



# SHOW ME GAZETTE

Volume V, Number 4

February 2006

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## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Annual Meeting at St. Louis Stamp Expo, February 25th

Our annual meeting will be Saturday, February 25, 2006, 2-4 pm in the Heathrow Room, Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63134.

With the May COMPEX show in Chicago postponed until August, the Illinois Postal History Society will join us for a joint meeting; each society will present a program. From Illinois, although he lives in Michigan, Thomas J. Post, president of the Mobile Post Office Society, will present "Illinois Central Route and Station Agents." David L. Straight will present the Missouri program, "Locating the St. Louis Post Office, 1804-1852."

St. Louis Stamp Expo has a Latin American theme this year with the Chile, Cuba, Nicaragua, Gua-

temala, and Colombia-Panama collecting societies attending. Other programs, before our meeting, include Bill Welch, retired editor of the *American Philatelist*, presenting "Colombian Revenues" and Dr. Yamil H. Kouri, one of the judges, offering "Spanish Colonial Maritime Mail in the Americas."

The awards banquet Saturday evening will feature Latin American guitar music and remarks by the actor and Champion of Champions winner Omar Rodriguez. Tickets may be purchased Friday at Expo, or reserved by contacting Regency Stamps, 314-361-5699.

The Missouri and Illinois Postal History societies will share one table in the lobby outside the show. Please volunteer (a sign-up sheet will be at the table) to sit an hour, meet collectors, and help recruit new members.

## President's Message

Gary is gallivanting around Florida and the newsletter needed to be in the mail before our meeting this month. No doubt Linda is driving so Gary can soak and sort stamps on the road. We will have a few words from our president in a future issue.

-- editor

## Missouri Postal History Society

<http://www.mophil.org/stampexp.htm>

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## Editor's Desk

Many of you probably already know me, at least through my philatelic writing, or APS activities. Pneumatic mail is my primary collection; St. Louis had one of the five pneumatic postal systems in the U.S. Not being a cancel collector, I was a latecomer to Missouri postal history. After connecting my back-of-the-book interests with auxiliary markings, I began collecting St. Louis city and county auxiliary markings.

Since we hold only one meeting per year and have a widely dispersed membership, Scott and I believe that the *Show-Me Gazette* should be an important part of the communications "glue" that holds the Missouri Postal History Society together. This requires regular contributions from you, the members. Although we have the urge to write, Scott and I are quite content to set our projects aside to edit and publish your material. Lengthy articles, as well as short pieces are needed. Additionally, many of you discover new cancels or other markings that may not lend themselves to full articles, but would interest other collectors. We can publish your new discoveries, and have them added to our website. Let me offer some suggestions:

**County editors:** Collectors interested in a particular county often develop extensive checklists of postal markings from their county. Publication of the initial listings, with illustrations, could be followed by new discoveries as they are reported. In August I will list Missouri counties, giving names and contact information for members interested in receiving new information for their county postal markings lists.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Postal Service before Lewis & Clark

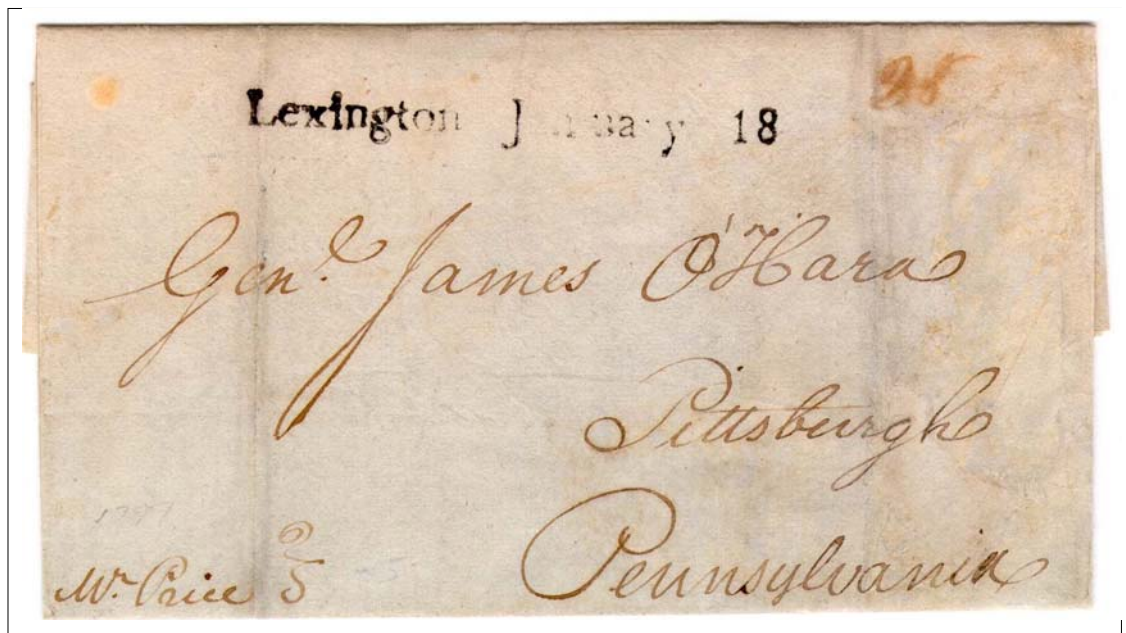
by David L. Straight

Neither the French nor Spanish colonial administrations provided any postal service in the area today known as Missouri. French administration of the mid-Mississippi valley was centered at Fort Chartres and Kaskaskia, both in Illinois roughly across the river from St. Genevieve. Having lost the Seven Years War (better known as the French and Indian War here in the colonies), France ceded Canada and all her territory east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain in 1763. Needing to set things right with their ally Spain, France secretly ceded the territory at the mouth of the Mississippi River and all the area drained by it to the west to Spain.

At that time there were only two European settlements in Spanish Illinois, as the land above present day Louisiana was called. St. Genevieve had been founded about 1735 as a regional center for the lead mines in the area. St. Louis, founded as a fur trading post, was just getting started. Both populations swelled with French from Cahokia and Kaskaskia who moved across the River to avoid British government. The villages of St Ferdinand (Florissant), St. Charles,

Carondelet, and Cape Girardeau were established in the next few years. The Spanish post office did not extend far beyond New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. <sup>1</sup> Letters from the 1780's, usually from priests, are known from St. Genevieve and St. Louis to New Orleans. All are without postal markings, indicating private carriage. A report forwarded to Congress by President Jefferson in November 1803 confirmed this lack of postal service in the newly purchased Louisiana Territory:

Many of the present establishments are separated from each other by immense and trackless deserts, having no communication with each other by land, except now and then a solitary instance of its being attempted by hunters ... communication is kept up only by water, between



the capital and the distant settlements; three months being required to convey intelligence from the one to the other by the Mississippi. <sup>2</sup>

*(continued next page)*

Following our Revolution, Americans crossed the ridge of mountains that had held them along the Atlantic seaboard for 150 years and settled in Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Northwest Territory. Some traveled further west and received land grants in present day Missouri from the Spanish Government. Significant among these were Daniel Boone, who brought his family from Kentucky to Femme Osage in 1795, and Moses Austin, who began mining lead at Mine à Breton in 1797. As there was no international exchange of mail across the Mississippi River, Americans who wanted to communicate with family and business associates in the United States had their letters carried privately to American Post Offices in Kentucky, or later in the Indiana Territory. One example being the letter from William Kenner, datelined St. Genevieve November 2, 1797 to General James O'Hara in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The notation at the lower left suggests that it was carried privately by Mr. Price to Kentucky where it received the straight-line "Lexington January 18" and was rated "25" for a single sheet over 450 miles. The letter, with the original spelling and punctuation reads:

Genl O Hara  
St. Genevieve, November 2, 1797

Dear Sir

I have an opportunity to Kentucky which I embrace to inform you of my safe arrival to This Country and that I have disposed of a considerable part of my goods for dead a boat load of which I shall send to Fort Massack in a short time for which I expect to repcat until I have delivered, perhaps thirty or forty thousand weight all which is positively

destined for you, you may therefore make such arrangements, or engagements for the same as you may think proper, as you may rest assured I shall certainly deliver all can get, it being the best remittance I can make from this foretry at this time altho I get but nine cents per pound

I remain with due respect  
Dr Sir  
Yr. mo Ob Servant  
Wm Kenner

Initially letters had to be privately carried to Kentucky. The first post office in the Indiana Territory was not established until 1797, at Vincennes. An Act of Congress established the post road from Vincennes to Kaskaskia and Cahokia in 1801. For St. Louis and St. Genevieve, there were now post offices just across the river with monthly service to the east. Also that year, a route was opened from Eddyville, Kentucky to Fort Massac giving residents of Cape Girardeau, Tywappety, and New Madrid a closer place to carry their mail.<sup>3</sup> It would be 1804 before American postal service finally reached Missouri.

The assistance of Leonard H. Hartmann is gratefully acknowledged.

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<sup>1</sup> Yamil H. Kouri, *The Postal History of Spanish New Orleans* (Bath: Stuart Rossiter Trust, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> "Description of Louisiana" in *American State Papers, Class X, Miscellaneous Volume 1* (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834) No. 164, page 345.

<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Stets, *Postmasters & Postoffices of the United States 1782-1811* (Lake Oswego: La Posta, 1994).



## Cardinal Match Company: A First for St. Louis

by David Semsrott

The huge financial demands on the Federal Treasury due to the Civil War resulted in Congress passing the Revenue Act of 1862. In part, the Act provided that revenue stamps be affixed to perfumery, playing cards, documents, canned goods and matches. Manufacturers were permitted to create their own stamp designs. After approval by the Internal Revenue Service, they had the appropriate plates prepared at their own expense. In addition to their advertising value, the use of Private Die Proprietary Issues, as these revenue stamps are known, avoided the trouble and cost of cancelling general issue revenue stamps. Plus, manufacturers received 5 to 10% discounts on stamps printed from the private dies.



Scott # R058d – the Private Die stamp of the Cardinal Match Company. 13,530,000 copies printed by the American Bank Note Company on watermarked paper.

The Cardinal Match Company was managed or owned by H. K. Brooking of St. Louis, but the matches were manufactured in Hull, Canada, to reduce costs. Brooking arranged to have an U.S. Internal Revenue Agent on site at the Canadian match factory to insure that the revenue stamps were properly affixed to the match packages. This avoided having the match boxes and opened and stamped at the port of entry into the United States.

Imported matches lowered prices all over the country, which caused the giant U.S. conglomerate Diamond Match Company to buyout the Canadian operations of Cardinal Match along with many other firms. The last Cardinal Match stamp was issued in May 1881, two years before the revenue stamp tax act was repealed. How Brooking arranged to have an U.S. Revenue Tax Agent on site in a foreign country is not known. The Cardinal Match Company of St. Louis was the only U.S. match company to affix stamps to match boxes outside on the United States.

Phillumeny is the collecting of matchboxes, matchbox labels, and match-covers.

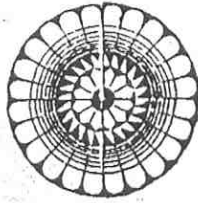
## Missouri Wheel of Fortune Census

by Gary Hendren

Examination of my collection along with those of Alan Banks and Mike Nickel has more than doubled the number of Missouri towns recorded as having used wheel of fortune duplex cancellations. The killer shown below is found in conjunction with

(continued next page)

single, double, and triple circle circular date stamps. An example on cover is on the back page. Some date stamps also include the county name, or the postmaster's name.



At a time when smaller post offices were not supplied with cancelling and postmarking devices by the Post Office Department, postmasters purchased them from suppliers such as F. P. Hammond, who began manufacturing in Aurora, Illinois in 1872. He was a regular advertiser in the *Official Postal Guide* from 1878 until 1890. A typical advertisement offered:

One Rubber P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps [auxiliary markings] needed in a Post Office ... By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.

James M. Cole in his book, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, lists over 300 towns across the country having used these devices. Including the 9 listed by Cole, I have recorded 35 Missouri examples from 26 towns. The following summary lists the towns with their range of dates, color of the cancel, and whether the circular date stamps are single, double, or triple:

Alberta	1884 black, single
Armstrong	1884 listed in <i>Cole</i>
Benton City	1886 black, single

Beverly	listed in <i>Cole</i>
Blue Springs	1883, gray, triple
Bunker Hill	1886 black, double
Condordia	1883 listed in <i>Cole</i>
Cuba	1884 gray, triple
Desloge	1909 black or magenta, single
Edinburgh	1883 black, triple
Franklin	1885 listed in <i>Cole</i>
Gallatin	1881 black, triple
Grandin	1888 black, double
Greene Spring	1889 magenta, double
Hurdland	listed in <i>Cole</i>
Kearney	1883-86 black, double & triple
Ladonna	1883 gray, triple
Lincoln	1886 black, double
Mirabile	1884 gray, triple
Neelyville	1886 magenta, double
Parkville	1886 black, double
Seligman	1886 gray, double
Taylor	1887-88 black, triple
Virginia	1886 purple, double
Washburn	1881-86 magenta, single
Waverly	1881 black, triple

A more detailed version of this listing will be posted on the Missouri Postal History Society website:

<http://www.mophil.org/stampexp.htm>

I have been updating the Missouri Wheel of Fortune listings for the U.S. Cancellation Club. Please send additional examples them to me at: g2hslm@msn.com. Be sure to include the town name, dates, ink color, whether the cancel is duplexed with the circular date stamp, the type of circular date stamp (single, double, or triple), whether the county or postmaster names are included in the circular date stamp, and finally any noteworthy details, such as a foreign destination.

## Call for Papers

The Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History  
November 3-4, 2006  
National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.  
CFP Deadline: July 1, 2006

### Sponsored by:

National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution  
American Philatelic Research Library/American  
Philatelic Society

### What is postal history?

Rarely do scholars of postal organizations and systems meet and discuss their ideas and research with scholars of philately. In an attempt to bridge this gap, the National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Society will host a national conference to bring together these two research groups.

The Winton M. Blount Symposium gathers together scholars, philatelists and the interested public for a conference at the National Postal Museum. The conference aims to integrate philately and the history of postal operations within the broader context of American history. This conference will promote research, increase public awareness and bring national visibility to resident scholars, libraries and resources.

The conference will open Friday evening Nov. 3 with a reception and plenary panel discussion on the topic "What is postal history?" Invited speakers include Michael Laurence, editor, "Classics Chronicle"; Richard R. John, professor, University of Illinois at Chicago; John Willis, historian, Canadian Postal Museum; and Maynard H. Benjamin, president and CEO, Envelope Manufacturers Association.

### Possible themes to address:

- Challenges of communication on the frontier
- Transportation and the mail
- Rates, routes and regulation
- Communication and the Information Age
- The technology of moving the mail

### Deadline for proposals: July 1, 2006

Both individual papers and panel proposals will be considered. Proposals should be no more than one page long and be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vitae.

Please email complete proposals to Allison Marsh at [marsha@si.edu](mailto:marsha@si.edu). Notification of accepted papers will be issued in mid August.

Conference papers will be posted on the National Postal Museum Web site and will be considered for possible publication.

Conference co-chairs are Cheryl R. Ganz, Allison Marsh, and David L. Straight

## Editor's Desk, continued

**Cancel & Postmark editors:** Initial listings, as Gary has done with the Wheel of Fortune cancels, can be followed with new discoveries. In August, I will also list types of cancellations and postal markings with the names of members studying those markings and their contact information.

**Exhibits:** If you exhibit Missouri Postal History, we would like to announce your medals and awards.

**Publications:** This newsletter should comprehensively list Missouri Postal History published other journals, but you have to inform the editor when you publish elsewhere.

**Bibliography:** More than 20 years ago David Zubatsky published a Missouri Postal History bibliography in the *Philatelic Literature Review*. Updated sections could be serialized here.

I am sure you have other ideas and we are ready for them. Division of editorial duties between Scott and myself is only a product of our workloads – not a division of the state. You may work with, or submit material to either of us, but share your philatelic knowledge.

-David L. Straight

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## The Back Cover

A Kearney, Missouri Wheel of Fortune duplex cancel ties a 2¢ brown Banknote from on an 1885 cover to Liberty, Missouri. Story on page 5.

