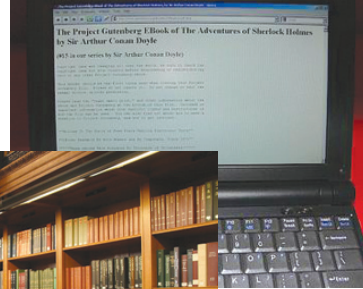


Philatelic Literature: Postal Cards, Philamath



Postal cards are an interesting collecting area, and the United States Postal Stationery Society has a new book that will be of interest to

many. It is titled *Postal Cards of Spanish Colonial Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico*. Edited by Robert Littrell with assistance of associate editors Ernesto Cuesta and Octavio Cabrera, the 126 page hardcover book, published in the 8.5 x 11.0 inch format, is a compilation of the most up-to-date and leading edge information available on postal stationery of these countries.

Postal cards were introduced in Cuba, Philippines, and Puerto Rico in 1878. Use of these cards was sparse, and "used postal cards of the early years are extremely rare," the General Introduction noted. Similar to other areas of the world, limited use came about because residents did not want to print their personal notes open to public view. The fact there was no difference in rates between letters and postal cards added to the lack of use.

The book begins with Cuba, and there are over a dozen sections plus appendices. Authored by Robert Littrell with Octavio Cabrera (on the UPU cards), there are extensive and in-depth examinations of all known characteristics and variations of the stationery. The use of colorful charts with variations highlighted certainly makes the often difficult subject matter much clearer.

Next, Donald Peterson covers postal cards of the Philippines, using the same chart format for showing variations, but also extensively illustrating cards of the period.

Myron Mitchell's contribution to the treatise is postal cards of Puerto Rico. The same format of charts (some full page) with large size illustrations of varieties makes it much

easier for the novice to follow what is being described. The book ends with references and a bibliography.

Editor Littrell said in his "Editor's Notes" that the book cannot be the last word on the subject, and that discoveries and research will reveal new information. But until that occurs, this book is certainly the definitive statement on the subject and should not be missed by those who collect this subject and areas.

The book is published on glossy paper and there is liberal use of color throughout. It is without question a high quality book carefully and lovingly prepared by the UPSS. Such undertakings are never inexpensive, and UPSS Publication Manager Dan Undersander noted that the book represents one of the many publications supported by the Lewandowski Fund. The fund was result of a bequest from member Arthur Lewandowski.

This book is one of several new publications from the UPSS. This book is priced at \$47.20 for members and \$59 for non-members. Contact the USPP Publications Office, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831, or email to upsspubs@aol.com.

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Philamath is a journal of mathematical philately published by the Mathematical Study Unit of the American Topical Association and the American Philatelic Society. The July 2011 issue featured an article on history of the atom and its use in atomic energy. Author Derek Williams (name not on the article but in the Table of Contents) used numerous stamps and articles of postal history to trace development of atomic energy. For information, contact Secretary-Treasurer Estelle Buccino, 830 West 40th St. #803, Baltimore, MD 21211-2133. There is no email listed.

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That's it for this time. Remember that review copies of books, monographs, society journals and other philatelic literature are solicited. Send publications to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906. Email is eparker@hughes.net.