

## Fabulous First:

# The Feldman EKV Rarities Auction

by John F. Dunn

[The December 2014 David Feldman Rarities Auction included a section on Earliest Known Uses of the World. I do not have access to the prices realized, and they would be out of date by now anyway, but the usages and the lot descriptions do merit our inclusion in our Fabulous Firsts coverage. JFD.]

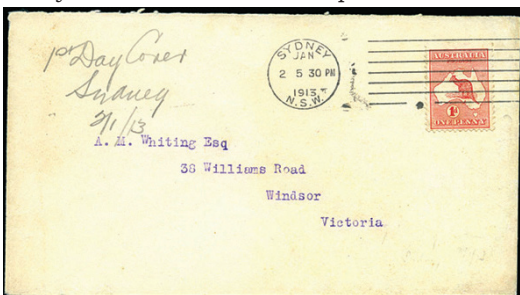
The first lot we view is this New South Wales January 3, 1850 EKV, a folded cover from Sydney to Parramatta, franked with the 1850 2d greyish blue, early impression (Scott 3a), tied by oval bars, showing letter datelines "Sydney 3rd January 1850", plus an arrival backstamp of PARRAMATTA/JAN.3.1850, a very fine example of this early known usage of the popular Sydney View issue. [Keep in mind that Scott lists a given issue by denomination, lowest to highest, not by order of issue. JFD.]



Next we have an 1853 (Nov 1) envelope from Hobart to Geelong, Victoria, with an 1853 4d orange (Sc. 2), plate 2 position 5, tied by a "64" numeral with Hobart Town G.P.O cds [circular date stamp] adjacent, loaded on S.S. "Clarence" at Launceston on Nov 5, arriving in Geelong on Nov 7 (cds on reverse), an extremely important item of Tasmanian philately as contrary to what has been traditionally reported, it supports the theory that "Plate 2" was used prior to "Plate 1"



Next we have the First Day Usage of the Australia Kangaroo Issue, a 1913 envelope from Sydney to Windsor in Victoria, franked by the 'Roo' 1d red tied by a clear SYDNEY JAN 2 1913 New South Wales meter marking.



Austria included two lots, the first being this 1850 (May 27) entire



letter from Vienna to Pesth with a top marginal example of the 1850 6 kreuzer brown (Sc. 4) (technically issued June 1st), tied clearly by "WIEN / 27. MAI" two line datestamp in black with repeated strike at right, adhesive also cancelled in red crayon manuscript also used to denote pre-payment, reverse of entire with "Briefs No. 93" datestamp (May 27) and Pesth arrival cds (May 29), thus both the sending and the delivery occurred prior to the intended date of issue. A fantastic world and first issue rarity.

The second Austria lot features an 1850 folded registered cover from Vienna to Gutenbrün, franked with an 1850 3 kreuzer carmine red, handpaper, Type Ia (Sc. 3), tied by WIEN RECOM-MAND/1.JUN (1850) first day cancel, the only recorded registered first day usage, a very fine & important rarity showpiece.



Brazil was represented by this 1843 60r black with sheet margin at right clearly and neatly cancelled by CORREIO GERAL DA CORTE 1 / 8 1843, the first day of issue, a very fine and rare showpiece.



Canadian Provinces EKUs included this 1851 envelope from Dorchester to Florida (USA) franked by a 6d olive-yellow (Sc. 2) tied by a barred numeral, the reverse bears part of a despatch cds showing September 10th date, most possibly from 1851, a presumed First Day of Issue usage offered "as is".



Nov a Scotia was represented by an 1851 folded cover from Halifax to Glasgow, Scotland, franked with an 1851 3d deep blue (Sc. 2) and 1s cold [dull] violet (Sc. 7), tied by clear neat barred ovals, showing a HALIFAX/22.1.52 backstamp





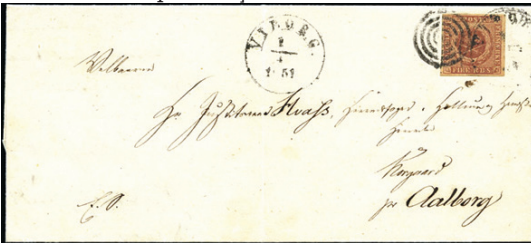
with a Glasgow arrival alongside, an extremely rare early usage and possible the earliest known usage of these popular Nova Scotia classics.

Here we have a variation on the theme of EKUs, a first usage from Czechoslovakia with a stamp—the stamp being a British Penny Black.



The 1840 (Jul 28) Mourning entire from Karlsbad, Bohemia, to England with a red despatch date stamp, was redirected to the Isle of Wight with an 1840 1d black plate 4 placed on top of the Karlsbad handstamp and tied by a red Maltese Cross cancel, rated "1/4" and "8", a fine exhibition item for a Czech postal history collection. [Hmm...as the stamp was affixed in England, I fail to see how this qualifies as a first usage from Czechoslovakia **with** a stamp. JFD.]

From Denmark we have this 1851 folded entire from Viborg to Aalborg, franked with an 1851 4 R.B.S. Fer-slew Printing, plate II, chocolate brown (Sc. 2), tied by a duplex target cancel and cds, with VIBORG /1.4.1851 first day cancel alongside, an extremely fine usage of the stamp on the first day.



The Moller certificate states "A total of 11-12 first day covers in private hands are recorded, of which 6-7 are from Copenhagen. Provincial covers are recorded from Holbel, Svendborg, Vordingborg and this cover from Viborg."

Next we have this First Day usage, an 1866 printed matter dated internally 1st of January 1866, from



Alexandria to Cairo, franked by an Egypt 10pa brown (Sc. 2) and tied by a retta cancel. [Back to the Scott numbering order, often the Scott #2 stamp met the primary postal rate, while Scott #1 with a lower face denomination was issued to meet a special rate. JFD]

Here we see an 1895 Registered front of cover to Paris franked by two 1/4g (Sc. 1) and one 1/2g (Sc. 21) tied by a HARAR cds dated 21 Tir 1887 corresponding to Julian Calendar 29 January 1895, also with a French Djibouti 50c adhesive alongside as Ethiopia was not yet a member of the UPU [so the Djibouti stamp was needed for international use]. One of only four recorded covers from the first batch of mail with stamps out of Harar.



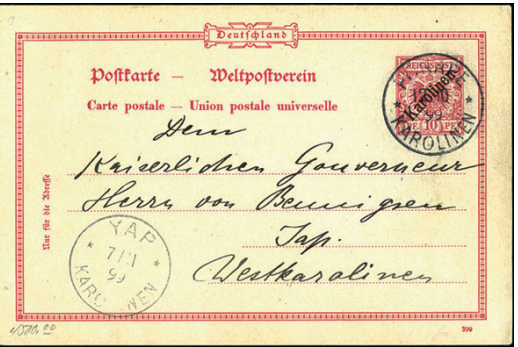
France was represented by this 1849 small envelope from Lyon to St. Chamond, franked with an 1849 20c black (Sc. 3), neatly tied by a LYON /1. JANV.49 first day cancel, with similar handstamp alongside, a scarce usage.



Next we have an 1849 folded entire from Immenstadt to Brug b. Gestratz, franked by a Bavaria 1849 3Kr blue (Sc. 2), plate 1, tied by IM-MNENSTADT 1/11 (1849) thimble-cds, a very fine and rare showpiece.



This 1899 10pf Red postal stationery card from Ponape to Yap, cancelled by a PONAPE 12 /10 99 KAROLINEN cds, YAP 7/11 99 arrival cds alongside, is one of only six items recorded



from this Germany Colony Post Office opening date.

Next we have a 1914 local Rabaul, New Britain cover with 1d on 3pf, 1d on 5pf and 3d on 30pf tied RABAUL OCT 17 1914 on registered cover, then 3d on 30pf (Sc. 1, 2, 8), a First Day Usage for all three stamps.



Greece was represented by this 1861 folded entire from Mesologi to Patros, franked with an 1861 Paris Print 20 Lepta (Sc. 4), tied by "49" dotted lozenge with MESOLOGI/1.OKT.61 first day cancel alongside, plus PATRAS/2.OKT.61 arrival backstamp, a very fine example of this first day usage.



What would a First Days of the World auction be without the very first government postal issue FDC, the British Penny Black (Sc.2)? On page 3 we have a May 6, 1840 First Day Cover, a folded entire from London to Thornbury, franked with a 1d black, plate



1a, lettered RL (Sc.1), tied by a faint but clear strike of an orange-red Maltese cross cancel 2, showing on the flap a faint but legible strike of MY 6 1840 despatch cds which opens well to display; not trusting the glue, the stamp was additionally fixed with a piece of sealing wax.



Next is a Leeward Islands cover, from a lot of four Diamond Jubilee FDCs sent locally, this one to St. Kitts bearing the complete set of eight values from 1/2d to 5s (Sc. 1-8)



Here we see an 1850 folded letter sheet from Venice to Milan, franked with the 1850 30 cents brown Type I from the first printing (Sc. 5), tied by a 2-line VENEZIA/1. GIU (1850) date stamp of the first day of issue, an outstanding usage, an important postal history rarity showpiece of Lombardy Venetia. The Diena certificate states that he knows of only one other cover.



Next is an 1852 Registered folded cover from St. Felice to Modena, dated internally 31 May 1852, franked by two Modena Italian States 1852



10c black on rose, first printing (Sc. 2), one example has a touched corner otherwise large margins all around, both uncanceled, MODENA R. DISTRIBUZIONE POSTALE pmk alongside, unique and mentioned in the Sassone catalogue.

In the next column we see an 1852 folded entire from Piacenza to Turin, franked by a Parma 1852 15c black on pink pair, first printing (Sc. 3), uncanceled, with a double-circle PIACENZA 1 GUI 1852 despatch cds alongside, an extremely rare first day usage in superb condition.

This cover was expertised by Diena (1981), Colla (2007), Bottacchi (2007), Zanaria guarantee (2007).

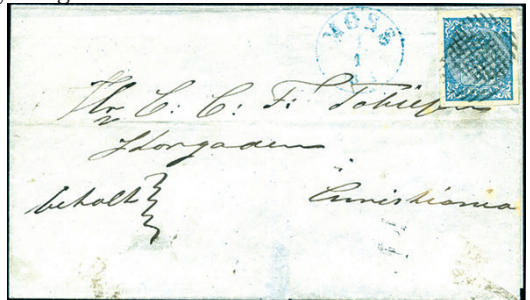
Below that is an 1859 folded entire from Palermo to Paris, franked with the 1859 20 grana, 10 grana all 5 grana (Sc. 15-17), all tied by the typical wreath fancy cancel designed so that it would not obliterate the portrait of Emperor Ferdinand II, also with a PALERMO/1. GEN.59 first day cancel, an important showpiece of the greatest rarity.



Next we view an 1852 folded entire from Amsterdam to Alhier, franked with an 1852 5c blue (Sc. 1), neatly tied by an AMSTERDAM FRANCO/1.1 first day cancel, a rare First Day usage.



Norway is represented by the finest of the three known First Day usages, a cover with the 1855 4sk blue (Sc. 1), cancelled by crossed 11-bar grids on "be-halt" manuscript (hold for) cover with a MOSS / 1.1.1855 cds in blue, addressed to C.C. Tobieson, Christiania



Next, Peru, with an 1858 folded entire from Lima, via Callao to Paris, franked with a 1 Dinero blue, type 2 (Sc. 3), tied by a framed oval LIMA, with CALLAO / MR.12.1858 transit backstamp, a wonderful example of the earliest known usage [keeping in mind that the 1858 issue was preceded by the 1857 Steamship designs, Sc. 1 & 2].



On page 4 we see the earliest known usage of a Romanian stamp, the 1858 54pa green on light green paper Moldavia 'Bull's



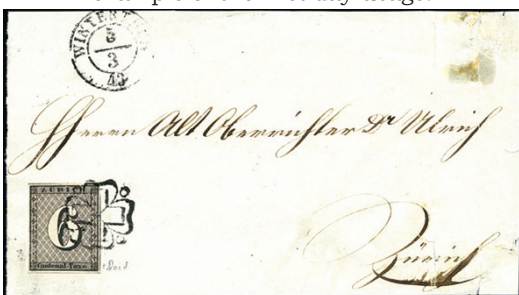
Head' issue (Sc. 2), centrally cancelled by JASSY 29/7 cds, the unique earliest recorded usage, an exceptional item



To the left we have the 1855 4 skilling blue (Sc. 2), cancelled by a clear boxed GEFLE/1.7.1855 first day cancel, a showpiece with a very fine and rare example of the first day usage.



Zwitzerland presents us with multiple lots. First, an 1843 front of a cover from Winterthur to Zurich franked by a Zurich 6 Rappen (Sc. 1L2) tied by beautiful black Rosette handstamp, WINTERTHUR 5 / 3 43 cds top left, 6Rp with small tear at left and front is somewhat reinforced at right, a major Zurich postal history item as only one earlier usage (March 2) is recorded which is in the Swiss postal museum making this the Earliest Known Use in private hands.



Next we have an 1850 Federal Administration Poste Locale 2-1/2Rp with framed cross (Sc. 1) on a folded cover addressed locally with in Neuchâtel



cancelled by a neat circled P.P. in blue, with a NEUCHÂTEL 1 OCT 50 cds alongside, subsequently cover was readdressed to Les-Ponts-de-Martel with no further charges.

Although the Poste Locale stamps were delivered to the postal administration in May 1850 there is no record of usage before October 1st, 1850. Only one further cover with a Poste Locale and dated October 1st 1850 is recorded.

Finally, we conclude this EKU study with an 1850 folded letter from Bern to Langnau franked by a 5Rp dark blue Rayon I cancelled by a boxed "PD" with a red BERN 1 OCT



1850 cds alongside, a scarce first day usage. [For the application of postal rates, the Swiss Postal Administration established four Rayons, which were determined by the distance or road transport time (whichever was higher) between sender and recipient. Rayon I was the lowest based on this system, though there was a lower rate (Orts) issue for letters mailed within a municipality.



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