



# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 9  
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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

The Prexie collectors' event of the year, without question, has been the long awaited publication of The Prexies, the definitive study (!) of our beloved U.S. Presidential Series. Written by the late Roland E. Rustad, edited by Leonard Piskiewicz, and published by the BIA, this 343-page book is truly a product of our committee.

Roland, as most of us know, was our founding chairman. Leonard is one of our most active members, as well as the only person I know of to win a Grand Award for a Prexie exhibit at a national level philatelic show — a feat he has accomplished twice! And the BIA is, of course, our parent organization.

Many additional PSC members helped with the production of The Prexies: providing advice and illustrations, reviewing the manuscript, etc. Among them are John Hotchner, Steven Roth, John Wuichet, James Galceran, Joe Thompson, Randy Neil, the late Paul Biggy and Henry Beecher, and myself. All are acknowledged in the book's introduction, but they deserve a little extra recognition here as well.

This is not intended to be a review of The Prexies, nor is it an advertisement. It is, however, a personal recommendation to buy the book. BIA members can order it directly at a discount price of \$24. Write to the BIA at Box 23707, Belleville, IL and include your BIA number. The price for non-members is \$30. That should be incentive enough to join the BIA!

Paul Biggy of Sarasota, Florida, one of the founding members of the PSC, passed away suddenly in August. He will be missed by all of us.

*Steve Suffet*

## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

Thanks to all PSC members for your enthusiastic response to my request last time for notes, questions and contributions. The response was so great, everything didn't fit in this issue. The remainders will be carried over to the Jan. newsletter. At present, we seem to be on a Nov.-Jan.-May publishing cycle, with an extra issue as time and material permit....so please keep those notes to the Editor coming....

We have a good start in cataloging the solo Prexie usages — see page 2. We could use some photocopies of the less common examples to show in THE PREXIES. Let's also move on to listing the 4 & 5-cent solo values. Anyone with listings or examples, please send them to the Editor.

Our annual meeting and cover swap was well attended at the Pittsburgh STaMpsHOW. About 15 members and guests attended our Chairman's presentation of "The Prexies Go to War: Military Related Uses of the U.S. Presidential Series." It was a great show and provided an opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make some new ones, learn a few things and gather more collectibles! There was so much there, it was hard to see and do it all.

Our venue for the 1995 PSC annual meeting will be a little more quiet and focused here in MN — see the note on page 9. It'll be held the week before STaMpsHOW - '95 in St. Louis. Please plan to attend and bring your family, friends, exhibits, trading material,.... It will be FUN! Our Chairman will be on the Jury here as well as The Philatelic Show - '95, so our exhibits are certain to be judged knowledgeably.

*John Grabowski*

PREXY SOLO USAGES APPLICABLE TO THE 1938-58 PERIOD

*(Thanks to Len Piszkievicz and Steve Suffet for helping us start this project)*

1-cent Solo Usages:

Domestic post card rate (7/1/28-12/31/51)  
 Drop letter rate at non-carrier delivery office, .01/oz. (7/1/19-12/31/51)  
 Certificate of mailing fee, .01 per mailing (9/1/15-1/31/54)  
 Newspaper and periodical rate to Canada for matter other than daily newspapers, .01/4 oz. (2/1/08-12/31/58)  
 Transient second class rate, .01/2oz. (7/1/28-3/31/52)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs, .01/2 oz. (5/1/1879-12/31/48)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, .01/2 oz. (4/15/25-12/31/48)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece (7/1/28-6/30/52)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece for non-profit organizations (7/1/52-6/30/60)

1 1/2-cent Solo Usages:

Third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter, .015/2 oz. (4/15/25-12/31/48)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs for general mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/51)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs for non-profit mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/58)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, general mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/51)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, non-profit mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/58)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece (1/1/52-12/31/58)  
 Fourth class book rate, .015/lb. (11/1/38-6/30/42)  
 International printed matter rate, .015/2 oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)

2-cent Solo Usages:

Domestic post card rate (1/1/52-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to Mexico (4/1/32-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to members of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) (4/1/32-10/31/53)  
 Drop letter rate at carrier delivery office, .02/oz. (1/1/33-3/25/44)  
 Drop letter rate at non-carrier delivery office, .02/oz. (1/1/52-7/31/58)  
 Transient 2nd class rate, .02/1st 2 oz. (4/1/52-1/6/53) <sup>63</sup>  
 Third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter, .02/1st 2 oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58)  
 International printed matter rate, .02/1st 2 oz. (1/1/53-7/31/58) (through 12/31/58 for 2nd class matter from publishers)

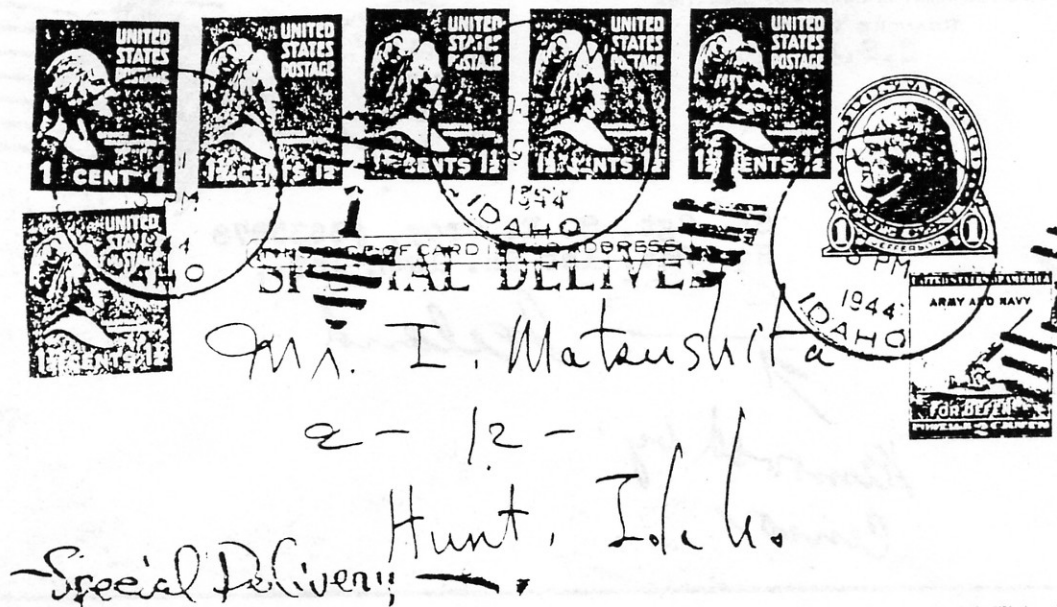
3-cent Solo Usages:

First class rate, .03/oz. (7/6/32-7/31/58) also applied to post cards with matter attached to the card  
 Certificate of mailing fee, .03 per mailing (2/1/54-6/30/57)  
 Surface rate to Canada, .03/oz. (9/1/31-7/31/58)  
 Surface rate to Mexico, .03/oz. (4/1/32-7/31/58)  
 International surface rate to PUAS members, .03/oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)  
 International post card rate to UPU member states (10/1/25-10/31/53)  
 Domestic postcard rate (also to Canada & Mexico), (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece, .03/1st 2oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
 Fourth class, general book rate, .03/lb. (7/1/42-3/25/44)  
 Fourth class, library book rate, .03/lb. (7/1/28-3/25/44)

Note: Newfoundland letter and postcard rates were the same as Canada before their confederation in 1949.

AN UNUSUAL PREXY SPECIAL DELIVERY USE*(Louis Fiset)*

While working with the Iwao Matsushita papers at the University of Washington archives I came across the following post card which I would like to share with other members of the PSC:



This 1 1/2-cent overpaid special delivery post card was postmarked at Hunt, ID on October 17, 1944. On the face of it, this card is not particularly interesting. However, Hunt was the location of the concentration camp where the Seattle Japanese community was incarcerated from August, 1942 until after the end of the War. The camp, known as the Minidoka Relocation Center, was one of ten camps which housed more than 90,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. This card is an example of intra-camp correspondence. The writer was cancelling a meeting with Iwao Matsushita, finding it quicker to communicate by special delivery mail, rather than by walking across the grounds of this relatively large camp, which at one time housed 8,000 people.

Prexie stamps were uncommonly employed on camp mail (both outgoing and intra-camp) except at Christmas time when the exchange of Christmas cards among the Christians and New Years greetings among the entire population were prolific, at which time the 1 1/2-cent Martha Washington was the adhesive of choice. Most first class mail was franked with the Win the War stamp.

Intra-camp correspondence, especially special delivery mail, is uncommon, if not rare. Such mail, franked with Prexies, is definitely rare. Collectors with examples of this mail are indeed fortunate and are entitled to bragging rights. Unfortunately, I don't own the piece I am sharing here, so I'm pretty quiet!

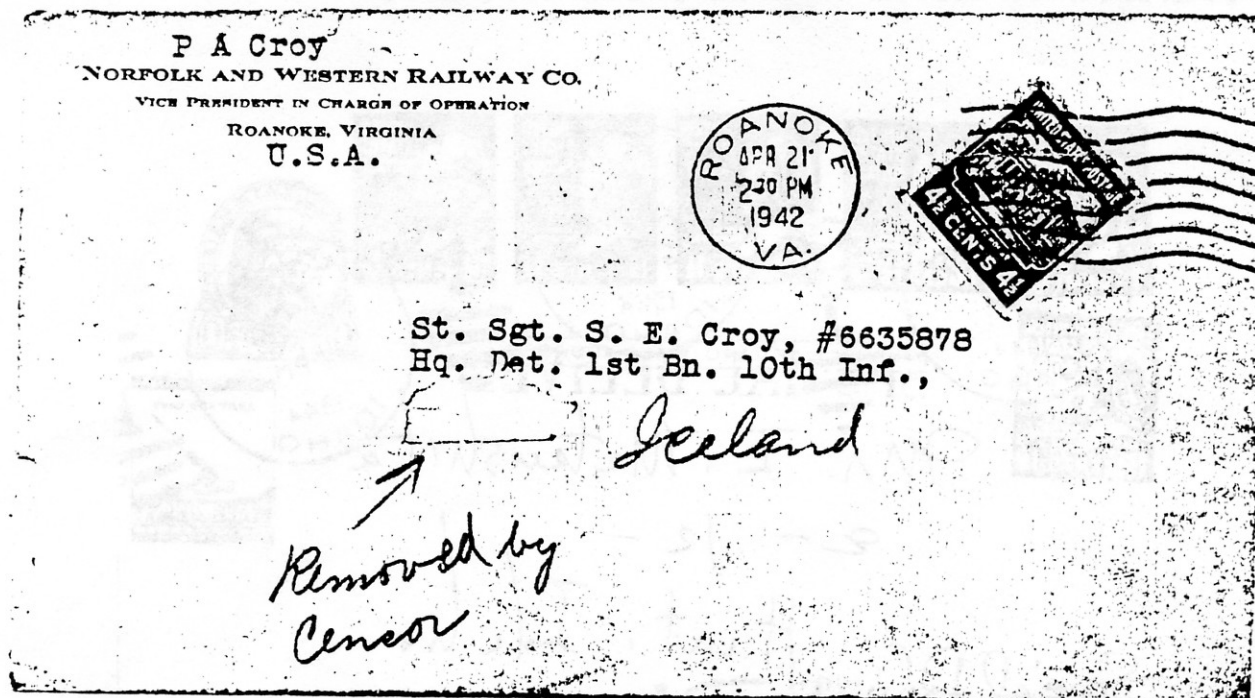
Anyone interested in sharing information, or knowing more about the postal history of U.S. concentration camps during WW II can reach me at: University of Washington; Mailstop IM-35; Seattle, WA 98195.

*(Thanks Louis, and be sure to see Louis' letter on page 7 for further discussion of this area)*



MEMBER LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Letter #1 — Jeff Shapiro sends a copy of the following cover, apparently from a relative to "Staff Sargent Croy". The Chairman and the Editor both see this as a case of over-franking. Does anyone have any other explanation for the 4 1/2-franking on this first class appearing letter?



Letters #2, 3 & 4 — G.H. Davis, Steve Ekstrom and Jim Felton all provided helpful information regarding the Canadian "F.E.C.B." censorship marking in issue #8, page 3, on my cover to Winborne, Alberta. Both G.H. and Jim referenced the pioneering work of Jeff Swit of Fort Worth in this area. Steve sent along some nice corroborating covers with explanative notes. Perhaps the best way to summarize this area for readers would be to quote from the letter that Jeff Swit sent to G.H. which includes and updates the information contained in Jeff's article about the F.E.C.B. which appeared in the March 31, 1994 Postal History Society of Canada Journal:

"The Foreign Exchange Control Board was established on September 15, 1939 by Order in Council 2716. Its duties, in simplified terms as they applied to postal operations, were to govern the importing and exporting of currency and securities through the mail.

The purpose of this act was to keep such resources within Canada working to aid the Canadian economy and war effort, and to keep potential Axis supporters from sending money or other valuables back home. The act, in general, suspended the free market in foreign exchange, appointed chartered Canadian banks as 'authorized' dealers, and gave local postmasters 'censoring' responsibilities to ensure that exchange restrictions were being met.

Much of the mail which passed under the scrutiny of the F.E.C.B. was transmitted to the U.S. There were numerous organizations, sympathetic to the Axis powers, which operated in the U.S. and other countries, under the guise of travel agencies for instance. These were believed to be a pipeline for funds to European Axis organizations. Less than 5% of F.E.C.B. examined mail has been noted going to non-U.S. destinations.

LETTERS (CONT.).....

In addition, the F.E.C.B. provided a convenient method of censoring mail between the U.S. and Canada. Mail from Canada's coastal ports to the U.S. was routinely censored under the justification of ship security. However, there was no immediate threat from internal mail to justify overt censorship, so the F.E.C.B. examination process provided such a method without the risk of upsetting Canada's ally, "Uncle Sam."

On Jan. 12, 1940, 15 F.E.C.B. examination centers were established at Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Montreal, Moose Jaw, North Bay, Ottawa, Quebec, Saskatoon, St. John, Vancouver and Winnipeg. These centers initially employed 53 examiners who started by examining every 50th item of regular and registered mail. On Sept. 11, 5 additional centers were opened at Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Regina, Victoria and Windsor. On Jan. 4, 1941, the final center was opened at Moncton, which brought the total to 21 offices.

On Jan. 31, 1940, instructions were issued to look for and examine "suspicious" registered mail from the U.S. On Feb. 25, 1941, all registered mail came under scrutiny. In mid-1942, certain registered correspondences, which had previously proven to be in order, were allowed to pass without being opened. The Prexie cover shown in the last newsletter passed through the Calgary center with only a date stamp of the F.E.C.B. After Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, the F.E.C.B. centers ceased operation. Non-U.S. mail posted abroad continued to receive a "PASSED FOR EXPORT" handstamp, applied by the postmaster of the originating office. Use of these markings ceased Dec. 14, 1951."

Shown below is a reduced copy of the backside of a registered letter in Steve Ekstrom's collection, from Minneapolis to Winnipeg, showing the opening by the F.E.C.B. and sealing with examiner's tape:



LETTERS (CONT.).....

Letter #5 — Ken Lawrence writes to mention that coil leaders and trailers on white paper (see newsletter #8 - page 2) were used even earlier that Roland Rustad realized, according to an old BIA report. Norman Kempf wrote in the June, 1948 issue of The Bureau Specialist: "Gilbert Peakes has just purchased a 3-cent coil with a genuine 'New Look.' The wrapper is made of white paper, and is printed with purple ink instead of the conventional black used for so many years. Larger and bolder type has been used, far easier to read for those of us who are growing old and have left their glasses at home. The entire back of the new wrapper is gummed, instead of having only patches of gum at each end. As there is always a considerable stock of coil wrappers on hand at the Bureau, it may be some time before other values appear in the new dress."

Ken also generously sent along this short note which he authored:

HOW TO INTERPRET A PREXY COVER

Without doubt, the most difficult covers to interpret are those that have no dated postmarks. I have often noticed that exhibitors frequently go out of their way to display examples that do include dated postmarks, even when normal handling would have left them undated. Others use docketing dates, dated contents or datable advertising cachets to achieve the same purpose.

These are well and good, but they leave viewers with an unbalanced view of how stamps really were used most of the time. I would like to see more typical usages shown *and explained*, as a way of teaching others to appreciate the material more fully. The following cover is an illustrative example in this regard:

**THE INTERNATIONAL LEGION**  
Carlsbad, California

Return Postage Guaranteed

Sec. 562 P.L. & R.



Mr. Walter H. Koester  
2814 Baynard Boulevard,  
Wilmington,  
Delaware

*Handwritten signature: M. H. Koester*



LETTERS (CONT.).....

The 1-cent green George Washington sheet stamp, with a locally applied Carlsbad, CA precancel overprint, prepaid the minimum per-piece rate of an ordinary commercial 3rd-class bulk mailing. This 1-cent rate was in effect from July 1, 1928, through June 30, 1952. The Prexy stamp makes 1938 the earliest year of usage, of course. The Boxed "Sec. 562 P.L. & R." handstamp endorsement had been required since about December of 1932, but was replaced by "Sec. 34.66" in July, 1948.

An undeliverable piece of bulk mail was treated as waste unless it was of obvious value, or if the sender or recipient guaranteed to pay the forwarding postage. In this case, the sender guaranteed to pay the return postage by applying a red handstamp endorsement under the return address.

The return (or forwarding) postage was equal to the single-piece rate, which was 1.5-cents per two ounces until Dec. 31, 1948, then 2-cents up to two ounces beginning Jan. 1, 1949. The "Due 1 1/2 cents" portion of the pointing-finger magenta "RETURNED TO SENDER" handstamp therefore dates the return of the cover prior to 1949.

Note also that the stamp was post-canceled by a black double-oval Wilmington, DE, postmark. Such canceling was required on all precanceled mail that was returned to sender, to prevent reuse of the stamp by an authorized permit holder.

The back of the cover has a block of 24 1/2-cent Postage Due stamps with boxed black "CARLSBAD, CALIF." cancels, indicating that this was one of 8 items returned on the same day.

Is there any other evidence that can date the cover more precisely than between April, 1938 and the end of 1948? Yes, but it doesn't prove anything. The postal zone system was introduced nationwide in 1943, and quickly became standard, especially on bulk mail, so this cover was probably mailed during the first 5 years of the Prexy era.

*(Thanks Ken, for some thought-stimulating comments — ed.)*

Letter #6 — Louis Fiset provides some insights to Steve Suffet's questions last issue concerning WW II internee mail. Louis has produced a single-frame exhibit in this area and is currently working on a book length manuscript concerning the topic of the postal history of enemy alien detainees and internees during WW II.

"Steve's cover is an excellent example documenting the concentration camp mail of civilian enemy aliens in the U.S. While the lettersheet involves a German enemy alien, mail of incarcerated Italian and Japanese enemy aliens differs only in the actual camps in which they were interned.

The Internee of War lettersheet was intended for use on international correspondence, only. Domestic use was tolerated but not encouraged, which explains why so few examples of domestic use may be found. Only those individuals whose close relatives lived abroad employed the lettersheets in quantity; and most of those were German nationals.

The writer in Steve's example was a German civilian who was arrested by the FBI in Iowa (this information from the internee's serial number beneath his name.) He was turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and likely sent to its Fort Lincoln detention station at Bismarck, ND, pending the outcome of a loyalty hearing which would determine whether he should be released, paroled or interned. His plea was obviously unsuccessful, resulting in an internment order land him in Army custody. The Stringtown camp was one of many camps operated by the Army to intern enemy aliens.

**LETTERS (CONT.).....**

Following the German collapse in the North African Campaign, prisoners of war began to flood into the U.S. causing the Army to attempt to rid itself of the responsibility of the civilians. As a result, by the end of May, 1943, all civilian internees were returned to INS custody, and were moved to camps operated by that Service.

While in Army custody, all internee international correspondence and all non-English letters were forwarded for inspection to the POW Unit at the Chicago Censorship Station until Sept., 1942, and to the New York POW Unit after that. For a time, English-language letters were censored by the Army staff at the individual camps, as was Steve's example. Later, even English-language correspondence was inspected by the POW Unit. By then, the INS had hired its own German, Italian and Japanese speaking censors (and Spanish, for enemy aliens from Latin America) and refused to cooperate with the Office of Censorship's request that domestic mail should continue to be forwarded for inspection.

Free franking for international surface mail began almost immediately following the U.S. entry into the war. Beginning in Nov., 1942, and continuing until the last camp closed in 1947, internees also enjoyed free franking privileges for domestic mail.

In all, this lovely example of a poorly understood period of U.S. wartime postal history will enhance the value of any exhibit on the subject. Interestingly, during the period in which pre-paid postage was required on internee correspondence, Prexie use was uncommon. Therefore, its presence in a Prexie exhibit should be highlighted!"

**Letter #7** — Jim Felton sends some further comments on the Pitney-Bowles double-ring cancelers we have been discussing (Newsletter #8, page 2; #7, page 6):

"Regarding the Pitney-Bowles cancelers, I have trouble considering the 1953 model as an "essay", rather than "production." From what I've found, the order that resulted in the 1953 model devices was for 800 cancelers for use in over 550 post offices. Because of their use well into the late 1950's, the 1953 model devices were clearly not "replaced" in the sense of being taken out of service, so it is hasty to dismiss the 1953 device as an essay. If Ken Lawrence wishes to claim the 1955 models for the Liberty Series, (to split hairs more finely) there were more Liberty Series stamps issued after 1955 than before. The 1953 Pitney-Bowles model clearly belongs to the Prexie era, though I have recorded examples used as late as 1960. In closing, these cancelers are properly found on Prexie stamps and that's the most important fact as far as our PSC is concerned."

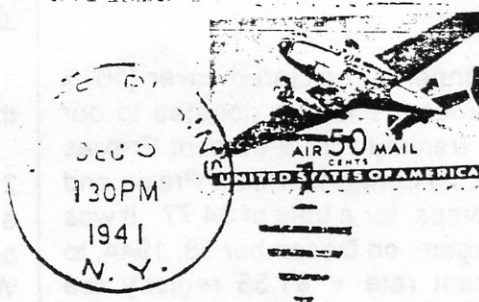
**A SCARCE SOLO USE OF THE 50-CENT TRANSPORT**

The 50-cent cover shown on the next page is part of G.H. Davis' Transport collection. Solo usages of the 50-cent Transport are very uncommon in any form. They are occasionally seen paying the rate to the Philippines or Hawaii to Europe (.20 + .30). The 50-cent stamp was issued Oct. 29, 1941 and Philippine mail service was officially suspended on Dec. 12, according to Richard Helbok's Prexie Postal History (La Posta Monograph #2.) This allows only about a 6-week period of pre-War use for the 50-cent rate. It's doubtful that many of the 50-cent Transports made their way to the Philippines for origination use there.

The cover shown here was postmarked Dec. 5 in White Plains, NY. It was obviously too late to get through and may be one of the earliest examples of such suspended mail.

Does anyone have any similar examples?





*Private Dexter C. Woodman,  
27 Material Squadron,  
Field,*

**RETURNED TO SENDER  
SERVICE SUSPENDED.**



#### PAST EVENTS.....

Walt Cole's "The U.S. Three Cent Stamp of 1938" won a gold award and the BIA Best U.S. Exhibit Award at the MIDAPHIL held in Kansas City in this past October.

John Grabowski's "Postal Uses of the '38 Prexies" won a silver award at MIDAPHIL; also a vermeil award at STaMpsHOW this summer.

Dickson Preston's "Prexie Postal History", won a gold award and an APS medal at the Oct. CHICAGOPEX.

ATTA WAY TO GO FELLA'S!!

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

#### FUTURE EVENTS.....

Our annual PSC meeting and cover swap will be held at the Twin City Stamp EXPO next August 18-20 in St. Paul. The EXPO theme will be the "1938 Presidential Series" so related exhibits are earnestly solicited. Write to the editor to request an exhibit prospectus, including a new \$150 "claiming fee" concept for single-frame exhibits. This EXPO will be held the week preceding STaMpsHOW, about 450 miles to the South. If you plan a vacation, perhaps with your family, write to the editor also for vacation and travel information around MN — there's plenty available (courtesy of our tax dollars!)

Remember also the annual BIA meeting at the Philatelic Show - '95 in Boxborough, MA, April 28-30. Exhibit information may be requested from PSC member Guy Dillaway, Box 181, Weston, MA 02193-0181.

**FOR SALE/TRADE.....**

1. For sale — a wonderful registered cover (10" x 5") for \$10. The proceeds will be donated to our PSC. The cover is franked with 9 50-cent Prexies (one slightly torn), a 20-cent and 1-cent Prexie and 2 3-cent 'Victory' stamps, for a total of \$4.77. It was mailed from Washington, on December 18, 1944, to NYC. Double 3-cent rate + \$1.35 registry fee (\$1,000 indemnity) + \$3.36 surcharge for \$24,000 undeminified excess value. Write to the editor.

**WANTED.....**

1. .... Your wants and needs ..... send them to the Editor ..... free.....
2. A reasonably priced example of the .02 rate for a non-carrier office drop letter, 1/1/52-7/31/58 period. Send to John Grabowski, Box 10916, White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916 .

**COMING NEXT ISSUE.....**

....New essays uncovered....

...."Domestic Third Class Usage of a Postal Card"....

....Many more interesting examples, questions and thoughts....

**THE PREXIES**

Box 10916

White Bear Lake MN 55110-0916