Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

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Editor

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DON’T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF by Jeff Lough

This is the 47th in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

This small stuff comes to you from France via Des Moines, Iowa and measures 3 1/8 inch by 2 3/8 inch (Figure 1).

Carl Weeks was born in rural Iowa in 1876 and was two years old when his family loaded their belongings into two covered wagons and headed to Lynn, Kansas. When Carl was 12 the family moved back to Des Moines, Iowa. After working for a patent medicine company owned by his mother’s family, he graduated from pharmacy school, when to Paris where he observed the developing French women’s cosmetic industry, and became engaged in the newly developing marketing innovation of direct mail.

Mr. Weeks was a very successful manufacturer of cosmetics in the 1920s and 30s. One of his companies was the Armand Face Powder Company’s. An example of one of the company’s product is illustrated (Figure 2), called “Armand Cream Rouge”.

Carl Weeks (Figure 3) received the accompanying cover from an acquaintance in France in 1932. France SN 261, one of the higher values of the set commemorating the 1930—1931 French Colonial Exposition, is used to frank the cover, the stamp is tied to the cover with a slogan circular-date-stamp postmarked Dec 24 1931. The simple seasonal greeting sent by Adolphe Raimondi is also nearby (Figure 4).
Mr. Weeks and his wife built an incredible $1.5 million dollar (1928 prices), 42 room, 4-story manor in Des Moines, Iowa (Figure 5). They furnished it with many rare books, antiques, art works, and curiosities. The large mansion is the re-creation of a 16th century English manor, the King’s House, located in Salisbury, England. The Salisbury House remains today a noteworthy museum and the headquarters of a wide variety of humanities’ types of activities. Carl Week’s motto was “If you can dream it, you can build it.”
LOOKING FOR A FLAG CANCELLATION by Jeff Lough

Being a recovering stamp collector novice, last year I purchased the accompanying 1912 cover at the Club’s show (Figure 1, because I wanted one with one of the classic U. S. flag cancellations.

A while later I actually looked at the cover and discovered a return address of Myers Hall in Lawrence, Kansas, a building I did not remember. Having attended KU in Lawrence for 11 years I thought I had known all the buildings on campus and had been pretty familiar with the community. Eventually I visited the University Archives in Kenneth Spencer Research Library and the Department of Religious Studies and found that the building had been torn down the year before I arrived and that it had been across the street from my beloved Kansas (student) Union. Myers Hall (Figure 2) had been the location of some of the precursors of the University’s teacher training program in the early 20th century; and had a large auditorium, KU’s religion classrooms, the University’s pre-WWI cafeteria, a Tiffany-created 6 by 10 feet 7-color stained glass window, and the offices of several religious groups.
I was off to the races. Who was J. P. Linschied of Arlington, Kansas? I had driven through Arlington, western Reno County, many times on the way to Langdon, Turon, Albuquerque, Tucson, and Los Angeles. I remembered enjoying the fried shrimp at the Amish-Mennonite café, Carolyn’s Essenhaus (Figure 3). So it was day trip time to the Arlington Public Library and to Carolyn’s for a piece of chocolate pie. I discovered that Mr. John P. Linschied (Figure 4) had been the founding pastor of the local Mennonite church in 1887, that the church had burned down in 1924, and that the congregation had disbanded in 1964. He had been a local farmer, had married a widow and adopted her two young sons.
The more conservative Amish-Mennonite community had moved to the area southwest of Hutch from Dodge City during the Dust Bowl. This had made sense to me since some of the more liberal religious groups that had been in Myers Hall (the YMCA and the Wesley Foundation) had had strong ties to more liberal Anabaptist groups like the General Conference Mennonites and the United Brethren at the time I was a student and may have had some interesting correspondence with Mr. Linschied during that earlier era.
HILDEGARD OF BINGEN by Jeff Lough

Hildegard of Bingen was a most remarkable 12th century German Benedictine abbess. She invented a language called Lingua ignota. One of many writings, the Physica, was a natural science book. In this text, Saint Hildegard described the natural world around her, including the cosmos, animals, plants, stones, and minerals. She was well known for her healing powers involving practical application of tinctures, herbs, and precious stones.

In addition to writing the oldest extant morality play, the Ordo Virtutum (Play of the Virtues), Hildegard composed the texts and music of many religious songs that were collected into a cycle called the Symphonia Armoniae Celestium Revelationum. Her music is described as monophonic; that is, consisting of exactly one melodic line. Hildegard’s compositional style is characterized by soaring melodies; often well outside of the normal range of 12th century religious chant. Hildegard paid close attention to the relationship between music and text, which was another rare occurrence in the monastic chant of the twelfth century. Contemporary performers have produced recordings of her work.

Hildegard of Bingen had many multi-sensory visions from God throughout her life from age three until her death at 79. The accompanying German stamp, SN 1998 (Figure 1), as well as the attached tab (Figure 2), contains a reproduction of one of her visions from her theological text, Scrívías. A West German commemorative had been issued in 1979 commemorating the 800th anniversary of her death.

In film, Hildegard has been portrayed in a BBC documentary in 1994 and in the theatrical film Vision directed by Margarethe von Trotta. Hildegard was the subject of a 2012 fictionalized biographic novel “Illuminations” by Mary Sharratt.
Arlington, Kansas located in Reno County (Figure 1 & 2) southwest of Hutchinson, Kansas the County Seat and home of the Kansas State Fair. Arlington was established in August 1877 and the site laid out along the north Ninnescah River on the “Sun City Stage Route”. The little village became known as the famous “Heights of Arlington.”

The first building erected was a 30 x 40 foot three story frame mill by the town founders G. T. Empey and A. K. Burrall. The mill was operated with water power from the Ninnescah producing around fifty barrels from the mills four buhrstones. The next structure was moved from Hutchinson to Arlington and became a storage unit. The Arlington House was built by P. Howell. The U. S. Postal Service established a post office in Arlington on February 7, 1878 with Henry H. Purdy serving as Postmaster and would remain in this capacity until April 15, 1879 when John J. Gaines became Postmaster. A drug store opened in the spring 1878 by M. C. Rogers. This was followed by a hotel opened by William Ankron.

A school house was opened in 1878 and a Miss Juliet Cartwright was the teacher the winter of 1878-79 in a small building owned by Empey and Burrall. By the fall of 1879 a 24 x 32 foot frame schoolhouse was erected at a cost or $700 with E. L. Jewell being the first teacher in the new building. The Methodist and Presbyterian organizations conducted their Sunday Church Services in the schoolhouse prior to erecting a permanent structure.

The Methodist Church in Arlington, Kansas is featured in a postcard by Publisher for S. R. Beaver (Figure 3). The postcard is franked with a 1¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #331) and tied to the card with a four-bar balloon cancel postmarked from Arlington, Kans. 27 Apr 1910 (Figure 4). The postcard was from an individual in Arlington writing to a sister in Clarinda, Iowa.
The Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Kansas is featured in a postcard also franked with a Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #331) and tied to the card with a four-bar balloon cancel, postmarked from Arlington, Kans. Jul 27 1910 (Figure 5).

The postcard of the Presbyterian Church (Figure 6) was also produced by Publisher for S. R. Beaver. The postcard is again from an individual in Arlington writing to a sister in Clarinda, Iowa. During the time frame of these two postcards Isaac S. Trembley was serving as Postmaster being appointed to the position November 23, 1897 and would remain in this position until November 30, 1914 when John A. Berry was appointed Postmaster. Both Churches have subsequently been replaced with new structures.
The Mennonite Church was organized on 30 November 1905, with 25 members with John P. Linscheid serving as minister. Most of the families were Swiss-Galician Mennonites immigrating to Kansas in the 19th century. The Church was built near Arlington by 1907, but was destroyed by fire in October 1924. A new church was dedicated a year later in June 1925. John Linscheid would remain pastor until 1937. Ministerial students and other members of the congregation assisted with Church services until George Kopper became the second minister.

The village of Arlington expanded to include the one hotel, one drug store, one hardware store, two general merchandise stores, one blacksmith shop, one mill, and the usual complement of professions. One of the families that immigrated to Arlington was the Linscheid’s. Their ancestral history dates back to the 17th century in Austria and Germany. Several families lived in Hutchinson, Newton, North Newton and Arlington as well as other parts of the U. S. The son of Peter Linscheid; Johann Linscheid, born 20 Jul 1864 in Strychowalec, Galicia, Austria, died 03 Jan 1937 in Arlington, KS; Katharina Linscheid, born 12 Feb 1866 in Neuhof, Galicia, Austria, died 15 Feb 1947 in Arlington, KS. Other family members lived and died in Hutchinson and Newton, Kansas. A cover postmarked from Arlington, Kansas (Figure 7) is franked with a 4¢ Sam Rayburn stamp (Scott #1202) and tied to the cover with a seven-wavy line circular date stamp postmarked on Oct 3 1962. The cover is from an individual in Arlington and sent to a Mrs. Anna Linscheid in care of an Arthur Isaak in Souderton, Pennsylvania. I was unable to locate an Anna Linscheid in the ancestral history of Mathaus Linscheid due to the large number in the listings it was hard to decipher several generations of Linscheid.

Figure 7-Cover postmarked from Arlington, Kansas 1962
The first railroad built in the county was the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, created from a line west from Newton in 1872 and crossing the Arkansas River at Hutchinson then followed a course northwest along the River. The St. Louis & San Francisco branch from Wichita crossed the northeast corner of the county and the Missouri Pacific crossed the southwest corner into Stafford County. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific entered the northeast and crossed the county towards the southwest from Hutchinson, through Arlington and on to Pratt County. The railroad brought about improved infrastructure to Arlington along with business such as a bank, grain elevators, a weekly newspaper, improved public school system, a cornet band, money order post office with two rural free delivery routes, express and telegraph offices, and became a major shipping point for large area of rich agricultural products. The town of Arlington, Kansas was named for Arlington, Massachusetts. In addition to the Presbyterian Church presented earlier was organized in 1878 followed by the Methodist church that was formed in 1880, a nondenominational church was built shortly after the town was settled in 1877. The city received its charter in 1887.

An interesting aspect of this article is that it ties in with the article by Jeff Lough “Looking for a Flag Cancellation” on pages 5 & 6.

References:
Blue Skyways website:  http://skyways.lib.ks.us/counties (Reno)
U. S. Postal Service website:  http://webpmt.usps.gov/ (postmasters)
Event Covers produced by the Wichita Stamp Club, Bob Haines designer.