

# 1869 TIMES

quarterly newsletter of

**THE UNITED STATES 1869 PICTORIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES**

Volume 2, No. 2

November 1976

Whole No. 5

Dear Associates,

I believe we have a number of interesting items in this edition of the "Times" which should make your study and collecting of the U.S. 1869 issue have greater meaning and bring more enjoyment. First of all, this edition is copyrighted, as will be all future editions. Your Board of Directors felt that the type of material being presented here should be protected in this manner.

In addition to the usual Auction Action article by Michael C. O'Reilly and the current series on the newly uncovered Stamp Agent's Ledger Sheets by Michael Laurence, we are pleased to reprint an article on the H. B. Shaw "find" originally published in STAMPS MAGAZINE in 1932. It was sent in by Bruce Hazelton, and of course permission has been granted by H. I. Lindquist Publications. We think you will find this narrative breathtaking! There are a number of other goodies, such as updates on the 2c bisect article written by Jon Rose in our Interphil Publication and other input on the 2c & 3c bisects used on tax notices to expand on the article by Margaret Wunsch also in the Interphil Publication. Further tidbits here and there have been contributed by Mike Laurence.

**CORRECTION** - Your Editor goofed on the proposed title for our Annual Publication. The proposal was THE REGISTER, not RECORD. Somehow he got the wrong name on the brain and published it in the preceding newsletter (and several other places). The name, THE REGISTER, was the proposal of Secretary Don Haller, and is quite a good one at that. It has been approved by the Board. Henceforth, when you see or hear reference to THE REGISTER, please remember that is the title of our annual compilation of research articles on the 1869 issue. The Interphil Publication, although not titled thusly, shall be referred to as the 1976 REGISTER.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES** - Our Association continues to grow with member number 156 being assigned recently. Please be on the look-out for potential new members for the PRA and urge them to join. Drop a post card to our Secretary giving the name and address of anyone you feel might be interested. Don will send them the current "Times" and a personal letter outlining benefits.

The PRA is attempting to accomplish very much in the publication and dissemination of information about the 1869 issue. We are finding this to be expensive. It is going to require a very healthy membership to continue this work. Please help us keep on track by attracting new members -- and of course by maintaining your own membership. It's the only way we can keep up this pace. But give us the means, and the sky's the limit.

In this edition will be found a copy of the PRA Constitution and By-Laws approved by the Board this summer. Again, it was the consensus that each member should have a personal copy.

As previously reported, the response to the first Annual Publication (1976 Interphil REGISTER) has been fantastic. All copies are now exhausted and it has been proposed that the PRA do an official reprinting of this valuable information. Those who are interested in obtaining a copy of such a reprint at \$15 each should write at once to Don Haller, P.O. box 363, McLean, VA 22101. Please note: do not send money, just a statement of your intent to purchase if the decision to reprint is made. Repeat, this has not been decided and will not be decided until we see how many books we could sell. There is much resistance to tying up a lot of money in unsold 1976 REGISTERS, when we will have to pay for the 1977 REGISTER right away. All comments, pro or con are solicited.

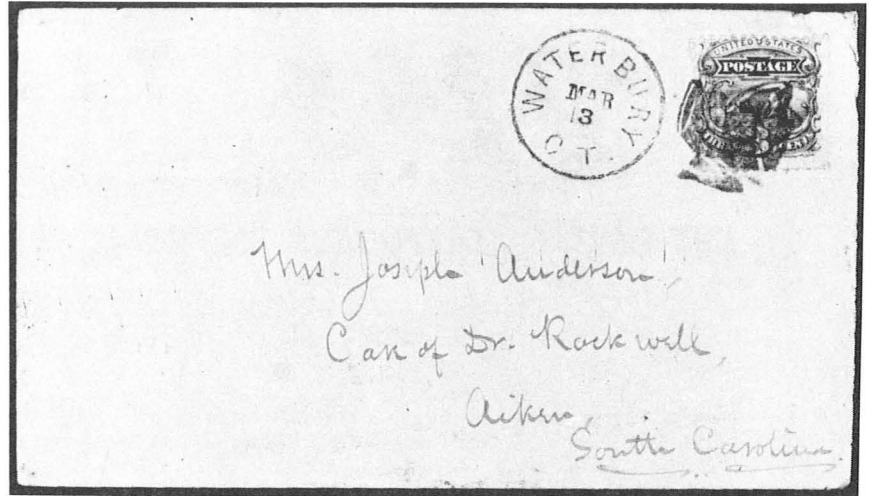
Future editions of the "1869 Times" will contain no less interesting material than contained herein. We have obtained rights to reprint two very important articles dealing with 1869 philately from H. I. Lindquist Publications, originally found in "The Stamp Specialist" in 1939-40. Michael Laurence, when he finishes with the "Ledger Sheets" will begin a series on his specialty, the 10c 1869 on cover. What is proposed is a listing of known 10c covers, by destination utilizing 2-3 pages per edition. Included would be prefatory remarks, illustrations of covers and markings. Michael says this will be the first step toward the book he wants to write, which will be called, The 10c Stamp of 1869. Goodie, goodie!

"Strictly US", edited by Donna von Stein (wife of new member Paul von Stein) in its current edition - Oct. 1976 - carries a request for information by Henry W. Beecher about the choice of the SS Adriatic as the subject of the 12c 1869. Maurice Leigh Robinson, can you fill him in? Also, Harry L. Fine has a nice article about a 3c 1869 used from Red Mountain City, Montana Territory in STAMPS MAGAZINE for October 9, 1976. \*\*



## 1869-Related Books In Preparation

The Collectors Club of Chicago is preparing a book on the Waterbury, Conn. fancy cancellations. Over the years much study and at least two monographs have been done on these unusual and artistic cancellations. And as is almost inevitable in such cases, phoney and/or questionable items have found their way into the record. The Chicago Waterbury book, we are told, will differ from its predecessors in the way the markings will be illustrated. In addition to tracings, each authentic marking will be photographed on full cover. Shown here, by way of an appetizer is one such cover, bearing a 3c 1869 stamp to South Carolina; the stamp well tied by the Waterbury "old woman in bonnet" cancellation. The book will also contain data as to the earliest and latest recorded use of each Waterbury fancy cancel, as well as historical background. The book is still many months off, so that advance orders are not yet being accepted. This work will obviously be of considerable interest to 1869 specialists, and further developments will be reported.



Closer to realization, from the same Chicago group, is David I. Jarrett's Colorado Territorial and Pre-Territorial Postmarks. This is a definitive catalog of all the postmarks used in Colorado prior to statehood, which occurred in 1876. Accurate, life-sized tracings of every known marking (both handstamped and manuscript) are included, along with notations as to earliest use, latest use, scarcity and value. The book also lists postmaster compensations for the entire period, shows all the post office name changes and relocations, and includes a section on private express companies. Almost 200 covers are illustrated, a number of them bearing 3c 1869 stamps.

# 1869 TIMES

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PRA member Michael Laurence, who has followed the work through the production process, says that the Jarrett book represents philatelic scholarship at its very best, and recommends it to any 1869 collector who owns covers or even loose single stamps showing Colorado markings. The book is at the printer and is expected sometime later this year. Advance orders are now being accepted. The regular edition is priced at \$17.50 and the deluxe version (which includes a slipcase and a large, highly detailed map of Colorado during the '70s) is \$22.50.

One other note: Still available from the Chicago group is Fred Schueren's The United States 1869 Issue, An Essay-Proof History. The deluxe version of this work quickly sold out, regular copies are available at \$17.50 each. All the Chicago books are copyrighted, so reprints are unlikely. The address of the Collectors Club of Chicago is 1029 N. Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

### President's Message

I am writing this in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range in southern Washington. Our son lives here on a ranch and we are resting and having fun with our grandchildren. Everything is lush green due to the nearness of the ocean. But, there is a feel of fall in the air and Indian summer is starting.

Our long fall and winter nights will be shortened considerably if we turn to our hobby, do research and be creative. Then we may share findings with our fellow Pictorial Research Associates through the "1869 Times" & The Register.

Remember, your findings will interest others and Ben Chapman wants to hear from you, so that you can contribute to both of our publications. Ben gives us great service and our last issue of the "1869 Times" was rated Superb. This is your organization, lets all try to make it everything it can be. Participate. Margaret L. Wunsch

THE STAMP AGENT'S LEDGER SHEETS

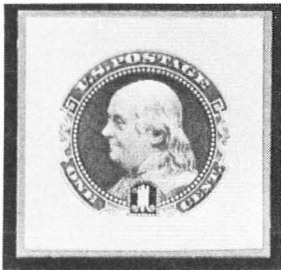
Part III

by Michael Laurence

In the previous two issues of "1869 Times", we discussed the general significance of the recently discovered stamp agent's ledger sheets for the 1869 stamps. We also illustrated the two earliest ledger sheets that have come to light -- those for the weeks ending June 12 and June 19, 1869. Then follows a six-month gap in the record. The next surviving ledger sheet, for the week ending December 18, 1869, is shown herewith.

We now commence an explanation of how the ledger-sheet information relates to the specific denominations of the 1869 issue. In addition to the information discussed in Parts I and II, each weekly ledger sheet contained ten horizontal rows, ruled into eight vertical columns. Each of the 10 rows represented a different denomination: 1c, 2c, 3c, 6c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 24c, 30c and 90c. (The two types of the 15c are a later distinction, made by collectors, to which the records were oblivious.) For each denomination, the eight vertical columns express -- in numbers of stamps -- information in two broad categories: "stamps finished" and "stamps unfinished." In the stamps finished category, we find the following five cells of information: balance in safe from last week, deposited in safe during week, spoiled during week, delivered to post offices during week, and balance on hand this day. In the stamps unfinished category, we find three other cells of information: balance in safe from last week, deposited in safe during week, and balance on hand this day.

The significance of this information becomes more apparent when we confront it specifically, denomination by denomination. For these purposes, it is necessary to recast the ledger-sheet information individually, by denomination. This makes the figures easier to comprehend, and also provides specific information about specific stamps, making the information more useful to contemporary collectors. In an abbreviated way, this information has already been published, in Herzog's inestimable article in Chronicle 89. For the record, we commence herewith a more complete compilation starting with the 1c stamp.



The 1c 1869 Stamp - Table 1 shows the ledger-sheet data for the 1c 1869 stamp. The statistical pattern established here is more or less followed by all the other denominations. For the first week (ending June 12) we can see that quite a large supply of stamps (3.35 million) was on hand, from which a fairly large percentage (almost half a million stamps) was delivered to the postmasters. In the four subsequent weeks for which we have information, deliveries were much lower: they never exceeded 207,000 and averaged 157,000 a week. At this delivery rate, the 2,722,500 stamps on hand June 19 were about 17 weeks' supply -- enough to last into mid-October. It seems likely (though not provable at this point) that at least one subsequent printing of 1c stamps was made sometime during September or October of 1869. In his Chronicle article, Herzog uses the ledger sheets and other evidence to conclude that the 1c 1869 stamp went through "at least one or two printings in each quarter they were current." I think this estimate is high, based on the evidence at hand. However, in the absence of the missing ledger sheets, we are

all guessing. Perhaps collectors who specialize in the 1c 1869 stamp can produce on-cover evidence showing color distinctions or other variations that will give us a better insight into how many 1c printings there were.

TABLE 1 - 1c 1869

Week Ending In 1869	FINISHED STAMPS					UNFINISHED STAMPS		
	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Spoiled During Week	Delivered To Post Offices During Week	Balance On Hand This Day	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Balance On Hand This Day
6-12	3,351,200			487,200	2,864,000			
6-19	2,864,000			141,500	2,722,500			
12-18	239,800			206,600	33,200		1,200,000	1,200,000
12-24	33,200	1,190,250	9,750	129,500	1,093,950	1,200,000		
12-31	1,093,950			150,300	943,650			

No matter how many printings the 1c stamp went through, the supply was virtually exhausted by mid-December. This we know from the ledger entry for the week ending December 18 (reprinted herewith) which shows 239,800 stamps on hand at the beginning of the week, from which 206,600 were delivered to the post offices, leaving a paltry 33,200 stamps. However, during that week, as Table 1 shows, 1.2 million "unfinished" 1c stamps were deposited in the safe. We can deduce that these were printed sheets that had not yet completed all the additional steps of gumming, grilling and perforation. This work was completed the following week. For the week ending December 24, 1869, Table 1 shows that 1,190,250 finished 1c stamps were deposited in the safe: the remaining 9750 (65 sheets of 150) stamps were spoiled along the way, presumably while being perforated.

# National Bank Note Company.

Statement of Stamps at Manufactory, for Week ending December 18 1869

Sheets of Paper delivered to Printers during Week 37 500

Do. do. returned Printed " " 37 500 = Stamps. 11,250,000  
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Denomination.	STAMPS FINISHED.					STAMPS UNFINISHED.		
	Balance in Safe from last week.	Deposited in Safe during week.	Spoiled during week.	Delivered to Post-Offices during week.	Balance on hand this day.	Balance in Safe from last week.	Deposited in Safe during week.	Balance on hand this day.
1	239,800			206,600	33,200		1,200,000	1,200,000
2	7,044,700	3,180,000	60,000	542,500	882,200	6,480,000	3,240,000	6,480,000
3	30,863,400	6,186,750	113,250	477,350	32,466,500	22,290,000	6,810,000	22,800,000
6	1,948,800			48,400	1,900,400			
10	857,460			50,570	806,890			
12	440,850	58,200	1800	44,050	455,000	60,000		
15	779,440			36,060	743,380			
24	1,175,175			575	1,174,600			
30	474,800			10,620	464,180			
90	808,690			5700	803,590			
Aggregate.	44,627,115	9,424,950	175,050	6,717,975	47,834,090	28,830,000	11,250,000	30,480,000
					PERIODICAL	STAMPS.		
5	476,570							
10	278,170							
25	157,080							
Aggregate.	911,820							

*Chas. F. Hunt*

*I certify the above correct*  
*D. M. Dryd*  
*ajb*

STAMP AGENT'S LEDGER SHEETS (Cont. )

At the end of the year, 943,650 lc stamps were on hand, and deliveries were averaging 140,000 a week. Thus, less than seven weeks' supply remained. By this time, of course, the company was already tooling up to make the new series of stamps which collectors today know as the Banknotes. The 1869 series would soon be passé, so the company was trying to keep its inventory as low as possible. It is possible, though not certain, that one or more lc 1869 printings were made in the early months of 1870. Perhaps on-cover evidence can answer this too.



The 2c 1869 Stamp - Table 2 shows the ledger-sheet data for the 2c 1869 stamp. Here and for the 3c stamp, the data supports Herzog's and other's conclusions that the stamp was all but continually in production. Note once again that deliveries for the week ending June 12 substantially exceed those for any other week. My guess -- and it's only a guess-- is that the week ending June 12 was the last week during which initial supplies of 1869 stamps were sent out to postmasters. Subsequent weeks --according to this guess -- would represent replenishment of existing stocks only, and these shipments would necessarily be less than the initial supply. In the "unfinished stamps" category, note that new stock of 2c stamps was deposited in the safe during four of the five weeks for which we have information. Deliveries were so large as to require virtually non-stop production. Note, however, that on the last day of 1869, almost 15 million 2c stamps (finished and unfinished) were on hand, with deliveries then averaging less than a million a week. With the 2c stamp, and with many of the others, it is at least possible to conclude that

the year-end stock on hand was sufficient to last well until mid-April, whereupon the 2c Banknotes would be ready. According to Scott, the earliest known use for this and most of the other original Banknotes is April 12, 1870.

TABLE 2 - 2c 1869

Week Ending In 1869	FINISHED STAMPS				UNFINISHED STAMPS			
	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Spoiled During Week	Delivered To Post Offices During Week	Balance On Hand This Day	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Balance On Hand This Day
6-12	11,292,800			2,214,900	9,077,900	1,110,000	2,070,000	3,180,000
6-19	9,077,900			373,750	8,704,150	3,180,000	300,000	3,480,000
12-18	7,044,700	3,180,000	60,000	1,542,500	8,682,200	6,480,000	3,240,000	6,480,000
12-24	8,682,200			972,200	7,710,000	6,480,000		6,480,000
12-31	7,771,000			838,300	6,871,700	6,480,000	1,470,000	7,950,000



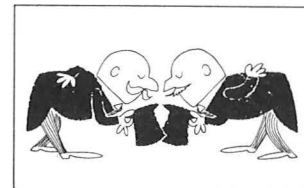
The 3c 1869 Stamp - Table 3 shows the data for the 3c 1869 stamp. This information is so vast as to be all but unintelligible, to this writer at least. It is quite clear, and should come as no surprise, that the stamp was constantly in production. Note once again that deliveries during the week ending June 12 were much larger than subsequent weeks. Note too, that the supply on hand at year's end was sufficient to make deliveries until the appearance of the Banknotes. Consulting the figures for the week ending Dec. 31, we see that over 35 million finished stamps were on hand, and over 31 million unfinished stamps reposed in the vault. This is a total of 66 million, and deliveries to post offices were then averaging under 4 million a week. Thus, the supply on hand was adequate to provide shipments through late April. Your writer's opinion, subject to change on the basis of better information, is that by the end of 1869, the National Bank Note Company was all but done with the printing of the 1869 stamps. There were unfinished stamps in stock, to be sure; these could be perforated at need. But the company's press time during 1870, so the data here published suggests, was largely devoted to the Banknote stamps. Next time we will expand on this conclusion, as we discuss the ledger figures for the higher value 1869 stamps. \*\*

TABLE 3 - 3c 1869

Week Ending In 1869	FINISHED STAMPS				UNFINISHED STAMPS			
	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Spoiled During Week	Delivered To Post Offices During Week	Balance On Hand This Day	Balance In Safe From Last Week	Deposited In Safe During Week	Balance On Hand This Day
6-12	6,347,300	9,426,300	203,700	7,817,600	7,956,000	19,650,000	10,680,000	20,700,000
6-19	7,956,000	3,200,550	39,450	3,929,500	7,227,050	20,700,000	10,020,000	27,480,000
12-18	30,863,400	6,186,750	113,250	4,773,500	32,276,650	22,290,000	6,810,000	22,800,000
12-24	32,276,650	7,981,800	88,200	3,723,500	36,534,950	22,800,000	11,580,000	26,310,000
12-31	36,534,950	2,490,000	30,000	3,946,700	35,078,250	26,310,000	7,470,000	31,260,000

NEW MEMBERS -- welcome to the United States <sup>1869</sup> Pictorial Research Associates!

- #143 Barbara R. Mueller, 225 South Fischer Ave., Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549
- #144 Jack E. Molesworth, 88 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02108
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- #155 James D. Adams, 731 North Euclid Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206
- #156 John E. Bonwell, III, 1904 I inwood Way, San Leandro, Calif. 94577



Name/Address Changes

- |                              |                       |                           |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| #10 Millard H. Mack          | #59 John A. Russo     | #95 Walter G. Bender      |
| #31 Col. Robert G. McClellan | P.O. box 12767        | 5312 Clarewood - Apt 21C  |
| #44 John McMahon             | St. Paul, Minn. 55112 | Houston, Texas 77081      |
| 432 West 62nd Terrace        | #82 Robert Abelson    | #96 Alex Adelman          |
| Kansas City, Mo. 64113       | 11205 South Washtenaw | Washington Univ. Box 3016 |
| #116 Dr. Edward C. Shore     | Chicago, Ill. 60655   | 6515 Wydown Blvd.         |
| South Hills                  |                       | Clayton, Mo. 63105        |
| Lewistown, Penna. 17044      |                       | #105 Ms. Kit Schonbrun    |
|                              |                       | P.O. box 183              |
|                              |                       | Arnold, Maryland 21012    |

Please send any changes of address promptly to the Secretary.



Let's all drink to the success of the PRA!

And a large part of that success will come from Associates renewing their memberships for the 1976-77 fiscal year. Our annual dues are now payable. Dues notices have been sent to those who have not yet paid for 1977.

In order to give everyone one more chance for payment before being dropped from the membership roll, the deadline for dues payment will be two weeks after mailing of this edition of "1869 Times."

This newsletter will be your last correspondence from the PRA unless 1976-77 dues are paid. Yes, success, and plenty of it -- to both the PRA and the 1977 REGISTER!

ADDITIONAL 2c 1869 BISECTS REPORTED BY JON ROSE -- CALVET HAHN WRITES ABOUT COVER

Jon Rose, author of the well-researched article on the use of the 2c 1869 bisected stamps on cover writes that he has three additional listings, to bring the total known 2c bisects on cover to an even 20. His letter states: "I thought I would let you know that three more two-cent 1869 bisect covers are known, one most probably genuine, the second possibly so and the third probably not. Here is the relevant data, as set forth according to the article I wrote:

- 1) Left vertical bisect, attached on left to straight edge copy of 113; lower left position on cover; used from Mongaup, N. Y., to Alfred, Maine; date of usage unclear; tied by black target; no certificate; sold for \$700, H. R. Harmer sale of the Hessel Collection, June 8-10, 1976, lot 688.
- 2) Right vertical bisect, attached to 113; upper right position on cover; used (court house cover, House of Representatives) from somewhere in Pennsylvania to Gettysburg, Pa.; July 15, 1872; tied by black grid; PF declined to state opinion; Millard Mack collection.
- 3) Left vertical bisect, used on 2c Reay envelope (U80); upper center position on cover; from East Clarendon, Vt., to Salem, N. Y.; Nov. 3 (no year); tied by neat black "PAID" in circle; PF said the bisect was "cancelled by favor and did not pass through the mails," in Elliott H. Coulter collection.

"Regarding the East Clarendon cover, it is my opinion that this cover could have passed through the mails being a legitimate use of the 2-cent bisect paying one-cent of the three-cent domestic rate. There is no direct evidence to the contrary."

In the current "Chronicle" (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society quarterly publication) there is an excellent article written by Calvet M. Hahn about the 2c 1869 double bisect in his collection. This is cover #15 in the Rose article and as a result of the photographs and prose presented does appear to be tied. This is quite an unusual usage and it is treated well by Hahn, who is not currently an Associate. Someone sign him up! \*\*

# My Greatest Thrill a Find of 150,000 U. S. Covers

Editor's Note: The following article was graciously sent in by Bruce W. Hazelton (PRA #17) after reading the last edition. This is the kind of response we need, you all keep it up! A quote from his letter is found below; all the preface required. Permission to reprint the article has been obtained from STAMPS Magazine.

"I read with interest Michael C. O'Reilly's Auction Action in the August '1869 Times' in which he related the hearsay background information on H. B. Shaw from Michael Laurence. This information is 100% correct. Enclosed find a Xerox of an article by Sterling Dow, the author of Maine Postal History & Postmarks, which appeared in STAMPS MAGAZINE (Vol. 1, No. 7, 29th Oct. 1932) in which Dow describes his Greatest Thrill... Even though he does not name the town or the name of the source of his 'find', I know first hand that he was describing 'Hat' Shaw of Alfred, Maine. The article is self explanatory but if you want to completely boggle the imagination, just think what that 'find' would be worth today if kept intact. As you can read, practically every imaginable variety of usage of the '69 issue under the 24c stamp was in this 'find'."

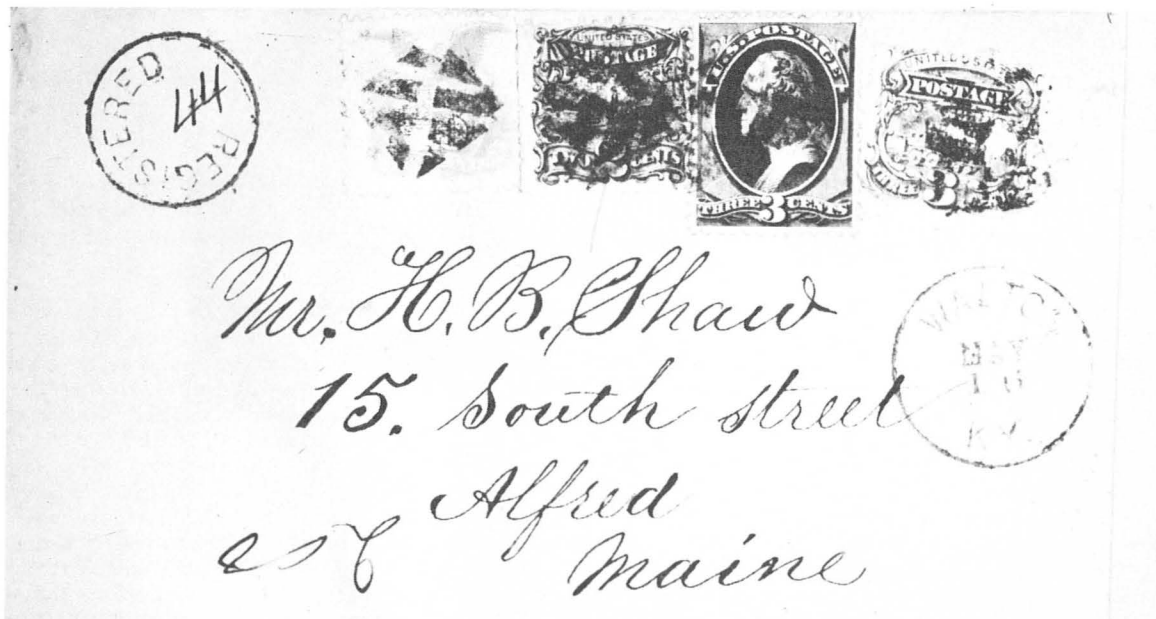
MY GREATEST THRILL A FIND OF 150,000 U.S. COVERS by Sterling T. Dow

The pleasure and thrill at finding old letters and stamps, as I have read the accounts of them in the philatelic press, strikes a responsive chord. Be the collector ever so pleased at the finds of others, there is nevertheless the unspoken wish that the luck might have been his own. Well, I think I have had my share, only do not think for a moment that, like any real collector, I do not hope to find more.

In the quiet town which was formerly my home, I introduced myself on one occasion to an old man who was expert in repairing antique furniture. My object was to find out if he ever unearthed old letters in his pursuit of old furniture. The first visit produced nothing, nor did the second prove productive. The third time I dropped in he recalled to mind the repairs he had made to the roof of a woodshed in a neighboring town, he being at the time an ordinary carpenter. "I do not know why I didn't think of it before," said he, "but the top of that woodshed was full of letters tied up in bundles."

After securing the name of the owner of that shed I bided by time for a visit. Soon the opportunity presented itself and I started. On the way I fell in with a friend, a native of the town to which I was going, and in reply to my query about the person I wished to meet, he informed me that he was a life-long friend of this person and he would introduce me.

In due course the introduction took place. I asked if there were old letters there. There were. Could I see them? I could. Could I buy them? I could, and was led to the woodshed. There they were, just as had been told me, up on the beams of the shed, tied up in bundles. Transportation was the next problem, which I solved by going to a nearby grocery and purchasing three largest size sugar barrels. These the grocer kindly brought to the shed and I filled them, heading them with burlap. Then I took them to the railroad station and consigned them to my home by freight.



This is a good example of an outstanding "Shaw" cover. Sold at the Hessel Auction of June 8-10, 1976 by H. R. Harmer, Inc. for \$475. The 3c was presumably applied by sender at home. Clerk, feeling currency or coin within, suggested registry, whereupon 15c additional postage was added. Both postal markings are in Green. Note the "200" in ms.; it was Shaw's bookkeeping note.

Then I went home to await their arrival, but they did not come.... They had gone astray on the railroad. It was late fall and I wanted the letters to look over in the long winter evenings. Week after week went by. Imagine my impatience. Finally I could stand it no longer so I returned to the "woodshed" town and bought three more barrels, filled them and shipped them by American Express this time.

The express shipment came along on time, followed shortly after by the freight shipment. What a time I had that winter! My good helpmate chided me in her nice way for "spending your money for those dirty old letters that the rats have been running over for forty years." (Must have been about 1910 - Ed.)

All this happened before the days when original covers became such a vogue nor was much attention paid to odd and unusual cancellations. To think of all the fine covers I destroyed by cutting out the stamps gives me a feeling of much regret now. But what's the use, I had my fun and profit too. Only --- I wish I had "those dirty old letters" now.

The party from whom I bought this accumulation was in a kind of notion business, done entirely by mail, and from about 1865 to 1880. Advertisements were inserted in papers and magazines all over the United States, always short, but very catchy. Covers there were from every nook and corner of the United States, lots of them from Canada, and a good showing from the other Canadian provinces and single items from Brazil and Germany. The trader had tucked each letter back into its envelope and tied them up in bundles of one hundred. I little did I realize what I had purchased until I got well under way in my examination. What made the accumulation of especial interest and value was the fact that in each bundle I would find one or more registered letters. The highest denomination found was the 15c stamp.

But the reader, if he is still reading, is asking impatiently, "What did he find?" Of the fifteen cent stamps I had more than one thousand copies of seven different issues and all in collectable condition. There were fifteens of 1862, 1867, 1869 both types, 1870, 1871 and 1873. Of the grilles of 1870 there were at least fifty copies, but it was impossible to see these grilles while they were on the cover. Of the one cent 1869 there were over one hundred good copies and some forty strips of three. Every denomination was there in quantity except that I found no three cent pink or grilled all over. I thought for a while that I had found an 18 X 13 grill, but careful inspection with a good glass showed two grilles, the edge of one almost coinciding with the edge of the other, and both grilles must have been put on sidewise, at that. There were no grilles of the ten and twelve cents of 1870, but the seven was fairly abundant.

Now for the split provisionals. All that Scott lists were there, not to mention diagonal halves of the six cents of 1869 and 1871. There were about forty of these splits, and lamentably, there was not one that I could not have made myself. Either they were pen-cancelled or the cancellation did not tie the split to the cover. Too bad.



One evening as I sat poring over the covers, scissors in hand, I cut a stamp out and on turning it over I found part of an unused stamp on the other side. By this time I had been through about two-thirds of the accumulation, and I immediately began to wonder what there was inside the envelopes which I was missing. I started at once an examination of the interior of the envelopes with the result of finding more than three hundred unused three cent stamps, several twos and a vertical block of six of the 3c 1869. Nor was this all I found, for a U.S. dollar bill came to light, also one of the Province of Canada together with sundry three cent nickels and silver five cent pieces.

There were plenty of split grilles and a few threes with end roller grill. There was a beautiful horizontal strip of three of the six cent 1870, fine color and well centered, in every way desirable. The right hand stamp had a good grill, the middle one had a faint grill and on the left stamp no grill was discernible.

I do not know how many letters there were in this accumulation, but it does seem as if each barrel would hold two hundred and fifty bundles of one hundred letters each. This would be one hundred and fifty thousand letters, and I do not think this number is far wrong. Do you suppose that any such number of letters will ever be found again in one lot? I do not.

There is an interesting sequel to this find. I believed that I had found everything there was in that old shed and shall always think so. Can you imagine any "dyed-in-the-wool" collector leaving anything behind? At all events, in 1926, another man, not a collector, unearthed about thirty thousand more letters from the same source. I had the pleasure of handling this lot also. The outstanding items of this lot was splits of the Black Jack and two cent 1871. The Black Jack was a beauty. The cover was clean, the whole stamp finely centered, the diagonal half was attached to the whole stamp at the left, and a light target cancellation fell on the whole stamp and on the cut. If it had been made to order it could not have been better. There were two splits of the two cent 1871, both tied properly by cancellations, but not as satisfactory as the Black Jack. There were two strips of three of the six cent 1869, a split of the two cent pen-cancelled, a pair each of the seven cent 1871, and 1873 and nine other singles besides. There were twenty five extra fine covers carrying the fifteen cent 1869, including two of type 1. There was a vertical pair and single of the one cent 1870 with end roller grill. This item was not in really fine condition. So hard is it to obtain old U.S. in really fine condition that it will occasion little surprise on the part of the person of experience when I say that this lot of thirty thousand covers boiled down to about two hundred fine and desirable covers.

Yes, I know that I have had far more than falls to the lot of the greater number of collectors, but like all other devotees, I am still in hopes to unearth another find, but how, in reason, can it be as large as this. \*\*





AUCTION ACTION -- Like a duel, except you don't know the opponent.

by Michael C. O'Reilly

Pickings were a bit slim this quarter, caused as much by a post-Interphil breather and folks taking the summer off as anything else. Keep an eye out for Part III of the Sidney A. Hessel collection coming up for sale by H. R. Harmer the first week of November. We will report details of the 1869 lots next quarter.

Our thanks to those correspondents who wrote to improve our knowledge of Ms. H. B. Shaw of Alfred, Maine. One such disclosure sent in by Bruce Hazelton is shown elsewhere in this edition. The grapevine has it that the section on "Correspondences" in the forthcoming book on Indiana Postal History by J. David Baker (PRA #21) will contain additional information about Ms. Shaw.

But, to get to the task at hand, the H. R. Harmer sale (#2349) of July 21-22, contained several lots of interest. Lot 53, a 24c 1869 with red cork cancel and minor perf. faults brought \$115 against a catalog of \$225. Another copy of this stamp (lot 54) with a heavy cancel and faults brought only \$45, emphasizing the importance of condition. A 30c 1869 with a cork cancel and centered to top left came in at \$55. Four lots of re-issues followed, realizing between a third and a fourth of catalog. All had deficiencies of one kind or another, ranging from thins to reperfs.

The Robert A. Siegel sale of June 23-25 had a bit more variety in its offerings beginning with lot 227, which contained a partial set of plate proofs on card. The 1c to 3c and 24c to 90c values were included and realized \$280 (CV \$227.50). Unused singles in fine or better condition brought strong prices, invariable over catalog. A 1c buff realized \$95 (CV \$90); a very fine 2c brown with just about full o.g. realized \$160 (CV \$58); a very fine 3c locomotive with small part o.g. realized \$130 (CV \$38)! Two nice unused 6c Washingtons were in lots 241 & 242. Each stamp was very well centered; one having minor gum soaks in the grill and the other had small faults. Each stamp realized \$210 (CV \$250). The unused 10c stamps did not fare so well: one stamp had thin specks in the grill while the other had perfs cutting the lower left corner and a light crease. The former realized \$57.50 while the latter brought \$25 (CV \$275). Following this came two nice used copies of the 10c bringing \$47.50 and \$42.50 for a negative Masonic cancel and a fancy geometric respectively (CV \$42.50). A fresh and fine unused copy of the 12c Adriatic (lot 251) realized \$160 (CV \$225).

Lot 254 was an unused 15c Type I with a double grill. The stamp had a light corner crease which may have affected its value as the stamp realized \$375, not surpassing the CV of \$550 for a normally grilled stamp. While unpriced in unused condition, the ratio of a used stamp with this variety to that of a normal grill is about 2 1/2 : 1. Evidently this ratio did not hold in this case for the unused stamp. I think somebody got a good buy on this one. Hope it was an Associate.

Lots 257 to 259 emphasized condition as each was an unused 15c Type II in varying degrees of mediocrity. The first was described as fresh and fine, the middle as just fine while the last had perfs cutting the top and a sealed tear. Prices for the three ranged from \$150 for the nicest to \$30 for the obviously less desirable lot 259. The one in the middle almost split the price of the other two, but fell a bit short of \$90 to realize \$72.50. Of course, catalog value (\$275) was the same for all three, which leads us to wonder what the price of a really nice Type II would come to. Lot 260 gives a bit of an indication as a very fine used copy of the same stamp realized almost double catalog at \$85 (CV \$45).

Six lots of the 24c stamp followed, each stamp having some fault causing the realizations to run about one-fourth catalog. This held for both unused and used stamps. A notable exception was lot 263, a used 24c stamp with a light cancel and thin spot realizing just over half catalog. Only one 30c '69 was offered. It was in fine condition with a rosette cancel and realized exactly half catalog at \$42.50. An unused 90c 1869 came quickly after with perfs cutting at left and just barely clear at the top. With catalog at \$1900, it realized less than 1/4th at \$450. Five lots of used 90c stamps then proceeded to the auction block, the first of which (lot 269) almost broke over catalog at \$400 (CV \$425). The unusual geometric sunburst cancel was probably responsible for the price. Three of the other four 90c stamps were faulty and consistently brought low prices. A sound 90c with cutting perfs at left realized \$260 in lot #271.

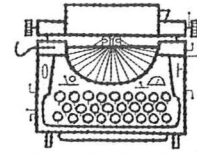
Moving on to a more recent Siegel auction (#496) of August 11-13, a nice 12c '69 on cover from Baltimore to England was sold. The stamp was beautifully centered and tied by the Baltimore postmark and killer. The cover was a bit reduced at the top and has had a flap added. Evidently, these small faults didn't deter some persistent buyer as the lot realized almost double catalog, coming in at \$260 (CV \$135).

Another nice selection of 1869 pieces were offered by the Siegel Galleries in their 497th sale held September 11 in conjunction with "APS-MEMPHEX '76". This sale is reviewed by Ben Chapman below: The two outstanding lots in this sale from a research standpoint were a 2c and a 3c bisect, each offered on a piece of Tax Notice, as recently treated by Margaret L. Wunsch in the 1976 PRA Interphil Publication. (For additional information, this article should be reviewed.)

Each of these lots sold for \$160 on the floor, an in your Editor's opinion was slightly low for the 3c (lot 191) considering its condition (average at best and much poorer than any photographed in the PRA Interphil Publication), and possibly a bargain for the 2c (although its condition was not the best either: pen cancellation barely tied). The 2c lot came with a letter from Eugene Klein noting the authenticity of both lots, while the 3c had a copy of this letter thrown in. Having examined both the lots and the letter, it was felt that placing the letter on record was of considerable value. It is transcribed on the following page.

AUCTION ACTION (Cont.)

Mr. H. Fitzsimmons  
E1028 DeSmet  
Spokane, Washington



March 9, 1936

Dear Mr. Fitzsimmons:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Feb. 9. I have again examined lots (sic) Nos. 100 and 102 vertical bisects of U.S. 1869 issue 2c and 3c stamps. I believe these to be genuine.

They were used on Tax Notices in Washington, D.C. and bought as original find by Mr. Huston, an old Washington dealer. He in turn sold these to various collectors, in the present instance to Mr. Gerard Ten Eyck Beeckman whose property they are and who gave them to me to sell at auction.

I return the two pieces to you herewith. You may, of course, send them to Mr. Sloane if you wish it but in any case I hope you will let me have a prompt decision to enable me to settle with the owner.

Sincerely yours,  
Eugene Klein (Sig.)

EK:FB  
Enc.

What's interesting about this letter is the string of names (Huston, Beeckman, Fitzsimmons) was not mentioned by Margaret, and of course the 3c piece was not known or listed in the article. Thus we have now possibly 9 3c pieces located or written about in the literature. Also, notwithstanding the revered name of Eugene Klein, the Tax Notices were mailed at Luray, Virginia. The 3c piece was small and contained the following printed letters on the front, "CE / Congress". It is similar to the left photo in Figure 2 on page 47 of the Interphil Publication, without the winged fold-out back portion (similar to Figure 3 page 47). The stamp is a 2/3 vertical bisect, with the cut in the horizontal position with the perfs down.

The 2c piece is potentially even more interesting, showing the following printed message portion, "ess, you are / ms withi". Wow, where did that come from? A little checking shows us where. Notice Figure 1, page 46 of the Wunsch article. The words "you are" follow the word "Congress". The 1966 edition of Brookman volume 2, page 164 shows an illustration of a tax notice portion (?) showing the following wording below "TAKE NOTICE": "formance of the sets of Congress, you are / ke out a Return according to the forms within / e same to me at my office WITHIN TEN DAYS / ATE BEFORE, or the addition of FIFTY PER / ". Obviously, the 2c piece was the same form as the 3c Luray forms. But, did it originate at Luray? Was Klein right about Washington, D.C.?? Possibly. Only time will tell. It is unusual that the bisected 3c stamps were used at Luray because of a supposed shortage of 2c stamps, and here we have a 2c stamp used (bisected)! Other data that suggests usage away from Luray is the pen cancel. Why would the 3c stamps be tied by a grid handstamp and the 2c be pen cancelled?

Who can shed additional light on this subject? Your Editor is extremely interested in this and has a couple of other ideas. Let's hear from the buyers of these pieces or holders of the other bisects.

Back to auction realizations. Also in the Siegel Auction was a very fine 2c single, unused with no gum which realized \$52.50 (CV \$57.50). A fine copy of a similar stamp sold for \$40. A very attractive 2c cover with fancy Star of Diamonds and "New York City Station E" sold for \$47.50. A well centered 90c stamp with small flaws, but very fine appearance went for \$350 (CV \$425).

The last auction we shall review here was the Richard Wolffers offering No. 51 held September 16-18. In this sale, lots 91 through 99 were composed of plate proofs on card of the 1869 issue. These lots were generally vf to superb and sold for about 80% of catalog value. A very fine 3c locomotive unused without grill (#114a) sold for \$220 against a CV of \$325. Possibly the reason was the hinge remnants and gum stains around some perfs. A mixed issue franking cover comprised of a 10c 1869 and 3 single 3c green Banknotes sold for \$170. This cover had an illegible cds, repaired back and perf faults -- still very nice.

The highlights of this sale were the appearance of one each of the famous bi-color inverts. Lot 311 was the 15c Type II described as "black cork & light red canc's, vivid shade, F-VF, a Great Rarity and Exhibition Piece!" It was bid up to \$6500 (Catalog Value \$7500). Next in lot 314 came the 24c described as "light black canc, 1 corner perf crease, cent'd VG (appeared close at top and very close at left to me), a Great Rarity. One of only about 12 used sgl's known - undercatalogued." This beauty sold for \$3500 (Catalog Value \$6500). Then came the ultimate 1869 single item! The 30c invert in lot 317 was in the Newbury collection as is described as "huge margins, black segmented cork & light red cancels, faint thin, o/w fresh & Superb, probably one of the finest examples of this Great Rarity, the ultimate exhibition piece, one of only 10 to 15 known". We must agree completely, it is breathtaking. It sold for \$22,000 against a Catalog Value of \$23,500.

Other items of interest included a 30c unused without grill in very fine condition. It sold for \$900 (CV \$1100). Four 90c '69s sold for a fraction of catalog, each having defects of one type or another. Within the reissues, one item stands out. It is an unused 15c Type III imperforate horizontally (#129a), with part og, fresh color, slight soiling o/w extremely fine. It sold for \$1050 against a catalog value of \$900. \*\*



**Missing Something?** You sure are if you aren't a member of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. A quick review of the PRA membership indicates that less than 20 Associates are not members of this fantastic philatelic organization. If you enjoy classics, and you certainly do if you are a PRA member, then you should consider becoming a Route Agent! Membership application forms are enclosed herewith for all Associates who are not currently members. Write to Bob Toth today.

CONSTITUTION

- I. NAME: This organization shall be known as the UNITED STATES 1869 PICTORIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES (PRA) and shall be a non-profit organization as described in paragraph VIII. below.
- II. OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the PRA relative to the United States 1869 Pictorial Postage Stamp Issue are:
- A. To conduct, sponsor, guide and/or encourage research and study of all aspects of this issue.
- B. To prepare, publish and cause to be published and to disseminate literature related to this issue for research, education and study.
- C. To encourage and assist students, collectors, educational institutions and libraries in performing research and study of this issue.
- D. To perform each and every act necessary or desirable to fulfill the above objectives.
- III. MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the PRA is available to all qualified persons aged 18 or older of good moral character who are interested or specialize in the United States 1869 Pictorial Postage Stamp Issue. Prospective members must complete the necessary application forms and pay the initiation fee and annual dues before acceptance.
- IV. OFFICERS: The elected officers of the PRA are the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers and directors noted above and shall be responsible for overall policies regarding PRA activities. The Executive Board may appoint such assistants to the above officers as may be necessary. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the receipt, administration and disbursement of all funds donated under a tax deductible status.
- V. FINANCES: Initiation fees, annual dues and other charges shall be determined by the Executive Board.
- VI. COMMITTEES: Committees, as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Board, shall be appointed by and responsible to the President.
- VII. MEETINGS: An annual meeting will be held at the call of the President to accomplish such business as may be required. Other meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Board. Notices of all meetings shall be published in the 1869 TIMES at least 60 days before the date of the proposed meeting.
- VIII. NON PROFIT STATUS: The PRA does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to the members, and no part of the net receipts of the PRA shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to the members, officers or directors. The PRA may pay necessary charges in furtherance of the objectives stated in paragraph II. above. No substantial part of the PRA activities will be for propaganda purposes or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the PRA shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing and dissemination of any material) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. The PRA shall not conduct any activities not permitted to be conducted by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax Liability as defined in pertinent and appropriate sections of present and future United States Internal Revenue Codes and Laws.
- IX. DISSOLUTION: In the event of the dissolution of the PRA, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all PRA liabilities, distribute the remaining assets to non-profit philatelic organizations established for such purposes as guiding and supporting philatelic research and study, and publishing philatelic literature. The receiving organizations must be exempt from Federal Income Taxes under the provisions of Section 501 (C) 3 of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code and any similar provisions contained in future United States Internal Revenue Law. No assets of the PRA shall at any time be distributed to any officer, member or donor, nor for the private benefit of any person.
- X. IMPLEMENTATION: Implementation of this Constitution shall be made as specified in the Bylaws.
- XI. AMENDMENTS: Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted in writing to the President at any time by any member for consideration by the Executive Board. A majority vote of the Executive Board will be sufficient for approval or rejection.

DATED: 6 August 1976

Prepared and submitted by

*Donald E. Haller, Jr.*  
DONALD E. HALLER, JR., SECRETARY

Approved for the Executive Board

*Margaret L. Wunsch*  
MARGARET L. WUNSCH, PRESIDENT

- I. MEMBERSHIP: Any qualified person of good moral character aged 18 or older who is interested or specializes in the United States 1869 Pictorial Postage Stamp Issue may apply for membership in the PRA by filing an application which includes name, address and other society affiliations with the Secretary. Upon receipt of the application and the appropriate initiation fee and annual dues, the Secretary will issue a membership card with member name and number and shall record such in the PRA records. The initiation fee is \$2.00 and the annual dues are \$15.00; the latter includes one copy of the PRA annual publication, THE REGISTER, and four quarterly copies of the newsletter, THE 1869 TIMES.
- II. TERMS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:
- A. The President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors shall be elected for terms of two years and may be reelected for any number of succeeding consecutive terms. The above officers and directors comprise the Executive Board which may appoint additional vice presidents and assistants to the Secretary and Treasurer as may be necessary. The Executive Board may also combine the duties of the Secretary and the Treasurer if desirable.
- B. The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three or more persons in October of the year preceding the expiration of the terms of all officers and directors. This committee shall propose a slate of officers and directors to the President who shall forward it to the Secretary for the preparation of a ballot for publication on the January 1869 TIMES. Members should complete the ballot with write-in votes as desired and send to the Secretary postmarked no later than 31 March following publication in the 1869 TIMES. A plurality of votes cast will be sufficient for election. The Secretary will certify the results of the election to the Executive Board by 30 April.
- III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:
- A. PRESIDENT - The President shall have general supervisory powers over all activities of the PRA. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform all duties as empowered by the Constitution and Bylaws. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees and shall appoint members of all committees.
- B. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - The First Vice President shall assist the President in the supervision of all PRA activities and shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence.
- C. SECRETARY - The Secretary shall keep an accurate and permanent record of all PRA activities, including minutes of all meetings. The Secretary will handle all PRA correspondence, including new member applications and their processing. The Secretary shall maintain a file of all PRA memoranda, documents and PRA property lists. The Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date membership list and provide membership changes and additions for publication in the 1869 TIMES.
- D. TREASURER - The Treasurer shall maintain all PRA financial records, render statements and pay bills on behalf of the PRA. The Treasurer shall have custody of PRA funds and shall present financial status reports when requested by the President and provide same to all members on an annual basis. These financial status reports may be published in the 1869 TIMES for the cognizance of all members.
- E. DIRECTORS - The Directors shall advise and counsel the President and other officers on various matters pertaining to their duties as requested.
- F. EXECUTIVE BOARD - The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers and Directors and shall provide policy guidance on all matters pertinent to the management and conduct of all PRA activities. The Executive Board shall also be responsible for the receipt, management and disbursement of all funds donated under a tax deductible status. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
- G. EDITORIAL BOARD - The Editorial Board shall consist of the Editor and Associate Editors as required. The Editorial Board will be responsible for the solicitation, editing and publication of all PRA literature. The Editor shall be responsible for the regular publication of the 1869 TIMES and the annual REGISTER, and any other publications prepared by the PRA. The Editor and Associate Editors shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Board.
- IV. PRA PUBLICATIONS: The PRA shall publish the 1869 TIMES, a quarterly newsletter, and THE REGISTER, an annual publication containing research and study material. The Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the 1869 TIMES and THE REGISTER in accordance with policy determined by the Executive Board.
- V. OFFICIAL NOTICES: Official notices published in the 1869 TIMES will be deemed to be official PRA notices to all members.
- VI. FISCAL YEAR: The PRA fiscal year shall be from 1 July to 30 June.
- VII. AMENDMENTS: Proposed amendments to the PRA Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted to the President by any member at any time for consideration by the Executive Board. Proposed amendments will be approved or rejected by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

The 1977 REGISTER will be in preparation very soon. Shown below are the authors and subjects which they will cover in their articles. Your Editor's message is two-fold at this point:

- 1) Review this listing and see if you are able to contribute in any way to the research being conducted by the various Associates. If you can help, the writers would very much like to hear from you. Only through a sharing of such information can our PRA be successful in promulgating meaningful data.
- 2) Seriously consider writing an article for the '77 REGISTER. It is not too late to start writing if you have already gathered some stamps or covers and have been mentally putting together a story. I will work with you in every way possible. We had several first-time authors last year who remarked after the acceptance of their article, "It wasn't so hard after all!" So get with it. Give it a try. Write me and let's discuss it -- 5099 Steuben Dr., Memphis, TN 38134

A Listing Of Proposed 1977 REGISTER Articles:

- Jon Rose - "Cancellations on the 90c 1869" Again Jon will review a raft of old Auction Catalogues!
- Bob Markovits - "Earliest Known Usages of the 1869 Stamps" This one should put it all together.
- Howard L. Rosenberg - "Railroad Cancellations Found on the 1869 Stamps" Probably will be a year away ('78 REGISTER), but information needed. Please Help #134.
- J. C. M. Cryer - "The Landing of Columbus" Will discuss and speculate on the 3 types of the 15c stamp.
- Elliott H. Coulter - "Usage of the 1869 Reissues" Wow, difficult subject; should be quite interesting.
- Joe H. Crosby - "B. F. Stevens, United States Despatch Agent, London, England" Includes unpublished information about Mr. Stevens and a new discovery which may be earliest marking!
- Margaret L. Wunsch - "Sitka, Alaska Territory Usage of 1869 Stamps" Talk about Territorials!
- Donald E. Haller, Jr. - "Essays for the 1869 Issue" A pictorial review.
- Ravi Vora & Margaret L. Wunsch - "Turkish Markings on an Interesting 1869 Cover" Several revelations.

Additional articles have been promised by the following authors, however their subjects have not been chosen:

- Benjamin E. Chapman; John Birkinbine, II; Michael C. O'Reilly; Cy Horowitz; Your Editor is still working on some Associates, hoping to get them to contribute some of their expertise, including Michael Laurence; Hubert Skinner; Millard Mack; Falk Finkelburg; Herman Herst; Lynn K. Brugh, Jr. and several others.

Deadline for article submission is December 31, 1976 (although if we are working closely together, a somewhat later date may be arranged). The main thing is to get to work now. The book must be ready for our annual meeting at WESTPEX April 29-May 1, 1977.



How's this for an Oddity? Shown here is a used 30c 1869 stamp completely lacking the red part of the design -- which included the shield, the eagle and all of the wording. No, it's not a newly discovered error -- just an example of tinkering. The carmine dyes used during the classic era are notoriously susceptible to chemical enhancement. In this case, the enhancement resulted in disappearance. In his Special Service, Ashbrook wrote about a comparable 30c stamp, where the red design had been removed and then replaced by a hand-drawn facsimile. Ashbrook's speculation was that the stamp in question was a practice effort by a faker whose ultimate intention was to produce an invert. Perhaps the stamp shown here has a comparable history. Few of us will ever own a 30c invert, but those who do ought to have them expertised.

First Day of 3c Locomotive Brings \$1,800.00 !!

A late breaking news item of interest to 1869 Specialists: R & R Stamps, 340 Westbury Ave., Carle Place, N. Y. 11514 just sold an earliest known use cover of the 3c 1869 Locomotive in its Sept. 10, 1976 Auction at LISDA for \$1800. This cover bore the corner card of the Equitable Life Insurance Co.

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4. Mort Neinken, 12c 1851-57 Pamphlet, Out of Print . . . . . 25.00
5. APS, De Thunin, The Master Forger's Work, Out of Print . . . . . 110.00
6. Robert Markovits, 10c U.S. Registry Stamp of 1911 & Bib. of Regist. Mail, 1867 to Date . . . . . 4.95
7. Literature List, just issued 10/1/76 . . . . . .50
8. Booklet Pane I list, Sc. 279b to 1513 (Zone), Air Mails, Possessions, the only comprehensive list by positions . . . . . .50

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