

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

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Volume XII, Whole Number 21 December 1967 30th Anniversary / War Cover Club
Commemoration of the War Cover Club's 30th Anniversary

The War Cover Club - C. D. Brenner

Sometime in 1939 the War Cover Club in some way came to my attention and I was inspired to have a look at the large packet of letters that I had sent home during the nearly two years that I had spent in the A. E. F. and which had been stowed away in a trunk and all but forgotten. Curious to learn more about the various markings on the covers of these letters, I joined the War Cover Club. I soon learned that two members of the Club, Merv Hertzberg and the late Eugene Cummings, lived within a few miles of me. I made their acquaintance and had the pleasure of inspecting their outstanding collections of war covers. My interest was sufficiently aroused to want to emulate them in a modest way and I too became a war cover collector.

At that time Delf Norona had started to publish his descriptive listing of A. E. F. postal markings in the War Cover Philatelist. He had almost finished this task when, for personal reasons, he withdrew from the Club in 1943. In the meantime the Second World War had started. One of our members, George C. Hahn of Cleveland, decided that the Club needed a special publication devoted to the postal markings of the current war. To fill this need he published a monthly mimeographed Bulletin from December 1940 to May 1941. This was the original War Cover Club Bulletin. After six issues Hahn found that this publication required too much of his time and he dropped it.

Deprived of Norona's inspiring leadership and without an official publication, the future of the Club looked anything but rosy. After some months I was for some reason elected president. In order to try to keep the Club alive and have something to preside over, I decided to resume publication of the Bulletin, not anticipating that for the next five years I would serve both as president and editor. The editing was pretty much a one-man job, but the new war produced a continuing supply of fresh material and my task was not as onerous as it otherwise might have been. My series of Bulletins ran from July 1944 to June 1949. By then my professional duties no longer allowed me the time that this editing job required and anyway it was high time that someone else took over. Miss Jean Koor volunteered to assume the editorship temporarily and did a commendable job until succeeded by Kevin Rogan in late 1952. The rest of the story belongs to him and his successors.

In the 1930s Delf Norona was best known for his Cyclopaedia of U. S. Postmarks, volumes which are still much in demand today although generally unobtainable. This publication was filled with invaluable military and naval postal history material. When the War Cover Club began Delf Norona produced the outstanding work The War Cover Philatelist. Many Club members have never seen this publication. For the present generation, of War Cover Club members, we thus illustrate the cover page and may it serve as a source of philatelic inspiration in the spirit of the War Cover Club.

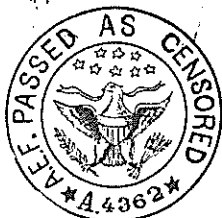
THE WAR COVER PHILATELIST

An Occasional Publication

Edited and Published
by

DEL F NORONA
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

Subscription Price: One Dollar



Vol. 1

January, 1938

No. 1

INTRODUCTION

As its title indicates, this publication will be devoted exclusively to War Cover collecting. Stress will be given to U.S. World War Philately, but material concerning the military and 'occupation' postal services of all countries may later be included. The extent to which this will be done, will depend entirely on popular demand, and readers are invited to make their preferences known.

The subscription price is fixed at One Dollar, and due to the specialized nature of this publication only a limited circulation is possible. No promise is made as to the number of pages which your dollar will buy, and no regularity in date of publication is assured. We merely express the hope that Volume 1 will consist of 40 or 50 pages and that the War Cover Philatelist will appear at intervals of not more than 60 days. While the supply lasts, all subscriptions commence with Volume 1, No. 1.

The War Cover Philatelist is published as a labor of love. Your Editor has no illusions as to this being a profitable undertaking and fully expects to be out of pocket in the premises. But should it prove to be a greater financial flop than is expected, and only two or three issues appear, a reasonable portion of your dollar will be refunded. Subscribers may be assured, however, that there will be no lack of good data. So, if you like this publication---Boost.

TITLE PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS

With each issue, special illustrations will appear on the title page of a "We-want-to-know" nature. Peruse them carefully and report additional information to the Editor. Acknowledgment will be made in due course.

The common type of Censor mark shown has the censor number A-4362. Who has a higher number? Our lowest A-2. Who has A-1? Earliest use Aug. 1, 1917. Who can beat it?

The incomplete marking is the only known use (?) of an American postmark in a foreign language. Used in Italy in December, 1918, at A.P.O. 901, Milan. Who has a distinct postmark from which a satisfactory tracing may be made?

THE GENERAL CATALOG OF U.S. POSTMARKS

100 pages, 900 illustrations. All classes of U.S. Postmarks listed, including Civil War, Spanish-Amer., World War, and other military pmks. Price \$1.00. Order from the Editor.

The War Cover Club Philatelist (first page) preceded the War Cover Club Bulletin. This publication was for the purpose of war cover collecting. Its format featured articles, illustrations and information exclusively about military and naval postal history. (Philatelist courtesy of Winfred Grandy.)

(The editor wishes to thank all December Bulletin contributors including members whose name was not directly mentioned. Welcome to new members.)

Random Recollections of a War Cover Collector - Fred Faulstitch

I recall vividly the period of World War I. I personally knew soldiers who went "Over There". A few did not return and those who did enjoyed the usual brief period of glory. For awhile the mail sent by the Doughboys did not appear at the dealers. I started in this field by asking ex-soldiers for their mail. In this way a small variety was brought together but with little knowledge of what actually existed. Chiefly through the efforts of M. Hertzberg and others, the first war Cover Club was organized in 1937; the first meeting was held in New York City in April.

In 1938 Delf Norona began publishing the War Cover Philatelist. While references had been made to AEF mail and some literature was available, this publication was the first (to my limited knowledge) to classify this material actively. Besides being informative, this publication served to bring together the isolated war cover collectors of that time. From these associations have sprung lifelong friendships.

I recall buying some of my first war covers from the Hertzbergs of the Berkshire Exchange. Another fine correspondent was Robert Safarid. At one of the War Cover Club meetings, along with the Bronx Stamp Club, I first met Bill Montgomery who never failed to brighten up his corner. When Bill passed on not long ago, everyone who knew him was saddened. Mort DeGroot was another old friend who was always ready to show his WW I collection. Isadore Willinger was then, as he is today, one of the unforgettables who has done more for his fellow collectors than anyone I am able to recall.

Another old friend was E. N. Sampson who handled war covers and was often seen on Nassau Street in its heyday. Nort is still active and is always good for a bull session and a few nice covers. Win Grandy, another of the old war cover group, is also as active as ever. Members of the War Cover Club who attended the get-togethers at his home can never forget his and Mrs. Grandy's hospitality and the old-fashioned cook-outs in the yard. It was at these gatherings that members really became acquainted.

At one time I had corresponded with Eva Gray. I was surprised one day to receive a letter from her telling me that she was a patient at the Veterans' Hospital in the Bronx, New York City. Would I visit her and bring along some war covers? I would and I did. I discovered that this forthright lady had been a WW I nurse. I'll never know what the hospital people thought of us two with all our war covers spread around but we sure enjoyed it. While Eva is no longer with us, I'm sure that wherever she may be she is talking war covers with a bunch of "old soldiers".

On my first visit to Rev. H. K. Robinson I learned about Siberian AEF and naval covers. I also met a fine gentleman. Then there was Harry Konwiser who put stampless covers on the road and wrote about everything philatelic including war covers. One Saturday Harry walked into Harry Spring's office on Nassau Street with a collection of Canadian Contingent covers of the Boer War. Nobody seemed interested in them. Since I knew absolutely nothing about the subject, I bought the lot. This began my deep interest in the Boer War. Here I might add that Harry Spring was one of the first cover pushers in the hobby and few cover collections of today do not contain at least one example that came from Harry Spring. One of the two habitués of Spring's emporium was George Turner who put on the SIPEX Show recently. Even during his undergraduate days, George showed signs of future success. Another old cover man from the Spring crowd was Trifone Stanicich who later opened Trifone's Stamp Studio in the Tribune Building. This became another cover collector's paradise where my old friend Al Higgins and I spent many a pleasant hour talking covers. It was also at Trifone's that I met my wife Edith who is known to so many of you.

I forget where or when I met Phil Baker, of Allendale, New Jersey, but I have always been glad to see him ever since. His fine work on the Spanish-American War markings is only a part of what he has done for the War Cover Club.

I cannot close without mentioning Jean Koor Clark. She helped keep the Club going while many of us were writing war covers. Later, many of our best meetings were held at the offices of Scott's where Jean worked, and through whose efforts, we secured the privilege. I will take this opportunity to pay a tribute to this truly great member. I know that all of you who knew her will join me.

I intended to reminisce at random. A few names have been mentioned but the roster is long. I must, however, end now. The true reason for writing these words is the realization that all the war cover people I have known have made the hobby far far more than the mere possession of a few albums on a shelf. I know it will always be so.

Reminiscences - Rev. H. K. Robinson

I'm afraid my reminiscences of the early days of the War Cover Club will be rather brief since as a minister moving around, nothing except the most essential things were kept and moved.

A few interested people gathered in New York City, in 1937, to talk over the possibilities of starting a club to collect war covers. We decided to go ahead and try to get going. Among the first members were #1 Milton Hunt, #2 H. K. Robinson, #3 Maxwell Halpern, #4 Delf Norona; also, #6 Wm. Montgomery and #7 Eva Gray. I do not remember who were in the #8 to #20 group. Have lost track of Halpern and Montgomery but Hunt and Miss Gray both died some years ago. We tried to meet once a year in New York City.

Since that time I have held every office in the War Cover Club but that of Bulletin editor, since I have always been a very poor writer.

I want to pay special tribute to Delf Norona for without him we would not have lasted very long. He was the first editor of the War Cover Philatelist (the forerunner of the present Bulletin) and he put into it much time, effort and finance. It was the only thing that kept it alive in the early days. He also set up the type chart which still is used. There were only two brochures on A. E. F. mail available at that time - one by Dr. Coleman and one by Sanford.

The sources of war covers was very scattered as few dealers handled them. The ones I obtained were mostly procured from veterans and from an ad which I ran in Hobbies magazine. Since that time I find much material has been destroyed as veterans died or moved from place to place.

I had built up quite a collection, when, due to family sickness, extra money was required so that most of the collection was sold. Later, I began collecting again.

Have enjoyed the fellowship of the group and the friendship of many members. Sorry not to have been able to get to the meetings in recent years. Congratulations to the present officers for the splendid work they are doing.

My best to all the members.

THE COVER COLLECTOR

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

Issued Monthly Under the Auspices of the War Cover Club

GEORGE C. HAHN, Editor
835 Williamson Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

Volume 1

August, 1941

Number 8

The Cover Collector was published monthly by The Stamp Review. Incorporated therein was the War Cover Club Bulletin which was under the editorship of Geo. C. Hahn. A primary feature was the illustration of World War II military postal markings. The Second World War was then in progress so that there were plenty of covers available for illustration and discussion of the postal markings thereupon.

The postal markings were classified as were the censor markings and both were illustrated, described and remarks or comments were made as to the usages of the foregoing. This first War Cover Club Bulletin was balanced by editorials which were, perhaps, the second most notable feature of this series of Bulletins.

WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN

and

Supplement to the WAR COVER PHILATELIST

September 1944

Like its immediate predecessors, this succession of Bulletins enhanced its pages with military and naval postal history material. Classifications of the markings was also included. The Type Chart/Locations and Assignments U. S. Army Postoffices, World War II, Second Edition is resplendent with the foregoing markings and classifications. Thus was continued the tradition of the original The War Cover Philatelist.

One of the very outstanding and exclusive features was a superb ten-page Bulletin monograph; this was C. D. Brenner's "The A.E.F. in Siberia" an article which added considerable new information on that subject.

Later editors were Miss Jean Koor, Kevin Rogan (for ten years) and Isadore Willinger. Other early members, who stuck with the Club, are: M. Hertzberg (who placed his name last on the very first membership list), Rev. H. K. Robinson, Michael R. Baggett, C. D. Brenner and Delf Norona (who dropped out of the hobby for a time). Some of the early members left the Club but are still active philatelists. Other early members also gave of their time and efforts to the interests of the Club and, of these, some made outstanding personal as well as philatelic contributions.

May we offer a toast in the spirit of the founding and early members who gave that we might partake of the camaraderie initiated by their modest efforts?

"GREETINGS"

From Moundsville, W. Va. Nov. 17, 1967: (From Delf Norona):

"Greetings and many more years of continued progress." Reference is made to Delf Norona's "Recollections of a Charter Member of the War Cover Club" which appeared in the Linn's Weekly Stamp News of June 28, 1965.

Mr. Norona is now in his 70s and not in the best of health. However, he is always most pleased to hear from members of the War Cover Club.

From Oakland, California: (From Merv. Hertzberg):

"My best to the Club."

Merv. Hertzberg was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the War Cover Club. He has many of the early records including pre-Club records. Health permitting, Merv. expects to tell about the Club's inception and something of the early days.

From Warner, N. H.: (From Winfred M. Grandy):

(The first New York meeting of the Club)

"....I believe I wore a white linen suit." "....I remember Delf Norona and several others who were listed in the first list of members. Several of those early members have since gone to their reward. I think especially of Al Weiss whom I got to know very well over the years." "....We used to have annual War Cover Club Picnics in New Haven and pictures were taken of some of those affairs. Believe Isadore Willinger published some a few years back."

"....have long since been especially interested in the War Cover Club and its activities. I have greatly enjoyed the fellowship and friendship over the years."

"....much has transpired since our early meetings."

War Cover Club
meeting notice.

Courtesy of
John J. O'Neil.

Printed on the
backside of a
1¢ government
postal card.

WAR COVER COLLECTORS

Collectors of A. E. F. and other War covers are invited to attend a meeting of the War Cover Club, to be held at the Claridge Hotel, Broadway at 44th, New York City, April 23rd and 24th, 1938.

An interesting program has been arranged. Bring your collection and duplicates.

For reservations and further information write Wm. H. Montgomery, 30 Pine Street, New York, N. Y.

WAR COVER CLUB NEWS

516. Mead, William N. re-elected President of the Aero Philatelists, Inc.
830. Hoff, Martin (59-16 Grove St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11227) advises that the Catalogue of the Swedish UN-Forces Military Mail Cancellations is available postpaid for a \$2. donation to UNSU. Make checks payable to United Nations Study Unit and send to Mr. Hoff. The catalogue illustrates and describes cancellations and postal usages by the Swedish-UN Forces in Egypt, the Congo and Cyprus. (UNSU of American Topical Assn.)
- Jansen, Karel (Spinozalaan 237, Voorburb, The Netherlands) invites an exchange of covers: Fieldpost, Korean War, Vietnam, etc.
838. Husmann, Ervin won the Grand Award for his "Legion Mail" at Centennial Phil. Ex.
784. Wells, W. H. Silver Award winner at SESCOAL for his "British Forces in Egypt".
293. Kieffer, Lincoln donates "Disinfected Mail" to the Club's Library. Thank you.
375. Jersey, Stanley C. is the author of the American Philatelic Society publication "The Postal History of the United States Forces in the British Solomon Islands During World War II". This book is now on the presses and availability and price shall be announced in the near future.
285. Clement, Alfred has completed pages 449-512 of his publication "Handbuch der FELD UND MILITARPOST IN OSTERREICH (II 1914-1918 DIE K.U.K. FELDPOST WAHREND DES ERSTEN WELTKRIEGES)".
546. Cook, C. Sharp continues his research into the military postal history of the APOs in New Guinea. Mr. Cook has discovered additional information on the subject.
816. Steffen, Alan L. advises that his collecting interests include: stamps, covers and postal stationary of Japanese occupation of Dutch Indies, Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong, Philippines and China; Tibetan covers; covers and postal stationary of World War II period of Germany (Fieldpost, Dienstpost, occupied areas, POW, etc.) and the Postal History of Indonesia from 1945 to 1950.
784. Wells, Lt. Cmdr. William H., (USN Ret.), the recently appointed agent of Robson Lowe, Ltd., has generously offered his philatelic facilities (office/lounge) for the meetings of the proposed Bay Area chapter of the War Cover Club. There seems to be some agreement, at least no opposition, to calling this chapter the "Kearny Post" in honor of the first military governor of the State of California.
- War Cover Club's 1968 activities: INTERPEX / see special page and attached sheet S 3. The 1968 Bulletins are about 95% filled so, if you have something to say, then do it now so that some planning for publication can be made. We can use a few more articles for the Linn's Weekly Stamp News which features the War Cover Club. Some members have unintentionally not paid their 1967-1968 dues; a reminder is enclosed for their convenience. Membership now numbers over 350 in the United States and other nations.
831. Friedman, Herbert A. would like to borrow or purchase a copy of the Korean War "Operation Moolah" leaflet for photographing; this is required for inclusion in an article on the Korean War.
498. Van Dam, Theo. won the A.P.S. President's Award for his "Spanish Civil War Covers" at the recent NOJEX.
840. Lampertine, P.W. won a trophy for his specialized "Boer War Covers" at NOJEX.
381. Matejka, Dr. James J., the President of SPA, should be given credit for the idea of sending the Bulletin via lcl to service personnel so informs John C'Neil.
- HM. Rogan, Kevin made a recent trip to California and was delighted to view some of Merv. Hertzberg's covers (wall to wall and floor to ceiling) and to meet the editor.
492. Opperman, David won a 1st place for his "Siberian A.E.F." at Illinois St. Fair.
459. Hopps, Ed. won the Grand Award at the Chicago Ravenswood Stamp Show. He displayed Czechs. with U.S. Army in Siberia, North Russia Mail, Italy, and so forth.

OFFICIAL BROCHURE
WAR COVER CLUB EXHIBITION

INTERPEX 1968 - at the Americana Hotel, 52nd Street &
Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y.
March 1-3, 1968

Deadline for entries: January 1, 1968. However, in case all available space is filled before that date, the Committee reserves the right to close the entries without further notice. Therefore, please send your entry as soon as possible.

Entry fee: \$7.50 per frame. Each frame holds 16 "standard" (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11) pages or 12 large size (Scott type) pages. Minimum 2 frames--maximum 10 frames per exhibitor. Remittance should be sent to Drew A. Nicholson. Make checks payable to: Industrial Exhibitions, Inc., NOT to the exhibition chairman. Remittance MUST accompany entry form.

Special note: Exhibition open to members of the War Cover Club ONLY and exhibits should show "War Covers"(Military Postal History) ONLY.

Instructions for mailing exhibits: Exhibits must reach the Committee Chairman before February 20, 1968. They should be sent securely wrapped, by Registered Mail, Parcel Post, Insured-Special Handling, or Railway Express Prepaid to Drew A. Nicholson, or delivered in person at the Americana Hotel on the evening before the Exhibition (Thursday, February 29 after 7:30 pm). They will be returned at the expense of the exhibitor, the money for which MUST be enclosed with the remittance for entry, otherwise they will be returned Railway Express COLLECT.

Insurance: Exhibitors desiring insurance shall make their own arrangements for same by taking out a rider to their regular insurance. Due precaution will be taken to guard exhibits against loss or damage and guards will be on duty to watch the exhibits. However, neither the War Cover Club, its Exhibitions Committee, Industrial Exhibitions, Inc., the Americana Hotel, nor any of their Committees, Departments or employees shall be liable for any damage to or loss of any exhibition material arising from any cause or reason whatsoever.

Awards: The War Cover Club will receive from INTERPEX a silver and a bronze medal for the best and second best exhibit. In addition, the INTERPEX show itself has additional prizes for best Exhibits in the show. The War Cover Club will also award prizes for the best War Cover exhibits.

Meeting: There will be a meeting of the War Cover Club on Saturday, March 2 at a time that will be announced later. This meeting will feature speakers on varied "War" subjects.

For the War Cover Club:

Exhibition Committee

Drew A. Nicholson, Chairman
Sheffield Apartments
Pawling, New York 12564