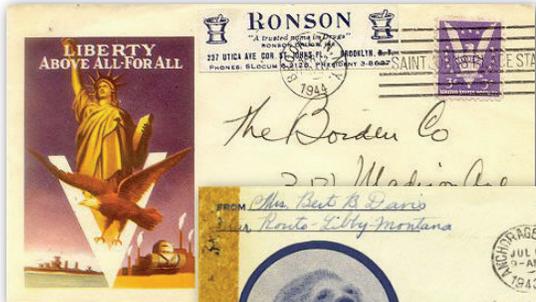


Finding Treasures

Finds from World War II are still being made.

Fred Schmitt



A commercial corner card sticker was added to this colorful 1943 "V" for Victory cacheted cover from Brooklyn, N.Y.



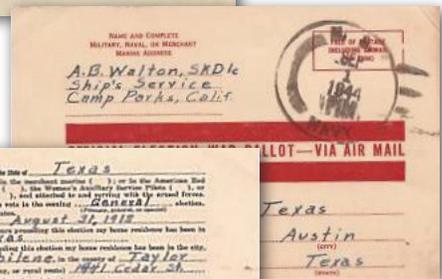
Above: a makeshift cachet paying tribute to the recently-deceased Franklin Roosevelt in 1945.



A censored 1943 airmail cover from a civilian in Alaska, "the Last Frontier," to a relative in Iowa.



Above: Merchant Marine sailor sent his mail home free in a specially-cacheted commemorative cover.



A sailor's wartime ballot to his hometown of Abilene, Texas.



A 1944 use of a patriotic cover designed and produced by Jacques Minkus, head of New York's Gimbel's Department Store's huge stamp department. Many collectors seek the various Minkus designs.

The old envelopes and the letters inside them that one's parents saved in a shoebox since the days of World War II may seem, at first glance, to be pretty common when one considers that hundreds of thousands of families did the same thing way back when.

But wait a minute. Perhaps you didn't realize that, over the six decades since the end of the war fought by our Great Generation, tens of thousands of families finally pulled those old correspondences from their shoeboxes and tossed them into the nearest incinerator. Such are the circumstances under which great postal history becomes valuable postal history.

Certainly, if every family didn't incinerate their old wartime correspondences,

there would be so many old World War II covers (even those with rather unusual uses) that the value of any one of them would be tiny—perhaps only a few cents.

But inasmuch as only a small fraction of such covers (and often, their contents, too) ended up being preserved and, eventually, placed onto the philatelic marketplace, they are becoming valuable enough to garner some decent cash. Today, even some of the more common censored covers and ones with patriotic cachets are commanding a minimum of \$10—and lots of times even higher—among savvy dealers.

That, of course, may not seem like much money, but when one suddenly realizes that the family's shoebox of wartime correspondence can include scores and scores of soldier/sailor mail from a number of differ-

ent Army of Fleet Post Office numbers, and other delights like early wartime censor markings, the cache can turn out to be worth serious money.

A shoebox with just 75 wartime covers can be sometimes be valued, at a minimum, for as much as \$1,000.

Above are seven different kinds of covers from World War II correspondences. I've selected just seven to show you the diversity of these mails and how what looks quite common is really worth money. The wartime voting ballot, for instance, will be retail priced at \$75.00. The Roosevelt memorial cover is rare and worth perhaps \$40. And note the corner card on the "V" for Victory cover—another nice find. Don't throw out war covers! ✉