



Last month, Bill Schultz presented an excellent presentation on post cards and brought in examples of the many different types of cards available during the "Golden Age" (1890-1915). His presentation is available on the club's website.

Walter gave the monthly Treasures report — we currently have \$3, 196.15 in the bank.

This month's presentation: "Disposing Your Stamp Collection - Preparing a Significant Other to Dispose of Your Collection" from an article by David Weisber and presented by Chuck Skittino and Tom Willer.

We also need to start thinking about the Holiday Brunch in December and if we are going to put up a display in the library like we did last November.

Postal History - Part II. The Roman Empire built the most advanced postal delivery system known until the time that of China's service. The Roman Empire area covers the whole Mediterranean. During that time reliable communication from Rome to governors and military officials in the more remote provinces was a necessity.

Rome needs the development of "*cursus publicus*" meaning public course. It is a state sponsored series of post roads with interval relay stations. By the use of "public course" riders could travel as fast as 170 miles in a 24-hour period.

Originally, the Romans wrote their letters on wax tablets and on thin sheets of woods where the Egyptians preferred to use papyrus. By the time of Emperor Hadrian, velum was introduced and used in Europe ending only after, in the 15th century, when China introduced paper via Asia Minor and Byzantine Empire. With the collapse of the Western Roman Empire collapsed 476 CE, the postal system was not destroyed immediately. Vestiges continue to exist until 9th century before it became fragmented and fell into disuse. The Byzantine Empire lasted 900 more years until it was eventually absorbed into the Islamic Caliphate and later the Ottoman Empire after 1453 CE.



Wax Tablet 300 CE



"Express" 1276



Service Area: Northern Europe 1620's

In the middle ages, there were postal services in Europe but none of them are in general use. Postal services in the middle age were exclusively used for trade guilds (such as the Metzger Post of Germany served the guild of butchers), merchants of the Hanseatic League, Venice and the Italian city states, universities, and religious houses and orders.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, 7 pm
24 July 2012
at the
Grayslake Area
Public Library
100 Library Lane
Grayslake, IL

2012-2013 Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Walter F. Veile - Treasurer

NSDA Chicago Show
White Eagle Banquet Hall
6839 N. Milwaukee Ave
Niles IL
04-05 August

MSDA WEST SHOW
Lindner Conf. Center
660 E. BUTTERFIELD RD
LOMBARD, IL
11-12 August

Reemergence of Postal System. It was during the Renaissance period that the need for correspondence was again needed to facilitate the growth of international trade/commerce. Merchants, bankers, cooperatives and guilds set up their own messenger services with the most extensive and dependable postal services being found in the Italian city states.

This was followed by a slow expansion as connections between commercial centers of these Italian city states like Florence, Genoa, and Siena moved into several commercial cities in northern France, the Low Countries and Germany. These correspondences allowed for the scheduling and coordination of merchant fairs that attracted merchants from all parts of Europe.

The best-known and most efficient of these postal service operated by the Counts of Thurn and Taxis. A family, whose Italian name was Tassis, operated the first courier services in the city-states from about 1290. Franz von Taxis served as postmaster to the Holy Roman emperor Maximilian I from 1489 and to Philip I of Spain from 1504. Von Taxis secured the right to carry both government and private mail throughout the empire. The Thurn and Taxis monopoly operated a network of postal routes in Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, and the Low Countries from 1512 to 1867 (fall of the Habsburgs). 20,000 messengers were employed to deliver mail and newspapers.

In France, the postal service grew to where it provided a major international link for commerce and news. There was also a postal link between the Bagdad, Venice and Constantinople and later including the Russian and Polish commercial centers

National Postal Systems. The first national postal system set up was ordered by Louis XI of France who set up the Royal Postal Service in 1477. This was followed in 1516, in England with Henry VIII appointing a post master to maintain the regular postal service along the roads leading out of London. Neither of these systems was intended to serve the public.

The use of private mail was not legalized in France until 1627 and in Britain until 1635. Private mail delivery operations served the government for a while, but in 1672, France declared all postal services to be a state of monopoly. Private services were eventually depleted of business.

As trade flourished and grew in the 1700's the economic situation in the United Kingdom spurred a demand for better mail services. By 1765 new road system had been completed in Britain and Ireland and by 1784 stage coaches began carrying mail between the cities and towns. The route between London and Bath was the first with express service being provided by mounted post boys along the main routes. During the next 150 years, this "open" postal system proved an easy target for robbers and inspired many fictional characters/stories for literature and some very interesting scandals for the emerging newspapers and tabloids.

Between 1775 and 1815, Britain was in almost a constant state of war with either the United States or France or both. To help support the war effort, postage rates were increased remained so for the next 40 years until the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815. It was at this juncture, that an Englishman, Rowland Hill, formulated a series of proposals on reforming the postal system that gained notice between 1835 and 1837. His pamphlet, "**Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability,**" is now regarded as a milestone in the development of the modern postal system.

He proposed and proved that carrying charges were insignificant factors in the total cost of handling mail. He also proved that complex series of rates based on distance were needless. Sir Rowland Hill noted that the collection of payment for mail delivery could be avoided.

He made a solution to postal problems by imposing a uniform postage rate regardless the distance. He also suggested the use of prepayment through adhesive stamps and will be sold at post offices. He proposed that payments will be based on weight and suggested a penny for each half-ounce.

On the ascendance of Victoria to the thrown in 1837 - the United Kingdom entered a new era of handing both public and private post.



Sir Rowland Hill KCB, FRS (03 December 1795 – 27 August 1879) was an English teacher, inventor and social reformer. He campaigned for a comprehensive reform of the postal system, based on the concept of penny postage and his solution of prepayment, facilitating the safe, speedy and cheap transfer of letters. Hill later served as a government postal official, and he is usually credited with originating the basic concepts of the modern postal service, including the invention of the postage stamp



Queen Victoria 1837

