



**July**  
**August**  
**September**  
**2020**

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 Foundation, Inc. members to:

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## 2020 Greater Houston Stamp Show Update

by Ron Strawser

Last year's Greater Houston Stamp Show, which faced "the Great Flood" was interesting, as in the ancient Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times." As show chairman I had hoped that was about as interesting the show would get. It appears however that the interesting times are still upon us. As you know the COVID-19 virus has affected the stamp hobby in many ways, including HPS meetings. It is also affecting the Greater Houston Stamp Show.

The GHSS Foundation, Inc. board of directors has been, and will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and its effects on the show. After studying economic, health and related considerations, the GHSS Foundation, Inc. board voted about two weeks ago to not have exhibits, meetings or the awards dinner at this year's show. This will significantly improve the economics of the show and will reduce the strain on our supply of show volunteers since it will not be necessary to set up and take down the exhibit frames. We are still planning on having the beginner's booth and the concession stand, although both will undergo some changes in their operation. The show bourse will be held in the same hall as past years, possibly with a few less dealers. This combined with the absence of the exhibit frames will allow dealer's booths to be more widely spaced.

The GHSS board will continue to monitor the situation and if necessary make further decisions concerning the show. As it currently stands, the show is still scheduled to occur on September 18-20 at the Humble Civic Center. You can check the show status going forward at the HPS website: <https://www.houstonstampclub.org>.

### *Additional Notes on the Greater Houston Show ....*

- In early June (before the latest spike in covid cases and the current Texas mandate to wear masks) Jay Stotts conducted a survey of the GHSS dealers. He had communications from 27 dealers. Only one did not respond. Feedback was 23 dealers positively want the show to be held. They were extremely serious about their yes and have been working up material for the show. Of the other four votes, two were no, based on what we know today (early June), and two were wavering.
- Ron and Bethel Strawser sent out almost 200 emails to former show attendees (also before the latest spike in covid cases) asking, based on then-current conditions, if they planned on attending GHSS 2020. 56 replied back with 84% saying yes, 4% maybe and 12% no.

## Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses ....

*Editor's Note: For the time being, as the world-wide Coronavirus Pandemic is ongoing and sheltering in place guidelines are in effect in many areas, stamp shows and TSDA bourses continue to be on hold or scaled down to reduce risks. As of our publishing deadline, the shows below are scheduled.*

### August 14-16, 2020

**St. Louis Stamp Expo.** Rescheduled from March 27-29. Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri, 63134. APS World Series of Philately show. Friday 10 AM to 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM.

### September 12-13, 2020

**Omaha Stamp Show.** APS World Series of Philately Show. Metropolitan Community College South Campus, 2909 Edward "Babe" Gomez Ave, Omaha, NE 68127.

### September 18-20, 2020

**Greater Houston Stamp Show 2020.** Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX. The Board of GHSS Foundation, Inc. has voted to eliminate parts of the show as described in the lead article on page 1. There will be no exhibits, meetings or Awards Banquet this year. The show will feature a large bourse where customers can shop with their favorite dealers from across the country. Hours are 10-6 on Friday and Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday. A food concession is still planned to allow attendees to shop during the entire day.

### October 23-24, 2020

**GULFPEX 2020.** St. Martin Community Center, 15008 LeMoyne Blvd., I-10 Exit 50, Biloxi, MS. This show is rescheduled from April. They are still planning an exhibit as well as the bourse. Two day show, Friday and Saturday. Hours are 10-6 on Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. Show will also include post cards. Free parking and admission. Theme is the 50th anniversary of Apollo 13.

## Join HPS Weekly Virtual Meetings

by Steve Stewart

Covid-19 has made our regular in-person HPS meetings impossible, but many of us have continued to meet virtually using the Zoom application every Monday at 7:10 p.m. We keep the format informal with a question and answer session, a general discussion of club business and several members providing "mini-presentations".

Recently we have seen presentations on subjects such as Astro Philately, "Dear Doctor" postcards, the Polish Army in Italy, unusual and comical mail, and many more subjects. If you have not joined a meeting in the past you are welcomed and encouraged to join us in the future.

Some members have had concerns about joining a meeting using the Zoom application because of security flaws reported in the media and others because of poor Internet connections at home. Regarding security, the issues that were reported early on regarding the Zoom application were actually the same issues we faced in an in-person meeting. There is a concern that anyone could "crash" a meeting, and for example, display inappropriate materials.

This is a risk we also faced when meeting at the church, anyone could walk in that door. There were other more technical concerns also. However, these issues have since been addressed by Zoom and while we keep our meeting open to the public, a person who wants to join the meeting must have a link to join.

A poor Internet connection is a bit more difficult to address. You do however, have options, if your home Internet speed is below 20 mps. Option one is to join the meeting on your computer but turn off your web cam so that you can see what is happening, but do not waste bandwidth broadcasting video from your computer. Another option is to join with your phone using your data plan to see and send video (assuming you have a smart phone). A third option is to call into the meeting using audio only. This last option will allow you to hear what is going on, but you will not be able to see the presentations.

If you have not received an invitation to our meetings and would like to attend, please send an email to Steve Stewart, Paula Pedrick or Jonathon Topper. We can't wait to see you!

# HPS Members Actively Educating Other Collectors

Two members of our HPS collecting community have made significant contributions to the efforts to educate collectors in their specialty fields.

On October 19, 2019 Rick Barrett spoke at the Collector's Club of New York about his book, *Buffalo Cinderellas*. He got to meet several people in person he'd only known by name, and there was also an attendee who came to the meeting from England.

The one hour talk was videotaped and can be watched at the link listed below. At the end of the talk a certificate and medal were presented to Rick, and he donated a copy of his book to the club's library for future collectors to enjoy. Rick also wrote an article about his book-writing experience which appeared on pages 20-21 of the June 12 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*.

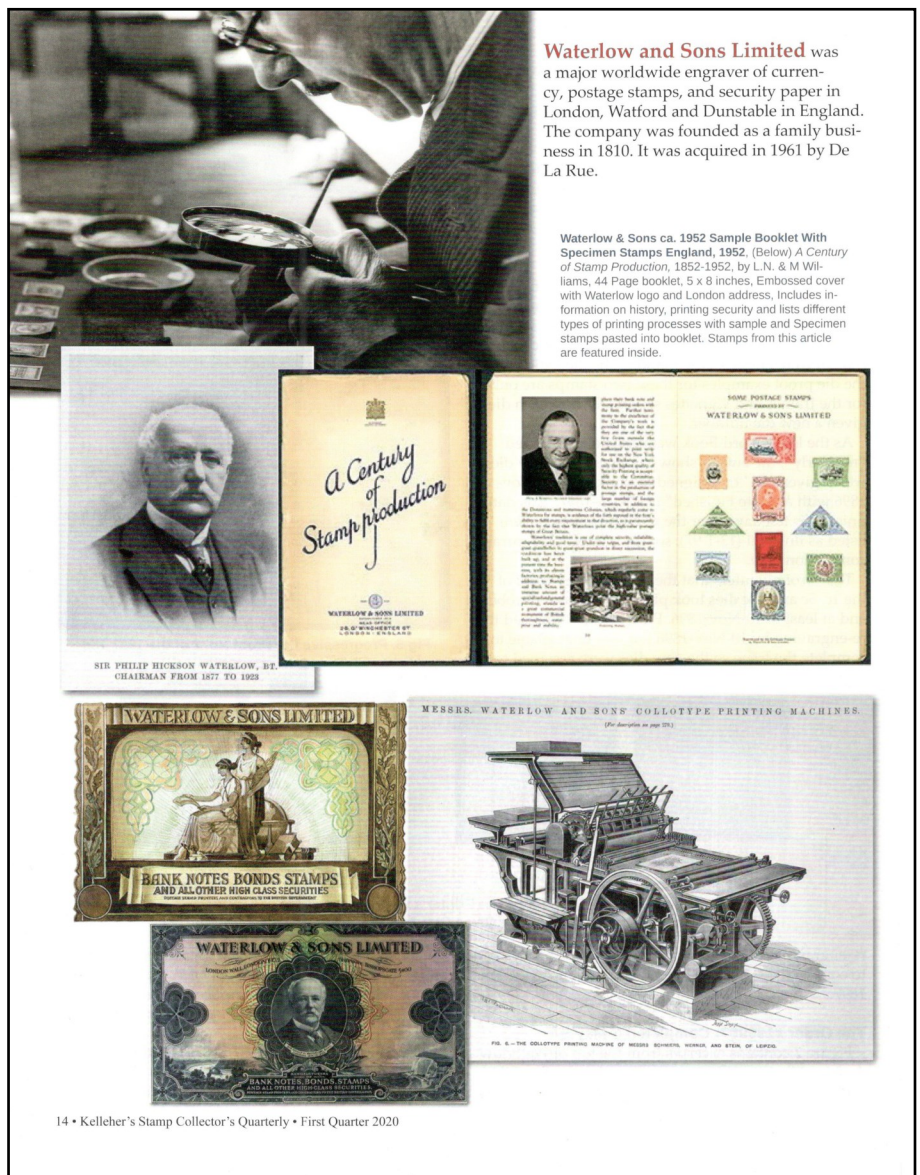


**Rick Barrett lecturing at the CCNY on in October.**

Shown at the right is one of twelve pages of a feature article written by Bryant Korn entitled *Re-Engraving the Waterlow & Sons 1892 Liberian Dies to Produce the 1897 Definitive Issue*. The article is featured in *Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly* (1st quarter 2020, Vol. 6, No. 1) published by Danial F., Kelleher Auctions of Danbury, CT.

The article is lavishly illustrated and goes into great detail about background and Waterlow's working die proofs for both 1892 and 1897. His writing is clear and concise, annotating a very interesting story that led to the evolution of the details of the designs. This article is a keeper for philatelists who collect, study or judge Liberia material.

[https://player.vimeo.com/video/367004629?dnt=1&app\\_id=122963](https://player.vimeo.com/video/367004629?dnt=1&app_id=122963)



**Page dedicated specifically to Waterlow and Sons in Korn's article.**



# An Unusual NYFM Cover to Algeria

by Ardy Callender

During the late nineteenth century, the great majority of transatlantic mail transiting the New York Post Office (NYPO) went to just three major European countries; England, France and Germany. Covers addressed to Eastern Europe, Middle East, China and many African nations are truly scarce. One such cover to Africa is shown below.



The cover is addressed to Djidjeli, Algeria, which is a port city located on the Mediterranean in the Jijel Province of eastern Algeria. Sent at the 5¢ UPU rate, the cover is dated 10 December 1877. It is docketed “via France” in the lower left corner, indicating the sender intended the letter to be sent via France. A French entry date stamp (Calais) can be seen weakly struck at the lower left corner. The cover left by train from Calais, arriving at Marseille on 24 December 1877 as indicated by backstamp. After crossing the Mediterranean Sea, it arrived in Djidjeli on 30 December 1877 (backstamp) some 20 days from New York City.

If the destination is not unusual enough, the NY-PO postal process employed is also quite uncommon. During a short period in 1877-78, New York City Postal Sub-Station were not permitted to cancel foreign mail. However, they had to indicate where the mail piece originated and thus had to strike their date stamp somewhere on the letter.

In some cases, each station’s duplex was struck

on the reverse but in this case it was struck on the front of the cover - see the duplexed ellipse from Station E to the right of the adhesives. The adhesives remained un-cancelled but upon receipt downtown, at the foreign section of the NYPO, the stamps were cancelled by two strikes of an eight-rayed star New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) cancel.

The foreign section could not apply their date stamp as the letter had already received a Station E origination date stamp.

Now, fancy geometric NYFM cancels were not normally used by the NYPO during 1877 as foreign mail was being cancelled by a duplexed date stamp/vertical bar ellipse device; fancy geometrics were discontinued in 1876. So here we have a special circumstance in which fancy geometric NYFM cancels continue in use into 1878.

It’s uncommon destination and curious handling process make this a most interesting and appealing NYFM cover.

## An Uncommon 19<sup>th</sup> Century Destination and Mystery – Persia

by Ardy Callender

In a previous article I discussed a NYFM cover sent to Algeria, a somewhat uncommon 19<sup>th</sup> century destination. In fact, covers sent to usual destinations are a collecting area that I have specialized for numerous years.

One such scarce destination cover is here. Sent from Hartford Connecticut, the cover is dated 31 January 1882 and is addressed to Jas. B. Haliburton, Tehran, Persia.

Having retired from the oil industry, it was hoped that the cover (Haliburton and Persia) might have an oil industry connection – unfortunately not. The cover was sent at the 5¢ UPU rate, franked by a 2¢ and 3¢ 1879 American Bank Note Company adhesives.



It reached Tehran on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March and after an unbelievable thirty eight days, the addressee was not located. On 17<sup>th</sup> April (datestamp) the cover was returned to the U.S., receiving the purple pointing finger handstamp towards the bottom. It is unclear where the pointing finger handstamp was applied as a city is not indicated anywhere on the marking. This type of marking was employed by numerous post offices in the U.S.

Here is where the mystery thickens as the next chronologic marking is a Washington, D.C. datestamp applied on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Where was the cover for thirty seven days between Tehran and Washington, D.C.? Assuming normal transit times between Tehran and the U.S., the cover should have arrived back in the US sometime around the 23-24<sup>th</sup> April. It should have received a foreign exchange office transit marking on arrival as Washington D.C. was not a foreign exchange office. Did it arrive in Washington, D.C. to be examined, pointing finger handstamp struck and then sent onto Hartford? After Washington D.C., the cover was sent onto Hartford as indicated by the Hartford receiving datestamp dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 1882 (on the reverse).

The cover spent another 28 days in Hartford before being sent to the Dead Letter Office back in Washington, D.C. (triangular DLO backstamp on reverse). Did no one claim the cover at Bunnell and Scranton a well respected banking and brokerage firm? The covers spent a total of 145 days or almost 5 months in transit before arriving at the DLO.

The banking and investment firm of Bunnell and Scranton was established by Henry H. Bunnell in 1861. In 1882, the company was located at 732 and 734 Chapel Street in Hartford and was a member of the New York Stock Exchange. During early 1891, instead of buying securities as the firm had purported to do, the money was speculated against the money on deposit at the bank and was lost. Sadly, Mr. Bunnell became ill and as reported in the 20 May 1891 New York Times article “the business has worried him greatly and that it hastened his death.” After the company closed, Charles W. Scranton, the surviving member of the firm filed a statement of financial condition on 27 May giving the firm’s liabilities at \$553,588.36 and assets valued at \$150,000. Investor received less than 25 percent return on their holdings.

## 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 6-8, 2020, Strongsville, OH:**

**Bryant Korn** - "*Perkins Bacon Liberian Stamps of 1897-1912*" - Large Vermeil Medal.

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

## Closed Album - Karl Kowalski

Jonathan Topper has reported that Karl passed away on Thursday, July 2.

He had suffered a stroke about 7-10 days before and was moved so he could be cared for by his daughter.

His health appeared to be improving and his sudden passing was a surprise.

Karl worked many years for Sam Houston Philatelics.

## 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:** U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large bank-note 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.

**Add a GEM to your Hawaii collection:** Scott 60e (III) Unused 1893 6c Green Double Overprint, with recent 2020 Genuine Certification (must read). Will scan upon request. Contact Ralph Chaiet

**WANTED: Return Reply Envelopes** - with stamps, unused or used. Building my collection of Return Reply Envelopes with the objective of a presentation, display or exhibit on their use. These are the pre-addressed return envelopes usually enclosed with solicitations for donations, contributions, subscription renewals, etc., and usually included multiples or thematic stamps. Interested in all types, of any period. No reasonable asking price will be refused. Please contact: [RBajenski@Hotmail.com](mailto:RBajenski@Hotmail.com)

## 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: Paula Pedrick  
Vice-President: Rick Barrett  
Secretary: Jay Stotts  
Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne  
Past President: David Willig

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

Board of Directors: Richard Fruth    Ralph Chaiet    David Nickson    John Germann  
Dave Nickson    Chuck Bianchi    Denise Stotts    Frank Senz