

# Stamp



# Chatter

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April—June 2018

## SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second** and **fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm.

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## President's Message:

Sequoia Stamp Club has had a strong start to 2018 with high attendance at meetings and good programming. We should be proud of our participation in one of the country's largest and most active local stamp clubs.

February featured a successful live auction as we continue to assist with disposition of a large estate consignment. We'll spend almost all of 2018 on the Don Larke estate, so study the offerings and bid high when you can. We are looking forward to a March presentation on Peru postal classics and continuing on to other terrific presentations in the following weeks. Our silent auctions continue to be full, with a continuing need for more table space!

Our club was well positioned when I joined two years ago and it continues to improve. PENPEX in December had solid attendance and a massive silent auction that Jim Mosso capably shepherded to completion. Veteran members like Wally Jolliff, Ken Lewetzow, and Jim Giacomazzi continue to provide admirable energy in our auction efforts and, in Jim's case, hosting and storage space for auction lots.

We have generous members who have directed their estates to dispose their large collections through us. Donations to our Library continue to flow and we recently gave nearly \$3,000 in donations to local organizations.

Our outreach to youth continued to increase last year. Preston Chiappa and his team sent a whopping 90,000 stamps in 2017 in monthly mailings to youth members—Wow! We have helpful and compassionate members. Our Sunshine effort (Miriam Thurston) sends out cards and reaches out to members who are having health issues. Some members offer rides to those who could use help getting to the meeting.

Cont. on p2



## 2018 Sequoia Stamp Club & Stamp Show Schedule

- ◆ Apr 10— Kiloware Night; Silent Auction
- ◆ Apr 24— 6 pm SSC Board meeting (all welcome.) Presentation: Developing an Information Compendium in Support of Your Collection (Barry Cousins); Silent Auction
- ◆ **Apr 26- WE Fest VI**, Burlingame
- ◆ **Apr 27-29- WESTPEX**, Burlingame
- ◆ May 8- Live Auction - Larke Consignment (Jim Giacomazzi)
- ◆ May 22- APS Video: Doctoring of Postage Stamps; Silent Auction
- ◆ June 5- Annual Summer Picnic
- ◆ June 12- Pres: History of Post Office - Part 2 (Pete Leffler); Silent Auction
- ◆ June 26- Pres: Sequoia HS Scholarship Winner; Short presentation: Online Tools to Enhance Collecting (Chris Palermo); Silent Auction

## President's Message cont...

We have hard-working and reliable people who consistently provide us with the basics for a good meeting. Ed Bierman, John Corwin, Kjell Enander, Jay Strauss, Ken Lewetzow, Ken Perkins, Kristin Patterson, Chris Thompson and many others do the behind-the-scenes work that provides us website updates, email administration, money for our auctions every week, refreshments, and member management before and at each meeting. We deliver our quarterly, award-winning *Stamp Chatter* electronically and via the mail.

Sequoia has remarkable sources of experience and expertise. Look around and you'll find that any of our officers and most of our members can be consulted for friendly, helpful advice and knowledgeable collecting tips. Our presentations regularly give us exposure to new geographical and historical paths. Members continue to travel the country and the world to shows and other societies, returning to offer insight on how philately is developing throughout the world. In early 2018, I returned to the Royal Philatelic Society London for personal research and in March, I will be at the Collectors Club of New York for one of its monthly meetings. WESTPEX is around the corner where I will be coordinating a meeting of Irish collectors and Kristin is involved in a major event on exhibiting. Further on the horizon is STOCKHOLMIA 2019 in Sweden, to observe the 150th anniversary of the Royal. We are well connected to the larger world of philately.

2018 looks better than ever for collecting stamps and postal history. I look forward to each meeting and hope you do too. But the Club needs more participation from you. At our next meeting, please share a stamp story! Our meetings are enriched by hearing of your acquisitions, show or auction experiences, and exhibit plans. Can we serve you better in some way? Please write me: [chris\\_palermo95125@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com).

Christopher J. Palermo

Jim Giacomazzi (r) opened up his home for members such as José Lopez to drop by prior to the Larke Consignment auction in February.



Peter Adams shaking hands with Chris Palermo after his talk on special cancels printed during the opening of the Smithsonian Postal Museum.

**Newsletter Staff:** Editor: Ed Bierman, President's Message: Chris Palermo, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Cartoon: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Preston Chiappa, Photographer: Ken Perkins, Printing: John Corwin, and Webmaster: Ed Bierman. The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: [www.penpex.org/SSC](http://www.penpex.org/SSC) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

## The Triangle Cancellations of Ireland

Christopher J. Palermo

This article explores the use of triangle-shaped postal cancellations on wrappers of newspapers and other printed materials in the territory of Ireland based upon secondary sources and the author's collection.

In England and Ireland before 1855, newspapers and similar printed materials passed through the postal system free. The cost of their transportation was indirectly covered in a tax, which had been levied since 1712, and was denoted by a red stamp impressed on the front page of the paper.

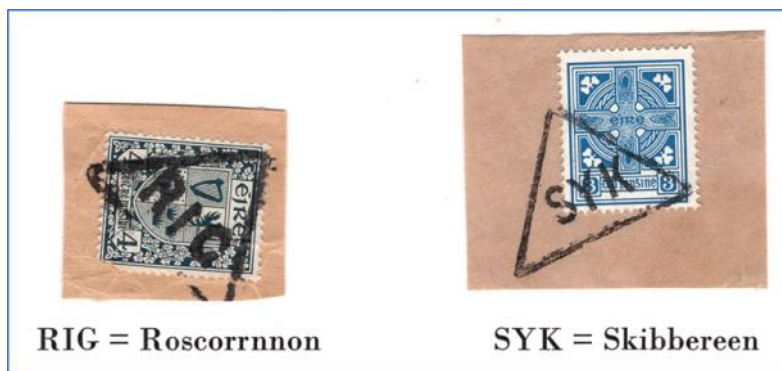
By 1855, this tax came to be viewed as a tax on knowledge. The tax was made optional, and newspapers not showing the tax stamp were transported at Book Post rates, which was inexpensive but offered slow delivery times. Advertising circulars and samples also had the same rates. These rates were reduced in 1866 in a step to undercut pricing of private circular delivery companies that had sprung up; these would be roughly equivalent to today's firms that deliver flyers door-to-door.

In 1870, the Post Office adopted a second-class, halfpenny rate for newspapers, circulars and other printed matter. A wonderfully enlightened development, this change spurred massive growth in printing and circulation of newspapers. While service still was not time-sensitive, it was so cheap that it permitted publishers of even small-run papers to thrive.

To qualify for the printed matter rate, items had to be printed, and meet several other regulations. By 1895, typewriters and duplicating machines were coming into wide use, so the Post Office enlarged the criteria to include items reproduced from typewriting. All printed matter had to be sent in unsealed envelopes in a minimum bulk number, and had to be deposited at the head office or one of the larger branch or sub-branch offices for cancellation in a distinctive matter.

Numeric identifiers of each post office were adopted in 1844 across the British Isles, then were dropped in 1906. Therefore, at first, post offices used round numeral obliterators as cancellations.

Triangular handstamps for cancelling newspapers, made of brass, then were provided to major city and branch post offices and their marks appear on wrappers starting in about 1895. An isosceles triangle form, about 1" per side, was adopted. (See example, below.) The triangle presumably means that the items conform to regulations. The triangle markings undated, because the low rate did not involve time-sensitive transportation so the date and time of processing was considered unimportant.



Each triangle included a location designation. Block letters most commonly appear in triangle cancels, but a few are known with script cancellations; these include HS and WG from Hastings and Worthing, England, respectively.

The first triangle cancellation devices bore the telegraph code of the processing office, using a 2-letter or 3-letter abbreviation. Two sizes of triangle handstamps are known; the smaller size sometimes has punctuation.

Often, the telegraph code provides no hint about the name of the office with which it is associated; like many of today's international airport identifiers, the initials do not necessarily serve as a mnemonic for the location. An essential resource for decoding these identifiers is Mackay, "Telegraphic Codes of the British Isles" (1981), which has a detailed listing running a few hundred pages. Unfortunately, this publication is out of print and difficult to find; it is found at the Royal Philatelic Society London and other major philatelic libraries. Since the basic data in Mackay is not subject to copyright in the United States, a good service to philately would be to make this data available online..... Cont. on p5



## Postcard Corner

This is an old postcard of University Ave in Palo Alto, California - now the heart of Silicon Valley.

Before the boom of technology, the beginnings of Palo Alto started in 1855 when a town called Mayfield formed in what is now southern Palo Alto. In 1891, Leland and Jane Stanford wanted to start the university in the area of what is now California Ave.

He specified, however, that no alcohol could be sold in Mayfield. Known for its 13 rowdy saloons, this rule was rejected by the townspeople.

Leland then bought land north of Mayfield and started Stanford University, adding a new train stop on the new University Ave. This new town was initially called University Park but later changed to Palo Alto. In 1925, Palo Alto voters annexed Mayfield.

The card shown here is from sometime between 1900-1910 and is right in the middle of this period of change.



## Russell, Morgan & Company First Tax Stamp

In 1867, printers Anthony O. Russell and Robert J. Morgan formed the Russell, Morgan & Company that produced stationery and paper products. On June 21, 1881, the company entered an industry monopolized by several East Coast companies by producing their first deck of playing cards in their Cincinnati, Ohio factory. With 20 employees, 1,600 decks were manufactured per day.

At this time, the U.S. Government taxed playing card packs at a rate of 5¢ for every 54 cards. Privately printed tax stamps were popular with proprietors because they received a discount for each stamp printed. And the U.S. Internal Revenue name was also printed on the stamp, implying that the product had the backing of the U.S. Government. Russell, Morgan & Company paid to have one tax stamp (Figure 1) privately printed by Butler and Carpenter Engravers on May 26, 1881. A total of 1,304,100 tax stamps were produced.

The tax on playing cards was rescinded two years later on July 31, 1883. Since people associated the tiger tax stamp with Russell, Morgan & Co. decks, the company produced their own similar labels (Figure 2) which were used to seal the decks.

In 1891, Russell, Morgan & Co. changed its name to United States Printing Company. In 1894, the United States Playing Card Company split off.

*If you would like to see and learn more about the US Playing Card Company and their tax stamps,*

*see Kristin Patterson's exhibit, The Story of the United States Playing Card Co. in frames 5 thru 8 at WESTPEX on April 27-29, 2018. Also, there will be a presentation on Bicycle Playing Cards at 11:30 am on Sunday, April 29 in the Newport Beach Room.*

Figure 1: Russell, Morgan & Co. privately printed playing card revenue tax stamp.



Figure 2: Two Russell, Morgan & Co. labels used in place of the tax stamps once the tax act was rescinded in 1883.



## WESTPEX 2018

April 27-29, 2018

San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront for WESTPEX 2018



Peter Adams, a Sequoia Club Member, is giving a talk on **Errors, Freaks, and Oddities** at Westpex on Saturday April 28 at 1:00 in the Santa Barbara Room. This talk is an expanded version of his talk that he gave to the Sequoia and San Jose stamp clubs in the past. He will show examples of these EFO types and take questions at the end. This is an excellent talk for those new to the term EFO. Peter was introduced to the field of EFOs by John Hotchner, who wrote articles on this topic for Linn's Stamp Weekly before Mr. Hotchner's retirement. Peter met Mr. Hotchner in the 1980s and began collecting U.S. EFOs from that time forward with a concentration on collecting freaks.

### The Triangle Cancellations of Ireland, cont. from p.3

Location codes sometimes changed over time. When southern Ireland was a British possession, Dublin used the 2-letter code DN until 1922; after adoption of the Irish name Baile Atha Cliath, the code was altered to BAC, which can be found in several different kinds of triangular stamps.

Triangles may be found from a few offices which show their 1844 type office number (obsolete after 1906) in combination with their telegraph code letters. An example is CTV 104. Though the number system was not extended immediately after 1906, numbers continued to be used in obliterations for many more years.

The use of telegraph codes was phased out from 1924 and replaced by new numeral codes according to a completely revised list originally intended just for the UK; however, some Irish offices received number assignments anyway. The revised list was inspired largely by the need to separate the numbers used in Northern Ireland from those in the Free State and to identify clearly the ones used in Scotland. To avoid confusion among the Republic, Northern Ireland and Scotland, the prefixes I and S were used in the latter two. Further, the list was weeded out and only major offices received a number. For example, Belfast was allotted the code I.5; formerly it was number 62.

Triangle devices also were issued to Ireland for use in machine cancellation. Not many offices appeared to have used them. Dublin and Cork are known to have machines. Belfast had two different machines and may have been unique in Northern Ireland in having them. Marks with wavy line and slogan cancels are known. Londonderry was large enough to have had a machine, but examples have not been found (and are sought).

Use of the triangle cancels continued for a remarkably long time; examples from the 1960s are known. In 1968, Northern Ireland introduced a two-tier rate system that made the triangle stamps theoretically obsolete. However, triangle stamps could still be used to cancel stamps that had missed normal machine obliteration.

Use of the triangle cancel continued into the early 1980s, so these markings can be found on virtually all definitive series of Irish stamps through that period, and less commonly on commemoratives.

The total number of triangle cancels used in what is today's Republic of Ireland is not large. Further, the cost of acquiring cancels on piece is not high, typically about \$2 apiece. Therefore, Irish triangle cancels can form a collecting goal with a reasonable expectation of completion in a few years' time. As with many collections, the 80/20 rule applies; the collector will find obtaining 80% of the cancels easy, and the remaining 20% maddeningly slow. Nonetheless, gradually acquiring these cancels provides a useful education in the location and importance of some of the smaller towns and offices in Ireland.



RK = Roscrea

This article has been edited for print but the full article with illustrations can be found at [www.penpex.org/news-posts/](http://www.penpex.org/news-posts/)

## Sharing a 500th Anniversary

By Ken Perkins



On October 31st, 1517, a century before the Pilgrims broke with the Church of England and set sail for the New World, a 34 year old Augustinian friar strode up to All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Saxony, and nailed a copy of his *Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* to the church's door.

Martin Luther's *Disputation* was written in Latin and certainly couldn't be read by the common people passing by. But friends of friar Luther soon had it translated into German, and with the help of the newly-invented printing press, by the middle of the next year Luther's 95 *Theses*, as the *Disputation* came to be called, was the talk of Europe.

Thus began what has become known as the Protestant Reformation, the greatest challenge in Christendom since the breakaway of the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1054.

The 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation in 2017 was naturally celebrated in stamps by Germany, where it all began, as well as another, somewhat surprising country.

One German stamp of 2017 celebrating the Reformation has a depiction of Luther adapted from a portrait by Lucas Cranach the Elder done in 1526. The German "*Am Anfang war das Wort*" (In the beginning was the Word) is from the first verse of the Gospel of John in the King James and other versions of the Bible. But the words might well apply to Luther's *Theses* as well, which announced the beginning of the Reformation.

A second stamp shows a short excerpt of Matthew 27 in Luther's German Bible with hand-written annotations Luther made for a revised translation published in 1541. The idea for this stamp may have originated with the Evangelical Church in Germany (*Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland*, abbreviated EKD - '*Evangelische*' is best understood as simply 'Protestant'; what we Americans call Evangelical churches is '*Evangelikal*').

But the most surprising Reformation issue comes from the very institution disrupted by Luther, albeit 500 years ago: the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican City on October 31 issued a stamp showing Martin Luther (at left) and fellow reformer Philipp Melanchthon kneeling before Christ on the cross in what the Vatican Philatelic Office calls "an attitude of penance".

The Philatelic Office refers to Pope Francis' visit to Sweden, on October 31 and November 1, 2016, during which he said that the faith in Jesus Christ shared by Catholics and Protestants demands that we reject "historical disagreements and conflicts," adding that "the unity of Christians is a priority" and "it has become clear that what we share is far superior to what divides us." This must be the first time a subject of a Papal inquisition has been featured on a Vatican stamp...Martin Luther was excommunicated by Pope Leo X on January 3, 1521.





## The Penny Post

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

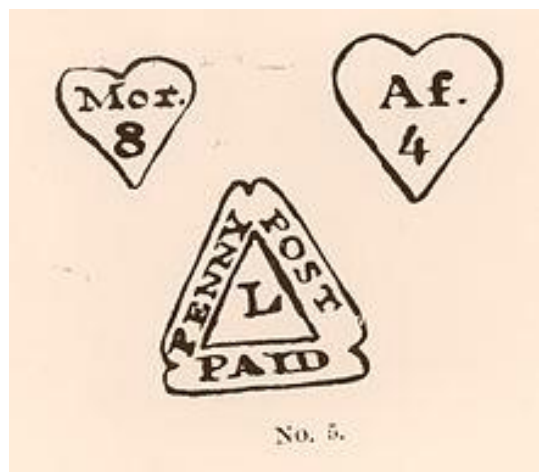
Before there was a postal delivery system, in order to send a letter, the writer had to find his own means, by asking a traveler, a friend, or a soldier to deliver his letter. Some messengers were provided by the Church or King, but mail delivery was a challenge.

By 1680, the London Penny Post was founded by William Dockwra and his partner Robert Murray. Their mission was to help regulate mail delivery, and make it assessable and affordable for the sender. Posts in London were established for the general public so they could have their mail delivered by "post boys." Post boys traveled by horseback or foot to deliver letters and packages to their designation. A horn would often be used by the post boy to announce his arrival, and then the recipient(s) would pick up the mail and pay for it. A penny was the charge to cover a ten mile range and allowed for letters and packages weighing under a pound. However, letters outside this range cost more. Sometimes the receiver would give an additional penny to the post boy upon delivery due to his "own Pain and Care." On the other hand, the recipient might simply refuse delivery and not pay any postage.

The Penny Post would continue to go through many changes throughout its existence, including how many miles, and the weight of mail it would cover, especially with the introduction of mail delivery by stage coaches in the late 1700s. It was generally successful, encouraging other countries to establish their own Penny Post system.

However, in 1837, Rowland Hill, a former school teacher, came out with a pamphlet entitled "Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability." Hill suggested that the current postal system needed drastic changes to assist the needs of the expanding population. He felt the current system was too complex, because postal rates were dependent on distance and weight. Too much time was wasted for post boys to collect postage, and there were too many people that avoided paying the postage. He suggested a uniform prepayment of postage and suggested that homes should be provided with letter boxes for the mail to be delivered. Thus, the Penny Postage Bill passed in August 1839, requiring prepayment by way of prepaid envelopes and stamps. Postage would now depend on weight, not distance, and the sender would pay the postage, not the recipient. By May 1840, prepaid envelopes and new adhesive stamps designed with a portrait of Queen Victoria's head became available for sale to the public. The stamps became known as the "Penny Black."

The use of prepaid postage inspired other countries to follow suit, including the United States, whose first postal stamps authorized by Congress were issued in 1847. These improvements helped develop the postal system to become what it is today. Please read Frank Staff's book, "The Penny Post: 1680 – 1918," for more detailed information.





**PHIL A. TELICK**  
**AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'**  
 By Miriam S. Thurston- All Rights Reserved C

This 2013 stamp series (I) from Belgium featured chocolate flavored gum. On the right is a close-up of one of the stamps in the series.

More than 500,000 stamps were printed out on special paper that gave off the aroma of chocolate. The glue melts on the tip of your tongue just like a piece of chocolate. The secret of these tasty stamps lies in their varnish: It contains 40 percent of a cocoa product and was developed by an international team of fragrance and taste experts after a thorough research on scratch-and-sniff technologies.



FYI:  
 Never lick or wet  
 those old precious  
 stamps....

Can we try those  
 stamps you have to  
 find out?

"Hey, Phil we heard  
 that there is a sweet  
 taste on some Postage  
 Stamps. When you  
 lick the gum, it tastes  
 like chocolate, straw-  
 berry and more fla-  
 vors".

