

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

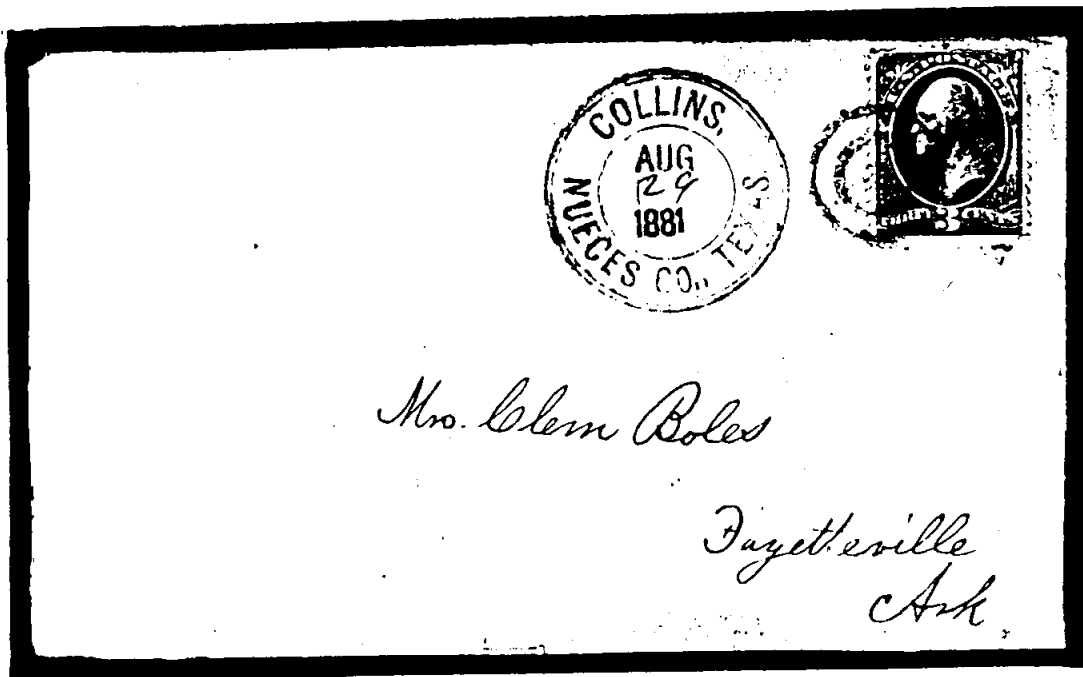


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Illustrated on the front page is a 33mm., black, triple circular duplex handstamp, with the two line target killer. It is also enhanced by being a county (NUECES CO.) postmark. For further information relating to this cover see R.H. Stevers article on the "Brush Country Philatelist" in this issue.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$10 per year payable to Secretary-Treasurer

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



In the last issue of the Journal I announced publication of the "Postal History of El Paso" by Richard Wadsworth. The response was most gratifying, and our estimate that thirty copies would meet the demand was right on target. These 30 copies are now exhausted, so unless you acted promptly, you have missed out on a definitive treatment of this West Texas County.

Vacancy

T.P.H.S. ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER AND TRADING SESSION

The Annual Fall Meeting and Trading Session was held Saturday, Oct. 27th, 1990, at the La Quinta Inn, in Waco, Texas. From 9AM in the morning, until 3PM that afternoon, the small but enthusiastic group of members examined, then traded, or sold their extra Texas Postal History covers. Everyone seemed to find something new for their collections. Next time, why not be the one who comes away with that special prize cover? Plan now to be on hand for the Annual Spring Meeting and Trading Session. Watch your Journal and the Presidents Page for the announcement of the time and location.

NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

It may seem silly, or even ludicrous, to appeal so soon after taking responsibility for another term of office, but the organization has an urgent need for more volunteers. We need volunteers who are willing to write articles, volunteers who would be willing to serve as officers of the Society, and most urgently we need someone who is capable and willing to edit and put out The Texas Postal History Society Journal. While the job is getting done; there is plenty of room for improvement, and to someone with ideas it offers a real opportunity to up-grade your Journal to a first rate publication. We have a roster of great members. We have a worth while organization. Won't you be the one who volunteers to make it even greater by lending your talents in what ever capacity you can?

SHOWING TEXAS EXHIBITS AT A REGIONAL TEXAS SHOW.

The suggestion has often been repeated, that the T.P.H.S. members should exhibit more Texas material. This proposal is most exciting. I support it completely. However, in order to avoid disappointment and possible embarassment it would seem wise to obtain commitments from T.P.H.S. members who will present their exhibits. Who is going to volunteer?

BRUSH COUNTRY PHILATELIST

by

R. H. Stever

Would you believe that there was once a town in Texas by the name of Collins? And would you believe that Collins existed for only 14 years (1878-92) and that it reached a population of 2,000? Would you believe in its heyday Collins was the most important community between Corpus Christi and Laredo? And could you possibly believe that one of the 2,000 souls in this South Texas brush country town was a stamp dealer with an international clientele? Or that he carried on this brisk business, not in his own name, but with a "nom de plume"? Believe it or not, it's true! And believe it or not, there is a lot more to what is truly a fascinating episode in Texas history and Texas postal history.

Even in the early days visionaries could see the economic potential to be realized from trade with Mexico. A New Yorker named Uriah Lott came to Corpus Christi in the early 1870's. His primary interest was railroads and he proposed building one across the untamed Nueces Strip to connect Corpus Christi with Laredo. On March 18, 1875 Lott chartered the Corpus Christi, San Diego and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railway. Construction began with a ceremony on Thanksgiving Day, 1875, with the driving of a golden spike. (Actually, it was a gold-coated spike which was stolen that night!)

The railroad reached Banquete, a distance of about 25 miles, before Lott's company ran out of money. The first train to Banquete ran January 1, 1876 and was proof that the project was very desirable indeed. Richard King (of King Ranch fame) and Mifflin Kenedy (Kenedy County named for him) came to Lott's rescue and provided financial help for further construction to San Diego by 1879.

Back in 1831 the Charco de los Preseños Grant was filed and certified to Marcelino Lopez at Victoria, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico. One requirement was that the land have someone living on it. Thus a small Mexican village of jacales was built on the northeast side of San Fernando Creek in 1832. Later, in 1846, Henry L. Kinney laid out trade routes between Corpus Christi and Laredo and also Corpus Christi and Castroville. His routes passed through the Mexican ranch village of Los Preseños.

The railroad builders were following Kinney's route to Laredo. It was towards Los Presenos that the Corpus Christi, San Diego and Rio Grande was being built. However, in 1878 the Los Preseños Grant was subdivided. N. G. Collins bought the

northwest portion of the grant and laid out a town, which he named Collins, on the southwest side of San Fernando Creek opposite Los Preseños. He made a deal with the railroad by giving them half the townsite if they would build to Collins. So the railroad came to Collins, some 40 miles west of Corpus Christi in western Nueces County. With postal service now by rail, many families from Los Preseños and elsewhere (Lagarto, Nuecestown, etc.) moved to Collins. And the town grew in population and importance.

Collins' post office began operating in the fall of 1878. Stephen R. Peters was named postmaster on September 25, 1878. James Hobbs succeeded Peters on June 16, 1879, followed by George Hobbs on February 28, 1882. The Hobbs brothers had a retail store in Collins which may also have included the post office. Figure 1 shows an 1881 Collins postmark.

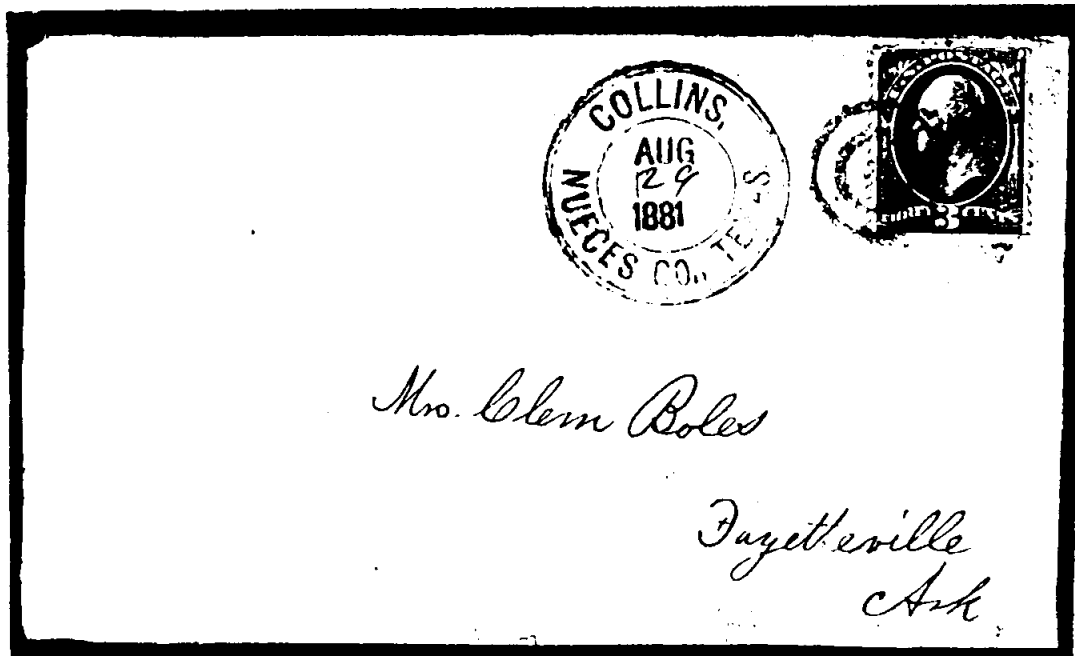


Figure 1. Early Collins double circle postmark with county name.

Another Collins resident was Frederick B. Nayer, whose photo is shown in Figure 2. Nayer was born in Alsace-Lorraine as Frederick Bernard von Nehr. He was brought to this country in 1865 at the age of nine and the name was changed to Nayer, an English version of his German name. He grew up in Minnesota, attended college there, and graduated as a civil engineer. He arrived in South Texas after working in South America and took a job as a school teacher in Collins. (Engineers in those days could not command the salaries and "perks" they can obtain today.) He was a well-educated man - fluent in five languages,

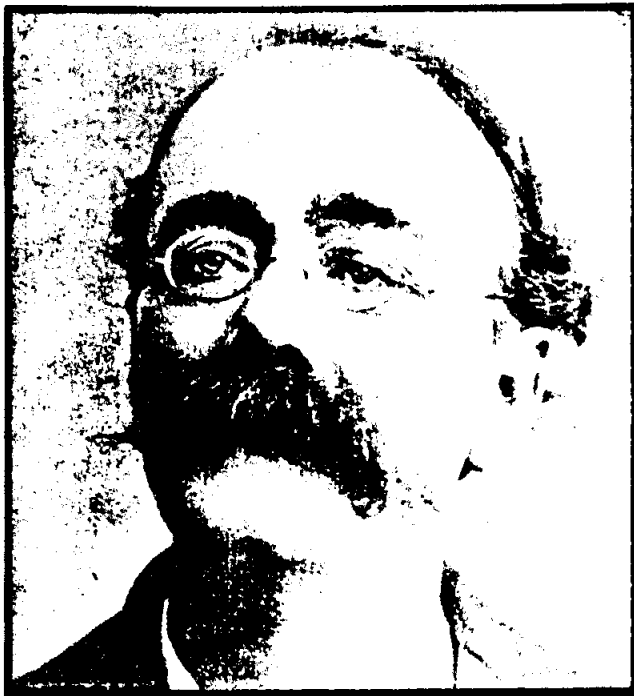


Figure 2. Frederick B. Nayer, circa 1910.
Only known photo of Mr. Nayer.

played three musical instruments, and reportedly had several hobbies, one of which was philately. For some unexplained reason, though, he carried on his philatelic pursuits, which included being a stamp dealer, in a name which was a slight alteration of his actual name. Instead of Frederick B. Nayer he was known as Frederick B. Noyes to the stamp world. When the American Philatelic Society was incorporated in late 1892, Frederick Noyes was on the roster as member number 277 and on November 13, 1896 he was elected first president of the Texas Philatelic Association.

Figure 3 shows a Noyes angled corner card from Collins, Texas used in 1887 on which he advertises as a "Dealer in Rare Postage Stamps". He also had two types of horizontal return address envelopes, a small type on a small white envelope and a similar larger type on a larger blue envelope. These are 1888 and later versions, less exotic and no doubt less expensive to print. Many of the Noyes covers went overseas. The author owns Noyes envelopes addressed to England, France, Germany, Austria, Turkey and Argentina, as well as domestic uses.

The Tex-Mex was not the only railroad project in the mill. The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway was chartered in 1885. This railroad, the SAAP, was popularly known as the "SAP" (now it's the Southern-Pacific). Building southeast out of San Antonio it bypassed Lagarto and forked at Mathis. One branch went more easterly to Aransas Pass and the other southwesterly where it crossed the Nueces at Sandia. Builders of the SAAP included Uriah Lott, who was its original promoter. They proposed building to Collins where the SAAP would intersect the Tex-Mex. However, N. G. Collins and other leading residents could not agree to the railroad's demands. The two sides were only \$1,000 apart and the failure to meet this relatively small

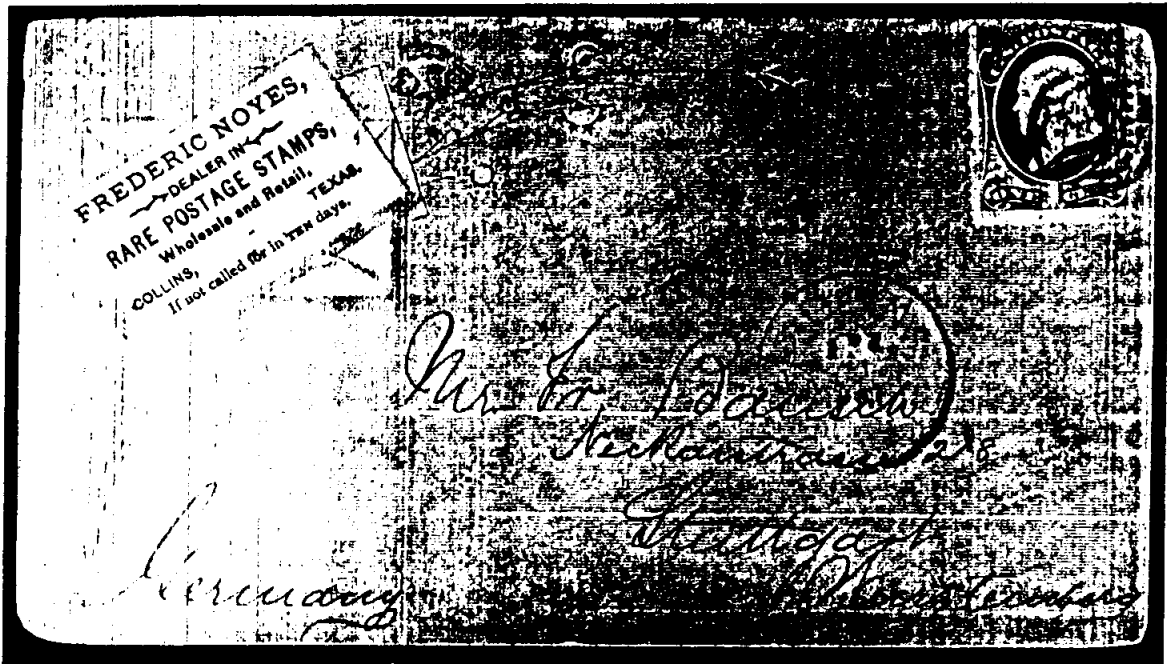


Figure 3. Fancy "Noyes" cornercard. Note the flower design at top and left side.

amount signaled the eventual demise of Collins. The SAAP bypassed Collins and intercepted the Tex-Mex at a watering station about 3 miles to the west.

Richard King's son-in-law, Robert Kleberg, along with Mifflin Kenedy and John B. Armstrong, now entered the picture. They could see the promise of a new community where the two railroads intersected. They purchased some 23,000 acres around the watering station. Much of this land had been previously condemned for the Tex-Mex construction. Frederick B. Nayer and Frank Ellis, who later became partners in a real estate business, were hired to sell town lots.

The new town was named Kleberg in honor of Robert Kleberg. The post office, though, was still in Collins in the Phil Hobbs hardware store even though George Hobbs had moved his store -- the entire building, lock, stock and barrel -- to Kleberg. In fact, everyone had the same idea, i.e., to physically move their homes and businesses to Kleberg. Collins postmaster, Phil Hobbs, had to go to Kleberg to pick up the outgoing mail and the residents of Kleberg had to go to Collins to get their incoming mail. This was an awkward situation which caused a lot of grumbling.

So it was decided the best solution would be to apply for a post office at Kleberg. However, the application was denied because there was already a Kleberg, Texas in Dallas County and because the town was too near to Collins to warrant another post

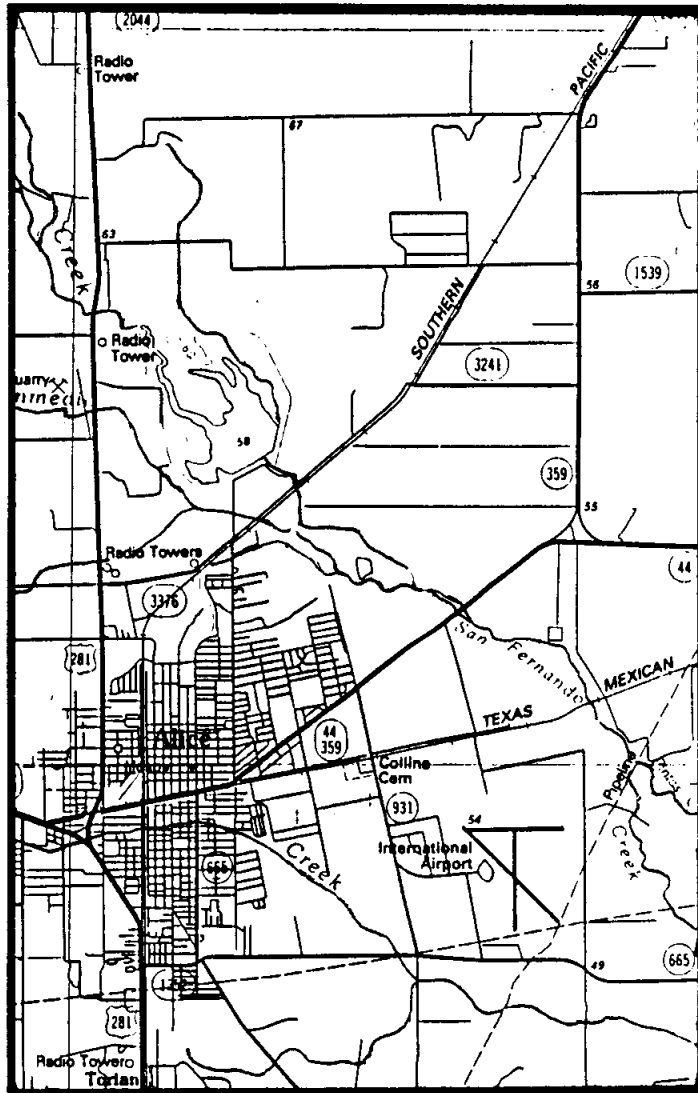


Figure 4. Modern day map of the Alice area. Note Collins cemetery. The town was on the south side of San Fernando Creek and Los Preseños on the north side. From U.S. Geological Survey Map, 1985.

office. So the powers that be in Kleberg decided they would have to provide proof to the Post Office Department that Collins was fast becoming a ghost town and they would have to come up with a new name that would be acceptable.

Several more buildings -- churches, stores and residences -- were moved from Collins to Kleberg. Still wanting to honor Robert Kleberg, a suggested name of "Alice" after his wife, Alice King Kleberg, was sent to the postal authorities, along with a report on the demise of Collins and the growth of the new town. The application was approved and Frederick B. Nayer was named Alice postmaster on August 22, 1888. Cover evidence suggests the newly authorized post office at Alice was not immediately set up. Perhaps this was because Phil Hobbs' store in Collins, where the post office equipment was located, had not yet been moved to Alice. Covers posted by Nayer, alias Noyes, with his Collins printed cornercard exist for about another year, i.e., late 1889. The Alice post office was finally opened in the spring of 1890 and the post office at Collins was officially discontinued on February 26, 1892. Figure 4 is a map of the Alice-Collins area.

This interim period when the Kleberg mail had to be taken to Collins produced some of the most interesting Noyes covers from a postal history standpoint. Figures 5, 6 and 7 posted Nov 1888, Dec 1888 and Sept 1889 respectively, are typical examples. Each

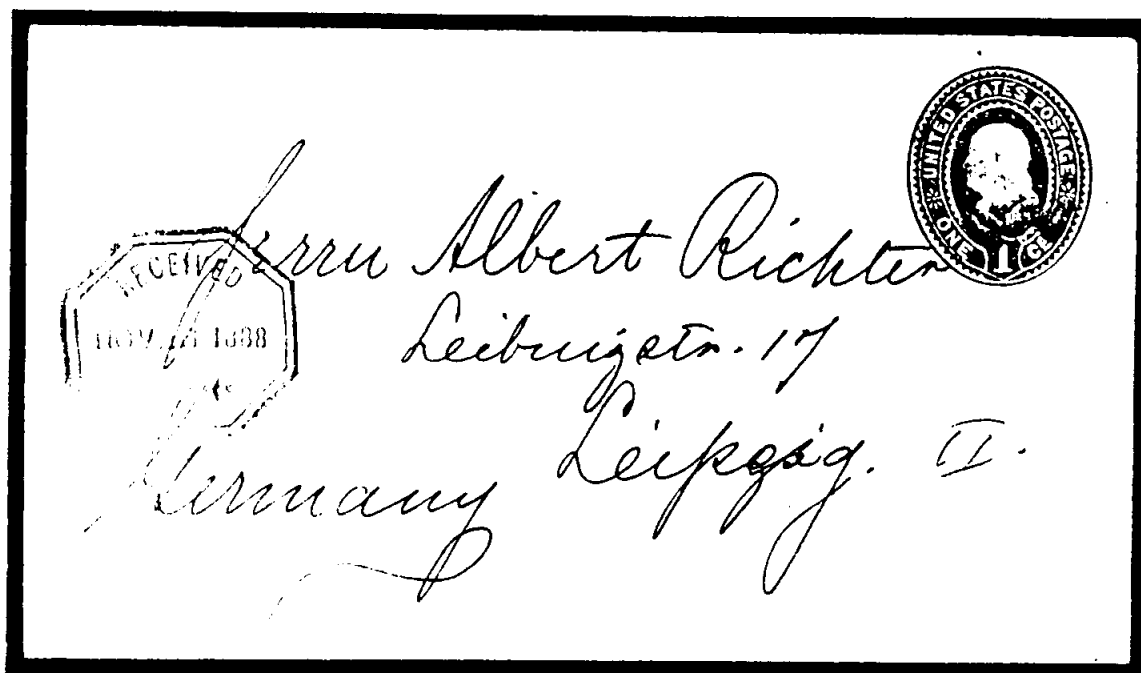


Figure 5. Octagonal Collins "Received" handstamp on 1¢ entire to Germany.

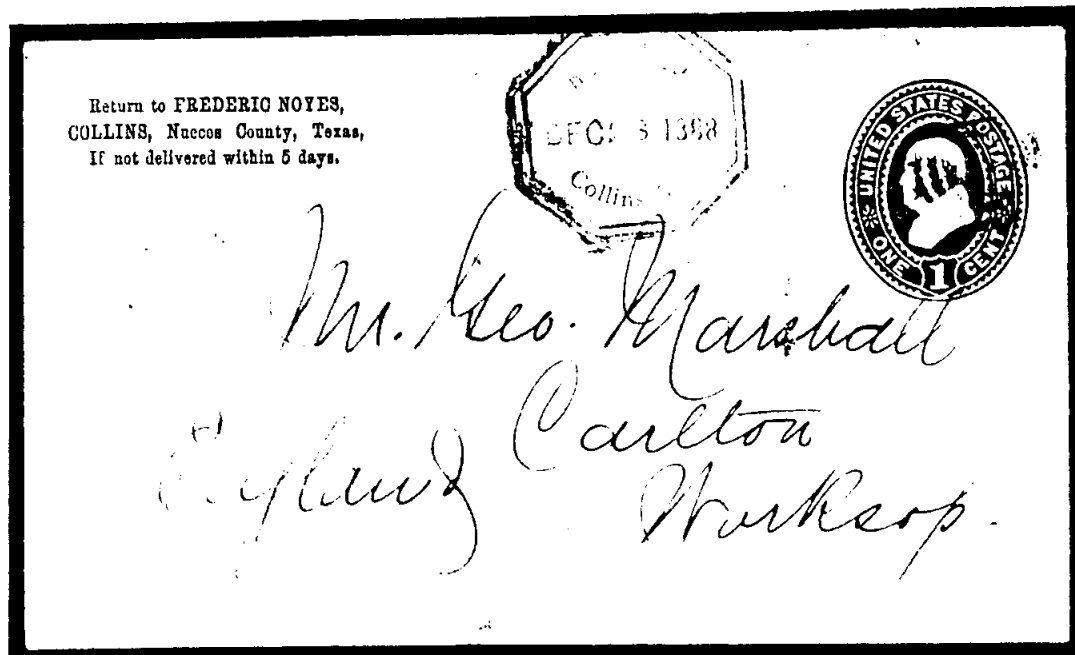


Figure 6. Cover similar to Figure 5 addressed to England. Note Noyes printed cornercard.

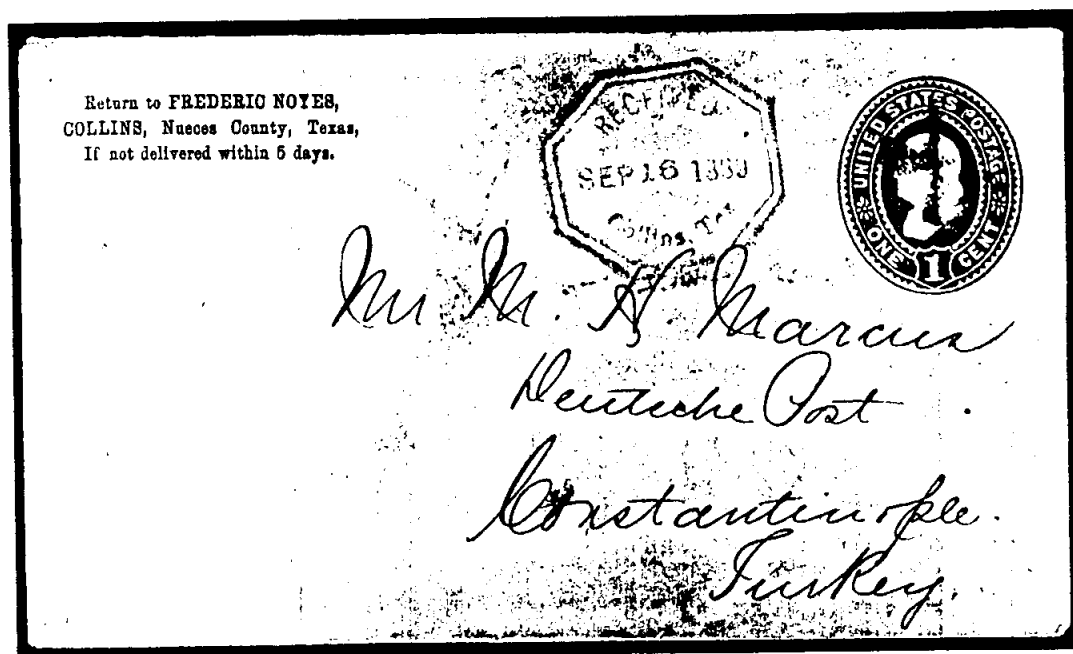


Figure 7. Noyes directed this cover to Turkey to travel via Deutsche Post.

has an overseas addressee. And each travelled for only one cent. How can this be? The Universal Postal Union rate to member countries was 5 cents for a single weight letter. Note that the octagonal Collins handstamps (they are purple) say "Received". That's because the letters actually originated in Kleberg, now Alice, and were taken to the Collins post office for mailing. The "Received" is tantamount to a "Way" marking. Nayer, alias Noyes, actually lived in Alice at this time and was probably using up his old Collins stationery. Why are there no U. S. exchange office or foreign markings on these letters? After the inception of the UPU, countries of origin kept whatever postage they collected on a fully paid letter and the destination country merely delivered the letter. It was a simpler system than before when there were complicated and often confusing accounting procedures. Each of these covers (Figures 5, 6 and 7) is a relatively pristine item, i.e., not roughly opened or even slit with a knife. Their flaps still have "original gum" and they thus travelled unsealed and no doubt contained printed matter such as an advertising card or price list sent by stamp dealer Noyes. Thus they could go overseas for a penny as third class printed matter. There are no markings, front or back, other than the Collins "Received" on Figures 5 and 6. Figure 7, however, was directed by Noyes to travel via "Deutsche Post" to Turkey and has a "Constantinople Deutsche Post" receiving mark on the back showing arrival there on October 5, 1889.

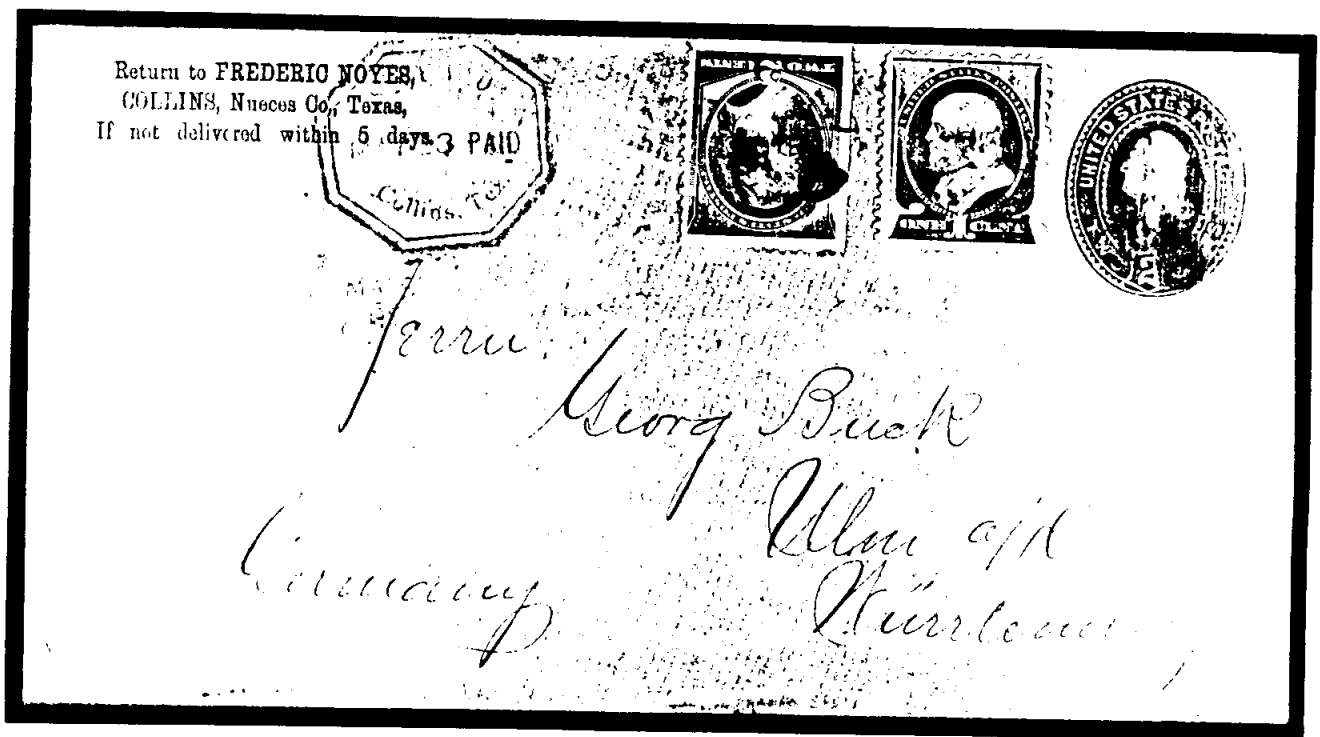


Figure 8. Note "PAID" in Collins "Received" handstamp. This was a fully paid UPU rate (5¢) letter.

Figure 8 shows a Noyes cover with a Collins "Received" handstamp dated May 3 (1889) and including the word "Paid". This letter was sealed and bore the necessary 5 cents postage for UPU transit to Wurtemberg, Germany. Such fully paid Noyes letters lend credence to the legitimacy of the covers above which appear at first glance to be grossly underpaid.

The Alice post office became operational in 1890. The earliest cover in the author's possession which is posted at Alice is dated April 1891. Figure 9 is a registered cover to England postmarked at Alice in July 1892. Fifteen cents postage paid the 5¢ UPU rate for a single weight letter plus 10¢ registry fee. Noyes used a manuscript return address at this time but by early 1895 he was using a three line handstamp which read:

F. NOYES
PHILATELIST
ALICE, TEXAS

Of particular postal history interest is an 1899 penny postal card written by Noyes in German to an individual in Dresden. Figure 10, back not shown. Between 1867 and 1906 the postcard rate to Germany was two cents. With a written message on the reverse, this card did not qualify as printed matter such as Figures 5, 6 and 7 and thus needed the additional postage. The New York exchange office applied a black "spy glass" marking for deficient UPU postage.

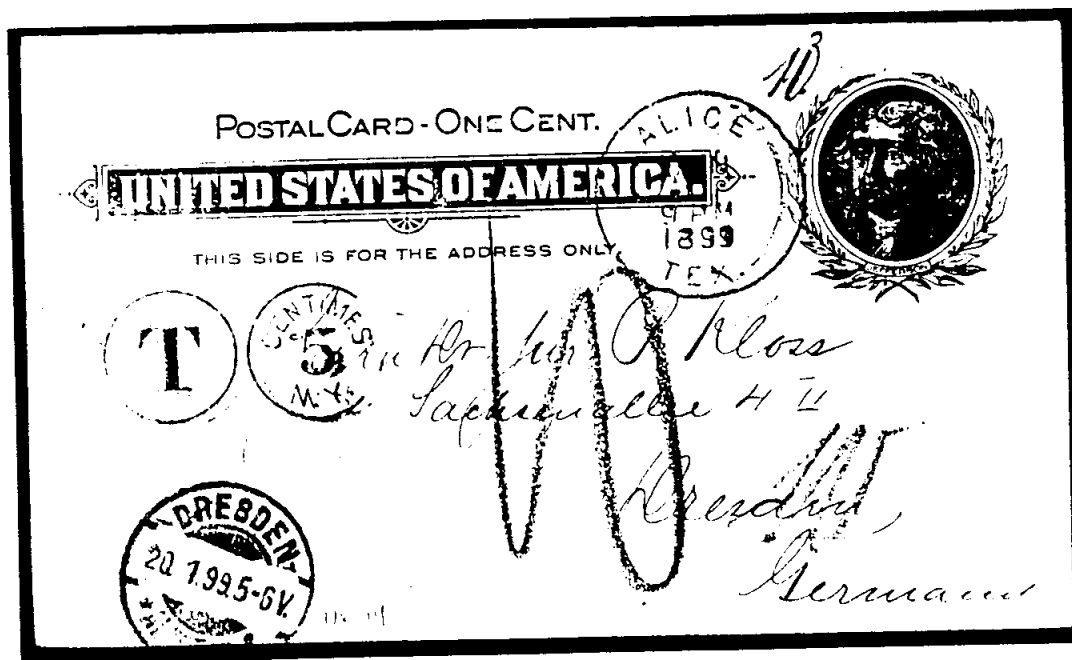


Figure 10. Insufficiently paid postal card from Alice to Dresden, Germany in 1899. Note New York "spy glass" marking for deficient UPU postage.

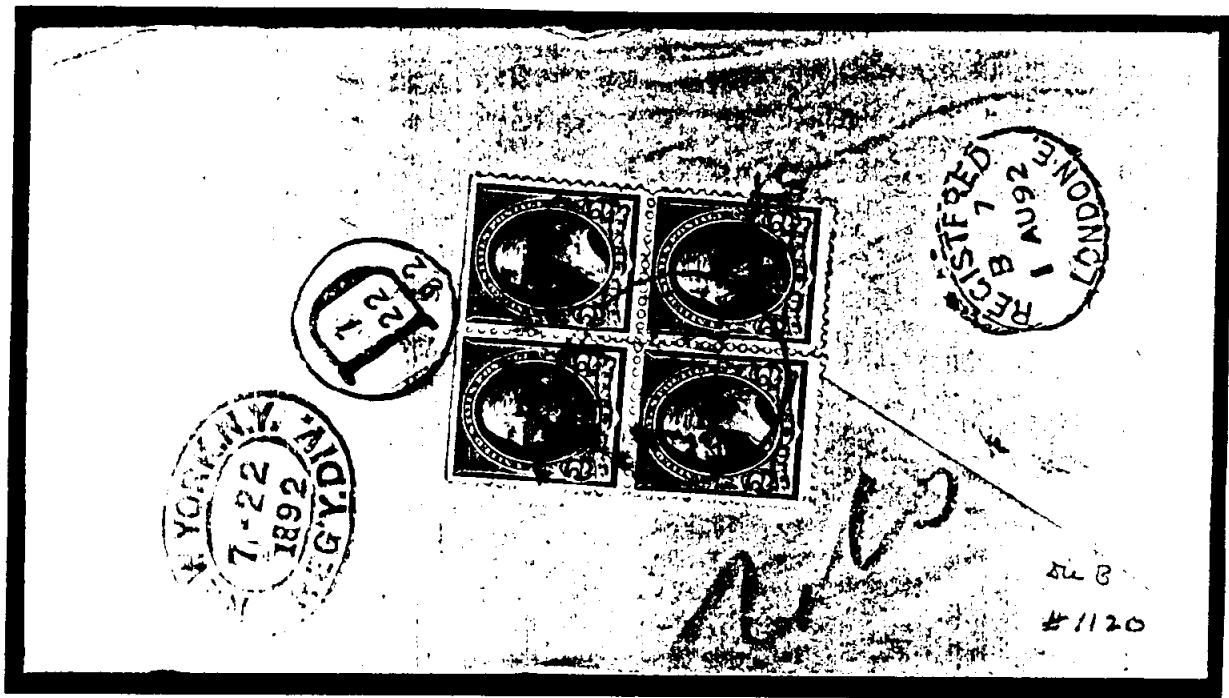
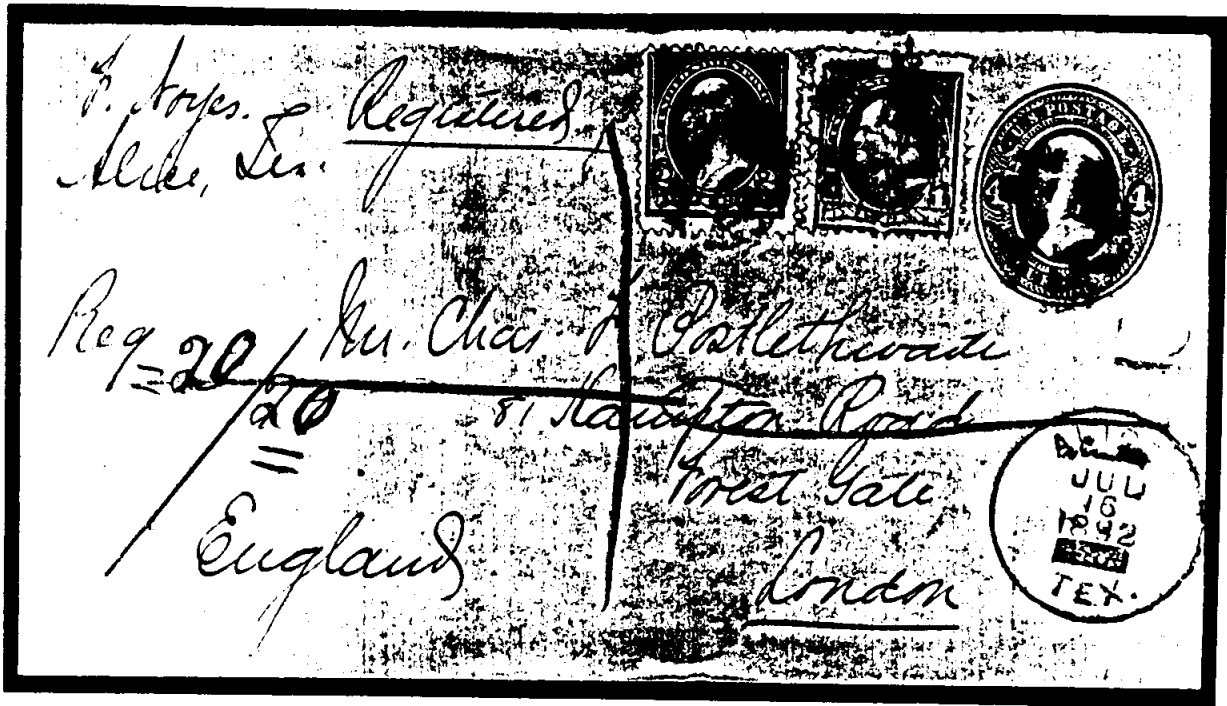


Figure 9. Manuscript "F. Noyes. Alice, Tex" on registered letter to England, July 1892. Front and back showing 15¢ postage and Alice, New York and London handstamps.

T.T.P.H.S. NO. 4 SALE

Sale No. 3 was successful with competitive bidding on the lots offered. We now present a sale with more older covers from the earlier settled portion of the state. Many of the older covers have interesting and historical enclosures. The usual rules apply as to bidding. The sale will close 45 days after the issue of the Journal. Successful bidders will pay 5% over their bid plus postage. Your purchase price will be an increment over the second highest bid. Sales are restricted to members. The Sales Manager reserves the right to withdraw any lot. You may view the material at any time, give the Sales Manager a call at 512-826-1522. If you have material to sell, we would like to offer it. Our selling fee is a mere 5%.

1. ATASCOSA CO. LOIRE, DPO ppc #300 tied w/bcs 1907.....EV \$6.00
2. BAILEY CO. HURLEY, DPO, type #311 bcs on ppc floral VF.....EV \$7.00
3. BRAZORIA CO., COLUMBIA type U311 bcs 1894 w/interesting killer. F.....EV \$5.00
4. BROWN CO. BROWNWOOD, U411, 319 bcs w/flag machine, to Lucerne, Switzerland, w/cc. Swiss bs, VF.....EV \$6.00
5. BURLESON CO. CHRISMAN #225, 225 C2 bcs w/"Chrisman" on reg. cover w/rec. bs., F.(P).EV \$12.00
6. BURNET, BURNET CO. U116, #212, bcs 1886 w/interesting killer, VF.....EV \$8.00
7. CALHOUN CO., PORT LAVACH, bcs stampless FL 1855, w/printed commodity prices, stock prices and comments on markets w/short letter, interesting and, historically valuable.(P).EV \$75.00
8. CAMERON CO. BRAZOS SANTIAGO, circa 1849 stampless folded cover w/blue cir. strike, "5" rate, addressed to Brownsville, attractive and scarce.(P).EV \$100.00
9. CAMERON CO., BROWNSVILLE, type U311 bcs, cc, F.....EV \$5.00
10. CARSON CO. WHITE DEER, type U311 bcs, 1894, F.....EV \$6.00
11. CLAY CO. HENRIETTA, type U311, bcs 1894, cc w/interesting cork killer.....EV \$5.00
12. COLLIN CO, MELISSA, 3 cent green bank note w/star, blue oval double line 1881, w/misspelled MELIESA, aged w/slt. red @ left, attractive.(P).EV \$22.00
13. COLORADO CO., ALLEYTON, #250, 1900 bcs reduced @ rt.....EV \$5.00
14. COLORADO CO. WEIMAR, type U311, bcs 1894, cc card, F.....EV \$5.00
15. COMAL CO. NEW BRAUNFELS, U348 bcs (1894) drop letter rate, scarce.....EV \$7.00
16. COOKE CO. GAINESVILLE, type U277 bcs 1887 w/fancy killer, slt. reduced @ rt., barely touching.(P).EV \$10.00
17. COOKE CO. GAINESVILLE, U314, 1893 bcs, VF.....EV \$5.00
18. COMAL CO. DANVILLE, (manuscript) DPO stampless FL manuscript "Paid 5" rate, enclosure, folded dateline Mar. 8, 1848.(P).EV \$80.00
19. DALLAS CO. DALLAS 1906, tied w/machine Inter #28, ADV. w/engraved Oriental Hotel, red. @ rt.....EV \$10.00
20. DEWITT CO. CONCRETE, DPO #26 tied w/red cir. strike, slt. nick in stamp.(P).EV \$30.00
21. DEWITT CO., CUERO 212, 1890 bcs, two copies tied w/cork, reduced @ rt.....EV \$3.00
22. CULBERSON CO. VAN HORN, U305, 226 (se) bcs 1891, cc F-VF.....EV \$10.00
23. ELLIS CO. WAXAHACHIE, #207 bcs 1883, illustrated w/General Stove, few minor tears, striking cover.(P).EV \$30.00
24. FANNIN CO. HONEY GROVE, 1893, 230 Columbian 1 cent tied w/bcs, illustrated advertising scene, engraved Williamson Blocker & Co. Bldg. and street, slt. reduction @ L, drop letter rate.(P).EV \$20.00
25. FAYETTE CO. WARRENTON, 220 bcs 1895, w/enclosure in German, dateline Walhalla, back stp., carmine, slt. red. on L.....EV \$8.00
26. GALVESTON CO. FL w/NEW ORLEANS 5 in circle w/STEAM all in red. Dateline w/enclosure Galveston 1852, nice.(P).EV \$70.00
27. GALVESTON CO. GALVESTON, folded letter w/enclosure to Frankford, PA, w/ms Paid w/"Steam Palmetto", w/letter dateline Nov. 10, '40.(P).EV \$75.00
28. GONZALES CO., GONZALES U82, blue circle w/blue crossroads (1872) slt. reduced @ left.....EV \$12.00
29. GUADALUPE CO. SEGUIN, stampless Apr. 29, 1849, manuscript Seguin to Matagorda, 5 cent rate, interesting letter, historically important, slt. discoloration.....EV \$85.00
30. GUADALUPE CO. SEGUIN on U10 circa 1855, bcs, VF.....EV \$35.00
31. HARRIS CO, HOUSTON #11 tied w/blk. circ. grid, also red circular Houston, TX, on aged but attractive cover, circa 1853.(P).EV \$35-45.00
32. HARRIS CO. HOUSTON, type 499, 2 cent red, machine "Address your Mail...etc", 1911, w/striking illustrated street scene w/"The Milby Hotel", stain @ rt. of cover, few tears.....EV \$8.00
33. HOUSTON CO. CROCKETT, 1893 U349, Columbian entire, w/corner card and large and striking "St. Louis & Tex" purple backstamp.....EV \$8.00
34. HUNT CO. GREENVILLE U314, 1893 bcs w/crossroads cork, violet oval commercial stamp.....EV \$7.00
35. JEFFERSON CO, SABINE PASS stampless w/U.S. Int. Rev. official cc, bcs, circa 1900, F.....EV \$10.00
36. JEFFERSON CO. PORT ARTHUR, #463 tied w/Columbia #19-K8 machine 1916, cc "The Newport Bar", nice early machine.....EV \$5.00
37. KAUFMAN CO. KAUFMAN, type U58 w/bcs circ. 1865, w/o flap on rear, slt. stained.....EV \$12.00
38. KENDALL CO. BOERNE, 537 Victory w/bcs 1919, label County Clerk, VF.....EV \$15.00
39. LAVACA CO. SHINER, UX11 1897, bcs w/crossroads cork, Message in German to Rev. Eckhardt @ (P).EV \$12.00
40. KENNEY CO. STANDART, DPO U358 bcs 1900 w/cc, F-VF.....EV \$12.00
41. McLENNAN CO. WACO 158 circa 1873, bcs w/faint Waco. Stp. is tied w/fancy cork, slt. reduced @ rt.....EV \$8.00
42. NUECES CO. CORPUS CHRISTI #319(se) bcs 1905, w/enclosure in German.....EV \$5.00
43. RUNNELS CO. MILES STATION, DPO #300 bcs, 1908 on ppc "swimming beauties".....EV \$8.00
44. TOM GREEN CO. SAN ANGELO, #300 bcs to ppc showing three scenes of Fort Concho dated 1905, VF.....EV \$10.00
45. WALLER CO. HEMSTEAD U311 bcs 1890(date inverted in the circle) w/Dallas backstamp.....EV \$6.00
46. WASHINGTON CO. CHAPEL HILL, U9 type circular strike (1955) strike with slt. blur, F.....EV \$20.00
47. WASHINGTON CO. INDEPENDENCE, U260, double line circle w/D. Jackson P.M. 1885, slt. reduced on left, nice cover.....EV \$22.00
48. WILLIAMSON CO. GEORGETOWN, #158 bcs stp. tied w/large blk. star, 1878, cc, flap off back.....EV \$14.00
49. WILLIAMSON CO. TAYLOR #44 (1914) tied w/Columbia machine canc. #23, K7, undated w/cc "Fuchs Oil Company", one slt. tear.....EV \$5.00
50. WILSON CO. STOCKDALE, U311, bcs 1894 w/bs., F.....EV \$6.00
51. WOOD CO. PINE MILL, DPO, UX14, bcs 1901, cover crease.....EV \$6.00
52. BIG SPRING & EL PASO R.P.O., type #332 w/Tr. 4 1910, cc The Orient Hotel, Pecos, Texas, w/advertisement promoting the area on the reverse side, this is a nice item.....EV \$12.00
53. HOUSTON & TAYLOR R.P.O. w/#220 on small cover (4 1/4 x 3) to Austin w/enclosure on H.C. Hellig & Co Dry Goods engraved letterhead of LaGrange, in German.....EV \$7.00
54. LITERATURE - "TEXAS REPUBLIC POSTAL SYSTEM" by Harry M. Konwiser. An original hardbound copy of this valuable publication, signed by author, VF.....EV \$120.00

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16

20

27

31

26

STEAMBOAT
APR 18
H. J. Smith's Egg

Abundant



18

Dear
H. J. Smith's Egg

Dear
H. J. Smith's Egg



24

5



Dear
H. J. Smith's Egg

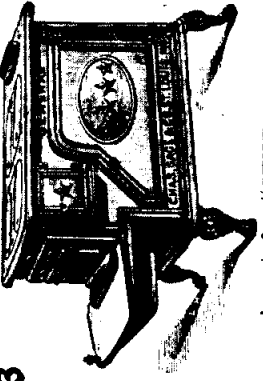


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