

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Neal E. Danielson
Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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The Bermuda Conference between Eisenhower, Winston Churchill and the Premier of France, Joseph Laniel, is seen as the most powerful gathering of world leaders since the Potsdam Conference. At that time the Cold War was well underway with a hot police action in Korea killing many Chinese, Americans and Koreans, two Americans being very recently executed for spying and a struggle for Germany and Austria between the Soviets and the Americans taking ominous form. The French were facing continuing government crises with serial parliamentary governments and Churchill had just had a debilitating stroke. The French were fighting the communists in Vietnam. Both Germany and England wanted U.S. assistance in order to establish the western military alliance nowadays known as NATO. Against this background Churchill insisted that the conference be held in Bermuda to gain the support of other British politicians who did not want to give up more world power to the U.S. Eisenhower conceded this point because his advisors saw a meeting as essential for discussing the many world difficulties. After an initial postponement due to Churchill's medical needs, the conference was finally held in Bermuda. The British tried to re-enforce the importance of the meeting with the issuance of a set of special commemoratives, hence the nearby overprinted stamp.



To the right, in the art nouveau style, is a German poster stamp/cinderella designed and engraved by Alexander Baranowsky. Baranowsky was born in Riga, Latvia in 1874 and died in 1941 in Dresden. His “Grosse Kunstausstellung”, pictured here, is his best known design and is an example of what has been referred to as the *Jugendstil* school of design. He designed many larger scale posters as well.



"The U. S. law repealing the document revenue stamp tax was passed in 1872, but proprietary revenue stamps were used as late as 1883." according to the *Evergreen-State Philatelist*. Page 37 of September, 1897.

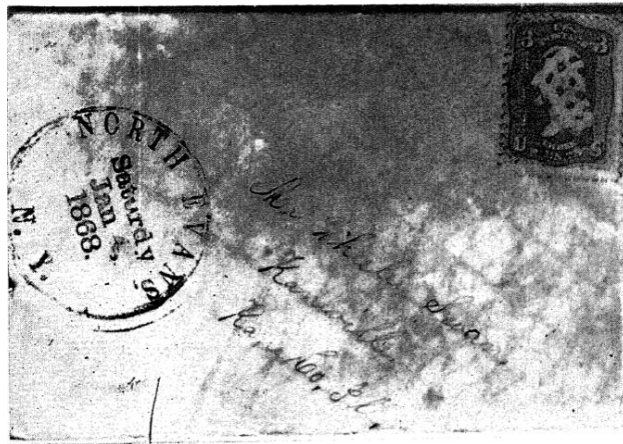
“El” Hubbard, writing in the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* in 1954, noted a cinderella “revenue” stamp issued by the Eastman National Business College of Poughkeepsie, NY used by students to help practice the processing of checks. He also notes that Newspaper Tax Stamps are really revenue stamps, not postage stamps.

Poem

“He tore apart my block of four,
He finger-marked my pages,
He dropped my Zeppelins on the floor,
He bent my tongs and gauges!
He sneezed and got my hinges wet.

The editor of Holton, Kansas' *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Harry Weiss once mused: “Ain't it sumpin. When a cover collector has one cover he is known as a philatelist, when he garners two covers he becomes a specialist. With three covers, one is a duplicate, he becomes a cover dealer! Ah, but now he has four covers and at once becomes a wholesaler, en expertizer, adviser, critic and what have you.”

Below is a rough reproduction of a rather unique cover of January, 1868 from the little New York village of North Evans. North Evans is now part of Evans, New York and is near the coastline with Lake Erie. The Civil War soldier and early Kansas politician Alfred Gray, for whom Gray County, Kansas is named as well as the inventor of air conditioning, Willis Carrier, are both from this area. It is not known whether any other post office in the United included the day of the week, in this case Saturday, as part of the post mark.



According to the *Canadian Stamp Collector*. Of April, 1920. “Don't soak the stamps of Native India, early Russia or Russian Levant, but lay the reverse side on a wet cloth and the paper will readily peel off. Be careful not to handle the face, except on the edge, as damp fingers will remove the water colors, which were used in the printing of these stamps.”

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF by Neal E. Danielson

This is the 82nd in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

This Small Stuff comes to you from Santa Ana, California by way of Laguna Beach, California, thanks to **Rex Chrisco** for sharing it with the Club (Figure 1). This Small Stuff postcard measures 4 ½ inch by 2 ½ and is franked with a one cent George Washington stamp (Scott #405) and tied to the post card with an eight horizontal bar and date cancel, produced by the Columbia Machine Co. The post card indicates a Mar. 31 1915 date sent to a young lady in Laguna Beach, California, the writers address was 518 Van Ness Ave. Santa Ana, Cal (Figure 2). The post card is imprinted with a cachet that depicts a cat standing on a book drinking out of a stein, the kind that beer is often served in.



Figure 1
Small Stuff post card of 1915

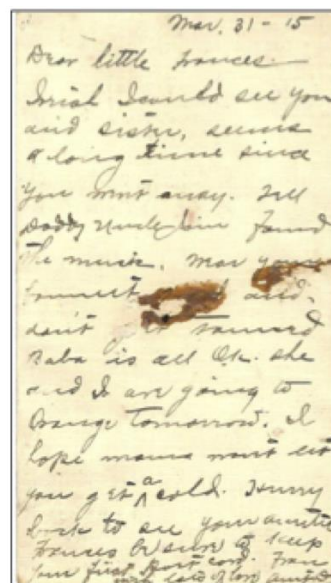


Figure 2
Small Stuff Message

The message on the card:

“Dear little Frances – Wish I could see you and sister, seems a long time since you went away. Tell Daddy, Uncle Jim found the music. Near your ----- and don't get tanned Baba is all Ok she and I are going to Orange tomorrow. I hope moms won't let you get a cold. Hurry back to see you auntie Frances be sure to keep your first post card.

With lots of love. Auntie D” .

Santa Ana is the county seat of Orange County, California and the second most populous city. The town was founded in 1869 adjacent to the Santa Ana River. The Tongva and Juaneño/Luiseño Indian tribes are indigenous to the area. The Tongva referred to the area as “Hotuuk”. An expedition out of Mexico City led by Gaspar de Portolà in 1769 included a Friar that named the area Vallejo de Santa Ana and in 1776, Mission San Juan Capistrano was established in the valley. At the time that the Mexican independence war started in 1810 a sergeant, Jose Antonio Yorba, of the Spanish army, was granted land that he called “Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana”. This land grant encompassed several cities of today. This land grant was the only one in Orange County granted under Spanish Rule, others would be granted following the war by the new government.



Figure 3
Santa Ana scene in 1887



Figure 4
Santa Fe Depot 1911

A descendent of Sergeant Yorba from Kentucky, William H. Spurgeon obtained land where Santa Ana was incorporated as a city in 1886 (Figure 3) and became the county seat of Orange County in 1889. The Southern Pacific Railroad built the first railroad branch from Los Angeles to Santa Ana in 1877, followed by a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, the California Central Railway in 1878 (Figure 4), with service to Los Angeles and San Diego. Santa Ana was home to the Glenn L. Martin aviation company starting in 1912 and would merge with the Wright Company 1916. Mr. Martin created another company with the same name in Cleveland, Ohio which would eventually merge with the Lockheed Corporation forming the largest defense contractor in the world, 'Lockheed Martin'.



Figure 5
Laguna Beach

The Small Stuff post card was mailed to Miss Frances Walton in Laguna Beach, California, located in the southern part of Orange County as a seaside resort (Figure 5). Laguna Beach was settled in 1870s. The area's historical heritage dates back to prehistoric paleoindian civilization. The indigenous people of Laguna Beach were the Tongva, Aliso Creek, similar to those of Santa Ana. Following the Mexico-American War that ended in 1848 the area was ceded to the United States. The treaty between Mexico and the United States provided for Mexican land grants, which included north Laguna Beach as part of Rancho San Joaquin by José Antonio Andres Sepúlveda. Following the drought in 1864 he sold the land to James Irvine. The majority of Laguna Beach was never part of the Mexican Land Grant, only the northern portion. Most of the area was settled following the American Civil War when 160 acres was granted to a homesteader under the Homestead Act and Timber Culture Act who would plant at least 40 acres of the land grant in trees. Most planted groves of eucalyptus trees.

Numerous silent film stars came to Laguna Beach during the shooting of movies, such as Harold Lloyd, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and others. Film crews set up in the local coves and would be housed in the Arch Beach Tavern during long production shots. Laguna Beach also became known as an artist community with the number of painters, photographers, filmmakers, and writers that visited the area

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Lord Bacon's "Z" problem by Jeff Lough



Among the many varieties of Newfoundland Scott Number 92, shown above, are perforation variations, joined letters, and “fly specks” However, for your editor, the best variety is on the stamp to the right that has the variation that's been blown up., the reversed “Z” in “COLONIZATION.” It is a real composition error rather than a problem with using the wrong perforation machine or having a cracked or dirty printing plate.

The stamp was part of what has been referred to as the “John Guy” issue made from 1910/1911 meant to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the second British “plantation” in the Americas, in Newfoundland.. It was at Cupers Cave (Cupids) in Conception Bay, Newfoundland administered by John Guy. The six cent stamp of this series, pictured above, is of Sir Francis Bacon. The color of the stamp on the left, the normal one, is referred as claret, the color of the stamp on the right is called brown violet. This is the **Francis Bacon** who invented the scientific method, arguing that scientific knowledge was only possible when based on careful observation and the use of inductive logic. He also played a leading role in early British North American colonization, writing early colonial Virginia charters of government and providing the financial and political leadership for the early settlement of Newfoundland.

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TRAVEL KANSAS—NORTH TO SOUTH—EAST TO WEST by Neal E. Danielson

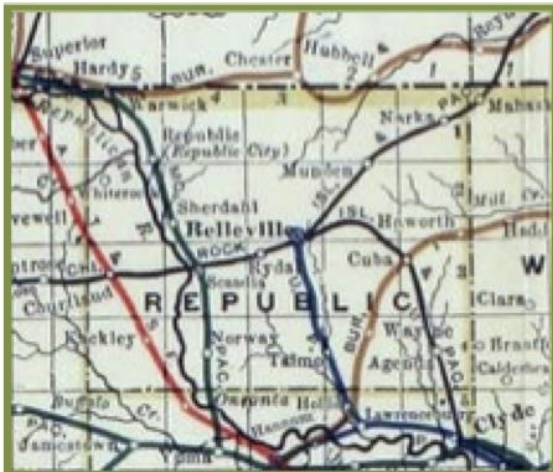


Figure 1
Map of Republic County

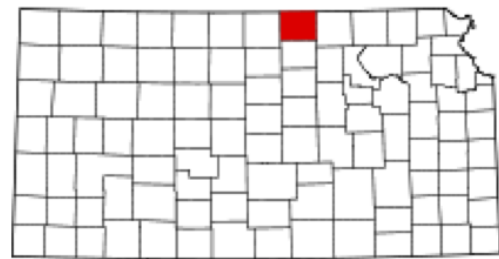


Figure 2
Republic County

Travel Kansas—Belleville, Kansas is located in Republic County (Figure 1 & 2) in the northern part of Kansas along the Kansas-Nebraska border. Belleville was founded in 1869 and incorporated as a city in 1878 and was named for Arabelle Tutton, wife of a member of the town company. Belleville became the County Seat of Republic County. Figure 3 shows the third Republic County courthouse. The first one burned down and was replaced, then it, in turn, was replaced with a more modern structure in 1940 (Figure 3). The first building to be erected along the Public Square was the Belleville Hotel (Figure 4). The front part of the building housed the office, parlor, confectionery store, cigar



Figure 3
Republic County Courthouse



Figure 4
Belleville Hotel

store and washroom. The upper story was used for six sleeping apartments, a bridal chamber, and staff housing. Other substantial business buildings were built in the early 1870's, included a general store on the southwest corner of the square, and a combined drug and grocery store. During this timeframe "The Belleville Telescope" was started with the first issue came out on September 20, 1870 and the paper still operates to this day. The Belleville Post Office first opened on February 18, 1870 and is still in operation (Figure 5).

The First National Bank building (Figure 6) was constructed in 1893 after the first bank construction in 1884 burned down in 1892. The Post Office was located in the back of this building from around 1906 to 1916. The bank changed its name to National Bank of Belleville prior to moving into this building in 1894. The bank has subsequently moved out of this building into a more modern structure in keeping with the town's revitalization/modernization in 1950.



Figure 5
Belleville Post Office



Figure 6
The First National Bank of Belleville

In 1913 an individual sent a one cent McKinley postal card (Scott #UX22) to a Mr. Frank J. Jehlik in Topeka, Kansas (Figure 7). The postal card is cancelled with a foot print killer cancel and circular-date-stamp postmarked Belleville, Kans. Mar 18 and the message side of the postal card references the year 1913 (Figure 8). The message is in the Czechoslovakian language and has been translated for us by the APS Translation Service, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823, thanks to **Jeff Lough**.

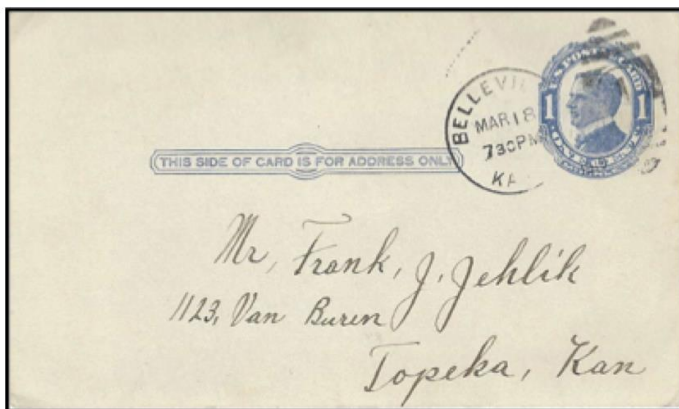


Figure 7
Postal Card Postmarked from Belleville

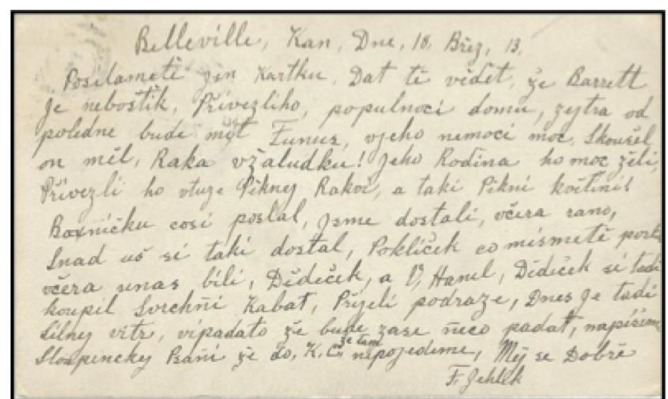


Figure 8
Postal Card Message Side

The message transcribed follows:

Belleville, Kan., Day 18, March 1913

*Sending you just a card to inform you that Barrett is deceased. They brought him home after midnight. Tomorrow afternoon will be the funeral. With his illness, he went with great pain, as he had stomach cancer. His family had great sorrow for him. They brought his body in very nice coffin full of nice flowers. ----- that you sent we received it yesterday morning, so probably you received the small parcel we had sent you. Yesterday grandfather came to us and he purchased an overcoat, an expensive one. Today we had very strong wind, probably rain will come. I will write to Lady Sloupencki that we will not go to K. C.
Stay well. F./ Gehlik*

The historic 1910 era Belleville High Banks Racetrack provided the City of Bellville a place in racing history. This racetrack is known as the “World’s Fastest Half Mile Dirt Track” and the Belleville Midget Nationals. They now have the “High Banks Hall of Fame and National Midget Auto Racing Museum that is responsible for preserving the Belleville racing history. Belleville also has other attractions, such as the Boyer Museum, known for its amazing animated carvings, and The Republic County Historical Society Museum, Rocky Pond and the art deco architecture throughout the town. The Blair Theater that opened in 1928 with a Spanish ornamental façade, changed hands over the years and was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1966. It was through the efforts of the Blair Center for the Arts, a non-profit organization that it was reopened in 2008 (Figure 9).



Figure 9
Blair Theater in Belleville

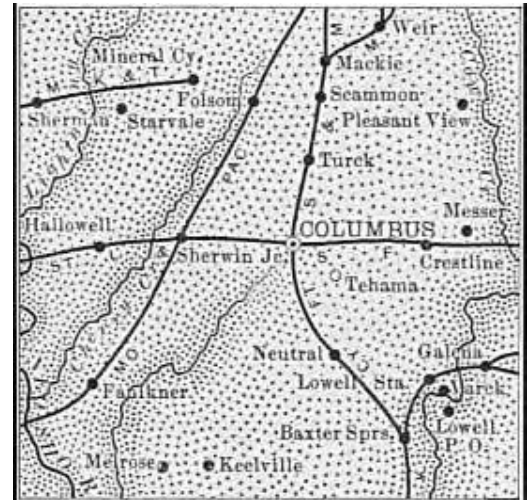
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The Northern Portion of Cherokee County, Kansas by Jeff Lough

Cherokee County, in the far southeast corner of the State of Kansas, has a rich history. It was the scene of Civil War battles and early U. S. Army posts and forts. It was also an international center of zinc and lead mining. By the time the last lead and zinc mines closed in Cherokee County in 1970 nearly 2.9 million tons of zinc and 700,000 tons of lead had been produced, according to the Kansas Geological Survey. And it is the home of the 16 miles that Kansas can lay claim to of the famed “Mother Road”, Route 66.

Northern Cherokee County includes a large variety of locations that have had post offices.



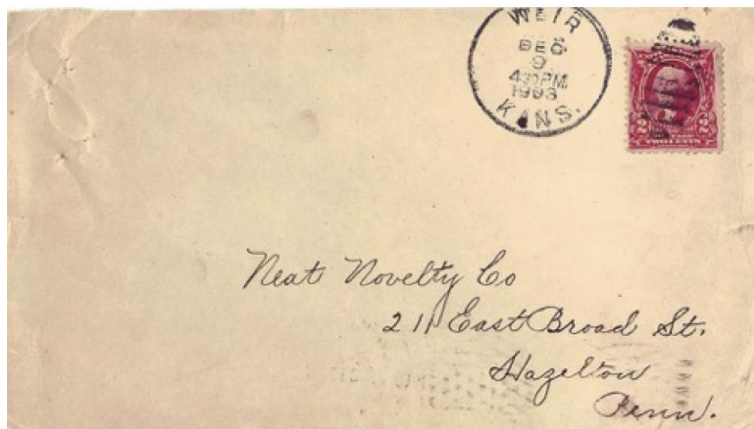
Early Cherokee County Railway Map



Weir Post Office

Weir was founded as a zinc mining town in 1872 about halfway between Columbus, the Cherokee County seat and the much larger city Pittsburg north in Crawford County. It is currently a bedroom community primarily for Pittsburg. In its early days it was a stop for the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad and a great deal of zinc and coal was shipped through the town. It had an opera house and a full set of the commonly found businesses in the late 19th century when its post office was established January 15, 1875. It was named for the father of the first postmaster.

That first post master was Harrie Weir. It was busy post office and it was known as a money order post. The large property owning father was T. M. Weir who came from the mining areas of Pennsylvania to invest his capital and ply his trade. The accompanying cover with its 2 cent Washington Scott # 707 December 9, 1908 is postmarked with an ovate bar type duplex hand stamp.



The accompanying postmark is from the collection of the Post Mark Collector's Club. In previous times stamp collectors would commonly cut out everything around a postmark or part of a postmark and save as a "cut square." This happens to be the only example of a **Coalfield, KS** postmark available to the writer, and the town and postmark are included here as a curiosity piece. Coalfield was near present day Scammon, about seven miles north of the county seat, Columbus, and on the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad. It primarily served the coal miners and coal mines in the area.



Carona is a small town west of Scammon. In the coal and zinc mining days it was on the Southeast Kansas Railway. It was originally called "Carbon." Then an "a" was added to make it "Carbona." Later the "b" was dropped and the name of the town simply became Carona. Its post office was established March 3, 1905 with its first post master being George P. Bell. The post office closed on November 26, 1988. Carona is noteworthy today for its nice railroad museum complex that includes a restored Missouri Pacific Depot, a restored Union Pacific Depot and a nicely restored KATY (Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad) steam locomotive. Along with the huge coal mining shovel, Big Brutus, west a few miles and the Chicken Annies and Chicken Mary's in and north of Pittsburg and the Joplin Stamp Show you have the makings of a nice two day "day trip." These cancellations appear to be 4-bar Doanes.

Scammon is between Weir and Carona. It was laid out in 1884 and named for the four Scammon brothers, who operated the first underground coal mine in the area. Before that most coal mining had taken place at the surface. The coal mines went as deep as 285 feet. Large numbers of immigrants with mining experience from Italy, France, Wales, Italy, Austria, Silesia, Croatia, Albania, Serbia, Germany, Belgium, England and from various parts of the United States came to the area. The community was known as Stilson when it was first settled., then known as Scammonville for a short time before adopting the current name in 1890. Scammon's first postmaster was Peter Graham and the post office was opened October 7, 1890 and remains open currently. It is a bedroom community for

Columbus and Pittsburg. The piece of postal stationery (U367) is postmarked in the early 1900s with an ovate bar type duplex hand stamp.



Scammon Post Office

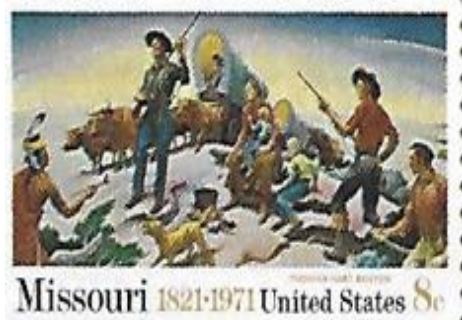
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Harry S Truman by Jeff Lough

A lot could be said about philately and President Harry S Truman. It won't be here. Just a couple things. The source for the illustration on one U. S. commemorative is easy to see for yourself if you are ever in the Kansas City region. In Independence, Missouri over the entrance way to the display areas at the Truman Library is a large mural by famed "regionalist" Thomas Hart Benson entitled "Independence and the Opening of the West. The central portion of this mural is the subject of the 1971 commemorative celebrating the sesquicentennial of Missouri's statehood. The stamp shows a Pawnee Indian facing a hunter-trapper and a group of settlers. In the background are oxen-draw covered wagons getting ready to go across northeastern Kansas to Oregon or California or Santa Fe. When purchasing an extra stamp to give to a friend who sometimes accompanies me to that facility for special events, I discovered instead I had "collected" something I had not before and decided to keep all 48 mint stamps. I had inadvertently purchased "Matched Corners" which illustrate the various aspects of the selvage of a typical pane of stamps during this particular era of stamp production. The accompanying scan reveals a couple different aspects of this phenomena.

Along the left side of the scans notice the five colors used on each of the plates used to print the stamp along with the plate number for two of the plates. . The block of stamps to the right includes diagonal lines and horizontal lines with a plate number along the left side of the selvage. These were guide lines to assist with checking the lineup of the plates during the printing process.



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Forgeries and Fakes and “Reprints.” Part I by Jeff Lough

It is more than a little pretentious to discuss forgeries and fakes. This general field is one of the most contentious and most heavily written about in all of stamp collecting. There have been people who have spent a great deal of time and money making and countering different fraudulent stamps and covers. It has resulted in the badmouthing of more than a couple famous forgers over many years. There are two U. S. philatelic societies publishing periodicals focusing very largely on fakes and forgeries. Two of my favorite things are Central American stamps and overprints of all types. These are the areas with which I will start.

Nicholas Seebeck was a stamp dealer and printer, best known for his stamp-printing contracts with several Latin American countries in the 1890s. Seebeck emigrated from Germany to the United States at the age of 9. He soon established himself as a stamp dealer and cataloger (as a sideline to owning a stationery and printing shop) in New York City, and published the *Descriptive Price Catalogue of All Known Postage Stamps of the United States and Foreign Countries* in 1876. In 1879, he began printing stamps for the Dominican Republic and the Colombian State of Bolivar. These stamps were printed under a standard sort of printing contract, where he received a fee for printing a specified number of stamps. However, with the Bolivar issues, he began the soon to be infamous practice of year-dating otherwise identical stamp designs. Seebeck was successful enough to be able to sell his business in 1884 and purchase a significant interest in the *Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Co.*, whose main contract was for printing tickets for the New York City transportation system.

Seebeck took advantage of a unique connection he had to Central America in that his brother-in-law Ernest Schernikow was the New York consul for El Salvador and Honduras. In 1889, Seebeck left for a tour of Central America with letters of introduction from Schernikow to talk with government officials about an idea for a stamp printing arrangement that would benefit all concerned and signed contracts in 1889-1890 with several countries: Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala (only for fiscal stamps not postage ones), Honduras, and Nicaragua. The contracts were for ten years worth of stamp issues, and also included official, telegraph, revenue stamps and postal stationery. All official interactions between the five countries and Seebeck ended in 1899 when Mr. Seebeck passed away.

German philatelic experts who studied the Seebeck issues early in the 20th century claimed that Seebeck, instead of reprinting after the stamps were demonitized had excess quantities printed before the stamps were delivered. Since these stamps were printed during the time they were valid for postage they are still considered original postage stamps, whether they were ever delivered to the respective countries' postal authorities or not. Some claimed that some stamps printed after their genuine usage was over with was much thicker and had yellowish gum. A big fuss was made about the destruction of the plates.

Condemnation of Seebeck among the collecting community was nearly unanimous. Seebeck failed to realize that most stamp collectors want to collect the stamps that are actually usable and available for postage, and not special creations designed to separate them from their money. They objected strongly to Seebeck's unlimited reprinting rights, the needless yearly creation of new issues, and the issuance of postally-irrelevant stamp values. Stamps with face values up to \$10 were issued for the 1892 Columbus anniversary. Although the U.S. and Canada received similar abuse for their 1892 and 1897 stamp series (which included values up to \$5), Seebeck's efforts were seen as particularly blatant. Many collectors refused to collect these issues. An organization with a periodical operated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries solely to discourage the collection of “Seebecks.”



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