

# THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 4

APS Chapter 1591

July - September 2023

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**PLUS: PHILATELIC SCOFFLAW EVADES COLLECTION LETTER  
2023 APS ARTICLE OF DISTINCTION SELECTION  
NAVIGATING OUR FORUM**

### THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Established in 2013, TSF is an online stamp club with a worldwide membership. The Forum is also Chapter 1591 of the American Philatelic Society. Membership is free and application is made online at <http://thestampforum.boards.net/>

### Write for Your Stamp Forum's Newsletter

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

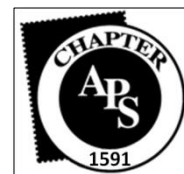
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## Forum & APS Chapter 1591 Update

*By Steve Tomisek (TSF Admin & APS Chapter Ambassador)*

This issue closes out Volume 7 of our Forum's Newsletter and introduces the remaining articles that will compete to represent our Chapter as its 2023 APS Article of Distinction. Make sure that you have identified your favorite article in the polls posted for each of the 4 Volume 7 issues. For more information on the selection process, turn to page 26.



To remind, [Great American Stamp Show 2023](#) is being held in Cleveland, Ohio August 10-13. The show's bourse will have more than 75 dealer booths, and there will be more than 800 frames of exhibits. GASS 2023 offers three grand awards (for National Topical Stamp Show, Americover and APS Stamp Show), three single frame grands, the World Series of Philately Champion of Champions, Most Popular Champion of Champions, the Youth Exhibiting Championship, a literature competition, and a Court of Honor, including rare stamps such as the Inverted Jenny.

We continue to acquire new members, and I'm glad to see that they are typically afforded a warm welcome. As you see New Members post their introductions, please take some time to make them feel at home. For our new members, please don't hesitate to ask questions you may have or join in any of the ongoing discussions.

Lastly, I'd like to express my appreciation of Chris Dorn (@Beryllium Guy) for volunteering to fill the open assistant editor position as well as offering to take the lead on laying out this issue of the Newsletter. The latter was a welcome relief as I've recently been distracted by family medical issues.

## Medicinal Plants Issue of Yugoslavia

By Edward Janusz (@eggdog)

Like most of its Eastern European neighbors (and most of the world, come to think of it) Yugoslavia issued stamps in substantial quantities and of very variable relevance to anybody. Their stamps weren't as popular as those of some of their fellow socialist republics.

A few series from the 1950s were popular, though, and are still in demand. Among these are three series showing plants that are used in traditional or alternative medicine. One day while I was putting together my custom pages for Yugoslavia, I decided to look some of them up. Here is what I found out about Scott #469-477.

(Please Note: I'm not a doctor, but you probably knew that or will know it by the time you get to the second page of this article. Some of what I say here may sound like medical advice, but I intend only plain common sense and hope it will be taken in that spirit.)

10d, *Centaureum erythraea*. Centaury has been used as an anti-inflammatory agent, especially for people with kidney damage. Like many traditional medicines, few clinical studies have been done so no statements about its efficacy or lack thereof can be taken without a grain or two of salt. It is also found non-medicinally as tea or seasoning. Those applications make Centaury sound harmless at worst, but I'm always ready to be amazed at what people eat and drink.

15d, *Atropa belladonna* or *Atropa acuminata*. Also commonly known as deadly nightshade, belladonna has been used as a treatment for asthma, arthritis, Parkinson's disease, and even the common cold. But it goes straight for your central nervous system, where its effects are quite unpredictable and can include hallucinations and very serious seizures. It was used as a

cosmetic for centuries; belladonna-laced eyedrops (gaah, that's scary!) dilate the eyes, an effect which has signaled beauty and allure since we've been a species. Cleopatra used a closely related plant, henbane, for that purpose. Belladonna's other folk names through the years have included Devil's Cherries, Herbe à la Mort, Herbe du Diable, Morelle Furieuse, and Naughty Man's Cherries (!), which is a roundabout but attention-getting way of saying "don't even think about it!"



**Figure 1:** Left: Centaury may or may not be effective, but it's probably safe. Right: Belladonna isn't the worst thing you could ever ingest, but it's probably in the top ten.

20d, *Crocus sativus* or *Colchicum* spp. Two plants bear the name “autumn crocus.” They are similar in many respects, but *Colchicum* is a type of lily and crocuses are in the iris family. *Crocus sativus*, which looks a lot like *Colchicum* and is often called by that name, contains saffron, a food flavoring (one of the



**Figure 2:** Left: Autumn crocus is known as an ornamental plant; its medical possibilities haven't been thoroughly explored. Right: If the marsh mallow has a history as a medicinal plant, it eluded this writer.

most expensive in the world by weight) and has shown evidence of being helpful for mild depression. The stamp depicts *Colchicum Autumnale*, one of several closely related species that are covered within the genus.

25d, *Althaea officinalis*, the marsh mallow. The earliest iterations of the sugary confection contained traces of the root, but it hasn't been commercially used that way for a long time. It's a fairly popular ornamental plant. The marsh mallow has a history of being used for sore throats, but I haven't found any evidence one way or

another about its efficacy. At any rate, it does seem harmless, and it's great for attracting pollinators. (Did you know that commercial marshmallows contain gelatin and can't be considered for a vegan diet?) Most people who have occasion to write about this plant have gone with the tide and write it as one word.

30d, *Valeriana Officinalis*. Valerian has been recommended for all sorts of conditions through the years: fatigue, insomnia, anxiety/depression, migraines, PMS, and more. There hasn't been much clinical study of valerian, which I think is a shame because it actually could be useful and unexpected side-effects are quite rare.

35d, *Digitalis lanata*. Woolly (or Grecian) foxglove is in the plantain family, a bit of information that surprised me. It's toxic. All foxgloves are toxic. Even the therapeutic version of digitalis—used for certain heart conditions—is toxic and is only used under close medical supervision when the alternatives are clearly worse. Don't eat anything with “digitalis” in the name. Please.



**Figure 3:** Left: Valerian is the most mainstream of these plants, and is a folk and herbal treatment for a variety of complaints. Right: Foxglove contains a chemical used in heart treatment, but on its own, it is very dangerous.

50d, *Dryopteris marginalis* or *Dryopteris filix-mas*. Aspidium is found in the roots and rhizomes of the male fern, which itself is sometimes called aspidium. It has been proven to rid your system of tapeworm, but the side effects are so toxic that it has been dropped from the *United States Pharmacopeia*. If you have tapeworm, please seek medical advice.

70d, *Anacamptis morio*. I found nothing that described the green-winged orchid's therapeutic use past or present. I did find out that "morio" is the Latin word for "fool," which I suppose isn't such a bad thing to know, though in this case the plant's several shades of green reminded somebody of the costumes that court jesters wore.

100d, *Pyrethrum*. Pyrethrum is a discontinued genus; whatever plants were in it have been redistributed to the Chrysanthemum or Tanacetum genera. (I've been amazed at how often this happens. I always thought the Linnaean system was stable except for new discoveries, but it's always in flux somehow or another.) An ingredient called pyrethrin is found in the flower heads of some of these plants. Some organic farms use it as an insecticide, and it is sometimes sold as Persian Powder or Zacherlin for treating lice infestations on humans. And it works! If you have lice, check interactions before you try it. If you have lice and you're one or two years old, you shouldn't use it, but then you wouldn't be reading this anyway. If you have lice, no matter your age, please accept my sympathies and get well soon!

The 100-dinar Pyrethrum stamp is listed at about \$12 MNH-VF in Scott. The rest of them are inexpensive, and unlike many Yugoslav pictorials/commemoratives, they're not that hard to find postally used. If you're interested in this subject as a mini-topic, you can get some good hunting out of it. I've seen medicinal plants on stamps from Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia (there are surely more, but I collect modern stamps from those three countries); even the United Nations issued six medicinal-plant stamps—pairs for New York, Geneva, and Vienna—in 1990.

I had ambitions to cover another Yugoslavian medicinal-plant set—neighboring Bulgaria has at least one as well—but this no doubt is enough information to, uhh, ingest at one time, and enough filled space in this quarter's *TSF Newsletter*.

#### Sources

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Autumn crocus: *Wisconsin Horticulture Extension*, <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/autumn-crocus-colchicum-spp/>

A kind-of-hard-to-follow marsh mallow recipe: *Sweet and Sara*, <https://www.sweetandsara.com/how-to-make-marshmallows-from-the-marsh-mallow-plant/>

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## Stamp Out War: Support Ukraine! (2022 Edition)

By Linda (@deldal)

*This article details the genesis of the Stamp Out War project and the back-stories behind the creation of a unique collection of maxicards that demonstrates global support for Ukraine.*

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. A few days later, I dug through my visual archives looking for a relevant image to use in the call for peace. I came across a photograph which, by accident or by design, echoed the color scheme of the Ukrainian flag. This combination of colors suddenly caused an unexpected effect for me as a viewer, and recent circumstances gave this work a new meaning that I had not anticipated as a photographer.



**Figure 1:** Photo titled "War and Peace" by Linda: Taken in 2009 in Prince Edward Island, Canada; post-processed and published in 2022.

It was taken in 2009 during my bike tour across Canada. Then freshly arrived in Prince Edward Island after having travelled through the Maritimes, I was in a state of exhaustion when this vast field of yellow flowers spread out in front of me. No cloud or artificial object came to disturb the landscape. This was a moment of relaxation. I composed this very orderly photo with equal parts shared between the sky and the field to show the harmony between the natural elements. When it was taken in 2009, everything seemed to stand still, motionless, which invites meditation, peace, calm, whereas in 2022, this moment of tranquility contrasts in times of trouble with the madness of war. Two days after the war had started, I named this piece, jarringly, *War and Peace* and published it on the web.



**Figure 2:** Cover containing a "War and Peace" postcard (as shown in Fig. 1) mailed by Linda to the Kremlin using peace-themed stamps.

In early March, *War and Peace* was quickly becoming my most viewed photograph on Flickr. I decided to print out some copies of 5" × 7" postcards to hand out on *The Stamp Forum* to whomever wanted to show his/her solidarity with Ukraine. Originally, these postcards were the vehicles carrying all sorts of messages and political slogans that the senders wished to convey to the recipients, who might be an acquaintance of the sender or a politician the sender wished to address, like Putin.

Until then, all these efforts sound like a grassroots Mail Art initiative created out of growing political concerns. However, with my philatelic friends from the forum – Dorin (@dorincard) and others – who couldn't just watch what was happening in Europe, I felt the strong urge to do something productive to help the Ukrainians to battle the uncertainty of the war. That's why I started pondering seriously over the possibility of creating philatelically worthy and historically significant maxicards that can be auctioned off to raise funds for the Ukraine relief effort.

In those early days of the conflict, I was thinking of using peace-themed stamps cancelled at locations with peace-related names to create a collection of maxicards on the (abstract) theme of peace, yet feared that the visual wouldn't match perfectly with the blue/yellow color scheme. I also explored the theme of hope, without much satisfaction.

Later in April, I was told by fellow Forum member Kevin (@wakeybluenose) that to manifest its support for Ukraine, Croatia would be issuing a special stamp showing a rapeseed field in the backdrop of blue sky that would be both botanical and visual match to my postcard. It turns out that this new Croatian issue was part of the worldwide response by the official postal agency of some countries to Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Up until summer 2022, these countries are, in order of stamp release: Latvia (March 10), Estonia (March 24), Poland (March 25), Austria (March 31), Croatia (April 12), Moldova (April 19), Lithuania (May 6), Luxembourg (May 11), Spain (May 29), France (June 23), and Canada (July 7). Each of these stamps incorporates into its design, more or less prominently, the blue and yellow colors of Ukraine's flag.



Figure 3: Ukraine support stamps issued by the 11 countries before mid-August 2022.

Immediately, I decided to settle on creating a collection of maxicards centered around the theme of Ukraine by making use of these new issues. A global call was subsequently launched to invite people from these 11 countries to show solidarity with Ukraine on Ukraine's national day – the 24th of August – by getting a postmark from a local post office on my postcards showing these Ukraine support stamps. This way, the visual of the card and the stamp are tinted in the blue/yellow color scheme that represents Ukraine, and the date of the postmark is also related to the country. The location of the postmark matters less in this project, but I have tried to maximize the Ukraine connection by creating some maxicards in sister cities of the Ukrainian capital. For example, Chişinău (Moldova), Odense (Denmark), Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), Warsaw (Poland), and Vilnius (Lithuania) are all twinned with Kyiv.

As this project was gaining momentum on social media, some of my non-philatelist friends around the world expressed their desire to help, even though their countries didn't issue a special Ukraine support stamp in the blue/yellow color scheme. Not wanting to discourage these kindred souls, I decided to enlarge the scope of this project by acquiring what I later called 'Ukraine tribute stamps' that show sunflower(s) or, in case no species of sunflower is native to the country, yellow flower(s) that can be used to pay tribute to Ukraine. The choice of sunflower and its generalized version is evident for it has long since been regarded as a symbol of Ukraine's agricultural prowess thanks to the country's significant production of sunflower crops, to the point that such a visually striking image of vibrant yellow color is frequently associated with the country's national emblems and promotional materials.

Meanwhile, I was also working on an original hand-drawn/painted cover (or maxicard, if you insist) that will be donated for the same cause. This piece, named *Peace to Us*, was completed on August 20 and was postmarked on August 24 in Myrnam, Alberta, Canada, whose name means 'peace to us'. An additional first-day-of-issue cancellation that accompanies the release of this semi-postal stamp in Canada was later added onto the cover.

*Peace to Us* (2022) is an anti-war artwork that uses the sunflower as a symbol of hope, peace, and growth. The flower replaces the bullet in the gun, offering a reminder that something beautiful and fragile can be just as powerful as physical force. The blue and yellow paint splatters, inspired by Ukraine's national flag, represent the blood that has been shed in the ongoing conflict in the country. The composition of the piece is intentionally jarring, with the mechanical gun and dark figure creating a sense of threat and horror. But the natural beauty of the sunflower offers a counterpoint to the violence, reminding us of the potential for new life and growth even in the midst of destruction. By fighting the brutality of war with something delicate and inspiring, *Peace to Us* (2022) encourages us to imagine a world where conflict can be resolved through peaceful means. It is a timely reminder of the urgent need for peace and unity in Ukraine and beyond.

As this project was mobilizing public opinion in support of peace, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of interest from people around the world. From Australia to Austria, from Canada to Croatia, from Japan to Spain, and beyond – people from 25 countries have participated in this project, each adding their country's stamp and postmark to this collection of maxicards that is not only a testament to the power of philately to unite different individuals across borders and cultures, but also a practical demonstration of the impact that can be achieved through collaboration. In times of conflict and division, it is heartening to see the power of philately to bring people together in support of a common cause.





Figure 4. "Peace to Us" (2022): graphite, charcoal, color pencil, and watercolor on Arches Watercolor Hot Press Paper (300gsm).

Nevertheless, the road to the creation of a unique and visually stunning collection of maxicards, which embody the theme of global solidarity, is not short of pitfalls. I must admit that recruiting participants was the toughest part of the project. While it's true that being quadrilingual allows me to communicate airily with a large number of world habitants, lack of knowledge and general interest in philately/ maximaphily/ deltiology/ marcophily also makes the task of convincing non-collectors the worth of this project tedious.

Also, given the small population of some countries whose participation I counted on, it was difficult to find the right person willing to pay a visit to a post office on a summer day. I don't recall how many private messages I sent out were unread, or how many times I felt so dejected that I asked Dorin to connect me with his acquaintances/friends living in particular countries at last minute. The result my global team and I have achieved would have been impossible without the invaluable help of many TSF and postcrossing forum members.

Despite the challenges, we remain optimistic about the positive impact our collection will have on the world in times of trouble. In the coming months, these unique cards will be auctioned off to raise funds for the Ukraine relief effort, and we plan on collaborating closely with local charity organizations and auction platforms to ensure that the project's proceeds are channeled to those in need. Together with all our effort at community building through this kind of initiative that aims at promoting social cohesion, inclusivity, and collective well-being, we can make a real difference in the lives of the people of Ukraine – one stamp at a time.

May our gratitude to all of those who have contributed to this project be felt.

The *Stamp Out War* project is now entering its auction phase. For more information, please visit [Postcard | Stamp Out War: Support Ukraine!](#).



Figure 5. Screenshot of the "Stamp Out War" website homepage, taken on 20 June 2023. URL: <https://www.stampoutwar.com/>

## Theresa's Top Ten Kiloware/Mixture/Box Lot Finds

By Theresa Young (@philatelia)

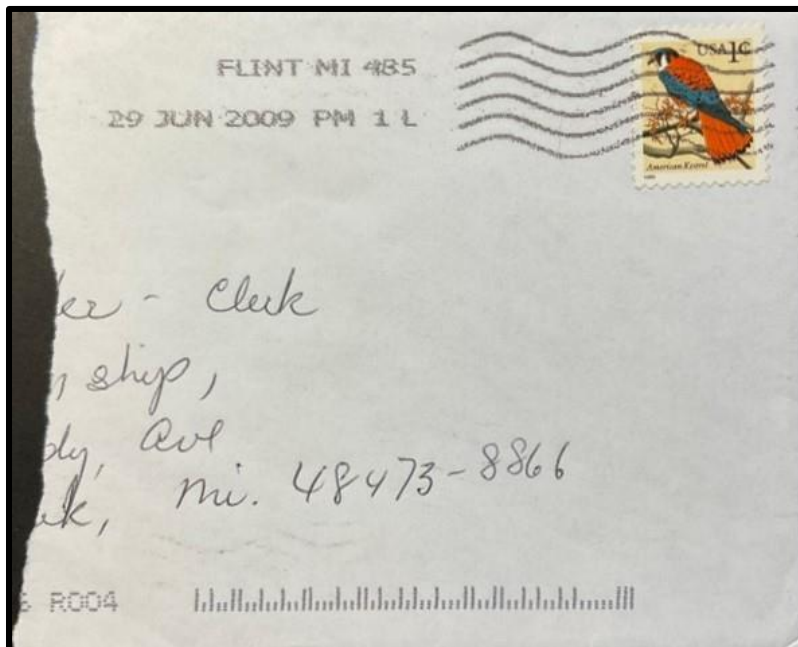
One of the great joys of stamp collecting is the thrill of the hunt and the excitement of a “find.” You never know what you’ll see next while sifting through a big bag of kiloware, an envelope full of an off-paper mixture, or a big box full of every philatelic format imaginable from bundles to booklets. The discovered treasures need not be valuable to be a delight. They might simply be an elusive low value stamp that finishes a set or an interesting cancel. That said, finding a stamp with high catalog value is always every collector's dream. Treasure hunting is certainly one of my favorite parts of the hobby, and I’ve been rather lucky and thought you might enjoy seeing my top ten favorite finds.

Before I begin though, I’d like to answer the question another collector asked me: “How do you find these?” Briefly, my answer would be threefold:

- First - the more you know the better you’ll be at spotting a treasure. While you don’t need to be a postal historian or a dealer to find a goodie, the more you do know, the more discerning your eye will be thus the better your chances of noticing a scarce variety or usage.
- Second - Try to find mixtures that haven’t been through too many philatelic hands or by collectors or dealers who are not specialists in the material. For example, most USA collectors know to watch for PNCs (Plate Number Coils), but that isn’t as true for collectors in other countries. Bulk lots of USA material from foreign sources might not have as many PNCs picked out.
- Finally, I search through every nook and cranny of a box lot or collection. I check every glassine, pull every stamp off the stock cards, and separate them, and I peek inside every envelope. Many of my finds were hidden from a cursory glance, so it pays to LOOK very thoroughly.

So here are my 10 favorite finds. Yes, many of these have little monetary value, but who cares? I thought they were “cool,” and I was delighted when I found them. And after all, isn’t that what it’s all about—enjoying the hobby to the fullest? Let’s begin with number 10 and count down to the top find!

Number 10. A penny stamp that was used to pay full postage. A friend of mine used to save half of the stamped covers that came into the office where she worked. She had to remove the sender’s address for privacy reasons, so just tearing the covers in half was quicker than scissoring around the stamps. This was in the bag of envelopes she saved for me.





Number 9. Here is a good lesson in fake cancels. This German cancelled inflation issue caught my eye when I was a newer collector. I had hopes that this was a valuable “postally used” copy, but I soon became fairly sure that this was a forged cancel.

Just because your “treasure” isn’t what you hoped for, it can still be a great “find,” because you’ve just become that much better at spotting forgeries. This stamp was in a nickel bargain bin in a stamp shop back in the 1970s.

Number 8. Republic of Ireland Perfins— One of my favorite parts about hunting through bags of cheap Irish stamps is the hope of finding some less common perfins. Here is one of my favorites, and despite the fact that I’ve been searching for many years now, I have never found another one of these.





Number 7. Modern USA Forgeries: Sorry to say it, but forgeries of modern US stamps are becoming more and more common, as well as tougher to detect, especially with the recent spate of Chinese forever rate forgeries.

When I found this forgery, however, they were much easier to spot and rather crude. This was found in an inexpensive, plain old USA mission mix. I've found several forgeries over the years, but this pair was an exceptionally fun find. The fakes are on the left, the genuine definitive stamps are on the right.

Number 6. United States mis-perforated stamps: Mis-perfed US stamps are much more common than in many other countries.

Finding a mis-perf like these on a Japanese stamp, for example, would be big news. If you look at enough USA material, you're sure to find a few of these. Some of the coils are at the extreme range of mis-perforation, almost dead center. I rather like the mis-perfs with the line.





Number 5. Here's a very unusual shifted printing. Take a look at this US Medal of Honor stamp. The red portion is in the correct position, but the rest of the printing is shifted downwards.

So, it's not really a mis-perfed example, because part of the design is positioned correctly. It seems to be more of a problem with the printing registration. Very odd, yes?

Number 4. This is a United States, Columbus issue, Scott #118, Type I.

I found this in an old junky \$30 box lot tucked behind some common 2-cent reds on a stock-page.

Even with the fault at the bottom, this is a keeper as it is the higher catalog value variety, with the current Scott value at \$800 (USD), and it has a fairly light cancel,



Number 3. Unusual placement and complementary design of US auxiliary marking and postage stamp: ET go home!

The "RETURNED TO SENDER" marking with its pointing index finger over the "ET, the Extra-Terrestrial" stamp made me laugh out loud.

Number 2. Irish paste-up coil. I found this coil strip (and a few others) in a very inexpensive Irish mission mix many years ago. It always pays to look carefully at coil strips and watch for possible paste-up seams. I put them up to a light to be able to see through the paper.



Number 1. And finally, Ireland's Captain Jack withdrawn issue—my best find ever! This stamp actually made the cover of *Linn's Stamp News*. I found this in a \$13.00 bag of kiloware that I ordered from a dealer in Australia. He had purchased a larger bulk lot from a supplier in Great Britain, so this traveled from Ireland to the UK, to Australia, and finally to me in the USA before it was spotted. There are only a few postally used copies of this stamp known to exist, so this is a genuine modern rarity.



*Editor's Note: Thanks for reading along as Terri has recounted some of the bright spots in her experience when buying mixed lots and kiloware. It just goes to show that anything is possible, and that you can sometimes find the most amazing material in the least expected places. Here's hoping that you will likewise have some fun adventures with mixed lots, too. Happy hunting!*



## Philatelic Scofflaw Evades Collection Letter Forwarded to General Delivery in Chicago

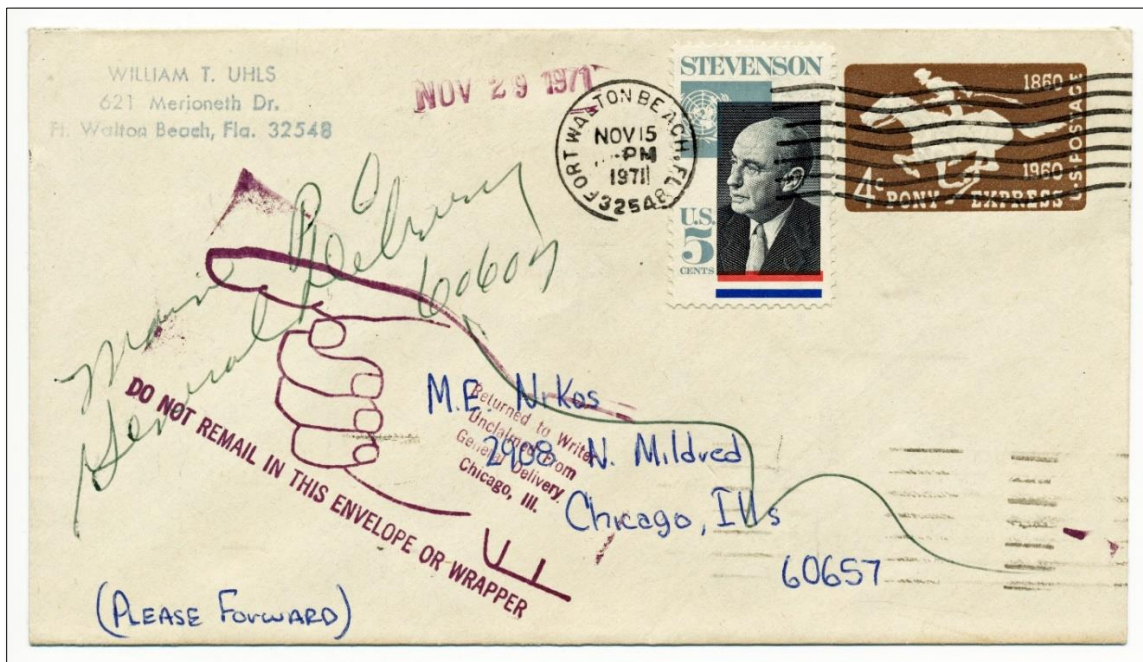
By David M. Frye (@davidmfrye)

*Editor's Note: According to the Collins English Dictionary, a "scofflaw" is someone who flouts the law, especially when it comes to paying fines. It also refers to someone who flouts rules, conventions, or accepted practices. The term apparently originated in the U.S. during the Prohibition era when many people chose not to obey the laws.*

### Introduction

Postal clerks have applied auxiliary markings to letters for decades to draw attention to routing actions needed to ensure that letters receive accurate and timely delivery. Members of one class of these markings, called "pointed-hand markings," come in various sizes and styles and display both right- and left-handed orientations.

The envelope depicted in Fig. 1 features a prominent, magenta-inked pointed hand-marking with two texts. This marking alerted both mail handlers and carriers that the letter required special attention on its way to final delivery. It also provided the sender-now-recipient of the returned letter with instructions for remailing. The cover bears several other markings, dated and undated, on both its front and back sides. A chronological narration helps to explain the routing and final disposition of the letter.



**Figure 1.** Fort Walton Beach, Florida, to Chicago, Illinois, November 15, 1971. A single 5¢ Adlai E. Stevenson commemorative stamp, issued October 23, 1965, and the 4¢ Pony Express Centennial stamped envelope of July 19, 1960, to which the postage stamp was affixed, overpaid the prevailing first-class one-ounce rate of 8¢ by a penny (original envelope: 164.0mm × 92.0mm).

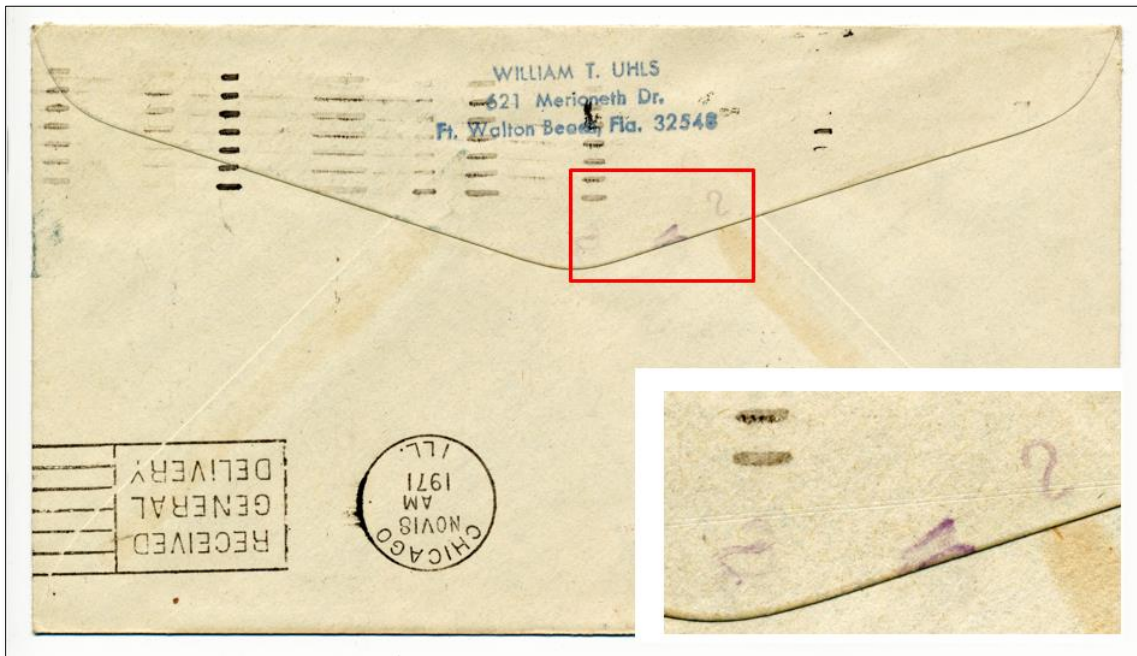
### The Journey

#### Mailing

The sender, William T. Uhls of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, used a gray-blue ink stamp to add his return address to the letter, which he addressed by hand to M.E. Nikos. Mr. Uhls also noted a request—"PLEASE FORWARD"—in the lower-left corner of the envelope. He affixed one six-year-old commemorative stamp to a stamped envelope issued eleven years before posting, thus overpaying the current one-ounce rate by a penny. The letter received cancellation with a Universal Stamping Machine Co. of New York postmark in Mr. Uhls's hometown on November 15, 1971 (Swanson, 1999–2020).

### Routing

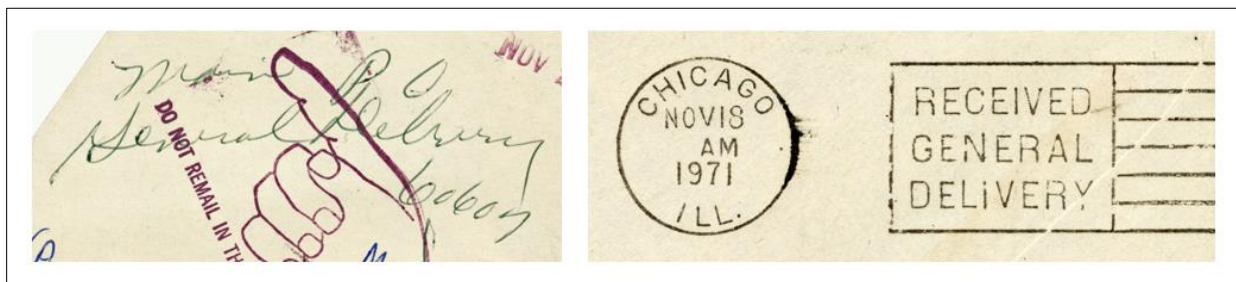
The letter underwent sorting at one or more United States Postal Service (USPS) facilities. The letter's passage through this system added three Multi-Position Letter Sorting Machine (MPLSM) markings to the back of the letter, shown in Fig. 2 (Granger, 1981). These markings are clustered together on the point of the envelope flap, as the enlarged detail in the Fig. 3 inset illustrates.



**Figure 2.** Back of Letter. Sender ink-stamped his return address. Three MPLSM markings cluster near the point of the envelope flap. An inverted machine-applied marking, "RECEIVED / GENERAL / DELIVERY," runs across the lower edge. **Figure 3.** (Inset lower right) Multi-Position Letter Sorting Machine Markings. Cluster of three markings on the back of the envelope (original array: 23.5mm × 6.5mm; image: shown at 200%). The horizontal black lines are part of a nearby machine cancel.

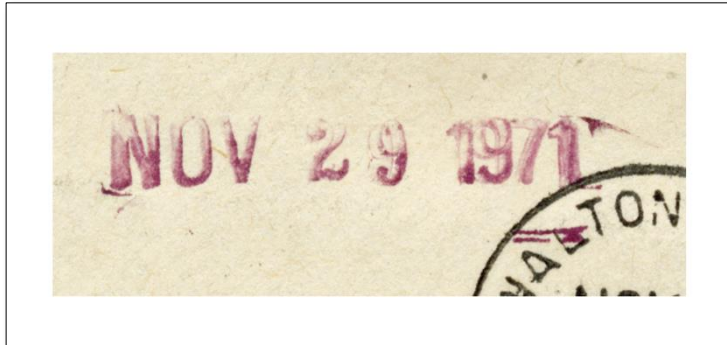
### Forwarding

After the letter reached the Chicago post office serving the 60657 ZIP code, a postal clerk, noting that the recipient had moved, used a green pen to add a handwritten forwarding direction, "Main PO / General Delivery / 60607," as the image in Fig. 4 shows.



**Figure 4.** (Left) Main PO / General Delivery / 60607. The postal clerk's handwritten note redirects the letter from its recipient's out-of-date street address. **Figure 5.** (Right) Portion of machine-stamped "RECEIVED / GENERAL / DELIVERY" marking from Chicago, Illinois, matches the major characteristics of Piskiewicz No. GD-MC-8 (Piskiewicz, 2006, p. 312) (Original: 71.0 mm × 20.5 mm).

The clerk's rerouting sent the envelope to the Chicago post office's General Delivery operation, which documented its reception with a machine-stamped postmark on the back of the letter. A portion of this postmark, which runs off the right side of the envelope, appears in Fig. 5 above.



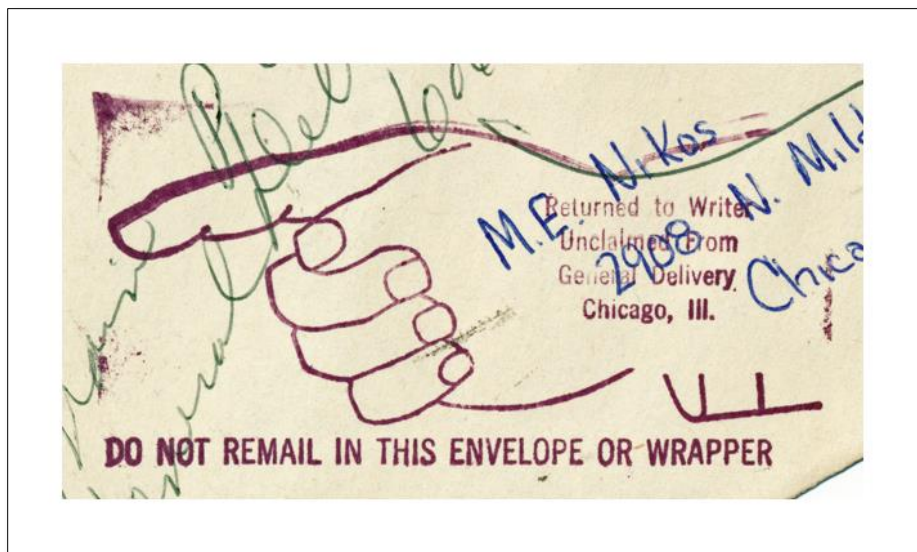
**Figure 6.** General Delivery Return Date. Date stamp applied separately from pointing hand marking (Original: 26.0 mm × 4.5 mm).

shown in Fig. 7. An illustration of a similar marking, Piskiewicz No. GD-H-5 (Piskiewicz, 2006, p. 317), includes the date-of-return stamped vertically in the cuff; on this envelope, in contrast, the date and hand appear separated.

A clerk in General Delivery added the letter's date of return, shown in Fig. 6, which appears in the middle of the envelope near the top edge. The USPS returned unclaimed letters when this pick-up period had elapsed.

#### *Returning*

When the return date arrived, and M.E. Nikos had not called on General Delivery to retrieve his mail, another clerk added the pointing-hand marking



**Figure 7.** Returned to Writer Pointing Hand Marking. Major characteristics align with Piskiewicz No. GD-H-5 (Piskiewicz, 2006, p. 317) (Original: 73.0 mm × 34.5 mm).

No additional markings appear on the envelope to indicate the sender's receipt of the returned letter. A summary of the envelope's markings, beginning with the sender's forwarding request and ending with the pointing hand and date markings, appears below in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Chronology of November 1971 Envelope Markings

Figure	Date	Description	Notes
1	≤Nov 15	(PLEASE FORWARD)	Sender's request written in blue pen
1	Nov 15	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., machine cancel	Universal Stamping Machine Co. of New York <sup>a</sup>
3	~Nov 15	MPLSM markings	2, [unclear], 2 in array <sup>b</sup>
4	≤Nov 18	Main PO / General Delivery / 60607	Green-ink pen, handwritten, line marking
5	Nov 18	RECEIVED / GENERAL / DELIVERY marking, Chicago, Illinois	Resembles Piskiewicz No GD-MC-8 <sup>c</sup>
6	Nov 18	NOV 29 1971 date stamp	Resembles portion of Piskiewicz GD-H-5 <sup>d</sup>
7	~Nov 29	Returned-to-Writer pointing hand marking	Resembles Piskiewicz No. GD-H-5 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Machine Cancel Finder: [http://swansongrp.com/machtest/e\\_UNIVERSAL\\_TYPICAL.html](http://swansongrp.com/machtest/e_UNIVERSAL_TYPICAL.html) ; accessed July 5, 2020.

<sup>b</sup> Granger, August–September 1981.

<sup>c</sup> Piskiewicz, 2006, p. 312.

<sup>d</sup> Piskiewicz, 2006, p. 317.

### Commentary

This chronological narrative provides plausible explanations for the handling and markings the letter received on its round-trip journey from Fort Walton Beach to Chicago and back again. Even so, a pair of questions remain. First, did the intended recipient not have a residential address at the time the letter arrived in Chicago, or, perhaps, did M.E. Nikos simply not share an updated home address with the USPS? What methods of postal operations can account for the various markings applied to the envelope?

In his book on Chicago's postal operations, Leonard Piskiewicz notes:

*During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, incoming letters with street addresses that proved to be undeliverable were sometimes sent to General Delivery for a short time before being returned to the writer or sent to the Dead Letter Office (p. 313).*

The markings on this letter support the type of handling described here, namely that M.E. Nikos had vacated the residence named in the delivery address and had not provided the USPS with a forwarding address. Thus, the best the Chicago post office clerks could do to honor the sender's "Please Forward" request was to send the letter to General Delivery, as the notation in Fig. 4 directs.

When the letter arrived in General Delivery, it received the machine-applied receiving marking depicted in Fig. 5 above. Piskiewicz places this step in the context of Chicago's postal operations:

*By the turn of the [twentieth] century, the volume of General Delivery mail handled by the Chicago Post Office grew to a level such that receiving backstamps were applied by rapid cancelling machines beginning in 1903 and continuing for sixty years (p. 313).*

He lists the machines in order of use, identifying the Piszkievicz No. GD-MC-8 marking depicted in Fig. 5 as one of two Universal Stamping Machine Co. styles (p. 313). Thus, this letter's markings demonstrate that the Chicago Post Office employed the systems Piszkievicz had identified as "continuing for sixty years" for almost seventy years—at least.

Piszkievicz also describes the methods for processing returns to the writer in cases where letters in General Delivery remained unclaimed. He writes:

*After about 1910, letters received take-out dates of 10 days after arrival at General Delivery until about 1928, when the interval increased to 11 days. ... Take-out dates were usually written on envelopes with blue pencil, though in later years (after 1930) rubberstamped markings became more common (p. 315).*

This summary of handling actions also fits the markings on the Uhls–Nikos letter and helps to identify the "NOV 29 1971" date stamp, shown in Fig. 6, as the take-out date, which falls precisely eleven days after the "RECEIVED / GENERAL / DELIVERY" machine marking on the envelope's back. Lastly, a clerk applied the Returned to Writer pointing hand marking shown in Fig. 7. The sender had not purchased any sign-for-delivery services; thus, the envelope does not bear any marks to show the approximate date of its return to Fort Walton Beach.

#### Letter

Many envelopes that end up as elements of studies in postal history no longer have the letters they initially carried from their senders to their recipients. This envelope, however, had never been opened. When I opened the envelope, I found the message shown at right.

A few bits of the twenty-month history that had passed in the dealings between two stamp enthusiasts, Mr. Uhls and M.E. Nikos, become clear when one reads the text. This letter was not Mr. Uhls's first attempt to contact M.E. Nikos about payment of a stamp order. The amount in question, \$15.00, would

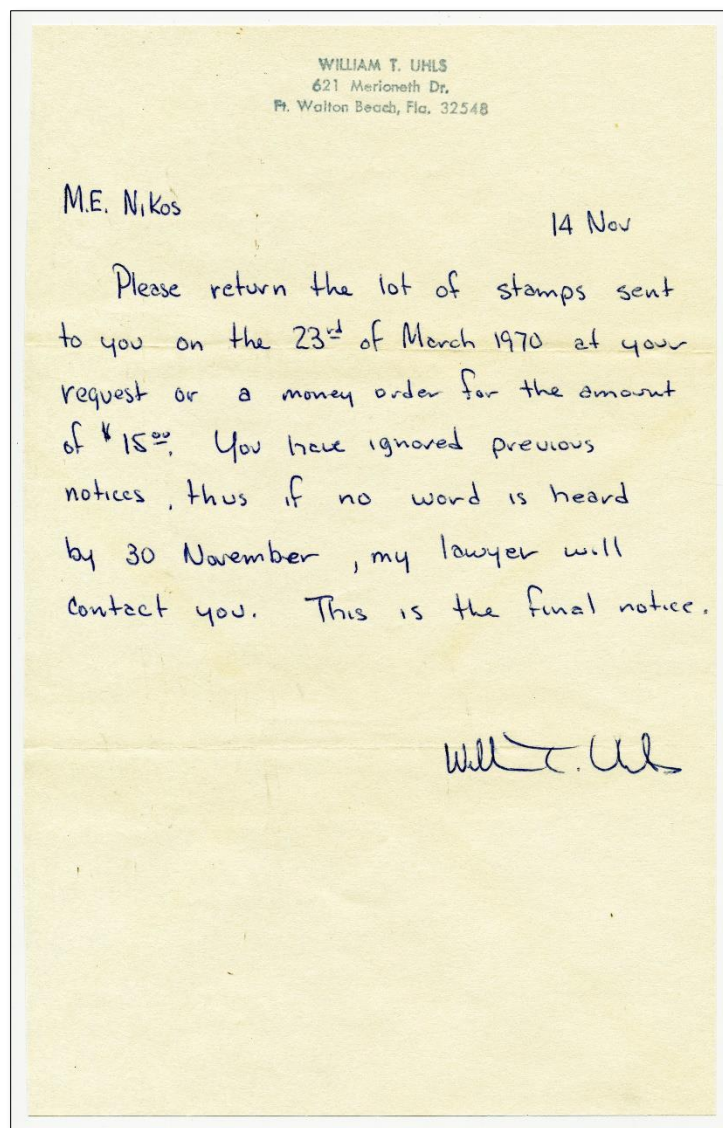


Figure 8. Letter from William T. Uhls to M.E. Nikos, November 14, 1971.

represent an unpaid debt of nearly \$95.00 in 2020 (USInflationCalculator.com, 2020). The letter refers to the preferred means for settling the debt: a money order, which was—and remains to this day—a USPS service for sending funds through the mail.

### Conclusion

This envelope entered the mail system less than five months after the U.S. Post Office Department had become the USPS. A narrative exploration of its markings shows that the forwarding and general delivery operations of the Chicago Post Office, documented in Piskiewicz's *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History* for the first half of the 1900s, remained intact through at least the next two decades.

Thus, while Piskiewicz explicitly focuses his study by ending his survey in the 1950s (p. vii), this envelope would support amending two listings of dates of use. The first, for Piskiewicz No. GD-MC-8, the "RECEIVED / GENERAL / DELIVERY" machine marking, could have its known dates of use extended from "SEP 17 1963" to "NOV 18 1971" (p. 312). Second, the known dates of use for the Returned to Writer pointing hand marking, Piskiewicz N. GD-H-5, could now have a second date of use, adding "NOV 29 1971" to "DEC 27 1962" (p. 317). Perhaps researchers may discover additional covers that would extend further the dates of use of these markings.

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### About the Author

David M. Frye collects items that inspire him to research and write stories about mail services and the people who send, handle, and receive letters and parcels. His writings have appeared in *The Airpost Journal*, *Auxiliary Markings*, *B.E.A.—The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle*, *Forerunners*, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, *LPS Journal: The Journal of the Liberian Philatelic Society*, *The Miasma Philatelist*, *Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal*, *Postal History Journal*, *The Postal Label Bulletin*, *Scribblings*, *The Stamp Forum Newsletter*, *The United States Specialist*, *Vatican Notes*, and *The Vermont Philatelist*. A past member of the Board of Directors of the Postal History Society, he lives in Franklin, Massachusetts, and works in nearby Framingham as a lead clerk for the U.S. Postal Service.

## Navigating Our Forum – Social Media

### Adding Links to Your Social Networking and IM Accounts

By Editorial Staff

If you have a profile on a popular social networking website, or have an IM screen name that you want to share with other members of the forum, you can add those links to your member profile! To add in the links to your other social accounts, click the **Profile** button found in the top menu bar, and then on your profile page click the **Edit Profile** button. You'll then be taken to the **Edit Profile & Settings** page, click the **Social** tab found there.

Once you're on the Social tab of the Edit Profile page, you'll see the page is broken down into two sections:

#### Social Websites:

- Facebook
- Google Plus
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- YouTube

#### Instant Messengers:

- AIM (AOL Instant Messenger)
- ICQ
- YIM (Yahoo Instant Messenger)
- Skype

Simply fill out the text box that represents the social network that you want to have linked to your profile! If you are filling out one of the options in the Social Websites category, you can use the Test Link to have a new tab open in your web browser just to be sure that the link you provided was correct. Once you have the social area updated to your liking, click the **Save Social Settings** button found at the bottom of the page. After this is completed, you and other members of the forum will see your social links when visiting your full profile.

Information on these and other areas may be found in the Forum's [Help Guide](#).

## Forum Help Guide

Please click any of the listed topics below for a detailed explanation of that topic. If you still have unanswered questions or need additional assistance, please visit the ProBoards Support Board.



#### User Guide

- Account Creation and Logging In
- Threads, Posts, Polls, and Attachments
- Bookmarks
- Post Options
- Search
- Calendar
- The Members List
- Avatars
- Viewing Profiles
- Your Profile Information
- Social Websites
- Profile Preferences
- Profile Privacy
- Notification Options
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Glossary

#### Admins and Moderators

- General Forum Settings
- Boards and Threads
- Moderation Options
- Login and Registration Settings
- Themes and Styles
- Custom Pages
- Plugins
- Headers and Footers
- Member Groups and Rankings
- Managing Members
- Security
- Upgrading Your Forum
- Theme and Plugin Libraries

## Support Your Forum by Writing for Its Newsletter

By Editorial Staff

The simple truth is that since all the material is written by members, the survival of this Newsletter is entirely dependent upon member contributions.

We welcome articles written on any area of philately, if they are original works.

For example:

- How did you come to be a stamp collector? Tell us about it...
- Did you attend an interesting philatelic exhibition or stamp venue? Tell us about it...
- Do you have expertise in a particular area? Tell us about it...
- Have you had a positive or negative online buying or selling experience? Tell us about it...
- Do you belong to an interesting stamp club? Tell us about it...
- Do you have a favorite stamp? Tell us about it...

If you can make posts on the Forum, you can prepare articles for this publication.

In addition to supporting the Forum, submitting material provides the opportunity for recognition by the American Philatelic Society through its Articles of Distinction program.

Submitting an article is easy—all we need is the file containing the article's text, annotated with suggested image locations, and the images sent as separate files.

If you would like to have an article published in the next issue of the Newsletter (V8.1; Oct-Dec 2023), please attach the text and image files to an email and send it to [stampforum.net@gmail.com](mailto:stampforum.net@gmail.com) by not later than September 3, 2023. If files are too large for submission by email, use the free and secure file transfer service at [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com). Text files in Microsoft Word are preferred.





## TSF's Philatelic Library

By Steve Tomisek (@tomiseksj)

The publications donated to our Forum by the [American Air Mail Society](#) (AAMS), in conjunction with the [American Philatelic Society](#) (APS), have sat idle since their arrival in mid-January. The procedures for checking out a book have been posted on the [Forum](#), along with brief descriptions of their content. The list of titles the Forum received are shown below.

That the books have remained on the shelf since their arrival is likely attributed to the requirement that members checking them out must pay the cost of postage and insurance for both delivery and return. The use of Forum funds to cover the postage cost would be inappropriate.



*To ensure that this valuable Forum resource is not squandered, I am willing, as my time permits, to entertain reasonable requests to research information contained within these publications.*

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### AVAILABLE TITLES:

AERIAL MAIL SERVICE

AMERICAN AIR MAIL CATALOGUE, Seventh Ed.-Volume 1-3

AMERICAN AIR MAIL CATALOGUE, Sixth Edition — Volume 1-3

BALLOON POST OF THE SIEGE OF PARIS, 1870-71

CORREIO AEREO: A HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR MAIL SERVICE IN BRAZIL

GLIDER MAIL: AN AEROPHILATELIC HANDBOOK

INDEXES TO THE AIRPOST JOURNAL, Volumes 1-60, 1929-1989 and the AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS,

Volumes 1-25, 1953-1971 and 1975-1982

MAX - I didn't get to know him very well

NEWFOUNDLAND AIR MAIL, 1919 – 1939

O.A.T. AND A.V.2 MARKINGS - Third Edition

PERUVIAN CIVIL AVIATION

ROCKET MAIL FLIGHTS OF THE WORLD TO 1986

THE AIRMAILS OF CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND First Edition

THE PIONEER AIRPLANE MAILS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIA AIRMAIL: An Aerophilatelic Survey of Events, Routes, and Rates

## TSF's APS Articles of Distinction

By Editorial Staff

To date, our Forum has submitted six articles for publication on the American Philatelic Society's [website](#). All have been posted there, and each of those has a link that will bring readers to our Forum. Our 2022 submission is currently featured on the website's [Collecting Insights](#) page.

In addition to the recognition given our Forum, the authors receive a certificate of achievement from APS.

The articles chosen by the membership to represent our Forum/APS Chapter in each of the annual competitions conducted thus far are shown below, and each may be viewed by clicking on the respective link.

- 2017 [The 1926 Madrid-Manila Flight – A Pioneering Journey](#)
- 2018 [Visiting Stamp Shops Around the World](#)
- 2019 [USS Constitution – America's Ship of State](#)
- 2020 [Philatelic Travelogue: Paris and Its Stamp Market](#)
- 2021 [SAMOA, 1840-2000: Transition from Chiefly Fiefdoms to Nationhood](#)
- 2022 [Philatelic Travelogue: Hunting British Postboxes](#)

The 2022 selection process closed with four articles competing for the distinction of being selected as The Stamp Forum's 2022 APS Article of Distinction – one from each Volume 6 issue published. For 2023, the same selection process is being followed. A poll will be created to allow you to select your favorite article from this issue. That poll, and the ones created for the previous issues, will close on August 31, 2023 at Midnight, New York time. A final poll will be posted in September to select the article that will represent our Chapter in 2023. The polls will be posted on the [Article of Distinction board](#).

If you enjoy reading the Newsletter, please show its contributors your appreciation by making your selections known in the polls for each of the issues.



## In Closing...

By Admin & Beryllium Guy

We are pleased to say that this has been a TSF Newsletter of some firsts.

For starters, this is the first issue that has been laid out by Chris (*Beryllium Guy* = @berylliumguy) in his new role of Assistant Editor. Chris volunteered to get more involved in the production of the Newsletter and has been able to put his experience in assembling and editing technical publications in his professional life to good use here for TSF.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome articles from two first-time contributors to the TSF Newsletter: Eddie (@eggdog) and Linda (*Linda* = @deldal). And they are joined by long-time members and previous contributors Terri (@philatelia) and David (*David M Frye* = @davidmfrye), giving us four high-quality articles to fill this edition of the Newsletter. Our thanks go to these authors who have contributed content for this issue as well as all those who have contributed to previous issues.

Member support is essential if we are to continue publishing a Newsletter. Any contributions of a philatelic nature will be considered for inclusion in a forthcoming issue (e.g., a catalogue or book review, what I collect and why, a stamp show or bourse review, an intro to my local club, etc.).

Please consider trying your hand at writing something for publication. If you are not sure how to go about it, contact Chris (*Beryllium Guy*), and he will be happy to assist. By adding Chris to the Editorial Staff, we are hoping to get back on track for having each Newsletter published the week prior to the period covered. To meet that target, please make your submissions for the next issue not later than September 3, 2023.



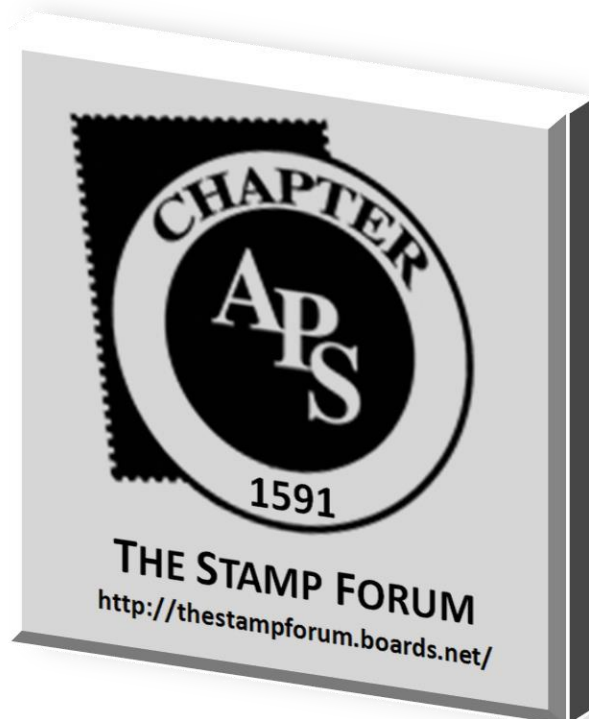
When contributing material, Microsoft Word files are preferred, with images submitted as separate files. Although we can work with PDF files with embedded images, it makes for a more tedious process.

Thanks for your continued support of our Forum—we look forward to receiving your Newsletter submissions!

The Stamp Forum became a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society on February 28, 2014. A requirement of that membership was our obligation to abide by APS's [Philatelic Code of Ethics](#).

While most of the benefits of Chapter membership are best-suited for physical stamp clubs, there are several that are applicable to us. For example, we are listed in the APS club directory, are able to participate in the [Articles of Distinction](#) program, and receive a copy of [The American Philatelist](#), the monthly journal of the Society.

If you are not an individual APS member, please consider [joining](#) the organization. If you are going to apply for membership, please indicate Chapter 1591 as your sponsor.



## It's Time for a Stamp Club Meeting

*Join us!*

- Would you like to join a stamp club but you either can't find one or its meeting time doesn't fit your schedule?
- Would you like to discuss stamps with other collectors at any time you choose, day or night?
- Do you have questions about your stamp collection that you'd like to have help in answering?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we can help! The Stamp Forum, Chapter 1591 of the American Philatelic Society, meets online, 24/7 at [thestampforum.boards.net](http://thestampforum.boards.net). Feel free to check us out. If you have questions, please send them to us at [stampforum.net@gmail.com](mailto:stampforum.net@gmail.com).

