

# My Exposition from an Exhibition

by Patrick Crosby

The first weekend of the month of November brought SACAPEX, the Sacramento Area Philatelic Exhibition. This show is just a bit bigger than our annual Reno show. I always seem to leave with some nice items at good prices, and this year I hit the jackpot.

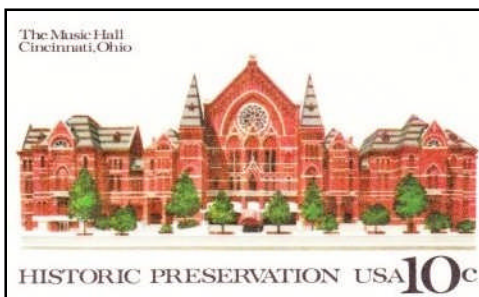
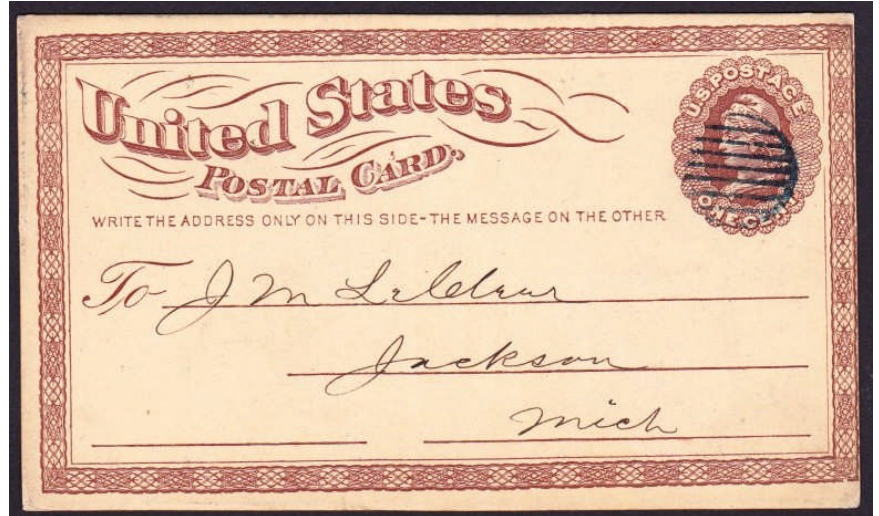
In 1869 the Cincinnati Textile Exposition in Ohio was so successful that it became an almost annual event. Renamed the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, there were 13 more expos from 1870 to 1886 and they usually ran for about a month in September and early October.

The pictured exposition postal card is the first design U.S. postal card. Having the "small-sized" USPOD watermark it is Scott UX3, United States Postal Stationery Society (UPSS) S2. Note right off that there is only a killer portion of a cancel – no city, state, or date is included.

The reverse of the card is a stunning illustrated advertisement for the Fifth Cincinnati Industrial Exposition 1874, including light, fine scrollwork with the printing on either side. The renowned U.S. postal card researcher Charles Fricke writes:

"It seems all reported copies of this rare card are used, and that all have a singular blue grid cancel, without a postmark. The connotation being that they may be handstamped precancelled postal cards. The absence of the dated postmark being that the cards were mailed in batches to prospective exhibitors, and being precancelled did not require any further handling at the Cincinnati post office, except for distribution and transmittal through the mails."

The UPSS card catalog has a chapter just for exposition advertising and view cards on government postal cards. The first exposition card was an equally stunning card from Chicago in 1873. The next to be issued was this Cincinnati advertising card and was produced in three easily distinguished types. Type 1 has the central vignette with the top corners being widely rounded. Type 2 has all four sides similarly rounded. My card is a Type 3 with all four corners squared. Types 1 and 2 have a UPSS catalog value of \$675 and the Type 3 is valued at \$725. I found my card in a dealer's miscellaneous cover box and paid \$6. Jackpot!



A part of the exposition buildings complex is now the Cincinnati Music Hall which can also be seen on a 10¢ postal card from 1977 (Sc. UX73, UPSS S90), part of an Historic Preservation series of postal cards.

References:

A Contemporary Account of the First United States Postal Card 1870-1875, Charles A. Fricke, 1973, available at [www.upss.org](http://www.upss.org).

Postal Markings of United States Expositions, William J. Bomar, 1986, available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

United States Postal Card Catalog 2015, United Postal Stationery Society, edited by Lewis E. Bussey, 2015, available at [upss.org](http://upss.org).

***Patrick Crosby*** is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal cards, especially used, including first days; the 1886 Grant Letter Card (or Sheet); UC16, the first U.S. aerogram; and postal history on business or picture post cards.