



# *The Prexie Era*

The Newsletter of the USSS 1938 Presidential Era Study Group

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# The Prexies

Fall 1991



Bulletin of the Prexie Study Group/BIA Fifth Bureau Issue Committee

## ROLAND RUSTAD 1930-1991

Though it has been widely reported in the philatelic press, we note in these pages the deep sorrow all of us feel at the sudden death of our leader Roland Rustad of Durango, Colorado.

Rollie passed after in early October while golfing with his wife, Pat. He was to have been with us at MIDAPHIL. His loss leaves a serious void among Prexie students though we are gladdened to hear that Pat will be working with Leonard Piskiewicz to consummate the publication of Rollie's projected book on our specialty. This is something which all of us had been looking forward to and its publication will be a tribute to this thoughtful, giving, serious philatelist.

**The Prexie Study Group**  
The Fifth Bureau Issue Committee of the Bureau Issues Association  
c/o **Steve Suffet**  
Interim Chairman  
41-05 47th St.  
Sunnyside NY 11104

**Randy Neil**  
Editor

Though you need not be a BIA member to participate in our group, we do urge you to join the BIA. For an application, write to: BIA, Box 1047, Belleville, IL 62223.

## FINALLY... Our Own Bulletin

Welcome to our first bulletin! It's the intention of our interim committee chairman, Steve Suffet, to distribute this first issue as widely as possible so that all Prexie specialists may know that we now have our own newsletter. It's free to members of our Study Group and, for the time being, is financed by the Bureau Issues Association, our mother organization.

We can't go on, though, without your input! Send us your suggestions, your tidbits of news and finds on your own collection of Prexies. We can use just about anything! Address all inquiries to Steve at 41-05 47th Street, Sunnyside NY 11104.

## Prexie Cover Swap A Success

You shoulda been there! Our first Prexie Cover Swap at MIDAPHIL was a nice success with about half a dozen of us being joined by other cover enthusiasts in a hotel suite for pizza, beer and tons of covers to pore over.

There was buying, selling and trading going on and some stuff was even given away as gifts such as, would you believe, Kansas City Royals baseball cards. It's an event we plan to continue at our very next Prexiepex! Hope you'll be there.

## Prexiepex II a Whole Lot of Fun!

With over 60 frames of 1938 Presidential Issue material, "Prexiepex" at Kansas City's MIDAPHIL on Oct. 25-27 can safely be termed a resounding success. We even walked away with one gold medal: Leonard Piskiewicz' extremely well-thought-out showing of the Usages of the 1938 Presidential Series. Not only that, but Walt Cole, showing his Three Centers for the first time ever, walked away with a solid vermeil. And special congrats, as well, to Akihiro Asano who, with an exhibit prepared at his home 10,000 miles away, also managed a vermeil. Kudos also to Steve Suffet with a vermeil for his Prexie postal rates entry and Millard Mack with bronzes for his brief showings of the Three and Five Cent issues. And Randy Neil showed his Prexie usages exhibit non-competitively due to his position on the jury. Considering the diminutive size of our study group, this was, indeed, an impressive showing.

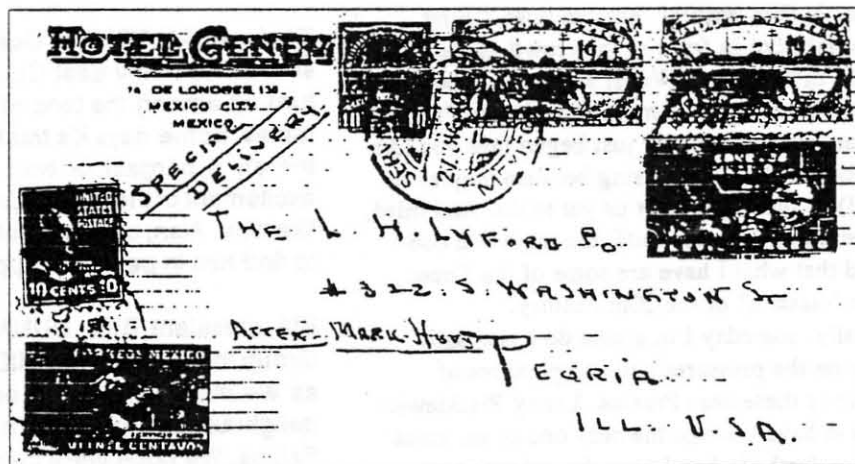
We're also pleased to announce that, during the show, Steve Suffet was appointed interim chairman of our group by BIA president Bill Dunn. Steve chaired our meetings and seminar and gave us the leadership we sorely missed because of Rollie Rustad's untimely death.

Prexiepex I, the first concerted effort by our members to exhibit at the same national show, took place at NAPEX '90 in Washington, DC during the BIA's annual meeting there.

Prexiepex III, our next national meeting, is tentatively scheduled for Indianapolis' INDYPLEX, September 11-13, 1992. Prospectus are already available from James R. Adams, P.O. Box 40792, Indianapolis IN 46240. This show is always a delightful event...centrally located in the city's beautiful downtown area with numerous nearby hotels, restaurants and shops. Its central geographical location makes it another good place for us to meet. Drop us a line if you are thinking of attending. In this way we'll know, for sure, whether to schedule our next meeting at this great exhibition.

As a sidebar: Leonard Piskiewicz again won a national gold medal at Chicagopex the weekend of November 1-3. Congrats, Lenny! You're making waves that we'll all be able to swim in!

## A Puzzler of a Mexie Prexie?



**MEXICO CITY to Peoria, Illinois, 1940.** Does anyone know why a 10-cent Prexie was affixed? If it was to pay US special delivery fee in absence of a reciprocal S.D. agreement w/ Mexico, then why does cover also bear two Mexican 20c S.D. stamps? One or the other had to be superfluous. But which? And why? Send your thoughts on this cover to Steve Suffet as soon as possible. Answer will appear in our next issue.



## From where I sit... an editorial

We might as well quit complaining---that is, those of us who do this sort of thing sometimes. I know I'm guilty of it...this griping about how much higher Prexie cover prices are these days and how they are continuing to rise.

If you managed to attend MIDAPHIL and see the enthusiasm and how downright rabid some of us are about our specialty, then you know that all of us (at least those of you I know) are so dedicated to building our collections that we've become the chief instigators of the rising prices in Prexie material. Gosh. Who would have thought that a \$10 cover sold to me in 1985 would today be worth over \$100?! But it's happened...and it's happened to each of us, no doubt.

In essence, it's something we've done to ourselves. But take heart. Our growing ranks have called valid attention to our little corner of America's postal past and this, in the long run, will not only help turn up more good stamps and covers, but put us in the almost enviable position of being on the leading edge of one of philately's most volatile investments of the 1990's.

It's like this: when I tell someone that I collect Prexie covers, they sometimes reply, "Gee, those are sure getting expensive, aren't they?"

"Well, yes," is my rejoinder. "But not only are they still a lot cheaper than some other good specialties I know, but my Prexies are the only area of philately I've ever delved into where my collection---because of the constant market appreciation---is worth at least as much on the open market as I originally paid for it. Including some of the covers I bought just last month!"

There's a great bottom line to all of this, of course. In fact, several "bottom lines." First, we're right out in front of the crowd as the interest in the World War II anniversary begins to heat up. Secondly, the true research into Prexie era rates and routes has only just begun (are you like me? Rates are still confusing because they're so many!) so there's lots for us yet to do. And third, the more I collect this stuff, the more I'm convinced that what I have are some of the finest future "classics" of the 20th century.

Finally, someday I'm gonna do a real solid article on the pressures and complexities of exhibiting these here Prexies. Lenny Piskiewicz seems to have become the only one of us, since Rollie's death, to bowl over the judges consistently. We envy you, Lenny. Now if I could only figger out some neat and tidy "plan" like you did!

Randy Neil



### Net Price Sale No. 1

An anonymous donor has made this lovely example of the 30-cent air mail rate to Peru available for just \$15. All proceeds will help defray the costs of publishing this issue of our bulletin. Write to Steve Suffet to see if cover is still available. First person who contacts him will be notified the cover is his/hers! Offer open until cover is sold.

## Special recognition to...

**JOLYNN BRICHACEK** of Columbus, Nebraska, who has racked up more awards than any of us with her youth exhibit of the 1938 Presidential series. Two of her honors, among many, include a Junior Grand at the Omaha Stamp Show in 1989, and a Junior Most Popular (chosen by the public) at HOUPEX '90. She doesn't mess around! Hers is a very good exhibit that deserves all of this recognition.

Prexie Study Group member **JOHN GRABOWSKI** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for his indefatigable work as General Chairman of the Twin Cities Stamp Expo '91. So much attention is given to national shows that we tend to forget the important service done for philately by countless folks who put together our regional and local exhibitions. We're proud of you, John, and we enjoyed seeing you in Kansas City.

Dealer **ALAN TOHN** of Oceanside, New York, the ubiquitous "Coverman" seen at so many East Coast shows. One literally never knows what will turn up among the tens of thousands of covers Alan pours out onto his tables. Some days it's trash, and some days it's treasure. Almost always there's a bargain or two or three to be had. And there's always the excitement of the hunt. Don't we all wish there were a dozen more dealers like him. Alan, unfortunately, doesn't do mail order at this time. You'll have to find him in person to appreciate how wonderful his operation really is.

BIA president **BILL DUNN** who personally attended our Prexie Study Group meetings during MIDAPHIL and gave us his organization's support as we move into a new era without Rollie Rustad at our helm. Bill's a delightful gentleman who has more good stories than a philatelic Aesop's Fables. We hope you'll plan to be with us whenever we meet, Bill.

**WALT COLE**, our resident expert on the three centers, who walked away with a vermeil as a first-time exhibitor at MIDAPHIL. Hey, some of us didn't think he could do anything with that little stamp. And are we proud now!

## From the Newsroom:

### NET PRICE LIST AVAILABLE

Brad Arch has recently published a net price list of 172 covers from Long Island, New York, including the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. While these covers span the years from the 1847 issue to the present, many good Prexie usages are included. Prices are generally moderate, and in the case of the Prexies run from \$1 to \$60. (The \$60 item is a 1940 cover with three 10 cent Tylers paying the air mail rate to Bohemia, part of Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.)

You can get a copy of this price list by writing to Brad at 144 Hamilton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07011. Tell him you read about it in *The Prexies* newsletter.

### HELBOCK PREXIE BOOK STILL AVAILABLE.

Prexie Postal History, edited by Richard W. Helbock and published in 1988 by La Posta Publications, is an excellent introduction for anyone who collects or who contemplates collecting the '38 Presidential series used on cover. Each of the six chapters in this paper-bound volume was written by a different Prexie specialist. While there are a few small errors in some of the articles, overall the work is both useful and interesting. Especially helpful is one of the appendices, a table of international air mail rates of 1938-1946 compiled by Helbock with the assistance of Henry W. Beecher. This appendix alone is worth the price of the entire book. Prexie Postal History is available for \$12 from La Posta Publications, Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

### TELL YOUR FRIENDS...

...about the Prexie Study Group. We now have scores of Prexie collectors as part of our group. If you know someone who might like to join us, send his/her address to: Steve Suffet, 41-05 47th St., Sunnyside NY 11104. There are no dues at this time...we're still free!

## THE PREXIES AT INDYPEX '92

Nothing's more of a blast than when two or more Prexie specialists get together, right? Before you know it, there's a veritable blizzard of facts, fancies and anecdotes being exchanged, not to mention covers being bought, sold and bartered...and we *have* to mention, even better, the fine socializing that goes on.

Well, get ready for the Prexie blast of the year as our Study Unit descends on the great INDYPEX show in Indianapolis on September 11-13, right in the heart of the Speedway city in the downtown convention center...close to restaurants, sights, sounds and shops. The place for all of us to assemble to repeat the fine time we had in '91 at Midaphil in Kansas City.

Steve Suffet, our fearless leader, is assembling several excellent seminars and panel discussions for us...as well as our annual "Cover Swap" which will be held in the show hotel on Friday night. And hey

you exhibitors! Let's show the INDYPEX folks that we're among the most formidable corps of exhibitors in the country. Write to Jim Adams at P.O. Box 40792, Indianapolis, IN 46240, right now and get a hold of his show prospectus. Enter your material so the world can see it! You can also write to Jim for complete details on the show hotel.

If things work out like they normally do, we'll assemble (you early birds, that is) on Thursday night for cocktails...and this year, since we're a few minutes walk from Indy's famous Union Station complex, we'll no doubt hold this affair in one of that center's fine joints. And we might even stay on for dinner after the cocktail hour. Who knows?

In '91, we assembled Prexie collectors from eight or nine states for our meetings and all of us there had a terrific time. Indianapolis is a fairly "central" sort of location...so we hope you'll put the show on your calendar.

## FOREIGN MAIL REGISTRY FEES

Even many specialists fail to realize that registry fees for foreign mail have not always been the same as for domestic mail. During the Prexie era, the foreign registry fee was sometimes the same as the domestic, and sometimes different. The table below, based on information provided by Henry W. Beecher, should be of help to anyone trying to decipher the rates on a foreign bound Prexie registered cover.

Please note that except to Canada and Newfoundland, indemnity was limited by UPU and/or PUAS agreements, and varied from \$3.27 to \$16.33. The indemnity to Canada and to Newfoundland (which became a province of Canada in 1949) was \$25 maximum through June 30, 1957. On July 1, 1957, a two-step graduated schedule went into effect for mail to Canada. Otherwise, there was no system of step increments for foreign registered mail as there was for domestic.

### PREXIE ERA REGISTRY FEES TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS

In effect in 1938:	15 cents
Effective Feb. 1, 1945:	20 cents
Effective Jan. 1, 1949:	25 cents
Effective Sept. 1, 1952:	40 cents
Effective Nov. 1, 1953:	55 cents *
Effective July 1, 1957:	50 cents **

\* 40 cents fee continued to Postal Union of the Americas and Spain member countries, other than Canada, through June 30, 1957.

\*\* 50 cents fee to Canada provided indemnity up to \$10. Indemnity up to \$25 was available only to Canada for a 75 cents fee.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### ALL PREXIE STUDY GROUP MEMBERS TO RECEIVE FREE COPY OF *U.S. STAMPS & Postal History*

If you're on the mailing list to receive this newsletter, then you'll also be receiving a free copy of America's newest national stamp magazine when it first comes off the presses on May 5th. Randy Neil, publisher of *U.S. STAMPS & Postal History* magazine, is also a member of our group and is making sure no one is left out from getting a gander at the first full-scale national magazine devoted to our own country's stamps.

*USS&PH* will feature, among dozens of special pieces going into its first issue, the 20th Century Mails column written by our group leader, Steve Suffet. In fact, a Prexie item is featured in full color on the cover of the inaugural issue!

John Hotchner is editor of the magazine and his plans call for yet another Prexie item on the cover of the July (2nd) issue when *USS&PH* publishes a "special edition" on World War II postal history.

Subscriptions to *USS&PH* are \$15 per year/\$25 for two years. Their address: *USS&PH*, 10660 Barkley Lane, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66212-1861.

### SCOTT NEEDS OUR HELP

Richard Sine, the Editorial Director for the Scott Publishing Company, has written to the BIA and other specialist societies for help in creating the 1993 Scott Catalogue. All suggestions are, of course, welcome, but Sine is looking to correct certain problems in particular. First among these are "difficult to find items which continue to show a low catalogue value." Included in this category are not just inexpensive items, but also "errors or varieties value in the hundreds of dollars" which are nevertheless underpriced.

If anyone knows of such items among the Prexies--some of the perforation or color errors perhaps--Sine would like to know "your estimate of their actual retail value." Please write to Steve Suffet with the specifics, and he will see that your information is passed on to Sine through the BIA.

#### SPECIAL NOTE:

One thing the Scott Publishing Company is apparently not considering at this time is extending their "on-cover" listings in the U.S. Specialized past No. 550. Prexie Study Group member Dickson F. Preston of Seattle has offered to fill the gap by putting together his own pricing guide to Prexies used on cover. He is well suited to the task, for he was the one who edited the Zeppelin section of the latest American Air Mail Catalogue price supplement. Dickson will go ahead with this project only if enough people feel it's worthwhile and only if he can count on the support of other Prexie specialists to provide him with price information.

So what do you say? If you think a Prexie cover pricing guide is a good idea and if you are willing to provide Dickson with the information he needs, let Steve Suffet know. He will, in turn, inform Dickson.

## MEXIE PREXIE STILL A MYSTERY

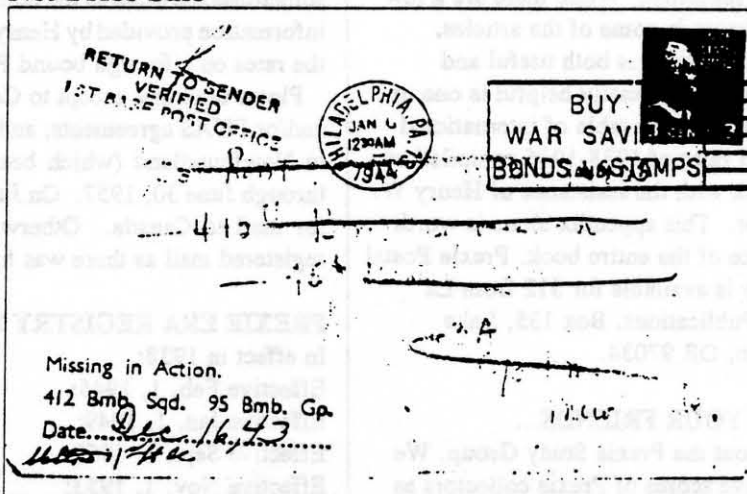
While several folks have ventured guesses as to why the 1940 cover, pictured in the Fall 1991 issue of *The Prexies*, bears a 10 cent Prexie in addition to two Mexican Special delivery stamps, no one has come up with a definitive answer. G.H. Davis of Cincinnati, for example, speculates that the Mexican stamps may have been insufficient to pay the special delivery fee to the U.S., "and the 10-cent Prexie was added in Mexico to make up the necessary difference." Most persons who have offered an opinion, though, feel that the Prexie was entirely unneeded. The two Mexican 20 centavo special delivery stamps were enough. Some have speculated that the mailer may not have known whether there was a reciprocal special delivery agreement in force between the two countries, and therefore "hedged his bet" by paying the fee in both U.S. and Mexican stamps. (In fact, there was such a reciprocal agreement at that time.) Ernest E. Fricks of Clementon, N.J., offers another possibility. "I suspect," he writes, "the 10 cents was to pay a customs fee. I have seen other covers of the period with a customs marking, and notation of a 10 cents fee." What the writer is referring to is the 10 cents fee imposed by the U.S. Post Office Dept. when it had to act as "customs broker" for foreign mail containing merchandise. However, this fee could not be paid in advance. Instead, it was collected from the addressee as postage due. Nevertheless, the mailer may not have known that, and may have attempted to prepay the fee with the 10 cent Prexie. If so, we would expect the cover to bear some endorsement of its contents, but it has none and, thus, we are still left with only educated guesses. Perhaps there are some mysteries that can never be solved?

*The Prexies*  
Randy L. Neil  
Editor  
(for now)

Address all  
correspondence to  
our Study Group  
Manager  
Stephen Suffet  
41-05 47th Street  
Sunnyside NY 11104



### Net Price Sale



A "Missing in Action" cover from the era of the heavy Allied fire-bombing of Germany in early 1944, with the three-cent rate to a Staff Sergeant in the 412th Bomber Squadron, 95th Bomber Group, the latter having been declared "Missing" three weeks before the letter was mailed. Price \$20. (Order from Steve Suffet)

## FLASH!

### SCOTT CONSIDERING EXTENSION OF ON-COVER LISTINGS

In a move that could lead to a reversal of its earlier policy, the Scott Publishing Company is now considering extending on-cover price listing in their *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* to certain post-1920 issues. Currently, on-cover listings end with the Pilgrim Tercentenary commemoratives, Scott Nos. 548-550. The new listings would include the Prexies.

In a letter to PSG Interim Chairman Steve Suffet and several other PSG members including our editor, Randy Neil, Scott Editorial Director Richard Sine specifically asked for help in arriving at oncover values for the Presidential series. The PSG, of course, stands ready to assist the Scott Publishing Company in this endeavor.

This is a developing story, and no further details are available at this moment. In fact, we do not know if Scott is contemplating this major undertaking for its 1993 edition or for its 1994 edition [Editor's note: it's for '94], or for some later year.

### PISZKIEWICZ

#### TAKES GRAND AWARD

For the first time ever, a Prexie exhibit has captured the Grand Award at a national competition. "Usages of the Presidential Series of 1938," by Leonard Piskiewicz was Filatelic Fiesta's top entry this past March in San Jose, Ca.

Len's exhibit will compete for the Champion of Champions title at STaMpsHOW '92 in Oakland.

This is truly an example of how a determined exhibitor can create a masterpiece from material which only a few short years ago was being pooh-poohed as philatelic junk. But the Leonard Piskiewicz of this hobby, and the Roland Rustads, and so many others, did their homework and educated the philatelic judges of this country as to just how "important" an exhibit of Prexies could be.

## REJECTED DESIGNS



Did you know that Victor S. McCloskey, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing artist who designed the dollar value Prexies, originally presented three different trial designs? We are all familiar with the one that the Post Office Department finally adopted. Examples of the two rejected designs are shown here.

## New Faces At Our INDYPEX Seminar

Three PSG members are scheduled to speak at the Prexie Study Group seminar at INDYPEX at 12 noon on Saturday, September 12. The seminar is timed so it will not conflict with the judges' critique which will take place later that day. So check the schedule when you get to the show to find the correct room location.

Although all three speakers are veteran philatelists, none has previously spoken at a Prexie seminar. So in a sense, INDYPEX will be the "PSG debut" for all three.

The three speakers are:

\* **John Grabowski**, who will talk on getting started collecting Prexie postal history;

\* **Millard Mack**, who will discuss single value collecting, with particular emphasis on the 3 cent and 5 cent denomi-

nations; and finally

\* **Roger Listwan**, who will describe the ins and outs of Prexie first day covers,

The annual Prexie cover swap will be held Saturday night immediately after the awards banquet. There will also be a brunch on Saturday at 10:00 am. And possibly a casual dinner on Friday night. Check with Randy on Friday for details on these events and their locations.

If you haven't made your reservations at the Omni-Severin, the official INDYPEX hotel, you should do so at once. The hotel is located right near the Convention Center where the show is being held and rates are \$75 per night.

The toll free number for Omni hotel reservations is 1-800-843-6664. Be sure to mention the Indiana Stamp Club, so you get the special INDYPEX discount rate.

### MINIMUM DOMESTIC SPECIAL DELIVERY FEES DURING THE PREXIE ERA.

Applied to articles weighing up to two pounds.

Effective Date:	First class mail	Other Classes*:
In effect in 1938	10 cents	15 cents
November 1, 1944	13 cents	17 cents
January 1, 1949	15 cents	25 cents
January 1, 1952	20 cents	35 cents
July 1, 1957	30 cents	45 cents

\* Other classes include 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class matter, whether sent by surface mail or by air mail (including air parcel post)



# For Your Reference Library:

PSG member Edward Ryan recommends an article by Howard L. Rosenberg that appeared in the October 1975 issue of *The Israel Philatelist*. The article is entitled "Israel: The Forced Registration of Mail," and it explains in detail the origin of those curious covers many of us have seen from 1948 to the mid-1950's. Those are the covers which had been sent as ordinary mail, but which were registered upon arrival in Israel.

At the time, Israeli censors were checking incoming mail for foreign currency that might find its way onto the black market. By registering any letter that was found to contain such currency, the censors caused the addressee to come to the post office and

sign for the same. The money then had to be exchanged at the official rate.

By the way, congratulations to Ed Ryan for the vermeil award his Prexie exhibit won at Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts, this past May. More and more of us are finding that Prexie exhibits are getting better treatment from the judges. Are we about to win this crusade or what?

**Editor's note:** Articles from *The Israel Philatelist* are available from the American Philatelic Research Library, Post Office Box 8338, State College, PA 16803. They charge a nominal fee for reprints (\$2 search fee + 20cts per page). They're a great place to deal with, by the way.

## This issue's market tip:

Articles in recent philatelic periodicals indicate that a new interest may be awakening for World War II patriotic cachet art. Oddly enough, this material still lurks in countless dealers' boxes at rather ridiculously low prices. Hold onto what you've got along these lines and see what else you might find at local bourses. And in particular, look for cartoon cachets. Some of them were done by some of the better cartoonists of the era.

## A "Prexie-Gate" 11 Years Before Watergate? Ha!

PSG member Guy Dillaway has discovered a most unusual use of the 4 1/2-cent coil: a White House cover. For many years it has been the practice of the White House staff to use ordinary postage stamps rather than penalty clause envelopes on mail originating from the President's immediate office. The purpose is to give the President's mail a more personal appearance.

The cover shown below was postmarked in 1961, early in the Kennedy administration. The first class rate at the time was four cents per ounce, so the article was one half cent overpaid. Obviously, JFK or someone on his staff was willing to pay that extra amount so the outgoing mail would bear a stamp picturing the White House. Talk about wasteful government spending! That's a 12 1/2 per cent cost overrun!

One question immediately comes to mind: when did the White House acquire the 4 1/2-cent coils? Let's assume for a moment that they came from the Post Office Department. (Had they been purchased from a stamp dealer at a premium over face, that would have entailed even more wasteful spending.) By 1961, the stamps had been off sale at the Philatelic Sales Division for several years. Does that mean the White House had bought them legitimately when they still were on sale, and still had a supply on hand in 1961? Or does it mean that the stamps came out of the POD's vaults, and that the White House was allowed to purchase items no longer available to the general public? Can any reader shed some light on this potential "Prexie-Gate" scandal?

## The Prexies

Randy L. Neil  
Temporary Editor

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THE WHITE HOUSE



The Kennedy administration was always known for adding that extra carnation to the political lapel. Did taxpayers get soaked for the extra half cent on this cover?

Mr. Armando Pagliai  
821 Carlisle Boulevard, N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

# The Prexies

Jan. 1993

Occasional Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group

## We Need A New Editor

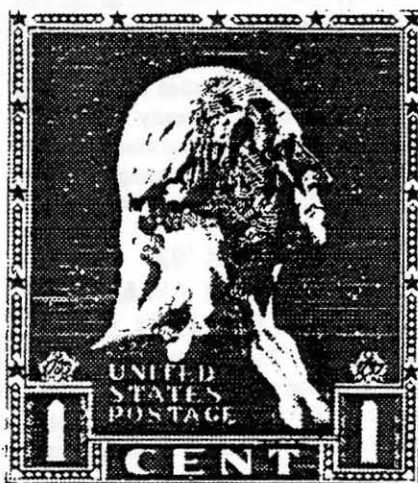
Working on this occasional bulletin has been a wonderful experience for me...even in the short time since we formed our growing Study Group. It's been a pleasure helping the communications within our group of Prexie lovers. And even though we presently have no dues---thus necessitating the occasional and irregular nature of this little publication---a group as strong as ours needs a voice.

Because of additional responsibilities that I am having to undertake at this point in my philatelic life, it will not be possible for me to continue as Editor of *The Prexies*. This doesn't remove me from involvement in our Group, itself, but with the start-up of my new magazine and the potential for emerging duties with the APS, I am forced to cut back on several roles that are dear to my heart.

This bulletin---only a 3 or 4-times per year job---is in need of an editor. If you would be interested in taking the reins, all of us would warmly welcome you! Why not drop Steve Suffet, our Chairman, a note right now at 41-05 47th St., Sunnyside NY 11104.

With regards and much gratitude...

Randy Neil



Most of us have seen Elaine Rawlinson's winning design for the Prexie set; after all, it made it onto the stamps. But have you ever seen the second place winner? Here it is: the design by Charles Bauer, winner of the \$300 second prize, announced in August, 1938.

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN by Stephen L. Suffet

So many things have happened since our last newsletter this past summer that space does not permit us to publish a full report on each. Therefore, please forgive the brevity with which I touch upon some truly important subjects. Feel free to write to me, if you wish, to discuss any or all of them in greater detail.

For the sake of organizing my thoughts I will number the topics in this report. Do not interpret this as a ranking of importances. It's just the natural order in which they popped into my mind.

1. Our annual gathering at INDYPEX in September was a mixed success, I say this because attendance was much less than anticipated. Our Saturday seminar, for example, attracted only about a dozen people. And our cover swap that evening, while certainly worthwhile, had only about half as many participants as the one held the previous year at MIDAPHIL.

On the other hand, Prexie Study Group members who exhibited did exceptionally well. Leonard Piskiewicz walked off with the GRAND AWARD, which means he'll be going to the World Series of Philately for the second straight time. Len also took home the first ever ROLAND RUSTAD MEMORIAL AWARD (donated by U.S. STAMPS & Postal History magazine) for the best Prexie exhibit, and, of course, a show gold. Two other PSG members, including your chairman, won gold awards as well. A fourth PSG member won a silver. See the sidebar report for details.

I should also mention that, despite the low turnout, the PSG seminar was very well received by those who did attend. The true highlight was Roger Listwan's presentation on collecting Prexie first day covers. It came as a surprise that several dyed-in-the-wool postal history collectors, myself included, got so excited over FDCs. Roger played to a tough audience and won them over. He deserves a lot of credit.

Credit should also go to Millard Mack, who gave a wonderful slide talk on collecting the 3-cent and 5-cent values in particular. Finally, let me mention that intended speaker John Grabowski was unfortunately delayed because he had to attend a funeral. I filled in for him, but we hope to hear his presentation next year on starting a Prexie postal history collection.

2. Our 1993 Prexie Study Group get-together will be held at STAMPSHOW in Houston next August. Planning is now only in the preliminary stages, but you can expect another cover swap session as well as "PREXIEPEX IV", another concerted effort by our members to exhibit at one show. The second ROLAND RUSTAD MEMORIAL AWARD will be given at this show. Stay tuned for further details.

3. Our search for a chairman is over, at least for one more year. I have agreed to remain in the position through 1993, and our parent organization --- the Bureau Issues Association --- has confirmed my appointment. I can now drop the words "interim acting temporary ad hoc provisional" from my title. Just call me "The Boss!"

4. You have probably already read in *Linn's* or elsewhere about the recently discovered essays produced in the mid-1950s to test the feasibility of automated mail processing systems. These essays are now the earliest examples of U.S. stamps overprinted with luminescent tagging, and include, among other issues, the 1 1/2-cent Prexie. Will wonders never cease?

This is a developing story, and it is possible that other tagged Prexies will soon come to light. In the meantime, the hard core specialists now have at least one true rarity they'll have to acquire.

P.S. Didn't George always tell Martha that she had "that certain glow" in her face? Sorry, I couldn't resist this attempt at humor.

5. Our mailing list has now reached 120 names, about half of whom report that they are active Prexie collectors. We have so far been pretty vague about what constitutes a PSG member. Maybe that's the way it should be, but there is one thing I wish to be clear about: we strongly urge that you be a member of the Bureau Issues Association. We are able to get away without charging any dues of our own because the BIA picks up most of our costs. They merit our support.

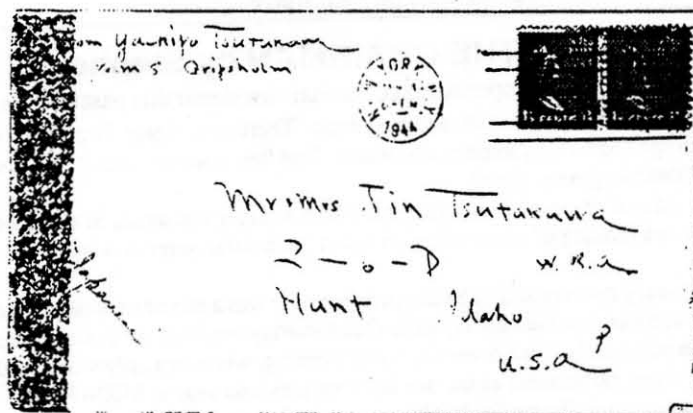
If you are not already a member, you can obtain information on joining from the BIA executive secretary, George Godin. His address is P.O. Box 23707, Belleville, IL 62223. Tell him the Prexie Study Group asked you to write.

6. Work on the late Roland Rustad's comprehensive book about the Prexies is continuing. Leonard Piskiewicz has assumed the job of editing the manuscript and getting it into publication. Hopefully the book will be in print by the end of this year. Len deserves our thanks for taking on this massive project. So why not thank him in person by coming to our meeting at STAMPSHOW next August? As an entrant in the World Series of Philately competition you can be certain that Len will be there.



## Civilian Internee Exchanges During World War II

by Louis Fiset



This cover is addressed to other Japanese-Americans remaining at the War Relocation Authority camp (Minidoka Relocation Center) at Hunt, Idaho. The fate of both the sender and the recipients remains unknown.

Following the U.S. entry into the Pacific war, two exchanges took place of Japanese civilians interned in the U.S. and Canada, and westerners held in Japanese-occupied territory. The first exchange included government officials, businessmen and interned civilians. The Swedish liner *S.S. Gripsholm*, carrying over 1,500 Japanese repatriates, rendezvoused with the ship *Asama Maru* at Lourenco Marques, Mozambique, in July 1942. A year later, on October 21, a similar exchange took place at Mormagao, Portuguese India, following the rendezvous between the *Gripsholm* and the *Teia Maru*, outbound from Yokohama. This exchange, to be the last of the war, included approximately 1,500 civilian internees from each side. All of the Japanese repatriates were U.S. or Canadian resident aliens or civilians interned in North American concentration camps.

The accompanying Prexie cover was posted during the second exchange voyage by a volunteer Japanese-American repatriate who composed his letter during the family's two month journey to war-torn Japan and an uncertain future. The letter was held by the ship's crew pending the *Gripsholm*'s return trip to New York Harbor on December 1, with its bartered human cargo. All letters posted by the Japanese repatriates on board were taken to the Office of Censorship's Prisoner of War Unit at the New York Field Station, for inspection during the first week of 1944. The letters were then passed into the regular mail stream.

[Editor's note: *S.S. Gripsholm mail, even today, is still very scarce and a definite plum for Prexie postal history buffs when found bearing a Prexie franking. Behind every such cover, there is generally a poignant tale or even one of intrigue.*]

### OWN A PREXIE COVER ONCE OWNED BY FDR!

A 10-cent Prexie plus a 5-cent China commemorative paid the air mail postage back to the U.S. from the American Consulate in Saint Lucia on a legal size official mail cover. Stamps are tied by a July 26, 1943, U.S. Army Postal Service postmark.

This cover came from the Franklin D. Roosevelt collection, and is authenticated on the reverse by H.R. Harmer, Inc., of New York. You can add it to your own collection for a \$20 donation to help defray the expenses of the Prexie Study Group. Write to Steve Suffet (41-05 47th St., Sunnyside NY 11104) to see if the cover is still available.

By the way, special thanks are in order to PSG member Robert Toth, whose recent \$10 contribution helped pay for an emergency second printing of the last issue of *The Prexies*.

### A SPECIAL DEAL FROM NEIL

Prexies have not only been on the cover, but are a mainstay of the coverage in Randy Neil and John Hotchner's new magazine, *U.S. STAMPS & Postal History*. The fourth issue of the new publication is off the press and Neil and Hotchner report that the magazine has been so successful in its first year that it's going to be here to stay.

The normal subscription price for the quarterly *USS&PH* is \$15. But all readers of this issue of *The Prexies*, and who want to be new subscribers, have a special deal waiting for them.

All PSG members (that's *you*) can receive a one-year subscription for only \$7.50. Just send your check to: Randy Neil, *USS&PH*, 10660 Barkley, Shawnee-Mission KS 66212. The offer is good only until Feb. 15, 1993.

## Gum Breakers

by Louis Fiset

As part of BEP's story of gum breaker experiments between 1919-1969, several facts concerning the Prexies may be worth noting. Two breaker roller bar configurations dominate the series which, in most cases, serve to distinguish pre-eye from eye plate production, including booklet work. The earliest represents a continuation of Fourth Bureau Issue production, configuring two raised, convex, ridges per stamp, with 10.5 mm spacing. These parallel ridges slope downward right (gum side view) on both left side and right side plates, "finger printing" all pre-eye plate production. However, a small but significant production of experimental eye and early eye plates bear these markings, as well. Beginning in 1940 this roller bar design gradually gave way to broader, convex depressions, sloping downward in either direction, with the same 10.5 mm spacing. The design, present only on the experimental eye and eye plates, survived the life of the Series.

An additional configuration has recently been identified on both experimental eye and early eye plates, and consists of raised ridges sloping downward in either direction, with 5.5 mm spacing. Other designs configured during the transition period to eye plates may yet surface. Please report your findings. For a copy of *A Guide To Gum Breakers: 1919-1969* send an SASE to Louis Fiset, University of Washington SM-35, Seattle, WA 98195.

### AN UNSOLICITED PLUG

L. Dann Mayo, Jr. is truly the consummate philatelist. He is a collector, a scholar, a writer, an exhibitor, a judge, a dealer, and an auctioneer — as well as one heck of a nice guy. Dann's specialty is military postal history, and quite a few of the covers he handles have Prexies affixed. If you are not already on Dann's mailing list for his auctions and mail bid sales, you can add your name by writing to him at P.O. Box 20837, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

### INDYPEX '92 PREXIE EXHIBIT AWARDS

Indianapolis, Sept. 11-13, 1992

Akihiro Asano. "The U.S. Presidentials on Cover, a Reflection of War and Peace": Silver. Walter Cole. "Layout, Production, and Use of the U.S. 1938 Three-Cent Presidential Stamp": Gold.

Leonard Piskiewicz. "Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938": Gold. INDYPEX Grand Award & PSG Roland Rustad Memorial Award & Indiana Stamp Club 20th Century Award. Stephen L. Suffet. "U.S. Presidential Series Rates and Usages": Gold. APS Medal of Excellence.

# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group - Summer, 1993*

## Notes from the Chairman.....

Once again I present my thoughts in no particular order. Their numbering does not indicate relative importance -- it's just the way they came to mind.

1. We made it to our fifth issue, thanks in major part to our new editor, John Grabowski. He does a fine job of introducing himself, but I should add that John was one of three PSG members who volunteered to take over the position from Randy Neil. Randy and I had this trio of stars to choose among, and our choice of John should in no way be taken as a rejection of the other two candidates -- let's extend a heartfelt "Thanks" to all three!

2. Perhaps the biggest Prexie news of recent years has been the discovery of a 1 1/2 cent sheet stamp with luminescent tagging. This stamp was the only Prexie, among several issues overprinted in the mid or late 1950's by Pitney Bowes, to demonstrate the feasibility of automated mail processing systems. A few surviving copies of these experimental stamps are known -- including a single copy of the 1 1/2 cent Prexie. It is currently owned by Wayne Youngblood, author of Stamps That Glow, and an expert on tagged issues.

3. PSG member Bob Penn is seeking others who share an interest in Prexie shade/color varieties. He has even put together a slide program on the topic. His address is: 490 Belmont Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325. Tell him you read about it "The Prexies".

4. Finally, special thanks to PSG member (and distinguished philatelist) Clyde Jennings for his donation of more than 100 covers and post cards -- all bearing the 1/2 cent Prexie. Many pieces of this fine gift have already been distributed, free of charge, to PSG members, and the remainder will be distributed at the STaMpsHOW Prexie Cover Swap.

Steve Suffet  
41-05 47th Street  
Sunnyside, NY 11104

## And a word (or two) from the Ed.....

Thanks to Randy Neil for a job well done helping to edit and publish our first 4 Prexie Bulletins and thereby getting this project 'off the ground.' When the call went out for a new editor earlier this year, I mustered up whatever philatelic courage I had and 'raised my hand'. This bulletin is my first attempt at philatelic writing of any sort, so you readers are going to have to be tolerant and really help me out every now and then (mostly now).

Few good bulletins exist on the strength of their editors. Contributions are especially needed from the membership to produce a newsy and educational communications tool. This need is especially true in my case since I'm a relatively recent convert to Prexie collecting, with very much yet to learn.

Please send me short articles, announcements, questions (for a Question & Answer or 'puzzle' feature) and member 'profiles' so we can publish the next issue, hopefully with 4 pages! And remember, we study the stamps as well as their postal history, so contributions on production varieties (color shades, perfs, etc.), cancels, perfins,....just about anything related to the Prexies will do. Please send this material to my attention:

John Grabowski  
Box 10916  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916

Many thanks!

## Down to Houston.....

The Prexie Study Group will be holding our annual get-together at STaMpsHOW in Houston, August 19-22. We're planning a Friday afternoon seminar at 1 PM in Meeting Room #2, along with our increasingly famous cover and story swap meet Friday night.



## **Meet the member,....**

### **JOHN GRABOWSKI**

Since this feature is my bright idea, I'll be the first 'guinea pig.' I still remember very clearly my introduction to Prexie collecting about four years ago at a Chicago auction house on a cold November evening. A large, lifetime collection was being disposed of and there were many postal history lots, arranged by time period -- i.e., the 1902 Series, the Wash./Franklins, the 1909 Commemoratives, the Fourth Bureau Issue .....My interest that evening lie with the 1902 Series, for which I was the sucessful bidder. But the really surprising thing to me was the price realized by the lot of about 100 Prexie covers: \$700 + 10%! I had no idea this issue was so collectible. Having grown up with these stamps, I just kind of took them for granted, never thinking they could be much of a collecting challenge, at least not compared to the 'classics.'

Then I met Rollie Rustad through our MN Postal History Society on several of his trips back to visit his old homestead. Rollie always had a pocket full of covers and a full bag of stories to enlighten and entertain. He entered a Prexie postal history exhibit when I was Exhibit Chairman for our local show one year that really opened my eyes to the research and collecting challenges inherent in the issue. After seeing Randy's Prexie exhibit in Chicago, the bug bit and I was hooked. Most of my emphasis so far has been on the postal history of the series -- rates and routes, but I'm beginning to accumulate the stamps and sift through the precancels and perfins.

Professionally, I've alternated between computer engineering and investment advising and am currently self employed as a Registered Investment Advisor. Our family includes Cecy, my wife, three children, Anne, Jean and Tom (the youngest, graduating from college this year we hope) and our mixed breed German Short Haired Pointer, Penny. We've lived in the upper Midwest (Chicago & the Twin Cities) for the last 20 years. Other hobbies include restoring Pontiac GTO's and other cars, and yes, still the 1902's!

## **About those rates,....**

### **FOREIGN PRINTED MATTER SURFACE RATES DURING THE PREXIE ERA:**

In effect in 1938.....\$.015 per 2 oz.  
Effective 11-1-53.....\$.02 first 2 oz., \$.015 each additional 2 oz.  
Effective 8-1-58.....\$.04 first 2 oz., \$.02 each additional 2 oz.

#### **Special exceptions:**

1. The 11-1-53 rate (\$.02/.015) continued in effect through 12-31-58, for 2nd class matter (newspapers and periodicals) mailed by a publisher or its agent.
2. A special rate for 2nd class matter, other than daily newspapers, was in effect to Canada through 12-31-58 at \$.01 per 4 oz.

## **Meet me in St. Louis, Louie,....**

The annual BIA meeting will be at the St. Louis Stamp Expo - '93 this October 1-3 at the Frontenac Grand Hotel. There's a lot of hard work by the organizers to make this the best St. Louis show in a long time. There should be something here for everyone, including our PSG. Further information can be obtained from Regency Stamps, The Gateway-Warson Building, 1177 North Warson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group - Fall, 1993*

## Notes from the Chairman.....

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....So far our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association, has been exceptionally generous in providing financial support for "THE PREXIES" newsletter. But the BIA cannot foot the entire bill, now about \$70 per issue, nor should they be expected to!

So consider this as our fund appeal. If each of our 140+ readers out there sends in a dollar or two, we should remain financially solvent through 1994. If you can afford five bucks, so much the better, but we have no need for larger contributions at this time. By the way, we could also use small donations of mint U.S. postage, especially in denominations of up to 29 cents. So save your coil scrap for us -- we'll even take fractional values.

Send all contributions to John Grabowski, our editor and mailer. Make out any checks or money orders to him as the PSG does not have an organizational bank account of its own.

Thanks very much for what we know will be a generous response.

## And a word from the Ed.....

This newsletter is presently being distributed to over 140 Prexie enthusiasts. We continue to seek written contributions (cash and material contributions are ok too -- see the "Net Price Sale" section inside and also Steve's note.) Anything from written opinions, gripes, problem stamps or covers, discoveries, 'interesting' items you'd like to share, mini-articles, material wanted or for sale, or just about anything philatelically connected with the Prexie era is welcome. Please don't depend on someone else to send something in, do it yourself!

We are starting a "Puzzle Corner" with this issue to help keep our readers' gray matter nimble -- see page 2. We're also planning a similiar feature for readers' Prexie problems starting with the next issue -- everyone must have 1-2 items tucked away for research -- why not send them to the ed. to share with the rest of us and get your answer in months instead of years!

John Grabowski, Editor  
Box 10916  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916

**THE PREXIES**

**BOX 10916**

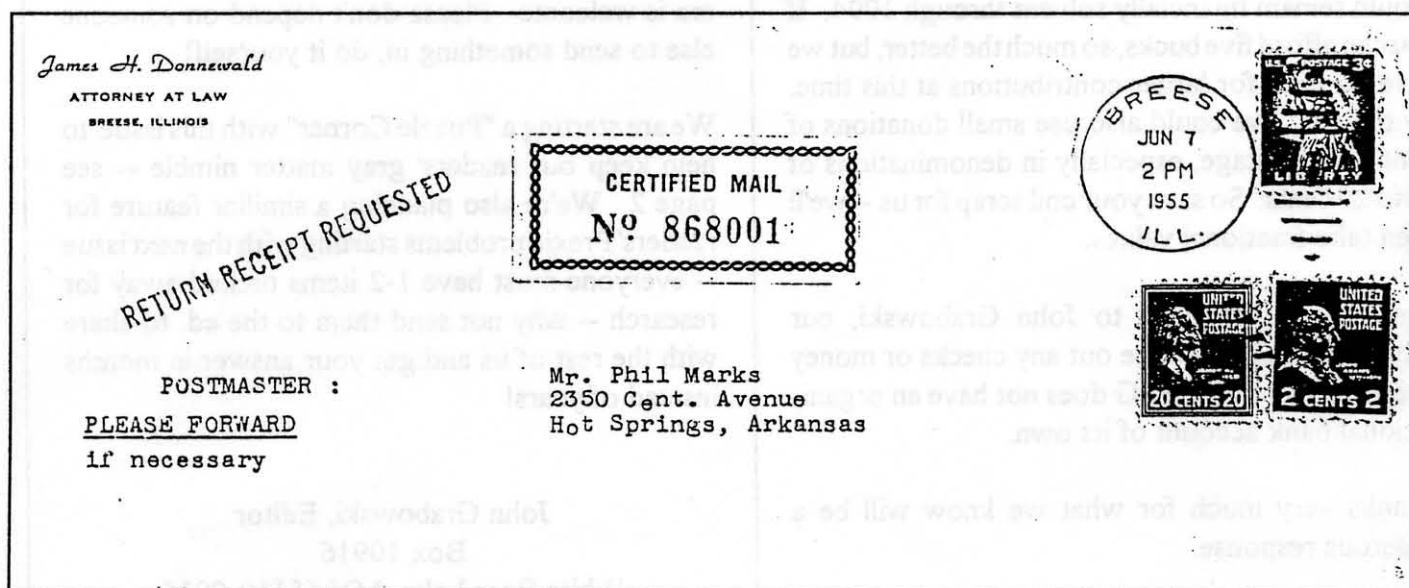
**WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110**

## Prexie Certified Mail Rarity.....

Certified mail service began in Washington, D.C., on June 6, 1955 and became available throughout the rest of the U.S. the following day. While certified mail provides proof of mailing and delivery, it does not provide the 'lock & key' security of registered mail during transit. Certified mail also does not provide for indemnification in the event of loss or damage.

The cover shown below is from the collection of PSG member Jim Felton. It was used from Breese, IL on June 7, 1955 -- the first day that certified mail service existed outside the nation's capital. The 2-cent and 20-cent Prexies paid the 15-cent certified mail fee plus a 7-cent return receipt fee, while the 3-cent Liberty series paid first class postage.

Certified mail covers bearing any Prexies are generally scarce, but this first day usage may be a modern one-of-a-kind rarity. Has anyone seen another?



## 1993 RUSTAD AWARD.....

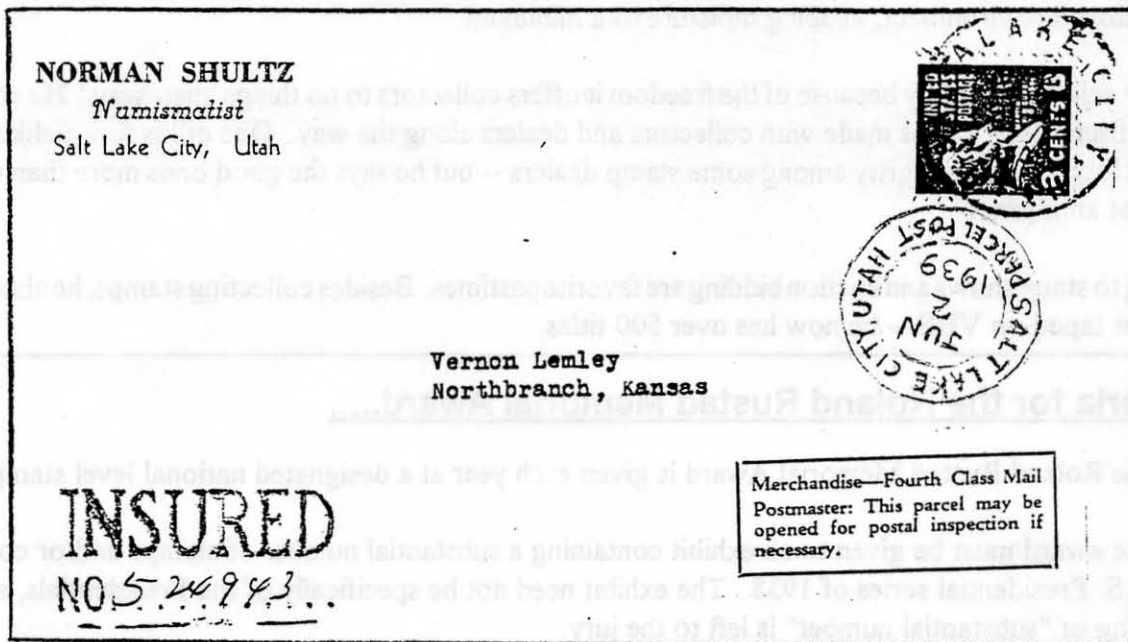
PSG Chairman Steve Suffet won the second annual Roland Rustad Memorial Award for his gold medal exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Rates and Usages: 1938 - 1958." The award, named for the late founding chairman of the Prexie Study Group, was presented to Steve at the August STaMpsHOW in Houston.

The first Rustad Award went to PSG member Len Piskiewicz for his "Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938" at INDYPEX '92. Len's exhibit also took the Grand Award at that show, and it was thus in the World Series of Philately competition at STaMpsHOW '93.

The third annual Rustad Award is scheduled to be presented at STaMpsHOW '94, to be held in Pittsburgh next August. Get those exhibits ready!

## The Puzzle Corner.....

We'll start this feature with the straightforward example below. Prizes of modest monetary value will be given to the first 3 responses to correctly identify the postage rates and usage on this June 2, 1939 cover from Salt Lake City. All successful entries will be acknowledged in the next issue.



## About those rates.....

### DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT FEES -- REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF MAILING

	Showing to whom and date delivered	Showing to whom, date and address where delivered
(In effect, 1938)	\$.03	\$.23
Eff. March 26, 1944	.04	.31
Eff. January 1, 1949	.05	.31
Eff. January 1, 1952	.07	.31
Eff. July 1, 1957	.10	.35

### RESTRICTED DELIVERY (TO ADDRESSEE ONLY)

(In effect, 1938)	.10
Eff. March 26, 1944	.20
Eff. July 1, 1957	.50

Note: Return receipt and restricted delivery fees applied only to registered, insured, COD or, beginning in 1955, certified mail.



## **Meet the member.....**

ROGER L. LISTWAN

Roger began stamp collecting 37 years ago at the age of 8. He is presently employed as a Stamp Value Analyst at Scott Publishing Co. One of Roger's specialties is collecting Prexie FDC's (*more about this in a future issue -- ed.*) His covers are stored in closets and cabinets with a disiccant and in an air conditioned environment, keeping moisture to a minimum.

Roger enjoys the hobby because of the freedom it offers collectors to do things 'their way.' He enjoys the many friendships he has made with collectors and dealers along the way. One of his few dislikes would be the low level of integrity among some stamp dealers -- but he says the good ones more than make up for that annoyance.

Going to stanp shows and auction bidding are favorite pastimes. Besides collecting stamps, he also collects movies taped on VHS -- he now has over 500 titles.

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## **Criteria for the Roland Rustad Memorial Award.....**

1. The Roland Rustad Memorial Award is given each year at a designated national level stamp show.
2. The award must be given to an exhibit containing a substantial number of stamps and/or covers of the U.S. Presidential series of 1938. The exhibit need not be specifically of the Presidentials, and the meaning of "substantial number" is left to the jury.
3. The jury should consider the widest variety of exhibits which meet criterion #2. Examples could include, but are not limited to, exhibits of plate markings, color and shade varieties, EFO's, FDC's, precancels, perfins, rates and usages, special events, cancellations, auxiliary markings, postal history, and historical philately.
4. The award is given to recognize philatelic knowledge, research, presentation and creativity. It need not be given to exhibits which achieve the highest medal levels.
5. Any exhibit entered into open competition is eligible. The winner need not be a member of the PSG or BIA.

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## **Net Price Sale.....**

An anonymous donor has made available a clean 9"x4" 1943 manilla cover with the 1 1/2 & 4 1/2-cent Prexie coils (nos. 840 & 844) which pay double the 1st class rate of .03/oz. -- clearly a non-philatelic usage. Yours for just \$12 (the proceeds help pay PSG expenses.) Write to the editor to see if it's still available.

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## **Mark your calendars.....**

The Prexie Study Group will be holding our annual get-together next August at the 1994 STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh. The annual meeting of the BIA next year, which should include some PSG activities and members, will be at the Garfield Perry Show in March.

More than 20 people turned out to hear Steve's talk, "The Big, the Bad, and the Ugly (2nd, 3rd, & 4th class Prexie usage)", at the BIA annual meeting held this year, Oct. 1-3, at the St. Louis Stamp Expo.

# THE PREXIES

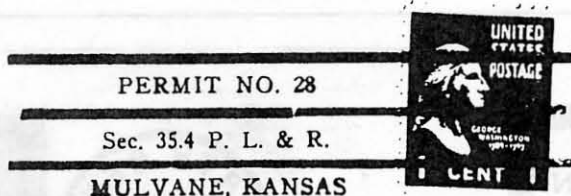
*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group - Winter, 1993-4, No. 7*

## Notes from the Chairman.....

Have you ever seen a Prexie that has been precanceled with a device designed for use on stamped envelopes? I never have, at least not in person, but such items are known to exist, and several are listed in Precanceled Envelopes of the United States, published by the United Postal Stationery Society. One such item from that catalog is illustrated below. It is listed as Mulvane, KS, local type 10. Because the precancellation contains a permit number, I believe it was created and applied by the mailer, and not by the post office. However, it is not the standard mailer's permit postmark frequently found on both adhesive stamps and postal stationery.

That the UPSS chose to list this and similar items in a postal stationery catalogue was a judgment call. Personally, I would have decided differently. Nevertheless, I am still glad that such Prexie usages are listed somewhere, even if it's far fetched to think of them as precanceled postal stationery. Meanwhile, I'm still looking for a real life example to add to my Prexie rates and usages collection.....

*Steve Suffet*



## About those rates.....

### DOMESTIC SPECIAL DELIVERY FEES (PAID IN ADDITION TO POSTAGE)

Effective Date	First Class Mail		
	Up to 2 lbs.	2+ to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.
(In effect, 1938)	\$ .10	\$ .20	\$ .25
November 1, 1944	.13	.20	.25
January 1, 1949	.15	.25	.35
January 1, 1952	.20	.35	.50
July 1, 1957	.30	.45	.60

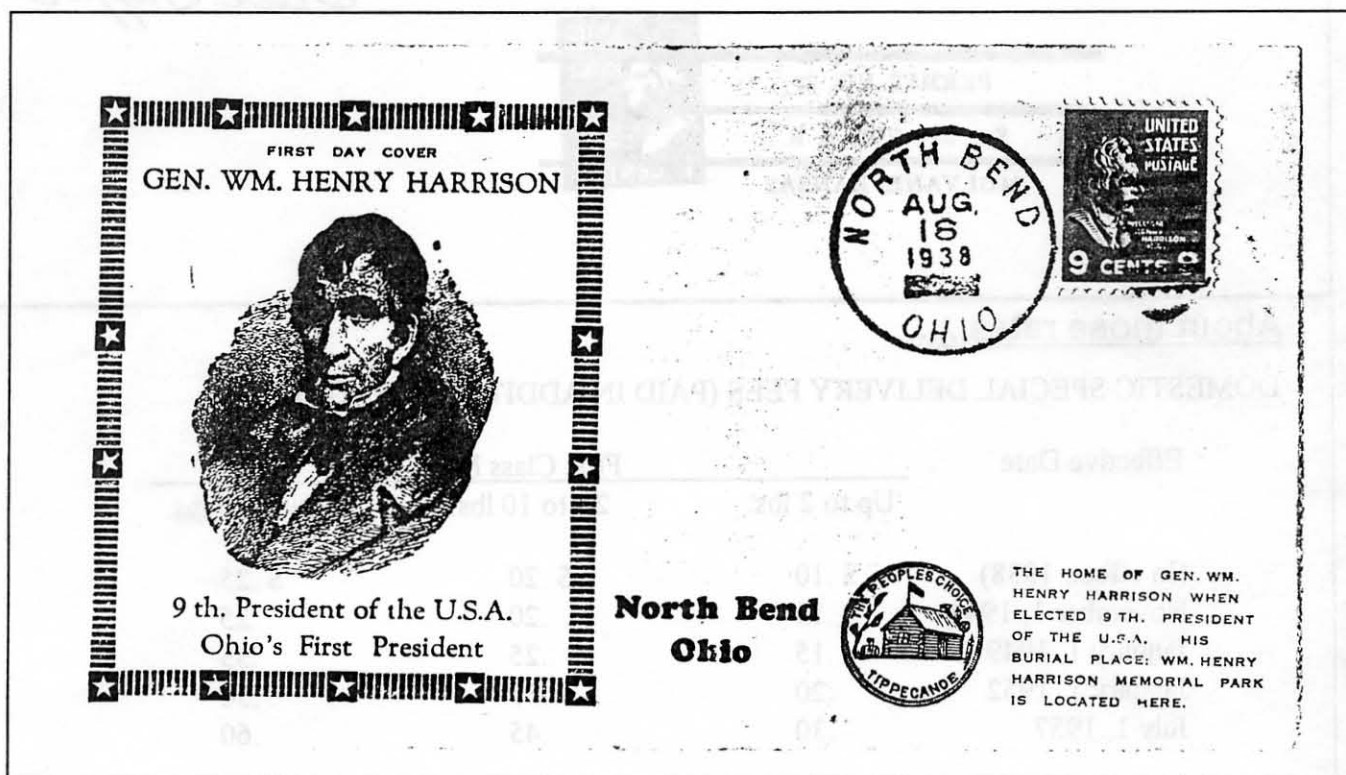
	Other Than First Class Mail		
	Up to 2 lbs.	2+ to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.
(In effect, 1938)	\$ .15	\$ .25	\$ .35
November 1, 1944	.17	.25	.35
January 1, 1949	.25	.35	.45
January 1, 1952	.35	.45	.60
July 1, 1957	.45	.55	.70

## Our First (Donation) Auction.....

An anonymous donor sends us a fairly scarce FDC along with the following article ("First Days", Nov.-Dec., 1968, p. 47) to help cover our mailing costs:

"Everyone knows about the famous Worden First Day Covers from North Bend, Ohio ("First Days", Vol. 6, No. 6), but hardly anyone has seen the North Bend FDC's produced by Edward T. Warneford. As an ardent admirer of William Henry Harrison, he believed that the 9-cent stamp of the 1938 Presidential series, Scott #814, should have been issued at North Bend. When Washington, DC, was named as the official First Day city, Warneford arranged to have a sheet of 100 stamps purchased early on August 18, and air mailed to him at Cincinnati.

Receiving them about 3:00 PM, he prepared 96 covers with a single stamp on each and one cover with the plate block number, and took them over to North Bend where they were canceled that same day by the Postmistress. Each cover has a rectangular printed cachet in red and blue with a portrait of General William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the U.S.A. and Ohio's first President. The cover also has a reproduction of the famous Harrison campaign button, 'The People's Choice -- Tippecanoe.'"



Please submit your bids on this FDC to the Editor by March 1, 1994. It will go to the highest bidder at that time. Appraisals are in the \$30-60 range.

## Meet the member.....

DAVID GILES

David sends us this note from Ontario:

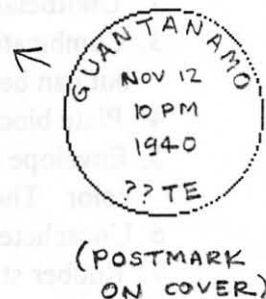
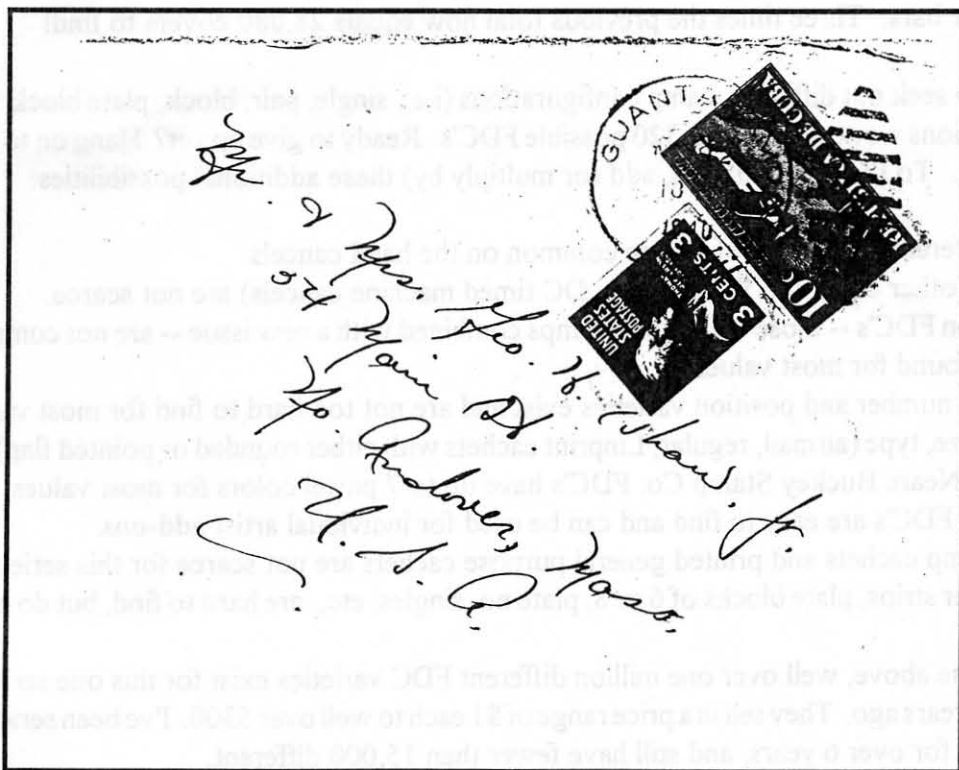
"I am 28, and began collecting stamps twenty years ago, when I was eight. I collect Canada, the British Commonwealth and used U.S., with the emphasis on plate number singles. I also collect cardiology on stamps and penguins on stamps.

I became interested in the Prexies because of their long period of issue and the number of varieties available. Although I find rate and usage covers interesting, I don't pursue that line of the hobby. I am more interested in printing varieties, colors, errors and plate numbers.

I am currently employed as a sales manager at Compucentre, a computer retail store in Ottawa. I am also a member of CPEPS -- The Canada Post Employees Philatelic Society. I find stamp collecting to be very relaxing and I enjoy the number of new friends I meet through my hobby."

## The Puzzle Corner -- a call for help.....

Phyllis Vonnegut from Indiana sends this interesting November 12, 1940 cover from Guantanamo (Bay) to Mass. and asks why the mixed franking (.03 Prexie + .10 Cuba airmail, #C13)?



...and a second call for help..... John Koch writes from NY to ask about coil strip leaders: "I have both manila and white paper coil leaders. I can guess that the paper type change took place during WWII. Does anyone know which was used when?"



## **Feature article: Prexie FDC's -- Numbers That Boggle the Mind**

Roger L. Listwan

For the last few years, I've pretty much specialized and limited my collecting interests to first day covers of the 1938 Prexies. This sounds simple and not too overwhelming until you start to crunch through the numbers.

The set consists of 32 face different stamps (1/2 cent through \$5.) One FDC of each would be 32 covers, worth about \$200-300, with 75% of the value residing in the top 3 values.

A specialist searches for all possible varieties however, and that is where the fun starts. The 32 grows to 78 when adding in the \$1 reprint of 1954, the 3 booklet panes varieties, the 13 horizontal and vertical coils, and the 29 lower values with the experimental electric eye format. One FDC of each would total 78 covers, with a value of maybe \$600-700. Hang onto your calculator and wallet, because we have barely started!

Serious FDC collectors look for as many different cachets as possible. Planty's catalog lists 104 different cachets for this series, and there are probably another 10-20 others that I've found which are not listed in the Planty catalog. Now we have 78 stamp varieties times 120 cachets which equals 9,360 covers to find.

Specialists also collect cancellation varieties. The 3 most common here are the First Day of Issue machine cancel, the Washington, DC circular hand cancel with killer bars and the Benjamin Franklin station circular hand cancel with killer bars. Three times the previous total now equals 28,080 covers to find!

Another specialty is to seek out different stamp configurations (i.e., single, pair, block, plate block, etc.) With just these 4 additions we now have 112,320 possible FDC's. Ready to give up yet? Hang on to your seats, we're still flying. To the 112,320 total, add (or multiply by) these additional possibilities:

1. Several different killer bar lengths are common on the hand cancels.
2. Unofficial (other cities and Washington, DC timed machine cancels) are not scarce.
3. Combination FDC's -- those with other stamps combined with a new issue -- are not common, but can be found for most values.
4. Plate block number and position varieties exist and are not too hard to find for most values.
5. Envelope size, type (airmail, regular, Linprint cachets with either rounded or pointed flap) and color. The Neare Buckey Stamp Co. FDC's have up to 7 pastel colors for most values.
6. Uncacheted FDC's are easy to find and can be used for individual artist add-ons.
7. Rubber stamp cachets and printed general purpose cachets are not scarce for this series.
8. Plate number strips, plate blocks of 6 or 8, plate no. singles, etc., are hard to find, but do exist.

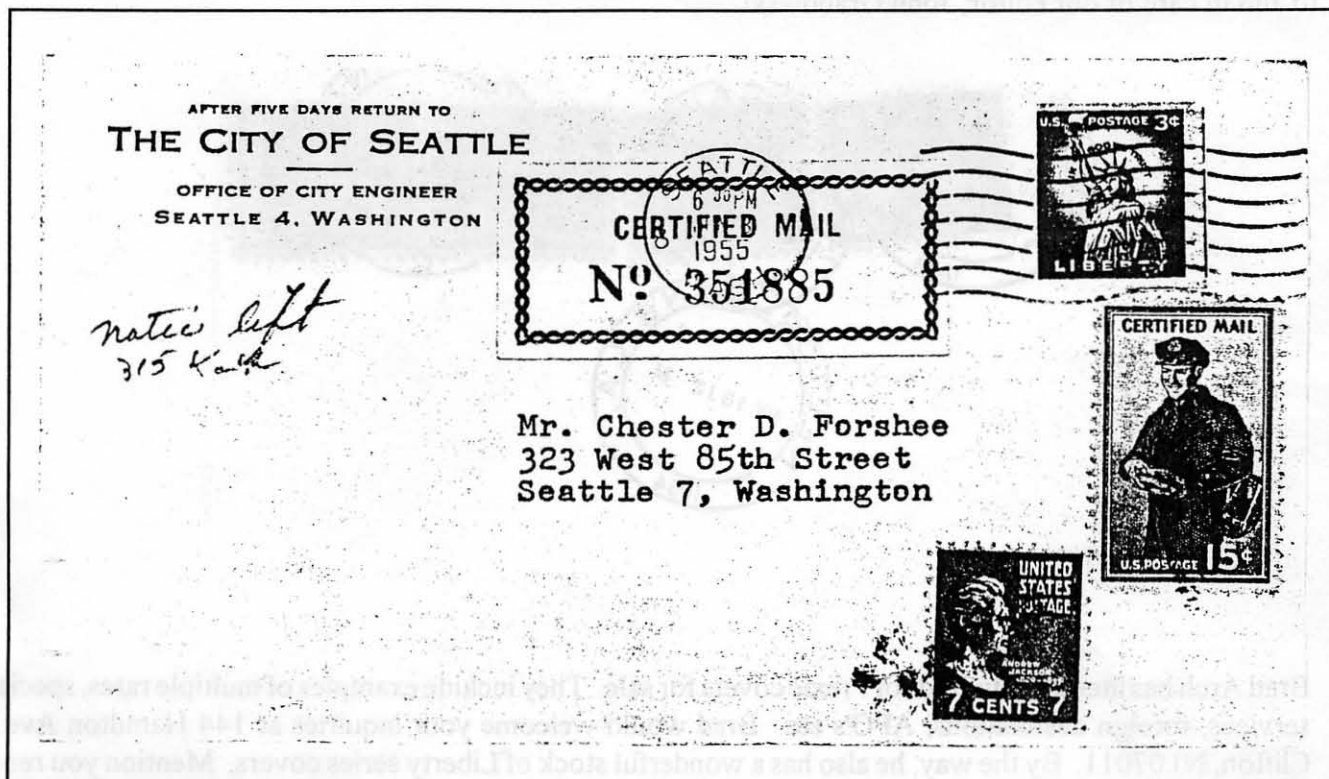
As you can see from the above, well over one million different FDC varieties exist for this one series of stamps issued over 50 years ago. They sell in a price range of \$1 each to well over \$300. I've been seriously collecting these FDC's for over 6 years, and still have fewer than 15,000 different.

There is obviously a lifetime of searching, spending and FUN here, collecting the FDC's of just ONE set of U.S. stamps. WHEW!!

### Prexie Certified Mail Rarity (continued from last issue),....

Dickson Preston writes in response to the 'first day' certified mail usage shown in the last issue, specifically about the certified mail label "No. 868001." He surmises that each label pad was probably serially numbered by the last 3 digits, indicating this letter to be the first certified mail from the Breese, IL P.O.

He also sends along a copy of early usage: June 8 (2nd day of usage outside Washington, DC)



### The Exhibit Circuit,....

PSG member Leonard Piszkiwicz's exhibit: "Usages of the U.S. Presidential Issue of 1938," won a gold medal and the reserve grand award at MIDAPHIL '93, held Nov. 5-7, at Kansas City. Way to go Len!

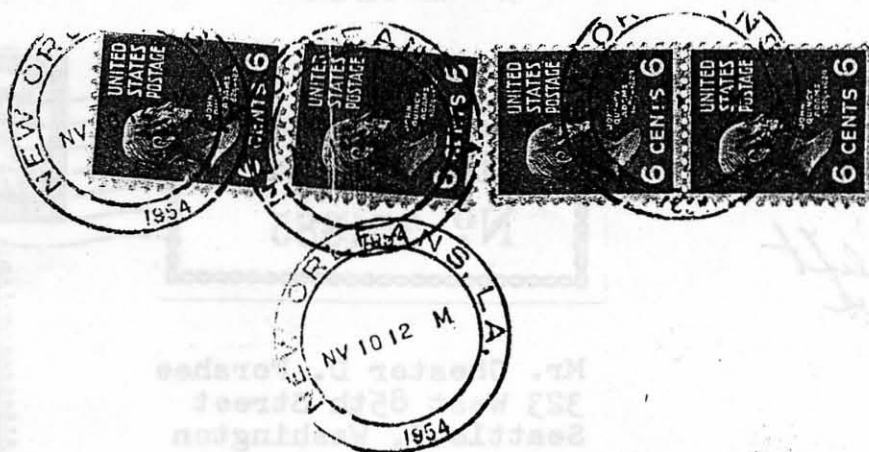
There should be good PSG membership attendance at the Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland which is also the BIA annual meeting, and the APS Show ("STaMpsHOW '94") this August in Pittsburgh for the PSG annual get together. Get those exhibits ready and send for the prospectus (STaMpsHOW '94: Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 -- deadline is May 1; frames are \$8.00 each.)

Is anyone planning any single frame PREXIE exhibits? If so, we'd like to hear about it.

**Last Issue's Puzzle,....** The answer to the .08 franking question last issue was .03 for 3rd class postage (2-4 oz, probably coins enclosed) + .05 for the minimum insurance fee. From April 15, 1925, through July 31, 1958, a piece of mail had to weigh more than 8 oz. to be in 4th class. Merchandise weighing 8 oz. or less was 3rd class mail. The correct answer was supplied by Dickson Preston.

## Sells, Swaps & Needs....

PSG member Jim Felton is compiling a list of U.S. cities and towns which used the double ring steel datestamps manufactured by Pitney-Bowes. Originally designed for use in Canada, they were introduced into the U.S. around 1953. There are 3 basic types: (1) a 31 mm diameter regular handstamp; (2) a 35 mm diameter regular handstamp; and (3), a roller type used mostly on parcels and large flats. An example of type 1 is shown below. If you have any such examples you would like to share, please write to Jim in care of our editor, John Grabowski.



Brad Arch has literally hundreds of Prexie covers for sale. They include examples of multiple rates, special services, foreign destinations, APO's etc. Brad would welcome your inquiries at 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011. By the way, he also has a wonderful stock of Liberty series covers. Mention you read about his covers in "THE PREXIES."

Does anyone collect the \$1 Prexie erroneously printed on "USIR" watermarked paper (#832b)? If so, you are not alone. Robert Markovits shares your interest and he would like to get in touch with you. Bob especially needs leads on where he can find a #832b used on cover and where he can find mint position pieces such as plate number blocks. You can write him at Box 891, Middletown NY 10940.

An unsolicited plug from our chairman.....If you're looking for some serious Prexie postal history -- covers, cards, mailing tags, wrappers, etc. -- then you should check out Jim Johnson (aka "Postal History International"). He can be found at many regional and national shows, or you can contact him directly at Box 2178, Burlington, NC 27216. His phone no. is (919) 584-1967. Either way, let Jim know you heard about him in "THE PREXIES."

To all PSG members: feel free to use this space to advertise your needs or surplus material!





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 8  
Summer, 1994

John Grabowski, Editor  
Box 10916, White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

Shakespeare's Juliet may have asked "What's in a name?" only to answer her own rhetorical question with the Elizabethan equivalent of "Not a heck of a lot!" So, too, for our first seven issues we have been a bunch of latter day Juliets. At various times we've called ourselves the Prexie Study Group, the Presidential Series Study Unit and the Presidential Series Study Group. Sometimes we simply used the abbreviation, "PSG", without worrying about definitions. Whew!

It's time to end all this inconsistency. What we are officially, and have been since the days when the late Roland Rustad served as our chairman, is a committee of the Bureau Issues Association. That's something more organized, more lasting, and, hopefully, more active than what the BIA refers to as a study group.

Henceforth we will use the initials PSC, not PSG, to represent the "Presidential Series Committee."

*Steve Suffet*

## ABOUT THOSE RATES.....

Certificate of Mailing Fees:  
(per item)

In effect, 1938..... 1-cent

Feb. 1, 1954 ..... 3-cents

July 1, 1957 ..... 5-cents

## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

You may notice some changes in THE PREXIES this issue. I am using some new software (Microsoft Publisher 2.0) which I acquired late last year when it was on sale locally for the irresistible price of \$57 after a \$20 rebate. This software is ideal for newsletters, brochures, etc. Hope you like this new look! Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Speaking of comments, we certainly appreciate any and all letters from Committee members (anyone on this newsletter mailing list is a member) relating to the Prexies or the period of Prexie use. *This means it's OK to talk about Famous Americans, Transports and other contemporary issues as well — in moderation, of course!* We spend a lot of time talking about rates and postal history because of their complexity and human interest elements, but there also is a lot of interest in other areas such as FDC's, precancels (and all types of cancels for that matter), printing varieties, plate numbers, etc. Our Committee and this newsletter are supposed to be fun, relaxed and informal mediums to exchange ideas and perhaps learn something. If you have a question, or would like to share a thought about a particular collecting area, please send it to me. Don't worry about it being too elementary, because that's not a criterion we use.

We would like to begin a project in the PSC to identify the different ways single frankings of the Prexies can be used. Let's start with the low values (1 to 3-cents) first. Please send suggestions and/or examples of single franking uses to the Editor. We'll try to print them, with credits, as an addendum to THE PREXIES.

*John Grabowski*



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, PUZZLE REPLIES, ETC.....**

**Letter #1-** Regarding John Koch's request for information about Prexie coil strip leaders in Newsletter #7, I offer the following quote from Roland Rustad's forthcoming book entitled "The Prexies":

"Before coils were rolled, a paper tape was inserted between the lengths to be rolled and the tape was cut so that the coil roll had what was called a starting and finishing tape at the beginning and end of each roll. Originally, brown kraft paper was used for these tapes, but starting in the early 1950's, a white gummed paper was used. The finishing tape was about 7 inches long and had no printing on it. The starting tape was about 10 1/2 inches long and had the stamp denomination, number of stamps in the roll and type of coil (endwise or sidewise) printed on it. The printing was initially in black on the brown kraft tapes. On later brown tapes and on all of the white tapes, the printing was in the color of the stamp."

Again, this is Roland's information, not mine. — *Leonard Piszkievich*

Thanks Len, and we look forward to hearing more about Rustad's book! — Ed.

**Letter #2-** Regarding Jim Felton's interest in double-ring killerless Pitney-Bowes postmarks, check the article by C. J. Hohenstein in the March 1959 Bureau Specialist. A 28-mm "essay" was used in 1949 in Washington, D.C., (and illustrated on a cover franked with five 3-cent Prexies.) A second 31-mm Washington, D.C. "essay" appeared in 1951, a third (also 31-mm) in 1952, and a fourth (35-mm) in 1953. Quoting from Hohenstein, "The finished product was released in 1955 to 1,057 post offices throughout the country, replacing the 1953 model." The Washington D.C., roller "essay" appeared in 1952, and was slightly altered in 1954. "In 1955 the roller was released to public use at the larger offices." Further changes in the design came in 1958-9. Thus while the "essays" were Prexie era postmarks, the production models were more typically used on Liberty Series stamps. See my Liberty Series article in the February American Philatelist for lots of examples.

Regarding the Guantanamo cover, the answer lies in the cancel. Is it of Cuban or U.S. origin? If of U.S. origin, as I presume (could the lower "??TE" legend be "BASE"?), the sender first affixed Cuban postage, but then took it to a post office on the U.S. base, where, since the 10-centavo stamp was invalid, a 3-cent Prexy booklet stamp was added for deposit in the U.S. mail.

Despite Steve Suffet's comments in newsletter #7, if he does find a cover similar to the illustrated one, it belongs in an illegal usages collections, not in a 1938-58 rate and usage study. Mailer's permit postmarks were first introduced on May 29, 1930, but only on stamp envelopes and postal cards. They were not allowed on adhesive stamps until September 21, 1978. I presume the UPSS examples are actually residuals from mailings that exceeded the available supply of pre-printed stamped envelopes, and thus may have been authorized or allowed by local postmasters, but they really should have been franked with Bureau or locally overprinted precanceled stamps, not permit postmarks. — *Ken Lawrence*

**Letter #3-** I agree with everything in the (previous) letter of Ken Lawrence, except for his interpretation of the Guantanamo postmark. I believe the indistinct word at the bottom of the postmark is not "BASE", but "ORTE." That would be the abbreviation for Oriente, Cuba's most eastern province. If this hypothesis is correct, the cover was deposited into the Cuban mails, and not sent from the U.S. Naval Base. My guess is that the mailer hedged his/her bet by applying both Cuban and U.S. postage so that the article could be posted in whichever system was most convenient. Of course, like Ken, I am just making a guess. There is no way of ever knowing for sure. What is certain, however, is that one stamp, or the other, was superfluous.

P.S. I still want to find a 1-cent Prexie covers with the precancellation intended for postal stationery. Now

LETTERS (CONT.).....

that I know the usage was technically illegal, I'm going to look even harder for one! — *Steve Suffet*

Letter #3.5- Steve Suffet believes the lower portion of the postmark is "ORTE." If so, it is a Cuban cancel, and the airmail stamp paid the postage, not the 3-cent Prexie. Perhaps the sequence I proposed was reversed, although the placement of the stamps makes that doubtful. Another possibility is that the sender was keeping both options open, so it could be sent from whichever post office he or she reached first. —

*Ken Lawrence*

Letter #4- The unknown part of the cancel is ORIENTE. The Marine base could send mail out by sea mail on the next boat or by airmail from the nearest town with airmail service which would have been Antilla.

John Koch can get information on his leader strip questions from Frank Marrelli (a BIA member/dealer: 4617 23rd Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140.) Frank has a collection of the 3-cent with leader strips showing partial plate numbers. Find the first number with white paper and then look that number up in the Plate Number Checklist and you will know when it went to press. — *Dave Bize*

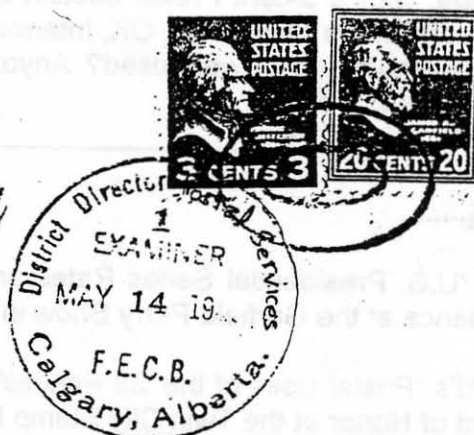
*Ed. Note— The above discussion between Ken, Steve and Dave could have been condensed into a summary 'solution' of the Guantanamo cover puzzle. I thought it might be more instructive to show the readers the iterative thinking process that often accompanies such analysis. Besides, this is a newsletter among friends, not a national publication for the ages! Please keep the letters and requests for help coming.*

THE PUZZLE/HELP REQUEST CORNER.....

This month, from his box of many unsolved mysteries, the editor submits the following May 10, 1945 registered cover from Rochester, NY, to Wimborne, Alberta:

Return in 5 days to  
**F. G. YOUNG**  
 P. O. Box 872  
 Rochester, 3 N. Y.  
 Forwarding and Return  
 Postage Guaranteed.

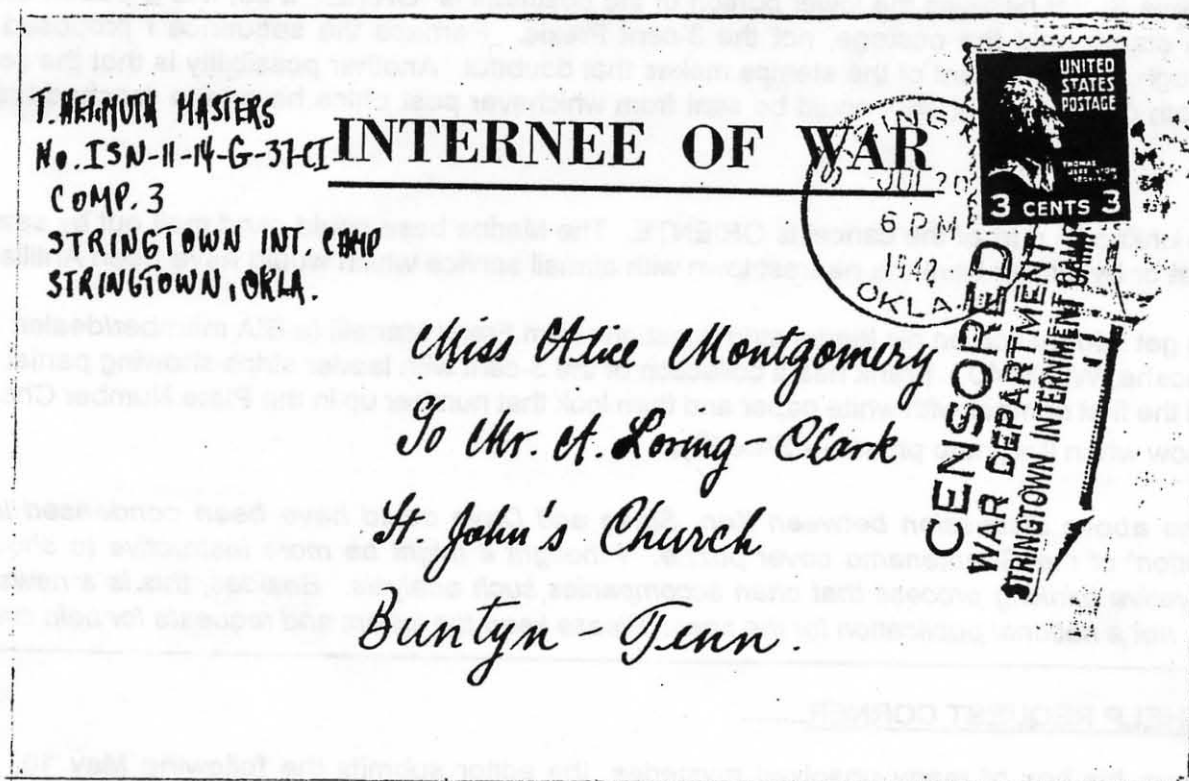
*Rex Stamp Co.,  
 Wimborne,  
 Alberta  
 Canada,*



Questions: What is the "F.E.C.B." and what were they examining for?

THE PUZZLE/HELP REQUEST CORNER (CONT.).....

Even our Chairman has a few unresolved puzzles:



The above usage, with a 3-cent Prexie booklet single, is a preprinted War Department "INTERNEE OF WAR" lettersheet from the Stringtown, OK, Internment Camp in 1942. Does anyone have information about these lettersheets and how they were used? Anyone have any general information about the WW II system of internment camps in the U.S?

PAST EVENTS.....

Steve Suffet's "U.S. Presidential Series Rates and Usages 1938-1958" won a gold award and an APS Medal of Excellence at the Garfield-Perry Show in March (BIA 1994 annual meeting).

John Grabowski's "Postal Uses of the '38 Prexies" won a vermeil award, an APS Medal of Excellence and an AAPE Award of Honor at the Twin City Stamp Expo, also in March.

Walt Cole's "The U.S. 3-Cent Presidential Stamp" won a gold award and the BIA Best U.S. Exhibit Award at the Philatelic Feista held in San Jose in April; also a gold award and an APS Medal of Excellence at PIPEX held in Eugene, OR, in May.

ATTA WAY TO GO FELLA'S!!

(The Ed. always appreciates short notes about Prexie exhibits and their awards.)



**FUTURE EVENTS.....**

Our annual PSC meeting is coming up at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh at the end of August. It will be an opportunity to hear Steve's presentation of "The Prexies Go To War: Military Related Uses of the U.S. Presidential Series", attend our members' cover swap, meet old friends and make some new ones.

The annual BIA meetings are always well attended by Prexie enthusiasts. The next meetings will be:

1995 — The Philatelic Show, Boxborough, MA (late April/early May)

1996 — ROPEX, Rochester, NY (late March/early April)

1997 — PACIFIC '97 (tentative)

Our PSC annual meeting site for 1995 is being considered here in the Twin Cities for next August. The local sponsoring club, after many years of successful shows, is beginning the process for WSP qualification. It should be a fun and informative show as usual. After the show closes, there will be a 3 day lay over before STaMpsHOW '95 opens, 450 miles down river in St. Louis. There are many good vacation activities to interest both philatelists and their families in the area. Stay tuned for further details.....

**TREASURY REPORT.....**

For the time being, your editor is also serving as the Treasurer of the PSC. Since we've asked for member donations and are being generously supported by our parent BIA, here's my accounting of our money situation:

**INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT 9/1/93 - 3/31/94**

Treasury Balance, 9/1/93		\$ 0
Income:		
Member contributions		
(Checks, cash & postage)	\$204.92	
BIA support for Newsletter #6	30.61	
	<hr/>	\$235.53
Expenses:		
Newsletter #6	\$ 55.61	
Newsletter #7	95.81	
Miscellaneous Postage	6.30	
	<hr/>	\$157.72
Treasury Balance, 3/31/94		\$ 77.81

We're especially grateful to over 40 PSC members who contributed the \$204.92 shown above (and a few more since then!) Without their help, this newsletter wouldn't be possible. With a copy cost of about \$.08 per double sided page and postage, each issue costs us over \$.50 or \$80-100 per total issue.

**FOR SALE/TRADE.....**

1. Send SASE for my Prexie cover list — over 50 covers for sale, including some difficult rates, uses and destinations. Rod McGlothlin, 2953 Crystal Palace Lane, Pasadena, Maryland 21122.

2. Net price list of Prexie covers available from Greg Sutherland, % Freeman's Stamps, Box 24231, Dayton, OH 45424. All are better usages/rates/frankings/destinations. Price range: \$15-125. Ask for "May 1994 Prexie Price List." SASE appreciated.

3. A fun and informative 4 days of philatelic revelry at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh, August 18-21 — send for advance registration information: STaMpsHOW '94, APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

**WANTED.....**

1. I've started a project to collect the 2,835 (Bureau) Prexie precancels referenced in Scott's Specialized Catalog, including the coil stamps. Starting with only 14 so far, I wonder if any members of the PSC might be able to help advance me toward my goal? Mark Holland, 7538 Kingsgate Way, West Chester, OH 45069.

2. PSC members to attend our annual Friday evening (?) meeting at STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh. Check at the registration table for time and location details.

3. A photocopied page from your Prexie collection to use in THE PREXIES to illustrate the various ways of collecting the Series.

4..... Your wants and needs ..... send them to the Editor ..... free.....

**THE PREXIES**

Box 10916

White Bear Lake MN 55110-0916





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 9  
Fall, 1994

John Grabowski, Editor  
Box 10916, White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

The Prexie collectors' event of the year, without question, has been the long awaited publication of The Prexies, the definitive study (!) of our beloved U.S. Presidential Series. Written by the late Roland E. Rustad, edited by Leonard Piszkiwicz, and published by the BIA, this 343-page book is truly a product of our committee.

Roland, as most of us know, was our founding chairman. Leonard is one of our most active members, as well as the only person I know of to win a Grand Award for a Prexie exhibit at a national level philatelic show — a feat he has accomplished twice! And the BIA is, of course, our parent organization.

Many additional PSC members helped with the production of The Prexies: providing advice and illustrations, reviewing the manuscript, etc. Among them are John Hotchner, Steven Roth, John Wuichet, James Galceran, Joe Thompson, Randy Neil, the late Paul Biggy and Henry Beecher, and myself. All are acknowledged in the book's introduction, but they deserve a little extra recognition here as well.

This is not intended to be a review of The Prexies, nor is it an advertisement. It is, however, a personal recommendation to buy the book. BIA members can order it directly at a discount price of \$24. Write to the BIA at Box 23707, Belleville, IL and include your BIA number. The price for non-members is \$30. That should be incentive enough to join the BIA!

Paul Biggy of Sarasota, Florida, one of the founding members of the PSC, passed away suddenly in August. He will be missed by all of us.

*Steve Suffet*

## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

Thanks to all PSC members for your enthusiastic response to my request last time for notes, questions and contributions. The response was so great, everything didn't fit in this issue. The remainders will be carried over to the Jan. newsletter. At present, we seem to be on a Nov.-Jan.-May publishing cycle, with an extra issue as time and material permit....so please keep those notes to the Editor coming....

We have a good start in cataloging the solo Prexie usages — see page 2. We could use some photocopies of the less common examples to show in THE PREXIES. Let's also move on to listing the 4 & 5-cent solo values. Anyone with listings or examples, please send them to the Editor.

Our annual meeting and cover swap was well attended at the Pittsburgh STaMpsHOW. About 15 members and guests attended our Chairman's presentation of "The Prexies Go to War: Military Related Uses of the U.S. Presidential Series." It was a great show and provided an opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make some new ones, learn a few things and gather more collectibles! There was so much there, it was hard to see and do it all.

Our venue for the 1995 PSC annual meeting will be a little more quiet and focused here in MN — see the note on page 9. It'll be held the week before STaMpsHOW - '95 in St. Louis. Please plan to attend and bring your family, friends, exhibits, trading material,.... It will be FUN! Our Chairman will be on the Jury here as well as The Philatelic Show - '95, so our exhibits are certain to be judged knowledgeably.

*John Grabowski*



PREXY SOLO USAGES APPLICABLE TO THE 1938-58 PERIOD

*(Thanks to Len Piskiewicz and Steve Suffet for helping us start this project)*

1-cent Solo Usages:

Domestic post card rate (7/1/28-12/31/51)  
 Drop letter rate at non-carrier delivery office, .01/oz. (7/1/19-12/31/51)  
 Certificate of mailing fee, .01 per mailing (9/1/15-1/31/54)  
 Newspaper and periodical rate to Canada for matter other than daily newspapers, .01/4 oz. (2/1/08-12/31/58)  
 Transient second class rate, .01/2oz. (7/1/28-3/31/52)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs, .01/2 oz. (5/1/1879-12/31/48)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, .01/2 oz. (4/15/25-12/31/48)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece (7/1/28-6/30/52)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece for non-profit organizations (7/1/52-6/30/60)

1 1/2-cent Solo Usages:

Third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter, .015/2 oz. (4/15/25-12/31/48)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs for general mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/51)  
 Third class rate for books and catalogs for non-profit mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/58)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, general mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/51)  
 Third class rate for planting material for planting, non-profit mailers, .015/2 oz. (1/1/49-12/31/58)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece (1/1/52-12/31/58)  
 Fourth class book rate, .015/lb. (11/1/38-6/30/42)  
 International printed matter rate, .015/2 oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)

2-cent Solo Usages:

Domestic post card rate (1/1/52-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to Mexico (4/1/32-7/31/58)  
 Post card rate to members of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) (4/1/32-10/31/53)  
 Drop letter rate at carrier delivery office, .02/oz. (1/1/33-3/25/44)  
 Drop letter rate at non-carrier delivery office, .02/oz. (1/1/52-7/31/58)  
 Transient 2nd class rate, .02/1st 2 oz. (4/1/52-1/6/53) <sup>63</sup>  
 Third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter, .02/1st 2 oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58)  
 International printed matter rate, .02/1st 2 oz. (1/1/53-7/31/58) (through 12/31/58 for 2nd class matter from publishers)

3-cent Solo Usages:

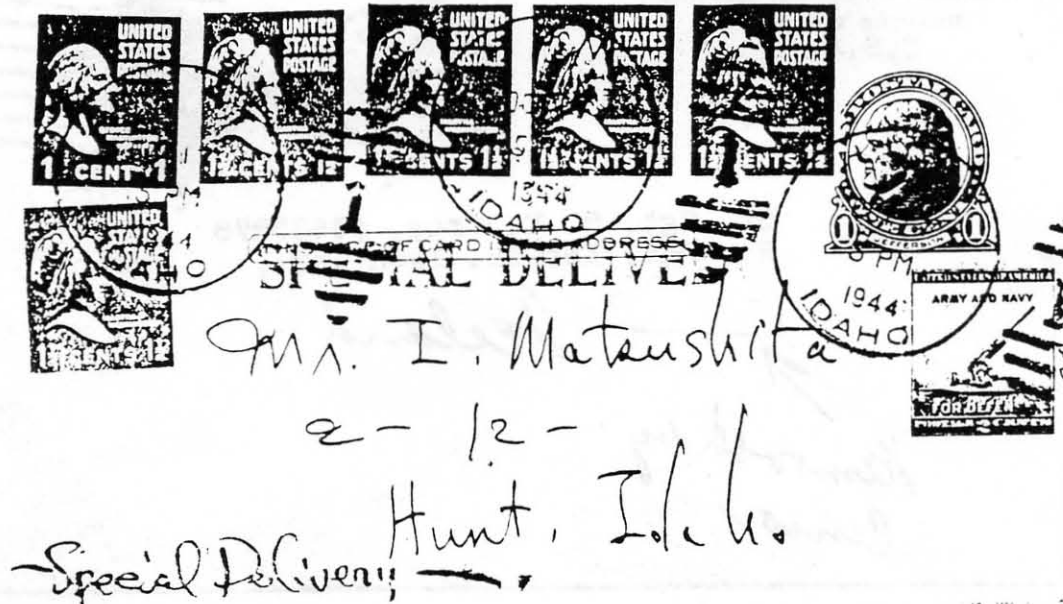
First class rate, .03/oz. (7/6/32-7/31/58) also applied to post cards with matter attached to the card  
 Certificate of mailing fee, .03 per mailing (2/1/54-6/30/57)  
 Surface rate to Canada, .03/oz. (9/1/31-7/31/58)  
 Surface rate to Mexico, .03/oz. (4/1/32-7/31/58)  
 International surface rate to PUAS members, .03/oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)  
 International post card rate to UPU member states (10/1/25-10/31/53)  
 Domestic postcard rate (also to Canada & Mexico), (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
 Third class bulk mailing minimum charge per piece, .03/1st 2oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
 Fourth class, general book rate, .03/lb. (7/1/42-3/25/44)  
 Fourth class, library book rate, .03/lb. (7/1/28-3/25/44)

Note: Newfoundland letter and postcard rates were the same as Canada before their confederation in 1949.

## AN UNUSUAL PREXY SPECIAL DELIVERY USE

(Louis Fiset)

While working with the Iwao Matsushita papers at the University of Washington archives I came across the following post card which I would like to share with other members of the PSC:



This 1/2-cent overpaid special delivery post card was postmarked at Hunt, ID on October 17, 1944. On the face of it, this card is not particularly interesting. However, Hunt was the location of the concentration camp where the Seattle Japanese community was incarcerated from August, 1942 until after the end of the War. The camp, known as the Minidoka Relocation Center, was one of ten camps which housed more than 90,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. This card is an example of intra-camp correspondence. The writer was cancelling a meeting with Iwao Matsushita, finding it quicker to communicate by special delivery mail, rather than by walking across the grounds of this relatively large camp, which at one time housed 8,000 people.

Prexie stamps were uncommonly employed on camp mail (both outgoing and intra-camp) except at Christmas time when the exchange of Christmas cards among the Christians and New Years greetings among the entire population were prolific, at which time the 1 1/2-cent Martha Washington was the adhesive of choice. Most first class mail was franked with the Win the War stamp.

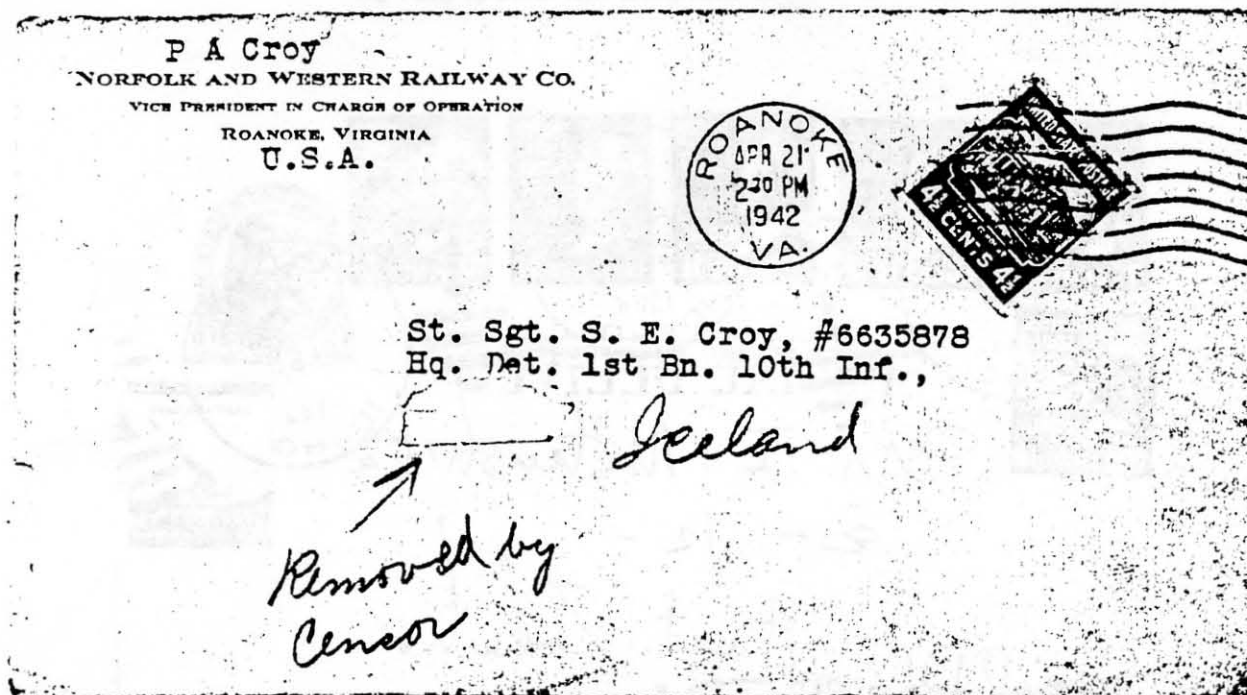
Intra-camp correspondence, especially special delivery mail, is uncommon, if not rare. Such mail, franked with Prexies, is definitely rare. Collectors with examples of this mail are indeed fortunate and are entitled to bragging rights. Unfortunately, I don't own the piece I am sharing here, so I'm pretty quiet!

Anyone interested in sharing information, or knowing more about the postal history of U.S. concentration camps during WW II can reach me at: University of Washington; Mailstop IM-35; Seattle, WA 98195.

(Thanks Louis, and be sure to see Louis' letter on page 7 for further discussion of this area)

MEMBER LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Letter #1 — Jeff Shapiro sends a copy of the following cover, apparently from a relative to "Staff Sargent Croy". The Chairman and the Editor both see this as a case of over-franking. Does anyone have any other explanation for the 4 1/2-franking on this first class appearing letter?



Letters #2, 3 & 4 — G.H. Davis, Steve Ekstrom and Jim Felton all provided helpful information regarding the Canadian "F.E.C.B." censorship marking in issue #8, page 3, on my cover to Winborne, Alberta. Both G.H. and Jim referenced the pioneering work of Jeff Swit of Fort Worth in this area. Steve sent along some nice corroborating covers with explanative notes. Perhaps the best way to summarize this area for readers would be to quote from the letter that Jeff Swit sent to G.H. which includes and updates the information contained in Jeff's article about the F.E.C.B. which appeared in the March 31, 1994 Postal History Society of Canada Journal:

"The Foreign Exchange Control Board was established on September 15, 1939 by Order in Council 2716. Its duties, in simplified terms as they applied to postal operations, were to govern the importing and exporting of currency and securities through the mail.

The purpose of this act was to keep such resources within Canada working to aid the Canadian economy and war effort, and to keep potential Axis supporters from sending money or other valuables back home. The act, in general, suspended the free market in foreign exchange, appointed chartered Canadian banks as 'authorized' dealers, and gave local postmasters 'censoring' responsibilities to ensure that exchange restrictions were being met.

Much of the mail which passed under the scrutiny of the F.E.C.B. was transmitted to the U.S. There were numerous organizations, sympathetic to the Axis powers, which operated in the U.S. and other countries, under the guise of travel agencies for instance. These were believed to be a pipeline for funds to European Axis organizations. Less than 5% of F.E.C.B. examined mail has been noted going to non-U.S. destinations.



LETTERS (CONT.).....

In addition, the F.E.C.B. provided a convenient method of censoring mail between the U.S. and Canada. Mail from Canada's coastal ports to the U.S. was routinely censored under the justification of ship security. However, there was no immediate threat from internal mail to justify overt censorship, so the F.E.C.B. examination process provided such a method without the risk of upsetting Canada's ally, "Uncle Sam."

On Jan. 12, 1940, 15 F.E.C.B. examination centers were established at Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Montreal, Moose Jaw, North Bay, Ottawa, Quebec, Saskatoon, St. John, Vancouver and Winnipeg. These centers initially employed 53 examiners who started by examining every 50th item of regular and registered mail. On Sept. 11, 5 additional centers were opened at Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Regina, Victoria and Windsor. On Jan. 4, 1941, the final center was opened at Moncton, which brought the total to 21 offices.

On Jan. 31, 1940, instructions were issued to look for and examine "suspicious" registered mail from the U.S. On Feb. 25, 1941, all registered mail came under scrutiny. In mid-1942, certain registered correspondences, which had previously proven to be in order, were allowed to pass without being opened. The Prexie cover shown in the last newsletter passed through the Calgary center with only a date stamp of the F.E.C.B. After Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, the F.E.C.B. centers ceased operation. Non-U.S. mail posted abroad continued to receive a "PASSED FOR EXPORT" handstamp, applied by the postmaster of the originating office. Use of these markings ceased Dec. 14, 1951."

Shown below is a reduced copy of the backside of a registered letter in Steve Ekstrom's collection, from Minneapolis to Winnipeg, showing the opening by the F.E.C.B. and sealing with examiner's tape:



LETTERS (CONT.).....

Letter #5 — Ken Lawrence writes to mention that coil leaders and trailers on white paper (see newsletter #8 - page 2) were used even earlier that Roland Rustad realized, according to an old BIA report. Norman Kempf wrote in the June, 1948 issue of The Bureau Specialist: "Gilbert Peakes has just purchased a 3-cent coil with a genuine 'New Look.' The wrapper is made of white paper, and is printed with purple ink instead of the conventional black used for so many years. Larger and bolder type has been used, far easier to read for those of us who are growing old and have left their glasses at home. The entire back of the new wrapper is gummed, instead of having only patches of gum at each end. As there is always a considerable stock of coil wrappers on hand at the Bureau, it may be some time before other values appear in the new dress."

Ken also generously sent along this short note which he authored:

HOW TO INTERPRET A PREXY COVER

Without doubt, the most difficult covers to interpret are those that have no dated postmarks. I have often noticed that exhibitors frequently go out of their way to display examples that do include dated postmarks, even when normal handling would have left them undated. Others use docketing dates, dated contents or datable advertising cachets to achieve the same purpose.

These are well and good, but they leave viewers with an unbalanced view of how stamps really were used most of the time. I would like to see more typical usages shown *and explained*, as a way of teaching others to appreciate the material more fully. The following cover is an illustrative example in this regard:

THE INTERNATIONAL LEGION  
Carlsbad, California

Return Postage Guaranteed

Mr. Walter H. Koester  
2814 Baynard Boulevard,  
Wilmington,  
Delaware

Sec. 562 P.L. & R.



*Handwritten signature: J. M. [unclear]*

LETTERS (CONT.).....

The 1-cent green George Washington sheet stamp, with a locally applied Carlsbad, CA precancel overprint, prepaid the minimum per-piece rate of an ordinary commercial 3rd-class bulk mailing. This 1-cent rate was in effect from July 1, 1928, through June 30, 1952. The Prexy stamp makes 1938 the earliest year of usage, of course. The Boxed "Sec. 562 P.L. & R." handstamp endorsement had been required since about December of 1932, but was replaced by "Sec. 34.66" in July, 1948.

An undeliverable piece of bulk mail was treated as waste unless it was of obvious value, or if the sender or recipient guaranteed to pay the forwarding postage. In this case, the sender guaranteed to pay the return postage by applying a red handstamp endorsement under the return address.

The return (or forwarding) postage was equal to the single-piece rate, which was 1.5-cents per two ounces until Dec. 31, 1948, then 2-cents up to two ounces beginning Jan. 1, 1949. The "Due 1 1/2 cents" portion of the pointing-finger magenta "RETURNED TO SENDER" handstamp therefore dates the return of the cover prior to 1949.

Note also that the stamp was post-canceled by a black double-oval Wilmington, DE, postmark. Such canceling was required on all precanceled mail that was returned to sender, to prevent reuse of the stamp by an authorized permit holder.

The back of the cover has a block of 24 1/2-cent Postage Due stamps with boxed black "CARLSBAD, CALIF." cancels, indicating that this was one of 8 items returned on the same day.

Is there any other evidence that can date the cover more precisely than between April, 1938 and the end of 1948? Yes, but it doesn't prove anything. The postal zone system was introduced nationwide in 1943, and quickly became standard, especially on bulk mail, so this cover was probably mailed during the first 5 years of the Prexy era.

*(Thanks Ken, for some thought-stimulating comments — ed.)*

Letter #6 — Louis Fiset provides some insights to Steve Suffet's questions last issue concerning WW II internee mail. Louis has produced a single-frame exhibit in this area and is currently working on a book length manuscript concerning the topic of the postal history of enemy alien detainees and internees during WW II.

"Steve's cover is an excellent example documenting the concentration camp mail of civilian enemy aliens in the U.S. While the lettersheet involves a German enemy alien, mail of incarcerated Italian and Japanese enemy aliens differs only in the actual camps in which they were interned.

The Internee of War lettersheet was intended for use on international correspondence, only. Domestic use was tolerated but not encouraged, which explains why so few examples of domestic use may be found. Only those individuals whose close relatives lived abroad employed the lettersheets in quantity; and most of those were German nationals.

The writer in Steve's example was a German civilian who was arrested by the FBI in Iowa (this information from the internee's serial number beneath his name.) He was turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and likely sent to its Fort Lincoln detention station at Bismarck, ND, pending the outcome of a loyalty hearing which would determine whether he should be released, paroled or interned. His plea was obviously unsuccessful, resulting in an internment order land him in Army custody. The Stringtown camp was one of many camps operated by the Army to intern enemy aliens.



**LETTERS (CONT.).....**

Following the German collapse in the North African Campaign, prisoners of war began to flood into the U.S. causing the Army to attempt to rid itself of the responsibility of the civilians. As a result, by the end of May, 1943, all civilian internees were returned to INS custody, and were moved to camps operated by that Service.

While in Army custody, all internee international correspondence and all non-English letters were forwarded for inspection to the POW Unit at the Chicago Censorship Station until Sept., 1942, and to the New York POW Unit after that. For a time, English-language letters were censored by the Army staff at the individual camps, as was Steve's example. Later, even English-language correspondence was inspected by the POW Unit. By then, the INS had hired its own German, Italian and Japanese speaking censors (and Spanish, for enemy aliens from Latin America) and refused to cooperate with the Office of Censorship's request that domestic mail should continue to be forwarded for inspection.

Free franking for international surface mail began almost immediately following the U.S. entry into the war. Beginning in Nov., 1942, and continuing until the last camp closed in 1947, internees also enjoyed free franking privileges for domestic mail.

In all, this lovely example of a poorly understood period of U.S. wartime postal history will enhance the value of any exhibit on the subject. Interestingly, during the period in which pre-paid postage was required on internee correspondence, Prexie use was uncommon. Therefore, its presence in a Prexie exhibit should be highlighted!"

Letter #7 — Jim Felton sends some further comments on the Pitney-Bowles double-ring cancelers we have been discussing (Newsletter #8, page 2; #7, page 6):

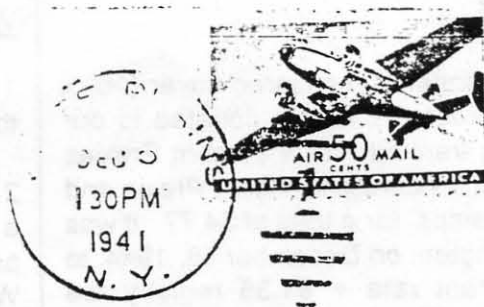
"Regarding the Pitney-Bowles cancelers, I have trouble considering the 1953 model as an "essay", rather than "production." From what I've found, the order that resulted in the 1953 model devices was for 800 cancelers for use in over 550 post offices. Because of their use well into the late 1950's, the 1953 model devices were clearly not "replaced" in the sense of being taken out of service, so it is hasty to dismiss the 1953 device as an essay. If Ken Lawrence wishes to claim the 1955 models for the Liberty Series, (to split hairs more finely) there were more Liberty Series stamps issued after 1955 than before. The 1953 Pitney-Bowles model clearly belongs to the Prexie era, though I have recorded examples used as late as 1960. In closing, these cancelers are properly found on Prexie stamps and that's the most important fact as far as our PSC is concerned."

**A SCARCE SOLO USE OF THE 50-CENT TRANSPORT**

The 50-cent cover shown on the next page is part of G.H. Davis' Transport collection. Solo usages of the 50-cent Transport are very uncommon in any form. They are occasionally seen paying the rate to the Philippines or Hawaii to Europe (.20 + .30). The 50-cent stamp was issued Oct. 29, 1941 and Philippine mail service was officially suspended on Dec. 12, according to Richard Helbok's Prexie Postal History (La Posta Monograph #2.) This allows only about a 6-week period of pre-War use for the 50-cent rate. It's doubtful that many of the 50-cent Transports made their way to the Philippines for origination use there.

The cover shown here was postmarked Dec. 5 in White Plains, NY. It was obviously too late to get through and may be one of the earliest examples of such suspended mail.

Does anyone have any similar examples?



*Private Dexter C. Woodman,  
27 Material Squadron,  
Hickam Field,  
Hawaii*

**RETURNED TO SENDER  
SERVICE SUSPENDED.**



#### PAST EVENTS.....

Walt Cole's "The U.S. Three Cent Stamp of 1938" won a gold award and the BIA Best U.S. Exhibit Award at the MIDAPHIL held in Kansas City in this past October.

John Grabowski's "Postal Uses of the '38 Prexies" won a silver award at MIDAPHIL; also a vermeil award at STaMpsHOW this summer.

Dickson Preston's "Prexie Postal History", won a gold award and an APS medal at the Oct. CHICAGOPEX.

ATTA WAY TO GO FELLA'S!!

(The Ed. always appreciates short notes about Prexie exhibits and their awards.)

#### FUTURE EVENTS.....

Our annual PSC meeting and cover swap will be held at the Twin City Stamp EXPO next August 18-20 in St. Paul. The EXPO theme will be the "1938 Presidential Series" so related exhibits are earnestly solicited. Write to the editor to request an exhibit prospectus, including a new \$150 "claiming fee" concept for single-frame exhibits. This EXPO will be held the week preceding STaMpsHOW, about 450 miles to the South. If you plan a vacation, perhaps with your family, write to the editor also for vacation and travel information around MN — there's plenty available (courtesy of our tax dollars!)

Remember also the annual BIA meeting at the Philatelic Show - '95 in Boxborough, MA, April 28-30. Exhibit information may be requested from PSC member Guy Dillaway, Box 181, Weston, MA 02193-0181.

**FOR SALE/TRADE.....**

1. For sale — a wonderful registered cover (10" x 5") for \$10. The proceeds will be donated to our PSC. The cover is franked with 9 50-cent Prexies (one slightly torn), a 20-cent and 1-cent Prexie and 2 3-cent 'Victory' stamps, for a total of \$4.77. It was mailed from Washington, on December 18, 1944, to NYC. Double 3-cent rate + \$1.35 registry fee (\$1,000 indemnity) + \$3.36 surcharge for \$24,000 undeminified excess value. Write to the editor.

**WANTED.....**

1. .... Your wants and needs ..... send them to the Editor ..... free.....
2. A reasonably priced example of the .02 rate for a non-carrier office drop letter, 1/1/52-7/31/58 period. Send to John Grabowski, Box 10916, White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0916 .

**COMING NEXT ISSUE.....**

....New essays uncovered....

...."Domestic Third Class Usage of a Postal Card"....

....Many more interesting examples, questions and thoughts....

**THE PREXIES**

Box 10916

White Bear Lake MN 55110-0916





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 10  
Spring, 1995

John Grabowski, Editor  
Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

In case you've overlooked it, I'd like to call your attention to Barbara L. Mueller's article, "Schiff Selling 20th Century Large Die Proofs from Engravers' Estates", which appeared in the December, 1994 issue of The United States Specialist.

According to Mueller, the auction firm of Jacques C. Schiff, Inc. is "offering material from the works of Charles Brooks and John Eissler. These men", she explains, "worked at the Bureau [of Engraving and Printing] during the first half of this century." Of particular interest to members of our Committee should be the following excerpt:

"Probably the most exciting, in terms of current interest, are the large die proofs of the Prexies. All currently unlisted, they are the 2-, 7-, 9-, 11-, 13-, 15-, 20-, and 24-cent. While many of the proofs in the entire collection have the usual C-shaped punch-out pasted back into the design which it defaced to prevent fraudulent printing, some of the Prexies have very small dot-like punches over each figure of denomination that are almost imperceptible.

"Knowledgeable collectors know that all these are truly 'pedigree proofs,' with the handstamped impression numbers that enable one to look up in BEP records the actual production data and with the signatures of the participating artists and the officials who authorized them plus, in some cases, penciled notations of the ink formulation.

"These are real working proofs that have true philatelic value, not just decorative value.."

Now if I can just sell my house and car and cash in my retirement fund, I'll take all eight! Seriously though, this is a major Prexie story — stay tuned for further details.

*Steve Suffet*

## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.....

Even though it seems far off, especially while still buried under the snow here in Minnesota, the six months until our August 18-20 Twin City Stamp EXPO will pass very quickly. EXPO will be the site of our annual Prexie Series Committee meeting and cover swap. The theme of the show will be the 1938 Presidential Series so we're earnestly soliciting exhibits on our favorite subject! Famous Americans, Transports and other 20th Century material are also welcome. Please drop me a card if you would like a prospectus. The EXPO Committee encourages a wide range of exhibits from the advanced to the fun and experimental. While not a World Series of Philately show, EXPO is working toward that goal and will use 5 APS accredited judges (including our PSC Chairman!) and 2,500 pages of exhibits. Four days after EXPO closes, STAMPSHOW opens in St. Louis, 450 miles to the south. MN is a great place to spend some vacation time in August -- anyone desiring a tourist kit, please let me know. EXPO will also be hosting the annual meeting of the Trans Mississippi Philatelic Society.

**ADDRESS CHANGE** — Please note the new address for your Editor in the masthead above. The old P.O. box got too expensive. I've had reports of mail being returned instead of forwarded, if so, please try again at the Willernie address

**CDS "NEVADA"** — You may also note a different posting for this issue of our PREXIES. No, I haven't moved to Nevada, but that's where Jim Forte lives. As many of you already know, Jim has a terrific stock of postal history items and his inventory continues to grow. He has generously agreed to pay the freight on this mailing for the privilege of attaching his current Prexie offerings. So please look it over and give Jim a call if you see anything you need.

*John Grabowski*

**PREXIE SOLO USAGES APPLICABLE TO THE 1938-58 PERIOD** (Thanks to Len, Steve & Others)  
(excluding multiple weight usages, unless it is one of the primary reasons for the stamp being issued)

#### 4-cent Solo Usages:

First class letter rate, .04/oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
Letter rate to Canada or Mexico, .04/oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63)  
Fourth class, library 2 lb. book rate, .03/1st lb. + .01/add'l lb. (7/1/39-3/25/44)  
Fourth class, library book rate, .03/1st lb. + .01 minimum wartime surcharge (3/26/44-12/31/48)  
Fourth class, library book rate, .04/1st lb. (1/1/49-1/6/68)  
International surface post card rate to UPU member states (11/1/53-7/31/58)  
Domestic air mail post card rate (1/1/49-7/31/58)  
Air mail post card rate to Canada or Mexico (1/1/49-7/31/58)  
International printed matter rate, .04/1st 2 oz. (8/1/58-4/30/67).  
Return receipt fee - mailed at Washington, DC, from Executive Branch Dept's only, (3/26/44-12/31/48)

#### 4 1/2-cent Solo Usages:

(Note: The principal use of the 4 1/2-cent stamp was to pay 3X the various .015 rates please see the .015 rates in the previous newsletter)

Insured third class mail, .015/2 oz., .015 third class rate + .03 minimum insurance fee for mailing value up to \$5 (11/1/44-12/31/48).  
Third class single piece rate for over 2 oz. and up to 3 oz., .03/1st 2 oz. + .015/add'l oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63).

#### 5-cent Solo Usages:

Controlled circulation publication, over 8 oz. and up to 10 oz., 5X .01/2 oz. (minimum rate at this time) (7/13/34-2/12/42).  
Controlled circulation publication minimum charge per piece (2/13/42-3/25/44).  
Domestic air mail rate, including post cards, .05/oz. (10/1/46-12/31/48).  
Air mail rate to Canada or Mexico, including post cards, .05/oz. (10/1/46-12/31/48).  
Domestic air mail post card rate (8/1/58-1/6/63).  
Air mail post card rate to Canada or Mexico (8/1/58-1/6/63).  
Certificate of mailing fee (7/1/57-4/17/76).  
International surface letter rate to UPU member states, .05/1st oz., (4/1/07-10/31/53).  
International surface rate to British Colonies in the Caribbean (11/1/31-10/31/53).  
International surface post card rate to UPU member states (8/1/58-6/30/61).  
Fourth class, library 2 lb. book rate, .03/1st lb. + .01/add'l lb. + .01 min. wartime surcharge (3/26/44-12/31/48).  
Fourth class, library 2 lb. book rate, .04/1st lb. + .01/add'l lb. (1/1/49-1/6/68).  
Return receipt fee - mailed at Washington, DC, from Executive Branch Dept's only, (1/1/49-12/31/51).

Note: Various zoned 4th class rates are not included in these listings. These rates are too numerous and complex to be adequately covered here. Readers interested in this area are directed to the Beecher Book referenced on the next page.

Additions and corrections to these Solo Usages listings are most warmly encouraged, as well as photocopies of some of the more unusual examples and listings for the .06 to .10 values, scheduled for the next newsletter.

#### ADDITIONS (A) AND CORRECTIONS (C)

#### 1-cent Solo Usages:

Controlled circulation publication minimum charge per piece (1/1/49-5/22/54, on the latter date a

regulation was published in The Postal Bulletin prohibiting the use of adhesives on this class of mail) (A).

### 2-cent Solo Usages:

Transient second class rate, .02/1st 2 oz. (4/1/52-1/6/63, not 1/6/53) (C).

### 3-cent Solo Usages:

Drop letter rate at a non-carrier office, .03/oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63) (A).

Third class single-piece rate (not bulk mailing rate), .03/1st 2 oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63) (C).

Fourth class, library book rate, .03/1st lb. (not .03/lb.) (7/1/28-3/25/44) (C).

Third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter, rate for more than 2 oz. and up to 3 oz., .02/1st 2 oz. + .01/add'l oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58) (A).

Return receipt fee - mailed at Washington, DC, from Executive Branch Dept's only, (4/15/25-3/25/44) (A).

## CORRECTIONS TO THE "BEECHER BOOK" WHICH AFFECT PREXIE-ERA RATES

If you have a copy of U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993 by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, please note the following corrections:

Page 59, Figure 31-1 - The dates for the 4-cent minimum library rate should be March 26, 1944, (when the War Revenue Act went into effect), through January 6, 1968.

Page 190, first paragraph - Free franking for U.S. Armed Forces in WW II lasted through December 31, 1945, not 1947.

Page 193, Table 35-2 - The minimum fee for no-indemnity registered mail increased from 20-cents to 25-cents on January 1, 1949. Change cell a4 from "20" to "25."

Page 201, Table 40-1 - The last digit was unintentionally omitted from each entry in column 6. Here are the correct numbers:

cell	c6	"32*/64*"
	f6	"40*/80*"
	g6	"45*/90*"
	h6	"12*/24*"
	i6	"17*/34*"
	j6	"22*/44*"

Put another way, the COD fees for 3rd and 4th class mail were double those for first class mail during that rate period.

The publisher, Randy Neil of The Traditions Press, has assured us that these corrections and any others that are brought to his attention will be made before the second edition goes to press.

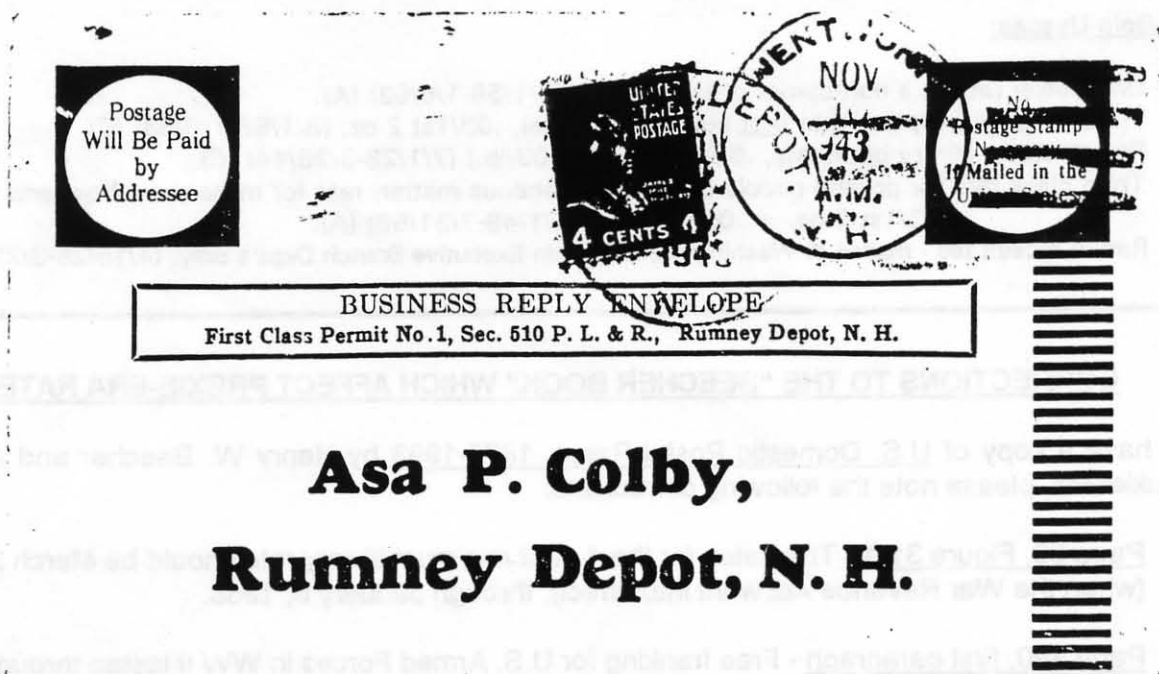
(Randy, as many will likely remember, was the founding editor of THE PREXIES newsletter. He remains an active member of the PSC. Henry Beecher was a founding member of our PSC; Anthony Wawrukiewicz is a current member.)

*Editor's note* — the Beecher Book is an invaluable asset for anyone working in the field of U.S. Postal History and is highly recommended!

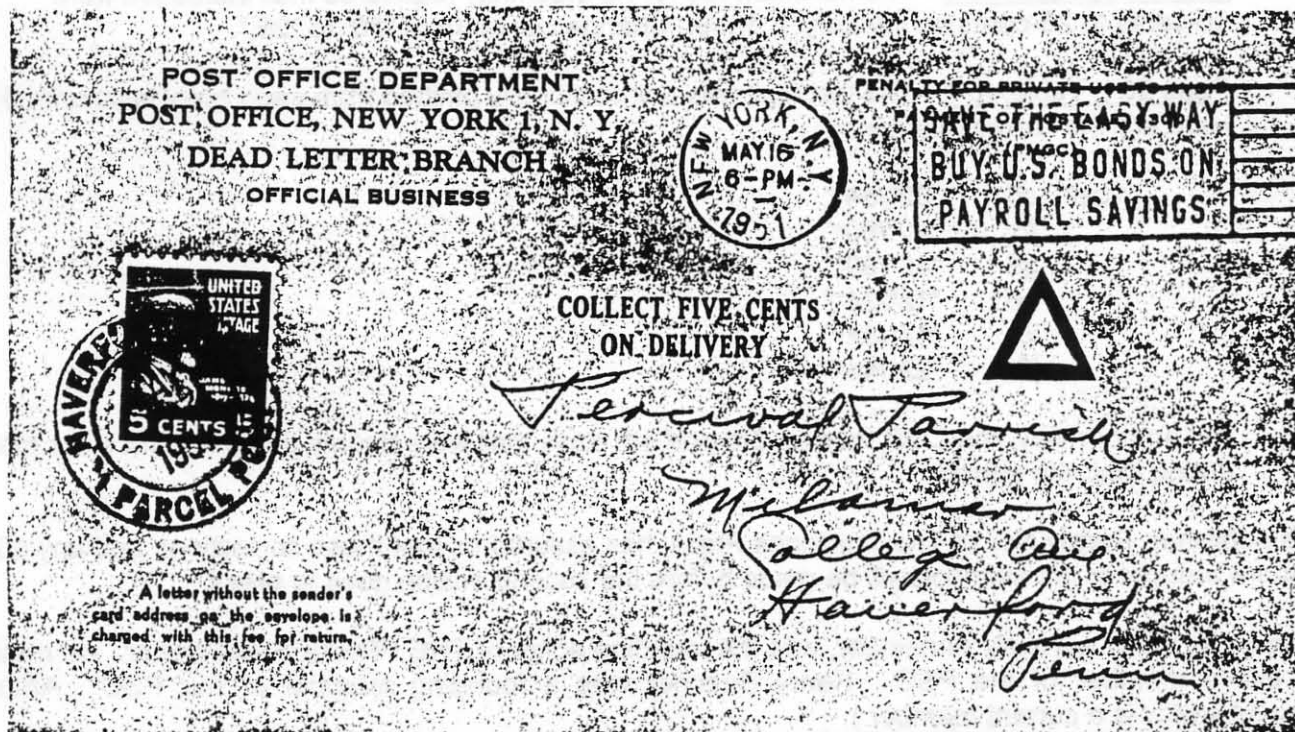


### A COUPLE OF INTERESTING PREXIE POSTAGE DUE SOLO FRANKINGS

Jeff Shapiro sends along a couple of very interesting solo usages of Prexies as postage dues from his collection (which are not listed in our ongoing solo tables. Should they be?):



4-cent Prexie used as postage due to pay the 3-cent first class rate + 1-cent business reply service



5-cent Prexie used as postage due to pay the dead letter return fee

**ATTENTION LIBERTY SERIES COLLECTORS!**

Any Prexie collector whose interests also extend to the 1954 Liberty series should be reading THE TORCH — the newsletter of the BIA Liberty Series Study Group. To obtain a copy, contact its editor:

Roland Austin  
Box 2641  
Stillwater, OK 74076

Tell him you heard about THE TORCH here. He'd appreciate a 32-cent stamp with your request.

**MEET THE MEMBER.....**

BOB TOTH

My Prexie collecting interest probably puts me in the odd ball category. Due to my association with the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, and proximity to his home, I have developed a collection of the postal usages of the President Garfield stamps. This includes starting with the 5-cent Bank Note series and concluding with the 20-cent Prexie. My covers have a Garfield stamp(s) alone, or in combination with other stamps. This is a fun collection. Material is also available, as long as my funds hold out. For lack of a better way, my current sorting method s by postage amount. The number of usages at a particular postage amount seems to be endless. The 20-cent Prexie has proven to be a good starting point with my collection. The collection has also been a great education in postal rates! Both Jay Stotts and Steve Suffet have been a big help with the unusual rates.

**THE COMING REVOLUTION.....**

I feel that computers are finally reaching the point where they will significantly affect the way we interact with other collectors. William Sharpe had an interesting discussion about "Using on-line services to talk about stamps" in the Feb. 27 edition of Linn's. I highly recommend that all members read his article. It's possible we could even establish an hour Prexie electronic chat session (meeting) once a month if enough members are willing to participate. We would have to work out the details, but the technology is certainly available. Let's hear from the members on this topic.

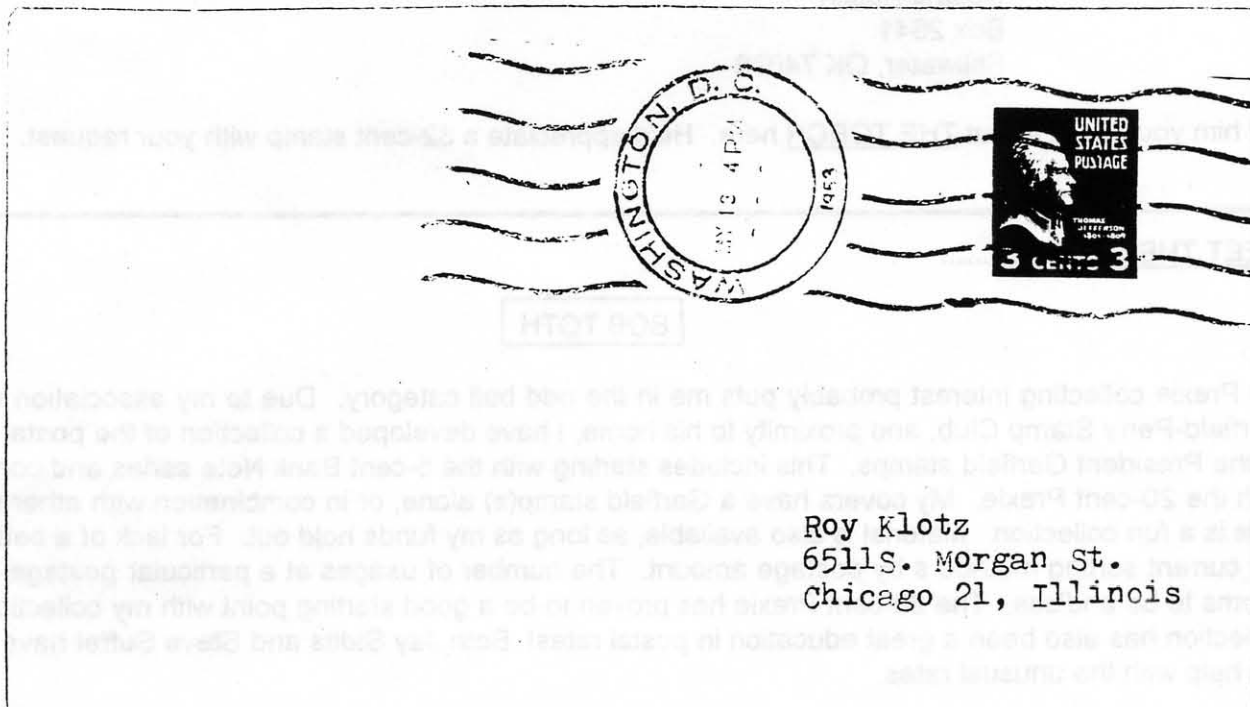
Another thought stimulating piece concerning the future of E-mail on our hobby is the editorial by Richard Sine in our February U.S. Specialist. The day may not be too far ahead when we regularly hold "virtual" (electronic) philatelic meetings, and yes, even virtual philatelic auctions!

In the meantime, I encourage all members to send me their E-mail address, if they have one, when they normally write me. For anyone wishing to E-mail me, you can do so via America Online at "MINNJOHN" or by using the Internet at "minnjohn@aol.com". Maybe we can print such a list for our members to reach one another. Any comments?

*John Grabowski*

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

**Letter #1-** Here is a copy of a Prexie cover showing a Pitney-Bowes roller cancel. This is most likely an experimental or trial cancel, and the date (My 13 1953) shows clearly that this is a product of the Prexie period, no matter what others say. The earliest of the Pitney-Bowes markings, without wavy lines, was in use in 1953, before the first of the Liberty series stamps were issued. — *Len Diszkiewicz*



Roy Klotz  
6511 S. Morgan St.  
Chicago 21, Illinois

**Letter #2-** Like nearly every other Prexie postal history collector, I have always looked for that consummate rarity — a cover postmarked Navy Yard and/or Pearl Harbor Branch, Honolulu, T.H. on December 7, 1941 — a true "Holy Grail" for the 20th Century postal history collector!

Following up on G. H. Davis' comments on the 50-cent Transport from the last newsletter, I'd like to share the following example of inbound mail to Hawaii that fateful morning. The cover shown here was carried on board the "Anzac Clipper" that departed from Treasure Island, San Francisco, on the afternoon of December 6, 1941. This departure was timed to permit an on-water landing at Pearl Harbor shortly after dawn on the 7th. Unfortunately, its arrival coincided with the Japanese attack, forcing the plane to be diverted to Hilo where mail, passengers and cargo were off-loaded. After refitting and refueling, the Anzac Clipper departed for the U.S. mainland later that day.

The mail delivered by the Anzac Clipper was subsequently transferred to Honolulu from Hawaii, where it was held for seven months, prior to being marked "RETURNED TO SENDER". In all likelihood, this mail was then returned to the mainland via ship.

The following is a chronology of Clipper flights leading up to, and on, December 7th.



LETTERS (CONT.).....

December 2 — The "American Clipper", NC18606, left Treasure Island for Honolulu on the FAM 14 mail route to Hong Kong.

December 2 — The "Pacific Clipper", NC 18609, also left Treasure Island for Honolulu on the FAM 19 mail route to Auckland, New Zealand.

December 3 — The "Philippine Clipper", NC14715, left Treasure Island for Honolulu on the FAM 14 mail route. All mail carried on this flight no longer exists. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the pilot received orders to dump all mail and return to Honolulu. (The cover shown here was posted in New York in the PM of December 2 and was too late to connect with this Philippine Clipper flight.)

December 6 — The "Anzac Clipper", NC18611, left Treasure Island on the FAM 14 mail route — the last airmail flight for many weeks due to the higher priority of military cargo.

The writer appreciates the substantial detail given to him concerning this area by Exhibitor Bill Taylor and President Jonathan Johnson of the American Airmail Society in October, 1994. — *Stephen Ekstrom*



**DOMESTIC THIRD CLASS MAIL USAGE OF A POSTAL CARD**

(Patrick M. Crosby)

Reprinted by permission, from the April-June, 1994, POSTAL STATIONERY, the official quarterly publication of the United Postal Stationery Society. Membership information may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer: Marilyn C. Bardonner-Dee, Box 1129, Waukegan, IL 60079-1129.

APRIL-JUNE, 1994

51

**DOMESTIC THIRD CLASS MAIL USAGE  
OF A POSTAL CARD**

By Patrick M. Crosby

When a single  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ stamp has been added to a 1¢ postal card, usually the card is addressed to a foreign destination. This would indicate the printed matter surface foreign rate. But domestic usage of a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rate would indicate the domestic third class rate, which is quite unusual for a postal card.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

*Eugenia Kellerman*  
*805 6th St*  
*City*

## ONE CENT TIRE SALE

(May 22nd Through June 1st)

Use this Penny to buy one 1st Quality

### ALLSTATE TIRE

Purchase 2 ALLSTATE Tires (any size) at low regular list price and get 3rd tire for one cent.

EXAMPLE—Two 6.00x16	
4-Ply Tires .....	\$27.90
3rd Tire .....	.01
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$27.91</b>

**Use  
Sears  
Easy  
Payment  
Plan**

**ALLSTATE**  
4-Ply Tires have  
an 18 mo. uncondi-  
tional guarantee  
6-Ply tires 24 mo.  
unconditional  
guarantee

## FALK'S

SELLING AGENTS FOR  
**SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.**

Idaho Falls   Twin Falls   Boise   Nampa   Caldwell   Lewiston

The illustrated postal card has a 1/2¢ Prexie added to a 1¢ green Jefferson card (S37E). It is postmarked May 20, 1940, Boise, Idaho and its address includes "City". On the reverse a penny had once been glued as part of an All-state Tire advertising campaign. The penny had been in the upper right corner, and this area now shows some glue remnant, a thinned area where the glued penny took a layer of the card off with it, and a partial circle indentation the diameter of a penny. The idea of the advertisement was to buy two tires at the regular price, and use the attached penny to buy a third tire for only 1¢.

Third class mail included circulars, miscellaneous printed matter, and merchandise of 8 ounces or less. From 1925 until 1948 the rate was 1 1/2¢ per 2 ounces for these items, which is the rate on the illustrated card. Note that third class mail at times included other items at varied rates, such as books, catalogs, seeds, hotel and steamship keys, and bulk mailings. Second class mail provided reduced postage rates for regular newspapers and periodicals, while third class was a catch-all category providing reduced rates.

Although the postal card rate in 1940 was 1¢, any matter attached to a card (except address labels) typically made it subject to the first class letter rate. At the time this was 3¢ for a non-local letter. But the card was addressed to "City", referring to Boise, Idaho, and the drop letter rate of 2¢ would have applied for first class mail. So the sender of the card was saving 1/2¢ in postage for each card sent by utilizing the third class mail rate.

Perhaps a more stringiest post office would have considered a postal card with a penny attached as not being eligible for third class mail status. It could have been considered a mutilated card because of the glued-on penny and been subject to the 2¢ drop letter, first class rate. A nasty postal clerk might have even required this 2¢ postage to be in added stamps only, claiming that the postal card's imprinted stamp had no postal value once the card was mutilated.

But there was no nasty postal clerk in Boise, Idaho that day, and this advertising card enjoyed a 1 1/2¢ rate. It also received an additional bonus by having the postmark include the date, since third class mail required a postmark, but not a date.

#### REFERENCES

Hines, Terrence. 1985. Low value usages. Chapter 2 of *Prexie Postal History*. Lake Oswego, Oregon, Oregon: La Posta Publications.

Patterson, James H. 1993. Aspects of nonmailability. *La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History* 24 (October-November): 27-29.

U.S. Post Office Department. *United States Domestic Postal Rates 1789 to 1956*. Washington, D.C. reprint, Box 30, Fishkill, N.Y. 12524. The Printer's Stone.

• • •

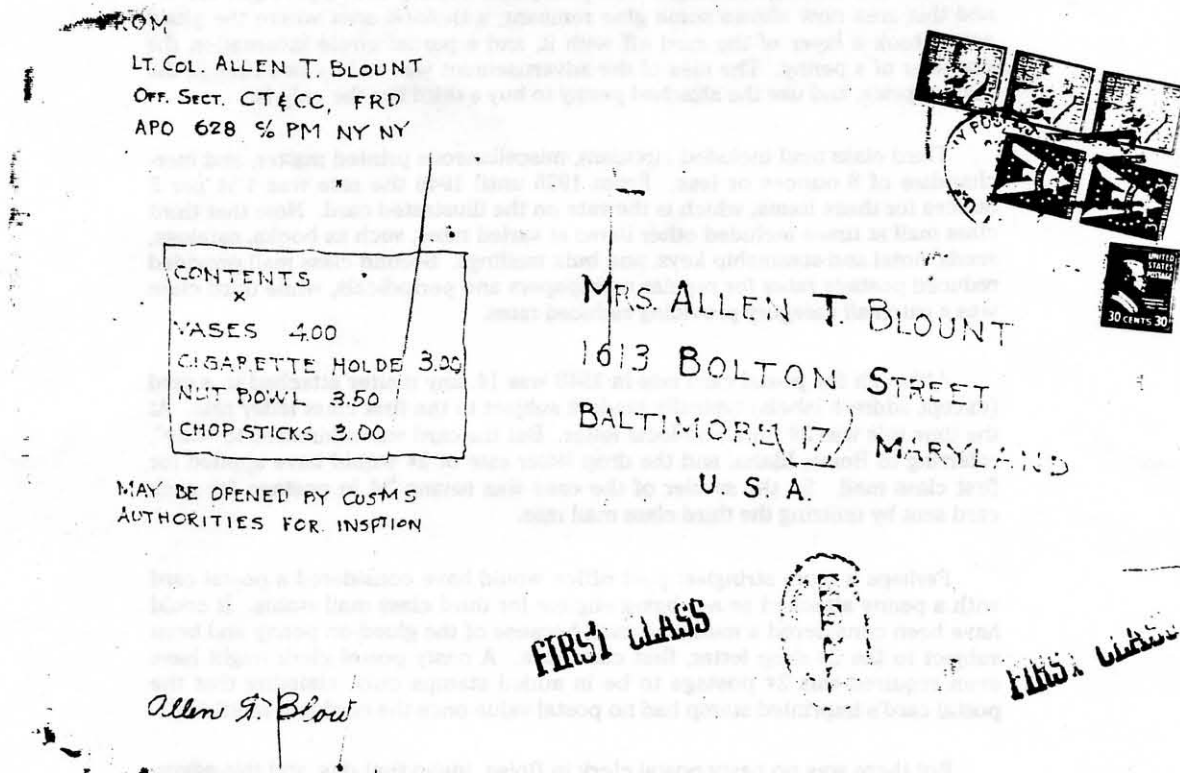
(Len Piskiewicz also called the Editor's attention to this article, in addition to Steve Suffet. Len further notes that he has another such example of a 3rd card post card in his exhibit: a similar UX-27 with a 1/2-cent Prexie showing a printed advertisement from a tailor with a cloth sample stapled to it!)



A WARTIME PARCEL FROM INDIA

The cloth piece shown below is from APO 628, located at Ramgarh, India, one of the scarcer APO's.

The \$1.86 in postage represents 62X the .03/oz. first class rate for armed services personnel.



If you'd like to add this beauty to your collection, see "THE DONATION BOARD" on the last page.

THE BIG, BAD AND UGLY CLUB

The above piece brings to mind another interesting area for discussion. Some of the most interesting Prexie usages are on things other than #6 size envelopes. How about devoting a small section of our newsletter each time for examples of big, perhaps "ugly", BUT INTERESTING Prexie usages. Anyone have any examples?

Also, how do you store and/or exhibit these pieces?

**ANNUAL PSC MEMBER SURVEY AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....**

As you can see in the section below, our cash operating balance is enough to carry us through another couple of newsletters, thanks to the generous help we have been receiving from some of our members, our parent BIA and other occasional benefactors such as Jim Forte. We are spending about \$3-4 annually per member to print and mail THE PREXIES. Our mailing list is now a little over 160 names.

A problem is that we've never heard from more than half of our membership in terms of letters, contributions, notes or anything in the 2 years since I've been serving as Editor. One wonders if some members are no longer interested in collecting Prexies. In order to be fair to the members who are supporting our Committee, we propose to call for a survey of members — If you are interested in continuing to receive THE PREXIES, please send a note saying so to John Grabowski, Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536. If we have not heard from you in the last year, this will be your last newsletter until we do.

When you do send your note, please consider including some of the following:

A small monetary contribution (checks can be made payable to "J. Grabowski") although postage and "auction" donations are also welcome.

A brief description of your Prexie collecting interests for our "Meet the Member" section.

Letters to the editor, short notes, want ads, etc.

Your BIA membership number and E-mail address, if you have either.

**PSC TREASURY REPORT.....****INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT: 4/1/94 - 1/31/95**

Treasury Balance, 4/1/94		\$ 77.81
Income		
Member contributions	\$103.57	
BIA financial support	126.93	
	<hr/>	\$230.50
Expenses		
Newsletter #8 (Summer '94)	\$ 90.36	
Newsletter #9 (Fall '94)	115.76	
Miscellaneous postage	2.76	
	<hr/>	\$208.88
Treasury Balance, 1/31/95		\$ 99.43

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

1. For sale — a very large collection of Prexie covers, including many high values. Selling as a complete collection. For particulars, contact Bob Markovits, Box 891, Middletown, NY 10910.

2. Wanted — Unusual 20th Century post office markings showing delays in the mail (sender errors, transportation problems, unable to deliver — dog bites to paved-over addresses, postal handling mistakes.) Also need Prexie perforation EFO's — part perfs especially. Write with a description and/or photocopy and price or trade requirements to John Hotchner, Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125.

3. Wanted — PREXIE ELECTRIC EYE DASHES: I need CORNER singles or blocks, mint or used, that include 100% of the electric eye dashes. Please advise available items and asking price to Paul Kattelman, Box 62213, Sharonville, OH 45262.

4. Wanted — more sell/trade/wanted ads, PSC donation items. Send to John Grabowski, Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536.

**PSC DONATION BOARD.....**

1. Net price item — A 1944 APO 628 cloth piece with \$1.86 in Prexie postage available for the 1st \$10.00 — see the writeup on page 8. Thanks to Roger Listwan.

2. Net price item — A 1955 registered window envelope (8.75" long) from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Single franking 30-cent Prexie, with perfin "U.S.", paid the minimum registration rate as agency first class postage was free. Available for the 1st \$4.00. Thanks to David Bizé.

**COMING NEXT ISSUE.....**

Some of the "New Essays Uncovered" promised last time....

Some member contributions which have not yet made it into the newsletter because of lack of space and editorial time.....

Many more interesting examples, questions and thoughts....

**AND A FINAL COMMENT.....**

It amazes me how much this newsletter has grown, thanks to help from you members — keep up the good work and I'll do my best to put it together!

**THE PREXIES**

Box 536

Willernie MN 55090-0536





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 11  
Late Summer, 1995

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

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

This is a completely unsolicited plug. It's for the philatelic auctioneer from Weehawken, NJ (just a proverbial stone's throw across the Hudson River from NYC): Lowell S. Newman.

Lowell is literally a gentleman and a scholar. He is an astute collector, a fine exhibitor, a talented writer and a knowledgeable philatelic judge. I had the pleasure of serving one of my four judging apprenticeships on a panel which included him.

But I am not writing this simply to praise the man. My purpose is to let fellow PSC members know of a reputable source of some of the finest Prexie material around. Whether it's plate number blocks of the high values, seldom seen EFO's or covers like you have seen nowhere else, Lowell handles them all. The vertical pair of \$1 Prexies imperforate horizontally, Scott No. 832a, was just one of three major Prexie errors that appeared in a recent Lowell S. Newman auction.

You may contact Lowell at 1500 Harbor Blvd, Weehawken, NJ 07087. His telephone number is (201) 223-0100, fax: 223-1202.

You can tell him I said "hello!"



*Steve Suffet*

## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

This issue has been too long in preparation (it started in May!) The Editor is mostly responsible for the delay. Major factors were our local Twin City Stamp EXPO which consumed a fair portion of my time as bourse chairman this year and a particularly busy time in my regular business. The EXPO was also the site of our annual PSC meeting — see the next page for some of the highlights. Then I tried to cram a lot of stuff into this issue, maybe too much. There is much detail and some of it required extensive rewriting. In the future, I think we'll keep the issues a bit shorter and more frequent. Despite best efforts, there may still be some typos, corrections or additions. I would appreciate hearing about them to share with others.

As always, we need input from PCS members to help fill the next issue. It need not be anything elaborate, a request for information, a special "find" you'd like to share or your perspective on collecting the Prexie Era would do very nicely. I'd also like to continue our "Meet the Member" feature but I need to hear from more members about what you collect and how you started.

I hope to run the rate table on .11 to .20 uses next issue so information and examples in this area are especially solicited.

I'm also trying a new section, "Low-Budget Prexie Collecting", for a few issues to see what kind of response is generated. Contributions to this area are needed — see page 14 for an introduction.

Finally, a sincere thanks to all who contributed thoughts, stamps and money to make this effort possible. Keep up the good work!

*John Grabowski*

**PREXIEPEX VI WAS FUN.....**

1990 — NAPEX, Washington, DC  
 1991 — MIDAPHIL, Kansas City  
 1992 — INDYPEX, Indianapolis  
 1993 — STAMPSHOW, Houston  
 1994 — STAMPSHOW, Pittsburgh  
 1995 — Twin City Stamp EXPO, St. Paul  
 (1996 — ROPEX, Rochester, NY)

We continued our annual meeting tradition this year in St. Paul with an outstanding group of Prexie Era exhibits and some great information and cover swapping at our annual meeting. The bourse was very active with dealers from all over the country stopping by on their way to St. Louis and many carrying a wide selection of 20th Century postal history.

EXPO's Grand Award went to PSC member Steve Eckstrom of Connecticut for his superb showing of the "U.S. Transport Airmail Issue: Rates, Usages & Postal History" which included many exciting and elusive covers. Steve also earned the Postal History Society Award.

Also in the gold medal category was PSC member William DiPaolo, of North Carolina, showing his "The Prexie Coils", an in-depth study of the stamps, their production and usages. Bill also earned the well-deserved Roland Rustad Memorial Award. For those members interested in this specialized Prexie subject, Bill has written the definitive article to date on Prexie Coil Usages which appeared in the Nov.-Dec., 1994 issue of U.S. Stamps and Postal History.

Completing a trio of gold awards to PSC members was Jeff Shapiro, from Massachusetts, with his interesting and well-organized "Collecting Prexie Postal History".

Member David Wessely, from Ohio, did a most impressive job with his first-time showing of "Postal History of Famous Americans, Circa 1940" and was rewarded with a Vermeil Medal and the AAPE Silver Award of Honor.

Silver Medals were awarded to member Millard Mack of Ohio for his exhibit, "Postal History of the 3-cent Jefferson Prexie Stamp" and John

Grabowski for his exhibit, "Postal Uses of the Prexie Coil Stamps". Both exhibits showed some very interesting material and should continue to grow in future years.

Special mention goes to PSC member Victor Nieset, also of Ohio, for his showing of "The 1934-35 National Parks Issue". Although this material is outside the Prexie period, it was still a great showing of a first-time exhibit in a challenging area.

Most of these exhibitors chose a narrow period and/or a limited set of stamp values to work with which made their task all the more challenging.

All in all, the exhibits were a real treat for students of mid-20th Century U.S. stamps and postal history. Especially noteworthy was the fact that at least half these exhibits were being shown for the first time and almost all had been mounted for exhibition within the last year or so! A big "ATTAWAY TO GO" award to all the exhibitors from ye Editor and keep up the good work!

**CRITERIA FOR RUSTAD AWARD EXPANDS.....**

One of the two business items decided at the PSC meeting was to expand the Roland Rustad Award eligibility to include any collection during the Prexie Era such as the Famous Americans, Transports, Overrun Nations, National Defence Issue, etc, in addition to the Prexies. Rollie was a collector of many of these other issues, in addition to his well-known Prexies.

**1996 AT ROPEX....**

The other business item was next year's PSC meeting place. Look for information in the next issue of THE PREXIES concerning our 1996 PSC annual meeting in Rochester, NY, April 12-14. This is a national level show, in keeping with our philosophy of attending big shows as well as less-big shows. ROPEX will also host the annual meeting of our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association, so it should be a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make some new ones. The seminars should also be top-notch.

**A COUPLE OF INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES.....****A-1 LOAN CO.**

Phone GI 3-3449  
429 K St. Sacramento, Calif.

CERTIFIED MAIL

Nº 0549232



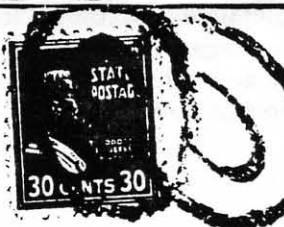
CHAN KEW

1327 3RD ST.

SACRAMENTO,

CALIF.

The 22-cent Prexie is used to pay the .15 certification fee + .07 for a return receipt. The envelope is not marked for a return receipt, but staple holes at left indicate the presence of one. (D. Preston collection)

**BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE**

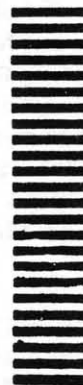
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 4082, SEC. 34.9, P. L. & R., PORTLAND ORE.

**PORTLAND POST NO. 1**

**AMERICAN LEGION**

ROOM 512 -- 429 S. W. 4TH AVE.

PORTLAND 4, OREGON



The 30-cent solo Prexie pays the min. registry fee, with no indemnity, in 1953 (this rate was in effect 1/1/52-6/6/55). Prepayment of registration on business reply mail was first announced in Postal Bulletin #16789 on October 25, 1935 (L. Piskiewicz collection).



**PREXIE SOLO USAGES APPLICABLE TO THE 1938-58 PERIOD** (Thanks to Len, Steve & others)  
(excluding multiple weight usages and 4th class zone uses)

**6-cent Solo Usages:**

- Domestic airmail rate, .06/oz. (7/1/34-3/25/44) (including postcards, airmail within Hawaii, and to Canada).
- Ship letter within the U.S. 1st class rate doubled as per ship letter regulations which remained in effect until 1979! (7/6/32-7/31/58 for .06 per oz. ) Has anyone ever seen such a use.....?
- Postcard or printed matter with airmail service within the continental U.S. to the exchange point and surface mail to any foreign (both reduced rate and full rate) country (6/21/38-3/25/44).
- Domestic airmail rate, .06/oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58) (airmail postcards were only .04 during this later period).
- Military airmail rate, .06/half oz., to and from U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed outside the continental U.S. (published 12/23, news released 12/25, effective 12/26/41-9/30/46).
- V-Mail lettersheet with airmail service within the continental U.S. to the V-Mail processing center, .06 ea. (6/15/42-10/29/45).
- Airmail rate, .06/half oz., to contractors and civilian employees receiving mail through Army or Navy post offices (APO's, FPO's) outside continental U.S. (order dated 10/21, published in P.B. & effective 10/23/42-9/30/46) .
- Airmail rate, .06/half oz., to U.S. prisoners of war, detainees, and internees held in enemy, enemy-occupied, or neutral countries (3/13/44-9/30/46). All such persons had actually been released, or disposed of, long before the expiration of this rate. Note (1): Effective 9/23/44, this .06/half oz. rate was extended to all Allied prisoners of war, detainees, and internees, in addition to just Americans. Note (2): Effective 12/14/44, specially designed printed lettersheets could be sent to such persons (U.S. or Allied) free of all postage. The .06 rate still applied to mail other than such lettersheets.
- Surface letter rate, including late fee, for ship letter deposited at a dispatching post office after the closing of mails, to or from Hawaii, or a U.S. possession on a particular ship. (7/6/32-7/31/58).
- .06 minimum per piece for a controlled circulation publication. (3/26/44-12/31/48).
- U.S. airmail/surface letter to a reduced rate country including PUAS (Postal Union of Americas & Spain) countries, Canada and Newfoundland, .06/oz. (consisting of .03 surface rate + .03 airmail surcharge within the continental U.S. to the exchange point). (6/21/38-3/25/44).
- Airmail rate to Newfoundland, .06/oz., consisting of airmail service within the continental U.S. and within Canada + surface transport to Newfoundland. (3/27/41-3/25/44).

**7-cent Solo Usages:**

- Domestic airmail rate, .07/oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63).
- Return receipt fee, mailed at Washington, D.C. from Executive Branch Departments only (1/1/52-6/30/57).
- Third class minimum insured mail, .07/1st 2 oz: .02 3rd class + .05 min. insurance fee (covered maximum indemnity of \$5). (1/1/49-1/1/57) The insured mail fee increased 1/2/57.
- Surface mail to any UPU country + airmail service within the U.S., or from a U.S. possession, to the exchange point, .07/oz. (10/1/46-6/30/48).
- Airmail service within the U.S. and Canada and then surface transport to St. Pierre & Miquelon, .07/oz. (10/1/46-12/31/48).

**8-cent Solo Usages:**

- Domestic airmail rate, .08/oz. (3/26/44-9/30/46) (including postcards and airmail to Canada).
- Airmail rate to Mexico, .08/half oz. (6/11/45-9/30/46).
- Airmail rate between the continental U.S. and Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, .08/half oz. (1/15/45-9/30/46)
- Airmail rate to Cuba, .08/half oz. (6/29/45-7/31/54).
- International 2.0 oz. surface rate (.05 1st oz. + .03 2nd oz.) (10/1/07-10/31/53).
- Airmail service within the continental U.S. to the exchange point and surface mail to any UPU country, .08/oz., consisting of .03 U.S. airmail surcharge + .05 surface rate. (11/23/34-6/20/38) + (3/26/44-9/30/46).
- Airmail service within the continental U.S. to the exchange point and surface mail to a full rate UPU country,

- .08/1st oz., consisting of .03 U.S. airmail surcharge + .05 surface rate. (6/21/38-3/25/44).
- International surface rate, .08/oz., to U.P.U. member states (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to Newfoundland, .08/oz., consisting of airmail service within the continental U.S. and within Canada + surface transport to Newfoundland. (3/26/44-9/30/46).
- Airmail service within the U.S. and Canada and then surface transport to St. Pierre & Miquelon, .08/oz. (3/26/44-9/30/46).
- Airmail service to St. Pierre & Miquelon, .08/oz. (1/1/49-6/30/61).
- Surface transport to a UPU country in Europe (.05/1st oz.) + airmail service within Europe (.03/half oz.) = .08/first half oz. (7/1/32-10/31/46) Note (1): Service to many of these countries was interrupted by WWII; Note (2): If the final destination was Spain, a .06/first half oz. rate applied due to PUAS membership.
- Special 4th class rate for books, .08/1st lb. (1/1/49-7/31/58).

#### 9-cent Solo Usages:

- Combined surface with airmail letter rate, per oz., including a late fee, for a ship letter deposited at a dispatching post office after the normal closing of the mails to/from Hawaii or a U.S. possession on a particular ship (7/6/32-3/25/44 & 1/1/49-7/31/58).
- Special 4th class rate for books, .09/1st lb. (8/1/58-1/6/63).

#### 10-cent Solo Usages:

- Airmail rate to Jamaica, .10/half oz. (11/15/30-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to Bermuda, .10/half oz. (2/14/38-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to Cuba, .10/half oz. (12/1/32-6/28/45).
- Airmail rate to the Canal Zone, .10/half oz. (4/1/45-9/30/46).
- Airmail rate from Guam to the Philippines or from Am. Samoa to W. Samoa, .10/half oz. (11/1/46-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to South America, .10/half oz. (11/1/46-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, British Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatamala, Guadeloupe, Trinidad, Martinique, Leeward Islands, Curacao, Barbados (+ possibly others!), .10/half oz. (4/1/45-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to the Dominican Republic, .10/half oz. (3/21/29-6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to Newfoundland, direct service, .10/half oz. (6/5/39-9/25/39 & 11/1/46-3/31/49). Newfoundland confederated with Canada on 4/1/49.
- Privately produced airmail lettersheet (aerogramme) rate to a foreign country, .10 ea. (4/6/47-6/30/61)
- Supplementary mail to a U.P.U. country, .05 per 1st oz. doubled = .10 per 1st oz. for dockside posting after the close of regular mails (10/1/07-2/3/40?)
- Surface letter to Australia (.05/oz.) + surcharge for airmail service within Australia (.05/half oz.) = .10/1st half oz. (10/15/35-10/31/46).
- International airmail postcard rate (6/1/54-6/30/61).
- Fee for cancellation or alteration of C.O.D. charges (11/1/44-7/24/68).
- Penalty for redemption of a postal savings certificate within 30 days of purchase (10/1/53-10/30/55).
- Customs clearance fee (normally, but not always, paid with a postage due stamp) (5/1/31-5/14/57).
- Special delivery fee (solo 10-cent possible on penalty government envelopes) (10/1/1885-10/31/44).
- Return receipt fee, mailed at Washington, D.C. from Executive Branch Departments only (7/1/57-7/13/69).
- Minimum fee for POD Form 3606 Sender's Statement and Certificate of Bulk Mailing (up to 200 pieces). (7/1/29-6/30/57).

Additions and corrections to this ongoing solo usages list are encouraged, as well as examples of some of the less frequently seen rates. Please begin submitting solo rates for the .11 - .20 Prexie values.

### CANAL ZONE PREXIES

I have been using Roland Rustad's book, "The Prexies", and found it very helpful with the combined usages illustrated. The captions have enabled me to improve the wording of my exhibit of Canal Zone postage dues. I was disappointed, however, in the lack of coverage of the 1/2-cent and 1 1/2-cent stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Listed below some corrections and additional information to update the book's Canal Zone overprints presentation.

1. There are approximately a half-dozen plate flaws of the basic overprint used for the Canal Zone (Scott nos. 118-119) stamps. I don't collect these varieties, but they are listed in the Plass Canal Zone book. I could perhaps obtain photos of these flaws from a fellow collector if there is PSC interest. The "broken Z" variety is on the forwarded cover that is mentioned in item 5 below.

2. Both stamps exist with the "CRISTOBAL/CANAL ZONE" (two lines) precancel. This precancel is the only one used from the Canal Zone.

3. Prexie first day covers exist from every town in the Canal Zone. Most covers are not cacheted.

4. Covers showing the 1/2-cent value added to a 1-cent value to make the 3rd class rate are available and are scarcer than multiple uses of the stamps paying higher rates. The 1 1/2-cent value is very scarce as a solo usage for the 3rd class rate.

5. The 1/2-cent value was also used to pay postage due when there was a fractional amount due on the cover or to pay a postage due bill. I have examples of this rare usage on both a postage due bill of 19 1/2 cents and a forwarded 3rd class cover where the forwarding postage was probably a prepaid deposit left at the Balboa Post Office. These are both part of my Canal Zone postage due exhibit.

I hope this short note will be of some help. If you have any questions, please contact me at the following address:

Paul J. Kravitz  
Box 9157  
Bardonia, NY 10954  
(914) 425-9801

### PREXIES ON DISPLAY.....

Jeff Shapiro's exhibit, "The Prexies: Common Stamps, Uncommon Usages" won a silver award at Philatelic Show — '95 in Boxborough, MA this past April 28-30. It was the first time this exhibit had been shown at the national level — great work, Jeff, we look forward to seeing this wonderful exhibit grow and develop in years to come!

Our Chairman, Steve Suffet, took the Prexies out for their first international visit and earned an international silver award for his efforts at Finlandia-95 with his exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History, 1938-58." ATTAWAY TO GO, Steve!

See also the review of "PREXIEPEX VI" on page 2 for a summary of the many fine Prexie Era exhibits there.





### CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS.....

On page 7 of Newsletter #10, the 4th date on the left should be "December 6", not "December 7". Some newsletters have the corrected date — check yours.

On page 2 of Newsletter #10, add another 4-cent solo rate: "Fourth class, special book rate, .03/lb. + .01 min. wartime surcharge (3/26/44-12/31/48)

### "THE LAST OF THE PREXIES".....

If you get a chance, please check out Ken Lawrence's "Spotlight" column in the April, 1995 issue of SCOTT STAMP MONTHLY. Ken focuses on what he calls the "last of the Prexies", i.e., those Presidentials that were produced and used after the Liberty series began to be introduced in 1954. Among the stamps Ken writes about are what he calls "the scarcest and most desirable regularly issued stamps of the series, but also the most mysterious."

What are these two scarce and mysterious stamps? They are both Bureau precanceled 1 1/2-cent Martha Washington sideways coils, Scott No. 840. The rarer of the two is precanceled WACO TEXAS, with the state name spelled out in full. The other is precanceled MACON GA. Fewer than 50 of each are known to exist.

Among other stamps Ken discusses are the 1-cent and 2-cent booklet stamps, the 6-cent coil, the Bureau precanceled 8-cent, the 15-cent and the dry-printed version of the \$1 stamp.

### E-MAIL.....

From our member survey, we noted the E-mail addresses shown below. Other members are encouraged to contact me with their E-mail addresses so we can continue to add to this list and publish it annually or thereabouts. As more members acquire on-line capability, our ability to quickly communicate notes and information will be greatly enhanced.

Robert Bezilla	bezillar@world.com
Ron Estabrook	estabroo@utsw.swmed.edu
Bill Helbock	laposub@aol.com
John Markunas	j.markunas@dpc.dpc.umassp.edu

**THE POST OFFICE FIXES A PRIVATE MISTAKE**

Herman Herst, Jr.

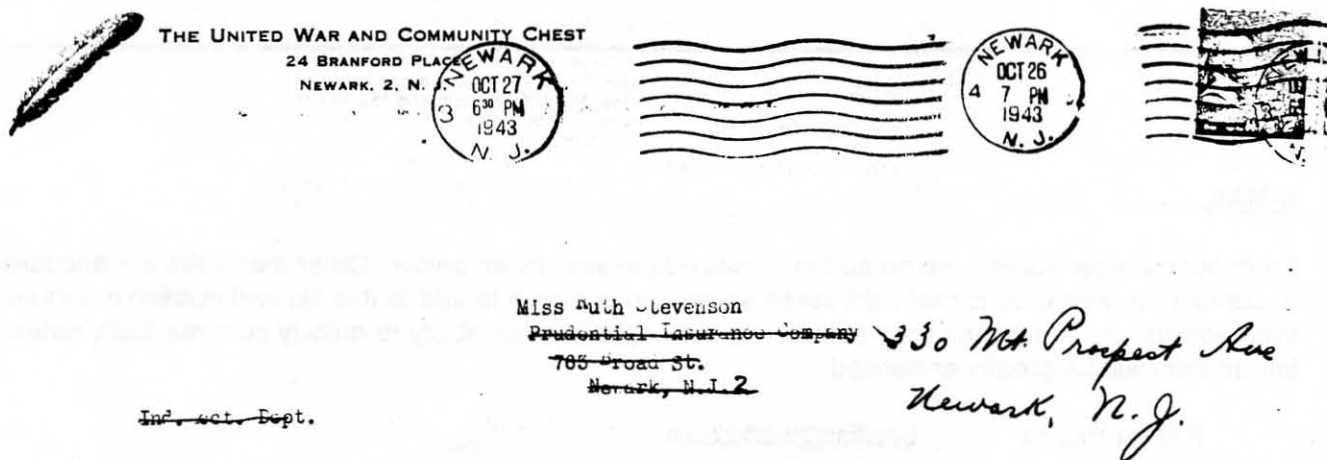
*(Editor's note — This article caught my attention in the March 20 issue of LINN'S STAMP NEWS after which I wrote to Herman Herst to ask if we could use his material and notes to tell the story here in THE PREXIES newsletter. Our discussions proceeded beyond the editorial sphere and I was able to arrange a swap of some of my 19th Century covers for the Newark Community Chest covers Herman had in his possession. Here's Herst's story, it's a good one!)*

In 1943, the Newark Welfare Federation began a campaign to raise funds from a list of 20,000 names for its "United War and Community Chest" drive. It asked the Pavey Envelope and Tag Company to supply envelopes for the mailing. At this time (*and up until 3/25/44 — Ed.*), the local first class rate was .02/oz. for delivery within Newark. Part of the service Pavey was supposed to provide was to place postage stamps on the 20,000 envelopes, including a reduced rate of .02 on 15,000 of the envelopes intended for local delivery. Unfortunately, the quantities became reversed and 15,000 envelopes received the 3-cent stamp with 5,000 having the 2-cent stamp. Pavey admitted its mistake and offered to pay the difference from its own funds. But the head of the Welfare Federation, Harry D. Burrell, refused to accept it. He was sure that many recipients of the letters would note the overpayment of postage, and think to themselves that what sort of charity would be so careless as to overpay its mail.

The President of Pavey, Henry A. Wittenburg, turned to Washington for help. The Third Assistant Postmaster General suggested that the letters go through the post, with each one bearing an explanation printed below the stamp in red: "FOR LOCAL MAILING ONLY AT 2 CENT RATE". Pavey obliged with the printing job. The Post Office rebated Pavey \$150 on 15,000 covers (*no mention was made of the 5,000 covers originally needed for the non-local rate — Ed.*) less a 10% penalty as punishment for the mistake.

The Newark Evening News gave the incident front page coverage on December 18 (*see copy on the next page*), citing the possibly unique instance when when Post Office offered a refund for a mistake not of its own making and that extra covers might be for sale to collectors.

Several hundred additional dollars were added to the campaign fund as collectors from all over the contry sought examples of the postal mistake and correction. If one were to overpay such a mailing today, a similar petition for redress would be unlikely to receive such favorable treatment!



One of the correctly-franked letters (of the initial 5,000) for local delivery with a 2-cent horiz. coil Prexie

THE UNITED WAR AND COMMUNITY CHEST  
24 BRANFORD PLACE  
NEWARK, 2, N. J.



FOR LOCAL MAILING ONLY  
AT 2 CENT RATE

Mr. August Sachse  
825 Clifton Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey

One of the corrected letters (of 15,000) for local delivery with a 3-cent horiz. coil Prexie  
"adjusted to 2-cents".

## Miss Collector's Item

### Thousands in Newark Pass Up Odd Envelope, Outcome of Mistake

Nearly 15,000 envelopes, bearing cancelled stamps and an imprint believed to be unique in U. S. postal history, were kicking around on Newark office desks in recent weeks and probably found their way into wastebaskets. And a lot of stamp collectors are going to start kicking themselves when they hear about it.

The envelopes, bearing 3-cent stamps and used for local mailing by the Welfare Federation in its War Chest drive, became collectors' items because of a little two-line inscription printed in red below each stamp:

"For local mailing only at 2-cent rate."

#### Some One Blundered

How it got there is one story. How you missed it—if you did miss it—is another.

Like many another stamp collector's dream, Newark's philatelic oddity was the result of a mistake. The Welfare Federation placed an order with the Pavey Envelope & Tag Co. for 20,000 envelopes bearing the letter head of the United War and Community Chest. The company was to stamp the envelopes, 15,000 of them with 2-cent stamps, 5,000 with 3s.

Then the gremlins got to work. When the envelopes arrived at the federation office, 15,000 bore 3-cent stamps and 5,000 2s.

The Pavey company admitted the error and offered to accept the postage loss. But Harry D. Burrell, executive secretary of the federation, declined to accept the envelopes. What would people think, he asked, if it appeared the federation was wasting money on postage?

Faced with the cost of reprinting the whole order or trying to steam stamps off 15,000 envelopes—ever try to steam one stamp off one envelope?—Henry A. Wittenberg, president of the firm, went to Uncle Sam for advice.

Postal authorities in Washington offered a solution which satisfied the Welfare Federation, the Post Office, Mr. Wittenberg and the fellow who takes care of the stamp steaming.

#### The Solution

Wittenberg received written authorization for the imprint from the third assistant U. S. postmaster, plus \$150 rebate for the 15,000 extra cents he had paid for the stamps, minus a 10 per cent penalty which the Post Office Department imposed for its trouble.

Those who didn't notice the item may have a chance yet to obtain one of the envelopes for their collections. Burrell has a few hundred left over and intimated yesterday he might be persuaded to part with them in return for contributions to the fund.

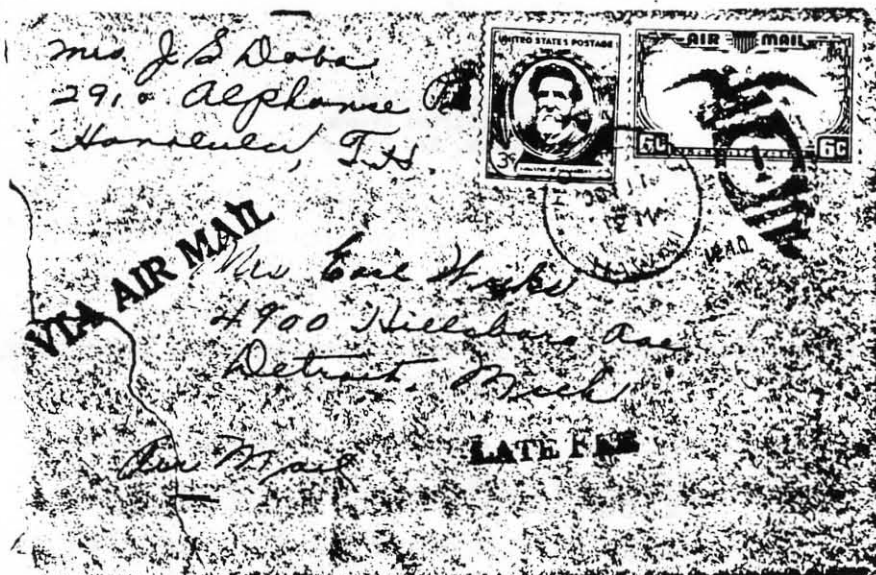
From the NEWARK EVENING NEWS, December 18, 1943  
(Historical note: your Editor was a newspaperboy for this newspaper, 1950-53)



**REQUESTS FOR HELP** (and some instant answers provided by our Chairman — additional replies and comments are welcome!)

David Wessely writes for some assistance with a couple of seldom seen auxillary markings from the Famous Americans era:

(1) "LATE FEE" Honolulu to Detroit, October 11, 1940



This one appears to be a .03 late ship surcharge fee from Hawaii. The 6-cent stamp paid for surface transport plus airmail service within the continental U.S.

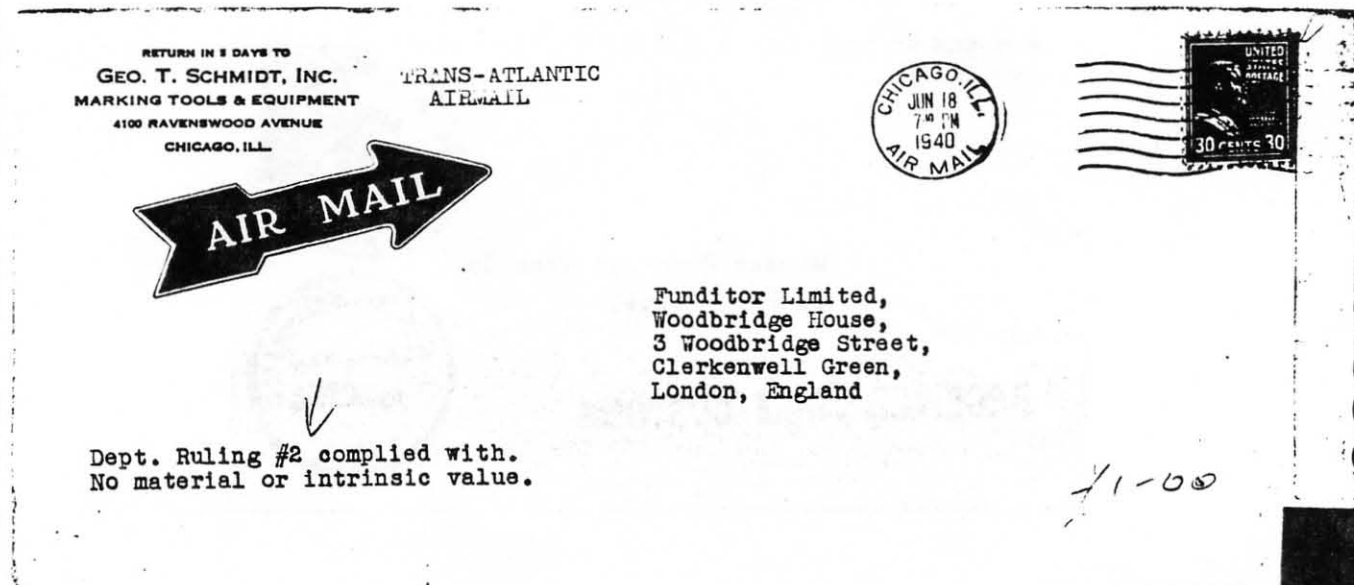
(2) "VIA AIR MAIL POUCH" & "Forward in Pouch Div. For. Act. Cor."  
Niagara Falls, Ontario (U.S. Vice Consul) to Madrid, Spain — .30 postage



This letter was apparently carried by diplomatic pouch. Can anyone supply additional info?

**REQUESTS FOR HELP (CONT.).....**

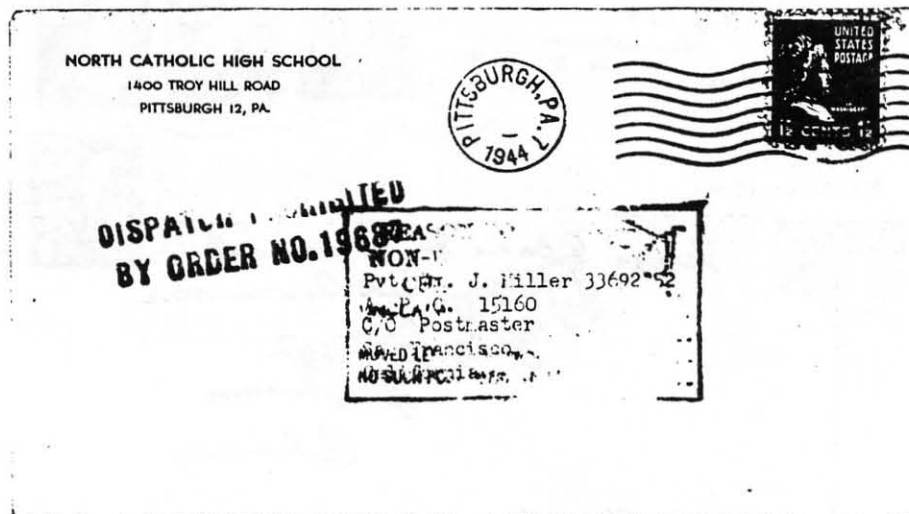
John Hotchner has 3 equally exotic auxillary markings he could use some help with:

(1) "Ruling #2"

What is "Dept. Ruling #2"? What Dept.?

(2) "ORDER NO. 19687"

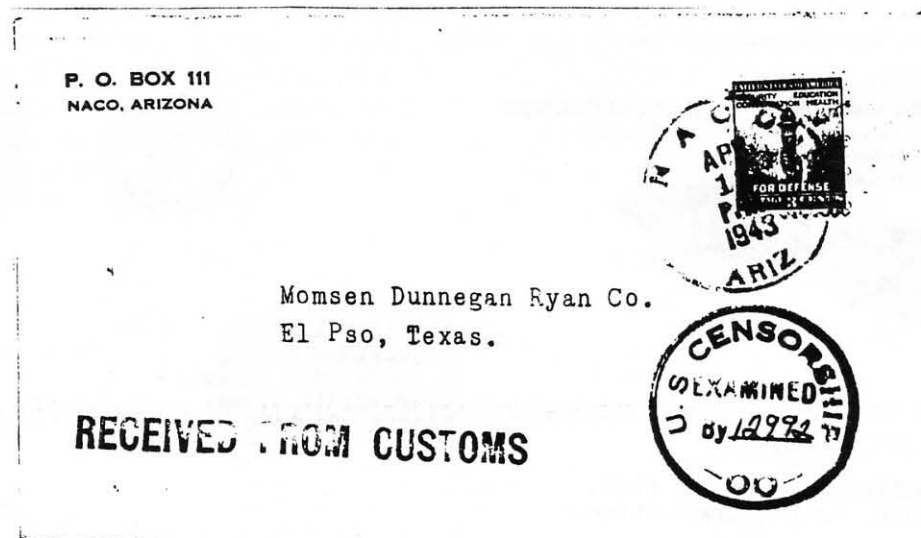
Pittsburgh to Pvt. Miller @ A.P.O. 15160, San Francisco



The Postmaster General issued order #19687 on 1/8/43 to prohibit the use of overseas military mails (to A.P.O.'s & F.P.O.'s) for circulars (commercial or organizational) mailed at 3rd class domestic rates. Third class rates for Christmas cards, books, etc. was permissible. A.P.O. 15160 remains unlisted in the recent Military Postal History Society update. It was likely in the Pacific and used as a mailing address for transient troops.

REQUESTS FOR HELP (CONT.).....

(3) Saving the best for last: "RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS" &amp; "U.S. CENSORSHIP"



This letter was likely carried from Mexico into the U.S. for mailing or perhaps entered the U.S. under separate cover. In either case, U.S. Customs stamped the envelope as it crossed the boarder.

Lastly, a rate question from your Editor:

Loudonville, NY to Szechuan, China (Nov. 9, 1941) with mss notation "Airmail Hong Kong to Chungking"



Steve identifies this cover as an example of the .05/oz. surface transport rate to China plus a .19/half oz. surcharge rate for airmail service within China (12/20/33-wartime suspension, 12/18/41). What an opportunity for a great 24-cent solo franking!

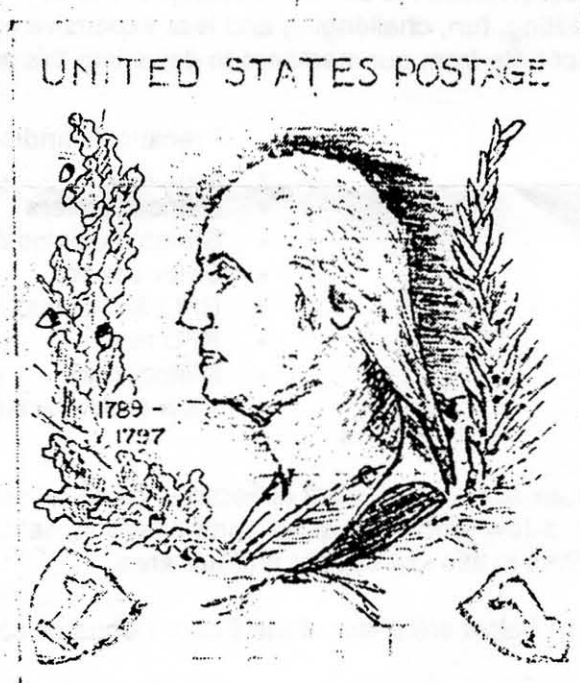
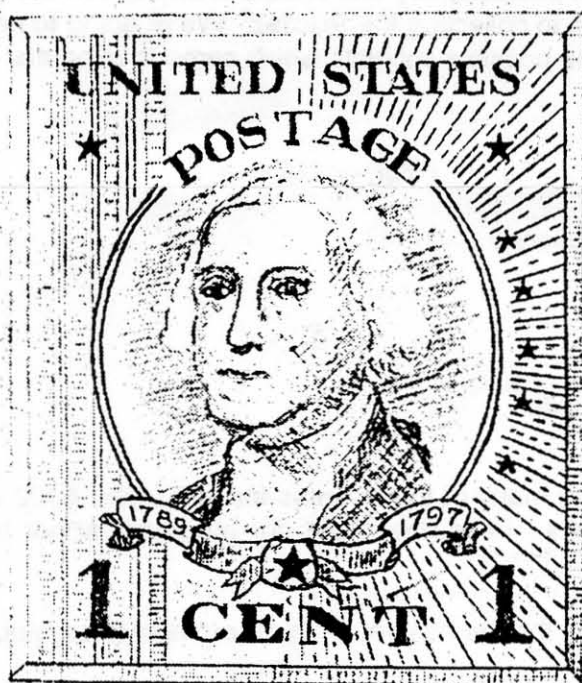


REQUESTS FOR HELP (CONT.).....1937 PREXIE SERIES ESSAYS

Shown below are two drawings Lowell Newman had in his May, 1993 auction #6, one of which I acquired for my exhibit. Steve Suffet suggested I send you these items to ask the PSC members if anything is known about either item. They may possibly be drawings the Bureau was working on prior to the public essay competition as they seem to meet the Treasury's Department's guidelines except they are drawn in black pencil instead of green and the size is a bit smaller. The date of both items appears to coincide with a period prior to the competition date also. At any rate, I believe the answer may lie in the question of who is the artist, "Rosenblohm". Any information on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

E.J. Guerrant, Jr.  
Box 909  
Antlers, OK 74523

(Ed. note: This communication was received too late for newsletter #9, and I didn't have space to fit it in #10 — my apologies for the delay.)



8-20-97

Rosenblohm

8-28-97

Rosenblohm

**MEET THE MEMBER.....****STEVE SULLIVAN**

"Although not a Prexie collector as such, I became interested in the issue as a result of receiving a sample copy of your newsletter, by way of a request from me after learning of its existence through a piece in U.S. Stamps & Postal History.

I'm 44 years of age, employed as a window clerk at the Burlington, MA Post Office and thoroughly enjoy my opportunity to serve the public while keeping current with the nuts 'n bolts of this hobby. My own collecting whims seem to be drifting towards pictorial cancellations, with a tendency to latch onto themes such as the recent anniversary of the moon landing, pony express routes, etc."

*.....thanks for your note Steve, and welcome to the PSC, Ed.*

**LOW-BUDGET PREXIE COLLECTING.....**

Steve's note above started me thinking again about what our PSC is all about. I'm sure if we asked our 100 members, we'd get about 100 different responses, and that's probably the way it should be. But this publication needs to avoid becoming too narrowly focused on postal history and should examine some of the interesting, fun, challenging and less expensive approaches to collecting the Prexies. We're going to need a lot of help from our members to delve into this area. Some possible subjects which come to mind are:

- Precancels and/or Perfins
- Cancellation studies — fancy, SOTN, color, machine, etc.
- Patriotic covers
- Stamp multiples & position pieces
- Color shades
- RPO & ship mail
- RFD mail
- Military mail
- View cards franked with Prexies

I'm sure some pretty neat collections could be assembled in many of these areas for well under \$100 and quite a few would be quite competitive in national exhibits. Let's hear from our members about their activities in this low budget and fun area.

Shown below are a few of the Editor's unusual cancellations that he has yet to figure out how to organize.



**ANNUAL PSC MEMBER SURVEY AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....**

We had an excellent response to our appeal for member census and contributions in our last newsletter.

Before deducting expenses for this current newsletter, our Treasury balance stands at \$374.68 as shown below, thanks to the generosity of those who contributed.

Our revised membership is now about 100. We are deleting about 70 names from our mailing list who we have not heard from in over 2 years. This should bring our costs per newsletter down to about \$100 per issue, depending on the number of pages in each issue. At that rate, we should have enough funds for the current newsletter and two or three more before having to appeal for funds again.

It appears we are now self-supporting and no longer need to seek funds from our parent BIA. I guess we have "arrived"! A sincere thanks is due the BIA for helping to get this PSC project and newsletter started.

Our census also turned up about 27 BIA membership numbers with likely that many again which were not reported. PSC members with E-mail addresses are noted on page 7. Additional BIA numbers or E-mail addresses are always welcome in our on-going census efforts. Perhaps we'll publish a membership directory eventually. Any member comments?

**PSC TREASURY REPORT.....****1/31/95-7/31/95 PERIOD**

Treasury Balance, 1/31/95		\$ 99.43
Income		
Member contributions	\$318.20	
BIA financial support	0.	
	<hr/>	\$318.20
Expenses		
Newsletter #10	\$ 33.60	
(Summer '94)		
(Thanks to financial		
assistance from J. Forte)		
Misc. postage & copies	9.35	
	<hr/>	(\$42.95)
Treasury Balance, 7/31/95		<hr/> \$374.68



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

Wanted — \$5 Prexie used on cover. Stanley Sablak, 39 Carr Street, Wallingford, CT. 06492

Wanted — Member sell/trade/wanted ads & PSC donation items. Surely we all have "holes" in our collections and some surplus items available for sale or trade! Send ads to John Grabowski, Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536.

Wanted — PSC exhibits for ROPEX - '96. Write to ROPEX '96, 130 Trafalgar St., Rochester, NY 14619 for a prospectus

**COMING NEXT ISSUE.....**

The .11-.20 solo usages .....more fabulous examples .....details on PREXIEPEX VII .....interesting questions and even more interesting answers .....low-budget collecting .....and more!

**PSC DONATION BOARD.....**

A PSC member sends the following three Prexie sideways coil leaders & trailers to augment our Treasury. The Editor will accept bids on the 3 items individually with a cutoff date of September 30 to determine the winning bids. Minimum bids on any of the items is \$5. Winning bids will be established at \$1 over the second-highest bid.

#1 — 3-cent sideways coil with kraft paper leader and black printing. The imprinted kraft paper has been cut and pasted to the kraft leader attached to the coil stamps.

#2 — 3-cent sideways coil with kraft paper trailer.

#3 — 4-cent sideways coil with white paper trailer. White paper is gummed and contains a fold crease.





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue #12  
February, 1996

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

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

If you have not already done so, I urge you to read Ken Lawrence's "United States Stamps" column in the December, 1995 issue of "The American Philatelist" (pp 1116-1121). Ken writes, with considerable insight, about what he calls the culture of the Presidential Series collector — meaning us! For better or for worse, Ken observes: "Although exceptions exist, the typical member collects examples of the Prexies used on nonphilatelic covers, preferably single-stamp frankings. Essays and proofs, plate numbers and other marginal markings, first day and other souvenir covers, plate and paper varieties, color shades, production errors and freaks, and other collectible features attract much less interest."

It happens, quite by coincidence, that this Issue #12 does have some real diversity within its pages! While "one robin does not a spring make", it is nonetheless an encouraging sign. I suspect there is a lot more diversity in our collecting interests than we've shown to date.

So here's my request (and plea): If you are a collector of Prexie production varieties, EFO's, FDC's, cancellations, etc., please drop a note to John Grabowski, our editor, and tell him a little about it. And a big thanks to all our members who have already helped share such knowledge with the rest of us — please continue!

I am looking forward to greeting as many of you as possible at ROPEX (see page 2) in Rochester, April 12-14. Don't forget to bring some trading material and stuff you may need some help with.

*Steve Suffet*

## ISSUE #12 CONTENTS.....

PREXIEPEX VII coming.....	Page 2
Prexies as an investment (1949)	
Canal Zone Overprints Revisited.....	page 3
Collection "Snapshots".....	page 4
Solo Usages, .11-.15.....	page 6
additions.....	page 7
corrections.....	page 8
Roland Rustad Memorial Award Criteria	
Interesting Prexie Usages.....	page 9
A Study of Prexie Shades.....	page 11
An Interesting Auxiliary Marking.....	page 15
Prexies on Display	
PSC e-mail Addresses	
Requests for Help.....	page 16
"RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS".....	page 17
Buy-Sell-Trade ads.....	page 18

## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

This issue contains more diversity than we've had in the past and that is very healthy. It's great to see the different ways our members are collecting and pursuing Prexie era research. Your attention is particularly directed to the article on Prexie color shades by Larry Secchiaroli and John Markunas — please let us have your suggestions on how best to continue this work.

Also keep your comments and questions coming to the Editor regarding any aspect of Prexie era collecting — as one of my old teachers used to say: "There are no dumb questions, only dumb answers" (and we try to minimize those!)

Thanks once more to our members for their support. Without their assistance, this newsletter would not be possible.

*John Grabowski*

**1996 PREXIEPEX VII AT ROPEX....**

The annual get-together of the Presidential Series Committee is planned for ROPEX in Rochester on April 12-14 at the Holiday Inn-Genesee Plaza. Our parent organization, the BIA, will also be hosting its annual meeting there so a good confluence of U.S. stamps and knowledge is expected. Our PSC meeting and cover swap will likely take place Saturday afternoon, as usual. Check the show program or with our Chairman, Steve Suffet, who will be one of the exhibit judges, for the exact time & place.

The exhibit frames are reported to be all filled.

General show questions, accommodations, etc., can be directed to "ROPEX; P.O. Box 10206; Rochester, NY 14610-0206."

**PREXIES AS AN INVESTMENT....**

Pat Herst recently sent along an article by Dr. C. Edward Greene which appeared in the March 5, 1949 issue of STAMPS magazine. The heading of Dr. Greene's article was "THE PRESIDENTIAL SERIES — Its Investment Possibilities". The basic premise of the article was that regular issue stamps, due to their long period of availability, are often underappreciated and neglected by collectors. Dr. Greene's concluding remarks follow:

"When the issuing of stamps commemorating everything from the hen to the visiting fireman starts to abate, the demand for recent postal issues will become greater, because we must have these stamps to keep our 20th Century collections complete. Therefore, the collector who keeps his weather eye on the profit angle of the stamps he purchases, as well as the avowed investor, will do well (in my opinion) to give thought to the more or less current Presidentials, while they can still be obtained at prices within reason.

"Apart from the sordid (?) commercial aspect, do you know of a more desirable set for your albums? Pictures of all the Presidents, in all colors of the rainbow, offer plenty of material for the chap who

likes to write up his collection. The youthful collector, who perhaps assembles this series in used condition, will learn a lot of history in reading up on the subjects of these stamps."

*The set of 32 basic perforated stamps, with a face value of \$11.885, lists at \$163.78 in the 1996 Scott catalog—a rise of almost 14X. The price of a Scott Specialized U.S. Catalog itself has increased from \$3.50 to \$34.00 over the same period. - Ed.*

**ROLAND RUSTAD MEMORIAL AWARD....**

The Roland Rustad Memorial Award, given annually in memory of the founding chairman of our PSC, will be presented at PREXIEPEX VII.

As we announced in the last newsletter, the eligibility for this award has been broadened to include any collection of Prexie-Era material such as Famous Americans, Transports, Overrun Nations, etc., in addition to Prexie collections --- see page 8 for greater detail on this award.

We look forward to a full report of PREXIEPEX activities in the next newsletter.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....**

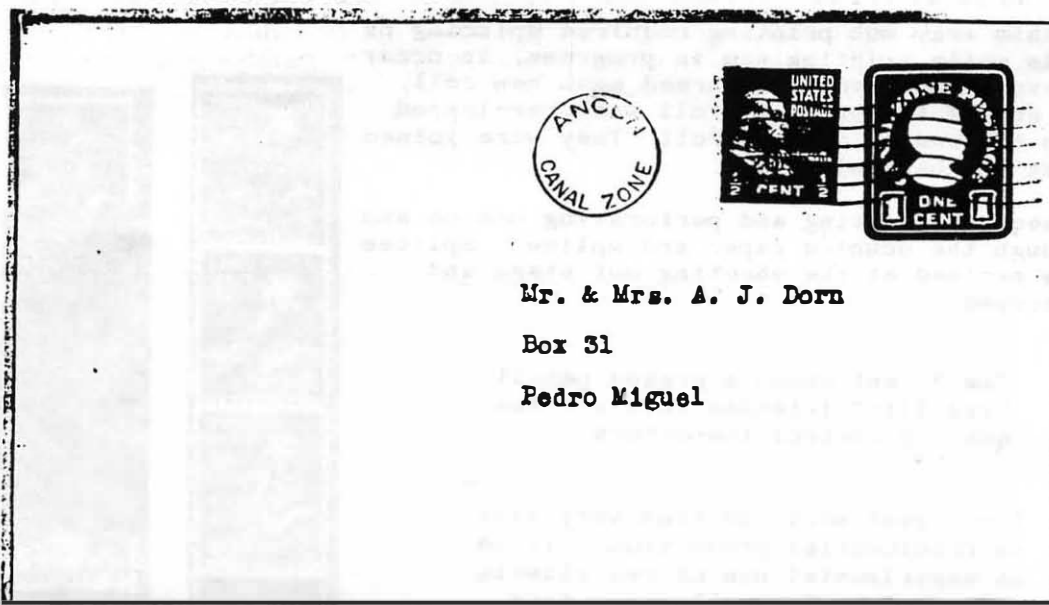
It's not too early to begin planning to attend the big philatelic event next year on the West Coast: "Pacific '97", to be held May 29 - June 8 in San Francisco. Our parent organization, the Bureau Issues Association, will be the Show's major host on Wednesday, June 4. The theme being planned for the day is "A Pageant of U.S. Stamps."

Our PSC needs some volunteers to help with a Prexie seminar. Contact Chairman Steve or the Editor if you plan to be in San Francisco that day and would be willing to help with a Prexie seminar.

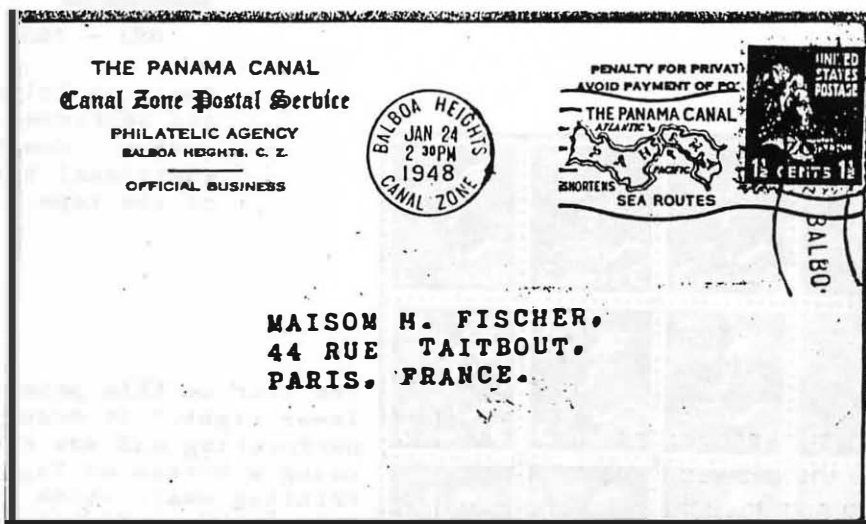


**LETTER TO THE EDITOR (CANAL ZONE OVERPRINTS REVISITED).....**

Paul Kravitz's article in the last newsletter concerning "Canal Zone Prexies" makes a bit of an overstatement when he states "Listed below (are) some corrections and additional information....." While additional information is provided, it in no way corrects or negates anything in the Rustad book (the *Editor* also apologizes for not catching the poor choice of words in the original article). Shown here are a couple of examples of the overprinted Canal Zone stamps, paying printed matter rates:



.015/2 oz. 3rd class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous printed matter (eff. 4/15/25-12/31/48)



.015/2 oz. International printed matter rate (eff. 4/1/32-10/31/53)

While the penalty indicium was sufficient for domestic delivery of this card, the UPU required indication of the amount of postage paid (e.g. via stamps, meter, etc.)

*Len Piszkievich*

COLLECTION "SNAPSHOTS".....SPLICES, REPAIRS AND REJECTION MARKINGSPERFORATING THROUGH WEB SPLICES AND REPAIRS

In this era, web printing required splicing of rolls while printing was in progress, in order to avoid the need to rethread each new roll. The end of the on-press roll was over-lapped onto the end of the new roll. They were joined front and back with tape.

Subsequent printing and perforating was on and through the doubled paper and splice. Splices were excised at the sheeting out stage and destroyed.

The 3 cent shows a grease pencil "red line" intended to alert the quality control inspectors.

The 2 cent strip is from very late in Presidential production. It is an experimental use of red plastic tape on top of a cellophane tape splice to indicate the area of destruction; and the only reported example from this period.



USA - 1938 issue

Note the holes punched and depressed, but not removed, due to the additional thickness of the tape.

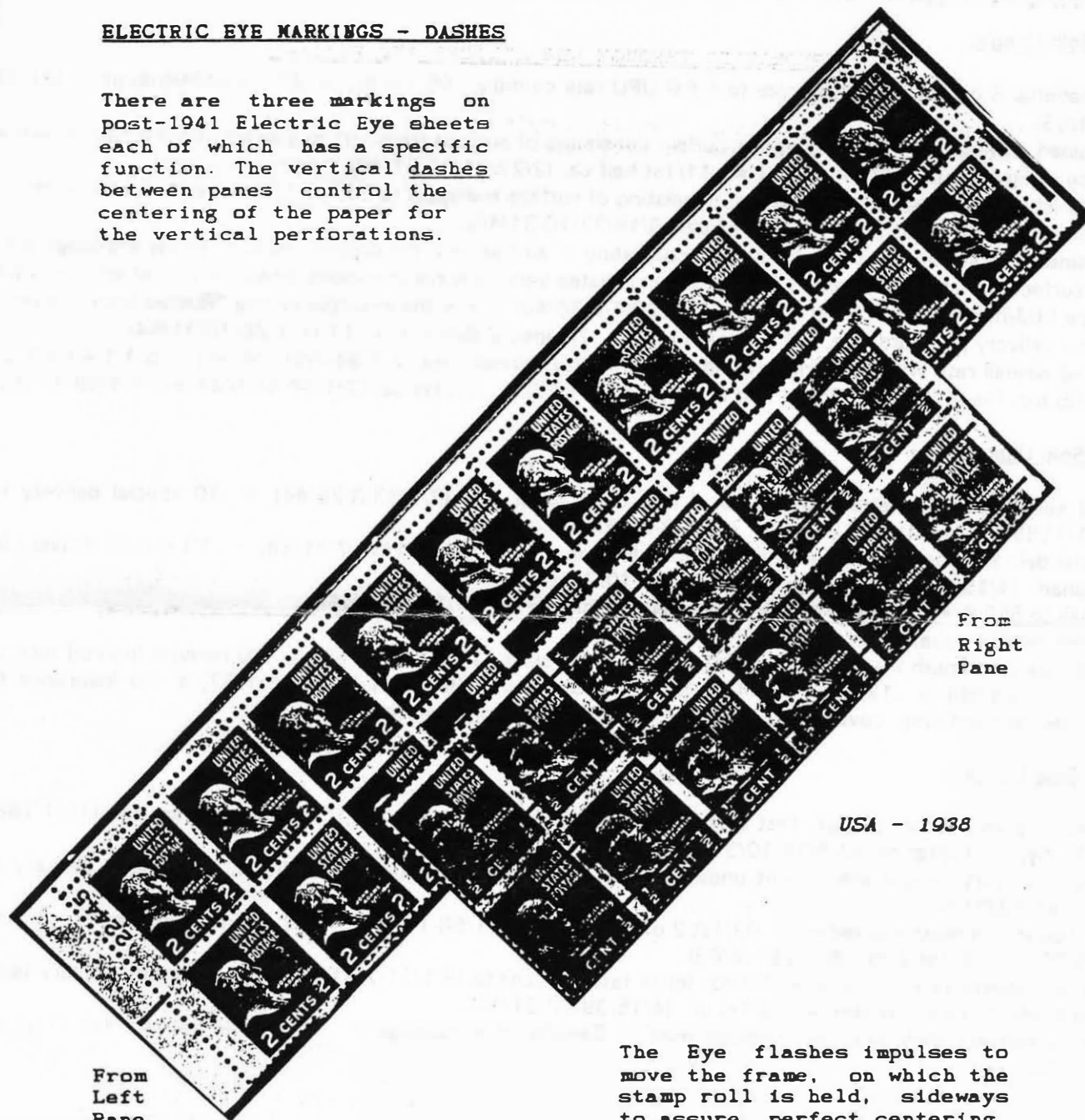


USA - 1938

The tear on this pane is at the lower right. It occurred after perforating and was repaired using a Bureau of Engraving and Printing seal, which is visible behind the perforations.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.....**ELECTRIC EYE PRODUCTION****ELECTRIC EYE MARKINGS - DASHES**

There are three markings on post-1941 Electric Eye sheets each of which has a specific function. The vertical dashes between panes control the centering of the paper for the vertical perforations.



The Eye flashes impulses to move the frame, on which the stamp roll is held, sideways to assure perfect centering. Setting the rows of pins was done from the center outward at low speeds at the start of a new run. The pieces shown here went through before the wheels were properly in place.

(J. Hotchner collection)

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

**11-cent Solo Usages:**

- International 3 oz. surface letter rate to a full UPU rate country (.05/1st oz. + 2X.03/additional oz.)(10/1/07-10/31/53).
- Combined surface + air rate to Egypt or Sudan, consisting of surface transport to Europe (.05/1st oz.) + airmail service to Egypt/Sudan (.06/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (2/27/31-10/31/40).
- Combined surface + air rate to Palestine, consisting of surface transport to Europe (.05/1st oz.) + airmail service to Palestine (.06/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (6/18/32-10/31/40).
- Combined air + surface + air rate to Europe, consisting of airmail with the continental U.S. to the exchange point with surface transport to Europe (.08/1st oz., calculated various ways at various times) + airmail service within Europe (.03/half oz.) = .11/1st half oz. (11/23/34-9/30/46) — see the example on the "Rustad book" cover.
- Special delivery postcard rate, .01 postcard rate + .10 special delivery = .11 (7/1/28-10/31/44).
- Insured airmail rate with \$5 minimum indemnity, .06/oz. airmail rate (7/1/34-3/25/44 and also 1/1/49-1/1/57) and .05 ins. fee (4/15/25-3/25/44 and also 1/1/49-1/1/57) = .11/1st oz. (7/1/34-3/25/44 and 1/1/49-1/1/57).

**12-cent Solo Usages:**

- Local special delivery letter, .02/oz. local first class letter rate (7/1/33-3/25/44) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .12/1st oz. (7/1/33-3/25/44).
- Special delivery postcard to Canada, .02 postcard rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee to Canada (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .12 (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- Airmail to El Salvador, Guatemala & Honduras, .12/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail to Nicaragua, .12/half oz. (6/21/38-3/31/45).
- Third class minimum insured mail, .02/1st 2 oz. third class (1/1/49-7/31/58) + .10 minimum insured mail fee (1/2/57-3/25/66) = .12/1st 2 oz. (1/2/57-7/31/58). Note: Between 1/1/49-1/1/57, a .10 insurance fee provided second step coverage to \$10, but it was not the minimum fee.

**13-cent Solo Usages:**

- Special delivery letter, .03/oz. first class letter rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .13/1st oz. (7/6/32-10/31/44).
- Special delivery official mail sent under penalty cover or Congressional free frank, .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Third class minimum insured mail, .03/1st 2 oz. third class (8/1/58-1/6/63) + .10 minimum insured fee (1/2/57-3/25/66) = .13/1st 2 oz. (8/1/58-1/6/63).
- Special delivery rate to Canada, .03/oz. letter rate to Canada (9/1/31-7/31/58) + .10 special delivery fee to Canada (4/15/39-10/31/44) = .13/1st oz. (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- Special delivery diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free postage + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48).

**14-cent Solo Usages:**

- International parcel post, basic rate to any UPU country for which additional terminal charges did not apply, .14/lb. (6/15/25-10/31/53).
- Special delivery post card, .01 postcard rate (7/1/28-12/31/51) + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48) = .14 (11/1/44-12/31/48).
- Surface letter to Australia, with airmail service only in Australia, .05/1st oz. (10/1/07-10/31/53) + .09/half oz. surcharge for airmail within Australia (7/6/31-5/22/39) = .14/half oz. (7/6/31-5/22/39).
- Int'l 4 oz. surface letter rate to a full UPU rate country (.05/1st oz. + 3X.03/additional oz.)(10/1/07-10/31/53).



**15-cent Solo Usages:**

- Airmail rate to Europe, North Africa, Turkey & the USSR, .15/half oz. (11/1/46-4/30/67, USSR only to 6/30/61).
- Airmail rate to/from Hawaii, .15/half oz. (1/15/45-9/30/46).
- Airmail rate to/from the Canal Zone, .15/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail rate to Panama, Costa Rica, Leeward Is., Trinidad & Tobago, Windward Is., .15/half oz. (12/1/37-3/31/45).
- Airmail rate to Colombia, .15/half oz. (12/8/45-10/31/46).
- Airmail rate to Ecuador, British Guiana, French Guiana, Dutch Guiana (Suriname), Peru, Venezuela, .15/half oz. (4/1/45-10/31/46).
- Airmail rate to Newfoundland, direct service, .15/half oz. (5/1/42-10/31/46).
- Small packet surface rate to any UPU country, .15 minimum charge (7/1/40-10/31/53). This .15 rate applied up to 10 oz. and was only advantageous on articles sent to countries which imposed terminal charges on international parcel post, for which the basic rate was .14/lb.
- .15 Special delivery rate for official mail sent under penalty cover or Congressional free frank (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- .15 Special delivery rate for diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free of postage (1/1/49-12/31/51).
- Registered official mail sent under penalty cover outside of Washington, DC, .15 minimum registry fee, (4/15/25-3/25/44).
- Minimum COD service, collection & indemnity  $\leq \$5.00$  (7/1/32-3/25/44) + .03/ oz. 1st class postage (7/6/32-7/31/58) = .15/oz. (7/6/32-3/25/44).

Additions and corrections to this ongoing solo usages list are encouraged as usual. Please begin submitting solo rates and examples for the .16 - .20 Prexie values.

**ADDITIONS TO EARLIER .01-.10 RATES:**

- (.01 USE)...Printed matter for the blind, contents printed in raised characters such as Braille, surface rate to any UPU country, .01/kg., up to 7 kg limit (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- (.02 USE)...Merchandise packet to a PUAS country, .02/2oz. (4/1/32-10/31/53)
- (.03 USE)...Merchandise packet to a PUAS country, .03/1st. 2oz. (11/1/53-6/30/61).
- (.03 USE)...Samples or patterns of merchandise, without salable value, to any UPU country, .03 minimum charge (4/1/32-7/31/58, minimum charge allowed for up to 4 oz. prior to 11/1/53, then up to 2 oz.)
- (.04 USE)...Samples or patterns of merchandise, without salable value, to any UPU country, .04/1st 2 oz.(8/1/58-6/30/61).
- (.05 USE)...Commercial papers, surface rate to any UPU country, .05 minimum charge (7/1/75-10/31/53, minimum charge allowed for up to 10 oz. prior to 4/1/32, then up to 6 oz.)
- (.06 USE)...Airmail letter to Canada or Mexico, .06/oz. (1/1/49-7/31/58)
- (.10 USE)...Commercial papers, surface rate to any UPU country, .10 minimum charge (11/1/53-6/30/61, up to 8 oz.).
- (.10 USE)...Small packet surface rate to any UPU country, .10 minimum charge (7/1/30-6/30/40, up to 6 oz.)
- (.10 USE)...Special delivery official (penalty cover or Congressional free frank) mail, .10 special delivery fee (10/1/85-10/31/44).
- (.10 USE)...Special delivery diplomatic or consular mail to Canada, free of postage, .10 special delivery fee (4/15/39-10/31/44).
- (.10 USE)...Airmail rate to Cuba: add the 8/1/54-6/30/61 period also to the previous 12/1/32-6/28/45 period.
- (.10 USE)...Airmail rate to Mexico, .10/half oz. (12/1/32-6/10/45).

**ADDITIONS TO EARLIER .01-.10 RATES (continued):**

- (.10 USE)....10-cent minimum charge for a small packet of merchandise to a UPU country (against a rate of .03/oz.) (7/1/30-6/30/40). Note that this small packet rate only became advantageous for articles weighing over 2 oz. Lower weight packets could be sent as letter packages (i.e., merchandise sent at the letter rate and handled as letter mail) for less: .05 for up to 1 oz., .08 for up to 2 oz. For PUAS countries, where the rate was only .03/oz., this small packet rate became advantageous only for articles exceeding 3 oz.

Has anyone seen a mailing cover for this rate?

**CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS RATES.....**

Ken Lawrance writes concerning the 12/26/41 effective date for establishing the 6-cent reduced military airmail rate (.06/oz.) as listed in Newsletter #11: "(This) rate was ordered on December 23 so that it would be published in every time zone on Christmas Day and be effective immediately. Some confusion has been due to Henry Beecher's analysis. Henry always assumed that rates were effective upon publication in the Postal Bulletin, because he was unaware of any earlier publication. In this case, the PB notice appeared at the first opportunity, December 26, 1941, but the rate already had gone into effect as FDR's gift to service personnel and their families. Delaying its effective date until after Christmas would have defeated FDR's purpose.

The actual sequence was: ordered 12/23/41, published worldwide and effective 12/25/41, and official notice for the record, 12/26/41.

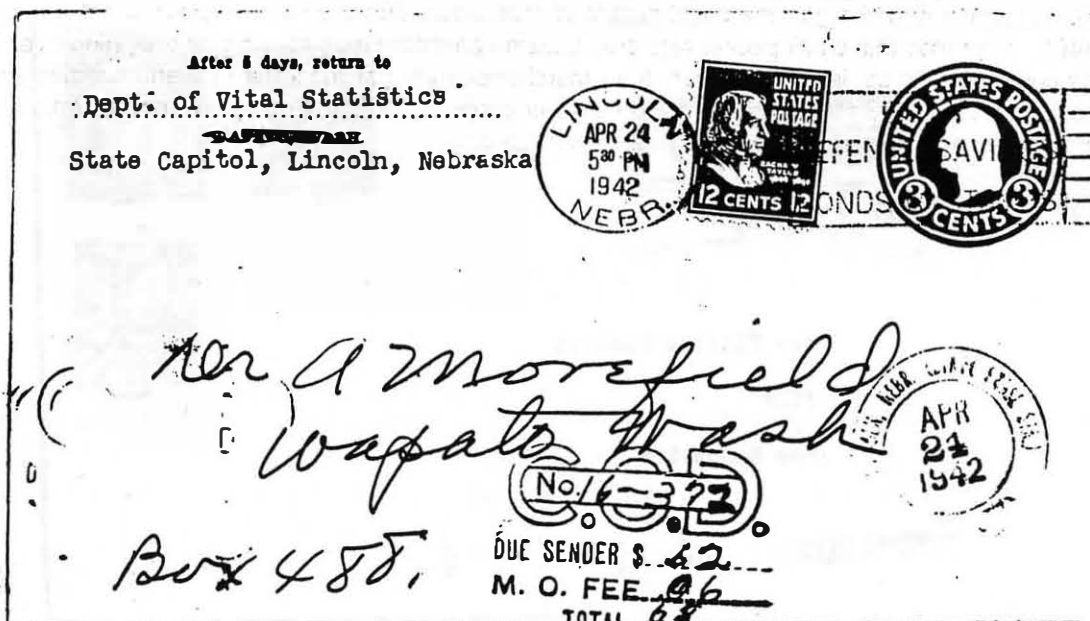
**CRITERIA FOR THE ROLAND RUSTAD MEMORIAL AWARD.....**

(Revised at a meeting of the BIA Presidential Series Committee, St. Paul, MN, August 19, 1995)

1. The Roland Rustad Memorial Award shall be given each year at a national level stamp show. A national level show includes any APS World Series of Philately (WSP) accredited show or any show which is in the process of qualifying for such WSP accreditation.
2. The award shall be given to an exhibit containing a substantial number of stamps and/or covers of the U.S. Presidential series of 1938, or of any U.S. postage stamps issued during the Presidential series era (i.e., the beginning of 1938 to the beginning of 1954). Exhibits of the Famous Americans, the National Defense series, the 1941 "Transport" airmail series, and the Overrun Nations commemoratives are examples included in this eligibility. The meaning of "a substantial number" is left to the jury.
3. The jury should consider the widest variety of exhibits which meet criteria #2. Examples could include, but are not limited to, exhibits of plate markings, color and shade varieties, EFO's, FDC's, precancels, perlines, rates and usages, special events, cancellations, auxiliary markings, postal history and historical philately.
4. The award shall be given to recognize philatelic knowledge, research, presentation and creativity. It need not be given to a qualifying exhibit which achieves the highest medal level.
5. Any exhibit entered into open competition can qualify. The winner need not be a member of the BIA or its Presidential Series Committee.

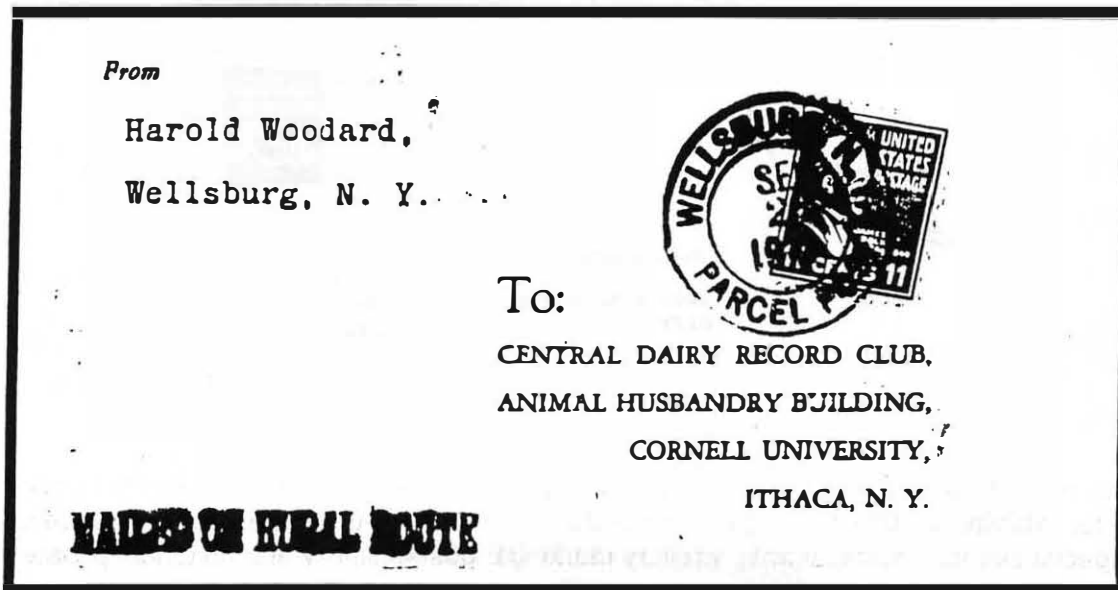
INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES.....

First Class + C.O.D.



The 12-cent Prexie pays the C.O.D. service fee for collection of \$5.00, or less (in this case, \$.68) + a .03 entire for the 1st class postage. This .15 rate was effective: 7/6/32-3/25/44. (L. Piskiewicz collection)

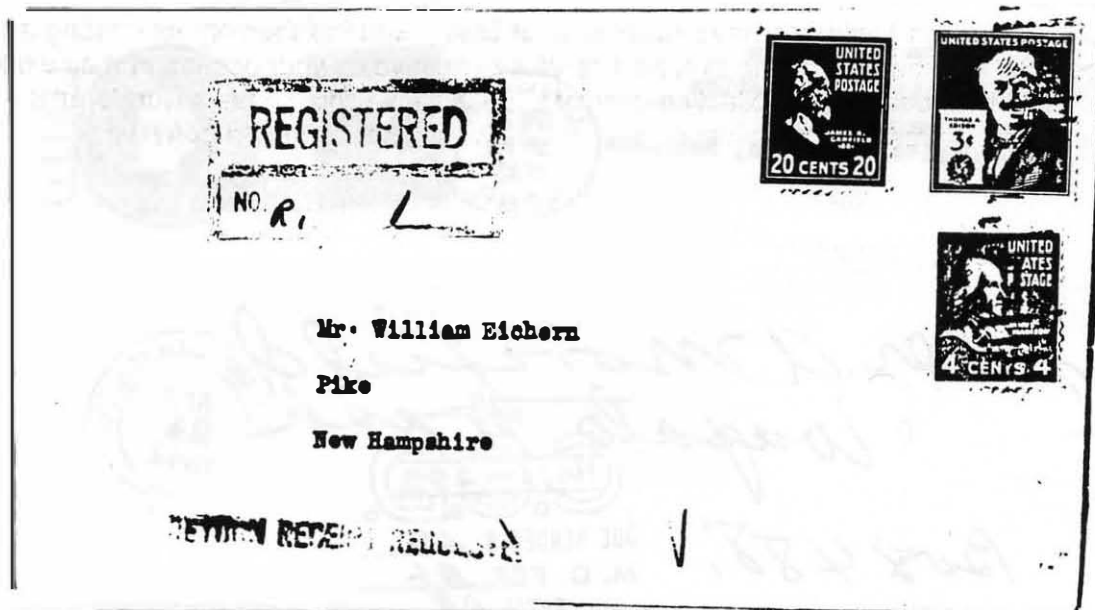
A Fractional 4th Class Rate



Section 571.3 of the 1940 PL&R provided that 4th class mail, not for local delivery, and mailed on a Rural Route, would be charged the regular postage less 3-cents. The analysis here is of a 6 lb. mailing, therefore .08 (1st lb.) + .011 (ea. additional lb.) x 5, less .03 = .105, which is rounded to 11-cents. (S. Roth collection)

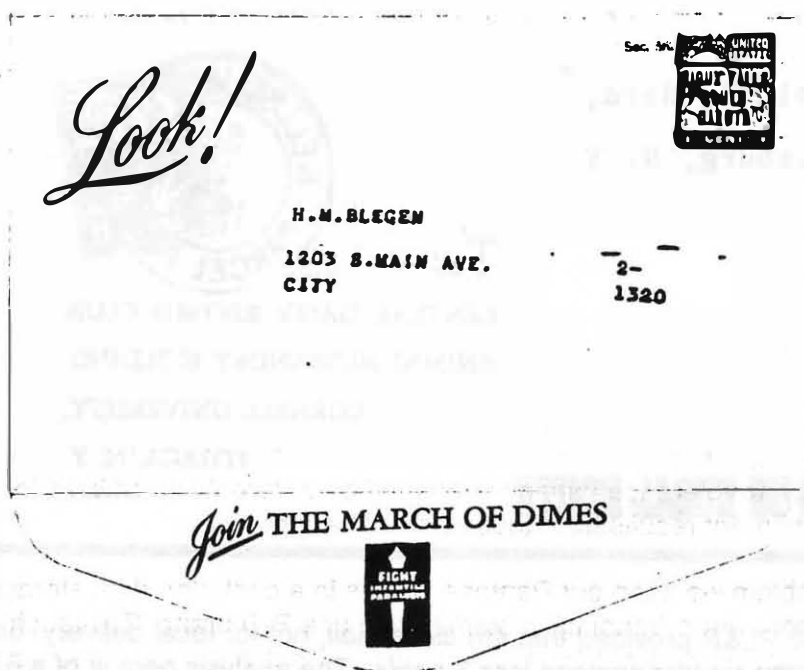
**INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES (CONTINUED).....**

A Registered Rural Route Cover (Orford, NH — July 1, 1947)



The rural carrier picked up this cover, registered it and delivered it the same day on Route #1. The mute killer "1" used on the stamps appears to be part of the duplex (used on this cover's back) from Orford, NH. Since the only backstamps are from Orford at 9 AM, this cover was delivered from the same P.O. The R1 numbering system runs from 1 to 99 and then recycles. (R. Treaster collection)

Bulk Mailing Rate Paid with a Precancel  
(circa 1940's — Editor)



Ken Lawrence wonders if there is any affection for Prexie bulk rate cover collecting according to city, organization or ????. Is any PSC member specializing in such mailings from Look Magazine, for instance?



Editorial Introduction to the Prexie Shade Study-

Larry Secchiaroli and John Markunas have spent a lot of time preparing the very interesting article which follows. I hope PSC members take time to read it carefully and give us your opinion of their work and how their research might best benefit our collecting interests. I realize we could have a wonderful debate about color definitions, light sources, etc., but it seems to me that would not be very productive.

What is more important to answer are: (1) is color discrimination important to us as collectors of Prexies?, and (2) if so, can we somehow standardize how we speak about Prexie colors to be able to communicate with each other? Larry, John and I would like to hear from you.

A STUDY OF PREXIE SHADES

by

Lawrence Secchiaroli &  
John Markunas

The purpose of this study is to provide a technique in which fellow collectors might be able to identify their own holdings with those shades identified in Rustad's book, "THE PREXIES". It is hoped that through our work we might help ourselves and fellow collectors in communicating what a particular Rustad shade looks like, identify our Prexies by shade and spark greater interest in the study of this subject. There is also hope that through "THE PREXIES" newsletter, an open forum may take place where others' study results and observations may be published and conclusions made. We are not experts. We are just collectors who have a deep interest in the various color shades listed in Rustad's book.

Color shades have always seemed to be a problem in philately. Collectors and dealers alike have always been confused when looking at a particular stamp, looking at the catalog color/shade listings and then wondering what those color/shade names mean. What do they look like? Most importantly, which one is my copy?

One problem is the lack of a good color gauge. Although not perfect, we have found one guide which we are able to work with. It is called the "Pantone Process Color System Guide". It may be found in an art and printing supply store or by mail from: MacWarehouse; P.O. Box 3013; 1720 Oak Street; Lakewood, NJ 08701-3013. Its product number is DTP 0069 and costs \$59.00, plus shipping and handling.

This guide contains 3000 chips showing mixtures of cyan (C), magenta (M), yellow (Y), and black (K) in chromatic order for easy selection of general shades.

We are using the 1995 edition. This is important to note as even the best guides will fade with aging. In addition, although the quality control for the Pantone guide may be expected to be very good, each edition will vary from another due to tolerance variances caused by different lots of both ink and paper. These variances can produce different results from those we will be reporting.

To combat the aging problem we keep our Pantone guides in a cool, dry, dark storage cabinet. When in use we subject to light only when "reading" a stamp. We use B-D brand "Tru-touch Vinyl Gloves" when handling the guide so that oil and dirt from our hands will not harm it. These are the same gloves healthcare practitioners use and may be found in most pharmacies. A box of 50 may be purchased for about \$6.00

When examining a stamp for color with the use of a guide it is important that your eyes do not pick up any background "static". The stamp should be laid onto a white surface. For this purpose we use a white paperboard...the same as those used by the Philatelic Foundation for stiffness, when shipping stamps and certificates. It is of a good size (~6" x 9") and adds support when moving a stamp closer to a good light source for examination.

As for the light source, we are using a G.E. brand clear incandescent light bulb. Experiments using a white-frosted bulb confirm the results will be different, so only use a clear bulb. Different brands or even different lots of the same manufacturer may or may not result in different sets of data, but that would be a study in itself. Just keep this possibility in mind. To maintain the best chance of obtaining uniform and repeatable results, the luminous environment should be kept as uniform as possible, therefore it is important to use the light source recommended above.

More important than the bulb's brightness or intensity is the light illumination...the density of light on a surface. The closer the light source is to the working surface the greater the illumination. This may accelerate the fading of the Pantone guide, along with your stamps, and will tend to wash out the color's appearance. If the intensity is too low, although environmentally better for both the guide and stamp, it will make colors darker and grayer. Both extremes will result in improper readings, eye strain, and fatigue.

We have found that with the use of the 60 watt bulb mentioned above, we can place the stamp and guide about 21 inches away. This seems to allow for consistent readings time after time, without the eye strain and fatigue. It also allows us to spread out so that we have room to work.

For those who still insist on using a bulb of a different wattage, or intensity, the table below will be helpful in defining the distance from the bulb in order to maintain uniformly illuminated environments. These results are developed from the following equation:

$$\text{Constant illumination} = \text{Intensity/Distance}^2 = 60 \text{ w./}21^2$$

Wattage	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	75	100	125	150
Distance	10	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	23	27	30	33 (in inches)

Another tool we are going to use is a blank unlined white index card. We shall explain its use shortly.

The best way to begin is to assemble a collection of as many shades of each denomination possible. This is quite easy to do as collectors will find that most dealers' stock is rich with shades of each. Except for Scott #830 Blue and Deep Blue, #834 shades and the rare #834a Red Brown and Black, all the other shades are quite affordable. A very interesting collection may be formed without great expense in a short time. Such a collection will help in narrowing down the selection of candidate chips very quickly without great expense in energy and eye strain.

Before trying to use it, study the Pantone Guide and become familiar with it. Experiment with it using the technique we will describe shortly. The analysis of Scott #803 1/2 cent denomination in this paper and the denominations in future papers will provide a better picture of how the guide is structured.

Now for the technique.

Set up the work surface so that you can work comfortably. Set the lamp at the proper distance assuring that reflected glare will not be a problem. Lay all the different copies of a single denomination on white paperboard in a fashion so that they follow either a logical color order or a best guess Rustad shade order.

Examining one stamp at a time, thumb through the Pantone Guide and select several chips that best match that stamp's shade. Don't fear if you find 3, or 4, or more matching color chips. Write down those Pantone chip numbers.

The more shades you have, the more you will be able to quickly select fewer chips. Cross-reference the stamps and chips. As you become more familiar with the Pantone Guide and practice your technique, your pace will increase.

Once the stamps have been checked and candidate chips are selected, a detailed examination is in order. Place the first stamp alone onto the white paperboard. It should be placed upside down in order to remove any "pattern" your eyes may otherwise see. This "pattern" may contribute to false readings from the Pantone Guide.

Place one of the candidate chips onto the edge of the darkest area of the stamp's design. We shall define these areas of each denomination as we present our study. For Scott #803 1/2 cent denomination, the darkest area would be the dark hair lines at the back of Franklin's head.

Place the blank index card over the chip until only a sliver of the chip is visible which will be adjacent to the stamp.

Check each candidate chip against the stamp using the same technique until the best match is made. The best match will result in the edge of the chip "disappearing" into dark area of the stamp. Write this Pantone chip number down along with the component mixtures of the cyan, magenta, yellow, and black.

Using this method, the following results come up for Scott #803, the 1/2 cent Franklin:

Rustad Shade	Pantone #	C	M	Y	K
Orange	S36/49-1	0	~65	100	0
Bright Orange (reddish)	S49-1	0	70	100	0
	S49-1/2	0	~65	~90	0
	S49-2	0	60	80	0
	S49-3	0	50	70	0
Dull Orange	S49/50-1	0	70	100	~5

Explaining the results, the orange shade is not quite as yellow as S36-1 and not as red as S49-1 with "M" (magenta) units of 60 and 70 respectively. Thus the Pantone number notation "S36/49-1" and estimated "M" of "~65".

The same occurred with the Bright Orange (reddish) with the "S49-1/2" notation. It was in between S49-1 and S49-2 with M/Y (yellow) units of 70/100 and 60/80 respectively. So again the M/Y estimates of 65/90.

Again, the same estimate occurred with the Dull Orange. It was duller than the S49-1 chip, but not as dull and dark as the S50-1 chip. The only difference between each chip is the K (black) component, i.e. 0 and 10 units respectively. Again, it was estimate about half way...K ~5.

Analyzing the data further in attempting to establish some rules in identifying what shades collectors may own, we have:

Rustad Shade	M:Y Ratio	K
Orange	1:1.54	0
Bright Orange (reddish)	1:1.33-1:1.44	0
Dull Orange	1:1.44	5

The Orange shade has the lowest magenta to yellow ratio. The Bright Orange (reddish), as its "reddish" description implies, has a higher ratio and varies a bit. The Dull Orange almost qualifies as a Bright Orange except it contains some black.

As Rustad wrote, "The color varied little...", and, "The shade exhibited a very slight reddish tint in some cases." He stated further that, "these variances occurred with most printings (so plate numbers won't help here) and are mainly dependent upon the quantity of ink deposited on the paper."

The readings all centered upon the S49 Pantone chips with 50 to 70 units of magenta, or red. Although the M:Y ratio is attributable to ink mixing, the resulting measured units of each may be dependant upon the amount of ink applied to the paper. The results agree with Rustad's comments.

Outside of helping collectors to identify their holdings, the data also shows that apparent shade differences may be due to minor variations in component ink mixing and amount of ink deposited onto the plates and transferred to the paper.

It is hoped that other collectors may become interested in the subject of shades of this series, do their own study, and share their experiences and results.

One final comment is that even after carefully following the instructions and techniques of the article, some do not get the exact same readings. Just remember, there are variations from one person's eyes to another. Do not become frustrated. Practice your technique, record your results and file them away, then go back and record new results a week or two later. When your old results and new results agree, your technique is working. Either way, the analyzed results should be close to ours.

Next we hope to report results on Scott #804 — the 1-cent Washington Prexie.

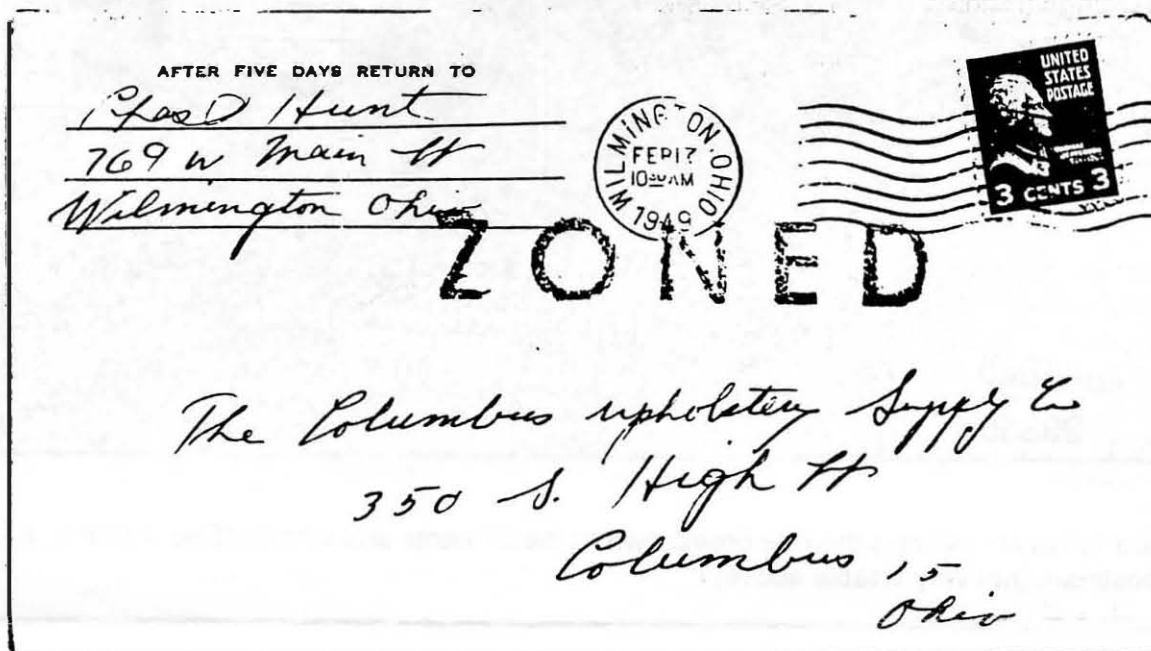
READING  
LOCATION





**AN INTERESTING AUXILIARY MARKING (From Roland Austin).....**

The Postal Zone system began operation on May 1, 1943, in 124 larger post offices. By June 30, 1944, the Post Office reported that at least 40% of mail bore zone numbers. Mail that was "zoned" was separated from other mail and bundled and marked as such. The cover below was apparently the top cover of its bundle and thus received the black "ZONED" auxiliary mark in half-inch letters. A retired postal worker once told me the letters were large enough to recognize quickly without having workers slow down to read it.

**PREXIES ON DISPLAY.....**Since our last newsletter.....

Our Chairman, Steve Suffet, was awarded a gold medal and the APS Post-1940 Medal of Excellence for his exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates and Usages, 1938-58" at STAMPSHOW in St. Louis last year. He followed that up with a gold medal and APS Research Medal at the Fall - 1995 Mega Event in NYC. Nice work, Steve — keep spreading the "gospel"!

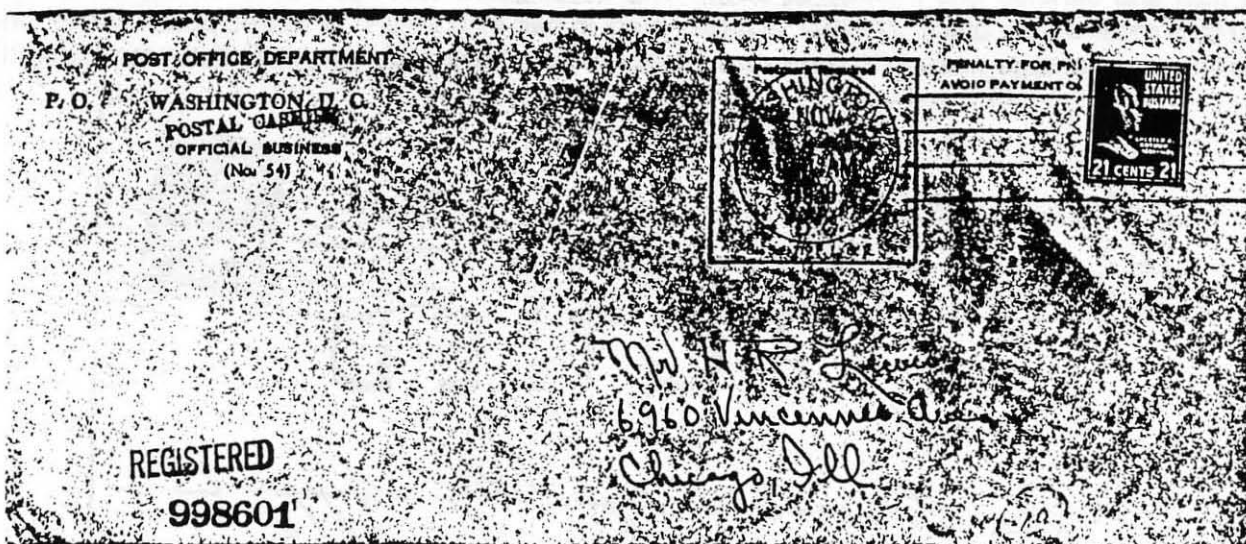
The Editor would appreciate hearing of any other Prexie Era exhibits on display.

**OUR GROWING LIST OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES.....**

Roland Austin	RAustin13@aol.com (TORCH Editor)
Robert Bezilla	bezillar@world.com
Ron Estabrook	estabroo@utsw.swmed.edu
John Grabowski	minnjohn@aol.com (PREXIES Editor)
Bill Helbock	laposub@aol.com (LaPosta Editor)
Norman Hinton	hinton@sangamon.edu
John Markunas	j.markunas@mail.dpc.umassp.edu
also	Markunas@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu
Murray Pearce	Murray100@aol.com
Steve Roth	smr1@ix.netcom.com
Steve Suffet	sls55@columbia.edu (until June?)
Don Tocher	dontocher@aol.com
Dan Undersander	djunders@facstaff.wisc.edu

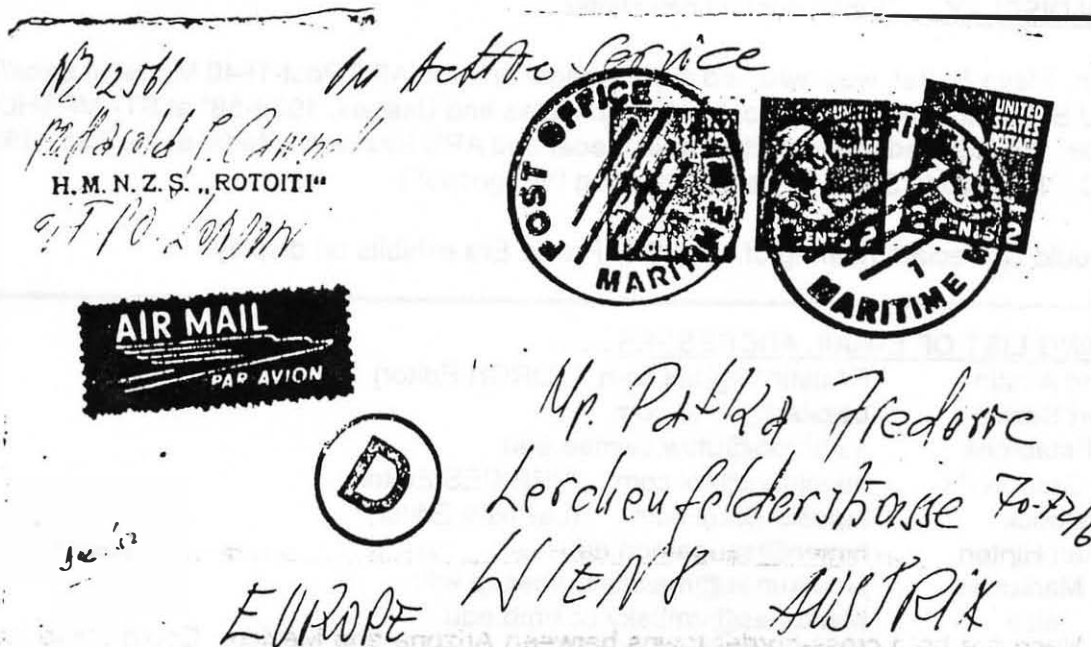
REQUESTS FOR HELP .....

(1) Penalty Cover, "Postal Cashier, Washington, D.C." (FDC for the 21-cent stamp)



From Richard Treaster: What is the rate breakdown of the 21-cents and what is "Sec. 719 P.L. & R." under the postmark (not very visible above)?

(2) Air mail cover addressed to Vienna with 5-cents worth of Prexies, return address: "FPO London"



From Akihiro Asano: This cover is undated, but I suspect "On Active Service" refers to the Korean War. Why were Prexies accepted for postage — the cancel does not appear to be of U.S. origin. What is the circular "D" marking?

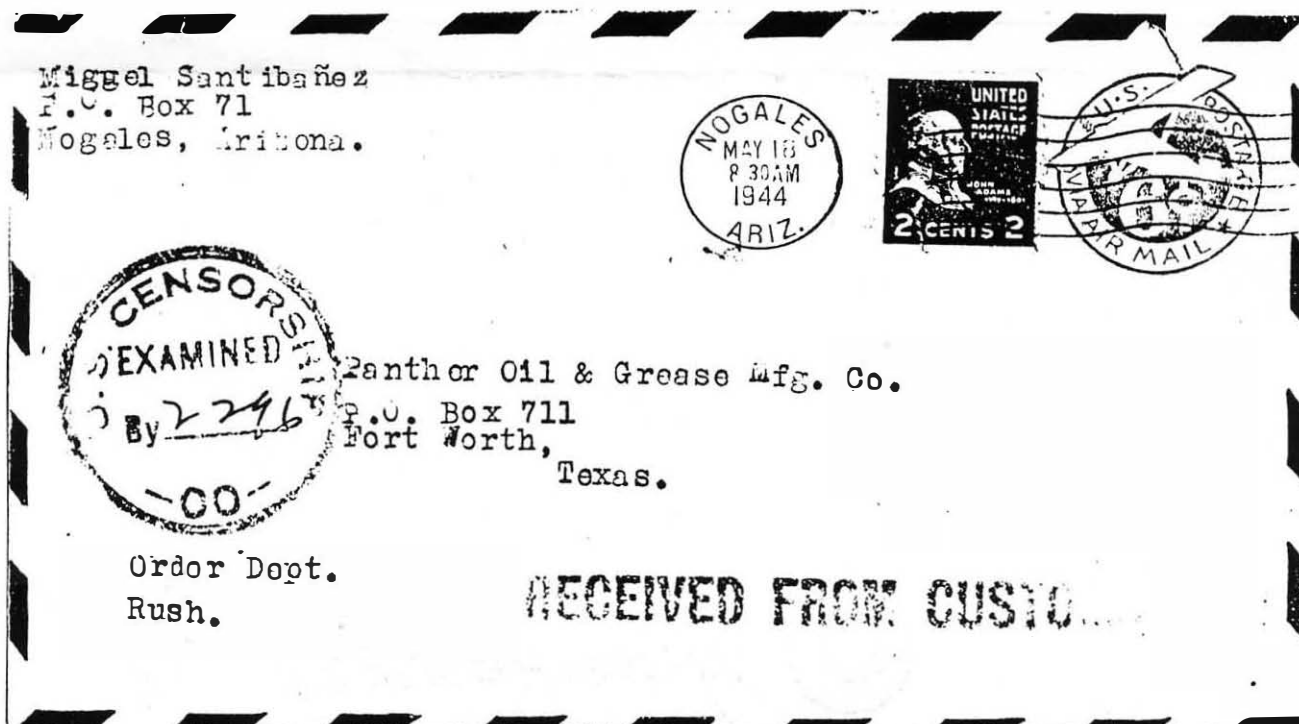
**REQUESTS FOR HELP (CONT.).....****Prexie Bureau Precancels**

Does anyone know of a city/town list of Bureau precancels by denomination. For example, Scott's Specialized Catalog lists 199 Bureau precancels on the 1/2-cent Prexie. Is there any easy place to locate these. If not, is there any interest in starting our own census within this newsletter?

Are there any production numbers or relative scarcity values available for Bureau precancels?

**"RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS" followup from last issue.....**

Jim Felton sends along a similar cover from Nogales, AZ to that on page 12 of our previous newsletter from Naco, AZ. Both have the "RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS" and U.S. Censorship markings.



Nogales and Naco are both cross-border towns between Arizona and Mexico. Could these letters have been dropped in the Mexican mail system and then handed over to the U.S. postal system for post marking and processing?

**FOR SALE-TRADE-WANTED.....**

Wanted — \$2 & \$5 Prexies used on covers; full 2-cent booklet pane on cover. No FDC's please. S. Sablak, 39 Carr Street, Wallingford, CT. 06492

Wanted — \$1 and higher Prexies, commercially used on cover. What can you offer? Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton NJ 07011

For sale — Prexie covers, individually priced. Write for information: Don Tocher, Box 16, Shrewsbury, MA 01545; e-mail: dontocher@aol.com

For sale — Prexie FDC (blocks of 4 and singles) covers, 1/2 to 5.00, loor cachets. Write for information or make offer: Jim Wiesner, 19322 E. Purdue Circle; Aurora, CO 80013; telephone: 303-699 1100.

PSC Donation Item (for sale) — 1950 (small) cover from Denver to Calif, forwarded, min. registry (.25)

+ return receipt (.05) + a/m (.06) paid with 15-cent Prexie pair + a/m stamp. Clean. First \$2. takes it!

Wanted — Examples of low-budget Prexie collecting to share with other PSC members. Write to the Editor with a description of your collection, your needs or your questions.

Wanted — Precancelled Prexie coils/strips. What can you offer? Graham Babb, 2438 Okeson Circle, Holladay UT 84117-4507.

PSC Donation Item (for sale) — On cover: 6 Prexie coils showing partial plate nos; 9 booklet stamps with partial plate nos. \$1 each or all for \$10.

**COMING NEXT ISSUE.....**

The .16-.20 solo usages .....more fabulous examples.....a report on PREXIEPEX VII .....more "members to meet".....low-budget collecting .....and more!

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





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 13  
August, 1996

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

## 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 Piskiewicz'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*

## ISSUE 13 CONTENTS.....

Prexie Era on Display.....	Page 2
Meet the Members.....	Page 2
Requests for Help.....	Page 3
Letter to the Editor (Prexie shades).....	Page 4
Collection "Snapshots".....	Page 6
Solo Usages, .16-.20.....	Page 8
Rate Additions & Corrections.....	Page 10
Solo Examples.....	Page 10
More Interesting Prexie Era Usages.....	Page 13
Big, Bad & Ugly Club.....	Page 14
BIA Membership.....	Page 15

## 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 Piszkiwicz, "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 Filatelice 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)....*

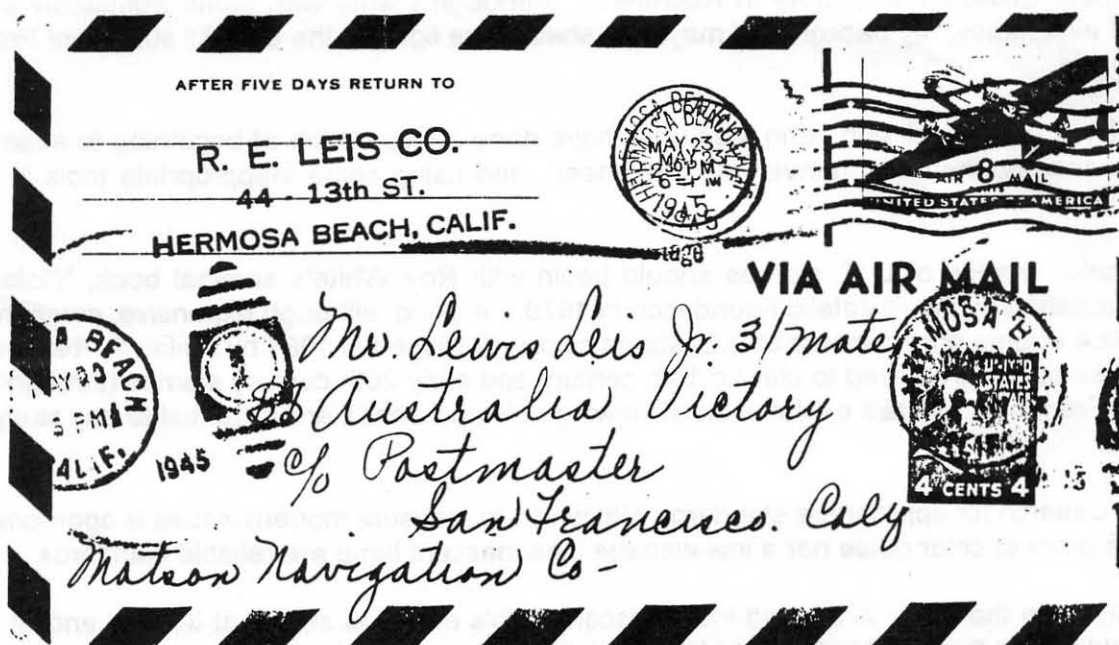
**REQUESTS FOR HELP.....**

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

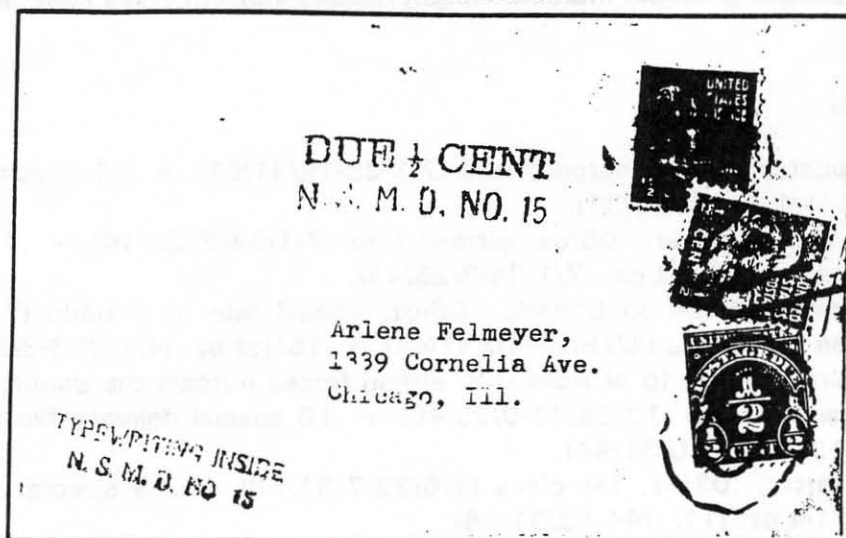
Forfar, Ontario  
(Canada)

## Parcel Post Cancels



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

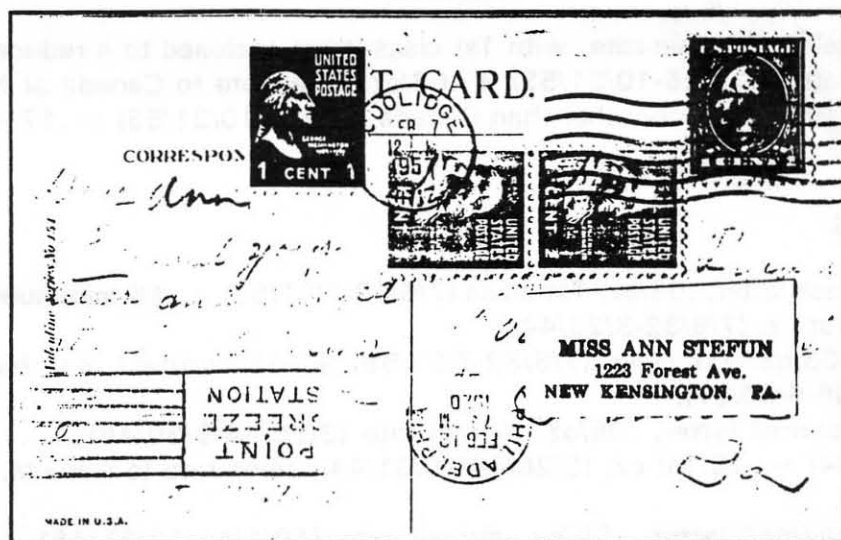
"TYPEWRITING INSIDE"



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:**

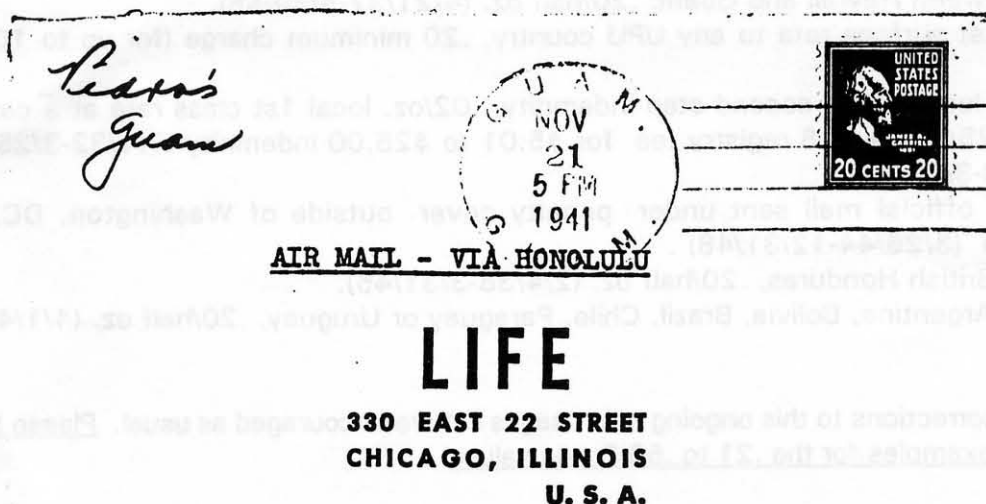
(.15 USE)...Minimum 1st class COD letter, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .12 minimum COD fee for 1st class mail (4/15/25-10/31/44), up to \$5 collection & indemnity = .15/1st oz. (7/6/32-10/31/44).

(.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.

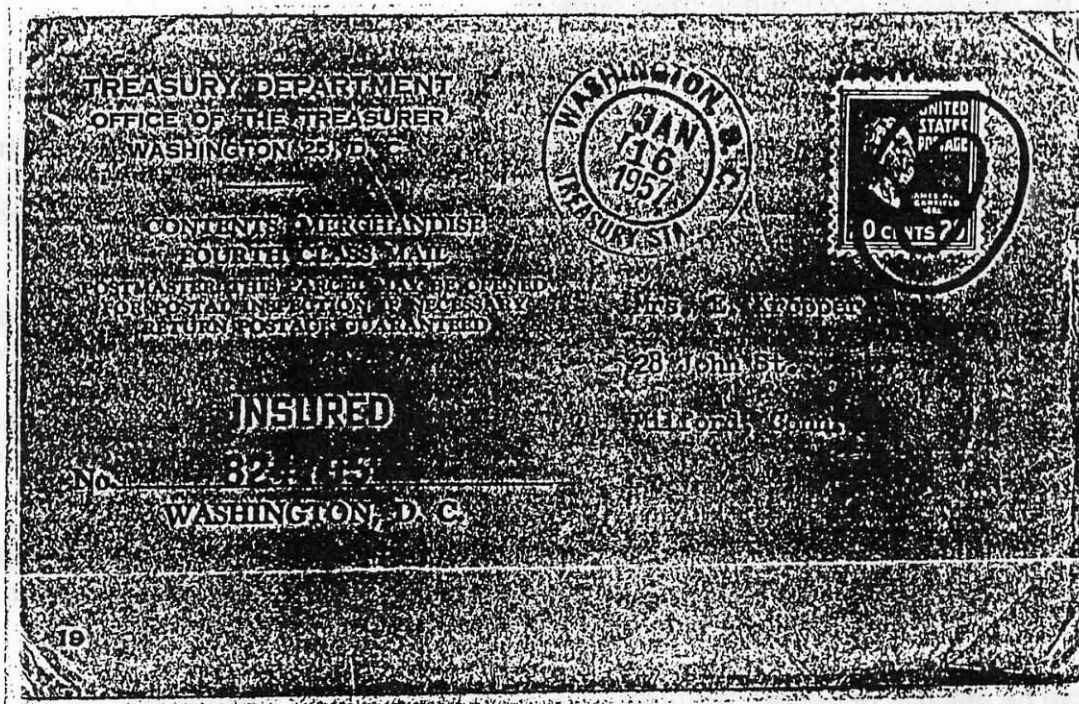
In reality, the .10 small packet rate was never advantageous for PUAS countries because a merchandise packet rate of .02/2oz. (up to an 8 oz. limit) applied to such destinations.

**EXAMPLES OF 20-CENT SOLOS.....**

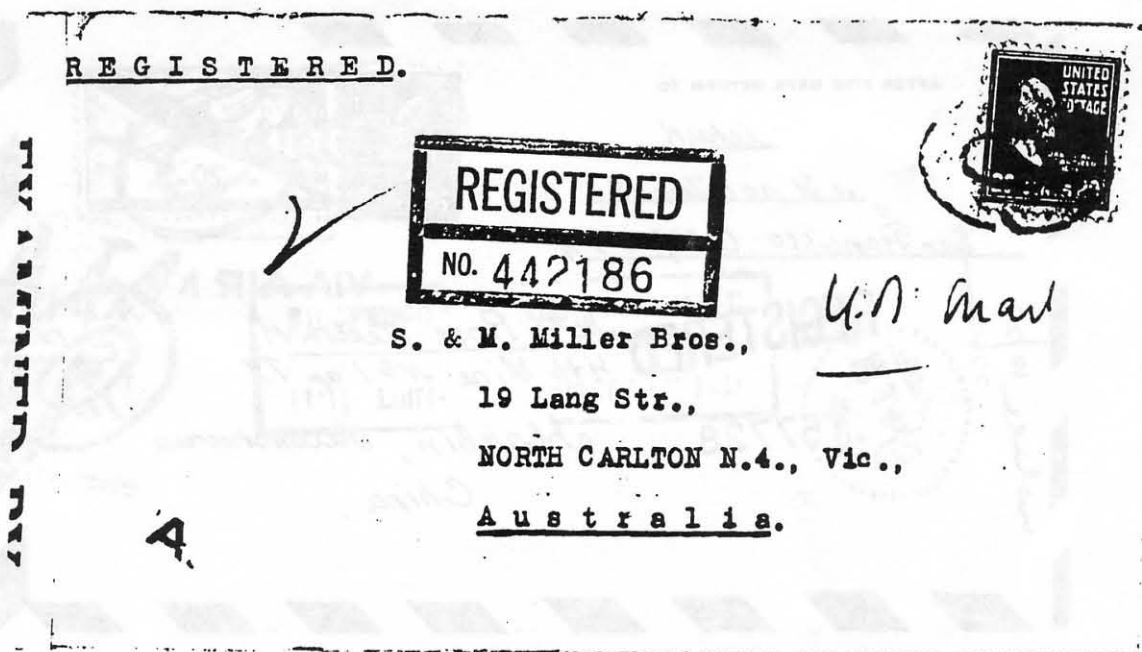
A very uncommon, commercially-used, airmail example:



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**

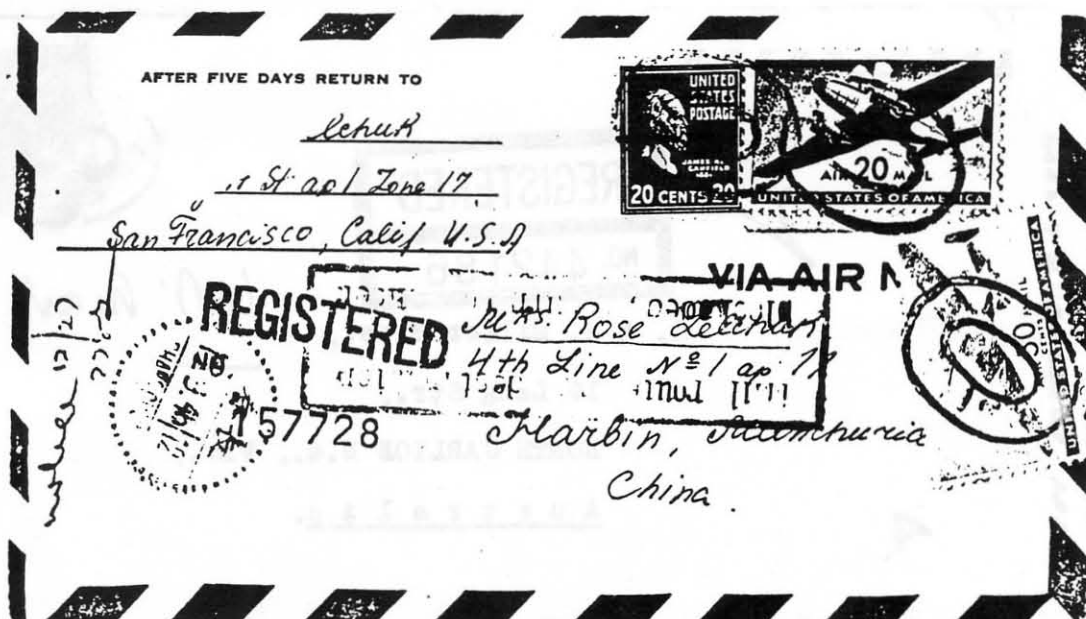
I believe I am one of the few collectors of U.S. material over here in England. You may have read material I have posted to "rec.collecting.stamps" or to other various philatelic dealer groups. I am a philatelic publisher with over a dozen books on aspects of British and British African stamps and postal 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")

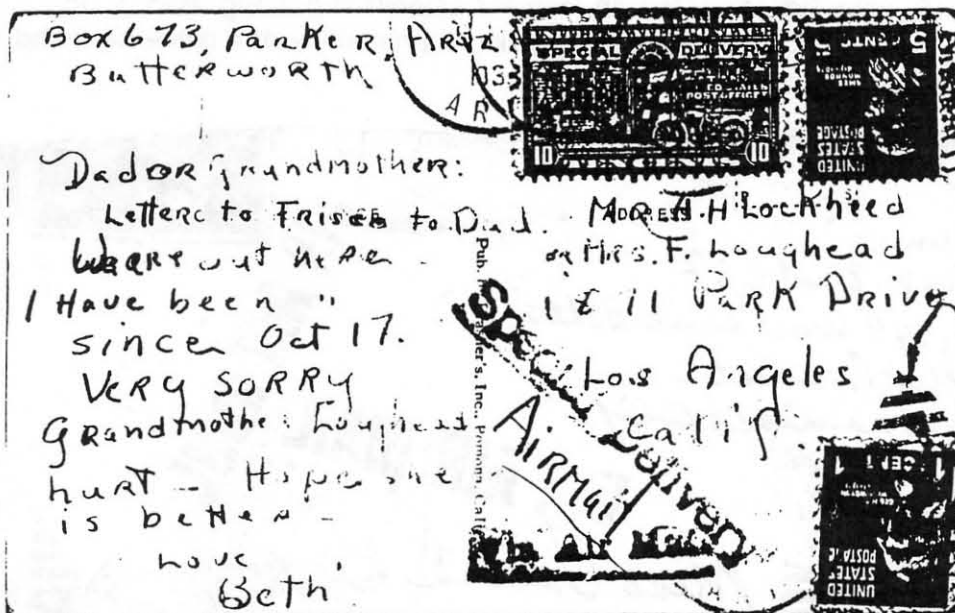
**REQUESTS FOR HELP (concluded from page 3).....**

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



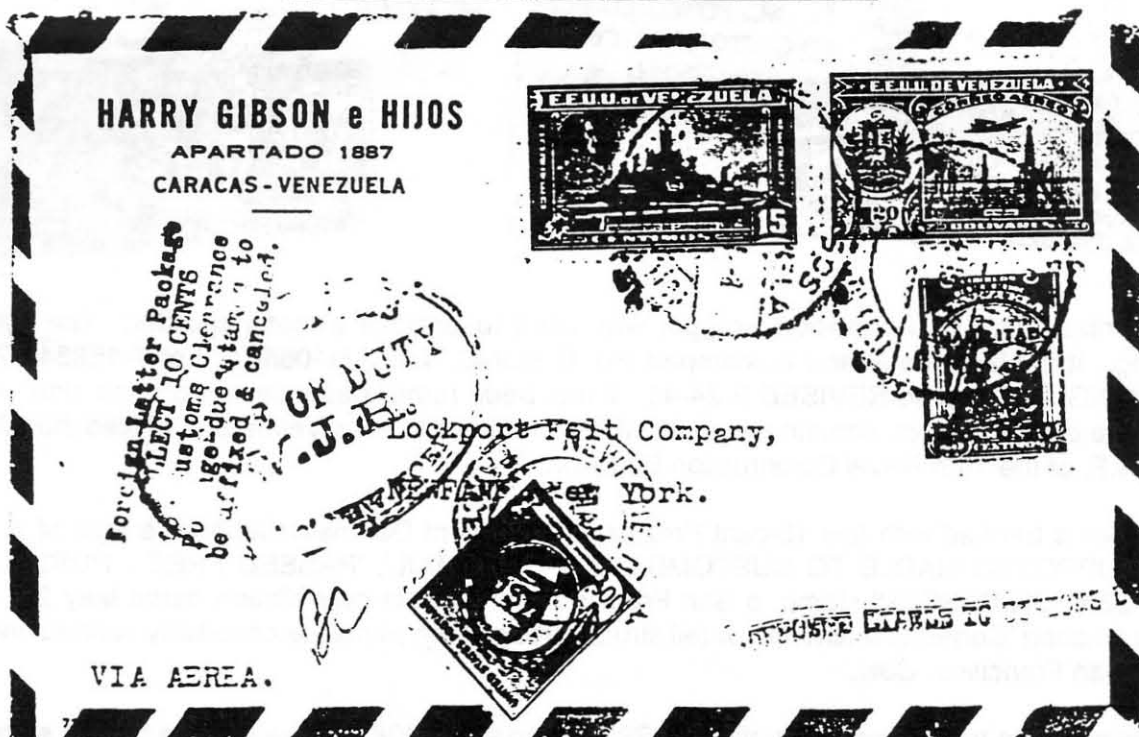
MORE INTERESTING PREXIE USAGES.....

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 'SUPPORTED 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

July-Aug.-Sept. \$12.00

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

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 14  
February, 1997

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

## 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*

## Issue #14 Contents

Treasurer's Report	Page 2
Letters to the Editor	Page 2
PREXIEPEX VIII News Flash	Page 3
Requests for Help & Answers	Page 4
4-cent Usages	Page 6
Wuichet Collection "Snapshots"	Page 8
Solo Rates, .21 - .25	Page 10
Solo Examples, .21 - .25	Page 12
More Interesting Prexie Era Usages	Page 14
Big, Bad and/or Ugly Club	Page 15

## 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	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 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	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 512.70
Treasury Balance, 2/6/97		\$ 496.11

*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.
<hr/>
\$ .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 x .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.....**

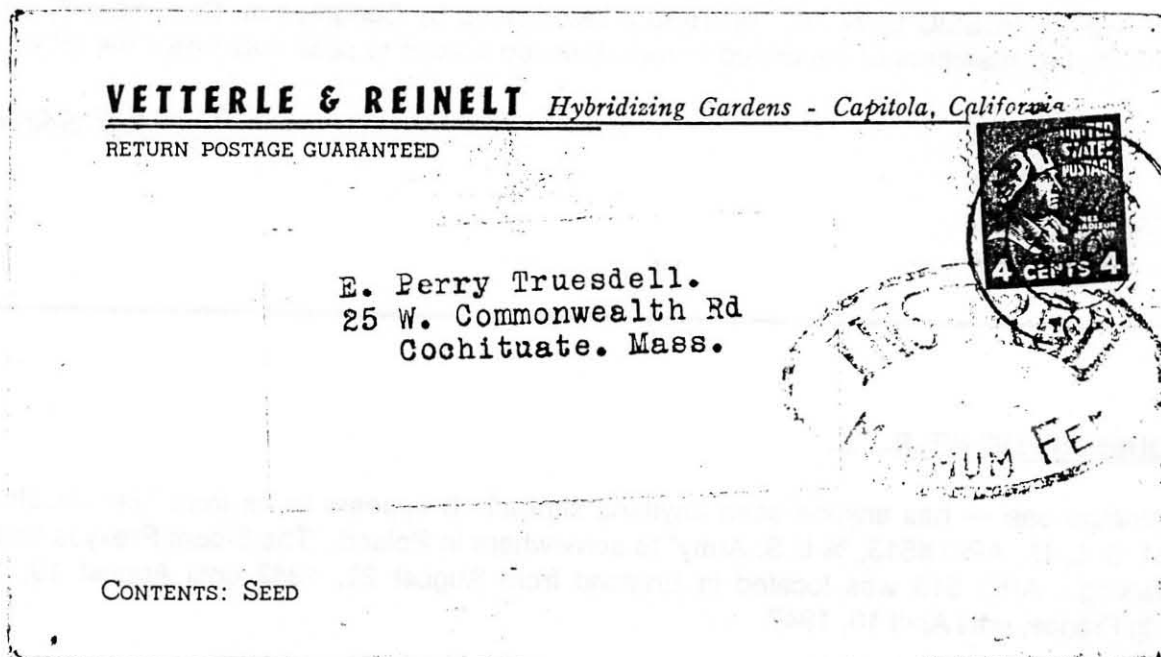
Here's a strange one — has anyone seen anything similar? It appears to be from "Jan Joustczembsky, L-511-T. M. C. L. U., APO #513, % U.S. Army" to somewhere in Poland. The 5-cent Prexy is tied by a red censor marking. APO 513 was located in England from August 22, 1942 until August 19, 1944 and thereafter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



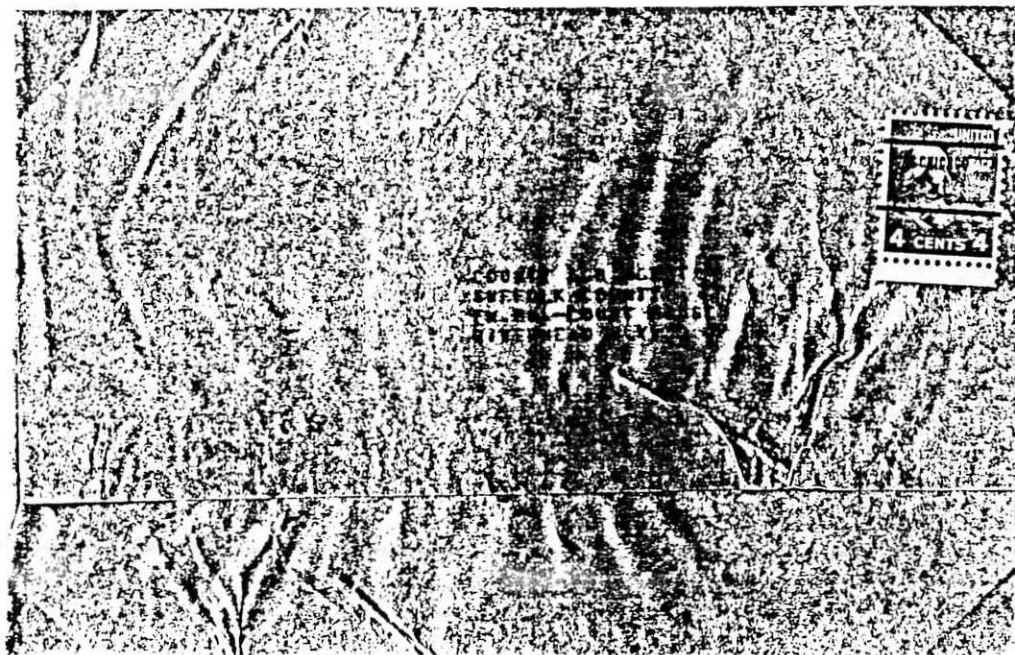
Questions: Why no postmarks other than the censor? what does "L-511-T. M. C. L. U." stand for? and why the 5-cents?

**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 Piskiewicz 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., SECRETARY-TREAS  
930 HIBERNIA BANK BUILDING  
NEW ORLEANS 12, LA.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NEW ORLEANS



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)



Nathan D. Sutton.

Engraver (Portrait)



Oliver 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



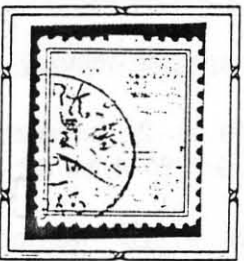
Benjamin Harrison



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).

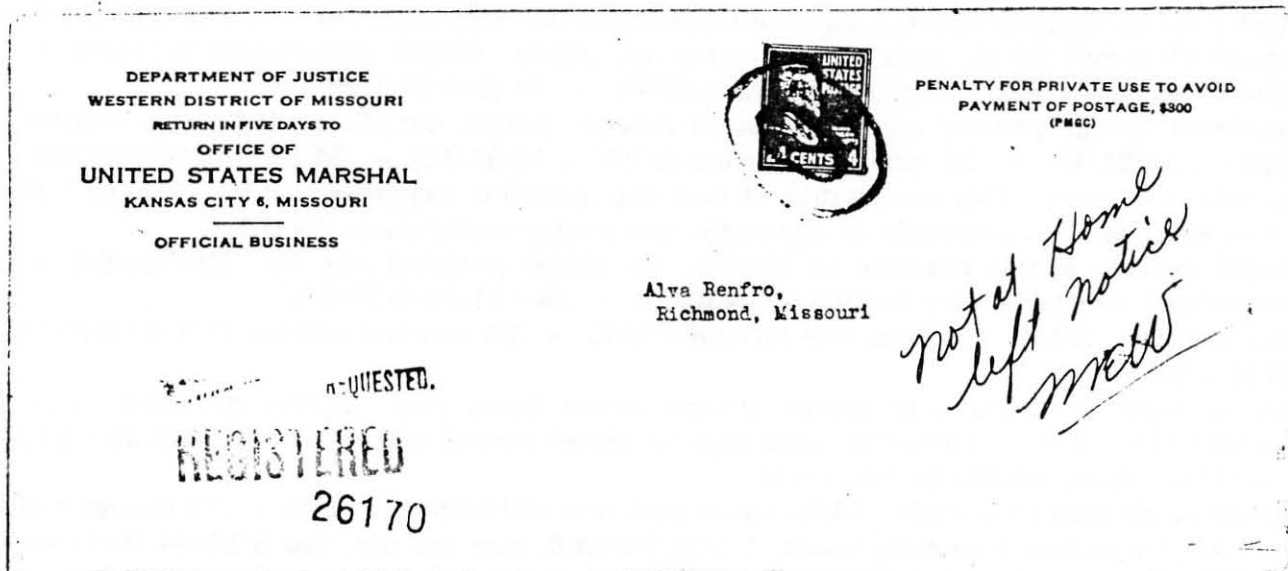
**24-cent Solo Usages:**

- 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).

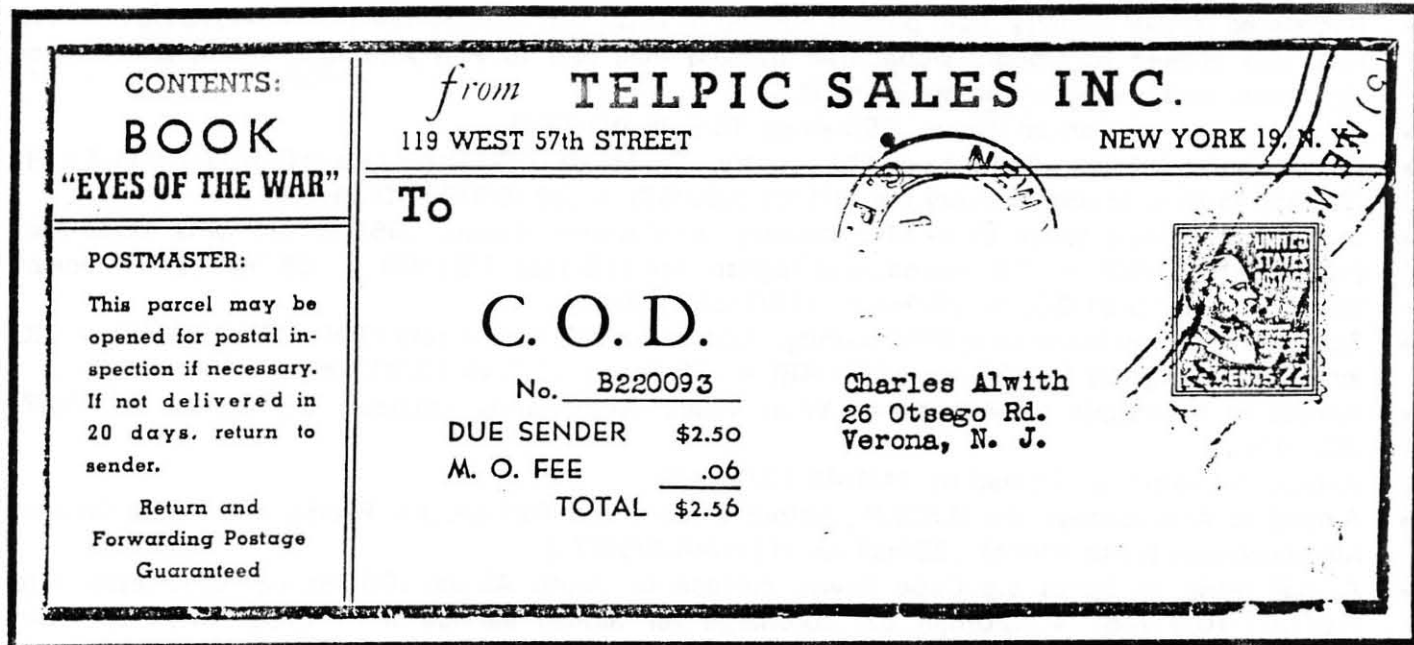
**25-cent Solo Usages:**

- 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)



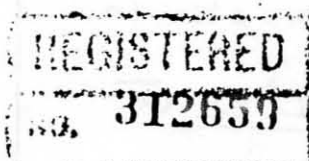
4th class book rate (1945) C.O.D. — 2 x .03/lb. + .01 War Revenue Act parcel surcharge  
+ .15 C.O.D. fee (S. Roth collection).



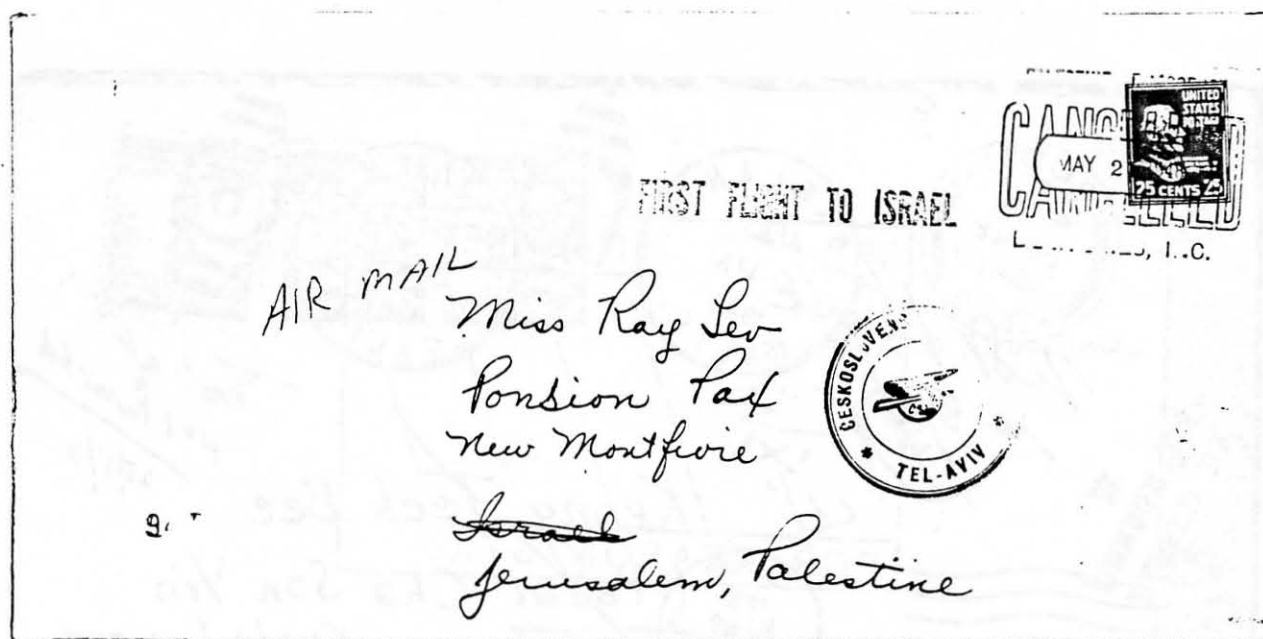
After 3 days, return to  
**W. J. Eckhardt**  
 65 NASSAU STREET  
 NEW YORK, N. Y.



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).

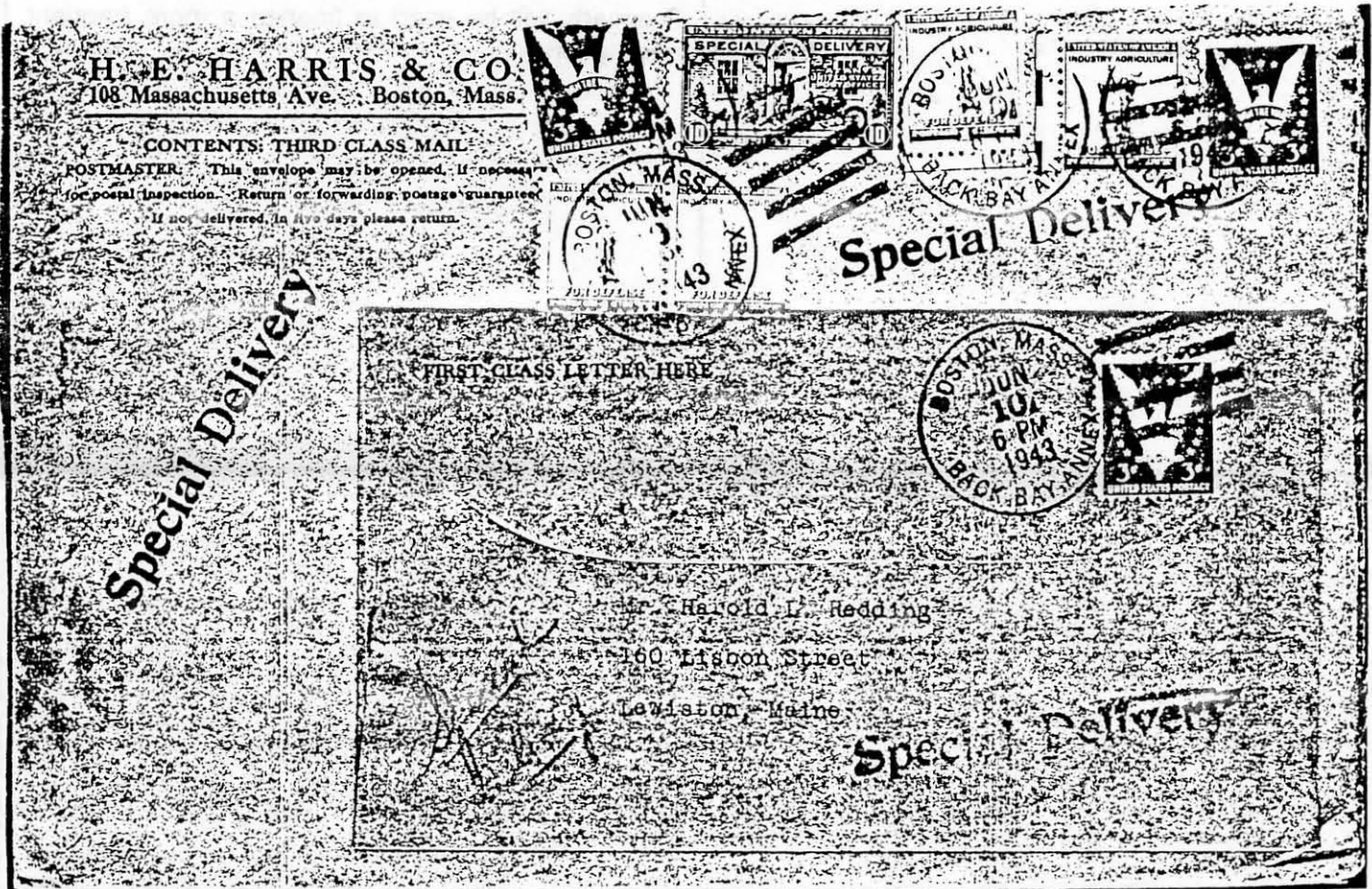


Since no postal service existed between the newly established (5/14/48) State of Israel and the U.S., the Palestine Emergency Delivery, Inc. was organized to air mail letters as freight to Rome and then on to Israel via Czech Airlines. In operation only 10 weeks, this service began on May 21, 1948. Flown 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).



**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





# THE PREXIES

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 15  
August, 1997

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.

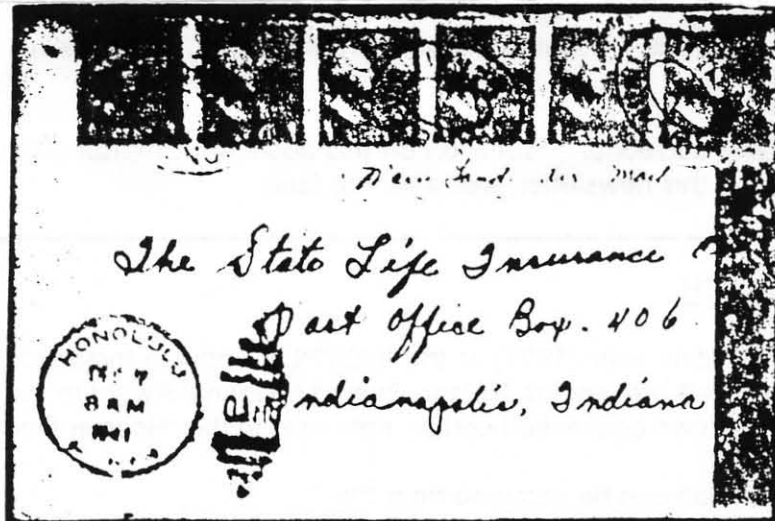
GENERAL NEWS.....Honolulu Dec. 7, 1941 Prexie cover sold at Dann Mayo Auction

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.

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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:**

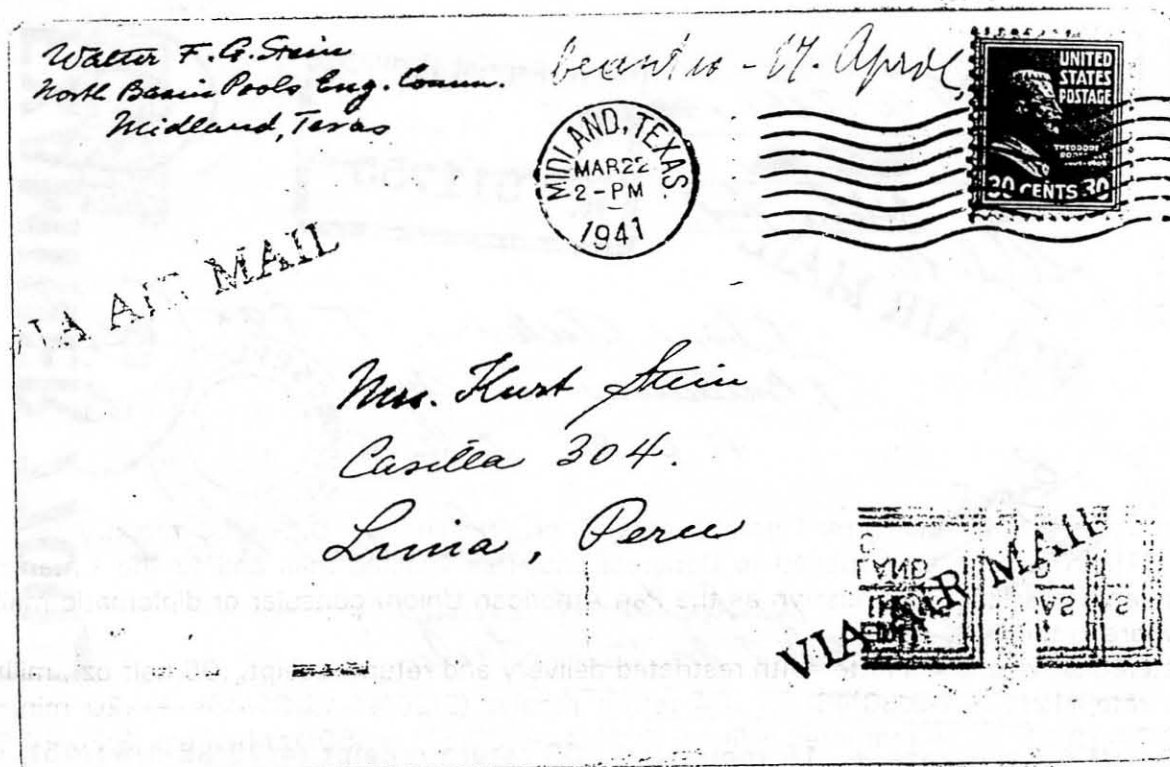
- Special delivery airmail letter to or from Hawaii, .20/half oz. airmail rate (4/21/37-1/14/45) + .10 special delivery fee (10/1/1885-10/31/44) = .30 (4/21/37-10/31/44).
- Special delivery airmail letter from Hawaii to Canada, .20/half oz. airmail (4/21/37-1/14/45) + .10 international special delivery 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:**

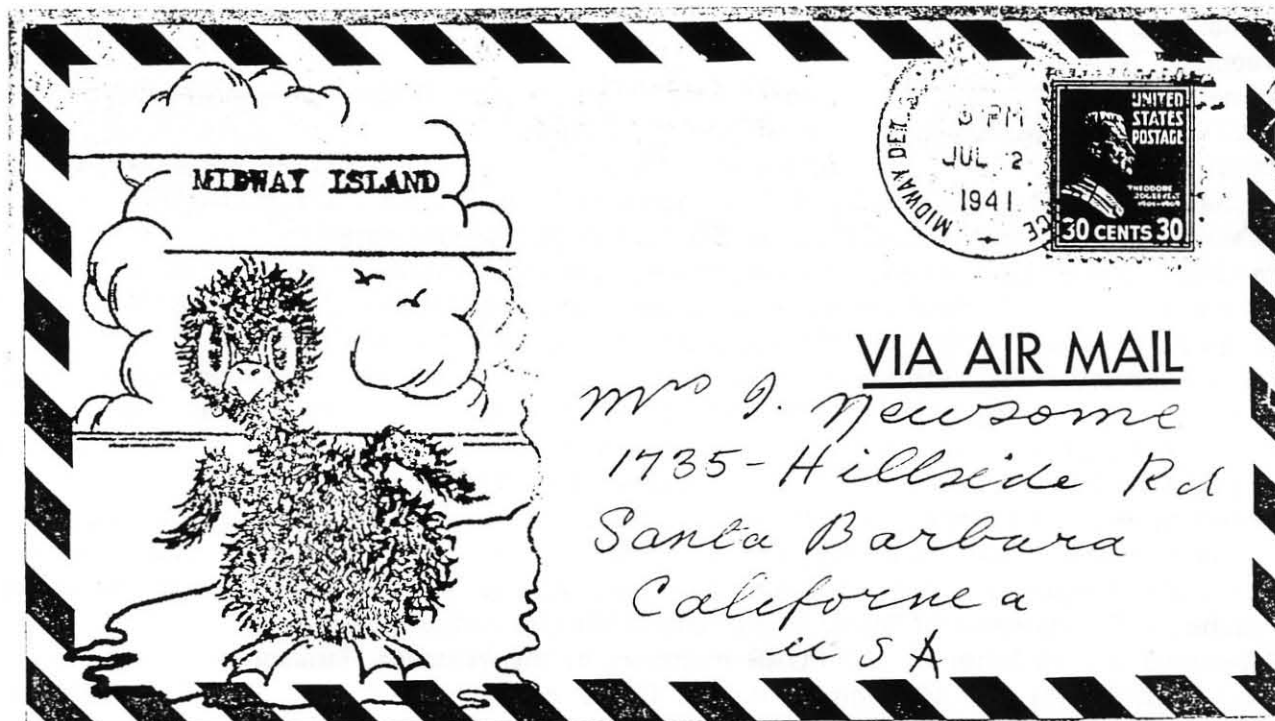
- Registered letter with return receipt, minimum indemnity, .03/oz. 1st class rate (7/6/32-7/31/58) + .40 registry fee with \$.01-\$5.00 indemnity (1/1/52-6/30/57) + .07 return receipt fee (1/1/52-6/30/57) = .50/1st oz. (1/1/52-6/30/57). Effective 6/6/55, .40 became the min. registry fee in Washington, 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)

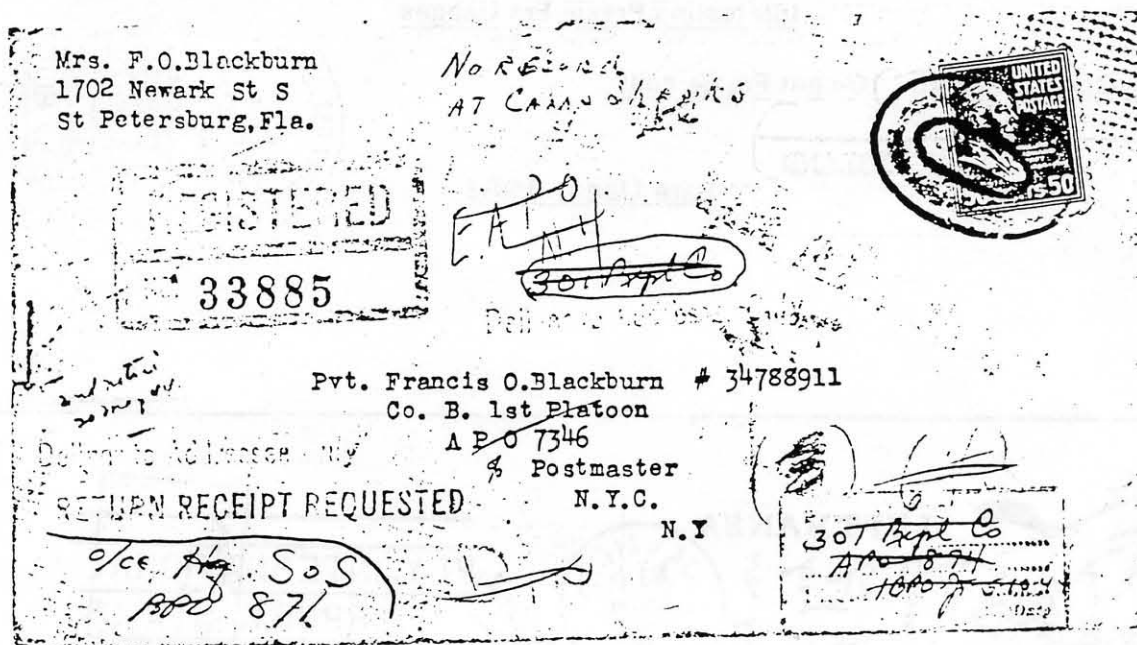
30-cent Solo Examples (continued):

.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

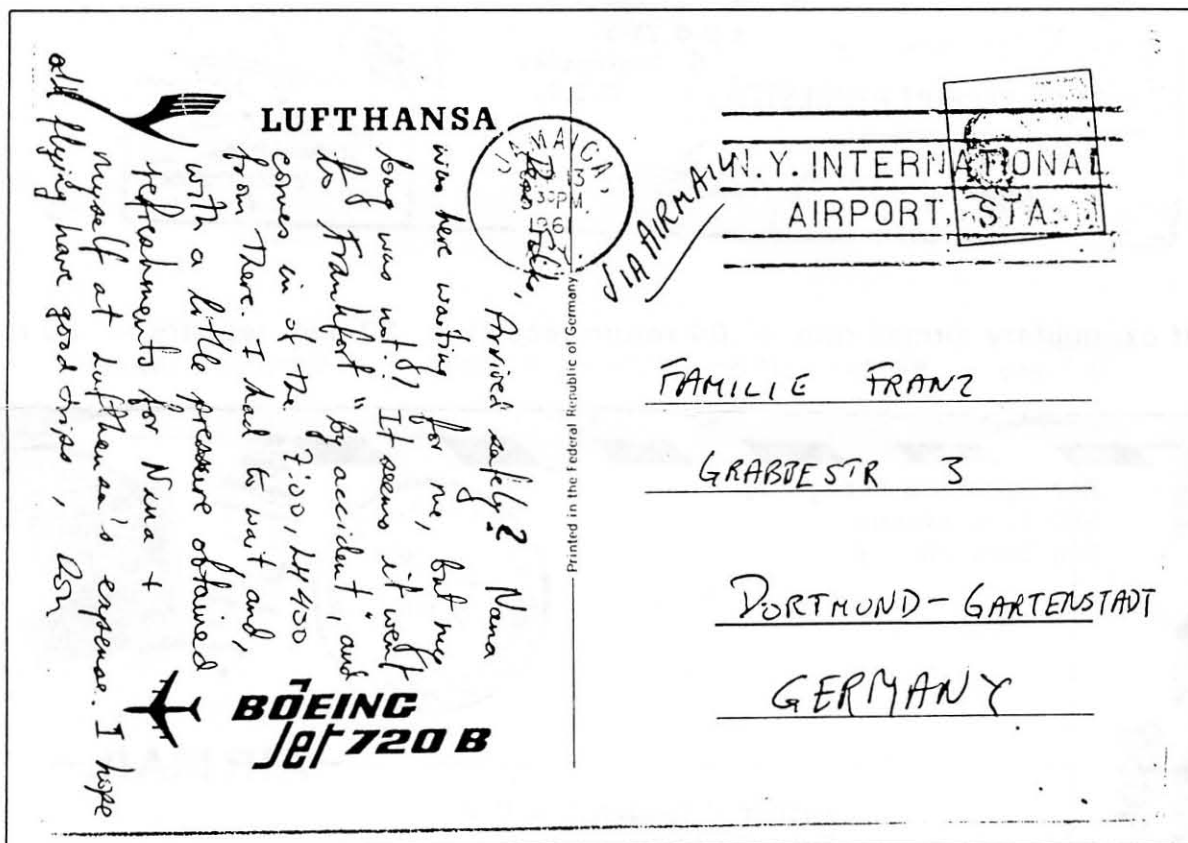


50-cent Solo Examples (continued):

.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

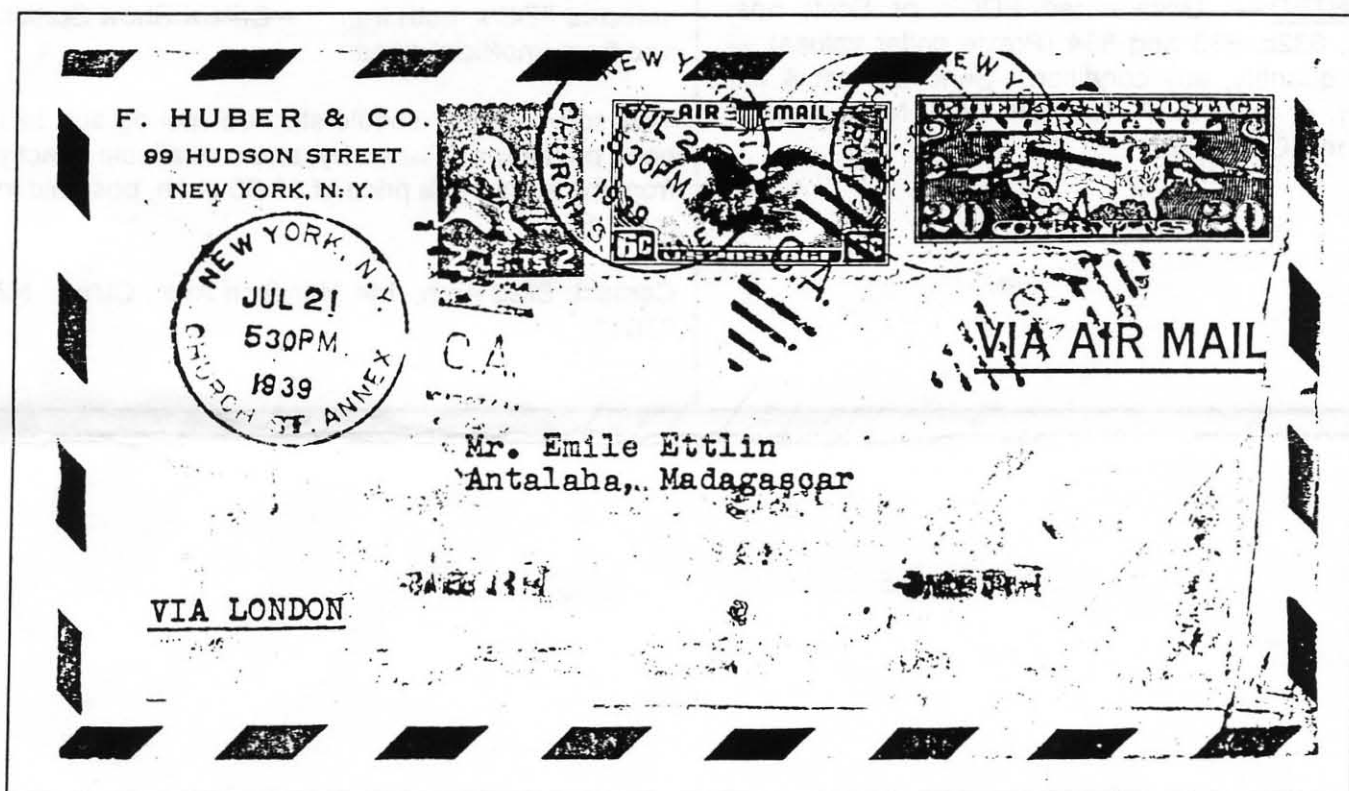
The airport vending machine was apparently still loaded with Prexie coils in 1961 -- this message was sent back to Germany on an airline picture card upon arrival at the New York airport.

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.





# THE PREXIE ERA

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 16  
February, 1998

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

This past year has been a generally good one for Prexie Era collectors. Two more exhibits joined the small, but growing circle of national gold level award winners: Jeff Shapiro's "Collecting Prexie Postal History" at the Philatelic Show in April and Bill DiPaolo's "The Prexie Coils" at NAXEX in June. My own exhibit, "U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates and Usages" picked up its second international large vermeil at Pacific - '97.

During the summer, the late Roland Rustad's Prexie collection went on the auction block at the Robert A. Siegel Auction Gallery in New York. Chicago-based stamp dealer Richard Drews purchased the bulk of Rustad's covers as a single lot and reoffered them to individual collectors via personal contact, stamp shows and through Drews' own auction. *For a report of his Nov. CHICAGOPEX auction see the next page..ed.*

Also during 1997, a December 7, 1941 Prexie cover from Honolulu came on the market through one of Dann Mayo's auctions. The cover bears six 1-cent horizontal coils and was postmarked at 8 AM. The return address is from a sailor aboard the U.S.S. Medusa and was likely mailed while he was on leave the previous day. As far as I know, only one other Pearl Harbor Day cover from Honolulu has surfaced.

Finally, I should mention that the rarest of all Prexies — the unique 1.5-cent tagging essay — is now part of a competitive exhibit which features all the U.S. stamps portraying Martha Washington. This exhibit, by Bill Rader, won a vermeil medal in its debut at MILCOPEX — an impressive start!

*Steve Suffet*

## Issue #16 Contents

Rustad Material Auction	Page 2
Prexie Coil Hole Sizes	Page 3
Prexie Era News	Page 3
"Deep Blue" 30-cent	Page 4
PREXIEPEX VIII (Sept. '97) Report	Page 7
More Interesting Prexie Era Usages	Page 7
Sale/Trade/Wanted	Page 8

## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

As you have probably noticed by now, an overwhelming majority of our members expressed their preference for "The Prexie Era" as the new name of our newsletter. It does seem more inclusive of the many interests of our members.

Even though the snow is still be on the ground in our northern climes, it's not too early to begin thinking and planning our annual PREXIEPEX gathering — to be held this year with the BIA annual meeting at AIRPEX XXIII in Dayton, OH on September 25-27. You can write the Show Committee, % Dayton Stamp Club, P.O. Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401 for further information. I'll also drop them a note to ask if we can have 40-50 frames set aside for our use.

A special thanks to Bill DiPaolo for responding to my request for help on the small holes/large holes Prexie coil controversy. You can read Bill's comments on page 3.

We'll try to conclude our rate series next issue with the dollar values. Any examples before then would be greatly appreciated.

*John Grabowski*

**RICHARD E. DREWS CHICAGOPEX (NOV. 22, 1997) AUCTION OF ROLAND RUSTAD PRESIDENTIAL SERIES POSTAL HISTORY.....**

From the time Rich Drews purchased the Rustad Prexie Postal History lot at Siegel's auction in July, until the time of this auction in November, most of the original 324 covers had been sold to individual collectors. Rich brought the collection to Stampshow in Milwaukee in August, but many sales had already been made by then.

There remained 55 covers which appeared in the Drews CHICAGOPEX auction, including many scarce and unusual usages. I attended the auction, bought three of the covers (at a average hammer cost of \$90 each) and will give you my impression of the sale.

Of the 55 covers, 25 failed to attain opening minimum bids. Floor participation was light, most of the 30 lots which were sold went to mail bidders.

Some of the sale highlights (in order of decreasing hammer prices), with auction catalog descriptions in quotation marks:

Lot #2275 (est. \$2,600-\$3,000) — a \$1.6 million indemnity bank cover franked with 57 \$5 Prexies, et al. "....the ultimate Presidential Series cover and the must-have for competitive exhibition..." Hammer: \$2,200.

Lot #2230 (est. \$350-\$500) — probably the highest price ever paid for a 3-cent Jefferson cover (excl. any 'Pearl Harbor' discoveries) — origin Swan Islands in the Caribbean, Tampa, FL, transit. Hammer: \$575.

Lot #2270 (est. \$150-\$200) — \$2 Harding + 50c Taft + 30c Roosevelt, paying 4X .70 1942 airmail rate to Egypt via the Congo. Hammer: \$170. A similar lot, same franking, paying the last day of the quad 70-cent air mail rate to China brought \$140 (Lot #2273).

Lot #2240 (est. \$100-\$125) — "7c Jackson single tied to 1953 or later movie film address card (same as book rate: 4c for 1st lb., 1c for each add'l lb.)" Hammer: \$160.

Lot #2254 (est. \$150-\$200) — 30c Roosevelt paying July, 1941 airmail rate to Nebraska from Midway Island with "3rd Defense Battalion" postmark. Hammer: \$150.

Lot #2265 (est. \$100-\$125) — "\$1 Wilson + 50c Taft + 5c Monroe, all tied to 4/41 reg. airmail cover to Straits Settlements (2X .70 airmail rate + 10c international registry" All OK, except the international registry rate was 15c as shown by the correct stamp franking. Hammer: \$145.

The remaining lots were in a hammer range of \$75-\$135.

My favorite purchase? Lot #2250 (est. \$125-\$150) — "1943 registered airmail, Hawaii to Canada", 6c serviceman's airmail + 15c int'l registry, franked with a 21c Arthur. Hammer: \$105.

I think Rollie would have been pleased that his many carefully accumulated covers have been well spread around the hobby to foster continued interest in his chosen field.

*John Grabowski*

**SMALL HOLE/LARGE HOLE PREXIE COILS.....**

In response to Dilmond Postlewait's article concerning large hole/small hole Prexie coil precancels:

Collectors of the Presidential coil series have known for some time that there is a definite variation in the perforation holes of these stamps. I had begun to investigate this about five years ago, particularly in light of the Liberty series perforation varieties. Unlike the Liberty series, as Mr. Postlewait points out, there was no change in production equipment for the Presidential series that could explain a "variety."

This variation in holes is not confined to the precancels. In fact, precancels were all run on the same press and from the same plates as the regular coils. After personally reviewing thousands of pairs of all coil denominations, it is apparent that, while there is a definite variation in the size of the holes, there is no real consistency in the size of the holes. Not only are there large holes and small holes, there are medium holes and really large holes and very tiny holes. Because of the lack of consistency of hole sizes and because there was no recorded press change, I concluded, after a review with perforation and rotary press experts, that the hole sizes were minor production varieties that could be caused by the speed of the web (that might vary pressure on the pins) and/or the sharpness of the pins.

Dilmond's work in this area actually lends support to this conclusion. He has dated his examples according to the precancel as being issued from mid-1939 to mid-1944. This was the war years period. During that time, presses were not maintained to perfection and so they could account for production variances. There are many other minor perforation varieties such as missing pins and blind perms which are due to faulty maintenance that can be documented from this war years period.

My conclusion is that while hole sizes may not be a real major variety, it is still fun to search for the extreme examples which exist in all denominations.

A couple of additional comments are worth mentioning with respect to the July, 1997 "Specialist" article:

1. The article states that most Presidential coil precancels were issued in the period from mid-1939 to mid-1944. Most Prexie precancels were actually issued between 1945 and 1951.

2. Dilmond also raises a question about finding information on early precancel uses. When the coils were officially issued in January, 1939, there was still such a large supply of the previous issue coils, that widespread use of the Prexie coils did not occur until 1940. Early 1939 commercial uses of Prexie coils are relatively hard to find.

*Bill DiPaolo*

**PREXIE ERA NEWS.....**

November 17, 1997, "Linn's Stamp News": "When learning the presidents was more fun" by Rob Haeseler — a very funny look at modern education methods, contrasted with older methods augmented by stamp collecting.

December 1, 1997, "Linn's Stamp News": "Outlined digits (Collectors' Forum)" letter by Bill Trump — a concise explanation from Rustad's book of the "ghost" or "hollow" plate numbers seen occasionally — the hollowing effect was due to recessed plate numbers which were partially wiped clean of printing ink.



**(A CALL FOR) E-MAIL ADDRESSES.....**

As you may have already noted, your editor has a new e-mail address:

minnjohn@concentric.net

While my AOL address is still active, the new address above is my preferred address as Concentric's system seems to be much easier and faster to use.

We also need to update the e-mail address listing of our members as I was reminded of last month by Steve Roth. If all our "wired" members would take a moment to send me their current addresses (and collecting Prexie Era interests: postal history, cancellations, by denomination, etc...), I will include such list in our next newsletter.

**THE 30-CENT "DEEP BLUE" ROOSEVELT SUMMARIZED.....**

The "deep blue" variety of the 30-cent Prexy series has been in the news this past year. I had an opportunity to view part of Roland Rustad's collection, which included this stamp, at Rich Drews' Chicago store after he purchased it in last year's Siegel sale of Rustad material. For those members who have never seen the actual shade, all I can say is that the color is a stunning deep blue. There are many examples of "near" deep blue (I have several myself), but the real thing is truly eye-catching.

I believe this part of Rustad's collection was subsequently sold to PSC member John Hotchner, who then wrote a very good overview of this stamp variety and its history in "Linn's Stamp News" on October 20, 1997. If you haven't seen John's article, it is well worth a visit to your nearest philatelic library. John states in his writing on the stamp: "The 30c is different (*from other Prexy denominations-ed.*) only in that the range of color is much wider than most other values, and its extreme of color — the deep blue — has more value than any other variety except the \$5 red-brown (Scott #834a)."

Other good reference sources for the deep blue variety include the chapter on the 30-cent stamp in Rustad's "THE PREXIES" book and the recent article on the variety by George Brett which appeared on pages 29-32 in the recent January, 1998 BIA periodical, "The United States Specialist". George notes that the deep blue shade exists on plate number (paired) printings: 22164-22165, 22833-22834, and 23116-23906. The only plate which has not yet been seen by either the Philatelic Foundation or the American Expertizing Service is plate 23116. George also references the earliest article to appear on the deep blue variety, that by David Lidman and Louis Shelby, "A unique 30c Deep Blue, T. Roosevelt 'Presidential'" which appeared on page 497 in the 1960 series of "The American Philatelist."

The key to understanding how the deep blue shade was produced was obtained by Roland Rustad, shortly before his death, from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The response from the Bureau to Rustad's inquiry is reproduced on the following two pages, as well as in Brett's article. Thanks to Rich Drews for allowing me to photocopy this letter while the Rustad collection was in his possession last summer.

*John Grabowski*





## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20228

FEB 27 1992

REGISTERED RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTEDMr. Roland Rustad  
521 Sawmill Road  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Rustad:

We have completed the examination of the 2 - 30¢ Theodore Roosevelt stamps which you submitted for examination and a report of our findings is as follows:

One of the stamps is reddish and appeared to have the normal ultramarine shade, while the other stamp appeared to have a less common blue shade.

As examined microscopically, the two stamps are printed on different papers, and the ink thickness of the printed image is different. The reddish postage stamp image appears to have been printed on paper which is less porous than that upon which the blue image has been printed. The ink thickness appears to be greater on the stamp which appears bluer. On the bluer appearing postage stamp, there is evidence of considerable feathering, i.e., spreading of ink between printed lines.

Spectrophotometrically, there appears to be a slight difference in the blue pigmentation of the ink for these stamps, since there is a ten nanometer difference in the reflectance maximum in the blue region of the spectrum. The reflectance maxima for the bluish stamp occur at 485 nanometers of the blue region and 750 nanometers in the red region of the spectrum.

As analyzed by X-Ray fluorescence spectrometry, the ink on the two stamps is composed of pigments and extenders of the same inorganic chemical elements.

A review of ink formulations used for making this ink indicates that the colorant is Victoria Blue toner. Titanium dioxide, calcium carbonate, and barium sulfate/barytes were used as extenders. Victoria Blue toner is characterized as having good resistance to fading, has good resistance to dilute acids and bases, is somewhat soluble in alcohol and acetic acid, is insoluble in water, oil, and hot paraffin, and finally, is a difficult pigment to grind.

Mr. Roland Rustad

Page 2

The above formulation for blue ink on the submitted stamp had been used several years for printing the submitted stamps and other articles of security printing. Since the 30¢ Roosevelt Stamps were not printed in one run, we believe that the BEP had received raw materials for making inks which varied in properties. The properties of the blue colorant, Victoria Blue, are very important because the particle size, and the degree of dispersion are factors which influence the perceived color. We also believe that the particle size and degree of dispersion are responsible for the ten nano,eter shift of reflectance for the bluer appearing postage stamp.

Therefore, in our opinion the bluer appearing stamp was not a result of using a substitute material for the blue color but was an example of the effects of a variation in raw materials properties.

A total of eight hours was required to complete this examination. There is an initial two-hour charge of \$10 plus \$10 for each hour thereafter, in addition to a \$3.65 postal fee to return stamps by registered mail. Please remit a payment of \$73.65 to my attention at the address contained on the letterhead. The submitted stamps are herewith returned.

Sincerely,

  
Johnnie A. Moore  
Manager

Congressional and Media Affairs

Enclosure

PREXIEPEX VIII.....

Our annual PSC meeting was held September 6, 1997 at the INDYPEX Show. PSC members in attendance included Jim Adams, Jim Felton, David Goldsmith, John Grabowski, Roger Listwan, Jeff Shapiro, Steve Suffet, Phylliss Vonnegut and David Wessely. Steve showed slides of some of his military applications of the Prexies which was followed by a spirited cover swapping session, as usual.

PSC members exhibiting and their award levels included:

Bill DiPaolo, "The Prexie Coils" — Vermeil & AAPE Medal of Excellence

Jeff Shapiro, "Collecting Prexy Postal History" — Vermeil

David Wessely, "Registered Prexie Postal History" — Vermeil

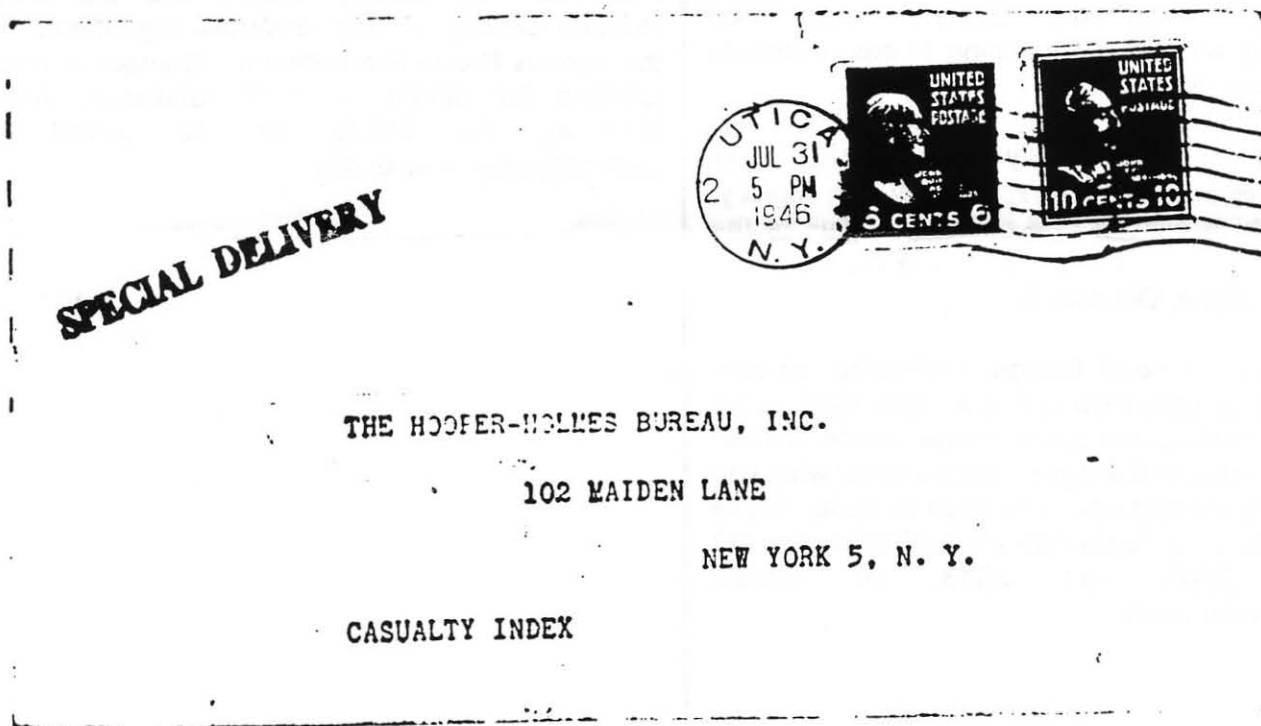
The winner of our annual coveted Roland Rustad Award : Bill DiPaolo

Attaway to go guys!!

MORE INTERESTING PREXIE ERA USAGES.....

A pair of Prexie coils paying the first class special delivery rate:  
.03 postage + .13 special delivery fee (11/1/44-12/31/48)

Prexie coils are infrequently seen on cover in the higher denominations, especially the 10-cent coil



*Gerry Tenney collection*

An uncommon use of a solo 7-cent Prexie:  
Postage - free, registration - free, return receipt service - .07 (1/1/52-6/30/57)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Fwd*

REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. George M. Byers  
437 Eastern Parkway  
Brooklyn, New York

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300  
(PMGC)



*Brx* 784405  
*Charleston Drive*  
*Huntington, N.Y.*

Backstamp: Sept. 16, 1954

David Wessley collection

#### SALE/TRADE/WANTED.....

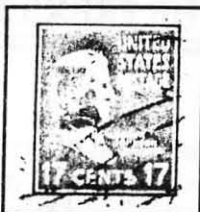
**WANTED** — Your ads. Everyone must need something, and have something to sell or donate — let's hear about it.

**WANTED** — Commercially used (no FDC's or philatelicly inspired covers, please), with registry, covers which contain one or more copies of the 1/2-cent Franklin (Scott #803). Dave Wessely, 125 Elma Dr., Elyria, OH 44035.

**TRADE** — I need foreign destination, civilian, commercially used Prexy covers, 1939-1945. I am willing to trade better grade (some scarce or rare) domestic rates and usages. Let me know what you are looking for and what you have to trade. Steve Roth, 1280 21st Street NW #209, Washington DC 20036; (202) 293 6813, or e-mail: smroth@wizard.net.

**FOR SALE** — The definitive Prexy book, "THE PREXIES", by Roland Rustad and the latest Durland catalog — both essential ingredients for the serious Prexie Era collector. Contact Wallace Cleland for details at 1710 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705 or via e-mail at cleland@enzyme.wisc.edu.





# THE PREXIE ERA

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 17  
September, 1998

John Grabowski, Editor  
P.O. Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536  
E-mail: minnjohn@concentric.net

## 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*

## Issue #17 Contents

PREXIEPEX IX	Page 2
Prexie Era on Display	Page 2
1946 New Airmail Rates	Page 3
Prexie Coil "Finds"	Page 4
Interesting Usages	Page 6
Help Requests; Deep Blue Comments	Page 7
E-mail Addresses; Sale/Trade/Wanted	Page 8

**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 Piskiewicz, 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.

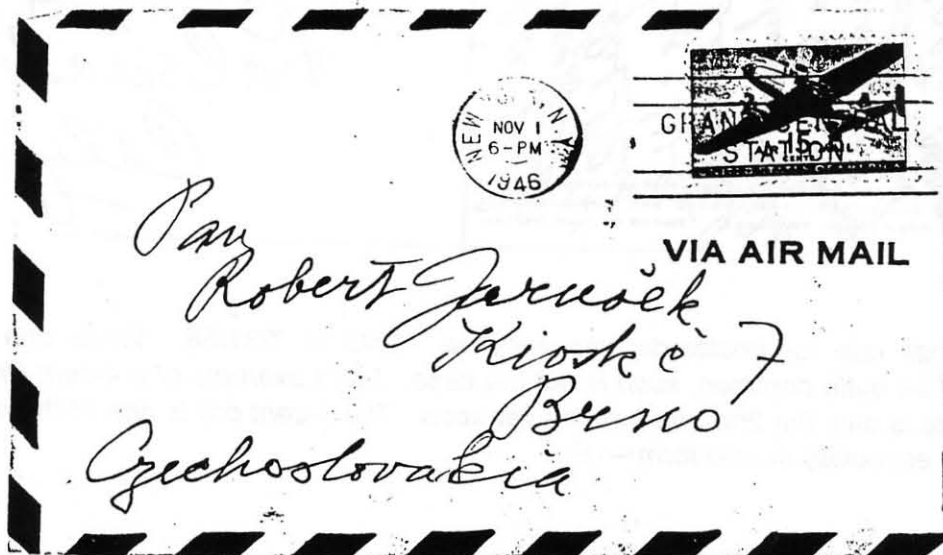
The exceptions included air mail from Guam to the Philippines at 10-cents per half oz; all of Turkey and the Soviet Union (including Asiatic portions) were included in the 15-cent rate; air mail to Canada has been charged the same rate as domestic air mail since July 6, 1932 and this rate policy was 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*



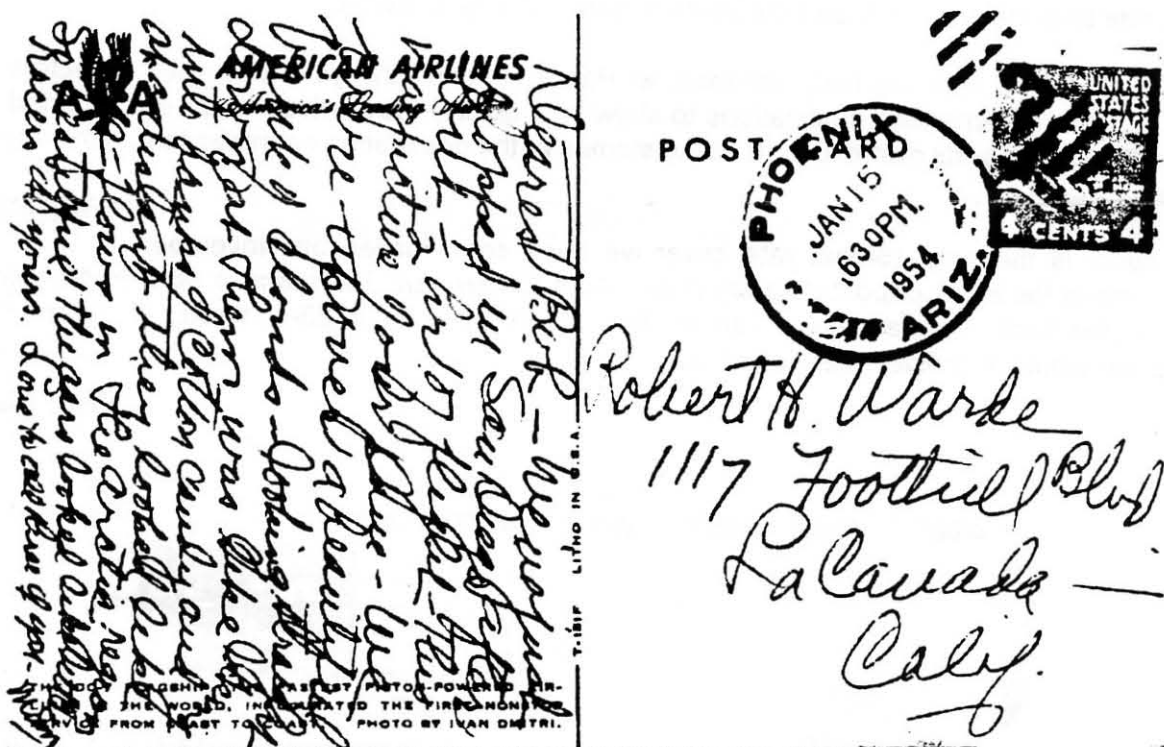
A COUPLE OF SCARCE PREXIE COIL FINDS.....

(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 perfs 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 Piszkievich, June, '98*



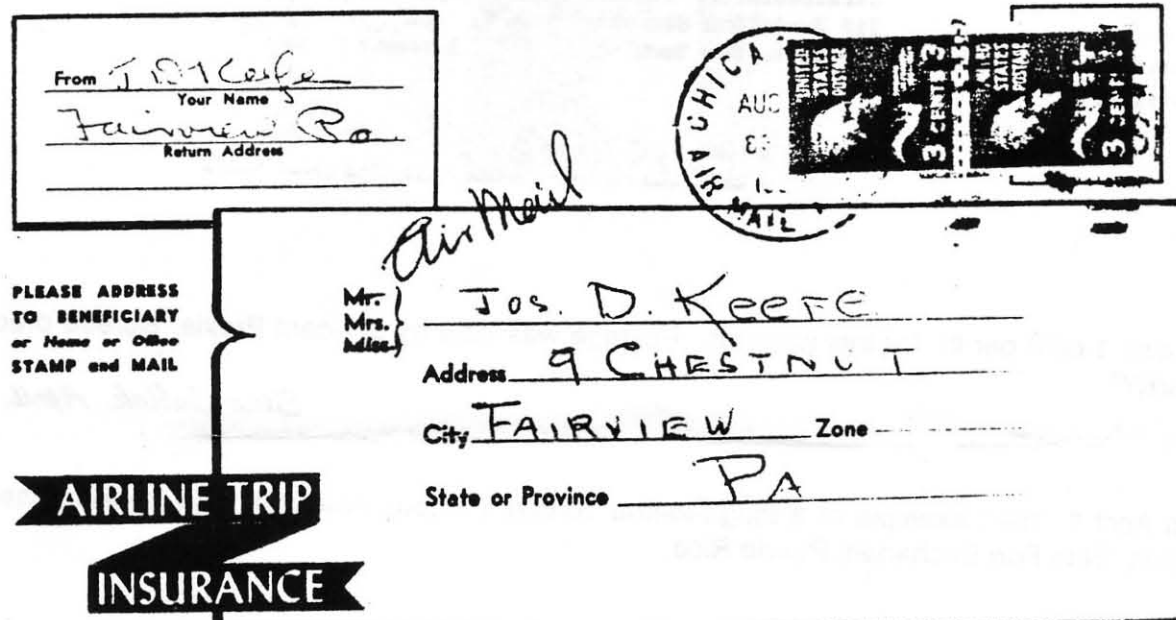
The 4-cent airmail rate for postcards was effective 1/1/49 to 7/31/58. While one would think these examples would be quite common, such is not the case. Len's example of a 4-cent Prexie coil paying the a/m postcard rate is only the 2nd one I have ever seen. The 4-cent coil is one of the more illusive 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. D. J. Henson  
Straubenwieser Textile High School  
315 East 14th Street  
New York, New York



Postage 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. F. Ofeldt  
Old. Sect. P. R. & N.  
Fort Buchanan,  
Puerto Rico

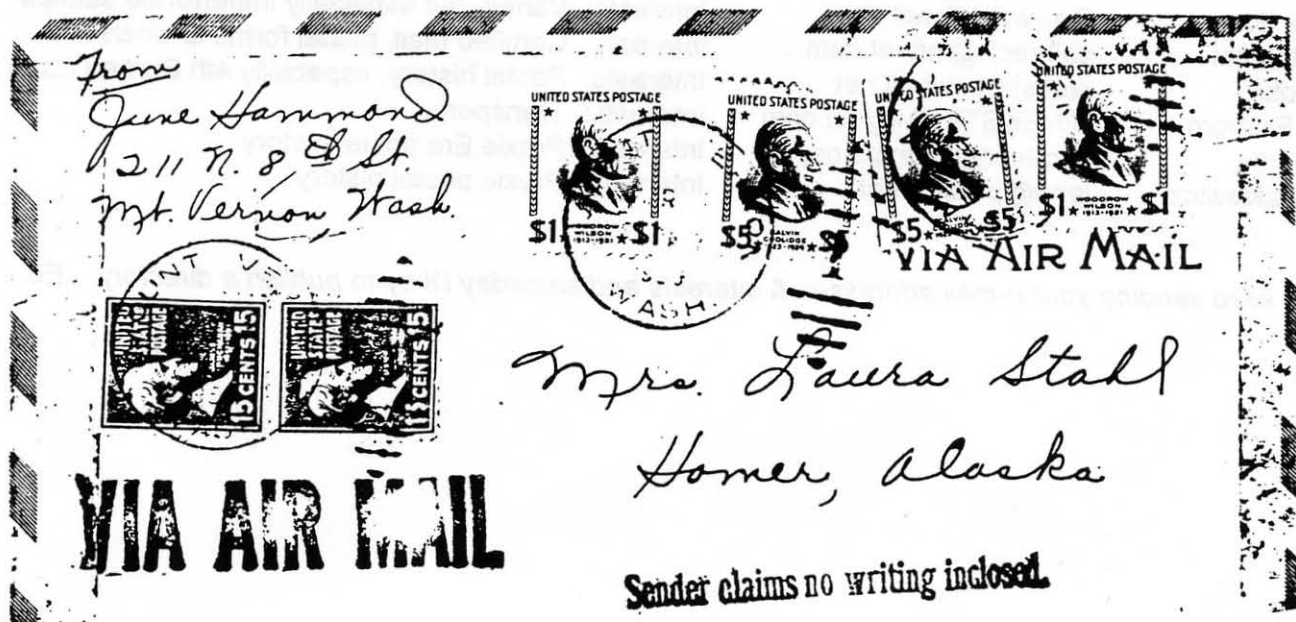


VIA AIR MAIL

*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 selva 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





# THE PREXIE ERA

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 18  
July, 1999

John Grabowski, Editor  
P.O. Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536  
(new) E-mail: minnjohn@alum.mit.edu

## NOTES FROM THE (NEW) CHAIRMAN.....

Prexies are my life! (Not really — I just wanted to express my enthusiasm at being appointed chairperson of the 1938 Presidential Series Committee.) It's quite an honor to try to follow the footsteps of the two previous chairman: Steve Suffet and Roland Rustad.

Indeed, we have quite a Committee. Not only are we about 115 members strong, but at last count at least 12 of us are exhibiting our Prexie material at national shows and regularly winning high awards. This is occurring despite the attitude of some judges who, as recently as five years ago, thought 20th Century material to be a "poor cousin" to the "classic" material from the 19th Century. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful job you've done educating judges and others through your exhibits, written articles and just general enthusiasm!

And thanks to John Grabowski and especially our contributing members, we have a solid newsletter (*and hopefully more frequent — Ed.*), one of the best communication vehicles of any BIA committee.

But enough patting ourselves on the back — ever onward!

A key area we need to focus more on is research and writing. With Prexie collector and (Grand Award) exhibitor Len Piszkiwicz as the new editor of our parent BIA's "The U.S. Specialist", I earnestly encourage you to start writing all those Prexie Era articles you've been thinking about.

I sincerely look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at FLOREX and other events.

*Jeff Shapiro*

## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

Many apologies to all members for the long lapse in putting forth this newsletter, the last issue being in Sept., 1998! It's been a tough year.

First off, I was drawn into 30 hours/week of school bus driving due to a severe local labor shortage. This will not be repeated. Then the investment biz, my main occupation, went wild (the most volatile markets I have seen in over 30 years!) and that continues to consume a lot of time. Also, I spent considerable time reorganizing and successfully simplifying my business. On top of everything else came the explosion in communications and computer technology which forced my return to school to update those skills!

Hopefully my affairs will be less hectic in coming years and, among other things, I can get the Prexie Era newsletter back on a more regular schedule of 3 to 4 issues per year. This will be an abbreviated issue just to let you know I'm still alive, followed by a normal issue next month.

*John Grabowski*

## PREXIEPEX X: FLOREX, NOV. 5-7.....

Our annual meeting will take place at FLOREX in Orlando this fall. We will have a seminar, followed by a cover swap probably Friday afternoon — more details in the next newsletter. Exhibit info is available from J. Pullin, 2837 Wright Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789-6161.

### Issue #18 Contents

Prexie Era on Display	Page 2
Swan Is. Use; Precancels—Steve Suffet	Page 3
Prexie Era News in "The Specialist"	Page 4

### **THE PREXIE ERA ON DISPLAY.....**

There's quite a bit of exhibit reporting to catch up on this time. Please remember to send the Editor a note or short e-mail if you know of any Prexie Era exhibits (he is not as clairvoyant as he used to be!)

#### **BIA Annual Convention at AIRPEX XXIII, Dayton, OH (September 25-27, 1998):**

"U.S. Presidential Series Postal History: Rates & Usages, 1938-1960", Steve Suffet, Gold + Rollie Rustad Award + Postal History Society Award

"Collecting Prexie Postal History", Jeffrey Shapiro, Vermeil

"The Philatelic Legacy of Martha Washington — the First, First Lady", William Rader, Vermeil

"Postal Uses of the Prexie Coil Stamps", John Grabowski, Silver

#### **THAMESPEX at New London, CT (October, 1998):**

"Collecting Prexie Postal History", Jeffrey Shapiro, Grand Award

#### **METROPEX at St. Paul, MN (October, 1998):**

"Postal Uses of the Prexie Coil Stamps", John Grabowski, Grand Award

#### **FLOREX at Orlando, FL (October, 1998):**

"Collecting Prexie Postal History", Jeffrey Shapiro, Gold

#### **BIA Annual Convention at ROMPEX 99, Denver, CO (May 14-16, 1999):**

"The Prexie Coils", William DiPaolo, Gold + BIA Walter W. Hopkinson Award

"Usages of the Presidential Issue of 1938", Leonard Piskiewicz, Gold + APS Medal of Excellence, 1940-80

"Usages of the 3-cent Thomas Jefferson Presidential Series", Millard H. Mack, Silver-Bronze

***Great effort everyone, keep up the good work!***

#### **CHECK OUT THIS WEB SITE.....**

Anyone found a particularly good website for Prexie Era material or knowledge? How 'bout sharing it with the rest of us — just send an e-mail to the Editor at:

minnjohn@alum.mit.edu

**A COUPLE OF QUICK NOTES FROM STEVE SUFFET.....**

#1 The Precancel Stamp Society (PSS) reports that there are 2,835 different Bureau of Engraving and Printing precancels (sometimes affectionately called "Buro's"). A few of them, such as the 1.5c coils precanceled "MACON GA." and "WACO TEXAS" (with the state name spelled out), are more rare than the inverted Jenny! But most Prexie Buros are pretty plentiful. Nevertheless, it takes an awful lot of patience to assemble a complete set.

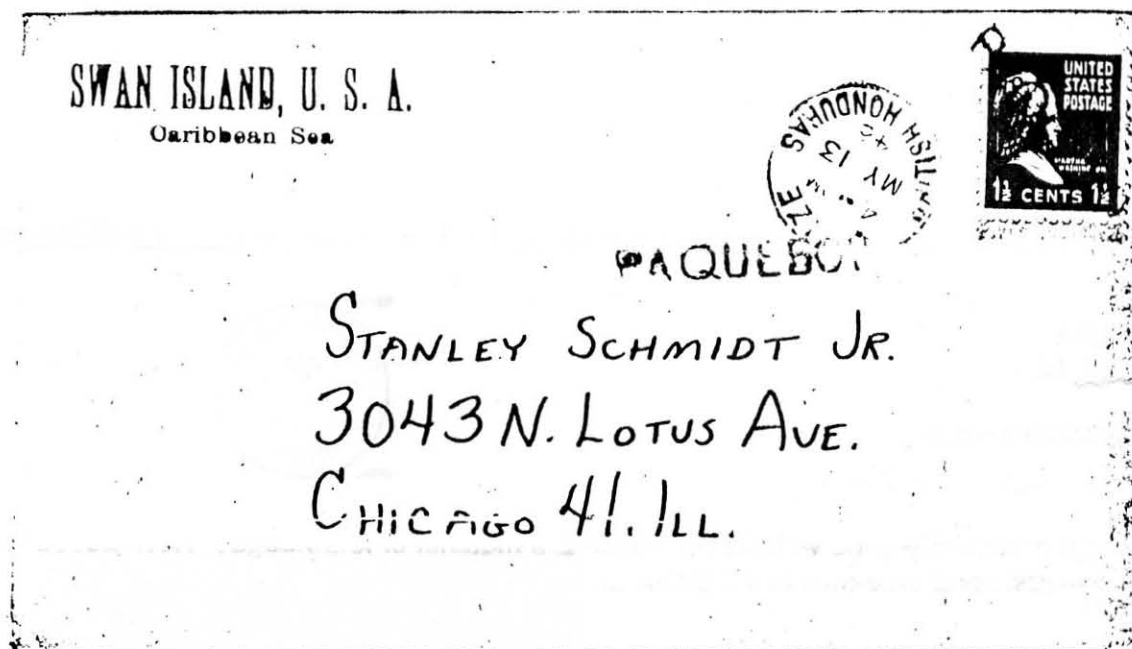
As of October 1998, nine PSS members reported owning all 2,835 Prexie Buros. Another twelve reported owning all but one or two.

So how many do you have in your collection? Do you have any of the really scarce ones? Could you send us pictures to run in this newsletter?

Are there any members who collect Prexie Buros used on cover? We would love to hear from you also!

**#2 Prexie Usage From Swan Island:**

Swan Island, which is actually a pair of small islands in the Caribbean northeast of Honduras, was a U.S. possession from 1863 to 1971. It was ceded to Honduras in 1971. Swan Island had no post office, although it was the site of U.S. weather, navigation and communications stations. Outgoing mail would be picked up by any passing ship and deposited at the next port-of-call. U.S. postage was required, and if the port-of-call were other than a U.S. port, such mail would be handled as paquebot mail. The 1946 third class cover pictured below (domestic rates applied) was dispatched from Swan Is., through Belize, British Honduras and on to the U.S. The "SWAN ISLAND, U.S.A." corner cachet was more than decorative — it served to indicate that the U.S. postage was proper at the port-of-call — otherwise the cover may have been treated as unpaid, especially if it were carried by a non-U.S. ship.



The late Roland Rustad's collection contained a similar first-class cover. It was sold at Rich Drew's Chicagopex '97 auction for \$575 + the buyer's premium. That sale made me feel quite a bit better about paying \$60 for my third-class example (which I thought was a high price at the time) early in 1997!

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

"U.S. Special Treaty Letter Rates, 1908-1953", Anthony Wawrukiewicz, December, 1998

"Uncommon Use of Solo 25c Prexie: 1948 Emergency Service to Palestine",  
Jeffrey Shapiro, June, 1999

"Presidential Issue Usages — 1/2 cent", Leonard Piskiewicz, July, 1999

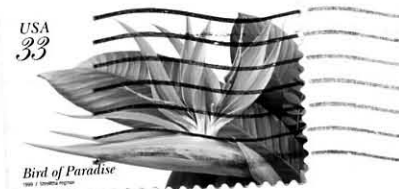
**THE U.S. SPECIALIST IS SEEKING PSC MEMBER VOLUNTEERS.....**

Len Piskiewicz, newly appointed editor of "The U.S. Specialist", is seeking our help to create a series of articles identifying and illustrating the solo uses of Prexies. The first article, written by Len, appeared in the July issue (see above note). Volunteers have been positioned for the first few stamps (through the 4.5c value), but that still leaves the need for an additional 25 volunteers, give or take a few. Now is your chance to help our PSC, help Len and help our parent organization, the BIA. What's needed are a few solo frankings examples for each stamp and a brief discussion of the rates (already compiled in our past newsletters), plus any additional that you may care to add. Len will be only too happy to provide advice and encouragement. You may contact him at 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, or more directly at (408) 241-4626 or his e-mail: lenp@pacbell.net.

*Please help!!*

THE PREXIE ERA  
J. GRABOWSKI, Ed.

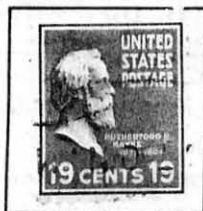
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# THE PREXIE ERA

*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Committee*



Issue 19  
November, 1999

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

The summer and fall have been hot, and so has collector interest in Prexie Era material. Like many others, I have fallen prey to on-line auctions, like eBay, where there is always something going on (see the article on p. 3 - Ed.) It seems that the days of \$2 Prexie cover finds are over, only rarely can a gem be found hiding in a dealer's junk box. The good news is that Prexie collecting is getting too darn popular. The bad news is that I am having trouble finding stuff!

I'd like to remind all PSC members of an exciting opportunity: Len Piskiewicz, one of our members and the editor of the BIA's "Specialist" is seeking volunteers to write a short article on the usages of each Prexie value. Len will gladly help guide novices through the writing process — you can contact him at "lenp@pacbell.net". This is a great opportunity to begin your career as a philatelic journalist. It'll never be easier! Let's have a good response from our members!

We had a good and spirited time at our annual Prexiepex meeting at Florex earlier this month. It was good to see some of the older members and a couple of new ones also joined. Several viewers commented favorably on John's Famous Americans exhibit and my Prexie display, so we continue to evangelize.

Next year's annual Prexiepex will again be held in conjunction with the BIA annual meeting. Mark your calendars for NAPEX next June.

*Jeff Shapiro*

## EDITORIAL CHATTER.....

This is another abbreviated (4-page) issue to get back to our goal of a newsletter every 3 or 4 months. Perhaps next time I can get out an 8-page edition. Remember also that comments, suggestions and articles (especially about Prexie Era stamps) are always welcome.

Speaking of Prexie stamps, a good friend of mine (and former Siegel auction describer) recently lent me a 2c Prexie with a distinct, but unrecognizable watermark on it! Has anyone ever heard of a similar item? I'll bring this one to Chicagopex if you would like to look at it.



w/m

*John Grabowski*

## PSC REGIONAL MEETING AT CHICAGOPEX, NOV. 20, AT THE ROSEMONT CONV. CTR.....

***PSC member Bob Schlesinger has made arrangements for a Prexie meeting and swapfest during Chicagopex at 10:00 AM on Saturday, Nov. 20. Try to make it — it should be fun!!***

### Issue #19 Contents

Prexie Era on Display & "Prexies" EKU?	Page 2
The eBay Phenomenon	Page 3
eBay Prices; Letters & Follow-ups	Page 4

**THE PREXIE ERA ON DISPLAY.....****WESTPEX at San Francisco (April 16-18, 1999):**

"U.S. Prexies, A Study of Rates", Bob Schlesinger, Silver.

**Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (Oct. 1-3, 1999):**

"Collecting Prexie Postal History", Jeffrey Shapiro, Gold

**FLOREX (PREXIEPEX X) at Orlando (Nov. 5-7):**

"Famous Americans at Work", John Grabowski, Vermeil

"Collecting Prexie Postal History", Jeffrey Shapiro, Gold

***Great effort everyone, keep up the good work!***

**"PREXIES" — EKU??.....**

Has anyone ever wondered about the origin of our basic name, "Prexies"?

Some hand scribbles on the backflap of a Famous Americans cover may shed some light on this area:

*T. Wolcott  
U.S.S. Mayrant  
Boston, Mass*



*Lyle Ramsay  
101 N. Division St.  
Northfield  
Minn.*

*Sent 100 diff. Precs & Prexies  
April 19, 1940  
owed him 34  
Precs.*

The scribble reads: "Sent 100 diff. Precs (*precancels* — Ed.) & Prexies/April 19, 1940/owed him 34 Precs." Underline emphasis added. Does anyone have an earlier reference to "Prexies"?

**THE eBay PHENOMENON by John Grabowski**

"Technology can help us get where we want to go" — from a 5th grader essay on leadership, posted in the local Wal-Mart store. An outstanding example of technology helping our philatelic endeavors is the development of the Internet and the eBay auction site in particular. This auction site, which probably accounts for at least 95% of all philatelic material being auctioned, promises to have a profound impact on how we buy and sell philatelic material, and indeed, even who participates in the hobby.

PSC member and dealer, Chuck McFarland, suggested this summer that I take a look at the Prexie covers being bought and sold on eBay. I did, and was simply amazed at the breadth and depth of material being auctioned! In the U.S. cover section, there are about 4,000 to 5,000 new lots listed each week with Prexie covers constituting over 100 items of this number. It's a hot area, normally well more than 50% of the covers find buyers — some at prices over \$100 or even \$200 (one even went for \$315!)

I encourage all Prexie cover lovers to visit this auction site (start at ebay.com and click your way through). Several PSC members are already participating as buyers and sellers, including such luminaries as your editor, the current and past chairmen, BIA editor Len Piskiewicz, Gerry Tenney, George Wagner, Bob Schlesinger, Ron Strawser, David Wessely, Joe Bock, Ray Newburn and Jeff Widener, to mention just a few. Most prices are modest, in the \$2 to \$20 range.

My initial impression is that eBay is causing a rise in Prexie cover prices, especially for the more uncommon items. The auction also provides a public record of price levels and trends. This is an area we may be able to monitor and report on in this newsletter (see the following section).

The eBay auction is easy to use, especially for buyers, which requires only a simple registration process. eBay functions as a facilitator, enabling buyers and sellers to come together and complete the transaction through the postal system. The selling process is a bit more complicated as eBay does not store picture scans of auction lots — they must be stored at a third party site where they can be accessed when a potential bidder wishes to view the lot. Lots which do not contain scanned images do not sell well, if at all. There are several options for image storage: one's ISP, Photopoint.com, or AuctionWatch.com, to name a few. Members with further questions in this area may e-mail the editor. Selling fees are relatively modest, usually just a 25c listing fee and 5% commission, if the lot sells — see the eBay site for more details.

As I mentioned earlier, the auction of each lot is a private transaction between bidder and seller. Neither eBay, nor anyone else (unless, of course, an expertization certificate is referenced) guarantees the authenticity of a lot. Usually, this is not a problem with Prexie covers, as I have seen very few alterations or fraudulent creations in this area. The biggest problem is buying covers with incorrect rate frankings as this can significantly reduce the cover's value — caveat emptor!

The eBay phenomenon is kind of a "people's auction" — good material is available and the free market process will sort out price levels over a period of time. It will likely have a detrimental effect on existing auction houses and stamp bourses. It also promises to enlarge the collecting community by removing geographic barriers and making material available at modest prices. The PSC stands to benefit by gaining new members and forming new friendships. Some comments from other PSC members using eBay:

"About one month ago I discovered the ease of using eBay.com and have been amazed at the really good things I have looked at. Of course, I will not be seeing anything physically for another year as all my purchases are being shipped to Elyria.....", David Wessely (*David is teaching in Egypt for two years — Ed.*)

"As long as I can sell my more common duplicate material for big bucks and buy some of the rarer items I really need at modest prices, I'm a really big fan of eBay!", Jeff Shapiro

**A very small sample of recent eBay price realizations:**

24 7c Prexies, plus others, to pay a \$1.75 excess indemnity registered cover in 1955 sold for \$315 in July and the same cover again for \$315 to a different buyer in October (*this is the highest eBay Prexie cover I have seen - Ed.*)

3c Prexie postcard rate to Burma (1951), third 1c Prexie added after being returned postage due, \$77 (Sept.)

4.5c Prexie coil solo paying the third class + minimum insurance rate, \$122 (Sept.)

4.5c Prexie coil solo underpaying the double weight rate (1941), 1c & 1/2c dues added, \$124.50 (Sept.)

3c Prexie into Santa Fe (Manhattan Project), Army censorship, \$107.50 (Sept.)

A strip of 5 1c vertical coils paying the 5c domestic airmail rate (1947), \$87 (Sept.)

48c airmail + registry rate to French Morocco (1941), French censorship, \$127.76 (Nov.)

A registered domestic *postcard* with 40c in Prexies paying the registry rate (1956), \$137.50 (Nov.)

**Letters & Follow-ups:****Prexie Usage From Swan Island:**

Ed Ryan has a letter to England (8c double surface rate!) from a fellow who handled the mail on Swan Island and talks about the island's mail service: "Also, we do not have a harbor and those boats which come here are anchored off shore a short distance. The local natives row out to the boats to pick up the supplies and mail. Less than a year ago, a boat came a little too close to shore and was grounded and dashed; some damage was done to it." No "tin cans" were mentioned in the letter, but the delivery technique appears similar. He mentions that the mail in 1954 was routed through Tampa, but the letter I have is postmarked Elizabeth City, NC. I suspect he routed it through his wife in NC where she may have checked the weight and/or applied postage. There is no corner card on my cover, although there is a circular received stamp with the date and Swan Is. On the back is a rubber handstamp of the latitude and longitude of the island (17 24'N 83 56'W). There is also a return address of the sender and "via Tampa, Florida". Found the following on the www — even though it's a hurricane page, there's quite a bit of background information on Swan Is. and interesting links:

"<http://www.weatherwatchers.org/tropical/1998/13/swan.html>" — Thanks, Ed!

**Prexie Plate Number Printing History:**

Wallace Cleland writes: "As you know, I have issued Research Papers that give the printing history of the early plates up through the Fourth Bureau issue. I have considerable information on the printing periods of the Prexie 400 subject plates, and I have thought about issuing a Research Paper on these. The 4c to \$5.00 values are in good shape. The plate pairings are all worked out, and many of the individual printing periods are written down. Where a pair of plates were at press together, 20 times, or so, I just copied the first time to press and the last dropped, as well as the number of times to press. The individual data are in the records, but writing them down is a chore. It can be done, of course, if anyone has a specific need for the dates. The records are in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. How many members might be interested in the 4c to \$5.00 data? If there is sufficient interest, I will put out a Research Paper. The 1c, 2c and 3c would also require further work if there is sufficient interest. (PSC members: please contact the Editor with your thoughts on Wallace's work)