

Phila Mercury Site - Using Browse & Search Functions

Browse Function - This function should be used for most typical sorting including, by "for sale", by cover type, by origin, by destination, etc. Use search function to pick up keywords that are listed in the body of the description.

As an example of the power of Browse, please walk through the following example: under Origin, type in "San Francisco" as Town. The database resorts and shows all covers from San Francisco, continue and select Year, select 1860, database resorts and shows call that were sent in 1860. In second year box, select 1865 and the database resorts to show all San Francisco entries between those years. Next, select "order by" and pick "postmark date", the listings now appear in chronologic order from 1860 to 1865. Next select "destination" and pick "France" - only covers to that destination will appear. Next select "For Sale" and "yes".

Most common methods to view a range of covers can be accessed by using browse. Selection by cover type, specif stamp issue, state, etc.

Search Function - Use Search function to find specific terms used in a description. For example, enter "pony" as a keyword and then click filter results. All of the listing that include the word "pony" in them will appear. As with the browse function, results may be ordered by date, destination, etc. By convention certain terms such as "NYFM" can be used as a keyword for searching.

If you wish to "view details" of a specific listing you may select that item. To return to the original search result or browse result page, just hit the browser back page button.