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## Editor's Note

### 2013 Subscriptions Payable Now

The Fall 2012 issue is the last in the quartet of *The Prexie Era* for 2012. This means it is time for readers to renew your subscriptions. Rates for 2012 remain the same as for last year: \$5 for the electronic version, \$10 for the color “snail-mail” version and, if you subscribe to both versions, well, you do the math. Unless prior arrangements have been made, please send payments and/or questions to Jeff Shapiro directly:

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### Largest Reported Franking of the 19-Cent Rutherford B. Hayes Stamp

by

Albert Briggs



The 19-cent Prexie has always been a challenging stamp to find properly used on cover. Single stamp uses are very scarce. The stamp is typically seen on postal stationery or used with other stamps to pay for some combination of postal rates. The *U. S. Specialist* article discussing this value in the April 2001 issue listed five possible single stamp uses.

While not as aggressively sought after, but equally challenging to find, are multiples or large frankings on cover. The same article shows three covers with multiple stamps, ranging from a pair paying registration fees to five copies on a large envelope paying for registered airmail. The cover shown here is franked with 16 copies of the 19-cent Hayes stamp, including a block of 12.

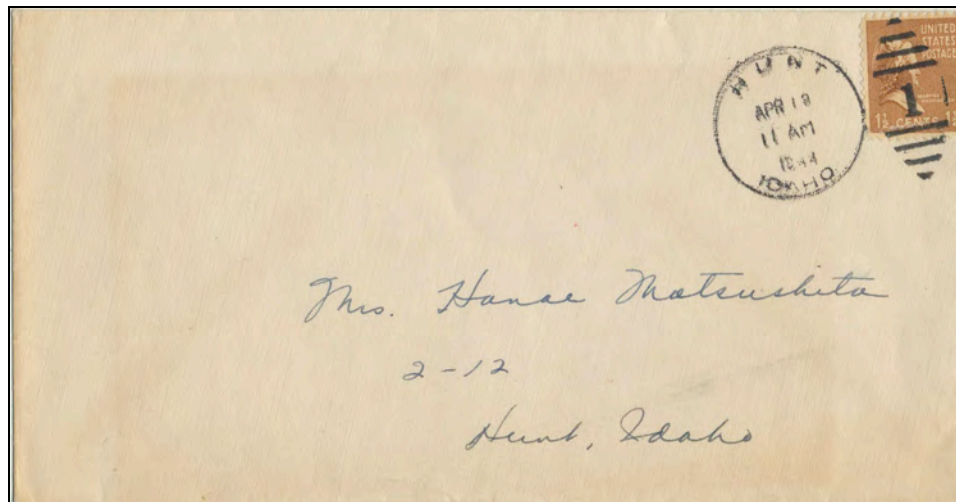
This cover was mailed on October 14, 1958 as evidenced by the backstamp. The fee breakdown is the following: 4 cents first class postage, 10 cents return receipt, and 3 dollars registration fee for up to \$5000.00 indemnity. The addressee is the Williamsport, PA. office of the brokerage firm Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. The envelope likely contained stock certificates or some other form of negotiable security. This is the largest franking of the 19-cent stamp reported in *The Prexie Era* and may represent the largest known use of the stamp.

### Third Class Mail Within An Internment Camp

by

Jeffrey Shapiro

While covers bearing a 1.5-cent Prexie paying the third class unsealed greeting card rate are common, sometimes a surprise can be found, as with this April 1944 within-center example from the Minidoka Relocation Center, located near Twin Falls, Idaho. The postmark and addressee have historical significance. Here in the high desert country, more than 9,000 Japanese Americans from the Pacific Northwest had been incarcerated since the summer of 1942. Hunt, the on-site branch of the Twin Falls post office, was established on September 1, 1942.



On February 19, 1942 Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the removal and incarceration of all "Nikkei" (persons of Japanese ancestry) from the West Coast of the United States. A total of 120,000 individuals were eventually incarcerated by this order. It should be noted that while some were Japanese nationals, two-thirds of those incarcerated were U.S. citizens. Nearly fifty years would pass before the government would formally recognize the civil rights violation caused by this order and made restitution.

The exiles were transported to ten inland relocation centers where summers were scalding and winters bone cold. One of them, the Minidoka Relocation Center, was located twenty miles northeast of Twin Falls, in south central Idaho. The center operated from August 1942 until October 1945. At its peak the center held 9,397 individuals, most from the Seattle and Portland areas. With its 600 tarpaper structures, eight guard towers, and five miles of barbed wire fencing, it became the eighth largest city in Idaho.

Beginning in late 1942 inmates began to leave camp in significant numbers. Many worked as farm laborers throughout Idaho, while others left for college. Large numbers of families resettled in states that welcomed them. Draft eligible males served in the famed all-Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team or Military Intelligence Service as volunteers or draftees.

The last inmates vacated the camp in October 1945, and the government disassembled most of the structures. Remaining structures were preserved to house returning war veterans or sold to area farmers.

Six acres of the Minidoka site were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July of 1979, and in 2001 the core of the former camp was designated as a National Monument. Since then, stakeholder groups have engaged in a comprehensive planning process to develop the site to memorialize the wartime hardships and commemorate the sacrifices made by Japanese Americans. On December 21, 2006, President George Bush signed legislation guaranteeing \$38,000,000 in federal funds to restore all ten of the former relocation center sites, including Minidoka.

In 1990, Congress authorized a formal apology to all Japanese Americans impacted by Executive Order 9066, signed by President George H.W. Bush, and accompanying \$20,000 restitution.

\* \* \* \*

### U.S. Mail to Finland during World War II

by

Louis Fiset

An August 1939 a non-aggression pact between Germany and the U.S.S.R. provided that Finland fall under the Soviet sphere of influence. Finland's refusal to capitulate resulted in a 105-day war between this Nordic country and the Soviet Union. Throughout the war, that began 30 November 1939, mail from the U.S. to Finland was censored by the Finns and intermittently suspended. A treaty was signed on 13 March 1940, and Soviet troops withdrew. Mail service from the U.S. to Finland resumed shortly thereafter.

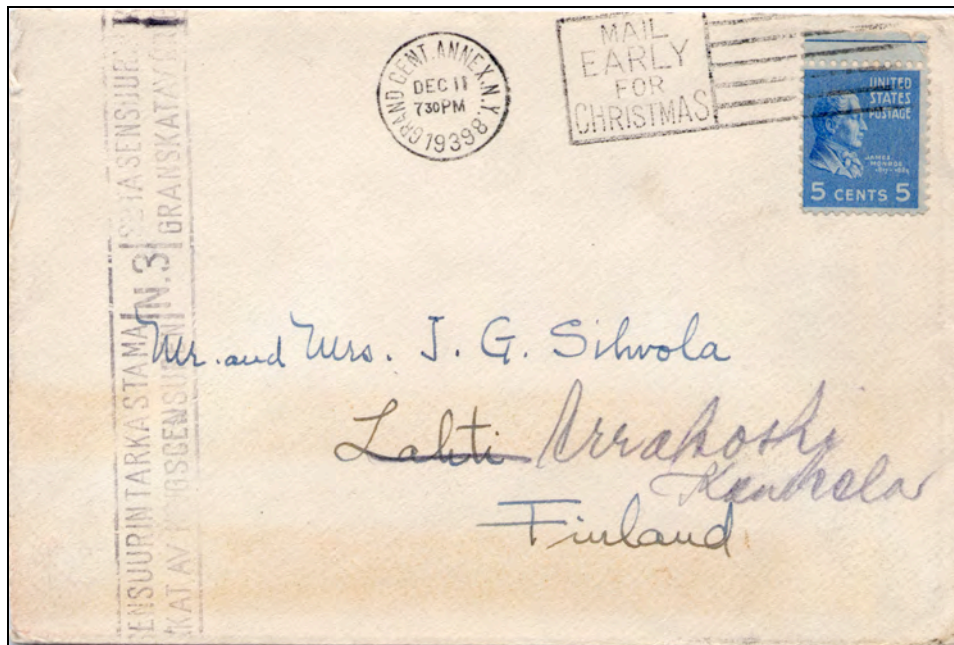


Figure 1: Trans-Atlantic ship mail from New York postmarked 12 days after the beginning of “The Winter War.” Passed unopened by Finnish censorship. Transit time: 72 days.





Figure 2: Surface mail postmarked two days before the end of the 105-day war. The letter reached UK, but mail had been suspended since late February, so was returned to sender via New York.



Figure 3: Registered airmail letter postmarked New York, 31 May 1940, two months after the end of the war. Received at Helsinki on 3 June 1940. Opened by Finnish censors. Transit time: 4 days.

Finland became an ally of Germany against the U.S.S.R. beginning 26 June 1941. Thus, once the U.S. entered the war on 8 December 1941, Finland had been at war with an Allied nation for five months. The U.S. immediately declared war against Finland. As a result, mail service from the U.S. was suspended immediately and for the duration of the war. Surface letter mail to Finland resumed on 16 February 1945. Airmail service followed six months later, on 28 August.



Figure 4: Surface business mail postmarked three months after the U.S. declared war against Finland. Censored at New York and returned to sender without ever leaving the country.

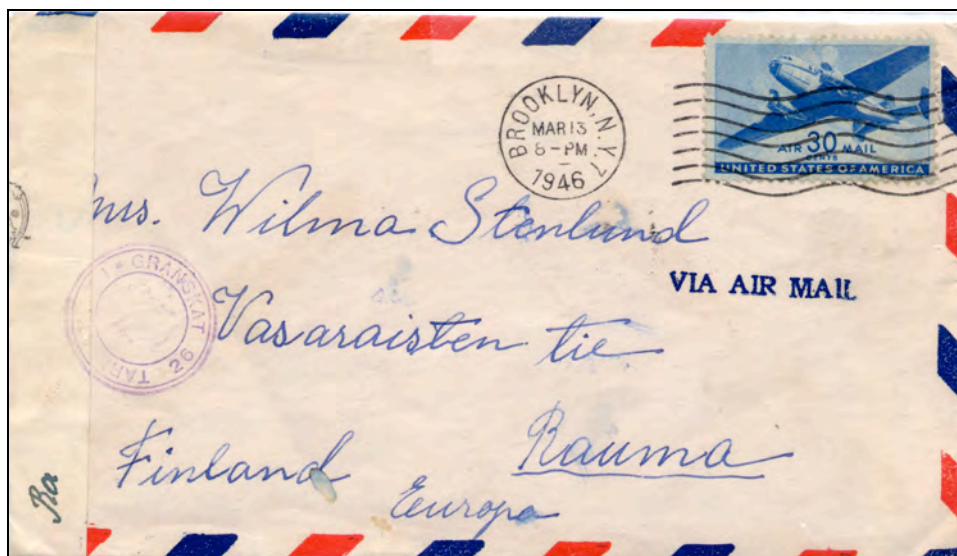


Figure 5: Airmail letter to Finland, postmarked 13 March 1946. By now all mail service to the country had resumed, including registration and special delivery services. Finnish censors were still examining the mail at this time.

## Censor Markings on Prison Mail during the Prexie Era

by

Albert Briggs

Mail remains a major means of communication between incarcerated individuals and the community. Processing mail to and from inmates in correctional facilities is an important function of prison and jail staff. This processing includes delivery and collection of mail, distribution of official mail, allowance for receipt of publications, and following procedures for handling legal mail and packages. Part of the processing function includes awareness of situations that can lead to violation of security and order in the institution. This awareness is achieved through the inspection of incoming and outgoing mail.

According to the Mail Management Manual of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, all mail and packages are opened and inspected. The authority of staff to open and inspect mail is recognized, as is the inmates' current right to elect not to have their mail opened and read. If this right is exercised however, their mail is returned to sender.

For years correctional facility officials censored or removed mail without any statutory guidance. This resulted in mail that was banned for undue complaints, expression of grievances, and mention of inflammatory political, racial, or religious beliefs. Essentially, if officials wanted to censor or return mail they could. Correspondence was considered a privilege and not a right.

The era of the Presidential Series pre-dates the tightening of regulations governing the censorship of mail. During this era many interesting censor markings can be found on mail to and from people incarcerated in penal institutions across the country.

One of the most notorious prisons in the United States, San Quentin, used several different markings indicating censorship.



Figure 1, an outgoing cover from 1947, shows a handstamp “Apvd”, indicating approval after inspection.



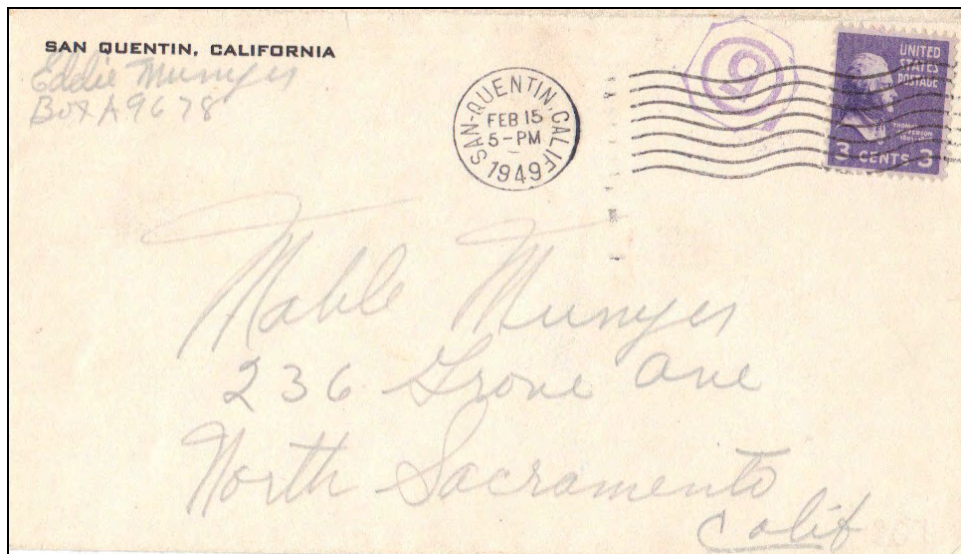


Figure 2 is a cover from an inmate in 1949 bearing numeral 5 in circle and geometric design applied by the prison censor.



Figure 3. Another California facility is represented by figure 3. This is an inbound cover to the Los Angeles city jail. This has a boxed censored marking and also states **no money enclosed**.



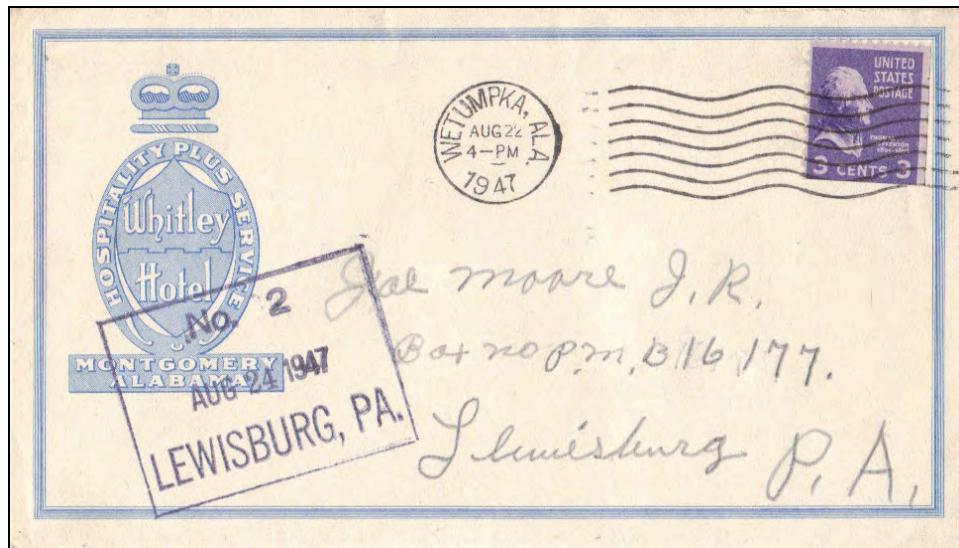


Figure 4. Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania used a boxed censor marking containing a number identifying the censor, date, and location.



Figure 5: Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary correspondence with a different box censor marking than in Figure 4.



Figure 6. Washington State Reformatory for juveniles, at Monroe, Washington, also used a boxed censor marking containing date and blank line to record censor number.

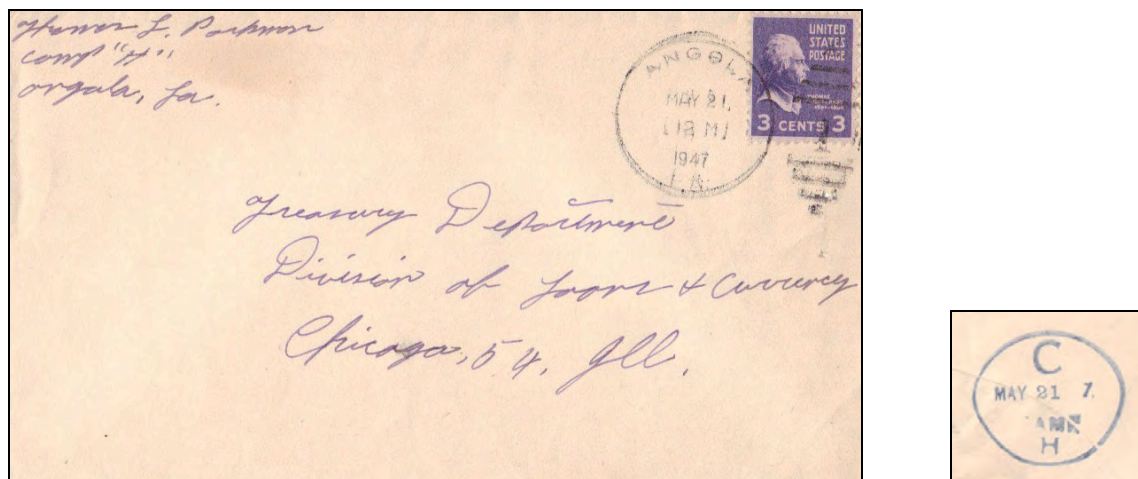


Figure 7. The cover in figure 7 contains a return address of Camp “H”, Angola, La. Camp H was a prisoner housing facility of the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Located on 18,000 acres along the Mississippi River, it is the largest prison in the South. The reverse bears a circular censor marking with the date and camp designation.

In 1974 the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in *Procunier v. Martinez* that with regard to censorship of mail, officials had to show a government interest in a particular regulation and the regulation must be no greater than is necessary to protect that interest. Justice Thurgood Marshall in his concurring opinion wrote “the First Amendment serves not only the needs of the polity but also those of the human spirit—a spirit that demands self-expression.” “When the prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded.”