

# Book Reports

SUMMER 2019 Volume 16, Issue 1



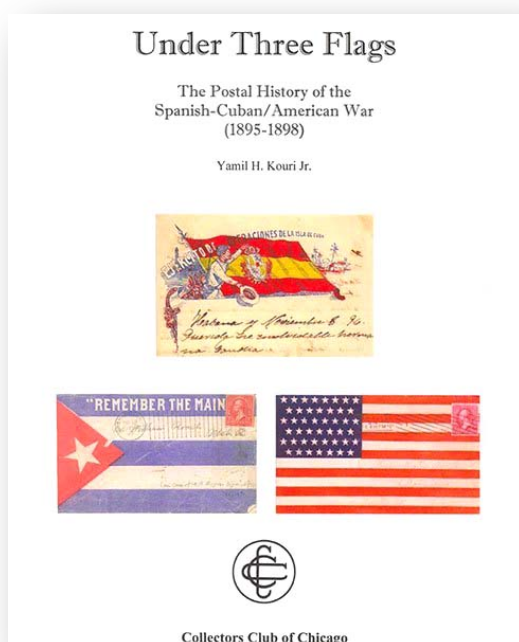
## STAMPS DELIVER KNOWLEDGE

### Book Review: Under Three Flags

Don Overstreet

*Under Three Flags - The Postal History of the Spanish-Cuban/American War (1895-1898)*, by Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., is a thoroughly researched and very well presented work of philately that seems to have wanted only the right person to complete the task. The author has published a number of works dealing with the postal history of Spanish military and colonial areas, and has served organizations including the American Philatelic Society, Real Academia Hispanica de Filatelia, The Royal Philatelic Society, and others. He is a board member of the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History. This book is published by The Collectors Club of Chicago.

When The Northwest Philatelic Library received Dr. Kouri's new book, I was immediately impressed by the depth of the material, which draws on his personal collection as well as other collections from individuals who are clearly dedicated to offering as complete a selection of covers and postal cards as possible. The index offers *hundreds* of headings, and it's hard to imagine that any area of the conflicts in Cuba was overlooked, although the author does state that there are places where the material is so scarce that it was not possible to show examples. The quality of the images is first rate, going into great detail about cancellations, post offices, stamps and usages.



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While *Under Three Flags* is not primarily a history of what we call the Spanish-American War, it does offer a thorough overview of the conflict reflected in the mail that was generated. This history is perhaps not familiar to most Americans. We tend to focus on the big events

such as the loss of the *U.S.S. Maine*, Teddy Roosevelt's famous Rough Riders, and the related conflict in the Philippines. Seen through the eyes of Spanish citizens, the war was a traumatizing and divisive struggle that claimed thousands of lives and tore a greatly esteemed part of Spain away from its motherland.

One of the more interesting aspects of the history is the fact that there was an active insurrection in Cuba before the conflict with the United States began, which mirrored a



similar push for self-governance in the Philippines. While Cuba was allowed to become a republic after a relatively short period under U.S. military control, the conflict between the independence movement in the Philippines and the United States wasn't over for years following what most Americans would think was the end of the hostilities.

The government of Spain devoted considerable resources to suppressing the independence movements, while the revolutionaries carried on a campaign of gathering support for their side through representatives in the States. Support from persons within the U.S., both citizens and agents of the insurrection, took the form of smuggled arms and other supplies while the Spanish navy tried to stop the flow of contraband. Large parts of the island were under the control of the revolutionaries for long periods.

It is a sad fact that many decades between the mid-19th Century and the establishment of the Castro government were marked by war within Cuba. Whether from the Spanish putting down revolts, the occupation by the United States during and after the Spanish-American War, and the unrest of many regimes afterwards, the people of this small island nation suffered greatly. Dr. Kouri's account of the distribution of the mail through all of these conflicts is nothing short of exhaustive, with chapters dealing with all aspects and detailed commentary alongside examples of covers.

This tremendous work should stand as definitive for the postal history of Cuba during military campaigns. It can easily be used to great advantage in the identification of covers in the possession of collectors. While the author would certainly be grateful for additional material to come to light, the present work is so complete that it should be a long time before a second edition would be contemplated.

The Northwest Philatelic Library is very pleased to add this fine reference to our collection.

*Don Overstreet is a longtime board member of the Northwest Philatelic Library. "Under Three Flags" will be among the literature exhibits at this year's APS Stamp Show, Aug. 1-4 in Omaha.*

## Summer Stumper

July 20 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moon landing and NASA's Apollo program is getting a lot of attention. There were a number of missions leading up to the momentous event and six more that followed Apollo 11.

Space cover collectors are dusting off their collection and reminiscing about where they were when the lunar lander set down in Tranquility Base. Here are a couple from the Apollo program ... but there's something odd about both of them. Test your knowledge of space history and see if you can figure out what's wrong with this picture.

Submit your answers by email to the *Book Reports* editor at [nwpl@qwestoffice.net](mailto:nwpl@qwestoffice.net) or by mail to NPL Book Reports, P.O. Box 6375, Portland, OR 97228. We will reveal the answer in our next issue.

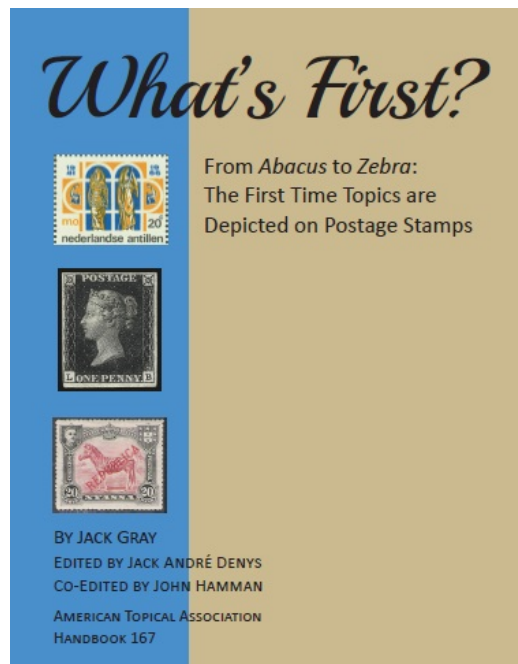
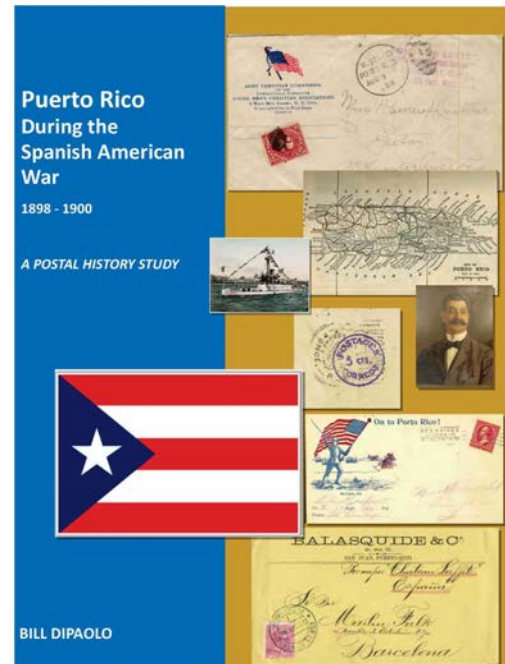




## Featured Acquisitions

For the first time in well over 50 years a comprehensive work dealing with Puerto Rican postal history has been published. The new book, titled *Puerto Rico During the Spanish American War, 1898-1900, A Postal History Study*, was authored by Bill DiPaolo and edited by Len McMaster. The publisher is the United States Possessions Philatelic Society (USPPS).

The full color, spiral bound volume has been divided into four parts. The first deals with the history of the Puerto Rican campaign and includes capsule summaries of each naval ship, transport and military unit involved on the island. The second traces the development of the U.S. postal system during the military administration. A detailed review of the local posts and provisionals of Puerto Rico makes up the third part with close attention to the famous Ponce and Coamo stamps. For the first time, all known postal markings of the military stations are listed and illustrated in Part IV along with valuations and Earliest Known Uses of the station postmarks. The 150-page volume is available for purchase through USPPS and is now in the Library's collection for checkout.



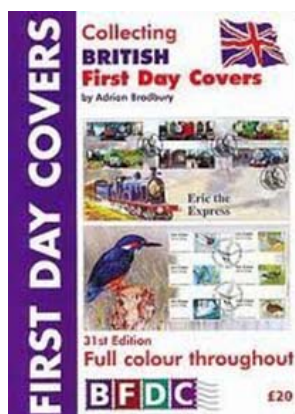
The American Topical Association recently published *What's First?* a 335-page book that pictures and describes the first stamp for more than 800 topics. From abacus to zebra, it is colorfully illustrated with stamp images and descriptions of the first time a topic appeared on a stamp. Spanning two centuries, the book explores firsts for popular topics, such as cats and railways/trains, to more esoteric topics, such as handshakes and dominoes. It is fully indexed by topic and country/Scott number.

Written by Canadian playwright and journalist Jack Gray, the book will be appealing to topical collectors, as well as those with other collecting interests, and also to exhibitors. It makes an excellent addition to any philatelic library. *What's First?* is available in book and DVD format from the ATA and can be checked out at the Northwest Philatelic Library.

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## New on our Shelves

### CATALOGS



Barefoot, J., & A. Hall, **British Commonwealth Revenues**, Mory and Son, York, UK 1980

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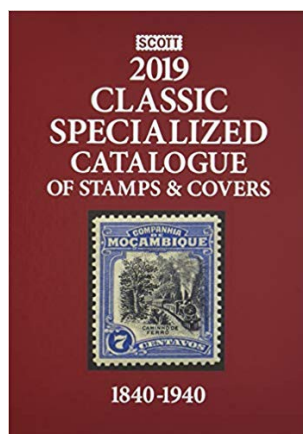
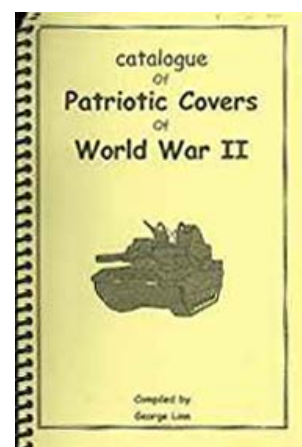
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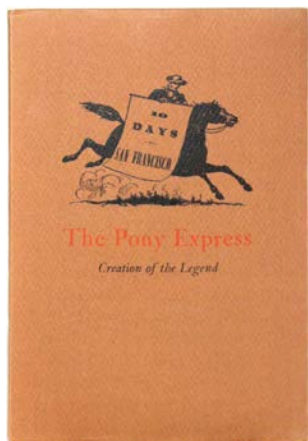
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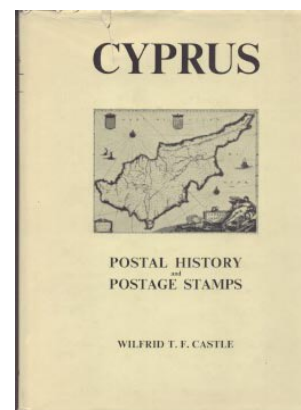
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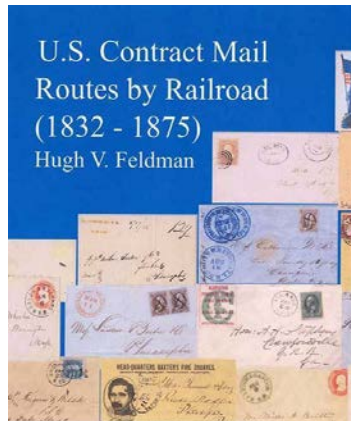


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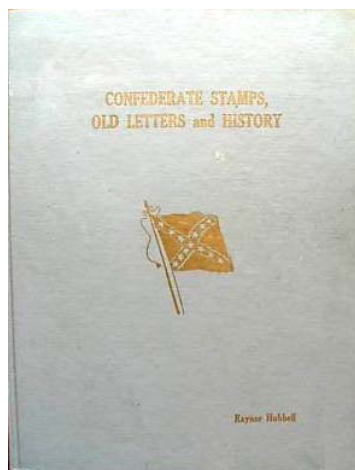
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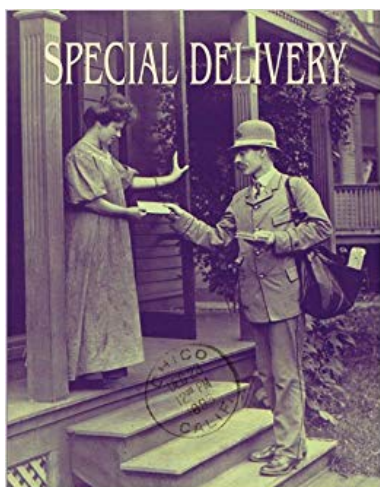


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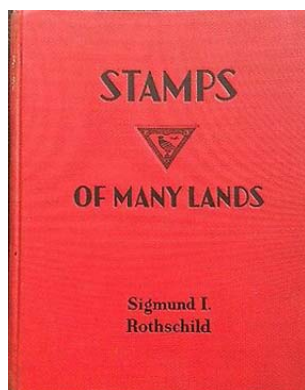
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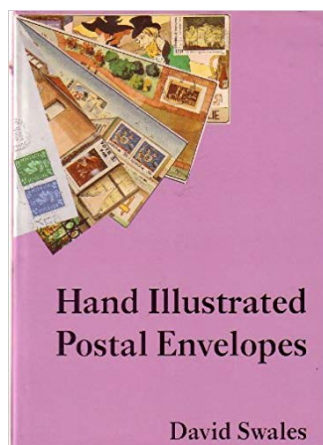


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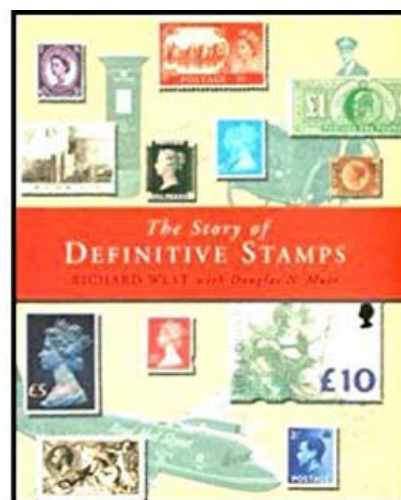
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## Periodical

**The Standard Philatelist, Vol. 1 – 6, 1896 – 1902**



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## Library Notes

Orlie Trier, NPL President

### PIPEX Report

PIPEX 2019 was a great success for the Northwest Philatelic Library. Our table was in the midst of the dealers, so we had more lookers, as collectors stopped by our booth. We sold about 35 items, including a copy of the *Traverse Papers*. I want to thank my fellow board members for their assistance. The winner of our Tom Current Award (given to the public's favorite British Commonwealth Exhibit) was Robert Forster for his exhibit Nova Scotia Colonial Postal History. Congratulations Robert.



### Donations

Just a quick reminder that we are a 501(c)(3) and accept donations. If we do not have your donated literature on our shelves we add it. We are more selective in adding periodicals due to shelf space. Stamps that we are unable to sell go to our youth stamp program. Nothing is wasted. Thanks for considering donating.

### Surplus Books

Take a look on our website for the list of duplicate books that we have for sale. We recently received a large literature donation and added about 70 new titles to the list. Many are U.S. related. We have a complete set of Billig's, multiple copies of the *Stamp Specialist*, and a copy of *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*. We consider offers and give discounts on multiple purchases. You will find them listed on our website under "Duplicate Books."

## In Appreciation

To the individuals who have made recent donations of literature and other considerations to NPL, we thank you for your generosity. We want to assure you that we will make good use of these resources for our fellow philatelist 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](mailto:nwpl@qwestoffice.net)

On the web at:  
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