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Front cover:

Airmail Barbados to Australia 1943. Franked 4 shillings and 4 pence for airmail all the way, but PAA service had ceased in 1941. Flown to Honolulu, but whether also flown to Australia on military or Lend Lease service is unknown. Censored in USA and Melbourne.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Another year coming to a close and with this issue four journals have been published on time. This one a little early to beat the Christmas rush, as well as the fact that my wife and I are off to Vietnam for two weeks holiday. We will also visit a nephew who lives in Hanoi with his wife and son.

Thanks must go to all the contributors who have made these journals possible. Thanks also to Dee Pullen and Brinsley Barnes for their contributions about Colin Salt. Colin was a contributor to this journal and will be sadly missed.

As usual I need contributions for the March journal. We can even help with putting together your article if you are not sure how to go about it. It is a lot of fun and there is enjoyment to be gained from showing others what you collect.

Special thanks to Michael Barden who assists in formatting some of the articles and also to George Vearing who continues to compile Hand Held Date Stamps. George is always looking for examples of postmarks from all states; so if you can help, George's email address is on page two.

I hope you all have a pleasant Christmas period and that the New Year brings new opportunities.

A final thought from Anonymous who said:

Man (or woman) is like a postage stamp. S/He gets licked, depressed, stuck in the corner, sent from pillar to post—BUT — s/he gets there in the end if s/he sticks to it.

Ciao for now.

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The Jamestown Exposition

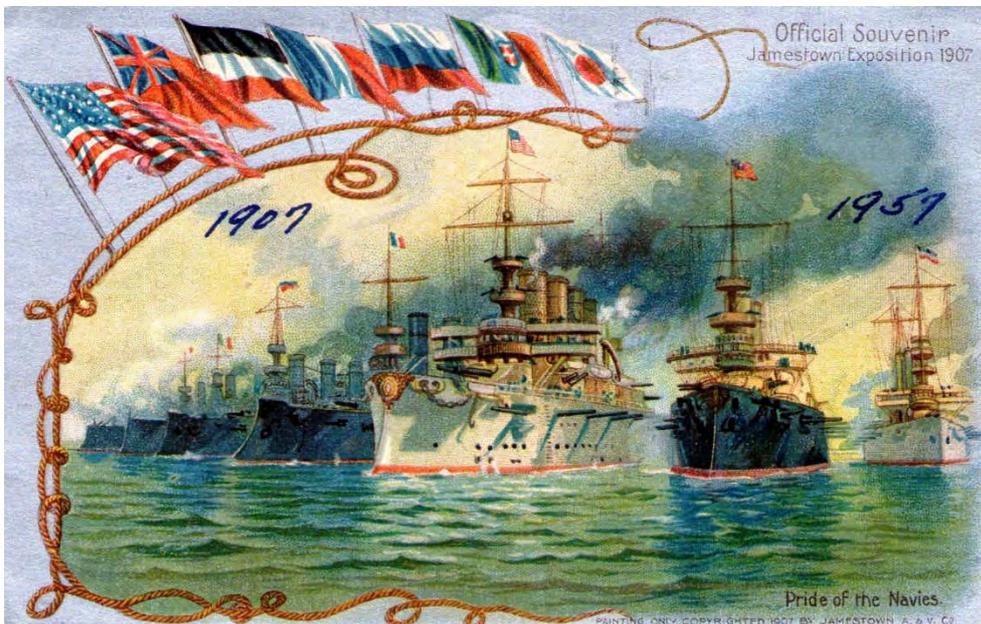
Ian Cutter

The exposition of 1907

The Jamestown Exposition celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, on a river about 40 miles inland from Chesapeake Bay. This was the first successful British settlement, although by 1907 it had been long abandoned.

The Exposition was on a site at Sewells Point, equidistant from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News and Hampton. On opening day there was a review of 51 international ships, including 16 battleships, on Hampton Roads.

This card is an official souvenir of this Jamestown Exposition of 1907. It was published by the commissionaire, the Jamestown Amusement and Vending Co., inc., Norfolk, VA.



The message

The dates 1907 and 1957 have been added by hand to the face of the card. The card is addressed to Richard C. Robertson / 124 S. London Ave. Baltimore 29 / Maryland. The message reads "*Fortunate enough to have witnessed both reviews – 1907 the best. R.C.R.*"

We can assume that Mr Robertson is sending himself a card for the record. We can understand his verdict when we note that although the 1957 review did involve 113 ships from seventeen nations, the 14 USN ships included only one carrier and one battleship, accompanied by lesser vessels.

The Machine cancel shows the card to have been posted at Portsmouth VA on August 21, 1957. The stamp is the 3¢ special issue for this International Naval Review, and the slogan reads 1607 Jamestown. VA 1957 / Birthplace of the Nation / 350th anniversary. 3¢ was the basic letter rate at the time, although 2¢ would have sufficed for the postcard.

The earlier message

An optimistic collector [and are not all collectors optimistic?] might have had their attention roused by the two earlier stamps, and the scarcely-visible original message. Could it be that Mr Robinson had retrieved his card of 1907 and used it to pass on the opinion he held fifty years later? Imagine adding a postscript to a letter sent fifty years earlier, and being able to demonstrate that the same card had gone through the post on two occasions fifty years apart!

The green 1¢ Franklin and red 2¢ Washington stamps were issued in 1902. Commemorative stamps of those denominations were issued in 1903 and 1907, but definitives were not issued until 1908, so these stamps would have been contemporary with the Exposition, although the 1¢ alone would have sufficed for postage. On the other hand, the lack of a 1907 postmark is regrettable, and the position of the stamps on the card does look a bit odd.

The original message is fragmented. It does include

"...one of the postals from Norfolk...he brought them along Of them ships are familiar to him."

This is not at all meaningful, but it is sufficient, with its mention of Norfolk and of ships, to tie the writer of the card, or somebody known to the writer, to the Exposition, (although not necessarily linked to Mr Roberts).

But there is no address. It is reasonable to assume that the card did actually pass through the postal system - after all that is what usually happens to postcards once they have been written - but it would have been inside an envelope.

An explanation

Then, what about the 1907 vintage stamps? Why put stamps on a card to go in an envelope, [It could be suggested that the stamps were applied and the writer got carried away and used up too much space and.....Clutching at straws here.] The most economical explanation for their lack of cancellation and odd location is that they were not originally on the card, having been added by Mr Roberts before posting in 1957.

So when did the card come into the possession of Mr Roberts. Any time after 1907 is possible but probably much later, in fact some time after his 1957 visit.

The International Naval Review took place between 11th and 13th June, so Mr Roberts would have formed his opinion on the relative merits of the two reviews by mid-June. One plausible explanation of why he did not express this in writing until two months had passed is that he did not have the card until then.

Which just leaves the questions of why he was still in Portsmouth in August (or did he make a special trip to post the card there) and was he just lucky that the relevant slogan was still used on the datestamp, and did he really expect the card to travel by airmail to Baltimore, a distance of less than 200 miles.

Too many questions and not enough answers, but interesting, nonetheless.

Eclectic Airmails

John Young

Once again John has provided some interesting airmail covers.



Registered air and express-delivery letter, 1947. Double-weight (1 ounce) airmail 3 shillings, 3 pence registration, 4 pence express delivery. Overpaid by 2 pence, though registered-mail late fee was that amount.



Second-Class, unsealed airmail, 1952. Correctly franked 1 shilling and 3 pence for 1½ ounce auction catalogue at 5d per ½ ounce.



Airmail postcard sent October 1944 soon after liberation of Paris, flown on the old Qantas /BOAC route which re-opened in July. Sender wrote, "We are very anxious to hear that you and Robert are well". Correctly franked 9 pence.



Registered aerogramme to Austria 1951. The joined strip of three centenary stamps paid the registration fee.



A very Merry Christmas
and
a prosperous New Year