



Postmark Atlanta
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583
April 2021 Newsletter

As we emailed earlier, physical meetings are not being held until the public health danger is past. I've included many ways to connect with other stamp collectors online in this newsletter.

We are holding "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting the first and third Tuesday hosted by member Lloyd Nutter. Lloyd sends out a Zoom invitation a couple days before the meeting. If you do not get an invitation for the meetings, please contact Lloyd to make sure he adds you to his list. Emailing him: trains56@charter.net. Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

There are some hopeful signs of upcoming stamp shows listed below.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6, 2021 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. Member show and tell.

April 16-17 GULFPEX 2021 Gulf Coast Stamp Club Biloxi Mississippi.
www.gulfcoaststampclub.org/ for information on location and times

April 20, 2021 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom.

May 7 – 9, 2021 PIPEX 2021 Virtual Stamp Show. www.pipexstampshow.org. An American Philatelic Society World Series event will be all virtual this year. Sponsored by Portland Philatelic Exhibitions and Oregon Stamp Society.

June 4 – 6 NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington DC. www.napex.org

July 24 – 25 CHARPEX 2021 Charlotte Philatelic Society. www.charpex.info

August 12 – 15 Great American Stamp Show. Chicago IL. Details are subject to COVID in Illinois so we will keep checking on this.

#

Estate Planning: A Philatelic Tool Kit, April 13th

Attention ALL Philatelists: No matter how large or small your philatelic collection may be, you can't take it with you! When the inevitable occurs, you certainly want to control what happens to the collection that brought you so much pleasure. To ensure that your wishes are carried out, you need to plan ahead. Expanding your philatelic toolkit will help you to prepare instructions for your heirs and plan for your collection's future.

[This one-session course](#)

will meet – April 13, 2021 (3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time)

Cost: FREE for APS Members/\$10 for Non-Members

Instructor: Ken Martin and Scott Tiffney

<https://stamps.org/learn/c3a-online-learning> has instructions on how to register for courses on the c3a site of American Philatelic Society. Ken Martin also mentioned the event will probably be available later on YouTube and I will look for that information to include in the next newsletter.

registration open until April 9, 2021.

The National Postal Museum continues to engage with the public during the COVID closure online at their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNPM>

The museum is interested in what needs to be collected to document life under COVID much like they have items from the 1918 Flu Pandemic era. If you have ideas or items contact the Chief Curator, Daniel Piazza at piazza@si.edu.

Arago change

If you have used the National Postal Museum site Arago to research stamps you will want to know that it has been replaced by "Search the Collection" at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/search-the-collection>. This was necessary because the 14 year-old software was no longer supported.

Allen Johnson with the Button Gwinnett Stamp Club has created a Facebook Group for their club. Contact him to get invited to the group to see their process of buying and selling stamps. Ajrj1957@yahoo.com is his email.

First Saturday of every month there is in person Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

#



By Colin Clark

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well. – ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

(1865) – Lewis Carroll

Introduction: Imperforate line-engraved stamps of Great Britain during the Victorian era are deceptive in their simplicity. In fact their complexity can lead to a lifetime study. These imperforate issues were printed through the mid-1840s, by using many different full plates.¹ Every plate printing produced a stamp sheet of 20 rows of 12 stamps (240 in total). For the penny valuations, every row was equivalent to a Shilling (12 pennies), and then the 20 rows were equivalent to one pound sterling (20 Shillings).

It is estimated that around 21 billion copies of the **Penny Red** were printed over the years, starting from February 1841; with the last ones being printed in 1879; so on occasion there was a need for new plates, as older plates became “worn out”. Hundreds of different plates were used to print the **Penny Red** over its lifetime.

Plate numbers began to be incorporated onto the printed stamp designs themselves around 1864, but the early plates did not have the plate number on the stamp itself, but rather it was printed on the sheet margin instead.¹ However, some of those earlier plates had some unique plate flaws, which subsequently allows plate identification using the stamp's cosmetic features. It's at this point, just like Alice, that we can go down the rabbit hole!

Example: The following is an illustrative example of how the smallest detail can yield a tidal wave of information. This example is an imperforate 1d. red-brown (SG8) cancelled with a Maltese Cross, and tied to a clearly linked circular date stamp on the piece (not shown) from **Inverary (Scotland)** dated **31 DE 1841**.



Figure 1. Imperforate 1d. red-brown.



Figure 2. The North-East corner square on the top line is very weak.



Figure 3. At the foot of the stamp there are marks at the very base.

The bottom corner squares are lettered “T/J”. These letters operate as security coordinates that, in this case, indicate the 20th row and the 10th column location on the original printed sheet. The combination of two letters indicated the sheet location of any stamp. The 1841 date of use puts this stamp as an early plate, as does the deeper color.

Interpretation: The cosmetic features shown above in this example (i.e. weakness of the North-East corner square combined with the marks at the very base) infers that this stamp is probably printed from either plate **15** or **16**.

Printing: Located at 69 Fleet Street in London, the printing company that printed this stamp was **Perkins, Bacon & Petch**. The company evolved into **Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd**.

Rowland Hill was a friend of **Jacob Perkins** and through him, **Perkins, Bacon & Petch** obtained the contract to produce the first postage stamps.



Figure 4. 69 Fleet Street.

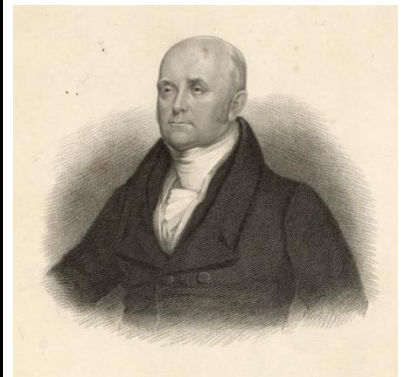


Figure 5. Jacob Perkins
(1766 – 1849)

Joshua Butters Bacon (1790 – 1863) had married Jacob Perkins' second daughter **Sarah Ann Bacon-March (1793 – 1859)**, and he was an integral part of the printing business.

Plate **15** was first used for printing from July 23rd 1841, and plate **16** was first used for printing from July 26th 1841. Use of plate **16** was stopped on November 15th 1841. The actual reason for this cessation of use is not known, but it was suspected that it was on account of wear. Worn out plates were defaced.²

Printing plates were expensive to produce, so it was important that their life should be prolonged as much as possible and repairs were undertaken from time to time. During their lifetimes of use, plate **15** was repaired once, and plate **16** was repaired twice.³

Conclusion: Going down the philatelic rabbit hole is a researcher's delight when it comes to plating line-engraved stamps. I wonder if Alice could have been a secret stamp collector.

References:

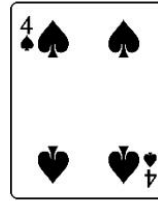
1. *Great Britain CONCISE Stamp Catalogue*, 23rd Edition (April 2007, p.3, 7), Stanley Gibbons.
2. *The Line-engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co.* VOL. I. (1920, p.116 – 117, 119), Edward Denny Bacon. CHAS, NISSEN & CO., LIMITED.
3. *Repairs of the 1841 One Penny Plates 1-40 Revised* (April 2007), J.W.M. Stone.

To encourage members and collectors to learn more about the APS, American Philatelic Society has lifted the members-only restrictions on accessing *The American Philatelist* online. Please feel free to share with your fellow collectors and encourage them to connect and learn more about all the great benefits. [Please access The American Philatelist here](#). If you are getting a print version of this newsletter, the full web address is: www.stamps.org/the-american-philatelist

Also there will be online Stamp Chat events using Zoom that you can access information on at this link: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/aps-to-host-live-stamp-chats-on-zoom-beginning-monday-march-23>

There are Stamp Chats scheduled all through the end of 2021. There are replays of these chats available on YouTube. The variety of subjects now available is amazing. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericasStampClub> is the link to check out all the stored Chats.

R E



S

By Steve Swain

A rebus is a puzzle scheme that combines the use of images with individual letters or numbers to depict words or phrases. Solve the rebus puzzle for the title of this article and you get “Rebus Postcards.” Other rebus puzzle elements include:

U = You

8 = Ate

H + an image of an ear = Hear

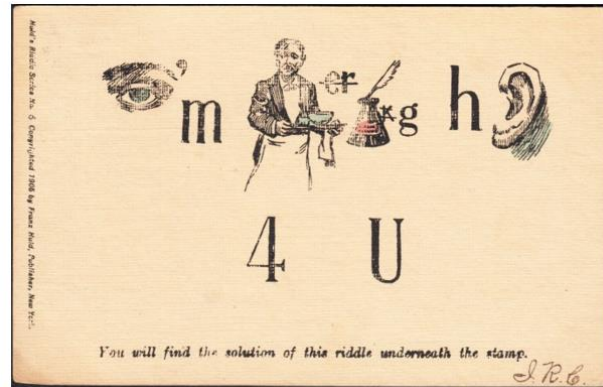
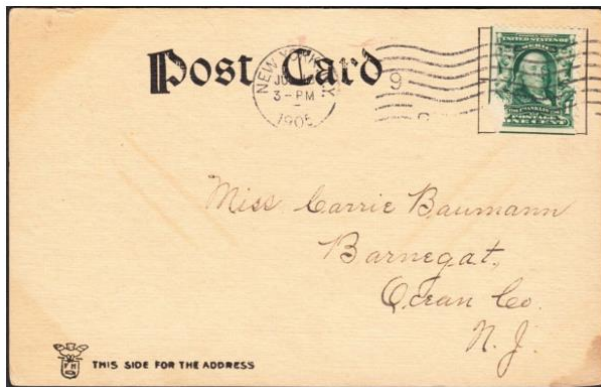
4 + T = Forty

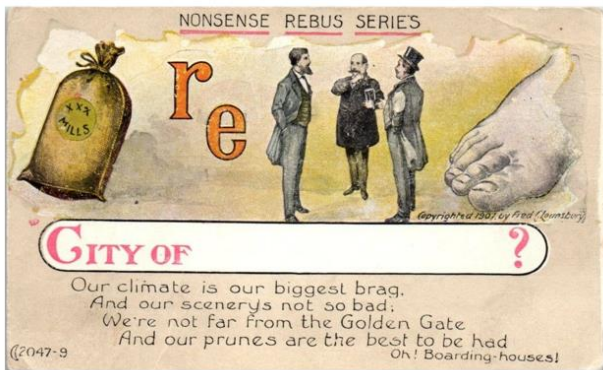
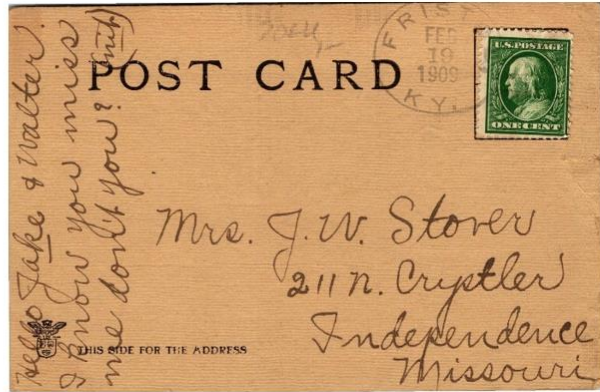
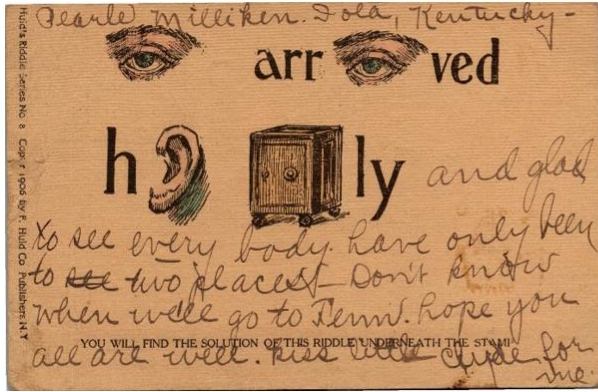
D + an image of a light bulb = Delight

WINEEE = Win with Ease

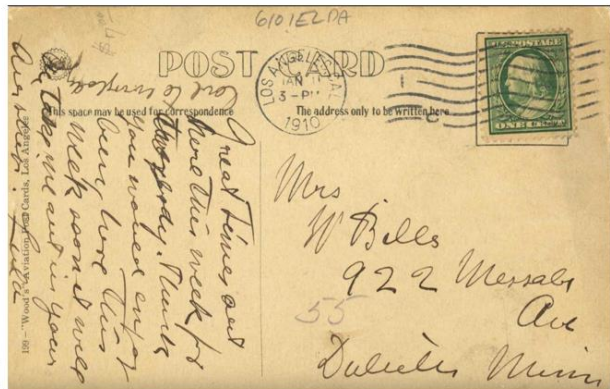
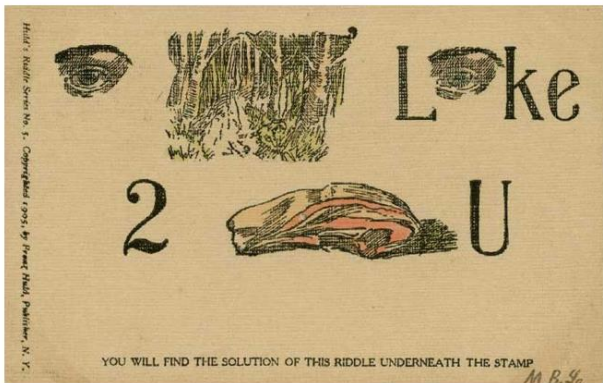
3948SAFETY9827 = Safety in Numbers

Somewhat of a philatelic whimsy or ephemera, rebus postcards were being printed as novelties by the 1860s to satisfy the public taste for word games. Many postcard greetings, especially valentines, would later incorporate this practice. Below are several postcards with rebus puzzles. See if you can decipher them!

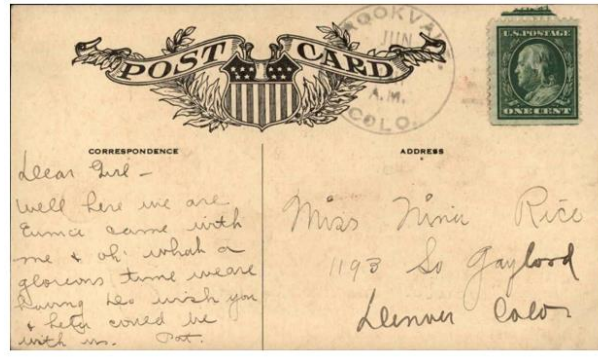
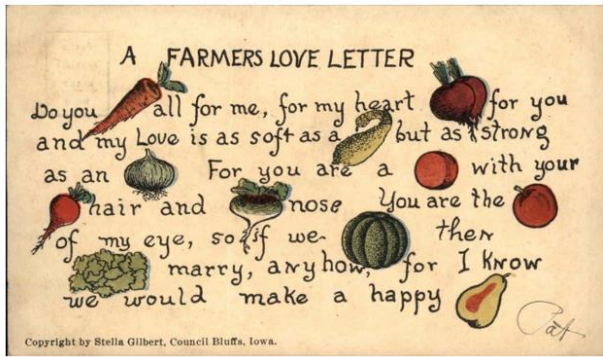




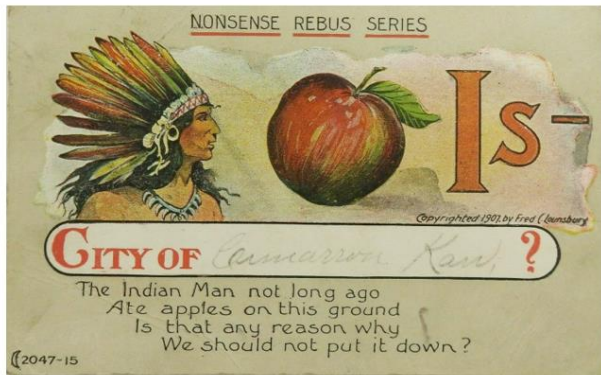
Clue: Sac (sack) re.....



Clue: I would



Clue: Do you care at (carrot) all for me, for my heart beats (beets) for you



Clue: City in Indiana

* * * * *

Do you need a Playlist? Dr. Richard Morel, Curator of Philatelic Studies, British Library, has made a playlist from various sources to give you an overview of all the different aspects of stamp creation. Check it out at <https://aps.buzz/RMYoutubeTO>

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

leacoe@bellsouth.net