



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 7 - NO. 6 WHOLE NO. 73

NOVEMBER - 1964



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SEE PAGE 40

THE U S CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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

FRONT PAGE

On the front page we illustrate two covers from the collection of Mr. Robert H. Schoen (#384).

Either one would be a very attractive addition to any collection of 19th Century USA Covers. Both carry New York Foreign Mail Cancels, not the rare types. In addition to this one has the very unusual Corner Card of C. H. Bechtel, an early stamp Dealer. (Editor's Note: Was this where E.N. Sampson (#28) got the idea for the Corner Card he uses?). This one went to England. The other has the notation "Pr Str Anchoria" and went to Scotland. We understand Anchor Line Covers are really rare and certainly Corner Cards like that of Mr. Bechtel are unusual. It is quite possible that the greater part of his business was in Confederate Money, Stamps and Bonds, since, according to Pat Herst (#452) there was a very large business in them at that time. Also there was considerable of the faking of such items which was later discovered.

BACK NUMBERS

Our sanguine predictions of the possibility of getting reproductions made of the out-of-print back numbers of the NEWS and Quarterly appear to have been over enthusiastic. We are still exploring possibilities but with considerable less hope than before. It appears that present methods do not do too well on our pages of illustrations.

Meanwhile members who lack some of the unobtainable numbers may borrow from the Club's file for copying. In that case please let the Secretary know which numbers you wish to copy and they will be sent promptly unless some other member has a prior request on file when there will be a slight delay.

Also, let me remind you again that the Club will welcome donations of files of the NEWS or of the QUARTERLY or both from members or former members who no longer have a use for them. By giving them you will help the Club and also the member who is fortunate enough to be able to use them.

DUES FOR 1965

Please pay dues for 1965 now. By paying now you relieve the Club's Treasury of the expense of sending notices and thus contribute materially to our ability to keep the annual dues at the economical level of only \$3.00. That this has been accomplished is due in no small part to the co-operation of members. Several of you have already paid 1965 dues. To those members cards have been sent. Members having a credit balance with the Sales Dept. may, if they wish, have dues charged to their account.

When you do send in your dues please let us know your Zip code #. We will try to add it to your address on all our records although it will involve considerable extra work. Some of you are on as many as five different lists.

Perhaps it is not unreasonable to mention here the fact that the Post Office Dept. continually charges more and more for less and less service. The excuse, of course, is the deficit in operating expense but even after the substantial increases of the past few years that deficit does not appear to be reduced to any great extent. First Class mail has gone from 3¢ an ounce to 5¢, an increase of 66 2/3%, Postal cards from 1¢ to 4¢, an increase of 300%, airmail from 5¢ an ounce to 8¢, an increase of 60%, Special Delivery from 10¢ to 30¢, an increase of 200%, Parcels Post in the weights and distances we use most charges now about 33 1/3% more than formerly, 3rd class, which we use for the NEWS and for off-cover circuits has raised from 1 1/2¢ minimum to 4¢, an increase of about 166 2/3%. Price of every other service has increased. Deliveries to residential sections have been reduced from two a day to one. This Zip Code business may help the postal employees but certainly must cause a lot of extra work for firms with large mailing lists, with, at best, only problematical advantages to mailers or addresses.

As you may have observed, if you have read this far, your editor is less than enthusiastic about the operation of the Post Office Dept. In all fairness, however, we must mention that the employees of the Dept. with whom we come in contact are almost always courteous, friendly, and as helpful as their many rules and regulations will let them be.

Deficit this year will undoubtedly be about the same as usual even with all the increases in rates.

CHANGE IN COLLECTING ACTIVITIES

473 James B. Kesterson, 122 Graybar Drive, North Plainfield, N.J.-Fancy Cancels & Unusual Covers from the 1851-'69 period; NYFM, Patent, Masonic, 20th Century Fancy Registry Cancels; Worldwide Scott # 1s.

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- 662 Leo Scarlett, 116 Nassau St., New York 38,
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663 William R. McGoff, P.O. Box 41, Cherokee,
Ala.-Dealer specializing in USA Covers of
all periods. Sampson

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 505 Arthur H. Bond to P.O. Box 625, Casselberry,
Fla. 32707 from Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J.
564 Robert W. Lowe to 1916 Hawthorne St., Houston
6, Texas from Hemphill, Texas
604 Mrs. Esther E. Schaefer to 2312 Balboa Road,
Pueblo, Colo. from Las Cruces, New Mexico

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POSTAGE DUES

BLACK JACKS

Fancy Cancellations Wanted

NE PLUS ULTRA

Scott's albums, pages and slip cases
needed in green binding.

JIM KESTERSON

122 Graybar Dr. No. Plainfield, N.J.

636 J. Richard Fay to Pine Hill Road, East Norwalk,
Norwalk, Conn. from 4 Old Well Court.

DECEASED

620 Frank A. Doucette
586 Bret D. Montague

SALES DEPARTMENT

As this is written 41 circuits are out among our members. Eleven of these are being held too long by eleven different members. We realize that this is only a hobby and that there are times when it is impossible to make a satisfactory examination of a circuit within the prescribed five days but it does seem that a month is too long to hold one up. Sixty one members are getting 19th Century Cover Circuits. If each one held circuits a month it would require at least five years for a sales book or envelope to make the rounds. If each one, on the other hand, held them only five days, the complete rounds could be made in 15 months. We must admit that, although many books are ready for retirement after their first or second or third trips, there are some which need to make the complete rounds. We try to retire all such before two years have passed but always feel, in the case of those which have not been seen by all members who might be interested, that perhaps the next stop would have been with the member looking for the particular type of cover or stamp contained in that book. Please try to be prompt in forwarding circuits.

PLEASE NOTE ALSO: While we have encouraged members to send unused USA postage in payment for small purchases we really did not expect stamps for large ones. Also we did expect to have stamps that could be used with a minimum of effort. Stamps for special purposes like air mails we do NOT want. Also we must insist that all stamps sent in have full gum. Under present rates we can use 5¢ stamps, 4¢ stamps, 2¢ stamps and the higher values up to \$1.00, not too many of the \$1.00 ones though. To use 3¢ stamps requires extra work wherever we put them. Please be reasonable when paying for purchases with postage.

We request also that you use extreme care in making reports not to miss anything and to replace items removed for examination in the exact places from which they came. Once in a while our Insurance fund has to settle a claim for substitution which I choose to believe is made in error and not on purpose. Our Insurance Co. is not responsible for single items missing from books unless said item is listed specifically. The only items we list specifically are those with a price of \$25.00 or more. Running a sales department like this would hardly be worth while if we thought any members would stoop to making substitutions.

In preparing stamps or covers please make descriptions, if possible, which would fit only the items to which they apply. Also in checking over books of stamps or covers, if you notice an item which does not appear to fit the description please remove the book from the circuit and

(Cont. next column)

return it to the sales manager along with a discussion of the apparent error. Also a suitable notation should be made on the circuit letter.

Please make a special effort to be absolutely accurate with your reports. When, in checking returned circuits, we find small errors we simply charge or credit the account of any member who has material in the circuits. Those of you who do not have material for sale we have to notify. We charge the member 5¢ for this notice which is somewhat less than the cards cost us mimeographed. The cards of inquiry we send to members holding circuits too long also are mimeographed and cost about 6¢ each. Please make these cards unnecessary.

PLEASE NOTE ALSO: In addition to USA Covers we also have a very fine selection of stampless from Great Britain, Italian States, Mexico and several other countries, also some nice material with adhesives from European and South American countries.

Even with that we can use a lot more material, particularly 19th Century USA on or off-cover.

U. S. C. C. CERTIFICATES

Milton Mitchell (#279) showed Fancy Cancellations on #65 at NAPEX and was awarded the USCC Certificate for his exhibit.

At TMPS Exhibition in Omaha in September the USCC Certificate was awarded to Mrs. Ruth Grissman of Des Moines for three frames of Street Car RPO Cancellations on Cover.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Robert W. Baughman (#318) has just been re-elected to another two year term as President of SPA.

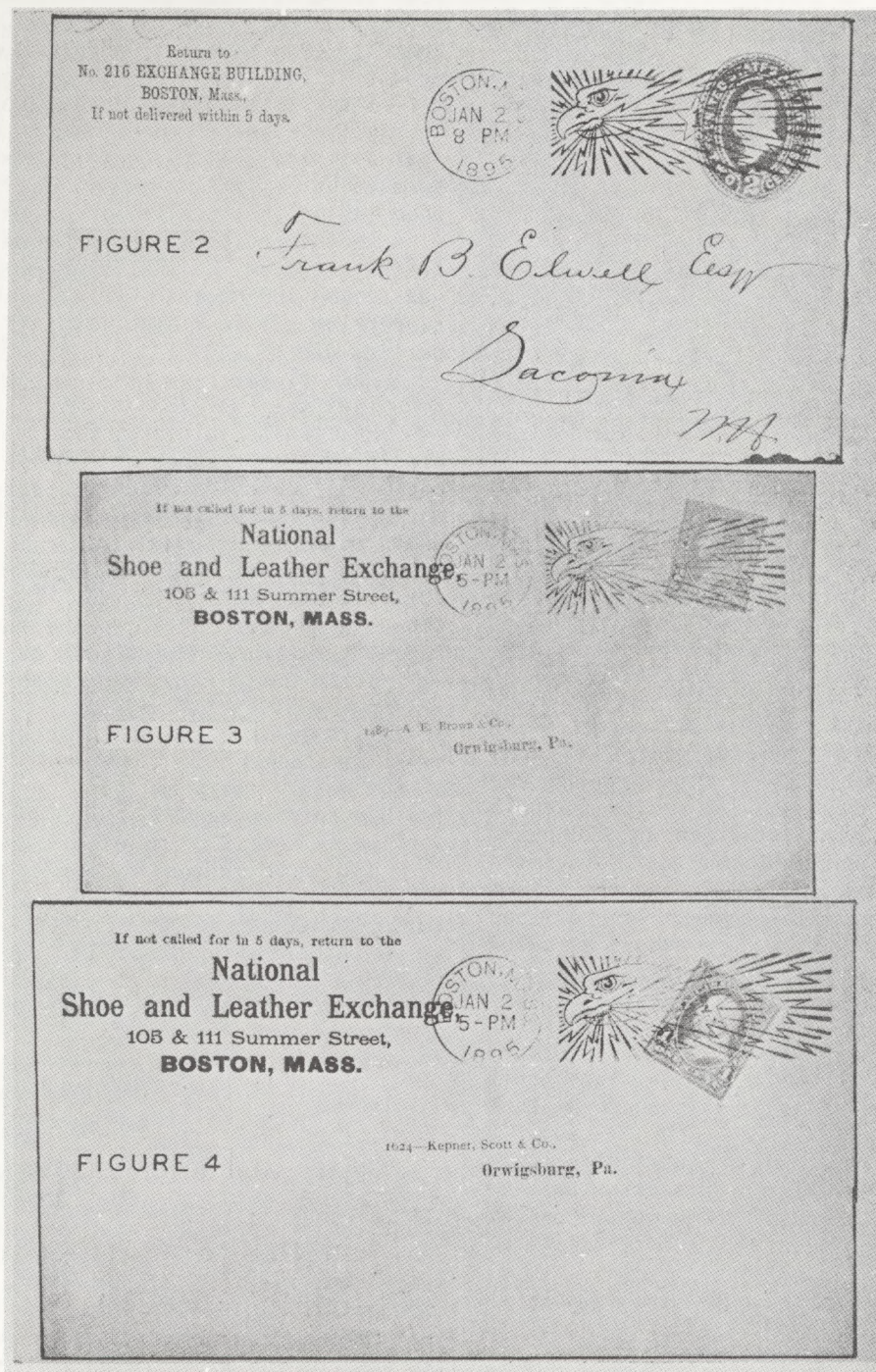
Gilbert L. Peakes (#608) and Dr. F. O. Garrett recently published a leaflet containing a compilation of USA Coil Plate #s from 14098 to 21804. It may be secured from Mr. Peakes at 276 Grove Ave., Metuchen, N.J. for \$1.00.

W. E. Tinsley (#376) received an award at NAPEX for his exhibit of 2¢ Vermilions.

At the same show James W. Milgram (#485) exhibited EXPRESS MAIL, also winning an award.

At TMPS at Omaha in September Dutton Stahl (#592) received a First Award for "Fancy U.S. Cancellations of the 20th Century on Cover.

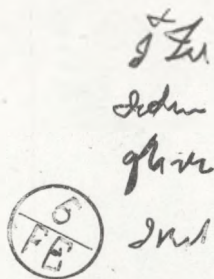
A recent issue of LINN'S showed a picture of Edward L. Willard (#125) Director at Large of APS along with James T. DeVoss, Executive Secretary and the Director of Postal Services of the Kingdom of Nepal. The latter spent some time in this country studying our postal operations and also the operations of the APS.



SEE PAGE 45.

BISHOP MARKS

Believing that many Collectors are perhaps as ignorant as your editor about these marks we take the liberty of quoting from a recent article about them, published in LINN'S and written by Matt C. Dillingham.



Bishops marks were used in Great Britain from 1661 to 1797, and it is to Henry Bishop that we owe this first post office datestamp used in the British Isles.

On the restoration of King Charles II, Henry Bishop was granted the farm of the office of Postmaster General for seven years. The date of the commencement of his position was June 25, 1660, and for the Grant he paid 21,500 Pounds per annum, at that time equal to about \$107,500. On January 16, 1660 he was proclaimed Postmaster General. He surrendered his grant on April 6, 1663.

As early as 1660, various charges of abuse were made against him and on August 2 of that year, Bishop wrote in reply to these charges and enumerated the precautions which he had taken to rectify such abuses, as existed when he took over.

In doing so he mentions: "A stamp is invented that is putt upon every letter showing the day of the month that every letter comes to the office, so that no Letter carrier may dare detain a letter from post to post, which before was usual."

For many years students of postal history have called this stamp "The Bishop Mark". If we can rely on the evidence of the issues of 'Mercurius Publicus', published during late April 1661, the first datestamp came into use at that time.

From their introduction in 1661 until their use ceased in 1797, the Bishop datestamps belonging to the Inland Section of the General Post Office in London consisted of a circle divided horizontally in half.

One semicircle bore the name of the month in an abbreviated form and the other a number to indicate the day of the month.

The Bishop datestamps remained unchanged in design throughout their period of use, although there were a number of alterations in size, type of lettering and other details.

It seems probable that all of the stamps were cut from wood, although some writers hold that certain ones were made of metal.

Almost invariably after each letter was written, it was folded over to make the envelope, which was then directed and sealed so that when opened, the contents of the letter was available for reading. Blow each letter in this collec-

tion is given a brief resume of what the contents are and the following paragraphs mention the contents of a few of them.

In one instance Sir William Pulteney (in the year 1773) was requested by his Master, the English King, to instruct the Keeper of the King's Hunting Lodge in Whittlewood Forest ordering him to kill a fat deer for delivery to a friend.

Then we have a letter written from one attorney to another mentioning a suit which had just been instituted against "Her Ladyship" for permitting certain doctors to use the back stairs when making their calls.

Another rather pitiful letter written to a friend, is from a shoemaker whose total income was around 150 Pounds (\$750) a year, who had been supporting his four older sisters ever since his parents died.

Each sister bore a long fantastic name to show that they were born ladies.

He finally told them that they would have to hire out as maids, upon which they said that they could not possibly demean themselves by so doing and would rather serve as mistresses, as that would be more amusing.

The largest Bishop mark ever used was the 20mm diameter varieties from 1713 to 1787, as shown here. Both serifed and sans-serifed letters can be found during this period.

While the collecting of Bishop marks is very intriguing, they are extremely difficult to find in good condition, and are priced accordingly. It takes considerable patience to pursue this branch of our hobby, but, on the other hand, it brings forth much of interest in early history, which is well worth the time and effort involved.

Note from Editor of Linn's: Mr. Dillingham's collection consisting of 90 pages will be shown in the Cuy-Lorpex '64 Court of Honor October 16-17 at the Lutheran High School West, Rocky River, Ohio. It took the Grand Award at the Los Angeles SESPEX last November, and a Silver-Bronze medal at PHILATEC recently in Paris.)

MY FAVORITE FLAG CANCEL by William J. Bomar #483

In going thru a large lot of post cards purchased in an antique shop in the midwest several years ago I noticed this item at first glance. Upon checking the Flag Cancel Encyclopedia, I found that the item was unlisted. Closer inspection of the front of the dial, as well as the year date at the bottom of the dial just above the name of the state, made me wonder. In July, 1962 I sent the item to Research Director, Frederick Langford, and was most pleasantly surprised to get the news that this cancel came from a machine built by The Columbian Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, N.Y. Prior to this time no specimens of this flag die were known and no other towns have been reported. Quite naturally, this is my favorite flag cancel; a new town, a new flag machine, and, as I recall for the most modest of sums. It is just such experiences as this, which make a confirmed Stamp widow of my wife, if you know what I mean.

EAGLE AND THUNDERBOLTS

Editor's note: The information in this article and the illustration on page 43 have been taken from the April 1964 issue of the BUREAU SPECIALIST by permission of the Editor.

A rare and attractive Cancellation, apparently used in Boston for only one day. Jan. 2, 1895 is known as the EAGLE AND THUNDERBOLT. It was the subject of a very informative article by George T. Turner in the April, 1964 issue of the BUREAU SPECIALIST. On page 43 we show the three covers used to illustrate that article. Mr. Turner quotes parts of articles by several others who had either sought information about it or had advanced theories regarding its use. A few stamps and pieces are known showing this cancel and also these three covers. Several theories have been advanced to explain its use. It was illustrated in the April 12, 1935 issue of POSTAL MARKINGS and marked, "where from, when, what", the cancel having been submitted by Mr. P. O. V. Barklew. Two issues later Mr. A. C. Needham called it "The Eagle Spitting Lightning", a partial answer. In November, 1946 Mr. Gideon Ryder reported that the Jan. 3, 1895 issue of the Boston Herald called it an improved cancelling device and he described it as, "An Eagle's Head from which Arrows Project".

A fine strike on cover was illustrated twice in PHILATELY in June & July of 1947. Maurice C. Blake gave Wilbur Davis' opinion that it had been used on mailings of the Edison Electric Illuminating Co. as a special electrifying cancel. Also it was stated this cover was in the collection of Mrs. Heyliger deWindt. This is designated Fig. 2 in the illustration and you will notice the 8 appears to be inverted. This Cover was illustrated again in WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR and finally sold at auction by Robert A. Siegel in June of 1962.

A second very fine cover was illustrated in W.S.C. in Nov. 1948. This cover belonged then to Mrs. Phillip Corson. Her theory was that so many citizens had objected to the use of the US FLAG as a cancelling device that the American Postal Machines Co. had designed another device to take its place. We understand this cover is now owned by Edwin Puls. It is designated Fig. 3 in the illustration.

The Cover shown as Fig. 4 belongs to Mr. George T. Turner, the author of the article.

From the inventor of the machine, a Mr. Etheridge through the "Letters to the Editor" columns of MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS and Mr. A. A. Wayne comes the information that the Company placed two of the machines in the Boston Post Office for a trial run on Jan. 2, 1895, one using this device as a killer, and the other using a flag, that approximately 10,000 letters went through each machine. The Government representative decided in favor of the Flag so anyone fortunate enough to have a cover or even a piece showing this cancel has a rarity.

Many prominent Collectors have had some connection with this Cancellation. At least eight of them are or have been members of USCC.

Mr. Gideon C. Ryder, now deceased
Mr. Wilbur W. Davis, " , a founder of USCC
Mr. Heyliger deWindt, "
Robert A. Siegel (#355)
Mrs. Phillip Corson
Edwin E. Puls (#60)
John A. Fox
Burleigh E. Jacobs (#6) a founder of USCC

CORRECTION

Please refer to the article "FANCY STAMPLESS POSTMARKS" on Page 34 of the September NEWS. The second line of this article appears to have been omitted, ruining the sense of the first sentence. That sentence should have read; "Just as there are classic Covers bearing Stamps so, too, are there a number of classic markings that every collector of stampless covers seeks to obtain" We hope Mr. Milgram and all other members will accept our apology for this error.

MATERIAL FOR FUTURE ISSUES

We have had, in the past few years, several excellent groups of articles on Cancellations including a series on the Cancels used in Illinois, one of those used in Providence, R.I. and shorter ones on the Cancels of other cities and states, also particularly on the Cancellations appearing on the 2¢ Brown #210. For all the articles sent in by our members your editor is really thankful since we must admit that he is incapable of putting out such a publication as our NEWS entirely on his own. We need a lot of help. For that we must continue to depend on our members. We know many of you have knowledge which the rest of us would be glad to have you share with us. Many of you have done so but this is a continuing problem never entirely solved. Of course articles containing information never before published are most desired, next are articles shedding new light on previously known items. We need articles on 20th Century material as well as on that of the 19th Century. We can use a few on Foreign Postal Markings. We would be happy to get articles for a single issue or for several issued on the Postal Markings of one State or one City or those found on any one stamp. We particularly like articles accompanied by drawings, which should be in black and white, but are also glad to get some even without drawings. Notes on the national or local philatelic activities of members are particularly welcome. Please keep material coming in so we can produce an interesting publication.

PLEASE NOTE---

If you don't receive an immediate reply from your Secretary, please be patient! Your Secretary tangled with a truck and as a result has been considerably slowed up!

IT'S FUN TO COLLECT METER SLOGANS

by Moe Luff

The urge to collect things is an instinctive part of human nature. Collecting---and there is no limit to the kinds of things collected --- is fun. But of all the different collecting habits, collecting meter slogans has a large universal appeal, especially the topical. The exact number of collectors today is uncertain but informed estimates indicate that as many as 5% of the American people are interested in meter slogans. Such enthusiasm is by no means limited to the United States. In European countries, especially the proportion of collectors is even greater. In fact, among collectors all over the world, meter slogan collecting is one of the world's most popular hobbies.

Meter slogans offer a welcome change from the routine of business or school work. Collecting can fill odd moments or occupy many hours, but no matter how much time you can spare for your hobby, you will always wish you had just a little more! Time flies when you are involved in building up a collection---searching for slogans; sorting and identifying new acquisitions; arranging and mounting them in your albums; studying reference books and catalogs to learn about each one. And, of course, there is the fun of meeting fellow collectors, swapping duplicates, and talking about your favorite meter slogans.

IT'S EASY TO COLLECT METER SLOGANS

One of the most interesting aspects of the hobby is the ease of getting started. If you have access to enough incoming mail, especially the mail of a firm doing business abroad, you can build a collection without spending a cent. Nearly everyone, however, progresses to the stage of spending at least nickels, dimes and quarters for meter slogans. There are literally thousands of meter slogans that can be bought for very little money. Spending can easily be kept within bounds and a modest budget won't keep you from enjoying this hobby. Many people enjoy meter slogan collecting within the limits of a weekly budget.

Not much equipment is needed---only an album to house your collection, some hinges or photo corner-mounts to attach your meter slogans to the pages, and possibly a magnifying glass to read some of the small print or identify illustration.

These accessories can be purchased easily. Nearly every city has a professional dealer; department and variety stores have sections devoted to the needs of collectors. Thousands operate exclusively by mail so you can be served no matter where you live without going beyond the mailbox at your front door.

METER SLOGANS HAVE VALUE

Few new collectors can resist asking about the monetary value of meter slogans. Meter slogans of great value are the exception rather than the rule. Every meter slogan, though, does have a recognized, readily established value. This aspect of meter slogan collecting sets it apart from many other hobbies.

Meter slogans can be enjoyed over the years and yet, if the day ever comes, when a collector tires of his hobby, he is sure of getting back at least part of the money he puts into it. If he has purchased wisely he can sometimes realize a profit. Fun and knowledge are the dividends you should expect to earn from collecting and studying meter slogans. Knowledge is valuable and you can certainly learn a lot from your meter slogans. Even so, one of the real thrills of collecting is to stumble across a meter slogan with a value greater than its cost---even if it's a meter slogan worth 50¢ found in a packet of cheap approvals. Luck of course is a factor, but recognizing a "find" depends upon having a thorough knowledge of m.s.

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