

PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2023

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Stamp Quiz



Here is this month's Stamp Quiz. Part of a stamp is shown here. Can you guess the country, stamp, and denomination? Rules: The stamp quiz stamps will always be definitive and not particularly uncommon! Here's a hint: this stamp was issued in 1955. If you know it, please send your guesses to the me at: centonzevincent@gmail.com. Good luck!

Update on Cover with Parcel Post Postage Due Stamp

By Vince Centonze

Back in the March 2023 issue of the newsletter I included an article about a 1914 cover assessed 1¢ postage due for which payment was confirmed using a U.S. parcel post postage due stamp (Scott JQ1). The cover is shown in Figure 1. It was annotated in German by the sender as containing "Briefkarten" (post cards). I speculated whether the use of the parcel post postage due rather than a regular postage due stamp had any connection to the class of mail. Fourth-class and parcel post rates applied to any items that were neither first-, second-, nor third-class. The fourth-class and parcel post rates at the time were one cent per ounce up to four ounces, then five cents for the first pound, with zone variations. Two-ounce, fourth-class matter might fit the rate characteristics of this cover; however, my initial thought was that it is unlikely because post cards in an envelope, with or without a written message, could have been included in first- or third-class, respectively. Also, as of July 1, 1913, parcel post and parcel post postage due stamps became valid for use in conjunction with other classes of mail. Therefore, I was inclined to discount the use of the parcel post postage due as being connected with other than first class mail in this case and believed that the use of that stamp was incidental. However, that was an incorrect conclusion.



(Above) Figure 1. Parcel post postage due cover.
(Right) Figure 2. Cropped close-up image of NEW YORK / M.I. & R. handstamp.



One of the things that I didn't mention in the article was the cancel on the parcel post postage due stamp. The cancel is a New York duplex handstamp dated May 25, 1914, with the abbreviation "M.I.&R." at the bottom of the dial. A close-up cropped image of the handstamp is shown in Figure 2. John Hamman emailed me with a comment that perhaps the "M.I.&R." in the cancel might provide a clue about why there was additional postage necessary. As it turns out, it is also a clue as to why a parcel post postage due stamp was used instead of a regular postage due stamp.

Continued on next page



The Prez Sez ...

The January meeting was attended by 17 members and guests - we enjoyed an informative talk by Ed Fraser on double postal cards - almost impossible to find used both ways. After which some interesting material was passed around.

Our annual national stamp show is coming up next week - SNSE will be held at the Municipal Auditorium on Friday-Saturday and Sunday. Please plan to come if you have not already. More information can be found on our website here: <https://www.sarasotastampclub.com/the-exhibition/general-info/>

Our next meeting on February 6th is a Club Auction - plan to arrive EARLY about 6PM

Rules and bid sheet attached to this newsletter,. There will be quite a few club lots from donations received in the past months - bargains will be had!

Thanks in advance to all of you who have volunteered to help in some capacity.

Reminder: dues of \$15 for 2024 are now due - anything extra makes you a booster! You can pay at the stamp show - see table #29 - or if you are not coming to the next meeting, mail a check made out to Sarasota Philatelic Club to the address on the bottom of the page.

Pat

Update on Cover with Parcel Post Postage Due Stamp (*Continued*)

I was unfamiliar with the abbreviation "M.I.&R." I contacted Charles DiComo, President of the Empire State Postal History Society (ESPHS). Charles queried the membership and replied to me with information on "M.I.&R." handstamps in Ray Porter's *New York City Cancellations* exhibit found on Richard Frajola's *Phila Mercury* website. The exhibit shows an 1894 cover with a postage due stamp cancelled with an "M.I.&R." duplex, reproduced here in Figure 3. Also on the *Phila Mercury* message board, Leonard Piskiewicz posted a *New York Times* (NYT) article which indicated that the abbreviation meant "Mail Inspection and Rating," and the handstamps were used by the New York City Post Office department of that name.



Figure 3. M.I.&R. duplex handstamp on postage due stamp on 1894 cover from Ray Porter's *New York City Cancellations* exhibit seen on Richard Frajola's website. (Used with permission.)

According to the August 6, 1895, NYT article, a suspicious package was addressed to Theodore Roosevelt, President of the Board of Police Commissioners in New York City. This is the same Theodore Roosevelt who would subsequently become President of the United States. According to the article, the package was discovered by an individual at the "Mail Inspection and Rating Department of the (New York City) Post Office." The article stated that the function of the department was to "examine fourth class mail packages."

It stands to reason that because of the notation stating that the it contained postcards, the cover in Figure 1 was sent to the Mail Inspection and Rating Department under the assumption that it was fourth-class mail. There it was assessed 1¢ postage due as fourth-class mail; upon payment of the deficiency a parcel post postage due stamp was affixed and cancelled with the "M.I.&R." handstamp. Therefore, it appears that this was, in fact, *not* a case

where a parcel post postage due stamp was used incidentally after all. Rather, the item was most likely considered to be fourth-class mail (or parcel post). Thanks to John Hamman for his inciteful comment that spurred on the additional research, and to Charles DiComo, Richard Frajola, Leonard Piskiewicz and the ESPHS for their assistance.

References

1. "New York City Cancellations Used on Banknote Postage Dues," *Phila Mercury* website: <https://www.rfrajola.com/Porter1/porter1.htm>
2. "Saw Dust-Filled 'Bomb': Package Like an Infernal Machine for Mr. Roosevelt," *New York Times* (1857-1922); Aug 6, 1895; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times; pg.1

Sarasota Philatelic Club

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APS Chapter 353

For information: snse-exhibits@comcast.net



Rules for Sarasota Philatelic Club Auction

February 6th - appx 6:15 PM.

Please plan to arrive by 6 PM if you are submitting lots

1. Each member may submit 5 lots. Please copy the auction form for each lot.
2. It is requested that each lot have at least a \$5.00 retail value. Bidding for each lot will start at \$1.00 and advance in increments of \$1.00.
3. Lots and description sheets must be brought to the February 6th meeting. Lot numbers and bidder numbers will be assigned then. The auction will begin after a short business meeting.
4. The auctioneer's rulings will be final.
5. Lots must be paid for on the night of the auction.
6. Each submitter and bidder is asked to pay a \$1.00 donation to the club.

The Treasurer will act as auction manager keeping track of winning bids.

Making change might be difficult – so cash (small bills) preferred.

LOT # _____

Sarasota Philatelic Society

MEMBER'S No. _____

MINT _____

AUCTION SHEET

USED _____

RESERVE BID _____

SCOTT CAT. VALUE _____

SCOTT CAT. # _____

COUNTRY: _____

CONDITION:

CENTERING:

CANCELS:

NH _____ PIN HOLE _____ MISSING PERFS _____

AVG _____ XF _____

LIGHT _____

OG _____ THIN _____ TEAR _____

FINE _____ SUPERB _____

MED _____

NG _____ CREASE _____ CLOSED TEAR _____

VF _____

HEAVY _____