

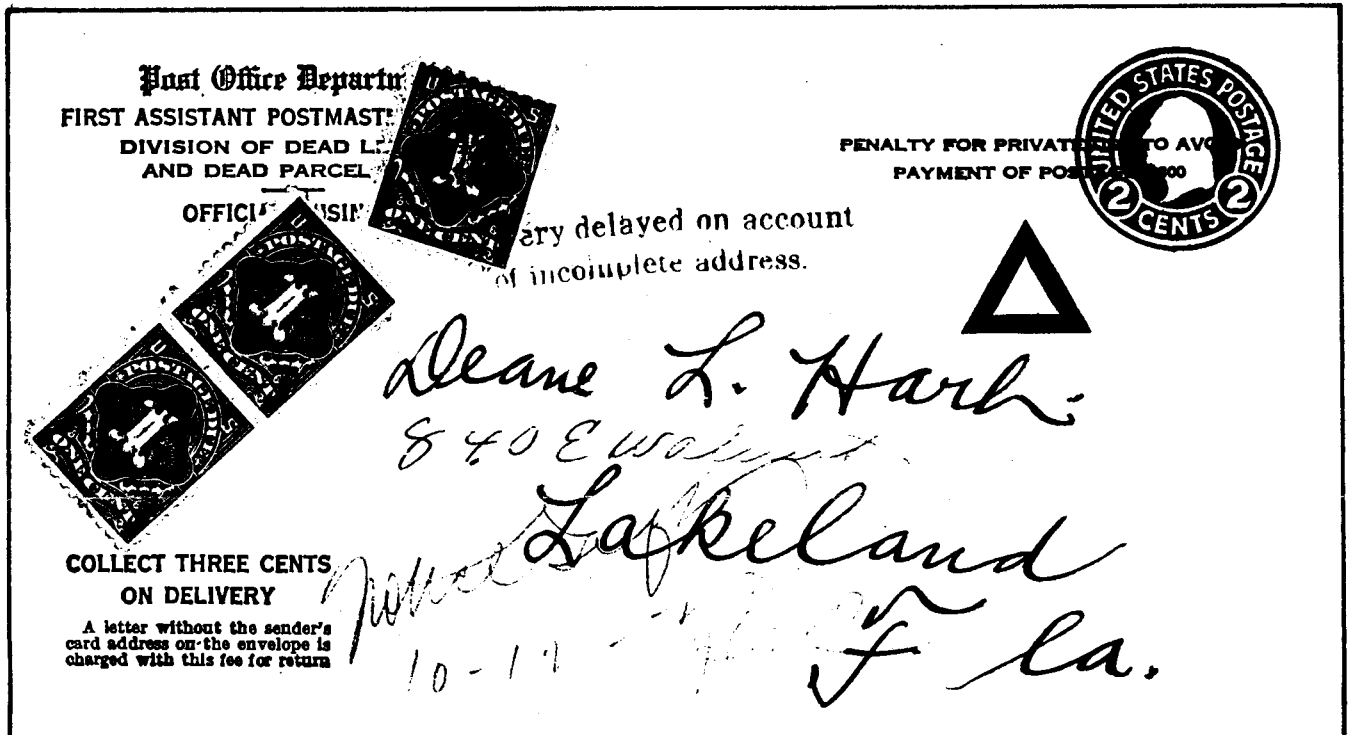
The Postscript



Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

Vol. 7 No. 3

July - September 1997



Sender paid a three cent fee because she failed to have her complete address on this cover.

Dead Letter Office Charged A "Return Fee" Of Three Cents

By Larry Benson

Trying to figure out what happened to a cover, where it has been and why can be tricky. Such is the case with the cover illustrated above.

Apparently, Deane L. Hart to whom this cover is addressed, had to pay a three cent return fee when, for some reason, a letter she wrote ended up in the Dead Letter Office. It appears her return address was

not on the envelope. Without a return address, personnel in the Dead Letter Office had to open her letter to identify the sender. The Lakeland, Fla., postmark revealed the city of origin.

Acting on that information, the Dead Letter Office returned her letter to

See **Return Fee** Page 4

In The **POST ROAD** Ahead

Oct. 14 - Bring Stamps to Sell and Trade. No Program

Nov. 11 - One Page Exhibits & "How to Get Kids Started Collecting" by Greg Phifer

Dec. 9 - Elections & Christmas Party! Lots to Eat!

Plaskett Reports About Meeting Room Change

At our September meeting, past president Don Plaskett reported to members about his conversations with the Director of the Senior Citizen Center about possibly changing meeting rooms. He is hopeful that we can hold meetings in the large "dance room" to the right of the main entrance to the Center.

The Center Director said we could have Wednesday nights now because the dance room is not used on Wednesday evenings. However, Don asked for a show of hands by those members who would not be able to attend stamp club on Wednesdays and four or five people raised their hands.

Therefore, Don's recommendation was to let our meeting time and room remain as it is for now. In the meantime, the Center Director said she will be keeping track of the number of dancers to see if attendance shrinks, grows (as ours has) or remains the same.

Negotiations are on-going, so watch your newsletter for future developments.

Bobby Bowden Day Held in Tallahassee

On July 29, the USPS in Tallahassee honored FSU football coach Bobby Bowden with a special cancel. Cancels were applied to covers bearing the "Legendary Football Coaches" stamps released in Canton, Ohio, on July 25.

For the record, the inside of the ceremony program is reproduced as page 3 in this issue of *The Postscript*.

The Stamp Mania

The following article appeared in an unknown publication circa the 1900 by an unknown author. It is reproduced here for your enjoyment.

"A recent paper on the stamp-collecting mania in this country and in Europe contained some curious facts which will be interesting to American boys (not girls - Ed.) who make philately a hobby.

"The most valuable collection of stamps in the world is here stated to be that of Herr von Ferrary of Paris, which is valued at a half million of dollars. The collection now in the British Museum, which is worth three hundred thousand dollars comes next.

"There are, it appears, a dozen ugly little stamps which if any boy could find on some old letters would bring him ten thousand dollars in the market. Of these, the one and two pence stamps of Mauritius of the first issue would be worth two thousand dollars each. (\$350,000 each in 1993 - Ed.) As there are supposed to be only eight of each of these stamps in the world no boy is likely to find them. An American stamp, the five-cent Brattleboro provisional issue, is worth twelve hundred dollars; (\$15,000 on cover in 1993 - Ed.) some of the stamps of the Confederate States sell for large sums.

"It is said that a stamp market is held on a certain morning of the week in the Champs Elysees in Paris. Trades-women with their aprons full of stamps, bonnes, boys carrying little baskets, gather in crowds in the shade of the trees, chattering, gesticulating and laughing, to buy or exchange their flimsy wares. It is one of the most characteristic sights of Paris.



Queen Victoria

Mauritius Scott Numbers 1 and 2

"Two of the Governments of South American states are known to be in the pay of wealthy stamp-dealers in Europe, and change their issues frequently to give their patrons profitable "corners."

"The stamp craze began only forty years ago in Belgium, and is now a vast business extending over all the civilized world. Every boy probably has made a small investment in it.

"Whether it is safe to make large ones in stock so intrinsically worthless is matter for question."

Postal History Terms Are Worth Knowing

From Harrison County Stamp Club
Newsletter - Clarksburg, WV

Advertising Cover - An illustrated envelope featuring a product or promoting a retail business.

APO - Army Post Office - Overseas military units transmit mail through USPS.

Auxiliary Marking - Any additional marking other than the postmark, such as "return to sender."

Folded Letter - Envelopes did not come into wide usage until the 1850s. Before envelopes, letters were folded with a blank side for the address.

Killer - A cancel which obliterates the stamp.

A Tribute to Bobby Bowden
July 29, 1997
11:30 am
Main Post Office
Tallahassee FL

Steve Boals.....Postmaster, Tallahassee, FL
Harold Swinton.....Manager, North Florida District
N. W. Logeson.....District Manager, Post Office Operations
Debbie Powell Smith.....Customer Relations Coordinator
Scott Maddox.....Mayor, Tallahassee, FL
Bobby Bowden.....Florida State University Head Football Coach



THE DYNASTY CONTINUES

Bobby Bowden

is the only coach in Division 1-A football history to compile 10 straight 10-win seasons (1987-present) ❖ is the nation's second-winningest active head coach with 270, which ranks fifth all-time in Division 1-A ❖ is the only coach in college football history to lead his team to 10 straight finishes among the Associated Press' top four ❖ holds NCAA record with 11 consecutive bowl victories and 14 straight bowl trips without a loss ❖ won his first national championship in 1993 while setting a school record for victories in a season with 12 ❖ has guided FSU to 18 bowl appearances in 21 years, including 15 straight, with 11 "New Year's" bowl trips ❖ has more wins (197) at Florida State in the last 21 years than the previous seven FSU head coaches compiled in over 29 seasons ❖ won the 1996 Home Depot National Coach of the Year ❖ *is Tallahassee's own legendary football coach!*

Return Fee - From Page 1

Lakeland in the Official Business envelope. Upon arrival in Lakeland, local postal workers determined that her address was 840 E. Walnut and wrote it in just below her name in red ink. (The street address may not be visible as red does not photocopy well.)

At the same time, the Lakeland post office struck the cover with a purple rubber stamp reading: "Delivery delayed on account of incomplete address." Then, the three one cent postage due stamps (Sc# J61) were affixed in accordance with the caveat printed in the lower left hand corner reading "COLLECT THREE CENTS ON DELIVERY - A letter without the sender's card address on the envelope is charged with this fee for return."

Letter Carrier Records Date

Although there is no postmark on the Dead Letter Office's cover, because officials don't require cancelling, we know the date from a Lakeland letter carrier's attempted delivery. Written at a slant in pencil to the right of the caveat is the notation: "Notice Left 10-12-28" followed by his initials "HAC."

TS&CC Club Officers

President - Mike Francis - 385-1060
 Vice-President - Bert Davis - 576-5074
 Sec. - Frances-Jeanne Hansen - 222-4919
 Treasurer - Edwin Walters - 385-8379

The Postscript is a quarterly publication of the Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club
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Editor - Larry Benson - 877-7001

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The Dead Letter Office's cover is printed on Scott # U429 produced by Middle West Supply Co. & International Envelope Corp. of Dayton, Ohio. The cover is watermarked Type 23 of 1920 as shown in the 1993 Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue on page 293.



Watermark

The red embossed circular stamp is overprinted with the usual \$300 penalty for private use statement printed in capital letters.

Why the Triangle?

Why is there a heavy black triangle printed on the cover just below the penalty statement? According to TS&CC member Howard Karlin, two thick-lined symbols were used on covers, one being a triangle and the other a circle. The triangle stands for "Not Urgent" while the circle means "Urgent."

DLO Established In 1825

The Dead Letter Office (DLO) was established in 1825 in Washington, D.C. By a Congressional Act of June 12, 1866, DLO mail was returned free to the sender. This remained in effect until May 20, 1920, when a fee was first charged for the return service.

Charging fees continued until February 17, 1985, when the service became free again as it still is today. Postage due stamps were also discontinued in 1985 and were withdrawn from sale that year.

Next time I try to figure out what happened to a cover, where it went, how it was handled and why, I'll look for one which is not quite as challenging as the one illustrated and discussed in this article!

Postal Crossword

By Rene Manes

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7						

Crossword Clues

Across

- One of the Netherlands Antilles
- Back of coin or stamp
- Banting's discovery: Canada Sc#533
- Miller's forte

Down

- Popular philatelic shade of red
- Go back to
- Singer and actress ___ Jones
- French Polynesia, formerly

Solution on Page 6

PLATE BLOCK COLLECTORS!

I have a good supply of **Canada Corner Blocks** From 1950 to the present in mint condition. Give me your list of Canada needs.

Don Plaskett - 385-5296

Attend Stamp Club Meetings. It's Fun!

TS&CC Member Asks Scott Publishing About Policy Changes

Submitted by Bob Mesterton

1 July 1997

(Via E-Mail)

To: Robert Mesterton

Regarding your e-mail to Stu Morrissey. I'm the Director of Marketing for Scott Publishing Company and that is the reason I'm responding to your inquiry.

Beginning in 1997, Scott began the process of splitting apart the Scandinavia Specialty album. There are many new collectors that wish to purchase just Sweden or Denmark. This seems logical due to the proliferation of new issues each year. In order to achieve this we had to separate the supplements also. The associated cost with separating these countries into separate supplements has increased the collective price for all of Scandinavia.

The SSM program is new in 1997. It grants you deep discounts on the entire Scott product line. If you're a subscriber you should no longer order as a club member. When you call to place an order (you) should let us know that you are a subscriber and disregard your club account. I feel the savings achieved under the SSM program more than make up for any price increases that have occurred.

Sincerely,
William Fay
Director of Marketing & Sales

7 July 1997

(Via E-Mail)

To: Bill Fay

I am reading from your 1997 Scott Product Guide:

Page 12 - Specialty Albums only Scan/ Finland listed; Page 15 - Specialty labels only Scan/Finland listed; Page 29 - Supplements only Scan/Finland listed.

I do not see listings for the seven countries that make up Scan/Fin. I phoned your 800 number and this is the info I received:

Denmark \$4.95, Faroe \$4.95, Finland \$5.95, Greenland \$4.95, Iceland \$4.95, Norway \$4.95, and Sweden \$7.95 - Total \$38.65.

Last Year	Retail	Scott Club 20%	SSM37%
3455095	\$16.95	net \$13.65	net \$10.96
[Scan/Fin Sups)			SSM 14.36
			Total \$25.32
This Year			
1996-97 Total	\$38.65	net \$30.92	net \$24.35
			SSM \$14.36
			Total \$38.71
One Year Increase	\$21.70	\$17.36	\$13.39

As you can see, your SSM 37% saving is 6 cents more than retail price and \$7.79 more than the old Scott Club 20%. I fail to see, as your e-mail says, that SSM more than makes up for the price increases. The best deal for a Scan/Fin collector is Scott Club 20% and that has increased a big 2 1/4 times from \$13.56 to \$30.92 - some bargain.

The Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club will publish this email letter to you in next months Club News Letter (sic.) Please check all the facts and figures above. We want to be fair to Scott but also inform our members in Florida of your new policy. We will also publish your reply under this one to be fair to you. If you do not reply, that will be noted too.

I have been a member of Scott Club since it started and liked it very much. I have kept a Scott Scan/Fin album collection for 45 years and it has grown to three albums full. I would like to see you give Scott Club the 37% discount too. You will still make \$10.97 more than last year which is a big jump in our low inflation year of 2.8%. We have SSM in our Tallahassee Club library where members can read it and check it out to take home if they like. Most of us do not see a need to have it at home as you can read it in ten min. at the club.

Sincerely, Robert Mesterton
Charter Member of Tallahassee Stamp Club

(According to Mesterton, no Reply was received from Bill Fay as of August 12, 1997.)

Welcome New Members...

TS&CC welcomes these new members who joined since the last *Postscript* was published: **Becky Reese, Lester Miller, Louise Greentaner, Roger Greentanner, Alphonse Trezza, Gene Densmore, Frank Norman, David Darst and Chris Hunter.**

President's Column

By Mike Francis

The next couple of months will be active ones for all Club members. We have our second semi-annual members' Buy-and-Sell meeting in October. We also have nominations for new Club Officers in November and elections in December along with our annual Christmas Party. All of this lends itself to a busy last quarter of the 1997 year.

Membership growth is a fact. Today we have a net gain in membership that has forced us to consider other options for meeting locations. Most, if not all, members agree that we should take our time and see what is the best deal that can be placed on the table by the Senior Citizen Center. We may be a little crowded at monthly meetings for a while, so please hang in there with the Officers and Don Plaskett

while we seek solutions. Many thanks to Don and Ed Walters for leading the charge in this effort.

While things move along smoothly inside our Club, externally the philatelic world is in turmoil. We, as collectors, are being inundated with not only a record number of new U.S. issues in multiple formats, but we are now facing the new semi-postal issues. I know some of you are fretting over whether or not to keep on collecting U.S. stamps or simply just stop the madness.

Talk with fellow Club members and they may help you decide. My only caution would be to be sure and have a focus to your philatelic efforts. For example, if you stop collecting U.S. issues, be sure and try to focus on some other aspect of

your collection, such as air mail stamps or back-of-the-book issues. You could even save all the money you would have spent on the new issues and try to buy one of those more valuable older stamps that many of us say "I could never afford." You may be surprised.

Crossword Solution

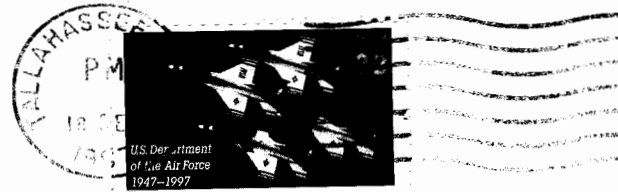
Across


- 1. Curacao
- 5. Reverse
- 6. Insulin
- 7. Estonia

Down

- 1. Carmine
- 2. Revisit
- 3. Carolyn
- 4. Oceania

The Postscript
1832 Jean Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32308-5227



 Meetings are the second Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Annex on Adams St. behind the Senior Citizen Center at the Corner of N. Monroe and 7th Avenue.
Join Us!

FIRST CLASS MAIL

