

THE PREXIES

The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee



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John Grabowski, Editor
Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536
E-mail: minnjohn@aol.com

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

In April, I had the pleasure of serving on a jury which gave gold awards to postal history exhibits by three of our members: Jeff Shapiro, Steve Ekstrom and Joe Bock (see *"The Prexie Era on Display"* for details on page 2 — ed.)

As readers of this newsletter are aware, over the past couple of years we have expanded the focus of our Committee to the entire range of U.S. stamps in use during the Prexie Era. Articles about the Transports, for instance, appear regularly in our pages. At our annual meeting meeting in 1995, we agreed that the Roland Rustad Memorial Award no longer be restricted to Prexie exhibits only. It can now be given to any exhibit containing a significant number of U.S. stamps which were issued from 1938 until the Liberty series appeared in 1954. In fact, the first winner under the revised criteria was G.H. Davis's wonderful exhibit of the Transport stamps and uses.

We could very well see future Rustad Awards going to exhibits of the 3-cent Win the War stamp, the Famous Americans and the 80-cent Hawaii air mail stamp. I personally know first rate exhibits of these issues are either presently being exhibited on the national level, or will be soon.

Maybe it's time we change the name of this newsletter? How does "The Prexies & Transports" sound? Perhaps that's not inclusive enough. Suggestions...?

Steve Suffet

Issue #15 Contents

Prexie Era on Display	Page 2
Late News	Page 2
PREXIEPEX VIII News Flash	Page 3
General News	Page 4
Solo Rates, .30 - .50	Page 6
Solo Examples, .30 - .50	Page 7
More Interesting Prexie Era Usages	Page 10
Sale/Trade/Wanted	Page 12

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

The late news note on page 2 reporting the existence of large vs. small Prexie coil holes may be a small note, but it opens a window to an important area — Prexie stamps, especially the "Bureau" precancels. Any member interested in Prexie stamps is encouraged to read the July "Specialist" article, or an earlier version which appeared in the June 30, 1997 edition of "Linn's Stamp News".

We'd very much like to hear from any of our members who collect Prexie precancels, especially if they can provide an overview note or article on the subject of precancels.

One of the topics sure to come up among Prexie Era postal history enthusiasts when they meet is "Where are examples of the tough usages?" Items such as 10-cent solo uses of the Prexie coil (see page 10!) or Famous American stamps. How about examples of the PUAS 3-cent rate to *Spain*, a 6-cent *ship* letter rate, a registered, non-carrier p.o., local use,.....? If you send examples to me, I'll try to show them.

John Grabowski

THE PREXIE ERA ON DISPLAY.....

PHILATELIC SHOW - '97 (Boxborough, MA, April 25-27)

Joseph Bock, "From War to Peace: Usages of the United States' Transport Air Mail Series", Gold

Stephen Ekstrom, "U.S. Transport Airmail Issue: Rates, Usages and Postal History", Gold

Jeff Shapiro, "Collecting Prexie Postal History", Gold + BIA Statue of Freedom medal.

PACIFIC - 97 (San Francisco, May 29 - June 8)

Stephen Suffet, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates and Usages", Large Vermeil

Joseph Bock, "From War to Peace: Usages of the U.S. Transport Air Mail Series", Large Silver

NAPEX (McLean, VA, June 20-22)

Bill DiPaolo, "The Prexie Coils", Gold

LATE NEWS.....

1) Our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association (BIA), has voted to help support our newsletter financially, up to \$200 annually.

A grateful thanks from the membership and this editor!

2) Large hole and small hole perf varieties on Prexie coils!.....

That's what U.S. precancel expert and BIA member Dilmond D. Postlewait writes about in the July issue of "The United States Specialist" — our monthly BIA journal. His Figure 1 in the Specialist article, a pair of 1-cent precanceled stamps from Berea, OH, is shown below:



Dilmond goes on to report similar discoveries on other 1-cent and 1 1/2-cent horizontal coil pairs. He closes his article with "Who now is to challenge any of the above? Or offer additional information?"

We would also like to hear from our members on this subject!

LATE NEWS (continued).....**3) Rustad's 20th Century Collection Exceeds Estimates at Auction.....**

The 20th Century portion of the collection of the late Roland Rustad, founding father of our Committee, was sold at auction by the Robert A. Siegel Galleries in New York on July 26-27. Almost all the lots did very well, and several brought many times their estimated price. Here are three examples. Lot numbers and titles are from the Siegel catalog, the descriptions our from one of our members who viewed them prior to the sale:

Lot 801, "World War II Covers" — Consisting of 158 covers on Rustad's pages illustrating wartime rates, routes, destinations, censorship and markings with plenty of Transports, as well as some nice Prexies and other issues. The lot was estimated at \$200-250 and hammered down at \$1,200.

Lot 1227, "1938 Presidential, Postmark Study" — This was the postmark section of Rollie's Prexie collection containing 60 covers and 545 off-cover stamps showing nearly every possible variety of postmark, including precancels. The lot was estimated at \$200-250 and hammered down at \$1,100.

Lot 1228, "1938 Presidential, Rates & Usages" — This was the very heart of Rollie's gold medal Prexie postal history exhibit consisting of 324 covers, all but a few still on Rollie's pages — absolutely phenomenal! This lot was estimated at \$600-800 and hammered down at \$7,000.

The hammer prices do not include the 10% buyer's commission.

Our member is of the opinion that these lots are too large for any single private collection to absorb so he would not be surprised to see many of these ex-Rustad items reappear on the market again within the next couple of years. (Rich Drews of Chicago did confirm he purchased Lot 1228. The material may be available at Stampshow and/or his Chicagopex auction in November. His address is 7139 W. Higgins Rd, Chicago IL 60656 — ed.)

Can other members add any additional information on this auction? Unfortunately, many of our members will first learn of the sale from this newsletter, well after the fact!

PREXIEPEX VIII 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. The show is held in the downtown convention center, right next to the "Hoosier Dome".

Further show information can be obtained from the:

Indiana Stamp Club
Box 40792
Indianapolis, IN 46240

or the club's web page at "<http://members.aol.com/indypex/isc.html>"

Saturday night banquet tickets may be limited, so get them early if you are personally attending the show.

Steve and I will both be attending the show and we'll try to schedule a Committee meeting, perhaps with a slide presentation and cover swap, most likely late Saturday afternoon.

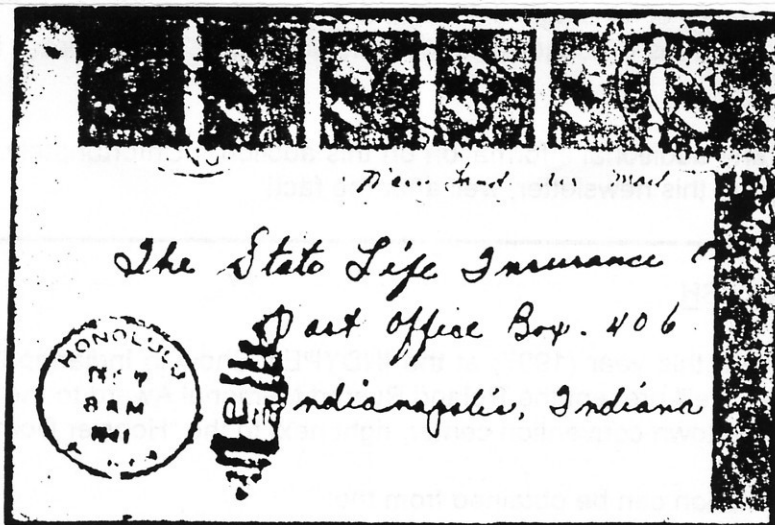
GENERAL NEWS.....Honolulu Dec. 7, 1941 Prexie cover sold at Dann Mayo Auction

A Prexie cover, bearing six 1-cent horizontal coil stamps (paying the 6-cent mainland air mail rate) and the Pearl Harbor Attack postmark date (8 A.M.) was sold at the February 21 Dann Mayo Auction (#23) in Hillside, IL for a hammer price of \$1,300.

The cover, after being detained and examined by the Information Control Branch, went by surface transport to the mainland, upon which it was dispatched via air to its Indianapolis destination.

The return address on the back is from a sailor aboard the U.S.S. Medusa. On December 7, the Medusa helped down two Japanese planes and sink a midget submarine.

From the catalog description: ".....a great franking/rate item, undoubtedly mailed ashore the night before and processed by the P.O. downtown while the ship was under attack.....Reserve \$750."



The next Dann Mayo auction will be at INDYPEX on Sept. 5. Write to Dann for particulars (Box 20837, Indianapolis, IN 46220), or contact his home page on the web: "<http://a1.com/stamps/>"

GENERAL NEWS(continued).....

For PSC members traveling in the Boston area this year, here's a sightseeing suggestion:

Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Press Release**AWARD WINNING STAMP EXHIBIT OPENING**1938 "PREXIE" EXHIBIT OPENS AT SPELLMAN PHILATELIC MUSEUM

WESTON, MA, May 22 -- An exhibit of the Fifth Bureau Issue, also known as the Presidential Series of 1938 or just simply the "Prexies" opens at the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Sunday, May 25th. This Issue is considered by many the most attractive United States definitive set of stamps in the Twentieth Century.

This exhibit has been put together by a Museum member and volunteer, Jeffrey Shapiro. A stamp collector since childhood, Mr. Shapiro has always had a fascination with the Prexies. Over the past 8 years, this fascination turned into a project to build this exhibit. In the past year the exhibit has won a Gold Medal and Reserve Grand Award at Stamp Show '97, Austin, Texas. At Philatelic Show '97, held in Boxborough, MA, it won both a Gold and the Bureau Issues Association Medal.

The Prexie Series consist of 32 denominations, each with a different design and color. This exhibit has appeal to general public. *Not just stamp collectors!* In use from the late 1930's to the late 1950's, the Prexies were used during an exciting period in American history - from the turmoil of the Second World War to the optimism of the Post War Years. The exhibit illustrates a selection of the numerous and varied usages of some 50 Prexie varieties.

The Spellman Museum is located on the campus of Regis College in Weston, MA., easily accessible by Route 128 or the Mass Pike. Admission is free. The Gallery is open Tuesday - Thursday 9-4 p.m., Saturday 10-4 p.m., and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Museum members can use the Philatelic Research Library on the hours of Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. The US Post Office and Stamp Store are open to the public the hours of Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. The CSPM is a nonprofit organization.

Liberty Series aficionados — The Liberty Series Study Committee has their own website up & running. If you have an interest in this area, be sure to check it out at: "<http://members.aol.com/raustin13/studygrp/liberty.htm>"

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

30-cent Solo Usages:

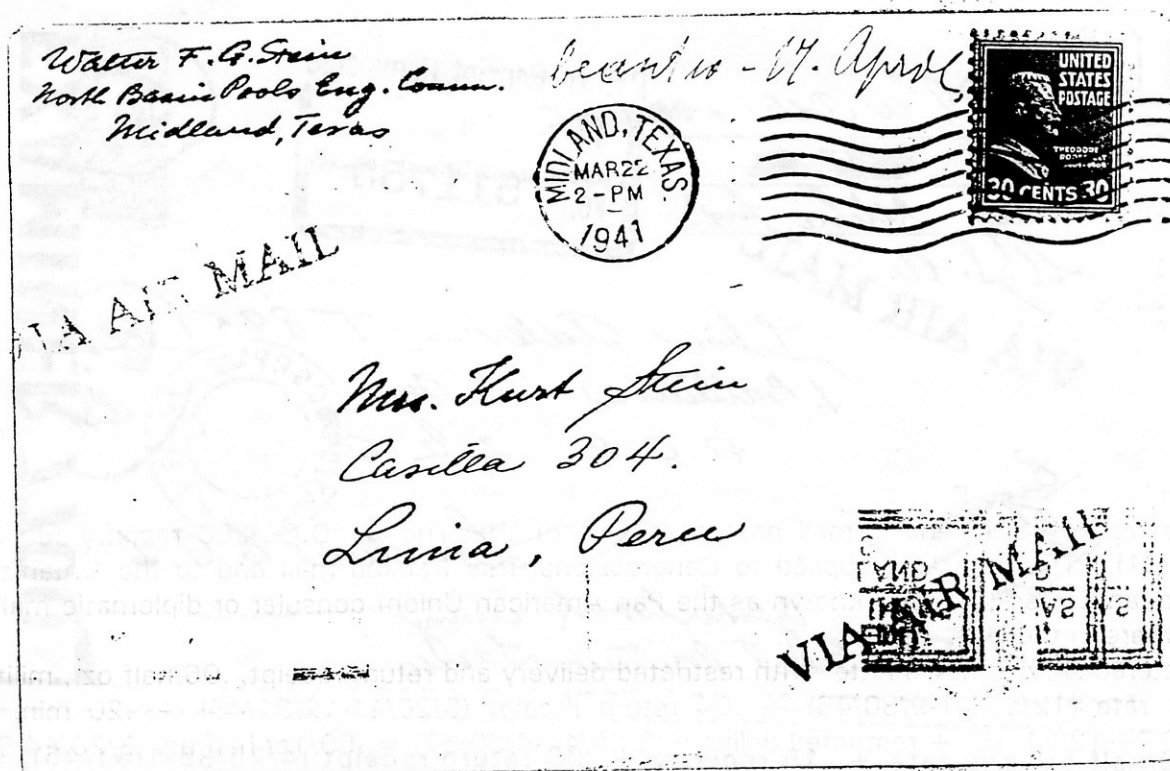
- Special delivery airmail letter to or from Hawaii, .20/half oz. airmail rate (4/21/37-1/14/45) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .30 (4/21/37-10/31/44).
- Special delivery airmail letter from Hawaii to Canada, .20/half oz. airmail (4/21/37-1/14/45) + .10 international special delivery fee to Canada only (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .30(4/15/39-10/31/44).
- Registered official penalty mail posted outside of Washington, D.C., .30 registry fee (1/1/52-6/6/55). 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, .30/half oz. (6/26/40-6/7/45) - the first flight left San Francisco 7/12/40.
- Airmail to or from Midway Island, .30/half oz. (late 1940?-12/24/41 for military personnel and 10/22/42 for civilian employees and contractors - there were no civilian p.o.'s on Midway at the time). This is an unpublished Post Office Dept. rate.
- Surface registered letter to a UPU country, .05/1st oz. UPU letter rate (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .20 international registry fee (1/1/49-8/31/52) = .30/1st oz. (1/1/49-8/31/52).
- Airmail letter to Peru, .30/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail letter to Ecuador and the Guianas, .30/half oz. (1/1/30-3/31/45).
- Airmail letter to Europe, .30/half oz. (4/28/39-10/31/46) - the first flight left New York 5/20/39.
- Special delivery airmail to a .10 a/m rate country in the Western Hemisphere: .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) + .10/half oz. airmail rate to South America (11/1/46-6/30/61), to Cuba (12/1/32-6/28/45 and 8/1/54-6/30/61), to Haiti and the Dominican Republic (12/21/28-6/30/61), to Jamaica (11/15/30-6/30/61), to other Caribbean Islands and Central America (4/1/45-6/30/61), to Newfoundland (6/5/39-9/25/39 and 11/1/46-3/31/49), and to Mexico (12/1/32-9/30/46) = .30/1st half oz. (various dates).
- Special delivery airmail post card to a foreign country (except Canada, Mexico and St. Pierre & Miquelon), .20 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) + .10 airmail post card rate (6/1/54-6/30/61, except to Cuba, only 8/1/54-6/30/61) = .30 (6/1/54-6/30/57).
- AO (other articles) airmail, .30/1st 2 oz. to Mexico (3/15/50-6/30/61), to the Cayman Is. and Jamaica (10/17/50-6/30/61) and to British Honduras (3/17/53-6/30/61).

50-cent Solo Usages:

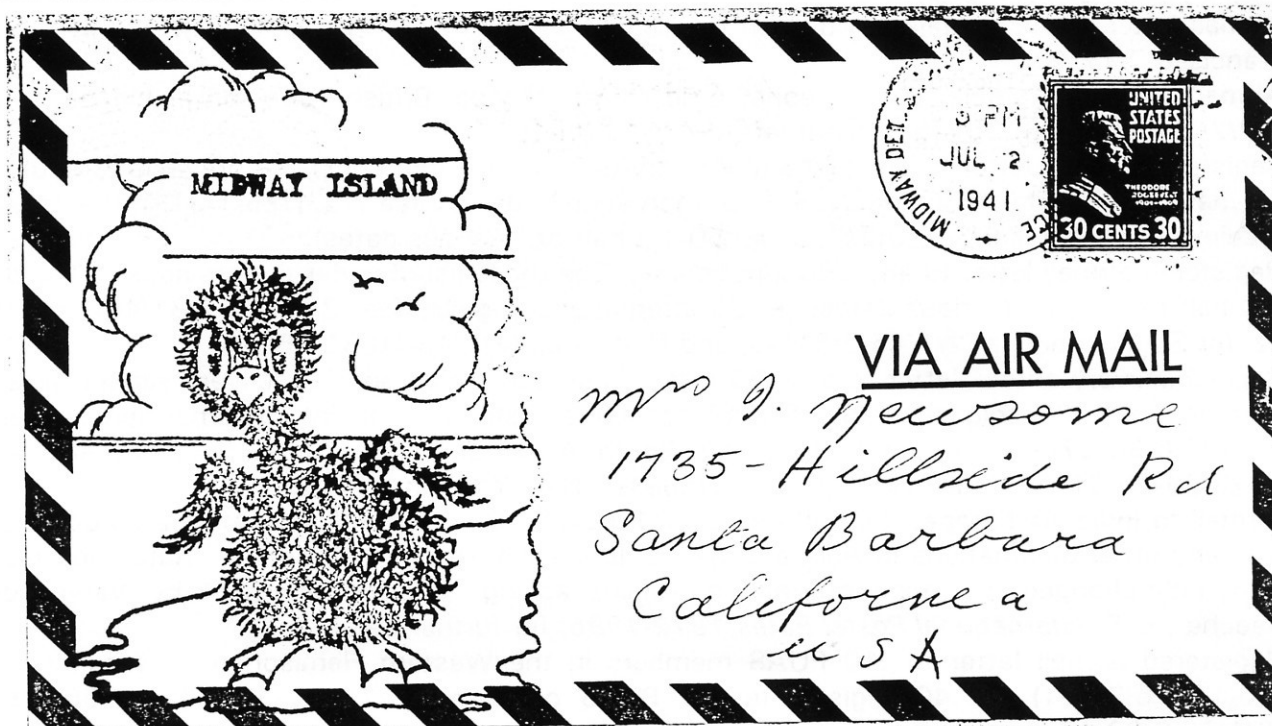
- Registered letter with return receipt, minimum indemnity, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .40 registry fee with \$.01-\$5.00 indemnity (1/1/52-6/30/57) + .07 return receipt fee (1/1/52-6/30/57) = .50/1st oz. (1/1/52-6/30/57). Effective 6/6/55, .40 became the min. registry fee in Washington, D.C. (6/7/55 elsewhere), with or without indemnity.
- Registered official penalty mail posted outside of Washington, D.C., .50 registry fee (7/1/57-8/14/61). This rate also applied to Congressional free franked mail and to the Organization of American States (formerly known as the Pan American Union) consular or diplomatic mail posted anywhere in the U.S.
- Registered serviceman's letter with restricted delivery and return receipt, .06/half oz., military a/m letter rate (12/25/41-9/30/46) + .04 return receipt (3/26/44-12/31/48) + .20 min. registry (3/26/44-12/31/48) + restricted delivery (3/26/44-6/30/57) = .50/1st half oz. (3/26/44-9/30/46)
- Airmail letter to the Philippines (or from the Philippines when sent with U.S. postage), .50/half oz. (4/21/37-10/31/46).

50-cent Solo Usages (continued):

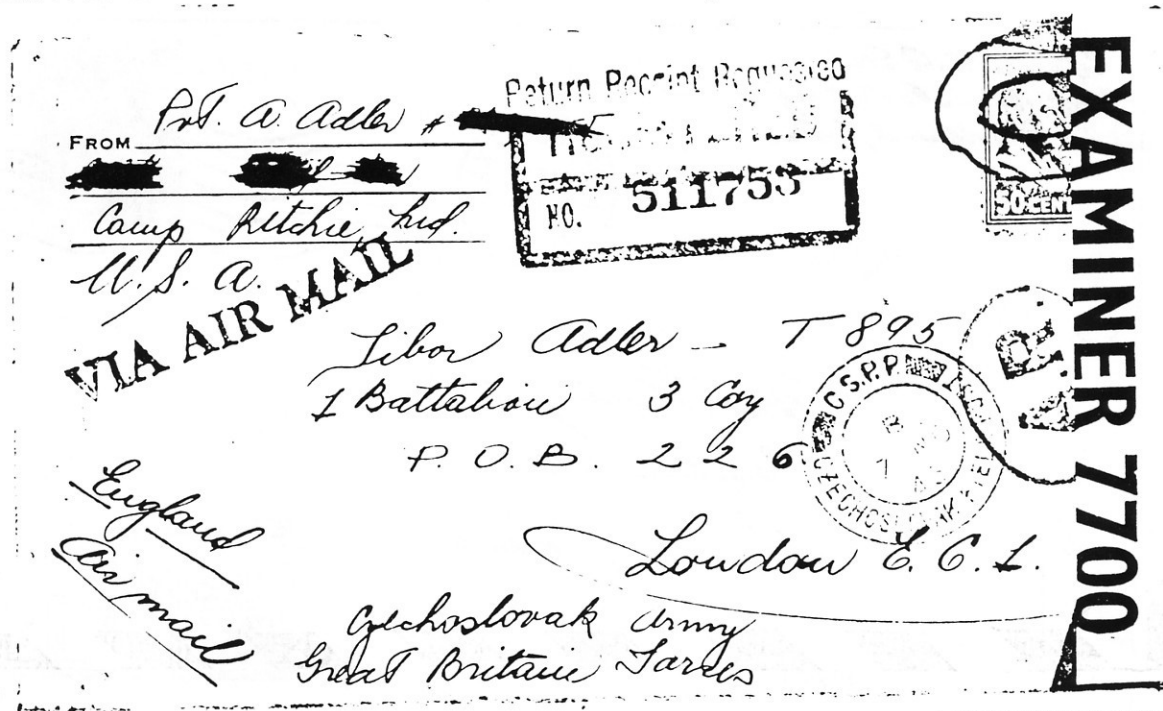
- Airmail letter to New Zealand, .50/half oz. (8/31/39-10/31/46) - the first flight at this rate left San Francisco 7/12/40!
- Airmail letter to Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, British Togoland or Liberia, .50/half oz. (12/2/41-10/31/46) - the first flight left Miami 12/6/41.
- Registered airmail letter to any .30 a/m country (see those listed under the previous .30 solo section), .30/half oz. airmail (various dates) + .15 international registry fee (12/1/25-1/31/45) + foreign return receipt requested (7/9/34-10/31/53) = .50/1st half oz. (various dates).
- Registered airmail letter to any .30 a/m country (see those listed under the previous .30 solo section), .30/half oz. airmail (various dates) + .20 international registry fee (2/1/45-12/31/48) = .50/1st half oz. for South America (2/1/45-3/31/45) and for Europe (2/1/45-10/31/46).
- Special delivery airmail letter to any .30 rate country for which special delivery service was available (see previous .30 solo section), .30/half oz. airmail rate + .200 international special delivery fee (9/1/26-6/30/57) = .50/1st half oz. for South America (various dates-3/31/45) and for Europe (4/28/39-10/31/46) - the first flight for Europe left New York on 5/20/39.
- Airmail to India via Europe, .50/half oz. (5/23/39-6/13/40). This .50 a/m rate via Europe also applied to many other destinations in Asia and Africa during the 1939-1946 period. Rates and routes were frequently changed and much information remains lacking. See the new book by Wawrukiewicz and Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates 1872-1996*, for further detail.
- Registered airmail letter to .10 PUAS members in the Western Hemisphere, .10/half oz. a/m rate (10/1/46-6/30/61) + .40 registry fee to PUAS countries (9/1/52-6/30/57) = .50/1st half oz. (9/1/52-6/30/57).
- AO (other articles) airmail, .50/1st 2 oz. to Cyprus (6/1/54-6/30/61) and Paraguay (10/17/50-6/30/61)

30-cent Solo Examples:

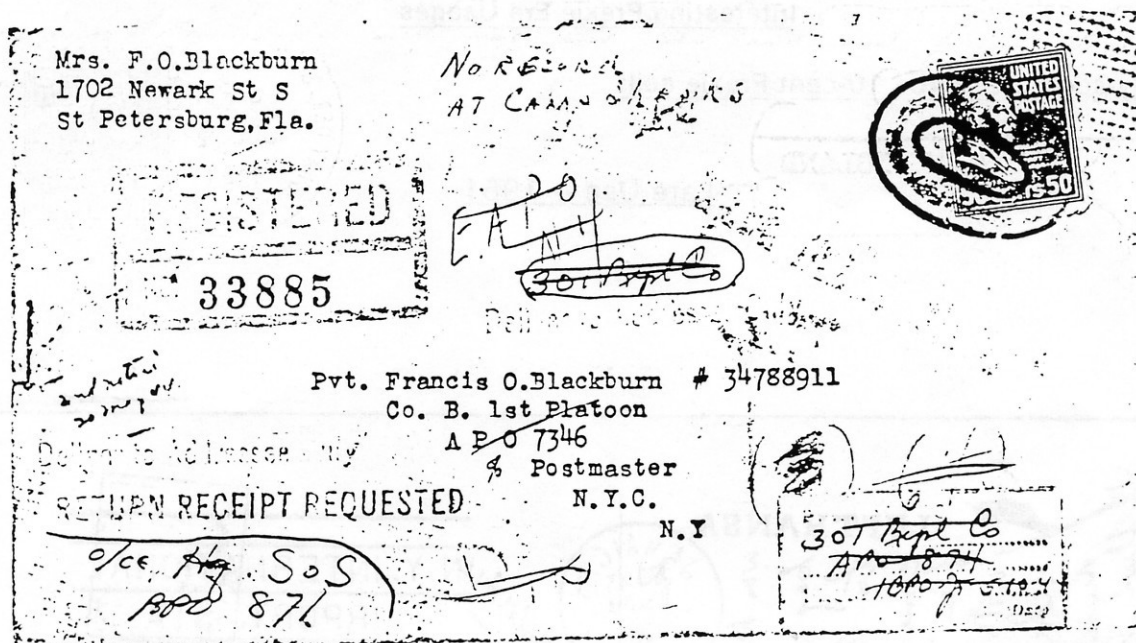
.30/half oz. airmail rate to Peru (12/1/37-3/31/45), (L. Piszkievicz collection)

30-cent Solo Examples (continued):

.30/half oz. airmail rate from Midway (12/1/37-1/14/45), L. Piskiewicz collection

50-cent Solo Examples :

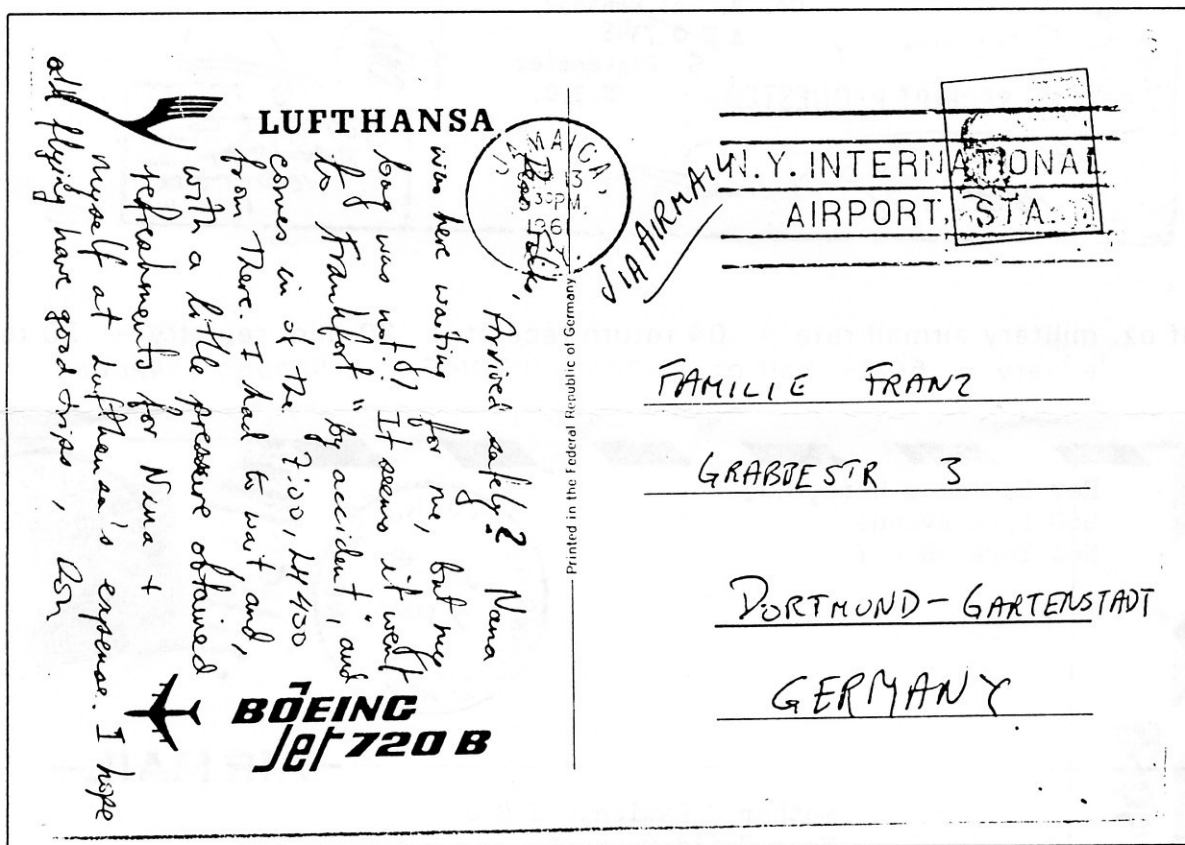
.30/half oz. a/m rate + .15 registry + .05 return receipt (4/28/39-1/31/45), with Czechoslovak Field Post receiving mark. J. Grabowski collection

50-cent Solo Examples (continued):

.06/half oz. military airmail rate + .04 return receipt + .20 min. registry + .20 restricted delivery = .50/1st half oz. (3/26/44-9/30/46), J. Shapiro collection



.50/half oz. a/m rate to Nigeria via Brazil (FAM 22) (11/2/41-10/31/46), L. Piskiewicz collection

Interesting Prexie Era UsagesAn infrequently-seen use of the 10-cent Prexie coil:Late Use -- 1961

New York International ("JFK") Airport-- September 13, 1961

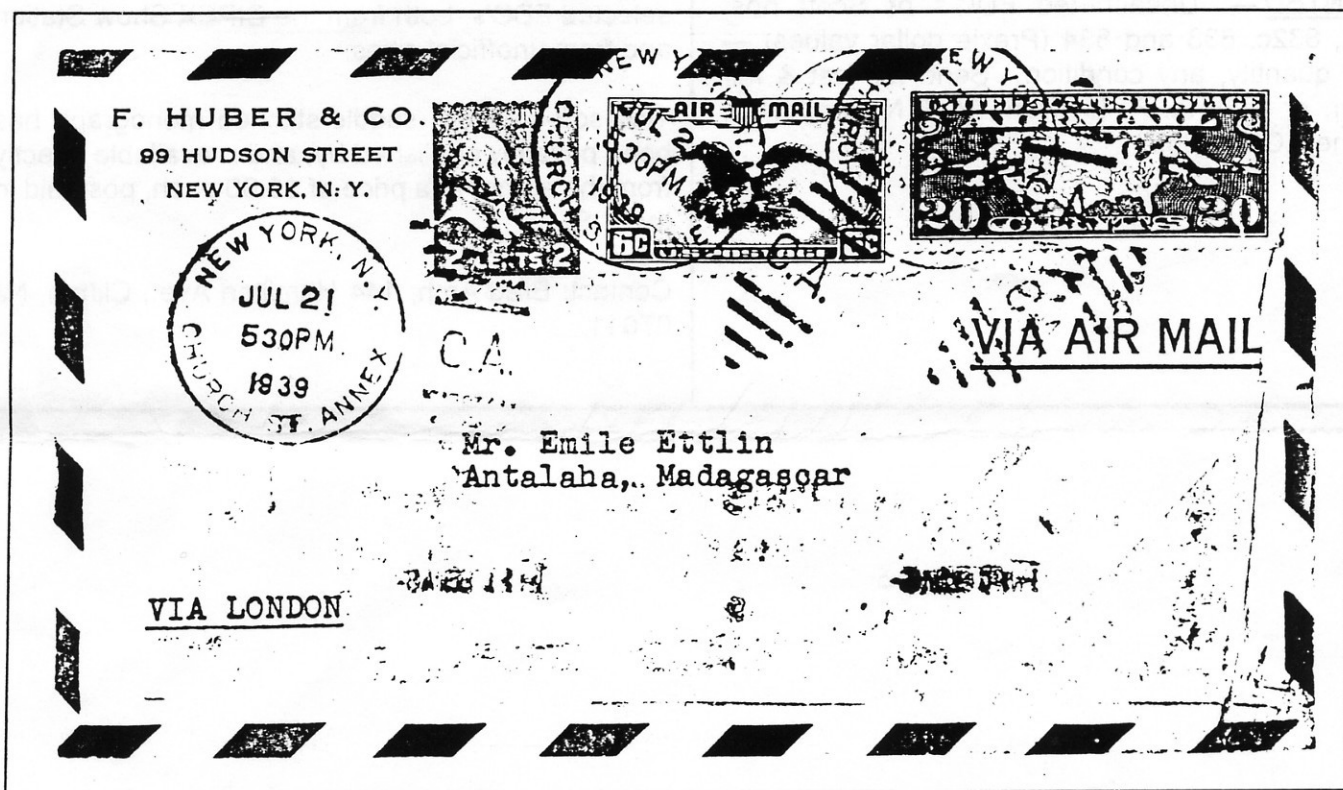
The airport vending machine was apparently still loaded with Prexie coils in 1961 -- this message was sent back to Germany on an airline picture card upon arrival at the New York airport.

10-cent international airmail postcard rate (6/1/54 - 6/30/61), Even though the postcard rate increased to 11-cents on July 1, 1961, this card still went through. (W. DiPaolo collection)

Foreign Destination: To Madagascar

The 28¢ franking was allocated as follows: 5¢ UPU ocean mail surface rate to London; 23¢ airmail from London to destination.

This old rate was available for only approximately 3-4 weeks after July 1.



July 21, 1939.

The airmail rate from London to Madagascar became 30¢ on July 1, 1939 (+ 5¢ ocean transit). However, the *Postal Bulletin* for June 27 stated that letters paid at the old 23¢ rate would be honored for a reasonable time.

(S. Roth collection)

SALE/TRADE/WANTED.....

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

WANTED — Solo usages on cover: 16-cent, 22-cent and 4.5-cent coil. Please send copies and prices to Robert Schlesinger, 875 Horatio Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

WANTED — Uncacheted FDC's of Scott nos. 832, 832c, 833 and 834 (Prexie dollar values) — any quantity, any condition. Send for fast & fair offer, or write to: R. Listwan, 2419 N. Broadway, Sidney, OH 45365.

FOR SALE — A 64-page monograph of the 1947 Centenary Souvenir sheet.

Covering subjects such as its creation with illustrations of eleven Essays & Proofs, production with illustrations of eight Die & Plate Records, issuance with 16 illustrations of publicity announcements and souvenir sheet EFO's and usages with illustrations of 100 covers showing examples of most of the conceivable commercial usages, both domestic & foreign, along with a few selected FDC's, both from the CIPEX Show Station and from unofficial cities.

This soft-covered, saddle-stitched monograph has been privately published by, and is available directly from the author at a price of \$9.00 each, postpaid in the U.S.

Contact: Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011.