

From the Newsroom:

NET PRICE LIST AVAILABLE

Brad Arch has recently published a net price list of 172 covers from Long Island, New York, including the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. While these covers span the years from the 1847 issue to the present, many good Prexie usages are included. Prices are generally moderate, and in the case of the Prexies run from \$1 to \$60. (The \$60 item is a 1940 cover with three 10 cent Tylers paying the air mail rate to Bohemia, part of Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.)

You can get a copy of this price list by writing to Brad at 144 Hamilton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07011. Tell him you read about it in *The Prexies* newsletter.

HELBOCK PREXIE BOOK STILL AVAILABLE.

Prexie Postal History, edited by Richard W. Helbock and published in 1988 by La Posta Publications, is an excellent introduction for anyone who collects or who contemplates collecting the '38 Presidential series used on cover. Each of the six chapters in this paper-bound volume was written by a different Prexie specialist. While there are a few small errors in some of the articles, overall the work is both useful and interesting. Especially helpful is one of the appendices, a table of international air mail rates of 1938-1946 compiled by Helbock with the assistance of Henry W. Beecher. This appendix alone is worth the price of the entire book. Prexie Postal History is available for \$12 from La Posta Publications, Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS...

...about the Prexie Study Group. We now have scores of Prexie collectors as part of our group. If you know someone who might like to join us, send his/her address to: Steve Suffet, 41-05 47th St., Sunnyside NY 11104. There are no dues at this time...we're still free!

THE PREXIES AT INDYPEX '92

Nothing's more of a blast than when two or more Prexie specialists get together, right? Before you know it, there's a veritable blizzard of facts, fancies and anecdotes being exchanged, not to mention covers being bought, sold and bartered...and we *have* to mention, even better, the fine socializing that goes on.

Well, get ready for the Prexie blast of the year as our Study Unit descends on the great INDYPEX show in Indianapolis on September 11-13, right in the heart of the Speedway city in the downtown convention center...close to restaurants, sights, sounds and shops. The place for all of us to assemble to repeat the fine time we had in '91 at Midaphil in Kansas City.

Steve Suffet, our fearless leader, is assembling several excellent seminars and panel discussions for us...as well as our annual "Cover Swap" which will be held in the show hotel on Friday night. And hey

you exhibitors! Let's show the INDYPEX folks that we're among the most formidable corps of exhibitors in the country. Write to Jim Adams at P.O. Box 40792, Indianapolis, IN 46240, right now and get a hold of his show prospectus. Enter your material so the world can see it! You can also write to Jim for complete details on the show hotel.

If things work out like they normally do, we'll assemble (you early birds, that is) on Thursday night for cocktails...and this year, since we're a few minutes walk from Indy's famous Union Station complex, we'll no doubt hold this affair in one of that center's fine joints. And we might even stay on for dinner after the cocktail hour. Who knows?

In '91, we assembled Prexie collectors from eight or nine states for our meetings and all of us there had a terrific time. Indianapolis is a fairly "central" sort of location...so we hope you'll put the show on your calendar.

FOREIGN MAIL REGISTRY FEES

Even many specialists fail to realize that registry fees for foreign mail have not always been the same as for domestic mail. During the Prexie era, the foreign registry fee was sometimes the same as the domestic, and sometimes different. The table below, based on information provided by Henry W. Beecher, should be of help to anyone trying to decipher the rates on a foreign bound Prexie registered cover.

Please note that except to Canada and Newfoundland, indemnity was limited by UPU and/or PUAS agreements, and varied from \$3.27 to \$16.33. The indemnity to Canada and to Newfoundland (which became a province of Canada in 1949) was \$25 maximum through June 30, 1957. On July 1, 1957, a two-step graduated schedule went into effect for mail to Canada. Otherwise, there was no system of step increments for foreign registered mail as there was for domestic.

PREXIE ERA REGISTRY FEES TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS

In effect in 1938:	15 cents
Effective Feb. 1, 1945:	20 cents
Effective Jan. 1, 1949:	25 cents
Effective Sept. 1, 1952:	40 cents
Effective Nov. 1, 1953:	55 cents *
Effective July 1, 1957:	50 cents **

* 40 cents fee continued to Postal Union of the Americas and Spain member countries, other than Canada, through June 30, 1957.

** 50 cents fee to Canada provided indemnity up to \$10. Indemnity up to \$25 was available only to Canada for a 75 cents fee.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

ALL PREXIE STUDY GROUP MEMBERS TO RECEIVE FREE COPY OF *U.S. STAMPS & Postal History*

If you're on the mailing list to receive this newsletter, then you'll also be receiving a free copy of America's newest national stamp magazine when it first comes off the presses on May 5th. Randy Neil, publisher of *U.S. STAMPS & Postal history* magazine, is also a member of our group and is making sure no one is left out from getting a gander at the first full-scale national magazine devoted to our own country's stamps.

USS&PH will feature, among dozens of special pieces going into its first issue, the 20th Century Mails column written by our group leader, Steve Suffet. In fact, a Prexie item is featured in full color on the cover of the inaugural issue!

John Hotchner is editor of the magazine and his plans call for yet another Prexie item on the cover of the July (2nd) issue when *USS&PH* publishes a "special edition" on World War II postal history.

Subscriptions to *USS&PH* are \$15 per year/\$25 for two years. Their address: *USS&PH*, 10660 Barkley Lane, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66212-1861.

SCOTT NEEDS OUR HELP

Richard Sine, the Editorial Director for the Scott Publishing Company, has written to the BIA and other specialist societies for help in creating the 1993 Scott Catalogue. All suggestions are, of course, welcome, but Sine is looking to correct certain problems in particular. First among these are "difficult to find items which continue to show a low catalogue value." Included in this category are not just inexpensive items, but also "errors or varieties value in the hundreds of dollars" which are nevertheless underpriced.

If anyone knows of such items among the Prexies--some of the perforation or color errors perhaps--Sine would like to know "your estimate of their actual retail value." Please write to Steve Suffet with the specifics, and he will see that your information is passed on to Sine through the BIA.

SPECIAL NOTE:

One thing the Scott Publishing Company is apparently not considering at this time is extending their "on-cover" listings in the U.S. Specialized past No. 550. Prexie Study Group member Dickson F. Preston of Seattle has offered to fill the gap by putting together his own pricing guide to Prexies used on cover. He is well suited to the task, for he was the one who edited the Zeppelin section of the latest American Air Mail Catalogue price supplement. Dickson will go ahead with this project only if enough people feel it's worthwhile and only if he can count on the support of other Prexie specialists to provide him with price information.

So what do you say? If you think a Prexie cover pricing guide is a good idea and if you are willing to provide Dickson with the information he needs, let Steve Suffet know. He will, in turn, inform Dickson.

MEXIE PREXIE STILL A MYSTERY

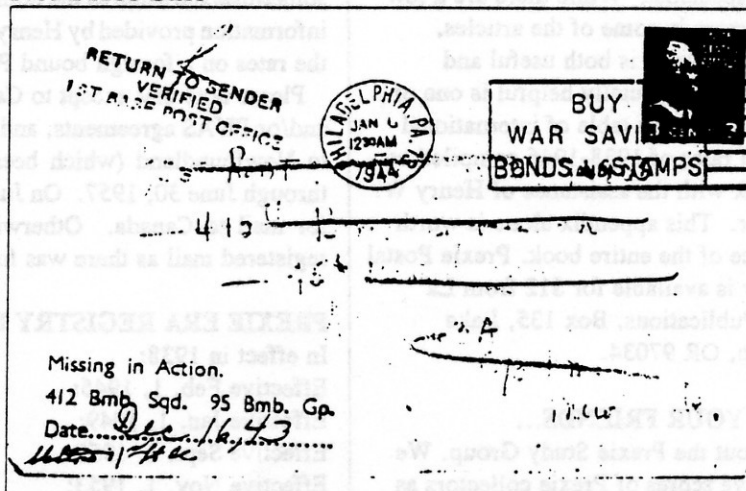
While several folks have ventured guesses as to why the 1940 cover, pictured in the Fall 1991 issue of *The Prexies*, bears a 10 cent Prexie in addition to two Mexican Special delivery stamps, no one has come up with a definitive answer. G.H. Davis of Cincinnati, for example, speculates that the Mexican stamps may have been insufficient to pay the special delivery fee to the U.S., "and the 10-cent Prexie was added in Mexico to make up the necessary difference." Most persons who have offered an opinion, though, feel that the Prexie was entirely unneeded. The two Mexican 20 centavo special delivery stamps were enough. Some have speculated that the mailer may not have known whether there was a reciprocal special delivery agreement in force between the two countries, and therefore "hedged his bet" by paying the fee in both U.S. and Mexican stamps. (In fact, there was such a reciprocal agreement at that time.) Ernest E. Fricks of Clementon, N.J., offers another possibility. "I suspect," he writes, "the 10 cents was to pay a customs fee. I have seen other covers of the period with a customs marking, and notation of a 10 cents fee." What the writer is referring to is the 10 cents fee imposed by the U.S. Post Office Dept. when it had to act as "customs broker" for foreign mail containing merchandise. However, this fee could not be paid in advance. Instead, it was collected from the addressee as postage due. Nevertheless, the mailer may not have known that, and may have attempted to prepay the fee with the 10 cent Prexie. If so, we would expect the cover to bear some endorsement of its contents, but it has none and, thus, we are still left with only educated guesses. Perhaps there are some mysteries that can never be solved?

The Prexies
Randy L. Neil
Editor
(for now)

Address all
correspondence to
our Study Group
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Sunnyside NY 11104



Net Price Sale



A "Missing in Action" cover from the era of the heavy Allied fire-bombing of Germany in early 1944, with the three-cent rate to a Staff Sergeant in the 412th Bomber Squadron, 95th Bomber Group, the latter having been declared "Missing" three weeks before the letter was mailed. Price \$20. (Order from Steve Suffet)