



THE PREXIES

The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee



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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

This is one of those good news/bad news reports. Fortunately the good far outweighs the bad, which I will dispose of first.

At its meeting at ROPEX '96 in Rochester (NY) this past April, the BIA Board of Governors voted to terminate all financial subsidies for committee newsletters, including "THE PREXIES." This decision had absolutely nothing to do with the quality of the product, for which there was only praise. Instead, it had to do primarily with matters of fiscal accountability within the BIA. In addition, there was some concern that much of the material appearing in committee newsletters should rightfully appear in the United States Specialist.

The Board was sharply divided over the question of cutting off the subsidies, so there is a chance its decision will be reversed at a future meeting. But even if the Board's decision stands, "THE PREXIES" newsletter can and will survive, although it will probably mean that issues will appear with less frequency. It will certainly mean distributing fewer free copies than we have in the past. Non-contributors who have managed to remain on our mailing list may wish to take note!

The good news: Prexie and Prexie-era exhibits did exceptionally well at ROPEX — the site of this year's BIA annual convention. Leonard Piszkiwicz's "Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938" racked up another national level gold award, as did G.H. Davis's "U.S. Air Mail Transport Series." In addition, Davis's exhibit became the first non-Prexie showing to win our committee's Roland Rustad Memorial Award. The rules were amended in 1995 to allow any Prexie-era U.S. exhibit to be eligible. The actual award was a signed print of an original painting by our late committee chairman. It was graciously donated

by Rollie's widow, Mrs. Patricia Rustad. (For additional awards reports, see page 2 — Ed.)

Looking for a \$1 Wilson watermarked "USIR" (Scott #832b)? Florida stamp dealer Alfred "Tag" Boerger has a healthy supply of used copies he sells at prices ranging in price from \$50 for an average copy to \$75 for one in XF condition. Boerger's address is Box 23822, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307. If you write for details, he'd appreciate a #10 SASE.

Steve Suffet

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TREASURY CHATTER (IMPORTANT).....

The editor will don his Treasurer's hat this month and appeal for funds to keep this publication going for another 2-3 issues. Each issue costs about \$1.50-\$2.00 to print and mail, depending upon the number of pages. Please contribute whatever you can in the form of checks, cash, stamps or donation items for sale. Our Treasury balance going into this issue #13 is \$228.80 — just enough for this issue to about 110 members.

Thanks, John Grabowski

THE PREXIE ERA ON DISPLAY.....

Since our last newsletter.....

The annual BIA convention at ROPEX brought together an outstanding selection of Prexie-era material. Numerous awards included:

G.H. Davis, "U.S. Air Mail Transport Series", Gold & the Roland Rustad Memorial Award.

Leonard Piskiewicz, "Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938", Gold

Jeff Shapiro, "Collecting Prexie Postal History", Vermeil

Bill DiPaolo, "The Prexie Coils", Silver

Steve Ekstrom, "U.S. Transport Airmail Issue: Rates, Usages and Postal History", Silver

In the Filatellic Fiesta Show, held in San Jose, also in March:

Joseph Bock, "From War to Peace: Usages of the United States' Transport Air Mail Series", Gold, APS post-1940 medal & American Air Mail Society medal.

Two Prexie exhibits won international large vermeil awards at CAPEX '96, the world philatelic exhibition held in Toronto this past June:

Walter Cole, "U.S.A. 1938 Definitive Three Cent Stamp."

Steve Suffet, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates and Usages, 1938-1958."

Once again, outstanding "ATTAWAY TO GO" awards to all these members for their hard work and sharing their exhibits with the philatelic community!

The Editor is always very desirous of hearing of any Prexie Era exhibits on display.

MEET THE MEMBERS.....

(Your Ed. has decided to catch up on his "MTM" file, rather than space them out one per issue. Remaining members are cordially invited to write about their collecting interests & background.)

BILL BERGSTROM

I'm a partner and describer at Lowell Newman auctions (*see issue #11, page 1 - Ed.*) and have been collecting and accumulating Prexie covers for the last 6 years, or so. I concentrate mostly on Prexies used on official government or armed forces mail (including POW and soldier's mail) but am always on the look out for interesting looking covers. It's difficult to be both a collector and auctioneer as (1) I see so many pieces I just can't afford, and (2) it's sometimes difficult to play with the collection after a day or week of working with someone else's covers. Still, I get a great deal of enjoyment out of it, especially when I can add a new cover!

NORMAN HINTON

I originally became interested in the Prexies when I was growing up, they were the stamps I saw on letters. I should mention that my story is all too familiar: I collected stamps when I was 10-12, thanks to a P.O. employee in the neighborhood who began a youth stamp club. It sort of wore off after a while, and I did nothing after that until my father died and left me his collection — it didn't take long for me to get hooked again.

I'm afraid my Prexie collection is nothing special so far. My father had the series in plate blocks and some singles. I'm adding postal history materials slowly and in no special manner. I hope to spend a lot more time on the Prexies after I retire (soon). I'm a medievalist and Chairman of English at Sangamon State University in Springfield, IL. I am interested in far too many aspects of philately: postal history, U.S., worldwide (even now, I cannot resist sending for the occasional packet for my Harris Worldwide Master album), new issues of G.B. and the Commonwealth. I keep telling myself to specialize, but I'm having too much fun....

(Meet more members on page 4)....

REQUESTS FOR HELP.....

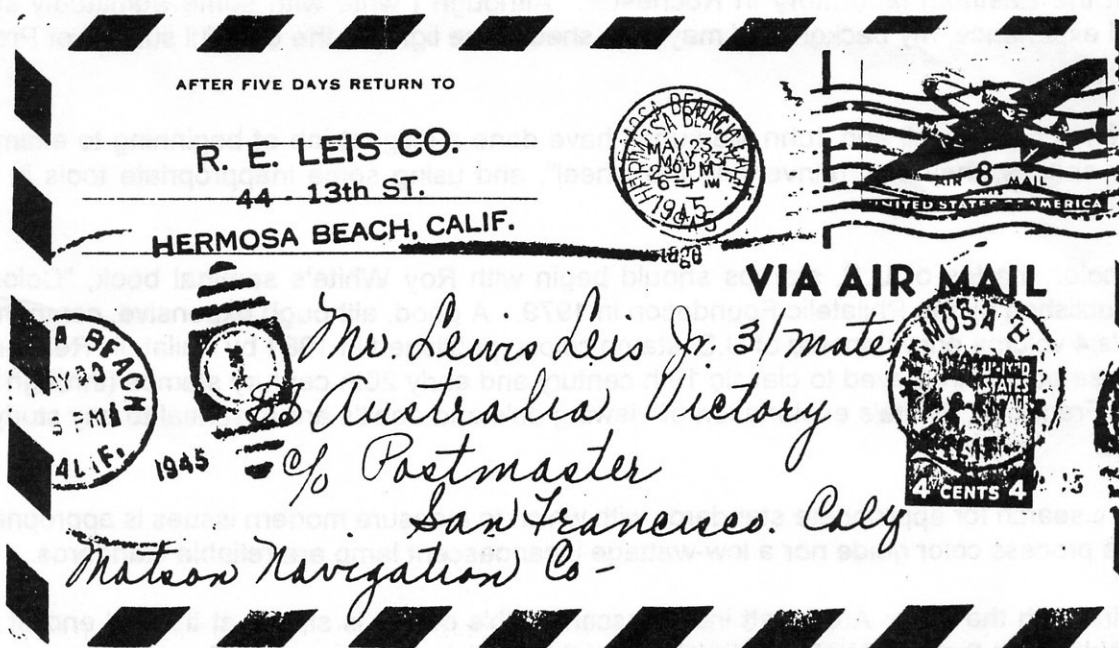
The following item appeared in the April 13, 1996 Herb LaTouchie Auction (2128 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221):



1464 ★ 812 var; top margin 田 of 4, double paper variety, unlisted in Sc. and rare; few gum skips; OG, H, VF Photo 80-100

Does anyone have information relating to the printing of Prexies on double paper?
(P.S. The lot realized \$24!)

"Returned for Additional Postage"



This letter was mailed from Hermosa Beach at 2:30 PM on May 23, 1945 to a 3rd mate on a ship in San Francisco, "% Postmaster". It was returned for a additional 4-cents and re-mailed at 6:00 PM.

Why the additional 4-cents?

(.....one additional help request on page 12.....)

MEET THE MEMBERS (continued from page 2).....**PAUL KATTELMAN**

My Prexie collecting efforts are mainly EFO's and marginal markings. I am attempting to complete the 1/2-cent through 50-cent values with 100% electric eye dashes in all 4 corners as well as all 4 corners with the wide selvege. I collected U.S. stamps when I was a pre-teen, and became re-interested a couple of years ago. I am now 51 years old, and spend my spare time serving as Mayor in the City of Sharonville, Ohio (population, 14,000). My BIA number is 12986.

LARRY LALIBERTE

My Prexie collecting is fairly general with a slight bent towards unusual usages or destinations. These include a post card mailed from Victoria, B.C. to Weston, PA, with only a 1-cent Prexie and 6-cents postage due, an airmail cover with 2 3-cent Prexies mailed at Ancon, C.Z. with a Paquebot marking, a first day of rate (11/1/46) air mail letter to the Falkland Islands, and, of course, those registered letters covered with 1-cent Prexies!

.....another member profiled on page 12.....

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....

(Ken Lawrence responds with thoughtful detail to last issue's article, "A Study of Prexie Shades." Has any other member approached this area of collecting? We'd like to hear about your experiences — Ed.)

Many years ago I was a color quality control technician in the motion picture industry, trained by scientists at the Eastman laboratory in Rochester. Although I write with some admittedly stale professional experience, my background may help shed some light on the colorful subject of Prexie shades.

While Lawrence Secchiaroli and John Markunas have done a diligent job of beginning to examine Prexie color shades, they are "reinventing the wheel", and using some inappropriate tools in the process.

Studies of color shades of U.S. stamps should begin with Roy White's seminal book, "Color in Philately", published by the Philatelic Foundation in 1979. A good, although expensive, companion set is White's 4 volume encyclopedia of U.S. stamp colors, published in 1981 by Philatelic Research. Although these books are keyed to classic 19th century and early 20th century stamps (through the Washington-Franklins), White's explanation of viewing do's and don't's are essential to any study of stamp colors.

After that, the search for appropriate standards with which to measure modern issues is appropriate. But neither a process color guide nor a low-wattage incandescent lamp are reliable standards.

Beginning first with the lamp: A 60-watt incandescent bulb's output is strong at the red end of the spectrum, middling in the center of the visual range, and deficient to the point of uselessness in the blue, at a color temperature below 2900 degrees Kelvin. The standard for viewing color is sunny mid-day daylight, about 5500 to 5800 degrees Kelvin, with good balance across the visible wavelengths. This can be approximated with artificial light in one of two relatively inexpensive ways. First and easiest is to use a daylight-equivalent fluorescent lamp, such as the Vita-Lite. Second is to use a hot incandescent photoflood 3400K lamp with a blue "daylight" filter, blocking enough red

and yellow to yield a balanced 5500K source of reduced intensity. If the low-wattage incandescent lamp is used, it will be relatively easy to see and repeat color shade differences in the reds, oranges, browns, and similar colors, but virtually impossible to differentiate shades of blue, purple, or violet with any confidence, because so little blue light is present. All these higher spectrum colors will appear to be neutral.

Next, in choosing a color reference standard, process color charts are the poorest choice, because they achieve their shade distinctions by fooling the eye with visual blends that are not true colors, actually blends of blends. (These are known as subtractive colors -- cyan equals minus red; yellow equals minus blue; and magenta equals minus green. They require an additional black print because their ability to match true colors is poor, in contrast to the three-color additive blue+green+red projection system, which still is not full color.) Twice before, in other philatelic publications, I have explained that the handiest standard guide for gauging the color of modern U.S. stamps is the Pantone Matching System color chart. PMS colors, as opposed to process colors, are discrete and precise blended shades of ink, called self colors in the graphic arts industry, which do not work by fooling the eye into doing the blending.

Philatelic color guides do exist, published by Michel and Stanley Gibbons. They have the virtue of matching the named colors in their respective catalogs, and they are excellent in their chromaticity (hue) spread, but they do not have the range of luminance values that the comprehensive PMS guides do (while retaining the chromaticity values).

But even assuming that a color student is properly equipped with PMS color charts and daylight-matched, full-spectrum, stable lamps, the problems do not end there. Pantone colors, whether process or PMS, are designed for lithographic printing systems, which deliver a thin layer of translucent ink. Color is achieved by combining the value achieved by reflection from the ink's surface with the value transmitted through the inked image and reflected back through it a second time from the paper underneath. This system does not equate to intaglio printing, as USPS and its printers learned when they switched from proprietary to PMS colors beginning with the 22-cent William Faulkner commemorative stamp of 1987. Intaglio ink, for all practical purposes, is opaque in its line detail (the raised relief image), and thus the color at peak saturation is determined entirely by surface reflection, with no transmission component. However, the poorly wiped portions of the image are similar to offset prints in being thin, translucent layers of ink that transmit as well as reflect light. The combination is dichroic -- that is, the very same inked image will have values of color in the densely inked portions that differ from those in the thinly inked portions in both luminance and chromaticity, not just in luminance -- and will vary considerably from print to print of the same shade ink, depending upon the application.

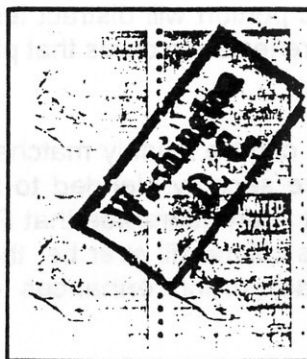
No matter what you do, this problem will not go away. Nor will others that contribute to the dichroic effect, such as toning of the paper. But if the color shade is to be determined from the densest portion of the inked image, the dichroic portion will distract less if the stamp is viewed against a neutral gray card, such as the standard reflectance cards that photographers use to take light meter readings, not a white one.

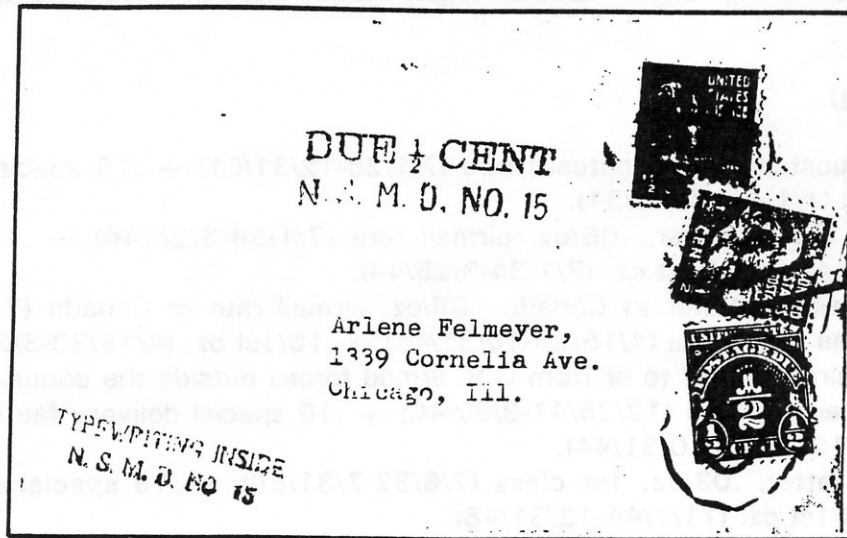
Whether Roland Rustad's color shades can be reliably matched to PMS colors, I don't know. The Prexies were printed in colors that were secretly blended to Bureau specifications, employing a substantially different ink chemistry. But I can guarantee that PMS colors will be many times more reliable as color standards than process colors will ever be, that daylight-equivalent illumination is essential, and that a neutral gray background enhances one's ability to see subtle shade differences.

Ken Lawrence

COLLECTION "SNAPSHOTS".....

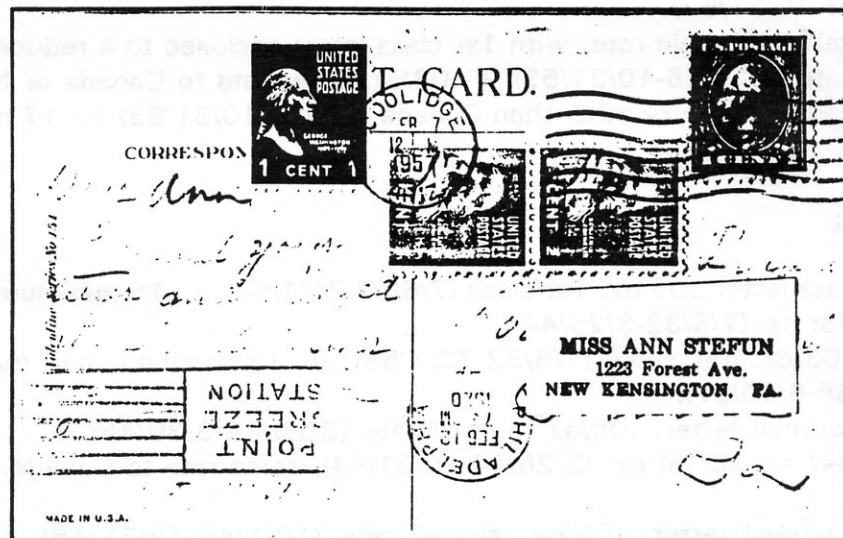
Mr. "1/2-cent" shares some pages of Prexies from his award-winning collection of "THE ONE-HALF CENT":

DEFINITIVE**1938****Cancelled Outside Continental U.S.****Honolulu, Hawaii****San Juan,
Puerto Rico****Agana, Guam****Williamsburg,
Ontario (Canada)****Japanese ship****Forfar, Ontario
(Canada)****Parcel Post Cancels**

"TYPEWRITING INSIDE" — "DUE 1/2 CENT"**"TYPEWRITING INSIDE"**

Mailed 3rd class rate unsealed, typed message inside, raised to 1st class by postal personnel, postage due collected, "change" paper clipped to envelope.

(The owner notes jovially that one exhibit judge suggested the original rusty paper clip might be better replaced with a new shiny paper clip!!)

A "Pack Rat"

Valentine greeting first mailed 2/12/20 from Philadelphia when rate was one cent. Same card re-addressed and mailed again 37 years later on 2/7/57 from Coolidge, Arizona, when rate had become two cents.

(Clyde Jennings collection)

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

16-cent Solo Usages:

- Special delivery postcard, .01 postcard rate (7/1/28-12/31/51) + .15 special delivery fee (1/1/49-12/31/51) = .16 (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- Special delivery airmail letter, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/85-10/31/44) = .16/1st oz. (7/1/34-3/25/44).
- Special delivery airmail letter to Canada, .06/oz. airmail rate to Canada (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .10 special delivery fee to Canada (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .16/1st oz. (4/15/39-3/25/44).
- Special delivery airmail letter to or from U.S. armed forces outside the continental U.S., .06/half oz. wartime military airmail rate (12/25/41-9/30/46) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/85-10/31/44) = .16/1st half oz. (12/25/41-10/31/44).
- Special delivery letter, .03/oz. 1st class (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .16/1st oz. (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Registered local letter at a non-carrier post office, local 1st class non-carrier, .01/oz. (7/1/19-12/31/51) + .15 minimum registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .16/1st oz. (4/15/25-3/25/44).

17-cent Solo Usages:

- Registered local letter at a carrier delivery post office, .02/oz. local 1st class carrier rate (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .15 minimum registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .17/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- International 5 oz. surface letter rate to a full UPU rate country, .05/1st oz. + 4 x .03/add'l oz. = .17/5 oz. (10/1/07-10/31/53).
- International parcel post, basic rate, with 1st class letter enclosed to a reduced rate country, .14/lb. int'l parcel post rate (6/15/25-10/31/53) + .03/oz. letter rate to Canada or Newfoundland (9/1/31-7/31/58) OR to a PUAS country other than Canada (4/1/32-10/31/53) = .17 min. charge (9/1/31 OR 4/1/32 - 10/31/53).

18-cent Solo Usages:

- Registered first class letter, .03/oz. 1st class (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .15 minimum registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .18/1st oz. (7/6/32-3/25/44).
- Certified letter, .03/oz. 1st class (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .15 certified mail fee (6/6/55-6/30/57) = .18/1st oz. (6/6/55-6/30/57).
- Special delivery airmail letter, .08/oz. airmail rate (3/26/44-9/30/46) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/85-10/31/44) = .18/1st oz. (3/26/44-10/31/44); same rate to Canada, but .10 s/d fee began 4/15/39.
- Special delivery airmail letter, .05/oz. airmail rate (10/1/46-12/31/48) + special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48); same rate to Canada.
- Registered letter to a reduced rate foreign country, .03/oz. letter rate to Canada or Newfoundland (9/1/31-7/31/58) OR to a PUAS country other than Canada (4/1/32-10/31/53) + .15 international registry fee (12/1/25-1/31/45) = .18/1st oz. (9/1/31 OR 4/1/32 - 1/31/45).
- Registered official mail with return receipt requested, sent under penalty cover outside of Washington, DC, .15 minimum registry fee + .03 return receipt fee (both fees 4/15/25-3/25/44) = .18.

19-cent Solo Usages:

- Special delivery airmail letter from a member of the U.S. armed forces serving outside the continental U.S., .06/half oz. wartime military airmail rate (12/25/41-9/30/46) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .19/1st half oz. (11/1/44-9/30/46).
- Registered letter with \$50 unindemnified excess value, .03/oz. 1st class (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .15 minimum registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) + .01 surcharge for \$50 unindemnified excess value (7/1/32-3/25/44).
- International parcel post, basic rate, with 1st class letter enclosed, .14/lb. international parcel post to any UPU country for which additional terminal charges did not apply (6/15/25-10/31/53) + .05/1st. oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) = .19 min. charge (6/15/25-10/31/53).
- 2-oz. special delivery letter, 2 x .03/oz. 1st class letter (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .19/1st 2oz. (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Special delivery airmail post card, .04 airmail postcard (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .15 special delivery fee (1/1/49-12/31/51) = .19 rate (1/1/49-12/31/51).

20-cent Solo Usages:

- International 6 oz. surface letter to a full rate UPU country, .05/1st oz. + 5 x .03/oz. = .20/6 oz. (10/1/07-10/31/53).
- Registered letter to a full rate UPU country, .05/1st oz. surface rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .15 international registry fee (12/1/25-1/31/45) = .20/1st oz. (10/1/07-10/31/53).
- Registered local letter with return receipt requested, .02/oz. local 1st class rate at a carrier post office (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .15 min. registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) + .03 return receipt fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .20/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- Airmail to or from Hawaii, .20/half oz. (4/21/37-1/14/45)
- Airmail between Hawaii and Guam, .20/half oz. (4/21/37-9/30/46).
- Small packet surface rate to any UPU country, .20 minimum charge (for up to 10 oz.) (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- Registered local letter, second step indemnity, .02/oz. local 1st class rate at a carrier post office (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .18 registry fee for \$5.01 to \$25.00 indemnity (7/1/32-3/25/44) = .20/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- Registered official mail sent under penalty cover outside of Washington, DC, .20 minimum registry fee (3/26/44-12/31/48).
- Airmail to British Honduras, .20/half oz. (2/4/38-3/31/45).
- Airmail to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay or Uruguay, .20/half oz. (4/1/45-10/31/46).

Additions and corrections to this ongoing solo usages list are encouraged as usual. Please begin submitting solo rates and examples for the .21 to .50 Prexie values.

ADDITIONS TO EARLIER .01-.15 RATES:

- (.14 USE)...Local 1st class COD letter, .02/oz. local 1st class rate at regular carrier post offices (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .12 minimum COD fee for 1st class mail (4/15/25-10/31/44), up to \$10 collection & indemnity prior to 7/1/32, \$5 thereafter = .14/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- (.15 USE)...COD book parcel, .03/lb., 4th class book rate (7/1/42-3/25/44) + .12 minimum COD fee for 3rd or 4th class mail (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .15/1st lb. (7/1/42-3/25/44). A .15 solo usage could have also applied to a 2 lb. COD book prior to 7/1/42 when the 4th class book rate was .015/lb. (11/1/38-6/30/42).

CORRECTIONS TO EARLIER .01-.15 RATES:

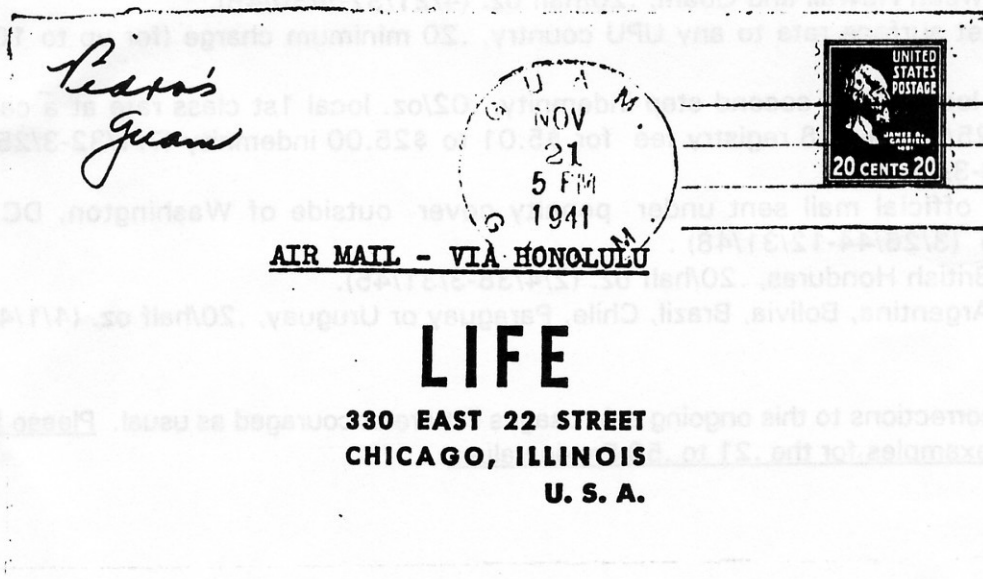
(.15 USE)...Minimum 1st class COD letter, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .12 minimum COD fee for 1st class mail (4/15/25-10/31/44), up to \$5 collection & indemnity = .15/1st oz. (7/6/32-10/31/44).

(.10 USE)...Delete the last sentence of the additions on page 8, issue #12: For PUAS countries, where the rate was only .03/oz., this small packet rate became advantageous only for articles exceeding 3 oz.

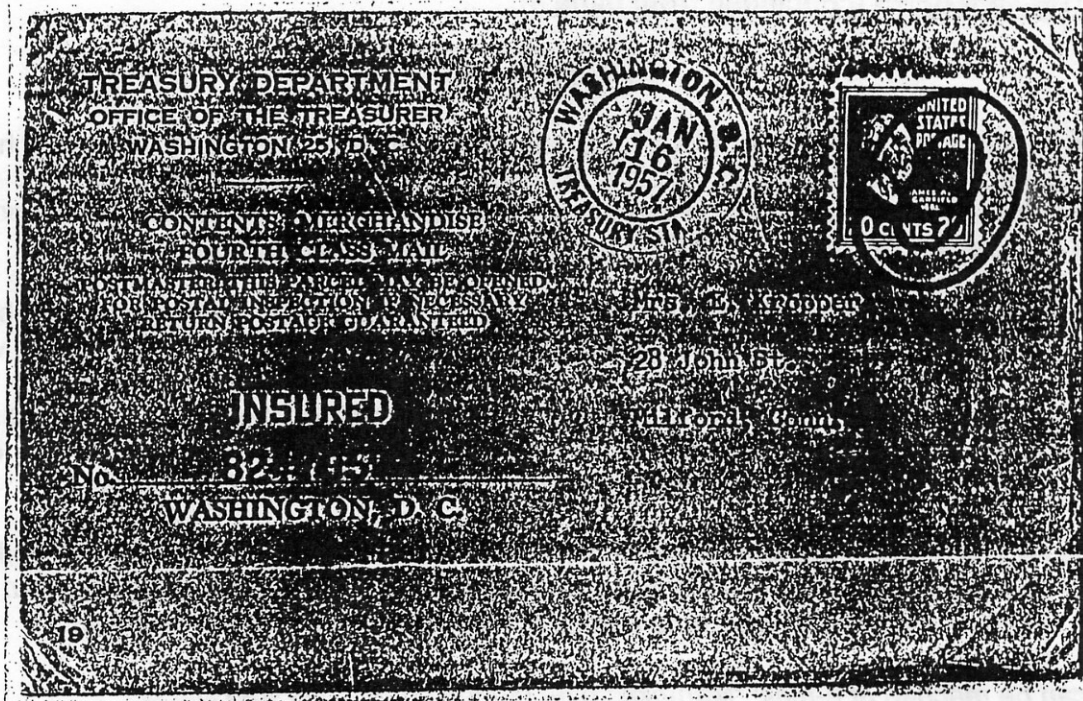
In reality, the .10 small packet rate was never advantageous for PUAS countries because a merchandise packet rate of .02/2oz. (up to an 8 oz. limit) applied to such destinations.

EXAMPLES OF 20-CENT SOLOS.....

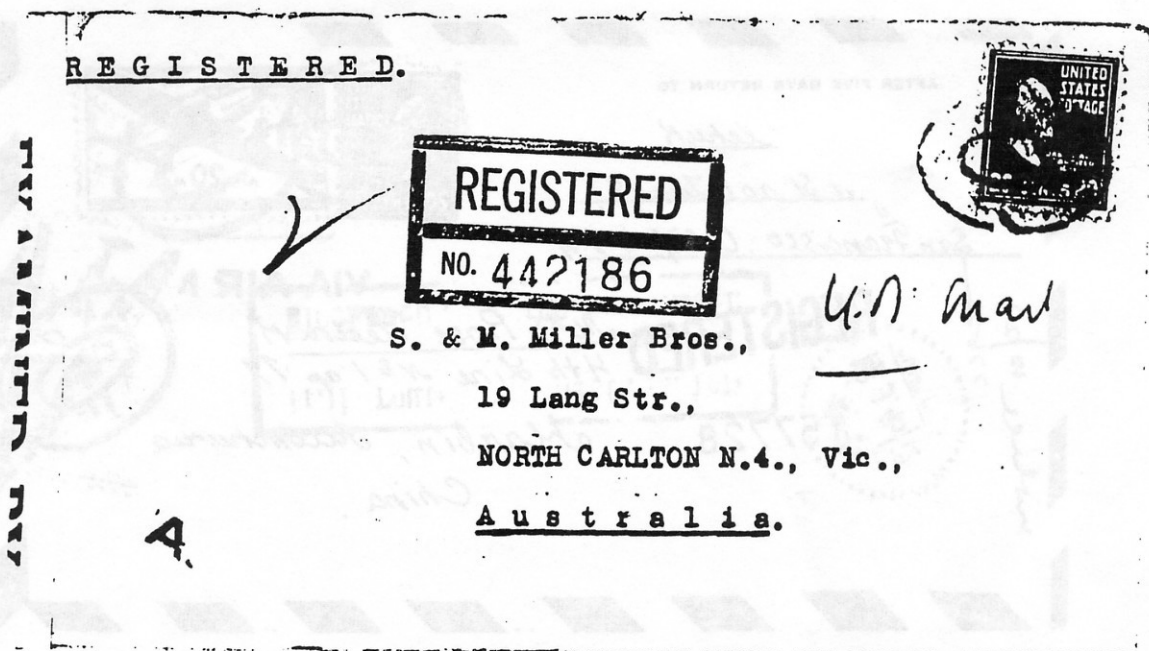
A very uncommon, commercially-used, airmail example:



Airmail rate between Hawaii & the Mainland, .20/half oz. (*surface transport, Guam to Honolulu thrown in for free?* — Ed.) (J. Shapiro collection).



This mailing contained an official mailing of a proof coin set and paid a 20-cent insurance fee for \$25.01 to \$50. indemnity (this rate was effective 1/1/49-6/30/57). The official mail was not subject to postage fees.
(L. Piskiewicz collection)



Surface letter rate (.05/oz.) to UPU member states plus .15 registration fee — to Australia, 8/26/42
(R. Toth collection).

MEET THE MEMBERS (concluded from page 4).....**MARTIN NICHOLSON**

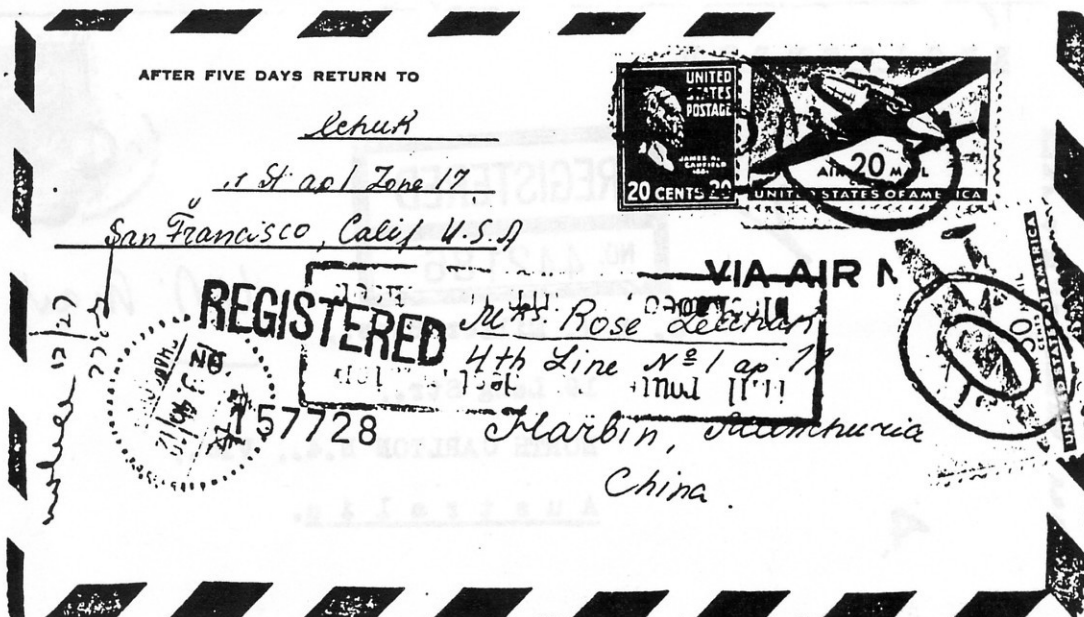
I believe I am one of the few collectors of U.S. material over here in England. You may have read material I have posted to "rec.collecting.stamps" or to other various philatelic dealer groups. I am a philatelic publisher with over a dozen books on aspects of British and British African stamps and postal history to my credit. I also run the UK Stamps and Postal History pages on WWW.

I regard myself very much as a novice on the Presidential series so my collection is fairly basic. This means I am always on the look out for rarer material to buy. A short Prexie horror story to finish with....

In 1994 I was offered a 1-cent Prexie on a cover to a school for the blind in England. The cover was endorsed to the effect that it contained printed matter for the blind. The cost was UK 1.00 (\$1.50) and I didn't buy it, as at that stage, it was not a collecting area of interest.

(Ed. note — The above comment brings to mind part of a note I received from Steve Suffet last year when we were discussing the really difficult items to obtain: "I'd love to find the .01/kilogram rate for the blind (surface to UPU countries). If you come across one you can't use, just let me know!"

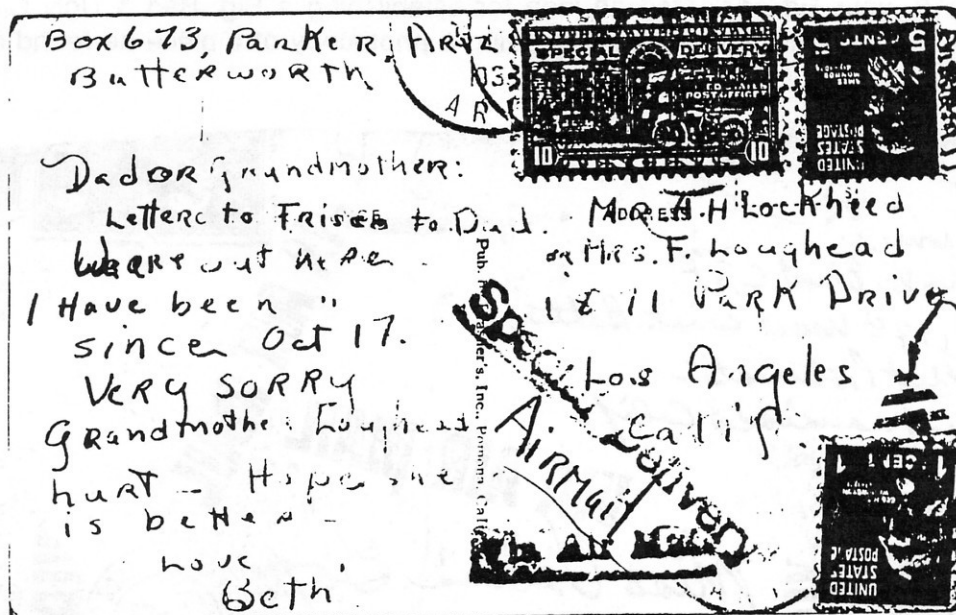
Martin can be reached at e-mail: "Martin@crozet.demon.co.uk"; his web site is "http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Martin_Nicholson"

REQUESTS FOR HELP (concluded from page 3).....

This cover, dated August 14, 1946, is addressed to Harbin in Manchuria. The handstamp in the center reads "Mail Route to destination blockaded. Return to sender." This cover was obviously affected by the Chinese civil war, but can anyone fill in some of the historical details? There is a "Shanghai, November 14, 1948" backstamp on the cover. — Steve Roth

MORE INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES.....

Special delivery postcards are always interesting:



October, 1938: Pre-war .06 airmail rate + .10 special delivery
(L. Laliberte collection)

A scarce use of a 10-cent Famous American!



"I found this cover in April for \$12.50 — what a deal! I have seen 10-cent Prexie stamps that pay this Custom duty fee, but never expected to actually see such a Famous American cover usage. I was really pleased. The cancel is from May of 1941." — David Wessely

THE BIG, BAD & UGLY (BUT INTERESTING!) CLUB.....

Back in Issue #10, your Editor floated an idea for establishing a Big, Bad & Ugly Club. Norman Hinton becomes one of our charter members by submitting a photocopy of a piece he found at an antique mall in Missouri:



Norman writes: "This bad condition wrapper was used to enclose a metal cylinder. The cylinder itself is interesting: it is black metal and is stamped FUZE BOMB, TAIL, M106/P.A. Lot 7-15834-12 PACKED 5-42/DRAWING No. 73-8-36 REVISED 9 24-41. It has been rather badly dented on one side. I assume that the package did not, in fact, contain a fuze when it was mailed to Miss Velma Box of Neosho, Mo by John W. Elrod, C.S.F. of the 14th Naval Construction Battalion.

The wrapper is franked with five 15-cent Prexies and a 3-cent Defense stamp for a total of \$.78. Markings include 'SUPPOSED LIABLE TO CUSTOMS DUTY', 'AIR MAIL', 'PASSED FREE - PUBLIC LAW 790', a 'NAVAL CENSOR PASSED' stamp, a San Francisco parcel post cancellation dated May 25, 1942 and the stamped notation 'Contents examined or (all struck through with pencil) acceptability verified under Order No. 19008 at San Francisco, Calif.'

I have not had time to investigate Public Law 790 or Order #19008. I have no idea how to store this piece. I keep it wrapped around its metal container and the whole thing rests in a box of oversize and odd pieces. The paper is getting rather fragile and if anyone has any suggestions (or comments — Ed.), I would appreciate them."

HELP SUPPORT OUR SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.....

Once a year, or so, we ask that you also consider joining (if you haven't already) our parent organization: The Bureau Issues Association. This is the premier society devoted to the study of U.S. stamps with a great magazine, the "U.S. Specialist" and many subgroups and activities at stamp shows.

Bureau Issues Association, Inc.

Application for Membership

Mail to: Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 23707, Belleville, IL 62223

I hereby apply for membership in the Bureau Issues Association, Inc., and have enclosed payment for my initiation fee, dues, and a subscription to *The United States Specialist* based on the remittance schedule below. I understand that the full amount of my remittance will be returned to me if my application is not accepted.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

References

Note: References are not required of current members of the American Philatelic Society or the American Stamp Dealers Association. Only a membership number is needed. Others should provide a full name and address of a personal and a philatelic reference.

APS No. _____ ASDA No. _____

Personal Reference _____

Philatelic Reference _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of Sponsor _____ BIA# _____

Remittance Schedule

Amounts include dues, initiation fee, and a subscription to the *U.S. Specialist*. Postage is included for North American addresses only. Others add \$7 in US funds. Make all checks payable to Bureau Issues Association, Inc.

Jan.-Feb.-Mar. \$22.00

Apr.-May-June \$17.00

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Oct.-Nov.-Dec. \$27.00*

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* Includes 12 months of following year

INFO/SALE/TRADE/WANTED.....

Auction — One of our NJ members sent along a listing of an auction, sponsored by the NJ Postal History Society, to be held in Clifton on November 3. Several dozen Prexie era covers are included among the approximately 1,000 lots. Mail bids will be accepted. A copy of the auction catalog can be obtained by sending \$1 to the NJPHS, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011.

Prexie Plate Dates — "In looking over the latest bulletin of 'THE PREXIES', it occurred to me that you might want to let Prexie collectors know that I have been accumulating printing dates for Prexie rotary sheet plates. If there are any researchers who need these printing dates, please contact me. Wallace Cleland, 1710 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705, (608) 262-1373, fax 265-2904, e-mail: wallace.cleland@mail.admin.wisc.edu."

DONATION AUCTION ITEMS

(BIDS MUST BE POSTMARKED TO THE EDITOR BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1996 — MIN. BID IS \$2)

1. APO 803A (Trinidad), with censor mark on a patriotic cover. Two each 1/2-cent and 1-cent Prexies pay the surface rate to Connecticut. The new Forte/Helbock handbook values this cover at \$15 without allowance for the first day of APO use, Dec. 13, 1941, which this is.
2. Four domestic airmail covers with Prexie frankings including the .06 rate (<3/26/44), .08 rate (3/26/44-9/30/46), .05 rate (10/1/46-12/31/48), .06 letter rate (1/1/49-7/31/58).
3. Remainder lot of 6 covers — .04 single franking, double weight 3rd class 1950 letter (9" long cover), couple of first flites, including one 1 1/2-cent endwise coil with mixed franking....all worth \$2.

Steven M. Roth
1280 21st NW -- Ste. 209
Washington DC 20036