

# *Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History*

*The Official Publication of the Texas Philatelic Association*

Volume 70, No. 3 August 2022



Jonathan Topper recently came across a number of covers like the one seen here. They are what some people call "add-on cachets." The covers all appear to be the work of a Mr. Adams. Are you able to help Jonathan find out more about him? From page 16, you'll learn more.



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# Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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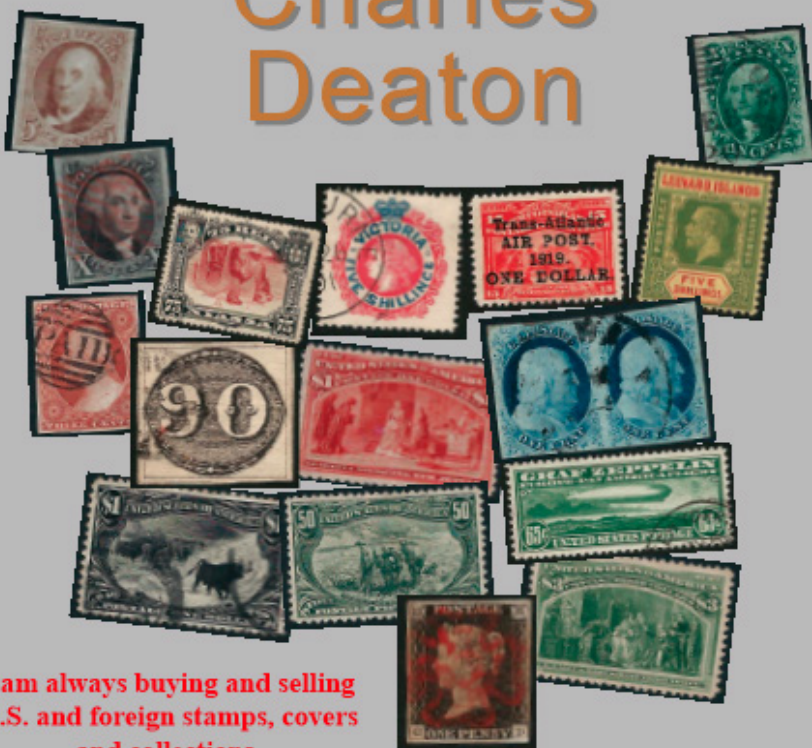


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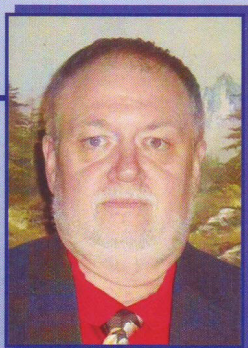
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## President's Message


Jonathan Topper

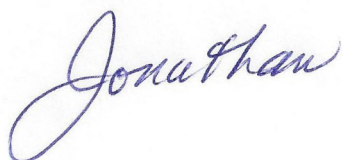
I have just returned from the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, California. It was a four-day show, well-attended by exhibitors, stamp dealers, stamp collectors, and many philatelic societies who had individual booths at the show.

I would like to congratulate two of our TPA members who had exhibits in the Champion of Champion Competition at this annual summer show. Exhibitors who earn a Grand Award in APS sponsored stamp shows throughout the year are then invited to show their exhibits again with other Grand Award Winners to compete with each other at the Summer APS Show. **Jay Stotts** won a Grand Award at OKPEX 2022 with his exhibit: "United States: Fourth Bureau Issue, 1922-1938" and was in the competition. I am pleased to announce that **Vince King** won the Champion of Champion competition with his exhibit: "In the Beginning.... Timbromanie, The Proliferation of Postage Stamps Inspires a Collection Revolution." He previously won the Grand Award at Sarasota National 2022. **Lyle Boardman** has more details on the great accomplishment in this issue of the *Journal*.

Texas Postal History also showed renewed interest at the show, with a large lot selling at the Schuyler Rumsey Auction for three and half times the high value estimate after some furious bidding! Texas Postal History is certainly alive and well!

The Greater Houston Stamp Show has just concluded on September 16-18 at the Humble Civic Center, the largest show in the Southwest! The show was well attended, with many nice exhibits on display. The dealer bourse was full and the Beginner's Booth saw a great deal of action as well. A nice show, with the hard work by the committee evident throughout the three days.

Finally, we are moving our on-line presence to a new web site, hosted by the APS. Our previous internet host was difficult to deal with and updates on the site were problematic. About a dozen other philatelic societies have already made this move successfully, with good results in Google listings and other search engines. It will be easier for us to update our new TPA site using this new host. Right now, the site has just basic features, but we will be adding new information and features in the near future. Our new website for the TPA: <http://www.stamps.org/texasphilatelic>. 



## Editor's Notes

Robert Conley

Greetings! Your humble editor must start off with a big apology for the lateness of this August edition of your *Journal*. It has been a very long, hard summer, with the selling of one's residence in Maine and moving some 1,200 miles west to Michigan. Anyone who has had the unpleasant experience of moving such a distance will understand those few words really don't convey the monumental series of tasks involved. Now, one can understand why some people choose to live their entire lives in the same town, city or county! As one's wife recently said "The next time we move, it will be feet-first – in a coffin."


In any case, we have 24 pages here for your autumnal enjoyment. **John German** explains how unfriendly the Rio Grande has been to traders and sailors who dared venture too far west of the Gulf of Mexico, and he showcases some mail that was conveyed by steamboat.

**Lyle Boardman** kindly tells us about the latest magnificent achievements of the one-and-only **Vince King**. When will this fellow stop being a megastar?

On page 12, new author, **Kenneth Wills** offers some sage advice on how to prepare your collection for the day you present at the pearly gates! It's not exactly a subject most of us want to consider, but one day, someone dear is going to have to do something with your valuable, lovingly-acquired collection – why not give them a hand?

Before we get to **Greg Cain**'s lengthy and well-illustrated "Chapters in Action" and eerily brief "Membership Report," **Jonathan Topper** regales us with two stories – one about some old Mexican Revolution-related "fake news," and the other concerning some attractive cachets painted by a mystery man (or woman) named Adams.

Given Vince's busy life of late, we've allowed him a bit of a rest with the "Seen at Auction" this time around. Both he and John (with another "Pioneer Postmasters") should be back on deck before Christmas.

That is it for now. Don't forget to support all our terrific advertisers. Until next time, stay safe, stay well. 





# TEXAN STEAMBOATS AND MAIL ON THE RIO GRANDE

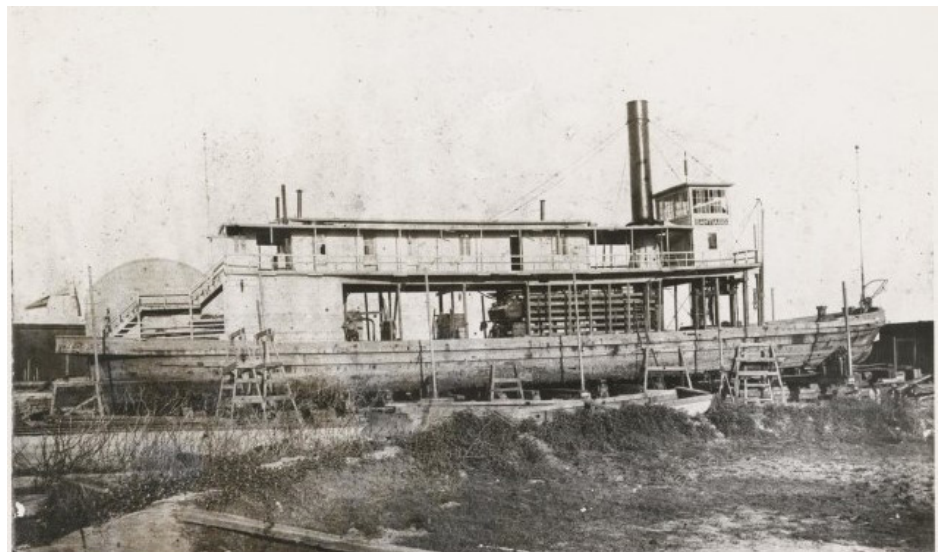
John Germann

The Rio Grande is the fifth longest river in the United States, originating in the state of Colorado and winding 1,896 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. However, even at its historic best, only a small part of the river has ever been navigable. The farthest dependable port of call upriver early on was the Mexican town of Camargo; it was eventually superseded by the town of Roma, built from scratch on the American side of the river in order to capitalize on the river's commercial prospects. A trip from Brownsville to Camargo could take anywhere from three days to a week. The ships stopped at various spots along the way to buy mesquite wood to fire the boilers; the wood was inadequate for that purpose but it was all that was available.

A popular destination was Fort Ringgold at Rio Grande City, just short of Camargo. A June, 1878 letter from the Ringgold Barracks noted that "we will probably remain here two or three weeks before we get a rise sufficient to start down [to Brownsville] with." Such laments were frequent; a drop in water level of three feet overnight was not unheard of. As if the shallow, tortuous waters of the river itself did not pose enough challenges to steamboat traffic in the 19th century, just to get into the river was no mean feat; treacherous sand bars lined its mouth.

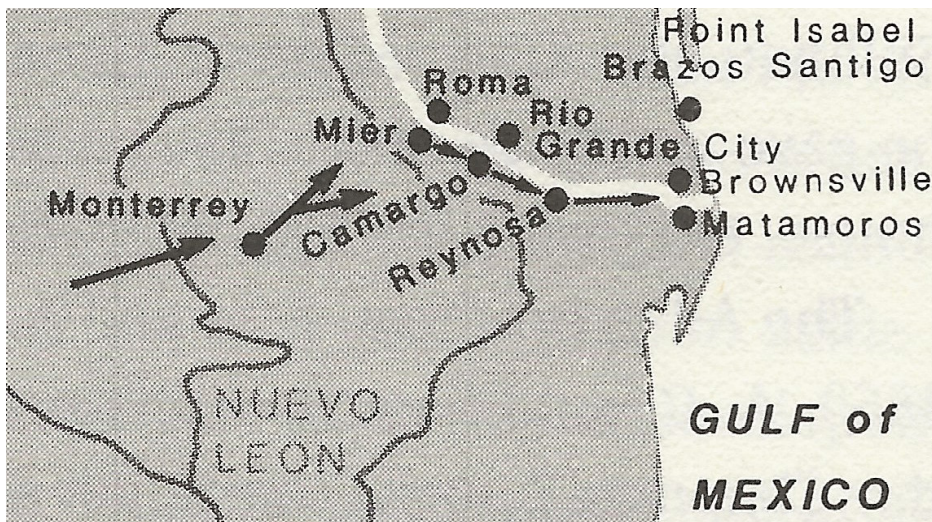
But American entrepreneurs tend to thrive on challenges, and the steamboat owners and captains of the 19th century mastered those of the Rio Grande, to a degree. Sea-going vessels unloaded their wares at Brazos Santiago/Port Isabel in the Gulf of Mexico – onto smaller shallow-draft vessels to clear the sandbars, or onto wagons to go overland to Brownsville, a freshly minted city built around Fort Brown near the river's mouth. From there light-weight, flat-bottomed steamers (usually stern-wheelers) worked their way to ports upriver.

The first steamboat on the Rio Grande (and apparently the first steamboat on any Texas river) was the *Ariel*, operated by Stephen F. Austin's cousin, Henry Austin. Henry Austin plied the river for just a couple of months. Frustrated by the hazards posed by the river and by the slow pace of business along the border with Mexico, he moved his ship to the Brazos River. Faring little better there, he settled down and bought a plantation along the Brazos. The *Ariel* was fated to be abandoned on Buffalo Bayou near Houston.



The "Santiago," a steamboat wrecked off Padre Island in 1899, seen here lying in a field.





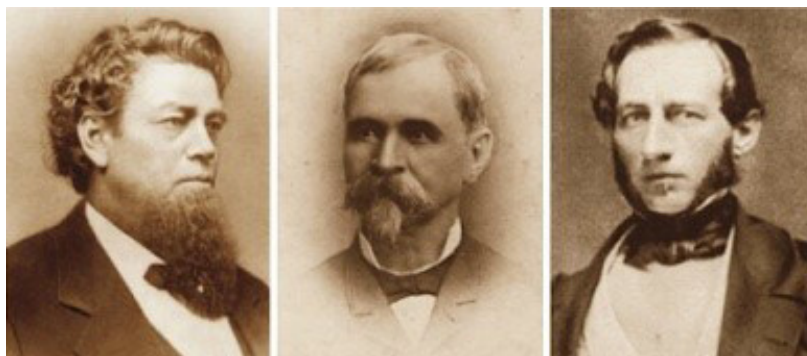
Steamboat ports on the lower Rio Grande, 1878.

The first serious use of steamboats on the river above Matamoros came during the war with Mexico in 1846 - 1848, and was spawned by the U.S. Army's need to facilitate movement of troops and supplies and, of course, mail for their campaigns in northern Mexico. General Zachary Taylor, with the assistance of Mifflin Kenedy, an enterprising Pennsylvania riverboat captain, purchased several light steamboats. Although one of the steamers, overly-laden on its way to Camargo, ran aground in July, 1846 and had to be rescued by another army vessel, the ships as a whole proved to be so valuable that the count ultimately reached 30 before war's end. The first was the *Corvette*, captained by Kenedy himself and piloted by his friend Richard King – two names which would become very well known in South Texas. General Taylor himself, along with his staff, traveled to Camargo aboard the *Corvette* at about the same time.

One intrepid vessel, the *Major Brown*, made its way laboriously all the way to Laredo, 175 miles from Brownsville by road, but a writhing 600 miles by water! It was a very light steamboat with a draft of only two feet. Even so, it struggled valiantly to reach Laredo and then was holed up there for months before the water level would rise sufficiently to carry the ship downstream. That historical expedition was never followed up commercially.

In 1848, with the war at an end, these Army steamboats were sold into civilian service – to Charles Stillman, merchant and founder of the new town of Brownsville. Stillman built up the commercial trade on the river and even created a “second Brownsville” at Roma to serve the interior of Mexico; it turned out to be the farthest commercial stop up the river, and it would become the emporium of the region, largely eclipsing Camargo and Rio Grande City (where Kenedy had built a warehouse that eventually became Starr County's first court house). With his “book-end” cities, Stillman dominated the river's trade; his boats also carted “49ers” to Camargo where they could catch trains to Monterey and go on to California.

As time went on, Stillman increasingly switched his focus to ferrying, e.g. between Brownsville and Matamoros, and he turned most of the riverboat trade over to Kenedy and King. They took the service to new heights. Kenedy had designed a new type of steamboat specifically to meet the demands of the shallow Rio Grande. By 1865, M. Kenedy & Co. was operating 26 vessels on the Rio Grande, effectively monopolizing the trade.

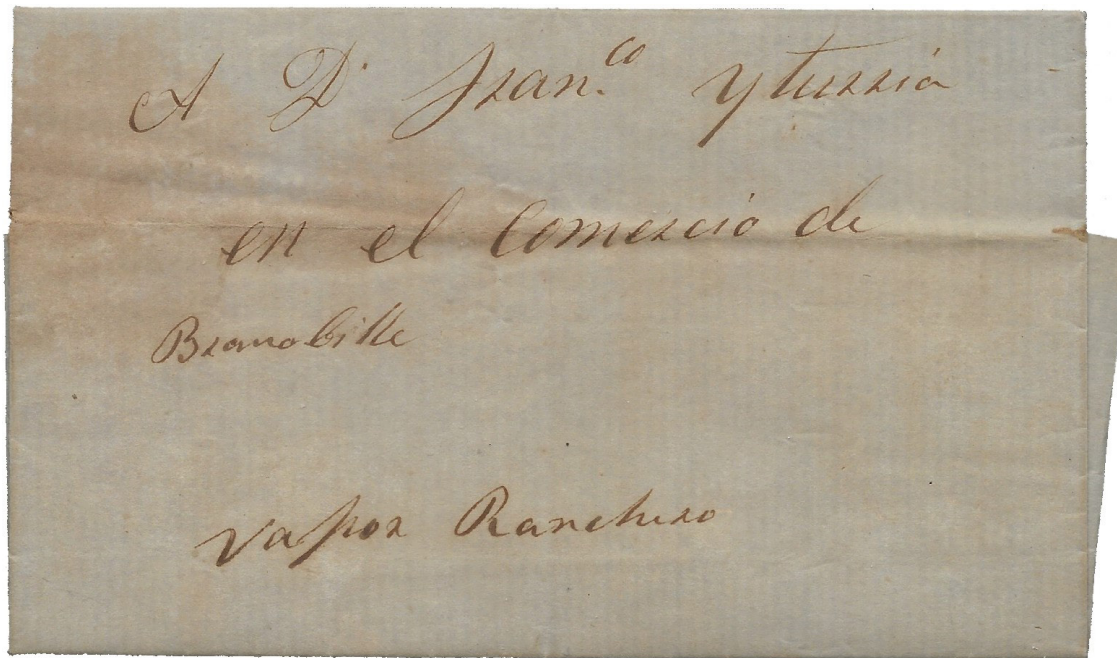


(Left to right):  
Richard King,  
Mifflin Kenedy,  
Charles Stillman



The first of his new stern-wheelers to ply the river was the *Comanche*, a 164-ton vessel built in Freedom, PA in 1850. Its arrival was hailed by the leaders of Brownsville and it was praised in the newspapers as a “staunch, well-built craft, just suited to this river.” For the *Comanche* and other ships, however, the waters of the river provided not the only danger. Border conflicts consistently threatened the vessels and the river trade. While carrying passengers, including a revenue officer, to Rio Grande City in 1852, it was fired upon by twelve shots from the Mexican side of the river; the officer and his 4-year old son were hit by the bullets. In 1858, a series of similar attacks occurred, as reported by the cleric Emanuel Domenech, a passenger on board the ship; he blamed the attacks upon Indian “savages” roaming the Mexican side of the river.

Later, in 1854, the company put the *Ranchero* into service. It was yet another sternwheeler built in Freedom but it was considerably larger, weighing in at 206 tons. It transported supplies, lead from Mexican mines, and gold specie, as well as people. It was also at times targeted by anti-American partisans along the border. In 1860, it was almost captured by the infamous Mexican “bandido” Juan Cortina; a party of Texas Rangers saved the day.



1852 stampless folded letter from Reynosa to Brownsville via the steamboat *Comanche*.

During the Civil War, the river served as an economic lifeline for the Confederacy, and Kenedy and King used their riverboats to help export cotton and import needed supplies for the CSA, even registering their ships with the Mexican government and flying the Mexican flag in order to get through the Union blockade.<sup>1</sup> Right after the war ended, Stillman withdrew from the company and the firm was renamed King, Kenedy & Co.

In the midst of Kenedy and King’s commercial ships on the river, a military steamboat would still occasionally make an appearance. One of those was the *Rio Bravo* (the Mexican name for the Rio Grande), a 325-ton Confederate blockade runner initially named *Planter* that was captured and later converted by the Union navy into a gunboat. It arrived on the river in 1875 to protect Rio Grande merchants and landowners from border raiders and smugglers like Juan Cortina. It was by no means the pride of the U.S. fleet, and was described by a crewman as a “4th-class TUB.” It lasted only a couple of years before blowing a boiler upriver; it wound up floating all the way back down the river to Brownsville. In 1880, it was scuttled as a breakwater near Fort Brown.

King and Kenedy continued to dominate the post-Civil War river trade but they became increasingly concerned about competition that was approaching from an entirely different source – the railroads. For a while they fought the incursion of the railroads but they gradually recognized what the future held in

1. After the war, Kenedy would receive a presidential pardon for those actions.

1856 stampless folded letter from Reynosa to Brownsville via the Steamboat *Ranchero*.



U.S.S. "Rio Bravo"  
 Ringgold Barracks  
 June 19<sup>th</sup> 1878  
 My dear Lizzie  
 There is nothing new



1878 letter from Ringgold Barracks to Germantown, PA via the Steamboat *Rio Bravo*.

store and began investing heavily in them. In fact, the first train to run from Corpus Christi to Laredo was nicknamed the "Kenedy and King Special." In 1874, the partners sold their steamboating business. The company itself continued on until 1882; by that time those railroads had already begun to spell the doom of the steamboat trade. As profits declined, so too did the number of steamboats on the river. The last of the Rio Grande steamboats, the *Bessie*, made its final run in 1903 to Ringgold Barracks at Rio Grande City.





The Steamboat, *Bessie*.

Some of the old boats still lie mud-bound in the river, a river which today is navigable only at its mouth. Thirsty farms and thirsty populations have found different uses for the river's water. Yet in their heyday, which barely exceeded fifty years, the Rio Grande's steamboats played a vital role in bringing the nation's military, commerce, and mails to South Texas. ★

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# VINCE KING WINS AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY “CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS” FOR 2022

Lyle Boardman

In the February issue of this journal, we reported on Vince King winning the Grand Award at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, a “World Series of Champions” Show. With that win, Vince’s exhibit was entered in the annual American Philatelic Society “Champion of Champions” competition at the Great American Stamp Show held in Sacramento, CA August 24 to 28, 2022.

Vince’s exhibit is titled “In the Beginning...Timbromanie, The Proliferation of Postage Stamps Inspired a Collecting Revolution”. It is unique and innovative in that it includes three-dimensional objects as well as more traditional covers and two-dimensional items.



There were 22 other exhibits that had won Grand Awards at other World Series of Champions shows around the country. At the awards ceremony in Sacramento, all the 23 contenders were lined up in front of the crowd and when Vince’s exhibit was announced as the winner, the crowd erupted in applause.

The Champion of Champions competition started in 1968 and has been held every year since except 2020, during the pandemic. Vince King’s exhibit is one of only 54 that have been awarded the prize. 🇺🇸



# WHEN I DIE ...

## Kenneth Wills

This is not how we like to start a sentence, is it? Making a will, and updating it from time to time, are tasks that are tangled in procrastination.

If your will is current, you probably have a clause or two stipulating what you want done with your stamp collection. Maybe you have a descendant who can hardly wait to inherit your stamps. Or one who has agreed to take it on with the idea of turning it into some cash. Possibly you have instructed your executor to put your collection into the hands of a chosen stamp dealer or auction house.

If you don't have a current will, make a date on your calendar right now to get with it!

The purpose of this article is to make you think about writing an article about your stamp collection with the title "When I die" and attaching it to your will.

Put yourself in the frame of mind of the person who has just inherited your stamps, and is quite bewildered. If your collection is well organized – perhaps within a stamp room like mine, seen below – this document will be straight forward. It will clarify questions like:

- Where is it physically located and how is it organized.
- What is the focus of the collection, e.g. "topical collection of mint stamps depicting birds".
- Are there different parts to the collection, e.g. an album of forgeries, five boxes of first flight air-mail covers, etc.
- Do some of your stamps have certificates of authenticity, and if so where are they filed.
- Have you had your collection appraised (when, and with what result).
- Do you have an estimate of the total catalogue value (and point out the percentage of the catalogue value you might expect to realize).
- Do you have computer records of inventory or purchase history or trading debts to other collectors; and if so how to access this data.
- Cancel magazine subscriptions & club memberships.
- Can you identify dealers or other collectors or club members who might be interested in acquiring all or part or who could assist in locating interested parties.

That's some of what the heir to your well organized collection will need. If your stuff is more like mine, it will take much more explanation. Here are some imaginary statements to include in your "When I die" document:

- On top of the guest room wardrobe are two large boxes of worldwide used stamps on paper.
- On shelf B5 you will find two albums of South Africa. The black one is my collection, the blue one I obtained with the intention of extracting what is missing in my collection.
- On shelf C3 is a shoe box of mint stamps in packets, sorted by country. Some of these are valuable.
- The brown box on shelf D2 is full of surplus stamps of little value that I intend to give to a stamp charity.
- All the stock books on shelf E1 are purchased items that I have not yet processed.
- You will find my collection of Latvia and Lithuania in a fat album marked Estonia etc.


This could go on and on, but the person inheriting your stamps will be relieved to be given this information. You might consider preparing a similar document for non-philatelic items: "My copy of xxx is a first edition signed by the author" or "The silver tableware once belonged to Charlie Chaplin."

So stop procrastinating, NOW.



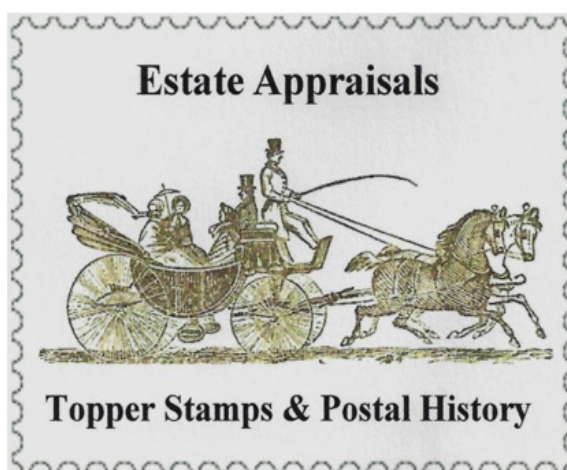


Faced even with a well organized stamp room like this one, a grieving non-philatelist would probably appreciate some clear guidance as to what to do with it all.

This article first appeared in *Stamping Around*, the newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, August 2022 

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# 1910 POSTAL CARD TO SAN ANTONIO AND THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

**JONATHAN TOPPER**

*Illustrated below, the Postal Stationery Card from Mexico City to an attorney in San Antonio, TX is dated November 25, 1910, and postmarked two days later. It contains a message that there were "unimportant incidents" in that country during the week before, and that it should be ignored by business associates in the United States. The card goes on to state that, "The disturbing elements were very promptly suppressed..."*



México City, Mexico, Nov. 25, 1910

Dear Friend:-

*Please advise the citizens and press of your vicinity that the published reports in American newspapers during the past two weeks, of revolutionary disturbances in Mexico, have in the main been untrue or gross exaggerations of same unimportant incidents.*

*The disturbing elements were very promptly suppressed, perfect quiet and safety restored and the country will go forward with brighter prospects than ever.*

*These sensational stories about their country are unprovoked discourtesies to our Mexican friends.*

Very Sincerely,

*J. Topper*

Although the correspondence was meant to quell fears of a Mexican Revolution, the card inadvertently became a record of the start of the Mexican Revolution five days before; on November 20, 1910.

The Mexican Revolution began with a call to arms on that date with the aim of overthrowing dictator, José de la Cruz Porfirio Díaz Mori, known simply as Porfirio Díaz Mori. Díaz was an ambitious president who ruled for 31 years. He was trying to develop Mexico into a more modernized country, but at a cost to the lower classes. He ruled as an absolute dictator and had many of his political opponents thrown in jail.

The Mexican Revolution lasted for around a decade, before a Constitutional Republic was established. A number of independent revolutionary groups led by Pancho Villa, Francisco Madero and Emiliano Zapata participated in the costly civil war conflict.



Porfirio Diaz, whose authoritarian regime ruled Mexico for a total of 31 years.



Pancho Villa, a key figure in the revolutionary movement that ousted out President Díaz.

This simple postal card represents one of the first known pieces of correspondence documenting this historical event. ★

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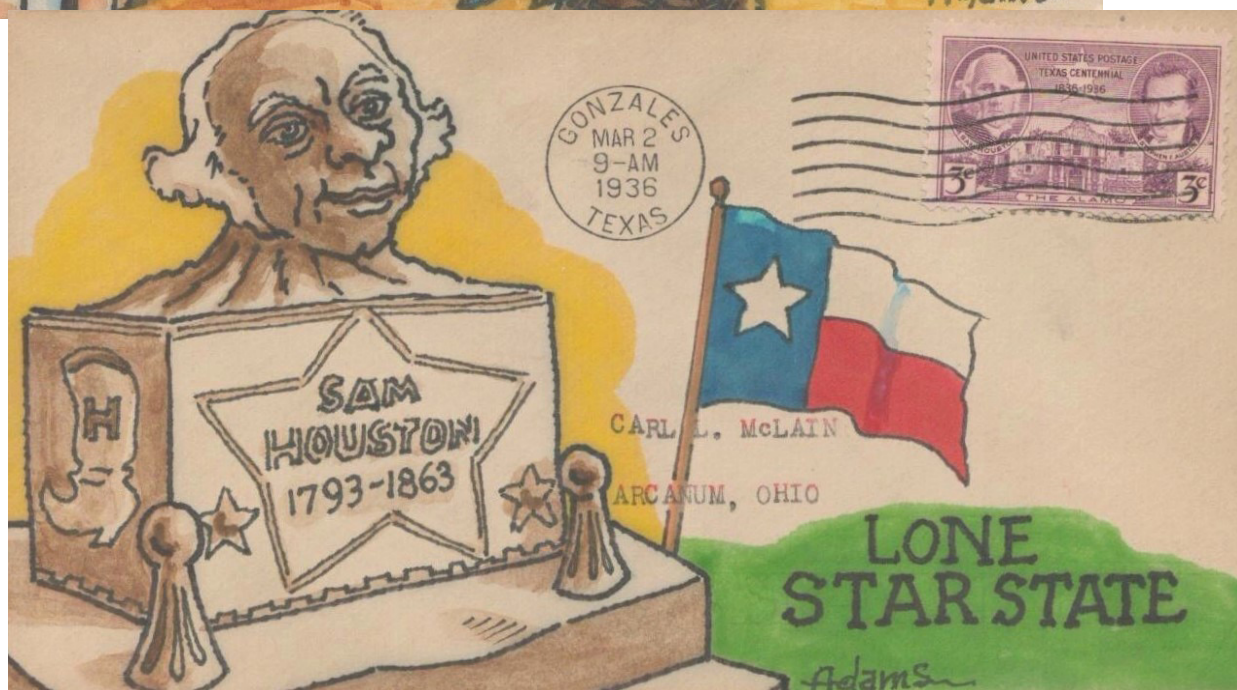
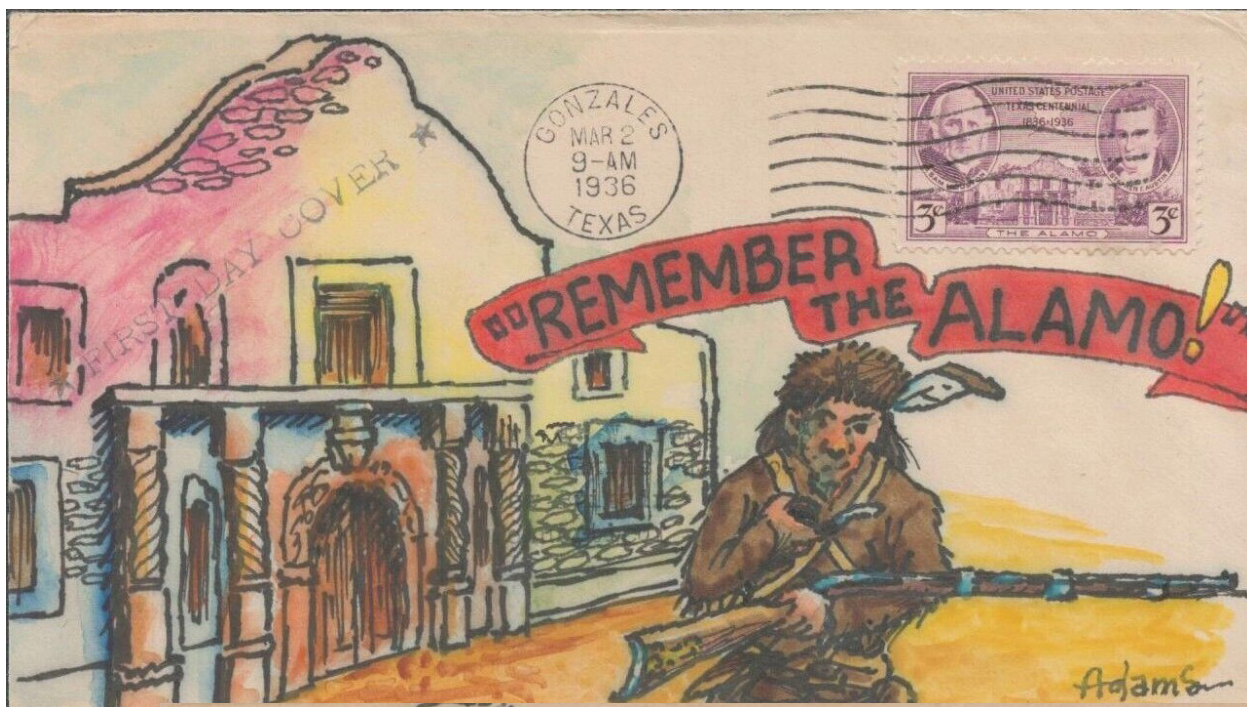




# The Mysterious Mr. Adams and His Texas Hand-Painted Cachets

Jonathan Topper

I recently came across six hand painted First Day Cover cachets for the 1936 Texas Centennial stamp [Scott Number 776]. They all have a military theme centered around the events leading to the independence of Texas. They are very colorful, with a distinctive 'look' about the type of painting. All are signed by 'Adams.' I tried to find out more about the artist, but a simple search of the internet did not lead to any results.







These cachets are not listed in the famous Mellone's Photo Encyclopedia of Cachet's First Day Covers. In addition, no mention of the Adams' cachet paintings in Charles Deaton's Philatelic Guide to the 1936 Texas Centennial Celebration published in 1984. Inquiries to the First Day Cover Society also failed to produce any useful information.

Finally, I contacted two of the more well-known First Day Cover dealers, who confirmed these are Add-On cachets, but they did not have any other information on the artist. An 'Add-On' cachets is one where the artist took existing First Day Covers, and years later [and in this case, I am guessing in the 1950's] added the painting, sometimes even on top of the lighter printed original cachets.

I did notice some other Adams hand painted cachets on First Day Covers recently offered on eBay, the same time period, and usually with a military motif.

I would be grateful if any TPA members could supply additional information about the mysterious Mr. (or Ms.) Adams. ★



## Chapters in Action

Greg Cain

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

**American First Day Cover Society, Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter 56 ([afdcchap56.org](http://afdcchap56.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. When we do hold meetings, it is always held at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL) at the University of Texas at Dallas. – submitted by **Anne Moxley**.

**Austin Texas Stamp Club ([www.stamps.org/austin-texas-stamp-club](http://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 host location for the second monthly meeting is no longer available to the club. Club President, **Lisa Nicks**, is searching for a new location. In the meantime, 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. Recent meetings have included those auctions at the month's first meeting and presentations at the second. On May 17, club secretary-treasurer, **Lyle Boardman** presented a program that featured Austin covers of note, from 1839 into the 1940s. And at the second meeting in June, Houston stamp club stalwart, **Rick Barrett** presented a program titled, "Miracles from Philatelic Writing." The club is on the hunt for speakers from other Texas clubs, a good way for us all to share our resources and experiences with each other. We heard from one of the best, **John Germann**, noted Texas postal historian, of the Houston club, who spoke on August 16 on "The Search for Caldwell County Post Offices." It was a fascinating sojourn through that county, southeast of Austin, where John and a colleague crisscrossed the countryside and discovered many former (and a few present) country post offices. (But John, did you stop for BBQ anywhere?) An ugliest stamp competition, hosted by club VP **Jason Fay**, was the featured presentation for July 19. In the July issue of the club newsletter, *Stampede*, editor Boardman noted that the email distribution of lots being offered for the auction no longer includes color illustrations. That enhancement was driven by the pandemic-related suspension of in-person meetings. Now that Austin is again meeting in person, lots can be viewed before bidding on auction night. Lyle will send pictures to remote bidders upon request. Your reporter will take this development as an opportunity to become more familiar with his Scott catalogues. Lyle also reported that two new members joined the club in late June – welcome to **Ralph Cox**, a retired supply chain consultant, and **Weston Richey**, a University of Texas grad student. Now let's get them on the TPA membership rolls! – submitted by **Lyle Boardman**.

**Collectors Club of Dallas** – The CCOD meetings are now scheduled for the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month. However, with the uncertainty of Covid-19 and the Omicron variant, we have had no meetings recently, either in person or online. But 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 a great discussion. **Tom Koch** recently contributed an interesting little write-up of a cover bearing three Philippine Islands stamps (PI-380, the baseball stamp of the three-stamp series of sports stamps) that carried a letter posted in June 1934, at Nichols Field, The Philippines. The letter is from Maizie T. Redner, wife of U.S. Army Major William T. Redner, and addressed to the writer's mother in Highland Falls, NY. The major, a career Army man, retired from the Army in 1940, scarcely a year before life in that part of the world was forever changed. Both he (1922-2000) and his wife (1917-1964) are buried in Highland Falls. – submitted by **Anne Moxley**.

**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](http://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. Club leadership has been busy lately, with president **Bill Laupus** presenting June 22 on the Penny Black and past club president, **Stan Bartnikowski** leading several programs on items related to the country of Poland. Those have included the story behind the Polish-Hungarian joint first day issue commemorating General Józef Bem, a letter "T" program centered around the Polish city of Tarnów and an appreciation of Ignace Paderewski (concert pianist and statesman). – submitted by **Bill Laupus**.

**Heart of Texas Stamp Club** – Club meetings presently in hiatus.

**Houston Philatelic Society ([www.houstonstampclub.org](http://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 has resumed in-person meetings at the regular first and third Monday sessions and has decided to meet via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. Attendance at recent meetings has varied from 15 to more than 25. On May 16, club member and New York City postal history specialist, **Ardy Callender** presented on elliptical cancels and the many design variations. This presentation is complemented by Ardy's article, "The Earliest Geometric New York Foreign Mail Cancel," in the current issue of club newsletter *The Perforator* (**Jay Stotts**, Ed.). Other presentations (June 20) have included **Jonathan Topper** on stamp forgeries, counterfeiting and washing for reuse, (seen in the photo below right) and **John Germann** (July 18) on a favorite of your "Chapters" reporter, the popular Overrun Countries issue of 1943-44 (Sc. [U.S.] 909-921). On August 15, several folks and two guests (who became our newest members) met to hear

nine members each describe collections they've built and are passionate about. Each was unique (Isle of Man, U.S. Christmas issues, U.S. Naval covers, the "poles" [North, South and Poland!]) but had other features in common. Several collectors print their own custom pages, tailored to their collection. And several interleave articles, photos and other ephemera in the album to enhance the overall story the stamps tell. Most interesting! At the Zoom meeting on August 29, nine members enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker, **Scott Ney** of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster (PA) County, titled "Baseball – Fathers & Sons, Baseball Players' Postcards to Their Fans." An intriguing idea, Scott has located old penny postcards ("government postal cards") that ballplayers "back in the day" would autograph and send to fans upon request. Scott sent several of these, along with mint GPCs to these players' sons who were also Big League players for autographed return (e.g., Roy Smalley, Jr., of the Milwaukee Braves [he lived from 6/9/1926 to 10/22/2011] and Roy Smalley, III, of the Chicago White Sox [b. 10/25/1952]). It was a wonderful trip down Memory Lane. Please see the first photo on page 20.



*The Perforator* also carried news of four club members winning awards at the recent OKPEX show in Oklahoma City. **Denise Stotts** won a large silver and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award with "Irving Berlin's White Christmas." **Bethel Strawser** won a single-frame Vermeil and the American Topical Association's top thematic award





with "Pursuing the Bluebird of Happiness." **Ron Strawser** won a Gold with "Postal Stationery Issues of Uruguay 1866-1946." Jay Stotts won in multiple categories, including the show's Grand Award and the American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence, with "United States: The Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-1938." Ron and Jay both qualify for subsequent competition, including Jay's victories qualifying his exhibit for the annual Champion of Champions competition at the APS Great American Stamp

Show in Sacramento, recently held in late August. Much space is dedicated to preparations for the club's annual show at the Humble Civic Center (September 16-18). Show co-chair, Ron Strawser shared at the July 18 meeting that three judges have confirmed their participation and that more than 60 frames of exhibits are expected. – 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** (parriskr@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 regular auction. Our club has an extensive philatelic library including a set of *Scott Catalogs*. Annual dues are \$10. The Club recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Boy Scouts of America in recognition of our help in enabling four Scouts to earn the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Seen in the photo (below right) of the presentation are (L-R) **Bill Malloy, Bob Osman, John Roberts, Dave Bowman, Eva Yang** and **Sue Schroeder**. We look forward to continuing with this outreach program. At a recent meeting we heard an excellent presentation from Club member, **Niels Udengaard** on Royals on Danish Stamps. On July 11, Houston stamp club members **John Germann** and **Greg Cain** returned the favor JSC paid to HPS last quarter and attended JSC's club meeting to hear member **Gary Walston** present on early Houston postmarks. With several references to the late **Rex H. "Jim" Stever's** classic "Republic Post-Texas Mail Late 1835 to Early 1846," Gary shared some very nice



material, including covers from the Texas Republic era as well as antebellum and post-Civil War items. Please see photo right. Hosted by club president, Bill Malloy and club treasurer Bob Osman, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The club's monthly auction was held on July 25, a poignant meeting as it was the last time the group enjoyed the company of **Henk Dijkstra** (courtesy of chauffer-grandson, **Josh Dijkstra**). Henk passed away the following week after a long battle with leukemia. On August 8, members enjoyed a presentation by Bill Malloy on the Panama Canal. For directions and other information (including helpful driving alternatives to the challenging Gulf Freeway/I-45 construction traffic in the area), contact Bob Osman at 832-489-4417. – submitted by **Bob Osman**.

#### **Mid-Cities Stamp Club ([www.mid-citiesstampclub.com](http://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, Ste. 1C, Euless. Attendance at recent meetings has fluctuated between 7 and 10 members. May's program featured the Royal Mail video *Night Mail II*, the sequel to the original *Night Mail* the club watched in March (and Granbury watched in April). Preparations for EXPO in November continue.

**Tom Cunningham** shared at the May meeting that all 26 dealers' tables had now been reserved. At the June meeting, **Peter Elias** shared that all three judges have now committed to EXPO.

**Stanley Christmas** mentioned that the club is sending fewer EXPO post card invitations, with more people now accepting an email invite. – submitted by **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 May meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Eleven members and guests gathered on July 26 to hear **Ken Wills** lead a stamp trivia quiz (perhaps Ken and Ron Strawser and Jay Stotts, the Houston club's occasional quiz masters, should compare notes). Ken also announced that his article, "When I Die," about post mortem care of one's collection that appears in the August issue of club newsletter, *Stamping Around*, will also be printed in *The Circuit*. (Ken's article is reprinted in full elsewhere in this issue.) That is a publication of The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors. Host **David Stockbridge** gaveled to order the August 23 meeting, where 14 members and one guest enjoyed "Show & Tell," **Gary McNamee's** "Where in the World?" (this evening's destination: Guadeloupe) and business updates (including EXPO news from Stanley Christmas). Skip Ely brought the evening's presentation on stamp album alternatives. He compared commercial offerings from Scott, Minkus, Palo, Harris and others and noted advantages and disadvantages in preprinted albums as compared with individually created albums and their customization possibilities. – submitted by **Eugene Atkinson**.

**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. The Mid-Cities club has recently tested out a Zoom gathering, designed especially for those members who live too far from one of the three meeting sites to conveniently attend. **Rick Howell** hosted the first two sessions in June and July and there may be more, depending upon demand. Twenty-seven members met for both the March and April meetings (those Mid-Cities folks are consistent!). May's meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, with the scheduled auction moved to June. June and July's meetings attracted 20-25 members. Club secretary, Skip Ely announced at the June meeting that club membership stood at 95. **Ray Cartier** presented his "Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4" (the Fort Worth plant) at the July meeting. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

Recent issues of the club's award-winning newsletter, *Stamping Around*, feature several articles about places visited by the peripatetic and long-time editor, Peter Elias. Other club members have chipped in, too, including Ken Wills with an article in the August issue, titled, "When I Die ...", mentioned above. Ken, whose extensive but well-organized stamp room is displayed earlier in this issue, broaches the topic we all keep in the back of our minds: What will happen to my collections when I'm no longer here? Ken proposes a letter to accompany your will (complete a will first if you don't have one) that will help the executor carry out your wishes regarding your stamps. The letter can point out items that deserve consideration and where they are among your philatelic holdings. Such separate written guidance can be



referenced in your will, even though it won't have legal effect (unless made a part of your will). But it will be helpful to your heirs and help the executor give your collections the care they deserve.

EXPO News. Ray Cartier wrote in the July issue of *Stamping Around* that club members will be able to exhibit at this year's EXPO without paying a frame fee. The prospectus/exhibits entry form is available from him via email request. The EXPO planning committee held a virtual meeting on August 6. Planning proceeds apace! As previously noted, **Tom Cunningham** reported that 26 dealers have now committed. All three judges are lined up. Announcements (both via snail mail and email) are set to be launched and notices are lined up for publication in *Linn's* and *The American Philatelist*. **Stanley Christmas** noted that this will be **Kirk McKenzie's** last show, capping a perfect 34-year attendance record starting with the very first EXPO. His faithful support will be noted and celebrated at this year's show. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

**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). Recent programs have included presentations by club member, **Al Lozano** on April 22 about the Army & Air Force Exchange Service ("PX") through the years, and by club treasurer and historian, **Fred Groth** on July 22 with the intriguing title, "What Do We Have Stamps for if We Are Not Using Them on Mail?" The July-August issue of club newsletter, **The Philatex** carried photos of Al's presentation and from the club's June 17 picnic, courtesy of photographer for the event, **Brittany Roberts**.

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. Interested persons can contact **Nancy Mabie**. – 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 (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. The club met for an all-day program on July 16. Ten members attended, including a new member, **Louis Bosse** of Houston. After coffee, juice, and doughnuts, the meeting opened around 9AM. As this was the 50th Anniversary of the group's founding, a bit of its history was discussed, led by the only remaining founder, **Jeff Switt**. **Ed Richardson** organized the group at the HOUPEX show, with the first meeting in November 1972, at **Barry Shapiro's** home in College Station. *The Beaver Chatter* newsletter has been in publication continuously since that meeting. The meeting started with a literature review of members' new and older publications, recent internet sites, and events. A presentation by **George Dresser** on "The First Postage Due Issue of Canada 1906-1928" followed and consumed the rest of the morning, with a spirited discussion of items George showed. His collection included both recorded and unrecorded proofs, stamps, and usages on cover for domestic and international incoming mail. After lunch, the members showed new or previously not-discussed items from their collections. Jeff Switt showed new material related to his thematic of Oranges, including Argentine revenues related to citrus that none of the members had seen. **Denise Stotts** showed examples of the Winnipeg Christmas Stick'n'Tic label of 1983. **Larry Ballantyne** showed examples of WWII redirected covers. **Alan Price** showed a legitimate Norfolk Island usage to the U.S. Several other members showed new material. **Jay Stotts** previewed the new book *The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-1938*. Jay, the primary editor, showed a prerelease copy. Wonderfully illustrated, this book will be the reference for the issue for decades. The book was released at the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento on August 25-28. The cost is \$40 for United States Specialist Society members and \$45 for non-members. Order from the USSS Executive Secretary, P O Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434. A presentation followed by **Vic Willson** on Canada's 19th century one-cent rates with examples of each rate. A donation auction followed. The final event was a members' show-and-tell of unusual philatelic items. The meeting closed about 5PM, and most members adjourned to a local barbecue restaurant for dinner and fellowship. A photograph of the participants is seen on the next page: front row, left to right - **David Nickson**, Denise Stotts, and Ron Strawser; back row - Alan Price, Louis Bosse, Jay Stotts, Jeff Switt, Vic Willson, and Larry Ballantyne. Not pictured is photographer George Dresser – George Dresser is the club contact; details available from **Greg Cain**. – submitted by **George Dresser**.

**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** on (806) 441-5809. – **Barbara ("Babs") Noah**.



**Texas Precancel Club** – (from its *Texas Precancels* newsletter of July 2022) – The club maintains a Facebook page. The club's Fall meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24, 2022, at the Comfort Inn, 301 Capital Street, Grapevine, TX 76051. Saturday's proceedings will include an auction of 157 lots. Current membership stands at 80 and new members are always welcome. **John**

**Foster** is club secretary and newsletter editor is George Dresser. The current newsletter continued a serial journey through Texas counties (this issue, the panhandle counties of Carson, Gray and Wheeler), accompanied by maps of the counties and illustrations of county courthouses and selected precancels from towns located in the counties. – submitted by **Greg Cain**. ★

## Membership Report

Greg Cain

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

#### Reinstated

5197 Saez, Jorge

#### Dropped for Non-Renewal

5203 Cardinal, Tom

#### Deceased

4764 Wimberg, Judith

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership as of May 14, 2022	290
New Members	0
Reinstated	1
Dropped for Non-Renewal	-1
Deceased	-1
Audit Adjustment	-5
<b>Membership as of September 4, 2022</b>	<b>284</b>
Comprised of:	
Life Chapters	10
Life Members	71
Regular Chapters/Units	8
Regular Members	<u>195</u>
	<b>284</b>





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