

The Chichester & District Philatelic Society

Pandemic Period Special Edition
June 2020

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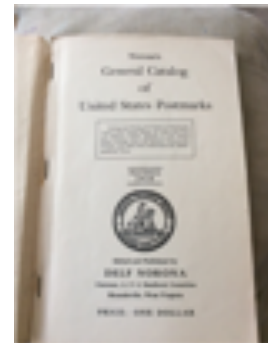
KEEPING IN TOUCH

I can't count the number of calls I've made to friends who are self-isolating on my estate, nor the number of letters and emails written to friends, family and society members who are further afield or also self-isolating. It has actually brought us closer.

Have you noticed how we're concentrating on little details though? The birdsong in the morning, or the gathering of Starlings at our feeder at 4 pm in the backyard? We all get a little tetchy at the person who thinks six feet is two in the supermarket or corner shop however! Added to this list is the ability to use technology better!

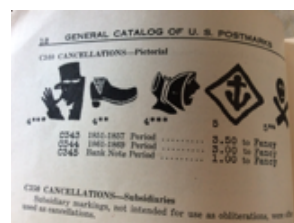
In these past months, and still continuing, I teach piano and music theory online to children. Two of these are stamp collecting now. Their parents have even bought them stamp albums. I wonder how many others have taken up this hobby since the end of February/ early March?

I'd like to share some discoveries I've made during lockdown. Tidying up a vast box of stamp things I discovered my grandfather's General Catalog of United States Postmarks. (see illustration)
He had this unique way of adding his signature to everything. Being a career military officer perhaps it was due to the countless signatures on his envelopes (covers which I own) and other paperwork deriving from military commands.



This 1935 Edition includes Postal Markings used from the stamp-less 1756-1855 period, and the stamp period from 1847-1935. I include illustrations of some of these.

They come in many colours and shapes and sizes. Many early ones were created with wooden or, more commonly, cork shaped stampers made by local postmasters. By the 1850s/60s metal hand stampers were devised. Pen cancels were common too.

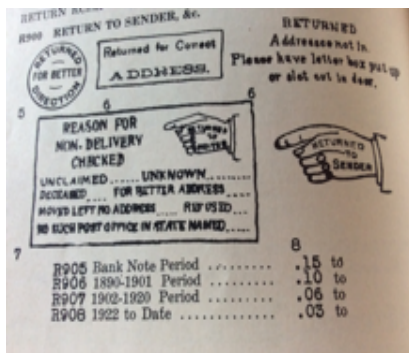
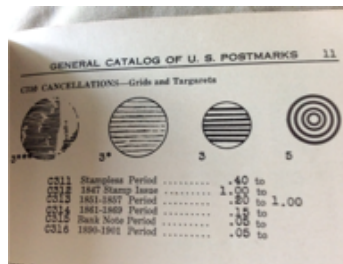
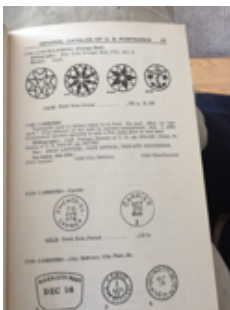


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Decorative star cancels, use of lines and circles, and even human figures or animals' shapes were used in many early American Markings. Often there was a complete black obliterator across the face of the stamp, thus achieving the aim of Postal Markings: - preventing fraudulent re-use of US Postage.

The end of the Nineteenth Century brought further mechanisation at post offices and wavy lines, horizontal or vertical lines, and darts emerged along with circular Cancel date stamps (cnds) that showed place posted and state, date, year and sometimes a time of cancellation.

Favourites of mine are the "RETURNED" Postal Markings. Sometimes these were stamped in bright red, or pink ink. Take note of all the reasons for non-delivery. Anyway, it's amazing what I learned from finding Grandpa's old book!



We need your help determining whether holding an ONLINE/POSTAL BALLOT COMPETITION would be feasible. Only doing things online leaves several members out of the loop, and we don't want to do that. So, this is MY suggestion: -

We could hold a competition whereby each entrant could submit up to FOUR pages ONLY of a competition entry. Why the four? Because we would have to copy these off in print form and post to non-technology members to, peruse and vote upon. I would have to greatly decrease the size of the pages in order to fit them on a side of A4, and hope to keep postage costs down when posting off.

This is an opportunity to really, truly show our ability to display in a brief way, yet show some of our latest acquisitions or finer items. And, security is no problem: - it'd all be online or on paper! All entries would be places on our website as well.

Voting would take place by postal means and online.

Winners and runners-up/ special mentions would also be placed on the website.
All members will be notified of the final results.

SO.....WHAT DO YOU THINK?

PLEASE LET ME OR FRANK GRIFFITHS (chichesterps@yahoo.com) KNOW BEFORE THE END OF JULY!!!!!!!

As for meetings: -

Watch this space. We can't do anything until it is SAFE to do so. We will most certainly be in touch once we get the go-ahead.

Committee meetings: -

Ideally, we need to discuss several areas. Especially emergency contingency items for our constitution. Once the government allows us to meet in a larger than 6 number, perhaps we can meet up socially distanced in Priory Park. Seating would have to be by bench and hard ground however! So, meetings would have to be short or I'll never be able to get up again! ☐ It's a case of bring your own coffee/tea too! Fenwicks is open to take-away beverages and ice cream in Priory Park now.👍

Chichester Observer Stamp Corner articles have been published. Of late, however, we've been "bumped" which is normal in the world of media. Things of greater importance take precedence.

Hopefully the other article submitted will be published. My thanks to everyone who submitted ideas and articles. And, thanks to the Chichester Observer as well!

Good luck to Heather Lawn with her competition entry also!

I hope this finds every single one of the members and their loved ones well and healthy.

Like the government spokesperson keeps saying: -
Together we can and will get through this!

Many best wishes

Martha Brown

President /Editor

Chichester and District Philatelic Society

