

2024



POWAY STAMP CLUB

Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER

San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

APS #112097

January 8th 2025

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Club's Mission Statement

To promote a closer social relationship among stamp collectors of Poway, San Diego, and vicinity, and to assist in spreading the knowledge of stamps and the pleasures derived from stamp collecting to those interested in philately.

Contact Us

Poway Stamp Club
12675 Danielson Court #413
Poway, CA 92064

Club E-mail

PSCphilately@gmail.com

NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

PSC Elections and Voice Sale January 8th

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by our annual elections and a "**Club Voice Sale**." Following the meeting will be member trading and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring stamps and other items **for sale or trade** with other Club members. The Club's Officers for 2025 are:

President: Art Berg

Vice President: David Klauber

Treasurer: Bill Kolb

Secretary: Trice Klauber

Members at Large:

Jim Grundy

David Waller

Past Pres.: Thor Storm

General Meeting January 22nd

Program - will be a presentation by **Ron Couchot**

"Preparing for a Philatelic Exhibition"

As the San Diego Stamp show approaches, we should take the opportunity to get ready to take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the show.

How do I create an exhibit from my collection?

- What is the difference between an accumulation, collection and exhibit?
- How do I create and present my story?
- Create a page?
- What are the Judges looking to see?

PSC Website:
Powaystampclub.com



2025 Club Board Members

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Art Berg |
| Vice President | David Klauber |
| Treasurer | Bill Kolb |
| Secretary | Trice Klauber |
| Board (at Large) | David Waller |
| Board (at Large) | Jim Grundy |
| Prev. President | Thor Strom |
| Program Dir. | Open |

2025 Club Volunteers

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Club Registrar | Trice Klauber |
| Auctioneer | Jim Grundy |
| Club Librarian | Scott Boyd |
| Newsletter Editor | David Waller |
| Guild Contributors | Jon Schrag |
| | Bob McArthur |
| | Bill O'Connor |
| | Manny Marti |
| | Jim Grundy |
| | David Waller |
| Library Rep. | Neil Schneider |
| Opp. Drawing | Scott Boyd |
| WebMaster | David Klauber |
| Public Relations | Valerie Merritt |

2025 Club Representatives

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Federal Rep. | Bill O'Connor |
| S.D. Phil. Council | Nick Soroka |
| Rep. (Alternate) | Art Berg |
| APS Ambassador | Trice Klauber |
| ATA Rep. | Bob McArthur |

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by the member presentation, Club sale, opportunity drawing, show and tell and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring interesting covers and stamps for show and tell as well as other items for sale or trade with Club members.

Please remember to bring your badge.



Poway Stamp Club

2025 CLUB MEETING **SCHEDULE/PRESENTATIONS**

The following is this year's meeting schedule, all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as auctions.

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------|
| January | 8 | PSC Elections |
| | 22 | Ron Couchot |
| February | 12 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 26 | TBD – Presentation |
| March | 12 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 26 | TBD – Presentation |
| April | 10 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 24 | TBD – Presentation |
| May | 8 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 22 | TBD – Presentation |
| June | 11 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 25 | TBD – Presentation |
| July | 9 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 23 | TBD – Presentation |
| August | 13 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 27 | TBD – Presentation |
| September | 8 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 22 | TBD – Presentation |
| October | 13 | Ugly Stamp Contest |
| | 27 | TBD – Presentation |
| November | 9 | TBD – Presentation |
| | 23 | No Meeting |
| December | 9 | Holiday Party |
| | 23 | No Meeting |

American Philatelic Society



San Diego Chapter 2025

APS

Many of our Club members as well as our Club are members of the American Philatelic Society (APS). If 33% of our members are also members of the APS, then the Club receives a free year's membership to the APS.

Meetings

Club meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November & December at:

Philatelic Library

12675 Danielson Court #413
Poway, CA 92064

Participation

All Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the monthly Club newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise is important and should be shared. Please submit items to the Club Editor at:

dwall@dbwipmg.com

Club Website

PowayStampClub.com

Visit our Club's website where you will find a schedule of activities, resource links, and contact information as well as our newsletter. Give it a try!



CLUB NOTES

Club Meetings

The Poway Stamp Club meets twice monthly, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is time to catch-up after the holidays. The Club will resume our 2025 regularly scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday in January.

Membership Renewal

It is time again to renew your membership. Membership renewal for 2025 is \$10. You may also choose to become a lifetime member for \$100. Whether you choose annual or lifetime membership, the Club strives to increase its membership each year and we hope that all of you will consider enrolling one new member in 2025. Renewal membership payments must be recorded by February 12, 2025 to receive voucher benefits at the San Diego Stamp Show.

Club Newsletter

We Need You!

All Club members are **strongly** encouraged to provide input for the monthly newsletter. Join our Internationally recognized Writers Guild. Please submit items to the Club Editor.

E-mail: [**dwall@dbwipmg.com**](mailto:dwall@dbwipmg.com)



SANDIPEX 2025

Show Schedule

Free Admission and Parking

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

January 12

February 9

March 9

The show is held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, 13219 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064 on the second Sunday of each month.

Phone: (714) 476-3698 Email: cbcestamp@aol.com.

ORCOEXPO 50th Anniversary

January 10-11 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

January 12 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The show will be held at the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Clerks Hall, 8530 Stanton Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90622. Admission is \$3, free parking.

2025 San Diego Stamp Show

February 21-22 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

February 23 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The show will be held at the San Diego Hilton in Mission Valley at 901 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108. There will be philatelic presentations, over 20 stamp dealers, and over 150 exhibits. Come join us for some philatelic fun. Admission is free.





Don't Just
Stand there,
BID!

Next Bid Board

January 18th noon to 25th noon

BID-BOARD RULES

1. Your club dues must be current to participate.
2. Each seller can list up to 10 lots (# of lots may change due to site limits).
3. Each lot must contain 1 photo, a brief description of no more than 300 characters, an estimated or catalog value, and minimum reserve price (the price should include the cost of a stamp to mail).
4. Lot descriptions must be accurate. If a purchased lot is other than described, seller will refund the buyer and buyer will return item.
5. All lots are to be made available to all members. This includes members who live outside the San Diego County area. Each lot will carry the cost of first-class postage to the seller (currently 73 cents). If shipping charges are incurred, they are the responsibility of the buyer. The buyer will pay these charges. We will not list any "Library pick up only" lots.
6. Sellers will pay the Poway Stamp Club a fee of 10% of all sales. These will be collected by the Secretary at her discretion. Any returned items must be reported to the Secretary at the time of the return to withdraw the transaction from the clubs' records and avoid the 10% fee on that item.
7. Upon closing each bid-board, the secretary will notify both buyers and sellers of the result. It is the responsibility of the SELLER to reach out to buyers and arrange payment and delivery. Please open a fresh (new) email to communicate with your buyers and arrange payment and delivery or shipping. THE BUYER is responsible for all shipping costs that exceed the current letter rate is 73 cents. This applies to both local and remote members.
8. Any disputes will be directed to the Secretary by email. She will investigate and render a "Snap Judge" decision. The Secretary tracks and maintains a complete history of all transactions to settle disputes. All Snap Judge decisions are final!
9. Disputes must be made within 30 days of the close of the bid-board.
10. HAVE FUN...THIS IS ALL ABOUT FUN WITH OUR STAMPS....

NOTE: The Web Master is not a magician. Poor photographs do not magically become great photos. Remember garbage in garbage out. Take time to get a good shot...this sells your lots. If help is needed, see David or I at the Library on Friday afternoons. We can help!



President's Message

Dear Poway Stamp Club Members,

The start of the new year is an excellent opportunity to review the past year.

We had an excellent turnout to help the San Diego Stamp Show with both setup and break down of the exhibit frames. The Club table was busy meeting collectors and introducing them to the best Stamp Club in California.

Our first year at the San Diego County Fair was a success. We had dozens of people ask about stamp collecting as well as inquiries about what to do with a stamp collection. A few individuals have joined our Club.

The new year presents us with new opportunities. The San Diego Stamp Show is coming up February 21-23. We will need helpers to set up the exhibits.

The San Diego County Fair (June 11-July 6) will give us another opportunity to introduce stamp collecting to fair goers. The theme for the 2025 fair is "PETS". We have been asked to put together exhibits that feature pets. If we have enough exhibits, they will be judged, and prizes will be given!

Another way to promote our hobby is to volunteer at the San Diego Philatelic Library. Even a few hours every month is helpful.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Share the Hobby!!

Art

In the News

Financial Woes for Major Publisher?

by David Waller

Excerpts from article by Lloyd A. de Vries, Virtual Stamp Club

<https://virtualstampclub.com/lloydblog/?p=18592>

Amos Media, the largest philatelic media publisher in the U.S., appears to be having financial difficulties. Amos publishes the **Scott Postage Stamp Catalogs**, *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, as well as publications for other hobbies.

In mid-August, *Linn's Stamp News* announced it was immediately halting the printing of its weekly newspaper and it would only be available online. The announcement said *SSM* would continue to be printed and mailed to subscribers who had chosen that option.



When questioned about the apparent difficulties, Rick Amos said “We’ve had an issue with our printer and several times over the past month we thought it had been resolved... No decision has been made yet if we will still print the October and November issues.” The Scott books are the major catalogues for stamp collectors in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

David Klauber commented that “Amos would love it if we all went with their digital catalogs, but again, most collectors are older, and many prefer print over digital. The bigger issue is their policy of only renting you a catalog for a year instead of having a print edition for as long as you like, so you have to pay up each year.”

At The SD Philatelic Library

The Barry Story

by Neil Schneider

William Barry was born October 10, 1841, in Fort Covington, New York. He called himself an inventor, machinist, patent machinist and manufacturer of stitching machines. He later moved to

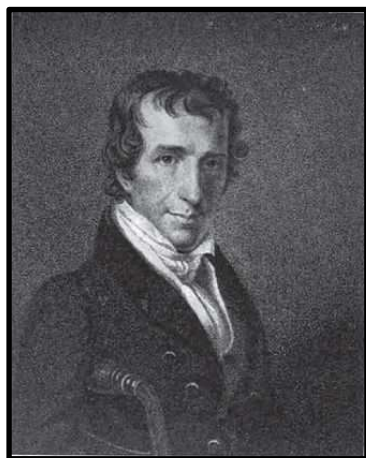
Syracuse, and finally ended up in Oswego, New York.

January 2, 1874, his U.S. patent no. 511,745 issued for a mail marking machine. It was a machine that canceled postage.

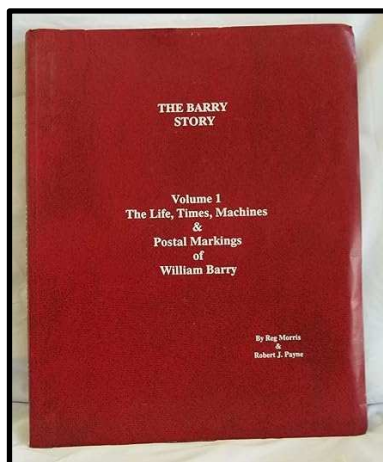
June 22, 1897, William filed two patents. Patent no. 585,074 was for a Mail Canceling Machine. A Postmarking and Canceling Machine patent was his second, that very same day.

Between May 4 and October 1, 1894, Barry demonstrated his postmark and canceling machine at the Washington City Post Office. He then moved his machine to Chicago where he demonstrated

his postmarking and canceling machine at the Post Office. He returned to the Washington Post Office in February 1895, and again in June 1895.



A



B

Figure 1: A - image of W. Barry ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William T. Barry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_T._Barry)) B - Volume 1, The Life, Times, Machines and Postal Markings of William Barry ([Amazon ASIN: B002C3THDE](#)).

Barry had plenty of competition, but the competitor's machines were more finicky and required constant maintenance and repairs.

July 1895, William Barry won a contract for two hundred postmarking and canceling machines. One hundred to be delivered by the end of 1895 with the rest to be delivered over the next twelve months.

This book is fascinating, full of patent drawings and illustrations by William Barry and his machines. If you would like to learn more, we have a copy of this book on the duplicates bookshelf where you can take it home for a small donation. As a library member you can check out this and the other two volumes of The Barry Story from the library.

Editor's Corner

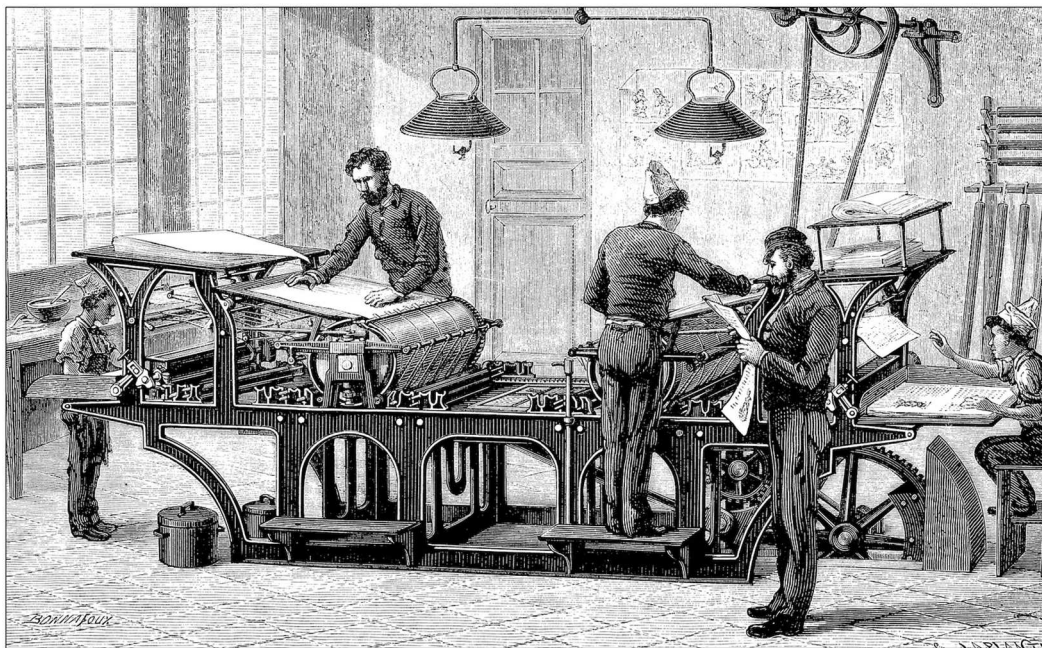


Image obtained from <https://www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?phrase=antique+printing+press>.

To Our Readers,

I am honored to fill the position of Editor-in-Chief for Poway Stamp Club's award-winning Newsletter for 2025. I hope that my experience as Assistant Editor for The San Diego Shell Club's journal, *The Festivus*, will allow me to continue to follow the high standards of excellence established by David Klauber.

My goal for this year is simple, continue to produce the newsletter with the same high standards set by our former Editor, accomplish this task within the 24 page per issue limit set by the APS judges and hopefully achieve another APS Gold Medal for our newsletter.

To accomplish this goal, I will need your help. As with most publications, timing is critical. The sooner that the Editor receives the manuscripts from contributors the sooner the newsletter may be formatted, then reviewed and amended as needed, and finally published. My predecessor was a master of this process, and his success was due in part to the timely contributions from our Club's Writers Guild, notwithstanding his artistic prowess, superb writing skills, and extensive philatelic knowledge. If we continue this long-standing tradition, our Club will once again be a strong competitor for the APS Gold Medal Award in 2025.

I hope to serve you well in the new year and thank you again for your support.

David Waller

From our Former Editor (2017-2024)

For the past 7 years, the *Poway Stamp Club Newsletter* has hopefully been a vital resource for the members of our club and philatelists in general. It has served as a communication tool and an educational platform, offering articles, updates on club events, member spotlights, and discussions on philatelic topics ranging from upcoming shows, rare stamp discoveries to tips on stamp care and preservation. My desired goal was that the newsletter would eventually become an indispensable guide for both novice collectors and seasoned philatelists alike.

My Tenure as newsletter editor started humbly in 2017, as a simple Email reminder of the upcoming club events and meetings, to eventually improving to a point where it became a winner of APS's Star Route Grand Champion award, the highest international recognition of Philatelic Newsletters. The Newsletter has since expressed a commitment to high-quality content with an intense sense of community. We tried to provide a mix of in-depth knowledge characterized by a sharp vision: to make the *Poway Stamp Club Newsletter* not only informative but also engaging, one that encourages club members to stay involved and excited about the world of philately.

I want to express my gratitude for the many article contributions made by our many club members. As a result, the PSC newsletter has flourished with a mix of local interest stories, historical insights and even some lighthearted humor. Each contribution provided a personal connection to the topic being covered and frequently reflected the writer's own passion for stamp collecting, which has resonated with our readers, tying them to the larger Philatelic community. Thank you all again.

I recently reached out to several club members to take on the challenge of continuing and evolving the future of the PSC Newsletter. Mr. David Waller (PSC Board Member) graciously stepped up and agreed to take over the role of Newsletter Editor-and-Chief. My hope for the future of the PSC Newsletter is one with David Waller at its helm, making editorial decisions that are rooted in the virtues and values of the Poway Stamp Club itself—community, education, and collaboration. That he will work closely with other club members to gather contributions, which will ensure that the newsletter continues to reflect the diverse interests and expertise within our group and the philately community at large. Whether it is members sharing recent acquisitions or a deeper dive into the history of a particular stamp or collection. I am certain that Mr. Waller will make sure that every club voice has a chance to be heard. His efforts will ensure that the Poway Stamp Club continues to grow and remains a vibrant and active part of the philatelic community.

Not the End, Just the Beginning: As such, I will continue to support the Newsletter by contributing articles and will still serve as an Officer of the Club for as long as the club wishes to have me serve. Stepping aside now and allowing others to take the reins shows me that our club is not stagnant and still viable and growing. This move will now allow me to concentrate more on other tasks equally important to the club, such as our websites and the growing Bid Board Capabilities.

David Klauber

Member's Articles

Every Cover Tells a Story

by Jim Grundy



Previously, I have written an article about Lincoln Ellsworth and Roald Amundson's attempt to fly two seaplanes to the North Pole. The expedition had been financed by Lincoln's father James Ellsworth, an American businessman. One of the conditions mandated by James Ellsworth for his financial support was that his son Lincoln would go with Amundson. On May 25, 1925, the two seaplanes left on their flight to the North Pole. Both seaplanes were forced to land far from reaching the North Pole. They were stranded on the ice for three weeks before they could fly back to Norway. Even though this expedition was a disaster, it made Lincoln determined to explore the North and South Poles.

When Lincoln Ellsworth returned to Norway, he received news that his father had died. For Lincoln, the death of his father was a bitter-sweet moment in his life. Because of his father's death and the money inherited by his passing, Lincoln financed many expeditions to the North and South Poles in the 1930's. One of these expeditions is the subject of this cover. The cachet shows a submarine underwater under the ice. The words below the cachet read "Wilkins-Ellsworth Trans-Arctic Submarine Expedition". The following is the story of this trans-arctic submarine expedition (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Cachet from Sir H. Wilkins to J. V. Ellis dated July 6, 1931 showing a submarine underwater under ice with the subtitle Wilkins-Ellsworth Trans-Arctic Submarine Expedition.

This mission would be an attempt to sail under the North Polar icecap in a submarine to the North Pole. To accomplish this, Lincoln joined forces with an Australian polar explorer named Hubert Wilkens (the Sender's of this cover). It was Wilkens' idea to get a submarine and sail it under the ice to the North Polar. With Ellsworth, Wilkens, and other interested contributors, the project raised over two hundred thousand dollars. Now, all they had to do was find a submarine.

Little did Wilkens know that finding a submarine would be the easiest part of the expedition. With

a little searching, he found that the U.S. Navy had several decommissioned submarines, and they were for sale. This class of submarine was built during the World War I era but later found inadequate for the needs of the U.S. Navy. They were decommissioned in 1924. Since Wilkens was Australian and not a United States citizen, he was not allowed by the Navy to buy one of the submarines. However, an arrangement was reached allowing Wilkens to lease the submarine for a dollar a year for five years with a stipulation that it would be scrapped at the end of the mission.

The next task was to convert this Navy submarine that hadn't seen active duty in more than six years into a modern research vessel. The bow and sides had to be reinforced, and the propellers enclosed to protect against the thick ice. The conning tower was removed, and a flexible periscope was installed. The forward torpedo room was modified so that it could be pressurized to match the outside water pressure. This would allow divers to exit the boat underwater without the seawater rushing through the open hatch into the boat. A crew of 20 veteran submariners was assembled. Finally, the boat was determined to be seaworthy. On March 24, 1931, the submarine was renamed the Nautilus in honor of Captain Nemo's submarine in the book 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.

The original plan was to leave New York City and arrive at their starting point of Bergen, Norway by the end of May. Because of several breakdowns and repairs, the Nautilus didn't leave New York City until June 4, 1931. During its voyage to Bergen, the expedition encountered more delays due to engine failures, leaks, structural damage, crew unrest, lack of replacement parts, and many severe storms. All these events caused their departure date from Bergen to be pushed back to August 4th.

After leaving Bergen, the Nautilus headed toward the North Pole and arrived at the ice pack on August 11th. On August 19th, the first attempt to submerge under the ice was attempted. This attempt failed because the diving planes needed to submerge the boat were broken off, most likely by sabotage done by the crew. Without the dive planes, the submarine could not submerge in a safe manner. While the crew wanted to end the expedition, Wilkens insisted they stay and make scientific observations. Even with the damage to the boat, Wilkens would not give up on going under the ice. He had the forward ballast tanks filled with water. This caused the front part of the boat to "sink". In this condition, the front end of the boat would go under the ice and the rest of the boat would follow. This was a very dangerous maneuver. Additional dives were made using this technique and the boat was severely damaged. Wilkens finally realized that the boat was not safe and headed back to Bergen, Norway. An inspection in Bergen found that the Nautilus was unrepairable. The U.S. Navy gave their permission to have the Nautilus towed out to sea and sunk.

Although the Wilkens/Ellsworth Expedition didn't reach the North Pole, it was the first submarine to sail under the ice and the problems they had to deal with would help future voyages into ice-covered water. The important weather, ocean, and solar observations that they made above and below the ice such as water temperature, ice thickness, ocean currents, ocean depths, wind speed and direction, and terrain features on the ocean bottom expanded the knowledge about conditions in the polar region.

The Wilkens and Ellsworth partnership didn't end here. Between 1933 and 1939, Wilkens served as technical advisor for Ellsworth's four expeditions to the South Pole. Lincoln Ellsworth became well known for his achievements and discoveries at the South Pole.

Gold Rush California Banking Cover

by David M. Klauber



Early History of California Banking - Before the Mexican American War in 1846, California had no banks and faced a persistent shortage of paper currency and minted coins. From establishing the first mission in San Diego in 1769 until Mexican independence in 1821, most trade was conducted through barter. After the Mexican government closed the missions post-1833, the economy centered around a few hundred large cattle ranches. These ranchos were self-sufficient, reducing the need for banks or money. Cowhides, which were dry, flat, and stiff enough to be thrown like Frisbees off a cliff, were referred to as "California dollars."¹

During the Gold Rush, bank formation was a common but varied process. Typically, a merchant or freight agent would begin by accepting deposits from local entrepreneurs or miners seeking secure storage for their money or gold, along with the ability to exchange drafts from out-of-town companies, make payments with gold, or obtain credit. These activities—accepting deposits, exchanging drafts, and providing loans—were the core functions that effectively turned these merchants into bankers. When their financial operations outgrew their mercantile or freight businesses, some merchants pursued banking charters from the state, although not all bankers held such charters. A charter allowed the banker to issue paper money, known as "banknotes" or "notes," which circulated and competed with other privately issued currencies. The value of these notes depended on the issuing bank's reputation, as all notes had to be convertible into gold eventually. Interestingly, some banks maintained low gold reserves yet exhibited high stability and solvency, highlighting that instability was more closely tied to a weak reputation than to low gold reserves.²



Figure 1: Cover to Fretz & Ralston from W. O. SLEEPERS & CO., Bankers Columbia.

The banking cover depicted in Figure 1 is addressed to **San Francisco bankers Fretz & Ralston**. It features a **Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, Columbia, blue oval handstamp** (Leutinger type 3-3, pp.77) and a matching blue straight-line date handstamp at the upper left, dated **February 23, 185X**. The envelope is a U3 3-cent Nesbitt entire, lacking a company printed frank, and is in very fine condition. Measuring 5.325 x 3.25 inches, the cover was sent from Banker **W.O. Sleeper & Co.** in Columbia, California. It is stamped with "W.O. Sleeper & Co. Bankers, Columbia, Cal" using a blue hand stamp near the lower left corner, resembling a miniature Wells Fargo town marking.

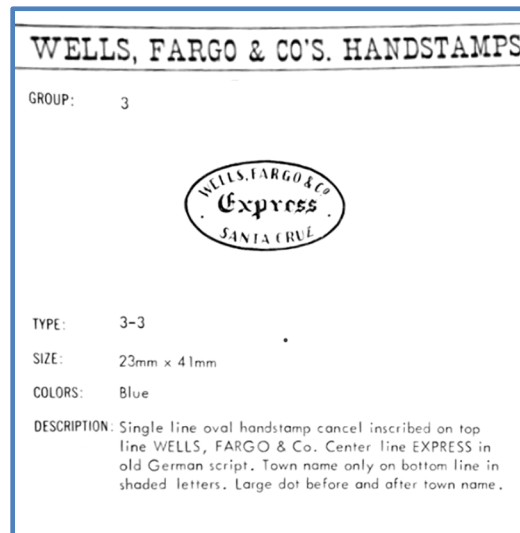


Figure 2: Leutzing type 3-3 listing³.

History of W.O. Sleeper - William Osgood Sleeper ventured west during the California Gold Rush in 1852, leaving his family behind in Maine. In 1857, he established an Assay Office and Bank in Columbia under the name W. O. Sleepers & Co. After realizing success, he called for his family, including his wife Almira Foss Sleeper, to join him. The business was eventually sold to Ralston in 1865. The Historic Brick Building in Columbia has a rich history. In July 1854, a devastating fire swept through Columbia, destroying much of the town. By June 1855, W.O. Sleeper had opened his bank in the newly constructed brick Bean building, sharing space with the Pacific Express. In 1857, Edgar Mills sold his business to W.O. Sleeper and A.E. Hooker, leading Sleeper to establish a bank. By 1860, A.E. Hooker had sold his share to Sleeper. In 1861, the Assay office relocated to the post office space, prompting the telegraph office to move out. By 1865, facing financial difficulties, Sleeper sold his interests to William C. Ralston from San Francisco for \$5,000.

History of The Firm of Fretz & Ralston - William Chapman Ralston, born near Plymouth, Ohio in 1826, was captivated by the allure of adventure on the Mississippi River boats. As a teenager, he pursued this passion by working as a deckhand and quickly advanced to head clerk on the riverboat Constitution.



Figure 3: Steamship Constitution "St. Louis, Mo." by Frederick Piercy⁴.

During this period, Ralston met Cornelius Garrison and Ralph K. Fretz, partners in riverboat commerce. In 1849, upon learning of the California Gold Rush, Ralston set out for San Francisco. His journey was delayed in Panama, where he was employed by Garrison and Fretz, who had established a transportation agency offering banking services and operating a casino. In 1856, Charles Morgan of New York joined the enterprise, capitalizing on the Gold Rush traffic across the Isthmus of Panama, and formed the lucrative shipping firm of Garrison, Morgan, and Fretz. Ralston became a junior partner in this venture. Charles Morgan, an American railroad and shipping magnate, had a steamship service running through Panama. The group contended for dominance against Cornelius Vanderbilt's Accessory Transit Company, which provided transportation from New York to San Francisco via Nicaragua. In 1857, Garrison and Morgan withdrew from the firm, prompting Ralph Stover Fretz and Ralston to relocate the business to San Francisco. Ralston and his associates later established the Bank of California and the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, solidifying Ralston's influence on Nevada's Comstock Lode.

1. Richard Henry Dana, *Two Years before the Mast* (New York: A. L. Burt, 1840).
2. Schweikart, L., & Doti, L. P. (2016). From hard money to branch banking. *California History*, 93(1), 26–44. <http://doi.org/10.1525/ch.2016.93.1.26>
3. The Handstamps of *Wells, Fargo & Co.* 1852 to 1895. John F. *Leutzinger*, *SECOND EDITION*. Louisville, KY: *Western Cover Society*, 1993.
4. File: Watercolor Painting, "St. Louis, Mo." by Frederick Piercy.jpg, From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Liberia

The Inverted Elephant

by Manuel Marti



Figure 1: 1905 inverted 5-cent ultramarine and black definitive stamp Scott no. 62(a) in the Author's collection.

In the early 19th century, momentum for the abolition of slavery surged, and the Grain Coast

emerged as a proposed settlement for freed African Americans. In 1818, representatives of the U.S. government and the American Colonization Society (established in 1816) explored the region. Despite initial challenges, an agreement in 1821 granted the society possession of Cape Mesurado, paving the way for Liberia's founding.

The first settlers, formerly enslaved people led by society members, arrived on Providence Island in

1822 at the mouth of the Mesurado River. Jehudi Ashmun often considered the architect of Liberia, arrived shortly after and played a pivotal role in establishing governance, legal systems, and trade networks. By the time Ashmun departed in 1828, the foundation of a nation was laid.

Liberia's fascinating history is deeply intertwined with its philatelic legacy. In 1860, Liberia issued its first postage stamps, becoming one of the earliest independent African nations to do so. These inaugural issues consisted of three denominations: 6¢ red, 12¢ deep blue, and 24¢ green, all featuring the same design (Figure 2).

The design, a striking allegorical female figure, has been interpreted in various ways within philatelic circles. The Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840 -1940 labels

it simply as "Liberia," reflecting the word prominently displayed at the base of the figure. Others have identified her as Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, or as Seated Liberty, while some see her as an Allegory of Freedom - a poignant symbol for a nation founded by freed people seeking liberty and self-determination.

These first stamps not only mark Liberia's entry into global postal history but also embody the ideals and aspirations of a young nation. They remain an enduring testament to the country's heritage, offering collectors a glimpse into the symbolic artistry that characterized early Liberian philately.



Figure 2: First Liberian definitive stamps issued 1860 Scott no. 1-3, denominations 6¢ red, 12¢ deep blue, and 24¢ green (provide where these images were obtained)

My introduction to Liberia was by the well-known Canadian dealer Kasimir Bileski. I first encountered Liberia through his advertisement on Linn's Stamp News. Looking for something else to collect I decided to try Liberia since I did not want to collect the world. I purchased quite a few sets and singles as well as errors from Kasimir. Then on a later issue of Linn's Stamp News he had an article about a recent purchase he had made with regards to Liberia.

The following is from the Linns Stamp News article in part by Kasimir Bileski: *"This is the big error that has been, and is, on every Liberian want list, and it didn't matter how much money one commanded, the want lists have remained unfilled for almost the 70 years since this stamp first appeared. Colonel Rogers, in his authoritative "A Century of Liberian Philately" made note that Scott was the only catalog anywhere to list such a variety but that he had never seen it. He had plenty of company, for nowhere in the world was there a dealer who had it in stock, nor any collector who had a copy in his collection."*

With just one exception. There was a collector who had the entire sheet of 60 of the error, all that were ever found. It is not known when it was discovered, very likely soon after it was printed in 1905 by the great English firm of Waterlow and Sons, but for certain it was a genuine printing error found in the postal stocks. The sheet still has the number 482 which means it was the 482nd sheet to be numbered. The renowned dealer, Philip Ward Jr. acquired and sold it intact to a specialist in Liberian stamps and the sheet has remained in this collection for very many years."

The sheet was broken up into 44 copies (either have been sold or are reserved) to my customers, 12 are being offered. The unique corner number block is available. I was fortunate to have acquired one of the 12 remaining copies. Figure 1 is a picture of Liberia Scott 62a. My copy is from the left side of the sheet and has a tab attached.

1901 Pan-American Exposition Issue: Color Varieties

by David B. Waller



In the early U.S. regular issue stamps 1847-1902 there are a number of varieties including plate types, grill impressions, paper color, paper type, type of printing, and color to name a few. In many instances these varieties are given their own Scott number, some are followed by letter designations. In this time frame there were three commemorative series issued. The Columbian






Exposition issues, the Trans-Mississippi Exposition issue and the Pan-American Exposition Issue (Figure 1). There is one extremely rare, reported color variety in the Columbian Exposition Issue. This is the 4-cent stamp in which the blue of the 1-cent denomination was substituted for ultramarine. Depending on the condition, this stamp may cost tens of thousands of dollars.











Figure 1: Image of the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo New York, May 1st through November 2, 1901. This black and white photo was downloaded from <https://www.kenmorestamp.com/1901-pan-american-stamps>.

For those of us without the seemingly unlimited resources to acquire such a rare specimen but the desire to fill-in our collections with as many of the recognized color varieties as possible, the Pan-American Exposition Issue offers this opportunity. These commemoratives have a number of recognized color variations that are not inexpensive, but they won't "break-the-bank". I recently started looking for the more reasonably priced varieties of the 2-cent stamp. These include four color varieties. The approved colors of carmen (frame) and black (vignette) (CB), rose carmen and black (RCB), dark carmen and black (DCB), and carmen and gray black (CGB). I have been lucky to acquire the first three in well-centered, mint, no hinge condition. The scarlet and black variety with exceptional centering continues to elude me. Table 1 shows the color varieties for the Pan-American Exposition Issues for reference.

Table 1:

| Scott No. | Description/Color | Image | Est. Value* |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|
| 294 | Fast Lake Navigation. The 1-cent stamp depicts the "City of Alpena", a 1282-ton sidewheel steamer that navigated the Great Lakes between Detroit and Mackinac Island. Green and Black (ebay No. 1965808745, Dr.Bobs Stamps) |  | \$25 |
| | Dark Blue-green and Black (ebay No. 403715098636, Momen Stamps Inc) |  | |
| 295 | Locomotive Express. The 2-cent stamp pictures the "Empire State Express", pulled by "Locomotive 938", built in 1898 and operated by the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. Carmen and Black (ebay No. 353045877017, dreamtrophy) |  | \$25 |
| | Dark-Carmen and Black (D. Waller Collection) |  | |
| | Rose Carmen and Black (D. Waller Collection) |  | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|-------|--|
| | | Scarlet and Black (ebay No. 387236773075, Drbobs Stamps) |  | | |
| 296 | Automobile. The 4-cent stamp shows a Columbia electric hansom cab operated by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and illustrated in the September 1900 issue of the B&O monthly. Deep Red-Brown and Black (ebay No. 204729274018, Momen Stamps Inc) | |  | \$105 | |
| | Chocolate Brown and Black (ebay No. 315592150336, Dr.Bobs Stamps) | |  | | |
| 297 | Bridge at Niagara Falls. The 5-cent stamp shows the Upper Steel Arch Bridge, also known as the Honeymoon Bridge, which crosses the Niagara River just below Niagara Falls. Ultramarine and Black (ebay No. 385100060090, Momen Stamps Inc) | |  | \$110 | |
| | Dark Ultramarine and Black (ebay No.135414452426, palmerstoredeals) | |  | | |
| 298 | Canal at Sault de Ste. Marie. The 8-cent stamp shows the Sault Sainte Marie Canal Locks, also known as the Soo Locks, on the St. Mary's River in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Brown-violet and Black (ebay No. 285959083528, sheetguy2) | |  | \$125 | |
| | Purple-Brown and Black (ebay No. 124574109954, 2buick8) | |  | | |

| | | | |
|-----|--|--|-------|
| 299 | Fast Ocean navigation. The 10-cent stamp pictures the S.S. St. Paul, an oceangoing steamship owned by the American Line (later the International Navigation Company), which was launched in 1895. Yellow-Brown and Black (ebay No.387237717687, Dr.Bobs Stamps) |  | \$160 |
| | Dark Yellow-Brown and Black (ebay No. 386107404439, Momen Stamps Inc) |  | |

*(Brookman 2020 catalog estimated values for mint VF condition stamps)

Movie Star Fan Mail from Ireland and England in the 1940s and 50s.

by Bill O'Connor

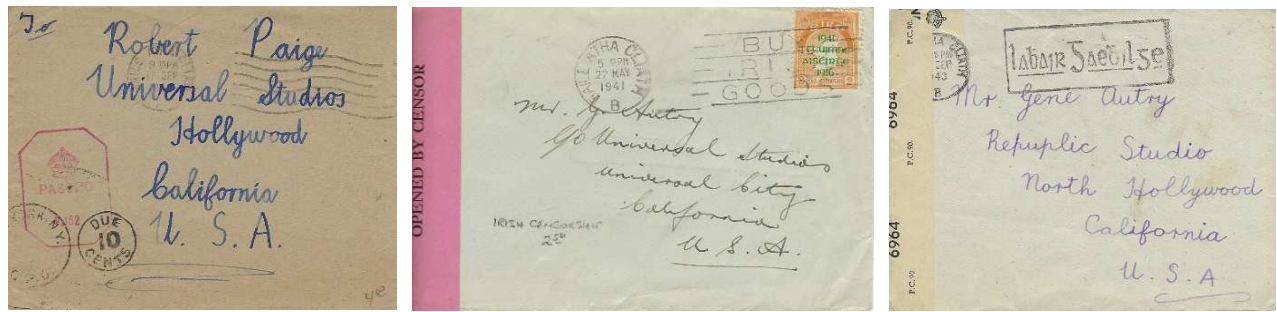


The phenomenon of ordinary people sending mail to famous people seems to have begun in the late 19th century and in some fashion continues to the present day. The introduction of the penny-post reforms in Great Britain set the stage for an inexpensive way to communicate worldwide.

I recently began looking over my collection of covers/envelopes from Ireland and England and set aside all envelopes that indicated a reference to movie stars or people connected with the movie industry. I have selected those examples from the 1940s and 50s that clearly indicated a movie star or company that existed during this period. Many of the stars of this period may not be remembered today, but they were known by many ordinary people of the day that wished to get examples of their signatures and photographs.

It is difficult to determine how many people were successful in getting a prized photograph or signature from a particular movie star. It appears that some of the letters were not even opened. I do have one letter that indicated the movie star did in fact send a concerted photograph and signature. Some of these covers from the 1940s were sent to America during the WWII period so one sees references to censorship, and in some cases postage due amounts required for correct postage or in other cases no stamps affixed to the envelope.

The first example from Ireland was sent to Robert Paige, Universal Studios. No stamp, but a clear 10 cents demand for postage and a British censorship mark in red. The cover was sent from Dublin and most likely went via a British ship or possibly went through Northern Ireland, which was and still is part of the United Kingdom. Mr. Paige was perhaps best known in the film, "Son of Dracula", and was the last permanent host of the television program, "The Colgate Comedy Hour".



Figures 1-3: 1 - Cover to R. Paige at Universal Studios with 10-cent postage due mark, 2 - Cover to G. Autry at Universal Studios with postage, 3 - Cover to G. Autry at Republic Studios without postage.

The next two covers were sent to Gene Autry, best known for his Western cowboy films. He was also an astute businessperson and owned the Los Angeles Angels. Mr. Autry was associated with at least two studios, Universal and Republic, during this time. Both covers were also sent from Dublin, one with postage and the other without. The cover with the postage has an Irish censorship label with the other example having a British censorship label. The Irish labels were usually colored pink whereas the British labels were white.

The final Irish cover was sent to Soyne Henie, the Olympic ice-skating champion of 1928. 1932, and 1936. She was one of the highest paid actors of the late 1930s in Hollywood. This cover was redirected to Fox studios and has a postage due indication. A small, printed note inside the envelope says the British Censorship is not responsible for the absence of stamps from the cover of this Postal Packet.

The first of my British covers was sent to Alice Faye. She was considered one of 20th Century Fox's "Bankable Stars" of the 1940s. She is perhaps best known for singing the Academy Award winning song of 1943, "You'll Never Know". For some reason her contract forbade her from recording this song on her own. Frank Sinatra, among others, did quite well recording this particular song.

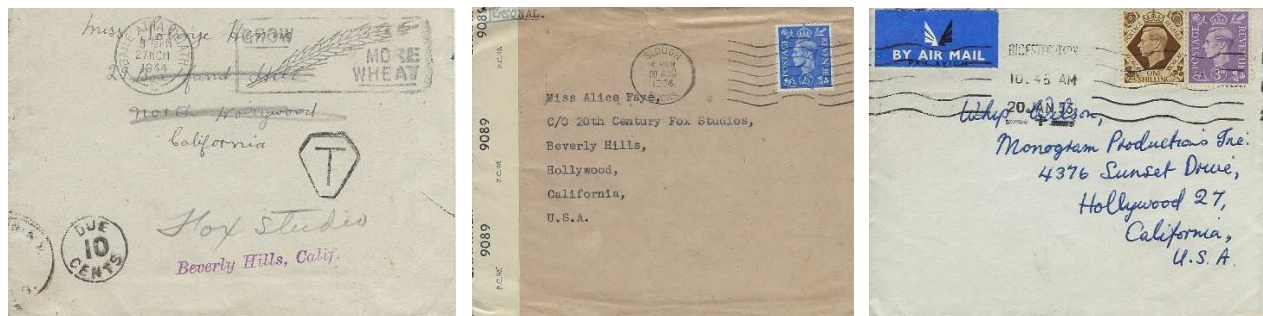


Figure 4-6: 4 - Cover to A. Faye to Fox Studios with 10-cent postage due mark, 5 - Cover to A. Faye at Century Fox Studios with postage, 6 - Cover to W. Wilson at Monogram productions Inc.

Whip Wilson, stage name, lasted from 1949-1955, as a B Western movie star. This period of time seems to see the end of these kinds of movies, although the letter inside indicates that the sender considers "Whip" his most favorite "Cowboy Star". The studio, Monogram Productions, is not one of the big studios in Hollywood. With the end of the war, this example of an Air Mail cover became more common.

This 1951 airmail letter to Paula Raymond, MGM Studios, thanks her for the photograph already

sent. This fan very much liked the film, “The Duchess of Idaho”, which also starred Esther Williams and Van Johnson. One interesting fact about Ms. Raymond was that she turned down the role of Kitty Russell in the TV series Gunsmoke. That role ultimately went to Amanda Blake.

Perhaps Glenn Ford is the most recognizable movie star of this collection. Five of his films are in the National Film Registry. He won a Golden Globe for his movie, “Pocketful of Miracles” and has a San Diego connection with his Marine Corp training in 1943; he retired as a navy captain in the Navy Reserve. This British letter card, sent to Warner Bros studios, has not been opened and because of this one can view the entire cancelation.



Figure 7-9: 7 - Cover to P. Raymond at MGM Studios, 8 - Cover to G. Ford Esq. at Warner Brothers Studios, 9 - Cover to T. Bey at Warner Brother Studios unopened.

The final correspondence is to Turhan Bey. He was born in Austria and is best known as the lead in the film, “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves” of 1944. This letter card, sent to Warner Bros studios as well, is also not opened, and therefore the fan did not receive a coveted picture or signature. Mr. Bey went back to Austria after World War II and returned in later years to continue in the industry.

Today the fan mail business is probably much diminished. Emails and internet communication is most dominant. Perhaps fan clubs still function, but the joy of receiving a photograph is reduced to a download from one’s computer.

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Stamp News 2025

No Postal Increase

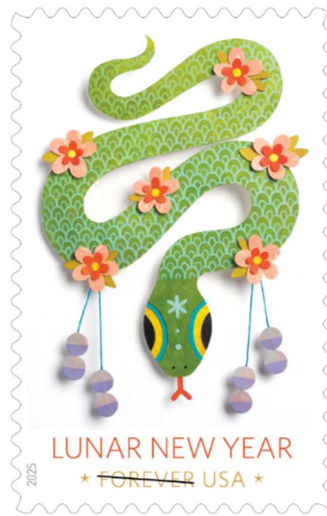
The USPS confirmed that it will not increase prices in January 2025, a temporary pause despite its new twice-a-year hike schedule. "Our strategies are working, and projected inflation is declining," Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said in a statement. Sept. 26, 2024



Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic, or at Post Office locations nationwide.

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New Stamps for 2025



The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the Lunar New Year with the release of the Year of the Snake stamp. The Year of the Snake begins Jan. 29, 2025, and ends Feb. 16, 2026. This first-day-of-issue event for the Forever stamp will be held in Boston and is free and open to the public. At Boch Center - Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116 Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at 11 a.m.. Other stamps to be issued in January 2025 are “Love 2025” (Jan. 17th, Kutztown PA), “Spiral Galaxy” (Jan. 21st, Big Sky MT), “Star Cluster” (Jan. 21st, Big Sky MT), 1794 Compass Rose” (Jan. 24th, Peachtree Corners, GA) and “Allen Toussaint” (Jan. 30th, New Orleans, LA), <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/us-new-issues/post/usps-announces-more-stamp-subjects-for-2025>.

