

SUNPEX 2016

The Venue on the Lake, The Maitland Civic Center



SUNPEX 2016 was held the weekend of June 11-12. Thankfully the crowds found us at the “new” location. I would like to extend a hearty ‘thank you’ to the dealers who participated in the show and the membership of the CFSC for doing so much behind the scenes to make the show a grand success. Your dedication to further the goals of philately have been noted and are very much appreciated!

“Who's On First?” by Phil Fettig

Postal History is an aspect of Philately that I have not dealt with much. Recently I obtained a few items that, while I really didn't know what they were for sure, they were interesting enough to try some research. **Figure 1** is one such item, a business letter from Richmond, Indiana to Calcutta, India. The postage cost of \$2.10 was paid with 21 copies of Scott 815, the ten cent Prexie stamp showing John Tyler. By asking questions of those more knowledgeable than I am regarding postal history, I was able to learn that the cover was paid at the triple weight rate for passage to Calcutta. The cover also had a censor marking (**Figure 2**) that I had not seen before. **Figure 3** shows the back stamp from Calcutta. I had previously indicated my intention to try the cover on eBay and my source indicated it could bring as much as \$50.00 and even more if two bidders got interested. I started the bidding at \$19.99 and for several days it stalled out at \$26. In the end the cover had been viewed 75 times and 7 individuals placed 12 bids. And yes, two bidders did try to outbid each other at the end. You ask “Which one was successful?” Well, neither – as it turns out – somebody, probably with a bidding app, shot the winning bid in with seconds left! The end result was a sale for \$99.98. Now all I had left to do was mail the cover to the winner.

What happened next and the post office is the reason for the title of this article. I always want to mail items with proper protection and due to the high value of this item, extra steps were required. I used a stiff cardboard mailer that was 8” x 6” and would provide protection under most circumstances. Insurance was also called for in this case. By this time in my eBay business I am fairly sure of understanding USPS rates and regulations, so I showed up with the envelope or mailer all sealed and stamped for the postage and insurance. Here is a fairly accurate summary of the conversation between the window clerk and myself when I presented it for mailing:

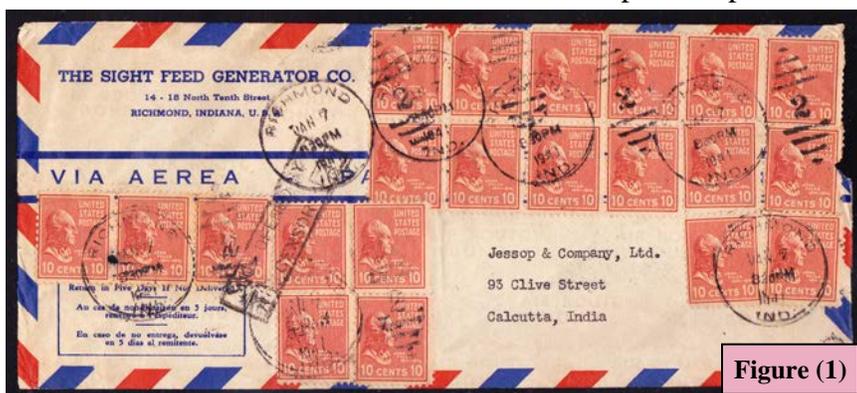


Figure (1)

Me: (Handing across the mailer and insurance paper) “I would like to insure this for \$100.00.”

Clerk: “What is in it?”

Me: “An envelope”.

Clerk: “I can see that --- I mean what is inside it”.

Me: “Just an envelope.”

Clerk: “No, I need to know what is in it.”



Figure (2)

Me: (Sounding a little strained) “Nothing more than a simple envelope.”

Clerk: “Sir, don't get mad, I'm just trying to do my job & I need to know what is in the envelope to see if it can be insured.”

Me: “I'm not mad, I am just struggling to find a way to say there is just an envelope inside. One going to a stamp collector who paid \$100 for it.”



Figure (3)

At that point the item was accepted and mailed. I do need to emphasize this clerk and I have conducted transactions in the past and we both laughed at the end.