

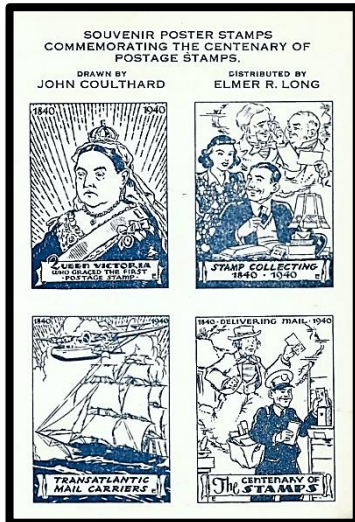
THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 3

APS Chapter 1591

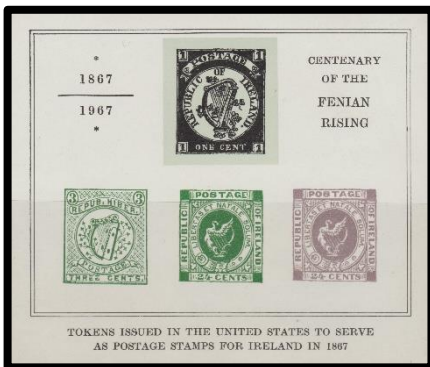
April-June 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:



COLLECTING THE COVERS & EPHEMERA OF STAMP DEALER ELMER R. LONG

CINDERELLA CORNER: CATALONIA: THE 1936 GRÀCIA CINDERELLA



THE FENIAN RISING OF 1867 IN IRELAND & THE FENIAN RAIDS IN CANADA, 1866-1871



EXHIBITING FOR THE FIRST TIME: AN EXPLORATION OF DJIBOUTI

PLUS:

NEW FEATURE! STAMPY WORD PUZZLE: FIND THE ENGRAVERS
PHILATELIC EVENTS: SOUTHERN OREGON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF SELECTED UPCOMING PHILATELIC EVENTS
2024 APS ARTICLE OF DISTINCTION SELECTION

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Chris Dorn (*Beryllium Guy*)

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Rob Lootens (*REL1948*)

Vacant (*volunteer wanted*)

FORUM STAFF

FOUNDER: Jack Witcher (*irishjack*)

ADMIN/MODERATOR TEAM:

Chris Dorn (*Beryllium Guy*)

Michael Hide (*Londonbus1*)

Ryan Davenport (*Ryan*)

Steve Tomisek (*Admin/tomiseksj*)

The Stamp Forum (TSF) Newsletter is a quarterly publication of The Stamp Forum. Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the respective authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Forum. The Forum cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

Editorial and Forum staff may be contacted using the Forum's personal message (PM) system. The Editor may also be contacted at: ckdorn47@yahoo.com

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/>

The Stamp Forum (TSF) and this Newsletter are wholly member supported.

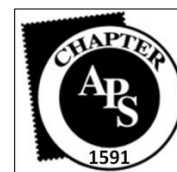
TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Forum & APS Chapter 1591 Update	2
<i>By Steve Tomisek (@tomiseksj)</i>	
Cinderella Corner: Catalonia: The 1936 Gràcia Cinderella	3
<i>By Joan Molina (@cursus)</i>	
Collecting the Covers & Ephemera of Elmer R. Long's Department Store of Philately	6
<i>By Donald L. DeWitt (@stamphinger)</i>	
The Fenian Rising of 1867 in Ireland and the Fenian Raids in Canada, 1866-1871	12
<i>By Daniel (@daniel)</i>	
Exhibiting for the First Time: An Exploration of Djibouti	14
<i>By John Hollister (@greaden)</i>	
Stamp-Related Word Puzzle: Find the Engravers!	19
<i>Submitted by an Anonymous TSF Member</i>	
Philatelic Events: Southern Oregon Philatelic Society (SOPS) Hybrid Meeting	20
<i>By Chris Dorn (@berylliumguy) & Stan Brown (@stainlessb)</i>	
Upcoming Philatelic Events: Opportunities for Stamping & Meeting TSF Members	22
<i>By Editorial Staff, based on Member Involvement</i>	
The Stamp Forum's APS Articles of Distinction	24
<i>By Editorial Staff</i>	

The Forum & APS Chapter 1591 Update

By Steve Tomisek (@tomiseksj)

Spring has tried to “sprung” many times in my area, but the seesaw weather here has much of the plant world confused. Nevertheless, I’ve been reminded of the many outdoor chores that need to be accomplished. As such, my time on the Forum has been limited to New Member processing and retiring completed auction and giveaway threads. Sadly, time spent with my collection has been nil.



On the APS front, preparation continues for the next Great American Stamp Show in Hartford, Connecticut on August 15-18, 2024. In February, APS launched a free, quarterly digital magazine, *StampEd*, which invites the digital generation to connect with stamp collecting in new and exciting ways. If you haven't had a chance to view the inaugural issue of *StampEd*, I encourage you to do so. It is available at <https://stamped.pub/>. By the time this issue is released, we will know whether most of the membership participating in the poll that ran during the month of March supported a donation to the APS Mighty Buck Club (you'll find the outcome of the poll in the Forum's APS category).

Lastly, those of you who participate on the Forum are largely responsible for the Forum's steadily increasing performance on the Google search engine. The breadth and depth of the information you have posted has attracted many new members and contributed to the body of online philatelic knowledge.

Steve Tomisek
Forum Admin/APS Chapter Ambassador

Cinderella Corner: Catalonia: The 1936 Gràcia Cinderella

By Joan Molina (@cursus)

Foreword

Nowadays, Gràcia is a thriving district of Barcelona. The narrow streets and more than twenty squares are crowded with shoppers and tourists sharing the space with students and old-time residents.

The district known as Gràcia was founded in the 17th Century by the Carmelite order and remained a separate village from Barcelona for over two centuries. When the vast Eixample district was constructed, it bridged the gap between Gràcia and the Old Town, integrating the neighborhood into the city [1].



Figure 1: The Gràcia district is home to Barcelona's Park Güell, which was designed by the famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926). The park is a major tourist attraction these days. Image credit: [2].

Historical Perspective

Just 88 years ago, in the spring of 1936, things were very different. Gràcia was mainly comprised of small businesses (shops and crafts), and its people were mainly workers. There were no tourists, and residents from other areas of Barcelona didn't go to Gràcia for fun.

Residents were getting ready for the summer celebrations that we call "Festa major" in Catalan. Since the early 19th Century, it has been traditional to decorate some of the streets and squares. The work is done by the very same residents using recycled materials.

To collect some money, they had the idea of issuing a Cinderella stamp that shows the most important Gràcia landmark: the belfry of the main square (then known as “Eastern Square”), where the old town house still is. This is an emblematic building, being “a civil belfry” (not linked to any church) built in 1865, and whose bell’s song has always been used to gather Gràcia’s township when the need arises.

The Stamp & Its Design

The Cinderella was designed by Josep Barrilon, printed in three colors (red, orange, and blue), and issued in booklets of 10 (5x2) stamps. See Figure 3 below for images. The text in Catalan reads “Festa Major, Agost 1936, Gràcia—Barcelona” (English: Festival, August 1936).

Unfortunately for our grandparents, however, history had other plans. By 19 July, the army revolted against the democratic regime of the Spanish Republic, which had brought prosperity and freedom to Catalonia. The consequence was a bitter 3 years’ war. Barcelona was to have “the privilege” of being the first big European city to undergo air bombing raids.

These raids came mainly from the Majorca-based “Aviazione Legionaria Italiana” and the German Condor Legion, both allies of the Spanish fascist army. Shelling from Mussolini’s navy was also a major threat.

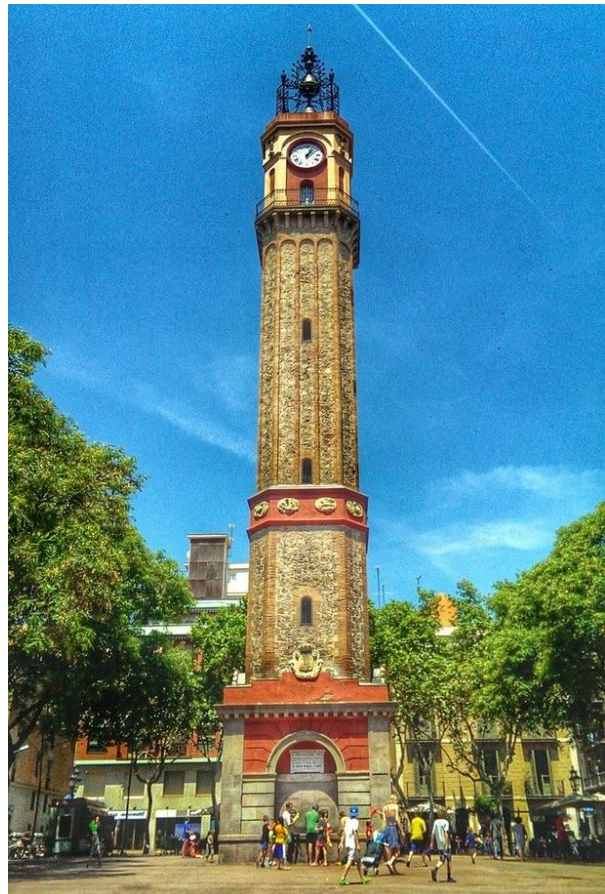


Figure 2: Plaça de la Vila de Gràcia in Barcelona, home to La Torre del Relotge, with its famous belfry, which was chosen as the principal design element in the 1936 Gràcia Cinderella stamp. Image credit: [3].



Figure 3: Complete set of the three Festa Major Cinderellas issued in 1936 to raise funds for a celebration that never happened due to the outbreak of war. These examples are from the author’s personal collection.

Outcome

As a result of the air raids, the celebrations were cancelled, and the money collected was used to dig underground refuge shelters to protect the people of Gràcia from the attacks of their foes. Today, some of the refuge shelters have been restored and are available for tourist visits.

—Joan Molina: TSF member, Cinderella lover and researcher

References & Sources

- [1] Bing Co-Pilot. Search parameters, “Gràcia District Barcelona.” Accessed 17-Mar-2024.
URL: <https://www.bing.com/search?q=gracia+district+barcelona&qs=n&form=QBRE&sp=-1&lq=0&pq=gracia+district+barcelona>
- [2] Park Güell image credit: Wikimedia, accessed 17-Mar-2024.
URL: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cb/Park_G%C3%BCell_02.jpg
- [3] Tower and Belfry image credit: Pinterest, accessed 17-Mar-2024.
URL: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/396809417168830039/>

Like Joan did, tell us what you are learning about in your collecting experience!

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 (@berylliumguy), and he will be happy to assist. With Chris as Editor, we are back on track for having each *TSF Newsletter* published the week prior to the period covered. To meet that target, please make your submissions for the next issue by Monday, 3 June 2024. If you need more time, please contact Chris by PM to discuss.



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!

Collecting the Covers & Ephemera of Elmer R. Long's Department Store of Philately

By Donald L. DeWitt (@stamphinger)

For twenty years now, I have been selectively collecting covers of 20th-century U.S. stamp dealers. Some are plain, while others have attractively illustrated cachets. Among my illustrated favorites are those of the late Elmer R. Long of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who lived from 1911-1965. He began by selling approvals out of his home as a teenager in high school and became one of the Northeast's leading dealers.

Long sold U.S. and worldwide stamps, first-day covers, a full line of stamp collecting accessories, and Christmas seals. He billed his business as "The Department Store of Philately" and strove to earn a reputation for fair dealing. He also was an advocate of graphic advertising, and it was this business practice that set his covers apart from those of most of his competitors. Like many of his contemporaries, Long first used a simple corner card return address with a decorative font on his covers, see Figure 1.

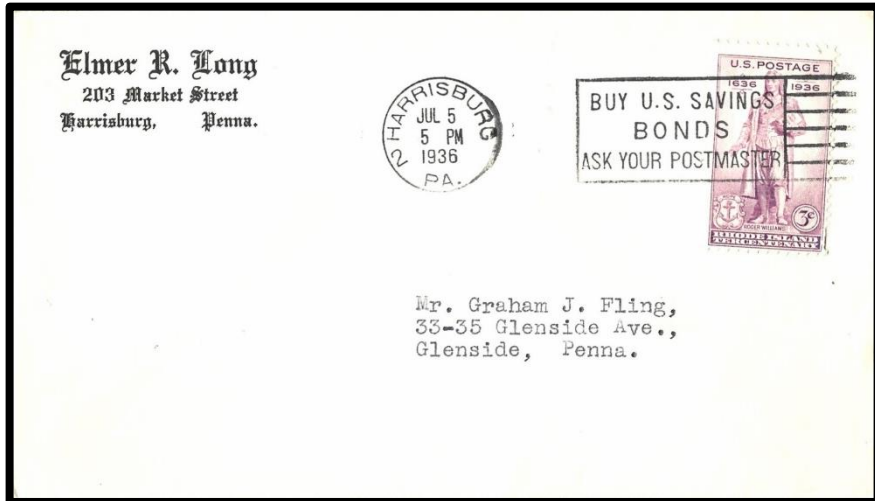


Figure 1: Long business cover without cachet postmarked in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on July 5, 1936.

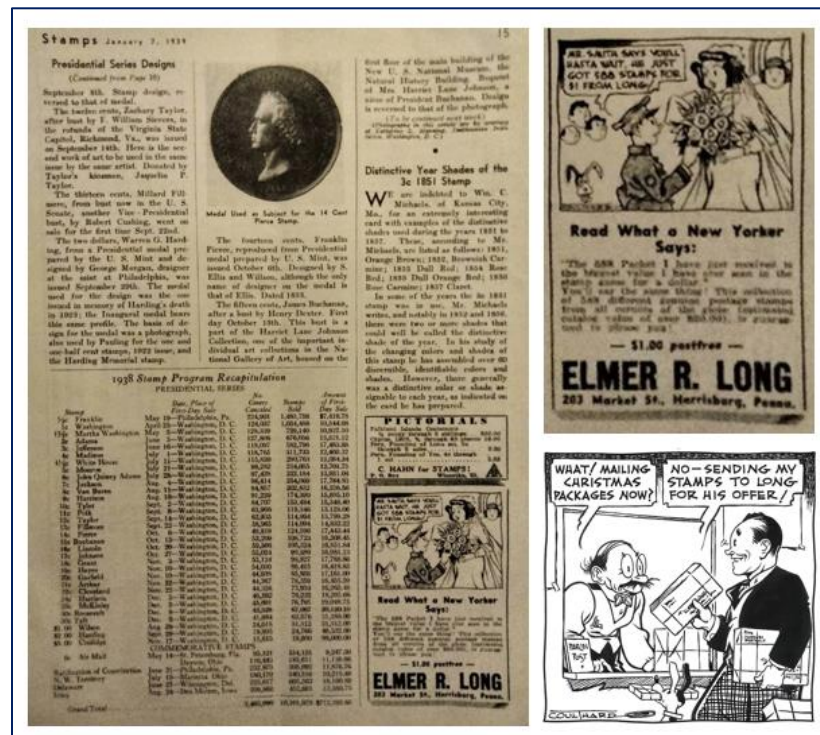


Figure 2: Left: Page from "Stamps" with Coulthard illustrated Long ad, lower right. Top Right: Close-up of the same ad shown in the full page.

Figure 3: Bottom Right: Camera-ready ad copy for a Coulthard illustrated Long ad.

But beginning around 1936, Long began to utilize the art of a Modesto, California, commercial artist and cartoonist for his ads in the leading stamp publications. The artist was John Coulthard (1903-1966), and he created a cast of cartoon stamp collectors

who enhanced Elmer Long's ads in philatelic magazines such as *Stamps*, *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, *Western Stamp Collector*, and in the cachets on Long's commercial envelopes.

It was a business deal that turned into friendship and continued until Long's death in 1965. Figure 2 (bottom of previous page) is an example of a Long/Coulthard ad that appeared in *Stamps*, in the January 7, 1939 issue, on page 15. Figure 3 is an example of a camera ready Long/Coulthard ad. It is the only piece of ad copy art that I have in my collection and the only one I have seen. Regrettably, I do not yet know when or where it was used.

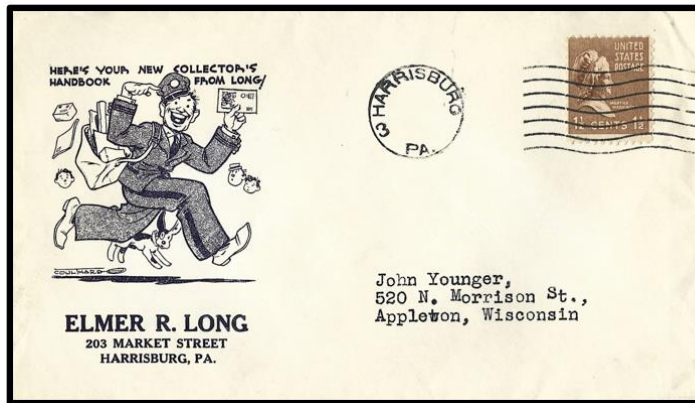


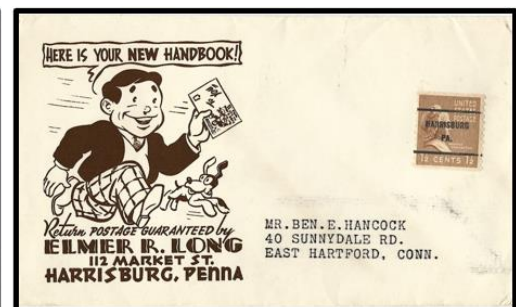
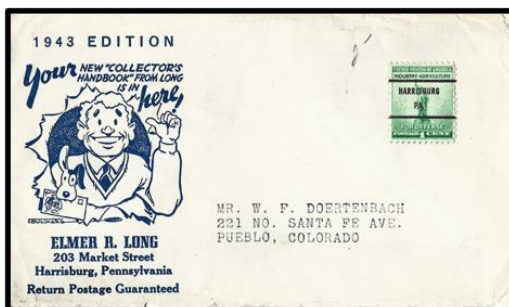
Figure 4: Left: Coulthard illustrated cachet.

Figure 5: Right: Example of one of Elmer Long Collector's Handbooks.

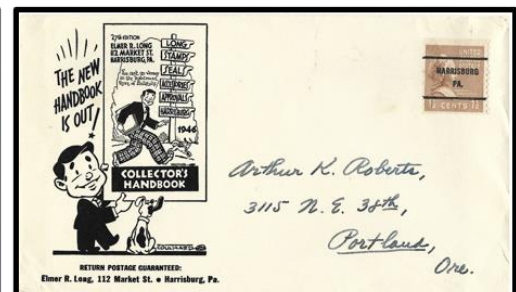
Readers should note Coulthard's signature in the lower left corner of the artwork. Coulthard, with a few exceptions, always signed his work, and for Long's advertising, he usually included a small spotted dog as a signature character at bottom center of the Figure 3 cartoon. Besides the signature

and inclusion of the dog, Coulthard sometimes signed his work with a short bar above a C. Long soon began using John Coulthard's art in cachets on his stamp dealer's envelopes, too.

Figure 4 above shows one of the first Long covers that I acquired. These covers were used to send his handbooks to his customers. This one features the 'Happy Mailman' cachet.



It is a typical one in that the character is shown smiling, and it includes the spotted dog.



Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9: Coulthard illustrated cachets.

The cover came with a copy of the 1939 *Collector's Handbook* (Figure 5), depicting a Coulthard cartoon of two collectors, one of which is a Long customer who is showing the other a copy of a *Handbook*.

Elmer Long updated the *Handbooks* annually, but they followed the same format from year to year. Essentially, they were price lists of Long's inventory and included an index for mint and used U.S. stamps, covers, poster stamps, Christmas seals, philatelic supplies, along with one or more additional cartoons. The *Handbooks* are offered on eBay regularly and can be collected in their own right.

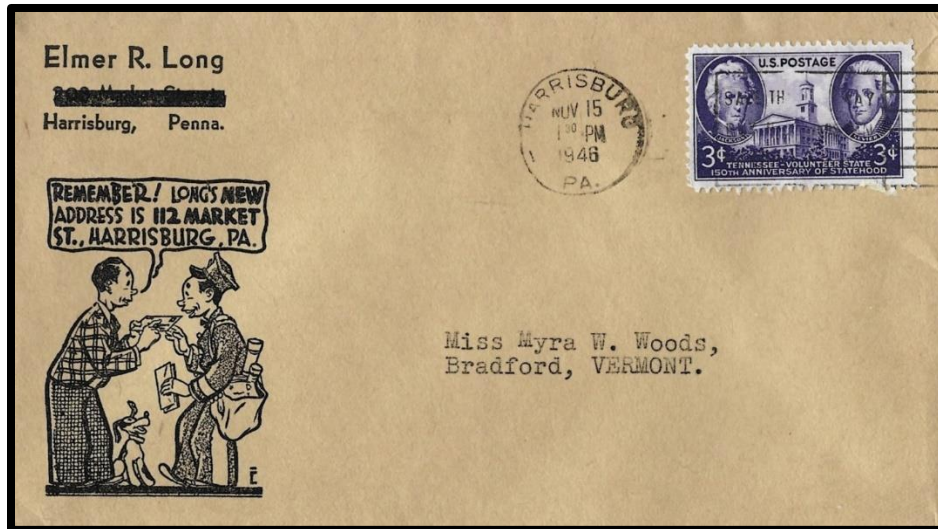
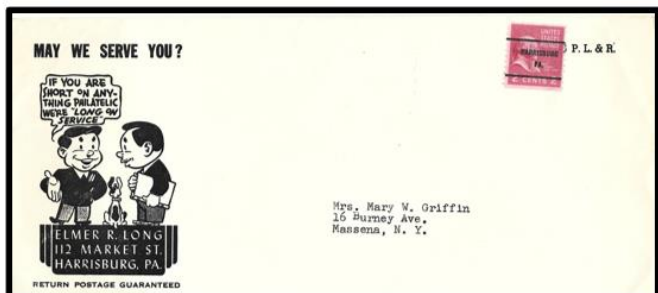
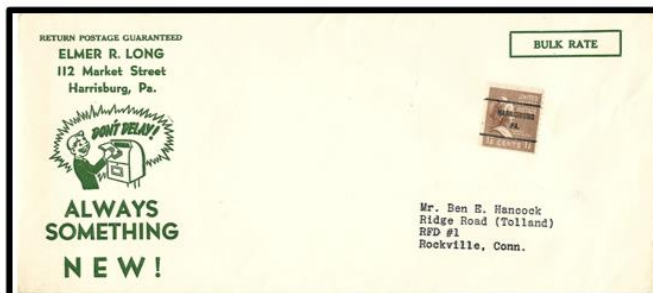
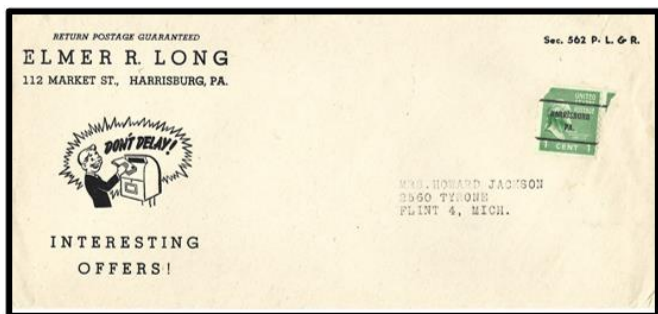
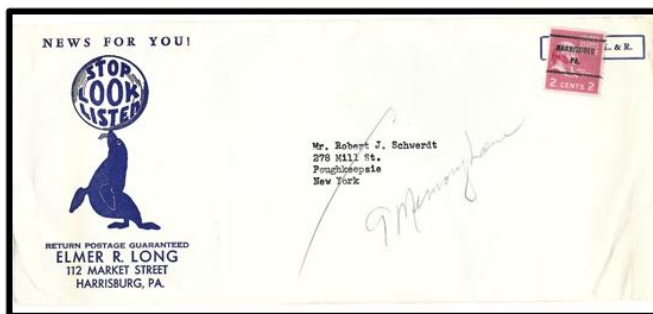


Figure 10: Coulthard illustrated cachet noting Long's change of address.

Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9 (bottom of previous page) show other covers with different cachets that carried the *Handbooks* to Long's customers. His usage of precancels or low value stamps with semi-mute postmarks, unfortunately render the covers undatable. Some, such as in Figure 6, however, mention the year in the cachet. In 1946, Long moved

his store at 203 Market Street, Harrisburg, to 112 Market Street where it remained until his death. Figure 10 above shows a cover that utilizes old stationery with the previous address blocked out and the new mentioned in the cachet.



Four examples of number 10 cacheted envelopes: Figure 11: Top Left: Artist unknown. Figure 12: Top Right: Artist unknown. Figure 13: Bottom Left: Artist unknown. Figure 14: Bottom Right: Coulthard illustrated cachet.

In addition to the smaller #6 envelopes, Long used larger #10s for some mailings, as shown in Figures 11, 12, 13, and 14 above. The cachets on three of the #10s are different in style and don't appear to be John

Coulthard's art work. Perhaps, the first three, Figures 11, 12, and 13, used images from printers "clip art" books. The fourth #10 envelope, Figure 14, however, does have a cachet drawn by Coulthard. Of the four #10 envelopes in my collection, all used precanceled stamps and are consequently undated, other than to note that the stamps are post-1938. The one with the Coulthard cachet may also be dated 1946 or later because of its 112 Market Street address. I speculate that Long used these covers for special mailings such as the ink blotters advertising his services, stamps, and accessories, see Figures 15 and 16 at left.



For those who have never seen or used an ink blotter, they were an essential accessory to have at hand when writing with a liquid ink fountain or dipping pens. Made of absorbent paper, they were used to press over the writing to absorb undried or excessive ink that remained after writing. If not used, there was a high risk of smudging from the excess ink. Many businesses used ink blotters as an advertising medium, including Elmer Long, who again used Coulthard's art on



Figures 15 & 16: Long advertising ink blotters with art by John Coulthard.

his. Businesses gave blotters away as gifts to their customers, and I suspect Elmer Long did, too. As an aside, eBay lists many advertising ink blotters, and they also can be collected in their own right. The proliferation of ballpoint pens after World War II eliminated the need for blotters.

Long commissioned and distributed two other ephemeral pieces. The first, shown in Figure 17 at right, is a souvenir sheet to commemorate the centennial of the first postage stamp in 1940, Great Britain's Penny Black. The U.S. Post Office Department did not authorize a commemorative stamp for the occasion. Consequently, many philatelic societies, stamp clubs, and some dealers designed their own. Once again, John Coulthard got the design commission, and Long gave the souvenir sheet to his customers.

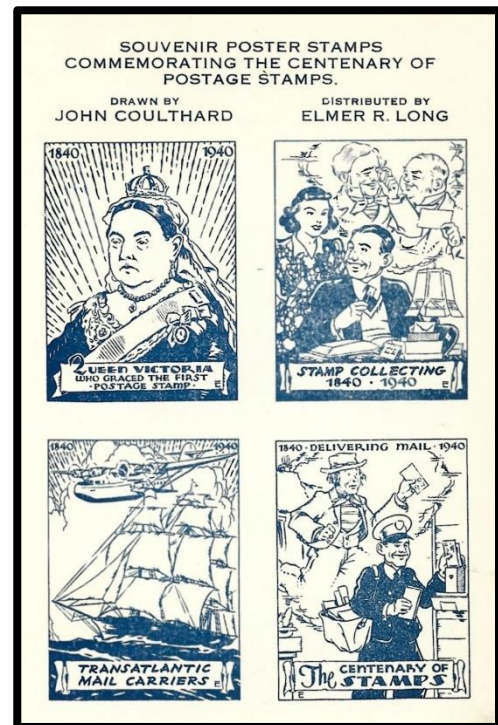


Figure 17: Penny Black commemorative souvenir sheet Commissioned by Long with art by John Coulthard.

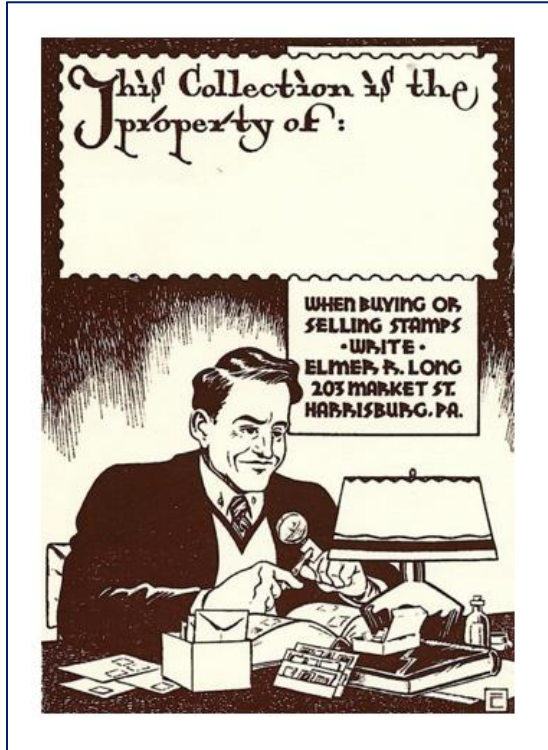


Figure 18: Above: Bookplate given to Long customers, art by John Coulthard.

The other piece of advertising that Long gave to his customers was a bookplate for their stamp albums, shown in Figure 18 at left. Also designed by Coulthard, it shows a collector working on his stamps and included Long's address and a statement that he bought and sold stamps.

This was a clever piece of advertising in that it probably led heirs of deceased stamp collectors to contact Long to buy back stamps he had sold. These book plates were distributed in the glassine envelope shown in Figure 19 below.

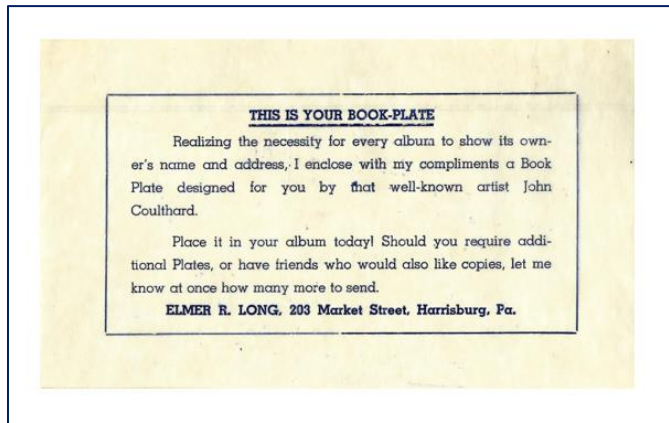
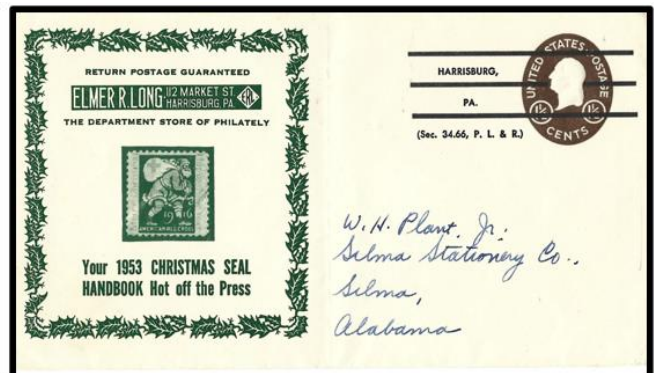
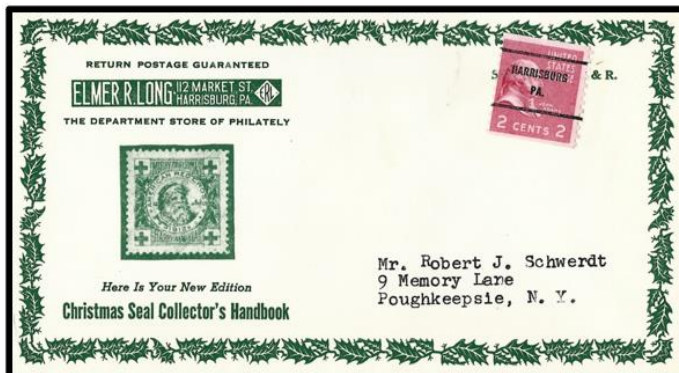


Figure 19: Right: Glassine envelope used to distribute bookplates to customers.

The final category of Elmer Long's illustrated covers were those advertising Christmas seals. The collection of Christmas seals was popular in the 1930s-1950s, and Long included them in his inventory. He used a special cacheted envelope to correspond with his seal-collecting customers, and I have acquired three different examples, shown in Figures 20, 21, and 22 (below and next page).



Figures 20 & 21: Christmas seal cacheted covers with Long's new business address.

Two of these covers, Figures 20 and 21, indicate they contain a *Christmas Seal Collector's Handbook*, of which I, regrettably, do not yet have an example. As with his other covers, Long used precanceled franking, and the covers are datable only by his business address, 203 Market Street as pre-1946, and 112

Market Street ads post-1946. There is no evidence that Coulthard had a role in designing the Christmas seal covers.

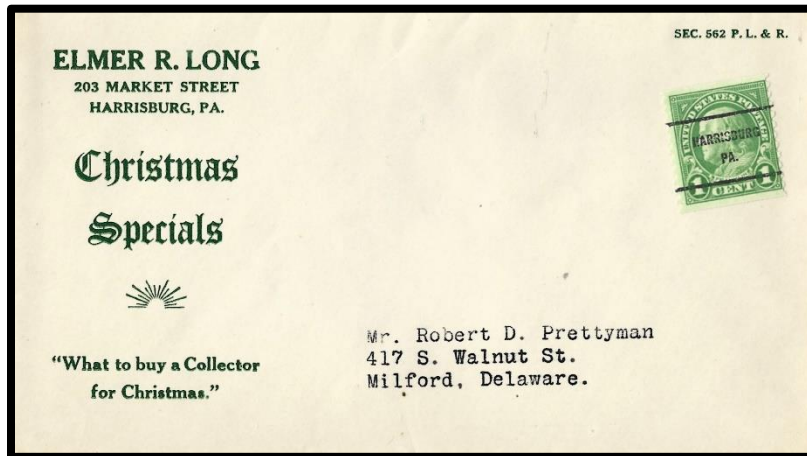


Figure 22: Christmas seal cacheted cover with Long's old business address.

Few collections are complete, and the items shown in this article are not the total of Elmer Long's covers and memorabilia. Indeed, I know of two other cachets of which I do not yet have examples.

Neither have I attempted to collect all his published *Handbooks*. However, I do believe that the items illustrated in this article are representative of what may be collected from the years of his stamp business. His covers and advertising items were greatly

enhanced by the art of John Coulthard, and they made his dealership stand out from his competitors. Coulthard's cartoon characters always appeared smiling and happy and supportive of Long's business ethics, his products, and his service. In many ways, Long's advertising personalized his stamp business, and the covers and ephemera from that dealership stand as a rich field for collectors that are rivaled by few of his contemporaries or present-day stamp dealers.

References

- Closed Albums, "John T. Coulthard, 63, Taken by Death," *Western Stamp Collector*, (October 11, 1966), p 2.
- Carriker, Clyde. "A Study of John Coulthard, 1903-1966: Cachet Designer, Artist, Philatelist," *American Philatelist*, (September 1984), pp. 915-920.
- "Elmer R. Long," Unattributed biographical file, American Philatelic Research Library, Undated, one page.
- Elmer R. Long, Death Notice, *Stamps*, (July 31, 1965), p. 176.
- Heins, Clark. "Artists of the Beautiful: Elmer R. Long," *First Days*, (July 1963), pp. 810-811.
- Herst, Jr., Herman. "Cartoonist's Art Conjures Dealer Memories," *Point of View, Linn's Stamp News*, p. 34.

Know of an Upcoming Philatelic Event that You are Planning to Attend, Either Online or In Person? Tell Us about It!

On page 22 of this issue of the Newsletter, you will find a recently added feature, which is a calendar of upcoming philatelic events that TSF members have either attended in the past and/or are planning to attend in the future. If you know of such an event, please tell us about it, so that we can include it in the next issue! Please send the relevant info to the Editor (@berylliumguy) by Forum PM or by email: ckdorn47@yahoo.com. Thanks for your help!

The Fenian Rising of 1867 in Ireland and the Fenian Raids in Canada, 1866-1871

By Daniel (@daniel)

After the newspaper *The Irish People* was suppressed by the British Government in 1865, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, led by James Stephens, raised funds from America for a rising in 1867.

Beginning in County Kerry in February and Dublin in March, the rising was a failure due to poor organization and infiltration by the British. The leaders were arrested, although Stephens escaped.

Meanwhile, in the United States, after the end of the American Civil War, the Fenian Brotherhood, founded by John O'Mahoney, formed an army, and began organizing raids into Canada. The aim being the conquering of Canada and exchanging it for Irish independence. Skirmishes took place from 1866-1871.

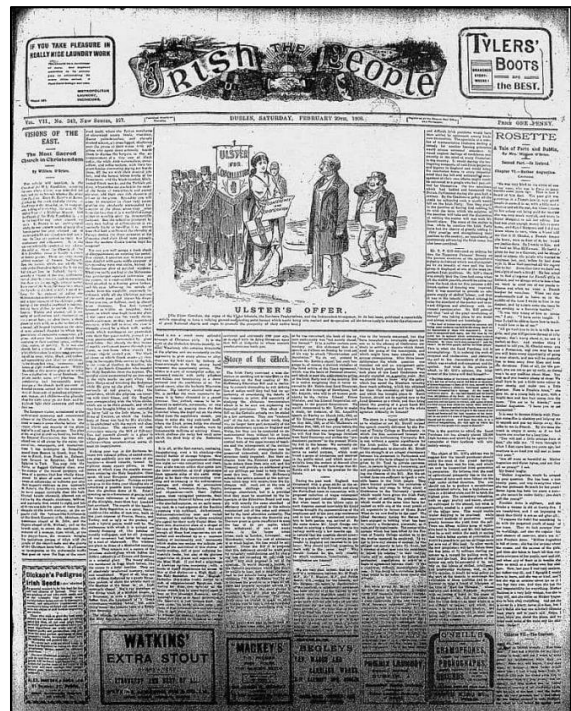


Figure 1: Front page of "The Irish People" from the 1860s.
Image credit: <https://www.irishpeople.ie/wp-content>



Figure 2: Canadian cover postmarked 16 July 2002 to commemorate the 136th Anniversary of the Fenian Raid of 1866.

This cover from 2002 marks the Fenian Raid of 1866 (see Figure 2, bottom of previous page), when Colonel John O'Neill, with 800 Fenians, crossed the Canadian border and defeated a Canadian militia. However, O'Neill withdrew and was apprehended by an American gunboat. Further skirmishes took place up to 1871 but were ultimately unsuccessful.



Figure 3: Left: Ireland, Sc238-239, issued on 23 October 1967 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Fenian Rising of 1867. Right: Cinderella mini-sheet to commemorate the same event.

In 1967, the Republic of Ireland issued two postage stamps supposedly depicting stamps produced in America in support of Irish independence (see Figure 3 above). It wasn't until after they were issued that it was discovered that the Fenian stamps were the creation of Samuel Allen Taylor, the infamous producer of many fantasy stamps, including issues for bogus delivery companies and colleges (see Figure 4 below).

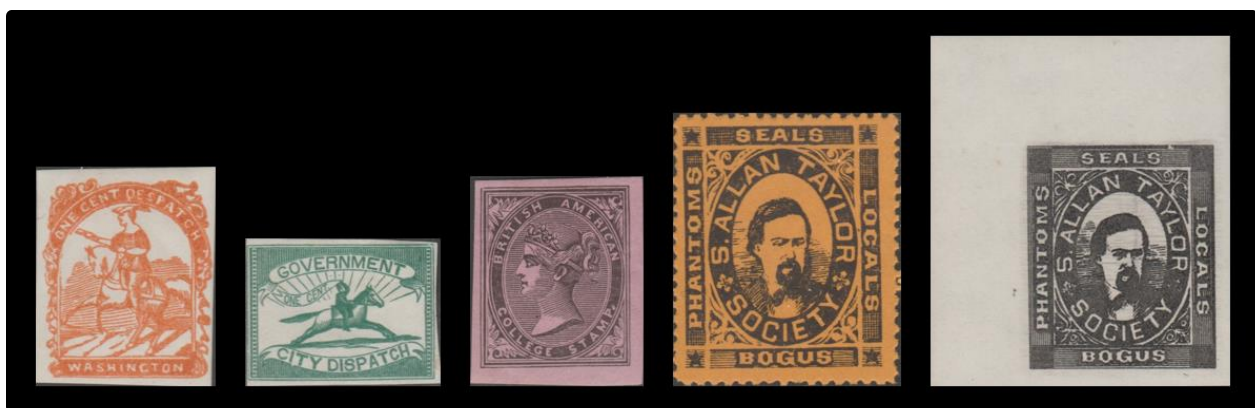


Figure 4: Fantasy stamps and issues for bogus delivery companies and colleges created by Samuel Allen Taylor.

Editor's Note: Thanks for reading along as Daniel has recounted some interesting history, which he has illustrated nicely using philatelic material. Here's hoping that you will likewise find some material that will spark your interest in historical events or eras, and here's further hoping that you will choose to share your findings with all of us through the TSF Newsletter when you do!

Exhibiting for the First Time: An Exploration of Djibouti

By John Hollister (@greaden)

I have been collecting with an eye on eventual exhibition for several years. The problem was how exactly to get started. A couple of my collections, inspired by exhibits, evolved into such large sprawling masses that they might not actually make sense in the frames.

Exhibiting is an art form with its own rules and conventions along with its possibilities for expression. Exhibits are not displays of collections, but rather they use stamps and covers to tell stories with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Exhibits begin in local shows. As they develop, they work their way up to regional, national, and potentially international shows. The advice of judges propels them along their way. In the US, the American Philatelic Society overlooks a hierarchical system of shows known as the World Series of Philately (WSP) that combines exhibits, accrediting of judges, and tables for stamp dealers. The exhibits draw people to shows, and the stamp dealers find clients inspired by the exhibits. Or so it was in the past century. Now, the infrastructure for stamp exhibiting is atrophying along with the shows and shops, but it is still active.

To get my foot in the door, I found a club that has been hosting exhibits for decades that was vaguely within driving distance, in Merchantville, NJ. Its annual MERPEX show is now downgraded from an official WSP show as it no longer includes a bourse, but a local public library has been happy to store the club's exhibit frames in return for an annual show. I joined the club and learned from its members, and could assist with the grunt work of assembling the frames. I had a starting point.

It is one task to collect stamps and covers, and spin together a compelling narrative. It is quite another to troubleshoot the endless snags that come up in mounting the pages. The paper must be stiff enough for the racks on the frame, and stamps and covers must be unobtrusively attached. Text must be edited to the absolute bare minimum.

What I expected to be my main exhibit, on postmarks and covers telling the stories of member states of the pre-unification German Confederation, fell short. I could barely sort out enough pages to tell the bare-bones story.

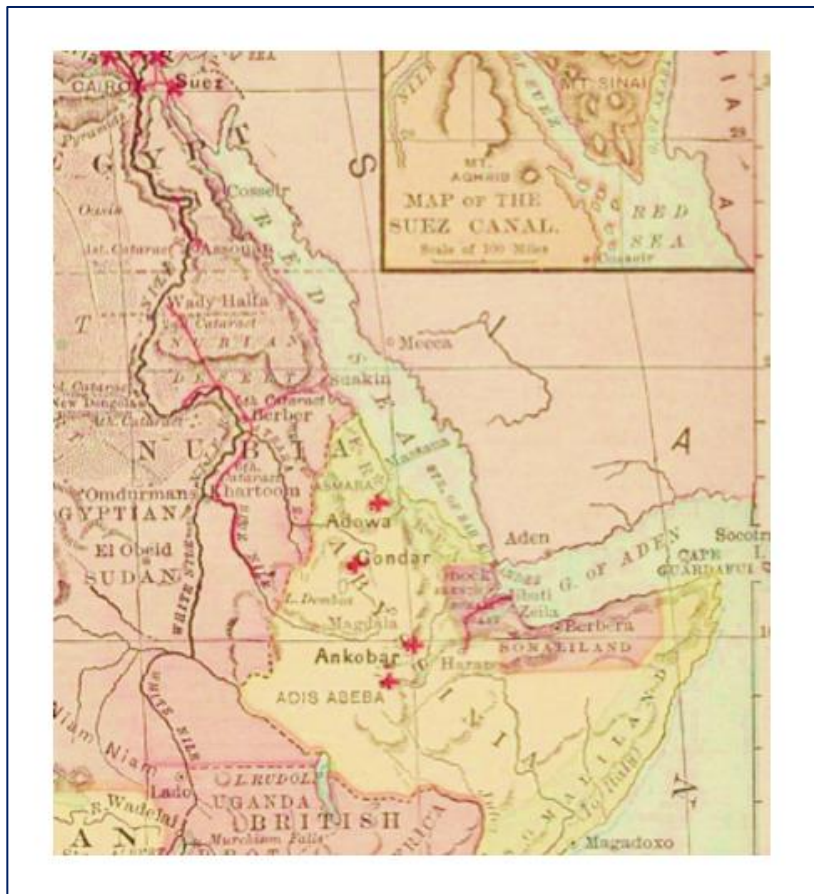


Figure 1: Period map of the "Horn of Africa," showing the strategic location of Obock & Djibouti, just across the straits from Aden.

A side project, in contrast, easily filled out the 16 pages for one frame. It was about mail through Djibouti (see Figure 1, previous page). My accumulation had started to fall into place with a beginning, a middle, and an end. The stamp club was kind enough to let me try it out at a bourse, and in the process, I learned about the importance of paper types and relevant office supplies, how to grab attention, and be reassured that a thief couldn't just swipe a few pages and run!



Figure 2: Stamps of Obock and Djibouti from the 1894 issues.

my initial question about who designed them and why, so the sets themselves are not the focus of the exhibit. Most likely, they were a gimmick to advertise the place.

The stamps of the original Protectorate of Djibouti are hidden in the catalogs as the first few issues of the French Somali Coast, alias French Somaliland. What became clear as I read into the historical and philatelic literature was that Obock was simply the first capital of the colony.

The capital was then transferred to Djibouti gradually over several years. When the 1894 sets were printed, the Colony of Obock and the Protectorate of Djibouti were separate, and that separation was preserved in amber, or rather in the catalogue listings. In 1896, the two were merged into the French Somali Coast. Most Obock stamps were used and postmarked in Djibouti. Many covers include stamps from each of the ports.

It was hard to pin down its exact parameters, but I settled on a title that would cover for me: "Obock and Djibouti in the Age of Menelik II: 1893-1908." Obock was the first French colony in the area, established as an alternative coaling station to Aden. France moved the center of gravity of their outpost to nearby Djibouti, but kept Obock as a telegraph node. Ethiopia emerged as an independent empire under Menelik II, and Djibouti grew as its primary link to the outside world.

The beginning of the story was what caught my interest in the region: sets for Obock and for Djibouti in 1894 that seemed way over the top with period Orientalist artwork. I have still not found the answer to



Figure 3: Mixed franking cover using stamps of both Obock and Djibouti, postmarked 2 November 1899.

The story that emerged as the focus for the exhibit arose from the question of who was using the stamps, given how tiny the colony was. For the most part, the answer was that Obock and then Djibouti was a principal stop for steamships (paquebots) coming through the Suez Canal on the way to France's more important colonies such as Reunion, Madagascar, and Indochina. Passengers would send letters home, and maybe buy up stamps for stamp-collecting friends and relatives.



Figure 4: Obock postal stationery postmarked in the colony, sent to Perim, an island in the Red Sea.

Some mail was local, or at least regional. Here is postal stationery from Obock to an island in the Red Sea, Perim (see Figure 4 at left). Perim was attached to Aden and was a coaling stop. But more importantly, it was a key connecting node for a telegraph line from Suez to Bombay. Obock was a link from Djibouti to that telegraph line.

Somewhere along the line, I also learned that Ethiopian mail went through Djibouti. It needed a French colonial stamp to reach the outside world. Italy blackballed Ethiopia from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) until 1908. I thought that accounted for much of

the use of Djibouti stamps, but learned that actual mail was only a trickle from a very few European expats working for the Emperor. I kept an eye out for any such mail from auction houses. The first two items I found claiming to be from Ethiopia had a catch (see Figure 5 at right).

On the back were greetings from Djibouti. On one card was a description of how dull the place was and how there was no postcard to buy because there was nothing worth illustrating. Djibouti was not the exotic place the stamps promised. The postmarks from Harar in Ethiopia were several years prior to the ones from Djibouti.

I realized that previously postmarked postal stationery from Ethiopia was sold in Djibouti to steamboat passengers. Auction houses often misrepresent such covers as originating in Ethiopia.



Figure 5: Cards sent from Djibouti with earlier postmarks from Ethiopia.



Figure 6: Gattiker cards/postal stationery genuinely from Ethiopia, postmarked in the latter half of 1899.

They were documented rarities of the sort that attract the attention of stamp show judges. I had a focus for an exhibit. The four cards filled out one row of the frame, so I could visually bring out the similarities and contrasts.

The first round of Ethiopian stamps was printed in Paris and engraved by Mouchon. Much of the cost was covered by the philatelist and dealer Arthur Maury under the condition that he could keep most of the stamps to sell cheaply in Europe. When the cheap stamps showed up in Ethiopia to evade the cost of postage, the Swiss postal clerks hired by the Emperor came up with a solution: only overprints with a short timeframe of validity could be used. Each year, the overprint would change. The last row of the exhibit frame included several examples.

One was addressed to Fanny Ilg back in Zurich. Another was an early postcard depicting the city of Harar sent by the postmaster J.A. Michel. The postmarks are not in a logical order, so it is possibly one of the fakes that Michel assembled after he left Ethiopia.

I thought that I was making some new discovery, but in reading the literature on Ethiopian philately, I found that this situation was already well known.

Having now been twice burned, I watched auction listings for anything actually originating in Ethiopia and sent through Djibouti, and eventually found a couple of pieces of postal stationery. They were postmarked Entotto, which had already become Addis Ababa. These cards were both sent by Otto Gattiker, a central figure in the circle of mostly Swiss engineers hired to assist Menelik II in building the infrastructure of a recognizable country (see Figure 6 at left).

Emperor Menelik hired Alfred Ilg as his main advisor and ambassador to the outside world. Ilg's wife, Fanny, was Otto Gattiker's sister. Gattiker initially organized the postal link from Ethiopia to Djibouti.

When I joined the Ethiopian Philatelic Society and sent examples of what I had, I learned that there were very few cards from that time, and that these very cards were already discussed in articles in their journal.

The penultimate cover was from 1907 (see Figure 7 at right). The Ethiopian stamp has the overprint for that year and a surcharge. As it turned out, only a handful of this particular stamp are known on cover, but that is not what initially drew my attention. On the back was a stamp of the French Office in Port Saïd.

Menelik II was wary of Djibouti stamps used inside Ethiopia. When a railroad from Djibouti had reached a town called Dirre Dawa just across the border, and a post office was established, stamps from Port Saïd and Levant were used instead of those from Djibouti. The cover itself was sent to a geological journal in Germany.

I am still trying to find copies of that journal hoping to find letters from Ethiopia from that time.



Figure 7: The Halle cover described at left.

The story came to an end with a cover from Djibouti to Dirre-Dawa in 1910, after Ethiopia finally joined the UPU (see Figure 8 at left). It used an old Obock stamp, still valid in Djibouti, at a postal rate for foreign destinations. Ethiopia was no longer an extension of Djibouti for the purposes of postal rates, and Ethiopian stamps were no longer locals.



Figure 8: The Dirre-Dawa cover, postmarked in Djibouti on 27 April 1910.

The exhibit was awarded a MERPEX gold medal and recognition as the best novice exhibit. My rudimentary exhibit on the German states got silver, but also an award including membership in the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. As a declining club, there was no banquet, but at a regular meeting, awards were given out along with slices of cake.

Stamp-Related Word Puzzle: Find the Engravers!

Submitted by an Anonymous TSF Member

Word Search: How many names of stamp engravers can you find?

S L A N I R B U R K N O R T E
 T S P A T O G A N D O N I B S
 O C B U R T V E M I R H C O W
 E H E R A T K I A N E N H J A
 M I H N P R S S Z I M B E A L
 L R O A O J C N E S A I L N L
 J N R M R I A H T E C C L S E
 I B H E E R M R E B G K I S C
 R O H A H S I E S R U E N E A
 K C E N L C Z S T N O L R N L
 A K U A I L S H O S E K O S L
 E T N S G L E I P N U H F Y A
 G I E A T L A P F E C W C E W
 A B L B O U R S I E R G N I R
 H E W T V O N O R P A S S R E

Names to find:

- | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| Archer | Bickel | Piel |
| Slania | Seegers | Morken |
| Gandon | Hall | Eichens |
| Schirnbock | Boursier | Richelli |
| Cami | Aarts | Janssens |
| Wallace | Jirka | Fischer |
| Sapronov | Harrison | Cameron |
| Burt | Gal | |

Source for names:
 URL: <https://www.engravedstamps.net/>

--ooOoo--

For the Answer Key, please see page 23.

Philatelic Events: Southern Oregon Philatelic Society (SOPS) Hybrid Meeting

By Chris Dorn (@berylliumguy) & Stan Brown (@stainlessb)

Introduction

It seems that the article that Stan and I wrote titled “To Soak, or Not to Soak: A Study Using Classic Era Stamps,” is a gift that keeps on giving! Since its original publication in the *TSF Newsletter* V8.1, which was released in October 2023, the article has been re-published in a slightly expanded version in the *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal* (CNPJ) in December 2023.

Since that re-publication, the article has led to a new study on color quantification with TSF member Jack Penfold (@capejack). The new work investigates the results of the original study, i.e., that Cape Triangles may be safely soaked for up to 100 minutes in either filtered water or 3% hydrogen peroxide, without any diminishing of their color or bluing of paper, when present. As that article is still awaiting publication, I won’t play spoiler and mention the results just yet!

Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal Vol. 27 No. 4 (108)

**CAPE & NATAL
PHILATELIC JOURNAL**
(Formerly NATAL & ZULULAND POST)

Quarterly Journal of the Cape & Natal Study Circle

Volume 27 December 2023 Number 4
(whole number 108)

CONTENTS

Contents, officers, contact information		163-164
Advertisements		165-171
Editorial	Simon Solomon	172
CGH and Natal: Additional Minerva Heads	Simon Solomon	173-174
Natal: Further Exploration of the Windham and Maclean Archive of Natal Covers and Fronts	Keith Klugman	175-179
Natal: Juliet Maclean and Her Contemporaries	Simon Solomon	190-207
Natal: New Images of Durban	Simon Solomon	208
CGH: A Stamp Soaking Study including Effects on selected Cape Triangles	Stanley Brown & Christopher Dorn	209-220
CGH: Cape Triangulars used in the Orange Free State	Simon Solomon	221
Natal: Small Vignette Private Postcards from Natal prior to the Outbreak of the 2 nd Anglo-Boer War on 11 th October 1899	Keith Klugman, Bram Leeftang	222-224
Zululand: The Revenue Issue of 1888	Simon Solomon	225

Figure 1: Cover of the CNPJ from Dec-2023, showing the expanded version of the Soaking Study article, which included more info on effects on Cape Triangles.

To Soak, or Not to Soak: A Study Using Classic Era Stamps

Stan Brown & Chris Dorn

Presentation to the
Southern Oregon Philatelic Society
7 March 2024

©2024 Stanley R. Brown & Christopher K. Dorn, all rights reserved.

Figure 2: Title slide from the presentation on the Soaking Study article, which was recently presented to the SOPS at their March meeting.

Program Invitation

And last but not least, the TSF Soaking Study resulted in an invitation to make a presentation to the Southern Oregon Philatelic Society (SOPS) for their monthly club meeting on Thursday, 7 March (see Figure 2 below). As Stan and I are both located in California, we were offered the chance to present our findings using Zoom. It was SOPS Vice President Casey Palowitch who extended

the invitation for the program, and he also set up the club's meeting room with the equipment needed to make everything possible.



Figure 3: Masthead for the SOPS on the APS website: <https://classic.stamps.org/SOPS>

Connection with the SOPS


As you read this, you may be asking yourself, "If Stan and Chris are both in California, how did they manage to get invited to present at a club meeting in Oregon?" It's a fair question! As it happens, Chris is a long-distance member of the SOPS since around 2009. In the early 2000s, Chris and his wife Amy travelled nearly every summer to the area to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which takes place in Ashland.

On trips to Ashland and nearby Medford, Chris discovered that there was an active brick-and-mortar stamp shop, and a lady who worked in the shop introduced him to the local philatelic community through the SOPS. Sadly, the stamp shop is no longer in business, but Chris has maintained his SOPS membership, despite never living in southern Oregon to date. The area is still on his list for potential retirement living, whenever that may happen!


Presentation Outline

- Introduction
 - The Stamp Forum (TSF)
 - Origins
- Authors' Perspectives on Soaking
- The Framework
 - Filtered Water (Control)
 - 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
- Setting Up the Study
- The Design of Experiment
 - Time Intervals
 - Scanning Parameters
- Experimental Results & Discussion
 - About Cape Triangles (Chris)
 - Overall Observations (Stan)
- Conclusions
- Future Work

Before



After



©2024 Stanley R. Brown & Christopher K. Dorn, all rights reserved.

Figure 4: Slide from the presentation on the Soaking Study article, showing the outline for the information to be covered. Images are of a discolored, sulfuretted Cape Triangle before and after a 3% hydrogen peroxide soak.

The Program

Stan and I prepared some slides to summarize our study (see Figure 4 above), and it seemed to us that the presentation went well. There were about 20-25 members in attendance, and we got some very good questions from the audience, including one about ways to remove adhesive tape from stamps. Luckily, we remembered that this question had been answered by Ryan (@ryan) on TSF not long ago (<https://thestampforum.boards.net/thread/11062>), and we were able to provide the link to SOPS members via a post-meeting email. It was a fun experience giving this presentation of the Soaking Study to an interested group of collectors. This is another instance that seems to exemplify the follow-on benefits of doing (and reporting on!) stamp-related projects. Stan and I are both grateful for the opportunity to share our work with TSF and beyond, and we hope that there will be more to share in the not-too-distant future. Stay tuned for further developments!

Upcoming Philatelic Events: Opportunities for Stamping & Meeting TSF Members

By Editorial Staff, based on Member Involvement

11-Apr-2024

British Empire Study Group (BESG) hosts Dr. Ian Matheson presents “Entertainment Tax”
Zoom online event at 18:00-19:00 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (UK Time: 23:00-00:00 BST)
To register: <https://bestudygroup.org/events/> or contact TSF member Rob (@REL1948) by Forum PM.

12 & 13-Apr-2024

Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) Congress. Hosts: Aberdeen Philatelic Society.
Location: Dewars Centre, Perth, Scotland, UK; Friday 10:00-17:00 BST, Saturday 10:00-15:00 BST
For more info: <https://scottishphilately.co.uk/>
TSF member Alex Walker (@vikingeck) is President and may be contacted by Forum PM with questions.

26 through 28-Apr-2024

WESTPEX Stamp Show. Location: San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Burlingame, California
Time: Friday & Saturday 10:00-18:00, Sunday 10:00-16:00 Pacific Time; \$5 admission good for all 3 days.
For more info: <https://www.westpex.com/> History: @berylliumguy attended many times, last in 2017.

09-May-2024

British Empire Study Group (BESG) hosts “The Devil’s Mail, Part II” with Steve Berlin
Details the same as for April event listing above.

07 & 08-Jun-2024

Southern Oregon Philatelic Exhibition (SOPEX) Stamp Show.
Location: First United Methodist Church, 607 West Main Street, Medford, Oregon
Time: Friday 11:00-17:00 and Saturday 10:00-15:00 Pacific Daylight Time
For more info: <https://classic.stamps.org/SOPS-Show>; hosted by SOPS (So. Oregon Philatelic Society)
History: TSF members @berylliumguy and @stainlessb were recently invited to attend, and TSF does have some active members based in Oregon, such as Mick (@bokassa) and Jim Jackson (@jkjblue).

13-Jun-2024

British Empire Study Group (BESG) hosts “Censorship in the Solomons, 1939-45” with Ian Kimmerly
Details the same as for April event listing above.

19 & 20-Jul-2024

York Stamp & Coin Fair. Location: The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York, England, UK
Time: Friday 10:00-17:00 BST and Saturday 10:00-16:00 BST
For more info: <https://stampshows.net/york-stamp-coin-fair/>
History: TSF members @vikingeck, @michael, @berylliumguy, and @drblade all attended in July 2023, and some are planning to attend again in 2024.

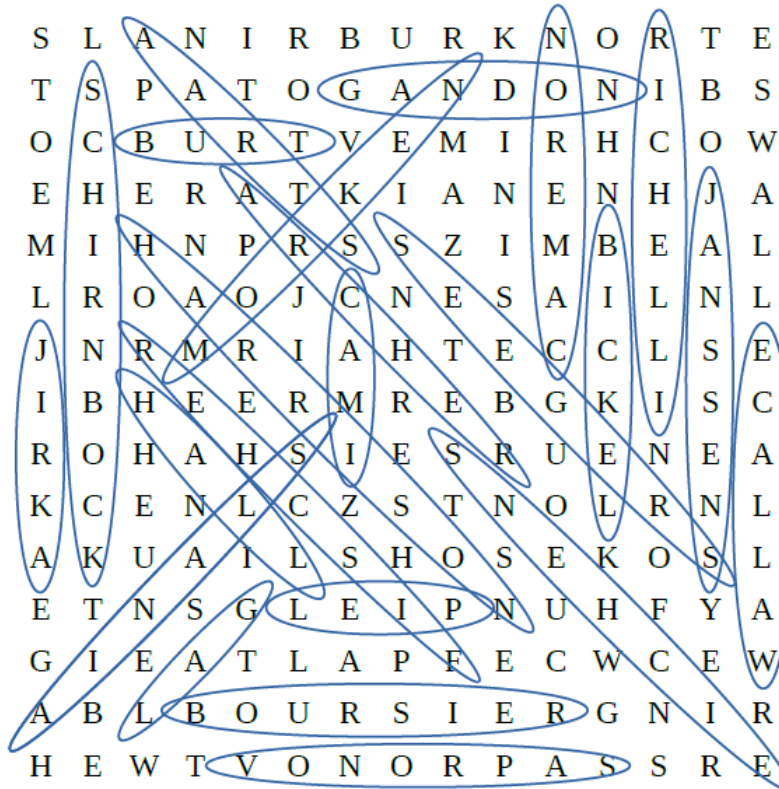
15 through 18-Aug-2024

The Great American Stamp Show (GASS), hosted by the APS.
Location: Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut
Time: Thu-Sat 10:00-18:00 and Sunday 10:00-16:00 EDT
For more info: <https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show>
History: TSF member @berylliumguy attended GASS last year and wrote an article about his experience in *TSF Newsletter*, V8.1.



Word Search Puzzle Answer Key

(Puzzle on page 19.)



The Stamp Forum is a Chapter of the APS

The Stamp Forum was founded in June 2013, and we 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. Feel free to check us out. If you have questions, please send them to us at stampforum.net@gmail.com.

The Stamp Forum's APS Articles of Distinction

By Editorial Staff

With the completion of the most recent poll, our Forum has now submitted seven articles for publication on the American Philatelic Society's [website](#). Each has been posted there, and each of those has a link that will bring readers to our Forum. Our 2023 submission is currently featured on the APS 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](#)
- 2023 [Stamp Out War: Support Ukraine!](#)

The 2023 selection process closed with four articles competing for the distinction of being selected as The Stamp Forum's 2023 APS Article of Distinction—one from each Volume 7 issue published. For 2024, 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 subsequent issues, will close on August 31, 2024 at Midnight, New York time. A final poll will be posted in September to select the article that will represent our Chapter in 2024. The polls will be posted on the [Article of Distinction board](#).

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

