

Dead Countries: A series of Discovery

Part 4

By Joe Brzezowski

This time we will move to a country within a country. We will be looking at the autonomous state of Bahawalpur.

Bahawalpur is now a city located in the Punjab Province of Pakistan and the 11th largest city in the country.

It was originally an autonomous state founded in 1748 and ruled by the Abbasi family of Nawabs until 1955. Famous for wonderful temples, public buildings, and very tasty local cuisine, it was a central trading area in what would become modern Pakistan on 7 Oct. 1947.

There are only 29 regular and 28 official stamps listed in the Scott Catalog. Sixteen of these official stamps were issued before the first regular issue was ever released on 1 December 1947. The officials preceded the regular issue by almost 2 years by being issued on 1 January 1945. These stamps were used solely for franking in the Bahawalpur province after they were withdrawn from general use when the state united with Pakistan. After the union, Pakistani stamps were used for external mail.

During the British Colonization period, Bahawalpur became a British Princely State, meaning it was still ruled locally by the Abbasi family, but was now beholden to Great Britain. The deal worked out well for both parties as Bahawalpur was under British colonial rule, but Britain let the state run itself.

On August 15, 1947 there was even a set of 17 Indian King VI stamps overprinted in Arabic and used during the brief period of the State's independence.

In 1947 when Great Britain left the colonies and granted independence to the area, Bahawalpur was given the choice to become a part of India or Pakistan. It chose Pakistan. As history shows, this set off one of the largest religious migrations.

People following the Hindu and Sikh religions left the area and Pakistan in general and migrated to India. The Muslims left India for Pakistan. This left the city and state of Bahawalpur empty due to the large numbers of Hindi people heading to India.



Figure 1

In figure 1, we see in the top row a set of the Sadiq Garh Mosque with the regular issue on the left being Sc. # 8 and the official on the right listed as Sc. # O-20. On the bottom row we find the 12 Annas, Sadiq Garh Palace, Sc. # 11 and to the right the Sc. # O-19, Tombs of the Amirs. I chose these stamps to show the beautiful and articulate engraving used at the time.



Figure 2

In figure 2 we see the members of the ruling Nawabs family with the Sc. # 21 on the left and its official counterpart Sc. # O-24 on the right.

Today as a part of Pakistan the area is known for its vegetable farms, ghee, and cooking oil manufacture along with an emerging steel rerolling industry.

Well, until next month, when we will continue our philatelic journey in the world of dead countries, I hope you continue to collect, learn, and relax with our great hobby.



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

OCTOBER 2020

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NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

National Stamp Collecting Month has been celebrated every October since 1981. Believe it or not, the USPS was instrumental in making the event happen every year. Stamps were issued, first day ceremonies were held, and many Clubs took part in activities. More importantly the event is used to introduce the hobby to new collectors and encourage seasoned collectors to explore new areas of stamp collecting.

Hopefully, National Stamp Collecting Month inspires you to reflect on your stamp collecting interests or to discover new areas. One member we can draw inspiration from is Joe Brzezowski who has been writing a series of stories on dead countries. From a philatelic perspective, dead countries no longer issue stamps. It does not necessarily mean the country no longer exists. Incidentally, Iceland will issue its last stamps on October 29! The post office will reprint past issues of stamps to satisfy demand for postage stamps. If you want a challenge, how about completing a collection of Iceland! Go for it.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Friday, October 23rd: Auction

Friday, November 6th: Auction

Friday, November 20th: Auction

New Venue: (More info on Page 4)

The Knights Justin Hall, 2735 Union Road just north of William St. in Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements which starts at **7:00 PM**.

Get here early enough to view auction items.

Seller deadline for submitting Lots is **6:30 PM**

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

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PARCEL POST STAMPS

Stamps that perform a service in addition to the payment of postage are assigned a letter in front of their Scott number. The stamps are listed after ordinary postage stamps in the Scott catalogue, hence they are “back of the book” stamps.

The US Parcel Post stamps of 1912-1913 were issued to pay the postage on parcels weighing 1 pound or more. Twelve stamps in denominations from 1 cent to 1 dollar (Scott Q1-12) were released between November 1912 and January 1913 to pay the delivery of parcels. The new parcel fees became effective on January 1, 1913.



Scott Q1-12

The law was designed to streamline the delivery of parcels to rural areas, particularly farms, which suffered from inconsistent delivery of supplies and equipment. The rates for parcels differed from postal rates for letters in that parcels were measured in pounds rather than ounces. The stamps themselves were larger than ordinary postage stamps because parcel packages were much larger than envelopes. The Post Office hoped that the larger stamps would be easy to distinguish from the ordinary post stamps.

That did not happen as postal clerks became confused distinguishing the different stamps.

During the first half of 1913, parcel post was very popular with the public. However, the confusion postal clerks had in distinguishing the stamps forced the Postmaster General to allow the use of ordinary postage stamps on parcel post packages after July 1, 1913. In addition, Parcel Post stamps would be valid on ordinary mail.



The above cover was postmarked on September 8, 1913 and was valid for use on this cover.

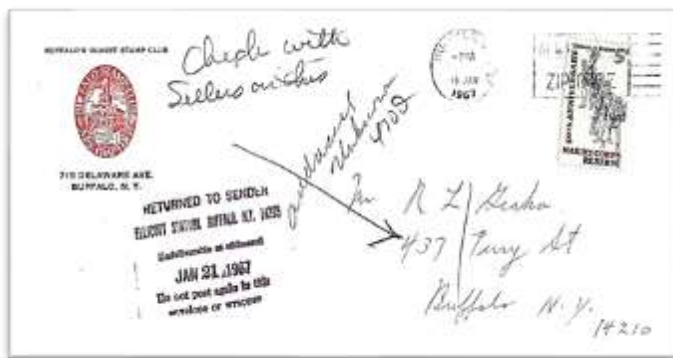
Unique and rare usages are covers postmarked prior to the July 1, 1913 and are highly sought after - as are genuine January 1, 1913 first day covers of the parcel post stamps which marks the first day of the new rate, and not necessarily the first day of issue.

WORDS OF ADVICE



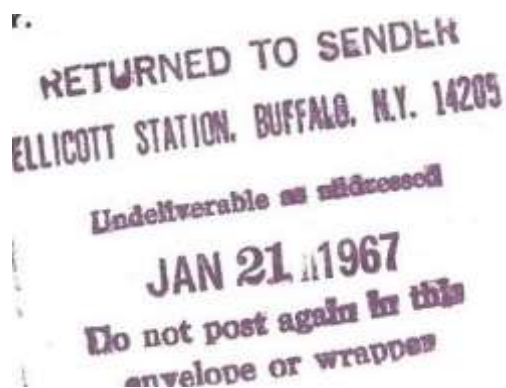
Don't let the mice (or other critters) frolic in your collections. Keep them well organized and open your albums to breathe and enjoy your stamps!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



An interesting cover culled from the Buffalo Stamp Club archives. The return address on the BSC envelope is 715 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. In 1959, the Club moved from its meeting venue in The Hotel Statler where the APS Convention was held in 1940 to the Sheraton Motel on Delaware Ave. before moving out of Buffalo in the 1970's.

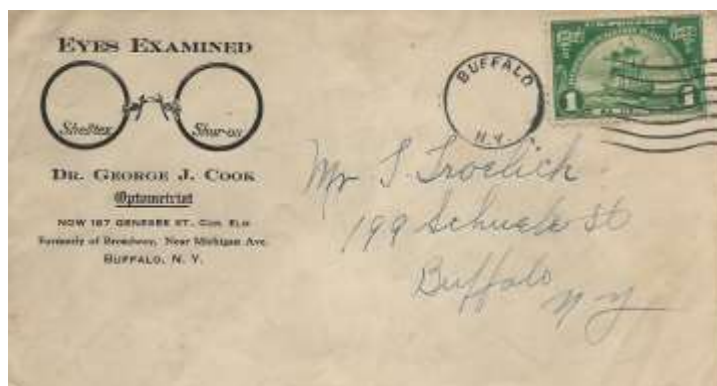
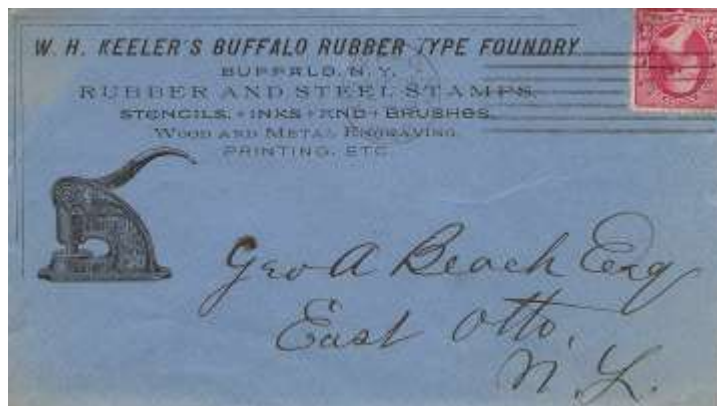
The cover is addressed to Mr. R.L. Geska at 437 Perry Street, Buffalo. It has a Return to Sender auxiliary handstamp marking:



The addressee, Raymond Geska, was a member of the Club in 1967 but lived at 847 Perry Street. The notation "Check with Sellers on this" refers to Norv Sellers who was Secretary of the Club at the time.

Today, Club Secretaries have the benefit of technology that help keep track of Club member information.

BUFFALO ADVERTISING COVERS



Buffalo's position as a manufacturing and trade giant, beginning in the late 19th Century and continuing in the early 20th Century, set the stage for many advertising covers with colorful engraved corners. These corners add to the appeal of collecting advertising covers and tell the story of the history of Buffalo. Some members of the Club specialize in collecting Buffalo covers.

The Empire State Postal History Society specializes in New York postal history and offers its members many benefits including its quarterly publication, *Excelsior*, and bulletin. However, not much has been written about Buffalo postal history in its pages. Visit esphs.us for more information.

The publication of *Postal History of Buffalo, New York 1805-1905* by Irv Tesmer and Dave Przepiora received nice reviews and will help promote Buffalo postal history.