

Stamp Tracks



NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Arizona Territory Cover Highlight of Exhibit

What is postal history?

A cover collector might look at the postmark, note the place, date, and features of the postmark. They might note the destination of the cover. These are the traditional approaches to collecting postal history.

What about other, less traditional approaches? What if postal history included the story of the people sending and receiving the cover?



Tucson, Arizona Territory cover dated 1867.

The most remarkable aspect of the Tucson, Arizona Territory cover that was recently donated to the Foundation is that it's the oldest known Tucson, A.T. cover. There's another story, though, hidden in plain sight, written on the front of the envelope: "Miss L.A. Tobey, c/o Samuel Boyd Tobey, M.D., Providence RI." The history of L.A. Tobey, and the person who sent her the letter, provide a context for "the oldest known Tucson, A.T. cover" that results in a richer, deeper story than a postmark alone ever could.

L.A. Tobey was Lydia Anna Tobey, the daughter of Samuel Boyd and Sarah Fry Tobey, prominent members of the Society of Friends (the Quakers). The Tobey's were staunchly opposed to both slavery and war.

When Lydia was born, the United States was embroiled in the Mexican-American War, the debate over the spread of slavery to new states and territories, and the politics of building a trans-continental railroad. One of the railroad route options was through the south and southwest, providing the United States Government could acquire the land. This included what would become the Arizona Territory.

When Civil War finally broke out, Lydia's older brother Thomas, against his parents' wishes, enlisted as a soldier for the Union. Thomas was excommunicated from the Society of Friends.

The Confederacy was very keen on using southern routes to reach the Pacific Ocean, where they could have access to California gold and trade with China. It could make or break them financially. On 14 February 1862, the southern portion of the New Mexico Territory (which also included what we now know as southern Arizona) became the Arizona Territory in the Confederate States of America.

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Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

520-623-6652

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:

Chair: Bob Davis

Vice Chair: Mike Wood

Treasurer: Ted Maynard

Secretary: Steven Hamann

Staff:

Education Director: Lisa Dembowski

Librarian/Archivist: Valerie Kittell

Education Assistant: Linda Wynn

Stamp Tracks: Lisa Dembowski

Hours:

Post Office: M-F 10am -2pm

Despite being closed to the public, all departments are available via phone, email, or website.

See past issues of **Stamp Tracks** at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Follow the PHF on
Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/postalhistoryfoundation



@phftucson



Message From the Chair

We hope all of you are keeping well during these difficult times. Except for our contract post office, the Postal History Foundation has been closed to the public since the middle of March. Our post office is currently open Monday through Friday, 10am to 2pm. Phones from all departments are being answered during these same times.

The sales department is available to take your stamp orders via mail, email, and phone.



As patrons don't have direct access to the library's holdings, remote library services offered include research, photocopying, and scanning. Foundation members in good standing may also check out up to three books for one month. Please see the library page on our website for directions and restrictions.

The education program, Stamp Discovery, continues to fill orders for stamps and lessons from teachers, parents, and other educators across the country. Visit the education section of our website.

We thank you for your donations and urge you to continue supporting the PHF with monetary gifts to help us fulfill our mission.

Bob Davis

PHF Membership

Thanks for being a member!

(Renewal letters are coming soon.)

Not a Member? Join!

Support the **PHF**, including the **Stamp Discovery Program**, and the **Slusser Library**.

Your support is critical to our mission to support the

future of philately.

For additional gifting opportunities visit

"Support" on our website at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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In March 1862, Union reinforcements were sent to reclaim the lands the Confederacy was occupying, including Tucson. This resulted in the westernmost Civil War battle, at Picacho Pass. In June of the same year, the Arizona Territory (almost in the shape we know it today) was formed.

Meanwhile, Thomas Tobey continued his service in the army. In December 1862, he fought at Fredericksburg, a brutal battle described as a "butchery."

Thomas remained in the service throughout his career. During the "Indian Wars," he was sent to the Arizona Territory. While stationed at Yuma, he wrote his sister Lydia letters. The cover given to the Foundation, the oldest known sent out of the Tucson, Arizona Territory Post Office, is from one of those letters.



Picacho Peak centennial commemorative cover produced by the Arizona Civil War Centennial Commission in Tucson, AZ

The cover is the centerpiece of the current rotating exhibit in the Slusser, available now online at <https://postalhistoryfoundation.org/visit/museum/rotating-exhibits/>

SALES DEPARTMENT

The pandemic has resulted in a lot of people remaining at home and taking the opportunity to clean out attics, closets, and basements of long-forgotten collections and accumulations of stamps. We have been flooded with material and therefore have a huge variety of items available for sale. Although we remain closed to the public, we can support mail, email, and telephone requests for stamps and supplies. We encourage want lists and bulk orders. Check our ads throughout this news letter.

Collectors interested in placing orders can call 520-623-6652 x 101 and ask for Mike Wood.

Mike is available weekdays except Tuesdays, 9 am to 2 pm. Please leave a message if no one answers. Collectors may also order items via the mail. Email inquiries to sales@phftucson.org.

STAMPS by the POUND



Worldwide Mixture or Individual Countries

Many countries are available and prices vary.

Call for availability

520-623-6652x101

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of schools this past March, our Stamp Discovery program continued to support teachers and parents across the country with stamps, lessons, and activities. Learning with stamps is enjoyable at school or in the home and is such a fun and unique way of connecting with subject matter required across the country and world.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we supported over 14,500 students and teachers with over half a million stamps.

We continue to provide stamps to any youth at no charge because all can learn from stamps. Visit the education pages on our website for the lists of lessons and topics, plus activities that can be printed out at home at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org or email education@phftucson.org



Stamp Collecting Kits

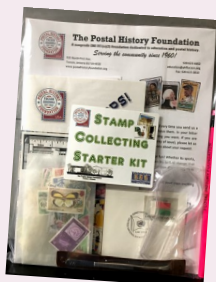
Designed for learning philatelic basics and history

Stamps are individually chosen for the person. \$15 plus \$4 shipping

Call 520-623-6652 x 102 or

complete and mail the order form found on our website at :

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org



Mint Plate Blocks

Available for Order

Contact

Mike Wood at

520-623-6652 x 101

or

email your want list to sales@phftucson.org



Sales Department Specials

Call 520-623-6652x101 or email

sales@phftucson.org

- Individual World Wide Stamps -50% Scott or less
- US Mint Plate Blocks
- US Booklets -Scott #BK75 to present
- Foreign Platinum Mines - \$135—14.8 oz. off paper
Scott Values from 50¢ to \$9.99
- Gold Mines -\$75 - Lower Values-14.8 oz. off paper
- Mint Postage - 40% discount, save on mailing costs

Also Available:

US and Foreign
(Singles & Sets)

First Day Covers

RPO Covers

US Year Sets

Topical Packets

First Flights

Collections

Foreign Covers

Catalogues

Stock Books

Stock Sheets

Used Albums

Mounts

Creative Collector Connects Life with Stamps

Every month I receive a “want list” from Keytan Decker as he works towards completing his United States Stamp Collection. Keytan is a teenager in Pennsylvania that enjoys connecting his life with stamps, making it a more meaningful and positive experience. He is also lucky to have a wonderful mentor in his grandmother. Enjoy the creativity. *Lisa Dembowski, Education Director*

For the past nine years, I have been collecting stamps. I started when I was six years old and began my United States collection with my grandmother. From there, I discovered that I liked collecting stamps from countries all around the world, including “dead” countries. My goal is to collect stamps from as many places as I can. This led to starting a book that contains a map for each country that has produced stamps. We place a colored sticker dot on the page for each location from which we find a stamp so that we can keep track of how many countries we have.

I have found many creative ways to collect stamps according to our interests, and it can be a fun way to do something with your parents or grandparents. I have collections within my collections, or topical collections. I really enjoy stamps showing trains and space-related things. There is an opportunity to get festive with stamp collecting, too. We are having fun looking for stamps from around the world that express the real meaning of Christmas. We have a large worldwide map that we use for attaching these stamps, such as those depicting nativity scenes, from around the world. It will be a great Christmas decoration.

The more stamps I find, the more ideas we have. Grandma and I have thought of many ways to collect stamps, and my favorite way is called “Stamps and Me.” Stamps and Me is where you think about what you have done, what you like, and places you have been to. We look for family photos or take a current photo related to that topic. Then we look for stamps that connect with those photos and put the stamps and photos on a page and write a very short story about it. After we make those pages, we combine them together in a photo book or scrapbook.

There are a lot of stamps that relate to me. For example, I like to kayak, so Grandma took photos of me kayaking. Then I looked for stamps from around the world that had to do with kayaking and wrote a short note about some of my kayaking trips. When we went to an animal park, she took some photographs of me and some of my favorite animals, and we created some pages combining the photos, stamps, and the story. Another example is from school when I did something called a genius hour project. The topic of this project was the peacock mantis shrimp (*Odontodactylus scyllarus*) so I thought of doing a page on the mantis shrimp. When working on this project, I wanted to study the mantis shrimp live, so we went to the Baltimore Aquarium. We again combined stamps, photos, and a story, which I was then able to incorporate into my school assignment.

During the COVID stay-at-home order it was hard to keep up with the school work and to stay optimistic. It was hard to keep track of work and schedules. However, I found my stamp collecting hobby to be a pleasant distraction during these challenging times. Stamps have been part of my safe and happy place.



Keytan Decker in the stamp room he shares with his grandmother.

PHF Calendar

The Postal History Foundation remains closed to the public due to Covid-19

Current Slusser Library Exhibit

Creation of the Arizona Territory available online

Stamp Discovery participation in Love of Literacy: A Virtual Children's Book Festival 2020 Starts September 18, 2020

Board Meeting

Via Zoom
November 18, 2020

Support PHF Through Amazon Smile

Follow these easy directions:

1. Go to **smile.amazon.com** and select the Postal History Foundation as your charity.
2. Replace your old amazon.com bookmarks with **smile.amazon.com**.
3. Your Amazon account is unaffected by buying through Amazon Smile.

Go Shopping!

In Memoriam

Doug Kelsey
Executive Director of
the PHF from
1987-91

New Members

Michael Damsky
Henderson, NV

Don Edwards
Tucson, AZ

David Fruth
McPherson, KS

Leon F. Harris
Milwaukee, WI

Stephen Harsy
Tucson, AZ

Donald C McLean
Barrington, IL

Stephen Miedziak
Vail, AZ

Amber Misgen
Parker, CO

Christian Morgan Jr.
Boise, ID

Michael Rizzi
Tucson, AZ

Fred Ronnau
Tucson, AZ

Tucson Stamp Club

The club is not meeting at the PHF during the Covid 19 pandemic until further notice.

Normally meetings are held the first and third Saturdays at the Postal History Foundation
11 am Bourse • 12 pm Meeting

Contact Edward Ejek
edwardwejk@earthlink.net
520-574-5535

Civil War Roundtable

The Civil War Roundtable is currently zooming during the Covid 19 pandemic.

To receive a zoom invitation please contact
tucsoncivilwarroundtable@gmail.com

Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month from 11:30am to 1pm

Topic of Each Meeting

October
Joshua Chamberlain

November
Civil War Weaponry and Equipment

December
Women Spies in the Civil War

January 2021
The Zouave Regiment

February 2021
Women in the Civil War

March 2021
More Civil War Truths & Myths

Tucson Postcard Club

Please contact about status during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Contact Joyce Kagarise at
dkagar@dakotacom.net
520-682-8424

Want to see the current exhibit?

We encourage you to view information and some pictures on our website at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Click on "Visit" and select "Museum Exhibits" from the sidebar.