



The Prexie Era

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The Twilight of the Prexies - Rate Changes of July 1, 1957

by Stephen L. Suffet



Figure 1: 10-cent Prexie helped pay the 30-cent special delivery fee. A 3-cent envelope paid the first class letter rate for one ounce.

This article is the third in a series that looks at usages of the United States Presidential Series stamps, often affectionately called Prexies by philatelists, after the Post Office Department (P.O.D.) began to introduce the Liberty Series with the release of the 8-cent value on April 9, 1954.

As previously noted, the P.O.D. took eleven years, 1954-1965, to issue all the basic stamps in the Liberty Series, not counting tagging and gum varieties that came out later. Even if we ignore the 25-cent Liberty Series coil

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Figure 2: Two 15-cent Prexies paid the 20-cent certified mail fee plus the 10-cent return receipt fee. 3-cent Shipbuilding commemorative paid the first class letter rate for one ounce.

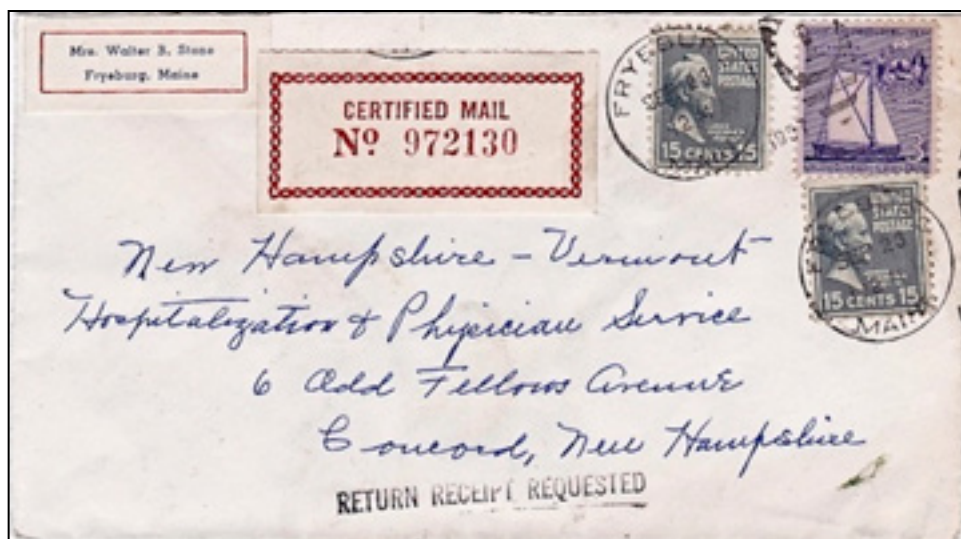


Figure 3: Prexies paid the 20-cent numbered insured mail fee plus 6 cents third class postage for 6 ounces. The U.S. Treasury Department used such covers to send mint sets of uncirculated coins.

stamp of 1965, which had no equivalent in the Presidential Series, the P.O.D. still took the seven years, 1954-1961, to phase in the Liberty Series. During that time, many Prexies remained in current use.

It was during this long transition period that two major groups of rate changes took place. On July 1, 1957, the fees for many special postal services (e.g. special delivery, registered mail, certified mail) increased, or in one case decreased, while basic postage rates remained unchanged. Then 13 months later, on August 1, 1958, many basic postage rates increased,

while the fees for special postal services remained unchanged. This article will look at a few Prexie covers that demonstrate only that first group of rate changes, the ones that took place in 1957.

Figure 1 pictures a 3-cent envelope postmarked July 24, 1957, with a 10-cent Prexie and 20-cent special delivery stamp added to pay the 30 cents minimum special delivery fee that went into effect 23 days earlier. The minimum fee, which had previously been 20 cents, applied to first class articles weighing up to two pounds. The 3-cent envelope paid the first class letter

rate for one ounce. While the 10-cent stamp in the Liberty Series had been issued a year earlier on July 4, 1956, the P.O.D had enough Prexies on hand that they were still being distributed to post offices during Fiscal Year 1958, which ran from July 1, 1957, through June 30, 1958. This 10-cent Prexie was, therefore, a current issue when the 1957 rate change took place.

Figure 2 shows two 15-cent Prexies paying the 20-cent certified mail fee and 10-cent basic return receipt fee on a cover postmarked September 23, 1957. These new fees, which had previously been 15 cents and 7 cents respectively, went into effect on July 1, 1957. A 3-cent Shipbuilding commemorative paid the first class letter rate for one ounce. The 15-cent stamp in the Liberty Series would not be issued until December 12, 1958. Until that time the Bureau of Engraving and Printing kept producing the 15-cent Prexie, which was still being distributed to post offices as late as Fiscal Year 1960.

Figure 3 illustrates four Prexies (two 1½-cent, one 11-cent, one 12-cent) used on a cover postmarked May 29, 1958. The U.S. Treasury Department used covers such as this one to mail mint sets of uncirculated coins to collectors. In 1958, the mint set consisted of twenty coins: two of each denomination (1-cent, 5-cent, 10-cent, 25-cent, 50-cent) from each of the two mints (Philadelphia with no mint mark, Denver with the mint mark D). The total face value added up \$3.64, but the Treasury Department charged collectors \$4.40. The extra 76 cents covered the cost of the packaging, the handling, and the postage. In this case the 26 cents postage represented the 20-cent minimum fee for numbered insured mail plus 6 cents for six ounces third class postage, calculated at 2 cents for the first two ounces plus 1 cent for each of four additional ounces. Although the cover bears the printed endorsement **FOURTH CLASS MAIL**, the article was actually sent as third class mail. At the time, third class mail

included merchandise or miscellaneous printed matter weighing up to eight ounces, while heavier pieces were classified as fourth class mail.

The minimum fee for numbered insured mail increased from 15 cents to 20 cents on July 1, 1957. At that time the minimum fee for unnumbered insured mail, which had increased from 5 cents to 10 cents on January 2, 1957, did not change. That 10-cent fee provided indemnification for up to \$10 in case of loss or damage, while the new 20-cent fee provided indemnification for up to \$50. Since the Treasury Department charged only \$4.40 for a mint set, the 10-cent fee would apparently have been sufficient. Why then did it choose to purchase more insurance coverage that was needed?

The answer is that the letter carrier was not required to obtain a signature from the recipient when delivering unnumbered insured mail. That package of coins, with the Treasury Department return address, could have made a tempting prize for thieves if left in an unguarded delivery box. On the other hand, postal regulations required the carrier to obtain the recipient's signature when delivering numbered insured mail, so paying the 20-cent fee provided much greater security and greatly reduced the chance that the article would be lost or stolen.

The 11-cent and 12-cent stamps in the Liberty Series were issued June 15, 1961, and June 6, 1959, respectively. While neither was still being printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing when the cover in Figure 3 was mailed, the 11-cent Prexie had been distributed to post offices during Fiscal Year 1957, and the 12-cent to post offices during Fiscal Year 1956. Although the 1½-cent Liberty Series stamp had been issued on February 22, 1956, 1½-cent Prexie sheet stamps continued to be distributed to post offices during Fiscal Year 1958. (1½-



Figure 4a: A 25-cent Prexie and two 50-cent Liberty Series stamps paid the 50-cent registry fee plus three times the 25 cents per half ounce air mail letter rate to Aden.

cent Prexie coil stamps, for which there were no equivalents in the Liberty Series, were still being distributed in Fiscal Year 1959.)

While the 12-cent Prexie and perhaps the 11-cent Prexie were arguably obsolete by the time this cover was sent, the Treasury Department apparently had a supply of these and other Prexies on hand, since similar covers from this era with various Prexie frankings are fairly common.



Figure 4b: A September 26, 1958, postmark on the reverse of a cover to Aden.

in Figure 4b, the cover was mailed from Buffalo, New York, on September 26, 1958. Aden is now part of Yemen, but at the time it was a British Crown Colony. The \$1.25 total postage represented the 50-cent registry fee

plus three times the air mail letter rate of 25-cent per half ounce.

This 50-cent registry fee, which went into effect on July 1, 1957, was somewhat of an anomaly. That's because previously it had been 55 cents, so the rate change represented a reduction rather than an increase. Just prior to the new rate, the U.S. registry fee to member states of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, other than Canada, had been 40 cents, the same as the minimum domestic registry fee. However, the registry fee to all other foreign countries, including Canada, had been 55 cents. P.O.D. ended this confusion on July 1, 1957, when it set the registry fee to all foreign countries at a uniform 50 cents. At the same time it also set the minimum domestic fee at 50 cents, raising it from 40 cents.

(Note: At the time there was no graduated schedule of fees for registered mail to foreign countries, other than Canada, as there was for domestic registered mail. The 50-cent registry fee applied to all foreign countries, except Canada, regardless of declared value, and indemnification was limited to \$3.17. The 50-cent fee to Canada provided indemnification

up to \$10, and a 75-cent fee to Canada, which also went into effect July 1, 1957, provided indemnification up to \$25, the limit available. The exhibitor would like to find examples of each of these registry fees to Canada, paid in whole or in part with Prexies.)

The 25-cent stamp in the Liberty Series was issued on April 18, 1958, just five months before this cover was sent. The 25-cent Prexie would continue to be distributed to post offices during Fiscal Year 1959, and many would remain in post office stock for several years

thereafter. Therefore, this cover is clearly an in-period Prexie usage.

In addition to the special delivery, certified mail, return receipt, numbered insured, and registry fees (both domestic and foreign), the rate changes of July 1, 1957, included the fees for special handling and for certificates of mailing. Do any items exist with Prexies paying these new fees? They probably do, but the author has yet to find any for his collection. Can you help?

Would You Look Twice At This Cover?

by Bob Hohertz



This rather bedraggled cover was posted on eBay rather recently. Would you have given it a second look?

I wouldn't have, except that the seller had put a date in the auction title – December 17, 1941. I've never seen a date for resumption of commercial airmail between Hawaii and the mainland, but was aware that some military flights resumed quite soon after the bombing. Having seen a similar cover (not for sale)

posted on Frajola's Board for Philatelists I've been watching on the off-chance that I'd find an example.

There was only one other bidder on the cover, but they obviously knew what it represented as well, having put in a bid for a bit more than \$150. Is the cover worth that much? I suppose it depends on what you're looking for. Two of us obviously thought it is.

How the War Department Stole Christmas

by Bob Hohertz



Figure 1.

This is the tale of two Christmas cards that were never delivered, due to government regulations. The War Department was central in both instances

The card (still in the envelope—quite innocuous) in Figure 1 was mailed to a family in care of the American Legation in the Dominican Republic in 1943. The envelope was sealed, so first class postage was paid at the PUAS rate of three cents. It appears that the addressee was a family connected with the American Legation,

but somehow the army became involved.

It isn't easy to tell the sequence of events. The Ciudad Trujillo handstamp on the back is dated February 9, so the card spent significant time somewhere else. There is no obvious sign of censorship, but it's unimaginable, with all of the attention given it, that none was applied.

It appears the Kerr family could not be located in the Dominican Republic, as the address was crossed out and an arrow referred the



Figure 2

card to the mercies of the Civilian Personnel Directory of the Office of the Secretary of War in Washington. At some point it was referred to the A.A.F., where it received a “NOT HQ. A.A.F.” handstamp sometime after February 21, 1944.

Somewhere in this sequence of events the envelope picked up the admonition, “Addressee not listed as a key civilian in Locator Section Directory, A.G.O. War Dept., Wash., D.C. Suggest sender address all correspondence to residence address of addressee.” I seem to recall that personal correspondence was not accepted for routine civilian employees of Foreign Service offices abroad, but have been unable to locate the reference. Whether this is the same situation is not clear, since most of the notations on the cover involve the War Department. What is clear is that the card was not delivered to the Kerrs.

Three years later a card (Figure 2) was mailed sealed with first class postage affixed to Brigadier General Loomis, who had been serving as Ground Fiscal Officer in the Army Ground Forces earlier in the year. However, he had retired by the time the card was sent.

As Loomis had served in helping the Free French rearm earlier in the War he must have had connections in Paris, and left Washington for France before Christmas. The address on the card was duly changed, and judging from the handwriting and color of ink this was done before the card was sent. As a result the card picked up a ten centimes postage due marking, since the sender did not increase the postage when changing the address.

From the notation on the back of the envelope the card was being tracked in Washington by January 9, and probably never got to France. Instead, it received a detailed handstamp reading, “INSTRUCT CORRESPONDENTS AND PUBLISHERS TO USE RESIDENCE ADDRESS ON ALL PERSONAL MAIL. (WD Memo. 600-950-5, 9 Sep 46)”

One would think that once Loomis had retired his mail would not have been sent to a military address, but the particular one where the card was sent appears to have been the headquarters of the Rockefeller Foundation in France. Perhaps Loomis had some remaining duties that kept him within the War Department postal orbit, to the detriment of his Christmas cards.

A 50-Cent Full Pane, Then Some

by Mike Ley



This large cover front to Honolulu was postmarked at Guam on December 2, 1941. The \$51.60 franking includes a full pane of 100 plus vertical strip of three 50-cent Prexies and a 10-cent air mail stamp. The possession-to-possession air mail rate from Guam to Hawaii was 20 cents per ½ oz. Therefore this mailing must have weighed 129 oz. or 8 lbs 1 oz.

The sender was Contractors, P. N. A. B. at Agana, Guam and the addressee, the Chief Accountant of the same at Honolulu. In 1939 a contract had been awarded to a consortium of firms to build air bases in the Pacific. The consortium came to be known as Contractors, Pacific Naval Air Bases (PNAB). In 1940 Guam was added to the list of their projects.

This item was no doubt carried on the last clipper flight out of Guam. The *China Clipper* had arrived at Guam from Manila on December 1, but did not depart until December 2. After

stops at Wake and Midway, it arrived at Honolulu on December 4 where the package was off loaded. The plane then left for San Francisco on December 6, the day before the Pearl Harbor attack, arriving on December 7. The attack on Guam occurred December 8, and island defenders surrendered to the Japanese on the morning of December 10.

This full pane qualifies as the largest multiple of the 50-cent stamp on cover. Rich Drews found this piece 25 years ago when he was still a dealer and an active Prexie collector. He had asked a dealer friend for any unusual Prexie covers. The dealer told him about a cover he found in a pile of stuff on the floor of his back room. It was dusty, a bit soiled, and rumpled. Rich took time to dust it off, gently use a white eraser to lift the grime, and followed with a large cover press to flatten it out. Thanks to his efforts this piece was saved for us to enjoy today.

“Received . . . Under Cover” Mail

by Louis Fiset



The cover here was addressed to a Protestant missionary interned by Japanese forces in China who was repatriating on the mercy ship, MS *Gripsholm* due to depart from New York harbor on September 3, 1943. The ship would rendezvous with a Japanese exchange ship at Mormugao, Goa on October 16th. This was the second exchange voyage to trade Japanese nationals held in the U.S. for westerners held in Asia.

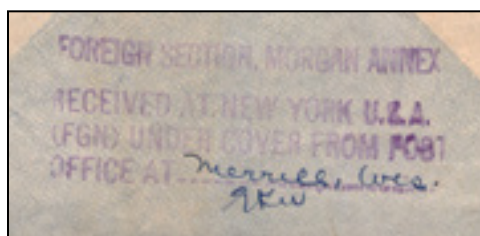
Shown is an airmail envelope with insufficient postage for domestic airmail transmission. It has a New York postmark, dated August 25, 1943. On the back side a purple rubber stamp marking reads: FOREIGN SECTION, MORGAN ANNEX/ RECEIVED AT NEW YORK U.S.A. (FGN) UNDER COVER FROM POST/OFFICE AT, the space being filled in by pen with “Merrell, Wis.” What is the story, here?

This cover was found among a small horde of correspondence received by the addressee at Mormugao. We know from the handwriting

that the writer was Pastor Anderson’s wife, Julia, herself a missionary who repatriated on *Gripsholm*’s first exchange voyage. She was writing from the couple’s home, in Merrill, Wisconsin.

A Merrill post office employee noticed the deficiency in postage and, recognizing the time sensitive nature of the correspondence, enclosed the cover in a separate envelope and dispatched it by expedited mail to New York in time for it to be censored by a POW Unit censor (530) and placed aboard ship. The marking on the back was applied at New York’s Morgan Annex, which was located in the same building with the New York field censor station.

Much mail intended for repatriates, both air and surface, arrived in New York after *Gripsholm*’s departure. Thus, a military transport plane was dispatched to Rio de Janeiro, and this late mail reached the ship ahead of arrival at its first port of call, occurring on September 16th.



A second cover, illustrated below, bears an almost identical auxiliary marking indicating received under cover and applied at the Foreign Section of Morgan Annex indicating. Unfortunately, it is too faint to reproduce, here.

Postmarked July 5, 1940, the cover is franked with U.S. postage paying the 30-cent transatlantic airmail rate to Europe, in this case, Germany. The cover bears a return address of Havana, Cuba. A New York postal employee has written in manuscript, "Habana, Cuba," to indicate the originating post office.

Unlike the first cover that was sent under cover to expedite time, in this case the writer may

have thought service originating in the U.S. was more reliable than in Cuba, or that less chance existed of German censorship. In any case, the directive "With the Clipper to Lissabon" suggests the writer had some knowledge of postal routes.

As for censorship, the letter was flown from Lisbon to Frankfurt and censored there before onward transmission by air to Berlin.

Can anyone provide additional information about this auxiliary marking and examples of other applications?



Special Supplement to Accompany This Issue

This issue of *The Prexie Era* marks a milestone in its history. For the first time subscribers will receive a supplement to No. 71, thanks to censorship expert, Dann Mayo.

Dann has written a three part essay that contributes to the understanding of censorship

and censor markings that may be found on Prexie era postal history. Part I, in the 14 page supplement, covers the period before the U.S. entered the war on December 7, 1941. Parts II and III will appear in future regular issues of the newsletter.



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No. 71 Autumn (Supplement) 2015

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Postal Censorship During the Prexie Era

Part I: Prior to Pearl Harbor

By Dann Mayo



Figure 1: Currency control tape used to reseal a letter opened by German censors during the last quarter of 1939.

Herewith the first of several articles dealing with censorship of mail during the Prexie era, the beginning of which, April 25, 1938 (issue date of the 1-cent Washington) is easy enough to define. The end date remains open to debate.

Solely for purposes of the present discussion, I am adopting November 17, 1961 (issue date of the last untagged value to be added to the Liberty Issue), as the ending date of the Prexie era.



Figure 2: Only a few countries used permit forms. Most, including those in the U.S., were indicated by handstamp or manuscript notations.

The second parameter is “Postal Censorship.” The “Postal” part is fairly straight-forward: a piece of (actual or potential) mail has to be involved. The “Censorship” part may be a little tricky, as we get into issues such as “Is currency control censorship?” and “If it left no marks, was it censored?” Here again, the definition remains open for debate. For purposes of these articles, a liberal approach to almost any issue of inclusivity will be used.

A third parameter is “by Dann Mayo.” My approach vector is Postal Censorship, more particularly civil censorship, rather than Prexies. So, while I am talking about the Prexie era, much of what I show will not involve Prexie covers. In a perfect world there should be Prexie counterparts for almost everything that I show here, and if you do not already have them, good hunting.

Non-U.S. Censorship

As Prexie collectors are unusually well aware, World War II did not begin in December, 1941, but in September, 1939, well within the Prexie era (though a good argument can be made for July, 1937). During those intervening 26 (or 52) months, approximately 100 entities – including nearly all of the countries in Europe, the overseas British, French and Italian possessions, and the odd independent country in Asia and Latin America – were at some time censoring mail.

Given how much effort went into German rearmament and plans for military operations, it is surprising that the standard Oberkommando der Wehrmacht printed censor tapes and handstamps did not begin to appear until November 1939 (later in many stations). From



Figure 3: British Empire tapes tended to have letter codes to indicate the colony, etc. in which they were used. The British letter code for Ceylon was L. Early in the war Ceylon used the letters F though M, possibly to indicate different censors, since all civil censorship was done in Colombo.



Figure 4: Censorship sans censor device. The delay in transmission of this card was most likely caused by British censorship.

Figure 5a:
Nationalist censor
devices are much
more numerous,
and generally more
attractive than
Republican ones.

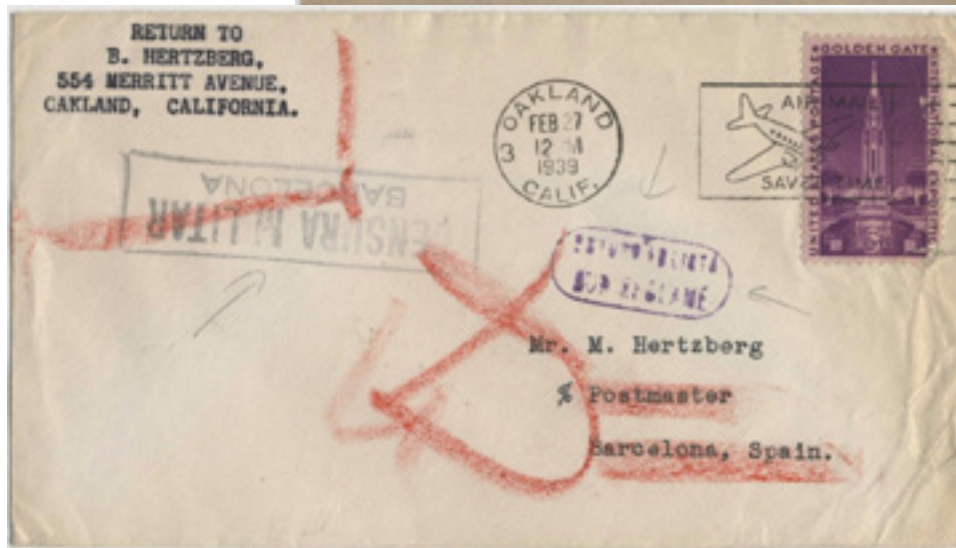


Figure 5b:
Philatelic cover
showing Spanish
Civil War
censorship and the
PUAS treaty rate
for regular mail to
Spain.

September until the appearance of the OKW tapes, when the various civil censor stations had to re-seal a cover they usually employed the foreign exchange/customs tapes that had been in use since the mid-1930s, as shown in Figure 1. Such usages are uncommon,¹ suggesting that during this period the overwhelming majority of covers to foreign destinations were submitted open across the post office counter, thus obviating the need for re-sealing.

In addition to the more usual re-sealing tapes and handstamps, censorship involved itself in the enforcement of a system of permits and licenses required to send certain information and materials abroad. The Indian form shown in Figure 2 on a cover to the U.S. is one of

the most elaborate devices associated with this practice. Since these are export permits, occurrence of Prexies on such covers will be exceptional. Prexies to pay postage due, customs fees, or forwarding postage are logical possibilities, though I have not encountered any. (US permits and licenses do exist on Prexie covers, and these will be dealt with in a later article.)

Shown in Figure 3 is an unusual use of a Return to Sender censor tape, here used to re-seal the cover. The more usual use of this sort of form was to cover the address, making it impossible to send the cover on. Only two examples of this type of Ceylonese form are recorded,² both used in this manner.

Sometimes the censor left no markings. In Figure 4 we have a card mailed from Germany in November, 1941, duly censored in Berlin, but not delivered in the U.S. until April 1943. Where did it spend the intervening 17 months? It seems impossible the Germans would have released it in the middle of the war, and the U.S. Office of Censorship routinely released mail only after V-E and V-J Days. This leaves either the British censors or later discovery in a supposedly empty piece of postal equipment as the likely culprits. My money is on the British censors who may have had no compunction about holding mail to a neutral United States in 1941, but who felt it better to send it on without any overt indication they had held it, to an allied United States in 1943. (This, of course, is speculative, but another piece of mail held without initial censor marking is shown below. Censors did not always make tracks. In fact, the first thing they did was check covers against watch lists and, if no suspect names appeared, many covers were released without further treatment.)

But Wait, There's More!

World War II was not the only source of foreign censorship on outbound and inbound mail at the beginning of the Prexie era, as Figures 5-10 show.

The Spanish Civil War, lasting from July 17, 1936 to April 1, 1939, just makes it into the Prexie era. But what a great war for censorship! Heller³ shows markings from “only 1,100” of Spain’s 10,000 villages. Figures 5a and 5b show mail to and from the U.S. with censor markings collectors should expect to find on examples from the early Prexie era.

Brazil has a long history of revolution and dictatorship, resulting in a relatively huge amount of censorship.⁴ Of importance to the Prexy Era is the Estado Novo decreed by Getúlio Dornelles Vargas in November 1937 and the resulting censorship that segued into an even larger World War II. operation (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Pre-World War II censorship on March 26, 1938 correspondence under the Vargas government. Brazil undertook large censorship operations during the war.



Figure 7: To Prague, postmarked September 22, 1938. Czech censorship, which began on September 17th.



Figure 8: While the label says currency control, the censorship seems more likely to have been for political purposes.



Figure 9: Imagine owning a Prexie cover with censorship from the Rashid Ali revolt. Okay, now start looking!

On September 15, 1938 the UK agreed to the cession of the Sudeten territories to Germany. Czechoslovakia began censorship of domestic and international mail two days later. The cover in Figure 7 was postmarked one week after the territories were annexed to Germany and censored upon arrival in Prague.

There was no legal provision for general postal censorship in Lithuania in 1940, so (as the Germans and Greeks had also done in the 1930s) the increasingly beleaguered government there resorted to the use of customs examination when it wanted to examine mail. It would seem much more likely that this cover to a Latvian newspaper might contain politically interesting information than money for a subscription. (Figure 8.)

On April 1, 1941, a coup in Iraq overthrew the pro-British regent (who fled Baghdad to the protection offered by a British warship off Basra) and installed Rashid Ali as head of the

National Defense Government. British Indian troops landed in Basra on April 18, and the revolt was put down by the end of May. The NDC censored mail with a tape distinguishable from that used by the royalist regime by its spacing. The cover to Iraq, shown in Figure 9, appears to have arrived in Basra while under control of the NDC and censored by both sides. The paper tape is the NDC's, while the cellophane tape and handstamp are British/royalist. It appears to have been delivered after that city was returned to British control. Since that happened to a South African cover, it could have happened to a Prexie cover as well.

U.S. Censorship

It is generally believed among censorship collectors that U.S. censorship began in the second week of December, 1941. However, December 12-13 just marked the beginning of the censorship of civilian mail by what would soon become the Office of Censorship in most

of that Office's field stations. Limited military postal censorship had been going on for some time prior to that. Figure 10 shows that mail censorship was on the minds of some postal patrons before the country's entry into the war.

Before getting into wartime U.S. censorship, I will mention another form of censored covers (aside from outright fakes) that produces the occasional puzzlement -- resulting from prison

censorship. When you come upon a censored cover that does not seem right -- wrong date, unknown marking -- before consigning it to the fakes box it would be a good idea to check the address and return address to see if either of those matches up with a jail or prison. The cover shown in Figure 11 was sent to and censored at the Raiford State Penitentiary, Florida's oldest and largest, and home of that State's notorious "Old Sparky" electric chair.

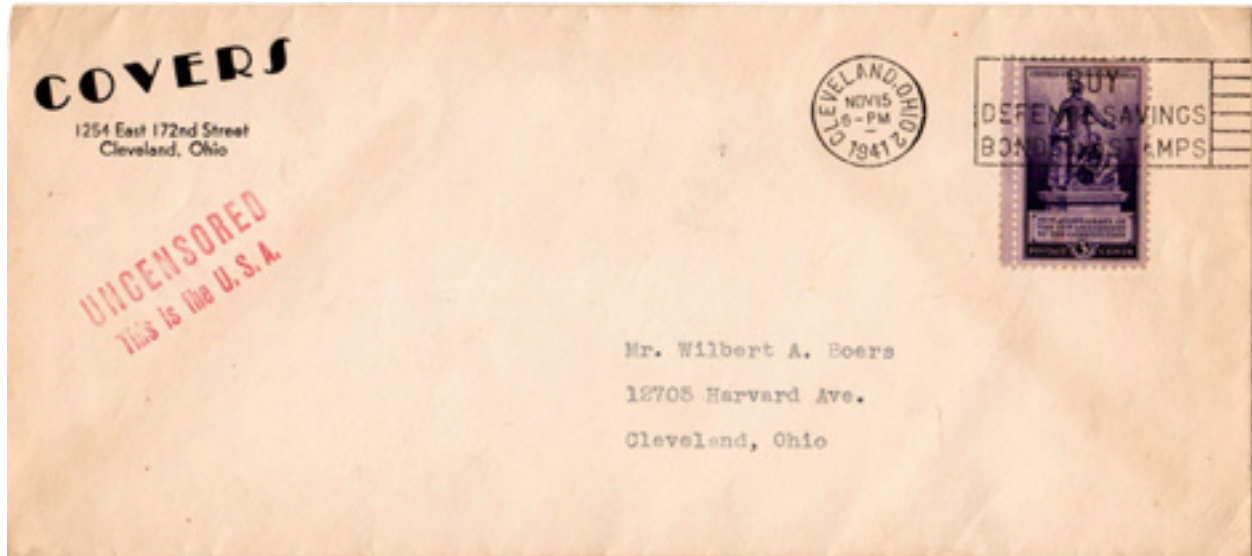


Figure 10: A naive patriotic message one month prior to initiation of the largest civil censorship operation in the history of the nation.

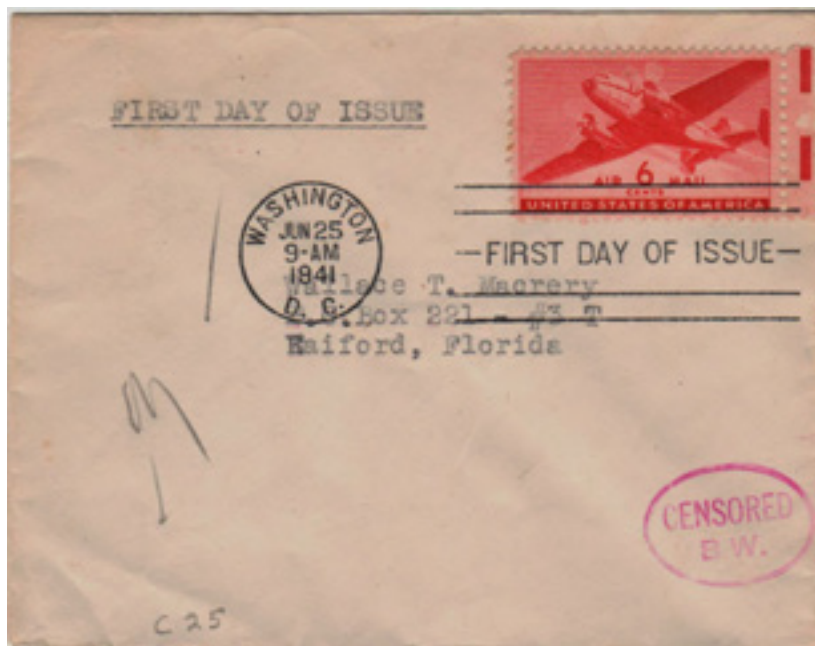


Figure 11: Philatelic mail to an inmate at the Raiford State Penitentiary, Florida. Censored at the prison before delivery to the addressee.



Capt. Marvin Tipton Starr, USMC, became a POW when Guam surrendered on December 10, 1941,

Figure 12: Censorship on Guam, initially limited to military mail, the was eventually extended to civilian mail as well. [Collyer Church collection]

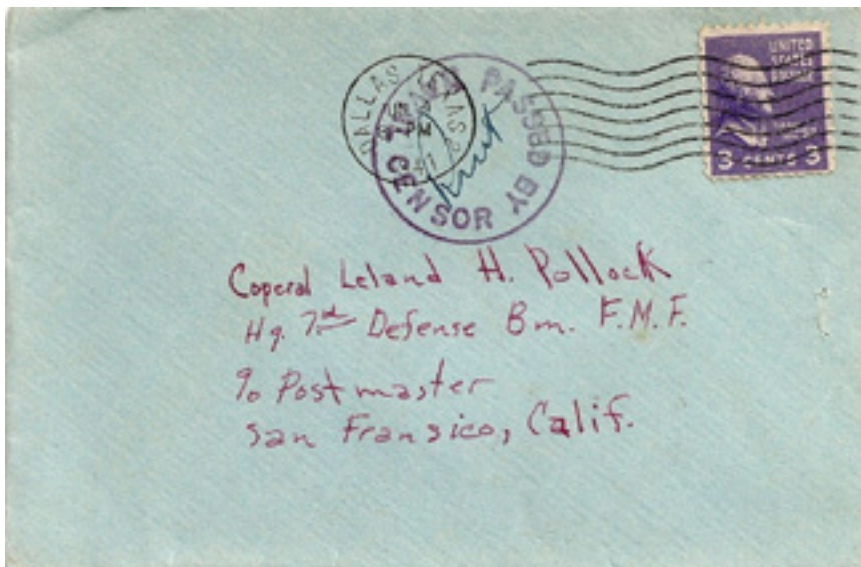
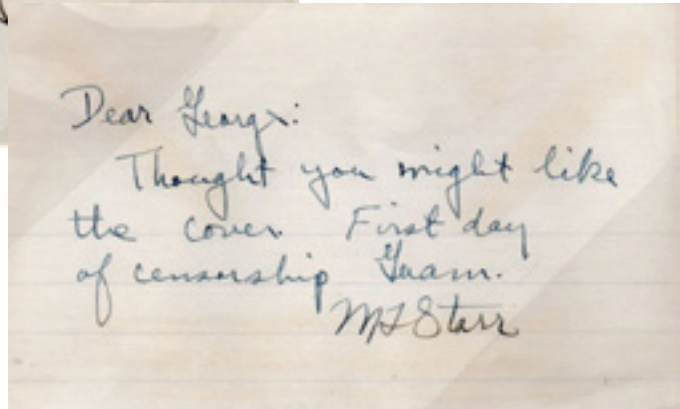


Figure 13: Incoming mail to an Army corporal on American Samoa one month before the Pearl Harbor. attack [Peter Glover Collection]

Until recently it was not appreciated that U.S. censorship began on the remote Pacific possessions of Guam and American Samoa well before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Such pre-war covers are scarce, though awareness of their existence has resulted in several recent finds. See Figures 12 and 13. From the covers seen, some question exists as to whether Guam stocked Prexie stamps at this time. The 1.5-

cent Prexie on the Penguin cover illustrated in Figure 14 may well have been sent from the U.S. on the cover to be postmarked on Guam. Please have a look at your covers and see if you can shed any further light on this subject.

Awkwardness arose from the fact that the British, formally at war, wanted to censor mail from U.S. warships in British ports even

of that Office's field stations. Limited military postal censorship had been going on for some time prior to that. Figure 10 shows that mail censorship was on the minds of some postal patrons before the country's entry into the war.

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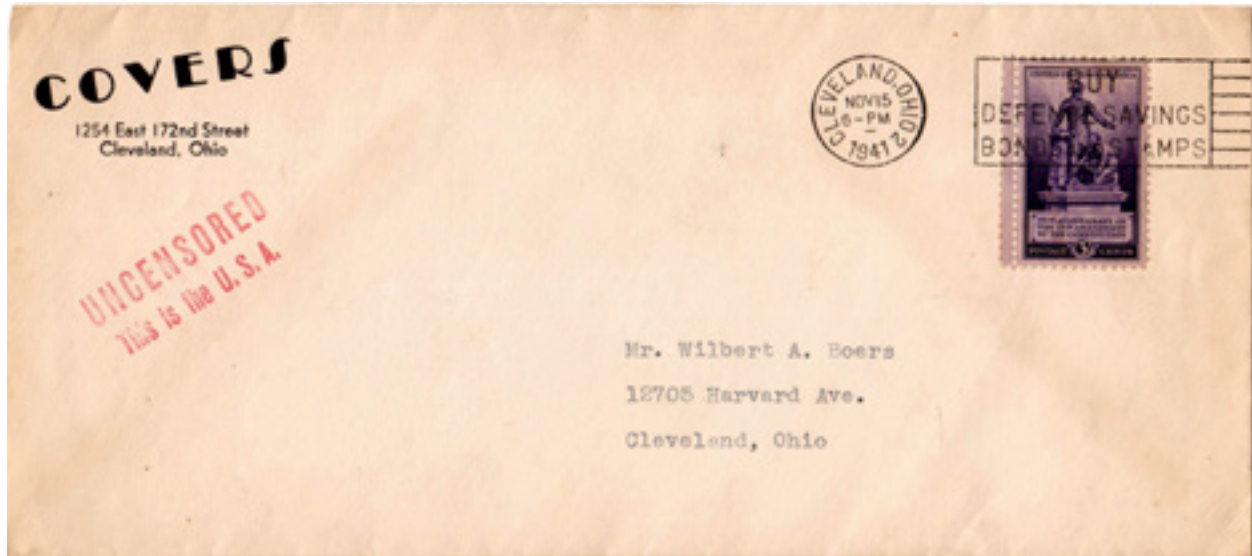


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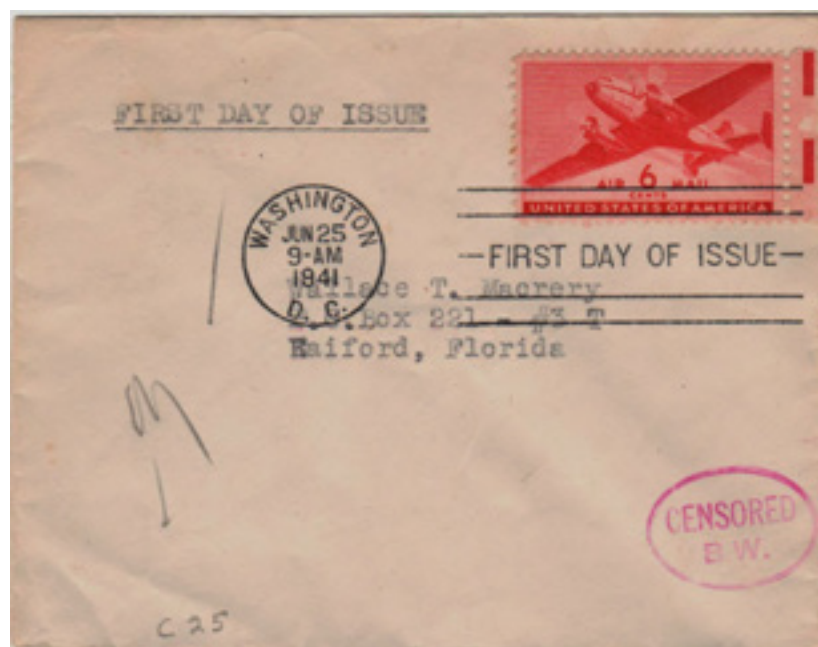


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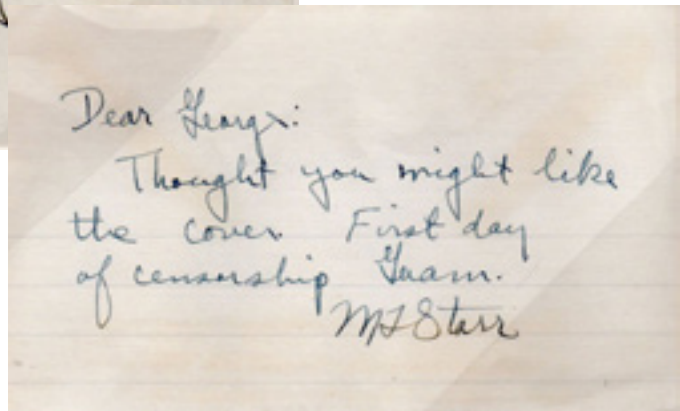


Figure 13: Incoming mail to an Army corporal on American Samoa one month before the Pearl Harbor. attack [Peter Glover Collection]

Until recently it was not appreciated that U.S. censorship began on the remote Pacific possessions of Guam and American Samoa well before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Such pre-war covers are scarce, though awareness of their existence has resulted in several recent finds. See Figures 12 and 13. From the covers seen, some question exists as to whether Guam stocked Prexie stamps at this time. The 1.5-

cent Prexie on the Penguin cover illustrated in Figure 14 may well have been sent from the U.S. on the cover to be postmarked on Guam. Please have a look at your covers and see if you can shed any further light on this subject.

Awkwardness arose from the fact that the British, formally at war, wanted to censor mail from U.S. warships in British ports even

she joined an Iceland-bound convoy, sailed on 12 October, and reached Hvalfjörður on 9 November.” Good reason exists for the cover in Figure 21 to disappear into the bowels of the Office of Naval Intelligence where it was held for the duration of the war. In contrast to the post-Pearl Harbor cover, the cover to the *Algorab* from Trinidad in Figure 22, similarly condemned, never received a Navy censor handstamp in 1941, since there was no war on.

Endnotes

1. In, Landsmann, Horst. *Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2. Weltkrieg*. Self

published, 2008.

2. The other one, with code F, is listed in Morenweiser, Konrad. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices WWII; British Asia*, 6th revised edition. Civil Censorship Study Group, 2011.

3. Heller, Ernst. *Town Censor Marks f Spain, 1936-1945*. Spanish Philatelic Society, 1982.

4. Superbly documented in Meifert, Jürgen. *Zensurpost in Brasilien*. Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien e. V. im BDPh e.V., 2012.



Figure 17:
From APO 803
(Trinidad). Much
of the mail during
this period is
from civilian base
contractors who
were allowed APO
privileges.

Figure 18: From APO 805 (St. Lucia), These two covers went at the same rates, whether from military or civilian senders, and were equally subject to U.S. military censorship.



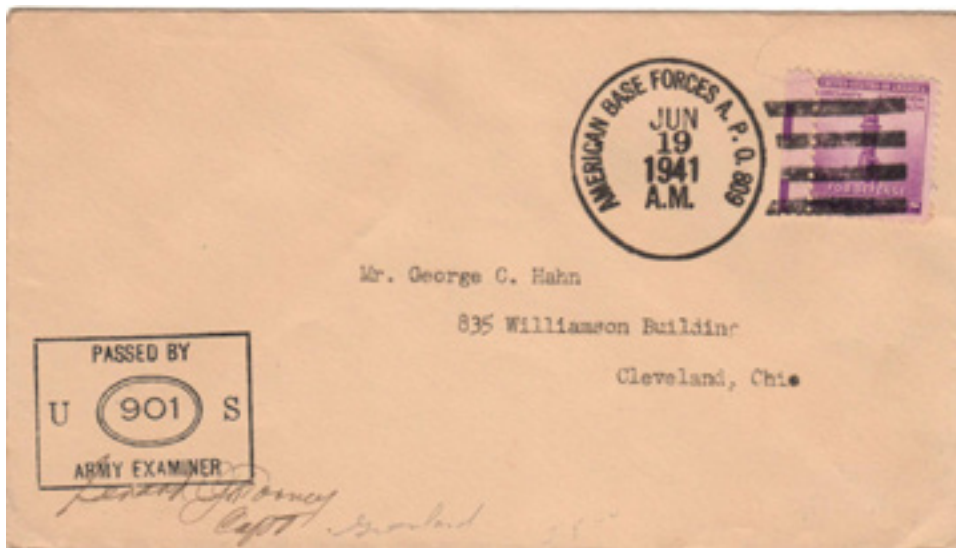


Figure 19: Quite a lot of mail from the “American Base Forces,” whether Lend-Lease or otherwise, is to philatelists, with much of it on patriotic covers

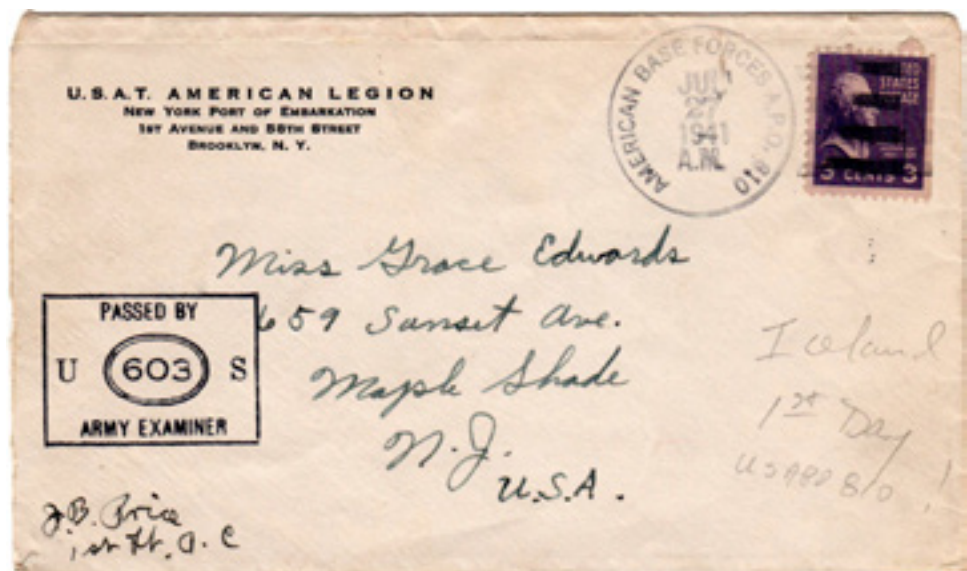


Figure 20: Posted aboard the USAT American Legion, headed for Iceland, on the day APO 810 was authorized.

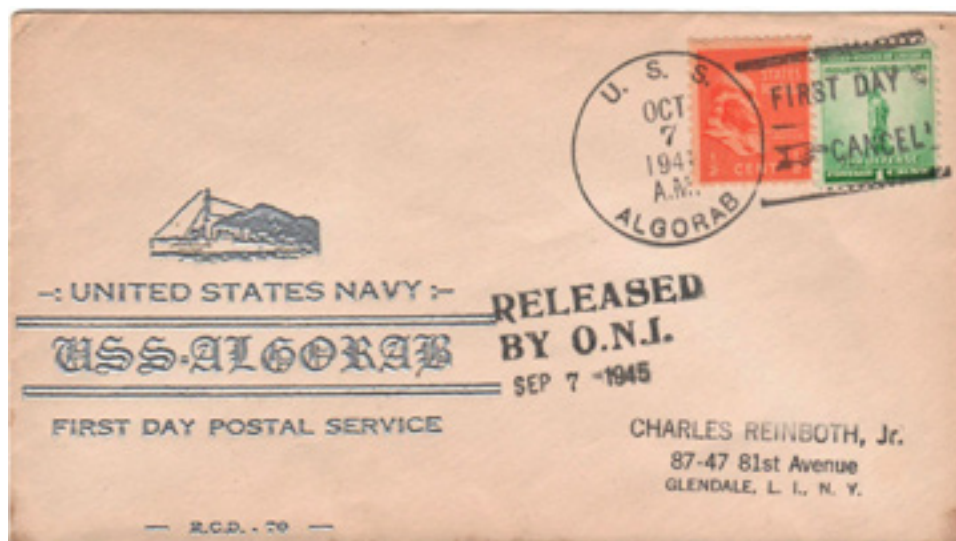


Figure 21: Held by ONI censors for four years. Philatelic mail was confusing to censors who often thought envelopes might contain secret code or messages on those with no inside content.

Figure 22: Held by ONI censors until the end of the war with Japan, in September 1945.

