

PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2025

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Stamp Quiz

Here's this month's stamp quiz! Rules: The stamp quiz stamps will always be definitives and not particularly uncommon! Here's a hint: it was issued on 25 January 1920 and was only valid for a few months. It was printed by typography. It is watermarked and perforated 14 x 15. If you think you know the answer, send your guesses to me at: centonzevincent@gmail.com. Good luck!



Unusual 1939 Combination Surface & Airmail Covers to Europe

By Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

Occasionally, unusual United States postal rates can be found, as the following two covers show. Figure 1 shows a cover posted from Chicago on February 21, 1939, and received in Gdynia, Poland, on March 3rd. The cover was franked with a 5¢ U.S. Naval Academy commemorative from the Navy Issue of 1937 (Scott 794) and a 3¢ Golden Gate International Exposition Commemorative of 1939 (Scott 852) for a total of eight cents. The eight-cent postage paid an unusual combination of surface and airmail rates. Five cents paid the UPU surface rate from Chicago to Europe. The five-cent surface rate for a one-ounce letter to anywhere in the world was in effect from October 1, 1907, to November 1, 1953. The letter was carried transatlantic on the steamship *Isle de France* to a port in France, as noted at the top. The additional three-cent stamp covers the three-cent surcharge per half-ounce for an airmail letter from France to any European destination. An airmail label and a manuscript "In Europe" are noted at the bottom left.

Figure 2 shows a cover sent from Clifton, New Jersey, on August 22, 1939, to Lwow, Poland. Interestingly, the arrival back stamp shows the letter was received on September 1, 1939, the day the Germans invaded Poland. The cover is franked with a single 11¢ James K. Polk stamp from the Presidential Issue of 1938, better known as the "Prexy" Issue (Scott 816). Similar to the first letter, the eleven-cent postage paid the five-cent UPU surface rate to Europe, but plus an additional six cents, or double the three cents per half-ounce for airmail surcharge within Europe, for a total of eleven cents. This rate was in effect from July 1, 1932, until the beginning of World War II, at which time the service was discontinued.

Certainly, these are two fascinating letters to Europe with a seldom-seen postal rate!



Figure 1. Cover from Chicago, IL, to Gdynia, Poland on February 21, 1939. The eight cents postage paid the UPU surface rate from Chicago to France plus airmail from France to Poland. The inset shows the March 4, 1939, received postmark from Gdynia.

Continued on next page



The Prez Sez ...

Congratulations to the following club members who won exhibiting awards at the Great American Stamp Show earlier this month: Dawn Hamman—*All Aboard! A Grand Tour - American Style, 1915* was in the Champion of Champions having won a Grand Award in the past year. Dawn also won a Large Gold for *The Jewel City - Postcards of the Panama Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915*, Jim

Mazepa Large Gold for *POLAND: Warsaw Postal Administration/November 11, 1918 to June 1919/First Issues of a New*

September Meeting; Tuesday the 2nd—

New Place: Meeting room at the Fruitville Library
100 Apex Road just east of I75/Fruitville interchange

New Time: 5:30pm

“PROGRAM” - we are getting acquainted with our new space—learning the AV equipment and the set-up/takedown time. And, oh yes, we will talk about stamps—bring something to share.

Country. Phil Leber *US Telegraphy: Origins, Consolidations and Technologies* won a Large Gold Medal and was voted Most Popular at GASS earlier this month. Phil also won a Gold Medal for *Telegraph Centenary Issue of 1944 and it's First Day Covers*.

P.S. I served as a member of the jury.

After their move to Tennessee, John Hamman says that Dawn is mostly unpacked while his stamp room is still in boxes!

Unusual 1939 Combination Surface & Airmail Covers to Europe (cont.)

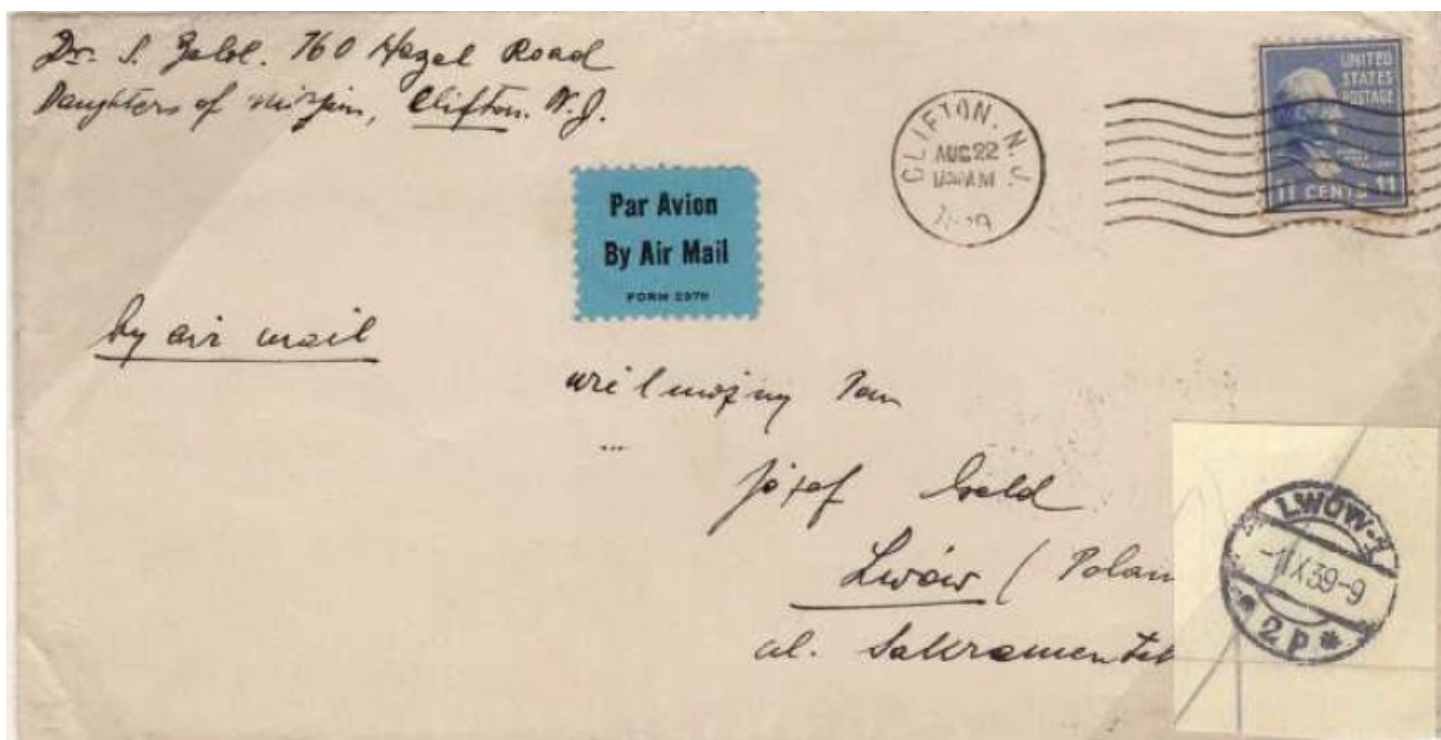


Figure 2. Cover from Clifton, NJ, to Lwow, Poland, postmarked on August 22, 1939. The eleven-cent “Prexy” stamp paid the UPU five cents per ounce, foreign first-class surface rate, plus six cents for twice the three-cent per half-ounce rate for airmail from France to Poland. The cover weighed between a half ounce to one ounce. This is a fascinating solo use for this stamp. A piece showing the Lwow backstamp dated September 1, 1939, is shown in the lower right corner. This cover was an eyewitness to one of the most significant events of the twentieth century, as that was the date of the German invasion of Poland which started the Second World War.

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