

From the Stamp Specialist:

Miscellany, Part 2

by George B. Sloane

(From *The Stamp Specialist*, Volume I, Part I, published in 1939)

(Continued from *Miscellany* page 10, January 2011)

For another page I have selected two covers as representative of some of the more bizarre types of postmarking designs indulged in by postmasters in the past. In earlier days, the Post Office Department did not always supply

the cancellation forms and postmasters were obliged to order them from private manufacturers. Some postmasters with a keen sense of humor ingeniously devised their own handstamps,

usually whittling them out of cork. An artist in this respect was the postmaster at Waterbury, Conn., and his postmarks are highly renowned and valued among stamp collectors. One of my covers shows his well known Bumble Bee,

on a letter that went through his post office February 4, 1870. Completing this page

is another cover, used from Winsted, Conn.,

in the early seventies with a clearly defined and well executed Skull and Cross Bones for a postmark.



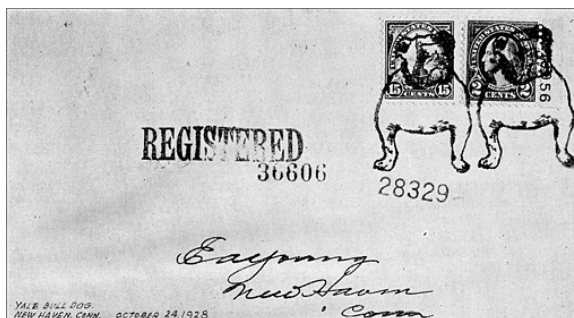
The Waterbury Bumble Bee Fancy Cancel on a cover other than that mentioned by Sloane, and a computer enhanced cancel.



Another Skull & Cross Bones Fancy Cancel, this one from Waterbury, Conn.

Somewhat along the same line is the group of fantastic designs that suddenly blossomed forth a little over a decade ago on registered mail. This modern revival, strangely, came about as a result of a postal regulation of 1924, which forbid the use of postmarks showing the name of the city on the face of registered mail. Such postmarks were to be applied only to the backs of registered letters, covering the flaps, and the intention of the officials was to force postal clerks to turn over and examine the backs of registered matter thus noting any tampering with the seals. The stamps were to be cancelled with suitable obliterations. The order was generally disregarded, and instructions were re-issued May 25, 1927. Several post offices, no doubt inspired by suggestions from stamp collectors, soon introduced many unusual postmarking devices for the obliteration of stamps on registered mail, and many others rapidly followed their example. These covers are obtainable without great difficulty and one or two pages may be given over to them.

I show four of them on two pages, the Bucking Bronchos of Prescott, Arizona; the Copper Smelting Furnaces, of Clarkdale, Arizona; the Yale Bull Dog, from New Haven, Conn. (shown); and the Apple, from Appleton, Wisconsin. These were all used during 1928. The game lasted a little over a year, and the Department, on November 17, 1928, ordered that they be discontinued.

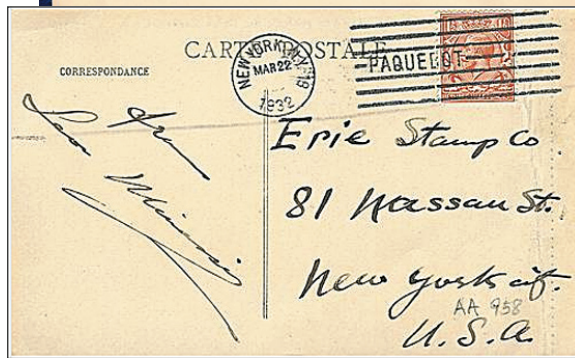
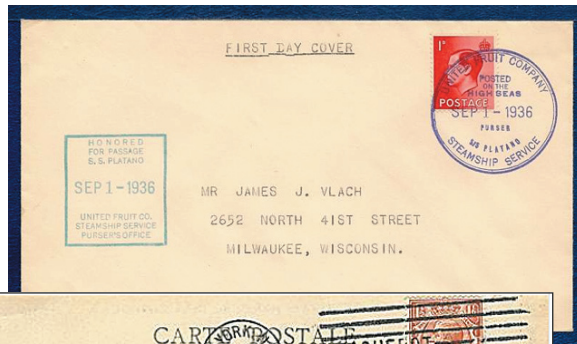


Stamps from mail posted on the high seas will also contribute an excellent page of considerable variety. For this page, in order to display as many examples as possible in a compact space, I used no covers, but as I frequently do, cut the pieces down just enough to show the stamp and postmark. Foreign stamps, naturally, will enter the picture. Sea post offices are operated on ocean-going steamships all over the world, and the majority of

these vessels use distinctive postmarks for letters mailed on board. Some ships, having no sea-post, do not post-mark mail but post it at the first port of call. In the latter case, the land post office will cancel the stamps, and usually in such a manner as to indicate the origin, and on such the word customarily is "Paquebot." Some of these marine markings shown on the page in my collection are as follows:

"United States, Sea P. O.," on a U. S. stamp; "Southampton, Ship-Letter" on St. Helena stamps; "United Fruit Co., Steamship Service, S. S. San Jose," on a stamp of the Colombian Republic; "Hamburg-American Line, Atlas Service, Posted on High Seas, S. S. Alleghany," on Haitian stamps; "Posted on Board," on a stamp of Dominica, and others.

Another interesting example of post-marking which rates a place in my collection is found on a stampless cover, used in 1833. This is the Collinsville, "Axe" postmark, the design made up to present the business end of an axe, the name of the town, "Collinsville, Conn.," enclosed within the frame.



Two examples of ship cancels, in this case on full covers: top, a aquebot cover posted on the S.S. Platano and post-marked "United Fruit Company Steamship Service...SEP 1 1936"; bottom, a March 22, 1932 "Paquebot" cancel.



Collinsville, Conn., strike of axe-framed handstamp with "6 Aug." date in manuscript within the cancel, also with a matching "Paid 25" on an 1833 folded part-printed circular for Collinsville Axes charging \$2 per dozen axes.

Collins & Co. were manufacturers of axes, and their factory and offices were located at Collinsville, a district of Hartford. It was a most appropriate method the postmaster adopted to advertise the leading industry of the town.



The Collins & Co. factory on a picture post card

The Collinsville Axe cover brings to mind the subject of stampless covers, and they, too, should be assigned space in a Miscellany collection. They are always interesting since they show what the daily mail must have looked like as it arrived in the days before adhesive postage stamps, and before prepayment of postage was legislated compulsory.

With the comparatively high rates of letter postage then prevalent, the business man must have had to keep considerable petty cash about the premises when he sent his clerk down to the post office to ransom his mail. Choose a few covers selected to show some of the rates for ordinary letters, such as 18-3/4¢, 25¢, etc. Then try to pick up a few covers that show especially neat town postmarks, something in ovals, or other unusual shapes, and in color if available.

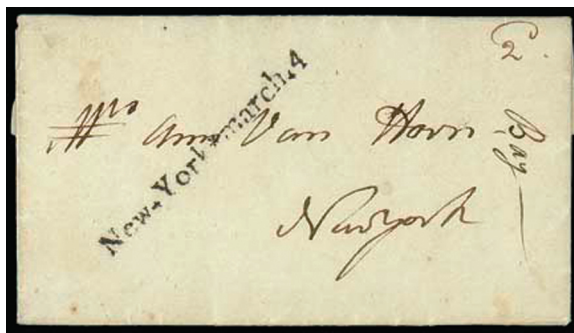


A rare cover with a Noblestown, Pa., Stencil town handstamp with serrated circle and manuscript "Feb. 23" date on a folded cover to David Paul Brown in Philadelphia, showing the 18-3/4 rate, designated by the manuscript "18-3" in the upper right.

If the opportunity arises, you may carry the idea a little further and include something for a story, such as a page I have made up relating to a fatal incident in the history of the Steamer Oregon. (Not the same ship men-

tioned several paragraphs ahead.) [See Miscellany part 1, page 9. JFD]. The Steamer Oregon operated on the Long Island Sound, and on August 1, 1846, it was chartered to carry mail between New York and Providence, and a special postmark was used on letters dispatched by this service. Two stampless covers make this page, the first a letter from New York to Wareham, Mass., September 3, 1846. It is postmarked in a red oval, "Steamer Oregon, 5." In the following month, the boat took fire and was totally destroyed. With the loss of the Oregon, the post office authorities secured another steamer to carry out the contract, and the same old red oval postmark continued in use, but with the word, "Oregon," cut out of the handstamp. So my second cover, a letter from New York to Providence, shows the altered handstamp, "Steamer 5."

Before we leave the stampless cover era, I might suggest that you try to get one or two used in your own home town. As a New Yorker, (and I will admit that the earlier New York postmarks probably will prove a great deal easier to acquire than one of a small town or city may be), I obtained two of the early types used in the thriving metropolis of the 1790s. One is a straight-line, "N. York, March 9," used in 1792, and another is a fancy be-rib-boned and curlicued design, "New York," used in 1798.



*A 1790 incoming letter to New York City that entered the mails with "New-York * march, 4" straightline postmark.*

To finish off the page I give a short and sketchy history of the New York post office of the period, a post office where service must indeed have been primitive, for in Revolutionary days it was located "in Water Street, near the Coffee House," and a little later "at Hercules Cronk's, next door to Major Abraham Storms." Following the close of the Revolution, and soon after it was under the Federal government, it was located at 62 Broadway, in the grocery

store operated by the postmaster. It moved many times until in 1800 it was reported at 20 William Street.

Some very interesting stampless covers, which are not expensive, and which might be overlooked, convey an unusual story. These are covers which were coming to the United States, from Europe, at a period when our currency was much depreciated. The postmarks will read something on this order: "N. York 24, Br. Pkt., U. S. Notes 46," or "N. Y. 15, Am. Pkt. or U. S. Notes, 21." Toward the closing years of the Civil War and for several years thereafter, the enormous costs of the contest were reflected in the depreciation of our paper currency. Gold was at a high premium and paper money was about the only medium in circulation. Letters arriving from abroad with postage to be collected were postmarked with special handstamps indicating the charge to be levied in gold, "15" or "24", or the larger amount to be collected if payment tendered was in "U.S. Notes." As the paper notes constantly fluctuated in value, frequent adjustments and changes took place in these postmarks.



An 1864 folded letter to Lanman & Kemp in New York City with with a Montevideo oval handstamp upper right, a French P.O. octagonal datestamp lower right, and a "Dec 31" circular handstamp lower left with "N.Y. 60 Br. Pkt./ or U.S. 88 Notes" depreciated currency marking. [Reminder: for a closer look at these markings, or any other image, you can use the pdf enlargement tool. JFD.]

The War Between the States, the struggle between the "Yankees" and the "Rebels" who wore the blue and gray, respectively, will furnish much in postal history and items that will be useful in assembling a Miscellany collection.

There are the "Prisoner's Letters," carried by Flag of Truce between the lines, when they wrote to the folks at home, in the North or the South as the case might be. Prisoners of War, both Union and Confederate, were permitted to correspond with home under certain regulations of censorship. These letters were passed through the lines

by “Flag of Truce” and many of them are so marked.

Mail from Confederate prisoners in the North was censored at the prison, and most often marked with the censorship handstamp of the prison, then sent to Fortress Monroe, Va., where it was taken up the James River by the Flag of Truce boat, “New York,” to Aikens Landing, and there the mail exchanges were made with the Confederates. Covers may be found with the handstamp, “Approved, J. A. Patterson, Capt. & Provost Marshall, Point Lookout, Md.,” the largest prison in the North. Another handstamp reads, “Passed, W. P. Wood, Supt., Military Prison.” This was used at the Capitol Prison, Washington D.C., where hundreds of Confederate prisoners, soldiers, military offenders and those suspected of disloyalty were incarcerated.



Johnson's Island O[hio] oval “Prisoner's Letter, Johnsons Island, Examined, Jarvis” examiner's handstamp (upper left) on a cover to Amite City La., with sender's flag-of-truce endorsements including “Care of Comdg Officer U.S. Forces at Vicksburg, Miss” lower left. The 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) is tied by a blue “Sandusky O. Apr. 19 '65” double-circle datestamp and target, the cover also with a “Summit Miss.” large dateless circle handstamp (above the oval examiner's handstamp), where it entered the C.S.A. mails, also with a manuscript “due 3¢” between the circular handstamps—the U.S. rate rather than 10¢ Confederate rate. Since Robert E. Lee had surrendered ten days before this was mailed, the cover started as a through-the-lines prisoner-of-war letter but by the time it reached Summit, the Confederate postal system was no longer operating, thus it was charged U.S. postage.

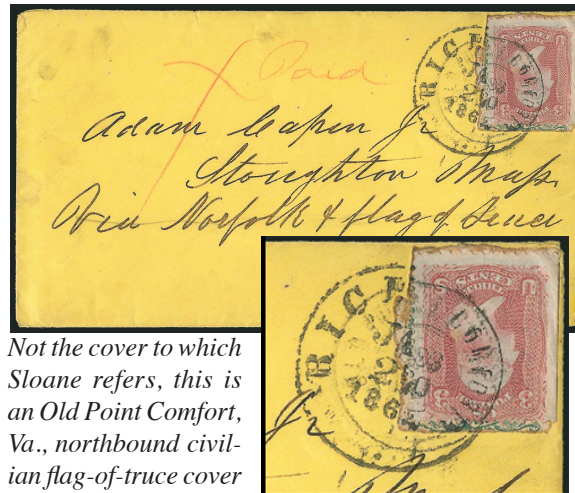


A cover to a prisoner in the Old Capital Prison, bearing a US. 3¢ rose, Sc. 65, tied by an April 6 double circle Memphis Tenn cancellation. The cover with manuscript “Contains \$5.00” bottom center and a barely perceptible red “Released” to the right of the \$5.00 bears the Type I handstamp of W. P. Wood at left. Old Capitol Prison has another place in history, being the building that served as the temporary United States Capitol after Washington, D.C., was burned during the War of 1812.

ated. Still another of my covers shows a handstamp, "Prisoner's Letter, Examined C.H.R. Johnsons Island, O.", a prison which was located in the bay off Sandusky, Ohio, and where, evidently, the examiners of the mail were each supplied with their own handstamps.

I have a cover which was addressed to a Union soldier of the 18th U.S. Infantry, who was held by the Confederates at "Prison No. 5, 3rd Floor, In Care of General Wind-er, Danville, Va." This letter shows the double charge,

often exacted, where postage was collected by both the Federal government and the Confederacy. It started out from Joliet, Ill., with a 3¢ rose. U.S. stamp of 1861. When it reached Richmond, which was the clearing house for all mail brought in from the Flag of Truce boat, a Confederate 10¢ blue, Jefferson Davis, stamp was affixed over the U.S. stamp, and the additional postage levied upon the prisoner.



Not the cover to which Sloane refers, this is an Old Point Comfort, Va., northbound civilian flag-of-truce cover from Richmond, Va., to Stoughton, Mass. There is a 5¢ green (CSA Scott 1) affixed in the upper right to pay postage to Norfolk, that stamp being tied by a "Richmond Va. Jan. 27, 1862" circular datestamp. A 3¢ rose (U.S. Sc. 65) was affixed directly over the CSA stamp and tied by an "Old Point Comfort, Va., Feb. 10" double-circle datestamp. Such mixed-franking covers were possible only for a brief period.

There are, also, the letters addressed to soldiers that were never delivered, where death intervened. [I have] a cover, from Stockbridge, N.Y., to a soldier with "Green's Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Army." It is endorsed in another hand, "At hospital in Alexandria, Fairfax Co., Va." Next appears a handstamp, "Unclaimed," and finally someone else has endorsed it in red ink, "Died. To be returned to former P.O., Stockbridge, N. Y.," a foreboding messenger.

The Postage Currency of the Civil War with reproductions of the 1861, 5¢ and 10¢ stamps provides an attractive page, and the four denominations, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢

and 50¢ will fit a page tidily. The story can be told how these miniature bank notes, so closely related to postage stamps, came about.

Early in 1862, gold coins had disappeared from circulation, followed almost immediately by silver, until finally even nickel and copper were scarce.

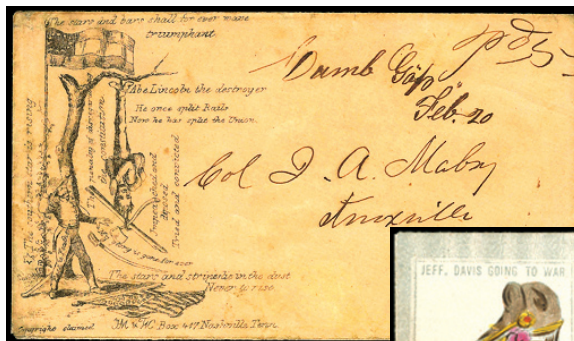
People found themselves unable to trans-



Scott PC4, 50¢ Postage Currency

act simple business affairs without great inconvenience. In this emergency, postage stamps were soon being passed for small change but were a source of constant trouble since they frequently stuck together and rapidly became worn and soiled. The government solved the problem by introducing the so-called "postage currency" bearing facsimiles of the stamps then in use. The bills, dubbed "shin plasters" by the public, met with popular approval. A set of these four bills in fine and clean condition can be secured at a nominal figure.

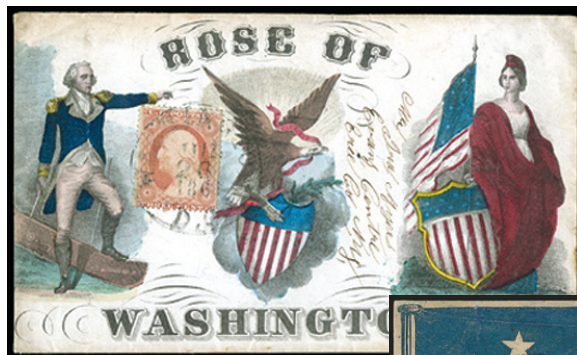
Patriotic envelopes with their bright and gaily colored designs will outfit a page or more of your collection. With



the North and South aroused and the outbreak of hostilities inevitable, the war fever of 1861 found an out-



Above, a "Hanging Lincoln" caricature cover. Only 12 examples known, it is one of the most significant CSA Patriotics. The caption reads "Abe Lincoln the destroyer. He once split Rails. Now he has split the Union." Right, a Jefferson Davis caricature. Upright, the portrait is of "Jeff. Davis Going to War." Turn the cover upside down to see "Jeff. Returning From War."



Left, a “Rose of Washington” Patriotic, one of the many sought after Magnus Union Patriotics. Below, a red and blue overall 7-Star Confederate Flag Davis-Stephens Patriotic cover—with the eighth star in the center, for Virginia, scratched into the background by the sender.



let in the use of these vividly colored envelopes with pictures of patriotic subjects and two weeks after Lincoln’s Proclamation of War, April 15, 1861, thousands of them were seen in the mails and were to continue for many years after.

Among the rarer items in this period of conflict, are the “Blockade Runners,” letters which were transported through the lines by the express companies after the U.S. Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, had suspended all postal arrangements between the warring states.



A mourning blockade cover that was sent to Virginia (“Per Steamer Flora” manuscript notation) from Bermuda via Wilmington, N.C. on October 9, 1863. A CSA 10¢ “Frameline” prepaid the CSA postage, but 2¢ was due for the ship fee. (Note the “Ship” straight-line handstamp to the right of the c.d.s.)

With no communication officially permissible between the United States and the Confederacy, the Adams Express Co., among others, took advantage of the situation and entered the business of conveying mail between the lines, using their offices as postal stations. The letters were usually cleared through their offices in some of the border cities such as Nashville, Tenn., and Louisville, Ky. Their agents handled this mail at a fee of 25¢ per letter,

out of which they paid the government postage when they delivered it into a post office after crossing the lines. This service operated in both directions and was in full bloom for about two months until, on August 10th, 1861, President Lincoln declared the traffic unlawful and instructed the Post Office Department to enforce his injunction. The companies paid little heed to his command, and finally an order was issued, August 26th, directing the arrest of anyone found engaged in the business and at once an illegal means of communication between the opposing states was ended.

One such "Blockade" cover in my collection is addressed to Charleston, South Carolina, a 3¢ U.S. stamped envelope, the stamp uncanceled. The cover is hand-stamped, "Adams Express Co., Aug. 12, Philadelphia, Pa." in red, where the sender left it. It was then run over the express company's lines to Nashville, the jumping off point, where it was postmarked August 19th, and in addition, "Paid 10", by the Confederate postmaster. Through the postal service

of the Confederacy it went eastward again and was delivered in Charleston. This cover presents an indication of the roundabout travel frequently required to complete delivery in such an extraordinary system.

To display some material of philatelic interest

originating on the Confederate side, you might mount a few of the stampless covers, provisionally handstamped by Southern postmasters to show prepayment of postage pending the production of postage stamps.



A cover similar to that described by Sloane, addressed: a 3¢ White Star Die entire (Sc. U26) to Norfolk, Virginia with an "Adams Express Co., Aug 3, Philadelphia, Pa." marking in red, a black "Aug 6 1861 Adams Express Co. Louisville, KY. handstamp, and a blue Nashville Ten. Aug. 8, 1861" handstamp and matching "PAID" and "10" for the CSA rate.

After June 1st, 1861, United States stamps were no longer recognized as valid in the seceded states, and when the U.S. post office ceased to function throughout the territory, the Confederacy took over its operation. Hundreds of these covers, used in the South, with "Paid 5" handstamps, during June, July and August 1861, are floating about and can often be purchased at moderate prices.

Stamped envelopes of the U.S. with the design crossed out or obliterated by Confederate postmasters, then handstamped as I have just described, are also desirable.

One of the first orders of John H. Reagan, Postmaster General of the Confederate States, instructed Southern postmasters to render their final accounts to the U.S. Post Office Department, and to return all stamps and envelopes on hand belonging to the United States. Many did not, but conveniently made use of the envelopes for their own postal purposes. As a matter of fact, it appears that the Confederate postal authorities themselves must have given little attention to the order, as we see U.S. stamped envelopes with an overprint crossing the stamp design, "Confederate States of America, Post Office Department, Official Business."

Confederate postmasters' provisional postage stamps may also follow, on or off the cover, although the covers are preferable. While some postmasters made use of the cancelling handstamps of their offices, others were more enterprising and several, such as the postmasters at Memphis, Mobile, New Orleans and other cities, devised



A U.S. 3¢ (Sc. 26) tied by a grid "Glasgow Ky. Jun. 24(?)" (1861) double-circle datestamp on a cover to Dardanelle, Ark.—an attempted use of a U.S. stamp, but with a blue "5" C.S.A. rate handstamp applied at Nashville, re-rated "Due 10" in manuscript on arrival in Arkansas for a distance over 500 miles. The sender prepaid the 3¢ U.S. rate (technically correct in Kentucky) but mail to Southern States through Nashville had been stopped by the Union on June 7. This cover made it through to the CSA, but was rated with Confederate postage due at Nashville and Monticello, Ark.

their own adhesive postage stamps, while awaiting a general issue of stamps by the government. A representative lot of the postage stamps issued by the Confederate government, and these need not be on the covers, will serve as a philatelic memorial of the lost cause. As the war wore on, its effects can be reflected in an album page presenting some of the homemade envelopes which in time

became so familiar in the Confederate mails. Many of you have no doubt seen Confederate covers used twice, a used cover turned inside out, refolded, and used again for stationery. Hard times were bearing down the South, and as the Northern blockade tightened around the Rebel states it became difficult for the Confederacy to procure supplies of many kinds. Paper became scarce and soon envelopes were being fashioned from wall paper, the backs of advertising circulars and anything that could be pressed into use. These wall paper covers are highly attractive in a collection and may be mounted with one side loosened and folded out over the face of the cover to show its interior.



Above, a 5¢ Mobile, Ala., Postmaster Provisional (Sc. 62X4) tied by a New Orleans, La., September 27 (1861) cancel with a "Paid" handstamp. Right, one of the most famous of all CSA Postmaster Provisionals, the Livingston, Ala., 5¢ blue (Sc. 51X1)—one of only 11 known examples. Only Livingston and Mobile issued stamps with a pictorial design.



A CSA 5¢ green (Sc. 1), tied by a blue "Pendleton S.C. Mar. 18" (1862) c.d.s. on a floral wallpaper cover to Pickens C.H. S.C.—an unusual early example of a wallpaper cover.

In a Miscellany collection, pages may be assigned to methods of transporting the mails, such as a few covers with railroad cancellations, ship letters, and so forth, not overlooking the old Mississippi River Packet boats that plied the Mississippi and its tributaries in great numbers connecting the plantations with the larger cities, and of course, there will be airmail covers.

On September 19, 1870, a siege of Paris by the Prussian army began. Several methods were attempted to get mail out. Pigeons were flown from Paris, but the Prussians sent falcons after them. Metal containers—Boules de Moulins—filled with mail were floated down the Seine, but again the Prussians outwitted the scheme by placing nets across the river. The third experiment, however, was quite successful. Large balloons were constructed and a basket suspended underneath, enabling the carrying of mail, passengers, a pilot and pigeons.



A "boules de moulins"



A Mississippi River packet boat cover with a red oval "Natchitoches Packet, Swamp Fox" handstamp on a 3¢ red Nesbitt entire to New Orleans, cancelled by "Steam" handstamp, with "New Orleans La. Feb. 19" c.d.s. and matching "Due 3" handstamp (probably due to weight), also with manuscript "Valuable".



Above, a cover carried "Par Moulins" December 30, 1870; left, a cover with Rue Montaigne datestamp of Nov. 21 1870, addressed to London, carried on the "Ville d'Orleans", which landed at sea, also with a London arrival datestamp of December 12.





*The low value
Kansas, Sc. 658*

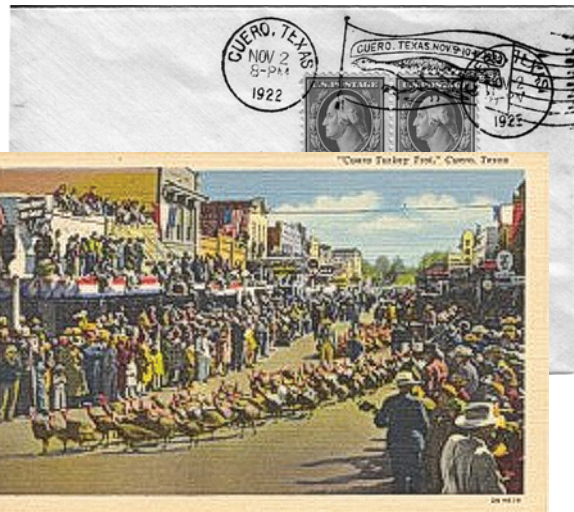
A set of the Kansas and Nebraska stamps fill a page and furnish a story of a postal experiment planned to check the sale of stolen postage stamps by organized gangs and “fences” who dispose of the loot from post office robberies. It



*The high value
Nebraska, Sc. 658*

proved ineffectual and was abandoned.

There is the story of the “Running Turkey.” For a time in 1922, Cuero, Texas, used a flag type of cancellation, with a reproduction of a turkey, moving at high speed. Covers with this unusual postmarking are seen with a comparatively high degree of frequency, and are not rare. Checking into the story it will be learned that it was an advertising postmark designed to create curiosity and direct national attention to the annual “Turkey-Trot” held at Cuero. It is one of the important centers of the industry and the birds are driven in each year for slaughter and shipment to the Northern and Eastern markets for the holidays. A photograph of the round-up will complement the page neatly.



An example of the Cuero, Texas “Running Turkey” (“Fleeing” might be a more apt description), and a circa 1920 picture post card showing the Turkey Trot.

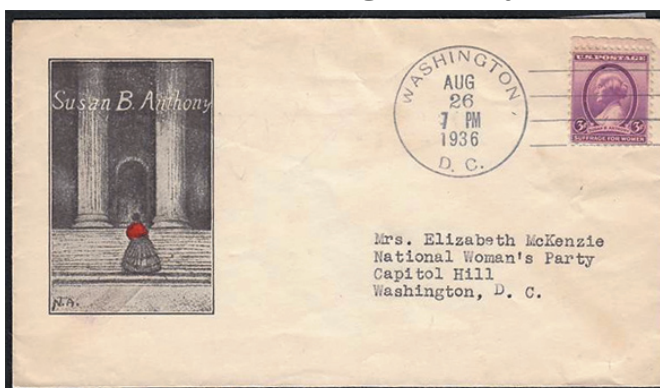
Once a Miscellany collection is started, it just about grows by itself, as the material begins to pile up with little apparent effort. Make up a page of stamps showing various types of aeroplanes, and another colorful page will materialize through a representative display of the Christmas seals.



*Above, the perfin of the Canadian Pacific Railway;
right, the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company*

The album pages, however, should always carry a brief explanation to get across the story. A group of postage stamps with perforated initials, tidily arranged and mounted face down on black paper, to bring up prominently the initialing, assumes interest when it is explained that many concerns use this means to protect their postage stamps from theft. Actually, that is a page where the materials can be fished from the waste basket.

You never quite know where you will find useful material for your Miscellany collection, nor when something you have laid aside long ago will suddenly prove of value in working up a story. Some years ago I bought a small correspondence, dating from the late Sixties, all addressed to Susan B. Anthony, in connection with the growing movement for Women's Suffrage. I retained several of the envelopes and mounted up a page of them, the covers overlapping each other to make them fit, but keeping exposed the stamps and the corner cards of the envelopes, "National Woman Suffrage Association," "The Revolution," "New York Woman's Suffrage Society," "Kansas Equal Suffrage Association," etc. It was a drive that was kept alive for many years until success was finally achieved. When the Post Office Department issued, in 1936, a stamp



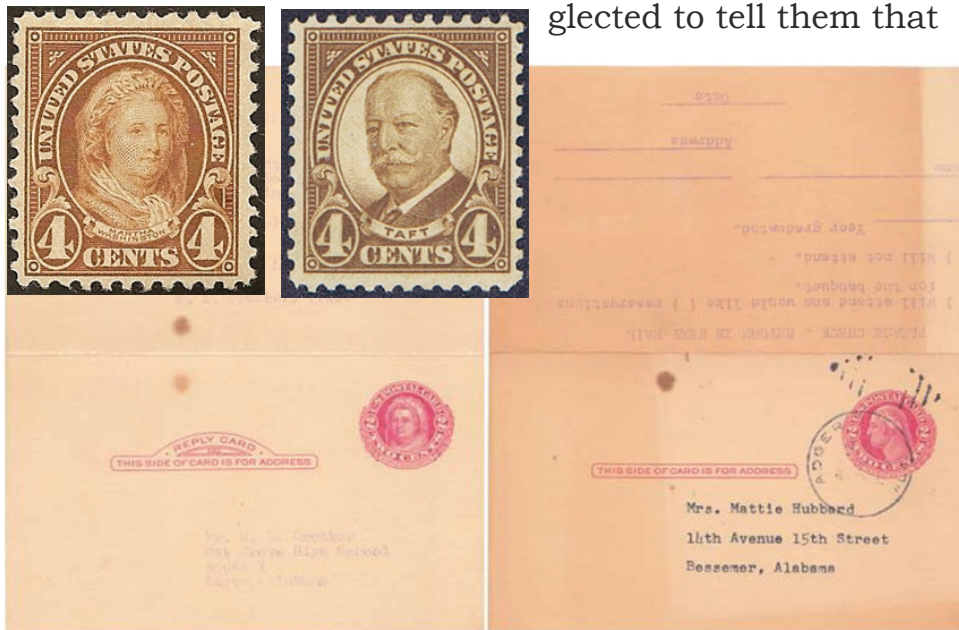
An August 26, 1936, FDC for the Susan B. Anthony stamp, Sc. 784. The FDC is addressed to Elizabeth McKenzie of the National Woman's Party.

to honor Susan B. Anthony, this page of earlier covers immediately took on a significant interest.

Another story concerning women, and U.S. stamps, can be developed through an incident of just a few years ago. The props will be the 4¢ brown Martha Washington stamp, the 4¢ brown Taft stamp and the reply half of 1¢ plus 1¢ green postal card with portrait of Martha Washington.

In the regular postage set of 1922, Martha Washington occupied a place on the 4¢ stamp. William Howard Taft, former President, and late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, died in April, 1930. It was suggested that his portrait be placed on one of the stamps of the current set at the earliest opportunity. The Post Office Department fell in with the suggestion and decided to discard Martha Washington, and place Taft on the 4¢ stamp. Instantly the women's organizations throughout the nation kicked up a terrific rumpus, but dear old Martha was ousted, nevertheless, and the new Taft stamp appeared on June 4, 1930.

To mollify the women, the Department reminded them that the portrait of Martha Washington was still retained on the reply part of the business postal card. They neglected to tell them that



Above, the 1922-25 4¢ Martha Washington and the 1930 4¢ William Howard Taft stamp. When Taft replaced the first First Lady, she was relegated to reply postal cards, one example being this 2¢ + 2¢, Scott UY13.

only a comparatively small number of people use these cards, and that henceforth Martha would seldom be seen in ordinary correspondence. Since that time, however, Martha has staged a comeback and is now seen on the 1-1/2¢ stamp of the present Presidential series.

If you would like to add a little more to this page, fill it out with the \$4.00 Columbian stamp, showing



Sc. 244

Queen Isabella, the 5¢ Jamestown stamp, with Pocahontas, and one or two others as examples of U.S. postage stamps on which the portraits of women have been employed.



Sc. 330



Martha made her comeback on the 1-1/2¢ 1938 Prexy, Sc. 805

Subjects for special treatment on your album pages are legion, and the collection does not have to be restricted to stamps of the United States. There is much that can be utilized among foreign stamps.

The British 1p black and 2p blue, of 1840, should be there as the first adhesive postage stamps of the world, and likewise the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets.



The 1p Mulready and the 2 pence blue. Along with the Penny Black, the Mulready went on sale May 1, 1840 and was valid for use on May 6. The 2p blue went on sale May 7 for immediate use.



The front and back of a 1920 cover flown on the Tientsin-Peking, China, First Flight, with a 10 candareen blue tied by a Tientsin bilingual cachet, The reverse bears a violet boxed cachet, "Chinese Post Office Despatched by Aeroplane Tienstsin to Peking".



rier reads on his appointed rounds. A China letter with the inevitable red predominating will fit in nicely at this point.

Stamps of odd and exceptional sizes and shapes will make a fascinating page.



A classic odd shape, the 1863 Cape of Good Hope triangle, Sc. 12; and a 1977 Tonga stamp for the 1977 Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Sc. C209, die cut in the shape of one of the Queen's coronation robes.

Right now "Censored" mail from some of the European countries at war will be coming along commonly and regularly,

and some of the better ones should be acquired while they are available. Very often material that is extremely common for a time



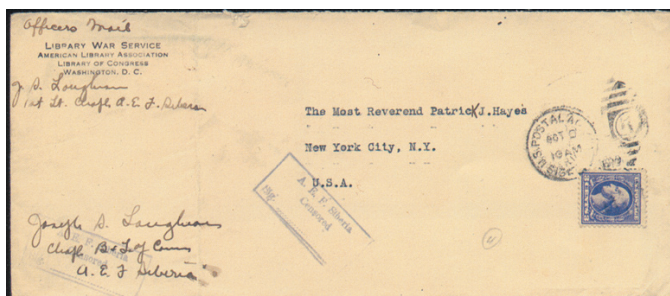
A Netherlands 1941 Nazi Censored cover to Chicago

has a habit of becoming very elusive in later years when you go on a hunt for it. You may also add some of the philatelic mail from the last war, A.E.F. covers, U.S. and Foreign war postmarks of interest, some of the German stamps of the inflationary period with face values running to fabulous and inconceivable amounts.

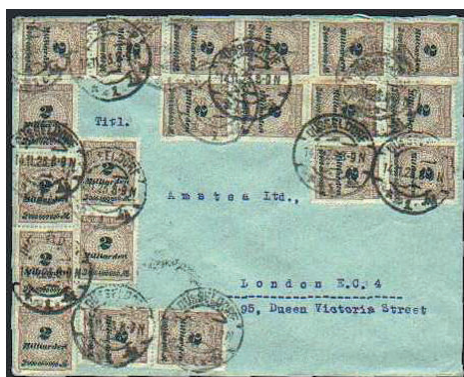
There is no end to a Miscellany collection. You just go coasting along steadily, and in my opinion it always furnishes interest and nearly always will engage the attention of the non-collector. If by the time you have gotten down this far you, too, have gotten the “bug” and decided you must have such a collection, I believe you will know something about how to go about building it. In my own case I gathered things where I found them whenever and wherever I could. If you are going ahead with it you are on your own now. Make full use of all of your sources, and resources.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur on USS Quincy VJ-Day censored cover w/ship cachet.



A cover from an American Chaplain in the A.E.F. in Siberia to New York City to the future Cardinal Hayes, who was appointed Archbishop of New York in March 1919, and had just prior to that been Vicar Apostolic of the U.S. Military. The stamp, Sc. 530, is tied by a “U.S. Postal Agency Siberia Oct. 9, 1910 10AM” duplex cancel, the cover also with two “A.E.F. Siberia Censored” handstamps.



A cover posted to England on Nov. 14, 1923 with a total of 40 Milliarden (40,000,000,000) Marks (20 x 2 Milliarden), paying the international letter rate for up to 20 grams set as of Nov. 12. The highest value banknote issued by the Weimar government’s Reichsbank had a face value of 100 trillion Marks (100,000,000,000,000)