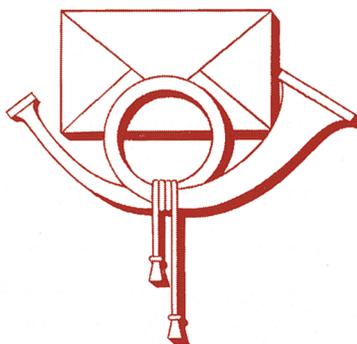
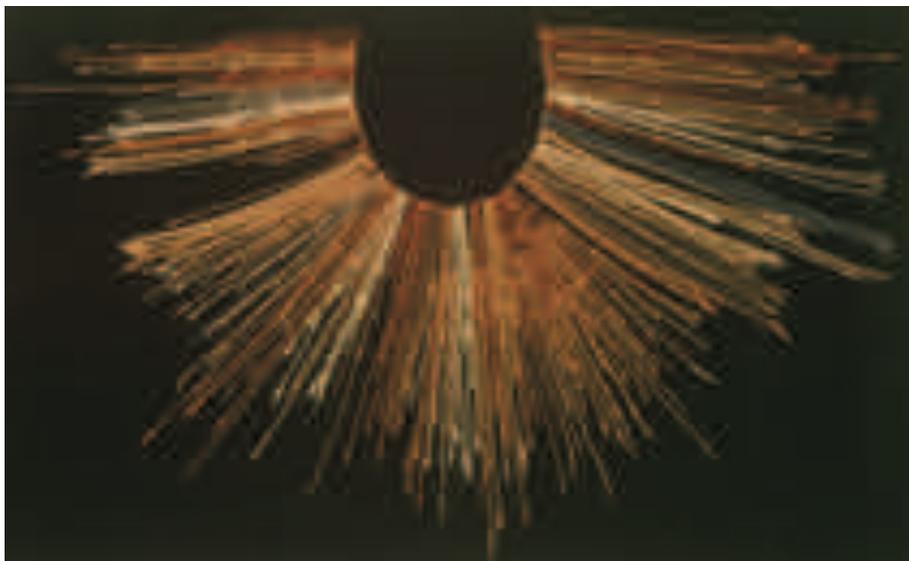


Postal History Journal



NUMBER 146

JUNE 2010



Quipu of the Incas: Early Communication at a Distance

Missent Markings on Stampless Covers



Acoustic Telephones



Ocean Crossings, with Laakso and Winter

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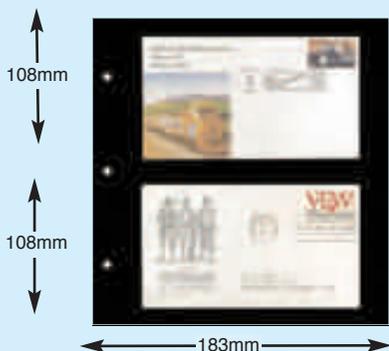
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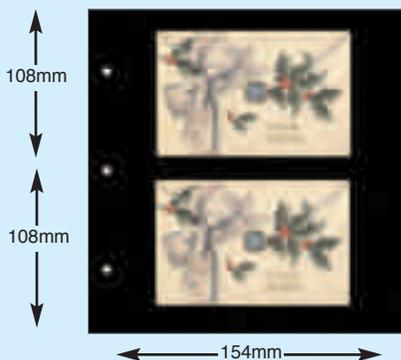
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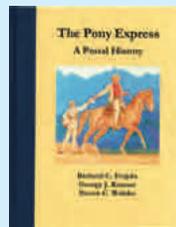


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CONTENTS © Copyright Postal History Society 2010

RESEARCH FEATURES

MISSENT MARKINGS on STAMPLESS COVERS by James W. Milgram, M.D.	2
The QUIPU of the INCAS: Its Place in the History of Communication by Leo J. Harris	7
ACOUSTIC (MECHANICAL) TELEPHONES: How the Postal System Helped to Advertise Them by Stephen Prigozy	13
ACROSS THE OCEANS by Robert Dalton Harris	28
COVER ILLUSTRATION	12

COMMENTARY

AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY in OTHER JOURNALS by Douglas N. Clark	35
FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY in OTHER JOURNALS by Joseph J. Geraci	50

REVIEWS

Peru Cancellations by Alan Warren	34
Transatlantic Mail by Stephen B. Pacetti	46

SOCIETY FORUM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Douglas N. Clark	59
POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS	59
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES by Kalman V. Illyefalvi	45

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Missent Markings on Stampless Covers

by James W. Milgram, M.D.

This article is the second part to an overview of the handling of mail that was forwarded in the period before the use of stamps was compulsory in the United States. A missent letter was an error on the part of some postal employee either misinterpreting the address or putting the letter into the wrong mail sack. So such letters were marked Missent and were not charged for the additional distance between the receiving post office and the final correct post office. Since a missent letter was always forwarded, some markings read Missent and Forwarded.

Wrong Routings with Manuscript Markings

The 1832 cover shown in Figure 1 went to Sag Harbor instead of Perry and was re-mailed with no change to the rating.



Figure 1: Letter written by Daniel Wygant datelined September 18, 1832 to Edmond Birdsall, Town of Perry, County of Genesee, mailed September 20 from "MARLBORO N Y/ Ulster Co." with unusual configuration of straight line and arc in red with "18 3/4" cent postage rate. Manuscript "Missent and forwarded" and black "SAG HAR N.Y. SEP 24" document the mistake.



Figure 2: Letter written by Henning & Dutton Co. datelined Philadelphia, June 3, 1837 to Charles H. Cross, New Orleans, with notation "by Express Mail." Rated in manuscript red "75" for triple rate, red "PHILADA Pa JUN 4" with octagon "PAID". After traveling over the Great Mail route to New Orleans, the letter was "Forwd" "NEW ORLEANS La. JUL 21" in blue, to Pulaski Oswego Co N.Y., manuscript "25" cents postage due. However, it was sent to Oswego instead of Pulaski so there is a manuscript "missent to and forwarded from" notation next to the red Oswego postmark of August 17.

Handstamped Markings for Missent Mail



Figure 3: Letter written to Messrs R. Hoe & Co. in New York, with circular datestamp December 31 [1850] of Milton, Fla, and a manuscript "10" that covered postage for such a long distance. The Hoe company was at this time brothers Robert and Richard Hoe, the largest manufacturers in the country of printing presses. For some reason, this letter lodged in Richmond, Virginia, from where it was forwarded: circular datestamp of January 8 and a straightline "MISS SENT."

Handstamps with Town Names

One of the best known of town markings is the "MISSENT TO/ BOSTON MASS." in two straight lines shown in Figure 4. The letter's origin is Nevada City, California where the cover was struck with the integral rate postmark "NEVADA CITY CAL 3 PAID AUG 28". Over this is a "10" surcharging the rate to 10 cents, prepaid for over 3,000 miles (effective April 1, 1855). Since the address is Astoria, Oregon the rate of 3 cents would have been correct. I had always thought that the "10" was applied in Boston to show that postage across the country was paid. However, another cover addressed to the East Coast shows the same combination of reevaluated Nevada City marks with the same "10" in the same position. So Figure 4 was intentionally reevaluated at Nevada City to ten cents paid to cover travel to an Astoria across the country, perhaps to Astoria, Queens County, NY. The error was discovered at Boston, a distributing post office, so the cover was handstamped as missent and forwarded to the correct destination back across the whole country. In this period, mail had to travel by ship, and then by land across Panama - a complicated transportation for just 10 cents.



Figure 4: ca1855 cover addressed to Hiram Bronn “in haste” with “NEVADA CITY CAL. 3 PAID AUG 28” revaluated to 10 paid. The letter was sent to Boston instead of Astoria, Oregon in the eastern mails through San Francisco and New York. The mistake was discovered, and the cover was marked “MISSENT TO BOSTON MASS.” It was returned, October 3, in the west coast mails to the Oregon address.

Handstamps with Both Missent and Forwarded



Figure 5: Letter written by S. B. Hunting datelined September 1 mailed from Sag Harbor New York on September 6 addressed to Bradford Durfee in Troy, Fall River, Mass. “MISSENT/ FORWARDED” in two straight lines from Troy, N.Y. September 29, 1825. This is the earliest handstamped forwarded marking we have recorded. Durfee, of a powerful cotton mill family, had helped found the Fall River Iron Works in 1821. Hunting was the managing owner of a whaling ship out of the harbor of Southampton, Long Island.



Figure 6: “MISSENT & FORWARDED.” in green straight line with “TAUNTON MASS. 5 cts JAN 1” with original address to Laurence, Mass. Letter written by J.W. Edwards datelined December 31, 1847 mailed December 31 from Boston addressed to Laurence, forwarded January 1 from Taunton.



Figure 7: Letter written by Perkins Pratt datelined Paris, January 31, 1850 to Miss M. Pratt, Athens, Ohio. Mailed from Paris, Ohio, January 31, 1850, red cds and “PAID” + “5”. “MISSENT FORWARDED” in black straight line with “ABERDEEN O FEB 3” postmark that was applied when letter was forwarded.

Catalog of MISSENT handstamps on U.S. Stampless Covers

- (San Francisco, CA) MISSENT TO SAN FRANCISCO, black, S.L.69x6, 1869.
(Bridgeport, Conn.) MISSENT, red, S.L. 22x3.5,1845
(New Haven, Conn.) NEW-HAVEN Ct./ MISSENT [type styles differ], black, circle 29, 1859
(Woodstock, Conn.) MISSENT TO / WOODSTOCK CT/ FORWD. date, red, rectangle 30x15, 1837
(Newark, N.J.) MISSEND, black, 29x4, 1855
(New York, N.Y.) MISSENT, red, rectangle, 26x26x7, 1838
(Troy, N.Y.) MISSENT., blue, S.L. 22x4, 1845
(Cleveland, O.) MIS-SENT, red, S.L. 27x5,1849-50
(Richmond, Va.) MIS SENT, red, S.L. 37x4, 1850

Catalog of COMBINED MISSENT & FORWARDED handstamps

- (Lodi, Ind.) MISS & FORD., black, S.L. 51X6.5, early 1850s
(Chelsea, Mass.) MISSENT, red, S.L.35x6 and Forwarded [between two pointing hands], red, S.L. 50x4, 1860
(Taunton, Mass.) MISSENT & FORWARDED., green, S.L. 35x2, 1847
(New York, N.Y.) MISDIRECTED, black, S.L. 39x4, 1850's
(Troy, N.Y.) MISSENT/ FORWARDED, red, 2 S.L. with line underneath 31x9, 1825
(Aberdeen, Oh.) MISSENT FORWARDED, black, S.L. 41x2, 1850
(Montpelier, Vt.) MISSENT AND/ FORWARDED , red, 2 S.L. 37x9, 1860s

Editors' Note

One might wonder about the responsibility for these mistakes in the direction of such letters. Figure 5 seems to include both the true and the missent location in the letter's address which may have been the case. The addressee, Durfee, was often in Troy N.Y. to confer with the iron manufacturers there - the writer may have known this and provided an either/or scenario for the postal clerk at Sag Harbor. The editors have recorded two other examples of Troy missent handstamps: September 21, 1827 addressed from Albany N.Y. to Troy, Mass. And August 28, 1841 addressed from New York to the Commandant of the Watervliet Arsenal in Troy, instead of West Troy, N.Y.

MISSENT *Figure 8: Tracings of "MISSENT" markings from Troy N.Y. - 1827 to the left, and 1841 to the right.* MISSENT.

Figure 6, originating in Boston, was misrouted south to Taunton via the Boston and Providence Rail Road rather than north to Lawrence via the Boston & Lowell Rail Road, both departing at 6:30 am: a sorting error.

A detailed examination of the list of mail routes provided by Eli Bowen's United States Post Office Guide (1851) discloses, in reference to Figure 7, that Athens - the destination of address, and Aberdeen - the post office to which the letter was missent, were served by routes diverting from Lancaster, Ohio, where the letter had already efficiently negotiated three routes on its way from Paris: to Wooster, to Columbus, and from Columbus to Lancaster.

But, how Figure 1 got directed onto Long Island rather than towards Lake Erie from its origin in the mid-Hudson Valley may forever elude such an analysis.

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

The Quipu of the Incas: Its Place in the History of Communication

by Leo J. Harris

The study of postal history has, through time, been defined in a number of different ways. Most of us consider postal history to be the study of how a paper with writing on it was carried in some sort of organized fashion from place to place. But more broadly, and for the purpose of this short article, postal history could be defined as the study of moving information on an organized basis from one place to another. This definition has particular meaning when one considers the situation in which the prevailing language had no written form. That is precisely the case with the Inca Empire in South America.

The Inca Empire (circa 1400 AD to 1532 AD) stretched from Chile and Argentina on the south, through Bolivia and Peru, to Ecuador on the north. The topography was desert, the high Andes mountains, plateaus and jungles. The empire was held together by two principal means. The first was a highly developed, often paved road system, which even today is followed in part by the Pan American highway. The second were “Chasquis,” Indian runners who carried messages from one Tambo (or way-station) to another, over these roads. In this manner adequate communication was assured, but to this had to be added a method to preserve and transmit information. Given the length and breadth of the Empire, the Inca hierarchy needed a significant and continuing flow of information and data to exercise economic and political control over greatly diverse inhabitants. That device was the quipu.



Figure 1: Left, secretary to the Inca and his council, holding quipu and, right, chief treasurer of the Inca with quipu and yupane. Drawings by Felipe Guamán Poma de Alaya, from a facsimile edition of his 1613 letter to King Philip of Spain, *Nuva Cronca y Buen Gobierno*, Paris 1936.

A quipu (also known as a khipu) was a string device made from cotton or llama wool. The quipu had a single main cord and a number of pendant cords, and when extended could range from three to five feet in dimension. The cords had differing colors, including white, black, red, green, blue, and grey. There were also knots of various types at differing positions on most cords. The quipus were carried from place to place in a bag. Quipus ranged from a gathering of simple strings to large versions with up to 1800 pendant cords. The quipu makers (Quipucamas) were minor administrative officials, located at every place in the Empire of economic or political consequence. Their principal duty was to create in readable form and to interpret the information which the quipu contained. A very large accumulation of quipus were kept at Cuzco, the administrative capital of the Inca Empire. Approximately 400 quipus have been preserved for study at the present time. Nearly all of these quipus were found in the graves of the quipucamas. We shall consider the elements of these quipus in greater detail in the pages which follow.

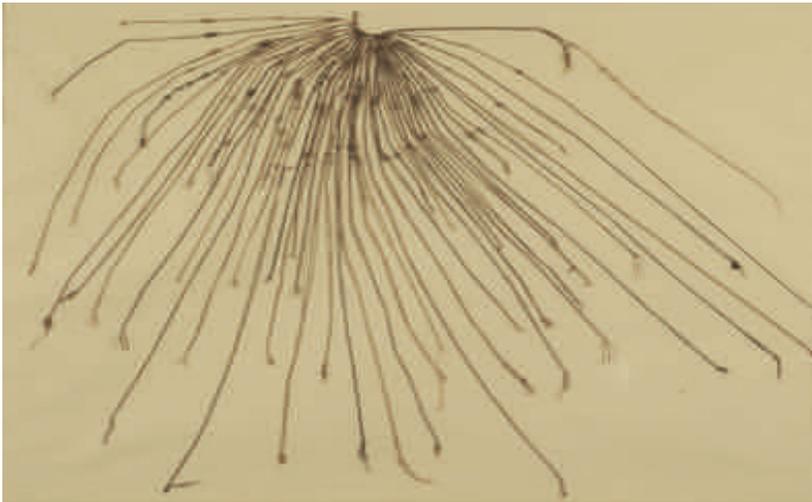
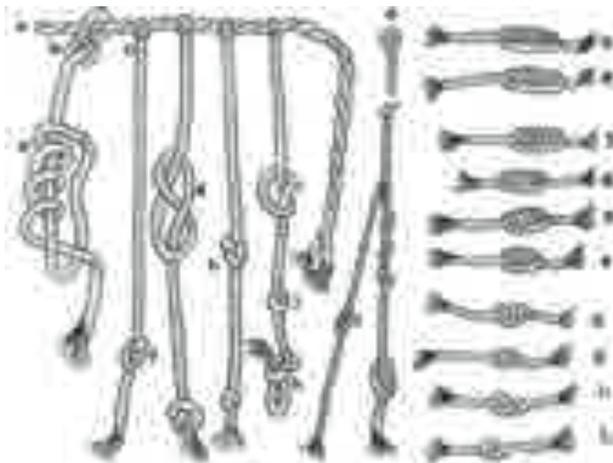
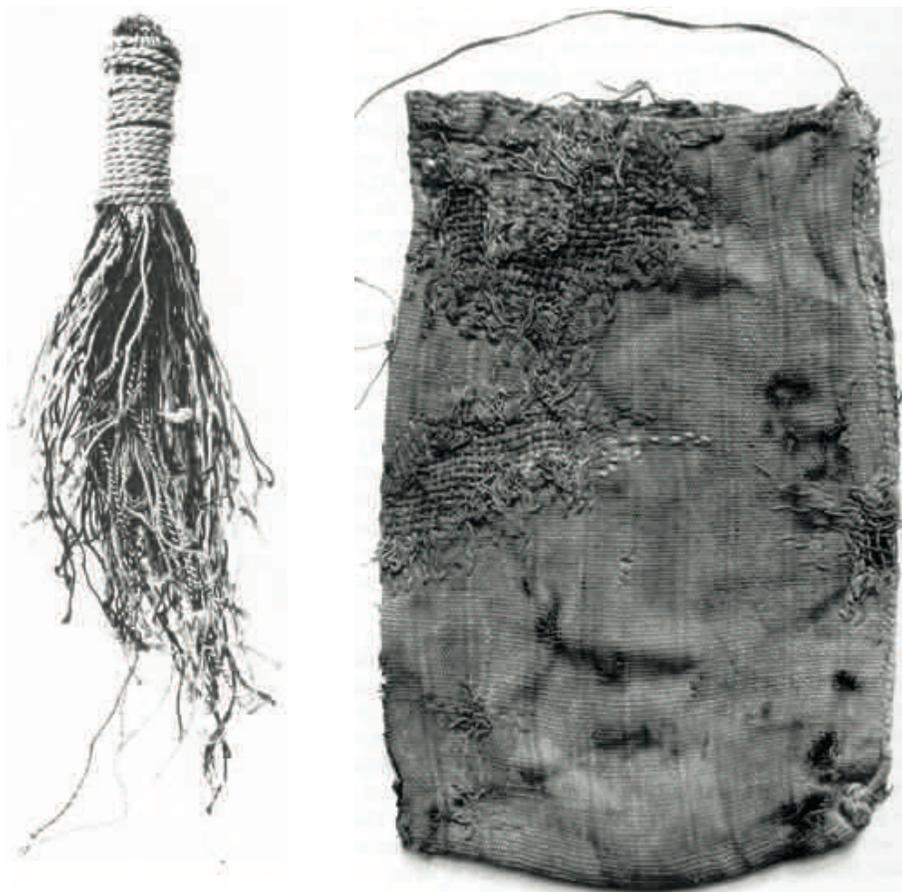


Figure 2: This 51-strand quipu is typical of surviving examples, which date from the 13th and 16th centuries. 78 x 101 cm. Princeton University.



*Figure 3: How the knots were tied. This plate from L. Leland Locke's 1923 *The Ancient Quipu*, illustrates on the right the composition of the numbers one through nine. Many scholarly works illustrate the Quipu knots, and analyze the direction of the ply of the string, as well as the meaning of the colors.*



Figures 4 & 5: A quipu that has been completed and rolled (from the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum, Washington D.C.) and the bag in which a quipu was carried (from the collection of Oscar Núñez del Prado, Cuzco, Peru), illustrations courtesy of Ascher and Ascher, pages 33 and 69. In terms of postal comparisons, this is reminiscent of bundling letters in packets to place in a mail bag.

Perhaps the best way to explain the quipus is from the contemporary accounts of their use. But even this has its limitations. Marcia Ascher and Robert Ascher, students of the quipu, have cautioned:

For written accounts of Inca culture, we must turn to the sixteenth-century Spanish of soldiers, priests and administrators. Yet, the culture of the Spaniards of that time is remote from our own. We do not share with them, for example, a real fear of the devil, even if we are part of the same tradition which invented him. And the devil, together with many other cultural predispositions, figured largely in Spanish discussions of the Incas. To make matters worse, the Spanish got their information almost exclusively from deposed Inca bureaucrats. They were a special and numerically small part of a population estimated at somewhere between three and five million people. Whatever we may or may not have in common with sixteenth-century Spaniards, they shared close to nothing with the Incas. We can make sense of Spanish accounts only in terms of our framework, and the Spanish,

for their part, rendered what the Incas said from inside a Spanish framework. As a result, written accounts are distorted as they pass from inside this route: one culture (Incas) is interpreted via a second culture (Spanish), which is interpreted via a third culture (American), four hundred and fifty years later.

Not to belabor the point, it is still useful to consider two examples of the approach which the Spanish authorities took to things alien to them. The quipus were actually banned, condemned as idolatrous objects and ordered burned by the Third Council of Lima, the council of the Roman Catholic Church held between 1582 and 1583. With similar hubris, the Spanish bishop of the Yucatan, Diego de Landa, had collected and burned hundreds of Maya codices on July 12, 1562. A codex was a form of book written on tree bark with painted images on the pages. The Maya glyphs which were recorded in these codices and upon various limestone tablets (stelae) are now being extensively read. Unlike the Incas, the Mayas indeed had a written language. Curiously, the Mayan codices contained significant religious and political accounts, while the quipus contained economic and financial information, yet both were anathema to the Church.

The history of the quipu in this short article is based primarily upon the works of two individuals. The first writer was Pedro Cieza de León (born 1519 in Spain) whose observations were published in Seville, Spain, in 1553. His work is generally thought of as reasonably credible, since he was in Inca territory within fifteen years following the conquest. The second was Felipe Guamán Poma de Alaya, a descendant of one of the last Inca rulers, who wrote a comprehensive letter, with commentary and drawings, to Phillip III of Spain in 1613. Various of Poma's drawings illustrate this article.

Marcia and Robert Ascher summarized some of Cieza's writings about the quipu:

In earlier times, when the Incas moved in upon an area, a census was taken and the results were put on quipus. The output of gold mines, the composition of work forces, the amount and kind of tribute, the contents of storehouses—down to the last sandal, says Cieza—were all recorded on quipus. At the time of the transfer of power from one Sapa Inca to the next, information stored on quipus was called upon to recount the accomplishments of the new leader's predecessors. Quipus probably predate the coming to power of the Incas. But under the Incas they became a part of statecraft.

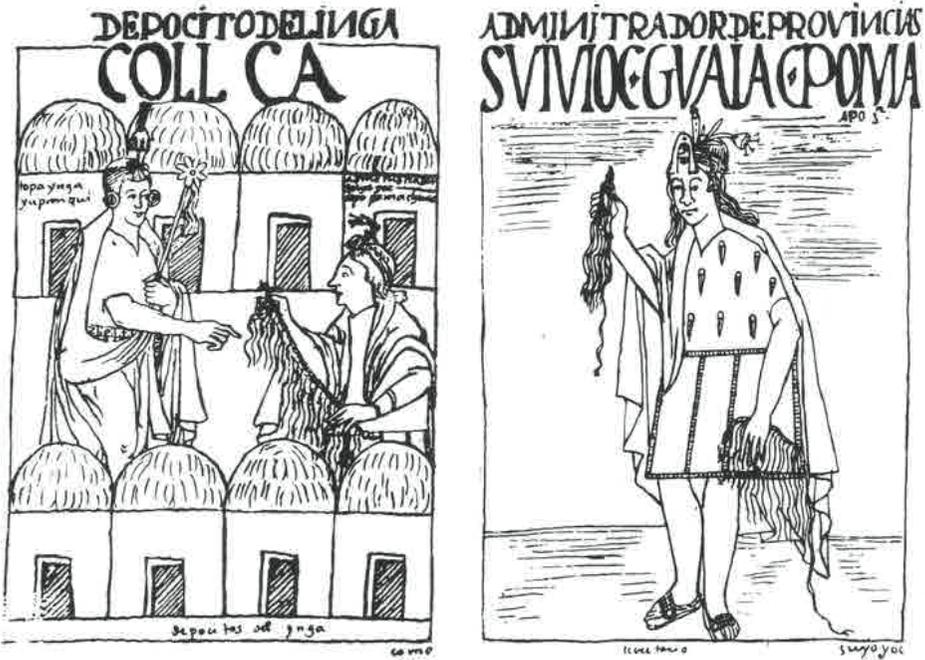
According to Cieza,

The system of the Peruvians was by quipus. These were long ropes made of knotted cords, and those who were accountants and understood the arrangement of these knots could, by their means, give an account of the expenditure, and of other things during a long course of years. On these knots they counted from one to ten, and from ten to a hundred, and from a hundred to a thousand. On one of the ropes are the units, on another the tens, and so on. Each ruler of a province was provided with accountants who were called quipucamayos, and by these knots they kept account of what tribute was to be paid in the district with respect to silver, gold, cloth, and flocks, down to fire-wood and other minute details.

By the same quipus they could report to those who were commissioned to take the account at the end of a year, of ten or twenty years, with such accuracy that so much as a pair of alpargatas (canvas shoes) would not be missing.

I was incredulous respecting this system of counting, and although I heard it described, I held the greater part of the story to be fabulous. But when I was at Marcavilla, in the province of Xauxa, I asked the lord Guacarapora to explain it in such a way as that

my mind might be satisfied, and that I might be assured that it was true and accurate. He ordered his servants to bring the quipus, and as this lord was a native, and a man of good understanding, he proceeded to make the thing clear to me. He told me to observe that all that he, for his part, had delivered to the Spaniards at the time that the Governor Don Francisco Pizarro arrived in the valley, was duly noted down without any fault or omission. Thus I saw the accounts for the gold, the silver, the cloths, the corn, sheep, and other things, so that in truth I was quite astonished.



Figures 6 & 7: Inca storehouse (“deposito del inca”) with functionaries; and, on the right, a provincial administrator with quipus. 1613 de Alaya drawings.

Probably a good deal of these early writings is wishful thinking, but perhaps there is some germ of truth in them to consider. Let us now turn to the analysis of various modern-day scholars who seek a more scientifically verifiable basis for the reading of a quipu.

Were the quipus actually a memory cueing device, or a system of writing, or some other type of record keeping? The quipus were, as noted previously, a configuration of strings, knots, colors, and other features linked to and, perhaps, providing cues, for the recitation of information. Various early writers have argued that the quipu was a mnemonic device whose purpose was to aid the quipucamas in the recitation of information contained in their memory. Other earlier scholars viewed the quipu as carrying and conveying widely shared and logical semantic values, so that a trained quipucama working in the Inca bureaucracy could pick up any quipu produced in the system and read or interpret the information. More recently, scholars considered the quipu to be a writing system in the sense it was a general recording device, with encoded information, decrypted if you will by using cues from a shared informational model within the Inca culture, particularly those relating to state affairs. The most recent analysis suggest that features of the quipu (strings, colors, knots) provide a binary coding, which could have been decoded and

used, and even presented, alternatively, into arrays of colored stones (the Yupane, or Peruvian abacus).

Gary Urton concludes his research by suggesting that a quipu

.... is an arrangement of cotton and/or wool strings— some or all of which may be dyed in astonishingly complex arrays of colors—which have been either Z-spun/S-plied or S-spun/Z-plied and attached recto or verso to a common (primary) string, and bear knots that may be (but are not necessarily) tied in a hierarchical, decimal-place fashion using three different types of knots that are tied with their primary axes either in an S- or Z-direction.

This particular analysis is, fortunately, far beyond what most postal historians need to contemplate.

As the Aschers observe, the way that concepts of numbers, geometric configuration, and logic were formed together by the quipucamas were unparalleled in other cultures. Quipu-making came to an abrupt end during the early sixteenth century. Nevertheless, it is incontrovertible that information was inserted into the quipus, which were then transported from one place to another by the chasquis, whereupon information was derived from the quipus. The academics are only arguing about the methodology of this process. For our purposes the use of the quipu clearly meets the definition presented earlier: moving information on an organized basis from place to place, much like a letter carried by the postman.

Further Reading

Gary Urton lists in his bibliography eighteen pages of citations of scholarly works which consider the quipu. We have listed below only a few of the more seminal works which may be of interest to the curious.

Marcia Ascher and Robert Ascher. *Code of the Quipu. A Study in Media, Mathematics, and Culture*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (1981).

William Burns Glynn. "La Tabla der Cálculo de los Incas," *Boletín de Lima*, No. 11 (March 1981).

L. Leland Locke. *The Ancient Quipu*. New York: The American Museum of Natural History (1923).

Carlos Radicati Di Primeglio. *El sistema contable de los Incas*. Lima: Librería Studium, S.A. (ND.)

Gary Urton. *Signs of the Inka Khipu. Binary Coding in the Andean Knotted-String Records*. Austin: University of Texas Press (2003).

Prince Raimondo Sangro. *Lettera Apologetica ... La Difesa del Libro Intitolato Lettere d'una Peruana per Rispetto alla Supposizione de' Quipu Scritta alla Duchessa di S.*, Naples 1750 (with 3 color plates of quipu).

Leo J. Harris is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a corresponding member, Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia, of Madrid. He has previously written eleven articles for the *Postal History Journal*, beginning in 1962. He is an international exhibitor and judge, and was formerly the APS representative to the Federación Interamericana de Filatelia.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: A quipu from the collection of the Museu Arqueológico Rafael Larco Herrera, Lima, Peru [MAA Mathematical Sciences Digital Library]. The knots and the colors are codes; the extent to which information transfer was dependent on interpretation of the messenger, or chasqui, is unknown.

Acoustic (Mechanical) Telephones: How the Postal System Helped to Advertise Them

by Stephen Prigozy

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a U.S. patent for an electric telephone (Patent No. 174,465, titled “Telegraphy”). Following that, on January 30, 1877, Bell obtained a second electric telephone patent (Patent No. 186,787, titled “Electric Telegraphy”). There was some controversy over the awarding of these patents. Others claimed to have invented telephones prior to Bell’s invention. In the end, after much litigation, Bell’s patents prevailed. This gave Bell a 17-year right to stop others from making, using and selling his inventions.¹



Figure 1: Toy acoustic telephone, ca1880 generic trade card.

In order to bypass Bell’s patents, several companies began to manufacture acoustic telephones. These telephones operated on the same principle as string telephones, which children made from a pair of paper cups with a taut string connecting the cup bottoms, as shown in a trade card as Figure 1. The string transmitted the vibrations from one paper cup bottom to the other paper cup bottom (and vice versa). The first string telephone is attributed to Robert Hooke in 1667.

Rather than paper cups, the acoustic telephones used wood and metal housings in conjunction with a diaphragm. Various materials were used to construct the diaphragms, such as metal, paper, parchment, etc. The string was generally replaced with either a stranded, galvanized iron wire or a copper wire. There were available various “insulators” and pulleys which supported, with a minimum of loss and distortion to vibrations, and enabled the wire to negotiate turns. In addition, there were available switching devices (called exchanges) which permitted a telephone to connect with several different telephones (one-at-a-time).

The acoustic telephones were advertised as able to communicate as far as two miles. Thus they were suitable for small town communication, for example from a store to a house or from the Post Office to the depot. These phones could also communicate vertically in multi-story buildings. Problems with a wire which ran outside were the wind and rain which could cause - as with an aeolian harp - a howling noise to be produced at both ends.²

There were 175 U.S. patents issued on acoustic telephones and their accoutrements during the period 1878-1893. 1893-1894 is the period when the original telephone patents expired, which caused the waning of use and eventual demise of the acoustic telephone.

The acoustic telephone manufacturers did very little advertising in the contemporary magazines and newspapers. The few advertisements which one finds are quite small, some measuring one-half inch in height. Most of the advertising was done by mailing brochures; throughout the period of the acoustic telephone, from May 1, 1879, the Third-Class, Single-Piece rate for miscellaneous printed matter and circulars was one cent per

two ounces. In many cases, the brochures were mailed in elaborately printed envelopes, which themselves were mini-catalogs, frequently picturing the telephones and giving their prices. Anyone who came in contact with the envelopes was thus exposed to the advertising. Therefore, the Postal System aided and abetted the advertising by moving the envelopes about the country for one-cent.

J.R. Holcomb & Company

J.R. Holcomb & Co. is reputed to have been the largest manufacturer of acoustic telephones. The company's first line of business, started in Mallet Creek, Ohio in 1872 by J.R. Holcomb, was printing cards. This business prospered, evidently, since by 1875 a two-story building had been erected. In 1879, J.R. partnered with his brother, J.D. Holcomb. In 1880, a third brother, C.F. Holcomb, joined. The company published a monthly magazine, *The Teacher's Guide*, and also maintained a store which sold novelties, school supplies, stationery items, books and musical instruments. In addition, the company had three steam printing presses, a machine shop and a grocery store.³ On March 1, 1882, J.R. Holcomb & Co. moved from Mallet Creek to the Atwater Building in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1878, J.R. Holcomb "invented" an acoustic telephone. He received U.S. Patent No. 205,864 on July 9, 1878, title: "Improvement in Acoustic Telephones." This was the first U.S. patent of an acoustic telephone. Figure 2 shows the patent drawing. The patent contained two pages of text. However, the second page is missing from the records of the U.S. Patent Office. The second page is the important one as that page contains the patent *claims*. (The beginning of a patent is a general description keyed to the drawings; whereas the claims are the legally binding elements of the patent.)

The earliest recorded Holcomb mailing (Figure 3) shows a sectional picture of the telephone, similar (but not the same) as the sectional patent drawing. The text on the cover states that the diaphragm is metal, whereas the patent suggests parchment or an equivalent material. The cover states that the telephone will work a distance of one mile and the price is \$3.50 for a set of two telephones.

Page 2 of the brochure which accompanied Figure 3 is filled with plaudits for the telephone. Page 3 has a price list as well as the drawing on the cover and a general external view of the telephone. The wire price was 3-cents per rod (16.5 feet). Insulators were 35-cents per dozen. Page 4 has references and testimonials from happy customers. Assuming that the testimonials are real they show a wide distribution of Holcomb telephones (from New York to California). In spite of the fact that Holcomb was in the printing business, the brochures were printed by J.B. Savage, Cleveland on cheap paper. Later brochures do not state the printer and were probably printed by Holcomb (on high quality paper).

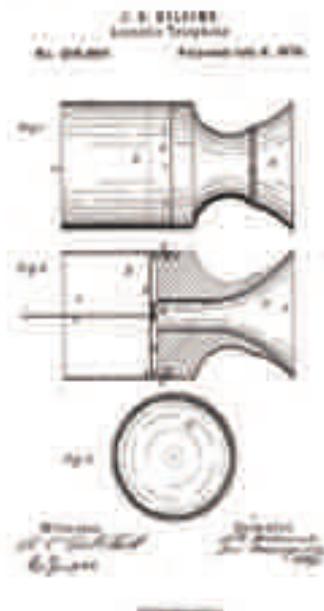


Figure 2: Acoustic Telephone patented July 9, 1878.



Figure 3: ca1879 Envelope with sectional view; the four-page brochure enclosed. American Banknote Company printed all the one cent postage stamps serving the Holcomb third class mailings. This design was re-engraved in August 1881 (see Figures 8, 11, 13) and redesigned June 1887 (none present here).



Figure 4 shows a cover which uses the general view of the telephone rather than the sectional view shown in Figure 3.



Figure 4: ca1879 General view; \$3.50 per set. Backstamped Oshkosh May 8 and Butte Des Morts May 11.

A new version of the acoustic telephone appeared circa 1880. The instrument looks similar to the previously described one, however, it is fancier in design and now costs \$4.00 per set (Figure 5). The phone - “over 3000 sets already in successful operation” - is now named “Holcomb’s Automatic Telephone” rather than “Holcomb’s Acoustic Telephone.” The enclosed four-page brochure is similar to the previously shown one in Figure 3 but printed on better quality paper, perhaps printed by J.R. Holcomb & Co. themselves.



Figure 5: ca1880; \$4.00 per set. The enclosed brochure on good paper, without imprint.

Figure 6 shows a hand-written 1880 letter with a wholesale quotation. One dozen of the large phones is quoted at \$40.00. One dozen of the \$3.50 phones is quoted at \$20.00. “Shall be pleased to have you act as agent.”

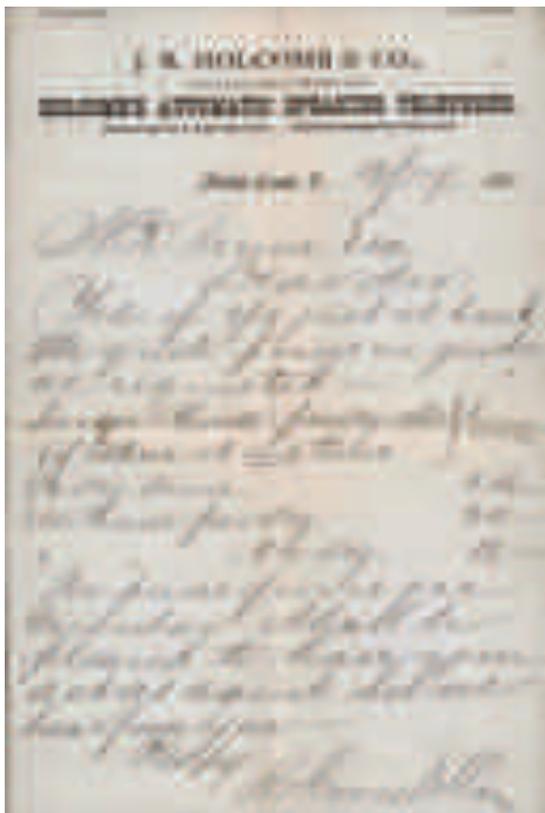


Figure 6: Letter from the Holcomb company in Mallet Creek to a potential customer, October 2, 1880, quoting both the telephones of Figures 4 and 5 at a discount per dozen.

Figure 7: 1882 Invoice “Set ampf Tels \$10” purchased for Franklin Falls NH, dated Mallet Creek February 28: before Holcomb’s removal to Cleveland March 1, 1882; after Amplifying Telephone Patent April 26,



By the end of 1880, J.R. Holcomb & Co. had sold ten-thousand sets of telephones.³ In 1881 a completely new design was introduced as “Holcomb’s Improved Amplifying Telephone.” Subsequently, both the amplifying and the automatic acoustic telephones, improved, were available (Figure 8). The advertising has now expanded to the back flap of the cover as shown in the figure. The prices of both phones are given on the cover fronts, \$5.00 per set for the Automatic Telephone and \$10.00 per set for the Amplifying Telephone.



Figure 8: 1882 Automatic \$5 per set; Improved Amplifying \$10 per set. Holcomb moved to Atwater Building in Cleveland March 1882. Re-engraved postage stamp issued in August 1881; backstamped Adrian, Michigan, July 11, 1882.

The “Amplifying Telephone” - granted U.S. Patent No. 240,713 on April 26, 1881 and signed by the three Holcomb brothers - was considerably larger than the earlier phones, measuring 10.5 inches square and 4 inches thick, permitting a very large diaphragm (parchment) which causes larger vibrations on the wire. The distance specification has now been extended to two miles. Actually there were two diaphragms with an air space between them. This arrangement was said to reduce “lateral ringing vibrations so common to telephones of this class.” This patent also included an “insulator” which looks like a safety pin.

The brochure enclosed with the cover of Figure 8 has now been lengthened to eight pages. The spectacular cover page, shown as Figure 9, has been embellished with a fancy border and includes the following poem attributed to one, Prescott.

Along the strong and tensile wires,
 The sleepless heralds run
 Fast as the clear and living rays
 Go streaming from the sun.
 No peals or flashes, heard or seen,
 Their wondrous flight betray;
 But yet their words are quickly heard
 In cities far away.

A similar cover (not shown) printed on pink paper enclosed - also printed on pink



Figure 9: The circular enclosed in the envelope of Figure 8.

paper - "The Telephone Reporter" (Figure 11) which included two-and-one-half pages of remarks from pleased customers.

ALBANY, N.Y., Apr. 1883, --- I have a set of your Amplifying Telephones in successful operation. I would not take \$100 for the outfit if I could not get another. Yours very truly,
O.H. FASOLDT, Watchmaker & Jeweler.

A notice called "Infringements," explained that U.S. Patent No. 205,864 dated July 9, 1878, was the first patent granted on acoustic telephones. According to law it is a *basic or*



Figure 10: 1883 Private-line telephone communication.

Parent Patent and entitled to a broad interpretation of the patent claims. There is also an affidavit from a Notary Public stating that the excerpts from customer letters are genuine.

The “Duplex Amplifying Telephone” appeared in 1883. It included a new feature – a separate earpiece. In the previous telephone designs, the talking and listening were done via the same orifice (Figure 11). The verso of the cover has the usual printed backflap as well as pictures of the “Automatic Telephone” and the “Amplifying Telephone” with prices and plaudits.

The matching four-page brochure (Figure 12) is not as fancy as the previously described brochure (Figure 3) and stipulated that the duplex telephone is “especially intended for short crooked lines” of 100 rods or less in length. Special angle insulators were available for 25-cents each. The regular insulators were now 5-cents each.

The observant reader will notice that the “Duplex Amplifying Telephone” in Figure 11 has the wire exiting vertically at the top of the telephone rather than exiting horizontally at the back of the automatic and amplifying telephones. Even so, another model of the “Duplex Amplifying Telephone” with the wire exiting at the back is available for the same price.



Figure 11: 1883 Duplex \$15 per set, “the only practical Crooked-line Telephone in the market.” Patent pending.

Though the patent application date for the “Duplex Amplifying Telephone” was September 3, 1883, U.S. Patent No. 320,935 was not granted to the three Holcomb brothers until June 30, 1885. The delay may indicate a patent interference with a similar patent application (the first two patents were granted less than one or two months after the applications were submitted). The patent shows drawings of the angle insulator though the insulator is not mentioned in the patent claims. This may have been the source of the patent interference. The two configurations of the phone, with wire exiting at top or through the back, are shown. In addition, the description states that “from two to six or eight instruments” can be joined together at a common center (forming a party line).

Figure 11 states that the phones are patented in the U.S. and Canada. Canadian patents numbered 9224 and 13226 were granted to the Holcombs. Unfortunately, the Canadian patent web site does not have access to patents issued prior to 1920. Therefore, the content of those patents is not available. However, the dates are close to the dates of the first two Holcomb patents in the U.S. Thus it is probable that the Canadian patents and the U.S. patents are equivalent.

The last Holcomb phone discovered is named “Holcomb’s Improved Private-Line Telephone” (Figure 13) probably circa 1886. The telephone incorporates an electrical alarm comprised of a two-gong bell and a hand-cranked magneto for alerting the called party that a call is imminent. The electric circuit is completed using the acoustic wire, with the ground used for the return. Turning the crank operates the alarm bell on the called phone. On the earlier phones, the alarm function was accomplished by rapping on the diaphragm.



Figure 12: 1883 Duplex Amplifying Telephone “a worthy rival of the Bell Telephone.”

During this time of telephone development the Holcombs were conducting their other businesses. This is illustrated by the cover shown in Figure 14, mailed from Mallet Creek, Ohio to McGaheysville, Virginia at the circular rate and prior to 1882. The corner card states “Manufacturers, / Printers & Publishers.” The fact that the Holcomb company

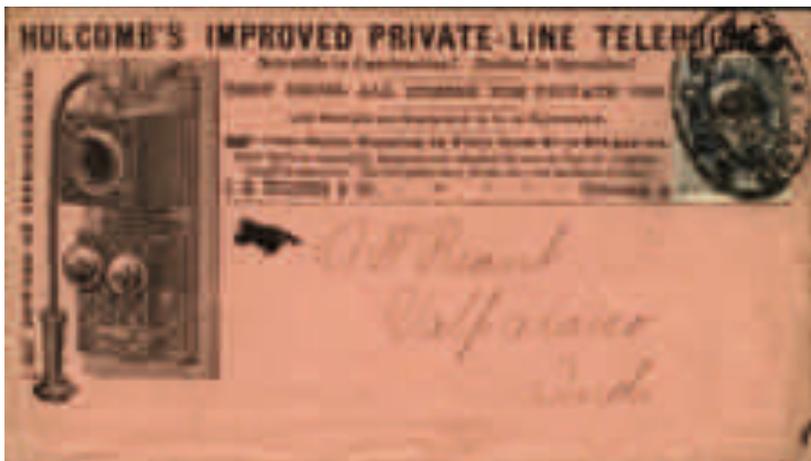


Figure 13: ca1886 “Scientific in Construction” (with an electric bell) \$30 per set.



Figure 14: Holcomb Brothers diversified business; prior to the 1882 move to Cleveland.

was so diversified, enabled it to survive after the Bell telephone patents expired and acoustic phones were no longer needed. Today, the company is still in existence, dealing in educational supplies out of Cleveland.

The Elgin Telephone Company

The Elgin Telephone Company evidently moved from Chicago to Elgin, Illinois (home of the famous watch company), William Hubbard patentee (Figure 15). Henry W. Hubbard, Esq. in New York City was probably a relative of William’s. Though he had applied for the first patent on January 3, 1880, Hubbard was granted U.S. Patent No. 237,979 on February 22, 1881, titled “Acoustic Telephone.” He also received a Canadian patent No. 14320 on March 3, 1883, “Improvements on Telephones.” In 1892, Hubbard was the assignee of a U.S. Patent No. 481,133, “Mechanical Telephone,” invented by William J. Bowen of Norwalk, Ohio.



Figure 15: 1880 (backstamp) Hubbard's application of January 3, 1880, was granted February 22, 1881. "Not a toy, but a good reliable bona fide instrument."

Hubbard's patent, in addition to the telephone receiver-transmitter, also included details on a crude switchboard or exchange, which would allow a person to speak to more than one party. Whether or not the exchange was put into operation is not known. The Elgin Telephone was exhibited at the Columbian Exposition in 1892.

THE ELGIN TELEPHONE. The exhibit of this firm was an acoustic telephone system, a model of the installation being on exhibition. The instrument is so constructed that the call, receiver and transmitter are all in one. It has no electrical connection, hence is for use strictly on private lines limited to short distances. The instruments are made wholly of metal and are self-adjusting, requiring practically no wall space to rest upon. The line for use by this system must be strung so that movements of the diaphragm will vibrate the whole length of the line. Hence the line cannot be laid in molding or on a fixed support, but must be suspended or set on light springs.⁴

Hubbard donated a collection of telephone equipment to Purdue University (Purdue had exhibited telephone history at the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 and maintained a telephone museum but, apparently, their collection of antique equipment is now at the Verizon Telephone Museum, in Fort Wayne).

William Hubbard, an aged man at Elgin, Illinois, and who is said to have the largest collection of telephone relics in existence, has contributed a great deal of his material to Purdue. Mr. Hubbard has spent a lifetime manufacturing apparatus, and ill fortune has followed incessantly. To-day he owns a modest shop in Elgin, where he experiments with telephone material, keeping abreast of the time, but never making a cent.⁵

North-Western Acoustic Telephone Company

The North-Western Acoustic Telephone Company was located in Chicago, Illinois. No details of the operation of the company are available other than the data displayed on a third class mailing, ca 1881 with an illustration of a telephone (which bears a resemblance to Holcomb's Amplifying Telephone) and mailed from Chicago to Camden, NJ (Figure 16).



Figure 16: ca1881 Acoustic telephone, competing design to Holcomb's Amplifying model. S. Laprise & Co., successors to S.T. Simonds & Co.

The American Private Line Telephone Company

The American Private Line Telephone Company was organized in Grand Rapids, Michigan in November 1880. The company inventions made and patented by Henderson Willard.⁶

Willard was granted two U.S. patents. Patent No. 221,135, granted October 28, 1879, shows three varieties of telephones, one made of wood, one made of wood and metal and one made of all metal. The first of the three has a hinged cover to eliminate offensive noises when the phone is not in use. Alonzo M. Cheney was a co-inventor.

The second patent was No. 238,740 granted on March 8, 1881. The telephone mouth-ear piece has a different shape from the previous patent and claims to give superior performance. Also patented is a method for routing the acoustic wire around a corner. This patent was applied for in the same month that the company was organized.

It appears to be the model which was produced by the company.

An advertising envelope for this company appeared at auction. The cover had been mailed at the 2-cent rate (probably first class mail, after October 1, 1883) from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Phillipsburg and contained a brochure. "Only Reliable Substitute for the Electric Telephone."⁷



Figure 17: ca1884 "private line telephone" - brochure mailed in an envelope printed with the same illustration.

Typical Uses of Acoustic Telephones

From the *Friendship Chronicle*, Allegany County, New York, 1880:

Wiry Whisperings

The already near and dear domestic and commercial relations between the home and the places of business of several of our mercantile men have been rendered still more prompt and intimate by the means of one of the latest triumphs of science. We allude to the telephone. When anything of practical utility is brought into public notice either from the studios of art or the workshops of science the businessmen of Friendship are prompt to avail themselves of its advantages. The availability of the telephone having been made manifest it was immediately pressed into service. The first of these interesting and valuable instruments was put up by John Horner between his residence on Main St. and the Erie depot. It extends a distance of 2000 feet and is the longest line in town. The next line put up was that of Fred Oliver between the store of Wingate & Oliver next door to the American House and Fred's residence on Depot Street. It has been in successful operation for some time. On Monday several new lines were put up. They were respectively:

- * between Flint & Dayton's store on Main Street and the house on Mill Street
- * between the store of Oliver & Sawyer and the house of H.S. Oliver north of the Erie depot
- * between the 1st National Bank and the residence of Col. A.J. Wellman and between the sanctuary of the editor of the Chronicle and his residence on east Main Street
- * W.H. Scott has one between his grocery store and house on Depot St.

All these lines are proved with telephones supplied by J.R. Holcomb & Co., Mallett Creek, Ohio. They work on the acoustic principle and are exceedingly satisfactory. Several new lines will be put up forthwith, including

- * one between the store of M.L. Engle and his residence at the junction of Water and Main Street
- * another between the Post Office and the residence of Post Master Howard on New Street
- * and still another between the new lock up (when it is built) and the office of the Chief of Police (when that official is appointed).

The telephone progress of Friendship is exceedingly gratifying.⁸

In 1902, in Friendship, NY, rural *electric* telephone lines were built by farmers. The phone lines were built as a cooperative operation. Each farmer paid for his telephone and his share of wires, insulators and poles. In addition, the farmers were responsible for building and maintaining the equipment. The phone lines were generally party lines, shared among several users (good for local gossip). There was a switchboard in town which charged a fee for switching between lines.⁹

Concluding Remarks

Some of the other manufacturers of acoustic telephones were Watts Telephone Co., Louisville, Kentucky; Mechanical Telephone Co., Albion, Illinois; O. Hamblins Mechanical Telephone Co., Newton, Illinois; Shaver Corp., New York; Lord Telephone Mfg. Co., Boston, Massachusetts²; H.E. Huston & Co., Monticello, Illinois (Telereima telephone); Union Telephone Co., Wolcott, New York; Sunderland Telephone Co., Portland, Maine; National Telephone Mfg. Co., Boston, Massachusetts (Bennett telephone); and J.H. Nellis, Canajoharie, New York. However, covers and literature from these companies are not in evidence.

An amusing piece is quoted below.

“THE COMMON STRING TELEPHONE

Referring to the string telephone, consisting of a piece of ordinary string stretched between two cylinders (such as the covers of cylindrical match-boxes), which for some years past has been a common plaything, not only in Europe and America, but even in India. Mr. A. Houtum-Schindler, Inspector-General of Persian Telegraphs, in a recent letter to the Secretary, mentions that in Teheran the use of this toy in the streets was carried on to such an extent as to become a nuisance, and had to be eventually prohibited by the police. After some experiments had been made in Teheran a short time ago with the Electric Telephone, the Persians remarked that their children’s invention had been copied by the Europeans, and been named by them the ‘Telephone’.”¹⁰

In 2004, there was a study on the technical aspects of acoustic telephones that discussed the effects of tension, modulus of elasticity, and the shapes of the sending and receiving devices. The interested reader can peruse the reference.¹¹

Many of the myriad of advertising covers that abound were not used as direct selling tools. For example, if a piece of hardware or lumber was needed, these could usually be found locally. The advertising cover was not needed. However, there was generally no local acoustic telephone store. Therefore, in order to inform the public of the availability of acoustic telephones, either periodical advertising or direct mail were the only choices. Periodical advertising was expensive. Thus, using the direct mail system was a logical as well as an economical choice. Were it not for the Postal System, the acoustic telephone manufacturers would have had a difficult time selling their wares. Today, we get deluged with both, plus some television and radio thrown in for good measure.

Endnotes

¹ Lewis Coe, *The Telephone and Its Several Inventors*, McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, NC, 1995.

² Bill Jacobs, “Acoustic Telephones”, http://strowger-net.telefoonmuseum.com/tel_tech_mechanical.html.

³ *History of Medina County and Ohio*, p736-7, Baskin & Battey, Historical Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1881.*

⁴ J.P. Barrett, *Electricity at the Columbian Exposition*, p343-4, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, Chicago, IL, 1894.*

⁵ Earl C. Long, “Purdue’s New Telephone Museum”, *The Telephone Magazine*, vol. 25, no. 6, June 1905, p343-4, Telephone Magazine Publishing Company, Chicago, IL.*

⁶ Albert Baxter, *History of Grand Rapids, Michigan*, Munsell & Company, Publishers, New York and Grand Rapids, 1891.*

⁷ Robert A. Siegel *Auction Catalog*, Sale No. 791, p58, June 25, 1997.

⁸ *Friendship Chronicle*, vol. 1, no. 13, May 5, 1880, Friendship, NY.*

⁹ *History of Friendship, NY, 1865-1915*, Sesquicentennial Publication.*

¹⁰ *Journal of the Society of Telegraph Engineers*, vol.7, p331, 1878, E.F. Spon, London, UK.*

¹¹ Jakub K. Kominiarczyk, *Extensive studies of a string telephone*, Dulwich College (Great Britain), April 16, 2004.*

* Available on the Internet.

Stephen Prigozy holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from City University of New York. A retired professor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he is a keen collector of telegraphic postal history. He has brought up to date the information compiled in *The Stampless Cover Catalogue*, which is available on the web site of the Postal History Society: www.stampclubs.com/phs/index.

Across the Oceans

by Robert Dalton Harris

Seija-Riitta Laakso, *Across the Oceans: Development of Overseas Business Information Transmission 1815-1875*, Finnish Literature Society, Hallituskatu 1, FI-00170 Helsinki. ISBN 978-951-746-904-3. Available through several on-line bookstores, about \$45. 459 pages, softbound.

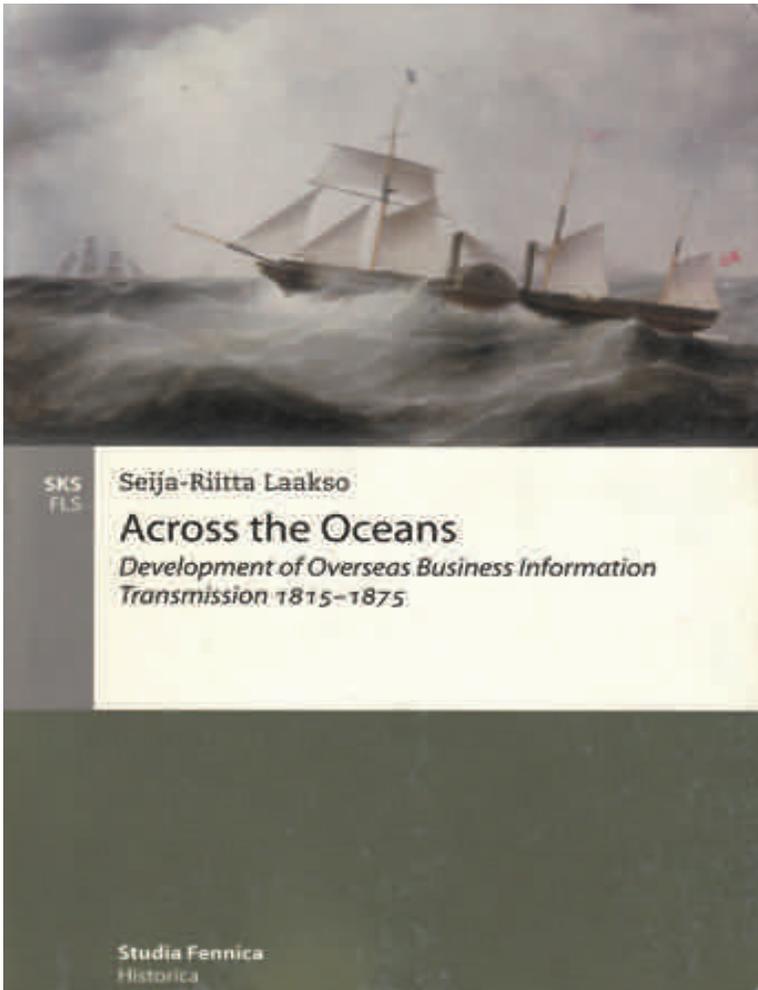


Figure 1: Front cover image from the Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool: “One of the mail-carrying pioneering steamers, the *Liverpool* on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York in 1838. She made seven transatlantic round trips for Transatlantic Steamship Co. in 1838-1839. The company was dissolved in 1840 and the ship was sold to the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., or the P&O. She served several years on the East India route between Falmouth and Alexandria by the name *Great Liverpool*, until she was lost off Cape Finisterre in 1846. In the painting, the *Old and the New World* are meeting in the mid-Atlantic. The sailing ship on the horizon is one of the American sailing packets, with the *Black Ball Line*’s symbol identifiable on the fore main course.”

Postal historians have become adept readers of signs, tracking messages. In each case, though the subject may be cryptic, the object is straightforward: to determine the times and places of exchange and the modes of transmission from origin to destination. Overall the mission is to disclose the postal mystery, rendering a transcendent utility at low cost.

Collectively, we postal historians have amassed a daunting literature – classifications of markings, histories of offices, schedules of transmission, tracings of routes – which serve our purpose nicely but which have largely failed either to impress our families or to gain the respect of scholars in other fields. Enter Seija-Riitta Laakso with *Across the Oceans: Development of Overseas Business Information Transmission 1815-1875*.

Maritime postal historians are present, front and center, in Laakso's book. Ship's lists and sailing tables, which are essential to the analyses of covers, are necessary, as well, to the calculations of Laakso's innovative measure of business communication: deftly integrating speed, frequency and timing, - counting the number of consecutive exchanges possible in a year.

Laakso demonstrates that, by this measure, progress in maritime communication is gradual throughout the 19th century, a concatenation of soft and hard technologies responding to an exponentially increasing requirement for the exchange of business information. Steam power is a change, not a revolution, in the progress. Moreover, during the days of sail, substantial gains in productivity were achieved, without recourse to marine engineers.

Laakso navigates the salient features of sail and steam, where speed and duration and uncertainty of the ocean voyage are of concern. She also sketches the software: of schedules and nodes and lines of communication; of ocean currents, climate and weather charts; chronometers; quality and supply of coal.



Figure 2: Label for a bolt of Irish linen, embossed silver foil, 1840s. Commercial packets, not especially built for speed, routinely crowded on the sail. They were fully rigged with four courses upon the fore and main masts and three courses upon the mizzen mast which also had a spanker trailing aft. Their sides often were painted with cannon ports to dissuade privateers. Flax seed grown in the U.S. had been a major export to Ireland since the middle of the 18th century, and continued with the packets.

Laakso measures the number of consecutive information circles possible in a year between various points on the coasts of the world. The various presidencies of the East India Company exchanged with London headquarters less than once a year. On the North Atlantic at the beginning of the 19th century, regular traders were managing three round trips in a year. Each round trip comprised something like two months crossing ocean and one month each in two ports. By the Falmouth Packets the British Empire monitored her North American dominions at such a cadence. After the second war for the independence of the United States from that colonial waltz, the inauguration of the monthly New York Liverpool sailing line in 1818 immediately enabled four circles. It did not take long for the administrators of British North America to use the American lines. Four lines and weekly sailings enabled five consecutive information circles by 1822.



Figure 3: Letter, 15 December 1826, from John Ferguson to Captain T. Bennett of the ship New York (Black Ball Line, departed December 16, 1826 arrived Liverpool January 12, 1827; Thomas Bennett's ten voyages averaged 24 days Eastbound, 36 days Westbound). Ferguson asks him to convey a package to Uncle Day at Bolton, Ogden & Co. in England "which contains a few ears of Indian Corn, some other seeds, a small quantity of Holland Tape which they say cannot be got in England and one of those Rollers for copying letters (such as I heard you say Mr. Walker had) rolled up in a goodly number of Evening Posts ..." The lines only incidentally served the mails through the Captain's gratuity.

While Laakso calculates a hypothetical number of sequential information circles from sailing tables to infer a significant measure for the organization of business, there is substantial want of maritime business archives to further understand the ramifications of such a measure. In contrast with fourteen shelf-kilometers of documents concerning the business of the East India Company, there is a dearth of North Atlantic merchant correspondence before 1850 - except that a philatelist saved part of the papers of the London Banking House of Frederick Huth Company from the furnace during a WWII energy crisis. Laakso discusses a total of seventy-four letters addressed to Huth (in a census drawn from five collections 1836-1850), tabulated according to date and mode of conveyance: Huth received three-quarters of its letters through Liverpool; sailing packets carried half the letters in the decade after steamship service began.

There were no contracts for carrying these mails, it being in the Captain's interest to declare them for a small fee. For delivery in Liverpool, the British post office obligated the payment of an 8d *rate*, while, in New York, the United States Post Office determined a fee of 6 cents - which is to say that in Liverpool the post office was to be avoided (see Figure 3) while in New York the ship letter fee would pay for a packet of letters and papers all to the same addressee. Such ship letter packages accounted for the bulk of the mail carried by these sailing lines.

Four letters between corresponding firms in Liverpool and New York accumulated in Liverpool, October 1834, as the Black Ball *Caledonia* was delayed six days by unfavorable winds. Internal references indicate that these four letters were accompanied by four other letters - of which three were open to be read and forwarded, a list of passengers "who haven't come forward" and an account of sales. Moreover, a perusal of these four extant letters will disclose a cascade of other consequences, by which New York and Liverpool were so favored in global commerce.



Figure 4: Letter 4, written on October 20 and 21 to catch the Caledonia, that had been delayed at Liverpool because of inclement weather. This was the only letter to receive the 6 cent marking - that would cover the whole packet of these quoted communications and their enclosures.

**4 Letters, Liverpool to New York, 1834, per Caledonia
Malcomson Bell & Co. to Abraham Bell & Co., all received November 17**

(1) October 15. We enclose a letter open for Toulmin Hazard & Co. instructing them to ship us monthly on acct of D. Malcomson & Sons 200 bales Cotton during the Season unless they should hear to the contrary.

Abraham Bell (1778-1856) was an Irish Quaker who had established an active New York commission merchant firm. David Malcomson, another Irish Quaker, owned a cotton mill in Ireland that imported cotton from the United States through their joint firm and agents Toulmin, Hazard & Company of Mobile.

We have given them a copy of D.M.&S. letter to us & enclose ours for yourselves, which expresses in their own words the terms they require the order executed on.

If they find an advantage in importing, over buying in Liverpool, they will continue it & increase this business next year to the full amt of their consumption, which is 20,000 lbs per week.

You will see they have limited T.H.&Co. to 2 1/2 perct comm. & draw on us or direct, or on you, provided the difference of Exch. at New York over Mobile will pay any expense attendant on it, & you to reimburse on us.

We are anxious that this business should pass thro your hands, for besides giving you a comm., we think you could benefit D.M.& Sons interest.

If the foregoing cannot be arranged by your T.H.&Co. then they wish only 100 bales per month.

Write T.H.&Co. with your views on the subject.

You will observe D.M.&Sons ask several questions about the best means of providing money to us to have everything done on the best & most advantageous terms, with us fully on it.

For negotiations at New York & valuing on us they think your charge should not exceed one perct & if they sent out money, say a Bank Credit, English Bills for it should be less. We told them 1 1/2 was the usual comm. & they think it can be done for less but

don't wish to take the management out of our hands.

We see by the Philadelphia Pkt of 20th ult. that the *Sarah Sheafe* was out on the 18th.

The weather don't look like the *Caledonia* going in the morning. We may be able to tell you tomorrows doings in Cotton.

(2) October 15

Since the 10th the sales in Cotton up to this evening is about 23,000 bales of which 10,000 are on speculation, the advance is scarcely more than 1/8.

We have sold the Cotton by the United States 14 Bales at 8d & 65 at 8 5/8 – this is 3/8 higher than when they arrived & we didn't like to hold them thro this brisk time. Also 55 of *Tapo* @ 9 1/2 a/o to No. 1, 32 of *Tapo* No. 3 @ 8 1/4 all red. You will observe we sold no Cotton in 8th mo. We were right in saying the latter end of 7th we should have a dull market for we thought the trade had stocked themselves & would for a time keep out of the market.

In 9th mo the demand revised again we thought it better to go on regularly & we will continue to do & clear out our stock, which now consists of the *Tapo* fine quality, which we tried to get 9 5/8 to day for but couldn't.

Trade continues good in Manchester & it is probable the Spinners will give a little more if the speculators don't throw their purchases on the market, the advance is very trifling compared with the business done. We are now about 1/4 higher than on the 1st of August.

The general stock is moving down fast the import being very small.

This will operate unfavorably on the opening prices with you for the buyer & unless the dull month of August has enabled you to pick up some, we fear after that our advices of Sept would run yours up. We don't look to seeing fine Cotton below 8 1/2 before Feb. next or perhaps March & we don't see if trade goes on uninterrupted why "fair" should be below that the average of next year, even with a crop of 1,300,000 Bales. We shall be less in Stock at the close of this than last year.

We enclose a letter from Malcomson & Bell, by which you will observe, they have sold the 17 Hhds. Tobacco at 6d all round, they are not quite suited to the market. The other two parcels are not samples, we think of doing it here & keep out any not suitable to the Irish market.

We have given Jos. Strongman Jr. a dft at ten days on you for £50 Sterling payable at the Exch. as of the day, which charge to our acct. Is this the way you like such dfts given? He goes in the *Caledonia* on his way to Canada.

We enclose names of passengers (55) who have been written to more than once but have not come forward, at least hasn't so far as we know them. [See Figure 5 for emigration via the packets.]

(3) October 18

This ship being delayed by the weather enables us to acknowledge your favors of 20th & 24th per *Josephine & Sheffield*.

We enclose a letter for C.E. Osbourne which read & forward to him. We shall now report on the acct of the Tobaccos, the market is improving we shall sample a lot here to try both markets.

Yesterday ended the week in Cotton, the sales are 36,500 Bales at 1/8 advance, about 13,000 of this to speculators.

The stock of all kinds is now 171,000 Bales against 253,000 same period last year & it looks as if it would be reduced to 100,000 at the end of the year. The sales today were 7,000 Bales at 1/8 advance on yesterday, one half on spec. If we have only 100,000 bales at the end of the year, all your crop of 1,300,000 Bales will be wanted to meet the increasing consumption – but we can scarcely think there will be so much as 1,300,000 bales.

We see little prospect of prices going back until our stock begins to increase again,

which cannot before March, but of this, you will be the better judges from the exports.

The enclosed sales of 100 Bales Cotton per *Arcadia* net amount £1377.14.4 to your credit, 1 in 9th, also 200 Bales of *Tapo* net amt £2394.8.5 to yr cr, 12 in 20th.

We also place to yr cr by direction Toulmin Hazard & Co. sales 104 Bales Cotton per *Bachelor* £749.12.9 ow 11/21st also 24 Bales per *Tapo* £348.12.11 1/9/35.

Those 200 Bales per *Tapo* fell far short of our expectations in quality – there none quite good fair in them.

We expect to get 9 3/4 or more for some of the No. 1 of the 500.

(4) October 20

We enclose our letter to Higham & Fife [*a merchant firm in Charleston, South Carolina*] which send on & accompany it with any remarks you may think proper to assist their judgments. We have desired them to value on you for the invoice & advise us timely as to insurance.

21st Noon. Up to this time the same good feeling prevails in the Cotton market, tho not so much doing, but it is supposed in the after part of the day there will be news, when the accts come from Manchester of what they are doing this being market day.

Our letters to T.H.&Co. by this ship are to the 18th any later news give them.



Figure 5: Emigration Post Note, from James Corscaden & Co., Londonderry, to enable Andrew Larnock to pre-pay his passage to America. A back notation reveals that Larnock “proceeded to sea on board ship Stephen Whitney” of the Black Ball Line, May 15, 1841. The packet boats readily served the immigrant trade, first class as well as steerage, at rates determined by fine freight. Abraham Bell, himself, had a line of packet ships and sponsored immigration from Ireland, especially during the 1840s potato famine (cachets are known on covers carried by his ships: Atlantic, Courier, Josephine, Robert Fulton and Fabius - reference the April 22-25, 2010 sale of the Hugh Feldman Collection of Atlantic Mails, Schuyler Rumsey, items 2571 and 2572).

The sixty-two letters, with which Jim Pullin (*North Atlantic Packets: Departures and Arrivals 1818-1840*, see PHJ143 for review) illustrates the operation of the Black Ball, Red Star, and Blue Swallowtail lines, split 29 inbound at New York, 33 inbound Liverpool. Almost a quarter of Pullin’s eastbound illustrations derive from the Huth salvage. 90% of Pullin’s westbound selections reach beyond New York City overland, and would complement the rich implications of the Bell trove.

PERU
CANCELLATION HANDBOOK 1858 – 1873
2009 EDITION



BY
ERIK A. EMSING
© 2008

Peru Cancellations

a review by Alan Warren

Peru Cancellation Handbook 1858-1873 by Erik A. Emsing. 122 pages, 8 ½ by 11 ¼ inches, casebound, self published, Maryland USA, 2008. Cost and shipping details from the author: eaemsing@hotmail.com.

When Erik Emsing began to study the 19th century cancellations of Peru some fifteen years ago, he found details were lacking, information was not well organized, and many cancels were missing. He set about organizing the data using methods of classification and identification, and preparing good illustrations. This work is more than a handbook since it includes valuations as well.

His introduction presents guidelines to an orderly process for studying cancellations, beginning with identification of the stamps from this period. Cancels are then sorted by class and type, and values are assigned with a cancellation price guide. He illustrates and provides brief descriptions of the stamps issued by Peru from the first Coat of Arms issue in 1858 to the second Llama issue of 1873.

Emsing then lists the postal rates during this period for single and multiple weight letters, registration fee, and local and railway letters. These are followed by British and French rates for ships carrying mail between Peru and other Central or South American ports, and to America and Europe. The next listing shows the names of over 200 post offices operating in twenty different postal districts during the period 1858-1873. He describes additional facilities that handled Peruvian mail like the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, the Lima-Callao-Chorillos railway, and British and French consular mail services.

Another chapter identifies 15 classes of cancels including plain and dotted ovals, circular dates, straight line, manuscript, mute cancels, railway and ship marks, and foreign cancels among others. These are all nicely illustrated for visual identification. The next series of tables illustrates each cancel type within each class, and assigns a catalog number. The final tally is 245 distinct types of cancellations.

The price guide is a tabulation of the cancellations by class: listing the city or town, the cancel type, the postal district, any ink colors used with the marking, and the value in Euros associated with each cancel. In front of each class and subclass listing are some illustrations as a reminder of how the cancel appears—a nice device to help eliminate confusion. Values are for the cancel on a stamp, not on cover.

The illustrations are very good and are nicely laid out without giving a cramped feeling. They are also slightly enlarged from the originals to reveal more detail. With Emsing's catalog approach to preparing this handbook, there is no need for an index and none is provided. In the review copy there was a printing ink deficiency on page 46 that obscures the identification of cancel E35. Although the author acknowledges the help of others in his introduction, a brief bibliography would be useful for students of this period of Peruvian marcophily.

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

“New Jersey Highway Post Offices” by Jean R. Walton is an introduction to the area with emphasis on New Jersey routes. NJPH 37, No. 4 (November 2009).

Iowa highway post offices occupy the second and third parts of a series. Austin & Des Moines is the subject of the second part and Decorah & Des Moines of the third. William Keller, “Highway Post Offices,” *Trans. Post. Coll.* 61 Part 2: No. 2 (January-February 2010); Part 3: No. 3 (March-April 2010).

Wanaque & Newark, Middletown & Newark and Hancock & Newark HPOs are the subject of “Notes on New Jersey Highway Post Offices” by William J. Keller. Schedules and first and last trip covers are shown, 1948-58. NJPH 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

Independent Mails

Express company mail from the Northern Mines is the subject of “Mail Between San Francisco and the Northern Mines” by Larry Lyons. *C.C. Phil.* 89, No. 2 (March-April 2010).

Military Mail

“APOs ~ Vietnam/New Jersey Correspondence” by Jim Walker is an examination of some 11 covers from a Vietnam War soldier. NJPH 37, No. 4 (November 2009).

Army mail service planning for World War II was given its first test during “Pre WWII Maneuvers at Plattsburgh and Canton, NY,” as described in this article by George McGowan. *Excelsior!* No. 13 (September 2009).

Camp Dix, Camp Kilmer, Wissahickon Barracks and Camp Little Silver are pictured on post cards reproduced in “Some New Jersey Closed Base Post Offices” by Doug D’Avino. NJPH 37, No. 4 (November 2009).

Confederate General Robert E. Lee endorsed field cover of January 13, 1863 brings the total of such cover known to 17. James L. D. Monroe, “Another General Lee Cover Emerges,” *Confed. Phil.* 55, No. 1 (January-March 2010).

Fort Hancock, Camp Merritt, Raritan Arsenal, Camp Kilmer, Fort Monmouth, Alfred E. Vail Station, Camp Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and Lakehurst, Wildwood and Cape May Naval Air Stations are “More New Jersey Military Bases” discussed by author Gene Fricks. NJPH 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

Prisoner-of-war mail from the U.S. to Germany, bearing a 3c Win the War adhesive of 1942, was returned to the sender with a label stating that the stamp was “... objectionable to the German Government.” John M. Hotchner, “U.S. Notes,” *Linn’s* 83, No. 4247 (March 22, 2010).

“Service Suspended: U.S. Postal Services in WWI and in Europe in Its Aftermath (concluded)” by Robert Johnson deals with the severing of ties between the U.S. and Bolshevik Russia and the Espionage Act of 1917. C.C. Phil. 89, No. 1 (January-February 2010).

“US Navy Air Transport Squadron (NATS)” took over airmail service from the US to the south Pacific after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Author Bob Watson gives details, illustrated with a cover. Another cover is shown in Louis Fiset’s article “U.S. Diplomat’s Mail from New Zealand Via NATS” in the same journal. Prexie Era No. 47 (Fall 2009).

USS *Kitty Hawk* is the subject of “New Jersey-Built: 13 Fast Aircraft Carriers that served in the United States Navy Between 1927 and 2009. Parts VI A and B” by Lawrence B. Brennan. NJPH Part A: 37, No. 4 (November 2009); Part B: 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

World War II convoy from the U.S. to England was required to detour to Archangel and so its mail, addressed to South Brooklyn, NY, resulted in “A Domestic Cover (Michigan to New York) With Russian Censor Tape.” Author is Jeffrey Shapiro. Prexie Era No. 47 (Fall 2009).

World War II soldier’s letters were addressed so as to get information about troupe positions past the censors. Author Chip Scoppa describes the plan in “‘Pocket Change’ or: the C25 Airlift Code.” Excelsior! No. 13 (September 2009).

Ocean Mail

AR (return receipt) mail from the U.S. to Europe, beginning in pre-U.P.U. times, is discussed in “Early International U.S.AR” by David Handelman. Two covers and a number of U.S.AR forms, some in German, are illustrated. C.C. Phil. 89, No. 2 (March-April 2010).

Cape Town letter to the U.S., entering at Salem, Mass., as a private ship letter in 1805, is identified by author Mark S. Schwartz as “A New Earliest Known Letter to the U.S. from Southern Africa.” C.C. Phil.89, No. 2 (March-April 2010).

Natal letters to the U.S. in 1836 and 1849 are the earliest recorded “Pre-1850 Letters from the First American Missionaries in Natal.” Author Keith P. Klugman gives information about the missionaries. C.C. Phil.89, No. 1 (January-February 2010).

Post Office History

Earl L. Ovington became the first U.S. airmail pilot, when he flew a bag of mail six miles from Garden City to Mineola, NY on September 23, 1911. Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock handed Ovington the bag of mail, and so this article can be included in the series “The Postmasters General of the United States” by Daniel Y. Meschter. This is Part XLIVA. La Posta 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

Postal revenue is analyzed over the years, from the economic reaction, nationwide, to postal rate changes, to revenues along a local post road. Graphs and maps and illustrations of covers are given. Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois, “Using the Official registers: Local Sources of Postal Revenue,” Post. Hist. J., No. 145 (February 2010).

Postal Markings

Receiving markings on special delivery covers (1891-1923), as well as some auxiliary markings the covers received, are the subject of “Still More Unusual Special Delivery Markings” by Robert L. Markovits. Aux. Marks. 7, No. 1 (January 2010).

RETURNED TO WRITER in red on a ribbon held in a pointing hand is used to explain "Why I Collect Return to Writer Mail." by Tony Wawrukiewicz. *Aux. Marks*, 7, No. 1 (January 2010).

Railway Mail

Beardstown & Flora Agt. and Peoria & Jacksonville Agt. (1884 and 1882) are the postmarks on three "Postal Cards with Agent Cancels," illustrated and discussed by author Robert C. Stendel. The railroad routes and the messages on the cards are described. *Ill. Post. Hist.* 31, No. 1 (February 2010).

Pekin, Lincoln & Decatur R.R. postmark on postal card is illustrated by author Robert C. Stendel. The card is an order for a shipment of coal, giving an example of "Business Conducted by Mail." *Ill. Post. Hist.* 31, No. 1 (February 2010).

Rates

Rates of 1816 specified a postage charge of one rate per 1/4 ounce, for letters over 1 ounce. In "The Amazing U.S. '\$8.32 1/2' Prestamp Postal Rate," author James Grimwood-Taylor exhibits a letter which evidently weighed 11 1/4 oz. and was charged at the 18 1/2c rate for 150-400 miles. The trans-Atlantic letter was charged as weighing only 10 3/4 oz. on arrival in England. *C.C. Phil.* 89, No. 1 (January-February 2010).

Stamps on Cover

"Strip of ten 3c 1861 Stamps on Cover" by Michael C. McClung contains an illustration of the cover, an 1867 domestic use from Leesburgh, Va. to Plymouth, Ind. *Chronicle* 62, No. 1 (February 2010).

Usages

Bar code on a "Disabled American Veterans" envelope indicated that it was a "reply envelope" and caused the post office to disallow its reuse, even though it was properly franked. Author Charles A. Fricks cautions "When Reusing Envelopes, Watch Out for Those Bar Codes!" *Pa. Post. Hist.* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

Business reply mail was paid for, several pieces at a time, with postage due bills or postage due adhesives affixed to a single business reply cover. This is explained and a use of a 10c 1954 regular issue postage stamp in lieu of a postage due stamp, is illustrated in "Modern U.S. Mail" by Tony Wawrukiewicz. *Linn's* 82, No. 4233 (December 14, 2009).

Carrier service is explained and "Four Carrier Covers with the 1c Stamp of 1857-1861" are illustrated by author Jay Kunstreich. *Chronicle* 62, No. 1 (February 2010).

Christmas seal on the face of a letter addressed to England caused the post office to apply a sticker reading "RETURN TO SENDER- 'Unmailable'." Author is Jeffrey Shapiro. *Prexie Era* No. 47 (Fall 2009).

"'Forwarded' and 'Missent' Postal Markings on United States Stampless Covers" by James W. Milgram contains illustrations and a list of 29 such markings recorded by the author, 1825-69. *Chronicle* 62, No. 1 (February 2010).

"Forwarded Markings on Stampless Covers" by James W. Milgram is a survey of various types of forwarding, from forwarding agents to forwarding by individuals, during various periods (1775-1855). A list of 12 towns using handstamped forwarded markings is given. *Post. Hist. J.*, No. 145 (February 2010).

Non-postage seals on the fronts of two envelopes drew an "unmailable" handstamp from the post office, even though genuine stamps were used along side the (1946 Christmas) seals. Illustrations and discussion are in "U.S. Notes" by John M. Hotchner. *Linn's*

82, No. 4233 (December 14, 2009).

“Surface Mail Sent in Air Mail Envelopes - Part I” by Dickson Preston contains illustrations of a number of covers with markings showing that the situation on the title obtained, 1944-53. *Prexie Era* No. 47 (Fall 2009).

Geographical Locations

Alabama

Mobile postmarked Confederate covers (two, addressed to Charleston) were found to have been smuggled from New Orleans, through extensive searches into military records and images of other covers. Francis J. Crown, “The Landry Correspondence From the Authentication Service Files.” *Confed. Phil.* 55, No. 1 (January-March 2010).

California

“Kearny’s California Mail Route” defines the route from San Francisco to San Diego, established in 1847 for a military express mail service. A December 27, 1847 cover is illustrated by authors Richard Frajola and Floyd Risvold. *Chronicle* 62, No. 1 (February 2010).

Colorado

“Colorado Postal Encyclopedia - Broomfield County” by William Bauer contains historical sketches, postmasters’ dates and tracings of markings (1890-present). Similar articles concern Denver (1858-present) and Teller (1876-present) Counties. *Colo. Post. Hist.* 25, No. 2 (February 2010)

Connecticut

Collinsville history (founded as headquarters of the Collins axe manufacturing co.) and postal history are sketched in an article by W. J. Daffney. The town is famous for its axe-head killers and date stamps, referred to as “The Three Collinsville Axes.” *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

Waterbury and Burnside killers, recently discovered, are illustrated. “Another New Waterbury, CT Leaf and More” by Roger D. Curran shows the leaf on 3c 1861 issue and a wheel with spokes killer from Burnside on an 1861 issue Nesbit entire. *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

Dakota Territory

“The Park River Bank Find” by Gary Anderson with comments from Mike Ellingson is about a large lot of covers (mostly fronts) addressed to the bank and having illustrated advertising and/or postmarks of scarce Dakota towns. The lot, mostly from 1886-88, was purchased by the author. Thirty-five covers are illustrated with the article. *Dakota Coll.* 27, No. 2 (April, 2010).

Florida

Covers to Great Britain and France, are illustrated and analyzed as examples of “High valued stamps used from Florida, 1858-1866.” Author is Deane R. Briggs. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 17, No. 1 (January 2010).

“Shiloh, the Florida town that time forgot” by Everett L. Parker contains illustrations of four covers, 1939-55, and details the takeover of the town by NASA in the early 1960s. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 17, No. 1 (January 2010).

“St. Nicholas fancy postmark” is a duplex with star killer and maltese crosses in the dial (1887). Author Phil Eschenbach also illustrates two more common St. Nicholas duplexes, with target killers and without the maltese crosses. *Fla. Post. Hist. J.* 17, No. 1 (January 2010).

“Tampa independent state covers” by Phil Warman contains illustrations of three covers from the same correspondence and franked with 3c 1857 adhesives. Two are known to be from January 1861. The actual handstamping device used on the covers is also illustrated. Fla. Post. Hist. J. 17, No. 1 (January 2010).

Illinois

“Illinois Air Mail/Special Delivery” by Timothy G. Wait contains illustrations and analyses of five covers as described in the title (1926-57). Ill. Post. Hist. 31, No. 1 (February 2010).

Chicago Post Office and Customs House opened in 1860. In “Opening the New Post Office - 1860,” author Leonard Piskiewicz gives details of the building and illustrates with a cover posted November 21, 1860, the day after the building opened. Ill. Post. Hist. 31, No. 1 (February 2010).

Iowa

“Ludlow, Allamakee County, Iowa” by Leo V. Ryan contains historical and post office information about the town with illustrations of two covers, ca. 1860s and ca. 1880s. Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. No. 252 (January, February, March, 2010).

“Lycurgus, Allamakee Co., Iowa (Part 2)” by Leo V. Ryan continues with postmaster details, 1857- 1905, and one more cover illustrated. Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. No. 251 (October, November, December, 2009).

“McCausland, Iowa The Little Town That Could” by Steve Bahnsen recounts the opening of a new post office building, October 10, 2009. Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. No. 251 (October, November, December, 2009).

Kentucky

Wayne County towns, with historical and post office information and illustrations of a few postmarks are the subject of the third part of the series “The Post Offices of Wayne County, Kentucky” by Robert M. Rennick. A substantial bibliography is given. La Posta 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

Maine

BL & Presque Isle R.P.O. postmark on cover with Canadian Pacific Railway Company corner card (ca. 1890) is illustrated and discussed in an untitled article by Max Lynds. Maine Phil. 42, No. 1/2 (Winter 2010).

Massachusetts

Massachusetts listings in the American Stampless Cover Catalog (1987 edition) included markings from 20 towns that never had post offices. Author Douglas N. Clark gives the list, with the list of markings appearing in the catalog and some suggestions about how the error listings came to be. “Non Post Offices with Stampless Covers,” Mass. Spy No. 126 (Spring 2010).

New Bedford stampless cover bearing PAID 5 and WAY 1 markings is examined and it is concluded that the way marking was added by faker Ray Gregor, whose counterfeit covers were uncovered in 1996. “Ray Gregor Fakes Still on the Market” by Douglas N. Clark, Mass. Spy No. 126 (Spring 2010).

“West Gardner Shield” (author unidentified) illustrates the shield shaped date stamp, duplexed with a target and a star, instead of the more well-known skull and cross bones. U.S.C.C. News 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

Michigan

Bay View’s postal history is sketched and two postmarks shown (1907-98). “The Religious

Resort of Bay View, MI and its Post Office” by Paul E. Petosky, *Peninsular Phil.* 51, No. 3 (Winter 2010).

“Kensington, Oakland County, Drop Letter” by Roger D. Curran contains an illustration of a local letter bearing a 2c “Blackjack” adhesive cancelled with the word “drop” in manuscript. *Peninsular Phil.* 51, No. 3 (Winter 2010).

Pequaming is located on a map and its postal history discussed. Three postmarks and two post card views of buildings in the town are reproduced. Paul Petosky, “History of the Pequaming, Michigan, Post Office,” *La Posta* 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

Missouri

“Boonville, Missouri, Cancels - Statehood through 1860” by Michael Nickel illustrates 16 covers with various markings, 1832-60. Unfortunately, one of the covers (1846) bearing blue Boonville origin markings appears to have had a black STEAM handstamp added fraudulently. *La Posta* 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

New Hampshire

Chester manuscript postmark on an 1846 stampless cover set author Nancy B. Clark “Searching for Chester.” After considering many possibilities, she concludes it is Chester, N.H. *Mass. Spy* No. 126 (Spring 2010).

New Jersey

“Hunterdon County Postal History: Part 10: Active POs: Q~Z” by Jim Walker includes reproductions of maps, post office pictures brief discussions of establishment and sample covers, 1817-1906. *NJPH* 37, No. 4 (November 2009).

Hackettstown CDS used ca. 1838-49, is attributed to “Samuel Dodd, Engraver of a Hackettstown, NJ Postmark” in this article by Steve Beare, who had possession of an album of Dodd’s samples intended for bookbinding. *NJPH* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

Lambertville post office handstamping devices from the early twentieth century, held by the Holcombe Jimison Farmsted Museum are illustrated in “The Holcombe Farm Cancellers” by Jim Walker. *NJPH* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

New York

“New York State Exchange Markings Under the 1851 Postal Convention with Canada,” appearing on stampless covers (to Canada) are the subject of a four page exhibit by Glen Estus, reproduced as an article. *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

“Albany County Doane Cancels” by George McGowan contains a list of post offices, with known dates of use of the Doane markings, 1905-21. *Excelsior!* No. 13 (September 2009).

“Binghamton Cancel Design” by Roger D. Curran illustrates and discusses the famous “herringbone” killer and “striped” V and X rate markings, used ca. 1847-49. *Excelsior!* No.13 (September 2009).

Harpersville, Whitney’s Point, Chenango Forks and Binghamton handstamped markings (ca. 1850) are illustrated and discussed by author David E. Williams, who describes them as “Calvet M. Hahn ‘Listing Items’ from Broome County, NY.” *Excelsior!* No. 13 (September 2009).

Hudson is the origin of one trans-Atlantic cover (ca. 1870) and the destination of another (1911). George DeKornfeld gives an analysis in “Columbia County Corner: The City of Hudson International Outbound & Inbound.” *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

Manuscript markings of New York state are the subject of “Verification of NY State Manuscript Townmarks” by Douglas Penwell. The author gives pointers to help verify that such a cover is really of New York state origin. *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

New York City used duplexes with killers of four vertical lines, ca. 1875. Author Roger D. Curran discusses these in “The New York ‘Rickrack’ cancels,” showing seven covers. *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

New York City’s 3rd Avenue R.P.O.’s origin markings are very rare. In “News From the Cities,” David A. Gentry exhibits three covers that are determined to be origin uses, but only after careful examination. *Trans. Post. Coll.* 61, No. 2 (January-February 2010).

New York foreign mail “tilted cross plus wedge” is the subject of “Trying To Clear up a Two Decade Question” by Dan Richards. *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

“New York Horizontal Ellipse,” showing a number framed by an elliptical arrangement of vertical line segments, is illustrated on several covers (ca. 1879) in an article by Roger D. Curran. *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

“New York ‘PAID ALL’ on Postal Card to Germany” is the only postal marking on the piece. Printed matter rate is hypothesized by author Alex Gundel. *U.S.C.C. News* 30, No. 1 (February 2010).

Poughkeepsie used a receiving “clock” on a special delivery letter of 1913 and Utica used a boxed backstamp in 1902. They are illustrated on covers and discussed in “Buffalo and Utica Special Delivery Receiving Markings” by Robert L. Markovits. *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

Rochester town markings in manuscript, 1814-38, are illustrated and discussed in “Four Unusual Rochester Postmarks” by Douglas Penwell. *Excelsior!* No. 13 (September 2009).

Schenectady covers of 1797-1807 on exhibit pages prepared by Bob Bramwell each bear “Postmaster Free Franks of Schenectady.” *Excelsior!* No. 13 (September 2009).

Schenectady during the “purple ink period,” ca. 1876-80, is the subject of “Report from the Stockade” by Bob Bramwell. During this period, postmarks are red/blue and early government postal cards were coming into their own. *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

“West Point Letters ~ 1833-34” by Jean R. Walton examines the contents and background of four stampless folded letters, 1833-34. *Excelsior!* No. 14 (March 2010).

North Carolina

North Carolina section for the new edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalog is reproduced, soliciting corrections and additions. “American Stampless Cover Catalog – Update” by Richard F. Winter, *N.C. Post. Hist.* 29, No. 1 (Winter 2009-2010).

“Waynesborough - From Bustling Port City to Garbage Dump” by Tony L. Crumbley contains a postal history of the town and illustrates four covers, 1838-49. *N.C. Post. Hist.* 29, No. 1 (Winter 2009-2010).

Ohio

Machine markings of Ohio are the subject of an article by Gray Carlson. The author introduces a category he calls “Glamour Ohio Machine Cancels,” defined by several criteria such as historical importance. Scarcity is stated as one criterion, but, curiously, markings with only one example known to the author are not included. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 125 (September 2009).

Missent and Forwarded handstamps (and one in manuscript) are reported in “Ohio Missent

and Forwarded Handstamps - the Stampless Era” by Matthew Liebson. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No.126 (December 2009).

Ohio Congressman and future governor “Mordecai Bartley” franked an 1829 cover, illustrated and discussed in this article by Loring Ebersole. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Ohio Way Cover Update” by Matthew Liebson contains ten additions to the census of such covers in a previous issue of the journal. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Ben, Ohio” cover is shown, the first seen by author Matthew Liebson. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

Brooklyn post office 1830-36 was renamed Ohio City, 1836-54 and became a branch of Cleveland,1862. In the period 1854-62, mail to the area could be sent to Box 358, Cleveland. The one recorded piece of mail so addressed is illustrated and discussed in “Cleveland’s Box 358 and the Early Postal History of the West Side Branch” by Matthew Liebson. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 126 (December 2009).

“Chesterfield, Ohio (Fulton Co. 1837-1869)” by Loring Ebersole contains illustrations of two 1852 stampless covers bearing manuscript markings of the town. The author points out that Chesterfield is not listed in the current edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalog. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

Elyria is the origin of two pieces of 1852 “Transatlantic Mail from Elyria, Ohio: 24 Paid and Unpaid.” Author Jack Standen illustrates a newly discovered 24 rate handstamp used on the covers, but his descriptions of the British parts of the rates are somewhat confused. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

Farmer’s Station, Jackson C.H. and Waverly used home made postmarking devices for a time. The postmarks and the reasons for their use are discussed in “Ohio Provisional Postmarks of the 1860s” by Richard B. Graham. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Herring Followup” by Loring Ebersole contains illustrations of a money order form (1886), a cover (1895) and three post cards, relating to an earlier article about the town. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 126 (December 2009).

Kelleys Island used a duplex marking ca. 1938-63, with a significant space between Kelleys and Island in the dial. Allison Cusick discusses this in “An Unusual Duplex Marking from Kelleys Island, Erie County.” Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Lima in the 1970s” by Bernie Moening contains illustrations of seven covers, each showing a different machine marking of that decade, a decade in which many changes took place with the formation of the US Postal Service in 1971. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Lima, Ohio Flag Cancels” by Bernie Moening illustrates and discusses some minor varieties in the 1897-1902 period. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 126 (December 2009).

Mitiwanga cover, dated August 31, 1918 is illustrated in “More on Mitiwanga.” It is believed by author Matthew Liebson to be the earliest known from the town. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 125 (September 2009).

“Mitiwanga, Erie County, Ohio” postal history is the subject of an article by Allison Cusick. Three covers are illustrated, 1924-55. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 124 (June 2009).

“Murraysville Post Office” is identified historically, existing 1828-55, and a cover is illustrated. Author is Jack Standen. Oh. Post. Hist. J. No. 125 (September 2009).

New Riegel and Mccutchenville postmasters received requests for information about individuals unknown to the correspondents. The letters and illustrations of the covers

(1952-New Riegel and 1839-Mccutchenville) are reproduced in "Rural Postmasters and Missing Persons" by Alan Borer. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 125 (September 2009). "Orderkirk" post office operated under that name only from June 7, 1888 until December 20, 1889. Author Loring Ebersole illustrates a cover. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 124 (June 2009). "Rye Beach, Erie County" postal history is sketched in an article by Allison Cusick. Two covers postmarked at the town, a rural station of Huron, are shown (1922 and 1935) along with a post card view of the post office. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 125 (September 2009). Snookville and Clinton House are mentioned as "A Few More Unlisted Manuscripts" by author Matthew Liebson. A stampless cover with manuscript Snookville postmark of 1854 is illustrated. *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 125 (September 2009). West Milton cover with rimless oval date stamp (ca. 1840) is identified as the listing copy (in error) for West Hamilton in the American Stampless Cover Catalog. Author Matthew Liebson thus solves "The Mystery of West Hamilton." *Oh. Post. Hist. J.* No. 126 (December 2009).

Pennsylvania

Cambria, Carbon and Centre Counties are the subject of "2nd Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part V" by Tom Mazza, 1811-64. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

"Philadelphia Rail Markings - the Trolleys" by Tom Clarke begins with a discussion of the railroads around, and street cars (not just trolleys - some horse-drawn) within the city, and concludes with coverage of the Philadelphia street car RPOs. The known street car postmarks are listed and a (somewhat outdated) list of early/late dates of use is given. *La Posta* 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

"Philadelphia's Transatlantic Mail Delay during the Winter of 1834-35" by John Barwis contains a description of the severe weather of that winter and illustrates two transatlantic covers with consequent delay or rerouting. *Chronicle* 62, No. 1 (February 2010).

Philadelphia used a handstamped rate numeral 4, as early as 1793, signifying the incoming port of entry ship rate. In "Numeral 4 Markings on Early Private Ship Letters into Philadelphia," author Rick Leiby illustrates the four types of the marking and a newly discovered manuscript 4 and gives a detailed discussion and census. *Pa. Post. Hist.* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

Phillippsburg letter of 1833, privately carried to Baltimore and sent from there to Germany is analyzed as an example of a pre-treaty letter sent to Europe. Chuck Sabella and Norm Shachat, "Western Pennsylvania Letter to Germany, 1833 Hand Carried to Baltimore for Sailing Ship To Bremen." *Pa. Post. Hist.* 38, No. 1 (February 2010).

South Dakota

Buffalo County is located, geographically and historically and its post offices are each discussed with postmasters' compensations and covers illustrated, 1867-1931. Gary Anderson and Ken Stach, "A Study of Buffalo County, South Dakota," *Dakota Coll.* 27, No. 1 (January, 2010).

Tennessee

"Tennessee in Transit and Mobile Postal Markings" is the fifth installment of a listing of markings involved in transit (steamboat, train, airmail field, etc.) compiled from many sources, by author L. Steve Edmondson. *Tenn. Posts* 13, No. 3 (December 2009). McMinnville post office opened May 11, 1811. Details of the establishment are given

and the “Earliest Known Letter from McMinnville Post Office,” (October 12, 1815) is illustrated by author Norman Elrod. *Tenn. Posts* 13, No. 3 (December 2009).

Utah

Great Salt Lake Desert postal routes are the subject of “Utah’s Great Salt Lake Desert Part 2” by Dennis Pack. Railroad routes across the desert as well as roads and neighboring installments occupy Part 2. *La Posta* 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

Vermont

“Last Day Covers” contains a survey of Vermont post offices from which covers are known postmarked on the last day of operation (1931-2004). A list of post offices closing since 1930 from which no last day covers are known is also given. Author is Bill Lizotte. *Vermont Phil.* 55, No. 1 (February 2010).

“The 1847 5c Franklin Stamp in Vermont” (author not identified) lists towns receiving shipments of the adhesives and towns from which uses on cover are known. Surveys in the books of T. Alexander and of Slawson, Bingham and Drenan are compared. *Vermont Phil.* 55, No. 1 (February 2010).

North Walcott, Mountain Mills, Norton Mills, Westminster, Dorset and Wheelock postmarks are illustrated and discussed in “Post Horn” by Bill Lizotte. *Vermont Phil.* 55, No. 1 (February 2010).

“Randolph Center” is the address on an 1890 letter and the subject of a Washington, D.C. handstamp referred to in the title: “Randolph Center: No Such Office in State.” Author is John A. Lutz. *Vermont Phil.* 55, No. 1 (February 2010).

Virginia

Abingdon Confederate postmaster provisional, July 20, 1861, revalued with manuscript 5 over original printed 2 is illustrated in “New Postmasters’ Provisional - Abingdon, Virginia Revalued 5 over 2c” by Patricia A. Kaufmann. Details about the nature of a postmaster provisional and information and illustrations of other covers from the family of the correspondence are also given. *Confed. Phil.* 55, No. 1 (January-March 2010).

Washington

Glacier is located on a map and a 1904 cover and post office view on “A Page from Guy Ramsey’s Collection of ‘Washington Post Offices’” are reproduced. *La Posta* 40, No. 6 (December 2009-January 2010).

Journal Abbreviations

Aux. Marks. = Auxiliary Markings, Anthony Wawrukiewicz, 3130 SW Wilbard St., Portland OR 97219.

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, Roger D. Rydberg, 354 Nile St., Aurora CO 80012.

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, David E. Williams, 2617 Byron Avenue, Louisville KY 40205-2609.

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.
 Maine Phil. = Maine Philatelist, Max Lynds, Box 761, Houlton ME 04730-0761.
 Mass. Spy = The Massachusetts Spy, Douglas N. Clark, Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648.
 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, P.O. 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, P.O. 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 28, No. 8 (November 2007), Roger D. Curran, 20 University Ave., Lewisburg PA 17837.
 Vermont Phil. = The Vermont Philatelist, Glenn A. Estus, Box 451 Westport NY 12993-0147.

Membership Changes by Kalman V. Illyefalvi

New Members

- PHS 2314 Jim R. Petersen, 1109 Bobbi Lane, Waterloo, IA 50701-3230.
 Iowa Postal History stampless – 1869. US 1851-57 issues on cover.
 PHS 2315 Doubleday Postal History, PO Box 119, Alton, NH 03809-0119.
 New York #210's, New Hampshire & Maine Postal History

Resigned

- PHS 2195 Robert M. Bell.
 PHS 1770 Jeffrey N. Crown.
 PHS 2185 Douglas D. Merenda.
 PHS 1767 Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon.
 PHS 2082 Richard Schaefer, Sr.
 PHS 2243 Arlene Sullivan.

Deceased

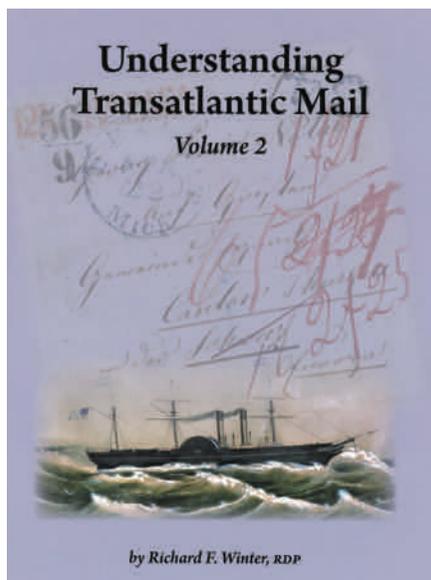
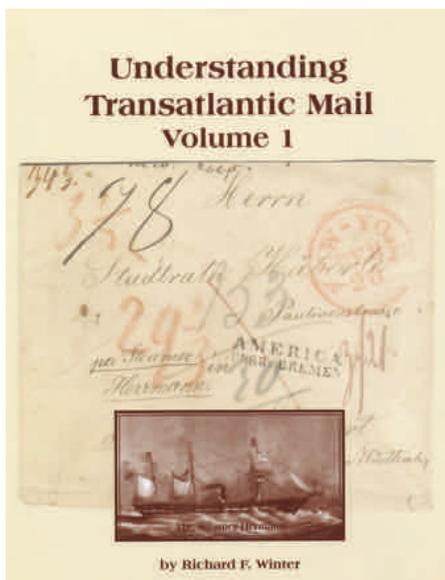
- PHS 0784 William H. (Bill) Bauer.
 PHS 2169 Jan De Laet.



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Transatlantic Mail

a review by Stephen B. Pacetti

Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume I, by Richard F. Winter. Published 2006 by the American Philatelic Society. Hardbound, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, 482 pages, CD-ROM. ISBN-13: 978-0-933580-24-4. Available from philatelic book sellers, eBay, Amazon.com, and other third party book sellers. *Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume II*, by Richard F. Winter. Published 2009 by the American Philatelic Society. Hardbound, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, 571 pages, CD-ROM. ISBN-13: 978-0-933580-76-3. Available for \$95, APS members \$76 from the American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823. [Note: Since there was no review of Volume I in the *PHJ*, both volumes are reviewed here. *Understanding Transatlantic Mail* is not two separate books, but one big book that is divided into two volumes to avoid an unwieldy size, and to get the information in Volume I out to collectors as soon as it was available. *PHJ* readers should review Winter's article, "Understanding Transatlantic Mail - The Book," in *PHJ*, No. 133, February 2006, to gain his insights into the planning, development, and difficulties of such a huge research project.]

Postal history is the study of postal rates, routes, and markings. Thus, the postal historian is interested in knowing how much it cost to mail an item, how it traveled to its destination, and what is the meaning of the various hand stamps and manuscript markings found on covers. There are few covers more challenging than 19th century mail to and from European countries, and beyond, before the 1875 General Postal Union simplified international mail rates.

Enter *Understanding Transatlantic Mail*, the first major work on this subject in many years. Dick Winter is well known to postal history collectors because he has been researching and writing articles for more than 25 years in such publications as *The Chronicle* (the journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society) and the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. For his efforts, Winter has received numerous prestigious

awards, including the APS's John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research, the Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club of New York, and signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

In Volume I of *UTM*, Winter pulls together his studies of the earliest four U.S.-European postal arrangements - Bremen, British, Prussian, and French - in chronological order, and analyzes in great detail hundreds of covers mailed from and to the U.S. In Volume II, he follows with the Hamburg, Belgium, Netherlands, North German Union, and Switzerland mails.

At 482 and 571 pages, these are big, heavy books, nicely stitch bound in dark blue hard back and gold lettering, with handsome dust jackets, and printed on high quality paper stock. But, please don't be put off by their size. You do not need to read the volumes cover-to-cover. The strength of *UTM* is in the book's organization. Winter gave a lot of thought to presenting his research and it shows.

The writing style is tight and succinct. No unnecessary verbiage. It's also clear, understandable, and consistent throughout, using the common definitions and other stylistic techniques he provides in the Introduction. Footnotes, and there are hundreds, are on the same page as the referenced text. No flipping back and forth to find a citation. He uses bold type for postmark wording and figure (illustration) references so that scanning down a page to find something is much easier.

And there is hope in deciphering manuscript postal markings. Throughout the books and in five appendices, there are too many tracings to count of those arcane squiggles written on so many covers by European postal clerks. You won't find every manuscript marking on your covers, but it's great start.

Perhaps worth the books' prices alone, is an accompanying CD-ROM for each volume containing high resolution, color images of the covers illustrated in each volume, organized by Figure number in "folders" for each chapter. A brief text description accompanies each image. It's almost like having your own world-class collection of transatlantic covers. The CD is kept in a clear plastic protective sleeve inside the back cover. (See Figure 1 for an example from Volume II)



Figure 10-41. 30 March 1844, New York to Wohlen, Canton Aargau, Switzerland, paid 18¼¢ U.S. inland fee to Boston. Letter carried by Cunard *Caledonia* from Boston to Liverpool. London sent letter to the Netherlands for transit to Switzerland, a most unusual route. Dutch debited Prussia 120 Dutch cents and Prussia debited Baden 23½ sgr, which was 1 gulden 23 kr. or 83 kr. Baden added 8 kr. transit fee to Basel. Postage due at destination was 100 kr.

Figure 1.

I do not want to oversell *UTM*, however. You will not have everything you need to fully understand every detail of your transatlantic covers with just these two volumes. You also should have a good postal rate book, such as Charles J. Starnes' *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU* (Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989), and a mail ship reference, such as Walter Hubbard and Richard. F. Winter's, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-1875*, (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988) so that you know how your cover traveled.

Which brings us to the Bibliography in *UTM*. It's loaded with every reference to the subject that most of us could ever ask for, all arranged neatly under broad general headings, such as "Postal Markings," and by each mail service.

Also, study the Index - carefully. It's different from the typical index in that it has been customized to fit the way Winter describes all the covers he analyzes. For example, under "postmark" (in Vol. II) there follows a nine page list of the verbatim wording of hundreds of postmarks illustrated in the books. So, you look at a postmark on your cover, find the wording in the index, and then go to the examples cited. And, the index in Volume II is cumulative, giving you the page number(s) in the appropriate volume. A very nice bonus. In the Preface, Winter gives credit to the late Charles J. Peterson for devising the index. Peterson is also a familiar name among "classics" students, having been a long time editor of *The Chronicle*, among many other achievements.

The two appendices provide additional valuable clues to your covers, by listing the foreign exchange office locations, chronologically by treaty, and many foreign postal markings.

So, here is a basic technique to use *UTM*: first, you must study the Introduction. It's only 14 pages, including illustrations. Here, Winter provides definitions of commonly used terms, tells you what postal markings are important (with ample tracings), gives you his system for analyzing covers, and outlines the basic characteristics of each postal arrangement covered in Volume I and II. You only need the Introduction in Volume 2, if you wish, because the text is cumulative.

Next, you study the Table of Contents to familiarize yourself with Winter's overall plan. Each mail service is covered in one chapter, divided into chronological subchapters beginning with pre-postal convention (treaty) arrangements, to convention inception and subsequent changes, until 1875. Note that printed matter (e.g., newspaper wrappers), not just letter mail, is included.

Then, look at your cover - front and back - and apply what you learned in the Introduction about identifying the applicable postal arrangement. Go to the Table of Contents, run your finger down the applicable postal convention until you find the time frame (date) on your cover, and you're there! Turn to that page to find a more detailed discussion of the convention and copious examples of similar covers analyzed in detail for you.

Applying this to the folded letter in Figure 2, first we see that the letter is from New Orleans, addressed to Marseille (France) and is franked with a 5¢ and 10¢ adhesive from the 1857 series. In the Introduction, Winter tells us that the color (red orange) of the large New York foreign exchange office postmark in the upper right corner, means the postage was fully paid (whether the word "paid" is there or not). In this case, it reads: NEW PAID YORK/SEP 11/3.

Next, a quick look through the Introduction of either volume of *UTM* reveals examples of several postmarks similar to the small black octagonal postmark in the



Figure 2: 1858 letter carried on the Vanderbilt European Line's North Star.

middle of the cover, and that they are found on mail carried under the U.S.-French convention. Now, in the index under "postmark," the exact wording of the postmark can be found as: ET. UNIS. SERV. AM. D./25 SEPT 58/HAVRE. Five page references are given, and we find this wording means the letter is from the U.S. by American direct service to Le Havre (France) where the letter entered the French mail system. It's fairly obvious, then, that a U.S.-French mail treaty applies - but which one?

The year date is 1858, which is confirmed by the hand written date on the inside of the letter. Looking down the Table of Contents of Volume I, we see under Chapter 5, French Mail, an entry "Postal Convention of 1857," and a sub heading "American Direct Service, 1 April 1857 - 31 December 1869" (page 363). At page 363 and following, you will find detailed information about the letter rate (15¢ for up to 1/2 oz.), and that the "3" in the New York hand stamp means that 3¢ was credited to France. (Test: what does the red orange "PD" in a box mean? Hint: check the index under "postmark" And, what is that blue oval hand stamp all about?)

Further study using *North Atlantic Mail Sailings* will show that the letter left New York City on September 11, 1858 (the date of the New York postmark) on board the Vanderbilt European Line's *North Star*, a contract mail ship, and arrived in Le Havre September 25.

Finally, *UTM* is not just for U.S. collectors. Mail also traveled to the U.S. and specialists in the European countries covered by the postal conventions will also benefit from Winter's analysis of many covers arriving on our shores from abroad. France specialists, for example, will certainly benefit from a greater understanding of the 19th century French mail service (which takes up some 240 pages) and Winter's explanation of many incoming letters from France.

This is an outstanding reference work by a world-class postal history scholar that should be added to the personal library of every serious classics collector.

Foreign Postal History in Other Journals

by Joseph J. Geraci

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

General - Ephemera, Cinderellas and Labels

“Air Mail Cover Slips,” by Joe Schwartz and Art Groten, illustrates a number of packing slips addressed to Palestine from various countries which were used in the sorting process, 1948. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 6, December 2009. Journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., Secretary Howard S. Chapman, 28650 Settlers Lane, Pepper Pike, OH 44124.)

Aden

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte.” (See under Eritrea.)

Algeria

“WWII Cover Algeria to Gambia and Bureau Naval 53,” by Stewart Duncan and Rob May, traces the route of this cover, breaks down the postage rate and locates Naval Bureau 53’s position. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 254, December 2009. Secretary P.R.A. Kelly, Malmsey House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol, England, United Kingdom.)

Austria

“Napoleone a Trieste (1797-1813),” by Michele Amorosi, examines the three separate French occupations of Trieste, postal rates and the postal history of the period. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 152, November 2008. Organo ufficiale del’Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale, Editor Adriano Cattani, Casella Postale 325, I-35100 Padova, Italy.)

“La posta nell’Epiro ottomano (1869-1901).” (See under Epirus.)

Barbados

“Barbados Airmails of World War II, Rates and Destinations, 1939,” by Jerone R. Hart, discusses air mail rates found on covers addressed to Canada, the West Indies, Great Britain and the United States. (*British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, No. 234, January-March 2010. British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Secretary Mary Gleadall (2012), P.O. Box 5449, Warrens, St. Michael BB11000, Barbados.)

British Somaliland

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima part” (See under Eritrea.)

Bulgaria

“Life in Edirne under the Bulgarians,” by Mike Whittaker, transcribes the messages found on two postcards to Berlin concerning the cost of food and the lack of social life in Odrin (Andrinople, Adrianople, Edirne), in 1915. (*OPAL*, No. 220, February

2009. Journal of the Oriental Philatelic Association of London, Secretary Philip Longbottom, 5 Ringway Close, Tythrington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2SU, England, United Kingdom.)

Burma

“WWII - Burma - Censor Station Rangoon,” by Sankaran Viswa Kumar, discusses a 1941 cover mailed by a Polish Jew in Rangoon, addressed to Tel Aviv, Palestine, which was delayed and had to be sent to Calcutta because none of the censors at Rangoon could read Polish. (*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, No. 161, January 2009. Secretary Charles J. LaBlonde, 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3554.)

Cameroun

“Cameroun 2005 Provisional Year Slugs,” by Marc Parren, looks at Cameroun covers lacking year date slugs in the metal circular date stamp canceling devices, and situations where the year date was written in by hand, or a rubber year date was inserted into the metal datestamp. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 254, December 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

Canada

“Postal Service Along the Kempt Road,” by Ferdinand Bélanger, discusses three routes cut through the wilds of Gaspé, and government attempts to settle the area in order to maintain the routes to Gaspé Bay, 1831-1876. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 139, Fall 2009. Postal History Society of Canada, Back Issues, Stéphane Cloutier, 367 Lévis Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 6G6, Canada.)

“The Twelve-Penny Black Covers,” by Charles G. Firby and George B. Arfken, provides a table of post office distribution for the 12d stamp of 1851, and a census of both genuine and forged covers. (*BNA Topics*, No. 521, Fourth Quarter 2009. Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., Circulation Manager, Wayne Smith, 20 St. Andrews Road, Scarborough ON M1P 4C4, Canada.)

“The Stonestead, Shefford & Chambly Railroad,” by Peter McCarthy, constructs the history of this rail line between St. Johns and Waterloo, 1857-1900, and illustrates the postmarks used. (*BNA Topics*, No. 521, Fourth Quarter 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

“Canada to the United Kingdom by the American Ocean Line packet steamer *Washington*,” by Steve Mulvey, illustrates an unusual 1856 cover, sent on an American line steamer because it missed a Cunard sailing from Boston; unusual because the rate of postage was 6d higher on the American line than the rate would have been if sent by Cunard steamer. (*BNA Topics*, No. 522, First Quarter 2010. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

“Memorabilia from a Rural Post Office,” by Jack Forbes, tells the story of the post office at Guysborough, and illustrates a number of documents used by the Post Office Department, such as letters of Appointment, Proposals for Mail Contract, Requisition for Postage Stamps, and Registered Mail Envelopes for transmission of cash, 1858-1964. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 139, Fall 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Canadian Short-Paid Mail, 2. The 1897-1909 Period,” by Gary Steele, deals with insufficiently prepaid mail to foreign countries, and the calculation of the amounts of postage due. (*BNA Topics*, No. 522, First Quarter 2010. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

“The Foreign Exchange Control Board and the Canadian Post Office, 1939-1951, Part

4,” by David Whiteley, continues his study by illustrating the canceling devices applied to mail matter examined by the Board. (*PHSC Journal*, No. 139, Fall 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Canada.)

“Canada’s ‘Stealth’ MPO’s - Part 1,” by Henk Burgers, investigates military post offices established within Canada to service training camps, this segment dealing with MPO No. 1, St. Thomas, Ontario, 1940-1941. (*BNA Topics*, No. 522, First Quarter 2010. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

Colombia

“Unusual Destination for an Insured Letter Stamp,” [by Thomas P. Myers], illustrates an insured letter stamp addressed to Paris, France, and describes the route of the letter, 1868. (*Copacarta*, Vol. 26, No. 2, December 2008. Journal of the Colombia/ Panama Study Group, Editor Thomas P. Myers, P.O. Box 522, Gordonsville, VA 22942.)

“Shipping and River Transportation in Colombia in 1886,” reprints excerpts from the United States Consular Report No. 82, August 1887, prepared by consular agent Edmund W.P. Smith, concerning both international shipping and steamboats on Colombian rivers. (*Copacarta*, Vol. 26, No. 3, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Colombia.)

Dalmatia

“La Dalmazia e la sua storia postale,” by Adriano Cattani, provides a historical and postal history overview of the Dalmatian coast from Roman times, through successive occupations by Venice, Napoleonic France and Austria, 800’s-1848. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 153, February 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

Danish West Indies

“The D.W.I. Bisected 4-Cent Stamps: Why, Where and How they were Used (Part II),” by Arnold Sorensen, continues his analysis of these bisects with usage on St. Croix on printed matter to foreign destinations, and on postcards mailed on German steamers, 1903. (*The Posthorn*, No. 257, November 2008. The Scandinavian Collectors Club, Executive Secretary Donald B. Brent, Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022.)

Epirus

“La posta nell’Epiro ottomano (1869-1901),” by Georgios Plumidis, transcribes a number of interesting newspaper articles concerning the Ottoman and Austrian posts, copied from several different newspapers. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 153, February 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

Eritrea

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte,” by Mario Chesne Dauphiné, relates the early history and postal history of the Horn of Africa, weaving together the stories of Somalia, British Somaliland, French Somaliland, Aden, Ethiopia, Zanzibar and German East Africa, 1827-1905. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 154, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

Ethiopia

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte.” (See under Eritrea.)

Finland

“WWII Finland,” by John Godfrey, illustrates several covers bearing Finnish censorship

markings, 1939-1941. (*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, No. 161, January 2009. See address of contact under Burma.)

Fiume

“I francobolli italiani usati dalla Posta Militare di Fiume in periodo dannunziano,” by Carlo Ciullo, reviews the military postal history revolving around the occupation of Fiume by Gabriel D’Annunzio, 1919-1921, and the postal markings used. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 154, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

France

“An Unusual *articles d’argent* letter of 1779,” by Peter Maybury, refers to monies deposited with the post office, or a private messenger service, for delivery to a third party, and the postal rates applicable to this particular letter. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 253, September 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

“Armies of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Periods, 1791-1815,” by Bob Kinsley, provides historical overview of the creation and flow of French armies as the Empire expanded, with illustrations of many military handstamps and postmarks. (*Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Winter 2009. Secretary Ed Dubin, P.O. Box 586, Belleville, MI 48112-0586.)

“French Follies,” by Kees Adema, explains the reasoning and history behind the development of the French Revolutionary Calendar, which was in use within the Empire from 1792 to 1805. (*The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 2, March-April 2009. The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016.)

“L’Armée des Alpes in Piemonte: Testimonianze storico-postali della guerra delle Alpi (1794 -1797),” by Piero Giribone, relates the history and postal history of the Army of the Alps which invaded and occupied the Piedmonte region. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 109, December 2008. Rivista dell’Associazione Italiana Collezionisti Posta Militare, President Piero Macrelli, CP 180, 47900 Rimini, Italy.)

“Napoleone a Trieste (1797-1813).” (See under Austria.)

“Thai Pilots in France in WWI,” by John Garner, adds to his previous articles on this subject and illustrates a post card sent to one of the pilots. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 254, December 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

French Somaliland

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima .” (See under Eritrea.)

French Soudan

“The Development of the Services of the *Postes et Télégraphes* in Sénégamie-Niger, 1900-1903,” by Peter Kelly, is based upon a series of reports and documents prepared by the principal commissioner for the Colony. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 253, September 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

Germany, Offices Abroad, Turkey

“Civilian Free Mail Concession in the German Postal System for Forerunner Mail Sent Between Rishon Le Zion and Jaffa,” by Ed. Kroft, researches the possibility of postage free mail between these two communities, 1903-1907. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 5, October 2009. See address of contact under General - Ephemera, Cinderellas and Labels.)

German East Africa

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte.” (See under Eritrea.)

Great Britain

“Records for Early British Post Office Agents Abroad from 1812,” by Philip Beale, reveals where information concerning these post office agents and their instructions can be found within the Royal Mail Archives. (*Postal History*, No. 329, March 2009. Journal of the Postal History Society, Secretary Hans Smith, 99 North End Road, London, NW11 7TA, England, United Kingdom.)

“The Queensland Royal Mail, Part 2,” by Colin Tabcart, presents tables of voyages both outbound and homeward bound, between Plymouth and Brisbane, for 1883. (*Postal History*, No. 329, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

“WWII - G.B. - PC 90 Labels and Type 2D PW Handstamps,” by Konrad Morenweiser and Graham Mark, advance a new theory where the numbered PW handstamps were used by the same examiners as the similarly numbered PC 90 labels, and present evidence to support their contention. (*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, No. 161, January 2009. See address of contact under Burma.)

Greece

“La posta nell’Epiro ottomano (1869-1901).” (See under Epirus.)

“The Transport and Fumigation of Letters at Piraeus, 1884,” by Tony Virvilis, researches the disruption of mail services beginning in June 1884 and provides newspaper and official report accounts of the attempts to control the spread of cholera. (*Pratique*, Vol. 33, No. 3, Autumn 2009. Disinfected Mail Study Group, V. Denis Vandervelde, 25 Sinclair Grove, London NW11 9JH, England, United Kingdom.)

Hawaii

“Via Mexico: Hawaii’s ‘Express’ Route 1835-1848” [Part 1], by Fred Gregory, reveals the beginnings of an irregular mail service between Hawaii and the Atlantic ports of the United States through Mexico, via Mazatlan, Veracruz, Monterey or San Blas. (*The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 2, March-April 2009. See address of contact under third entry for France.)

“Ordinary Mail from Hawaii to Canada, 1864-1884,” by Randall E. Burt, discusses background, identifies Hawaiian mail agents in San Francisco, gives postage rates, and analyzes a number of covers sent to Canada. (*Postal History*, No. 329, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

Israel

“Part 5: Instructional Markings and Labels of the Arab-Israeli Postkreig,” by Daryl Kibble, discusses mimeographed labels and handstamps applied to international mail which had arrived in Arab countries, and which they had returned to the sender, to be forwarded to Israel through other countries. Updates are included for prior articles on this subject concerning Iran, Jordan and Lebanon, 1949-1983. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 6, December 2009. See address of contact under General - Ephemera, Cinderellas and Labels.)

“Postmarks and Post Offices of Israel (1948-1988) - Part 45,” by William Farber, continues his listings and illustrations of modern postmarks of Tel Aviv-Yafo. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 5, October 2009. See address of contact under General - Ephemera, Cinderellas and Labels.)

Italy

- “Affrancature di ‘Raggio Limitrofo’ con francobolli del Regno D’Italia,” by Giovanni Boschetti, explores reduced tariff, cross border postal rates for destinations not more than 15 or 30 kilometers, between Italy, France, Austria and Switzerland, 1862-1875. *Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. Vaccari s.r.l., via M. Buonarroti 46, 41058, Vignola (MO), Italy.)
- “The Postage Dues of Victor Emmanuel II,” by Richard Harlow, looks at the first three postage due issues and their uses, and questions how some of the amounts due were calculated on certain covers, 1863-1891. (*Fil-Italia*, No. 139, Winter 2008/09. The Journal of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle, Secretary Richard Harlow, 7 Duncombe House, 8 Manor Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 8BG, England, United Kingdom.)
- “La posta militare italiana alle grande manovre, L’Ottocento, Quarta parte: 1908-1914,” by Beniamino Cadioli, concludes his study of the postal history of the Grand Maneuvers, where many of these short lived, temporary postmarks used in the field were illustrated. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 109, December 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)
- “La storia aeropostale: Un terreno ancora tutto da esplorare,” by Flavio Riccitelli, covers the development of airmail services from 1911 to the 1940s, with emphasis on the period after 1926. (*Que Filatelia*, No. 54, October-December 2008. Rivista della Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane, President Piero Macrelli, Via Mentana 19, CP 227, Rimini, Italy, 41921.)
- “Tondo riquadrati usati in Toscana,” by V. Alfani and S. Rinaldi, continue their study by illustrating all known squared circle datestamps this time from the provinces of Livorno, Massa and Massa Carrara, 1893-1915. (*Il Monitore della Toscana*, Anno IV, No. 7/8, November 2008. Rivista della Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale Toscana, Secretary, Leonardo Amorini, Via Vespucci n. 6, 56020 La Serra (PI), Italy.)
- “I francobolli con la dicitura “PM” per il servizio della posta militare, Parte terza,” by Luigi Sirotti, carries forward his review of the postal history of this 1943 series illustrating various uses and postal tariffs, and indicating the zones where they were in use. (*Posta Militare e Storia Postale*, No. 109, December 2008. See address of contact under fourth entry for France.)
- “Risolto il dubbio su una affrancatura controversa,” by Angiolo A. Dotta, re-examines an earlier postage rate controversy concerning a June 1947 letter from Ormea, franked with £6 in postage and £12 in postage due stamps. (*Il Foglio*, No. 159, March 2009. Unione Filatelica Subalpina, C.P. 65, Torino Centro, 10100 Torino, Italy.)

Japan

- “Mysterious Words - A Solution Found?” by Michael E. Ruggiero, adds additional information to an earlier article concerning a difficult to read inscription on an 1884 cover to Halifax, Nova Scotia. (*Japanese Philately*, No. 375, April 2009. Back Issues Manager Lee R. Wilson, 4216 Jenifer Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.)
- “The Forerunner Roman-letter Comb Cancellations of Japan (1905.10-1905.12.31),” by Charles A.L. Swenson, looks at the early days of English language comb type datestamps applied to foreign mail. (*Japanese Philately*, No. 374, February 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Japan.)
- “Kuchinotsu Roman-letter Comb”, by Charles A.L. Swenson, refers to a scarce Roman-letter postmark, as opposed to Japanese character postmark, apparently only in use

at this port during 1909. (*Japanese Philately*, No. 375, April 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Japan.)

“Postmark Watch,” by Charles A.L. Swenson, reports two new postmark discoveries, and an interesting variation of the spelling for Chefoo, 1894-1939. (*Japanese Philately*, No. 374, February 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Japan.)

Lombardy-Venetia

“Il Sempione: Una strada postale. Il servizio postale e di posta cavalli con la diligenza svizzera,” by Riccardo Ajolfi, relates the role and history of the Sempione Pass in the transport of passengers, freight and mail between the Italian peninsula and the German States to the north of Switzerland, 1639-1953. (*Archivio per la Storia Postale*, Anno 10, Nos. 28-29, January-August 2008. Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Palazzo Datini, C.P. 514, via Ser Lapo Mazzei 37, 59100 Prato, Italy.)

“I rapporti postali del Regno Lombardo-Veneto con il Granducato di Toscana, 1815-1859 (terza parte),” by Lorenzo Carra, continues his study of their postal relationship during 1859-1863, this time examining routes and postal tariffs. (*Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

Martinique

“The ‘Ordonance’ (Order) of 24 April - 14 May 1835,” by Guy Dutau, (translated by Peter Kelly), illustrates and comments upon the legislative arrangements governing letter rates to and from soldiers and sailors employed in the colonies. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 253, September 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

Mexico

“Via Mexico: Hawaii’s ‘Express’ Route 1835-1848” [Part 1]. (See under Hawaii.)

Modena

“Fivizzano: I bolli lineari,” by Paolo Vollmeier, identifies four different types of unframed straight line postmarks of Fivizzano, 1818-1848. (*Il Monitore della Toscana*, Anno IV, No. 7/8, November 2008. See address of contact under fifth entry for Italy.)

Natal

“Postal Use of the 1857 Natal Embossed Shilling Stamp,” by Keith Klugman, provides a survey of the ten covers known bearing this one shilling stamp, and provides an analysis of most of them. (*The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 1, January-February 2009. See address of contact under third entry for France.)

Netherlands

“The 1899 Vürtheim Numeral Issue and its Varied Uses,” by Ed. Matthews, is concerned with the low value numeral stamps and the postal tariffs they were issued to pay, 1899-1924. (*Netherlands Philately*, Vol. 33, No. 3, January 2009. American Society for Netherlands Philately, Secretary Jan Enthoven, 221 Coachlite Ct. S, Onalaska, WI 54650.)

Netherlands East Indies

“Early Netherlands East Indies Airmail,” by Richard Wheatley, tells the story behind early flights within the East Indies colony, a huge territory which stretched for 1,200 miles north to south, and 2,800 miles east to west, 1920-1942. (*Postal History*, No. 329, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Great Britain.)

“Palestine in 1931,” by Richard Wheatley, relates the story of how mail was transported between Batavia and Jerusalem in 1931. (*Netherlands Philately*, Vol. 33, No. 4, March 2009. See address of contact under Netherlands.)

Newfoundland

“Newfoundland’s Coastal North and Labrador Mail Services and the loss of *SS Volunteer* on 19 Nov. 1891,” by Brian Stalker, researches the history of this steamer and how the vessel was lost off the northern Newfoundland coast. (*BNA Topics*, No. 522, First Quarter 2010. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

Palestine

“The Hejaz Railway Mail During the Ottoman Period.” (See under Turkey.)

Prince Edward Island

“An Incoming P.E.I. Stampless Cover - Two Different Rate Handstamps Used to Denote Postage Due,” by Steve Mulvey, reviews an 1858 cover showing two different handstamps denoting postage due. (*BNA Topics*, No. 521, Fourth Quarter 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Canada.)

Queensland

“The Queensland Royal Mail, Part 2.” (See under Great Britain.)

Roman States

“I sub appaltatori dello Stato Pontificio, *Per servizio di Nostro Signore*,” by Ercolano Gandini, presents arguments for the acceptance of “dry seals” (embossed markings), having various letters and symbols impressed on covers, the number of impressions of which indicate amounts of postage due from the addressee, 1525-1809. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 154, March 2009. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

“L’espresso in periodo Napoleonico (1796-1815): Alcune note sull’uso nelle Romagne e Marche,” by the late Nello Bagni and Maurizio Caimmi, review the background of express mail, how these letters were identified, how they were indicated on postal waybills and what the rates of postage were. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 152, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

“Papal States - Postal Rates 1815-1852,” by Dr. Vito Mancini (translated by L. Richard Harlow), puts forward a more clear version of early postal events, including several tables of postal tariffs. (*Fil-Italia*, No. 139, Winter 2008/09. See address of contact under second entry for Italy.)

“Stato Pontificio: I bolli muti delle Legazioni di Romagna,” by Bruno Berti, discusses and illustrates the mute canceling devices applied at post offices in the province of Romagna, 1852-1860. *Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

Russia

“Russia: Obezzarasheno Cachets, 1896-1916: Corrigenda,” by V. Denis Vandervelde, updates information recently uncovered about disinfection cachets for Granitza, Odessa, St. Petersburg and Gaoudan. (*Pratique*, Vol. 33, No. 3, Autumn 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Greece.)

“Updates to the Samara - Zlatoust and Volga - Bugul’ma Railroads Articles,” by V.G. Levendovsky, (translated by David M. Skipton), adds to the wealth of information already provided in earlier articles, 1894-1928. (*Rossica*, No. 152, Spring 2009. Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, Secretary Dr. Ed Laveroni, P.O. Box 320997, Los Gatos, CA 95032-0116.)

“Railway Mute Cancels and Registration of Correspondence,” by Arnold Levin (translated by David M. Skipton), discusses the introduction and use of mute obliterations on

stamps on some registered mail, 1914-1917. (*Rossica*, No. 152, Spring 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Russia.)

“The Partisan Post during the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945,” by Anatoly Osatinski (translated by David M. Skipton), pioneers historical research of these units and provides a table by field post number identifying those partisan detachments he was able to identify operating behind German lines in occupied areas. (*Rossica*, No. 152, Spring 2009. See address of contact under second entry for Russia.)

St. Lucia

“A Few Months after the Abolition of Slavery, a Letter from St. Lucia to France,” by Robert Abensur, translated by Peter Kelly, reviews an 1834 prepaid letter addressed to Bascons, France, concerning the detrimental effect the abolition of slavery in the British colonies was having upon the writer’s plantation. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 253, September 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

St. Vincent

“Fake Parcel Postmark from St. Vincent,” by Peter Elias, illustrates three faked “A10” barred obliterations and a “Parcels” cancellation, all on stamps overprinted “Revenue,” 1880’s. (*British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, No. 234, January-March 2010. See address of contact under Barbados.)

Sardinia

“Il Sempione: Una strada postale. Il servizio postale e di posta cavalli con la diligenza svizzera.” (See under Lombardy Venetia.)

“L’Ufficio postale di Torino nel 1801-1802: Analisi storico postale del periodo transitorio dipartimentale,” by Piero Giribone, looks at postal markings applied to mail at Torino during this period. (*Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale*, No. 152, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Austria.)

Senegal

“From Senegal to the Mexican Expedition of 1863 ... Looking for Naval Surgeon Moinet,” by Michèle Chauvet, translated by Peter Kelly, traces the journey of this letter’s travels through its backstamps, hopefully reaching Naval Surgeon Moinet at the end of its journey. (*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, No. 253, September 2009. See address of contact under Algeria.)

Somalia

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte.” (See under Eritrea.)

Suriname

“The Paul Redfern Rescue Mission of 1936, by Hans Kremer, identifies who Paul Redfern was and provides the story behind the cacheted covers produced to help fund the search for his rescue. (*Netherlands Philately*, Vol. 33, No. 4, March 2009. See address of contact under Netherlands.)

Switzerland

“Il Sempione: Una strada postale. Il servizio postale e di posta cavalli con la diligenza svizzera.” (See under Lombardy Venetia.)

“An Acceptable Swiss Pre-UPU Postal Card,” by Harlan F. Stone, explains that before the UPU agreement took effect on 1 July 1875, postal cards were not accepted in international mail. Only by indicating it was printed matter was the referenced card accepted in the mail stream by France. (*The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No.

1, January-February 2009. See address of contact under third entry for France.)

Thailand

“Thai Pilots in France in WWI.” (See under France.)

Trieste

“La corrispondenza civile nelle Venezia Giulia, 1945-1947 (seconda parte),” by Luigi Sirotti, this time discusses the postal rates applicable, provides a good map of “Zone A,” illustrates many datestamps of small towns and provides a table of post offices located in Zone A. *Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

Turkey

“La posta nell’Epiro ottomano (1869-1901).” (See under Epirus.)

“The Hejaz Railway Mail During the Ottoman Period,” by Zvi Alexander and Zvi Aloni, gathers background and history of this famous railroad, its construction difficulties and illustrates postmarks used aboard the trains as well as at depots and stations in the Holy Land. (*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, No. 5, October 2009. See address of contact under General - Ephemera, Cinderellas and Labels.)

Tuscany

“Toscana, 2 agosto 1838: Le novità arrivano dal mare. Studio sui bolli PD del periodo prefilatelico e sull’introduzione del bollo a doppia cerchio con datario interno,” by Fabrizio Finetti, reviews the “PD” (Paid to Destination) markings found on covers from 1838-1851. *Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

“La posta militare toscana nella II guerra di Indipendenza,” by Luigi Sirotti, introduces us to the history of this war, its main characters, provides maps of troop movements and illustrates the military datestamps used by Tuscan forces, 1859. (*Il Monitore della Toscana*, Anno IV, No. 7/8, November 2008. See address of contact under fifth entry for Italy.)

“I rapporti postali del Regno Lombardo-Veneto con il Granducato di Toscana, 1815-1859 (terza parte).” (See under Lombardy-Venetia.)

Vatican City

“Gardens and Medallions: Anniversary Retrospective - Part II,” by Greg Perozzi, continues his study of the high values of the 1933 definitive series, illustrating many different covers and postal rates, 1933-1939. (*Vatican Notes*, No. 340, Fourth Quarter 2008. The Journal of the Vatican Philatelic Society, Secretary Joseph Scholten, 1436 Johnston St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-2829.)

“Uno per uno, i francobolli dello Stato della Città del Vaticano (sedicesima parte),” by Giovanni Fulcheris, reviews the issues of 1948 and 1949, and the postage rates applicable for air mail service. *Vaccari Magazine*, No. 40, November 2008. See address of contact under first entry for Italy.)

Zanzibar

“Per via di mare e attraverso il deserto: I collegamenti postali del Medio Oriente al Corno d’Africa, Prima parte.” (See under Eritrea.)

The February issue of *Postal History Journal*: “This handsome journal is splendid, a pleasure to read whether the topic is within one’s collecting or studying interest or not. The contributors and coeditors deserve our praise” Donald B. Johnstone, Shelburne VT.

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

This Fall, the society returns to BALPEX for our annual meeting. This wonderful show, located in the Baltimore area, will be held Labor Day weekend, as usual, with our meetings on Saturday, September 4.

The General Membership meeting will be held at 11 AM. The speaker will be Gregorio Pirozzi, whose article "The Holy See and WWII Communications," appearing in the *Postal History Journal* No. 143 (June 2009) will be recognized as the "Best Article for 2009" in the journal.

Don Johnstone, author of the first "Best Article," fifty years ago, for the year 1960, has kindly donated his medal back to the society for posterity and it will be on display at BALPEX.

Our annual Board of Directors meeting will be held at 9AM on the same Saturday, September 4. All members are invited to attend. Attendance at the General meeting is, of course, open to all.

I look forward to greeting a large turnout of our members and friends at BALPEX!

Postal History Society Officers & Board of Directors

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Vice Pres.: David Straight, 1195 Cimarron Dr., Saint Louis, MO 63132-2103, U.S.A.

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“Box Brown” & Company

Sending a human being through the mail has become a sort of ‘urban legend.’ Part of the problem is the media’s lack of exactitude when invoking the concept of ‘mail.’ The most famous incident was the shipping of a Virginia slave, Henry “Box” Brown, by Adams & Co. Express on March 23, 1849 – bound for Philadelphia and freedom. A letter written soon after the delivery by James Miller McKim, the man who accepted delivery of the box, to a New York associate, Sydney Howard Gay, is owned by the New-York Historical Society.

In 2003, for rather less idealistic reasons, Charles McKinley shipped himself by air cargo from New York to Texas to avoid the price of an airline ticket (he billed his employers for the express charges). And he lost his freedom.

In neither case could the men be said to have been carried by the mail (the word indicating service by the postal system). Before the introduction of Parcel Post in 1913, nothing heavier than 4 pounds could be sent through the mail. Theoretically, if a midget and packaging weighed less than 70 pounds (the weight limit set in 1931), such a stunt could be handled by the USPS, since it accommodates live chicks and other small animals.

Postal History in Literature

In his non-fiction account, *Shadow of the Silk Road* (2007), Colin Thubron observes that, although the jealously-guarded craft of paper-making didn’t reach the West from China until AD 751, by AD 300, “letters written on mulberry bark were traveling the Silk Road. The archaeologist Aurel Stein, while investigating a watchtower in the Lop desert, came upon a cache of undelivered mail with messages in Sogdian dating back to AD 313. These are the first known inscribed paper. Their words are in carbon ink. One contains the outburst of a neglected wife (‘I’d rather be a dog’s or a pig’s wife than yours!’). Another touches on the failing state of China – the sack of cities, the flight of the Emperor – and its implications for trade. But for the rest, across their fragments, the script runs neat as a company balance-sheet: ‘In Guzang there are 2,500 measures of pepper for dispatch ... Kharstang owed you 20 staters of silver ... He gave me the silver and I weighed it, and there were only 4.5 staters altogether. I asked ...’”

In Peter Høeg’s Danish novel, *Borderliners* (1994), his narrator recounts the post-Newtonian history of time: “Measurement of linear time gains ground in Europe. In real terms, it is only three hundred years old, everything else merely leads up to it. It appears when society begins to change so fast that each new day is no longer recognizable, because it has become too different from the day before. Time measurement appears as society grows more complex, it appears along with communications, the postal service and trade, and the railroads.”

In Shirley Hazzard’s non-fictional account of the Bay of Naples, *The Ancient Shore* (2008) appears this tantalizing postal clue: “From the shore, Seneca watched an approaching fleet and identified the Alexandrian mail packets by the trim of their topsails.”

Deborah Blum, in *The Poisoner’s Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York* (2010) revisits the 1898 Roland Molineux case of murder by cyanide through the mail - the addressee had saved the wrapper to the anonymous gift, and a secretary at his club recognized the handwriting. But two juries failed to convict the very respectable Molineux despite the evidence.



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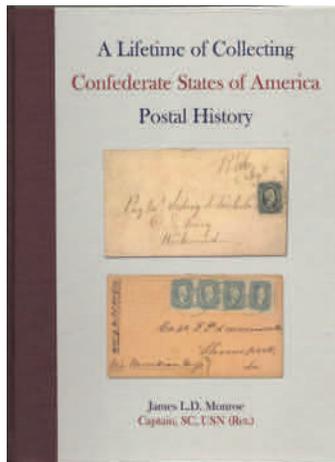
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Arthur H. Groten: Gift to the Confederate Stamp Alliance

To kick off the 75th anniversary year of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, James L.D. Monroe and his foster father, Donald A. Robbins (both members of 50 year standing), have funded the production of *A Lifetime of Collecting Confederate States of America Postal History*, written by Jim Monroe. They generously made a present of a copy to each active member of the Alliance, as well as to numerous libraries. New members will also receive a copy while the supply lasts (www.csalliance.org; 10194 N Old State Rd.,

Lincoln DE 19960). The book is not for sale but rather reflects a deep love for the hobby and the Alliance. The book illustrates Monroe's carefully chosen collection that traces the postal history of the Confederacy and thus acts as a primer on the subject. He also includes his remarkable collection of Confederate naval covers - homage to his years as a U.S. Navy officer.

The Alliance was founded in 1935 by August Dietz, Sr., author of the famed 1929 book *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America*. The 1986 edition of the "New Dietz" is currently being completely revamped by members of the Alliance with publication scheduled for late 2011 to coincide with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.





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