



Cancellation Club **NEWS**

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Pictured above are a stamp with an unusual Cancellation and also a drawing of the Cancellation. This stamp was sold to me as an unusual "STAR OF DAVID". Perhaps I am wrong but I think it is a "MASONIC APRON" with a "SQUARE AND COMPASS" worked into the design of the top of the apron. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a good Cancellation but I have never seen one similar. DOES ANYONE KNOW THE ORIGIN? IS THERE A COPY ON COVER? IS THERE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE DESIGN OTHER THAN THE ONE I HAVE MADE? HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED. Please write the Editor or EDWARD L. WILLARD (#125), 225 Woodland Drive, State College, Pa. 16802.

THE U S CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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C. D. Root, 855 Cove Way, Denver, Colo. 80209.

U. S. 20th CENTURY NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

by Edith R. Doane (#847)

(continued from Page 70)

If you have read to this point, no doubt there are two questions in your minds: what was the overall advantage in the use of this Numeral Type of cancellation and what is the true significance of each of its numbers?

As to "advantage", I believe it to have been a sort of morale-builder for the Post Office Department, to counteract the widespread complaints about the former illegible postmarking and the ineffective cancellation of stamps. But why did it lean over backwards and test three different Types at the same time instead of only one? Public acceptance and postmasters' approval caused the new devices to be considered "very successful", according to the 1904 and 1905 Annual Reports of the Postmaster General, and resulted in the adoption of another style resembling Type 3 in some respects - so perhaps it was all worth while.

As regards the "significance" of the different numbers, I regret sincerely that I can furnish no explanation nor documentation whatsoever. Many well-known and knowledgeable postal historians have been questioned about them but their answers have been evasive, inconclusive or just plain "I don't know". I personally have applied several different test patterns, not one of which proves out, and official records have provided no proof.

No proof, so far, that is. But, happily, research is never closed - so I keep on keeping on with it. Any assistance from our members will be appreciated.

CHANGE IN COLLECTING INTERESTS

893 Kenneth S. Reed-Mississippi Postal History;
USA #sl-100 on Cover with Fancy Cancels.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

With this issue of the NEWS is a ballot on which members may express their preferences for officers for 1972-3. President Schoen appointed a Nominating Committee and, as usual, the present 1st Vice-President was asked to stand for President. For personal reasons he was forced to decline as was the present 2nd Vice-President when he, in turn, was asked. The Committee then asked Mr. Schoen to stand for re-election, which he consented to do. Arthur H. Bond (#505) has been nominated for 1st Vice-President and Mrs. Ruth Grissman (#667) for 2nd Vice-President. Also the custom of having the outgoing President become Chairman of the Board of Governors had to be changed. The Committee has suggested Abe Boyarsky (#478) and E. N. Sampson (#28) for the six year term on the Board, Mr. Boyarsky to be Chairman. Members may approve these nominations or they may designate any other member they wish by writing in the name.

DUES FOR 1972

Also, on the same sheet with the ballot is a reminder that dues for 1972 are payable now. Sending them in promptly will remove a tendency to forget and will simplify the work of the Sec'y-Treas. Members who have material in the sales department stock may have dues charged to that account. In fact, that will be done automatically sometime after Jan. 1 for all such who have not paid at that time. Some members have already paid their 1972 dues. Their cards should have reached them before this copy of the NEWS. The January NEWS will be sent to all members on the list but only those whose dues for 1972 have been received will get the March NEWS.

The amount is still only \$4.00.

NEW MEMBERS

- 917 William H. Heisler, Jr., 1643 Benner St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19149 - U.S. Cancellations on Post and Postal Cards.
- 918 Charles A. Miller, P.O. Drawer 430, Greenville, Miss. 38701 - U.S. Covers, primarily 19th Century. (Garrett)
- 919 J. David Baker, P.O. Box 892, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206 - Indiana Postal History.
- 920 R. H. Lounsbury, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 - 19th Cent. U.S. Covers (Herst)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 324 William M. Able, 75 Woodside Drive, Washington, Pa. 15301 from Shelbyville, Ind.
- 683 Haines P. Walmsley Jr., #229 Bissell, Chicago, Ill. 60614 from Lincoln Park West.
- 745 Peter Stafford, 15, Keswick Drive, Stockport, Cheshire, England from Fountain Valley, Cal.
- 781 David Ernest Lawson, RFD #2, Box 455-A, Woods Lake, Middleboro, Mass 02348 from Brockton, Mass.
- 787 William H. Hatton, 1705 LeMoyné Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13208 from Tawas City, Mich.
- 900 Ernest H. Wyche, 2036 VanBuren St., Wilmington, N. Car. 28401 from Newark, N.Y.
- 903 William E. Duckworth, 907 Anderson St., Wilson, N. Car. 27893 from Urbana, Ill.
- 905 Capt. Francis J. Crown Jr., Box 5356, Security, Ga. 30911 from Fort Benning, Ga.

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PNEUMATIC MACHINE CANCELS

by Arthur H. Bond

The Postmaster-General's Report for the year ending June 30, 1899 states that arrangements have been made for leasing twenty machines from the Pneumatic Canceling Machine Co. of Indianapolis, Ind. The Report for the following year shows the annual rental of \$150 per machine. This was the same rental that was being paid for the Barry and Barr-Fyke machines then in service and for the 21 Columbia machines that were soon to be installed. So we may assume that all were machines arranged for power drive and of comparable performance. Upon the appearance of these competitive machines the American Postal Machines Co. - by far the largest supplier, with 450 machines in service - had agreed to reduce its annual rental from \$175 to \$100 per machine.

Since July 1, 1895, when the contracts of the International Postal Supply Co. were discontinued, the American and Barry companies had shared the business of the country's largest post offices. In 1900 the Post Office Department installed 100 of International's new "Flier" machines in these large offices. This machine was so much faster and cheaper to operate that an annual rental of \$400 was justified. Fifty more Internationals were rented in 1901 and in 1902 there were 250 "Fliers" in service. In spite of the rapid increase in postal business, this had serious effects on the other manufacturers and by 1904 the Pneumatic and Barr-Fyke companies were practically out of business.

In the publications of the U.S. Patent Office we have been unable to find any record of patents assigned to the Pneumatic Canceling Machine Co. The Company is not listed in Indianapolis city directories of the period. It was probably a small operation, possibly conducted by a local manufacturer of special machinery.

Apparently the Pneumatic Company never had more than twenty machines in service. Most of these were auxiliary machines in offices where the bulk of the mail was handled by American or Barry machines. This accounts for the relative scarcity of covers bearing good examples of the Pneumatic machine cancels, except from a few post offices. Our study has revealed that Pneumatic machines were used in at least 34 different post offices and branch stations. Covers found range in date from 1898 to early 1904. The most active period was from 1900 to 1903.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Pneumatic Machine Cancel as regularly used is found in the cancellation of "killer" section, which always consists of eight horizontal bars arranged in four distinct pairs, the overall height being 16 mm. to 17 mm. The postmark consists of two straight lines of type, showing office name and dating, with two full-length bars above and usually below. The reverse side of the

cover often shows four long horizontal depressions, caused by pressure bars applied during the printing operation.

In the postmark the height of letters in the town name varies from a minimum of 2 mm. in the regular 1898 Indianapolis cancel to a maximum of 3.5 in the Saginaw, Mich. and Zanesville, O. cancels of 1901-02. Salt Lake City, Utah, appears with large initial letters from 1902 to 1904, as indicated in the Type 5 trscing. In 1898, 1899 and 1901 year-dates are found in both 4-digit and 2-digit form. 1900 is consistently indicated by four digits, except at Indianapolis, it only appears as "900". Dates later than 1901 show only two digits. A few inversions of year-date and month logos have been noted at Hartford in 1901.

From a study of several hundred covers we concluded that the best way to classify these cancels is according to the differences apparent in the cancellation or "killer" section. These are indicated in the attached Type Charts. Such a classification readily distinguishes between the several types which were sometimes used at the same office.

- TYPE 1 Shows no breaks in the four pairs of bars. This has been found only in the Indianapolis cancels before July 1899.
- TYPE 2 The second pair is cut back at the left-hand end a distance that varies from 7 to 10 mm. What appears to be a screw-hole breaks the second pair and sometimes adjacent bars at about 50 mm. from the LH end. See Note below regarding this hole.
- TYPE 2A Similar to Type 2, but in addition the fourth pair of bars is cut back at the LH end a distance varying from 14 to 26 mm.
- TYPE 2B Similar to Type 2A, but the fourth pair and the lower bar of the third pair are cut back a distance of 16 to 20 mm. from the LH end. See note below regarding the "interlock" or extension of the lower bars under the postmark.
- TYPE 2S Like Type 2, but a branch station designation is inserted in the blank space preceding the second pair of bars. The "screw-hole" usually does not show in these markings.
- TYPE 2SI The station designation occupies a space opposite the second and third pairs of bars.

To be continued. See Page 91 for illustrations.

PNEUMATIC MACHINE CANCELS

PLATE 1

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
AUG 8 9 - PM '98

TYPE 1

GALVESTON, TEX.
APR 5 4³⁰ PM 01

TYPE 2

ELGIN. - ILL.
MAR 28 6 - PM '04

TYPE 2A

MADISON, WIS.
JUN 9 5³⁰ PM 01

TYPE 2B

NEW YORK, N.Y. ST. 5

TYPE 2S

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USCC MEMBERS AT APS CONVENTION

Members of USCC were quite prominent at the recent APS Convention held at San Antonio, Texas. The APS President's Award went to Hubert C. Skinner (#632). The Joe T. Fincher Award to Wm. H. Bauer (#834). The Dr. Frank O. Brasch Trophy went to the ESSAY-PROOF JOURNAL edited by Barbara Mueller (#360). THE MAYFLOWER edited by John A. Edwards (#803) received a second in its class. Herman Herst Jr. (#452) was one of the Judges. Edward L. Willard (#125) accepted for the Library of APS the original art work for the 1945 Duck Stamp from the Artist.

SESCAL '71

Alan T. Atkins' (#814) exhibit "19th CENTURY POSTAL MARKINGS OF KENTUCKY POST OFFICES" not only received the Grand Award and the "WESTPEX AWARD" for best 19th Century but also the USCC Certificate.

SALES DEPARTMENT

Several times members have mislaid the letter of instructions which accompanies each circuit. Some have taken thought, held the circuit and written the sales manager for instructions. This is correct. Others have just wrapped the package and mailed it to Denver. This helps no one, more costly for the member and considerably more costly for the sales manager both in cash and in time. Please check accurately, wrap carefully and forward promptly, report on each circuit whether purchases are made or not, this is the way we keep track of circuits. Do not forget that we now carry our own insurance, that we cover for full value all material accepted, that members receiving circuits are responsible for full value while in their possession and for forwarding as directed to the next member. In order to protect yourselves you MUST retain your Insurance Receipt until you know shipment has been delivered. We must deny the privilege of getting circuits to those who hold them too long.

As usual we need more material. Right now the most crying need is for 19th Century USA Covers.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE CANCELS

Reported by Edith R. Doane (#847):
Bullits Bayou, Concordia Parish, La. Ma. 13, .4
Boyer, Blair Co., Penna. June 25, 88 Purple.
Reported by Richard Russell (#444)
Cherryvale, Kansas,
Barago, Michigan
Rigo, Michigan

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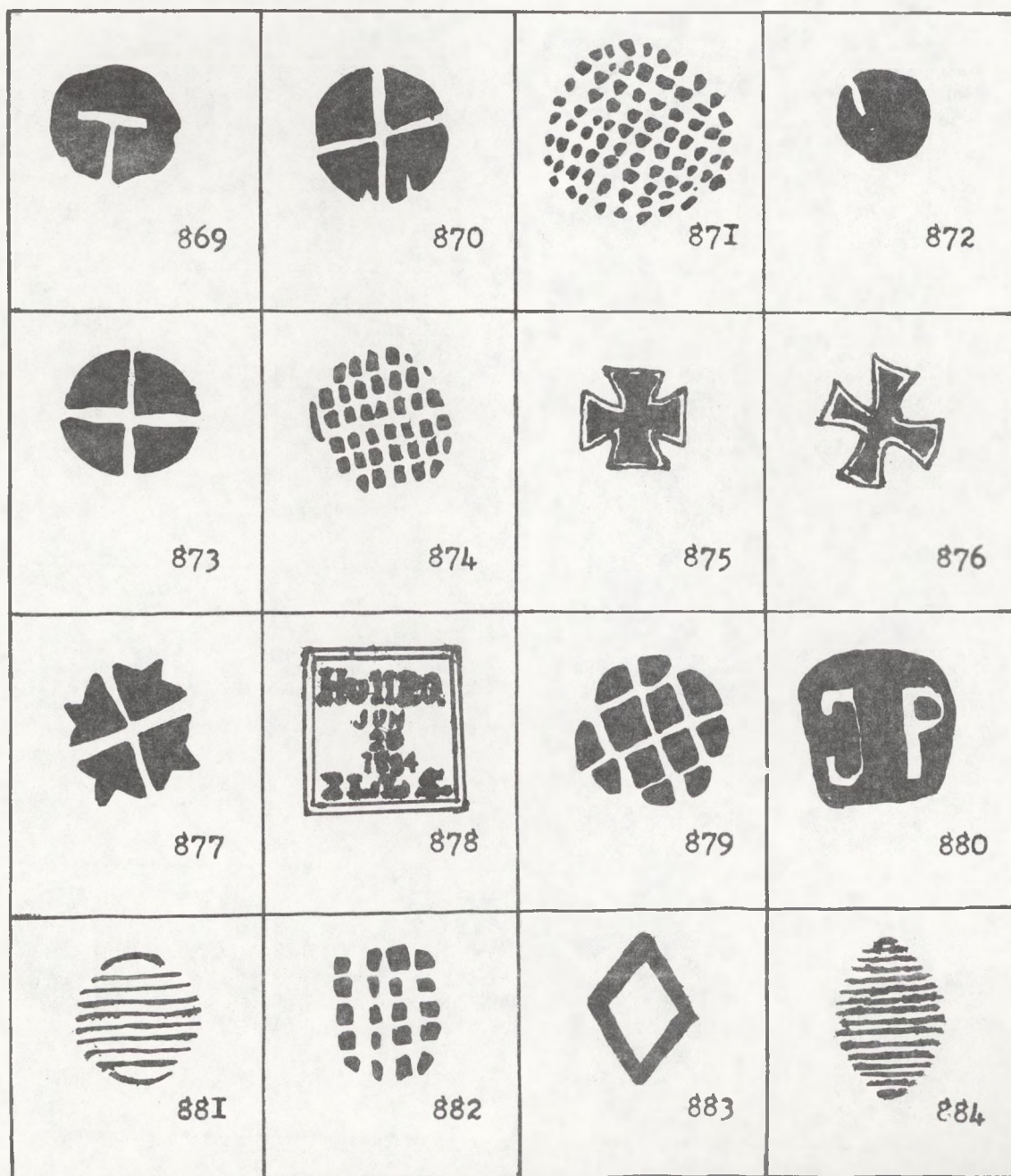
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 #890 - BLACK, MOUNT PULASKI, #UI63.
 #891 - BLACK, NEW MILFORD, #65.
 #892 - PURPLE, OLMSTEAD, #184.
 #893 - BLACK, OREGON, #182.
 #894 - BLACK, OREGON, #206.
 #895 - BLACK, PALANTINE, #UX5.
 #896 - BLUE, PEKIN, #184.
 #897 - BLACK, PEORIA, #65.
 #898 - BLACK, PRINCETON, #212, PAIR.

