

1869 TIMES

© COPYRIGHT 1978

quarterly newsletter of
THE UNITED STATES 1869 PICTORIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Bank & Trust Tower, Corpus Christi, TX 78477

U.S. ISSN 0363-6542

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Volume 3, No. 3

February 1978

Whole No. 10

NEW 3¢ PLATE CRACK DISCOVERED

George Fickenscher (PRA #168) of Rock Island, Illinois has reported the discovery and verification of a new plate crack on the 3c 1869 Locomotive.

Pictured at right is a closeup of the discovery stamp at right and the verification copy at left. The find came as a result of a search for confirmation of the "Stever Plate Scratch" illustrated in the May 1977 edition of "1869 Times." Mr. Fickenscher also reports and Mr. Stever confirms that a second copy of this plate scratch was found.

The big news, however, is the way in which the verification stamp shows the crack, which runs vertically near the straight edge portion of the stamp at bottom. Since the crack is so close to the center of the sheet where the panes were vertically severed by knife cut, sometimes the crack shows on the right pane, as in the discovery stamp at right; and conversely sometimes the crack shows on the left pane stamp, as shown on the verification stamp at left. Stamps which lie either to the left or right of the pane-dividing knife cut have natural straight edges (S. E.). Extra wide stamps, such as the two illustrated, which show portions of the adjoining stamps across the center gutter are often called "gutter snipes" or "wing Margin" copies. Thus the crack has been named "The Cross Gutter Crack."



"The Cross Gutter Crack" recently discovered by PRA member George Fickenscher is only the second verified plate crack on the 3c Locomotive of 1869. Two other varieties tentatively identified as cracks are known, but not confirmed.

PRA Annual Meeting = Elections The Board of Directors have designated CAPEX '78 in Toronto, Canada as the site of the 1978 Annual Meeting of the United States 1869 Pictorial Research Associates. This International show will be held at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds from June 9-18, 1978. Final details on meeting place and time will be announced in the May edition of the "Times". Plan to attend and join the festivities.

TORONTO

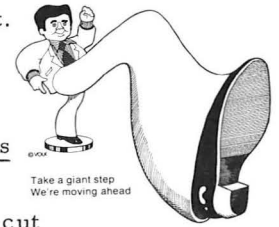
Nominating Committee Report The Nominating Committee, being composed of Richard Searing, Ravi Vora and Michael Laurence submits the following slate of officers and directors for the 1978-79 and 1979-80 fiscal years: President - J. C. M. Cryer, Port Lavaca, TX; Vice President - Margaret Wunsch, Aurora, IL; Secretary/Treasurer - Jim Stever, Corpus Christi, TX; Director - John Birkinbine, IL, Tucson, AZ; Director - Ben Chapman, Memphis, TN; Director - Elliot H. Coulter, Harrison, N. Y.; Director - Michael Laurence, Chicago, IL. Enclosed with this edition of the "Times" is an official ballot for voting on Officers and Directors of the PRA. Please vote and send to Jim Stever at the address at top of this page by 31 March, 1978. Results will be certified by the Secretary and printed in the May edition.

Time Out

One of the big news items for this issue is that our President, Margaret L. Wunsch, has decided to sell her fabulous 1869 collection! It will be offered by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York this spring. See the advertising in this edition.

This issue, we are sporting 5 pages of honest-to-gosh typesetting as an experiment. We hope you like the idea, but send your thoughts on the subject to your editor in any case. Comments on the "Times" are always welcome.

Next issue, "1869 Times" will carry articles by Robert L. Markovits / B. E. Chapman on 1869 Plate Numbers -- how many have been verified? ; an update by Charles L. Towle on Railroad Transit Markings on 1869 covers; and an update by Jon Rose listing additional 2c 1869 Bisects on cover (the 1976 REGISTER listed 17 covers, he is up to 25 now). Who will contribute additional material? My paper pile has been cut down somewhat in the last few weeks!



The By-Laws committee, consisting of Jim Stever, John Birkinbine and Robert L. Markovits has submitted a first draft of proposed changes to this document, which will be worked again and resolved at our Annual Meeting at CAPEX. Here's hoping you can attend!

President Wunsch has just appointed John Ginn (PRA#246) to the post of Publicity Director for our organization, and he has graciously accepted. He's already been at work -- or haven't you noticed the current PRA news releases in the philatelic media? Thanks, John, for pitching in and working.

Solicitation is hereby made for input from Associates on current research projects. It is desired to print a continuing listing of active projects so that all may participate and help in this, the backbone of PRA, which is, "dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through research and study of the 1869 issue." Please send in capsule summaries of your projects for promulgation. Write your Editor prior to the April 7 deadline.

1869 TIMES

FEBRUARY, 1978

Published Quarterly, In
February, May, August and November

VOL. 3, NO. 3
Whole No. 10

Official Newsletter of the United States Pictorial Research Associates

\$2.00 Initiation Fee (Paid Once)
\$15.00 Annual Dues

"1869 Times" Back Issues
\$2.00 each

SOCIETY OFFICERS

MARGARET L. WUNSCH, 1219 W. Downer Pl., Aurora, IL 60506 ... President
JAMES C.M. CRYER, P.O. Box 316, Port Lavaca, TX 77979 ... 1st Vice Pres.
REX H. STEVER, Bank & Trust T'wr, Corpus Christi, TX 78477 Sec.-Treas.
BENJAMIN E. CHAPMAN, 5099 Steuben Dr., Memphis, TN 38134 ... Director
JOHN BIRKINBINE, II, 7225 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704 ... Director
MICHAEL LAURENCE, 919 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 ... Director

PRA PUBLICATIONS & EDITORIAL BOARD

Benjamin E. Chapman, 5099 Steuben Dr., Memphis, TN 38134
Editor-In-Chief

Elliot Coulter, P. O. Box 280, Bronxville, NY 10708
Publication Sales Director

"1869 TIMES" (Quarterly Newsletter)
Contributing Editors
Michael Laurence
Michael C. O'Reilly

"THE REGISTER" (Annual Book)
Associate Editor:
Jonathan W. Rose

1869 TIMES
© COPYRIGHT 1978
THE UNITED STATES 1869 PICTORIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
1505 Bank & Trust Tower, Corpus Christi, TX 78477
U.S. ISSN 0363-6542 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Margaret L. Wunsch

GREETINGS! My deepest congratulations and appreciation for all the hours the officers, directors, authors and other contributors have given to the PRA program. It has been a busy and rewarding year.

To help make the New Year more meaningful may I quote Dr. Albert Schweitzer: "It is not enough merely to exist, you must give some time to your fellow man, even if it is a little thing. Do something for those who need man's help -- for which you get no other pay but the privilege of doing." We have the privilege of doing much with our research to educate and inform our fellow philatelists. Let us use our talents and energies. We are limited only by our own imaginations.

We can share ourselves, our compassion, our experiences, our findings and our time. It is a challenge which will make our PRA better because of our participation. Find activity in the PRA and 1978 will be an even better year than the last one.

I will remind everyone to please mark your ballot, voting for Officers and Directors for the coming period and mail them to our Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Stever at an early date. Be sure to mark your calendars and save the dates June 9-18, 1978 for CAPEX '78 in Toronto. We plan to hold our Annual Meeting during this International Exhibition. See you there! **

Jon Rose, 30 Golf Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566, asks all to send listings of 15c Type I covers to him at once to be in the 1978 REGISTER listing. Act now. The list is up to approximately 110!

THE GREAT 1869 COVER CENSUS – FOLOWUP

by MICHAEL LAURENCE

Response to our write-up last issue, about the proposed 1869 cover census, has been literally overwhelming. I have six letters in front of me right now—some from old friends and some from new friends, all of them members of our group—and additionally received phone calls from several other members. The thrust of all these communications is that many collectors are willing to contribute toward the goal of our publishing, in 1986, a comprehensive listing of covers bearing 1869 stamps. The full roster of volunteers is published in the box below. Do provide them whatever help you can.

New to the team are **John Birkinbine II**, who has agreed to record the 1¢ 1869 covers; **Paul Bourke**, who will take a stab at the 3¢ covers (more on this below); **Jim Schreiber**, who volunteers to do the 12¢ covers; and **Don Haller**, who will do the 15¢ Type II's. This leaves only the 2¢ covers unwatched, and I suspect that whatever techniques evolve from the 3¢ listing will work for the 2¢ covers too. In short, the volunteers are in place and the clock has begun to tick. 1986 is only eight years off. We all have our work to do.

Both Birkinbine and Bourke suggested the key to approaching the 3¢ covers. The solution is to conquer by dividing. Birkinbine's suggestion: "In order to have a good representation of the 2¢ and 3¢ covers, why not break these two denominations down into categories, soliciting a volunteer for each? Some categories might be (a) foreign mails; (b) domestic mail showing combination with other stamps; and (c) domestic mail showing triple rate or higher, using all the same denomination. I frankly do not feel a census could be taken of single or double rates—unless you can appeal to individual postal history buffs to tackle individual states. This would require 39 different states plus maybe one volunteer for all the territories. More likely a project for 1996." Birkinbine also suggested that the listing include covers showing the reissue 1869 stamps. We concur. That listing should be quite short.

Paul Bourke suggested an even more detailed breakdown of 3¢ covers, dividing them into basic types and then subdividing at least the ordinary rates into more basic categories according to marking (RPO, WAY, ADVERTISED, MISSENT and other service markings); colored cancellations listed by color; territorial origin; fancy cancellations;

covers showing plate markings etc.; and advertising corner cards. Bourke also wrote, and here I quote him directly: "In short, I would like to see at least a partial listing made of the 3¢ 1869 covers, and I would gladly accept the challenge of leading or greatly participating in the effort." His generous offer has been accepted, and he will lead the effort.

Listing the 3¢ covers will pose great problems. What categories should they be grouped into? Should covers fitting two or more categories be given duplicate listing? If not, which category has precedence? Bourke is aware of these problems and has begun to confront them. On this he will work closely with editor Chapman, whose affection for 3¢ covers is well known. We hope to see a preliminary report from Bourke—suggesting categories, strategy and tactics—in the next issue (May, 1978) of the *Times*. Members who are able to help Bourke in any way should write him directly.

We have received a number of questions about the format in which a listing, or an entry intended for a listing, should take. While the format of a listing will vary according to the data it is made up of, the basic information needed for an individual cover listing is quite consistent. What is needed, essentially, is a chronological date for the cover, where it came from, where it went, a citation so that future collectors can confirm this information, plus all the other information the cover might contain. By far the easiest way to nail all this down is through use of a photocopier. Twenty years ago, collectors would spend hours recording cover minutiae that can now be captured, unarguably and inexpensively, by photocopying. If the cover bears backstamps, copy the back too. If it doesn't, then say so on the copy of the front. If the cover has markings in any color but black, note the colors on the copy.

For reasons outlined in earlier issues of the *Times* (see especially my "Notes on a Research Project", 1869 *Times* # 2, Page 2), I use unlined 4x6-inch index cards for each cover entry. A # 6 envelope can be taped to the back of such a card, to house photocopies, slides or photos of the cover itself. In the absence of a hard pictorial representation of the cover, the card itself is big enough to contain most of the salient information, which must then be written in by hand.

1869 Cover Census

Figure 1 shows a typical entry card from my files of 10¢ 1869 covers. Actually, it's not typical, because most 10¢ 1869 covers were used in international correspondence and bear more postal markings, all of which have to be recorded. The information in Figure 1 describes a domestic cover. The cover itself is illustrated as Figure 3 on page 4 of *1869 Times # 8*.

EUGENE, INDIANA → ALFRED, MAINE
10¢ 1869, with #146 + #147,
"tied unusual rectangular
cork and Eugene, Ind.
pmk. on registered cover
(Alfred) to Maine". Part illus as
lot 759 in Krug sale:
Siegel 210. May 21+22, '58.
Sold for \$85.
 Reoffered as lot 152 in Harmer
 sale April 8 1969. ML paid \$2.50
 COLOR SLIDE ATTACHED

JAN 18 1873

Not a registered cover. Shows 5 x 3¢ domestic rate. Numbers are Shaw's bookkeeping.

Figure 1

The information in bold writing was taken directly from the auction catalog, in this case, the sale being the Krug collection which was dispersed in 1958. Ordinarily, I would clip the photo of the cover from the catalog and tape it right to the entry card. But in this case, the sale was so important that I wanted to keep the catalog intact, for reference. Nothing more than the auctioneer's description (which was partially quoted), the date the cover entered the mails, and the auction catalog citation, was initially entered, because from this information the rest could always be picked up from reference to the catalog itself. I also included the price realized, this just for my own information as a prospective bidder. Some years later, the cover was reoffered at auction, and I purchased it, so noting on the same card. Newcomers should note that cover prices can go down as well as up.

Subsequently, in writing the cover up for my collection, I observed that this wasn't a registered

cover (as all the previous auctioneers had described it) but was instead a 5 x 3¢ domestic cover. This too I added to the data card. Figure 1, if it shows nothing else, illustrates the basic data needed to record a cover of this nature. It also shows how additional information accumulates over time.

By way of comparison, Figure 2 shows the data slip that Creighton Hart distributed in gathering information about 10¢ 1847 covers. The resultant *Directory of 10¢ 1847 Covers*, published privately by Hart and Susan McDonald in 1970, is an excellent model for format and research guidelines for cover listing. The team captains in the cover census ought to refer to it if they can. Unfortunately, it is now a rather scarce book. Some of the information Hart solicits in the data slip in Figure 2 is not relevant to 1869 covers, and much of the work Hart did was before the days of photocopiers. But the four most critical features remain: date, origin, destination and auction citation or ownership reference.

It should go without saying that any postal marking, especially any marking that contains a date, ought to be recorded with special care. For this purpose, backstamps are as important as markings on the front. This is especially true of covers that passed through the foreign mails.

The 4 x 6 cards can be stored in shoeboxes. However, for only a few dollars you can purchase, at any stationery store, well-constructed cardboard boxes specifically designed to hold such cards. One of the joys of listing covers is watching the number of these boxes gradually increase, until they consume all your available space and you are forced to either buy a larger house or to throw out a child.

If everyone involved in this project uses 4 x 6 cards for individual cover entries, the ultimate process of collating and assembling the resultant data will be very much simplified. However, the shape of the cards or the data itself is best left to the individual team captains to determine. For my purposes, as team captain for the 10¢ covers, all I need is

10¢
 1847
 COVER
 ONLY

Date in Postmark	Mo.	Day	18	(Yr. date is from dateline of letter or from docketed date BUT ONLY if evident)	
Town in Postmark	TO Town		State		
<input type="checkbox"/> Single - <input type="checkbox"/> 2 -	Cov. of pmk		<input type="checkbox"/> red -	<input type="checkbox"/> blue -	<input type="checkbox"/> black - <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Folded letter -	<input type="checkbox"/> front only -	- : -	<input type="checkbox"/> tied or	<input type="checkbox"/> not tied	
Owner or Auction	Date listed			19	

The back of this tab may be used for additional data describing the cancellation on the stamp and other postal markings.

Mail to: C.C. Hart
 911 Commerce Bldg.
 K.C., Mo. 64106

1869 Cover Census

a front and back photocopy for any 10¢ cover I haven't already seen, with marking colors noted (if they are not black) and an auction source citation if one exists.

For the benefit of the other team captains: the ultimate arrangement of the data, stamp by stamp, will depend on the nature of the data itself, and cannot be finally determined until the data is at hand. For the benefit of those who will be helping the team captains by sending them data: send photocopies wherever possible. When you can't, send 4 x 6 cards, with as much information as is available. Always provide enough information so that someone else can locate the cover or a picture of it.

The subject of duplication frequently comes up. In my 10¢ files, I show scores, maybe hundreds of covers that bear other 1869 stamps along with the 10s. These covers will all appear in whatever 10¢ cover listing I might ultimately produce, as well they should, since they are among the most interesting of 10¢ covers. However, they also belong in the appropriate listings for the other stamps. Redundancy is inherent in listings like this, and it is desirable, so long as the covers are listed in a similar manner in both lists, so as to be recognizable as the same cover. Details of this nature can be discussed and resolved as the project rolls out.

Putting the entire project into perspective: We envision a very large volume, or series of volumes, to be available at the next International show to be held in the U.S. (at McCormick Place in Chicago in 1986), which lists, comprehensively and accessibly, every cover we can categorize bearing the 1869 stamps. Excepting the 2¢ and 3¢ covers, we expect that the listing will be as close to complete as the resources of this group can make it. The listing must be orderly, so that any collector who has such a cover can find it listed or be able to say that he has one that isn't listed.

To have a work of this magnitude ready by the spring of 1986, all the data must be assembled in one place more than a year earlier. Eighteen months would be better. Thus, to be safe, let's say that the work of the various team captains must be complete by **30 June, 1984**. Since we write these words on 1 January, 1978, the team captains actually have only 6½ years. This sounds like a lot of time, but really it isn't. We must start right now, and work diligently.

All members should send to the team captains (listed herewith) photocopies of whatever covers they have in their collections. If the cover has, say, a 1¢, 10¢ and a 12¢ 1869 stamp on it, send copies to all three team captains. All of us inspect auction lots and dealer submissions through the mails. When we do, we should photocopy liberally. All of us look through old and current auction catalogs. When we find things that the team captains ought to know about, we should tell them, especially if the source is a relatively obscure one that the team captain might not know of. All of us go to stamp shows. When we spy appropriate covers, we should alert the team captain, providing as much information as we can about cover and owner. These are the things that every one of us can do. In the process we will help ourselves, and create the beginnings of an invaluable record that can benefit generations of collectors yet unborn. To my knowledge, no group has ever taken on a philatelic research task of this magnitude. The relatively short lifetime of the 1869 stamps, and the relative uncommonness of most of the covers, makes the job at least possible. Let's try to set high standards for others to follow.

* * *

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GREAT 1869 COVER CENSUS.

- 90¢, 30¢ & 24¢** — Dr. Richard M. Searing, 1300 Sao Paulo Ave., Placentia, CA 92670.
- 15¢ Type I** — Elliott H. Coulter, Sterling Rd., Harrison, NY 10528; and Jonathan W. Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566.
- 15¢ Type II** — Donald E. Haller, Jr., P.O. Box 363, McLean, VA 22101.
- 12¢ covers** — Jim Schreiber, 3155 Lakehaven Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.
- 10¢ covers** — Michael Laurence, 919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.
- 6¢ covers** — Millard H. Mack, 2133 Luray Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45206.
- 3¢ covers** — Paul Bourke, P.O. Box 125, Ashland, MA 01721.
- 2¢ covers** — *VOLUNTEER NEEDED.*
- 1¢ covers** — John Birkinbine II, 7225 North Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704.
- All 1869 reissue covers — *Volunteer Needed.*

1869 STAMP PRICE ANALYSIS

A PRA member, who asks to remain anonymous, recently sent us some very interesting information about the price performance of the 1869 stamps for the last five years. Quoting from his letter: "My stockbroker recently gave me a little slide rule that easily computes compound interest. One rainy Sunday, having nothing better to do, I sat down to figure out what sort of investment the 1869 stamps have been. I used the 1972 Scott Specialized Catalog and the 1977 Scott Specialized Catalog. The calculations were simple. As an example, a mint 1c 1869 stamp cataloged \$67.50 in 1972 and \$100 in 1977. This is an increase, over the five year period, of very close to 50 percent. The slide rule then reveals that this is the equivalent of a net increase, compounded annually over the five years, of 8 1/2 percent per annum.

"I computed the compound return, for the five-year period, for all the 1869 stamps, in six different categories: mint stamps, used stamps, covers, and three types of proofs -- India, card and Roosevelt small die proofs. I think the information is very interesting, and thought you might want to share it with the readers of the "1869 Times". While we are all collectors (or at least, I hope we are) rather than investors, it's gratifying to see that the capital we place in these little bits of paper has been so very well preserved. Indeed, I wonder how many other objects have shown such increases during the same period."

The calculations are presented below, in six different tables. In each table, the individual items are arranged according to their performance over the five-year period. The percentages shown represent actual percentage return, compounded annually over the five-year period. Obviously, catalog values are only a guide to trends -- because any individual item, as we all know, can be worth more or less than catalog. Nevertheless, the trends themselves are interesting. Comments will be welcome.

Table 1 -- Mint Stamps	Table 2 -- Used Stamps	Table 3 -- Covers	Table 4 -- Card Proofs	Table 5 -- India Proofs	Table 6 -- Roosevelt Small Dies
90c -- 19%	24c -- 15%	10c -- 26%	30c -- 31%	24c -- 32%	15c(I) -- 17%
10c -- 16	10c -- 15	6c -- 25	2c -- 30	3c -- 32	15c(III) -- 17
6c -- 15	6c -- 12.5	2c -- 20	10c -- 29	2c -- 32	12c -- 16.5
15c(II) -- 14	15c(II) -- 12	1c -- 20	6c -- 27	12c -- 29	10c -- 16.5
12c -- 13.5	90c -- 11.5	12c -- 19	3c -- 27	30c -- 28	6c -- 16.5
24c -- 13	15c(I) -- 10.8	15c(I) -- 15	1c -- 27	15c(I) -- 26	3c -- 16.5
3c -- 12.5	12c -- 10.5	15c(II) -- 13	12c -- 26	6c -- 26	2c -- 16.5
15c(I) -- 9.6	3c -- 7.4	3c -- 9	90c -- 25	90c -- 21	1c -- 16.5
30c -- 9.4	30c -- 7.2	24c -- 6.8	24c -- 22	15c(III) -- 20	30c -- 15.5
2c -- 8.5	1c -- 6.5	30c -- 4.3	15c(III) -- 18	1c -- 20	24c -- 15.5
1c -- 8.5	2c -- 5.4			10c -- 19	90c -- 14



SELECTED 1869 COVERS



- #114 (VF) Tied by Bright Red Target can. to ex. fine yellow cover with clear RED "Martinsburgh, N. Y." pmk. Partly off cover at top. A GEM \$100
- #114 (VF) Tied by clear "Cats Head" or "Mask" cancel & "Hamilton, N. Y." pmk to Ex. Fine white cover \$150
- #114 (St. Ed.) & #116 (F-VF) Tied by black rimless grids to small white cover; Ex. Fine, but reduced: right end restored (3/16") to accommodate otherwise overlapping #116. to Scotland (1c overpay) with clear transit markings, 6/1/70 use. Attractive . . . \$150
- #116 (VG-F) Tied to VF yellow cover to France, "1/22/70" use. New Jersey Brewery c. c., Red N. Y. & French Transit Mark, Black "16" (Decimes Due), Scarce & Attractive \$250
- #116 (Ex. F) Neatly tied to Ex. Fine yellow cover to GERMANY, clear Red "Bremen 10/3/70 Franco" & N. Y. Paid All Direct" Transit Mark, ms. "Per Bremen Steamer" Beauty \$300
- #116 (VF) Rich color, tied to Ex. Fine Blue cover with printed address to FRANCE Pmk. "Watertown, Mass", Blue French Rec. Pmk. & Partial N. Y. pmk. & vivid Black "8" (Decimes Due", 4/18/70 use. Beauty \$350
- #116 Pair (Superb) Not tied, on VF slightly reduced white cover to PRUSSIA, "Green Castle, Pa." pmk & clear red Transit pmks, 3/21/70 use, Most Attractive \$350
- #116 (Superb) Small indistinct can., not tied, on Ex. Fine white cover pmk. "Deep River, Ct." to CUBA, A GEM \$350
- #118 - Type I - (Superb) Tied by petal grid to Ex. Fine Full Front Only to ALGERIA, clear Transit markings Incl. "N. Y. PAID 3 - May 25 (1869)", Early Use, Rare destination. Cat. \$700 (as full cover), BEAUTY \$500
- #119 (Fine) Red grid can., tied by Red Transit pmk. to about fine, slightly worn Blue folded letter to GERMANY, "Per Closed Mail Via England" in ms., clear Transit markings, Including Red "PAID ALL" \$275

What Else Do You Need In 1869's?
 Satisfaction or Immediate Refund — Gladly Sent on Approval with References
 Installment Payment Terms if Desired — (No Interest or Carrying Charges)
 Master Charge Accepted on Orders over \$100

JACK E. MOLESWORTH, INC.

APS
SPA

88 BEACON ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02108
(617) 523-2522

CSA
USPCS

RAH, RAH

by **ROBERT L. MARKOVITS**

College and University covers have always had an appeal to the graduate of those institutions, and it should come as no surprise that a Cornell University 1869 cover is one of the high spots in my personal collection. Having graduated from Cornell University (Ithaca, New York) and its law school; having studied at its College of Business Administration; having married a Cornellian, and having a brother and a brother-in-law who also took their education there, the ties to Ithaca, "Far above Cayuga's waters" remain dear even fifteen years after graduation.

The study of the interesting six cent denomination is one of broad scope for me, as I am convinced it is one of the finest of the issue. Cornell University was in its infant days when the cover shown in Figure 1 entered the mails on December 6 (1869), addressed to Picton, Province of Ontario, Canada. Backstamps show the envelope was received on December 8, 1869. Two prominent buildings dotted the landscape on the Quad, at the top of Libe Hill (Oh, how I remember 8 a. m. classes in Morrill Hall where I spoke to a machine in French -- and it won). Morrill Hall was the first building constructed at Cornell in 1868, and named after U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill, author of the Morrill Land Grant Act. Shortly thereafter, in the year 1869, White Hall was constructed and named after the University's first President, Andrew D. White.



Figure 1. The philatelic significance of this 1869 cover is as an illustration of the 6c per one half ounce rate, to Canada, effective April 1, 1868.

Shortly after acquiring the 6c 1869 cover, I was fortunate enough to acquire a cover bearing a 3c Bank-note, showing a further edition of the original design series. This cover, shown in Figure 2, depicts McGraw Hall, constructed in 1871. This was the third building raised at Cornell, a gift of John McGraw, one of the original trustees. Ezra Cornell, founder of the University, did not in the early years, have a building named for him. These buildings stand today and remain in active use at this outstanding University, a member of the Ivy League.

Illustrated in Figure 3 is a 1907 view of Cornell University shown on the back of a 1908 postcard. This gives one an idea of the growth of the University in a few short years.

Fond memories remain of happy days at the University, but the cover also brings back the memories of struggling up the steep hill below the Quad, to an 8 a. m. class, when the show was 18" deep and the wind-chill factor below zero. I can really personally relive my youthful experience from this outstanding trio of covers which I am pleased to share with you. **

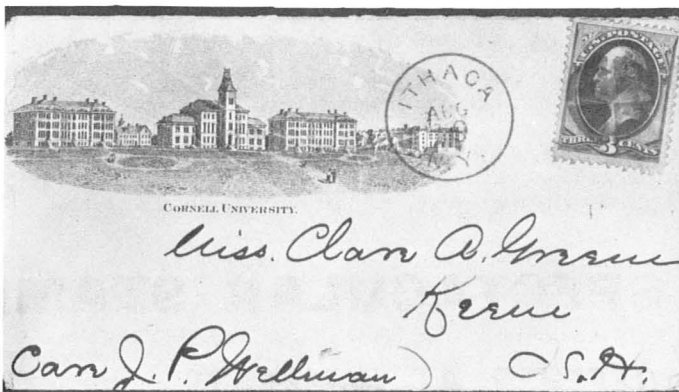


Figure 2. By 1871, Cornell sported 3 Bldgs.



Figure 3. The campus scene in 1907.

PRA Members Sweep Major Awards at VAPEX '77

At VAPEX '77, presented by the Virginia Philatelic Federation on November 12-13 at the Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia, three PRA members shared in the Major Awards. Donald E. Haller, Jr., PRA #9, won the APS Gold Award, the APS Medal for the best exhibit by an APS member and the VAPEX Award for the best exhibit in show for his exhibit of the 1869 Issue: Essays, Proofs and Postal Usage. John Worley, PRA #157, was an APS silver award winner for his exhibit of the 1869 Locomotive: A Study of the 3c Value. Robert L. Lisbeth, PRA #52, won an APS Gold Award, the SPA Research Award and the Virginia Postal History Society Patrick Henry Award for his exhibit of Virginia: Manuscript Postal Markings. **

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE NOTES

by **ROBERT L. D. DAVIDSON**

Anyone who has tried to collect Delaware postal history runs into the provocative scarcity of material. The Three Lower Counties under Penn's grant were always a strong rural and maritime shipping area, but not the likeliest place to obtain much commercial correspondence. With the emergence of Wilmington as a city of some consequence in the mid-nineteenth century, the picture changes. But lucky is he who can make a good showing of Classical Delaware material.

The reason for the above introduction is to focus on the unusual circumstance of the Middletown 1869 cancellations. The population of this spot in 1870 was 915. Yet, almost half of all the 1869 usages in the whole state, asside from Wilmington, that this writer has seen, are from Middletown. Furthermore, on the three-cent stamp there were at least five different cancellations employed. Figure 1 illustrates a strange bee-hive grid in blue, while figures 2 and 3 show the same device in red and black. Figure 4 is a hollow star-in-circle in black, and figure 5 shows the same marking (presumably on the same day) in red.

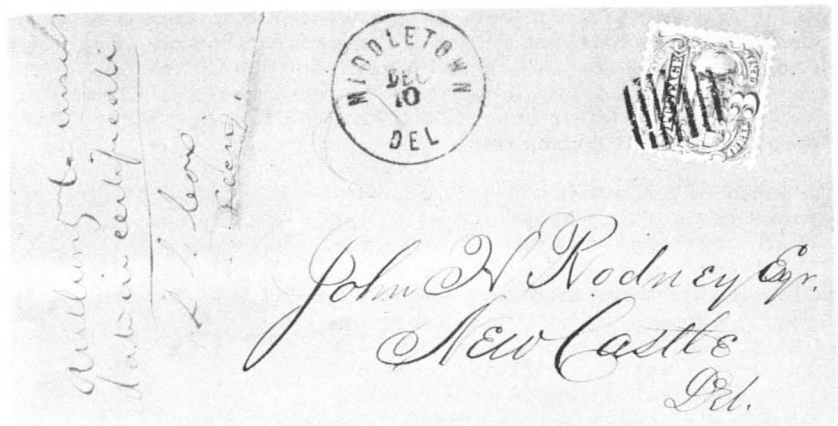


Figure 1. Middletown, Delaware sports a number of fancy cancels/colors during the short life of the 1869 issue.



Figure 2. Upper Left
 Figure 3. Lower Left
 Figure 4. Upper Right
 Figure 5. Lower Right



One wonders why and how, with this issue in use so short a time, the postmaster found it necessary to try to emulate a postmaster in a much larger community in Connecticut. Anyone who can supply information on any 1869 usages from Delaware will please this writer greatly. ** Robert L.D. Davidson, 915 Court St., Fulton, Mo. 65251.



U.S. #121b. 1869 30c Flags Inverted, used. One of the finest known examples.

THIS SPECTACULAR STAMP

**OFFERED AT WOLFFERS
 FEBRUARY AUCTION**

We hold 8 auctions a year and regularly feature the 1869 issues. Always interested in quality material to buy or sell. Catalogs FREE at store 3 weeks prior to all sales. By mail: Send name, address and \$1.

Richard Wolffers, Inc. / Stamps & Stamp Auctions
 127 Kearny Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94108
 (415) 781-5127

FABULOUS 1869 HOLDING

by *COSMOPOLITAN*

[Editor's note: The following manuscript reached us in a plain envelope. The author is obviously the same "Cosmopolitan" who provided the controversial Hessel write-up in the second issue of The 1869 Times. The manuscript was typewritten, but very poorly typewritten. From the frequent strike-overs, and from the crabbed, crotchety marginalia, we assume that the anonymous author is an 1869 collector of some years, who doubtless because of his peculiar personality prefers to remain a loner. We publish his words without endorsing them in any way, to show how interested we are in all aspects of the 1869 stamps.]

I wrote an article for the second issue of this newsletter about the Hessel collection, before it was offered at auction. I live in New York, know the stamp scene, and have a special interest in the 1869s. I thought that my early description of the Hessel material might be of interest to PRA members. In a way, it was. Mr. Birkinbine used my report to show how the Harmer firm, apparently out of ignorance, broke up a full 3¢ 1869 pane, in the unrealized hope that it would fetch more money if severed into pieces. But what I mostly got, from my Hessel comments (even though they all turned out to be true) was bad-mouthing and accusations of sour grapes.

Nonetheless, I have been around philately long enough to know that every serious collector is in some way or other a prima donna, and I am old enough to accept niggling, small-minded and invidious criticism with good grace. I now have another 1869 collection to tell you about. Maybe this time you will listen more attentively. Unfortunately, I have fewer facts.

The collection is that of John C. Juhring, PRA # 48, who died in late 1976. I never met Mr. Juhring, though we corresponded sporadically. I doubt that many collectors now living remember him. As a collector, he was most active during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

Commencing sometime shortly after the conclusion of World War I, Juhring began a serious collection of all aspects of the 1869s—proofs, essays, stamps, multiples, covers, everything. He had other philatelic interests as well, and accumulated other material, but his special interest was always the U.S. 1869 series. He joined our group early, as PRA # 48, and had the dubious distinction of being our first associate to die. In terms of the collection he left behind him, his will be a tough act for us to follow.

The collection, which I have not seen, consists (among other things) of the following: oodles and oodles of 3¢ 1869 covers, from every place imaginable. Juhring's goal, for this part of his collection, seems to have been to have a 3¢ 1869 cover from every U.S. post office that did business during the lifetime of the 1869s. This collection alone, I am reliably informed, consumes ten or more cardboard boxes, of the sort in which a dozen quarts of liquor are usually shipped, and may comprise 10,000 covers, all different.

Additionally, so I am told, Juhring had many higher-value 1869 covers, with a special emphasis on those showing combinations of stamps, including many mixed frankings. All the higher values are well represented, on and off cover. I'm told that his showing of 10¢ 1869 covers is especially impressive. Additionally, he had a special collection of 1869 stamps and covers used abroad, and an imposing showing of multiples of all the stamps.

Beyond this, I know for a fact, from our correspondence, that Juhring was both a neighbor and a collaborator (I think during the 1920s and 1930s) of Clarence Brazer. When Brazer was assembling the facts he ultimately presented in his essay book, he relied on Juhring for much of his 1869 information. The original wash drawing, illustrated in Fred Schueren's book on page 59, showing the post rider design that was adopted for the 2¢ stamp, is in Juhring's collection.

Turn now to your Brazer's, and look at pages 84-88. Here are illustrated scores of 1869 essays, all done on safety paper in fugitive ink. Of different types of these essays, Brazer lists a total of 95. They break down as follows:

5¢ Washington (which became 6¢ 1869)	28 types.
10¢ Lincoln (which became 10¢ 1869)	35 types.
15¢ Columbus (which became 15¢ 1869)	12 types.
30¢ (121-E-Cf—Burgoyne essay)	20 types.

Discussing each of these types categorically, Brazer calls them "rare". I don't know what he means by this, and his book is singularly obscure in this area. I assume he doesn't mean "unique", since he uses that term too, usually associated with artist's

essays, which are hand drawn and necessarily unique. Perhaps we will learn more about the scarceness of these items in the next issue of *The Essay-Proof Journal*, in the continuation of Falk Finkelburg's revision of the Brazer catalog.

In any event, here are my feelings about the safety-paper essays:

1. They are the rarest of all the 1869 essays;
2. Not more than three examples have been sold at public auction in the last 30 years;
3. While I hate to use the word "unique", there is the possibility that only one example exists of each of the 90-odd different types Brazer listed; and
4. Juhring had at least 80 percent of the Brazer-listed examples in his collection when he died. This I know because he told me so.

The estate is tied up in a web of legal complexities worthy of *Bleak House*. Apparently Juhring died without a will. He was in the process of moving from New York to a retirement estate in North Carolina. As a consequence, two different state laws govern the disposition of the philatelic material, and there are two different sets of heirs. The collection itself is together and intact, now in the strong hands of a trustee bank in New York City. The bank is well aware of the value, but as these words are written, there is at least some question whether the entire holding will be offered publicly. Apparently, the New York heirs incline toward the auction

route, but the disposition of the (larger) North Carolina section is still in doubt.

As far as I am concerned, this collection is much too important to be sneaked into private hands. Both the heirs themselves, and the cause of 1869 philately in general, would be done an extreme disservice if this material, or even a portion of it, were disposed of through a private dealer transaction. We learned this lesson ten years ago, when the Ward collection sneaked into dealer hands without collectors getting a proper shot at it. The Juhring collection is simply too significant to disappear privately. It may well be the finest and most comprehensive 1869 collection ever assembled. Those who have seen it guess its auction value between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

We hope that the heirs will come to their senses, and realize that a collection of this magnitude is best disposed of intact, through a series of auctions at a major philatelic auction house with the capability of lotting, writing up and illustrating the material as it deserves. Only through the auction route can justice be done to Juhring's memory, to his heirs, and to those who ratify his discernment by enhancing their collections with these items that gave Juhring so much pleasure during his long life.

Those who poo-pooed my words before the Hessel material appeared will probably be more circumspect when the Juhring material comes out. Let's wait and see. Remember, you read it first in *The 1869 Times*. * * *

ALAN T. ATKINS

ASDA
APS-USPCS-SPA
-OLD U.S. COVERS-



WCS
CSA-USCC-APC
Phone: 513/831-6781

Proudly serving the collector of old U.S. covers, including the 1869 issue.

May we be of service to you?
References, please.

"GIVE YOUR COLLECTION OUR BEST"

Listing 1869 covers is rapidly becoming an all-American pastime. Jeffrey Forster, PRA #24, proposes to record every 1869 cover showing mixed franking use. This means every 1869 cover that additionally bears one or more adhesives of a foreign nation. Forster's address is: One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111. Help him if you can!

THE MARGARET L. WUNSCH COLLECTION

AT ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES THIS SPRING

The Margaret L. Wunsch 1869 collection is the most significant assembly of 1869 material to be sold in many years. The collection won the APS Champion-of-Champions Award in 1970 -- and each year following received a gold or large gold at International Exhibitions.

A Sampling of Important Pieces

- * Fancy cancellations of all denominations
- * Strip of 3-1c on cover w/ straightline handstamp
- * 2c plate no. pieces, imprints and arrows
- * Pair 2c to Paris "Short Paid"
- * 2c Revenue Usage on Document
- * 6c Varieties + B.F. Stevens Covers
- * 10c Covers to Germany, Cuba, Panama, Hong Kong
- * 10c U.S. Con. Gen'l. Shanghai cover
- * 12c + 6c Registry/First Class Rate cover
- * 12c to England w/ Supplementary Mail Cancel
- * 15c Type I double grill + varieties
- * 15c Type I covers!
- * 15c Type II mint block of 4
- * 15c, 24c, 30c Inverted Frames
- * 24c Plate No. pieces + varieties
- * 24c Covers!
- * 30c Covers and Varieties! 30c Block of 6 Used
- * 90c w/N.Y. Steamship cancel on piece
- * 15c Re-issue Imperforate Horizontally
- * Proofs, Proofs
- * 12c '69 + 10c '70 to Lima, Peru
- * Pair 12c on Domestic Cover
- * 12c + 10c via Great Britain to India in 1870
- * Pair 6c to Liverpool from Savannah, Ga.

Specialized 3c Locomotive

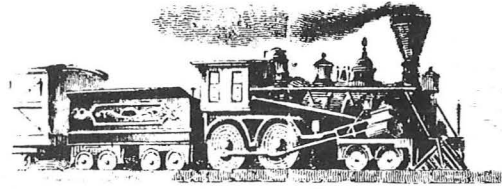
- * Top Right corner block of 32
- * Plate No's., Arrows, Imprints
- * No grill, double grill, split grills
- * Paper Varieties/ Inking Varieties
- * Freak Creases/ Freak Perforations
- * Double Transfer/ Double Impression
- * Cracked Plate - 2 of the 4 known covers
- * Fresh Entry - Mint, Used, Cover
- * Triangle over O Variety
- * Color cancels/ 40 Shades
- * Blocks of 4 on Cover
- * Fancy Cancels - Masonic; Cory, Pa. Eagle; Waterbury Large Bee; Evansville Shoo Fly; Postmaster's names
- * Western Express Covers - Pacific Union; Wells Fargo, American Expr.
- * Wells Fargo + 5c British Columbia stamp to London!
- * Sitka, Alaska Territorial + others
- * 6 Railroad Transit Marking Covers!
- * Illustrated Advertising Covers
- * Luray, Va. Bisects on Piece (3)!
- * Steamboat Straightline
- * Mixed Issue Frankings

ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

120 EAST 56th STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
(TEL. 212 753-6421)

LOVE

OF LOCOMOTIVES



by Benjamin E. Chapman

MORE PLATE CRACKS - In addition to the outstanding discovery by George Fickenscher (PRA #168) of the new "cross gutter crack", as reported on page 1 of this issue, a further copy of the "flutter crack" has been found. The keen-eyed observer in this case was none other than dealer-member Alan Atkins (PRA #26), and the fruits of his hunt may be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

The photo in Figure 1 has been retouched slightly to more clearly show the nearly linear path from lower left, upwards and to the right into the front wheels of the Locomotive. Below this long crack is the second short but wide crack, ending in a series of "rays", beneath which is the doubling of design at extreme lower left of the stamp design, characteristic of this "flutter crack." Unfortunately, the cancel obscures this area somewhat. Associates are referred to the original research article on this subject, entitled "Plate Cracks on the 3c 1869 Locomotive," written by B. E. Chapman and M. L. Wunsch appearing on pages 57-64 in the 1976 REGISTER (INTERPHIL PUBLICATION). Because of the recent discoveries, most of which are announced in this edition, this first article is a bit out of date, but worthy of rereading.



Figure 1 - Newly discovered example of the "flutter crack" found by Alan Atkins lately.

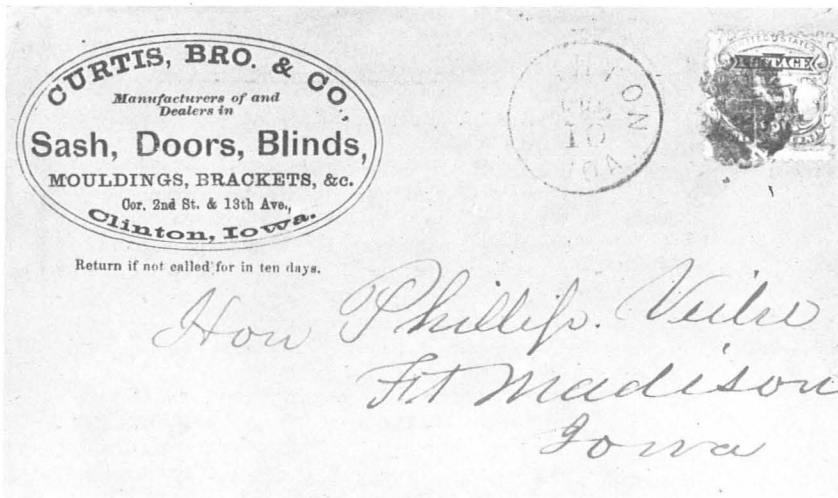


Figure 2 - Full cover bearing the "flutter crack" of Fig. 1.

Shown at right in Figure 3 is a stamp which is often mistaken for a plate crack. It has a horizontal line running the entire width of the stamp at the bottom of the design, and not particularly faint. Finders of these beauties should realize they are nothing more than bottom sheet margin copies which show layout lines and layout dots (see left edge of layout line) at bottom. Likewise, top row copies often show layout lines and dots at the top of the stamp design. These "layout" markings were used by the plate-makers to show exactly where the stamp designs were to be entered into the original plates. Ideally, these dots and lines were to have been burnished from the plates, thus removing them from view after the printing process. This was not done in all cases, and today leaves us with interesting examples of horizontal (and vertical) lines, reminding us of the tedious plate-making process one hundred or more years ago.

The top row layout dots are extremely important in the process of plate number identification, particularly on the low-value single-color stamps. The exact location of the "plate number position dot" on the top row plate number stamps, has been found by John Birkinbine, II to be definitive of exact plate number, regardless of whether or not the plate number may be seen on the stamp in question. This was the subject of his

Specifically, there are now known four examples of this crack on covers. The full cover, which is the only one with an advertising corner card, is shown in Figure 2 at left.

The Margaret L. Wunsch collection which is to be sold by Robert A. Siegel this spring holds two of these covers. Thus, two more Locomotive specialists are likely to be sporting examples in their collections shortly. We welcome this dispersion, as we are sure that Locomotive-lovers everywhere do, so that many more may learn of and enjoy this fascinating stamp and its many varieties. Speaking of varieties, the Wunsch collection will be a must for our specialist members. Varieties, not only on the 3c, abound. I predict bidding will be competitive!



Figure 3 - Layout line at bottom, often thought to be a crack at first glance.

1969 American Philatelic Congress Book article, "A New Discovery on the United States 1869 Issue." I am happy to announce that the PRA has asked for and received approval from the Congress to re-print this important article in our 1978 REGISTER. The 1969 edition of the Congress Book has been long out of print and your Editor thought the article of lasting importance, worthy of reprinting in our book to be distributed later this year. Hopefully, but without any promises, this book will be hard-bound, printed in the finest style and distributed to current PRA members without additional charge.



Figure 4 - Triangle Over O.

While on the subject of plate varieties, it seems appropriate to briefly illustrate in Figure 4 the "triangle over O" plate variety, first discussed by John Birkinbine in the November 1969 edition of the American Philatelist. Research continues as to the cause of this variety, but it is known to exist sprinkled sparingly throughout an extant pane of 150 stamps from the 3c plate #26. Possibly, it will be found on additional pieces which can be linked to other plates.

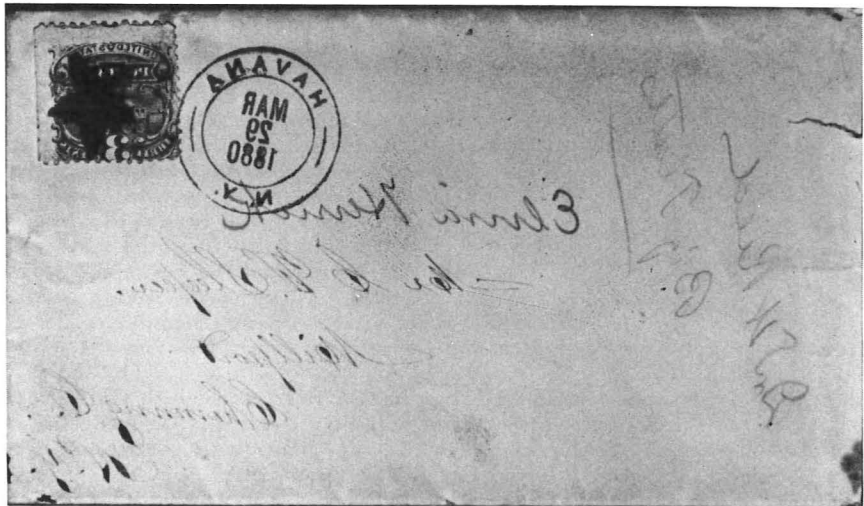


Figure 5 - Latest reported non-philatelic use of the 3c 1869.

Finally, Jim Stever sends what is the latest non-philatelic usage of the 3c Locomotive this writer has seen. It is found on cover shown in Figure 5, bearing the magenta star and CDS of Havana, N. Y. of March 29, 1880. The stamp has a clear grill, thus is not a re-issue. Who's seen a later example?*

AUCTION AGENT AND CONSULTANT

32 Years Experience as a Professional Philatelist; Specializing in the 1869 Issue.

Attending the Wunsch 1869 Sale in May conducted by Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City.

Individual Examination of Lots, Consultation and Bidding.

Your personal agent at this Important Auction.

WRITE OR PHONE

JOHN BIRKINBINE, II

American Philatelic Brokerages

John Birkinbine II

7225 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, Ariz. 85704

TELE. NO.
(602) 297-3456

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

by Michael C. O'Reilly



Things are really hopping in the 1869 auction scene these days. No doubt the article by "Cosmopolitan" in the earlier pages of this edition has been digested at this point, and we can all look forward (hopefully) to the Juring collection. Surely more definite is the upcoming sale of the Margaret Wunsch 1869 collection this spring. Don't miss this one, there will be something there for everyone. A full report will be in these pages.

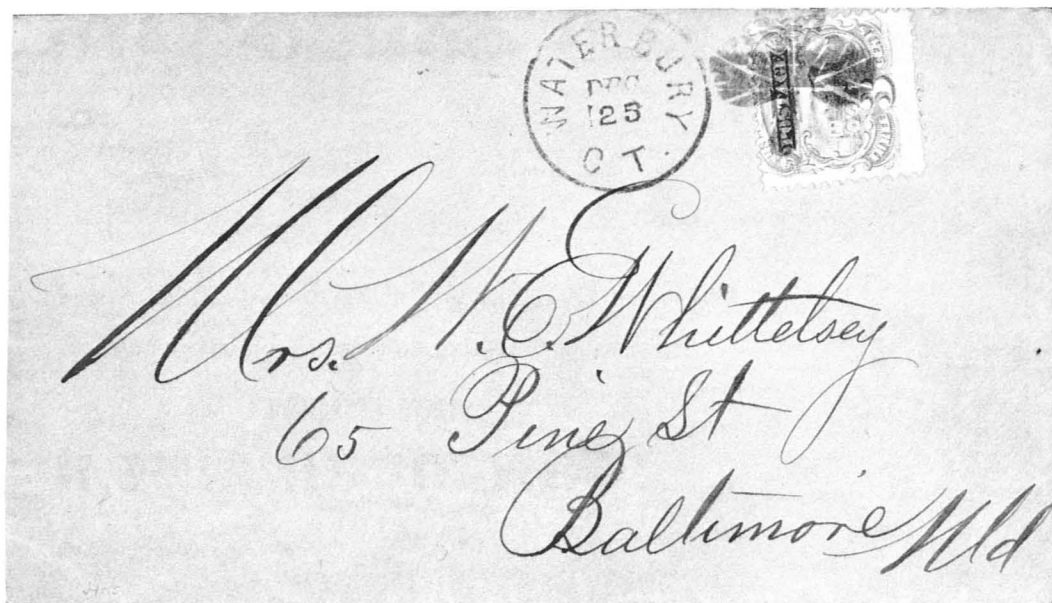
To start this report with a bang and ring in the New Year with a bit of a celebration, let's begin with the magnificent 6c 1869 bisect cover which was recently sold by Sotheby Parke Bernet Auction Co. in their 6th sale, October 27-28, 1977. Lot 1419 held this vertical bisect of the 6c Washington, which was tied across the bisect by a black target of Mechanicville, N. Y. The CDS is not clearly struck, but this does not mar the beauty of this fresh clean cover. It sold for \$5500, but over the grapevine came the word that this cover has since changed hands again, with the new owner being a PRA member. We had hoped to feature an illustration of this cover, but it has been submitted to the PF for a new certificate -- maybe we can get a snap of it in the next edition.

Other nice 1869 covers were offered in the SPB sale, with California postmarks maintaining their popularity. Lots 1407 and 1408 were critters of this sort; the former being a 3c Locomotive postmarked at Weaverville on a fresh yellow cover, while the latter was another #114 tied by a blue Vallejo CDS. As for the prices, these lots sold for \$70 and \$75 respectively. Lot 1410 was interesting because the 3c 1869 was a "capture" copy with the stamp centered way to top and capturing the complete plate "No. 10" within the perfs at bottom. The stamp was tied by a Chicago CDS on a cover front and sold for \$50. See the 35th American Philatelic Congress Book for the premiere article on 1869 plate numbers on the 3c written by John Birkinbine, II. (Editor's note: This excellent article which has been unavailable since 1969, will be reprinted in our 1978 REGISTER, through the courtesy and cooperation of the Congress. Look for it.)

Sotheby's has had a few other significant 1869 lots scattered in recent sales. In their November sale (#8), a gorgeous used 1c Buff cancelled by a Waterbury eight-point flower realized \$115, almost four times catalog (CV \$32.50). Another pretty item was lot 99, a nicely centered unused block of four of the 6c 1869. Although creased through two stamps, the selling price was still \$100 over catalog at \$1400. Blocks this nice are just downright scarce. Lot 101 held a 15c Type II with inverted center. This copy was centered to bottom left, but had bright fresh color and a handsome price tag of \$7,000. Closing out the 1869 lots in this sale was a pretty large-margined 30c 1869 with deep colors (lot 102), which sold for \$270 (CV \$100). We must congratulate Mr. Levitt for the number of catalogs of this first year which have shown every lot in full color, of which this sale was one.

Heading cross country to check out the action on the west coast, we find San Francisco to be a flurry of activity. Richard Wolfers Co. held their 59th auction on Sept. 8-9, 1977 and blocks of 4 of the '69s were in evidence, represented by the 1c (lot 150) and the 12c (lot 155). The prices here reflect the influence of condition in the minds of bidders. The 1c block was poorly centered with the two top stamps being either thinned or creased, and several nibbed perfs also detracted -- price \$150 (CV \$500). The 12c block did better at \$350 (CV \$1250). Here the perfs cut at top and one stamp had a tiny spec in the margin.

A few perfs were reinforced, but what I don't understand is how the block could have full OG and a hinge remnant too! A clean strike of a Masonic Square and Compass on a fresh, very fine 3c 1869 (lot 153) sold for \$80. A very fine, used 6c ultramarine (lot 154) with a light cancel sold for \$65 (CV \$40). Similarly, a very nice used 12c (lot 156) sold for \$70 (CV \$40). A very attractive 15c Type I (lot 156) with



The Christmas Tree cancel of Waterbury, Conn. from the Katherine Matthies sale by Robert A. Siegel (#503) on January 11, 1977. This item (lot 391) sold for \$325. Average 3c Locomotive, lovely strike.

large even margins and black & red cancels did very well at \$150 (CV \$115). Mr. Wolffers offered a 90c 1869 in lot 162, which had very fine centering and the only distraction being a few short perfs. It made almost full catalog at \$425 (CV \$450). The only cover of consequence was lot 52, which contained a 15c Type I from New Orleans to France. Condition was F-VF and realized full catalog at \$700.

Wolffers sale #60 (Oct. 20-21) brought forth a 6c Washington on all-over legal advertising cover. The stamp was VG and the item sold for \$60 (CV \$175). Sale #62 featured a VG block of six of the 3c Loco used on a large, refolded cover front (lot 88). We assume the stamps paid the 6 X 3c domestic rate, as the cover was mailed from San Francisco to San Jose, California. This scarce item didn't attract much attention and only sold for about half catalog at \$40. The other lot of note was a horizontal pair of the 90c Lincoln. Multiples of this stamp are scarce, as we all know. This pair has been rejoined and repaired which affected the selling price of \$500 (CV \$1250). PRA members should note that the Wolffers firm is putting an exceptionally nice 30c 1869 invert on the block next quarter.

Heading back to the east coast, a brief stop in Chicago finds the Rasdale Stamp Company offering in their 247th sale, a group of 1869 singles with fancy cancels on Dec. 8-9, 1977. Most of these stamps were not top grade material, but a few were and sold very reasonably. It was a good sale for the bargain hunter. A lot of 17 2c '69s described as "attractive" and "fine" realized \$130 (CV \$211). Also, 36 3c '69s with cancels sold as a lot for \$216 (CV \$117). A fine 6c '69 with red N.Y. cancel sold for \$77 (CV \$60). Have you put together a set of "reds" yet? The 10c section was particularly strong; the highpoint being an imperforate single tied to piece by the N.Y. Steamship cancel, which in fine condition sold for \$72.

Likewise, quick layovers in Washington, D.C. and Sarasota, Florida bring two lots to the attention of Associates. The Kaufmann Galleries' "Gems of Philately" sale in November reveals what may be a new high price for a used 24c invert. Lot 108 was a well-centered, fresh and exceptional piece realizing an even \$8,000 (CV \$7,000). This is the first time in ages that we can remember an invert bringing over catalog. The American Philatelic Brokers sale #7 on Dec. 13-14 featured a beautiful strip of 3 of the 1c '69s tied by 3 quartered corks, representing the scarce 1st class usage of the lc buff. This gem sold for \$230 in lot 230. A 12c B.F. Stevens cover from Evansville to the Frigate Franklin in fine condition & showing all markings sold for \$260 in lot 233.



Completing our cross country trip, we wind up in New York for Siegel sale 520 on December 3-6, 1977. Early in the sale was a nice selection of 1869 proofs and essays. Lot 184 contained a 1c Blue, Pictorial Die Essay on Ivory (Brazier 112E-De). This essay was 50x55 mm. in size and is difficult to do justice in words, but someone did better with their checkbook, bidding up to \$675 to buy this lot. Lot 196 was a 5c Buff (Brazier 115aE-Fc), a Pictorial Plate Essay on Gummed Stamp paper. This item was a bottom margin block of four and sold for \$150. Further down the page was lot 209, a beautiful 30c Black Burgoyne Plate Essay on Orange-Buff Surface Tinted Paper (Brazier 121E-Ck) which realized \$350. Lot 204 contained a 30c Black Burgoyne Large Die Essay on India (Brazier 121E-Ca) sunk on card in very fine condition. Some smart buyer realized this but had to go to \$650 to take it home. Lot 215 was the high realization of 1869 essay-proof material. This lot contained a set of the 1869 Pictorials in the form of Hybrid Large Die Proofs. Each was mounted on a 7" x 9" card and bound in a gilt-edge National Bank Note Co. Presentation Book. Selling price climbed to \$4500 before the bidding stopped. Closing out the essay-proof section was a nice plate proof on India block of 4 (lot 233) of the 90c Lincoln. Described as having trivial toning specks on two stamps, this very fine block realized \$750.

Getting over into the regularly issued 1869 stamps, we find a jumbo margin copy of the 2c Post Rider in lot 815. This pretty realized double catalog at \$26. An extremely fine used 12c green (lot 822) did very well at just shy of four times catalog. Huge margins and a neat circle of wedges cancel obviously impressed somebody as they paid \$160 (CV \$45). A very pretty, used 15c Type I, even though it had a perf added, did very well at \$140 (CV \$130). In perspective though, the huge margins and choice centering, with the clean circle of wedges overshadowed this defect.

VALUES.

"Acadia," in the *Dominion Philatelist* for March, speaks of the values of certain stamps, and to bear out an argument writes as follows:

"Take, as an instance, the 6c of the 1869 issue U. S. This stamp is catalogued in used condition at 20c by all American dealers, while they probably would not offer for them in lots more than \$2 per hundred."

We should like to buy a few dozen, hundreds or thousands, at twice, thrice or even four times the price he names. At 20c each it is difficult to supply the ordinary demand, and if the price were shaded 10 or 15 per cent it would be impossible.

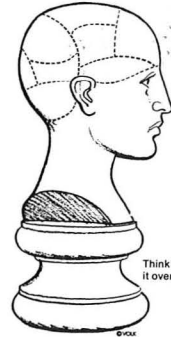
Charles H. Mekeel writing in the *Philatelic Journal of America* for April 1890.

A rare item followed in lot 824, namely a 15c Type I used on cover to France from New Orleans in May of 1869 (an early use). This scarce cover brought \$425, not quite up to catalog of \$700. See the November Chronicle (#96) for a place to start learning about the handling of the French Mails in the 1869 period. Michael Laurence's article is quite understandable and very informative. To make a nice matching pair, one could have also bought a 15c Type II on cover to France in this sale. Lot 826 contained such and sold for about half catalog at \$210. A closing highlight was a pretty used 90c Lincoln with nice centering and light cancel. It appealed to someone, as the realization of \$1550 gives ample evidence (CV \$525).

Lots of things to watch for next quarter including a beautiful off-cover 6c 1869 cancelled by the "Running Chicken" of Waterbury. This stamp is being offered by George Alevios of Sana Monica, California. How many Running Chicken cancellations are there besides this one and the fabulous cover which sold last year? Keep Bidding, and Happy Hunting. Michael C. O'Reilly, 1405 Appalachee Dr., Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- 260 Roy W. H. Tess, 10202 Pine Forest Road, Houston, Texas 77042
 261 Bruce Stone, 120 Ridgecrest Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06903
 262 Rev. Edward E. Busch, 1751 Eaton Place, LaVerne, California 91750
 263 Richard C. Frajola, 114-R Moody Lane, Danbury, Conn. 06810
 264 Homer Hilton, Jr., Peninsula Bank Bldg., Ishpeming, Mich. 49849
 265 Richard H. Witt, E-17 Avon Drive, East Windsor, N.J. 08520
 266 Philip T. Bansner, P.O. box 2529, West Lawn, PA 19609
 267 Richard P. Hoover, 965 Salem Ave., Elizabeth, N. J. 07208
 268 Stanley M. Piller, 3320 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610
 269 R. James Sinclair, P.O. Box 26, Adams, N.Y. 13605
 270 Norman Gahl, San Mario 19-21, Barcelona 6, Spain
 271 Collector's Club of Chicago, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610
 272 Don Eaton, Jr., 4950 North Mingo, Tulsa, OK 74117
 273 R.H. Rhodehamel, 5320 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46208
 274 John A. Fox, 414 Tulip Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11001
 275 Duane E. Deal, 408 N. Dill, Muncie, Indiana 47303
 276 Tony Lazewski, 2132 Southwood Dr. #4, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911
 277 Austin Howell Menaker, P.O. box 160, Locust Valley, NY 11560
 278 William C. Tatham, P.O. box 968, Whittier, CA 90608
 279 Augustus R. Schrowang, Jr., 3711 Shamrock W. #264N, Tallahassee, FL 32303
 280 Raymond L. Slater, P.O. box 812, Pittsburgh, PA 15230
 281 Max M. Alexander, 2100 Beekman Pl. (3D), Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225
 282 John P.K. Haydon, P.O. box 659, Newburyport, Mass. 01950
 283 Henry W. Houser, 1206 Racebrook Rd., Woodbridge, Conn. 06525
 284 Dr. John S. Gilliam, P.O. box 240, Wahpeton, N. Dakota 58075
 285 Don Richardson, P.O. box 7054, Auckland, New Zeland



+ + The following clipping was sent by R. H. Lounsbury from the Sanford (Maine) Tribune, dated Feb. 7, 1977 and written by Allison Williams.

Annals Of Alfred

More on H.B. Shaw:—

Not philatelic but an interesting insight regarding "Hat"

R. H. Lounsbury

Alfred has one claim to fame which it has never advertised, and for understandable reasons. It is quite possibly the site of the first mail order business in the United States. Or so states Herman Herst of Florida in a "Letters to the Editor" newspaper clipping which I recently received. Herst notes that the U.S. Postal Service has recognized Montgomery Ward as the originator of the mail order business by honoring Ward's with a "100th Anniversary Mail Order" Stamp. But knowledgeable stamp collectors know that H.B. Shaw of Alfred, Me., was selling items by mail as early as the 1850's.

She kept a careful record of her accounts by noting on her envelopes the date and amount of remittance. After her death in the 1920's, barrels of these envelopes were found in her village home, now owned by Dr. David Wilson. The 133,000 stamps on those envelopes have found their way into the collections of appreciative philatelists, who might wonder about the mysterious H.B. Shaw.

Harriet Shaw used her initials for business purposes, but to friends she was known as "Hat." I first encountered the name when reading the diaries of Alfred's George Lincoln Came, and mistakenly believed Hat was a male friend until George wrote of taking Hat for a sleigh ride, and to the Dedication Ball at the Town

House. A picture of her, which must have been taken in that same period, shows a pretty, dark-eyed girl with ringlet curls stylishly arranged in the latest fashion of the day. That would have been in the mid-1800's.

Long-time residents remember her as a slender, stately, somewhat eccentric old lady who, in the 1920's, still favored the long dresses of the previous century. When she made her daily trip to the post-office, she wore an old-fashioned white shawl on her head. Out of respect to Hat's memory, her brush with the law was seldom mentioned.

That encounter was the result of Hat's mail order business. Because if not illegal at its conception, it was certainly unethical.

Yet so were the claims of many salesmen of that time, who frequently ignored the facts when advertising the efficiency of their products. Hat's father, Samuel Madison Shaw, (he moved to Alfred from Shaw's Ridge about 1845) was a dispenser of patent medicines. Shaw and Co. sold Bell's British Liniment, and in fact was listed in an 1864 business directory as the agent for all the

Bell medicines, which also included ointments and salves. He was probably as lyrical about his wares as the other dispensers. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, for instance, was advertised as "the best known remedy for Scrofula, Erysipilas, Eczema, Ringworm, Blotches, and...all disorders caused by an impoverished or corrupted conditions of the blood, such as Rheumatism, Neuralgia,..." and on and on. So when Hat embarked in business, she advertised in the same vein. Only her products weren't medicinal, although she may have started her own business after assisting her father in his.

She was the youngest of five children - there were Charles Albert, Susan Jane, Olive Lucy, George Green (who died in 1878) and Harriet. The young Shaws were friends of the Came teenagers - George frequently mentioned in his diary stopping in at the Shaw home to play whist with Hat, Lucy, and Usher Hall (the doctor's son whom Lucy married) or attending parties with them. The Shaws boarded teachers, and probably others, so it was a busy, lively household. All of the Shaws finally married but Hat. When she started her

business was uncertain, but she was assisted by Brother Charles. He became an influential Biddeford citizen, was once associated with P.T. Barnum, and helped found opera houses in both Boston and Biddeford. Some of the business was conducted through his office in Biddeford.

One of the better known items sold by Hat was "Brazilian Magic Luster," used as silver polish. There were two types, the coarser one used for lesser metals. It was supposedly concocted from minerals obtained from the diamond mines of Brazil, with H.B. Shaw as the sole U.S. agent. "Brick dust!" muttered the neighbors. And Hat was eventually sued for fraudulent use of the mails.

She had supported herself via her mail order business for quite a few years before this occurred, using to advantage the considerable business acumen inherited from her father. Her problem seems to have been that she outlived the century in which false advertising (via the mails) was tolerated. Somehow she escaped conviction, probably through the influence of family friends. But it had been an interesting means of support.