



**April**  
**May**  
**June**  
**2018**

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**GHSS**  
FOUNDATION,  
INC.

EDITOR - JAY STOTTS

Copies of this newsletter are distributed to all Houston Philatelic Society members. Send articles for publication, classified advertising (Free !), news of members, exhibit award information or anything else of general interest to GHSS, Inc. members to:

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## Early British and American Packet Service from Liberia to America

by Bryant E Korn

Liberia did not have a Post Office until late 1854. Effective April 1, 1858, Liberia had an agreement with the British General Post Office (GPO) to transport Liberian mail through the UK with a requirement for prepayment of all mail. Prepayment was unusual for West Africa at that time (Sacher, 2010).

As of April 1, 1858, the contracted ½ ounce rate to America was set at 33¢, consisting of:

- 8¢ transport to the UK (4d Sterling),
- 2¢ UK transit (1d Sterling),
- 16¢ Atlantic crossing (8d Sterling),
- 5¢ USA local rate and
- 2¢ to Liberia.

Only two covers have been reported dated after April 1, 1858 but prior to the introduction of Liberian postage stamps in January 1860, utilizing these rates. The first stamped cover from Liberia is dated January, 1860.

Prior to April 1, 1858, letters sent to America were normally either hand carried or sent on merchant ships and cancelled "SHIP" when arriving in America. The Captain of the vessel received 2¢ for the delivery of each letter. If the address on the letter was the "Port of Entry" the letters were charged 6¢ due, otherwise the appropriate local rate plus a 2¢ ship rate was charged as the rate due.

Of course, some letters after April 1, 1858 were still sent via merchant ship (with postage due in America), and some letters sent after January, 1860 via the British Packet system were without stamps but were still prepaid (Sacher 2010).

Beginning in September, 1852, the British GPO had a contract with the African Steamship Company to carry mail as far as Fernando Po (Sacher, 2010). Fernando Po was located east of Liberia, off the coast of what is now known as Cameroon. The following two covers were

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**Houston Philatelic Web Site:**  
**<http://www.houstonstampclub.org/>**

## Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses ....

### April 13-14, 2018

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### June 1-2, 2018

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### June 29-30, 2018

**OKPEX 2018.** OKPEX is an APS World Series of Philately show with the winning exhibit qualifying for the Champion-of-Champions at Stampshow in August. Reed Conference Center, I-40 at Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. Hours are Friday, 10-6 and Saturday, Saturday, 10-4.

### September 21-23, 2018

**Greater Houston Stamp Show.** This will be our 71st edition of our annual stamp show, the largest show of its kind between Phoenix, St. Louis and Orlando. We expect to have more than 30 of America's best stamp and postal history dealers. The three day show will feature a full compliment of exhibits including our nationally famous Single Frame Purple Stamp competition. Mark your calendar now to reserve the entire weekend including our Awards Extravaganza featuring the Door Prize Cash Quiz and all the BBQ you can eat.

### November 2-3, 2018

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### November 9-10, 2018

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club Expo.** Annual stamp show of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051. (Highway 114 at Main Street exit, just north of DFW Airport) (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).

## Upcoming Meetings ....

### April 16 ...

#### Australia:

#### The King George VI Zoological Issues

Jay Stotts will present the story of these issues that he started collecting as the result of the formation of the HPS Australian Study Group.

### May 7 ...

#### The Methodist Movement Through Covers and Stamps

Greg Cain will present this program.

### May 21 ...

#### Holidays and Stamps

Beverly Batho is scheduled to talk on this limitless topic.

### June 4 ...

#### Summer Quarter Called Floor Auction

Sellers may bring up to two lots to sell. Sale sheets are available on the HPS web site. Sellers and Buyers must be HPS club members. Bring your cash and buy as many lots as you wish.

### June 18 ...

#### Mystery Program

Ardy Callender will be our featured speaker.

### July 2 ...

#### Summer Ice Cream Social

This is a repeat of an event we held last year. We'll have ice cream and all the fixings to make sundaes in celebration of the upcoming 4th of July.

### July 16 ...

#### Only You Can Collect Smokey Bear Stamps

Rick Barrett will take a look at this subject.

### August 6 ...

#### Called Floor Auction

Sellers may bring up to two lots to sell. Sale sheets are available on the HPS web site. Sellers and Buyers must be HPS club members. Bring your cash and buy as many lots as you wish.

### August 20 ...

**Indonesian Java Revolution Postal History (1945-1949)** by Bryant Korn.

picked up by British vessels and sent through the British Packet Mail system prior to April 1, 1858, but after September, 1852. Only three covers are known during this timeframe utilizing the British Packet Mail system.

The first cover shown was sent from "Lower Buchanan, Grand Bassa County" by Simon Harrison to Walter Lowrie, of New York, who discusses his trip to Liberia with his family, the desire to have a church, and his awkwardness of trying to "fit-in".

It illustrates on the front:

- "**NEW YORK Br. PKT SEP 23**" and "**65**" in black from the USA.
- "**60 Cts**" (mns) due to the UK.

On the reverse:

- "**PLYMOUTH PACKET LETTER SP 9 1853 B**" in faded red.
- "**LIVERPOOL SP 10 1853 A10**" in blue,
- An oval Liverpool "**SP 10**" datestamp in black, and
- A black straightline UK "**ART-2**" handstamp.

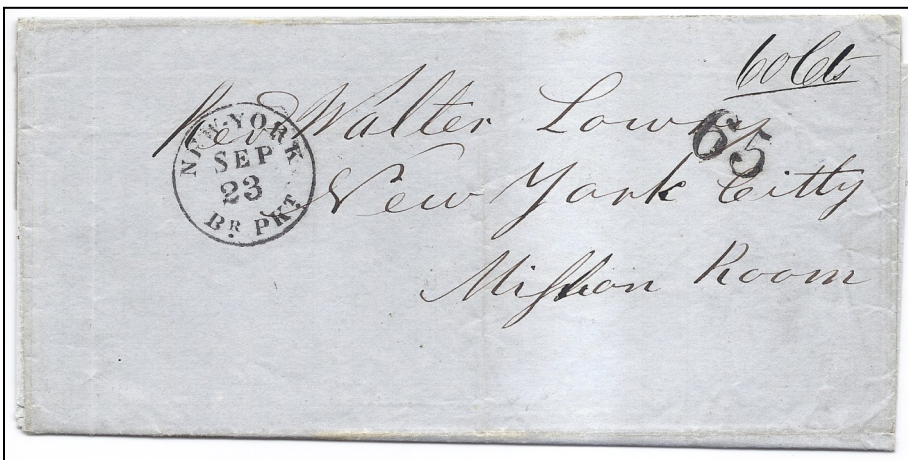
The British GPO ½ oz. rate from West Africa to America in 1853 was 65¢:

- 24¢ (1 shilling) to the UK,
- 36¢ Atlantic crossing and
- 5¢ US local rate.

Liberia did not have a Post Office, so nothing was due to Liberia.

Cover 1 is the earliest Liberian use of the British Packet Mail service. It is the first of three known covers with UK postal markings prior to April 1, 1858.

The second cover is dated February 6, 1854, from Monrovia and was written by Armistead Miller to Walter



1853 Cover, Front.

Reverse.



Lowrie. The contents discuss his father's recent death and necessary financial arrangements needed to receive funds in Monrovia. Unlike the previous cover, this letter was sent to the UK via the British Packet system, but progressed to America via the American Packet system.

The front illustrates:

- "**NEW YORK Am. PKT MAR 24**" in black and "**45**" (mns) from the USA.
- "**24**" (mns) due to the UK (written over "Lowrie").

On the reverse:

- "**PLYMOUTH PACKET LETTER MR 3 xxxx**" in faded red.
- London GPO "**BZ 4 MR 1854**" in red.

At some point between late 1853 to January, 1854 the Atlantic crossing rates changed.

The rate from West Africa to America was now 45¢:

- 24¢ (1 shilling) to the UK,
- 16¢ Atlantic crossing and a
- 5¢ US local rate.

Liberia did not have a Post Office, so nothing was due to Liberia.

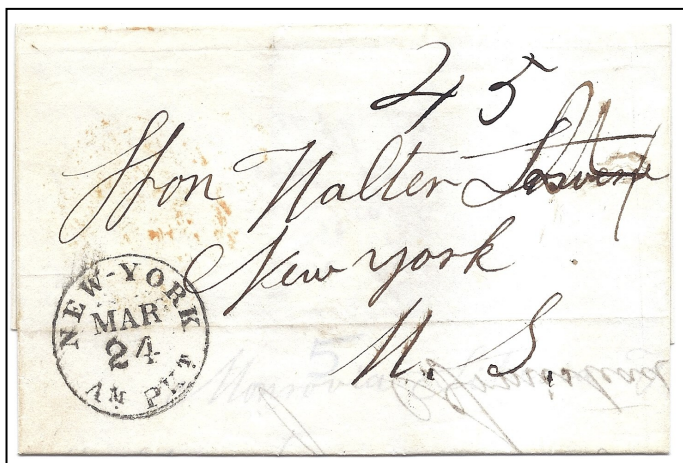
This 1854 Atlantic rate is now consistent with the Atlantic rate as of April 1, 1858. The charge from West Africa through the UK was later reduced to 11¢ on April 1, 1858, and along with 2¢ due to Liberia made 33¢ total charge to America.

This is the earliest Liberian use of the American Packet Mail service. There is a sister cover to this that was sent on the same ship.

These two covers are both from the Barbara Ray Fosdyke collection.

References:

Sacher, John (CBE, FRPSL). Liberia, Prepayment of Mail in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. London Philatelist, June 2010



Reverse.

1854 Cover, front.



## Editor's Note:

Bryant Korn is the current president of the Liberian Philatelic Society. The Royal Philatelic Society London has extended an invitation to Bryant to present the story of Liberian Philately. He is scheduled to speak a year from now in April, 2019. He will show 588 pages, or almost 37 frames on postal stamps and postal history of Liberia from 1820 to 1920. He reports that he is currently working on it and is up to 1918.

## Australia Study Group Met February 3rd

Ten members of the Australia Study Group met on Saturday morning, February 3 to share their progress in just our second year of each starting new collections in this common area.

Attendees were Rich Bajenski, Ron Strawser, Bryant Korn, John Germann, Ardie Callender, David Willig, Mort Levy, Larry Ballantyne and Jay and Denise Stotts.

The group discussed several ways to expand awareness of the group among the HPS and philately. One subject was to create a presence on the HPS web site.

Another idea that was proposed was to create a single frame exhibit to be put in a frame at the Greater Houston Show to promote the collecting areas of the various members. This exhibit would differ slightly from the one entered in the club team competition at Texpex 2017.

For Texpex 2017, individuals created single page "stories" explaining a single item or set. For GHSS, the exhibits, some of them two page spreads, will be more geared to explain specific collecting areas which members are focusing on. A sign-up sheet was passed around and members committed to complete a page or two. With a title page, the members committed to 16 pages. Rich will create a title page. The table shows member commitments.

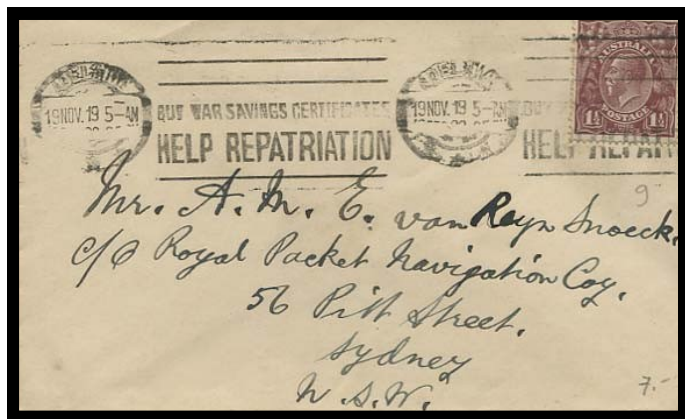
Pages	Title Page	Rich
one	NW Pacific Isl.	Ron
two	Kookaburra	Bryant
two	Geo. VI stationery	Larry
one	Bantams	John
one	Late Fees	Ardy
one	Tasmania pictorials	Mort
two	World War I tax	David
two	Zoologicals	Jay
one	????	Denise
two	Pence to Dollar era	Rich



Example of  
Tasmanian 1d  
pictorial with  
town cancel.



Example of  
North West  
Pacific Islands  
issue.



A 1919 example of the Australian World War I postal tax that David Willig is specializing in.

Three members' collections were featured and passed around the group:

Ron Strawser is focusing on the Australian stamps that were overprinted for the North West Pacific Islands. During World War I, the Australian Forces captured German holdings in the Pacific, and these became the "N.W. Pacific Islands". Overprinted Australian stamps were used by the inhabitants between 1915 and 1923. Ron showed singles and multiples of stamps and is currently looking for postal history as well.

Mort Levy is collecting the Tasmania pictorial issue of 1899-1900. Mort intends to collect the various listed watermark and perforation varieties. He also is forming a collection of the 1d Mt. Wellington stamps with socked-on-the-nose town cancels he has a list that he obtained from the internet that has about 450 towns listed.

David Willig's collection includes examples of postal history during the World War I Australian war tax period. David reported that the date range is from October 28, 1918 to September 30, 1920. The tax was 1/2d. Among the items that David showed, he featured a pioneer post card.

Other members showed some of their recent acquisitions, discussed relevant publications and web sites.

## Award Winners ...

*Editor's note: Please report your activities as an exhibitor and we'll give you the spotlight here in the Winners' column.*

**Garfield-Perry March Party, March 22-24, 2018, Cleveland, OH:**

**Ronald Strawser** - "The Postal Stationery of Uruguay from 1866-1946" - Gold medal.

**Ronald Strawser** - "The Belgian Congo 10 Centime Reply Card Issue of 1900 and Its Overprints Through 1910" - Single Frame Large Vermeil medal.

**Denise Stotts** - "Canada: Private Order Stationery of the 8¢ Centennial Issue" - Single Frame Large Vermeil medal and British North America Philatelic Society John D. Arn White Queen Award.

**Jay Stotts** - "Early U.S. Commercial Air Mail" - Large Vermeil medal.

## Still Time to Develop Your Single Frame Purple Exhibit

There's still time to develop a One Frame exhibit for our annual stamp exhibit competition. We are actively soliciting HPS club members to participate in this gratifying exercise. If you have a stamp, postal history, First Day Cover, post card or other subject that you think might fill a frame (16 letter sized pages) and would like some help or guidance, you can contact one of our regular exhibitors at a club meeting and they'll be quite glad to help you, so give it a try.

## Classified Ads:

Members may place philatelically related Buy, Sell, or Trade ads in *The Perforator* free of charge. HPS Dealer-Members may place free classified or feature ads in *The Perforator* at no charge as well. Member ads will run indefinitely until the advertiser requests a change or cancellation. Send copy to the editor.

**Wanted:** Mint and used stamps and post-cards from China (years 1878-1985). David Wu, Houston, TX. 832-276-2956.  
[freefoodwater@yahoo.com](mailto:freefoodwater@yahoo.com)

**Wanted:** U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large banknote issue, 10¢ through 15¢ Washington/Franklin issues. Also, U.S. 19th century green cancels. David Willig, Houston, TX. 713-201-2042. [cbhz3@hotmail.com](mailto:cbhz3@hotmail.com)

**Buy/Sell/Trade:** Texas Postal History. Email John Germann or phone him at 281-493-3938.  
[jghist@comcast.net](mailto:jghist@comcast.net)

**U.S. FACE VALUE POSTAGE** - Offered at 50% of face. Order any amount from \$25 to \$300 Face Value and receive a mixture of 5¢ to 30¢ values. Clean and fresh material. Send order with payment to: Jonathan Topper, 10480 Grant Road, Suite 117, Houston, TX 77070. Stamps can be mailed to you or delivered at the next stamp club meeting.

## A Word About The Houston Philatelic Society....

Enjoy the fun of stamp collecting by sharing your interests with fellow collectors at an upcoming HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY meeting.

When : **First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM**

Where : **West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd., Houston, TX**

Visitors and new stamp collectors are always welcome.

Officers: President: David Willig  
Vice-President: Paula Pedrick  
Secretary: Jay Stotts  
Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne  
Past President: Ardy Callender

GHSS Show Chairman: Ron Strawser  
Editor: Jay Stotts  
Webmaster: Jonathan Topper  
Program Chairman: Tom Herbert

Board of Directors:	Bryant Korn	Ralph Chaiet	Clayton Finney	John Germann
	Greg Cain	Rick Barrett	Steve Stewart	Denise Stotts