



# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

If you have not already done so, I urge you to read Ken Lawrence's "United States Stamps" column in the December, 1995 issue of "The American Philatelist" (pp 1116-1121). Ken writes, with considerable insight, about what he calls the culture of the Presidential Series collector — meaning us! For better or for worse, Ken observes: "Although exceptions exist, the typical member collects examples of the Prexies used on nonphilatelic covers, preferably single-stamp frankings. Essays and proofs, plate numbers and other marginal markings, first day and other souvenir covers, plate and paper varieties, color shades, production errors and freaks, and other collectible features attract much less interest."

It happens, quite by coincidence, that this Issue #12 does have some real diversity within its pages! While "one robin does not a spring make", it is nonetheless an encouraging sign. I suspect there is a lot more diversity in our collecting interests than we've shown to date.

So here's my request (and plea): If you are a collector of Prexie production varieties, EFO's, FDC's, cancellations, etc., please drop a note to John Grabowski, our editor, and tell him a little about it. And a big thanks to all our members who have already helped share such knowledge with the rest of us — please continue!

I am looking forward to greeting as many of you as possible at ROPEX (see page 2) in Rochester, April 12-14. Don't forget to bring some trading material and stuff you may need some help with.

*Steve Suffet*

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## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

This issue contains more diversity than we've had in the past and that is very healthy. It's great to see the different ways our members are collecting and pursuing Prexie era research. Your attention is particularly directed to the article on Prexie color shades by Larry Secchiaroli and John Markunas — please let us have your suggestions on how best to continue this work.

Also keep your comments and questions coming to the Editor regarding any aspect of Prexie era collecting — as one of my old teachers used to say: "There are no dumb questions, only dumb answers" (and we try to minimize those!)

Thanks once more to our members for their support. Without their assistance, this newsletter would not be possible.

*John Grabowski*

### **1996 PREXIEPEX VII AT ROPEX....**

The annual get-together of the Presidential Series Committee is planned for ROPEX in Rochester on April 12-14 at the Holiday Inn-Genesee Plaza. Our parent organization, the BIA, will also be hosting its annual meeting there so a good confluence of U.S. stamps and knowledge is expected. Our PSC meeting and cover swap will likely take place Saturday afternoon, as usual. Check the show program or with our Chairman, Steve Suffet, who will be one of the exhibit judges, for the exact time & place.

The exhibit frames are reported to be all filled.

General show questions, accommodations, etc., can be directed to "ROPEX; P.O. Box 10206; Rochester, NY 14610-0206."

### **PREXIES AS AN INVESTMENT....**

Pat Herst recently sent along an article by Dr. C. Edward Greene which appeared in the March 5, 1949 issue of STAMPS magazine. The heading of Dr. Greene's article was "THE PRESIDENTIAL SERIES — Its Investment Possibilities". The basic premise of the article was that regular issue stamps, due to their long period of availability, are often underappreciated and neglected by collectors. Dr. Greene's concluding remarks follow:

"When the issuing of stamps commemorating everything from the hen to the visiting fireman starts to abate, the demand for recent postal issues will become greater, because we must have these stamps to keep our 20th Century collections complete. Therefore, the collector who keeps his weather eye on the profit angle of the stamps he purchases, as well as the avowed investor, will do well (in my opinion) to give thought to the more or less current Presidentials, while they can still be obtained at prices within reason.

"Apart from the sordid (?) commercial aspect, do you know of a more desirable set for your albums? Pictures of all the Presidents, in all colors of the rainbow, offer plenty of material for the chap who

likes to write up his collection. The youthful collector, who perhaps assembles this series in used condition, will learn a lot of history in reading up on the subjects of these stamps."

*The set of 32 basic perforated stamps, with a face value of \$11.885, lists at \$163.78 in the 1996 Scott catalog—a rise of almost 14X. The price of a Scott Specialized U.S. Catalog itself has increased from \$3.50 to \$34.00 over the same period. - Ed.*

### **ROLAND RUSTAD MEMORIAL AWARD....**

The Roland Rustad Memorial Award, given annually in memory of the founding chairman of our PSC, will be presented at PREXIEPEX VII.

As we announced in the last newsletter, the eligibility for this award has been broadened to include any collection of Prexie-Era material such as Famous Americans, Transports, Overrun Nations, etc., in addition to Prexie collections --- see page 8 for greater detail on this award.

We look forward to a full report of PREXIEPEX activities in the next newsletter.

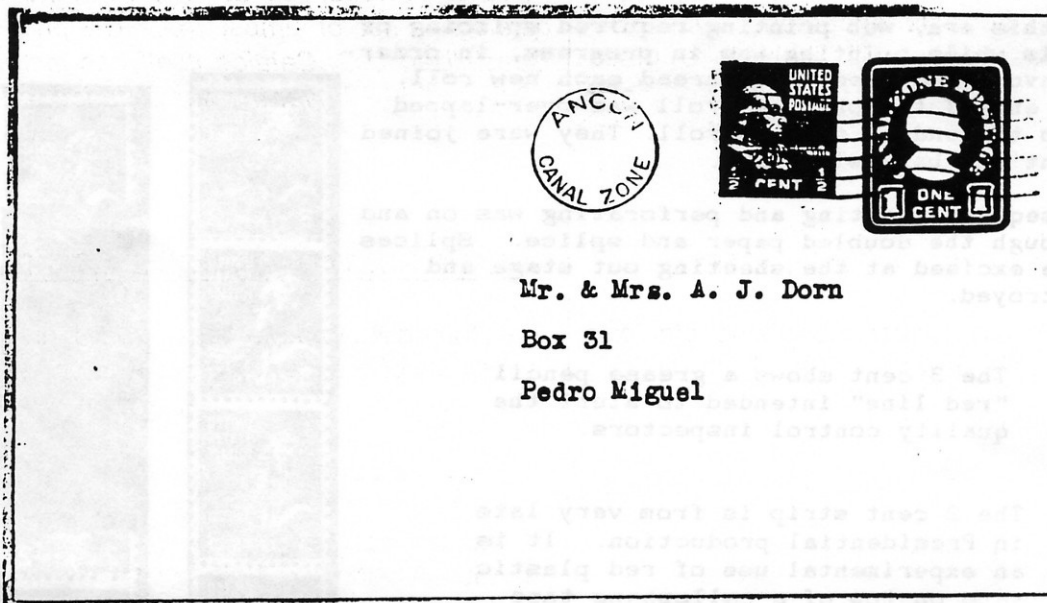
### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....**

It's not too early to begin planning to attend the big philatelic event next year on the West Coast: "Pacific '97", to be held May 29 - June 8 in San Francisco. Our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association, will be the Show's major host on Wednesday, June 4. The theme being planned for the day is "A Pageant of U.S. Stamps."

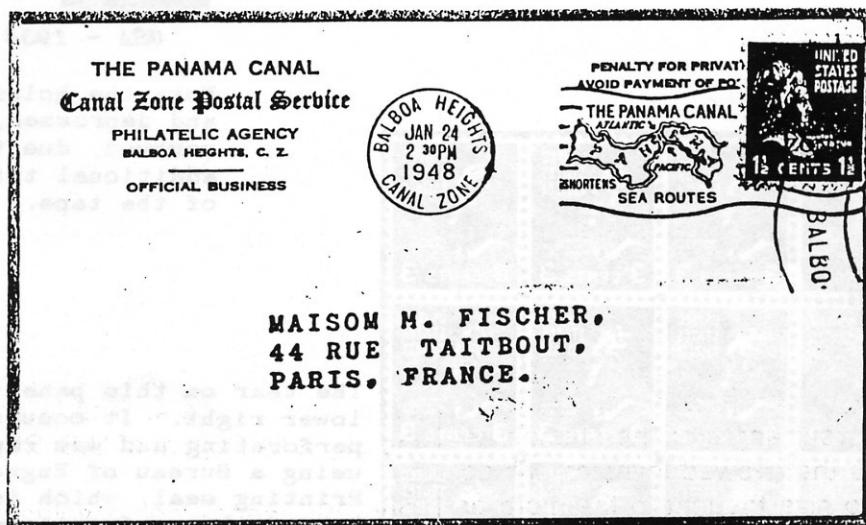
Our PSC needs some volunteers to help with a Prexie seminar. Contact Chairman Steve or the Editor if you plan to be in San Francisco that day and would be willing to help with a Prexie seminar.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR (CANAL ZONE OVERPRINTS REVISITED).....**

Paul Kravitz's article in the last newsletter concerning "Canal Zone Prexies" makes a bit of an overstatement when he states "Listed below (are) some corrections and additional information....." While additional information is provided, it in no way corrects or negates anything in the Rustad book (the *Editor* also apologizes for not catching the poor choice of words in the original article). Shown here are a couple of examples of the overprinted Canal Zone stamps, paying printed matter rates:



.015/2 oz. 3rd class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous printed matter (eff. 4/15/25-12/31/48)



.015/2 oz. International printed matter rate (eff. 4/1/32-10/31/53)

While the penalty indicium was sufficient for domestic delivery of this card, the UPU required indication of the amount of postage paid (e.g. via stamps, meter, etc.)

*Len Piszkievich*



## COLLECTION "SNAPSHOTS".....

### SPLICES, REPAIRS AND REJECTION MARKINGS

#### PERFORATING THROUGH WEB SPLICES AND REPAIRS

In this era, web printing required splicing of rolls while printing was in progress, in order to avoid the need to rethread each new roll. The end of the on-press roll was over-lapped onto the end of the new roll. They were joined front and back with tape.

Subsequent printing and perforating was on and through the doubled paper and splice. Splices were excised at the sheeting out stage and destroyed.

The 3 cent shows a grease pencil "red line" intended to alert the quality control inspectors.

The 2 cent strip is from very late in Presidential production. It is an experimental use of red plastic tape on top of a cellophane tape splice to indicate the area of destruction; and the only reported example from this period.



USA - 1938 issue

Note the holes punched and depressed, but not removed, due to the additional thickness of the tape.



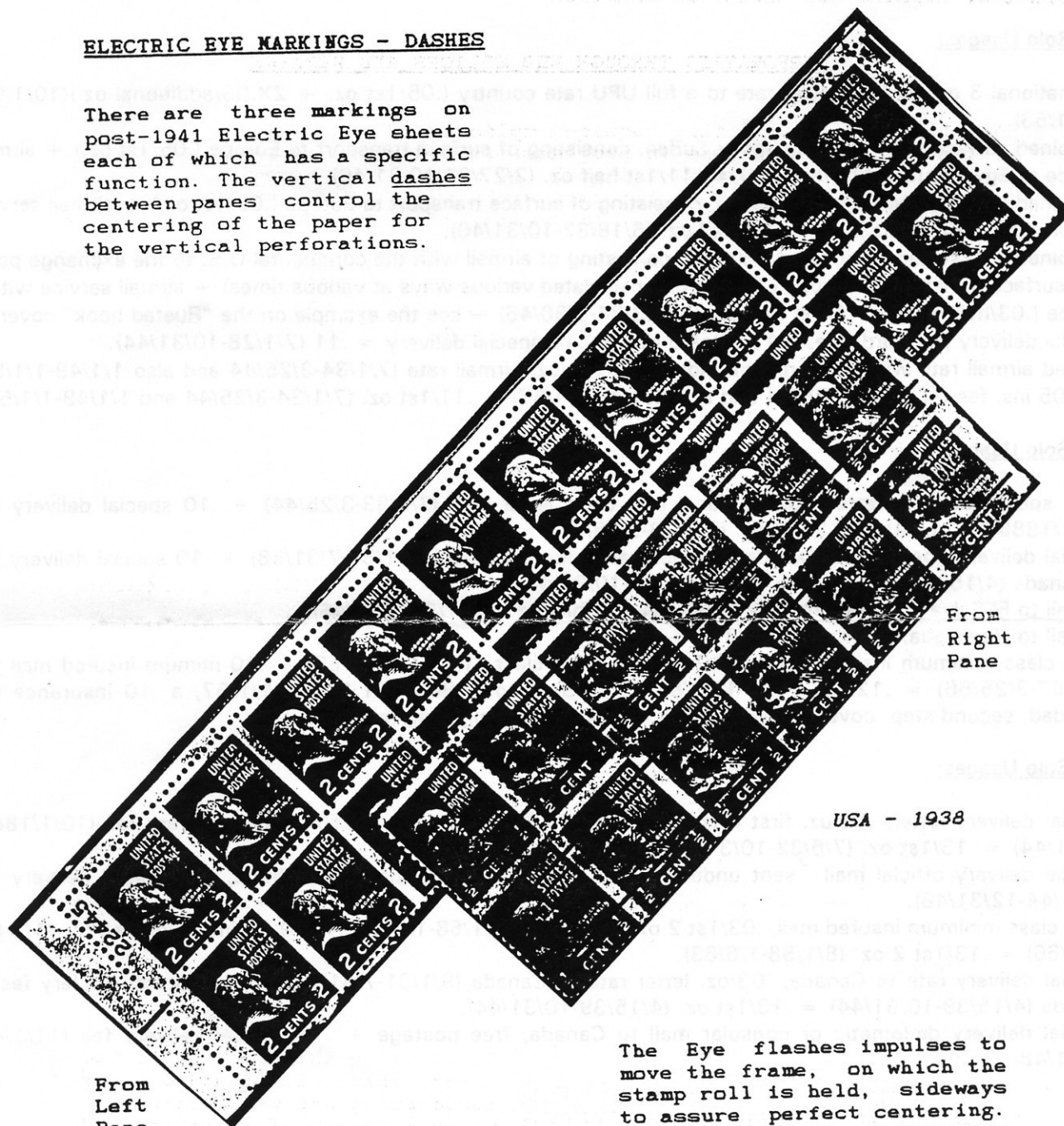
USA - 1938

The tear on this pane is at the lower right. It occurred after perforating and was repaired using a Bureau of Engraving and Printing seal, which is visible behind the perforations.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.....**ELECTRIC EYE PRODUCTION****ELECTRIC EYE MARKINGS - DASHES**

There are three markings on post-1941 Electric Eye sheets each of which has a specific function. The vertical dashes between panes control the centering of the paper for the vertical perforations.



The Eye flashes impulses to move the frame, on which the stamp roll is held, sideways to assure perfect centering. Setting the rows of pins was done from the center outward at low speeds at the start of a new run. The pieces shown here went through before the wheels were properly in place.

(J. Hotchner collection)

**PREXIE SOLO USAGES APPLICABLE TO THE 1938-58 PERIOD**  
(excluding simple multiple weight usages and 4th class zone uses)

**11-cent Solo Usages:**

- International 3 oz. surface letter rate to a full UPU rate country (.05/1st oz. + 2X.03/additional oz.)(10/1/07-10/31/53).
- Combined surface + air rate to Egypt or Sudan, consisting of surface transport to Europe (.05/1st oz.) + airmail service to Egypt/Sudan (.06/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (2/27/31-10/31/40).
- Combined surface + air rate to Palestine, consisting of surface transport to Europe (.05/1st oz.) + airmail service to Palestine (.06/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (6/18/32-10/31/40).
- Combined air + surface + air rate to Europe, consisting of airmail with the continental U.S. to the exchange point with surface transport to Europe (.08/1st oz., calculated various ways at various times) + airmail service within Europe (.03/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (11/23/34-9/30/46) — see the example on the "Rustad book" cover.
- Special delivery postcard rate, .01 postcard rate + .10 special delivery = .11 (7/1/28-10/31/44).
- Insured airmail rate with \$5 minimum indemnity, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44 and also 1/1/49-1/1/57) and .05 ins. fee (4/15/25-3/25/44 and also 1/1/49-1/1/57) = .11/1st oz. (7/1/34-3/25/44 and 1/1/49-1/1/57).

**12-cent Solo Usages:**

- Local special delivery letter, .02/oz. local first class letter rate (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .12/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- Special delivery postcard to Canada, .02 postcard rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee to Canada (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .12 (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- Airmail to El Salvador, Guatemala & Honduras, .12/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail to Nicaragua, .12/half oz. (6/21/38-3/31/45).
- Third class minimum insured mail, .02/1st 2 oz. third class (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .10 minimum insured mail fee (1/2/57-3/25/66) = .12/1st 2 oz. (1/2/57-7/31/58). Note: Between 1/1/49-1/1/57, a .10 insurance fee provided second step coverage to \$10, but it was not the minimum fee.

**13-cent Solo Usages:**

- Special delivery letter, .03/oz. first class letter rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .13/1st oz. (7/6/32-10/31/44).
- Special delivery official mail sent under penalty cover or Congressional free frank, .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Third class minimum insured mail, .03/1st 2 oz. third class (8/1/58-1/6/63) + .10 minimum insured fee (1/2/57-3/25/66) = .13/1st 2 oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63).
- Special delivery rate to Canada, .03/oz. letter rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee to Canada (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .13/1st oz. (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- Special delivery diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free postage + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48).

**14-cent Solo Usages:**

- International parcel post, basic rate to any UPU country for which additional terminal charges did not apply, .14/lb. (6/15/25-10/31/53).
- Special delivery post card, .01 postcard rate (7/1/28-12/31/51) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .14 (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Surface letter to Australia, with airmail service only in Australia, .05/1st oz. (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .09/half oz. surcharge for airmail within Australia (7/6/31-5/22/39) = .14/half oz. (7/6/31-5/22/39).
- Int'l 4 oz. surface letter rate to a full UPU rate country (.05/1st oz. + 3X.03/additional oz.)(10/1/07-10/31/53).

**15-cent Solo Usages:**

- Airmail rate to Europe, North Africa, Turkey & the USSR, .15/half oz. (11/1/46-4/30/67, USSR only to 6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to/from Hawaii, .15/half oz. (1/15/45-9/30/46).
- Airmail rate to/from the Canal Zone, .15/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail rate to Panama, Costa Rica, Leeward Is., Trinidad & Tobago, Windward Is., .15/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail rate to Colombia, .15/half oz. (12/8/45-10/31/46).
- Airmail rate to Ecuador, British Guiana, French Guiana, Dutch Guiana (Suriname), Peru, Venezuela, .15/half oz. (4/1/45-10/31/46).
- Airmail rate to Newfoundland, direct service, .15/half oz. (5/1/42-10/31/46).
- Small packet surface rate to any UPU country, .15 minimum charge (7/1/40-10/31/53). This .15 rate applied up to 10 oz. and was only advantageous on articles sent to countries which imposed terminal charges on international parcel post, for which the basic rate was .14/lb.
- .15 Special delivery rate for official mail sent under penalty cover or Congressional free frank (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- .15 Special delivery rate for diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free of postage (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- Registered official mail sent under penalty cover outside of Washington, DC, .15 minimum registry fee, (4/15/25-3/25/44).
- Minimum COD service, collection & indemnity  $\leq \$5.00$  (7/1/32-3/25/44) + .03/ oz. 1st class postage (7/6/32-7/31/58) = .15/oz. (7/6/32-3/25/44).

Additions and corrections to this ongoing solo usages list are encouraged as usual. Please begin submitting solo rates and examples for the .16 - .20 Prexie values.

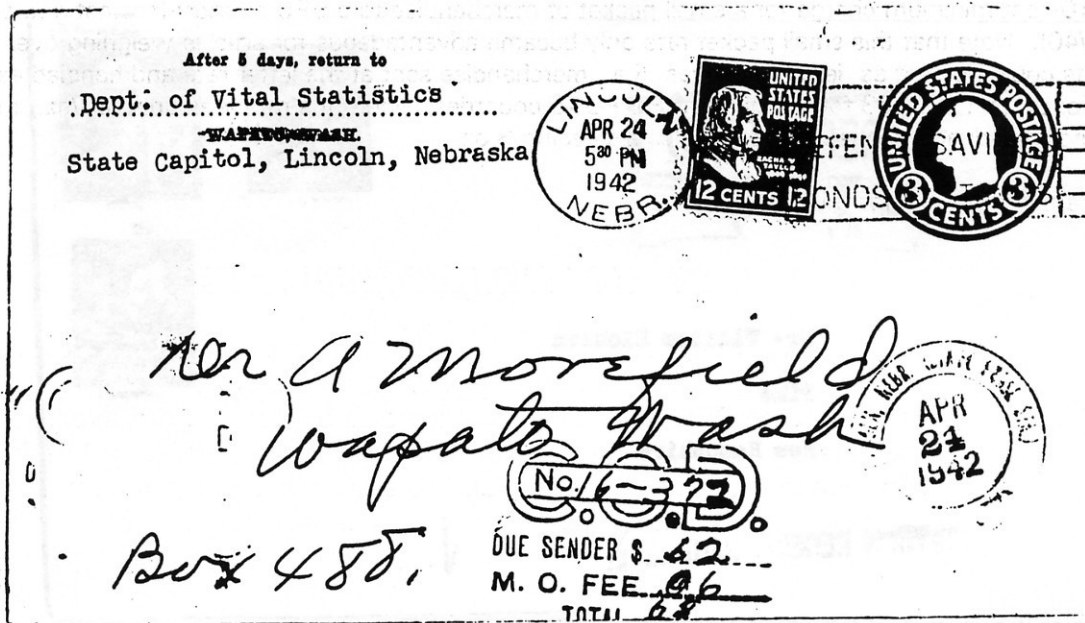
**ADDITIONS TO EARLIER .01-.10 RATES:**

- (.01 USE)...Printed matter for the blind, contents printed in raised characters such as Braille, surface rate to any UPU country, .01/kg., up to 7 kg limit (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- (.02 USE)...Merchandise packet to a PUAS country, .02/2oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)
- (.03 USE)...Merchandise packet to a PUAS country, .03/1st. 2oz. (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- (.03 USE)...Samples or patterns of merchandise, without salable value, to any UPU country, .03 minimum charge (4/1/32-7/31/58, minimum charge allowed for up to 4 oz. prior to 11/1/53, then up to 2 oz.)
- (.04 USE)...Samples or patterns of merchandise, without salable value, to any UPU country, .04/1st 2 oz.(8/1/58-6/30/61).
- (.05 USE)...Commercial papers, surface rate to any UPU country, .05 minimum charge (7/1/75-10/31/53, minimum charge allowed for up to 10 oz. prior to 4/1/32, then up to 6 oz.)
- (.06 USE)...Airmail letter to Canada or Mexico, .06/oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58)
- (.10 USE)...Commercial papers, surface rate to any UPU country, .10 minimum charge (11/1/53-6/30/61, up to 8 oz.).
- (.10 USE)...Small packet surface rate to any UPU country, .10 minimum charge (7/1/30-6/30/40, up to 6 oz.)
- (.10 USE)...Special delivery official (penalty cover or Congressional free frank) mail, .10 special delivery fee (10/1/85-10/31/44).
- (.10 USE)...Special delivery diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free of postage, .10 special delivery fee (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- (.10 USE)...Airmail rate to Cuba: add the 8/1/54-6/30/61 period also to the previous 12/1/32-6/28/45 period.
- (.10 USE)...Airmail rate to Mexico, .10/half oz. (12/1/32-6/10/45).



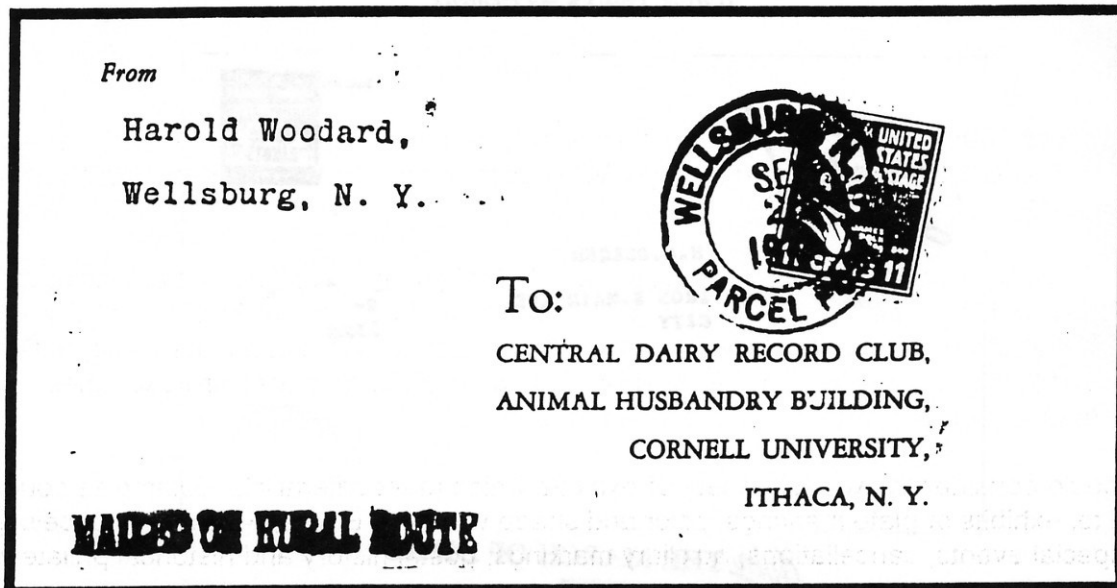
INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES.....

First Class + C.O.D.



The 12-cent Prexie pays the C.O.D. service fee for collection of \$5.00, or less (in this case, \$.68) + a .03 entire for the 1st class postage. This .15 rate was effective: 7/6/32-3/25/44. (L. Piskiewicz collection)

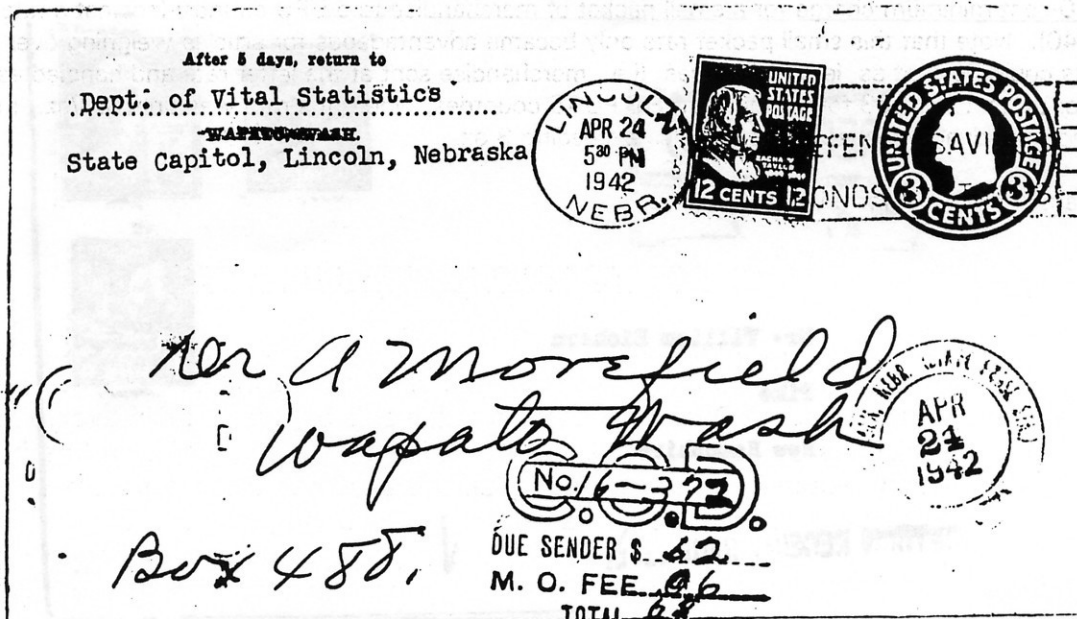
A Fractional 4th Class Rate



Section 571.3 of the 1940 PL&R provided that 4th class mail, not for local delivery, and mailed on a Rural Route, would be charged the regular postage less 3-cents. The analysis here is of a 6 lb. mailing, therefore .08 (1st lb.) + .011 (ea. additional lb.) x 5, less .03 = .105, which is rounded to 11-cents. (S. Roth collection)

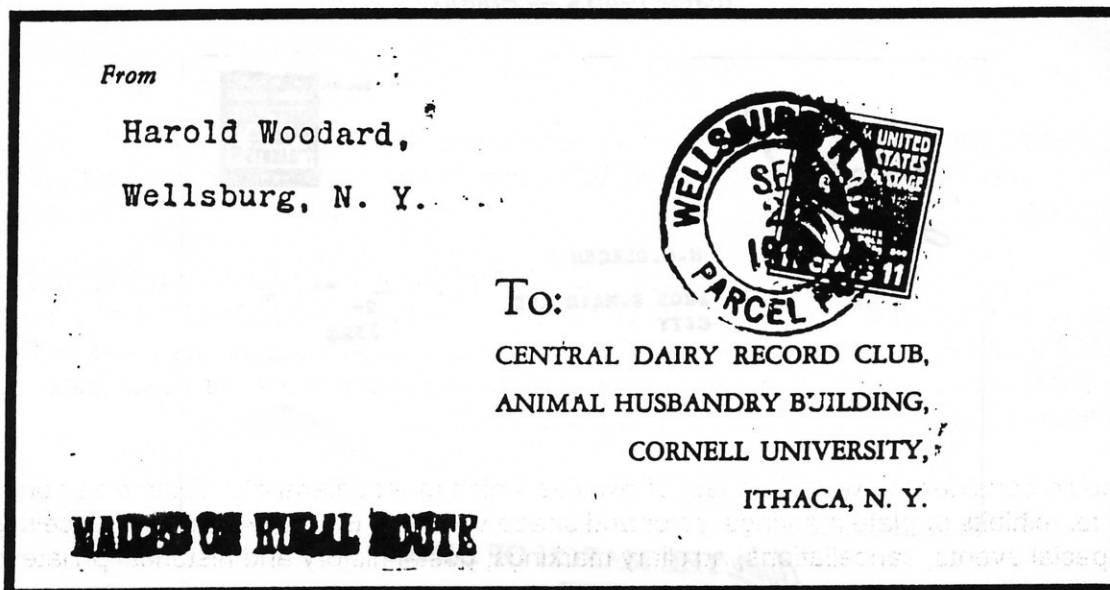
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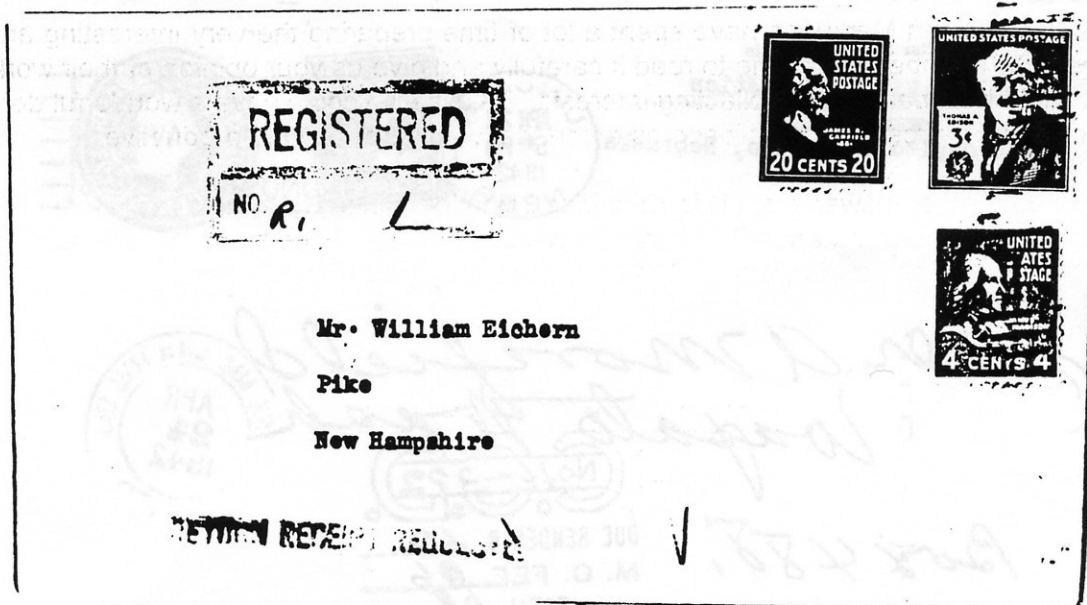
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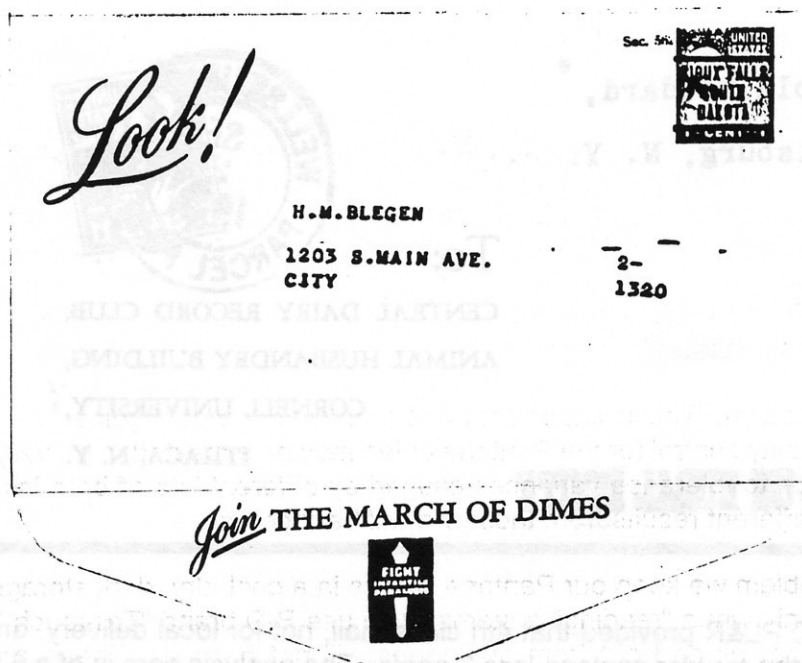
**INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES (CONTINUED).....**

A Registered Rural Route Cover (Orford, NH — July 1, 1947)



The rural carrier picked up this cover, registered it and delivered it the same day on Route #1. The mute killer "1" used on the stamps appears to be part of the duplex (used on this cover's back) from Orford, NH. Since the only backstamps are from Orford at 9 AM, this cover was delivered from the same P.O. The R1 numbering system runs from 1 to 99 and then recycles. (R. Treaster collection)

Bulk Mailing Rate Paid with a Precancel  
(circa 1940's — Editor)



Ken Lawrence wonders if there is any affection for Prexie bulk rate cover collecting according to city, organization or ????. Is any PSC member specializing in such mailings from Look Magazine, for instance?



### Editorial Introduction to the Prexie Shade Study-

Larry Secchiaroli and John Markunas have spent a lot of time preparing the very interesting article which follows. I hope PSC members take time to read it carefully and give us your opinion of their work and how their research might best benefit our collecting interests. I realize we could have a wonderful debate about color definitions, light sources, etc., but it seems to me that would not be very productive.

What is more important to answer are: (1) is color discrimination important to us as collectors of Prexies?, and (2) if so, can we somehow standardize how we speak about Prexie colors to be able to communicate with each other? Larry, John and I would like to hear from you.

### A STUDY OF PREXIE SHADES

by

Lawrence Secchiaroli &  
John Markunas

The purpose of this study is to provide a technique in which fellow collectors might be able to identify their own holdings with those shades identified in Rustad's book, "THE PREXIES". It is hoped that through our work we might help ourselves and fellow collectors in communicating what a particular Rustad shade looks like, identify our Prexies by shade and spark greater interest in the study of this subject. There is also hope that through "THE PREXIES" newsletter, an open forum may take place where others' study results and observations may be published and conclusions made. We are not experts. We are just collectors who have a deep interest in the various color shades listed in Rustad's book.

Color shades have always seemed to be a problem in philately. Collectors and dealers alike have always been confused when looking at a particular stamp, looking at the catalog color/shade listings and then wondering what those color/shade names mean. What do they look like? Most importantly, which one is my copy?

One problem is the lack of a good color gauge. Although not perfect, we have found one guide which we are able to work with. It is called the "Pantone Process Color System Guide". It may be found in an art and printing supply store or by mail from: MacWarehouse; P.O. Box 3013; 1720 Oak Street; Lakewood, NJ 08701-3013. Its product number is DTP 0069 and costs \$59.00, plus shipping and handling.

This guide contains 3000 chips showing mixtures of cyan (C), magenta (M), yellow (Y), and black (K) in chromatic order for easy selection of general shades.

We are using the 1995 edition. This is important to note as even the best guides will fade with aging. In addition, although the quality control for the Pantone guide may be expected to be very good, each edition will vary from another due to tolerance variances caused by different lots of both ink and paper. These variances can produce different results from those we will be reporting.

To combat the aging problem we keep our Pantone guides in a cool, dry, dark storage cabinet. When in use we subject to light only when "reading" a stamp. We use B-D brand "Tru-touch Vinyl Gloves" when handling the guide so that oil and dirt from our hands will not harm it. These are the same gloves healthcare practitioners use and may be found in most pharmacies. A box of 50 may be purchased for about \$6.00

When examining a stamp for color with the use of a guide it is important that your eyes do not pick up any background "static". The stamp should be laid onto a white surface. For this purpose we use a white paperboard...the same as those used by the Philatelic Foundation for stiffness, when shipping stamps and certificates. It is of a good size (~6" x 9") and adds support when moving a stamp closer to a good light source for examination.

As for the light source, we are using a G.E. brand clear incandescent light bulb. Experiments using a white-frosted bulb confirm the results will be different, so only use a clear bulb. Different brands or even different lots of the same manufacturer may or may not result in different sets of data, but that would be a study in itself. Just keep this possibility in mind. To maintain the best chance of obtaining uniform and repeatable results, the luminous environment should be kept as uniform as possible, therefore it is important to use the light source recommended above.

More important than the bulb's brightness or intensity is the light illumination...the density of light on a surface. The closer the light source is to the working surface the greater the illumination. This may accelerate the fading of the Pantone guide, along with your stamps, and will tend to wash out the color's appearance. If the intensity is too low, although environmentally better for both the guide and stamp, it will make colors darker and grayer. Both extremes will result in improper readings, eye strain, and fatigue.

We have found that with the use of the 60 watt bulb mentioned above, we can place the stamp and guide about 21 inches away. This seems to allow for consistent readings time after time, without the eye strain and fatigue. It also allows us to spread out so that we have room to work.

For those who still insist on using a bulb of a different wattage, or intensity, the table below will be helpful in defining the distance from the bulb in order to maintain uniformly illuminated environments. These results are developed from the following equation:

$$\text{Constant illumination} = \text{Intensity/Distance}^2 = 60 \text{ w./}21^2$$

Wattage	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	75	100	125	150
Distance	10	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	23	27	30	33 (in inches)

Another tool we are going to use is a blank unlined white index card. We shall explain its use shortly.

The best way to begin is to assemble a collection of as many shades of each denomination possible. This is quite easy to do as collectors will find that most dealers' stock is rich with shades of each. Except for Scott #830 Blue and Deep Blue, #834 shades and the rare #834a Red Brown and Black, all the other shades are quite affordable. A very interesting collection may be formed without great expense in a short time. Such a collection will help in narrowing down the selection of candidate chips very quickly without great expense in energy and eye strain.

Before trying to use it, study the Pantone Guide and become familiar with it. Experiment with it using the technique we will describe shortly. The analysis of Scott #803 1/2 cent denomination in this paper and the denominations in future papers will provide a better picture of how the guide is structured.

Now for the technique.

Set up the work surface so that you can work comfortably. Set the lamp at the proper distance assuring that reflected glare will not be a problem. Lay all the different copies of a single denomination on white paperboard in a fashion so that they follow either a logical color order or a best guess Rustad shade order.

Examining one stamp at a time, thumb through the Pantone Guide and select several chips that best match that stamp's shade. Don't fear if you find 3, or 4, or more matching color chips. Write down those Pantone chip numbers.

The more shades you have, the more you will be able to quickly select fewer chips. Cross-reference the stamps and chips. As you become more familiar with the Pantone Guide and practice your technique, your pace will increase.

Once the stamps have been checked and candidate chips are selected, a detailed examination is in order. Place the first stamp alone onto the white paperboard. It should be placed upside down in order to remove any "pattern" your eyes may otherwise see. This "pattern" may contribute to false readings from the Pantone Guide.

Place one of the candidate chips onto the edge of the darkest area of the stamp's design. We shall define these areas of each denomination as we present our study. For Scott #803 1/2 cent denomination, the darkest area would be the dark hair lines at the back of Franklin's head.

Place the blank index card over the chip until only a sliver of the chip is visible which will be adjacent to the stamp.

Check each candidate chip against the stamp using the same technique until the best match is made. The best match will result in the edge of the chip "disappearing" into dark area of the stamp. Write this Pantone chip number down along with the component mixtures of the cyan, magenta, yellow, and black.

Using this method, the following results come up for Scott #803, the 1/2 cent Franklin:

Rustad Shade	Pantone #	C	M	Y	K
Orange	S36/49-1	0	~65	100	0
Bright Orange (reddish)	S49-1	0	70	100	0
	S49-1/2	0	~65	~90	0
	S49-2	0	60	80	0
	S49-3	0	50	70	0
Dull Orange	S49/50-1	0	70	100	~5

Explaining the results, the orange shade is not quite as yellow as S36-1 and not as red as S49-1 with "M" (magenta) units of 60 and 70 respectively. Thus the Pantone number notation "S36/49-1" and estimated "M" of "~65".

The same occurred with the Bright Orange (reddish) with the "S49-1/2" notation. It was in between S49-1 and S49-2 with M/Y (yellow) units of 70/100 and 60/80 respectively. So again the M/Y estimates of 65/90.

Again, the same estimate occurred with the Dull Orange. It was duller than the S49-1 chip, but not as dull and dark as the S50-1 chip. The only difference between each chip is the K (black) component, i.e. 0 and 10 units respectively. Again, it was estimate about half way...K ~5.



Analyzing the data further in attempting to establish some rules in identifying what shades collectors may own, we have:

Rustad Shade	M:Y Ratio	K
Orange	1:1.54	0
Bright Orange (reddish)	1:1.33-1:1.44	0
Dull Orange	1:1.44	5

The Orange shade has the lowest magenta to yellow ratio. The Bright Orange (reddish), as its "reddish" description implies, has a higher ratio and varies a bit. The Dull Orange almost qualifies as a Bright Orange except it contains some black.

As Rustad wrote, "The color varied little...", and, "The shade exhibited a very slight reddish tint in some cases." He stated further that, "these variances occurred with most printings (so plate numbers won't help here) and are mainly dependent upon the quantity of ink deposited on the paper."

The readings all centered upon the S49 Pantone chips with 50 to 70 units of magenta, or red. Although the M:Y ratio is attributable to ink mixing, the resulting measured units of each may be dependant upon the amount of ink applied to the paper. The results agree with Rustad's comments.

Outside of helping collectors to identify their holdings, the data also shows that apparent shade differences may be due to minor variations in component ink mixing and amount of ink deposited onto the plates and transferred to the paper.

It is hoped that other collectors may become interested in the subject of shades of this series, do their own study, and share their experiences and results.

One final comment is that even after carefully following the instructions and techniques of the article, some do not get the exact same readings. Just remember, there are variations from one person's eyes to another. Do not become frustrated. Practice your technique, record your results and file them away, then go back and record new results a week or two later. When your old results and new results agree, your technique is working. Either way, the analyzed results should be close to ours.

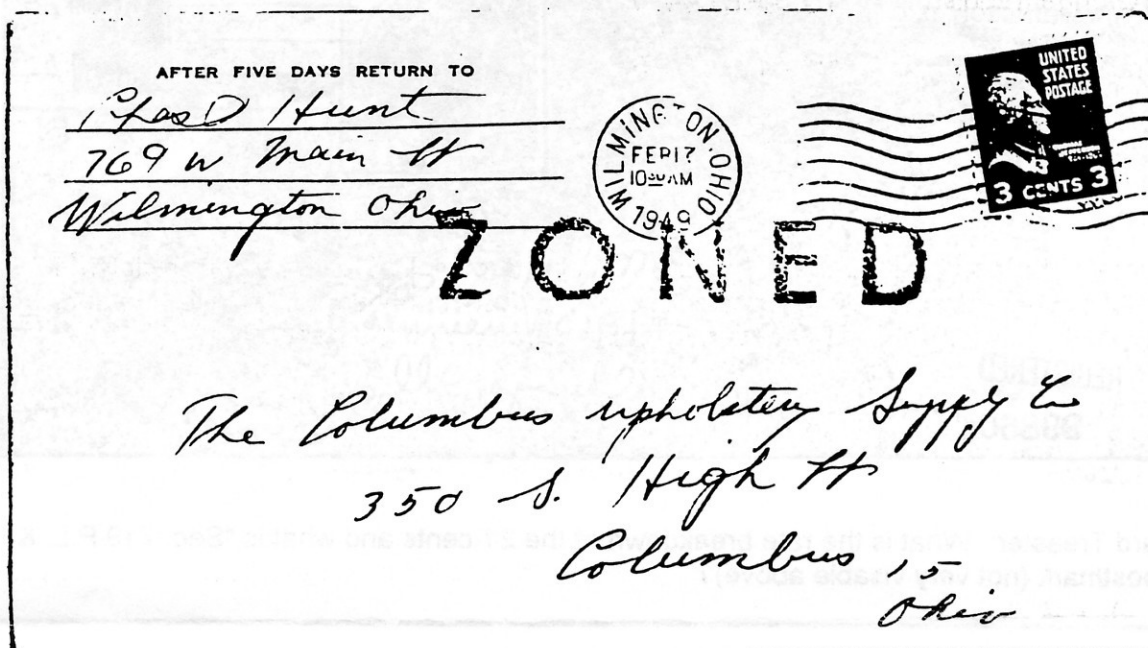
Next we hope to report results on Scott #804 — the 1-cent Washington Prexie.

READING  
LOCATION



**AN INTERESTING AUXILIARY MARKING (From Roland Austin).....**

The Postal Zone system began operation on May 1, 1943, in 124 larger post offices. By June 30, 1944, the Post Office reported that at least 40% of mail bore zone numbers. Mail that was "zoned" was separated from other mail and bundled and marked as such. The cover below was apparently the top cover of its bundle and thus received the black "ZONED" auxiliary mark in half-inch letters. A retired postal worker once told me the letters were large enough to recognize quickly without having workers slow down to read it.

**PREXIES ON DISPLAY.....**Since our last newsletter.....

Our Chairman, Steve Suffet, was awarded a gold medal and the APS Post-1940 Medal of Excellence for his exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates and Usages, 1938-58" at STAMPSHOW in St. Louis last year. He followed that up with a gold medal and APS Research Medal at the Fall - 1995 Mega Event in NYC. Nice work, Steve — keep spreading the "gospel"!

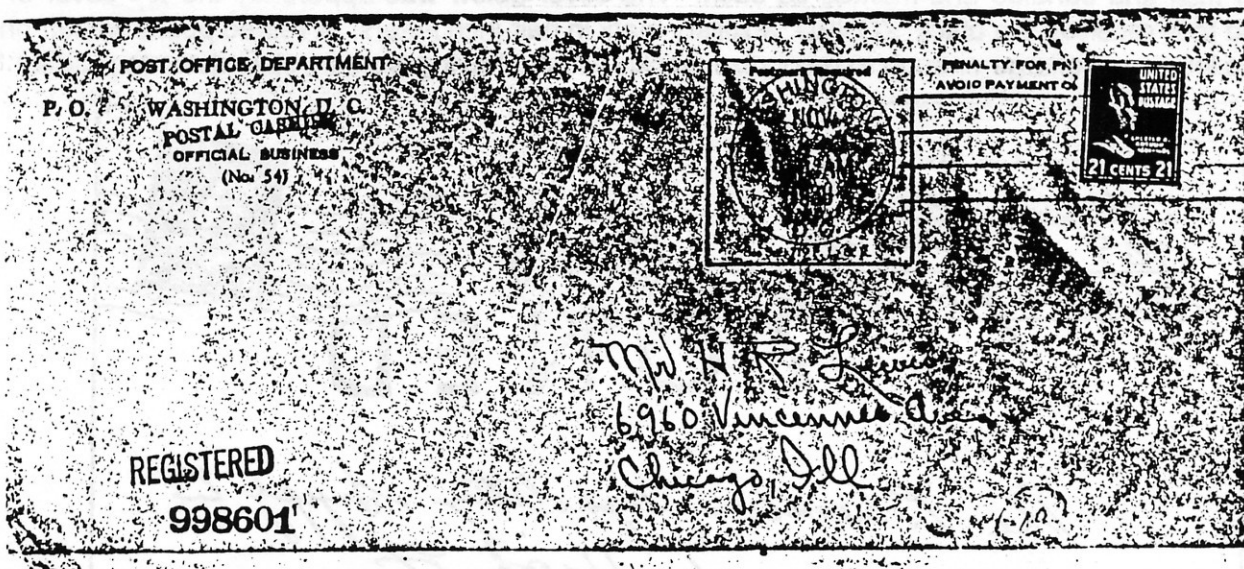
The Editor would appreciate hearing of any other Prexie Era exhibits on display.

**OUR GROWING LIST OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES.....**

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Steve Suffet	sls55@columbia.edu (until June?)
Don Tocher	dontocher@aol.com
Dan Undersander	djunders@facstaff.wisc.edu

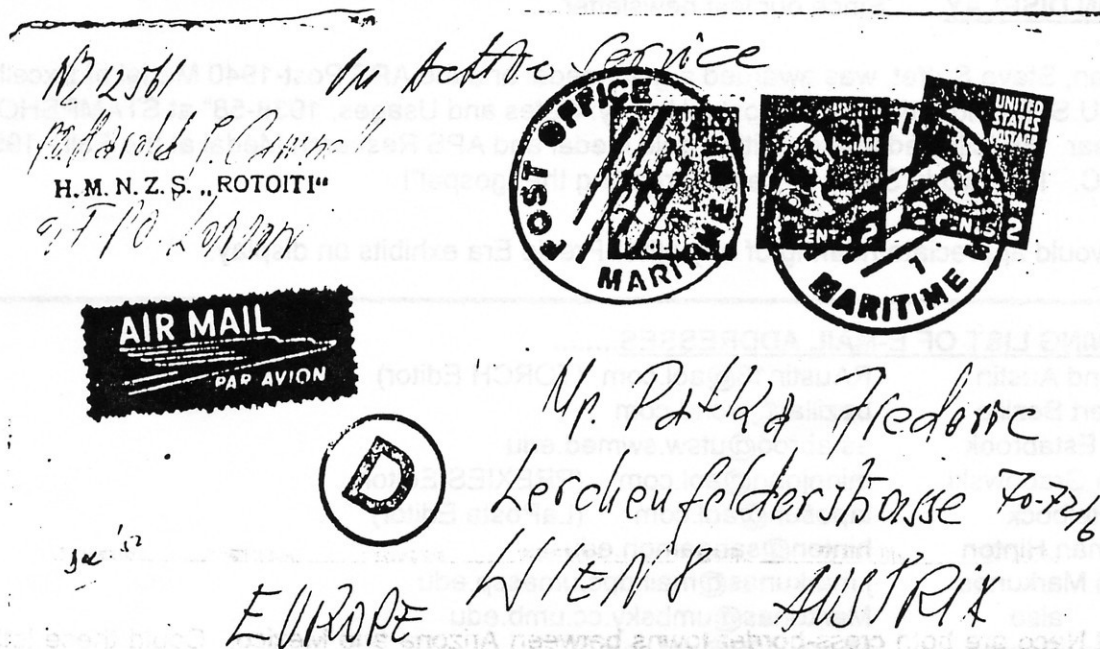
**REQUESTS FOR HELP .....**

(1) Penalty Cover, "Postal Cashier, Washington, D.C." (FDC for the 21-cent stamp)



From Richard Treaster: What is the rate breakdown of the 21-cents and what is "Sec. 719 P.L. & R." under the postmark (not very visible above)?

(2) Air mail cover addressed to Vienna with 5-cents worth of Prexies, return address: "FPO London"



From Akihiro Asano: This cover is undated, but I suspect "On Active Service" refers to the Korean War. Why were Prexies accepted for postage — the cancel does not appear to be of U.S. origin. What is the circular "D" marking?



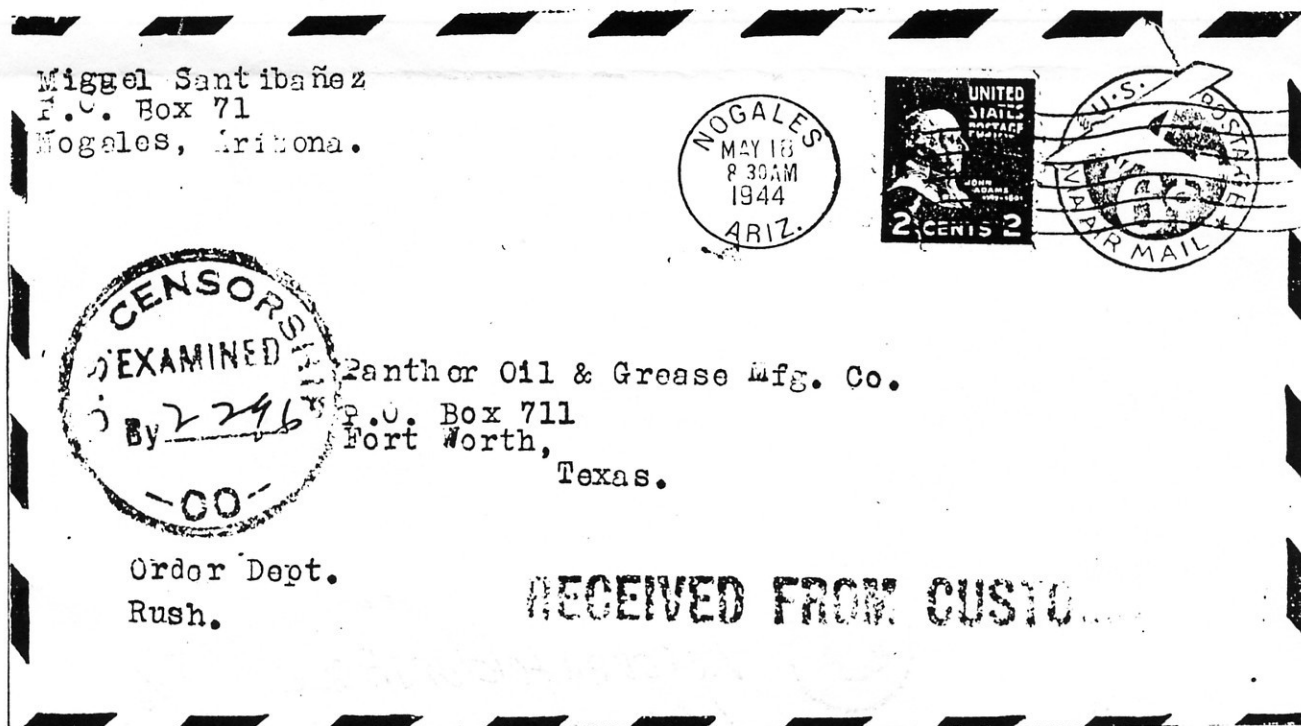
**REQUESTS FOR HELP (CONT.).....****Prexie Bureau Precancels**

Does anyone know of a city/town list of Bureau precancels by denomination. For example, Scott's Specialized Catalog lists 199 Bureau precancels on the 1/2-cent Prexie. Is there any easy place to locate these. If not, is there any interest in starting our own census within this newsletter?

Are there any production numbers or relative scarcity values available for Bureau precancels?

**"RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS" followup from last issue.....**

Jim Felton sends along a similar cover from Nogales, AZ to that on page 12 of our previous newsletter from Naco, AZ. Both have the "RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS" and U.S. Censorship markings.



Nogales and Naco are both cross-border towns between Arizona and Mexico. Could these letters have been dropped in the Mexican mail system and then handed over to the U.S. postal system for post marking and processing?

**FOR SALE-TRADE-WANTED.....**

Wanted — \$2 & \$5 Prexies used on covers; full 2-cent booklet pane on cover. No FDC's please. S. Sablak, 39 Carr Street, Wallingford, CT. 06492

Wanted — \$1 and higher Prexies, commercially used on cover. What can you offer? Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton NJ 07011

For sale — Prexie covers, individually priced. Write for information: Don Tocher, Box 16, Shrewsbury, MA 01545; e-mail: dontocher@aol.com

For sale — Prexie FDC (blocks of 4 and singles) covers, 1/2 to 5.00, loor cachets. Write for information or make offer: Jim Wiesner, 19322 E. Purdue Circle; Aurora, CO 80013; telephone: 303-699 1100.

PSC Donation Item (for sale) — 1950 (small) cover from Denver to Calif, forwarded, min. registry (.25)

+ return receipt (.05) + a/m (.06) paid with 15-cent Prexie pair + a/m stamp. Clean. First \$2. takes it!

Wanted — Examples of low-budget Prexie collecting to share with other PSC members. Write to the Editor with a description of your collection, your needs or your questions.

Wanted — Precancelled Prexie coils/strips. What can you offer? Graham Babb, 2438 Okeson Circle, Holladay UT 84117-4507.

PSC Donation Item (for sale) — On cover: 6 Prexie coils showing partial plate nos; 9 booklet stamps with partial plate nos. \$1 each or all for \$10.

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

The .16-.20 solo usages .....more fabulous examples.....a report on PREXIEPEX VII .....more "members to meet".....low-budget collecting .....and more!

Steven M. Roth  
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