





## THE U S CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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Address communications to the Club Secretary,  
C. D. Root, 855 Cove Way, Denver, Colo. 80209.

## FRONT PAGE

On the front page are three covers from the collection of Prof. C. S. Thompson Jr. (#467). He hopes some member can enlighten him on them as follows:

#1 - I believe this circle town mark to be that of Walton, New York. The cancellation of the stamp appears to be that of a "sitting hen." The year date of the cover is August 1876. Can any Cancellation Club member verify the type of cancel shown?

#2 - This letter contains the usual Buffalo, N.Y. circle with ten rate enclosed. However, it also contains a straight line "paid," and an even more intriguing circle with Drawer C Paid. The town mark and the straight line paid are in blue while the small circle is struck in red. Could this be an example of a prepaid letter? The letter itself is datelined. Hollister Bank, July 12, 1850.

#3 - This cover bears a red rimless circle proclaiming Philoclesian Fair, May 20, 1835. The letter is datelined New Brunswick, May 1835. It also appears to have a 12½ cent rate mark.

I do not believe this letter was properly postally used since the inner and outer use of New Brunswick would make it a drop letter and at variance with the 12½ cent rate. I wonder if any of the Cancellation Club members have ever seen this type of marking before?

If you can help, please notify the editor of Prof. Thompson.

## MR. Z., POSTMARK MAKER

A stamp manufacturer, Mr. Z, claiming to have been in business since 1850, sent our frequent bulletins in the early and mid-1870s, in which postal markings were illustrated, 65 of which are shown on page 23.

Z. claimed to have circulated 35,000 of his bulletins, sending them to every state and territory.

At the present time only three have been located, one each in 1873, 74, and '75.

## MR. Z., POSTMARK MAKER, Cont.

Some of the markings shown are not likely to be found on letters (such as nos. 11, 14, 30, 33, and 34) they being made for use on various printed forms. Others, particularly No. 22, were also made by other postmark manufacturers, and these may be disregarded.

For a study being made of Mr. Z's products we solicit good tracings of such marking indicating the town of use, on what postage stamp and if a year date is shown on the cover.

Write directly to:

Delf Norona (#62) 315 7th Street,  
Moundsville, W.Va. 26041.

## CORRECTION

441 Ben A. Edwards new address zip code shown in March issue as 38)04 should be 38104.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hubert C. Skinner (#632) received the USCC Certificate awarded at NOPEX 1968 for his exhibit. "The Stamps of 1847". Also the NOPEX Gold Medal for "New York City Delivery 1856-1861".

Lyman R. Greenwood Jr. (#595) won the Grand Award, the APS Medal, the Southern Philatelic Federation Plaque, the Postal History Society Gold Medal and a NOPEX Gold Medal for his "New Orleans Postal History" also at NOPEX 1968.

At the 21st Anniversary Exhibition of the FRANKFORD ARSENAL STAMP CLUB The USCC Certificate was awarded to James A. Duncan for his "Confederate States Postal History". Mr. Duncan also received the Exhibition Grand Award. At the same show Wylie H. Flack (#603) received awards for his "Lincoln Memorial Issue", "Commemorative Souvenir Sheets", "Paid 3 Cancellations on Pennsylvania Covers". Mr. Flack also exhibited in the non-competitive section; "National Export Exposition Covers & Cancels", "Colonial American Revenue Documents", "Lincoln Memorial Issue 1909-Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations".

The new President of the Jackson, Miss. Philatelic Society is Donald F. Garrett (#481).

Edwin E. Puls (#60), William J. Bomar (#483), Ted L. Kilish (#741) and Harry S. Taber (#479) all had feature articles in a recent issue of LINN's devoted to Flag Cancellations.

Leslie Lawitz (#458) and Mrs. Lawitz have been appointed Chairmen of the SPA Hospitality Committee for its spring meeting in connection with COMPEX May 31 to June 2.

Sylvester Colby (#73) received record prices for the material in his spring sale in connection with the APS spring meeting in San Diego.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

732 Miss Helen E. Long to 248 S. Hemlock, Ventura, Calif. 93001 from Houston, Texas.

# OLD US COVERS ARE MY SPECIALTY

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## CANCELLATIONS -- COVERS

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APPROVALS OTOKAR CERNY A.S.D.A.  
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MOE LUFF  
12 Greene Road Spring Valley N.Y. 10977 USA

## ROSTER

As we have done each May for many years we are sending, with this issue of the NEWS, a list of members in good standing as of May 1. There are two lists, one alphabetical includes a brief description of each member's collecting activities as given on his application for membership. The other, arranged geographically simply lists the States and Cities where we have members and the names of those members. In the interest of saving space such titles as "Dr.", "Capt." etc. have been omitted.

The March issue contained a digest of the Club's activities. Perhaps members could consult that prospectus again to determine whether or not they are getting full value for their dues.

## DECEASED

391 Henry A. Meyer, Evansville, Ind.

## W - A - N - T - E - D

"PAID" Cancels on #65  
Both on & off cover  
also hitherto unpublished information on them

Material on US series of 1869 !!!  
(Especially 114)  
Covers, Cancels, Varieties, Freaks etc.  
Also early US philatelic literature,  
magazines, papers, etc.

CY HORWITZ (#661)

Box 26 Tannersville, N.Y. 12485

## WANT LISTS SOLICITED U S - CANCELS - COVERS

W. C. WALKER  
102 ELIZABETH ST.  
CLEARFIELD, PA. 16830

Wanted, Fancy Cancels on 19th  
Century U.S., off cover.  
Exchanges Invited.

MELVIN BENDER  
P.O. Box 289 -- Miami, Fla. 33101.

## NEW MEMBERS

- 787 William H. Hatton, Route #2, Box 68,  
Tawas City, Mich. 48763 (Horwitz)  
788 Hobbs W. Jackson, P. O. Box 116, Lafayette,  
Ala. 36862 (Sampson)  
789 Robert M. Hedges, RFD #1, Iowa City,  
Iowa 52240 (James Wilson)  
790 Paul Biggy, Box 10211, Sarasota, Fla.  
33578 (Horwitz)  
791 David H. Carnahan, 17-23 W. Third, James-  
town, N.Y. 14701 (Horwitz)  
792 W. Marx, 10 Gwendolyn Ave., London SW 15,  
England (Stafford)  
793 Clifford L. Friend, 8081 Aquadale Drive,  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512 (Horwitz)

For Collecting Activities of the above new  
members please refer to the 1968 ROSTER which is  
being sent along with this issue of the NEWS.

## RESIGNED

585 Mrs. Henry E. Tidd  
613 George D. Dominick  
662 Leo Scarlet  
707 C. H. Clippinger  
739 Duane P. Ulrich

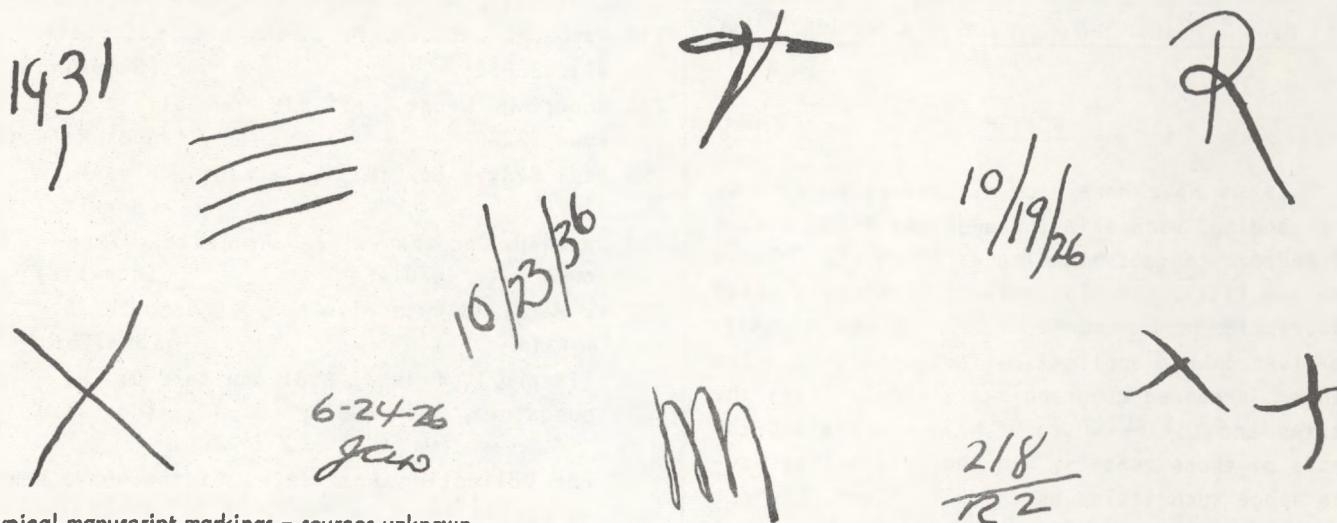


## 20th CENTURY



(Green ink)

The "CONSIGNEE MAIL" cancellation illustrated is an example of another kind of correspondence carried outside the regular mail channels. What appears on the off-cover pair of stamps above is believed to be the right hand portion of a larger cancellation -- possibly one used by the Grace Line steamship company -- which included to the left a box containing the words, "EMBARQUE POR LA GRACE LINE, SERVICIO MEJOR Y MAS LIERO." Letters of this sort were carried aboard ship and generally contained information for the consignee concerning a shipment in the hold -- say instructions for assembly or use -- so that the commodity shipped and the letter would both arrive to-gether. The Post Office Department, in granting this favor to steamship companies, required the use of a cancel reading CONSIGNEE MAIL as a part of any device they might wish to design. (It is hoped that readers can send in others of this type for illustration.)



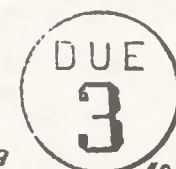
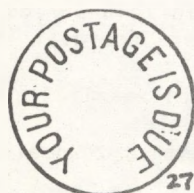
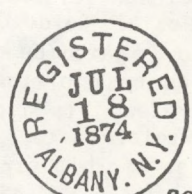
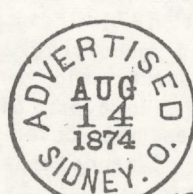
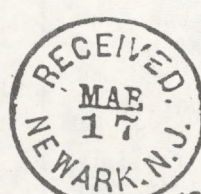
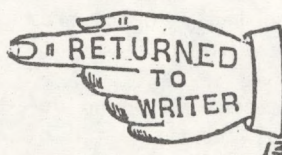
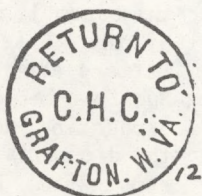
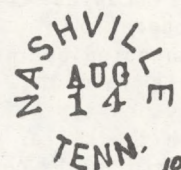
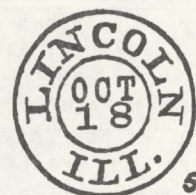
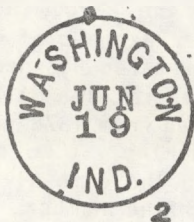
Typical manuscript markings -- sources unknown

Still other letters which do not have to go through the Post Office are those that are often attached to packages sent by American Express. Stamps are required and must be cancelled although no particular ruling seems to have been followed on those I have seen. Apparently manuscript markings have been used to a large extent. Perhaps someone can tell us more about this.

Carolyn Kuhn



JAN JUL 1 1  
 FEB AUG 2 2  
 MAR SEP 3 4  
 APR OCT 5 6  
 MAY NOV 7 8  
 JUN DEC 9 0  
 1



Advertised, 41  
 Missent, 42  
 Refused, 43  
 Slip, 44  
 Unclaimed, 45

U. S., 6 cts., 46  
 10, 47  
 Not Known, 48  
 Due 6, 49  
 Paid 10, 50

Paid, 51  
 Due 30, 52  
 Fictitious, 53  
 Received, 54  
 Not Found, 55

Paid 15, 56  
 Due 1, 57  
 Due 10, 58  
 Due 12, 59  
 Due 24, 60

Date, 61  
 Misdirected, 62  
 Unpaid, 63  
 Steamship, 64  
 Steamer, 65



NUMBERS AND LETTERS  
IN NEW YORK CITY HANDSTAMPS 1869 to 1900  
by ARTHUR H. BOND (#505)  
Illustrations on Page 25.

On March 1, 1873 Thomas L. James was appointed Postmaster at New York. Under his very efficient administration great improvements were made in handling the mails and in 1881 he was appointed Postmaster-General at Washington. In 1875 the tremendous new Post Office Building in City Hall Park was occupied, opening the way to more systematic operation than had been possible in the old, congested quarters on Nassau St.

This laid the stage for the adoption of an entirely new type of all-steel duplex handstamp, in which the killer was in the form of an elliptical grid with central circle surrounding a number or letter. Soon after the use of these stamps started at New York and Boston they came into use at most of the larger post offices. The idea for such a stamp undoubtedly came from England, where types somewhat similar had been in use since about 1860.

Strangely enough, there seems to be no definite record of the original manufacturer of these handstamps in the United States. John Goldsborough, of Philadelphia, advertised in the U.S. Postal Guide for 1878 that he was "the inventor, patentee and manufacturer of a new improved post office marker and canceller" and illustrates this type. However, his patent of 1874, referred to, does not cover the basic features of this style of handstamp. He possibly made a few early stamps, but it is likely that most of the stamps of this type were made by Benjamin Chambers, Jr., of Washington. Chambers had been the principal manufacturer of steel stamps for the Post Office Department since 1867 and moved his plant to much larger quarters at Lodge, Va. in 1880. It is definitely known that he was making the elliptical-grid type stamps in large quantities before 1892.

Previous studies of the New York City handstamps have been reported in articles in the U.S.C.C. Quarterly and News as follows:

- April 1952 - "The Numerals of New York City" - G. M. Burr
- July 1954 - Edward L. Willard shows numerals and letters of New York City as found on Scott #210 stamps
- Sept. 1957 - "New York PO Cancels as found on 2¢ Vermilions" - W. E. Tinsley
- July 1958 - "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on Bank Note Issues" - Dr. R. S. deWasserman

Certain conclusions expressed herein may be at variance with theories expressed in some of these articles. From the nature of the subject, considerably more research with dated covers will be required before all features of these cancellations can be described with full assurance.

Before proceeding to the classification of the standardized handstamps mention should be made of a couple of numbered killers that were used with automatic cancelling machines. Shown

in Fig. 11 is a marking that was explained in detail in R. J. Payne's article, "Palmer Machine Markings" in the March 1966 issue of U.S.C.C. News. Another example of this marking has been seen on a "Registered Business" official envelope. Figure 12 illustrates a marking with number "31" that was printed from 1878 to 1881 by the Leavitt cancelling machine. Two covers are known with number "32" in the same style. For a few weeks in March 1878 the number "31" appeared with a straight-line townmark. These are described in F. B. Stratton's articles on the Leavitt cancellations in 1960-62 U.S.C.C. News.

The elliptical-grid handstamps of New York City may be classified broadly into seven basic types, which are illustrated in Figure 13 as A, A-1, B, C, D-H, D-V, E-H, E-V, F and G.

In all classifications the townmark circles are 23-24mm. diameter; grid dimensions are 18-19 mm. wide by 29-30mm. high and overall width of the assembly varies from 42mm. to 45mm. Diameters of the killer circles containing the numbers or letters are indicated under the respective types. Such variations are not inconsistent with hand production methods. It is quite probable that the die units were mounted on a circular die plate about 45mm. in diameter, which could be attached interchangeably to suitable handles by means of a threaded brass retainer ring. Such construction is known to have been used as early as 1892.

#### TYPE A

Earliest date recorded - May 26, 1876 (7)

Latest date recorded - Aug. 9, 1878 (13)

This type shows no year date and has nine horizontal bars in the killer. Killer circle is about 12½mm. diameter. Numbers have been found to and including 30, with the exception of number 6 (See Type A-1). Numbers 1, 7 and 11 have serifs, as shown in Fig. 14. All others are of plain Gothic style, but differ considerable in shape and size, as indicated in Fig. 15.

G.M. Burr reported finding a single example of number 33 in this series. It is doubtful that 31 or 32 exist, since these numbers were used in the Leavitt machine markings within this period, as noted above. The Leavitt killers are oval in shape and have only eight bars.

Factors indicating that several manufacturers may have furnished these dies are:

- a) Variations in letter height in townmark from 2.75mm to 3.5mm.
- b) Omission of hyphen between NEW and YORK in about 40% of the dies.

#### TYPE A-1

Earliest date recorded - May 22, 1877

Latest date recorded - Aug. 31, 1877

This is a variation of Type A which has eleven horizontal bars instead of nine. It also differs in that the numbers are shaded. Number 6 has been seen in this type between the dates shown; also a number 5, which could not be dated other than as FEB 17.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second article on this subject by Mr. Bond. If you wish to communicate with him, please address him at P. O. Box 625, Casselberry, Fla. 32707.





FIG. 11

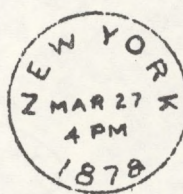
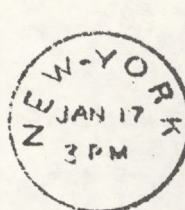
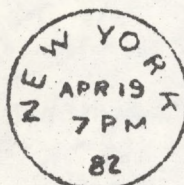


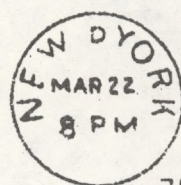
FIG. 12



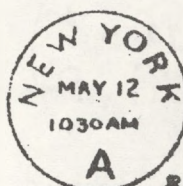
A



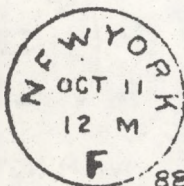
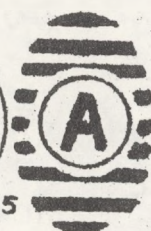
B



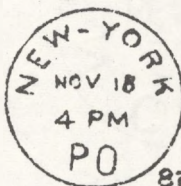
C



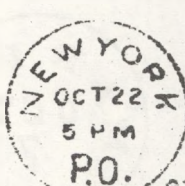
D-H



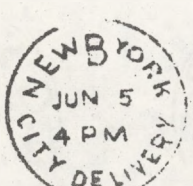
D-V



E-H



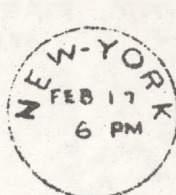
E-V



F



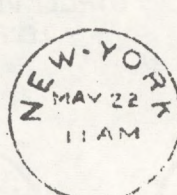
G



A-1



FIG. 13



A-1



FIG. 14

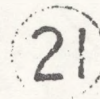
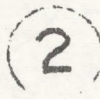


FIG. 15



FIG. 16

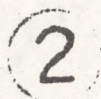


FIG. 17

SEE PAGE 24





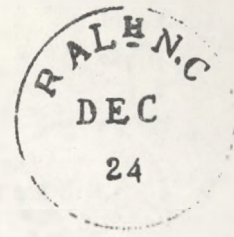
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.  
1824



NEW BERN, N.C.  
1814



NEW BERN, N.C.  
1820



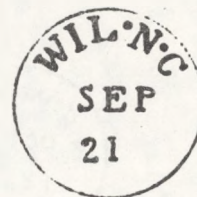
RALEIGH, N.C.  
1823



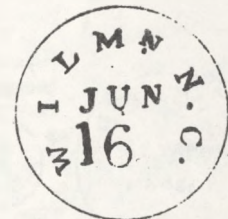
RALEIGH, N.C.  
1828



TARBORO, N.C.  
1832



WILMINGTON, N.C.  
1801



WILMINGTON, N.C.  
1816



WILMINGTON, N.C.  
1822



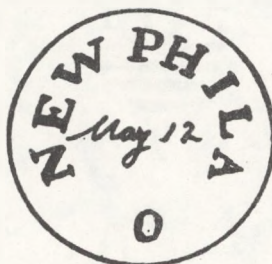
CIRCLEVILLE, O.  
1829



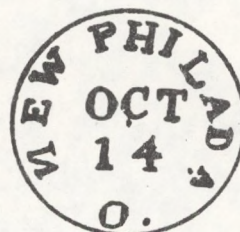
NORTH GEORGETOWN, O.  
1850



MARIETTA, O.  
1815



NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.  
1841-42



1850-51



ST. CLAIRSVILLE, O.  
1821-33

MORE ABBREVIATED POSTMARKS FROM THE  
COLLECTION OF MR. ARTHUR H. BOND (#505)