



The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

Royal Train of 1939 Revisited by Don Brumbaugh



In the February 2021 issue of *Hinges & Tongs*, our resident cachet illustrator Kelly Armstrong told how he came to create a cachet for a cover postmarked on the Royal Train R.P.O. This inspired me to write about a cover I have collected regarding the Royal Train. Lucy and I were privileged to ride behind the Royal Hudson steam locomotive on a tourist train trip out of North Vancouver, BC in 1982. This historic train no longer runs, but is preserved in a Canadian railroad museum. When I happened on a Royal Train cover at a stamp show, I decided I would begin a collection of this niche of Canadian-US philately. One of my early pieces was a cachet first day of issue cover.

journey to North America. Canada issued a set of three bi-colored stamps for the occasion, Scott #246: 1c depicting Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, Scott #247, 2c depicting the National War Memorial, Ottawa, Ontario, and Scott #248, 3c depicting King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Despite their presence on the 1c stamp, the two princesses remained in Britain during this first royal visit to the New World.

The King and Queen actually arrived in Quebec City aboard the *Empress of Australia* two days late, on May 17, 1939. They headed west on a special Royal Train. In Ottawa, the National War Memorial was dedicated by the King, ironically less than four months before the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939. After reaching Vancouver, the Royal Train returned eastward visiting additional towns in Canada and on June 8, entered the US at Niagara Falls, NY in route to the New York World's Fair and Washington D.C.



The cover showing photographs of the King and Queen and a map of the trip bears a set of stamps postmarked aboard the Royal Train, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The cover was sent to Westmount, Quebec. It was cancelled on May 15, the date of release for the stamps even though the tour did not begin until two days later.

King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and the US from May 15 to July 15, 1939, the first reigning British monarchs to make the

Editor's note: Don was not the only RPA member to send me a cover from the Canadian leg of the Royal Train visit. Gene Yount sent a picture of this piece from the 1939 event. His cover carries the same first day of issue and was sent to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Clearly, RPA has some train enthusiasts among its members.



RPA Meeting News

RPA has moved its meetings online. You can attend this spring without leaving the warmth and safety of your home. We are holding meetings on all of our normal dates. Given we cannot meet in-person, we are dropping the pre-meeting social half hour and our meetings now start at 7:30 PM.

The links to join our meetings are sent to members shortly prior to the meetings and are posted on our [meetings website page](#). Hope to “see” you there.

We have three remaining Zoom meetings in our spring season before taking a break for July and August. We are hopeful that we can return to in-person meetings in September

Remaining May-June meetings:

May 27th: Program: A Brief Tour of the USPS Media Web Site

June 10th: Program: The Prexies and WWII” by *Jeff Shapiro*

June 24th: Program TBA, but you will need to bring your own strawberries! (BYOS)

RPA Member Buy-Sell-Trade-Wanted Offers Wanted

Our Internet offer page is pretty sparse. It's time for you to add your offerings. Just a few simple rules to follow

1. Offers are limited to 50 words or less
2. Limit of 3 offers per RPA member that may be changed on a monthly basis
3. Full names and phone numbers are optional, but a first name, last name or initial and email are mandatory;
4. Links to images hosted elsewhere will be permitted;
5. Offers will stay online a minimum of 3 months;
6. All offers are solely between the two parties involved.

RPA members are welcome to submit offers per the above by sending this information to stampmf@gmail.com.



Paul Brach and Fred Haynes found this moccasin flower/pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) at Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area in Springwater on May 24th and then again in their stamp collections once home.

The History of Panama and the Panama Canal using Stamps and Postcards

At the RPA Zoom meeting on March 11, member David Farnsworth presented “A History of Panama and Its Canal in Forty-Three Postage Stamps (and Seven Picture Postcards).” The PowerPoint slides are available in a [PDF document at the RPA webpage](#). The presentation was a blend of stamps, picture postcards, and history. It focused on years 1902–1979, when there was the highest US involvement in Panama. Stamps of the Canal Zone, Columbia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, and the USA were displayed.

The first stamp that was displayed was from Nicaragua's Mt. Momotombo set of 1900. An example of the stamp was given to each US senator the morning of the Senate's vote to decide between Panamanian and Nicaraguan routes for a canal.



It was believed that the Nicaraguan route would be the choice. Each stamp was accompanied with text that reminded the senators about the recent deadly volcanic activity in the Caribbean and that the proposed route in Nicaragua could be in the shadow of the smoking volcano on the stamp. The Senate selected

continued on next page (see Canal Zone)

Canal Zone (continued from previous page)

Panama. The case can easily be made that this set of stamps changed history. David explained that the four reasons for the failure of the previous attempts to build a canal in Panama by Ferdinand de Lesseps were tropical diseases not being controlled, attempting a sea-level canal, untamed corruption, and undersized and underutilized equipment. The way that the United States overcame each of these in order to be successful was a major theme of David's presentation.

Many picture postcards and stamps were utilized to illustrate the talk. Besides showing how the earlier failures were overcome, the presentation distinguished between stamps from each of five eras of issuing stamps for the Canal Zone. Starting in 1904, the Canal Zone was a US-administered strip of land that was centered on the canal. The "Zone" was about 50 miles long between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and approximately ten miles wide.

The five eras are also periods of different production for stamps, and showing philatelic changes with time provided additional structure to the presentation. The eras are:

Era 1: For a few months in 1904, Columbian stamps were overprinted for Panamanian postage. They were subsequently primitively hand stamped "Canal Zone".

Era 2: In the later months of 1904, US regular issue stamps were overprinted "Canal Zone, Panama" on two lines for use in Canal Zone..

Era 3: From 1904 to 1924, the US purchased Panamanian stamps that were overprinted "Canal Zone."

Era 4: From 1924 to 1939, US stamps – both regular issues and the sesquicentennial commemorative – were overprinted "Canal Zone" in Washington and shipped to the Canal Zone.

Era 5: From 1928 to 1979, special stamps were designed and produced for the Canal Zone.

There was an overlap period between Eras 4 and 5 in which both types of stamps were introduced and used. The five eras provided a way to talk in broad terms about the different kinds of stamps that were issued and the history of Panama and the canal.

A few stamps were displayed from each era to highlight various talking points. For example, many Canal Zone stamps from Era 5 depict individuals



On the left: Dr. William Gorgas

On the right: U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt



On the left: General George Goethals

On the right: Engineer John F. Stevens

who contributed to the planning and successful completion of the canal.

If the story of the canal's construction were to be told in terms of important or great individuals, David claimed that the four people depicted on these stamps should be on anyone's short list. Dr. William Gorgas eliminated or minimized the rampant disease that had plagued earlier efforts. President Theodore Roosevelt assured that Panama would be free to sign a treaty with the USA and made many other important decisions, such as the use of military personnel to avoid corruption and delays. General George Goethals and John Stevens were chief engineers who decided that the canal should have locks instead of being sea level and designed creative methods to utilize railroads in the construction. The decisiveness of these four individuals was extremely important to the success of the project.

Editor's Note: This article was written in the third person by David Farnsworth. He said that he felt uncomfortable writing in the first person and also enjoyed the exercise of writing in the third person.



How Do You Spell ZnS ?

by Fred Haynes



Our favorite minerals come in many forms and colors and it is fun to collect the variety that is available. But did you ever stop to think how many different spellings there are for your favorite mineral in all the world's languages? One way to get started on such an investigation is through worldwide postage stamps. Here is an example using the important sulfide mineral from which most of the world's zinc is resourced.

Sphalerite takes its name from the Greek word sphaleros which means deceptive as the mineral can be easily mistaken for the lead sulfide mineral galena. There are certainly more languages than represented by these stamps from 12 countries and ten languages, but they do cover the world! To date, the United States has not joined this list.

Can you see the two countries which use the Spanish spelling (Esfalerita)? The Central African Republic used French on their stamp adding the aigu accent mark to the English spelling. The official languages there are French and Sangho. The Solomon Islands, northeast of Australia, were an English colony until 1978. Is that an Elmwood, Tennessee piece with a nice doubly terminated calcite on their stamp? It looks like it is to me. The Afghan language on their stamp is Pashto. What else do you notice with these stamps?

Szfalerit



Hungary

сфалерит



Bulgaria

สังกะสี



Thailand

Esfalerita



Spain



Greece

Esfalerita



Peru

Sfalerit



Yugoslavia

Sfaleryt



Poland

سپاهریتیت



Afghanistan

Sphalérite



Central Africa Rep.

Sphalerite



Solomon Islands

ZnS-Sphalerit



Germany

National Artistic Hair Work Co.

by Larry Rausch



This September 22 unknown year cover, postmarked during 1880-1890, was mailed from the National Artistic Hair Work Co. located in Chicago, IL to Mrs. Porter of Indiana. When I found this cover, it reminded me of the many summer days spent at my wife's maternal grandmother's farm in Fly Creek, NY near Cooperstown.

Grandma Koshar always had a small porcelain jar on her dresser with a round hole in its top. I learned that this dresser jar was a hair receiver. Today the heirloom to the right adorns my wife's dresser.



You may ask what is a hair receiver which is exactly what I asked her. Dating from the Victorian times (1850 thru 1920), hair receivers were a fixture on the dressing tables of most fashionable ladies. They were designed to hold hair that was removed from hairbrushes and resembled vanity jars or powder jars, but with the distinctive feature of having a finger-sized opening hole in the center of the lid.

Ladies then took the collected hair and used it for such things such as pin cushions, pillow cushions, and hair woven jewelry. They also created "ratts." Ratts were sheer hair nets stuffed full of the collected hair, sewn shut, and used to embellish hairstyles of the time.

Hair receivers were made from many different materials including glass, metal, and ceramics; the most notable being porcelain. Production was mostly European (France, Germany, and Austria) but they were also produced in Japan, China, and the United States.



This bracelet represents turn-of-the-century Victorian jewelry made from human hair. It is items like this that may have been made by the National Artistic Hair Work Co. The band is made of woven hair and additional hair makes up the decorative design under glass. At today's antique shows in the jewelry display, you would find many such pieces made of hair.

This unusual postal cover brings back fond memories from my past. Good hunting on your quest to find philatelic items that remind you of your past.



In April the USPS honored American's love for coffee and the coffee break, except where is just plain old regular black coffee?

Gordon Morrison

July 1, 1930

- May 5, 2021



Gordon Calvin Morrison passed away peacefully on May 5th, 2021 at the age of 90. Gordon served as Assistant Postmaster General for 21 years before retiring in 1992. But Gordon will be remembered in Rochester for his time before that when he served multiple terms as RPA President and ROPEX chairman. He was known for his innovative ideas as he expanded the role of the RPA both locally and nationally.

Gordon was born in Sayre, Pennsylvania and earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Syracuse and Duke University respectively before settling in Rochester where he was employed by the Democrat and Chronicle and later Stromberg-Carlson, a subsidiary of General Dynamics.

But Gordon's first love was stamp collecting and philately and he was one of those few people who was able to convert his lifetime hobby of stamp collecting into a career. This happened in 1971 when Gordon joined the United States Postal Service and moved to Potomac, MD. Although he left Rochester and his direct involvement in RPA activity at that time, Gordon remained connected to the RPA as a lifetime member and occasional contributor to Hinges and Tongs.

At the postal service Gordon was responsible for the selection, issuance and distribution of all new stamps. He developed themes for new issues such as Rural America, Black Heritage, Transportation and Music Greats. His innovative programs promoted new stamps and encouraged the philatelic hobby by highlighting the fun of collecting.

Gordon suggested to NASA that astronauts postmark an envelope on the moon, thus establishing the first lunar post office during the 1974 rover expedition. He later proposed joint stamp issues with the Soviet Union for Apollo-Soyuz and negotiated their issuances. In an effort to encourage stamp collection for children Gordon initiated Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs in schools throughout the country and provided materials to assist local post offices in supporting them.

Gordon's involvement with philately did not end with retirement. In 2006, he was Executive Director of the Washington International Stamp Exhibition, a week-long event that attracted over 100,000 collectors from around the world. His personal exhibit of Iceland postal stationery won the Grand Prix Nationale at Nordia21001 in Reykjavik.



In 1968, the RPA hosted the annual APS national convention and Gordon Morrison was chairman of the event. Here, Gordon (on the right), presents the "Best of Show" exhibit award to Glenn Jackson.

excerpted from RPA webpage archives

Some words from two RPA members who knew Gordon:

Long-time members will fondly remember Gordon or certainly know of him. He left Rochester in 1971 and became the 3rd Postmaster of the United States in charge of the stamp program through the early 1990s. He was in charge of the 1989 USPS sponsored international show in Washington DC and co-chair of the Washington 2006 international. He was a real class act! **by Tom Fortunato**

Gordon Morrison was a force of nature. His passing will leave a huge hole in the philatelic world. Tom Fortunato described him as a "class act". His picture should be in the dictionary next to that phrase. Gordon had a pleasant word for everyone, and I don't think he ever met a stranger, much less an enemy. His work transformed stamp collecting as well as stamp issuing. One of my favorite videos of all times is Gordon meeting with Mr. Rogers to explain stamp production to "The Neighborhood". He will be much missed. **by Ada Prill**