



Postmark Atlanta  
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583  
February 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](mailto:trains56@charter.net). Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

In January we had a member show and tell and a presentation on the US Columbians of 1893.

Remember to renew your club membership for 2021. A member application is included with this newsletter.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 2, 2021      7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. We will do a member show and tell.

February 16, 2021      7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. The presentation will be on "Back of or Beyond the Book" by William Barr.

February 27 – 28      Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. Home 2 Suites Hotel, 2168 Kingston Court SE, Marietta, GA (near Delk Road exit on I-75) Sat 10am – 5pm; Sun 10am – 3pm

March Virtual Stamp Show – Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, Oregon. Exhibits will be viewable all of the month of March at <http://salemstampsociety.org/shows.html>

March 2, 2021 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom.

March 16, 2021 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom.

May 7 – 9, 2021 PIPEX 2021 Virtual Stamp Show. [www.pipexstampshow.org](http://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.

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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.

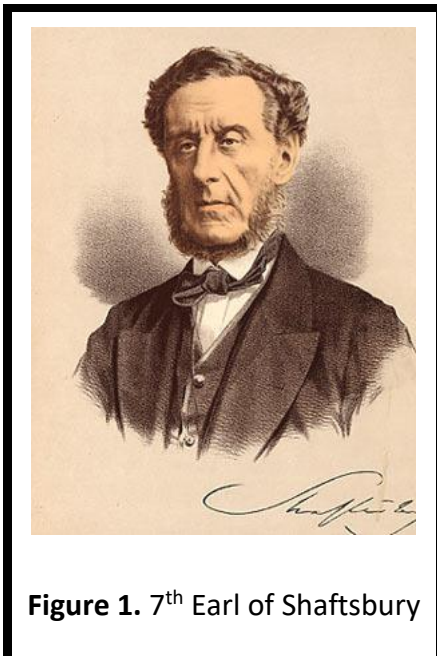
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# Postal History - Social History

By Colin Clark

*Earth is the insane asylum of the universe.* – Albert Einstein

The Victorian era was an incubator of social innovation, and it nurtured an emergence of a more enlightened view of what had been the previous retrograde social norms.



Postal history immerses us in social history; and this case study is no exception. This study reflects such enlightenment regarding mental healthcare. When the first large asylums were built in the early 1800s, they were part of a new, more humane attitude towards mental healthcare.

**Background:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftsbury (1801 – 1885) was a social reformer, and he secured legislative passage of the **Lunacy Act of 1845**, the first British statute to treat the insane as “persons of unsound mind” rather than social outcasts.

The following illustrative transcription is taken from an otherwise unremarkable 1856 letter (in poor philatelic condition) sent from a Scottish asylum to an Edinburgh lawyer:

**NOTE:** The long original letter has been abridged and edited for clarity and succinctness, in order to streamline this text publication. The abridged excerpts are published below to highlight some pertinent themes. A **full** transcript of the letter is available upon request to the article author.

**MARKINGS and DETAILS:**

Folded entire blue paper letter.

Addressee: **Wm. Kennedy Esq. Edinburgh.**

Postage: **1d. red** (perf.) postage stamp.<sup>1</sup>

Postmarked **DUMFRIES DE 18 1856** (Scotland)

Numeric office postmark allocation<sup>2</sup>: **108**

*Dumfries 18:December 1856*

*Dear Sir,*

*W. L. Hunter*

*I now believe that there is little doubt of Hunter the lunatic being the heir at law of Hunter the person for whom you acted and on the part of the Parish. I would like to have your aid in recovering the property to meet or cover the advances already made and to be made for support of the pauper. I may mention that Hunter has been in the Crichton Asylum for about the last eight or ten years and I believe there is not the least chance of his becoming a sane man.*

*The advances on the part of the Parish in respective of interest will amount to something like 200 pounds and they will have to pay 18 pounds a year, besides extras, as long as the man continues to be insane.*

*Such being the fact, in what way might the Board to proceed in order to recover the property?  
(.....)*

*I am led to think that the Board may apply to the court and as stating the whole circumstances get a Curator appointed. (.....) The Board would then constitute their claim against the Curator and as it would amount to more than the value of the property I think it very clear that the Curator would be warranted to sell. (.....) I am "quite" sure that the Board can produce all their receipts for Hunter's ailment but the Books of the Institution will I have little doubt offer sufficient evidence to substantiate the advances made from time to time.*

*The Board meets on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> - and I would like to be in a position to lay your views before them.*

*I am Dearly    Yours truly    John Jackson*



**NOTE:** Crichton Royal Hospital was the last, and grandest, of Scotland's Royal asylums, founded in Dumfries in 1838. Innovative practices such as occupational and arts therapies were used.



**Figure 2.** The Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, Scotland. Transfer lithograph by Emil Ernst Friedrich Schenck (1811 – 1885). Image source credit: Wellcome Collection (London).

### **References:**

1. *Great Britain CONCISE Stamp Catalogue*, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition (April 2007, p.7-11), Stanley Gibbons.

*Collect British Postmarks: The Handbook to British Postmarks and their Values*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (December 2013, p.164), Stanley Gibbons

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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](mailto:Ajrj1957@yahoo.com) is his email.

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Club member Colin Clark has been awarded a Silver Medal by the North Toronto Stamp Club (NTSC), located in Canada, for his entry in their 2020 virtual exhibition. The NTSC exhibition was held virtually on their website; and it was organized as an open-to-all competition to promote philately. Colin Clark’s Silver Medal 1-page exhibit was titled: “Building Victorian Bridges – The Work of Thomas Elliot Harrison”.

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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](mailto:piazza@si.edu).

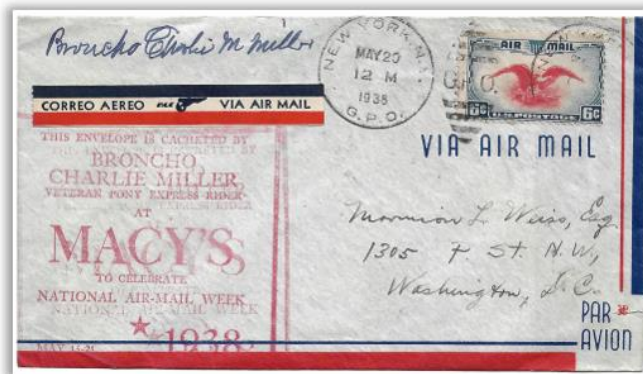
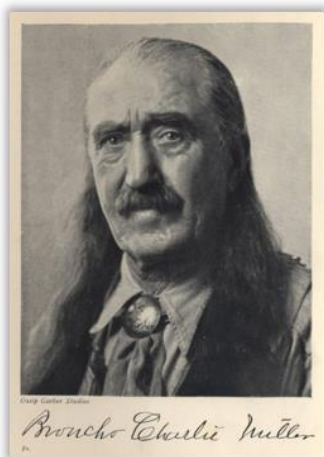
### **Arago change**

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.

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## **Broncho Charlie Miller Commemorated on National Air Mail Week Cover** **By Steve Swain**

Using a clever association with mail delivery, Macy’s Department Store, New York, celebrated the 1938 National Air Mail Week (May 15-21) with a cachet promoting the legendary Broncho Charlie Miller, seen below, reputed to be the youngest Pony Express mail delivery rider at age eleven. The May 20, 1938 cover, also seen below, that I recently added to my National Air Mail Week collection carries a New York, G.P.O. (general post office) postmark and an autograph of Broncho Miller.



Born Julius Mortimer, January 1, 1850 in New York City, Broncho Charlie Miller's early life is revealed in his autobiography, Broncho Charlie: A Saga of the Saddle. It is here that he credits himself as the youngest Pony Express rider answering to an ad such as the one shown below.



The ad specifically states that riders must not be over the age of 18. But an 11-year old boy being accepted by the Express as a rider “willing to risk Death daily” is somewhat of a stretch.

Whether or not Miller actually rode for the Pony Express service, he led a colorful, fascinating life as a performer with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show - renowned for his exemplary skills with a lasso – and as a self-made preacher known as the Converted Cowboy. Miller died at age 105 on January 15, 1955 as the oldest Pony Express rider.

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### APS Virtual Learning Events

American Philatelic Society is sponsoring monthly Virtual Learning Events since there are so few live stamp shows. February will have a 3 session course on “Pressing Issues: An Introduction to Printing Types”. March is “Getting the Most Out of the Scott Catalogue”, a 2 session course. More information and registration information is on the website: <https://stamps.org/learn/c3a-online-learning>. These are available both to APS members and non-members.

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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](http://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 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.

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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](mailto:sdholmberg1@gmail.com) with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

[leacoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:leacoe@bellsouth.net)

## Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club Membership

Membership includes our monthly newsletter with upcoming stamp collecting events in the area.

Annual Dues of \$12.00 entitles you to our monthly newsletter and participation in all club events. You can pay your \$12 dues (Checks payable to Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club) to our Treasurer, Barbara Asher at the next meeting or mail to her at: Barbara Asher, 1633 Adelia Pl, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address for Newsletter:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of American Philatelic Society? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of American Topical Association? \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp Collecting Interest \_\_\_\_\_

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We want to have a list of members with their interests so that those who bring material to the auction know what other members are interested in.

If you would like the newsletter in email form rather than snail mail, let me know. The newsletter is usually a PDF file and easily emailed.

LeA Coe, Secretary

[leacoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:leacoe@bellsouth.net)