

# The Alaskan Philatelist

The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club • American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 218



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The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club

ISSN #1096-5963

## OFFICERS

President .....	Jim Zuelow
Vice-President .....	Angela Watson
Secretary/Treasurer .....	Eric Knapp
Director .....	Seely Hall, Jr.
Director .....	Caye Carufel
Director .....	Bob Spaugy
Director .....	Dirk van Geldren

All Alaska Collectors Club business, including editorial matters for this journal, should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer and Editor:

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Membership information and sample issues of this journal are available from the Secretary/Treasurer. Price of a sample issue is \$2.00 (stamps OK). Membership levels are as follows:

Regular Membership .....	\$15.00
Contributing Membership .....	\$20.00
Sustaining Membership .....	\$30.00 (or more)
Overseas Membership .....	\$5.00 additional

The Alaskan Philatelist is published four times a year by the Alaska Collectors Club, a society dedicated to developing a wider interest in the study and preservation of Alaska's Postal History. Submissions for publication are always welcome.

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## SUSTAINING MEMBERS—2004

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Frederic Smythe .....	Ted Swem
Peter Tompkins .....	Dirk van Gelderen
Angela Watson .....	Jim Zuelow

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## AWARDS

Colopex 2000—Silver-Bronze  
Colopex 2002—Silver-Bronze  
STaMpsHOW 03—Silver-Bronze





**HELP WANTED**

I am looking for information about the Anchorage Contract Station 11. I never found anything about it and I do have the numbers 10 and 12 and the existence of Number 11 is then logical. Dirk van Gelderen, Voorkade 74, 2771 ZB Boskoop, Netherlands. Email [dirk@esveld.nl](mailto:dirk@esveld.nl)

**WANTED**

Any old postal cards or covers from the Chitna, McCarthy, Kennecott area, 1890 - 1950. Please send list to: Thomas Kinzer, P.O. Box 107, Chitna, AK 99566-0107.

**HELP WANTED**

I am looking for mint and used postcards depicting ALASKA LIGHTHOUSES. Russell Bartlett, 5 Saint Clare Street, Braintree, MA 02184-8239.

**HELP WANTED**

We are looking for covers and other information on Wells Fargo & Company in Alaska during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are specifically looking for any information on the location and history of the various offices in Alaska. George Hall, 13124 Stephenson, Anchorage, AK 99515.

**WANTED**

Any era postal cards (government preprinted stamps, not picture) used in Alaska. No philatelic, please. Don Glickstein, 1300 University St. #9G, Seattle, WA 98101. Email: [glickwolf@earthlink.net](mailto:glickwolf@earthlink.net).

**WANTED**

Censored civilian mail from Alaska and Western Canada from World War II. Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Email: [eknapp@gci.com](mailto:eknapp@gci.com).

**Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog Volume 1 & 2**

Volume 2 of the Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog, covering the Alaska Collectors Club, the Gastineau Philatelic Society and the Northern Lights Stamp Club is now available.

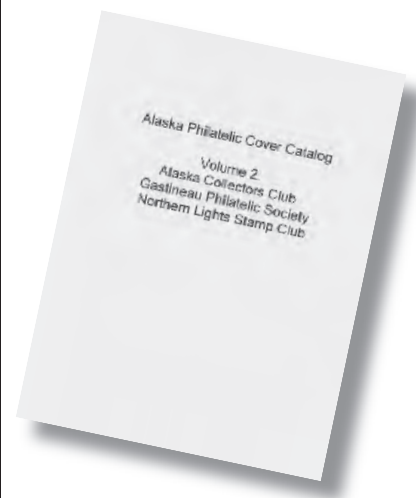
The catalog features illustrations of all major and minor covers issued by the three clubs.

The catalog is 8 ½ x 11 loose-leaf format punched for a three ring binder.

Prices:  
 Volume 2: \$25.00  
 Volume 1, Revised Edition: \$25.00  
 Original Volume 1 Update: \$3.00  
 (All prices are postpaid)

For orders or more information, contact:

Eric Knapp  
 4201 Folker St., Unit C102  
 Anchorage, AK 99508



**TAP Deadlines**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
1st Quarter .....	February 1
2nd Quarter .....	May 1
3rd Quarter .....	August 1
4th Quarter .....	November 1

# President's Message

by Jim Zuelow (*jimzuelow@aol.com*)

Please check out the new, basic website for the Alaska Collectors' Club at *www.alaskacollectorsclub.nl*! ACC Director Dirk van Gelderen, Boskoop, the Netherlands, agreed to be the ACC's Webmaster, registered the domain name, and made our site active. Dirk has also saved the Alaska Collectors' Club a fair amount of money by doing this work himself! You may contact Dirk by e-mail at *info@esveld.nl*.

In addition to Dirk, and among others, ACC Vice-President Angela Watson, ACC Secretary-Treasurer & The Alaskan Philatelist Editor Eric Knapp, ACC Board Member Bob Spaugy, and American Philatelic Society President Janet Klug also helped to "bring us online" and into the 21st Century! Thank you!

ACC Board Member & Former President, Caye Carufel, has been more or less totally occupied lately with Yukon Quest matters, as she usually is about this time of year. Long-term ACC officer & current Board Member, Seely Hall Jr., sold his (as I understand it) outstanding Alaska Postal History collection at an H. R. Harmer, Inc. auction in New York City on February 23, 2005. Hopefully, we will have a follow-up story about this auction in a future TAP issue. While all this was taking place, ACC Auction Manager Terry Shaw was in Great Britain and Spain! Terry reported bidding was not as good in our current auction as in most previous auctions. In other words, contact Terry for bargains!

Approximately a year ago, Angela Watson, ACC Vice-President, and I met in Yuma, Arizona (about half-way between our homes in San Diego and Tucson), and discussed what we might do to, in the words of a noted former ACC President, Nicki Nielsen, to "Mush the ACC Forwards..." We need to hear from you about how to continue to accomplish this!

More personally, my only son, James F. Zuelow, Jr., a Staff Sergeant in the Alaska National Guard in Juneau, was called to active duty last September and is now on duty in Kuwait or Iraq. While not an ACC member per se, he is interested in Alaska postal history! If you would like to write him (I'm sure he'd love mail from home!), his address is:

SSG Zuelow  
2-299 Inf, A/3-297 (Alaska)  
APO AE 09342



Jim Zuelow

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Eric Knapp

Happy 2005 to everyone. The year has started out busy here in Anchorage. My job has been a bit nuts so I have not done all the stamping I wanted to, but that happens.

The Anchorage Philatelic Society just had its annual stamp show. The show was fun. If any of you have not been to a stamp show, even a small local one, it is worth the trip. Speaking of stamp shows I am planning on being at PIPEX in Portland in May. If anyone else is going to be there let me know.

In another part of this issue you will find the financial report for 2004. As you can see we are doing pretty good money wise. Much better than a few years ago when we wondered if we should even continue. For that I want to thank all of you for your attention and interest to our mutual study of Alaska postal history. My personal opinion is that this is a good club.

The following members have given additional donations to the club: Dr. Michael Senta, Stuart Hall, Robert Spaugy, Gastineau Philatelic Society, Wayne Selmar, John Beirne and Jim Zuelow. Thank you to you all.

We have 2 new members who have joined since the last issue of TAP. Please join me in welcoming them.

# 678

Michael Ball  
Polar Trading Company  
P.O. Box 95077  
Phoenix, AZ 85070-5077

#679

Arthur Lyons  
21 Rugby Road  
East Greenbush, NY 12061

Thank you to everyone and I will see you again in the future.

# Alaska Collector's Club Financial Report for 2004

Starting Bank Balance..... \$4,983.64

## Income

Dues & Other Contributions..... \$1,847.89  
 Auction Profits ..... 405.86

Total income ..... \$2,253.75

## Expenses

TAP production costs..... 1,156.26  
 Advertising..... 126.00  
 Sustaining Member Cover Expenses..... 20.93  
 Secretary Treasurers Expenses \*..... 30.75  
 Literature Exhibit Entry Fee..... 25.00

Total Expenses..... 1,358.94

Ending Bank Balance ..... \$5,878.45

\* Most of this was the cost of a bank endorsement stamp

## 2004 Auction Report

There were three ACC auctions whose results affected the 2004 financial results. The totals for all three auctions are as follows.

Total Receipts..... \$2,903.50  
 Total Paid to members..... 2,421.84  
 Total mailing expenses..... 75.50  
 Total profits to club..... \$405.86

## Back Issues of TAP

1959 - 1973 Computer scanned and edited copies  
 1976 - 1984 quality photocopies  
 1984 - 2001 originals and quality photocopies  
 \$10.00 for six issues or calendar year.  
 \$2.00 for single issue

Shipping charges: \$2.00 for first 6 issues, \$1.00 for each additional six issues or portion thereafter, \$5.00 maximum on any order. Limited quantities available. Refunds for those not available. Donation of back issues appreciated.

## Sad Club News

Alaska Collectors Club member and former President Seely V. Hall Jr. died March 13, 2005, at his home in Juneau. Mr. Hall had been a member of the Alaska Collectors Club since it's founding in 1959.

Always a steadfast contributor to the club, his last article appears later in this issue. A longer obituary will appear in the next issue.

*Editors Thoughts: Seely Hall has been a friend and mentor to me since I started editing this journal. His knowledge, interesting material, writing skills and constant good humor are precious memories to me. I will miss Seely and am proud to call him my friend.*

## Club members want to hear YOUR story (don't be shy!)

*Take the form on page 9 and fill it out. Send it along with a photo and a color copy of your favorite philatelic piece to Angela Watson, P.O. Box 3262, San Diego, CA 92163.*



# 53rd Alaska Philatelic Exhibition Award Winners

## SENIOR CLUB EXHIBITS

### *Grand Award*

George Hall.....Antarctic Postal History

### *Reserve Grand Award*

Kevin Hall.....1851 – 1857 3-cent stamp

### *Best Topical*

Mark Bacon .....Submarines to the Arctic

### *Best Postal History Exhibit*

Mark Bacon ..... Russian Arctic Ice Stations

### *Best Alaskana*

Dave Schwantes ..... Special Cancellations in Alaska

### *AAPE\* Award of Honor*

Erik Tomsen..... Cowboys and Indians

### *Best First Time Exhibitor*

Kevin Hall.....1851 – 1857 3-cent stamp

## GOLD MEDAL

Mark Bacon ..... Russian Arctic Ice Stations

Kevin Hall.....1851 – 1857 3-cent stamp

Judy Ireton ..... Shoemaker to the Stars

George Hall.....Antarctic Postal History

## SILVER MEDAL

Dave Schwantes ..... Special Cancellations in Alaska

Mark Bacon .....Submarines to the Arctic

Nelson Gnrke.....Historic Transportation Series

Erik Tomsen..... Cowboys and Indians

## BRONZE MEDAL

Eric Knapp. America Speaks on U.S. Definitive Stamps

Eric Knapp...America Speaks on U.S. Postal Stationary

## PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

Bill Kirk .....

Mycological Philatelic Overview (or, of athlete's foot, Champagne, and beer...)

Sheila Erwin.....

Norman Rockwell, Illustrator of Americana

Sheila Erwin..... What is Love

## PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE (NON COMPETITIVE)

Bob Spaugy ..... Australian Antarctic Territory

*\* American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors*

## JUNIOR CLUB EXHIBITS

*Seven Through Eleven Years of Age*

## GOLD MEDAL

Corie Cooper ..... Butterflies

Daniel Langden..... First Day Covers

Krysta Daniel ..... Komicz

## SILVER MEDAL

Krysta Daniel ..... Butterflies

## BRONZE MEDAL

Corie Cooper ..... Bears

Krysta Daniel ..... Birds

Krysta Daniel ..... Cool Cats

*Twelve through Sixteen Years of Age*

## GOLD MEDAL

Scott Kugel..... Airplanes of the World Wars

## BEST OF SHOW

Scott Kugel..... Airplanes of the World Wars

### *Editor's Request*

I hate to keep harping on this, but my file of original articles is empty again. I need every member of the club to look at their collection and find those things they can write about. Everybody has something in his or her collection, some experience, or just a good tale that you could tell us about.

Please take an hour or two and write something for the journal. Thank you!

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# Auction Prices Realized

*Auction closed 12/31/04*

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Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
6	4.50	7	25.00
8	11.25	10	4.50
13	1.75	15	7.00
17	3.75	21	15.25
24	6.50	27	16.00
29	4.00	30	1.75
35	1.50	37	16.75
39	3.75	40	3.50
43	10.00	58	7.50
59	466.00	63	5.00
65	11.50	66	12.75
70	72.50	74	13.25
77	3.75	78	4.50
84	2.50	88	4.50
89	11.75	95	8.00
106	4.50	108	11.25
109	9.25	110	19.50
118	5.00	124	76.50
133	4.00	137	2.00
138	8.25	151	8.75
152	9.50	164	7.00
172	4.00	178	12.50
179	11.75	181	6.50
187	1.75	188	3.25
189	3.25	190	44.50
191	7.50	192	33.25
193	10.50	194	10.00
196	17.50	199	10.75
203	17.00	205	2.50
210	7.50	218	1.25
230	6.00	231	3.25
233	10.00	236	12.25
238	5.75	239	10.75
242	13.50	243	3.00
244	13.50	245	4.75
246	33.50	247	6.25
248	13.00	249	14.00
250	14.50	253	29.25

# Newly Reported Postmarks and Updates

reported by Jim Zuelow



Figure 1.  
Candle Possible new receiving mark. Different than Helbeck R-1



Figure 2.  
Kodiak Naval Air Station. Earlier date than listed in Helbeck

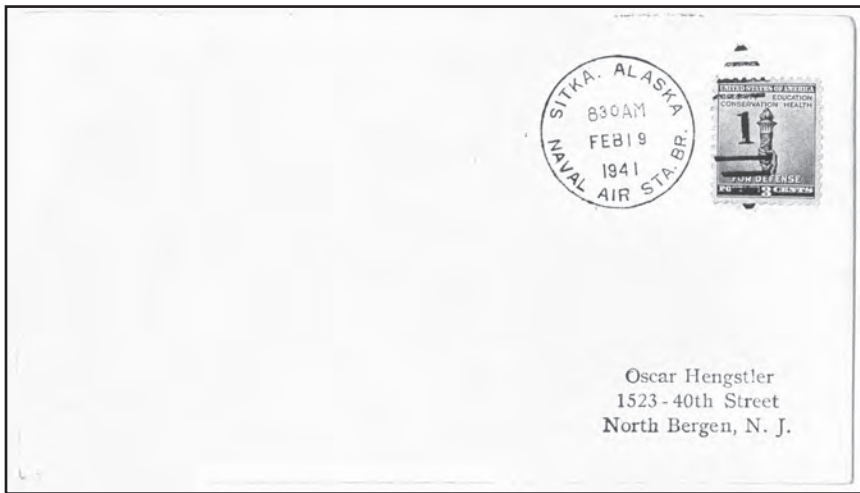


Figure 3.  
Sitka Naval Air Station, later date than in Helbeck



Figure 4.  
APO 733 New 4-bar Cancel Type

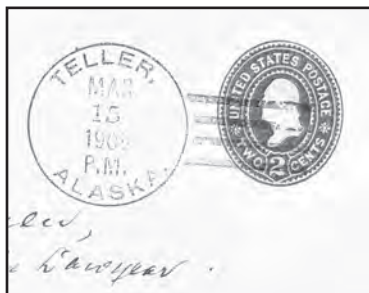


Figure 5.  
Teller, Type 3 cancel earlier than 4 Aug 1909



Figure 6.  
Juneau, Type 31 box cancel with comma after "Juneau" in box. Used 1929.



# Member Questionnaire for Newsletter Article

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We're going to try a different tack with this feature. Here is the questionnaire, so now everyone can fill it out and send it in for publication in the newsletter. Please take a few minutes and send this in. We'd love to feature all our members in the newsletter. This is an especially important feature in a club with no regularly scheduled meetings. We will need three things from you:

- 1) this sheet with you filled in answers (add other sheets as necessary),
- 2) a recent photo of you (prefer clear, well- focused and good contrast photos), and
- 3) a color photocopy of your favorite piece of Alaskan Postal History.

Please drop all those things in the mail back to me at: Angela Watson • 5519 E. Mezzanine Way • Long Beach, CA 90808.  
Thanks!

1. Please list your name place of residence and age: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did you become a stamp collector? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What about Alaska Philately interests you the most? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What specialties within Alaska Philately do you collect? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What other countries or areas do you collect? \_\_\_\_\_

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---

7. What other philatelic study groups or organizations are you a member of? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Tell us about your favorite piece of Alaskan Postal History (include the color copy so we can scan and add to your article).

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9. Anything else you want to tell us about yourself (other hobbies, interests, favorite curse word, etc?)

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# Women of the Gold Rush: Kate Carmack

Kate Carmack, born Shaaw Tlaa, was a member of the Stick Indian tribe. Kate's husband was George Carmack, a prospector who worked with her brother, Skookum Jim, and his partner Kaa Goox, also known as Dawson Charlie. Carmack and Skookum Jim share the credit for the August 17, 1898 gold discovery that set off the great Klondike gold rush.

George had first married Shaaw Tlaa's older sister, but when she died not long after their marriage, Shaaw Tlaa took her place. George named her Kate. No official record was made of the marriage, an oversight Kate would live to regret.

George Carmack had been orphaned at 12 and lived with his older sister for nine years before setting out on his own. In 1885 he headed north, stopping first at Juneau, Alaska, then traveled to Dyea where he met Skookum Jim. George, Jim and Dawson Charlie spent the next decade trading and prospecting along the Yukon River between Dyea and the mining community of Forty Mile, just north of what would become the city of Dawson. George, who was prone to exaggeration, was laughingly dubbed "Lying George" by the miners at Forty Mile.

In January 1893, seven years after their marriage, Kate gave birth to the couple's only child, a girl named Graphie Gracie. George and his family continued to roam across the Yukon territory, hunting, trading and doing a little prospecting along the way. When Robert Henderson, a fellow prospector, told Carmack that he had been getting promising results from areas around the mouth of the Klondike River, the group set out down one of the river's tributary, Rabbit Creek. On August 17, 1896, the crew found their strike. The sight, which became known as Discovery, was marked by Carmack's hand-written sign. "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I do, this day, locate and claim, by right of discovery, five hundred feet, running upstream from this notice. Located this 17th day of August, 1896. G.W. Carmack." Between them, the trio held the Discovery claim as well as claims along the creek-#1 above Discovery and #1 and #2 below Discovery.

Although the group was digging thousands of dollars of gold out of their claims, they were far from any town, and gold could not heat a cabin or fill a stomach. The winter of 1896/1897 was harsh. Until the spring thaw (when the gold could be sluiced and separated from mud and dirt), they had

no means of support. So, while her husband and brother spent that fall and winter digging out their gold, Kate kept food on the table by doing laundry for other miners.

When spring came, the partners were finally able to collect their washed out gold. Carmack

and Kate had over \$100,000 from their winter's work. The couple stayed in the Klondike another year and were not among the miners aboard the *Excelsior* or *Portland* in the summer of 1897. The next summer, George and Kate left the Klondike for the "outside." They traveled to Seattle and visited George's sister Rose on her ranch in Cambria, California. Rose did not care for Kate, but seemed to take to young Graphie Gracie.

While they were in Seattle, George and Kate were the center of attraction. George rode around town in a carriage bearing the immodest sign, "Geo. Carmack, Discoverer of Gold in the Klondike." In early September the pair caused quite a disturbance when they tossed coins from their hotel roof to an ever-growing crowd.

Life away from the rest of her family and the land she knew best was hard on Kate. Her misery was self-destructive, and when she was arrested for making a public disturbance, the *Seattle Times* was quick to print the story. "Mrs. George W. Carmack, the Indian wife of the discoverer of the Klondike, who is probably the richest Indian woman in the world, was fined \$3.60 by Judge Cann this morning for drunkenness."

George had become as unhappy with Kate as she was to be away from her home. Instead of letting her return to the north, he sent Kate and Graphie to live with his sister, Rose. George returned to Dawson and set about enjoying his "discoverer" status, becoming the life of the party and falling in love. The object of his desire, Marguerite Saftig Laimee, was a woman of questionable repute. The owner of a "cigar store," Laimee was, in fact, the owner of a brothel. Her career seemed to make no difference to Carmack and soon he wrote to Rose and asked her to send Kate back to her clan, informing them that he intended to marry Laimee.

Kate refused to be tossed aside and after consulting with friends, decided to make a legal appeal for her share of the couple's \$1.5 million worth of gold discoveries. She sued for divorce on the grounds of desertion and adultery. Unfortunately for Kate, since no marriage papers had been filed, the court did not recognize its existence. George and Marguerite were married late in 1900.

George died a rich man in Vancouver in 1922. Marguerite inherited his wealth and died in California in 1949. Kate, who subsequently lost her daughter, Graphie, to George, returned to her Tagish clan. She lived off of a government pension in a cabin that Skookum Jim had built for her in Carcross. In 1920, Kate died in Carcross during a flu epidemic. She was 63.



# Member Spotlight

**Name:** Fred A. Smith,  
**Age, etc.:** age 82, retired  
**Resides in:** Lockport, IL



**How did you become a stamp collector?**

*Through a Freeport, IL stamp club.*

**What about Alaska Philately interest you the most?**

*The EAMC and FDC covers. I have probably 350+ of the "Sourdough Flight Covers," too. My cousin was with his parents and their car was the first civilian car to take the ALCAN Highway from Lower 48 to Anchorage. I became interested in Alaska because of that.*

**What other countries/areas do you collect?**

*I collect Stamps and covers of the Allied Military Government (AMGs); Italy, World War Two era; and Phillipines covers, U.S. Administration.*

**What other philatelic study groups or organizations are you a member of?**

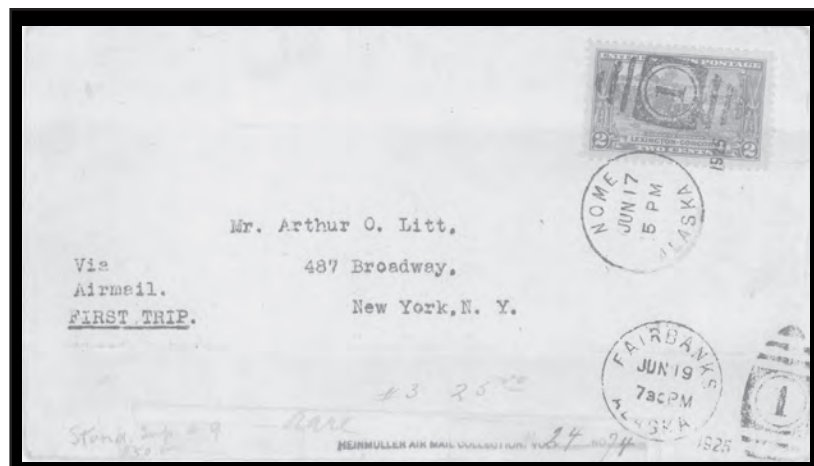
*Pan American Study Group. I have 12 of the "Experimental Flight" covers that preceded the First Flight covers, all from the U.S. to Manilla. These planes carried beer and typewriter parts!*

**Tell us a bit more about the covers you sent in.**

*I really like the Will Rogers/Wiley Post memorial Cover from Barrow, AK to the U.S. He, of course, died in a plane crash in Alaska. I also sent a First Flight Cover from Nome to Fairbanks. It took from June 17 to June 19 in 1938 to get there.*



W.T.L. Dickie  
23 Glenlawn Ave.  
Sea Cliff  
N Y



Mr. Arthur O. Litt,

Via  
Airmail.

FIRST TRIP.

487 Broadway,

New York, N. Y.

# Grant Letter Sheet in Alaska

by Seely Hall

According to the value listed in the Scott U.S. Specialized catalog, the Grant letter sheet, U293 is not particularly rare, but apparently it is not common used form Alaska. I have specialized in all phases of Alaska postal history since 1950 and now have an extensive collection. I have a knowledge of the letter sheet limited to what one finds in Scott's (my last edition is 1996).

I knew Joe Cavognol when he was stationed in Anchorage and working on "Postmarked Alaska" (he started me on collecting Alaskan postal history). I was fortunate in acquiring his Loring cover illustrated in his "Postmarked Alaska" when Siegel auctioned the Matejka Alaska collection in 1980 (figure 1). I believe this to be the earliest known cancel from Loring, in a bright purple. Cavognol states "A Grant letter sheet, Scott's no. U293, postmarked Loring / Alaska Jul/ 22 / 1888. Letter on opposite side indicates it was written by a traveler and dropped off at

Loring. The writer apparently carried the letter sheet from the United States, as there is no record of the use of this letter sheet in the territory."

Scott's lists U293 as issued Aug 18, 1886 and withdrawn June 30, 1894. The "Loring" example is a series 2, used comparatively early.

Recently another sheet postmarked Eagle, Alaska Jul 8, 1901 appeared and I purchased it (figure 2). It also carries additional postage to cover the five-cent international rate, being sent to Belgium. Again, used by a traveler. The series is unknown as it is covered by the two-cent Washington.

As I stated, I'm not well versed in the use of the letter sheet and wonder about its use seven years following its withdrawal, and in excellent condition.

Both examples known to me, being used by travelers to Alaska holds hope that other Alaskan uses must exist.

