

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

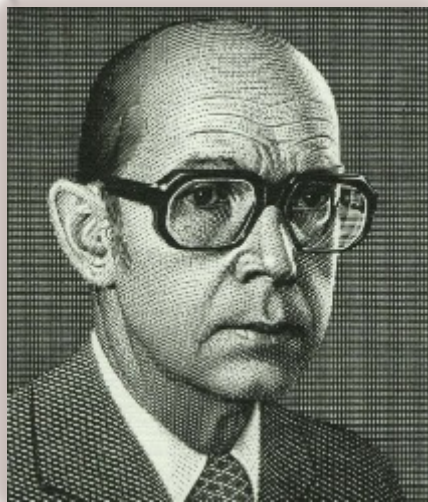
Volume 2, Issue 2

APS Chapter 1591

December-February 2018

In This Issue

The Art Of Czeslaw Slania



Staff Notes

Several milestones have been achieved since the last issue of the Forum Newsletter was published; our membership has risen to over 460 and the Postmark Calendar thread has over 4,000 posts and more than 75,000 views. Progress also continues in restoring the Forum's blocked Photobucket images.

Chris Whitehouse's (ChrisW) "2017 Best Article," The 1926 Madrid-Manila Flight - A Pioneering Journey (V1.4, p.10) has taken its place on the APS site as an Article of Distinction, along with a link back to our Forum.

The APS special membership rate of \$35 for our membership remains in effect through the end of the year and more information can be found on the Forum. APS must receive the application not later than December 31, 2017.

Lastly, we will be entering the APS 2017 Newsletter Competition for the first time and are confident that the hard work of our Editor, Nelson Laviolette (falschung), and the substantive contributions of our member/authors will credibly represent our Forum.

On behalf of all Forum staff, I wish you a joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj)

Moderator/APS Ambassador

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From The Member Archives

In September, a new TSF member **alexandy** posted a thread about one of his collections - MAILBOXES. We felt that given both the appropriateness and novelty, it deserved inclusion in our newsletter.



Click on images for a larger picture

Left, 1960's French La Poste mailbox

Right, 1970's French La Poste mailbox



Three Royal Mail boxes



Royal Mail George VI box.



USPS 1940's box



Anping posted this mini post office in Frodsham, Cheshire, UK. There were only 50 ever made only 5 remain. These were telephone kiosk, letter box and stamp dispenser.



Beryllium Guy posted
2 boxes from the
Philatelic Museum in Tokyo

A Beginning Collector's Guide: Stamp Tongs

By Editorial Staff

Unlike tweezers, which are intended for plucking eyebrows or removing splinters, philatelic tongs (or stamp tongs) have been specifically designed to enable the safe handling of stamps. These instruments are an essential tool for collectors at all levels as they prevent dirt, skin oils, and other harmful contaminants from transferring from your fingertips to your stamps.

There are a number of different types and lengths of stamp tongs and you should choose one or more that suit your preference or intended use; the common types are differentiated by their tips.

Tongs with very pointed ends that only touch a small part of the stamp require dexterity and pose the risk of poking a hole in the stamp – they may be unnecessary for routine stamp handling.

Tongs with rounded, spatula-like tips, commonly referred to as the “spade” are a useful, general purpose tool.

There is also a squared-off version of the spade but its sharper corners pose a similar, albeit lesser, risk as that of the thin pointed tong.

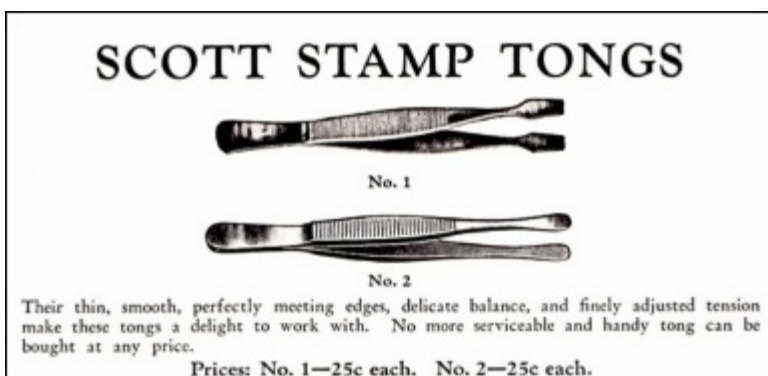
Variants of these tip types may also be found angled with the bend near the tip, making it easier to insert or remove stamps from mounts, stock pages, and watermark trays

Care must be taken to correctly use this tool because improper use could do more harm than good. If you are just beginning it will help to practice using your tongs with inexpensive stamps or pieces of paper that have been cut to stamp size.

Pay attention to what happens to the stamps when you apply varying degrees of pressure – you’ll quickly find that you can hold the stamp securely with a minimal amount of pressure.

Also practice picking up and setting down the stamps until you are able to do so without damaging their perforations.

Tongs may be found wherever stamp supplies are sold and they cost anywhere from a few dollars to many more for the higher quality models. They are among the least expensive but most essential stamp collecting tool so you may want to have several different types in your tool kit.



1930 Scott Catalog ad

United States Auxiliary Markings Registered Mail Markings

By Antonio Len-Rios (smauggie) [Click on images for a larger picture](#)

Introduction

Since the origin of mail, auxiliary markings have been put on covers to indicate rates and the routing of mail. As a result they certainly predate the issuance of postage stamps.

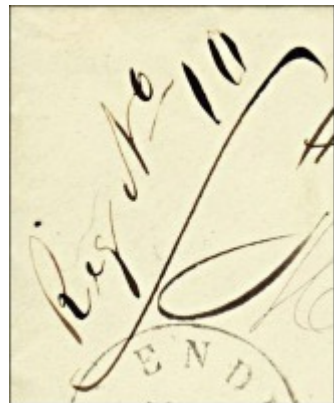
My interest is in postal markings from the United States from 1847 to present. Over time a number of mail services were implemented to serve the public. One of these services was registered mail.



[Click on image to view the whole cover](#)

The concept of registered mail originated in London in the Kingdom of England. In July of 1556 a registered mail system was devised to log the receipt of letters, time of delivery and the person who received the letter. This was only intended for use as a security method for official mailings for the crown.

The postal service of registered mail originated in 1841 in Great Britain. The letter had to be enclosed in a large sheet of green paper upon which was placed the address of the post office of the addressee. Once delivery was made the green sheet was returned to the originating post office to provide the sender with evidence that the item had been correctly received.



Registered mail in the United States originated in 1855 and consisted of a service where a chain of custody was maintained by means of a series of locked containers.

For the most part the record of the movement of the registered item was not shared with the customer unless a claim was filed.

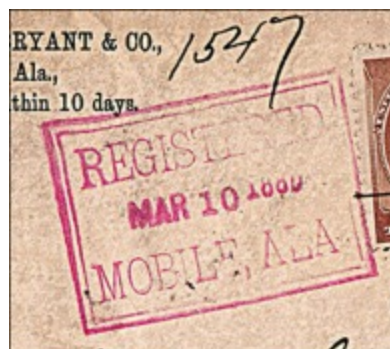
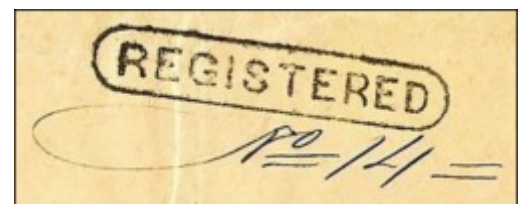
Starting in 1898 an indemnity or insurance value was added to the service starting out as a basic value of \$10 which grew larger over time.

By July 1, 1932 one could purchase one of a list of possible indemnities up to \$1000.

Registered markings always include a registration number which is used to identify the registered item as it makes its way to its destination. Early markings consisted of a manuscript marking like this one to the left.

By the late 1860's simple "Registered" hand-stamps were used with the registration number added on in handwriting.

During the first couple of decades of registered mail service there was no attempt at uniformity or creativity among the many post offices of the United States.



By the 1880's, though, especially in cities, some attempt was made at customized markings.

This marking dated March 10, 1880 from Mobile, Alabama includes the name of the originating city in a double-framed box.

The marking is also made in an unusual bright mauve color.

The registration number is added in pen above the marking.

[Click on image to view the whole cover](#)



On the left is a marking from Providence dated March 3, 1893 which includes the name of the originating postal station.

The registration number of 868 is penned in below.

By the turn of the century postal regulations began to mandated a specific format for registered markings to be used by all post offices.

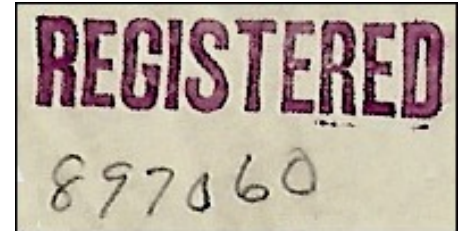
These are some examples of universally used registration markings:



Click on image to view the whole cover



Click on image to view the whole cover



These and others were used universally from the 1920's through the 1970's. In many cases the registration number was added manually in others a hand-stamped number was added to the cover.

In the 1980's the United States Postal Service (USPS) switched to a digitized registered marking in the form of an etiquette or label. This could be read by an optical character reader for faster processing. The cover below sent from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Edina, Minnesota includes an indemnity of between \$500-\$1000.



By the turn of the 20th century the USPS added a bar-code to the marking for additional ease/speed of processing.



In 2013 the USPS put an end to registered mail service in favor of their Priority Mail and Express Mail services. Covers sent from foreign countries showing mail registration still receive special treatment by the USPS, including requiring identification in order to receive these items in the post office.

Multiples of the Decimal Issue Stamps

By Jim Jung - [Click on images for a larger picture](#)

The Decimal Issue stamps were printed in sheets of 100 and were almost always separated into individual stamps with the selvedge removed and placed on envelopes or Folded Letters.

There were rare instances when vertical or horizontal pairs or strips of three or more were applied together.

In the Decimal period, these cases are scarce and stamps in blocks and strips of three or more are hard to come by as well as stamps with selvedge, aside from on the 1c stamp, where many times, 5 stamps were used to make up the common 5c Domestic Rate.



Above: Strip of 5 x 1c stamps (pp51-55) paying the 5c Domestic Rate. Position 51 is Whitworth's Re-entry 3. Right: A pair of 5c stamps with bottom margin selvedge still attached.

The Postal Rates were not that complicated in this early Decimal Period between 1859 and 1867. 5c for Domestic Mail, 10c for Crossborder mail to the United States and either 12 1/2c for the Allan Line or 17c for the Cunard Line for the Trans-Atlantic Rates to England and Europe.

If your letter was too heavy, an extra stamp was added and you paid a double-rate. If you wanted Registered Mail, it was 2c extra or 12 1/2c extra for Trans-Atlantic Mail.



Above: Double Rate Allan Line Trans-Atlantic cover to England paid with a pair of 12 1/2 c stamps (pp83-84). Below: Double Rate Cunard cover to France paid with a pair of 17c stamps. Double Rate covers are far scarcer than the standard single-rate covers. The Arfken/Leggett book shows this cover as the 2nd of 8 such covers beginning on page 199.



Right: 10c Consort Strip of Four from positions 61 to 64

There were some exceptions such as mail to British Columbia and countries in other areas of the world such as Australia. These are rare and the rates for these exotic mails are not part of this article.

This article is more about collecting blocks and strips (which I call multiples), especially ones that have a known variety attached to it.

The beauty of having the variety is that you get to know the plate positions that make up the multiple.

When you see a multiple, it looks impressive and many collectors see the stamps as a block or strip and don't check each stamp individually.

But when I see a multiple like this strip of four 10c Consorts, I want to see if there is anything about each stamp that might help me determine the plate positions of the stamps.

With this strip, it is quite easy because the first stamp has the well-known Double Epaulettes Misplaced Entry from position 61. This means that the strip comes from positions 61-64.





Left; Close up of position 61 showing the Double Epaulettes Misplaced Entry. This is the left

Right; Block of Four of the 10c Consort



Right; Close up of the String of Pearls variety. This is the top left stamp in the Block of Four



Here is another multiple of the 10c Consort in a Block of Four (Top Right).

You might look at the scuff on the bottom right stamp or the choppy perfs or even the Four Ring 19 postmarks from London but do you see a plate variety on any of the stamps?

It's hard to tell from a small scan but I noticed it looking at an Auction Catalog on the Internet from a poorer scan than this. There was no mention of the well-known String of Pearls variety in the top left stamp in the Auction description.



Left: Block of 12 of the 10c Consort from positions 51 - 83

The block of twelve of the 10c Consort (left) is the 2nd largest block that I have seen.

There was a Block of 15 (3 wide x 5 high) in the Daniel Cantor Collection, Ex Art Leggett (shown on the next page).

Even though this block is damaged, has obvious faults and has perforations that are off-center, you might notice the nice and complete straight line REGISTERED cancels or the printer's IMPRINT on the left side of the two bottom left stamps.

There is so much to see in this big block that the position 61 Double Epaulettes and the position 51 Major Re-entry are hardly noticed.

It's difficult to see the tiny marks that makeup variety stamps when you look at scans or photos, and it is not until you see the close ups or the stamps themselves in person, that you can see them more easily.

Right: Double Epaulettes variety (2nd stamp from top on left side of the Block of 12 on the previous page) from position 61 of the plate. You can see the vertical mark coming out of the Consort's shoulder on the left side. The marks on the right side are obscured by the postmark but still visible as these marks are slightly stronger.



Left: Position 51 Major Re-entry (1st stamp on the top left of the Block of 12 on the previous page) You can see the doubling in the bottom of the lower right "X".



Right: the largest known multiple of the 10c Consort is this block of 15 from the Art Leggett Collection.



This block transferred ownership to the Daniel Cantor collection and was later sold in the Daniel Cantor Auction in September 24, 2011 by Matthew Bennett with a hammer price of \$3750 USD.

This block is featured in the recently released BNAPS Book: "The Arthur W. Leggett Exhibit Decimal Stamps of Canada" by Arthur W. Leggett

This block begins at position 8 – 10 in the top row and continues down to positions 48 – 50 in the bottom row. The right two columns show the "C" Flaw in all stamps except the top row.

The Chin Flaw is in position 20, the Major Re-entry is in position 29 and the Imprint is on Position 20 and 30. The stamps are postmarked with a WHITBY OC 24 64 single split ring.

CINDERELLA CORNER

By: Michael Hide (londonbus1) - *Click on images for a larger picture*



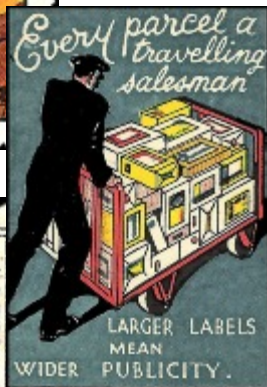
A slight departure from the usual 'Cinderella Corner' as I combine my love of such items with some more of those wonderful 'Philatelic Memories'.

It will not have escaped the notice of the avid Cinderella enthusiast, that the cost of adding to their collections has risen sharply in the last year or two. For me personally, I am now accustomed to being outbid on nearly every decent item I attempt to win and will admit at times, to the frustration of it all.

So with these thoughts in mind, I was determined to buck that trend whilst on a recent visit to family in England and to search out some of those elusive items for a more

reasonable price ! I had arranged to take two days off for philatelic 'events' and as luck would have it, neither went as planned !!

The Market and Autumn Stampex.



The Charing Cross Collectors' Market had long been an annual haunt of mine, going back to the days when I lived and worked in London. Situated at the end of Villiers Street and under Charing Cross station in a Car Park, the market has always offered an interesting selection of Stamps, Covers, Coins, Banknotes and other collectable memorabilia.

Warm and stuffy in the summer and chilly in the winter, but still a great place to browse and bargain, and there is always something new to look at .

The chances of nabbing those bargains are very real. I have always managed to find something for my collection and this time proved no exception with a number of 50p and £1 items bagged that would have had me floundering on eBay and the like !!

With the excellent company of Clive (our own TSF member Anping) it made for a very satisfying start to the day.

A short underground train journey brought us to the Business Design Centre, the venue for the bi-annual National Stamp Exhibition, 'Stampex'.

The queue outside was already quite long disproving the theory that Philately is in decline.

Together with the numbers of collectors seen during the day and the busy trade stands, I would venture to say that the hobby is anything but in a decline !!



A short meeting had been arranged with other collectors from online communities and our group met again during the day before a meal together once the Exhibition had ended.

These meetings alone were worth the trip to London, as it has always been a pleasure of mine to put an 'internet name to a face' !! Unfortunately for me, it was the only real positive of a day spent almost entirely in the Cafeteria feeling quite poorly !!

However, this did give me the chance to talk to other stamp enthusiasts who came and went.



Jeff Coates, a low-budget collector who had travelled up from the South Coast, was very positive, " *I believe there is enough material here from the bargain basement stuff to the higher end to cater for all collectors and I purchased some covers from the one euro boxes at great value*".

This seemed to be a common view in spite of the oft-stated line that purchasing at major Exhibitions is 'out of my budget'. It does pay to shop around and also to enjoy such events for all the other attractions on offer.

Neil Rigby from Kent enthused, " *It's a great place to come and has a great buzz about it. It always takes me longer to get around and you really need more than one day to see everything*" Neil also enjoyed looking into those budget boxes !!

First time visitor Michael Treacy from Norfolk said ' *It was overwhelming but very worthwhile as you can find anything you need*', a very positive impression to take away for a new collector.

Clive Smyth was positive in some respects but noted the lack of seating on the lower floor and thought that sales were more directed towards the higher end market. He was also a first-time visitor.

I also managed to talk to a few dealers and they were very happy with sales and had very nice things to say about the organization of the event.

It was also one of the busiest days I had seen at Stampex in all my years of attending, at least at the Business Design Centre.

The youth were catered for too with UK's Stamp Active stand very busy especially for their own Auction, which is always a joy to watch. It was full of children and young kids eager to add to their collections.



In the few moments I managed to get around the stands, I did find some Cinderella items for my collection, but such material is not always easy to come across at these events. A few items of note are shown here.

Two weeks later I found myself working at the Annual Cinderella Stamp Club auction ! Let me explain.

I had been to the home of the auctioneer some days previously to view interested lots and make notes.

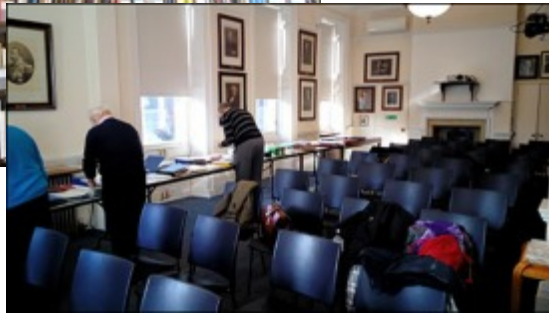
As friends of mine, we spent some of the day chatting and it was hinted that he may need some help on the day with his usual assistants unable to attend.

So it was that I found myself helping to load up the auction lots and unload them in London at the Royal Philatelic Society venue in Devonshire Place, the start of a most unusual and satisfying day.....



The RPSL is a just a great place to be, I am sure you have heard me say that before.

Having previously viewed the auction lots, I had time to check out some books in their amazing library, ably assisted in that venture by the Caretaker Dave, who was the usual excellent 'host'.



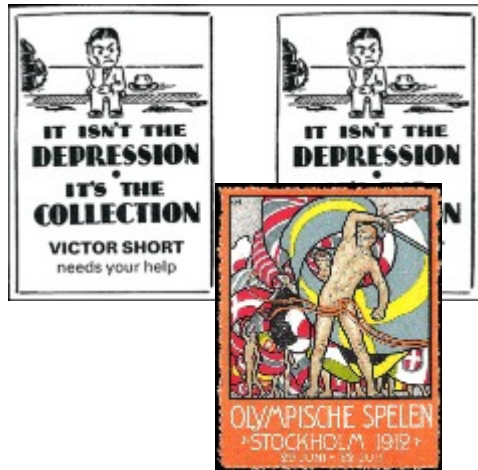
At 1pm the real work started as I found myself sitting at the Auctioneers' table as his Assistant-for-the-day making notes of sales to room buyers, filing receipt forms and keeping papers in order.

I was still able to bid but admit to missing a few due to the work and also to bidding on, and winning one lot that was not on my list !! All in all, a great experience and I did manage to win some items in the process !!

I began the article by mentioning the upturn in prices for Cinderella material and the hammer prices at this auction proved the point, to me at least.

Some fairly ordinary lots sold for well over market price, especially items for Exhibitions/Expositions as well as from countries such as Austria, Germany and South America.

British Locals and Fantasy items did not sell and indeed there was one whole page in the catalogue of such items that went unsold !!



Were there any bargains to be had ? Well, yes if you were lucky but there were some very hefty bids on some lots that quite surprised me.

I personally won 15 lots of 32 I bid on and a few of those items are shown here. Some will be the topic of future 'Cinderella Corners' including some nice Swedish items.

Before packing the car with unsold and Postal bid lots and returning home, there was ample time to check out the Cinderella dealers present, always an added attraction to the Auction and other CSC events. In the end, a very tiring but satisfying day and an unforgettable 'Philatelic Memory' !



To get back to the **Cinderella Corner** of things, some Exhibition items won in the auction in.....

BRITISH AND USA PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS, Part 2.



You may have heard of a Mr.Charles Golightly ? Some say he was real ! Did he really make the journey on his Steam Riding Rocket across the English Channel ? Or across the Atlantic to make his fortune selling goods to the miners during the 1849 California Gold Rush ?

Of course not. But he did become a popular and often drawn figure for much of the 19th Century, shown riding his rockets in all number of cartoons and artists drawings. But the fantasy lived on, at least in the minds of others. One of those was the German Gerhard Zucker whose obsession was for the delivery of mail by his rockets to and from places where planes could not land. He would only become mildly successful.

In 1934, an Air Post Exhibition was arranged to be held in London at the RHS Halls in Victoria. Mr.Zucker approached the organizers about arranging a Mail-carrying Rocket launch across the River Thames. Official show labels were overprinted for the occasion and Zucker also organized his own labels using Mr.Golightly as part of the design.

The Rocket launch was postponed due to adverse weather but some labels were used later at a new launch of his Rocket over the South Downs in Sussex.

Shown here are unissued types showing the Rocket rider (Golightly) on gummed labels, one with an error spelling of 'roket' (Green on White). I needed to bid high on these at the auction and although they are not officially Exhibition items, and are not listed, they do have a close enough connection to be included.

Just like the previous item, I had never before seen the Imperforate Proof sheet of labels produced for the 1960 International Stamp Exhibition held in London at the Royal Festival Hall.

I won this item, shown below, although condition is poor, I deemed it was worth it given the scarcity.



Finally, we'll move across the Atlantic for some USA items, all from the same, patriotic Philatelic event.

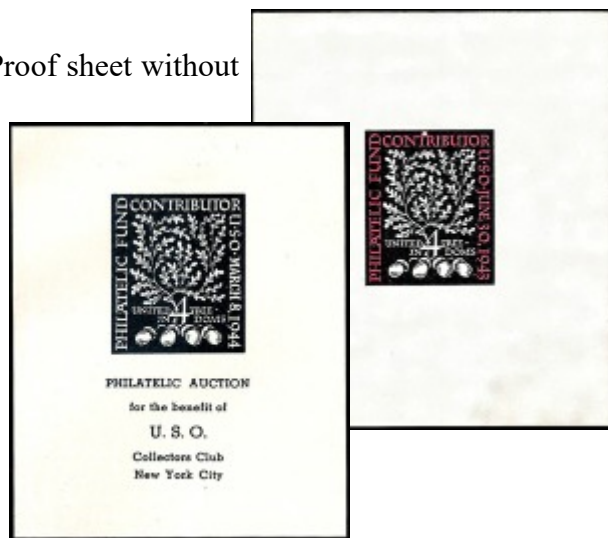
The United Service Organizations (USO) was founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 to help Soldiers and their families by way of entertainment, morale and recreation.

They closed in 1947 but were revived for the Korean War and still exist today. As a non-governmental organization they relied a lot on donations and contributions. One such Donor event took place at the Collectors Club, New York on March 8th, 1944 by way of a Philatelic Auction, and to commemorate the event a number of souvenir items were produced to raise extra funds by selling to those attending.

I have shown here, right, 2 of those items including a 'so-called' Proof sheet without the event inscriptions.

We are almost done for this edition, but before I go I want to show you an item I know nothing about, in the hope someone out there can help with identification. So can you? Here it is. You can contact me through the forum message system if you have any clue as to use or country of origin.

Finally, as I promised last time, there will be 2 'Newsletter Giveaways' this time. One (No.6) will be for a Stampex Programme and limited edition Postcard, as well as a nice Stockcard of British Training school stamps. Pictures will be posted on the forum soon with details or you can get your entry in early by contacting me through the Forum messages to add your name to this giveaway.



The second (No.7) Giveaway is for a lovely Group of German Poster Stamps, early 20th century types as well a few hidden and surprising extras. Disappointed you will not be. Same contact details as above.....don't forget to enter folks !!!!

Lots more surprises and Cinderellas (of course!) next time. I also hope to include a special report from Catalonia (Catalunya) on some items produced with Independence in mind and from a Pro-Catalonia Stamp Club who meet to discuss !! Until then, from the Cinderella Corner, Happy Collecting and all my best wishes to you for the Festive Season and for a Philately-Filled 2018 !!

Londonbus1

Greenland (click on images for a larger picture)

By: Gerben Van Gelder (SWH) - reprinted & edited in his memory with permission

KALATDLIT NUNAT

Quick reference

General issues: Danish colony 1938-1953, Danish county 1953-1979, Self governing country within the kingdom of Denmark

Country name on general issues: Grønland, Kalaalit Nunaat

Special issues: Parcel post stamps Royal Greenland Trading Department 1905-1938, Private issues Thule 1935-1936

Currency: 1 Krone = 100 Øre

Population: 12,000 in 1905, 57,700 in 2016

Political history Greenland

Greenland is located in the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Geographically, Greenland is part of North America, but politically it has been tied to Europe for over a millennium.

The first Europeans to settle on Greenland were Norsemen who settled on Greenland in the 10th century. Norway established Greenland as a Norwegian possession in 1261, but the Norwegian settlements were abandoned in the 15th century. The forebears of the current indigenous people – the Inuit – settled on Greenland in the 13th century.

Although Greenland de jure remained a Norwegian possession, the kingdom of Norway had come to be ruled in personal union by the king of Denmark in 1297, and, in the 18th century, it would be the Danes who resettled Greenland.

In 1776, the Kongelige Grønlandske Handel was founded – a chartered company that was granted the monopoly on trade with Greenland and which administered the Danish settlements.

When, in 1814, the personal union between Denmark and Norway was dissolved, Denmark was de jure awarded Greenland.



The Danish government took over the administration of Greenland from the Kongelige Grønlandske Handel in 1912. In 1931, Norway claimed and settled a part of Greenland they called Erik the Red's Land.

The Norwegians asserted that Danish rights were limited to the settled areas of Greenland. The case was presented to the Permanent International Court of Justice in the Hague which rejected Norway's claim. Norway subsequently reneged its claim.

During WWII, when Denmark was occupied by Germany, Greenland was a United States protectorate, between 1941 and 1945, to forestall possible German occupation of Greenland.

The trade monopoly of the Kongelige Grønlandske Handel ended in 1950. Greenland was elevated from a Danish colony to a Danish county in 1953. In 1979, Greenland was granted self government in domestic affairs and gained the status of a constituent country of the kingdom of Denmark, which it is until today.

Together with Denmark, Greenland joined the European Union in 1973. However, in 1985, Greenland left the European Union because of restrictions the European Union imposes on fishing, which constitutes the key economic activity in Greenland.

Greenland has a high standard of living, although it is in part dependent on Danish subsidies.

The population is 88% Inuit, 11% Danish and 1% of different origins. The population is concentrated on the coast as over 80% of Greenland is covered by the Greenland Ice Sheet – the only permanent ice sheet outside Antarctica. Greenlandic – Kalaallisut – is the official language since 2009, although Danish is widely spoken.

Postal History of Greenland



Until 1938, regular mail in Greenland was processed free of charge by the Kongelige Grønlandske Handel. For parcels, however, a fee was charged and to cover costs.

The first stamps were issued, in 1905, by the Kongelige Grønlandske Handel. The stamps read 'Pakke-Porto' and show the coat of arms of Greenland - the polar bear.

Left, 1930 Parcel Post Stamp

In 1938, the Danish postal authorities took over the postal services. All mail was now charged and stamps for general use were issued from 1938.



Left, 1982 Sc B10

Right, 1938 issue Sc2



Above, 1938 issue Sc7

Until 1969, the country designation on the stamps was only 'Grønland' in Danish, but, since 1969, the stamps are also inscribed 'Kalaalit Nunaat' in Greenlandic.

Greenland issues a moderate number of stamps with themes of national interest and themes aimed at the thematic collectors market.



Special issues appeared in 1935 for the remote settlement in Thule. Thule was an existing Inuit settlement, where the Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen established a missionary and trading post in 1910. Due to its remoteness, the settlement was, at the time, outside the range of the Danish administration of Greenland.

A Thule Committee was founded to support the settlement.

In 1935, with an additional value in 1936, stamps were issued by this Committee to support the settlement.



Above, Thule Inuit

The stamps commemorate the 25th anniversary of the arrival of Rasmussen in Thule. |

The stamps were valid for use on mail carried by the Committee's ship from Thule to Copenhagen. If mail needed to be carried further than Copenhagen, additional franking with Danish stamps was required.

The stamps were valid until 1937, when the Danish government took over the administration of Thule.

Although mainly sold to collectors, the stamps have served a genuine postal use.



The Art of Czeslaw Slania

By: Nelson Laviolette - (falschung) - [Click on images for a larger picture](#)

You can find over 1100 good reasons to collect Slania stamps. That's the number of stamps he engraved in his career.



Burins - the engraver's tool

Czeslaw Slania was born in Silesia, Poland in 1921. He entered the Krakow School of Fine Arts in 1945. Employed by the Polish Government Printing Works, Slania engraved his first stamp for Poland in 1951. He came to Sweden in 1959, and engraved a stamp for Sweden in 1959. Slania formally joined the Swedish Postal Service as a full time engraver in 1960.

Engraving is an extensive, demanding and costly process which is rarely used in modern stamp production that relies primarily on photographic processes.

Although most engravers work with about 10 lines per mm, Slania

apparently could do 100 lines/mm.

The engraving Slania submitted for his graduation from the Academy in Krakow showing the battle at Tannenberg (Grunwald) after a painting by the Polish painter Jan Matejko. *(Shown on the left)*



On several of his engravings he included in miniature the names of famous people, his sisters, dates and even depicting himself.

An example can be seen in his graduation engraving on the small banner in the top right which shows he spent 2 years on the work.



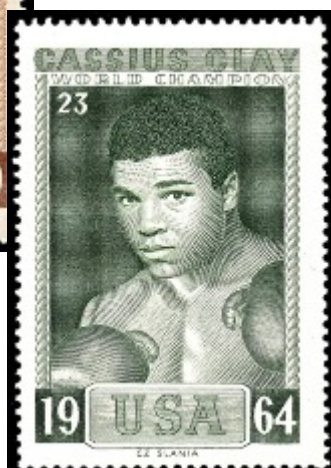
Close-up of the central figure



Slania was a huge boxing fan and he produced a set of 23 engravings of World Champion Boxers.

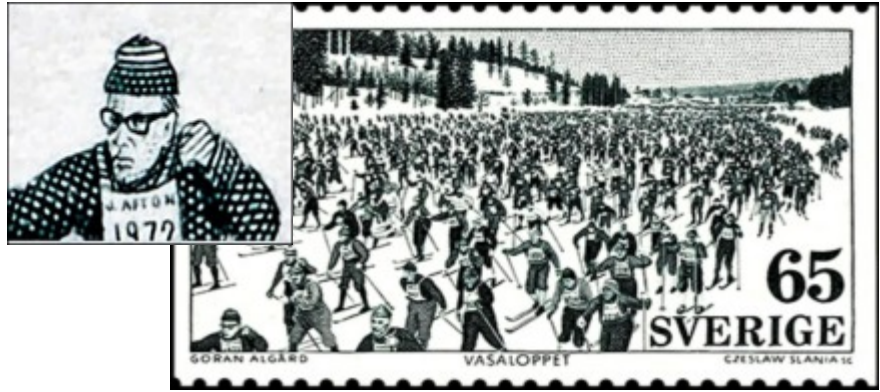
These stamps were printed in 1964.

Floyd Paterson was featured twice for regaining the title in 1960.



1973 -The start of the Vasa Ski Race in Sälen. Slania depicted himself in the lower left corner, see close-up. "J.AFTON 1972" means Christmas Eve 1972, referring to the fact that Slania engraved this stamp on Christmas Eve 1972.

The skier right of Slania is the leader of the Swedish Stamp Printing, Lars-Eric Ewert.



Sweden-USA Joint Issue

In 1983 Sweden and the USA issued a joint stamp issue commemorating the bicentenary of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce of 1783.

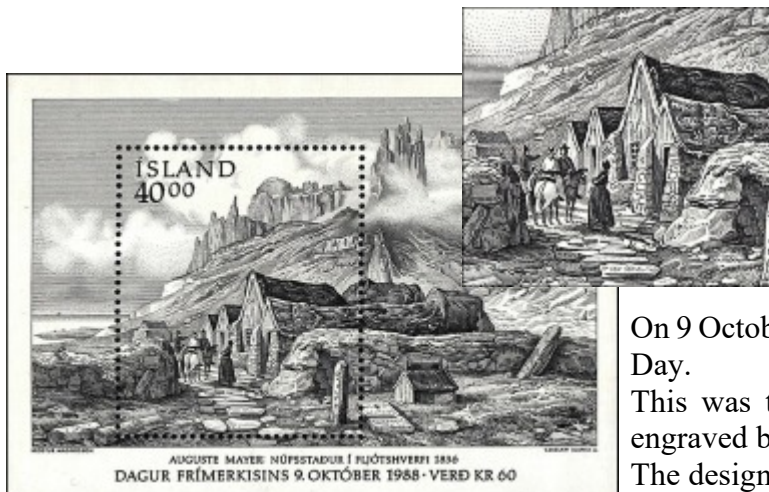
Slania created two basically identical stamps for each country with Benjamin Franklin on them. Franklin was the US Ambassador in Paris during this period of the Revolutionary War and the treaty was the first recognizing the US as new Republic.

Close up of the intricate engraving



On 9 October 1986 Iceland issued a Souvenir Sheet for Stamp Day. This engraving was based on a drawing by the artist, Auguste Mayer.

The scene depicts a group of people and horses at a crossing in the Hvita River known for its treacherous currents.



Close up of the intricate engraving

On 9 October 1988 Iceland issued another Souvenir Sheet for Stamp Day.

This was the third year such a commemorative was issued and engraved by Slania.

The design is based on the artwork of Auguste Mayer.



Slania's 70th Birthday issue in 1991. A Souvenir Sheet capturing the moment of the coronation of Gustav III of Sweden with a close-up on the right.



An artist friend of Slania created postcards and replaced the image of the king with one of Slania. This item is now one of the most sought after pieces of a Slania collection.

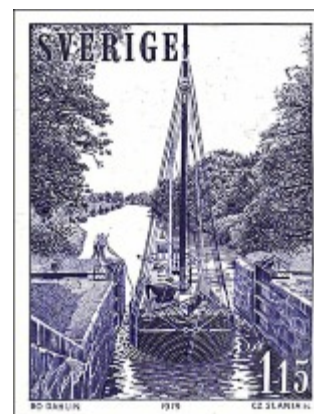
Some other notable works



175th anniversary the Penny Black and an image of of Sir Rowland Hill



The 1000th Stamp Souvenir Sheet



1979 Sweden issued a booklet of 6 stamps of the the Göta Canal.



On 24 March 1993 Monaco and the USA released a joint issue stamp in remembrance of the death of Grace Kelly

Order of Saint Charles awarded by Monaco.



Slania's work was not only relegated to stamps. He also produced many banknotes for different countries.

In 1993 the Republic of Kazakhstan introduced currency to the country.

The currency designed by Slania is known as Tenge.

The stamp depicts Aronuly Suinbai, a gifted poet.

Cinderella Stamps of Canada

By: Ronald G. Lafrenière - (cindycaan2) - Publisher of the [Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada](#)

Notre Dame du Cap / Our Lady of the Cape - *Click on images for a larger picture*

Collecting Canadian cinderella stamps, one is struck by the propensity of fundraising seals issued by numerous Catholic organizations in the province of Quebec.

Indeed much of this is due to the region's early influence by Jesuit and Recollet missionaries, and the Catholic Church's impact on government and culture, which remains evident to this day.

A drive through the province's rural countryside will attest to the large number of churches, chapels, shrines and various places of worship, devotion, reflection and pilgrimage.

One of the better known shrines is that of Our Lady of the Cape (or Notre Dame du Cap, as it is known in French), located in Cap-de-la-Madeleine. It attracts several hundred thousand visitors annually.

In this article, we'll recall the history of this pilgrimage site and describe the various cinderella stamps that have been produced, mainly to help fund the construction of the basilica in the 1950s and 60s.

Early History

Cap-de-la-Madeleine lies midway between Montreal and Quebec City, and across the St Maurice River from Trois-Rivières. Located in traditional Iroquois territory, the land was part of a large (50 x 100 km) seigneurie granted in 1636 to Jacques de la Ferté, abbot of the Sainte-Marie-Madeleine de Châteaudun Abbey in France, as a member of the Company of One Hundred Associates¹

In 1639, De la Ferté granted the Jesuits some land to establish a small mission on the cape east of the Saint-Maurice River. In 1649, the Jesuit Father Jacques Buteux granted some of these lands to 14 colonists. A few months before his death in 1651, De la Ferté granted the Jesuits a large stretch of land (2 x 100 km) that would become the Seigneurie of Cap-de-la-Madeleine, named in his honor².



Wooden Church

In 1659, a small wooden church, named Notre-Dame du Cap in honour of the Virgin Mary, was built by Pierre Boucher, one of the new colonists. To protect it from Iroquois attacks, a palisade was built around the colony in 1660. The colony was then named Fort Saint Francois.

In October 1678 the parish of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine du Cap-de-la-Madeleine was officially established by Monseigneur de Laval. The parish's first resident pastor, Father Paul Vachon, arrived in 1685. In 1694 Father Vachon formed the Confraternity of the Rosary. Father Vachon passed away in 1729, and the parish remained without a resident pastor until 1844, when Father Léandre Tourigny was appointed.



Old Shrine

Father Vachon also oversaw the construction, starting in 1714, of a second parish church made of fieldstones. It was officially opened for worship in 1720, replacing the earlier wooden church. This second church, now referred to as the Old Shrine (Petit Sanctuaire), is the oldest church in Canada in which mass is still celebrated daily.

In 1964, a stamp featuring the Old Shrine was issued to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of the church.

Our Lady of the Cape statue

In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued an Apostolic Constitution on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In honor of this event one of the parishioners donated a statue of the Virgin Mary, which became known as Our Lady of the Cape (Notre-Dame du Cap).

The statue was crowned in 1904 by a representative of the pope. A stamp depicting the statue with its large crown was issued in 1955. A second smaller crown was bestowed on the statue during the Marian Year festivities in 1954. The statue with its second crown is depicted in a stamp with blue background issued in 1960.



Father Luc Desilets



In 1864, Father Luc Desilets became the new pastor of Cap-de-la-Madeleine. In May 1867, he had a religious awakening. On the eve of the Assumption, he heard a noise in the church. Investigating, he found a pig chewing on a rosary at the altar. Chasing the animal away, he resolved to revive the Confraternity of the Rosary that was started in the parish by Father Vachon in 1694 and to devote his life to the glorification of the Virgin Mary and the recitation of the holy rosary.

His contagious devotion ignited a renewed interest in his parishioners, and soon the small church was packed with worshippers. To celebrate the centennial of Father Desilet's religious awakening, a stamp featuring the priest and the basilica was issued in 1967.



New Church

By the mid-1870s, the population of the parish had outgrown the capacity of the fieldstone church - a new larger church needed to be built. A decision was taken to demolish the building and use its fieldstones in the construction, which would require more stones to be transported from the south shore of the St Lawrence River when the river froze during winter.

However, the winter of 1878-79 was unusually mild, and the river would not freeze over. In desperation, Father Luc Désilets vowed to not destroy the little fieldstone church and to dedicate it to the Virgin Mary if an ice bridge formed before spring.

He encouraged his parishioners to pray the Rosary and in March, beyond all expectation, an ice jam formed on the river allowing the stones to be transported across the St Lawrence. This remarkable event is known as the Miracle of the Rosary Bridge.

In June 1879 construction began on the third parish church, which was officially opened as Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Church on October 3, 1880.



Postcard dated around 1910 showing the Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Church (centre), the Old Shrine (centre-right), and the Shrine annex (right).

Miracle of the Eyes

Keeping his promise, Father Désilets began restoring the fieldstone church, and on June 22, 1888, with the restoration complete, the church was officially consecrated as Our Lady of the Cape Shrine.

Later that evening, while praying in the small church with Father Frédéric Janssoone and a handicapped man, Pierre Lacroix, all three witnessed the eyes of the statue come to life. This became known as the "Miracle of the Eyes". It propelled the Shrine to international attention and began a steady stream of pilgrims to the site.



Desilet died suddenly in August 1888, and it fell to Father Janssoone to establish the shrine. Frédéric Janssoone, who would become known as "Le Bon Père Frédéric" was born in Ghyvelde, France in 1838.

In 1881 he first visited Canada, and in 1888 he settled in the parish of Notre Dame du Cap, in Trois-Rivières, where he was actively involved in parish activities until his death in 1916. A stamp issued in 1956 commemorates the 75th anniversary of his arrival in Canada.

In 1902, with the number of pilgrims growing every year, the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate were enlisted to take over the care of the Shrine. In 1904, a large annex to the Shrine was built. In the decades following, the Shrine grew in popularity, and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims visited every year.

Marian Year

Pope Pius XII declared 1954 to be a Marian year, to honor the 100th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's definition of the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.

Canada's National Marian Congress was held in Cap-de-la-Madeleine from August 5-15, 1954. A pair of stamps featuring the statue of Our Lady of the Cape was issued in French and English versions.



Construction of the Basilica

Reflecting the Shrine's increasing popularity, construction of a large basilica was begun in 1955.

Designed by architect Adrien Dufresne, the basilica rises 38 meters (125 feet) at its central dome and can seat 1660 persons.

The basilica was inaugurated in 1964. During the 1950s and 1960s multiple activities were used to help raise funds for the construction.

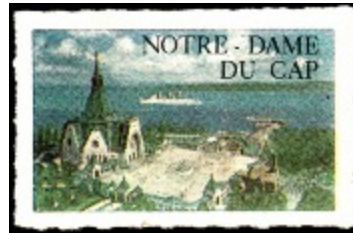
This included the annual sale of stamps depicting the basilica, the statue, or the wonderful stained-glass windows made by the Dutch master Jan Tillemans.



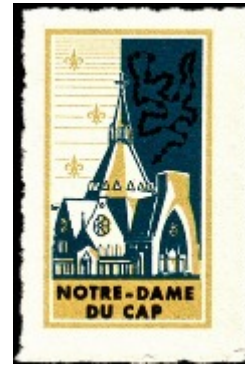
1956



1957



1958



1959



1961



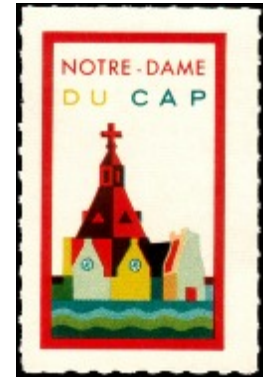
1962



1963



1965



1966



The stamp issued in 1968 features a composite multicoloured image of the basilica and the Lavolette Bridge, which was officially opened in December 1967.

The bridge links Trois-Rivières to the south shore of the St Lawrence River.

On September 10, 1984, Pope John Paul II visited the shrine, and celebrated an outdoor mass with a crowd of 75,000.

Although the crowds have now dwindled, the beauty of the basilica, and this unique site of cultural heritage, will forever be enshrined in this wonderful series of cinderella stamps.

References

¹ Robert, Daniel (2012) *L'espace trifluvien in Patrimoine trifluvien: Bulletin annuel d'histoire de la Société de conservation et d'animation du patrimoine de Trois-Rivières. No 12, p. 5-7.*

² *Our Lady of the Cape website (<http://www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca/en/historical.html>)*

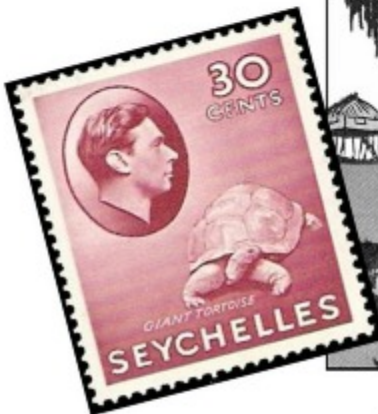
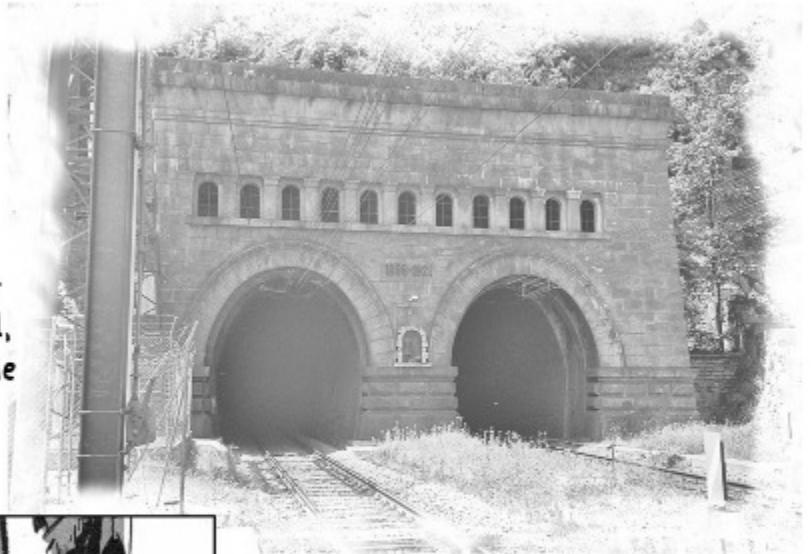


Stamp Oddities



4 ERRORS ON 1 STAMP!

A stamp issued in Italy in 1956 has 4 errors; trains drive left in Italy, steam-trains never crossed the Simplon-tunnel, there is no road at the right side of the tunnel, and coaches pulled by horses were already history at the time the tunnel was built.



The Giant Tortoise pictured on a 1938 Seychelles stamp is one of the longest lived creatures in the world. One presented to the natives of Tonga by Captain Cook was estimated to be over 300 years old. They grow to a weight of 600lbs and 4 feet across.

THE PONY EXPRESS

ON APRIL 3RD, 1940, THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE ISSUED A STAMP TO COMMEMORATE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "PONY EXPRESS SERVICE". ITS THRILLING HISTORY, CREATED BY RIDERS LIKE BUFFALO BILL, WILD BILL HICKOK, JACK SLADE, CYCLONE THOMPSON AND MANY OTHERS, WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. ITS MOTTO WAS —

"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH..."



FROM NOW ON WE GET NEWS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. NOTHING CAN BEAT THE WIRES. THE PONY EXPRESS HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS.

YES, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT THEY'VE CARVED A CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY THAT WILL LIVE FOREVER...

FINALLY, IN NOVEMBER, 1861, 19 MONTHS AFTER ITS INCEPTION, THE PONY EXPRESS CLOSED ITS DOORS, BEATEN BY THE TELEGRAPH..

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