



# The Overprint

**Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

Editor: Stan Raugh, 4217 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805 Tel: 610-921-5822

Email Editor: Michael Bach, 12 Colorado Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 Tel: 610-937-2826

**Issue: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021**

---

**NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

---

**GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND  
TO MEMBERS OF OTHER CLUBS WHO MIGHT RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THE READING SHOW IS ON**

**What else can I say ! See next page for details!**

Late August to Labor Day I was on vacation in Charleston South Carolina and an interesting stop on our various city walks was a visit to the Charleston Post Office and their Postal Room (Museum). What a trip back in time to revolutionary war and civil war days. I took a few pictures and will do an article for the next Overprint but here is a teaser.



**THE READING SHOW: OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> (SUNDAY)**  
**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**LEESPORT FARMERS MARKET**

**The following 8 Dealers will be in attendance**

**Leslie Botte  
Hugh Clark  
Rick Houser  
Kevin Kellman  
Rick Kline  
Mike Marino  
Don Richter  
Frank Soeder**

**SAVE THE DATE AND WE WILL SEE YOU THERE.**

---

**RSCC Treasurer's Report:**

**Current Account: \$ 2,046 as of 08/31/2021 : CD \$ 3,156.04 as of 12/31/20  
98% of dues for 2021 have been collected with just 3 members not yet paid.**

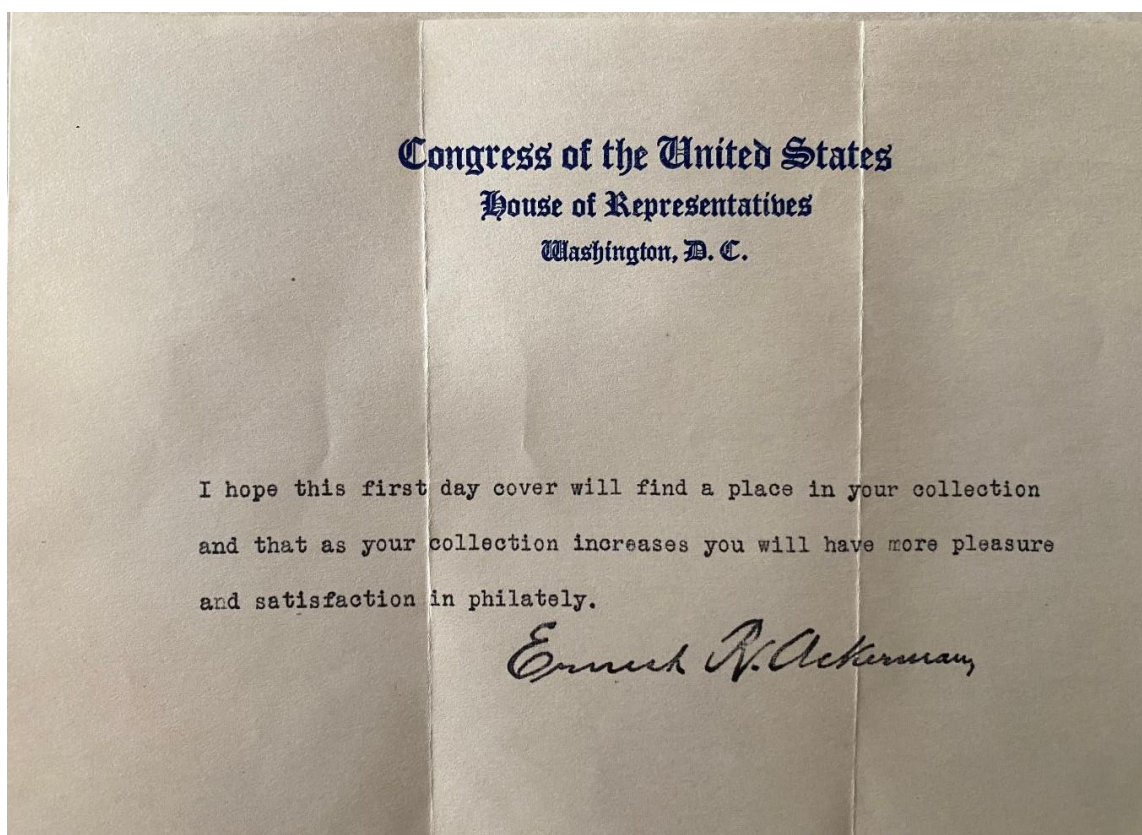
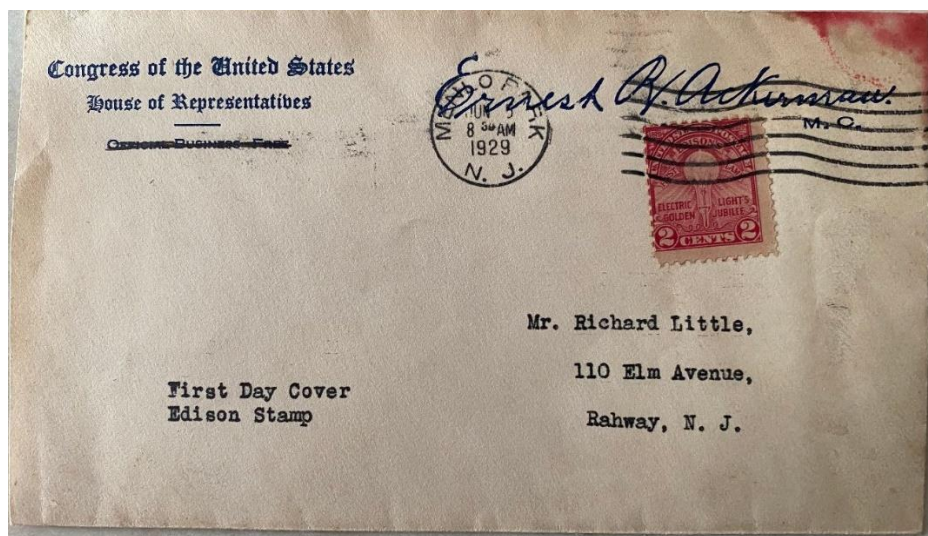
---

**THE MARKET PLACE**

The Reading Stamp Collectors' Club offers members the opportunity to sell items. No member has sent me anything to offer at the moment, however, if you wish to sell an item send me an email: [mbach1@comcast.net](mailto:mbach1@comcast.net) or call my cell phone 610-937-2826

## A MYSTERY BOX REVEALS A SURPRISING FIND

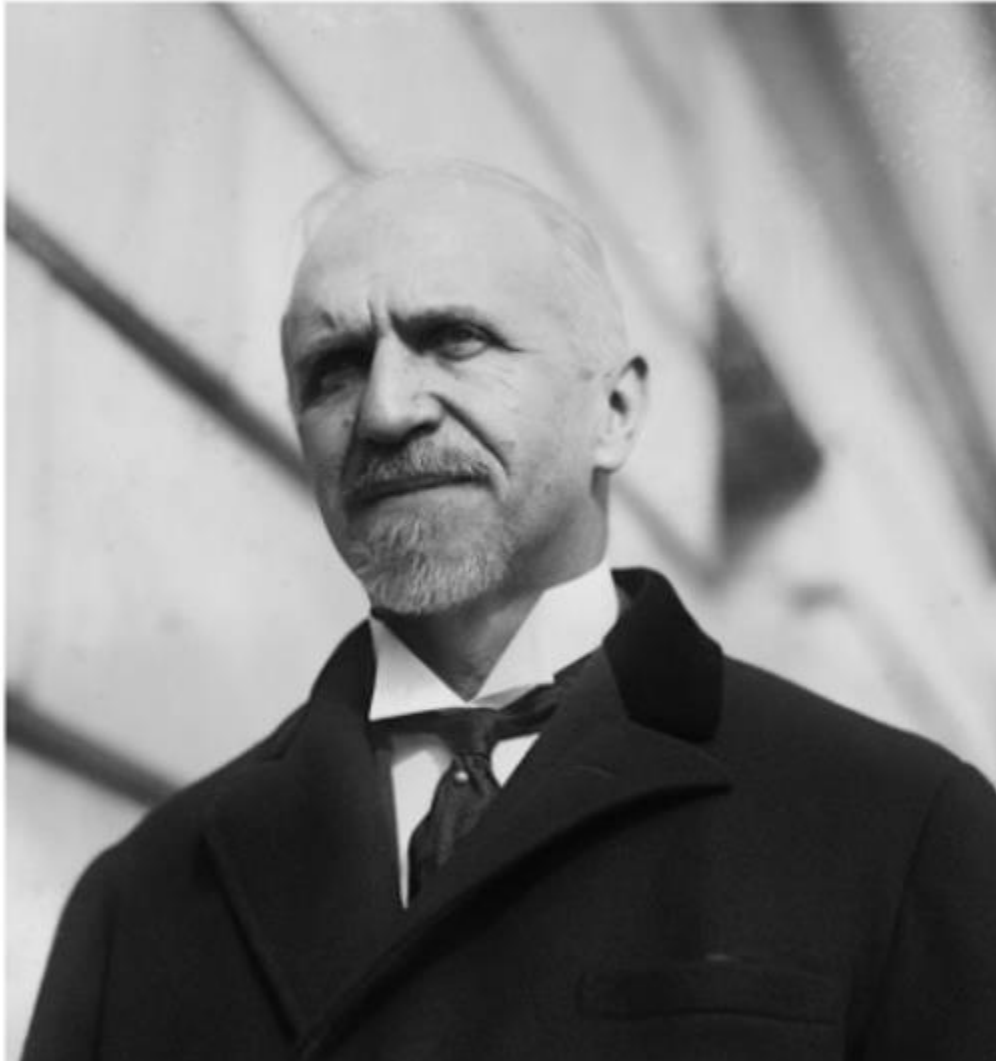
Even though I do not collect US Stamps, At the PSLC picnic back on August 11<sup>th</sup> I purchased a mystery box of US stuff. There were some covers that looked intriguing.! When I got home and started to sort through what was inside I uncovered the following autographed envelop with an insert inside from a US Senator from 1929



About 2 weeks later in one of my stamp newsfeeds I came across this article about Ernest Ackerman .. quite a prolific philatelist and I share that article with you today.

# The Philatelic Senator Legendary Collector Ernest R. Ackerman

by Devlan Kruck - Aug 23, 2021



Isn't it funny how certain facts about a legendary collector get caught in your mind, even when they appear superfluous to the philatelic tale? And [Ernest R. Ackerman](#) (1863 to 1931), a New York born, American Philatelist, and US Congressman, has plenty of relevant facts surrounding his philatelic proficiency to get excited about. Such as he started his career as a stamp dealer and went on to be one of the greatest American philatelists of his time. Which is why it's even more curious that the fact he attended the maiden voyage of the Cunard liner RMS Lusitania, which sailed from Liverpool to New York on September 7th 1907, is one of the details that fascinates so very much. However, it does have a place in the philatelic portrait of Ackerman.

Of course, if you know your maritime, or even first world war history, you'll know that the Lusitania, rather unfortunately, was sunk by a German U-boat, just off the Irish coast in 1915, killing 1198 passengers. Clearly, Ackerman wasn't anywhere near danger making his crossing in 1907, but no doubt he felt a little crosswind when he heard of the fate of the cruise liner being torpedoed, and so many civilian passengers losing their lives onboard a ship which he'd travelled, upon its historic first journey. Mind you, I bet he felt a positively



chilling gale when on the premonition of his wife one evening they vacated their hotel in Tokyo, Japan, leaving the city behind them, only to find-out that days later the city was leveled by a catastrophic earthquake.

Apart from the apparent dalliances with tragedy, these snippets do also indicate that our stamp collecting protagonist was a peripatetic philatelic man. In fact, his globetrotting was related to his love for acquiring stamps. He travelled over 500,000 miles and purchased over 25,000 different stamps, which vividly illuminates his philatelic profile. Another is that in 1911 Ackerman's US collection won him honors in Chicago, and the following year he crossed the transatlantic again, this time to London, exhibiting his **British Guiana**, which won him a Gold Medal. It is well known that he assembled what was at the time one of the best presentations of this mythical stamp producing South American country. Ackerman also had a world-class collection not just of his native America but also Spain, but it was his competing in London where he fostered a profitable relationship with our philatelic legend #21, **James L. Lindsay**, who at the time was the president of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and such a significant show of material from a major British Colony, by a transatlantic traveller and US senator, would have captivated the 26th Earl of Crawford, in not just his capacity at the head of the prestigious philatelic society. And was it at this juncture that Ackerman secured the hotly controversial US Postal Essays from 1857 to 1893 from this eminent British philatelist 'Crawford', who was one of the first to attribute any importance to the collection of Essay and Proofs. Certainly it's another close-shave we can not ignore, because these rather valuable pieces of US postage proofs were acquired by Ackerman from Crawford and then bequeathed by the former, to the United States Library of Congress.



*Part of the Ackerman Gold medal winning exhibit from 1912 and this cover features in our British Guiana sale 14th October 2021. British Guiana 1850-51 12 cents black on pale blue, Cotton-reel, Townsend Type D, with initials of postal clerk Wight "EDW". Ex Ernest R. Ackerman, Frederick T. Small and John du Pont. Lot 30046.*

But it was some 19 years after his death, they eventually, in a much reduced format than Ackerman had intended, arrived at the Library of Congress, and now reside in the

Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum in Washington DC. The reason for the two decade delay in arriving at their intended beneficiary was down to litigation proceedings regarding ownership of these stunning stamps – his family contested the gift, or certainly the scale of it. This unpleasant legal tussle sank the parts of the collection which didn't make it to the museum, being diverted by the legal battle to auction by the family, with prices for these unique Proofs and Essays sunk below expectations – the buyers hedging their bets on account of the risk that ownership could again be contested.

It was a seismic mess, but in truth just dust and rubble given the enormity of Ackerman's entire collection and the startling fact that, and not widely commented upon, he purchased from Charles Phillips, Stanley Gibbons in the US, along with the stock, goodwill and book debts of this famous British establishment, when they decided to close their American branch. Ackerman laid-out the sum of \$110,000 for the stamp retailer's business, and went on to engage Phillips as an agent for several large acquisitions of stamp collections in the following years.

Ackerman eventually received recognition for his philatelic prowess in 2000, by being named on the American Philatelic Society's Hall of Fame, and what is a curious detail, and one that isn't superfluous to our tale, is that Ackerman never made it onto the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, but that will not alter the fact that he is one of the all time legendary collectors of that era.

**YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT STUMBLE UPON AT A CLUB EVENT !!**

---

**As I work in Animal Welfare (Humane Pennsylvania which is the combination of the Humane Society of Berks County and the Humane League of Lancaster County) I have a soft spots for anything Animal Welfare related so I am selfishly sharing this new issue from Hong Kong**

---

# Centenary of Hong Kong Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals- 2021



Date: September 25, 2021 Author: stampdigest0

## Centenary of Hong Kong Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals- 2021

Hong Kong China issued a miniature sheet containing six stamps on 22 Jun 2021. The issue marks centenary of Hong Kong Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> IS  
NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY  
KAUP IN INDIA ISSUED A SPECIAL COVER TO COMMEMORATE THE DAY**



**THIS WOULD MAKE A GREAT TOPICAL COLLECTION FOR A YOUNG PHILATELIST.**



# The New Australia-UK-US Alliance Should Ensure Continuation of British Indian Ocean Territory Stamps



*Recently stamp collectors have been quite exercised about the rather worthless pronouncement by the Universal Postal Union that stamps inscribed British Indian Ocean Territory should not be used on mail from the Chagos Islands and only stamps inscribed Mauritius which claims the islands should be used on mail from the territory even though there is no Mauritian post office in the Chagos.*

Well the announcement of the establishment of the new alliance between Australia, United Kingdom and United States called *AUKUS* whereby Australia will not buy French diesel-powered submarines but instead have nuclear-powered submarines produced by the members of the new alliance must surely ensure that there is not a snow ball's chance in hell of The United States with its huge and vital military base on Diego Garcia giving up the base nor allowing the British to hand the territory over to Mauritius. If there were any chance of BIOT stamps coming to an end before, this new military development should ensure that BIOT stamps will continue to appear for use by civilian workers in the territory.



A splendid link to this story of course is the miniature sheet of 6 different stamps which was issued by BIOT in 2001 which depicts Royal Navy submarines:-



Article posted on Feedspot on Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup> by White Knight

[Mike's Postscript](#)

*What say you now Universal Postal Union?*

