

In earlier issues we began reading Bill LaGanke's letter to his granddaughter, Alex. Here we find the concluding paragraphs.

Part IV, the conclusion of "A letter to my granddaughter, Alex" from Bill.....

In stamp collector language we call envelopes that have carried a letter through the mail *covers*. Cover collecting is another part of stamp collecting having interest not only in the stamp that carries the letter, but also the cancellation and other markings that indicate how the letter traveled through the mail system – like ‘special delivery’ or ‘air mail’. This is a part of collecting sometimes called postal history.

Highly sought after by cover collectors are single Prexie stamps on envelopes called *solos*. These are covers with only one Prexie stamp that was used to pay the exact rate needed for mailing that letter or parcel. Upon seeing a *cover* with a 13 cent Prexie, you might wonder why the postage was 13 cents rather than three cents, which was the postal rate back in Prexie days. How might you figure this out?

So you see, Alex, there are many areas of collecting that attract us to the hobby. I hope this helps you with your project and opens the door to another way of looking at history that is fun as well as educational. Perhaps you will enjoy the new Disney stamp that carries this letter to you.

With all my love,  
Grandpa

---

Alex is one of Bill's granddaughters living in Cullman, Alabama. Alex, her sister, and other classmates were assigned a class project to report on one of the ex-Presidents of the US. When Bill learned of this assignment he wanted to get involved and chose this letter - this window into stamp collecting as his way to provide helpful guidance.

\*\*\*\*\*

With our annual auction coming up in November (meeting after next), it may be instructive to review your role as *buyer* and *seller*.

*Buyer* is quite easy: just set your budget, bring \$ and bid! But one more thing.....give the Auctioneer's Assistants (AA) time to reconcile after the auction. This is a good time to revisit the refreshment area and brag about your purchases to others.

As *Seller*, fill out an auction card for each lot. Remember, the Auctioneer may be looking at your lot for the first time when he calls the sale. Use the auction card to describe those things the buyer may want to know about the item - perhaps *condition*, *history*, or anything else that might attract a bid. The auctioneer can then include this information in his calls. Leave the lot # blank on the card. The AAs will add this. *New (started last year):* If you are entering five or more lots, it will help the AAs if you will fill out the first three columns of the spreadsheet for your lots (those headed by a STAR (\*)).

Auction cards and Spreadsheets will be available at the October meeting, from the auctioneer (Jack Case), or at the door in November. Arrive early if you can - remember doors are open at 7:00pm.

---

the meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction at all, both are altered.

Carl Jung