

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



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www.wu30.org

Third Quarter 2021 Issue 213

APS Writers Unit 30 To Include Online Content Providers

Writers Unit 30, the American Philatelic Society affiliate that has represented stamp collecting writers, editors and publishers for more than 50 years, is now encouraging membership for online content providers: The people who write and edit websites, blogs and social media.

Most philatelic writing these days is on the Web. Often, the same material is published in print, on a website and in social media at the same time.

“Writing is writing, whether it is for print, broadcast or the internet,” said WU30 president Lloyd A. de Vries. “The styles may change, but the purpose is the same: To communicate, inform, and exchange ideas. We think including internet content producers in WU30 will be mutually beneficial.”

The APS Writers Unit publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Philatelic Communicator; supports literature competitions; and maintains a “Hall of Fame” for outstanding stamp collecting writers, both in the past and those active today. In addition, new

programs are being planned. WU30 was founded in 1967, and meets annually at APS StampShow’s successor, Great American Stamp Show.

“30” is the traditional mark that was placed at the end of newspaper copy to indicate to editors and typesetters that it was finished. Not coincidentally, the Writers Unit is Affiliate #30 of the APS.

Membership is open to all who write, publish or edit in philately, from periodical columns to research books, and now, explicitly, to those who write for digital media. Membership is \$15 a year anywhere in the world for .pdf copies of The Philatelic Communicator, delivered via email. Membership with a printed journal is \$20.

To join, or for more information, visit the WU30 website at www.wu30.org or write WU30 at PO Box 411571, Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571.

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Online Content Providers



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Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors, and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Electronic submissions are preferred. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Writers Unit #30, its officers, editor, publisher, or agents. Letters and emails received by the editor may be printed unless labeled "Not for Publication." Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy, but validity is not guaranteed. Some product names and images may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation, without intent to infringe. All editorial matters must be handled by the editor.

APS Writers Unit #30

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David Crotty From the Editor

What was that all about?

Ken Lawrence was looking forward to an announced book, *Paper Trails*, about the post offices of the western states by Cameron Blevens. Lawrence was disappointed with the results, 10 pages of Linn's News disappointed and he made it very clear, as only Lawrence can do.

Mark Kellner had already written a more congratulatory book review for the Washington Post and he was disappointed in Lawrence's approach and conclusions. Kellner responded by providing *The Philatelic Communicator* with his own views of the book. *TPC* readers can find the *Linn's Stamp News* and *Washington Post* reviews by following references in this issue. You might have to study these references a bit to make out the whole story.

Dave





Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

I hope everyone has had breakfast by now.

Seriously, I haven't heard from anyone who really missed having a Writers Unit #30 Breakfast (with a capital "B") at the big national summer stamp show, formerly StampShow, now Great American Stamp Show. There is still time for us to change our collective mind and hold a breakfast in Sacramento next summer, but I don't see a groundswell of support for it.

The WU#30 meeting ended up at 11 a.m., not 9 a.m. as I wrote in the last issue. We also instituted another change: The unit's council met first, at 10 a.m., rather than after the general meeting, as had been the custom for years. That makes more sense to me: We were able to tell you about our decisions right away.

These aren't the only changes we're instituting: On the front page, you can read about how The APS Writers Unit #30 is inviting "web content providers" — those who write material for distribution on the Internet — to join us in WU#30. That includes those who post articles and exhibits on the World Wide Web, those who blog, those who lead or just participate in social media like Facebook, those who host or produce live video chats like Zoom, and more.

These "content providers" weren't excluded from membership before, but they weren't expressly invited. Now they are.

What do they get out of it? Guidance and instruction on how to write and present more clearly in this Brave New World, if they want or need it, and possibly a place to discuss problems with peers who may have encountered similar issues.

What is the benefit for existing WU#30 members? Guidance and instruction on how to write and present

their material to new audiences, if you want or need it, how to present the same material you've been writing in new media, and possibly a place to discuss problems with peers ...

In the press release, I quoted myself as saying "Writing is writing." However, there are different styles for different media. During my career, I wrote differently for radio than I did for television news. When I was at CBSNews.com, I used the *Associated Press Style Book* formats for the articles (as was the rule there), but I upset a supervisor by writing the summaries that appeared on the home page in a broadcast style, more casual and catchy. I maintained that my "blurbs" were more likely to catch attention.

During our council meeting, I said, "None of us are ... uh, none of us *is* ..." and someone pointed out I had made a mistake. No, I replied, I was switching languages: In broadcast writing, I would have said "are," which is more conversational, but in print or to a more formal audience (such as a bunch of writers and editors who write about philately), "is" would be the correct usage. You wouldn't write for *Linn's Stamp News* in the same style you use for the *Congress Book*, would you? (Maybe you would, but the editors would change it.)

In academic writing, you spend the first part of a piece telling the readers what you will tell them, then you tell them, then you summarize what you told them. In a news article, you put the most important information at the beginning, the second-most important info next, and so on, because editors tend to cut from the bottom (end) of an article. On the Internet, readers may not look at anything more than your headline/title and the first paragraph.

(Or so I'm told about academic writing. My aptly-named B.S. degree is inscribed *Magna Cum Fortuna*.)

However, clear, mostly-grammatical writing with correct spelling and punctuation is still needed on the Internet: Think of it as a type of code. We all understand it, even if we don't use it in everyday conversation.

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When is a book review a ‘hit piece’?

It might be when *Linn’s* devotes ten pages to savaging a title without reaching out for a response

Mark A. Kellner

The June 21, 2021 issue of *Linn’s Stamp News* (1), produced in magazine format on glossy paper, contains a 10-page dissection of a recent book, *Paper Trails The US Post and the Making of the American West* (2) by historian Cameron Blevins. In the article, noted writer Ken Lawrence takes issue with numerous points in the book published by Oxford University Press.

Headlined “*Paper Trails* a postal history disappointment,” Lawrence’s review spans ten pages (of a 100-page issue!) and starts with what may be the classic definition of the computer term “GIGO” (“Garbage In, Garbage Out”) and ends with the writer quoting a 2015 statement by Blevins about historians who become enamored of methodology to slam the book.

Of particular disappointment to Lawrence, apparently, is Blevins’ alleged bypass of the work of postal historians such as the late Bill Helbock, who did extensive research into the post offices and contract stations of the Nineteenth Century U.S. Post Office Department. He documents a plethora of philatelic and postal history missteps by someone who would later say they are not a philatelist.

Lawrence’s verdict on *Paper Trails* is stark, harsh even: the book author “promised a lot, delivered a little, wandered astray several times, and still has a long way to go.”

That’s not the only problem a reader might find with this book review. Ironically, Lawrence’s stinging critique motivated me to buy the Blevins book (in the Kindle and later audiobook versions) and later review it for *The Washington Times*, where I currently work as a national reporter. (Sadly, it was one of the last book reviews edited there by the late Carol Herman, a wonderful, longtime staff member at the paper, a gentle soul, and a valued colleague. She died in early June at age 69.)

I ended up with a different opinion of *Paper Trails* than Lawrence did. He may be more correct from a postal history standpoint—I would happily defer to his expertise in that area—but is that all to consider

when reviewing a book of general history?

On one level, I can very much understand Mr. Lawrence’s critiques: Blevins may have well missed or misunderstood key details about mail transport, the organization of contract post offices, and even the handling of registered mail during the period he covers. Apparently, Blevins, a history professor at the University of Colorado—Denver, sought to paint a much larger picture than a granular tracing of minute details would allow.

Indeed, when I put the question of whether *Paper Trails* was intended to be a philatelic-standard postal history or a more “general” history to Blevins, he affirmed it was the latter.

“I would say the book was aimed at other academics and readers who do not have a detailed familiarity with philately or postal history already,” Mr. Blevins wrote in an email. “I see the book fitting primarily within scholarly literature around the history of the western United States and the American state.”

Because Blevins did not intend for *Paper Trails* to replicate the works of postal history that Lawrence extensively cited in his critique, my review focused on the larger story, and not on the granular details.

When considering the author’s intent, it’s possible to view *Paper Trails* in a different light. Here is an excerpt from my *Washington Times* review:

“Throughout ‘Paper Trails’ we are introduced to a vast array of characters, from cartographer Walter Nicholson, who made the Post Office Department’s Topographical Office a force to be reckoned with; to Charles Macdonald whose Money Order Department made a profit, a postal rarity even then; to general store owner Walter Mobley, also the part-time postmaster of North Bloomfield, California, some 75 miles from Sacramento and a boomtown already in decline.

“Through their stories and those of the customers and far-away merchants who sold goods by mail order, we get a picture of the West that explains the day-to-day struggles of people in a growing, but not yet matured, landscape.”

Those wishing to read my complete “take” on *Pa-*

Trails Continued on Page 5

per *Trails* can find an archived version here: <https://authority.com/s/AGFwjisA5U>.

WU30 members might wonder which perspective on Mr. Blevins' work is "right." Should a general history be judged as a postal history book? Or should it be considered for what it purports to be?

I believe it would have been highly possible for Mr. Blevins to have improved his book with greater attention to the work of Helbock and others. Lawrence cited six living experts in postal history as having assisted with the book review; perhaps Mr. Blevins could have availed himself of one or more of these people to review his manuscript.

But again, Blevins wasn't attempting to replicate the work of Helbock. He was trying to tell a story of the growth of the western United States. *That* story was a fascinating one, and even if Blevins tripped up on some details, *Paper Trails* inspired *this* reader to want to know more about the era and its impact.

Perhaps the question is whether the metaphorical "glass" that is *Paper Trails* is half-empty or half-full. I would suggest it's more than 50% full; Lawrence, apparently, would not.

But if the book, which is marketed to general readers and *not* a philatelic/postal history audience, is dissected and its author taken to task with wording from an unrelated essay, who does this help? Yes, it might wave off a *Linn's* reader from buying the book, but what will it say to the other historians out there? Will it encourage any outside study of the history of America's mail systems and their development?

I'm not sure. Nicole C. Kirk, a seminary professor

in Chicago whose impressive biography (<https://authority.com/s/AGE8CQUAVb>) of John Wanamaker had a brief discussion of the merchant prince's role as Postmaster General, probably wouldn't have been encouraged by a *Linn's* article savaging the volume. Kirk, about whom I wrote and who is now a friend, had to make her own choices when discussing Wanamaker, and his interests in merchandising and Christian evangelism were the centerpiece of the book.

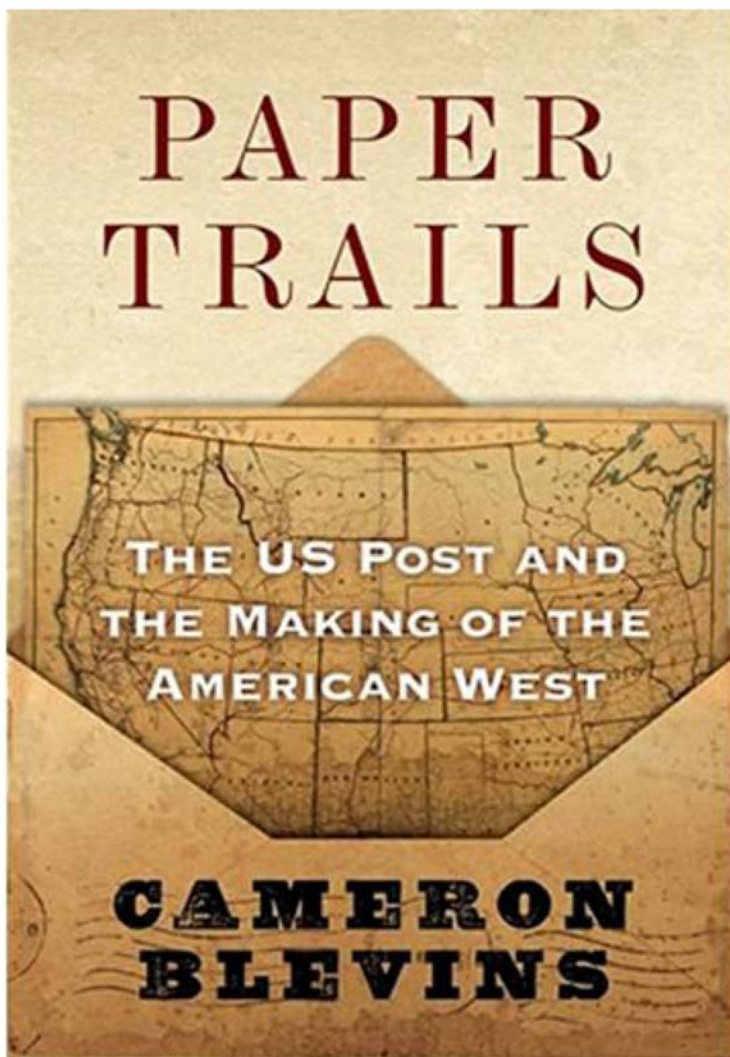
I won't claim to be an expert on history and how it should be written. I believe I have read enough, and interviewed enough authors, however, to understand that not every book will cover every topic to the delight of every reader.

Blevins produced an interesting, accessible introduction to the history of *post offices* in the American West, and NOT a "postal history" of the region. He might have done well to incorporate more of the latter, but that was his choice, verified by his editors at one of the world's leading academic publishing houses. I gained a lot from this book, and other philatelically minded readers might profit as well.

One last note: It seems unfortunate, at the very least, that *Linn's* didn't seek to get a response from Blevins to run alongside the review. Surely if they could devote 10% of that issue to trashing "Paper Trails," some equal time would have been in order.

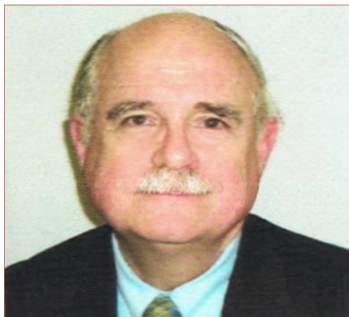
Then again, that's my opinion. Your mileage, as the car ads say, might vary.

1. *Linn's Stamp News*, June 21, 2021 page 56.
2. Cameron Blevins, *Paper Trails: The US Post and the Making of the American West*. Oxford University Press, \$34.95, 248 pages.



Making mistakes and reader reactions

John M. Hotchner



Some aspiring philatelic writers are slow to get started because they have an image of readers as hawks perched on a telephone pole waiting to swoop down to criticize. The reality is quite different. While I do get the occasional (often valid) correction or complaint, most readers who write say ‘thank you’ for the article they have read, and encourage further production. Often they will offer additional information and/or images of similar material that might be used in a follow-up. Only occasionally will a reader complain about something I’ve said or failed to say, or correct a factual error.

I am grateful for the latter. The record should always be corrected. There are, however, other complaints for which I am less thankful. Among these are suggestions that my interpretation of the facts does not match the interpretation of the reader. There is, of course, room for respectful disagreement, and I’m happy to discuss the matter and provide more basis for my interpretation; or to clarify exactly what I meant – sometimes leading to a follow-up article.

But when the reader engages in political sparring from either end of the political spectrum; complaining that I have offended his firmly held beliefs, I am either mystified as I intended no such thing, or annoyed because (as one popular commentator is wont to say) facts don’t care about your feelings. I acknowledge all complaints except those few (less than half a dozen in 50 years of philatelic writing) that are laced with invective and four letter words. Clearly these are people not interested in rational discussion.

My *Linn’s* weekly column which has included a monthly Cartoon Caption Contest for 35 years

has drawn two serious complaints. The first is that the winner(s) are not funny. I look at this the same way I understand art appreciation: Regardless of what someone thinks I should like, I have my own standards and predispositions. There is such a variety of art styles that it is no surprise we have each developed our own likes and dislikes. The same is true of humor.

One person’s eagle is another person’s turkey. I would be shocked if everyone liked every winner I pick. Actually, it has happened that what I picked as a winner doesn’t seem so funny to me when I see it printed three weeks later. But it is subjective and not worth getting bent out of shape over.

The second complaint is a reflection of our times, I suppose: That I don’t pick enough women winners. First, I don’t make an effort to look at the names of those who submit entries. My focus is the entry itself. Secondly, there seems to be a misimpression that half of *Linn’s* readers are women. In fact, the figure is something over 10%. And the percentage of entries from women is less than that; though for some unaccountable reason it has increased in the last couple of years. I’m glad as women are just as capable of being funny as men. In fact, last month we had a contest where both prizes were won by women; a first.

But the real take-away is that the vast majority of reader mail – by postal service or by email – is complimentary, encouraging, and grateful for my effort. The small percentage that is complaints or corrections tends to keep me on my toes, and is useful if not always welcome. I would expect my experience to hold for any philatelic writer who takes reasonable care with their output.

Editor’s Note: Check the story on our page 4. Perhaps Mr. Hotchner is too much of a gentleperson to have to fear this kind of exchange. ♦

Reviews

Print & Electronic

Reviews in *TPC* are indexed at www.wu30.org Journal page.



Catalogue of Puerto Rico Revenues: U.S. Administration, Sept. 1898-Present by Gregg Greenwald. 196 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, card covers, perfect binding, self-published, 2021. ISBN 978-0-578-82515-1, \$60 plus shipping from www.ericjackson.com or Amazon.

Long overdue is an updated and expanded catalogue of the revenue stamps of Puerto Rico. Greenwald's new book fills that void. Introductory material includes the catalog numbering system, watermarks, and the use of typeset serial numbers on issues from 1902 to 1970. In many cases the exact issue dates are unknown; however, a clearly dated early cancel provides a clue in many cases.

The catalogue starts with the general documentary issues of 1899. In addition to good images of the stamps, other characteristics listed include denomination, color, printing method, watermark, perforation, and paper type. Sidebar discussions at appropriate places cover subjects such as

wet and dry printing, and the difference between roulette and hyphen-hole separations.

Following documentary issues are stamps for tobacco products (with a separate section for tobacco products exported to the United States), alcoholic beverages domestic and exported, and a miscellaneous section that includes self-adhesive digital stamps, meters, permits, U.S. Customs baggage clearance, and revenue stamped paper. Some designs are also shown, but not catalogue listed, for seals used in weights, measures, and licenses.

Other categories that are listed include associations and trade organizations, municipal tax stamps, and a few essays and die and plate proofs. A one-page appendix shows some examples of possible revenue issues for lock seals and narcotics, but more details are sought. Another appendix describes the four varieties of typeset numerals on the documentary issues of 1902-1934.

A bibliography offers references for those seeking source or additional details. The illustrations are quite good as is the layout of text and images. This is a priced catalogue with values shown for used and unused

stamps based on market activity. Revenue collectors in general and Puerto Rico collectors specifically will be edified by Greenwald's catalogue.

Alan Warren

CATALOGUE OF PUERTO RICO REVENUES

U. S. ADMINISTRATION, SEPT. 1898-PRESENT



By Gregg Greenwald

The Comprehensive Listing of ArtCraft Covers: Their Varieties and Values, 1939-2015, 7th edition, by Martin L. Severe and Michael W. Lake. 260 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, coil bound, card covers, PoppyGun, Inc., 2021. \$34.95 plus \$3.50 shipping to USA addresses from PoppyGun, Inc., PO Box 762, Rockville MD 20848-0762 or PoppyGunInc@gmail.com.

The latest edition of this catalog of the ArtCraft cachets and their varieties might be the last, given that the producer, Washington Press, closed its doors in

2018. The firm had previously announced that its last ArtCraft cachet was for the 2015 U.S. geometric snowflakes stamps. Co-authors Martin Severe and Michael Lake have greatly expanded and updated the previous edition with new finds and corrections.

The details enabling the latest revisions came from the many specialists who collect ArtCraft cachets and from the files of Washington Press that became available following its closure. And yet the co-authors realize there may be more new discoveries waiting to

Reviews Continued on Page 8

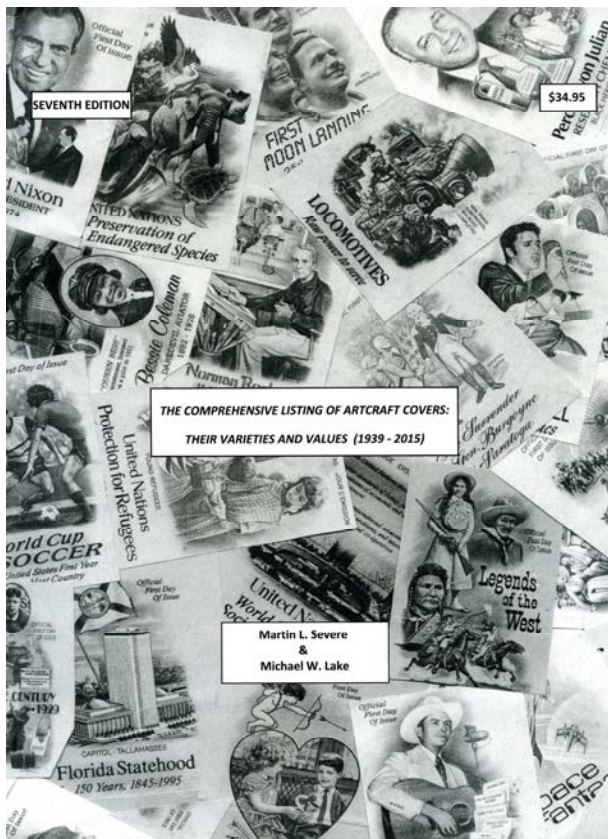
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be reported and they request that any changes or improvements to the listing be sent to them at ArCraftCollectors@gmail.com.

Michael Lake provides a brief history of the popular cachet line from when the idea was adopted by brothers Leo and Samuel August, beginning with the 1939 New York World's Fair issue, Scott 853. Although ArtCraft cachets were produced primarily for United States stamps, the firm also prepared designs for the United Nations, Canada, Ghana, and the Marshall Islands among others. All of these covers and their reported varieties are included in the listings.

Scott catalog numbers are used in this catalog. However, the varieties are identified by the proprietary Severe numbers which can appear complex. The authors describe the letters and numbers used in the various data fields that establish each SEV#. Varieties include differences in design, color, text, size, watermark and other physical features as well as printing errors and fakes.

In addition to the Scott and Severe numbers, the listings include the name and date of the issue, denomination of the stamp, color of the cachet, and notes such as the name of an advertiser or commercial firm that required additional text, plus other varieties of watermark, flap gum placement, etc., and a final column lists current market price.



The first chapter is devoted to US issues including airmail, postage due, official stamps and postal stationery. The second chapter lists “miscellaneous” items such as ceremony programs, drawings, engravings, maximum cards, and over a dozen topical categories like advertising, bicentennial, convention, inaugurations, and many other special events.

The third chapter covers the New York, Geneva, and Vienna offices of the United Nations. The foreign FDC chapter contains the cachets for Burundi, Canada, Canal Zone, Ghana, Marshall Islands, Palau, Togo and the Vatican. Important appendices include a list of abbreviations used in the catalog, a foreign covers cross reference, envelope design, sponsor identification, and the Severe number components for color, shading, errors, watermarks, envelope size, etc.

Recognizing that ArtCraft cachets are popular and numerous, it is no wonder that a complex catalog listing results—a delight for specialists. The result is this 260-page monument to a major cachetmaker.

Alan Warren

Carol Gordon: Unconventional Cachetmaker by **Susan B. Jones**. 276 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, card covers, perfect binding, Claude C. Ries Chapter, American First Day Cover Society, Los Angeles, Cal., 2021. \$45 postpaid in USA, checks payable to Claude C. Ries Chapter #48 AFDCS, sent to Michael J. Luzzi, 3976 Olmsted Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90008-2626.

This definitive handbook on cachetmaker Carol Gordon (1938-2014), written and edited by two advanced collectors of her work, is not only a tribute to the late artist but is the key resource for collectors seeking her unusual first day covers. Fittingly the book is published by the Claude C. Ries Chapter of the American First Day Cover Society that Carol Gordon helped establish in 1984. Carol also served as

the chapter's first president.

Author Susan Jones provides a brief profile of the artist and points out the characteristics that identify these unusual FDCs. Gordon did not use the normal #6&¾ envelope but made her own 5 ¼ x 7 ¼ inch covers to better display her bold artwork. In some cases she even moved to larger pieces, 7 x 9 or more, to accommodate plate blocks and booklet panes. Jones highlights the changes in Gordon's style and format in the 1980s, 1990s and the early 2000s, ending in 2004 with her last cachet.

Another Ries chapter member, and copy editor of the book, Bob Lewin, describes how he became captivated by Gordon's covers. Not only were they unusual in terms of size and use of color, but many also in-

Reviews Continued on Page 9

corporated pointed political and social comments that make her covers stand out with their powerful messages. Examples include comments about the environment, war, immigration, technology development, workers' protests, and women's causes among others.

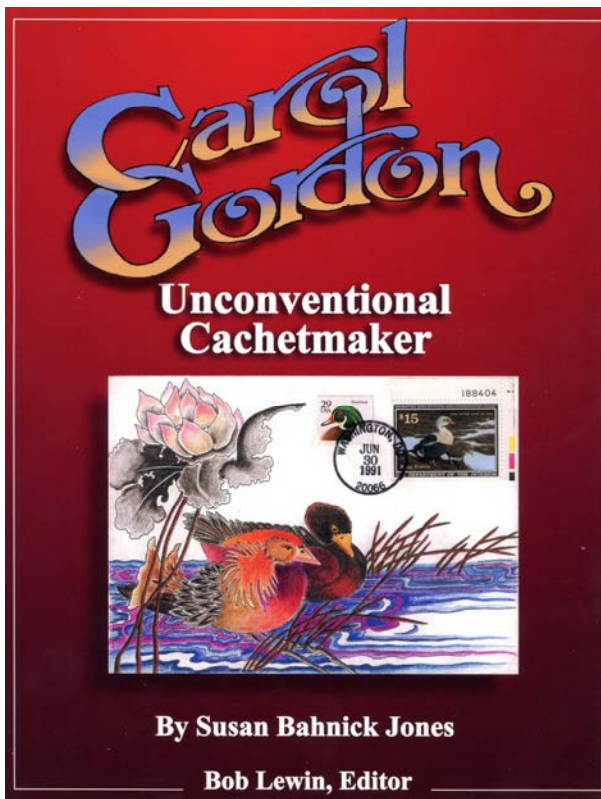
The bulk of the book is essentially a catalog in chronological order with the year date at the top of the page and full images of the covers. Each entry has its own assigned catalog number, and the Scott catalog numbers of the stamps. Brief comments are made concerning the design elements, and in some cases indicating if the covers were signed or numbered. This is not a priced catalog with values. In the early years Gordon produced editions

of 200 covers, later reduced to 100 or less.

At the end of the catalog listings is a bibliography of articles and advertisements used as sources for the book. The catalog ends with a checklist of about 90 pages that collectors can use. Each entry has the Carol Gordon number, Scott numbers, titles of the stamps as given in Scott, census figures based on Carol's own records or estimates, and a column of notes about the cachets. It is believed that Gordon made 675 different cachets over her 25 years of activity.

The cover scans are excellent quality, with three to six covers illustrated per page, and are nicely placed without crowding. This catalog is not only a wonderful tribute to an important and unconventional cachetmaker—it is a beauty to behold.

Alan Warren



The Western Express Companies 1850-1890: Their History, Printed Franks and Handstamps, 3rd edition, by Oscar M. Thomas. 1,122 pages in two volumes, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, casebound, United Postal Stationery Society, Chester, Va., 2020. ISBN 978-1-7327880-6-0, \$150 postpaid to USA addresses from United Postal Stationery Society, Inc., PO Box 3982, Chester VA 23831 or upsspubs@aol.com.

This work was first published in 2013 and in 2017 was updated in electronic form. Oscar Thomas was working on an expanded edition when he died in 2016. With the support of James Blaine, Scott Prior and Ken Stach, Oscar's work was completed, resulting in this third edition. The 2-volume book is closely associated with the Western Cover Society. Many of the illustrations are from the Society's library and are identified with WC numbers.

Volume 1 covers the company names from A through L, and Volume 2 is devoted to M through Z. The entire table of contents appears in both volumes with the name of the company and the page where it is listed. The purposes of the western express firms were to provide safe and rapid transport of letters, packages, gold dust and specie (money).

The "franks" could be manuscript, handstamped, or printed. They contained the company name, sometimes the town where they operated, and whether the charges were paid or due. There were also auxiliary markings such as PAID, NOT PAID, COLLECT, FREE. Each of the markings is assigned a catalog number consisting of a 3-letter abbreviation for the firm's name and a 3-digit number. The numbers are divided into groups like the 100 series is for hand-stamped and manuscript marks, the 200 series is auxiliary

markings, the 300 series is forwarding agents, the 400 series is for printed or handstamped corner cards, etc. The 800 series numbers are for fakes and forgeries.

The companies are listed alphabetically and begin with text that describes where they were located and when they operated. Listed also are the names of the individuals or partners. For example Bamber & Co.'s Express was established by John Bamber who served as owner or manager from 1858 until 1873. In 1874 it came under the new management of A. D. Whitney, F.H. Smith, B.F. Moore, and E.M. Hall, but continued to operate as Bamber & Co.'s Express until it was renamed Whitney & Co.'s Express in 1875. Much of the details came from directories that list the firms.

Many covers are also listed. The detailed descriptors indicate color, envelope type, postmarks, labels, any additional postage applied as stamps, etc. The introductory material lists the abbreviations used in these descriptors. The introduction ends with an alphabetical list of the express companies, the geographic area where they operated and the dates of operation. Each of the major company listings ends with a list of reference articles and books for background information.

The illustrations are clear and in color. Despite two volumes with a total of over 1100 pages, the entries are compact and contain an incredible amount of information about the Express Companies and their covers. For those collecting or seeking information about these firms and their mail, this 2-volume handbook is an important resource.

Alan Warren



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“ARTICLES ONLY” LITERATURE EXHIBIT SET FOR SARASOTA IN JANUARY

The fourth annual “Articles Only” Literature exhibit will be held January 21-23, 2022 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, FL. The Sarasota exhibit will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. The “articles only” show is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers. Those wishing to participate in the exhibit are advised to send entries in quickly, since space is limited. The Sarasota Expo will be held live at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.

All submissions will be electronic and posted when accepted on the show’s web site. They will be available immediately to all, including the judging panel. This year’s jury includes Peter McCann as Chief Judge, Patricia Stilwell Walker and Akthem Al-Manaseer. Because of the popularity of this form of literature event, CANEJ has confirmed the role of “articles only” exhibits in the literature area. A revised Manual for Literature Exhibiting & Judging is posted on the APS web site. “We have been testing this format and the judging procedures for a few years now and the success of the events at SESCO and Sarasota have demonstrated the viability of these shows,” says CANEJ Chair, Elizabeth Hisey. The exhibit has been likened to one frame philatelic exhibits.

The literature exhibit is co-sponsored by Writers Unit 30, the society of philatelic authors and editors. “Involvement in this effort furthers the mission of Writers Unit 30 by encouraging more collectors to share their knowledge through the many journals our hobby is fortunate to have and then recognizing those works through these exhibits,” says David Crotty, Writers Unit 30 Vice President and editor of its journal.

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than December 1, 2021, though earlier registration is recommended. A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the show’s web site - <https://www.sarasotastampclub.com>

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SESCAL 2021

2nd Annual SESCAL Virtual
Literature
Exhibit of Philatelic Articles
Closed for 2021
Exhibits for 2022 accepted
after January 15, 2022



Great American Stamp Show Literature Palmares

Grand and Large Gold

Stamp Taxes in Nevada, volumes 1-4. An Illustrated Census of Documents Bearing Nevada State Revenue Stamps, 1865 - 1873, by Type and Tax Rate.

Michael Mahler
also APS Research Medal

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

Echoes of Empire: Sierra Leone Philatelic legacy 1786-1980

Majed Halawi

Postal Stationary

Wayne Menuz

Articles

Large Gold

Military Postal Stationary of Australia
Wayne Menuz

Gold

Civil War Era Fiscal History column in American Stamp Collector and Dealer
Michael Mahler

The Evolution of 'via Siberia' Mail, 1897-1945
Jerry H. Miller

Rebel Documents, Yankee Stamps... series in Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly
Michael Mahler

Thomas Edison and The Bulb
Bill DiPaolo

Large Vermeil

A Noteworthy Pre-Cancel on Lancaster Watch Company's Advertising Covers
Charles J. DiComo, PhD

Re-Evaluating a Philatelic First: The Earliest Depiction of Black History on U.S Stamps
Peter Schwartz & Calvin Mitchell

The "Suzhong Pictorial" Stamps of 1945-46,
Hugh Lawrence and Richard Cates

The Philately of Civil War Medicine
Pennsylvania Postal History Society, Martin Kent Miller

GASS Continued on Page 12

Vermeil

The Long Sea Route - a remarkable postal circuit between imperial Russia & British India
Kiran Natarajan

Silver Bronze

1942 Pow Mail to Actress Deanna Durbin
Thomas Richards

17th Congress of the All-Union Communist Part (of Bolsheviks):
Congress of Victors or Congress of Executed?
Igor Grigorian

On History of Cognac Production in Armenia, part I and part II
Igor Grigorian

Collector In Chief
Mel Coe

Bronze

A 1941 Christmas Seal Tied to a Cover with a "Released by Prize Court" marking
Thomas Richards

Catalogs

Gold

China Stamp Society Specialized Catalog of China to 1949
H. James Maxwell

Large Vermeil

Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalog, Thirteenth Edition
Arizona & New Mexico Postal History

Catalog of Postal Stationary Airgraphs
Wayne Menuz

Vermeil

Catalogue of Puerto Rico Revenues - U.S Administration 1899-Present
Gregg Greenwald

Large Silver

Illustrated Guide of All Coupon Types (UPU and Non-UPU)
Jack and Carol Yao

The Municipal Revenues of Latvia: 1883 to 1945
Michael Bloom and Igor Irikov

Silver

The Overrun Countries Series, Book 8, The Greece Stamp & It's Varieties
Keith Lichtman

Worldwide Christmas Stamps
Christmas Philatelic Club

Silver Bronze

The 7-1-71 Affair
David Wallman

Electronic

Gold

PennyPost.org (website of the Carriers and Local Society)
Carriers and Locals Society, Casey Jo White

Vermeil

www.AmericanTopical.org - the American Topical Association website
Martin Kent Miller

www.PaPHS.com - the website of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society
Martin Kent Miller

Crown Illustrated Censuses of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals
Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Silver

GLHSONLINE.ORG
Arthur P. Von Reyn & Lisa Foster

The10cprexiecoil.com
Bill DiPaolo

www.AlbrechtDurer.study - the website of the Albrecht Durer Study Unit
Martin Kent Miller

Handbooks

Large Gold

Echoes of Empire: Sierra Leone Philatelic Legacy 1786-1980
Majed Halawi

Stamp Taxes in Nevada I. Silver Fever! Nevada Territory Stock Certificates, 1863-4
Michael Mahler

Stamp Taxes in Nevada II. Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Nevada, 1865-1873
Michael Mahler

Stamp Taxes in Nevada III. Chronological/Geographic Analysis, 1863-1873.
"Ghosts of Glory Trail"
Michael Mahler

Stamp Taxes in Nevada IV. An Illustrated Census of Documents Bearing Nevada State
Revenue Stamps, 1865 - 1873, by Type and Tax Rate
Michael Mahler

Gold

Pan Americans Final Flight
Jon Krupnick

Spanish Colonial and Mexican Mail in the United States
Yamil H. Kouri, Jr
also Postal History Award

The Civil War Cigar Stamps
Peter R. Schwartz

Large Vermeil

A Study of the Printing Process of the Republic of Indonesia's Postage Stamps
Issued by the Pitt for Java and Madoera 1945-1949
Yan Wirjadi Jodana

Creating the Philatelic Exhibit Synopsis: A Master Class
Andrew McFarlane

Vermeil

Captain James Cook: Third Voyage 1776-1780, First Day and Event Covers Vol 1&2
Daryl Kibble
also ATA Study Unit Journal Award - 2nd

Postmarked West Point: A US Postal History of West Point and its Graduates
Jay Joyce and Martin H. Joyce

The 3c Nashville Provisional Adhesive: A Study in Postal History Research
Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Topical Adventures: A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting
American Topical Association

Large Silver

Buddhism On Stamps
Lokeswara Rao Madiraju

also ATA Study Unit Journal Award - Honorable Mention

The Christmas Florida Post Office: A Philatelic Giant in a Tiny Town
Christine C. Sanders, Christmas Philatelic Club

Silver

Albert Einstein on Stamps
Albert B. Raddi

Index CartoPhilatelica
The CartoPhilatelic Society, David Wolfersberger

Journals

Large Gold

Postal Stationery Collector
Ian McMahon

Gold

NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society
Jean R. Walton & Robert G. Rose

Postal History Journal
Diane DeBlois & Robert Dalton Harris

Rossica Journal
William Velvel Moskoff

The United States Specialist - the Journal of the US Stamp Society
Martin Kent Miller

Large Vermeil

Journal of Sports Philately
Mark Maestrone
also ATA Study Unit Journal Award - 1st

Menelik's Journal
Ethiopian Philatelic Society, Ulf J. Lindahl

Mexicana
Michael D. Roberts

Vermeil

Europa News
Dana Roper
also ATA Study Unit Journal Award - 3rd

Excelsior! - The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society
Jeff Stage

Ice Caps News
Alan Warren

The Cuban Philatelist Journal
Cuban Philatelic Society of America, Fernando Iglesias

The Czechoslovak Specialist
Keith Hart

The Oregon Country
Pacific Northwest Postal History Society, Alan H. Patera

Topical Time
American Topical Association

Universal Ship Cancellation Society Log
Richard D. Jones

Large Silver

El Quetzal
David Reitsema

The Congress Book
Seija-Riitta Laakso

The Israel Philatelist
Donald A. Chafetz

Silver

ARPA Journal
Simon Petrossian & Igor Grigorian

Enophilatelica
Wine on Stamps Study Unit, David Wolfersberger

The New CartoPhilatelist
The CartoPhilatelic Society, David Wolfersberger

The Philatelic Gourmet
Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit, David Wolfersberger

The Ration Board
Kent Choquette

Yule Log
Christmas Philatelic Club
also ATA Study Unit Journal Award - Honorable Mention

Silver Bronze

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal
Lisa Foster

WE EXPRESSIONS
Laurie Anderson & Lisa Foster

Noncompetitive/Not Judged

La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History
Peter Martin

The American Revenuer
The American Revenue Association, Michael Mahler Editor

The Birth of New Jersey's Post
Vernon R. Morris Jr. M.D.
The First (and only) Stamps of Bergedorf
Lawrence R. Mead

WU30 Meeting at the Great American Stamp Show August 2021 Chicago



Figure 1. President Lloyd de Vries holding the Executive Committee Meeting at GASS August 2021



Figure 2. Members attend the Writer's Unit 30 Annual Meeting at GASS



Figure 3. Guest Speaker Gary Loew, Editor of *American Philatelist*

Articles

Departments

APS Writers Unit 30 To Include Online Content Providers.....

When is a book review a 'hit piece'?Mark Kellner

Making mistakes and reader reactions.....John M. Hotchner

WU30 Meeting at Great American Stamp Show 2021.....

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4 Editor's Message.....David Crotty 2

6 Book Reviews

14 *Catalogue of Puerto Rico Revenues: U.S. Administration, Sept. 1898-Present.....Gregg Greenwald 7*

The Comprehensive Listing of ArtCraft Covers: Their Varieties and Values, 1939-2015, 7th editionMartin L. Severe and Michael W. Lake 7

Carol Gordon: Unconventional CachetmakerSusan B. Jones 8

The Western Express Companies 1850-1890: Their History, Printed Franks and Handstamps, 3rd edition.....Oscar M. Thomas 9



Secretary Report Writers Unit #30

The purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

Web Delivery email full color..... \$15.00

USPS delivery B/W photocopy..... \$20.00

Those members without access to email can pay for a B/W Xerox copy by US Mail. Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes. We will soon have PayPal available but not yet.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of USPS and email address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer
P O Box 411571
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571
WU30@MOPHIL.ORG

Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danes.claussen@gmail.com.

Chapter and Website Feedback Service

Beginning in January 2019 critiques of club newsletters or websites will be available to any chapter at no cost. On request an experienced collector will review and provide written feedback on strengths and weaknesses to help your chapter better serve its members. The feedback service will replace the previous Chapter Newsletter and Website competitions. For more details check the APS website.

2021-2022 Literature Exhibits

APS Great American Stamp Show, www.stamps.org.
CHICAGOPEX 2021 Nov., www.chicagopex.com.
SESCAL Article Only, Southern California. Sescal.org.
Sarasota Article Only www.sarasotastampclub.com/
CAPEX 2022. Toronto Canada June 2022.