

MAIL FIRST CLASS



President's Message *from Mike Francis*

At the December 2005 meeting the members elected the club officers for 2006. The 2004-2005 officers were re-elected for another term at the will of the membership. The change in the by-laws at the November 2005 meeting allowed for this action. The officers look forward to serving the membership for another year.

The club finances are starting the new year out in good order and membership is still growing at a steady rate of one or two new members per quarter.

Over the next six months the club will initiate several philatelic projects designed to help members identify

stamps in areas that seem to cause some consternation. One example would be stamp color varieties. Another would be types of stamp paper. Committees will be established to address selected areas of stamp identification issues, build sample reference examples then distribute real samples or quality color printouts to all members. The next issue of the *Postscript* will enumerate these projects and report on any progress to date.

Finally we need presenters for the meetings and articles for the *Postscript*. Your participation and contribution will be greatly appreciated by all club members. Mike

THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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TIDBITS

- 2006 dues will be collected starting in April.
- TSCC is looking for more donations for the raffle table. As members have seen in the last six months, the more interesting the item the bigger the raffle sale. Keep up the wonderful donations.
- The Editor is looking for more samples of stamps to be identified. Also, email the Editor if you are having trouble with identification in a specific area of collecting.
- The Japanese stamps discussed at the March 14 meeting turned out to be Japanese Occupation stamps. They were issued by Japanese Naval Authorities for the lesser Sundra Islands, Celebes and Borneo. They were identified by John Goble.
- Welcome new member Al Novak.

Collecting Postmarks *by Dr. Mike Francis*

The idea for this article came from member Don Smith who came across a similar article by Les Winick in a Brookman periodical.

There is a wonderful and challenging area of philately known as postmark collecting. Collectors either collect the entire envelope with its postmark of interest or they collect the cut square which is the upper right corner of the cover with the stamp and the entire postmark.

We have members in the TSCC who collect postmarks. The most notable being Dr. Manes who specializes in Jamaican postmarks. Other members to collect postmarks from an issuing entity in a given territory, state, or country. The challenges and opportunities are endless.

In Les Winick's article from one of the Brookman periodicals, Mr. Winick provides the reader with a startup list of infamous city names and encourages the reader to collect a postmark from each place. He provides history about two cities, Intercourse and Paradise, PA in order to show the reader a purpose for collecting not only the postmarks from such cities, but learn detail about their history. This type of activity expands the

educational side of philately.

Florida has two of the two most famous and sought-after postmarks in the United States: postmarks from Christmas and Two Egg, Florida. Michigan has one also—Hell.

Another area of postmark collecting is special events and occasions conducted by the USPS or a city, state or organization with USPS support. USPS provides special cancellation marks and first day ceremonies sponsorship. Of course, many collectors work hard at collecting First Day of Issue (FDC) covers. FDC's have been and will continue to be a special interest category and values for US FDC's are listed in the Scott catalog. The one difference between FDC's and normal corner postmarks is the collector should keep the entire FDC envelope intact instead of just the upper right corner.

Postmarks are also an excellent way to attract young people into the hobby of philately. It teaches them how to collect, how to write letters to various post offices and provides them with an expanded view of geography which many of them no longer receive in school.

Meeting Dates & Presentations

Upcoming meetings for 2006:

April 11—VP Mickey Dwyer

May 9—TBA

June 13—TBA

July 11—TBA

August 8—TBA

September 12—TBA

October 10—TBA

November 14—TBA

December 12—Christmas Party

Postmarks (cont.) by Dr. Mike Francis

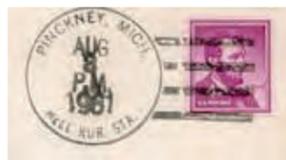
POSTMARK vs CANCELLATION

While collectors tend to use these two terms interchangeably they have different meanings. The postmark can be anywhere on the envelope and signifies the mailing postal station location. The cancellation is the markings either by pen, machine, hand stamp and now, ink jet printing, that actually cancels the stamps. Normally the two marks are next to each other on the envelope. When the postmark actually cancels the stamp, it is called a duplex mark. Duplex marks are the most sought after by the envelope corner collectors.

FAMOUS POSTMARKS

I will email the list Mr. Winick published in his article to anyone who sends me a request. The postmarks are from cities that have famous names like Hell, Michigan or they have sexual overtones such as Fertility, Pennsylvania or Fertile, Minnesota. Although I don't really believe in censorship, this is a family publication so the list is not shown here. But, I can list Paradise, Michigan and Paradise, Pennsylvania as two of the more popular postmarks Mr. Winick discusses.

Below is a logo placed on envelopes from Hell, MI and an official postmark. The logo was postally applied during the 1960s and 70s. Of course, if you have access to the discarded mail of the IRS or a law firm that handles divorces, there is a good chance you will find a postmark from Hell, MI. During tax season, Hell post office is busy post marking mail sent to them from all over the country and from personal deliveries to the post office. Postmarked mail is then delivered to the IRS. Note that Hell is a sub-station of Pinckney and is located in the back of a general store.



Another area of postmark and cancellation philately is military mail which is mail postmarked at a military facility. The marks that are the most popular are ones from US Naval ships. Several are shown below from the Francis Philatelic Reference Collection (FPRC):

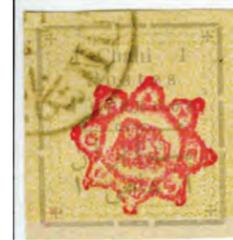


Of course, postmarks from the US Railway Post Office and Highway Post Office facilities are fun to collect and affordable to all. These marks have been featured in the *Postscript* in the past. Finally, while there are thousands of areas for the cut square postmark collectors to focus their collecting habits, one of the more challenging is the PAQUETBOT postmarks. These are letters and other items mailed aboard a ship at sea where there is no official post office on ship. The mail is delivered to a port of call where it is postmarked with the port of call postmark and marked either "PAQUEBOT" (Fr.); "PACCHIBOT" (It.); "PAKETBOOT" (Dut.); "PAQUETE" (Port.); "PAQUEBOAT" (Amer.); or PAQUETE POSTAL" (Sp.) These cancellations are different from the cancellations on ships that have a Universal Postal Union recognized post office. With an on-board post office, the postmark will show the ship's name. The cropped image below is a PAQUEBOT postmark from the FPRC:



The reverse side of this full post card is a picture of the RMS Queen Elizabeth.

Identity Uncovered



Identification of this stamp should be an easy task for most collectors. There is English text on the stamp therefore looking up "Chahi" or "Postes Persanes" in Linn's Stamp Identifier is your best bet for identification. "Postes Persanes" is not in the identifier but "Persanes" is and indicates a stamp from Iran. "Chahi" is also used on the stamps of Persia, now known as Iran. Checking the Scott catalog you will find this stamp under Iran, 1902 issue. There are two types for this issue: type I has "CHAH" and type II has "Chahi." With the weak postmark it is easy to tell that this stamp is a type II. Therefore, Scott lists the stamp as Scott 280, 1c gray & yellow, imperf. The catalog value of mint or used copies is \$20 (SC2003.) Now the hard part. This series is ripe with forgeries and this stamp appears to be an excellent forgery example.

Many of you who collect mid-Eastern stamps will immediately recognize the rose colored overprint on the stamp. It is a modified Coat of Arms of Persian (Iran) with the lion's head the most noticeable feature. But in this case, the head has too many facial markings. In addition, the overprint is missing one critical element: overprints in this series all have 1391 at the bottom of the overprint. This stamp does not have this critical number. Further, the scrolling imprint on the paper does not extend under the full stamp image.

Genuine samples of the 1902 series are hard to find and range from \$15-\$40 mint and \$3.25-\$40 in used condition.

Here is an example from the same 1902 series that is an easily recognized forgery. This copy is from the Francis Philatelic Reference Collection (FPRC.)



The supposed rose overprint has obviously been printed on the paper first before the blue color of the stamp itself. Also, the overprint is uncharacteristically sharp in its appearance. Finally the paper is missing the scrolled imprint.

The next image, also from the FPRC, reveals a genuine Iran 1902 5 Chahis in mint condition. Scott 2003 value for this stamp is \$20. The "1319" is very hard to see without a powerful microscope but it does exist.



Comments to the editor about expertizing this series of Iranian stamps are welcomed.

Identify This Stamp



See if you can identify this stamp. Its identity will be uncovered in the next issue.

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The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this publication.

Factoid

The first world-wide mail delivery system was established by King Cyrus The Great in 550 BC.