

By : Thurston "Bubba" Bland

oobubba@icloud.com

Today's Collector  
New Opportunities

Making a Connection



French Cover sent in 1863 to a Colonel in the Corps Expeditionnaire  
This was nine years before the French sent troops to Mexico.

Each time I start a message, I like to keep in mind that I am talking to you, the reader, as if you were sitting in my office, and I am telling you about my experiences, good, bad, or ugly. When I talk to you, it could be any number of people I correspond with from time to time. The only problem is that most of my readers never tell me what they are thinking. Are they coming up with questions, or do they want to tell me they a) Agree with me b) Think I am crazy, or c) Don't have a clue about what I am saying. So, with the One on a mystery One, I continue to plot my course until I feel my readers are done, and I am dragging a dead horse out back. So, let me ask you something, I have been wondering lately, what makes you happy with your hobby? We are talking about philatelics, so it is about playing with stamps and working out what you want to do with them. Are you looking for new material, or do you want to know more about what you have? Those are just a couple of the things you might be doing.



This is an interesting stamp for the paid Newspaper rate with Wells, Fargo & Company

They are considered scarce in used condition but common in mint condition.

This one is a used example, and it's a shame it is not still attached to a part of the paper.

I know some collectors who spend a lot of time going over their stamps, trying to find more to add to what they have, or stamps that need replacements. Another thing we collectors do is look for something odd, like an unexpected overprint. We might see a stamp with a cancel we can't make out. Thumbing through our reference material seems impossible to find what we are looking for. Do we go for help? Or, do we just let it go as an impossible answer? So, what do you like to do? And, what do you want to do? Those are two things to consider going forward. I personally think about what I would like to accomplish, but I also know that there are limitations to many things we would like to do. It may be the time it would take, the expense, or the availability of the things we might like to do.



French #3 (but actually used before #1 & 2, were issued.

Great design and one of my favorite stamps.

Remember, when we want to connect with our hobby, with other members of our hobby, and with the possibilities of what we want to accomplish, it takes planning. I tend to find something in my stored-away material, and then I set off on a mad scramble to find something else that goes with it. A cover, a postal card, a picture in an auction catalog. It might be anything, and the more I search, the more I add or get frustrated that I am wasting time. Lord help me if I am trying to find a stamp that I know I had or have. Time to slow down and work out a plan of what you want to accomplish and connect to. Just remember, nothing is lost; it is just hiding from you. Relax, have a beer, a glass of wine, or maybe just a drink of water. Everything you try to do with your hobby has its time in the Sun or in your album.



C10 Airmail US issue celebrating the Lindbergh Trans Atlantic flight in the Spirit of St. Louis.  
Great Design

Enjoy!

**Bubba Bland**

[oobubba@icloud.com](mailto:oobubba@icloud.com)

MEPSI #2795

APS #198784, USPCS #4060,

Western Cover Soc. #1423, UPSS #6670,

CCNY #7864 and Royal Philatelic Society of London

[www.etiangui.com](http://www.etiangui.com)