

Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter



August 2018

No. 19

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Lars Engelbrecht



Dear friends,

We are looking forward to our next commission meeting in Bangkok on the 30th November. This time we will be doing a workshop with a focus on how to develop your postal stationery exhibit.

There will also be a good representation of postal stationery exhibits at the Thailand exhibition. I am really looking forward to this after two FIP exhibitions in Jerusalem and Prague with no postal stationery class.

Besides our focus on our own class, the Postal Stationery Commission is directly involved in two major FIP projects.

The first project started at the exhibition in Jerusalem, where The FIP Jury Academy had the first class of 14 FIP jurors being trained in judging. The idea for an academy with training of all FIP jurors comes from the FIP Commissions and was presented in Brazil last year at a meeting between representatives from all commissions and the entire FIP Board. I am extremely happy that the FIP has taken this important step to start educating all FIP jurors, and I can only encourage all postal stationery FIP jurors to participate. The next seats in Thailand are being filled up quickly. If you are interested in becoming better at judging and giving feedback, please write to Bernie Beston for a seat in one of the next classes.

The other project we are involved in is a FIP project of aligning the descriptions of how to interpret each of the general judging criteria, so they are being described in the same way in all guidelines. The Postal Stationery Commission updated our guidelines in 2012, and our updated guidelines are being used as a model for how the other commission's guidelines should be. I think we as a commission should be very proud of this.

In this newsletter you will as usual find updates from some of the delegates. We strongly encourage all delegates to send us updates on postal stationery activities. This newsletter is depending on input from the delegates. We also appreciate articles on postal stationery – in this newsletter you will find a great article on Nicaragua postal stationery proofs.

If you have any input to the agenda for our meeting in Thailand, please write me.

See you in Thailand!

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Ian McMahon



Welcome to the August 2018 Newsletter of the Postal Stationery Commission.

The next FIP exhibition with a postal stationery class will be THAILAND 2018 World Stamp Exhibition which will be held from 28 November to 3 December 2018 at the Royal Paragon Hall Exhibition & Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand. THAILAND 2018 will host the FIP Congress and will include a Postal Stationery Commission meeting. The Postal Stationery Commission meeting will be held from 3 pm to 5 pm on 30 November 2018. There will also, no doubt, be a strong postal stationery class.

Please plan now to attend THAILAND 2018 and the Postal Stationery Commission meeting and workshop. We would also appreciate all delegates encouraging postal stationery judges and exhibitors from their country to attend the workshop.

There will be a FIAF exhibition, EXFIL 2018, at Santiago de Chile on 9 – 13 October 2018

which will include a FIAF postal stationery workshop at the Exhibition.

The number of reports and other material we are receiving for the newsletter from Commission Delegates has continued to decline and we have not heard from many delegates for a long time. I would urge all delegates to contribute to the newsletter with reports of their country's activities as well as book reviews and articles on postal stationery.

Finally, a reminder for delegates to pass on information from the Commission to postal stationery judges, exhibitors and collectors in your country and to generally promote exhibiting and collecting postal stationery. We would be especially interested in hearing from you how you promote the exhibiting and collecting of postal stationery.

On page 20 is a list of all of the Commission Delegates and their contact details. If there are any changes to the delegate list or of contact details please let me know. My email is ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com. It is important that our email contracts are up to date. All delegates are invited to provide contributions to the newsletter including reports on stationery activities in your own countries as well as articles on postal stationery and exhibiting and judging.

Postal Stationery Seminar in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Philatelic Federation organised 2 seminars at Chattagram and Dhaka on "Exhibiting Postal Stationery". First seminar was held on 4th May, 2018 at Zela Shilpokala Academy Chattagram from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm as a part of Chittagong Collector's Club Exhibition 2018 which was inaugurated by Mr. Prabal De Putul, President of Chittagong Collector's Club.

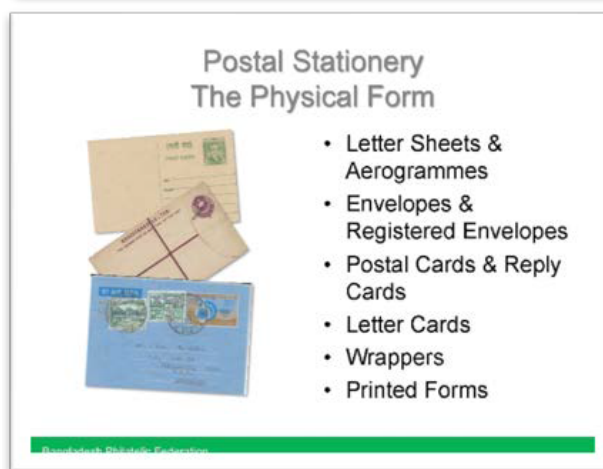
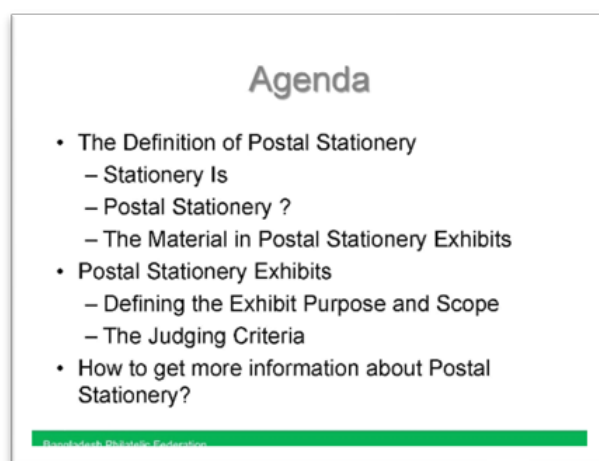




Second Seminar was held at Dhaka G.P.O. on 9th May from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm which was inaugurated by Bangladesh Post Office Director General Sir Mr. Sushanto Kumar Mondal. Both seminar presented by Mohammed Monirul Islam, FIP Postal Stationery Commission delegate, Bangladesh.



The seminar started with an introduction to the definition of postal stationery and the exhibits purpose and scope and the judging criteria and finished with audience open question part.



In total 36 slides presented on Exhibiting Postal Stationery.

If anybody would like to get all 36 presentation slides, please contact the Postal Stationery Delegate of Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammed Monirul Islam moniruma@hotmail.com and it will be send as pdf files.

NEWS FROM THE DELEGATES

UK

By: Mike Smith

The Postal Stationery Society (PSS)

The Chairman Maurice Buxton welcomed members to the first meeting of the year on 7th April, where the speaker was Chris Howe gave an excellent presentation on the Illustrated Postal Cards of Belgium. The society's "One sheet competition" also took place after lunch and this was won by Neil Sargent for his "British Guiana 1879 1c card – 6 colour trials". The day finished with displays from members present.

The Annual General Meeting of the PSS will be on 6th October 2018 at The Royal Philatelic Society, London which will also include the Tony Chilton Competition and the society's "live" auction which always attracts a good attendance.

The first meeting of 2019, on the 6th April, will include a presentation by Mike Smith on The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State.

Anyone interested in membership, should contact the Membership Secretary Edward Caesley (email:caesley@btinternet.com) or visit the website www.postalstationery.org.uk.

Stockholmia 2019

As part of the philatelic program at the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 exhibition, there will be a series of seminars covering "Current Trends" in each of the FIP classes. They are intended to shed light on the latest advances in each of the philatelic disciplines. Mike Smith will be hosting the "Current Trends in Postal Stationery" seminar on Wednesday 29th May 2019 at 2pm.

Chinese Taipei

By: Chen Yu-An

During the first half of 2018, stamp collectors from Chinese Taipei Philatelic Federation have participated in 2 stamp exhibitions. Still there are some philatelic events related to PS.

Thailand – Chinese Taipei International Stamp Exhibition

Held in Bangkok, Thailand from 23-25 March 2018.

On display were 200 frames from both countries. 2 PS exhibits from CTPF:

- 1) Wu-Chih Chen exhibited Aerograms with Airplane Design 1948-1971, awarded LS.
- 2) Cheng-Chien Lai of Youth-A class exhibited Taiwan Postal Cards, Envelopes and Its Overprint 2016, awarded LV.

ROCUPEX Changhwa 2018 National Stamp Exhibition.

Held in Changhwa from July 6 -9 . Mr. Yu-An Chen, Mr. Michael Ho and Mr. Chang-Long Lin were invited as Jury. Many Youth exhibits entered for competition:

- 1) Tin-Yu Tsai exhibited Taiwan Postal Cards and Envelopes 2017, 2 frames, awarded V.
- 2) Guang-Kai Ho Exhibited Taiwan Domestic Postal Cards and Envelopes 2016, 2 frames, awarded V.
- 3) Miao-Jen Shi exhibited 2018 Postal Cards and Envelopes of Taiwan 2014, 3 frames, awarded V.
- 4) Jo-Ting Chao exhibited Postal Cards and Envelopes of Taiwan 2014, 4 frames by awarded LV.
- 5) Li-Chi Liu exhibited 2015 Postal Cards and Envelopes of Taiwan 2015, 5 frames, awarded LV.
- 6) Hong-En Wu exhibited 2011-2016 Postal Cards of Taiwan, 4 frames, awarded LV.
- 7) Yu-Chi Liu exhibited 2014 Postal Cards and Envelopes of Taiwan, 5 frames, awarded LV.

3. PS Philatelic Presentation and Literature Published

Presentation:

Postal Articles Issued by the Italian Foreign Post Office in China by Guang-Zhao Lin at The China Stamp Society, Inc. ROC Chapter monthly meeting in October 2017.

Literature Published:

Dr. SYS Postal Stationery Card Used in the Liberated Area and New China edited by Wai-Chung Juai, ISBN 9-789869-172967 by Philatelic Writers' Club.

The CTPF's Vision for the Future

CTPF has actively promoted youth philatelic activities in recent years, hoping to attract more young people to join the community of Philately, and encouraging them to participate in the competition for stamp exhibition. Postal Stationery is one of the classes that the CTPF targets for. For this reason, in the last two or three years, there have been many youth collectors exhibiting PS exhibits in national and international level stamp exhibitions.

Japan

By: Fumio Yamazaki

There were no Postal Stationery exhibits for Israel 2018 from Japan. But I am pleased to report that there were 2 exhibits, one was as a non-competitive exhibit of Jury by Mr. Kazuyuki Inoue and another one was for Competitive Class, which was a 5 framed exhibit by Mr. Yoshio Fushiki at the National Philatelic Exhibition of "68th All Japan Philatelic Exhibition held at Sumida Industrial Hall 8th Floor from 20th to 22nd July. The award was as follows:

1. "Ethiopia Aerogrammes" exhibited by INOUE, Kazuyuki, as a non-competitive exhibit of Jury

2. "Fundo (Weight) Postal Cards" exhibited by Fushiki, Yoshio who acquired a Large Vermail Medal

As for the Macao 2018 FIAP Exhibition which will be held from 21st to 24th September, there are 2 accepted exhibits from Japan which are as follows:

"Postal Cards of Japan 1873-1874 Cherry Blossom Issue" 5 frames by Mr. SAI, Touru

"Early History of Japanese International Post Cards" 5 frames by KOMIYAMA, Satoshi.

UAE

By: Ali Abdulrahman Ahmad

The Emirates Philatelic Association (EPA) in collaboration with Dragon Mart 2, hold "Stamp Exhibition EPAEX 2018- Dubai" to celebrate "Year of Zayed" and to promote every aspect of philately in the region. The exhibition was held at Dragon Mart 2, Dubai from 6 to 10 March 2018.

The exhibition was inaugurated by H. E. Mohammed Ahmad Almur in the presence of senior officials from Dragon Mart 2, Dubai Culture, Emirates Post and prominent exhibitors from GCC countries.

The exhibitors from GCC countries along with New Zealand participated in the exhibition along with 18 international philatelic & numismatic dealers. The exhibits were judged as per international standards.

Only following 2 Postal Stationery exhibits were shown:

Khalid Darwish (Bahrain)

The History of Postal Stationery in Bahrain (1 Frame) Bronze Medal (60)

Khalid Mohammed Hassan (UAE)

Khalid Mohammed Hassan (1 frame) Certificate of Participation (54)

Australia

By: Ian McMahon

Aerogramme Challenge and National Postal Stationery Class Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018

The 2018 National Postal Stationery Competition took place at the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018 which was held 25-27 May 2018 at Newcastle. There were fifteen exhibits of postal stationery including eleven exhibits of aerogrammes which were part of the aerogramme challenge sponsored by the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA).

With the Aerogramme Challenge, the Newcastle Exhibition had the largest number of aerogramme exhibits that I can ever remember seeing in one place. In all there were eleven exhibits including six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes as well as exhibits of aerogrammes from Canada, Burma, Belgium, Fiji and Ethiopia. The presence of six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes (two of which, the exhibits by Martin Walker and Joan Orr, received Gold medals) provided an opportunity to view six different approaches to essentially the same subject.

It was great to note that each of the exhibits had material not found in any of the other exhibits and taken together the exhibits contained most of the Australian aerogramme rarities. The Ethiopian and Burmese exhibits displayed seldom seen aerogrammes from countries which are less well known and which would have posed significant challenges for the exhibitors in finding material and information about the aerogrammes.

The PSSA prize for the Aerogramme competition was won by Joan Orr for her exhibit *Australia – Airletters and Aerogrammes 1944-1968*, while the Australian Philatelic Federation Prize for the Best in Show was won by Ian McMahon with his exhibit of the *Airletters and Aerogrammes of Canada*.



Jury Critique



Frames of aerogrammes

Besides the aerogramme exhibits there were exhibits of *Australian Commonwealth Kangaroo Stationery* by Nancy Gray (Large Gold); *The Department of Education Postcards of New Zealand* by Lionel Savins (Large Vermeil); *Tasmanian Embossed Stationery 1883-1912* by Malcolm Groom (Large Gold); and *India Asoka Stationery* by Ali Abdulrahman (Silver). The results were:

Lionel Savins	The Department of Education Postcards of New Zealand	81 LV
Nancy Gray	Australian Commonwealth Kangaroo Stationery	91 LG
Malcolm Groom	Tasmanian Embossed Stationery 1883-1912	92 LG + SP
Ali Abdulrahman	India Asoka Stationery	68 S
Linda Welden	Australian Aerogrammes 1944-1965	70 LS
Anthony Scott	Airletters to Aerogrammes 1944 to 1968	75 V
Ed Wolf	Pre-decimal Australian Airletters and Aerogrammes.	83 LV
Joan Orr	Australia - Airletters and Aerogrammes 1944-1968	88 G + SP
Martin Walker	Australia's Note Printing Branch Aerogramme Production to 1971	85 G + Fel

Frank Pauer	Australian Airletters and Aerogrammes to 1980 - The Note Printing Branch Era	
84 LV		
Paul Xavier	Fiji - Airmail Letter Cards and Aerogrammes [1944-1992]	68 S
Martin Walker	Air Letters of Burma	68 S
Bernard Beston	Ethiopia Aerogrammes	76 V
Michel Roland	Belgian Aerogrammes - The Complete Story	83 LV
Ian McMahon	Air Letters and Aerogrammes of Canada	92 LG + SP

Australian Participation in Overseas National Exhibitions

Hong Kong Stampex 2018 was a National level exhibition with an Australian accord judge. Postal stationery results of Australian entrants were:

Bernie Beston	British Guiana Postal Stationery	91	Gold
Glen Stafford	Siam's Postal Cards	80	LV

Royal 2018 Royale at St Catherines was a Canadian National level exhibition with an Australian accord judge. Postal stationery results of Australian entrants were:

Geoff Kellow	The Air letters of Sierra Leone 1944-1971	88	G
Lionel Savins	Department of Education postcards of New Zealand	87	G

Stamp News articles on Postal Stationery

I have been writing a series of articles on postal stationery in the *Australian stamp magazine Australasia Stamp News* and have covered a variety of topics including what is postal stationery, Australian, Australian Territory, Belgium, Canadian and New Zealand postal stationery, new Australia Post issues, postal stationery literature, exhibiting and reports of meetings.

Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meetings

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia meeting on 18 March 2018 at the Canberra Stampshow 2018 included displays by Gary Brown of South Africa WWII Jewish and Comforts airletters, John Moore of South African pictorial postcards and Philip Levine of Cape of Good Hope postcards. The meeting was attended by fifteen members with nine apologies. There was a brief report on progress with the NSW postal stationery handbook and catalogue being undertaken by Dingle Smith and Peter Kowald with assistance from Michael Blinman.



PSSA Meeting Canberra Stampshow 2018

Postal Stationery Society of Australia meeting at the Newcastle Exhibition on 27 May 2018 included displays by Glen Stafford of Singapore aerogrammes and Thai postcards as well as a discussion on postal notes led by Ross Pratley (addressing the meeting in the photo below).



France

By: Jacques Foort

Here are the results from the latest Championships at Paris-Philex in France:

*Championnat de France de Philatélie à Paris
07-10 juin 2018*

- AUGUSTO PEDROSO Dias Paulo :
Embossed Postal Stationery of Portugal
Mainlany King LUIS 1 Issues O + FJ -
PS- 92pts

- LOGETTE Jean-François: Essais et épreuves du coupon-réponse international modèle Rome. GV- 85pts.
- SINAIS Bertrand: Triomphe et déchéance des entiers postaux au type Pétain O + PS 94pts.

It was a very fine exhibit in Paris, but only three collections about our passion of postal stationery.

These three collections were, however, greatly appreciated by jurors and visitors.

USA

By: Ross Towle

The annual United Postal Stationery Society Champion of Champions competition was held at the national show Garfield Perry March Party in Cleveland, Ohio. Winners of the Marcus White award (multi-frame) and UPSS single frame award from earlier USA national shows were invited to compete. Richard Malmgren with his 8 frame exhibit Hawaii Postal Cards won the multi-frame championship. Richard Taschenberg with his 1-frame exhibit The 10 Cent US Envelopes of 1870-1874 won the single frame championship.

The UPSS continues to publish new books (paper and electronic) The UPSS has released U.S. Domestic Postal Card Regulations 1874 to 1885 by Robert Stendel as a PDF. The Western Express Companies by Oscar Thomas was updated as a DVD which included new listings and images. The 20th/21st Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United

States Catalog was updated as a PDF. The Historical Catalog of U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs by Falberg and Undersander was released as a PDF. The new book Postal Stationery of Mexico by Peter Bamert, Wayne Menuz, and Bill Walton received a Large Gold medal at CHICAGOPEX 2017. Additional publications are in the pipeline.

Of course, the bi-monthly journal Postal Stationery provides articles and information about world wide postal stationery. Overseas members find the digital membership option an excellent way to avoid the high cost of receiving Postal Stationery by mail.

Members and non-members (!!) of the UPSS can now search the back issues of Postal Stationery, Pantograph, USES (bulletin of the US Envelope Society), and Envelope World and get a list of articles meeting their search criteria. Members are able to click on the article to see a PDF of the article.

China

By: Frank, Li Zhifei

There're some regional and national study circles on postal stationery in China in recent years. The number of PS collectors has been growing. Many young collectors are interested in PS and some TR, PH & TH collectors also become interested in PS. As a result, both

modern and classical PS materials are becoming popular.

Most Chinese collectors mainly collect and study Chinese materials, so we are introducing PS from all over the world to them to encourage them to collect materials from other countries.

Now we are working on the following two projects in China, training PS jurors and encouraging PS collectors and exhibitors to

publish their own study and research articles/books. The details of PS exhibits from

China in both national and international exhibitions are as follows, as well as judging.

1. Exhibition Results

China 2016 –33rd FIAP Asian International Stamp Exhibition

He Xipeng	<i>The Usage of Postal Stationeries of PRC (1949.10-1970)</i>	5 Frames	85	LV
Hu Qingfeng	<i>Stamped Postcards of P.R. China 1956-1970</i>	5 Frames	77	LS
Huang Dou	<i>Stamped Postcard of Junk Design of ROC (1914.12-1936.12)</i>	5 Frames	73	S
Li Xiangrong	<i>Stamped Envelopes of China (1956-1970)</i>	8 Frames	88	LV+SP
Ran Jing	<i>China Stamped Letter Sheet of Regular 4 Type (1952)</i>	5 Frames	76	LS
Zhai Xiaoxing	<i>Ashoka Pillar Postal Stationery of India (1949-1970)</i>	5 Frames	75	LS
Zhang Jian	<i>First Issue Postcard of Imperial Chinese Post (1897-1911)</i>	OFE	78	

Melbourne 2017 –34th FIAP International Stamp Exhibition

Zhang Jingwei	<i>P.R.China: Stamped Letter Sheets of 1952</i>	5 Frames	87	LV
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BANDUNG 2017 – FIP World Stamp Exhibition

Chen Yue	<i>People's Republic of China: Tien An Men Design Postal Envelope (1956-1965)</i>	5 Frames	81	V
Frank	<i>Albanian Postal Stationery 1913-1944</i>	5 Frames	88	LV+SP
Li Zhifei				
Pan Xiaochun	<i>China: Commemorating the Completion of Hong Kong Bank of China Tower Stamped Postcard</i>	OFE	84	

BRASILIA 2017 – FIP Specialized World Stamp Exhibition

Wang Zhigang	<i>AQ Letter Sheets of the Republic of Venice (Franchise Period, First 40 years 1608-1648)</i>	8 Frames	85	LV
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Mianyang 2017 –National Specialized Stamp Exhibition

Postal Stationery in Modern Philately

Yang Bo	<i>People's Republic of China: Tien An Men Design Postal Envelope (1974-1982)</i>	3 Frames	78	LS
Yu Gang	<i>China Commemorative Postal Envelopes (JF.1-JF.19)</i>	5 Frames	80	V
Zhang Jingwei	<i>M1 Flower Design Postal Envelopes in China</i>	5 Frames	80	V
Li Yunxian	<i>PRC Commemorative Postal Cards (JP1-24)</i>	5 Frames	83	V
Song Tianxiang	<i>PRC Qianmen Design Postal Envelopes</i>	5 Frames	70	S
Wang Huailiang	<i>PRC Regular and Definitive Postal Envelopes (1992-1999)</i>	5 Frames	75	LS
Ge Chunfu	<i>PRC Marble Boat Design Regular Postal Cards (1992)</i>	5 Frames	78	LS
Sun Dawei	<i>PRC First Set of New Year Lottery Postal Cards (1992)</i>	5 Frames	70	S
Zhai Xiaoxing	<i>Rose Design Regular Postal Cards</i>	5 Frames	67	SB
Wang Baogong	<i>Study on Peony Design Definitive Postal Cards 1999-2006</i>	5 Frames	70	S
Wang Yong	<i>PRC Local Postage-Free Postal Stationery (1983-1996)</i>	5 Frames	67	SB

2. Judging

China 2016 –33rd FIAP Asian International Stamp Exhibition

Frank Li Zhifei in Traditional 2C - Rest of the world

Melbourne 2017 –34th FIAP International Stamp Exhibition

Frank Li Zhifei in PS Team

BRASILIA 2017 – FIP Specialized World Stamp Exhibition

Frank Li Zhifei in PS Team

Mianyang 2017 –National Specialized Stamp Exhibition

TR Team judging TR, Modern (TR & PS)

Team Leader: Kou Lei (FIAP accredited juror)

3. Future Exhibitions

Changzhou 2018-18th All China Philatelic Exhibition, 1000 frames, full classes

Dates: May 11-13, 2018

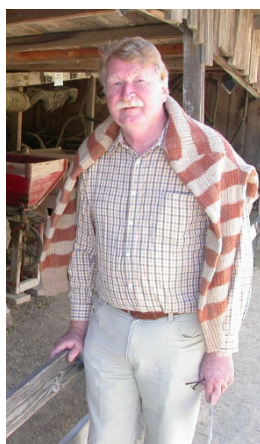
Venue: Changzhou Olympic International Convention Center

Details will be reported by the end of May.

JOHN SINFIELD FAP FRSV

By: Ian McMahon

The postal stationery community has lost one of its best known and respected postal stationery collectors with the passing of John Sinfield in April 2018.



John was a FIP and FIAP judge in postal stationery and formed outstanding collections of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery including envelopes, postcards and lettercards as well as collections of the postal stationery of Panama and Victoria. His exhibits of Australian Commonwealth scenic lettercards and postcards both received large gold medals at international exhibitions while his exhibit of Australian Commonwealth envelopes had received an international gold medal. John's 'Panama Republic Postal Stationery to 1940' was awarded a Large Gold and Special Prize at Brazil 2013 and was runner up for the Grand Prix International-FIP Championship Class at Melbourne 2017 (FIAP). His Australia Lettercards and Victoria postal cards were among his several favourites.

As one of the most knowledgeable collectors and researchers of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery, he was one of three Consulting Editors to the Postal Stationery volume of the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue* published by Brusden and White.

John had been a keen stamp collector for most of his life and been involved in Australian and international organised Philately for over 40 years, being on the Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (RPSV), on the Executive of the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF), a judge, commissioner, exhibitor, or on the organising committee at exhibitions. He was a member of Member of the Australia Post Stamp Advisory Committee.

John was a contributor to many philatelic publications such as *Postal Stationery Collector*, *Philately from Australia*, *The Date Stamp* and the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue*. John lectured in postal stationery in Australia and overseas.

John also formed some important and notable collections in other disciplines including thematic philately where his 'Whiskers' exhibit won several international and national gold medals and was exhibited in the Court of Honour at Taipei 96.

He will be missed by the Australian and international postal stationery collecting community.

POSTAL STATIONERY EXHIBITING SEMINAR AT THAILAND 2018

During the FIP exhibition Thailand 2018 in Bangkok, our commission will hold a meeting and seminar: "How to build and develop your

postal stationery exhibit" with Lars Engelbrecht and Ian McMahon as the presenters.

The meeting will take place Friday November 30th November 15.00-17.00 in the Commissioners room.

All delegates, collectors, exhibitors and jurors are most welcome!

FOCUS AREAS FOR THE FIP POSTAL STATIONERY COMMISSION TO 2020

The Postal Stationery Commission worked on the six projects that the bureau identified for the years 2012-2016, and at the commission meeting in Taipei 2016 all delegates

participated in a workshop where suggestions could be raised for future projects.

The projects towards 2020 are the following:

Project	Responsible
Project 1: Newsletters We will continue to issue our commission newsletter with information on exhibition results, articles on exhibiting etc. The Newsletter will be issued twice a year	Lars Engelbrecht, Editor of newsletter Ian McMahon, Co-editor of newsletter
Project 2: Videos on YouTube We will make one or more videos of seminars or other information about postal stationery exhibiting and publish it in YouTube	Ian McMahon, Project responsible Yu-An Chen
Project 3: Commission Facebook page We will make a Facebook page for the commission and open up for dialogue between exhibitors, jurors and the commission	Lars Engelbrecht, Project responsible Ian McMahon & Juan Reinoso
Project 4: Commission Website Update The commission website needs an update with a new layout. The content will be converted to the new website, while the overview and navigation will become easier.	Ross Towle, Project responsible Michael Smith
Project 5: Seminars & New Presentations We will develop a new version of the general presentation on judging postal stationery. We will also develop new supplementary presentations about special areas within exhibiting and judging postal stationery	Lars Engelbrecht, Project responsible Igor Pirc

NICARAGUAN PROOFS. HAMILTON BANK NOTE COMPANY AND THE GERMAN MASTER ENGRAVER AND DIE MAKER RUDOLF P. LAUBENHEIMER

By: Ross Towle and Glen Stafford

Introduction

Only in the past three or four years has the name Rudolph P. Laubenstein been connected to the philately of Nicaragua and its postal stationery.

Auction sales held in 2015 and later retail sales have brought to the marketplace many heretofore unknown postal stationery, medallion, and other production material created by Laubenstein. The Nicaragua items are single and some multiple proof strikes of various postal stationery dies for envelopes and wrappers for the issues of 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1895. The items are from Laubenstein's personal archive as a master engraver and die sinker. The archive had been passed down through family members who in the 2010s decided to sell it.

Nearly every Nicaragua stamp collector has some familiarity with the names Nicholas F. Seebeck and the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company, founded January 16, 1884, in New York City. Beginning in April 1884, Seebeck became a part owner of the Hamilton firm and at various times until 1899 was its general manager, secretary, president, vice president, or treasurer.

We now know that Laubenstein worked with the Hamilton firm on the contract that Seebeck signed with Nicaragua and that Seebeck fulfilled through Hamilton. Laubenstein also worked with Hamilton on the contracts Seebeck signed with Honduras and El Salvador, and on the contract Henry Etheridge signed with Ecuador.

In this article, collectors Ross Towle of the United States and Glen Stafford of Australia tell how they discovered the Laubenstein-Nicaragua connection.

Towle is a postal stationery collector, researcher, and author. Stafford is an avid collector of Nicaragua postal stationery and a member of the Nicaragua Study Group. He is ecstatic to have discovered that Laubenstein was the actual die maker for many of the die proofs now displayed in his exhibit "Nicaragua Postal Stationery (The Seebeck Era)." – Mike Schreiber editor Nicarao

During the New York 2016 World Stamp Show (held in May), Glen was able to purchase some Nicaraguan postal stationery proof material. Many of the proof items showed a two or three digit number scratched into the bottom of the proofs; also some of the proofs had pencil annotated numbers. Glen wondered whether those numbers represented die numbers, internal order numbers or job numbers.

Months later, Glen approached co-author Ross Towle and asked if he could provide additional information about the proof materials. This occurred at an FIP Postal Stationery Commission meeting during the Taipei 2016 stamp show held October 21-26 in Taiwan.

Glen and Ross both are international exhibitors and jurors for international exhibitions affiliated with the International Federation of Philately (FIP).

Ross had been researching the business archives of the American Bank Note Company ('ABN Co'). His research had shown that:

- Many of the dies in the archive originated from companies that ABN Co had purchased;
- It is not known whether ABN Co also acquired the records from those companies because the records did not form part of the ABN Co business archive;
- In 1923, all of the dies in the archive were audited and renumbered from 1 to 50,000;
- Ross found a letter from ABN Co to US Post Office where they describe discarding business records of acquired companies if they were determined to be not needed shortly after acquisition.
- Since 1923, every new die had been consecutively numbered from 50,001 onwards; and
- The Hamilton Bank Note Company's ('HBN Co') dies are not part of those records. So Ross wondered where the HBN Co's dies and or records could be found?

The Hamilton Bank Note Company's Story:

- HBN Co was not liquidated in 1948 as stated in Hessler's *The Engraver's Line book*.
- In the Supplement, the editor corrected the entry to the company being acquired by Security Bank Note Company of Philadelphia ('SBN Co.') in 1951.
- In 1957 SBN Co merged with Columbian Bank Note Company to form Security-Columbian Bank Note Company ('SCBN Co.').
- SCBN Co changed its name in 1965 to United States Banknote Corporation with security printing done by a subsidiary as Security-Columbian Division.
- B.T. Babbit, Inc ('B.T.B. Inc') took over a large block of ABN Co's stock in 1968 and acquired more over the years.
- In 1972 B.T.B. Inc completed a tender offer for the rest of ABN Co's stock and changed the name of B.T.B. Inc to International Banknote Corporation.
- In 1990 United States Banknote Corporation acquired the holding company International Banknote Corporation and changed the surviving entity to American Banknote Corporation.

Some (possibly all) of Hamilton dies engraved plates still existed in 1951 when acquired by Security Bank Note Company. What did Security Bank Note Company do with Hamilton business records in 1951? Ross's research still continues today.

On the 11th December 1951, the Security Bank Note Company of Philadelphia destroyed all remaining Seebeck's Nicaraguan, Dies, Rolls and Cliches at the request of Augustin Vanegas, Director of the Philatelic Agency of the Nicaraguan Government in Managua. The impetus for the destruction came as Augustin "was anxious to vindicate his government's connection with the Seebeck scandal and other manipulations since then.¹" It was often felt by the Nicaraguan Philatelic Agency that the shadow of Seebeck was holding down sales of Nicaragua's current issues.

Ross advised Glen that with the lack of records of the dies/companies, it might be very difficult to match the numbers on the proof items with any surviving ABN Co documentation. This was not the straightforward answer for which Glen had been hoping. He had been puzzling over the mysterious numbers for several months and had pinned his hopes on Ross providing a simple solution to the puzzle.

However, Ross was 100% positive that the numbers on die proofs or above them are neither order nor job numbers. He believes those to be die numbers engraved or written by the Hamilton Bank Note Company.

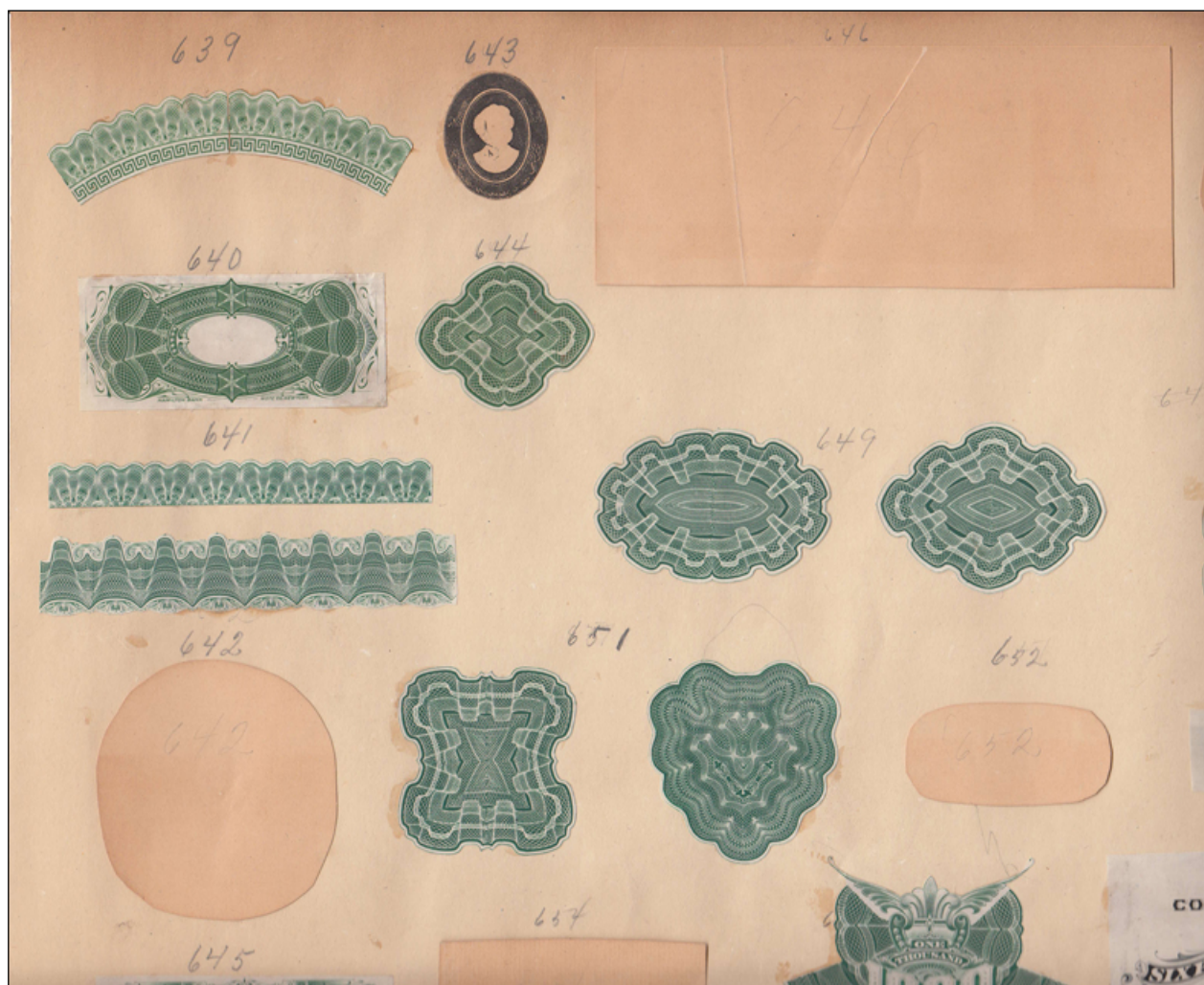
The image below is of the Hamilton Bank Note Company's proofs, which are glued on to a page. Note the written numbers; Ross interpreted these numbers as die numbers. He bought a number of those pages of miscellaneous die proofs at a Cherrystone auction. Most of those lots of went unsold. (*Note: The authors would like to see scanned copies if anyone had purchased these items*)

Glen was aware that many of the Nicaraguan dies produced for Hamilton Banknote Company bore similar designs to South American postal stationery produced by ABN Co.

So he asked Ross whether any of ABN Co's die makers might have also produced Nicaraguan dies for Hamilton Banknote Company. Ross doubted it but realised there was another possible solution to Glen's puzzle – an independent die maker.

According to Ross, the German-born independent master engraver and die maker, Rudolf P Laubenheimer, might have produced some of the dies in question. Ross pointed Glen in the direction of the Kelleher Auction House sale of October 24-26 2014, which included part of the Laubenheimer's die proof archives. When Glen searched the auction results, lo and behold there were the items that he had purchased in New York.

Not only was Ross able to solve the whole mystery of the numbers on the proofs, but Glen also now knows who produced the dies for those proofs.



Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company sheet of numbered strikes of dies of various engine-turned (lathe) designs for security paper such as currency or documents. The strikes are on proofing paper that is glued to the sheet. Some designs are cut out.

Rudolf Philipp Laubenheimer, engraver, die sinker and medal maker (1833 – 1905)

For more information on Rudolf Laubenheimer see Postal Stationery Collector Volume 23 No1: Issue 89 February 2017.

The Seebeck contracts

In 1889 on a trip through Central America, Seebeck as representative of the Hamilton firm had signed contracts with El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua to produce and supply, free of charge, beautifully designed and professionally produced stamps and postal stationery each year or each two years for a period of 10 years. At the end of each year or period, any remaining stock of stamps and postal stationery would be demonetized and returned to Seebeck for sale to the collector market.

Seebeck fulfilled the contracts through the Hamilton firm, but he retained control of the contracts. The Minute Books of the firm document that it billed Seebeck for expenses in producing the stamps and postal stationery.² This would have included the engraving services Laubenheimer provided.

Seebeck did not retail to collectors the remainders and reprints of the stamps and postal stationery he manufactured under his contracts. In the early 1890s, Seebeck sold those stamps and postal stationery and the rights to resell them to New York City wholesale stamp dealer Gustave B. Calman.³

Hamilton Banknote Proofs.

The following information is about the proofs, which are from the Laubenheimer archives for this contract.

1890 Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers



Steel engraved proofs for 1890 envelopes. For the envelope design, the top of the shield of the coat of arms is rounded. The surround (surrounding metal) of each is fully inked.



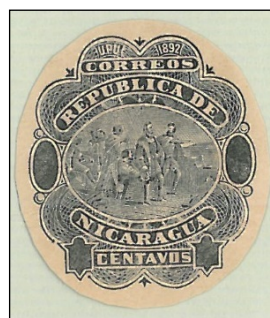
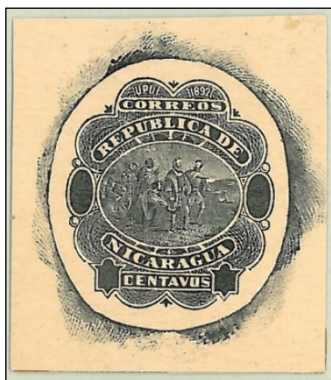
Steel engraved proofs for the 1890 wrappers. For the wrapper design, the top of the shield of the coat of arms is flat. The two value (denomination) tablets of the proof in carmine are uncut.

1891 Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers



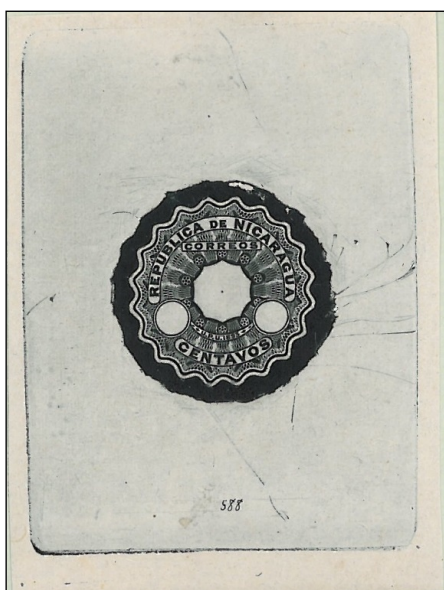
Steel engraved or lithographic (at far right) proofs with uncut value tablets. The grey proof shows an inked surround. The currency legend is omitted from the second blue proof.

1892 Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers

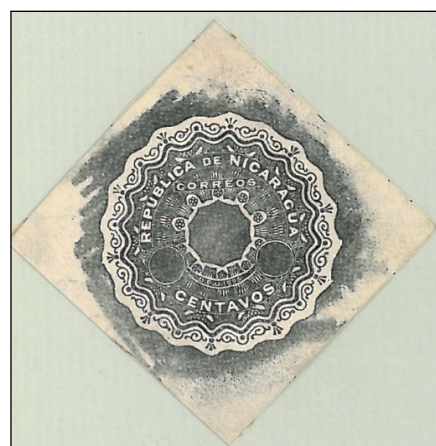


Lithographic proofs with uncut value tablets. The proof at the right shows a partially inked surround.

1893 Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers



Steel engraved negative die proof with blank value tablets and inked surround. Engraved "588."



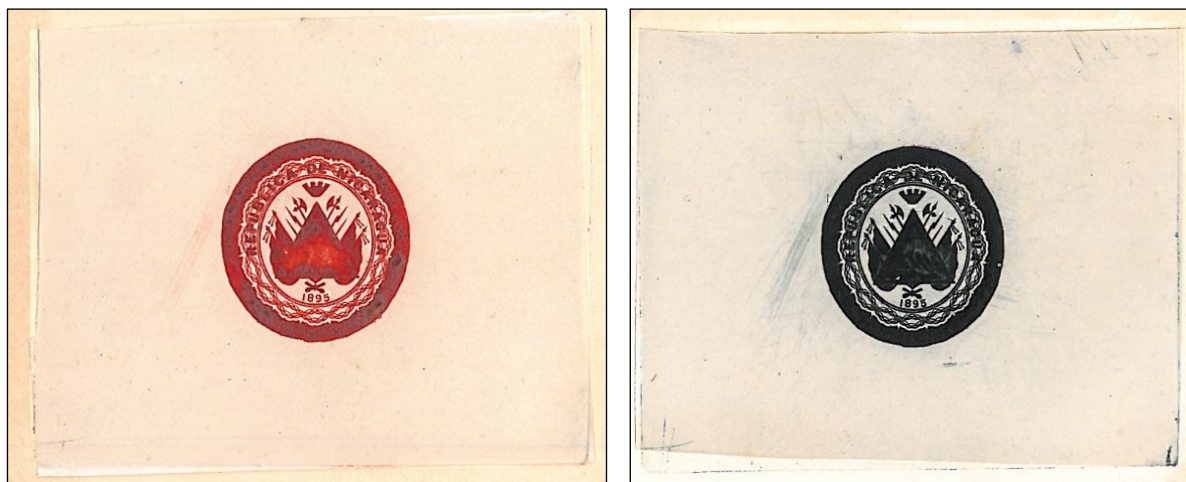
Lithographic pull of die with uncut value tablets. Inked surround. Design has different ornaments.



Steel engraved die proofs of unadopted design for envelopes and probably wrappers, with and without value tablets (denominations) inserted. The surround on each proof is inked.

Each of these four impressions is a negative. What is inked here would be uninked on the printed product, as with the lithographic pull of the similar design shown on the next page, top right. In that lithographic pull, the letters of the legends are reversed out of the ink. On these four red proofs, the letters of the legends and all lines are inked. Some of the numerals are inked, and some are reversed out of the red ink. The design reads "U.P.U. 1893."

1895 Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers



Steel engraved negative die proofs without value tablets and with inked surrounds.



Die proof with value 50c value

Lithograph pull of die proof without value

Summary, after collaboration with Ross Towle:

- Glen is now sufficiently confident to describe the numbers above and/or below the die proofs as references to die numbers.
- He is ecstatic to have discovered who was the actual die maker for many of the die proofs currently in his exhibit 'Nicaragua Postal Stationery (The Seebeck Era)'

Footnotes:

1 Ernest A Kehr, "Destruction of the Seebeck Nicaraguan Dies, Transfer Rolls and Clichés," The London Philatelist, February 1952, No. 711, pages 2222-24.

2 Transcriptions of the Hamilton Minute Books for 1884-1899 in their entirety (less missing or obscured pages) are in *The Seebecker*, June 1987 - March 1989 and January 1990 - October 1991, Vol. 1, No. 3, through Vol. 2, No. 3, and Vol. 3, No. 1, through Vol. 3, No. 4.

3 Leo J. Harris, in *Collectors Club Philatelist*, September 1981, page 291, suggests that Seebeck made his arrangement with Gus Calman in 1888. Danilo A. Mueses wrote in the book *Seebeck: Hero or Villain?* that the 1888 arrangement concerned remainders of Dominican Republic and the State of Bolivar. Mueses wrote that "in the early 1890s" Seebeck contracted with Calman to sell the stamp and postal stationery remainders of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Ecuador

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Planned international exhibitions with a Postal Stationery class. Please note that not all exhibitions are confirmed.

21-24 Sep 2018	Macau	Macau 2018	FIAP		
28 Nov - 3 Dec 2018	Thailand	Thailand 2018	FIP	www.thailand2018.org	Commission meeting
9 -13 Oct 2018.	Chile, Santiago	EXFIL 2018	FIAP		
May 2019	Bulgaria, Plovdiv	Bulgaria 2019	FEPA		
2019	Sweden, Stockholm	Stockholmia 2019	RPSL	www.stockholmia2019.se	
2019	Singapore	Singapore 2019	FIAP		
June 2019	China Beijing	China 2019	FIP		
Mar 2020	New Zealand	New Zealand 2020	FIAP		
2020	Taipei	Taipei 2020	FIAP		
2020	Malaysia	Malaysia 2020	FIP		Commission meeting
2-6 May 2020	UK, London	London 2020	FIP		
7-10 Oct 2020	Turkey, Ankara	Ankara 2020	FEPA		
17-22 May 2021	South Africa	South Africa 2021	FIP		
2021	Japan	Philanippon 2021	FIP		
Nov 2021	Greece, Athens	Notos 2021	FEPA		
23-30 May 2026	USA Boston	Boston 2026			

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