

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...



Pretty ordinary looking, you say? The only reason the non stamp collecting person who discovered this cover kept it was the bison on the stamp! She thought it was an interesting, beautiful stamp—nothing more than that. You can imagine her surprise and delight when she was told by a stamp collector friend that it is actually a first day cover of the stamp (Sept. 8, 1931) and is worth over \$200!

Look around your own neighborhood...

Ordinary mail might not be so ordinary after all.

A RARE AND EXOTIC COVER FOUND IN AN OLD TRUNK. A 1941 piece of mail from Midway Island sent Airmail to Honolulu via Pan Am Clipper; Canceled "MIDWAY DET. 3rd DET. BAT. FLEET / MAR. FORCE / MIDWAY ISLAND"; Ten cent postage rate paid correct rate from U.S. possession to U.S. possession. Unusual usage worth at least \$300.



Rare and valuable old pieces of mail can still be found in some especially common locations.

Recently, a philatelist friend of ours related how he had been talking to his next door neighbor over a fence when the neighbor mentioned he was sorting through some old boxes in his basement which were filled with old papers and pieces of mail. His intention was to trash most of it! It turned out that the mail dated back to the 1930s and piles of it contained items worth from \$10 to well over \$100 each.

(Continued on p. 2)



Even a non stamp collector would find this particular cover to be unusual when found in an old shoebox. Note how one of the Honduras stamps has been cut in half (bisected) to be illegally converted from a ten to a five centavos stamp. Thus, when this 1910 cover reached its destination in the U.S., there was more postage due. A rare, unusual cover well worth at least \$150.



It's wise to keep and find out the value of any truly old covers which have beautifully hand-struck cancels like the one shown at left from 1851. Philatelists place great value on such cancels and actively pursue them. The illustration is from an ordinary cover made valuable because of a rare New Hampshire cancel.

Take a second look at that "junk mail" that somehow got stuck in a trunk four or five decades ago.

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PERSPECTIVE



A 1945 parcel tag (sender and addressee on the reverse) paying postage and insurance for valuable goods. Worth \$125+ because of the rare usage of the \$2.00 stamps.

I'm never surprised to learn that a family has kept—for some reason—piles of ordinary looking mail stored away for decades. More frequently than one might imagine, this "junk" turns out to have some gems stuck in it.

It's sometimes hard to believe—or understand—why seemingly common mail from decades ago can contain some things truly sought after by serious collectors. (Continued on p. 2)

An occasional bulletin from...



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