

RADIOLAND

by John Gehrig

Prowling through a group of WWII Censored Covers mailed from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. during 1945 took me down the long path of nostalgia to RADIOLAND. Radioland, as I recall, was that wonderful place and time when the whole family sat in the living room listening to the classic weekly programs - or where the family sat out on the front porch listening to baseball or boxing (or, if you lived in the city - you might poach off the neighbor's radio). My thoughts were so directed because many of my D. R. covers were addressed to "Hollywood Radio & Television Institute", Los Angeles, California - Perhaps not too novel a destination - but the fact that these covers were sent from the Dominican Republic *during* WWII led me to ponder the "television" activities of the addressee Institute. Was my childhood memory of WWII confused



with another decade - why do I recall spending every 1945 afternoon after school listening to the Lone Ranger on the radio instead of watching the masked man on the small silver screen?

Google answers everything. A website devoted to the history of the Hollywood

Radio and Television Institute confirmed that the Institute was, in fact, quite alive and well in Los Angeles in 1945 - devoted to educating future radio and television repairmen through extensive correspondence courses in both English and Spanish. The Institute advertised extensively in "Popular Mechanics" and had a large enrollment of Spanish speaking students in Mexico, Cuba and Central America. Further research indicated that my memory was not totally out of whack - the television training offered by the Institute in 1945 was based mostly on theoretical discussion of cathode ray tubes - the radio repair curriculum was by far the meatiest part of the coursework. My recollection that our family's first television set arrived in 1950 was basically accurate.

I have spent a good bit time in the Dominican Republic over the past twenty-five years. My experience is that the radio is "on", *en casa* or in the market, or at work, everywhere, always. Perhaps the ubiquitous merengue music in the D. R. is broadcast from the radio transmission tower next to the National Communications Palace in Santo Domingo as seen on the illustrated cover bearing the mixed franking of a Scott C50 13 Centavo air mail stamp together with a Scott RA9 1 Centavo postal tax stamp. Doubtless many of the ancient radios I have heard were kept up by Hollywood Institute grads replacing the set's tubes as needed.

BONUS NOTE - Apropos almost nothing at all - if anyone is interested in a really good dissertation on United States international mail censorship during WWII, Google: "war on words alvin william mcdaniel jr."

The Story of the “Full Face Queen”

by A. Stephen Patrick



When 18-year-old Victoria took the throne of England in 1837, she commissioned a portrait as a gift to her mother by the Swiss artist Alfred Edward Chalon. It was painted for the occasion of her first public appearance as queen as she appeared before Parliament in July 1837 **[Figure D1 at left top]**. An engraving by Samuel Cousins of the painting was distributed to the public on June 28, 1838, at Victoria’s coronation, thus the painting is since known as the “coronation portrait.”

On this occasion she wore the George IV state diadem which was created in 1820 and has been worn by queens and kings consorts ever since and is displayed in the Queen’s Gallery at Buckingham Palace. A clear look at the diadem can be seen in the sculpture done by Arnold Machin that has been the model of British stamps for over 50 years **[Figure D2 at left middle first image]**.



In April 1851, Canada was the first colony to use the Chalon head on a postage stamp, Scott #3 twelve penny is known as “the Black Empress of Canada” and is the rarest Canadian stamp **[Figure D3 at left second image]**. The engraving was done by William Humphrys for Perkins and Bacon but the stamps were printed in New York City. Of the 50,000 printed only about 300 survive. In 2006 a fine copy sold at auction for 116,000 pounds! If you can’t afford that price, you can obtain one of the 16 Canada Jubilee Issues



Scott # 50 – 65 **[Figure D4 at left bottom]**.

Other British colonies used the Chalon portrait including Nova Scotia 1853, Tasmania and New Zealand 1855, Bahamas and Natal 1859, Grenada, New Brunswick, and Queensland 1860, and Prince Edward Island 1870. My interest in this stamp image

was piqued by John Gehrig’s article on the “conch and pineapple” **[Insert A, Figure A5]** in the December 2020 newsletter. In our Zoom meeting on December 17, John presented a souvenir sheet for the 1940 British stamp exhibit of the original Chalon portrait **[Figure D5 at right top image]**.



The first stamps of New Zealand employed the Chalon portrait for their first stamps. The government contracted with Perkins and Bacon of London to create the issue. The London print consisted of a one pence, two pence, and one shilling issue. These were sent to Auckland along with printing dies, a complete press, paper, ink and all the other necessary items for printing their own stamps. They even sent a volunteer printer who had no guarantee of a job to print other stamps. The “full face queens” were the only images used until 1874.

The Royal Society of New Zealand Inc. produced a multi-volume set of definitive catalogues of New Zealand stamps. When it was learned that the Post and Telegraph Department owned the original dies of the stamps, it was thought that reproductions of the dies would add interest to the catalogue. The dies were borrowed and sent to London where they were re-printed in different colors. As a result, six -- proof plates were tipped into the 1950 catalogue. Because of my interest in intaglio printing and being president of the Souvenir Card Collectors Society, I obtained number 1,496 of the 2,000 copies of the limited edition. **Figure D6 (at right bottom image)** is an example of the one-shilling issue from the six proofs tipped into the book -- this is my unusual example of the “full face queen.” The pages the images are printed on are 7 by 9.5 inches.



Thanks to Wikipedia and the Internet for information for this article.