



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 43, No. 1

First Quarter, 2007

Whole No.162

## Vice-President's Report

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It is surprising to me how fast time goes when I suddenly realize an annual report is due. It is even more of a surprise how fast the months roll by that require a Feature or Cover of the Month to be uploaded to the Web Site – even when consciously aware that time “accelerates” as we get older.

I have been doing this every month since June 1998, and February 2007 is the 100th posting. I mention this because the postings are an attempt to show diversity, and include as many aspects of CZ collecting as possible. The best source I can think of is from ‘Show and Tell’ at the various CZSG meetings across the country. Usually, the most interesting, and esoteric items are shown at the meetings. An example is January 2007 cover of the month provided by Bill Conroy, which had stamps totaling \$1884.50 catalog value. David Leeds had the only two existing crash covers from the 1946 plane crash that had individuals we knew aboard. He submitted those along with an account of the events at the crash scene. Bill Fall has contributed a number of covers with a CZ historical slant that are canceled at the Northeast Chapter meetings in Boxborough, MA. We are writing these up in the chapter newsletter (minutes of meeting), and would encourage others to submit write-ups from their meetings with images that could be posted on the Web Site. It would expand involve-

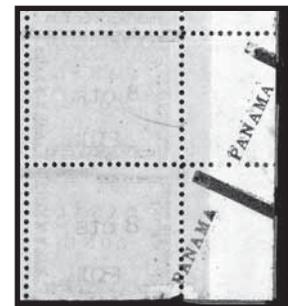
*continued on page 8*

## One PANAMA at Left Variety by Gary B. Weiss

The variety, one PANAMA at left (or right) is known on all of the Canal Zone overprinted map stamps of Panama (Scott Nos. 1-3, 11-15, 18-20). This variety, along with similar varieties, two PANAMAs at right or left, and three PANAMAs, are all due to shifts of the PANAMA overprint. The one PANAMA variety occurs only in the 1st, 5th, 6th or 10th vertical rows depending on the overprint setting. Because of the shift, the PANAMA overprint is not in the usual location. Although scarce, these varieties command only a small premium and appropriately are not listed in the Scott catalog.

At a recent auction, a rare full

sheet of Scott No. 14c, the 8c on 50c with brown PANAMA overprint, was sold; the author is aware of only one other intact sheet. These sheets are expensive as they contain the rare (10 printed) varieties of CANAL and ZONE in the *antique* font. What is even more remarkable is that due to a pre-printing paperfold, a portion of the PANAMA overprint is on the reverse (below rt). This results in two stamps, positions 81 and 91, with only one PANAMA at the left (below lt). This PANAMA is in the correct location as the missing PANAMA is due to a paperfold rather than the (more common) shift; this is the only documented example of this variety not due to a shift.



CZ 14c (front and rear) with One Panama at Left caused by pre-printing paperfold

## CZSG Regional Meetings

**WESTPEX 2007** Sat. Apr. 28th., 12:30pm at San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, CA . Our 38th annual meeting

**PHILATELIC SHOW 2007**, May 5th , Boxborough, MA. Contact Alan Bentz

**NOJEX**, May 26th, 2pm, North New Jersey. Contact Mike Demski

**APS StampShow**, August 9-12 Portland OR. Contact Len Lukens

**SEE MEETING PROGRAM FOR TIME.**

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**The Canal Zone  
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A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42**

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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**Canal Zone Study Group**

**Secretary's Report**

**John C. Smith**

**408 Redwood Ln.  
Schaumburg, IL 60193**

We start 2007 with 706 active members, that includes the 107 members that have not paid their dues. Hopefully, you have received your 2007 dues notice by now. The due's are STILL \$8.00 for regular membership. If you have not paid your dues yet please do so, it will save me from sending out reminder notices. You may even want to consider paying a year or two in advance and save yourself time and postage. Contributing members who pay at least \$15 and Sustaining members who pay at least \$25 will be recognized in the Third Quarter Philatelist.

**New Members**

- 2535 John Kaminski  
1736 Fairgreen Dr.  
Fullerton, CA 92833
- 2536 Rick E. Burdsall  
P.O. Box 1023  
Palatine, IL 60078-1023
- 2537 Jaun C. Jimenez  
8619 NW 68th St.  
Miami, FL 33166
- 2538 Sidney Wechter  
9211 SE 118th Loop  
Summerfield, FL 34491
- 2539 Henry Dolim  
420 Esplanade #2  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
- 2540 Harry W. Wyre, Jr.  
17030 Barn Ridge Dr.  
Silver Spring, MD 20906
- 2541 Paul W. Worth  
P.O. Box 366  
Manchaca, TX 78652-0366
- 2542 Harold A. Olsen  
165 Webster Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Address Changes**

- 0190 Glenn R. McQuiston  
22 Shady Hill Dr.  
West Warwick, RI 02893
- 0933 Arthur C. Dufner  
4722 E. Bell Rd., Apt. 2125  
Phoenix, AZ 85032-9372
- 1578 Michael A. Shapiro  
255 Alhambra Cir., Ste. 560  
Coral Gables, FL 33134
- 1810 Richard A. Colberg  
115 Bank Barn Ln.  
Lancaster, PA 17602-1579
- 1813 Dr. Gustin M. Welch  
364 Laurel Ridge Ln.  
Cataula, GA 31804-2859
- 1854 Malachy Schuck  
5 Rooney Ct.  
Glen Cove, NY 11542-2922
- 1932 Roger L. Listwan  
1701 Cumberland Ave.  
Sidney, OH 45365-7914
- 1987 Thomas S. Kurtz  
1514 Woodledge Cir.  
State College, PA 16803-1855
- 2090 Bruce I. Wingate  
5517 Coyote Falls Ct.  
Las Vegas, NV 89131-2066
- 2271 Phillip R. Beutel  
P.O. Box 20490  
Columbus, OH 43220-0490
- 2279 Richard C. Hosler  
P.O. Box 2878  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

- 2305 Wallace L. Rueckel  
2753 Pinecrest Dr.  
SE, Southport, NC 28461-8489
- 2522 Dennis F. Gilbert  
4109 W. 126th St.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250-4511

**Deceased Members**

- 0380 Richard K. Irvin  
1840 Thomas C. Peterson

**Reinstated Members**

- 2154 Raymond D. White  
818 South Marengo Ave.  
#110, Pasadena, CA 91106

**Resigned Members**

- 0597 Robert E. Lippert  
1498 Marjorie K. Blank  
1596 Charles F. Feingersh  
2223 Robert C. Royle

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**Winners**

At **THAMESPEX**, Waterford, CT, Oct. 2006, Robert Karrer, *Speedy Personal Service-One Way Special Delivery from and to the Panama Canal*. Grand award, Gold, APS Award for Best Exhibit by member and Thamespex Best Postal History Award. Jerry Craig, *Canal Zone Picture Postcards with Stamp and Postmark on the Scene*, Silver Award, AAPE Silver Award of Honor. Alan Bentz, *Walter Crosby*, Silver Award.

At **APS AMERISTAMP EXPO**, Riverside, CA, Feb. 2007: Each of the following three exhibits received single frame Prix d'Honneur Awards: Irwin J. Gibbs, *Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes and Canal Zone Coat of Arms Issue 1923*. Jerome Kasper: *SCADTA Postal History*. James Cross, Gold Award, *Use of Panama 1924 Issue in the Canal Zone*.

Congratulations to all the winners for their great work in advancing Canal Zone Philately.

**WANTED**  
**Sale Manager for**  
**CZSG 2007 Mail Sale**  
**Contact CZP Editor or**  
**Study Group Officer**

## Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

The fourth calendar quarter, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2006 was an active one for auctions of Canal Zone philately with at least a half dozen firms having offerings of reasonable merit and depth.

Submissions of CZ postal stationery were very strong. Some results are shown below while Irwin Gibbs has presented a separate article in this issue regarding an auction of fresh Canal Zone specimen postal stationery material; that information is not duplicated here.

The results shown below give first the final selling price of hammer plus commission. That total is followed in parenthesis by the catalogue value from the *2006 Scott's Specialized*.

1, used, XF \$605 (\$425) Rumsey  
1 var., PANAMA's 15mm long, OG, H, XF \$660 (\$600) Rumsey  
2, OG, H, F \$121 (\$250) Regency-Superior  
2, used, XF \$358 (\$175) Rumsey  
14a, ZONE antique, OG, H, barely F \$863 (\$1150) Harbour  
15, OG/TG, H, F CZSG 15.8b over-

print split vertically \$3738 (\$2600) Cherrystone  
57, OG, H, F-VF \$150 (\$300) Regency-Superior  
86b, CANAL inverted, TG, H, F+ in pair w/ normal \$660 (\$954) Rumsey  
157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, a pn and faint fingerprint on reverse VF \$7763 (\$7500) Regency-Superior  
157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, XF w/ margin \$8800 (\$7500) RA Siegel  
J3, OG, H, F \$463 (\$1000) RA Siegel  
CO9, OG, NH, CTO, F \$275 (\$275) Rumsey  
O8, OG, NH, CTO, light toning o/w F \$253 (\$650) Harbour  
OX2b, wmkd. U.S. Seal, NGAI, F \$207 (\$225) Regency-Superior  
U2b, head and overprint only, mint entire, VF \$1430 (\$1500) RA Siegel  
U2c, frame only, mint entire, VF+ \$1100 (\$1000) RA Siegel  
UF1a, (UPSS R4), mint entire, VF \$1438 (\$1300) Regency-Superior  
UX5, mint entire, F-VF pn's back \$1438 (\$1100) Regency-Superior  
UX6, mint entire, VF+ \$1100 (\$1050) Regency-Superior

-Zeppelin cover, F, Crist. 5/15/30 w/ C4 and C5x2 plus U.S. C13 added, all F or better via Havana and Lakehurst to Friedrichshafen. Sieger 64III \$1093 (\$n/a) Shreves  
-Zeppelin cover, VF, Crist. 5/2/36 w/ C11 and two U.S. adhesives added, all F or better,

Hindenburg flight Lakehurst to Germany. Sieger 409W \$575 (\$n/a) Shreves

The names and addresses of the auction firms which offered these lots are:

### Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers

119 W. 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

### Harbour Auctions

1954 Greenspring Drive, LL 18  
Baltimore, MD 21093

### Regency-Superior

PO Box 8277  
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

### Schuyler J. Rumsey

### Philatelic Auctions, Inc.

47 Kearny St. Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94108

### Shreves Philatelic Auctions, Inc.

14131 Midway Rd., Suite 1250  
Addison, TX 75001-9829

### Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.

60 East 56th St., 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

## Report on the 2006 Mail Sale

by Tom Brougham

The 34th annual CZSG Mail Sale closed on October 29. There were 140 bidders. 112 bidders were successful on one or more lots while 28 bidders won nothing.

This year's Sale was smaller than usual, with 606 lots being offered. The total catalog values and estimates for all lots was \$64,817.25. The 520 lots that sold realized \$38,358.60; this was 70.66% of their total catalog/estimated values. 86 lots with total catalog/estimate values of \$10,531.05 did not receive bids. This Sale made a profit for the CZSG of \$1,096.29.

The most popular lot was 606, a colorfully illustrated map of Panama & Canal Zone. It had 12 bidders. There was especially fierce competition for several high ticket items. Nice copies of 60a, UF1a and UX6 sold near or over full catalog.

### Income:

\$3,787.05 from commission on sales  
139.00 from sale of donated items  
349.00 from payments for postage by buyers

**\$4,275.05 total income**

### Expenses

\$1,305.26 postage  
982.01 catalog printing  
502.67 supplies  
388.82 insurance and bank charges

**\$3,178.76 total expenses**

## Next Year's Sale

We are currently looking for a Sale Manager for next year's Sale. After conducting three consecutive Sales, I need a rest. It's time to let someone else have this fun.

The good news for the next Manager is that CZSG has user-friendly software that aids in the conduct of the Sale. This software greatly reduces the need for repetitious data entry and provides internal checks that keep the records consistent. Bid entry and processing is easy and fast. Closing 'the book' is far simpler than the old-days. Invoices and vendor reports and their mailing labels are automatically prepared. There is an automatic 'pick and pack' report that helps expedite the mailing out of material.

The Sale Manager job requires a good knowledge of CZ material and a willingness to learn the basics about any CZ areas one does not collect. It is a time-consuming role and it has many details. It comes with the expectation (from consigners, bidders and the CZSG officers) that the job will get done in a reasonable time.

I am willing help the next Manager extensively with as much information and advice as he wants.

Additionally, I would be willing to handle the catalog printing and mailing out to members -- if no one else wants to volunteer for it. This is a 'mechanical' task that is now easier than ever to separate from the other tasks of the Mail Sale. All that is needed is a good email account (for moving the large data file of the catalog), access to cheap, good-quality Xeroxing service, and the manual ability to prepare a mass of envelopes for mailing.

## A remarkable Canal Zone Postage Due cover By George Campbell

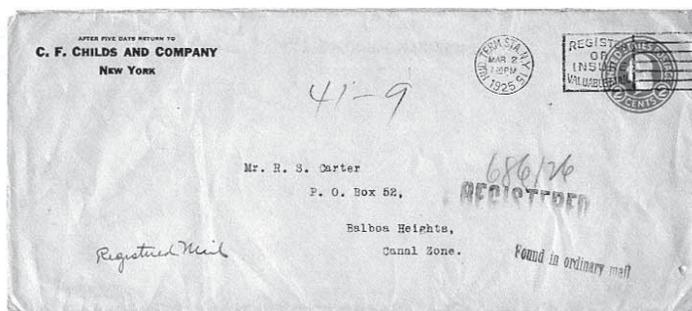
Covers bearing Canal Zone postage due stamps are quite scarce and eagerly sought after by collectors of postal history items. Figs below show the front and back, respectively, of a cover exhibiting a truly remarkable usage of Canal Zone postage due stamps from the Provisional Series of 1925. This cover bears a pair of Scott No. J15 and a block of four of No. J16 on back, reflecting the unpaid registry rate of 10 cents. This is consistent with the prevailing U.S. Postal Laws and Regulations (adopted by the Canal Zone) covering short paid registered mail. In instances of partially prepaid items, postage due, equal to the deficient amount, was to be assessed and collected

from the addressee [see Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999*, Revised Second Edition, pp 274-275].

The legal size postal stationery envelope is a type of the 1915-1932 series (Scott type U93). The two cent indicia satisfies the then-current single rate for First Class matter. The envelope was hand-inscribed "Registered Mail" on front, but apparently placed in the regular mail stream, as indicated by the "MAR 2 7:30 PM 1925 HUD. TERM. STA. N.Y. 15" machine cancel (which ironically includes the slogan, "REGISTER OR INSURE VALUABLE MAIL"). An alert postal clerk at the Varick St. Station must have noticed the endorsement, and processed the envelope as registered matter. This is evidenced by the purple handstamps, "Found in ordinary mail" and "REGISTERED" on front

(with penciled number "686126"), and purple CDS "NEW YORK (VARICK STREET STATION) - MAR 3 1925 - REGISTERED" on back.

The envelope was then forwarded to the Canal Zone, whereupon its receipt was documented with a pink "BALBOA HEIGHTS MAR 10 1925 REGISTERED" CDS backstamp. At this point, the Canal Zone postage due stamps were applied on back and cancelled with black "BALBOA HEIGHTS, C.Z. MAR 10 5:30 PM 1925 REC'D" handstamps. Note that this represents an early usage of these Provisional postage dues, which had been released only eight days earlier, on March 2, 1925. The addressee of the cover is R.S. Carter, noted stamp dealer "on the Zone." One can only wonder about the contents of the envelope, but the exterior has quite a story to tell.



## Richard Spielberg Recipient of CZSG Service Medal

The Canal Zone Study Group has selected Richard Spielberg as the eleventh recipient of the Alfred R. Bew Service Award. This award is named for the long-term Secretary of the CZSG to recognize his tireless efforts on behalf of the Study Group for nearly twenty years, beginning with the reorganization of the Study Group in 1967. Presented at the CZSG meeting at APS AmeriStamp Expo 2007 in Riverside, CA in February 2007, the award consists of a medal and certificate prepared with the awardee's name. The 55 mm diameter metal is struck in silver, overlaid in gold, and engraved with the name of the recipient on the reverse. The medal was illustrated in *The Canal Zone*

*Philatelist* 97:25, when the Service Award and the award to recognize exceptional exhibits of Canal Zone material were first introduced.

Previous recipients of the awards and the year in which the award was given are:

1990	Gilbert N. Plass James T. DeVoss Richard H. Salz
1992	Lawson P. Entwistle
1993	George W. Stilwell
1997	Richard D. Bates John Smith Richard H. Larkin
2001	Robert J. Karrer
2003	Richard Murphy

Richard Spielberg is the fifth editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* and second longest serving, beginning with the first quarter of 1998 until

present. Gil Plass was the first editor of the *CZP*, beginning with the first issue of reorganized CZSG in 1968 through 1987. A resident of southern California, Richard is a BioMedical Engineer who was brought up in New York City. Richard is interested in Canal Zone philately in general, with special attention to fly-speck varieties. He has been passionate in bringing a high standard to the *CZP*, and has consistently produced a quality issue distributed to members in a timely manner.

**Richard D. Bates, Jr.**

**Articles Wanted...**  
**Contact Editor**

# The Panama Line

By David J. Leeds and  
Alan P. Bentz

The following article is the third of a series on the history of the **Panama Line**.

## Sea Post Markings

The Panama Railroad Steamship Line (PRRSSL) ships carried fully commissioned Sea Post offices, modeled after Railway Mail Service offices, and were provided with postal marking devices for mail actually posted on the ship. Franking was accepted from any of the ports of call of the individual ships. Normally they were from the U.S. or CZ. If Port-au-Prince were a stop, Haitian stamps could be used. Strangely, but following a strict protocol, the stamps of Panama were not recognized. Sea post markings were in use from 1905 until termination of service. The first postal marking is Entwistle's SP-1 [9] **N.Y. & COLON/R.P.O.** with an RMS killer, as seen in Fig. 15. It was used from 1905 until 1908. (The designations are from Entwistle [9] along with his more readable images).



Fig. 15. SP-1 on 1907 Post Card (1908 Example)

These Sea Post markings, as in the first one above, show the direction of the vessel's travel, i.e. North or South (note that the direction is at the top in the 1907 dial center, and at the bottom of the 1908 dial center).

The second postal marking SP-2 is **N.Y. & CANAL ZONE/R.P.O.** The SP-2 obliterator had variations in the angle subtended by the N.Y. & Canal Zone. The North



Fig. 16. SP-2a NY & Canal Zone on 1911 Post Card (1910 Example)



Fig. 17. SP-2b NY & Canal Zone on 1910 Post Card (1912 Example)

one shown subtends and angle of 220° (designated SP-2a), whereas the South one subtends an angle of 240° (designated SP-2b).

The next obliterator had the wording: **U.S. SEA POST/**



Fig. 18. SP-3 on cover from *Cristobal* (date illegible) (1914 Example)

**CANAL ZONE** with no R.P.O. The killer shown in Fig. 18 is a "six bar vertical elliptical killer with graduated bars and a central circle with the Numbers 1-6. The six vessels of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line at the time (October 1, 1912 to early 1917) were assigned numbers. The assignments of killers No. 1-3 are not known, but they were for the *Advance*, *Alliance*, and *Panama*. Killer 4 was assigned to *Ancon*; 5 was assigned to the *Cristobal*; and killer 6 was assigned to the *Colon*. [Note: although, nominally No. 4 is for the *Ancon*, a post card is known with No. 4 being used on the *Advance*].



Fig. 19. SP-3 No. 4 *Ancon*



Fig. 20. SP-3a Used by ships of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line

P-3a which is actually somewhat smaller, and has a "1" in the killer bars.

In 1916-17 SP-4 was used on ships of the PRRSSL. It was similar to SP-3, except that it was 2½ mm larger. Fig. 20 shows an anomalous date in the center rather than outside the CDS. The killer also had number 1-6, but ship assignments are not known.

Many of the numbers in the killers are smudged as above right, so are not readily identifiable. The ranges of dates are based on the best available data. Some of the markings

*continued on next page*

are so seldom seen that accurate coverage is difficult. Also the ranges of use may not be identical for all ships, and it is possible that more than one marking may have been available on a given ship.



Fig. 21. SP-4 No. 6 killer with normal date outside and date in center

SP-5 is an even larger obliterator, reading **N.Y. & Canal Zone/R.P.O.** in sans serif caps with date, and NORTH or SOUTH in center four lines. The killer is similar to SP-3, but the number is not in a circle. Numbers 1-6 used with ship assignments not known. Ships then in use: *Alliance*, *Ancon*, *Colon*, *Cristobal*, *Gen. George W. Goethals*, and *Gen. W. C. Gorgas*.



Fig. 22. SP-5 (1) *Alliance* and Entwistle example

Another argument has been advanced that postal clerks took their marking devices with them as they transferred to other ships. Usage of an individual ship's postmark was also interrupted by assignment of the ship to other duties as during WWI and WWII.

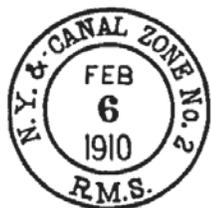


Fig. 23. Postal Clerk Handstamp

Entwistle's example in Fig. 23 was identified as a possible sea post clerk's private handstamp. It has been observed on a number of picture post cards from writers living in the Canal Zone or Panama. They were franked with either U.S. Franklin 1c of 1908-1910 issue, or Canal Zone 1c stamp.

Entwistle's Types SP-6 through SP-10 were not used by PRRSL vessels, so are not part of the Panama Line saga.

Obliterator Type SP-11 had both the ship's name and killer number. The killer number for *Cristobal* was No. 1, *Ancon* No. 2, and *Panama* No. 3. Use started about

1925 or 1926 and terminated northbound in October 1930. Usage ended for southbound voyages at later dates: *Panama* - May 1926, *Cristobal* - June 1932, and *Ancon* - July 1932.



Fig. 24. SP-11 *Cristobal* and *Ancon* Southbound



Fig. 25. SP-11 *Cristobal* and *Ancon* Northbound (latter with Haitian franking)

The killer was an eight bar elliptical killer with the number inset in the 4th and 5th bars. Use of this obliterator was terminated on the northbound voyages in October 1930, but was continued on the some southbound voyages as late as July 1932.

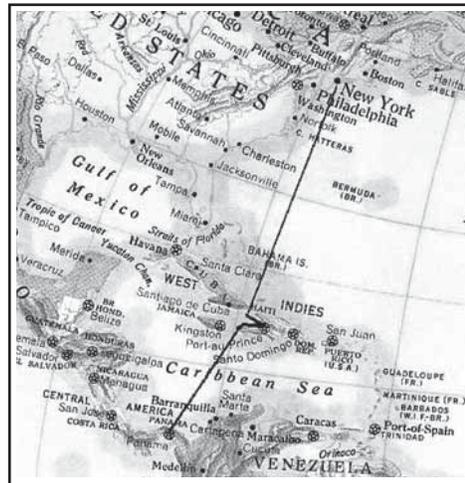


Fig. 26. Route from New York to Cristobal via Haiti

The trip from Cristobal to NY, or vice versa, took 8 days with a stop in Haiti in either direction. The time en route would have permitted sorting the entire shipment of mail. The workload would depend upon the amount of sorting the Canal Zone Post Office (CZPO) did before the sacks were loaded on the ship. Balboa and Cristobal should have had enough mail that they would have done a primary sort. The other small towns probably sent only a handful. Mail went out several times a week, so there may not have been too much time in the Zone for a primary sort. Some of the U.S. trains actually sorted out to carrier routes, but CZ

*continued on next page*

output may have been too diversified for that. They did have to do some work, since mail was shipped to at least three eastern ports: New York, New Orleans, and Mobile, with San Diego, San Pedro, and San Francisco in the west. It must have been a dispatcher's headache to decide whether Detroit was reached faster via New Orleans or New York. He had to know train schedules even before he knew mail-carrying ships out of the CZ. There must have been some priority order, even with the shipping lines that had mail contracts.

Sea Post service was a serious operation of the U.S. Post Office Department. There was strict adherence to regulations. Letters posted on the ships received proper, though frequently indistinct postmarks. Philatelic mail received "under cover" was marked "RECEIVED IN/SEA POST SERVICE UNDER COVER." The only deviation from this policy is found in the Maiden Voyage cachets of the

new ships launched in 1939 (see subsequent articles in the series). These were publicity schemes to advertise tourist passenger service on the three new ships. Strictly speaking they are not Sea Post, and most often have town cancels.

The discontinuance of the Canal Zone Sea Post service in about 1932 seems to correlate with the rise in airmail services. The latter began in 1929, but with the post stock market crash era, the economics got the air mail services off to a relatively slow start. After that, we see paquebot markings, with markings such as "SS ANCON PANAMA LINE/POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS."

### **Bibliography**

[9] Entwistle, Lawson P. *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, Second Edition, Handbook No. 9 Canal Zone Study Group (1992).

**This article to be continued.**

## **APS AmeriStamp Expo 2007 by David Zemer**

The CZSG meeting held on February 11th during the Winter APS show was attended by seven CZSG members. The highlight of the meeting was the award to our editor, Richard Spielberg (see separate article).

All attendees at our meeting received a CD with the 69 *Canal Zone Philatelists* that have so far been scanned and converted to searchable PDF format and placed on our homepage. Loading these files onto a modern Personal Computer cuts the time needed to search for any character set with Adobe Reader to about 5 seconds. During the meeting we discussed several topics including the following.

### **Creation of a new CZSG exhibit medal**

The CZSG awards a silver medal for outstanding philatelic exhibits related to the Canal Zone. In Riverside we discussed creating a bronze medal from the same die as the gold and

silver medals. We only have about one percent of our members exhibiting so we would hope that this medal would encourage more members to exhibit at smaller shows than the major ones and to strive towards improving their exhibits with an eye towards eventually winning a silver medal as well as major national or international awards. We, the officers of the CZSG, would appreciate your feedback on the creation of this new Bronze Medal Exhibit award and criteria for it.

### **Canal Zone Single Frame Exhibits at AmeriStamp Expo 2007**

Congratulations to Irwin Gibbs who had two award winning exhibits in the Single Frame Champion event: *Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes* and *Canal Zone Coat of Arm Issue 1923*; and to Jim Cross who's *Use of the Panama 1924 Issue in the Canal Zone* was awarded a Gold Medal.

### **Philatelic Exhibits on the CZSG website**

One of the benefits of attending major show like this one is that you

often are able to see philatelic material that is scarce or unique. This one was no exception as the Irwin Gibbs and Jim Cross exhibits featured many one-of-a-kind rarities, die proofs, or covers. In order to preserve these exhibits as well as educate other collectors our webmaster, Tom Brougham, has offered to post philatelic material on our website.

If you are interested in posting your exhibit please contact Tom.

### **The American Banknote Company Internal numbers and initials**

For me one of the most interesting non-Canal Zone exhibits was Decoding the ABNC Codes by Ross A. Towle. In his one frame exhibit, he gave the names and positions of the people who initialed much of the material found in the ABNC archives and he explained the evolution of the ABNC die proof numbering systems. He said, for example, that the C found on the die proofs in front of the early ABNC die proof numbers stood for the Consolidation of the ABNC, the National Bank Note Company, and the Continental Banknote Company in 1879.

Our members attending this show enjoyed themselves and we certainly hope that many more of our members will attend one of the many meetings that we will hold in different parts of the country this year.



**Attendees at APS AmeriStamp Expo 2007,  
CZSG meeting, from Left to Right:  
Sitting: David Zemer, David Leeds, Russ Samuels  
Standing: John Kaminski, Richard Spielberg,  
Richard Bates, Jim Cross, Dickson Preston**

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### Vice-President's Report

*Continued from page 1*

ment, and give wider distribution to exciting material.

Panama Line Series articles. The third installment appears in this issue. It is devoted to Sea Post markings. The next three articles will cover each of the new (1939 vessels) and their fates. The final one will include some first-hand accounts from travel aboard - including one of the sinking of the S.S. *Finance*.

Northeast Chapter. The regular meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the CZSG will be held at PHILATELIC SHOW in Boxborough MA on 5 May at 10 AM in the Ivy Room as usual.