

# PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2024

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## Stamp Quiz



**No one guessed last month's Stamp Quiz. Part of the stamp shown is from a Japan 50-yen 1952 definitive picturing the Bodhisattva of Compassion, also known as the Nyoirin Kannon, statue in the temple of Chuguji, (Japan Scott 558). Japan Scott 521 has**

**a similar appearance and color, but 521 has two zero's after the 50, which extend into the elbow. Stay tuned for next month's Stamp Quiz.**



## Cover with "Taxe Non Percue Marking"

By Vincent Centonze

The cover shown on the next page is very interesting and just as confusing. The cover was sent from London to Crowborough, Sussex, England on 10/28/38. It is franked with a 1½d postage George VI definitive of the 1937-39 issue (Great Britain Scott 237), which paid the domestic (inland) rate of 1½d for a cover weighing up to two ounces, according to the Great Britain Philatelic Society's chart of postal rates from 5/14/23 – 5/1/40. The cover was sent to Dr. E.C. Fischer. There is a note above the address stating that it was "Not accepted" along with a signature that appears to be another individual with the name "Fischer," probably a family member of the addressee. The letter was then forwarded to Alexandria, Egypt. The surface rate to Egypt was 1½d per half ounce (that was the rate to locations within the empire, of which Egypt was considered a part, at least for postal purposes). This cover likely weighed one ounce; therefore, the postage to Egypt would have been 3d. Because the letter had already been franked with 1½d for its first transmission, upon redirecting, only the *difference* between the postage already paid and that which would have been required if the article was originally sent to the forwarded destination, would be due. Therefore, when the cover was forwarded, it should have been franked with an additional 1½d. Hence, a postal clerk apparently wrote in red pen, "To pay 1½d." There is also a British "T" marking in a six-sided box. When it arrived in Alexandria, an Egyptian postal clerk marked the amount due in French centimes; in this case, "15" was marked in blue crayon because that is the centimes equivalent of 1½d. Furthermore, the equivalent of 15 centimes was 6 Egyptian millimes; therefore, a 2 millimes postage due stamp (Egypt Scott J30) and a 4 millimes postage due stamp (Egypt Scott J32) are affixed. I have seen very similar short paid mail from Great Britain to Egypt which was charged *twice* the deficiency. Admittedly, there was often confusion and more than a small measure of ambiguity in this regulation, especially between Great Britain and Egypt, which had a special postal affiliation. It is possible that some postal clerks were unsure of the regulations or simply didn't follow them. Had it been charged double the deficiency, it would have been due 30 centimes, or 12 Egyptian millimes. Nevertheless, only 6 millimes was charged and the two postage due stamps were cancelled with a Sidi Gaber handstamp dated 11/4/38.

Here's where things get more even confusing: It is unknown whether anyone even paid the deficiency because the letter was returned to sender; in fact, the affixing of the postage due stamps may have been premature and the deficiency may not have been paid because there is a red-violet Egyptian handstamp on each stamp to that effect, in Arabic and French. The French writing says, "TAXE NON PERCUE," which means that the postage (due) was not paid, even though the stamps had already been affixed. Perhaps the clerk affixed the postage due stamps, then when the addressee could not be located, the stamps were marked that the postage due had not been paid, they were cancelled, and the cover was returned to sender. The cover was held for almost two weeks before it was returned to the sender because the magenta RETURN TO SENDER marking, in English and Arabic, is dated 11/6/38. The Egypt RETURN TO SENDER marking is not particularly uncommon; however, I've never seen the Egypt TAXE NON PERCUE marking. Nevertheless, as luck would have it I was fortunate to come across two of them at the Great American Stamp Show from the same dealer. Philately always has its little pleasant surprises. If anyone has any further insight into the proper ratings and postage due for this cover, please send your thoughts to me at [centonzvincent@gmail.com](mailto:centonzvincent@gmail.com). Happy Collecting!

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## The Prez Sez ...

Dear Club Members—this issue of the Philatelic Bulletin combines August and September. I take the blame for it! I had a great time at the Great American Stamp Show in Hartford but brought home a case of Covid. That meant I could not finish off the August issue in a timely fashion. THEN my desktop computer decided to stop communicating with the Internet and then it went on strike and wouldn't do much of anything. I got myself a new computer (it was time!) and it is up and running as of today (9/26). So far Hurricane Helene has not taken my power out—I hope you are faring as well as we are in that regard.

Better news from GASS: Club member Jim Mazepa won a Large Gold for *Warsaw Postal Administration: First Issues of the New Country November 1918 to June 1919*. Club member Dawn Hamman won Large Gold and the NTSS Grand Award for her *All Aboard! A Grand Tour - American Style, 1915*. My exhibit: *Baltimore Postal History from Colonial Times until June 30, 1851* competed in the Champion of Champions section. Bill Di Paolo and I judged the Literature and Vice President Liz Hisey was a member of the Philatelic jury. I think that's pretty good for a smallish club!

Our September meeting consisted of an interesting presentation by Jack Harwood that featured mourning covers. Since Jack's only criteria on acquiring one is that it has some "interesting" feature—we saw a wide range of items both geographically and through time. NEXT MEETING: Frank Blum speaking about Marijuana.

## Cover with "Taxe Non Percue" Marking (Continued)



10/28/38 cover from London to Crowborough, England, forward to Alexandria, Egypt. The amount due was listed in red as 1 1/2d by the British postal clerk, the equivalent amount, 15 French centimes, was noted in blue crayon in the lower right, and the equivalent of 6 Egyptian milliemes is affixed in postage due stamps. The Egypt postage due stamps were affixed; however, the amount due was apparently not paid and the stamps were marked with a TAXE NON PERCUE marking. The cover was then returned to the sender.

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**APS Chapter 353**

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