

# Fred Schmitt's Postal History

# Treasures

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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...



**The First Zeppelin into the U.S.** In October 1924, even though Germany was in terrible economic shape following World War I, they began to lead the world in the development of lighter-than-air airships under the guidance of Dr. Hugo Eckener, successor to Count Von Zeppelin. This cover (worth about \$750) was carried on the first Zeppelin flight from Germany to Lakehurst, N.J. It was found among old correspondence in New Jersey.

Examples of long lost valuable covers you, too, can find:

## Do you ever ask strangers about their old mail?

Those among our readers who are collectors—or even if you just dabble into various kinds of collectibles—often overlook obvious opportunities that are sometimes sitting right in front of us.

At the barbershop the other day—after telling a few people about his cover collecting interests—a customer spoke up to a friend of ours and said he had some envelopes stored away that had come from his uncle who had been stationed in Japan right after the end of World War II.

A short trip to that gentleman's home produced an old wooden box (about the size of a shoebox) that was filled with more than 200 War-era covers—many of them with solid value. All in all, a cache worth well over \$2,000. What do your friends have stored away?



At top, a cover with only five cents postage with common stamps. But it's a very uncommon usage from a military officer in Cuba during the Spanish-American War in 1899. Value: \$500. The second cover is also seemingly common, but it is a rare advertising cover proving decisively that the Pabst Beer Brewing Co. delivered their beer in the same manner as Anheuser-Busch! Value: \$350. The third cover. Take a look—seems really a bit ordinary, right? Because it was sent to the tiny island of Malta in 1904, it's a rarity! Value: \$250. Finally, never fail to look at the backs of old covers. This allcover group of ads makes a almost worthless cover really valuable. Maybe over \$150 and up!

A trip to a small town sometimes pays off with some unexpected philatelic dividends. Why not try it?

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## PERSPECTIVE



Seemingly worthless covers like the one above often turn up in the most out of the way places. At first glance, this cover may seem so beat up as to be without value—especially since it is franked with relatively common U.S. stamps. But take another look at it. The large piece of mail is address to the isolated country of Tibet and is worth well over \$600!

Many of us take long drives from time to time—like a Sunday afternoon outing to various outlying small towns. But did you ever think of turning such a trip into a small goldmine?

Savvy stamp collectors and dealers often overlook the old correspondence and keepsake mail that may exist in attics, barns, and other odd storage places at the homes of people who reside in tiny towns, usually well away from an Interstate highway. (See p. 2)

An occasional bulletin from...



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