

## $\sim$ <br>  <br> ORCopyright 1986 EFO Collectors Club

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EFOCC TO GATHER AT AMERIPEX ' 86 by John M. Hotchner

Date: Saturday, May 31, 1986
Time: $\quad 1$ P.M. - 2:45 P.M.
Place: Continental A \& B Rooms
(off the South Lobby)
Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Program: $\frac{\text { First and Foremost: }}{\text { To meet, swap and }}$
 sell stamps and trade stamp stories, observations on the state of EFO collecting and discuss the club and its progress/short comings.

Also: Bring along five items you'd like to show off, price, gather opinions on, identify, etc.

And Even More: There will be an EFO presentation or two, of no more than 20 minutes duration, during our hour and 45 minutes. These will be intended to be a springboard for discussion. More details in the April issue of the EFOC, but:

PLAN NOW TO COME, MEET YOUR EFO COLLEAGUES, VOICE YOUR OPINIONS, ENJOY SEEING UNUSUAL MATERIAL AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE. No reservations are necessary. Come at the last minute if you can, but if you know now that you'll be there, drop me a note now at P.O. Box ll25, Falls Church, VA. 22041-0125.

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The Board announces a dues increase effective immediately for new memberships, and for the dues year 1986-87 beginning July 1, 1986. We regret that this has become necessary but there is no doubt it is. We rejected a dues increase earlier and tried the alternative of 3 rd class mail. Briefly, it has been insufficient to get dated material to you on time consistantly. This has been nearly the death of the auction.

In order to bring you this and the next two issues of this membership year first class, one of our members is donating the extra money needed. With the new membership year, the dues raise will maintain us on a self-sufficient basis. \$10 dues for ' 86 -' 87 are welcome any time you can send them in to the Secretary, John Hotchner, P.O. Box ll25, Falls Church, Va. 2204l. Doing this now eliminates the expense of billing (DS.Pajter, EFac Presidnt)

## VAPEX REPORT

Our EFOCC Regional Meeting at VAPEX - the 3rd Annual Saturday Dutch Treat Breakfast - was enjoyed by all attendees: Howard Gates (with his wife, Pat), Pip Wilcox, Jack Wilkey, David Oatman, our Ad Director, Secretary John Hotchner, and special guest Clyde Jennings.

Many a story was swapped - new acquisitions shown off - and a special treat from Howard: a copy of his new booklet "Missing Inscriptions on U.S. Stamps (with projected 1986 auction prices)" for each person present. (Normally $\$ 4.95$ from Box 955, Locust Grove, Va. 22508.)

A fourth meeting at VAPEX ' 86 is being planned. Why not put it on your calendar now: Nov. 15, at Virginia Beach.

## SFTW Donations

Thanks to J.C. Boonshaft and Bob Giles for a nice donation to Stamps for the Wounded.

SFTW serves sick and wounded veterans in the Nation's Veterans Administration Hospitals. Stamps are used as a proven successful therapy.

Stamps - including commemoratives and revenue stamps, envelopes with special post marks, FDCs, airmail flights, etc., may be sent to EFOCCs John Hotchner, who works with SFTW. Send them to him at P.O. Box ll25, Falls Church, Va. 2204l-0125. "Fancy" and old stamps are welcome, but SFTW can use even multiple copies of current common stamps. Collections donated are tax deductable.

## Abysmal Ignorance Department

Dear $\qquad$ ,

I collect US Plate Block numbers. I bought a Scott catalogue, but cannot find the enclosed (see illustration) in the book. Please tell me if it's valuable.

# Building An Award Winning Exhibit - One Member's Experience 

by John M. Hotchner (EFOCC \#2)
P.O. Box ll25, Falls Church, VA. 22041-0125

One of our newer members has written to say: "An account of your building of your award winning collection would be most interesting for us who are beginning and would gratefully share in your hard won experience."

You bet! Indeed that's what this club is for - so that we can help each other. After thinking about how to present this subject, I'm going to attempt it by categories, as if I were answering questions, and to keep it bite sized and manageable. So, off we go.

Subject selection I stumbled onto the idea of collecting and exhibiting stamps showing separation methods, equipment and their flow through philatelic history.

My collection began as "all EFOs". When, after seeing INTERPHIL '76, I decided I wanted to try exhibiting, the area I picked was perforation EFOs - because I had the largest range and quantity in that category.

The first incarnations of the exhibit were indeed devoted to perforation EFOs, grouped by type of EFO.

Level of Possible Award - "Philatelic Worth" In my experience as both exhibitor and judge, the most elemental error that exhibitors make is to equate completeness of their task with a high medal level.

In fact, my showing a $95 \%$ complete exhibit of mint types of U.S. perforation EFOs would be unlikely to bring more than a silver in a national show. The difficulty of putting such an exhibit together simply is not so significant an accomplishment that a judge should raise his or her eyebrows.

Add, as I did, other sorts of stamp separation, and it became more significant and worth a second glance.

Add a wide range of world wide material, and track down some of it on cover and in large multiples; then more of the judges attention is warranted.

Add a redefinition of the exhibit's object - to do a really tough thing: to show comprehensively the entire panorama of stamp separation; and now we have a task worth a gold medal - if I've done it properly!

In fact, I am in my ninth year as an exhibitor, and it took most of that time for the exhibit to evolve to this point.

My aim I began with the aims of winning awards, and entertaining exhibit goers. After nearly ten years of effort, those aims remain largely the same. But some "sub aims", if you will, have also emerged.

I've found that in entertaining, I've made a few converts to EFO collecting, and that is a nice feeling. I've also found that it is useful to have the exhibit up as widely as possible because people stop me at shows or call, or write later and say: "I've got something you might be interested in." More often than not, they have been right.

After listening to judges pontificate, and feeling that some were full of hot air, while others were wonderful and knowledgeable human beings, I decided early on that I wanted to be like the latter. So the winning of a "gold" became an aim in itself, because that was the most difficult requirement $I$ had to meet to become accredited.

At the same time, so many people told me I could not win a gold with what I was showing that it became a point of honor. Not only did I want to prove to the classicists that it could be done, I wanted to prove to

EFOers that it could be done in hopes of encouraging others to try.
And that is one of my aims in writing this: I am not extraordinary. If I can do it; you can do it. It takes study, application, some cash outlay, a willingness to listen to criticism and the realization that it will probably be a 5 or 10 year project, but YOU CAN DO IT!

Mug Hunting I learned early that I'm an unabashed mug hunter. I believ̄e everyone would like to distinguish themselves in some field, and this is mine.

I'm a miserable artist so far as drawing is concerned, but the construction of an exhibit that wins high level awards requires artistic composition and the creation of a total picture/story. In its way, it is a work of art.

It pleases me that $I$ can do this, and it pleases me doubly when someone else (judges or viewers) feels that I have succeeded and says so.

The Exhibitors Task This is entwined with how you conceive your aims. If you want to teach, you may include material you might not if you were trying to appeal to the judges. You might write up your material differently, perhaps using more explanation than what you know a judge has time to read.

Every exhibitor must find his/her own balance. I opted to try to please the judges first and foremost. This meant that $I$ had to find and tread a fine line to "sell" my material in the most effective possible way. Briefly, that task included
a. Careful title selection to reflect precisely what I wanted to accomplish.
b. Careful selection of content to assure that I did what my title said I was going to.
c. Carefui selection of material to assure high quality in terms of condition, and proper range without padding.
d. Write-up that is terse, germane, accurate and neat and that highlights your research and your best material.
e. Presentation that highlights the philatelic material, not fancy titles, maps, photographs, pretty colored paper or outsized black mount backings.
f. An organization that is logical to you, and can easily be followed by the viewer.
g. Finally, a title page that effectively sets out what you are attempting to do and your organization; the latter being especially important if it is not immediately obvious from a quick review of your exhibit.
For me, the organization was the hardest thing to get right, and in fact, it was beyond my exhibit's 7 th birthday before $I$ hit on a combination approach that pleased both me and the judges. Other elements have been a constant struggle to do, redo, redo and redo again until I was satisfied.

The Beginning and First Criticisms To start is the hardest part.
It is self defeating to begin with the thought that you will put up a smali gem and build it into a large gem. I found out early that exhibiting is a craft. It is learned best by dolng, and it is a process
that requires time.

Do the best job you are capable of with what you know and what you
Enjoy the work of your hands, as you do it. Be proud of the have. Enjoy the work of your hands, as you do it. Be proud of the
resuit.

Yes. It will be criticized. Even if you later win grand awards the exhibit will be criticized.

Once I got over the fear of being criticized ("How dare anyone criticize my work", and I was tempted to take it personally!) I learned that honest criticism is an opportunity to learn.

Pick Your show If you want to start out in the big time, enter a regional or national show. I was, in fact, over confident, and had overestimated the philatelic significance of my work. The medal level I got was not what I expected, nor what I thought I'd earned.

Critiques from two judges left me depressed and angry. What I learned later is that so much more is expected at that level of exhibiting than at the local level.

Start at the top if you think you are ready, but start at the other end of the spectrum if you want to learn the craft in a less painful manner.

Keep in mind though, that the quality of the judging, and therefore the quality of critique may suffer at local shows. A good rule of thumb is that it is time to climb the ladder when your own knowledge of your subjects and its presentation exceed the ability and/or background of "pick up" judges to understand it.

The Judges There are good ones and there are bad ones. The good ones predominate.

Some of the good ones and ali of the bad ones will be infuriating to deal with because they know so much and seem to be so opinionated.

Get past that because they can be your best friends. The APS Accredited ones have mastered the craft. You need not agree with everything they say, but you will do weil to listen to them.

Practice makes perfect. You will learn what is wheat and what is chaff in their comments. It took me a while, but I finally learned to differentiate between what they felt I must do, what they thought I should do and what was simply a "think about this" suggestion aimed at widening my perspective.

Decorum with Judges Listen carefully Argue Sparingly
Do not ascribe bias unless you hear it clearly Keep your own counsel. If you go around bad mouthing a judge, you have no one but yourself to blame the next time s/he "does" your exhibit.

Judges do err. Who among us does not.
More often than not, though, I've found them to be extremely helpful toward improving my exhibit, both for their observations on the exhibit presentation, and for the leads that they have given me to additional material, dealers or their acquaintanceswho have it, iiterature that explains it and organizations that study it.

Keep in mind that in the business world, that kind of advice and assistance usually comes with a hefty pricetag. In philately, you may have it in exchange for a "thank you" and a smile.

Spending money Sometimes there is no alternative. Rarity and difficulty of acquisition do not always equal dollar signs. But they of ten do.

As you develop your story line, do reading and research and listen to critiques, you will become aware of material that you need to acquire.

I have sought less expensive alternatives, been satisfied with less than pristine condition, and ruled out a great many possible purchases as being beyond my wallet.

In other cases, I have stretched my resources in order to acquire something that was essential and which I might, literally, never have another opportunity to acquire. For those of us in the EFO line, the latter situation is a real "danger" and may require financial sacrifice and an understanding spouse.

Where to get material and information The obvious sources do not
bear repeating. There are, however, often overlooked sources :

- Members of specialized societies who you can contact through
their ads, articles or reputations just by joining the society.
- Members of specialized societies - and the public at large. If you write something about your exhibit or exhibiting area for the philatelic weeklies, the American Philatelist, society journals and even in your local newspaper, readers will beat a path to your door. (Never as many as you'dlike, but enough to make the effort worthwhile.)
- Ditto with placing ads in those media.
- Get on the APS - or your Federation's - speakers bureau list. The wider your name is linked with your exhibit subject, the more chance of another source developing.
- Use the APS Research Library and APS Circuits.
- Seek out - and be a reader of - philatelic literature of all types and vintages.
- Ask for the help of private or government printing offices and postal administrations in running down the answers to questions.
- Ask for a critique from the EFOCC Exhibit Critique Service.

At one time or another $I$ have used all of these, and continue to do so, since my exhibit is by no means at the peak of its potential.

There you have it. My "True Confessions". I would be happy to entertain any questions or observations from the EFOC's readers.

Editor's Note: John's exhibit "Stamp Separation: From 1840 to Modern Times" has won numerous vermeils and golds at APS World Series of Philately Shows. It has also won special research awards at ARIPEX ' 85 and COMPEX '85. He has also won literature golds.

John is an active APS Judge. He will be on the panel at STaMpsHOW ' 85 (San Diego), AIRPEX ' 85 (Dayton) and MIDAPHIL ' 85 (Kansas City) this year and would be happy to meet EFOCCers who attend.

## *A Lesson on the Importance of a Society Publication

For many years editors have been repeating the assertion that their publications are the indispensible glue that holds societies together. Now an open letter dated April 20, 1984, from Kenneth Laurence, president of the U.S. 1869 Pictorial Research Associates, confirms that view, as Mr . Laurence pleaded for articles for the club publication 1869 Times.
"Welcome to the fabled llth Hour. This is not the kind of President's Message I would prefer to be writing, but the simple truth is that the future of our organization is in real jeopardy, and what happens next is entirely up to you - the members.
"A total lack of input by our membership is at the heart of the problem. As I've said before, without input we cannot produce the 1869 Times. Without a magazine we cannot maintain communications or momentum. And without that, we cannot exist.

[^0]"...we passed our deadine long ago...our...editor is waiting...Please don't let him - or the PRA - down."
*Reprinted permission News Bulletin, APS Writers Unit 30, Third Quarter, 1984.
Editor's Note: Looking through copies of the EFOC for the past few years, it becomes increasingly plain that the total number of members who are TRULY carrying this club, article-wise, can be counted on two hands. As the above article clearly states, these sources are not bottomless. While we are not at the point reached by the PRA, we do need articles, ideas, recommendations, "however rough, and however brief, we must have them in order to publish..." And if we don't publish, we don't exist. Your contribution, however small, will be greatly appreciated.

## AN HISTORIC ITEM?

by Earl K. McAfee


Many of the members of our organization also belong to the Bureau Issues Association (B.I.A.). Yet, how many of us really read with understanding the various committee section write-ups published in its journal, The United States Specialist. Did you catch George Godin's, December, 1985, reported plate numbers section? The last item listed was a Scott \#UC-59, "Tourism", 36c miscut aerogram, with yellow plate $\# 41270$. That item is illustrated here. Why might that number be historic?

Next to collecting single stamps, the collection of plate number items is probably the most popular and oldest method of collecting U.S. stamps. Many plate number collectors attempt to collect every obtainable plate number.

Begiming with plate number 1 , the $2 ¢$ Type I of 1894 , the B.E.P. has consecutively numbered all printing plates used to produce postage items. Thus, the numbers are a historic record of stamp production. Other numbering series were used for currency, revenue issues, etc.

Foldover Aerogram, Scott \#UC-59.
With the rotary press issues, plate number collection became more difficult. Many items, such as coils and booklets, had plate numbers printed in sheet areas that were intended to be trimmed off. Plate numbers could be found only on E.F.O. items, usually due to miscutting or foldovers. The "E.F.O. Rule" applied even further when the combination printing presses went into use and all lithographed plate numbers were placed in trimmed areas of sheet stamps. Another collecting indignity occurred in 1981 when all the consecutively assigned plate numbers were eliminated from sheet stamps and replaced by a single digit "postal service code".

Finally in 1985, the B.E.P. announced that the exclusively postage numbering series would be dropped. The series would end with plate $\# 41303$, a plate number assigned to the
"Sea Shells" booklet issue. Postage and all other items produced at the B.E.P. now would be combined into a common numbering system. Thus, postage plate numbering skipped to plate \#173964, breaking into what used to be their "miscellaneous series". From now on, postal item plate numbers will be interspersed with plate numbers that might include West Point graduation announcements or invitations to an inaugural ball.

Our illustrated EFO aerogram is only 33 digits away from the end of a series that began in 1894. If no other plate number piece appears within the 33 digit spread, this aerogram terminates a 91 year historic record of purely philatelic printing. What plate number collector wouldn't want to pair this aerogram with plate \#1, showing the beginning and ending of the series!

Since only EFO pieces can produce any of these numbers, our organization can help the B.I.A. "complete the record". Be certain to report to the B.I.A.'s George Godin if you see a pertinent plate number. (Perhaps we also can report the first of the "new" numbering system.) Remember that the United States Specialist is the only journal regularly listing reported plate numbers for posterity. Let's see if we can help.
Editors Note: George V.H. Godin, 208 Brentmoor Dr., Belleville, Illinois 62223.
P.S. Why not ask for a BIA membership application.

## ENVELOPE PRODUCTION (Continued from October 1985 Issue) by Earl K. McAfee



Figure2. A "Library" of Dies.
Figure 1. Die Cutting Press (Courtesy of American Envelope Company, St. Louis)

The October, 1985, article discussing envelope production drew response from several sources. First,"with a picture being worth a thousand words", figure 1, from American Envelope Company in St. Louis, shows one of the initial steps in the die cut conversion of paper to envelopes. This process was discussed in the October article. The picture illustrates a stack of 500 sheets of paper, clamped to a movable platform, with the steel die placed for punching. In the background is the press under which the die will be pressed through the paper, cutting out the first 500 envelope blanks.

Secondly, figure 2, from another source, shows a typical "library" of different
size or shape steel envelope dies.
Third, tape splices on roll cut envelopes may be scarce, but they are "out there." Figure 3 shows two more tape spliced envelopes. Again, since the tape splices don't show in reproductions, they have been hand drawn in our illustration.


Figure 3. Scott \#U-581 \&\#U-609 with Tape Splices
The \#6 3/4 size, Scott \#U-581, was sent by John Hotchner. The \#10 size (window), Scott \#U-609, was sent by Ken Martin. In fact Ken had two of the \#U-609. The second envelope only had a small portion of a tape splice showing on the back side.

Fourth, the October discussion was intended to cover just the basics of envelope production without touching on the various details envolved. However, some questions that arose can be answered.
.....The large size sheets of paper used in making die cut envelopes are bought from paper mills on skids which contain bundles tabbed every 500 sheets. These sheets are cut to a predetermined size to enable the envelope converter to obtain the maximum number of die cuts per sheet for a particular size of envelope. Thus, the sheet size will vary depending on the size of the envelopes to be made. Similarly, for envelopes made from rolls of paper, the width of the rolls vary depending on the size of the envelopes to be made.
......Fred Frelinghuysen recalls reading that envelopes were produced from rolls back in the 1910's or 1920's. This writer cannot verify the information, but suspects that, if
true, the method of construction then was different from the method of construction discribed in our October article. The roll envelope construction illustrated in October is not the only method used to make envelopes from rolls. It is the method used to make the "stamped" envelopes now sold at Post offices. These envelopes have diagonal side seams on the back.

Both roll cut and die cut envelopes may be produced with side seams which are parallel (not diagonal) to the highth of the envelopes. Equipment which produced side seam envelopes from rolls did preceed the developement of diagonal seam equipment. ......The cutting out of windows and the pasting of the transparent "patch" over this cut-out is done on the original machine with roll cut envelopes. With die cut items the "cut and patch" window operation is done on the machine which gums and folds the blanks into envelopes. Window patch material may be plastic, glassine or cellophane. G.S.E.'s now use the plastic material.
.....Printing of individual envelope "corner cards" (the upper left corner of the envelope) is almost always done on separate printing presses. It would be economically unfeasible to stop and start a roll cutting machine to print small quantities of envelopes. These machines have to reach and maintain an optimum operating speed. ......Many states have envelope converters in them (or near by). Many of these mills will allow a brief tour. However, call first. Every converter has some aspect of their production that they consider "classified" in terms of industrial espionage.

It should be noted that roll conversion machines are very expensive. Very few envelope converters have this equipment. The majority of converters use the die cutting method only.

Lastly, discussion of envelope production has raised questions about the production of aerograms. Can someone out there discuss this in our journal, or even offer a reference where such information can be found? SEVERAL MEMBERS WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE SUCH HELP!


Dear Editor,
I read w/ interest Howard Gates article on error prices in issue 42 (Oct 185) of EFOC, page 16-17.

Mr. Gates' Chart (page 16), showing his price index simply does not reflect reality. I have a rather large collection of major errors, containing both imperforates and color missing errors. In terms of items, my imperforate collection is approximately 75\%+ complete. (In terms of dollar amount, it's probably 80-85\% complete - The majority of the ones I'm missing are more common, and generally in the lesser expensive categories). My Color missing collection, is somewhat more complete. With the exception of the $1976 \mathrm{~S} / \mathrm{S}$ sheets, I'm probably missing only 20 items, if that, most of which are unique or nearly so. Since I am such an avid error stamp collector, I follow most of the auction houses that offer such material, and keep myself abreast of current market prices.

Now according to Mr. Gates chart, in the time period between Nov 1984 and Jan/Feb 1985, my imperforate collection lost 41\% of it's value (dropping from 907 to 535). Then between Jan/Feb 85 to May 1985, it gained $35 \%$ (rising from 535 to 723). Neither of these assertions have any base in reality. Even if one ignores the low point (535) in Jan/Feb 1985, and looks instead at the 2 points between Nov 1985 (907), and May 1985 (723), he would have us believe that imperforate prices dropped $20 \%$ (from 907 to 723). This isn't true either.

The color missing graph is equally misleading. According to Gates' chart between March 1985 and May 1985, Color missing priced dropped from near 3000 to 2737 , a loss of almost $9 \%$. If anything, in that time frame, my collection GAINED in value, not lost.

Also, in 1983, Gates says that there were 10 color missing error stamps issued. While technically almost correct, this is also very misleading. Technically, only 3 color missing issues came out in 1983. They were the Medal of Honor, Red omitted (2045), the Inventors Se-Tenate block, Black omitted (2055-58a), and the Street-Car Se-Tenate block, Black omitted (2059-62a). One could argue, that since the Street-Car and Inventor issues each contain 4 stamps, that they plus the Medal of Honor make up 9 different errors. While true, I hasten to point out that Se-Tenate issues are generally treated as a single item. In term of quantity known, they're counted in BLOCKS (i.e. 10 blocks per sheet vs. 100 stamps per sheet). They're almost always sold in the form of blocks, and the price of the block generally is consistent with the price of a single copy of another color missing issue of similar mintage, dramatic appeal, etc. So counting each of the individual stamps separately really is not correct either.

I do, however, agree that much of the strength that is apparent in today's color missing error stamp market is probably due, in part, to the lack of current material. This, combined with the fact that there is virtually no floating supply, especially of the older color missing material undoubtly has had it's effect on stabilizing prices. Add on top of that the fact that those issues that used to come up at auction regularly no longer do, and the fact that there is a growing collector base, and it's easy to see why color missing error prices have stabilized, and in fact have risen as of late.

With respect to Mr. Gates' graphs, I would be most interested in seeing the data and the formula that went into their generation. The resultant graph does not reflect reality, and $I$ wonder if that can't

Editor's Note: The following is Mr. Gates' response to Mr. Hosier's letter:
Mr. Hosier complains that my price index "simply does not reflect reality." It does, but in the same kind of way that, say, the Dow-Jones industrial average reflects the entire stock market, to wit: imperfectly. The Dow industrial average covers only thirty of about 6000 stocks available on the several markets. But it has one significant advantage: each of those thirty is traded (almost) every day. Consequently, it is not very volatile on a day-to-day basis; a swing of more than $2 \%$ is rare.

With stamps, deriving a price average presents a different problem. Only a few of the major error stamps are traded each month, and what's more, each month brings a different crop of stamps to market. My "MEFRI" is based on the ratio of total prices realized for those that are sold to the total of their base prices. I don't try to factor in estimated prices of those that didn't come to market. As a consequence, the MEFRI has a good deal of month to month volatility-- but it does reflect the reality of the average price of stamps sold at auction during each month. A six month running average would be less volatile, but would build in a delay and obscure trends. Id be pleased to listen to suggestions as to how Mr. Hosier or anyone else thinks the derivation of a price average might be improved.

Mr. Hosler objects to my saying that 1983 saw the introduction of ten new missing-color varieties. Well, they were the Medal of Honor (1), Inventors (4), Street Car (4), and one that was issued in 1982 but didn't show up at any auction I monitor until 1983, the Peace Garden. In 1984 only one new one came to market, the $8 c$ Copernicus with intaglio black omitted, and it was originally issued in 1973; and in 1985 there were two: the $50 c$ iron Betty lamp, black omitted, originally issued in 1979, and the 1985 Aneripes, red, blue and black omitted.

It's true, $a s$ Mr. Hosier says, that the se tenant stamps are usually traded as blocks, but I've also seen them sold singly and in pairs, and have established separate base prices for singles and pairs for use in computing the MEFRI.

One striking observation to be made from the price index graph, and one with which Mr. Hosler does not assert disagreement, is that color-missing errors have done far better price-wise than imperforate major errors over the years since 1978.

> Sincerely,


Howard Gates

## Catalog of Rare Missimg-

 Inscription United states Stamps"These unusual, popular and expensive stamps are well illustrated..." --The Stamp wholesaler.
"Well worth the small cost... I hope it will find a place in your library." --John Hotchner in EFO Collector.
"Your publication is lovely." --Noted error-stamp auctioneer.
"I like it and applaud your endeavor..." --Respected Eritish philatelic journalist.
$\$ 4.95$ pp. Howard Gates, Box 955Low, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

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Howard Gates, Box 955 LOW Locust Grove, Virginia 22508

Gold Digger's Question of the Month by John M. Hotchner
Q.: "I have stumbled across an old letter sent to me
in 1945. It has an airmail C25b stamp on it, ("horizontal pair, imperf between - $\$ 2,000^{\circ}$ ), but it is only listed in Scott's as a mint pair. I thought perhaps you could tell me of a book or something where I can find out something about this error and a ball-park figure of the value."

A.: Not only is this not half of $C 25 b$, it is even the wrong stamp to be a C25b. This is a booklet pane single - the third (bottom) of a pane - normally imperf on 3 sides. $C 25$ b is a side-by-side pair from a sheet. The booklet single does, however, frequently appear as an imperf single when some enterprising gold digger removes the perforations along the top. Beware, for the $6 \dot{\xi}$ transport is not known imperf.

The Club owes a large debt of gratitude to Dr. Mary V. McIndoo (\#52), who compiled the membership list that you should already have received. Then she arranged for 350 copies and shipped it off to the Secretary for distribution all at no charge to the Club. The list is complete as of December 1, 1985. See the Secretary's Report in this and subsequent issues for updates (including in this issue members who were inadvertantly left off the list - Secretary's error - not Dr. McIndoo's!).

## A Review - Post Dates by Ken Wood 410 pages; Van Dahl Publications; $\$ 24.95$

Ken Wood, former Editor of Stamp Collector newspaper has attempted The history of stamps, stamp collecting and carriage of the mails in one volume. I'm pleased to report that he has succeeded - using a chronological format and 3,850 entries, l, 250 pictures, 49 maps and an excellent 6,358 item index.

This book packs more easily accessible and comprehensible information into its 410 pages than any comparable work I have seen in years.

It is no dusty recitation of facts, however. Wood brings his professional writer's talents to make this volume into a readable work that, should you want to read a few pages each night before retiring, will not put you to sleep.

This book is well worth the $\$ 24.95$ postpaid price. It may be ordered from Van Dahl Publications, Box lo, Albany, Oregon 97321.
-John M. Hotchner


## Booklet Pane Foldover Of The Month

A large portion of foldover booklet panes have something unique about them. The "claim to fame" of this months illustrated example is that it contains parts of the printing from five different booklet panes.

It was obtained in the late 1970's from a Jacque Schiff auction, price in the $\$ 40$ to $\$ 50$ range.

Can anyone alert us to other foldover booklet panes that match or top this? (Consult old auction catalogs or newspaper articles.)

Earl K. McAfee, 1912 Rebecca Dr., Champaign, IL. 61821

Welcome To Our New Members
\#496 Norbert J. Stachura - P.O. Box 31005, Chicago, IL. 60631-0005 - Anything that appeals
\#497 Robert A. Dudek - 2511 S. Tecumseh Rd., Springfield, OH. 45502 - Beginning
\#498 Jules L. Rosen - P.O. Box 1964, Midlothian, VA. 23113 - British Commonweath/Dealer
\#499 Frank L. Shively, Jr., M.D. - 415 Far Hills Ave., Dayton, OH. 45409 - Transportation series, \#1895
\#500 Horatio S. "Ray" Sternburg - 5250 Woodland Lakes Dr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL. 33418 - All
\#501 Howard J. Heissel - 1623 Loganrita Ave., Arcadia, CA. 91006 - All types
\#502 Denis J. Donohae - 43-12 56 th St., Woodside, NY 11377-4739 - All
\#503 Gary Jeong - 1566 22nd Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94122 - Paper folds and Color shifts
\#504 Charles J. Cook - 721 36th Ave., NW, Norman, OK. 73072 - All
\#505 Raymond J. Dertz - 4447 Burgundy Place, Lisle, IL. 60532 - Tagging Varieties
$\# 506$ Alan G. Rosenberg - P.O. Box 2502 - Syracuse, NY 13220-2502 - All US EFOs
\#507 Michael R. Treister, M.D. - 2400 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL. 60614 Color and Perf EFOs
\#508 W. Michael Schrampf - 705 New Orleans Ct., Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063 Libya: Late l920's to early l940's

Thanks to: APS, Linn's Stamp News, Stamp Collector, Les Winick and The Chicago Tribune, the US Postal Service, Frank Pogue, Ron Bowman, Sam Houston Philatelics, Howard Pohl and John Casey for recruiting efforts and referrals.

## Address Changes

\# 56 John Herczeg - 6500 W. Charleston Blvd., Apt. 65-Bldg. 8, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
\#ll2 Henry P. Nazak - 507 Cavalier Ct., Suisun, CA. 94585
\#122 Col. ElRay Jenkins, M.D. - 304 E. Kingswood Dr., Enterprise, AL. 36330
\#125 Bernard Goldman - l162 N. Berendo St., \#4, Los Angeles, CA. 90029
\#481 Gregory D. Hosler - P.O. Box 645, Wilmington, Mass. 01887
Thank You for the donations to EFOCCs work to Frank Wengen (\#35) and Michael S. George (\#469).

Changes To The Membership List
ADD Member 1 Marcel Sager
2187 Holland Ave.
Bronx, NY 10462
Member 442 Steven W. Brown
10550 Western, SP \#49
Stanton, CA. 90680
\#48 Max Mueller should be \#45

BITS AND HITS
Congratulations are in order to EFOCC Vice President Louis E. Repeta, who was awarded an American Philatelic Society medal of excellence, the Bureau Issues Association award, and a vermeil medal for his exhibit entitled, "The $3 ¢$ Stuart Washington, a Study of the Stamp and Its Use," at INDYPEX '85, held in Indianaplois, IN, September 6-8, 1985.

I sent a copy of the EFOC to a local publishing house which specializes in newsletters and the like for a free "evaluation" of our product. The return letter contained comments such as "dull," "hard to read," "writing is cutesy and far too personal. The first page reads like someone's diary," "the masthead is Victorian--fussy, dowdy and hard to read... The deckline-'Published by...''-is equally atrocious," "mixing type styles and qualities is amateurish," as well as some other flowery compliments.

In this connection, if one of our members would like to spring for an IBM Selectric III (used is fine), or perhaps a system such as an Apple $2 c$,
or an IBM PC or PC Jr., I'd be more than happy to re-type all our input for each issue. (And since we're in the process of getting our non-profit status from the Infernal Revenue Service, you probably could write off the cost!) As far as the other comments, I've resolved to try to improve the appearance of the EFOC in line with membership criticism and comments. So, let's hear from our membership!!

Advertisers take note: To date, I have been accepting copy for classified ads. However, effectively immediately, I will no longer do so. All classified ads must go to the Advertising Director, David Oatman, at the address shown elsewhere in this issue, along with the check in payment for same. Any extra costs borne in rerouting classified ads must be reimbursed by the person submitting the ad. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

My apologies to Scott Shaulis, who was the author of the piece on the 4 c Americana misperf cover. Authors beware: your editor's potato has been baking too long, and he's obviously going senile, or worse. Please include your byline on all articles submitted. Also, when corresponding with any of the officers or board of the EFOCC, it's probably a good idea to insure that every page sent contains at least a name (legible), and if possible, your address and EFOCC number as well.

Last, only because of its recent occurrence, a tribute to the crew of Space Shuttle Challenger.

POSt EFO POST EFO POST EFO POST EFO POST EFO POST EFO POST EFO POS:
FOR SALE OR TRADE: Imperf coil pairs, Scott 1986 Specialized \#2132b, $\$ 35.00$ the pair. William Phipps, 601 Randi Lane, Hoffman Est., IL 60194

WANTED: Re-entries (Double Transfers). Major or minor, all issues, all countries. Also interested in photocopies of re-entry - related literature, plating studies, etc., for personal library. Please send with asking prices. Ralph E. Trimble, P.O. Box 532, Stn. A, Scarborough, Ontario M1K 5C3 Canada.

FOR SALE: Miscut transportation coil strips of 5 split plate number, top and bottom. Three different - $\$ 9.00$; six different - $\$ 20.00$; nine different - $\$ 35.00$. Perf shift " D " coil pairs, $\$ 4.00$. Scott $\$ 1551$, buff color omitted, $\$ 22.00$. Many other EFOs. Ken Lawrence, P.O. Box 3568, Jackson, MS 39207

TRADE: Your used U.S. definitives, years 1890-1908, for my MNH commemorative and airmail plate blocks, years 1940 - 1965. Mutually VF/better exchanges only. Scott basis. I also have some minor EFOs. George Vikre, 219 Alexander Ave., Scotia NY 12302.

FOR SALE: CATALOG OF RARE Missing-Inscription United States Stamps: $\$ 4.95$ postpaid. Howard Gates, Box 955 LOW, Locust Grove, VA 22508

## 1984-86 EFOCC OFFICERS AND BOARD

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The EFO Collector is published six times per year. The deadine for any issue is the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue, e.g., the deadine for the April 1986 issue is March 15. Send material directly to the editor. Subscription applications should be sent to the Secretary, along with the annual dues of $\$ 10.00$.

ERO U.S. POSTAL INSURANCE BCOKLETS AND STAMPS
Bruce H. Mosher, EFOCC *68

The postal insurance stamps were first issued in 1965 in booklet format for USPOD vending machine sales. The fee for the first booklet was ten cents which paid for $\$ 10.00$ of parcel insurance coverage without necessitating a POD clerk's involvement. Since then $20 \mathrm{c}, 40 \mathrm{c}, 45 \mathrm{c}$ and 50 c stamp rooklets have been issued which provided $\$ 15$ to $\$ 2 \sigma$ of parcel insurance depending on the specific issue. These stamps do not have denominations printed on then and the various issues are differentiated by the stamp inscriptions and printing colors. Glen Browne has nicely documented the chronology of the postal insurance stamp issues (except he calls them 'labels' as the USPOD originally did) in his Reference 1 tutorial. This report will discuss and illustrate the EFOs of these postal items which have been cited in the philatelic literature plus those that reside within my own collection.

There has been some disagreement within the USPS on whether these postal items are to be called "labels" (as printed on the selvage of each booklet pane), or "stamps" as is printed on the covers of the $40 \mathrm{c}, 45 \mathrm{c}$ and 50 c issues (see Figures 1 and 2). This disparity identifies the first EFO stamp variety - USPS acknowledged stamps which are misrepresented as labols (or vice versa, depending on your point of view). The front covers of these later booklet issues are also nice EFO items as the USPS calls the enclosed postal item a 'stamp' on the cutside front cover and then calls it a 'label' on the inside front cover as illustrated in Figure 2. A very inconsistent Government terminology approach!


If you are uncertain at this point on whether these postal itens should be classified as 'stamps' or 'labels', I direct your attention to the published opinions. of Glen Srowne, George Brett and Charles Goodman who all recognize them as stamps and not labels (References 2, 3 and 4). I agree with these experts and likewise consider them to be stamps as do at least some USPS officials. It sure would be more consistent of the USPS if they would delete the 'label' references in any new postal insurance stamp booklet issues. Incicently, the USPS is due to issue a new 50c booklet anytime now for the revised minimum insurance rate that went into effect this past February.

The second EFO stamp variety is the mislocated perforation version of the 4øc booklet pane which Glen Browne identified in his tutorial article (Reference 1). Eigure 3 shows a similar EEO where the stamp perforation is mislocated between the upper "POSTMARK OF" line and the lower "MAILING OFFICE" line instead of above the upper printed line as is normal. The nomally perforated 40c booklet pane exists in both fluorescent and non-fluorescent papers as do the 20 c and 50 c issues. Browne reported his misperfed 40 c stamp is on fluorescent paper while mine (shown in Figure 3) exhibits no fluorescence.

The third EFO stamp variety contains a lower right corner angle mark ( 2 mm on a side) on a 25 c stamp as illustrated in Figure 4. This mark is reminiscent of the corner cut marks found on vending machine postage booklet covers. Most probably this angle mark is a LR cut guide for the printed sheet cutter, however, I've not seen a plate layout diagram for these book stamps to confirm this, has anyone else? Interestingly, the booklet covers housing this EFO did not exhibit any cut marks or other unusual characteristics. This EFO booklet pane is made from non-fluorescent paper.


The fourth EFO stamp variety is a miscut-to-the right 45 c booklet pane that is shown in Eigure 5. This is the first miscut postal insurance booklet pane that I've encountered. I personally pulled it from a USPS vending machine in Colorado Springs sometime in 1984. The subsequert booklets from the sieme machine were all miscut less than the Eigure 5 specimen and appeared about normal fiter four to five booklets. I often wonder how miscut the booklets were that had ber.n purchased before I bought
mine. The covers on these bookiets were all normally sized and cut.
The fifth EFO stamp variety is a 45 c booklet par، with a double printing impression but otherwise appears normal. The second 1 mpression is shifted approximately 0.5 mm to the left on all the booklet pare printing and is so much lighter than the primary one that it would not be discernible if illustrated. In fact, I latently discovered this EFO long after I had purchased it because it looked rather normal when bought (I have no idea where). I was about to use it on a insured letter when I noticed a slightly blurred impression under my bright desk lamp. Sure enough to my surprise, a low power magnifier revealed the beautiful (to an old EFO collector) second impression.

postage booklet experience) would choose to describe their 75 plus years of 'package'. It certainly did not strike me as a 'package' when I received it from the vending machine dispenser, it was a BOOKLET! In fact, this looks like another internal USPS terminology disagreement as the bottom line on the inside front cover (see Figure 2) reads "THIS BOOKLET IS YOUR INSURANCE RECORD". Q.E.D.

The only other postal insurance EFO booklets that I am aware of were reported by Dr. W.R. Kern. The initial loc issue booklets were found with two and three stamp panes within a single set of booklet covers (Reference 5). Presumably these EFO booklets were purchased through the original vending machines (not stated in Dr. Kern's report) without causing any dispensing malfunctions due to their additional thickness. I don't know of any multiple pane booklets for the later issues, does anyone else?

This short report is certainly not an exhaustive disclosure of the postal insurance stamp/booklet EFO items, but perhaps it will motivate some readers to review their holdings in search of additional EFO varieties. Further, it may encourage a few readers to frequent their local USPS vending machine and local stamp dealer stocks in search of additional EFO varieties of these postal items. It should be remembered that postal insurance booklets are only purchaseable through USPS vending machines
and not from the Philatelic Agency nor over-the-PO-counter as are postage booklets. Thus, EFO items for these issues will be much harder to find and could become more valuable in the future because of this restrictive sales approach.

I welcome reader's correspondence regarding the postal insurance booklet and stamps issues, both normal and EFO versions. I would hasten to point out, however, that I have purposely not mentioned the many 'provisional' postal insurance stamp issues that may have been crsated during USPS insurarce rate change periods. These provisionals are created by affixing an additional postage stamp to make up the insurance rate differences. These varieties do not particularly interest me because they can be collector manufactured long after the fact (exceptions are the contemporarily cancelled provisionals which are tied on cover). References 1 and 6 discuss these provisional issues for anyone who is interested in them. Getting back to corresnondence, you can reach me at P.O. Box 3236, Indialantic, FL 32903. A photocopy of your unreported EFO itens and an SASE for my reply would be very much appreciated.

BHM 7/7/85

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Advertising for the EFO Collector will be accepted at the following rates: Full page $\$ 19.50$; half-page - $\$ 10.50$; quarter-page - $\$ 5.50$; classified trade or buy/sell ads at $4 ¢$ per word. Contract display ad rates are approximately $20 \%$ cheaper. EFOCC members are entitled to the contract rate for all single insertion display ads and to three free EFO POST, 35 -word (excluding address) classified ads yearly. DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES AND CLASSIFIED ADS TO THE ADVERTISING DIRECTOR. EFO POST (ONLY!) ads go directly to the Editor.

## AND STILL ANOTHER PLEA FOR AN ARTICLE!!

A member recently wrote me suggesting that "somebody" do an article on overpaying for EFO material. He also stated that he can't write a "decent" article. Would "somebody" be willing to attempt such an article, or series of articles with "average" prices for selected EFO issues?? Perhaps if I can get a volunteer to write the article, then possibly I may be able to get back to the person making the original suggestion to furnish some guidance, prices, etc., which would, of course, make the writing considerably easier. Is anybody listening??



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## AUCTION REPORT

HELLO. Well, as you all know by now, I will be leaving the Auctions in the near future. I have enjoyed my tenure but, more pressing matters at home require my attention.

Thanks for donations this time to: Howard S. Helfant, Clyde L. Miller, Tom Smith, and "Mr. Anonymous". Also, a special thank you to Howard Gates for his generous cash donation to help improve the photo quality.

Ed Silver, P.O. Box 1, Medford, NJ 08055 continues to offer to donate one EnD to the Auctions worth at least $\$ 5$ for each member who requests his EA O approvals. Why not try Ed, I know that you can't go wrong.

My thanks to all of you who have supported and encouraged me in the past. The people are too numerous to mention here by name but, each one of you knows who you are. My deepest gratitude to you all for without you, I would have been nothing. However, I will continue on so that the Auctions will go uninterupted until the new Director takes over.

HAPPY AUCTION HUNTING.


HELP! we still need a replacement for Scott. W. thou t some one to handle the Erect Auctions, we will be forced to terminate this service. Volunteers, please contact me, D.S. Pagter at Po.Box 6394 Albany, CA 94706-0394 or (415) 5258696






NO BUYER'S PREMIUM WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR WINNING BIDS!
*Please limit my purchases to \$ $\qquad$ - (Limit less than twenty-five dollars respectfully declined.)
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| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| $1.00-9.50$ | .50 |  |
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| $50.00-97.50$ | 2.50 |  |
| $100.00-495.00$ | 5.00 |  |
| $500.00+$ | 10.00 |  |

reduced to the next lowest level Any bids which are not submitted in good faith in the estimation of the Auction Director may be rejected.

All lots will be sold to the highest bidder at one increment over the second highest, unless the $M B$ is not reached. EFOCC Auctions reserves the right to remove any lot.
A Set of Auction Rules is available for a SASE.

$$
\frac{\text { ACCEPTABLE ABBREVIATIONS }}{\text { AND WHAT THEY MEAN }}
$$


cat. - catalog value
chng - change
DBL - double
dn - down
EST - Estimate of value
horz - horizontal
imp - imperforate
1f-1eft
1itho - 1ithographic printing
M - Mint, uncancelled
MB - Minimum Bid, lowest price at which lot will be sold
mm - millimeter
norm cpy - normal copy
P1 \# - Plate Number pr - pair
prnt - printers
rt - right
SE - Natural Straight Edge
SS - Souvenir Sheet
Shf - Shift
Used - Cancelled
Vert - Vertical
w/ - with

## $\stackrel{\infty}{\sim}$ <br> 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

## FIRST CLASS




[^0]:    "If that sounds dramatic, it's because the situation is well past critical. The very existence of the 1869 Pictorial Association depends on what you, as individuals, do to support it in the very immediate future.
    "We need articles. However rough, and however brief, we must have them in order to publish the 1869 Times. Those who have written for us in the past have given their all, and in contemporary terms, are just burned out. If we are to continue, we mast have new contributus - new inforaation new participation.

