



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 23, No. 2

Second Quarter, 1987

Whole No. 83

## President's Report

Richard H. Salz  
60-27th Avenue,  
San Francisco, CA 94121

I said, "I don't know what to write."

She said, "You'll think of something."

I said, "I have; you write it."

She said, "O.K., I will," and did.

(Continued on page 16)

## Reminder Mail Sale No. 16

This is to remind those wishing to place material in the sixteenth CZSG mail sale that the deadline for the receipt of lots is July 3, 1987. Please send via registered or insured mail to:

Richard H. Salz  
60-27th Avenue,  
San Francisco, CA 94121

## Official Postal Cachet

By John C. Smith

The United States Senate ratified the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty on Feb. 23, 1904. It empowered the United States to construct a canal through a ten mile wide zone and guaranteed the Republic of Panama its independence. It also granted the United States all rights, power and authority within the Canal Zone, to be held in perpetuity. Two days later President Theodore Roosevelt ratified the treaty on Feb. 25th, and the United States acquired the Canal Zone on Feb. 26, 1904.

On Feb. 26, 1934 the Canal Zone Postal Service commemorated the 30th anniversary of the acquisition of the Canal Zone by the United States. A special rubber hand stamp was issued at Balboa Heights Post Office, to be applied using magenta ink on all except air mail letters.

The cachet pictured in Fig. 1 was designed by Mr. E.J. Wilson of Chicago, Illinois. It reads, "The Canal Zone of the Isthmus of Panama was acquired by the United States on February 26, 1904."

Early on May 4, 1904 at 7:30 a.m., in an unpretentious ceremony, Lieutenant Mark Brooke and six American officials along with the French and Panamanian officials met at

the Old Grand Hotel. It was here that the actual delivery of the Canal works was signed over with Lt. Brooke signing the receipt, for the property and reading aloud the proclamation. The entire transaction took only a few minutes.

The cover shown in Fig. 2 commemorates the 30 years since that momentous day. This cover presumably was made up and sold by Mr. E.J. Wilson. The only difference in design from Fig. 1 is the message, "U.S.A. First Began Work May 4, 1904." The color of the cachet is printed in red and the lettering in the scroll is handstamped in black.

This scarce and unique cachet may be the only Official Canal Zone Postal Service cachet used for a second time on a privately produced cover.

If anyone can contribute any further information on Mr. E.J. Wilson or his cachets, please write John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Ln., Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Two articles on official cachets are in the back issues of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, p. 4-5, Whole No. 34, 1975 by Gilbert N. Plass and p. 9-10, Whole No. 71, by Lawson P. Entwistle.

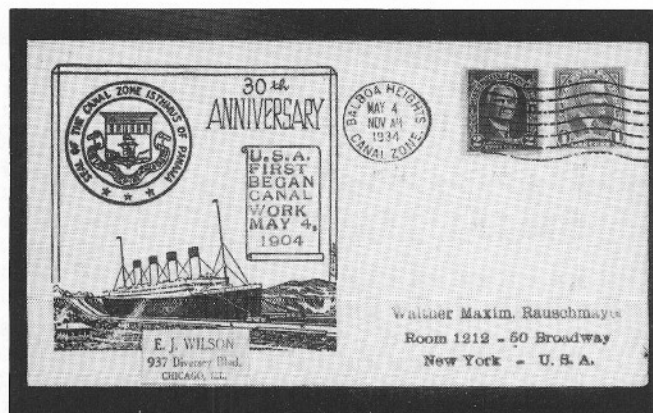


Fig. 1. Cachet for thirtieth anniversary of purchase of Canal Zone. Arrows point to Mr. E.J. Wilson's autograph and identification on art work.

Fig. 2. Wilson's special event cover commemorating thirty years since the start of work on the Canal.

## The Canal Zone Philatelist

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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

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Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Alfred R. Bew, 29 S. South Carolina Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to Gilbert N. Plass, Editor, Box 9973, College Station, TX 77840. Manuscripts must be double-spaced typed or printed copy. Glossy photographs must be supplied for figures of stamps or covers which must show clearly against black backgrounds. Photocopies are not satisfactory. If you need help, write to 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

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## Auctions

By Gilbert N. Plass

Since the last report on Canal Zone auctions, there have been only a few notable sales. One of these was a very unusual one, the highly specialized collection of the 2¢ red George Washington stamp, first issued by the United States in 1923, formed by Dr. Richard Mast. He included every variety that he could find of both the basic United States stamp as well as the Canal Zone overprints on this stamp. He had a unique error of the Canal Zone and scores of examples of the booklet panes from virtually every position. In the following list, the price realized is given with the catalogue price in parenthesis as listed in the auction catalogue. All items are unused and without serious defects unless mentioned otherwise. The auctioneer for the 2¢ Washington collection was John A. Fox, 141 Tulip Ave., Floral Park, NY 11001.

Dr. Mast's Canal Zone collection included: Scott No. 73, NE missing, \$90; 73, FDC, \$90; 84, pl. bl. of 8 with 5 pointed star, vf, tg, very rare, \$1300 (\$870); 84, pl. bl. of 6 with 5 pointed star, aver., sm. tear in selvage, \$900 (\$800); 84, pl. bl. of 6, \$500 (\$450); CZSG 84.1a, 8½ mm spacing in pr. with normal, f, \$90; 84a, b, CANAL only (2), ZONE CANAL (2) in bl. of 4, \$2500 (\$2200); 84b, ZONE CANAL, \$325 (\$300); 84c, horiz. pr., one without ovp. in bl. of 6, another stamp with Z only, CZSG 84.2c, and one with CAN ZONE, 84.2a, \$3300 (\$1750+).

CZSG No. 97.2, 11 mm spacing in bl. of 4, other with normal 9 mm spacing, f, \$210 (\$225+); 97d, ZONE only in bl. of 4, aver. perfs cut, \$2100 (\$2250); 97a, horiz. pr., one without ovp., aver., 10 known, \$1800 (\$1750); J15, used bl. of 4, f, \$70 (\$75); J16, pl. bl. of 6, tg, \$150 (\$200).

Scott No. 83a, booklet pane of 6, tg, \$150 (\$200); 84d, booklet pane of 6, Pos. I, \$190 (\$175); 101a, booklet pane of 6, two bottom st. with faint second CANAL, \$2300; 73, perf. P, f, \$150; 84, perf. P, aver.-f, light gum staining, \$110.

Steve Ivy Philatelic Auctions, Inc. 2121 N. Akard, Dallas, TX 75201, sold a number of Canal Zone stamps at their spring auction. These included: CZSG 16a.1, bl. of 4, 1 ct. 1 mm above bottom bar, newly discovered major type, first example offered at auction, \$325; 31c, booklet pane of 6, wax paper interleaving adheres, \$400 (\$550); 39e, inv. center, vf, nh, \$1500 (\$650); 48, \$400 (\$700); 67, waxed og, \$350 (\$475); 84b, ZONE CANAL, \$225 (\$300); 86b, CANAL inverted in bl. of 4, creased, trace of toning on back, \$650 (\$862); 94, vf, nh, \$425 (\$300); 95, vf, nh, \$200 (\$135); COI-7, bl. of 4, \$300 (\$441); J13, \$75 (\$70).

Finally our report includes two items from an auction by Daniel Kelleher Co., Inc., 40 Broad St., Suite 830, Boston, MA 02109: Scott No. J14, vf, og, \$360 (\$300); J15, f-vf, og, hr, \$66 (\$90).

## Fifteenth Mail Sale Report

Total sales for the 15th mail sale were \$87,331.00. This is the largest sale to date. There were 264 bidders (plus two late bids) of which 193 were successful and 71 were unsuccessful. The commission of \$8,733.00 less expenses of \$4,023.00 leaves proceeds for the CZSG of \$4,710.00.

Mike Demski drove down from New Jersey and Dick and Maggie Salz flew into Anderson, S.C. to help close the sale. After working six 12-14 hour days, we were ready to package; shipment was made on Oct. 14th. The Fair Play post office again did an outstanding job in dispatching the insured and registered mail.

It was very gratifying when many members wrote to express their thanks: "Thank you again for a very fine job in conducting the auction." (J.Y.) "Very happy with the items." (J.M.) "Sorry I didn't get more in the sale." (L.E.) "Thanks for the honest purchases." (J.N.) "Got the mail sale lots today and I am very pleased with them. I want to thank you for all the work you had to do with the sale. It sure is a pleasure to belong to such a fine organization. If only others in the philatelic world would take from our experiences there would be many more happy stampers." (H.D.) "I want to express my appreciation for all the work with its incredible amount of detail, which you and all of the sales team put in (and does every year)." (W.B.) "Once again you and your crew have done an outstanding job in setting up and conducting the sale; I am very pleased with the four lots received. Your grading was accurate and descriptions were most fair. I only wish some of the auction houses could do as well. It is things like this which make membership in the CZSG most valuable." (G.P.) "I can't wait until next year's sale." (W.W.)

Many thanks to my wife, Ginny, who had to put up with me in spring while I lotted material; then during the summer when I rewrote the lots and she typed the catalog, and then assisting with the collating and mailing. The final push was the closing, balancing books, writing invoices and packaging. Besides helping with all of this, she was also the chief chef for a week while the crew was here at Lake Hartwell.

A special thanks to the crew who came so far and worked so diligently in order to have all packaging ready for shipment on Oct. 14th.

Many thanks to the 45 members who sent an abundance of material and to the 264 bidders.

Copies of the prices realized are still available for a SASE. Copies of the catalog with prices realized are available for \$1.00. Write to: G.W. Stilwell, Rt. 1, Box 387-A, Fair Play, SC 29643.

Southeast Mail Sale Committee



## Overprints on U.S. Committee

Richard D. Bates, Jr., Chairman

P.O. Box 40583  
Palisades Station  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Not too long ago one of our CZSG members showed me several interesting items that I hope to illustrate over the next several months. The first of these ties in nicely with the short piece by Lawson P. Entwistle that appeared in *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, Vol. 22, page 29. That article described a partial double transfer on the U.S. 1¢ Franklin of 1922. The item illustrated here is an interesting double transfer on the 12¢ Cleveland with flat A Canal Zone overprint, Scott No. 76. The overprint was applied to the flat press version of the 1922-25 regular series, in this case Scott No. 564. The Scott Specialized Catalogue even lists a double transfer variety on this stamp, and identifies the position as 14404 UL positions 73 and 74. As this plate number was one that was overprinted in the first printing of this Canal Zone stamp, it seemed that all the pieces fitted together nicely.

A little closer checking indicates that things are not so simple. A good place to read a bit more about plate varieties is in the *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Stamps*, by Loran C. French and published by the Bureau Issues Association, Inc. in 1979. On pages 138 and 139 it lists plate varieties on 14404 on positions UL 63

and UR 2 as well as UL 73 and 74. All are double or triple transfers. But though these should in principle be available on Canal Zone items from these positions, the illustrations in French's book do not match the stamp illustrated in Fig. 1. There are three other plate varieties from known positions on U.S. No. 564, but these are all from plates that were not overprinted for use as Canal Zone No. 76 or 88.

But in addition to the listed plate varieties in known positions, there are 12 more listed as positions unknown, and one of these fits perfectly. It is given as No. 5, and described as a downward double transfer over the top quarter of the design. It was originally described in *The Bureau Specialist* of December 1935. The double transfer is quite distinct and evident to the naked eye on the actual stamp. It can be seen in the ED of United, in each letter of STATES, and in POS of Postage. It is clear in the space above Cleveland's head, and just below the circles in both the upper right and upper left corners. All doubling consists of a lighter version shifted slightly downward. All this indicates that this double transfer variety is now known for Canal Zone No. 76, first printing. Thus this variety must be on one of the four plates used for this overprinting: 14404, 14405, 14406, 14407. It is not known which of these plates nor which position on the plate has the double transfer.

I wish to thank Paul Kravitz for showing this item to me. I hope any other members with material that they would like to have included in these columns will send it to me.

## ARIPEX '87 Meeting & Surprise

Though small in numbers we had an enjoyable hour meeting attended by died-in-the-wool Canal Zone collectors at ARIPEX '87 on January 24 at Tucson, Arizona. The six members and two guests were treated to a beautiful showing of Canal Zone precancels and a \$46,000 (if genuine) collection of CZ fakes. But the highlight of the various presentations was that given by Gale J. Raymond of Houston, Texas who passed around a photocopy of a legal size airmail envelope franked with a 10¢ airmail stamp, CZ No. C48, and cancelled at Albrook Air Force Base on Feb. 24, AM, 1969. The "kicker" is the return address: T/Sgt (?) Peralta, A?-14440869, Det. 517, APO New York 09877. That APO address is EASTER ISLAND, and was in use from November 25, 1968 to January 31, 1971. The envelope is addressed to an army man in North Hollywood, Calif., who provides the following information: "I was on Easter Island and spent 12 months there in 1967-68. During the time I was there we used the Canal Zone stamps and postmarked at Albrook . . . I understand that later they did have a postal cancellation . . ."

So be on the lookout for a similar cover — it would make a nice addition to your collection.

Incidentally, another APO which routed their mail through the Canal Zone was APO 817, New Orleans, LA. This APO was located at Talara, Peru. My cover is franked with a 6¢ airmail stamp, CZ No. C8. Can anyone give us other examples of Canal Zone stamps being used outside the Zone?

R.H. Salz



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## Second Time Around The Canal Zone — U.S. First Air Dispatch

[This article first appeared in the *Chronicle of New Issues* (A Supplement to the *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*), sometime in 1921. From CZSG member Everett C. Erle we have received the following copy of this interesting report.]

"On six October, 1920, at 6:26 A.M. 1st Lieutenant Charles B. Austin, Air Service, U.S. Army, left France Field, near Cristobal, Canal Zone, in an attempt to accomplish the first flight by aeroplane from the Isthmus of Panama to Washington. He used a remodeled DeHaviland 4, the usual land machine and not a flying boat, which fact rendered his flight much more hazardous than if he had been able to land on the water. The front seat of his machine had been removed in order to permit him to carry extra gasoline, of which he had 220 gallons aboard. The first stop was to be at Kingston, Jamaica, a jump of about 550 miles, then via Havana and Miami to Bolling Field at Washington.

"At about the same time, two Navy hydroplanes left the Coco Solo Air Station, nearby, with Kingston as their final destination, several ships of various classes being sent out along the proposed line of flight as a safety measure. These hydroplanes flew about 200 miles toward Jamaica when they picked up storm warnings by means of their radio and returned to Coco Solo. Lieutenant Austin, however, having no radio outfit aboard, proceeded on his way and reached a point within 150 miles of Kingston when he ran head on into a regular West Indian hurricane. He attempted to drive through it, but the effect of the heavy rain on his propeller compelled him to desist and turn back. The heavy storm drove him out of his course, on returning, and he first sighted the coast far down in the 'San Blas Country,' but finally arrived at France Field at about 4:20 P.M., after a continuous flight of about 10 hours, in which he covered about 900 miles.

"Aboard this airplane was a package of mail to be delivered in Washington, consisting of 621 letters, 89 cards and 9 registered pieces, also 7 letters for Jamaica. Each of these pieces had been cancelled by the Cristobal postmaster with a special cancellation stamp, Fig. 1, made for this particular dispatch. Through a misunderstanding of the Postal authorities, the addresses on each of these pieces was not recorded.



Fig. 1.

"As soon as the canceling was finished, the [special cancellation] stamp was sealed, delivered to the head office in Balboa, and then turned over to the author, who proposes to send it to the Museum at West Point. When the plane was driven back by the storm, the mail was delivered to the Cristobal Postmaster for forwarding. He stamped each piece with a special stamp, Fig. 2, and then sent the lot of mail forward by the usual method.

AVIATOR ENCOUNTERED  
IMPOSSIBLE WEATHER  
CONDITIONS NEARING  
JAMAICA. COMPELLING  
RETURN. MAIL RE-DIS-  
PATCHED BY STEAMER

Fig. 2.

"The main object of this attempt was to advertise the Army and encourage recruiting, to show what the Army could do with the means at hand, and Lieutenant Austin's feat, while unsuccessful, is held by those who know, to be greatly to his credit and to the credit of the Army. — /s/ 'Rooky.'"

## Gold Rush Drawings

Through the courtesy of a West Coast collector, we are able to illustrate original artist designs prepared by Meade Bolton for the Gold Rush Centennial issue of 1949 (Scott No. 142-145). The four sketches are on 13 x 15 cm paper, the drawing measuring 10 x 12 cm. All are signed by Bolton and dated December 1948. This version, especially text and denomination, is very close to the actually issued designs.

Gary B. Weiss



Fig. 1. Drawing for Scott No. 142.



Fig. 2. Scott No. 143.



Fig. 3. Scott No. 144.



Fig. 4. Scott No. 145.





Fig. 1. Front of cover from Grenada.



Fig. 2. Back of cover from Grenada.



Fig. 3. Front of cover from St. Lucia.



Fig. 4. Back of cover from St. Lucia.

## Mail Into The Canal Zone By Lawson Entwistle

(Continued from p.5, Whole No. 82)

A registered letter from Grenada to Empire still has the message enclosed, Figs. 1 and 2. Although the cancellation shows "G.P.O./Grenada, B.W.I.", the letter is headed St. David's, Piedmontagnes, P.O. The letter states "we are perishing over here on account of the war . . . even matches we have to pay dearly for it." The mailing date is May 12, 1916, and the postage paid by a 2d and 2½d King George V stamps. The front has the Grenada registry label and a large "R" in an oval.

The letter was received at Cristobal on June 4th marked by the scarce type Rg-15 and arrived the same day at Empire (type Rg-12). The next day it was forwarded to Paraiso, shown by two strikes of Empire type Rg-12 and one of Paraiso, same type.

An ordinary letter was mailed from Castries, St. Lucia, to Corozal on June 16, 1905, with three copies of the ½d and one of the 1d of the King Edward VII type, Figs. 3 and 4. It first arrived at Colon on June 26th, as indicated by a red backstamp, and was delivered to the Cristobal P.O. on the 27th

(type Hs-1a in red, backstamp). On the front is the Corozal type Hs-1c in blue, dated June 28th, and on the reverse, the Corozal Received, type Rc-1, dated June 27th. All are desirable postal markings.

The letter was forwarded to Empire and marked on the front with type Hs-1c, dated June 28th, in black.

## Early Dates

New earliest reported dates have been received. Keep your postal stationery catalog up-to-date by making the changes that are published in the *CZP*. Tom Saathoff reports the UPSS No. 34 and I apologize for having lost the name of our member who supplied the other two dates. Thanks to all for the new information.

UPSS No. 11, c/c Fort Sherman, May 5, 1926

UPSS No. 34, December 16, 1932

UPSS No. S16 March 25, 1926

R.H. Salz

## New Zeppelin Cover

William Mathews reports a new Graf Zeppelin cover from the Canal Zone. It bears Canal Zone No. C7 (5¢) and C10 (15¢) and the U.S. 50¢ Zeppelin Century of Progress stamp. The cover is postmarked at Cristobal and again at Miami. On this flight the Zeppelin flew from Miami to Akron to Chicago to Akron to Germany. This cover was flown on the Miami to Akron leg. The cover is marked to be flown to Germany, but it was not sent that far as it did not bear sufficient postage.

## First Day Cachets

Rudy Vidaurri calls attention to an error in the listing of cachets for the 15¢ "Mule" stamp (p. 28, Whole No. 81, 1986). The cachet is credited to Al Sprague and it is stated there that 3,500 were printed. Mr. Vidaurri writes that this information is in error as the design is his own hand drawn sketch of the "Mule" to which he added the number 27, as his birthday is Aug. 27th. He prepared 300 envelopes, less some spoilage. The principal color used was green to match the stamp, but several other colors were used (red, blue, and purple) as requested by the buyers.

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## U23 Albino Error

In a recent APS circuit book, an example of Scott No. U23 (UPSS No. 88) was discovered with an albino surcharge. The envelope is unused but addressed, folded, and has the flap stuck down. These defects are minor when one considers that this may be the last postal stationery error from the Canal Zone, as the revalued 13¢ envelope along with Scott No. UX21 were the final items of stationery issued.

Gary B. Weiss

## Elections

Election of officers and directors for the 1988-89 term will take place this winter. In accordance with the by-laws of the CZSG, Article VI, Section 2, the nominating committee is hereby appointed: Everett C. Erle, Chairman, 9877 Elmar Ave., Oakland, CA 94603; Ian R. Samuels and Irwin J. Gibbs.

Once again here is your chance to make changes in the various offices: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three directors. Those of you who yearn for a title, wish to help paddle the canoe, or just rope horses, will please throw your hat in the ring by contacting the chairman.

R.H. Salz  
President, CZSG

## Winner

The following letter was sent to George Stilwell and is quoted here in its entirety. It is most interesting to hear from members residing in foreign countries and it is my hope that this letter will bring in a few more.

R.H. Salz

"Dear George:

"Thank you for the acknowledgement of my letter with the money for my mail sale purchase.

"Well, I am in the German Air Force but not in the flying branch. I have always been in the NATO Integrated Air Defense System working mainly in the respective Intelligence Branches. Since July of this year I am an Air Force instructor at the German Army Air Defense School.

"As far as my CZ collection is concerned I have exhibited it seven times since 1984, six times at various local shows with three times a Vermeil and three times a Gold. *Local show* in Germany means that in every state, like Bavaria or Schleswig-Holstein where I live, there are about four to five such shows per year. You have to qualify with at least a Silver for the next higher level, a *regional show*. Normally exhibitors wait for at least one Gold at the local level, and if you have won three Golds you are no longer allowed to compete in a local show — you have to compete in a regional show. Regional shows are only one per State every year. On my first entry at a regional show, the NORDPOSTA '86 in Hamburg, I won a Vermeil.

"The next step is participation in a *national show* of which we have only one every two years in Germany. Next year there will be such a national show and I think I will try to participate, as the Vermeil in Hamburg was a qualification.

"As far as I know my CZ collection is the only one for exhibition here in Germany. Maybe I am going to build another one with material of the time 1904 to 1924, as my present one covers the period of 1924-1979.

"Well, that is a little view on philately in Germany. I hope that you enjoyed hearing some details from a German CZ collector.

"I wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a peaceful 1987.

Yours truly,  
/s/ Gernot Stephan  
West Germany"

## Canal Zone Study Group

### 1986 Financial Statement

Income:	1986 dues:	Regular .....	\$ 5,267	
		Contributing, Sustaining .....	4,362	\$ 9,629
Sales:	Book — Canal Zone Stamps (Note) .....	6,056		
	Other publications .....	831		
	Advertising — CZP .....	390		7,277
Interest .....				1,325
Mail sale proceeds (Note) .....				4,710
Refund of AMERIPEX guarantee .....				250
Donation .....				15
		Total Income .....		23,206

Expenses:	CZP printing, postage, editorial .....	3,435		
	Membership, publicity, officers' expenses .....	1,831		
	Book — Canal Zone Stamps (Note) .....	50,088		
	Reprints — for sale .....	144		
	CAPEX .....	62		55,560

Expenses over income ..... (32,354)

Balance, January 1, 1986 .....	40,997
Balance, December 31, 1986 .....	8,643

Net assets, December 31, 1986:	
Checking (NOW) account .....	16,235
Less 1987 dues received in advance .....	(7,592)
Balance, as above .....	8,643
Reserved for Publication Fund .....	(3,000)
Unrestricted amount .....	5,643

At December 31, 1986, all bills were paid.  
Dues are reported as income in the year to which they relate.

Note: Mail Sale No. 15 results:	
Lots sold .....	\$ 87,331
Less payments to sellers .....	(78,598)
	8,733

Expenses:	Printing .....	\$2,076		
	Postage .....	1,420		
	Insurance .....	158		
	Miscellaneous .....	369		(4,023)

Net proceeds to CZSG ..... \$4,710

Note: Book — Canal Zone Stamps:	
Total Cost .....	\$84,686
Sales to date .....	(9,980)
Net cost .....	\$74,706

Richard F. Larkin, Treasurer

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**President's Report —**  
(Continued from page 9)

A philatelist's wife is a happy soul  
For her husband is quiet as a mole  
His tongs are ready, his light is right,  
He's got a brand new stamp within his sight  
Will it be the fabulous one  
That Scott decrees there just ain't none?

A philatelist's wife is a knowing one  
She said the stamp might be worth a ton  
Check perforations, check the paper  
The overprint might be a foolish caper  
And if nothing else really works  
Try phoning the other experts.

A philatelist's wife is quite a woman  
For she does everything she can  
Searches for his glass, cooks for his friends,  
Reads *Stamp Collector* and *Linn's* for  
recent trends  
Washes his shirts, presses his pants  
And never, never, licks his stamps.

A philatelist's wife is greatly undone  
When hubby seems to have such fun  
Licking the hinges, cutting the mount,  
Nothing else in the world seems to really  
count  
Often forgets to drink and eat  
For stamps become his daily meat.

**BUT**  
A philatelist's wife is a sorry thing  
She never knows what the stamp will bring  
Shoes for the baby, a hat for church,  
Must it always be she that's left in the lurch?  
For ever since they tied the knot  
His hand has been in her teapot.

**CZ #23G (2¢ Red & Black)  
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**Postage Due  
Matchstick Variety**

Both the 1¢ and 15¢ postage due stamps of the 1932-41 series are known with the large numeral(s) devoid of color in the center, CZSG No. J25.1 and J29.1. This same type of variety is known on United States stamps including the 12¢ Americana stamp. William H. Hatton explained how this variety occurs in *Linn's Stamp News* for Oct. 20, 1986.

On engraved plates the ink is applied to the entire plate, in the recessed engraved lines and on the surface where there is no engraving. The excess ink is then wiped off so

that it only remains in the recesses of the engraving. Originally this task was done by hand, but more recently a mechanical process uses a large wiper blade rather like the one on your car. If the blade presses too tightly against the plate, it actually scoops out some of the ink from the middle of the numerals. These are the widest engraved lines on the stamp and are the most likely site for this to happen. As more or less ink may be removed from the numeral, this is not a constant variety. Some examples were illustrated in our last issue.

Gilbert N. Plass

**CANAL ZONE**

Unwatermarked

1906-07



1909



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