

Perforations

This month there are no pictures of the July meeting – left the camera on the table on the way out.

Last month, the son and daughter-in-law of Charles H. Hicks (1907-1965) attended the meeting. Mr. Hicks, in his very active 10 year membership, served two terms each as LCPS President and Treasurer. They donated several albums and boxes of stamps to the club in support of the ongoing Boy Scout program.

They are also looking to sell some of the better items (Great Britain, First Day Covers and other miscellaneous items) that were collected by Charles and his wife Ruth, who was also active in the club. If interested in looking at the material, see me at the meeting or e-mail me at webmaster@LCPSHOME.ORG.

This month, Bill S. will be presenting a short program on PRE-CANCELS.

Treasures' Report: Checking - \$1,677.17; Savings - \$ 1,544.73; Total – \$ 3,221.90

TELEGRAPH STAMPS — another US *Back-of-Book* section is devoted to the **Telegraph Stamp**. This area of stamp collecting is broken down into 17 groups of anywhere from two to over 100 stamps per group. Each designated group is a telegraph (later a communications) company. Scott's 17 groups do not cover every issuing company; there are at least 13 more companies that operated in the United States (and Canada) between the late 1850's and 1947.

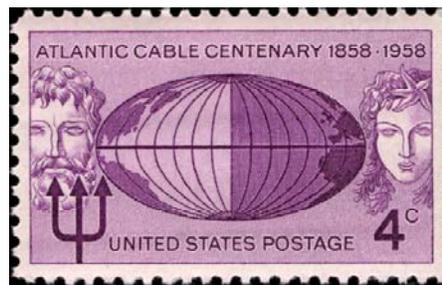
The telegraph was the first long-distance communication for sending encoded messages by electrical means over a wire. The telegraph was invented by Samuel F.B. Morse (both commemorated on several stamps), who in 1837, installed an experimental 3.5 km telegraph line on the campus of what was the University of the City of New-York (now called New York University).



Scott 924



Scott 890



Scott 1112

The first commercial telegraph line was in 1843 between Paddington and Slough, England. The next big step was in 1858, when the first successful Atlantic cable linked the United States with Europe. This first line "fried" shortly afterwards, but was repaired within a year and soon after, with an new understanding of Ohm's Law, the world was soon wrapped in a network of undersea and overland cables.

Local Stamp Shows

MSDA Show West
Lidner Conference Center
610 E Butterfield Rd
Lombard IL
Aug 20-21



Milcopex 2011
Wyndham Hotel
4747 S Howell
Milwaukee, WI
September 16-18

MSDA Show
Comfort Inn
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights IL
October 22-23



CHICAGOPEX 2011
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Blvd
Itasca IL
November 18-20



MSDA Show West
Lidner Conference Center
610 E Butterfield Rd
Lombard IL
December 10-11



Next meeting:
7-PM on **Tuesday, 23 August 2011**
at the **Grayslake Library**
100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030



Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Walter F. Veile - Treasurer

As with the early postal systems, the first telegraph systems were privately owned. The stamps issued by these private telegraph systems are the equivalent of private and local postage stamps.

Telegraph stamps were service fee stamps that prepaid or showed payment/exemption from payment for delivery of a telegraphic message. This was based on the business model used then by the USPOD for postage stamps, which was to prepay a similar service: delivery of a message through the postal system with the difference between telegraph and postage stamps is the medium of delivery.

This lead, in most nations, to where the telegraph (and later telephone/Internet) networks would fall under government control, often in conjunction with the then existing postal system and as such used regular postage or revenue stamps to show payment of the government telegraphy fee. These stamps used for such fees can usually be distinguished by the cancel. Over time, many governments began to issue separate telegraph stamps.

As practiced in the days before the USPOD, sending a prepaid telegram was quite similar to posting a local letter. The telegraph stamp was applied to a telegraph form containing the message to be sent and dropped into a telegraph collection box. Couriers emptied the boxes and took the forms to the servicing telegraph office from which the message was sent, which in short time was delivered by messenger to the recipient (Express Mail?).

The first private telegraph stamps were issued in 1853 by the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co. with the first government-issued telegraph stamps by Spain on 01 July 1864.



Scott 6T1-6T3 Strip

In the United States (and Canada), the telegraph networks were never owned/operated by the government, so all our telegraph stamps are private/local stamps. The first American telegraph stamps were issued by the New York City and Suburban Printing Telegraph Co. in 1859 (6T1 – 6T3). [This set would cost you about \$2000 for the strip of three]

Even though the US government did not operate the telegraph, that did not mean they were not interested in tapping a new revenue source to fund the Civil War. In October 1862, two documentary Telegraph Tax stamps (R4 and R19) were authorized and used during (and after) the Civil War.



Scott R4



Scott R19

Besides the public fee stamps, complimentary frank stamps (usually non-denominated) and were given to important customers such as railroads, newspapers, and company officials that would grant one free telegram per stamp (with a duplicate stamp usually left in telegraph office receipt book).

In the business world accountability and ease of service has merit - enter the **Collect** stamp, used to show that the telegraph fee had not been paid or paid in full by the sender (forerunner of the government Postage Due stamp).

This followed shortly by another commercial innovation — issuing stamps in **booklets**. The California State Telegraph Co. (5Tx) issued booklets of telegraph stamps in 1870. After that, most US telegraph stamps were issued in booklets. It took a quarter of a century before government postage stamp booklets were first issued (1895 – Luxembourg).

My telegraph stamp collection is a hand-me-down from my great-grandfather, Joseph Crane (1868-1971), a Northern Pacific railroad employee, originally consisting of eleven cigar boxes of odds-n-ends including the booklet and booklet pane below.



\$2.50 Booklet of Scott 16T99-16T103 (1940)



Scott 17T3 Booklet pane and single (1947)