A Selection of *Desirable* Postal History from Expositions and World's Fairs

What is desirable? Is it a cover that is rare? A cover that is expensive? To some collectors, these are indicators of a desirable cover. However in my opinion, a desirable cover is one that is seldom seen, one that you know of only by a picture in an auction catalog or an illustration in a specialty journal, one that you think in terms of "if I ever get the chance I will buy it".

This one frame display shows some of what I would call 'desirable' exposition postal history. Cost did not factor in to the choice of every cover you see here, several were purchased for under twenty dollars.

1853 THE EXPOSITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS [CRYSTAL PALACE] (New York City)



The 1853 New York City year dated postmark used only from 11 to 25 July 1853.

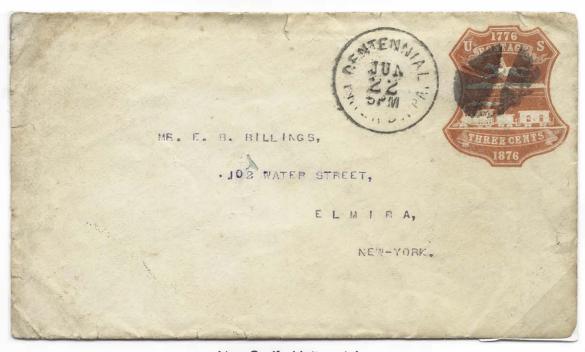
Philatelists have debated for years the association of this marking with the Crystal Palace expo, and also the possible handling of the mail to and from the expo by Boyd's Local post. Plenty of circumstantial evidence exists, but no positive proof for either theory has yet been discovered.

1876 Centennial International Exposition (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Twelve red Plimpton commemorative envelopes are known with the Centennial postmark. The red envelopes were not available or sold at the Remington Typewriter exhibit, but could be purchased by special customer request from the fair's post office.



Serifed letter style



Non-Serifed letter style

Two of the four known red Plimpton Centennial commemorative envelopes with address typed at the Remington Typewriter exhibit.

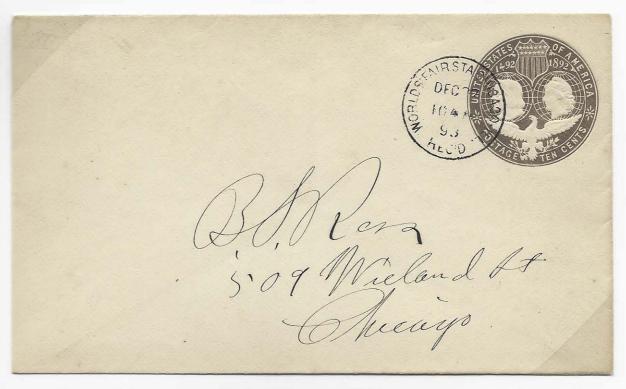
1893 Columbian Exposition (Chicago, Illinois)

	CHICAGO, III.	
Stamp of Issuing Office. AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	Money Ord Issued by the above name the day of hard	ned Post Office on
	erson named in Letter of Adm	
and Oleca		Cents. Stamp of Paying Office.
To the Postmaste	New York	
the case of firms, when t	this Order is paid must sign here his or the usual signature will suffice. The above.	her FULL NAME, except in

Uncashed money order for 10 cents

The 9th money order sold on opening day, 1 May 1893. Validated by Worlds Fair Station M.O.B. double circular postal marking.

1893 Columbian Exposition (Chicago, Illinois)



Latest Known Use of Rec'd marking used as origin cancel after expo had closed.



The Pointing Finger (**Returned to Writer**) and route carrier's annotation '**not there**' 9 examples recorded, of which this is the Latest Known Use.

1901 Pan American Exposition (Buffalo, New York)



First Day of Issue, 1 May 1901, of two cent Pan American stamp

Mailed by David C. Warner, an exposition policeman. In 1952, Warner prepared a notarized affidavit for his son, stating this cover bears the first Pan American stamp sold at the expo, and that it was the first letter mailed from the exposition grounds.

I was the 13th Pan American Policemen appointed and commissioned a New York State Policeman by Governor Theodore Roosevelt in June 1900.

A few weeks before the Exposition opened on May 1st 1901, I became one of the Mid-way Squad and patrolled the Mid-way while the concessionaires were getting ready for Opening Day.

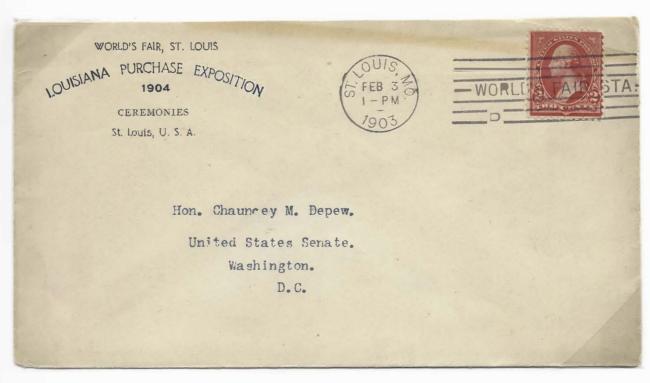
The Pan American Post Office was located at the corner of the Mall and the Mid-way on my beat and thus I became well acquainted with the Postmaster, thus having direct information when the Post Office would be open for business.

I was on my beat when Mr. Heins, the Superintendent opened the Post Office May 1st, 1901 and he sold me the first Pan American Commemoration stamp, which I placed on a letter to your mother as being the first letter mailed in the Pan American Postal Station on the Pan American Exposition grounds. This letter was immediately hand-cancelled by Mr. Heins.

1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition (St Louis, Missouri)



Souvenir hand-out card from the Exposition Station. This marking was never used to cancel mail.



Pre-fair World's Fair Station machine cancel.

Once the expo opened, the canceller words were changed to Exposition Station.

1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition (Portland, Oregon)

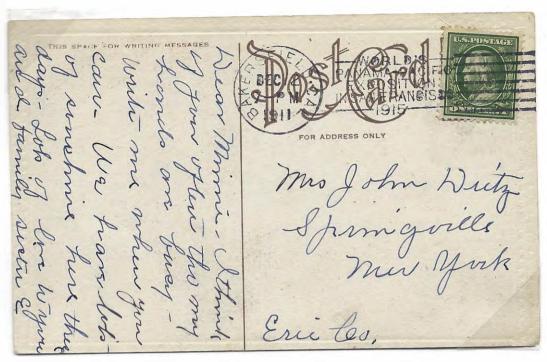


1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition (Seattle, Washington)



U.S. Automatic Vending private perforation – stamps sold at the U.S. gov't building. Less than 5 recorded with exposition machine cancel.

1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (San Francisco, California)

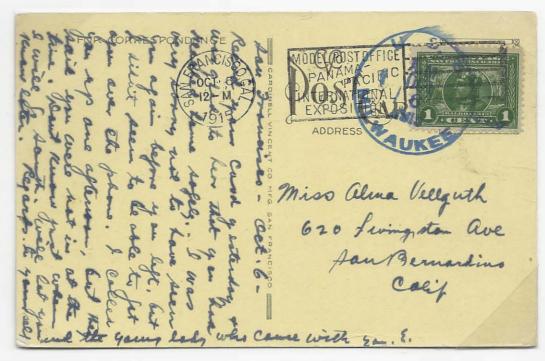


Bakersfield (California) Doremus machine slogan cancel. 14 examples recorded.



Portland (Oregon) International machine cancel with ORE in dial and solid killer bars. **Used 15 to 17 July 1912**. Less than 10 examples recorded.

1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (San Francisco, California)

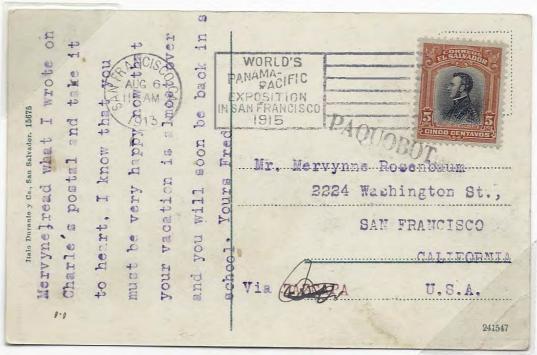


Mailed and postmarked on board the cruiser USS Milwaukee and then delivered to the exposition's Model Post Office by the ship's mail clerk for further transmittal.



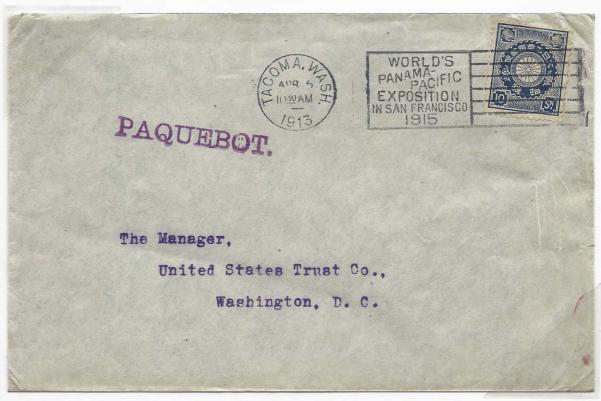
Portland (Oregon) American machine cancel with slogan in flag's stripes. Very difficult to find on cover.

1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (San Francisco, California)



San Francisco slogan cancel on incoming Paquebot from El Salvador.

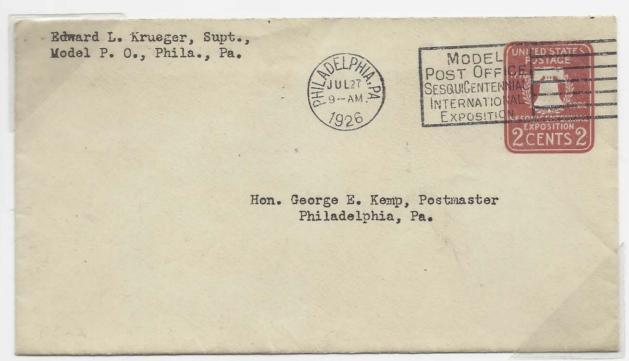
Note misspelling....PAQUOBOT



Tacoma slogan cancel on incoming Paquebot from Japan.

Panama Pacific Exposition slogan cancels on Paquebot mail are very scarce.

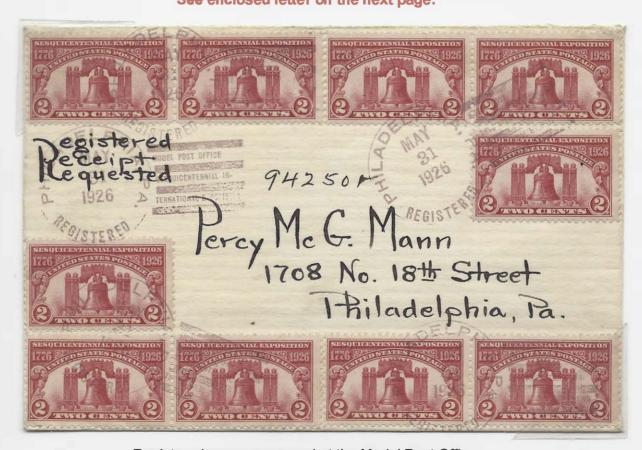
1926 Sesqui-Centennial Exposition (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)



First Day of the commemorative postal stationery envelope.

From the Model Post Office Superintendent to the Philadelphia Postmaster.

See enclosed letter on the next page.



Registered cover processed at the Model Post Office the day before the official opening of the exposition.

MODEL POST OFFICE SESQUICENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

United States Post Office

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Sesqui-Centennial
Philadelphia
1776 1926
150 Years
emerican Independence

ELK-JTF

July 27, 1926.

Hon. George E. Kemp, Postmaster, Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Colonel:

Sending greetings and the information that the envelope in which this letter is enclosed was one of the first Sesquicentennial Stamped Envelopes manufactured at the Model Post Office, and placed on sale this date.

Sincerely yours

Edward L. Krueger Superintendent Model Post Office.

1933-1934 Century of Progress Exposition (Chicago, Illinois)



1933 closing day RPO cover signed by two of the RPO clerks and M.A. Campbell, creator of the red oval cachet.

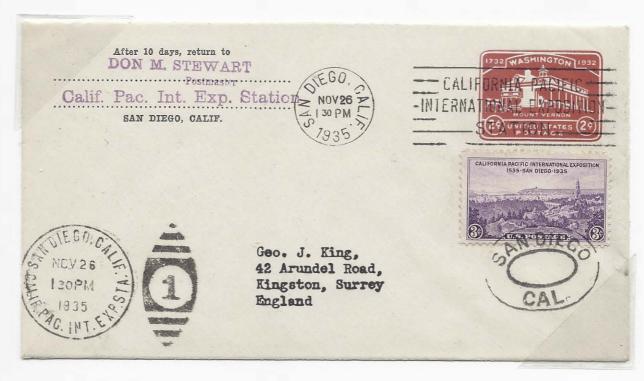


1934 opening day RPO cover carried on board the Burlington Zephyr non-stop from Denver to Chicago. Signed by two of the train crew.

1935-1936 California Pacific International Exposition (San Diego, California)



The double ring dial machine cancel was supposed to be used only for First Day Covers of the Exposition commemorative stamp. A few souvenir covers were cancelled in error.



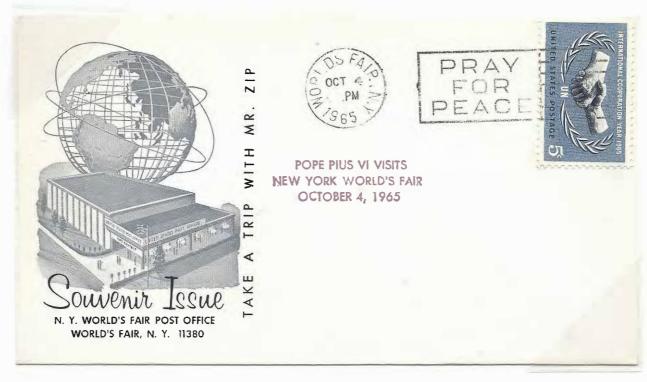
Mailed after the expo closed, with Expo Station Postmaster's corner card.

1939 New York World's Fair (New York City)



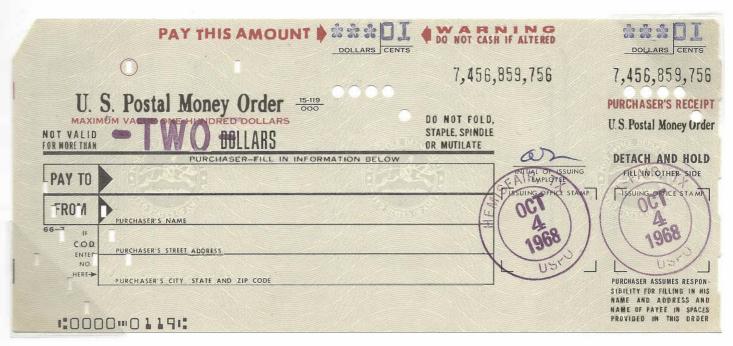
Rectangular Last Day Cancellation marking, of which 2 examples have been recorded

1964 New York World's Fair (New York City)



International machine with **Pray for Peace slogan**, used one day only, 4 October 1965. Honors the visit of Pope Paul VI to the fair. Cachet identifies the wrong pope.

1968 Hemisfair (San Antonio, Texas)



Uncashed souvenir money order from the Hemisfair postal station.

1984 Louisiana World Exposition (New Orleans, Louisiana)

