



THE MAINE PHILATELIST



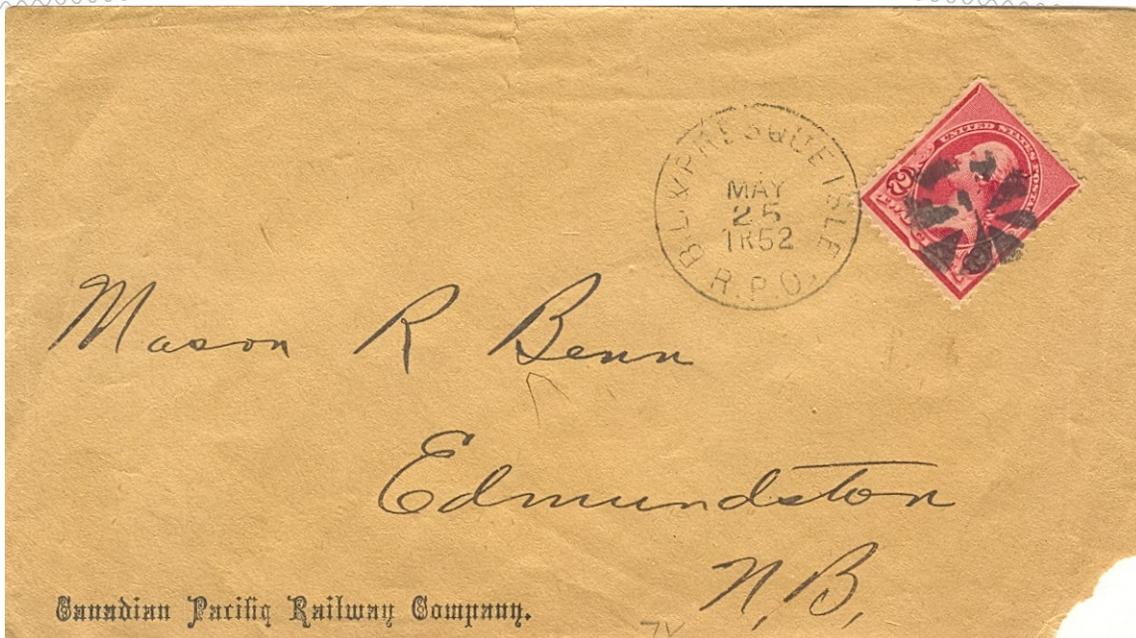
Volume 42, Number 1/2

Winter 2010

Whole # 156



Max Lynds
President



In the United States a railway post office, commonly abbreviated as RPO, was a railroad car that was normally operated in passenger service as a means to sort mail en route, in order to speed delivery. The above cover shows a “BL & PRESQUE ISLE R.P.O.” cancellation. In 1881, the New Brunswick Railway System (later known as the Canadian Pacific Railroad) steamed into town allowing for starch to be shipped south via New Brunswick. The Bangor & Aroostook arrived in Presque Isle in 1894 allowing for a more direct route to the potato markets. I would like to feature a RPO cover in each issue so if you have a favorite please send a scan and short story of the line. Max Lynds

Latest show information is on the web at:
http://www.maxlynds.com/mps_shows.htm

Take a look at the Member Page– Past issues and updates
http://www.maxlynds.com/member_page.htm

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the

Maine Philatelic Society

Website <http://www.maxlynds.com/mps.htm>

The purpose of the Society is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to everyone. Please send your name and address to the Secretary listed below along with \$10.00 dues for a year. Life memberships are not available at this time but you may prepay for as many years as you wish.

Officers

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Maine Stamp Club Meetings



WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fair- field (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872- 5107. Non-members are invited to attend.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm St, Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$5 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Comer Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The club meets from April to November on the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00 PM at the Ellsworth Church of the Nazarene . Typical events include an auction, a raffle, presentations and an opportunity to purchase from a member stamp dealer. Non-members are welcome. For further information on location contact Eric Beal, 827-2686, Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu

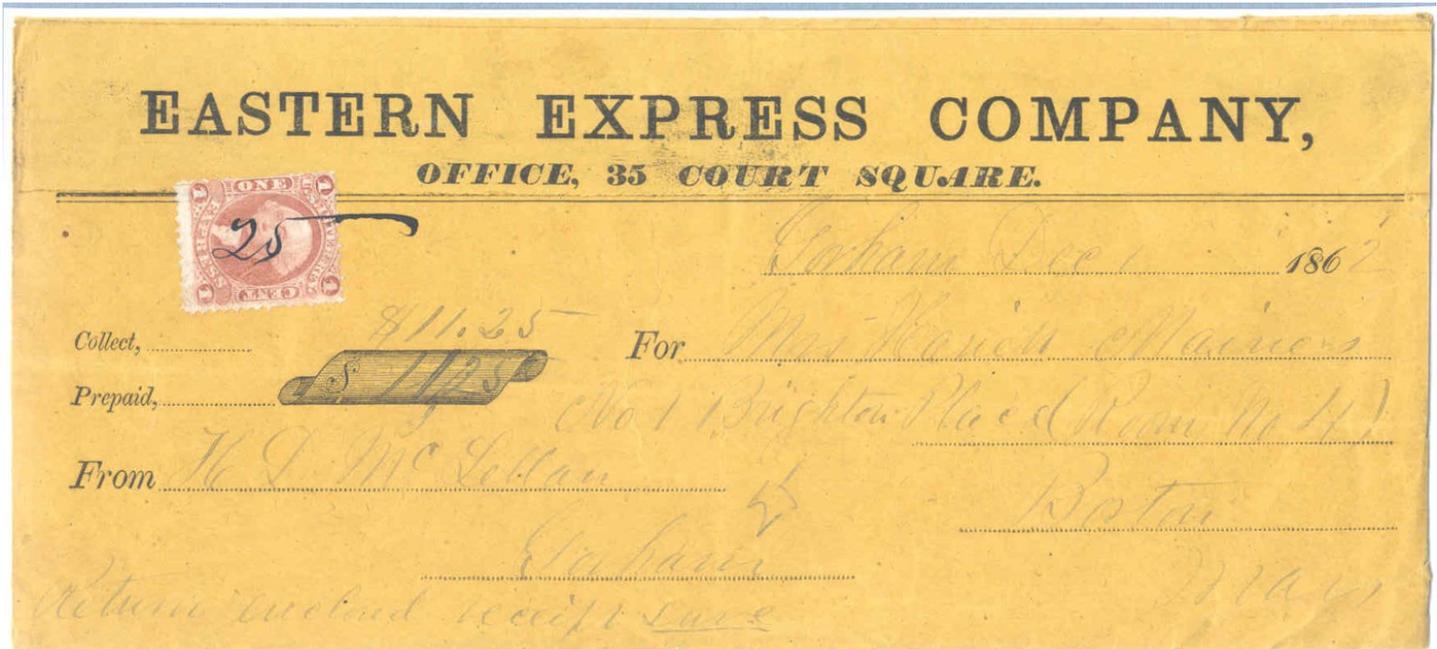
KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month from September thru June at Central Maine Power Co., 83 Edison Dr., Augusta. The time of the meeting is 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Contact Rich Howard, 621-0882 or richhoward@gwi.net

Please send your articles, scans, stories, comments, suggestions or questions to Max Lynds at the address listed on the left.

A Cover Worth A Second Look

By William W. Sammis



This Civil War era money package was used by the Eastern Express Company (May 1, 1857 – October 1, 1879) to send \$11.25 from Gorham, Maine to Boston on December 1, 1862 over the York & Cumberland, Portland, Saco & Portsmouth and Eastern Railroads. The usage of the one-cent revenue stamp (Scott R-1c) is very early and as was mandatory until December 25, 1862, the “Express” stamp matches the service being taxed.

Another aspect of this cover makes it even more noteworthy:

The “EASTERN EXPRESS COMPANY, / OFFICE, 35 COURT SQUARE.” is actually printed on a separate piece of paper and had been glued to the top of the money package envelope. It cover up the following printing on the cover: “CRANE & CO’S BANGOR AND BOSTON EXPRESS, City Exchange Building, 5 Congress Square, and 12 Devonshire Street, BOSTON. Kenduskeag Bridge, BANGOR.”

Crane & Company had been a competitor of the Eastern Express Company and went out of business in 1860. Apparently a printer was stuck with money packages prepared for Crane & Company after they folded. Being frugal he reworked the envelopes for sale to the Eastern Express Company.

For more information I invite members to view *The Penny Post*, published by the Carriers and Locals Society www.pennypost.org.

Balloon Flight Covers

Max Lynds

Double Eagle II, piloted by Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson, and Larry Newman, became the first balloon to cross the Atlantic Ocean when it landed 17 August 1978 in Miserey near Paris, 137 hours 6 minutes after leaving Presque Isle, Maine. The flight, the fourteenth known attempt, was the culmination of more than a century of attempts to cross the Atlantic Ocean by balloon. Some of the people who had attempted it were never found. According to ballon.org the first 5 days of the flight went with no problems. On the 16th the Double Eagle II went through a harrowing experience. The atmospheric conditions caused the balloon to drop 19,500 feet to just 4,000 feet from the ocean. This was, and still is, known as the big drop. The sun came to the rescue and heated the envelope again and the balloon ascended back to 4,900 feet. Things went much better and the crew knew when they reached the coast of Ireland that success was theirs. They started throwing unnecessary equipment overboard to make the balloon lighter and eventually descended as they reached France. There had been no successful landing on dry land by a transcontinental balloon until they touched down in a large barley field. They had broken all previous attempts and had achieved something that no one else had been able to accomplish.

My wife Jane and my 1 year son Ritchie were there as the balloon was released in the late evening. The site is located near Aroostook Park and there is a permanent marker there commemorating the event. Local land owners had mowed the fields near the take off area and charged all vehicles a few bucks to park and there were a lot of Aroostook residents on hand to witness this historic event.

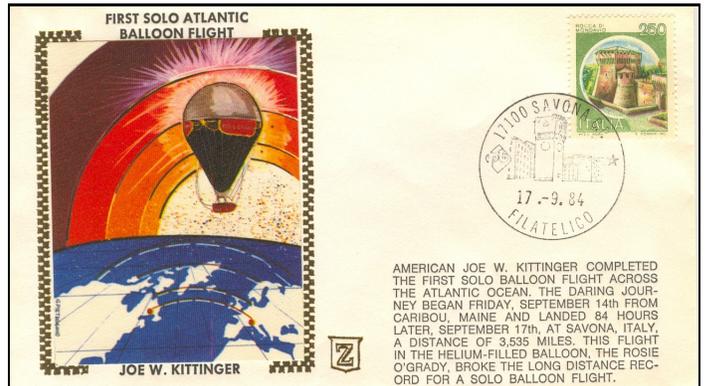
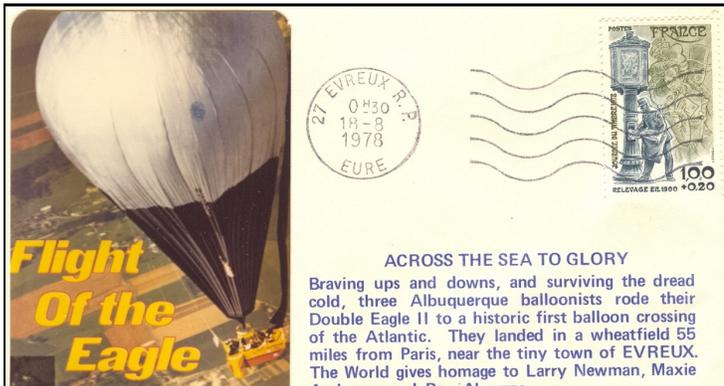
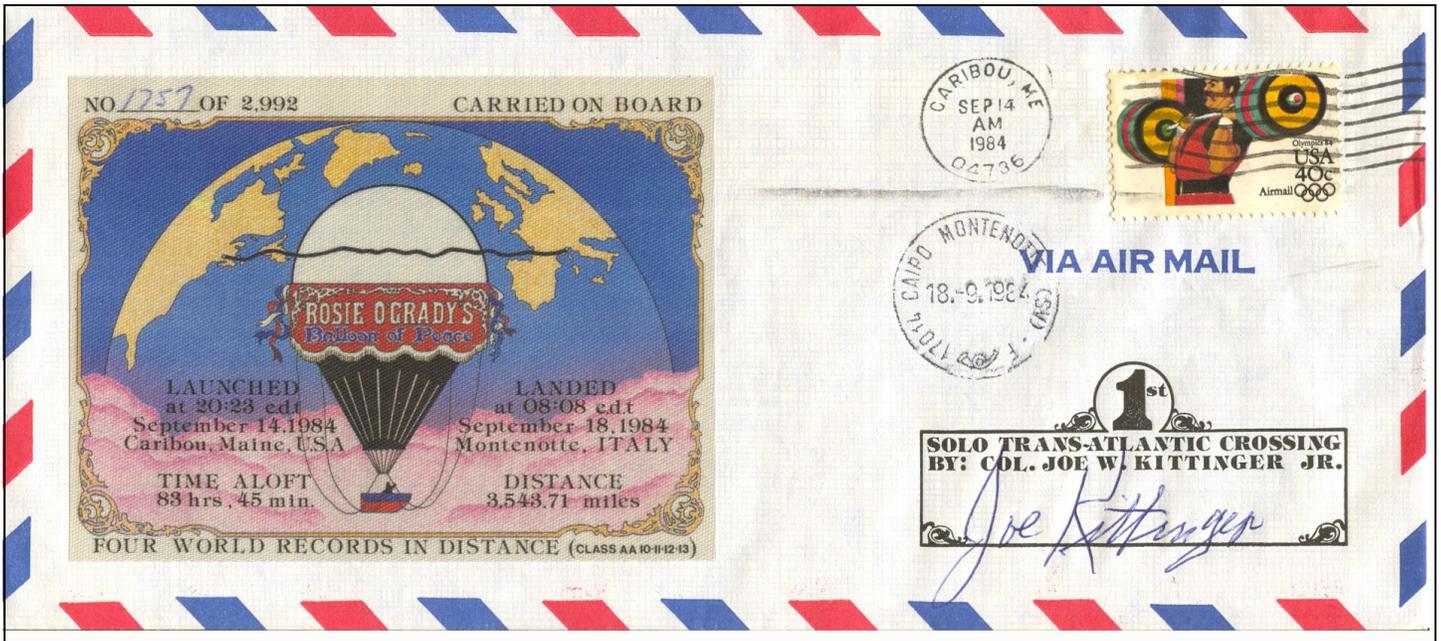


The above cover was postmarked in PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE on AUG11, 1978 and carried on board the Double Eagle II across the Atlantic to a field in MISERY FRANCE and was postmarked AUG 17, 1978. The three pilots signed the cover.

A few years later.....

Joe W. Kittinger became the first person to fly alone by balloon across the Atlantic Ocean. Setting out on September 14, 1984, from Caribou, Maine, in the 3,000-cubic-meter-Rosie O'Grady, he floated 3,543 miles (5,702 kilometers), touching down in Cairo Montenotte, Italy, on September 18, by Kittinger's account, 83 hours and 40 minutes after launch. His flight set a record for both the longest solo balloon flight and a distance record for this class of balloon. Kittinger became fascinated at with flight at a very early age. He joined the Air Force in 1949 and served as a NATO test pilot on Germany until 1953. He became involved with many experimental projects with the Air Force involving balloon flights. He set many altitude records involving pressurized gondolas. The data from these projects helped NASA 's Project Mercury. After retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Kittinger began ballooning around the country and entering many completions. He won many events and established new records. This led to his solo attempt to be the first to cross the Atlantic.

The signed cover shown below was postmarked in Caribou, ME the day of take off and then in Cairo Montenotte when Kittenger landed.



Both France and Italy produced landing covers to commemorate the balloon flights that ended successfully in their country.

The I.S. Johnson Company Scott RS 150

by Eric Beal



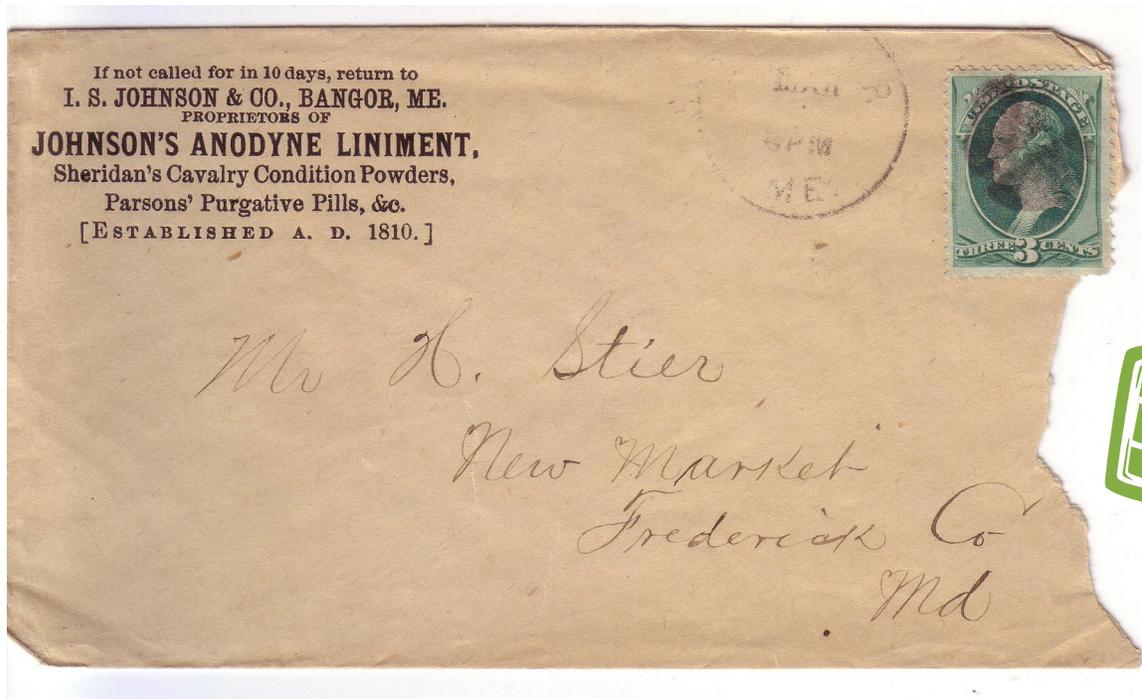
There is more than just putting a stamp in an album, it is interesting to find out what the stamp were for or who or what is commemorates. Take the revenues tax stamps; they paid the taxes on documents, matches, medicines and other things to fund the Civil War at first but continued long after. One medicine tax stamp was from the I.S. Johnson Company from Bangor Maine. The I.S. Johnson stamp was printed and used from 1872-1883 but before that they used the first issued federal tax stamps.

The company was stated by Dr. Abner Johnson of Waterford, Maine. In 1810 he made what he called Johnson's American Anodyne Liniment which was found out to contain morphine acetate, extract of hyoscyamus, alcohol plus other unidentified ingredients. Dr. Abner Johnson passed away in 1847 but his son Isaac Samuel Johnson took over the business and moved it to Main Street Bangor Maine and named it I.S. Johnson Company. In 1881 Samuel moved to Boston but the firm continued into the early 20th century.

Other items that can go with this stamp is Revenue Stamp Paper (fig 2, Scott RN-G1) shows a receipt that was made out to the Internal Revenue for stamps from the I.S. Johnson Company and a cover from that company (fig 3). So watch and you might find some interesting items that goes with your stamp collection.

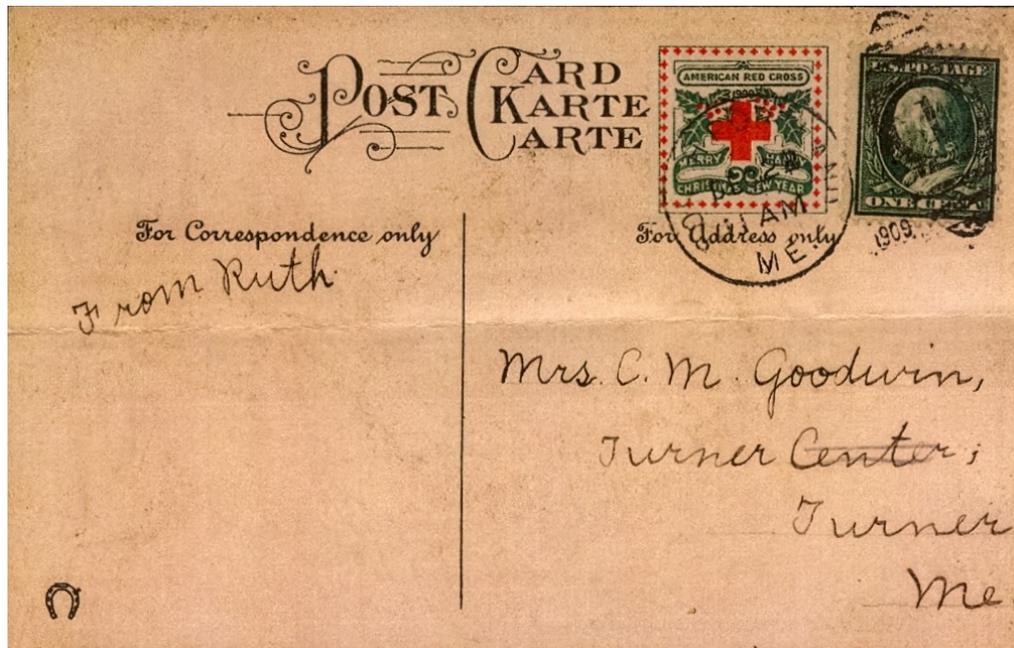


fig 2, Scott RN-G1



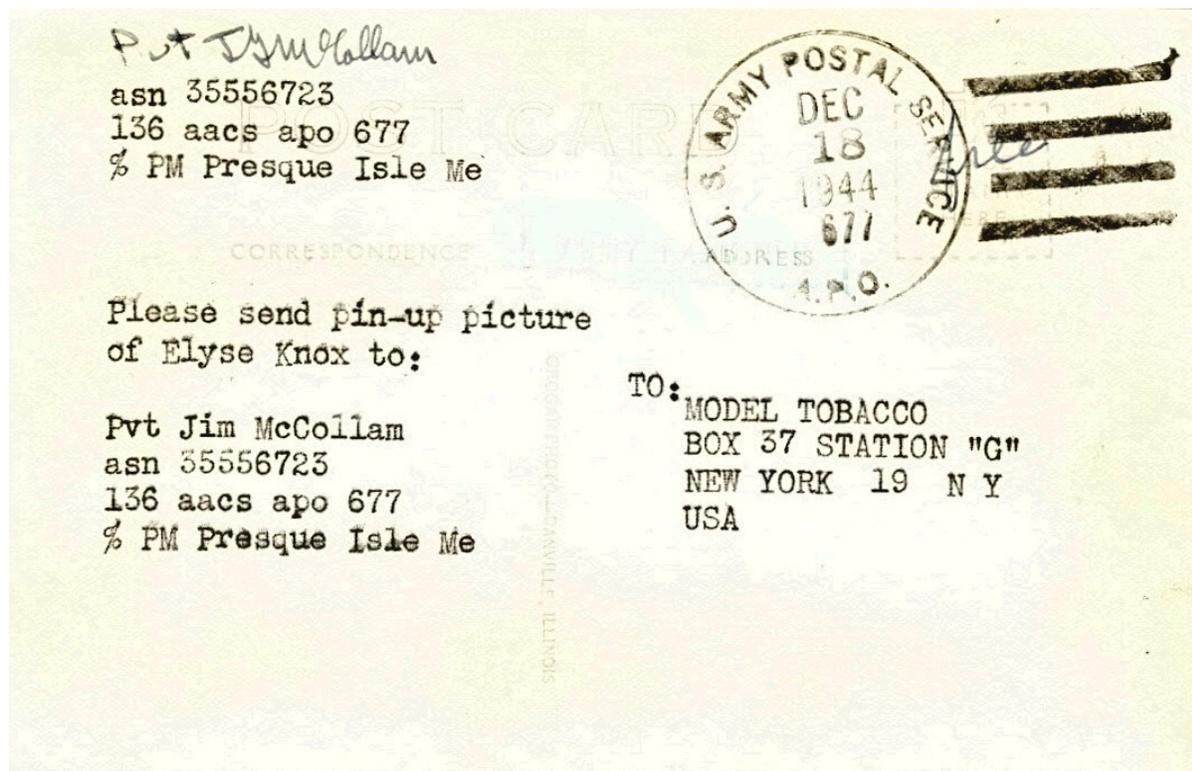
Johnson's Anodyne Liniment (fig 3)

Maine Cover of the Quarter



The above Christmas postcard features a 1909 Christmas seal plus a 1cent Franklin both tied on the post-card by a 12/22/1909 SOUTH PORTLAND, ME handstamp. (if you have an interesting, out of the ordinary, unusual, or scarce Maine cover candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.)

A pin-up picture request.....



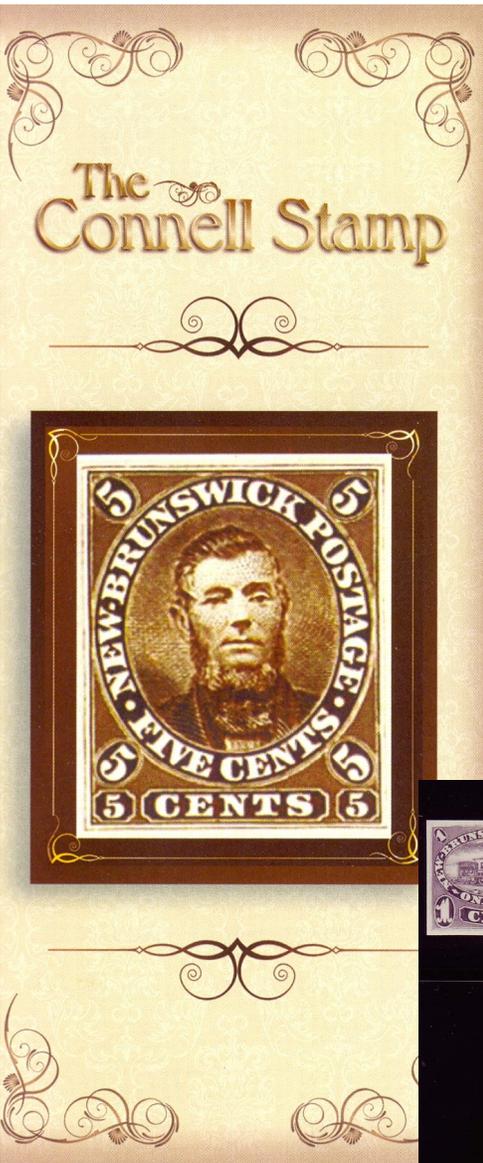
Pvt Jim McCollam sent his request off from Army Base in Presque Isle, Maine for a pin-up of Elyse Knox. Knox performed mainly in minor or secondary roles until 1942 when she had a leading role in *The Mummy's Tomb*. She was a "Pin-up" girl during World War II and was featured in *Yank*, a weekly magazine put out by the United States Military. Following her film *There's a Girl in My Heart*, Knox retired in 1949 after appearing in 39 films. Not sure what the Private received for his pin-up but here are some that he might have received.



One day as I was leaving the post office a friend from Woodstock, NB came and handed me some brochures of the Connell House. Located in Woodstock, it is the home that was built for the Honorable Charles Connell in 1839. Listed as a National Historic Site it is one of Canada's finest examples of early 19th century Greek Revival architecture. In his time, Charles Connell was a prominent businessman and politician, but far beyond New Brunswick, his place in history endures as he central figure in the fascinating saga of the "Connell Stamp".

Charles Connell was first elected to the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly in 1846 as a representative of Carleton County. Appointed Postmaster General of the Province in 1859, he authorized new postage stamps for the transition to decimal currency needed for 1860. Connell ordered stamps with designs of a locomotive on the 1 cent stamp, a steamship on the 12 1/2 cent stamp, the Prince of Wales was on the 17 cent and the Queen as on the 10 cent issue. Connell chose his own portrait to be on the 5 cent issue. When the new stamps were delivered the 5 cent Connell Stamp caused an uproar in the Province and became a political nightmare for Connell.

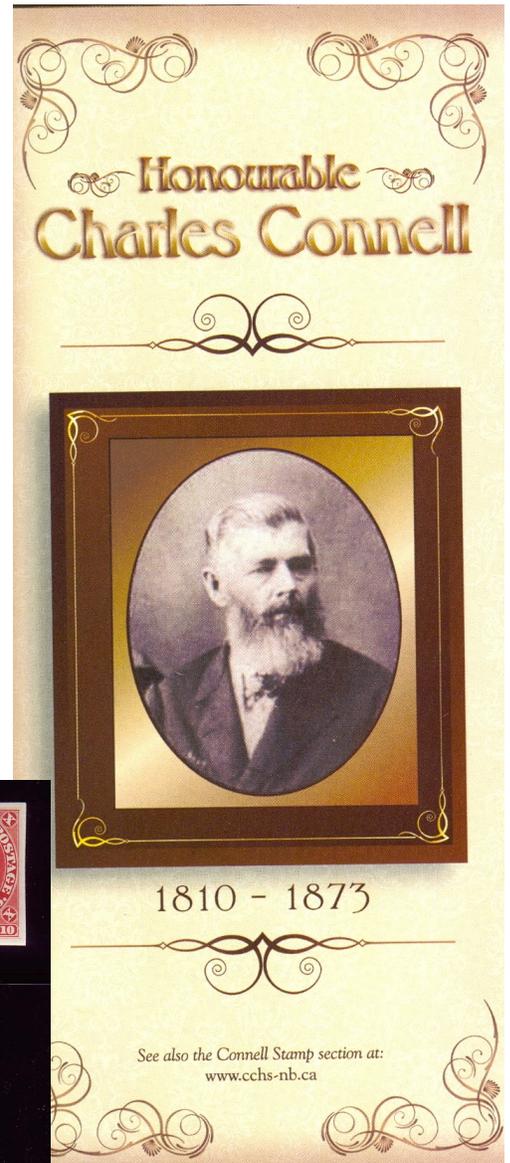
On May 12, 1860 the Lieutenant-Governor ordered all but the Connell stamp to be delivered and that a new 5 cent stamp "bearing the likeness of the Queen" be produced. Seven days later, offering neither apology nor explanation, Connell reassigned as Postmaster General. Connell purchased the stamps, gave a few to some of his friends", and his daughters Ella and Alice each received a sheet. He later burned the remainder of the stamps and his daughters destroyed theirs. At least that's the story.



The stamp affair had negligible impact on Connell's political career. At Confederation, he was elected to the House of Commons at Ottawa and served until his death. How many Connell Stamps still exist? Experts estimate no more than 50, only a few of which are in very good to perfect condition, thus the value continues to rise.

The Connell House has on display one of these intriguing stamps along with an entertaining video with the story.

If travelling north, visting the Connell House would be an worthwhile stop. More info is at www.cchs-nb.ca



Some philatelic websites:

The USPS Postal Bulletin offers a lot of information on new issues and special post-marks that are available. There is a new issue every 2 weeks:

<http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/pb.htm>

A new site has been created as an online extension of the USA Philatelic Catalog . It brings in depth information about new stamp issues, cancellations and related events. Try it at :

www.Beyondtheperf.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Americans have selected USPS as the most trusted government agency for five years in a row.



MAINEPEX 2009 was well attended . The dealer's tables were very active and the exhibits were viewed by many.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club
March 27, 2010
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Elk's Lodge
 Civic Center Drive, Route 27
 Augusta, ME
 Stamps-Coins
 Postcards-Ephemera.

Pine Tree Coin Show
April 11, 2010
 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
 Black Bear Inn
 Exit 193, I-95
 Orono, ME
 Contact Keff Melmed, 743 Cardville Road,
 Greenbush, ME 04418

Presque Isle Collectors Club
 Coin and Stamp Show
April 18, 2010
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center
 116 Main St,
 Presque Isle, ME 04769
 Contact Bim Finemore, 207-425-6606

MAINEPEX 2010
November 13, 2009
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Holiday Inn Portland-West
 Exit 48 - Maine Turnpike
 81 Riverside Street
 Portland, ME
Dealers Bourse
 Stamps-Covers
 Postcards-Supplies
 Exhibits
 Information: max@pwless.net

Waterville Stamp Club
Show and Auction
 MacCrillis-Rousseau VFW Hall
 175 Veterans Drive
 Winslow, ME
April 17, 2009
 9:00 AM—3:30 PM

Dealers Bourse
 Stamps
 Covers
 Postcards
 Supplies
 Auction

 Information: Ddogherty@yahoo.com

Brunswick Coin and Stamp Shows

 2010 Dates
May 2nd, July 11, October 3
 9:00 AM-2:30 PM
 Knights of Columbus Hall
 Columbus Drive
 Brunswick,ME

Greater Nashua Stamp Show
March 21st., April 18th, May 16th, June 20th
 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
 Holiday Inn
 Rt 3, Exit 4
Nashua, NH

Portsmouth Show
June 27th.
 Holiday Inn
 I-95 Traffic Circle
Portsmouth, NH

 Information:
 Ptstamps@megalink.net



George Bostwick
Maine Philatelic Society
155 Moody Island Road
Nobleboro, ME 04555-9512

Please mail to :

Dues are \$ 10.00 per year. July to July

e-mail _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

State _____
ZIP _____

Please accept my membership application to the Maine Philatelic Society:

Membership Application

155/156 WINTER 2010



Maine Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 761
Houlton, ME 04730

TO: