

The Bay Phil

A publication of Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.,
an organization of philatelists assisting in the growth and maintenance of the
Western Philatelic Library, 3004 Spring Street, Redwood City, CA
Mailing Address: FWPL, P.O. Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2219

July/August 2015

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VOLUNTEER WORK AT LIBRARY!

Due to popular demand one Saturday each month will be set aside for volunteers to visit the library and put in a few hours helping to work through our many tasks and piles of literature. The third Saturday of each month will be Volunteer Day. Here are the dates for 2015.

July 21, 2015
August 15, 2015
September 19, 2015
October 17, 2015
November 21, 2015
December 19, 2015
January 16, 2016

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Deceased

Robert D. Rawlins (CA)
Robert Lyman

Moved

New
Louis Ebner
Bob Forster
Tom Hirschinger

Book Returns

The WPL exists as a resource for everyone. The lending policy is very lenient for anyone borrowing books or other items. Most members appreciate this service and use it well, including returning the items in a timely manner. However, a few overextend their borrowing time and stretch it to the limit. It makes more work and problems to the few volunteers that we have who need to chase down delinquent borrowers and call them for returns that are sometimes **years** old. Please check any of your borrowed books and return them so others might benefit from them. The alternative is one we don't like: the limiting of borrowers who are chronic extenders, by denying their borrowing privilege.

In This Issue

Members - Deceased, Moved or New	1
Editor's Corner	2
Thank You for Your Contributions	3
Book Review	4
Tear Sheets	5-8
Stamp Collecting	9
Membership Application	11



Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.
APS Chapter 836

Preserving Philatelic History for the Future



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	Tuesday	Noon to 5 PM
	Friday	10AM to 5PM
	Saturday	Noon to 5PM
Web Site	www.fwpl.org	
Tear Sheet listing at Leonard Hartmann's Internet Web Site	www.pbbooks.com	

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings are open to all FWPL members. Meetings begin at 1PM the fourth Wednesday of each month at the WPL at 3004 Spring Street. Feel free to drop in and see what is going on. You might call President Stuart Leven, (408) 978-0193 beforehand to confirm details of location, time and date.

Mission Statement

The Western Philatelic Library exists to enhance the preservation and dissemination of philatelic knowledge by acquiring, organizing, interpreting and distributing information resources in a globally networked community.

WPL Vision Statement

We will be known as setting the standard for providing a responsive, convenient gateway to philatelic knowledge.

Our Commitments:

- To build and conserve a world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;
- To support, extend and enrich the pursuit of knowledge and enjoyment through stamp collecting;
- To provide access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;
- To promote knowledge through public educational events and displays; and
- To collaborate and cooperate with other libraries.

Editor's Corner

I hope that many of you attend and enjoyed WESTPEX 2016. A lot of work goes into it and it shows. WESTPEX has gained the reputation of being one of the best stamp shows in the USA, and considering how many there are, it is quite an accomplishment.

Two issues back (March/April) there was a blank page as I ran out of articles. One reader has sent me an article which begins in this issue of page 9 and concludes in the next issue. The first part is fairly basic, but if you have a friend who doesn't collect stamps it might be a good start for him/her.

The article called 'Stamp Collecting' by Bernie Henschke starts on page 9. I am hopeful that it might encourage other members to submit articles. Anything that has to do with philately is most welcome. Let's go future authors!

Richard M. Hanchett, Editor

editorofbayphil@cox.net

THE BAY PHIL

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

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Martin H. Feibusch (CA) philatelic awards and medals
Jim Jefferson (CA) various philatelic publications and auction catalogues
Leo Martyn (CA) stamps and covers and various auction catalogues
Greg Mirsky (CA) various philatelic publications and auction catalogues

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Thanks to a generous donation of \$5,000.00 from **WESTPEX** and donations from John Bloor, Tom Hirschinger, and Ken Lewetzow, the total funds received to date for the Building Fund is now **\$17,576.00**. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Building Fund, and to your ongoing support of the Western Philatelic Library.

THANK YOU!!

CONGRATULATIONS WESTPEX 2015 EXHIBITORS

We welcome Bob Foster to our membership. Bob was awarded a Life Membership to the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library given by the San Francisco Philatelic Society-Margaret Munda Memorial Award of Merit as well as a WESTPEX Gold Metal at WESTPEX 15, for his exhibit "British Columbia and Vancouver Island Postal History to 1871", as well as the British North America Philatelic Society-Best BNA Exhibit award.

We congratulate member, Michael Mahler on receiving a WESTPEX Gold Metal and also the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence: Pre 1900 awards for his exhibit "California's Gold rush Revenues, Aristocrats of American Fiscal Philately: A Fiscal History". Michael was also awarded WESPEX Grand Award-Single Frame Exhibit, WESTPEX gold metal, American Revenue Association-Best Single Frame Revenue Exhibit award for his exhibit "U.S. Civil War Era \$200 & 500 Revenues: Their Purpose Illustrated".

We also congratulate member, Joe Ross on being awarded a WESTPEX Vermeil Metal for his exhibit "Afghanistan Revenue Stamps 1871-1970s".

CONGRATULATION Bob, Michael and Joe!!

Book Review: *Norgeskatalogen Postal II* reviewed by Alan Warren

Norgeskatalogen Postal II by the Catalog Committee of the Oslo Filatelistklubb (OFK). 320 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, perfect bound, card covers, mostly Norwegian language with some English, Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo, Norway, 2014. ISBN 978-82-997618-9-5, 350 Nkr (approx. \$50 plus shipping), OFK, Frydenlundgate 14, 0169 Oslo, Norway.

In 2011 The Oslo Philatelist Club published a supplemental volume with its annual specialized catalog of Norway, focusing on postal history. This approach is very similar to the longstanding practice of Sweden's *Facit Postal* catalog that is published every few years in addition to the annual *Facit Special*.

The introductory section is bilingual in Norwegian and English. However, subsequent discussions on the different types of cancellations appear in Norwegian only. The introduction defines the different types of cancels, describes quality considerations, indicates the problem of



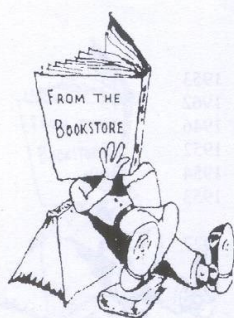
forgeries, provides a 3-language word list (Norwegian, English, German) and offers a list of literature references.

Then follow the major types of postmarks in more or less chronological order: prestamp marks 1845-1855, early single ring marks, 3-ring numeral cancels, manuscript cancellations, the double-ring marks of 1860-1931, 3-ring marks used after 1883, Swiss marks (largely bridge type) from 1889 to 1930, the Swiss marks of 1930-1936, and the crown and posthorn types. For the earlier marks, tables show the value according to the stamp issues on which they occur. The Swiss markings sections have been greatly expanded since the 2011 edition of the catalog, based on data furnished by collectors.

The Post i Butikk or letter post offices are listed from 2001 to date with location and postal codes, and with opening and, in many cases, closing dates. The letter listing (brevregister) for the period 1855-1909 by stamp issue and destination has been updated, as well as the tables of postal rates that now go up to 2014.

One important chapter that is missing in this edition is the backward listing of place name cancels that appeared in the 2011 edition. This enables one to identify a postmark if only the last few letters of the town or city is on the stamp. The catalog committee decided against running that listing again for space considerations. That means one has to have both editions in order to be up to date and also have the capability of searching for these incomplete marks. Perhaps OFK could place this list on its web site if it is not going to make it available in future editions.

Another omission in the 2014 edition is the listing of labels or etiquettes like the registered mail labels. This is bothersome for those who collect these items but cannot be assured they will be in every edition of *NK Postal*. Despite these obstacles the postal history catalog is needed for understanding how the postage stamps were used. As many collectors and exhibitors have moved on from traditional philately to postal history, this catalog is increasingly important.



Tear Sheet List

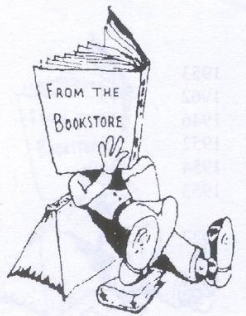
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Through the generosity of Leonard Hartmann's tear sheets are listed at his website: www.pbbooks.com. Thousands more are available at the library if you are able to visit 2004 Spring St. You might even be able to meet Matt Hadley, the person that has put them all together.

ARGENTINA					
14958	Argentina. Consular Stamps of the Republic.	Akerman, G.C.	6pp ill	1981	3.00
14983	Argentina. Patent Service Stamps of the Republic.	Akerman, G.C.	5pp ill	1981	2.50
BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA					
14984	Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. Revenue Stamped Paper.	Erler, M.	1pp ill	1983	.50
DENMARK					
14985	Composition Drawings of the Most Interesting Plate Varieties 1875-1885 Bi-colors.		9pp ill	1950	4.50
DUBAI					
14986	Delirium at Dubai.	Gledhill, A.C.	1pp ill	1959	.50
ECUADOR					
14959	Ecuador. The Police "Eye" Markings.	Jimenez, N.	2pp ill	1988	1.00
EGYPT					
14960	Focus on Forgeries. Egypt. 1872 Regular Issue. Scott 19-22n. (First common forgery.)	Tyler, V.E.	1pp ill	1998	.50
14961	Focus on Forgeries. Egypt. 1872 Regular Issue. Scott 19-22n. (Second common forgery.)	Tyler, V.E.	1pp ill	1998	.50
ETHIOPIA					
14987	Ethiopia. Provisionals After Take Over of Eritrea.	Erler, M.	1pp ill	1985	.50
EUROPE					
14962	Stamps Reflect Irredentism in Inter War Europe.	Seiko, J.	8pp ill	1997	4.00
FINLAND					
14988	Finnish Varieties. (10 Penni, 1911-1915 issue)	Brunstrom, C.	1pp ill	1986	.50
14963	Focus on Forgeries. North Ingemanland. Scott 8-14.	Tyler, V.E.	7pp ill	1991-99	3.50
FINLAND - AUNUS					
14989	Finnish Rarity. The Prevalence of Forgery of the Aunus Top Values Makes Expertization a Must.	Brunstrom, C.	1pp ill	1986	.50
FRANCE					
14990	Those "French Offices" Stamps.	Rich, S.G.	2pp	1951	1.00
GERMANY					
14993	An Introduction to German Shipmarks.	Jaffee, P.	7pp ill	1956	3.50
14964	Coins of German Diversity.	Gaither, T.	2pp ill	1981	1.00
14965	Focus on Forgeries. Germany. 1900 1 Mark Berlin Post Office Definitive. Scott 62.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp ill	1996	.50
14992	Rise & Fall of 3 rd Reich on Stamps.	Cohen, W.A.	1pp ill	1952	.50
GERMANY - THURN AND TAXIS					
14991	Postilion to Prince—The Saga of Thurn & Taxis.	Krivenko, S.	4pp	1968	2.00
GUATEMALA					
14966	Keys to the 1886 Railway Bond Issue of Guatemala.	Chernoff, N.	9pp ill	1992	4.50
HUNGARY					
14967	Hungary Behind the Iron Curtain.	Challen, L.	5pp	1954	2.50
ICELAND					
14994	Numerical Cancellations of Iceland.		2pp	1939	1.00
ISRAEL					
14968	The Indomitable Golda. (Golda Meir)	Gilman, H.	2pp ill	1981	1.00
ITALY					
14995	Italian Post Office in Jerusalem Stamps.	Lana, R.E.	2pp ill	1991	1.00
JAPAN					
17505	Anglo-French Postal Collaboration in Yokohama, 1 Dec. 1866.	Metzelaar, W.	5pp ill	1976	2.50
14996	Baron Hisoka Maeshima Statue. Scott 376.		4pp ill	1976	2.00

14997	Bird Conservation Series #4 Robin. Scott 1202.		3pp	ill	1976	1.50
14998	Busy Readers. Ninomiya Sontoku & Yoshida Shoin. Scott 681.		1pp	ill	1976	.50
14999	Frank Jukes Peplow Proposals for the Publication of a Journal for Specialist In the Stamps of Japan-3 Peplow Collections. & Etched issues. The Final Peplow Auction.	Ruggiero, M.	6pp		1976	3.00
17507	Fuji From Various Viewpoints.	Spaulding, R.M.	2pp	ill	1965	1.00
17503	Japanese Freaks.	Fisher, G.A.	1pp	ill	1965	.50
17500	"Metal Engraving" Stamps.		1pp		1976	.50
17501	Pricing of Scott 492 & 526.		1pp		1976	.50
17502	Regional Souvenirs.		2pp	ill	1976	1.00
14969	Reversion of Okinawa. Scott 1114.		2pp	ill	1972	1.00
17504	Showa Forged F.D.C.	Fisher, G.A.	4pp	ill	1976	2.00
17506	The Mon & Sen Dragon Stamps. A Study of Plate Wear.	Metzelaar, W.	5pp		1907	2.50
17508	The Ward Cover: Price @11,765.	Spaulding, R.M.	5pp	ill	1967	2.50
KOREA						
17509	Conversations on Foreign Soil.	Kurth, C.M.	1pp	ill	1951	.50
LIBYA						
17510	Libya—Land of the Lady Be Good. Personal Experiences in Libya.	Churchman, D.C.	7pp	ill	1960	3.50
LIECHTENSTEIN						
17511	Five Values Added to "Parish Patron" Series of Liechtenstein on April 25, 1968.		8pp	ill	1968	4.00
LITHUANIA						
17512	Lithuanian Lullaby.	Mulford, M.	1pp	ill	1938	.50
MEXICO						
17513	Centenario de la Independencia Mexicana, 1810-1910.	Bird, S.	3pp	ill	1941	1.50
MONGOLIA						
17514	Who Printed the First Issue of Mongolia?	Negus, J.	1pp		1959	.50
NICARAGUA						
14970	Nicaraguan Revolutionary Issues.		1pp	ill	1992	.50
17515	The Mosquito Reservation.		3pp	ill	1992	1.50
PHILIPPINES						
17516	Legaspi & Sicutuna Drank Blood in Old Philippine Oath of Friendship.		1pp	ill	1950	.50
17517	2 Cent Philippine Pictorial. (Mt. Mayon) Scott 354	Chanco, M.P.	1pp		1942	.50
RUSSIA						
14976	Minsk, Russia. German Occupation Stamps. (WW I)	Erlor, M.	1pp	ill	1982	.50
RUSSIA - SIBERIA						
14971	Stamps of Eastern Siberia. (Nikolaevsk Issue) Scott 51-72.		1pp		1922	.50
RYUKYUS						
14974	In Memoriam: Minoru Sera.	Faries, B.	2pp		1965	1.00
14972	Philatelic Week 1972. Scott 228.		2pp	ill	1972	1.00
14973	Ratification of Okinawa Reversion Pact. Scott 227.		2pp	ill	1972	1.00
14975	Ryukyus Handbook. Supplement #3 Errata.	Sera, M.	3pp		1965	1.50
SAAR						
14977	Exhibit by Doris M. Green of Her Collection of Saar in 48 Frames At Royal Philatelic Society London, Nov. 27, 1952.		3pp		1953	1.50
SERBIA						
14955	Focus on Forgeries. Serbia. Coronation Issue of 1904. Scott 79-86.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp	ill	1989	.50
SWITZERLAND						
14979	Raclette No. 9. "Man does Not Live by Cheese Alone". (Crissier Tax Stamps)	Thaler, M.N.	1pp	ill	1980	.50
14978	Two Elusive Swiss Postmarks: Where They Came From & How a Collector Gets Them.		2pp	ill	1968	1.00
TANNA TUVA						
14956	Perforations of the 1936 'Jubilee' Issues of Tanna Tuva.	Negus, J.	1pp		1959	.50
14980	Tanna Tuva Twists & Turns.	Shalimoff, G.	2pp		1996	1.00
THAILAND						
14981	Thailand.	Moloney, D.B.	2pp		1956	1.00
UNITED NATIONS						
14982	The United Nations Soldiers of Peace.	Leroy, B.R.	2pp	ill	1967	1.00
URUGUAY						
14957	Focus on Forgeries. Uruguay. 1882 2 Centavo Regular Issue. Scott 47.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp	ill	1994	.50



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AUSTRALIA

16157 The Scope for Research in Commonwealth. Croyston, G.J. 2pp 1954 1.00

AUSTRALIA – NEW SOUTH WALES

16128 The "Pre-Oval" Postmarks of New South Wales. Bruce, H.B. 7pp ill 1950 3.50

AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA

16129 Victoria: 1850. Purves, J.R. 4pp 1950 2.00

16155 Victoria. The 1 S Stamps of the William Bell Design. (The printings Of 1876-85, 1891 & 1895 reprints & issues of 1901-12) Purves, J.R. 18pp ill 1953 7.00

AUSTRALIA – WESTERN AUSTRALIA

16156 Focus on Forgeries. Western Australia. 1854-88 Swan Stamps, All Values. Scott Design Type A2. Tyler, V.E. 1pp ill 1999 .50

CANADA

16158 British Explorer's Letter Via Overland. (John Palliser 1860 Cover To Ireland) Anderson, N.W. 2pp ill 1954 1.00

16142 Forged Canada 6 QE II & Some Background, by David Sessions. Mahrle, P. 2pp ill 1994-95 1.00

16130 Yukon Airways--Reversed Proof. A Status Report. Sessions, D. 3pp ill 1995 1.50

CEYLON

16159 Ceylon. Bailey, G.P. 2pp 1953 1.00

CHANNEL ISLANDS - JERSEY

16111 Jersey's 1982 Europa Issue Highlights Geological Development. Alexander, N. 2pp ill 1982 1.00

COOK ISLANDS

16117 Cook Islands. Early Date Stamps & Obliterations Used at Raratonga. Burge, A.R. 2pp ill 1963 1.00

16160 "4,800 % Profit—Without a Scrap of Risk?" (1935 Silver Jubilee Issue. King, A. 1pp ill 1986 .50

CYPRUS

16131 Historic Cyprus. Hungerford, T.R. 5pp 1940 2.50

16161 Postmarks of Cyprus. Gisburn, H. G. 1pp ill 1954 .50

FALKLAND ISLANDS

16143 Falkland Islands. The Queen Victoria 1d, 4d, 6d & 1/-Plates of 1878, 1891 & 1895. Andrews, J. 25pp ill 1949-57 8.75

16162 Falklands, Malvinas, U.N. Maybe Given Dispute Between Britain, Argentina. Ball, C.I. 2pp ill 1946 1.00

FIJI

16118 Tables of QE II Colonial Printings. Fiji. Stokes, S. 1pp 1959 .50

GREAT BRITAIN

16149 Book Review: Combination Mail of British Post Offices Abroad—An Introductory Survey, by Geoff Kellow. 1pp ill 1992 .50

16140 Bridges Over Troubled Waters. (Fife, Scotland) Hunter, B. 3pp ill 1997 1.50

16153 Colorful Characters of Tudor England. (Sir Thomas More & Family) Kendall, S. 2pp ill 1986 1.00

16115 Gems From the R.M. Phillips Collection VI. Mulready & Other Early Envelopes. Rigo de Righi, A.G. 2pp ill 1973 1.00

16102 General Anniversary Stamps. Background Notes. Scott 654-656. 4pp ill 1971 2.00

16152 Great Britain—An Interesting Experiment. (Postage paid impressions from a coin-fed machine. 1909-1912) Eltringham, G.V. 2pp ill 1959 1.00

16113 Great Britain-George V Rarities in the Surface Printed Issues. Beaumont, K.M. 6pp 1957 3.00

16114 Great Britain, 1d Red 1841 Plate 1C. Cleaver, C.T. 1pp 1957 .50

16150 How to Identify the 8 1-Penny Queen Victoria Stamps of 1854-57. Alderfer, D. 2pp ill 2006 1.00

16107 Jaubert & the 1855 Fourpenny Carmine. Rigo de Righi, A.G. 4pp ill 1973 2.00

16154 Mainly Abbreviations. (On British Postmarks) Marksman 2pp ill 1986 1.00

16105 Oxford & Cambridge College Stamps 1871-1886. A Descriptive Record of Entires Bearing the Adhesive Stamps. Deal, A.J. 14pp ill 1957 6.00

16103 Printing Processes & British Stamps. 4pp 1972 2.00

16106 Riding Post Haste. Graveson, S. 1pp 1935 .50

16112	Some Modern Problems & Further Problems for the Experts.	Beaumont, K.M.	13pp	1958-59.	5.75
16109	Some Unusual Cancellations 1840-44.	Rigo de Righi, A.G.	3pp ill	1973	1.50
16104	Stamps on Stationery.	Daynes, J.	2pp ill	1973	1.00
16110	The British High Value Stamps of the 20 th Century King Edward VII The One Pound.	Watson, J.	2pp ill	1973	1.00
16108	The Perforation of Postage Stamps—Britain's Pioneer Experiments. Rigo de Righi, A.G.	8pp	ill	1971-72	4.00
16151	The Postage Stamps of Great Britain. Part IV—A Review.	B.R.T.	3pp	1957	1.50
16126	The 1993 24 Penny Machin Postal Forgery. & 24 p Chestnut Postal Forgery.		2pp	1994	1.00
16127	Thoughts on the Maltese Cross.	Rigo de Righi, A.G.	3pp ill	1972	1.50
GREAT BRITAIN – OFFICES IN MOROCCO					
16141	The Stamps of the Morocco Agencies.	Sampson, R.H.	69pp	1957-59	19.75
HONG KONG					
16132	Hong Kong Emergency Use of the 5 Cent Stamp Duty for Postage.	Sayers, W.	1pp ill	1938	.50
INDIA					
16144	India Phantom Philately? (Azad Hind Issue)	Rahnhofer, F.	1pp	1954	.50
16163	Indian F.P.O. in Korea.	Cooper, J.	1pp	1954	.50
16145	Passenger Tax Stamps of Haryana State.	Singh, K.A.	1pp ill	1982	.50
ISLE OF MAN					
16116	Postal Services in the Isle of Man.		1pp	1973	.50
MAURITIUS					
16133	Stamp Booklets of Mauritius.	Wren, G.R.	4pp	1957	2.00
NEPAL					
16146	The First Native Post Offices in Nepal. A Challenge to Specialists.	Vignola, F.	7pp ill	1977	3.50
NEW ZEALAND					
16135	A Hitherto Unrecorded Variety of "Full Face". 2d Plate 1 On Star Watermarked Paper Perf 12 ½.	Myers, D.F.	2pp	1947	1.00
16122	Flaws in the Queen Elizabeth Pane A, Row 7, No. 7.	Collins, R.J.	2pp ill	1963	1.00
16121	King Edward VII Land. The Double Overprint.	Burge, A.R.	2pp ill	1963	1.00
16123	My Favorite Stamp. The 6d 1906 New Zealand Exhibition.	Waddingham, G.E.	2pp ill	1966	1.00
16119	New Zealand Express Mail.	Goodier, V.	2pp ill	1963	1.00
16147	Some Notes on the 1882/1898 Issue of New Zealand.	Russ, C.R.	2pp	1947	1.00
16120	The Fourpenny Orange. Gibbons 120 & 121. & Comments.	Stanley, M. Collins, R.J.	8pp ill	1963	4.00
16134	Twentieth Century New Zealand.	Abromovich, L.	3pp	1954	1.50
NORTH BORNEO					
16136	Focus on Forgeries. North Borneo. ½ Cent Coat of Arms Issue Of 1887. Scott 35.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp ill	1992	.50
PACIFIC ISLANDS					
16139	Focus on Forgeries. Solomon Islands. 1907 Large War Canoe Issue.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp ill	1995	.50
16125	The Romance of Pacific Islands Stamps.	Gibbons, R.	3pp ill	1950	1.50
PAPUA					
16124	The Stamps of Papua.	McRae, H.	4pp	1950	2.00
PAPUA NEW GUINEA					
16137	Papua New Guinea's 1994 Overprints.	Deibler, E.W.	2pp ill	1997	1.00
PENRHYN ISLAND					
16138	Penrhyn Island—The Introduction of Stamps.	'The Pixies'	3pp ill	1957	1.50
RHODESIA					
16101	Travelling Post Office & Railway Cancellations of The Rhodesias.	Nodder, W.	5pp ill	1958	2.50
SIERRA LEONE					
16072	The First African Anglican Bishop.	Norton, H.	1pp	1961	.50
SIKKIM					
16020	Those Sikkim Stamps.	Way, W.D.	1pp ill	1951	.50
TONGA					
16148	Tonga 2d King George 2 & Queen Salote.	Thompson, F.V.	2pp ill	1954	1.00
TONGA - FIJI					
16021	Notes on Tonga & Fiji Stamps.	Threlford, L.	13pp		1958
TRISTAN DA CUNHA					
16073	A Short History.	Haines, H.	1pp	1960	.50
TUVALU					
16022	The New Issues of Tuvalu.		2pp ill	1982	1.00

Stamp Collecting by Bernie Henschke

What is it, how do you do it, is it fun, is it tough, is it expensive, is it educational, does it make friends? Yes, all of the above and more is associated with stamp collecting. I, a collector for 75 years, will try to explain this hobby.

500 years ago, a “mail” route was established in Europe from Mechelen, Belgium through Germany to Innsbruck, Austria with a number of stations in between. For instance, Emperor Maximilian I required the establishment of a postal station in the city of Speyer, Germany. This route used horses and coaches and fees were collected. As time passed, more and more routes as well as message centers were established. Many were private, some belonged to royal houses or religious offices. Various ways were sought to show the fee required and it was often just written on the message or on the envelopes when they started to be used. As message traffic grew exponentially, better and faster ways of handling it were sought.

First, why does this hobby exist at all? Well, during the thousands of years of the world's history, there was always a need to communicate between people, agency's, governments, armies and more. Many early communications were verbal (messenger). Others were carved into stone plates or wooden sticks. It's a complex and varied history and I'm not going further into it here. However, paper finally became available and it was the ideal new way of making a message.

And then it happened! A major change in handling mail was promulgated in Great Britain in 1840. Sir Rowland Hill was key in developing a postal system which required both a means of prepaying and of standardizing fees. In 1834, J. Chalmers (Publisher of the Dundee Chronicle) suggested the development of adhesive stamps to support the new postal system.

On 6 May 1840, the world's first postage stamp was issued by Great Britain, the **1 Penny Black** with a vignette of Queen Victoria. It took a few years for the rest of the world to fully recognize the utility of this new item for their postal systems. The United States issued its first stamps for national usage on 1 July 1847. Germany, which happens to be my collection, followed on 1 November 1849. Germany, at that time, consisted of independent kingdoms, duchies, free cities, etc. Specifically, the Kingdom of Bavaria issued a black 1 Kreuzer. All the other kingdoms, states, duchies and cities soon followed with their own different stamps.

Country after country saw the benefits of having a way of handling mail and the cost thereof by requiring the use of adhesive postage stamps. So why don't you get started right now with collecting? NO, DONT DO THAT until you have given it a lot more thought.

First of all, pick a country. Collecting worldwide will drive you crazy. I don't know an actual figure, but I guess the total of single samples of all different stamps ever issued by all postal systems far exceeds several millions. The country I will later use to give you more insight, lasted just barely over 40 years but issued 3,500 different stamps not counting a special issue estimated to have had 35,000 different stamps. I'll get back to that later.

At this point I want to discuss stamps without talking about any specific postal system or

country. Most countries issue several different types of stamps. A user who does not collect will generally not care as long as the franking value is correct for his use. So let's define the different stamp types.

Definitives - Issued by all countries and used by all mailers. They come singly or in sets of up to 20 or 25 different values with the vignette either identical in all values of the set or different for each value. What basically always is different is the color of the different values. At one time, the UPU (International Postal Union) tried to mandate what color was to be used for a stamp depending on its specific use, i.e. letter, postcard, overseas, etc. That was never fully accepted by most countries. In any case, the Definitive covers the bulk of all stamps, but depending on the country there are several additional types which can also be substantial in their numbers.

Commemoratives - As the name implies, these stamps, singly or in a set, are issued to remember and honor some person or event from the past or in the present. The face value on these stamps is fully valid for postage. All countries like to issue commemoratives and the artwork is generally quite good.

Semi-Postals - These stamps represent a money making scheme by governments and postal systems. When you buy these stamps for postal use, you will pay a surcharge which has no mailing value. Perhaps my statement above is a little too crude. The surcharge is collected to support charities and other causes. The United States has been very reluctant in this area, having issued only one stamp of this type. It was to support Breast Cancer Research. It cost 40 cents and its franking value was the then current letter rate of 33 cents. Most other countries are nowhere near so reluctant and in some cases the surcharge is very high and its actual use questionable. The Third Reich, my area, loved to issue stamps where the surcharge was over 3 times the postal value.

Airmail - For postal systems to be able to quickly identify a posted letter to go by ground (sometimes called "snail") or air mail, another stamp type came into being. Again, most countries have them and the face value is the valid postage. In general, airmail is more expensive than ground mail.

Other stamps and labels - There are many additional stamp types and a variety of labels associated with this hobby. A short list for stamps and labels follows:

Special Delivery Christmas Seals

Postage Due Tax Labels

Official Mail Stock Transfer

Registered Mail Steam Ship Labels

Express Mail Letter Seal Label

Priority Mail Airmail Label

Postal Note et. al.

The labels have no face value. The above are not all that exist, but specially as a starting collector, you would not find these very important. Concentrate on the four main categories.

[Mr. Henschke's article will conclude in the next issue of *Bay Phil* - ed.]

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