



Our last Sunday Show in February. Perhaps we might have savored it a little more. See Pg.-2

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
American Topical Assn., Chapter 118
Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs

**Please Note: This is
a Joint May-June
Issue**

Please Note that the May & June Meetings will be Virtual, Starting
at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, 13 May and 10 June. (See Below.)

The Veranda Chronicles

It was great that many of you were able to attend our inaugural Virtual Society Meeting on April 8th. I was so glad that I could get some time away from WellSpan Health to participate. Members enjoyed seeing one another and sharing on a variety of issues, from personal to philatelic to digital. Kudos goes to Paul for his vision for establishing the virtual meeting and to Suzanne for making the event happen via Zoom video conferencing.

We will be holding our May 13th and June 10th Society Meetings via Zoom, and the sign-in information has been sent to you several times by Paul. As you can see in the information below, there are some short presentations along with plenty of time to catch up with one another for May. In June, I will do a presentation on *The Development of Perforations on United States Postage Stamps: 1855 – 1857*.

The near future of our club activities will continue to be decided

on a month-to-month basis. This depends on the scope of the virus and availability of a meeting venue. For the foreseeable future, we are fortunate to have Suzanne's expertise to keep us running.

During the past month of social distancing and working extended hours at my health system during this pandemic, I was searching for a story to motivate my colleagues. In the April 3rd *Washington Post*, a story was published on William Lapschies which I hope you will find inspiring¹.

Bill was born in 1916 and served in WWII. Shortly after the war, he was a salesman until settling into the family farm that he ran until 2014. He moved into a Veteran's Home in 2019. What is most remarkable about Bill is that he contracted the Coronavirus in early March, 2020, and his course was like a roller coaster, often placing him in grave danger, especially when pneumonia set in. But he pulled through, making him the oldest known U.S. COVID-19

survivor. He was well enough to celebrate his 104th birthday with his family. But this was not Bill's first pandemic. As a youngster, he survived the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920 that was all around him, even though he did not contract the virus. Amazingly, Bill made it through two pandemics-100 years apart.

I hope to see many of you on the Zoom screen at our May and June meetings. While it is not the same as being together, it is an opportunity to chat and be assured that the rest of us are OK. We will probably be moving in the direction of our regular full-length presentations, but online-for now.

And the club is open to your most creative ideas for future formats and programming. Send them to us. I believe now is the time to "find a better way" for some of what we do. This is the time to look at different approaches to reach out and serve as many PSLC club members as we can. Give it a try. *CDi*

¹<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/03/veteran-survived-coronavirus/>

You don't have a computer but would like to be part of the virtual meeting? Not a problem. This works just as well with your landline. Just dial in. Call Paul for info. 1.717.299.5640

Virtual May and June Programs

Given the success of our first trial virtual meeting last month, **Suzanne Noble Uhl** has agreed to again host our May and June meetings. You have received the May sign-up info that is also repeated on the cover email to this newsletter. This newsletter and sign-up information will be forthcoming in June.

Tonight, **8 May**, we have three fifteen-minute presentations:

◆ **Jennifer Miller**, Executive Director of the American Topical Association will discuss the ATA and topical collecting.

◆ **Scott English**, Executive Director of the Am. Philatelic Society will provide an update on the society and the state of collecting during the COVID-19 isolation.

◆ **Bill Schultz**, a 50-year exhibitor has a special cover to share for his presentation: "The 6 ¼ cent rate of

convenience – How scarce?"

◆ For our **10 June** virtual meeting, **Dr. Charles DiComo** will present the following: *The Development of Perforations on United States Postage Stamps: 1855-1857*. Having recently discovered a #11P3 3¢ 1851 imperforate "brush stroke" pair, he will discuss the subsequent events related to the expansion of stamp perforating machines.

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May-June 2020*

Visitors are Always
Welcome

PSLC meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

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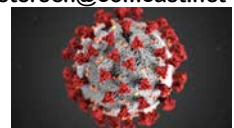
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What Members Are Sharing With Us

Len Kasper found a YouTube presentation by Mike Hall of the UK. It is information that collectors should know to protect their collections. Stamps are fragile; they need to be treated carefully.

Use proper handling: Utilize tongs & TLC. Avoid fingers prints, bending, or other improper actions. **Avoid direct light:** Keep your stamps away from light to avoid fading, color changing, or cracking.

Keep stamps cool and dry: This avoids foxing, toning, and fungal growth, all of which which can diminish the value. Store consistently at 65°-72°Fahrenheit.

Keep away from all liquids: Leave your drinks on the coffee table as accidents can happen. Store albums away from areas which can be flooded such as basements. Always store at least 6" above the floor.

Protect from fire: Use fireproof safes for the good stuff. Have smoke alarms and keep fire extinguishers in a handy place.

Avoid pests: These include multi-leg critters, and remember that silverfish like the glue. Keep crumbs out of boxes. Keep away from children and pets.

Storage: Use mounts when possible, and don't stack mint stamps together. If they get damp they can stick and mildew. Don't skimp \$\$ when choosing the best album with acid free archival paper.

Theft: The Internet educates thieves as to which stamps are valuable. Keep the good items under lock and key, and never brag about your holdings.

Record Keeping: Make an electronic record of your items, including scanned images. Included purchase data and any certificates of authenticity. Save these files to the cloud.

Insurance: Insure against fire, theft, and other disasters. Let your stamp holdings be listed separately on your policy or have a policy of its own. Update yearly. A specialist insurance company is recommended.

With some down time to complete an inventory of his U.S. holdings, **George Younes** is using a stamp database called SCBD for Windows¹. It includes numerous countries. The price is right and updates are provided.

¹www.stampcollectorsdatabase.com

April Notes & Treasury

Paul Petersen, Cub Reporter, *Ad Hoc* and
Lou DiFelice, Treasurer

Our April meeting was a success, a virtual trial using the Zoom application as set up by **Suzanne Noble Uhl**. We had 22 to 24 PSLC members in attendance during the meeting. A few had sign-on problems, but Suzanne said that this has been fixed for the next meeting. It was the general consensus that the Zoom medium worked well and should be continued. We hope to see many more on the screen in May. (Image below is courtesy of RD Noble.)



The meeting started with a few words from each participant. Everyone was glad to see that the others were OK during this time of epidemic and seclusion.

Membership: **Barb Buchanan** shared that 105 current members have paid their dues, and this includes ten of those who joined at Lancopex-'19. Eight of the renewals were with multiple year memberships.

Dr. Charles DiComo and **Paul Petersen** reported receiving direct mail sales solicitations from a local funeral parlor. Paul then thanked the twenty members who contributed to the composite essay for the April newsletter, adding that this makes his job much more enjoyable. He will look forward to such input in the future

RD Noble displayed some British Machen stamps with marks on them which he has never seen. Apparently no one else in attendance has either. He and Dr. DiComo discussed means to project images on one's desktop such as stamps and covers to the screen so the others can see. This will be invaluable in the future. We should be able to have full-feature presentations similar to our in-person meetings.

Tom Nichols reported that his book on the DC-4 Skymaster airmail stamps and stationery is in press and due shortly. He did not include Scott numbers in his book, as he learned of a licensing fee to use Scott numbers in any publication, a fee to be paid yearly! This is required even if publications are not for sale but to be given away for free. The exception is for the sale of stamps, and here, the Scott numbers can be used freely.

Door Prizes: To the surprise and delight of many, seven prizes were available including, to name a few, a Pakistan year set, a book on the pony express including two 1960 cacheted commemorative covers, pen sets, country packets, and a first day ceremony program with stamp and cancel. It don't get no better than this.

Treasury: 1-31 March 2020

Opening:	\$4809.09
Income:	\$320.00
Expenses:	\$499.44
Sum:	\$4629.65
2-CDs @	\$5,818.10

Carpe Diem Means "Seize the Day"

◆**Nancy Younes** and 15 local friends have been sewing masks and donating them to LGH, local medical offices, and to residents in the community. They've already made more than 1000 and more are on their sewing tables for additional distribution.



◆Somebody once shared that if they knew that they had just eaten the last M&M in the pack, they would have savored it, that is, they'd let it linger slowly in their mouth until gone.

The same can be said of the last Sunday Stamp Show on 23 February, earlier this year. If I had known that this would be my last stamp show in the foreseeable future with my friends and dealers, I would have arrived early, stayed late, and purchased more items. In all of life we need to make every day count to its fullest. ☒

Club Notes

Programs, Hosts & Shows

2020 Programs

13 May: A virtual meeting with three (3) short presentations, See bottom of Page-1.

10 June: The Development of Perforations on United States Postage Stamps: 1855 – 1857, Dr. Charles DiComo

8 July: TBA

12 August: Summer Picnic. Millersville Memorial Park

9 September: Fall Auction. Thomas Nichols, Host

14 October: 1) GB Stamped to Order Stationary and 2) Royal Household Official Mail. Dave Hunt. Lou DiFelice, Host

11 November: Annual Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper & Paul Petersen.

9 December: December Dinner. Deb Ehleiter & Co.

2021 Programs

13 January: Club Auction

10 February: 1890: The Jubilee Celebrations of the Penny Post. Mike Bach

10 March: The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Day and Other Uses. Alan Warren.

14 April: Exploring Postal History. Bill Schultz.

14 May: Canada's Role in Union & Confederate Postal Cross-Border Mail during the U.S. Civil War. Ron Majors.

9 June: Spring Auction

14 July: U.S. Int'l Philatelic Expos, Part-II. Paul Petersen

11 August: Summer Picnic. Millersville Memorial Park

8 September: Fall Auction

13 October: Open date

10 November: Annual Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper & Paul Petersen.

8 December: December Dinner. Deb Ehleiter & Co.

Other Society Updates

All local meetings, exhibits, and shows of the Red Rose Coin Club, the Lancaster County Postcard Club, and the Philatelic Gathering have been cancelled until further notice due to the restrictions and home isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each society will convey to its members any further information related to their virtual meetings if/when they are held.

Treasures Among Family Covers-Joe Wible

Ed's Note: As we "sheltered in place" I solicited the club membership about what they were doing with their collections in order to write a composite essay for the April Newsletter. **Joe Wible** responded that he had found a family treasure trove of covers and would write an article for a future newsletter. Through these covers, Joe nicely pieced together the first few years of his family. This chronology follows below.

Background: When cleaning out an old bureau drawer while isolated in March, I re-discovered a package of 87 postmarked covers addressed between my parents in the 1930's and 1940's. Through their names, return addresses, and postmarks, the envelopes told the story of their journey. I can't recall when I received them, but as I looked over the lot, I realized how much they revealed of my parent's journey. They met in 1932, fell in love, married in 1933, and had a family. Dad had been living and working in the Harrisburg area for the PA Department of Forests and Waters since 1927 in land acquisition and surveying.

1932: The Journey begins. My dad's job entailed some statewide travel, especially the Williamsport area, and in those days people wrote letters. Until they married, Alice M. Burnham, my mother, was still living in her Grandfather Lerch's home in Highspire, PA. From July through December of 1932, their correspondence was in greater volume.

1933: This was a very important year for my parents. The postmarks indicate more job assignments for dad in the first half of the year including Williamsport, Lock Haven, Lewistown, the Mt. Union CCC Camps, and Clear-

field. Out-of-state travel included North Stratford in New Hampshire. Their correspondence slowed after their marriage in June, 1933, although Dad did travel several more times that summer. After the honeymoon they moved to their new apartment at 1919 Market Street in Harrisburg. Since there were no covers for a while after July 1933, I would assume dad was able to keep the travel and letter writing to a minimum!



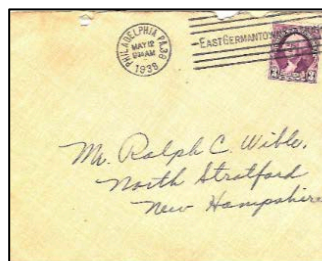
1934: This year had a few more envelopes. Dad was starting to travel more often to Mifflinburg, PA, and I assume it might have been due to his promotion to Assistant District Forester in late 1934. Meanwhile Mom remained in Harrisburg writing most of the letters to my dad.

1935: Envelope postmarks and addresses this year were mostly from Mom to Dad, as he was now permanently located in Mifflinburg. Mom was expecting me, (Joseph Bradley Wible), so she spent time in Camden, DE living with her mother. She also spent some of that summer at her grandfather's in Highspire. It is possible I do not have all of the empty envelopes to support more details. However, Mom joined up with Dad in Mifflinburg sometime in later 1935, as I was born at the Lewisburg, PA Hospital on September 27th. The three of us lived happily in Mifflinburg, PA where I celebrated my first and second birthdays.

1938: A shock came to our family of three as a new Administration in Harrisburg under Governor George Earle took action and fired all PA professional employees on the wrong political side. My dad was one of those to receive a pink slip.

Fortunately, he had kept in touch with some fellow foresters in New Hampshire and was able to quickly get a new job with the U.S. Forest Service in North Stratford. While Dad left Mifflinburg and went to New Hampshire to settle in, Mom and I went back to Highspire, PA to Grandpa Lerch's home. He always had an open door for his family members. As seen on the postmarks of the covers, it was in the spring of 1938 that we joined up with Dad in New Hampshire. My sister Margaret was born in North Stratford in 1939. There was no more letter-writing this year, as we were all together again.

1940: We were able to return to PA after a favorable change in politics. Here Dad accepted an offer as District Forester for the Wyoming District with an office in Bloomsburg, PA. A third child, Robert, was born in June of this year to complete our family of five, and we would settle into family life here for the next 13 years.



1945: As a bonus, there were four more envelopes posted by Dad to the family in July. He remained at his office in Bloomsburg during the week while the rest of us spent vacation time in July at the family cottage in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Back then he could simply address a letter to my mom at the beach just by putting her name and "c/o D.V. Burnham" on the envelope.

I feel so fortunate to have found these covers, not just for the nostalgia and history, but for the enjoyment their study brought me. *JBW*

A Book Review

(Ed's Note: PSLC member Tom Nichols has been working on a book for the last few years on the DC-4 Skymaster airmails. He always qualifies that he loves the stamps of the 1940s since he was born late in that decade. The Skymasters are one of his favorite 1940s multi-issues with stamps, coils (his absolute favorite), and postal stationery. The book was just published last month, and he has shared this with PSLC via a .pdf on the website, the link which was sent to you a few weeks ago.)

DC-4 Skymaster Postal Material 1946-1958. Published in 2020

In preparation for this review, I checked my 2005 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*. I was surprised how little coverage there is. There are just a few items shown in the stamp section (i.e. AP18 and AP19 only) and the same with the booklets and postal stationery. I never did find the aérogrammes. It was immediately apparent why the author undertook the years to study this issue. The postage stamps are few, but their longevity is quite noteworthy. In its 78 pages with color illustrations on almost every one, the reader appreciates the extent of the author's research in this book.



The varieties and uses are widespread (including the Canal Zone), as are the postal rates and routes as these stamps emerged during the explosion of the variable airmail usage in the postwar era. There are several representative covers documenting this variation. He has a section on the 1948-9 Berlin Airlift. This includes information on the program of dropping candy (in tiny parachutes) to the German children in East Berlin suffering under Communist domination.

Nichols presents the BEP production data, plating information, sheets, FDCs, First Flight Covers, surcharged issues, the different dies, official covers, plate blocks, variations in the printing of the postal stationery, the history of the first airmail coil stamp, and many others. It is all here. Check it out on the website.

Ed's ☒ Isolation

So the question has come to me: "Ed., you got so many of us to share what we are doing in our philatelic isolation, but you never told us what you've been doing. What gives?"

Well, over the years I've accumulated several (6!) small boxes packed with interesting stuff, that is, full glassines, sets, items to



look up, and more. And just recently, **Vern Marten** told me a similar story of his boxes that were stored for decades. He has found this sorting to be a wonderful pastime.

The other day, a friend of my wife asked her what I was doing with my philatelic time. After an interval my wife retorted that I was making a mess of my third of her dining room table!

Musings: PPCs, a Mail Truck, and “Packages” for a Nice Little Boy

James Paul Nicholas was born in August, 2018, and he received his middle name from Nicholas Foles of the Philadelphia Eagles when they won the '18 Super Bowl against the vaunted Tom Brady and the Boston Patriots. Just before the game, his parents learned that their child would be a boy. “If they win the Super Bowl, we’ll call him Nick,” they opined. That being said, let’s get to the stamps and covers which James calls “packages.”

He started talking early, with an interest in animals and transportation vehicles of all types and the sounds that each make. As his vocabulary grew, I started to send him weekly to biweekly postcards of his favorite subjects so he could practice his words and do a little differentiation. This included the picture side of the card, franked with animal and/or transportation stamps, and the message side bedecked with topical stamps and stickers. A sample of four of these cards are pictured nearby.

A few stamp combinations contained something for everyone, *i.e.* a truck for James, coffee for Dad, and Alice in Wonderland for Mom.



One time I placed several Prexies mixed with some construction equipment on the back of the postcard. Here he was to pick out the presidents (Including the John Adams Prexi adorned with hard-hat). When he learned to say “alligator”, this was a large stamp and went solo.

Not wanting to run short of the needed stamps, stickers, and Cinderellas, I have a dedicated stock book of these which I add to regularly.

At Christmas (when he was almost 17 months) he received mail trucks from his stamp collecting grandfathers. (See image above-R) The truck on the right is a solid wooden one with wheels, while that on the left is a USPOD replica with moving

wheels and doors. But what mostly impressed James under the tree were the battery operated trucks, tractors, and construction vehicles with lights, warning sounds, and other trappings. These impressed all of us, especially those from engineer and Great-Uncle Frank (our college friend of many years.) What kid would not love these? They were even better and more durable than the Hess vehicles that are re-leased each December. And James enjoyed them for the rest of his visit in Lancaster.



But guess what? Over time it was the mail truck that stuck, and even more so to this day. We’re not sure why, especially given the competition with the bells and whistles.

Before wrapping the mail truck, I stuffed it with used stamps. With his little hands he would take them out, place them in a pile, and then carefully replace them in the truck and close the door. The truck went everywhere with him, and most of his “packages” are still intact despite all the handling.

There is the modern digital convenience of Skype, Facetime, and myriad others applications that allow folks to see one another while talking on the computer, smartphone, or iPad. This has been a great long-distance application allowing greater connection for those at a distance whether for business or family communication. Since the Covid-19 “isolation” of our lifetime, Facetime sessions have increased greatly. Since December, we purchased another mail truck for Poppa and Mimi’s house in Lancaster. This way we’ll have one here, and his “original” can’t get lost in transit from New Haven to Lancaster on their next visit, hopefully sometime before he starts college.



For the last several Facetime visits, James has asked for Poppa’s mail truck. And we show him and the packages inside. At first, he would reach behind his iPad in a cute attempt to retrieve the truck.

Being the philatelists that you are, you are probably thinking that Ed. ☒ is promoting stamps, PPCs, and mail trucks at the expense of postal history. And as much as I hate to admit this, you would be right. Recently, however, I realized my sin and decided to do something about it.

My collection of old auction catalogs came to the rescue. Here I cut out some images of pricey covers (Zeppelins and stampless among others), and affixed them on the cardboard backing of used express mail containers so that the red, white, and blue coloring of such would match the truck colors. They ranged in length from 1.5 inches to about 2.5 inches. The larger ones are shown below with stamp tongs in place for a referenced for size. But here a problem developed. ↓



The larger covers were too big to fit into his mail truck. So his dad broke out James’ Lego Junior set and built a large red, white, and blue mail truck. ↓



Not being able to stop, his dad next built a Post Office for him to go with the truck. ↓



Between the trucks and PO, there is plenty of room to deliver all sizes of “packages.”

And it would not hurt to mention “The Virus.” This seems to dominate all conversation, and it is mentioned in most of the columns in the many stamp journals that I read.

Sometimes it is the little things that are missed among the utter destruction of lives and economies that we are witnessing.

The other day, I was taking a rare drive to shop on a rainy afternoon. I passed a house with a large and wet Happy Birthday sign on the front yard, one which also contained some kid’s playground equipment. The sign was probably for a child who was unable to celebrate his/her birthday with friends on this dreary afternoon. In the big picture, it’s not a big deal, but to that child, one who is most likely silently fearful about the future, it matters greatly.

Many fun and celebratory activities will be missed in 2020, from proms and graduation to Little League and other competitive sporting events, for example. And what about all those 16 year olds who are waiting to take their drivers’ test and obtain their license and freedom?

Yes, the year 2020AD will always have the asterisk (*). Perhaps Scarlet Letter or the Mark of Cain best describes this year that never really was.



And it came to mind that some of you in PSLC had or will have birthdays during the asterisk, and they might be no better than for the child with the wet birthday sign. But as adults we are better at philosophizing things like this. So from Ed’s house to yours, may all your birthdays be special and bright.

On a recent bike ride, I observed what must be some heavy spring cleaning, stuff I had not seen in past years. In front of one house awaiting the trash pickup were several boxes of books, and in the trashcan of a nearby home were two skis, poles, and an empty golf bag. One house had a small stack of oil paintings on stretched canvases ready to go. Since my first summer job after college was as a garbage man, my then fiancé and now wife (Mrs. Ed.) has warned me off from poking through this stuff to bring home!

A Beautiful Cover. A Striking Cover. A Cover of Extreme Importance!

By Hal Klein

It is not only a beautiful cover. This Empire Korea cover is a striking example of the postal history of Korea, and it is a cover of extreme importance. To the casual observer, one not familiar with Empire Korea material, postal history, Empire covers and their extreme rarity compared to other countries, this cover would simply appear to be 14 stamps plastered to an envelope; a philatelically contrived cover created for a stamp collector.

The cover, at the time it was created, may have been just that, but today it represents much more, and here's why: it is a "postal history time clock." The cover represents all the stamps available at one postal clerk's window in the post office at Chemulpo (Inchon) on a single day, December 6, 1902. And the cover tells a story...an important story...if

you collect and/or specialize in Empire Korea. So, stop and take a very close look at what this cover represents.

First, look at the top corners! The cover is franked with the 1895 Taegeuk poon Issues: 50 Poon (Sc#9, left corner) and 25 Poon (Sc#8, right corner).

The Poon Issues were replaced in 1900 by the new currency Chon Values (Plum Blossoms) and were no longer valid or to be used for postage, unless re-valued with the 1-chon, 2-chon and 3-chon valuation, and then, only to be used on domestic mail. The Poon Issue stamps failed to comply with the UPU color standards for international mail.

So, there was no reason for a postal clerk to have these issues available for sale unless...UNLESS the postal clerk was permitted to manually change the poon value to 1-, 2- or 3-chon for domestic use when a cus-

tomers wanted to mail something within Korea. So, what's the importance of this?

While the Sc#8-9 on this cover's corners had not been re-valued by the postal clerk, their presence is still significant. This means that the Poon Issues remained available in the postal draws for the postal clerk to re-value if requested by a customer.

Here the clerk would add a hand-manuscript surcharge to the Poon Issues, thus changing them to chon values for in-country use. The configuration was as follows: 1chon on 25poon (Sc#35), 2-chon on 25poon (Sc#36), 2-chon on 50poon (Sc#36E), 3chon on 50 poon (Sc#37), and 3-chon on 25poon (Sc#38). Again, these issues were only to be used and seen on domestic mail and are extremely rare on native cover.

Again, the importance of seeing un-surcharged Tae-guek poon Issues on this cover is that it answers the question of whether or not postal clerks had Tae-guek poon issues on hand and for sale after the change in currency in 1900.

They weren't useable, unless they were re-valued, and they would not be re-valued by anyone other than a postal clerk, as it would be considered "counterfeiting stamps" under Korean Law (in this period) and "punishable by death", to the mailer and the postal clerk that accepted counterfeit postage in payment on mail! So, the only reason they would have them was to manually re-value and sell them for domestic usage.

Next, you have the 1900 Plum Blossom Issues (Sc#18-33 Series) and the three (3) issues missing on the cover: the more common 10chon, printed in 1901, used for payment of a 28 gr./1 oz., single weight, International letter rate; and the scare 1won (Sc#32), and 2won (Sc#33) values. I'm not sure "why" the 10-chon value was omitted, however, I have always suspected the sale of 1won (Sc#32), and 2won (Sc#33) values

were limited to the main post office in Seoul and only used in the early Presentation Books.

The many examples that are found with Seoul, Seoul NO. 1 and Chemulpo with "AUOT 1901" French-style double-circle international cancellations, were actually c-t-o'd (cancelled-to-order), along with remaining stocks of the Emperor's Crown Issue (Sc#34), and the Falcon Issues (Sc#39-51); these c-t-o'd issues were sold to dealers after Korea's formal annexation in 1910 by Japan, when the stamps were no longer valid.

But why would the Sc#8 and 9 stamps be placed on this cover? The cover is highly over-franked, and the invalid stamps could add no further postal value. There are some possible explanations for their presence, but anything definitive would only be speculative.

Finally, the rarest of all Empire Korea issues is found legitimately used on this cover. This is a Registered cover usage that was docketed/re-registered upon receipt in Seattle, WA, as was the custom for Registered mail, on its arrival in the United States.

And what is the rarest of all Empire Korea issues? The magnificent, 3-chon orange (Sc#34), 40th Year of Reign Emperor's Crown Issue! This stamp, by itself, is rarely seen legitimately used cover, foreign or domestic, let alone with other issues. I would estimate there are less than fifteen legitimate examples of this stamp on cover or card known to exist. The balance of the covers and cards known with this issue are philatelic creations that never entered the Korean postal system.

So, now you understand why I entitled this article: A Beautiful Cover. A Striking Cover. A Cover of Extreme Importance! This cover is striking and beautiful. Postal history is exciting. I love postal history because it's not always what is on the cover that tells the story...it's what's not there that may tell even a bigger story...especially when it comes to the postal history of Empire Korea.

