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Author(s): Michael Laurence

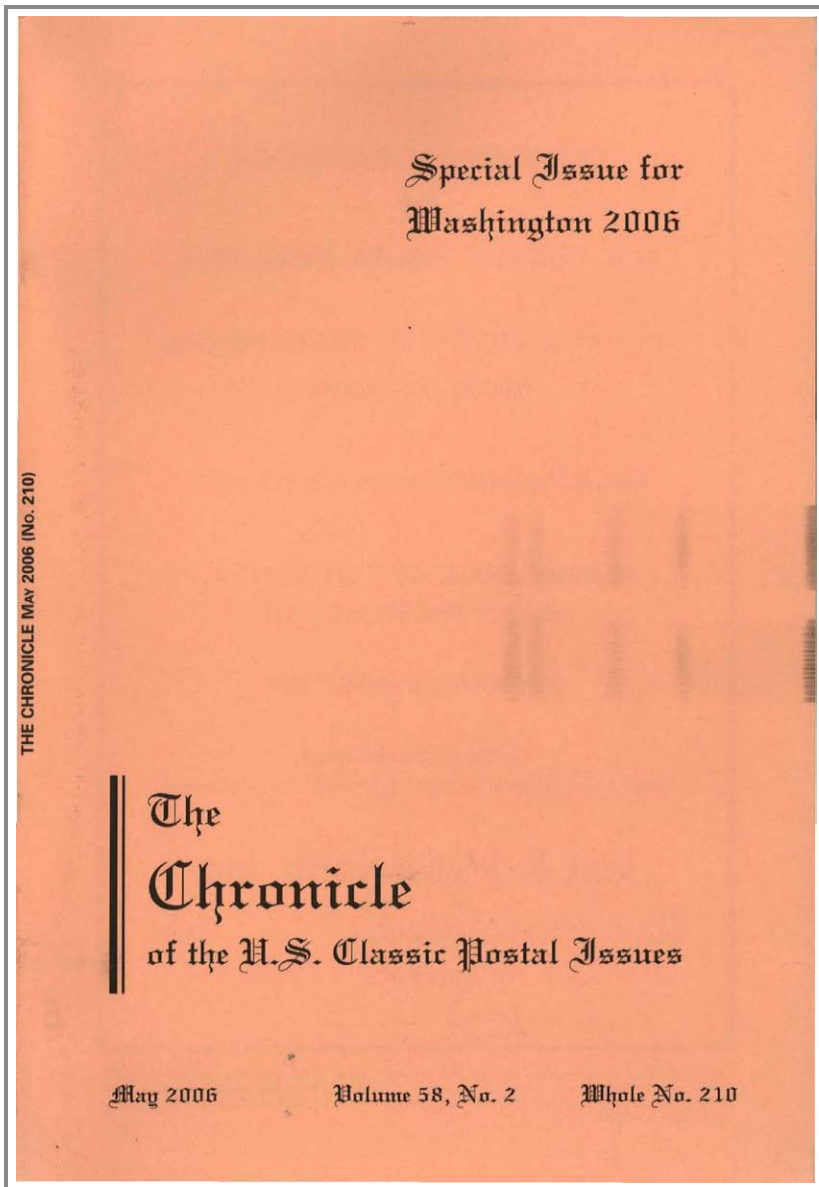


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SPECIAL WASHINGTON 2006 ISSUE

MICHAEL LAURENCE

This issue of the *Chronicle* is devoted to the Washington 2006 international stamp show, which will take place in Washington, D.C., May 27-June 3. Your Society will hold its annual meeting at the show on May 28, and we'll be sharing a large booth with three other national stamp groups. Members of your Society's official family (including this editor) are likely to be found lurking around this booth all week long. We've printed some extra copies of this issue, and plan to use them at our booth to attract new members. We hope you'll be attending the big show, and urge you to stop by the booth and introduce yourself.

Many articles in this issue tie directly to Washington or show-related themes. On page 88 we lead off with a substantial contribution from Herbert A. Trenchard, dean of philatelic historians and world-renowned collector of stamp-auction catalogs. In "United States Classics at U.S. International Exhibitions," Trenchard traces the evolution of collector taste by examining all the classic U.S. exhibits that have ever won major medals at U.S. internationals, going all the way back to the very first, held in New York City in 1913. Where possible, accompanying references connect exhibited material with a subsequent auction catalog, thus enabling today's collector to visit with these great collections of yesteryear.

In the Carriers and Independent Mails section, page 121, Gordon Stimmell provides a reprise of Wiley's Washington City Despatch Post, a fascinating and short-lived local post whose sesquicentennial is right now unfolding.

In the 1847 section (page 128), we're pleased to welcome *Chronicle* newcomer William H. Gross, whose classic U.S. collection, one of the competitive exhibits at Washington 2006, features a number of items mentioned in Trenchard's survey—including the 5¢ 1847 block of 16, the plating of which Gross discusses in this issue.

In the 1861-69 section, long-time *Chronicle* contributor Richard B. Graham returns to a theme he has been developing in these pages for more than 20 years: the evolution of duplex postmarks in the United States. Beginning on page 135, Graham considers some experimental Washington postmarks from 1862 and 1863, concluding these were probably applied by an early (and elusive) mechanical stamping machine.

It's a bit of a stretch, but we might also say that James Milgram's article (Prestamp & Stampless section, page 109) on the works of E.S. Zevely represents a Washington tie-in too. Zevely worked closely with the D.C. postal establishment, and (as Milgram shows) labored most of his life in Cumberland, Maryland, a few hours west of Washington.

In an important article in the Officials section, pages 148-49, George Sayers and Alfred Staubus definitively establish that the "broken 'C' in SPECIMEN" is a constant variety in the second special printing overprint plate, as rare as the "SEPCIMEN" error.

Rounding out this issue is the conclusion of a two-parter from Dwayne Littauer begun in the February *Chronicle*. This is the first major treatment since Hargest of U.S.-German mail under the Anglo-Prussian treaty. It corrects errors both in Hargest and in Starnes, and goes into more depth than other sources previously available. Littauer's article includes cover examples for each of the rate periods and provides citations to substantiate his information and make it easier for a reader to research further, if desired. It should help collectors categorize covers into the correct rate period and certainly enables easier understanding of the ratings and markings. ■