

# PHILATHEK - Verlagsauslieferung für Sammlerkataloge

*PHILATHEK Verlagsauslieferung*

## Roberts, Michael JY Pacific Steam Navigation Company History, Po

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Roberts, Michael JY Pacific Steam Navigation Company History, Postal History and Stamps of what was once

The Largest Steam Ship Company in the World

1. Edition 2023

The book is intended to give a broad commercial background to this historic Steam Ship Company and it is hoped will appeal to some outside the narrower philatelic world. Having set a broader scene I then set about updating all the philatelic and postal history data before applying this to the known examples in each of the relevant categories whether they be the “VAPOR” marks, the numbered hand stamps or the postage stamps themselves.

I have tried to incorporate all the necessary tools for the postal historian to be able to analyse existing and new material, thus a full list of vessels, vessel movement, timetables and postal rates are all included. The additional chapters concerning the development of company contracts, British Post Offices on the west coast of South America, cargo services and publicity help to give the fullest picture and give the reader some knowledge of the non philatelic material available to the collector.

There have not been many private companies through the years that have had a huge and important impact on the expansion of communication, neither in a specific country nor a region or worldwide. The second half of the nineteenth century saw the most important expansion of postal communication ever, not only in the major financial areas of Europe and North America, but also in and between most other areas on the globe. One of the key factors in this expansion was the founding of many new steamship companies, both private enterprises and those operated by different governments. These shipping companies and their shipping lines were such an important factor for the governments involved that many of them had governmental charters or

contracts, or in other ways were subsidised by the governments.

When William Wheelwright already in the mid-1830s gave birth to the idea of a steamship company operating on the Pacific coast of South America, he could hardly have had in his mind that the company that followed was to receive a Royal Charter in 1840, the same year as the first ships were launched, and at the height of its success, in the 1870s, would be the largest private steamship company in the world. This company, The Pacific Steam Navigation Company, almost entirely controlled the postal operations between or from Chile, Peru, and Ecuador via Panama to the United States or Europe.

In this book, the author Michael JY Roberts, in detail describes the commercial history of the company in such depth that the reader can feel how the company was started, and operated by a struggling man with an enormous ambition, the founder William Wheelwright. After the introductory chapter about the commercial history of the company, the following eleven chapters and the appendices deals with all other aspects of the operation of the company, an impressive gathering of knowledge.

The second chapter describes the early postal history of the company with a sub-chapter dealing with the "VAPOR P" vessel markings, with censuses of all covers recorded by the author, and with several of them illustrated. One other sub-chapter describes the use of the numeral hand-stamps, contemporary with the stamp issue, this sub-chapter also includes a census of all recorded covers. The censuses provided are of great importance for both existing and future collectors of these markings.

The events during the preparation of the postage stamps by Perkins Bacon & Petch for the Pacific Steam Navigations is dealt with in chapter three. As a collector myself of these stamps, I am impressed how much information Michael has found about them, stamps that actually never were issued or used by the company, but where some were turned over to the Peruvian Government to be used in an official experiment. With this experiment; the stamps initially printed for the Steam Navigation Company, were in fact used as the first official stamps of Peru.

The following five chapters deals with the different routes and the expansion of new services. All the tables and cover illustrations clearly illustrates the descriptions of these very interesting milestones in the nineteenth century history of the company. Chapter nine and ten deals with the difficulties and necessary changes for the company that arise with the opening of the Panama Canal and the consequences of the war between 1914 and 1918, and ending with the transition into a Cruising Line company.

Another important issue for the company was the cargo services, described and illustrated in chapter eleven, where examples of freight circulars, bills of lading, and shipping contracts are included. The book concludes with chapters regarding the company publicity and "The End of an Era". With separate appendices for a "Fleet List", the "Postal Rates", and "The Picture Post Cards of the PSNC"; I believe all areas of interest regarding the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and its history has been dealt with in this fantastic and very fascinating book. Thank you very much, Michael, for sharing all this knowledge with us.

The overall book is profusely illustrated with many postal or contemporary items, such as newspapers, advertisements, tickets, time tables, post cards and other items. All these illustrations clearly shows the broad spectrum of aspects and all facets of this important historical company that had such great impact on the postal activities during the second half of the nineteenth century. The book itself will be a necessity for all philatelists and postal historians, not only those collecting the area dealt with, but all other areas where the international shipping lines had a huge impact on the development of the postal communications.

## Foreword

### The Commercial History of the Company

#### 1.0 In the Beginning

#### 1.1 The Idea of the PSNC is Born

#### 1.2 Raising the Capital

#### 1.3 The Company takes Shape

#### 1.4 Launch of the Ships

#### 1.5 Early Peruvian Postal Contract

#### 1.6 Early Arrangements with Bolivia

#### 1.7 Postal Arrangements with Chile

#### 1.8 Problems Encountered

#### 1.9 The First British Postal Contract

- 1.10 Fleet Expansion
- 1.11 Renewal of Postal Arrangements post 1850
- 1.12 Developments in Chile and other Countries
- 1.13 The Panama Railway and the Direct Route to Europe
- 1.14 The Largest Steamship Company in the World
- 1.15 Continued Commercial Development
- The Early Postal History and Markings of the PSNC
- 2.0 Introduction
- 2.1 Vessel Markings
- 2.2 Hand Stamp Colours
- 2.3 Use of Numbered Hand Stamps
- 2.4 Use of Oval Hand Stamps — mid 1860s–mid 1870s
  - 2.4.1 Usages of the Ship Named Hand Stamps
- 2.5 PSNC Agency Hand Stamps
- 2.6 Other Hand Stamps and Marks used by the PSNC
- The Postage Stamps
- 3.0 Introduction
- 3.1 Design
- 3.2 Die Proofs and Plate Proofs
- 3.3 The Issued Stamps
- 3.4 The 1857 Peruvian Experiment
- 3.5 The Reprints
- 3.6 Freight Labels
- 3.7 Perfins and Overprints
- 3.8 Fakes and Forgeries.
- The Development of Coastal Routes and their Connection with Europe
- 4.0 Introduction
- 4.1 PSNC Steamer dates 1840–1845 between Valparaiso and Callao
- 4.2 PSNC Steamer dates 1841–1850 between Callao and Guayaquil
- 4.3 PSNC Route Expansion 1846–1860 between Valparaiso and Panama
- 4.4 PSNC Steamer Dates 1846–1860 Valparaiso to Panama
- The Continued Expansion of Coastal Services
- 5.0 Introduction
- 5.1 Establishing the Routes
- 5.2 Coastal Services — Postal Record Keeping
- 5.3 Examples of Use
- British Post Offices on the PSNC Routes
- 6.0 Introduction
- 6.1 Opening of new British Post Offices
- Direct Services to UK via Straits of Magellan
- 7.0 Introduction 157
- 7.1 Progress towards a new direct service
- 7.2 The New Service commences
- 7.3 Progression of the Direct Service
- 7.4 New Post Office Contracts with the UK
- 7.5 The Use of the “P.S. Packet” Marking
- 7.6 Continued Service and the Consequences of Expansion
- 7.7 Post UPU Direct Usages
- 7.8 Charter for Boer War Trooping
- The New Contract to the Falkland Islands
- 8.0 Introduction
- 8.1 Timetables and Postal Rates
- 8.2 Examples of Use

Change, The Panama Canal and The War  
9.0 Introduction to Change  
9.1 Outbreak of War  
9.2 Opening of the Panama Canal  
9.4 Sailings, Timetables and Fares  
9.5 Examples using the Valparaiso to New York Service  
9.6 The Panama Canal route via Bermuda and Havana.

Quelle: Verlagsinfo

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