

Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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Volume 71, No. 3 August, 2023



The simple corner card on the cover pictured above gives a potential thief no reason to get excited about the cover's contents. The sender, Vincent Gurdji was a stamp dealer and founding member of the American Philatelic Society and, it would seem, he had a very interesting life. Ardy Callender shares more, starting on page 6.



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August 2023

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Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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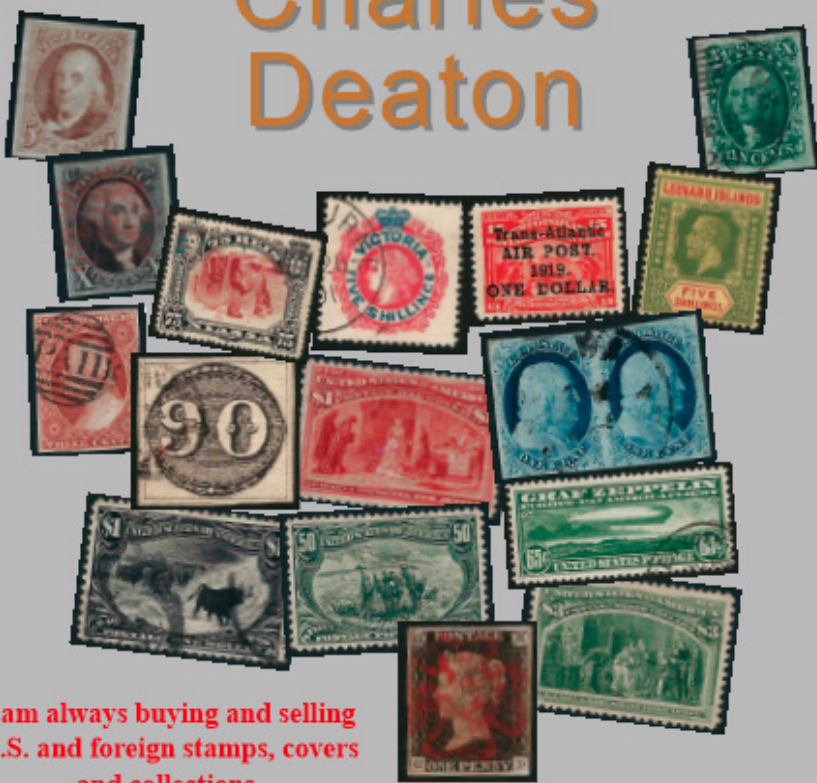


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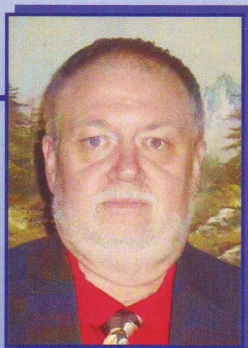
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President's Message

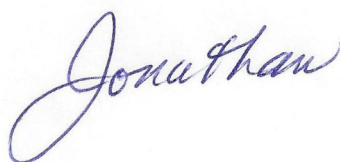
Jonathan Topper

I am pleased to report that Mr. **Alyn Lunt** has agreed to set up our new TPA website. We should have a draft website ready for review by the Board of Directors by the middle of September. Alyn has done a number of websites for other philatelic organizations and is an enthusiastic collector of both stamps and postal history. It will be good to have a Webmaster who knows the internet and our hobby as well. We hope to have more details in our next TPA Journal.

There recently has been a lot of 'chatter' about the proposal by **Charles Epting** of HR Harmer Auctions to start a Federation of State Postal History Societies. There was some concern that it would be in direct competition for Texas Postal History Collectors, and thus impact our TPA *Journal* and membership numbers. However, it was announced by HR Harmer that Mr. Epting is leaving the company at the end of August. Most likely he is bringing his ideas with him, but we do not know yet where he will end up, or if he will continue his pursuit of his new integrated philatelic societies idea.

I recently discovered one of the best movies about stamp collecting that nobody knows about. It is a Spanish language film produced in Argentina in the year 2000. Entitled *Nueve Reinas* (Nine Queens), with captions in English, it is about a counterfeit sheet of 'rare' stamps. I will not give away the plot, but suffice it to say it deals with deception, greed, double-crossing, family disputes, bounced checks and motorcycle thieves. And just enough philately to keep a good stamp collector interested. It is available on Youtube.com. Give it a try!

Stamp Shows in Texas for 2024: I am pleased to report that all the regular TSDA stamp bourses, the Greater Houston Stamp Show, and the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo all have completed their final dates for a full set of shows for the year 2024. Looking forward to a good year in Texas for philatelic events! ★



Editor's Notes

Robert Conley

Greetings! After a sweltering summer in the Southern states, one hopes this slightly late August issue of your *Journal*, gives you something more pleasant to think about.

This issue has been to Jennie Craig and is slimmer than many. Yet despite that, we have a nice variety of shorter Texan stories for you. The reason for the lean issue is that the one and only, **Vince King** is having a little vacation from his usual Seen at Auction column.

Ardy Callender is an unstoppable writer, and he features big in this issue. For a rare change, Ardy provides us with an article NOT about New York City. And its a very nice one, too. Flip the page to see that one. Later on, you'll see that Ardy has written a book, which does look mighty impressive on your editor's bookshelf. Maybe it will look great in your library too.

Young **Greg Cain** went to the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland, and oh boy, did he have a gas? Read about that from page 10. Ever-present (thank goodness!) **Lyle Boardman** follows with yet another accolade for the aforementioned Mr. King.

Then, from page 14, we let the priceless **John Germann** into the action, including the first Pioneer Postmasters episode since May, 2022. Our highly-respected president, **Jonathan Topper** can almost always be counted on for a nice short one, and he does it again, on pages 19 and 20.

To wrap it all up, Greg returns with Chapters in Action. There is no Membership Report this time around – Greg says nothing has changed since the last issue.

Your humble editor is going to his first show since 2017 (you might recall his 2019 attempt to get to GHSS was a dismal failure due to some very bad Houston storms). Anyway, the traditionally huge, hustling, hyperactive and happening affair known as Newmexpex, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will host your editor's very first public appearance since the disaster that is Covid-19. A few weeks later, he'll be attending Chicagopex. Hopefully a few Texans will show up at one or the other and say "Howdy."

Until next time, stay safe, stay well. ★



VINCENT GURDJI, AN EARLY TEXAS STAMP DEALER

BY ARDY CALLENDER

Postal history destined for uncommon 19th century foreign destinations is one of my favorite collecting interests. Seemingly, a good portion of this type of correspondence consists of mail sent to “on duty” military personnel, whaling vessels, missionaries and stamp dealers. Stamp dealer correspondence frequently contains a bonus: often including a mix of older issues or superfluous adhesives.

In his excellent five-part series entitled *Postal History of U.S. Stamp Collecting, 1862-1899*¹, Steven Belasco reports the earliest recorded Texas stamp dealer postal history piece (postal card not figured) was sent July 8, 1881, from B. M. Hammond, a collector/dealer in Dallas. Belasco also mentions another early dealer from Galveston: V. Gurdji. Pictured in that article (see Figure 1) was a November 6, 1887 cover sent by Gurdji at the 5-cent UPU rate to Rodeby, Sweden. Although the ad in the upper left corner did not specify postage stamps or collecting, Gurdji’s address is hand stamped in purple as - V. Gurdji,/ Galveston Texas,/ U.S.A.



FIGURE 1.

Vincent Gurdji, seen in Figure 2 was born in Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey on August 3, 1861. An excellent autobiographic article chronicling his life and stamp collecting was published in the *American Philatelist* in 1926². According to the article, his collecting interests began at Galatrasaray High School, the oldest high school in Turkey, established in 1481. Gurdji believed he was “the only one of the 800 pupils that collected stamps” at his school. From his uncle, the British Consulate-General at the time, he was able to obtain large quantities of Persian stamps as well as examples from most European and Far Eastern countries.

His marketing and trading of stamps began during his college days, as he sent large lots of local Turkish and Persian adhesives to a dealer in England. Unfortunately, not possessing a catalog or knowledge of stamp values, he received common, low-valued English material in exchange. After the decision to immigrate to America, a stop by that same dealer's shop in England opened his eyes, as the dealer offered only two pounds for all the stamps that had been sent to him over the years.

At age 21, Vincent Gurdji departed Liverpool, April 29, 1882, on the Cunard Line steamer, *Servia*³, for New York City. According to Gurdji, he "immediately went out to the wilds of Texas to join a cousin who was building a railroad from a place called Rosenberg [sic] Junction."⁴ Apparently, his cousin was Joseph Telfener, a wealthy Italian financier of the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway Company. The Company was building a rail line between Rosenberg and Brownsville. Telfener brought over 1,200 workers from Italy to construct the railway which came to be known locally as the "Macaroni Line." As financial negotiations were not complete, Gurdji learned of delays in construction. Instead of waiting, he decided to purchase a large tract of land south of Houston, near Clear Creek, to establish a strawberry farm. He hired many of the idle Italian construction workers. Unfortunately, many of the workmen became ill, and insects ruined the crops. Gurdji decided to relocate and try something else.

In September, 1882, he accepted a position with Knoop, Frericks & Co., a worldwide cotton brokerage firm in Galveston. Gurdji remained with the firm for ten years. While in Galveston, he renewed his interests in collecting, establishing contacts with local commercial firms, accumulating large

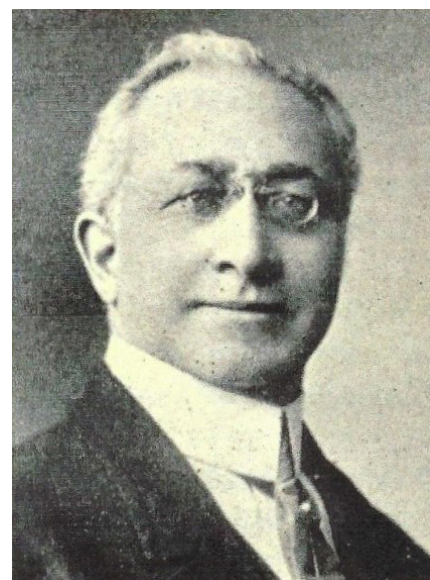


FIGURE 2.

FINE COLLECTION OF STAMPS.

One of the finest collections of postage stamps in the state, or probably in the United States, was until yesterday the property of Alderman William Reppen of this city. The collection was the result of ten years' attention by Mr. Reppen and contained over 8000 varieties of stamps, representing every country on the globe, and the representatives of some fifty countries being complete, embracing every variety of stamp issued. A few days ago Mr. Reppen received a letter from Mr. V. Gurdji, formerly of this city, now living in Chicago, saying that he thought he could find a purchaser for Mr. Reppen's collection, if the latter would sell. Mr. Reppen replied that he would sell if the price suited him, and at Mr. Gurdji's request sent on his collection of stamps for inspection. Yesterday there came a telegram from Mr. Gurdji saying that he had been offered \$900 for the collection. The amount suited Alderman Reppen, who at once wired Mr. Gurdji to close the sale.

FIGURE 3.

numbers of U.S. and Confederate stamps. He took a trip to Paris in 1887, where he exchanged a large quantity of U.S. material with local dealers for European stamps. Trips around Texas and Mexico during these years yielded additional material for sale and trade. A few of his dealings made the local Galveston newspapers (Figure 3).

During his days in Galveston he became more involved with organized philately. Gurdji learned from a friend in New York, a new stamp society was being formed; the American Philatelic Society (APS). He quickly posted his application and became a charter member number 71 of the APS. He attended his first convention in St. Louis in 1892 and subsequently went to many others (see Figure 4). Later, he would become even more active in the Society, writing articles regarding various new issues and serving as the Treasurer and on other committees.



AN HISTORIC A. P. S. PHOTOGRAPH. During the San Francisco convention, Elmo E. McKinstry of Oakland thoughtfully presented to the editor a printed reproduction of the convention photograph taken at the Ninth American Philatelic Association (now Society) convention at Niagara Falls, N. Y., on Aug. 22, 1894. We know that Hiram E. Deats (10) is still with us. Are there any others remaining on active A. P. S. rolls?

In the photograph, listed by number are:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. John K. Tiffany | 11. Mrs. E. Doeblin | 21. H. F. Ketcheson | 31. C. W. Kissinger |
| 2. W. S. Weatherston | 12. G. W. Rode | 22. C. E. Severn | 32. Louis M. Lang |
| 3. G. D. Mekeel | 13. F. H. Burt | 23. Luther W. Mott | 33. V. Gurdji |
| 4. Alvah Davison | 14. Mrs. A. Krassa | 24. F. Michael | 34. Miss Doeblin |
| 5. Mrs. Alvah Davison | 15. Miss Krassa | 25. T. Q. Pardee | 35. C. P. Krauth |
| 6. Miss Chandler | 16. N. E. Carter | 26. E. C. Althen | 36. A. Krassa |
| 7. C. H. Mekeel | 17. W. C. Stone | 27. A. L. Becker | 37. N. W. Chandler |
| 8. Mrs. C. H. Mekeel | 18. E. Y. Parker | 28. Joe F. Beard | 38. Mrs. N. W. Chandler |
| 9. E. Doeblin | 19. P. J. Kurtz | 29. G. T. Loomis | |
| 10. H. E. Deats | 20. P. M. Wolsieffer | 30. A. E. Fritz | |

FIGURE 4.

The Galveston Stamp Case.

St. Louis, Mo., March 5.—A Spaniard from Madrid was arrested here to-day on the charge of selling counterfeit Spanish stamps.

He gives the name Rosendo Fernandez and is detained at the request of a Galveston, Tex., stamp dealer, V. Gurdji.

Galveston officials have been notified and a man is now on his way to Missouri with a requisition for the prisoner. Fernandez does not speak English, but through an interpreter denied that he was a swindler, saying that if the stamps he sold were counterfeit, he too had been swindled.

FIGURE 5.

Gurdji soon became a recognized authority on foreign stamps and their forgeries. In fact, he was very prominent in capturing a Spanish stamp trader dealing in bogus Spanish material (see Figure 5). Sadly the suspect had fled Galveston, but at the request of Gurdji, was captured and detained in St. Louis, awaiting Galveston authorities. A short article regarding a suit brought about by the government and its charges appeared in the April, 1892 *American Philatelist*⁵.

After a visit to the Chicago World's Fair in late 1893, Gurdji decided to move to Chicago in 1894. He continued dealing in stamps but, as the cold climate didn't agree with him, he soon left for the warmth of the Caribbean in 1895. Although the move to the tropics was purportedly for health reasons, he stated: "I finally made a trip in 1895 to the West Indies presumably for my health but as I look back I imagine it was more to hunt for stamps. ⁶"

In 1896, Gurdji returned to the United States with addresses in New York City (1896), Rochester, New York (1898), Nantucket, Massachusetts (1900), Mt. Vernon, New York (1901) and New York City again in 1903 (his addresses were tracked using APS yearbooks). In 1899, he had an address on Nassau Street in New York City, quite possibly a stamp dealing business. The 1900 Federal Census listed his business as "rug merchant" while the 1910 census listed him as a "silk importer." His obituary records his occupation as stock broker. Regardless of occupation, he remained a part-time stamp dealer but full time collector. In 1917 he relocated to Nice, France where he remained until his death in 1939.

One final cover from Gurdji's Galveston days is shown on the front cover. The 2-cent 1887-1894 Plimpton entire and 3-cent 1890-1893 American Bank Note Issue adhesive pay the 5-cent UPU rate to Uruguay, which joined the UPU on July 1, 1880. The indicia and adhesive are canceled by two strikes of a Galveston duplex dated March 24, 1892. Addressed to Monsieur Frederico C. Westhofen, Calle Camaras 138, Montevideo, Uruguay, the cover possesses blue hand stamped corner ad for V. Gurdji at upper left. A May 5, 1892 double-circle Montevideo receiving mark on the reverse indicates the letter was in transit for 43 days.

The addressee, Frederico Westhofen, was a world-class stamp collector during this time, his name appearing in the 1891 *Mekeel's Stamp Collectors' and Dealers' Address Book* and the 1898 *International Philatelic Collectors Directory* compiled by A.C. Derlam of Jersey City, NJ. Undoubtedly, the Entire contained some type of philatelic correspondence.

Finally, and of further interest, note the departure date of the Uruguay-bound cover: March 24, 1892. This date was a little over two weeks after Gurdji's discovery of the fraudulent Spanish stamp forgeries. Could a letter have been enclosed containing a warning to Mr. Westhofen of the forgeries?

Endnotes:

1. Belesco, Stephen R., "The Postal History of U.S. Stamp Collecting 1862-1899, Part 3." *Chronicle*, Whole No. 326 (May 2010), pp. 173-174.
2. Gurdji, Vincent, "Recollections of an A. P. S. Charter Member." *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 30, No. 2, (November 1926), pp. 96-99.
3. U.S.A. Form for Naturalized Citizens (Vincent Gurdji), (Washington D.C. Government Printing Office 1882) <http://www.ancestry.com>,
4. Ref. 2, p. 96.
5. Rogers, A.R., "Some Thoughts for the Coming Convention." *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 7, No. 7 (July 1893), p. 100.
6. Ref. 2, p. 97.



Texans Were Winners at the 2023 Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland

By Greg Cain



The Great American Stamp Show, the American Philatelic Society's big annual blowout, was held this year on August 10-13 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio, a stone's throw from Lake Erie. Hosted by the APS, the American First Day Cover Society and the American Topical Association, my wife, *Lucy*, and I were able to attend the second day.

As has become customary at these events, a number of presentations and talks took place. *Martin Mörck*, the world's most productive living stamp designer and engraver, spoke to a standing-room only crowd on the day we attended. Born in Sweden in 1955 to artistic parents, Mörck has reached the same plateau as legendary engraver *Czeslaw Slania* by producing his 1,000th stamp, an engraving of Danish artist *Emil A. Krause's* 1933 *Returning from Fishing*, which was produced as a Faroe Islands souvenir sheet and debuted at a first day ceremony at the Show.

The Show offered some beautiful awards. A number of Texans and TPA members were among the winners. TPA member and the Journal's "Seen at Auction" reporter, *Vince King's* award-winning exhibit *In the Beginning... Timbromanie, The Proliferation of Postage Stamps Inspires a Collecting Revolution* was prominently displayed in the Court of Honor. Fourth Bureau specialist (and APS judge, TPA and Houston Philatelic Society member), *Jay Stotts* won the literature Grand and Large Gold for his recent book, *The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-1938*.



Awards table



Denise and Jay Stotts

Houston club member, **Bryant Korn** received the Philatelic Foundation Award for Research for *Liberia's Postal Stationery of 1881-1920*. TPA life member, **Thomas Lera** won a Vermeil in the NTSS Single Frame Competition for *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. Former TPA member, **Jeff Erichson** won a Large Gold for *Engraved Hawaii Postage Issued 1864-1893* in the Stamp Show Multi-Frame Competition. And, although not a Texan (not yet, anyway), our very own editor and Board member, **Robert Conley** won a Large Gold in the catalog category for his just-completed *New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalog, 11th Edition*.

Another non-Texan entry that Lucy found particularly delightful was *Cupcakes* by 13-year old, **Christina Esbeck**, which snagged the Grand Award as the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Youth Champion of Champions winner. You can learn more about this young lady on the inside back cover of the current issue of *Philatelic*, the USPS quarterly catalog of new issues and philatelic items, where a short profile of her appears.

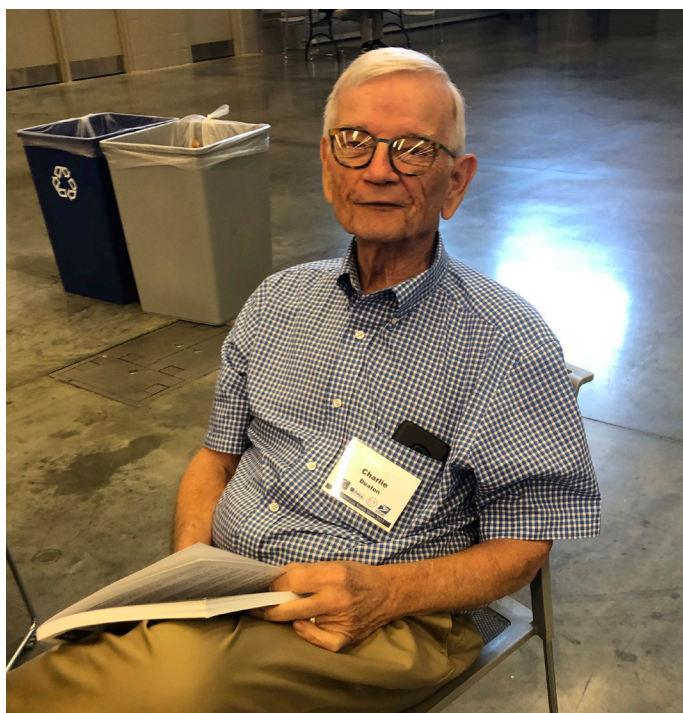
Several attendees had Texas connections. Austin Texas Stamp Club members, **Phil Nordstrom** and **Dale Shively** (also a TPA member) made the journey, with Dale attending all eight first day events, enduring many long lines. TPA member **D.A. Lux** of the North Texas AFDCS chapter was there. I saw two Texas-based dealers – **John L. Kimbrough** of Benbrook, TX, and **Kurt Harding** (Stamp Center of Texas, Boerne). Two non-Texas TPA-member dealers had tables – Confederate states postal history specialist, **Trish Kaufmann** and **Charles Epting** of H.R. Harmer's auction house, New York City. Dealers were busy the day we attended, with many having no vacant chairs at their spots. I did my best to ensure they enjoyed a successful day!



Ron Strawser



A busy bourse



Charles Deaton



Larry Ballantyne

Guests of my brother and sister-in-law who live close by in Chagrin Falls, OH, Lucy and I had an altogether wonderful time in Cleveland and at GASS. For lunch we opted for a sidewalk hot dog vendor and ate at a park table, under deep blue skies, in perfect weather. It was a refreshing change from the “oven” that Texas has been this summer. Other Houston club (and TPA) members were also there. In fact, we had such a good time that we’ve told my brother to hold our room for next August since Cleveland will make a convenient stopover on our way to GASS 2024 in Hartford, CT. We hope you can make it, too.



Vince King Named U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Distinguished Philatelist

Lyle Boardman

At the annual meeting of the United States Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS) at WESTPEX in April 2023, TPA member and former TPA Director, Vince King was named a Distinguished Philatelist, an award which recognizes exceptionally meritorious service to U. S. philately through published research, award-winning collections, active participation in the organization and promotion of philatelic exhibitions, and sustained administrative service to the national or international organizations which further United States philately. Vince has been an active member and board member of the USPCS and has won many awards for his exhibits over the last several years culminating in his exhibit entitled "In the Beginning: Timbromanie" winning the prestigious World Series of Philately Champion of Champions award at the 2022 Great American Stamp Show.

A stamp collector at a young age, Vince King became a serious student of philately after a 20-year hiatus from the hobby while concentrating on family life and building a professional career. As a native Texan, his interest in history led to his initial specialization into Texas' postal past with his related exhibits winning numerous national and international awards.

In 2014 his interests turned to a fascination with the genesis of our amazing hobby. He amassed a collection of old philatelic albums, catalogs and ephemera which he paired with pre-1860 world-wide classic postal history. How to exhibit such material was a tremendous non-traditional challenge. Through perseverance, stubbornness and creativity, Vince developed a layout using traditional postal history and handmade frame-mounted display cases to showcase this exhibit. The result was the previously mentioned "In the Beginning: Timbromanie". Vince's exhibit is scheduled to be at the Greater Houston Stamp Show in September 2023.

Always available to share his time and expertise, Vince served in elected leadership capacities of numerous state and national philatelic organizations, was TEXPEX WSP Show Chairman for many years and has presented philatelic related talks to non-philatelic national associations. Highlights of his collecting career include the Texas Philatelic Association's 2011 Distinguished Philatelic Texan Award, the 2016 APS Nicholas G. Carter Award, being made a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London and presenting opening remarks at the Guildhall President's Banquet, London 2022.

Congratulations to Vince for another well-earned recognition.



A Very Special Last Day Postmark

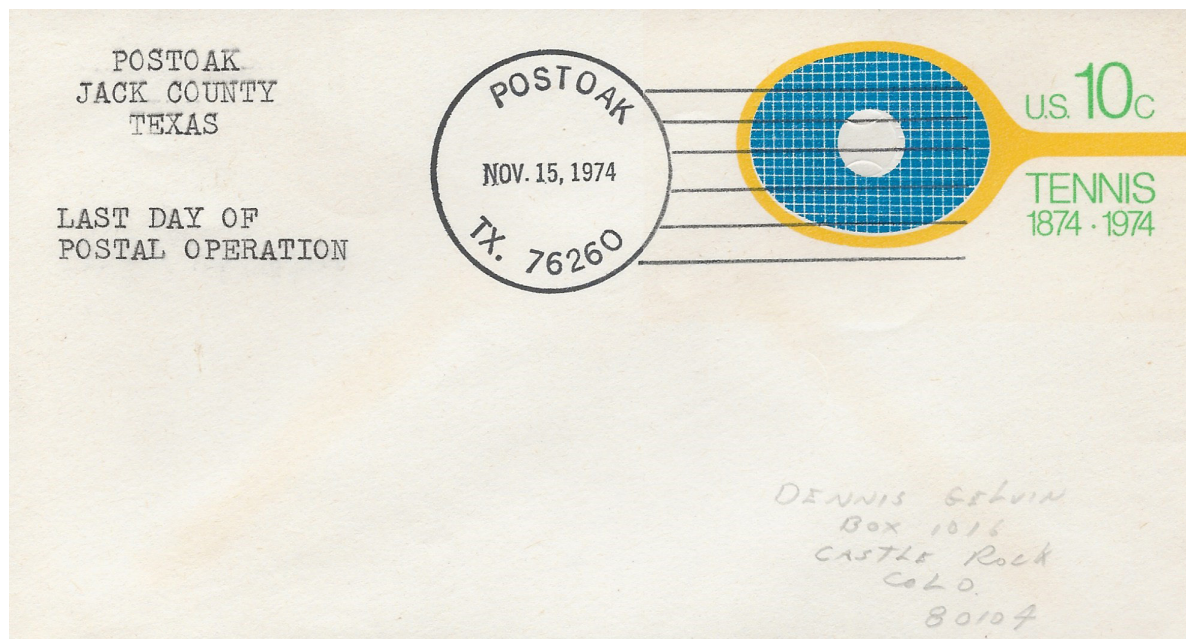
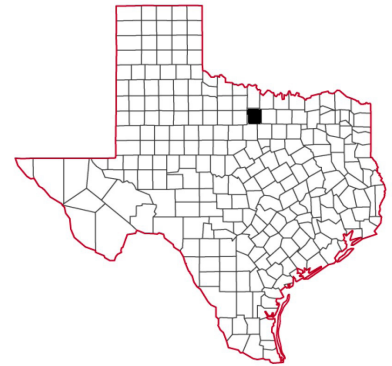
By John J. Germann

The little community of Post Oak, Texas began in the 1870s, almost on the county line in north central Jack County, which itself is located in the north central part of the state.

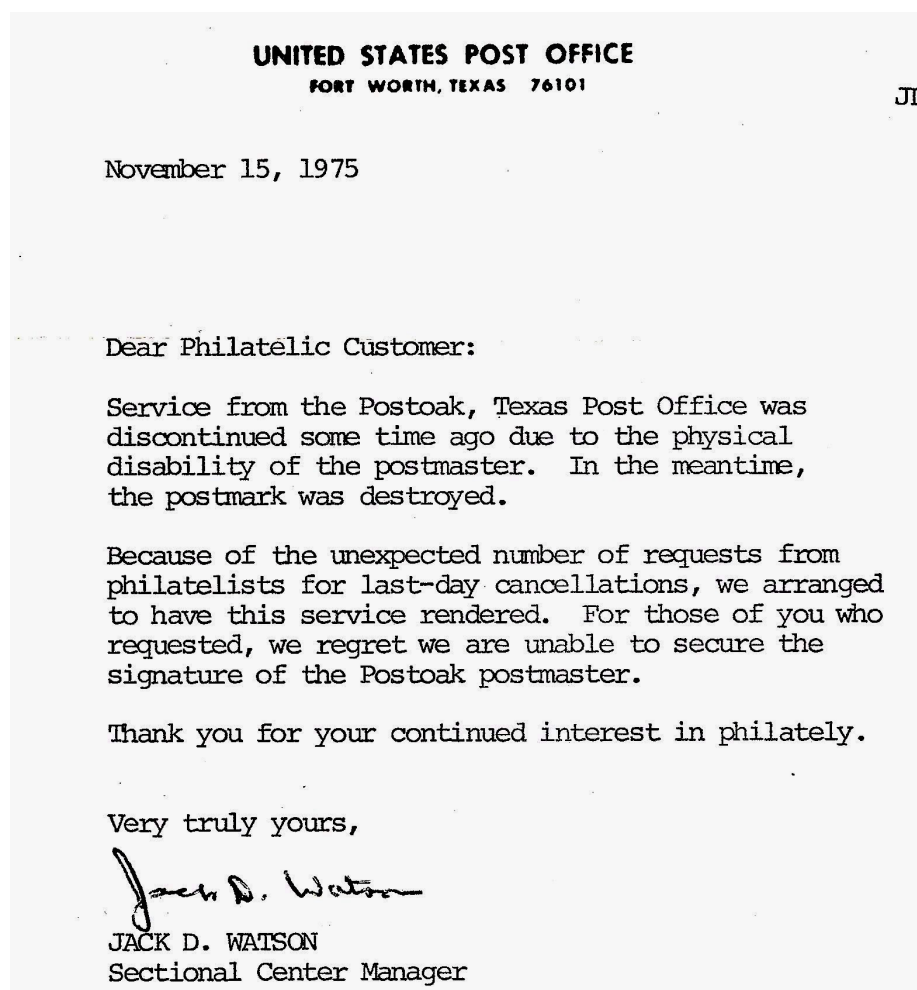
Its name came from an unusually large post oak tree that grew in the town's main street. A post office appeared in 1876. Its postal name shrank in the 1890s to Postoak as a result of the Post Office Department's standardization efforts at the time, and it remained so to the very end. That end came in 1974, just shy of a century later.

Postoak's fifteenth and last postmaster (and farmer) was Sidney Carrol Matlock, a Jack County boy through and through; he was born, raised, wed, lived, and buried in northern Jack County. He decided to take over the post office in 1951. In 1974, he retired after a 23-year stint. That is a quite lengthy tenure for a Texas postmaster, but he was 57 years of age and disabled. The post office retired with him.

Last day covers, complete with not only the postmark but also the postmaster's signature, were very popular in the mid-twentieth century. Matlock apparently received a large number of requests. However, no such covers exist – except for one rather exceptional postmark which is testimony to USPS professionalism and its care for collectors at the time.



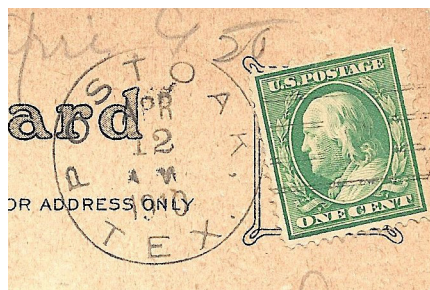
If the cancel looks unusual in its design and exceptionally pristine for a small rural post office, that's because it is. The key to the postmark is the form letter enclosed in the envelope. It is from Jack D. Watson, manager of the Sectional Center in Fort Worth. In the letter Watson informs "philatelic customers" that some time earlier (actually, it was exactly one year earlier) the Postoak office had closed but that the postmaster had not been able to process the requests for last day covers. Therefore, the United States Post Office was stepping in to provide such a cover to those collectors who had mailed in covers for that service, with regrets that it was unable to also provide the postmaster's signature.



The cancellation is an interesting one. As Watson points out, the Postoak canceller had somehow been destroyed, so a special one had to be created for this purpose. It was distinctly non-standard (and actually not perfectly symmetrical), and it could well have been applied by a machine. It bothered to include the zip code. And it is back-dated to the day that the Postoak office ceased operation.

So Postoak's final cancel was actually neither produced nor applied at Postoak. But a special and unheralded gesture from the US Post Office filled a gap for postmark collectors with an attractive last day cover that might well be one-of-a-kind in its background.

PS: Here is a "REAL" cancel from Postoak – a 1910 Doane.



This article was first published by the Post Mark Collector's Club in their Bulletin of November, 2022. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of the PMCC and the author.





VERY REVEREND PIUS (FRANCISCUS)
ANTHONY HECKMAN (1861 - 1926) (#7)
Westphalia, Falls County
1887-1906



Westphalia is on State Highway 320, six miles southwest of Lott in Falls County. It is a quaint town. In fact, the entire community has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Westphalia got its start from a splinter group when several German Catholic immigrant families from Westphalia province, who had immigrated to Texas and settled in Frelsburg, Colorado County, decided in 1879 to seek greener pastures and moved north to this site. By 1884, 13 German families were calling Westphalia home.

Three years later, a newly-minted Roman Catholic priest from Ohio arrived in town. His name was Pius (born Franciscus) Anthony Heckman. He had no trouble acclimating to the situation there; he himself was the son of a German Catholic immigrant farm family who had settled in the Catholic community of Maria Stein, Ohio. Heckman was only 26 years old when he began tending to the spiritual needs of the townspeople – as a temporary priest in a temporary church building. He also tended to their secular needs, establishing the post office there on May 20, 1887. He served in that post for three years, relinquishing the position on December 22, 1890. He soon moved to Temple, Texas, where he served as pastor of St. Mary's Church for 27 years.



Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic church had rewarded Westphalia's citizenry with their first permanent priest in 1893. Those citizens duly responded by building their first permanent church, perhaps the largest wooden church in Texas, in 1895 - the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.

And four postmasters, all with distinctly Teutonic surnames, had succeeded Heckman. However, Herman J. Hoelscher closed the post office door for the final time on November 30, 1906. From that point on mail would be handled through the post office at Lott. But the community itself continued on nicely, and continues to do so into the 21st century. And, yes, Hank Thompson's 1955 country hit "Westphalia Waltz" owes its name to this little central Texas town, but that's another story all its own.



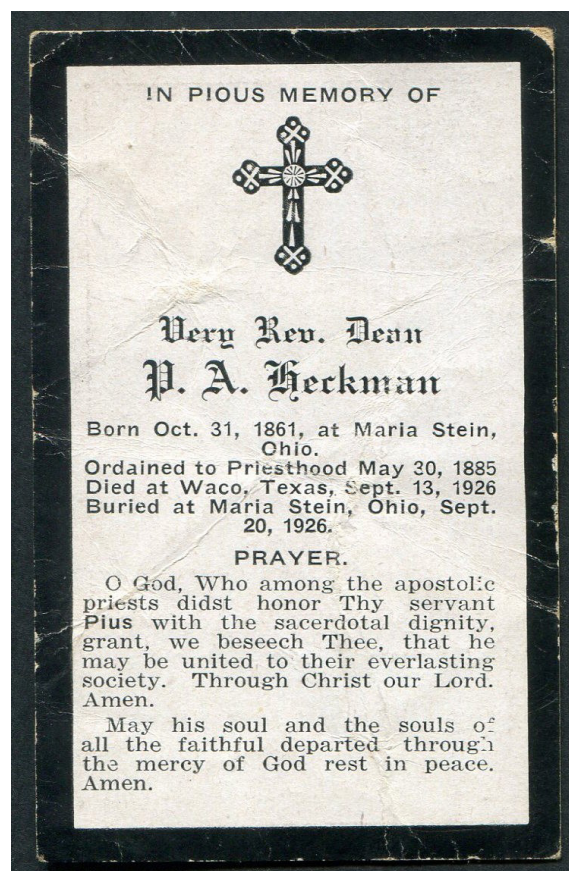
Old Westphalia Store/Former Post Office



Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin



As part of his life's "mission," Father Heckman served seven other area rural churches out of Temple - on horse-back, with a fully equipped mobile chapel. Eventually, he would also serve as chaplain for the Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Knights of Columbus, and the Order of Elks. He relocated to Waco in 1919, assuming pastoral duties at the Church of the Assumption there. He had plans for establishing churches in several other central Texas communities, but heart failure suddenly claimed his life at age 64, in 1926. After funeral services were held in Waco, accompanied by many encomiums, his remains were shipped back to Maria Stein to be buried with his family.



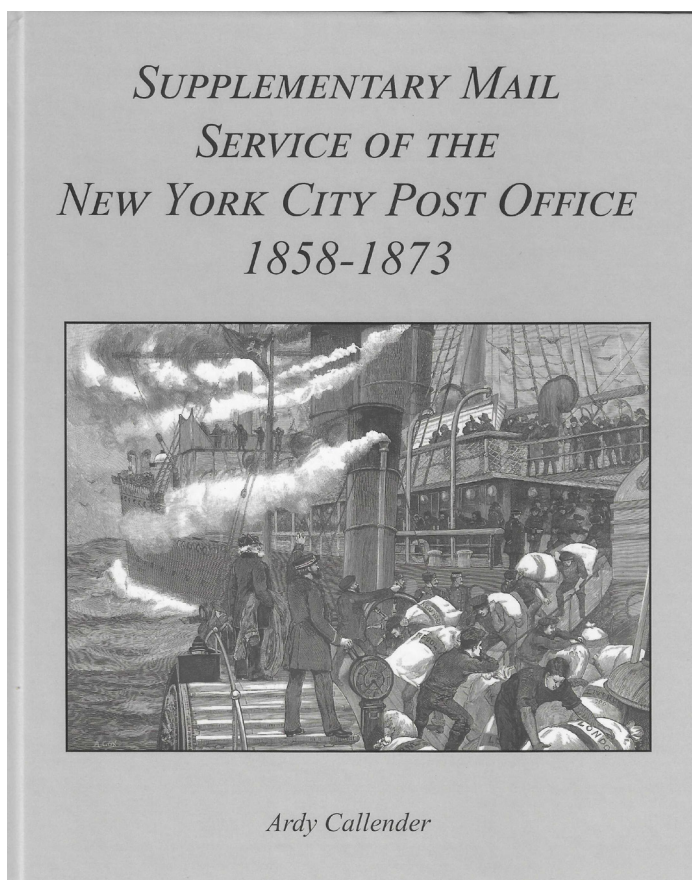
The Very Reverend Pius Anthony Heckman was not the only German Catholic priest to take the lead in providing a fledgling Texas community with a post office, connecting its citizens to their family, to their personal needs, and to their business interests. Like his predecessors and successors, he selflessly served Texas and Texans and, of course, God.

Author's Note: I visited the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin in 2016. It was one of the most beautiful churches that I have ever seen. Tragically, it burned to the ground in the space of an hour in 2019. The community's traditional solidarity and pride surfaced yet again, and work on reconstructing the 124-year old church, along original lines, has begun.

SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL SERVICE OF THE NEW YORK CITY POST OFFICE 1858-1873

A NEW BOOK DETAILING NEW YORK CITY'S SYSTEM OF ALLOWING LETTERS TO BE POSTED AT THE PIERS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE MAILS AT THE MAIN POST OFFICE HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY TPA MEMBER, ARDY CALLENDER. THE SERVICE, NAMED SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL, BEGAN IN 1853 AFTER COMPLAINTS BY LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO REQUESTED A MEANS BY WHICH LAST MINUTE CORRESPONDENCE COULD BE PLACED ABOARD TRANSATLANTIC STEAMERS. THE SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MODELED AFTER A SIMILAR SERVICE THEN IN USE IN ENGLAND.

THE BOOK DISCUSSES THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICE INCLUDING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE PAST WRITINGS ON THE SUBJECT. OTHER TOPICS INCLUDE THE OPERATIONS OF THE SERVICE, ITS POSTAL MARKINGS, STEAMSHIP LINES CARRYING SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL, QUANTITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL, PROMINENT CORRESPONDENCES AND THE SERVICE'S DEMISE. FOUR APPENDIXES ARE INCLUDED, ONE OF WHICH RECORDS AND DESCRIBES THE 134 KNOWN SURVIVING SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL COVERS. ALMOST ALL COVER IMAGES, AS WELL AS OTHERS IN THE TEXT, ARE IN FULL COLOR.



SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL SERVICE OF THE NEW YORK CITY POST OFFICE 1858-1873, BY ARDY CALLENDER,
224 PP. 4 APPENDICES.

PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

HARD BOUND VERSION OR SPIRAL BOUND VERSION \$49 POST PAID TO U.S. ADDRESSES.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO ARDY CALLENDER SHOULD BE SENT TO:

1546 SHELTONS BEND CT., HOUSTON, TX 77077.

The State Song of Texas That Was Not to Be

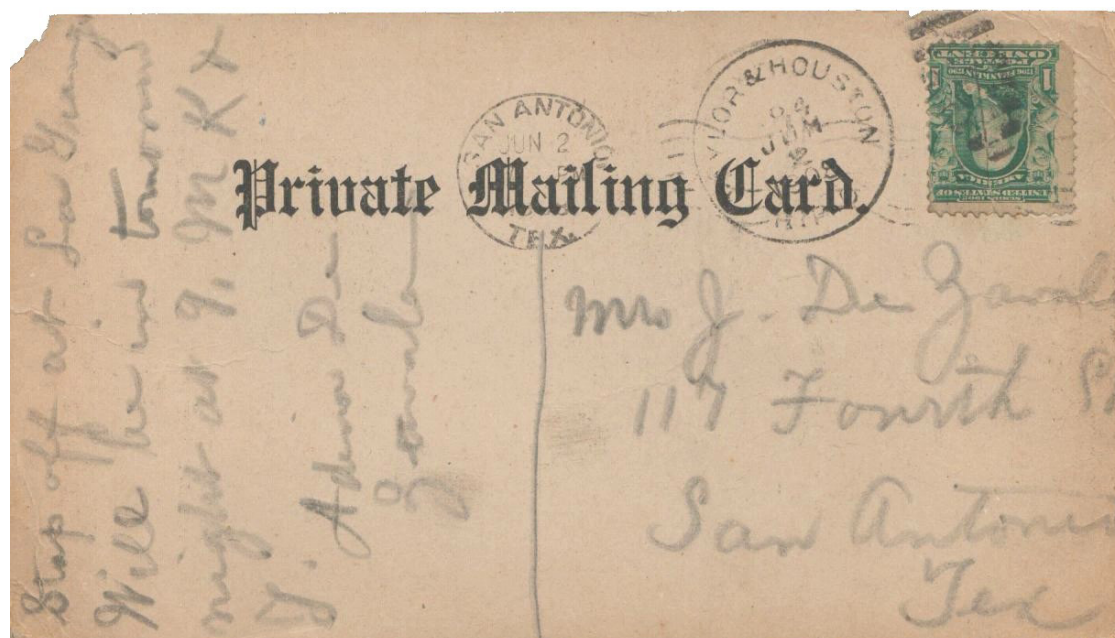
By Jonathan Topper

The 1908 private postcard shown in Figures 1 and 2 proposes a new Texas State Song. It is dedicated to Adina de Zavala, heroine of the recent Alamo Incident, with benefit going to the Texas Daughters of the Republic.

A little research into the 'Alamo Incident' reveals that it refers to Adina de Zavala's successful effort to preserve the Long Barracks in front of the Alamo mission as an historic site. This is just one of the examples of Ms. Zavala's lifelong efforts in preserving Texas history for future generations. She was the granddaughter of Lorenzo de Zavala, the first Vice President of the Republic of Texas.

The song was written by Jessie Beattie Thomas, with the lyrics and music sold in music sheets in the same year of 1908 under the title, *Remember the Alamo*. A picture of Adina de Zavala was printed on the cover of the sheet music.

The postcard was printed by the Thomas & Davis Lyric & Music Company out of St. Louis, Missouri. It was seemingly brought to press a little too hastily, as there are two hand written corrections on the card – Ms. Zavala's name was mis-spelled with an 'S' instead of a 'Z', and one of the lines of the song left out a word: "And all [true] Texans say".



Front of postcard.

The Long Barracks at the Alamo, after restoration from the efforts by Adina de Zavala.



New Texas State Song.

DEDICATED TO
Adina De Zavala,
Heroine of the recent Alamo incident
Benefit Texas Daughters of the Republic,
REMEMBER THE ALAMO.

By Jessie Beattie Thomas.

For many years the Alamo
Has stood upon the plain,
Where heroes fought old Mexico
And strewed the sod with slain.
The Alamo's a martyr shrine,
Where all were killed but one,
And Texas holds the spot divine
For deeds of valor done.

Let money not dull sentiment,
Nor trade e'er change the spot
That's hallowed as a monument
For freedom dearly bought.

A daughter of the Alamo,
Within its walls to-day,
Stands guard to save its overthrow,
And all Texans say:

Chorus:

Hurrah for the maid of the Alamo,
Of Texas, the fair lone star,
Afire for the honor of friends and
foe,

This goddess of peace and war.
"Remember, remember the Alamo!"
Our fathers before you cried.
For Texas they fought and they
bravely died,
Defending the Alamo.

These Mailing Cards, with above words sent anywhere
for 10c. per doz. 75c. per 100.
THOMAS & DAVIS LYRIC & MUSIC CO.
409 Globe-Democrat Bldg. St. Louis, Mo.



Photo of Adina de Zavala taken around the year 1910, about the same time she sent the postcard.

Back of postcard.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

WORDS AND MUSIC BY

JESSIE BEATTIE THOMAS

DEDICATED TO



ADINA DE ZAVALA,
THE HEROINE OF THE ALAMO



The Texas Song,
The Lone Star Patriot.

"TEXAS
One and Indivisible."

RESPECTFULLY COMMENDED TO THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE ALAMO
IN THE GLORY OF THE STATE.



The sheet music printed in 1908 with the lyrics and music to Remember the Alamo, by Jessie Beattie Thomas.

The postcard was mailed on June 2, 1908 with a Taylor & Houston RPO hand cancellation, and arrived at its San Antonio destination the same day with a receiving machine cancel on top of the RPO marking.

Of interest, the message was hand written by Adina de Zavala herself and sent to a family member with the same last name: "Stop off at La Grange. Will be in tomorrow night at 9. MKTJ". [I do not know what the last four capital letters in the message are referring to].

As most true Texans know, we do have an official state song (also referred to as a regional anthem) – *Texas, Our Texas*. It was written in 1924 and selected as the official state song in 1929 following a statewide competition. Older songs, such as *The Yellow Rose of Texas* and *Dixie* were also considered, but ultimately it was decided a new song should be composed. It was officially adopted by the Texas State Legislature in 1993, 85 years after the Zavala-proposed song on this postcard.



Notice of TPA Board Vacancy

The 4-year term of one of our current Board members, Robert Conley, will end on December 31, 2023. The Association's bylaws provide that any adult TPA member in good standing can be nominated as a director (including by self-nomination) by (1), so advising the secretary-treasurer in writing by October 1, (2023), and (2), filing an accompanying statement, confirming the nominee's willingness to serve.

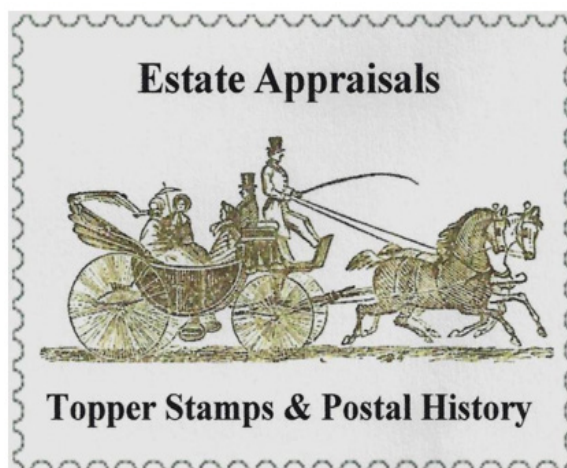
Robert has graciously offered to serve another four years as a director of the TPA. In the event that his offer is not contested, I believe that the Board will accept his offer by ratification, as our bylaws provide.

However, if you would also like an opportunity to serve, please notify me (my contact information can be found on the inside front cover of this issue), as set forth above, by October 1, 2023.

Greg Cain
TPA Secretary-Treasurer

*Stamp Collections
Appraised for
Insurance, Trusts and
Estates.*

*Come Visit my Table
at the Texas Stamp
Shows.*



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jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

Chapters in Action

Greg Cain

Members are encouraged to report recent Chapter activities. Send an email to me at greg.cain@comcast.net or regular mail to 1926 Brimberry Street, Houston, TX 77018-1730. **Photos are very welcome!**

Abilene Key City Coin and Stamp Club – This club meets the first Thursday of every month, 6:30 P.M., at S. 7th and S. Mockingbird (the Rose Park Senior Citizen Center), and welcomes all who are interested in coin or stamp collecting. The contact is Fred Jones. – submitted by **Fred Jones**.

American First Day Cover Society, Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter 56 (afdcshop56.org) – The American First Day Cover Society, also known as AFDCS, is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement and collecting of first day covers. Meetings are held at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL) at the University of Texas at Dallas, typically on the second Saturday of each month. – submitted by **D.A. Lux**

Austin Texas Stamp Club (www.stamps.org/austin-texas-stamp-club) – The club's first meeting of each month is held on the first Tuesday at the Lakewood HOA clubhouse, 7317 Lakewood Drive, Austin. The second meeting is held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. The auctions have been shifted to the first meeting of each month, which through the early summer months, have found a little better than half the lots offered finding buyers. This has resulted in close to \$1,700 for the club's coffers year to date. Program presentations have been varied and intriguing. On May 16, **Dan Green** presented "Varieties of Early US Stamps," showcasing examples from Postmaster Provisionals through issues of 1851, using only items from his own collection. That must have been something! On June 20, **Hank Lundberg** presented "Postal Novelty 'Beermats' Die-Cut Postage Stamps Issued Beginning in 1963," a topic most of us have not encountered before. **Mark Buescher** brought July's presentation, which was sharing his and his wife's recent visit to the Oaxaca, Mexico Stamp Museum. His presentation had a number of postally-related exhibits, including a Volkswagen Beetle covered with stamps.

The August issue of the club's monthly newsletter, *Stampede*, includes an article by editor, **Lyle Boardman** and his wife **Gerre's** recent visit with club member **Dale Shively** and spouse **Becky**. Lyle and Dale spent their time in Dale's stamp studio, with beautifully arranged shelves and binders. Please see photo below. I am envious! – submitted by **Lyle Boardman**.



Collectors Club of Dallas – The CCOD meetings are now scheduled for the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month but, with the uncertainty of Covid-19 and the Omicron variant, we have had no meetings recently, either in person or online. However, we remain confident that we will come out of this with good spirits and fellowship and be able to meet again sometime soon. When we do gather, presentations are welcome by any of the club members on their particular interest or field of expertise. It's an added bonus when material to pass around is included, along with new findings from stamp shows. We can always count on great discussion, as well. - submitted by **Anonymous**.

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (<http://stamps.org/Dallas>) – Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7:30PM at the Edgemere Retirement Center, 8523 Thackery, Dallas, TX. Membership is open to anyone of good character interested in philately and in learning more about stamps and related collectibles. Annual dues are \$12.00. The club encourages stamp collectors at all levels and ages to be its guest at a scheduled meeting. At every meeting, members may borrow club stamp albums in order to inspect and purchase stamps they need. Albums are also auctioned to club members. The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is a great way to learn more about collecting, socialize with fellow collectors and provide more opportunities to acquire new material. See dallasstamp.org for more details and info. Our formal meeting activities include: (1) presentations by members and guest speakers; (2) show-and-tell; (3) door prize drawings; (4) annual member bourse; (5) quarterly auctions of members' material; (6) club collections containing tens of thousands of mint and used foreign stamps sold individually at 20% to 25% of catalogue value; (7) quality U.S. stamps and covers available; and (8) buying, selling and trading opportunities with fellow members. The club has followed an established agenda at recent meetings, beginning with approval of the preceding meeting's minutes, followed by officer reports, old & new business, announcements, and the evening's programs. Recent programs have included "The Story Behind the Stamp – The Letter 'V'" (May 10), a quiz on U.S. stamp history (May 24), **Tim Wallaert** presenting "The Philatelic History of Indiana Jones" (June 14) and a Statue of Liberty stamp scavenger hunt contest (June 28). – submitted by **Bill Laupus**.

Heart of Texas Stamp Club – The Heart of Texas Stamp Club continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM at the West Waco Public Library conference room for its member update, raffle, and show and tell. Visitors are always welcome, and club dues are \$10 annually. The Heart of Texas Stamp Club dedicates its submission this issue to a remembrance of a beloved member, **Tony Wayne**, who passed away on May 31. His photograph is to the right. Tony passed away at Providence Ascension Hospital in Waco due to heart complications. His ashes will be interred in the Naval Academy Columbarium at a future date. Tony was a member of the 27th company and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1967. After graduation, he went to Pensacola for Flight Training and into the VP Community after receiving his Wings. His deployments were to Adak, Iwakuni (Japan), and Cubi Point (Republic of the Philippines). Tony left the active duty Navy in 1978 after tours in VT-29 (Corpus Christi), Guantanamo Bay, and the Washington Navy yard. Remaining in government service after he left the uniformed Navy, Tony held several GS positions in NAVAIRSYSCOM in Crystal City, Pax River, and Cherry Point, NC. He also flew with the Navy Reserve Squadron (V-48) based at Andrews and retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserve in 1992. He loved the Naval Academy and time spent with his classmates. Tony and his wife Peggy and daughters Elizabeth and Stephanie have lived in McGregor, TX, since 2005. He was passionate about stamp collecting and enjoyed his friends and fellowship with the Waco Stamp Club. – Submitted by **Larry Breen**.



Houston Philatelic Society (www.houstonstampclub.org) – The Houston Philatelic Society meets the first and third Monday of every month in the Drummet Room (around back) of West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd, Houston, TX 77005. The club hosts in-person meetings at the regular first and third Monday sessions and has decided to meet via Zoom on the fourth Monday of each month. Spring and early summer meetings, averaging 20-25 members present, have included presentations, auctions, and a (very difficult) stamp quiz. On May 15, program chair **Tom Herbert** presented The Isle of Man (Part I). We look forward to the rest of the story! **Jonathan Topper**, club webmaster (and TPA president) and a dealer/appraiser, was one of three professionals who recently reviewed and appraised the Moody family papers and business records in Galveston. The Moody family, which traces its current prominence from the life of Virginian Col. William Lewis Moody (1828-1920) down through the generations to Mary

Moody Northern (1892-1986), accumulated a vast trove of family and business records. The Mary Moody Northern Foundation engaged the services of a professional archivist, **Melinda Pleasant**, to review the records, put them in some logical order and make them available for the eventual study by the public. In a fascinating Zoom presentation that Jonathan arranged for the club on June 26, Melinda explained her role in the selection, acquisition, appraisal (i.e., does it have historical value?), arrangement, description, preservation and digitization of the records she found most compelling. Her work will continue into the fall and is conducted primarily at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. This sounds like the wonderful DeGolyer Collection housed in SMU's Fondren Library, which in small pieces is brought out for display there. Hopefully, we'll see the same at the Moody Mansion, the Rosenberg or another worthy venue in Galveston. The club suspended philatelic pursuits in exchange for tasty refreshments on July 3, when we held our annual Ice Cream Social.

The July-September 2023 issue of the club newsletter, *The Perforator* (**Jay Stotts**, ed.), brought news of two club member exhibit winners at OKPEX, the Oklahoma City stamp club's show held in June. Club treasurer, **Larry Ballantyne** won the Gold from the U.S. Postal History Society for U.S. Private Intercity Posts 1839-1895. Jay Stotts won the American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence Gold for United States: The 5 Cent General Kosciuszko Stamp of 1933, which, I have read, was a surprisingly popular issue because of so many Polish Americans wanting it. Congratulations to both! This issue's contribution from 19th Century New York postal historian, **Ardy Callender**, titled *Phantom Rate with Credit 6*, explains the complicated interplay of rates and postal treaties for mail going from New York to France, during a short window in the early 1870s, and how much of the combined rate was to be credited to the French postal coffers. As usual, Ardy's research is detailed, highly specialized and very impressive. This 3rd quarter issue, however, is largely dedicated to news about the club's upcoming stamp show, Greater Houston Stamp Show (sponsored by the club's affiliated charitable tax-exempt organization, the GHSS Foundation), set for September 15-17 at the Humble Civic Center. The show will feature traditional favorites – 25 dealers, a beginner's area, some 60 frames of exhibits (the only show with exhibits in Texas), and all for free (both parking and admission) as well as food and drink available for purchase (and a ticketed Saturday evening dinner [space is limited!]). This year will debut a new medal for exhibit winners, designed and procured courtesy of Show Co-Chair, **Ron Strawser**. Another new feature will be Saturday seminars about stamp collecting, headed up by Tom Herbert and presented by members of the Houston Philatelic Society. – submitted by **Greg Cain**.

Longview Stamp Club – the club meets from 7:00 to 8:00PM, the second Tuesday of every other month, starting with January, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 906 Padon Street, Longview, TX 75601. Club contact is **Keith Parris** (parrisrk@gmail.com; 972-989-7992 [cell]) and he suggests that anyone planning to attend a club meeting contact him first. – submitted by **Keith Parris**.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) Stamp Club – Meetings are held at 144 Park Avenue (Blue Building) in League City on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Meetings nominally start at 7:00PM but many members come early. The first meeting of the month will normally include some sort of program plus a silent auction and the second meeting of the month will include a regularly-called auction. On May 8, Club member, **Dave Bowman** pinch-hit for ailing, **Gary Walston** and shared with the 19 folks present the story of Christmas seals (especially the early ones). Dave also invited anyone interested in adding to, or starting, such a collection to contact him. Back in the saddle the following month, Gary presented advertising covers on June 12 (one of my favorite things to peruse at dealers' tables). And retired postal inspector and club member, **Allan McHenry** shared his career story at the July 10 meeting. Attendance at the called auction nights has been steady in the mid-teens, with better than half present actively participating as buyers, sellers, or both. – submitted by **Bob Osman**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (www.mid-citiesstampclub.com) - Euless Branch – This branch of the club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM at the Central Station Marketing offices, 12750 S. Pipeline Road, Euless. The Euless branch met on May 17, June 21 and July 19, with 8 to 10 members and one or two guests present at each meeting. The meetings, which usually ran about an hour, included officer and committee reports, show & tell, and the awarding of gift certificates. At the May meeting, **Skip Ely** showed some reference books by Max Johl, which are well written and packed with stamp information. (A few years back I picked up from **Charlie Deaton's** table Vols. I and II of Johl's *U.S. Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century*, and they are fascinating to read.) It was also reported that no private overnight security will be hired for this year's EXPO show in November. Instead, Grapevine PD will be used. – submitted by **Janet Moyer** and **Skip Ely**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Lake Granbury Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7PM on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury. The branch met on April 25 and May 23, with 10 to 12 people present. Two new folks attended the April meeting – **Shelley Daugherty** and **Bill Hazen**, from Eagle Mountain Lake. The meetings included show & tell and reports from various members (including one from **Jim Myers** regarding the April TSDA bourse in Richardson, which, Jim reported, went well with good attendance). April's meeting also included a presentation by **Jim Case** – “The Story of Two Babe's.” Being advised to collect what he likes, Jim decided to focus on sports, with more than 100 represented in his collection. The two Babes are, of course, Babe Ruth and Babe Didrickson Zaharias. The latter had deep Texas roots, having been born in Port Arthur. The City of Beaumont has a small museum/memorial to her achievements just north of I-10 in the middle of the city. May's program consisted of members bringing something from their collection for a brief presentation. Among the announcements shared at recent meetings was an item from **Rick Howell** that, after a 78-year run, the SESCAL stamp show in Los Angeles was calling it quits. (A check of its website confirmed this, with the reasons given including an aging - and shrinking - volunteer pool, difficulty in finding a suitable and affordable venue and costs exceeding revenue.) July's session saw 10 members and one guest present, with the evening's program, by **Gary McNamee**, about Pitcairn Island – “From the Bounty to British Overseas Territory.” – submitted by **Barb and Dave Stockbridge, Stanley Christmas and Madeleine Myers**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Arlington Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington. Summer meetings have drawn around 25 members each month, who hear officer and committee reports and a show & tell with a variety of items and news shared. Board member, EXPO Show chair and TPA Director, **Ralph Poore** furnishes an update each month on the status of planning for EXPO, now not far away (at the Grapevine Civic Center, Nov. 10-11). Ralph also reminded the gathering that, although this year's show will not include exhibits, he is hopeful that exhibits will return in 2024. At the same session, club secretary, **Janet Moyer** announced that membership stands at 97. That evening's program was brought by member-dealer, **Tom Cunningham** about how to sell a stamp collection. Tom started with the observation of an experienced dealer that It's a lot of fun, but the pay isn't very good. But there are other rewards, do we agree? Recent meetings have also included a scheduled auction and a swap & sell “clean out your closet” night. – submitted by **Janet Moyer and Skip Ely**. The summer issues of the club newsletter, *Stamping Around*, (**Peter Elias**, ed.) had a number of interesting articles, including one by club president, **Ken Aldridge** in the July issue about the new National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington (Texas), presently under construction. Elsewhere in the same issue, Ken initiated a conversation about shifting the Arlington branch meetings from evenings to the daytime. First glance raises some obvious pluses and minuses, but it is certainly worth discussing. We'll stay tuned. Peter recounts some of the recent service challenges he's encountered at his post office branch. Ours had been without stamps for about 6 weeks, only recently selling them again. Club member and nationally-known astrophilatelist, **Ray Cartier** has kept members abreast of his and spouse **Karen's** move from their home of 50 years in Arlington to Jefferson, Texas, where family lives. It's been a bit of a shock. One venue that Ray might explore for one of his award-winning exhibits is the Mid America Flight Museum, about an hour away, in Mount Pleasant. I've never visited but they have some iconic warbirds, including a B-17 acquired from the Lone Star Flight Museum a few years ago.

EXPO News – The Mid-Cities' EXPO show planning committee met on June 10. It sounds like the committee will be ready to put on a fun show in November. **Tom Cunningham** announced that 23 dealers have committed to be there but some favorites, including faithful TPA advertiser, **Larry Martin** (Crown Colony Stamps), **Charlie Adams** and **Eric White** will not make the trip. We will miss their smiling faces. The committee also recognized that dealers who work alone will need someone to watch their tables when they take breaks. A very good point. – submitted by **Janet Moyer**.

The San Antonio Philatelic Association <http://www.sastamps.org/> - SAPA meets every Friday evening at 7:30PM at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, 2903 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, in building #1 (facing the road). SAPA has downshifted for the summer, scheduling only one formal presentation (June 23), with **Steve Mabie** presenting “Collecting Topicals.” Instead, the club has focused on show & tells, “Bourse & Bags” (buy, sell and trade nights), and the club's summer picnic on June 16. The May-June issue of club newsletter, *The Philatex*, included a note from co-editor and club stalwart, **Pat Richmond** about her decision to pass most duties to club treasurer and temporary secretary, **Fred Growth**. Pat joined the club in 1968 (Wow!) and has held virtually every position in the past 55 years. She will still assemble “Classics from the Vault” PowerPoint presentations. Your reporter, and spouse, **Lucy Cain**, had the pleasure of meeting Pat during a visit to a SAPA meeting several years ago and we join the club in wishing her the very best in the future. The July-August issue of *The Philatex* carried celebrations of the lives of three beloved members who've

left us recently. The passing of **Dr. Eric Shepherd** (1948-2022), a recent club president, was mentioned in the Chapters in Action column appearing in the February 2022 issue. **Bill McNally** (1945-2023) was a former club vice president and **Jack Virta** (1929-2023) was a past club president. All three gentlemen will be missed.

The SAPA-affiliated San Antonio and South Texas Postcard Club meets at 7PM on the third Monday of each month at the Dwyer Center of the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society, 903 Melissa Drive in San Antonio. Recent meetings have had a thematic focus, the May meeting being railroads, July's things patriotic and August's baseball. – *submitted by Lea Senghaas and Dora Roberts.*

Prairie Beavers Regional Group – This regional group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., (BNAPS) usually meets twice each year (about March and October) in College Station, TX, at St. Mary's Catholic Center, 603 Church Avenue. All who are interested in the stamps and/or postal history of British North America are welcome and invited to attend. **George Dresser** is the club contact; details available from **Greg Cain**. The Prairie Beavers met in College Station, Texas, on May 27 in their usual location at St. Mary's Catholic Center, starting at 9AM with coffee and doughnuts. See photo below. The literature review included **Denise Stotts'** discussion of the *Elizabeth II Coronation Stamp* book, **Jay Stotts'** review of *Supplemental Mail Service of the New York City Post Office 1858-1873* by **Ardy Callender**, **John Seate's** review of all worldwide stamps on pages via a CD, **Ron Strawser's** discussion of the Catawiki auction site, and **Jeff Switt's** review of the Colnect stamp site.



*Seated left to right: Patty Poore, Ralph Poore, Denise Stotts, David Nickson.
Standing left to right: Jay Stotts, Ron Strawser, John Seate, Jeff Switt, Louis-Philippe Bosse, Victor Willson, Gary Giroux.
Photographer: George Dresser.*

The major activity of the morning was an exercise to develop a one-frame exhibit of George Dresser's 10-cent Edward covers. Three teams were formed from the 12 members present and given about two hours to develop the exhibit. Each team described the proposed exhibit. Two teams had national APS judges, and the third had a BNAPS judge. Two teams focused on a rate exhibit, and the third focused on routes. Extensive discussion centered around whether a 10-cent stamp, used primarily for two UPU rates (double letter and a registered letter), was sufficient for a viable one-frame exhibit. The route exhibit showed promise, although the APS judges felt the approach would be better with the basic five-cent stamp instead. The activity was worthwhile in exploring the new APS open-ended rules on exhibits.

Following lunch, the clothesline activity allowed attendees to show new or previously unseen material from their collections. Jeff Switt showed new items for his topical Oranges exhibit. **Gary Giroux** showed material related to General Sherman (US Civil War), and **Dave Nickson** showed German Hindenburg booklet material. **Ralph Poore** discussed WWI censored and resealed material, and George Dresser followed with lathework material on postage dues of Canada. Denise Stotts showed Canadian Christmas booklets and Jay Stotts showed material for a new exhibit on downtown Cleveland using postcards and advertising covers from the early 1900s. **Vic Willson** showed several new rate pieces,

including a 30-cent parcel post cover not previously recorded. Ralph Poore made a presentation on censorship of and on postcards, laying out five categories, a most interesting presentation. After a buy/sell/swap period, Jeff Switt gave a talk on Texas Poster Stamps. Spanning much of the 20th century, these were intended to promote exhibitions, tourist destinations, and annual events, very colorful material. After the wrap-up, most group members repaired to a local BBQ restaurant for dinner and fellowship. – submitted by **George Dresser**.

Southeast Texas Stamp Club – The Southeast Texas Stamp Club has been active in Beaumont and the surrounding area for over 30 years. We currently meet every 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1305 Roosevelt Drive, Silsbee, Texas 77656. Meetings begin at 7PM and usually conclude around 9PM. Each session begins with a brief business meeting, followed by a presentation by one of our members on an interesting topic relating to philately. This is followed by an auction during which those present may sell or purchase stamps. These auctions allow members to purchase U.S. and international stamps at marked discounts from catalog values. Whether you are a novice collector or an experienced philatelist, we have something for you. Our experienced collectors are available to provide guidance on assessing your collection's value and finding markets for those who want to sell. We also have socials involving members and their families and have enjoyed traveling together to attend stamp shows. We welcome new members of all ages. If you are interested, you may simply show up at one of our meetings. If you need additional information about our club, you may call our current Treasurer, **Shelby Colling** (409) 892-5775 or our Vice-President, **John Smalley** (409) 924-0706. You may also reach us by e-mailing **Don Trahan**: dtrahan@swbell.net or by calling (409) 860-5328. The club met on April 19, with 5 members present – see photo below. Prior meeting minutes were approved, and the club treasurer reported on the club's financial status. Members volunteered for upcoming monthly presentations and remaining TSDA bourses were noted, as was September's GHSS. **Shelby Collins** reported on his efforts to contact 10 known area APS members (two of his mailings were returned as undeliverable). The question about the Texas Philatelic Society being defunct when trying to find it online might have been answered as it is actually the Texas Philatelic Association and a February magazine does exist (and is available for the asking). **Darlene Favre** presented the evening's program on a book published in 2022 titled *The World Encyclopedia of Stamps and Stamp Collecting* by James MacKay. An auction followed the meeting. The club's May meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 – submitted by **Don Trahan**.



Seated from left to right: John Smalley, Darlene Favre*, Rick Fetteroff.
 Standing from left to right: Stefan Andrei, Don Trahan*, Shelby Collins*, Don Longenberger*.
 * denotes member of APS.

South Plains Stamp Club – **South Plains Stamp Club** – in Lubbock, TX meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Meetings are held at the Garden and Arts Center, 4215 University Avenue, Lubbock. As far as we know, we are the Philatelic Club for the Texas Panhandle. Meetings are informal and small, but full of conversation on stamps and philately as well as members sharing collections from time to time. We are always glad to see new faces! Contact: **Keith Young** as (806) 441-5809. – submitted by **Barbara ("Babs") Noah**.

Texas Precancel Club – (from its *Texas Precancels* newsletter of July 2022) – The club maintains a Facebook page. – submitted by **Greg Cain**.



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