

New Member Introduction: Allison and Jim Moore

Introducing Allison (picture at right) and Jim Moore (picture at left), a philatelic daughter-father duo who recently moved to the Orlando area from Southern California.

While the pair share a large world-wide collection, Allison's primary interests lie with the former stamp-issuing colonies of France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. She started collecting in earnest during her time in university while her Dad started as a young boy when he received "dollar packets" in his Easter basket.



Jim's current collecting focus is Malaya and States, colonial Singapore, and the Straits Settlements. He has also been nurturing a budding interest in Ottoman and Near East philately.



Allison and Jim were frequent attendees at stamp shows throughout Southern California, and hope to do so throughout Florida and the southeast once life "returns to normal". Inveterate travelers, the pair have patronized dealers on four continents. Among their shared memories is visiting dealers in Antwerp and Berlin -- and purchasing stock books laden with Soviet-era material from street vendors in front of The Hermitage in St. Petersburg.

Among their other interests are college and professional basketball (Allison) and architectural history and preservation (Jim).

While we have yet to meet Jim and Allison in person, we look forward to that happening. Welcome.



Terms in Philately

The Editor

Definition of terms means a lot in any profession, but especially in the philatelic world. Whether it be the common MNH or NH or the nebulous "with faults" or "board-walk margins". While I strive to make sure all the articles are readable, even for those not in the know, sometimes common use abbreviations slip through without me realizing.

A recent gaff was the use of the term EFO — that stands for Errors, Freaks and Oddities. It is much more efficient to say EFO than each of the words. I will not go into the definition of EFOs as many gallons of ink have been spilled describing that term. Since I collect EFO material of the Prexy Series, I will simply say it is any material that is not normal and results from an anomalous condition in the production process. Those anomalies could be involving gum, perforations, inking issues, and cutting/finishing problems. Some are more serious (and desirable) than others. Truly rare finds, like a full gutter pair, command large sums of money to acquire. Common oddities like slight mis-perforations are a dime a dozen and hold little real value.

An Interesting Traveler from British Central Africa

by John Gehrig



One of the least accessible areas of Africa during the empire building days of the “Scramble for Africa” was the British Central African Protectorate (B.C.A.), which became Nyasaland and, after achieving independence, is now known as Malawi. The early Protectorate was settled in small clusters on the English side of Lake Nyasa. Lake Nyasa was reached from the East African coast by navigation of the Shire and the Zambezi rivers. A sinkhole town called Chinde, on the coast of Mozambique and near the Zambezi estuary was the Protectorate’s point of access to the outside world. Portugal, by treaty, had granted a concession to the British Crown to establish a small settlement at Chinde for the purpose of providing supplies and transportation from the coast to the Protectorate by means of river navigation. Chinde was the forwarding port for all foreign mail to and from B. C. A. In 1904 our illustrated cover took a trip from somewhere in the interior of B.C.A. by river steamer down the Shire and Zambezi to Chinde, then by boat to Zanzibar, then by ship to Bombay where the envelope was forwarded to Quetta, near the Afghan border.

The envelope shows the remainder of one of the most clear and precise SOTN “squared-circle” cancels I had ever seen from B.C.A. Could someone have intentionally steamed or floated off the stamp with the superb cancellation and yet retained the envelope? Could the stamp be worth removing from the envelope just for the sake of its cancellation? In 1903 stamp collecting was a different world. The philatelic magazines and journals of that era speak of a hobby which had not only many different focus points but also different areas of interest and specialization. Looking at albums from over one hundred years ago or spending a few hours reading a run of *Mekeel's Weekly* from the early 1900s, one learns this pretty quickly. Research into a few aged but iconic philatelic texts convinced me that here, indeed, the cancellation could be the thing. One book, *The Cancellations of The Rhodesias and Nyasaland*, celebrates in great detail the facts that there were only 48 known collectable post office cancellations recorded from B.C.A Protectorate. Each of these cancellations were evidence of a functioning postal system under the Union Jack which subsisted and survived in a colonial area almost devoid of Europeans and dependent upon service by river steamers prowling through impenetrable marshes and scarlet clad native runners travelling on foot twenty-five miles a day at risk of attack by bandits and beasts. How challenging and exciting it would be to collect those cancellations in an era before “postal history” became a defined area of expertise and interest. Now I know where my stamp went. BCA cancellation collecting is still alive and well today - check the Stamp Store on the A.P.S. website and observe the premiums paid for that elusive BCA SOTN.