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CONTENTS © Copyright Postal History Society 2009

RESEARCH FEATURES

LIBRANZAS in COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA
by Leo J. Harris ................................................................. 4

POSTAGE SUBSIDIES for PERIODICALS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
by Kevin R. Kosar .................................................................. 11

GATHERING POSTAL HISTORY: The STORY of VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
by Bruce A. Beardsley ............................................................. 25

BI-SECTS from SABETHA, KANSAS
by Diane DeBlois & Robert Dalton Harris ................................ 36

COVER ILLUSTRATION .................................................................. 48

COMMENTARY

AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY in OTHER JOURNALS by Douglas N. Clark .................. 40
FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY in OTHER JOURNALS by Joseph J. Geraci ...................... 49

REVIEWS

Post Card Campaign, Berlin WWII .................................................. 10
A Tribute Volume of ‘Cameo’ Advertising ........................................ 33
18th Century Letter Writing in the U.S. by Diane DeBlois ...................... 34
Palestine’s Levant Fairs by Diane DeBlois ........................................ 58

SOCIETY FORUM

PRESIDENT’s MESSAGE, Douglas N. Clark ................................... 59
POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS .................. 35
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES by Kalman V. Illyefalvi ............................... 61
Joseph J. Geraci: The Italian Posts in Tunisia, 1852-1897 .................... 62

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Libranzas in Colonial Latin America

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This article concerns use of the Latin American postal system during the Spanish colonial era to support economic development. Our interest is primarily in the “libranza,” a simple financial instrument used to transfer money, as well as various alternative means to achieve the same purpose. A “giro” or postal money order is the currently used form of the earlier Latin American libranza.

Setting the Stage

In the years following the Conquest, the Spanish colonial empire in the Americas eventually stretched from Cape Horn on the south, crossed the equator, and extended northward to include the southern states of the current-day United States of America. This was a huge territory. The various groups of Native American people had been essentially subjugated, and in the process the Conquistadores had uncovered great wealth in minerals and other natural resources which were available for exploitation. This exploitation, for both shipment of the resulting products back to Europe, or for use in the colonies themselves, continued until independence occurred in the early 19th century. The wealth consisted of gold, silver, tin and mercury, among other metals; lumber from tropical hardwood forests; as well as agricultural commodities, including chocolate and cattle raised for leather hides.

The development of these resources required improvement of the harbors, construction of roads, bridges, buildings, churches and warehouses. While much of the labor required for these infrastructure purposes came from the so-called forced labor of the Native Americans, or “Mita” system, money was required for the purchase of supplies and equipment and for more specialized labor. Additional money was required for the opening of mines and other productive facilities, the shipping of products, and as payment for the soldiers to maintain good order.

Human resources contributed to this development process. From Spain came administrators, priests, additional soldiers for further pacification duties, as well as younger sons of the more wealthy families, and trades people, many of whom were literate and had a number of essential skills. They became the cadre for this economic growth.

To assist in improving communications and facilitating administrative control, a sophisticated method of communication between Spain and the colonies, and within the colonies as well, was established by the Correo Mayor postal system. The maritime mails between Spain and the colonies was the realm of the Correo Mayor de Indias, controlled by the Galindez de Carvajal family. The land-based system of individual Correo Mayores was in effect by 1580 in Nueva España and by 1600 in Peru, and eventually covered most of Latin America. By 1800, after the Spanish Crown had taken over and operated these privately operated postal systems, there were over 200 Estafetas (post offices) in Latin America.

The location and type of economic growth in Latin America was closely monitored in Spain by the annual review of statistics dealing with the sale and use of Papel Sellado. This revenue paper was used to tax as well as to memorialize and legalize all important commercial transactions, commencing in 1640 in the Americas.

The Real Hacienda (Royal Treasury) established sub-treasuries in a number of locations, where taxes were received, governmental payments were disbursed, and coins were minted. Coinage became the principal (and in the beginning, the only) means of financial exchange.

But a major problem remained. There were no banks. How were the required payments for economic development to be handled? Soldiers and administrators had to be paid. The
Church had to fund its operations. The opening and running of a mine or the stocking of an Estancia was expensive. And the King’s treasury received a percentage of most revenues. There were also multitudes of smaller, private business transactions, which required the payment of money. A bag or a leather chest containing coins was very heavy, distances between major cities were extensive, the highways at best were primitive, and bandits were on the roads. This made the long-distance transfer of coinage problematical at best. A simple alternative was required.

The alternative settled upon was the libranza.\(^1\) In Anglo-American legal terminology this was a bill of exchange or a written order for payment. In its most simple form the Latin American libranza was a letter from a person in one city authorizing his correspondent in a second city to pay a sum of money to a third party (see Figure 1).

---

Fig. 1: Private manuscript libranza in the form of a folded letter from Popoyan (now in Colombia) to Quito (now, in Ecuador), dated October 21, 1748, for the transfer of 100 Pesos. Courtesy of Dieter Bortfeldt.
For the sake of completeness we should note that, as time passed, fiscal difficulties arose and controversies abounded among Colonial administrators concerning the use and abuse of libranzas used for governmental purposes.

Details of the Libranza System

There were three principal types of these financial instruments. The first, in the form of Cartas de Pago, were requests to a Royal official for payment to be made according to the writer’s instructions. These instruments, carried from place to place by Indian messengers prior to the establishment of an organized postal system in Latin America, were in use as early as 1577. The second were requests for payment to be made by one private individual to another, being perhaps the earliest antecedents to an organized private banking system. These requests, in the form of letters, were carried by the Correo Mayor system as early as the 1740s. The third and final were requests, both official and private, made after 1768 through the auspices of the Real Renta de Correos (the post office). That entity supplied forms to request funds, carried the requests from place to place, and paid out the sums of money required.

It is interesting to note that each version of request broadened the network of available money suppliers: the Carta de Pago to all governmental sub-treasuries; the private letter libranzas to a wide network of wealthy individuals; and finally, the requests through postal channels which made available post offices throughout Latin America.

Each of these requests will be considered in turn.

Carta de Pago letters

While the dispatch of this document, dated September 18, 1592, addressed to Diego Gil de Avis, Depositario General (a financial official) in La Ciudad de los Reyes (Lima) occurred eight years prior to the establishment of the inland Correo Mayor postal system in Peru, there is ample evidence to indicate that official correspondence was carried there on a regular basis by Chasquis (messengers) from place to place. This Carta de

Fig. 2: Manuscript Carta de Pago addressed to Lima (now in Peru) from the small village of Todos Santos, dated September 18, 1592, probably carried by Chasqui (private messenger). Courtesy of Aldo Salvatecci.
Pago (Figure 2) was a request by Don Sebastian de Chiguaman, Cacique (mayor) of the village of Todos Santos, for the sum of 54 Pesos, to be paid to 32 Indians in his village for services rendered, and was made before a Notary (minor judicial official). The payment (probably by a responsible official in the field) actually occurred in Todos Santos on October 16, 1592. We have also reviewed a similar Peruvian Carta de Pago, dated July 9, 1590.

**Private Libranza letters**

We have examined seven manuscript libranza letters sent from Popayan to Quito between 1748 and 1750. At that time a branch of the Caja Real (Royal treasury) was located in Popayan (Colombia). This office collected taxes, remitted government funds, and minted coinage. These libranzas were all originated by the same individual in Popayan (Joachín Sánchez Ramírez de Arellano), and all are addressed to the same person in Quito (Antonio Bueno Hurtado). The recipients of the funds in Quito, in each case, were different individuals. In no case did the sums of money transmitted exceed 100 Pesos. It is believed that this variety of libranza was prepared and sent by wealthy Hacenderos (estate owners) who had commercial or family ties in other cities and were willing, presumably for a fee, to pay third persons. What the charges were for this service are not known. The fact is, however, that these libranzas were in each case sent through the Correo Mayor mail system which, by 1717, served the Audiencia of Ecuador. The manuscript “libranza” indicator is noted on the cover in Figure 3. Why the sender chose to indicate the contents of the letter is not known.

The libranza in Figure 4 on the next page was sent from the Real Renta de Correos (post office) of Havana (Cuba) to New Orleans (Louisiana) on August 6, 1797, in the sum of 1,969 ½ Reales. Signed by the postmaster of Havana, Joseph Ventura Fuertes, it provided money to a military officer, Francisco Bouligny, presumably for the payment of army salaries and expenses.

A similar libranza has been noted from the treasurer (Pedro Martin Tanco) of the post office at Havana (Cuba), dated February 6, 1788 to San Augustín (Florida), for another military officer, in the sum of 400 silver Reales. This libranza presumably was also for the payment of army salaries and expenses.

The monthly expense report of the San Augustín post office for December, 1798 lists a different libranza in the sum of 400 Reales among total expenditures of 597 Reales. One
might wonder how a small estafeta would have available coinage for the payment of such a large sum. An examination of the proceeds of this office indicates that there in fact was enough coinage on hand to make the requested payments.

Post Office Libranzas for Private Payments

Depending on size and location, the typical Latin American post office by the year 1800 might be able to offer the usual estafeta services (carriage of letters and registered mail); the carriage of impresos (printed matter) and encomedias (parcels); and services such as apartados (post office boxes) and embarcaciones (ship registers). Some offices also offered libranza services.

The Real Renta de Correos (post office) was using printed forms for the transfer of money by the 1790s. The form in Figure 5, dated January 21, 1794, was used by the post office at Popayan (Colombia) to transfer a thousand Pesos in doubloons to the recipient, Jose Manuel Mosquera, in Quito (Ecuador) through the Quito post office. As indicated by the form, ten Reales were charged for the indemnity and six Reales for the postage.
Fig. 5: Printed libranza mailed from Popoyan (now in Colombia) to Quito (now in Ecuador), dated January 21, 1794, for the transfer of 1000 Pesos. Courtesy of the author.

A manuscript version of libranza, validated with the postmark of the remitting post office, was dated February 4, 1797. This libranza (Figure 6) was mailed from Pucará (Peru) to Cuzco (Peru) and transferred the sum of 98 Pesos. It displays at the lower left corner the signed receipt of the payee, the Reverend Father Mariano Solorzano.

Fig. 6: Manuscript libranza from Pucará (now in Peru) to Cuzco (now in Peru), with the single line PUCARA postmark in red, dated February 4, 1797, for the transfer of 98 Pesos. Courtesy of Aldo Salvatteci.

By way of comparison, postal money orders were first used in France in 1817, in England by 1838, and in the United States of America in 1864.

Post Office Carriage of Coinage

Under the Tarifa General of May 12, 1777, six packages containing silver bullion and gold or silver coinage would be carried in the mails, and charged for at one percent of the intrinsic value, plus the applicable postage.

Some Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first article to consider the libranza as a part of the postal history of colonial Latin America. For this reason there is no meaningful bibliography of previous research to cite. Obviously, also, this is merely an overview of the subject, and additional research remains to be done. Our thanks for assistance and encouragement go to Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., of the United States, to Rodrigo Paez T., of Quito, Ecuador, to Aldo Salvatteci of Lima, Peru, and to Dieter Bortfeldt of Bogota, Colombia.
Notes

1 Depending on when and where, such documents are also referred to as “Cartas de Pago.” These more complicated documents can involve the acquittance or discharge of the debt, and may contain the statement of its conditions and obligations. They are often made before a notary in the presence of witnesses, entered into account books, and subject to audits at various levels of government.

2 The earliest mention we have encountered was the payment by a Cathedral of 40 Pesos in February 12, 1577. See Lewis Hanke, Readings in Latin American History. Selected Articles from the Hispanic American Historical Review (1966).

3 See, for example, Capítulo Cuatro de las Capitulaciones of the Viceroy of Peru, el Conde del Villar, who served between 1585 and 1590.

4 The web site of the Banco Central del Ecuador also notes that various early folded letters are inscribed in the front with the word “Libranza.”

5 Another printed libranza form, from Popoyan to Novita and dated September 7, 1814, was lot 4496 of the Fernando Camino auction sale. Soler y Llach. Marcas Postales del Periodo Colonial Español en America. Siglos XVIII-XIX. (June 19, 1991).

6 Tarifa General que se devera observar para la Recaudacion de las partes de Cartas, Pliegos y Encomiendas de la nueva Carrera de Santa Fe y Cartagena, por San Bartholome a la Provincia de Antioquia, y de esta para la Capital de Santa Fe y aquella Plaza, con expeccion de destinos y Clases de Cartas y Encomiendas, y sus respectivos portes, approved May 12, 1777.

Leo J. Harris is a fellow, Royal Philatelic Society, London, and corresponding member, Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia. He has written a number of articles for the Postal History Journal, most recently “The Correo Mayor Service in Nueva España,” PHJ 142. He is an international exhibitor and judge, and was formerly the APS representative to the Federación Interamericana de Filatelia.

Post Card Campaign, Berlin WWII

Just published is the first English translation of Rudolf Ditzen’s (pseudonym Hans Fallada) Every Man Dies Alone, first published, posthumously, in 1947 as Jeder stirbt für sich allein. It is a fictional account of the true anti-Nazi campaign of Elise and Otto Hampel, a poorly educated working-class couple living in Berlin. In 1941 they began to drop hand-lettered cards of protest throughout the city – in over two years distributing almost 300 different messages calling for civil disobedience and workplace sabotage. Since they were not using the postal service for distribution, they could have used any paper, but chose to buy inexpensive post cards. At their arrest, the cards found in their apartment were the ones designed for Feldpost. Presumably, the Hampels believed that the post card format made it more likely that Berliners would stoop and pick up the message. The Gestapo believed, from the numbers of cards turned in to them, that they were dealing with a sophisticated resistance ring. The Hampels knew that their protest was probably futile, and doomed them as enemies of the state. They were finally arrested, and beheaded in 1943. But, in her confession, Elise explained: “My soul was devastated by the losses of the war, particularly of my brother.” And Ditzen in his novel more fully explains the need to ‘do something’ and has her husband say: “Well, it will have helped us to feel that we behaved decently ‘til the end.”

Fig. 1: Postcard from the Hampel interrogation files. The hand-lettered text (by Otto, as Elise was less educated) warned Germans away from “Hitlerization.”
Postage Subsidies for Periodicals: Recent Developments
by Kevin R. Kosar

Editors’ Preface

The letter was the ‘cash cow’ of the original postal service of the United States, upon which the periodical press was given a free ride. The seal of the letter (a respectable distinction between private and public spheres) was of great value at the time, and newspapers would inform the public sphere. The letter and the periodic press together defined the emergent character of the nation.

Half a century later, postages were made cheap and uniform with respect to distance - leaving weight as the only measure. Before cheap postage, postal revenues exceeded expenditures; after cheap postage, postal revenues lagged expenditures. But because the country was expanding and postal revenues were growing exponentially at seven percent per annum (doubling every ten years) the deficits could be rationalized in anticipation of the systematic growth with the four year terms of mail contracts. Indeed, during most years of the century following cheap postage, postal revenues exceeded expenditures after the elapse of two years.

Free delivery, the expansion of the postal service beyond the post office to the personal address, began in some northern cities during the Civil War and was completed in the early twentieth century throughout rural America. Free delivery marked the maturity of what would now be called the Universal Service Obligation, in terms of the principles of security (the sealed letter), certainty (scheduled coordination of the periodic press with quotidian affairs) and celerity (person to person).

These values, given weight as their only measure, endured until the latter half of the twentieth century. Cost ascertainment - merely a dream in 1900, but studied extensively between the world wars - attempted to parse the cost of each piece of mail and thereby quantify the idea of subsidy in the price of postage according to mail classification.

Fig. 1: A monthly, The American Tract Magazine, with its size in postal terms printed on the cover. A sheet, as defined in 1816, was 4 folio pages, or 8 quarto pages, or 16 octavo pages, or 32 sextodecimo pages - when applied to a magazine or pamphlet. The size of this publication was sextodecimo, so at 12 pages it was under a half sheet but rated at a half sheet for the month of January 1836: under 100 miles 3/4 cent (9 cents a year) over 100 miles 1 1/4 cents (15 cents a year). However, the February issue was 32 pages, and therefore a full sheet - the postage rates printed on that cover were 1 1/2 cents under 100 miles and 2 1/2 cents over 100 miles. These were the rates established in 1825 that separated magazines or pamphlets published periodically (as here) from pamphlets published non-periodically (see Figure 2).
Fig. 2: A non-periodical pamphlet, Catalogue of the Western Reserve College 1843-4, mailed over 100 miles from Hudson, Ohio to Aurora, New York and rated 6 cents, as it was no more than one sheet (24 pages in this case). The cover of the catalog, which did not count as a separate sheet for postal purposes, was designed with a blank back so it could be used as a wrapper to envelope the folded pamphlet and secure it with a wax seal.

Fig. 3: Announcements such as this one in The Hermes of July 1, 1885 are a measure of how successful was the long-standing provision for exchange copies to be free of postage when sent between publishers.
Author’s Introduction: Recent Challenges for Periodical Publishers

A spate of autumn 2008 news stories reported the downsizing or closure of periodicals and their publishers due to financial challenges:

- *U.S. News & World Report* magazine will reduce its paper issues to once per month;
- Time Inc., which publishes 24 magazines for the U.S. market, has said it will cut 600 jobs, about 6% of its workforce;
- Alpha Media Group, publishers of *Maxim* and other magazines for young men, will lay off 50 to 60 of its staffers;
- Hearst magazines will transition *CosmoGirl* magazine to a web-only publication;
- Condé Nast announced that it would reduce its business magazine, *Portfolio*, from 12 issues per year to 10, and *Men's Vogue* from 10 issues per year to 2;
- *Radar* magazine ceased operations in October, and Manhattan Media Inc. announced that it had put off its plans to restart publication of *02138*, a lifestyle magazine for Harvard University alumni; and
- The century-old *Christian Science Monitor*, a newspaper that is delivered via U.S. mail five days per week, will cease publishing in paper format in April 2009. Except for a weekend paper edition, the newspaper will become a Web-only publication.

These are not the only periodicals so affected. Since 2006, revenue shortfalls have compelled many other magazines to cease publication or to become Web-only publications.

Generally, observers have cited three causes for periodicals’ recent difficulties: (1) a decline in subscriptions, (2) a rise in paper costs, and (3) a decline in advertising revenue due to the downturn of the U.S. economy and advertisers’ decisions to spend larger portions of their advertising budgets on websites instead of print publications. The aforementioned factors are not the only factors that have negatively affected the survival of periodicals. As with any business, firm-specific causes, such as managerial errors (e.g., financial mismanagement) and oversupply (e.g., too many periodicals competing for the same audience of readers), also have come into play.

In light of these high profile incidents, and because of a U.S. Postal Service postage increase in 2009, the 111th Congress may be asked to help periodical publishers reduce their operating costs by providing them with increased postage subsidies. Some publishers sought postage relief during the 110th Congress. Such assistance would not be unprecedented. In a sense, Congress has subsidized periodicals postage since the founding of the United States.

**Reduced Postage for Periodicals**

During the first seventy years of the 20th century, Congress little altered the postal laws that provided reduced rates for periodicals. Congress did expand the range of mailers whose publications could qualify for periodical postage rates even if they did not meet the legal standards for what constituted a periodical. Fraternal groups, religious organizations, and not-for-profit entities were permitted to mail their publications at the reduced periodicals postage rates (28 Stat 104-105; 37 Stat. 551; and 40 Stat. 328). Some lauded these expansions of the availability of subsidized periodical postage, while others expressed concerns over the utility of these policies. Congress also further refined the postal laws to distinguish editorial from advertising content. In 1917, Congress bifurcated the postage rates paid by periodicals. Mailers would be charged one rate for the editorial portion of the periodical, and a higher rate for the advertising portion (40 Stat. 328). In 1951, Congress enacted a
statute that prohibited providing periodicals’ postage rates to any publications “having more than 75 per centum advertising in more than one-half of its issues during any twelve-month period” (65 Stat. 762).

In 1960, Congress enacted a statute to recodify the nation’s postal laws. The definition of a periodical had changed little since 1879 (74 Stat. 666-667). The law required a periodical to (1) be regularly issued at stated intervals as frequently as four times a year and bears a date of issue and is numbered consecutively; (2) be issued from a known office of publication; (3) be formed of printed sheets; (4) be published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or a special industry; and (5) have a legitimate list of subscribers. Additionally, any publication seeking the periodicals postage rate could not consist of more than 75 percent advertising in more than half of any of its issues in any 12-month period.

There matters stood until Congress enacted major reforms in 1970.

**Postage Subsidies for Periodicals and the 1970 Postal Reorganization Act**

In the late 1960s, the Post Office was widely recognized to be in crisis. The department had been running deficits for years. In FY1967, it spent $1.2 billion more than it earned. Periodicals mail was the biggest money loser for the Post Office, contributing nearly $400 million to the department’s deficit that year. The postage on periodicals covered only about a quarter of the delivery costs. As before, taxpayers made up the shortfalls through annual appropriations.

Congress addressed this problem and many others afflicting the Post Office by enacting the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 (PRA; 84 Stat. 719-787; 39 U.S.C. 101 et seq.). The statute abolished the Post Office Department, replacing it with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), an “independent establishment of the executive branch.” This new entity was designed to be financially self-sufficient, that is, it was to operate without annual congressional appropriations. To this end, the PRA provided the USPS with greater authority over its operations so that it could control its costs and boost its revenues. The law also had effects on periodicals, which had continued to fail to provide the USPS with revenues that covered the cost of their delivery.

Periodicals had received special treatment under postal law since 1792. The PRA required periodicals to be charged “reduced rates” (84 Stat. 762-763; 39 U.S.C. 3626). Additionally, the PRA did not end the policy enacted in 1917 (40 Stat. 328) that required lower postage rates for the editorial portion of a periodical than for the advertising portion. Hence, the law permitted periodicals to continue to pay postage rates that were subsidized.

**Access to the Subsidized Periodicals Postage Reduced**

The PRA retained much of the earlier statutory criteria. To receive periodicals rates, a publication had to meet the following requirements: (a) Each owner of a publication having periodical publication mail privileges shall furnish to the Postal Service at least once a year, and shall publish in such publication once a year, information in such form and detail and at such time as the Postal Service may require with respect to— (1) the identity of the editor, managing editor, publishers, and owners; (2) the identity of the corporation and stockholders thereof, if the publication is owned by a corporation; (3) the identity of known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders; (4) the extent and nature of the circulation of the publication, including, but not limited to, the number of copies distributed, the methods of distribution, and the extent to which such circulation is paid in whole or in part; and (5) such other information as the Postal Service may deem necessary to determine whether the publication meets the standards for periodical publication mail privileges. The Postal Service
shall not require the names of persons owning less than 1 percent of the total amount of stocks, bonds, mortgages, or other securities. (b) Each publication having such mail privileges shall furnish to the Postal Service information in such form and detail, and at such times, as the Postal Service requires to determine whether the publication continues to qualify for such privileges. (c) The Postal Service shall make appropriate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this section, including provision for suspension or revocation of periodical publication mail privileges for failure to furnish the required information (84 Stat. 765-766; 39 U.S.C. 3685). These requirements remain in law, and the USPS’s interpretations of these requirements and its interpretation of what constitutes a “periodical” may be found in the USPS’s Domestic Mail Manual.19

A New Process for Setting Postage Rates

PRA dramatically reduced Congress’s role in setting postal rates, shifting this responsibility to USPS and the newly created Postal Rate Commission (PRC, renamed the Postal Regulatory Commission in 2006).20

PRA mandated that postal rates and fees be set so that USPS’s revenues would equal its costs (84 Stat. 760). It devised a new quasi-judicial process for setting postage rates. USPS would file a request for rate increases with the PRC; the public and interested parties would submit comments and rebuttals; then the PRC would produce a “recommendation” of rates that USPS’s board of governors could accept, reject, or return to the PRC for further consideration (84 Stat. 760-762).

The recommendation of the PRC had to be based upon the following factors: (1) the establishment and maintenance of a fair and equitable schedule; 2) the value of the mail service actually provided each class or type of mail service to both the sender and the recipient, including but not limited to the collection, mode of transportation, and priority of delivery; (3) the requirement that each class of mail or type of mail service bear the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to that class or type plus that portion of all other costs of the Postal Service reasonably assignable to such class or type; (4) the effect of rate increases upon the general public, business mail users, and enterprises in the private sector of the economy engaged in the delivery of mail matter other than letters; (5) the available alternative means of sending and receiving letters and other mail matter at reasonable costs; (6) the degree of preparation of mail for delivery into the postal system performed by the mailer and its effect upon reducing costs to the Postal Service; (7) simplicity of structure for the entire schedule and simple, identifiable relationships between the rates or fees charged the various classes of mail for postal services; and (8) such other factors as the Commission deems appropriate (84 Stat. 760-761). Many of these criteria include calculations of value and cost. For example, for the first time, periodicals (and all mail classes) were to “bear the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to that class or type plus that portion of all other costs of the Postal Service reasonably assignable to such class or type” (84 Stat. 760). None of the PRA’s criteria, however, required the PRC to provide reduced postage rates for mail devoted to “the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or a special industry.”

Subsidies Continued

The PRA had an immediate effect on all mail classes, including periodicals. In setting second-class rates, the costs to USPS now had to be considered. PRA did authorize “revenue forgone” appropriations for some types of mail, such as not-for-profit mailings (84 Stat. 762-763).21 Generally, though, the law required postage to cover the costs to USPS of receiving, handling, and delivering mail.
The PRA had significant effects on postage rates, and on periodicals rates in particular. In 1972, USPS and the PRC agreed to raise periodicals postage rates significantly. In 1974, the two agencies agreed to further large increases in periodicals postage rates in 1974. In 1976, the PRC recommended raising rates further still.

**Table 1. Periodicals Postage Increases, 1971-1976**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Rate Increase</th>
<th>Average Postage Per Mail Piece (cents)</th>
<th>Increase Over Base Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-May 1971</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1971</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1972</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1973</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1974</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1974</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>122%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1975</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>170%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1976</td>
<td>7.3-9.2</td>
<td>217%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The PRA established timetables for phasing out the subsidies for periodicals over five years. In 1974, Congress lengthened this phase-out period to eight years (88 Stat. 287). Congress justified this extension on the basis of publishers' economic hardship - the industry claimed it was suffering from the significantly increased postage rates.

Despite the PRA's changes to the law and the postage increases, periodicals did not cease to be subsidized. For one, the PRA did not end the policy enacted in 1917 (40 Stat. 328) that required lower postage rates for the editorial portion of a periodical than for the advertising portion.

**Chart 1. Periodicals Attributable Costs & Revenues, 1972-1976 (millions of dollars)**
For another, the statute required each mail class to bear its “attributable cost,” but not its “total cost,” which includes both its attributable cost (i.e., the cost to USPS to process a particular class of mail), and its “institutional cost” (i.e., the cost that is fixed, such as the compensation of a mail carrier, who delivers all classes of mail). Because the PRA required all mail and postal services to collectively cover USPS’s costs, when periodicals failed to cover their attributable and institutional costs, other classes of mail had to cover the shortfall.

After the steep postage increases of the early 1970s, some publishers had protested that the new postage rates were too high. Some of them publicly pondered using private couriers to deliver their periodicals. In 1976, Congress amended the PRA to underscore its desire that periodicals mailers were to pay postage that was less than their total delivery costs. The new law required the PRC to consider an additional criterion when setting postage rates—“the educational, cultural, scientific, and informational value to the recipient of mail matter” (90 Stat. 1303; 39 U.S.C. 3622(b)(8).

Periodicals Postage Revenues Lag Behind the USPS’s Delivery Costs

Between 1971 and 1996, the repeated increases of periodicals postage helped the mail class cover its attributable costs (Chart 1) and provide significant revenues toward USPS’s institutional costs (Chart 2). After 1996, however, periodicals postage revenue did not climb as quickly as their delivery costs, and periodicals ceased contributing revenues toward the USPS’s institutional costs. By 2006, periodicals revenue had fallen nearly $375 million below their attributable costs.

It is difficult to determine the cause or causes for the decline of periodicals revenues relative to the USPS’s costs to deliver them. The data above are not conclusive, although one observation may be made. For reasons unclear, the USPS did not propose to increase periodicals postage in 1997, and as Figure 1 indicates, a drop in cost coverage followed. However, it must be noted that subsequently the USPS and PRC agreed to raise periodicals rates repeatedly. In 2000, the USPS proposed boosting rates 14.4%; the Postal Rate Commission suggested lowering that increase to 9.9% after the USPS announced that it had devised means to reduce its periodicals processing costs. The USPS and PRC agreed
to increase postage on periodicals more than 10% in 2002, and more than 5% in 2005. Nevertheless, these higher rates did not increase revenues sufficiently so that periodicals covered their attributable costs.

The Rate Case of 2006-2007

The USPS filed a rate case on May 3, 2006. “Without rate and fee changes,” the USPS explained, it “would incur a substantial revenue deficiency in the proposed test year, in contravention of 39 U.S.C. 3621.” Periodicals rates were particularly problematic. Postmaster General John E. Potter later testified before Congress that the volume of periodicals mailed had declined 13 percent between 2000 and 2006, and some periodicals paid rates that did not cover even their attributable, let alone institutional, costs. The PRC Chairman, Dan Blair, told Members of a House Subcommittee that USPS’s costs of delivering:

- first-class and standard mail letters have remained essentially flat over the past 10 years
- and as a result, the rates for that mail have been fairly stable. This is in sharp contrast to the spiraling costs associated with periodicals. For many years, the Commission has sought to keep periodicals postage rates as low as possible in the face of declining magazine mail volume and increasing Postal Service costs.... [M]agazines make the lowest contribution to overhead of any class of mail—roughly $3.6 million to fund almost $35 billion in [USPS] overhead costs.

After holding open hearings, accepting public comment, and reviewing testimony submitted from witnesses, the PRC issued its recommended decision on February 26, 2007. The USPS, with a few caveats, accepted PRC’s recommended postage rates. Most of the new postage rates were implemented on May 14, 2007, but USPS did not implement the new periodicals rates until July 15. According to Postmaster General Potter, the USPS delayed the new periodicals rates to give periodicals mailers time to adjust to the new and very different postage schedule. The PRC was concerned that periodicals as a class had “low cost coverage;” it made no contribution to the USPS’s institutional costs, and had failed to cover all its attributable costs. Thus, the PRC recommended rates that would increase periodicals rates 11.8 percent. Additionally, the PRC held that the periodicals postage schedule should identify more of the “cost drivers” within USPS’s mail handling process. Doing this required the PRC to produce a new periodicals rate schedule that was much more complex than the old one. The new schedule recognizes these cost drivers and reduces postage costs for mailers who undertake mail preparation activities (such as presorting mail pieces by zip code and stacking them on pallets) that lower USPS’ handling costs.

Rate case R2006-1 had direct effects on periodical subsidies. First, the postage subsidy would be reduced by requiring periodicals to cover a little more of their attributable costs. Second, by identifying more of the cost drivers in mail handling, the decision tacitly recognized that some periodicals mailers paid postage that covered a higher percentage of their attributable costs than other mailers. That is, these latter periodical mailers were receiving an intra-periodical class subsidy from the former periodical mailers. The new rate schedule would remedy this inequity.

The new rate schedule for periodicals provoked much debate. Some critics suggested that the new periodicals rates were the result of a conspiracy.

On the scale of giant social troubles, this one won’t register, but as a breathtaking example of corporate influence and regulatory cronyism, it can’t be beat. After almost a year of hearings, the Bush-appointed U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors tossed out their own staff recommendations and at the last minute approved a 758-page plan submitted by Time
Warner that will increase mailing costs between 18 and 30 percent a year for small-circulation magazines like Mother Jones, while postal costs for the big guys - Time, Newsweek, People - will actually go down.\textsuperscript{37}

The PRC stated that the goal of the new rate schedule was:

to better reflect costs, and send price signals that will encourage more efficient mailing practices. Periodicals costs have risen disproportionately in recent years, in part because current rates send such poor signals [to mailers]. For example, Periodicals is the only class where no rate penalty is applied to nonmachinable pieces. The [PRC] recommends a new design that draws from the separate proposals of the Postal Service and Time Warner Inc. The recommended rates recognize only a limited portion of the costs associated with identifiable cost drivers in order to moderate the impact on mailers. Nonetheless, Periodicals mailers are extremely cost conscious, and the Commission expects that these rates will foster more efficient, less costly Periodicals mail.\textsuperscript{38}

\textbf{Congressional Action}

Representatives from some periodicals complained that the new rate structure was unfair to publishers of small circulation magazines, who claimed they could not take the mail preparation steps required to reduce their postage costs. Some magazines and newspapers sharply criticized the rate increases in editorials, and expressed concern that the higher rates imperiled their existence, thereby threatening free speech and the free flow of information.\textsuperscript{39}

Sensing the dissension, the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia held a hearing on October 30, 2007. Victor Navasky, publisher emeritus of \textit{The Nation} magazine, told Congress that the R2006-1 rate case decision had imperiled:

those magazines that devote the most space to public affairs - to covering in depth events like the hearings before this very subcommittee ... In the case of \textit{The Nation}, the cost of mailing the magazine is already more than three times the cost of the paper on which it is printed.... [The new rates] will cost the magazine an additional $500,000 a year.\textsuperscript{40}

Some small-circulation periodicals, Navasky warned, would “undoubtedly expire in the months ahead” due to the higher postage rates. In a letter to the subcommittee that was appended to the statement of Victor Navasky, Scott McConnell of \textit{The American Conservative}, stated that the magazine faced a 58% increase in mailing costs, with postage rising from a little under 20 cents per issue to 31.5 cents per issue.\textsuperscript{41}

Not everyone sympathized with these views. James O’Brien of Time Inc. told Congress that the USPS’s cost of delivering periodicals had “outpaced inflation by more than 60% since 1986.” The incentive structure of the rate system, O’Brien argued, was at fault. “Because the postage rates for periodicals did not reflect the Postal Service’s costs, and gave mailers little reason to choose more efficient mailing practices, periodicals costs continued to escalate.”\textsuperscript{42} Mark W. White of U.S. News & World Report, L.P., argued that the rate case did not benefit all large circulation publishers and afflict all small circulation publishers. His company, which mailed 95 million magazines in the previous fiscal year, faced a 15% increase in postage rates. White argued that the R2006-1 rate case decision had not gone far enough to end biases in the periodicals rate structure that benefit “inefficient mailers” at the expense of efficient periodicals mailers.\textsuperscript{43}

Some critics of the new periodicals rates have argued that Congress should enact legislation to increase postage subsidies for small circulation magazines. During the 110th Congress, no Member introduced legislation to alter postage rates for periodicals.
A New Law and an Unclear Future for the Postage Subsidy for Periodicals

The enactment of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA; P.L. 109-435; 120 Stat. 3198-3263) in December 2006 made the future of the postage subsidy for periodicals less clear.44

The PAEA requires the new Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) to devise a new postage rate-setting system. The statute states that an “objective” of the new system is that it will allocate “the total institutional costs of the Postal Service appropriately between market-dominant and competitive products” (120 Stat. 3201).45 Additionally, one of the “factors” that the PRC had to consider in establishing the new pricing system is:

the requirement that each class of mail or type of mail service bear the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to each class or type of mail service through reliably identified causal relationships plus that portion of all other costs of the Postal Service reasonably assignable to such class or type (120 Stat. 3201).

Prima facie, it might appear that this provision requires each mail class, including periodicals, to cover all of its costs. Were this the case, it might be expected that the periodicals subsidy would diminish.

This interpretation, however, does not appear to be correct. First, the PAEA does not state that each mail classes must cover its total costs. Rather, the law requires each mail class to cover its “attributable” costs.

Second, the PAEA only requires that the USPS’s institutional costs be allocated among mail classes “appropriately.” The law does not define what “appropriately” means. The PRC interpreted it to mean that competitive products (overnight mail and other products) must contribute a minimum of 5.5% of the USPS’s institutional costs.46 This would mean that up to 94.5% of the USPS institutional costs would need to be covered by market dominant products. However, neither the law nor the PRC’s rules require periodicals or any other market dominant product to cover a particular percentage of these institutional costs.

Third, the PAEA contains provisions that clearly favor the continued subsidization of periodicals as a class of mail. The PAEA did not abolish the longstanding statutory policy of lower postage rates for the editorial portion of a periodical. Also, the PAEA stipulates that one of the factors that the PRC is to consider in devising the new postage rate system is “the educational, cultural, scientific, and informational value to the recipient of mail matter” (120 Stat. 3202).

In light of these points, nothing in the law would appear to indicate that the postage subsidy for periodicals need diminish.

That said, the PAEA may provide one means under which periodicals postage could be greatly increased and its subsidies greatly reduced.

The new rate-setting system mandated by the PAEA must limit the annual postage increases for periodicals and other market dominant products.47 Postage may not be increased more than the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (120 Stat. 3202-3203).48 Thus far, it appears that both the PRC and the USPS strongly respect the PAEA’s rate cap. On February 11, 2008, the USPS filed its first notice of increased postage for market dominant products.49 The Postal Service proposed to raise postage beginning May 12, 2008. It sought to increase periodicals postage 2.71%, an amount beneath the CPU-U of 2.9%. On March 17, 2008, the PRC found the proposal appropriate under the PAEA.50

However, the PAEA does permit postage increases in excess of the CPI-U in the event of an “extraordinary and exceptional circumstance.” Neither the law nor the PRC’s rules define what would constitute such a circumstance.
Notably, the USPS may file its second annual notice for increased postage for periodicals and other non-market products in the winter of 2009. During 2008, the monthly CPI-U has been between 3.0% and 4.5%. The USPS is experiencing financial distress and operating deficits, due in part to a decline in mail volume. If the USPS’s revenues continue to drop significantly and its operating costs increase, the USPS may argue that it is experiencing an “extraordinary and exceptional circumstance” that would justify raising the postage of periodicals and other market dominant products sharply. It is unclear whether the PRC would agree and accede to such an argument. Nor is it clear whether the PRC would interpret the law to permit the USPS to raise periodicals postage at a rate higher than that charged to other mail classes.

Concluding Observations

Over the long-term, it is unclear whether the periodicals postage subsidy will increase or decrease. To date, the new rate schedule and the PAEA have not had any obvious effects on the periodicals postage subsidy. A PRC analysis found that in FY2007 periodicals postage revenues covered only 83% of the class’s attributable costs, a shortfall of $448 million, and made no contribution toward the USPS’s institutional costs.

Government provision of postage subsidies for periodicals long has been a contentious issue because it involves disputed principles and vexing implementation issues. Some persons argue that periodicals play a unique role in a representative democracy, that they provide for a flow of information and ideas that benefit the nation. Adherents of this viewpoint argue that this special role means that periodicals deserve subsidization, and that this role was recognized by PRA, which requires USPS to “have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people” (39 U.S.C. 101a).

Not everyone agrees with this policy. Some persons contest the purported contribution of periodicals to the public weal or suggest that other means of information transmission, such as the telephone, television, and the World Wide Web are at least equally effective. Still other individuals take the position that fairness requires that each mailer should pay his or her total postage costs.

Meanwhile, other observers accept the importance of periodicals to a representative democracy, but suggest that actuating this idea into a policy has been an overly complex undertaking. As the above review of postage subsidy policy indicates, none has worked perfectly. Postage subsidies policies inevitably have raised two contentious questions: (1) Which periodicals should receive these subsidies? and (2) Who should pay for these subsidies? The sheer diversity and plenitude of periodicals—from The Atlantic Monthly to People to Sports Illustrated to Zymurgy—has made enacting periodical postage subsidies a challenging and, frequently, expensive undertaking.

Notes

1 Here, the term “periodical” refers to a magazine, journal, or newspaper.

For example, see Dylan Stableford, “Have Paper Prices Peaked,” *Folio*: Nov. 5, 2008.

Here, the term “postage” refers to the price paid to have a mail piece delivered. “Postage” is synonymous with “postal rates.”

Here, the term “subsidy” refers to an economic benefit provided by a government to a producer or consumer that is intended to encourage the production or consumption of a good or service. This memorandum addresses only major subsidies for periodicals. It does not include information on smaller subsidies, such as the 1845 statute that permitted any newspaper publisher to mail newspapers postage-free to persons residing within 30 miles of the newspaper’s office (5 Stat. 733).

Magazine Publishers of America reports that the magazine industry is “90% dependent on the postal system for delivery of its products.” (The remaining 10% are delivered by private couriers.) See Magazine Publishers of America, *Washington Watch*, Apr. 2008, p. 2.

Richard Kielbowicz reports that in the early 20th century, some Members of Congress “questioned whether a policy devised during the early Republic still made sense in the twentieth century [...] Was it necessary for government to help bind the nation together? If so, was subsidizing the circulation of advertising-filled newspapers and magazines the best way to do so?” In 1906, an advertising agent told the Joint Commission of Congress on Second Class Mail, “There is still an illusion to the effect that a magazine is a periodical in which advertising is incidental. But we don’t look at it that way. A magazine is simply a device to induce people to read advertising.” Richard B. Kielbowicz, “A History of Mail Classification and Its Underlying Policies and Purposes,” pp. 52-53 (paper prepared for the Postal Rate Commission, July 17, 1995, pp. 12-13, available at http://www.prc.gov/docs/40/40518/PRC-LR2.pdf).

In 1919, the Post Office pegged the annual cost of the periodicals subsidy at $72 million per year, or about $897 million today. Some publishers complained that they were not the beneficiaries of postage subsidies. In a letter to the *New York Times*, Charles J. Post of the Publishers Advisory Board stated, “This is most emphatically not true. It is an economic absurdity; for low postage is a direct benefit or ‘subsidy’ to the reader of newspapers and periodicals.” Charles J. Post, “Post Replies to Burleson,” *New York Times*, May 6, 1919. While a subsidy may lower the consumer’s purchase price, nevertheless the seller of the periodical benefits as he is paying less than the full cost for the service of delivery. Additionally, if lower postage rates make for lower subscription prices, then lower subscription prices mean periodicals will have higher circulation rates and, therefore, higher advertising rates.


President’s Commission on Postal Organization, Ibid., p. 31.

Congress’s efforts to increase postage rates on periodicals often were denounced by publishers. For example, in 1962, *Time* magazine claimed higher periodicals rates were “something close to a death sentence. Among the potential victims: such so-called ‘little magazines’ as the *New Republic*, *National Review*, the *New Leader*, the *Nation.*” Editorial, “Stamping Out a Deficit,” *Time*, Apr. 6, 1962.

U.S. Postal Service, *Domestic Mail Manual* (Washington: USPS, 2008), section 707. The PRA did not retain, however, the description of a periodical as “formed of printed sheets” (74 Stat. 667). Nor did PRA keep the 1879 law’s content definition, which declared that periodicals are “published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or a special industry” (74 Stat. 667).

Congress retains the power to set postage rates through statute.


Periodicals produced by not-for-profit corporations were given longer subsidy phase-out timetables.


Statement of Dan Blair, Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman, Ibid., pp. 2-3.


PAEA divides USPS products into “competitive” and “market-dominant” classes, and directs the PRC to establish different systems to price products in each of these classes. Competitive products include those products and services for which a competitive market exists, like overnight package delivery. Market-dominant products include those products that USPS need not compete with the private sector to provide, such as first-class mail and periodicals (120 (continued...) (...continued) Stat. 3200-3207).


Hence, the postage rate shocks that some mailers faced in the early 1970s and in 2006 may have become a thing of the past.

For the PRC’s final rules for the new rate-setting system, see Postal Regulatory Commission, “Administrative Practice and Procedure, Postal Service,” 72 Federal Register 63662-63704, Nov. 9,
The PAEA does permit the USPS to save unused rate increase authority. For example, if the USPS is permitted to raise rates 3.0% but only raises rates 2.0%, it may add that unused or “banked” 1.0% in a future rate case. Thus, to continue with this example, if the following year the CPI-U is 4%, the USPS may raise rates 4.0% plus the 1.0% in banked rate increase authority. The PAEA limits these banked postage increases to 2%, and it does not permit the USPS to bank any year’s unused rate increase authority for more than five years (thus preventing the gradual accumulation of large rate increase authority.)

49 72 Federal Register 9363-9368.
53 One of the PAEA’s objectives for the new rate-setting system is the establishment and maintenance of “a just and reasonable schedule for rates and classifications,” although this objective is not to be “construed to prohibit the Postal Service from making changes of unequal magnitude within, between, or among classes of mail” (120 Stat. 3201).

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Fig. 4: Time magazine for June 14, 1954, was charged five cents postage due for forwarding. Reduced postage for periodicals has never covered such extra services.
Gathering Postal History: 
The Story of Vietnamese Refugees
by Bruce A. Beardsley

I’ve been a stamp collector since age seven, and even the usual distractions of school, family and the need to earn a living did not extinguish my philatelic interest, though those distractions did frequently diminish the time and funds available for such pursuits. Unfortunately, those times when my personal or professional life was most hectic tended to coincide with periods when the possibility of collecting postal history in the making was greatest. Still, I kept an eye out for philatelic evidence of the events I experienced, gathering what I might.

In the summer of 1965, I and about half of the fifty thousand other soldiers stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia deployed to Vietnam. My military duties included joining various maneuver elements on operations, so I occasionally picked up a letter to or between members of the North Vietnamese Army (Figure 1). I used various APO return addresses on my “soldier’s mail” home, instructing family members to save these bits of military postal history for me. Nothing spectacular, but a start.

Fig. 1: Letter between two North Vietnamese Army soldiers, to and from coded APO addresses. Postmarked Ha Tinh, (North) Vietnam on Sept 5, 1965 and machine backstamped Hanoi Oct 18 (?) 1965. The addressee was captured in the central highlands of South Vietnam later in the year.

I returned to Vietnam in 1970, now a civilian on an otherwise all-military advisory team. My letters still had an APO return address but had a postage stamp rather than “free” in the upper right corner. I also used the Vietnamese postal system, which was reasonably good (Figure 2). During both tours I also saved locally-generated Vietnamese mail. Still, my personal postal history was fairly mundane.

I left Vietnam in 1972 for Lebanon and then Afghanistan, thinking one chapter of my life was closed. To my great surprise and pleasure, I was suddenly ordered east from Kabul in April 1975 to assist in the evacuation from Vietnam. I ended up as Civil Coordinator on Wake Island, trying to keep things smooth among 12,000 or so Vietnamese evacuees. Now here was an opportunity to get more interesting philatelic evidence of a slice of history! In addition to sending a postcard or two using the postal service of Wake, I was able to save a little incoming mail. This included letters enquiring about specific refugees or supporting resettlement, and mail from other camps from refugees searching for family members. One cover from Hong Kong (Figure 3) is dripping with drama.
That summer Guam hosted the largest evacuee camp, but there were other large Vietnamese refugee concentrations in the Philippines (Subic Bay) and Hong Kong, and elsewhere along the Pacific Rim. I also saved bits of ephemera – telegrams and official messages concerning the plight and future of the evacuees. That year the U.S. resettled about 133,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, while France, Australia and others also resettled tens of thousands. The Vietnamese diaspora was just beginning.

Saigon fell April 30, 1975 and, after a few month’s interest, refugees were rarely in the Western news. Increasingly, though, people were escaping Vietnam overland and by boat, resulting in massive tragedies at sea and a rapid buildup of asylum seekers in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. A June 1979 conference in Geneva broke the resettlement deadlock, with the U.S. agreeing to resettle from camps in Southeast Asia 15,000 boat refugees a month for eighteen months. I traveled to Malaysia that summer to help with that process. There my team and I concentrated on Pulau Bidong, an island off the state of Trengganu, but over the next several months I visited all the refugee camps in Malaysia, including in Sarawak and Sabah (Figure 4).
Most days found me quite busy interviewing applicants for resettlement and documenting incidents of abuse and tragedy, but opportunities to gather refugee postal history did present themselves. They came in several categories: a) communications between official agencies, such as the U.S. Embassy and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); b) letters sent from asylum seekers in the camps (Figure 5); c) letters to the asylum seekers (in camps or when they were still in Vietnam) from relatives already in the U.S. and elsewhere; and d) letters from Vietnam. Unfortunately, many of the letters between official entities, as well as from individuals, were hand-delivered, and have a minimum of markings.

My final official activity involving Vietnamese refugees was also my most exciting and by all measurements the most productive. I spent a month in Bangkok with the Orderly Departure Program from Vietnam (ODP) in 1984, followed by a four-year assignment (1985-1989) to Embassy Bangkok. My duties grew from running the Orderly Departure Program to encompass the protection and resettlement of all Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian asylum
seekers in Thailand, as well as some region-wide programs. While I was sadly too busy with my duties to devote much time to accumulating contemporary postal history, by the time I left Bangkok I had gathered a few hundred interesting envelopes, many of which contribute to the postal history of the refugee situation in Southeast Asia.

From my office in Bangkok I traveled extensively: to refugee camps throughout the kingdom, to Hanoi to negotiate agreements with a government with which we did not then have diplomatic relations, and to international conferences in Kuala Lumpur and Geneva. During some of the out-of-country travel I sent letters to myself to commemorate pivotal activities, such as negotiating a formal agreement on resettlement of Amerasians. Most interesting are the letters that poured into my office from Vietnam, from the refugee camps and from other organizations.

Letters from Vietnam are the most interesting to me. They included “adversity covers” and “turned covers,” where envelopes were made from scrap paper or old envelopes were turned inside out and reused (Figure 6). Ironically, some envelopes had the printed return address of a US government entity. While Vietnam embarked on the “doi moi” of economic reform in 1986, it took some time for the economy to revive. Inflation was rampant, and those envelopes bearing stamps (although meters were becoming increasingly common) often carried a dozen or more, often overlapping (the Figure 7 envelope has 15 stamps on the back).

Envelopes I was able to accumulate represent a plethora of sources, destinations, individuals and institutions. Official mail ranged from thousands of U.S. congressional enquiries, letters between my office and other embassies, international organizations (principally UNHCR – the United Nations High Commission for Refugees), various governmental ministries, private advocacy organizations and of course individuals around the world (Figure 8).

Refugees in the various first asylum camps in Thailand would write occasionally (Figures 9 to 12). Camp letters to my office usually came by courier ("outside the mails")
Fig. 7: Letter from Da Nang October 8, 1988 using a USAF official business envelope. The letter was sent registered to the Embassy’s APO address, and includes an APO receiver backstamp of November 2, 1988. The back of the envelope has 15 Vietnamese postage stamps.

Fig. 8: May 4, 1989 registered, official letter, marked “urgent” (red, in Thai), from the Thai Ministry of Interior to the U. S. Embassy. The MOI played a major role in controlling asylum seekers in Thailand.

Fig. 9: 1988 letter from a Cambodian refugee in the UNHCR refugee center near Khao-I-Dang, near Aranyaprathet, Thailand.
was the term in an earlier era) and did not bear postmarks, but occasionally bore interesting special handling indicia. Post offices selling Thai stamps were located in major camps, and most camps had a well established informal system for transferring messages, money and goods between peoples. More interesting than the messages to my office, from a postal

Fig. 10: 1989 letter from the Cambodian refugee camp near Surin, Thailand. The letter traveled from Surin to Bangkok via the U.S. Embassy’s APO address in San Francisco. The Surin camp was politicized, and under the authority of former and future King Norodom Sihanouk.

Fig. 11: A 1988 letter from a Vietnamese at Ban Thad refugee camp, Prachenburi, Thailand. He was one of the relatively few “land Vietnamese” then in Thailand. The letter bears the seal of the Supreme Command (Royal Thai Army)’s border and refugee control unit called “Task Force 80.” TF 80 was established in 1980 to deal with the heavy refugee flow from Cambodia that began in 1979.

Fig. 12: This 1988 letter, also from a Vietnamese at Ban Thad, bears the control stamp of the DPPU (Displaced Persons Processing Unit). TF80 was re-named and re-organized in 1988 to dodge the poor reputation TF 80 had. The control stamp also exists with “DPPU” in Thai rather than Roman letters.
historian’s viewpoint, may be letters between camp inhabitants and their relatives resettled abroad (Figure 5 again).

By the 1980s most people in Vietnam wishing to resettle in the U.S. would write directly to my office in Bangkok (Figure 13) or to the UNHCR office in Hanoi, but others were fearful of reprisals should their desire to leave become known. Thus they would send letters to friends abroad (Figure 14) who would re-envelope them and send them on (Figures 15 and 16).

The joy to all this is that every one of these covers is non-philatelic (excluding the few I sent myself). Each one tells a piece of the large refugee resettlement and protection effort saga in which our country was engaged for so many years after the war ended.

My formal association with the Indochinese exodus ended with my transfer to Manila in 1989. At that time there were two refugee camps in the Philippines (the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan and a First Asylum Camp near Puerto Princesa on Palawan). Although I visited the camps and received a bit of mail from them, my new position did not directly involve refugee activities, and it seemed best to keep it that way. Thus ended my gathering of refugee related postal history until my arrival in Kosovo a decade later.

![Fig. 13: This 1986 letter from Thu Duc has it all! Registered and airmail indicia, a 4d “capitalist tax” marking, and a cachet (just below the Ho Chi Minh stamp) commemorating the 6th Party Congress. The envelope has three more postage stamps on the back.](image1)

![Fig. 14: A 1983 registered letter from Ho Chi Minh City to a Vietnamese (refugee?) in Hong Kong. There are six more postage stamps on the back.](image2)
Fig. 15: Letter postmarked Wien, Austria 26-4-88 to the ODP Director in Bangkok, enclosing an inquiry about a resettlement case. To avoid censorship, or intimidation, many people interested in resettlement abroad would send letters via third parties in more neutral countries.

Fig. 16: A 1988 registered letter from Japan to the ODP director. The envelope is of a type common in Vietnam at that time, further suggesting its real origin. The Japanese intermediary helpfully added his address below that of the writer.

Fig. 17: A rare 1957 postcard used to communicate between families separated by the 1954 division of Vietnam. It was postmarked December 29, 1957 in Hanoi and received a Saigon date stamp January 22, 1958.
My gatherings, alas, seem insufficient for a “proper” exhibit, as they tell only that small portion of the Vietnam War and post-war adventure that involved me. I have been remedying that shortcoming by acquiring other related covers. To complete the story I also collected philatelic “forerunners”: covers evidencing the French military and civilian activities in Indochina, Chinese refugees to Vietnam in the thirties and forties, and especially the mass “transfer of populations” refugee movements between North and South Vietnam following the 1954 Geneva accords (which divided the country at the seventeenth parallel) (Figure 17).

![Fig. 18: A 6-11-1980 letter from a prisoner in the Han Tan re-education camp to a woman in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Long-term re-education camp prisoners were eligible for resettlement in the U.S. per a formal agreement negotiated by the author with Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi in 1987.](image)

Those who became long-term political prisoners after 1975 (some spent a dozen or more years in “re-education” camps) were highly eligible for resettlement in the U.S. via the Orderly Departure Program. I have expanded my quest by acquiring a few covers written to and from the “re-ed” camps as an adjunct to the refugee story (Figure 18).

Postal history is being created every day, and I was fortunate in that my professional activities allowed me to save some from destruction. Now if only I had the time to organize my holdings!

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Bruce Beardsley retired from the Foreign Service in 2000. Since then he has undertaken several short-term missions to the Balkans with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and has participated in the training of over twenty US Army brigades being deployed to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. His extensive post-retirement travel has taken him back to Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Hong Kong. He now lives with his lady and cat in Arlington, Virginia.

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A Tribute Volume of ‘Cameo’ Advertising

Preston Davis has published a memorial to Thomas Beckman (1944-2003), Delaware Cameo Advertising 1850-1875: Cameo Stamps, Cards, Covers in an extremely limited edition of 35. Many collectors and institutions collaborated on the project, although most illustration came from the collections of José L. Rodriguez and Robert Swed. The attractive hardbound book has 90 color illustrations of cameo designs, including many of the complete envelope with cameo cornercard. Tipped-in are indices arranged by business, engraver, die name - with collection information.

Tom Beckman was an avid researcher into this area of printing history, and all his research files, along with those of his long-time collaborator Mr. Rodriguez, are now placed in the “José L. Rodriguez-Tom Beckman Delaware Cameo Stamp Research Collection” housed in the library of the Delaware Historical Society.
18th Century Letter Writing in the U.S.
a review by Diane DeBlois


Konstantin Dierks, Professor of History at Indiana University, Bloomington, has been reading thousands of 18th century letters held in American public collections to answer what people living then imagined letter writing could do in their lives. David Henken gave us the view of a ‘postalized’ America at mid-19th century (The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communication in Nineteenth-Century America, reviewed in PHJ 138); Professor Dierks gives us the preview.

The phrase “in my power” – ubiquitous in 18th century epistolary formality, and illustrated here as used in a 1771 pleading letter from an indentured woman servant to her master - is the key to an understanding that letter writing became a powerful tool for ordinary Americans. Letters provided ‘narrative meaning’ but also enabled “the taking of instrumental action” in a world that was challenged by “geographical mobility, economic metamorphosis and political upheaval.” This book explores the various ways in which Americans invested in this tool: educating towards literacy and numeracy; supplying paper, ink, etc.; and – most important for us - extending a postal service.

Professor Dierks’ aim of discovering the middle-class concept of personal agency before any such was explicitly understood is well-served by the dust jacket illustration of the Baltimore James McCormick Family, a painting by African-American Joshua Johnson of about 1805 that shows parents with three small children – the oldest engaged in opening a folded letter, one of two held by his father. The argument is that, by the early Republic, personal agency extended to the youngest of children and was thereby universalized, and apolitical – middle class Americans did not see that their epistolary success was a form of exclusion, privilege and domination.

The opening chapter, “Communications and Empire” explains the gulf of understanding between 17th century British envoy Edward Randolph (“an imperialist without empire”) and the lack of respect for authority in the American colonies he tried to serve, and gives a history of the development of an efficient postal service in England (William Dockwra’s Penny Post receiving full marks) up to the 1711 Postal Act that established the colonial postal system.

In “Letter Writing and Commercial Revolution,” the individual first examined is a London drug retailer, Joseph Cruttenden (“a capitalist without capital”) who struggled early in the 18th century to successfully trade with the colonies. His business letters provide the framework for examining letter manuals and trade books, and then are contrasted with the more competent letters of Henry Laurens, a young South Carolina merchant at mid-18th century. Laurens’ life in business frames discussion of the material culture of letter writing.
The letters in “Migration and Empire” reveal how transatlantic immigrants came to terms with displacement and change. This chapter also introduces the development of strategic communications in the French and Indian wars – focusing on the letters of Swiss mercenary officer Henry Bouquet. Then the history of the postal system in the colonies is extended through the postal act of 1765 up to the Revolution, with a focus on the experience of James Parker, printer and postal comptroller.

“Letter Writing and Consumer Revolution” examines in more detail the presence of letter writing in culture – in literature, in educational reform, in social practice. Professor Dierks also explores the minutiae of ink, paper, pens, letter writing manuals – placing them within the growing panoply of consumer goods available to the emerging middle class.

Part of the content of “Revolution and War” appeared in PHJ 143 “Hazards of Communications in Revolutionary America.” William Goddard’s controversial role in the overthrow of the imperial postal system (with his Constitutional Postal Office) – and the concomitant politicization of letter writing – is strongly defended, but Benjamin Franklin’s and Hugh Finlay’s contributions are also described. Correspondence of the Shoemaker family, Joseph Hodgkins, Nathanael Greene and others is analyzed to expand on the observation that this war of 1776 was “fought over paper and with paper, over letters and with letters.”

Professor Dierks becomes his most ‘political’ in the final chapter “Universalism and the Epistolary Divide” with his examination of the limitations to cultural mobility (particularly of enslaved or free blacks) in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He focuses first on the teaching of letter writing skills to young children, and on letters both to and from them (including infant scrawls: 1791 “…those fine strokes prove to me he will be a lad of business …”) He then describes Noah Webster’s zeal for a public school system – that would match the need for a informed citizenry, one the postal act of 1792 seemed to assume. The new postal system was designed to aid territorial expansion and to inform citizens by the free distribution of newspapers – political goals. Professor Dierks argues that there was no such understanding of the political power of letter writing. Letters remained, so to speak, below the political radar, and “achieved an extraordinary social presence and cultural weight without ever becoming associated with a specific set of interests” even while “they helped the white middle class create new means of empowerment – economic employment, social utility, cultural refinement – quite different from traditional means of political power wielded by the elite.”

Professor Dierks’ book will provoke much discussion in the academic world of postal history. For the philatelic postal historian, his research is valuable to summarize the formation of the early United States postal system, and a history of its British foundations. For all of us who value the content of the letters we collect, his extensive information about the material culture of letter writing makes excellent reference.

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Bi-Sects from Sabetha, Kansas
by Diane DeBlois & Robert Dalton Harris

Several examples of bi-sected 8 cent “winged globe” air mail stamps have been recorded from the small town of Sabetha, Kansas, in the first months of 1935 – used on business reply envelopes directed back to The Pyrogen Laboratory.

We visited Sabetha to see how much “back-story” existed. The present art deco post office was built in 1936, replacing the former building. The postmaster for only a matter of months from late 1934 into the first half of 1935 was C.S. Brumbaugh, who otherwise ran a general merchandise store (souvenir vases of Sabetha which were made for him appear on the collectibles market).

Why did postmaster Brumbaugh cut 8 cent stamps in half instead of using a 4 cent stamp? What stamps would he have had on hand in February 1935? He no doubt had the regular issue of the 4th Bureau series in the basic first class mail denomination of 3 cents, and probably had the 4 cents as well. He might still have the Mothers of America and the Wisconsin Tercentenary commemoratives, 3 cents, issued in May and July 1934. And he might have several denominations of the National Parks series that had been issued from July to October of 1934. There was a 4 cent in the series – of Mesa Verde – but perhaps he was short of both these and the definitive 4s. Clearly, he felt he had a surplus of the 8 cent air mail stamp.

The winged globe stamp design had first appeared as a violet 5 cent on February 10, 1930, to pay domestic airmail. A new rate of 8 cents per ounce effective July 6, 1932, was covered by the same design in olive bister on September 26, (and, with the inauguration of Transatlantic air mail service May 16, 1939, a version of the design appeared in dull blue for 30 cents). But the rate was lowered on July 1, 1934, to 6 cents making the 8 cent stamp obsolete. A 6 cent winged globe stamp was issued in dull orange on June 30. It was not permitted to use air mail stamps for regular surface mail.
Figs. 3, 4, 5: Replies received at Sabetha, Kansas, on February 4, 8, 23, 1935 (top to bottom) and the 3 cent postage plus 1 cent paid reply surcharge covered by a bi-sected 8 cent air mail stamp that had not been current for domestic air mail since July 1, 1934. The first two examples have been torn from their other half, the third was cut.
so it appears that postmaster Brumbaugh was using up stamps he felt would otherwise be returned to the USPOD and destroyed.

The postal service never explicitly allowed for the use of a portion of a stamp—though there is plenty of 19th century evidence that postmasters turned to the practice when short of stamp denominations. Apparently, novice postmaster Brumbaugh only used bi-sects for the postage on business reply envelopes—perhaps reasoning that the stamps would not actually pass through the mails but were acting as a postal receipt.

Business Reply allowed for the broad distribution of business ‘prepaid’ solicitation without actual payment until a reply was received. Under section 384 1/2 of the Postal Laws and Regulations, any printed reply card or envelope (with a first class permit indicia) would be charged the regular first class postage plus one cent (this surcharge was a reduction from 2 cents, effective October 1, 1928). Such replies could be bundled, and the postage only affixed to the top card or envelope when the business entity picked up the mail and paid for the accumulated responses. In the examples from Sabetha, the reply envelopes were charged the basic 3 cents postage plus the 1 cent fee, each reply arriving on a different day. If The Pyrogen Laboratory did a lot of business, then postmaster Brumbaugh was often called upon to make up 4 cent postage. Were the reply to have been printed on a card, postmaster Brumbaugh would have been affixing 2 cent stamps: 1 cent postage plus 1 cent surcharge. The envelopes printed by the Pyrogen Lab didn’t specify how much postage would be paid, though some businesses spelled it out (see Figure 8).

Such a laboratory no longer exists in Sabetha and no one at either the post office or the Historical Society remembers such a business in town. However, there is a pyrogen lab attached to a Lawrence, Kansas, hospital and a large laboratory in Kansas City, Missouri, and both centers are fairly close to Sabetha which is in the northeastern corner of the state. Tests for pyrogens (fever-producing elements that can contaminate pharmaceuticals, etc.) have traditionally involved rabbits—a commodity that this part of Kansas has in abundance! Apparently the laboratory sent out a large advertising mailing to promote its services, perhaps including a questionnaire to be filled in by prospective customers, who were likely to be farmers wanting to test, say, their milk. The three replies here, from Alabama and Virginia, indicate the lab was looking for national coverage.

![Figure 6: An 8 cent air mail stamp used in its period (here December 20, 1933), instead of the paid reply provision, to send a response by air to the Missouri Athletic Association from Oakland, California. Paid reply printed for airmail returns are rare, see Figure 8.](image)
Fig. 7: Accumulated Business Reply returns could also be paid for with postage due stamps. In 1957, Ingersoll Rand of Philipsburg N.J.’s payment in cash for 86 returns of an airmail paid reply envelope - 6 cents each for domestic airmail plus 1 cent surcharge, totaling $6.02 - is recorded with postage due stamps affixed to a bill, Form 3582a F.

Fig. 8: A Business Reply Envelope that provided for airmail postage (at a time during World War II when the domestic airmail rate was 8 cents) on returns to Salt Lake City, Utah.
American Postal History in Other Journals
by Douglas N. Clark

A large number of articles on U.S. postal history is being published each month. In order to present a useful survey of recent publications, it is necessary to adopt a rather narrow definition of postal history and to present what is more an index than a literary endeavor. Unlike an index, however, the present listing contains very little cross-referencing; so that a reader interested in transatlantic mail should check each geographical location from which such mail might have originated. Editors not finding their publication reviewed here need only make sure the publication is available to the U.S. Associate Editor, at Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648-0427.

General Topics

Highway Post Offices
Southeast Texas HPOs have occupied a series of “Highway Post Office” columns by William Keller. In part 4, he concentrates on the Houston & Victoria HPO. Historical notes, schedules and postmark illustrations are included. Trans. Post. Coll. 60, No. 4 (May-June 2009).

Independent Mails
Hartford Mail Route adhesive stamps used and on cover are illustrated, 1844-45, and certain markings are confirmed to be manuscript precancels. Gordon Stimmell and John Bowman, “Making Strides with Hartford Mail Route Pioneer Precancels,” Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

Inland Waterways
“The Steamer Atlantic” used an attractive name of boat handstamp, illustrated on two covers (1850 and undated) in this article by Cary E. Johnson. A picture and history of the vessel are also included. Peninsular Phil. 50, No. 4 (Spring 2009).

Military Mail
Confederate States Ordinance Department cover addressed to Navy Commander Catesby Jones is illustrated in an article by Randy L. Neil. Jones’ career is outlined and his service on the CSS Virginia motivates the article’s title “Merrimack Cover!” Confed. Phil. 54, No. 2 (April-June 2009).

Jewish refugees in England were interned in Kitchener Camp. In “Great Britain Interns Her Jewish Refugees In World War II” author Louis Fiset illustrates a letter to a Camp Kitchener internee who had been transferred to Isle of Man and Australia. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).


Soldier labor was required to produce spruce for World War I airplane production in Oregon and Washington. Mail to and from the camps is the subject of “World War I Spruce Production Division - Its Postal History” by Rod Crossley and Margaret Rice. La Posta 40, No. 2 (April-May 2009).

“The Immortal 600” by Patricia A. Kaufmann tells the story of a group of Confederate prisoners of war, sent from Fort Delaware Prison to be used as human shields at Hilton Head, S.C. in 1864. Several covers to and from the prisoners are illustrated. Amer. Stamp Dealer & Coll. No. 29 (April 2009).
USS *Cabot*, USS *Bataan* and USS *San Jacinto* are the subject of “New Jersey Built: 13 Fast Aircraft Carriers that served in the United States Navy between 1927 and 2009, Part IV” by Lawrence B. Brennan. NJPH 37, No. 2 (May 2009).

**Post Office History**

Origin of the Colonial post office, Goddard’s Post taken over by the Continental Congress and expresses which General Washington used for security reasons, are covered in “Hazards of Communications in Revolutionary America” by Konstantin Dierks, Post. Hist. J. No. 143 (June 2009).


**Postal Markings**

Auxiliary handstamp impressions are reproduced in “Stamp Impressions from Stamps from 1950’s to 1960's Post Office” by Ralph Nafziger and Tony Wawrukiewicz. The post office from which they originated is not identified. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 2 (April 2009).

“Barcoded Missents” is the writing on a label indicating a letter missent because the wrong barcode appeared on it. Barcoding and use of the label is explained in this article attributed to “Anonymous and Douglas Quine.” Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).


Clock handstamps, 1912-24, showing time of arrival are examined by Albert Aldam and demonstrated to be applied by private companies, not the receiving post office. “Those Clock-Face Receiving Auxiliary Markings,” Aux. Marks. VI, No. 2 (April 2009).

“Damaged in Handling in the Postal Service” is the only authorized explanation for damaged mail after January 19, 1956. Author Tony Wawrukiewicz regrets the loss on information on covers bearing the marking. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).

“Domestic Postmarks Showing Integral Rate within the Circular Townmark, 1851-1855 Period” by James W. Milgram contains a census of such markings (including at least one straight line) and illustrations of sample covers. Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

“E.S. Zevely Postmaster Markings” by James W. Milgram contains a reproduction of a circular by Zevely describing some of the postmarking devices he had for sale and illustrating some of their impressions, ca1854-1860s. Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

Killers used with the eagle carrier stamp of 1851 are illustrated, including a numeral 1 in octagon and a rectangular boxed grid. “The Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations: Two Discoveries” by Vernon Morris. C. C. Phil. 88, No. 3 (May-June 2009).

MAIL IN DISPUTE auxiliary marking of 1913 is explained in the article “Disputed Mail” by David L. Straight. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 1 (January 2009).

“Mail Trained” auxiliary marking, meaning mail sent by train instead of by airmail, as originally directed, is illustrated and explained by author John Hotchner. Aux. Marks VI, No. 1 (January 2009).

Prison related auxiliary markings are illustrated, each indicating that the mail has not been censored and hence may be offensive. Two covers are shown (1992). Rob Washburn, “A Few More Prison-Related Auxiliary Markings,” Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).

“Return to Sender - the Early Years, Continued” is a sequel to “Return to Sender Mail, the Beginnings” by Tony Wawrukiewicz. A variety of returned markings is illustrated, 1860-74. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).
“Return to Sender Mail, the Beginnings” by Tony Wawrukiewicz contains illustrations of two corner card covers (1859 and 1860) and includes a discussion of post office regulations regarding the status of corner cards on returned letters. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 1 (January 2009).

“Test” auxiliary marking on cover (1917) is illustrated but not explained by author Merle Farrington. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).

“United States Auxiliary Markings Found Only on Card-rated Matter” by H. J. Berthelot contains illustrations of eight such markings, mostly on mail returned because it did not meet the specifications for card-rated matter. La Posta 40, No. 2 (April-May 2009).

Rates

“12c Bremen-Hamburg Rate to Oldenburg?” by Dwayne O. Littauer contains arguments and examples for such a rate, by act of 1857, which some authors have concluded does not exist. Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

Rate change of October 1, 1883, from 3c per half ounce to 2c per half ounce is illustrated by last day/first day covers and a poem of farewell to the 3c stamp. Richard B. Graham, “Postal History,” Linn’s 82, No. 4197 (April 6, 2009).

Stamps on Cover

1847 adhesives in unusual use are shown in two articles by Harvey Mirsky. “Underpaid and Accepted: These Got Through” illustrates two underfranked covers without postage due and “Meyersburg Census Update” shows a combination with Boston carrier adhesive. Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

1869 issue covers, deemed by Ashbrook to have stamps replaced, are illustrated. In some cases Ashbrook is mistaken, but for the subject cover of “Is this 30c 1869 Cover to France a Fake?” it is concluded that he was correct. Scott R. Trepel. Chronicle 61, No. 2 (May 2009).

Postal stationery entries existing with Confederate States Post Office Department imprints are surveyed, as to type and (franking) signature. “U.S. Stamped Envelopes Used by the Confederate Post Office Department” by Thomas M. Lera. Confed. Phil. 54, No. (April-June 2009).

Usages

“Confederate Conjunctive Use Covers” refers to franking by at least two of: general issue adhesives, due or paid marks at origin and postmaster provisionals. Author James L. D. Monroe illustrates two and records a census of 12 conjunctive use covers. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 2 (April-June 2009).

“General Delivery” is discussed, both at U.S. post offices and in other countries. Several U.S. postal markings are illustrated. Author is George McGowan. Post. Hist. J. No. 143 (June 2009).

“Postmasters’ Franking Privilege” in the Confederate States is explained in this article by Francis J. Crown. Official post office business mail could be sent free, as illustrated by five examples, 1861-4. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 2 (April-June 2009).

Registered postal cards, sent to U.S.S.R. in 1941, are illustrated and discussed in “More Unusual Prexie Postcard Uses” by Bob Hohertz. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

Geographical Locations

Alaska

Nome letter of 1900 is illustrated. By identifying the addressee, “A Tough Texas Lady,” author Michael Dattolico is able to explain the letter’s forwarding to the Philippines and China. La Posta 40, No. 3 (June-July 2009).
California

Los Angeles area interurban electric lines are surveyed in “Pacific Electric Railway Post Offices 1900-1950” by Rod Crossley. A map, schedules, covers and car photographs are included. The article is adapted from a 1991 book by the author. La Posta 40, No. 3 (June-July 2009).

Los Angeles postal history between June 1899 and August 1909 is detailed, especially substation locations and markings, in “The Development of the Los Angeles Postal System, through August 1909. Part II” by Randy Stehle. La Posta 40, No. 2 (April-May 2009).

San Francisco Mission St. R.P.O. was established in 1896, but the earliest known postmark was in 1898, until an 1896 cover with an indistinct postmark was reported in 1987. A clearer strike is illustrated in “News From the Cities” by David A. Gentry. Trans. Post. Coll. 60, No. 4 (May-June 2009).

Colorado

Bedrock, Colorado uses an auxiliary marking reading “Return to sender/fictitious Cartoon Character” on current mail sent to Fred Flintstone, or similar characters. Dale Spiers illustrates the marking in “Wilma doesn’t live here anymore.” Calgary Phil. 96 (June 2009).


Florida


Georgia


Hawaii

Hawaii mail to and from the eastern U.S., handled by forwarding agents in Mexico, is studied in “‘Via Mexico’: Hawaii’s ‘Express’ Route 1835-1848, Concluded” by Fred Gregory. Mexico and New York forward covers are shown in this final part. C. C. Phil. 88, No. 3 (May-June 2009).

“Honolulu/Dec 7/8:00 AM/1940/Hawaii” postmarked cover is illustrated and author Lucien Klein discusses and illustrates another cover with the same postmark. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

Illinois

Belvidere postmaster Charles B. Loop is identified as the husband of the addressee of an 1864 letter from Chattanooga. Ill. Post. Hist. 30 No. 2 (May 2009).
Champaign stampless cover of 1861 is illustrated and its status as a very late stampless usage is explored. “1861 Champaign Stampless Cover” by Jack Hilbing, Ill. Post. Hist. 30 No. 2 (May 2009).

Chicago fourth class covers ca. 1913, franked with 1c parcel post adhesives, frequently bear corner cards of raincoat manufacturers. In “Chicago ‘Raincoat covers’ and similar parcel post packages” Leonard Piszkiewicz discusses the covers, their enclosure and the appropriate postal regulations. Ill. Post. Hist. 30 No. 2 (May 2009).

**Indiana**


**Iowa**


Dubuque, W.T. and Garnavillo, Ia covers provide “Two Iowa ‘First Day Covers’,” as pointed out by author Jim Petersen. The former is postmarked July 2, 1838, the first day of the Iowa Territory; the latter is December 31, 1846, the first day of statehood. Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. No. 249 (Apr., May, Jun., 2009).


**Kentucky**

Wayne County towns, with historical and post office information and illustrations of a few postmarks, are the subject of “The Post Offices of Wayne County, Kentucky Part 1” by Robert M. Rennick. La Posta 40, No. 3 (June-July 2009).

**Massachusetts**

Boston killers with large negative numerals are the subject of “Boston Large Negatives” by Roger D. Curran. New earliest dates and some minor varieties are reported, 1878-81. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 6 (May 2009).

“Massachusetts Auxiliary Markings: Postage Verification,” contains a survey of markings indicating recognition of postage which has been removed or is absent for other reasons, 1911-2005. Author is Nancy B. Clark. Mass. Spy No. 125 (Spring 2009).

Nantucket “Advertised/Aug 1 1905” handstamp, on post card from Christmas, ME, is illustrated. 1c postage due was charged. “Maine Cover of the Quarter,” by Rob Washburn. Maine Phil. 41, No. 3 (Spring 2009).


**Michigan**

“Michigan Carrier Marks: 1873 to 1897 Addendum” by Eric A. Glohr contains illustrations of markings of Detroit, Jackson, Martin, Hillsdale, Battle Creek and Saginaw, adding to listings in an earlier article. Peninsular Phil. 50, No. 4 (Spring 2009).

“Sebewaing, Mich. - A Non-standard Date Stamp” by Bill Brooks illustrates what appears
Missouri
Missouri Confederate Volunteers’ endorsement, on a cover postmarked Shreveport, LA in 1865, identifies the cover as “Confederate Missouri.” Author John L. Kimbrough identifies the writer as a soldier writing to another soldier in Texas. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 2 (April-June 2009).

New Jersey
Hamburg postal history (1795-2000) begins Len Peck’s second article on the “Development of the Post Offices of Sussex County.” Next the Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike is located and the post offices of Pompton, Snufftown and Aquackanock which it spawned are covered. NJPH 37, No. 2 (May 2009).

“Hunterdon County Postal History: Part 8: Active POs: A-F” by Jim Walker includes reproductions of maps, discussions of postal operations and sample cover illustrations, 1822-present. NJPH 37, No. 2 (May 2009).

New Providence used a fancy date stamp in 1845. Two covers and the handstamping device are illustrated in “New Jersey’s Stampless Ornamented Mortised Postmark: New Providence” by Robert G. Rose. NJPH 37, No. 2 (May 2009).

New York
“New York State Service Markings Part II: Address Deficiency Service” is from an exhibit by William J. Hart. In addition to “Insufficient Address,” “Not in Directory,” “Advertised” and “Not Called For” are illustrated, 1903-11. Excelsior No. 11 (September 2008).

“RFD Cancels-A Followup” by William J. Hart contains several examples of mail which might have received an RFD postmark had the carrier not returned it to the post office for servicing, 1907-12. Excelsior No. 11 (September 2008).

“Adirondac, NY Manuscript Cover” by Glenn Estus contains an illustration of an 1852 stampless cover with prepaid 24c treaty rate to Scotland. The author asserts that it is the first reported cover of the Adirondac post office, which operated 1848-55. Excelsior No. 11 (September 2008).

“Mexico Months” is an update on information about the killers (JAN, FEB, etc.) used at the town, 1891-95. Wendell Triplett is credited with the new information, but not authorship. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 6 (May 2009).

New York City markings “BL,” “CL” and “DS” refer to branch letters, carrier letters and directory search (or service) according to “Initials on Undelivered Mail” by Roger D. Curran. Dates are ca. 1890. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 4 (November 2008).

New York postmarked cover bears a 5c 1875 Taylor adhesive tied by a foreign mail killer, but the address is a domestic one. This is “A Second ‘Unusual New York Cover’” (with this usage). Author is Roger D. Curran. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 6 (May 2009).

Schenectady’s air mail service began June 1, 1928, as chronicled by author Bob Bramwell in “Air Mail Service Comes to Schenectady.” The article begins with a general introduction to early air mail in the U.S. Excelsior No. 11 (September 2008).

Suydam post office existed 1885-1912. A cover is illustrated and its author identified, in “Columbia County Corner” by George DeKornfield. Excelsior No. 11 (September 2008).

North Carolina
“Patriotic Confederate Envelopes and Covers from North Carolina Part 2” by Maurice M. Bursey identifies patriotic envelopes produced by Whitaker in Wilmington, NC. Part 3 deals with the one cover produced by Lowenberg & Bro. of Beaufort. N.C Post. Hist. 28, No. 2 (Spring 2009).
Fayetteville Arsenal history and postal history are covered in Charles F. Hall Jr’s “The Postal History of the Fayetteville Arsenal and Armory.” The two known Confederate imprints and three other related Confederate covers are illustrated, 1862-65. N.C. Post. Hist. 28, No. 3 (Summer 2009).


**North Dakota**

“North Dakota Railroad Postal History” by Mike Ellingson tells the story of railroad construction and expansion in North Dakota, illustrated with covers with railroad corner cards, 1870-1893. Postal history, i.e., railroad carriage of the mails, will be dealt with in a later article. Dak. Coll. 26, No. 3 (July 2009).

**Pennsylvania**

“Bath, Pa. (Northampton County)” by Rick Leiby contains a history of the town, a list of postmasters and illustrations of several covers, 1779-1860s, the earliest being a forerunner addressed to the area where the town was later founded. Pa. Post. Hist. 37 No. 2 (May 2009).


“Philadelphia’s Rare Colorful Cancels” by Tom Clarke traces the history of color in Philadelphia postmarks and auxiliary markings, as well as cancels, 1789-1872. La Posta 40, No. 3 (June-July 2009).

Springville letter is reproduced and the content of the letter put into historical context. No postal history other than reproduction of the face of the cover is offered. Tom Clarke, “1847, an interesting Year.” La Posta 40, No. 2 (April-May 2009).


**South Dakota**


**Tennessee**

“Tennessee in Transit and Mobile Postal Markings” is the third installment of a listing of markings involving transit (steamboat, train, airmail field, etc.), compiled from many sources by L. Steve Edmondson. This part is devoted to markings starting with the letters D and E. Tenn. Posts 13, No. 1 (April 2009).

“Chattanooga ‘straight line’ Cancellation - 1863-1864” by Jim Cate takes the reader through Civil War history surrounding the 40 days December 9, 1863-January 17, 1864, when the marking was used. Several covers and variations of the marking are shown. Tenn. Posts 13, No. 1 (April 2009).

Freedom, Tenn. postmarks from before and after the War Between the States provide “Bookend Cancels” for the same CDS in Confederate use. The article by L. Steve Edmondson contains speculations on the year date of a star die envelope with Freedom.

Texas

Colita, Texas covers with manuscript markings dated March 10, 1861, June 30, 1862 and March 2, 1863 are “Confederate period covers revealed from Colita, Texas” and the only reported Colita Confederate covers, according to author William K. McDaniel. Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J. 34 No. 2 (May 2009).

Mason, TX double circle datestamp is notable for its use on a cover with the 3c 1868 B grill adhesive. In “Legitimizing the B Grill ‘Cover’,” Vince King explores other Mason covers and other Texas covers with contemporaneous double circle markings. Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J. 34 No. 2 (May 2009).

Washington

Tacoma apparently did not provide directory service for misaddressed drop letters as evidenced by an auxiliary marking on “A Local Cover Given No Directory Service.” Author is Ralph Nafziger. Aux. Marks. VI, No. 3 (July 2009).

Wisconsin

“Racine, Wisconsin Territory?” by Cary E. Johnson contains an illustration of a cover with Racine, W.T. postmark, dated May 29, 1836. The route (to Utica, N.Y.) and rate are analyzed. Peninsular Phil. 50, No. 4 (Spring 2009).

Journal Abbreviations

Calgary Phil. = Calgary Philatelist, Calgary Philatelic Society, Box 6830, Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2E7.
C. C. Phil. = Collectors Club Philatelist, Robert P. Odenweller, RDP, Box 401, Bernardsville NJ 07924.
Dak. Coll. = Dakota Collector, Dakota Postal History Society, Box 600039, St. Paul MN 55106.
Excelsior = Excelsior! The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society, David E. Williams, 2617 Byron Avenue, Louisville KY 40205-2609.
Linn’s = Linn’s Stamp News, Michael Baadke, P.O. Box 29, Sidney OH 45365.
Maine Phil. = Maine Philatelist, Max Lynds, P.O. Box 761, Houlton ME 04730-0761.
NJPH = NJPH The Journal of New Jersey Postal History Society, Robert G. Rose, Box 1945, Morristown NJ 07962.
Oh. Post. Hist. J. = Ohio Postal History Journal, Michael Dattolico, Box 248040, Columbus OH 43224.
Peninsular Phil. = The Peninsular Philatelist, Charles A. Wood, 244 Breckenridge West, Ferndale MI 48220.
Prexie Era = The Prexie Era, Louis Fiset, 7554 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115.
Cover Illustration

John Lewis Krimmel’s 1814 oil painting Village Tavern, was displayed shortly after his death in 1821 as: Interior, the Country Stage-House Tavern and Post-Office, with the News of Peace. The last phrase is an error, for the War of 1812 was not over when the painting was recorded as finished in May of 1814 (an 1814 almanac hangs from a nail on the bar at the viewer’s right). Krimmel, born in Germany in 1786, settled in Philadelphia in 1810 and chronicled iconic scenes of ordinary life in the early Republic (July 4th, Election Day, etc.) Here, he shows us detail, unavailable elsewhere, of the mail arriving at a small Pennsylvania post office.

However, by the arrangement of the figures, Krimmel is casting light (literally and figuratively) on the bane of public drinking. It is daytime: a wife and young child plead with her laborer husband to put down his drink; behind her a soberly-dressed gentleman, perhaps a Quaker, refuses with pursed lips and cautioning hand a proffered tankard. (Krimmel may be showing this temperance as slightly hypocritical, as the man’s waistcoat cannot be buttoned over his bulging belly.) Other men in working aprons and smocks have gathered around the table to drink.

And the attractions are obvious: the tavern is the bustling center of this community’s public life. The publican has provided periodicals on newspaper sticks (hanging on nails to our left of the bar) and two patrons are perusing newspapers, the seated man on our right reading out loud. (Washington Irving’s fictional Rip Van Winkle would, in 1819, note that the quiet days of the school teacher reading old newspapers to the “perpetual club of the sages, philosophers, and other idle personages of the village” at the inn had, in the new republic, given way to a “busy, bustling, disputatious tone.”) The mail coach has just arrived, and the driver enters from our left with the locked, leather post office portmanteau slung over his shoulder, and a wicker basket of wrapped printed matter in the crook of his elbow. A departing passenger waves his hat to the publican as he prepares to board.

Popular temperance movements did not emerge in the United States until the 1820s, but in 1804 Dr. Benjamin Rush had published in Philadelphia an influential tract on the unhealthy effects of alcohol. And the first U.S. Temperance Society was organized in Saratoga Springs N.Y. in 1808; the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance in 1813. Krimmel’s painting adds a critique of the situation where the postmaster (the only representative of the Federal government ordinary Americans saw on a regular basis) also tended bar; where to catch up on the latest news (perhaps of the war) men were exposed to the temptations of insobriety. By 1879, a desirable separation of tavern and post office (aided, of course, by the railroad having definitively superceded the stage coach) was written into law: [section 523] “No post-office shall be located in a bar-room, or in any room directly connected therewith; nor must any mail be opened or any mail-matter delivered in any room in which liquor is sold at retail, except such liquors are sold by a druggist for medicinal purposes only.” The sense of decorum in public life had much changed since the first office was established in what would become the United States – at a Boston tavern owned by Richard Fairbanks, 1639.
Foreign Postal History in Other Journals

by Joseph J. Geraci

Frequently, general or specialized philatelic periodicals publish good foreign postal history articles. If one is not a member of that society or does not subscribe to that journal for one reason or another, that particularly useful article may be missed. The purpose of this compendium is to list and briefly describe as many significant foreign postal history articles as we have seen. No doubt there will be other good articles which we have missed that are equally as valuable in postal history content, and we would be obliged if our readers would call them to our attention for inclusion in the next compendium. Thank you for your assistance!

Forwarding Agents

“Note sui corrispondenti postali nel periodo dipartimentale napoleonico,” by Riccardo Bertolotto, calls our attention to several forwarders operating during the French occupation of northern Italy, 1802-1808. (Il Foglio, No. 156, April 2008. Rivista della Unione Filatelica Subalpina, Torino Centro C.P. No. 65, 10121 Torino, Italy.)

Indices

“MPS Journal Cumulative Index (1967-2009),” compiled by John A. Cardona, is a comprehensive listing providing the key to locating articles on many subjects relating to Maltese philately and postal history. (The MPS Journal, Vol. 38/1, April 2009. Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society, Editor Dr. A. Bonnici, 34 Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street, Ta’ Xbiex MSD 11, Malta G.C.)

Postal Equipment

“An Automatic Machine for the Registration of Letters in 1909,” by Chris Hitchen, illustrates a French machine for registering mail, where one dropped in a 25 centime coin, inserted the letter in the proper manner, and received a printed receipt acknowledging the transaction. The letter was imprinted with a registry number by the machine. (The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, No. 251, March 2009. Secretary Dr. R.G. Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF, England, United Kingdom.)

Austria

“Convenzione Sardo-Austriaca del 1 o giugno 1844; Le tariffe delle lettere dal Regno di Sardegna all’Austria e Lombardo Veneto,” by Angelo Teruzzi, analyses and explains the postal rates to Austria and Lombardy Venetia up to the end of 1853. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 36, November 2006. Vaccari s.r.l., via M. Buonarroti 46, 41058 Vignola (MO), Italy.)

“Corrispondenze insufficientemente affrancate tra l’Italia e l’Austria dal 1 o ottobre 1862 al 30 settembre 1867,” by Mario Cedolini and Massimo Moritsch, reviews the postal rates in force and the occasions where short paid letters were marked “Debito” or “Credito.” Some interesting covers are illustrated. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 36, November 2006. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

“Austria - Hungary’s Last Offensive,” by Tom Cossaboom, presents the history of this final offensive along the Piave River against Italian forces, and illustrates several covers from participating Austro-Hungarian units, 1918. (Military Postal History Society Bulletin, Vol. 47, No. 2, Spring 2008. Secretary Ed Dublin, P.O. Box 586, Belleville, MI 48112-0586.)

Austria, Offices in Turkey

“Austrian Jerusalem Postmark Commemorating the Kaiser’s 1898 Visit” [by Richard Rose], points out the differences between two types of Austrian datestamps applied during the

**Belgian Congo**

“Prephilately of Central Africa,” by Patrick Maselis, reviews the early postal history of this Belgian colony and describes the difficulty of finding mail from there. The only post office was located on the coast; mail from missionaries and others located inland often had to be relayed to other countries for postage, 1793-1885. (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 87, No. 4, July-August 2008. The Collectors Club, 22 East 35<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016.)

**Belgium**

“Dunkirk,” by Roger Callens, describes the events leading up to the evacuation of Belgian, French and British troops at Dunkirk, and illustrates some covers of the period, 1940. (*Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, Vol. 47, No. 2, Spring 2008. (See address of contact under third entry for Austria.)

**British Honduras (Belize)**

“Censorship in the Caribbean,” by Charles Freeland, looks at a 1941 British Honduras cover addressed to New Jersey which bears an identical censorship tape, with the same censor’s initials, another 1939 cover originating from Grenada. (British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, No. 231, April-June 2009. British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Secretary Mary Gleadall (2012), Beacon House, Beacon Hill, Lower Estate, St. Georges, Barbados.)

**Canada**


“The Red River Mails,” by the late R.B. Winmill, transcribes excerpts from the Fort Garry newspaper concerning the Sioux Indian uprising and its effect on transportation of the mails to and from Fort Garry in 1862. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 137, Spring 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“A 1¢ UPU Surtax,” by George B. Arfken, attempts to reconcile this surtax with the 1874 and 1878 UPU Conventions, with limited success. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 137, Spring 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Who Carried the Mail?” by Robert K. Lane, discusses three railway lines developed by the Canadian Pacific Railway in Western Canada, which interfaced with United States railway lines. Five timetables are illustrated, 1881-1965. (*BNA Topics*, No. 518, First Quarter 2009. Journal of the British North American Philatelic Society, Wayne Smith, 20 St. Andrews Road, Scarborough ON M1P 4C4, Canada.)

“The Northern Pacific Express Co. Re-visited,” by Malcolm Leitch and Gray Scrimgeour, adds two more covers to the survey of these scarce express company imprints, 1887. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 137, Spring 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)


“The Porcupine’s Gold and Early Postal History,” by Donald J. Ecobichon, locates this area of Northern Ontario where gold-bearing quartz deposits were discovered, and provides
the postal history of the area, 1907-1973. (PHSC Journal, No. 137, Spring 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Usages of the 20¢ Admiral Stamp,” by Victor Willson, reviews the fees and postage rates for which the 20¢ Admiral stamp of 1912-1928 were used. (BNA Topics, Vol. 518, First Quarter 2009. See address of contact under fourth entry for Canada.)

“The Foreign Exchange Control Board and the Canadian Post Office, 1939-1951,” by David Whiteley, researches the operations of the Foreign Exchange Control Board and its working relationship with the Canadian Post Office in controlling monetary exchange through the mails, using a synopsis of its regulations. Part 2 continues the study of the Control Board’s examination of ordinary and registered mail addressed to and from United States banks and other depositories. (PHSC Journal, No. 136, Winter 2008/2009, and No. 137, Spring 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The World War II ‘Thomas Cook’ Undercover Mail Services between Canada and Norway,” by Ed. Fraser, documents this service which provided postal contact for Norwegian seamen and their families, using a Grand Central Station post office box in New York City, 1939-1941. (The Posthorn, No. 255, May 2008. The Scandinavian Collectors Club, Executive Secretary Donald B. Brent, Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92020.)

“Canol, Northwest Territory, Canada; A Recent Discovery,” by John A. Pollard, relates the background around the discovery of a second example of the Canol, N.W.T. registration marking on a 1944 cover to Billings, Montana. (La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History, No. 231, June-July 2008. La Posta, c/o All About Mail, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056.)

Colombia

“The Modern Period of Colombian Express Mail,” by Thomas P. Myers, reviews the postage issues for express and special delivery mail, and their postal uses in Colombia, 1958-1967, together with various types of etiquettes and handstamps applied to mail to indicate these services, 1952-1988. (Copacarta, Vol. 25, No. 4, June 2008. Journal of the Colombia/ Panama Philatelic Study Group, Secretary Thomas P. Myers, P.O. Box 522, Gordonsville, VA 22942.)

Denmark

“The Great Danish Postal Robbery of 1845,” by John R. Sabin, provides an account of a postal coach robbery, caused by the carelessness and laziness of the postmaster. (The Posthorn, No. 255, May 2008. See address of contact under tenth entry for Canada.)

Ethiopia

“Ethiopia, A Unique Series of Stamps,” by Antonio Lampariello, (translated by L. Richard Harlow), gives historical and postal history background for the 1935-36 conquest of Ethiopia, together with tables of postage rates applicable to various types of mail, 1935-1941. (Fil-Italia, No. 137, Summer 2008. The Journal of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle, Secretary Richard Harlow, 7 Duncombe House, Manor Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 8BG, England, United Kingdom.)

France

“A R (Avis de Réception) in the Early 20th Century,” by Bill Mitchell, examines A R forms in use and the details of this service, 1899-1920. (Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, No. 251, March 2009. See address of contact under Postal Equipment.)

“An Automatic Machine for the Registration of Letters in 1909.” (See under Postal Equipment.)

“Early Airmails from France,” by John Garner, illustrates two postcards from France to Siam,
sent by Thai army officers in France, training to be aviators, and describes the beginnings of the Thai Air Force, 1911-1914. (*Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 251, March 2009. See address of contact under Postal Equipment.)

“Soldati Italiani in Francia nella prima guerra mondiale, seconda parte,” by Valter Astolfi, continues his study of Italian forces aiding France during World War I, this time examining the role of the Auxiliary Forces and postal markings applied to their mail. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 105, December 2007. La Rivista dell’Associazione Italiana Collezionisti Posta Militare, Piero Macrelli, Casella Postale 180, 47900, Rimini, Italy.)

**Germany**

“WW. II - India - Inland Censorship at Quetta.” (See under India.)


**Gibraltar**

“Maritime Mail from Gibraltar to Portugal, 1835-1858,” by David Stirrups, outlines the maritime mail services from Gibraltar and explains the Portuguese postage rates applicable to mail upon arrival at Portuguese ports. (*Postal History*, No. 326, June 2008. Journal of The Postal History Society, Secretary Hans Smith, 99 North End Road, London, NW11 7TA, England, United Kingdom.)

**Great Britain**


“WW.II - G.B. - Provincial Censor Units,” by Karl Winkelmann, initiates a project to determine which provincial unit was assigned which numbered censor handstamp, by listing all those particular markings on over 100 covers he has examined, 1940-1945. (*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, No. 159, July 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

**Haiti**

“A Haiti Vignette: 1796,” by Kees Adema: through some astute detective work, the author was able to determine where this folded letter was posted. While it does provide information about events in Haiti, he discovered that it was not posted in Haiti, but probably given to a ship captain at Charleston, S.C., and carried privately to France. (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 87, No. 4, July-August 2008. See address of contact under Belgian Congo.)

**India**

“WW.II - India - Censor Station Bombay,” by Sankaran Viswa Kumar, describes his research concerning two covers originating from Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1940, and sent all the way to Bombay for censorship because they were written in a Judeo-Persian dialect. (*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, No. 159, July 2008. See address of contact
under first entry for Great Britain.)

“WW.II - India - Inland Censorship at Quetta,” by Sankaran Viswa Kumar, examines censor markings applied to mail at Quetta, on the North West Frontier, during 1942-1945, and speculates the reason for this censorship station was to detect information concerning Subash Chandra Bose, the anti-British Indian Legion “Jai Hind”, and German activity in the region. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 159, July 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

Indochina

“Postal Correspondence of Japanese Soldiers in Indochina from 1940 to 1945.” (See under Japan.)

Iran

“Post - WW. I - Persia,” by Konrad Morenweiser, illustrates several covers dated 1919/1920 which were censored by the British internally within Persia! (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 159, July 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

Israel

“Postmarks and Post Offices of Israel (1948-1989), Part 45,” by William D. Farber, continues his recording of datestamps, this time covering Tel Aviv - Yafo. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 2, April 2009. Journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, Secretary Howard S. Chapman, 28650 Settlers Lane, Pepper Pike, OH 44124.)

Italian Socialist Republic

“Il servizio staffetta con corrieri ciclisti SE.PR.AL. durante la R.S.I.,” by Gianfranco Rossetti, transcribes the Official Circular establishing bicycle couriers and their routes within the province of Cremona, in September 1944. (Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 107, June 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)

Italy

“La posta dei Re: ‘Il Carteggio Reale’,,” by Arnoldo Pace, discusses a franking privilege reserved for members of the royal house and illustrates the markings applied to mail to identify it, 1817-1888. (Il Foglio, No. 156, April 2008. See address of contact under Forwarding Agents.)

“Corrispondenze insufficientemente affrancate tra l’Italia e l’Austria dal 1º ottobre 1862 al 30 settembre 1867.” (See under Austria.)

“La posta militare italiana alle grandi manovre, L’Ottocento. Seconda parte: 1878-1900,” by Beniamino Cadioli, continues his historical review of military datestamps found on mail posted at the field post offices established at the annual Grand Maneuvers. (Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 107, June 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)


“Soldati Italiani in Francia nella prima guerra mondiale, seconda parte.” (See under France.)

“Censorship of the Civil Mails - WW. I (Part 4),” by Alan Becker, continues his treatment of the civil mails in the newly acquired Austrian territories in the Tyrol and on the Dalmatian coast, Albania, and former Turkish territories, 1915-1920. (Fil-Italia, No. 137, Summer 2008. See address of contact under Ethiopia.)
“Le emissioni del biennio 1921-22: Usi postali dei commemorativi di Regno,” by Benito Carobene, examines postal uses for each of the five commemorative issues of 1921-22. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 105, December 2007. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)

“Uno fra tanti: il sommergibile *P. Micca*,” by Patrizia Zennaro, recounts the history and postal history of the submarine, *P. Micca*, 1935-1943. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 107, June 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)

“I Francobolli con la dicitura ‘P.M.’ per il servizio della posta militare, Parte prima,” by Luigi Sirottti, discusses the postal history of the 1943 issue overprinted “P.M.” (*Posta Militare*), originally prepared for use on soldiers’ mail. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 107, June 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)

“1943-44: L’occupazione militare alleata e la ripresa della corrispondenza fra la Sicilia ed i territori al di fuori dell’isola,(Capitolo 2),” by Giulio Santoro, examines correspondence to and from Rome from 8 September 1943, during the Italian Socialist Republic period until after its liberation on 4 June 1944. In Capitoli 3 and 4, correspondence between Sicily and the mainland regions of Puglia, Calabria and Basilicata are also examined for this same period. (*Sicil-Post Magazine*, No. 15, June 2007. See address of contact under fourth entry for Italy.)

“1943-44: L’occupazione militare alleata e la ripresa delle corrispondenza fra la Sicilia ed i territori della Italia liberata, (Capitoli VII e VIII),” by Giulio Santoro, continues his series with the reopening of correspondence with the Abruzzi and Molise regions of mainland Italy, as the Allied drive north continued. (*Sicil-Post Magazine*, No. 18, December 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for Italy.)

“I collegamenti postali nell’Italia del sud dall’11 Febbraio al 31 Agosto 1944 (seconda parte),” by Luigi Sirottti, continues his study of the institution of postal services under Italian administration in southern Italy, and provides a time-line of service restoration, with reproductions of applicable postal documents. (*Vaccari Magazine*, No. 36, November 2006. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

“La Censura della corrispondenze civile nella Venezia Giulia dal maggio 1945, parte quinta,” by Luigi Sirottti, resumes his study of censorship markings applied to AMG mail in Trieste and Gorizia, and also for towns in Jugoslavia Zone B. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 105, December 2007. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)

“I favolosi anni ‘80,’ ” by Benito Carobene, provides two tables of postage rates for the period 1 January 1981 - 30 June 1990, one for domestic rates and the other for foreign rates. (*Qui Filatelia*, No. 51, January-March 2008. Rivista della Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, CP 45, 30126 Lido di Venezia, Italy.)

**Japan**

“Postal Correspondence of Japanese Soldiers in Indochina from 1940 to 1945,” by Jean François Gibet, reviews the history and postal history of the Japanese occupation of French Indochina, and illustrates many nice postal cards and envelopes. A “Summary Table” indicates codes found on this mail which identifies corps and units. (*Japanese Philately*, No. 371, June 2008. The International Society of Japanese Philately, Assistant Publisher Lee R. Wilson, 4216 Jenifer Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

Jordan
“Instructional Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israeli Postkrieg, ‘No Service’” [Part 2], by Daryl Kibble, continues his analysis of those indications of no postal service with Israel by Jordan, following the declaration of Israeli independence in 1948, and divides them into four different types. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 1, February 2009. See address of contact under Israel.)

Jugoslavia
“La Censura della corrispondenze civile nella Venezia Giulia dal maggio 1945, parte quinta.” (See under Italy.)

Lebanon
“Instructional Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israeli Postkrieg, ‘No Service’” [Part 3], by Daryl Kibble, continues his analysis of those markings applied to mail addressed to Israel, but which passed through an Arab country, 1948 to present. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 2, April 2009. See address of contact under Israel.)

Lombardy-Venetia
“I rapporti postali del Regno Lombardi Veneto con il Ducato di Parma, 1815-1859 (secondo parte).” (See under Parma.)

Malta
“MPS Journal Cumulative Index (1967-2009).” (See under Indices.)

Netherlands
“Another Simple Cover and Another Puzzle,” by Ed. Matthews, traces the route and postal tariff on a 1734 cover from Amsterdam to Florence, Tuscany. (Netherlands Philately, Vol. 32, No. 6, July 2008. American Society for Netherlands Philately, Publisher Jan Enthoven, 221 Coachlite Ct. S, Onalaska, WI 54650.)

Netherlands Antilles
“An Interesting (but not too Deceptive) lot of Fake Curaçao Bisects,” by Dick Phelps, investigates a group of bisected stamps tied to pieces, purportedly made as a result of a stamp shortage in 1918, but finds they are all forgeries, the forger thoughtlessly bisecting used stamps and then tying them to piece by a forged “Curaçao” 5 or 8 July 1918 datestamp. (Netherlands Philately, Vol. 32, No. 6, July 2008. See address of contact under Netherlands.)

Norway
“The World War II ‘Thomas Cook’ Undercover Mail Services between Canada and Norway.” (See under Canada.)

Palestine
“Rishon Le Zion, April 25 - April 29, 1948,” by Ed Kroft, reviews the postal history of this town at the end of the British Mandate for both inland and foreign service. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 2, April 2009. See address of contact under Israel.)

Panama
New Information on Panama Airmail Rates,” by Jim Cross, reports on a rate change made in 1937, which was not verified in his original article published in Copacarta in March 2004. (Copacarta, Vol. 25, No. 4, June 2008. See address of contact under Colombia.)

Parma
“I rapporti postali del Regno Lombardi Veneto con il Ducato di Parma, 1815-1859 (secondo parte),” by Lorenzo Carra, continues his study of postal relations between the two countries and discusses the Postal Conventions of 1849 and 1852, the latter requiring the introduction of postage stamps into the Parmesan Provinces. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 36, November 2006. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)
**Portugal**

“Maritime Mail from Gibraltar to Portugal, 1835-1858.” (See under Gibraltar.)

**Roman States**

“Regolamenti sulla disinfezione postale nello Stato Pontificio,” by the late Nello Bagni, reproduces the official regulations and method for activating the Sanitary Cordon, with the accompanying Sanitary Instructions of 12 August 1835, prepared to prevent the spread of cholera. (*Archivio per la Storia Postale*, No. 25-27, January-December 2007. Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Direttore Andrea Giuntini, Palazzo Datini, Via ser Lapo Mazzei 37, 59100, Prato, Italy.)

**Russia**

“Black Sea Currents,” by David M. Skipton, writes about mapping sea currents through the use of bottle mail, where special stationery was printed, inserted into bottles and tossed overboard, the stationery forms to be filled out by the finder and mailed back to the Naval Ministry, 1902-1907. (*Rossica*, No. 150, Spring 2008. Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, President Gary A. Combs, 8241 Chalet Court, Millersville, MD 21108.)

“Late 19th and Early 20th Century Mail from the Samara - Zlatoust, and Volga - Bugul’ma Railroads, (IV),” by V.G. Levandovsky (translated by David M. Skipton), continues his study illustrating station locations and postal markings, 1904-1919. (*Rossica*, No. 150, Spring 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

“Turkistan 1918-1923: A Postal History Review,” by Alexander Epstein and Robert Taylor, throws light upon the postal history of this vast area in Central Asia under Russian control. (*Rossica*, No. 150, Spring 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

“The Field Post Offices of the Red Army in the Field during the Polish ‘Liberation Campaign’ in September - October 1939,” by Anatoly Osatinski (translated by David M. Skipton), pieces together the relatively unknown postal history of the Soviet invasion and partition of Poland. (*Rossica*, No. 150, Spring 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

**St. Lucia**

“Antiquarian Letter Reports on St. Lucia Airmail,” by Hap Pattiz, transcribes the text of a letter from a Mary Gittens, possibly a postal employee on Barbados, who describes the sorry state of airmail service in 1930 between Trinidad, Barbados and St. Lucia. (British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, No. 231, April-June 2009. See address of contact under British Honduras.)

**San Marino**

“‘Un postiglione che vada a pigliare’: I primi secoli del servizio postale a San Marino, 1607-1879 (I),” by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, examines the early history of mail transmission by postal courier between San Marino and its neighbors in the Roman States, and provides names of many couriers based upon documents found in the State Archives. (*Archivio per la Storia Postale*, No. 25-27, January-December 2007. See address of contact under Roman States.)

**Sardinia**

“La posta dei Re: ‘Il Carteggio Reale’.” (See under Italy.)

“Convenzione Sardo-Austriaca del 1g giugno 1844; Le tariffe delle lettere dal Regno di Sardegna all’Austria e Lombardo Veneto.” (See under Austria.)

**Scandinavia**

“WW. I - G.B. - Scandinavian Neutral Mails Intercepted.” (See under Great Britain.)

**Thailand**

“Early Airmails from France.” (See under France.)
Turkey

“Duloz Combination Frankings,” by Otto Graf, reviews two areas in Ottoman postal history where mixed frankings of Turkish and French or Italian postage stamps are found on covers from France to Aleppo, or from Scutari d’Albania to Italy. (The Levant, Vo. 4, No. 5, May 2008. See address of contact under Austria, Offices in Turkey.)

“Turkish Forerunner to a Rare Destination - Haiti,” by Robert B. Pildes and Doron Walde, investigate the legitimacy of a Jerusalem postmark found on an 1890s post card to Port au Prince, Haiti. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 1, February 2009. See address of contact under Israel.)

Tuscany

“Another Simple Cover and Another Puzzle.” (See under Netherlands.)

“The Heart of Tuscany.” by Alessandro Papanti (translated by Alan Becker), delves into the history of this heart shaped, long-lived style of postal marking, applied to mail originating from Firenze, Livorno, Siena, the Tuscan office in Rome as well as on military mail, 1767-1852. (Fil-Italia, No. 137, Summer 2008. See address of contact under Ethiopia.)

Two Siciles, Sicily

“Brevi cenni sulla storia postale mediterranea: le prefilateliche dei Borbone nella Provincia di Catania,” by Cateno Nisi, reviews the postal history of the Province of Catania, showing how postal rates were based upon distance and the number of sheets of paper in each letter, 1759-1856. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 15, June 2007. See address of contact under fourth entry for Italy.)

“La rivoluzione siciliana del 1820-1821, e i riflessi sul servizio postale,” by Vito Mancini, tells the story of the Sicilian revolution of 1820-1821 to free the island from the rule of the Neapolitan Bourbon's, and the postal history of the period, together with the rates of postage applicable for that period. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 15, June 2007. See address of contact under fourth entry for Italy.)

“Sicilia 1859-1860. Corso da Palermo a Messina per la via delle marine: Le Officine postali di Mistretta, Brolo, Naso, Sant’Agata V D e Patti, (Seconda parte),” by Francesco Lombardo, continues his series describing postal routes, this time concentrating on these five towns along the Palermo - Messina route, by describing the offices, the adjoining communes dependent upon them, and illustrating their postal markings. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 18, December 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for Italy.)

Vatican City

“Gardens & Medallions 75th Anniversary Retrospective,” by Greg. Pirozzi, reviews the philatelic and postal history of this 1933 definitive pictorial series and provides an abridged post rate table with many covers illustrated to show examples of these rates. (Vatican Notes, Vol. 56, No. 6, May-June 2008. Journal of the Vatican Philatelic Society, Secretary Joseph Scholten, 1436 Johnson St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-2829.)

“Uno per uno i francobolli dello Stato della Città del Vaticano (dodicesima parte),” by Giovanni Fulcheris, in this installment reviews the postal history of the Provisional Overprints and the Council of Trient issues of 1945. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 36, November 2006. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

Award for PHJ 2008

StampShow 2009 Pittsburgh: Gold Medal. “An important and useful publication; well edited. Illustrations could be improved – color? Summary of articles in other journals is quite good and useful.”
Palestine’s Levant Fairs

a review by Diane DeBlois


The Flying Camel, in ever-streamlined interpretations, appeared on everything produced for the final three of the seven industrial fairs organized to promote Mandate Palestine (1925-1936). Designed by Arieh El-Hanani, it is linked to the tale of the fair chairman and Mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff, being told by the Mayor of Jaffa that a true Levant Fair would only take place there “when camels fly.”

The CDRom format is a new approach – and bound to become standard for such works. Dr. Groten has exhibited this material (in a handsome full-frame mounting to showcase the ancillary promotional material) but fellow scholars want to see more of his textual research. Publication in a journal would have meant restricting the number of illustrations. Publication as a separate monograph, as we all know, is prohibitively expensive – especially with all illustration in color. This publication format, of course, is ephemeral, but readers may print out whatever information they’d like to keep (one file is pdf in page format). And I’m confident Dr. Groten has prepared paper copies for the major libraries.

On the back of the CD case is the accurate tag-line: “A comprehensive look at the philately and ephemera of the 7 Levant Fairs held in Tel Aviv from 1925 to 1936. Fully illustrated and easy to use.” A file offers instructions, but most readers would click on the html “start here” and be pleased with the ease of going back and forth from chapter’s end to Table of Contents, or onward to the next chapter. Clicking on figure numbers brings forth a full size illustration, but clicking on each chapter’s “Gallery” brings up thumbnails of all illustrations.

Dr. Groten’s comprehensive approach includes chapters on The Fair Logos, Promotional Labels, Official Stationery, Pamphlets and Flyers, Passes, Tickets, Receipts, Label pins, Postcards, Private Company Letterheads – as well as covering The Philately, The Cancellations, Machine Cancels, Post Paid Machine Cancels, Handstamps, Meter Imprints, etc. and providing rarity codes.

A boycott of the 1934 Fair by the Arab population ended Dizengoff’s dream that the Fairs would help build community between Jews and Arabs. But the 1934 Fair was hugely successful, with 36 foreign governments and 2200 firms - of which 1500 were foreign - represented, and 600,000 attendees. The new Fair buildings and all the design elements of the event were vigorously modernist – at a time when Jews were under attack in Europe. The gathering war clouds narrowed the scope of the final Fair in 1936, and scuttled the one planned for 1938. Industrial optimism for Israel waited until an eighth Fair in 1962.

**Fig. 1:** A poster stamp of the Flying Camel to promote the 1934 Fair, tied on cover.
Society Forum

This space is set aside for commentary, announcements, questions and other information by, for and about members of the Postal History Society. The editors welcome correspondence: Box 477, West Sand Lake NY 12196 <agatherin@yahoo.com>

President’s Message, Douglas N. Clark

At this writing, our two annual meetings lie ahead. APS Stampshow will host our general membership meeting (see Joe Geraci’s presentation, page 62) and the annual Blount Postal History Symposium at Bellefonte, Pa. will be the venue for our Directors Meeting. Although the Directors Meeting may not interest the general membership, I am hoping that the Blount Symposium will prove valuable to postal historians.

With the last issue, the Postal History Journal has begun using the services of a board of editors. The content of our journal has been broad and interesting in the past, but I am hoping that this added assistance to our editors will have a noticeable effect on our journal.

Another state postal history competition has been held, this one at Philatelic Show, Boxboro, Mass., May 1-3, 2009. Postal history societies from six states competed. Massachusetts placed first, with New York second, New Jersey third, Maine fourth, Connecticut fifth and Rhode Island sixth. Rankings were based on award levels, with bonuses for winning the grand award, reserve grand, one frame grand, etc. An additional bonus is given to the state with the most entries, thereby giving a certain edge to the host state, in this case Massachusetts. These competitions give an opportunity for fellowship among fellow collectors with similar but different interests. They also help to attract entries and thereby support stamp shows at a time when many are having trouble filling their frames.

Letters with Postal Content Project

The editors volunteered to be a ‘clearing house’ for recording the content of letters in private collections that revealed details about the postal system - towards a more public data base in the future. Here are two of the contributions:

Jack Flannery: Letter sent from father to daughter, apologizing for her having to pay the postage on his previous missive (and going on to describe a skirmish in what became known as the Dorr Rebellion). “free / J. L. Tillinghast” to Mrs. Charles Willing / Care Dr. Charles Willing / Philadelphia / Penn. Seminary 3rd July [1842]. “I cannot forgive myself for my last letter. So many things omitted & at last so carelessly dispatched upon its own merits, without the passport of a Frank. There are so many interruptions in the way of a visitor that it has some shadow of excuse, especially as I was repeatedly called to the parlor while writing & at the end Dr. Sparrow finding I had written prepared taking the letter to town which occasioned the omission & a double letter too!!! My Anna who had a hand in it, is horrified!!”

Fig. 1: Letter sent July 4, 1842 under the free frank of Joseph L. Tillinghast, a Whig Representative to Congress from Rhode Island.
Richard Spiek: George W. Plummer, a novice Methodist preacher in Millersburg, Ohio, to a friend, Miss Wolfe, explaining why he writes to her on a Sunday. “Millersburg July 30 1876. ... I was agreeably surprised the other day on going to the Office to find a letter from you. I had concluded you had decided not to answer it at all. I am not going however this time to wait as long as you did, but will try and write this afternoon and in the morning. I have been to Sunday School and preaching today. ... I often get more lonesome on Sunday than on any other day for I am often among strangers and my mind not being employed in my regular business, I cannot help thinking of home and absent friends. ... I must quit now and prepare for church. I will try and finish this tomorrow. Well church is over and I thought I had better try and finish this letter this evening. ... I would not finish this to night but the mail only runs three times a week here and I want to send it in the morning.”

We again invite members to send in any such letters in their collection. It is valuable to understand how people viewed the postal arrangements for their correspondence.

Bob Rufe’s “Postage Three Cents Unsealed” Mail Tag

The tag is ordinary metal, a little pitted, about two inches long. It resembles tags attached to railway mail pouches when they were made of leather. The style of the impressed printing appears 19th century. The earliest postal rate that this could refer to (given both prepayment and unsealed) is the 3 cents prepaid circular rate of 1845. Do any of our members have an opinion?

Images of Mail Bags

This image of a display at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 shows several styles of mail bags and pouches that John Boyle of New York produced under contract to the U.S. Post Office Department. At the end of the case closest to the viewer is a leather carrier shoulder bag at top, and two classic mail portmaneaux in all leather and with a canvas body. At the other end of the case is a huge leather portmanteau that looks designed to be placed on a saddle. In the dome on top of the case is a Railway Mail Bag on its armature. Images of such bags are known from other sources. But the appearance of earlier mail bags is less certain. Our cover illustration this issue shows a cylindrical portmanteau with handles at either end (the Smithsonian National Postal Museum has long had an example of this style from the 1820s, associated with Postmaster General Return J. Meigs). Sacks for containing the mail within portmanteaux were made of cotton, but we have only seen one from the early period - with a stencil of the word “way.” Have any of our members seen images of early mail bags?
John D. Dowd & Rice’s Weekly Postal News

The Collectors Club (New York) library is trying to complete a run of a publishing curiosity to which the club subscribed in the 1930s. Rice’s Weekly Postal News was a philatelic subscription service run by Fredrick R. Rice and his wife, Wilma C. Rice, which was printed on postal cards. The Rices took advantage of address-side printing (authorized in 1907) and incorporated text advertising in a box printed on the face of the cards – which were the one-cent green-on-buff Jefferson (holding the record for the longest use of any postal issue). The message side of the cards included stamp announcements, philatelic history, and other news (such as the shrinking of the Bureau stamps in September 1934.) Mr. Dowd would welcome any information about the Rice enterprise. (c/o Collectors Club, 22 E 35th St., New York, NY 10016-3806).

Fig. 1: (above) Rice’s Weekly Postal News mailed October 29, 1934 from Ballston Va. with advertising on the address side.

Membership Changes by Kalman V. Illyefalvi

New Members
PHS 2307 Alfred La Sala, 563 Sanderling Ct., Secaucus NJ 07094-2220, NJ stampless, Civil War, 1851 3 cent issue.
PHS 2308 Keith Bantz, M.D., 473 Lake Point Dr., Middle Island, NY 11953-2044, U.S. classic issues, NY state stampless, wrestling.

Reinstated
PHS 0988 Steven M. Roth, 1280 21st St., NW #209, Washington DC 20036-2343, Inland waterways, way mail, early stamp mail.

Deceased
PHS 0808 Charles J. Peterson.

Dropped from Membership – Non Payment of Dues
PHS 1885 Charles S. (Chip) Blumberg.
PHS 2078 James M. Kloetzl.
PHS 2261 W. Barry VanWinkle.
PHS 2251 Richard Weight.

Address Corrections
PHS 1985 John H. Barwis, Box 8035, Holland, MI 48422-8035.
PHS 1510 William T. Crowe, Box 9287, Newport Beach, CA 92658-9287.
PHS 0502 Robert L. Markovits, Box 178, Stockbridge, MA 01262-0178.
Joseph J. Geraci: The Italian Posts in Tunisia, 1852-1897

The program presented at StampShow Pittsburgh illustrated all the postal rate changes described below, and began with a map of Tunisia showing the locations of four principal cities of Tunisia (Tunis, La Goletta, Susa and Sfax) and the probable route of the “Posta Sfaxina,” a private post which traveled between Sfax and Tunis. The post is said to have been operated by Italian-Jewish merchants of Sfax, but very little is known about the operations of this post, apparently only in business from April 12, 1869 through September 29, 1870. Only seven covers have been recorded with the boxed marking of the “Posta Sfaxina.”

Only one letter, dated September 30, 1852, has survived mailed from Tunis with the 40 centesimi stamp of the first issue of Sardinia: posted from the Sardinian consular post office and addressed to Livorno (Leghorn), Tuscany. It is believed that the Sardinian postal agency at Tunis was opened at the Consulate in April 1852, in connection with the inauguration of a regular steamer line from Genova to Tunis, touching at Cagliari, on the Island of Sardinia.

The Sardinian royal naval steamer *Gulnara* was placed on the Cagliari - Tunis route beginning April 14, 1852 and continued to operate between the ports under royal naval control until January 1, 1853. Royal Decree No. 993 of May 7, 1853 authorized the execution of a convention with ship owner Raphael Rubattino to provide postal steamer service between Cagliari and Tunis. Until Rubattino was able to provide a steamer for this route, the government lent him the *Gulnara*, for a period of one year. Rubattino had a steamer built in England, and named it *Piemonte* (Piedmont).

On March 17, 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed and the former datedstamp “Tunisi/ Poste Sarde” was withdrawn, replaced by “Tunisi/ Poste Italiane.” As with all the other Italian post offices, Tunis was issued “a number with points” obliterator, number “235,” to cancel the stamps on cover. The prepaid letter rate from Tunis to an Italian destination was 40 centesimi per 10 grammes, up to July 15, 1870. Unpaid letters were charged a penalty of 50% more than the normal rate. On July 15, 1870, the single letter weight allowance was increased from 10 to 15 grammes, but the rate of postage remained as before. On January 1, 1874, a new series of stamps was issued for all the Italian offices abroad. The designs of the issue of 1863 were modified, and the stamps overprinted “Estero” (Foreign).

Italy was an original signatory to the General Postal Union Treaty of Bern in 1874, where the 25 centime international rate per 15 grammes was established. However, she chose to take advantage of a provisional rate clause and established a provisional rate of 30 centesimi per 15 grammes on foreign mail. The 30 centesimi rate was in effect from July 1, 1875 through March 31, 1879. At the Postal Congress of Paris in June 1878, it was agreed that the Italian post office at Tunis would be considered as subordinate to the Italian Postal Administration. This meant that the mail from this office would be recognized and processed by the other signatories in the same manner as regular Italian mail.

A new type of stamp obliterator was introduced some time during 1876 or 1877, but the precise month and day is presently unknown. It is called the “number between bars” obliterator - number 235 still assigned to Tunis. Another change took place some time between November 1880 and December 1881, when a different, larger, single circle datestamp was provided for Tunis. When Italy reduced her international postage rate to 25 centesimi per 15 grammes on April 1, 1879, the registration fee under U.P.U. regulations was 25 centesimi.

Effective January 1, 1890, the “Estero” series of stamps were discontinued and regular Italian stamps were re-introduced. In addition, sometime in the early 1890s, a new style of circular datestamp, the “squared circle,” was introduced to cancel stamps, replacing the barred obliterator “235.”

All of the Italian post offices in Tunisia were closed at the end of December 1897.
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