



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Editor: Stan Raugh, 4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805
Tele: 610-921-5822

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**A MEGA ISSUE ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM OUR OWN MEMBERS**

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Philately is a Mirrored Reflection of History **By Stan Raugh**

As long as there has been mail, whatever is happening will be recorded philatelically. And diseases are an example. All this talk of quarantines, social distancing and sanitizing bring to mind an area of collecting known as "Disinfected Mail." In fact, there is a study group known at the "Disinfected Mail Society," apparently organized in Great Britain, but also available to U. S. members. Dues are \$45 in U. S. Dollars.

Over more than a century, many books and articles have been written about this subject. Obviously, the club targets covers and post cards that have been disinfected for safety reasons. Usually these covers will bear postal markings to the effect that the item has been treated. Sometimes small holes or slits are cut into envelopes to administer disinfectants.

I've seen a few of these for sale at stamp shows and they can be searched very easily on the internet. The prices I have seen are often in the \$75 to \$125 area. What philatelic collectables will survive from Covid 19?

EDITOR NOTE: When the Club visited the National Postal Museum in 2013 we got to see the Restoration Department and were shown a "treated" letter that had contained Anthrax sent to a member of the Senate after 2001!!

The 1973 *Progress in Electronics* Issue, Scott 1500-2 and C86, was printed on the Giori press of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in combinations of engraved and lithographed colors. The various colors were printed at different stations on the press which allowed examples of color omitted and color shifts to occur.

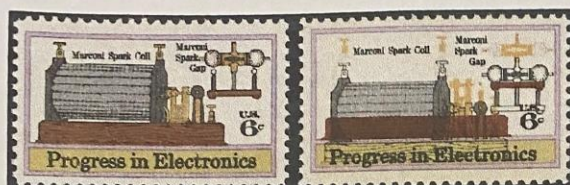


Figure 1.

An example of the 6¢ stamp showing the lithographed gray shifted down is shown on the right in Figure 1, the left stamp is a normal copy for comparison.



Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows an example of the 8¢ stamp with the tan and lilac lithographed colors omitted (bottom) and a normal stamp (top).



Figure 3.

An example of the 8¢ stamp with the tan and lilac colors shifted down is shown in Figure 3. Shifts of the engraved black also exist and two are shown in Figure 4. The right stamp has the black shifted down and on the left stamp the black is shifted so far right that the denomination appears on the wrong side of the stamp.



Figure 4.

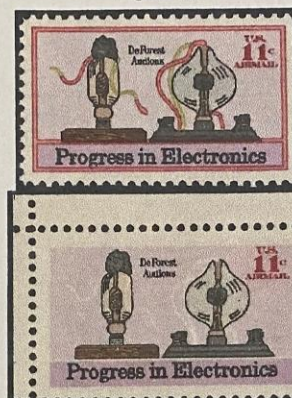


Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

The 11¢ airmail stamp is shown in Figure 5 with the variety Scott C86a, vermilion and olive lithographed colors omitted, on the right and a normal example on the left. Two different shifts of the black and red engraved colors are shown in Figure 6. On the left stamp the lower legend is half-way outside the border and on the right stamp the legend is shifted so far down it disappears and the legend from the next stamp above appears at the top. Two shifts of the gray (litho), one down and one up, are shown in Figure 7.

Examples of the 15¢ stamp with shifts of either the engraved or lithographed colors are shown in Figure 8. The top stamp is a normal copy, the bottom left stamp has the lithographed gray and yellow (but not the brown) shifted down



Figure 8.

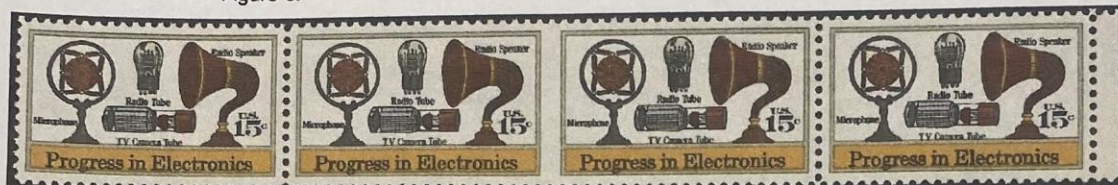


Figure 9.

Questions/Answers



and the right stamp has the engraved black shifted completely below the panel where it should be. There are no perforation omitted errors on any of the four stamps in this issue, so while the strip of stamps in Figure 9 looks impressive, it is not an imperforate-between pair as there are blind perforation pin impressions between the two middle stamps.

I don't claim this is an exhaustive listing of EFOs for this issue. The Scott error catalog lists a black (engraved) omitted error on both the 8¢ and the 15¢ and there are probably other color shifts and perforation shifts out there to be found. *

Joe Picard wrote: I think I've identified a consistent plate flaw on the American Bald Eagle stamp (Scott 1387). On plate 31729 UL, the stamp in position 9 has a large blob in the left hand portion of the sky which looks like a pink cloud. I noticed it on two sheets from this plate/position but no others. How do I go about finding out if this is previously known/reported? Thanks for any guidance you can provide me.

Joe Picard
APS Life Member 7709

John Hotchner replied: Without seeing this it is hard to comment, but from the description, it sounds like some sort of foreign matter lodged on the plate and "printed" a foreign image until it sloughed off. I would need to see the blocks to comment further. There is no reported consistent plate flaw reported. Best, John

Joe Picard replied: John, Thanks for confirming that there isn't a reported, consistent plate flaw for this issue. Your suggestion of some foreign matter makes sense. Perhaps I need to see if I can find any of the same plate # and position that don't have the flaw. In any case, here is a picture of the two sheets I have. You can see the 'cloud' in the lower eagle which is position 9 on this pane.



A Nostalgic Trip with Holly L. Springer



The Collection Begins

I was introduced to the collection of Christmas postcards when Jim Savage had invited me to go with him to the York Stamp Show. At that show, I was introduced to Bob and Barbara Brown, dealers and members of the Reading Stamp Club, of which I had not yet become a member. On consignment Bob was selling a binder of Christmas post cards, dating from early 1900. Each one contained writing on the reverse side, the stamp, cancellation and sometimes, also a Christmas seal. How fascinating these were. I told Bob that I wanted to buy the set, and he asked me, "Which one". I told him the entire collection! What a fascinating purchase it was. I really did not explore it in its entirety until I got home that day. I sat and read each card which for the brief time it takes to read the message has you reliving a moment of the past. So many messages are just brief Christmas Greetings while others also tell you an interesting tidbit about what is happening in the life of their friend.

What I found rather amazing that at one time, the addressee address could contain only the name, city and state and somehow the postcard would arrive! I loved finding a card also having a Christmas seal as that was an added treasure.



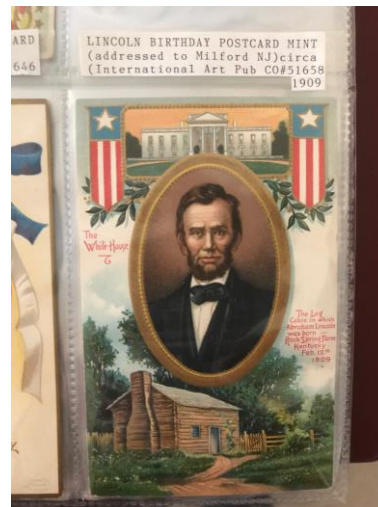
Although my main collection has been of Christmas post cards, I also have collected ones from other Holidays. I found that Halloween postcards were not common in the early 1900's whereas later in the 1900's you could readily find them.

When Jim and I had gone to the stamp show near Baltimore, MD, I would explore various vendors

seeking postcards to add to my collection.

It was there I did find a Halloween postcard from a dealer whom had come from Seattle, WA. I also found two postcards which are among the favorites of my collection.

One is commemorating George Washington's birthday and the other commemorating that of Abe Lincoln. Prior to President's Day, there was a separate Holiday for each President and hence I believe these existed because of that.



So what began with the anticipation of visiting a stamp show became the start of a fascination into the past by being able to live, just briefly, in the life of the writer of a postcard sent to a friend.

The 65 year journey of one club member.....By David Silcox

I first started collecting stamps at the age of eight in 1954, upon the urging of an older cousin. That also led to coin collecting. My initial collecting as a young person involved collecting U.S. singles and plate blocks with the addition of U.N. stamps by the late 1950s using White Ace pages. My visit to the local stamp shop was the highlight of my week, saving my nickels and dimes for purchasing additions to my collection. Over the next 20 plus years I spent many hours in that shop listening to the aged dealer talk about his local memories as an old time Anthracite mining engineer dating back to the turn of that century.

Attendance at stamp shows in those days for me was limited to just the annual local club show. My first visit to the United Nations post office in NYC during December of 1963 was like a dream come true for a small town kid. Being able to take a very early morning bus to attend the 1966 International SIPEX show at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. was the thrill of my life until that time. For the longest time, I cherished a sealed brick of the SIPEX show five cent souvenir sheets bought for the face value sum of \$20 following the first day ceremony with PMG Larry O'Brien officiating.

Always being a great history buff led me into collecting stampless covers and other postal history from one local Pa. County, and eventually expanding into two. My initial goal in the stampless cover area was to obtain examples of rates used during the stampless period. That quickly transitioned into

collecting stampless letters containing important historical content relating to the development of the local canals, railroads, and the anthracite coal industry. I should also mention other stampless topics such as local postal routes, local military, free franks, and ones containing political content.



After 50 years local postal history is still my area of primary interest. In my opinion, holding a stampless letter, often written by or to the captains of early industry, is the next best thing to actually being there during the early formative years of our country. The same applies to many of the Civil War letters with envelope that I have collected over the years. One specialty that I later transitioned into is the collection of letters relating to the Copperheads that existed in this area of Pa. during the Civil War period. No, I'm not talking about snakes but the southern sympathizers during the Civil War. As in any area of general topical collecting, there are so many wonderful specialty areas that one can transition into along the way.

Having a son who only displayed an interest in collecting space covers and astronaut/cosmonaut autographs, and with my own changing interests,

led me to part with my once cherished U.S. and U.N. mint collections on the early 1990s although I still have a very nice early U.S. Revenue collection both on and off cover. Another area of interest that developed in the 1970s has been collecting correspondence from WW I with some WW II as well from both Allied and Axis....again, both for cancellations and content, representing items that were actually there, across the big ocean and in the hands of our doughboys, during such historic periods of our history.

Needless to say, these areas have given me many hours of relaxation and satisfaction as I have followed the hunt and then performed the research associated with such items. Also, and most important, is being able to create friendships developed over the years both locally and throughout the world that I will always cherish. Over the years our vacations, both in this country and internationally, have often been scheduled around stamp shows and visits to stamp shops. In fact, had it not been for this pandemic, I would have been attending the London stamp show on May 2nd. So, for me, stamp collecting has become an integral way of life. During this pandemic I would be rather lost without this wonderful hobby in spite of not being able to attend shows and some of our club meetings, taking in the informative presentations. However, with the advent of Zoom those Reading club members who belong to our Lancaster club can now attend and participate in those meetings during this pandemic.

MY GREAT BRITAIN GEORGE VI COLLECTION

BY JIM SAVAGE

One of my collections is of Great Britain covers from December 11, 1936 to February 6, 1952, the period of the reign of King George VI. This article is my attempt to explain why I collect stamps and stampless covers from Great Britain and Offices Abroad from this era.

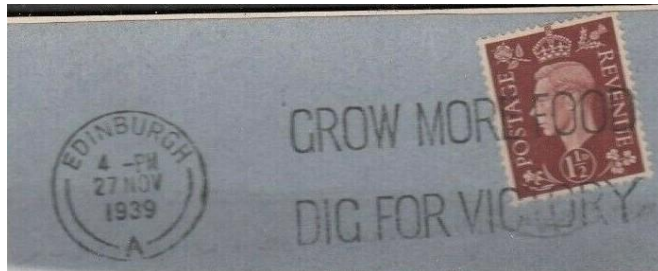
My original idea was to start a simple sideline rate collection of the colorful definitive stamps of Britain's King George VI on cover. In checking my old Stanley Gibbons catalogue for listings and prices, a complete collection seemed rather attainable and very friendly to my wallet. I discovered there are no airmail stamps and only a few commemorative issues from this period, but plenty of definitive issues of all the pound sterling denominations.

So beginning about sixteen years ago, I began seeking out and buying U.K. KGVI covers, showing postal rates of ½ pence to one pound, from dealers at local shows, such as Bob Brown, Al Shaub and others. Although I had read articles on postal history and added Collect British Postmarks, Seventh Addition to my library, I had no real interest in expanding my rudimentary cover collection.

Well, then I had the opportunity to attend World Philatelic Exhibition, Washington 2006. One of the many dealers there, the late Michael Mead of Britannia Enterprises, from Massachusetts, had lots of classic to modern covers featuring interesting markings; they came with interesting prices as well. I don't remember having

purchased any items from his stock then; but I do remember his mentioning that he had bought the complete postal history collection of Chris Miller, a British specialist in GB civil censored covers from WWII, and that he would have it for perusal at a future NYC show.

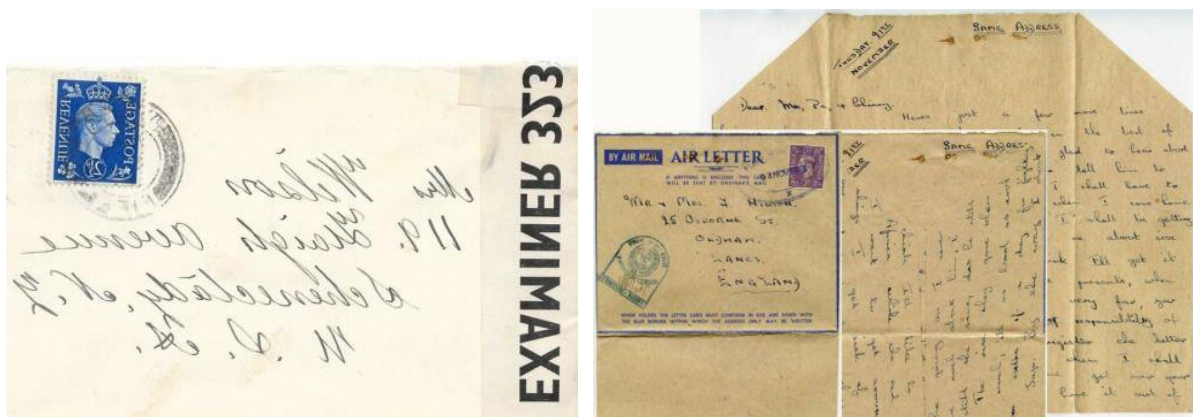
Some of the stamped rate covers in my budding collection, relating to WWII, featured slogan cancels such as “SAVE WASTE/ PAPER METALS/ BONES RAGS” and “GROW MORE FOOD/ DIG FOR VICTORY”, while others had economy address labels affixed to original envelopes.



But I had no censored covers at all; so now my interest was piqued.

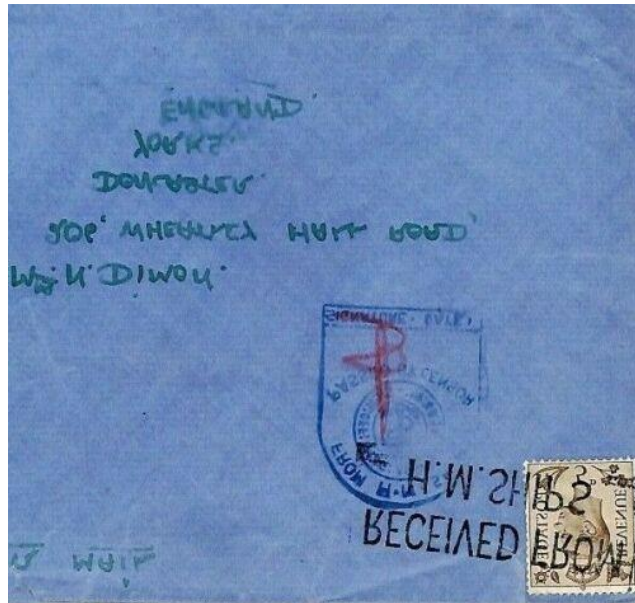
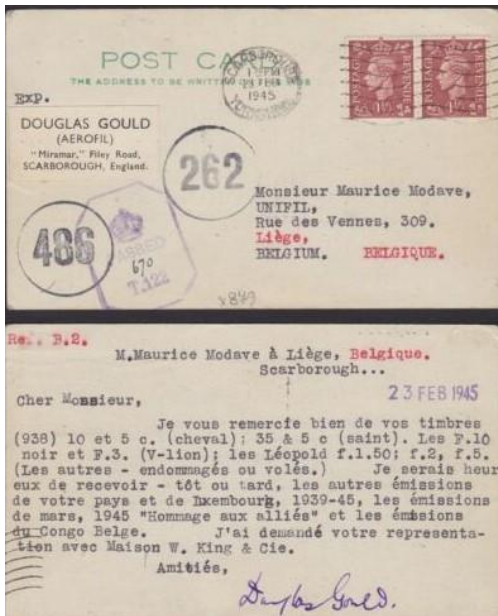
The bus trip to NYC, sponsored by RSCC, was awesome. I had come to buy and spent nearly all afternoon at Michael Mead's booth examining the Miller collection. Not only did I come home with surface and airmail covers with (to me) unusual markings, but also a newly discovered area of investigation. On Mead's advice, I bought British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, United Kingdom, the “Bible” for collectors of GB civil censored covers. This volume is the best source I know of for learning about the British civil censorship system during WWII, which, for the UK, lasted from September 3, 1939 to August 14, 1945, a period of almost six years.

Examples of Censored Mail (Internet Pictures)



So, since that fateful bus trip to NYC, I have been fortunate to add interesting covers, only one or two with contents, to my collection. These items include censored stampless military mail, mail opened and examined by the British Philatelic Association, POW mail and mail to Axis countries and military forces abroad. My collection, however, is

far from complete, if “completeness” is defined as having one of every known example of a usage. Also, military mail during the war is really a separate collecting area in order to do it proper justice.



Examples of GB WWII items that I would love to add would be:

- (1) more mail to occupied territories (I have very few and none to France);
- (2) mail addressed to P.O. Box 601, Amsterdam and to P.O. Box 506 Lisbon, points of neutral exchange, and/or showing the oval Thomas Cook & Son handstamp;
- (3) covers with contents to the Channel Islands;
- (4) a non-philatelic cover/wrapper with the one pound sterling brown Royal Coat of Arms stamp (SG 512) affixed; and
- (5) items addressed to East Asia during the conflict (preferably with contents).

Now then, I don't want much, do I? But if anyone reading this while staying at home, or otherwise, should know of any of these illusive wish-list items....



THE NORWAY LONDON OVERPRINT SERIES FROM ROY BAARDSSEN

Background:

German troops invaded Norway on 9 April 1940, planning to capture the King and the Government in order to force the country to surrender. However, the Royal Family, the Government and most members of the Storting were able to flee before the occupying forces reached Oslo.

It soon became clear that Norway would be unable to withstand the German forces, even with Allied support. The Allies decided to withdraw, leaving the King with a difficult choice. He decided it would be best to leave the country, together with Crown Prince Olav and the Government. They departed from Norway on the British heavy cruiser Devonshire on 7 June 1940.

A government in exile was established in London. It was essential that Norway's constitutional powers be upheld in unoccupied territory. For the next five years the government-in-exile led and coordinated Norwegian war efforts from its base in London.

A set out stamps were issued with an Overprint LONDON 17/5/1943 (may 17th being the National Day in Norway)

The issue:



London overprint

The 10 – 60 øre stamps also were issued with an overprint “London 17.5.43” as well as a serial number, in aid of the Resistance Movement. Overprinted by letterpress. Could be used for franking in Norway until 2 September 1946.

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps cl.jpg
10 øre with London overprint

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps dl.jpg
15 øre with London overprint

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps el.jpg
20 øre with London overprint

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps fl.jpg
30 øre with London overprint

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps gl.jpg
40 øre with London overprint

File:Norway 1943-1945 The
London Stamps hl.jpg
60 øre with London overprint

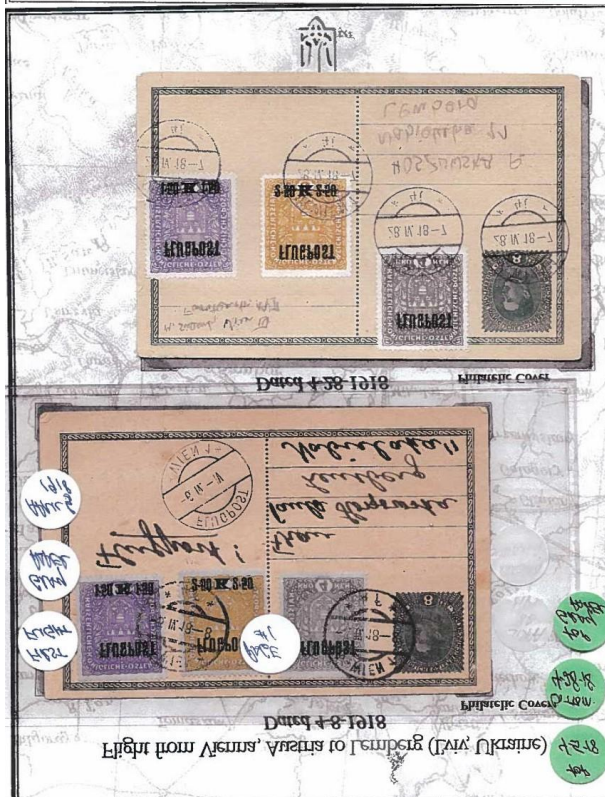
UKRAINE

The World's First International Airmail Route

In March of 1918, Austria signed a peace treaty with the Ukraine, which was independent at the time.

Austria's military decided to use some resources and manpower to start an airmail service to Kiev, Ukraine with stops in Krakow, Poland and Lemberg (now called Lviv, Ukraine). These two cities were at that time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Austria eyed the potential future benefits of the Ukraines as a market for its industrial products. But more importantly, Austria's people were starving and a peace treaty with the Ukraine would secure shipments of grain. Along with these reasons, Austria and Germany had a vast military presence, fast and dependable communications were a necessity between them.





Austria began operating a regular airmail route on April 1, 1918 from Vienna to Krakow (Poland) and then on to Lemberg, Ukraine (Lvov [Lviv]) and then to Kiev, Ukraine.

The planes operated on a relay system. Each plane flew only one leg of the route and the same leg on the return trip.

The distance for the whole route was approximately 750 miles and was covered in daylight hours.

Three Austrian stamps were overprinted with new values and used on these flights. The Vienna to Krakow to Lemberg (Lviv) route was suspended on October 15, 1918. The Lemberg (Lviv) to Kiev route was continued until the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I.

Out of a total of 719 flights, there were only 12 accidents, none serious. Most involved emergency landings and in one case, a mailbag fell out of the plane.

Flight from Vienna, Austria to Lemberg (Lviv, Ukraine)

Dated 4-30-1918





AUSTRIA 1918 UNISSUED AIRMAIL STAMP MNH VERY RARE

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
WHO MADE THIS ISSUE POSSIBLE:**

**DAVE HUNT
DAVE SILCOX
HOLLY SPRINGER
JIM SAVAGE
MIKE MATUS**

ROY BAARDSSEN
STAN RAUGH

NO OVERPRINT IN JULY
NEXT EDITION WILL BE AUGUST