



THE PREXIES

The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee



Issue 8
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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

Shakespeare's Juliet may have asked "What's in a name?" only to answer her own rhetorical question with the Elizabethan equivalent of "Not a heck of a lot!" So, too, for our first seven issues we have been a bunch of latter day Juliets. At various times we've called ourselves the Prexie Study Group, the Presidential Series Study Unit and the Presidential Series Study Group. Sometimes we simply used the abbreviation, "PSG", without worrying about definitions. Whew!

It's time to end all this inconsistency. What we are officially, and have been since the days when the late Roland Rustad served as our chairman, is a committee of the Bureau Issues Association. That's something more organized, more lasting, and, hopefully, more active than what the BIA refers to as a study group.

Henceforth we will use the initials PSC, not PSG, to represent the "Presidential Series Committee."

Steve Suffet

ABOUT THOSE RATES.....

Certificate of Mailing Fees:
(per item)

In effect, 1938.....	1-cent
Feb. 1, 1954	3-cents
July 1, 1957	5-cents

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

You may notice some changes in THE PREXIES this issue. I am using some new software (Microsoft Publisher 2.0) which I acquired late last year when it was on sale locally for the irresistible price of \$57 after a \$20 rebate. This software is ideal for newsletters, brochures, etc. Hope you like this new look! Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Speaking of comments, we certainly appreciate any and all letters from Committee members (anyone on this newsletter mailing list is a member) relating to the Prexies or the period of Prexie use. *This means it's OK to talk about Famous Americans, Transports and other contemporary issues as well — in moderation, of course!* We spend a lot of time talking about rates and postal history because of their complexity and human interest elements, but there also is a lot of interest in other areas such as FDC's, precancels (and all types of cancels for that matter), printing varieties, plate numbers, etc. Our Committee and this newsletter are supposed to be fun, relaxed and informal mediums to exchange ideas and perhaps learn something. If you have a question, or would like to share a thought about a particular collecting area, please send it to me. Don't worry about it being too elementary, because that's not a criterion we use.

We would like to begin a project in the PSC to identify the different ways single frankings of the Prexies can be used. Let's start with the low values (1 to 3-cents) first. Please send suggestions and/or examples of single franking uses to the Editor. We'll try to print them, with credits, as an addendum to THE PREXIES.

John Grabowski

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, PUZZLE REPLIES, ETC.....

Letter #1- Regarding John Koch's request for information about Prexie coil strip leaders in Newsletter #7, I offer the following quote from Roland Rustad's forthcoming book entitled "The Prexies":

"Before coils were rolled, a paper tape was inserted between the lengths to be rolled and the tape was cut so that the coil roll had what was called a starting and finishing tape at the beginning and end of each roll. Originally, brown kraft paper was used for these tapes, but starting in the early 1950's, a white gummed paper was used. The finishing tape was about 7 inches long and had no printing on it. The starting tape was about 10 1/2 inches long and had the stamp denomination, number of stamps in the roll and type of coil (endwise or sidewise) printed on it. The printing was initially in black on the brown kraft tapes. On later brown tapes and on all of the white tapes, the printing was in the color of the stamp."

Again, this is Roland's information, not mine. — *Leonard Piszkiwicz*

Thanks Len, and we look forward to hearing more about Rustad's book! — Ed.

Letter #2- Regarding Jim Felton's interest in double-ring killerless Pitney-Bowes postmarks, check the article by C. J. Hohenstein in the March 1959 Bureau Specialist. A 28-mm "essay" was used in 1949 in Washington, D.C., (and illustrated on a cover franked with five 3-cent Prexies.) A second 31-mm Washington, D.C. "essay" appeared in 1951, a third (also 31-mm) in 1952, and a fourth (35-mm) in 1953. Quoting from Hohenstein, "The finished product was released in 1955 to 1,057 post offices throughout the country, replacing the 1953 model." The Washington D.C., roller "essay" appeared in 1952, and was slightly altered in 1954. "In 1955 the roller was released to public use at the larger offices." Further changes in the design came in 1958-9. Thus while the "essays" were Prexie era postmarks, the production models were more typically used on Liberty Series stamps. See my Liberty Series article in the February American Philatelist for lots of examples.

Regarding the Guantanamo cover, the answer lies in the cancel. Is it of Cuban or U.S. origin? If of U.S. origin, as I presume (could the lower "??TE" legend be "BASE"?), the sender first affixed Cuban postage, but then took it to a post office on the U.S. base, where, since the 10-centavo stamp was invalid, a 3-cent Prexy booklet stamp was added for deposit in the U.S. mail.

Despite Steve Suffet's comments in newsletter #7, if he does find a cover similar to the illustrated one, it belongs in an illegal usages collections, not in a 1938-58 rate and usage study. Mailer's permit postmarks were first introduced on May 29, 1930, but only on stamp envelopes and postal cards. They were not allowed on adhesive stamps until September 21, 1978. I presume the UPSS examples are actually residuals from mailings that exceeded the available supply of pre-printed stamped envelopes, and thus may have been authorized or allowed by local postmasters, but they really should have been franked with Bureau or locally overprinted precanceled stamps, not permit postmarks. — *Ken Lawrence*

Letter #3- I agree with everything in the (previous) letter of Ken Lawrence, except for his interpretation of the Guantanamo postmark. I believe the indistinct word at the bottom of the postmark is not "BASE", but "ORTE." That would be the abbreviation for Oriente, Cuba's most eastern province. If this hypothesis is correct, the cover was deposited into the Cuban mails, and not sent from the U.S. Naval Base. My guess is that the mailer hedged his/her bet by applying both Cuban and U.S. postage so that the article could be posted in whichever system was most convenient. Of course, like Ken, I am just making a guess. There is no way of ever knowing for sure. What is certain, however, is that one stamp, or the other, was superfluous.

P.S. I still want to find a 1-cent Prexie covers with the precancellation intended for postal stationery. Now

LETTERS (CONT.).....

that I know the usage was technically illegal, I'm going to look even harder for one! — *Steve Suffet*

Letter #3.5- Steve Suffet believes the lower portion of the postmark is "ORTE." If so, it is a Cuban cancel, and the airmail stamp paid the postage, not the 3-cent Prexie. Perhaps the sequence I proposed was reversed, although the placement of the stamps makes that doubtful. Another possibility is that the sender was keeping both options open, so it could be sent from whichever post office he or she reached first. —

Ken Lawrence

Letter #4- The unknown part of the cancel is ORIENTE. The Marine base could send mail out by sea mail on the next boat or by airmail from the nearest town with airmail service which would have been Antilla.

John Koch can get information on his leader strip questions from Frank Marrelli (a BIA member/dealer: 4617 23rd Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140.) Frank has a collection of the 3-cent with leader strips showing partial plate numbers. Find the first number with white paper and then look that number up in the Plate Number Checklist and you will know when it went to press. — *Dave Bize*

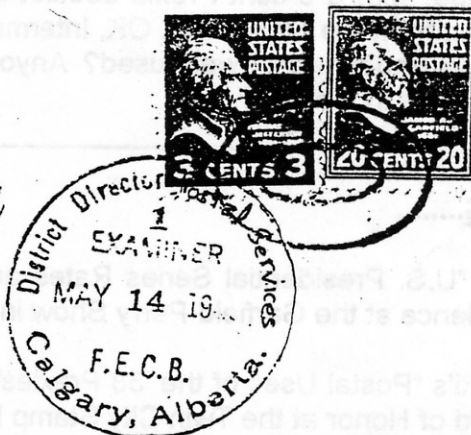
Ed. Note— The above discussion between Ken, Steve and Dave could have been condensed into a summary 'solution' of the Guantanamo cover puzzle. I thought it might be more instructive to show the readers the iterative thinking process that often accompanies such analysis. Besides, this is a newsletter among friends, not a national publication for the ages! Please keep the letters and requests for help coming.

THE PUZZLE/HELP REQUEST CORNER.....

This month, from his box of many unsolved mysteries, the editor submits the following May 10, 1945 registered cover from Rochester, NY, to Wimborne, Alberta:

Return in 5 days to
F. G. YOUNG
 P. O. Box 872
 Rochester, 3 N. Y.
 Forwarding and Return
 Postage Guaranteed.

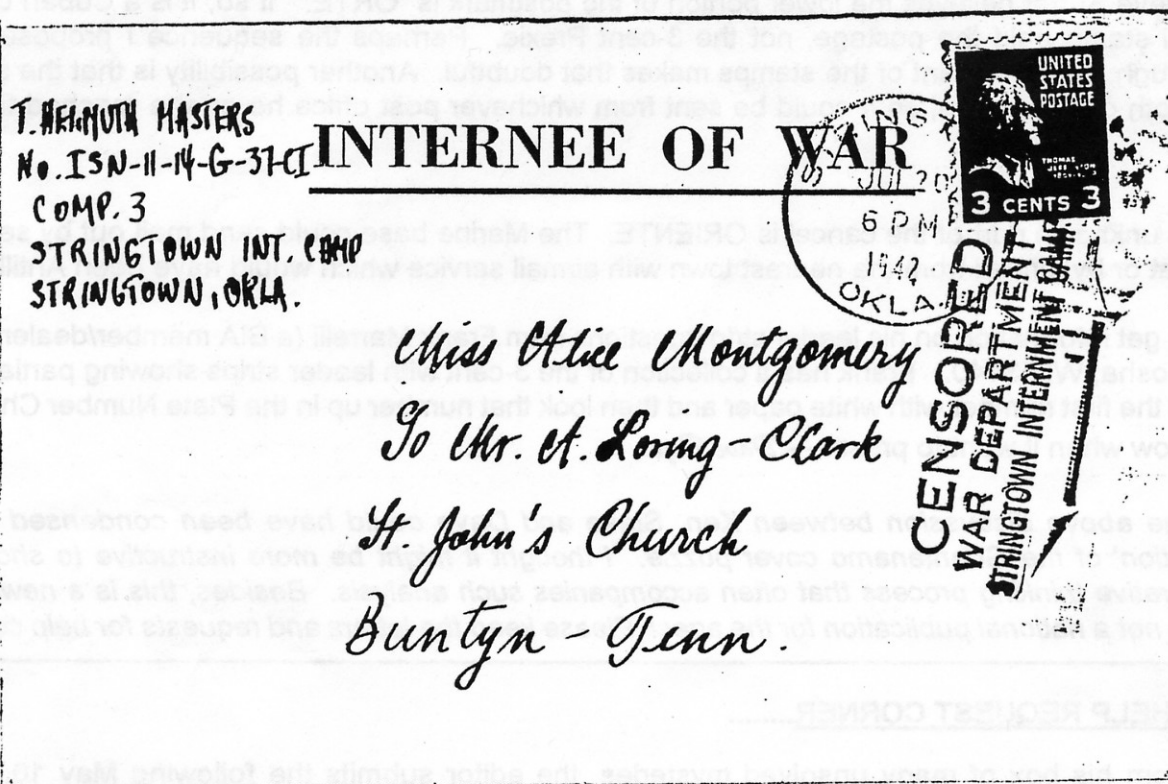
*Rex Stamp Co.,
 Wimborne,
 Alberta
 Canada,*



Questions: What is the "F.E.C.B." and what were they examining for?

THE PUZZLE/HELP REQUEST CORNER (CONT.).....

Even our Chairman has a few unresolved puzzles:



The above usage, with a 3-cent Prexie booklet single, is a preprinted War Department "INTERNEE OF WAR" lettersheet from the Stringtown, OK, Internment Camp in 1942. Does anyone have information about these lettersheets and how they were used? Anyone have any general information about the WW II system of internment camps in the U.S?

PAST EVENTS.....

Steve Suffet's "U.S. Presidential Series Rates and Usages 1938-1958" won a gold award and an APS Medal of Excellence at the Garfield-Perry Show in March (BIA 1994 annual meeting).

John Grabowski's "Postal Uses of the '38 Prexies" won a vermeil award, an APS Medal of Excellence and an AAPE Award of Honor at the Twin City Stamp Expo, also in March.

Walt Cole's "The U.S. 3-Cent Presidential Stamp" won a gold award and the BIA Best U.S. Exhibit Award at the Philatelic Fiesta held in San Jose in April; also a gold award and an APS Medal of Excellence at PIPEX held in Eugene, OR, in May.

ATTA WAY TO GO FELLA'S!!

(The Ed. always appreciates short notes about Prexie exhibits and their awards.)

FUTURE EVENTS.....

Our annual PSC meeting is coming up at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh at the end of August. It will be an opportunity to hear Steve's presentation of "The Prexies Go To War: Military Related Uses of the U.S. Presidential Series", attend our members' cover swap, meet old friends and make some new ones.

The annual BIA meetings are always well attended by Prexie enthusiasts. The next meetings will be:

1995 — The Philatelic Show, Boxborough, MA (late April/early May)

1996 — ROPEX, Rochester, NY (late March/early April)

1997 — PACIFIC '97 (tentative)

Our PSC annual meeting site for 1995 is being considered here in the Twin Cities for next August. The local sponsoring club, after many years of successful shows, is beginning the process for WSP qualification. It should be a fun and informative show as usual. After the show closes, there will be a 3 day lay over before STaMpsHOW '95 opens, 450 miles down river in St. Louis. There are many good vacation activities to interest both philatelists and their families in the area. Stay tuned for further details.....

TREASURY REPORT.....

For the time being, your editor is also serving as the Treasurer of the PSC. Since we've asked for member donations and are being generously supported by our parent BIA, here's my accounting of our money situation:

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT 9/1/93 - 3/31/94

Treasury Balance, 9/1/93		\$ 0
Income:		
Member contributions		
(Checks, cash & postage)	\$204.92	
BIA support for Newsletter #6	30.61	
		<hr/>
		\$235.53
Expenses:		
Newsletter #6	\$ 55.61	
Newsletter #7	95.81	
Miscellaneous Postage	6.30	
		<hr/>
		\$157.72
Treasury Balance, 3/31/94		\$ 77.81

We're especially grateful to over 40 PSC members who contributed the \$204.92 shown above (and a few more since then!) Without their help, this newsletter wouldn't be possible. With a copy cost of about \$.08 per double sided page and postage, each issue costs us over \$.50 or \$80-100 per total issue.

FOR SALE/TRADE.....

1. Send SASE for my Prexie cover list — over 50 covers for sale, including some difficult rates, uses and destinations. Rod McGlothlin, 2953 Crystal Palace Lane, Pasadena, Maryland 21122.

2. Net price list of Prexie covers available from Greg Sutherland, % Freeman's Stamps, Box 24231, Dayton, OH 45424. All are better usages/rates/frankings/destinations. Price range: \$15-125. Ask for "May 1994 Prexie Price List." SASE appreciated.

3. A fun and informative 4 days of philatelic revelry at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh, August 18-21 — send for advance registration information: STaMpsHOW '94, APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

WANTED.....

1. I've started a project to collect the 2,835 (Bureau) Prexie precancels referenced in Scott's Specialized Catalog, including the coil stamps. Starting with only 14 so far, I wonder if any members of the PSC might be able to help advance me toward my goal? Mark Holland, 7538 Kingsgate Way, West Chester, OH 45069.

2. PSC members to attend our annual Friday evening (?) meeting at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh. Check at the registration table for time and location details.

3. A photocopied page from your Prexie collection to use in THE PREXIES to illustrate the various ways of collecting the Series.

4..... Your wants and needs send them to the Editor free.....

THE PREXIES

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