

THE PREXIES

The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group - Summer, 1993

Notes from the Chairman.....

Once again I present my thoughts in no particular order. Their numbering does not indicate relative importance -- it's just the way they came to mind.

1. We made it to our fifth issue, thanks in major part to our new editor, John Grabowski. He does a fine job of introducing himself, but I should add that John was one of three PSG members who volunteered to take over the position from Randy Neil. Randy and I had this trio of stars to choose among, and our choice of John should in no way be taken as a rejection of the other two candidates -- let's extend a heartfelt "Thanks" to all three!

2. Perhaps the biggest Prexie news of recent years has been the discovery of a 1 1/2 cent sheet stamp with luminescent tagging. This stamp was the only Prexie, among several issues overprinted in the mid or late 1950's by Pitney Bowes, to demonstrate the feasibility of automated mail processing systems. A few surviving copies of these experimental stamps are known -- including a single copy of the 1 1/2 cent Prexie. It is currently owned by Wayne Youngblood, author of Stamps That Glow, and an expert on tagged issues.

3. PSG member Bob Penn is seeking others who share an interest in Prexie shade/color varieties. He has even put together a slide program on the topic. His address is: 490 Belmont Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325. Tell him you read about it "The Prexies".

4. Finally, special thanks to PSG member (and distinguished philatelist) Clyde Jennings for his donation of more than 100 covers and post cards -- all bearing the 1/2 cent Prexie. Many pieces of this fine gift have already been distributed, free of charge, to PSG members, and the remainder will be distributed at the STaMpsHOW Prexie Cover Swap.

Steve Suffet
41-05 47th Street
Sunnyside, NY 11104

And a word (or two) from the Ed.....

Thanks to Randy Neil for a job well done helping to edit and publish our first 4 Prexie Bulletins and thereby getting this project 'off the ground.' When the call went out for a new editor earlier this year, I mustered up whatever philatelic courage I had and 'raised my hand'. This bulletin is my first attempt at philatelic writing of any sort, so you readers are going to have to be tolerant and really help me out every now and then (mostly now).

Few good bulletins exist on the strength of their editors. Contributions are especially needed from the membership to produce a newsy and educational communications tool. This need is especially true in my case since I'm a relatively recent convert to Prexie collecting, with very much yet to learn.

Please send me short articles, announcements, questions (for a Question & Answer or 'puzzle' feature) and member 'profiles' so we can publish the next issue, hopefully with 4 pages! And remember, we study the stamps as well as their postal history, so contributions on production varieties (color shades, perfs, etc.), cancels, perfins,....just about anything related to the Prexies will do. Please send this material to my attention:

John Grabowski
Box 10916
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916

Many thanks!

Down to Houston.....

The Prexie Study Group will be holding our annual get-together at STaMpsHOW in Houston, August 19-22. We're planning a Friday afternoon seminar at 1 PM in Meeting Room #2, along with our increasingly famous cover and story swap meet Friday night.

Meet the member,....

JOHN GRABOWSKI

Since this feature is my bright idea, I'll be the first 'guinea pig.' I still remember very clearly my introduction to Prexie collecting about four years ago at a Chicago auction house on a cold November evening. A large, lifetime collection was being disposed of and there were many postal history lots, arranged by time period -- i.e., the 1902 Series, the Wash./Franklins, the 1909 Commemoratives, the Fourth Bureau IssueMy interest that evening lie with the 1902 Series, for which I was the sucessful bidder. But the really surprising thing to me was the price realized by the lot of about 100 Prexie covers: \$700 + 10%! I had no idea this issue was so collectible. Having grown up with these stamps, I just kind of took them for granted, never thinking they could be much of a collecting challenge, at least not compared to the 'classics.'

Then I met Rollie Rustad through our MN Postal History Society on several of his trips back to visit his old homestead. Rollie always had a pocket full of covers and a full bag of stories to enlighten and entertain. He entered a Prexie postal history exhibit when I was Exhibit Chairman for our local show one year that really opened my eyes to the research and collecting challenges inherent in the issue. After seeing Randy's Prexie exhibit in Chicago, the bug bit and I was hooked. Most of my emphasis so far has been on the postal history of the series -- rates and routes, but I'm beginning to accumulate the stamps and sift through the precancels and perfins.

Professionally, I've alternated between computer engineering and investment advising and am currently self employed as a Registered Investment Advisor. Our family includes Cecy, my wife, three children, Anne, Jean and Tom (the youngest, graduating from college this year we hope) and our mixed breed German Short Haired Pointer, Penny. We've lived in the upper Midwest (Chicago & the Twin Cities) for the last 20 years. Other hobbies include restoring Pontiac GTO's and other cars, and yes, still the 1902's!

About those rates,....

FOREIGN PRINTED MATTER SURFACE RATES DURING THE PREXIE ERA:

In effect in 1938.....\$.015 per 2 oz.
Effective 11-1-53.....\$.02 first 2 oz., \$.015 each additional 2 oz.
Effective 8-1-58.....\$.04 first 2 oz., \$.02 each additional 2 oz.

Special exceptions:

1. The 11-1-53 rate (\$.02/.015) continued in effect through 12-31-58, for 2nd class matter (newspapers and periodicals) mailed by a publisher or its agent.
2. A special rate for 2nd class matter, other than daily newspapers, was in effect to Canada through 12-31-58 at \$.01 per 4 oz.

Meet me in St. Louis, Louie,....

The annual BIA meeting will be at the St. Louis Stamp Expo - '93 this October 1-3 at the Frontenac Grand Hotel. There's a lot of hard work by the organizers to make this the best St. Louis show in a long time. There should be something here for everyone, including our PSG. Further information can be obtained from Regency Stamps, The Gateway-Warson Building, 1177 North Warson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63132.