

U S CANCELLATION CLUB Quarterly

VOLUME I - NUMBER 3

OCTOBER - 1951

Return to JNO. D. VAIL,
BLAIRSTOWN, N. J.



FIG I
See page 21

*Mrs. J. D. Vail
Girard College.
Philadelphia
Pa.*

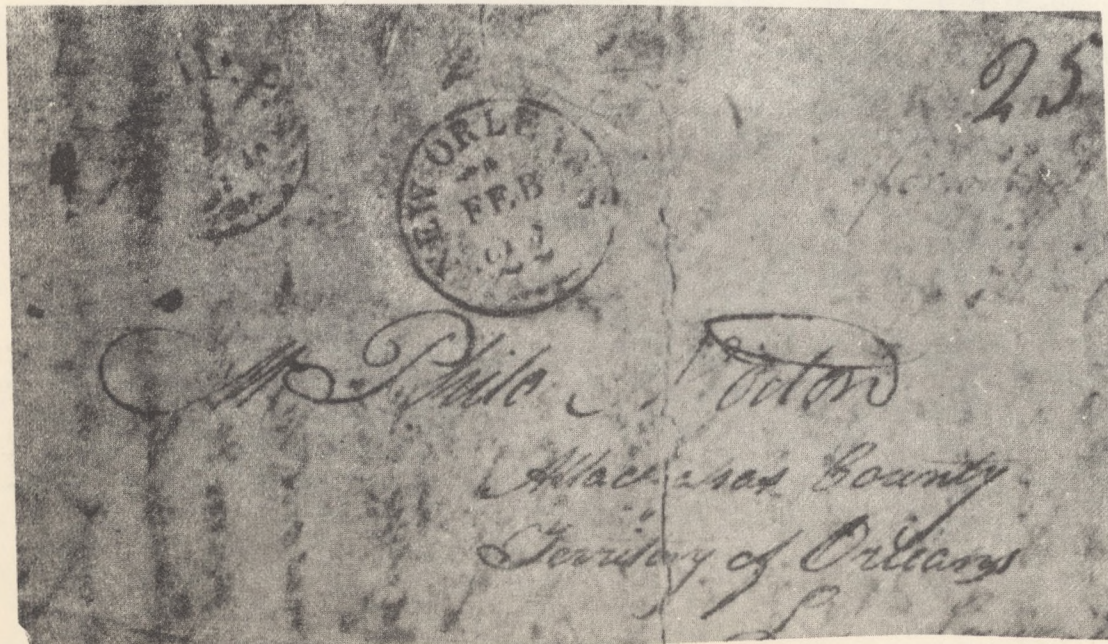


FIG II
See page 21

THE U S CANCELLATION CLUB QUARTERLY
Published four times a year, January, April,
July & October by the U S CANCELLATION CLUB
for the benefit of members.

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Address communications to the Club Secretary,
C. D. Root, 855 Cove Way, Denver 9, Colorado.

TO MEMBERS OF USCC

In these days of continually increasing costs in all lines of activity you surely are expecting a raise in dues to be discussed at least. It has been considered by our officers and the members of our Board of Governors. There is considerable difference of opinion among them. Some are in favor of an immediate raise to \$3.00 per year including the QUARTERLY, some approve a raise to \$2.50 per year but the greater number favor the policy of waiting another year before making the decision. Probably dues will have to be raised eventually if we continue to give the QUARTERLY to the members but the Club has sufficient funds on hand to assure its publication through 1952 and still leave us in excellent financial condition. Therefore dues for 1952 will remain at \$2.00 including the QUARTERLY. Sometime after July 1 next year I plan to again bring up the question to the Officers and Members of the Board of Governors. At that time I expect to have a good idea of what our annual expenses will be and shall make my recommendations to them on the basis of expenses for 1951 and expected expenses for 1952. If you will all make it a practice to buy from our advertisers and let them know that you saw their ad in the QUARTERLY we might even be able to sell enough advertising so that the QUARTERLY could pay its own way without subsidy from our Treasury. If I could see contracts for advertising to that amount I should be glad to urge the Board and Officers to keep the dues at \$2.00.

With the next issue of the QUARTERLY we hope to start devoting some space each number to personal notes about the members so please send in any interesting items about yourselves or others. For example: Mr. Paul P. Wentz, the author of the article on the Sharon Cancels has a certificate from the Pennsylvania Historical Society dated May 2, 1911 which states that he engraved the entire Lord's Prayer on the head of a common brass pin 2 mm in diameter. We understand that Mr. Kenneth A. Whitfield is planning a catalogue of Cancellations to be much more complete than anything yet published. We wish him all sorts of luck and hope there is something we can do to help.

We wish to thank members Ponnay and Seaver for contributions toward the expense of the QUARTERLY.

The Sales Department is in need of fine material of all kinds. Members are urged to forward circuits promptly. There is no excuse for holding a circuit two or three months.

C. D. Root, Sec'y-Treas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers for 1952-53 must be elected now. The Nominating Committee wishes to present the following slate of officers to serve from Jan. 1, 1952 to Dec. 31, 1953:

President: Emerson W. Eddy, New York, N.Y.
1st Vice-President: Burleigh E. Jacobs,
Wauwatosa, Wis.
2nd Vice-President: Allan D. Parsons,
Chicago, Ill.
Sec'y-Treas.: Charles D. Root, Denver, Colo.

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Lee Cornell, Wichita, Kans.
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Edwin Milliken, New York, N. Y.
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Adolph Steeg, Buffalo, N. Y.

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Chairman, Research Committee:
Edward L. Willard, State College, Pa.
Chairman, Publicity Committee:
W. I. Plant, Washington, D. C.

Postal Card ballot is enclosed. Please use as promptly as possible.



BULLDOG



FOX TERRIER

Here are two illustrations of cancels in the collection of Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr. He calls one "The Bulldog". It is a perfect strike in black on #212. The head is 19 mm long by 22 mm wide. The other he calls "The Fox Terrier". It, too, is an excellent strike in black but on #210. It is 14 mm long and 13 mm wide. For many years Mr. Phillips has kept a scrap book of illustrations of cancels offered in auctions and has no record of either of these. If you have information on them please send it to us.

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is desired. Price for quick return and send to
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A RARE COVER

(See Figure 2 on front page)

by Leonard V. Huber

Recently it was my good fortune to obtain the
only cover that I have ever seen or that has
apparently ever turned up bearing the address of
a place with the direction "Territory of Orleans"
and which was mailed during the time that the
State of Louisiana was a territory. Orleans
Territorials are extremely rare. This one would
have been illustrated in THE GREAT MAIL had it
appeared in time.

THE BLAIRSTOWN, N.J. MONOGRAM

By D. Peyton Bevans

The highly prized "JDV" Monogram cancel of
Blairstown, N.J. was that of the postmaster,
John Davis Vail, who served from April 1875 to
May 1887, from Jan. 1890 to Nov. 1893 and from
October 1897 to 1901. Thus he served about
twenty six years less about eight years in two
interruptions, caused no doubt by the fact that
Grover Cleveland had two terms as President.

Through the courtesy of his son, Dr. William
Penn Vail, of Blairstown I have the only enve-
lope he could find, one addressed to his mother
at Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa. showing the
monogram as a killer on Scott #U243 Two Cent Red
Envelope with postmark dated Feb. 23, 1884 and
with printed return card to Jno. D. Vail,
Blairstown, N. J. (See Fig. 1, front page).

Dr. Vail has written me about his father's
experiences as postmaster. I quote some extracts
from his letter: "Blairstown then was a 4th
class Post Office. There were about four mails
a day. The postmark and the killer were separate
and required two operations to cancel add post-
mark. The monogram was used also in sealing the
big brown envelopes in which all registered mail
was enclosed at that time. Father had two signs,
similar to R. R. semaphores, one red and the
other white. As soon as the New York mail was
ready for delivery the red sign was raised by a
lever inside the post office. When the "Delaware"
mail was ready the white sign would be displayed."

(Editor's note) Since there seems to be misin-
formation about this cancel and I knew our member
Mr. Bevans, had gone to the root of the matter I
asked him to give us the benefit of the informa-
tion he had secured.

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FOR

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COVERS

COINS

20 YEARS ON 4th STREET

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR WENTZ ARTICLE Page 23



1



2



3



4



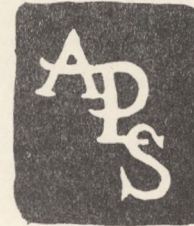
5



6



7



8

ERROR DESCRIBED IN MRS. KONIKOFF'S ARTICLE IN LAST ISSUE



FIRST TRIP

Mrs. L. Konikoff
 634 Humboldt St. P. M.
 Buffalo N. Y.

THOSE SHARON (PENNSYLVANIA) POSTMARKS ON REGISTERED MAIL.

by Paul P. Wentz

Phil Ward, writing in the Philatelic Press some few years ago, observed that, little did a certain Mrs. Kelley realize, many, many years ago that her name would go down philatellically, in history. It seemed that she opened a letter not intended for her, and handed it back to the postman, and signed the "Officially Sealed" post office label, resealing the letter. This particular label is known as the only one of its kind.

In like manner, when the writer of this article, in collaboration with the assistant postmaster, Fred J. Sharttle, way back in 1928, essayed to whip up a few cancellors for registered mail, we never gave a thought to posterity, but only an amusing interest in the project at hand.

About this time, you will remember, an order came through from Washington to discontinue cancelling all registered mail with town cancellors. That is to say the act of cancelling the stamps on the face of registered mail. The town cancellors were to be used, as heretofore, on the back of the letters or parcels on SEAMS or JOINTS. Boiled down it was meant to cause the clerk who handled this mail, in making his records, to automatically turn the piece of mail over in order to learn the town cancels and thus note, instinctively, if any tampering had been done previous to receiving at his office. The order did not specify just what cancellor was to be used instead of the town cancellor, so that the clerks were largely left to their own devices and ingenuity.

My bosom pal, the assistant postmaster of the station above mentioned, acquainted me with the facts and asked my help in preparing something suitable for use in this emergency for cancelling the stamps on registered mail.

I being, among other things, an engraver, and with visions of many odd and interesting cancellations on the earlier stamps of our country chasing through my mind, the problem seemed simple enough. I sat down to my bench, picked up a cork, and with graver and a safety razor blade, brought up a crude masonic design as a temporary measure. Of course it did not last long, but by the time it disintegrated we were busy making other cancelling stamps of rubber and linoleum. Our first attempt was as near like figure number 1 as the physical limits of this amateur sketch artist could manage.

What fun we were having! The only thing better would have been to give us a little leeway and official sanction and we should have been making our own stamps! Anyway in quick succession came (figure 2) a better masonic design, but still lacking in technique, made from a smoothed-off rubber heel.

Figure 3 represents the last of the masonic designs, and was made of linoleum. The "G" was stamped in after the compass and square were stamped and sometimes in a different color! Were we ever fancy! I might add that the "G" was picked up, too, from a toy rubber stamp printing outfit. I can take no credit for that.

Our perfectly good intentions were to show no partiality in this fraternal emblem business. We thought to go right down the line with all the emblems in the catalog. But we were, of course, cut down to size in our ambitions, before we had time to get rightly started. It just so happened that the masonic emblem, philatellicly speaking, was an old and honored cancellation with which to start.

Then came figure 4, the keystone representing Pennsylvania, of course and the rose (of Sharon,) our thriving little city. We discarded it as making too heavy cancellation.

Casting about for other designs, we tried out a large old English "S". No need to tell you what Post Office this represented. See sketch number 5. This is probably the best remembered of all the Sharon cancels.

Next came the maple leaf with "REG." included in the centre of the design! See figure 6. But we decided to get back to fraternal cancels and so (figure 7), we brought to life another time-honored philatelic cancellation, the Odd Fellows. And about the same time the "APS" cancel, figure 8. All these were linoleum, of course.

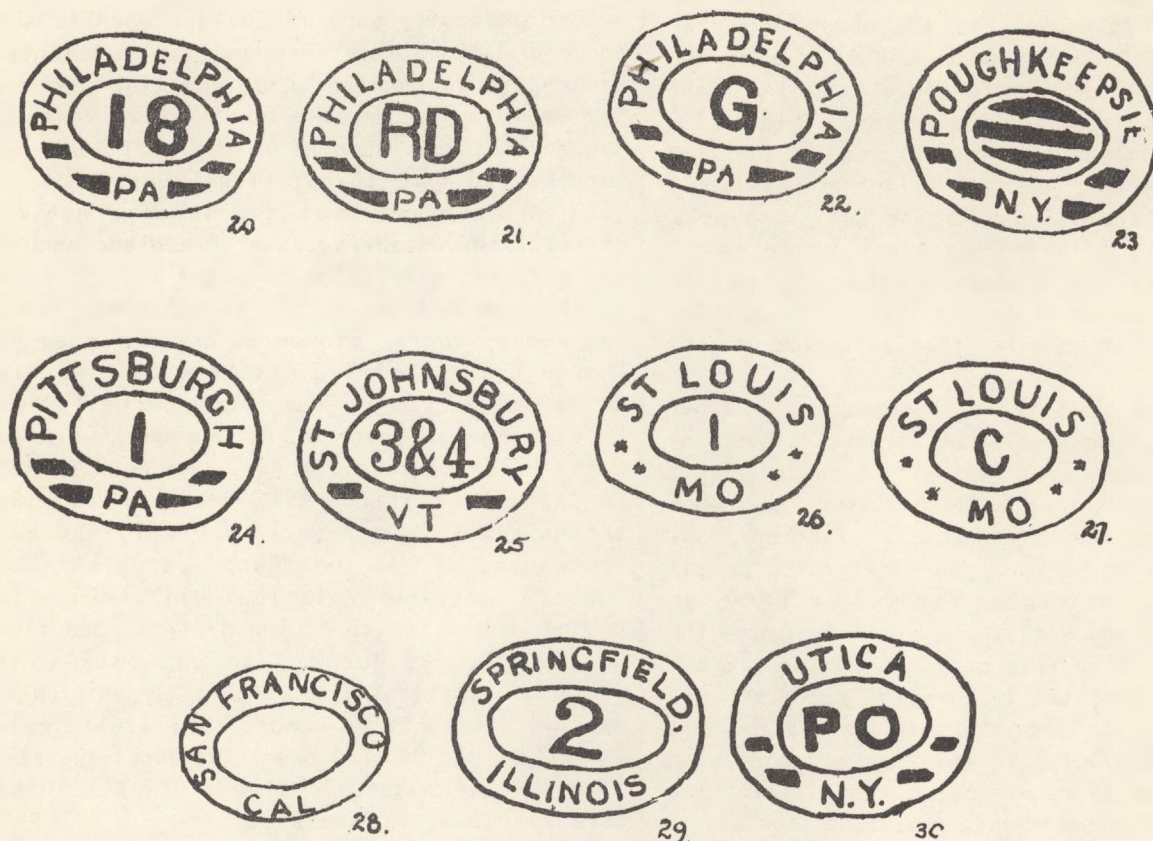
In the midst of our Roman Holiday, extending probably only a couple of months, came official word from Washington to discontinue our joyride. Gloom hung heavy over the cancellor factory. We were not even started, hardly. However visions of investigation and jail really had us worried for a time, but at last we breathed easier. Even after a few letters back and forth from Washington, they were still vague and foggy on just HOW to cancel stamps on the front of registered packages. But positively no fancywork! That for sure!

We still did not realize that our well intentioned and humble efforts were to go thundering down the halls of time, in the good offices, mainly, of the U.S.C. Club. But this is the story, and what you say, an unfinished symphony.

Be the fact as they are in thinking about it so many times, I always come back to the thought that, if we had only known we were making philatelic history, we could have prepared something far nicer and more artistic.

Maybe my brain-children have given you a headache, and if so, I am sorry. But listen to MY tale of woe. After many years of collecting covers, those bearing the Sharon cancels had entirely slipped through my fingers. Only of late have I located a few, which cost me from \$2.50 to \$3.50 each. HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!

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



WHO KNOWS WHERE THESE ORIGINATED?

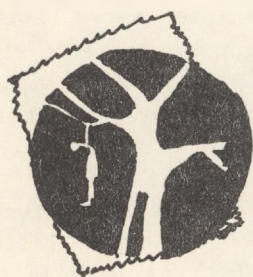


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

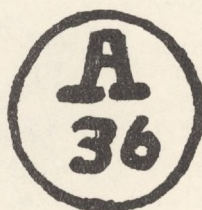


Fig. 5

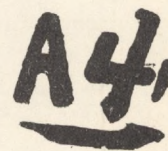


Fig. 6



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

By Edward L. Willard

(Continued from last issue.)

Illustrations at top of Page 24.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was most prolific in the use of double oval. Philadelphia produced the largest set of conventional numbers, (Figure 20), running from 1-27. All have been located except 16 and 17, which, no doubt, exist. These numerals, again, seem to identify clerks rather than location. The Registry Division and Foreign Division cancels "RD" and "FD", (Figure 21), are well known. Philadelphia double ovals with letters within the oval to represent a sub-station are rather rare. Philadelphia sub-stations at 1880 were as follows: A - Oak Lane, B - West Philadelphia; C - Lindley; D - Pittville; E - Port Richmond; F - Frankfort; G - Germantown; H - Chestnut Hill; I - Manayunk; J - Out; K - Sandford; L - Tacony; M - Holmesburg; N - Torresdale; O - Byberry; P - Bustleton; Q - Out; R - Somerton; S - Oxford Church; T - Olney; U - Crescentville; V - Fox Chase; W - Milestown; X - Verree's Mills; Y - Out; Z - Falls of Schuylkill.

To date "B" has been observed on No. 210 and B, F and G on the 1¢ re-engraved, (Figure 22).

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania used a short conventional set with numerals 1 - 4, (Figure 24). This cancel comes usually heavily struck and not handsome. Poughkeepsie, New York had an interesting double oval in the late bank note period in which the central oval is filled with three horizontal bars, (Figure 23).

One of the most unusual of the double ovals is a conventional coming from St. Johnsbury, Vermont with the legend "3 & 4" in the central oval, (Figure 25). We speculate that "3 & 4" represented two clerks in the small office who alternated in using the cancel.

St. Louis, Missouri departed from the conventional type in that its numeral set, running from 1 - 4, (Figure 26), had two small stars on either side of the state abbreviation rather than bars. This cancel also occurs without numeral indicating that numerals in this set may have been interchangeable and certainly were of different manufacture than the conventional sets. St. Louis used two letters, "C" and "W", which did not refer to sub-stations but to an unknown postal usage, (Figure 27).

San Francisco, California had a registry clerk who tried to imitate his then more commercial eastern brethren and came up with the only hand cut imitation of the double oval, (Figure 28). Its use was on registered mail.

Springfield, Illinois has the only double oval in color, (Figure 29). It is definitely not of the conventional type. The state name has not been abbreviated and the numeral has a fancy ball. The color is a reddish magenta. Utica, New York has a double oval with "PO" in the center, (Figure 30). This is usually cleanly struck.

(To be Continued)

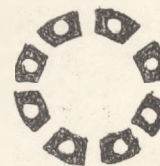
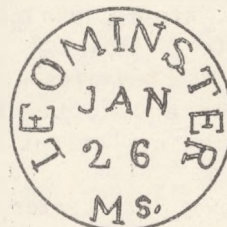
WHO KNOWS WHERE THESE ORIGINATED?

Illustrations on page 24

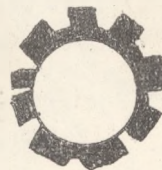
Figures 1, 2, and 3 are from the collection of Dr. W. R. McAdams. Figure 1 has "Lynchburg, Va." written on the back in pencil. Is that correct? All three are black and are on 3¢ Greens. Figures 5 & 6 are from the collection of Maj. Gen. C. H. Bonesteel. They also are in black and are on 1879 3¢ Green. Possibly in number 6 there is more to the cancel than appeared on the stamp. All five of these are, as nearly as possible, the exact size of the originals. The seven faces shown in the bottom row are from the collection of Dr. Leopold Sigel. All are on 2¢ triangle stamps and all are black. The first one measures 13 x 13 mm. The next three measure 15 x 15 mm each. The fifth one measures 17 x 17 mm and the sixth one is 22 mm high.

If you know the origin of any of these please notify the Secretary so the information may be published here.

LEOMINSTER, MASS.
by Wilbur W. Davis



Here are four cancellations, all with the same town mark, from Leominster, Mass. The one is common at the top. I have it on cov-



ers with 1861, 1869 and 1870 issues of stamps. On the 1861 and 1870 issues, both cancellation and town mark are in black while on the 1869 covers they come in both blue and black.

PAID

The second one is not common. It is in black on a cover with a 1861 stamp.

The third one is an exceptionally large "PAID", in black, canceling an 1851 stamp. (Cont. page 26)

HISTORY OF USSC
H. Parker Johnson
(Continued from last issue.)

The first full year of operations, 1939, was highlighted by our first annual convention and exhibition. This was held in Denver Aug. 17-20 in conjunction with the TMPS convention. Our Club participated officially in this event and the exhibit contained a special section for Cancellations under our sponsorship. Certificates of Awards and Ribbons were presented by both TMPS & USSC and our own Board of Judges handled our section. Many of our members participated in this, our first exhibit and it proved to be a highlight of the entire show.

The Board of Judges were: Dr. H. A. Davis, Secretary of the A.P.S.; Daniel A. Stone of Y. Souren Co.; Edward L. Oakes, President of Denver Stamp Club and Christian Wissing of the Cancellation Club. The basis of judging was: 25% rarity; 25% research; 20% condition; 20% originality and attractiveness in mounting; 10% completeness.

GRAND GOLD RIBBON AWARD -

D. A. Somdal of Shreveport, Louisiana for his collection of Mississippi River Packet Covers. His showing was one of the outstanding exhibits of the entire show. The pages were beautifully illustrated with etchings and water color paintings of Mississippi River scenes. The collection was replete with important data of both philatelic and historical importance. The covers of great rarity.

SILVER RIBBON AWARDS:

1. For Originality and Attractiveness of presentation: W. W. Reynolds, Albany, New York, with a New York Foreign Mail Collection.

2. Research evidenced: Mr. Reynolds with his Gay Nineties Collection and to Lee H. Cornell of Wichita for his cancellations on general issues.

3. Rarity of Material shown: Dr. Lester F. Potter, New Bedford, Mass., for his 1869 cover collection. One cover was the earliest known date of usage of this issue. Many were rare "Whaling Covers".

4. General Philatelic Knowledge: Edwin Milliken, New York City, for his collection of 3¢ Greens.

5. Completeness: John M. Gardner, Denver, General 19th Century Cancellations.

6. Condition: Edward L. Oakes, Denver, General issues.

GROUP AWARDS. Blue ribbons for 1st, red for 2nd and green for honorable mention:

Group on General 19th Century Cancellations:

1st: Lee H. Cornell, Wichita, Kansas

2nd: Edwin M. Milliken, New York City, 3¢ green

Honorable Mention to W. W. Reynolds,

Edward L. Oakes and Chancy Palmer.

Group on Any One Issue Specialized:

1st: H. Parker Johnson, Denver, 3¢ Greens

2nd: Edwin Milliken, New York City, 3¢ greens

Honorable Mention: John M. Gardner, 1883 browns; Edward L. Oakes, 3¢, 1861

Group on Covers and Postmarkings:

1st: Dr. Lester F. Potter, New Bedford, Mass. for his 1869 covers

2nd: John M. Gardner, Denver, General 19th Century cancellations on cover.

Group on Specialized Collections:

1st: D. A. Somdal, Shreveport, Mississippi River Packets.

2nd: W. W. Reynolds, Albany, New York, Foreign Mail cancellations.

Honorable Mention: Emerson Eddy, New York City, New York.

Foreign Mails: Christian Wissing, 2¢ vermillions.

It is interesting to note that the board of judges for T.M.P.S. judged our Cancellation Group exhibit with substantially the same results. T.M.P.S. awards were also given. (To be continued)

Leominster, Mass. Cont. from pg. 25.

The fourth is the well known Leominster "3". Should you think you have this off cover, don't be too sure that it came from Leominster. On my own covers I have other towns, using this 3, either identical with that of Leominster, or so similar that it requires comparison of the two together. Here are some of the towns:

Newark, N. J., Neponset Village, Mass., Portsmouth, N. H., East Machias, Maine, Hiram, O., Warren, Mass., West Randolph, Vt., West Millbury, Mass.; All in Black.

I have covers with the Leominster "3" with 1851, 1857 and 1861 stamps. Both town mark and cancellation are in black, except in one case where the town mark is in vivid red.

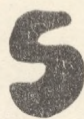
Except for the date the postmark is the same with all four of these killers.

FIFTEEN CANCELS TRACED AND IDENTIFIED BY RICHARD D. FULLERTON. See page 27 for illustrations.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Lanc. & Boston Agt. | 3¢ Green |
| 2. Wis. Cent. R.R. | 1¢ Liberty Postal Card 1875 |
| 3. Beards. & Flora RPO | 1¢ Jefferson Postal Card 1885, Jan. 25, 1887 |
| 4. Tr. Clerk, Richmond, Ind. | 2¢ 1894, Oct. 24, 1900 |
| 5. Rutland : West (?) | 3¢ Green |
| 6. N.Y. & CHI. R.P.O. | 3¢ Green |
| 7. North & Fonda R.P.O. | 2¢ 1890, June 10, 1890 |
| 8. Utica & B.R. RR | 3¢ Green |
| 9. Keene, N. H. | 3¢ 1861 in blue |
| 10. Littleton, N. H. | 3¢ 1861 |
| 11. New Orleans, La. | 1¢ Libertay Postal Card 1875 |
| 12. Cleveland, O. | ditto |
| 13. Worcester, Mass. | ditto |
| 14. Boscawen, N. H. | 3¢ 1861 |
| 15. Dayton, Ohio | 1¢ Liberty Postal Card 1875, Sept. 12, 1881 |



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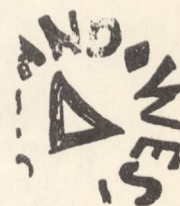
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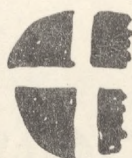
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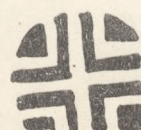
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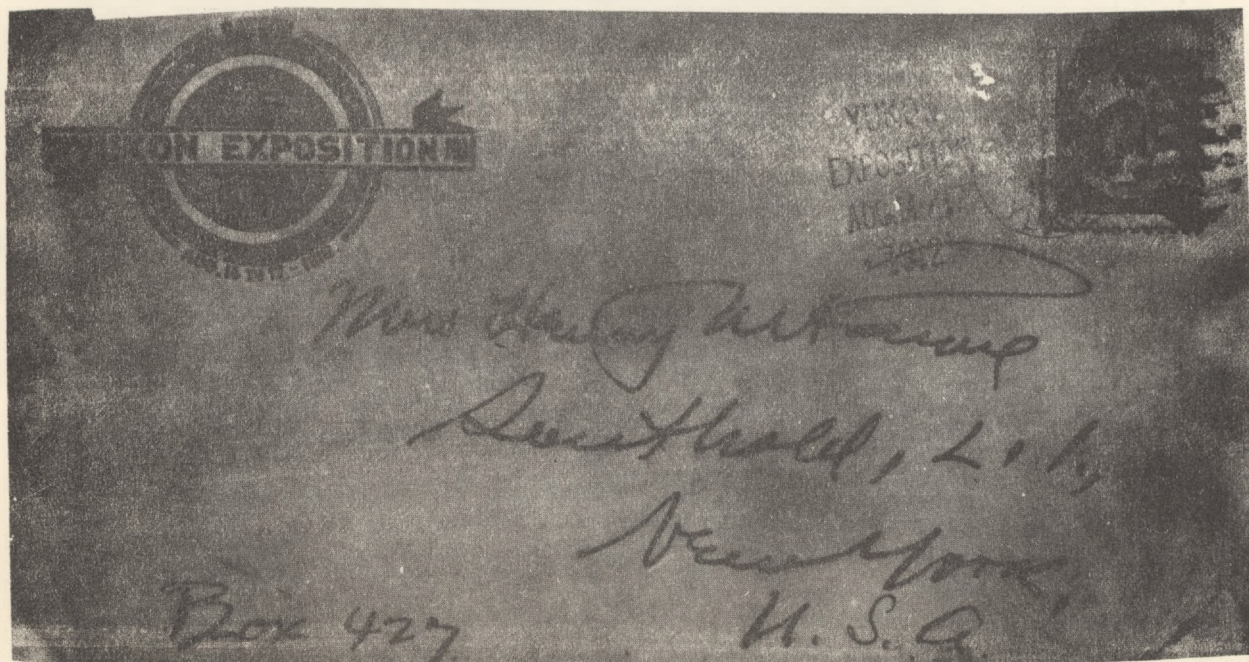
13.



14.



15.



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