Postal History Journal

NUMBER 145                                                                   FEBRUARY 2010

Forwarded Markings on U.S. Stampless

The US. Official Registers and Local Revenues

1832 Rhode Island Murder          WWII Message Telegrams

An 1869 British Publication and Global Markets
Liverpool Prices Current carried on the first transatlantic voyage of H.M.S. Unicorn, May 16, 1840. Price Realized: $10,925 December 2009 HA.com/1111-32046

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Postal History Journal
Published by the Postal History Society
APS Affiliate No. 44
issued February, June, October.
Annual dues $35 U.S., $40 Canada
and Mexico, $50 rest of world,
869 Bridgewater Drive,
New Oxford, PA 17350-8206, U.S.A.
http://www.stampclubs.com/phs/index.htm

For this journal, the editors have been awarded the American Philatelic Congress Diane D.
Boehret Award 2004; gold medal & Prix d’Honneur, Canada’s Seventh National Philatelic
Literature Exhibition 2005; Grand Award Colopex 2005; gold medals Napex 2005, 2009,

NUMBER 145                          ISSN 0032-5341                          FEBRUARY 2010

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Forwarded Markings on Stampless Covers

by James W. Milgram, M.D.

This article is an overview of the handling of mail that was forwarded in the period before the use of stamps was compulsory in the United States; a second article in the next issue will cover mail that was missent. This period was also largely before delivery to specific addresses so that mail was addressed to the post office. People traveled and changed positions and the mail had to follow them. When the mail went between two post offices as an effect of forwarding, a second postal fee was due for the additional distance the letter was carried. Usually this was unpaid, but occasionally a postal patron had left money to pay for such forwarding.

On the other hand, a missent letter was an error on the part of some postal employee either misinterpreting the address or putting the letter into the wrong mail sack. So such letters were marked Missent and were not charged for the additional distance between the receiving post office and the final correct post office. Since a missent letter was always forwarded, some markings read Missent and Forwarded. Covers with the two words together make a third category of marking applied to forwarded mail.

Forwarded markings were at first handwritten. However, beginning in the 1820s and continuing to the 1850s and even afterwards, handstamped markings were used by certain larger towns. This article will discuss early and interesting examples with manuscript markings and provide a listing of the handstamped varieties.

Private Forwarding

Figure 1 is an example of a private forwarder’s handstamp, one from Panama during the Gold Rush period. This letter was written in Lima, Peru in the 1850s and was sent by private ship to Panama. The steamship rate for a letter from the west coast of Panama was 30 cents, which included domestic transit. This cover shows the use of “Forwarded by” a specific company, a private forwarder, similar to other express company markings which are listed under private forwarders in The American Stampless Cover Catalog Volume 2.

![Figure 1: “FORWARDED BY CORWINE BROTHERS & Co. P ANAMA N.G.” The cover also bears a strike of the rare “PANAMA” marking. There is a black “STEAMSHIP 30” from New York to reflect the west coast rate from Panama with final address in Boston. Letter datelined: Lima, September 9, 1850 from J. M. Mur to H.P. Daland, Messrs. Williams & Daland, Boston, Mass.](image-url)
Privately-Arranged Forwarding

Figure 2 is a Revolutionary War soldier’s letter describing a battle. Colonel Edward Hand arranged to have word to his wife sent from New York. The one shilling postage was paid in Philadelphia, presumably by addressee Joseph Shippen Junior, addressed as “Secretary in Philadelphia” (he was secretary to Pennsylvania Governor Richard Penn). Then Shippen sent the letter to Lancaster, its destination and his home town. If Mrs. Hand had moved to a different location, then the letter would have been truly forwarded by the post office.

Figure 2: Letter datelined Camp on Prospect Hill, November 10, 1775. The first postmark, straight line “N. York Nov 1” in red, is on the reverse of the cover, and the one shilling was the charge to Philadelphia, where the “1 //” was crossed out and a manuscript “Phila 4” (pennies) was added with a Bishop’s mark “14/DE.” The cover was addressed to Joseph Shippen to be forwarded to Mrs. Katherine Hand in Lancaster. Two postages were paid, once in Philadelphia and then again in Lancaster.

Twice-Forwarded

Figure 3 shows an 1800 cover which was forwarded twice – resulting in the presence of three of the first circular postmarks used in the United States.

Figure 3: Letter datelined Philadelphia, April 13, 1800 from William Dabney to Mr. Charles Young, “Of Phila.” Care of Mr. William Dabney, Merchant, Charleston, So. Carolina. It was mailed April 13, handstamp “PHI 13AP” with 25 cents due on receipt. It was re-posted at Charleston with the early circular handstamp “CHARL. SC MAY 2” in black with a new postage due of 12 1/2 cents (meaning that the original 25 cents was paid in Charleston by the Wm. Dabney firm). But in Savannah it was forwarded a second time, “SAVAN GA MAY 6” with another 12 1/2 cents due, totaling 25 to be collected from the addressee, now care of Mr. Grimes, in Augusta, Ga.
1815 War-Rate Forwarding

After the War of 1812 the postal rates were raised 50% for over a year. The cover in Figure 4 demonstrates these rates on a rare territorial forwarded use.

Figure 4: Letter written by George Graham datelined Washington City July 13, 1815 postmarked “WASHN. CITY JUL 14” and rated 37 \( \frac{1}{2} \) cents due (25 cents for distance over 500 miles plus 50% war surcharge) to Major Richard Graham, St. Louis, Missouri Territory. The postage was paid and the letter remailed with postmark “St. Louis Augt. 27” to Washington, Kentucky, and rated 30 cents (20 cents for distance 300 to 500 miles plus 50%). The crossing out of “Forwarded” implies the letter was first taken out of the mail before remailing.

Express Mail Round Trip

Figure 5 is a cover from the Express Mail of 1836-1839 which made a full round trip, New York to New York, by being forwarded.²

Figure 5: Letter written by R.W. Ardell datelined New York, May 22, 1838, and marked to be carried “Express / Paid Single” rated 75 cents, in manuscript, handstamped “PAID” “NEW-YORK MAY 22” to Mr. Charles C. Peck, care of Carradine & Newman, merchants in Natchez, a town above New Orleans but not on the express line. From Natchez, it evidently was carried out of the mails to Cincinnati where it was re-posted “CINCINNATI O. JUN 15” with “25” cents postage due to New York, care of R.C. Wetmore & Co.
Forwarding through U.S. Consul

Figure 6 is a most unusual forwarded cover, originating in Beirut and forwarded via the U.S. Consul in Malta to relatives in various American communities, the sender trusting each would forward to the others, as one did in addition to entrusting it to a railway agent.⁵

Figure 6: Letter written by G. B. Whiting datelined Beyroot [sic], April 24, 1841 to Caleb C. Ward or Dr. J. B. Jackson, Newark, New Jersey, “fav’d” by Rev. S. Hebard. Forwarded through Malta (manuscript marking of the U.S. Consul, Wm. B. Andrews on the reverse) on a private ship to New York where it received the markings “NEW-YORK OCT 12” “SHIP” and red manuscript “8” for the two-cent ship fee and six cents postage. It was forwarded subsequently by J. B. Jackson (who signs under the Consul), and by “RAIL ROAD” (one of the earliest railroad postmarks) through Albany “ALBANY N.Y. OCT. 29” in care of a new addressee, John Whiting, at Canaan Corners, New York. There is a purple manuscript “6” over the “8” for this stage of the journey.

Figure 7: “Printed Circular” about a public library in Milwaukee, April 1846, with printed “PAID.” Mailed to the governor of Rhode Island, Charles Jackson, at Providence (blue “MILWAUKEE Wis. MAY 13” and “PAID” with a manuscript “2”). At Providence, it was forwarded (“Ford”) to Bristol (Governor Jackson’s term expired May 6) marked with “2” cents due.
Forwarded Circular

A special postal rate was introduced in 1845 for printed matter or circulars. This two cent rate is to be compared to the 5 cent regular postage rate for under 300 miles and 10 cents for over that distance during the July 1845 to March, 1847 period. The cover in Figure 7, a very rare example of a forwarded circular, is a territorial circular mailed from Wisconsin Territory, preprinted on its face with “Printed Circular.” and “PAID.”

Forwarded Unofficial Registered Mail

Figure 8 is the only forwarded piece of registered mail seen by the writer during the unofficial period of registered mail (1845-1855).

Forwarding after Advertising

Advertising in the newspaper was prescribed for locating an unknown addressee after a lapse of time. If unsuccessful, the letter would be sent to the Dead Letter Office. If the advertising was successful, the letter could be forwarded to a different location. Figure 9 is an example of a letter from England forwarded several times (on each occasion, marked with a manuscript forwarding designation), including a period when it was advertised. The origin of the letter was a town in England.

Double Rate to California and Beyond

In the early 1850s the rate to and from California was six cents for paid letters and ten cents for unpaid letters. Cities such as Boston and New York had some special postmarks for California mail because they handled such a large volume. Figure 10 illustrates an envelope from the period 1851-1855 with markings for a double rate letter, paid over 3,000 miles and unpaid under 3,000 miles.
Figure 9: Letter written by Mary Rawlstone Doveridge, May 22, 1850 mailed at Uttoxeter [England] May 24 to William Daniel Rawlstone at Gilberets Ville, Otsego County, New York. Transport was by packet boat, with a red manuscript “P 1/” to indicate prepayment of both British and American postage. A large red “5” handstamp indicating British credit in cents and a red circular “BR. PACKET JUN 6 PAID 24” were applied at New York before transmission to Gilbertsville. With a “GILBERTS VILLE June 10” cds it was re-addressed to Cooperstown, with a manuscript “Ford 5.” Rawlstone was unknown there, so the letter was advertised: manuscript in red “ad 2” cents, adding up to “7” cents due. Apparently the advertising elicited intelligence that Rawlstone was to be found where he had originally been addressed, so the letter was forwarded back to Gilbertsville, “COOPERSTOWN July 15” cds, manuscript “Forwarded 5” adding up to “12” cents due.

Figure 10: Cover addressed to Alfred G. Gray in San Francisco during 1851-1855 when the California rates were 6 cents and 10 cents for paid and unpaid letters, while distances under 3,000 miles were 3 and 5 cents. Rated at Boston red “BOSTON JUL 3” and red “12” (for double weight) with separate “PAID.” Forwarded from San Francisco to Sonora, black “SAN FRANCISCO CAL 14 AUG” and a black “5” cents due, crossed out to 10 cents when double weight was discovered.
Post-1855 Forwarding: No Penalty for Postage Due

In 1855 the rate was changed to just three cents and all postage had to be prepaid. But forwarded letters often still incurred unpaid postage to be collected from the addressee (see Figure 11). This was an issue with Civil War soldiers so legislation was enacted to allow soldiers’ letters to be forwarded free. Letters from the soldiers still had to pay additional postage.6

Figure 11: Post-1855 cover addressed to Lucien B. Eaton in Andover, Mass. Mailed July 23 from South Hadley with 3 handstamps in a pale ink: the circular date stamp “SOUTH HADLEY Mass. JUL 23” “PAID” and a “3”. At Andover, the forwarding information of Sutton N.H. was added along with manuscript “Fwd” and blue cds “ANDOVER MASS JUL 27” and blue “3” for the postage due.

Handstamped Forwarded Markings

Most large cities apparently had “forwarded” handstamps. Figure 12 demonstrates a fairly early use in 1835 from Buffalo to Toledo; there are only a few markings this early.

Figure 12: Letter written by Laurence Grennell datelined New Bedford, December 3, 1835 to Joseph R. Williams, care of Smith & Macy, Buffalo. Mailed with red “NEW BEDFORD Ms DEC 4” and rated 25 cents in manuscript. The writer indicated “Steam Boat” for passage on Long Island sound to New York. At Buffalo, a blue handstamped “FORWARDED” in rectangular frame plus manuscript 18¾ added to the original 25 cents sent the letter on to Toledo, Oh.
The Salem, Massachusetts postmaster handstamped the cover in Figure 13 “Forwarded” and crossed out the “PAID” handstamp but continued the rate handstamp “5” of the office of origin.

Figure 13: Letter written by Henry C. Fuller and D. Gilbert of New Haven to Joseph B. Felt (Author of a History of Salem that was reprinted throughout the 1840s). Presumably the men just guessed Mr. Felt would be living in Salem and posted it there: red “NEW HAVEN CT. JUN 17” with “PAID” and “5”. Red handstamped “Forwarded” from “SALEM Ms 20 JUNE” to Boston by crossing out “PAID”.

The cover in Figure 14 shows an unusual spelling for a handstamp, “FORWD” in red from Princeton, N.J. in 1843.

Figure 14: D. P. Watson’s Postmaster free frank from “NICHOLASVILLE KY SEP 25” (1843) and “FREE” in black on a letter addressed to Charles Hodge in Princeton N.J. The cover was forwarded, also free, with “PRINCETON N.J. OCT 2” and “FORWD” handstamped in red to the Rev. M. B. Hope in Philadelphia. Dr. Hodge was a well-known Princeton Theological Seminary professor; Rev. Hope was a colleague.
Catalog of FORWARDED handstamps on U.S. Stampless Covers

(Milledgeville, Ga.) FORW.D [D over period], red, S.L. 22x3.5, early 1840’s
(Chelsea, Ms.) FORWARDED, red, S.L. 37x3.5, 1850
(Salem, Mass.) Forwarded, red, S.L. 28x3.5, 1848
(Newark, N.J.) FORWARD.D, black, S.L. 43x4.5, ?
(Princeton, N.J.) FORW.D [D over period], red, S.L. 26x3, 1843
(Princeton, N.J.) Same, black, S.L. 26x3, 1854
(Buffalo, N.Y.) FORWARD.D, blue, rectangle 40x6, 1835
(New York, N.Y.) FORWARD.D, red, S.L. in rectangle, 36x6, 1836
(New York, N.Y.) FORWARD.D, red, S.L. 42x7, 1849
(Troy, N.Y.) FORWARD.D, red, S.L. 32x4.5, 1842
(Troy, N.Y.) FORWARD.D, blue, S.L. 31x4, 1845
(?) FORD.3, black, S.L. 35x7.5, late 1850’s
(Cleveland, Ohio) FORWARD.D, red, S.L. 50x5, late 1840’s
(Cleveland, Ohio) FORWARD.D, black, S.L. 50x5, 1852
(Gambier, Ohio) FORWARD.D and 6, red, S.L. 35x3, 1842
(Philadelphia, Pa.) FORWARD.D, red, S.L. 41x4, 1845
(Philadelphia, Pa.) FORWARD.D, blue, S.L. in octagon 54x5, 1848
(Kingston, R.I.) FORWARD.D, green, S.L. 24x2, 1842

Editors’ Endnotes

1 Theron Wierenga, *The Gold Rush Mail Agents to California and their Postal Markings 1849-1852* identifies the straight line “PANAMA” to be from a handstamp wielded by A.B. Corwine as Despatch Agent, a position to which he was appointed December 6, 1849. The cover in Figure 1 is calendared as number 5 of 20 known (only one other bearing the Corwine forwarded handstamp) by Wierenga. See “Pamama – Two Mysteries” *PHJ* 139 (Feb. 2008) pp 22-27.

2 Milgram includes a chapter on forwarded express mail, pp 138-150, in his monograph, *The Express Mail of 1836-1839* (Collectors Club of Chicago 1977). Its first illustrations depict two other 1837 letters addressed to Peck from New York. On May 19 an “Express / Single” directed to Mobile Alabama is forwarded to Montgomery May 24. The second illustration depicts a double weight letter inscribed “Express via N.O. / Paid” which covered the same path and same dates as Figure 5.

3 Charles Towle, *U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks* (Mobile Post Office Society 1986) identifies (plate 92 and page 183) the “RAIL-ROAD” in arc 1838-1841 with the railroads between Albany and Buffalo, and that it is to be found applied at the “post offices in Albany, Utica and Syracuse, probably due to lack of space on trains.”

4 Alex L. ter Braake, *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America* (American Philatelic Research Library 1975) publishes Benjamin Franklin’s chart of postages (pocket) and instructions to postmasters ca1754 (B42-B47). The postage chart shows a matrix of rates among places on the Grand Line of Posts from New Hampshire to Virginia (New York to Philadelphia, 2 shillings), while cross posts and alternative routes are given their own matrices and postages (Philadelphia to Lancaster 2 shillings). Franklin’s instructions are particular about undelivered letters: “one Month after you have received them, you are to take a List of Names of the parties to whom the same are directed, and their Places of Abode, and publish it in one or all the News-Papers printed in your Province, if the Printers thereof send any of their Papers in his Majesty’s Mail. And all those Letters which remain undelivered two Months after such Publication, you are to send to the General Post-Office in Philadelphia, as Dead Letters.”


6 “An Act to Amend the Laws relating to the Post Office Department passed June 12 1866 (Sec. 1) That, from and after the first day of July, 1866, prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded, at
the request of the party addressed, from one post office to another without additional postage charge; and returned dead letters shall be returned to the writers thereof free of postage.” With Additional Instructions pertaining to “Advertised Letters. Under an order of the Postmaster General issued December 5, 1867, the allowance of pay for advertising unclaimed letters in newspapers is prohibited at all post offices when any publisher can be found willing to do the work without charge, … When no newspaper, at a first class office, can be found to publish the said list under this regulation, the postmaster will report the fact to the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General. Under no circumstances will pay be allowed at other than first-class offices.” In List of Post Offices of the United States, Washington 1868, pp xvi-xix.

7 Postal regulations were definite: “Orders to forward letters should be in writing and filed by you.” Instructions, Sec 143 in Laws, Instructions and Forms for the Regulation of the Post Office Department, Washington 1832. Written orders on file with the postmaster governed the forwarding of letters.

8 Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, The Forwarding of Mail by the U.S. Post Office Department, 1792-2001 (James E. Lee 2001) catalogs forwarded handstamps in an appendix. For the stampless period, Wawrukiewicz depicts 5 forwarding handstamps and tabulates another 6. Of these, Milgram captures less than half. Taken together - Milgram’s 18 plus 6 from Wawrukiewicz - 24 distinct stampless period forwarding handstamps have been identified.

Dr. James W. Milgram, an orthopedic surgeon, is very active in The Collectors Club of Chicago. He has collected covers and letters since high school, and has written several books focusing on 19th century illustrated stationery - his most recent, Federal Civil War Postal History was reviewed in PHJ 143; and his supplement to “Vessel-Named Markings on United States Inland & Ocean Waterways 1784-1899” appeared in the 3 issues of PHJ 2007.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: The 1860 painting by George Elgar Hicks, The General Post Office, One Minute to Six, depicts a scene that was described in great detail by William Lewins in his 1864 book Her Majesty’s Mails: A History of the Post-Office, and an Industrial Account of Its Present Condition. W.H. Bidwell, editor of The Eclectic Magazine of Foreign Literature, New York, September 1864, quoted Lewins’s description in a piece reprinted from the British Quarterly, “The English Post-Office,” and a second edition of Lewins’ book in 1865 added detail: “Approaching the great hall of the General Post-office [St. Martin’s le Grand] through one of the three-columned porticos, we post our letter, and as it is now nearly six o’clock p.m. we stand aside for a few minutes only, to witness one of the most stirring sights in the metropolis…. As if it had been waiting for the opportunity to pass some hidden barrier, an impetuous crowd suddenly enters, and letters and newspapers at once begin to fall in quite a literary hail-storm. The huge slits gaping for letters all the day, must now be widened, or the consequences would undoubtedly be serious among the hurrying crowd of people. Just at this period the windows over the newspaper-boxes used to be thrown open, and newspapers and bags were hurled with great force, and sometimes, fury, into the sorting-room on the same floor. Now a capacious shoot is thrown wide open, which carries the newspapers deposited in it to a room underneath. This immense aperture no sooner opens its maw than it is surrounded and besieged by men and boys of all ages and costumes alike pushing, heaving, and surging in one great mass, who seek to feed the thing with heaps of papers, which fly thicker and faster than the driven snow. …” And the pandemonium intensifies until the last moment, when the postal windows slam shut. (See review of Posting It, page 49.) Original 89 x 135 cm. ©Museum of London.
Telegraphic Communication with Overseas
U.S. Military Personnel in WWII

by Stephen Prigozy

A desire for rapid communication between U.S. overseas personnel and their families and friends was satisfied by the use of the telegraph, first by cable and later by radio. Messages were short and typically conveyed grim news of a death, or cheerful greetings. Longer messages were reserved for the post.

Telegraph service was available during the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. Such communications came to be designated Expeditionary Force Messages (EFM). During the 1930s, the U.S. Army Signal Corps operated a Personal Radiogram system for service personnel that was free to the point of entry into the U.S. Instructions emphasized that only important personal (not commercial) messages of up to ten words could be sent over Army field telegraph, field wire, and field and overseas radio circuits, and only if the transmission did not interfere with Government business.

World War II brought a change in EFM messages. Now the limit was three canned message statements, each designated by a numeric code. That system allowed for reduced telegraphic traffic, as only the numeric codes plus the name and address needed to be transmitted.

Figure 1: Western Union in Bombay, India, provided printed instructions, with the message codes on the reverse.

The system worked in the following manner. There existed “send” forms, upon which were printed the canned messages. The forms contained three blanks to be filled in by the sender with the code numbers of the selected messages. The messages were categorized as: Correspondence, Greetings, Health, Promotion and Decoration, Money, Congratulations, Miscellaneous, Bereavement, Personal Broadcast. The different telegraph companies all used the same codes, numbered 1 to 356 (although none of the examples I have seen offer numbers 190 to 300). As a result of space considerations, some forms contained only a subset of the available messages. Several messages pointed to longer communications by mail: 305 “Send me love by V-Mail”; 347 “Wait instructions in my letter.” Other messages
pointed to radio communication: 189 “Hope to broadcast greetings from BBC. Listen … (Day of week to be inserted and transmitted following text number).” After the coded message was received, it was decoded, written on a message form, and dispatched to the intended recipient either by messenger or by the post.

The Postal Telegraph EFM form is shown in Figure 2. The cost at this time was 60 cents plus tax (the tax starting out at 6 cents and increasing to 15).

![Figure 2: EFM blank form for messages transmitted by the Postal Telegraph system. On the reverse are message code choices 1-21; 26-64 (the shortest is 29 “love”); 68-86; 91-93; 98-110; 115-120; 135 and 136 which is one of the longest: “Hearing your voice on the wireless gave me a wonderful thrill.”](image)

Figure 2: EFM blank form for messages transmitted by the Postal Telegraph system. On the reverse are message code choices 1-21; 26-64 (the shortest is 29 “love”); 68-86; 91-93; 98-110; 115-120; 135 and 136 which is one of the longest: “Hearing your voice on the wireless gave me a wonderful thrill.”

Figure 3 shows a Postal Telegraph EFM sent by Mackay Radio (probably from Europe) to Chicago, Ill. The message is composed of the three coded messages 71, 74 and 33: “All well and safe / Please don’t worry / All my love.”

![Figure 3: Message and envelope received in Chicago, May 29, delivered by messenger to the parents of a serviceman.](image)

Figure 3: Message and envelope received in Chicago, May 29, delivered by messenger to the parents of a serviceman.
Figure 4 shows an RCA EFM SANS ORIGINE (origin of the message kept secret for security purposes) radiogram and envelope sent on June 21, 1944 to Brooklyn, N.Y. The message is composed of numbers 61, 58 and 55: “You are more than ever in my thoughts at this time / birthday greetings / keep smiling.”

Figure 5 is a “send” form designed to be used for messages from England or Ireland to the U.S. The usual subset of messages in on the reverse. The charge of 2 shillings, 6 pence is approximately equal to the U.S. charge of 60 cents.

Figure 5: Western Union in London’s form for greetings to the U.S. Messages listed on reverse include numbers 98 to 101 about sending money in pounds sterling.
Figure 6 is an EFM telegram received in London, England from Rochester, N.Y., dated October 7, 1943. The message is comprised of codes 2, 46 and 17: “Letters received. Many thanks / All well at home / Greetings from us all.”

Figure 6: EFM 976 (Office of Issue handstamp is Empire Social Telegram), passed by British censor; U.S. Army Postal Service handstamp 887 on reverse; re-routing to 19 General Hospital in pencil.

Shown in Figure 7 is an EFM to Paris, France from somewhere in the U.S. in 1945, transmitted via Radio-France. The message uses codes 59, 120 and 33: “Loving birthday greetings / I wish we were together on this special occasion. All my best wishes for a speedy reunion / All my love dearest.”

Figure 7: EFM via Radio-France. Handstamps on reverse: “Central-Radio Paris” and “U.S. Army Postal Service 887” of January 19, 1945 for receiving the message; “U.S. Army Postal Service 126” of January 21 for delivery to the 852 Engineers.
Figure 8 is a radiogram from Shreveport, La. to Kunming, China, probably sent in the early 1940s. The codes used are 23, 149 and 68: “Letters arriving regularly / Writing regularly / Family all well.” Kunming is located in the southwest part of China. When the Japanese invaded China, many people and factories moved to Kunming. The Flying Tigers were based there in 1941-1942, protecting the Burma Road, an important supply route.

Figure 8: EFM received in China. On verso of envelope: “Kunming International Radio Office, Ministry of Communications, Radiogram, World Wide Wireless.”

Figure 9 is an EFM received in Bombay by The Indian Radio & Cable Communications Co., September 12, 1944. The message codes 91, 59 and 64 have been written out in pencil for the recipient: “Congratulations on your promotions / Loving birthday greetings / Best wishes for New Year.” The Army Postal Service received the enveloped message September 13, and the recipient on September 18.

Figure 9: EFM received in India through The Indian Radio & Cable Communications Company.
After the conclusion of the war, a one-way EFM protocol was implemented for returning service personnel – a Homeward Bound Telegram. This consisted of no choice; it was code number 16 or nothing. Figure 10 shows the Western Union illustrated version of the “send” form. There was also a form without illustration with the following proviso: “This message will be accepted for transmission only when filed under authority of the command of ports of embarkation.”

![Figure 10: Western Union form 775 for Homeward Bound messages.](image)

The EFM system was abandoned during the Korean war. By the time of the Viet Nam War, the use of telegraphy was on the wane in favor of long-distance telephone. Now email (USPS eMOM – eMail Our Military) and satellite phones are used to supplement mail delivery to our troops.

**Stephen Prigozy** holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Cornell University. A retired instructor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he is a keen collector of telegraphic postal history. He has brought up to date the information compiled by Robert Dalton Harris in *The Stampless Cover Catalogue*, which is available on the web site of the Postal History Society: www.stampclubs.com/phs/index. His article in *PHJ* 138, “Telegraph Similitudes as Early Junk Mail” was named the best article of the year by our associate editors. An exhibit of that material, *Telegraph Fakes, Fantasies, Similitudes and Spoofs* at Stamp Expo 400, September 2009, won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Novice Award, Best Exhibit of a First Time Exhibitor; and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award.
Using the Official Registers:  
Local Sources of Postal Revenue  
by Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois

Introduction
Analyzing data from the Official Registers of the United States transports the postal narrative from macro to micro and back. It invites a story from each post office, and acknowledges the social net.

A generation of postal historians have turned to the Official Registers to help in establishing the relative scarcity of postal markings; the idea being simply that the registers report postmaster compensations, which were earned as a percentage of postal revenues.

The first systematic weighing of the mails ca1900 disclosed that local postal revenues were best correlated with the weight of first class mails.1 This would corroborate the notion that postal revenues are an index to the original abundance of first class postal markings, at least since 1855 in the United States with the mandatory prepayment of letter mail.

Before 1855 postal revenues were supposedly a surer index of mail received rather than of mail sent. Although one might presume a simple symmetry in first class mail practice - every letter eliciting a reply - marked asymmetries are known, especially pronounced at small offices.

More recently, the Official Registers have been used to establish dynamical features of the postal system as well as to index events outside the province of postal operations.2 This paper will address the geographic relationship between postal and economic activity, using a large block of the Official Register data in conjunction with a reporting of annual net postages.

The National Picture
Figure 1 displays a profile representing a rate of growth of the Gross Postal Revenues of the United States Post Office Department at two year intervals between 1823 and 1869. The choice of this function, rate of growth rather than the total amount, was motivated by the discovery that Gross Postal Revenues generally grew at seven per cent per annum. As a consequence of this, deviations in the rate of growth should indicate, hypothetically, unusual circumstances wanting explanation.

The slope of the profile drawn between successive points is just the rate of growth for that interval. A line sloping up and to the right is a positive rate of growth. (A 7% annual rate of exponential growth doubles the measure approximately every 10 years; 5%, 14 years; 3%, 23 years.) Between 1823 and 1869 gross national postages grew from $1,130,000 to $17,314,000, a factor of 15 or a bit less than four doublings in between four and five decades, which is an exponential rate of growth of about six per cent (doubling time about 11.5 years). Horizontal would be zero rate of growth; sloping down to the right, negative rate of growth. 7% would be a fair estimate for the rate of growth during the interval between 1823 and 1831, as well as for the interval between 1853 and 1861. The growth rate went from positive to negative after 1839 through 1847 and again after 1851.

The negative growth rate beginning in 1839 is attributed to the incursions by the
private expressmen upon the postal revenues, riding the same railroads and steamboats as the POD was at such expense to use for the most expeditious transit of the mails. The more precipitate drop in 1845 with ‘cheap postage’ reform was nonetheless cushioned by the recovery of volume formerly lost to the expressmen. The negative growth after 1851 is due to the further reduction of the (prepaid) letter rate.

The inflation of the exponential growth rate after 1831, but before the attritions to private express, is attributed to increased facilities given to the transportation of the mail – mostly in increased frequencies – which in a single year had increased the miles of mail transportation by 50%. Similar inflations in the exponential rate of growth of postal revenues are to be seen in response to postal reforms (1847-1851; 1853-1857) and during the Civil War (1861-1865). Thereafter and for one hundred years (except for a stutter during the Great Depression) postal revenues would average 7% growth per annum.

This explanation of the growth of the Gross National Postages, beginning as an index of systematic exponential growth but also containing, in terms of variations in rates of growth, correlations not only to greater service and lower costs (operational changes intrinsic to the system) but also to competition (entrepreneurial insurgencies extrinsic to the system).

The span of time, 1823-1869, and the biennial intervals chosen to frame these macroscopic observations, anticipates a correspondence with data otherwise published, providing gross postal revenues of each post office. And because of this correspondence we might entertain the question of how the whole may distribute itself with respect to the sum of its parts.
The Official Registers (the “Blue Book”), begun in 1816 and published biennially from 1817 to 1911, provide compensation figures for every employee of the United States government. Postmasters, their compensations figured in terms of the gross postal revenues of their offices, are the most numerous of these employees. In 1823 the gross revenues of each post office were tabulated and separately printed. Subsequently, and through 1835, net revenues for each post office were compiled yearly which, added to the Official Register figures provide the gross postages. Beginning in 1841 and continuing through 1869, the Official Registers provide both net postages and postmaster compensation so that gross postages may be accurately known. Otherwise, gross postages from the Official Registers (before 1823; in 1837 and 1839; and after 1869) may be roughly inferred from a knowledge of the postmaster compensation schedules. Thus the focus upon the span from 1823 through 1869 for the ease of investigating the way in which a macroscopic picture is distributed among its microscopic parts.

The County Level

The upper two profiles in Figure 2 enable the comparison of the rates of growth in postal revenues between the nation and the county. Rensselaer County gross postal revenues enjoyed an early, inflated, rate of growth, in excess of 7%, and only responded to the finessing of postal revenues by the private expressman in 1843. Troy, earning 80% of the County gross postal revenues was sited opposite the confluent waters of the Erie and Champlain canals at the head of navigation of the Hudson River. Troy, thereby, got an early and vigorous start in the industrial revolution. In its hinterland, upon the Wynantskill, was the largest water wheel in the world, driving one of the largest iron mills in the country. Even so, given these local modifications to the shape of the national gross postages before 1845, Rensselaer country gross postage closely tracks the national profile during postal reform, and then stagnates except for the period of the Civil War when its iron foundries plated the ships and shoed the horses. Consequently, from 1823 until 1869, Rensselaer County Gross Postages grew from $5,267 to $56,901; less than the 15-fold increase in the Gross National Postages.

The Township Level

The lowest profile in Figure 2 enables the comparison of the rate of growth in postal revenues of the township of Sand Lake with the county and the nation. The Sand Lake township, in the interior of Rensselaer County (see Figure 3), shows an early inflation in its rate of growth of postal revenues from $78 in 1823 to $356 in 1835 - more than fourfold in twelve years - more than 12% annual rate of growth; and shows no loss of revenues to the private expressmen.

Even so, the overall rate of growth of the Township postages is less than tenfold between 1823 and 1869, less than the elevenfold increase in County postages, less than the fifteenfold increase in National postages for the same interval. This corroborates an important and systematic increase in rates of growth with geographic scale, which apparently reflects the increasing frequency of the mails in association with the passage from hinterland to urban center.

There seems to be an inordinate decline in the township revenues after 1851, and following the Civil War, which may indicate local causes overwhelming the more systematic features.
Figure 2:
Gross Postages 1823-1869
United States and Rensselaer Country and the Town of Sand Lake
Individual Post Offices

Figure 4 charts the rates of growth in postal revenues of the communities in the Town of Sand Lake. Four post offices contributed to the aggregate postal revenues of the Sand Lake township. Actually, midway through the period of consideration, the Town of Sand Lake was split into two townships, respecting the two distinct watersheds of the Wynantskill and the Poestenkill - two small streams of which the former possessed distinct advantages for the development of waterpower and therefore contributed inordinately to the prosperity of Troy. West Sand Lake and Sand Lake were both on the Wynantskill, upon which a cooperative organization of mill owners managed the watershed resources for the benefit of all. Note the lack of correlation of the postal revenues of Poestenkill and East Sand Lake, both between themselves and with respect to the well-correlated revenues of Sand Lake and West Sand Lake after 1851.

The mills at West Sand Lake began commercial production ca1850, but the Sand Lake post offices, besides serving half a dozen commercial mill seats, also provided postal facilities for the Glass Factory which had been, before the end of the War of 1812, the largest industrial manufactory in the country. The inordinate decline in the aggregate postal revenues of the township after 1851 is here seen to be an artifact of the Sand Lake post office itself: the Glass Factory burned on Christmas 1852, and was not rebuilt.

Too, the decline of postal revenues after the Civil War is general among these hinterland offices: the water power, which was the basis of their preeminence prior to the Civil War and by which geography favored their remote location, was being supplanted by steam. The forests which had furnished charcoal for the iron foundries downstream and for the Glass Factory had been cut down. Sheep were grazing the denuded hillsides of the hinterland. As they lost their industrial basis, these hinterlands were becoming transformed for the retreat and recreation of urbanites from burgeoning Albany and Troy.

Figure 3: Detail of map, published by Everts & Peck, from Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, History of Rensselaer County, New York, 1880, showing the townships of Sand Lake, Poestenkill and Stephentown in Rensselaer County; the paths of the Wynantskill and Poestenkill as tributaries of the Hudson River; and the post offices of West Sand Lake, Sand Lake, Poestenkill, [East Sand Lake] East Poestenkill, Alps, West Stephentown and Stephentown - whose postal revenue data was graphed for this paper. The proposed railroads marked were not built, although an electric railway was established from Troy to Sand Lake in the 1890s.
Figure 4: The postal revenue data for this graph, and for Figure 5, were derived from the Official Registers. The true name for these compilations changed: from 1816 to 1831 it was A Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States, then it was Register of All Officers ... (except for 1837 which added Biennial). A separate volume for The Post Office Department and The Postal Service was needed by 1879. Until 1859, the compilation and preparation was directed by the Department of State, and various printers in the City of Washington were designated. Beginning in 1861, responsibility went to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Government Printing Office.
Pay of the Way

Not until 1815 when a turnpike connected the township post offices of Sand Lake and Stephentown6 (named for the Patroon and still the only Stephentown on earth) were post offices established at those two places (see Figure 5). Subsequently, Alps and West Stephentown were established along the way, the trip from Sand Lake to Stephentown passing through the tangled geology of several watersheds before descending into Stephentown valley where Patroon van Rensselaer kept some mills. Alps was the community centered upon the charcoal burners charring their way through the six thousand acre woodlot with which the Glass Factory was endowed (the dating of the drop in postal activity at Alps suggests that the wood had practically been exhausted by the time of the Christmas fire in 1852). The West Stephentown post office was kept by one master, Isaiah Bangs Coleman, from 1851 to 1881, in his store next to both his home and the Free Will Baptist Church. Reverend Coleman preached for free; he also sent and received mail free under his postmaster frank. Meanwhile, the Stephentown post office was passed often among several sites which, by their relative proximity to West Stephentown, modulated the rewards for the Rev. Coleman’s unstinting exertions.

In distinction to the aggregation of postal revenues by geographic domain to a constant rate of growth, the integration of postal revenues on this segment of a postal road quickly attains a limit to growth. This is in accord with the role of the frequency of the mails in the distribution of post offices according to their revenues. Indeed, this road was traversed daily with the mails in 1837. By 1851, the mails were thrice weekly, the route having lost its importance to the Western Railroad which had reached the Hudson River from Boston.

Fragments of the mail: Local Communications

Evidence of communications from the post offices on the Sand Lake to Stephentown turnpike, 1827 to 1849, offers a more intimate local picture of the post in Sand Lake. According to an 1825 trade card (see Figure 6), the stages stopped in Sand Lake at Spencer’s (a public house kept by Richard Spencer at Glass House, by the shore of Glass Lake where the Glass Factory operated 1806-1852). According to an 1828 almanac the stages by then were stopping in Sand Lake at “Averil” (a store kept by Franklin Averill at the Sliter’s Corners crossroads). At “Stephentown,” the stages stopped at “Babcock” which was the store and, apparently, an unofficial post office kept by Sally Ann Babcock in West Stephentown (before the official opening of an office in 1829). Sally Ann was probably related to the O. Babcock, agent of the Union Line of Stages at the City Hotel, Troy.6

Figure 6: Trade Card, July 1825 (verso: “Table of Roads”) letterpress printed by Tuttle & Richards, Troy. James Fisk, Albany’s agent for the Boston Union Line Stages, emphasizes the advantage both in miles and in cost to this stage line going from Albany to Troy and by way of Sand Lake, Stephentown, and Hancock (rather than New Lebanon) etc. to Boston.
For a sense of the social network involved in local communications, it is important to turn to the evidence of who were the postmasters, who their patrons and what news was carried in the mails.
Except for Figure 9, all the subsequent letters, illustrated and quoted, are from the collection of William P. Hoffman of Alps, New York.

(1) Sand Lake Postmasters’ Reports in the Official Registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postmaster</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uriah M. Gregory</td>
<td>1816-1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin W. Harvey</td>
<td>1829-1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Wilkason</td>
<td>1835-June 21, 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gideon Butts</td>
<td>1841-1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Sliter</td>
<td>1845-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Upham</td>
<td>1851-July 15, 1853*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Tourtellot</td>
<td>July 15-December 31, 1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.H. Wicks</td>
<td>1854-May 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Sliter</td>
<td>May 28 1854-1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.H. Wicks</td>
<td>1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.E. Barnes</td>
<td>1865-1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Horton</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* the scramble for the post office in this period was probably linked to the 1852 Christmas fire destroying the Glass Factory

“Dear Brother, ... I received a line from John stating that Mother was very sick and proberably would not get well as it has bin some little time I think she must be beter or not living. I feel considerable anxiety to hear from her. ... Sincerely yours B.W. Harvey.” Benjamin Harvey’s shop was at Sliter’s Corners and, when he became postmaster, the office moved there from the Glass Lake area where Dr. Uriah M. Gregory had had his physician’s and post offices (since 1816). Harvey’s comments here about being confined to his house for months reveal how often the actual work of the store and even the post office could be handled by other family members. Even the short distance between Sand Lake and Sutton was not often bridged in person.

(2) Alps Postmasters’ Reports from the Official Registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postmaster</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan G. Tifft</td>
<td>1827-1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alanson Woodward</td>
<td>part 1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Griggs</td>
<td>1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ten Eyck</td>
<td>1837-May 6 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.H.P. Griffis</td>
<td>May 6 1841-January 28, 1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ten Eyck</td>
<td>January 28 1843-1875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Dear Sir, If you will have the goodness to offer the within note and get it done you will much oblige your friend and may receive $100 on my act. And the note shall be attended to without fail in due season. Truly yours, Jonathan G. Tifft. P.S. please endorse and offer the within the first opportunity and you shall not be the loser.” Jonathan G. Tifft ran a general store in Alps, was postmaster from 1826-35 and, from 1831-32, was Clerk of the Town of Nassau. This ‘farm-to-market’ letter reveals that, under the postmaster’s free frank, he conducted considerable business with Troy. John L. Thompson had in 1828 bought out his partner and brother-in-law, Samuel Gale, in a drug and paint business – displacing Gale as Troy postmaster as of 1829 (he had operated the office in their store since 1806).

“Mr. E.R. Ball, Albert R. Fox is up here and he intends to take up the Mr. Lord’s note the first of May and pay the interest on Dr. McClaren’s note. ... Yours truly, K.M. Crandell.” The writer, K.M. Crandell, is probably related to Nathan R. Crandell who had operated the Glass Factory at Glass Lake from 1816 until his death in 1825. Albert R. Fox and his brother Samuel H. Fox had taken over the Glass Factory in 1839 and would operate it until the fire of 1852. By 1849, Fox was actively involved in other glass factories in Massachusetts and Oneida County N.Y. (Durhamville is in Oneida Co.) – the forests of Alps were denuded and he had to follow the charcoal. The recipient of the letter, Edwin R. Ball, was a solid citizen of Alps – having acted as Clerk of the Town of Nassau in 1836 and 1839-1841. Apparently he is involved in the Durhamville glass factory with Fox and together they have borrowed money to do so. Of the letters here quoted, this is the only one to accrue revenue to any of these post offices. Postmaster Thomas Ten Eyck was also a farmer and a manufacturer of wagons and wire tooth horse rakes.
(3) West Stephentown Postmasters’ Reports from the Official Registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postmaster</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Tifft</td>
<td>1829-1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(office discontinued 1832 and reopened 1841)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Allen</td>
<td>October 1 1841-1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Tifft</td>
<td>1847-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah B. Coleman</td>
<td>1851-1881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 10: From West Stephentown 1848.
Ms postmark: “West Stephentown NY Dec 26”
rate “5” Addressed to:
“Austin Craig, Peapack, New Jersey. No. 165”
Dateline: “Stephentown N.Y. Dec 25 1848.”

“Friend Austin. Yours of the 19th came to hand today. It found us all well. We had just returned from a visit, when we received your welcome letter. I suppose the reason that you did not get a letter from Hamlin was this. Bart had a lame back and could not go. I was there when he got your letter. It was advertised in one of the City papers. You did not put on the number. And for that reason he did not get it sooner. ... as ever your friend C.W. Havens.” Both C.W. Havens and Calvin P. Carpenter were members of the Seventh Day Baptists Society of Stephentown. One wonders if he argued religion with Isaiah B. Coleman who was, at this time, both elder of the Free Baptist Church of Stephentown, and pastor of the Free-Will Baptist Church of West Stephentown, as well as keeper of the general store in West Stephentown (since 1836). In 1850, Coleman resigned from the Stephentown church and added the duties of postmaster at West Stephentown. He held that position until 1881, and died in 1883.

(4) Stephentown Postmasters’ Reports from the Official Registers
(The transience of the postmasters at the township post offices of Sand Lake and Stephentown, contrasts with the relative stability of the postmasterships in the offices along the way.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postmaster</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Howard</td>
<td>1816-1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Gardiner</td>
<td>1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Howard</td>
<td>1845-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore D. Platt</td>
<td>1851-1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James J. Brown</td>
<td>1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randall A. Brown</td>
<td>half 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing Sheldon</td>
<td>half 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John L. Sheldon</td>
<td>1859-1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Brown</td>
<td>1863-1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.A. Brown</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Sir, In compliance with yours of 30th May past I will briefly state what Mr. John Doty has stated in his Declaration for a pension. ... We wish an answer as soon as convenient, your humble servant Nathan Howard.” As postmaster (Stephentown’s first, since 1816), Nathan Howard not only could send such official inquiries for free but also commanded the social ‘weight’ to have them listened to. A subsequent letter reveals that E. Phelps smoothed the way for John Doty’s pension.

Conclusion

This course of explanation begins with operational considerations in conjunction with systematic growth at the national scale, through regional histories of transportation facilities at intermediate scales, to the local economy at the scale of the individual post offices. Each level of consideration is negotiated for the identification of particular agencies for the production of specific effects. The final result is a relation between postal and economic principles, which is appropriate considering the high correlation between Gross National Postage and Gross National Product.

Endnotes

5 Horatio Gates Spafford, A Gazetteer of the State of New-York, Albany NY, 1813. Describing Rensselaer Village which was the name then given to the community later called Glass House, developed around the glass factory in Sand Lake: “These various works employ about 100 hands, and consume about 20,000 cords of wood annually. A turnpike road, now opening, from this Village to Stephentown Hollow, and the opulent farming Towns on the E., will probably prove highly beneficial to its interest.”
The European Mail: Globalization at mid 19th Century
by Seija-Riitta Laakso

The first steamship voyages across the Atlantic, by the Sirius and the Great Western in 1838, defined an era in information transmission. American sailing packets had been the most important means of communication between the New and the Old World for two decades. The change from sail to steam would provide vast benefits for the whole world during the next hundred years.

The new technology made it possible for the British Admiralty to regain their former leadership in overseas communications. Britain had enough iron (later steel) and coal, which were needed for building and maintaining the steamers. The mail services were outsourced to private shipping companies, which were selected after competitive bidding – rather modern thinking for mid-19th century.

Thus, the Cunard Line started on the North Atlantic route in July 1840, the P&O on the route to Alexandria (later also to Calcutta, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, etc.) in 1840 (to Gibraltar already in the late 1830s), and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. on the West Indies route in 1842 (and to South America in 1851).

This new network of steamship lines, connecting regularly distant parts of the world, facilitated such businesses as The European Mail newspaper. The paper was established in 1843, when all the basic mail steamship routes had just been put in use, and the P&O had started its service to India. Without knowing much more about The European Mail's history, it is easy to believe that its circulation grew hand in hand with the opening of new steamship routes, and that the number of printed copies grew together with the world trade.

A Good Forum for Advertising

For advertisers, The European Mail offered an excellent forum. The newspaper tax had been reduced in Britain in 1836, and fully abolished in 1851, and the postage rates for newspapers were reasonable compared to the high cost of sending letters abroad. The campaign for a general Ocean Penny Postage in the early 1850s had led to no changes in the government’s policy. Thus, The European Mail could offer the merchants a good and rather inexpensive alternative for private letters by bringing their message to potential overseas customers.

The circular for advertisers, sent November 30, 1869 (see Figure 1) promotes the full scale of services available at that time. We learn that The European Mail was “the leading title of Eight totally distinct newspapers” (two of which were to be issued “shortly”) published for different parts of the world. The number of issues for the various directions - 173 (264) in one year - was equal to the number of mail steamship departures for the same places.

The merchants could choose single or multiple insertions, “liberal discounts for series,” for their advertisements. There was even The European Mail Directory of British Manufacturers and Merchants whose Market is the World, promoting a less expensive opportunity for a classified listing in six of the eight forms, gratuitous for those taking ads in each of the 173 issues published per year. Who said that globalization was an issue of the late 20th century?

The European Mail was not the only “summary” newspaper of the day. Richard Schwartzlose describes in “The Liverpool Connection: Transatlantic Newspapers in the 1840s”:
Published in one side of the Atlantic and shipped by steamer for consumption on the other side, transatlantic newspapers compiled and condensed from all available sources the latest political, commercial, and shipping news. Although intended for private subscribers, they were important sources of foreign news for United States newspaper editors. Three such papers, all published in Liverpool, England, were The European, Charles Willmer’s European Mail, and Willmer & Smith’s European Times.

Our circular of November 1869 shows that The European Mail had incorporated Willmer & Smith’s European Times, an influential paper which had folded in 1868 – two years after the success of the trans-Atlantic cable. The telegraph would unavoidably reduce the need for this kind of business in other parts of the world. Newspaper agencies would soon take the role of the summary newspapers in overseas services, as they had already done within the United States, or in Europe.

Figure 1: First page of five comprising the circular, received December 1869.
Seija-Riitta Laakso, president of The Finnish Society for Thematic Philately, received her doctorate in 2006 from the University of Helsinki. Her dissertation: *Across the Oceans: Development of Overseas Business Information Transmission, 1815-1875*, is available in book form, and will be reviewed in our June issue. Her exhibit: “Shrinking the World: Development of Overseas Mail Systems, from the Period of Sail to Steam” was awarded a gold medal at the FEPA/FIP show in Rome in 2009, and she has been made a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

**The British Mail Services Formed the Basic Network**

Let us go back to *The European Mail* in late 1869. There were certainly no problems in finding a service to carry the 52 annual issues of *C. European Mail for North America* across the Atlantic. In 1869, there were one French, two British and two German mail steamship lines on the route, with about five weekly arrivals in New York. *The European Mail* was sent out every Saturday. Being an enterprise located in Liverpool, the paper used the Cunard Line’s direct sailings to New York.

*D. European Mail for the Brazils and River Plate, the Azores, French West African settlements, &c.* was published less frequently than the important transatlantic news to New York. According to the circular, the paper was issued on the 9th, 19th, and 29th of each month. The Royal Mail Line, which had started their South American service in 1851, had their departures from Southampton on the 9th of each month. The Lamport & Holt steamers departed from Liverpool on the 19th (or the 20th) of each month. The departure of the 29th is somewhat mysterious. It could have been the Liverpool, Valparaiso and Callao Line, which started to sail out also on the 29th from July 1870, having first sailed only on the 13th.

The mail steamers of the Messageries Maritimes, which sailed for Rio de Janeiro via the French settlements in West Africa, departed from Bordeaux on the 24th of each month, thus presumably covering *K. European Mail for the West Coast of Africa, Madeira, &c.* issued on the 24th of the month. What line might have served for the issues of the 4th of each month is not known.

*A. European Mail for the West Indies, the Pacific, &c.* was naturally covered by the bi-monthly service of the Royal Mail Line with departures on the 2nd and 17th of each month. *B. European Mail for South Africa* was no doubt covered by the mail services of the Union Line and the Castle Line, and *G. European Mail for Australia* by the P&O.

Letters to Solve a 1832 Rhode Island Murder
by Donald Zaldin with Diane DeBlois

The 27-day trial of a Methodist minister for the 1832 murder in Tiverton, Rhode Island, of a young factory girl was one of America’s most sensational crime narratives of the 19th century. It is still cited in studies of jurisprudence, particularly by historians who agree with Oliver Wendell Holmes that the abstraction of law is a “magic mirror” to society.

Several printed works were published around the 1833 trial, including *A Fac-Simile of the Letters produced at the trial of the Rev. Ephraim K. Avery, on an indictment of the murder of Sarah Maria Cornell, taken with great care, by permission of the Hon. Supreme Judicial Court of Rhode Island from the Original Letters, in the office of the Clerk of said Court, by David Melvill, of Newport: 1833*. This pamphlet, itself, is a cultural document and one that reflects on postal history.

Significant letters were painstakingly reproduced by Pendleton’s Lithography in Boston, so that the public as well as the court could compare handwriting. A lower court had already judged Miss Cornell’s death to be suicide, based on a note found in a band-box at her lodgings. But an autopsy had revealed she was pregnant and witnesses claimed a married man – Avery – was at fault, and that Cornell had an immoral past.

Figure 1: David Melvill’s pamphlet, published in 1833 with the permission of the highest court of Rhode Island, reproducing 12 letters that were part of the murder trial.
Melvill claimed that he was gratifying “the desire, daily expressed, to see and compare the acknowledged handwriting of E.K. Avery with the letters attributed to him, and found in her trunk, and also to compare the known handwriting of Sarah M. Cornell, with the note found in her hand-box, after her death, and to enable all who desire it to satisfy themselves of their authorship.”

Not only was the handwriting reproduced by the lithographer, but also the fold lines, postal markings, and color of paper. So that a key item, number 3, a letter attributed to Avery addressed to Cornell and found in her trunk, was printed on yellow paper with a torn edge. Melvill was not unprejudiced. In a page of instructions “To The Reader” he goes into detail about how to approach the handwriting comparison – pointing out that “time” is rendered “tine” in the yellow letter, as it is in two other letters acknowledged to be from Avery to other people; that his capital “I” is distinctive in all samples both acknowledged and attributed; and that the word “haste” which ends the yellow letter is reproduced exactly in an acknowledged sample of his hand. About the folds: “It is worthy of remark, here, that all the acknowledged letters … are written on half sheets of paper, and that they are folded in precisely in the same way, which brings the superscription on the outside, near the bottom of the letter. [See dotted lines.]”
With Melvill’s instructions, it seems fairly obvious that Avery did write love letters to Cornell and that he, not she, wrote the so-called ‘suicide note.’ But Avery’s and Cornell’s handwriting is somewhat similar – not uncommon when the same orthography texts were used in common schools. As modern courts can attest, handwriting analysis needs a paid expert to be conclusive. Often, today, it is enough to threaten hiring an analyst to persuade suspects to confess to writing something damning. The ‘expert’ brought to court by Avery’s lawyer testified that the letters in question were forgeries made by Cornell, despite obvious anomalies such as the so-called forged letter being on paper used by Avery for another letter demonstrably by him, and the fact that Cornell would have had to have forged postal markings as well. The prosecution did not bring in a handwriting expert.

Both the Methodist church and the Fall River, Massachusetts, factory owners who employed Cornell and other single New England farm girls were anxious about the trial – each wishing their respective institutions to be exonerated and each funding publicity to sway public opinion. In the end, the court decided there was not enough evidence to convict Avery – who published his own vindication. But the public sided with Cornell, despite yet another trial and acquittal by the church’s New England Conference, and Avery was forced to resign as a minister. He eventually settled as a farmer in Ohio.

Figure 3: “A minister extraordinary taking passage & bound on a foreign mission to the court of his satanic majesty!” lithograph on wove paper; 26.9 x 41 cm. (image) N.Y. Published by Henry R. Robinson, 1833. United States Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division digital ID cph.3a05356. The image shows Cornell, in the cloak and bonnet described in court, hanging from a stackpole used to dry hay, while Avery – easily identifiable by his thick green spectacles – is rowed towards his hellish punishment. The damning note lies on the shore in the foreground.

Donald Zaldin, a Canadian barrister, is an avid collector of Sherlock Holmes related material, and the evidence of historic crimes. He is past President of The Bootmakers Society of Toronto, and past Vice-President of the Ephemera Society of Canada.
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 trans-Atlantic 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 P.O. 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 the concluding Part 5, he features Houston & Corpus Christi HPO. Schedules, a map, postmarks of RPO forerunners and philatelic covers of the HPO are shown. Trans. Post. Coll. 60, No. 5 (July-August 2009).

Independent Mails

Cheever & Towle stamps of 1842-48 bear manuscript markings, which refer to times of attempted delivery in Boston, according to author Gordon Stimmell, thus explaining “Mystery Pen Markings of Cheever & Towle.” Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

Military Mail

Censor marks of 1941-42 constitute “Passed by Army Censor: Update No.2” by Richard W. Helbock. This is a second addendum to a publication “Passed by Army Censor” by the author. No reference to the original is given. La Posta 40, No. 4 (August-September 2009).

Confederate blockade run covers from C.S.S. Florida (1863, 64) are shown and the history and battle records of the ship are recounted. Thomas Lera and Steve Walske, “C.S.S. Florida Blockade Mail,” Confed. Phil. 54, No. 4 (October-December 2009).

Confederate Lt. Henry L. Muldrow was taken prisoner at Ft. Donelson, where Grant received “unconditional surrender.” This article by Galen Harrison details “A Fort Donelson Prisoner and His Sojourn in Union Prisons,” illustrated by his P.O.W. covers. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 4 (October-December 2009).

“Confederate Regular Army Units” by James L.D. Monroe lists the 26 Confederate regular army units and illustrates a cover from a soldier in one of them. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 4 (October-December 2009).

Prisoner of war covers from German internees in the U.S. in 1944 are the subject of “Prexie/Transport Usage on POW Mail” by Robert L. Markovits. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

“Service Suspended: U.S. Postal Services in WWI and in Europe in Its Aftermath” by Robert Johnson illustrates examples with U.S. origin or destination during neutrality and involvement in World War I, 1914-18. C. C. Phil. 88, No. 6 (November-December 2009).
USS Saipan and USS Wright are the subject of “New Jersey Built: 13 Fast Aircraft Carriers that Served in the United States Navy Between 1927 and 2009, Part V” by Lawrence B. Brennan. NJPH 37, No. 3 (August 2009).

**Ocean Mail**

“Additional Steamship Cover for United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875” by Theron J. Wierenga is an addendum to the book in the title. A cover carried from Havana to Charleston by the steamship Merchant is illustrated and described. Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

“Freight money covers; an update” by Richard F. Winter lists all the U.S. towns known to or authorized to collect freight money fees, along with data on the known covers. Much information about the service is included, 1838-48. Congress Book No. 75 (2009).

“Maritime-Philatelic History of the S.S. Eider and Its Loss in 1892” by Henry J. Berthelot contains a description of the wreck and illustrates several covers recovered. La Posta 40, No. 4 (August-September 2009).

New York exchange office markings on five covers to France are examined and agreement with regulations is observed. Don Richards, “NYFM Exchange Office Postmarks - Determining the Appropriate One,” U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

New York foreign mail markings in blue are reported but not yet seen by author John Donnes. In this article, “In Search of the ‘Blue’ NYFM Cancel,” two candidates are illustrated but the author concludes that the markings are actually black. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

Norway, as a destination, is illustrated on four covers bearing 1869 adhesives. This updates a list of 13 such covers published earlier by author Jeffrey M. Forster. “Four Newly Reported 1869 Covers to Norway,” Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

“Paid All Markings: Postal Conventions with Pacific-rim Countries, 1867-1886 Part II” by Dale Forster discusses such markings resulting from U.S. conventions with Hong Kong, British Columbia, Hawaii and Japan. Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).


Thurn & Taxis mail to the U.S. was not routed via Prussian Closed Mail during the 1850s, due to a “Conflict between Thurn & Taxis and Prussia over Prussian Closed Mail.” As explained in this article by Heinrich Conzelmann. Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

**Post Office History**


**Postal Markings**

Duplex markings with target killers are the subject of “A Catalogue of Non-Standard Postmarks, 1900-1971” by Randy Stehle and Doug DeRoest. An alphabetical census of the marking types is given, with EKU/LKU, scarcity rating and illustration for each town. La Posta 40, No. 4 (August-September 2009).

“Forwarded & Missent” by James W. Milgram illustrates and discusses 16 rather spectacular adhesiveless covers with one or both of these markings (1783-1853).
FREE killer (on 1883 adhesive), combined with a M.O.B. (money order business) CDS (of Merom, Indiana) combine to make the subject of this article “A Most Unusual Cover.” Author is Roger D. Curran. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

“Missent East” auxiliary marking on an 1850s cover postmarked Staunton, VA is believed to be a railroad marking, by author Paul Bourke. Trans. Post. Coll. 60, No. 6 (September-October 2009).

“Patent cancels” are identified as killer devices that penetrate the paper of the adhesives. The article “Identifying Patent Cancels” by Roger D. Curran illustrates several killers and discusses the question whether or not they are patent cancels. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 7 (August 2009).

Q killer is illustrated on a cover from Quincy, Mass. and several other Q killer are shown, on and off cover. Roger D. Curran, “Looking for ‘Q’,” U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

Substation post offices are listed with the postmark types recorded from them. “CDS, DCDS, Double-Oval, Other Markings and Individualized Forms Used at US Postal Substations” by Dennis H. Pack. La Posta 40, No. 4 (August-September 2009).

Rates

“Postage Subsidies for Periodicals: Recent Developments” by Kevin R. Kosar deals with recent legislation and procedures for this class of mail with economic analysis. Post. Hist. J. No. 144 (October 2009).

Stamps on Cover

5c and 10c 1847 adhesives are often seen, two overlapped, on covers postmarked St. Louis and addressed to Miss E.E. Turner in Boston. The correspondence is discussed and a census given, in “The Turner Correspondence” by Gordon Eubanks. Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

5c color error adhesive of 1917 (the 5c value appearing in a sheet of 2c values) is illustrated used on cover and the production of the error discussed. Richard B. Graham, “Postal History,” Linn’s 82, No. 4223 (September 21, 2009).

6c transport airmail stamp on cover is the subject of two articles “Common as Dirt - The 6-Cent Transport Airmail Stamp” by Bill Helbock. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009) and 46 (Summer 2009).

“Eight 3c D Grills on a Single Cover” by Michael C. McClung illustrates such a (registered) cover dated 1868. Discussion of grills and comparison with other grills (A, C and Z) is given. Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

Street Car Mail

Register cards of the Market St. San Francisco (cable car) R.P.O. (1902) and St. Louis, MO. Grand Avenue Circuit (1900) are illustrated. Author David A. Gentry analyzes the cards in “News From the Cities.” Some questions are left open. Trans. Post. Coll. 60, No. 5 (July-August 2009).

Uses

Airmail from the U.S. to India is described, with 26 covers and two rate tables, in “Air Accelerated Mail between the United States and India, 1927-1945” by Richard W. Helbock. La Posta 40, No. 5 (October-November 2009).

“FAM 14 Airmail To Australia Via Hong Kong” by Louis Fiset contains an illustration of the 1940 letter. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).
General Land Office free franks of James M. Edmunds (1861) and James S. Wilson (1860s) are illustrated and discussed in “Postal History” by Richard B. Graham. Linn’s 82, No. 4214 (August 3, 2009).

Handwriting of Jefferson Davis (on addresses and contents of Confederate letters and on photographs) is the subject of “Mr. Davis in his own hand” by Randy L. Neil. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 3 (July–September 2009).

Italy-U.S. letter of August 10, 1945 is franked with 5c U.S. adhesives. Author Robert Schlesinger discusses this “Curious U.S. Postage on Post-War Italian Mail.” Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

Post cards, from advertising, to private mailing cards, to postal cards to modern picture post cards, are the subject of “The Post Card Comes of Age Post Card History - 1893 to 1907” by William J. Hart. Excelsior! No. 12 (March 2009).

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands uses of 5c airmail entries (with 5c added) to the U.S. in 1940 show how the envelopes were used when the rate in the U.S. went to 8c/oz. Louis Fiset, “5-Cent Stamped Envelopes in Partial Payment of A 10-Cent Rate,” Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

Telegraphs and telegraph-related letters involving telegrapher Carrie C. Deppen are illustrated and described in “Connections of a lady telegrapher” by Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris. Congress Book No. 75 (2009).

**Geographical Locations**

**California**

“Domestic Postmarks showing Integral Rate within the Circular Townmark: California Rates” by James W. Milgram contains a census of such markings containing 40, 80, 12 1/2, 6, 10 and 20. 17 from California towns and 16 from other states are included. Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

**Colorado**


**Connecticut**

Junction City duplex marking is illustrated and the author concludes that the number 73 in the elliptical killer is the year date and that this is the earliest elliptical killer with numeral used in the U.S. Roger D. Curran, “Early Ellipse,” U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

Waterbury duplex postmark with killer resembling a leaf is compared with other examples and concluded to be a “New Waterbury Cancel.” No author is listed. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 8 (November 2009).

**District of Columbia**


**Florida**

“Clermont (Sumter County) Postmarks” by Deane R. Briggs contains illustrations of postmarks of the town showing the county name and enclosed within a rectangular border (1886–87). Fla. Post. Hist. J. 16, No. 3 (October 2009).

Micanopy Confederate postmaster provisional on cover illustrated in this article appears
with a Micanopy handstamped paid 5 marking (1862). This is only the second known example of either franking. Deane Briggs, “The Micanopy, Florida, Provisional,” Confed. Phil. 54, No. 4 (October-December 2009).

“Peru, Florida” is the subject of an article by Deane R. Briggs. Two covers are illustrated (1882 and 1888) and the history of the town is related, 1840s-1920. Fla. Post. Hist. J. 16, No. 3 (October 2009).

“Shiloh, the Florida town that time forgot” is the subject of a largely historical article by Everett L. Parker. The history begins in the 1870s; a 1907 post card is illustrated. Fla. Post. Hist. J. 16, No. 3 (October 2009).

Warrenton and Pensacola mail service was discontinued January 21, 1861, after Confederate capture of the naval yard at Warrenton and an unofficial route was established via Pensacola to Montgomery, Alabama. Four letters from this route are illustrated; two have enclosures detailing how mail was to be addressed. Deane R. Briggs, “Warrenton, Florida ‘Cross the Lines’ Blockade cover,” Fla. Post. Hist. J. 16, No. 3 (October 2009).

**Illinois**

Big Prairie manuscript marking on a stampless cover of 1840 is illustrated and discussed in “Unlisted Manuscript Postmark in ASCC: Big Prairie, Illinois” by Ken Hall. Ill. Post. Hist. 30, No. 3 (August 2009).


Quincy, Ill. covers (1842-51) and their contents continue the story of the “Settlement of the Military Bounty Tract of Illinois Part II” in this article by Jack Hilbing. Ill. Post. Hist. 30, No. 4 (November 2009).

**Iowa**


“Lycurgus, Allamakee County, Iowa” by Leo V. Ryan contains historical information, including derivation of the name, establishments and discontinuances (five, between 1851 and 1907) and illustrations of two covers, 1899 and 1905. Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. No. 250 (July, August, September, 2009).

**Kansas**

Sabetha allowed bisected 8c winged globe adhesives to be used to pay 4c postage, in 1935. Authors Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris ask the obvious questions about these “Bi-Sects from Sabetha, Kansas,” but definitive conclusions are not drawn. Post. Hist. J. No. 144 (October 2009).

**Kentucky**

Mammoth Cave and Cave City postal history are affected as “Tourism influences the growth of Mammoth Cave and Cave City Kentucy post offices from 1842 to 1915.” The article is by Thomas Lera. Congress Book No. 75 (2009).

Wayne County towns, with historical and post office information and illustrations of a
few postmarks are the subject of the second article in the series “The Post Offices of Wayne County, Kentucky” by Robert M. Rennick. La Posta 40, No. 5 (October-November 2009).

**Louisiana**

New Orleans “government issued” [G.I.] double circle date stamps of the early 1860s are discussed. Records on the movement of Union troupes allows author Richard B. Graham to settle some “‘G.I.’ Postmark Year-date Confusions of ‘1863’ with ‘1862’.” Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

**Maine**

York Beach & Portsmouth R.P.O. was an electric interurban running 1898-1904. In “News from the Cities” by David A. Gentry, a cover and an illustration of the car are presented. Trans. Post. Coll. 61, No. 1 (November-December 2009).

**Massachusetts**

Boston, George H. Gray & Co. labels are illustrated on six covers and various theories on the nature of the firm are presented. Gordon Stimmell, “Gray’s Anatomy,” Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

“Boston Negative R.P.O.s” by Robert Grosch contains illustrations of N,S,E and W killers from Boston, Springfield & N.Y., Boston & Albany and Boston & Troy R.P.O.s and makes the assertion that the same or very similar killers were used at the Boston city post office, 1879-82. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 7 (August 2009).

Mittineague used a variety of killers bearing the numeral 7 in the 1870s-80s. Illustrations and discussion are in “Exploring the Mystery of the Mittineague 7s” by John Valenti. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 7 (August 2009).

“Nantucket Prepaid Ship Cover” by Douglas N. Clark contains an analysis of an 1845 letter carried from Tahaa, along with 25c postage, by a whale ship, to Nantucket where it was brought ashore by “camel” (a floating dry dock). Its final destination was England. Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

**Michigan**

Constantine cover bearing the free frank of John Barry, the town’s first postmaster and later Michigan’s Governor, is illustrated in “Postmaster Free Frank-1840 - Constantine, Mich.” by C. Wood. Peninsular Phil. 51, No. 1 (Summer 2009).

“Detroit PAID 27: How can that be?” by Cary Johnson illustrates and explains an 1826 cover originating in Sandwich (now Windsor), Canada, transiting Detroit and addressed to London, England. Peninsular Phil. 51, No. 2 (Fall 2009).

Niles auxiliary marking reading “Delayed by theft of pouch” is illustrated and a newspaper account of the robbery is reproduced, in “Mail Theft, Niles, Michigan, 1930” by Frederick W. Fowler. Peninsular Phil. 51, No. 1 (Summer 2009).


**Mississippi**

“Canton ‘Advertised’ and ‘Way’ Postmarks” by James W. Milgram contains illustrations of three handstamped PAID markings, seven AD[vertised] markings and a WAY handstamp of the Confederate period. Another example of the WAY marking with PAID 3 is also shown. Confed. Phil. 54, No. 3 (July-September 2009).

**New Jersey**

“New Jersey Supplementary mail” by Leonard Piszkiewicz explains this category of mail and then deals with supplementary mail departing from New Jersey. Postmarks show
New York, before 1891 and after 1921, when knowledge of the ship is necessary to identify New Jersey mail. NJPH 37, No. 3 (August 2009).

“Hunterdon County Postal History: Part 9: Active POs: G-P” by Jim Walker includes reproductions of maps, post office pictures, brief discussions of establishment and sample covers, 1818-57. NJPH 37, No. 3 (August 2009).

Ironia post office locations and houses of its postmasters are illustrated in “David Stryker – First Postmaster of Ironia in Randolph, New Jersey and the Ironia Post Office” by Gail Hari with Larry Lowenthal. Two Ironia covers are shown, 1905-07. NJPH 37, No. 3 (August 2009).

New York

“Big Flats, Chemung County, Part II” by Alan Parsons illustrates nine stampless covers and four stamped covers from the town. The accompanying discussion deals with establishment date (ca. 1809), name change (from Big Flatt) and other topics. Excelsior! No. 12 (March 2009).

Binghamton used its famous “herringbone” killer on adhesives of the 1847 issue from 1847 to 1849. The colors seen and their date periods are the subject of “Binghamton Cancel Design” by Roger D. Curran. U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 7 (August 2009).

Corbettsville CDS of 1895 is on a cover “From Corbettsville, New York to Natal, South Africa.” Author David E. Williams provides details about the addressee, a missionary in “the land of the Zulus.” Excelsior! No. 12 (March 2009).


New York exchange office postmarks appear to follow certain rules such as: a red, 25mm diameter unduplexed datestamp on mail to Europe, Asia and Africa. An article by Nicholas Kirks illustrates some deviations. “Exceptions Prove the Rule,” U.S.C.C. News 29, No. 7 (August 2009).

New York foreign mail killers used between August 1875 and December 1876 include just seven new types. These are illustrated by author Nicholas M. Kirke with a discussion of the “Death Throes of the New York Foreign Mail Fancy Cancellations: 1875-1877.” Chronicle 61, No. 4 (November 2009).

New York postmarked cover bearing a bisected 10c 1847 adhesive is illustrated and the question “10c 1847 bisect mailed in New York City: A Drop Letter?” is asked by author Gordon Eubanks. An enclosure indicates Delaware and Raritan Canal origin. Chronicle 61, No. 3 (August 2009).

North Carolina
Leo postmarks are surveyed, 1851-53. Six are in manuscript, five of a fancy heart shape and one a newly listed circular date stamp. The article, entitled “Leo Postmark Update,” is by Richard F. Winter. N.C. Post. Hist. 28, No. 4 (Fall 2009).

New Bern date stamps and killers are illustrated (1864-65) in “Fancy Cancels from

Raleigh was the location of “North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind-1844.” This article by Tony L. Crumbley contains pictures of the institute, its founder, banknotes and three covers (Confederate and after) with its corner card. N.C. Post. Hist. 28, No. 4 (Fall 2009).

“Sneads Ferry, Onslow County” is represented by three covers, 1887-1942, in this article by Scott Troutman. N.C. Post. Hist. 28, No. 4 (Fall 2009).

**Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia pre-1854 incoming and outgoing British mail, including routing of incoming mail through Boston and New York, is the subject of “The path to Philadelphia’s attainment of Exchange Office status of U.S.-British Mails” by John H. Barwis. Congress Book No. 75 (2009).

Bucks and Butler Counties are the subject of “2nd Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part IV” by Tom Mazza, 1795-63. Pa. Post. Hist. 37, No. 3 (August 2009).


“Riceville, Pa., Crawford County First Reported Manuscript Postmark” by Ken Hall contains an illustration of the 1849 cover and a map locating the town. Pa. Post. Hist. 37, No. 3 (August 2009).

**Rhode Island**

“The Providence Provisional Stamp 1846-1847” (author not specified) occupies this issue. A portrait of Welcome B. Sayles, the Providence Postmaster creating the adhesives, is included, along with a notice of availability and an example of Sayles’ frank. R.I. Post. Hist. J. 21, No. 1 (2009).

**South Dakota**


**Tennessee**

“Tennessee in Transit and Mobile Postal Markings” is the fourth installment of a listing of markings involved in transit (steamboat, train, airmail field, etc.), compiled from many sources by L. Steve Edmondson. This part is devoted to markings starting with the letter F. Tenn. Posts 13, No. 2 (August 2009).

“Chattanooga Electric Car – update” by L. Steve Edmondson contains an illustration of this elusive 1903 postmark on cover, as opposed to postal card; the first example seen thus. Tenn. Posts 13, No. 2 (August 2009).
Texas
McKinney cover, postmarked May 31, 1861 and addressed to Kentucky, receiving the famous SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID. handstamp in Louisville, is illustrated and the McKinney star killer canceling the stamp is discussed. “A Star is Born” by Vince King, Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J. 34, No. 3 (August 2009).

Utah
Great Salt Lake Desert postal routes (around and through the desert) are the subject of “Utah’s Great Salt Lake Desert” by Dennis H. Pack. Early routes around the rim, establishment of Salt Lake City and the expresses, to 1912, are covered. Part 1 of a series. La Posta 40, No. 5 (October-November 2009).

Vermont
“County and Postmaster Postmarks of Vermont” by Bill Lizotte contains a census of such markings, including period of use and a scarcity rating, 1830-92. Several are illustrated. Vt. Phil. 54, No. 2 (August 2009).
Richville, Fairlee, West Fairlee, Lanesboro, Healdsville and Woodstock covers (1850s-1898) are illustrated and discussed in “Post Horn” by Bill Lizotte. Vt. Phil. 54, No. 3 (November 2009).
West Salisbury, Dover, Lanesboro, Ryegate and West Poultney covers are illustrated and discussed in “Post Horn” by Bill Lizotte. Vt. Phil. 54, No. 2 (August 2009).
Windsor County covers from nine towns (1837-1933) are illustrated, with comments about the towns. “Annual DPO Sampler: Windsor County” (no author indicated), Vt. Phil. 54, No. 3 (November 2009).

Washington
Spokane letter, postmarked December 7, 1941 is the subject of “Spokane Postal History - A Day of Infamy” by Larry Mann. Prexie Era No. 45 (Spring 2009).

Journal Abbreviations
C. C. Phil. = Collectors Club Philatelist, Robert P. Odenweller, Box 401, Bernardsville NJ 07924.
Congress Book = The Congress Book 2009, Kenneth Trettin, Box 56, Rockford IA 50468.
Dak. Coll. = Dakota Collector, Dakota Postal History Society, Box 60039, 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, Box 29, Sidney OH 45365.
Maine Phil. = Maine Philatelist, Max Lynds, Box 761, Houlton ME 04730-0761.
Plate Reconstruction of the Sicilian Issues of 1859 and That Super Italian Area Catalog

reviews by Joseph J. Geraci


It is generally agreed among collectors that the issues of Sicily are among the most beautiful classic stamps ever produced. Engraved on a steel punch, or die, by the master engraver, Tommaso Aloysio Juvara, their beauty and aesthetic interest has stood the test of time. Printers Francesco Lao and Giuseppe La Barbera used the electroplating process to make copper printing plates. One hundred matrices were made for each denomination and welded together to form a plate, 10 by 10. They submerged the plate into an electrolytic solution, which caused copper to be deposited upon it. Juvara had originally made two punches; one rectangular to indicate the denomination, and the other for the rest of the design, with a notch on the bottom for the denomination to fit into. These were fastened together prior to immersion in the electrolytic solution.

This process caused each position in the copper plate to have unique characteristics and has allowed most to be identified. Many clichés were retouched prior to printing. However, most were not retouched to fix wear and tear, but to correct defects in the duplication of the die, such as missing parts of the design, or to insert separating guide lines between the stamps.
The pioneer and best work concerning the background and history, as well as the stamps of Sicily, is *A History of the Postage Stamps of Sicily*, by Emilio Diena, published in English by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, back in 1904. Diena performed the original work in identifying and plating these stamps, which was continued by his sons Mario and Alberto, and later by his grandson, Enzo. Some of the one grano illustrations in Vaccari’s new book were made from full sheets in the Diena archives.

For those of us inclined toward plating the Sicilian classics, this volume provides a magnificent tool to aid in identifying the position of each stamp in the sheet. It is a worthy supplement to Diena’s initial work.

*Unificato Super 2010*, compiled by the Unified Catalogue staff and committee for drafting and pricing, Italian text, 974 pages, 9 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches, softbound, card covers, glued spine. Available from CFI (Commercianti Italiani Filatelici), Casella Postale 1708, via Cordusio 4, 20123 Milano, Italy. E-mail address: <deambrosi@unificato.it> Euro 32 + postage. Write first for postage costs.

This new edition of the *Unificato* catalog includes the entire Italian collecting area in one volume. The listings are well documented thanks to the collaboration of many dealers and the members of the Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History. Included are listings and price quotations for Italy, the Old States, Trieste Zones A and B, Fiume, Occupations, Offices Abroad, former Colonies, Postwar Administration of Somalia, San Marino, Vatican City, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and all Europa issues from 1956 through 2008. Every basic stamp is beautifully illustrated in full color. Market prices are given in Euros.

Similar to last year’s catalog, the volume begins with “Technical - Postal Notes,” briefly describing the beginnings of the postal service, postal tariffs, stamp printing establishments, how to differentiate between different types of printing, types of watermarks, sheet composition and postal markings. A note on pricing follows.

Some changes have been made to present the catalog chronologically, in a more logical order. The section on “The Kingdom of Italy, 1943-1946” (“The Lieutenancy”) has been largely reorganized. Wartime local issues are listed with the Italian Socialist Republic, or under the kingdom, as appropriate.

Listings for the Old States and Italy proper are quite specialized. Proofs and essays are listed in chronological order within the listings for stamps. Covers are priced up to 1945. Italy proper includes tables of domestic postal tariffs. Since the stamp issues are listed in order of appearance, airmail, express and pneumatic post issues are included in the general listing. However, there are summaries for each group of special issues, indicating on what page of the catalog they may be found. There is also a very helpful alphabetical listing of commemorative issues. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this compilation, making this truly comprehensive volume very easy to use.

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Victorian Letter Writing

a review by Diane DeBlois


The author’s previous book, *Images of the Woman Reader in Victorian British and American Fiction* (2003), could be a prequel to *Posting It* – which might be subtitled “Images of Letter Writing in Victorian British Fiction and Art.” Professor Golden is at her best when she interprets scenes from literature or paintings and interweaves the results with the history of the Penny Post of 1840 and its aftermath.

David Henkin’s *The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America* (2006; see review in *PHJ* 138) is the template for Professor Golden’s conclusions about the meaning of dramatic rise in letter-writing after postage rates were lowered, with appropriate adjustments for the switch in countries. (When it comes to specific differences, it is interesting that the free franking privilege for politicians, including the Queen’s, was immediately abolished by British postal reform, whereas it still exists in some form in the U.S.; while compulsory prepayment as another aim of postal reform was never accomplished in Britain – letters sent unpaid are still charged double.) In quoting Henkin, the author agrees with his assertions that, at mid-19th century, a critical mass of the populace “began organizing their perceptions of time, space, and community around the existence of the post” and that the postal networks established then “laid the cultural foundation for the experiences of interconnectedness that are the hallmarks of the brave new world of telecommunications.”

Professor Golden was fortunate in receiving an early introduction to the philatelic collections at the British Library, which led to her work being mentored by Robert Johnson and partially funded by the Stuart Rossiter Trust. A result is a lively retelling of British postal reform, with illustrations (though few) from the collections of philatelists James Grimwood-Taylor and John Forbes-Nixon. Part I covers the Rowland Hill *et al* arguments for reforming the post office “which became synonymous with affordability, social equality and efficiency.” The author also argues her conviction that postal reform narratives helped to usher in the Penny Post (for example, a widely-disseminated dramatic skit by Henry Cole that showed Queen Victoria to be pro-reform). Part I also well covers the history of the Mulreadies and their caricatures, and the Penny Blacks. Included is a nice clarification of what a penny actually was worth in Victorian England – since a penny could buy a loaf of bread large enough to feed a whole family, posting a letter was still not “cheap.”

Professor Golden is more at home with describing stamps as part of the material culture accoutrements of letter-writing (along with ink, paper, pens, etc.) than as objects of study in their own right. She nicely, though, links our hobby (originally called timbromania!) to the Victorian age of production and consumption. In a chapter in Part II (Outcomes) on the rise of postal products, she reminds us that the term “Victorian” was first used at the Great Exhibition of 1851, where postal artifacts such as letter-folding machines drew huge crowds. The author cleverly compares the Victorian portable desk with a laptop computer, and points out that the proliferation of “Penny” prefixed commodities (as in Penny Dreadfuls) might bring to mind “i” prefixed inventions (as in ipod).
Part II also focuses on the mixed blessings of cheap postage – the rise of mail crime and junk mail, balanced by the social cohesiveness of missives such as valentines and mourning letters. Quite compelling is the analysis of the painting that was used on the book’s dust jacket (and which we reproduce on our cover). In one dense image, painted two decades after postal reform, Professor Golden finds all her themes illustrated: innovation of pre-paid postage as a democratic measure; confusion and anxiety over something radical and new; the potential for crime through the mails – excitement, challenges and dangers that are shared by today’s information technologies.

Detail from George Elgar Hicks’ painting of the crush of Londoners at The General Post Office, One Minute to Six. Here an office boy clutches a stack of letters, evidently weighing under a half ounce because franked with Penny Reds, while heavier packets franked with Two-Penny Blues are tucked under his arm. See description of the whole painting, page 11.

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**WWII Censorship in the British Pacific**

*a review by Alan Warren*

John Little, *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II: Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Islands*, D.J. Little, UK 2008, 182pp, 8.5 by 11.5 inches, coil binding, soft covers, ISBN 978-0-9517444-5-1, £29 postpaid to the USA and Canada, £26 to Europe, 34 Widney Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3LS, UK; or email: JohnLittle64@blueyonder.co.uk.

The Civil Censorship Study Group continues to publish monographs on censorship devices of the British Empire. This latest book focuses on WW II Australia, New Zealand, and related areas, expanding, updating and adding color to the J. C. Smith book published in 1991. The author acknowledges the help of many collectors and identifies their cover illustrations with their initials.

Introductory material reproduces previously published references on how censorship of mail was conducted. Instead of a rarity scale, the author indicates number of known copies, or “scarce” or “uncommon.” The catalog itself begins with illustrating the censorship devices of the Military Districts (Brisbane, Townsville, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, etc.) A catalog number is assigned to each item, starting with a letter designating the device: L – label, H – handstamp. Resealing tapes and inserts are included with the labels. Tables show earliest and latest recorded use, color of the device, and any special notes on varieties. Most items are illustrated in color, interspersed on occasion with complete covers. The same treatment of data and illustrations is then shown for New Guinea, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Gilbert & Ellice, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tonga, New Zealand, Western Samoa, and Rarotonga, with some maps to help in location. Unusual pieces are shown such as launch mail from Tarawa, occasional letters, manuscript markings, and reproductions of government censorship guidelines.

The New Zealand section was written up by the noted author and postal historian Robin Startup. John Little has gone to great lengths to bring together so much information and documentation of the WW II censorship devices in this part of the world. The illustrations are excellent and provide visual excitement for the reader.
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!

General - Paleography

“Postcards with Microwriting,” by Dale Speirs, explores the history behind this practice of attempting to write as many words as possible on small objects such as on the back of a postage stamp, or on a postal card, 1873-1926. (Calgary Philatelist, No. 98, October 2009. Editor Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7.)

Austria


Bahamas

“Postmarks of the British West Indies: Bahamas KGVI, 1939-1951,” by David Horry, updates the record of postmarks known from various localities and gives background information concerning their exotic names. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 233, October-December 2009. Secretary Ms. Mary Gleadall (2012), Beacon House, Beacon Hill, Lower Estate, St. Georges, Barbados.)

Barbados

“The Airmails of Barbados During World War II (Part 1),” by Jerone R. Hart, deals with airmail rates, routes and covers of Barbados during the war years, 1939-1945, and provides maps of the air routes by carrier. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 233, October-December 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)

Bermuda

“Bermuda’s Early Flying Boat Service,” by Peter Colwell, explains early services by flying boat from Darrell’s Island in Hamilton Harbor, and illustrates several covers, 1937-1938. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 232, July-September 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)

Belgium


British Honduras (Belize)

“Postmarks of the British West Indies: British Honduras, KGVI 1937-1951,” by David Horry, illustrates over 30 examples of town marks from this period, including forgeries. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 232, July-September 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)
Canada

“Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls during the Pence Period, 1800-1859, Part 4,” by Doug Irwin, reviews mail to Falls Mills, construction of the railway line and the Clifton House Hotel. (*BNA Topics*, No. 519, Second Quarter 2009. British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., Circulation Manager Wayne Smith, Box 104, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2R6, Canada.)

“The Early Days of the RPO - Looking at Postmarks RR142 and RR143,” by Peter McCarthy, discusses the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad datestamps of 1853-1855. (*BNA Topics*, No. 519, Second Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The Red River Mails, No 10”, by R.B. Winmill, continues his investigation of the subject, this time transcribing two official letters, mailed in 1870-1871, to the Secretary of State at Ottawa, reporting on the status of postal matters in the new province. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 138, Summer 2009. Postal History Society of Canada, Back Issues Secretary, Stéphane Cloutier, 255 Shakespeare Street, Ottawa, ON, KL1 5M7, Canada.)

“For a Penny or Two ... 8. Domestic Registration of the Post Card - or Drop Letter Rate Usage,” by Victor Willson, shows two post cards, both of which were registered for 2 cents each. Post card registration could only be accomplished before April 1882, but the second card was treated as a drop letter, making registration legal. (*BNA Topics*, No. 519, Second Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Sudbury District Ghost Towns - Frood Mine and Stobie Mine, Ontario,” by David N. Yachshyshyn, reviews the history of the men who developed these copper and nickel mines, and the postal services at the mines, 1883-1999. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 138, Summer 2009. See address of contact under third entry for Canada.)

“Canadians Serving with Dunsterforce: 1918-1919,” by David H. Whiteley, reviews the history of this mixed force of Canadians, British, East Indians, Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans who operated in Mesopotamia, mostly between the Caspian and Black Seas. (*BNA Topics*, No. 519, Second Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The Foreign Exchange Control Board and the Canadian Post Office, 1939-1951 (Part 3),” by David Whiteley, continues his study of the Board’s operations with examination and disposal of mail, exemptions, changes in examination, and finally, discontinuation of examination. A number of sealing labels are illustrated. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 138, Summer 2009. See address of contact under third entry for Canada.)

“Canadian Short-Paid Mail: 1, The Small Queen Era,” by Gary Steele, presents several short paid letters addressed to foreign destinations and explains how the postage due was calculated. (*BNA Topics*, No. 520, Third Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Canadian Postage Due Markings: The ‘Cut’ Numbers,” by Richard Johnson, attempts to associate or identify tax due numerals which have been nicked by a metal file, to application by particular post offices. The reason for nicking or cutting the numerals is so far unknown, 1916-1931. (*BNA Topics*, No. 520, Third Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The Special 5¢ Domestic Parcel Post Fee of 1914,” by R. Parama, reviews the new parcel post regulations of 1914 and discusses their application. (*BNA Topics*, No. 520, Third Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)
“The Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway”, by David McLaughlin, relates the story of flooding of six villages, three hamlets and thousands of acres of farmland, all submerged beneath the St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as the postal history of the area, 1787-1957. (*BNA Topics*, No. 520, Third Quarter 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Family History Returns Home on a Postcard,” by Jon Johnson, discovers a postcard in a friend’s collection, which was written by his great grandfather, and was able to trade for it, bringing the card back to the family, 1911. (*Calgary Philatelist*, No. 97, August 2009. See address of contact under General-Paleography.)

**Cameroun**


**Chad**

“ ‘No Service’ Part 4: International Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israel Postkrieg.”
(See under Iran.)

**Colombia**

“Registered Mail, 1917 to 1940,” by Thomas P. Myers, examines the various types of registered mail handstamps applied to mail, categorizing them by each town. (*Copacarta*, Vol. 26, No. 1, September 2008. Journal of the Colombia/ Panama Philatelic Study Group, Secretary Thomas P. Myers, P.O. Box 522, Gordonsville, VA 22942.)

**Danish West Indies**

“The D.W.I. Bisected 4-Cent Stamp, Part 1,” by Arnold Sorensen, look at the reasons for bisecting 4-cent stamps in 1903, which printings were bisected, the dates for which bisected stamps can be found, as well as from which towns, and the postal rates of the period. (*The Posthorn*, No. 256, August 2008. The Scandinavian Collectors Club, Donald B. Brent, Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022.)

**France**

“La posta dei soldati di Napoleone nella prima Campagna d’Italia,” by Piero Giribone, discusses the Napoleonic campaign of 1795-1796, indicates the postal rates applicable to mail, shows a map of the area occupied, and illustrates many interesting covers. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 108, September 2008. Rivista dell’Associazione Italiana Collezionista Posta Militare, Director Piero Macrelli, Via Mentana 19, Casella Postale 227, 47900 Rimini (RN), Italy.)

“L’Affaire Raynal - The Story of a Balloon Monté,” by Ashley Lawrence, delves into the story behind a message carried by the *Ville d’Orleans* causing the arrest and imprisonment by the Prussians of a French magistrate, 1870. (*Postal History*, No. 328, December 2008. The Postal History Society, Secretary Hans Smith, 99 North End Road, London, NW11 7TA, England, United Kingdom.)

“French Postal Rates of 2 March 2009,” by Derek Richardson, indicates in tabular form the tariffs for internal priority mail, registration fees, foreign mail and other fees. (*Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 59, No. 2, June 2009. See address of contact under Cameroun.)

**French Congo**

“Airmails of the French Congo,” by John Hammonds, shows a map of the air routes and outlines the flights made by the various aviation companies, 1925-1960, as well as the postage rates applicable. (*Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 59, No. 2, June 2009. See address of contact under Cameroun.)

**Germany**

“La grande inflazione tedesca del 1922-23,” by Benito Carobene, provides a table showing the progress of inflation, and a table of rapidly increasing postal tariffs during this terrible period. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 108, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for France.)

“Illustrated KZ Mail, Part 1,” by J. Scott Sawyer, examines hand drawn illustrations occasionally found on mail from concentration camp prisoners, in the form of flower motifs or holiday greetings, 1935-1944. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 4, August 2009. Journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., Secretary Howard S. Chapman, 28650 Settlers Lane, Pepper Pike, OH 44124.)

**Great Britain**

“Posts in the Early Years of the Royal Mail,” by Malcolm Ray-Smith, describes the early history of the posts as related to the history of the day, and illustrates it with many fine letters, 1636-1679. (*Postal History*, No. 328, December 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

“Posted in Advance of Christmas,” by Patrick Campbell, puts forward a study of red postmarks for Norwich and Cheltenham in 1903, on mail which had been posted early and held for delivery until just before Christmas. (*Postal History*, No. 327, September 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

“British Quarantine Notice Postcards, 1887-92,” [by V. Denis Vandervelde], illustrates several postcards prepared by commercial companies indicating areas of cholera plague. (*Pratique*, Vol. 33, No. 2, Spring 2009. See address of contact under Austria.)

**Hawaii**

“Hawaiian Mail to Nova Scotia in 1849 - Part 2,” by Randall E. Burt, continues his analysis of Hawaii’s connections with Nova Scotia, this time primarily dealing with mail forwarder J.C. Spalding’s advertisements and activities, 1849-1863. (*Postal History*, No. 327, September 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

**Iceland**

“‘Missent to Iceland’ Cancels a Rarity,” (translated from *Frímerklaðaði*, No. 17, 1/2008, p. 15), records two rare and seldom seen box type markings, 1958 and 1993. (*The Posthorn*, No. 256, August 2008. See address of contact under Danish West Indies.)

**Iran**

“‘No Service,’ Part 4: International Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israel Postkrieg,” by Daryl Kibble, continues his documentation of “No Service” markings and provides a method for converting Iranian calendar dates to Gregorian calendar dates, 1956-1986. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 4, August 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Germany.)
Italian Socialist Republic

“La Tariffa R.S.I.,” by Francesco Grandinetti, reviews the postal rates applicable during the period 1940-1945, with transcriptions of official postal notices and circulars. *(Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 108, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for France.)*

**Italy**

“Un interessante campi di ricerca: Introduzione alla collezione delle collezionato comuni,” by Giuseppe Natoli Rivas, introduces the reader to the field of collecting postal markings from small letter collecting agencies, 1862-1900. *(Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 151, September 2008. Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale, Editor Adriano Cattani, Casella Postale 325, I-35100 Padova, Italy.)*

“Le epidemie coloriche in Italia nel periodo 1865-1886: diffusione, prevenzione e disinfezione postale,” by the late Nello Bagni, carefully documents the history of cholera epidemics over a twenty year period and describes practices used to disinfect mail. *(Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 150, June 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)*

“Registered Mail to the Americas, 1900 to 1940,” by Alan Becker, explores the background behind the “Torino Ferrovia America” and “Torino Ferrovia Estero” datestamps found on registered mails to the Americas. *(Fil-Italia, No. 138, Autumn 2008. Journal of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle, Secretary L. Richard Harlow, 7 Duncombe House, 8 Manor Road, Teddington, Middx., TW11 8BG, England, United Kingdom.)*

“La posta militare italiana alle grandi manovre, Terza parte: 1901-1907,” by Beniamino Cadioli, continues his study of postal history of the peacetime grand maneuvers, and illustrates the postmarks used on soldiers correspondence. *(Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 108, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for France.)*

“1a Guerra mondiale: gli italiani all’estero 1914-1922 (Terza parte),” by Michele Amorosi, examines mail from Italian forces on foreign fronts, such as Czechoslovakia, Libya, the Aegean Islands, Palestine, Turkey, Transcaucasia, Murmansk, Russia and China during World War 1. *(Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 150, June 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)*

“La posta dei Re: ‘Il Carteggio Reale,’” by Arnaldo Pace, continues his study of the franking privilege accorded to members of the royal house, and illustrates the markings applied to this mail to identify it, 1879-1946. (Supplementary booklet to *Il Foglio*, No. 156, August 2008. Unione Filatelica Subalpina, C.P. No. 65, Torino Centro, 10100 Torino, Italy.)

“1943-44: L’occupazione militare alleata e la ripresa della corrispondenza fra la Sicilia ed i territori dell’Italia liberata,” by Giulio Santoro, continues his analysis of correspondence through the lines, concluding with Chapter 9, Correspondence with Southern Italy, Florence and Tuscany. *(Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 19, June 2009. Associazione di Storia Postale Siciliana, Secretaria: Viale Regione Siciliana 2217, 90135 Palermo, Italy.)*

“Storia postale d’Italia: I francobolli con la dicitura ‘P.M.’ per il servizio della posta militare, parte seconda,” by Luigi Sirotti, continues his study of the wartime issues overprinted “P.M.” (Posta Militare), and illustrates many cover franked with these stamps, sent both from military personnel and civilians, 1943-1944. *(Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No.108, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for France.)*
Jamaica
“A Short History of Jamaican Special Events Postmarks,” by Dr. Raj Ramphal, discusses special postmarks prepared for the exhibition of 1891 through the Royal Visit of 1966. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 232, July-September 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)

“WWII-Jamaica-Some Updates,” by Hap Pattiz, provides some additional information to an earlier compilation of World War II censor personnel located at Jamaica, 1941-1943. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 160, October 2008. Secretary Charles LaBlonde, 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.)

“Updates to World War II Censored Cover Markings,” by Hap Pattiz, provides new information about Jamaica censorship, based upon covers in his collection. (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, No. 233, October-December 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)

Japan

“New Light on an Old Subject: The Chichibu-Maru Puzzle Resolved,” by Charles A.L. Swenson, relates the story of a vessel name change from Chichibu Maru to Titibu Maru, and then back again to Chichibu because of American passenger ridicule, calling the name Titty Boo, and then finally changing the vessel name to Kamakura Maru, 1934-1941. (Japanese Philately, No. 373, December 2008. See address of contact under Japan.)

Jordan

Kuwait
“No Service,’ Part 4: International Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israel Postkrieg.” (See under Iran.)

Lithuania
“Postal History Aspects of the Internment of Polish Servicemen in Lithuania, 1939-1940,” by J.J. Danielski, is a companion to an earlier article about interned Polish servicemen in Latvia, published in the 73rd Congress Book of 2007. The author discusses mail addressed to/ from the camps, unpaid and short paid mail, free franking, Red Cross postal messages, censorship and where the camps were located. (The Seventy-Fourth Congress Book, August 2008. American Philatelic Congress, Inc., Secretary Ross A. Towle, 400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.)

Netherlands
“Holland’s Track-Boat Markings: A Philatelic Conundrum Solved,” by Kees Adema, follows a trail of investigation, concerning the rare “Schuyt” markings found on mail reputed to have been carried on a boat pulled by a horse, traveling along the bank of a stream. Through the use of Raman spectroscopy, the “Schuyt” marking on a 1695 letter was unfortunately found to be a forgery. (Collectors Club Philatelist,
“PH-ALS (Specht (Woodpecker)) 1937 - A DC-3 with a Short, but Significant History,” by Hans Kremer, reviews the history of this Douglas aircraft and its role in transporting mail, passengers and freight between the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies in 1937. The official announcement of the termination of airmail surcharge rates is reproduced. (Netherlands Philately, Vol. 33, No. 1, September 2008. Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately, Corresponding Secretary, Marinus Quist, 116 Riverwood Drive, Covington, LA 70433.)

New Hebrides
“The New Hebrides Islands,” by John Yeomans, reviews the postal history of these enchanting south Pacific islands and describes the postal services with the outside world, 1843-1945. (Postal History, No. 328, December 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

Pakistan
“‘No Service,’ Part 4: International Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israel Postkrieg.” (See under Iran.)

Palestine
“Clandestine Postal Services of Tel Aviv,” by Zvi Aloni, describes two private posts; the Herzl Club Mail Service of 1912-1913, and the Kesher Hanoar mail service of 1946, both of which operated in Tel Aviv for short periods of time before they were shut down. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 4, August 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Germany.)

“The Postmarks of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Part 1,” by Tobias Zywiets, illustrates and classifies known postmarks into distinct types, and pictures some of the post offices, 1995-2006. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 60, No. 3, June 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Germany.)

Portugal
“Portugal 1912 to 1926 Ceres Issues Overprinted in 1928 and 1929,” by Robert I. Johnson, examines the background concerning these overprinted stamps, gives the postal rates of the period and illustrates a number of covers illustrating many rates. (Postal History, No. 327, September 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

Prussia
“Postal Convention between Prussia and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg, 12 (24) December 1821.” (translated from the Russian by David M. Skipton), provides the complete text for this agreement identifying post routes, division of revenues between the two parties, postage rates and other regulations. (Rossica, No. 151, Fall 2008. Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, Gary A. Combs, 8241 Chalet Court, Millersville, MD 21108.)

Queensland
“The Queensland Royal Mail, Part 1,” by Colin Tabeart, closely examines steamer communications between Queensland and Great Britain, via the Torres Straits, 1880-1883. (Postal History, No. 327, September 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.)

“The Torres Strait Route,” by David Ashby, illustrates the use of this route between Britain and Queensland by displaying many covers, identifying the vessels that carried
them and explaining the postal rates involved, 1874-1894. *Postal History*, No. 328, December 2008. See address of contact under second entry for France.

**Roman States**

“La posta lettere fra lo Stato Pontificio e la Toscana e viceversa, 1814-1852” [Part 1], by Thomas Mathà, looks at mail exchange between the Roman States and Tuscany, the first postal convention of 1823, and the postal tariffs applicable. “Part 2” continues his study of mail exchanged between these two countries through a discussion of the new postal convention of 1841, and contains many examples of postal rates on cover. *(Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, Nos. 150 and 151, June and September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

“Postal Rates of the Roman States, Bajocchi Period, 1852-67,” by Andrew M. Munster, gives examples of a number of domestic and international postal rates based upon the Tosti rate revision law of 1844. *(Fil-Italia*, No. 138, Autumn 2008. See address of contact under third entry for Italy.)

**Russia**

“Postal Convention between Prussia and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg, 12 (24) December 1821.” (See under Prussia.)

“Late 19th and Early 20th Century Mail from the Samara-Zlatoust and Volga-Bugul’ma Railroads (V),” by V.G. Levandovsky, (translated by David M. Skipton), concludes his series with a table of train-terminal and station datestamps, up to 1923. *(Rossica*, No. 151, Fall 2008. See address of contact under Prussia.)

“The Red Cavalry and its Field Post Offices During the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945,” by Anatoly Osatinski, gives a short history of the Soviet cavalry during the war years and provides extensive tables identifying and linking field post numbers with units, wherever they are known, as a pioneer attempt to record this information. *(Rossica*, No. 151, Fall 2008. See address of contact under Prussia.)

**Russia, Offices Abroad, China**

“On the Establishment of Regular Postal Communication between Kyakhta and Tientsin,” (translated by Howard Weinert from the Official Report of the Post and Telegraph Minister, 4 June 1865), reviews the background behind the report and outlines the plan for the establishment of regular postal services, all of which was approved by the Czar. *(Rossica*, No. 151, Fall 2008. See address of contact under Prussia.)

**St. Christopher**

“St. Christopher and the Mystery Cancel ARMY, APMY, AMJY, AWJY,” by Dr. Eric M. Bateson, summarizes what is known about this largely illegible killer, and concludes it is probably APMY, the meaning of which is unknown, 1881-1883. *(British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group*, No. 232, July-September 2009. See address of contact under Bahamas.)

**Sardinia**

“Il porto pagato in epoca napoleonica; Analisi storico-postale e segnalazione di un inedito,” by Piero Giribone, looks at the effects of the French occupation of the Sardinian mainland on postal matters, and documents a previously unreported prepayment marking for Torino, 1801-1802. *(Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 150, June 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

**Serbia**

“The Serbian-Turkish War; An 1877 Letter from Knjazevac to Belgrade,” by Dr. Jovan Velickovic, reviews the background of hostilities and illustrates a rare registered letter,
pen cancelled because the town datestamp was lost during the Turkish occupation, and also illustrates Serbian military postmarks of the period. (The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 87, No. 6, November-December 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Netherlands.)

**Sweden**

“WWII - Canada-Swedish Red Cross Ships,” by Graham Mark, draws information from several items found in Canadian National Archives concerning letters from Swedish sailors to their families in Sweden, censored in Montreal in 1942. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 160, October 2008. See address of contact under second entry for Jamaica.)

**Switzerland**

“An Unpaid Letter from ‘Outside’ the U.P.U.,” by Harlan F. Stone, gathers all the pieces together to explain the postage due markings on an 1879 ship letter, most likely originating from Argentina, addressed to Switzerland and which traveled through Italy. (The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 87, No. 6, November-December 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Netherlands.)

**Turkey**

“The Beruh [Beduh] Inscription,” by Osman Levend Seral, discusses the history and background behind this symbol of “good luck” written on letters during the Ottoman period throughout the Middle East. (The Levant, Vol. 4, No. 6, September 2008. The Journal of the Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society, Editor Robert B. Rose, 119 Grandview Pl., San Antonio, TX 78209.)


“Ottoman Red Sea Quarantine: Hodeidah & Kamaran,” by V. Denis Vandervelde, provides the history and postal history of these two quarantine stations established to prevent the spread of cholera by Moslem pilgrims returning from the haj at Mecca 1866-1949. (Pratique, Vol. 33, No. 2, Spring 2009. See address of contact under Austria.)

“The Ottoman Printed Matter Issues of 1891 and 1892, Part One,” by R. Rose, O. Graf and G. Riachi, look at fiscal stamps issued to collect taxes on newspapers and advertisements, as well as the postage issues overprinted “Imprime,” and provides a table of postal rates as at 1/13 September 1888. (The Levant, Vol. 4, No. 6, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Turkey.)

**Tuscany**

“La posta lettere fra lo Stato Pontificio e la Toscana e viceversa, 1814-1852” [Parts 1 and 2]. (See under Roman States.)

**Two Sicilies-Naples**

“Napoli 1858-1860/ Sicilia 1859-1860. Lettere viaggiate da Napoli a Messina e viceversa con i vapore postali francesi,” by Francesco Lombardo provides the postal tariffs for mail carried by French steamer between Naples and Messina, and illustrates various examples of mail transported. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 19, June 2009. See address of contact under seventh entry for Italy.)
Two Sicilies - Sicily

“Storia Postale di Acireale,” by Andrea Corsini, gives a history of the city, its postal services, lists adjoining towns dependent upon Acireale, and illustrates cachets, town markings, datestamps and special commemorative cancellations used over the years, 1819-2008. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 19, June 2009. See address of contact under seventh entry for Italy.)

“Napoli 1858-1860/ Sicilia 1859-1860, Lettere viaggiate da Napoli a Messina e viceversa con i vapore postali francesi.” (See under Two Sicilies, Naples.)

“Le relazioni postali fra Sicilia ed Austria,” by Vincenzo Fardella de Quernfort, looks at postal rates on mail between Sicily and the Austrian Empire, 1859-1863. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 19, June 2009. See address of contact under seventh entry for Italy.)

“Sicilia, 1859-1860. Corsa da Palermo a Messina per la vie delle marine, Le officine postali di Barcellona, Milazzo, Castroreale e Spadafora,” by Francesco Lombardo, continues his philatelic voyage on the post route between Palermo and Messina, this time examining the services to the four towns along the route. Many fine covers are illustrated. (Sicil-Post Magazine, No. 19, June 2009. See address of contact under seventh entry for Italy.)

United Nations

“Sinai Multinational Force and Observers,” by David J. Simmons, identifies the multinational forces sent to the Sinai after the signing of the September 1978 Peace Accord between Egypt and Israel, and indicates where they were located, which countries were supplying troops and the types of units. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 160, October 2008. See address of contact under second entry for Jamaica.)

Vatican City


“High Value Vatican Airmails: A Postal History Journey,” by Greg. Pirozzi, considers the use of high denomination airmails paying the postage on international airmail, and breaks down the postal rates applicable, 1938-1996. (Vatican Notes, No. 339, July-August 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Vatican City.)

Venetian Republic

“Chioggia: la Fraglia dei Vigaroli di San Pietro,” by Giorgio Burzatta. looks at mail carried by the Company of Venetian Couriers aboard the vessels of the company, “Fraglia dei Vigaroli di San Pietro,” 1660-1798. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 150, June 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

Venezuela


The Postal History Journal for 2008 was awarded a Large Silver medal at Italia 2009; and a Vermeil medal at Chicagopex.
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

Our two annual meetings, the General Membership Meeting at APS Stampshow and the Directors’ Meeting at the Blount Symposium in Bellefonte, Pa. were great successes.

Our General Membership Meeting featured a very informative talk on “The Italian Posts in Tunisia, 1852-1897” by Joe Geraci. A summary of this talk can be found in Postal History Journal No. 144 (October 2009), page 62. Our annual award for the best article in the Postal History Journal for the previous year (2008) was also awarded at this meeting, to Louis Fiset for the article “MS Gripsholm & the 1942-1943 Diplomatic Exchange Voyages with Japan,” appearing in Postal History Journal No. 140 (June 2008).

At our Directors’ Meeting, Vice President Stephen Washburne presided, as I was unable to attend. Two additions to our board were voted and I am delighted to welcome David Straight to the class of 2011 and Mark Schwartz to the class of 2010. Both of these gentlemen are active postal historians and writers. Mr. Schwartz burst onto the exhibit scene two years ago and is already very successful with at least two Massachusetts exhibits.

Stephen Washburne announced his retirement from the position of Vice President, which he has held for many years. Steve’s contribution to the society in that position has been tremendous. He has created the Postal History Journal index and acted as Nominating Committee for many years. The society would probably not have continued to exist without him. Fortunately, he has agreed to stay on the board. I am pleased to welcome David Straight as our new Vice President. He has been a prolific writer and American Philatelic Society board member.

I am sure that both our new board members will contribute hard work and wise counsel to the society.

Postal History Society Officers & Board of Directors

Pres.: Douglas N. Clark, Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648-0427, U.S.A.
Vice Pres.: Stephen S. Washburne, Box 43146, Philadelphia PA 19129-3146, U.S.A.
Sec./Treas.: Kalman V. Illyefalvi, 869 Bridgewater Dr., New Oxford PA 17350-8206, U.S.A.

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Harvey Mirsky, harveymirsky@aol.com
Membership Changes by Kalman V. Illyefalvi

New Members
PHS 2311  Michael B. Lamothe, 3700 Freeman Court, Montgomery, AL 36109-2200. Ancient postal systems, postal service history.
PHS 2312  John D. Bowman, 14409 Pentridge Drive, Corpus Christie, TX 78410-5764. US Carriers & locals.

Resigned
PHS 0924  L. Landau. PHS  Robert Patkin. PHS 2197  Leo V. Ryan.

Address Corrections
PHS 0910  Thomas F. Clarke, Box 418, Jenkintown, PA 19046-0418.
PHS 2108  Kurt Kimmel-Lampart, c/o Arvest AG, CH8805 Richterswil, Switzerland.
PHS 1767  Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon, 11075 Benton St. Apt 236, Loma Linda, CA 92354-3182.
PHS 2216  Phil Sager, 7634 Carla Rd., Pikesville, MD 21208-4409.
PHS 2297  Casimir Skrzypczak, 413 Indies Dr., Orchid, FL 32963-9513.
PHS 1729  Steven Walske, 2118 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA 94123-4815.
PHS 1992  Sanford A. Weinstock, 31949 Olde Franklin Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1731.

A New Ph.D. in [Philatelic] History

Stamping American Memory: Stamp Collecting in the U.S., 1880s-1930s, Sheila A. Brennan’s doctoral dissertation successfully completed for the history department at George Mason University (and researched, in part, at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum), traces how stamp collecting developed from an obscure leisure time activity in the 1880s into one of the most popular hobbies in the 1930s, and demonstrates how communities of collectors and non-collectors, and the postal service, engaged in a conversation about citizenship and race through the subjects of commemorative stamps. Often unexamined as cultural evidence, stamps provide visual snapshots of the American past that spoke to Americans about their present, particularly at a time when the United States emerged as a global imperial and industrial power. In the early years, stamp collectors formed communities and defined themselves as philatelists to achieve an expertise in this leisure activity. By the 1890s, the United States Post Office Department capitalized on that growth in popularity to earn money and support for its agency by printing limited-issue commemorative stamps, and began to see collectors as consumers with money to spend, even if it was only two-cents at a time. The Department expanded its already close relationship with Americans by encouraging them to purchase and save commemoratives as patriotic souvenirs. Stamps circulated widely containing government-sanctioned narratives that honored select heroes and events from the past that spoke to contemporary cultural debates over immigration, and racial and gender inequality. Because of the accessibility of American commemoratives, these stamps served to reinforce and naturalize an exceptionalist and triumphant vision of the American past that obscured the complicated legacies of conquest, slavery, and inequality.
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