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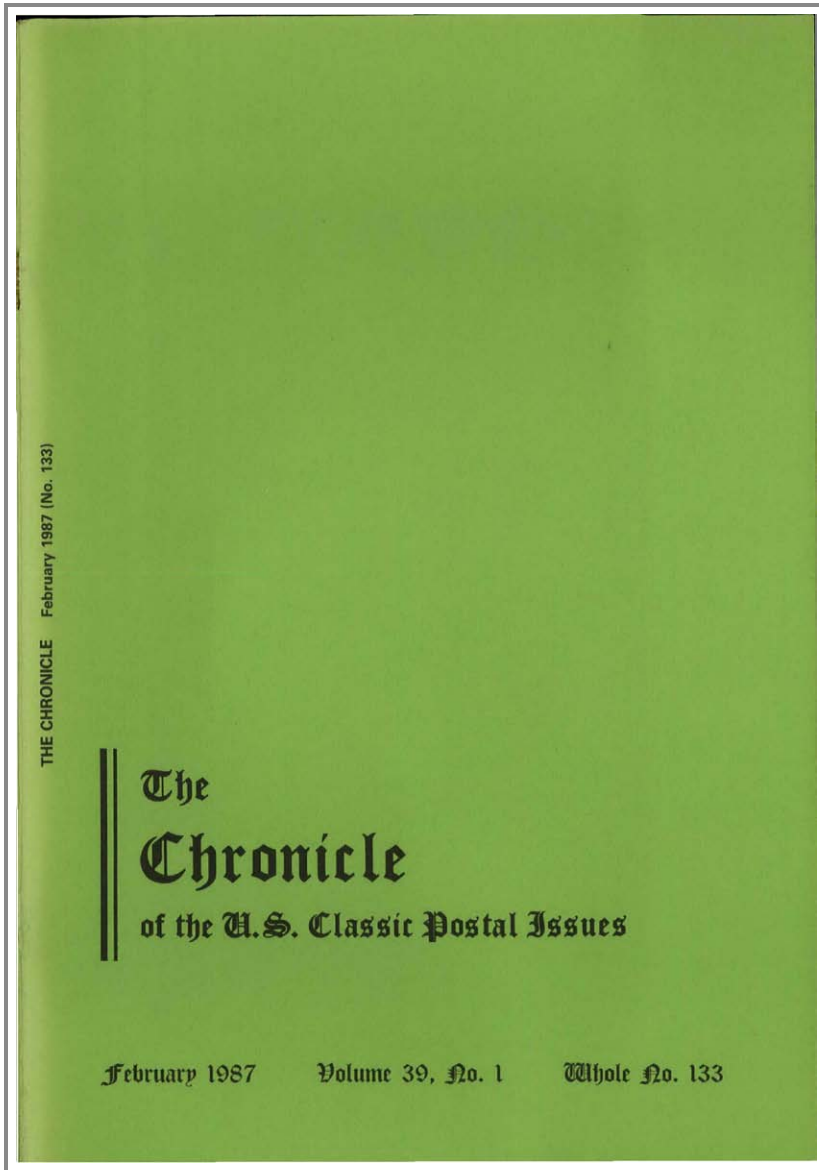


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JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ AND THE BLUE PAPER SCANDAL OF 1911

STANLEY M. BIERMAN, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Joseph Allison Steinmetz came into national prominence, if not philatelic notoriety, for his role in 1911 in the Travers-Post Office Department scandal involving the unlawful distribution by the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General of U.S. bluish experimental paper issues of 1909 through the well-known Philadelphia stamp collector-dealer. Steinmetz should be better remembered by posterity for his pioneering work in aviation and national air defense, a distinguished career as a mechanical engineer, and by philately, in great measure, for his remarkable showing at the 1913 New York International Philatelic Exhibition. Described as “. . . a brilliantly organized philatelic achievement,”¹ the Steinmetz Exhibit which was entitled, in part, “Talismans of the Arabian Nights of Stampdom,” included critical Government correspondences regarding the manufacture of U.S. postage stamps during the 1851-60 period, preserved in large measure for scholars through his own particular intervention. Steinmetz also possessed a major U.S., Essay-Proof, Foreign and Aerophilatelic collection, and played a key financial role in the acquisition of the pane of the 1918 inverted flying Jenny.



Joseph A. Steinmetz was born in Philadelphia on March 22, 1870, to John and Francis Morris Steinmetz. His parents were both descended from illustrious Colonial forebears.² The youthful Steinmetz early on evidenced mechanical engineering talents, and following his public school education at Philadelphia Central High, entered into a business partnership with a cousin to form the Janney-Steinmetz Co., manufacturers of stainless steel containers. Steinmetz returned to college to obtain an advanced degree in metallurgy and was a student at Lehigh University in 1900 where he honed his engineering skills. He also showed a keen interest during this time in the newly developing science of aeronautics. With Orville and Wilbur Wright's successful powered flight on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Steinmetz came to recognize the critical role that airplanes would play in transportation and commerce. Under the guidance of Professor Samuel Pierpont Langley from a local college, Steinmetz undertook the manufacture and design of airplane engines; he was later to establish and become director of a school of aircraft design in Philadelphia.³ Langley was best known for his association with the Smithsonian Institution where he was Secretary, and for his pioneering studies in powered flight.⁴ Steinmetz was married in 1903 to Norma Francis Field, daughter of a Colorado Springs judge. Two children, Joseph Janney Steinmetz and Francis Margaret Steinmetz, were born to the union.

With the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1914 Steinmetz embarked upon pioneering aerial defense research in an effort to protect European cities from the threat of Zeppelin

1. L.G. Quackenbush, "The Steinmetz Exhibit," *Phil. Gazette* III:389 (Dec. 1913).

2. Anon., "Obituary: Joseph A. Steinmetz," *New York Times*, p. 23, col. 3 (July 12, 1928).

3. Anon., "Joseph A. Steinmetz," *Who's Who 1928-29*, p. 1972.

4. Dan Barber, personal communication, 1986.

aerial attacks. Zeppelins were being employed for surveillance purposes and posed a military threat to civilian populations. Steinmetz developed a special "hook bomb" which was adapted by the French to repel aerial attacks. The explosive device was carried on the undercarriage of the intercepting airplane. The bomb was attached by wires and hooks which were so arranged as to catch on the coverings of the dirigibles and make them explode.⁵ Later Steinmetz devised a scheme wherein a bank of high intensity lights was employed to lure hostile planes to sites where anti-aircraft installations could down the night-flying attack planes. When the United States entered the war in 1917, Steinmetz was too old for active military service but was commissioned as a Colonel in the fledgling U.S. Army Air Force, and appointed a member of the National Research Council. He toured France and England to study their wartime capabilities in airplane manufacture. He selected a major shipyard site in Philadelphia's Hog Island and helped in the land reclamation. He designed and took out patents for devices used in antisubmarine warfare and was a member of the Submarine Defense organization established in New York to provide coastal defense against marauding German U-boats. Prior to the armistice Steinmetz received the commission of Major in the ordinance reserve, and years later was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

A stamp collector from early childhood, Steinmetz became an avid enthusiast with his rising financial star in the period preceeding the First World War. Many of his philatelic treasures came through the Philadelphia Stamp Auction run by Percival Parrish who started his sales in February 1904. Parrish had been the manager of the Philadelphia branch of Scott Stamp and Coin Co.⁶ and through his firm passed great sales of O.S. Hart, Harry Trippet, Henry Chapman as well as the legendary mint block of six of the ten cent 1847 issue. Steinmetz became Secretary of the Philadelphia Stamp Co. in 1908⁷ providing the firm with important financial underpinnings. Undoubtedly Steinmetz also purchased at auction sales held by the Boston firms of Frank P. Brown and B.L. Drew, and from the New York firms of J.M. Bartels, Scott Stamp and Coin Co., and J.C. Morgenthau.

Steinmetz's involvement with Arthur M. Travers in the 1909 U.S. bluish paper scandal presents a fascinating story of philatelic intrigue. Sometime in 1908 Joseph E. Ralph, Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, received reports that difficulty was being encountered in proper centering of the newly produced postal issues which caused considerable waste of departmental stamp stock.⁸ The paper employed in stamp production required moistening prior to intaglio plate printing, resulting in irregular and unpredictable shrinkage of the panes of stamps, and as a consequence the perforating machine cut into many of the stamp designs. To minimize shrinkage and thereby improve the centering of stamps, it was suggested that 30 percent rag be added to the paper pulp. The rag adulteration of the pulp resulted in a particular bluish hue, if not grayish tint, being imparted to the paper stock. A contrary view to this "paper shrinkage theory" suggested that the rag stock was added to prevent curling of the panes and to minimize premature tearing of weak perforations. To test the quality of the new experimental paper a trial printing of low denomination 1908 issues was recommended.

Ralph wrote to A.L. Lawshe, Third Assistant Postmaster General, on February 9, 1909, informing him that 1,480,000 examples of the 1¢ (Scott 357) and 1,494,000 examples of the 2¢ (Scott 358) Franklin-Washington issues had been printed on experimental bluish paper, as well as 637,000 copies of the 2¢ Lincoln perforated commemorative issue; they were sent to Washington post offices for sale as ordinary stamps. Lawshe unfortunately was frequently

5. Anon., "Death of Col. Jos. A. Steinmetz," *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* 42 (#1960), 456 (July 30, 1928).

6. G. Van Den Berg, "Philatelic Notes," *Stamps* 29:103 (Oct. 21, 1939).

7. Anon., "Philadelphia Stamp Co.," *M.W.S.N.* 22 (#891), 38 (Jan. 25, 1908).

8. G. Turner, ed., *Sloane's Column* (Series on bluish paper), pp. 291-295, Bureau Issues Association, 1961.

absent from work because of health reasons, and much of the decision making of the Department was left to his Chief Assistant Arthur M. Travers.

Travers was born in Port Huron, Michigan, in May 1870 and came to Washington in February 1901 where he was assigned work as Confidential Clerk to Edwin Madden, Third Assistant Postmaster General.⁹ Described as a man of engaging personality and highly regarded as an efficient officer, Travers was started at a base salary of \$1,600 yearly. Within a year he was promoted to Chief Clerk at \$2,000 per year and a \$3 per diem perk. By January 1909 Travers had advanced to Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General and Congress voted him an additional \$1,000 yearly compensation. In his newly appointed policy-making position Travers suggested to Ralph that additional bluish paper printings be made of the 3¢ through 15¢ denominations (Scott 359-366) on the remainders of the bluish experimental paper before the stock supply was exhausted.¹⁰ The 50¢ and \$1 values were omitted because Ralph pointed out that these plates went to press only occasionally. The decision for the special printing was made with the understanding that the supply was not for public distribution, but rather for production of perfect specimen sheets that would be delivered to the Post Office for their files; the remaining panes were destined for destruction.

In the time span of February 5 to April 6, 1909, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced 40 sheets each of 100 stamps of the 3¢, 5¢, 8¢, 10¢, 13¢ and 15¢ denominations; in addition 40 sheets for the 4¢ and 52 sheets of the 6¢ denomination were prepared on the bluish paper.¹¹ Four complete sets were chosen to be set aside with one pane of 100 stamps of each denomination on bluish paper sent to the following: (1) Curator of the Postal Museum where a block of four was put on display in the old Post Office Building, and the remaining 96 issues sequestered; (2) official files of the Stamp Division; (3) Third Assistant Postmaster General; (4) an additional set for surplus. For purposes of identification most, but not all, of the sheets were marked in the margin with an "X" penned in black ink.¹² Despite the avowed intent that the 3¢ through 15¢ issues be destroyed, due to an error at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing examples of these bluish paper issues worked themselves into philatelic channels. Copies of the 3¢ and 10¢ issues were discovered in New York and acquired by E. B. Power of Stanley Gibbons; the 5¢ appeared in Rockford, Illinois, the 6¢ in Chicago and elsewhere, the 13¢ in Saginaw, Michigan, and the 15¢ in Buffalo, New York, and Cleveland, Ohio.¹³ Examples of the 4¢ and 8¢ bluish paper issues were not discovered.¹⁴

When it was learned that the bluish paper stamps, though limited in numbers, were being distributed, anxious collectors besieged their local post offices for examples. Announcements appeared in the philatelic press advertising sale of sets of the bluish paper varieties, albeit to the exclusion of the 4¢ and 8¢ issues.¹⁵ Most collectors were thus left with "incomplete" sets. It may be inferred that this particular fact prompted Joseph A. Steinmetz to hatch a plot to capture for philatelic posterity the "missing" denominations.

Steinmetz was a familiar face on the philatelic scene and had strong Washington ties because of his burgeoning business interests. Likewise Travers was well known to the philatelic community and in short order Steinmetz inveigled the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General to provide him with the missing 4¢ and 8¢ bluish paper issues. So as to grease the skids, a \$1,500 bribe was offered Travers. A conspiracy was hatched wherein

9. C. Severn, "Editorial," *M.W.S.N.* 25 (#1055), 92 (Mar. 18, 1911).

10. Anon., "U.S. Experimental Paper Varieties and the P.O. Departmental Trouble," *Phil. Journ. Amer.* 22:91-93 (Aug. 1911).

11. C. Severn, "U.S. on Bluish Paper," *M.W.S.N.* 25 (#1056), 109 (Mar. 25, 1911).

12. P. H. Ward, "The U.S. 1909 Bluish Papers," *M.W.S.N.* 51 (#2433), 366-367 (June 14, 1937).

13. Anon., "Notes on U.S. Experimental Paper Varieties," *Phil. Journ. Amer.* 21:244-245 (Nov. 1910).

14. Anon., "U.S. Experimental Papers," *Phil. Journ. Amer.* 22:6-7 (Aug. 1911).

15. C.H. Mekeel, "Special Sale of U.S. Stamps on Experimental Paper," [advertisement] *Phil. Journ. Amer.* 12:301 (Dec. 1910).

Travers agreed to meet Steinmetz at a set time and place at a Washington post office where the missing 4¢ and 8¢ bluish paper panes along with an additional set of 3¢, 5¢, 6¢, 10¢, 13¢ and 15¢ issues with a face value of \$64 were exchanged. Travers arranged to substitute the pilfered government stock with regular U.S. 1908 printings with hopes that the switch would not be noticed.¹⁶

With the transfer of bluish paper panes Steinmetz is believed to have sold blocks of four through the Philadelphia Stamp Co. to select Philadelphia collectors including Henry Gibson. Blocks of four of the 4¢ and 8¢ issues went for \$140 to \$200, while singles were offered at a meeting of the Philadelphia Stamp Club for \$40. It is interesting to note that Percy McGraw Mann of the Philadelphia Stamp Co. wrote in the January 13, 1911, issue of his official stamp organ *Philadelphia Stamp News* that 16 copies of the 4¢ and a block of four were “discovered” in a small town out west (!) which was an obvious misrepresentation. Meanwhile the January 21 and February 14, 1911, issues of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* carried advertisements by the Philadelphia Stamp Co. offering the 4¢ and 8¢ bluish paper issues to interested philatelists; after the February announcement and with events of March 1911 about to unfold the advertisements ceased to appear.

From personal papers of the Steinmetz-Travers scandal once owned by Herman Herst, Jr., and now no longer available for review,¹⁷ it is contended that Philip H. Ward, Jr., was offered examples of the missing 4¢ and 8¢ issues by Steinmetz but demurred, trying instead to acquire from the post office examples for his own clients at face value. When Ward learned that the rare denominations had never been distributed he notified postal authorities of the highly unusual circumstances of this surreptitious offering and demanded an investigation. Suspicion was immediately directed toward Third Assistant Postmaster General Travers and a check of his long distance telephone calls disclosed many Washington to Philadelphia calls to and from Steinmetz.¹⁸

On March 6, 1911, Travers was arrested and charged by Post Office investigators with violating postal laws which provided that no officer of the Post Office Department could sell any postage stamps for more or less than their face value; bail was set at \$5,000.¹⁹ Travers was dismissed from his position by Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock following his confession to postal inspectors that he had been guilty of dishonest practices of disposing valuable material left to his care. The accusations were widely quoted in the philatelic press of the day, “Mr. Travers’s offense consisted of causing certain stamps to be manipulated so as to create a fictitious market value. In his official capacity he caused to be delivered to himself certain rare stamps of great value and falsified the records of his office by certifying that a portion of these stamps were legally destroyed after condemnation. Instead of having them destroyed, however, he withheld them and substituted stamps in current use to an amount equal to those condemned, disposing of the obsolete issues at a very large profit. While the philatelic value of the stamps so disposed exceeded \$10,000, the government has suffered no pecuniary loss because of Mr. Travers’s manipulation in substituting stamps of current issue to the face value of those he sold to dealers.”

On April 3, 1911, indictments were returned by the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia against Travers for alleged embezzlement, and a second indictment against both Travers and Steinmetz on charges of conspiring to perform illegal acts. Evidence was

16. H. Herst, personal communication, 1984-85.

17. Werner Elias, Librarian of the Collectors Club of New York, states that these records have been misplaced and, while probably hidden in some archival recess, are not currently available for documentary purposes.

18. H. Herst, personal communication.

19. Miller, “Arthur M. Travers, P.O. Department Clerk Dismissed from Services and Arrested for Manipulation of Stamps,” *Philadelphia Stamp News* 1:418-419 (May 17, 1911); C. Severn, “Travers is Indicted,” *M.W.S.N.* 25 (#1059), 131 (Apr. 15, 1911), and “The Travers Case,” *id.*, 132.

presented including documented long distance telephone call charges between the two parties which suggested collusion. Government records were produced which revealed alterations suggesting ostensibly that the stamps in question had been destroyed. The postal investigation which occupied a year's time noted a cumulative aggregate sale of \$1,600 worth of bluish paper issues having a current face value of about \$30.00. Following the imbroglio and philatelic scandal, C.H. Mekeel of St. Louis advertised sale of incomplete sets of bluish paper issues, "without taint; they did not come from Philadelphia or in an irregular way from Washington."²⁰

After a year and a half of legal maneuvering, Travers withdrew his plea of not guilty, and on October 29, 1912, entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to charges of embezzlement and conspiracy.²¹ Justice Gould of the Washington criminal courts imposed a fine of \$1,500 (Travers's "commission" from Steinmetz) which was paid by Travers with fresh \$100 bills.²² Charges against Steinmetz were dropped perhaps in deference to his stature in the business community, but undoubtedly through the intervention of Boise Penrose, an influential Pennsylvania politician. With a quiet nod from President William Howard Taft, it is believed that Attorney General George W. Wickersham let the matter of Steinmetz's indictment drop. For his part in uncovering the bluish paper scandal, it is believed that Philip H. Ward, Jr. was given choice blocks of four of the 4¢ and 8¢ bluish paper issues for his services.²³

Chastened but not bowed by his near calamitous brush with the law, Steinmetz sought to remove the stain on his otherwise unblemished reputation and redeem himself with the philatelic community by his showing at the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition held in New York. Advanced description of his exhibit was calculated to pique the viewers' curiosity and to arouse expectation of an event that would be decidedly picturesque and certainly original. The 56-page exhibition booklet entitled "Steinmetz Miscellany" had the euphonious title of "An Hundred Or So Graphic Pages Selected at Random from A Wonderland Collection. Little Messengers from the Isles of the Seven Seas from the Orient and the Occident and from the Polar Lands of Snow. Not Just Mere Dead, Drybone Stamps But Charming Little Talismans of the Arabian Nights of Stampdom. Living, Vibrant, Happy Children of the Fairy Kingdom of our Enchanting Hobby." Quite aside from the burdensome and mellifluous title, the Steinmetz collection was a triumph of imaginative insights. L.G. Quackenbush best caught the poetic essence of the display and described it as follows, "It is a succession of stories told in postage stamp hieroglyphics. Mr. Steinmetz treats stamps not as so many bits of paper, differing from one another in various mechanical attributes of form, color and design but as symbolic things, intimately identified with the warp and woof of human events. He sees beyond the bare husk; he deals with the underlying spirit of stamp issuance, with the romance and poesy of postage stamp legend. And we doubt if any other man in the world has put together a stamp collection rivalling this in real human interest, intelligibility and fascination to the non-collector."²⁴

Included in the display were examples of local posts from Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and Baltimore; following was an impressive display of 1847-1861 U.S. General Issues on original covers including trial colors and proofs of 1847 issues and a 90¢ plus 24¢ U.S. 1861 issue on cover from New York to Shanghai, plus many examples of the Franklin-Eagle Carrier issues. Of major philatelic significance was a 14-page section presented in chronological order of correspondence between A.N. Zevely, Third Assistant Postmaster General,

20. Mekeel, *op. cit.*

21. C. Severn, "Travers Changes Plea," *M.W.S.N.* 26 (#1141), 359 (Nov. 9, 1912).

22. C. Severn, "The Travers Case," *M.W.S.N.* 26 (#1141), 360 (Nov. 9, 1912).

23. H. Herst, "U.S. Bluish Papers," *Western Stamp Coll.* (Dec. 20, 1949), p. 8; Herst, *Nassau Street*, 1960, pp. 276-77; C. Brazer, "The Travers Manuscript Letters," *Essay Proof Journal* 5:144-145 (July 1948).

24. L. Quackenbush, *op. cit.*

and Messrs. Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. of Philadelphia. The correspondence covered the period of June 11, 1851, to August 4, 1860, and dealt with issues of production, design, color, numbers, and distribution of U.S. stamp issues from this period. There is little question that this historically important correspondence came to Steinmetz through the Travers connection. Writing in the July 1948 issue of *Essay Proof Journal*,²⁵ Clarence Brazer reprinted personal letters from Travers regarding the preservation of original stamp contracts for the manufacture of postage stamps, sorting of departmental correspondence, files and record books present in the archives of the Post Office Division. Travers is believed to have made three copies of these valuable Post Office correspondences, covering the period 1847 to 1873. In preparing a defense for his 1911 trial Travers wrote several statements covering his post office duties, copies of which were sent to Steinmetz for his lawyer's docket. Subsequently the Travers correspondences passed from the Steinmetz estate through Eugene Klein and were purchased by Herman Herst, Jr. After loaning the material to Brazer, Herst donated the manuscripts to the Collectors Club of New York. Included in the Klein lot acquired by Herst were 100 sets of C4-6 first day covers, which the dealer soaked off to sell as used stamps given the fact that there was no demand at that time for FDCs.

The remarkable Steinmetz Exhibit at the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition also included examples of Patent Coupon issues, displays of 1869 essays and proofs of Pictorial Issues, encased U.S. postage stamps, postal currency, fancy cancellations, presidential franks, a section showing manufactured (fraudulent) 1901 Pan-American inverts, a section on Confederate States postal history, fine sections on British Colonials highlighted by Sidney Views, world stamps and ending with polar exhibition issues.

Steinmetz was involved in an epic-making philatelic event relating to the discovery on May 14, 1918, of the pane of inverted flying Jennies by W.T. Robey at a Washington post office. Following Robey's unsuccessful negotiation through Eustace B. Power for this "Twentieth Century trash," and John J. Klemann's low-ball offering, a telephone call to Percy McGraw Mann of Philadelphia was made and with Eugene Klein's concurrence, the \$15,000 sale price was finally agreed upon. Joseph Steinmetz was the third of the Philadelphia triumvirate, and no doubt provided much of the finance for the purchase. With the subsequent proportional profits derived from the sale of the pane to Col. Edward Green for \$20,000, Steinmetz acquired a horizontal pair of the C3a issues for \$450²⁶ though years later he was to break the pair and use the proceeds to purchase a piano!

Steinmetz's first love was aerophilately and in 1923 he provided much of the financial underpinnings necessary to establish the American Air Mail Society which was organized by George M. Angers of Springfield, Mass., and Harry Truby of New Kensington, Pa.²⁷ In May 1925 Steinmetz showed his sterling collection of aerophilately at the International Philatelic Exhibition held at the Louvre in Paris. Acclaimed the finest collection assembled to that time, it included 50 famous pioneer covers and was described in detail in the philatelic periodicals of the day.²⁸ He also showed his U.S. and Foreign collections that had been exhibited in 1913. On June 3, 1925, the Steinmetz collection was exhibited at the Collectors Club of New York to an appreciative audience.²⁹ Included in the show was a Thomas Biddle cover franked with an U.S. 1861 90¢ plus 15¢ and two 3¢ issues which evoked an astonished reply from Charles Phillips who claimed that he had never seen a 90¢ on cover! Of some interest was the fact that Steinmetz was able to secure original album pages from the great collections of J.K. Tiffany, the Earl of Crawford, and 25 other famous collections to show how great philatelists of the past arranged and wrote up their collections.

25. C. Brazer, *op. cit.*

26. P. Ward, "Sale of Steinmetz Collection," *M.W.S.N.* 43 (#1996), 236 (Apr. 8, 1929).

27. Dan Barber, personal communication, 1986.

28. Anon., "Exhibit of Air Mail Covers," *M.W.S.N.* 39 (#1789), 209 (Apr. 20, 1925).

29. C. Phillips, "Display by Maj. J. A. Steinmetz," *M.W.S.N.* 39 (#1799), 333 (June 29, 1925).

Steinmetz was also very much involved during this time with his far-flung business enterprises which included, in part, his Global Corporation, Chairmanship of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Aeronautical Association, various military orders along with his philatelic duties with the Aero Philatelic Society of America and Royal Philatelic Society of Great Britain, and philanthropic efforts for the American Red Cross and other organizations. While at work on an iron and steel factory scheduled for his Janney, Steinmetz and Co., he fell ill and after a six month period expired of an undisclosed illness on July 11, 1928, at his home, 736 Westview St. in Germantown, Penn. He was 58.³⁰

The Steinmetz Collection was sold by Eugene Klein of Philadelphia at seven sales (E.K.#s 54-56,60-62,65) held between March 21, 1929, and March 25, 1931. Highlights of the first sale of Steinmetz's United States included a 10¢ grey-lilac St. Louis Postmaster @\$215, a magnificent 5¢ New York Postmaster tied to cover with a blue "5" in double circle and considered unique @\$325, a mint 1857 1¢ Type II cracked plate @ \$106, an 1861 90¢ plus 24¢ on cover from New York to Shanghai @ \$280, a set of 1869 invert cardboard proofs @ \$150, a used and defective 15¢ Pictorial invert @ \$550, a large number of Pictorials on original cover. Of obvious interest was a perfectly centered block of four of the 4¢ bluish paper 1909 issue which sold for \$450 (1½ times Scott value) and an off-center 8¢ bluish paper block of four sold for its then Scott catalogue price of \$300. The high point of the day was a slightly off-centered C3a which went for \$60 above its catalogue price of \$1,000. The total for the first Steinmetz sale was \$13,219.³¹

The second sale was held on April 17, 1929, and consisted primarily of U.S. Officials, Carriers, Locals, Confederates and U.S. Possessions. There were 188 choice lots of Officials with most of the lots being acquired by either Philip Ward, Jr., George Sloane or the newly arising architect-stamp dealer, Clarence Brazer; the latter acquired most of the "SPECIMEN" issues. There were 173 lots of Locals and Carriers, a good showing of western and Express covers. The high point was a 5¢ Hawaiian Missionary, originally cut from cover, and then replaced, which was knocked down at \$1,200. The total sales of this auction were \$14,325.³²

The third Steinmetz sale was held on May 15, 1929, consisting of the finest aero-philatelic collection then assembled. Most of the 91 pioneer covers were acquired contemporarily by Steinmetz, and many as special requests from pioneer aeronauts. In addition there were 157 lots of official Government flights. A September 23, 1911, first day flight of the Garden City Estates, constituting the first actual flight carrying mail in the United States, went for \$42.25, while an outstanding mint example of the Newfoundland 3¢ 1919 Hawker sold for twice Scott value for \$1,010 while a similar example used on cover went for \$570. Total sales for the Steinmetz Air Mail collection were \$11,779.³³

The fourth through sixth sales were held on May 21, October 15, and December 17, 1930, and consisted of Steinmetz's Foreign Countries which were strong in British Guiana, Mauritius, and Switzerland including, in the latter, an example of a 10¢ yellow green Double Geneva tied to cover. The seventh and final sale was of Steinmetz's Bisects and Combination Covers and was most notable for a diagonal half of a 12¢ 1851-56 U.S. issue from San Francisco to Cincinnati which sold for a modest \$31 and the left vertical two-thirds of a 3¢ Pictorial used from Summit, New Jersey, which was knocked down at \$122.50.

With this final sale the philatelic curtain was drawn on Joseph Allison Steinmetz. The tawdry episode of his bluish paper involvement was never mentioned in his obituaries³⁴ and his place in philatelic channels was properly sung.

30. C. Brazer, "Joseph Allison Steinmetz, 1870-1928," *Essay Proof Journal* 6:226 (Oct. 1949).

31. P. Ward, "Sale of Steinmetz Collection," *loc. cit.*

32. P. Ward, "Another Steinmetz Auction," *M.W.S.N.* 43 (#2000), 308 (May 6, 1929).

33. P. Ward, "Steinmetz Air Mail Sale," *M.W.S.N.* 43 (#2008), 417 (July 1, 1929).

34. Anon., "Major Steinmetz Dies," *Collectors Club Philatelist* 7:303 (Oct. 1928); "Obituary: Joseph A. Steinmetz," *New York Times* (July 12, 1928).