

Dodging the Corsairs

Synopsis

Treatment

- I establish scope and purpose after an opening intended to draw readers into my subject. You will find the article follows a straightforward chronology.

Significance

- During this 400-year period the Algerines raided shipping and coastal towns as far away as Ireland and England, enslaving men, women and children. They were a scourge well known to sailors in the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern Atlantic Ocean. Finding and acquiring the postal history, of which about a third of existing items are illustrated in my article, has been a significant challenge. A few items are irreplaceable, and I believe it would take more than ten years to duplicate the items that are not unique.

Originality

- I know of no other U.S. philatelist who collects mail that focuses on (or who writes about) the Algerine corsairs.

Research / Knowledge

- I have studied the Algerines and their postal history for more than 30 years, distilling many volumes to these 4,500 words.

Technical

- While I provided scans of the letters, passport and the painting to the editor, layout, internal headings and related items were in the hands of others. I provided the references and sidebars that you see in the article.