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TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL

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Oldham Co. Texas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Editor's Page. 3
1847 Covers From Texas 5
Confederate Arkansas to Texas Correspondence 10
Postal History and the 1936 Texas Centennial Celebration 13
The Book Page. 14

You will find a number of interesting postmarks on our cover. At the top is the straightline BAHIA marking used from the village of Goliad during the Spanish and Mexican periods of Texas postal history. These markings, of course, are extremely rare. Just underneath the title of the Journal is a forwarders' marking supplied to us by TPHS member Bill Emery. He found this marking on some Republic period correspondence from New Braunfels to St. Louis. Finally, at the bottom of the page, are two more examples of the attractive and popular county and postmaster cancels. Moffat was a Bell County post office in operation from 1872 to 1926. Trygillo is a ghost community in Oldham County in the panhandle. The Trygillo post office was operated from 1878-1885.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$5 per year, payable to Secretary-Treasurer

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Secretary-Treasurer
Richard Mayerson
515 S. Main St.
Lockhart, Texas 78644

This third issue of the TPHS Journal should really have something for everyone. We are very fortunate to have an article by Creighton C. Hart, the country's foremost expert on the 1847 issue, about the use of the first U.S. stamps in Texas. Mr. Hart was kind enough to prepare this for us even though he was quite busy with INTERPHIL duties.

For our Confederate buffs, we have an article by TPHS member Jim Shannon on some interesting correspondence from some Texas soldiers off in Arkansas. And, for those interested in more recent items, your editor has started a listing of those 1936 Texas Centennial covers. Perhaps the TPHS can publish a catalog of these covers at some later date.

TEXANEX. I do hope you are making plans to attend the TEXANEX-'76 show at the El Tropicana motor hotel in San Antonio on June 18-20, 1976. This, of course, is the annual convention of the Texas Philatelic Association. I have been invited to conduct a seminar on Texas postal history on Saturday afternoon (you can check the convention program for the time and meeting room) and I hope to meet many of you there. Bring some of your covers along, and we'll turn this into a big "show and tell" session.

THE WHEAT STUDY. Here's more on that study of Texas postmasters and post offices compiled by Jim Wheat. Through the generous co-operation of Jim and TPHS member Ed Leissner of Houston, two xerox copies of the study have now been made. Ed has one of these, and I have the other. We are currently pondering how to make this information available to other members, and have considered such alternatives as mimeographing the relevant data a portion at the time, or approaching a publishing firm about it. How many of you would be interested in acquiring a copy of this at a moderate price (probably around \$25)? If you would, drop me a card and let me know. If there is sufficient interest, we'll proceed.

TER BRAAKE. In a letter to the editor, Alex ter Braake expressed his pleasure at receiving the honorary life membership voted upon him at our February meeting in Austin: "I feel exceedingly grateful to the TPHS for electing me as an honorary life member in the organization. I appreciate this gesture and the numerous flattering references to my book about Texas Postal Past which I found in the first two issues of the Journal more than I can tell...It is my sincere wish that your young organization will grow in size, in activity, and in accomplishments. The Texas field for postal history study is still wide open...It may be good to bring to the attention of your members that the study material I used is not in the custody of the Texas Christian University library at Fort Worth as stated on page 293, but is in the American Philatelic Research Library in State College, Pa."

FORWARDING AGENTS. TPHS member Bill Emery writes that he is planning to compile a listing of forwarding agents who were connected with the movement of mail into and out of Texas in the 1836-1861 period. He is especially interested in those who used a handstamp marking and charged a fee for the service. Any members who can help him out are requested to write Bill at 1421 Schulle Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666

FINANCES. Our secretary-treasurer Richard Mayerson tells me that we have taken in \$360 in revenue so far (72 members at \$5 each). Total expenses for the first two Journal issues were about \$220. This leaves us with \$140 in our treasury, and most of it will go for the printing and postage expenses connected with this Journal that you are reading right now. We will undoubtedly pick up a few more new members, and thus some more money, but we will probably not get enough from dues to cover the expenses of the September and December, 1976 issues of the Journal. Thus, to raise some money for the TPHS, we have decided to try the one way which will allow us all to have some fun: a cover auction. Richard has volunteered to serve as auction manager, and we ask that you send some of your duplicate material to him for inclusion. We will put the lots in the September Journal issue. The TPHS will take a 15% commission on the lots sold. If any of you would care to donate covers with the entire realization going to the club, we assure you this would be appreciated, too. Look for the listing of this mail sale in the September Journal. We'll try to have the better covers illustrated so gather up your duplicates and send them in.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES REPORTED BY THE SECRETARY:

New members:

AHLSTROM, Ross C., Jr.; 3116 14th St.; Bay City, TX 77414 (713-245-3696) U.S. singles 19th & 20th cent.; Texas covers, 19th cent.; U.S. FDC's.

BOARDMAN, Lyle C.; 2208 Brookhill; Austin, TX 78745

DIAMOND, J. Leonard; 407 Lincoln Rd.; Miami Beach, FL 33139 (305-534-4646) Spanish-Amer. War covers; all U.S. & possessions; Civil War patriotics.

GROSSE, John W.; 8525 Pitner; Houston, TX 77080 (713-462-0482) 5¢ 1847; CSA postal history.

KIEL, Col. Frank; 177 Artillery Post; Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234

MARKOVITS, Robert; Box 891; Middletown, N.Y. 10940

MOLNAR, Charles J.; RD 1, Box 154 Tote Rd.; Rock Creek, OH 44084 (216-466-2274) US Post. Hist., esp. West. Reserve area of Ohio

Addr. Chg.: STEPHENS, Jane to Rt. 2, Box 352; Leander, TX 78641

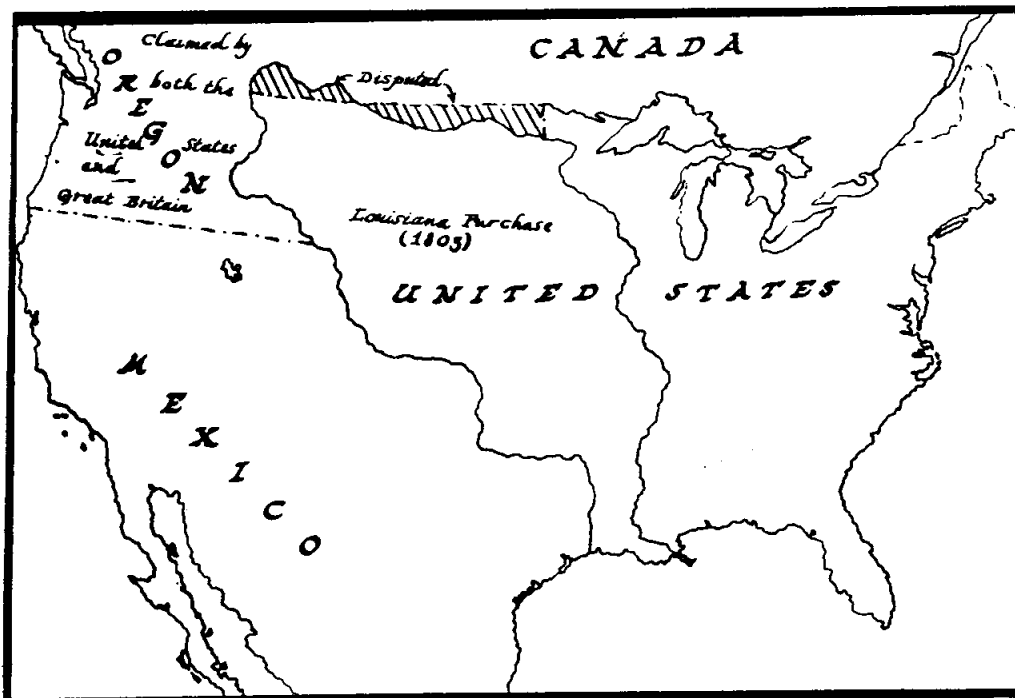
1847 COVERS FROM TEXAS

By Creighton C. Hart

This bicentennial year is a very good time to look into Texas postal history because the admission of Texas into the Union was a key reason for the extension of our national boundaries from coast to coast. As if dreading the consequences, President John Tyler signed Texas into the Union only three days before leaving office. Soon thereafter Texas border disputes precipitated the Mexican War which added California and all the wilderness territory in between to the United States.

The 1840's became known as "the fabulous forties" of the 19th century because of this period of territorial expansion which necessitated postal reforms. Colonial postage rates for short distances were obviously outmoded for such a large nation. Postage rates were drastically lowered in 1845 and soon thereafter on July 1, 1847, our first stamps were issued.

The few surviving 1847 covers from Texas serve to remind us of this westward empire spirit in the history of our nation. The great state of Texas was bigger geographically in 1847 than it is now, but this fact is not reflected in the small number of Texas covers bear-



In 1840 our western boundary was the western edge of the Louisiana Purchase. The area added during the "fabulous forties" of the 19th century was slightly more than that of the Louisiana Purchase.



As is shown by this map, by 1850 the boundaries of the United States extended from coast to coast with the dates of three important additions being given. The relatively small Gadsden Purchase in 1853 finalized our southern boundary.

ing 1847 stamps. No stamps were sent to Texas until December 10th of 1847, more than five months after they were first issued. The total supplies were modest, with 7,900 fives and 6,650 tens being sent to seven post offices.

Elliott Perry in Pat Paragraphs #11 (1932) writes, "The number of Texas covers in existence bearing 1847 stamps is estimated at less than 12." And so I have found it to be. I list four 5¢ covers including one cover front, and six 10¢ covers. This is a total of only ten 1847 covers including the one cover front. The October 1964 Chronicle (of the U. S. Philatelics Classics Society) has an article on the 1847 covers from Texas, and in the intervening 12 years no additional five cent covers and only two additional ten cent covers have been reported. Details of the shipment of the 1847 stamps to the Texas post offices are as follows:

First sent	First Received	Town	Postmaster	Total Tens	Total Fives
Sept. 7, 1849	Oct. 1, 1849	Brownsville	S. Powers	300	400
Dec. 10, 1847	Jan. 2, 1848	Galveston	R. D. Johnson	3,700	3,500
May 11, 1848	May 24, 1848	Houston	M. K. Shell	1,000	1,600
Aug. 5, 1850	Aug. 30, 1850	Huntsville	J. C. Smith	400	600
Feb. 5, 1851	Feb. 28, 1851	Palestine	A. E. McLure	100	200
Aug. 14, 1849	Sept. 14, 1849	San Antonio	J. Bowen	950	1,300
Feb. 19, 1851	No date	San Augustine	S. W. Blount	100	300

Covers are known from each of these towns except none so far have been reported from either Huntsville or Palestine. The Palestine post office received so few stamps no covers are apt to be found from there, but a Huntsville cover may eventually be reported. An "x" in the following list indicates the missing information is definitely not evident; a "?" indicates the missing information might be supplied if the cover could be examined.

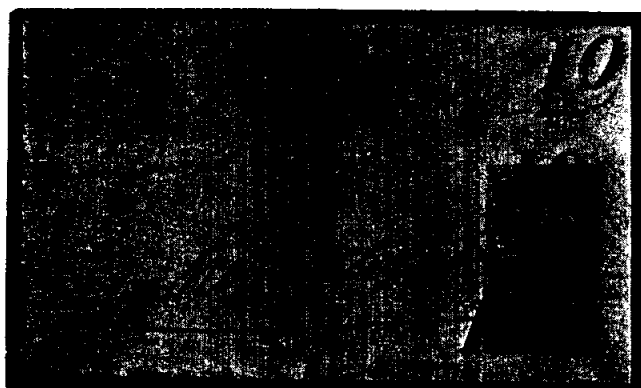
The four 5¢ covers are:

May 17, 1850	Bluish	Brownsville to New Orleans
Mar. 21, 1851	?	San Augustine to Centre, Texas
May 10, 18-x	Red	Houston to Austin
Dec. 27, 18-x	Red	Houston to Austin

The six 10¢ covers are:

Nov. 11, 1848	?	"Way 11 Cents" to New Orleans
Mar. 22, 1850	Blue	Galveston to Portland, Conn.
Apr. 6, 18-x	Brownish black	San Antonio to Campbell, Tenn.
June 7, 18-x	?	Austin to Benicia, Calif.
July 10, 18-x	Black	Bonham to New Orleans
July 29, 18-x	Brownish black	San Antonio to New Orleans

A seventh 10¢ cover (front only) may exist postmarked June 4 from San Antonio. If anyone has more information about this cover including destination, please write the author. The 5¢ Houston cover postmarked May 10 is also a front only. The two 10¢ covers added to the list since 1964 are those postmarked Bonham and Austin.



This cover with two 5's pays the 10¢ rate from Brownsville to New Orleans. The addressee is the French Consul and the letter tells of a Frenchman losing his life in a shipwreck.

Several of the covers are of special interest in addition to having 1847 stamps and Texas postmarks. The 5¢ cover from Brownsville is to the French consul at New Orleans and reports a ship wreck and the drowning of a French sailor.

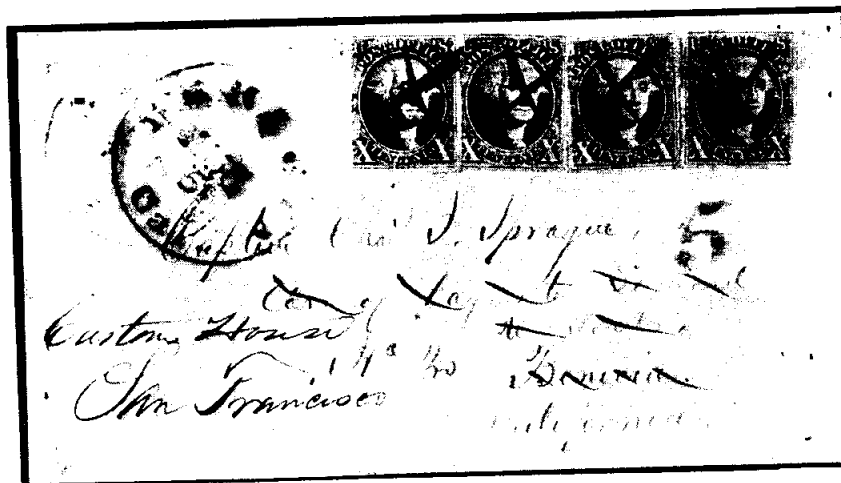
The 10¢ cover with the unusual "Way 11 Cents" is a lovely cover having the way marking clearly struck twice. There are not many 1847 covers to California and the one from Austin with four single 10¢ stamps is an important Texas postal history item. Even though the stamps are pen cancelled and the cover is in poor condition, it sold for \$1,350 in a Robert A. Siegel auction May 3, 1972.

The last two 10¢ covers in the list are both addressed to Mrs. Clinton W. Lear at New Orleans. These are a continuation of the correspondence from Captain Lear who had written his wife earlier from Doakesville, Indian Territory. Neither envelope has a letter enclosed, but both are probably dated 1850. Three of the covers from Doakesville are dated in June 1850, and one is July 1850. Captain Lear wrote his wife from Doakesville that he was being transferred to Texas. The November 1971 issue of the Chronicle has a report on the Doakesville covers, all of which are illustrated.

No article on Texas 1847 covers would be complete without telling of the two 10¢ covers postmarked Baltimore and addressed to:

"Captain John G. Todd of Texas
Now at Vera Cruz
Via New Orleans"

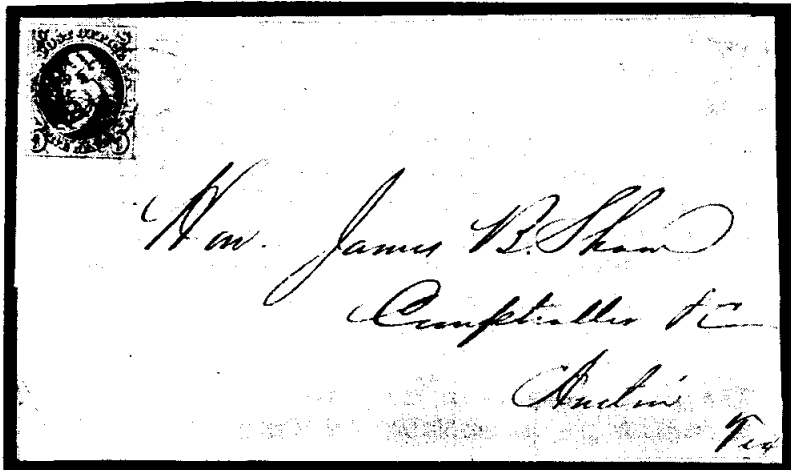
Both of these covers have "Vera Cruz Via New Orleans" crossed out and in its place written "City of Mexico" as a forwarding address. How quickly the Mexican War was won is clearly shown on the face of these two letters. These two historical items are part of the



This cover from Austin to Benicia, California has four single 10¢ stamps to pay the 40¢ rate to the west coast through Panama. The cover was forwarded to San Francisco with 5¢ due as is shown by the handstamped "5".

family papers of Mrs. Tod Hamner on Houston and were first reported by Alex L. ter Braake in Texas: The Drama of its Postal Past. Members of the U.S. Philatelics Classics Society will also find the covers described in the February 1973 Chronicle.

This article brings to date all the information currently available on 1847 covers from Texas. In addition to listing two "new" 10¢ covers, there is considerably more detail here about the other covers. Please send any information not included in this article to the author at 2700 Verona Road; Shawnee Mission KS, 66208.



There are only three Texas 5¢ covers listed paying the single rate for distances of less than 300 miles, including one cover front. This cover is postmarked Houston.



This cover with the unusual Way marking is datelined Galveston. When the William L. Moody III collection was sold in 1950 by H. R. Harmer, Inc., this cover was lot #129. This illustration is from that auction catalog.

CONFEDERATE ARKANSAS TO TEXAS CORRESPONDENCE

By Jim Shannon

The writer recently purchased from an antique dealer a small collection of eleven letters, a cover, and a folded letter written by two Texas Confederate cavalymen to a relative back home. Ten of the letters were subsequently passed on to the Confederate Research Center at Hill Junior College (Hillsboro, Texas) and the remaining items are the subject of this article.

The folded letter (Figure 1) was written by B. N. Shropshire who identified himself as a farior (sic) in Company A commanded by Captain Sanders, Colonel (George H.) Sweet's Regiments, Johnson's Brigade. This places him as having been a member of the 15th Texas Cavalry Regiment which was initially assigned to the 4th Brigade of John G. Walker's "Greyhound" Division. The letter is not dated, but the knowledge that on July 13, 1862, Colonel's Sweet's 15th Texas Cavalry was dismounted and became Sweet's Regiment of Texas Infantry assigned to Ector's Brigade in the Army of Tennessee dates it early in the war.

The cover (Figure 2) was addressed by D. (David) N. Shropshire who identified himself as a member of Company C of the 12th Texas Dragoons. (Never officially designated as Dragoons, they apparently informally assumed this rather high-sounding term for what has been elsewhere called "plowhorse cavalry.") It was posted at South Bend,



Figure 1: Little Rock, Arkansas to Granview, Johnson Co., Texas

Arkansas on May 16, 1863. This is a home-made cover addressed on the inside to Green Shropshire in Benton, Alabama. It bears the circular postmark HAYNEVI---/May/23/ALA. The stamp has been removed, resulting in the missing last three letters in Hayneville.

Both items are addressed to Miss Susan E. Shropshire, who received her mail, depending on the preference of the sender, at either Granview or Grand View, Johnson County, Texas.

The Shropshire family was prominent in Johnson County history and lived in the Barnesville community midway between Grandview and Alvarado on the North Fork of the Chambers Creek. Barnesville was settled in 1853, but no post office was established there until about 1875 which explain's why Susan's mail was addressed to Grandview. Green Shropshire and his three sons (D. N., J. M., and J. W.) all served the Confederacy, but Green became ill during the first year of the war and returned home, where he died in 1862. The three sons appear as privates on the muster and pay rolls of the 12th Texas Cavalry Regiment of Parson's Texas Cavalry Brigade. The 12th Texas was organized in Ellis County in August, 1861; Parson's Brigade was formed about September, 1862, and consisted of the 12th, 19th, and 21st Texas Cavalry Regiments, Morgan's Battalion, and Pratt's Battery. The 12th moved into Arkansas sometime in March, 1862.

Apparently David N. Shropshire was not so greatly influenced by the reason for his being away from home that he lost interest in the fair sex. In a letter written from "Camp Silver Lake near the Post of Arkansas" on May 10, 1863, he stated that "About 2½ miles below camp There was a great many young ladys and young widows. And a great many very pretty, too. I must give you a description of the young lady I went home with and got my dinner. She was medium size--light hair, blue eyes, & fair skin and a



Figure 2: South Bend, Arkansas to Grand View, Johnson Co., Texas

most beautiful figure with rosy cheeks and Ruby Lips. She invited me down one day next week and said she would play on her piano... and sing and play Genl Rusk retreat from cotton plants bloody battled field." Assuming a more martial train of thought, he also mentioned that "the Government have furnished our regiment with 600 sabres and 200 Belgian rifles...I learned that the prisoners captured at the Post was exchanged and that they are in Virginia under Genl Bragg. Capt. Haley arrived on the 8th inst--Lt. John Haley started the 9th with twenty men on a scout to Helaney (Helena) to be gone ten or twelve days."

On May 23, 1865, Parson's Brigade was disbanded in Hempstead, Texas and the men advised to return to their homes with permission to retain their arms and horses. David N. Shropshire survived the war and returned to Barnesville where he became a prominent doctor in the community.

Bibliography:

A Brief and Condensed History of Parson's Texas Cavalry Brigade.
Waxahachie, Texas: J. M. Fleminster, Printer, 1892; Reprint
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C.S.A. Hillsboro: Hill Junior College, 1967.

Block, Viola. History of Johnson County and Surrounding Areas.
Waco: Texian Press, 1970.

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War, 1861-1865. Harold B. Simpson, ed., Hillsboro: Hill Junior
College, 1965.

POSTAL HISTORY AND THE 1936 TEXAS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Charles Deaton



Most Texas cover collectors are familiar with these 1936 Texas Centennial cacheted covers. Like many of you, I have acquired a number of them over the years. The cachet appears to be of the "rubber stamp" variety, and no doubt was applied by local officials to blank envelopes sent in by collectors. The existence of similar cachets from many different towns has always led me to conclude that some statewide organization (the Texas Centennial Commission ?) must have had the authority to approve and standardize the cachet designs used for the various Centennial events.

I know that several of our members have built specialized collections of these covers, and they could probably give us much more information about the philatelic aspects of the 1936 Centennial Celebration. About all I have done with this part of Texas postal history is "acquire" a few of these covers from different towns. Below I will list the towns known (from my own covers) to have used these "official" cachets. Additions to this list, and more information about this area of Texas postal history, will be appreciated and printed in future Journals.

Amarillo	Eagle Pass	Nacogdoches	Uvalde
Austin	Fort Stockton	Plainview	Velasco
Beaumont	Galveston	Port Lavaca	Waco
Brownsville	Groesbeck	Refugio	West Columbia
Childress	Jacksonville	San Angelo	Ysleta
Corpus Christi	Johnson City	San Augustine	
Cuero	Longview	San Marcos	
Dallas	Mission	Stamford	

THE BOOK PAGE

TPHS member Richard Spies sent this listing of books and reference works pertaining to his specialty, Railway Post Offices. Any readers wishing to acquire these works can contact Dick at 431 Club Drive, San Antonio 78201; I feel sure he would be glad to provide answers to questions such as price, availability, etc.:

Mail by Rail: The Story of the Postal Transportation Service.

By Bryant A. Long with William J. Dennis; published in 1951 by Simmon-Boardman Publishing Co. of New York. A dramatic story of those unsung experts--the railway mail clerks. You get the feeling of actually being in the mail car. There is a historical background story of the PTS (formerly the RMS--Railway Mail Service). Also information of the uniquely different TPO's of Great Britain; operations in Canada and other parts of the world. The newer means of enroute distribution and transportation of mails--the Highway Post Offices--is also described. A Complete listing of operational RPO's and HPO's of the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain at the time the book was written is included.

N.H.P.O.S. Register. A 1951 publication of the National Highway Post Office Society (now the Mobile Post Office Society), this is a looseleaf catalog listing each HPO route established by the U.S. Post Office Department. Listed is date of first trip, round trip mileage, frequency of operation, number of covers cancelled on each trip, names of clerks and operators on first trip, type of coach, contract number and contractor. Also included is a diagrammatical map and illustrations of the cancels used. Over 300 routes are listed.

Railroad Postal Routes from 1867 to 1961. Published in 1964 by Herbert H. Harrington, Sr., Niles, Ohio 44446. This is a listing in alphabetical order of known RPO's, HPO's, Boat RPO's, and electric units (street cars). It is a compilation originally started by Lester H. Vandiver and found lying dormant in the Philatelic Library of Boston University in 1961.

Railroad Postmarks of the United States, 1861 to 1886. Published in 1968. By Charles L. Towle and Henry Meyer. A listing of railroad mail routes including RR cancels, Agent markings, and RPO's.

Railroad Post Office History, 1972. Edited and compiled by Leo A. McKee and Alfred L. Lewis; published by the Mobile Post Office Society, Pleasantville, NY 10570. A listing of current operating railroad companies showing various small lines purchased and incorporated into larger lines. Also shows agent and RPO route names used on the various lines.

Other books of interest to Texas Postal History collectors:

Texas Post Office Papers 1836-1839, Ed. by James M. Day.

Texas Post Office Papers 1839-1840, Ed. by James M. Day.

These two volumes are \$4.50 (plus 5% sales tax) each, and may be purchased from : Archives Division; Texas State Library; Box 12927; Austin, Texas 78711. Make checks payable to Texas State Library. This is essentially a compilation of the papers of the Republic of Texas post office department that have been in the state archives for over a hundred years. The work was done by archivist James M. Day, and printed in a limited edition of 500 copies by the Texian Press of Waco. As you might expect, much information about the early workings of the Republic's post office is in these two volumes. Lists of post offices, annual reports of the department, annual reports of the New Orleans agents William Bryan and Samuel Ricker, and dozens of letters to and from the officers and agents are hereby reprinted.

United States Postal Slogan Cancel Catalog. By Moe Luff; available from author at 12 Greene Rd., Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977; Price is \$5.25. This is the 1975 revision of Luff's 1968 catalog of slogan cancels. It is indispensable to those interested in these attractive cancels. As the price of stampless, Confederate, and other 19th century material continues to escalate, collectors wishing to find another avenue of postal history to explore would do well to consider these cancels.

TPHS Secretary-treasurer Richard Mayerson also serves as President of the Lockhart Historical Society, They recently announced a series of cacheted covers with special post office cancellations for a couple of local historical events. To mark the Chisholm Trail Roundup Celebration May 13-15, a set of 6 cacheted covers was prepared and mailed from 6 surrounding towns that herded cattle to Lockhart back in the 1870's to start up the Chisholm Trail. The set of 6 diff. cacheted covers backstamped with a special Chisholm Trail cancel (plus a wooden nickel for the event) sells for \$3.00 plus a #10 SASE. A set of 3 diff. cacheted covers was also issued to mark the Battle of Plum Creek celebration. This set of 3 covers sells for \$1.00 plus the #10 SASE. Send all orders to Dr. Richard Mayerson, 515 S. Main; Lockhart, TX 78644

