

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 5

APS Chapter 1591

August-September 2018

In This Issue

The Cayman Islands: a Wonderful Retreat in Paradise



Write for The Stamp Forum Newsletter

We are always looking for articles of a philatelic nature for publication in the Newsletter. They can vary in length from 1 page to several and can cover any topic imaginable as long as there is a philatelic connection. Well-researched articles, tips for collectors, stamp collecting memories, stamp show and philatelic book reviews, etc., are all welcome. Just send a text file with some supporting image files and we'll take care of editing and layout. The Forum and its Newsletter need your support so please help us!



Forum Update

This issue marks the end of another full year of our Newsletter's publication and sets the stage for the Forum's second annual "best article" competition in September. Last year's competition involved two stages of polling to select the winner; however, member participation dropped considerably between the initial and final polls. In an effort to prevent that from reoccurring, this year's competition will be conducted in single poll. I encourage all of our members to participate so that we can select the article most deserving of being forwarded to the APS as The Stamp Forum's 2018 "Article of Distinction." The article gets posted on the APS website with a link back to our Forum and its author receives recognition from the [American Philatelic Society](#) .

We will be adopting a quarterly publication schedule for the Newsletter to provide some relief for our volunteer Editor and the relatively small number of stalwarts who have been submitting material for publication. Should we experience an increase in the number of members who submit philatelic-related articles for inclusion, we'll consider making an adjustment to the publication schedule.

We've experienced an up tick in the number of individuals accepted for membership who have posted their required introductions and quite a few of those have been actively participating on the Forum. This has been a positive development and one that will hopefully become a trend.

In the three full months since the Forum has resumed purchasing the Ad-Free upgrade for members signing in, we've used an average of just under 29,000 of the allotted 50,000 page views. Ad-free page views during July appear consistent with that usage so it should be awhile before needing to purchase additional ad-free page views.

As to upcoming APS events, StampShow and National Topical Stamp Show 2018 will be held in Columbus, Ohio August 9-12. The show, co-hosted by APS and the American Topical Association, marks the 132nd annual convention of the American Philatelic Society. For details and registration information, go to <https://stamps.org/stampshow-ss>. Also, an APS On-the-Road course on the topic "Postal History of World War II in the Pacific Ocean" will be taught by Ken Lawrence prior to Chicagopex in Chicago, Illinois on November 15, 2018. APS membership is not required to attend (<https://stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses>). Chicagopex is sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society, APS Chapter 1, and will be held November 16-18 (<https://www.chicagopex.org>) .



In closing, I have to apologize to our membership for missing the submission deadline for entering the Forum in the 2018 APS Chapter Web Site competition.

Steve Tomisek
Forum Administrator/APS Chapter Ambassador

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China - Empire Postal History

By: Gerben Van Gelder (SWH) - reprinted in his memory with permission (click on images for a larger picture)

Quick reference

General issues: Customs office 1878-1897, Empire 1897-1912

Country name on general issues: China, Imperial Chinese Post

Special issues:

- Local issues: Amoy 1895-1896, Chefoo 1893-1896, Chinkiang 1893-1896, Chungking 1895-1895, Foochow 1895-1896, Formosa 1887-1888, Hankow 1893-1897, Ichang 1894-1896, Kiukiang 1894-1896, Nanking 1896-1897, Shanghai 1865-1897, Wuhu 1895-1897
- Foreign offices:
 - France 1894-1922
 - French Indochina
 - General issues 1902-1905
 - Canton 1901-1919, Chungking 1902-1919, Hoihow 1901-1919, Kwangchow 1906-1945, Mengtz 1906-1919, Pakhoi 1906-1919, Yunnanfu 1906-1919
 - Germany 1898-1919
 - General issues 1898-1919
 - Foochow 1900, Tientsin 1900
 - Kiaochoh 1898-1919
 - Great-Britain 1917-1930
 - Italy
 - Peking 1917-1922
 - Tientsin 1917-1922
 - Japan 1900-1922
 - Russia 1899-1920
 - General issues 1899-1920
 - Harbin 1920
 - United States 1919-1922
- Formosa: Black Flag Republic 1895
- China Expeditionary Force 1900-1921
- Chinese offices in Tibet 1911



Currency: 1 Tael= 100 Candarin 1857-1896, 1 Dollar/Yuan = 100 Cent 1896-1912

Population: 400 000 000 in 1900

Political history Chinese Empire

The Qing dynasty

China has been an empire for over 2000 years, ruled by several subsequent imperial dynasties. The last of these dynasties is the Qing dynasty that came to power in 1644. The golden age of the Qing lies in the 18th century. In the 19th century, the Qing are confronted with several large scale uprisings. Between 1850 and 1864, the Taiping uprising costing millions of lives. In 1900, the Boxer rebellion leading to an international intervention. Forces from eight foreign countries among whom British India were part of the international coalition forces. Finally, in 1911 the Wuchang uprising leads to the fall of the Qing dynasty and the end of the empire.



1884 First Customs Stamp

Furthermore, China is confronted with the strive for independence among some of the many peoples living within its the borders. One of those peoples are the Tibetans. In 1909, the Qing send an expeditionary force to Tibet to restore their power. After the fall of the Qing dynasty, in 1912, these troops are withdrawn and Tibet proclaims its independence. An independence that China does not recognize, but it will take until 1950 before effective Chinese rule in Tibet is restored.

Extraterritorial rights: Treaty ports and Concessions

In the 19th century, the Qing also faced the demands of several foreign powers that require China to open up to diplomatic relations and trade. To further this cause, Great Britain, and later France, enter into the First and Second Opium wars between 1839 and 1860. The international pressure leads to the establishment of diplomatic relations and to the opening of over 40 ports for international trade, the so called 'treaty ports'. In addition to the treaty ports, China grants extraterritorial rights to foreign powers in a number of forms. China allows foreign settlement in so called concessions in which the foreign powers had the right to establish their own political and legal administration. In some cities – Peking, Shanghai, Tienstin – several such concessions existed. Furthermore, territories were leased to foreign powers for a certain – mostly long – term: to the British parts of Hong Kong and Weihaiwei, to the French Kwangchow, to the Germans Kiaochoo and to the Russians – Kwantung. Finally, China had to allow two colonies on it soil. Hong Kong – transferred to the British after the First Opium war in 1842 – and Macau – a Portuguese leased territory since 1557 and a colony since 1887. The first foreign power to relinquish its extraterritorial rights in China is Germany, in 1917, as result of WWI. Gradually all extraterritorial rights are relinquished, the last territory – with the exception of the colonies - to be returned to China being Kwantung, returned by Russia in 1952. The colonies on Chinese soil are returned to China in 1997 – Hong Kong – and 1999 – Macau.

Postal history Chinese Empire



Local issues

The first stamps to be issued in China were issued in 1865 by the municipality of Shanghai that had set up a local postal service in 1854. A service that branched out to 16 cities. In the 1890's, several other cities –treaty ports –equally set up local postal services.

These cities were: Amoy, Chefoo, Chinkiang, Chungking, Foochow, Hankow, Ichang, Kiukiang, Nanking and Wuhu. The services in Amoy, Foochow, Hankow and Nanking succeeded branch offices of the Shanghai local post.

1893 Shanghai Local Post

On Formosa, the local governor set up a postal service in 1887 for which stamps were also issued.

Imperial Post

In addition to the local initiatives, the Imperial Maritime Customs Office in Shanghai set up a postal service in 1865 initially for consular mail, a service that branched out to 12 cities. In 1878, this service was opened to the general public and from that time stamps were issued. In 1896, by Imperial Decree, the Customs Post was transformed to the national Imperial Post, the decree being effective as of 1897. The first stamps were issued by the Imperial Post on January 2nd, 1897. These were overprints on the issues of the Customs Post, the overprint reading 'Imperial Post' and the new face value – with the introduction of the Imperial Post the currency used changed from Tael/Candarin to Dollar/Cent. The first definitive issues from the Imperial Post appeared in August 1897. Upon the introduction of the Imperial Post, all local postal services were superseded by the Imperial Post. The issues of the Imperial post are succeeded by those of the Republic of China and those of the Peoples Republic of China.



1910 Imperial Post

Foreign post offices

Aside from the local, and later imperial postal services in China, several foreign countries had offices abroad in China. These resulted from the agreements on extraterritorial rights signed in the course of the 19th century.

The stamps used by the foreign offices were also available at offices of the Imperial Chinese post. The currency used would be that of the foreign nation or the local Chinese currency. The stamps used at these foreign offices were those of the respective countries, with or without an overprint for the use in the offices in China. The Russian offices in China closed in 1920. The other foreign offices closed in 1922, with the exception of the post offices in the leased territories which closed at the time these were returned to China.

A closer look at the foreign post offices

A closer look at the offices abroad of the respective countries provides the following

- **France:** The first French post office opened in 1867 in Shanghai. The French offices first used stamps of France and, from 1894, definitives issued for use in China inscribed with 'Chine'. The French offices closed in 1922.
- **French Indochina:** In 1901, the French offices in southern China were subordinated to the postal authorities of French Indochina. The Indochinese offices closed in 1922, with the exception of those in the French leased territory of Kwangchow that closed when Kwangchow was returned to China in 1945. The Indochinese offices in China used stamps as follows:

- General issues being overprints on stamps of French Indochina reading 'Chine' and the new face value in Chinese characters.
- Issues for individual offices being stamps of French Indochina with the following overprints:
 - Canton: Canton
 - Chungking: Tchongking or Tch'ong K'ing
 - Hoihao: Hoi Hao or Hoi-Hoa
 - Kwangchow: Kouangtschéou or Kouang-Tschéou and as of 1939 definitives inscribed Kouang-Tschéou
 - Mengtz: Mongtze or Mong-Tseu
 - Pakhoi: Pakhoi, Pak Hoi or Pak-Hoi
 - Yunnafu: Yunnansen, Yunnan-Fou or Yunnanfou



- **Germany:**

- General issues: The first German post office opened in 1886. Stamps of Germany were used and, from 1898, German stamps overprinted 'China'. The German offices were closed in 1917 upon China's entry into WWI. Stamps were issued until 1919, even after the German offices were closed.
- Foochow: The office in Foochow issued local hand stamped overprints with a new face value in 1900.
- Tientsin: The Tientsin office issued local hand stamped overprints in 1900, the overprint reading 'China'.
- Kiaochow: Kiaochow – or Kiautschou in the German transliteration – was a German leased territory from 1897. Kiaochow first used stamps of Germany, then the general issues for the German offices in China. The office in Kiaochow issued local overprints with a new face value in 1900. As of 1901, definitives were issued inscribed 'Kiautschou'. Kiaochow was occupied by the Japanese in 1914 upon which the German offices closed. Kiaochow was returned to China in 1922.



- **Great Britain:** The first British post office opened in 1844. From 1862, stamps of Hong Kong were used and from 1917, stamps of Hong Kong overprinted 'China'. The British offices were closed in 1922 with the exception of Weihaiwei – a British leased territory – which was returned to China in 1930.

- **Italy:** The Italian post offices were opened in 1917 in Peking and Tientsin. Stamps of Italy with the overprints 'Pechino' and 'Tientsin' were issued. The Italian offices were closed in 1922.



- **Japan:** The first Japanese offices opened in 1876. Initially, Japanese stamps were used, followed in 1900 by stamps from Japan overprinted 'China' in Japanese. The Japanese offices closed in 1922.

- **Russia**

- General issues: The first Russian offices opened in 1870. Russian stamps were used until 1899 when stamps were issued for the offices in China. These were Russian stamps overprinted КИТАЙ and overprints with just the face value in the local currency. The Russian offices were closed in 1920.
- Harbin: The 'Harbin issue' was a set of stamps issued in 1920 on behalf of the Chinese Eastern Railway in Manchuria – a railway built and exploited by the Russians. The issue is an overprint in the local currency on Russian stamps.



- **United States:** The United States post office in Shanghai opened in 1867. Stamps of the United States were used until 1919 when stamps of the United States overprinted 'Shanghai China' and the face value in the local currency were issued. The United States office was closed in 1922.

Formosa: The Black Flag Republic

After the establishment of the Black Flag Republic on Formosa in opposition to the Japanese annexation of the island, two sets of stamps were issued in 1895. After the Black Flag Republic was dissolved by the Japanese, these stamps were superseded by the stamps of Japan. The stamps of Japan have been used on Formosa until it was returned to China in 1945.



China Expeditionary Force

Stamps were issued by British India for use by the China Expeditionary Force that intervened in China during the Boxer rebellion. The stamps are overprints of British India stamps reading 'C.E.F.'. The stamps are issued between 1900 and 1921. The larger part of the China Expeditionary Force left China in 1906, a smaller contingent stayed until 1923.

Chinese offices in Tibet

After the Chinese had sent their troops to Tibet in 1909 to restore Chinese rule, they set up a postal service in Tibet. Initially, stamps of China were used. In 1911, stamps were issued with an overprint in Chinese, English and Tibetan indicating the face value of the stamps. The currency used was the British Indian Rupee/Anna. It has been suggested that this may have been because the Indian rupee was the most popular currency in Tibet.



A note on transliteration

As China opened up to the Western world in the 19th century, several different systems have been developed for the transliteration of Chinese to the Latin alphabet. This resulted in different transliterations of the same words. For example—重庆 a city in China – transliterated to English becomes Chungking and to French it becomes Tch'ong K'ing. The Chinese postal authorities recognized this as a problem and introduced, in the early 20th century, the Post Atlas as a standard for the transliteration of place names. The Post Atlas is largely based on the Wade-Giles system for transliteration, Wade-Giles being the most used system in the Anglo-Saxon world. In the second part of the 20th century the Peoples Republic of China developed a new system which aimed to replace all existing systems and become the worldwide standard for transliteration of the Chinese language. The system is called Hanyu Pinyin or Pinyin. In pinyin 重庆 transliterates to Chongqing. Pinyin has, by the end of the 20th century, largely succeeded in becoming the aimed at international standard. This being so, historians often use either Wade-Giles or pinyin depending on the period of their studies. They do so for the recognition of names and place names in the historical context of the period of their studies. On this site I use the Post Atlas for profiles of the Chinese Empire and the Republic of China and pinyin for the profile of the Peoples Republic of China.

2c Large Queen – Spur in Left Outer Frameline Plate Position 4

By: JimJung - [Click on images for a larger picture](#)

This large Registered cover has an impressive franking with a strip of 5 plus a single of the 2c Large Queen issue all tied to each other and the blue envelope by 7 ring targets. There are two straightline Registered cancels and a BERWICK MR 8 72 dispatch on the front, addressed to Lindsay with a PORT HOPE MR 12 72 transit and LINDSAY MR 12 72 receiver on the back. There are two Registration numbers written at left for the delivery of the letter.

The rate could be the quadruple weight domestic rate of 12c (4 x 3c). In this case the 2c Registration fee would have been paid in cash. In the Large Queen period, the 2c Registration was normally paid with a 2c stamp.

Since the REGISTERED cancels were placed on the envelope before the single left stamp was added, the single stamp could be for the Registration fee which would leave the 5 x 2c stamps to overpay a triple weight rate. The manuscript "4" to the left of the stamps is interesting and I'm not sure what this is for.

Registration is a fixed fee of 2c which did not increase with weight. It appears to be related to the rate.

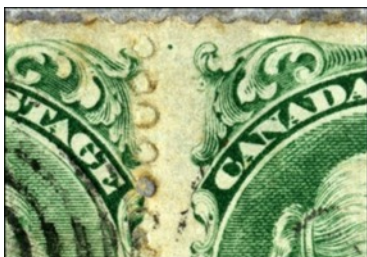
Although the cover is folded and worn, the stamps bear an important story and that is why I am writing this article.



When we zoom in on the 2nd stamp from the right we notice this stamp has the known Major Re-entry from Position 7 of the plate with marks most noticeable in the ANAD of CANADA and PO of POSTAGE.

This is catalogued in Unitrade as 24v. It is fortunate that the stamps are in a bright green shade which shows the details very clearly. It's nice to have the Major Re-entry in a multiple as well as having it on cover.

The Major also clearly identifies the strip of five as being from position 4-8.



There is also a dot between the 3rd and 4th stamp. This is believed to be a positioning Guide dot for the Printer's Imprint

After the recent new entry of the "Spur in left outer frame line" variety in Unitrade (24viii), it was pointed out to me that the 2nd stamp from the left had this variety. This is exciting news because when we count back from the Position 7 Major Re-entry, we get the Plate Position of the "Spur" variety at Position 4.



This variety has been discovered previously by Lees-Jones and described as: "... a spur on the bone at left joining scroll of CANADA panel to foliage leaf above "2" in S. W. corner." Lees-Jones describes this stamp as coming from late printings and being the "fourth stamp in the top row of Plate 2."

The strip of five on this cover certainly proves this statement and now Unitrade can add this small piece of information to their listing.



24	2¢ green, Apr 1, 1868	1,400.00	600.00	250.00	130.00	50.00	20.00	250.00†
a	watermarked (Bothwell) paper	4,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	550.00	250.00	125.00	
b	thin paper, deep green	1,400.00	600.00	300.00	130.00	50.00	27.50	300.00
c	diagonal half used as 1¢ on cover							6,500.00
i	emerald green	2,000.00	800.00	250.00	150.00	75.00	37.50	275.00
ii	blue green	1,600.00	600.00	225.00	140.00	60.00	25.00	250.00
iii	soft white (blotting) paper	3,000.00	1,500.00	750.00	350.00	150.00	75.00	
iv	Bothwell paper	1,500.00	700.00	300.00	175.00	75.00	37.50	—
v	major re-entry (pos. 7)		3,000.00	1,500.00	800.00	375.00	150.00	700.00
vi	vert. stitch watermark*	—	4,000.00	—	—	1,000.00	500.00	—
vii	"needle nose" variety							
Qty: 10,300,000								
† Single usage only								
* 3 used copies recorded, two with faults.								

Unitrade 2016 Listing

References

The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, 2nd Edition – H. E. & H. W. Duckworth

Cayman Islands – A Wonderful Retreat in Paradise

By: Tom Tarabicos (Bluehens) [\(click on images for a larger picture\)](#)

I must say that I was quite fortunate to marry a beautiful woman who is from the Cayman Islands. My wife was born in Jamaica and at the age of 3 moved to the Cayman Islands. The island is not your typical bustling place full of tourists and loud bars. There are plenty of tourists, but the scene is more of a laid-back Hemmingway Key West of the 1930's. The only time we ever notice tourists is when the cruise ships are in town and that lasts about 4-5 hours. Otherwise if quiet is what you desire Grand Cayman will deliver.

The Cayman Islands are presently a British Overseas territory. It is a self-governing entity. The Queen's representative in the Cayman Islands is a Governor appointed by Her Majesty. The current Constitution and Bill of Rights was enacted by law in the United Kingdom in 2009. The history of the Cayman Islands is an interesting one.

On what was Christopher Columbus's last voyage of 1502-1503 he discovered the Cayman Islands. The 500th anniversary was celebrated with a 2003 souvenir sheet, Scott #896a. The greeting party on the island were turtles, caiman and assorted bird life. There has not been found any proof of an Ameri-Indian culture prior to Columbus. Interestingly the first inhabitants of the Cayman Islands were sailors or more accurately pirates from Sir Francis Drake's 1585-1586 expedition to the West Indies.



2003 souvenir sheet

The 3 islands (Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac) were slowly colonized.

The British took control of the Cayman Islands from the Spanish under the Treaty of Madrid in 1670. The British were constantly battling with Pirates over the use of their island. Eventually, after 1730, the pirates all but disappeared.

The great age of piracy was over. Ironically every year Cayman celebrates Pirates week and it attracts a big crowd from the States as well as Europe. Thousands of people line the streets to observe the celebratory spectacle and its friendly swashbuckling fun. It is the only event of its kind in the Caribbean basin and its caters to everyone in the family.

This year's celebration is from November 8-12 on Grand Cayman. Cayman celebrated its Pirate tradition in 1975 by issuing a set of 4 pirates stamps including one of the notorious John Fenn. Scott #363.



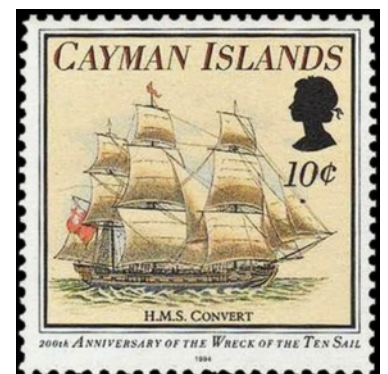
John Fenn. Scott #363

A maritime tragedy changed the course of Caymanian and world economic history. In the early morning hours of February 8, 1794, ten vessels which were part of a convoy from Jamaica to the United States, escorted by HMS Convert was wrecked on the reef in Gun Bay, on the East end of Grand Cayman. This calamity was commemorated on the 200th anniversary of the wreck in 2004, Scott #688.

The incident is known as the Wreck of the Ten Sails after the ten ships who were unfortunately dealt a bad hand that fateful year. The local inhabitants came to the rescue of the crews and passengers and 450 were saved.

One of those saved was the nephew of King George III. The king was so grateful that he declared that the residents could never be conscripted for war service. This was noteworthy but the major bequest from the King was that Caymanians were never to be taxed.

This decree has resulted in the Cayman Islands becoming the premier off-shore tax haven, generating vast amount of wealth for the Cayman Islands.



HMS Convert Scott #688



1938 Scott #109

One of the first issues to highlight this beach was the King George VI 1938 2-shilling beach view stamp, Scott #109. The recently issued 1996 Scott #725, stamp features a modern view of the beach.



1996 Scott #725,



1997 Scott #752

On the recreational side the infamous Cayman wall features some of the best diving in the world. Grand Cayman's topography is illustrated in the 150 sites off Grand Cayman suitable for diving.

These are located on the North Shore, West End or East End. Beautiful walls, towering canyons and reefs will keep you busy for a lifetime. Even Santa has spent several of his summer months in the Cayman Islands doing a bit of diving himself.

The 1997 Scott #752 shows a brave Santa diving with the stingrays. You can also spend time with hundreds of friendly sting rays off the coast on a sand bar. A tourist boat takes you on a 30-minute ride to Sting Ray City.

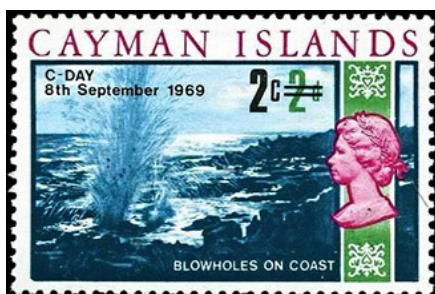
Feed them, pet them but don't mess with their tails. They are so accustomed to humans allowing us a up close look at these wonderful rays.



Scott #137

No visit is complete without visiting the Turtle Farm. A group of British and American investors established a conservation project which is used to promote responsible breeding, protection as well as to raise turtle meat for consumption. In 1965 the Cayman Islands released the 1d Green Turtle stamp in the coronation issue for Queen Elisabeth. (Scott #137). The farm has other local animals on display as well, which include the iguana.

A short drive from the Turtle Farm is Hell. Yes, Hell. Hell is a forbidden landscape consisting of very short, sharp and black limestone formations. They are sure to tear into skin and make a visit memorable in a negative way. Be sure to send a postcard with the "Hell" franking to yourself and friends.



1969 Scott #229.

The island is full of museums and historical sites. Most of the sites are in the capital of Georgetown. But hop on the one road out of town and you can drive around the entire island in a few hours.

This road turns into the Queen's highway that straddles the coast line and treats you to various geological formations as you drive through different areas of the island. On the south side you will encounter blowholes.

These are scenic areas on the beach where ocean water surges through openings on the shore creating big blow effect. This effect is well represented on the 1969 surcharged Scott #229.

Finally, don't forget about the fishing which is marvelous and is a religion in the Caymans. The 1943 issue of a dolphin on the King George VI stamp highlights the importance of sea life on the island.

There are many large international fishing events that happen every year on the island. In some areas fisherman bring in their day's haul and it is available for purchase.



Penny Black stamp shop

I can continue to open new doors for the reader but that would take out all the surprises that will await. On your trip feel free to visit the Cayman Islands only stamp store. Penny Black stamp shop is in the heart of Georgetown a minute walk from the cruise ship drop off in Georgetown Harbor.

Ivan Burges has owned the store for many years and is a real treat for the traveling philatelist. With a wide selection of the British Commonwealth issues it is worth the visit. Grand Cayman has it all for someone in need of rest and fun.

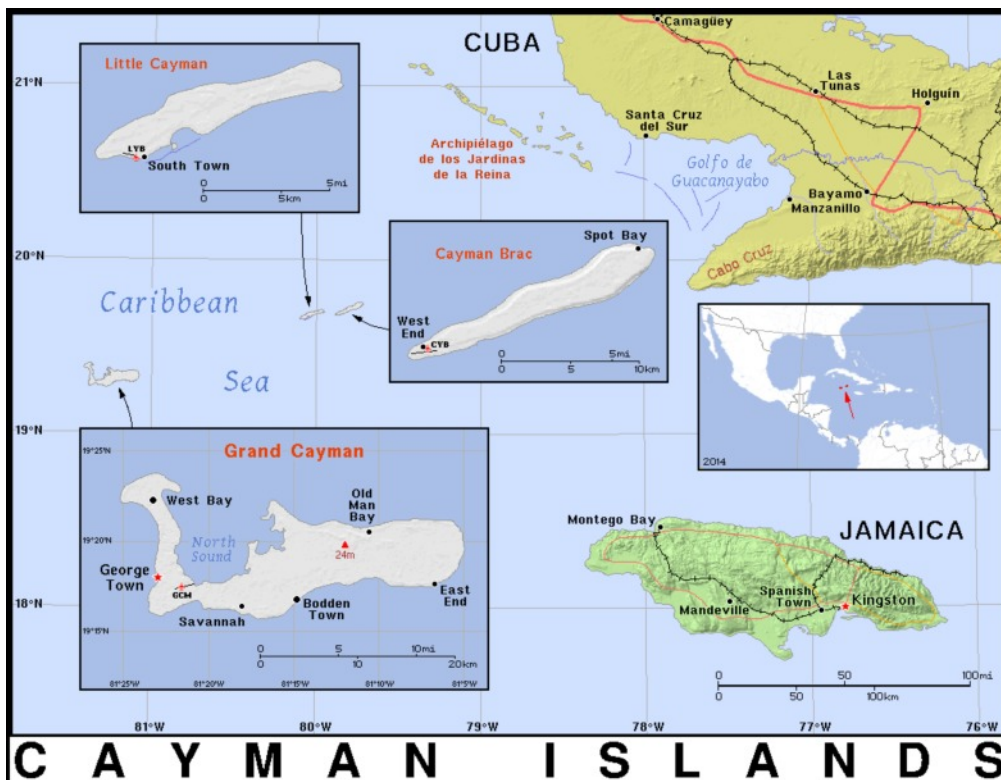
This philatelic journey through the Cayman Islands is just the beginning. There is so much to see and experience on the island.

Daily flights from Miami and Houston have you arriving at the airport in a couple of hours.

Enjoy yourself and you will want to return.

Fortunately, I have made a dozen trips to Cayman and I still can't wait for my next trip.

Remember to bring some stamp buying money as well.



Cinderella Corner, Part 10: Some of My Favourite Items

By: Michael Hide (Londonbus1) [\(Click on imagers for a larger picture\)](#)

We all have our favourite stamps and covers, don't we? Those that, for some reason or another, are just special. Be it the design, beauty, rarity or relevance, there will always be an item or more that will remain, in both our collections and affections!

This month, I am showing some of mine and apart from some snippets of information about the items, you will, I hope, understand why I chose them. Do let me know if you agree.....or not!

EXPOSITION NATIONALE COLONIALE, Marseille, 1922

One of my favourite Poster Stamp Series. An atmospheric yet simple design made all the more interesting by the large number of varieties one can collect.

This Colonial Exposition was held in Marseille from April 15th to November 15th and was built on the same grounds as the 1906 event. The original Exposition was due to take place in 1916 but was cancelled because of the outbreak of WW1. It was hoped that having the event in Marseille, with its closeness and easier access to North Africa, would bring together France and its Colonial population in the aftermath of war. The Curator of the Expo was French politician and then President of the Chamber of Commerce, Adrien Artaud.



Many collectables can be found including Posters, Official Photographs, Postcards, Advertising Leaflets, Booklets as well as Poster Stamps. The series shown here was issued in Booklets; the only copy seen by this writer had one of the labels affixed to the cover. Each Pane of 12 has margins all around and one of the labels may have the Printer's Imprint either in whole or part, 'Imp.Regionale, 12 Rue St.Jacques, Marseille'. The labels depict the head dress of French Colonies and as far as I am aware, they are in

the same position on each pane/sheet. A simple yet striking design made all the more interesting by the (unknown?) number of varieties that exist. Each Poster Stamp can be found in a different colour or shade, either in background or figure/head dress; each can be found with the lettering in a different font and/or font colour; and each can be found with more than one variety.....making it almost impossible to find a complete collection!! I have shown one Pane and some examples of varieties that exist. I am always looking for more!!



COMMUNE LIBRES de MONTMARTRE

Another fascinating series from France. I first saw these beautifully-designed stamps posted on a forum many years ago. The author had won a small lot including some duplicates and one block of 8 was passed on to me. Then began a long on-off search for others, or at least some information, but to no avail. For years I did not see another stamp nor did I find out much about them. Until recently that is when some information came to hand and some strips and blocks were offered on eBay! I won them all.....even the duplicates. Patience is most definitely a virtue where Cinderella Stamp collecting is concerned!!

The Free Commune of Montmartre, in the 18th Arrondissement of Paris, is the home to Painters, Musicians, Sculptors, Poets and other artists who came to visit and live here from all over France. The Commune was founded after the first elections took place in 1920 and a young artist, Jules Depaquit became the first Mayor of the town (the election was won by the Anti-Skyscraper Party!!).



The first 'Stamps' of the Commune were issued in 1923 and the inscribed values gave the impression of Charity or Fund-Raising stamps. But given that the people of the Commune valued their Independence, the French Postal Service had suspicions of a local Post so the values of the first issues were overprinted with two rows of short black lines or one line of thick or thin Red lines. The stamps shown here are from the 2nd Series issued the following year. They were printed in sheets of 32 by the Official Commune Printer Girard & Bunino of 32, Rue Gabrielle in the heart of Montmartre (now an Art Gallery-what else!!). This 2nd issue produced a couple of new designs and most stamps within the sheet had some subtle differences which make the series most unusual. For example, there is a Chimney Stack on the tiny house on one of the Postilion (Post Rider) stamps but not on the others. Then there is a star on one of the Deep violet 'Enraged Cow' stamps but not on its partner! There are others too, see if you can spot them!!! The 'Cow' stamps likely stem from the Journal (Newspaper) of the late 19thC, 'La Vache Enragee', which later became the Official hub of the Free Commune (circa 1921). All in all, a truly fascinating series to find and research. Such is the scarcity of these stamps I can only show the 2nd series.....and my attempts to re-create a sheet failed due to a missing pair!!!! Covers exist too, both with Postage Due marks and Special Montmartre cancels. My search goes on for more as does the research, which makes me want to re-visit the area I spent a lovely day in some years ago.



CITEX 1949, Grand Palace Hotel, Paris, France. June 1st-12th



As I write, France appears to be on a winning streak at the Soccer World Cup and so maybe it is no coincidence that they are hogging my favourite Stamps section too!! These very attractive labels were produced for the French Stamp Centenary Exhibition (Citex) held in Paris in June, 1949. They were designed by Jean Carre and engraved by Charles Mazelin. A host of other Cinderella labels and sheets also exist for this Exhibition and are well worth checking out.



Printed at the show on a Chambon Press, Perf 13x13, they were printed on each of the 12 days (numbers unknown) and can be collected in dated corner blocks (Left corners seen). They show a Parisian Lady with Parasol looking into a Stamp-like image of Marianne by Gandon. A set of 12 colours was officially announced but with daily printings, many colour varieties can be found. I can say about this series, "Beauty at its Finest".

OLYMPIC GAMES, Stockholm 1912 (June 29-July 22). Official Poster Stamps



Just as the Olympics are an ever popular topical for Stamp Collectors, so they are too for Cinderella Buffs and there are some very nice Poster Stamps, Labels and Miniature Sheets to be found on the subject. At or near the top of the list must be this set of 16 Poster Stamps from the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. They really are 'Poster' stamps too!!

The summer Olympics in Sweden saw the very first Official Poster advertizing the event. Designed by Professor Olle Hjortzberg and printed by A.Bortzell's

Printing Company, Stockholm, it depicts the March of the Athletes towards the Olympic Games, each carrying a Flag. The Poster was printed in 16 languages. They did cause quite a stir initially and in Munich, Germany there were protests over the very public nudity!!!

In the same design were printed Official Poster Stamps (some shown here), advertizing leaflets and the Olympic Programme. It would be quite a challenge to make a collection of items from these Games alone!!



Printed in sheets of 81 (9x9), Perf 11½ and Imperfs do exist for the English, French, Italian and German languages, an example of the latter can be seen here. They are however, extremely scarce.



The Poster Stamps were also printed in 16 languages and like the Posters, in varying quantities for each language. Some remain hard to find and are quite pricey. But they do make for a very colourful page.



A fine series.

Posters

		Brought forward	79,950
English	26,800	Portuguese	1,850
German	16,300	Finnish	1,500
French	13,000	Hungarian	1,400
Swedish	13,300	Japanese	1,000
Russian	3,000	Turkish	800
Spanish	3,000	Greek	750
Dutch	2,550	Bohemian	750
Italian	2,000	Chinese	350
	Carried forward	Total	88,350
	79,950		

2nd GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC CONGRESS, London 1910

Souvenirs have been produced for almost every GB Philatelic Congress since its inception in 1909. Many of these have been produced by top quality printers and are much sought after by Stamp and Cinderella collectors alike. A good number of them can fetch high prices at auction given the limited numbers produced. My favourite of them all (of the ones seen) is from the 1910 event held at the Caxton Hall in London.





Beautifully engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd, they show a young Queen Victoria facing right, and if my information is up to date, only one other stamp (a revenue) has used this Queen Victoria head. A simple yet very effective design.

I was recently outbid on an example in Black and Imperforate. The listing did not say so, but I believe this to be a Proof Copy, although I had never seen one previously. There is just so much to collect!!

I hope you have enjoyed this little look at some of my favourite items. I have purposely omitted some Exhibition favourites because they have been covered under other topics in previous editions. But there will be more to come another day. My apologies for the rather condensed 'Cinderella Corner', due mostly to work, Grandchildren (Summer holidays) and the very hot weather!!

Next time I will be writing 'on the go' as I will be reporting on some Philatelic Events in England & Spain and go in search of some Cinderellas to add to my lot.

In a recent edition of our Newsletter I briefly touched upon a Stamp Meeting in a small Catalan Country Village (Vol 2, No.3). This year I will be attending that meeting which takes place during the Annual Melon Festival. Wish me luck!

During the trip, I will also be playing Mr. Postman and delivering personally, the Prize for the Newsletter Giveaway No.9.

Congrats to Beryllium Guy for a 2nd consecutive win. The Prize this time will include some items shown by me in this edition.....you wouldn't want to miss those would you!??

STAMP WANTS & HAVES

In a departure from the norm, I am going to make an offer to our members/readers whilst at the same time asking for their help. We all spend some time searching for items we want or need. But we cannot cover every offer, every auction or every dealer list.

So I am asking if anyone comes across any Labels/Stamps from the series I have shown in this Cinderella Corner I would be very grateful for a 'heads up'. Regarding the 1912 Stockholm Olympics Poster Stamps, I am specifically looking for the Finnish, Japanese and Italian languages.

I recently made up lists of unwanted Stamps and Cinderellas for sale at very good prices. Whilst a number have been sold, many remain.

If anyone would like to look at the lists, please let me know your email address via the TSF Message Board and I will pass them on to you.

Any TSF member who makes a purchase can take 15% off the total.

Most items are on a First-come-first-served basis. In September, I will be adding a very nice, mainly KGV Commonwealth Collection list and will be offering those to TSF members first.

In the meantime, I'd like to wish all of the The Stamp Forum peeps, more lovely summer weeks and Happy Collecting.

Londonbus1 aka Michael Hide.

Thanks:

Ray Petersen; [Poster Stamp Collectors Club](#)

Dr.Richard Grosse; [Olympic-Museum.de](#).



The Samoa Express Torres Forgeries - Tracing a Spanish Forger's Footprints

By: Gerhard Lang-Valchs ([click on images for a larger picture](#))

Introduction

Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1910) is even in his home country nearly unknown, but is a widely underestimated lithographer and stamp forger. Born in Spain, he grew up in Italy, where his passion for stamp collecting together with his skills and abilities as a lithographic engraver were discovered by the Florentine editor and stamp dealer Carlo Elia Usigli. Aware of the world-wide perceivable boom of stamp collecting in the early 1860's, Usigli felt the need of images that could help dealers and collectors to identify the objects they wanted to sell or buy. With the help of the young Spaniard, who made the stamp illustrations, he built up a distribution network for those items that soon covered nearly the whole European market.



In the 1870's Torres won a certain independence from his patron, opening a stationary shop in the harbour town of Leghorn (Livorno).

He edited a stamp catalogue and published the first Italian philatelic review, *La Posta Mondiale*.

In 1874 he had a falling out with his patron and left Italy forever.

This was the end of the Usigli monopoly, but Torres took over the business and continued furnishing not only the European, but also the American clients with the copies of the recently issued stamps.

As he had done before in Italy, after delivering the products to his clients, he kept making "private copies" putting them into stamp packages converting them in this way into forgeries.

The Torres-"jokes"



Torres Valencia forgery compared to original (left)
The stamp was not circulated

Unlike other engravers and forgers, Torres had a very particular view of his work, that allows us, up to a certain point, to trace his footprints. When others tried to copy a model the best they could, the Spaniard introduced now and then deliberately "errors" in his copies, playing a game with editors and collectors. It is difficult to understand the motive, but examples are numerous. It consisted in modifying mostly part of the inscription or/and value labels, changing or inverting characters, adding or omitting elements like dots and hyphens.



Torres smiling instead of frowning central figure

This largely documented practise was the first hint for the suspicion that Torres may have produced a counterfeit of the Samoan Express issue. The fact that only one value was affected, was a second step towards the discovery of the author of the fake. Torres normally made only one of the low values of each issue the editors had sent him for copying.

But this intuitive approach can't be but a (strong?) hint towards a final proof and evidence.

The illustrations presented now are taken from three different European catalogues, all furnished by Torres with his copies. In the case of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, this dependence has been clearly and specifically demonstrated and documented.

Analysis



Odenweller #4

In the following analysis the forgery #4, following the Odenweller classification, will be subject to a critical scrutiny. It will consist of a comparison of this fake with three illustrations of the same stamp taken from catalogues that used Torres' illustrations.

All samples have a final dot at the inscription.

The nearly triangle-shaped corner elements show at their inner part a waving line with four peaks at the left and only three at the right side.

The lettering of the central stripe does not show any difference on the samples.

The pearls/dots of the two semi-circles surrounding the centre part are not evenly distributed.

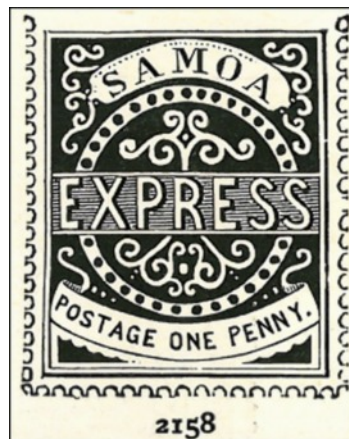
In the lower semicircle, the first two at the left show a greater distance than the others.

The same occurs with the fourth and fifth at the left side of the upper semicircle.

The supposedly symmetric disposition of the central adornments is not realized in the lower pair. The lower elements of the right piece are at a lower position than those of the opposite side.



Maury Catalog



Stanley Gibbons Catalog



Belin Catalog

The most important features are the background lines. We can find on all samples 14 lines between the characters, and only 13 between the first and the last and the frame, a certainly strange and conspicuous pattern.

All other important elements coincide on all samples.

It has to be admitted, that two eye-catching elements in two different areas, the flaw of the lower right corner element and the defects of the "S" of the inscription label, have no counterpart in any of the illustrations.

Flaws are elements usually caused by careless handling of the copies, the clichés or unclean treatment during the process of printing. The same has to be said about the defective "S".

But let's have a closer look at the inscription label.

The lettering of the inscription shows, except for the just referred defect, identical features on all samples.

The "S" is broken, the arm of the first "A" does not touch the right stroke, the "M" is asymmetrical and has a slightly curved right serif, the "O" is twice broken and the arm of the final "A" does not touch any of the strokes.

On some illustrations we can still appreciate some faint dots of the line of dots, remainders of a sometimes existing complete line.

Second analysis



Odenweller Forgery #5a

Aside from the two eye-catching defects of forgery #4, that cannot be found on any other forgery or “dot-sample”-illustration, all other above described “basic” elements can be found again on both forgeries and on all the illustrations presented.

There are only two differences between the forgery #4 and #5. The lettering of the upper label is changed or retouched and we see a line of dots half-surrounding the inscription; the points/dots of the semicircles are bigger, but their uneven distribution remains. Those differences are all reflected in the illustration of the Lincoln-catalogue. It even shows a strange defect, a sort of short “parallel” stroke at the right side of the last “A”.



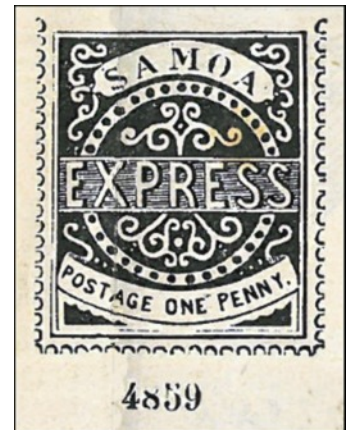
Lincoln Catalog



Odenweller Forgery #6

Nearly the same diagnostic is the result of the comparison of #4 and #6. All described “basic” features can be found there as well. Unlike on forgery #5, the lettering of #6 is almost the same as #4, except for two characters. The “O” is not broken and the arm of the final “A” touches the left stroke.

Applying the same criteria as in the case of the analysis of forgery #4, it seems obvious that the coincidence in all basic features should be as convincing as the identical illustration of the Lincoln-catalogue. That means, there is no reasonable doubts about the authorship being Torres.



Moens Catalog

Final considerations

Since the beginning of my research on Torres and his life six years ago, fakes and forgeries of about 50 out of 150 of period stamp emitting countries and territories could be detected. It seems to me of minor importance how some experts qualify those products. Instead of speaking of fakes or forgeries, they prefer to speak of essays or left-overs, although it is quite rare, that proofs of stamp illustrations for black and white catalogues and philatelic magazines were printed even in different colours. Anyway, the main aim of the present article was to show, that some Samoa-Express fakes, forgeries or essays can be attributed to Torres. I believe, this aim was achieved.

Acknowledgements to Robert Odenweller and Nelson Laviolette that had a critical look at the article and put a lot of images for comparison and publication purposes at my disposition.

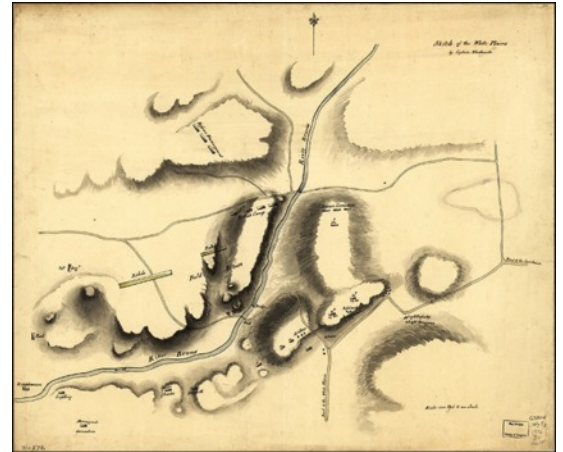
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- GLV: *The Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres: his Catania and Livorno fakes and his Italian States forgeries*, *fil-Italia*, vol. XLIV, nº 3, (whole number 177), Summer 2018, p. 107-118.
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- GLV: *Early British Stamp Experts and Spanish forgeries*, *The London Philatelist*, April 2017, vol. 1444, p. 132-138.
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White Plains: The Battle and the Stamp(s)

By Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj) ([click on images for a larger picture](#))

On Monday, October 28, 1776, British forces under the command of General Lord William Howe handed a defeat to General George Washington and his Continental Army in the Battle of White Plains. The battle was one of a series of American defeats suffered during the so-called New York Campaign that had begun shortly after America had declared its independence from Great Britain; the campaign has been characterized as the lowest point of George Washington's military career during the Revolutionary War. As the American forces withdrew from the field, I'm certain that the future President would never have envisioned that the Battle of White Plains would be commemorated on a postage stamp during the sesquicentennial celebration of his fledgling Nation.



Sketch of White Plains by Captain Charles Blaskowitz, c. 1776 (Library of Congress)

The second U.S. International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) was originally planned to be held in Philadelphia during 1926 in conjunction with that city's sesquicentennial celebration; however, it was determined that New York City had better facilities for such an event. By way of the September 15, 1926 Postal Bulletin, postmasters, postal employees and philatelists were informed that a new two cent stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of White Plains would be issued during October of that year. An excerpt from that bulletin follows:

"The new stamp is a horizontal rectangle, seventy-five one-hundredths by eighty-seven one-hundredths inches in size, and will be printed in red ink. The center vignette shows a gun crew in action, consisting of four men dressed in continental uniform, with cannon and ammunition. Over the vignette, in ribbon form, are the words "United States Postage" in Roman letters. In the upper left corner appears the year "1776," and in the upper right corner the year "1926." Below the vignette in the center of the stamp is a circle containing the large numeral "2," with the word "Cents" on both sides, and above the circle are the words "Battle of White Plains." In the lower left corner is the Continental flag and in the lower right corner the historical "Liberty or Death" flag, first used in the Battle of White Plains, both appearing in oblique position."



Battle of White Plains Issue (Scott 629)

The Bulletin announced that the White Plains stamp would be placed on sale on October 18, 1926 at the post office in White Plains, New York, "and for the benefit of philatelists," it would also be placed on sale on that date at the temporary branch of the philatelic agency that would be established at the International Philatelic Exhibition in New York City (IPEX Station). On and after October 28th, the actual anniversary of the battle, the stamp was to be offered for sale at the philatelic agency in Washington, DC. Direct and central accounting postmasters were allowed to requisition limited quantities of the new stamp; district postmasters could then obtain small quantities to meet local demand from their central accounting postmasters.

The two cent, carmine rose, perforated 11, White Plains stamp was designed by Clair Aubrey Huston, the chief postage stamp designer for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). Huston's iconic works included the 1903 2 cent Washington "Shield" stamp, the 1908-1922 Washington-Franklin series, the 20 cent parcel post stamp (1913), and the 24 cent air post issue (1918). Five plates were used to print the White Plains stamp (Scott 629): 18765, 18766, 18767, 18768 and 18769. The stamp was printed from plates of 400 subjects in four panes of 100. The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers (2017) indicates that more than 40.6 million of the White Plains stamps were issued.



Clair Aubrey Huston,
Senior Postage Stamp Designer, BEP

The stamp's vignette, commonly referred to as "Alexander Hamilton's Battery" or "Hamilton at the Cannon," was based on an original work by Edmund F. Ward. A larger painting (4-foot by 12-foot) of the same image was created by Ward several years later that was purchased by the City of White Plains and hung at the now-decommissioned post office on Grand Street (1932-1979). In a December 1983 article published in the Reporter Dispatch, the then 91 year old Ward insisted that he didn't paint Hamilton but rather said the painting depicted "a humble



Edmund F. Ward's White Plains Stamp Design (1926).
Image courtesy of the White Plains Public Library.



Edmund F. Ward's Battle of White Plains Mural (1932).
Image courtesy of the White Plains Public Library.

gun crew" defending Chatterton Hill during the Battle of White Plains. Although Captain Hamilton did command a company of artillery on Chatterton Hill during the battle, none of the four men depicted on the stamp and in the mural is wearing a Captain's uniform.

Although Captain Hamilton did command a company of artillery on Chatterton Hill during the battle, none of the four men depicted on the stamp and in the mural is wearing a Captain's uniform.

Below; IPEX Hand Cancels in Black and Magenta Inks



FDC with New York, N.Y. International Philatelic Exhibition Station Machine Cancel (International Type-T)

In addition to the commemorative stamp being placed on sale at the International Philatelic Exhibition on October 18, 1926, the Philatelic Agency of the U.S. Post Office Department also made available the first U.S. souvenir sheet. In fact, there were a number of U.S. "firsts" at the

1926 IPEX, including: a dealer's bourse on the event floor (30 dealers); the issuance of a special stamp in the usual form (panes of 100) as well as the stamps in a miniature sheet of 25 with marginal inscriptions about the show; the first printing of stamps by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing outside of its Washington, DC headquarters; the Postmaster General authorizing "favor postmarks; and, the use of magenta inks on the hand cancel devices (magenta had previously been restricted to the cancelling of registered mail)

The International Philatelic Exhibition Issue souvenir sheet, commonly referred to as the White Plains souvenir sheet, was printed from plates of 100 subjects in four panes of 25 subjects with each pane separated by inch-wide gutters with central guide lines. These panes have the inscription "International Philatelic Exhibition, Oct 16th to 23rd, 1926" in the top margin and "New York, N.Y. USA" in the bottom margin. Plate numbers are printed in the margins of the third row and column on all four sides of each pane. Top panes have a one inch top margin and about a one-half inch bottom margin. Bottom panes have about a one-half inch top margin and a slightly less than three-fourths inch bottom margin. All panes have one wide side margin, usually one inch or more, and one narrow side, about one-half inch. The wide margin corner will have a small diagonal notch on top panes (see image right).



White Plains Souvenir Sheet (Scott 630)

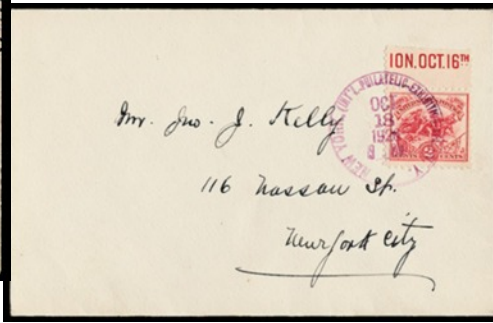
Five plates were used to print the White Plains souvenir sheet (Scott 630), but only four of them printed souvenir sheets that were sold to the public: 18770, 18771, 18773, and 18774. The Post Office's Exhibition Substation included a hand-roller press surrounded by a railing. BEP employees demonstrated stamp printing on this press, using plate No. 18772 to print 700 sheets of four panes of the White Plains souvenir sheet; these sheets were neither gummed nor perforated. All 700 sheets with the 18772 plate number were returned to the BEP and destroyed by a special committee established for that purpose – plate 18772 was mutilated and later destroyed. The Scott catalogue indicates that 107,398 of the souvenir sheets were issued.

After the exhibition closed on October 23rd, the souvenir sheet was only sold at the Philatelic Agency office in Washington, DC. On October 28th, both the commemorative stamp and souvenir sheet went on sale in the Nation's capital and the commemorative stamp (Scott 629) was sold in other post offices throughout the country.



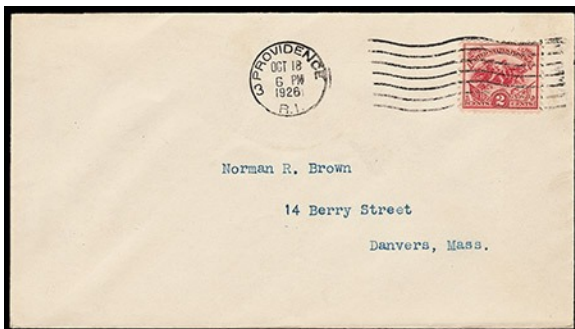
FDC (Scott 629) postmarked in White Plains, New York

Stamp from a White Plains Souvenir Sheet (Scott 630) Used For Postage - below



It is rare to find a full White Plains souvenir sheet on a first day cover (FDC), in part due to the sheet's large size (approximately six and one-fourth inches by five and three-eighths to five and three-fourths inches). Cachets for the White Plains commemorative stamp from the pane of 100 can be found but none have appeared that were prepared exclusively for a stamp from the souvenir sheet. Many of the souvenir sheets were broken up and used for postage over time. Unaddressed covers from the show are also relatively scarce as the availability of favor cancels or handbacks wasn't well known. (A handback cover never enters the mailstream; it is cancelled at a post office window and returned to the person presenting it.)

With the exception of the "dot over first "S" of "States" variety found on a single stamp in souvenir sheets printed from plates 18773 (#11) and 18774 (#9), stamps from the 100 subject pane (Scott 629) and the 25 subject souvenir sheet (Scott 630) are virtually indistinguishable without an identifiable portion of selvage being attached (e.g., plate number or marginal inscription).



"Unofficial" FDC Postmarked in Providence, Rhode Island on October 18, 1926. The stamp was likely purchased at the show and mailed later that day in Providence.

I've wanted to obtain a copy of the White Plains souvenir sheet since I began collecting U.S. stamps in the early 1970s. In June of this year, after waiting almost forty-five years, that want was satisfied when I acquired the sheet shown previously in this article. I've acquired a mount for the sheet and it has taken its place in my National album. My collection has also benefited by the addition of the six White Plains covers shown as supporting illustrations. I'm not sure how the other Newsletter contributors approach the matter but I justify my purchasing of new material as a requirement for article preparation. Judging by my acquisitions of late, I must have dozens of potential articles waiting to be written – that is, once I've purchased all of the necessary supporting material!



Left; The label on the reverse of this cover mailed from the IPEX on its final day, October 23, 1926, was one of a set of four poster stamps produced by the American Bank Note Company that were included as souvenirs in the Exhibition's program. The set was also available for sale for 10 cents.



Left; FDC with both the International Philatelic Exhibition Station machine cancel and the Exhibition hand stamp placed using magenta ink. The label affixed at lower left was designed by Christian Dull of Philadelphia for use in advertising the exhibition.

Sources:

- Postal Bulletin 14182, September 15, 1926
- "Postage Stamps of the United States: 1847-1961", U.S. Post Office Department
- "Historic Mural Endures Under an Assumed Name", Reporter Dispatch, December 5, 1983
- "New Yorkers Stage the Second IPEX," Steven J. Rod, The American Stamp Dealer & Collector, February 2015
- "International Philatelic Expos in the U.S.: Part I, Paul Peterson, WSS-NY 2016, June 2, 2016
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- "Local History Murals" by Ben Himmelfarb, White Plains Public Library

The Prince of Forgers - Samuel Allan Taylor

By: Nelson Laviolette - nl1947

Background

From: Stamps, July 4, 1942

"Samuel Allan Taylor" by R.A. Jamieson

"Samuel Allan Taylor was born in Ayrshire Scotland in 1838 to Douglas and Agnes Taylor. His father died shortly after his birth, and when his mother died shortly after remarrying he was orphaned.

Left in the hands of strangers he was sent to the United States to live with an uncle. This arrangement did not work and Samuel ran away. He was found and raised by a doctor. At the age of fifteen he became a messenger boy for the New York Telegraph Company. It was here that he learned about posts and began to collect stamps and labels. It was also here that he began to both collect, and systematically study, local stamps and labels.

In 1861, Samuel Taylor fled to Canada to escape the draft during the Civil War. He would reside in Montreal until the end of 1864, where he worked in a drugstore. It was while he was in Montreal that he began publication of the first stamp journal in North America, The Stamp Collectors Record. While in Montreal, Mr. Taylor met Frances Mathieson and married. They would have three children, one of which would survive, daughter Frances.

Taylor and his wife moved back to the United States, Albany, New York where he would publish the American edition of The Stamp Collectors Record. The family would then move to Boston where Taylor worked as a dispensing clerk at Boston Hospital. It was here that he finished publication of the journal in 1877. His interest in stamps led him to begin manufacturing and marketing bogus stamps and promotional labels. He died in 1913 in Waltham, Massachusetts."



A rare photo of Allan Taylor circa 1860

While in Boston he was to become the leader of a group of forgers known as the Boston Gang. The gang consisted of Ferdinand Marie Trifet, James M. Chute, Charles A. Lyford, William E. Skinner and C.M. Seltz (Frederick H. King). The members all produced their own creations.

In his own words;

"I am a man of flexible conscience, and a speculative disposition"

"My stamps are better than the originals"

A philatelic society, the S. Allan Taylor Society, dedicated to studying the productions of Taylor was in existence between 1971 and 1980.

Taylor's Repertoire

So what did Taylor create?

Foreign forgeries of Hamburg, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Mexico, Bolivia, Paraguay, Sarawak, Liberia and others

Labels commemorating events

Bank Savings Stamps

Union/Commerce Labels

College Stamps

Bogus Stamps

A wide range of US, Canada and foreign Bogus Stamps

And of course, US Locals, Confederates and Carriers

In all, well over 5000 varieties not to mention the varieties of papers and stamp colors.

Obviously, this article cannot do justice to all his creations.

Foreign Forgeries and Con Jobs

During his stay in Canada, Taylor appears to have gained a fondness for certain Provinces.



His most illustrious creations were a pair of 10c and 15c Prince Edward Island bogus stamps.

So convincing were these stamps and the provenance that they were featured in period catalogues as genuine issues.



In May 1867, a very nice stamp of 5 Centavos from Guatemala appeared on the market sold exclusively by S. Allan Taylor from Boston. Supposedly being engraved 'proofs' in various colours for the country's first issue, the items depict a sailing ship in a harbour, with the inscription reading 'GUATEMALA / (vignette) / CORREOS CINCO CENT'.

Taylor passed himself off as 'Don Alberto de Barrio' of Guatemala to the Holland Printing Company of Boston to persuade them to print the bogus 'first' issue of that country. His companion Lyford acted as 'Don Alberto's' interpreter for this scam.

Lithographed forgeries of this engraved stamp are plentiful.



Taylor Guatemala Bogus



At about the same time, a similar scam was perpetrated on Paraguay by issuing a bogus stamp before the country issued any stamps.

The stamps in a series of designs and colours were convincing enough to be forged by the Spiro brothers.

Taylor Bogus left, Spiro Forgery right

Possibly his most ambitious scam was the forgery of the rare Hawaiian 1853 13c stamp. Sometime in 1867, Holland Printing was visited by Taylor. Dearborn was still there working as an engraver.

Taylor tricked Dearborn into making a fresh order of stamps to sell as souvenirs. The original dies and plates were still at the Holland Printing Company.

However, Dearborn promised to improve the design by eliminating the earlier mistakes and Taylor apparently liked the idea because his stamps would be superior in quality to the originals.

At night in the Holland Printing shop, Dearborn worked with Taylor to print new 13c stamps until Dearborn heard Taylor and his friends brag about their trick. Dearborn tried to seize the plate, but Taylor got away with the stamps, the plate and probably the die.

Dearborn refused to produce 5c stamps for Taylor although Taylor tried to press a contract claim. The forgery is considered one of the best in Philately.

Taylor made subsequent printings on different paper, corrected an error (the missing dot between the S & 8) and even added a very good Honolulu cancel in black instead of the original red



Taylor Forgery left, Original right

Taylor's US Locals and CSA's (Confederate Stamps)

In the early 1900's these were some of the most collectible US stamps.

However interest waned when collectors realized that forgeries far outnumbered the originals and even the respected catalogues of the period were mainly showing forgeries.

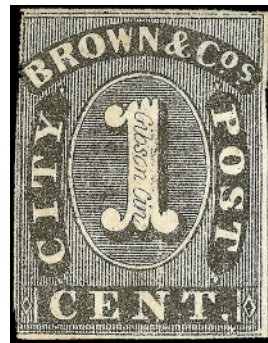
US Local stamps represented an early attempt for small businesses to deliver mail in areas where the government post was lacking. As forgeries did not affect the US treasury, forgers were not prosecuted.

Eventually the government sought to close down these independents and in 1883 when the government raided the offices of Boyd's and Hussey's, US Locals essentially ended.

Allan Taylor is probably best known for these forgeries but unlike his Paraguay and Hawaiian ventures he made very few attempts to be accurate. He forged the stamps on whatever paper was available and in many colour variations. Some of his efforts are nothing more than caricatures. The following is a sampling of these forgeries. The difference are fairly evident. **(Genuine Left, Taylor forgeries on the right)**



CSA Sc 6



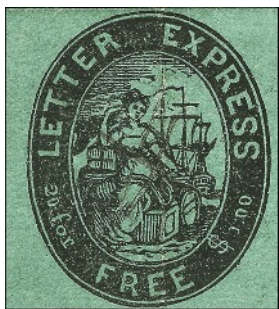
Sc 29L1



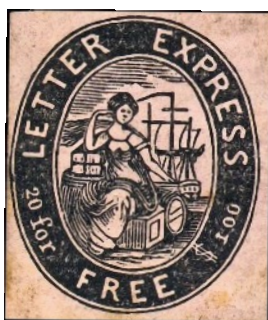
Sc 112L2



Sc 136L14



Sc 96L2



Sc Unlisted



Bogus Confederate fabrications. The Buck's stamp comes in at least 8 types with many colours and values

Stamp Oddities

WILL ROGERS

US 1948 Famous Americans

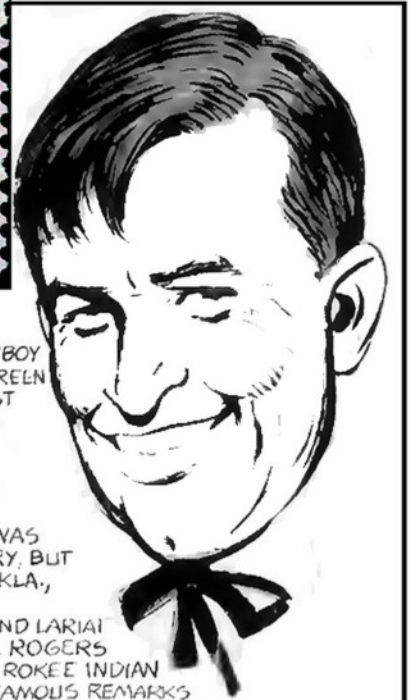


BEFORE SETTLING DOWN AS THE COMMON MAN'S PHILOSOPHER, HE HAD BEEN ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE. HE WAS A CIRCUS PERFORMER AND AN ACTOR ON STAGE AND FILM. HE WAS A SYNDICATED NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST, A LECTURER, AND AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS.



COWBOY HUMORIST (1879 - 1935)
WILL ROGERS, THE COWBOY HUMORIST OF STAGE, SCREEN AND RADIO WAS THE MOST BELOVED FIGURE OF HIS TIME.

WILLIAM ADAIR ROGERS WAS BORN ON A RANCH AT OOLOGAH, IN WHAT WAS THEN INDIAN TERRITORY, BUT CALLED CLAREMORE, OKLA., HIS HOMETOWN. EXPERT COWPUNCHER AND LARIAT THROWER, YOUNG WILL ROGERS WAS PROUD OF HIS CHEROKEE INDIAN HERITAGE. ONE OF HIS FAMOUS REMARKS WAS "MY ANCESTORS DIDN'T COME OVER ON THE MAYFLOWER. THEY MET THE BOAT."



Wrong Person



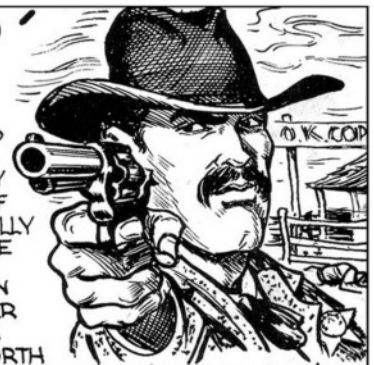
This Newfoundland stamp of 1897 depicts John Cabot the explorer and navigator whose name was actually Giovanni Caboto. However his son, Sebastian Cabot is shown.

'WYATT EARP'

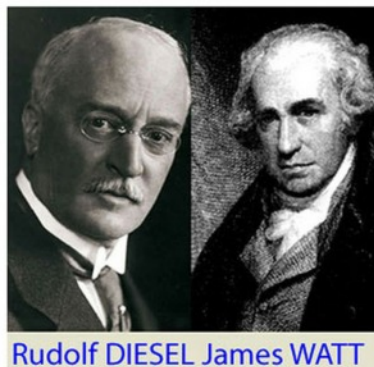
THE SHIP, THE 'WYATT EARP' FEATURED ON THIS FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES STAMP HAD AN UNUSUAL CAREER. BUILT AS A MOTOR FISHING VESSEL IN NORWAY IN 1910 WITH A DISPLACEMENT OF 400 TONS, THE SHIP WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED 'FANEFJORD'. IN 1935 THE VESSEL WAS ACQUIRED BY THE



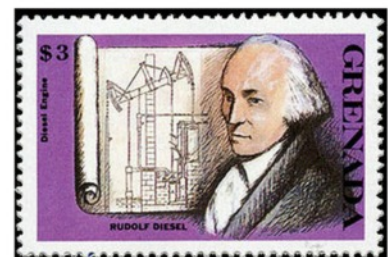
AMERICAN EXPLORER LINCOLN ELLSWORTH WHO RENAMED HER 'WYATT EARP' - AFTER THE NOTORIOUS MARSHAL OF TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA. AFTER MANY TRIPS TO ANTARCTICA, THE SHIP WAS RE-NAMED 'WONGALA' AND SERVED IN AUSTRALIAN COASTAL WATERS. . . .



Two Wrongs Don't Make A Right



Rudolf DIESEL James WATT



The images of James Watt and Rudolph Diesel were interchanged on these two Grenada stamps

THE STAMP FORUM



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