



THE MAINE PHILATELIST



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Whole # 157



Max Lynds, President



The above cover addressed to E. Merritt & Sons, Houlton, ME was mailed from Bangor in 1898. The Merritt's had many business ventures in Houlton at the time including a grist mill, feed mill, eclectic light plant, grocery and meat business. They were the first to ship cattle and potatoes over the New Brunswick Railroad out of Houlton. This was a recent e-Bay find from a dealer in Thailand. Go figure....

Latest show information is on the web at:
http://www.maxlynds.com/mps_shows.htm

Take a look at the Member Page- Past issues and updates
http://www.maxlynds.com/member_page.htm

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the

Maine Philatelic Society

Website <http://www.maxlynds.com/mps.htm>

The purpose of the Society is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to everyone. Please send your name and address to the Secretary listed below along with \$10.00 dues for a year. Life memberships are not available at this time but you may prepay for as many years as you wish.

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Maine Stamp Club Meetings



WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fair- field (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872- 5107. Non-members are invited to attend.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm St, Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$10 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Comer Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The club meets from April to November on the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00 PM at the Ellsworth Church of the Nazarene . Typical events include an auction, a raffle, presentations and an opportunity to purchase from a member stamp dealer. Non-members are welcome. For further information on location contact Eric Beal, 827-2686, Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu

KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month from September thru June at Central Maine Power Co., 83 Edison Dr., Augusta. The time of the meeting is 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Contact Rich Howard, 621-0882 or richhoward@gwi.net

Please send your articles, scans, stories, comments, suggestions or questions to Max Lynds at the address listed on the left.

The Line Rates

In 1851 the Postmaster of St. John, New Brunswick wrote the U.S. Postmaster General in Washington and suggested that adjoining towns along the U.S.—N.B. border have a 2 cent rate between them. In particular he mentioned Calais-St. Stephen, St. Andrews-Robinston, And Woodstock-Houlton. Evidently this 2 cent rate or 1 pence rate had been a local practice prior to the 1851 agreement. The U.S. Postmaster agreed to the rate between Calais and St. Stephen, but refused the other two as the distance was more than 5 miles. Evidently the rate was later agreed upon, but was only used sporadically and few covers have survived. Perhaps much of the population was not aware of the rate. Although the “United States Mail and Post Office Assistant” of August 1863 comments on it as if it were general knowledge, the 1863 and 1867 “Canadian Postal Guides” make no mention of it.



U.S. 1863, 2¢ black (Scott No. 73)

Cancelled by cork with matching "Houlton, ME Feb 21" c.d.s. to Woodstock, NB, 2¢ line rate, black "U. States" Houlton exchange marking, 1867 Woodstock backstamp, .

Provenance: McDonald., Dr. John L. Robertson

October is National Stamp Collecting Month

Almost a #2 on cover from Houlton, Maine

According to Alexanders' "The United States 1847 –A cover Census" there were 400 5 cent and 100 10 cent stamps delivered to the Houlton, Maine Post Office. There are no know covers mailed from Houlton with any of these 500 stamps.

The cover in (Figure 1) written by Jonathan Donnell is datelined Houlton May 28, 1850 (Figure 2) and was addressed to the Hon. Shepard Cary, Augusta, Maine. The cover started out with an 1847 10 cent stamp. Mr. Donnell did not mail from the Houlton Post Office but must have handed the letter to the stage south of Houlton on the way to Haynesville, Maine.

Somewhere, somebody discovered that the 10 cent stamp affixed to this piece of mail was more than the required 5 cents to get it to Augusta. Could have been Mr. Russell, the stage driver or the Postmaster in Haynesville but someone attempted to remove the 10 cent stamp and was successful except for the upper right portion of the stamp. Once the stamp was removed the Haynesville Postmaster on May 29 postmarked the cover with a manuscript "Way 6". The "6" ties to the partial stamp left on the cover (Figure 3) and enlarged in (Figure 4).

The 6 cent rate paid the proper postage of 5 cents and 1 cent went to the stage driver for picking up the letter on the way from Houlton to Haynesville.



Figure 1

Photo Shop Rendition

Houlton, May 28th 1850

Dear Sir:

Will you have the
 goodness to hand the enclosed ac-
 count of moneys paid on wolf and
 bear certificates to the proper person
 or persons, that the money paid may
 be forth coming in due season.

Yours Respectfully
 Gotham Donnell

Figure 2

pd.
 ch. P.D. Haysville

May 29

Hon. Shepa

To

Figure 3

6

Figure 4

Harmony, Maine Handstamp Dated Precancel Controls

By Rick Stambaugh



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Figure 1 shows a Harmony, Maine precanceled stamp with an “HAB SEP’ 38” handstamp dated control. Starting in July 1938, precanceled stamps on mail with 6 cents or more postage were required to be marked with identifying initials and the month and year of use. This requirement was a measure intended to prevent reuse of precanceled stamps, as the stamps could only be used during that month. Small businesses used handstamp devices to apply the required dated control on precanceled stamps.

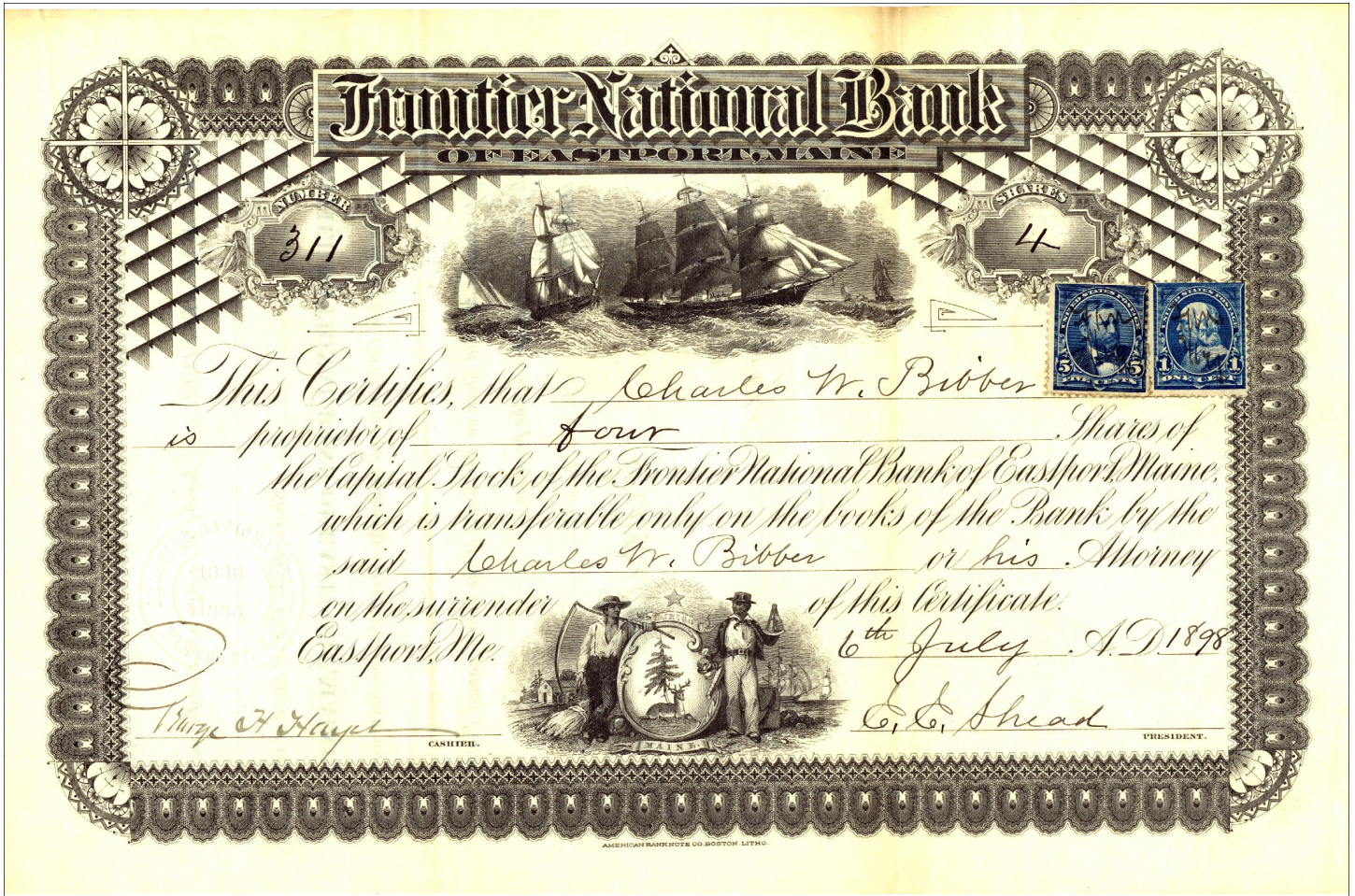
I recently bought an auction lot of 150+ different Harmony, Maine handstamp dated precancel stamps. Sorting, organizing, and mounting these stamps in my collection piqued my curiosity on the users of these stamps: HAB and TIC. Luckily, there was a New England Precancel Club meeting that week where I got some assistance.

Dick Laetsch provided some information from a “Handstamp Dated Control Handbook and Checklist”. This showed three different handstamp dated controls were used in Harmony: an HAB control attributed to H. A. Bartlett (woolen yarn), figure 1 and two TIC controls whose user was unidentified, figures 2 and 3. I had noticed the 2 different users, HAB and TIC, during mounting, but missed the different TIC font sizes. The “TIC” font on figure 3 is larger than that on figure 2.

Next I used the internet. Harmony, Maine is located in Somerset County in Central Maine (Map 1). The H.A. Bartlett company still exists, albeit with a different name, Bartlettyarns Inc. The Bartlettyarns Inc. web page (www.bartlettyarns.com) is very interesting. The owner describes how years ago as a 4-H member he would sell fleeces to this mill for \$4 a pound. Now he pays local farmers only \$0.35 a pound due to Australian wool imports.

I was not able to determine who TIC was. Initially I suspected that HAB had morphed into TIC as the “Handstamp Dated Control Handbook and Checklist” showed HAB control use ended in 1946 and TIC control use started in 1947. Similarly, an initial review of my stamps showed the latest HAB stamp date was Feb. 1947 and the earliest TIC use was Oct. 1947. But, closer inspection found an “HAB DEC’ 48”. So, either there were two companies, HAB and TIC, or if HAB morphed into TIC, an employee used an old handstamp in December 1948. A mystery remaining to be solved.

The Frontier National Bank of Eastport, Maine was chartered in 1865. It was absorbed by the Merrill Trust Company of Bangor after it was placed in voluntary liquidation on July 15, 1931. Shown below is a stock certificate issued in 1898 using regular postage as revenue stamps and a check drawn on account from the bank in 1900 using the proper Documentary Revenue stamp.



Maine Cover of the Quarter

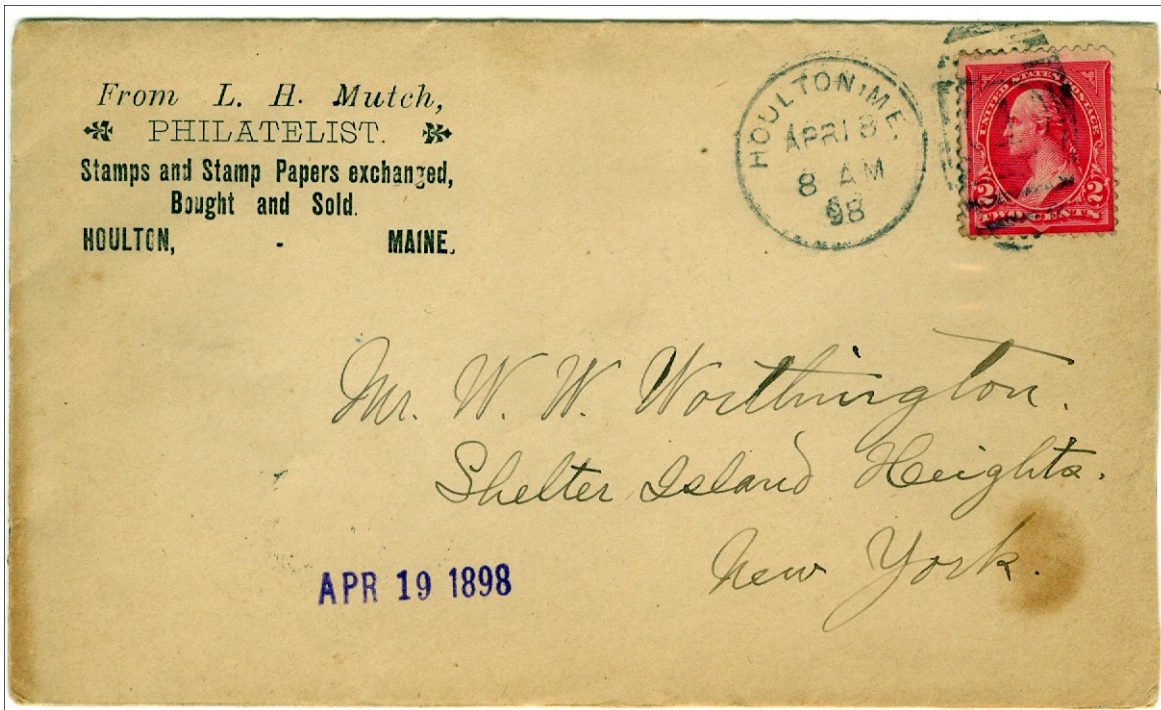


The above Registered Mail cover sent from Norridgewock to Skowhegan features the only Registry stamp ever issued by the United States Post Office. One black Skowhegan and two blue Norridgewock handstamps, both dated 11/24/13, are on the back.

If you have an unusual, scarce or interesting Maine cover for the Maine Cover of the quarter, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to:

Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976

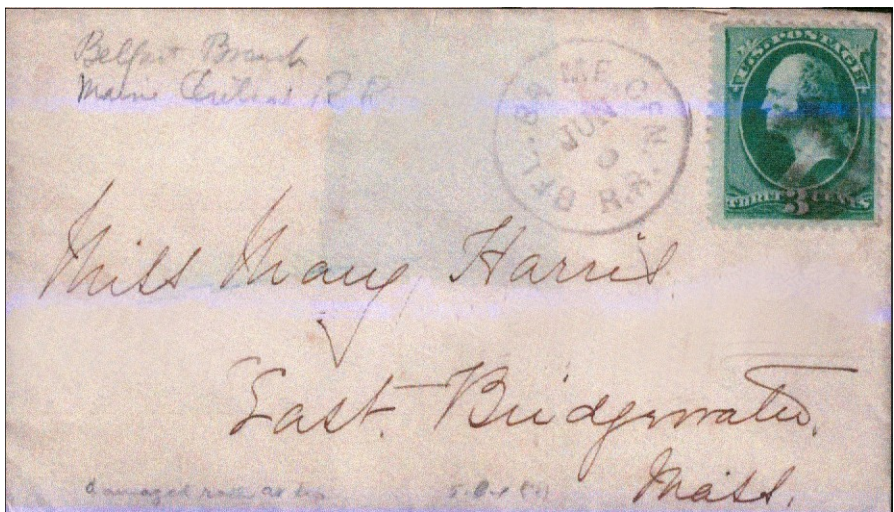
Early Philatelist in northern Maine



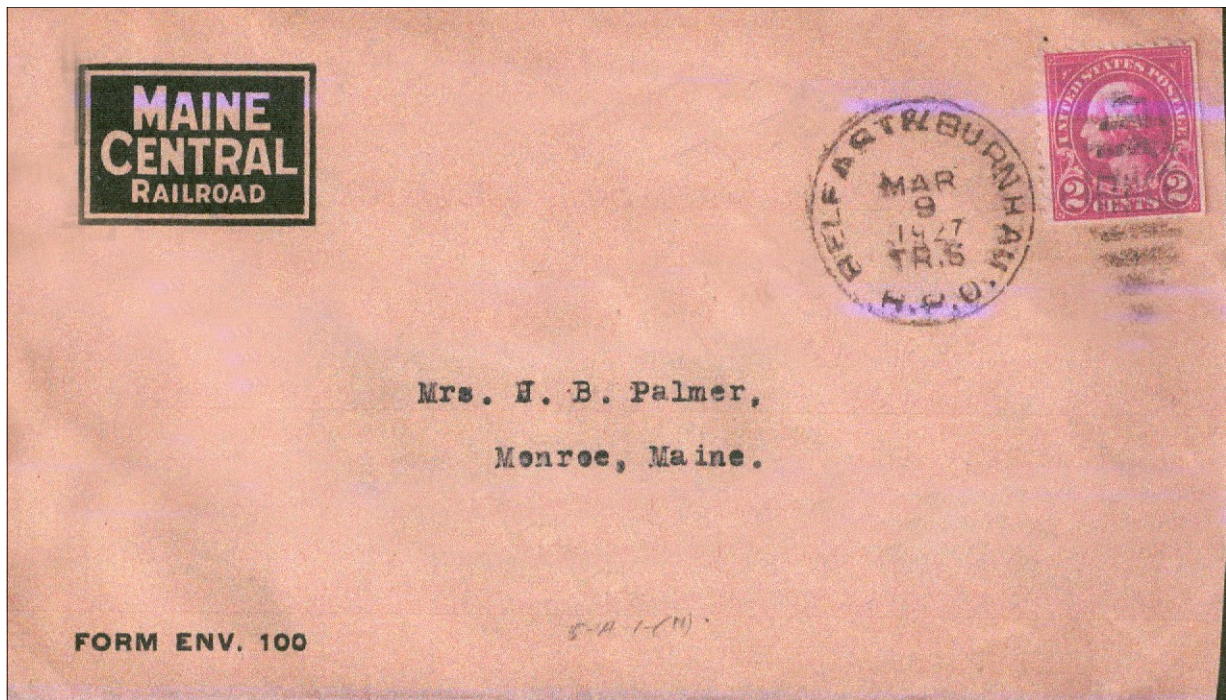
L. H. Mutch was a dealer in stamps and paper from Houlton, Maine doing business as indicated from the cover in 1898. I have another cover showing that he was in business as early as 1893. The insert from the above cover shows that he published the "Philatelic Literature Collector" for 20 cents a year and offered free 30 word ad.

L. H. MUTCH
 * * * * * PHILATELIST. *
 Postage Stamps and Stamp Papers
 Exchanged, Bought and Sold Your Correspondence Solicited.
 x x x ————— x x x
 I publish the Philatelic Literature Collector.
 A paper for Collectors: Only 20c. per year, A 30 word ad free. Try it.

This month's Maine RPO's were sent in by Dr. George Bostwick



Belfast Branch of the Maine Central Railroad mailed to East Bridgewater, Mass.



BELFAST & BURNHAM R.P.O. to Monroe, Maine

2010-2011 Membership dues can be paid using form on last page

SHOW SCHEDULE

Waterville Stamp Club

MAIPEX '10

Show and Auction
MacCrillis-Rousseau VFW Hall
175 Veterans Drive
Winslow, ME

October 16, 2010
9:00 AM—3:30 PM

Dealers Bourse

Stamps
Covers
Postcards
Supplies
Auction

Information: Ddogherty@yahoo.com

MAINEPEX 2010

November 13, 2010
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Holiday Inn Portland-West
Exit 48 - Maine Turnpike
81 Riverside Street
Portland, ME

Dealers Bourse
Stamps-Covers
Postcards-Supplies
Exhibits

Information: max@pwless.net

Brunswick Coin & Stamp Shows

Oct 03, 2010 (2011-Feb 6, May 1, Jul 10, Oct 02)
9:00am - 2:30pm

Columbus Drive, Brunswick, Me. 04011
FMI: Bob Caouette, 207-721-7872
caouette@Earthlink.net

Pine Tree Coin Show

October 17, 2010
9:00 AM— 4:00 PM

Black Bear Inn
Exit 193, I-95
Orono, ME

Contact Keff Melmed, 743 Cardville Road,
Greenbush, ME 04418

Greater Nashua Stamp Show

Oct 17th, Nov 21st, Dec 19th
9:00 AM— 3:00 PM

Holiday Inn
Rt 3, Exit 4
Nashua, NH

Portsmouth Show

December 12, 2010
9:00 AM— 3:00 PM

Holiday Inn
I-95 Traffic Circle
Portsmouth, NH

Information:
Ptstamps@megalink.net
207-966-2744

Presque Isle Collectors Club

Coin and Stamp Show
October 31, 2010

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center
116 Main St,

Presque Isle, ME 04769

Contact Bim Finemore, 207-425-6606



George Bostwick
Maine Philatelic Society

Please mail to :

Dues are \$ 10.00 per year. July to July Paid \$ _____

e-mail _____

ZIP _____

City _____

Address _____

Ad- _____

Name _____

Please accept my membership/renewal application to the Maine Philatelic Society:

Membership Renewal Application

FALL 2010



Maine Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 761
Houlton, ME 04730

TO: