

# *At the Clubhouse*

Meeting, September 6, 2006

## Unusual High Value Postal Stationery of the United States

Robert L. Markovits, Stockbridge, MA

High value U.S. postal stationery was the promise, and bountifully delivered by Bob Markovits at this meeting. The sequence of presentation started with the 90¢ envelopes, with comments showing that few were used, none were known with a Wells Fargo handstamp, and most were used to enclose receipts, as pointed out in an article by Jamie Gough in the July/August 2005 issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*. A 30¢ envelope used to China showed evidence of such use (see the illustration below).

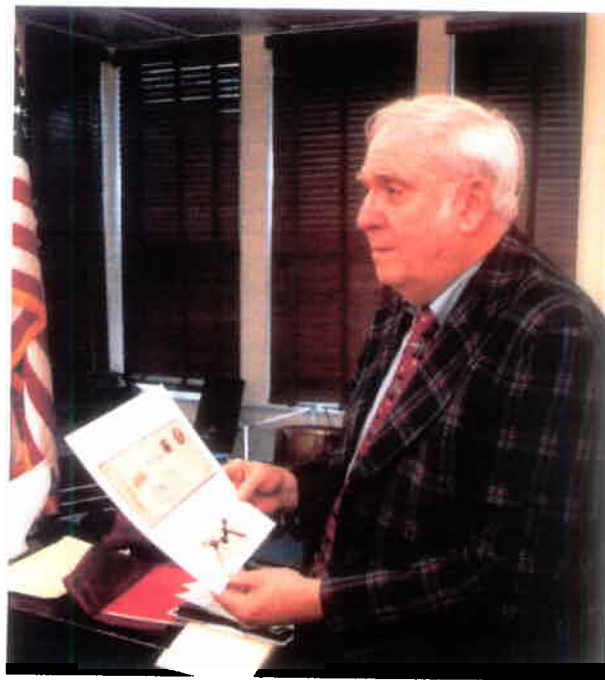
Markovits remarked that there were no high-value postal stationery covers in the Marcus White collection and that he knew of only a handful that were genuinely postally used. In addition to this, he commented that some of the lower denomination envelopes were rarities. Of the 7¢ envelopes, he was aware of 53 examples with perhaps six more for which he had no records. He remarked that from July 1, 1875, with the new UPU rates, there was no valid use for the 7¢ envelopes. He also showed how to tell the difference between the Reay and Plimpton types, as well as illustrating the differences in the watermarks.

The 5¢ envelopes were available for follow-on when the other supplies dried up, with some appearing in late 1870s or 1880, but although simple are difficult to find. He showed a Garfield to Natal and a combination to Spain, but remarked that he knew of no blue Garfield envelopes properly used.

Some of the problem is due to the lack of literature on the subject. Bartels helped Parsons Todd, but Barkhausen went to the Philatelic Foundation due to philatelic rivalry.

The final section was rather intriguing and generated much interest among those who attended. He referred to it as the "cheapskates," in which various envelope cutouts were reused from 1853 to date. Some examples were unusually obvious and should have been caught.

In a detailed talk, Markovits also made a very good case that the envelopes sent by H.W. Dunning, long considered to be philatelic, were actually commercial. His idea was that since Dunning was involved in a shipping business, the envelopes were very likely used to send tickets to clients.



Robert Markovits, with a page showing a 30¢ envelope to Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, which had been glued to a larger package, shown at the page bottom.