

11^a ESPOSIZIONE
INTERNAZIONALE D'ARTE

Venice, Italy, 1897. Two years ago Venice held an International Art Exposition. It was hugely successful. They decided to hold a second exposition. This "cinderella" stamp was issued to advertise that event. It shows a crowned (in gold) lion posed in a garden in front of a view of the city. The second show was just as successful and the exposition continues to this day.



Forged Forgeries



These two stamps came out of Austria after World War II. They are forgeries of the OSS "Death Mask" stamp that was issued for propaganda purposes in 1942. After the war the Death Mask stamps became so popular that the forgers started producing their own version of them. The stamps are still popular and new forgeries appear from time to time.

Compared to the real stamp



the forgeries don't look so hot.

This is the real stamp

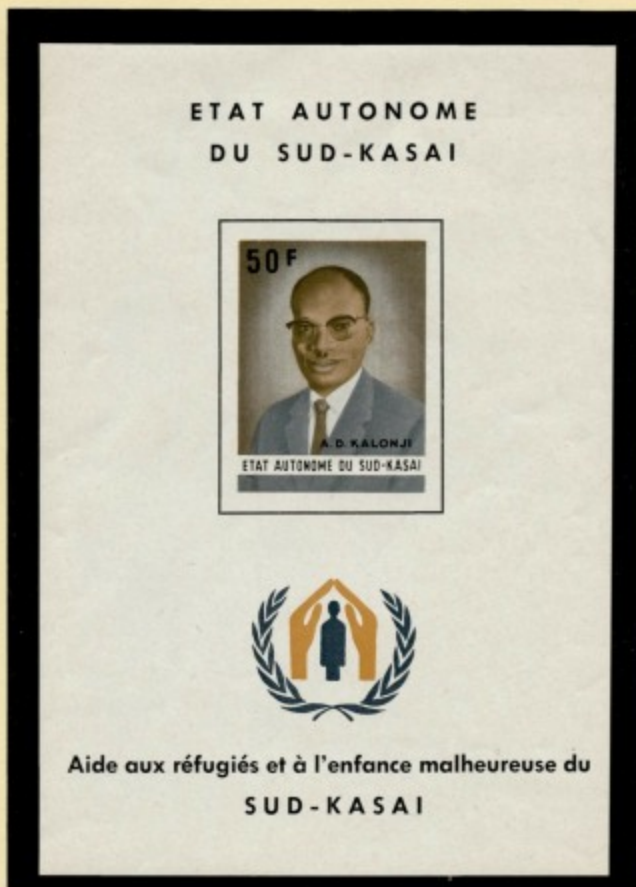
Antietam

The letter was posted on September 16, 1862. It was mailed from Rochester, New York to Pittsford, New York a distance of about eight miles. It was during the American Civil War. Further south, in Maryland Lee's forces had just lost a battle to General McClellan at Crampton's gap and was moving towards Sharpsstown where there was a stone bridge that crossed over Antietam Creek. One of the bloodiest battles between North and South would take place a day after this postmark was struck.



The armies battled for two days. More than 18,000 men fell to wounds and almost 5,000 died on the 17th of September. There was no clear winner at Antietam but the Southern army, under Lee, pulled out first so McClellan was given credit. That day and that battle is considered to be the turning point of the war that now began to favor the North.

I wondered about this souvenir sheet for a while. I thought it may have been privately issued in support of a refugee camp named "Sud Kasai" somewhere outside Dufar or, maybe, Rwanda in the '80s. One day I went to my computer and Googled "Sud Kasai." Guess what? It was an actual country.



It wasn't recognized by the UN or the UPU but, a Luba Chief, Albert Kalonji (the man on the stamp) declared, on August 8, 1960 that Sud Kasai, a part of the Belgian Congo, was now a free and independent country. He was ignored but the free country remained free for almost a year and a half. Then, the Congolese National Army noticed and re-secured Sud Kasai into the Congolese central government and arrested Kalonji who soon escaped and managed to keep his government together until October, 1962 when the Congolese government divided Sud Kasai into two regions, East and West Kasai. You can still visit Sud Kasai, however, on their website. Just Google, you'll find them.

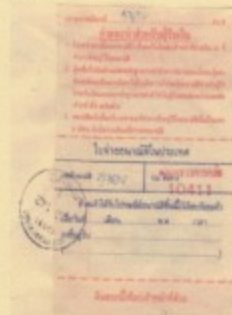
THAILAND

This one is a cover from Thailand, an exotic land in the far Southeast famous for small pieces of barbecued chicken on sticks. I think they call them Thai Sticks. But, I like this cover because of the writing most of which I can't fathom. Its strange, other worldly writing as exotic as the country itself.



The stamp is a child's depiction of an equestrian sport and was issued in 1999 on Children's day. This one is the high value of the set.

On the back of the envelope is a small sheet glued down. It is my assumption this is a receipt for the registration of the letter. The contents must have had some importance to the writer. I can't be sure of this because the writing is too exotic for me to read.



DDR

DDR, for the younger group, is also known as East Germany or the "Deutsche Demokratik Republik". It comes from a time when the Soviet Union had control over a part of Germany and treated it as a country separate from the rest of Germany with their own stamps and currency. This letter was mailed from the MS Warnemonde, apparently a river cruise ship that sailed out of Berlin.



The stamps (Scott #s 2052a) were produced by a country that needed fences, walls and armed guards to keep their people from escaping to the West. I am impressed by the delicate nature of the porcelain pieces they depict. Maybe East Germany wasn't as brutal as we, in the West were led to believe. On the other hand, maybe the porcelain is propaganda too.

Postkarte

Von Hindenburg was the president of Germany and a German hero of WWI. He was not willing to capitulate to the Allies to end that bloody war. It is no wonder that he was honored on so many German stamps. Even by Hitler. This postcard was made during the Third Reich, in 1939 (note the date as the first number in a series at the bottom right of the card) and is one of many cards printed. The purpose of the card(s) was to acquaint Germans with their country. It is said there are over 1500 different cards that were produced, each showing a different piece of Germany.



Perhaps that would be a good idea for America too. Get to know our country through scenes pictured on a postcard. Of course, that means we would have to write to each other. On the other hand, American postcards have been showing scenes of America long before Hitler ever thought of it!

Is This an Invert?

In 1953, Spain issued a set of stamps to be used in Spanish Sahara (Scott #65-67), with a picture of an Allegorical figure pointing to that country on a globe of the world. Its a nice looking set and there is an enlarged picture of one of the stamps printed below. However, its a negative of the actual stamp which was printed as a negative in the first place. Take a closer look at the real stamp.



I wonder why they did that?

FÄLSCHUNGEN

If your not too sure what that means, I can understand. It means one of these stamps is a forgery. War gorgeries are made for different reasons. Propaganda where the leadership or politics is made fun of, to get mail to specific places or to try to disrupt the post office services or the economy. In WWI, the latter was attempted with forgeries of the "Germania" stamp. The postcard was issued after the war and after the stamps were no longer in use to describe the differences to stamp collectors like you and I..... providing we speak German.

Original



Fälschung



Deutsches Reich


10 Pfg. karmin
15 Pfg. violett

Fälschungen

zu Spionagezwecken
der Entente

WALTER BEHRENS
BRAUNSCHWEIG

Original



Fälschung



Die Zensur war insbesondere in den letzten Kriegsjahren so streng, daß es den in Deutschland befindlichen feindlichen Spionen kaum möglich war, ihre Nachrichten ins Ausland zu übermitteln. Eine Art, die die ganzen Jahre unentdeckt geblieben ist, war die Verwendung von besonders für diese Zwecke in London gefälschten deutsch. Briefmarken zu 10 u. 15 Pfg.

	Das Original gelbl. Ton 14 : 14 1/4	Unterschiede	Die Fälschung rein weiß 14 3/4 : 14
1		Papier	1a
2		Zählung	2a
3		Druck	3a
4		Halstlinie	4a
5		Haarfall im Nacken	5a
		Augenbraue	
		Fußstrich bei T	
		Querstrich bei H	

und andere nicht so markante Merkmale

Die Fälschungen wären nie erkannt worden, wenn nicht ein sehr bekannter Entente-Diplomat einen kleinen Rest den er bei der Einziehung vergaß abzugeben, einem philatelistischen Freunde zeigte, der ihn für die Sammlerwelt sicherte. Während des Krieges gelaufene Originalbriefe sind bei d. Entzifferung der Nachrichten sämtlich restlos vernichtet.

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood is the land of dreams. And, not just in America but all over the world as witnessed by this cover from Yugoslavia (spelled with a "J" at the time) and mailed to Deanna Durbin, a famous Hollywood actress back in the 30s and 40s.

She's quite the beauty, too who was a singer and starred in many musicals such as "Christmas Holiday" with Gene Kelly and "It Started With Eve" with Charles Laughton.



She was Canadian and had a golden voice with the ability to sing anything from pop to opera including a beautiful rendition of Ave Maria (you can hear it on Youtube).

The picture is from Yank Magazine, a WWII publication that ended shortly after the war.



Walter Schirra

Remember him? He was one of the original seven astronauts that flew spaceships for the United States. This is a nice cover honoring him in his best known achievement, circling the earth six times in a space craft. He helped to open space.



Though the cover is really nice, it is from Vietnam. That makes it nicer that they would recognize America's accomplishments beyond the atmosphere. They spelled his name wrong though, leaving out the "c", but we still recognize the man. You may notice that the postmark is dated on October 3, 1962, the same day Walter Schirra started his space trek. They made two other covers for our space events. One for John Glen, America's first man in space and one for Scott Carpenter, the second American to orbit the earth. There may be more but I have these three.

Vietnam Letter

The covers of Vietnam seem always to be decorated in colorful ways. Here there are flowers and butterflies. The stamp shows a scene from Kieu, from a poem written in the early 1800s called "The Tale of Kieu," a story of love and the struggles of the society of the time.



The stamp (Scott #393) was issued during the war in 1965 as part of a four stamp set. It was used on this letter in 1978, two years after the war's end. I am unable to read the address it was sent to and it appears to have been forwarded to "Bucuresh" Romania. I am specially fond of the "Par Avion" label on brown paper, attached to the letter.

The General Exposition

There are stamps that present wonderfully detailed and beautiful pictures of everyday life in whatever country they come from. This one shows us a marvelous picture of the Queen at her writing desk. Look at the detail in the enlargement then look at the stamp. You can see the folds of her gown, the bracelet she wears, the inkpot she draws from, even the embroidered design in the stool next to her. This is, indeed, the engravers art.



The stamp comes from Romania and was issued in 1906 for the General Exposition. They were sold only during the three days of that event

Darn..... Forgeries!

Every now and the I like to buy a stamp collection. I almost always find extremely valuable stamps in them. Here are a few.

This one is from Peru and is the first stamp they issued. If it were real it would be worth about \$1,500.00. After close examination I found too many discrepancies from the picture in Scott and decided it is a forgery. But, I can still hope. I haven't had it expertised.



This one is a newspaper stamp issued in Austria in 1856, but not many survived to the present. If it were real it would catalog at \$67,000.00. Upon close examination I found the eye was wrong, the background was wrong, the flowers in the corners were wrong. Well, you get the picture. Its a forgery. But, I still have hope. I haven't had it expertised yet.

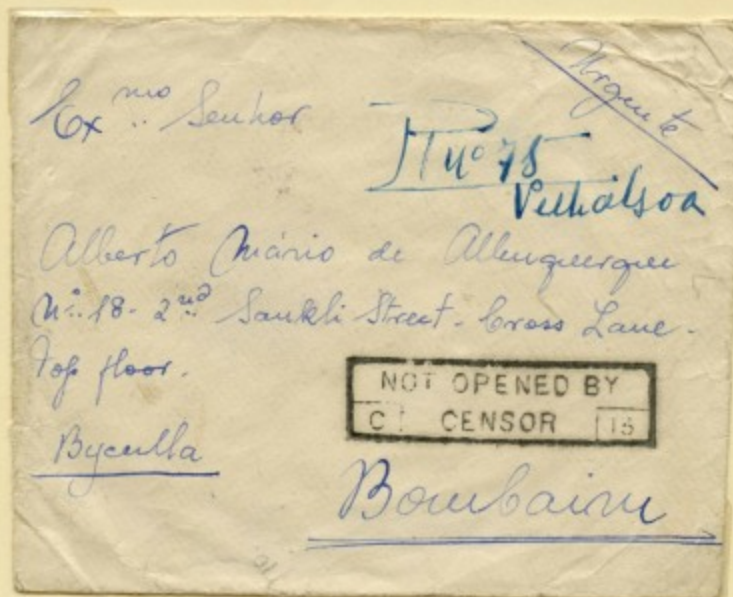
This one is from Sardinia, an Italian State of the latter part of the 19th century. Its hard to see the picture because its an embossed stamp with no coloring except for the paper. If this one is real it would catalog for \$17,000.00. I examined this one closely and found nothing to suggest it may be a forgery so I sent it off to the expertiser. Guess what? Its a forgery. Darn!



Still, I didn't pay too much for the collections I bought and found many stamps to add to my own collection. I got a good buy and had much left over to trade and sell. It was exciting to be the owner of such rare stamps, even if it was only until I took a closer look. Still, you never know. One day one of those stamps will be real!

Not Opened by Censor?

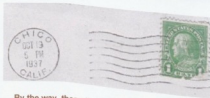
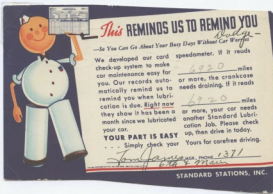
Now who came up with that idea? *Not* opened? To be honest, the idea came from the British post office at the beginning of WWII. The postmark was used for a short period of time and only on certain postal routes.



The route was called the "Horseshoe Route." When the Japanese were invading British colonies in Southeast Asia the mail had to take routes that avoided the occupied countries, forming a giant horseshoe going south to Australia. This letter began in Portuguese India and was mailed to Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, via the censor in Bombay. The use of this mark started with the inception of censorship at the opening of the war in 1939, and was ended by the British censors office a year and a half later, in early 1941, when they decided the mark served no useful purpose.

Fill 'er up?

Way back in the "good old days", when you pulled in next to a gas pump, two young men would run (not walk) out to your car. The first would check the air in your tires, wash your windshield and check the oil. The second would ask if you would like to "fill 'er up?", then would fill the gas tank for you. All you had to do was sit in the car, roll down the window and pay for the gas and oil, if you needed a quart. The gas would cost about \$0.21 a gallon and the oil, maybe a quarter. The service was free. Sometimes, if the charge came out to some pre-determined configuration, like \$2.22 or \$2.34, they gave you the gas for free (if that was the promotion this month). As you can see by the postcard here, they even reminded you when you needed an oil change



By the way, these "good old days" were in 1937

KRON TV

In 1958 KRON TV in San Francisco chose to use the venue of the First Day Cover to entice stamp collectors to watch their new fall line-up. Other advertisers chose the same way to appeal to their customers. In this way FDC cover collectors are able to find first day covers that actually went through the mailstream as this one did. Note the "PS" at the bottom of the letter.

Mr. John H. Millholen
1735 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Millholen:

By the time you receive this, our audience will have made a start
acquiring new viewing habits for the coming season.

First Day of Issue



LAJOS KOSSUTH
HUNGARIAN PATRIOT - LEADER OF
THE REVOLUTION OF 1848

HONORING

Lajos Kossuth
CHAMPION of LIBERTY
1802 - 1894



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Mr. John H. Millholen
1735 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

KPS/ml

P.S. This First Day of Issue stamp is another in the "Champion of Liberty" series. It honors Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894), the Hungarian patriot and statesman who worked ceaselessly for the separation of Hungary from Austria. In 1851 he was a guest of the United States Government.

Antarctic Expedition

"In the summer of 1953-1954 the Australian Government chartered the Danish ship Kista Dan to establish its first permanent settlement on the continent at a natural harbour. The labels pictured were intended "for attachment to mail carried on the 1954 Australian Expedition to Antarctica." A souvenir sheet featuring the same four designs in black and white also exists."



The Kista Dan was one of four "Dan" ships commissioned for Arctic exploration



The second stamp is a picture of the Arctic wasteland featuring the Emperor Penguin.



The Auster Mark 6 aircraft is featured in this stamp. Two were brought along for exploration.

A map of Antarctica showing the area of exploration.



An unusual First Day Cover

First day covers have been collectibles for many years and are reasonably common. This one is a little different. It was sent to the Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank in Chicago to begin with. It was sent by Roy North, the Third Assistant Postmaster General who's duties at the time included selecting the designs to be used on postage stamps.



The stamp was issued on June 22, 1943. It show the Polish flag, the flag of the first country to be overrun by the German army at the onset of World War II. It was also the first stamp of the "Overrun Countries" series. And the autograph on the side of the envelope? It is from the Polish (government in exile) Ambassador to America, Jan Ciechanowski.

An Old Letter

This is an old letter from a Scottish lawyer in Scotland that was delivered to another lawyer in Scotland and they were talking about lawyer things. Obviously the letter is not that important, so, what do I like about this letter?



By the stamp collector's timeline the letter is old. It was written in 1842. Still, that's not it. The stamp is as old as the letter but its not particularly rare or valuable. You can probably find one for less than five dollars. It was issued in 1841 and is Scott #3. The world's first postage stamp was created a year earlier and other countries had not yet caught onto the idea of using pre-paid postage. That's what I like about this cover. It couldn't have been sent outside the British isles. They were the only ones using postage stamps at the time!

On April 21, 2010 a stamp featuring the Nevada flag was issued. The dedication ceremony was held in Carson City, the capitol, and was attended by the Governor of Nevada, Jim Gibbons, who was kind enough to cancel this stamp for me on that day with his signature. It may even be a one-of-a-kind First day cover.

Nevada Flag



The stamp highlights the Nevada flag which displays a half wreath of sagebrush cradling a single star. A banner on the stamp with the words "Battle Born" refers to Nevada's admission to the Union during the Civil War.

The background of the stamp features ocotillos against a mountainous background.

The stamp is one of ten Flag stamps that the USPS has unveiled as part of the "Flags of our Nation" collection. The stamps will not be sold individually, but as part of a roll of 50 and will have the other "Flags of our Nation" stamps included.

This year collection features the stamps of Montana through North Dakota. They are produced by Delaware artist Tom Engeman who also designed the National World War II Memorial stamp and the nation's first Forever stamp.



Tom Morrissey Cover

Tom Morrissey was the president of the NSSF in 1998 (when this cover was mailed) as well as the Naval postal history club here in Nevada. Not only was I lucky to have know the man as a fellow member of this club but I received a card in this envelope painted by Tom.



It is one of the relatively few he created that wasn't a Naval cover.

Azad Hind

India was under the thumb of British colonialism and Two men led the fight for independence. Mahatma Gandhi and Chandra Bose. Gandhi fought with civil disobedience and love for his fellow man. Even the British. Bose fought a different war, with guns. He raised an army of Indian men captured by the Germans in WWII and talked the Germans into printing some stamps to be used as India territory was liberated from the British. The country was called Azad Hind or "Free India." You are probably familiar with these stamps



Many times when talking to a fellow collector I am told, "That stamp wasn't forged, its too cheap!" Unfortunately, no stamp is too cheap for the able forger. When I was young the Azad Hind was given away an incentive to buy approvals and they were forged extensively and sold cheaply to the packet sellers. Its pretty easy to spot the difference if you know what to look for.



Genine

Use a loop. If you see the picture is made up of dots, its a forgery



Forgery

A Genuine "Entire"

This one has the entire contents of the cover. I can read what's going on their lives and learn a bit about the times, and probably have a picture of the writer. This cover was sent at the very beginning of the inflation. Only three hundred marks to mail it. The US was prosperous and the mark was weak. The dollar spent well in Germany.





Frank L. Butts
Ingram Bldg
City.



SUMMERALL CHAPTER No. 10

Box 1447, Riverside Station

MIAMI 35, FLORIDA

The DAV

Has been sending us letters for many years asking us for our support for disabled veterans who have sacrificed for our freedom. This one was sent to Mr. Frank Butts who was an attorney in Miami Florida in the 40s. Mr. Butts makes me happy. Not only did I acquire the nice DAV cover (a very collectible item), but also the little felt poppies that people used to proudly wear to show that they supported our troops. Inside the envelope is the original letter that harangued the recipient for money to help these veterans.

Alas, this isn't a complete DAV mailing and I'm glad its not. What's missing? Its the return envelope that Mr. Butts used to send his contribution!



Mailgram

Wow!

History, mailgram, First Day cover. All in one letter? Who could ask for anything more?



THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED

western union

Mailgram

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645

POSTAGE PAID BY SENDER

YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AN EXCITING FIRST IN AMERICAN HISTORY, AS A RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST MAILGRAM MESSAGE SENT VIA SATELLITE, YOU SHARE IN THE OPENING OF A NEW FRONTIER IN COMMUNICATIONS,

YOUR MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY FROM NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES VIA WESTAR I, AMERICA'S FIRST DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE. IT TRAVELED 47,000 MILES AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT,

YOUR MAILGRAM SPACE PACKAGE ALSO CONTAINS THE FIRST OFFICIAL LAUNCH COVER EVER ISSUED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE,

THIS SPACE PACKAGE MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF LETTER MAIL. IT IS THE FIRST OF THE POSTAL PROGRESS SERIES, COMMEMORATING ADVANCES IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MAIL SERVICE,

E.T. KLASSEN
POSTMASTER GENERAL
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

R.W. MCFALL, CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT
WESTERN UNION CORPORATION

One Hundred thousand marks

for a letter! Can you imagine that?

In the early part of the twentieth century, shortly after World War I, Germany fell into an inflationary period that made the German Mark almost worthless. This cover is from the early part of the inflation! Soon it became possible to purchase a small meal of bread and gravy for more money than you could fit in your pocket. New money and stamps were printed on a weekly basis to keep up. Paychecks had to be cashed and spent the day and hour they were recieved.



This period lasted little more than six months but was devastating for many business and families. Ultimately, Hitler rode to power on this breif era by promising it would never happen again, then plunged the world into another war.

Bicycle Mail

On May 11, 1894 a strike by rail workers of the Pullman company over reduced wages caused a cessation of mail delivery between Fresno and San Francisco. Arthur C. Banta, the owner of a bicycle shop in Fresno, suggested the mail could be delivered north by a series of 8 bicycle riders in a relay that would take only 18 hours. The post office agreed and they began the delivery of mail on July 7 continuing to the 18th when the strike ended and rail service resumed. The cover below is from a 1935 re-enactment of that mail delivery. It is signed by Mr Banta who created the route 41 years before.

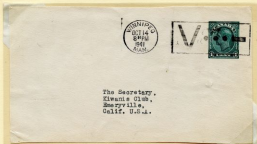


The stamp on this cover is from the second die that had been defaced with crossed white lines. Note the first "c" in San Francisco is a bit thick at the bottom. It is a letter that was corrected from the original die that used an "s" in that spot.

To see a rather good collection of these stamps and covers go to:
<http://www.cfajola.com/fresno/fresno.pdf>

"V" is for Victory!

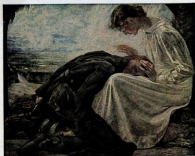
"V" is for Victory and the "- · - · -" that follows is morse code for "V". This postmark was used in Winnipeg during WWII to show Canadian support for the troops and their invasion of North Africa and the Brits being bombed in London and the war in general. The postmark was brought about in January, 1941 and was used in post offices all over Canada until the end of the war.



Its not a particularly rare postmark but I haven't seen a lot of them.
Kinda neat!

Nazi War Art

I've never had a soft spot in my heart for Hitler nor his nazi party. He, much to the chagrin of those who were force to fight it, started a war. In this picture I see a soldier, away from the fight, tired, exhausted and in the lap and tender care of a loving woman. A needed respite from that war. The name of the painting is "Heimkehr" (Homecoming), the artist is Hans Buhler and it seems fitting for the warriors of any nation.



There is a small problem with this painting but if you ignore the background the art is acceptable. The painting was done in Germany in 1936 by a man who was an ardent supporter of the nazi party and its ideas. The woman in the painting represents Germany who will nurse the soldier back to physical and mental health to continue the subjection of the rest of Europe to its own ends.

Hiroshima-Shi (Hiroshima City) Cover

The day was August 8, 1945. At 8:15 Tadamu Yamaguchi had just concluded business in Hiroshima and was walking to a shipyard and then back home. He looked up into the sky and saw an airplane flying overhead. It had just dropped something that was apparently light, as a parachute opened to slow it down. Then there was a light, as bright as "the lightning of a huge magnesium flare". He jumped into a ditch, and though he was injured, he survived the atomic bomb. He was less than 2 miles from ground zero.

Three years and three days later on August 9, 1948, Takeshi Sasaki sent the letter below from the bombed city, Hiroshima to a relative in Honolulu, Hawaii. Sasaki was a common name in Hiroshima but I could find nothing about Mr. Takeshi with a Google search. John Walter found the information on Mr. Rikimatsu. Rikimatsu Sasaki was born in 1896 and died in 1966 as an American citizen.



After a restless night Tadamu Yamaguchi found a train still running that would return him to the company that sent him to Hiroshima. He arrived the next morning and was treated at a local hospital, then went to see his family. The following morning, August 9th, he went to work. He was trying to explain the situation in Hiroshima but his bosses didn't believe him (one bomb couldn't do that). While he was explaining he saw a flash of light outside the window of his place of business in Nagasaki. He also survived his second atomic explosion.

For a more complete version of this story, go to:
<https://www.history.com/news/the-man-who-survived-two-atomic-bombs>

Two Monarchs

Two stamps on piece, related because they are British stamps showing monarchs. However, one of the monarchs is gone and the other received her crown. The Victorian stamp is Scott #113 from the last set issued before the death of the queen right after the turn of the century in 1901. She was followed by Edward VII, Scott #132, who is probably remembered best for a style of clothing and returning "life" to the monarchy. Its not often you see these two monarchs together.



The stamps are rather common though a bit expensive. I once asked a British stamp dealer what accounted for the cost of these stamps. "Its how the British people collect", was his response. A stamp with a well centered cancel that is readable and gives information of where it was mailed and when it was mailed they look for. Stamps like that are more difficult to find. This pair of stamps mailed a letter on March 24, 1903 from Bath, a small town somewhat west of London famous for the very old Roman baths. Nice stamps! Good cancels.

Bullseye, Bullseye

Wow! Two bullseyes all in one stamp. This stamp has been in my collection for a number of years but was lost among my collection of loose stamps I didn't know what to do with. Each time I saw it my immediate impression was it's a two-color print. Then I looked a little closer and saw that its a cancel not a color. Next thought was, "I have to do something with this stamp.", and this is what, at last, I decided on. It will be one of my many "Favorite Things"!



It draws my attention because it is a target or "bullseye" cancel and is placed directly in the center of the stamp, exactly covering the portrait of George Washington. It is a bullseye cancel struck right in the bullseye of the stamp. And, for just a bit more stamp excitement, it is pretty darn well centered with four good margins.

Nice.

Ratty Old Postcards

Here are two postcards that no self-respecting collector would claim, in public, to be his own. However, I love them anyway. These cards were mailed in 1931 and 1935 and are both (at over 70 years) older than I am. I like them because they look older than me. Old things should look old. Chunks have fallen from the brown, acid-eaten postcard with a picture of a church and the beautiful and decorative house has two bends where it has been folded and the silver of the photo has started to show. Still, these cards look great to me because they are old and ratty!



The post card above looks like it was made from a woodcut and has the feel of modern Germany in the Twenties. It was postmarked on 14 December, 1935.



The card to the left is a photocard, popular in the early part of the twentieth century. The picture was taken on Bismarckstrasse in Osnabrück, Germany. The detail is marvelous and its probably a contact print (negative is same size as print). This one was mailed on July 3, 1931.

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Dear Mr. Milliken:

By the time you receive this, our audience will have made a start
---ing new viewing habits for the coming season.



HONORING
Lajos Kossuth
CHAMPION of LIBERTY
1802-1894

Mr. John E. Milliken
1735 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

KPS/ml

P.S. This First Day of Issue stamp is another in the "Champion of Liberty" series. It honors Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894), the Hungarian patriot and statesman who worked ceaselessly for the separation of Hungary from Austria. In 1851 he was a guest of the United States Government.

CAMEL MAIL



November 4, 1935 saw an improbable procession of three camels plodding south along the old road on the crest of what is now Interstate 5 near Lebec, traveling from Fort Tejon to Los Angeles. Over a distance of 80 miles through the Santa Clarita Valley and the Cahuenga Pass (although driven part way by truck, it was rumored), they carried some 7000 pieces of mail to Los Angeles.

The "Camel Express" was organized by the Philatelic Club to commemorate a brief experiment in the use of these animals as part of the Butterfield Overland Mail Line in the 1860's. The officiating Postmasters at each end of the run were both members of the Club. Special labels with the legend "Revival of the Camel Express" were printed by the Club and were available in orange, lilac or green. They were "tied" to the covers by a Camel Express November 4, 1935 date stamp next to the two-cent US postage stamp cancelled Los Angeles Nov. 5. Proceeds from the cover sales of 50 cents or 3/\$1.00 went to the Club and to the newly reorganized Philatelic Library.

An unusual First Day Cover

First day covers have been collectibles for many years and are reasonably common. This one is a little different. It was sent to the Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank in Chicago to begin with. It was sent by Roy North, the Third Assistant Postmaster General who's duties at the time included selecting the designs to be used on postage stamps.



The stamp was issued on June 22, 1943. It shows the Polish flag, the flag of the first country to be overrun by the German army at the onset of World War II. It was also the first stamp of the "Overrun Countries" series. And the autograph on the side of the envelope? It is from the Polish (government in exile) Ambassador to America, Jan Ciechanowski.

THE DEPUTY TROOP ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1943.

Mr. John F. Gleason,
Chairman of the Board,
First National Bank,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Gleason:

The stamp on this letter, honoring the courage and valor of the Polish people, is the first in a series of postage stamps to be issued paying tribute to the overrun and occupied countries of Europe.

This is the first time that a postage stamp has been issued by this Government bearing a foreign flag as the central subject. To the right of the flag appears the 'Phoenix,' a mythological bird, signifying renewal of life; to the left is a figure of a kneeling woman with shackles falling from outstretched arms, symbolizing liberation.

It is a pleasure for me to send this first day cover to you.

Respectfully,



For Release on Receipt,
Tuesday, June 28, 1943.

INFORMATION SERVICE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, the Ambassador of Poland, Mr. Jan Ciechanowski, and the Deputy Third Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. Roy M. North, took part today in ceremonies in Chicago and Washington on the occasion of the first sales of the new five-cent stamp in honor of Poland. The stamp is the first of a series paying tribute to the overrun and occupied countries for their resistance to Nazi aggression.

In Chicago, Mr. Walker made a brief address (the text of which has been made public) in tribute to Poland, in connection with the sale of the first sheet of the new stamps there. Philatelic societies conducted ceremonies in the main lobby of the post office. Demand for the new stamps was so heavy that Chicago was forced to order a second million when the first million was near exhaustion.

At the Washington Post Office, Ambassador Ciechanowski received the first sheet of the Poland stamp sold at that office, presented to him by Mr. North, whose Bureau is in charge of stamp issues. At the presentation ceremony in the post office, the Ambassador made public the following cable which he had received from Poland's Finance Minister Straszburger, who is also in charge of Poland's postal and telegraph services:

"As Minister acting for Polish posts and telegraph, request you kindly to transmit to United States postal authorities the deep-felt thanks of the Polish Government for their friendly gesture in issuing a Polish postal stamp. The Polish people welcome this manifestation as yet another evidence of America's great friendliness to Poland and also as an expression of the inextinguishable desire to build the future world on the basis of justice and equality which form the framework of American ideals."

Mr. North's statement on presenting the sheet of stamps to the Ambassador follows:

"Mr. Ambassador:

"Of all the countries in Europe that have been subjected to the wrath of the Axis aggressors, none has suffered more grievously than your native land which, at great odds, has given unstintingly of its life blood in resisting the forces whose objective is to destroy and enslave.

"The special issue of postage stamps which we are placing on sale today will carry a message of encouragement and hope from America to your countrymen that the shackles of oppression are about to be broken and from the ashes of destruction Poland will arise again to take its place among the Nations of the World.

"Your Excellency, I count it one of the highest honors that has come to me to have the privilege of presenting to you the first sheet of Poland stamps offered for sale through the Washington, D. C. post office on this date."

The reply of the Ambassador of Poland follows:

"It is most gratifying for the Polish Government and the Polish Nation that Poland has been chosen as first in the series of these countries in honor of which the Postmaster General of the United States is issuing special stamps.

"The Polish people will interpret this gesture, so friendly to my country, as a recognition that Poland was the first to take up arms against German aggression and imperialism, and in defense of the principles which the United Nations have inscribed upon their banner.

"It will serve as a precious encouragement to the people of Poland in their indomitable resistance to the invader.

"On behalf of the Polish Government and the Polish Nation, and in my own behalf, I wish to express the warmest gratitude for this new proof of American understanding and friendship."
