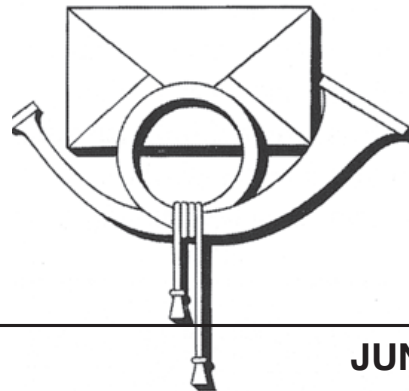
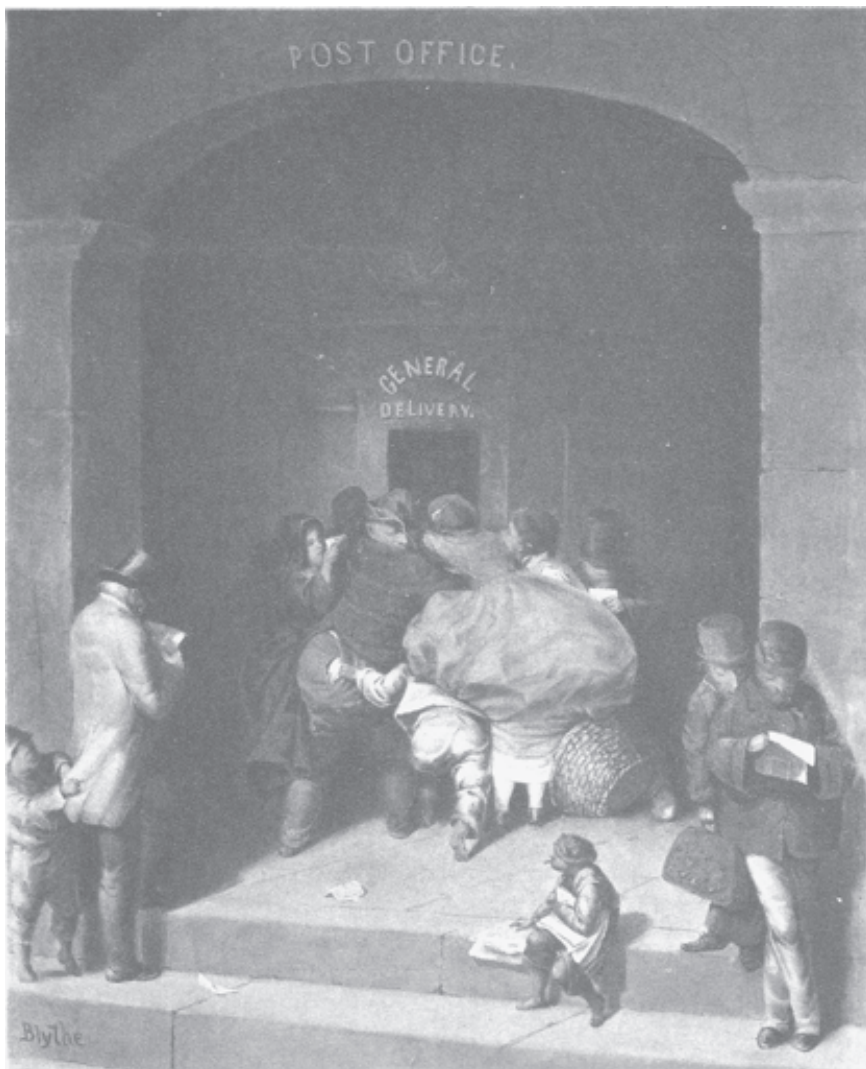


Postal History Journal



NUMBER 143

JUNE 2009



**Vatican
WWII
Mail &
Radio**

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**American
Revolutionary
War Mail
&
Chain of
Expresses**

*

**General
Delivery**

POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL, NO. 143, JUNE 2009

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The Holy See and WWII Communications

by Gregorio Pirozzi

“Nulla è perduto con la pace, tutto può esserlo con la guerra!”

“Nothing is lost with peace, everything can be with war!”

Pope Pius XII – 1939



1940 Vatican
Pope Pius
XII issue.



1942 Vatican War
Refugee Issue.

Introduction

World War II disrupted virtually every family, world-wide. During the war, and for several years after the end of hostilities, the Holy See played a significant and largely overlooked role in communications among POWs, civilian internees and separated loved ones, with the establishment and operation of a unique message service. Through a vast international network of diplomatic Nunciatures, Apostolic Delegations, Bishoprics, local parishes and various Catholic organizations, the Holy See was able to establish and maintain communications in often impossible situations. The organizational intermediary for this supra-national communication network was the Vatican Office of Information (Ufficio Informazioni), established shortly after the outbreak of war in 1939. Vatican Radio played a critical role.

In addition, both throughout and after the war, a Pontifical Commission for Assistance was involved in the repatriation of large numbers of POWs and displaced persons and, in some measure, was also involved in communications between separated individuals.

The message service connected the Vatican Office of Information with over fifty nations on every continent. Yet this Vatican communication network is little known.

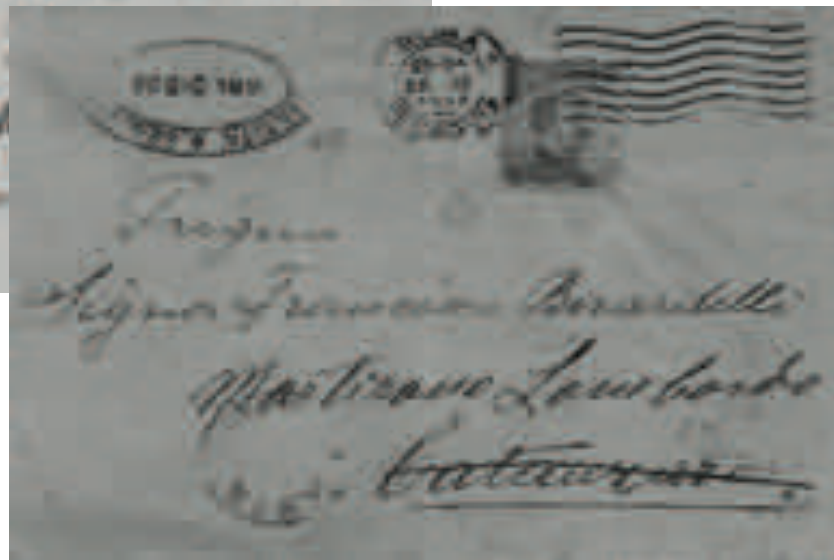
A survey of a few cases is sufficient to establish both the value and the circumstances, the international scope and wide variety of channels that were used to convey the messages, bringing human scale to the turmoil of this tragic time.

Background in World War I

Vatican outreach had roots in the experience of the Great War, when Pope Benedict XV made several efforts to mediate the conflict. In addition to providing for humanitarian assistance, the Vatican established a limited service, via a network of diplomatic Nuncios, to provide information regarding the status of military personnel. This effort served as both a precursor and model for the much more extensive Office of Information established during WWII (see Figure 1).



Fig. 1: Printed stationery for the Vatican Secretary of State communicating the POW status of a soldier held in Germany, mailed from Rome December 20, 1917, with postmarks of the Vatican (oval on the left) and the railroad.



1. World War II Vatican Office of Information

At this Vatican Office of Information, in the Palazzo San Carlo, there was established a facility for the public to write messages. In other areas of the building, Religious Sisters transcribed messages, clergy staff dispatched messages, civilian volunteers sorted messages, and a central index card file was maintained.



The Formalities of the System / Tracking POWs

Messages to relatives of servicemen resident in Italy were typed on official monogrammed stationery, and sent by registered mail. The message shown in Figure 2 is the basic typed form letter, with specifics added (here in italics): “From the Vatican 3 *September 1943*. The Office of Information of the Secretary of State of His Holiness informs you that the Apostolic Delegation in *Cairo*, in a list sent on 22 July 1943, *Infantryman Vittorio Pietrobello #385190* is indicated as a POW located in *Camp 313 Egypt* and is in good health.” Enclosed with the letter was a form that could be returned to the Vatican office with a message to be sent to the POW via Vatican Radio.



Fig. 2: Registered letter postmarked September 7, 1943 from the Vatican Office of Information addressed to Torrebelvicino, Italy.

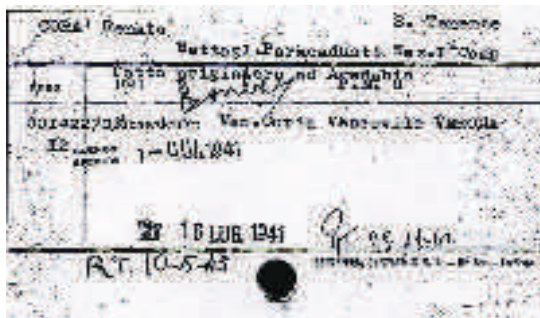
Messages to servicemen, on the other hand, were written on message forms. When one was filled out at, or received by, the Office of Information, an index card was created for the addressee, which was then annotated whenever a message was sent or received. Figure 3 shows a message filled out September 3, 1941 by the mother of Lieutenant Benato Corà: “Yesterday, after a long wait, I received your letter of April 29th and postcard of June 28th. Rest assured of our good health. Our thoughts are always with you.”

The index card created for Corà earlier in 1941 was annotated to indicate that his name appeared on a list of 35,000 POWs transferred from Egypt to India, which the Vatican received in September. The Central Index Card file eventually held nearly four million cards.

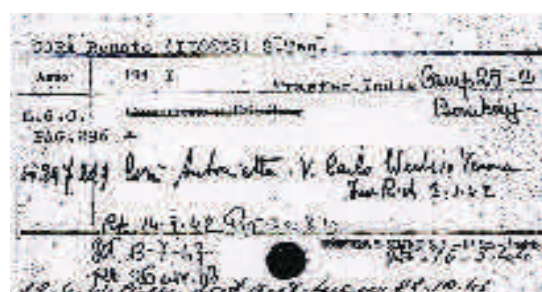


Fig. 3: Message form dated September 3, 1941 from Verona, Italy transmitted via the Vatican Office of Information, Secretary of State to a POW in British India. A handwritten notation reveals it was received April 10, 1942.

Lt. Renato Cora's index cards in the Central Index Card file at the Vatican Office of Information show:
 (a) that he was a POW in Egypt
 (b) "E.6.C pag. 296" that his name was from a list of 35,000 POW's transferred from Egypt to India
 (c) that his status was a POW in India



(a)



(b)



(c)

Paid Reply / Civilian in Eritrea

The message form could also be used as a reply. In December 1942, a special Christmas form with a background design of the Star of Bethlehem over the Dome of St. Peter's Basilica, was designed. A recipient could just turn the form over, write a response, and the delivering arm of the Vatican would make sure it was returned to the sender.



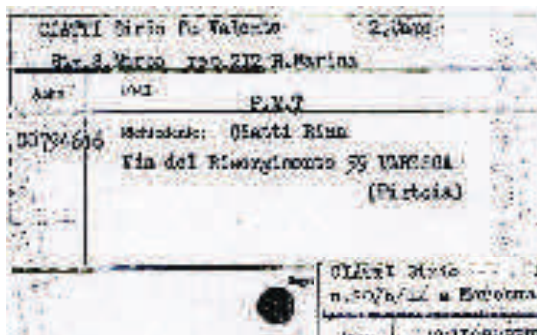
Fig. 4: Vatican messages to and from an internee. Above: message form dated December 21, 1942 from Camiore, Italy to Giulio Vecoli, a civilian at the Naval installation in Embatalla, Eritrea; Italian East Africa (British occupation); Asmara, Eritrea transit, April 3, 1943. The reverse (above, right) shows the reply message of April 21, 1943, returned via the Apostolic vicar of Eritrea and the Italian Red Cross: "With an emotional heart I return your greetings with all my affection and all my strength of soul and spirit." Right: a message form dated December 22, 1944 from Massaua, Eritrea sent to Italy by the Apostolic Vicar of Eritrea.

Forwarding to the U.S. / Sailor 'Sees' his Child

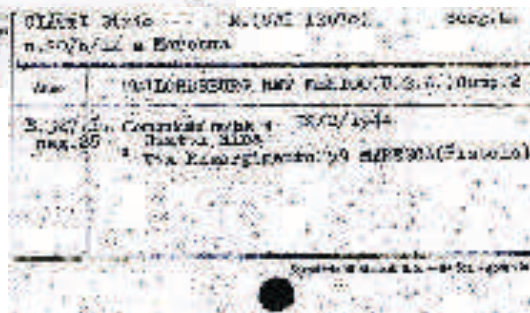
In addition to the church's own global network, and the communications network of the Red Cross, the postal services of many countries besides Italy and its allies got involved – as can be seen by censorship markings. A message from Maresca, Italy, was sent to the Taranto Naval Base. The Vatican then redirected the message to an internment camp in New Mexico.



Fig. 5: Message form dated May 26, 1943 from Maresca, Italy to Sirio Ciattii, an Italian sailor at the Taranto Naval base serving on the San Marco, forwarded by the Vatican and redirected to Camp Lordsburg. On the reverse (right) the reply message of February 7, 1944: "Dear Rina, I have hurried to answer your message that was received yesterday. I have received great pleasure in seeing your writing again. Concurrently, I have received your photo and that of our baby. It has been the greatest joy that I have tasted in my life to see you again. I am well. Do not worry yourself. Pray that the time passes quickly that I may soon see all of you again."



Initial request from Ciatti's wife; he is given the file # 00794646. Then his Lordsburg POW status.



London War Enquiry Department / Easter Greetings to British Mum

Auxiliary Vatican offices were in several cities. The War Enquiry Department in London was at 11 Cavendish square. A message form, specifically printed for Easter 1943, was transmitted via the Vatican Secretary of State to the Apostolic Delegation in London.

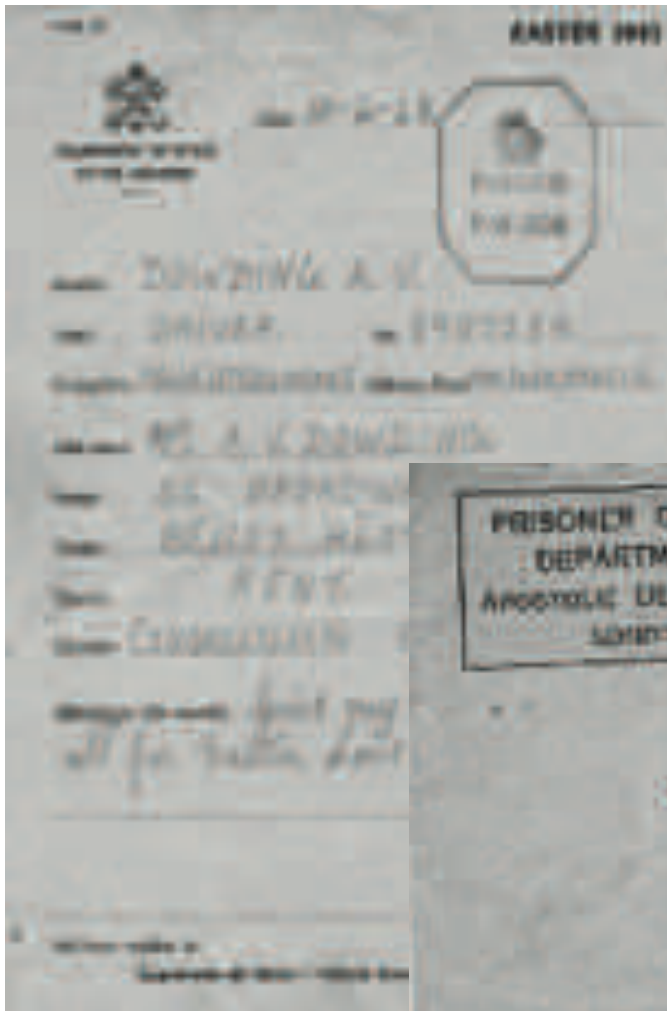
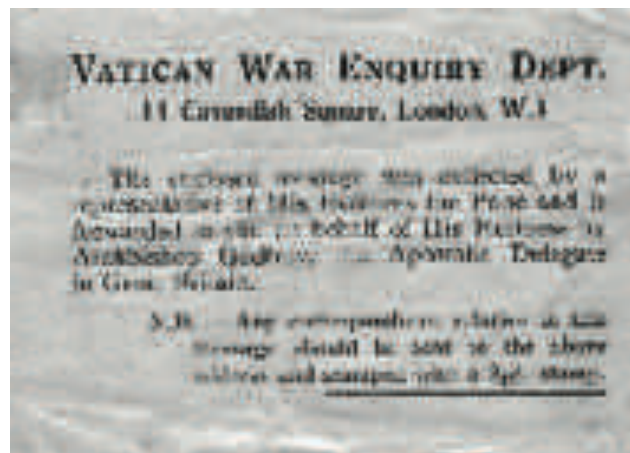


Fig. 6: Message form dated April 18, 1943 from A.V. Dowding, a British POW in Camp 65, Gravina, Altamura, Italy, transmitted via the Vatican to POW Department at the Apostolic Delegation in London, who sent it through the British mails to Kent, enclosing an instruction notice.



Printed message forms indicate the global reach of the Vatican network of communications. I have seen examples from Jerusalem, Bangalore, Caracas, Madrid, Nairobi, Washington, D.C., Rhodes, Vichy.

D. C. Apostolic Delegation / Captured Seaman in Montana

The U.S. Apostolic Delegation at Washington handled messages to and from a seaman on the S.S. *Conte Biancamano*, who was interned at Fort Missoula, Montana. The ship was an Italian luxury liner that had been seized in the Canal Zone earlier in 1942. It was modified as a troopship by the U.S. but was returned to Italy and refitted as a liner after the War.

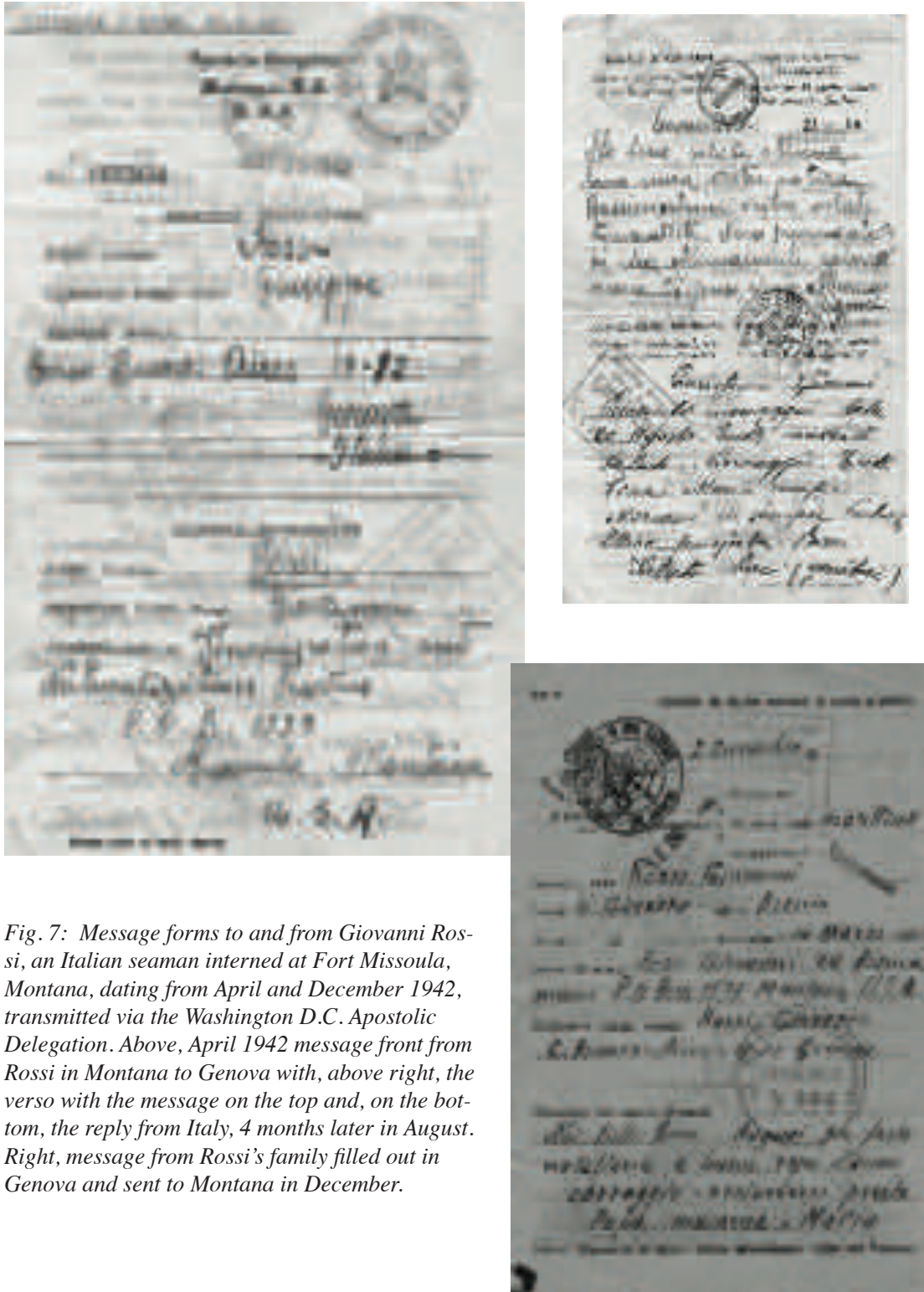


Fig. 7: Message forms to and from Giovanni Rossi, an Italian seaman interned at Fort Missoula, Montana, dating from April and December 1942, transmitted via the Washington D.C. Apostolic Delegation. Above, April 1942 message front from Rossi in Montana to Genova with, above right, the verso with the message on the top and, on the bottom, the reply from Italy, 4 months later in August. Right, message from Rossi's family filled out in Genova and sent to Montana in December.

POW at Two U.S. Camps

Another POW in America communicated via the Washington D.C. Apostolic Delegate to Naples, the reply following him to a different camp.

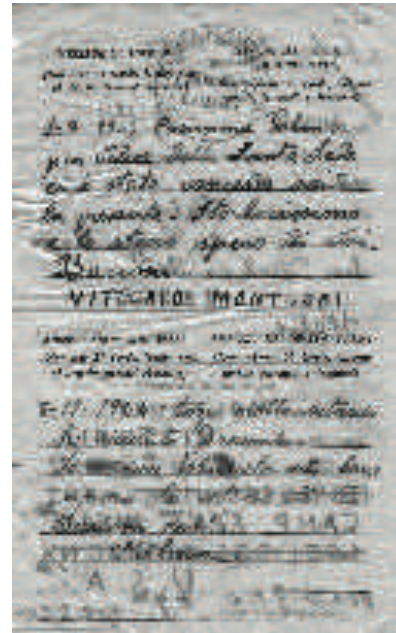
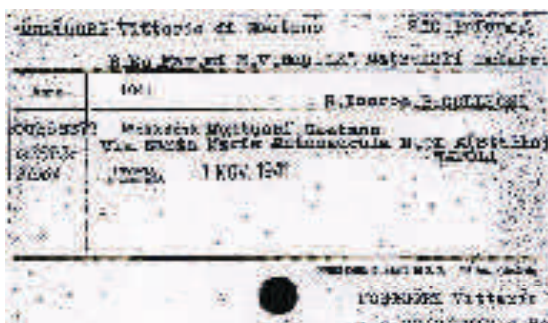
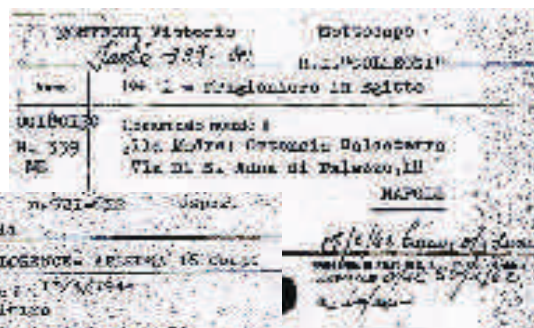


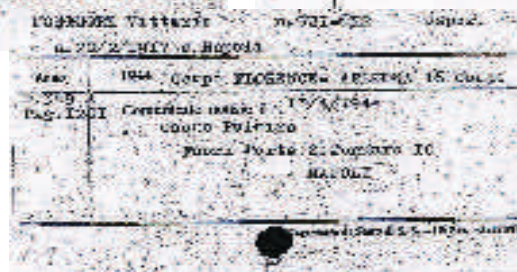
Fig. 8: Message form dated July 1, 1943 sent by Vittorio Montuori from Camp Florence, Arizona, transmitted via Washington D.C. Apostolic Delegate to girlfriend Palmira Cuomo in Napoli, Italy: "By means of the Holy See, we have been able to send the following message. I am well as I hope you all are. Kisses." The reply was added on reverse, December 8, 1944, and the form re-addressed to Camp Fort Meade, Maryland. In files: Vittorio Montuori, status (a) missing in action aboard the R.I. Colleoni (b) POW in Egypt (c) POW in Camp Florence.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Message Undeliverable / Miner in Katanga

There were, however, some areas closed even to the Vatican. In June 1944, a message sent from the Union Minière Mining Camp (the key strategic source for the uranium ore used to build the first atomic weapons by the U.S.) in Sofwe, Katanga, was returned to the sender by the Leopoldville Apostolic Delegation, Belgian Congo.



Fig. 9: Message form dated June 12, 1944 from Sofwe, Katanga, returned to sender via the Leopoldville Apostolic Delegation, Belgian Congo, with an attached note returning the Postal Money Order: "Leopoldville, 8 July 1944. Mr. Prina, Union Minière Camp, Sofwe, Katanga. Sir, We are obliged to return to you the postal money order for 5,000 Francs sent from the bank of the Belgian Congo on May 27 intended for Madam Prina. Due to the current (wartime) conditions, the Vatican cannot for the moment transmit this remittance. When Northern Italy is liberated, we will again attempt to contact your family. Accept Sir my best salutations, The Apostolic Delegate."



POW Dossiers / Disgruntled POW in Australia

The Vatican index card for POW Giorgia Madureri of Milan provides the details of numerous messages transmitted to and from – and his is the most thoroughly documented case I have researched. A message from him on Apostolic Delegation stationery of November 5, 1943: “Dear Mother, Sister. Received your letter of 29 July. Awaiting a telegram. Do not worry yourselves. I am well. Stay prudent. Kisses. Giorgio.” Records from the Australian archives show that Madureri was captured in Tobruk, North Africa, in January 1941 as a 36 year old lieutenant. He arrived as a POW on the *Queen Mary* at Sydney on August 16, 1941, was transferred to Murchison, then Myrtleford, then New South Wales, and repatriated via the SS *Andes*, embarking at Sydney August 3, 1945. During his captivity, Australian Camp officials kept a summary dossier of the messages sent and received by Madureri. From February 1, 1944 to his brother-in-law, a POW in India: “I asked after the declaration of war on Germany to go and fight in Italy but do not expect that it will be permitted. ... I read, play tennis, go swimming, curse my Fate and Fascism in three languages and twelve dialects, grow pumpkins and flowers and await better times. Here there are many idiots and semi-idiots. I speak of those inside the wire.” From October 1, 1944, to the same brother-in-law: “During 3 years of my captivity, these people tried to crush me ... They changed their names but their brainless heads are always the same!”



Fig. 10: Message form November 5, 1943 from an Italian POW in Camp Myrtleford, Australia, transmitted via the Sydney Apostolic Delegation to Milano, Italy.



MAY 44
 Summary: 36 year old Artillery officer with 16 months service before capture. In a Milanese. Since coming to this camp his behaviour has always been exemplary, being always perfectly respectful to Australian authority and holding great respect among his fellow prisoners. Since the fall of fascism it is apparent that his sympathies are definitely anti-fascist and he has made written application to be permitted to retain his Italian armed forces against the Germans. It is a lawyer in civil life. Transferred to the hospital and when the camp was closed he remained in the hospital. Captured at TOBRUK on 21/1/41 and arrived in this camp from MURCHISON on 16/8/41.

Mug shot & POW summary profile from the Australian archives.

Ecumenical Service / Two Rabbis

The Vatican Office of Information was ecumenical in its message-bearing. In 1943, it exchanged messages between two Rabbis, Jerusalem to Nagy-Ida. About 110 Jews lived in this Hungarian town prior to the war; none were there at the end.



Fig. 11: Message form, 1943, from Jerusalem transmitted by the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest to Nagy-Ida, Hungary via the Vatican Office of Information, with the reply on the reverse.

2. Vatican Radio

Vatican Radio began broadcasting with the call sign HVJ on two shortwave frequencies using 10 kilowatts of power on February 12, 1931, with the pontifical message “Omni creaturae” of Pope Pius XI. Guglielmo Marconi was a personal friend of the Pope’s and was the new system’s technical director. In 1933, a permanent microwave link was established between the Vatican Palace and the summer residence of the papacy, Castel Gandolfo. In 1936, the International Radio Union recognized Vatican Radio as a “special case” and authorized its broadcasting without any geographical limits. On December 25, 1937, a Telefunken 25 kW transmitter and two directional antennas were added. Vatican Radio broadcast over 10 frequencies.

At the outbreak of war, Vatican Radio was transmitting on a limited basis a variety of religious and news information programs in four languages to a world-wide audience. Following a December 1939 report from Cardinal Hlond of Ponza detailing the oppression of the Catholic Church in Poland, Pope Pius XII decided, among other measures, to use Vatican Radio to provide “information regarding the condition of the church in Poland.” Germany quickly banned Vatican Radio’s news broadcasts.

As the activities of the Office of Information increased, transmissions over Vatican Radio became almost entirely devoted to passing messages. These included the reading of lists of POWs reported at certain camps.

The Vatican Radio message service grew in scope from contacts with Papal representatives in eight nations in 1940 to thirty nations during 1943-1944.

A total of 1,240,728 messages were transmitted from 1940-1946 in 12,105 hours of transmission time.

Transmission Confirmations / POWs in Middle East and India

A message form was sent confirming the broadcast, such as this example from Cairo.



Fig. 12: Message dated September 1941 transmitted via Vatican Radio to the Apostolic Delegation in Egypt and Palestine located in Cairo. Forwarded to a POW held in the Middle East: "The Apostolic Delegate, Msgr. Gustavo Testa, has the pleasure of letting you know that yesterday, by means of the Vatican Radio, your loved ones have sent the following message: Received your postcard. Do not worry yourself. God will watch over you always and our hearts will always be near you. We are all well. Kisses from all. Mother. The same Apostolic Delegate, happy to be able to convey this message, and in anticipation of your response, sends his special benediction." Manuscript arrival notation, November 19, 1941. Right, the Vatican Radio Station and transmission tower.

In the record files, the radio messages are marked RT for Radio Trasmissione.

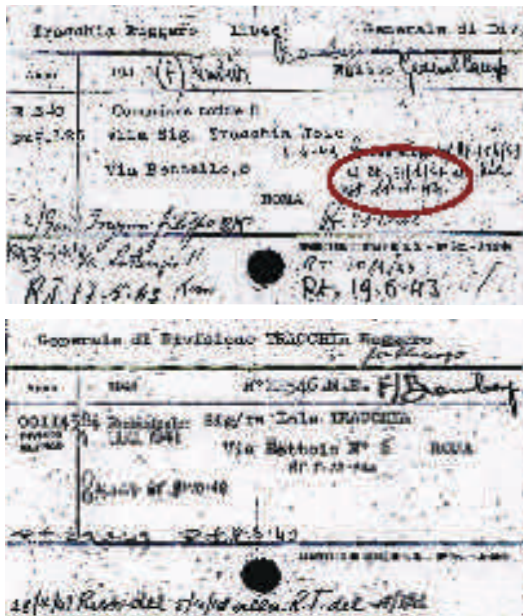


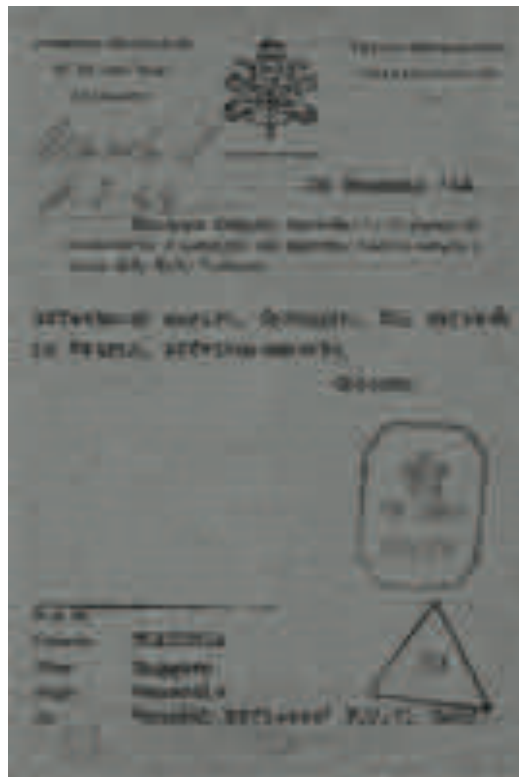
Fig. 13: Vatican Archive Central Index File cards for General Ruggero Tracchia show, top, his status as a POW in Egypt and bottom, his transfer to Camp 39, Bangalore, India. Both have RT's listed for the radio transmissions sent him.

Personal Assistance: Australia



Fig. 15: Message confirmation dated June 10, 1943 from a New Zealand POW in Camp 85 - Tuturano, Italy transmitted via Vatican Radio to the Apostolic Delegation in Sydney, Australia and forwarded to his mother in St. Kilda, Dunedin, New Zealand, forwarded through Archbishop Panico.

Fig. 14: Message form dated January 19, 1944 transmitted via Vatican radio to the Apostolic Delegation in Bangalore, India. Forwarded to General Tracchia held in POW Camp 39. Manuscript arrival notation, February 4, 1944. The printed text reads: "Msgr. Apostolic Delegate has the pleasure of communicating this message received yesterday via Vatican Radio." The message, from Colombo: "Affectionate greetings. Have courage. God will save our homeland."



In Australia, Archbishop Giovanni Panico (1895-1962) was the Apostolic Delegate from 1935 to 1948. Under his leadership, links were established in 1941 with the Australian and New Zealand governments to initiate the Vatican message service between POWs and internees. He personally visited many of the POW and internee camps throughout Australia as an important part of his humanitarian mission. Nearly 8,500 POWs from New Zealand were held by the Italians and Germans in WWII.

Personal Assistance: London Newspaper / British POW in Japan

In London, the Vatican Apostolic Delegation was assisted by James Walsh of the *Catholic Times* who printed postcards to let families know of news received by Vatican Radio. The periodical also published individual messages and lists of POWs. Mrs. Bonnes discovered in this way that her son was held as a POW at Camp Fukuoka. Located on the island of Kyushu, the camp was in operation from January 1942 to September 1945 and housed over 10,000 POWs in 18 satellite camps throughout the area. Of the 130,000 POWs held by Japan in WWII, approximately 50,000 were British, a quarter of whom died in captivity.

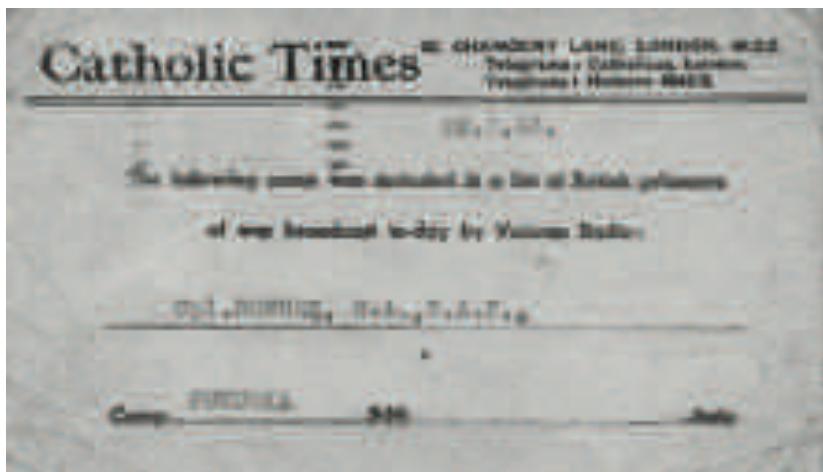


Fig. 16: Privately printed postcard dated September 22, 1943 from the periodical Catholic Times (London) relaying a notice transmitted via Vatican Radio of a British POW in Fukuoka, Japan.



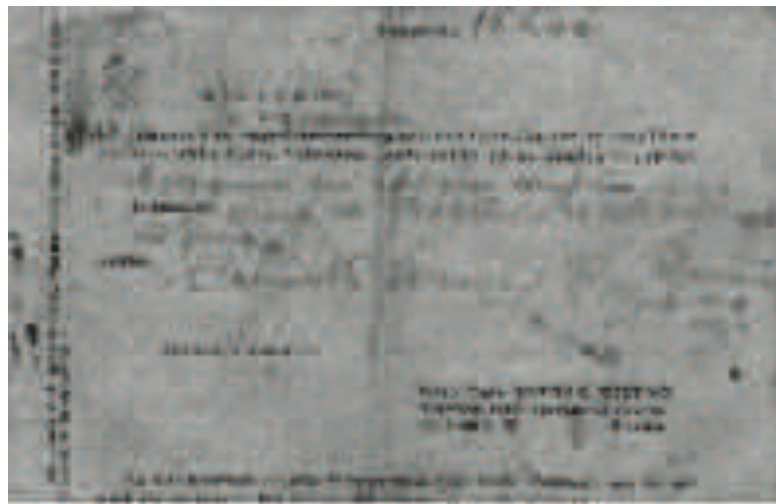
One of the many sub-camps in the Fukuoka region.

Private Assistance / POW recorded

Anonymous benefactors also helped Vatican Radio messages get through. Antonio Restivo printed postcards that warned: "N.B. Please be aware that I do not have an office that is involved in obtaining information regarding military personnel or civilians. I listen only to the Vatican Radio (transmission time 7:30-8:00 PM, short wave frequency 50.26) and when I am able to receive transmissions, which are not always clear, I take note of the messages (due to atmospheric disturbances I cannot respond to any eventual omissions or errors). I forward these messages without prior solicitation and of my own initiative, as a sentiment of Christian charity, without cost to the recipient even if they are not known to me."



Fig. 17: Privately printed postcard dated June 15, 1944 posted from Palermo to Catania, Sicily, A.C.S. Allied censorship, providing notice of an internee in Greece transmitted via Vatican Radio: "The person named below was recorded on a list of military and civilian internees located in Greece: Lasinetti, Lrenzo, Via Sfrina 2, Athens."



3. Pontifical Commission for Assistance

Towards the end of the war, the Holy See established a Pontifical Commission for Assistance for the benefit of tens of thousands of refugees and repatriated POWs. In addition to a central Vatican Office, branches of this Commission operated from Archdioceses located throughout Italy. Since the Commission was involved in a major humanitarian mission, the branch offices were granted the franking privilege by the Italian government.

Cardinal Ildelfonso Schuster (1880-1954) Archbishop of Milan, met with Mussolini on April 25, 1945 but was not successful in an effort to mediate peace. Mussolini was executed by Italian partisans three days later.



Fig. 18: Cover dated August 6, 1947 from the Pontifical Commission for Assistance - Vatican City central office to Novara, Italy.

Fig. 19: Cover dated November 20, 1946 from the Pontifical Commission for Assistance - Archdiocese of Genova to the Draft Office, War Ministry in Rome.



Commission for Assistance / Ex-internee's Accidental Death

The Pontifical Commission for Assistance in Cardinal Schuster's diocese sent a message on August 21, 1945, to communicate the death by aerial bombing of an ex-internee returning from Germany on April 18, 1945. It was addressed to the local Pontifical Commission for Assistance in Abbiategrasso, whose job it was to locate the family (see Figure 20).

Commission for Assistance / Forwarding a Hand-Carried Note

A letter hand carried by a repatriated internee from Kenya to Naples, was forwarded freely via the Vatican Pontifical Commission for Assistance, Napoli. "July 28 1946 Nanyuki [located 100 miles north of Nairobi, with several thousand Italian POWs captured in the Ethiopian campaign] Dearest Antonietta, I am writing the present letter to let you know that I am in good health as I hope you, the baby and the entire family. Dear, I am sending this letter by a friend who is departing shortly and will mail it from his town on arrival. I hope shortly that also I will depart ..." (See Figure 21.)



Fig. 20: Notice of the death of an ex-internee sent August 21, 1945 from the Pontifical Commission for Assistance, Diocese of Milano, addressed to the local Commission in Abbiategrasso, Italy.

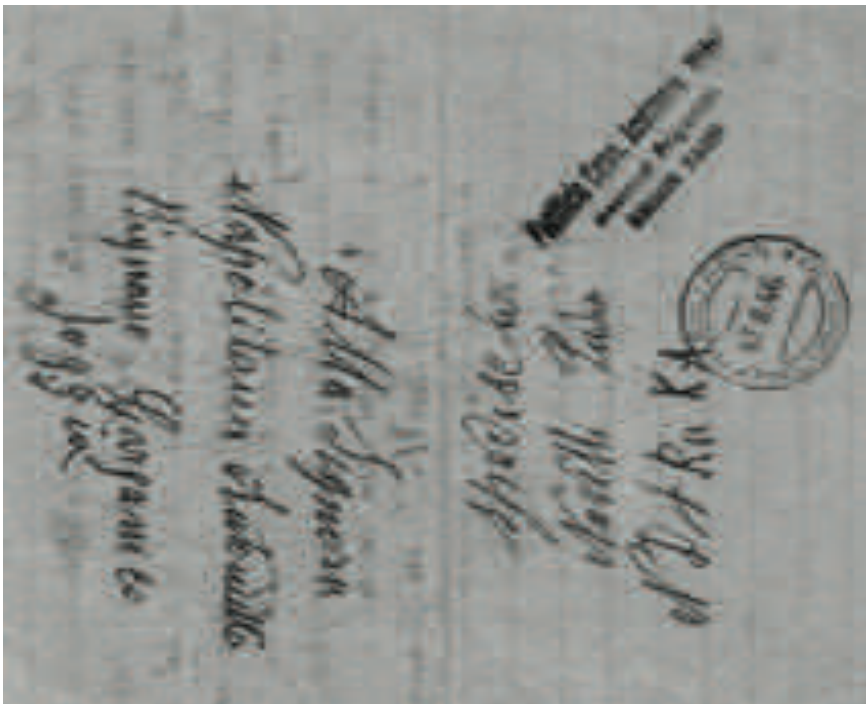


Fig. 21: Folded letter dated July 28, 1946, from an internee in Kenya to Rignano Garganico, Italy, hand-carried by a repatriated comrade to Napoli and transmitted free of charge via the Vatican Pontifical Commission for Assistance in Napoli.

Vatican Requests / Status of Wake Island Internee

The Vatican also initiated requests for information about particular internees – acting as middleman. Figure 22 is a request for the status of one of 1,150 civilian contractors employed by the Morrison-Knudsen Company building an airfield on Wake Island when the Japanese invaded in December 1941. Although most of the captured military and civilians were removed from the island in January 1942, 98 civilian workers were left behind, and executed on October 7, 1943. Rolland Light of Noonan, North Dakota, was one of them.



Fig. 22: Message form dated August 19, 1944, the Pacific Island Employees Foundation (incorporated June 1, 1942, to aid families of the internees on Wake Island) inquiring the status of Rolland E. Light, transmitted via the Apostolic Delegation in Washington D.C. to the Vatican Office of Information. The fate of the “contractors’ employees” was not known until after the Japanese surrender in 1945.

Gregorio Pirozzi, PhD., of Maryland, has for many years been an active member of the Vatican Philatelic Society. This paper is based on his presentation to the Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History, at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, October 2008.

Acknowledgments

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- Daniel Piazza – Smithsonian Institution, National Postal Museum
- Professore Marino Carnevale-Mauzan

Hazards of Communications in Revolutionary America

by Konstantin Dierks

Introduction

We know firsthand from our lives in the present day that the outbreak and the prosecution of war matter, and they matter intensely. Those of us living in the United States know far less, however, what it means to wage defensive war on one's own soil, or what it means to wage simultaneously a war for independence and a civil war. Yet all of these kinds of warfare were central to what historians call the "American Revolution" of the late eighteenth century, and they create the possibility of linking the specialized investigation of postal history to some of the broader master narratives of American history. Indeed, this presents the same symbiosis as any linkage between a specific topic of history permitting close and intensive research, and a broader narrative that begs significant historical questions be pondered and debated, if not answered, by every new generation with its own historical sensibility.

It was Carl Lotus Becker a century ago who first posed the perennially debated question about the significance of the American Revolution: to what degree was it motivated by a quest for "home rule," and to what degree was it motivated by a transformation in "rule at home"?¹ Was it primarily a war of independence pitting colonial Britons against their mother country, or was it primarily a civil war pitting a rising class against an old-guard elite? This conundrum has driven vigorous historical debates about the causes of the American Revolution. Bernard Bailyn in 1967 credited top-down Enlightenment political ideology, whereas Robert Gross in 1976 credited bottom-up local social strains with motivating the revolutionary impulse in the rebellious colonies - and these have long been and are still the current leading explanatory frameworks for the American Revolution.² The most important recent analysis of the American Revolution, by Michael McDonnell, avoids the classic question of the origins and motivations behind the war, and turns instead to the mobilizations and experiences of the war itself.³ McDonnell found that the hardships and sacrifices of eight years of prolonged war against Britain produced a new and biting set of social strains in the independent American states. Most historians have concentrated, however, on the aftermath of the war, as the trauma of the war yielded to the serious new challenges of constitution-making and nation-building.⁴

By far the best book connecting postal history to this pivotal era of American history is Richard R. John's wonderful *Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse*.⁵ John dealt comprehensively with the aftermath of the American Revolution pointing toward the development of the nation in the nineteenth century. He demonstrated how critically the postal system was viewed by the young federal government of the United States as it pursued mechanisms by which to bind a fragile nation and unify a dispersed citizenry. One of those mechanisms was erecting a new national American postal system, out of the ashes of the old imperial British postal system, for the carriage, by newspapers, of political information to the general public. This important role of the postal system, acknowledged both by politicians designing the postal system and the general public pleading for postal service, led to a remarkable growth-spurt of the American postal system in the 1790s.

In this essay I shall examine two earlier moments in the postal history of the American Revolution. The first happened at the very height of revolutionary agitation against British authorities stationed in the colonies and colonial authorities in league with them, just as

thoughts were turned from political protest to military mobilization. The second happened almost immediately before the British army's catastrophic defeat at the famous battle we know as the "Battle of Yorktown." These are two of many instances in which postal history intersected in important ways with the motivations and mobilizations behind both revolution and war, and we can see the political ideologies and social strains behind a war of independence and a civil war both at the same time. In other words, postal history is vital because it can help us to construct a fully dimensional understanding of the American Revolution in its high-minded principles as well as its violent practices (both essential to any revolution).

Postal and Express Options

I would actually like to begin not at the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, but six years into the unknown future, when that future was the summer of 1781, the summer leading up to the crescendo of the war at the Battle of Yorktown. Early in the summer of 1781 the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, George Washington, sent a short letter to the president of the Continental Congress, Samuel Huntington. Washington as the leading American military official was stationed in the small town of New Windsor, 65 miles north of occupied New York City; Huntington as the leading American civilian official was stationed in the city of Philadelphia, another 100 miles farther south. This particular letter from Washington was utterly mundane because it served mainly to enclose a duplicate of Washington's letter from the previous week - and that previous letter had been intercepted by the enemy British army. Washington was unfazed, however.

By this time, having served six years as commander-in-chief, Washington had already had dozens of his letters intercepted by the British (see Figure 1). Hence his reaction was to recommend that communication between military headquarters and civilian capital switch from postal service to express service. "They [the British] have not the same opportunity of intercepting Expresses," Washington averred, "as their times of riding are uncertain." With regard to postal service, by contrast, "the [interception] parties which are sent out know the exact time at which he [the postrider] may be expected."⁶ Washington could be calm in the situation from

previous experience, but also from confidence because he could choose between two highly developed means of communication between New Windsor and Philadelphia. By 1781 George Washington enjoyed the luxury of a reasonably efficient and utterly resilient two-track communications system between military headquarters and civilian capital.



Fig 1. Letter datelined Boston, May 3, 1775, 14 days after the battle of Lexington-Concord, hand carried through the Rebel lines surrounding Boston, to Providence where placed in the King's Post and sent on to New York City: "most of the letters both publick & private were open'd before they got here; & some of them stop'd; this letter goes by private conveyence to Providence to be put into the post office there & hope it will reach you." Figures 1 to 5 courtesy Ed Siskin.

Interception of Enemy Letters

Now let us move forward a few weeks that same summer of 1781, leaving the small town of New Windsor, New York, and transporting ourselves to the small town of Lewes, Delaware. Actually, we should stop a bit short of Lewes to whatever place another letter was intercepted. This letter was written by two intelligence officers working out of British military headquarters in New York City. They were contacting a known loyalist in Lewes, Delaware, with the aim of establishing a new “line of intelligence” between Henry Clinton, the British commander-in-chief in New York City, and Lord Cornwallis, the British field general who had recently - and ever so fatefully - occupied the small town of Yorktown, Virginia. The bitter impetus behind the new intelligence plan was the fact that the French navy had just repelled the British navy from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, abruptly cutting off all communication between Clinton and Cornwallis. Hence the two intelligence officers proposed that a “whale boat” would carry dispatches from New York City to the coast of Delaware near Lewes - the lighthouse at lonely Cape Henlopen seemed a logical place - where those letters would be picked up and then carried overland to the east coast of Chesapeake Bay, from where the dispatches would next be ferried across the bay to Yorktown, Virginia. All this would most sensibly happen under cover of “night.” The intelligence officers imagined that three small groups of trustworthy men could execute each leg of this plan and thereby sustain a “weekly” “Correspondance” spanning the 400 miles interceding between Clinton and Cornwallis.⁷ As chance would have it, however, the letter hatching this plan would be intercepted, and a month later Cornwallis would surrender thousands of troops to George Washington, effectively ending the War of American Independence.

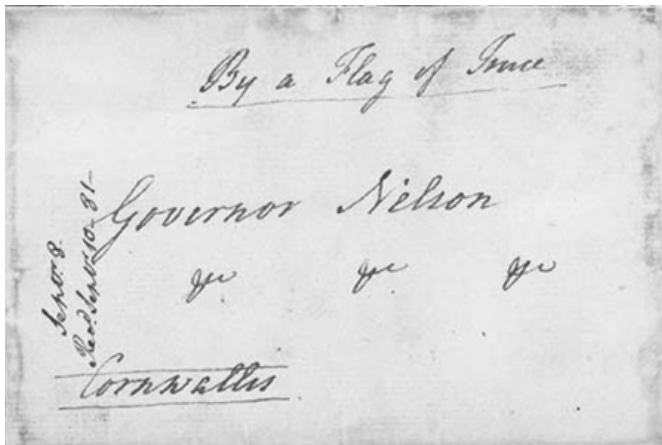


Fig 2. Letter from Cornwallis, surrounded at Yorktown, docketed September 8, 1781, handled by military courier “By a Flag of Truce” to Governor Nelson of Virginia, a reply to Nelson’s request for the release of two American civilians held as British prisoners - denied because of American spying on British fortifications.

War of Communications

In the American case, the commander-in-chief could rely on routine postal service as well as express service to communicate with field officers and civilian authorities. Everything was in place, adaptable to contingencies, and relatively impervious to enemy interception. In the British case, the commander-in-chief, in hopes of establishing an express chain, was obliged to improvise with whale boats under cover of night. Nothing was in place; nothing was adaptable; nothing was impervious. How had this gross disparity come about? Indeed, the disparity appears that much more remarkable when one takes into the consideration that the British military was then reputed to be the most powerful fighting force in the world, whereas the American military was newly and haphazardly formed, continually improvised, and notoriously unreliable. When it came to communications along the eastern seaboard of North America, the American military had won.

Communications in Revolution

Ten years, say, before the Battle of Yorktown there was no Continental Congress, no Continental Army, no commander-in-chief George Washington. On the other hand, there emphatically was a mighty British military machine, formidable on paper as well as battle-tested around the world. Moreover, there were regular packet services between London and New York City and between London and Charleston, South Carolina. There was an intercolonial postal service supervised by imperial officials and feeding revenue from colonial wallets into the coffers of King George III. None of these disparities were recognized at the time, of course, because they did not remotely register when the colonies were snugly and happily ensconced in the most free, the most prosperous, and the most powerful empire in the world - the British empire. This brings us to a question of the military history of the American Revolution and its connection to postal history: how did some ragtag rebels in *half* the British American colonies manage to defeat the world's mightiest empire? Those rebellious folk in those rebellious colonies certainly had not, by 1781, achieved any kind of military superiority over the British fighting machine. What they had accomplished, however, was to set up a far more effective system of wartime communications.

Disdain the Chain

In February 1774 William Goddard turned over management of his brand new Baltimore printing business and weekly newspaper to his capable sister, Mary Katherine Goddard. He also shut down his older Philadelphia printing business and weekly newspaper there. The context prompting his decisions was simultaneously a problem and a solution: postal service. Goddard believed himself at a competitive disadvantage because he was not postmaster of Philadelphia, and yet he was reliant on postal service both to gather news and to distribute his newspapers. The fee for such service was expensive and raised the cost of his newspaper. In order to overcome this competitive disadvantage in Philadelphia, Goddard in August 1773 moved his printing business to Baltimore where he sought to establish his own alternative postal service to distribute his newspapers - an alternative he would soon be calling a "new constitutional Post."⁸ Even though this alternative postal service amounted to nothing more than Goddard's employment of a private courier between Baltimore and Philadelphia in December 1773, Goddard announced this tiny accomplishment with *éclat* in the same issue of his Baltimore newspaper that he reported on the heroics of the Boston Tea Party. He, his employee the courier, the courageous protestors in Boston, and the discerning readers of his upstart Baltimore newspaper were all precisely the kind of people, Goddard proclaimed, "who disdain to wear the CHAIN -- and who are unalterably determined to be FREE."⁹

Here is another crucial link between postal history and the political history of the American Revolution: not military logistics, but ideological motivation - namely the cause of free communications. From his personal struggles as a middle-class printer stuck in competitive disadvantage, and from his fledgling experiment with employing a private courier to bypass the imperial postal service, William Goddard would conceive a plan of truly revolutionary scale and scope - the complete replacement of postal service overseen by imperial officials, with an alternative postal service operated by colonial rebels - in every colony where there was sufficient political organization that could be harnessed to the cause of free communications. In February 1774 Goddard rode north, and introduced himself, his grievances, and his bold plan to rebel committees in every major urban center: Philadelphia and New York City; Newport and Providence, Rhode Island; Boston and Salem, Massachusetts; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and New London, Hartford, and New Haven, Connecticut. Everywhere Goddard lambasted the danger of the so-called "Parliamentary"

and “Ministerial” postal service; everywhere he urged the formation of a “Constitutional” and “American” postal service. Everywhere Goddard put free communications - the unfettered passage of letters and newspapers-- on the political agenda. “Every well-wisher to his country,” the rebel committee in Salem, Massachusetts, concurred, “will cheerfully lay hold of an opportunity to arrest the channel of public and private intelligence out of the hands of a power openly inimical to its rights and liberties.”¹⁰



Fig 3. New style Salem postmark (of two recorded), April 1, 1774, associated with William Goddard (dated shortly after Salem’s new patriotic subscription post began service & a few days after Goddard left Salem on his trip to encourage the formation of a new system in opposition to the Parliamentary Post).

The word “arrest” was here used to mean “to stop”; it would soon mean “to imprison.” In other words, the cause of “free” communications in the American Revolution would be more revolutionary than free - more violent seizure of power than neutral principle. First, though, Goddard’s plan would be overwhelmed and sidetracked by other pressing political and personal matters, especially the convening of the Continental Congress in autumn 1774 soon after Goddard returned from his New England tour to Philadelphia, and soon before he himself was briefly imprisoned for debt.¹¹ Yet by April 1775 the colonial legislature of Rhode Island, firmly in the control of rebels rather than loyalists, voted to “join with the other colonies in establishing post offices and post riders.”¹² The legislature surely knew that it was joining something that did not yet exist, since the neighboring colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut would not pass comparable legislation for another month.¹³ Most other colonies waited for the Continental Congress, which re-convened in May 1775, to place its sanction on the idea of “constitutional” postal service - which it would do on July 26, 1775.¹⁴ Thus, nearly a full year before declaring independence, the Continental Congress unceremoniously overthrew the imperial postal service, even as it was still pleading for reconciliation with imperial authorities.



Fig 4. Letter carried privately June 14, 1776, Morristown, NJ to New York City where it entered the Constitutional Post. From August to December 1775, both the Constitutional and Parliamentary Posts operated in NYC, the former using a distinctive “patriotic blue” postmark to distinguish it (4 examples recorded, August 31, 1775 through July 15, 1776).

Rhode Island had already replaced two of the six postmasters in the colony with men sympathetic to the rebel cause. One of those two, Thomas Vernon, the longstanding postmaster of Newport, was soon thereafter arrested for reputed loyalism. In Charleston, South Carolina - to provide just one additional example - the longstanding postmaster was likewise arrested soon after the rebel committee there received word of Congress's action.¹⁵ This wave of arrests throughout the colonies bespoke civil war between rebels and loyalists within the colonies, and caused the rapid collapse of the imperial postal system. By October 1775 the British government decided to shut down the two packet services between London and North America, and to rely instead on military shipping as the way to communicate with the colonial governors. The admiral of the British fleet was directed to "give all proper facility by means of the small vessels under his command to the conveyance of letters and intelligence, in every possible channel of communication."¹⁶

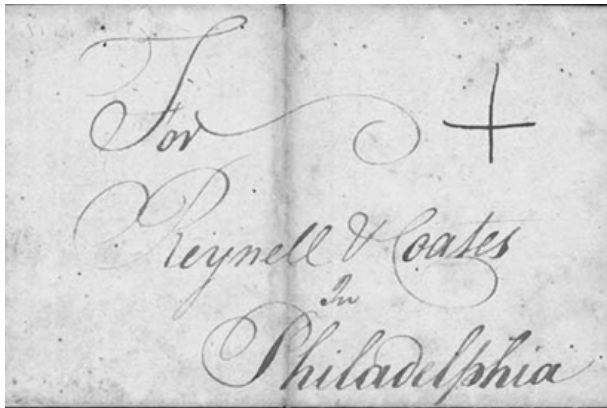


Fig 5. From September 1776 until November 1783, the only official mail from New York City was packet or ship mail to England. However there were informal letter arrangements for intra-colonial mail. This July 21, 1779 letter from New York City to Philadelphia traveled by an as yet undetermined route. The general consensus is that the manuscript cross is a British censor mark.

Collapse of Strategic Asset

Two months after shutting down packet service between Britain and the colonies, British authorities next shut down the imperial postal system in the colonies.¹⁷ By December 1775, almost all of the loyalist postmasters and postriders had been ousted, and almost all mail passing between the various colonies was being inspected by local committees of political rebels. Here was civil war, neighbor against neighbor, and here was war of independence, rebel committees against imperial authorities. William Goddard's plan had, improbably, come to fruition and built the foundation of the communications systems that George Washington would enjoy throughout the war as commander-in-chief. Already by the autumn of 1775, Washington's plantation manager at Mount Vernon could happily report that Washington's letters from Cambridge, Massachusetts, were no longer coming by the "King's Post" but instead by the "Constitutional post."¹⁸ From the vantage of his siege of British forces stationed at Boston, Washington could send letters to Mount Vernon, to Philadelphia, or to virtually anywhere in the rebellious colonies via postal service independent of imperial control. And on July 5, 1776, the day after formally declaring independence from Britain, the Continental Congress instructed the postmaster general to establish an express service between Philadelphia and wherever Washington was headquartered, so that Congress and Washington could correspond "every day" if need be.¹⁹ Washington would be granted not only a set of express couriers but also a 'mobile post office' that went wherever he went.²⁰

In January 1777 the Continental Congress would urge a final purge in the ranks of postmasters and postriders, some of whom were rumored to be "disaffected to the American cause" and yet "through inadvertence" still employed by the so-called "constitutional post."²¹ With respect to postal service, this would be the final phase of civil war, leaving only a

war of independence. For George Washington, everything would now be in place - postal service, express service, and mobile post office - through which he sent more than 12,000 letters before resigning as commander-in-chief in 1783.²²

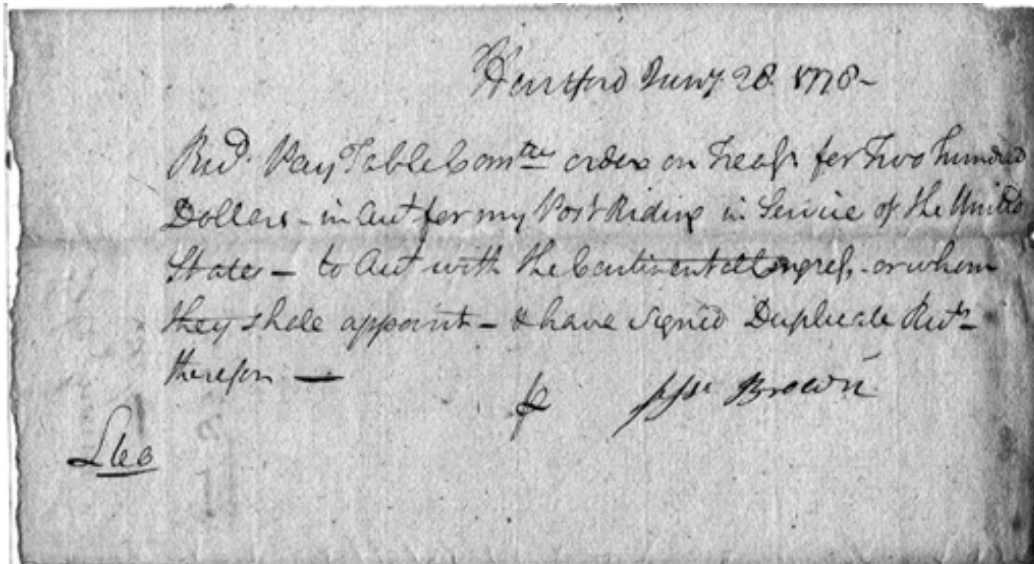
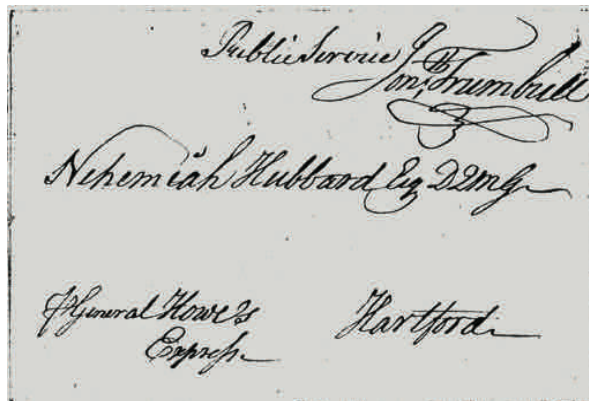


Fig. 6: 1778 Post Rider payroll receipt [8 x 6.5 inches], Hartford, Ct., January 28, 1778, in full: “Rec.^d Pay Table Com^{tes} orders on Treas^r for Two hundred Dollars in Acct for my Post Riding in Service of the United States to Acct with the Continental Congress or whom they shall appoint & have signed Duplicate Rec^{ts} therefor [signed] Jesse Brown.” docketed on verso. Courtesy Frank Reischerl.

Fig. 7: Letter April 30, 1780 sent on “Public Service” under Jonathan Trumbull’s free frank to Washington’s Deputy Quartermaster General, Nehemiah Hubbard, in Hartford by “General Howe’s Express.” Maj. Gen. Robert Howe was based at West Point, operating between Connecticut and the Hudson River. Trumbull was governor of Connecticut and provisioned much of Washington’s army. Courtesy Tim O’Connor.



I want to conclude by drawing attention to a new book about the sudden rise of an anti-slavery movement in Britain during the era of the American Revolution.²³ What makes this work so marvelous is that the author Christopher Brown asks a crucial historical question: How could people in England suddenly shift from treating slavery as a normal and unavoidable feature of the Atlantic world, to seeing it as an abomination, and imagining that they could eradicate it? This comprises the crucial historical problem of explaining any sudden and improbable spread of shared ideological motivations, and the sudden and improbable mobilization of effective political resources we find at the intersection between postal history and the broader master narrative of the American Revolution. We have seen the sudden spread of shared motivations via William Goddard and his fight for free communications: for postal service independent of the imperial government. And we have seen the sudden mobilization of effective resources via the development of postal service and express service at the disposal of military and civilian

authorities in the rebellious colonies. The fight for “free” communications helped fuel a civil war in the colonies, in which loyalist postmasters and postriders were subject to ouster and arrest. The development of effective communications helped an outmatched American army win a war of independence. Postal history, then, lets us interrogate motivation and mobilization, civil war and war of independence, so crucial to our understanding of the American Revolution.

Endnotes

- ¹ Carl Lotus Becker, *The History of Political Parties in the Province of New York, 1760–1776* (Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1909), p. 22.
- ² See Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967); and see Robert A. Gross, *The Minutemen and their World* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1976).
- ³ See Michael A. McDonnell, *The Politics of War: Race, Class, and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- ⁴ In this case an important recent book is Woody Holton, *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007).
- ⁵ Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995.
- ⁶ George Washington to President of Congress, June 6, 1781; in John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799* (39 vols.; Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931-1944), pp. 22:168-169.
- ⁷ Thomas Robinson to Peter Robinson, September 18, 1781; and Bev. Robinson and Geo. Beckwith to Peter Robinson, September 17, 1781; in Harold B. Hancock, ed., “Thomas Robinson: Delaware’s Most Prominent Loyalist,” *Delaware History* 4 (1950-1951): 1-36, 27-28, 28-29. For background, see Roger Kaplan, “The Hidden War: British Intelligence Operations during the American Revolution,” *William and Mary Quarterly* Ser. 3, 47 (1990): 115-138.
- ⁸ *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, February 8, 1774; quoted in Ward L. Miner, *William Goddard, Newspaperman* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1962), p. 114.
- ⁹ *Maryland Journal*, December 30, 1773; quoted in *William Goddard, Newspaperman*, p. 113.
- ¹⁰ Salem committee of correspondence announcement, March 29, 1774; in Peter Force, ed., *American Archives*, Series 4 (6 vols.; Washington, D.C.: M. St. Clair Clarke and Peter Force, 1837-1846), pp. 1:501.
- ¹¹ Continental Congress, October 5, 1774; in Worthington Chauncey Ford, ed., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (34 vols.; Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1904-1937), p. 1:55.
- ¹² Rhode Island General Assembly, April 22, 1775; in John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England* (10 vols.; Providence: A.C. Greene and Brothers, 1856-1865), pp. 7:351-353.
- ¹³ Massachusetts Provincial Congress, May 13, 1775; William Lincoln, ed., *The Journals of Each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775, and of the Committee of Safety* (Boston: Dutton and Wentworth, 1838), pp. 222-223. Connecticut General Assembly, May 1775; J. Hammond Trumbull and Charles J. Hoadly, eds., *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut (1636-1776)* (15 vols.; Hartford: Brown and Parsons, 1850-1890), pp. 15:38-39.
- ¹⁴ Continental Congress, July 26, 1775; *Journals of the Continental Congress* 2:208.
- ¹⁵ William Gerard De Brahm to Lord Dartmouth, September 18, 1775; in Historical Manuscripts Commission, *The Manuscripts of the Earl of Dartmouth* (3 vols.; London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1887-1896), p. 2:381.
- ¹⁶ John Pownall to Governors Tryon (NY), Franklin (NJ), Penn (PA), and Martin (NC), October 4, 1775; Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, 8:635. All four of these governors would soon be overthrown.
- ¹⁷ Francis Dashwood announcement, December 25, 1775; in *American Archives*, Ser. 4, p. 4:453.
- ¹⁸ Lund Washington to George Washington, October 15, October 22, 1775; in W. W. Abbot, et al., eds., *The Papers of George Washington: Revolutionary War Series* (15 vols. to date; Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1985-2006), pp. 2:172, 219.
- ¹⁹ Continental Congress, July 5, 1776; *Journals of the Continental Congress* 5:522.

- ²⁰ See Tench Tilghman to James Tilghman, September 25, 1776; in Oswald Tilghman, ed., *Memoirs of Lieut. Col. Tench Tilghman, Secretary and Aid to Washington* (Albany: J. Munsell, 1876), pp. 139-140.
- ²¹ Continental Congress, January 11, 1777; *Journals of the Continental Congress* 7:29-30.
- ²² See Arthur S. Lefkowitz, *George Washington's Indispensable Men: The 32 Aides-de-Camp Who Helped Win American Independence* (Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 2003).
- ²³ See Christopher Leslie Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

Editors' Afterword

Konstantin Dierks, an Assistant Professor in History at Indiana University, Bloomington, delivered a talk at the 2006 Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History, called "The Hazards of Military and Civilian Communications in Revolutionary America." His book, *In My Power: Letter Writing and Communications in Early America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press) will be available April 29, and reviewed in our October issue.

William Goddard's part in the mail options of revolutionary America is debated by postal historians. Richard John:

(Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse, Harvard University 1995, page 292 note 6) "The affinities between the American and British postal system have been challenged by a number of historians who stress the role of maverick printer William Goddard in setting American postal policy on a bold new course. Everyone agrees that in 1774 Goddard briefly established a subscription-based postal system to compete head-on with the Crown's. But questions remain about the influence of Goddard's venture on American postal policy. According to historian Daniel J. Boorstin, American policymakers used Goddard's abortive experiment to 'free' the American postal system 'from the domination of the government' by putting on a 'private enterprise' basis that was fundamentally different from the British model (p. 340). Boorstin's conclusion, however, is vulnerable on two counts. First, the Continental Congress chose Franklin rather than Goddard to head the new enterprise, which, given Franklin's prior involvement in the royal postal system, even Boorstin admits was an expression of its 'conservatism'; and, second, there is no evidence that Goddard ever sought to administer his postal system as a 'private enterprise' or, for that matter, that he envisioned it could remain for any length of time under nongovernmental control. Indeed, it is by no means certain that Goddard ever contemplated permitting printers to admit into the mail newspapers intended for ordinary subscribers, even though, as a newspaper printer, Goddard stood to benefit from such a policy himself. Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Americans: The Colonial Experience* (New York: Random House, 1958), pp. 338-340"

After the war, Goddard was sent to survey the length of the post road from Maine to North Carolina which the British, as early as the 1710 Act of Queen Anne, recognized as a strategic sign of their claims of colonial empire *vis a vis* French and Spanish in North America. Goddard's influence on the postal system of the new Republic might not be direct, but postal historians are wise to place newspapers and their nation-forging power at the center of the first postal policy.

Professor Dierks' assertion, that George Washington's multi-faceted and flexible communications arrangements were a powerful strategic advantage over the British, introduces the "Chain of Expresses" - exemplifying the value of news to the commander in chief - which is a perspective absent in Alex L. Ter Braake's treatment of *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America 1628-1790* (APRL 1975). John S. Olenkiewicz has invited us to revisit his thorough treatment of the Chains of Expresses, which first appeared in an article in the *Collectors' Club Philatelist* of May/June 2000. His research concentrated

on reading Washington's voluminous correspondence to find references to expresses, and on finding ancillary letters in other collections. He has added some material which follows, especially around the discussion of the Southern Express, which heightens our appreciation for the concern over celerity and security of these extra-postal arrangements.

Thanks to Ed Siskin, John Olenkiewicz, Tim O'Connor, Bernard Biales and Frank Reischerl who have helped with this treatment.

Washington's Chains of Expresses by John S. Olenkiewicz

John S. Olenkiewicz, in "George Washington's Chain of Expresses" for the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, detailed the interest, effort and expense in establishing lines of staged express riders in order to convey news of the distant movements of the British and to co-ordinate the arrival of, and communication with, the French fleet and military.

Essentially two lines were established 1780-1782 connecting headquarters in Westchester County, above New York City, east through Connecticut to Newport, Rhode Island, or Boston; and south through Philadelphia eventually into Virginia, in anticipation of the Battle of Yorktown: the Washington Chain and the Jefferson Chain.

Appropriate additions to the 2000 article:

In a November 1780 letter to Colonel Elisha Sheldon, commandant of the 2nd Regiment, Continental Light Dragoons, Washington ventilated his suspicion that the security of his eastern chain of expresses had been breached.

The Covers of Most of the dispatches that have lately come from the Count de Rochambeau to me, by the Chain of Expresses, have been so broken, that it would have been an easy matter to have taken out the inclosures and discovered the contents. Had this been the case once or twice only, I should have attributed it to accident, but from the frequency of the thing, and no other Packets being broken but those of the Counts; I am led to suspect foul play at some of the Stages. It may perhaps be impossible to discover it, if it is so, but to prevent its going on, the safest way is to relieve all your present stationary Dragoons by a like number, and do the same every three or four Weeks. I would wish you to endeavour to find out whether there is really any thing in what I suspect.

P.S. Major Tallmadge will have occasion for a detachment of your dismounted Dragoons to execute a piece of Business intrusted to him.¹

Soon after this chain was re-established cooperatively by Dragoons and French Hussars, Washington ventured to secure the southern chain (earlier than reported in the 2000 article), laying out his reasons for going to such great lengths to gain a little news. In February 1781, he wrote to Brigadier General Louis Le Beque Du Portail:

I directed the Qr. Mr. Genl. (Colo Pickering) a few days ago, to establish a Chain of Expresses between this and Philadelphia for the speedy transportation of Letters. Write by these and request the Qr. Mr. in Phila. to forward the letter with all possible dispatch as I shall wait your answer and govern my departure by it.

Tench Tilghman, directed by Washington, wrote this same day (February 21) to Colonel Pickering, Quartermaster General of the Continental Army:

The inclosed, as you may suppose, requires the utmost dispatch. There were some time ago relays of Expresses stationed between Govr. Jefferson and the president of Congress. If that Chain is yet kept up, it will be the speediest conveyance. If it is not, His Excellency requests you to send off a trusty Messenger immediately with the letter and give him orders upon the Quarter Masters on the Route for a change of Horses and Men if Necessary.²

On July 13, 1781, in a letter to the Marquis de Lafayette in Virginia, Washington wrote of the utmost importance that a Chain of Expresses should be opened to Virginia.

In the present situation of Affairs, it is of the utmost importance that a communication by a Chain of Expresses should be opened between this Army and that in Virginia. They are already established from hence to Philada. and if there are none from you to Philada. you will be pleased to take measures for having it done. You will also endeavour to establish such a communication with the Coast as to be able to know whether any troops are detached by sea from Lord Cornwallis's Army, for it is more than probable that if he finds himself baffled in over running Virginia he will take a strong post at Portsmouth [or Williamsburg] and reinforce New York or south Carolina. Should any detachment be made you will transmit me the earliest intelligence.³

Notes

¹ Washington, George, Writings 1745-1799, John C Fitzpatrick, ed. (39 Vol's. Washington, 1932 to 1944).

² George Washington Papers, Library of Congress.

³ Fitzpatrick op cit.

Cover Illustration

Our cover shows an oil painting on canvas, 24 x 20 inches, by David G. Blythe (1815-1865) purchased in 1942 by the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, and reproduced shortly thereafter on a post card by Arthur Jaffe Heliochrome Co., New York. The title is "Post Office" and it depicts, in caricature, a scene of mayhem at the General Delivery window of the old Post Office in Pittsburgh around 1859. This was, of course, before free delivery in U.S. cities, let alone in Pittsburgh, and postal patrons often were subject to the potential crowding and harrassment of General Delivery.

Blythe had been born to Scottish immigrants in a forest clearing near East Liverpool, Ohio, and apprenticed at the age of sixteen to a wood carver in Pittsburgh. He enlisted as a ship's carpenter in the U.S. Navy and witnessed the bombardment of Vera Cruz by the French. He returned home to earn a living as a portrait painter but continued to work with wood and, in 1846, carved a wooden stature of General LaFayette for the court house in Uniontown, LaFayette County, Pennsylvania. His painting career continued there as tavern amusement, but matured in his sojourn in Pittsburgh. Blythe also wrote poems, under the name "Boots," including a Carriers' Address.

His grand painting was a panorama of the Allegheny Mountains from Albemarle County, Virginia to Ligonier Valley in Pennsylvania - exhibited on three massive rollers. It was claimed that audiences took fright at the realistic treatment of thunderstorms. The backers of the project failed, the panorama was sold and apparently ended its life cut up for backdrops to Trimble's variety shows in Pittsburgh.

After this setback, and the death of his young wife, Blythe's artistic vision darkened to more grotesque caricature. This scene shows the pickpockets, newsboy and detritus, but also the very human passion for receiving mail - and for reading it immediately, even on the post office steps.

(See James Hadden, *A History of Uniontown* 1913; Dorothy Miller, *The Life and Works of David G. Blythe*, University of Pittsburg Press 1950; Bruce W. Chambers, "David Gilmour Blythe (1815-65): An Artist at Urbanization's Edge" Ph.D. Diss. University of Pennsylvania 1974.)

General Delivery

by George McGowan

When I was in college (in the late 1960s), my fraternity had a custom of publishing a list of summer addresses. One of the brothers listed his address as “General Delivery, Rocky Mountains.” It received a few laughs, however we all knew exactly what he meant.

General Delivery is, and was, used to send mail to transients or those lacking a permanent address. To a traveling salesman in days gone by General Delivery was an important business asset. General Delivery would have been the address of the young man who took the advice of Horace Greeley to “go west...”

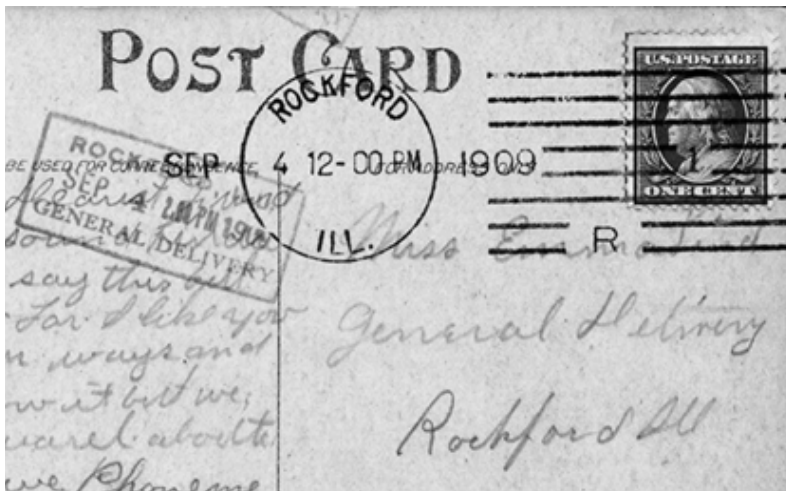
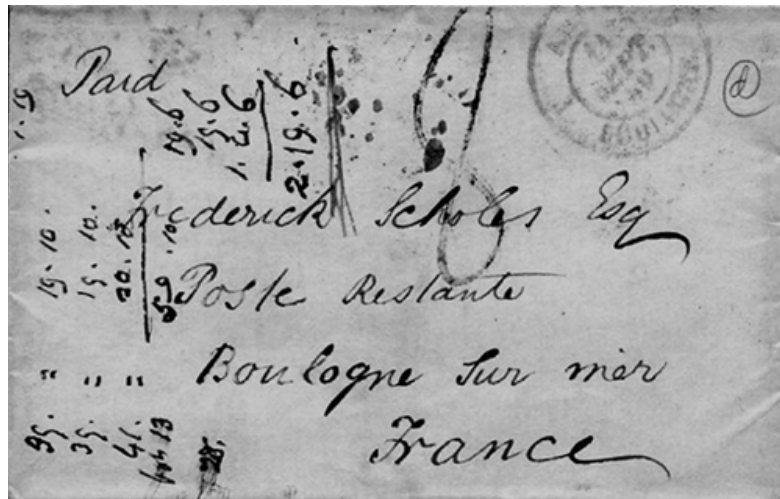


Fig. 1: Postcard addressed to a single woman, with a Rockford Time-Cummins machine postmark SEP 4 12-00 pm 1909, to Rockford General Delivery; rectangular handstamp: “Rockford, Ill / SEP 4 1:00 PM 1909 / General Delivery” shows how quickly the piece was processed.

General Delivery mail would have been held at the Post Office for a particular period, and, if unclaimed, would have been treated under existing postal regulations. In England and some of the British Colonies, the phrase “To Be Called For” is the equivalent of General Delivery; in Germany, “Post Lagernd.” Canada used a bi-lingual marking, see Figure 3. But the French phrase “Poste Restante” came to be accepted as the international norm (quoted in English usage by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as early as 1768). In the 1880 U.S. Postmaster General Report there is a tabulation provided by the Superintendent of Foreign Mails of the regulations regarding “the length of time for retaining in the offices of destination unclaimed

Fig. 2: Stampless folded letter mailed in 1839 from Glasgow, Scotland to Boulogne sur Mer Poste Restante. Since all mail was to be picked up at the post office it is unusual to see general delivery explicitly specified in this period.



correspondence addressed “poste restante.” Of the 54 countries listed, Venezuela was the most generous and would hold mail for 2 years; Labuan was the least specific: “until there is little or no hope that it can be delivered.” Hong Kong extended 3 months to 4 if addressed to persons on board sailing ships, as Ceylon extended 1 month to 3 - but only addressed to persons on vessels *expected to arrive*. Great Britain and Germany kept domestic Poste Restante for 1 month but foreign for 2 months; Portugal was more liberal with domestic correspondence, holding it for 6 months instead of 3 for international.

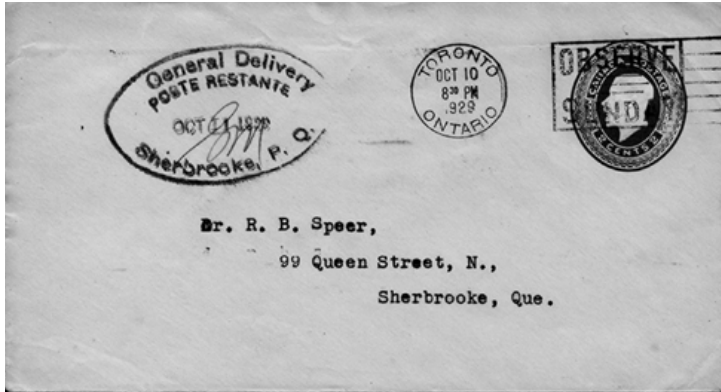
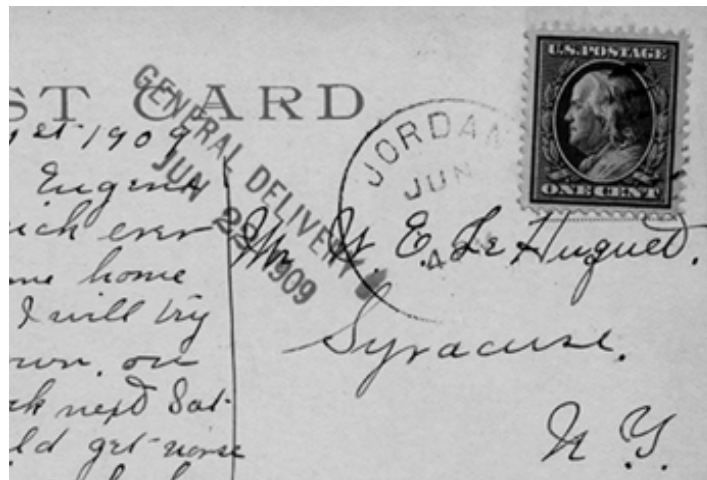


Fig: 3: 1929 letter from Toronto to Sherbrooke, October 10, remanded to General Delivery October 11, handstamped with the Canadian bi-lingual general delivery marking.

The regulations in the U.S. for handling unclaimed Poste Restante fell first under the “Dead, Unclaimed, and Request Letters” - where undelivered letters were to be advertised in a newspaper or street broadside after 30 days and, if foreign, in the language of the addressee (1866). But, by the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1879, Poste Restante letters were to be held for 60 days before being advertised (a service that carried a one cent per letter charge). These longer-held letters had to be identified as “Specially held for delivery.” By the 1887 Regulations, registered Poste Restante mail could be held as long as 3 months. By 1902, Regulations add that: “letters without street number or box number shall be treated as transient letters and placed in the General Delivery.” See Figure 4.

Fig: 4: Post card from Jordan NY January 21, 1909 to Syracuse NY with an insufficient address, placed in General Delivery / JUN 22 1909.



The U.S. Post Office Department showed monumental effort to make sure each and every piece of mail was treated with responsible, timely and efficient handling: advertisement in local newspapers, directory searches, querying of carriers (Called Out) and other like attempts before being sent to the Dead Letter Office, or in the case of picture post cards, discarded. See Figure 5.

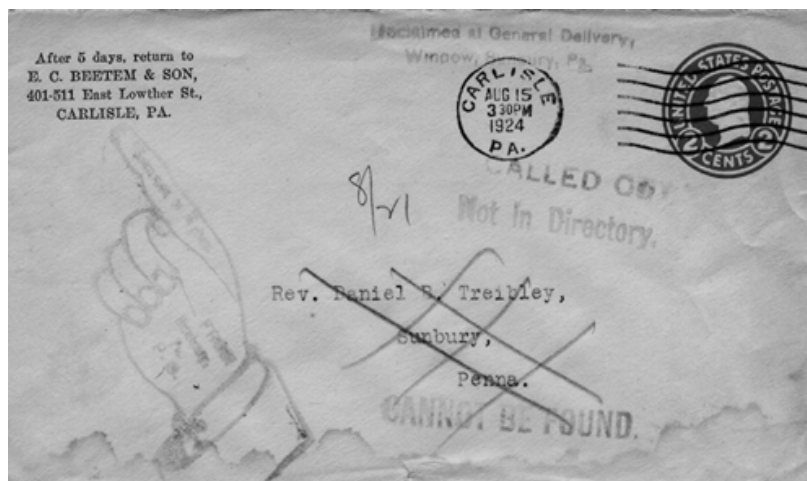


Fig. 5: A letter addressed to Rev. Daniel S Treibley, Sunbury, Penna, postmarked Aug. 15, 1924 from Carlisle Pa. Backstamp placed in the General Delivery Aug, 16, 1924. Auxiliary markings; "Not in Directory," "CANNOT BE FOUND," "unclaimed at General Delivery / Window, Sunbury, Pa.," "CALLED OUT," "Return to Sender from Sunbury Pa P.O." within a pointing finger.

Postal officials surely would have considered the additional costs of General Delivery. Large Post Offices had from one to several General Delivery clerks. In 1888, Los Angeles, California had two General Delivery windows for Men and a separate General Delivery window for Ladies. See Figure 6.

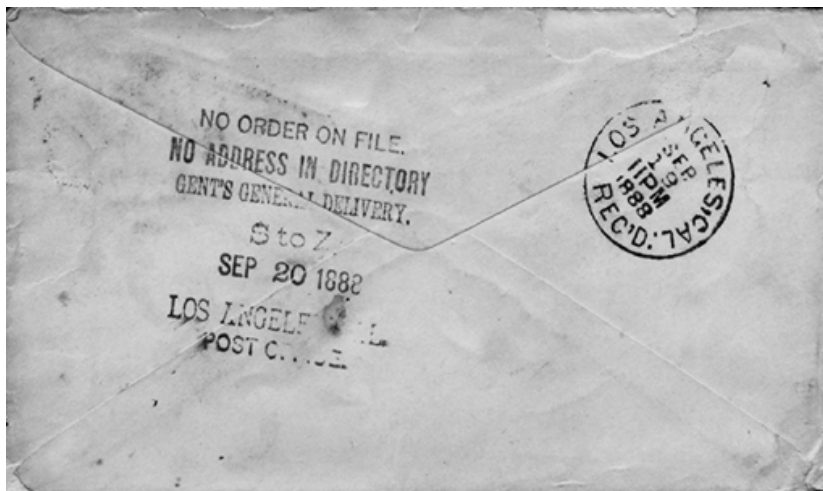


Fig. 6: A letter addressed to a gentleman with the last name falling between S and Z ended up in Los Angeles' "Gent's General Delivery" on September 20, 1888.

Extra furniture, workspace, record keeping, etc. all contributed to the overall expense of running a Post Office. However, in the United States there has never been a fee charged for General Delivery (though the fee for advertising letters might be applied). Not until the 20th century is there evidence of a fee being charged for Poste Restante service, domestic or foreign, anywhere. In the 1996 Sept/Oct issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Peter A. S. Smith presented an extensive study of which countries charged for General Delivery services. He noted that Italy was the first to charge a fee for General Delivery in 1915, followed by France in 1920, then Belgium, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, San Marino, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Argentina, Portugal, Luxembourg and Egypt. He also noted that, along with the United States, Great Britain and Germany have never charged for the General Delivery service. See Figures 7 to 10.



Fig. 7: Letter from Cleveland, Ohio to Belgium, 1927, addressed to Charleroi Poste Restante, with fee paid via postage due stamps.

Fig. 8: Postcard from Yugoslavia to France, 1965, addressed to Paris Poste Restante with fee paid via postage due stamp.

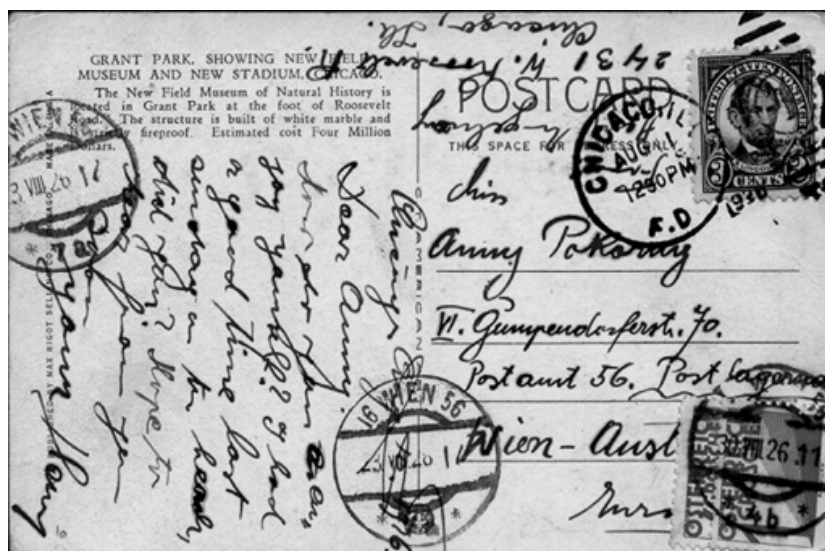
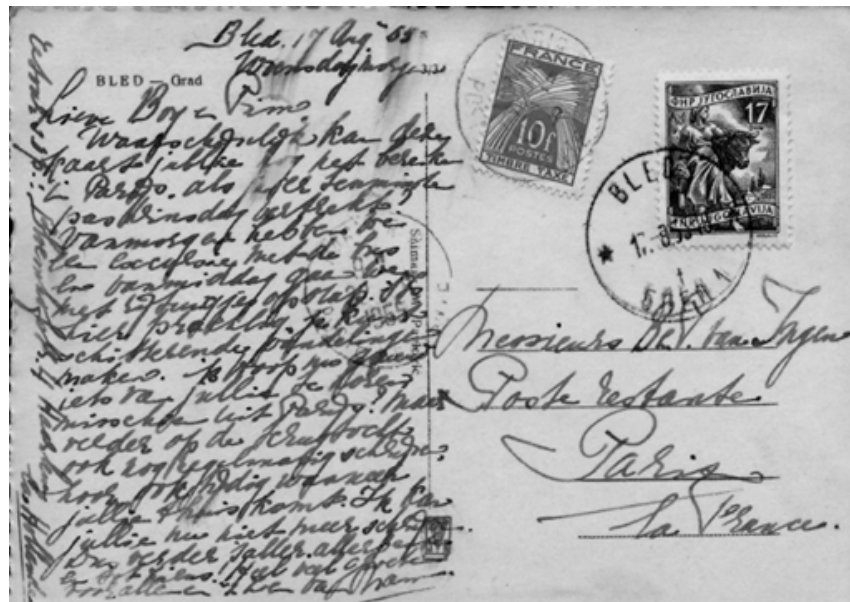


Fig. 9: Postcard from Chicago to Austria, 1926, addressed to Wien Post Lagernd, with fee paid via two, overlapping, postage due stamps.

Fig. 10: Letter from Jersey, an English Channel Island, to Greece, 1931, addressed to Athens Poste Restante, with fee paid via a postage due stamp of the 1930 series.



In the December 16, 2002 issue of the *Stamp Collector*, David L. Straight essayed the fees charged on Poste Restante, and added China to the countries that charged fees. 1989 correspondence between J. Lewis Blackburn, then president of The China Stamp Society, and Walt Cole, a California collector of U.S. Prexies, revealed that China included 6 rules for Poste Restante in their 1899 postal guide but mentioned no fee. The revised postal tariffs of June 1936, November 1941 and November 1946 showed that the fee per piece both domestic and international was the same as the domestic letter rate. So that the 5 cent fee paid on the August 9, 1940 letter in Figure 11 is correct, as was the 8 cent fee paid on the November 11, 1940 letter illustrated by Mr. Straight, the rate having been raised on August 26. Shanghai and much of the eastern part of China was under Japanese occupation from 1937 until war's end in 1945. The Japanese permitted the Nationalist Post Office to operate offices in the Shanghai-Nanking Central China area, hence the Nationalist stamp.



Fig. 11: Letter sent August 9, 1940 from San Francisco to Shanghai Poste Restante. A straight-line handstamp records receipt on September 2; circular datestamp of September 8 cancels the 5 cent stamp paying the fee.

In the March 1998 issue of the *American Philatelist*, Rick Gartland entertained readers with his saga of receiving mail via Poste Restante in Tibet (1 yuan per piece charge). Other countries to be added to the fee-charging list are Lebanon (see Figure 12) and Venezuela (see Figure 13).



Fig. 12: Letter sent February 8, 1950 from Peoria, Illinois c/o General delivery, Beyrouth, Lebanon. On April 24, a bi-lingual 'unclaimed' sticker was applied and cancelled with the Beyrouth datestamp.

Fig. 12a: On the reverse, a receiving roller cancel of March 7; a datestamp of March 8 & an official handstamp cancel the 5 piaster postage due stamp paying the Poste Restante fee.

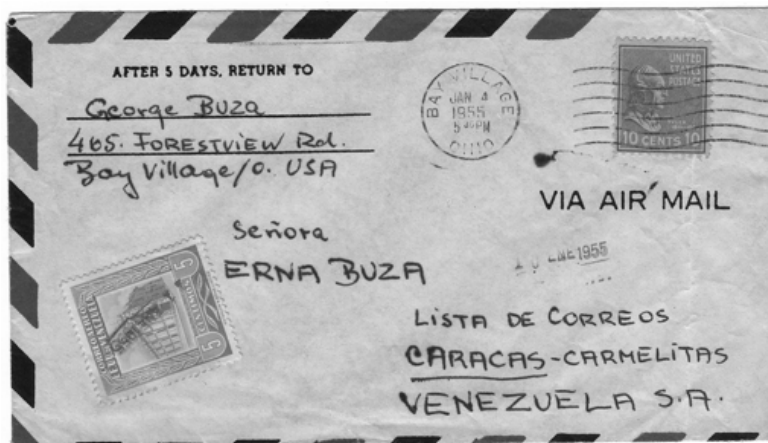


Fig. 13: Letter sent January 4, 1955 from Bay Village, Ohio to Venezuela: Caracas Lista de Correos. Straight-line handstamps indicate receiving of January 10, and placement in general delivery on January 11, the latter cancelling a 5 centimo stamp paying the Poste Restante fee.

Mr. Smith, in the aforementioned article, pointed out that the Poste Restante fee was an individual matter for the country concerned, and there appeared to be no Universal Postal Union regulations that applied to it. The UPU at its 1906 Rome meeting reinforced that the sender of registered Poste Restante mail was accepting the risk that the wrong person might receive it - there being no good way for postmasters to prove that identification documents weren't faked (page 54, note 15, C.J. Beelenkamp *Les Lois Postales Universelles* 1910). A separate note extended this risk to money orders sent Poste Restante (page 345). At the 1924 Stockholm meeting, it was declared: "countries of destination are authorized to collect a special charge in accordance with their own legislation on articles addressed to general delivery" (page 10, USPOD *Universal Postal Union Convention of Stockholm* 1926). At the 1934 Cairo meeting, this was amended to say that the special charges for Poste Restante should be the same for foreign as for domestic service (page 26, USPOD *Universal Postal Union Convention of Cairo*, 1934).

George McGowan is a retired teacher and long time stamp collector. Among other areas, he collects stamps and postal history of Newfoundland. George is active in upstate New York clubs and shows, and is proud of his 25 year association with the APS.

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 occupy a series of "Highway Post Office" articles by William Keller. Part 1 deals with Beeville & McAllen HPO, Part 2 concerns Alice & McAllen and Mathis & McAllen HPOs and Part 3 features San Antonio & Corpus Christi H.P.O. Schedules, maps and postmarks are illustrated. *Trans. Post. Coll.* 60, Part 1: No. 1 (November-December 2008); Part 2: No. 2 (January-February 2009); Part 3: No. 3 (March-April 2009).

Maritime Mail

"Waterway R.P.O. Accidents Fiscal Years 1893-1905" are listed in information abstracted by author Fred MacDonald from the Railway Mail Service Casualty list. *Trans. Post. Coll.* 60, No. 3 (March-April 2009).

Military Mail

Illinois Military tract of 1812, from the point of view of speculators, was the subject of a 2004 *La Posta* article. The present article, by Jack Hilbing, deals with "Settlement of the Military Bounty Tract of Illinois." Three Quincy, IL covers, 1835- 38, and a Vandalia cover, 1824, are illustrated, *Ill. Post. Hist.* 30 No. 1 (February 2009).

"Banks Division-Last Reported Day of Use" by Jim Cate illustrates the November 27, 1862 cover and gives a list of earliest and latest dates of each of the known Banks Division postmark types. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

Civil War letter (1864) from "An Officer with the 39th USCT" (United States Colored Troops) is reproduced and the background and military record of the officer is recounted. Author is Rick Leiby. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 36 No. 4 (November 2008).

Clinton, Tenn. letter of 1945, sent airmail to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, leads to an extensive discussion of "'Across the lines' Mail During WW-II" by L. Steve Edmondson. *Tenn. Posts* 12, No. 3 (December 2008).

Confederate Soldier's letters and movement of his unit during the War Between the States, 1862-3, are the subject of "An Attorney Meets His Destiny at Vicksburg The Military travels of Captain L. D. Bradley of Waul's Texas Legion," by Peter B. Tiller. *Confed. Phil.* 54, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

Naval service of a paymaster aboard a Civil War gunboat is chronicled in extracts from a correspondence of 1863-4. "Chronicles of a Civil War Gunboat Sailor" by Michael Dattolico. *La Posta* 40, No. 1 (February-March 2009).

USS Independence, Princeton and Belleau Wood are the subject of "New Jersey Built: 13 Fast Aircraft Carriers that served in the United States Navy between 1926 and 2009, Part II" by Lawrence B. Brennan. USS Cowpens, Monterey and Langley occupy Part III. *NJPH Part II:* 36, No. 4 (November 2008); *Part III:* 37, No. 1 (February 2009).

V-Mail usages from Chicago, New York and San Francisco add new dates to earlier articles by Robert Stendel, author of "V-Mail Updates" (1943-5). *Ill. Post. Hist.* 29 No. 4 (November 2008).

"Vichy French Internment Camp de Noe" by Jeffrey Shapiro illustrates a cover addressed to the Camp and censored in Bermuda. Origin is New York City, 1941. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Ocean Mail

"A Sea Captain's Mail" by Michael Dattolico reviews a correspondence addressed to a maritime person throughout his career and after, 1844-99. Several covers are shown, but the emphasis is on the content rather than the postal history. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

"Mail Between the United States and St. Pierre and Miquelon" by David D' Alessandris lists 19 covers from U.S. and 13 to the U.S., 1845-75 with rate analysis and some illustrations. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

Part paid U.S.-Spain mail of 1869-72 is dealt with in "10c 1869 Covers to Spain 'Paid only to England' including the Earliest known use of the 10c 1869 stamp" by Michael Laurence. Markings are analyzed. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

"Resumption of Postal Service to Liberated Countries 1944-1946," two articles by Louis Fiset, make the point that delivery of certain types of mail (e.g., picture post cards and business mail) was not immediately resumed. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Sea post cover of 1932, franked with 2c (U.S.) 1932 adhesive is charged 8c postage due on arrival in New York. Author Charles A. Fricke addresses the question "Why was cover mailed at sea assessed 8c postage due?" *Linn's* 81, No. 4181 (December 15, 2008).

Transatlantic cover from Philadelphia to Prussia (1849), franked with two 5c 1847 adhesives is analyzed. The adhesives pay only the U.S. internal part of the U.S.-Great Britain 48c (double) rate. Other rates and "Remarkable Markings" are analyzed, including the Philadelphia 6 handstamp, tying the stamps. Author is Harvey Mirsky. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

Post Office History

Charles E. Smith, Postmaster General 1898-1902, is the subject of "The Postmasters General of the United States XXXIX" by Daniel Y. Meschter. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

Henry Clay Payne, Postmaster General 1902-1904, is the subject of "The Postmasters General of the United States XL" by Daniel Y. Meschter. *La Posta* 40, No. 1 (February-March 2009).

Postal Markings

Auxiliary markings dealing with mail addressed to private mailboxes and returned to sender are illustrated in "Very Modern Postal History, Part 3" by Randy Stehle, *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

Flag machine cancels are illustrated in "Postal History" by Richard B. Graham. A brief history of the markings by various makers is given, 1895-1904. *Linn's* 82, No. 4188 (February 2, 2009).

"Late Fancy Cancels, Early 1900s," author not specified, illustrates nine killers, ranging from an anchor to letters to various types of stars, used 1900-11. Towns are identified. *U.S.C.C. News* 29, No. 3 (August 2008).

"Metal Duplex Cancels Used at U.S. Postal Sub-stations" by Dennis H. Pack contains a census of substations using such markings and of changes in designation, discontinuance, etc., 1894-1904. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

"Straight-line Markings Used at US Postal Sub-stations" by Dennis H. Pack contains a

census of such markings and a number of illustrations, 1893-1910. *La Posta* 40, No. 1 (February-March 2009).

Rates

“A UPU Printed Matter Rate Anomaly, 1949 to 1953” refers to the fact that domestic printed matter rates were higher than the international rates, during that period. Examples of two rates are illustrated by author Dixon Preston. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

“Airmail from Europe to Siam with 4 1/2-Cent Prexies” by Howard Lee illustrates a 1939 cover from New York to Siam and discusses alternative rates and routes. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Registered cover to England (1895) with return receipt requested is analyzed in “Modern U.S. Mail” by Tony Wawrukiewicz. The author uses the errata supplied for his books with Henry W. Beecher on his web site. *Linn’s* 81, No. 4176 (November 10, 2008).

Tasmania did not enter the Universal Postal Union until 1891. A convention rate of 12c per 1/2 oz. with the U.S. was signed in 1886. An “Unusual Cover from New Jersey to Tasmania in 1890” shows the rate, in this article by John Shepherd. *NJPH* 36, No. 4 (November 2008).

Third class single piece 1.5c rates: per 2 oz., of 1925-49, and per oz. of 1949-52, are illustrated in two articles “Third-Class, Single Piece: Syphilis Specimen,” and “Third-Class, Books, Catalogs, and Material for Planting” by Howard Lee. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Two-cent intra-city rate, discontinued in 1944, left a surplus of 2c stamped envelopes. In “UC8 and the Prexie Issue (and A Little Postal History),” author Bill Geijsbeek tells the story of how the stamped envelopes were revalued or uprated with stamps. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Routes

1854 Letter forwarded from San Francisco to Fort Yuma is sent around Lower (Baha) California and up a short portion of the Colorado River. An analysis, cover illustration and map is given in “Steamboat Mail on the Colorado River” by Richard Frajola. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

“Canal and Riverboat Travel” by Tom Clarke contains a description of the development of canal transportation, 1791-1847. Letters illustrated contain descriptions of canal travel, but no postal markings indicate this mode of transportation. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

The California trail: Forts of Idaho, Utah, Nevada and California, is the subject of “Securing Manifest Destiny: Forts of the West, 1840-1890 Part 3” by Richard W. Helbock. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

Rural Free Delivery

Detroit & Algonac RFD, the well known Steamboat RFD, is the subject of “Rural Free Delivery Steamboat service” by George McGowan. Portions of the contract with the Post Office Department, the postal marking and a picture of the boat are presented. *Post. Hist. J.* No. 142 (February 2009).

Stamps on Cover

Confederate States two-cent red Jackson adhesives (two copies) are seen on one (circular rate wrapper) paying printed matter origin and forwarding, 1864. James L.D. Monroe, “Double ‘Red Jacks’,” *Confed. Phil.* 54, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

Dollar value stamps of the 1922, 1938 and 1970s series are shown on package labels and express mail, as examples of high value adhesives used on convenient size covers. Richard B. Graham, “Postal History,” *Linn’s* 82, No. 4184 (January 5, 2009).

Usages

- “Air-surface-Air Postcard Rate(s?) Revisited” by Bob Hohertz contains an illustration of a 1947 post card rated for airmail in the U.S., surface mail to Europe, then airmail within Europe. Sweden is the destination country. *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).
- Airmail crash cover of May 30, 1947 is analyzed and the details of the event are recounted. Steve B. Davis, “5c DC-4 Skymaster Crash Cover,” *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).
- Money order procedures are explained by illustrations of money order applications, advice of money order forms and a page from a money order cash book (1894-1900) in “The M.O.B. in Texas” by Tom Koch. Postal uses of money order business handstamps are also shown. *Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J.* 33 No. 4 (November 2008).
- Registration of mail began officially on July 1, 1855. Examples of mail before that, marked and tracked on accompanying letterbills, are illustrated in “Unofficial Registration of Mail in the U.S.: 1845-1855” by James W. Milgram. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).
- Special delivery covers that were forwarded form the subject of “Modern U.S. Mail” by Tony Wawrukiewicz. Two examples, 1903 and 1933, are illustrated. *Linn’s* 82, No. 4189 (February 9, 2009).
- Wreck mail from the Danish steamship Vidar is discussed in an article by Lawrence Sherman. Because of the images on the adhesives on a salvaged cover shown, the article is titled “John Adams and Thomas Jefferson Survive Sinking of Their Ship by a German Submarine.” *Prexie Era* No. 43 (Fall 2008).

Geographical Locations

Arkansas

- “Napoleon, Arkansas - Unlisted misspelling ‘PAIE’ in CSA stampless rate marking” by Bruce Roberts features illustrations with the correct spelling and with the “error,” which is somewhat unclear because it is struck over another marking. *Confed. Phil.* 54, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

California

- “Black Diamond Revisited” by Victor Kuil locates the town and illustrates an oval postmark and two killers of the town, used in 1870. *U.S.C.C. News* 29, No. 5 (February 2009).
- Los Angeles early postal history is detailed, including maps, pictures, covers (beginning 1870), postmaster, volume of mail and other information. “The Development of the Los Angeles Postal System Through August 1909” by Randy Stehle. *La Posta* 40, No. 1 (February-March 2009).
- San Bernardino & Los Angeles R.P.O., the last electric interurban in the U.S., is the subject of “News from the Cities” by David A. Gentry. Postmarks of 1947 and 1950 are illustrated. *Trans. Post. Coll.* 60, No. 1 (November-December 2008).
- San Francisco used a handstamp in lieu of an exchange label immediately following the earthquake of April 18, 1906. Discussion and illustrations are given by author Nicholas A. Lombardi in “The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Registry Exchange Handstamp,” *C. C. Phil.* 88, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

Colorado

- “Colorado Postal Encyclopedia - Weld County” by William H. Bauer contains historical sketches, postmasters’ dates and tracings of markings (1862-present). A similar article concerns Pitkin County (1880-present). *Colo. Post. Hist.* 24 No. 2 (October 2008).

Florida

- “Florida Airmail Crash Covers” by Edward R. Joyce contains illustrations of auxiliary markings on nine covers, 1929-55. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 16, No. 1 (January 2009).

Beauregard, Florida was established in 1862 as a name change of one of two Bartow, Floridas (the one in Jackson County). The only known cover, along with some Bartow covers, is illustrated in "Beauregard, Florida Confederate Usage" by Deane R. Briggs. *Confed. Phil.* 54, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

"Iola Pre-Civil War Usage" by Deane R. Briggs illustrates an 1858 cover which the author asserts is the first non-archival antebellum cover reported from that town. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 16, No. 1 (January 2009).

Knox Hill, Sopchoppy, Centreville, New Port, Manatee and Bristol are the destinations of the "Confederate covers to small Florida towns" illustrated by author Deane R. Briggs. A cover to Fort Myers, which had no Confederate post office, is also shown. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 16, No. 1 (January 2009).

Southeast Florida's "Hurricane Strife" is the subject of an article by Tom Clarke. Hurricane destruction in 1906, 1926, 1928, 1935, 1947, 1960, 1992 and 2005 is touched on with a few pictures and covers shown. *La Posta* 40, No. 1 (February-March 2009).

Hawaii

Hawaii mail to the eastern U.S. was expedited by forwarding via Mexico. "'Via Hawaii': Hawaii's 'Express' Route 1835-1848" by Fred Gregory contains a discussion including Honolulu and Mexican forwarding agents. Part 1 of a series. *C. C. Phil.* 88, No. 2 (March-April 2009).

Illinois

"Chicago Advertised Letter Lists" appeared in four newspapers, 1834-67. Author Leonard Piskiewicz reproduces an ad in an 1893 newspaper indicating that unclaimed letter lists were going to appear in *The Saturday Mail*, which he has been unable to locate. *Ill. Post. Hist.* 29 No. 4 (November 2008).

Chicago Assistant Postmaster and later the first Railway Mail Service Superintendent, George B. Armstrong is the writer of "A George Armstrong Letter" concerning post office forms from a printer in 1861. Author Leonard Piskiewicz offers background. *Ill. Post. Hist.* 29 No. 4 (November 2008).

Chicago North Clark St. & Lincoln Avenue street car R.P.O. used two varieties of handstamp 1895-6, as illustrated in "News From the Cities" by David Gentry. *Trans. Post. Coll.* 60, No. 3 (March-April 2009).

Chicago's North Clark Street (street car) R.P.O. used a very unusual red handstamp during December 1898. Only one copy was known, causing some doubt as to its authenticity until now, when David A. Gentry announces a second example. "News from the Cities," *Trans. Post. Coll.* 60, No. 2 (January-February 2009).

Iowa

"A Census of the 1851-57 Stamps on Iowa Covers" by Jim Petersen lists 315 Iowa towns known to have postmarked covers with this issue. 24 covers are illustrated. *Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull.* No. 247 (Oct., Nov., Dec., 2008).

Kentucky

Laurel County towns, with historical and post office information and illustrations of a few postmarks, are the subject of "The Post Offices of Laurel County, Kentucky Part 2" by Robert Rennick. *La Posta* 39, No. 6 (December 2008-January 2009).

Michigan

"Michigan Carrier Marks: 1873 to 1897" by Eric A. Glohr continues a list begun in an earlier issue. East Saginaw and Saginaw, East Side markings are illustrated and discussed. *Peninsular Phil.* 50, No. 3 (Winter 2009).

"Pittsburg Landing, Chippewa County, 1906-1908" by Richard Bergmann contains an

illustration of a 1907 post card postmarked at the town. The author states that he has been told it is the only known cover from the town. *Peninsular Phil.* 50, No. 3 (Winter 2009).

New Jersey

“Hunterdon County Postal History: Part 6: DPOs by Township” by Jim Walker covers Readington and Tewksbury Townships. Reproductions of maps, discussions of postal operations and sample cover illustrations are given, 1842-1909. Part 7 covers Union and West Amwell Townships. *NJPH* Part 6: 36, No. 4 (November 2008); Part 7: 37, No. 1 (February 2009).

Sussex County is located and its establishment discussed. Then author Len Peck gives “A Chronological List of Sussex County Post Offices” listing 141 offices, by establishment date, 1792-1981. *NJPH* 36, No. 4 (November 2008).

“Snow Hill (Snowhill) and Lawnside, New Jersey” by Gene Fricks contains information about the location of the post office building and other information about Snow Hill (1893-4), which was renamed Snowhill in 1894 and Lawnside in 1903. *NJPH* 36, No. 4 (November 2008).

New York

“New York State Service Markings” is “from an exhibit by William J. Hart,” according to editor Estus. Forwarded, transit and receiving markings are illustrated on 27 covers, 1901-8. *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

Bealsburgh (1890), Mount Read (1881) and North Hamlin (1886) used “Three Monroe County Cancels” pictured in this article by Douglas Penwell. *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

Brockport, NY duplex postmarkers with the star killer to the left of the CDS are illustrated and characterized as “Odd to Say the Least” by author Roger D. Curran. *U.S.C.C. News* 29, No. 5 (February 2009).

Carmel is identified as the origin of an 1809 letter with postal rate but no postal marking identifying the town (Carmel’s post office did not open until 1815). Author William J. Hart obtained the cover in “Early Correspondence from Carmel, Putnam County, New York.” *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

“Hudson, New York to London England - 1878” by George DeKornfeld contains an illustration of a cover and a discussion of the ship carrying it, the addressee and forwarding agent B. F. Stevens, who handled it in London. *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

Utica and Cooperstown markings on an 1842 cover to Schenectady (with part missing) are explained with author Bob Bramwell’s hypothetical reproduction of the cover, the way it originated. Probably the author solved “A Postal History Mystery.” *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

West Charlton letter to Scotland, dated 1846, is the subject of “Travel Odyssey of a Transatlantic Mail Cover West Charlton, N.Y. to Eccles Scotland” by John A. Lange, Jr. The transport (by private ship) and markings are analyzed. *Excelsior* No. 10 (March 2008).

North Carolina

“Patriotic Confederate Envelopes and Covers from North Carolina” by Maurice M. Bursey identifies patriotic envelopes printed by W. & J. Bonitz in Goldsboro, NC. The Bonitz brothers are introduced and nine covers are illustrated. *N.C. Post. Hist.* 28, No. 1 (Winter 2009).

“Smithfield, North Carolina: 200 Years of Postal History” by Tony L. Crumbley recounts early history and postal history of the town. Seven covers (1796-1977) are illustrated, including the straight line frank of Postmaster Calvin Jones in 1796. *N.C. Post. Hist.* 27, No. 4 (Fall 2008).

“Union Soldier’s Mail from Occupied Eastern North Carolina” by Michael C. McClung traces

the 1862-3 Union occupation of Roanoke Island, New Bern, Beaufort, Washington, etc., illustrated with soldier's letters. *Chronicle* 61, No. 1 (February 2009).

"Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad" by Tony L. Crumbley recounts the charter and early history of the railroad and illustrates 13 covers, 1844-54. *N.C. Post. Hist.* 28, No. 1 (Winter 2009).

Ohio

"General Delivery" markings are listed from nine Ohio towns (15 types), with 10 illustrated (1897-1932) in this article by Bernie Moening. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 122 (December 2008).

"Stampless-Era County Postmarks" of Ohio, 1805-47, are listed by Matthew Liebson. Twenty-eight markings are identified, ranging from manuscript to straight line to oval to rimless and double outer circle. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 122 (December 2008).

Ohio received markings are the subject of "A View of the Reverse" by Bernie Moening. Nine backstamps are illustrated, 1870s-1910, to show the variety possible. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 123 (March 2009).

"Camp Ground, Fairfield County, Ohio" by Allison Cusick recounts the postal history of the town and shows three covers, 1906-19, the first a forerunner, postmarked Lancaster. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 123 (March 2009).

"Fort Industry Postmark Acquired by Toledo-Lucas County Public Library" by Alan Borer contains an illustration of the 1805 cover. The Fort Industry post office was renamed Toledo. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 123 (March 2009).

"Kelley's Island Pre-Post Office Mail: 1838-1851" by Jack C. Standen deals with mail to and from the island. The author describes a makeshift sleigh used when the lake was frozen. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 123 (March 2009).

New Philadelphia, Point Harmar, Steubenville, Warren and West Union markings are illustrated in "Ohio Postmarks to 1820: An Update" by Matthew Liebson. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 123 (March 2009).

"Nickel Plate Post Office" by Jack Standen contains a discussion of the founding of the town and its post office (1888). Two covers and two registry receipts are illustrated, 1890-96. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.*, No. 122 (December 2008).

Pennsylvania

"Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings on Stamped Covers/Stationery" by Bob McKain contains a census of over 40 markings, with dates reported and accompanying Scott number of adhesive or stationery used, 1854-89. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 37 No. 1 (February 2009).

Beaver, Bedford and Berks Counties are the subject of "2nd Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part II" by Tom Mazza, 1794-1866. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 37 No. 1 (February 2009).

"Gundaker, Pa., Allegheny County" cover of 1881 is illustrated in an article by Robert McKain, who believes it to be the only known cover from that post office. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 36 No. 4 (November 2008).

Philadelphia letter to Newport, docketed 1774 with PHILA handstamp and SALEM (Mass.) transit handstamp, is docketed 1774, but the author makes a case for its date to be 1775. "Oops! I wrote the wrong year on the darned check!" by Mark S. Schwartz. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 36 No. 4 (November 2008).

Philadelphia Public Herald and Agents' Herald prepared labels, sometimes used as address labels, return address labels or seals. In "The Public Herald 'Seals'," author Jim Kotanchik details his search for information and illustrates covers, 1887-92. *C. C. Phil.* 88, No. 1 (January-February 2009).

Summit stampless cover, with misleading notations is dated (1851) by author Harry Winter.

“On the allegheny Portage Railroad - A Small Postal History Gem.” Pa. Post. Hist. 37 No. 1 (February 2009).

South Dakota

Brown County post offices are enumerated, alphabetically, A-G, listing early postmasters, with their dates and compensations. Many covers are illustrated, 1880-present. Gary Anderson and Ken Stach, “A Study of Brown County, South Dakota - Part I,” Dak. Coll. 26 No. 1 (January 2009).

Tennessee

Coal Creek duplex marking of 1893 is discussed in exhaustive detail in “The Coal Creek Ovate Bar Duplex cancellation of 1893” by L. Steve Edmondson. Tenn. Posts 12, No. 3 (December 2008).

“Tennessee in Transit and Mobile Postal Markings” is the second installment of a listing of markings involving transport (steamboat, train, airmail field, etc.), compiled from many sources by L. Steve Edmondson. This part is devoted to markings starting with the letter C. Tenn. Posts 12, No. 3 (December 2008).

Journal Abbreviations

- C. C. Phil. = Collectors Club Philatelist, Robert P. Odenweller, RDP, Box 401, Bernardsville NJ 07924.
Chronicle = Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Michael Laurence, Box 161, Sydney OH 45365.
Colo. Post. Hist. = Colorado Postal Historian, William H. Bauer, Box 519, Unadilla NY 13849.
Confed. Phil. = Confederate Philatelist, Randy L. Neil, Box 6552, Leawood KS 66206.
Dak. Coll. = Dakota Collector, Dakota Postal History Society, Box 600039, St. Paul MN 55106.
Excelsior = Excelsior! The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society, Glenn A. Estus, Box 51, Westport NY 12993-0451.
Fla. Post. Hist. J. = Florida Postal History Journal, Deane R. Briggs, 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven FL 33881.
Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. = Iowa Postal History Society Bulletin, William Dall, Box 1375, Dubuque IA 52004.
Ill. Post. Hist. = Illinois Postal Historian, Leonard Piszkiwicz, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara CA 95051.
La Posta = La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History, Richard W. Helbock, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose OR 97056.
Linn's = Linn's Stamp News, Michael Baadke, Box 29, Sidney OH 45365.
N.C. Post. Hist. = North Carolina Postal Historian, Tony L. Crumbley, Box 681447, Charlotte NC 28216.
NJPH = NJPH The Journal of New Jersey Postal History Society, Robert G. Rose, Box 1945, Morristown NJ 07062.
Oh. Post. Hist. J. = Ohio Postal History Journal, Michael Dattolico, Box 248040, Columbus OH 43224.
Pa. Post. Hist. = Pennsylvania Postal Historian, Norman Shachat, 382 Tall Meadow Lane, Yardley PA 19067.
Peninsular Phil. = The Peninsular Philatelist, Charles A. Wood, 244 Breckenridge West, Ferndale MI 48220.
Post. Hist. J. = Postal History Journal, Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris, Box 477, West Sand Lake NY 12196.
Prexie Era = The Prexie Era, Louis Fiset, 7554 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115.
Tenn. Posts = Tennessee Posts, L. Steve Edmondson, Box 871, Shelton WA 98594.
Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J. = Texas Postal History Society Journal, Tom Koch, 1013 Springbrook Dr., De Soto TX 75115.
Trans. Post. Coll. = Transit Postmark Collector, Douglas N. Clark, Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648.
U.S.C.C. News = U.S. Cancellation Club News, Roger D. Curran, 20 University Ave., Lewisburg PA 17837.

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!

Postal Markings in General

“Service Suspended in WWII,” by Robert I. Johnson, reviews the markings on mail rendered undeliverable due to wartime interruption of mail routes between Great Britain and Macau, Macau and Portugal, China and South Africa, Papua and Belgium, and Australia and the British Solomon Islands, or Estonia, 1940-1943. (Postal History, No. 324, December 2007. Journal of the Postal History Society, Secretary Hans Smith, 99 North End Road, London, NW11 7TA, England, United Kingdom.)

Anguilla

“Anguilla’s Emergency Mail Service, 1967-1980,” by Reuben A. Ramkissoon, recalls the postal history during the period of Anguilla’s secession from the Associated Statehood of St. Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla on 30 May 1967 to stabilization of government in 1976. (British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, No. 230, January-March 2009. British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Secretary Duane Larson, 2 Forest Boulevard, Park Forest, IL 60466.)

Australia

“With a Little Help from Our Friends, Part 7, 1934 - Air Service to Australia and New Zealand,” by Richard W. Helbock, continues his exploration of early airmail service routes, this time looking at routes between Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. (La Posta, No. 229, February-March 2008. La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History, c/o All About Mail, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056.)

Austria

“La guerra di Crimea, Il presidio austriaco della Valacchia e della Moldavia,” by Alessandro Arseni, describes the Austrian occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia, the field post stations established and the military and town postmarks issued, 1854-1857. (The Postal Gazette, Anno 3, No. 8, December 2008. The Postal Gazette, Editor Alessandro Arseni, Strada Cantonale, 6818 Melano, Switzerland.)

Belgium

“Postal Relations with Belgium.” (See under Canada.)

Brazil

“La posta militare della F.E.B., Força Expedicionaria Brasileira, 1944-1945,” by Enrico Bettazzi, looks at the history and postal history of this Brazilian force sent to assist the Allies in Italy. (Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 106, March 2008. Rivista dell’Associazione Italiana Collezionisti Posta Militare, President Piero Macrelli, CP 180, 47900 Rimini, Italy.)

Cameroun

“Airmail Routes and Rates from Camerouns to the UK during World War II,” by Martin Bratzel and Bob Picirilli, review the postal rates shown on flown covers and attempt to reconcile them with known rates and surtaxes, 1939-1945. (Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, No. 250, December 2008. (The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, No. 241, September 2006. Secretary R.G. Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF, England, United Kingdom.)

Canada

“Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls During the Pence Period, 1800-1859, Part 3, The Village of Drummandville,” continues his series with the postal history of this village by illustrating and discussing many interesting covers. (BNA Topics, No. 155, Second Quarter 2008. Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., Circulation Manager, Wayne Smith, 20 St. Andrews Road, Scarborough ON M1P 4C4, Canada.)

“Postal Relations with Belgium,” by Hugo Deshayes, discusses an unpaid 1854 folded letter from Montreal to Malines, Belgium, and explains the postal rate figures written on the face. (PHSC Journal, No. 135, Fall 2008. Postal History Society of Canada, Back Issues, Stéphane Cloutier, 367 Lévis Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 6G6, Canada.)

“Communications Across the Atlantic from the 1860’s to the End of an Era, Part 1,” by C.R. McGuire, writes about the history of the first paddle steam ship designed specifically for transatlantic crossings, Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s Great Eastern, the largest passenger ship constructed up to 1858. (BNA Topics, No. 516, Third Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The Northern Pacific Express Co. in Canada,” by Gray Scrimgeour, discusses a little known express company operating out of British Columbia, via Washington State and Oregon to San Francisco, from 1874 to 1893. (PHSC Journal, No. 135, Fall 2008. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

“The 20 cent and 50 cent Widow’s Weeds,” by George B. Arfken and William S. Pawluk, review the postal uses for the two high values of 1893, depicting Queen Victoria dressed in mourning for the late Prince Albert, her Consort, 1893-1908. (BNA Topics, No. 515, Second Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“The 1907 U.P.U. Rate Reduction,” by George B. Arfken and William S. Pawluk, illustrate Canadian covers showing the weight and rate changes agreed to at the 1906 Convention of Rome. (PHSC Journal, No. 135, Fall 2008. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

“Canadians in the North Russian Campaign: 1918-1919,” by David H. Whitely, examines the background behind the creation of a British Expeditionary Force to Murmansk and Archangel, Canadian participation, and provides a list by name of Canadian airmen and army personnel serving in those theatres. (BNA Topics, No. 515, Second Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Postal History During the King George VI, 1937-42, ‘Mufti’ Era: Postage Rates to Great Britain and Ireland [Part 7],” by John Burnett, provides a table of postage rates and fees for this international service. (BNA Topics, No. 516, Third Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Postal History During the King George VI, 1937-1942, ‘Mufti’ Era,” by Gary Steele, provides a table of postal rates and fees for mail to British America, the Caribbean and Mexico, with examples of many of these rates. (BNA Topics, No. 517, Fourth Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

Central Africa

“Prephilately of Central Africa,” by Patrick Maselis, studies four types of letters known from Dr. Livingstone and other explorers. They are (1) letters bearing official postal markings, (2) letters bearing private postal markings, (3) letters passing through a combination of official postal services and private couriers, and (4) letters without any postal markings at all, from early 1850’s - 1885. (The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 87, No. 2, March-April 2008. The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016.)

China

“With a little Help from Our Friends: Part 6, The 1932 Race to Establish Air Service to China,” by Richard W. Helbock, surveys German and French efforts to establish international service as well as development of domestic air routes within China. (La Posta, No. 228, December 2007 - January 2008. See address of contact under Australia.)

Colombia

“Colombia,” by Benito Carobene, broadly reviews the history, postal history and postal issues of Colombia and the Colombian States, 1536-1883. (The Postal Gazette, Year 3, No. 7, November 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)

“Correo del Comercio Cùcuta Cancellations,” by Walter H. Weber, adds additional data to an earlier article by Jim Cross, and identifies four different types of these cancellations, 1888-1905. (Copacarta, Vol. 25, No. 3, March 2008. Journal of the Colombia/ Panama Study Group, Editor Thomas P. Myers, 7411 Old Post Road, No. 1, Lincoln, NE 68506.)

Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles)

“The Postal Rates of the Netherlands Antilles (1948-2008),” by Rinus Dekker, provides tables of postage rates for surface letters, airmail, postcards, printed matter, registration and advice of receipt, for inland service, foreign destinations by ship, to the Netherlands, by airmail to the U.S. and Europe, and to Aruba. (Netherlands Philately, Vol. 32, No. 5, May 2008. American Society for Netherlands Philately, Secretary Jan Enthoven, 221 Coachlite Ct. S, Onalaska, WI 54650.)

Denmark

“The Prussian Field Post - Relais in Denmark - 1864.” (See under Prussia.)

“Ry - A Refugee Camp in Denmark, 1945-1949,” by Birthe King, describes a refugee map established by the Danish government to house many different north European nationalities uprooted from their homelands, who had fled to Denmark. Through its correspondence, a single family’s story is told. (The Posthorn, No 254, February 2008. The Scandinavian Collectors Club, Executive Secretary Donald B. Brent, Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022.)

Egypt

“Slit Mail [from] the Suez Canal in the 1880’s,” by Bo Andersson, Martin Hosselman, Andy Cheung and V. Denis Vandervelde, begin a research project to determine where letters were slit and fumigated in their journey from east of Suez, through the Suez Canal, to European destinations, 1879-1885. (Pratique, Vol. 33, No. 1, Summer 2008. Disinfected Mail Study Group, V. Denis Vandervelde, 25 Sinclair Grove, London NW11 9JH, England, United Kingdom.)

“Part One, Instructional Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israeli Postkrieg: ‘No service’,” by Daryl Kibble, defines “Postkrieg” as postal measures taken by one country against another, including refusal to service mail to that other country. The “Pas de Service” markings applied on Israeli mail are illustrated, 1956-1960. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 59, No. 6, December 2008. Journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., Secretary Howard S. Chapman, 28650 Settlers Lane, Pepper Pike, OH 44124.)

France

- “La comunicazioni postali, difficili tra la Francia e l’Italia nel periodo dei cento giorni (1 marzo-22 giugno 1815),” by Adriano Cattani and [the late] Luciano de Zanche, reviews the difficulty of mail passage between France and Italy due to various military actions taking place disrupting communications during the 100 Days following Napoleon’s escape from Elba. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No .148, February 2008. Organo ufficiale del’Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale, Editor Adriano Cattani, Casella Postale 325, I-35100 Padova, Italy.)
- “La guerra di Crimea, L’Armée d’Orient,” by Alessandro Arseni, describes French activity in this 1854-1856 war against Russia, the postal history of the expedition, and lists the vessels of the Imperial which participated both in the Crimea and Baltic areas, as well as in the North Pacific Ocean in the attack on Kamchatka. (The Postal Gazette, Anno 3, No. 8, December 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)
- “The Wounded Soldier,” by Claire Scott, traces the story of wounded soldiers in France during World War I by drawing on images and postal cachets at various stages of their personal journey from injury to recovery, 1914-1918. (Postal History, No. 324, December 2007. See address of contact under Postal Markings in General.)
- “With a little Help from Our Friends: Part 6, The 1932 Race to Establish Air Service to China.” (See under China.)

Germany

- “With a little Help from Our Friends: Part 6, The 1932 Race to Establish Air Service to China.” (See under China.)
- “Recent Examples of ‘Enhanced’ KZ Prisoner Mail,” by J. Scott Sawyer, illustrates several Buchenwald and other camps mail which have had the postage stamps removed and the space covered by a piece of tape, tied to the envelope by an unframed “Zensiert” marking, to improve the cover, 1943-1944. (The Israel Philatelist, Vol. 59, No. 6, December 2008. See address of contact under second entry for Egypt.)

Great Britain

- “The Postal History of Holy Island (Lindisfarne) - Part 1,” by Al. Hurst, studies mail originating from or addressed to Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland, a few miles south of Berwick on Tweed, 1731-1886. (Postal History, No. 324, December 2007. See address of contact under Postal Markings in General.)
- “La guerra di Crimea,” by Alessandro Arseni, describes British activity in this 1854-1856 war against Russia, the disastrous “Charge of the Light Brigade” at Balaclava, the postal history of the expedition, and lists the vessels of the Royal Navy which participated in the Crimea and Baltic areas, as well as in the North Pacific Ocean in the attack on Kamchatka. (The Postal Gazette, Anno 3, No. 8, December 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)
- “Communications Across the Atlantic from the 1860’s to the End of an Era, Part 1.” (See under Canada.)
- “WWII - UK Censorship - Some Observations and Photos,” by John Daynes, reports the discovery of a photo album in British National Archives showing censor personnel at work, and illustrates a number of these photos. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 157, January 2008. See address of contact under first entry for India.)
- “WWII - GB - Censor Labels and Slips,” by Martin Evans, lists those “P.C.” censor labels and informational slips, which have been found on cover, in numerical order. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 158, April 2008. See address of contact under first entry for India.)

Great Britain, Channel Islands

“The German Occupation of the Channel Islands (Part 2),” by Gerald Mariner, provides examples of the occupation/local issues used on cover explaining postal rates and identifying the locations where they were posted, 1941-1945. (Postal History, No. 324, December 2007. See address of contact under Postal Markings in General.)

India

“WWII - India - Handstamps and Labels not Previously Reported,” by Sankaran Viswa Kumer and Konrad Morenweiser, illustrate and describe heretofore unknown handstamps and labels from a cache found in British National Archives, 1941-1943. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 157, January 2008. Secretary Charles J. LaBlonde, 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3554.)

“WWII - Censor Stations India - Resealing Labels,” by Sankaran Viswa Kumer and Konrad Morenweiser, continues their series of articles, this time concentrating upon the very many versions of the British Coat of Arms (Lion and Unicorn motif). (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 158, April 2008. See address of contact under first entry for India.)

Israel

“Part One, Instructional Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israeli Postkrieg: ‘No service’.” (See under Egypt.)

Italy

“Gli Ultimi Magnifici 12,” by Arnaldo Pace, reviews the beginnings of the railway postal service in Italy and illustrates postmarks used on the various lines, 1857-1993. “The Last Magnificent 12 refers to the last 12 ambulant post offices which were closed at the end of 1993, after 140 years of service. (Il Foglio, No. 154, December 2007. Unione Filatelica Subalpina, C.P. 65, Torino Centro, 10100 Torino, Italy.)

“La posta militare italiana alle grande manovre, L'Ottocento, Prima parte: 1860-1877,” by Beniamino Cadioli, records the postal history associated with nineteenth century military grand maneuvers. (Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 106, March 2008. See address of contact under Brazil.)

“Le collettorie postali dell'Archipelago Toscano, parte II,” by Alberto Càroli, provides a census of covers known bearing the script type “Isola di Gorgona” origin marking. This type of postmark was issued to small collection, or mail receiving, stations, 1868-1877. (Il Monitore della Toscana, Anno 3, No. 6, November 2007. Notiziario della Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale Toscana, Secretary, Roberto Monticini, via S. Dominico, 1, 52100 Arezzo, Italy.)

“Tondo riquadrati usati in Toscana, Provincia di Grosseto,” by V. Alfani, M. Monaci, A. Quercioli and S. Rinaldi, continues their study by illustrating all known squared circle datestamps from the environs of Grosseto, Tuscany, 1891-1921. (Il Monitore della Toscana, Anno 3, No. 6, November 2007. See address of contact under third entry for Italy.)

“La posta dei re ‘Il Carteggio Reale’” [author not indicated] illustrates the special types of handstamp markings used to identify royal mail, 1897-1942. (Supplement to Il Foglio, No. 157, December 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

“Il tondo riquadrato ‘muto’,” by I. Robetti and A. Vanara, call our attention to “mute” squared circle postmarks showing dates but not town names, 1906-1915, and also to mute circle types, heavily inked within the circle, except for the date, from 1959. (Il Foglio, No. 155, February 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

“The Censorship of Internal Civil Mail in Sardinia & Southern Italy, Part 3,” by Luigi Sirotti, (translated by L. Richard Harlow), continues his study of censorship offices and their markings, and provides two tables of censorship numbers, one in numerical order, the

- other in alphabetical order by province, 1942-1944. (Fil-Italia, No. 136, Spring 2008. The Journal of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle, Secretary Richard Harlow, 7 Duncombe House, 8 Manor Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 8BG, England, United Kingdom.)
- “I collegamenti postali nell’Italia centrale dal 1^o settembre al 31 dicembre 1944 (quarta parte),” by Luigi Sirotti, continues his study of the re-establishment of Italian mail service in Allied Occupied Italy, and reproduces two important documents, one from the Ministry of Communications establishing postal rates at 1 October 1944, and the other issued by the Allied Control Commission establishing a special mail service to the city of Florence, as at 12 September 1944. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 38, December 2007. Vaccari s.r.l., via M. Buonarroti 46, 41058, Vignola (MO), Italy.)
- “La Repubblica Partigiana dell’Ossola,” by Valter Astolfi, examines the C.L.N. (Committee of National Liberation) local postal issues of partisan forces in the “Republic of Ossola”, a region in northern Italy bordering Switzerland, 1944-1945. (Posta Militare e Storia Postale, No. 106, March 2008. See address of contact under Brazil.)

Libya

- “L’ Ufficio postale italiano di Bengasi,” by Mario Chesne Dauphiné, discusses postal activity of the Bengasi office, and illustrates examples of all the datestamps applied there, together with four naval datestamps, 1901-1912. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No .148, February 2008. See address of contact under first entry for France.)

Lombardy-Venetia

- “I rapporti postali del Regno Lombardo-Veneto con il Granducato di Toscana, 1815-1859 (prima parte),” by Lorenzo Carra, discusses the territorial configuration of Tuscany, weights and measures used, monetary system, postal rates and the postal conventions of 1817, 1822 and 1839 with Austria. (Vaccari Magazine, No .38, December 2007. See address of contact under eighth entry for Italy.)

Parma

- “Ferma Mista,” by Paolo Vollmeier, pulls together everything he knows concerning the mysterious boxed postmark, “Ferma Mista” (mixed military service?) in an unsuccessful attempt to solve its postal meaning, 1819-1831. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 144, June 2007. See address of contact under first entry for France.)

Prince Edward Island

- “Newly recorded Prince Edward Island Rate Hand Stamp Covers,” by Derek Smith, illustrates and describes several new rate hand stamps found on transatlantic mail, 1854-1861.” (BNA Topics, No. 517, Fourth Quarter 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

Prussia

- “The Prussian Field Post - Relais in Denmark - 1864,” by Christopher King, lists the feldpost relais datestamps known with their feldpost number and locations identified. A map of Jutland pinpoints the location of each feldpost number. (The Posthorn, No. 253, November 2007. See address of contact under second entry for Denmark.)

Roman States

- “Pontifical Corner: A Rare ‘Turned’ Cover,” by Rev. Edward J. Mallowney, shows an unusual folded letter, mailed from Orte some time between 1852 and 1865, then turned inside out and mailed again in 1865, both times to the same addressee! (Vatican Notes, Vol. 53, No. 3, November 2007. The Journal of the Vatican Philatelic Society, Secretary Joseph Scholten, 1436 Johnston St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-2829.)

Russia

- “New Facts about the ‘Numerals and Dots’ Postmarks of the Russian Empire,” by Dr. A.M. Sarkisian, reviews the known facts about what towns these early postmarks were

provided to as stamp obliterations, and provides a table filling in the blanks where some of the missing towns have now been identified with their numeral and dot markings, 1858-1879. (The Post Rider, No. 60, September 2007. Canadian Society of Russian Philately, Box 5722, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P2, Canada.)

"Non-Standard Oval markings of Postal Wagons with Two Numbers of the Routes at the Beginning of the 20th Century," by V.G. Levandovskiy, concentrates on the postmarks applied on the Samtredi - Poti route, the Blagoveshchensk - Cita route, and the Granitsa - Zombkovitsy - Sasnovitsy route, 1903-1923. (The Post Rider, No. 60, September 2007. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

"Late 19th and Early 20th Century Mail from the Samara - Zlatoust and Volga - Bugulina Railroads (III)," by V.G. Levandovskiy, (translated by David M. Skipton), continues his study of railway post office stations in this salubrious region of Southern Russia, where many sanatoriums existed, 1904-1950. (Rossica, No. 149, Fall 2007. Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, President: Gary A. Combs, 8241 Chalet Court, Millersville, MD 21108.)

"The East Prussia Disaster: The Philatelic Echo," by Alexander Epstein, reviews the August 1914 Russian invasion of East Prussia and illustrates several field post cards mailed during this offensive. (Rossica, No. 149, Fall 2007. See address of contact under third entry for Russia.)

"Postal Rate Changes of 1917-1918," by Michael Ercolini, concentrates on post card rate changes, including registered cards, for both domestic and foreign mailings. (Rossica, No. 149, Fall 2007. See address of contact under third entry for Russia.)

"Soviet Censorship on International Correspondence in the Second Half of the Great Patriotic War," by Per-Christian Wallén, writes about the types of censor markings applied to mail crossing the borders of the Soviet Union, 1942-1945. (The Post Rider, No. 60, September 2007. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

Sardinia

"Regno di Sardegna, legislazione postale dal 1500 al 1850," by Arnaldo pace, lists all the postal related laws and regulations he is aware of, from 1561 through 1849, for the Kingdom of Sardinia. (Il Foglio, No. 154, December 2007. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

"La comunicazioni postali, difficili tra la Francia e l'Italia nel periodo dei cento giorni (1 marzo-22 giugno 1815)." (See under France.)

"La flotta sarda," by Alessandro Arseni, discusses the history and postal history of the Sardinian naval fleet sent out from Genova into the Adriatic Sea to the aid of the Republic of Venice in 1848, which blockaded the Austrian fleet in Trieste harbor, 1848-1949. (The Postal Gazette, Year 3, No. 7, November 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)

"La guerra di Crimea: La posta militare sarda," by Alessandro Arseni, describes Sardinian activity in this 1854-1856 war against Russia, the battle of Tchernaiia, the postal history of the expedition, and lists the vessels of the Royal Sardinian Navy which participated in the Crimea area. (The Postal Gazette, Anno 3, No. 8, December 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)

Spain

"Menorca: Mahón and Other Lazarets," by V. Denis Vandervelde and Juan Estelrich, records a history of the island with special attention paid to disinfection measures, and illustrates several different methods of puncturing letters so fumigants could enter the interior of letters, 1708-1947. (Pratique, Vol. 33, No. 1, September 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Egypt.)

Sudan

“Sudan - Too Late & Late Fee Mail,” by Richard Stock, records late fee markings and quotes provisions from the 1929 Post Office Guide concerning late fees, 1908-1931. In some cases, the stamps paying late fees were cancelled with a retta obliteration. (Postal History, No. 324, December 2007. See address of contact under Postal Markings in General.)

Switzerland

“Tracing Service Reply Labels,” by John West, investigates the meaning of the various colored filing notation labels affixed to incoming mail by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Geneva, 1915-1919. A list of labels known to the author is appended. (Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, No. 250, December 2008. See address of contact under Cameroun.)

Tannou Touva

“Postal and Money Order Markings of the Tuvan ASSR,” by Andrew Cronin, presents a table listing each post office name, the serial letters in its postmark, its post code, its money order office number, and relevant notes, 1970’s-1997. (The Post Rider, No. 60, September 2007. See address of contact under first entry for Russia.)

Thurn and Taxis

“The Mail Route to Italy from the Dutch Republic in the Eighteenth Century and the Demise of the Reichspost [Part one],” by Kees Adema, reviews historical background, looks at route markings and examines the Reichspost head office at Maaseik, 1648-1805. In Part 2 “(Conclusion)” this thorough review of the Thurn and Taxis service continues and now key portions of several postal treaties have been translated, 1745-1814. (The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 87, Nos. 1 and 2, January-February 2008, and March-April 2008. See address of contact under Central Africa.)

Tuscany

“Testimonianze dell’antica strada regia postale romana da Siena al confine pontificio,” by Giuseppe Pallini and Paolo Saletti, travel this ancient post road south from Siena to the old frontier of the Papal States, illustrating buildings along the way where travelers, couriers or post riders would have stopped for food and rest. (Archivio per la Storia Postale, Anno 7, No. 24, December 2006. Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Palazzo Datini, C.P. 514, via Ser Lapo Mazzei 37, 59100 Prato, Italy.)

Two Sicilies, Sicily

“I bolli del servizio postale in Sicilia dal 1820 al 1858: Analisi di alcune alterazioni chimiche degli inchiostri,” by Giorgio Chianetta, chemically examines the ink used for Sicilian postal markings for variations and chromatic alterations through the use of an infrared spectroscope. (Archivio per la Storia Postale, Anno 7, No. 24, December 2006. See address of contact under Tuscany.)

“Sicilia 1859-1860, Da Messina a Palermo con i vapori del Florio,” by Francesco Lombardo, tells us how to determine which covers traveled by Florio Steamship Company vessel between Messina and Palermo, and which traveled overland by stage coach. (Vaccari Magazine, No. 38, December 2007. See address of contact under eighth entry for Italy.)

Uruguay

“Uruguay,” by Benito Carobene, explores the history and postal history of this small South American country on the Atlantic Coast south of Brazil, 1516-1868. (The Postal Gazette, Anno 3, No. 8, December 2008. See address of contact under Austria.)

“The South American Corner, Part 9, Uruguay,” by Helmut Stocker and Charles LaBlonde, review what little information they were able to locate concerning airmail postage rates during World War II. Apparently Uruguay did not censor mail, but Great Britain, the

U.S. and Germany did as it passed through their hands. (Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, No. 157, January 2008. See address of contact under first entry for India.)

Vatican City

“Uno per uno, i francobolli dello Stato della Città del Vaticano (quattordicesima parte),” by Giovanni Fulcheris, continues his study of Vatican issues tying the stamps into postal tariffs in force at the time, in this instance concentrating on the issues of 1949-1951. (Vaccari Magazine, No .38, December 2007. See address of contact under eighth entry for Italy.)

“Poste Vaticano, estratto tariffe postali in vigore dal 1^o luglio 2006,” from the Vatican Post website, provides tables of all the postal rates in force from the middle of 2006. (Vatican Notes, Vol. 56, No. 4, January 2008. See address of contact under Roman States.)

Venetian Republic

“Del commercio dei Veneti nel’Asia,” by G. Berchet, recounts the early history of the Republic, as reflected in merchants letters from Palestine, Aleppo, Damiatta, Constantinople, Alexandria and Cairo, 528-1762. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 143, April 2007. See address of contact under first entry for France.)

“Una pagina poco nota di storia postale veneziana: il blocco di Venezia del 3 novembre 1813 - 20 Aprile 1814,” by Adriano Cattani, and “Da Portogruaro a Venezia durante il blocco del 1813-1814”, by Giorgio Burzatta, both discussing the Austrian blockade of French occupied Venice after Napoleon I’s defeat at Leipzig, and illustrate and analyze several letters which passed through the blockade to Venice via Austrian “Parlamentario,” or bearer of a flag of truce. (Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, No. 144, June 2007. See address of contact under first entry for France.)

Naples Revisited

a review by Joseph J. Geraci

I francobolli del Regno di Napoli, e i due Provvisori da Mezzo Tornese del 1860, by Emilio Diena, second edition, “Ritrovati No. 13” in the “Recovery” series, 273 pages, including 3 plating tables reconstructing the sheets of the one half Tornese value with Savoy Arms, card covers, stitched pages, glued spine. ISBN 978-88-85335-93-6. Vaccari s.r.l., via M. Buonarroti 46, 51048 Vignola (MO), Italy. Price Euro 40 + 13 postage to the Americas.

This volume is a second reprint of Emilio Diena’s seminal work originally published in serial form in *Il Corriere Filatelico*, between 1929 and 1931. In 1932, the series was assembled into a single volume, including original research done by his son, Alberto, who spent several months in Naples searching for official documentation in the State Archives. The fruits of his labors were reflected in the 1932 edition.

In July 1992, Vaccari published the first reprint, with a preface by Enzo Diena, son of Alberto. This second reprint is a fitting tribute to Emilio Diena, and was published in 2008, during the year of the 150th Anniversary of the 1858 Issue of Naples. Diena’s original work is difficult to find today, particularly in fine condition. While the contents may remain sound, often its card covers have deteriorated greatly over these 76 years since publication.

A thorough history of both the stamps and postal history of Naples, this includes chapters on the 1849 essays, transcriptions of the postal reform acts of 1857, the organic regulations of 1857, the adoption of adhesive postage stamps to prepay postage, postal tariffs of 1858, transcriptions of correspondence concerning the manufacture of the stamps, characteristics of each plate, the 1/2 Tornese “Cross of Savoy” provisional issue of 1860, postmarks in

use, postal frauds, reprints, the railroad postal service, and military postal history during the annexation period of 1860-1861 to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

For those students interested in the issues of Naples and their history, Diena's work is a necessity. It is as timeless a study today, as it was in 1932. Its usefulness and scholarly value have not diminished over the years.

An Italian Philatelic Congress

a review by Joseph J. Geraci

Filatelica, La filatelia nel III millennio, Atti del secondo congresso nazionale, compiled by Mirco Mascagni and Valeria Vaccari, Handies Series No. 24, 205 pages, 9 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches, card covers, stitched signatures, with CD-ROM. ISBN 978-88-85335-98-1. Vaccari s.r.l., via M. Buonarroti 46, 41058 Vignola (MO), Italy, Euro 25 + 13 postage to the Americas.

The Second National Philatelic Congress took place at Bazzano, just west of Bologna, and was supported by the Foundation "Rocca dei Bentivoglio" and the Communal Administration of Bazzano. The forum, "Filatelia & Francobolli" (Philately and Stamps) took place June 14-18 2008. This volume is an anthology of all the lectures which were presented, some 26 of them.

Many different subjects were covered, ranging from "Galapagos Philately and the Barrel Post" to a "Study of the cliché defects of the 4 and 8 bajocchi stamps of the First Issue of the Roman States – 1852" to "Mail Art in Italy." All of the articles are in Italian, and most, of course, concern Italian subjects. There is also an interesting article about the research facilities and cultural institutions of the host city of Bazzano, its Historical Archives and the Archeological Civic Museum.

The CD-ROM inside the back cover contains two sections. The first is the text of the articles in the book, with color illustrations, and the second part contains color images of the collections on display by exhibitors. Some lovely material was shown. However, the presentation was by page and it is unfortunate that each cover or document could not be individually photographed. For example, Sergio Leali's "L'Oltre Po mantevano," of great interest to me, was photographed on large, horizontal pages. The collection looked lovely and interesting, but the pages were very crowded. Few of the covers, and no supporting documents could be read or clearly seen. There were over 160 pages illustrated from Leali's collection, and if the images were enlarged, it would probably make an interesting volume by itself!

In spite of this small difficulty, the volume does contain a very worthwhile compendium of articles, and is well worth the small cost.

Postal History Society Officers & Board of Directors

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Federal Civil War Postal History

a review by Diane DeBlois

Federal Civil War Postal History by James W. Milgram, M.D., ISBN 0-9614018-4-2 2009, 408 pages, hardbound, \$90 postpaid in U.S., from publisher: Northbrook Pub. Co., 1352 Estate Lane, Lake Forest IL 60045, fax 847-735-0055.

Dr. Milgram has brought together his passion for Civil War patriotic stationery (his 1984 *Abraham Lincoln Illustrated Envelopes and Letter Paper 1860-1865* was a landmark), with an appreciation for the cultural context of the deluge of letter writing caused by the conflict, in a huge new book.

Illustrated primarily in color, the 19 chapters document an extraordinary collection (one frame of which received a gold medal at Westpex 2009: *Civil War Patriotic Designs of Western Manufacture*) and cover all aspects of the postal history of the war from the Union side: Slavery and Abolitionism; 1860 Presidential Campaign; Federal Postal Usages in the South; Union Patriotic Stationery; Demonetization of 1857-1860 Stamps and Envelopes; Soldier's Letters; Handstamped or Printed Certifying Markings on Soldier's Mail; Maritime Postal Usages from Coastal and Ocean Locations; Maritime Postal Usages from Inland Waterways; West Virginia Mail, Special Military Post Offices, and Postmarks of Reoccupied Towns; Patriotic Postal Markings, Military Markings and Military Corner cards; Franked Soldier's Mail, Free Mail and Post Office Official Business Postmarks; Hospital Mail; Christian Commission Mail; Sanitary Commission Mail; Union Prisoner of War Mail; Northern Parole Camps and Political Prisoners' Mail; Flag of Truce Mail; Express Companies and Registered Mail.

As an appendix, Dr. Milgram includes a chart: "Imprints on Patriotic Covers by Gene Freeman" arranged alphabetically by city, with the name and address of the sender plus directory listing, if found; reference to other cataloguers (Dietz, Grant, etc.); and notes. The late Mr. Freeman, though not a collector, was interested in envelope printers and corresponded with Dr. Milgram for many years. Mrs. Freeman and their son agreed to the inclusion of this valuable work.

There are other useful listings and charts included in the chapters: in "Union Patriotic Stationery" appears additions to "Civil War Patriotic Cover Designs of Western Manufacture" which was published in *The American Philatelist* in 1997. At the end of "Handstamped or Printed Certifying Markings on Soldiers' Mail" is a table of these certifications by state and regiment. As part of "Union Prisoner of War Mail" there is included a chart of Confederate prisons, alphabetically by state and town, with the dates of operation, number of covers known listed by Harrison, and prison name.

Dr. Milgram does not include a bibliography, though the endnotes to each chapter refer the reader to articles on Civil War subjects in the philatelic press – including his own pieces such as "Postal Usages of New York Troops at the Outset of the Civil War," in *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 86, No. 2 March-April 2007.

Dr. Milgram points out that this is not a history of the war – but it will appeal to every collector interested in the broader history of the conflict. He defends his inclusion of the text of many of the letters, not solely because they enliven the study but because they are critical to an understanding of the history in postal history.

A potent example from the build-up to war is a letter written in November 1849 on the blank fold of a lettersheet printed with a reward poster for a slave runaway from Maryland, and mailed by the slave's owner to police chiefs in Pennsylvania so that they might help in

the capture: "You may be able to find out through a confidential Negro, if you have one that you keep as a spy." Or, from Lincoln's second election campaign, a soldier in D.C. writing to his wife: "I think that we had better elect Old Abe Lincoln for 4 years more because all the Rebell Prisoners & Deserters say that they hope that George B. MacClellan will be Elected ...". Or, from a federal soldier at Fort Davis in Texas just after secession: "I will be obliged to abandon about \$2000 of property for which I can find no sale and much property is now selling for one tenth of its cost. The Indians will soon drive off the settlers in this part of Texas and the country will be worse than worthless. The Southern Confederation is offering the most dazzling inducements to officers of the Army who will resign and serve in the South ...". Or, - but you should read the book yourself!

North Atlantic Packet Mail

a review by George McGowan

North Atlantic Packets, Departures & Arrivals, 1818-1890, by James Pullin 2009. 312 pages, hard bound. Available from the author: 2837 Wright Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789-6161, media mail \$87, Fedex \$92.

This handsomely-produced book (printed on fine quality gloss paper with all illustrations in color, nicely bound with dust jacket) offers scores of reproductions of period covers, front and back, illustrations of some of the sailing ships listed, copies of newspaper ads and announcements, over 110 pages of sailing schedules, and many related prints, maps and maritime antiquities.

The author has spent ten years researching original material in both England and the United States. Also included are detailed histories of the six lines, Black Ball, Red Star, Blue Swallowtail, Dramatic, Black X and Red Swallowtail, that were the primary packet lines after the war of 1812.

The serious philatelist will discover much about rates and markings, and the novice is also accommodated with a well-written, well-organized treatment of postal history. For the non-philatelist, and genealogist, this volume is a serious piece of maritime history. However, in words of the author, "...the primary focus of this book is on departure and arrival dates of American sailing packets between New York and Liverpool and New York and London between 1818 and 1890." Housed in the second half of the book (pages 177 to 286) is a wealth of ship names, captains names, departure and arrival dates, as well as comments related to the voyages.

The well-written text, along with an abundance of carefully selected illustrations, easily escorts the reader through shipbuilding, maritime economics, successes and hazards of this window of history.

Author "Jim" Pullin is an accredited philatelic judge, a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, a member of the New York Collectors Club, and is associated with many other philatelic groups.

Corrigendum: In the February issue, *PHJ* 142, page 27 of "Geographic Distributions of the Postal Economy: U.S. in 1900" Professor Terrence Hines is at Pace University, Pleasantville, not SUNY. And his collaborator is Professor Thomas Velk of McGill University.

Gold Medal at Stampshow 2008 for *PHJ*: "Venerable journal with diverse articles appealing to advanced/eclectic philatelists with an eye for the uncommon story."

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 annual meeting, originally scheduled to be held with the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, has had to be rescheduled, because the Philadelphia show has been cancelled for this year. Our Board of Directors will meet at the Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA, October 31, 2009. Our meeting will be part of the 2009 APS-Smithsonian Postal History Symposium and a special meeting of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society.

Our General Membership Meeting will be held at APS Stamp Show in Pittsburgh, PA, August 6-9. The meeting will feature a postal history presentation, speaker and title yet to be determined. Keep an eye on the Society web site for times and topic.

I am happy to announce the 2008 winner of our award for the best article in the *Postal History Journal*. The article is "MS Gripsholm and the 1942-1943 Diplomatic Exchange Voyages with Japan" by Louis Fiset, which appeared in the May 2008 issue, Number 140, pages 12-25. Our congratulations to Mr. Fiset and thanks for publishing his significant article in our journal. The award will be presented at our annual Membership meeting at APS Stamp Show.

Membership Changes by Kalman V. Illyefalvi

New Members

- PHS 2292 Eric A. Glohr, 139 Richard Ave., Lansing MI 48917-3433. Michigan and Hawaiian postal history.
- PHS 2293 Mike Brown, Box 5372, Carmel CA 93921-5372. Postal history of Monterey County CA, Washington state, G.B., British South Atlantic postal history.
- PHS 2294 Edwin J. Andrews, 13 Tullamore Dr., West Chester PA 19832-7065. U.S. Classics used as revenues, PA postal history, biographical display exhibits.
- PHS 2295 Joann Lenz, Box 296, Sterling Heights MI 48311-0296. Modern U.S. (1954 to present), dummy testing (U.S.), personalized postage (U.S.), electronic mail.
- PHS 2296 Paolo Vaccari, c/o Vaccari S.R.L., Via M. Buonarroti, 46, 41058 Vignola (MO), Italy. Dealer – postal history, literature.
- PHS 2297 Casimir S. Skrzypczak, 413 Indies Drive, Orchid FL 32963-9513. U.S., Orange Free State, Florida postal history, U.S. Navy (WWII – Naval Air Stations).
- PHS 2298 Bernard Newman, 1310 Eagle Rd., New Hope PA 18938-9222. PA stampless.
- PHS 2299 Stephen J. McGrath, 7979 Orr Springs Rd., Ukiah CA 95482-9037. Civil War (Union & Confederate), Western Express Co., carriers & locals, auxilliary markings.
- PHS 2300 Schuyler Rumsey, 47 Kearny St., #500, San Francisco CA 94108-5522. French colonies (the general issues).
- PHS 2301 Lucien S. Klein, 500 Marshall St., Woodburn OR 97071-5826. Prexie postal history, Marion Co. and Grant Co. Oregon postal history, Tonga and tin can mail.
- PHS 2302 James Ronald Stultz, 1216 6th St., Moundsville WV 26041-1933. U.S to year 2000, RPO cancels, U.S. possessions, Confederate states, postal history of Marshall Co. West Virginia.
- PHS 2303 Dr. Charles J. DiComo, 102 Old Pawling Rd., Pawling NY 12564-2121. U.S.

3 cent 1851-57 (1851 period), Pawling/Dutchess Co. New York pre 1900, U.S. classic postal history from stampless period.

PHS 2304 Earl L. Chambers Jr., 2501 Love Point Rd., Stevensville MD 21666-2059. Classic U.S., early Europe.

PHS 2305 Colin Merton Hoffman RDPSA, 9 Oaker Ave., West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2XH, England. Rhodesia.

PHS 2306 Roland H. (Ron) Cipolla II, 15333 E. Westridge Dr., Fountain Hills AZ 85268-5825. Postal history of printed matter.

Deceased

PHS 0434 Hubert C. Skinner

PHS 1962 Johannes Vrugtman

Resigned

PHS 2245 Frank Braithwaite

PHS 0564 Robert J. Cierzniewski

PHS 1179 Stanley J. Luft

PHS 0859 F. Burton Sellers

Dropped from Membership – Non Payment of Dues

PHS 1843 Dr. Stephen I. Frater

PHS 1580 Thomas E. Stanton

Address Corrections

PHS 1090 Dr. Michael D. Dixon, 7321 SE Taylor St., Portland OR 97215-2262.

PHS 2264 Robert Patkin, 1 Wesley Dr., Londonderry NH 03053-3544.

PHS 0812 Wm. A. Sandrik, Box 3122, Arlington VA 22203-3122.

PHS 1950 Richard Schaefer, c/o Golden Boy Promotions, Inc., 626 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles CA 90017-3581.

PHS 2083 Richard Schaefer Sr., Marderbach 15, CH 3807 Iseltwald, Kanton Berne, Switzerland.

A Postal Ulysses - for “Bloomsday” 2009

Dale Speirs’ checklist of “Postal History in Fiction” (*PHJ* 136) struck a chord for many collectors. He observed that “postal history is commonly used to add color to the background against which the characters move” and that, if the characters could be transplanted to another “background” without altering the story line, then the postal element is minor. By this criteria, James Joyce’s *Ulysses* – one of the monumental works of fiction written in English – is, among all its other attributes, a major work of postal historical fiction. Joyce wrote the novel between 1914 and 1921, but set it over the course of just one Dublin day – June 16, 1904. Crucially, that day falls before the Irish Nationalist uprising which destroyed the Dublin post office, symbol of the hated English control of daily affairs in the country.

Joyce begins his Dublin day on the parapet of a Martello tower overlooking the bay – with Buck Mulligan jesting for Stephen Dedalus that he summoned up with his own whistle the “two strong shrill whistles” of a steamship, “the mailboat clearing the harbour mouth of Kingstown.” This signals a reminder of Irish subservience to the British, as the Christian imagery dominating this first scene signals Irish subservience to the Roman church.

In the embrace of the postal function, the day itself involved much letter writing and receiving. Stephen Dedalus receives letters from his employer, the headmaster Mr. Deasy, to be printed in newspapers for which he free-lances. Leopold and Molly Bloom receive two mailed communications from their daughter Milly, a postcard and a letter – embodying

the different qualities of their parental relationship to her. Molly hides a letter from her lover, Hugh E. (Blazes) Boylan, under the bed covers. Bloom, to enrich his fantasy life, is carrying on an epistolary relationship as Henry Flower with a Martha Clifford. He believes the “affair” is secret because the posting is given and received as *Poste Restante*, at the post office on Westland Row. But Molly reveals in her final long stream-of-consciousness interior monologue that she knows what he is up to and doesn’t mind (“if they only knew him as well as I do yes because the day before yesterday he was scribbling something a letter when I came into the front room for the matches to show him Dignams death in the paper as if something told me and he covered it up wit the blottingpaper pretending to be thinking about business so very probably that was it to somebody who thinks she has a softy in him because all men get a bit like that at his age ...”) The letter from Martha that Bloom picks up in the morning is part of his subconscious pleasure all day but, ever the procrastinator, he has to resort to the late letter box to send a reply.

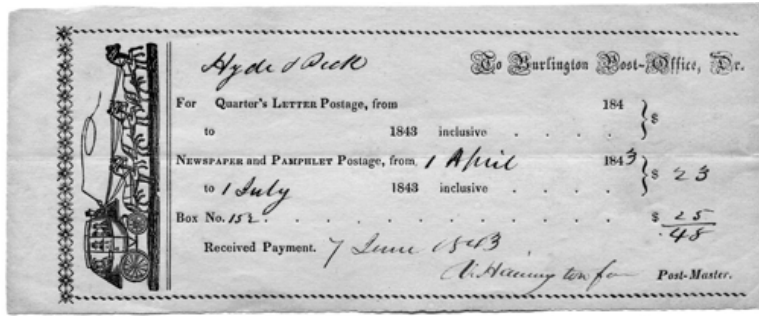
The post is the backbone of the quotidian – in his budget accounting for the day, Bloom records tuppence for “1 packet notepaper and envelopes” and 2 shillings 8 pence for “1 Postal order and stamp,” the latter costing more than his dinner. The post also brings uncertain evidence of the exotic – the Bolivian “*Tarjeta Postal*” produced as a storytelling device by the discharged sailor, W.B. Murphy, in the cabman’s shelter late at night. And the post is the vehicle for a fantasy life. Stamp collecting is woven into this realm. In his last thoughts before sleep, Bloom fantasizes his dream home “Bloom Cottage, Saint Leopold’s, Flowerville” which he imagines paying for by finding “valuable adhesive or impressed postage stamps (7-shilling, mauve, imperforate, Hamburg, 1866: 4 pence, rose, blue paper perforate, Great Britain, 1855: 1 franc, stone, official, rouletted, diagonal surcharge, Luxembourg, 1878).” And this fantasy itself had roots in Bloom’s admiration for his father-in-law, Major Brian Tweedy, who had: “brains enough to make that corner in stamps. Now that was farseeing.”

Joyce’s characters, though moved to write and post communications, struggle with communicating even their views on literature to one another (Dedalus on Shakespeare) let alone their emotional life. This failure is poignantly explored in the doubly narrated flirtation from separated points on the beach between Bloom and the lame Gerty MacDowell, which ends with Bloom finding a piece of paper on the strand and thinking it might be a letter: “Never know what you find. Bottle with story of a treasure in it thrown from a wreck. *Parcels Post*.” He contemplates leaving the young woman a message in the sand, that most ephemeral of mail.

In a nod to Marshall McLuhan, in *Ulysses* the medium is part of the message. Mulligan, who is all manipulative outward action, sends Dedalus a message by telegram. But both Leopold and Molly Bloom relish their transparently covert communications by mail. Molly’s lover and impresario boldly sends her a letter at home to arrange an assignation. But she, dreaming always of something more romantic, admits to having mailed herself blank sheets. By describing the details of these rather clumsy modes of communication, Joyce emphasizes his desire for a way to better transfer ideas and emotions. In the structure of the novel, the sailing of the evening mail boat signals the end of communication among his characters of the ordinary, or literary, sort.



1843 Postage Receipt from James W. Milgram, M.D.



Jim Milgram recently found this receipted bill for quarterly postages incurred by “Hyde & Peck” in 1843, signed for the postmaster of Burlington. There are several interesting aspects to this snippet of postal history.

Which Burlington is it? In 1843 there were 14 Burlington post offices in the country. Ranged in size from largest to smallest, they were in the states of Vermont, Iowa, New Jersey, Kentucky, New York, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, Virginia and Maine. Was this a receipt from a large or small office?

The earliest printed receipts for recording postages that we have seen are from the second decade of the 19th century, and they were from small offices. In many cases we suspect that the postmaster was, himself, a job printer and printed his own forms, since such niceties were at a postmaster’s own expense. His remuneration depended upon these postage amounts (differently computed for “Letter Postage” or for “Newspaper and Pamphlet Postage” hence the different line figures) and upon proper accounting with the Post Office Department – although such accounting was performed on government printed forms. An illustrated receipt such as this one is unusual for postal use, but not for other commercial ventures – and, of course, shows pride in the office.

The line for box rent (Hyde & Peck rented Box No. 152 for 25 cents a quarter) is particularly important. Rental boxes for patrons in post offices were a purely American invention. By 1800 there were complaints to the Post Office Department that postmasters were permitting certain favored clients to have “pigeonholes” for their mail. Until 1842, a postmaster charged whatever he thought the market could bear and pocketed the full amount without accounting to Washington. So this receipt was from the first year when the Burlington postmaster would have to declare box rent in his quarterly accounting to the POD.

The fact that the receipt was not signed by the postmaster but for him by an “A. Harrington” might indicate that this was a large office with assistants, though none of the Burlington offices in 1843 was large enough for a separate postal clerk. But postmasters at small offices often had underlings to handle portions of their business – especially if they otherwise operated a mercantile concern, such as a general store.

The vehicle illustrated in the woodcut is a Concord coach (some 700 of the original Abbot Downing design were manufactured in Concord, New Hampshire, before the company disbanded in 1847, and the design lived on) with six horses. None of the postal contracts in 1843 specified six-horse post coaches, only four-horse – the extra horses were usually used on the stagecoaches that were not dedicated to mail but concentrated on passenger service. The fact that a Burlington printer had a stock woodcut of such a coach implies that there was stagecoach service to his town (the “U.S. Mail” looks as if it were added to the design). There were several mail contracts specifying four-horse post coaches, for instance, operating out of Burlington, Vermont, as well as more than one stagecoach line.



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