



Smithsonian
National Postal Museum

Hugh McLellan Southgate collection, [189-?]-1940

2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Libraries
Title:	Hugh McLellan Southgate collection
Identifier:	SIL-NPM.XXXX-0012
Date:	[189-?]-1940
Extent:	27 Volumes (approximately 6,900 p.; 1 index v.; 29 cm. +)
Creator:	United States. Bureau of Engraving and Printing Brett, George W. Bureau Issues Association United States. Post Office Dept. Sloane, George B. Southgate, H. M. (Hugh McLellan), 1871-1940
Language:	English
Summary:	The collection consists chiefly of hand-written notes made by Southgate on a wide range of postal history topics and related matters, generally on lined or graph paper measuring 25 x 15 cm. or smaller, for keeping in triple-post binders. Some of the notes were made in "Lefax" or other commercially-available notebooks. The collection includes numerous mounted newspaper clippings, brochures, and excerpted articles from philatelic journals, as well as statistical data, advertisements, copies of correspondence, and diagrams made by Southgate to illustrate plate variations, etc.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

George W. Brett, gift, 2005?

Provenance

The Hugh McLellan Southgate collection was donated to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum by noted U.S. stamp historian George Wendell Brett, who collated the materials and during the 1980s created the index sheets (tables of contents) for each volume. Volumes 8 and 11 were temporarily held by George Benedict Sloane, the distinguished philatelic writer, dealer and auctioneer, but were later reunited with the rest of the collection as noted by Brett in the index volume.

Location of Originals

National Postal Museum (U.S.). National Postal Museum Library; 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20013-0712; USA 202-633-5544

Other Finding Aids

Finding aid available in National Postal Museum Library; volume-level control.

Other Finding Aids

http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/Southgate_Finding_Guide.pdf

Biographical Note

Hugh McLellan Southgate (b. Sept. 3, 1871; d. Oct. 23, 1940), a resident of Chevy Chase, Maryland, was an important postage stamp collector and an active member of several philatelic societies. He was a founder and the first president of the Philatelic Plate Number Association (1926-1928), as well as the first president and chairman of the board (1930-1940) of its successor, the Bureau Issues Association (now the United States Stamp Society). He was also an authority on the printing of stamps by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

General

Each leaf containing data has been photocopied from the original notebooks, with the exception of v. 5, which consists entirely of a printed checklist of Bureau of Engraving and Printing precancels and Presidential series for 1938-1940 (an index sheet noting the contents of v. 5 is present, only).

General

The presence of blank leaves in the original notebooks is noted in the index sheets and the finding aid.

Local Notes

The volumes are numbered 1 through 26, plus a miscellaneous compilation labelled "vol. xl" (or "HMS notebook prelim. no. 1" by G.W. Brett). There is also a separate index volume containing copies of all the index sheets that Brett created to serve as tables of contents for each volume in the collection.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Air mail stamps -- United States
Cancellations (Philately)
Commemorative postage stamps -- United States
Covers (Philately) -- United States

Duck stamps -- United States
Envelopes (Stationery)
Plate numbers (Postage stamps) -- United States
Playing cards -- United States
Postage stamp design -- United States
Postage stamps -- Forgeries
Postage stamps -- United States -- History
Postage-stamp printing
Postal service -- Equipment and supplies
Postal service -- United States -- History
Postal service -- United States -- Metered mail
Postcards -- United States
Precancels -- United States
Printing machinery and supplies
Revenue stamps -- United States
Savings bonds -- United States
Stamp collecting
Stamp collectors

Names:

Brett, George W.
United States. Bureau of Engraving and Printing
United States. Post Office Dept.