

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 54 - Issue No. 3 w334

July - September, 2023

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 7:00 PM.

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

www.penpex.org/ssc



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President's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of the *Stamp Chatter*. First, a big thank you to our club secretary John Corwin for his always efficient volunteer role as the editor, who manages the entire process of producing a highly recognized newsletter. Also, another big thank you to Vice President Kevin Kraemer who has filled the annual calendar with a complete schedule of fun and interesting programs.

The Sequoia Stamp Club is thriving, recent highlights included our picnic which was a great way to socialize with members and guests while eating a chicken and waffle food truck dinner, followed by potluck desserts. Our meetings have been well attended with topics such as Kiloware Night, Members Live Auction, Bolleri Live Auction, a presentation by Harold Tuchfeld "Intimate Connections between San Francisco and Hawaii", a presentation by Craig Butterworth "State Revenue Stamps", and our always popular silent auctions.

The annual WESTPEX show was well attended by our members and the show included a live auction by Schuyler Rumsey. Many of our members volunteer at the show and also do so at the Western Philatelic Library. We now have a close relationship with the library as a few of our members are also volunteers and board members of the library. The stamp sales at the Western Philatelic Library are loaded with bargains.

Be sure to attend our upcoming meetings in person if logistics can work, or by Zoom as another option. We are all fortunate to be members of the Sequoia Stamp Club, which is a great way to build friendships over our common love of philately. Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you at our upcoming meetings and events.

Jay Strauss, Sequoia Stamp Club President



Stamp Calendar: Club Meetings (in black) and Other Events (in green)

- ♦ **Jul 11:** Philatelic Bingo, Laura Peterhans, caller. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Jul 15:** **Western Philatelic Library "Garage Sale", 9 AM - 11 AM Redwood City.**
- ♦ **Jul 25:** **6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome).** 7 PM Members' Live Auction, Wally Jolliff, auctioneer.
- ♦ **Aug 8:** "Childhood Philatelic Correspondence" by Laura Peterhans. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Aug 22:** Live Auction - Bolleri Consignment, Jim Giacomazzi, auctioneer
- ♦ **Sep 5:** **Pizza Party (tentative date)**
- ♦ **Sep 12:** "The End of Machines" by John Corwin. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Sep 26:** Swap Meet (members' sales tables).

The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Picture Gallery WESTPEX

Many SSC members attended and/or helped out at WESTPEX.



Photo Courtesy of Peter Adams

Left: Joe Coleman and Dan Berger walking.
Eduardo Martino and Malcolm Catchatoorian at the counter.

Right: Eduardo Martino and Peter Adams both volunteered to help at WESTPEX.



Photo Courtesy of Tom Hayes

Programs

There were several interesting presentations and activities at club meetings.

On June 13th, Craig Butterworth talked about State Revenue stamps. Clockwise from upper left: Stock transfer stamp, Redemption Stamp (such as S&H Green Stamps) tax stamp, Ammunition stamp, and tomato stamp.



SUMMARY OF THE SEVERAL SF-HAWAII KEY COMMERCIAL CONNECTIONS DISCUSSED
Late 19th Century to Early 20th Century

San Francisco Honolulu

- Hawaii sugar industry (Claus Spreckels, King Kekauia, SF Engineers): 1876 - 1890s
- Shipping & Tourism (Spreckels Bros. & William Matson) - ramping up after 1881
- Hawaiian Coinage Minted in SF in 1883
- Great Pacific Cable - 1902
- Hawaii at the California Midwinter Expo of 1894 & Pan-Pacific Expo of 1915 in SF

On April 11th, Harold Tuchfeld's presentation was "Intimate Connections Between San Francisco and Hawaii."



May 23rd was Kiloware Night. Left to right around the table were David Reeves, Robert Brilliant, Kjell Enander, Peter Adams, and Malcolm Catchatoorian looking for 5-cent bargains.

Program photos and screenshots courtesy of Ken Perkins



On June 27th, we awarded our 2023 Collector's Scholarships to Kimberly Sanchez and Asha Smith seen here with Jay Strauss and Jim Giacomazzi.

Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jay Strauss; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin. The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org/SSC or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

Picture Gallery

Other Hobby Night

SSC members have other hobbies beyond stamp collecting. On April 25th they had an opportunity to talk about them.



Emmett Whitfield loves to play baseball. He plays for a semi-pro team in Santa Cruz.



Peter Adams showed off two of his hobbies. He shapes and polishes rare stones into marbles and eggs. And he loves music.



Joe Spina collects artifacts of all types that can be safely held by children.



Miriam Thurston is an artist. She drew these sketches at a recent outdoor concert.

Steve Marchegiani showed an ancient vase, figure, and tablet from his collection.



Laura Peterhans said that her Steinway piano was too big to bring in, but she said she plays it every day for an hour or so.

All pictures on this page courtesy of Ken Perkins



Kristin Patterson collects miniature mailboxes and other post office items such as a coin-operated stamp vending machine.



John Corwin has many lighthouse-related trinkets such as this hand towel.



Joe Coleman has a collection of sunglasses.

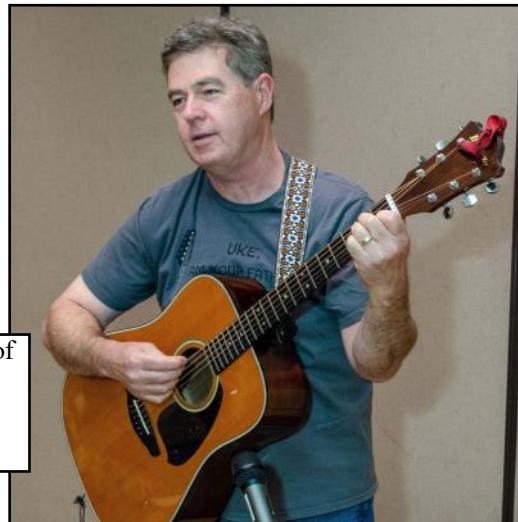
Picture Gallery

Other Hobby Night

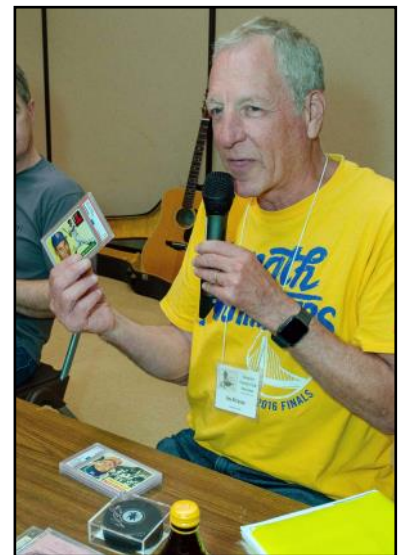
Continued



Robert Brilliant collects engraved prints from the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.



Kevin Kraemer was the hit of the night. He played the guitar and sang "Me and My Uncle".



Jay Strauss showed some of his more valuable baseball cards and other sports items.



We again used The Waffle Roost food truck. As expected, the chicken and waffles were great!

Picnic

June 6th



The Alvarez family. Do you think that Goyo (in green) can get his sisters into stamp collecting?



Kevin Kraemer chatting with new member, Margaret Cumming.



Jim and Carolyn Stratton and their puppy, Peanut.



Everyone enjoying their meals.

All photos on this page courtesy of Ken Perkins

Dinosaurs

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Dinosaurs would make for an entertaining topical stamp collection as there are so many different ones to accumulate. Dinosaurs are perceived to have survived on our planet through three periods of geological history: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. Their history and evolution are revealed through the discovery of fossils.

During the Triassic Period, the planet was made up of a single dry landmass (Pangea) which looked like a gigantic letter C, surrounded by a single global ocean (Panthalassa). Eventually, Pangea began pulling itself apart in the middle in two opposite directions by earthquakes. When the split happened, lava erupted onto the land. It claimed the death of over thirty percent of all species alive. But after the volcanoes finally ran out of lava, a whole range of new species of dinosaurs now thrived in what would become the Jurassic Period. Most of these dinosaurs were huge. As an example, the *Brontosaurus* was a plant-eating dinosaur which had a long neck enabling it to reach high into the trees, extending it up and down eating plants with little energy.



Hungary #3264



Romania #3849

The land continued to split, starting to define today's continents. There was climate change, and the air became colder and sea levels began to fall. This gradual change was the beginning of the Cretaceous Period. The *Tyrannosaurus rex* (*T. rex*) was the biggest meat-eating animal dinosaur during this period. It had the largest and most powerful jaw muscles of any dinosaur. The *T. rex* used its arms to hold down its prey while its jaws would bite into it. With its strong bite, it could crunch the bones of its prey with ease.



Kyrgyzstan #118d



Tanzania #1222

But then 65 million years ago would be the final day of the Cretaceous Period, destroying millions of years of evolution and setting the world in a new direction. A six-mile-wide comet or asteroid was going about 67,000 miles per hour when it collided with the earth with such force, it left a crater over 100 miles wide in an area now known as the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. The collision caused parts of the planet to have earthquakes, hurricane winds, tornadoes, tsunamis, and erupting volcanoes. Some of the most adapted, best-flying birds were able to survive, flying to safer areas. Paleontologists have determined that the birds we see today have descended from dinosaurs. The

Archaeopteryx is considered the first half-dinosaur, half-bird as it was found covered in fossilized feathers in Bavaria, Germany. Within a few hours, most of the dinosaurs were killed. Others would die gradually due to the destruction of their food chain. It would take a long time before things would become better for planet Earth.

My research for this article is from the book, *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of Their Lost World*, by Steve Brusatte.

Tajikistan #58

As noted in the Scott catalogue, this stamp is incorrectly inscribed "Tyrannosaurus"; the dinosaur is probably an *Ankylsaurus*.



Cambodia #666

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

I found this cover in the stamp collection of my wife's grandmother. It is a cover sent from the National Provincial Bank Limited and was posted at 5:30PM on October 4, 1943 from the Kensington area of London as indicated by the W.8. postcode. It was sent to the Adjutant General of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C. During that time the position was held by Major General James A. Ulio, who had become Adjutant General on March 1, 1942. He had overall responsibility for the classification and assignment of soldiers in an Army that would grow to 8.2 million by March 1945. A major accomplishment was lowering the draft age from twenty to eighteen.¹

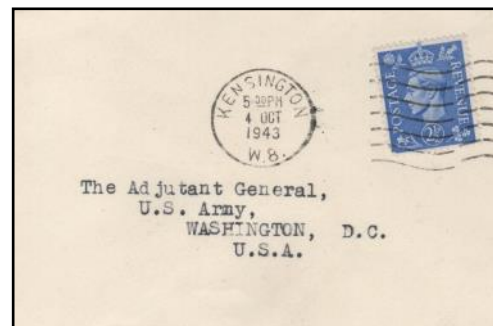


Figure 1 – Cover from Grandmother's collection



Figure 2 – FDR with his stamps²

spent time each day with his collection which allowed him to relax during some very tense times.³

The cover in Figure 1 found its way into the stamp collection of Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR was a lifelong stamp collector. (See Figure 2.) As a child, stamps fostered interest in history and geography, and they offered solace to him as a polio-stricken adult. During the 1930s, he and Postmaster General James A. Farley brainstormed over stamp designs, colors, and themes. Roosevelt sketched numerous ideas for many stamps. Throughout his entire life, including his presidency, Roosevelt

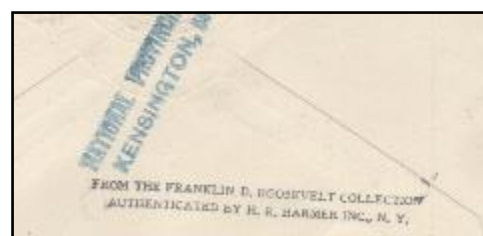


Figure 3 – Back of Figure 1 Cover



Figure 4 – Item on piece from Danzig

Grandmother's collection which she either purchased in the Harmer Auction or bought from a dealer. I am happy to have these items in my collection as they connect me to both a beloved family member and a popular president.

In 1946, following FDR's death, his family sold his philatelic estate through Harmer Auction. The four FDR stamp sales brought high prices. Most philatelists wanted to own a piece of the nation's most famous stamp collection. Winning bidders in Harmer's FDR auctions could have their purchases marked with a rubber stamp to verify that they came from the president's collection. (See Figure 3.) Stamp dealers bought many large lots of common stamps and mounted them on cards for sale as inexpensive souvenirs. Today, collectors still eagerly seek these ex-FDR philatelic items for their own collections. Figures 4 and 5 show additional items from



Figure 5 – Top values of 1878 Norway set

¹ Wikipedia, James Alexander Ulio: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Alexander_Ulio

² Photo from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

³ FDR - Stamp Collecting President: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/fdr-stamp-collecting-president>

Postcard Corner - Part 1:

Moment in History, Visiting Canada

By Shav La Vigne

I generally do not purchase foreign postcards, but after seeing this one, I could not resist buying and writing about it. Talk about a moment in time and a story that is told in a simple postcard, this has it all!

On February 6, 1952, King George VI passed away in his sleep. At that moment, his daughter, Elizabeth, became the Queen of England and went on to serve for over 70 years.

This card was sent by "Ted & Nan" to their friends Vera and Kenny Fenton from Vancouver, B.C. (British Columbia), Canada to Oakland, California on June 3, 1953. They used a beautiful 3-cent Canadian stamp (Scott #327) featuring a very young Queen Elizabeth II to post the card.

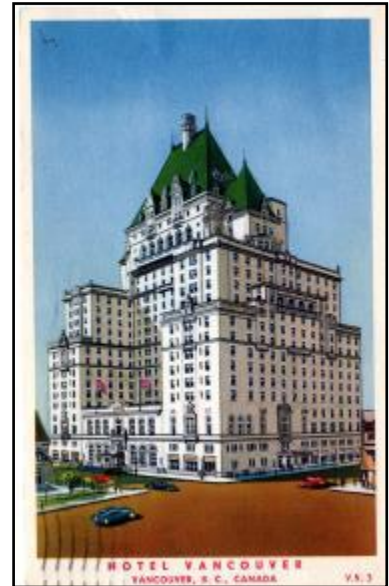
Although Queen Elizabeth II was officially the Queen of England for the previous five months, she was not officially enthroned until June 2, 1953, just one day before this card was mailed. This coronation left our friends Ted and Nan in a rather happy, but unplanned, circumstance.

The message is interesting:

Hello:

*Had lunch here in this wonderful hotel today.
The stores and all businesses are closed up tight
for Tues. & Wed. celebrating their new Queen.
That means we stay here 2 days longer than our
plans had covered. Then on to Victoria.
Many, many antique shops here.
We are surely having fun.
Love to you and Kenny - Ted & Nan.*

This card is likely one of thousands sent during this time in Canadian history but it survived telling a story and giving us the chance to share their thoughts seventy years later.



New Members

David Reeves joined the club in May. He collects used US, Chile, and Bolivia.

Tita Maltz also joined the club in May. She is Bill's wife, and she describes herself as a general collector.

Margaret Cumming joined the club in June. She inherited her father's collection, and she wants to learn more about the hobby.

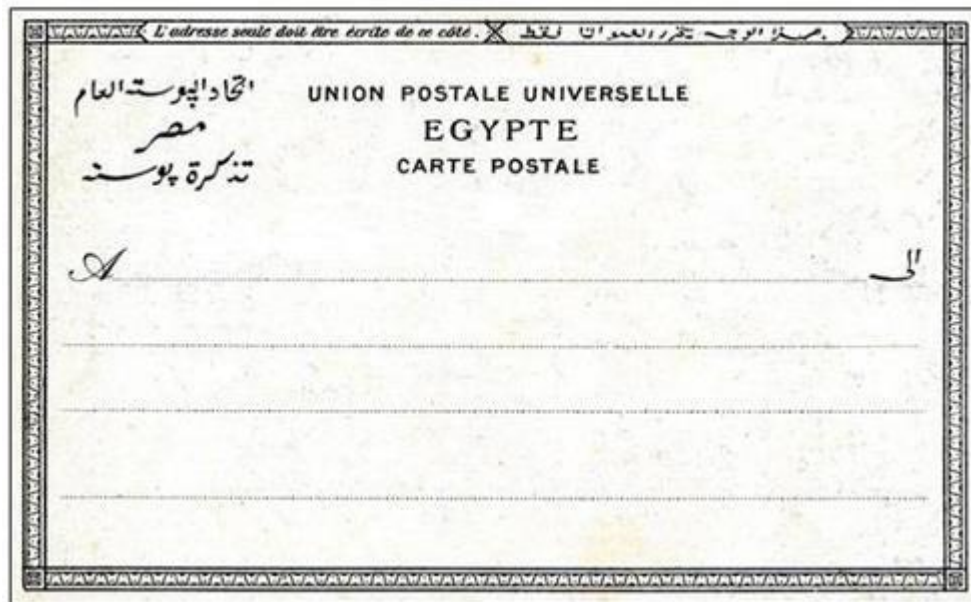
Welcome David, Tita, and Margaret!

Postcard Corner - Part 2:

The Treaty of Bern

By Jim Sauer

An international treaty signed at Bern, Switzerland, in 1874 was the culmination of decades of work done by postal authorities in nearly two dozen countries. To greater appreciate the Treaty of Bern, the postcard collector needs to draw from personal experience. If you have examined an early foreign postcard, you have likely found some with backs similar to the one you see here. It would be easy to assume this to be a French postcard, but it is not. It is a card from a nation that is a member of the Universal Postal Union. French, however, was the official language of the Union Postale Universelle.



On this card, it's easy to identify the country of origin, as the word "Egypte" is printed in capital letters under the words "Union Postale Universelle."

From the mid-1670s through the end of the 1790s, most mail delivery between countries was a process administered through bilateral agreements, but by the mid-1850s, the network of mutual agreements became so clumsy that it was actually impeding the development of international commerce.

The first noteworthy postal reform took place in England in the mid-19th century when Sir Rowland Hill introduced a system of prepaid postage based on the weight of the item being mailed.

Then in 1863, in the United States, President Abraham Lincoln's Postmaster General Montgomery Blair called for all postal representatives from around the world to Paris for a conference. Blair's intention was to create agreement that would smooth the way for delivery of mail in countries where political conflicts interfered with their citizens' receipt of mail from outside their own borders. Delegates from 15 European countries and the United States attended.

The conference was successful to the extent that the delegates were able to formulate a set of general principles for future discussions, but they were unable to settle on an international postal agreement.

Eleven years later a senior postal official from the North German Confederation, Heinrich von Stephan, created a plan for an international postal union. He suggested that the Swiss government call for an international conference on postal reform to be held in Bern. The Swiss agreed, and a conference convened on September 15, 1874, which attracted representatives from 22 nations.

On October 9th, a treaty establishing the General Postal Union was signed. Membership grew so quickly in the years following that the name "General Union" needed to be changed. In 1878, the General Postal Union became the Universal Postal Union or UPU for short.

Continued on page 9 . . .

The Treaty of Bern - Continued

The Treaty of Bern succeeded in unifying the very confusing international maze of postal services, rates, and regulations into a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letters. The representatives agreed that membership privileges commenced on July 1, 1875. The barriers and frontiers that had impeded the free flow and growth of international mail had finally been pulled down.

Signatories of the Treaty of Bern

German Empire	France	Romania
Austria-Hungary	The United Kingdom	The Russian Empire
Belgium	Greece	Serbia
Denmark	Italy	The United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway
Egypt	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Spain	The Netherlands	The Ottoman Empire
United States of America	Portugal	

Throughout the 149-year history of the UPU, postcards have been a recognized form of international communication since 1894. However, as content that conflicted with Islamic practice began to appear, issues were raised among some signatories, most notably in the Ottoman Empire. The questionable content that was most problematic included seaside humor, sexual innuendo, and nudity as in images of classical statuary or paintings, although I note that they were happy to produce untold numbers of objectionable stamps for collectors!

Note: The information in this article came from the internet, and it should be noted that the cards described herein are Postal Cards, not postcards. The dates for their appearance are also in question, and 1894 is definitely long after their first appearance. Today the collecting of UPU material is popular, especially the anniversaries, in particular the 75 and 100 years. There are some 192 member states presently, however, that changes as countries combine, split, and new countries emerge.

A New Technique for Soaking Stamps?

By Peter Adams

So, let's say you just got a large collection of stamps. Good for you. Then you find that a really valuable stamp has been glued down to a piece of paper that you do not want to cut up but you want the stamp off of the paper. What do you do? What do you do?

So, here's a solution prefaced by a little story. I recently bought a mystery box. In it was a 1940 era stamp album in really good condition. In the album was a rather expensive stamp that I wanted to put into my collection. I didn't want to cut up the album though because it was in such good condition. So, this is what I did, and notice how simple this all is.

First thing you need are about 10 pages of clean, white typing paper. From one piece of paper, cut a square or rectangle that is about quarter to half an inch larger than your stamp. Slightly crumple some of the typing paper and slip it underneath the page. If you have blotting paper, use that instead. Then soak the square that you just cut out in water and gently lay that onto your stamp. Leave it there for about 10 to 15 minutes. Do not close the book. After that, assuming it's not a self-adhesive stamp, the stamp should lift off easily. If it does not lift off, don't force it. Just keep soaking it until the stamp gently lifts off. Then put pieces of paper on top of the page where the stamp used to be. Close the book gently. Add only a slight amount of weight to the top of the book. If you don't add weight, chances are very good the page will permanently curl. Leave the book closed for approximately 1 to 2 hours but check it once in a while. When the page is dry, you're done. One piece of warning. If you put the newly-soaked stamp onto one of those pieces of unused typing paper, once in a while go back and gently lift the wet stamp off the page so that it won't stick to that page. I would not use this technique for stamps where the ink will run. Those stamps are generally from North Borneo.

A Nice Philatelic Find, and a Bit of Hollywood History, Too

By Robert Brilliant

One of my favorite activities at large stamp shows is going through the bargain boxes of covers looking for hidden treasure. One such treasure I uncovered at last summer's Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento was a cover in excellent condition franked with three copies of the 1¢ Panama Pacific stamp perf 10, Scott #401. A single #401 on cover catalogs in Scott at \$16, so I knew right away this find was a real steal at its \$1 bargain box price.



More interesting to me was what I unexpectedly found inside the envelope: an invitation, in perfect condition, to a Hollywood dance party. What struck me right away was the name of the guest of honor: Mr. Roscoe Arbuckle.

“Fatty” Arbuckle was one of the biggest and highest paid stars of the silent screen era, a flamboyant, beloved comic actor adored by millions of fans. However, all that changed drastically in September, 1921 when Arbuckle was arrested following the discovery of a deceased actress in his San Francisco hotel room. (Rather than describe this sordid scandal here, I would instead refer you to the detailed article in Wikipedia; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roscoe_Arbuckle.) Although eventually found innocent of murder, Arbuckle’s career was ruined and he died in relative obscurity in 1933. But in 1917, when this invitation went out, Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle was the toast of Hollywood.

The other names that caught my eye on the invitation were listed prominently at the top: H.M. and E.D. Horkheimer. Although unfamiliar to me, with a little research I learned that the Horkheimer brothers were studio owners and important movie producer-directors during the early decades of the 20th century. Their studios, the Balboa Amusement Producing Company, started in a small factory building in 1911 and eventually expanded to four city blocks before ceasing operations in 1918. Suffice to say the Horkheimers were among the major power brokers of the early silent film era.

So here was an invitation, as fresh as the day it was printed, posted with three copies of Scott #401, to a dance honoring one of the Horkheimers’ biggest stars. It was held at their studios in Long Beach, CA on the evening of November 28th, 1917 and it must have been quite a party, despite the fact that the U.S. was by then fighting in World War I.

My last bit of investigative research had to do with the addressee: a Mr. Paul Judson. Although Mr. Judson himself is undistinguished, the company where he worked, Ducommun Hardware, was at that time a major supplier of hardware and grip equipment to movie studios. Today Ducommun is no longer in that business, but instead has grown to become a thriving aerospace and defense contractor with 2,500 employees and a listing on NASDAQ.

As stamp collectors, we understand and value the role stamps and covers play in projecting and preserving history. I feel fortunate to have found this unusual item at a bargain price that links directly to a glamorous, if fleeting, era in Hollywood history. It must have been an exciting invitation to receive and an unforgettable party to attend.

Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>