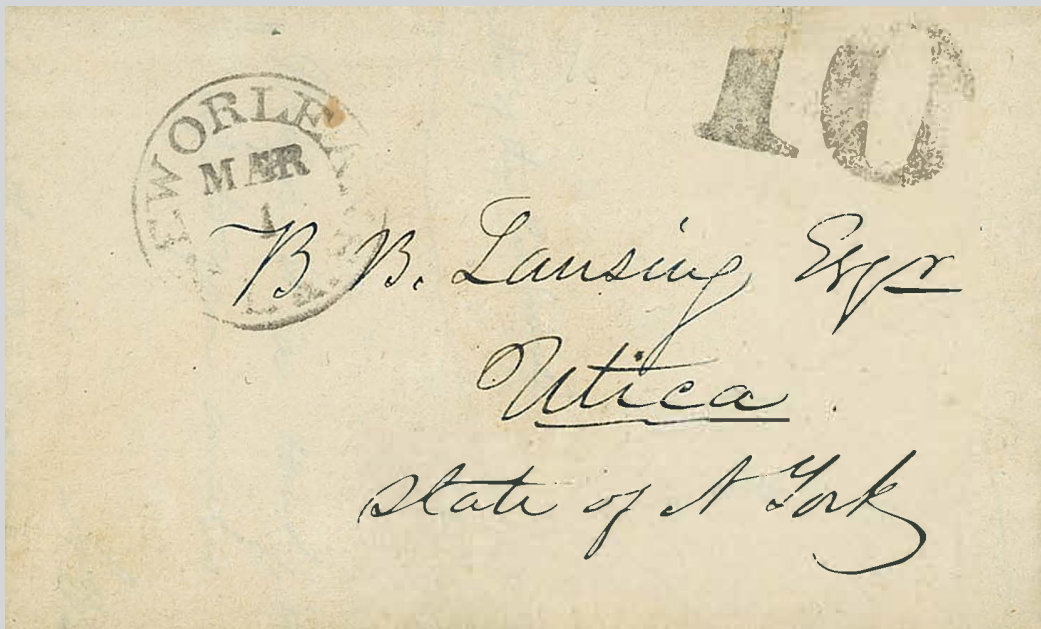


Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

The Official Publication of the Texas Philatelic Association

Volume 70, No. 1 February 2022



This 1847 folded letter was sent by an army officer during the Mexican War. The front cover doesn't show it, but the contents provide a treasure of information for Texas historians. Charlie Deaton explains, starting on page 6.



TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

"Friendship Through Philately"

OFFICERS

President

Jonathan Topper (2024)
10480 Grant Road, Suite 117
Houston, TX 77070
email: jonathan@topperstamps.com

Vice President

Clayton Finney (2024)
2045 Southgate Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77030-2119
email: cfinney@sbcglobal.net

Secretary & Treasurer

Gregory Cain (2023)
1926 Brimberry St.,
Houston, TX 77018
email: greg.cain@comcast.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Conley (2023)
Anne Benner Moxley (2025)
Michael A. Prokop (2025)

Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

Robert Conley, Editor,
52 Vista Ridge,
Glenburn, ME 04401-1829
texaspaeditor@yahoo.com

www.texasstamps.org

Published four times a year by the Texas Philatelic Association Foundation, Inc. (also known as the "Texas Philatelic Association") and included with membership. The TPAF is APS Chapter #0632-49588.

Annual membership subscription for United States residents is \$18 (outside USA, cost dependent on place of residency) available by writing to the Secretary.

All non-membership-related correspondence (articles for publication, advertising inquiries, etc.) should be addressed to the Editor.

©2022 Texas Philatelic Association Foundation, Inc.
February 2022
Volume 70, Number 1.



OKLAHOMA STAMPS



1001 NORTH FULTON ♦ TULSA, OK 74115

KIRKMCKENZIE@COX.NET

Specializing in United States Stamps

Member: APS, ASDA, TSDA

Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Past-President's Message	<i>Greg Cain</i>	5
Editor's Notes	<i>Robert Conley</i>	5
An 1847 Mexican War Letter with a Map of Brazos Santiago & Point Isabel	<i>Charles W. Deaton</i>	6
At Work on the Mexico-U.S. Boundary Survey	<i>Jim Crain</i>	10
Sunny Skies & Sunny Post Offices in Texas	<i>John Germann</i>	13
Vince King Wins Grand at Sarasota	<i>Greg Cain</i>	16
Seen at Auction	<i>Vince King & C.W. Deaton</i>	18
Pioneer Postmasters – 5. D.C. Rachal (Rosita)	<i>John Germann</i>	20
Chapters in Action	<i>Greg Cain</i>	24
Membership Report	<i>Greg Cain</i>	30

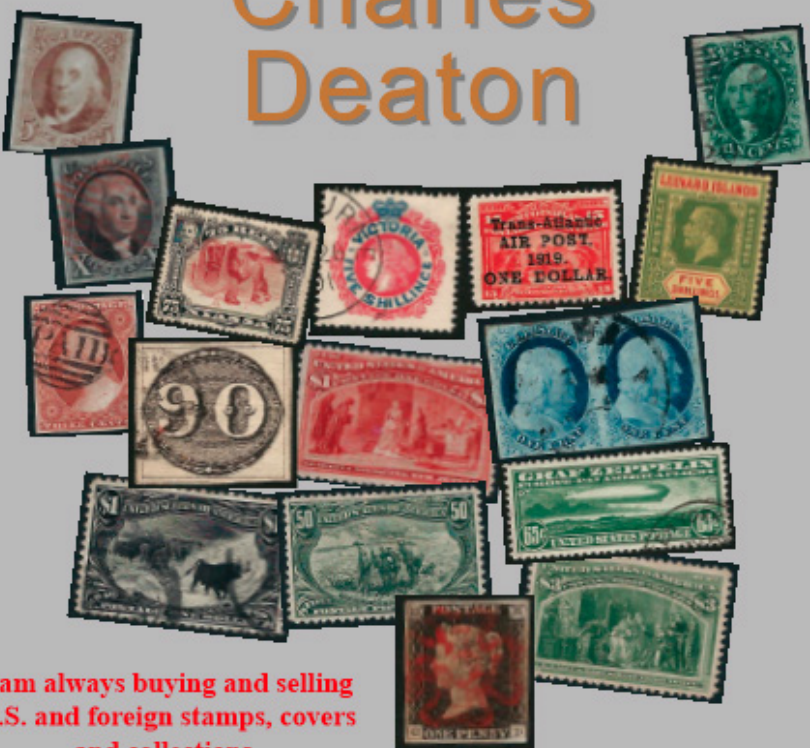


My Selling Specialty is tracking down those rare stamps and covers that are hard to find and really add something to your collection.

P.O. Box 27408,
Houston TX 77227
Phone (713) 927-9948
cwdeaton@aol.com

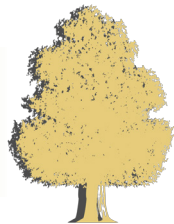
In The Summer
contact me on Cape Cod:
P.O. Box 2836
Orleans, MA 02653

Charles Deaton



**I am always buying and selling
U.S. and foreign stamps, covers
and collections.**

BUYING



Golden
Oak | Online
Auctions

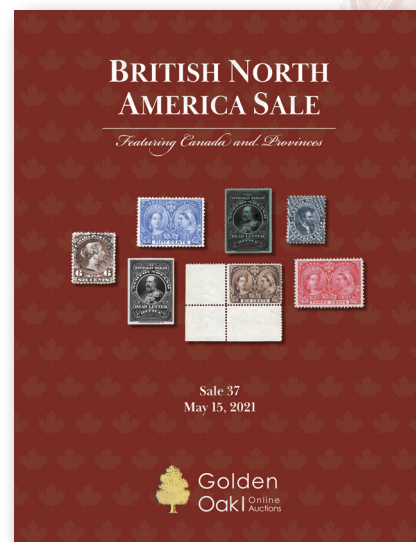
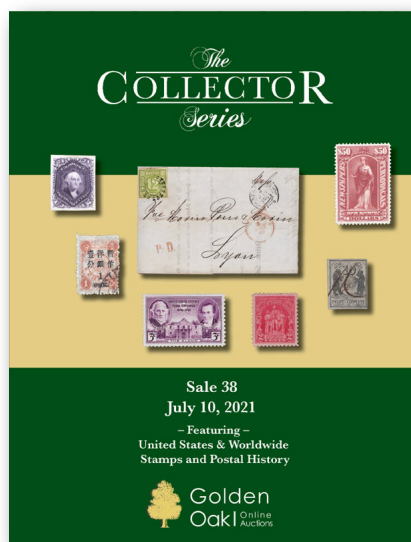
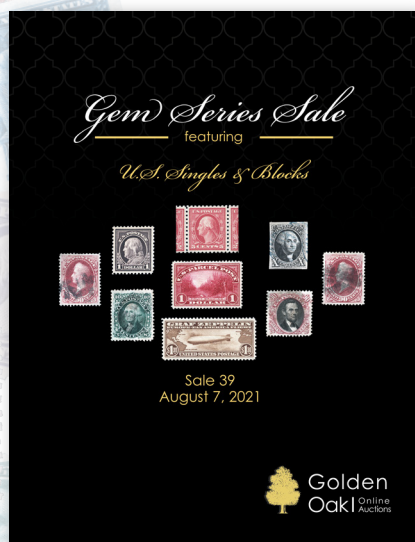
SELLING

Consign Now!

Have your material featured in our **Gem Series, Collector Series, or Specialty Series Sales**. Contact our director, Tracy (Shreve) Carey to discuss your singles or collection.

Work with a company that knows online buying and selling, with over 75 combined years of philatelic experience. We are exclusively a full-service online auction house that can assist you with all of your philatelic endeavors.

Register with us today to make sure you are the first to know about recurring auctions, specialty auctions, GOOA Store deals and more!



© 2021 golden oak online auctions
p.o. box 244 • gordon, tx 76453 • usa
t: 469.437.7658 • email: support@gooaucs.com
follow us on social media



Past-President's Message

Greg Cain

Greetings, fellow TPA members! Owing to the confluence of a number of personal and business matters for our president, **Jonathan Topper**, I have been given the opportunity to come out of TPA presidential "retirement" and share a few words with you this quarter in his stead.

I want to begin by noting how fortunate we've been to have such strong and devoted leadership over the years at the helm of both the Texas Philatelic Association and at the Texas Postal History Society, which merged into the TPA in 2017. As a stamp dealer and active member of the Texas Stamp Dealers Association (also its current secretary), Jonathan brings a unique and informed perspective to his role as our president. A recent initiative he's put in motion is to contact all of the history museums and organizations that are listed at the back of each Texas Historical Foundation member magazine, *Texas Heritage*, about becoming advertisers in our own *Journal* and possibly displaying the *Journal* among their reading materials. I think that is a splendid idea and should find some receptive eyes. We will keep you posted.

I would also like to add a little color to the statistics you'll find on page 30 of this issue, where the membership report is printed. This information was assembled by another of our fine leaders, **Lyle Boardman**, who, as "secretary-treasurer emeritus," continues to support me while not drowning me with too much information about how to carry on under the high standard he has set. I want you to notice two things. First, our membership is stable. Let's see if we can get that number to grow. Second, please note the long list of donors! By this, I am amazed, humbled and grateful. As I opened your letters with membership renewals and payments, more often than not I discovered that you also made a donation to our Foundation or our publication fund. That says volumes about your love for the hobby and for this fine, 125-year old Texas organization that you are a part of. If, heaven forbid, your name is not there and should be, please send me an e-mail and we'll recognize you in the next issue.

Jonathan will be back in the saddle for the next issue. For now, enjoy this issue. I believe you will.

Happy reading! ★

Editor's Notes

Robert Conley

Greetings! Welcome to 2022, and yet another year of great turmoil, upheaval and uncertainty. As this is written, the invasion of Ukraine is just hours old. Will that country see another Christmas? When will gas come back under \$100 a barrel? When will the coronavirus become no more than a minor nuisance? When will we again look to the future with optimism and hope?

One thing, however, that is fairly certain and hopefully good news, is that your *Journal* continues to be published every three months, providing some welcome, brief escape from the worries of the world. As our illustrious secretary-treasurer, **Greg Cain**, so eloquently expresses on page 31, it is terrific to have so many generous members and donors. A society like ours is indeed greater than the sum of the parts – we all have each other to thank for that.

We start this issue with a message from Greg, who is also our immediate past-president. Greg was kind enough to contribute the column to the left, in lieu of **Jonathan Topper** who is a touch overloaded right now. I am sure JT is not the only one feeling that way.

Charlie Deaton provides us with our first article, which is about a Mexican War-era cover sent from New Orleans to Utica, New York. A closer look, however, reveals that the letter was written on Brazos Island, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, and it presents an unexpected trove of information for historians.

A much-needed new author, **Jim Crain**, takes us just a few years later to the other end of the Mexican border to tell us about two important men connected with a cover that went from Boston to the little-known village of Magoffinsville.

Ever-productive **John Germann** talks about sunny skies in Texas, starting on page 13, and later returns, as was promised in the November issue, to continue his lovely series on "Pioneering Postmasters." In between John's stories, Mr. Cain reappears to tell us about the superstellar performance of our very own **Vince King** in Sarasota recently, and then Vince teams up with Charlie to bring us some marvellous Texas items sold at recent auctions.

The final eight pages are gratefully hogged by Greg with a big "Chapters in Action" column and a two-page "Membership Report."

All of that constitutes this 32-page volume of your *Journal*. Until next time, may your god go with you. ★

An 1847 Mexican War Letter with a Map of Brazos Santiago & Point Isabel

By Charles W. Deaton

At first glance, the stampless folded letter shown in Figure 1 appears to be a routine letter with fairly common postal markings. It was sent from New Orleans to Utica, New York in the 1840s when the postal charge was ten cents for mail traveling over 300 miles. Once the content of the letter inside is examined, however, it is quickly determined that this piece is a remarkable item with major significance for collectors of both Mexican War material and South Texas history.

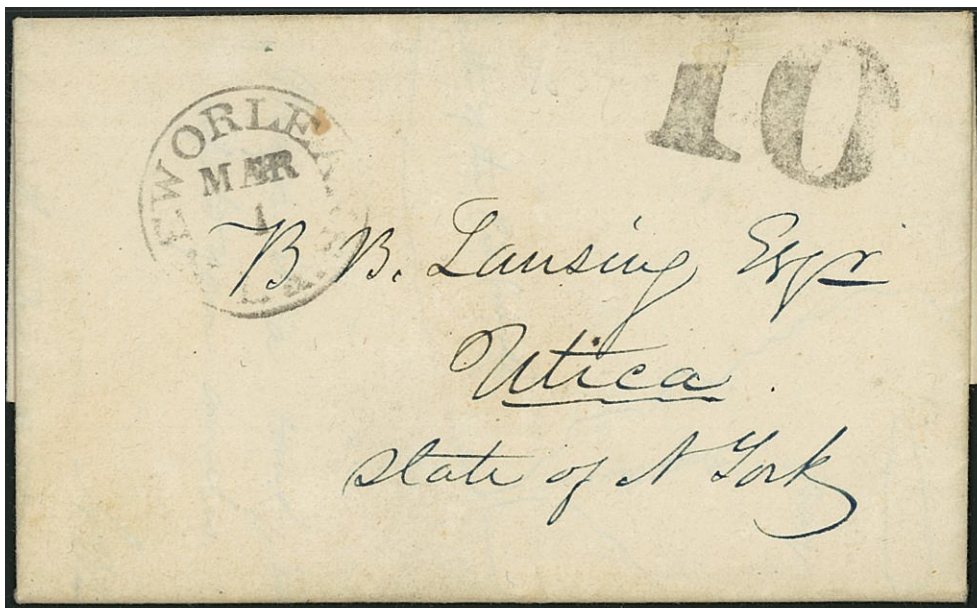


Figure 1: An 1847 letter from an Army Captain to his father in Utica, New York.

The letter is headed “Brazos Santiago, Feby. 18, 1847.” This was a port on Brazos Island where Gen. Zachary Taylor established a supply depot for the handling of war materials and American troops sent for the Mexican War. The letter was written by Arthur Lansing to his father in Utica, New York, a socially prominent businessman and banker. B. B. Lansing was the son of a Revolutionary War colonel, Gerrit G. Lansing, and sent three of his own sons into military careers. The letter writer, Arthur, attended West Point and was a Captain in the Quartermaster Corps. During the Mexican War. Two other sons also entered the Army and both rose to the rank of Brigadier General during the Civil War.

Arthur’s letter, shown in Figure 2, contains all the usual complaints about the quality of quarters, water, climate, etc. that one might see in many such missives from soldiers away from home. Brazos, he writes, “is the most humid place in Christendom, worse by far than Ft. Brown, the water is bad, my old complaint the diarrhea – I am living on board a steamboat, fitted up and called the Greenwood Hotel – \$10 a week – Astor House prices in all things.” But then he tells his father “that you may understand the location of Brazos, I add a sketch on the opposite side.”

This so-called sketch, shown in Figure 3, is easily readable and helps those interested in both the Mexican War and South Texas understand the location of Brazos Santiago, Point Isabel, Padre Island, Laguna Madre, Boca Chica, as well as the mouth of the Rio Grande and the locations of Fort Brown and Matamoras

up the river. Brazos Santiago is clearly shown on Brazos Island with smaller vessels apparently engaged in loading and unloading supplies or troops. Some larger ships are shown waiting just outside the "Bar of Brazos," a natural sand bar. Point Isabel (sometimes called Port Isabel) is shown across the body of water, and obviously supplies and troops landed there could be moved overland to Fort Brown, though it was a difficult and dangerous journey.

I have not used any letter got by the last mail -

Brazos Santiago
Feb'y 18. 1847.

Dear Father.

I have been ordered to report to Capt. Hitzel of the M^d Dept at this place - the most ^(worse by far than Fort Brown -) remote place in Christendom - I have been sick since here. the water is bad - my old complaint, the ~~diarrhea~~ ^{diarrhea} - I am living on board a steamer ^{boat} ~~boat~~ & called the "Greenwood Hotel" - \$10.00 a week - after house prices in all things - I am better to day - but for a day or two past I was ~~very~~ sick - Gen. Leburg, the Chief of the M^d Dept. is daily expected here - on his arrival, I shall try to procure orders to go north on duty, on a leave of absence - My health is all that troubles me - I have been so long in the country that my constitution is more or less affected by the climate - That you may understand the location of Brazos, I add a sketch on the opposite side -

The troops are being embarked as fast as possible - but still slowly - The elements are now to be entirely against - What is their destination I cannot say with certainty - I wish Morris Miller would change places for a season -

Best love to all - In great haste
With all affection dear Father, yours
Arthur

Figure 2: The actual letter written by Capt. Arthur Lansing.

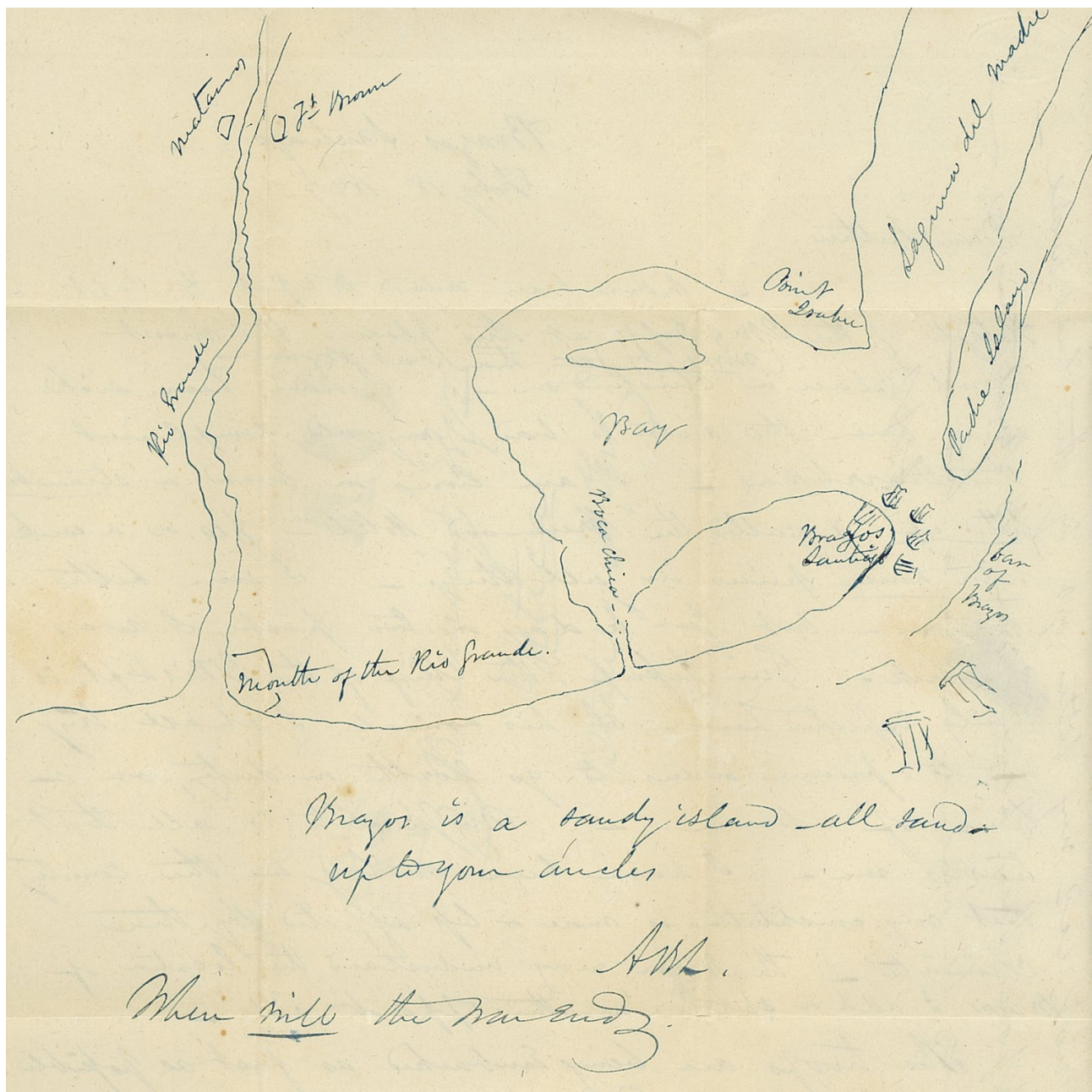


Figure 3: The sketch Capt. Lansing included of the army locations along the South Texas border.

Both Brazos Santiago and Point Isabel had unusual straight-line postmarks found on many letters American troops sent back home, and today's collectors often have trouble determining the location where those markings were applied. The "BRAZOS" postmark is shown in Figure 4; this is on a letter headed "Camp near Matamoros, Mexico, Oct. 4th, 1847." It is addressed to the Paymaster General of the Army concerning payroll matters. The straight-line postmarks from Brazos Santiago only used the first word, Brazos. The Point Isabel straight-line marking is shown in Figure 5 on a letter headed "Camp Belknap, Texas, September 12, 1846." This Camp lasted only a few months in late 1846, and any postal artifacts from there are quite rare. The postmark is simply "PT ISABEL," in a shaded, italicized font. This example is the listing copy in the American Stampless Cover Catalog. The "PT" is hard to see as it is covered by the manuscript notation on the left end of the letter. The "PT ISABEL" markings are much harder to find than the "BRAZOS." ★

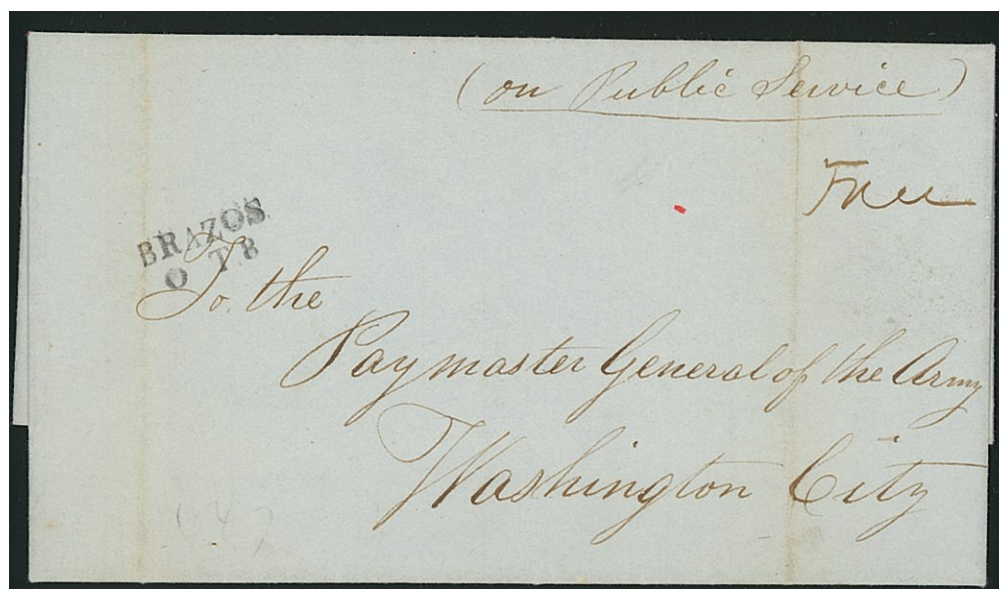


Figure 4: A letter with the "BRAZOS" postmark used in the Mexican War.



Figure 5: The scarce "PT ISABEL" postmark is lightly struck in the upper left part of this letter.

References:

American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume 1, Fifth Edition (1997), published by David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., North Miami, Florida. [Has chapters on each of the states, and a section on Mexican War markings.]

The Handbook of Texas Online, available at the Texas State Historical Association website. [The last print edition of this Handbook of Texas was a six-volume edition some years ago. Its contents, along with numerous updates and new additions, is available at no charge from the TSHA. An easy "Search" function allows you to look for Brazos, Point Isabel, or any other word associated with the Mexican War in Texas. The many options offered will keep you happily browsing this topic for hours. There is also a "Donation" link, and you are urged to help support this wonderful source for any Texas history subject.]

At Work on the Mexico - U.S. Boundary Survey

By Jim Crain

A few years ago, at the big stamp show in Houston, I spotted the cover addressed to Magoffinsville, TX, seen in Figure 1. That's a town I had not heard of, so it caught my eye on what looked like a fairly early, undated envelope sent with a U.S. Express Mail cancellation from Boston, MA. The cancel is shown magnified in Figure 2.

It turns out that Magoffinsville was not an insignificant place in West Texas. It was named for James Wiley Magoffin, a pioneering settler and merchant in the 1830s and 40s, trading merchandise of all sorts from Santa Fe, in Mexican territory at the time, to Chihuahua, Mexico. Illustrated in Figure 3, he had a highly respected reputation earning a presidential appointment and a stable of customers that may have included such early empresarios as Stephen F. Austin.

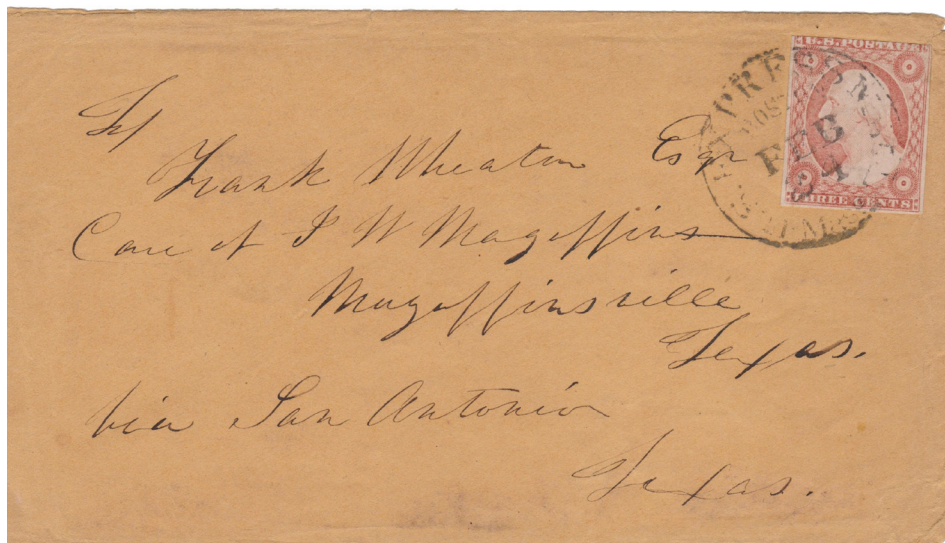


Figure 1. A U.S. Express Mail cover sent from Boston to Magoffinsville, via San Antonio.



Figure 2. Magnification of the Boston U.S. Express Mail cancel, enhanced with a pencil trace-over.

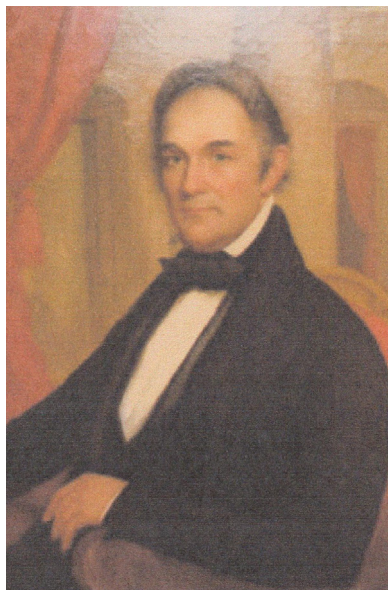


Figure 3. Portrait of James Wiley Magoffin by Henry Cheever Pratt, 1852. (Courtesy Magoffin Home State Historic Site)

Magoffin dealt squarely with customers on both sides of the border during an impending conflict between the United States and Mexico over disputed territory. President Polk was so impressed with Magoffin's reputation, that he sought his assistance to act as a go-between for negotiations with Mexico during the Mexican-American War. When the war ended, Magoffin settled on the American side of the Rio Grande, opposite El Paso del Norte (Cuidad Juarez, Mexico). In 1849, this newly-founded village of Magoffinsville became his home and headquarters, where he sold mules and operated wagon trains. The village became a thriving community around a large open plaza surrounded by stores and warehouses. Figure 4 shows a part of the village. In 1854, Fort Bliss established its first location on the site in buildings leased from Magoffin. A post office operated there in 1852 and 1853. The adjacent settlement of El Paso got its first post office about the same time, in 1852. It was a much earlier site of habitation and became the dominant village in the area. Magoffinsville was incorporated into El Paso's boundaries in 1873.

The second thing about the cover that caught my eye was the addressee, Frank Wheaton. As a collector of early stereoviews and historic photos, I was hoping this was the same Frank Wheaton who served as a brigadier general in the Civil War, as commander of troops against the rebellious Modoc Indians in Northern California, assigned to various sites of Indian uprisings in the West, and eventually ending his military career as Commandant at Fort Sam Houston (1892-95). General Wheaton can be seen in Figure 5 and 6.



Figure 4. Artist's rendering of Magoffinsville, ca. 1860. (Courtesy Magoffin Home State Historic Site)



Figure 5. Frank Wheaton, Civil War portrait. (Author's collection)



Figure 6. Frank Wheaton (seated, second from left): posed with generals and other officers in the Modoc Indian War, 1873.

In researching his biography I found that Wheaton withdrew from Brown University at the age of seventeen, where he was a student in the Scientific Department studying civil engineering. For the next five years, 1850-1855, he was attached to the Mexican-American Boundary Commission as a surveyor and topographer on the Texas border. Due to his youth, he was placed at the level of sixth assistant, earning \$50 per month. When not participating in actual surveying, Wheaton was in Washington, DC computing and plotting the obtained data on maps. A number of the published maps bear his name. At the time the cover was sent, Wheaton was likely working in or around Magoffinsville. The Commission was headquartered in Magoffin's hacienda from 1851 to 1853. The Survey started as early as 1848 in accordance with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War. The treaty gave the U.S. the lower western states and established the Rio Grande as the boundary between Texas and Mexico. The Survey had starts and stops, disputes over territorial placement of the boundary, map errors, and replacement of commissioners, but eventually the kinks were resolved and the final survey was completed in 1855. Wheaton departed with a commission as first lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry.

As for the transport that brought the cover to Texas, there are no special markings for steamship or railroad carriers, so the route is undetermined. The cover is endorsed "via San Antonio." After reaching the city, it could have been carried to Magoffinsville by Henry Skillman on the mail route he operated between San Antonio and Santa Fe, via El Paso, from 1851 until 1854. This was the first government-contracted mail route that connected San Antonio with El Paso. He used a variety of vehicles to carry mail and passengers, starting with a Concord coach, then freight wagons and finally canvas-covered farm wagons. "Big Foot" Wallace was his most prominent driver. When the government terminated Skillman's contract in 1854, he associated with other contractors until 1864, when he was killed by Union forces for operating a secret courier service for Confederate agents.

The stamp, bearing George Washington's profile, appears to be a Scott No. 11A, Type II, imperforate, issued 1851-57. The three-cent rate represents the postal rate reduction of July 1, 1851, for domestic letters of ½ ounce delivered less than 3,000 miles. The dates of issuance fit with the time period that the Border Commission Survey operated (1848-55); with Wheaton's service with the Commission (1850-55); with headquarters at Magoffin's home (1851-53), and with operation of the post office at Magoffinsville (1852-53). The cover likely dates from either February 1852 or 1853.

A side note: In searching the internet for comparable covers, I found another of similar appearance also sent to Frank Wheaton in El Paso, c. 1855 (Siegel Auction No. 1189, lot 1013). The description stated that the sender was John Russell Bartlett, ex-Commissioner of the Boundary Survey. The cover was addressed in the same identical hand as mine. It had the same stamp, but with a cancellation for Providence, RI, which was Bartlett's home after being replaced as Commissioner by W. H. Emory in 1853. That cover differed from mine by having a line that read "Care of W.H Emory U.S. Commr, Mexican Boundary Survey," and it sold for \$4,250. The catalog stated it was the "only recorded cover to the Emory Mexican-U.S. Boundary Survey Camp." The lack of a mention of the Survey on my cover apparently did not convey its significance to other collectors. ★

Sources

Mogoffinsville, Texas. *The Handbook of Texas* online.

Magoffin, James Wiley (1799-1868). *The Handbook of Texas* online.

Mexican-United States Boundary Commission. *The Handbook of Texas* online.

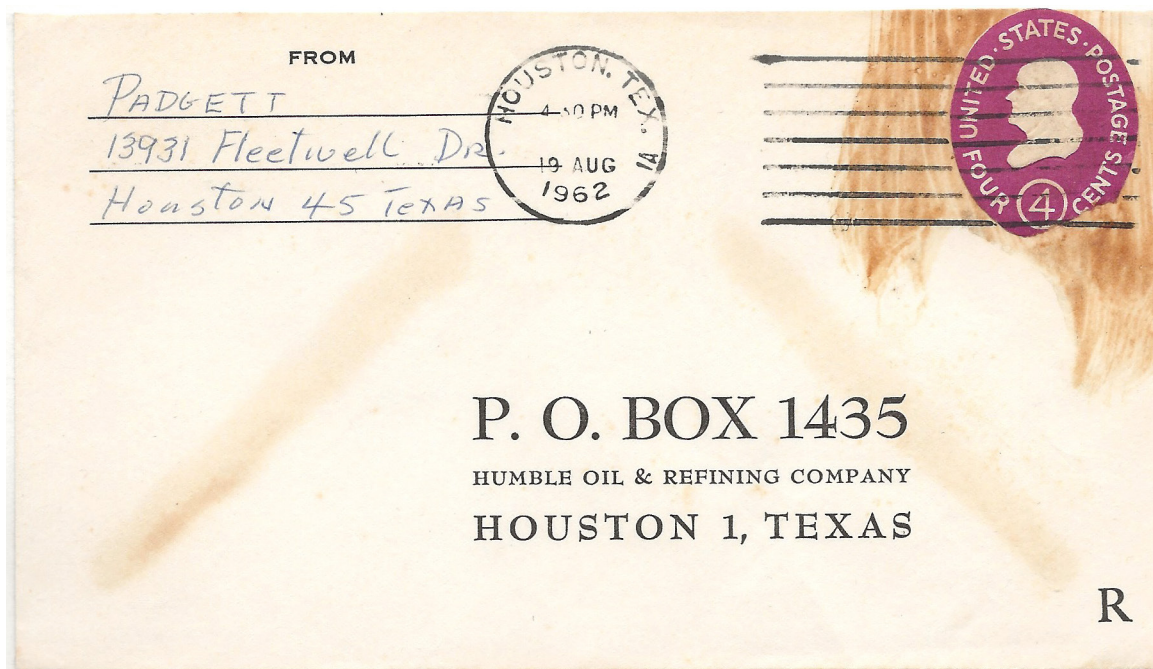
Texas Postal History Handbook, Charles Deaton, 1980.

Frank Wheaton, Major General, United States Army. <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/fwheaton.htm>

Skillman, Henry. *The Handbook of Texas* online.

La Gran Linea: Mapping the United States-Mexico Boundary, 1849-1857, by Paula Rebert, University of Texas Press, 2001.

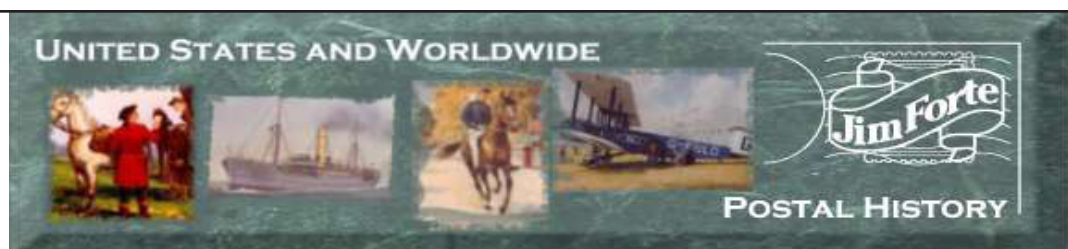
I WONDER IF WE CAN FOOL A TEXAN POST OFFICE CLERK WITH... ...A PREPAID ENVELOPE CUT-OUT & LOTS OF GLUE?



JOHN GERMANN SAYS WE CAN!

PO Box 94822,
Las Vegas, NV
89193

Ph. (702) 791-6828

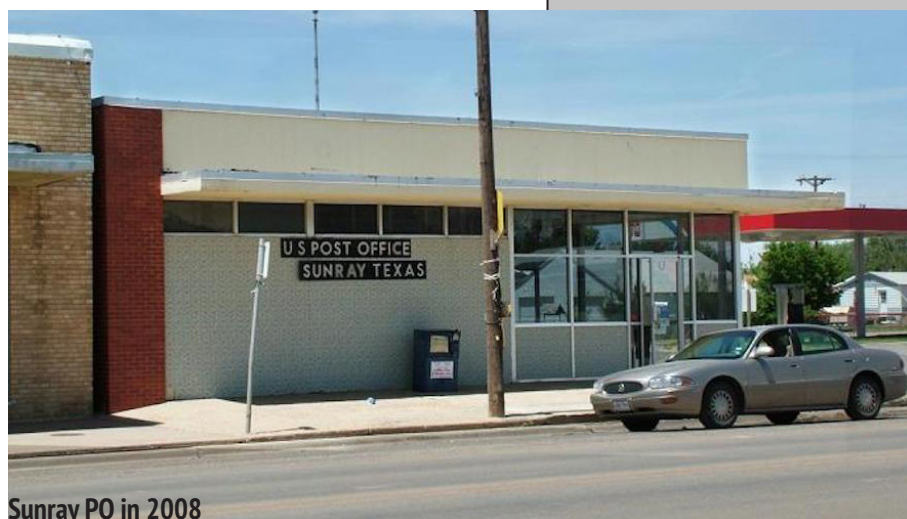
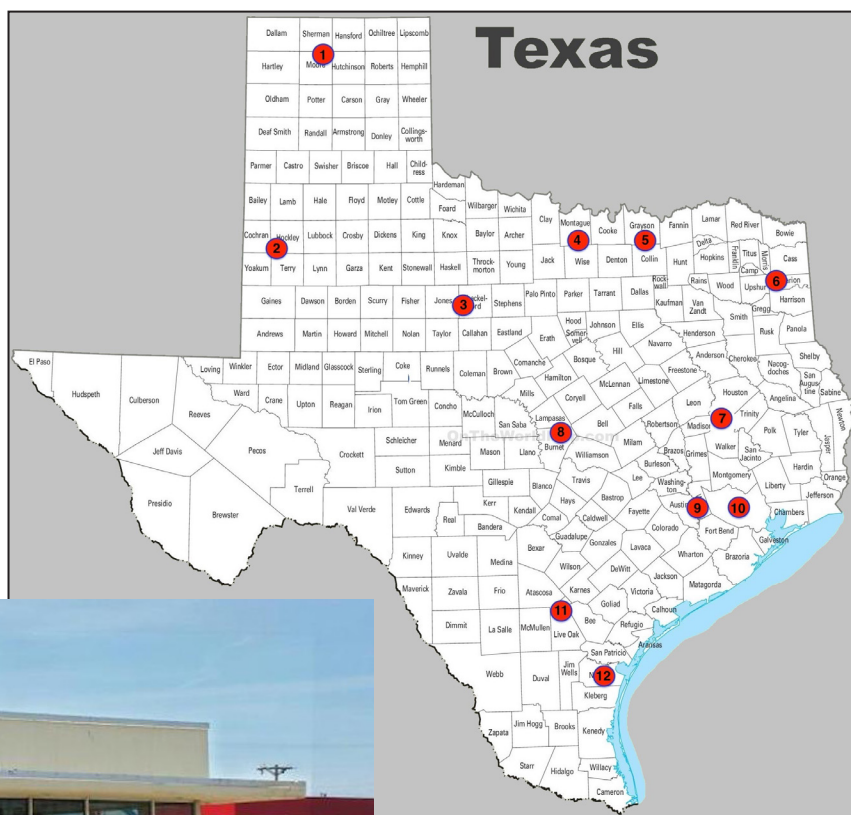


SUNNY SKIES AND SUNNY POST OFFICES IN TEXAS

By John Germann

Texas is a sunny place – anyone who lives in Texas, or who comes to any part of Texas in August, knows that. Early settlers and founding postmasters knew that too, and an even dozen post offices have boasted of it in their names. Those post offices are, from top to bottom on the accompanying map:

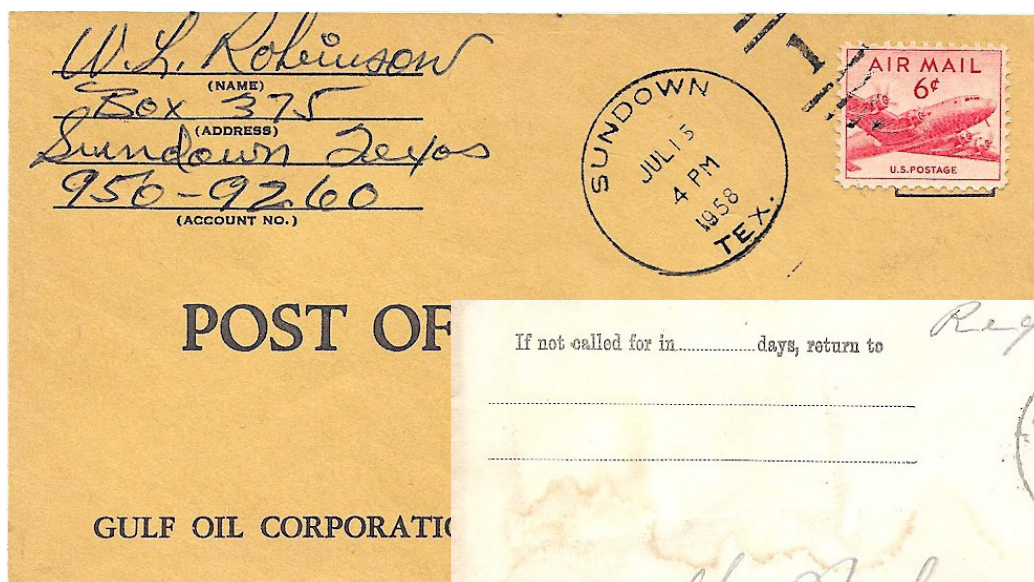
- 1) Sunray – Moore County (1931-open)
- 2) Sundown – Hockley County (1938-open)
- 3) Rising Sun – Shackelford & Jones Counties (1884-1899)
- 4) Sunset – Montague County (1884-open)
- 5) Sunbeam – Grayson County (1890-1904)
- 6) Sunview – Marion County (1900-1906)
- 7) Sunshine – Houston County (1884-1885)
- 8) Sunnyside – Burnet County (1881-1910)
- 9) Sunnyside – Waller County (1877-1969)
- 10) Sunset Heights – Harris County (1915-1951)
- 11) Suniland – Live Oak County (1926-1944)
- 12) Sunshine – Nueces County (1903-1911)



Sunray PO in 2008

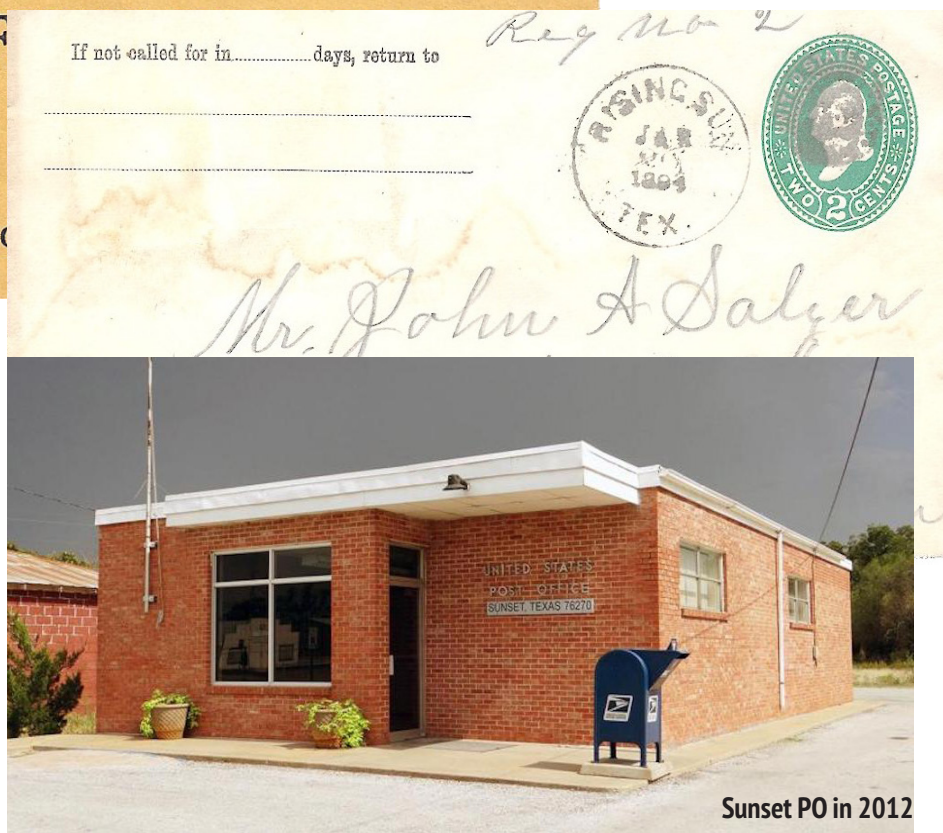


Sundown PO in 2007



The first "sunny" post office was established at Sunnyside, in Waller county near Houston in 1877. The last was, appropriately, Sundown, founded in Hockley County on the Staked Plains in 1938.

Only three post offices are still in operation. Sundown is one. It was established on a piece of the old C. C. Slaughter Ranch and, in fact, the town founder was Robert Slaughter. He named it after, of all things, one of his favorite movies. It was an oil boom town of the 1930s-1940s; today its population hovers around 1,300.

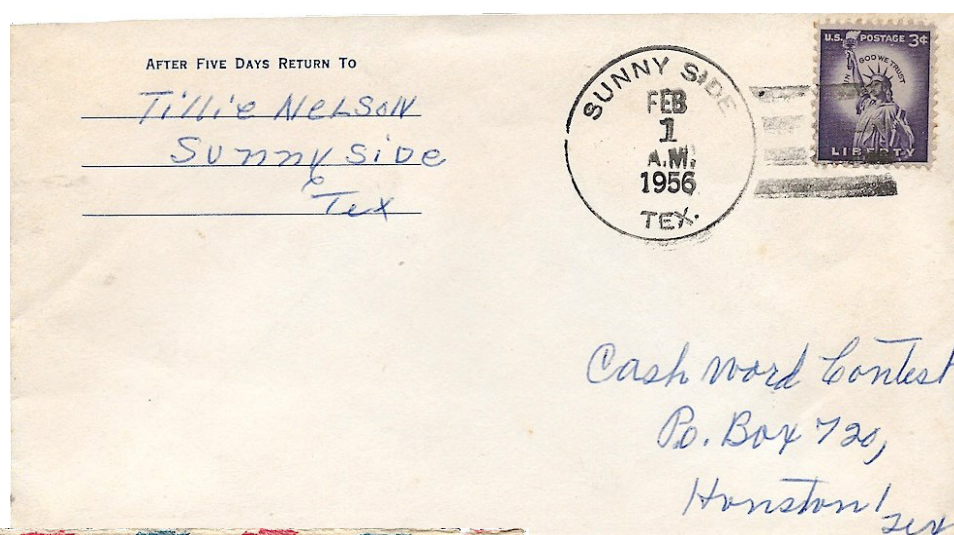


Sunset PO in 2012



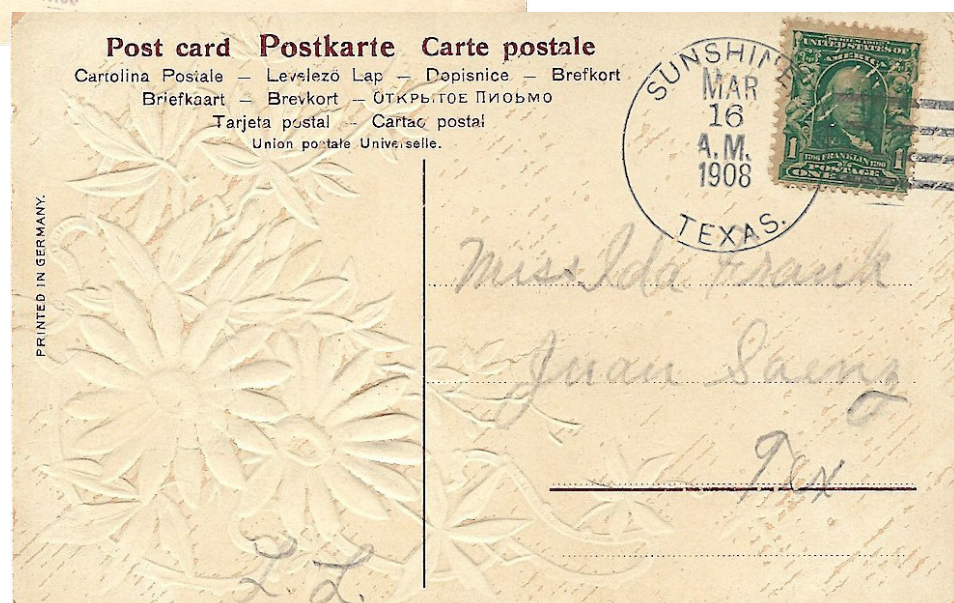
The oldest and smallest of the three is Sunset, a farming-ranching community in southern Montague County near the Red River. Founded in 1884, its population has ranged from over 600 around 1900 to the 200s-300s in recent times.

The largest of the three, although still not very large, is Sunray in Moore County in the northern Panhandle. Its population has fluctuated rather consistently between



1500-2000 during the last fifty years. By-and-large an industrial community, much of that population is generated by nearby oil and carbon black firms. In fact, the town's name honors the Sunray Oil Company.

Interestingly, there have been no post offices named after "Ole Man Sol" in West Texas – perhaps because lamentably there was too much of it, or that it was so commonplace that it was nothing to brag about. ★



BIBLIOGRAPHY

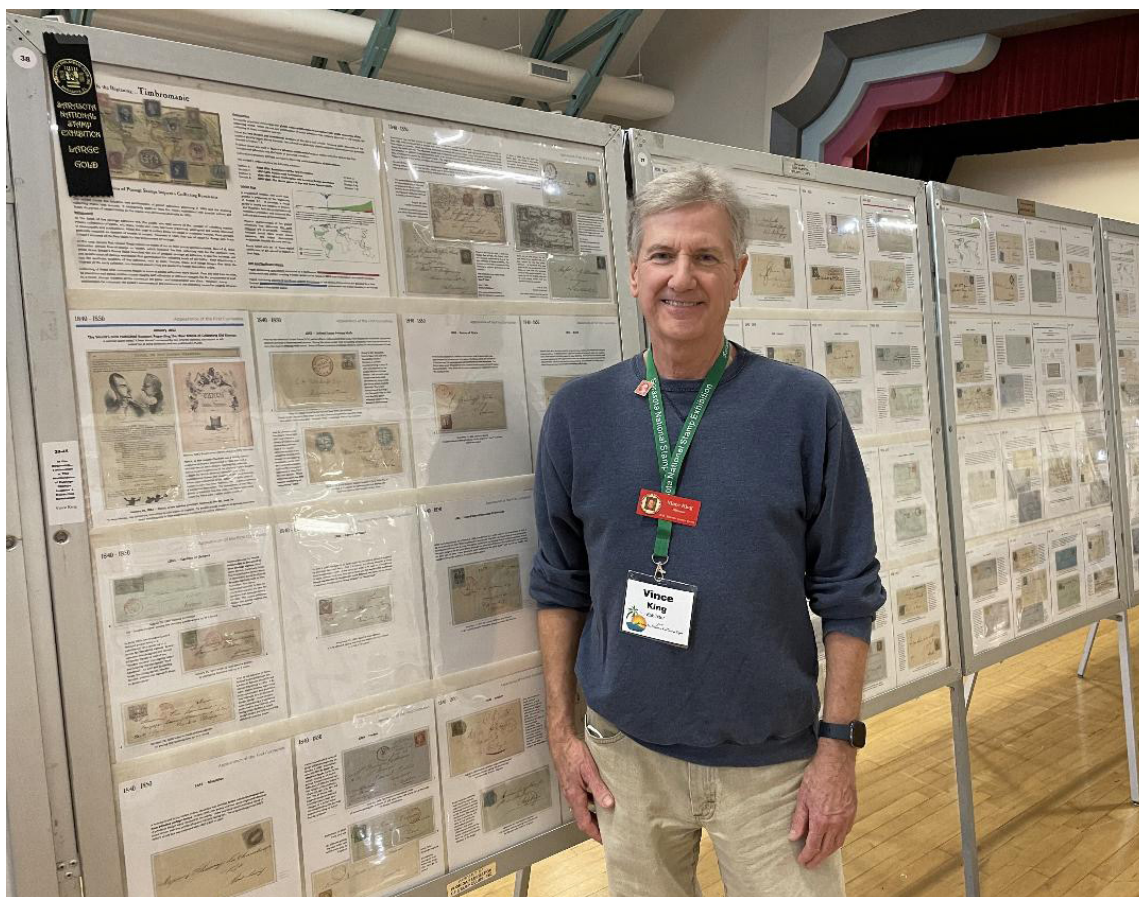
Germann, John J. & Janzen, Myron R. *The Post Offices of Texas By County*
 USPS Photos on [Google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)
 Texas State Historical Association. *Handbook of Texas Online*
[Wikipedia.com](https://www.wikipedia.com)

VINCE KING WINS GRAND AT SARASOTA

GREG CAIN

FORMER TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND TPA DIRECTOR, VINCE KING TOOK HIS NEW EXHIBIT TO THE WORLD SERIES OF PHILATELY SHOW IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA. AFTER WINNING GOLD AND THE MOST POPULAR AWARD AT THE GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW (GASS) IN CHICAGO LAST AUGUST, VINCE ENTERED THE EXHIBIT AT THE SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AND WAS REWARDED WITH THE GRAND AWARD. THIS MEANS HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION NEXT GASS IN AUGUST IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

KING'S EXHIBIT IS TITLED "IN THE BEGINNING...TIMBROMANIE - THE PROLIFERATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS INSPIRES A COLLECTING REVOLUTION" AND TRACES THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR GREAT HOBBY, STARTING WITH EXAMPLES OF THE EARLIEST STAMPS FOR EACH COUNTRY PRESENTED IN THE ORDER OF THEIR APPEARANCE. THE STAMPS ARE ON COVERS FROM THE PERIOD OF FIRST ISSUANCE. THE EXHIBIT ALSO INCLUDES MANY ITEMS FROM THE EARLY HISTORY OF STAMP COLLECTING, INCLUDING THE FIRST RECORDED STAMP ALBUM, PREPARED BY A YOUNG MAN IN BELGIUM IN 1855. THE EXHIBIT ALSO INCLUDES THE EARLIEST DOCUMENTED COLLECTION IN THE UNITED STATES, FROM 1856.



THE EXHIBIT
CAN BE VIEWED
IN ITS ENTIRETY
BY SCANNING
THE QR CODE
ABOVE.

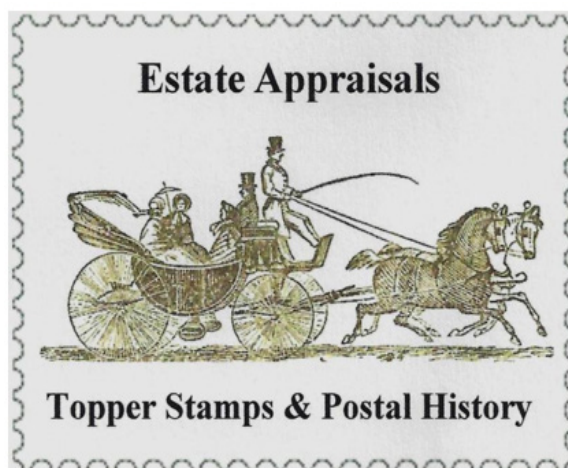
THE EXHIBIT IS UNUSUAL IN THAT IT INCLUDES MANY THREE-DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS DISPLAYED IN CLEAR PLASTIC BOXES CREATED BY VINCE TO FIT THE ITEMS. VINCE DEVELOPED A TECHNIQUE TO ATTACH THE BOXES TO EXHIBIT FRAMES WITHOUT HARMING THE FRAMES. THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL ITEMS SHOW HOW THE PUBLIC ALL OVER THE WORLD TOOK TO THE NEW HOBBY, USING STAMP THEMES FOR MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES AND, OF COURSE, ALBUMS TO HOLD THE STAMPS.

IF YOU GET A CHANCE TO SEE THIS EXHIBIT, BE SURE TO DO SO – THIS WILL BE A KEY ATTRACTION AT THE NEXT GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW IN SACRAMENTO. AND, IF YOU SEE VINCE, OFFER HIM YOUR CONGRATULATIONS. ★



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

Come Visit my Table
at the Texas Stamp
Shows.



Jonathan Topper
10480 Grant Road
Suite 117
Houston, TX
77070

832-518-6558

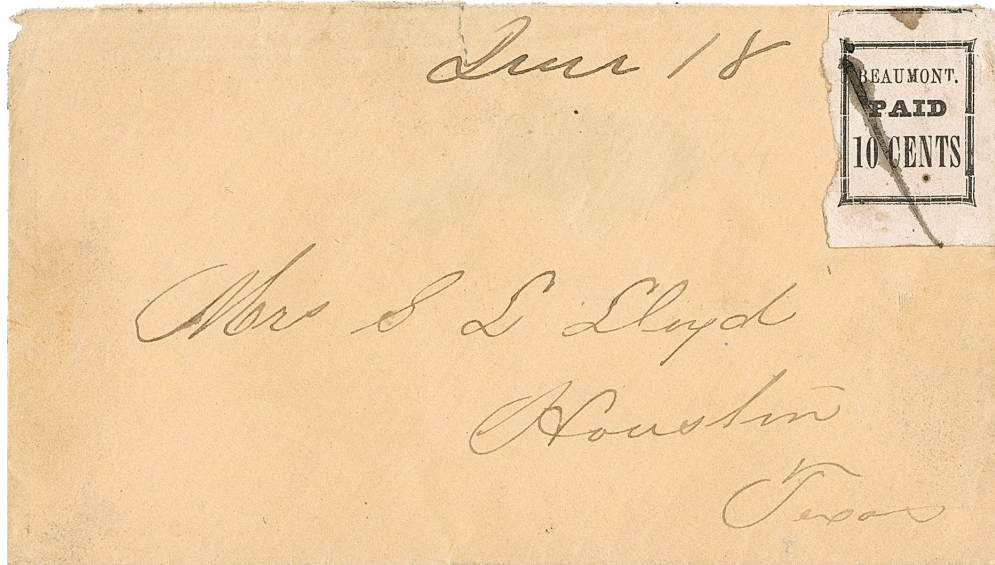
jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

Seen at Auction

Vince King & Charlie Deaton

Recent auctions have provided collectors with chances to purchase four different examples of the Texas Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals, among the rarest and most valuable of all Texas postal artifacts. In 1861, the newly-formed Confederate Post Office Department became responsible for the mails and all postal affairs in Texas and the other seceded states on June 30. But the CSA POD had no stamps available at that time and it took almost six months for the stamps to become regularly available in many areas. Texans wishing to mail letters yearned for these commonplace items that were routinely available in even tiny Texas post offices under "the old Washington" government. As the Texas postmasters fielded more and more complaints, a few of them decided to just go ahead and issue their own stamps. We now know that ten different Texas postmasters made these "local" stamps available for use by their local patrons. Only one or two examples are known today of many of these; no more than a handful or so of the others are known now, with one exception, the Beaumont 10c stamp printed on pink paper, of which 14 copies have been discovered.

This 10c Black on Pink is the first of these four recent offerings to come on the market. It is on a cover addressed to Mrs. S. L. Lloyd in Houston. A group of five of these were discovered in 1902 by legendary dealer and publisher C. H. Mekeel of St. Louis. Mekeel printed a photo of all five covers and stamps in his stamp newspaper to the astonishment of the entire stamp world. The best of these in terms of overall condition is the one offered on November 19, 2021, by R.A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Lot 524, Sale 1244 in New York:



Beaumont, Texas, 10c Black on Pink (12X2). Position 4, from the bottom right corner with "Beaumont" showing broken "T", light pink paper, tied by pen stroke with matching "June 18" (1864) manuscript date on buff cover to Mrs. S. L. Lloyd, Houston Tex., small piece of backflap torn away. Sold for \$32,500

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE FINEST OF THE TWELVE RECORDED BEAUMONT 10-CENT PINK PROVISIONAL COVERS – AND ONE OF ONLY FOUR TIED EXAMPLES OF ANY BEAUMONT PROVISIONAL.

The stamps were typeset and printed from three different settings: one printed on Pink paper (Scott 12X2), and two on Yellow paper (12X1 and 12X3). A setting of four subjects (two by two) has been reconstructed from the Pink singles (there are no recorded multiples). Each subject has a different arrangement of long and short frame pieces. The printings on Yellow paper were made from two entirely different settings: one slightly smaller than the Pink stamps, and the other much taller with the words "Texas" and "Postage" added to the design. Ex Hind, Caspary, Hill, Kilbourne, Gross and Middendorf.

The next three of these rare provisionals came up in the sale of the monumental Erivan Haub collection by the H. R. Harmer firm in New York on January 26. These were one of the Austin and two of the Helena examples.

The Austin stamp was prepared by handstamping a typical postmark device of the period on a sheet of paper after replacing the date logo in the device with the words "PAID 10." Once it was cut out from the sheet of paper, it was sold for 10 cents and then pasted on the envelope where it was canceled with another strike of the usual postmark device. These "cut and paste" stamps are known from Plum Creek, Independence, Austin, and Hallettsville. We can still wonder today why these postmasters went to

so much trouble to mark an envelope "Paid" when they could have simply written (or stamped with a postmark device) their post office name and the words "Paid" and "10." Whatever their reasoning, none of these postmasters can respond today, so we can only give them a belated "thank you" for creating these Texas philatelic rarities for collectors to desire.



9X1, Austin, TX, 10c Black on white, stamp tied by light Austin double circle datestamp (second strike at left), cover with corner card for "J.T. Hallett, Land and General Collecting Agent", addressed to "Doctor Clark, Hempstead, Austin Co., Texas", one of four recorded Austin 10c adhesive covers, two of which are on white paper and two of which are tied, a rarity of Confederate States philately. The Austin "cut-and-paste" provisionals were created and used by postmaster William Rust in mid-to-late 1862. Their discovery was first announced in the philatelic press in the July 1939 issue of the Texas Philatelist. Sold for \$13,000

The last two of these four rarities were also in the Erivan Haub sale. Both were from Helena, Texas, one each of the 5c and 10 stamps issued there. The 5c is unused, the 10c used; both are off-cover stamps. No covers are known with Helena provisionals. Little is known today about either the stamps or the town. Helena is now a ghost town in Karnes County, a few miles northeast of Karnes City. It was a more important town during the Civil War and an important stop on the road used to carry Texas cotton to Mexico where it could be shipped abroad by avoiding the Union blockade of the Texas coast. We also know these stamps were printed in nearby Goliad by the same printer who was also producing similar stamps for the Goliad Post Office.



38X1, Helena, TX, 5c Black on buff, unused with margins clear to large, tiny tone spots, light creases, Very Fine, the unique unused provisional from Helena, Texas (two 5c and two 10c stamps are known used), a world-class rarity not offered publicly in 54 years. Ex: Caspary, Lilly. Sold \$13,000



38X2, Helena, TX, 10c Black on gray, four full margins, closed interior tear and thinning, the finer of the two known examples of this stamp, one of the gems of Confederate philately. Ex Count Philipp von Ferrary, Alfred H. Caspary. Sold \$14,000

Another cover from the Haub sale with a Texas connection. It is addressed to Coffeerville, Texas, a small community a few miles west of the "Lake O' The Pines" in Upshur County in Northeast Texas.



11-Star Flag with "T" for "Tennessee", red and blue design (F11-8), verse 6 below, on cover with bold balloon type "Corinth Miss Jun 24" (1861) postmark, matching diamond "Paid 10", addressed to Coffeerville, Texas, light even toning and some adhesive on reverse, Very Fine and exceedingly rare combination of patriotic design and stampless marking with an excellent provenance. Ex Count Philipp von Ferrary, H. Gray Muzzy, Billy Matz, Daniel Telep. Sold for 2,100 ★



DARIUS CIRIAQUE RACHAL (1841 - 1918) (#5)
Rosita, San Patricio County
 1892-1914



Darius Ciriaque "D. C." Rachal was born in Cloutierville, Louisiana, about twenty miles south of Natchitoches, in 1841. His parents, Louis Gacion Ciriaque Rachal and Marie Anais Palmere Compere, were of French descent, probably by way of Acadia. The family moved to Liberty, Texas not long thereafter.

Contending with this "strange" name was a challenge for Texans; some pronounced his given name as "Di-rees," others as "Druce." Regardless, they soon found him someone to be reckoned with. For one, he had the short-fused temper often associated with those of the "Cajun persuasion;" for another, before long he would be one of the major "cattle barons" in the state.

In the late 1850s, brothers Edward and Frank White, fellow citizens of Liberty, hired him to help drive cattle down to their ranch at White Point in San Patricio County. D.C. liked the area so much that he vowed soon to return. But a few other matters took precedence; the first was the Civil War. While studying at St. Mary's College in Galveston in 1861, D. C. "caught the fever" and volunteered to fight for the Confederate States of America. He would serve as an infantryman with Hood's Brigade and would be one of the mere 15-20% of the original members of the "bloody fifth" regiment who would be shouldering arms at war's end. He fought in battles ranging from Second Manassas to Appomattox; he had a near encounter with death when a bullet went through his hat, just grazing him during the action at Gettysburg. He paroled out of the war as a CSA corporal.

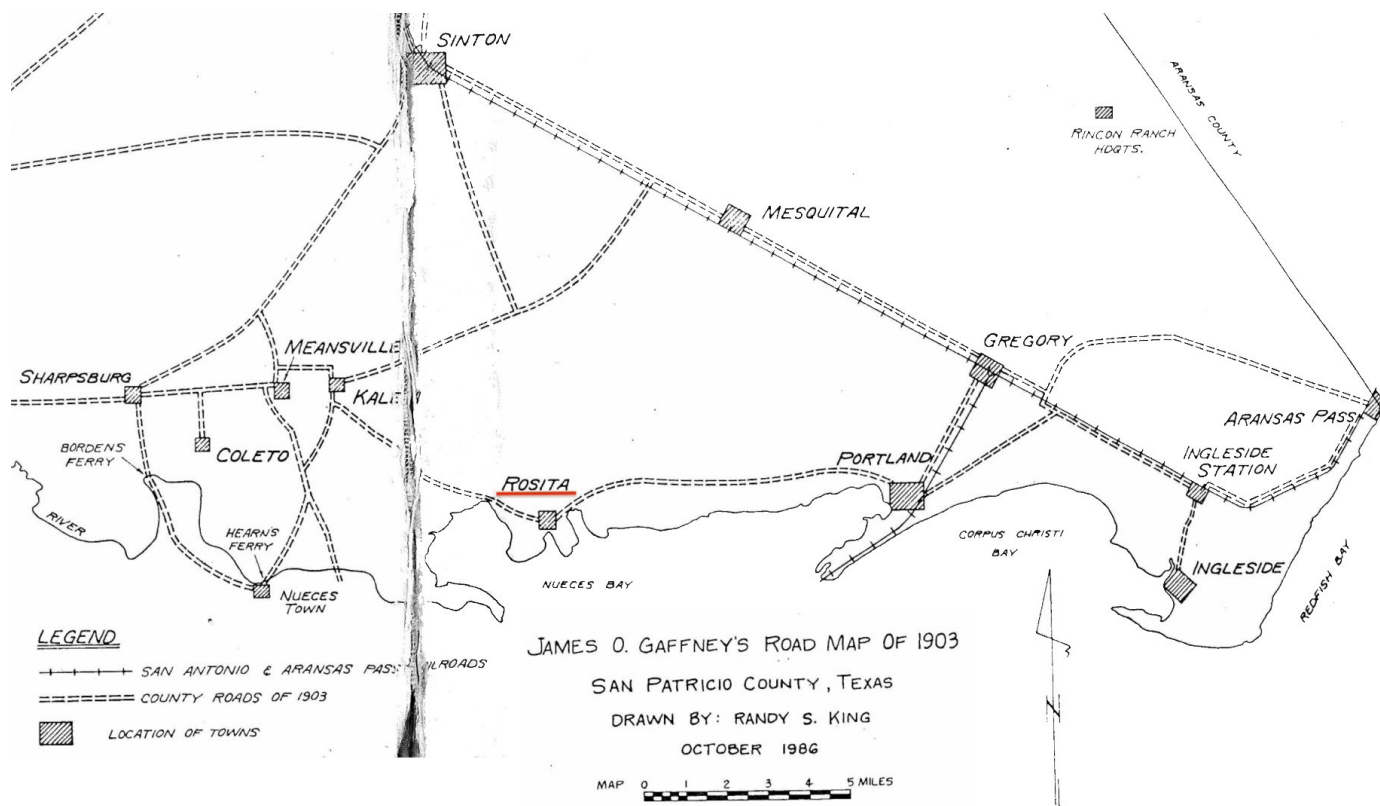
The second matter to tend to was marriage. Upon his return to Liberty, he immediately wooed and won the hand of Julia A. Bryan, a native of Liberty; they married in 1865, and in 1867 he finally made it back to White Point where he and Julia would stay for the rest of their lives. Following the lead of the White brothers, D. C. began to buy more and more of that Gulf Coast prairie land, eventually fashioning an exceptionally large cattle ranch. He joined in the "long drives" of cattle to railroad terminals to the north. For example, in 1871 he and two brothers drove 1,200 cattle a full

825 miles to Ellsworth, Kansas, "without going through a gate." He became known for his distinct approach to the drives – drive the cattle hard to their destination and then fatten them up there. The phrase "Rachal them" (meaning to "hurry them along") thus made its way into cattle kingdom lore.

His entrepreneurial spirit led him into many undertakings other than beef cattle. When a major drought struck the area in the 1880s, D. C. began converting his grazing lands to cotton farming, quite successfully. He had already begun a wide array of other financial ventures and adventures, including a long-term partnership with businessman, Sidney G. Borden. Together, they purchased a schooner that traded and brought supplies and mail up and down the Nueces



A Type A-2, 4-Bar duplexed cancel, probably affixed by Postmaster Rachel herself, in 1910.



A map showing Rosita and nearby towns, north of Nueces Bay and Corpus Christie Bay, as at 1903.

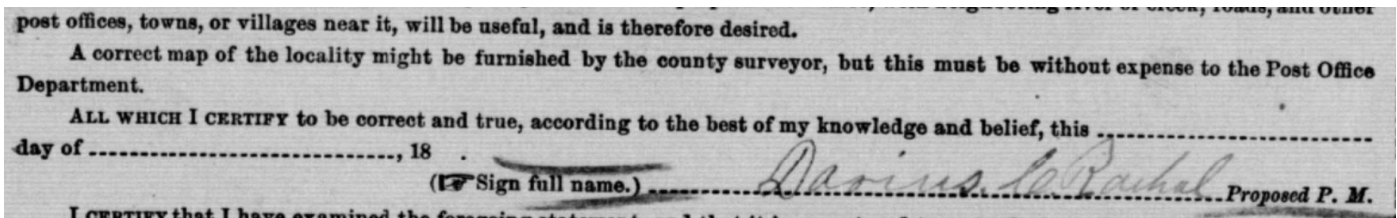


"D. C." Rachal

River. They created a ferry across the river. They built a store at Sharpsburg, and established the first cotton gin on the area. They even founded a winery; their red wine was distributed throughout south Texas labeled as "Rachal's Choice." D. C. aided the construction of a large wharf at the new town of Portland, and he co-founded the town of Sinton. He was a deputy sheriff; he also served as a San Patricio County Commissioner from 1880-1896.

Along with all that, D.C. somehow found time to establish the post office in his La Rosita Ranch headquarters. The Rosita Post Office operated at the ranch for slightly over two decades, 1892-1914, and he was Rosita's one and only postmaster throughout.

Despite these extraordinary and time-consuming involvements, Postmaster Rachal managed to be a good family man and neighbor. He and Julia raised four boys and two girls; sadly, they lost two other children within two months of their birth. He was known for the parties at his 12-room home; one, celebrating a successful cotton crop, lasted three days! When a yellow fever epidemic struck the area, counting the White brothers among its victims, he ripped boards off of his new house in order to provide caskets for them.



Rachal's signature on the 1892 post office application.



Rachal's homestead.



The grave of Darius & Julia Rachal.

The plague spared the Rachals, and Julia would live to the age 65. She was buried in the Rosita Cemetery in 1911; D. C. is said to have visited her grave every morning. He lived for seven more years, during which he finally shut down the post office, at the age of 73. He is buried beside her.

Like many antebellum immigrants to Texas, Darius Ciriaque Rachal came looking for success for himself and his family. Like many who were blessed with his energy, vision, and perseverance he found it or, more properly, made it. Indeed, some of the old ranch land is still in family hands today.

Additional Resources:

1. Pinter, Ken. *A History of the Rachal Family of White Point, Texas*. 2008. <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/49357758/a-history-of-the-rachal-family-of-white-point-texas-new-page-1>

Whatever Your Direction

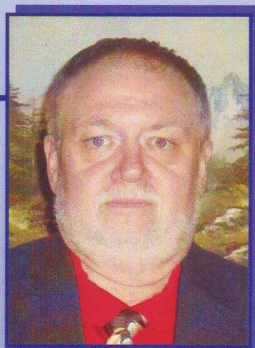
BUY

SELL

- Stamps • Covers • Military • Censored
- Postal History • Revenues
- Bank Notes • Coins • Bullion

Contact Dick Keiser Today!

DK ENTERPRISES



10 NE Silver Pine Drive, #110 • Bremerton, WA 98311

Mail To: P.O. Box 1881 • Silverdale, WA 98383

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Call: 360-692-3818 • E-mail: stamps@dickkeiser.com

APS • ASDA • USCS • CCSG • SRS • NSDA • TSDA • MPHS

Follow Me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dkstampman

www.dickkeiser.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!

American First Day Cover Society Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter 56 (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. We had our 2021 Christmas luncheon at WPRL, on Saturday, December 11. The luncheon was hosted by the WPRL Curator, **Cassandra Galus**. The members and their families enjoyed a festive lunch, catered by Jason's Deli, along with easy-going conversations about FDCs and other topics. Also, **Charles Goodman** marked his 5th Anniversary cover as a cachetmaker – November 11, 2021 – with a celebratory event cover using the 2020 Celebrate stamp (Scott 5434). Goodman generously provided each attendee their own copy of the anniversary cover. Thank you, Charlie! – submitted by **D.A. Lux** and **Anne Moxley**.

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 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. On November 2, the club held its monthly auction, with 47 lots sold out of 74 offered. When added to the take from December's auction, the club realized \$823 for the year. Not bad! The November Zoom meeting centered around what each would ask a stamp Genie to furnish (the notion courtesy of Lisa Nicks). The wish list ranged from a Penny Black block of eight (**Bobby Barnhart**) to heirs who would like to continue their predecessor's stamp collection (**Marvin Lehr**). December's meetings included the monthly auction (Dec. 7) and the club's annual holiday party, this year via Zoom on December 21. Please see below, the photo of the celebrants socially distanced, including newest TPA member, **John White**, bottom row, second from right. Club secretary-treasurer and newsletter editor, **Lyle Boardman** reported in the December issue of club newsletter *Stampede* that board member, **Mike Prokop** is in discussions with Texas Stamp Dealers Association leadership about bringing one or two bourse shows to Austin. Good luck with this idea, Mike. Maybe you should ask the Stamp Genie for help and this one might come true! January's meetings include the monthly auction on the 4th (yours truly won two nifty little items, including some Romanian stamps that had been in FDR's collection) and a presentation via Zoom on the 18th by Phil Nordstrom titled "German Building Plate Flaws." February's meetings saw the regular auction on the first, and a program centered around stamp ephemera on the 15th. February's *Stampede* carried an article about Lisa Nick's talent for creating artwork from stamps, illustrated by an image of a dancing girl in a piece titled, "Sheer Exhuberance," ingeniously assembled by Belgian and U.N. stamps, as seen on the following page. – 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 welcomed 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 **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 7:30 pm at the Edgemere Retirement Center, 8523 Thackery, Dallas, TX. Membership is open to anyone of good character who is 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. We welcome members of all collecting levels, whether you are starting out or have been collecting for decades. 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. Members met in person on November 10 for the club's annual Member Bourse, preceded by a preview of the USPS 2022 stamp program by club newsletter editor and webmaster, **Art von Reyn**. **Jack Urish's** worldwide stamp collection was distributed at the November 24 meeting (a task that continued at the club's meeting on January 26). At the club's final meeting of 2021, members met on December 15 for the annual holiday dinner. The club's first meeting of the new year saw members hearing from **Geoff Owens** about the French colonial Chad to Rhine issues. The club's bi-monthly newsletter, *Stamp & Tongs* (the first two pages of which are available to non-members via the club website), reported that 2022 officer nominations include **Bill Laupus** (president) and **Mark Solomon** (vice president), with **Rod Grabel** (treasurer) and **Rick Hosler** (secretary) continuing in their roles from 2021. On February 9, members gathered to hear from **Chris Leitnick**, Industry Co-Chair of the Greater Dallas Postal Customer Council, one of the nation's first PCCs (and, according to its website, the creator of our beloved Mr. Zip!), about that organization's work to promote more effective relationships between the USPS and its business customers. – submitted by **Bill Laupus**.

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

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 has resumed in-person meetings at the regular first and third Monday times. On November 1, 26 members and one guest met for the club's quarterly auction. After the names of nominees for next year's officers and directors position were read, auctioneer **Ron Strawser** launched the event, which generated proceeds totaling \$530. On November 8, noted philatelic researcher and writer **Dr. Charles DiComo** paid the club another Zoom visit, this time to present on the Providence, Rhode Island, pre-mailing control marking on the U.S. 3 cent 1851-57 stamp. As always, Charlie's presentation was very well received and much appreciated. The club next met in person on November 15, with 18 members in attendance. After unanimous approval of the nominated slate of

officers and directors, **Jay Stotts** presented on college football on stamps and covers. With the approaching college football bowl season and playoffs (including Jay's own University of Cincinnati Bearcats), Jay's presentation was timely and very entertaining. The club held its final in-person gathering of the year on December 6, for its holiday dinner. Everyone ate well and enjoyed the evening – see the photo at right. Club members fared quite well at the Mid-Cities club's EXPO stamp show on November 12 and 13, with Ron Strawser's "The Postal Stationery of British Zanzibar 1895-1964" winning the Grand Award and a Gold; **Denise Stott**'s "Japanese Art" capturing the Grand Reserve, a Gold and the show's Most Popular Exhibit award; and husband Jay's "The 14 cent American Indian Stamp of the Fourth Bureau Issue" winning the Single-Frame Grand – see the photos of Ron and of Denise's exhibit, below right. Congratulations to our club winners at the 2021 EXPO. The club started the New Year with an in-person gathering on January 3 to hear **Tom Herbert** present on the Miracle of the Panama Canal. **Rick Barrett** presented on January 17, to 24 members and one guest about his grandfather, **Nelson Wheeler Barrett**, who operated a hunting and fishing lodge in the early 20th century on Canada's Lake Wahnapiatae and later, on Georgian Bay. Rick shared an engaging blend of family and postal history, since his grandfather also served as postmaster in those northern woods. In early January, club president, **Paula Pedrick** announced that the club leadership had decided to scale back the Zoom meetings to once each quarter, now that in-person meetings, despite Omicron-related fits and starts, have resumed. This will certainly lighten the load on our Zoom host **Steve Stewart**, who had done yeoman's work on our behalf throughout the pandemic. At that first quarterly Zoom gathering, Rick shared recent discoveries from old Buffalo newspapers and period brochures by the Canadian National Railways that mentioned his lodge-operator grandfather, adding further dimension to the story. The club's first quarterly auction of the year was held on February 7. Some 38 lots were offered and all but a handful sold, with receipts totaling \$1,163, thanks to 16 buyers. The top bid reached \$225 for one particularly tempting offering of two stuffed, worldwide albums, all pre-1920.



In the January-March 2022 issue of the club newsletter, *The Perforator*, editor Jay Stotts recounted the club's sweep of the top awards at EXPO (detailed above). **Ardy Callender**, a veteran collector and researcher of mails passing through the New York City post office in the latter part of the 19th century, told the story of a misdirected folded letter (probably deposited in the circular rate drop when it should have been posted at the foreign mail window, across the floor). Jay shared a story about the postal authorities in Sweden getting assistance during the 1920s from the British American Bank Note Co. (via referral from the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing) as that country worked to bring stamp production in house. It's a fascinating story and a bit of a primer on the complicated business of stamp production.

The January 31, 2022, issue of *Linn's Stamp News* reported that club member Jay Stotts has been elected to the board of governors of the United States Stamp Society, publisher of *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, a terrific one-volume reference that is available (at a discount to members) from the American Philatelic Society. – submitted by **Greg Cain**.

Longview Stamp Club – the club meets from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, 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** (parrisk@gmail.com; 972-989-7992 [cell]) and he suggests that anyone planning to attend a club meeting contact him first. In the Mid-Cities Stamp Club's monthly newsletter, *Stamping Around* (January 2022 edition), Keith reported that he and spouse Laurie attended the Longview club's December meeting held on December 7. Including themselves, eight people were in attendance. It sounded like a pleasant evening, with folks enjoying refreshments while discussing a variety of things, some of which involved stamp collecting, postal delivery, and related topics. Keith also reported that the host church was giving a holiday concert at the same time, which made parking a bit challenging but surely added to the festive feeling of the season. We appreciate receiving this report! – submitted by **Keith Parris**.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) Stamp Club – After more than a year of meeting via Zoom, the club is back to meeting in person again (masks required) but at a new location: 144 Park Avenue (Blue Building) in League City. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Meetings nominally start at 7:00 PM 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 called auction. At a recent meeting we heard an excellent presentation from Club member **Gary Walston** on Nevada Postal History. Our club has a set of Scott Catalogs and an extensive philatelic library. We've recently started an outreach to local Scouts looking to earn their Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Annual dues are \$10. For directions and other information contact **Bob Osman** at 281-488-3356. – 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 7:30 PM at the Central Station Marketing offices, 12750 S. Pipeline Road, Ste. 1C, Euless. The group met on November 17, with 11 members present. The bulk of the discussion centered around debriefs from show leaders about the successful EXPO stamp show held the preceding weekend. At the first meeting of 2022, held on January 16, 10 members and one guest were present for the regular agenda of reports, "Show & Tell," and discussion. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Lake Granbury Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury. We held our annual picnic the evening of October 26. After the array of hot dogs, drinks and sides from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, host **David Stockbridge** opened the regular meeting with eight members in attendance. **Rick Howell** congratulated the club newsletter and editor, **Peter Elias** on having received the American Philatelic Society Star Route Award. **Jim Myers** explained in his "After Dinner Potpourri" that he receives numerous calls, texts and letters from individuals who believe they have found or inherited rare and very valuable stamps, accumulations and collections. It is difficult, he noted, to explain that the overwhelming majority of finds are of common issues with little resale or investment value. He did recall one exception to the rule, with a woman who found some scarce U. S. revenue issues, whom he was able to help with an auction that brought a return of several thousands of dollars. Nine members assembled on November 23, at the Bentwater Activities Center. Host Dave Stockbridge began by introducing new member **Ray Ashley**, who has been visiting the club for some time. Stockbridge reminded everyone that the January 25 meeting program would be "Clean Our Your Closet." **Ken Aldridge** gave a talk on stamp mosaics. – submitted by **Eugene Atkinson**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Arlington Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington. On November 3, 18 members plus two spouses gathered to get an update on a variety of matters, including the approaching EXPO show. Traditional proceedings were suspended when the group met again on December 1, yielding in favor of the group's annual holiday dinner and gift exchange, with the meal catered by Boston Market and decorations furnished, courtesy of **Rich and Bert Hildebrandt**. The branch's first meeting of the new year was held on January 5, with 27 members present. The traditional program for the first meeting of the year took place, which was a "Clean Out Your (Philatelic) Closet Sale." – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

The December 2021 and January 2022 issues of the club's monthly newsletter, *Stamping Around*, contain the usual offering of articles and reminisces, always with a philatelic tie-in. In addition, these issues give a nice account of the club's recent annual stamp show, EXPO, held at the Grapevine Convention Center on November 12-13. This year's show carried the theme "Western Wear, Cowboys" and celebrated the western wear commemorative stamps (four different designs) that were introduced in a First Day ceremony in Abilene, TX, on July 23, 2021. Show officials reported that a total of 360 people attended across both days (including club members). Dealers generally were pleased with the business at their tables. Traditional offerings, like the Giant Mixture Pick table, the Chance Board and the Silent Auction, fared quite well. **Madeleine Myers** held the winning raffle ticket for the unique and attractive stamp-themed quilt that was made by club member **Ken Aldridge's** spouse. Please see photo below, with show chair Ralph Poore (left) and Ken, standing with Madeleine and her prize. February's *Stamping Around* carried the sad news of the passing of former club member **Melvin Edmonds** on December 31. **Tom Cunningham** noted that Mr. Edmonds had been a regular dealer at EXPO until about four years ago. He will be missed.



EXPO News – With the completion of EXPO for 2021, planning for the 2022 edition has already begun. The committee met on January 15. Ralph Poore stated that he has begun to focus on succession planning for show leadership. **Ray Cartier** noted that he struggled to fill the exhibit hall at the last show. A suggestion made by **Stanley Christmas** that Grand Award winners be allowed to re-exhibit after three years was approved. **Peter Elias** noted that, since the club again would not produce a cachet for the 2022 show, he saw no reason to tie the show theme to a new stamp. Instead, citing the Houston club's GHSS as precedent, perhaps other topics should be considered and that one to four-frame exhibits should be encouraged around the chosen theme. - submitted by **Skip Ely**.

The San Antonio Philatelic Association <http://www.sastamps.org/> - SAPA meets every Friday evening at 7:30 PM at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, 2903 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, in building #1 (facing the road). The club has resumed in-person, weekly meetings at the host church, with activities ranging from auctions (November 12 and December 3), "Show & Tell" (November 5) to the annual Christmas party and election of officers (December 10). On January 21, 2022, the club heard from member **Howard Wallace** about National Airmail Week of 1938, which

celebrated air mail in the U.S. at 20 years. (Your reporter has a cover from his grandfather's collection depicting Art Smith, "Indiana's bird boy," commemorating the event in the Hoosier State.) The Fall issue of the club newsletter, *The Philatex*, carried a timely article by co-editors **Lea Senghaas** and **Dora Roberts** about Christmas stamps. That wonderful Canada issue from 1898 of the Mercator world map with Commonwealth members highlighted in red lays claim to being the first Christmas stamp. The USPOD finally got into the act with the wreath and candle issue of 1962. Club member **Kathy Beer** shared that the APS will be recognizing her husband, **Tommy Beer**, as a 50-year member, complete with a medallion to commemorate the achievement. Although neither Tommy nor Kathy will be able to attend the ceremony in person, she promises to bring the medallion to a club meeting once received. *The Philatex's* January-February 2022 issue carried the news of new club president **Chip Swinney's** election. In his inaugural president's letter, Chip thanked outgoing president, **Dr. Eric Shephard**, for his dedicated service and invited all members who are able, to return for the fellowship that in-person sessions afford. Sadly, we must report that Dr. Shephard passed away on February 14, at the age of 73 years. We send our deepest condolences to the SAPA Club members and to Dr. Shephard's family.

The SAPA-affiliated San Antonio and South Texas Postcard Club has also resumed in-person meetings. The club meets at 7 PM 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. **George Dresser** is the club contact; details available from **Greg Cain**. The group met on December 4 in College Station. Thirteen members were present, along with two spouses. The daylong program began with introductions, as the group had not met for the prior two years. Members first discussed various literature items and catalogs of interest. **Jay Stotts'** talk on the printing processes of the Arch issue of Canada of 1930 followed. Jay is co-editor of the upcoming major work on the 4th Bureau issue of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The rotary presses used for the 4th Bureau issue were nearly identical to the presses used for the Arch issue coils of the 1¢ and 2¢, the 2¢ booklet panes, and the 5¢ violet. Jay discussed where knowledge about the various printings is lacking. The presentation received vigorous applause. Following a lunch provided by hosts **George Dresser** and **Vic Willson**, a "clothesline" exhibit of members' recently acquired items was conducted. **Eigel Trondsen** showed both a lovely takedown easel he built and several Cunard covers from the UK-US retaliatory rate period of 1847-48. **Jeff Switt** showed items from his thematic collection related to oranges. **Gary Giroux** showed some unusual 1¢ Prexie items. Vic Willson showed several Canadian 19th-century pre-UPU and UPU covers to foreign destinations. George Dresser showed an imperforate set of plate corner blocks of the 78¢ Mammal issue of 1990 of Canada and two examples of the 1903 Edward 20¢ stamps on cover. A donation auction conducted to benefit the Group's treasury was followed by a presentation by George Dresser on the postal history of Canada's 1988-1990 Mammals issue with an emphasis on destinations. He organized the covers by the United Nations' 22 regions geographic structure. This approach provided a logical basis for showing destinations rather than alphabetical or by continent. A roundtable discussion on stamp price changes concluded the day's activities. About half the group was able to stay for a no-host dinner at a local barbecue restaurant (while watching several college football games of interest to several attendees). – submitted by **George Dresser**.

South Plains Stamp Club – **South Plains Stamp Club** in Lubbock TX meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Garden and Arts Center, 4215 University Avenue, Lubbock, TX. 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**.



Membership Report

Greg Cain

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

5208 Miller, David W. - Kemah, TX
 5209 Goodman, Charles - Dallas, TX
 5210 White, John - Austin, TX
 5211 Okhuysen, Pablo - Houston, TX

Deceased

5068 Shephard, Dr. Eric

Sponsor

3364 Mid-Cities Stamp Club,
 4005 Boardman, Lyle
 4275 Cowper, Ann M.
 4286 Cutshaw, Edward G.
 4291 Stotts, Jay
 4347 Groth, Fred
 4362 Woodburn, George
 4364 Willig, David
 4400 Koch, Tom
 4498 Stotts, Denise
 4499 Petitto, Joe S.
 4565 Bohannon, Melvin
 4691 McDermott, Robert L.
 4694 James, Patricia K.
 4723 Williams, James
 4741 Wieting, Amy E.
 4848 Cervantes, Ruben C.
 4849 Olver, John R.
 4914 Ogburn, Dr. Jim R.
 5125 Ramsey, John
 5145 Lera, Thomas
 5157 Ludeman, Mike
 5166 Noah, Barbara
 5194 Laster, Richard
 5201 Arndt, Jon
 8206 Fred C. Sawyer Chapter, AFDCS,

Patron

3693 Witthoeft, Paul M.
 3902 Beisser, Stephen M.
 4002 Collyer, David C.
 4015 Fohn, Jane King
 4194 Evans, Tom
 4438 Solomon, Mark J.
 4505 Cartier, Ray
 4666 Strawser, Ronald

4684 Zettlemoyer, Nicholas
 4702 Valdez, Jr., Fred
 4803 Paetzold, Gary
 4804 Ely, Gifford
 4830 Sampson, Glenn
 4871 Rauch, Alan M.
 4890 Dunnigan, David R.
 4906 Dr. Price, Allan E.
 4990 Ritchey, David L.
 4993 Cain, Gregory L.
 5018 Jefferson, Charles
 5021 Barnes, Larry D.
 5022 Laughlin, Jerry N.
 5031 Graham, Cole B.
 5036 Barnes, Sandra L.
 5056 Leonard, Robert
 5084 Broussard, David
 5100 Prokop, Mike
 5101 Atkinson, William E.
 5126 Crain, James P.
 5162 Von-Maszewski, Wolfram M.
 5186 Bouvier, Joseph
 5204 Potter, James

Sustaining

3765 Dworkin, Dr. Anthony G.
 4027 Blair, Jeffrey
 4090 Belvin, Herbie
 4181 Gilmore, Robert R.
 4389 Sellers, Dianna M.
 4470 Arceneaux, Linton T.
 4655 Bagley, Madison
 4754 Will, John
 4770 Tellier, Leo J.
 4809 Aljoe, Ron R.
 4837 Swann, David
 4942 Sixta, James E.
 5028 Baker, Roy
 5043 Wilson, Peter A.
 5046 Tompsett, David
 5114 Geren, Tom
 5163 Walston, Gary H.

Publication Fund - Platinum

5157 Ludeman, Mike

Publication Fund - Gold

2074	Deaton, Charles
3364	Mid-Cities Stamp Club,
3996	Strauss, Bill
4005	Boardman, Lyle
4271	Topper, Jonathan
4499	Petitto, Joe S.
4581	Fitzsimmons, Gerald L.
4733	Thompson, Robert G.
4914	Ogburn, Dr. Jim R.
5011	McKenzie, Roland K.
5123	Matthews, James Evan

Publication Fund - Silver

2936	JSC Stamp Club,
3583	Lindemann, James
3597	French, Dan
4015	Fohn, Jane King
4364	Willig, David
4409	Moss, Douglas C.
4438	Solomon, Mark J.
4645	Myers, James
4655	Bagley, Madison
4694	James, Patricia K.
4705	Valdez, Jr., Fred
4741	Wieting, Amy E.
4803	Paetzold, Gary
4871	Rauch, Alan M.
4906	Price, Dr. Allan E.
4954	Mathews, Robert T.
5010	Germann, John J.
5021	Barnes, Larry D.
5056	Leonard, Robert
5122	Thompson, Michael
5125	Ramsey, John
5126	Crain, James P.
5158	Treat, William Jay
5162	Von-Maszewski, Wolfram M.
5206	Cahill, Robert

Publication Fund - Silver-Bronze

3693	Witthoeft, Paul M.
3902	Beisser, Stephen M.
4002	Collyer, David C.
4194	Evans, Tom
4389	Sellers, Dianna M.
4691	McDermott, Robert L.
4767	Tomei, Charles F.
4804	Ely, Gifford
5022	Laughlin, Jerry N.
5035	Byerly, Lois
5036	Barnes, Sandra L.
5100	Prokop, Mike

5114	Geren, Tom
5163	Walston, Gary H.
5186	Bouvier, Joseph

Publication Fund - Bronze

3765	Dworkin, Dr. Anthony G.
4027	Blair, Jeffrey
4090	Belvin, Herbie
4181	Gilmore, Robert E.
4470	Arceneaux, Linton T.
4754	Will, John
4770	Tellier, Leo J.
4830	Sampson, Glenn
4895	Bradford, Gary B.
4942	Sixta, James E.
4965	Jones, Gary M.
5028	Baker, Roy
5046	Tompsett, David
5124	Halstead, Bill
5204	Potter, James

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership as of October 29, 2021	299
New Members	4
Reinstated	+0
Resigned	-0
Deceased	-1
Membership as of February 15, 2022	302
Comprised of:	
Life Chapters	10
Life Members	73
Regular Chapters/Units	7
Regular Members	<u>212</u>
	302

I wish to thank the nearly 200 renewing members for subscribing for (at least) one more year. Each one of you is important to us! And we thank you for your continued interest in our Journal. For those who have not yet renewed, we know how to reach you! So we will be sending a friendly reminder in the coming weeks. I also want to tell you how moved I've been by the generosity of our membership. So many of you have made donations to our program funds, above and beyond the membership dues. I am humbled and thank you from the bottom of my heart. We will be careful stewards of the trust and investment you've made.

Greg Cain
Secretary-Treasurer



2022 TSDA DALLAS • STAMP FAIRS

**Professionals
Serving the Philatelic
Community of Texas**



HOUSTON •

Doubletree Hotel,
Bluebonnet Room,
1981 North Central Expressway
(Hwy 75 & Campbell Rd),
Richardson, TX 75080
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
April 8 & 9

Hilton Garden Inn –
Energy Corridor,
12245 Katy Freeway (I-10 & Dairy
Ashford Exit),
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
May 20 & 21

SAN ANTONIO •

Norris Conference Center,
618 Northwest Freeway,
Loop 410,
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
May 13 & 14

For Information, contact:
THOMAS CUNNINGHAM
PO BOX 863237,
PLANO, TX, 75086-3237
214-546-1179

Email: CunninghamStamps@aol.com

For the latest schedule of
Texas stamp shows, visit our
website:

www.TSDAstamps.com



The British Commonwealth of Nations

PO Box 1198 • Bellaire, Texas 77401
Phone: 713-781-6563 • Fax 713-789-9998
info@crowncolony.com
www.crowncolony.com



We are active buyers and sellers of
stamps and postal history of all areas
of pre-1960 British Commonwealth,
including individual items, collections
and estates. Want lists from all reigns
are accepted with references.

*Visit our booth at most
major philatelic exhibitions!*

L.W. Martin Jr.