

POSTMARKS & PAPERBACKS

FURTHER RESOURCES

Additional information on the objects highlighted in the Postmarks & Paperbacks program, as well as some tangential information of interest, can be found in the following articles and posts. Enjoy!

NPM OBJECTS:

☞ Dracula has long fascinated the world, but particularly so after Bela Lugosi's portrayal on the silver screen in 1931. His likeness, along with four other Classic Movie Monsters, was issued as a postage stamp in 1997. Which one is your favorite—[Dracula](#), [The Phantom of the Opera](#), [The Wolf Man](#), [Frankenstein](#), or [The Mummy](#)?

☞ One of the more noticeable differences between the [40pa Coat of Arms stamp](#) from Moldavia and the [1gld Franz Josef stamp](#) from Austro-Hungarian Empire, is the use of perforations in the latter. The Postal Museum has a detailed explanation on the evolution into the practice of perforating stamps before issuance in the [Early Rotary Perforating Machine Object Spotlight](#).

☞ Mourning covers, like the one below, were commonly used in the late 19th and early 20th

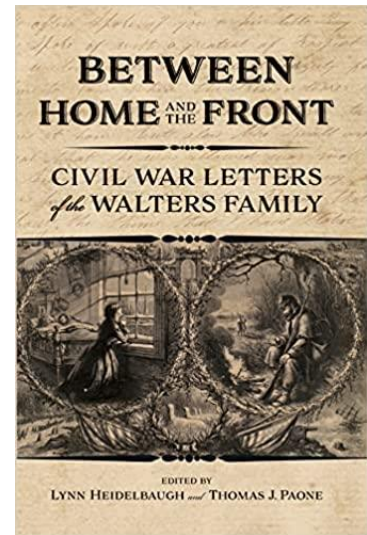


centuries. While these were intended to convey the message inside the envelope, there were also mourning stamps used to indicate national periods of grief. On Saturday, September 1, 1923—a mere 31 days after his death—the [Warren G.](#)

[Harding Mourning Stamps](#) were issued in his hometown of Marion, Ohio. *The Digital Philatelist* website has a [great resource page](#) for more information on mourning covers and those that collect them.

☞ The [Perforating Paddle](#) used to fumigate mail during a [yellow fever outbreak](#), is just one of many museum collection objects highlighted in our [Virtual Self-Guides](#). Whether you're drawn to postal peculiarities or surprising stamps, the six themed guides, and their corresponding musical playlists, will undoubtedly interest and surprise you!

As demonstrated in *Dracula*, letters were essential to communication in the 1800s. During the Civil War, tens of thousands of families wrote to loved ones away at war, though few examples still remain. The realities and difficulties of life on the battle front prevented many soldiers from keeping these beloved keepsakes from home. Yet, somehow, the National Postal Museum has nearly 200 letters from the Walters Family in its collection. All of which can be read and researched in the recently published book [*Between Home and the Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family*](#).



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The Smithsonian Libraries and Archives holds a rare American 1st Edition of *Dracula*. In 2017, it underwent extensive treatment to preserve it for decades to come. Housed in the [Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology](#), which is located inside the National Museum of American History, [this rare book](#) is a gem in our national collection.

[Bela Lugosi in 'Dracula'](#), National Portrait Gallery.

[“The Icelandic Translation of ‘Dracula’ Is Actually a Different Book”](#); *Smithsonian Magazine*; May 19, 2017.

[“Why Does Dracula Wear a Tuxedo? The Origins of Bram Stoker’s Timeless Vampire”](#); *Smithsonian Magazine*; October 31, 2012.

[“The Whole Gory Story: Vampires on Film”](#); *Smithsonian Magazine*; October 29, 2008.

[“Someone Stole the Skull of ‘Nosferatu’ Director F.W. Murnau”](#); *Smithsonian Magazine*; July 20, 2015

[“‘Vampire Grave’ in Bulgaria Holds a Skeleton With a Stake Through Its Heart”](#); *Smithsonian Magazine*; October 13, 2014.

[Count von Count Puppet](#), National Museum of American History.