

CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club

July 2022

On July 1st we celebrate National Postal Workers Day; Zip Code Day; and this year – the 51st anniversary of the United States Postal Service. July 4th, of course, is Independence Day - a federal holiday commemorating the Declaration of Independence for the United States, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. An unusual and strangely patriotic coincidence also occurred on July 4th. Three of America's founding fathers perished on this day: John Adams (the nation's second president) and Thomas Jefferson (the nation's third president) died five hours apart on the same 4th of July in 1826. James Monroe (the nation's fifth president) expired on the 4th of July in 1831.

July 7th is World Chocolate Day (my wife's favorite); and July 28th is National Buffalo Soldier's Day, which commemorates the first Army regiment comprised of African American Soldiers. In 1866, Congress passed the Army Organization Act, allowing former slaves to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1992, the date was adopted by Congress.

This month we have ships to read about! Our July club meetings are scheduled for the 12th & 26th. Enjoy Summer!

Regards,
Michael Swope

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Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse
1:00 p.m. - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
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www.cresthavenstamp.club



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FloridaStampShows.com

The source for all show
related information for the
state of Florida



Conductor's Lantern Stamp

Pat Hensley

The \$5 Conductor's Lantern stamp (US Scott #1612), from the Americana series, was issued on August 23, 1979, in Boston, Massachusetts at "Stampshow 79". This show was the annual philatelic exhibition hosted by the American Philatelic Society. This stamp is one of four stamps showing light sources from our country's history and, a reminder that America is a shining beacon of liberty. In the 1850s, lanterns were used by railroad conductors.



Offset and engraving were used to print this stamp. The four colors used were tan, red-brown, yellow, and orange. All of the colors other than the red-brown were printed using offset. The tan was used for the background and the orange and yellow were used for the flame and lamp chimney. The lamp, "5.00 USA," and the inscription running across the bottom and side were engraved and printed in red brown. "America's Light Leaders Her Generations Onward" is the inscription.

The \$5 Lantern is harder to find on cover than other dollar-denominated Americana stamps.

Classroom Activities:

Draw the different types of lanterns used in history.

What other light sources were used in our country's history?

What do the other three stamps look like?

Find pictures of railroad conductors using this lantern?

Ref:
<https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/1612/USA/>
<https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/2016/october/lantern-top-denomination-americana-series.html>

THE BRITISH M.E.F. OVERPRINTS OF WWII

DAN MADDALINO

Following the 1942 defeat of German and Italian forces in North Africa and the Middle East, British Army Central Command (stationed in Cairo, Egypt) quickly consolidated occupation of the region. Prior to 1942, British Army and Navy personnel utilized standard issue British definitive postage stamps. In early 1942, these definitive stamps (*Figure 1*), along with Postage Due stamps (*Figure 2*), were overprinted in Cairo: "M.E.F." - Middle East Forces.

The overprinted values eventually ranged from ½-Pence to 10-Shillings, plus five overprinted postage due stamps of ½-Pence to 1-Shilling. A total of sixteen values were prepared (recorded in Scott Stamp Catalog under Great Britain Offices Abroad). First offered across North Africa, the M.E.F. overprint stamps were made available as far away as Greece to the north, and Italian Somaliland to the east. The Middle East Forces were renamed "Middle East Land Forces" in 1945, and overprinting of British stamps as M.E.F. was discontinued. These M.E.F. stamps were gradually replaced by locally overprinted issues for individual areas. As implied by the overprint, these stamps were intended for use by military personnel and not the general public.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Scott Catalog lists 20 stamps and varieties, but most collectors recognize at least 36 stamps and identified varieties. There is a lot to collect here, with the largest variety being the periods between the letters M, E, and F. The shape of the periods is altered with each subsequent printing.

A collection of these British overprinted stamps is a key set for the collector of British Offices Abroad. Begin your adventure here.

Primary Sources:

1. www.gbos.org.uk/index
2. www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk
3. *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, 2021; Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio, USA*
4. *Stamps from author's collection.*

Philatelic Facts

Album Weeds

“Album Weeds” is a derogatory term applied to forgeries of philatelic material. It is also the title of an 1880 book, “Album Weeds – How to Detect Forged Stamps”, with the last edition published in 1906. The book was written by the Reverend Robert Brisco Earée (1846 – 1928), an English priest and philatelist who was known for his studies of philatelic fakes and forgeries.

The book went through three revisions and is still regarded as one of the best guides to forgeries and fakes ever produced. Earée was quoted as saying “If philatelists would only study their stamps a little more, instead of merely trying to see how many they can collect, I am certain that they would soon learn for themselves far more than any book can teach them.”

Ref:
www.wikipedia.com

The USS Nashville (CL-43)

Juan L. Riera



Different types of ship hulls (indicating different types of vessels) have an abbreviated code followed by the numerical order in which the vessel was manufactured. Thus, the Brooklyn Class Cruiser, *Nashville CL-43*, was the 43rd to have its keel laid for the U.S. Navy. The ship was commissioned on June 6, 1938; decommissioned on June 14, 1946; and then stricken from U.S. naval service on January 9, 1951, when it was transferred to the Chilean Navy.

At the outbreak of World War II in Europe, the *Nashville* was assigned “Neutrality Patrol” in the central Atlantic region. It was based in Bermuda between August and December of 1941. This neutrality patrol duty, I assume, was part of some unofficial pre-war assistance to the United Kingdom.

Then, with the U.S. entry into the war, the *Nashville* transferred to the Pacific theater and served as an escort to the aircraft carrier, *USS Hornet* for the Doolittle Raid. Thereafter, it served as the flagship to Task Force 8, defending Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. General MacArthur resided on the ship on two occasions. Lastly, it was severely damaged by a Japanese Kamikaze on December 13, 1944, incurring nearly 400 U.S. casualties. In 1951 the cruiser was stricken from the U.S. Navy and transferred to the Chilean Navy, serving until 1984.

Several years before the keel was laid for the *Nashville*, while President Theodore Roosevelt was planning his “*Great White Fleet*”, a popular nickname for a group of United States Navy battleships that would complete a “courtesy tour” journey around the globe between December 16, 1907 and February 22, 1909; it was realized that officers and sailors did not have a convenient way to communicate with home.

Before WWII, arrangements were made for the Navy to receive mail direct from civilian post offices. Locations of stations remained permanent and presented few problems with mail delivery as it was directed to the city and state where each particular naval station was located. In the case of ships and aviation units which were afloat, additional arrangements were required. This procedure consisted of direct negotiations between the ship's office and the local postmaster. Ship's mail was sent to the city where it spent most of its time in port, in care of the postmaster of that city. The postmaster in turn would have the mail delivered to a designated office on the dock where the ship's mail clerk picked it up. Before a cruise, the postmaster was advised of the schedule and the mail was forwarded accordingly.



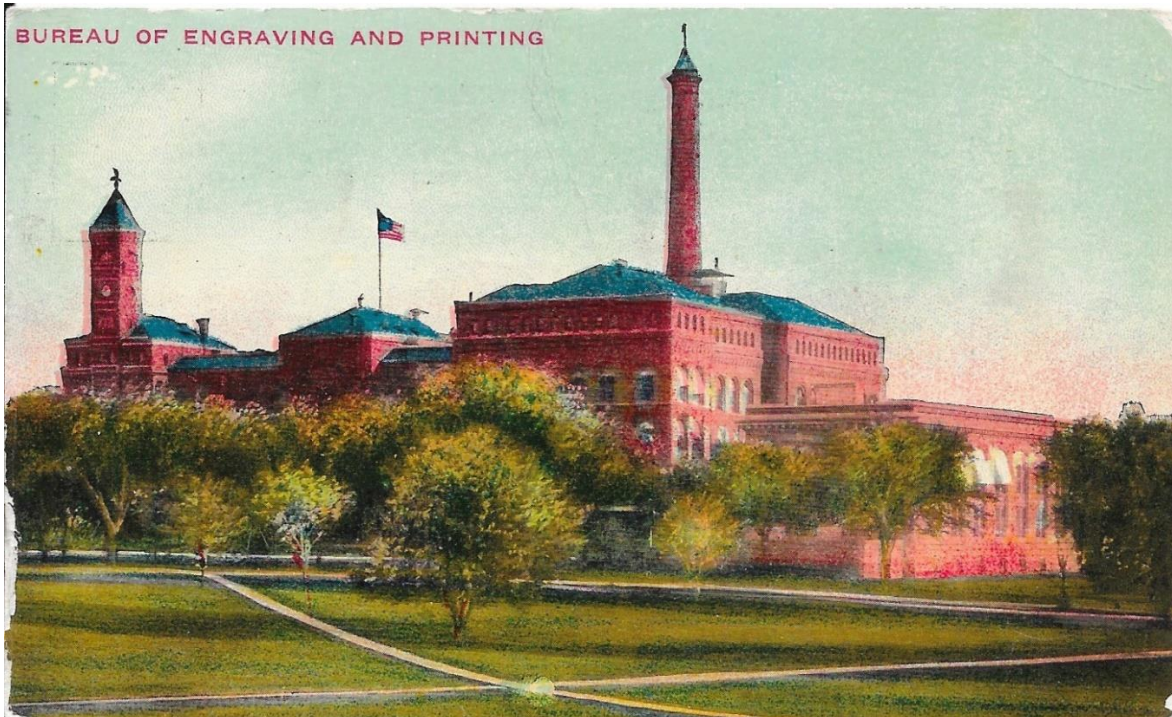
The special event cover (above) commemorates the commissioning of the *USS Nashville* on June 6, 1938 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. It was postmarked aboard ship and mailed to a Miss Lorraine E. Tillotson in Port Jefferson, Long Island, New York. While I could not find Miss Tillotson in Port Jefferson, a small town of less than 8,000 inhabitants in 2020, I did find two family members buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in the town. The cover bears US Scott #684, issued on December 1, 1930 in Marion, Ohio. It is a 1 ½ cent brown stamp depicting President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923). The cachet maker was Frederick Horton of Port Chester, New York, member #1280 of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. I acquired the cover at a USCS auction.

Ref:
Cover Scan from Authors Collection
www.navypostalclerkassoc.org
www.ussnashville.org

First & Last

Michael Swope

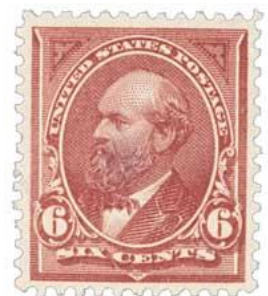
Featured here is a picture postcard (circa, 1910) of the Washington, DC, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a branch of the United States Treasury Department. The Bureau was responsible for printing government bonds; the national currency; postage and revenue stamps; military and diplomatic commissions; passports, and other government documents.



The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was established in 1862 following the outbreak of the Civil War. However, it was not until 1894 that the Bureau won a contract bid to print postage stamps.

The Bureau began postage stamp production on July 1, 1894 with dies previously used by the American Bank Note Company. The first stamp produced was the 6¢ Garfield, Scott #256.

For almost 75 years, the Bureau produced nearly all US postage stamps. This changed in the late 1960's when the US Post Office began issuing contracts to private security printers. Bureau of Engraving and Printing stamp production dropped significantly, and by 1997, more than half of all US postage stamps were produced privately. The very last stamp produced by the Bureau was a 37¢ coil Flag (Scott #3632) on June 10, 2005.



Scott #256



Scott #3632

Ref: Postcard Scan: Authors collection
www.mysticstamp.com

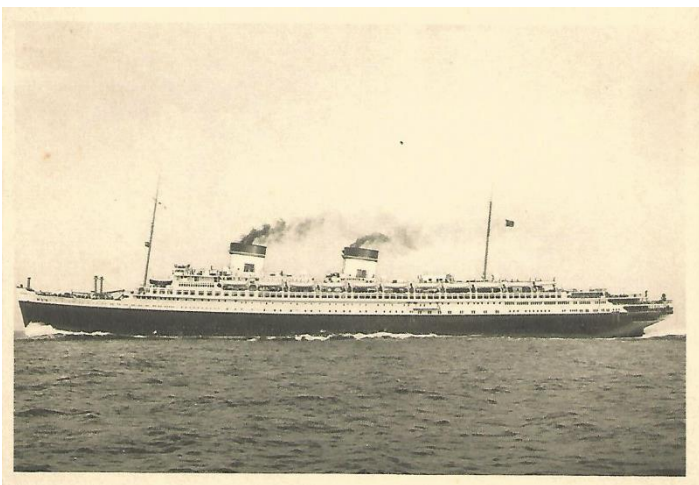
SS REX

Bob Burr

The *SS Rex* was an Italian luxury ocean-liner launched in 1931. It held the unofficial accolade "Blue Riband", from 1933 to 1935; which was awarded to a passenger liner crossing the Atlantic Ocean in regular service with the highest average speed.



The *Rex* operated transatlantic crossings with its running mate, the *Conte di Savoia* prior to the outbreak of World War II. Both ships carried the "Riviera Afloat" mantra. The theme even included sand scattered at swimming pools to create a beach-like atmosphere, highlighted by multicolored umbrellas. *Rex* was luxuriously decorated in a classical style contrary to the norm of the time which was Art Deco, or so-called "Liner Style". The following 1934 postcard scans are an advertisement for the Italian Liner "*Rex*".



Rex remained in service through the opening months of World War II sailing between Genoa and New York City until May, 1940, when Italy declared war on France and Britain. The following month *Rex* was laid up near the harbor of Trieste, where she remained out of harm's way until 1944.

In early September, 1944, activity on the *Rex* lead British intelligence to believe that the Germans had decided to scuttle her in Trieste harbor to impede an Allied advance. On September 8, 1944, members of the U.S. 4th Fighter Squadron, 52nd Fighter Group, 15th Air Force stationed in Italy and a British Bomber Squadron conducted an attack on the *Rex* to prevent the German tactic.

Postcard research always tells a story!



Two days after the attack on a once proud ship that deserved a better ending.

Ref:

Postcard Scan: Authors collection

Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia-REX, Houghton Mifflin

Sinking of the Italian Ocean Liner REX, Col. T. Thacker, Friends Journal, Vol. 18, No 1, Spring 1995

www.wikipedia.com