



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 6 Number 4 March/April 2013

Calendar of Events

March 28 -

Interesting Rates and Usages of the Liberty Series

By Wade Saadi

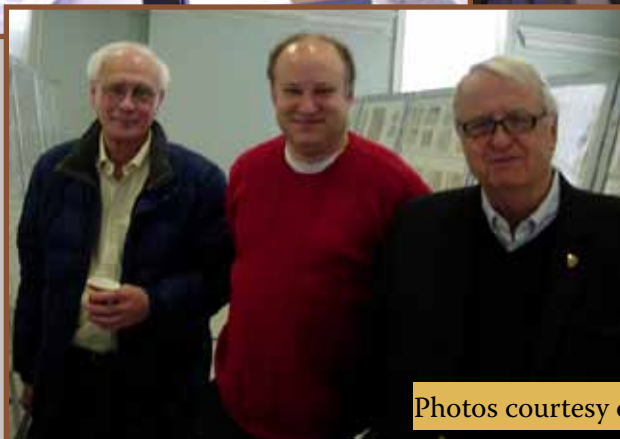


The Liberty Series, also called the Sixth Bureau issue was issued between 1954 and 1973. Many of us grew up seeing these stamps on our daily mail, but I bet you never saw the types of covers you'll see in this presentation by APS President Wade Saadi!

April 25 - "Show & Tell"

In order to make it more enjoyable for everyone, sometime before the April meeting (the sooner the better) send a scan or photocopy of the item or items you'd like to talk about to Nick. He will put all of the images onto the computer so we can show each item on the large screen while you're talking about it. This way, everyone will be able to see all of the details which make the item so interesting to you. You can email scans to Nick at 8605@comcast.net or mail photocopies to him at P.O. Box 1005, Mountainside, NJ 07092. The more we get, the more fun we'll have.

The 2013 Westfield Stamp Club Show



Photos courtesy of Ed Grabowski

Editor

Frederick C. Skvara
PO Box 6228

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Tel/Fax: 908-725-0928

email: fcskvara@optonline.net

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K. David Steidley

Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

For information visit
our website

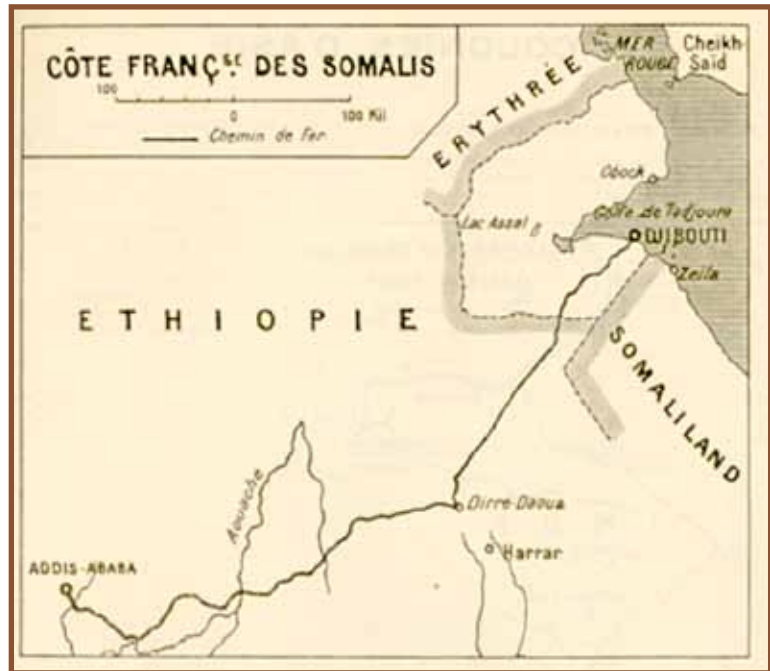
www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call

Nick Lombardi
908-233-3045

The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Obock
(Synopsis for a One-Frame Exhibit)

By Edward J.J. Grabowski



Obock was a small port located on the north side of the Gulf of Tadjoura in what became the French Protectorate of Djibouti and then the colony of the French Somali Coast. It was the first French Colony established in the area of the Gulf of Aden in the 1860's. Its principal purpose was to serve as an independent French coaling station for French ships transiting the Suez Canal. Because of an exposed anchorage, the Colonial Administration and port were transferred across the Gulf of Tadjoura in 1894 to Djibouti resulting in a severe decline in the importance of Obock. Obock received its Group Type stamps in December 1892, and they were used throughout the area until about 1910. Low value Obock Group Type stamps (1c, 2c and 5c) were overprinted in 1893 for provisional use in Djibouti until the arrival of its new pictorial issues.



Obock 1892 (Scott 32)



Obock 1893 (Scott 44A)

Despite its small size and relative postal insignificance, Obock received a plethora of stamps for its use including a variety of provisional overprints on French Colonial Type Dubois stamps in early 1892, its own Group Type issue in late 1892 and a variety of colorful pictorial issues in 1894. The reasons for supplying so many issues to what was essentially a small village are uncertain, though the philatelic market may have played a role.

The use of the Group Type issue from the entities of Obock and Djibouti/Somali Coast is examined in this exhibit. Due to the small population in the area and the availability of numerous pictorial issues from both Obock and Djibouti, the actual number of covers illustrating use of the Group Type from this area is extremely limited and presented in a one frame exhibit. This exhibit is organized as follows:

1. Earliest recorded use of the Group Type issue from any Colony
2. Use of the Group Type issue from the colony of Obock
3. Use of the provisional Group Type overprints from Djibouti
4. Use of Group Type remainders from Obock and Djibouti as part of the Somali Coast
5. Use of Ethiopia – Somali Coast mixed frankings with Group Type on Ethiopian mail
6. Miscellaneous mail illustrating non-Group Type mail of the period

Rare or unusual items are highlighted by a red border. An article on the material in this exhibit written by the exhibitor is scheduled for publication in the January 2013 issue of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. This one-frame exhibit is the result of a thirty-five year search by the exhibitor for significant Group Type material from Obock and Djibouti/Somali Coast. Items of special interest include:

1. The earliest recorded use of Group Type stamps from any French Colony: December 11, 1892
2. The best of the two recorded military concession rate letters using Group Type stamps from Obock
3. A combination cover of Group Type with one of the rare Obock provisional overprints of 1892
4. Use of the DJIBOUTI 25 overprint on the 2 centimes Group Type on a commercial cover
5. Single use of the 75c and 1F Group Type stamps on commercial covers
6. Rare use of Group Type stamps in combinations with Obock and Djibouti pictorials
7. Commercial use of Group Type stamps with an Obock pictorial bisect on a declared value letter to Egypt
8. Two Ethiopia-Djibouti mixed franking covers showing use of Group Type stamps – 95% of these covers employ pictorial issues for the French Colonial portion of the franking.
9. A full newspaper and wrapper prepaid 5 centimes in cash during the January 1902 shortage of low value stamps in Djibouti



Mixed franking from Harar, Ethiopia to Berne, Switzerland in 1903 showing use of an Ethiopian stamp to prepay local registered postage to Djibouti, Somali Coast and Somali Coast Obock issues prepaying the 50 centimes international registered rate to Berne. Ethiopia was not a member of the UPU at this time.



Use of an Obock Group Type, an Obock pictorial issue re-valued for use in Djibouti and a Djibouti pictorial on a 1902 registered French Community rate letter (40 centimes) from Djibouti to Caen, France.

Answers – January/February Philatelic Quiz

Q1. The Scott catalogue describes the stamp seen here from St. Kitts-Nevis (Scott 19) as “Columbus looking for land”. Is that a correct interpretation of the vignette?

Ans. **No**

The vignette on the stamp seen here and on a number of the early twentieth century stamps from St. Kitts-Nevis shows a man looking through a telescope. The caption in *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* states “Columbus Looking for Land”. The caption in the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840–1970* reads “Christopher Columbus”.



St. Kitts-Nevis 1916 (Scott 19)

But the man could not be Christopher Columbus as he died in 1506 and the telescope was not invented until 1608. The person shown is most likely Sir Thomas Warner (1580–1649) an English explorer who brought the first colonists to St. Kitts in 1624.



Q2. Who flew the first manned hot air balloon flight?

Ans. **Pilatre de Razier and the Marquis d'Arlandes**

On November 21, 1783, Pilatre de Razier (1754–1785), a French chemistry and physics teacher, and the Marquis d'Arlandes (1742–1809), a French soldier and pioneer of hot-air ballooning piloted a balloon built by the Mongolfier brothers, launching it from within the grounds of the Bois de Boulogne, a large public park near Paris. The flight lasted twenty minutes, rose to 330 feet and landed at the Paris neighborhood of Butte-aux-Coilles, about five miles from its launching site.



France 1936 (Scott 308)

De Razier died at the age of thirty-one when his balloon crashed during an attempt to cross the English Channel. The marquis was dismissed from the army for cowardice during the French Revolution and died in his castle perhaps, as some sources state, by committing suicide.



Q3. Who was the fired postmaster that subsequently had a United States postage stamp issued in his honor?

Ans. **William Faulkner**.

In December 1921 William Faulkner (1897–1962) took a job as the acting postmaster at the University of Mississippi post office. It was a disaster as he was a terrible postmaster. He left mailbags unopened, made faculty and students beg for their mail and, according to some reports even through out mail in the trash. He routinely

read all the magazines before he put them into the mailboxes. His performance eventually reached the office of the postal inspector and before he could be investigated he resigned, although some sources say he was fired.

On August 3, 1987 the United States Postal Service issued the 22-cent commemorative seen here as part of the Literary Arts Series honoring him. Faulkner was awarded the 1949 Nobel Prize in Literature and Pulitzer Prizes in 1955 and 1963.



1987 (Scott 2350)



Q4. Who are two of the Native Americans who fought against General George Armstrong Custer that have appeared on United States postage stamps?

Ans. **Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull**

Crazy Horse (1849–1877) was a Native American leader of the Lakota Sioux who joined with Sitting Bull (1831–1890), Chief of the Lakota Sioux, at the Battle of the Little Bighorn River against the United States Seventh Cavalry. The battle took place on June 25–26, 1876 in the Montana Territory. The Seventh Cavalry was severely defeated and General George Armstrong Custer was killed.



1982 (Scott 1855)

In 1982, the United States Postal Service issued a 13¢ stamp for Crazy Horse and in 1989, a 28¢ stamp for Sitting Bull, both part of the Great American Series.



1989 (Scott 2183)



Q5. Several of the stories of Jules Verne have connections to the American Civil War. Which ones are they?

Ans. **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, From the Earth to the Moon and Mysterious Island**

In *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, Captain Nemo is an antiwar proponent after witnessing the carnage of the Civil War. In *From the Earth to the Moon*, Civil War veterans in the Baltimore Gun Club build extreme



France 2005 (Scott 2131, 2135)

artillery pieces. In *Mysterious Island* Confederate prisoners of war escape by balloon to an island where Captain Nemo is creating gigantic plants and animals.

Members in the News

Roger Brody

Roger recently accepted an award as one of the Founding Partners of the Global Philatelic Library. The goal of the library is to bring together in a single index, all publications from significant philatelic libraries throughout the world. Currently there are sixteen partnering libraries. In addition it is planned to make available the indices of all philatelic journals that have been published since 1861. Access to the current three-quarters of a million individual records is free. If you haven't visited this amazing website, don't walk, run to www.globalphilateliclibrary.org. You will not be disappointed.



Edward Grabowski

Congratulations to Ed Grabowski as he succeeded Roger Brody as president of the Collectors Club in New York in January of this year.

An article by Ed entitled "In Search of Professor A. Victor Segno" appears in the March 2013 issue of *The United States Philatelist*.



Nicholas Lombardi

At the Filatelic Fiesta held in California, Nick won a Statue of Freedom Award for his exhibit "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue". Congratulations Nick!



Richard Nazar

In "What Color Is the White House?", Richard describes in detail the color variations seen in the 29¢ White House coil stamp. The stamp was first issued in 1992, and was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. His article appears in the March 2013 issue of *The United States Philatelist*, the cover of that issue shows those color varieties.



David Steidley

The APS Summer Seminar 2013 will be held June 16-21, at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA. One of the four-day courses being held is "U.S. Airmail: A Postal History Treatment" given by our own David Steidley. As noted on the APS website (www.stamps.org):

Course Description:

"We have 95+ years of US airmail postal history! A variety of topics will be presented from a postal history viewpoint with lectures from experts around the country, based in part on the American Air Mail Society's extensive catalogues. Understand the domestic rate structure for airmail and have working knowledge of the tools to determine international rates. Learn the interaction of commerce, politics and aircraft capability. By the end of this course, students will be able to read a cover and find the proper references to understand its rate, route and marking. these are the tools needed for a collector to work up his or her own material or, if not yet an airmail collector, find a niche to enjoy. Students should have some acquaintance with postal history.

Steidley is a lifetime collector of stamps and the postal history of the United States. For the past 16 years he has served as the Secretary of the Collectors Club. He currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club and is Vice-President of the American Air Mail Society. Steidley serves on the Boards of NOJEX, the Westfield Stamp Club, and has recently become the Secretary of World Stamp Show-NY 2016."

2013 Westfield Show Cachet & Cancel



The 2013 Westfield Stamp Show Cachet and Cancel is still available. An informational staffer on the Battle of Gettysburg is included with the cachet.

If you would like one, you can pick one up at the meeting for \$3.00. You can also order one by mail by sending a **self-addressed, stamped envelope** with \$3.00 in cash or a check for \$3.00 made out to the Westfield Stamp Club. Credit card payments or PayPal will not be accepted.

Mail orders should be sent to:

**Frederick C. Skvara,
PO Box 6228,
Bridgewater, NJ 08807**



☞ A Philatelic Quiz ☞

- Q1. Who is the only president of the United States to hold a doctorate degree?
- Q2. Why did Nicaragua overprint some early 20th century stamps with the letter "B"?
- Q3. What is a Sanitary Fair?
- Q4. The South Orkneys are now considered a part of what stamp-issuing entity?
- Q5. What nation used a stylized chrysanthemum in the designs of many of its stamps prior to 1947?