



THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

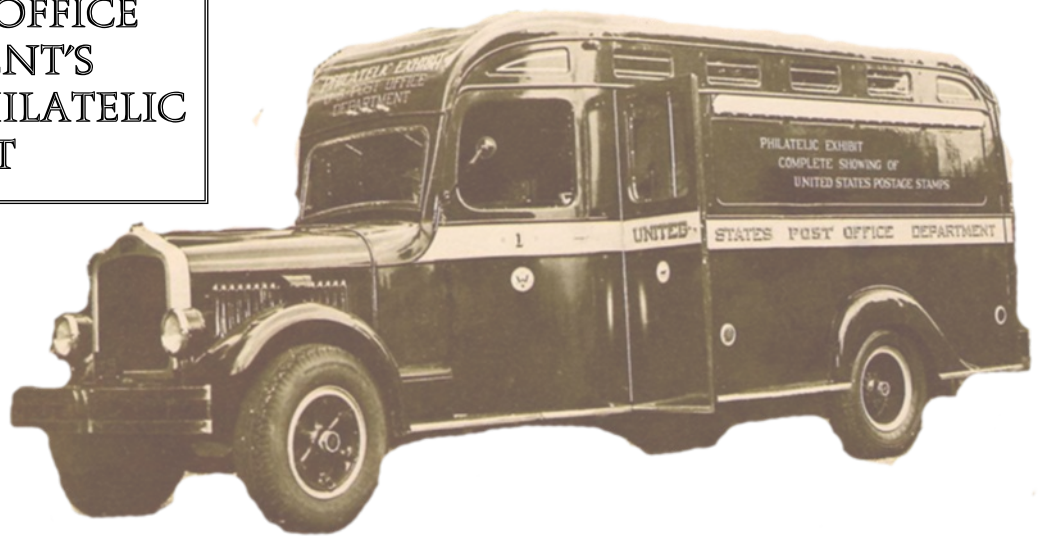
Volume 3, Issue 2

APS Chapter 1591

January-March 2019

In This Issue

THE US POST OFFICE
DEPARTMENT'S
TRAVELING PHILATELIC
EXHIBIT



**Forensic Philately
A Cover from 1943
Tells a Story**

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!

TSF No Previous Experience Required

Support your Forum - Write for the Newsletter



Complete for "Best Article" Recognition

APS Chapter 1591

All Philatelic Subjects are Welcome

Forum Update

This issue would typically have been the last of three to be submitted to APS as our Chapter's entry into the annual Chapter Newsletter competition; however, I'm led to believe that APS has decided to discontinue both the Chapter Newsletter and Website competitions.

The reasoning as had been explained to me was that only a handful of Chapters have participated in these annual events and that the award levels have remained relatively consistent. As of this writing, the official announcement has not been released but it may be out by the time this Newsletter is published. My preference would be to continue both of these Chapter activities and I made that known to APS but I'm not hopeful that they will reverse their decision.

For now, the APS Articles of Distinction program continues as a Chapter benefit so your support is appreciated in helping us determine our 2019 submission. A poll has been posted on the forum to allow members to identify their favorite article from the previous Newsletter (V3.1) and a similar poll will be created for this and the next two issues.

The intent is to have the membership identified their favorite article from each Volume 3 Newsletter issue and then conduct a final poll to select the best article from among those four. I was hopeful that we'd have greater member participation than in the two prior selections but the participation rate thus far has been poor.

On the membership front, we've been fortunate in gaining several new members who have been actively participating and for that I'm thankful. On a monthly basis I seem to approve some 8- to 10 new member registrations and subsequently delete those accounts 30 days later after those individuals haven't posted the required introduction – the majority of them having failed to return to the forum after submitting their membership request. If any of you have ideas as to how we can get these folks to engage I'd love to hear them so please pass them along via the Forum's personal messaging system.

Lastly, let me reiterate that the Forum's Image Host – the one tied to the "Upload images" button – is not accessed using your Forum log in information but requires a separate user ID and password. If you would like to use the TSF Image Host, you must request that an account be created.

The only caveat regarding our image host is that it can only be used for hosting images that are uploaded to posts on TSF – it is not to be used for other purposes (e.g., family albums, vacation photos, etc.).

Steve Tomisek – Forum Administrator/APS Chapter Ambassador

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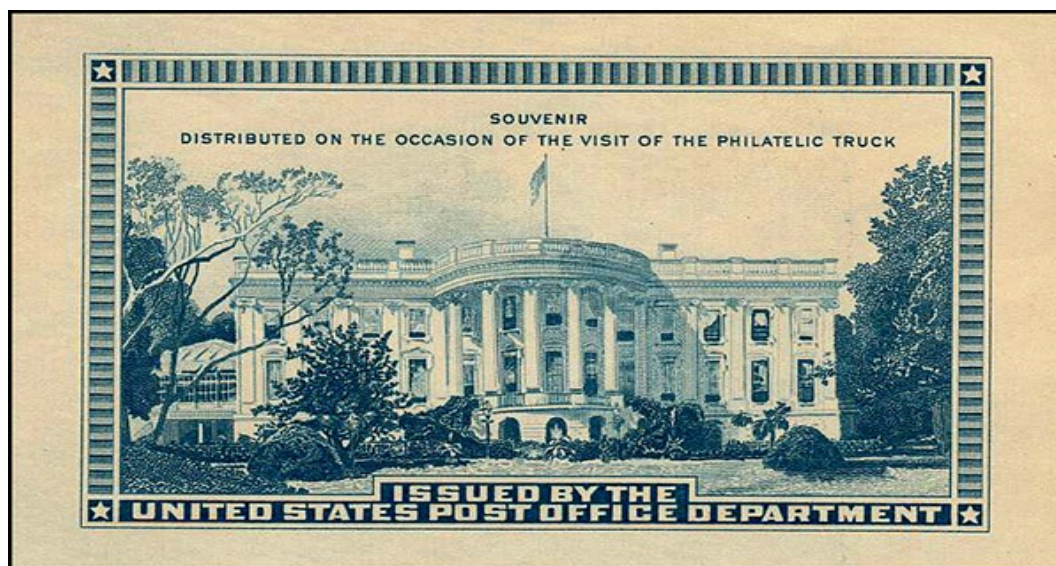
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The US Post Office Department's Traveling Philatelic Exhibit

By Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj)

Ever since the Forum began publishing its newsletter, I've noticed that my stamp buying practices have been evolving. Rather than seeking out and acquiring items that I want or need for my collection, I find myself increasingly looking for items to use as the basis of articles that I hope may be of interest to some of our membership. This article exemplifies the types of material that have found their way into my collection as a consequence of The Stamp Forum Newsletter.

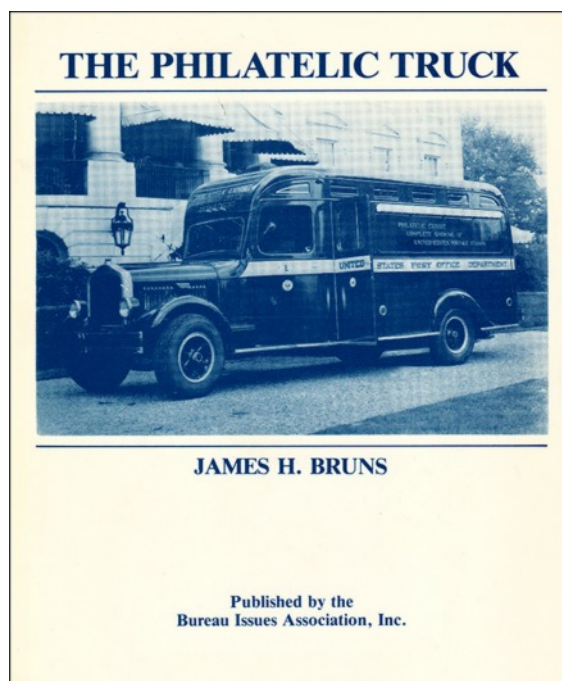
Admittedly, I've considered adding the "Philatelic Truck" souvenir sheet to my collection since I first saw it on the Stamp Community Family website shortly after I joined that forum in 2010; however, I only acted on that impulse last month as I tried to decide what to write for this issue. As I prepared to write this article, it was apparent that I would need to obtain a copy of the souvenir sheet, shown below, but I would soon find myself looking for (and buying) other related material to provide a more well-rounded article.



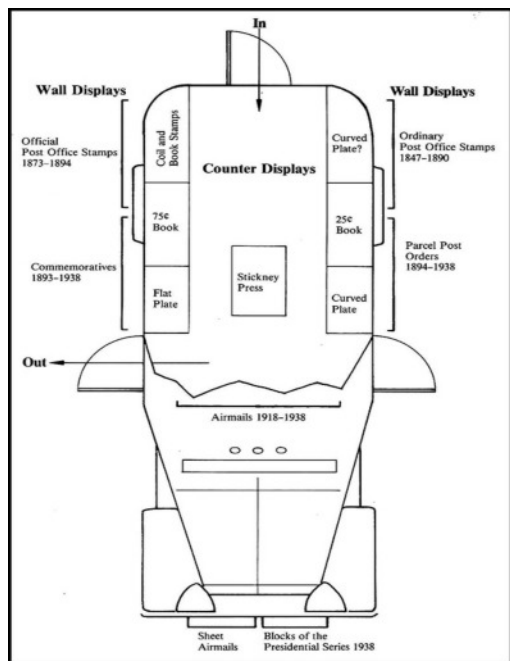
The Philatelic Truck Souvenir Sheet

But enough of my story – this article is about an aspect of U.S. philatelic history that I hope merits summarizing on these pages. Much of the information that is presented here derives from a book written by James H. Bruns in 1982 titled "The Philatelic Truck." Bruns' work has been added to my philatelic library, such as it is, and is shown below. For those who may be interested in pursuing this subject in greater depth, I highly recommend that you acquire Bruns' book. Copies can often be found online for around \$10 or less.

"The Philatelic Truck"
by James H. Bruns



The Post Office Department's idea for a traveling philatelic exhibit to stimulate interest in stamp collecting originated in the mid- to late-1930s during the tenure of a philatelist President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and his industrious Postmaster General, James A. Farley. The concept involved modifying a truck for use as the platform for exhibiting displays of U.S. stamps and stamp production materials. Shown below is a schematic of the placement of the exhibited material on the truck and a photo of the interior. The truck's contents included: flat and curved plates, a die and transfer roll, frames containing die proofs of Post Office stamps, pictures of government buildings, and a miniature press. Also included were waist-high display cases containing booklet and coil stamps, photographs of stamp designs, and two books titled "A Description of United States Postage Stamps" (75 cent and 25 cent versions).



Layout of the Philatelic Truck



Interior of the Philatelic Truck

On May 6, 1939, Postmaster General Farley announced that the Post Office Department's new philatelic truck would begin its nationwide journey from the White House on May 9th. Farley's announcement also revealed that a miniature model of a rotary press would be shown in operation, "issuing a souvenir engraving the design of which will be a photograph of the White House, 3 x 4 ½ inches." Following the White House ceremony, in which both President Roosevelt and PMG Farley participated, the truck remained on exhibition in Washington, DC for six days before leaving on a schedule planned to take it to every state in the Union.



Farley and the Philatelic Truck at the White House, May 9, 1939



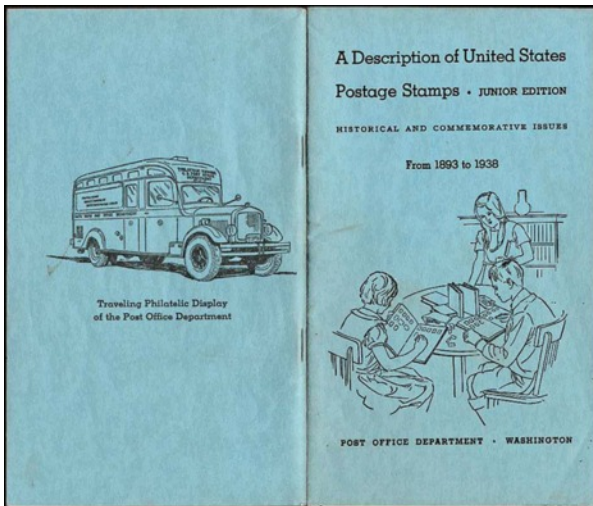
Farley Handing Roosevelt a Proof of the Engraved Souvenir Sheet (The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images)

Three printings of the souvenir sheet were produced, the first with gum and the latter two without. Bruns notes that 173,220 gummed sheets were prepared and 556,820 had no gum. Some of the sheets from the initial printing were made into coils of 500 for distribution via the miniature Stickney press; however, that process proved too slow to accommodate the number of visitors moving through the exhibit. No coils were shipped to the truck after May 22, 1939 – subsequent deliveries arrived as single pieces ready for distribution by the crew.

In addition to the souvenir sheet, which was given free of charge to visitors, the truck also sold three versions of the book “A Description of United States Postage Stamps.” Two standard versions of the book covering issuances from 1847 through 1936 sold for 75 cents in hardcover and 25 cents as a paperback. A new junior edition of the book, produced specifically for the philatelic truck tour, sold for 10 cents. The junior edition provided images and short descriptions of the stamps issued between 1893 and 1938. The front piece to that book, written by President Roosevelt, read:

“TO THE JUNIOR PHILATELISTS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I commend stamp collecting to you because I started a collection when I was about ten years old and have kept it up ever since. In addition to the fun of it, it has kept up my interest in history and geography, past and present. I really believe that collecting stamps makes one a better citizen.”



A Description of United States Postage Stamps – Junior Edition

While the truck was undergoing repairs between December, 1939 and January, 1940 it was decided that the current 3 cent embossed envelope with a special cachet would be offered for sale on the vehicle at a price of 5 cents each. The envelope’s cachet, printed in black, featured a left-facing truck with “POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT / PHILATELIC EXHIBIT” in two lines above the truck’s image and “MAILED ON DISPLAY CAR” beneath the image. The horizontal cachet was framed by a thin border with rounded edges (see image below). The cachets were applied in Washington and the envelopes were shipped to the truck in boxes of 500. From the reported total amount collected, Bruns estimated that between 19,983 and 25,000 of these covers were sold with the variance due to a discount that was given to large purchasers. These covers weren’t postmarked aboard the vehicle but rather were accepted by the vehicle’s postal personnel who would leave them with the local post office for cancellation and onward movement.

Based upon information contained in the Annual Reports of The Postmaster General for Fiscal Years 1939 and 1940, the traveling exhibit appears to have exceeded the Department’s expectations and there was some discussion of increasing the number of vehicles. Plans changed on December 7, 1941 while the exhibit was in Yuma, Arizona. Soon thereafter, Washington directed that the tour would complete its scheduled appearance in San Diego from December 10-13, after which the vehicle would be sent to Los Angeles for dismantlement. While the Post Office Department had planned to reach every state in the Union,



the exhibit had only been to 36 states and the District of Columbia by the time it ceased operation, having travelled 20,750 miles and hosted 483,976 visitors in 490 locations.

Left: Philatelic Truck on Display at Post Office Department Headquarters (LIFE Magazine photo)



Stamped Envelopes (Scott U436) with “Mailed on Display Car” Cachets

Homage to my Hometown: Tyre City, Lebanon

By Jad El Husseini ([Bombadil](#)) with Chris Dorn ([Beryllium Guy](#))

Shortly after joining TSF in December 2017, I realized that there were no posts of any images of the stamps of Lebanon, my native country. So, I rectified that by posting images of some modern stamps from the Republic of Lebanon, but decided that I wanted to go one step further, and tell my fellow members about the wonderful place which I am lucky enough to call home, Tyre City, which has a very long, important, and remarkable history all its own.

Tyre City & the Phoenician Civilization

The name “Phoenicia” is derived from an ancient Greek word which meant “purple country”. The Greeks chose that name for the region based on its most famous commercial product at that time, which was a distinctive purple-red cloth, the production of which came from a natural dye which was extracted from the Murex species of sea snails. The color is known as either Tyrian purple or Tyrian red, and some historians believe that it is the basis for the association of the color purple with royalty.

Phoenicia was primarily a maritime civilization that existed from 1500 to 300 BC. It was populated by groups of Semitic peoples, who originally came from the present-day regions of Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. They lived in the narrow, Eastern Mediterranean coastal areas as well as in the parallel strip regions in the mountains of Lebanon.

It should also be noted that Phoenicia was organized into independent city-states, similar to the way in which it was done in ancient Greece. The island city of Tyre (my beautiful hometown) and the city of Sidon were the two most powerful city-states in Phoenicia. Historians believe that Tyre was most likely originally an outgrowth of Sidon, which it eventually eclipsed as the most important and influential of the city-states in the region.

The ancient Phoenicians were master navigators, dominating trade in the Mediterranean Sea for more than 500 years. As a result, they expanded their influence, considered by some today as an empire, as far as Spain and Gibraltar to the west, where they founded Cadiz in southern Spain as well as colonies in other Mediterranean locations such as Carthage (modern-day Tunisia), Crete, Cyprus, Malta, Rhodes, Sardinia, Sicily, and Marseille, many names which should look familiar to stamp collectors.

They even traveled to the British Isles in the north, and reached the southern parts of Africa, establishing trade routes between Europe and Western Asia. The Portuguese are often credited with many achievements in naval history, but it was the Phoenicians who circumnavigated the continent of Africa more than a thousand years before the Portuguese did it.

The Mother of Modern Alphabets

In addition to their achievements in navigation and commerce, which were impressive in their own right, the Phoenicians are also known as the inventors of the alphabet which spawned virtually all others. It was in Byblos, another one of the Phoenician city-states where, around 1000 BC, a system of syllabic writing was first developed. This alphabet had a strong influence on both the Aramaic and Greek alphabets. Most of the letters of these alphabets were adopted from Phoenician script and became the basis for the Greek alphabet and by means of an Etruscan adaptation, the Latin alphabet.

Unfortunately, Phoenician alphabetic script was written primarily on papyrus or parchment, materials which were readily degraded in damp, sea air, so virtually no written record of the history of Phoenicia has survived to modern day. It is one of history’s ultimate ironies that the people who are credited with teaching a large portion of the world’s population to write were unable to preserve any of their own literature to tell their story. As a result, the only known written documents of the Phoenicians and Carthaginians are those that were inscribed in stone, as well as a few other bits and pieces of pottery or papyrus. That is why there are no primary historical sources available from the time of King Hiram I.

Tyre under the Reign of Hiram I

As previously stated, the ancient town of Tyre eventually surpassed its neighbor Sidon, and became the most powerful city-state in Phoenicia. Its location on the southern coast of Lebanon places it about 80km south of Beirut, the present-day capital of the country.

Tyre rose to prominence due to the discovery of the aforementioned Tyrian purple dye, which also led to the city's strong economic growth, as the dyed cloth was highly sought after. The name "Tyre", called "Sūr" in Arabic, means "rock", as the town was named after the rocky outcropping upon which it was originally built.

Hiram was the Phoenician king of Tyre who ruled from 969 to 936 BC. He was known for improving the fortunes of Tyre by building new temples and by expanding the city's two major seaports used for trade, one in the north and one in the south, and connecting them by means of a canal which crossed the city.

Hiram's activities and resulting success are noted in the Old Testament of the Bible, where it is written that he was admired by his neighboring rulers, the Israelite kings David and Solomon. Hiram kept a close enough friendship with the Israelite kings, that he was consulted by King David when the latter decided to build a new temple to the glory of God.

As David died before the temple could be built, the responsibility of carrying out the dream was left to his son King Solomon, who also asked Hiram to supply him with cedar wood for construction, and to further help him by providing a team of architects and masons from Tyre. The agreement between the kings Hiram and Solomon was honored and continued for twenty years.

Of the many fortified cities that existed in ancient times, Tyre was arguably the strongest. Being built on a small island a half-mile from the coast, the city was a natural fortress, which was improved by the construction of thick walls, which were as high as 150 feet in some places. After having withstood a 13-year siege by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, Tyre was considered virtually impregnable. And on top of all of that, Tyre also had a strong naval force to further bolster its protection.

The Arrival of Alexander the Great

In 332 BC, the famous Greek conqueror Alexander the Great defeated the Phoenician city-state of Baalbek, and then proceeded to take over Byblos and Sidon as well. When Alexander and his armies arrived at Tyre later that same year, the local citizens decided to follow the example of Sidon, and they submitted peacefully to Alexander's demand for submission to avoid a bloody battle.

Unfortunately, trouble soon began when Alexander decided that in order to properly mark the occasion of his conquest, he needed to offer a sacrifice in the temple of Melqart. The name "Melqart" means "king of the city", and in fact, Melqart was the supreme deity of Tyre. Despite the decision to submit to the Greeks, the Tyrians could not agree to this request, which would be in violation of their religious beliefs, which forbade foreigners from making sacrifices or even entering the sanctuary of Melqart.

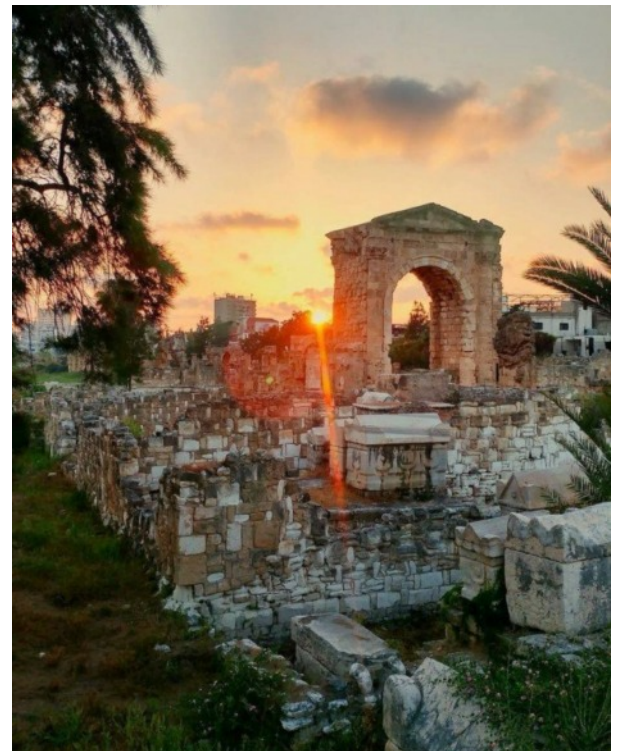
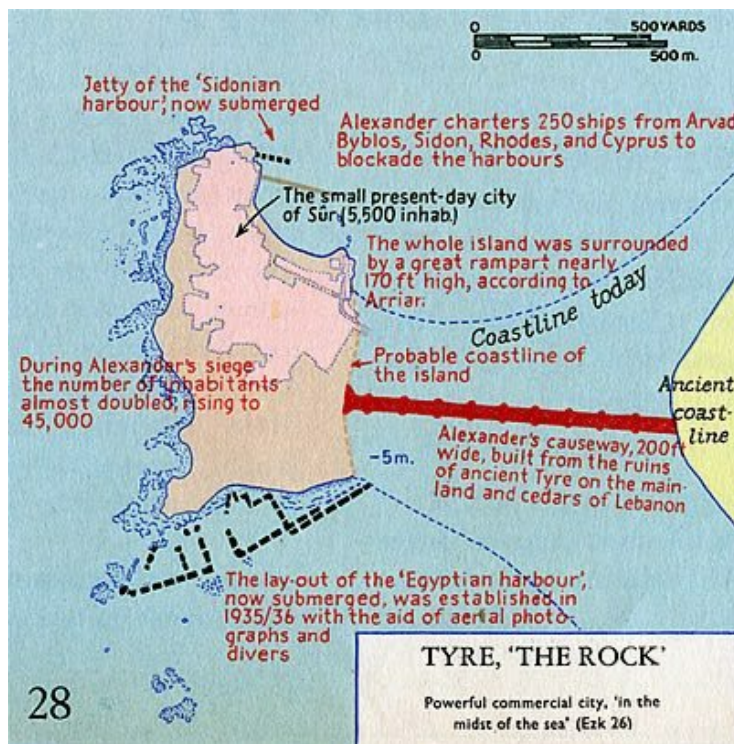
Instead, the Tyrians offered Alexander a compromise, proposing to permit the sacrifice to be made in the old city on the mainland, but just not in the temple on the island. Alexander was not satisfied by this offer, and instead sent envoys to Tyre to demand their surrender. In response, the Tyrians killed the envoys and threw their bodies over the walls, outside of the city.

Enraged by the slaying of his envoys, Alexander ordered the siege of Tyre. So strong was his desire to conquer the well-fortified city, that he had his forces undertake the building of a huge causeway, along with bridges and towers, made from trees and the debris of the ruins of the old city, connecting the mainland to the island. After seven months of multiple unsuccessful attacks and use of various tactics, the town of Sidon sent Alexander naval assistance. The combat engineers of Sidon were able to construct rams that broke through the fortress walls, and Tyre City was finally breached.

Alexander's Macedonian soldiers, frustrated by the length of the siege, avenged themselves on the city, killing over 7,000 Tyrians. Estimates concluded that more than 30,000 citizens of Tyre were massacred or sold into slavery. After capturing Tyre, Alexander's forces moved south, attacking Gaza, which itself withstood a two-month siege. After the fall of Tyre and Gaza, the other city states surrendered to Alexander, thus bringing a swift end to the Phoenician



King Hiram's tomb still stands proudly after 3,000 years on a hill about 10km away from Tyre



After the conquest, the Greeks built a small settlement, which was later followed by the Romans who took over the city, still in many ways a ruin, as a colony in 64 BCE. The Romans built infrastructure, consisting of roads, monuments, and aqueducts, some of which can still be seen today. Under Rome, the city once again flourished, but declined once more after the fall of the empire. Tyre continued on as a port city under the Byzantine Empire, essentially the eastern half of the former Roman Empire, until the 7th century.

The modern-day, small, southern Lebanese town of Tyre now has a population of about 140,000, and the locals like to call their city "Bride of the Sea".

I was born and raised in Tyre. Growing up near the beach created seamless and interwoven physical and spiritual bonds between the sea and me. Everyday words cannot begin to describe or do justice to the idea of what this beautiful city means to me.

When I was 13 years old, I became obsessed with diving under water to look at the remains of the submerged old city and to collect Roman artifacts. They were mostly pieces of broken clay jars, but on a few occasions, I was excited to find some ancient Greek and Roman coins!!

As it happens, and it is probably not a coincidence, my father is an avid collector of Phoenician, Roman, and Greek antiquities, and his passion has fueled my interest in this area, too. He has an impressive collection of mint condition jars, plates, glass items, small statues, etc. That his passion for collecting has inspired me to do the same perhaps makes it easy to understand why I have more recently extended my collecting interests to stamps, too!



"Today, deep under asphalt streets and apartment blocks, the stone core of that fantastic causeway still stands: one of Alexander's most tangible and permanent legacies to posterity."

-Peter Green, *Alexander of Macedon, 356-323 BC, A Historical Biography* (1991)

1966, Le Liban Inventeur de L'alphabet.

Lithographed & Engraved

Scott #C476 10 p - Sarcophagus of King Hiram with Early Alphabet

#C477 15 p - Phoenician ship

#C478 20 p - Map of the Mediterranean Sea showing Phoenician travel routes and ship

#C479 30 p - Phoenician with alphabet tablet



Forensic Philately – A Cover from 1943 Tells a Story

By: Dave Sheridan (Sherro)

There is a belief that Postal History relates to very old material. I'd like to show that a relatively common cover from WWII can tell a fascinating story of it's travels and it's times

This is the cover.



Posted from Halle in Germany to Bourges in Occupied France, on 13 June 1943.

The addressee was Monsieur Poulain, the Assistant Director of the SNCAC, or Société Nationale de Construction Aéronautique du Centre. I have not yet been able to confirm biographical information on M. Poulain, but a couple of possibilities are a champion cyclist named Gabriel Poulain, who won 10,000 francs offered by Peugeot for a bicycle-powered flight in 1921, and a pilot of the same surname who was a mercenary during the Spanish Civil War.

The cover shows the correct postage, 25pf for international postage, and 30pf for Registration, and carries a Halle Registration label alongside the French notation "Recommandé" (Registered).

SNCAC was a French aircraft manufacturer, created when three privately-owned aircraft manufacturers, Farman, Hanriot and Loire-Nieuport (all famous for their WWI aircraft), were nationalised in 1936.

The SNCAC at Bourges was placed under German control after the occupation of France in 1940, and by 1943 was producing the Siebel Si204 light transport plane for the Luftwaffe (shown below).



Meanwhile, the Siebel factory in Halle in Germany was producing the Junkers Ju88 high-speed medium bomber under licence from Junkers, and did not have the capacity to produce both aircraft. Hence, the production of the (somewhat less important) transport aircraft was entrusted to the SNCAC.



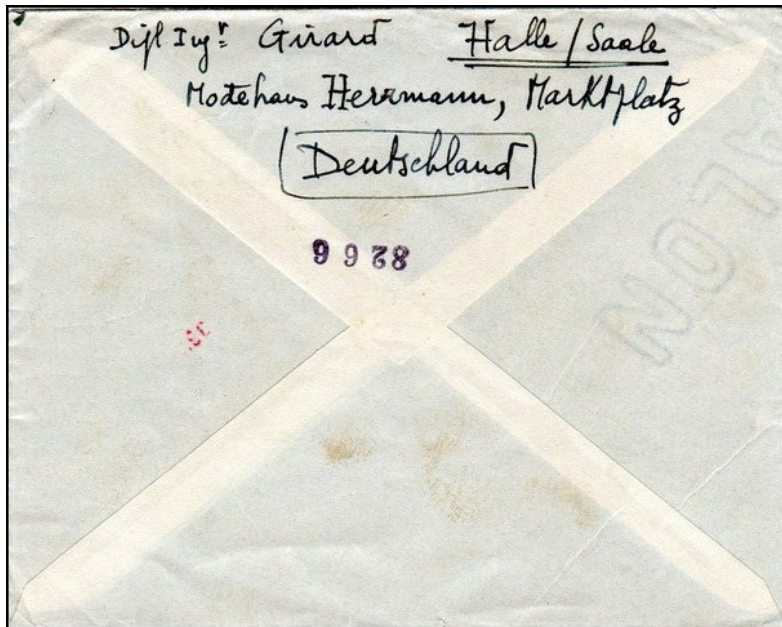
So, we know where the cover was posted, where it was sent, the method of postage, what the sender and recipient were working on and why. We also know that it would have contained something of importance to be Registered, rather than a "hello from Halle!" correspondence.

The circular "Ae" stamp in magenta is a German censor handstamp, so although the cover doesn't appear to have been opened and re-sealed, it was certainly handled by the censor.

The "A" is an abbreviation for "Auslandprüfstelle", or "Foreign Censor Station". The "e" is the code letter for the Censor Station at Frankfurt. So now we know by which route the cover headed to France.

This also suggests that, as the cover was from a French national (the notation "Recommandé" tells us that) to another French national, the cover required the intervention of a Censor. This despite the recipient being the Assistant Director of an armaments factory in occupied territory!

The reverse of the cover.



The sender is a French engineer, Dipl. Ingr. Girard. ("Dipl. Ingr." is a German abbreviation that roughly translates to "Certified Engineer"). I have been unable to find any biographical information about M. Girard.

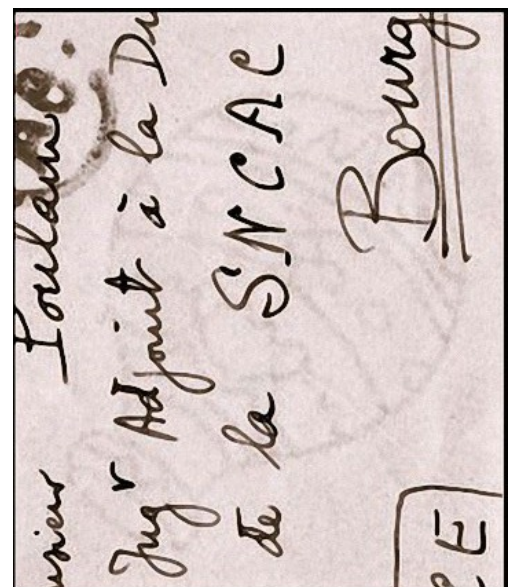
The handstamped "8266" may be an individual censor's marking, or a postal delivery route identifier.

Even the envelope itself is of considerable interest, when the times and the circumstances are considered. It is clearly French stationery, as it carries a watermark (visible on the reverse) of "Balon" (Balloon). The watermark also includes an image of the Montgolfier balloon (shown right).

In 1783, the French Montgolfier brothers flew the world's first hot-air balloon. Was this use of French stationery, bearing a French image, a patriotic or nationalistic statement between the two correspondents that went unnoticed by the Censor?

We're fortunate to live in an age that allows us to source all of the information above without leaving our homes.

If you haven't given Postal History a chance yet, or have been over-whelmed by the thought of the cost, I hope this little example will steer your course.

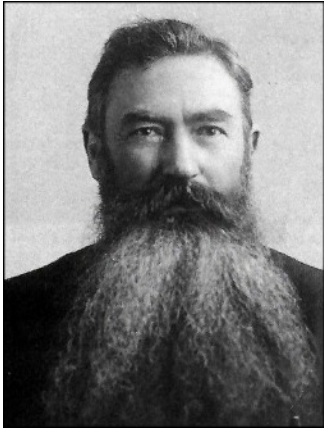


The Christmas Island Local Stamps 1916-1938

By: Dave Sheridan (Sherro)

There are two Christmas Islands. One, an Australian Territory in the Indian Ocean, still issues stamps. The other, in the Pacific Ocean, issued local stamps from 1916 to 1938, when the stamps of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands came into use.

The Pacific Christmas Island is a member of the Line Islands and is to be found 6,700 kms from Sydney, and 5,360 kms from San Francisco.



In 1913, the island was leased by Great Britain to the Central Pacific Coconut Plantations Ltd, owned by Emmanuel Rougier (1864-1932) (Shown left), a French-born former Catholic priest from New Caledonia. Accordingly, the currency used on the stamps is French.

In 1919, the island became part of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands, but no post office was opened. To defray the cost of transporting mail, the Central Pacific Coconut Plantations issued a 5c stamp in 1916, featuring one of their boats, the Ysabel May.

There are four printings of the stamps, two for each value, all on unwatermarked paper:

First Printing (probably 1916) - 5c value per 12½

Second Printing (1924) - 5c value per 11½

Third Printing (1926) - 10c value per 11½, corner figures and value in red

Fourth Printing (1934) - 10c value per 11½, corner figures and value in greenish blue

The stamp covered local delivery, but additional stamps were required for any delivery beyond the local area. They are usually found on covers franked with the stamps of other Pacific territories, mainly French Oceanic Settlements.



Most mail from Christmas Island seems to have been brought to Papeete, where both the local and the French Oceanic Settlement stamps were affixed and mailed for outward transmission.

The picture above shows the first printing of the 5c stamp on a registered cover to Switzerland, postmarked Papeete 31 10 18, San Francisco Dec 23 18 and New York 12 28 18.

The locals used on international mail were cancelled with the large Central Pacific Coconut Plantations Ltd rubber stamp shown left

Local mailings are much scarcer. This cover, again showing a 5c from the first printing, was posted to Motatabu, an island in the lagoon, on Apr 3 1918



The postmark used for internal use was less spectacular, simply stating "Christmas Island Local Postage" with a small palm tree and the date (shown left)

In 1926, the postage was increased to 10c for local delivery, the same design being utilised.

This philatelic cover (shown below) was posted on Christmas Day 1934. It bears a 10c stamp which can be plated as stamp 3 of the right pane, due to the red dot above the "AN" of "Island". The stamps were printed in sheets of eight in two panes of four, and all can be plated.



In 1939, the Gilbert & Ellice Islands finally opened a post office on Christmas Island, and the use of these fascinating locals ceased.

Christmas Island is now known as Kiritimati, and is part of Kiribati.

Republic Of India First Day Cover

By: Rabirashmi Roy (rabi)

India achieved independence from Britain on 15th of August 1947. On that date, India was declared a dominion of the British Crown with King George VI as head of state. The country did not have a permanent constitution and its laws were based on modified colonial Government of India Act of 1935.



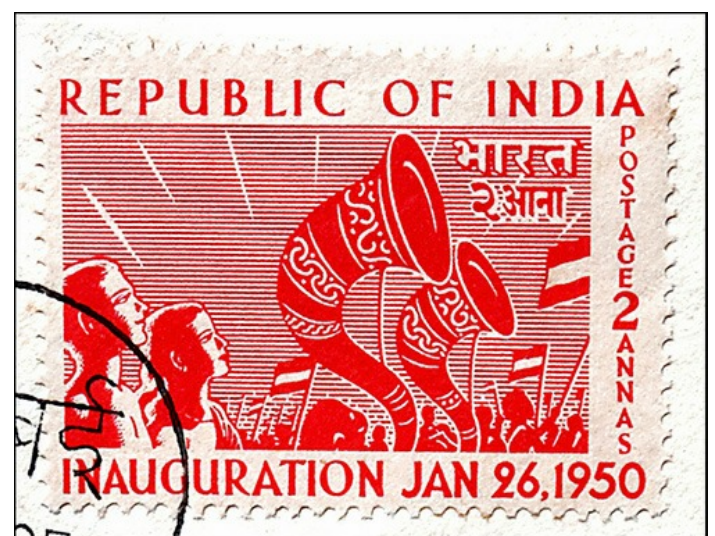
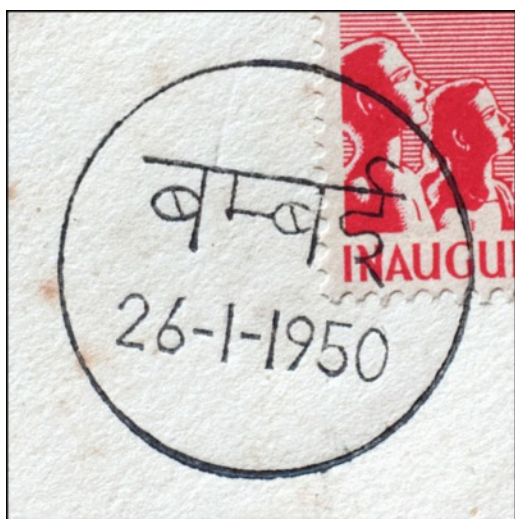
On 28th August 1947, a Drafting Committee was appointed to draft a permanent constitution of India. The Drafting Committee submitted the draft constitution to the Constituent Assembly on 4th of November 1947.

The Assembly met, in sessions open to public, for 166 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months and 18 days before adopting the Constitution.

After many deliberations and some modifications, the Constitution was signed by the members of Constituent Assembly on 24th of January 1950. The Constitution came into effect two days later, on 26th January 1950.

India ceased to be a dominion of the British Crown and became a sovereign democratic republic. The Constituent Assembly became the Parliament of India. 26th January is celebrated every year as Republic Day of India.

A special set of four stamps and a First Day Cover was released to commemorate the inauguration of the Republic of India.



I could not find out who the addressee, Mr. C G Robinson, was. He might have been one of those British citizens sympathetic to the cause of Indian independence. Many such people opted to settle in India and married Indian women. Their descendants are called Anglo-Indians. Mr. Robinson might have been an Anglo-Indian.

CINDERELLA CORNER, Part 12

By: Michael Hide (Londonbus1)

Cinderella Snippets

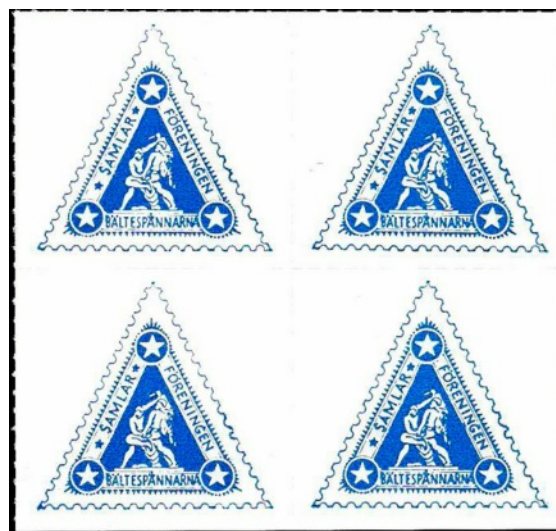
Events.....You may have read during Forum discussions about an event taking place in Stockholm, Sweden next May/June. 'Stockholmia 2019' will run from May 29th until June 2nd at the Waterfront Congress Centre and will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of London's Royal Philatelic Society (RPSL). It promises to be a very special event and the Queen has given her consent to display items from the Royal Collection, the details of which will remain secret until the opening Day!!



Left, Special Promotional label produced for the event, received as the Free Gift in the latest Edition of the Cinderella Philatelist (CP).

Incorporated into this Exhibition will be the 2nd International Cinderella Stamp Congress on June 1st-2nd, hosted by The Swedish Cinderella Society (Samlarföreningen Bältespännarna).

The Society attended the inaugural event in London in 2016 where they celebrated their 50th Anniversary with some fine displays. This 2nd Congress is eagerly awaited not least by this writer who will, hopefully, be in attendance.



The Swedish Cinderella Society produced some labels and sheets for the 1st Cinderella Stamp Congress in 2016 (shown above)

It is hoped that some members of our forum can get together and attend this Exhibition where we can hold our own TSF Stamp Meeting!!! Keep your eyes on the Discussion boards for details.

Cinderella prices at auction.....It is not something new to my eyes that the prices of Cinderellas have been rising sharply in the last year or two. In recent weeks I have been following some auctions and certain items to find out if this trend is continuing and have been quite surprised, even shocked, by what I have seen.

First of all, and this is not new, there are still many out there who are selling, or hoping to sell, without research. Having no knowledge about what is sitting in front of them and hoping to gain financially from items that have little or no value.

As a keen collector of British and USA Philatelic Exhibition Sheets and labels, I flatly refuse to pay high prices for items that were produced in their thousands, similar items of which I have purchased for a reasonable sum not so long ago. Whilst I understand that it is all about demand, I also see so many items going unsold, evidence that the price was too high.

Better deals are still to be had on eBay though winning is not a given unless you like to overpay, whilst Hipstamp and Delcampe have, in the main, high starting prices for such material. Of course there are always exceptions and I will show an example later! I should add that Cinderella Collecting is on the up, and prices for more Classical items have risen sharply, even through known dealers and auctions. Which brings me on to these!



Not what they seem.....The sales of labels like those shown above continue unabated as do my emails and messages to those sellers of such items. In recent years I have had some success in getting these items withdrawn most notably from a leading and long-established UK dealer and from one of the USA's leading Auction Houses. From the latter I had a nice discussion with one of their managers about it. But let me explain.



Sheets of 6 labels in 5 different colours were produced for the Stamp Centenary Exhibition in London in May 1940 (see example sheet left). Beautifully produced by Waterlow & Sons, they went on sale as a Wartime Fund-Raiser for the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund. The top and bottom pairs of labels are identical but the middle pair differ in the type of 'stamp' reproduced, the left one being the unissued 'Official' with VR letters in the top corners and the right one without.

Over the years since, unscrupulous collectors, dealers and sellers have been cutting out the stamp-like image (Penny Black image) and selling these off with all kinds of fancy names from Rainbow Trials to Waterlow Reprints and anything in between.

Is this not Philatelic Fraud? A full set of sheets might set you back a cool \$25-\$30, perhaps even a little more at any given time. But a full set of cut-outs from an act of Philatelic Vandalism will set you back a cool \$70!!!! (there is at least one set on eBay as I write, at this price.

I did not succeed in getting her to withdraw them). Which would you rather have a full set with all labels intact or 10 cut-outs from just two of the labels that should be nothing more than worthless

junk?

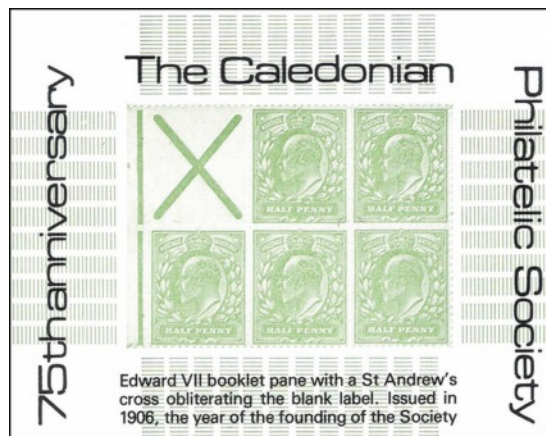
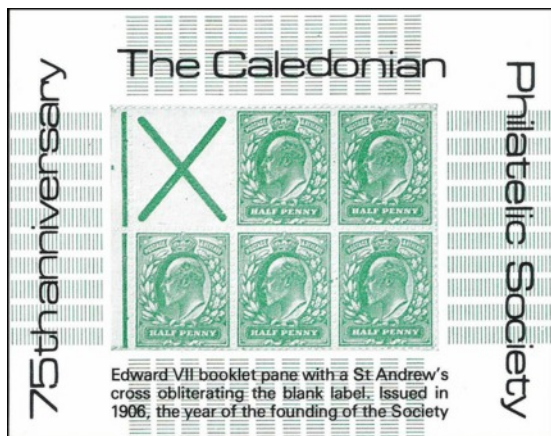
I know which I'd prefer and which ones are sitting in my collection.

Then what if other stamps or Cinderellas gave us a similar opportunity? I have seen cut-outs from other Souvenir sheets most notably the Great Britain 1990 Penny Black Souvenir Sheet where the reproduced 'stamp' has been cut-out with scissors and put up for sale in a similar manner.

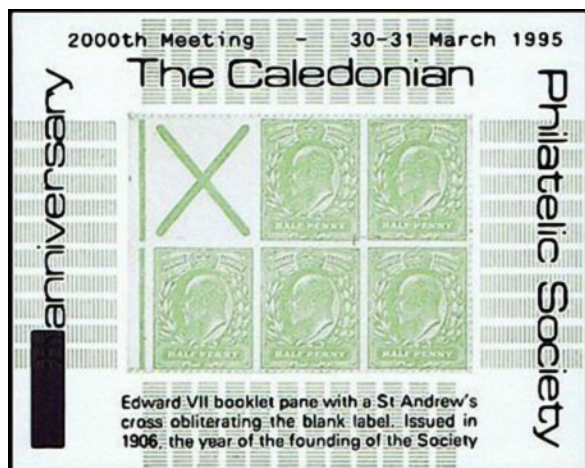
We should be aware of these fraudulent practices and act upon them when we can. For the sake of our hobby.

A Cinderella Bargain?.....So onto more pleasant things ! This week I had the good fortune, whilst browsing for this article, to come across a Stamp Exhibition Souvenir Sheet that I knew nothing about, is unlisted and which throws up more questions than answers! Read on.....

In 1981, Scotland's Caledonian Philatelic Society issued a Souvenir Sheet for their Society Fair and to commemorate their 75th Anniversary. The design on the sheet was taken from a GB KEVII Booklet Pane of 1906, the year the Society was formed.



The sheet was issued only in Emerald Green (above left), or so I thought, until it came to light that another sheet was issued in Yellow-Green (above right). The former was gummed and has a 7-digit number and Printers imprint on the reverse. The Yellow Green sheet was ungummed with no Imprint and had a number beginning 'No.' on the reverse. The latter sheet, whilst listed at only \$5, was very hard to find, so hard to find in fact, that in 15 years I had never seen a copy!! Finally, at the 2017 Cinderella Stamp Club auction one was offered, but I only managed to get hold of it for a massive \$40!!! But this is NOT the end of the story.



This past week I spotted a similar sheet to the above (see left) in that scarce Yellow-Green colour and was immediately intrigued (Or should I say excited!). This one was overprinted to celebrate the 2000th meeting of the Society and only gets a mention in the catalogue, not a listing.

Could this be why the Yellow-Green sheet was so hard to find? Were they not used back in 1981 and have only been used as remainders since? But then why have I not seen any before? I guess the mystery remains....for now! I look forward to checking the reverse side when it arrives.

Work and other issues have cut into my hobby time of late so my apologies for this rather short episode of 'Cinderella Corner'. Back to normal next time.

My thanks to all those who wrote an article for the Newsletter in the latest editions. Congratulations to 'Theamateurphilatelist' and 'Kostia84' for winning the prizes in my latest 'Newsletter Giveaway'. More giveaways to come in the future. Christmas would have come and gone by the time you are all reading this so it just leaves me to wish you all a Happy New Year 2019, and may all your Philatelic Wishes come true.

Londonbus1

DUTCH FESTIVALS

IN 1961, THE NETHERLANDS ISSUED AN UNUSUAL SERIES OF CHILD WELFARE CHARITY STAMPS DEPICTING CHARMING CHILD AND FOLK-LORE FEASTS. THIS PICTURESQUE SERIES WAS DESIGNED BY MISS HIL BOTTEMA, A DUTCH ARTIST WHO CREATED HER DESIGNS BY CUTTING OUT THE FIGURES INSTEAD OF DRAWING THEM....



① THE FIRST, ILLUSTRATES THE POPULAR FEAST OF SAINT NICOLAS THE LEGENDARY 4TH CENTURY BISHOP OF MYRA, AND THE PATRON SAINT OF CHILDREN... THE FEAST IS HELD ON THE 5TH DECEMBER AFTER WEEKS OF EXCITING PREPARATIONS BY YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE....



⑤ ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF THE HOLY MARTIN, BISHOP OF TOURS (371-396). ON THAT DAY THE CHILDREN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NETHERLANDS CARRY INGENIOUS HOMEMADE LANTERNS OF VARIOUS DESIGNS AND SING NURSERY RHYMES TO COLLECT COINS AND SWEETS FOR THEIR FEAST THAT EVENING.....



② THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY IS STILL CELEBRATED BY YOUNG CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY IN THE PROVINCE OF BRABANT. THE BOYS DRESS UP IN GAYLY COLOURED TABLECLOTHS AND WEAR CROWNS OF GILT PAPER TO REPRESENT THE THREE WISE MEN AND SING THE SONG OF THE EPIPHANY...



④ AT THE FESTIVAL OF WHITSUNTIDE THE CHILDREN OF THE FARMERS IN TWENTE MAKE THE ROUNDS OF THE FARMHOUSES WITH THE "WHITSUN-BRIDE". THE "BRIDE" WALKS UNDER A PRETTY "WHITSUN-CROWN" MADE OF HOOPS DECORATED WITH COLOURED PAPER AND ROSES. SINGING NURSERY RHYMES THE LITTLE PROCESSION ENTERS THE FARMHOUSES HOPING TO BE REWARDED WITH COINS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SWEETS FOR THEIR FEAST.....



③ PALM SUNDAY, THE SUNDAY PRECEDING EASTER IS CELEBRATED IN A COLOURFUL AND UNUSUAL WAY IN HOLLAND. THE CHILDREN FORM PROCESSIONS AND CARRY STICKS DECORATED WITH TWIGS FROM THE BOX-TREE, EASTER EGGS, SWEETS, COLOURED PAPER AND ORANGES. OFTEN A FOWL MADE OF DOUGH WITH CURRANTS FOR THE EYES IS PLACED ON TOP OF THE PALM STICK....



THE STAMP FORUM



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We are a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society.

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