

Book Reports

WINTER 2020 Volume 17, Issue 1



STAMPS DELIVER KNOWLEDGE

A Visit to the Collector's Club of Chicago

Greg Alexander

Last summer, while in Chicago to visit friends, I had the good fortune to visit the Collector's Club of Chicago. As this organization is only open to CCC members or by invitation, I had to pull a few strings to get inside. Since the CCC has a philatelic library similar to the Northwest Philatelic Library, I contacted their librarian, Ed Waterous, explained my connection with the NPL, and asked if I might drop by while in town. He graciously invited me over while he was doing some work there.

The CCC is located in the Cabeen House, an 1870s-era four-level Italianate brownstone on N. Dearborn Street in downtown Chicago. The club keeps a low profile, with virtually no signage (I walked right past it at first and had to backtrack). In 1967, the house was bequeathed to the CCC by Richard Cabeen, one of the members who helped found the group in 1928. The CCC did extensive remodeling throughout the house, which is now part of the Washington Square Historic District.



Ed was kind enough to give me a tour of the building. The main floor features a long meeting area (the former dining and living rooms), with vaulted ceilings, etched glass partitions, ornately carved woodwork, and several antique cabinets holding trophies and items Cabeen and his wife collected. A narrow staircase spirals up to the top two levels, which are mostly occupied by the CCC Library.

Also in this issue –

Stumper Answer	4
Book Review	5
New on our Shelves	6
Surplus Books	8

The main library area (and Ed's office) houses many ceiling-high wooden bookshelves and a long table for reading and research. Most of the former bedrooms and living areas are filled with more bookshelves, as library acquisitions expanded over the years. There are also a number of quiet alcoves with chairs for members and visitors to sit and read.



The main room used for monthly meetings.

The CCC Library has put a lot of emphasis on periodicals, perhaps more so than actual books, stocking a wide range of current philatelic journals and magazines, and a vast number of back issues. But it also keeps handbooks, anthologies like the Congress Books, and its own publications. One of the club's primary objectives is to publish and disseminate original philatelic research. In the past two decades the CCC has put out books on everything from WWII censored trans-Atlantic mail to U.S. postage due proofs and specimens.

The basement, which includes a large kitchen, has also become a sprawling storage area for books and literature in the process of being organized. This is where duplicate books are kept and Ed generously allowed me to pick through the stacks for items the NPL could use. Though my luggage space was limited, I managed to find about a dozen titles, including one by Richard Cabeen, "Camp Douglas and the Prisoner of War Letters." These are listed in the "New on our Shelves" section of this issue.



Entry way and staircase to upper levels.

I am very grateful to Ed and the Club for the hospitality shown, and welcome CCC members to visit the Northwest Philatelic Library and the Oregon Stamp Society any time they are in the Portland area.

Greg Alexander is a past NPL director and current newsletter editor and webmaster.



CCC Librarian Ed Waterous in the library's main reading room.



Some of the many bookcases tucked into the corners of the CCC Library.



Portrait of Richard Cabeen, donor of the Cabeen House.



Books being processed in the basement.



Reading area in the upper level.

Stumper Answer

Our last stumper featured two space covers, both from Apollo missions in the late 1960s. The question was, what was wrong with them. The answer for both relates to NASA's two biggest accidents up to that time.

The Apollo 13 moonlanding cover is the easiest to explain. Anyone who saw the Tom Hanks movie "Apollo 13" knows the harrowing story of the explosion and oxygen leak that caused the mission to be aborted halfway to the moon. The moonlanding never took place. However, a number of cacheted covers had already been submitted to the Houston Post Office for cancellation, resulting in the commemoration of an event that never happened.



The Apollo AS 204 flight is a little more complicated. In 1967 NASA was using a different mission numbering protocol. AS (Apollo-Saturn) indicated launches of the Saturn 1B rockets; AS 204 was to be the first manned Apollo mission. But on Jan. 27 a fire started in the command capsule during training, killing astronauts Chaffee, Grissom, and White. In their

honor, NASA redesignated the mission as Apollo 1. The accident set the program back by nearly a year and led to further unmanned missions. Since two Saturn 1B launches had already taken place, the next three were numbered Apollo 4, 5, and 6, all unmanned.

The cover shown actually marks the launch of Apollo 4, even though it bears a cachet of AS 204. Perhaps a number of these covers had already been prepared for the original launch and were used anyway. Or the preparer decided to apply the AS 204 rubber stamp as a memorial. Whatever the case, this is another cover that commemorates an event that never occurred.

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Book Review: Catalog of United States Stamped Envelope Essays and Proofs

Don Overstreet

Many, if not most, of us stamp collectors collect stamps and little else. We choose a country or countries, pick a topical area to focus on. Shopping for an album to arrange our collection or going the traditional route of hand-made pages. These choices are personal and any approach is the right one.

The collector is usually dependent on published catalogs to help identify and value our holdings, and we usually want the most recent and complete information. This becomes very important when the collector is dealing with a highly specialized area such as essays and proofs, whether they are of postage stamps or the designs of postal stationery.



The United Postal Stationery Society had been at the forefront of research and publication of many fine catalogs and handbooks dealing with this important area of philately. Postal stationery has been around just about as long as postage stamps and deserves the kind of dedicated research exemplified by the new (2nd) edition of this text by Dan Undersander. The author is quick to thank the many who have been active in this endeavor over the years and makes the comment that the work isn't finished and hopes that further research will add to what has been done.

But what a marvelous book we have! Beginning in 1853, the United States Post Office authorized the design and production of pre-paid printed or embossed envelopes for sale to the public. The designs for the denominations went through the same process that stamps do, except the embossed envelopes had to be produced from dies that pressed the images into the paper. As was usual, this production was carried out by specialized printers on contract from the federal government.

The catalog details the production of the many designs by various companies, and includes envelopes, letter sheets, postal cards, and some little-known items like patented return envelopes and currency envelopes.



Of particular interest is the description of the chain of ownership of many of these exceedingly rare items, with details of auction sales over many decades. This isn't an area for the faint of heart when it comes to the auctions where these historical treasures come up for sale. With so few dedicated collectors bidding, the prices can be out of reach for all but the most serious. It should come as no surprise that some fine collections were dispersed, and it may be for the best in the long run. Serious collectors are also some of the most dedicated conservators of rare ephemera.

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New on our Shelves

** Asterisks indicate donation of the Collectors Club of Chicago*

CATALOGS

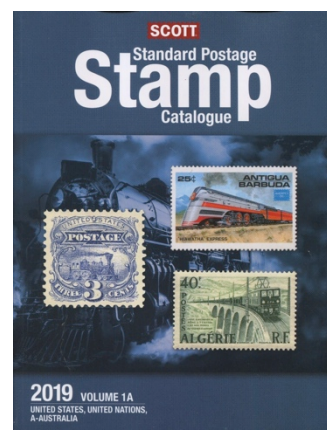
Macdonald, David S., **2019 Brookman United States, United Nations & Canada Stamps & Postal Collectibles**, Bedford, NH, Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, 2019

Marinho, Jose Joaquim Marques, **Amazonia: Nossos Selos 1890-1950**, Brazil, Instituto de Cooperacao Tecnica Intemunicipal, 1980

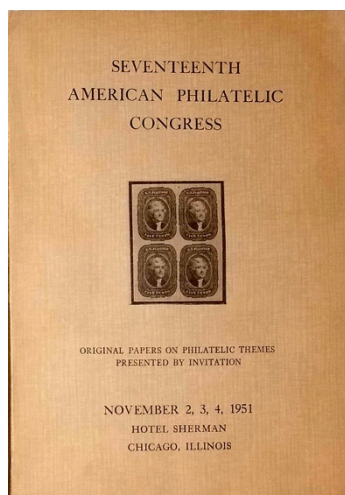
Mizuhara, Meiso, ed., **Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalog**, Tokyo, Japan Philatelic Publications, 1989

Snee, Charles, ed., **Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. 1A-6B, & Specialized**, Sidney, Scott Publishing, 2019

Temprano, Leo, **Estampillas de Colombia; Catalogo Leo Temprano 1965-2003**, Bogota, Colombia, Filatelia Tematica Numismatica, 2003



BOOKS



* American Philatelic Congress, **The Congress Book 1937**, The American Philatelic Congress, 1937

* American Philatelic Congress, **The Congress Book 1951**, The American Philatelic Congress, American Philatelic Congress, 1951.

Barkhausen, L.H., **The Recut Two-cent U.S. Envelope Dies of the Series of 1904**, State College, PA, American Philatelic Society, 1950

* Barnes, William J., & Earl S. Merriman, **The London 1945 United Nations Slogan Cancellation**, Overland, Kansas, Collectors Club of Kansas City, 1979

* Cabeen, Richard McP., **Camp Douglas and its Prisoner of War Letters**, Chicago, American Philatelic Congress, 1951

Chung, Andrew, **Paper Varieties to the 1973-76 Low Value Definitives of Canada**, Hamilton, Ont., 1979

Crow, Carl, **America in Stamps**, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1940

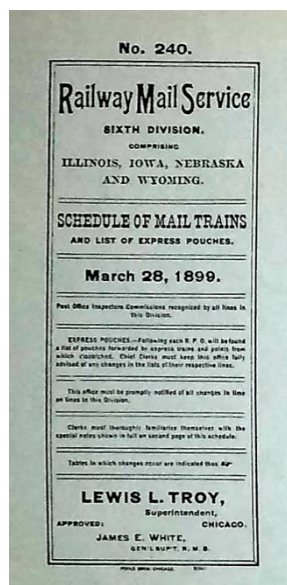
Geyfman, Joseph, **Local Stamps (Provisionals) Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, USSR 1918-22, 1931**, 2019 edition, Philadelphia, Joseph Geyfman, 2018

Goerner, Fred, **The Search for Amelia Earhart**, Garden City, NY, Doubleday & Company, 1966

* Helbock, Richard W., **Combat Infantry Mail: A Catalog of Postmarks used by World War II U.S. Infantry Division APOS**, Lake Oswego, OR, La Posta Pub., 1991

* Lowe, Robson, **The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, 1788-1952, Vol. IV: The Empire in Australasia**. London, Robson Lowe, 1962

Mackay, James A., **The World Encyclopedia of Stamps & Stamp Collecting**, 2006 Ed., London, Lorenz Books, 2005



Marler, George C., **Booklets of the Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925**, Montreal, British North American Philatelic Society, 1970

Morginstin, Sid, **The Postal Stationary of Israel**, Beachwood, OH, Educational Fund of the Society of Israel Philatelists, 1998

Poole, Bertram W. H., **Postage Stamps of New Brunswick**, Beverly, Mass, Severn-Jewett Co., 192-

* Porter, Barry L., **Porter's Handbook of American Railroad Mail, Baggage and Express Stamps**, Hendersonville, TN, B. L. Porter, 1991

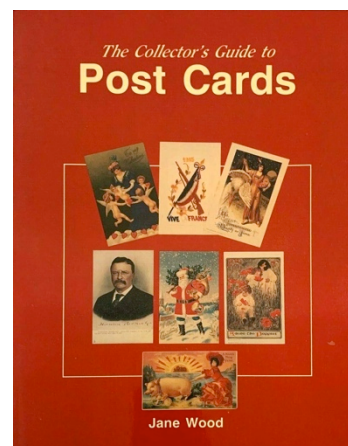
* **1899 Schedule of Mail Trains and List of Express Pouches (Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming)**, Oak Park, IL, Illinois Postal History Society, 1983

Souers, P. Clark, **Forgeries of Common Stamps after World War I, Eastern Front, Balkans, Caucasus**, Version 2, P. Clark Souers, 2019

* Steinbock, Gunther & Gunther Decke, **The Berlin Postal Rapid Mail Delivery Service, the Berlin Pneumatic Mail Rapid Delivery Service, the Berlin Pneumatic Mail Service, 1948-1963**, Hameln, Germany, G. Steinbock, 1977

* Teil, I., **Michel Stempel-Handbuch**, Munchen, Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH.

Wood, Jane, **The Collector's Guide to Post Cards**, Gas City, IN, L. W. Publications, 1984

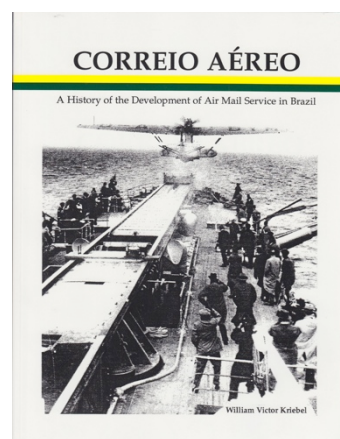


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Surplus Books Listed on Website

On the NPL website, we recently posted an updated list of surplus books that we have for sale. Look for the link to “Duplicate Books.” Here are a few of the newer additions to the duplicate shelves:

- *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II* by Wilfrid Broderick
- *Out-Foxing the Fakers* by Jean-Francois Brun
- *Wells Fargo in Arizona Territory* by John & Lillian Fireman
- *Rare and Expensive Postcards* by John Kaduck
- *Angels to Zeppelins: Guide to Persons, Objects, Topics on US Stamps* by Donald Lehnus
- *Intercontinental Airmails, Vol. 1 & 2* by Edward Proud
- *Balloon Post of the Siege of Paris* by Louis Chaintrier
- *Correio Aereo: History of Air Mail Service in Brazil* by William Kriebel
- *Rocket Mail Flights of the World to 1986* by Max Kronstein
- *1996/7 Catalogues of Errors on US Postage Stamps* by Stephen Datz
- *2015 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*



We consider offers and give discounts on multiple purchases. Drop by the library office in the OSS basement and see what else we have of interest! All proceeds from the sale of these books support the purchase of new acquisitions.

In Appreciation

To the individuals and groups who made donations in 2019 of literature and other considerations to NPL, we thank you for your generosity. Rest assured we will make good use of these resources for our fellow philatelists and collectors. *THANK YOU all for your support!*

Northwest Philatelic Library, Inc.

President – *Orlie Trier*; Secretary – *Don Overstreet*; Treasurer – *Jim Correy*; Directors: *Darlene Lengacher, Isaac Oelgart, and Wayne Weatherl*; Webmaster / Interim Editor: *Greg Alexander*

Contact: P.O. Box 6375, Portland, OR 97228-6375
(503) 867-4764 nwpl@qwestoffice.net

On the web at:
www.nwpl.org



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