

The Messenger



October 2021

In Person or by Zoom

New Location

Johnson County Library

22435 W 66th St.

Shawnee, KS 66226

Saturday, October 2

Gather at 1:00pm

Meeting starts at 2:00pm

**Zoom link Info will
come to your email**

Tomas Griebing, President (tlginkc@yahoo.com)

Michael Miklovic, 1st Vice President (stumper1972@aol.com)

Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger_mcreynolds.hotmail.com)

Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer (info@armenstamp.com)

Michael Keil, Secretary (mkeil87859@hotmail.com)

Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Members present or on Zoom: 27 in attendance, 7 on zoom, 1 visitor.

Treasurer: No report. Will have an update next month.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Librarian: Nothing to report

Historian: Nothing to report.

First Vice-President's Report: No report.

Second Vice-President's Report: Rodger asked members to think about what membership in MPS means for them and what members think that is worth. Currently our dues amount to .83 per month, quite a bargain. The reason for bringing this up is that as we continue to look for a permanent location for our meetings, it is likely we will have to pay a monthly fee for a meeting place, and that means we may need to consider increasing the yearly dues to pay for that.

Newsletter: Jim has enough article for the next newsletter. However, members are encouraged to contribute (or continue contributing) short articles for future issues.

Old business: \$10 for the October luncheon is due. If you decide to attend, and haven't paid yet, please contact Armin or Barbara and let them know so enough food can be ordered and pay in October. You must supply your own drinks and they must be in a container with a resealable lid. Entry forms for December exhibits are available. So far only 3 members have committed to participating.

New Business: None.

Show-and-Tell: Rodger demonstrated the Hayer camera that he had last month. Scott shared a Real Picture Postcard, dated 1915, of a dog sled delivering the mail from Seward, Alaska. Howard had a postcard machine cancelled with a "Repeater Cancel" made by a German made cancelling machine that was promoted to the US Post Office but ultimately not purchased for use. Ricky had some error coils to look at. Fred showed a Zeppelin cover cancelled May 1, 1937 in Friedrichshafen. This was the Hindenburg air ship that crashed at Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6. The cover was part of a bag of mail that was dropped (literally) over Cologne, Germany prior to leaving for the U.S.

Announcements:

Omaha—Sept. 12-13; Gladstone has been cancelled. The Chicago show was good.

A group of MPS members meet at Winstead's on Sunday mornings for breakfast and to talk stamps. This is an informal gathering and usually runs for a couple of hours, beginning at 8am.

Program: Armin presented an interesting program on counterfeit stamps available for purchase on ebay. They are being sold as genuine postage stamps. Stamps from many countries are being sold. They originate in China.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Keil

**Meet in person or log into Zoom on
Saturday, October 2nd and
Hear Dale Smith's program, HIV/Aids on Stamps
Should be interesting, don't miss it!**

New U.S. Issues for 2021:

A Visit From St. Nick

First Class, Forever Rate
Four Designs, Double-sided Booklet of 20
Issue Date October 7th
Print Quantity –400,000,000 stamps

First Day Ceremony will be held in Santa Claus, IN at the United States Post Office located 45 N. Kringle Place, Santa Claus, IN 47579. If attending, you are encouraged to RSVP at usps.com/visitfromstnick



Otters in Snow

First Class, Forever Rate
Four Designs, Double-sided Booklet of 20
Issue Date October 12th
Print Quantity –300,000,000 stamps
No First Day ceremony planned in Otter, MT. by USPS Headquarters.

Last month's issue, Day of the Dead's print quantity is 35,000,000



Philatelic Happenings:

E and D Auctions

Sunday, October 3rd
Auction commences at 1:30pm
1901A Clay St., North Kansas City, MO
www.eanddstamps.com



Santa Claus, IN Post Office

NEW POSTAL RATES WENT INTO EFFECT SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH. FIRST CLASS-58¢ POSTCARD RATE-40¢ CHECK USPS.COM FOR OTHER RATE CHANGES

That is it for the US stamp program for this year, unless they make a surprise announcement. 32 different issues were released this year, in 69 different formats, might be off slightly! That includes the press sheets with or without die cuts.

Send a note to the editor as to your favorite and least favorite issues of this year. We will compile the results and include the winners (or losers) in an upcoming newsletter. Not required but if you feel so inclined, include why you chose a particular issue for your favorite or least favorite.

Linn's does this every year and it will be interesting to see if this club has the same picks or not as their readership.

**The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com
Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.**

Let's Eat!:

Once again we will be enjoying KC Joe's Bar-B-Que in our annual luncheon, October 2nd. The library is allowing us to begin early so come at noon. If you have not already paid your \$10 you have until Monday, Sept. 27 to make a reservation (via email) to Barbara Crompton.



Barbara's email is rockyrode2014@gmail.com

NOTICE: MEETING IN-PERSON IS BACK!!!

The OCTOBER meeting for MPS will be held on **Saturday**, October 2nd at 2 pm. We will be meeting **IN-PERSON** and also via **ZOOM** (if you prefer to attend online). A link will be sent through your email.

The **NEW LOCATION IS:**

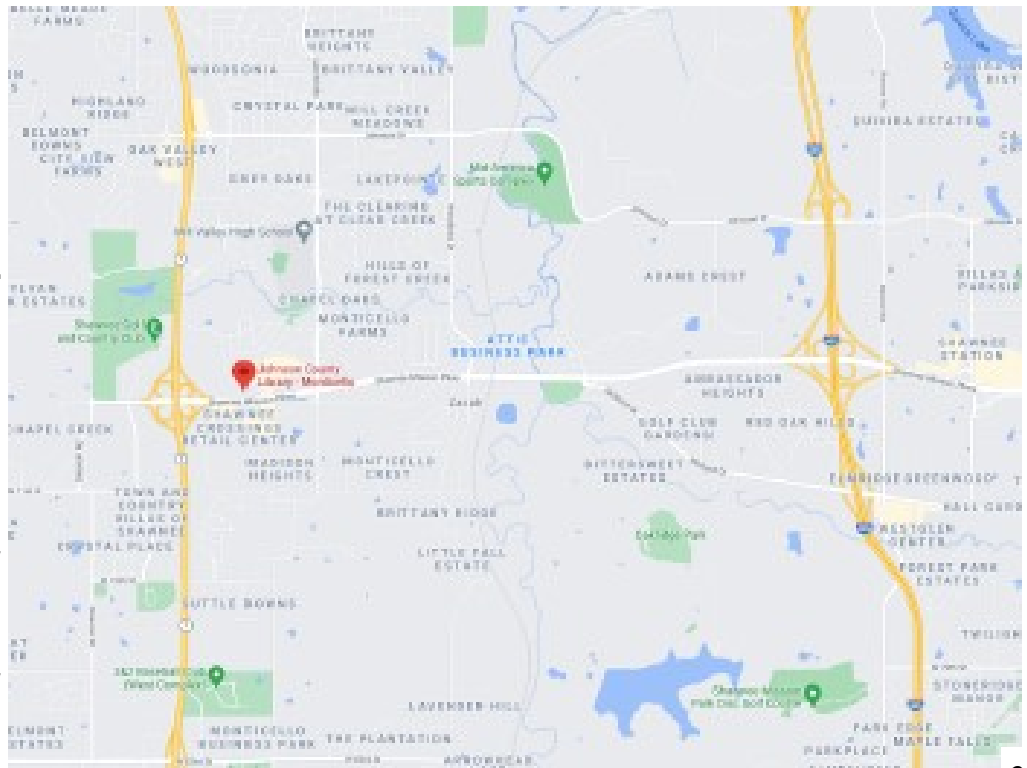
Johnson County Library-Monticello Branch
22435 W 66th Street
Shawnee, KS 66226

This library is located on the North side of Shawnee Mission Parkway, just East of K-7 highway (and West of I-435). There is ample parking around the building.

We have the meeting room from Noon-5pm. **The luncheon will begin at Noon** with set up for the Auction after that. If not attending the luncheon, please feel free to come after 1pm to help set up, visit with each other, set up auction items if you have them and enjoy being together in-person again.

We will work to maintain social distancing during the meeting.

Thanks last month for those that stayed around and helped to reset the room for the library after the auction. Please volunteer again.



Philatelic Ramblings:

Okay! You want to keep selling extra stamps? Do you want to sell your collection someday for a nice wad of cash? Then STOP saying this hobby is dying! What do you think the non-collector or new potential collector is thinking when they hear dealer's, collectors and others complain that "Stamp Collecting is Dead." In my dealings and observations, with dealers, auction houses and other collectors, I would submit it is NOT dying! It has certainly changed over time and people collect and buy much differently today than when I was growing up. But it is not dead.

Why do I think it is not dead? Auctions, on-line buying and current values on classic stamps.

First, collectors including many in this club, collect differently than when they were younger. Besides maybe, First Day Covers, did you actively collect "covers." Probably not. We collected singles and/or plate blocks. Maybe coil strips. Covers with unique or interesting postal markings are where it is at today. Dealer tables with boxes of covers were constantly busy in Chicago and recently at the Omaha show. The exhibits were overwhelmingly exhibits full of covers, sometimes first day covers but mostly covers enhancing or telling a story. When you read the American Philatelist or Linns or other stamp publications, there are always stories about covers. Sometimes that is all there is, which is a disappointment to a non-cover collector such as me.

Second, new collectors and many long-time collectors have switched to topical collections. Or they have gone very deep into a particular series, like the transportation coils or the Prexies. I never considered myself a topical collector but since 1971, I have been. When that first American Bicentennial stamp came out, I was hooked. Now that the collection is 99.99%, I have expanded into collecting EFO's from the US series of stamps and George Washington's 250th Birthday worldwide. Try to get a seat at Dale & Andrea's booths at a show! All the topical dealers at GASS, Chicago, were very busy.

Third, the internet has exploded. Most probably think ebay but it is not the only platform. In fact, Hipstamp mentioned in a seminar in Chicago that they sold many millions of dollars of stamps last year. Dealers that use both ebay and Hipstamp are reporting higher dollar sales on Hipstamp over ebay. There are many other platforms and they are all selling stamps. What has changed since we were collecting as kids, few to no store fronts and those old traditional stores are now ecommerce stores.

And last for this bit of rambling, auctions. With the internet, you can participate and bid on stamps at auction houses around the world. But be prepared to spend some money. Much of the material is high quality and is going for near catalog value to over catalog value. The stamp pictured on the right, Scott #468 MNH, recently sold at auction for \$400. The SCV is only \$200. Yes, it is a beautiful stamp and very well centered for these issues but \$200 over catalog? There are many examples of classic stamps or rare stamp items going for considerably more than catalog right now. If the hobby were dying, would these stamps command these higher prices? Probably not.



One of the problems is the glut of common stamps that are flooding the market these days, as the older collectors are getting rid of their collections from their youth. It makes it seem nobody is interested in the hobby. But if you look at the print quantities of most stamps from all countries for the past 70 to 80 years, you will realize why most have little to no value and why they are so plentiful.

Instead of saying the hobby is dying, be excited about what YOU collect and why!

JMc

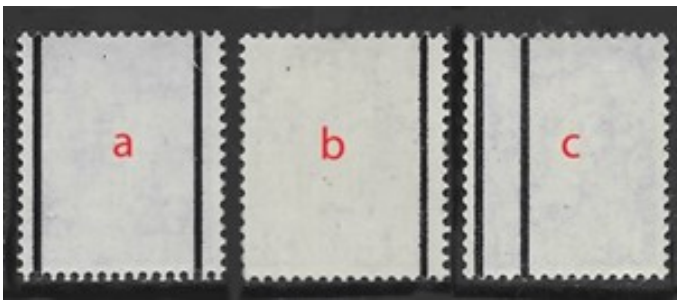
Graphite Lines on Great Britain's Wilding Definitive Stamps by Neil Becker:

Later in the 1950's, many large nations began looking for ways to automate the processing of mail. Great Britain introduced the Automatic Facing machine in 1957 which facilitated the cancelling process. However, the original machine had difficulty recognizing the stamp on the envelope, making the process inefficient.

At first they experimented with the use of graphite lines applied to the back of the stamps, under the gum, which could be read by a scanner. These were applied to the low-value definitive stamps (watermarked St. Edwards Crown – E2R) and issued in 1957 (Scott 317c-322c.)



Two graphite lines (a, below) were used on all the stamps except the 2d (b), which had only one. Misregistration of the lines produced error stamps, one shown below (c).



In 1958 the same denominations, along with three additional higher denomination stamps, (all of which were now produced on paper watermarked multiple St. Edwards Crown) were issued with graphite lines (353c – 360a).

The 1/2d and 1d were only issued in booklets or coils, the 2d only in booklet format, the 2 1/2d and 3d in booklet and sheet and the 4d and 4 1/2 d only in sheet format.



The use of graphite lines was only a partial success. (Mail with staples or damp mail would not be recognized by the scanners.) By 1959 the use of phosphor on the face of the stamps was thought to be better than graphite for sorting, so in November, all the remaining stock of graphite lined stamps (from both watermark types) were over-printed with vertical phosphor bands on the face of the stamp.

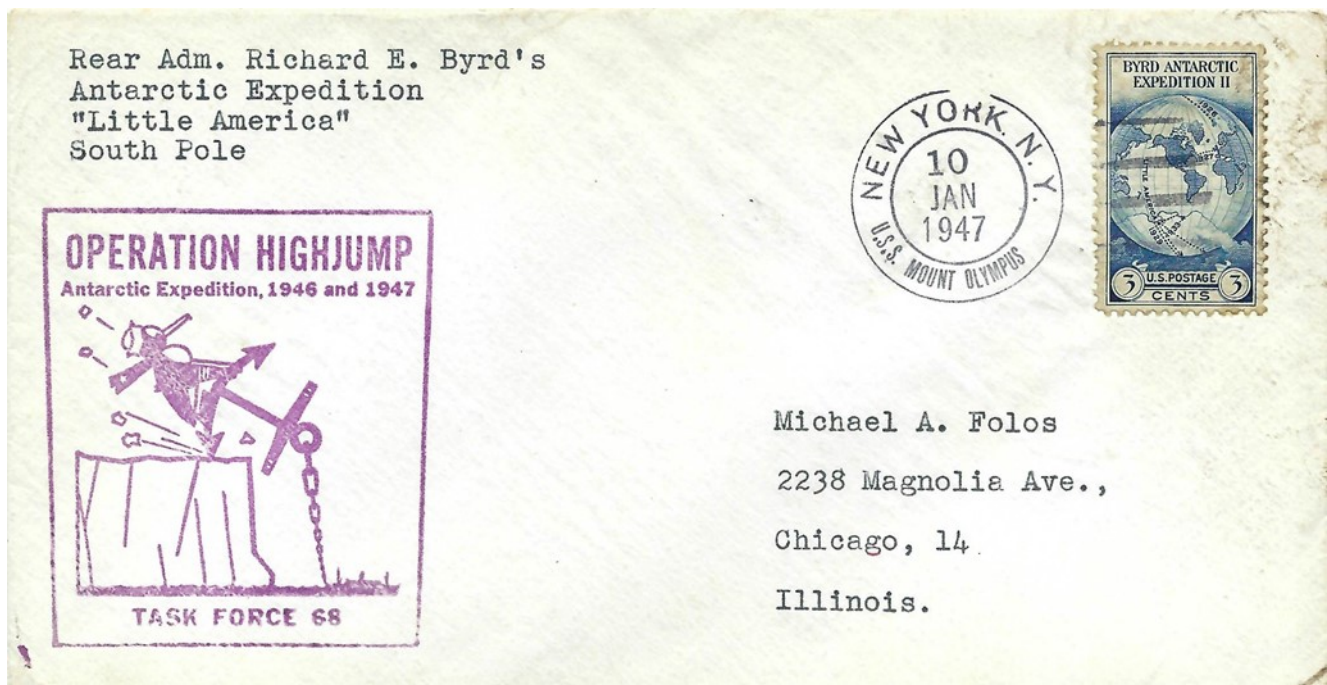
This was so successful, the use of graphite lines was discontinued and phosphorescence became the future of postal sorting.

Editor's Note: This article was prompted by a recent discussion about the graphite lines at a club meeting. Neil says, "Regarding the recent discussion about the Wilding definitives: If they have black bars on the front, they are likely to be Training Stamps."

Operation Highjump by Michael Keil:

Operation Highjump (August, 1946 through February, 1947) was the largest Antarctic expedition ever organized and launched. The expedition included more than 4,000 men, 14 ships, and 33 aircraft. Rear Admiral Richard Byrd was the Officer-in-Charge with Captain Richard H. Cruzen in command of Task Force 68, the codename for the Navy's component of the expedition with the *USS Mount Olympus* (AGC-8) designated as the flagship of TF-68.

The Navy gave official approval for the fulfilling of philatelic requests as one piece of its public relations effort on behalf of Highjump. Although no post office was established at Little America, 12 of the ships in TF-68 had on-board post offices. This led to the creation of a collectors dream of material from the very common to the quite scarce. No one knows how many covers were serviced during Highjump, but a *New York Times* article of December 10, 1946, citing a dispatch from *Mount Olympus*, estimated 650,000 items. All the ships of TF-68 were provided with an official cachet designed by James T. Rawls which appears on the majority of the items serviced for Highjump. Most commonly, the cachet was applied using magenta ink, but blue, black, red, and purple ink was used as well.



USS Mount Olympus cover with the official cachet in magenta ink. The cancellation is a Type 1 cancel and is readily identifiable because of the missing arc segment at the top of the outer ring of the device. Approximately 140,000 covers were cancelled using the Type 1 device with the dates of 10 December, 1946; 7 January, 1947; and 10 January, 1947. Note the Richard Byrd corner card. Adm. Byrd did not authorize this and did not approve of it, so it quickly was discarded and replaced with a corner card that reads:

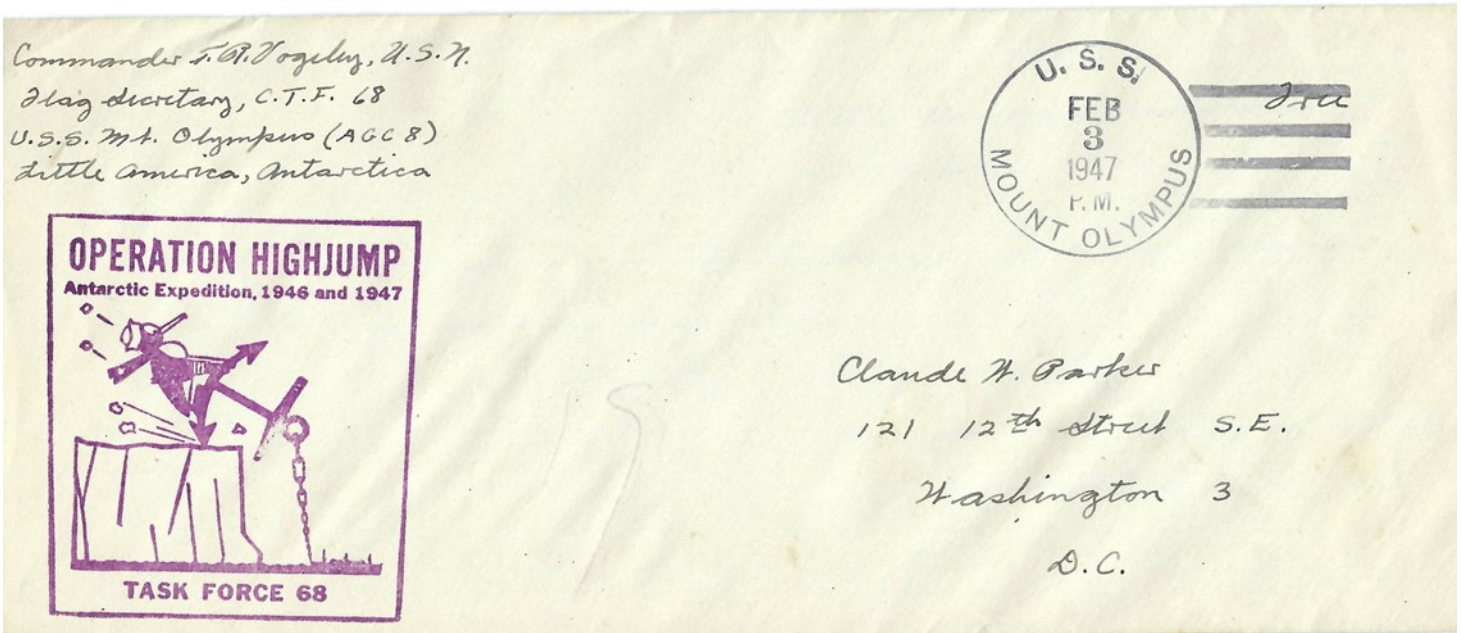
U.S.S. Mount Olympus
Flagship
Commander Task Force 68
Antarctica 1946-47

Continued on pg 7



L. J. Nickerson
 18 Atlantic Ave
 Amesbury, Mass.

Most of the mail sent by personnel on the ship was cancelled with the Type 2 cancellation device. This device is made up of a single circle with a missing arc segment at the top.



*Commander T. R. Vogeley, U.S.N.
 Flag Secretary, C.T.F. 68
 U.S.S. Mt. Olympus (AGC 8)
 Little America, Antarctica*

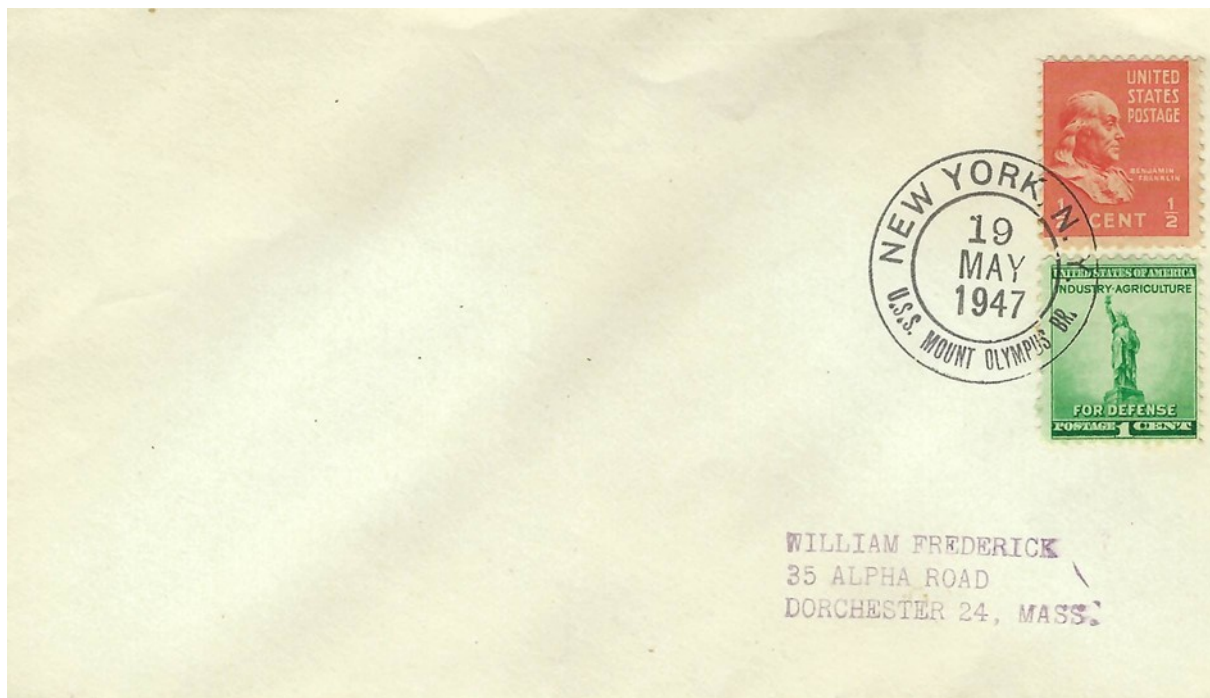
*Claude H. Parker
 121 12th Street S.E.
 Washington 3
 D.C.*

The task of overseeing the philatelic portion of Operation Highjump fell to CDR T. R. Vogeley, Flag Secretary of Task Force 68. The above cover bears Vogeley's signature and handwritten return address. Note that this cover is "free" franked. Quite unusual as all the other Vogeley covers in my collection are franked with regular postage stamps as are covers sent the members of the expedition.

ABOUT ZOOM: Please try to connect at 2:00 or shortly after. Once a show-n-tell or program is in progress, there is not a current way to notice that you are trying to log in.



Because the volume of mail to be serviced far exceeded what was initially expected, additional cancellation devices were requested resulting in the Type 3 and Type 4 cancellers. The above cover is cancelled with the Type 3. This cover also bears a Mailed At Little America (MALA) cachet. There are 5 different size MALA cachets. This is the Type C cachet.



Mount Olympus Type 4 cancellation. Post Highjump cover but the Type 3 and 4 cancellers were still in use to replace the damaged Type 1 and 2 devices.