

## FLASH!

### SCOTT CONSIDERING EXTENSION OF ON-COVER LISTINGS

In a move that could lead to a reversal of its earlier policy, the Scott Publishing Company is now considering extending on-cover price listing in their *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* to certain post-1920 issues. Currently, on-cover listings end with the Pilgrim Tercentenary commemoratives, Scott Nos. 548-550. The new listings would include the Prexies.

In a letter to PSG Interim Chairman Steve Suffet and several other PSG members including our editor, Randy Neil, Scott Editorial Director Richard Sine specifically asked for help in arriving at on-cover values for the Presidential series. The PSG, of course, stands ready to assist the Scott Publishing Company in this endeavor.

This is a developing story, and no further details are available at this moment. In fact, we do not know if Scott is contemplating this major undertaking for its 1993 edition or for its 1994 edition [Editor's note: it's for '94], or for some later year.

### PISZKIEWICZ

#### TAKES GRAND AWARD

For the first time ever, a Prexie exhibit has captured the Grand Award at a national competition. "Usages of the Presidential Series of 1938," by Leonard Piskiewicz was Filatelic Fiesta's top entry this past March in San Jose, Ca.

Len's exhibit will compete for the Champion of Champions title at STaMpsHOW '92 in Oakland.

This is truly an example of how a determined exhibitor can create a masterpiece from material which only a few short years ago was being pooh-poohed as philatelic junk. But the Leonard Piskiewicz of this hobby, and the Roland Rustads, and so many others, did their homework and educated the philatelic judges of this country as to just how "important" an exhibit of Prexies could be.

## REJECTED DESIGNS



Did you know that Victor S. McCloskey, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing artist who designed the dollar value Prexies, originally presented three different trial designs? We are all familiar with the one that the Post Office Department finally adopted. Examples of the two rejected designs are shown here.

## New Faces At Our INDYPEX Seminar

Three PSG members are scheduled to speak at the Prexie Study Group seminar at INDYPEX at 12 noon on Saturday, September 12. The seminar is timed so it will not conflict with the judges' critique which will take place later that day. So check the schedule when you get to the show to find the correct room location.

Although all three speakers are veteran philatelists, none has previously spoken at a Prexie seminar. So in a sense, INDYPEX will be the "PSG debut" for all three.

The three speakers are:

\* **John Grabowski**, who will talk on getting started collecting Prexie postal history;

\* **Millard Mack**, who will discuss single value collecting, with particular emphasis on the 3 cent and 5 cent denomi-

nations; and finally

\* **Roger Listwan**, who will describe the ins and outs of Prexie first day covers,

The annual Prexie cover swap will be held Saturday night immediately after the awards banquet. There will also be a brunch on Saturday at 10:00 am. And possibly a casual dinner on Friday night. Check with Randy on Friday for details on these events and their locations.

If you haven't made your reservations at the **Omni-Severin**, the official INDYPEX hotel, you should do so at once. The hotel is located right near the Convention Center where the show is being held and rates are \$75 per night.

The toll free number for Omni hotel reservations is 1-800-843-6664. Be sure to mention the Indiana Stamp Club, so you get the special INDYPEX discount rate.

### MINIMUM DOMESTIC SPECIAL DELIVERY FEES DURING THE PREXIE ERA.

Applied to articles weighing up to two pounds.

Effective Date:	First class mail	Other Classes*:
In effect in 1938	10 cents	15 cents
November 1, 1944	13 cents	17 cents
January 1, 1949	15 cents	25 cents
January 1, 1952	20 cents	35 cents
July 1, 1957	30 cents	45 cents

\* Other classes include 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class matter, whether sent by surface mail or by air mail (including air parcel post)

# For Your Reference Library:

PSG member Edward Ryan recommends an article by Howard L. Rosenberg that appeared in the October 1975 issue of *The Israel Philatelist*. The article is entitled "Israel: The Forced Registration of Mail," and it explains in detail the origin of those curious covers many of us have seen from 1948 to the mid-1950's. Those are the covers which had been sent as ordinary mail, but which were registered upon arrival in Israel.

At the time, Israeli censors were checking incoming mail for foreign currency that might find its way onto the black market. By registering any letter that was found to contain such currency, the censors caused the addressee to come to the post office and

sign for the same. The money then had to be exchanged at the official rate.

By the way, congratulations to Ed Ryan for the vermeil award his Prexie exhibit won at Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts, this past May. More and more of us are finding that Prexie exhibits are getting better treatment from the judges. Are we about to win this crusade or what?

**Editor's note:** Articles from *The Israel Philatelist* are available from the American Philatelic Research Library, Post Office Box 8338, State College, PA 16803. They charge a nominal fee for reprints (\$2 search fee + 20cts per page). They're a great place to deal with, by the way.

## This issue's market tip:

Articles in recent philatelic periodicals indicate that a new interest may be awakening for World War II patriotic cachet art. Oddly enough, this material still lurks in countless dealers' boxes at rather ridiculously low prices. Hold onto what you've got along these lines and see what else you might find at local bourses. And in particular, look for cartoon cachets. Some of them were done by some of the better cartoonists of the era.

## A "Prexie-Gate" 11 Years Before Watergate? Ha!

PSG member Guy Dillaway has discovered a most unusual use of the 4 1/2-cent coil: a White House cover. For many years it has been the practice of the White House staff to use ordinary postage stamps rather than penalty clause envelopes on mail originating from the President's immediate office. The purpose is to give the President's mail a more personal appearance.

The cover shown below was postmarked in 1961, early in the Kennedy administration. The first class rate at the time was four cents per ounce, so the article was one half cent overpaid. Obviously, JFK or someone on his staff was willing to pay that extra amount so the outgoing mail would bear a stamp picturing the White House. Talk about wasteful government spending! That's a 12 1/2 per cent cost overrun!

One question immediately comes to mind: when did the White House acquire the 4 1/2-cent coils? Let's assume for a moment that they came from the Post Office Department. (Had they been purchased from a stamp dealer at a premium over face, that would have entailed even more wasteful spending.) By 1961, the stamps had been off sale at the Philatelic Sales Division for several years. Does that mean the White House had bought them legitimately when they still were on sale, and still had a supply on hand in 1961? Or does it mean that the stamps came out of the POD's vaults, and that the White House was allowed to purchase items no longer available to the general public? Can any reader shed some light on this potential "Prexie-Gate" scandal?

## The Prexies

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THE WHITE HOUSE



The Kennedy administration was always known for adding that extra carnation to the political lapel. Did taxpayers get soaked for the extra half cent on this cover?

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