

The Cover Story

What Cover is in Your Collection? Part 2

by Phil Fettig

I had not really intended to do a part 2 of February 2018 article as I had something else in mind. However, two 1 day shows in an 8-day period took too much of an effort for this old philatelist so here is what I had left.

Like many stamp collectors, including many in this club, I have a love of Civil War history. Several years ago, I attended an APS Summer Seminar and Frank Sente, a former Executive Secretary gave me a copy of his Great-great Grandfather's diary from 1863. The diary told details of this Pennsylvania soldier's travels as he marched toward Gettysburg in June 1863. When the seminar ended, I decided to follow the path of the major battles of the war, while reading a portion of the diary each day. Now, to be correct, while it was June, I was a week off the dates and I was not following the same path. I chose to follow the battlefields I could reach in the next 5-days, in the order they took place. In one instance, I drove right past the entrance to a National Battlefield because it was out of the order of the battles.

All this background brings me to the point that in my opinion, the Civil War really started at Harper's Ferry on October 16, 1859 with John Brown's raid on the Federal Armory there. **Figure (A1, on front cover)** is a cover with a Harper's Ferry cancel dated April 30th, probably in 1864. This cover is meaningful to me in that not only is it from a historical place, but a location I had the pleasure of visiting.

Don't let **figures (A2 & A3 on front cover)** trick you – they are two sides of the same cover! Sending covers to be returned to yourself was a very common practice during the 1930s. This collector, however, went to great efforts that were rewarded with two different Foreign Air Mail covers on the same piece. Mr. Guille mailed the cover to himself in Trinidad, BWI on September 22, 1929. What he did different than most, was to address it back to himself on the reverse complete with return postage from Trinidad & Tobago. All-in-all a nice cover that could reside in collections for the U.S., Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago or Airpost Covers.



Figure A4

I don't really know what Atlantis Sales Corporation of Rochester, NY sells, but **figure (A4)** shows a December 17, 1935 meter cancellation that suggests that Canary Birds might make a nice Christmas gift. A check made online shows they are still in business at the same address today. The records only indict they are engaged in foreign business.



Figure A5

Figure (A5) shows a unique method of celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Pony Express. The first fifty-years are shown by using two stamps, issued in 1860 and 1910. The next 25 are indicated with a stamp from 1933. This collector took a routine celebration and made an eye-catching tribute.

Canton Island is a small barrier island surrounding a lagoon in the Pacific Ocean. It is conveniently placed about half-way from the West Coast of the U.S. and Australia. This fact made this small spot in the ocean a great refueling stop for clipper flights in the 1930s and prop planes later on. **Figure (A6)** is a Clipper Flight Cover from San Francisco to Canton Island. **Figure (A7)** shows the back cancel from the cover and part of a Pan American Airways information card. During the 1960s, the island had a Project Mercury tracking station which was used later for long range military missile testing. Today, Canton Island is governed by Kiribati and has the world's largest protected marine conservation area.



So, here is another selection of covers that, while none are expensive important items they are items that, can provide hours of philatelic research into a large number of collecting interests.

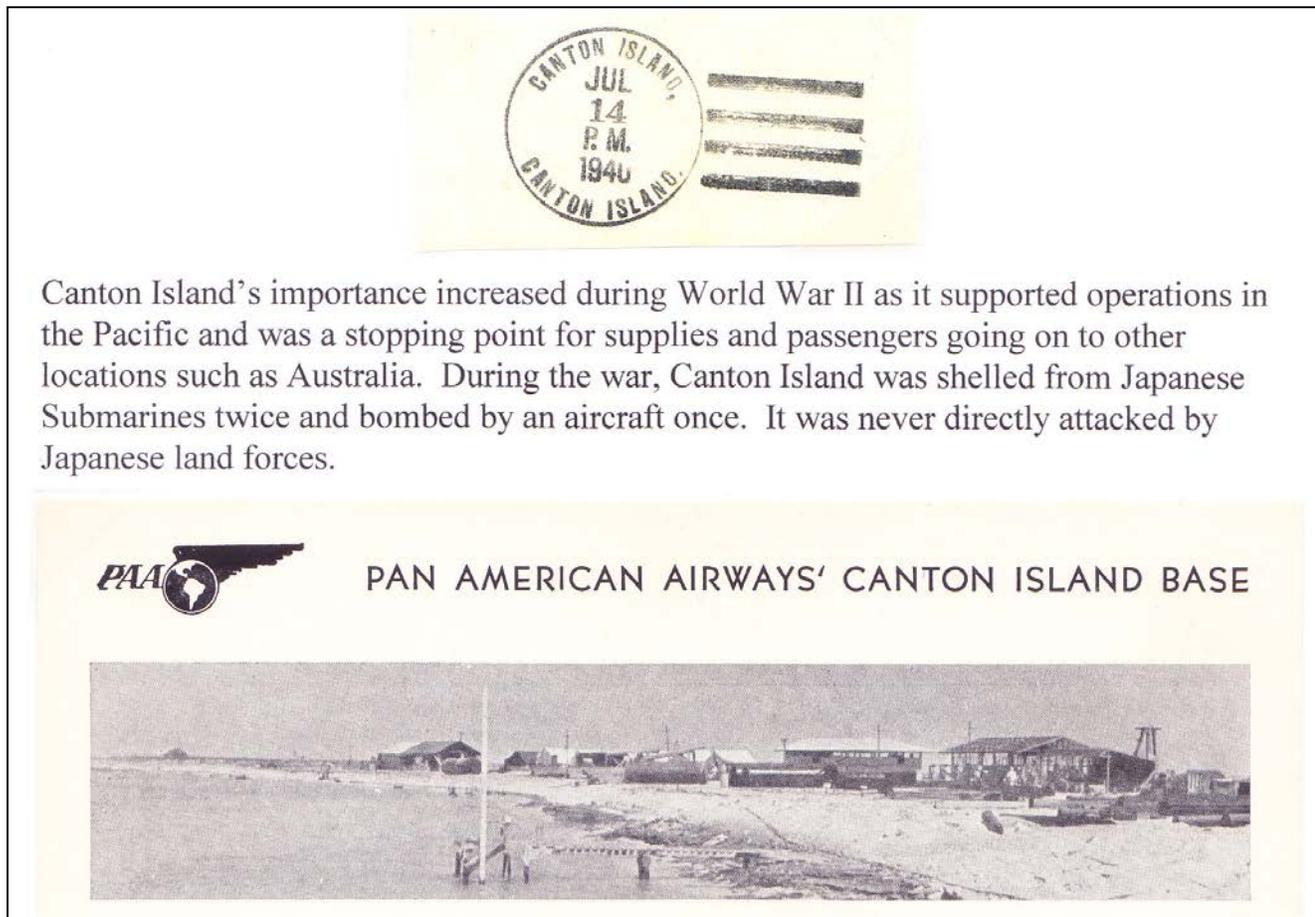


Figure A7