

Happy New Year!

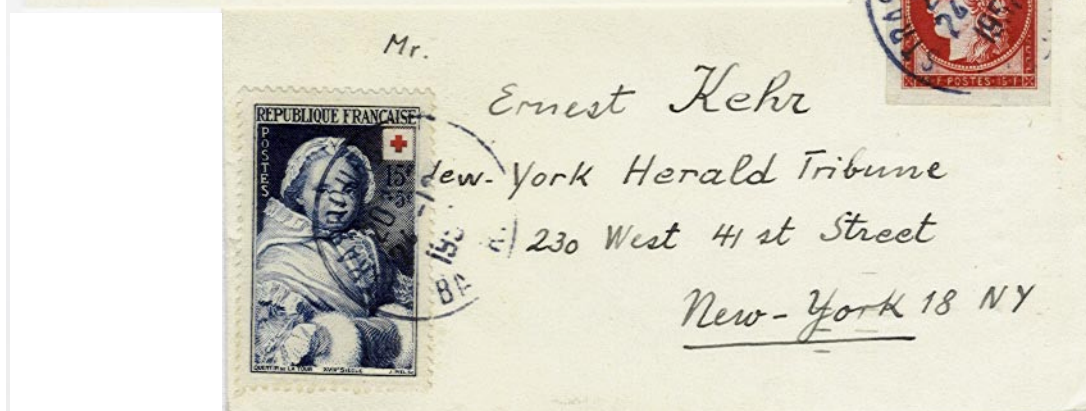
by Tom Broadhead, KPS President

I want to take this opportunity to wish all KPS members a happy and successful New Year. KPS members have already invested a lot of thought and effort into making this year's Knospex 2005 a great success. Let's keep up the good work!



Keeping with the New Year theme, I want to share with you one of my collecting interests – visiting card envelopes from France. Originally developed in the 1850's, these small envelopes became a special class of reduced rate mail in the 20th century.

This example, mailed from Strasbourg on December 24, 1952, to New York has a 15 franc semi-postal stamp and an imperforate 15 franc stamp from the 1949 special issue recognizing the 100th anniversary of French postage stamps. 30 francs paid the sealed letter rate to a foreign destination.



When I purchased this small cover a few years ago, I was delighted to see that it still had its original contents – a New Year's greeting. The small printed card is inscribed in French – “Meilleurs Voeux de Bonne Année” – or in English, “Best wishes for a Happy New Year.” Finding the contents of an envelope is a pleasant discovery, and visiting card envelopes have many different enclosures – calling cards, birth announcements, death announcements, and holiday greetings.

The example below is one of my smallest – a calling card with added Christmas greeting sent from Paris on December 24, 1936 to England. **Happy collecting to all in 2005.**

