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Book Reports

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NPL Research

THE LESSER-KNOWN SPANISH GOYA'S

Charles Neyhart

On June 15, 1930, Spain issued a 32-stamp series commemorating the life and work of the Spanish artist Francisco Goya. The stamps were issued during "Goya Week" [technically the Death Centenary of Goya] at the Spain-American Exposition held in Seville. Seventeen stamps of the issue were postal commemoratives [Scott 386-402], 13 airmail [C18-30], one airmail special delivery [CE1], and one special delivery [E7]. Despite the breadth of the series, collectors and commentators focused on three stamps, the "Goya Nudes" [Scott 397-99], which reproduced his circa 1797 painting *La Maja Desnuda*, a portrait of Maria Theresa, the Duchess of Alba.

It is ironic that in 1815 Goya was called before the Inquisition to declare whether the painting was by his hand; yet, here is the Spanish government in 1930 commemorating one of his best known works. Nonetheless, the stamps did cause trouble upon their 1930 issuance. *Time* magazine, for example, reported on the moral outrage expressed around the world, including this snippet: "An indecent picture is bad enough ... but a postage stamp, whose back side must be licked! ... Millions of innocent children collect stamps."



While the "Nudes" have attracted the attention, other stamps in the series do hold artistic interest.

I do not purposefully collect Spain, but I do have the 1930 Goya airmail set, principally because it fits nicely into a sidelight collection of attractive and sometimes fascinating early airmail issues. The 13 Goya airmail stamps are an eye-catching issue, with each oversize stamp printed in a different vibrant bi-color scheme. The stamps have an unused catalogue value of less than \$20. There are 11 denominations ranging from 4-centimos to 10-pesetas.

I didn't pay much attention to the designs on the stamps at first, other than to note that they did not depict aircraft and they looked rather peculiar, to say the least. The designs, as it turns out, were selected from two major series of prints Goya executed between 1797 and 1824 – *Los Caprichos* and the *Disparates* [aka *Proverbios*]. Upon closer inspection, the images in these prints are dark and disturbing. Spain, at the time of their rendering, was a citadel of social prejudice and repression, encumbered by a large noble class, a powerful clergy, and darkened by superstition. Corruption and poverty were pronounced; the rationalism of Enlightenment, which was taking hold in France, was still a ways off.

Both series of prints focused on the social backwardness and frailty of ordinary human life. Goya often used subhuman characters to represent those on the “margins of reason” and who were frequently confronted by ‘monsters,’ mysterious creatures of the dark preying on humans. With increasing cynicism, Goya was particularly critical of stubborn ignorance and human stupidity. Goya employed fantasy and satire to mask the subverted, darker meaning of his work and also to shield himself from the authorities.

Each of the four designs used in the airmail series conveys a dreamlike image of humans suspended in flight. Goya, I suspect, found these forceful in demonstrating the conflict between rational thought and feudal superstitions. Here weightlessness is coupled with hallucinations of an imbalanced imagination of the socially-backward common man.



Folly on the Wing
Dispartes [Plate 5]
Scarlet & Claret
Spain C20



Bon Voyage
Los Caprichos [No. 64]
Green & Blue green
Spain C22



One Way to Fly
Dispartes [Plate 13]
Black & Claret
Spain C27



They Have Flown
Los Caprichos [No. 61]
Green blue & Gray blue
Spain C29

Despite his attempts to artistically veil the intent of his work from Spanish authorities, Goya felt it necessary to withdraw his working plates from circulation only after a few copies were produced. These were not published again until 35 years after his death.

The airmail stamps were designed and engraved locally by Sanchez Toda and recessed printed in Great Britain by Waterlow & Sons. The stamp design is large, measuring 27 by 37 mm printed in a vertical or horizontal orientation. The image has a wide border comprising text, side ornaments, and value tablets. The title of the Goya print is superimposed on the lower right portion of the design. The stamps are printed in different pairs of colors and finished with gauge 12 perforations, although imperforate sets do exist. Although

unconfirmed, I suspect the selection of these particular images for the 1930 airmail stamp designs was based, not on Goya's intended messages, but simply on the suggestion of "flight" that each image represents.

COMPUTER ACCESS

Thanks to a directed donation by **Rex "Jim" Bates** of Sequim, Washington and a long-time friend of NPL, we were able to purchase a laptop computer for use by Library patrons to access the NPL online catalog. This computer will be located upstairs in the side room during Library hours. It is intended to allow those who have difficulty managing the stairs to search the Library's catalog and to place direct requests for materials. NPL plans to eventually add a second computer which would be placed in the main book room of the Library for purposes of conducting internet research.

Not only would this configuration allow users direct access to identifying and securing desired reading materials, it would free up the Library staff to individually consult with patrons about what Library literature is available and useful to building and improving their collections and in stimulating their interest in philatelic research. That kind of hands-on assistance is sometimes challenging because staff can be busy with multiple, competing demands. We believe increased access to our information base will benefit everyone involved.

IN APPRECIATION

To those generous individuals who made recent significant donations of literature and financial consideration to NPL.

Jim Bates

Bob Dressler

Ralph Nafziger

James A. Riley

Doug Sponseller

Tom Current

Don Kennedy

Charles Neyhart

Karl Simon

Janice Weinstock

Michael Dixon

Judith & Glenn Mason

Alan Patera

Conrad Stieber

We THANK You FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY NORTHWEST CHAPTER

We are pleased to announce that the **American Air Mail Society Northwest Chapter** [AAMSNWC] has joined NPL as an affiliate member. We anticipate that both organizations will benefit from this affiliation. NPL had earlier designated ‘Air Mail’ a specialty area of its Collection because of collector interest and the breadth of material. As such, NPL resources will be directed to this part of the Collection. NPL currently has over 100 aerophilatelic titles in various formats: catalogues, exhibits, monographs, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and Videos.

AAMSNWC, a chapter of the national American Air Mail Society [AAMS], was formed in 1983 at the APS spring show held in Portland. The intent was to bring together air mail collectors from the Pacific Northwest region, to encourage participation in regional shows, and to enhance and support the AAMS in the Pacific Northwest. AAMSNWC has sponsored air mail programs and activities at various PIPEX shows, and was instrumental in bringing the national AAMS conventions to PIPEX shows in Seattle [1991] and Clackamas [1999], and the 2007 APS show in Portland.

The American Air Mail Society was formed in 1923 as the Aero Philatelic Society of America; the name was officially changed to its current name in 1926. The study of *air mail*, *airmail* or *aerophilately*, which was a brand new field of collecting in those early days, encompasses studying the development of air mail routes, services, postage rates, cancellations, labels and auxiliary markings. Collectors, even then, saw a great interest and wealth of material being issued and they were eager to be a part of it.

AAMS publications have long been an important part of the Society. The AAMS publishes the monthly *Air Post Journal* and the quarterly *Jack Knight Air Log*. They also publish the widely-recognized *American Air Mail Catalogue*, currently in its 6th edition. Our new affiliate, AAMSNWC publishes the quarterly *Air Mail Northwest*, now beginning its 28th volume. [NPL Board member Janice Weinstock serves as its Editor.] These publications are current and available in the Library.

The anticipated plan underlying the affiliation between NPL and AAMSNWC is mutually beneficial. NPL will provide a dedicated Air Mail section within the Collection and offer members of AAMSNWC access privileges to this material as part of its ‘public benefit’ mandate. AAMSNWC, in turn, will make available a running bibliography that will guide future additions to this part of the Collection and will also undertake projects relating to improving the Air Mail section.

Our thanks go to Len Lukens, current Treasurer of AAMSNWC, who attended early meetings with NPL on this matter and to Janice Weinstock who was a continuing presence in getting this accomplished.

Continued ...

Membership in AAMSNWC requires membership in AAMS. Annual dues are \$28; an application form is available on the AAMS website: www.americanairmailsociety.org. Annual dues in AAMSNWC are \$8. An application form is available in the Library.

NEW ADDITIONS

The following titles have been added, through donation and purchase, to the NPL Collection during the period January 1 through March 31, 2010.

- Admiral Issue Colour Identification [Reiche]
- American Air Mail Catalogue, 3rd ed., Vols. I [1947] and II [1950]
- Canada, The Admiral Stamps of 1911, Part 2 [Reiche]
- A Description of U.S. Postage Stamps and Postal Cards, July 1, 1847 to December 31, 1927 [USPOD]
- Ephemera Philatelica: A Stamp Address Book [Senkus]
- The Error World [Garfield]
- FIPEX, Fifth Annual International Philatelic Exhibition
- First Supplement to the Catalogue of Tobacco Tax Paid Stamps of Canada and Newfoundland/A Study of the Liquor Bottle Seals of Canada Brandom/Vilter]
- Germany Specialized Catalog, Part 2 [Michel, in English]
- Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook, 2008 [Amick]
- Manual of Philatelic Judging, 6th ed. [APS]
- Map Selection: Germany [in REF MAPS]
- Masonic Stamps of the World, ATA Handbook No. 29 [Beltmann]
- Oregon National Air Mail Week Covers, May 15-21, 1938 [Nichol]
- Oregon Postal History Primer: Selected Readings
- Pan America's Pacific Pioneers: A Pictorial History of Pan Am's Pacific First Flights, 1925-1946, The Rest of the Story [Krupnick]
- Postal Laws and Regulations, 1932 and 1940 [USPOD]
- Postal Stationery of the Possessions and Administrative Areas of the United States of America, 3rd ed. [Kreiger]
- Reproductions from Famous Collections: The Art of J.A.C. Harrison [The British Library]
- South East Asia Revenues [Barefoot]
- Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps, Including Taxpaid Revenues, 10th [Springer]
- A Story Folio of Flag Cancellations [Billings]
- Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Vol. 2 [Winter]
- United States Supplementary Mail [Piskiewiez]
- Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 2009 [Harris]

Auction Catalogs

- American Bank Note Company Archives, Part IV [2009]
- Chrysler Collection, Part II [1967]
- Louise Boyd Dale & Alfred Lichtenstein Collection of Western Express Covers [1997]
- Joseph Hackney Collection of New Zealand and Ceylon [2009]
- Fritz Kircher Collections: Antici Stati Italiani [2009]; Altschweiz, Osterreich und Deutsch Post in China [2010]; Österreich [2010]; Schweiz, Parts 1 & 2 [2009 & 2010]
- George Kramer Collection of "Across the Continent" Maritime Usages [2003]

Continued ...

'Krinsky' Collection of Trans-Oceanic Flight Covers, 1919-1939 [1975]
 Lafayette Collection of the U.S. 1969 Issue [2003]
 Joseph Landry Collection of Ireland Stamps and Covers [2010]
 Edwin Mayer Collection of Pre-Stamp and Stampless Covers of the United States [1967]
 Donald Polon Collection of Russia and Russian Territories [1975]
 Floyd Risvold Collection: American Expansion and the Journey West, 3 vols. [2010]
 Barry Schwartz Collection of Kentucky Postal History [2009]
 J.R. Seacrest Collection of Western, Territorial and Confederate Covers [1997]
 Alan Whitman Collection of Outstanding United States Stamps, Part III [2009]
 Wollenhaupt Collection of Togo: Anglo-French Occupation, 1914-15 [2010]
 Walske Collection of Forgeries [2010]

Historical Materials

Chefoo, Local Post Office Rules [American Presbyterian Mission]
 Les Timbres de Etats-Unis D' Amerique [Tiffany]
 Report of the Second Philatelic Congress of Great Britain [Slade]
 Stamp Collectors Annual, 1913 [Armstrong]

Periodicals

American Philatelist [December 1892]
 The Collector [January 1887]
 Collector's Review [April 1887]
 Metropolitan Philatelist [March 1899]
 Philatelic Journal of America [July 1893]
 Philatelic Record [January 1889]
 Post Office [January 1896]
 Quaker City Philatelist [January 1889]
 Stamp Collector's Record [December 1864, reprint]
 Weekly Philatelic Era [March 1898]

Periodicals [New to the NPL Collection]

Precancel Bee
 Precancel Optimist

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION - MAY 25, 2010

Secretary: *Orlie Trier*. Director #3: *Grant Williams*. Director #4: *Greg Alexander*.

Northwest Philatelic Library, Inc.

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Contact: P.O. Box 6375, Portland, OR 97228-6375
 (503) 284-6770 nwpl@qwestoffice.net www.nwpl.org

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