

# PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2025

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## The Intersection of Two Hobbies: Deltiology & Philately

By Vincent Centonze

Deltiology is the study of post cards, and a close cousin to philately; the obvious connection being that postage stamps are part and parcel (no pun intended) to the sending of post cards. The first three decades of the Twentieth century are considered the Golden Age of post card collecting, and during that time post card collecting clubs sprang up around the world. One such organization known as *Libre' Exchange* (LE) was surely among the largest post card collectors clubs in the world. The club was organized by a woman named Suzanne Taymans, and was based in Lierneux, Belgium. As we will see, besides being a post card collectors club, it most likely had deeper connections to philately.

Figure 1 shows the address side of a post card sent by Taymans to a collector in Chile. The LE rubber stamp cachet incorporated Taymans' name, along with her membership number, "2." There is also a hand-written *Imprimé*, indicating that the card was sent as printed matter. In the upper-right is a manuscript "T.C.V" an abbreviation for *Timbre coté vue*, which means that the stamps were placed on the picture side. This can often be found written or hand-stamped in the upper-right corner on the address side of post cards. Figure 2 shows the picture side replete with postage stamps including three copies of the Belgium 2 centimes chocolate Albert I definitive of 1915-20 (Scott 109) and a block of four of the 1 centime orange Albert I definitive of 1922-27 (Scott 144) for a total franking of 10 centimes. This correctly paid the Universal Postal Union (UPU) foreign printed matter rate in effect at the time. The stamps were cancelled with a Lierneux hand-stamp on 3/11/24.

Post cards that were sent between LE members can be found with the sender's LE membership number, either in a rubber stamp or hand-written.

## Stamp Quiz

Welcome to this month's Stamp Quiz. This one shows more of the stamp, although it may not be as obvious to collectors of Worldwide stamps as some other countries' definitives. Here's a hint: it was issued in 1906. If you think you know the answer, send your guesses to me at:



centonzevincent@gmail.com.  
Good luck!



Figure 1. address side of a post card sent by LE organizer Suzanne Taymans to a collector in Chile.

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## The Prez Sez ...

Apologies for the late arrival of this news letter—among other woes, our household was without internet, TV and phone for about 2 weeks—fortunately for 5 days we were traveling to/from or attending the stamp show in San Diego.

I will not be at the meeting in May as we will be attending Europhilex in Birmingham UK.

Thanks to those who paid their dues—you might note that the Booster list has been updated. If you believe that you paid dues at the booster level (extra \$5 or more) and are not listed please let me know. If you haven't paid your dues, they are \$15—send a check to the address at the bottom of page 4—or use PayPal email address [sns-exhibits@comcast.net](mailto:sns-exhibits@comcast.net)

Think about an aspect of your collecting that you can share with the group—we will be meeting at a restaurant in June, July and August. Last summer that was the Bob Evans at 5903 Brookhill Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34232 (Cattleman and Fruitville).

Best wishes, Pat Walker

Check out our redesigned website at: [sarasotaphilatelclub.org](http://sarasotaphilatelclub.org)

## The Intersection of Two Hobbies: Deltiology & Philately (Continued)

Figure 3 shows a post card sent to Italy from a collector in Brazil. The “message” consists only of a rubber stamp with the senders return address and LE number 1682. CARTE POSTALE is crossed out and a violet handstamp with the word IMPRESSO has been stamped above it. This indicates that the card was, again, sent at the printed matter rate. Figure 4 shows the picture side of the card franked with five copies of the Brazil 10 reis blue Aristides Lobo stamp of 1906-16 for a total franking of 50 reis; this was indeed the foreign printed matter rate from Brazil between July 1910 and February 1922. Although the dates in the cancel are illegible, the rate and usage of the stamps certainly place the card within that time period. Post cards were eligible to be sent at the printed matter rate if there was no hand-written message. The rubber stamp with the sender's return address and LE number did not constitute a hand-written message.



Figure 2. Picture side of the Tayman's card to Chile.



Figure 3. Address side of card sent to Italy from an LE member in Brazil.

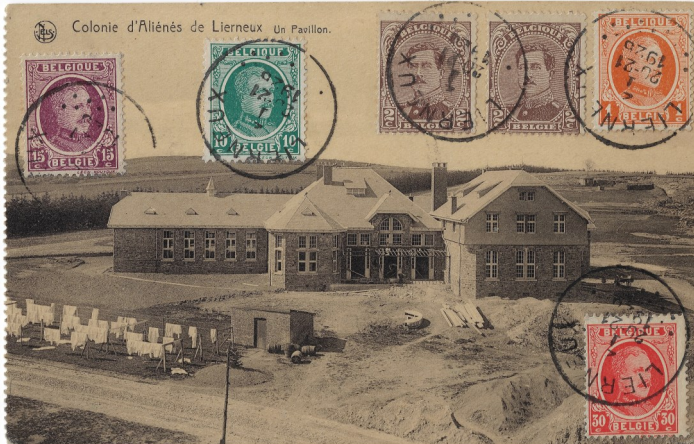
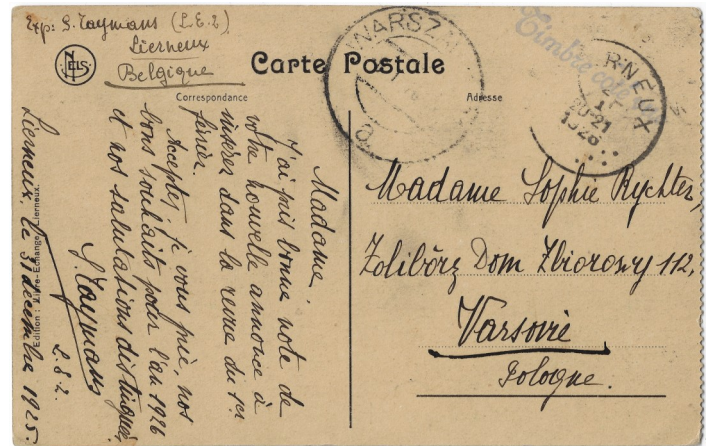
As we have seen, many post cards that were exchanged between collectors were often sent at the printed matter rate, because the view and perhaps the foreign stamps were most important to the collector. However, occasionally LE post cards contained messages and were sent at the post card rate. Figure 5 shows the address side of a card sent from Taymans ostensibly to another LE member in Warsaw, Poland, postmarked 1/2/26. It contains written pleasantries.

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## The Intersection of Two Hobbies: Deltiology & Philately (Continued)

Figure 6 shows the picture side where there is a nice variety of Belgium definitives, including two copies of the aforementioned Scott 109 and one copy of Scott 144 along with one copy each of the 10 centimes blue green, 15 centimes plum, and 30 centimes vermillion Albert I definitives of 1922-27 (Scott 148, 149, and 152, respectively) for a total franking of 60 centimes. This correctly paid the Universal Postal Union (UPU) foreign post card rate.

Figure 7 shows an unusual item: an LE membership card sent to a new member in France. The membership was from 3/1/29 through 2/10/30. The LE membership number assigned to the new member was 7407; therefore, the organization had apparently grown significantly since the time that the card from Brazil in Figure 4 was sent.



(Top Left) Figure 4. Picture side of card franked with five copies of the Brazil 10 reis blue Aristides Lobo stamp of 1906-16 for a total franking of 50 reis; this paid the foreign printed matter rate from Brazil.

(Top Right) Figure 5. Address side of a card sent from Taymans to Warsaw, Poland.

(Bottom Left) Figure 6. Picture side of the Taymans card to Warsaw. The card contained a written message; therefore, the 60-centimes franking correctly paid the foreign post card rate from Belgium to Poland.

(Bottom Right) Figure 7. LE membership card sent to a new member in France.

If LE was anything like other large post card clubs of the day, for an additional fee Taymans likely offered members such things as Cinderella advertising and sealing labels and return address rubber stamps which contained the members' LE numbers, such as shown in Figure 3. Perhaps even *Timbre coté vue* rubber stamps were offered. I have another Taymans card sent to a member which mentions a magazine or newsletter. In addition, it is quite likely that LE offered services to collectors that involved returning souvenir covers... enter philately!

Figure 8 shows a cover that was sent by North Atlantic Catapult Mail. Catapult mail was airmail sent from a ship while the ship was still at sea. As the name implies, the aircraft, a seaplane, was launched by a catapult. Since the seaplane could be launched while the ship was as far as 300 miles from land, this could save a few days delivery time. France was the first country to experiment with catapult mail in 1928; however, Germany was the most prolific user of this innovation, with catapult launched aircraft from the S.S. *Bremen* and S.S. *Europa*. The service lasted through 1935

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when it was superseded by Zeppelin mail.

The cover in Figure 8 is addressed to Leon E. Globensky at "*Le Lebre-Echange*" in Lierneux, Belgium; however, Leon E. Globensky was *also* the sender, and his name appears on the back with a Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec, Canada return address. This is shown in the Figure 8 inset. The cover is franked with a U.S. 20 cent carmine rose Golden Gate definitive from the Fourth Bureau Issue (Scott 567) postmarked at the New York Varick Street Station on 4/29/30. The stamp correctly pays the 5 cents per first ounce basic international letter rate to Belgium plus 15 cent per ½ ounce catapult surcharge. The aircraft was launched from the *Bremen* with the intention of flying to Bremen, Germany, where it would continue on by land to Cologne. However, on this flight, the pilot was diverted to Southampton, England, to refuel and off-load the British mails. It then flew on to Amsterdam, where this cover was off-loaded, placed on a train to Cologne, then continued by train to Belgium. The cover bears a red boxed catapult handstamp and a fanciful red scalloped oval cachet in German, commemorating the catapult flight. The date of the flight in the cachet reads "8.5.1930" (May 8th); however, the flight actually departed from the ship on 5/7/30. For an additional premium, it is likely that LE offered a service to return such souvenir covers to its members, thereby allowing Mr. Globensky to retrieve his cover. There are a variety of different handstamp cachets for the various catapult flights, and most of the covers, which were primarily philatelic in nature, are quite collectable. Commercial covers are rare and command a premium.

If you have a foreign postcard to or from Lierneux, Belgium, check to see if it's an LE card. Based on the number I've found, they must be fairly common. Also, if you have a catapult cover or any other interesting item you would like to discuss, please email me at: [centonzevincent@gmail.com](mailto:centonzevincent@gmail.com). Happy collecting!



Figure 8. Catapult cover sent to Leon E. Globensky at "*Le Lebre-Echange*" in Lierneux, Belgium. The cover was carried on a seaplane launched from the German steamship

*SS. Bremen*. It flew to Southampton and Amsterdam, where the cover was off-loaded and sent on by rail. The stamp correctly pays the 5 cents per first ounce basic international letter rate from the U.S. to Belgium plus 15 cent per ½ ounce catapult surcharge. (Inset) Return address showing that Leon Globensky was *also* the sender.

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**APS Chapter 353**

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