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Volume 57 Number 1
January 1978

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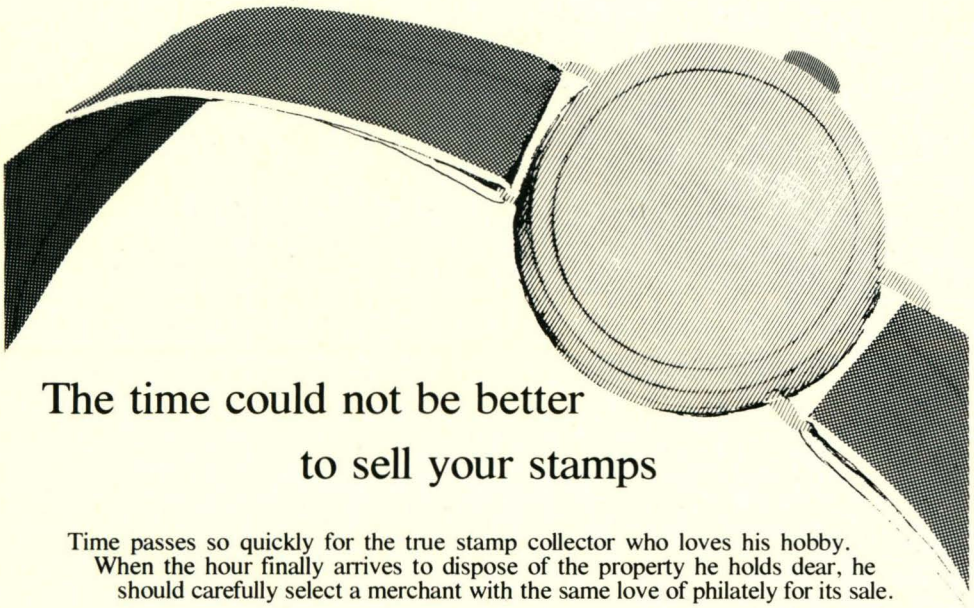
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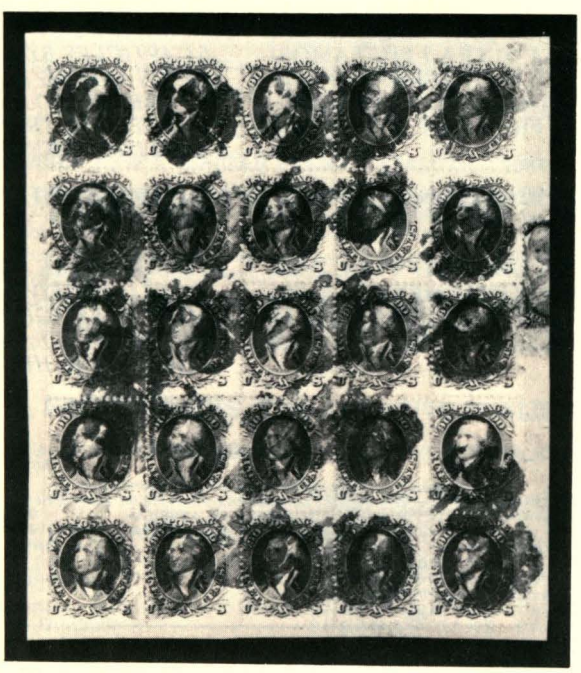
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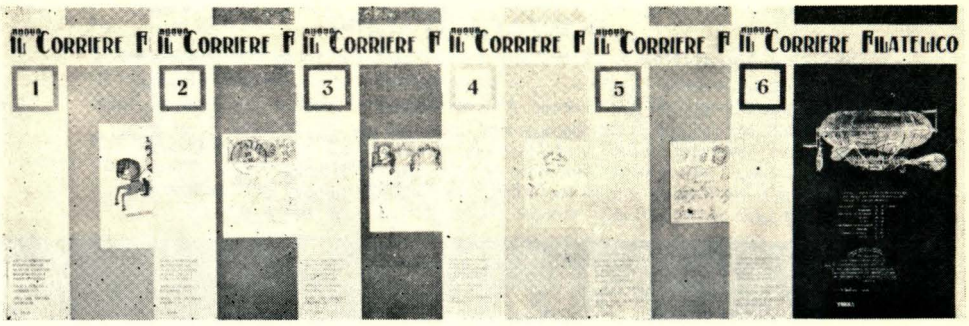


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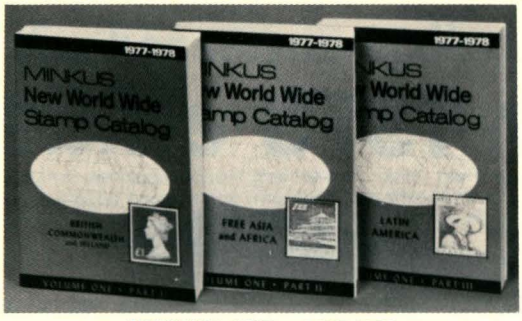
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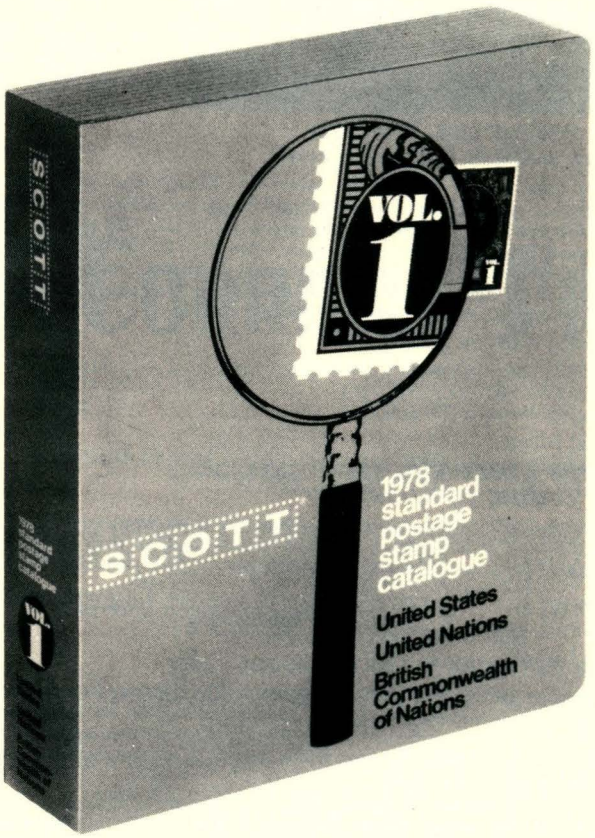
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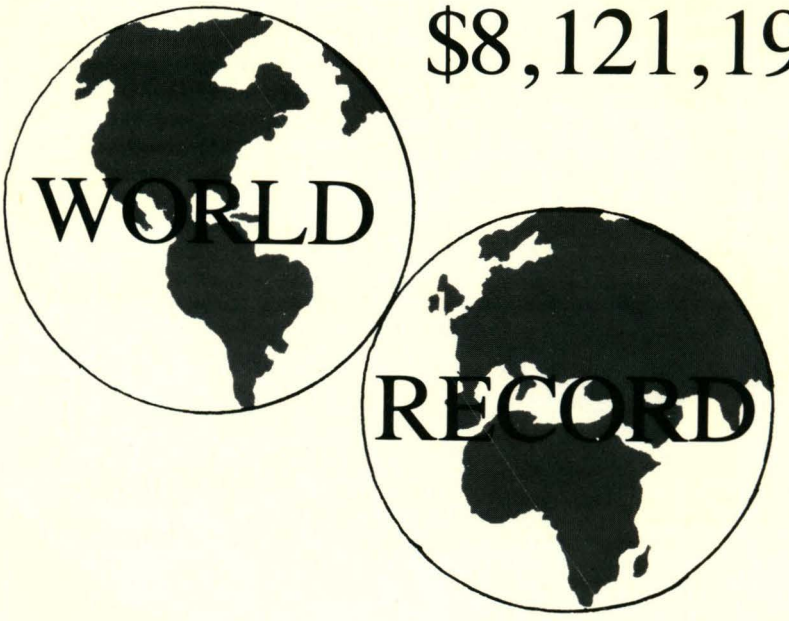
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# The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

**Volume 57, Number 1** **Contents** **January 1978**



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## 1978 PROGRAM AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **January 4** | — *EARLY U.S. POSTAL HISTORY WITH FOCUS ON NEW YORK STATE*—Calvet Hahn, New York, N.Y. |
| **January 11** | — *ANNUAL MEETING* |
| **January 18** | — *U.S. FANCY TOWN MARKS ON STAMPLESS COVERS*—David L. Jarrett, New York, N.Y. |
| **February 1** | — *TASMANIA 1828-1870*—Robert P. Odenweller, Bernardsville, N.J. |
| **February 15** | — *SELECTED INTERESTING AND RARE COVERS OF THE WORLD*—Herbert J. Bloch, New York, N.Y. |
| **March 1** | — *CANADA—The Admiral Issues*—Harry W. Lussey, Atlantis, Fla. |
| **March 15** | — *FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY.* |
| **March 29** | — *PROFESSIONALS' NIGHT*—Bernard D. Harmer, Moderator. |
| **April 19** | — *URUGUAY AIR MAILS*—Philip Silver, Elberon, N.J. |
| **May 3** | — *CHINA. Observations on Chinese collectiong interest as seen at ROCPEX-TAIWAN 78 Republic of China*—Ellery Denison, Tacoma Park, Md. |
| **May 10** | — *AWARDS DINNER.* |
| **May 17** | — *NICARGUA*—LTC Joseph M. Sousa, Wayne, Pa. |
| **June 7** | — *U.S. BLACK JACKS*—Dr. Joseph F. Ronke, Scottsdale, Arizona. |
| **June 21** | — *MAURITIUS*—Hiroyuki Kanai, Osaka, Japan. |

**SUMMER RECESS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **September 20** | — *HAITI*—Dr. Nrman S. Hubbard, Cove Neck, N.Y. |
| **October 4** | — *POSTAL HISTORY OF THE U.S. BANKNOTE ERA.*—Seymour H. Kaplan, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. |
| **October 18** | — *COLOMBIA AIR MAILS*—Bernard D. Harmer, New York, N.Y. |
| **November 1** | — *PANAMA REGISTRY STAMPS. Study by cities*—Dr. James B. Helme, Nashville, Tenn. |
| **November 15** | — *JUNIORS AND ASSOCIATES NIGHT.* |
| **December 6** | — *POSTAL HISTORY OF OUTER MONGOLIA 1870-1940*—Edward M. Tolman, New York, N.Y. |
| **December 20** | — *BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OPEN HOUSE.* |

# Editorial

## Whither Traditional Philately?

Traditional philately, the grandfather of all philatelic pursuits, is in danger. The danger, however, is not a lack of interest, but rather a too rapid proliferation of its children. Look at any international show which boasts 10,000 frames and see what proportion is devoted to the traditional collections. Yet these traditional exhibits are often the drawing cards which bring people to the show - that is to say, those who come to see the show itself rather than to buy overpromoted souvenirs or to visit the bourse.

In the last few decades we have witnessed the growth of a major sub-branch of philately - the topical/thematic - which is for most an inexpensive means to collect and exhibit stamps when the traditional approach seems out of reach. At first topical collecting was regarded benignly by the traditional as a proper possible introduction to philately and, of course, there were always those few collectors who took it more seriously and formed collections with considerable philatelic merit. These latter encouraged the traditional to feel that the movement had an ultimate common goal with its own aims. But the low cost and ease of obtaining material drew many adherents to this new approach. Then irresponsible stamp issuing entities, in recognition of the need for butterflies, birds and boats, gleefully opened the floodgates. The means became an end.

Whenever a large number of people share an interest, there is sure to be someone who will leap to organize them. The topicalists were no exception. Rules were made and judges came forth. Adjudication sheets with rigid point systems became essential, or so it seemed. After all, there were many who objected to the likelihood that a wealthy collector would sweep a show and leave them with nothing for their efforts. The emphasis on specific numbers of points for presentation and coverage with a much smaller recognition for rarity seemed the most ecumenical approach to satisfy the masses.

Then the aerophilatelists decided to form a separate section, with special aerophilatelic judges who would appreciate the problems peculiar to that pursuit. Soon after came the postal historians. Other smaller grandchildren agitated for their own separate treatment. Super-specialization had arrived.

Where was traditional philately while all this was going on? Sitting back and watching with the same attitude that many NASA scientists held about the space program - that it was so obvious to themselves how marvelous and vital their own accomplishments were that it should be obvious to everyone. Unfortunately that was far from the case in both instances. The children had grown sufficiently to fend for themselves.

The real question, then, is where traditional philately should go from here. It is sad but true that many top collectors have been discouraged by these trends and no longer have an interest in showing their exhibits. On the other hand, the thematists, aerophilatelists, and postal historians can, and indeed have, organized shows strictly for their specialties alone. Perhaps a major first step would be to encourage organizers of shows to consider having a traditional show alone, with the possibility of concurrent but separate shows for the other areas. If a sufficiently large exhibition hall could be found, or better, a cluster of halls, the separate shows could be relatively accessible to one another. The difference between this approach and that of merely having separate groupings at the same show is subtle but necessary. Rather than feel a small part, as numbers go, of a massive show, the traditional collectors could again feel that the emphasis on quality rather than quantity would make the show more meaningful.

*(Continued on page 51*




A




# TALE OF

# THREE CITIES

## Mail To Nepal from Khasa, Kerong and Kuti, Tibet

*The postal history of Nepal is both fascinating and mysterious. The specialist in this area has to undertake not only geographical research, but, also historical research if he wishes to unearth the pedigrees behind the covers of that strange country.*

**by FRANK VIGNOLA**

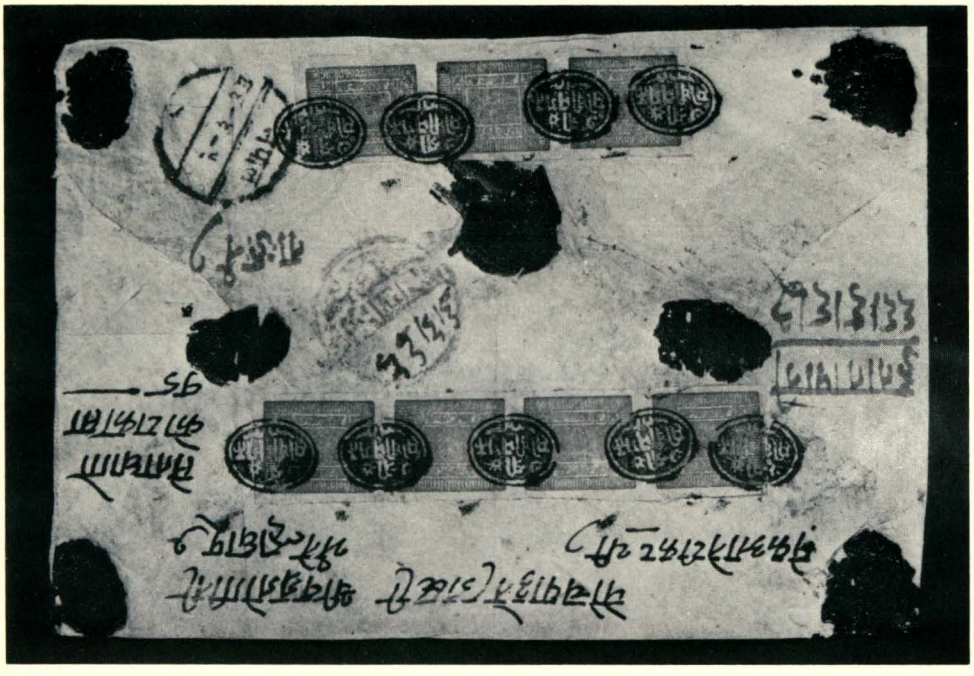
Nepal was forbidden territory for most travelers until, in the early 1950s, the country was opened to foreign visitors. Playing and important role in making that remote area accessible to outsiders were the mountain climbing expeditions to Annapurna in 1950 and later to Mount Everest. Because of this inaccessability records from the postal archives, except for the modern day period, are practically nonexistent. Thus, it is search adn research for the serious Nepal postal history specialist if he desires to understand and enjoy his covers.

Khasa, Kerong and Kuti were three towns located within the borders of Tibet, but were at various times, under the jurisdiction of Nepal. Nepalese

---

*Frank Vignola lives in San Francisco. One of the top specialists in the philately of Nepal, his book, "A Guide to Specialization in Nepal Philately," co-authored with Mac Linscott Ricketts fills a gap in the sparse literature of that tiny mountain country.*

**Above left, Kerong Court Seal; right, Kuti Court Seal.**



**Cover carried by runner from Kuti, Tibet, with manuscript postmark of Tatapani, Nepal, September 19, 1909, negative type intransit mark of Chautara, Nepal and receiving mark of (Kathmandu) Nepal. Stamps are seal cancelled.**

courts were established in these towns as early as 1895, if not before, for the purpose of protecting the interests of Nepalese traders and merchants living in Tibet and also to hold trials for crimes that they may have committed there. These courts were under the direct authority of the Nepalese Resident in Lhasa.

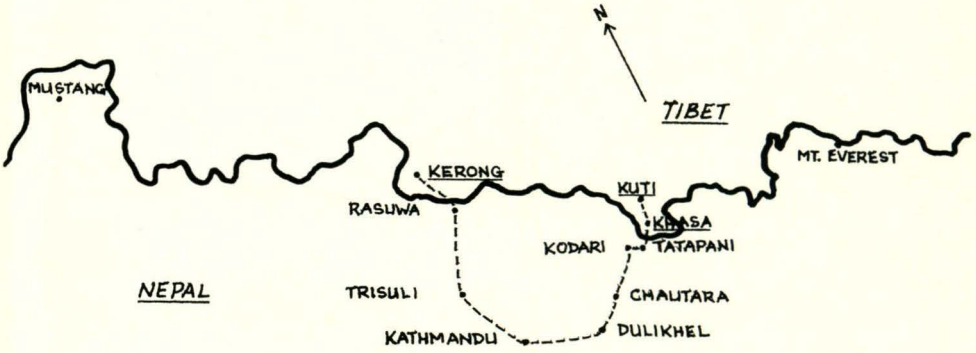
It has taken me several years to accumulate a small quantity of covers from these three towns. The few covers I have managed to locate range from stampless official covers to registered covers franked with Nepalese stamps. They are addressed to either the Foreign Ministry or to the various prime ministers or commanding generals who held power in Nepal between 1895 and 1954. In my opinion, the story uncovered by my philatelic curiosity and my philatelic research into this material is worth telling. Of course, the results of that research which follows is subject to additional information and correction.

Locating Khasa, Kerong and Kuti wasn't an easy task since most maps don't show their locations; and, on those that do their names have been changed or spelled differently over the years.

Khasa or Khassa (also possibly called Kyishong) is in Tibet near the Nepalese border above Tatapani, Nepal, on the Chinese-built road that runs from Lhasa in Tibet to Kathmandu in Nepal. It lies in the Kuti mountain pass about 5 miles north to northeast of Kodari where the main Nepalese border post office for mail between Nepal and the People's Republic of Tibet is located.

Kerong, Kyerong, Kerung or Chilung is located in Tibet above Rasuwa, the Nepalese border town in the Kerong mountain pass area leading from Tibet to Nepal. It is about 45 miles northwest of Kuti.

Kuti, Kutty, Kutti, Koti or Ch'ung-tui is located in Tibet several miles north of Khasa at an elevation of about 13,900 feet. A map dated 1892 (corrected by the




**Location of Kerong, Kuti and Khasa.**

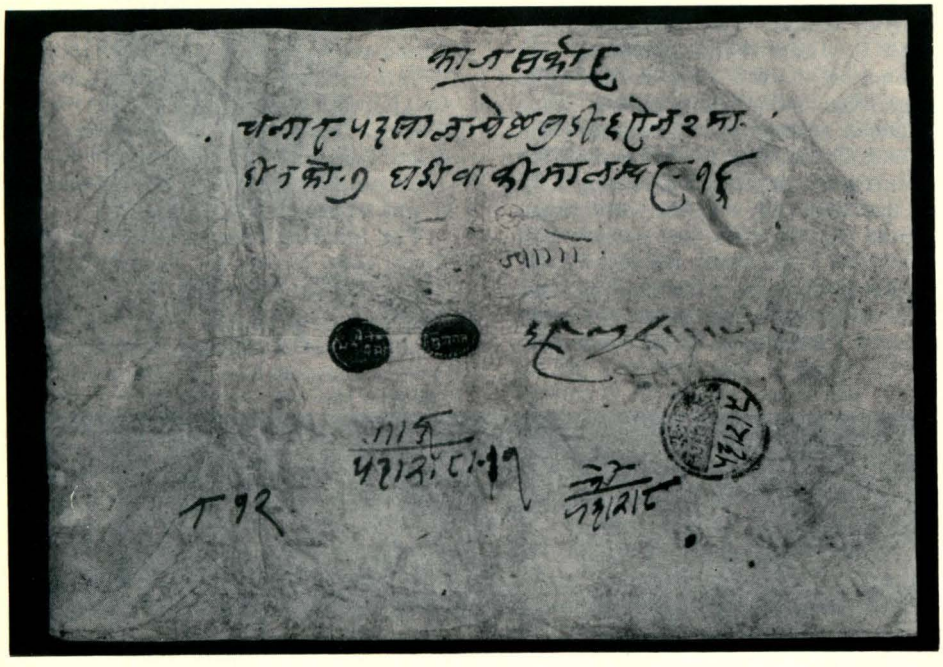
1902 British-India Survey) claims it is also known as Nilam Jong, and is located on the Bhotia Kosi. A 1970 map shows Nyalam Dzong about 45 miles southeast of Kyerong Dzong. Kuti is now called Nyalamu, and covers from Tibet with stamps of the People's Republic of China cancelled Nyalamu have been frequently sent to Nepal since the Chinese overran Tibet in the 1950s. This means, no doubt, that Nepal lost its jurisdiction of Kuti and Kerong with the Chinese takeover. My latest Nepalese covers from these three towns are postmarked 1954.

So far, only a few covers from Khasa have been located. Since they are postmarked 1895 and 1896, I can only guess that the Khasa Court moved from Khasa to Kuti around 1896. Seemingly, the Kuti Court had jurisdiction over the Nepalese born by Tibetan fathers and mothers, while the Kerong Court had jurisdiction over the Tibetan born by Napalese fathers and mothers.

The historical setting of Khasa, Kerong and Kuti goes back to 1769 when Prithivi Narayan, the first recognized King of Nepal, conquered the region as far north as the Tibetan mountian passes of Kerong and Kuti. Again in 1788 and 1791 the Nepalese invaded the provinces of Kerong and Kuti, but were driven out by the Chinese in 1792. As a result they were required to send a tribute mission to China every five years.

Much to the dismay of the Nepalese, the Tibetans harassed Nepalese tribute missions when they travelled through Tibet on their way to Peking, China. Worse, the Tibetans abused Nepalese merchants and traders living in Tibet by not allowing them to trade freely in Tibet. The two grievances, plus the desire of Nepal to repossess the mountain passes of Kerong and Kuti, were brought to a head in 1854 when Nepal declared war against Tibet.

A settlement was reached by the Treaty of Thapatali that same year. A Nepal Residency was established in Lhasa and eventually Nepalese jurisdictional courts were established in Khasa, Kerong and Kuti not only for the purpose of holding trials for Nepalese merchants and traders who had committed crimes in



**Registered stampless cover carried by runner from Khasa, Tibet with manuscript postmark of Tatapani, Nepal, May 21, 1896, and manuscript intransit mark of Chautara, Nepal and negative intransit mark of Dhulikhel, Nepal to Kathmandu.**

Tibet, but also to see that they received the fair and just treatment not given them by the Tibetan courts. As a result, Nepalese traders and merchants were allowed to reside and trade freely in Tibet. Duty-free entry of Nepalese goods was permitted and Tibet agreed to pay an annual tribute of 10,000 rupees to Nepal.

The situation changed in 1950 when Tibet was occupied by China. Tibet stopped sending the annual tribute payment to Nepal in 1952, the Nepalese colony in Lhasa lost its privileges and Nepalese trade suffered severe restrictions. In 1959, the revolution brought about further trade restrictions between Nepal and Tibet. They have never returned to their former extent. Since that time, the Tibetan frontier has been closed towards the south by a series of military stations, and the Kerong and Kuti jurisdictional courts no longer exist.

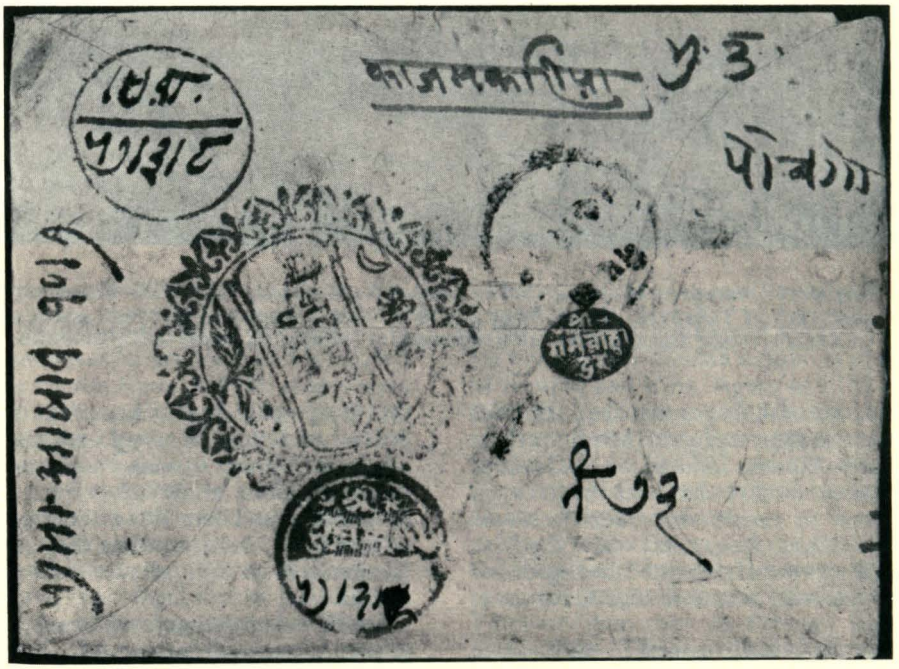
Now that we have an understanding of the geographical and historical background of Khasa, Kerong and Kuti we are in a position to make a reasonably knowledgeable study of covers from these towns in Tibet. We will begin with covers from Khasa, because they date as the earliest of my jurisdictional court covers.

Recently, after much searching, I was able to locate a few covers sent from the Khasa Court in Tibet to Kathmandu, Nepal. To the best of my knowledge, covers from the Khasa Court had not been recorded previously. All were postmarked in either 1895 or 1896 and were carried by runner from Khasa across the Nepalese-Tibetan border where they were put into the native Nepalese postal system at either Tatapani, Nepal or Chautara, Nepal. All are registered stampless official covers. They bear the personal handstamped seals of the senders, and have handwritten Tibetan inscriptions next to the seals which indicate, according to my corre-

spondent in Nepal, they were sent from the Khasa Court. Inscribed on the front of the covers it also states that they were sent from Khasa. The covers are addressed to either Prime Minister Bir Shumsher or to the Jaisi Kotha (The Foreign Ministry) in Kathamandu. Since there doesn't seem to be any covers from the Khasa Court after 1896 it is possible the Court was transferred to nearby Kuti about that time. My earliest Kuti covers are dated shortly after this period, and the Kuti Court Seal bears the date 1896.

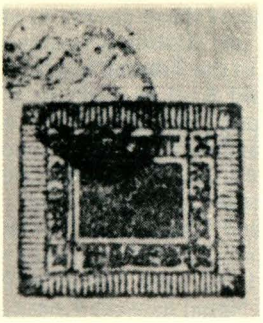
My earliest covers from Kerong date back to 1897. All show about the same routing to Kathmandu. They were carried by courier or runner from Kerong, across in the Nepalese-Tibetan border to the nearest border post office, Rasuwa in Nepal. There they were processed into the native Nepalese postal system stampless cover does not have the usual ornate, large round Kerong Court Seal handstamped on it, but subsequent covers do. All of these covers were marked official and registered. All have the handstamped personal seal of the sender. My most recent Kerong Court cover is postmarked 1936. However, the Kerong Court could have remained in existence until the 1950s when the Chinese overran Tibet. The 1936 cover differs from my earlier Kerong covers in that it does not have the intransit mark of Trisuli, Nepal. The same ornate, large round Kerong Court handstamped seal is a prominent feature on the 1936 cover as it was on the earlier ones.

The most interesting of the jurisdictional court covers are those from Kuti, Tibet. A few covers from Kuti have been recorded franked with Nepalese stamps but most are stampless covers marked official and sent registered, similar to those covers from Khasa and Kerong.



**Registered stampless cover carried by runner from Kerong, Tibet, with manuscript postmark of Rasuwa, Nepal, June 21, 1900, and with negative type intransit mark of Trisuli, Nepal and receiving mark of (Kathmandu) Nepal.**

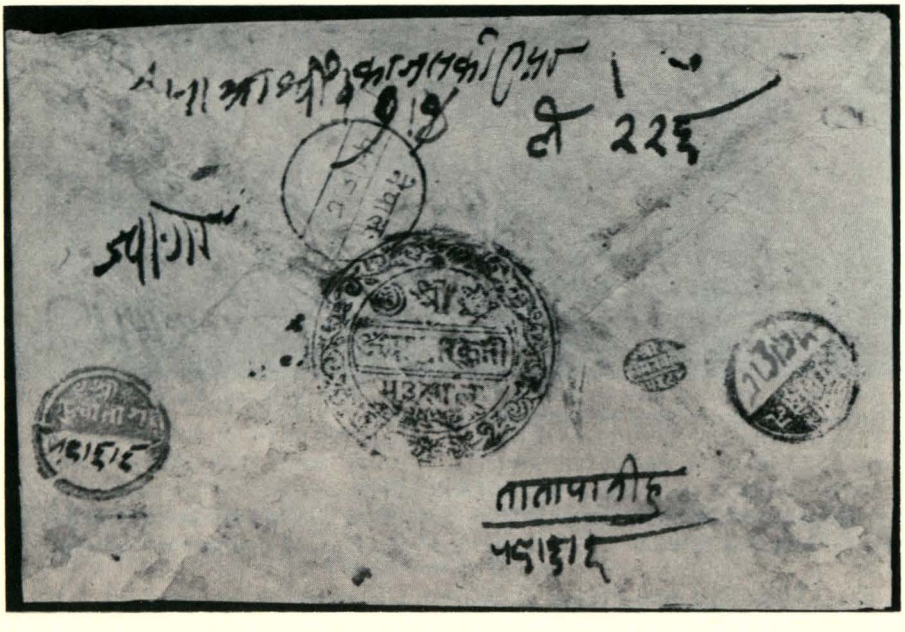
My earliest Kuti covers are dated from 1902 to 1904. They are handstamped with the sender's personal seal as well as with the ornate, large round seal of the Kuti Court, and are stampless official registered covers. All are addressed to Commander-in-Chief Bhim Shumsher at the Foreign Ministry in Kathmandu. The only differences between my early Kuti



**This seal has been seen cancelling the stamps of two covers from Kuti, Tibet in 1904 and 1907, according to the book "The native Postmarks of Nepal". Since the inscriptions do not include the word "Hulak" (Post Office), the seal is probably the postmaster's private seal.**

covers is that a 1904 cover has no in-transit marks. My most recent Kuti cover was postmarked in 1954, which should be pretty close to the time when Nepal lost its jurisdictional courts in Kerong and Kuti to the Chinese. The 1954 cover is similar to my early Kuti covers, even including the large round handstamped seal of the Kuti Court.

The most unusual as well as the scarcest covers from Kuti are those franked with Nepalese stamps. My favorite Kuti cover is the one pictured at the beginning of the article. This 1909 registered cover is franked with a strip of 4 and a strip of 3 of the 1 anna crossed kukris recut frame variety stamp. The writing at the top of the cover translates to registered acknowledgment due, 7 seals (wax) of Sri Rajrajogini, and 7 stamps of 1 anna. The 2 strips of stamps are tied to the cover by 9 handstamped oval seals which read Sri Sidhi Bhagaka, which is probably the private seal of the Kuti postmaster. However, they could be the personal seal of the sender. The cover is addressed to Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Jung at Kathmandu, and is marked as being sent from Kuti on the front. The large Kuti Court Seal was not applied to this cover. I am of the opinion that the 7 Nepalese stamps were put on the cover at Kuti and tied to the cover with the postmaster's private seal. I also believe that the 7 wax seals are those of the sender. W. C. Hellrigl has a similar, but unregistered cover from Kuti bearing a single 4 pice Sri Pashupati



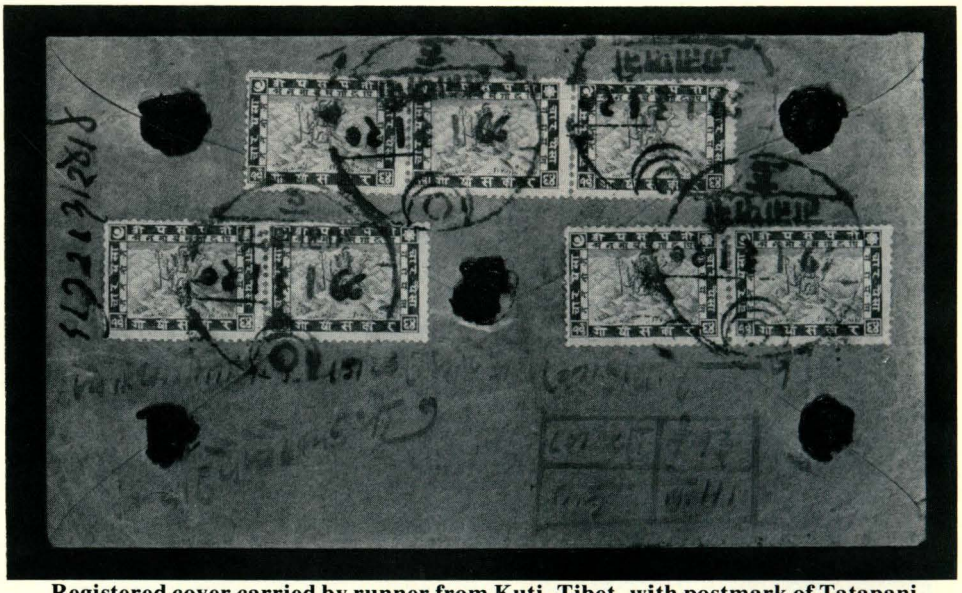
**Registered stampless cover carried by runner from Kuti, Tibet, with manuscript postmark of Tatapani, Nepal, September 19, 1902, and negative type intransit marks of Chautara, Nepal and Dhulikhel, Nepal and receiving mark of (Kathmandu) Nepal.**

stamp, via Tatapani, Nepal to Kathmandu.

My final Kuti cover of interest is a 1921 cover addressed to Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Jung at Kathmandu. It is indicated on the cover that it was franked with 7 stamps of the 4 pice value. These stamps were most probably applied to the cover at Kuti. The letter then was carried by runner and posted and registered at the border post office of Tatapani, Nepal. I imagine the sender indicated on the letter that he had applied the Nepalese postage before turning it over to the runner at Kuti. A. E. Singer has a similar but unregistered 1921 cover from Kuti bearing a single 4 pice Sri Pashupati stamp, via Tatapani, Nepal to Kathmandu.

We believe, through the foregoing, that we have given sufficient evidence via the use of these covers to show that Nepalese jurisdictional courts were established in the Tibetan towns of Khasa, Kerong and Kuti as early as 1895 and existed until at least 1954 after the Chinese takeover of Tibet. According to my research, Nepalese courts were in the Tibetan cities of Lhasa and probably Gyantse and Shigatse. However that is another story since these cities were not conquered and were not under the jurisdiction of Nepal as were Khasa, Kerong and Kuti at different times in their past.

Acknowledgements are due Dr. W. C. Hellrigl, Dr. A. E. Singer, Dr. F. E. Vignola and N. G. Rajkarnikar for their invaluable help in making this article possible. All were most willing to pass on their original research and philatelic knowledge on the subject as well as to help me translate and interpret the stories behind my covers. My thanks to them.



**Registered cover carried by runner from Kuti, Tibet, with postmark of Tatapani, Nepal, January 3, 1921 to Kathmandu, Nepal.**

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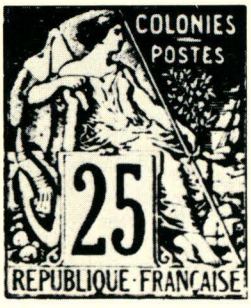
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# *FRENCH COLONIES, 1881-1891,*




## *The Alphée Dubois Issue*

### *The Evolution of a Stamp and Its Use*

*Continued from page 360, Vol. 56, No. 6, Nov. 1977*

**by Robert G. Stone**

#### The Annual Printings

The procedure calling for annual requisitions from each colony for its stamp requirements for the next year, was apparently followed throughout the Dubois period. Requisitions were due in September and the stamps were usually shipped out between December and February. The first printings were distributed later than usual (April?).
usual (April?).

Dr. R. Joany has been trying since 1970 to identify the existence and characteristics of each annual printing of each denomination. Unable to find archival documentation as to which printings and denominations were sent to which colonies, in what quantities and when, he has resorted to an analysis of postmarked copies. For some more commonly used denominations—5c, 15c, 25c—he has recognized 11 printings from 1881 to 1891, some with decidedly characteristic shades of ink and paper, others with only subtle and variable ones and hence uncertain. Some printings are not found from every colony in existence, as might be expected. The shades of some years seem to agree with those of French stamps of the same year. He has not felt his results are sufficiently definitive yet to publish. The approach is of course plagued with the difficulty that stamps cancelled in a given year could have come from any one of the previous printings. Nevertheless, from sample copies Dr. Joany sent me, I was able to identify most of the printings of 5c, 15c and 25c in my material from St. Pierre-Miquelon; also, I could verify that the surcharges of St. Pierre of 1885-92 were made on a wide variety of printings (see my article in *CCP* Jan-March 1972).

#### The Dubois in Service

Estimates presented in our previous study (*CCP*, 1959), suggested that probably somewhere between 25 and 50 million Dubois stamps were printed, of which about 5 million were in turn overprinted or surcharged. The lower denominations must have been issued in 2 to 5 millions each, and the 25c (used on most foreign destination letters) in about 7 or 8 million. All colonies existent by 1890 received supplies, though not necessarily all denominations. Those

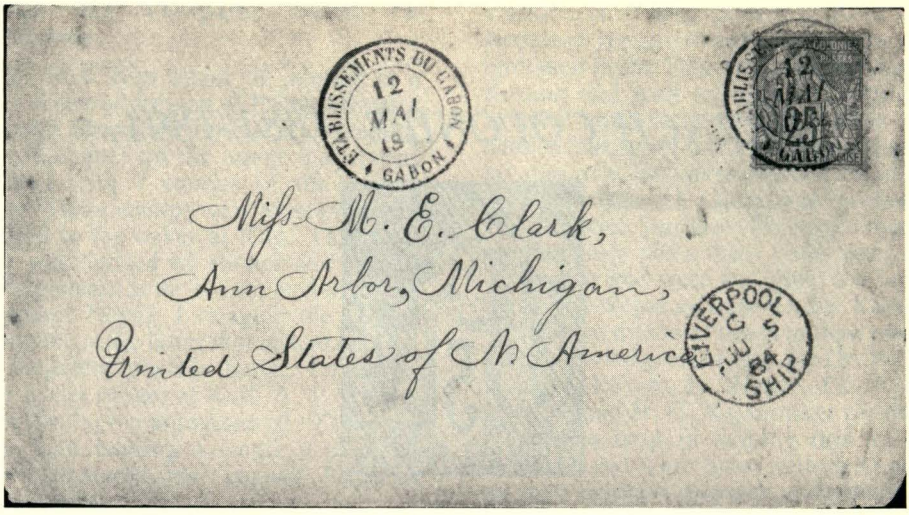



**Fig. 18. From Gabon (Libreville) 1884 to Michigan, with 25c yellow. Usage from Gabon before 1890 is very rare.**

colonies in Africa and Madagascar first established in the mid-or late 1880s had opportunity to use only small quantities. But 12 of the older colonies were stocked with them for the full decade 1881-91. Because of the growing population and commerce and the addition of new colonies in this period, the overall postal traffic was much greater than in the preceding two decades of stamp use. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Dubois stamps, mint and used off cover, are far commoner than the previous issues. But, as we noted in 1959, the Dubois on cover seem to be less plentiful than with the earlier issues, or perhaps almost on a par with the Sage issue. Apparently fewer archives of correspondence from the 1880s were saved and collectors did not show interest in Dubois on cover (until recent years). After UPU began the postal rates were lowered so that high frankings became infrequent and the higher denominations (30c to 1fr) not so




**Fig. 19. From Pondichery, French India, to France, with 25c yellow, postmarked Caledonia, to London, 1888. French mail packet sorter's Ligne T. Transit mark. Dubois are not common on cover from New Caledonia, and off cover rare from any places other than Noumea. The use of combinations (10 + 15) or multiples (5 x 5) to make up the 25c rate is often seen.**




**Fig. 20. From Pondichery, French India, to France, with 25c yellow, postmarked 11 June 1881. A very early use of the Dubois since the colony had probably only received its stock in May. Blue postmark. The Dubois are rather common from Pondichery but very rare from the other French India towns (Karikal, Chandernagore, Mahé, Yanaon).**

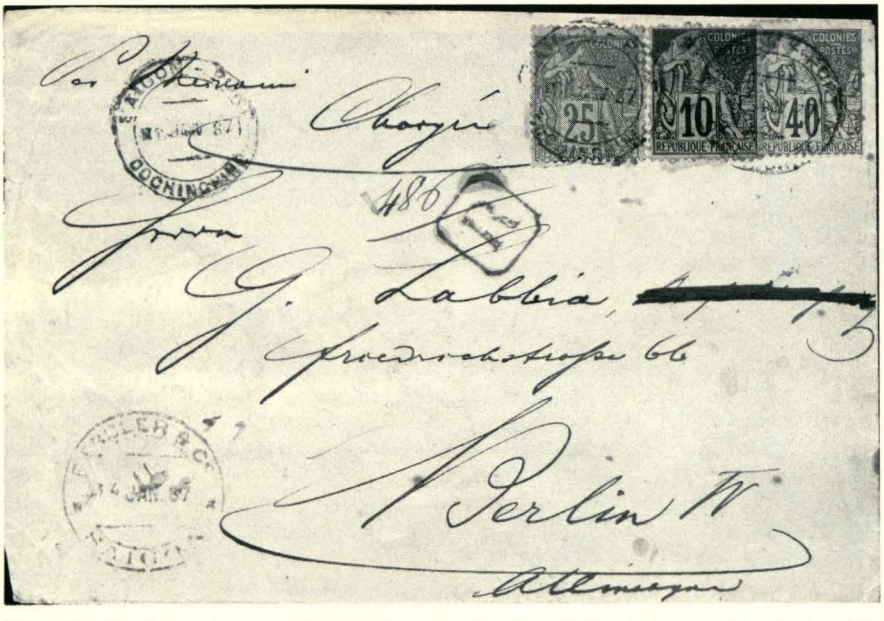



**Fig. 21. Registered cover Saigon-Port to Berlin, 1887, 75c rate franked with combination of 25c yellow, 10c, and 40c—a double-weight letter (50c) + 25c registry fee. The 40c stamp is seldom seen as a single on cover (2 x 20c for double local rate), but mainly used for higher frankings in combinations or multiples, and even thus a very scarce item. The use of Dubois from Indochina is frequent on covers mailed on French packets, with Ligne T and Ligne N postmarks.**

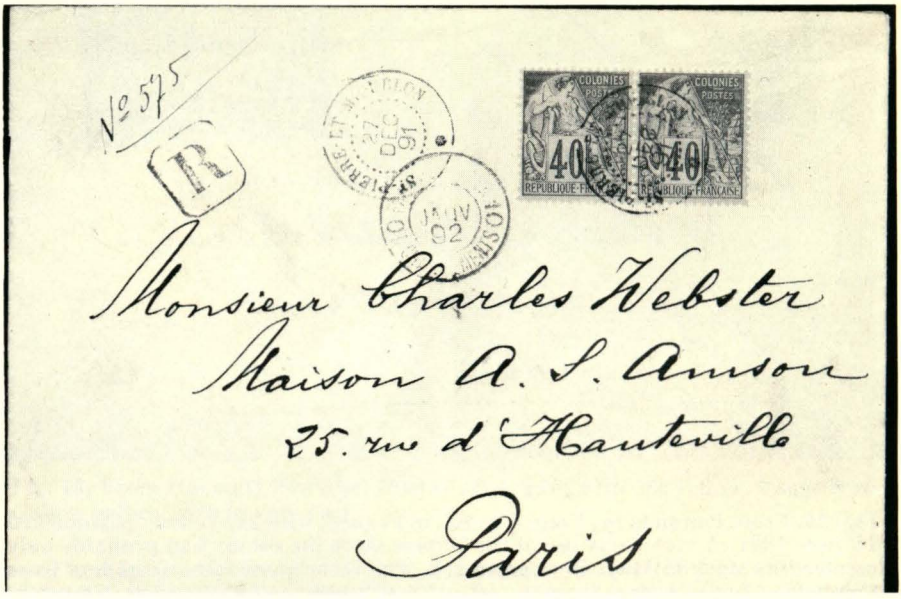



**Fig. 22. Very unusual franking on a registered letter with pair of 40c, St. Pierre-Miquelon to Paris 1891. Actually the rate was 75c so it was overpaid 5c, probably because the sender happened to have 40c stamps. The 40c is an excellent value on which to show cancels as the black ink contrasts well with the light orange color—the 25c yellow likewise.**

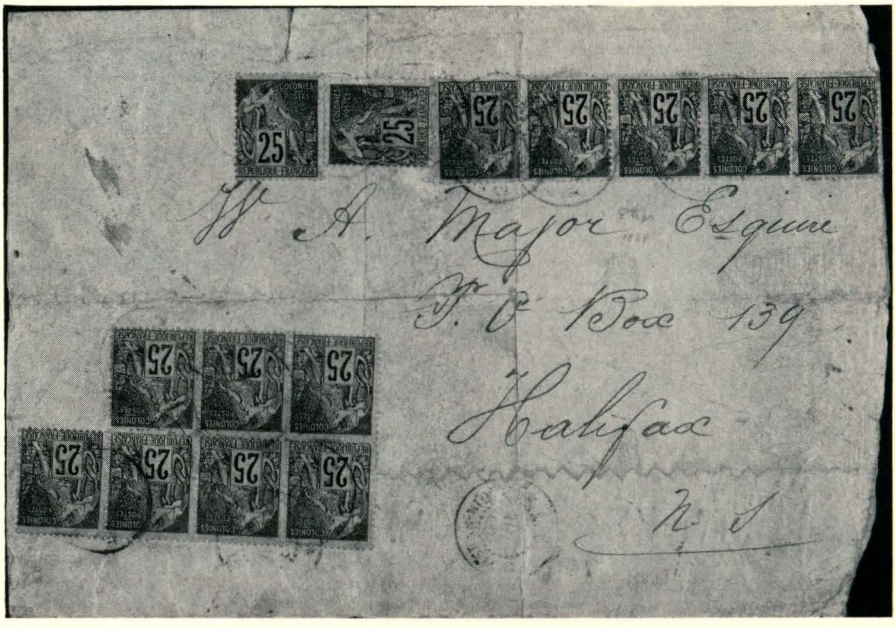



**Fig. 23. A very heavy non-philatelic letter of 14 weights, franked with 14 x 25c Dubois (black) (= 3.50fr!), St. Pierre to Halifax 1889.**

often needed, at least on ordinary letters. The simplified postal-rate structure did not call for many combinations of denominations nor uses of multiples that characterized the pre-1878 period. Although the number of post offices in the colonies steadily increased through the 19th Century, it took an especially big jump in the 1880s. By 1891 they totalled about 390. The number of different postmarks, including military, ship, and other special types, theoretically available for use on Dubois stamps approached 500. But a majority of the post offices were small and their marks more or less rare.

In my 1959 *CCP* article and revised in an article in *France & Cols. Phil.* #146,

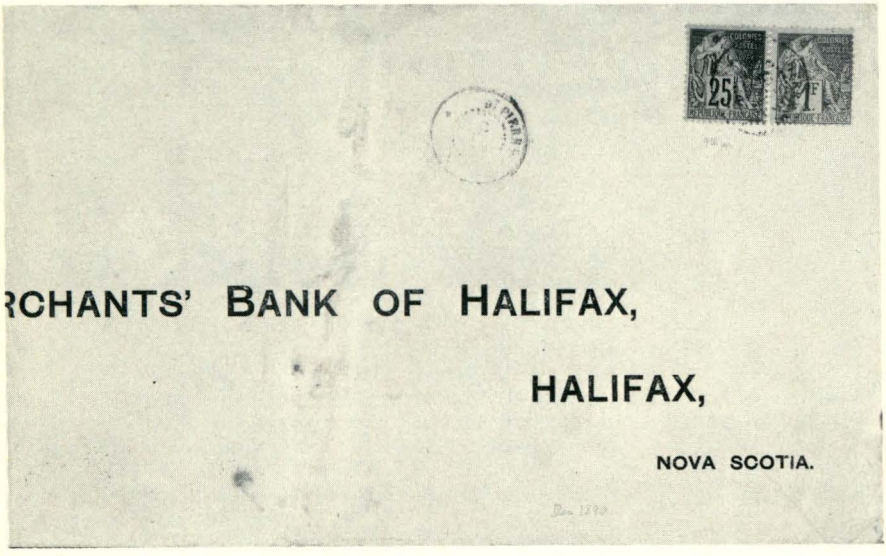



**Fig. 24. The 1fr is a "difficult" stamp on cover; here on a heavy bank mail envelope from St. Pierre with 25c added to make 5 weights, 1.25c rate, 1890. Heavy letters were more often franked with multiples of the 25c instead of the 75c and 1fr stamps, which few people would keep on hand.**

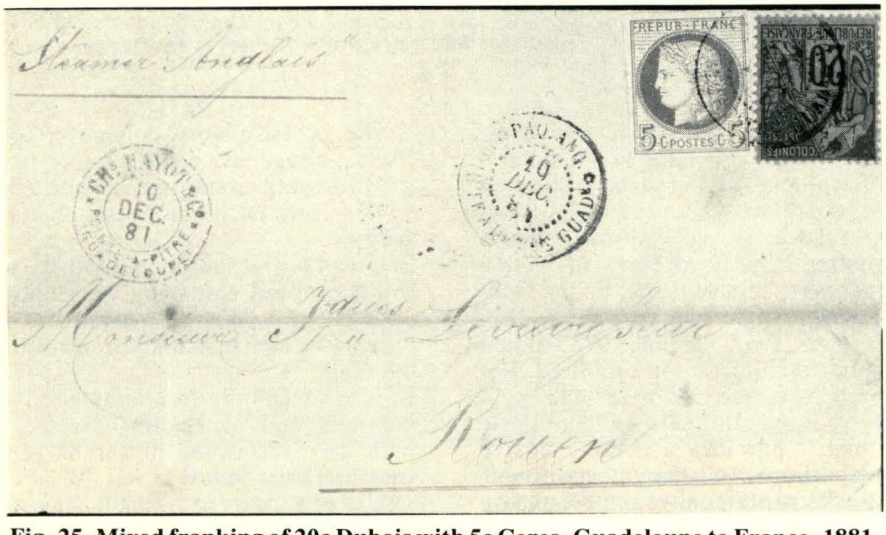



**Fig. 25. Mixed franking of 20c Dubois with 5c Ceres, Guadeloupe to France, 1881. A combination with Ceres would be most unusual (if not philatelic) from most coloniès, but in Guadeloupe large stocks of Ceres were still on hand and freely used till ca. 1885.**

Oct. 1971, tables show my rating of the relative scarcity of use of each Dubois stamps in each colony; the ratings refer to cancellations on stamps off cover and are largely influenced by the occurrences from the few main post offices.

From the philatelic or postal-history point of view a particular interest attaches to the cancellations of smaller postoffices and of colonies of limited postal traffic, as well as to the special-purpose types of cancels. An alphabetical finding-list of wordings in all the postmarks (except of ships) on the General Issues, which will be published in the *Fr. Cols. Phil.* for Jan. 1978, should be useful to collectors in this field. For the French packet postmarks the great work of Raymond Salles, "La Poste Maritime," provides a comprehensive catalog—almost as many "maritime" marks as terrestrial ones can be found on the Dubois! A number of oddities and curiosities will also turn up, such as late uses of the "lozenge" obliterators (in Guadeloupe, Reunion, Senegal) and accidental strikes of auxiliary cachets such as "R," "AR," "BM," registry-label handstamps, etc. Some uses in France are known and foreign arrival marks (from ship-letters) occur. (See my article in *Jn. Fr. and Cols. Phil. Soc.* of Gr. Br., #108).




**Fig. 26. Since the Dubois immediately followed the Sage issue one might expect combinations of them not to be especially rare. However, they seem to be very exceptional. The example here, the 25c yellow with 75c Sage (a rare stamp on any cover!) is one of very few we have any record of. From the postmaster at St. Pierre-Miquelon, 1886, who probably had a few single 75c left over after the sheet stock was surcharged in Dec. 1885.**

The postal-history collection of the Dubois usage must take cognizance of the following important categories:—

1) Use from each colony supplied with Dubois.

2) Use of postal stationery, both the local formula postal cards and the stationery with Dubois vignette printed on them (1885-91), when actually transmitted in the mail.

3) Use of Dubois in combination with previous and succeeding issues, and with the overprinted or surcharged issues of 1880s-90s.

4) Use of various common postage rates for different types of mail (letters, printed matter, registered, foreign and internal destinations).

5) Use of overprinted Dubois, with proper




**Fig. 27. Combinations with the overprinted or surcharged issues are not unusual, though they tend to be philatelic. This one from French Guiana 1887 is very exceptional on several counts: it is the only commercial cover we know of with the Guiana 1886-88 surcharges, and the 35c rate (to U.S.) was a rare special one for sea mail by merchant vessels permitted by UPU but seldom applied (25c UPU plus 10c maritime surcharge).**

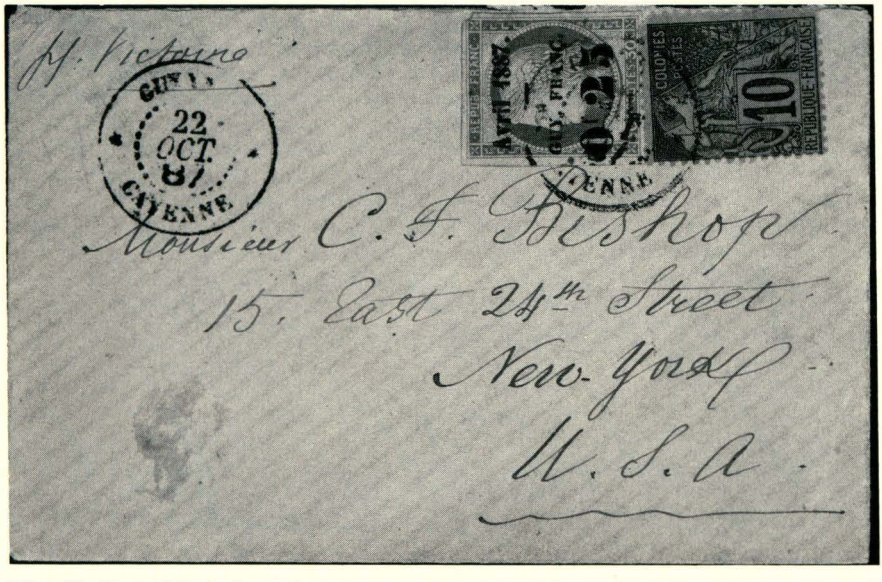



**Fig. 28. Use of Dubois on letters posted on board French mail packets, although only French stamps were sold on them, occurred often because people in colonial ports posted at the docks or carried colonies stamps on board. This cover with 25c yellow is postmarked (in blue) "Col. Fr./Paq. Fr. D No 1" (Salles #1514), April 1886. Ligne D at that time called at Guadeloupe and Martinique.**

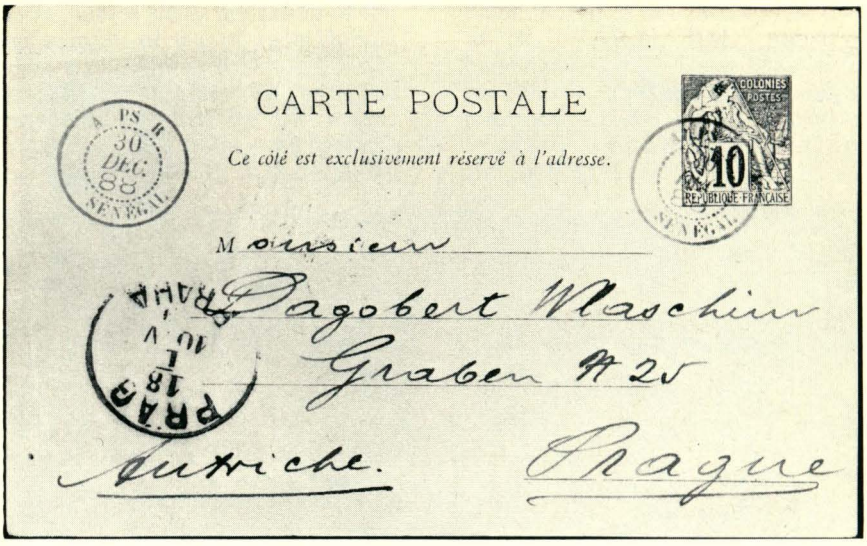



**Fig. 29. From 1885 to 1895 Senegal colony operated a mailboat calling at ports and river mouths along the coast from St. Louis south to Freetown. A postal agent on board cancelled covers with a postmark reading "A PS R/ Senegal" (Aviso Postal Service Rivières/ Sénégal, meaning "mailboat postal service to Southern-Rivers district of Senegal"). Here, a Dubois 10c post card from Rio Nunez, 1888, to Prague—an extremely rare usage on cover (see article by Stone, *Amer. Phil. Congress Book* 1960, repr. *Fr. Cols. Phil.* #115).**

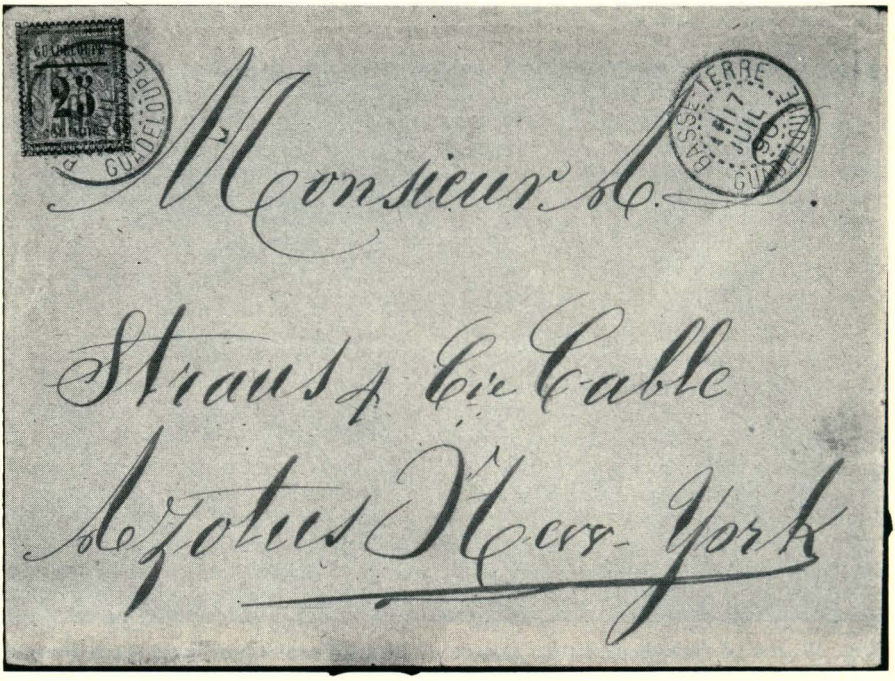



**Fig. 30. The numerous surcharges of new values on the Dubois made during the 1884-91 period in various colonies are not easy to find on strictly commercial covers, especially on local mail. The 15 on 20c of Senegal 1887 is here used properly on business correspondence from Rufisque to Thies, Senegal, April 1887. (See article Stone on the provisional surcharges, CCP, v. 49 #5-6, v. 50, #1.**




**Fig. 31. Letter posted on the daily mail wagon that ran between Pointe-a-Pitre and Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe. Addressed to Petit-Bourg from somewhere en route near Pointe-a-Pitre. The "B M" in oval (for Boite Mobile) signifies it was dropped in the movable box hung on the wagon. Normally the stamp would be postmarked at the next postoffice which the wagon passed; in this case, the postmarking of the stamp was overlooked and it was later pen crossed. Pointe-a-Pitre postmark was struck on face in lower left, and Petit-Bourg postmark on back, both on 12 May 1886—1886 was about the first year that the BM mark was used.**

frankings in the correct period
6) Use for military franchise mail
7) Use on the French mail packets

Illustrated herewith are examples of covers of these categories. Obviously of postal-history interest, these are now by force of philatelic trends becoming "classics" too.

The illustrations are arranged in the order of the following postal classes: printed matter, cards, letter cards, letter rates, registry, French packets, Boite Mobile, combinations or mixed frankings, and overprints and surcharges. The captions will point out where many of them belong also to the categories listed above.

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# SAMOA

## The Palm Trees Issues, 1886-1900

By Robert Odenweller

*Continued from page 374, Vol. 56, No. 6, Nov. 1977*

### ROUTES AND THE POST OFFICE

One of the chronic problems of many postal history researchers, the numbers, locations, openings, and closings of post offices, is almost nonexistent with regard to the Palm Trees issues. Davis had a single post office in apia, probably with native assistance, and it remained his sole post office throughout, with a brief closure after the fire. Local mail is possible, though none has been recorded. The numbers of literate inhabitants of Apia was quite small and they would certainly have gone to see one another rather than write a letter. This is particularly likely, as any letter would have to be both taken to the Post Office as well as called for there by the recipient, since delivery was neither known nor likely. It might be helpful to reemphasize that the Davis Post Office did not have any authority outside of Apia.[56]

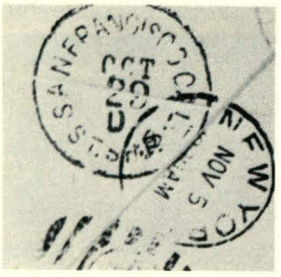
Routes are again a subject of little concern to the postal history of Samoa. Since essentially all mail was directed to foreign destinations, Davis was quite dependent on the comings and goings of ships which could carry his mail, generally to either San Francisco or Auckland, there to be directed to onward destinations as necessary. That Davis was at the mercy of the sailing schedules is a great help to the researcher in making it possible to consult the sailing lists to tell if a date was possible. Some of these are published in pertinent sections of Volume V of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand. As a general rule, it appears that Davis kept all his mail and postmarked it on the day of the sailing.

### TRANSIT MARKINGS

Transit markings may be regarded of some greater consequence than the Post Office and routes. Most of the mail passing through San Francisco and Auckland received the usual transit mark on the reverse. In San Francisco, the four usual marks were "San Francisco Cal St. Ship.," "San Francisco Cal F.D.," "San Francisco Cal Paid All," and "San Francisco Cal Rec'd." (Fig. 60A, B, C, D) In a number of cases these are the only sources of year dates on a cover. Often, however, even these markings do not show the year and the earlier mentioned technique for determination of year date must be used. Transit marks are usually found for New York and London, with receiving marks in evidence on most mail to England and Europe.

An area of great interest and collected as a specific subject itself, is the New Zealand Marine Post Office markings. Applied by the crews of contract mail steamers, these markings are first recorded to appear on Palm Trees covers as early as 1895. Colors of these marks are red, magenta, green, blue, blue grey, and black. It is curious to note that some of the Alameda and Mariposa covers from Samoa have been seen with correct Apia dates, but the dates of the New Zealand Marine Post Office date-stamps correspond with the times of departure of these ships from Auckland, the date of this transit mark having been unchanged since departure.[57]

[56] See footnote 4 for full decree.
[57] op. cit. Vol. V, p. 712



A



B



C (1)



C (2)



D

**Fig. 60 A, B, C, D. The four most commonly seen San Francisco transit marks from the earliest Palm Trees period.**

A unique mark "Damaged by Immersion in Sea Water" in a single lined rectangle is known on a postcard mailed 22 Feb 1899. (Fig. 61). The stamp impression printed on the card itself appears to have "run" almost as though the ink were partially dissolved. The clue to how the card became damaged is suggested by another card mailed the same day. (Fig. 62). It shows marks of burning at the right and top, in a pattern which suggests that it was in the middle of a packet of cards and letters, not quite evenly stacked up. Imagine, then, that the mail bag caught fire and was quickly doused with sea water to put the fire out. The first cover might well have been at the bottom of the packet and soaked by the sea water which caused the printed "stamp" to run. After the fire was out, the person or mail officer, noticing the affected cards, could have applied the "Damaged by . . ." marking to them. The burnt card missed the honor as it was not damaged by the sea water as such, and there was no ready handstamp to cover the contingency of burning. This seems to be a likely enough explanation which should stand until a better one may be forthcoming.

Forwarding and redirecting marks are most in evidence on the earlier mentioned philatelic "Hawkins" correspondence. The marks, however, are the same as they would have been on commercial mail of the same sort on the same day. The reverse of the Hawkins cover (Fig. 63) illustrates the amount of handling and accounting accorded registered mail in 1894.

Two of the rarest items of Palm Trees postal history are the triple franked Robert Louis Stevenson cover (see Fig. 45) and the triple franked fragment of newspaper (Fig. 64). Both resulted from forwarding, the account of the Stevenson cover having been related in the Collectors Club Philatelist. The newspaper fragment, from the written "Litchfield Road, Kew Gardens" of the readdressing, appears to have been to Hawkins but is a most desirable item in any case. The reverse of the Stevenson cover (Fig. 65) shows the Glasgow and Edinburgh marks, the latter appearing twice, six days apart. In the interim the cover had been taken to Mumbles in South Wales where the re-entry into the mail was made.




**Fig. 61. "Damaged by Immersion in Sea Water" is a mark not known on any other Palm Trees cover.**

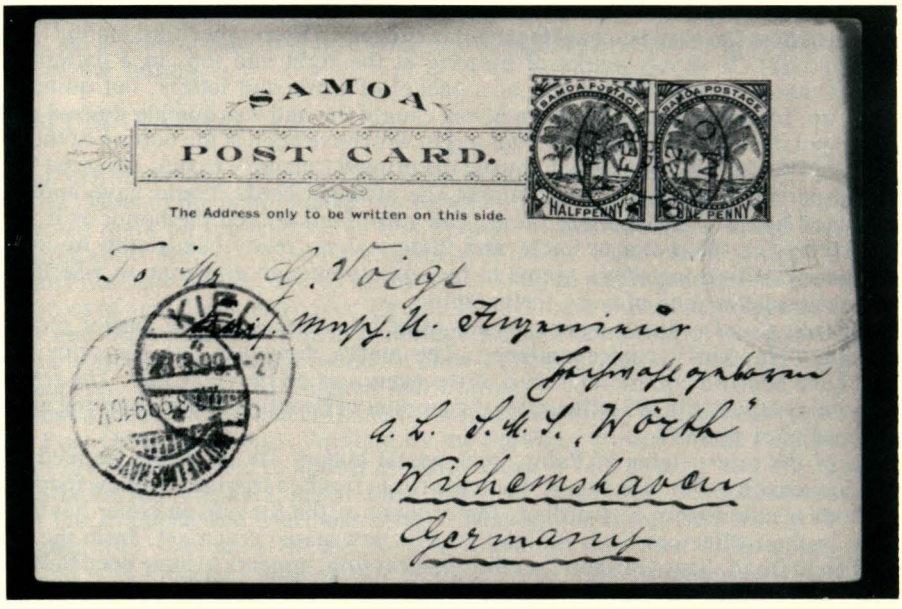



**Fig. 62. The burnt area at the top and right of this card provides a clue to the reason for the sea water damage of the preceding cover which was mailed on the same day. Both bear the N.Z. Marine P. O. Alameda mark.**




**Fig. 63. A profusion of marks on the reverse of the Hawkins cover of Fig. 40. Although the correspondence is purely philatelic, these marks nevertheless show the extent of handling of registered mail in 1894.**

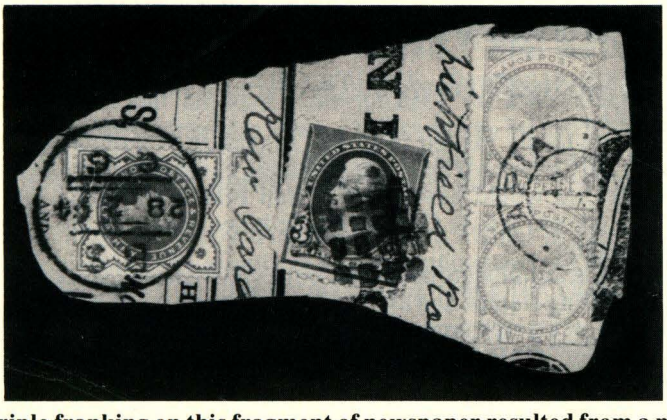


**Fig. 64. The triple franking on this fragment of newspaper resulted from a need to forward it to Mr. Hawkins, a fortunate accident for such a questionable address.**

## BISECT USE

In the section on the Palm Trees stamps, the importance of the fire which destroyed the Post Office was stressed in many ways. In the area of postal history it had a very significant impact as it resulted in the provisional bisect use of the surviving shilling stamps. It would appear that all perf. 12½ and perf. 12 x 11½ stamps in the Davis post office were destroyed with the exception of the perf. 12½ original issue shilling which somehow escaped the fire. Small supplies of stamps were undoubtedly held by regular users of the post office, such as the British Consul, and thus escaped as well.

Having ordered a new supply of stamps (which was destined to be perf. 11), Davis set out to recover what he could of his operation. Salvaging the cancellation device, the "Registered" mark, and an undetermined quantity of the shilling stamps, he managed to reopen for business by April 18, less than three weeks after the fire. The only mail

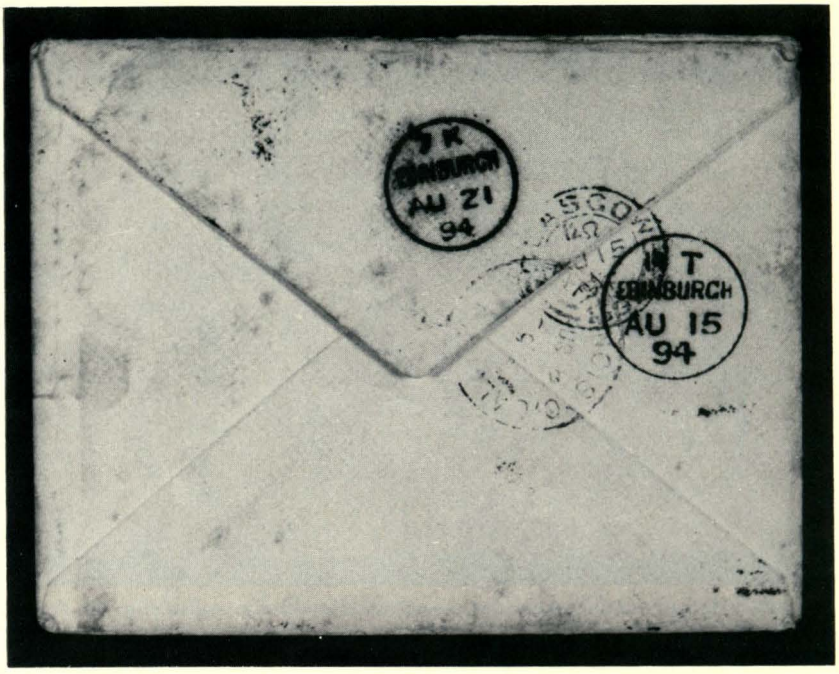



**Fig. 65. The six day spread between the two Edinburgh dates tells a part of the story of this, the reverse of the Robert Louis Stevenson cover shown in Fig. 45. In the intervening period the cover was carried to South Wales in an attempt to locate the recipient.**

processed that day consisted of covers already bearing stamps, of which 4 examples are recorded. (Fig. 58).

This cover was obviously mailed from San Francisco to Samoa after the fire (with pre-fire stamps already attached) and under separate cover to be canceled in Samoa, but before word of the fire would have reached San Francisco. Upon its arrival it was canceled with blue ink and sent to Germany. The letter, still with the cover, is a bill for Samoan postage stamps.

After mailing the accumulated philatelic correspondence, Davis decided by April 24th to bisect the shilling stamps and use them in this way to signify payment of postage until the new supply of stamps arrived. The shilling stamps were bisected diagonally, usually from the lower left to upper right corners, and canceled in blue ink.

Much has been written about the bisect use. For a long time it was erroneously believed by some that the bisect of the shilling stamp indicated use as 6d. Though this would be true in most countries if the 6d stamps had run out, it was certainly not true here. As all stamps were lost except the shilling value, the bisected fragment indicated payment of the basic rate, 2½d. One cover mailed May 16 bears the manuscript notation "All stamps at Samoa burnt. One now on envelope was issued for 2½d."[58]

On the first day that the bisects were used, April 24th, the British Consul sent two letters to a relative, probably a niece or daughter in England. One bore only the bisected shilling (Fig. 66) while the other was on an official envelope, registered, and bore a pair of the 5d overprints and an R3d overprint as well as the bisected shilling (see Fig. 41). Though the shilling on the latter is not tied across the bisect cut, there is no question that it belongs to the cover if for no other reason than that the stamp is perf. 12½ and there is no question about the cancellation being genuine. The cancellations and "Registered" are in blue, as would be expected. This cover is the mate of one sent less than a month earlier which bore the same amount and manner of postage except for the bisect. The rate is a correct one in each case, the earlier being a quadruple rate registered (4 x 2½d postage + 3d registry). Though philatelic, it is possible that the later letter was found to

[58] Philately From Australia, Dec. 19, 1972, p. 102

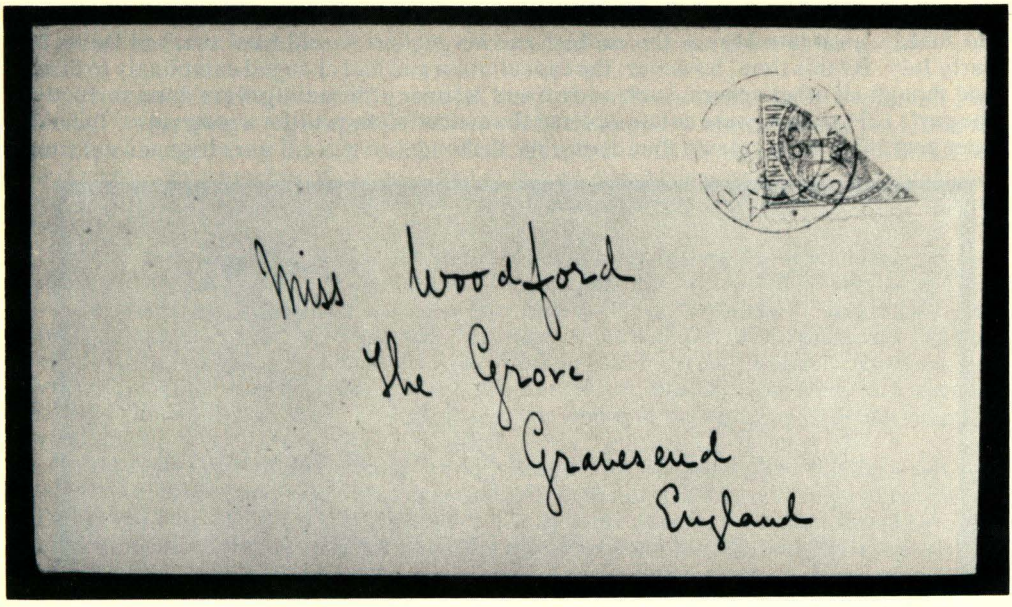



**Fig. 66. A first day cover of the bisect use.**

be just over 2 ounces and required an additional 2½d for which the bisect was added.

The perf. 11 stamps were printed on May 11 and probably arrived in Apia on May 22nd on the Monowai which left Auckland May 18th.[59] After that date it would seem that any use of the bisect would be purely philatelic, the once existing need for stamps having been for the most part satisfied. Unfortunately, the 2½d value—the one most in demand—was not in this shipment as a new plate had to be made. Even though the new supply of the 2½d value did not arrive until mid to late July, Davis could easily have made up the 2½d rate in any of a number of ways from the normal values he then had on hand.

On May 19, a number of letters with bisects were mailed to James MacFarlane in Auckland (Fig. 67). As the new supply of stamps had just arrived and the likelihood of the bisects continuing was slim, this seems to represent a last chance effort to obtain covers for philatelic purposes.

After May 22, the color of the stamp pad changed as well. It would appear that black ink was added to the blue pad causing a change to the black over a period of about a month. The latest recorded bisected perf. 12½ shilling is also from the British Consul, dated Jun 19, with the manuscript note "Posted on board the mail steamer at Samoa." (Fig. 68). A significant feature of the cancellation on this cover is that although it is black, it still shows a tinge of blue.

Some of the perf. 11 shilling stamps are known bisected from corner to corner and canceled in blue. It is likely that these were considered "proper bisects" as such by Davis, only substituting some of the replacement stock for what was sure to be a dwindling supply of the perf. 12½ stamps. I have record of these on piece but not on cover.

I have examined a cover to Hubert Hawkins and have heard of another, and have record of a piece, all of which bear the perf. 11 shilling canceled in black (without any blue evident). These bear an Apia CDS with the date 28 May 1895 and yet also bear an arrival mark in England of 14 August. Since this was more than double the usual transit time for mail in 1895, I suspect that the Apia CDS was antedated by Davis to coincide with the period during which he was making bisects so that his good customer Mr.

[59] A footnote in Vol. V. gives the date as May 23rd, but a subsequently published article in Philately From Australia shows May 22nd as the arrival date.

Hawkins could have some examples, too. Mr. Hawkins would not likely have known of the bisects until late May at the earliest and his request would have reached Davis by early July. By this time, however, the cancellation pad had changed completely to black and though all other criteria such as date and manner of bisecting were done correctly, the perf. 12½ stamps were exhausted and the cancellation was the wrong color. Indeed, later perf. 11 bisects created to order for the demand "on piece" were bisected not from

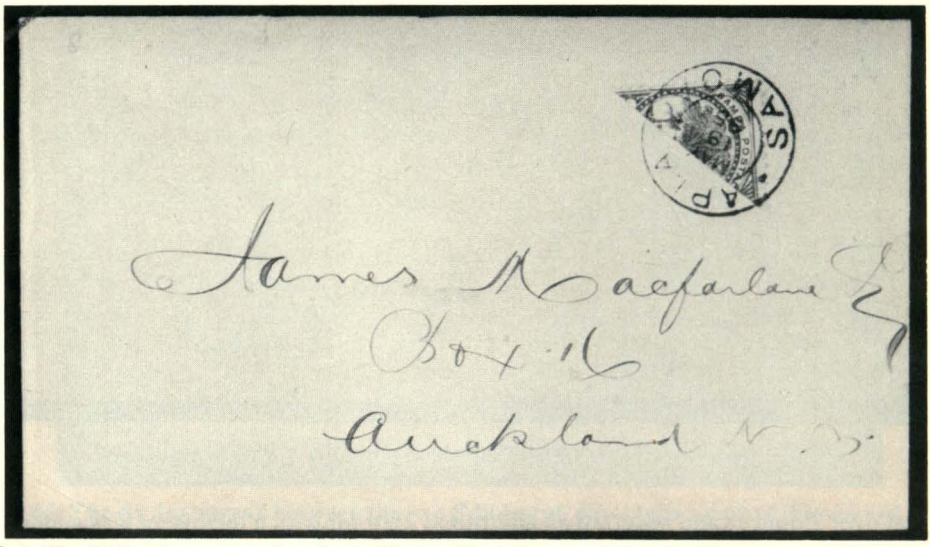



**Fig. 67. This represented a last ditch effort by a philatelically aware collector to manufacture bisects before the new supply of stamps made the use unnecessary.**

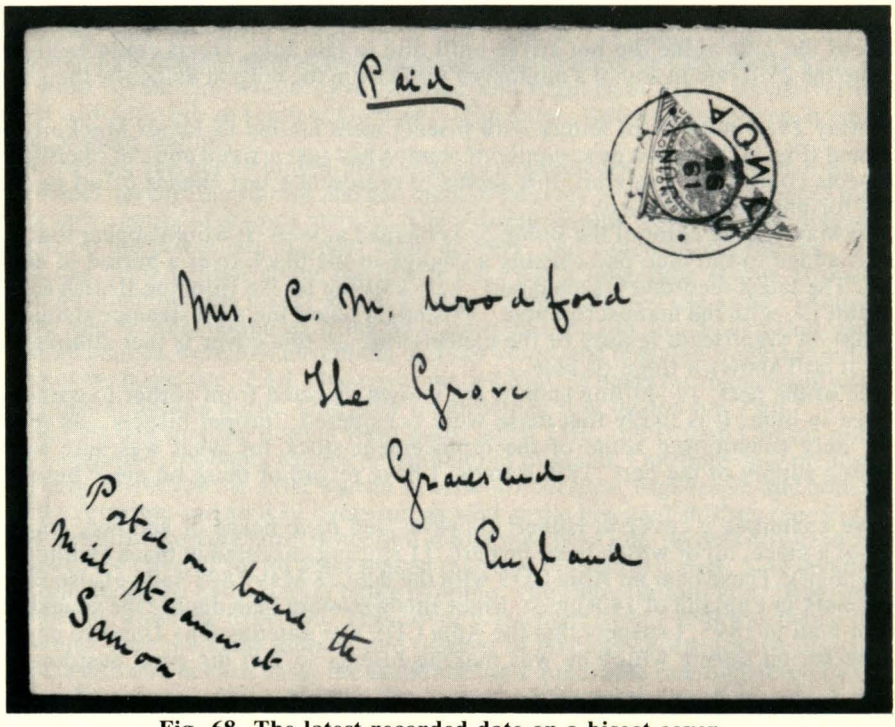



**Fig. 68. The latest recorded date on a bisect cover.**

corner to corner but vertically with a little slant. This, in my opinion, was a reaction of Davis to his conscience in not making the created bisects quite the same as the "real ones.

With regard to the items in question, however, Davis could have explained the "delay" in sending a registered letter (on which the registry was not really paid, due to the 2½d postage being the equivalent of the split, but with no sign of the additional 3d for registry), by a number of excuses, but in this manner he was really accountable to no one but himself, so the "delay" of over a month of a registered letter was of little consequence.

It is the instance of the bisects, then, that I previously referred to when stating that I believed that Davis did not manipulate his datestamps on mailed covers with one notable exception. Two other covers are recorded, one a "handback" dated 24 April with a bisect canceled in black and the other a pair of the R3d, one with double overprint, to New Zealand with an Apia CDS in black dated 29 April. As these are obviously "constructed" dates in the middle of the blue period, they are almost certainly latecomers as well. Unfortunately the one that was mailed does not bear an arrival mark.

A very well reasoned case is made by Mr. Burge[60] for the possibility that the Hawkins covers "went the wrong way" and arrived late as a result. If the bluish tinge of the black CDS on the June 19 cover (Fig. 68) were due to some other reason than stated before, and an immediate change to black had been made between May 22 and 28, it is possible that his explanation could be correct. In any case, the information and considerations are worthy of further study.

## NOTABLE FEATURES OF SOME COVERS

To conclude the section on Palm Trees postal history, there are a number of covers which have particularly unusual features which should be recorded. These generally include rare usage and unusual rates.

The two high values, the one shilling and the two shillings and sixpence are very elusive indeed. The only recorded use of a single shilling on a cover is a philatelic use of a "Provisional Gov't" stamp to Vancouver (Fig. 69). This is made even more

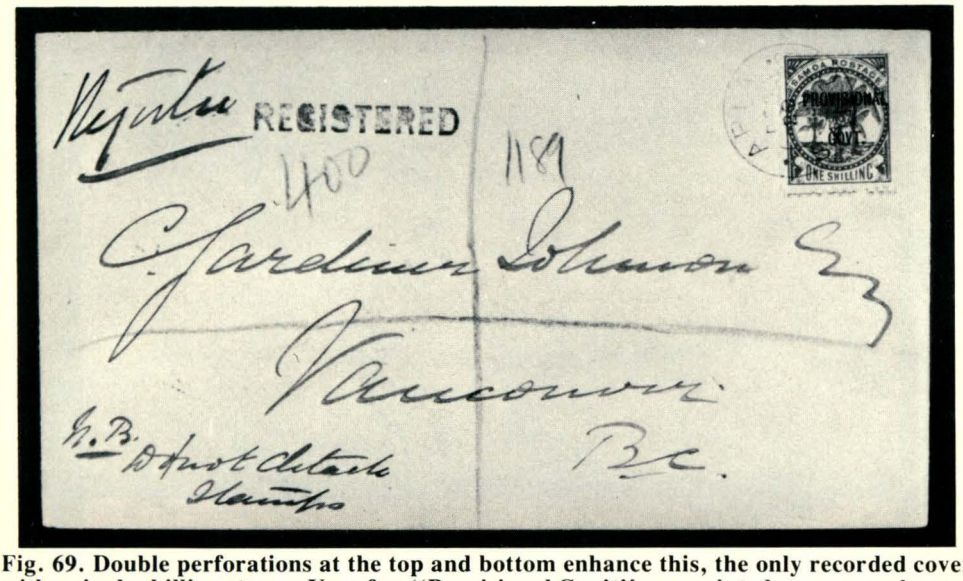



**Fig. 69. Double perforations at the top and bottom enhance this, the only recorded cover with a single shilling stamp. Very few "Provisional Gov't" overprinted stamps are known on cover.**

[60] Philately From Australia, June 1976, p. 33

interesting as the stamp has double perforations at the bottom. Other shilling rate covers are known, specifically double rates before mid 1888 and the Times of London cover (Fig. 43), but none used the shilling stamp alone. Later covers (Fig. 58) are purely made up to show a selection of stamps, so the shilling is again avoided.

Usage of the 2/6 is just as rare. Although an early cover exists with a proper 5 x 6d rate, it bears two one shilling stamps and a sixpence to make up the rate. There are only two covers known bearing 2/6 stamps. A single 2/6 stamp with the "Provisional Gov't" overprint is found on a registered cover to W.A. Cooper, the San Francisco mail agent. Most unusual is a registered cover to Turkey which bears both the 2/6 and the R3d overprint. (Fig. 59). The latter was a few months after the fire and bears the first perf. 11 stamps. On a different level is the postcard with the address of Maurice Burrus on which the ½d stamp has double perforations at the top and bottom (Fig. 70). The postcard is one of the earliest of the second issue. The earliest complete postcard of the first issue was used to Germany in 1896 (Fig. 71). One mailed a month earlier is known but the adhesive had become detached from it. A number of covers are known from February 28, 1894 with the 5d on 4d overprint (Fig. 72). These and other circumstances make it entirely possible that this was the first day of issue of this provisional.

Another cover shows an unusual combination (Fig. 73). The strip of four of the 2½d overprint are the first, or handstamped, issue while the single is from the issue which was printed in red. The rate ⅛ is not a genuine one.

The final three covers are the only known uses of the stamps on cover. First is the perf. 12½ Malietoa (B4ax) used to Honolulu (Fig. 74). Though it shows the crossed pencil marks associated with registry, there are no other marks showing that it went thus, and only the postage is paid.

One of the rarest post fire issues is the black perf. 11 Malietoa (B4gx). The only cover known of this issue bears a strip of four (Fig. 75). Again, the rate is not quite right but it is nevertheless a remarkable cover.

On sale for only seven months before the post office finally closed, the changed color 1d (red brown, B2g), is very difficult to find used, the few known copies probably having been canceled to order. No other copies of this value used on a postcard (Fig. 76) are known. The N.Z. Marine P.O. mark provides additional attractiveness to a very rare usage.

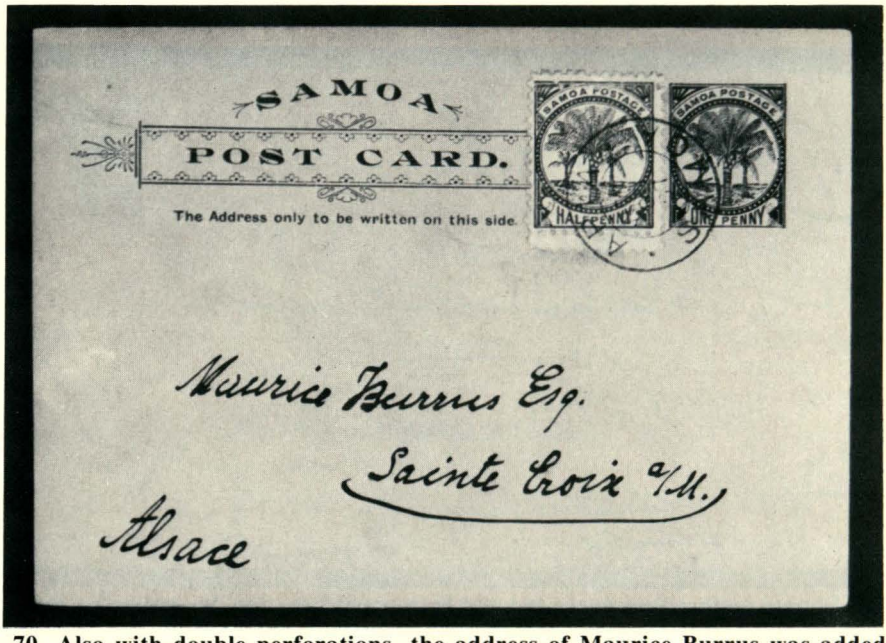



**Fig. 70. Also with double perforations, the address of Maurice Burrus was added (by himself, it seems) at a much later date.**

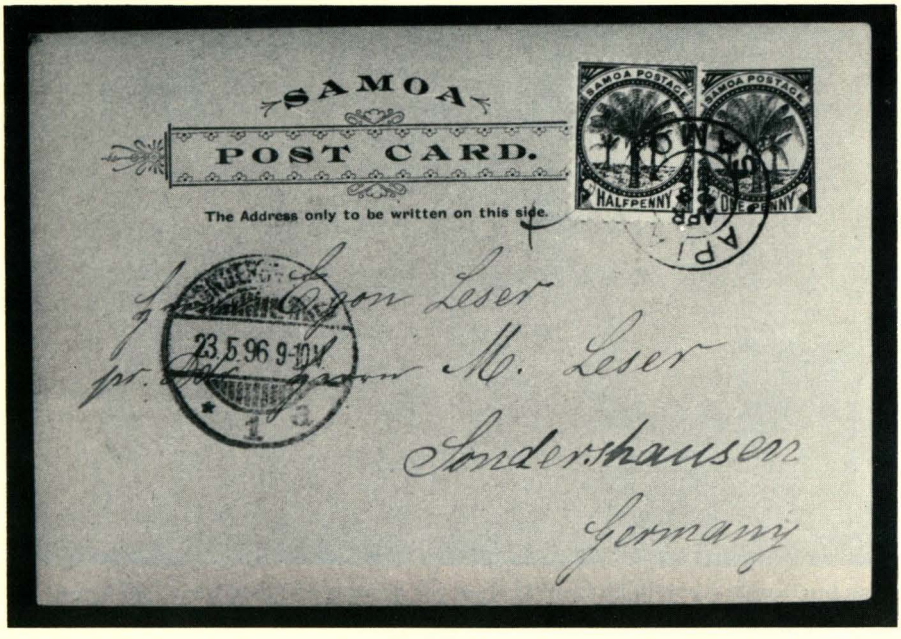



Fig. 71. The earliest complete postcard recorded.

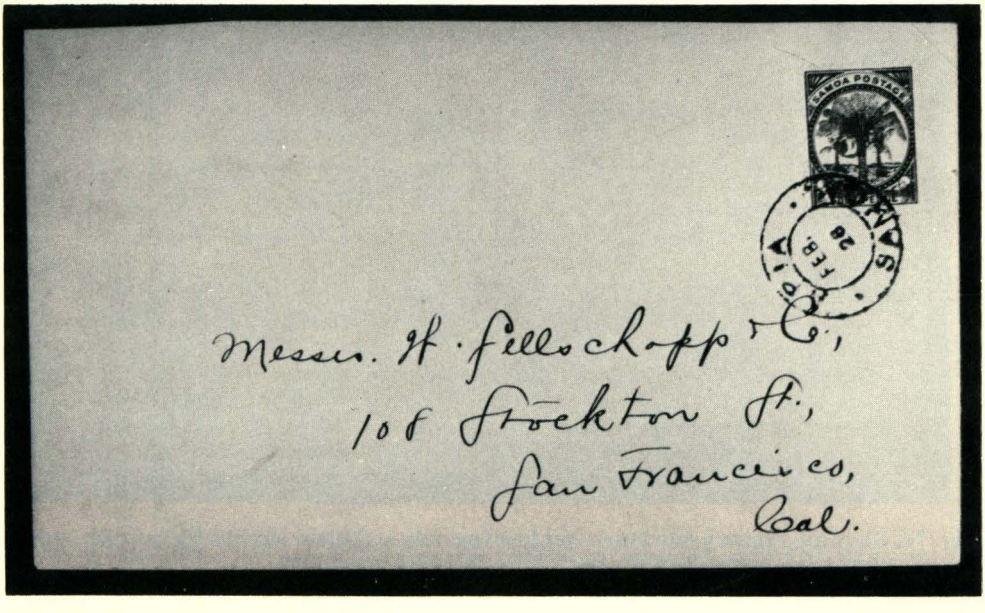



Fig. 72. Possibly the first day of issue of the 5d on 4d provisional.

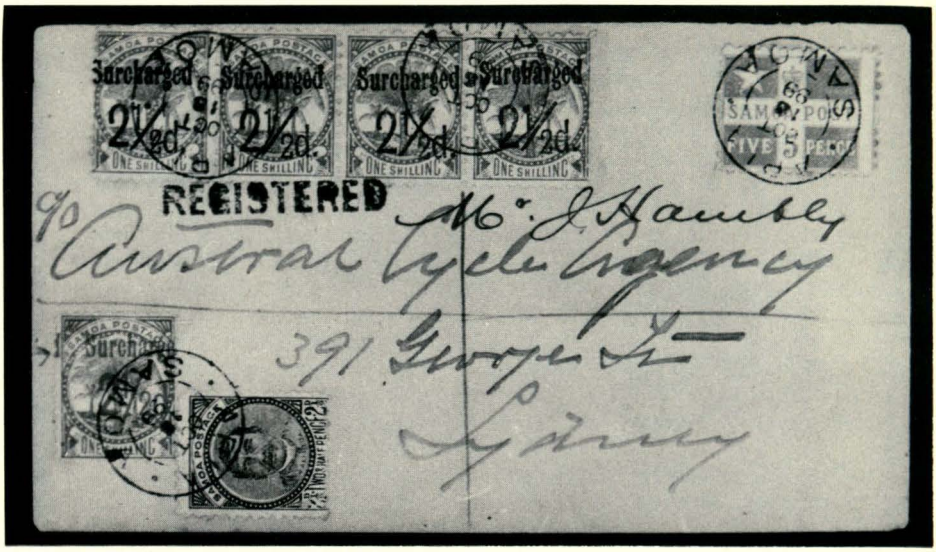



**Fig. 73. An unusual combination of the handstamped as well as the printed 2½d surcharges.**



**Fig. 74. Showing registry markings, yet bearing only sufficient stamps for postage, this is the only recorded example of the perf. 12½ Malietoa on cover.**




**Fig. 75. One of the rarest post-fire stamps, the perf. 11 black Malietoa is almost unknown in multiples. Here it is in a strip of four on the only known cover bearing this issue.**

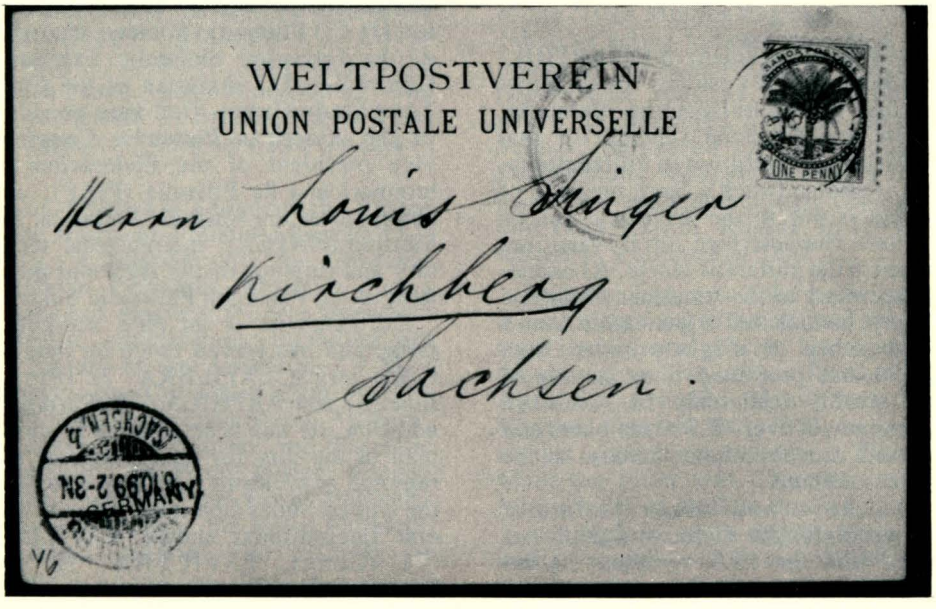
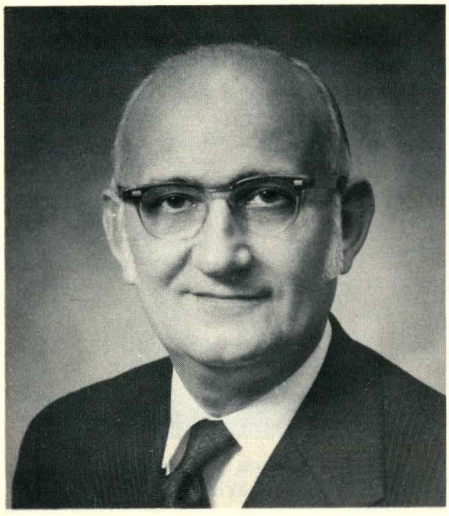



**Fig. 76. Available for just over half a year, the red brown (changed color) 1d is unknown on any other postcards, the rate it paid. The N.Z. Marine P. O. Mariposa mark is a familiar feature of the few postcards of this period.**

*(Continued on page 48)*



## COL. JAMES T. DeVOSS TO RECEIVE 1977 A. F. LICHTENSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

In 1976, as president of INTERPHIL, Col. James T. DeVoss was instrumental in achieving an outstanding philatelic, artistic and financial success for that international exhibition in Philadelphia. That it attained such a large measure of success is due to the drive and energy that have characterized Jim DeVoss' activities in the philatelic world. As executive secretary of the American Philatelic Society, he took that organization from a membership of slightly more than 13,000 and propelled it to an almost unbelievable leadership in American philately with over 43,000 members and this with a concomitant increase in the services offered.

For those and other philatelic achievements, the Collectors Club has named him the 1977 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for "Outstanding Services to Philately." The medal which is emblematic of that most prestigious award in United States philately will be presented at the Annual Awards Dinner on May 10, 1978.

Though his position as APS executive secretary in recent years has made his name a household word in international philately, long before he took on that herculean task, Jim DeVoss had already made his mark in the world of stamp collecting. He is presently chairman of the APS Expert Committee, vice president of the Federation International de Philatelie (FIP), a trustee of the American Philatelic Research Library and a member of the Honorary Council of the American Philatelic Congress.

His previous organizational activities include the presidency of the Washington (D.C.) Philatelic Society, chairman of the Hawaiian Philatelic Exhibition (HAPEX-1951) chairman of the Canal Zone Study Group, first vice president of the American Philatelic Congress, vice president of the Federacion Interamericana de Filatelia (FIAF), vice chairman of the National Philatelic Exhibition (NAPEX), international secretary and director of the APS and president of the Pentagon Philatelic Society.

Col. DeVoss is an APS accredited judge and has served twice on international juries: EXFILBRA '72 (Rio de Janeiro) and ARPHILA '75 (Paris). In addition, he has been a judge or chairman of the jury for many national and regional exhibitions, and has also been the United States Commissioner for several international shows: EXFILIMA '71 (Lima), EXFILBRA '72 and STOCKHOLMIA '74.

As a writer and editor, Jim DeVoss has left an indelible mark as well. He served as stamp editor of the "Honolulu Advertiser" from 1950 to 1952, writing a weekly column for that newspaper. He was the editor of the "Pentagon Philatelist," he edited the 1953 "Congress Book" and he was the associate editor of "The Yucatan Affair, the Work

of Raoul Ch. de Thuin, Philatelic Counterfeiter,'' published in 1974 by the American Philatelic Society.

In addition, he has written extensively on Canal Zone, Forwarding Agents and other Panama markings—his special philatelic interests—for various publications, including ''Stamps'' magazine, the ''Congress Books'' of 1952 and 1959, the ''Collectors Club Philatelist'' and ''The Philatelist'' (London), to name but a few. His article in ''Stamps'' on the 1909-1921 series of Canal Zone was used by the Scott Catalogue editors for a major revision of Canal Zone listings. In 1970, he received the Collectors Club Medal for the best article in the ''Collectors Club Philatelist'' for that year.

Col. DeVoss was chairman of the Catalogue Revision Committee of the Canal Zone Study Group, its revisions being accepted eventually by both the Scott and Minkus Catalogues. He wrote the Panama portion of ''Forwarding Agents'' by Kenneth Rowe, the Panama Forwarders of U. S. Mail portion of the ''American Stampless Cover Catalogue'' by E. N. Sampson and the British Postal Agencies portion of ''The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, '' Volume v, Robson Lowe, 1973.

Col. DeVoss is a founder and trustee of the American Philatelic Research Library, a founder of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum and a member of practically every important philatelic organization, including but not limited to the American Air Mail Society, The Collectors Club of New York, the Confederate Stamp Alliance, the Essay Proof Society, the Philatelic Foundation, the Postal History Society of the Americas, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Society of Philatelic Americans, the U. S. Classics Society, Bureau Issues Association and Western Covers Society.

He is an enthusiastic exhibitor on the national scene, having achieved grand awards at HAPEX (Honolulu) 1951 and at SOJEX (Atlantic City) in 1969, and the champion of Champions award at Balpex that same year, plus a number of golds and special awards as well. Internationally, his collection garnered three large golds: Philympia (London) 1970, BELGICA (Brussels) 1972 and IBRA (Munich) in 1973. At EXFILCA (Caracas) in 1970, he was given a special award, this being rated as between a large gold and the grand award. His collection has received the Prix d'Honneur two times; at STOCKHOLMIA '74 and INTERPHIL '76.

Col. DeVoss is a much sought after philatelic speaker. In 1967, for example, he spoke before philatelic groups twenty-two times. Another of his hobbies is photography and he has made extensive use of color slides to illustrate his stamp talks. He has been a speaker at The Collectors Club on at least five occasions since the late 1940's and received The Collectors Club Medal for the Best Program in 1968.

In 1937, he received a B. S. degree and that same year was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Then, following a stint as field supervisor, in the circulation department of the ''Des Moines Register,'' he was called to active military duty as a first lieutenant on January 2, 1941. After a twenty-year span of service, during which he graduated from the Infantry School (Advanced Officers Course), Fort Benning, Georgia in 1944 and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1953, he retired as a colonel in 1961.

Although commissioned in the Infantry, he spent most of his military life as a staff intelligence officer. He served as the special security officer for Generals Aurand, Arnold, Gruenther and Norstad. From 1958 to 1961, he served in that capacity for General Twining when the latter was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Although a major highlight of his military career was being chosen as a member of the military staff that accompanied President Eisenhower to the Bermuda Big Three Powers Conference in 1953, the capstone to that career came when he was awarded the Legion of Merit (second highest peace time medal) for ''exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while serving on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe from June

24th 1955 to June 30th 1958."

Jim DeVoss has not neglected his community duties. He was president of the United Fund for the State College, Pa. area, and is currently second vice president of the State College Rotary Club, an elder of the Presbyterian Church of State College and a member of the American Society of Association Executives. In 1977, he was the winner of the First Award of that organization's Idea Fair held in New York.

For his contributions to organized philately, Col. DeVoss has received many honors: the John N. Luff Award of the American Philatelic Society (twice), the Tllleard Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Walter R. McCoy Memorial and the Jere Hess Barr Awards of the American Philatelic Congress, the Service Award of that latter organization and Outstanding Philatelic Achievement Awards from INTERPEX '67 and SEPAD '67.

Since the 1966-67 edition, Col. DeVoss has been listed in "Who's Who in America." With the awarding of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Outstanding Services to Philately, Jim DeVoss not only caps a brilliant philatelic career but has earned a place in "Who's Who in International Philately."

*(Philip Silver)*

**PALM TREES (Cont'd)**

**THE LIST**

The list of known covers is presented to give students and collectors the ability to see what exists and the characteristics of each cover. These may be used to help to verify a cover as genuine or to see if changes or additions have been made to it. As is true with any attempt to list such covers, there are sure to be some which have escaped notice. On the other hand, however, it is hardly likely that there can be more than double the number listed in existence, with a much smaller percentage likely. The records gleaned to compile this list extend back for a number of decades, and only a single source, self stated to contain a significant number of covers, has not provided the necessary information to have them included.

The information presented is in the format of:

1. Type, color, and date of Apia CDS if known (year from other sources as required, or earliest date showing on cover or piece).
2. Name and abbreviated address of recipient.
3. Samoan stamps.
4. Other features.
5. Owner code (letter as below)
   A = Auction
   D = Dealer
   O = Odenweller collection
   P = Private owner
   S = Exhibition
   X = Other
6. Commerical or Philatelic indication as below
   C = Commercial
   P = Philatelic
   U =Unable to determine from information given

The postal history of the Palm Trees of Samoa is no longer as much of a mystery as it once was. However there are still areas which are unknown and may never be known. Many issues are not known on cover at all. Rates, though uncomplicated, are needlessly made to seem confusing by the philatelic non-rates. Commercial covers are few, especially when considering those not in combination with U.S. stamps. The three "improved" covers mentioned earlier are the beginning of what I hope will not be a major trend, now that the prices are becoming significant, but such hopes are unfortunately very slim.

*(To be continued)*

# Book Reviews

**"Histoire Postale de l'Ethiopie sous Le Regne de L'Empereur Menelik II" (The Postal History of Ethiopia under the Reign of Emperor Menelik II).** By Henri Tristant, member Académie de Philatélie, Paris. 1977. 507 pp., illustr. In two vols, pp. 1-268, and 269-507. Paper bd. Offset. 280Fr ($58 approx). The author, 1 rue de la Mission-Marchand, F75016-Paris, France.

Histoire Postale de l'Ethiopie is a very impressive work in the best tradition of French postal history studies. Published by the author under great difficulties in a limited edition of only 100 copies, it is destined to be recognized as a classic. Ultimately it will be one of those rare philatelic books that all future serious Ethiopia collectors will want and will probably have to pay a very high price for. Knowing the considerable interest in Ethiopia among English-speaking philatelists, the author has thoughtfully provided extended English summaries of each chapter and English translations of the captions to the illustrations—the English, though not idiomatic, is unambiguous and fully adequate. In two volumes the work seems somewhat bulky because it was printed by offset from double-spaced typed copy with little reduction and because it covers an enormous amount of documentation. The typing, however, is neat with hardly any misprints, the printing clear and easy to read.

—The author for many years delved with passion into the mysteries of Ethiopian postal history, a subject previously very poorly understood. Tristan's style is straightforward, presenting no more details than necessary. Although final writing and preparation for printing had to be carried out while the author was suffering from a fatiguing illness, one would never guess it from the clearly written, well-organized presentation of this complex subject—a subject that demanded a staggering amount of raw material from various archives be digested.

As Tristant states, his purpose was:

—to describe the origin and evolution of the postal services established since 1892 in Ethiopia on French intiative and carried on until 1898; and later, after Ethiopia joined the UPU, the activities of French postal technicians in the administration of the Imperial Post.

—to inform about the disturbed history and difficulties of the domestic Ethiopian post created in 1899 by Leon Chefneux and Alfred Ilg, maintained to 1907, between Adis Ababa and Harar.

—to show the repercussions of the rivalry between various European authorities in Ethiopia on the postal and telegraph services.

—to show philatelists how to discern the genuine stamps, frankings, and cancellations on the correspondence of the various periods, the modes of mail forwarding and their characteristic expressions; and to identify the numerous falsifications which are found in many collections. In particular the author unmasks the writings of J. A. Michel, a one-time Director of the Ethiopian Post (1904-07) and later stamp dealer, full of falsities deliberately made for abetting his reprehensible philatelic trading.

Tristant's treatment of the stated objectives is soundly based on historical studies and documents. The large amount of philatelic material analyzed and illustrated, led to questions for investigation in the first place and served in turn to illustrate the conclusions from archival documentation. There are over 90 plates, usually two covers to a plate, selected from various archives and leading collections (sources are indicated by code letters). Most of the plates are on yellow paper for easy location. Some documents are also illustrated as is a map.

All the archives exploited and literature used are listed. Over 400 individual citations to archives are made, with many quotations. Included also is archival material from the French ministries of Colonies and Foreign Affairs, the French Catholic Mission at Harar, the family papers of A. Ilg and L. Chefneux, and the Harar P.O. records.

Although some aspects of the subject were previously treated in the author's articles in the *Postal History Journal* and *Documents Philatéliques,* the book is

much more comprehensive putting everything into one perspective. The organization is systematic in chronological order by periods of distinct character. Each chapter covers a period of one to several years, is prefaced by an historical background introduction which is followed by the postal history of various services peculiar to that period. An introductory Chapter treats the pre-1892 postal history back to 1843, such little as is known of it.

Illustrations are placed close to where discussed in the text. Although no index as such is provided, the very detailed Table of Contents and listing of Tables and Illustrations serve the purpose adequately.

Since most of the mail passed through French Somali Coast (and some through British Somaliland) and usually had to be franked with stamps of Obock, Somali Coast, French Levant, or Somaliland, this work has much relevance and interest for collectors of those entities.

The author can rest assured that this, his *magnum opus,* will not only be treasured by Ethiopia collectors, but will be recognized by all postal historians as a model study.

*(R. G. Stone)*

**American Philatelic Miscellany,** Introduced and Arranged by Susan M. McDonald. 592 pages, hardbound. Available from Quanterman Publications, Inc. 5 South Union St., Lawrence, Mass. 01838. $40.00.

Between 1939 and 1948 Harry Lindquist published twenty volumes of philatelic miscellany which he called, "The Stamp Specialist." Almost every top philatelic writer of the day appeared in its pages during the almost ten years of its existence, among them: Stanley Ashbrook, Harry Konweiser, George Sloane, Stephen G. Rich, Richard McP. Cabeen and many, many others. Their articles touched on all subjects and all countries.

Now, Susan McDonald, a stalwart of the U.S. Classics Society, has culled thirty of the best articles dealing with the U.S. that first saw the light of day in the, "Specialist." Nine of them are by Stanley Ashbrook, something of a tribute to that great philatelic scholar. Among the nine are his excellent treatise on, "The United States 12c, 24c, 30c and 90c Imperforates of 1860" and "The Premiere Gravures of 1861."

Harry M. Konwiser, another prolific writer of the time, has three articles which include his, "Supplement to Independent Mail Routes to the United States. Stephen G. Rich, who was even more prolific, is represented by, "The Die Cancellation Marks on the U.S. 1873 Issue" and Richard McP. Cabeen makes an appearance with his, "Study of the Major Varieties of the U.S. 3c 1851" and "The 3c 1857: What to look for in the perforated issue." This is but a sampling of the 592 pages that comprise this huge volume.

Adding much to the value of the book is Ms McDonald's succinct and informative introduction in which she analyzes and updates those articles she has chosen for reprinting. Indeed, her corrections, critiques and evaluations restores the worth of many otherwise obsolete essays.

In the opinion of this reviewer, anyone whose interest lies primarily in U.S. stamps and postal history will find this book to be an admirable substitute for the twenty volume collection from which the articles are taken. Ms McDonald and Quarterman have rendered a worthwhile service in reproducing these almost lost treatises.

*(L. Grunin)*

**One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps, 1873-1973,** by Jon Adalsteinn Jonsson. Published by the Postal and Telecommunications Administration, Box 1445, Reykjavik, 121 Iceland. 472pp. $120.

What unquestionably must be considered one of the most informative and magnificent pieces of philatelic literature comes in the form of the 472-page "One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps."

As author Jon Adalsteinn Jonsson states in the preface, the text is based on the intensive researching of Icelandic national archives which he has conducted since 1970, plus the wholehearted assistance of the late Jonas Hallgrimsson, for many years the leader of Iceland's philatelic activities, and

Director Gisli Sigurb Jornsson, another Icelandic student.

Within its beautiful gold-embossed hard covers are to be found all the data and details concerning Iceland's stamps issued and used since the first, the two skilding of 1873. A foreword comments on the Danish mail services and the stamps used in Iceland before it received its dependent adhesives.

Of particular significance are the records of the Postal Administration and the various security printers commissioned to produce stamps during the last century. Some of these, in the difficult Icelandic language, have been carefully translated into English.

A thorough scholar, Mr. Jonsson took the information about his subject previously published, collated it and started from there. The completed work, is a book that will stand for all time as the Ne Plus Ultra reference source for tomorrow's Icelandic philatelists.

The illustrations are in full color exceptionally accurate. From four or five feet it is difficult to distinguish them from the original stamps and covers. Philatelic aspects also are usefully complete in that the name of each stamp's designer is given along with production data, manner of printing, date of release, quantities printed and sold, purpose of issue, etc.

As impressive as the contents are the biblio aspects of this book. The type face is Fototronic TxT, the pages 130-gramme Thai-cote stock, making the text easy to read. The book is made to last for centuries.

Its price, 25,000 Icelandic Kronur, may seem high. It could have been more cheaply produced, but considering its importance, this reviewer is happy that no expense was spared in publishing so magnificent a volume. One must see it and read it to fully appreciate a real gem.

*(E.A.K.)*

**EDITORIAL (Cont'd)**

To illustrate - if the last twenty grand prix winners at internationals were given ten frames each, a total of 200 in a show of 10,000 frames, could that possibly generate anything approaching the feeling engendered by those 200 frames alone in show such as Anphilex?

The children are exerting pressure on the grandfather pushing him into a back room, but the grandfather has the wisdom of the years and a lot of fight available. It's time for him to get his second wind and to show what philately is all about. Certainly there is a need for the separate pursuits which collectors follow. Though topicals are quite different from any of the others, they will nevertheless remain popular for a variety of reasons. The others, however, are very close to the traditional and essentially many start at that level. Traditional philately is, after all, the collecting of any philatelic pursuit, often but certainly not limited to the form of collecting unused, used and covers of a country or countries. The degree of specialization or generalization varies almost without limit according to the taste and choice of the collector.

A collector with a general collection of U.S. classics may sell all but his covers and thus move toward a postal history collection. The collection thus formed would, however, remain a traditional rather than postal history collection until he concentrated on developing a presentation which showed rates, routes and markings in addition to the philatelic elements and how these contributed to the development of the postal system.

Likewise an aerophilatelic collection could have started with a general collection and moved toward airmail only. In this case the distinction is more on subject matter than on treatment. Both remain traditional in essence. Each deserves its own area, if the exhibitors desire separate treatment. The awards given would be class awards and not necessarily to be equated with a similar award in the traditional or open class. The basic point is that anyone wanting specialized treatment due to the nature of his collecting interests may get it, but if they want the full measure of equivalence on an absolute scale, the traditional level will remain the ultimate arena. The grandfather may be neglected, but he's still vital - and, what's more important, vital to the future of philately. *(Robert P. Odenweller)*

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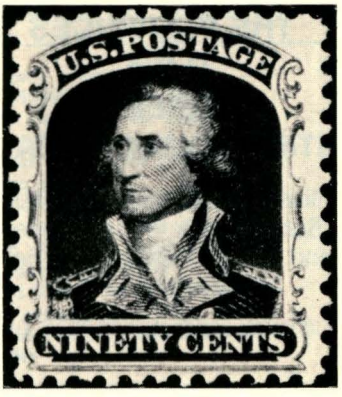
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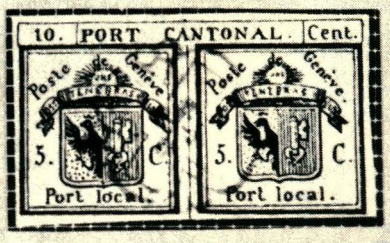


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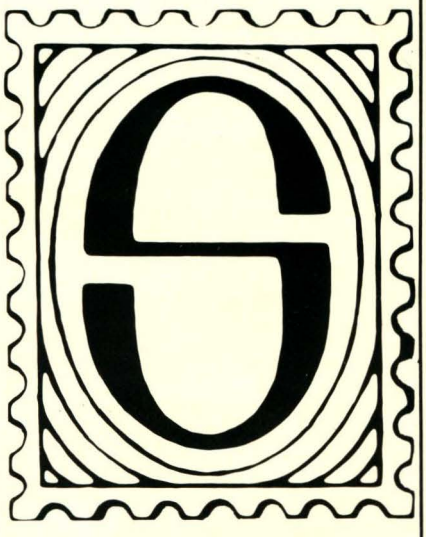
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