



# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 14  
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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

Once again I will make an unsolicited pitch for a dealer. This time it's for Richard Drews of Chicago, also known as the Stamp King.

Some fifteen years ago, when I started a serious collection of Prexies on cover, I sent a want list to a postal history dealer who is now deceased. He wrote back to me that I was 5th in line, behind Terry Hines, Doug Kelsey, Randy Neil and Rich Drews. Terry and Doug have long since moved on to other specialties, and Randy (the founding editor of this newsletter) has currently put his Prexie collecting on hold while he takes care of some other priorities. But Rich is still out there, buying up choice Prexie material, or taking it on consignment for his auctions.

Fortunately for all of us, Rich's own collecting interest is the U.S. 1861 series, not the 1938 series. That means all the Prexies he acquires, both the stamps and covers, are for sale.

Rich's current auction, scheduled for February 21-22, features some significant Prexie gems: four complete panes of the \$1 USIR error — Scott #832b — each of these panes of 100 stamps bears a different combination of (bi-color) plate numbers, so this could be a once in a lifetime for the high end specialist. The same sale also offers a choice mint single and a fine/very fine block of four for those who don't have an extra \$100,000 or so lying around to purchase all the panes!

You can visit Rich at his dealer's table at almost any major stamp show, or write him to get his next auction catalog:

Richard E. Drews  
7139 West Higgins  
Chicago, IL 60656

phone (773) 775 2100; fax (773) 792 9116

Be sure to tell Rich you read about him in "THE PREXIES".

And for a look into the future — the AIRPEX (Dayton, OH) Show has invited us to hold our PREXIEPEX in October, 1998 when they host the BIA annual convention. This makes sense as we will be holding our PREXIEPEX VIII this fall at INDYPEX, away from the BIA convention.

*Steve Suffet*

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## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

Our appeal for funds was again successful! We now have enough funds to last another 3 issues, including this one — see my Treasurer's Report on the next page. I can't tell you how much of a pleasure it is to work with such an active and generous group of collectors. Without your support, especially in terms of notes and comments, this publication would cease to exist. I'll try to do my part by putting something together 2-3 times/year.

*Thanks, John Grabowski*

**TREASURER'S REPORT.....****INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT: 8/1/95 - 2/6/97**

Treasury Balance, 7/31/95	\$ 374.68
Income	

Member contributions	\$584.50
BIA financial support	49.63

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\$ 634.13

**Expenses**

Newsletter #11 (10/95)	\$ 138.58
Newsletter #12 (2/96)	208.58
Newsletter #13 (8/96)	147.43
Misc. postage & copies	18.11

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\$ 512.70

Treasury Balance, 2/6/97	\$ 496.11
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*Respectfully submitted, John Grabowski*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....**

Letter #1 —Who am I to argue with a Prexie expert like Len Piskiewicz, but I think he got it wrong in the last newsletter ("THE PREXIES", #13, page 11).....

Concerning the "...official mailing of a coin proof set and paid the 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....."

After checking my rate analysis with other Prexie "experts", here is how I figure the rate breakdown:

\$ .15 for insurance (for indemnity of \$10.01 to \$25.)
.05 for 5 oz. of third class mail.

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\$ .20

Len's cover is not an official or "penalty" cover, so all fees (including postage) had to be paid.

*Jeff Shapiro*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont.).....**

*By way of introduction, a few remarks from our Chairman (who didn't know letter #2 was to follow):*

"The rarest of all Prexies — the 1 1/2-cent Martha Washington with experimental Pitney Bowes luminescent tagging — sold at the Richard E. Drews Philatelic Auction held at Stampshow '96 in Orlando last year. Only a single copy of this essay, produced around 1959, is known. For the full story of this and other PB tagging essays, see the article in the Sept., 1992 issue of Linn's Weekly Stamp News."

Letter #2 —A prime feature of the Drews auction at STAMPSHOW '96 was the Wayne Youngblood collection of 1959 - 1963 Pitney Bowes experimental tagging essays — normal definitive and commemorative stamps and postal stationery with fluorescent taggants added that glow under longwave ultraviolet light.

These were manufactured under Post Office Department contract to test the new automated facer-canceller equipment that use the afterglow triggered by a flash of ultraviolet light to detect the stamp's presence and position on the envelope with a photocell. The cancel can then be properly applied and unfranked letters are rejected.

At the conclusion of the tests, phosphorescent compounds that glow only under shortwave ultraviolet light were found suitable for the U.S. equipment. The fluorescent tagging as used on the test stamps was not adopted.

Only one Presidential Series stamp with experimental tagging is known to have survived, and it came onto the market for the first time as lot #115 in the Drews auction — an unused 1 1/2-cent brown Martha Washington sheet stamp, Scott #805, with central and right vertical bars of yellow green tagging. It was the rarest, and carried the highest estimate (\$1,250 to \$1,750) of any item in the experimental tagging group being offered at auction.

I bought it for the surprisingly low hammer price of \$850, but the 15% buyer's premium, agent's fee and cost of certificate have brought the total cost over \$1,000. So now you know what the rarest Prexy was "worth" to the collector who now owns it.

*Ken Lawrence*

**IMPORTANT — LATE NEWS FLASH.....**

PREXIEPEX VIII will be held this year (1997) at the INDYPEX Show in Indianapolis, September 5-7, the weekend after Labor Day. We'll present the Roland Rustad Memorial Award to the best Prexie-era exhibit.

Write to obtain a prospectus and Show information to the:

Indiana Stamp Club  
Box 40792  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Other (larger) societies will also be meeting at this show so please submit your exhibit applications before June 1 to reserve space in our "Prexie-era block".



**REQUESTS FOR HELP (ANSWERS).....**

*Regarding the "double paper" question on page 3 of the last newsletter.....*

The answer to the 7-cent double paper block is as follows: In order to determine if the double paper occurred during a paper mill splice or a Bureau splice you would need more than just the block shown. It usually takes a minimum of 6 vertical stamps, or more, to see both splice edges. The mill used glue only to splice the end of one roll to another to make up a roll long enough to supply the Bureau and the ends usually had a rugged edge. When the Bureau stopped the press during a run, they spliced both ends with tape and usually marked the area with a red grease pencil to identify a reject area to be removed after the roll was sent through the Stickney perforator. The perforator was a machine separate from the press and the paper was allowed to age between the press and the perforator. This, along with the gum breakers, helped to reduce curling.

Not meaning to disillusion anyone, but Prexie double paper examples are in just about every EFO society auction and they occur several times a year. The catalog description from the last newsletter is pushing it a bit by describing the double paper occurrence as "rare" and "unlisted". Most EFO material of this type isn't listed in Scott anyway.

*Walt Cole*

Thanks also to Steve Suffet and Roland Fluck who expressed similar thoughts.

*Regarding the "Returned for Additional Postage" question , also on page 3 of the last newsletter.....*

This cover was addressed to a crew member of an American merchant vessel in care of the San Francisco postmaster, the same way APO and FPO mail was addressed in care of the postmaster. The real intent was to have the cover flown air mail to the ship's next port of call so it would be waiting for the crew member upon arrival. Eight-cent postage (domestic air mail for 1 oz. at the time) would have only taken the cover as far as San Francisco — a silly waste of postage on mail sent from Hermosa Beach, California! To reach the addressee normally, overseas air mail postage would have been required. But effective January 1, 1943, mail to or from crew members of U.S. merchant vessels could be sent at the special wartime (serviceman's) rate of 6-cents per 1/2 oz.

This article must have weighed more than half an oz., but not more than one oz. The correct postage was thus  $2 \times .06$ , or 12-cents. As only 8-cents had been paid, it was returned for an additional 4-cents postage.

*Steve Suffet*

*So it appears to have been a double mistake by the sender — underestimating the weight and failing to take into account the reduced rate for merchant seamen — Ed.*

Thanks also to G. H. Davis and Jim Felton who contributed to the analysis.



REQUESTS FOR HELP (ANSWERS) (cont.).....

Regarding the "Public Law 790" question on page 14 of the last newsletter.....

"PASSED FREE — PUBLIC LAW 790" refers to a law passed by Congress on December 5, 1942 which allowed gifts sent by members of the armed forces stationed abroad to pass duty free if the gift's value was under \$50.

*Jeff Shapiro*

NEW REQUESTS FOR HELP.....

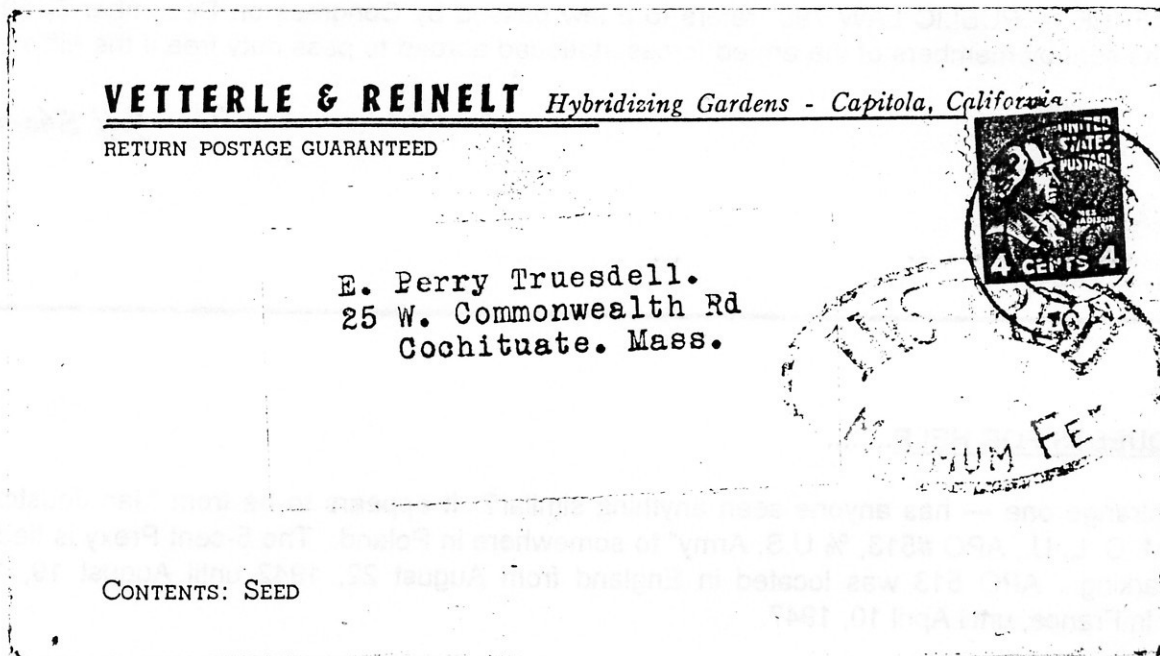
Here's a strange one — has anyone seen anything similar? It appears to be from "Jan Joustczembsky, L-511-T. M. C. L. U., APO #513, % U.S. Army" to somewhere in Poland. The 5-cent Prexy is tied by a red censor marking. APO 513 was located in England from August 22, 1942 until August 19, 1944 and thereafter in France, until April 10, 1947.



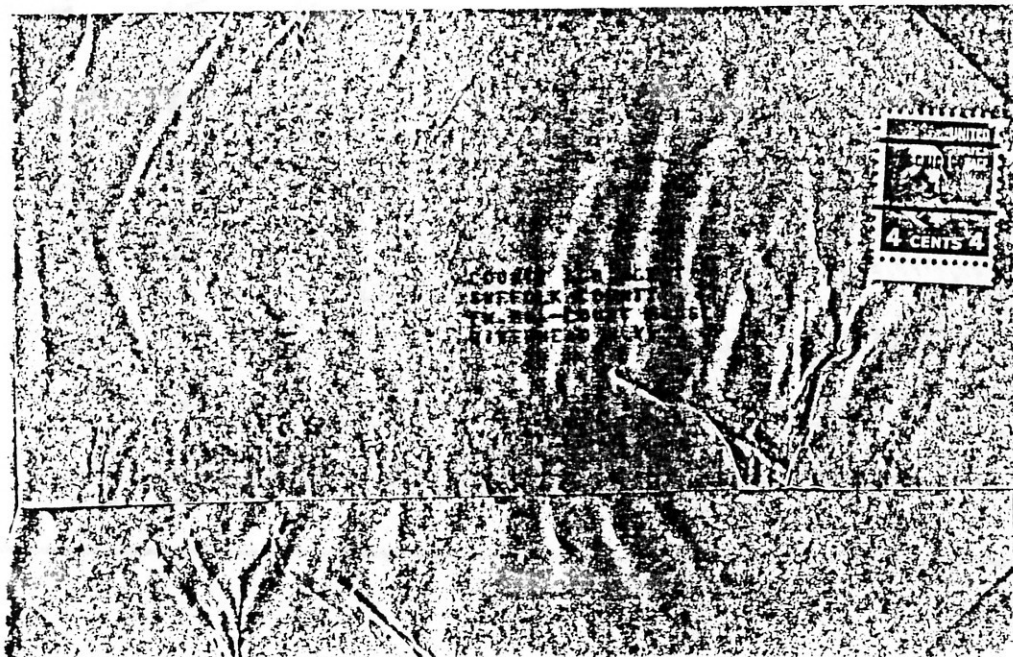
Questions: Why no postmarks other than the censor? what does "L-511-T. M. C. L. U." stand for? and why the 5-cents?

**A GROUP OF INTERESTING 4-CENT USAGES.....**

Your editor has accumulated a seldom-seen group of 4-cent usages from reader submissions over the past two years (plus one of my own to fill out the page) — together they make an interesting presentation:

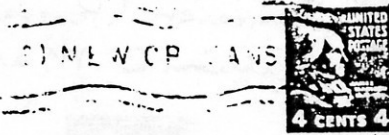


.01/2 oz. rate for seeds + .03 min. insurance = .04, postmarked July 16, 1947 (*Len Piszkievich collection*)



Mail wrapper, undated, unable to ascertain 2nd or 3rd class without date and nature of contents, Chicago to NY (*Steve Roth collection*)

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO  
**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
 EDWIN H. LAWSON, M. D., SECT'Y-TREAS  
 930 HIBERNIA BANK BUILDING  
 NEW ORLEANS 12, LA.  
 RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



**THIRD CLASS MAIL**  
 TEL

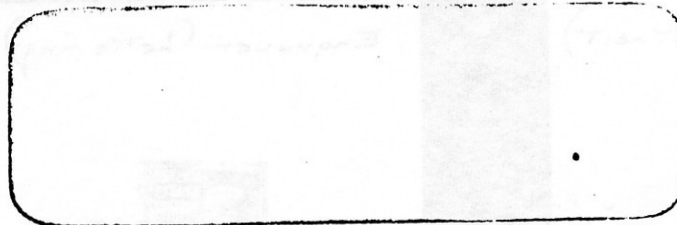
Mrs. Josephine Moreno  
 Department of Medical & Surgical Care  
 Charity Hospital  
 New Orleans, Louisiana

Third class rate, 3.0+ oz. to 4.0 oz., in effect from 1/1/49 through 7/31/58 (Steve Roth collection)

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
 BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
 WASHINGTON 25  
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS



C-21-W  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.  
 (PMGC)



7694 **REGISTERED**  
 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

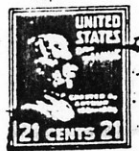
A 10/31/47 "penalty" envelope with .04 required for return receipt (rate effective 3/26/44-12/31/48)  
 Postage and reg. were free on official mail by a Government agency in D.C. (J. Grabowski collection)



COLLECTION "SNAPSHOTS".....

A couple of pages from John Wuichet's wide-ranging Prexie collection.....

Engraver (Portrait)  
William O. Marks.



Engraver (Portrait)



Matthew D. Fenton.

Engraver (Portrait)



Chas. Brooks  
Portrait Engraver

Engraver (Portrait)



James Russell Rowe  
Portrait Engraver

Engraver (Portrait)



James Russell Rowe  
Portrait Engraver

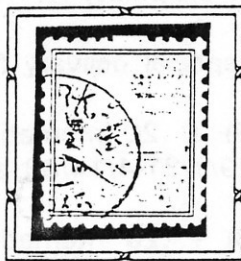
Engraver (Lettering)



George A. Payne  
LETTERING

Signatures of the Engravers

## PRESIDENTIAL SERIES OF 1938

*Franklin Pierce**James Buchanan**Abraham Lincoln**Andrew Johnson**Ulysses S. Grant**Rutherford B. Hayes**James A. Garfield**Chester A. Arthur**Grover Cleveland**Benjamin Harrison**William McKinley**Theodore Roosevelt**William H. Taft**Woodrow Wilson**Warren G. Harding**Calvin Coolidge*

Socked-on-the-Nose Cancels

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

**21-cent Solo Usages:**

- Registered airmail letter, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .15 min. registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .21 (7/1/34-3/25/44).
- Registered letter with return receipt, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .15 min. registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) + .03 return receipt fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .21 (7/6/32-3/25/44).
- Registered letter with second step indemnity, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .18 registry fee, \$5.01-\$25 indemnity (7/1/32-3/25/44) = .21 (7/6/32-3/25/44).
- Registered airmail letter to or from a military postal facility outside the continental U.S., .06/oz. airmail rate (12/25/41-9/30/46) + .15 min. registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .21 (12/25/41-3/25/44).
- Registered local letter at a non-carrier post office, local 1st class non-carrier, .01/oz. (7/1/19-12/31/51) + .20 min. registry fee (3/26/44-12/31/48) = .21 (3/26/44-12/31/48).
- Registered airmail letter to Canada, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .15 int'l registry fee (12/1/25-1/31/45) = .21 (7/1/34-3/25/44).
- Special delivery airmail letter, .08/oz. airmail rate (3/26/44-9/30/46) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .21 (11/1/44-9/30/46) — combination of rates also applied to Canada.
- Special delivery airmail letter, .06/oz. airmail rate (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .15 special delivery fee (1/1/49-12/31/51) = .21 (1/1/49-12/31/51) — combination of rates also applied to Canada.
- Certified airmail letter, .06/oz. airmail rate (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .15 certified mail fee (6/6/55-6/30/57) = .21 (6/6/55-6/30/57).

**22-cent Solo Usages:**

- Registered local letter at a carrier delivery post office with third step indemnity, .02/oz. local 1st class carrier rate (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .20. registry fee for \$25.01-\$50 indemnity (7/1/32-3/25/44) = .22 (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- 3rd class C.O.D. mail, .02/1st 2 oz. 3rd class rate (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .20 min. C.O.D. fee, \$2.50 limit (1/1/49-12/31/51) = .22 (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- 3rd class insured mail, \$50 max. indemnity, .02/1st 2 oz. 3rd class rate (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .20 insured mail fee, \$25.01-\$50. indemnity (1/1/49-6/30/57) or \$10.01-\$50 indemnity (7/1/57-3/25/66) = .22 (1/1/49-7/31/58).
- Special delivery postcard, .02 postcard rate (1/1/52-7/31/58) + .20 special delivery fee (1/1/52-6/30/57) = .22 (1/1/52-6/30/57).
- Special delivery postcard to Canada, .02 postcard rate (9/1/31-7/31/58) + .20 international special delivery fee to Canada (1/1/23-4/14/39 and 1/1/52-6/30/57) = .22(9/1/31-4/14/39 and 1/1/52-6/30/57).
- Special delivery postcard to Mexico, .02 postcard rate (4/1/32-7/31/58) + .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) = .22 (4/1/32-6/30/57).
- Special delivery postcard to other PUAS countries, .02 postcard rate (4/1/32-10/31/53) + .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) = .22 (4/1/32-10/31/53).
- Airmail letter to Kenya, Uganda or Tanganyika, from London, with surface transit to London, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .17/half oz. surcharge for airmail service from London (2/27/31-6/30/39) = .22/1st half oz. (2/27/31-6/30/39). This combination of rates also applied to Zanzibar (5/14/38-6/30/39).



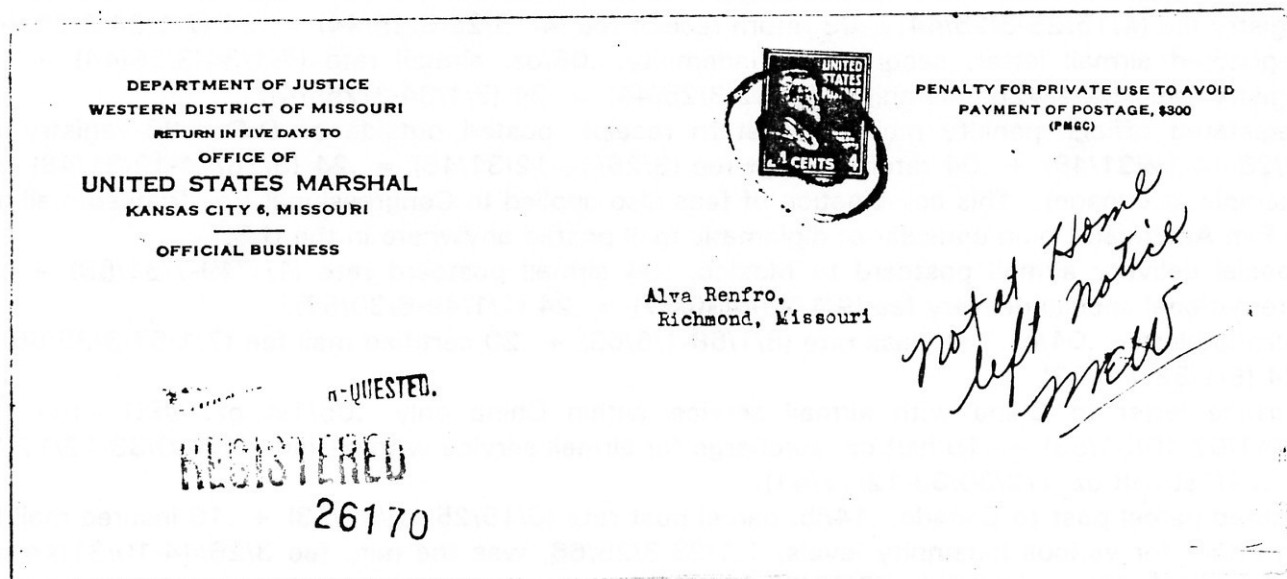
**24-cent Solo Usages:**

- Registered airmail letter with return receipt, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .15 minimum registry fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) + .03 return receipt fee (4/15/25-3/25/44) = .24 (7/1/34-3/25/44).
- Registered airmail letter, second step indemnity, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44) + .18 registry fee. \$5.01-\$25 indemnity (7/1/32-3/25/44) = .24 (7/1/34-3/25/44).
- Registered official penalty mail with return receipt, posted outside of D.C., .20 registry fee (3/26/44-12/31/48) + .04 return receipt fee (3/26/44-12/31/48) = .24 (3/26/44-12/31/48) (see example next page). This combination of fees also applied to Congressional free franked mail and to Pan American Union consular or diplomatic mail posted anywhere in the U.S.
- Special delivery airmail postcard to Mexico, .04 airmail postcard rate (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) = .24 (1/1/49-6/30/57).
- Certified letter, .04/oz. 1st class rate (8/1/58-1/6/63) + .20 certified mail fee (7/1/57-3/25/66) = .24 (8/1/58-1/6/63).
- Surface letter to China with airmail service within China only, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .19/half oz. surcharge for airmail service within China (12/20/33-12/17/41) = .24/1st half oz. (12/30/33-12/17/41).
- Insured parcel post to Canada, .14/lb. parcel post rate (6/15/25-10/31/53) + .10 insured mail fee (in effect for various indemnity levels, 1/1/23-3/25/66, was the min. fee 3/26/44-10/31/44 and 1/2/57-3/25/66) = .24/1st lb. (6/15/25-10/31/53).

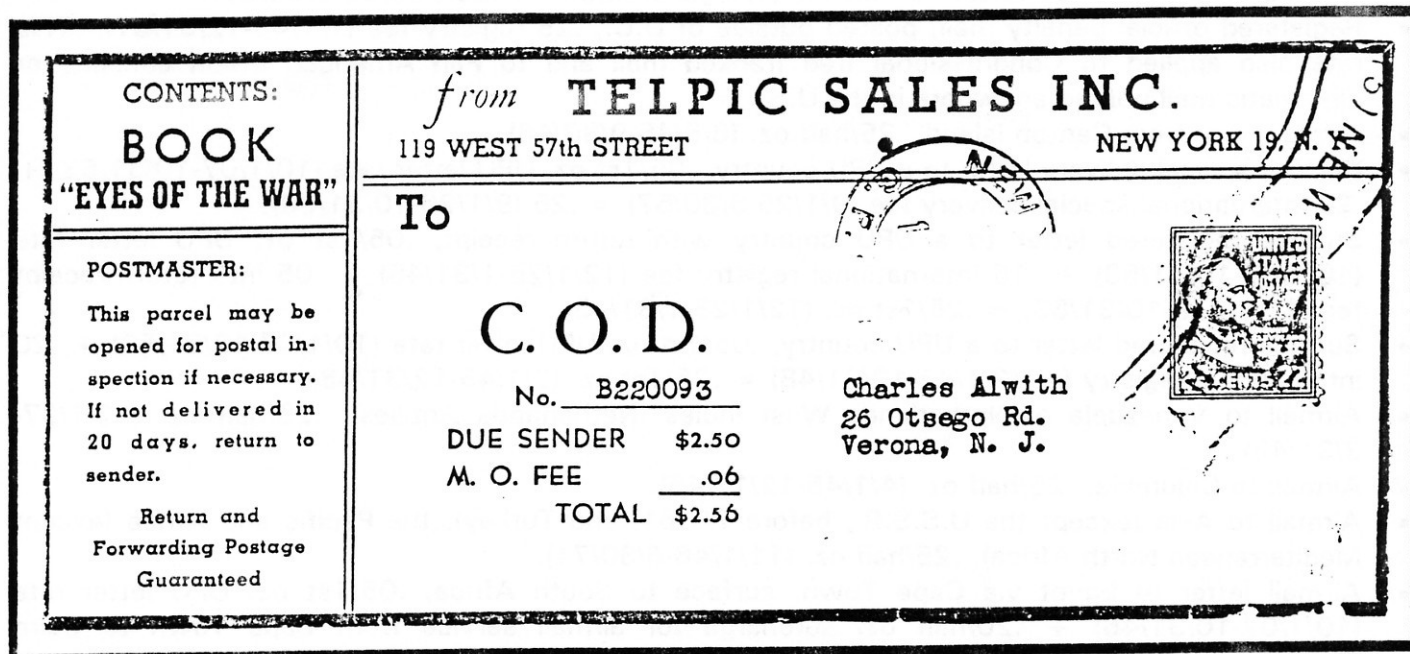
**25-cent Solo Usages:**

- Registered airmail letter, .05/oz. airmail rate (10/1/46-12/31/48) + .20 minimum registry fee (3/26/44-12/31/48) = .25 (10/1/46-12/31/48).
- Certified letter with return receipt, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .15 certified mail fee (6/6/55-6/30/57) + .07 return receipt fee (1/1/52-6/30/57) = .25 (6/6/55-6/30/57).
- Registered official penalty mail, posted outside of D.C., .25 registry fee (1/1/49-12/31/51). This rate also applied to Congressional free franked mail and to Pan American Union consular or diplomatic mail posted anywhere in the U.S.
- Airmail to or from Canton Island, .25/half oz. (6/8/45-9/30/46).
- Surface special delivery letter to a UPU country, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) = .25 (9/1/26-10/31/53).
- Surface registered letter to a UPU country with return receipt, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .15 international registry fee (12/1/25-1/31/45) + .05 int'l return receipt fee (4/1/1879-10/31/53) = .25/1st oz. (12/1/25-1/31/45).
- Surface registered letter to a UPU country, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .20 international registry fee (2/1/45-12/31/48) = .25/1st oz. (2/1/45-12/31/48).
- Airmail to Venezuela or Netherlands West Indies (Netherlands Antilles), .25/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail to Columbia, .25/half oz. (4/1/45-12/17/45).
- Airmail to Asia (except the U.S.S.R., before 7/1/61, and Turkey), the Pacific and Africa (except Mediterranean North Africa), .25/half oz. (11/1/46-6/30/71).
- Airmail letter to Egypt via Cape Town, surface to South Africa, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/46) + .20/half oz. surcharge for airmail service from Cape Town to Cairo (7/18/41-10/31/46) = .25/1st half oz. (7/18/41-10/31/46).

Additions and corrections to this ongoing solo usages list are encouraged as usual. Please submit solo rates and examples for the .30 to .50 Prexie values.

**EXAMPLES OF .21 - .25 RATES.....**

Registered penalty mail, outside D.C. with return receipt  
(This item can be in your collection for \$12 — see page 16)

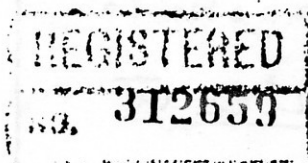


4th class book rate (1945) C.O.D. — 2 x .03/lb. + .01 War Revenue Act parcel surcharge  
+ .15 C.O.D. fee (S. Roth collection).

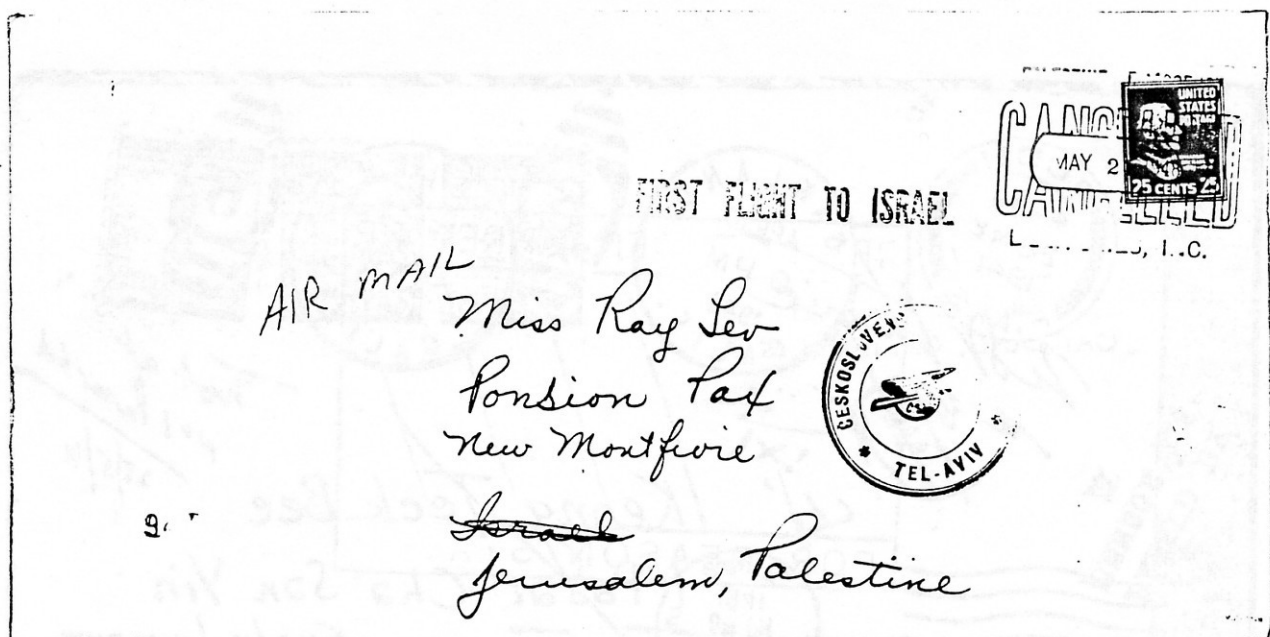
After 3 days, return to  
**W. J. Eckhardt**  
 65 NASSAU STREET  
 NEW YORK, N. Y.



Mr. Rudy M. Hale-Marx  
 536 Clarendon St.  
 Syracuse, N. Y.

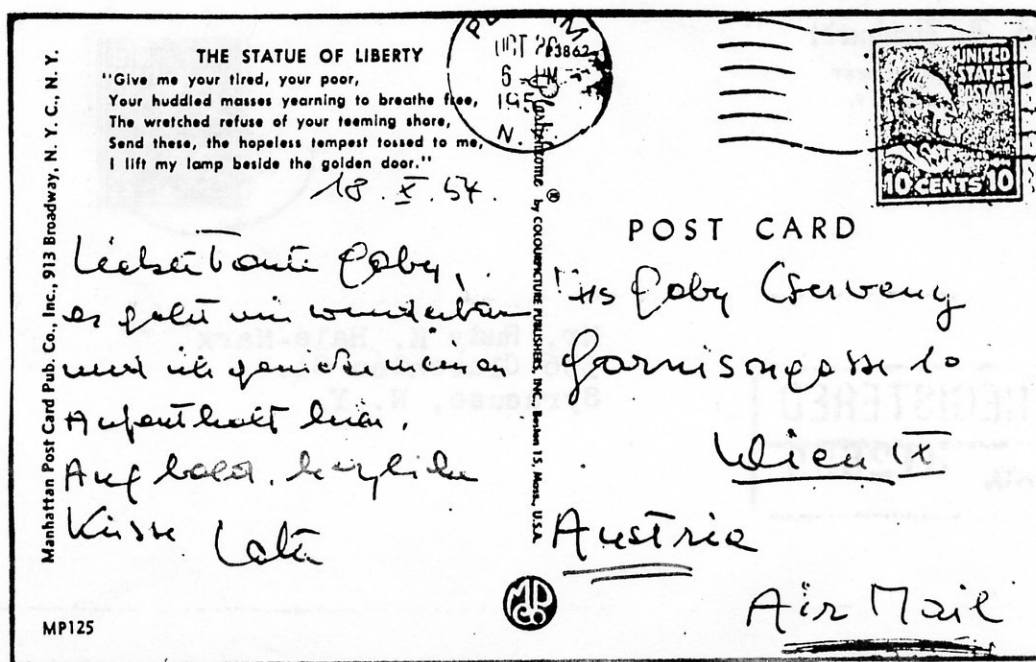


This solo 22-cent Prexie paid the .03 1st class rate + .18 registry (\$5.01-\$25 indemnity) + .01 surcharge for unindemnified excess value up to \$50 on this 1941 cover (a double postage + .15 registry rate is also possible). (J. Shapiro collection).

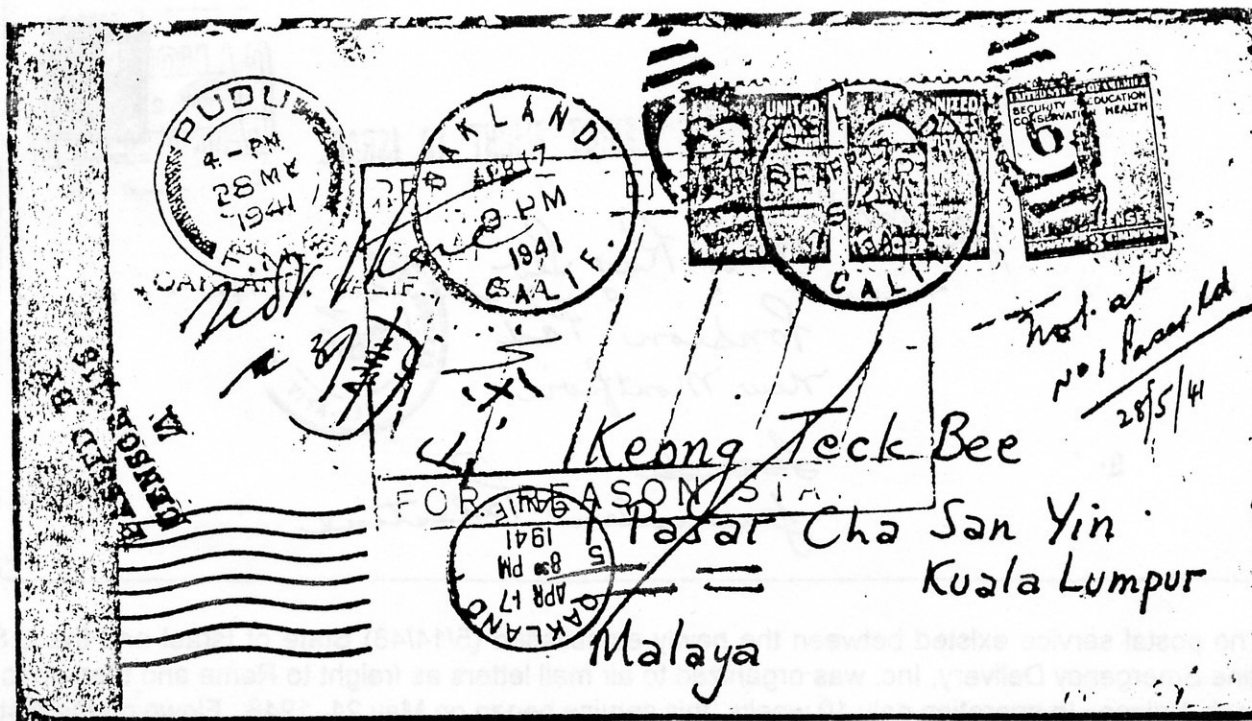


Since no postal service existed between the newly established (5/14/48) State of Israel and the U.S., the Palestine Emergency Delivery, Inc. was organized to air mail letters as freight to Rome and then on to Israel via Czech Airlines. In operation only 10 weeks, this service began on May 21, 1948. Flown on the first flight, this letter was obliged to carry 25-cent postage to pay the airmail letter rate to Asia, even though it never entered the official postal system. (J. Shapiro collection).



MORE INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES (from the collection of George Wagner).....

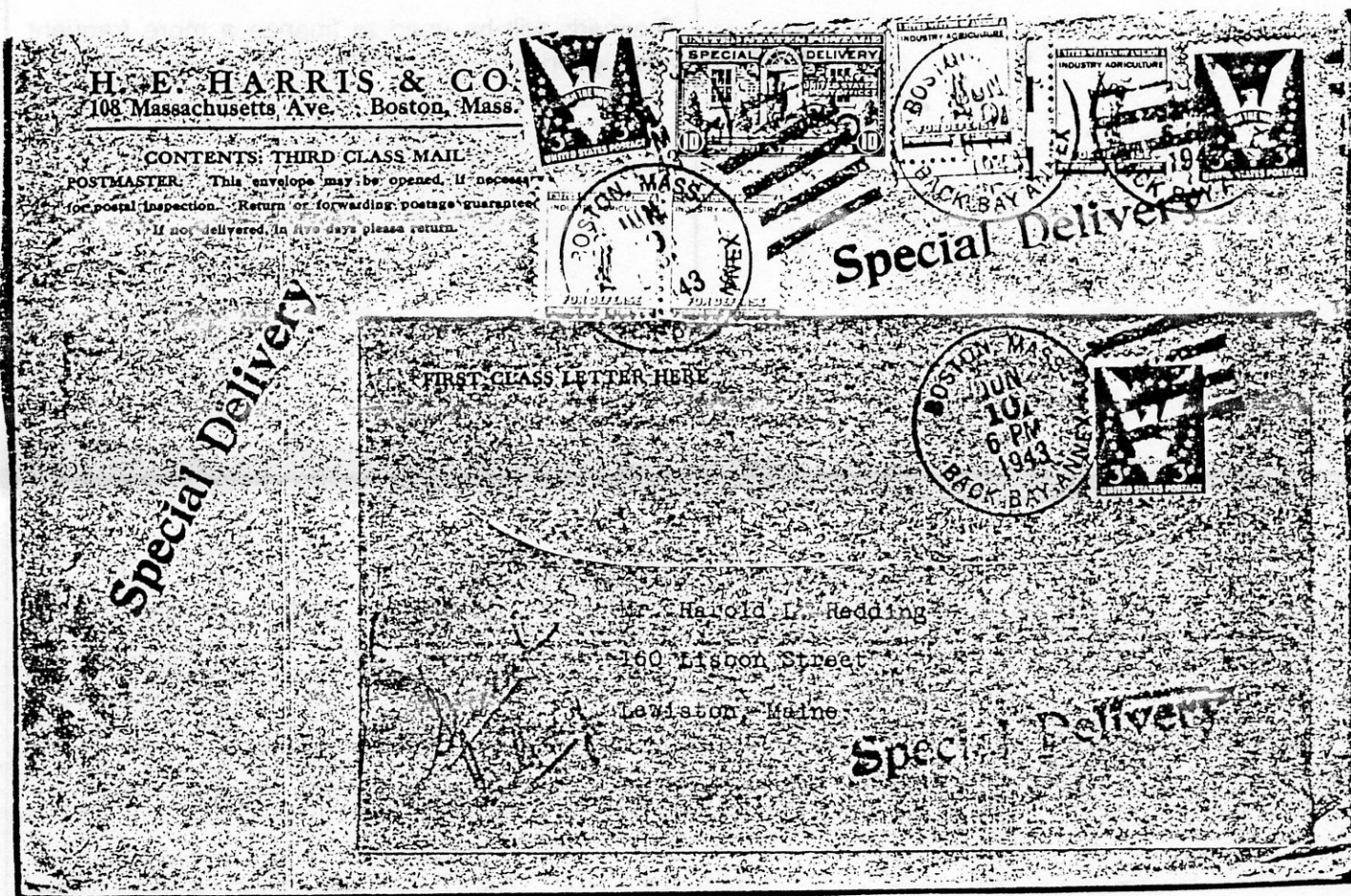
10-cent international postcard airmail rate (effective 6/1/54-6/30/61) — not a common use!



A well-traveled cover to a scarce destination (Kuala Lumpur) in 1941 and returned

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

Back in Issue #10, your Editor floated an idea for establishing a Big, Bad & Ugly Club. Rob Washburn graciously supplies this month's contribution:



Rob writes: "This is a 3rd class special delivery parcel from H.E. Harris with a 1st class letter attached and with separate payment for postage on the 1st class letter." (Steve Suffet proposes the following rate analysis: .15 s/d for non-first class mail + .045 third class postage + 1/2-cent overpaid + .03 for the first class letter).

**SALE/TRADE/WANTED.....**

**WANTED** — Your ads. Everyone must need something, and have something to sell or donate — let's hear about it.

This is one of the truly free services in life!

**DONATION ITEM**

The 24-cent solo Prexy franking on the penalty envelope shown on page 12 is offered for sale at a net price of \$12 — first come, first served — reply to the Editor (lottery in case responses are received reasonably close to each other.)

Proceeds will be used to finance a more frequent newsletter!

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