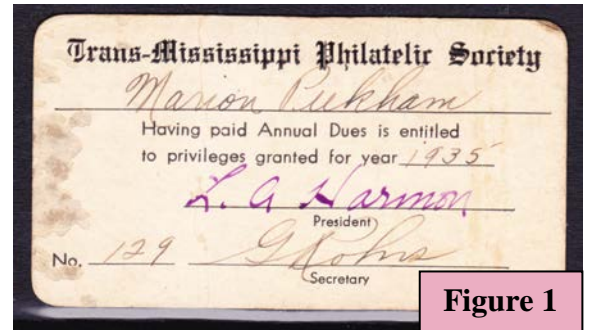


## What Was The Rest Of The Story? By Phillip Fettig

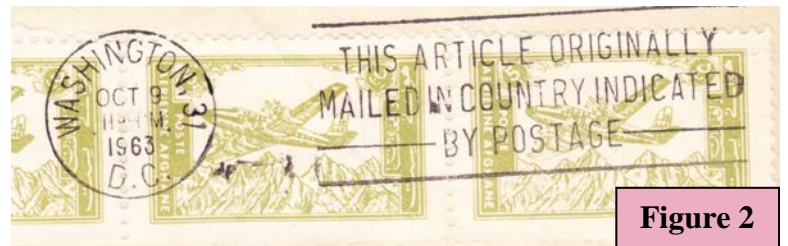
Invariably when purchasing unsorted collections held in boxes and envelopes you find items that beg for the “Rest of the Story.” They may be complete but many times are just a tantalizing piece or part.

**Figure 1** is a membership card in the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society for the year 1935. Female collectors were less known then as compared to the present. This was a specialized society for its time and I tried to track its existence to determine when it faded away. My best guess is in the 1950 – 1970 time period. The box this card was found in, held very common items, many of which were tied to the collector. I would have really liked to find out more, but that did not work out.



**Figure 1**

**Figure 2** is a piece of what appears to be a business size envelope. It has 4 airmail stamps from Afghanistan and a cancel I have never seen: “THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY MAILED IN COUNTRY INDICATED BY POSTAGE.” If I were on the TV Program “Wheel of Fortune” I might guess something with the words “Service” and “America”, thus making it some type of official mail. But then, if that was correct why did they use Afghan stamps? So, is it some U.S. company with those words in their name? To add to the puzzle the cancel is a machine type which leaves the question why not use a hand cancel? Were there that many of items like this that they needed to run a batch through? So many questions, so few answers!



**Figure 2**

**Figure 3** is really intriguing to me. It is a piece with 21 cents postage canceled in Honolulu, Hawaii at 1pm on December 10, 1941. That is just a few minutes more than 74 hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. I would love to know what was in the envelope and where was it going. It shows evidence of being censored by the tape residue on the right side. While not conclusive, the size of the piece indicates it is from a business size envelope.



**Figure 3**

**Figure 4** is a piece from a parcel that came “Collect on Delivery” or COD. The postage includes a one cent definitive and the 15 cent Parcel Post stamp, Q7. The COD rubber stamp is filled out to indicate a payment of \$6.00 for the item shipped plus .08 for the money order fee. If a Q7 had been properly used on a cover during the period 1913 – 1925 and the item was intact, it would have a current catalog value of \$350. What was in the package?



**Figure 4**



# Reminiscences

## The “Best of the Best”??

By Michael Rogers

**I** imagine this: the certainty of realizing \$10,000 in exchange for putting up \$1,000. That’s a sure thing, right?

Let me tell you the story.

I opened my stamp shop in 1978 on prestigious Park Avenue North in downtown Winter Park, the premier shopping destination in Central Florida. The ever so better stocked and wealthy John McDaniel was perched down the block.

My mind is hazy for when this happened but say 1979 or so. I received a phone call of a stamp collection about a half mile’s walk in the shadow of Rollins College. A good area this for stamp collections, as in these homes often resided folks associated with the college. I had purchased many collections there; in fact, I still have a small stock book on my bookshelf from a retired military fellow whose friendship I enjoyed.

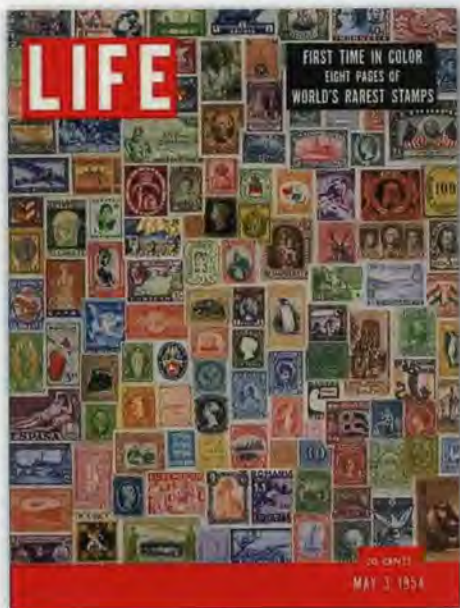
The older couple I went to see had inherited the collection. Laying on the dining room table was a non descript three ring gray binder. Within were page after page of United States and worldwide stamps.

But what stamps! At first glance, the collection was a two parter. There were perhaps three hundred U.S. and worldwide nondescript common. Altogether, say a value of a few dollars.

Then interspersed in between the common, with no regard for order or country, were the best of the best. Want the U.S. 1918 24 cent airmail Inverted Jenny block of 4?, Hawaii Missionary cover? Canada 1851 12 pence?

Each item was placed on the page in its own stamp mount, a product quite popular then called “Crystal Mounts”. Problem was, once in, it wasn’t easy removing it.

I turned the pages front to back, then reached for my stamp tongs to assist removing the Jenny block from the mount. Guess what? Holding the block in the air revealed it to be nothing more than a cut out from either a magazine or an auction catalogue. I examined more of these “rare”



stamps, coming to the conclusion that they were from the famous 1956 *Life Magazine* article on the “World’s Famous Rare Stamps.”

I’m real certain the couple weren’t trying to pull a fast one because when I informed them, they chimed in they had been made an offer of \$10,000 by another dealer in town. I said I knew the guy, and he had been putting off a cataract operation.

Walking back to my shop, of course I was going to tell the other dealer and prevent him from making such a blunder, even though it was a really cheap offer. I turned it over in my head to come up with a solution so some good would come of the situation.

I made him my “sure thing” offer: I have a secret which will save you \$10,000, in exchange, make the check out to the American Cancer Society. When I spun my offer, initially, he thought I was passing on buying the collection so he could have it and I would keep the thousand bucks. I rejoined, “I understand why you didn’t open the mounts because they were really tough going, but didn’t you think it was strange when you saw the unique British Guiana 1 cent (1856)?”

Good karma. I’m sure he sent the money and I know he went for the operation. ☑