

The Story of the Post Office, Containing a History of the World's Postal Service (Classic Reprint)

W. B. Jones

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Clerks sat around in offices, and merchants twirled their thumbs, just because Uncle Sam smail had to stop work on account of the snow storm. The cry of the world for increased facilities of mail communication is based upon sound principles. Perhaps a brief survey of the ancient postal systems may make us realize that in this particular, at least, we are far better off than they were in days of old. A GLANCE TWO THOUSAND YEARS BACKWARD. The birth of postal communication, like that of so many of our greatest blessings, is lost in obscurity. In 2nd Chronicles we read, The posts went with the letters from the King and his Princes throughout all I srael. Job says, Now my days are swifter than the post; they flee away. The Assyrian and Persian monarchs established stations at a days journey apart, where they kept saddled horses all ready for the courier to leap on to a fresh one and so carry with great speed the orders of his monarch. The Roman Empire, however, was probably the first to organize a postal service. This was not established for commerce or for the needs of the people, but solely for military and administrative purposes. Old Rome in her palmiest days was much inferior to the smallest town in the United States, as far as postal communication was concerned. She ruled the whole civilized world, but she didnt have a decent post-office. Poor Rome !H er enterprise, however, has left us one word which is incorporated in every postal system. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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