

U S CANCELLATION CLUB

Quarterly

VOLUME I - NUMBER 2

JULY - 1951

HISTORY OF U. S. C. C. by Harold Parker Johnson

Since the whittling decade of the 1870's which produced the galaxy of our intriguing cancellations, imaginative collectors have seen the possibilities of creating specialized collections of the fancy cancels appearing on U. S. stamps. The hobby converted more and more followers as time went on and the late 1930's found a sizeable group of cancellation enthusiasts in the philatelic fraternity. Dr. William Evans had been publishing a column in Stamps magazine headed "U S Cancellations" and the column was continued by William W. Reynolds. A magazine called Postal Markings was devoted exclusively to cancellations, auction sales were beginning to feature these items and the larger stamp exhibits began to create a special grouping for Cancellations and Postmarks, indeed the hobby had come of age.

A small group of Denver collectors interested in the hobby but finding themselves far removed from any source of supply determined to try to help themselves and others in the same circumstances. In the summer of 1938, Harold Parker Johnson of Denver presented the problem and a plan to William W. Reynolds, then editor of the Cancellation Column in Stamps Magazine. Bill Reynolds recognized the need for an organization and lent his support to the plan. After many weeks of continuous correspondence and contact with a few key men in various cities, the U S Cancellation Club was formed and announced thru the columns of Stamps Magazine in the issue of November 19, 1938.

The stated purpose of the Club was "for the mutual benefit of its members and for the furtherance of the hobby by bringing into closer unity collectors from all sections of the country." The Club was to perform the following functions:

1. Sales Department, through which stamps and covers may be bought and sold.
2. Dissemination of information concerning cancellations such as place of origin.
3. Establishment of a market value for various types of cancellations as shown by actual sales through the Sales Department.
4. Expertizing Department.

After the official announcement was made cancellation collectors from all over the country joined the Club thus proving such an organization needed and desired. The Sales Department began to function immediately and the writer recollects the fine material offered by some of the original members, including especially W. W. Davis, Edwin Milliken, Dr. Potter, Dr. Babcock and several dealer members. The first 25 members were: H. Parker Johnson, W. W. Reynolds, Edward L. Oakes, Christian Wissing, George H. Habbert, Warner Bates, Dr. L. F. Potter, Dr. D. D. Berolzheimer, Albert G. Berger, Wilbur W. Davis, P. T. Skove, H. W. Dunbar, Dr. S. D. Swan, Donald S. Lovejoy, Edwin Milliken, Burleigh E. Jacobs, Donald MacGregor, S. J. Caraher, C. J. Slater, Morris Everett, Mrs. H. F. McCullough, G. S. McKenzie, Adolph Steeg, Dr. Wm. E. Wilson and Chancy Palmer. The original officers were: President, W. W. Reynolds; 1st V. P., Edward L. Oakes; 2nd V. P., George Habbert; Treas., Christian Wissing; Sec'y and Sales Manager, H. Parker Johnson.

To Be Continued in Next Issue

THE U S CANCELLATION CLUB QUARTERLY

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We wish to thank Messrs. Hannum, Jacobs and Stark for cash contributions toward the expense of our Quarterly. The first number was sent to all members. If you did not get your copy please notify the Secretary and another copy will be sent you.

As a result of Mr. Parson's efforts our first issue was widely written up in the Philatelic Press. These articles have brought us a large number of inquiries and several applications for membership.

PLEASE NOTE

As most of you know we use insured parcel post for shipping cover circuits. These will be packed in corrugated pasteboard boxes, wrapped in paper and securely fastened when they leave here. We wish to request emphatically that members forwarding them wrap the packages with just as much care. First class mail may be sent separately or the letter with first class postage may be attached to the package. This warning is made necessary by the increasing carelessness of post office personnel and at the suggestion of our insurance agent.

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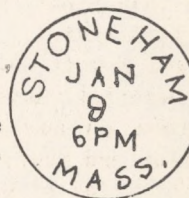
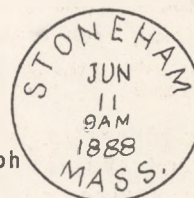
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C. D. ROOT, Secy.
855 Cove Way
Denver 9, Colo.

To supplement the illustrations of Stoneham, Mass. cancellations, shown by Mr. Adolph Stegg in U.S.C.C.

Quarterly #1, I submit two others from my covers.

The U.S. in star and horizontal barred oval cancels a 2c green stamp of 1887, and the moon and crescent cancels a 2c brown stamp of 1882.



The figure five in a circle was commonly used by many postmasters on prestamp covers. It is said that the postmaster of Cecilton, Md. converted the figure five of one of these brand stamps into a C, the letter for the name of his town, by cutting off the top and the upright-part of the figure five. The illustration made from one of my covers shows the story to be highly probably.

W. W. Davis

ILLUSTRATED ADVERTISING COVERS
used before 1910 - bought, sold,
and exchanged. What have you?

Alfred C. Horn
82 E. Brown St., West Haven 16, Conn.

Drop a card to the Secretary
for Application Blanks.

SPELLBOUND VIA CANCELLATIONS by Mrs. Larie Konikoff.

I have been collecting stamps for 8 years. Collecting and accumulating mint United States, also and collected "Women on stamps". Frankly, my heart wasn't in it but something kept prompting me on. I realize now that I lacked the enthusiasm.

Then it happened! While plowing through an accumulation of office mail, a cover with a blue postmark caught my attention. I've been hit! This is it! "This is beautiful". Could this be what is referred to as a blue town?

Going through the remaining material ON THE DOUBLE in hopes of green and red towns, but no soap. There wasn't anymore. However there was a large double ring from Limestone, N. Y. This fascinated me. Preparing clean covers with light color stamps I immediately forwarded these to the postmasters for cancels. A few days elapsed and the mailman handed me the covers. A neat strike in blue from Brant and an equally nice strike in black from Limestone. That started me off on the chase of a new phase with a wild enthusiasm for 20th century cancellations and postmarks.

My husband and friends were on the lookout for office material. And so, after three years, cancellations on covers have reached five volumes. Each and every cover boasting a different cancellation of merit. The stamp press has been most helpful. Watching for coming events, expositions, fairs, etc. many times reveal a special cancellation.

Dealers also have been most helpful in putting away covers with odd cancels. Swapping with others have been another source of supply. Recent discoveries from office mail was a double ring with small squares or grids as a killer from Rosebud, Mont. In New York State the town of Amagansett uses a double ring, and as a killer a circle between 6 small bars. Panhandle, Texas, has a fancy frying pan with two wings that is used on airmail letters. The postmaster at Shamrock, Texas said the post of fair headmen will not mind my using green ink as I do this only once a year on St. Patrick's Day. Oklahoma City, Okla., used a special cancellation for a recent event. This was of the fancy type showing a pioneer woman and boy. In 1949 the Peoria Stamp Club sponsored a special cancel of a large waving flag. A new station in Buffalo, N. Y. used a provisional- a large unusual circle. This was until the machine canceller arrived.

Another unusual cancel from my husband's office mail, was a registered letter with the words "CANCELLED" socked on the nose. From Bandon, Ore. I think this mark was also pro-

visional. Incidentally, machine dater cancels really "socked on the nose" are tough and desirable items to include in a collection of this type. H.P.O. or Highway Post Office Trip I and Trip II marks are not to be ignored. These covers have a special government cancellation and a special government cachet and are nice items.

Recently discovered error was a cover with a Columbus-Gallipolis cachet and a cancel of Columbus and Portsmouth, Ohio. Prior to this error I had sent covers to Kansas City, Mo. for a H.P.O. run. Much to my surprise the postmaster (Alex. F. Sachs) wrote me a letter reading:

"The first day covers submitted for service over H.P.O. from Kansas City, Mo. to Cartage, Mo. on trip I are being dispatched to you under separate cover, due to a mistake in the cancellation. To assure you a first day cover, the clerk at fault has voluntarily prepared at his own expense, a duplicate as near possible to the original for dispatch on this trip. Please except the apologies of this office for any inconveniences caused as a result of this error. Yours very truly, Alex. F. Sachs, Postmaster."

The corrected cover arrived and the mistake also but I couldn't see it as it was a blackout or the entire shape of the cancellation was a solid black circle. Needless to say how thrilled I was when this letter and blackout arrived. Of course, I sent the money back to the chap and informed him that it was perfectly okay and no hard feelings. Now then, just exactly what was the error that the postmaster hid by a blackout? Why was it so important to blackout the mistake?

These questions were all cleared up when I saw the errors on the Portsmouth-Gallipolis, Ohio Cachet and accompanying that, the Columbus-Portsmouth, Ohio cancellation. In other words the cancellation and the cachet did not JIBE. It is supposed to do that. This error in my humble opinion is as important as the 24-cent United States inverted airmail stamp. Both are legitimate errors. Considering all the facts what do you think?

Exchanging covers with others is another way of adding to your collection. I received in exchange a "BEAUT" from Roselawn, Ind. dated 1934. This was a scarce bi-colored cancellation, the bloom in red and the stems and leaves in green.

A cover from Bear, Ark. (with a fancy bear), reached me through the courtesy of a collector who read of my enthusiasm for cancels. Columns in the stamp papers tell of scheduled slogans for fairs, centennials and festivals and there were some beautiful fancy machine cancellations in this group.

Continued P. 10

THIRD CLASS AND DOUBLE OVAL CANCELS OF THE LATE BANK NOTE PERIOD



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10



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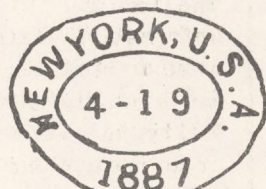
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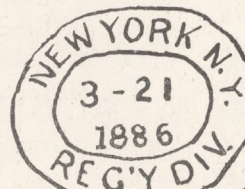
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18



19

WHO KNOWS WHERE THESE ORIGINATED?



Fig.: 1



Fig.: 2



Fig.: 3

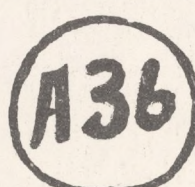


Fig.: 4



Fig.: 5



Fig.: 6



Fig.: 7



Fig.: 8



Fig.: 9



Fig.: 10



Fig.: 11

DEWEY

Fig.: 12

THIRD CLASS AND DOUBLE OVAL CANCELS
OF THE LATE BANK NOTE PERIOD
by Edward L. Willard

Most collectors, even of United States cancellations, are not interested in third class cancellations of the Bank Note period and cancellations of similar type applied to other classes of mail. They are seldom cleanly struck yet frequently they reveal more of the story of actual usage than the fancy or conventional cancel of first class mail.

The double oval cancel is intended to cover the usual post office bumper canceling with an outer oval of approximately 30 to 35 mms by 20 to 25 mms, and an enclosed smaller oval approximately 20 mms by 15 mms. In the upper part between the two usually appears the town of origin with the state abbreviation in the lower band. In the central oval is usually a letter or figure. There are, of course, modifications.

The cancellations discussed herein particularly refer to the middle 80's because of the author's specialization in United States No. 210 and, also, because at that time the use of this type of cancel first became prolific.

Much has been written about the meaning of the contained letter and numerals with assumed blanket conclusions. It is the opinion of the writer that few conclusions are justified though some information may be gained from checking usage. The known cities using this type of cancel are as follows: Boston, Mass.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Lockport, N. Y.; New York, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Providence, R. I.; St. Johnsbury, Vt.; St. Louis, Mo.; San Francisco, Calif.; Springfield, Ill.; Utica, N. Y.; Washington, D. C.

It is purposed to describe and discuss these cancels separately. At the outset it should be observed that like all other such devices, the life of these cancels was of limited duration and in many towns there were replacements of identic or similar sets. In some instances these were slightly larger or smaller but in many instances the difference can not be detected, because the nature of the material used in construction of the killer or the thickness or nature of the piece of mail cancelled or a combination of both make accurate measurements such as used in line engravings impossible.

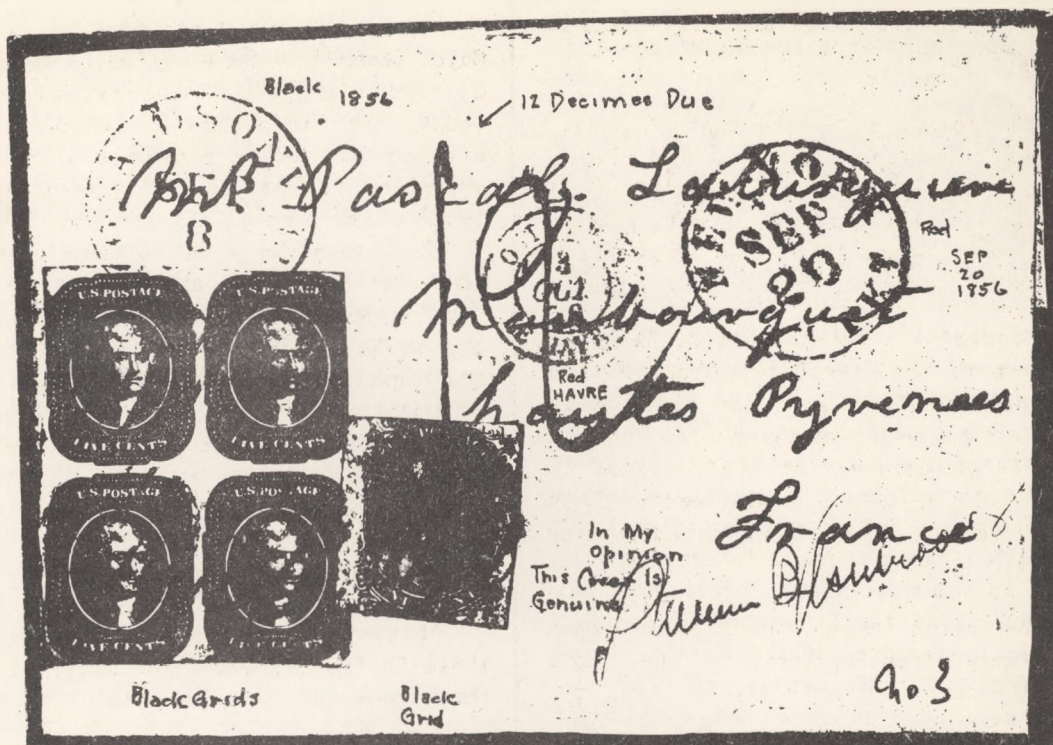
Because Boston, Massachusetts used large numbers of single line oval cancels the use of double ovals was limited. In the late 70's and early 80's an interesting double oval, (Fig.2), in two sizes, (Fig.3), using numerals one and two. In the later bank note issues Boston used a very plain double lined oval, (Fig.1), with

no enclosed letter or numeral. This cancel is not of relatively common occurrence and probably had a special use not yet known for lack of study covers. The only other Boston double oval, is the most conventional type with the inner circle containing the letters "FD" which represent the abbreviation for "Foreign Division", obviously for foreign mail.

Buffalo, New York used a conventional type double oval late in the period in which the inner oval is filled with heavy horizontal bars, (Fig.4), the writers copy being on a 1¢ blue No. 212. Cincinnati, Ohio used one of the larger sets of conventional double oval cancels enclosing numerals 1 to 13, (Fig.5). These occur in the period of the middle 80's on the re-engraved bank notes and United States No.210. The numerals probably represent the particular clerks by whom they were used. Separate sets can be identified by serif or sans serif numerals. Earlier in the period third class mail was cancelled with a circular dater type with numerals 1 - 11. (Fig.43) Still later, Cincinnati used a neat small clean cancel with the letters "CO" contained. This appears in the late 70's and all through the 80's, (Fig.6), and 1¢ continental is a similar double oval showing numeral 4, indicating a numeral set of this type, (Fig.7). Cincinnati had several special double ovals. The first contains the letters "REG", (Fig.8), and was used on Registered Mail. In addition, another enclosed the letter "CD". Again, there is no definite information as to interpretation. Best present information suggests "collection division", i.e., mail collected outside the post office. "City Delivery" or "Carrier Division" seem incorrect. The remaining Cincinnati conventional double oval contains the letters "DP". (Fig.9) The only known copies are on United States No. 210 and, again, interpretation is lacking. The letters suggest "Due Postage" which would not normally be a cancellation on the stamp required to. Perhaps this is an unauthorized usage in time of emergency.

Cleveland, Ohio employed a set with numerals 1 to 5. (Fig.10). Cleveland is one city in which two sets of such widely divergent sizes were used as to be readily identified. The larger set has an inner oval of about 22 or 23 mms while the small set is of but 20 mms. The larger set is much more difficult to secure. Detroit, Michigan used a small set 1 - 6, (Fig. 11), in the period of No. 210 and the re-engraved stamps. Numeral 3 in this set has not been located. Lockport, New York used an interesting double oval during the same period, (Fig. 12). It is the only double oval in which the state abbreviation is contained within the inner oval.

To be Continued
Page 10.



A PARIS FIND by Henry W. Hill

While in Paris, France a few weeks ago I made a find of covers which are most unusual and extremely rare.

1. To France Pre- U. S. French Postal Treaty. Cover with block of 4 5c 1856 Red Brown- plus 1c 1851 Type 2 from plate 2- from Donaldsonville, La. Sept. 8, 1856 to France, via New York, Sept. 20, 1856, by American Packet direct to Harve, France (Oct.3,1856).

At this period the rate of 21c by American Packet was to the French Frontier, not to the French destination. The manuscript marking which looks something like "19" is the French postage due of "12" decimes or approximately 22½c in U.S. currency. Thus the total postage from origin to destination was approx. 43½c.

2. To France- during Treaty Period, U.S. French Postal Treaty effective April 1, 1856. Rate 15c per ¼ ounce.

Cover with block of 6 5c 1857 red brown type 1 from Donaldsonville, La. April 9, 1858 to France, via Boston April 21, 1858 by British Packet to England April 21, 1858, Wednesday.

By British Cunard mail steamship (Cunard sailings) from Boston were every other Wednesday. The red Boston postmark on the face has a "24" at the bottom. This was a U. S. credit to France for the carriage of this letter from the U. S. Frontier to French destination. This letter weighed over ¼ ounce but not over ½ ounce.

The explanation was supplied by Stanley B. Ashbrook who is just starting a service to subscribers of this sort and one which I feel members can well afford to buy. These covers were brought into the store of J. Robineau, 20 rue Drouot, Paris, having been found in papers in Maubourguet, France, a town of 2000 people and formerly manufacturing leather products. At the time of purchase Mr. Robineau was studying the books of Lester Brookman on 19th century.

The first cover I believe is the only one known with block of four but I think there are 4 mint and 3 used blocks off cover, one of which I formerly owned.

The second cover has the largest block known to exist on cover.

Mr. Ashbrook's service and Mr. Brookman's books we can well afford to buy and study.

WHO KNOWS WHERE THESE ORIGINATED?

Illustrations on page 4

Figs. 1, 2, 3 & 4 are from the collection of Major General C. H. Bonesteel. All four are on 3¢ 1879 stamps, are approximately the size shown, the ink a sort of faded black. Outer circles are shown complete although on the stamps this is not so. In general the letters, figures and circles are somewhat crude. Figs. 5, 6 & 7 from Dr. W. R. McAdams also are on 3¢ Greens and are drawn approximately actual size. Figs. 8 to 12 sent in by Dr. Leopold Sigel all are in black on the 2¢ 1895 and are direct tracings. #8 measures 21 x 20 mm and one copy on piece shows part of the postmark including last two letters of two words; RK and LA. The small colorless dot in #9 varies somewhat in size but is always present. Dimensions of #10 are 21 x 20 mm and of #11 are 17 x 17 mm. #12 is simply the word, "Dewey".

Please send information you may have on these to the Secretary for publication in this department.

SIX CANCELS FROM THE COVER COLLECTION OF MR. A. C. HORN

#65 - BLACK



#65



WINCHESTER, CON.
1865 (BLACK)



#65 - BLACK

#65



AURORA, N. Y.
1866 (BLACK)



VERMILION, O.
(BLUE)
#65

(PURPLE)



PORTLAND, CONN.
1878

I have a number of early Nebraska and Dakota covers. A few Territorials. Many other covers and cancellations, some foreign. Let me know what you would like to see on approval.
CHANCY B. PALMER
3023 Arlington St. Lincoln 2 Nebr.

PAID
 Wells Fargo & Co.
 Oledo Ferry Aug 27



0 days to be returned to
 1899
 Business S. F.
 1/2 8 2/9

Salmon City S. F.
 Aug 3 1871



Daniel Crane
 Pay City S. F.
 July 10 1863
 Paid 3

Superior Ariz
 Lewiston Wyo
 Apr 2 1863
 Charles F. Shedd
 Pittsfield
 Ludlow 1877



"MANUSCRIPT" OR PEN CANCELLATIONS
by Art V. Farrell

Collector of Idaho Territorial & Express
Covers, and Student of Idaho Postal History.

A recent article by Herman Herst in W.S.C. of Oct. 21, 1950, about the aversion most collectors hold against "manuscript" or pen cancellations led me to also take a stand in their defense. Of course, Mr. Herst in his article referred mostly to pen cancels on stamps off cover, but I have found thru my years of collecting that the same aversion is held for pen cancels on covers by most cover collectors, as well. In my collection of territorial covers of Idaho, I have twenty odd with manuscript postmarks, some of which I prize higher than if they had "made to order" handstamps on them. In many instances a manuscript type cancel is the only one available from early offices who never boasted a handstamp, others are from places which never had a legal postoffice, such as the one illustrated from Olds Ferry, Aug. 2, 1868.

Olds Ferry is steeped in history of our early immigrants, our Stage and Express Companies. Located 12 miles west of Weiser on the Snake River where the Wilson Price Hunt party camped in 1812. A man by the name of Abernathy built a trading post here in 1862, which in the same year was purchased by Reuben Olds who received a franchise from the Washington territorial Government to build and operate a ferry here. It was here the Oregon Trail left the Snake River on the Oregon side. There was neither a postoffice nor Express office as Olds altho Holliday, DuRell, Hailey and Wells Fargo maintained stage stations here at different times thruout the years of staging. Olds probably handled mail and Express matter as a matter of accommodation to his customers, and probably considered it advertising to use a pen cancel on letters handed in at his post.

Another unique example is Marsh Basin, which was located 28 miles south of Minidoka in Owyhee County on Marsh Creek from which it derived its name. A trading post was built and maintained here from the early 60s and was a welcome spot for travelers of the Oregon Trail. There was no legal postoffice here until Jan. 28, 1878, and to the writers knowledge Marsh Basin possessed no handstamp during its 20 months of operation under this name. On Oct. 6, 1879 the name was changed to Albion which still stands a thriving village in this day.

Another example of interest is when history tells us of a fire shortly before the date on such a cancel in question, such as the one illustrated from Salmon City, Aug. 7, 1871. Salmon City was founded by Geo. L. Shoup who was also the first postmaster of a postoffice established June 15, 1869. Salmon City was

located at the confluence of the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers and was an important base for extensive mining operation in the vicinity. In late spring of 1871, Salmon suffered a bad fire which destroyed a great part of the town including the postoffice. Hence we have a real reason for the pen cancel, as the handstamp formerly used was destroyed and a new one had not yet been procured.

The enclosed letter of the Ruby City cover, dated in Manuscript, July 10, 1865, states that they had suffered extensive high water all spring and that Jordan Creek was on the rampage flooding many mines and part of the settlement, which probably accounts for the manuscript cancel in this instance. The postmaster may have been forced to vacate to higher ground to avoid the flood, and did not take his handstamp, known to have been used before this date. Ruby City was the first mining camp in Owyhee County and was made County seat of Owyhee County after the discovery of gold on Jordan Creek in 1863. Its location in the narrow canyon near the Creek susceptible to high water, accounts in part for its abandonment in favor of Silver City two miles up the Creek on higher ground.

Perhaps the most interesting manuscript type in my collection is the one of Lewiston, W. T., which shows a wealth of early history on its face. Lewiston was the first town in what was later to become Idaho Territory, after the discovery of gold on Oro Fino Creek. Lewiston was also the first postoffice in this territory, being established July 25, 1862 with A. L. Downer as postmaster. The cancellation, doubtless in Downer's handwriting, dated April 2, 1863 gives Lewiston in Washington territory, altho officially it had been in Idaho territory for thirty days, for on March 3, 1863, Idaho territory was formed from part of Eastern Washington, Montana and Wyoming. Since news did not travel on the wings of sound in '63, the news was probably not known from Washington, D. C. for many days.

It is possible, from my viewpoint to see a much deeper story from most manuscript cancellations than can be found from ones cancelled by the handstamp, if one but takes the trouble to check some of the possible reasons why they may have been used. It is also possible as I have heard collectors say that manuscript cancellations can easily be faked, but I feel that this practice is in the minority and, anyway with a little caution in inspection these fakes could be detected. Condition of papers and inks are much different between the two eras. I for one am not going to follow the sheep in this age long aversion to these interesting marks, and miss out on some very interesting and enjoyable collecting.

WANTED

We are interested purchasers of United States cancellations both on and off cover. We will purchase for immediate cash or will gladly dispose of your holdings through the medium of our auction sales, which are held at frequent intervals.

JOHN A. FOX
116 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK 38, N.Y.

A
S D
A

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PARTICULAR ATTENTION GIVEN TO U. S. C. C. MEMBERS' SPECIAL NEEDS IN OLD U.S. COVERS. APPROVALS GLADLY SUBMITTED ON REQUEST.

WRITE FOR MY FREE SPECIAL LISTS OF OLD U. S. COVERS.

E. N. SAMPSON
332 SO. ELM ST. ITASCA, ILL.

SPELLBOUND VIA CANCELLATIONS, cont.

Railroad stations and air fields always held my interest because of the various types used as R.M.S., R.P.O., and the new P.T.S. and many others. Then there was the period from 1928 to about 1935 when fancy cancellations swept the country like an epidemic. It was a period of a RIOT ON COVERS. With the following designs handstruck on postage stamps: Anchor, airplane, acorn, apple, antelope, bulldog, bourbon bottle, beer mug, bat, bell, bee, boat, chicken, clown, deer, devil, dollar sign, flowers, flags, horses, hand, hammer, harp, kittens, Lincoln's head, Masonic emblems, ocean liner, peacock, pumpkins, rabbit, squirrel, strawberry, skull and bones, stars, Statue of Liberty, telephone, Teddy Roosevelt, President Wilson, Weapons, Washington, Lions emblem, etc.

It leaves one breathless at the numerous cancellations that exist in the 20th century, on United States stamps. A collection of the unusual, the beautiful, submerges into volumes and volumes of endless pleasure. I love my covers. I never tire of looking at them again and again. Do you know something? Every time I look at them I discover something new. Indeed I do. You will too, if you look close enough. Wanna bet?

Look now and you will find added excitement at the discovery of an inverted year date, time or day. This write-up only scratches the surface. There are many more undiscovered items. And as I sit here "talking" with you I wish all of you could see this parade of the unique markings that holds me SPELLBOUND.

WANTED TO BUY

U. S. 20th Century cancellations on cover - 1900 - to date. Mrs. Larie Konikoff, 634 Humboldt Pkwy., Buffalo, 11, N.Y.

EXPENSIVE LETTER

A recent article in Western Stamp Collector about a cover with more than \$900.00 postage sent our member, Jack Bradbury of Denver, looking through his unusual covers. Sure enough he found that he has a cover, 10 x 10 inches from the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City to one of the Denver Banks with \$1050.29 postage evidenced by 11 perforated P. B. Meter stickers, ten for \$99.00 each and one for \$60.29. He makes no claim that this is the most postage on any one cover nor that \$99.00 is the most that can be paid with one sticker but wonders if anyone knows of a cover with more postage.

Get a new member for USCC.

THIRD CLASS AND DOUBLE OVAL CANCELS OF THE
LATE BANK NOTE PERIOD., cont.

The study of Double ovals from New York, N. Y., is very interesting. In the first place, there was a conventional set in which the inner circle contained letters representing sub-station which by the end of the period ran from A to T, (Fig. 13). In 1880 these letters represented sub-stations, located as follows:

A. 595 Broadway, B. 382 Grand Street, C. 583 Hudson Street, D. 4 Cooper Union, E. 465 8th Avenue, F. 550 3rd Avenue, G. 1607 Third Avenue, H. 1009 Third Avenue, K. 3rd Avenue & 86th Street, L. Harlem.

There were also the following unlettered sub-stations: Fordham; Spuyten; Moorisania, 167 St.; Riverdale; Spuyten Duxvil, Tremont; West Farms; Woodlawn.

In so large an office there are, obviously, several sets of cancels but they are difficult to distinguish. It is very strange that in so large an office (440 carriers in 1880) the numeral set runs only 1, 2 and 3 but these few are very common, perhaps used at the General Post Office, (Figure 14). On the other hand, there is a common double oval containing the letters "PO" in the central oval, (Fig. 16), which would seem more logical for the General Post Office. This last cancel is modified by introductions, on some copies, at the bottom of the letters 1, 2 and 3. It has been suggested, but unconfirmed by the writer, that these cancels were used in connection with supplementary mail. The identity of numerals ties them more closely to the conventional numeral set. There is also the well known cancel ascribed to use on foreign mail, (Fig. 17), but from the frequency of occurrence in lots originating in the middle west it seems to have had a wider use. It is one of only two double oval cancels, showing the full date. New York had an "REG" (Fig. 16) similar to other cities for use on registered mail and also another of a type still currently in use bearing the label "REG'Y. DIV", (Fig. 18). As this cancel also shows the full date it was probably connected with the same type of mail, possibly Registered Foreign Mail. There are three further New York cancels, the first a conventional with "CR" for "Circular Room" in the center, (Fig. 19). Its use is self evident. The second is "FD" for "Foreign Division" on two cent vermilion. The last is very uncommon, containing the letters "UD", and is usually in a blue black ink. No covers are known so one can scarcely guess at its use. The "D" probably represents "Division". The "U" has been suggested as "Unpaid" making "Unpaid Division" at this period. However, New York has a superimposed N. Y. in a circlelet of pearls on postage due stamps and an additional type of cancel was unlikely

To be continued next issue.