

The Quarterly Circular, published by the Egypt Study Circle. Peter Andreds, secretary, 149 Pickhurst Lane, Bromley, Kent, England.

Random Notes. Eire Irish Philatelic Circle Association. (Sent as a supplement to *Irish Philately.* See that publication for address).

Security and Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain. Secretary J. Rucklidege, 19 Moncrieffe Road Sheffield S71HQ, England. Subscription $2.40 per year.

The Swiss Philatelists, published by The Amateur Collector Limited, 151 Park Road, St. Johns Wood, London N. W. 8.

T. P. O., official magazine of the T. P. O. (Transit Post Offices) and Seapost Society. Mr. N. Hill editor, 62 Mile End Avenue, Hatfield Doncaster, Yorkshire, England. Subscription only with membership which is limited.

Transvaal Philatelist. "Purpose of the Transvaal Study Circle is to study Philately, Postal History, Inter Provincial usage, Railway Stamps, Revenues, Telegraphs and in fact everything connected with Transvaal except Anglo-Boer War markings and usage." (Letter dated November 1965 by Harold M. Criddle). Subscription address 23 Longcroft Avenue, Banstead Surry, England, $6.00 per year.

The Library Commitee reports the acquisition of the following:

Stamps, Bound Volumes 149-152, October 1969-September 1970. Published by H. L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y. Gift of the publisher.

History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe 1845-1875 by George E. Hargest. Smithsonian Institution Press City of Washington. 1971. 234 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

The Stamp Duty of Great Britain and Ireland Catalogue, Volume 2. Edited by Dr. Samuel B. Frank and Josef Schonfeld. Published by Dr. Frank, Mamaroneck, N. Y. 1971. 127 pages. Illustrated. Cardboard cover. Gift of the authors.

Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertungen der Deutschen Postanstalten in den Schutzgebieten und im Ausland, Volumes 1 to 3. by Albert Friedemann. Publisher, Dr. Heinrich Wittmann, Munich, Germany. 1967. 8 ring loose leaf binders. Illustrated. German text.

British Postal Stationery by A. K. Muggins. The Great Britain Philatelic Society, London, England. 1971. 188 pages. Illustrated. Hardcover.

The Royal Mail Steam Packets to Bermuda and the Bahamas 1842-1859 by M. H. Ludington and Geoffrey Osborn. Published by Robson Lowe Limited, London, England. 24 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the authors.

Guatemala, Postal Use of its Fiscal Stamps and Fiscal Use of its Postal Stamps by James C. Andrews. 1971. Published by Robson Lowe Limited, London, England. 11 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

U. S. A. Consular Post Offices in Japan by John D. and Sheila Riddell. Published by Robson Lowe Limited, London, England. 1971. 12 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Postal Service of the British Forces in Egypt 1932-1940. Edited and published by John E. O. Hobbs, Twickenham, Middlesex, England. 1970. 38 pages. Illustrated. Spiral binding. Gift of the author.

United States Postal Card Catalog, edited by Clark Stevens and Frank B. Stratton. Published by the United Postal Stationery Society. 1970. 140 pages. Illustrated. Cardboard cover. Gift of the publisher.

The Pigeon Post into Paris 1870-1871 by J. D. Hayhurst. Published by the author, Ashford, Middlesex, England. 1970. 45 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of Mr. R. G. Stone.

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Stamp Collecting by Otto Hornung. Published by Hamlyn, London, England. 1970. 319 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Suriname, A Postal History 1700-1956 by Dr. J. D. Riddell. Published with cooperation of the "Stichting Filatelie." 1969. 311 pages. Illustrated. English and Dutch text. Hard cover. Gift of the author.

PHILATOKYO '71 Catalogue, Awards List, Prospectuses. Gift of Lt. Cdr. M. E. Ruggiero.

Isle of Man Postmarks, Parts 1, 2 and 3, by A. J. P. Massy. Manx Philatelic Society, Isle of Man. 1969. 36 pages. Paperbound. Gift of the publisher.

Trade Descriptions. Edited and published by L. R. S. Publishers Ltd., London, England. 1970. Laminated cardboard cover. 61 pages. Courtesy of the publisher.

Slogan Postmarks of the United Kingdom by Cyril R. H. Parsons, Colin G. Peachy and George R. Pearson. Published by the authors, Aylesbury, England. 1970fi1971. Gift of the authors.

Canada's Registry System 1827-1911 by Horace W. Harrison. Published by the American Philately Society, Inc., State College, Penna. 84 pages. Illustrated. Hard cover. Gift of the publisher.

Retouches on the 4 cent Q. E. II Booklet Stamp by T. C. Tapp. Supplement to the Bulletin of Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society of Great Britain. 1969. 38 pages + 28 plates. Unbound. Gift of the publisher.

Danish West Indies Postal Stationery, Part 1, by Victor Engstrom. Publisher, The Scandinavian Scribe, Washington, D. C. 1971. 52 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the author.

The Forgeries of Finland by Stanley Pollard. Photocopy of articles from "Scandinavian Contact." Gift of Mr. John D. Dowd.

The General Revenue Stamps of Czechoslovakia by Josef Burianek and William Ittel. Published by William Ittel, Pittsburgh, Penna. 1971. Gift of the publisher.

Stamps a la Carte, A Philatelic Cookbook by Ruth S. Webster. Publication of The New Mexico Philatelic Association. 1971. 22 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Chicago Postal History, edited by Dr. Harvey M. Karlen. Published by The Collectors Club of Chicago under the auspices of the Clarence W. Hennan Memorial Publication Fund. 191 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Gift of the publisher.

Military Philatelic Catalogue. Edited and published by Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd., Worthing, Sussex, U. K. 1970. 26 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the publisher.

Sieger Katalog der Flugpost der Neuen Deutschen Lufthansa. Sieger Verlag, Lorch, Wuttemberg, Germany. 1970. 267 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. German text. Gift of Aero Philatelists, Inc.

Collect British Stamps, 8th Edition. Edited and published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. 40 pages. Illustrated in color. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Railway Stamps by Howard J. Burkhalter. American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1971. 83 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Stamps for Investment by Kenneth R. Lake, Pan Books Ltd., London, England 154 pages. Illustrated. Poperbound. 1969. Courtesy of the publisher.

Public Health as Reflected on Czechoslovak Philatelic Material by Vladimir Viklicky. Gesundheitswesen, 1M Spiegel Tschechslowakischen. 1971. 168 pages. Illustrated. English, German and Czech Text. Paperbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

Zumstein Spezialkatalog Schweiz/Liechtenstein 1971, XX Auflage. Zumstein & Cie., Berne, Switzerland. 738 pages. Illustrated. German text. Hard cover. Courtesy of the publisher.

Osterreich Spezialkatalog Amtliche Zahnungen 1867-1906 by Helmut Pfalz and Helmut Richter. Publisher, Dr. Helmut Pfalz, Vienna, Austria. 1969. 55 pages. Illustrated. German text. Paperbound. Gift of the authors.

Die Deutsche Päckchenfeldpost Teil der Deutschen Feldpost 1939-1945 by Hans Wimmer. Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde e. V. Schwandorf i. Bay, Germany. 1969. 86 pages. Illustrated. German text. Cardboard cover. Courtesy of the publisher.

The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia by Alec A. Rosenblum. 6th Edition. Acacia Press Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, Australia. 1968. 636 pages. Illustrated. Hard cover.

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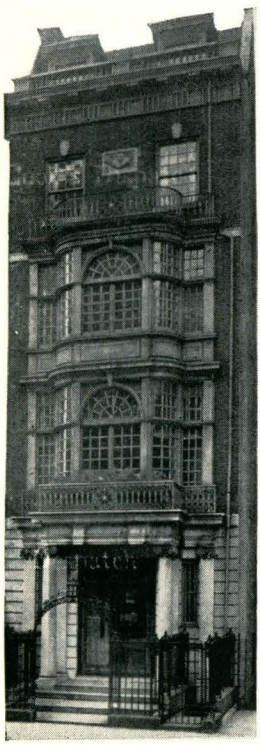
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