



THE PREXIE ERA

The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee



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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

After seven years on the job, I will be stepping down as chairman of the Presidential Series Committee. My tenure will end at the close of the BIA's annual meeting, scheduled to take place at AIRPEX in Dayton, OH, Sept. 25-27.

I have asked BIA Chairman Roger Brody to appoint Jeff Shapiro to take my place. Unless Roger hears serious objection to the nomination, he most likely will do so. Jeff is a knowledgeable and energetic person and is sure to make a fine chairperson.

I originally accepted the chairmanship of this Committee on what I expected to be an interim basis, after our founding chairman, the late Roland Rustad, died suddenly in 1991. The interim position soon became permanent, and it is with some regret that I give it up. However, I now also serve as an elected BIA Board of Governors member, and I find that holding both positions is more than I can handle.

In this last note as chairman, I would like to highlight a few of our Committee's accomplishments over the past seven years:

- Roland's original mailing list of a dozen members has increased more than 10-fold.
- We established this wonderful newsletter, first edited by Randy Neil and now by John Grabowski. John, in particular, deserves our thanks for his efforts.
- We have expanded our focus to include all U.S. postage stamps of the Prexie Era.
- Prexie-era exhibits, once few and far between, now flourish at national shows, routinely earning vermeil and gold awards, and even an occasional Grand! To encourage this sharing of knowledge, we have created our annual Roland Rustad Memorial Award.

- Thanks to the editing provided by Leonard Piskewicz, the BIA posthumously published "The Prexies" by Roland Rustad. If you do not already own a copy, you should order one asap.
- Committee members have presented slide shows and seminars at many events, including Pacific '97.

I must admit to one area of being remiss — that of not encouraging submissions to "The United States Specialist". I hope my successor can do a better job than I did in this important area.

Steve Suffet

EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

Seven years certainly have passed quickly. That old adage, "Time flies when you're having fun", says it all. I've very much appreciated the opportunity to work with Steve on this newsletter since 1993. My principal regret is that I haven't been able to publish it more frequently due to time pressures this year.

Steve deserves a big thanks from all of us for providing guidance and inspiration during the Committee's formative years! I'm pleased to note that Steve is only letting go of the chairmanship, not his membership.

John Grabowski

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PREXIEPEX IX.....

Our annual Presidential Series Committee meeting will be held this year in conjunction with that of our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association (BIA). The site will be the downtown convention center in Dayton, OH and the dates will be September 25-27. There should be a good representation of Prexie era material as well as other outstanding U.S. material.

We will plan our meeting sometime Saturday afternoon, check the information desk (or the Editor's dealer table) for details. Bring covers and we will have an opportunity for our traditional swap Friday night and/or Saturday after our meeting.

THE PREXIE ERA ON DISPLAY.....

Single frame: "The 50-cent Transport Airmail Stamp", Joe Bock, Houston APS Winter Show Grand Award, BIA award, APS 1940-1980 award.

"Postal Uses of the Prexie Coil Stamps", John Grabowski, The Plymouth Show, April '98 Vermeil & AAPE award.

"U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates & Usages, 1938-1960", Steve Suffet, NOJEX, May '98 Grand Award, BIA Award (also honorary gold for Stampshow Champion of Champions participation).

"United States Famous American Series — Rates and Usage", David Wessely, Minn. Stamp Expo, July '98 Vermeil, AAPE award & APS 1940-1980 award.

"Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938", Leonard Piszkiwicz, Stampshow '98 (Santa Clara) Gold & APS 1900-1940 award.

"V-mail", George Cosentini, Stampshow '98 Gold & AAPE creativity award.

"Prexie Postal History", Dickson Preston, Stampshow '98 Gold

"The Philatelic Legacy of Martha Washington", William Rader, Balpex, Sept. '98 Vermeil & AAPE award.

"United States Prexies, a Study of Rates", Robert Schlesinger, Balpex Vermeil

"French Naval Mail to America, 1943-1946", Lewis Bussey, Balpex Gold & APS research medal & France + Colonies Philatelic Society Medal.

Great efforts, guys, keep up the good work!

CHECK OUT THIS WEB SITE.....

Now open — a new web site devoted to Prexie EFOs and other unusual, hard to find Prexie varieties:

"<http://www.stampdealers.com/millcreek/prexy.html>"

NOVEMBER 1, 1946 NEW AIRMAIL RATES.....

The 15-cent Transport cover shown below was sent to Brno, Czechoslovakia on November 1, 1946 from New York City. That's the day the Postal Service inaugurated a new and simplified system of post WW II air mail rates. With a few exceptions, the P.O.D. divided the world into three air mail rate zones as follows:

Western Hemisphere.....	10-cents per half oz.
Europe and North Africa.....	15-cents per half oz.
Balance of the world.....	25-cents per half oz.

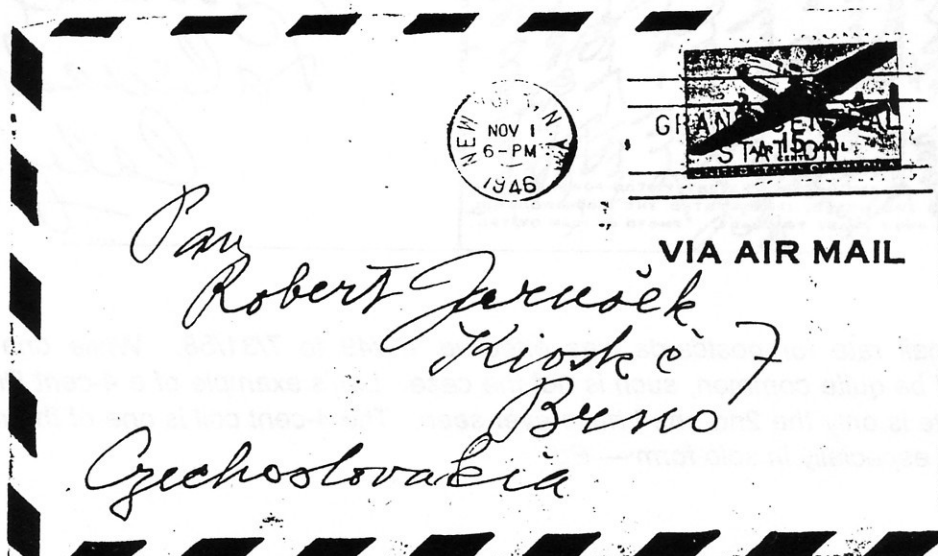
The exceptions included air mail from Guam to the Philippines at 10-cents per half oz; all of Turkey and the Soviet Union (including Asiatic portions) were included in the 15-cent rate; air mail to Canada has been charged the same rate as domestic air mail since July 6, 1932 and this rate policy was extended to Mexico as of October 1, 1946. Air mail to Cuba was charged a special rate of 8-cents per half oz until August 1, 1954, at which time the regular 10-cent zoned rate applied. Air mail to St. Pierre et Miquelon was charged 7-cents per oz. as of October 1, 1946 and 8-cents per oz. as of January 1, 1949, but air service was guaranteed only as far as Canada. Beyond that, transport could be by air or by surface means.

These zoned rates remained in effect throughout the Prexie era (the 10-cent rate lasted until July 1, 1961; the 15-cent rate until May 1, 1967; and the 25-cent rate until July 1, 1971).

First day 10-cent rate covers are fairly common, as Pan American Airways encouraged collectors to send covers to various Latin American destinations to show how quickly they arrived and were returned — Pan Am returned the covers at its own expense, using stamps of the destination countries to pay the appropriate air mail postage back to the U.S.

This Brno cover is the only 15-cent rate cover we have seen mailed on November 1, 1946. It was discovered among the stock of postal history dealer Alan "Coverman" Tohn, and is now in the collection of PSC member Joe Bock. We have yet to see any first day example of the 25-cent rate. If anyone has such an example, we would appreciate hearing about it.

Steve Suffet



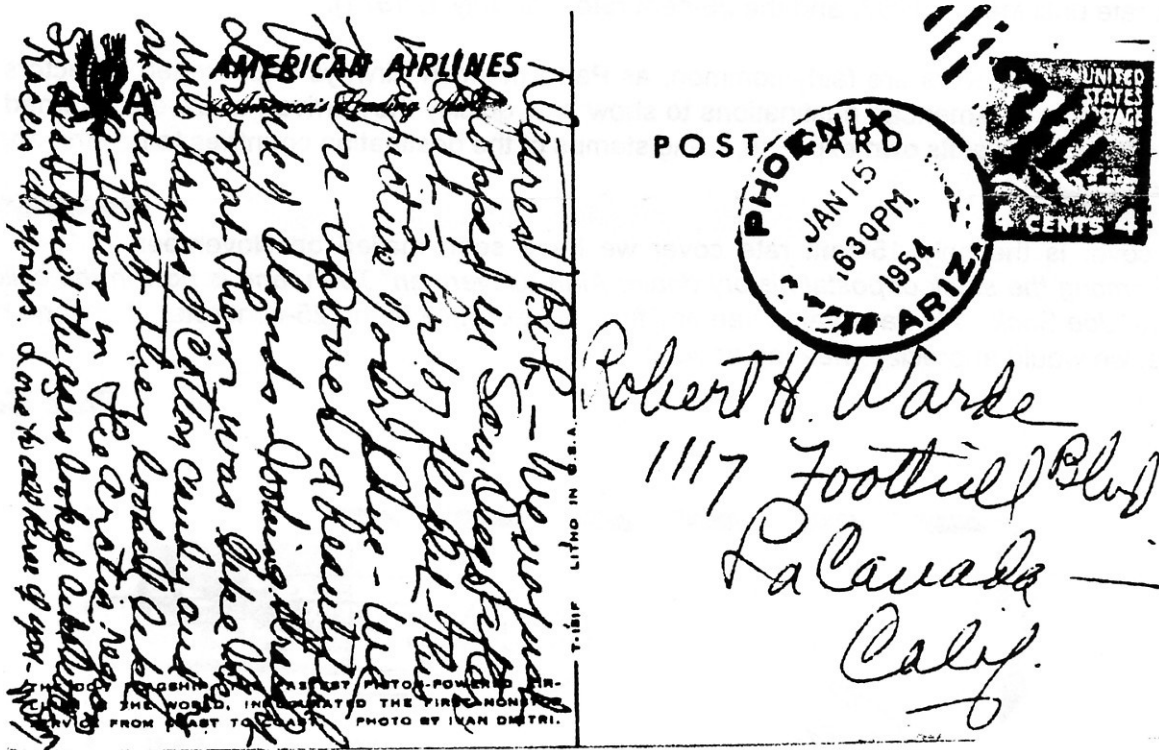
A COUPLE OF SCARCE PREXIE COIL FINDS.....

(If you still need encouragement that "finds" are still awaiting the careful shopper, read on.....Ed.)

Below is shown a postcard featuring an American Airlines plane in flight that I found last week at a postcard show. The 4-cent Prexie coil has cut perms on the left side, indicating it was likely sold through a vending machine.

Whenever I look at postcards, I always check the commercial aircraft categories, looking for AMF cancels — and last week I stumbled upon this gem. While the card isn't endorsed "AIR MAIL", I'm sure that was the intention.

Len Diszkiewicz, June, '98

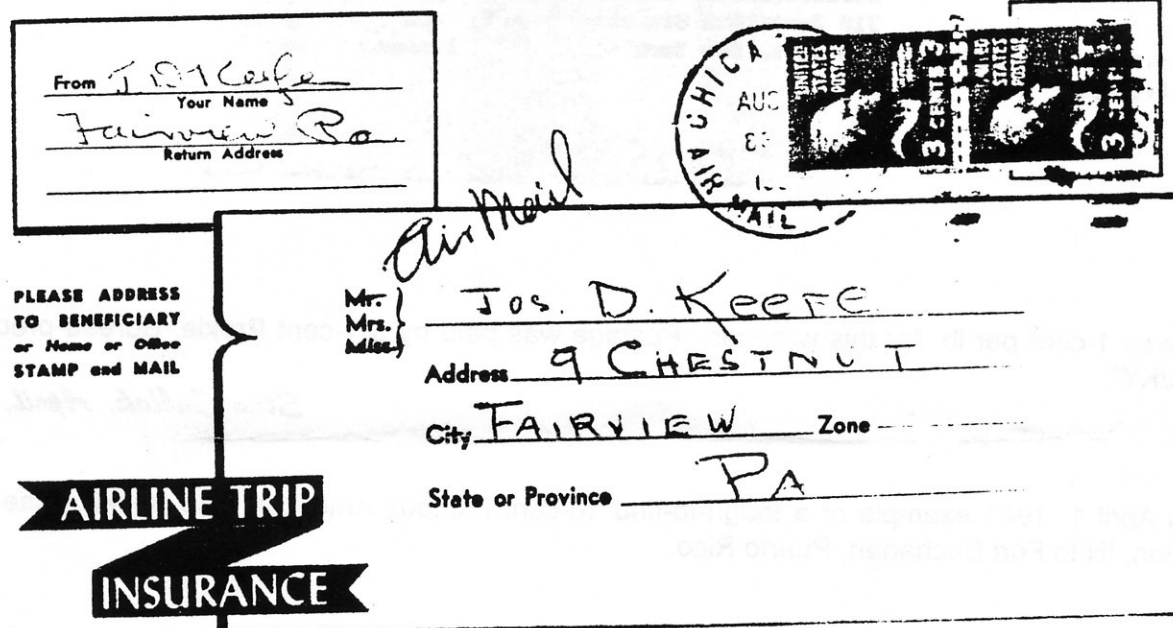


The 4-cent airmail rate for postcards was effective 1/1/49 to 7/31/58. While one would think these examples would be quite common, such is not the case. Len's example of a 4-cent Prexie coil paying the a/m postcard rate is only the 2nd one I have ever seen. The 4-cent coil is one of the more illusive stamps to find on cover, especially in solo form — Ed.

Below is shown a cover I found at a bourse earlier today: an absolutely commercial usage of a vertical format coil line pair on an airline trip insurance. The stamps were sold, I'm sure, from a vending machine at Midway Airport. The postmark reads "CHICAGO, ILL/AIR MAIL FIELD/AUG. 11 1953".

When I was a kid growing up in Chicago, I can remember seeing vending machines with rolls of vertical format coils in them. These, I'd guess, were Schermack vending machines. Anyway, this shows that they're still out there, waiting to be found, and this one will be in my exhibit for Stampshow '98!

Len Piszkievich, Aug., '98



To fully appreciate this find, it's important to note that the 3-cent vertical coil is one of the scarcest Prexie coils, about 1/500 as common as its horizontal 3-cent cousin!

Congratulations are also due PSC member Len on his appointment as editor of "The United States Specialist". As Steve mentioned on the first page, let's all give some thought to our writings and research which might be useful for the Specialist. We certainly have a sympathetic and very knowledgeable editor.

PREXIE ERA MATERIAL IN 1998 ISSUES OF "THE UNITED STATES SPECIALIST".....

In addition to George Brett's article on the 30-cent deep blue Prexie in the January issue mentioned last time, here are a couple of others:

"F Positions on Presidential Dollar Values", Wallace Cleland, April, 1998

"U.S. Second-Class Mail Paid with Stamps", Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, May, 1998

INTERESTING PREXIE ERA USAGES.....

A seldom-seen 2nd class mailing for the blind, anoted: "Periodicals for Blind/Act of April 15, 1937".

CURRENT EVENTS
1839 Frankfort
Louisville, Ky.

Mr. B. J. Straubenmiller
Straubenmiller Textile High School
315 East 10th Street
New York, New York



Published for Blind
Act of April 15, 1937

The rate was 1-cent per lb. for this wrapper. Postage was paid by a 1-cent Prexie, Bureau precancel, "Louisville/KY".

Stan Sablak, April, '98

Here's an April 1, 1941 example of a tough-to-find 10-cent Famous American solo franking used from Bloomington, IN to Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

*R. Ofeldt
700 E 8th
Bloomington
Indiana*

Air mail

*Ernest. T. Ofeldt
Old Sect. P. K. & N.
Fort Buchanan,
Puerto Rico*

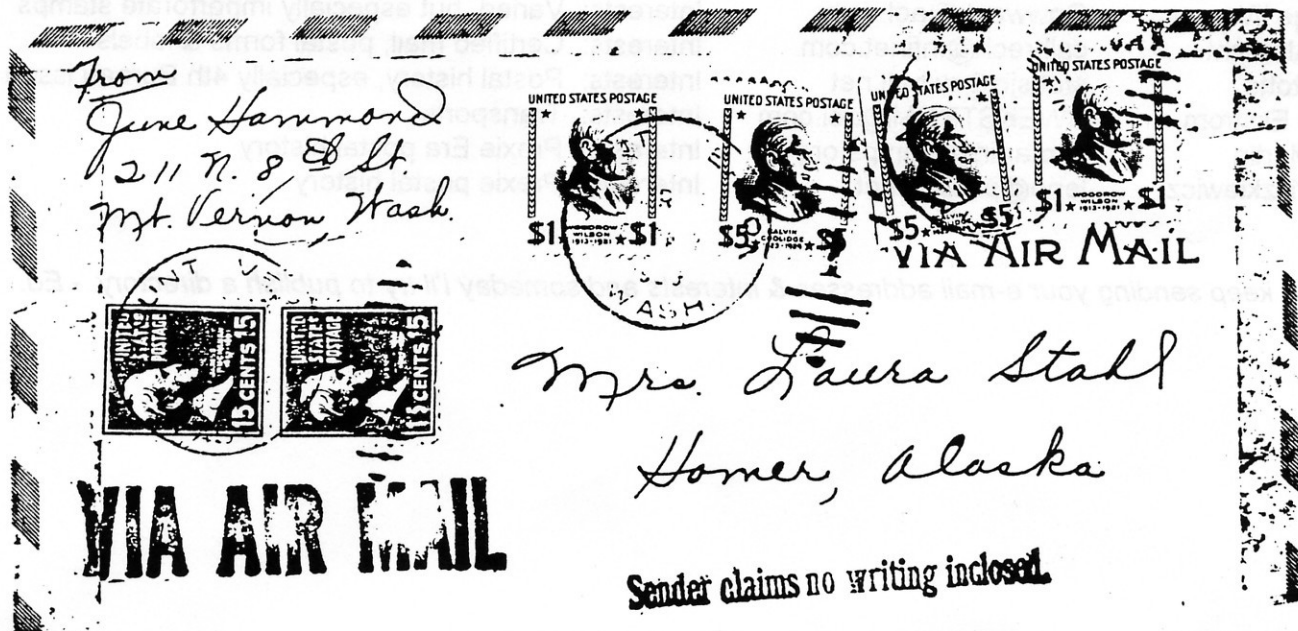
VIA AIR MAIL



John Grabowski

REQUESTS FOR HELP.....

1. Member Nick Zevos recently acquired the following piece shown below, used to transport mail from Mt. Vernon, WA to Alaska. The envelope was apparently attached to a parcel. Can anyone suggest an explanation for the \$12.30 Prexie franking?



2. Member Steven Roth asks for help in locating "Mariguana Island". He has a 12/12/41 surface rate (.05) letter addressed to "Postmaster/American Base Forces/Mariguana Island/% Postmaster, New York City". The letter was returned to the Detroit sender marked "No Post Office Established".

FOLLOW-UP COMMENTS ON THE 30-CENT DEEP BLUE PREXIE.....

Wallace Cleland adds some additional comments to last issue's article (recall there were three paired plate printings which evidence this color) —

Wallace has many of the printing dates of Prexie stamp plates, including those of the deep blue 30-cent:

Plates 22164,5	Nov. 16, 1938 to Nov. 17, 1938	
	Nov. 22, 1938 to Dec. 5, 1938	
	Dec. 22, 1939 to Jan. 2, 1940	
	Jan. 16, 1940 to Jan. 30, 1940	Total impressions 98,874, 98,873
Plates 22833,4	were at press 43 times between Dec. 26, 1941 and August 29, 1955	
		Total impressions 649,595, 649,596
Plates 223116, 23906	were at press 12 times between Feb. 2, 1953 and Aug. 29, 1955	
		Total impressions 254,245 each

Note that there is no overlap in the dates for these three sets of plates. Therefore if the deep blue color occurs on all three sets of plate numbers, it was mixed that way at least three different times.

Members desiring further Prexie plate number dates may contact Wallace at: "Cleland@enzyme.wisc.edu"

PSC MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES.....

Paul Kattelman	TallPaulK@aol.com	Interests: Electric eye markings
George Wagner	Gpwwauk@aol.com	Interests: Varied, but especially imperforate stamps
Carl Albrecht	calbrech@infinet.com	Interests: Certified mail, postal forms & labels
Jay Stotts	stottsjd@swbell.net	Interests: Postal history, especially 4th Bureau issue
Steve Ekstrom	SWEKSTROM@aol.com	Interests: Transports
Ken Martin	kpmartin@stamps.org	Interests: Prexie Era postal history
Len Piskiewicz	lenp@pacbell.net	Interests: Prexie postal history

Please keep sending your e-mail addresses & interests and someday I'll try to publish a directory. - Ed.

SALE/TRADE/WANTED.....

WANTED — Prexie and other rotary press corner selvage items that include 100% of the electric eye dashes. Mint/used, single/block OK, but must be a corner item. Send description and price to Paul Kattelman, P.O.Box 62213, Sharonville OH 45262.

WANTED — Your participation at PREXIEPEX IX, Dayton, OH, Sept. 25-27!

TRADE — Please send any offers to the editor.

FOR SALE — The definitive Prexy book, "THE PREXIES", by Roland Rustad — an essential reference work for the serious Prexie collector. Contact Dave Lee at P.O. Box 2641, Reston, VA 20195 — cost to BIA members is \$24, to all others, cost is \$30.

FOR SALE — A donation item to help our Treasury:

A 1944 servicemen's .06 airmail rate from Lincoln, NE to APO 634 (England), nice patriotic cover, franked by a pair of 3-cent booklet stamps showing a plate number at left which appears to be 22933. Bidding open until 9/30/98, reply to the Editor, min. bid \$5, item will be sold at one increment over the 2nd highest bid.

FOR SALE — Solo usages of 24-cent Prexie on U.S. Dept. of Interior covers (.20 reg. + .04 r.r.), all with contents. \$8 apiece or two/\$12. Approvals of mid-priced Prexie Era covers. Gerry Tenney, 318 Athol Ave., Oakland CA 94606