

Fred Schmitt's Postal History

Treasures

Winter 2008 • No. 11

View this newsletter in full color on our website:
www.fredschmitt.com

Resourceful information for the collector and seller of the world's 19th and 20th century mail communications, autographs, manuscripts and historic documents

This Issue's
Special Treasure...



True Civil War Adversity. The citizens of the Confederate States of America were barred from sending mail to foreign countries because the Union used hundreds of ships to blockade their ports. But a tiny handful of covers made it through the blockade on ships captained by brave souls. The above cover came through Bermuda, then through the blockade into Charleston, S.C. and on to Richmond, Va. Value: thousands of dollars. Such items are still being discovered! (Photo courtesy of Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, San Francisco.)

When it comes to exotic mail, we're talking money!
People often save strange mail. It can be profitable!

The Swedish ship, *S.S. Gripsholm*, was a peace vessel—sailing between the enemy warring nations in World War II so that citizens could be repatriated to their home countries.

The *Gripsholm* also carried mail—but examples are extremely rare. That's why the cover shown here is worth nearly \$1,000!

When exotic, often strange, mail like this are saved for years and years, the result after many years can be surprisingly (and pleasantly) shocking. For instance, who would have thought that a simple cover with a cartoon of Adolph Hitler pasted on it would turn out to be highly sought after 60 years after the big war? (Continued on p. 2)



A photograph of the *S.S. Gripsholm*, the ship that, among other duties, brought back to America the citizens of our country who had been caught in Japan, Germany and Italy when World War II began—and did much the same thing during the Korean War. The cover was sent from a U.S. Army facility in Korea to England—via the *Gripsholm*—in 1951.

Sent before the entrance of the U.S. into World War II, this cover (bearing a humorous cartoon showing Mussolini in Hitler's hip pocket) was confiscated by the Office of Naval Intelligence and held until war's end before going on to its recipient. Value: \$300+.



Few people saved their package wrappers. That's a shame. They really should have!

Fred Schmitt's
PERSPECTIVE



The complete set of U.S. 1893 Columbian stamps on a package wrapper. The largest recorded usage of Columbian stamps, \$49.34 on a piece of registered package wrapper, mailed from Bangor, Maine, on February 19, 1897. Among the stamps are a strip of three of the \$5.00 stamp at the bottom and a single \$5.00 stamp at the top.

We're still doing it today. We continue to wrap outgoing packages in brown paper and apply stamps, then put 'em in the mail. Upon arrival, the wrappers are usually trashed. A shame, really.

Because over 99% of all wrappers have been tossed, the older an intact package wrapper, the more valuable. For instance, one from a soldier in World War II can bring well over \$100! (Continued on p. 2)

An occasional bulletin from...



Schmitt Investors Ltd.

P.O. Box 387 • Northport NY 11768 USA • Phone: (631) 261-6600 (24 hours)

Fax: (631) 261-7744 • Website: www.fredschmitt.com • E-Mail: fred@fredschmitt.com

Celebrating Our
54th Anniversary!