

THE PREXIES

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

Notes from the Chairman.....

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....So far our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association, has been exceptionally generous in providing financial support for "THE PREXIES" newsletter. But the BIA cannot foot the entire bill, now about \$70 per issue, nor should they be expected to!

So consider this as our fund appeal. If each of our 140+ readers out there sends in a dollar or two, we should remain financially solvent through 1994. If you can afford five bucks, so much the better, but we have no need for larger contributions at this time. By the way, we could also use small donations of mint U.S. postage, especially in denominations of up to 29 cents. So save your coil scrap for us -- we'll even take fractional values.

Send all contributions to John Grabowski, our editor and mailer. Make out any checks or money orders to him as the PSG does not have an organizational bank account of its own.

Thanks very much for what we know will be a generous response.

And a word from the Ed.....

This newsletter is presently being distributed to over 140 Prexie enthusiasts. We continue to seek written contributions (cash and material contributions are ok too -- see the "Net Price Sale" section inside and also Steve's note.) Anything from written opinions, gripes, problem stamps or covers, discoveries, 'interesting' items you'd like to share, mini-articles, material wanted or for sale, or just about anything philatelically connected with the Prexie era is welcome. Please don't depend on someone else to send something in, do it yourself!

We are starting a "Puzzle Corner" with this issue to help keep our readers' gray matter nimble -- see page 2. We're also planning a similiar feature for readers' Prexie problems starting with the next issue -- everyone must have 1-2 items tucked away for research -- why not send them to the ed. to share with the rest of us and get your answer in months instead of years!

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THE PREXIES

BOX 10916

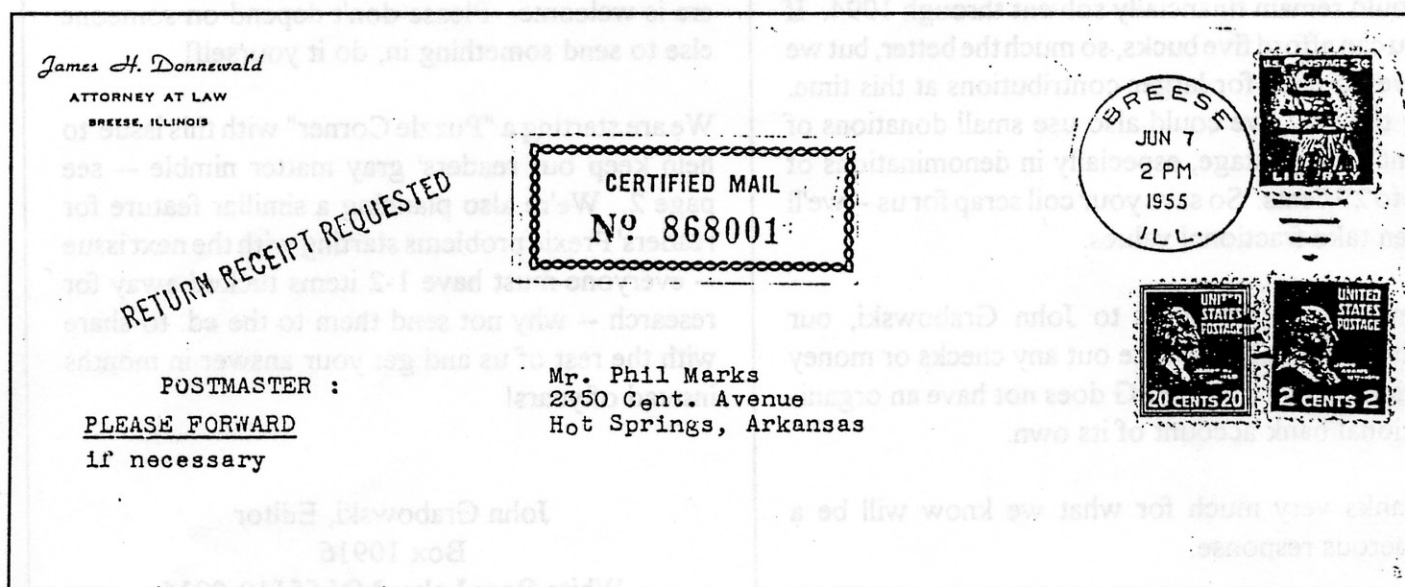
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

Prexie Certified Mail Rarity.....

Certified mail service began in Washington, D.C., on June 6, 1955 and became available throughout the rest of the U.S. the following day. While certified mail provides proof of mailing and delivery, it does not provide the 'lock & key' security of registered mail during transit. Certified mail also does not provide for indemnification in the event of loss or damage.

The cover shown below is from the collection of PSG member Jim Felton. It was used from Breese, IL on June 7, 1955 -- the first day that certified mail service existed outside the nation's capital. The 2-cent and 20-cent Prexies paid the 15-cent certified mail fee plus a 7-cent return receipt fee, while the 3-cent Liberty series paid first class postage.

Certified mail covers bearing any Prexies are generally scarce, but this first day usage may be a modern one-of-a-kind rarity. Has anyone seen another?



1993 RUSTAD AWARD.....

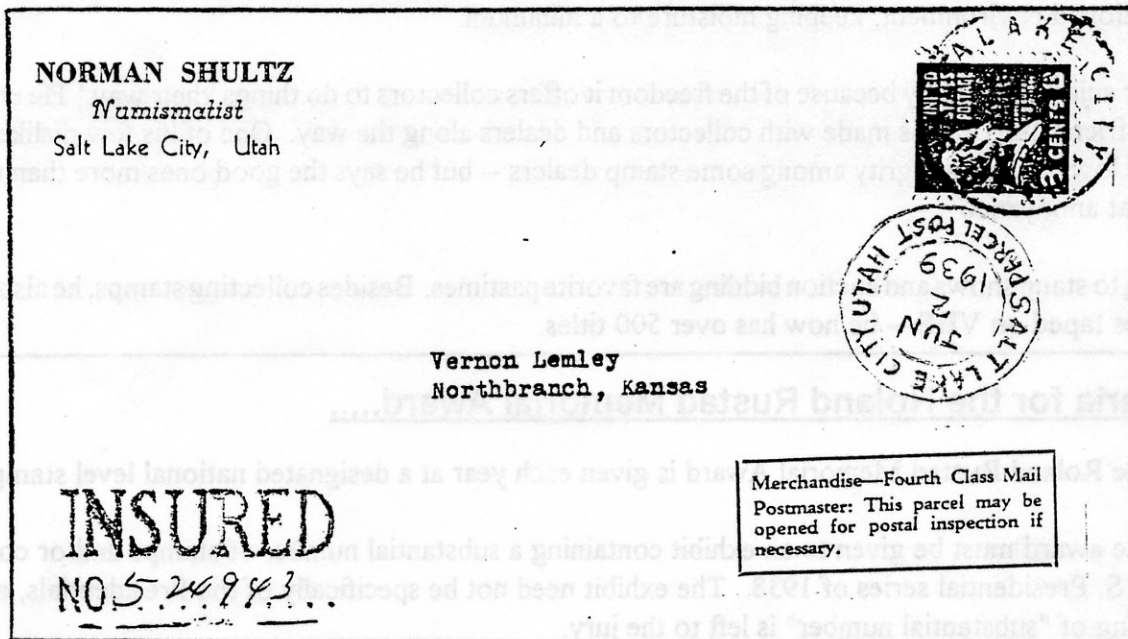
PSG Chairman Steve Suffet won the second annual Roland Rustad Memorial Award for his gold medal exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Rates and Usages: 1938 - 1958." The award, named for the late founding chairman of the Prexie Study Group, was presented to Steve at the August STaMpsHOW in Houston.

The first Rustad Award went to PSG member Len Piskiewicz for his "Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938" at INDYPEX '92. Len's exhibit also took the Grand Award at that show; and it was thus in the World Series of Philately competition at STaMpsHOW '93.

The third annual Rustad Award is scheduled to be presented at STaMpsHOW '94, to be held in Pittsburgh next August. Get those exhibits ready!

The Puzzle Corner,.....

We'll start this feature with the straightforward example below. Prizes of modest monetary value will be given to the first 3 responses to correctly identify the postage rates and usage on this June 2, 1939 cover from Salt Lake City. All successful entries will be acknowledged in the next issue.



About those rates,.....

DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT FEES -- REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF MAILING

	Showing to whom and date delivered	Showing to whom, date and address where delivered
(In effect, 1938)	\$.03	\$.23
Eff. March 26, 1944	.04	.31
Eff. January 1, 1949	.05	.31
Eff. January 1, 1952	.07	.31
Eff. July 1, 1957	.10	.35

RESTRICTED DELIVERY (TO ADDRESSEE ONLY)

(In effect, 1938)	.10
Eff. March 26, 1944	.20
Eff. July 1, 1957	.50

Note: Return receipt and restricted delivery fees applied only to registered, insured, COD or, beginning in 1955, certified mail.

Meet the member,....

ROGER L. LISTWAN

Roger began stamp collecting 37 years ago at the age of 8. He is presently employed as a Stamp Value Analyst at Scott Publishing Co. One of Roger's specialties is collecting Prexie FDC's (*more about this in a future issue -- ed.*) His covers are stored in closets and cabinets with a disiccant and in an air conditioned environment, keeping moisture to a minimum.

Roger enjoys the hobby because of the freedom it offers collectors to do things 'their way.' He enjoys the many friendships he has made with collectors and dealers along the way. One of his few dislikes would be the low level of integrity among some stamp dealers -- but he says the good ones more than make up for that annoyance.

Going to stanp shows and auction bidding are favorite pastimes. Besides collecting stamps, he also collects movies taped on VHS -- he now has over 500 titles.

Criteria for the Roland Rustad Memorial Award,....

1. The Roland Rustad Memorial Award is given each year at a designated national level stamp show.
2. The award must be given to an exhibit containing a substantial number of stamps and/or covers of the U.S. Presidential series of 1938. The exhibit need not be specifically of the Presidentials, and the meaning of "substantial number" is left to the jury.
3. The jury should consider the widest variety of exhibits which meet criterion #2. Examples could include, but are not limited to, exhibits of plate markings, color and shade varieties, EFO's, FDC's, precancels, perfins, rates and usages, special events, cancellations, auxiliary markings, postal history, and historical philately.
4. The award is given to recognize philatelic knowledge, research, presentation and creativity. It need not be given to exhibits which achieve the highest medal levels.
5. Any exhibit entered into open competition is eligible. The winner need not be a member of the PSG or BIA.

Net Price Sale,....

An anonymous donor has made available a clean 9"x4" 1943 manilla cover with the 1 1/2 & 4 1/2-cent Prexie coils (nos. 840 & 844) which pay double the 1st class rate of .03/oz. -- clearly a non-philatelic usage. Yours for just \$12 (the proceeds help pay PSG expenses.) Write to the editor to see if it's still available.

Mark your calendars,....

The Prexie Study Group will be holding our annual get-together next August at the 1994 STAmPsHOW in Pittsburgh. The annual meeting of the BIA next year, which should include some PSG activities and members, will be at the Garfield Perry Show in March.

More than 20 people turned out to hear Steve's talk, "The Big, the Bad, and the Ugly (2nd, 3rd, & 4th class Prexie usage)", at the BIA annual meeting held this year, Oct. 1-3, at the St. Louis Stamp Expo.