

Stampless Stories

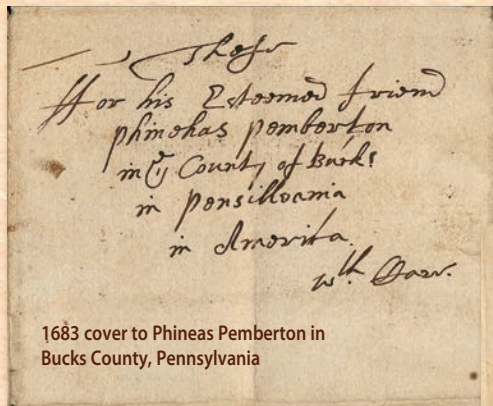
A POSTAL HISTORY OF AMERICA



AUCTION PREVIEW

Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

American History through Postal Artifacts



1683 cover to Phineas Pemberton in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

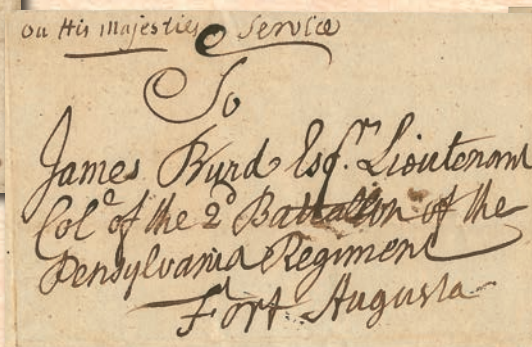
In the COLONIAL AMERICA period, the collection leads off with a 1683 cover to the Quaker settlement in Pennsylvania, one of the earliest such covers in private hands.

The SEVEN YEARS' WAR between Great Britain and France, which spread to America (better known as the French and Indian War), is represented by a variety of items, including a section of Falmouth-New York Packet covers, a service started to maintain communication between Great Britain and the American Colonies.

The WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (or Revolutionary War) was fought on land and sea, and the collection displays some fascinating items from both, including military correspondence and outstanding blockade-run letters.

The next theme is GREAT AMERICANS. It is a much shorter list of items than it could be, but there are interesting "association" covers, such as one signed and addressed by George Washington to Benjamin Franklin, and others to Abraham Lincoln from the generals who caused him so much frustration.

The "Stampless Stories" collection to be sold by Siegel Auction Galleries on December 12, 2017, was intended to become an exhibit that would be shown in both philatelic and non-philatelic venues. Its goal was simple: choose some of the significant chapters of United States history and display relevant items that have interesting stories behind them.



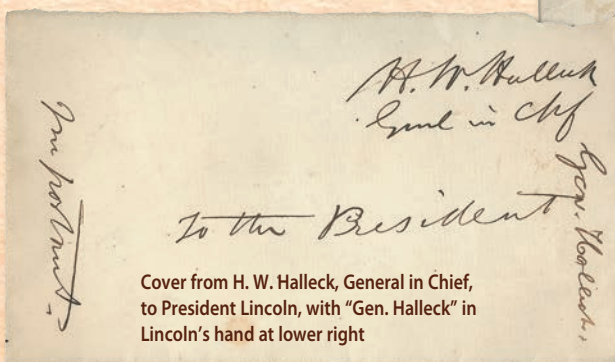
1758 cover to Lt. Col. James Burd at Fort Augusta during French and Indian War



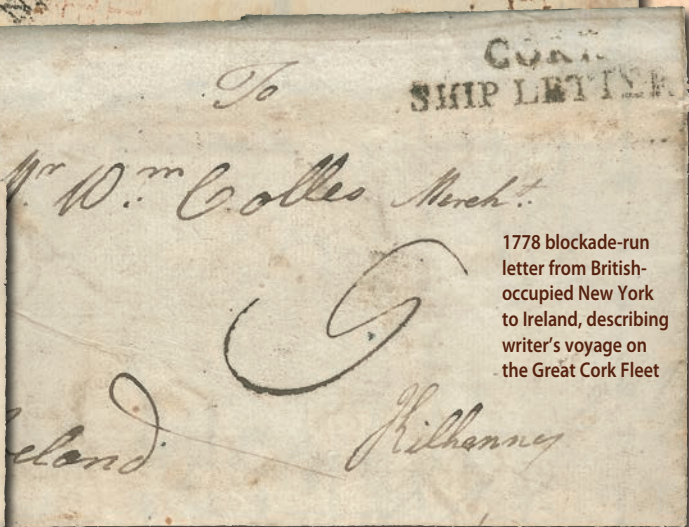
First official publication of the Post Office Act of Queen Anne, 1710



1774 cover with red "PHILA/DELPHIA" and brownish-back "IND. AND PACT./POSTAGE" handstamps



Cover from H. W. Halleck, General in Chief, to President Lincoln, with "Gen. Halleck" in Lincoln's hand at lower right



1778 blockade-run letter from British-occupied New York to Ireland, describing writer's voyage on the Great Cork Fleet

Ebenezer Hazard
free frank

1782
Ebenezer Hazard
(1782)

M^r. Matthew Carey
Printer

1781
MONTREAL
Monsieur (1781)

Monsieur fr. baby

1781 cover from Detroit
to Montreal

— R. Quebec —

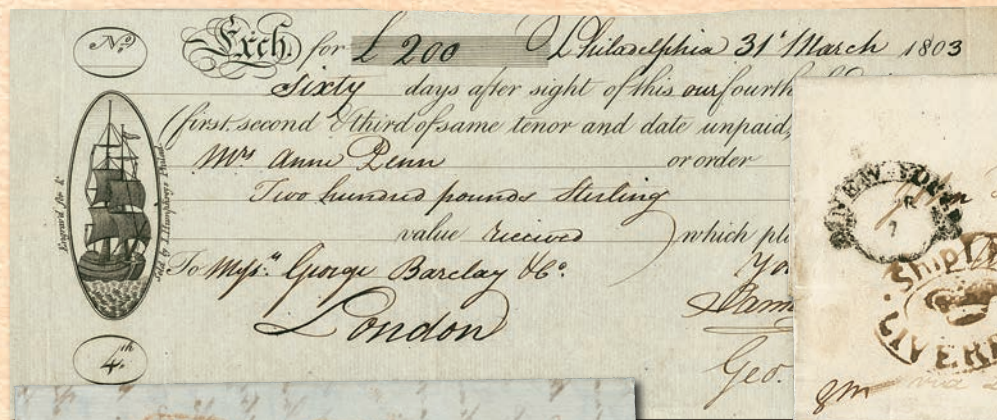
The northern border with Canada was an important part of the United States postal system and in this collection merits its own section. The complexities of postage accounting on U.S.-CANADA cross-border mail is vividly demonstrated.

The NEW NATION is a catch-all term to describe items from the early years when territory was created from the Louisiana Purchase and the Federal post office established its rules and procedures. The Ebenezer Hazard free frank is an appropriate start to this section.

The first test of the new United States was the WAR OF 1812 with Great Britain. Items from the British naval and American privateer blockades highlight this section of war-period covers.



War of 1812 prisoner-of-war cartel ship letter



1803 ship letter with related bank draft (left)



Letter from India with Full-Rigged Ship handstamp

OCEAN MAIL is a vast subject, but the representative examples offered in this sale give the flavor of mail carried on vessels powered by wind and steam.

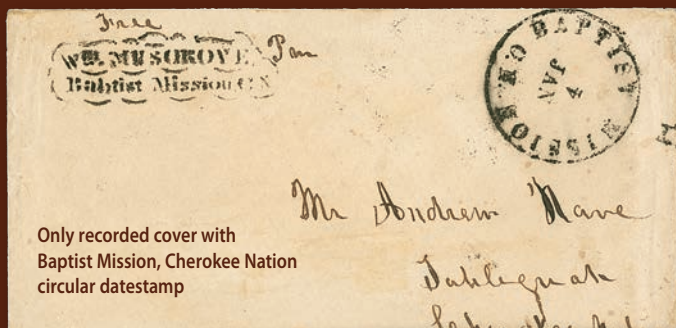
The HAWAIIAN ISLANDS AND FAR EAST were important sources of trade, and the postal routes over thousands of miles furnished some of the outstanding items in this sale, including one cover that traveled from the Kamchatka Peninsula to Russia via Hawaii.

1828 letter between U.S. citizens in Monterey and Santa Barbara in Alta California (Mexican Territory)

For Dr. Puller P. Dana
2 La Barbara



Honolulu straightline on forwarded cover



Only recorded cover with Baptist Mission, Cherokee Nation circular datestamp

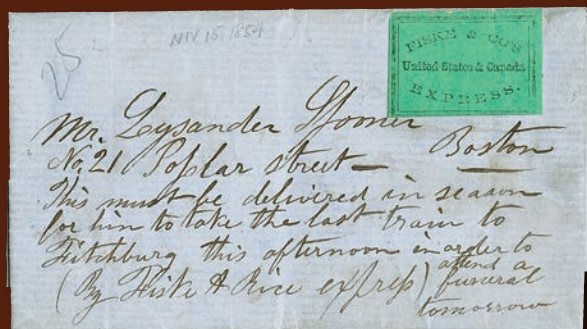
MANIFEST DESTINY was a driving force behind the settlement of the continental United States, and in this section there is an 1828 English-language letter from Alta California under Mexican rule, covers related to the resettlement of Native Americans, an 1844 fur trade letter, a rare 1845 Republic of Texas cover to Canada, and an array of California Gold Rush and later period covers.



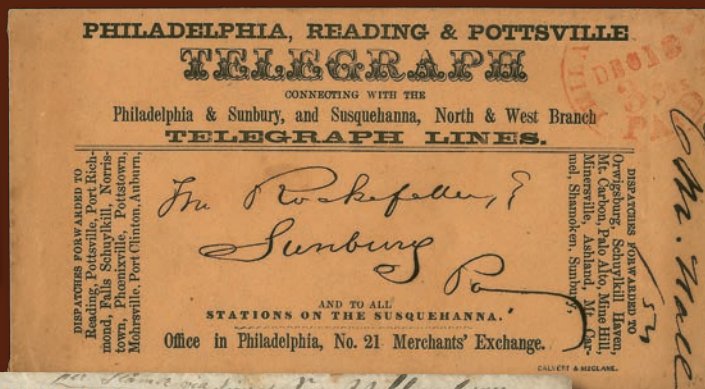
1844 letter to Donald Ross, York Factory, Hudson's Bay Company

The development of the POST OFFICE starts with a section of 1844-45 Independent Mail covers, including an 1854 letter addressed to the father of the Opposition Post Office, Lysander Spooner. Other items convey some of the special features of a greatly-expanding postal system.

A section of TELEGRAPH covers is larger than one might expect, but this technology profoundly changed the way people communicate, as much as wireless technology changed communication in the 20th century.



Clockwise from above: 1854 letter to Lysander Spooner; Philadelphia, Reading & Pottsville Telegraph imprint cover; and Ellsworth memorial cover used in June 1861



Finally, the story ends with the CIVIL WAR. A handful of covers tells interesting stories, including one bearing the portrait of Colonel Ellsworth, whose death is said to have made Lincoln cry.



SALE DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

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