



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 12 - NO. 8 WHOLE NO. 135

MARCH - 1975



Fig 1

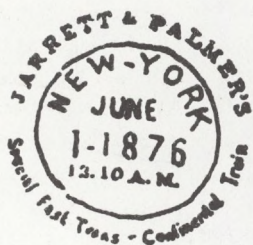


Fig 2

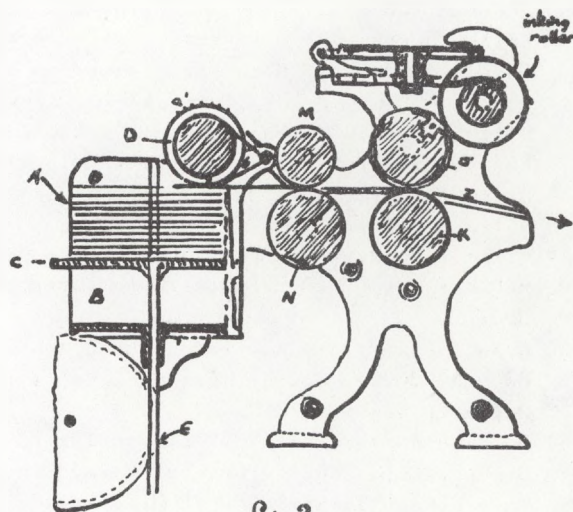


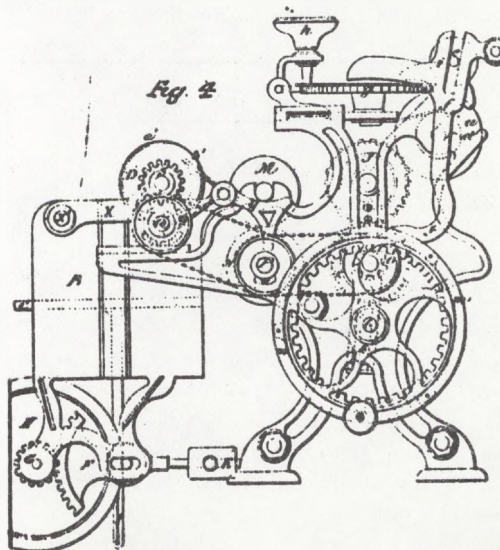
Fig 3.

ILLUSTRATIONS

FOR ARTICLE

ON PAGE 60.

4 Sheets—Sheet 7
P. MYERS.
MACHINES FOR CANCELING STAMPS AND POST-MARKING
LETTERS.
No. 176,140 Patented March 21, 1876.



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

NEW MEMBERS

- 1145 Roland H. Cipolla, 1358 NW Esplanade Ave.,
Kenner, La. 70062-General USA; Cancels on
1¢ Blue 1851-1857. (H.C. Skinner)
- 1146 Edward Hines, 324 Strawberry Hill, Norwalk,
Conn. 06851-NYFM; Bank Note issues on & off.
- 1147 Howard C. Allen, 174 Edison Ave., Cherry
Hill, N.J. 08034- Pennsylvania & New Jersey
Postal History; U.S. Military Cancels (Waud)
- 1148 Henry J. Holley, Box 3106, Port Jervis, N.Y.
12771-General.
- 1149 Wilbert T. Miller, Box 733, Chester, Calif.
96020-Flags; D.P.O. Ca., Nev., Colo., Oreg., Wisc.
RPOs.
- 1150 Gene Zhiss, 925 Tannerie Run Road, Ambler,
Pa. 19004-20th Century Fancy Cancels; F-1
Registry Stamp.
- 1151 S. Ronald Schwartz, 9252 E. Mansfield Ave.;
Denver, Colo. 80237- General World Wide;
Colo. Ghost Towns & DPOs; RPOs; Flags-
(D.A. Stone)
- 1152 Frank E. Preisler, 710 Smith Ave., Lebanon,
Pa. 17042- Pennsylvania Postal History;
Mexico & Mexico Postal History.
- 1153 Ronald R. Costa, 1166 Cuyamaca Ave., Chula
Vista, Calif. 92011- U.S. Airmail Stationery;
Postal Cards; Machine Cancels, especially
Flag Cancels; Penalty Envelopes.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 816 Daniel R. Seigle to 595 Madison Ave., New
York, N.Y. 10022 from 147 W. 42nd St.
- 992 Edward C. Jackson to 315 Wright Ave., Gretna,
La. 70053 from Lafayette St.
- 993 John Wade Koontz to P.O. Box G, W. Bowie Sta.
Bowie, Md. 20715 from 12114 Mackell Lane
- 1024 Darrell Kinzler, to 35A Aopletree Lane, Old
Bridge, N.J. 08857 from Arcade Gardens
- 1029 Janice M. Garr to P.O. Box 33230, Seattle,
Wash. 98133 from Missoula, Mont.
- 1144 John V. Hays to Box 1994, Deland, Fla. 32720
from 531 W. Penn. Ave.

C. D. Brenner (#1118) furnishes the following
information about Mr. Koontz's cover which we
illustrated on page 44 of the November 1974 NEWS:

It is obviously an A. E. F. cover with a
provisional postmark from A. P. O. 791 which was
used by the 81st Division. It is one of a con-
siderable number of provisional postmarks used
by camps and divisions in the A. E. F. in 1918.
All are in the 700 series. We were pouring
troops into France so fast at that time that it
required up to several weeks for the military
postal authorities to locate some of the units
and deliver to them the postmark stampers
assigned to them. In this waiting interval, the
postal clerks assigned to these units were
swamped with mail from soldiers who wanted to
let the folks at home know that they had arrived
safely overseas. So these postal clerks devised
all sorts of make-shift postmarks to use in
expediting this mail.

The interesting thing about this postmark
is that the same form with exactly the same type
of framed date was also used at A. P. O.'s 761
and 762. I have no explanation for this identi-
cal usage except perhaps that all these post
offices used a common type of dater that could
be easily purchased in local stationery stores.
Some of the other A. P. O.'s obviously used
daters of French manufacture. An illustration
of this postmark for A. P. O. 761 may be found
on page 25 of the WAR COVER PHILATELIST for May
1939. On page 32 in the same publication for
September 1940 there is an illustration for
A. P. O. 762. I have never seen this type of
postmark listed for A. P. O. 791. It is a scarce
item.

PAGE 62

On page 62 we show six covers showing some
of the different types of postmarks and killers
used, over the years, at University of Virginia.
These were sent in by John W. Koontz (#993).
Note addressee of one cover, "Mrs. ExPresident
Tyler."

PAGE 63

On page 63 we show four interesting covers
from the collection of David L. Jarrett (#640).

HARRY L. FINE (#410)

On Oct. 9 the Mesa Stamp Club celebrated a
"Harry Fine Night" to pay tribute to Mesa's most
widely known philatelist. The Arizona Philatelic
Hall of Fame Diploma was presented to him in
recognition of the many articles which he has
written on Montana Postal History and on the
Arizona Territorial Period. Recently he colla-
borated with James M. Chemi on a handbook;
"Arizona Territorial Days; Robbed by Highwaymen
Marking Starts Devil's Canyon Search" for which
a silver-bronze medal was awarded.

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1813, 1819 and 1836 are also
available at \$5.00/copy.

Editor's Note: In the January 1975 issue we printed part of an article headed, "The Machine Markings Attributed to Palmer". We failed to make any mention of the source of this article. It came to us from Reginald George Morris (#1023). We wish to thank Mr. Morris for it and we continue it here: See front page for illustrations.

Stamping Letters by Machines.

"The smartest Post Office clerk can cancel only 160 stamps per minute and a New Yorker has now invented a machine that will do the stamping at the rate of 400 per minute, provided, of course, that the stamps are all in the upper right hand corner. It looks like a miniature Hoe printing press set on a sewing machine stand. The letters are placed in a pile of from fifty to several hundred in a deep box open at one end, and with a bottom that moves up and down like that of a cotton press. This moveable bottom exerts a constant pressure upwards given to it by means of a weight. The letters are thus forced up against slightly yielding strips of steel. A wooden cylinder revolves above them just high enough not to touch the pile, but on every revolution this rubber touches the top letter and since the friction between it and the letter is greater than that between the letter and the next letter below it, the top letter is thrust off the pile and caught between two rollers. These convey it between two other rollers, the lower one of which is of rubber and the upper one fitted with two printing dies. The cylinders are of such diameters and the print pair is placed at such a distance from the wooden cylinder that the right hand upper corner of every letter comes under the cancelling die such that the date and the name of the office is printed about a half inch nearer the middle. Ink is spread on the dies in substantially the same manner as in a hand press. As the letters shoot out from between the rollers they are carried on two canvas belts along a trough and fall, each on top of its predecessor in a regular pile in a tin box made to receive them. As they leave the trough they are half inch apart. The machine is altogether three feet long, the trough being nearly two feet. It does its work very successfully. A self-registering apparatus is attached which counts the number of letters stamped."

From the foregoing there can be no doubt that the machine being described is the Myers machine. It equally shows no comparison to the Palmer machines described in his patents.

So the Myers machine was invented at the same time as the Palmer; the contemporary newspaper account described the Myers machine accurately and Myers was a New Yorker.

But the clincher is also found in the Myers Patent Specification. Figures 2 and 3 of Patent No. 175,40 depict the oval barred killer of Illustration 1.

Although the town die is indistinct in the patent drawing, the relative size of the town and killer portions when measured on their major axis corresponds to the postmark illustrated by Bob

Continued Next Column.

Payne and the spacing of the town die and its attachment to the impression cylinder readily permits the addition of an annular ring of the type used for the Jarrett and Palmer postmark.

Having thus identified the Myers machine cancellation, the hunt is on again for the Palmer postmark!

The Postmaster General's letter gives several clues on where and when to look i.e. the Palmer machine was demonstrated in New York on March 29th, 1876. It could have been used thereafter in Albany, Boston, Cleveland, Hartford, New York, Philadelphia or Washington. Of these cities New York or Philadelphia are perhaps the most probably cities of use; New York by virtue of demonstrated use and Philadelphia by virtue of a clue in the Patent specifications.

The impression cylinder is illustrated in Palmer's first patent i.e. No. 160,947. The datestamp appears to read PHILADA PA and the killer comprises a series of stars.

In Palmer's second patent (No. 182,698) the impression cylinder is not specifically illustrated but in figure 5 of the patent, a killer star is distinctly visible.

Reference to the postmark in the text of the Patent Specification No. 160,947 is vague but nevertheless may help in the hunt - "the nature of our invention relates to a machine by which the name of a post office, which the date of mailing letters or other packages, together with marks, stars or dashes for cancelling the postage stamp affixed to said letters or packages....."

Also later in the same Specification -

"The name of the post office for which any particular machine is intended is engraved in raised type, electrotyped, or otherwise produced in raised letter together with the cancelling characters, upon the surface of roller 'C' and provision made for setting in moveable type for the day, month and year of mailing, which moveable type can be secured by a set screw, key or wedge or in any convenient manner....."

There is no reference at all to the postmarks in the later patent but the star killer is depicted. As the illustrations are in different perspective to those in the earlier Specifications it would suggest that they are reasonable representative of the improved machine which in turn suggests that a star type killer was used in both models.

Finally it may be noted from the Patent that there is no device for guiding the letters through the machine in a properly indexed manner i.e. for ensuring the postmark is parallel to the top edge of the envelope and that the impression roller is not a complete cylinder hence the tell tale pressure marks of a roller machine - parallel to the top ledge of the letter are probably not present and the postmark likewise is not necessarily parallel to the top edge either.

In short the Palmer postmark, if it exists, is likely to emanate from New York or Philadelphia, be dated 1876 have a 3 line date block in the dial i.e. not show the time - only the year, the month and the day, have a circular single ring stamp and look like Figure 5?// - Good Hunting!

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to U.S.C.C. member Bob Payne, for permission to quote extensively from his article.

Continued Page 61.

TIME-MARKING MACHINE COMPANY

By Kenneth F. Olson (#102)

Copyrighted by the "Postal Historian's Notebook", 1974.

The following is an effort to settle some basic facts regarding the Time-Marking Machine Company and B. F. Cummins Company.:

The Post Office Department in Chicago lent the use of their facilities to the development, testing and using the U. S. mails for cancelling to the previously mentioned Time-Marking Machine Company.

1903 was the basic period during which this procedure was started by them, and by the beginning of the year 1904 they had their machine evaluated by the Cancelling Machine Committee of the Post Office Department. The exact dates of the tests are not available at this time.

They were, however, having trouble with the automatic feed arrangement of the machine and assured the Department that this would be corrected, and also of their intention to supply a speed regulator as well as a device for recording the number of pieces of mail cancelled. A further test was to be held in the Chicago Post Office as soon as these improvements were made.

The rental rate the company requested was \$350.00 each, per year, for 20 machines; or \$300.00 each, per year, for 50. If the Department would take 100 machines, the rental would be reduced to \$250.00.

The principals who signed this letter were: B. F. Cummins, W. B. Martindale, and the Knight, Donnelly & Co.

An order was placed by the Post Office Department for the rental of machines, in the 1904-05 contract period, but was not filled by the company. A number of machines were supplied in the 1905-06 period, however, and in subsequent years, until the company changed its name in 1910-11, during the period of the Doremus Company machine rebuilding contract (24 machines).

In 1907, the Time Marking Machine Company offered to sell their machines to the American Postal Machines Company, but they declined. The Time Marking Machine Co. then tried to sell them stock in the company, which was also declined, according to Mr. T. Stoddard of the American Co.

The facts creating this set of conditions were caused by the failure of the Ravenswood, Ill. Bank; which ultimately put them into receivership.

The Madigan brothers, John H. and Patrick J., Mr. J. Rehak and John Pickens, as well as others did much in the form of development work in the Chicago Post Office machine shop, of which Mr. Patrick J. Madigan was the foreman, assuming that post in 1902.

B. F. Cummins ultimately secured the Ravenswood Park plant and formed the B. D. Cummins Co., which in turn acquired the Time Marking Machine Co.

There were changes in the Time Marking machine, in that you could secure it with three different methods of operation on the time ele-

ment - which explains in part certain peculiarities in the devices' impressions.

The change-over in style of data head dies marks the period of change-over to the Cummins-named machine, the Nos. 5, 7, 9 and 11. The No. 11 machine was sold to the Post Office Department in 1912 in the quantity of 55 machines; these had distinctive date heads which were different from any others supplied by the company, as they were supplied by the Post Office Department. The format of design was similar to a Universal cancellation data head arrangement. These were the last ones they sold directly to the Post Office Department, with the exception of those sold to postmasters, with the year date in the killer.

The No. 11 machine did not have an automatic inker, and was a table mounted machine slightly smaller than the No. 9 machine, which was also table mounted. The No. 5 and 7 machines were pedestal mounted machines.

The B. F. Cummins Co. changed names several times over the years and is still in business today, although not manufacturing cancelling machines. On rare occasions in recent years they have supplied a limited number of perforating machines to apply "perfin" to entire sheets of stamps.

(1) The Cummins - Time-Marking Co. had the data head and "Flag Die" engraved for them by a Chicago firm on the first ten Doremus machines rebuilt. Another fact of pertinent interest is that they did not rebuild the Bakersfield, Calif., "Kern Branch" machine attributed to them by another writer.

BOOKS ON U. S. FANCY CANCELLATIONS

At our meeting last October in Chicago it was announced that Mr. Amos Eno (#818), had started work on a book on U.S. Fancy Cancellations of the period 1847-1869. It was thought that there might be some conflict between that book and the one already started by Mr. Cotting, the work on which had been presented to the Club by E. N. Sampson (#28). However, we have made the effort to bring together Mr. Eno and Mr. Hubert Skinner (#632) who has charge now of the Cotting work, with the idea that they might very well cooperate and produce a much more complete treatise on the subject than has been published. Perhaps it might even be beyond the capabilities of USCC to publish.

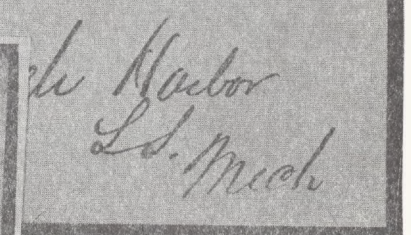
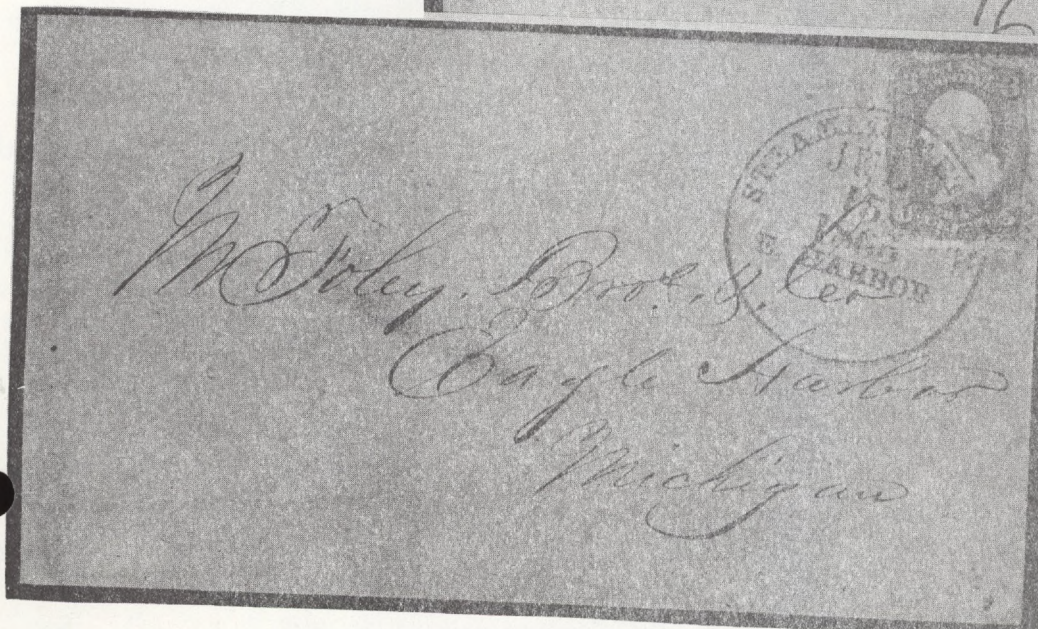
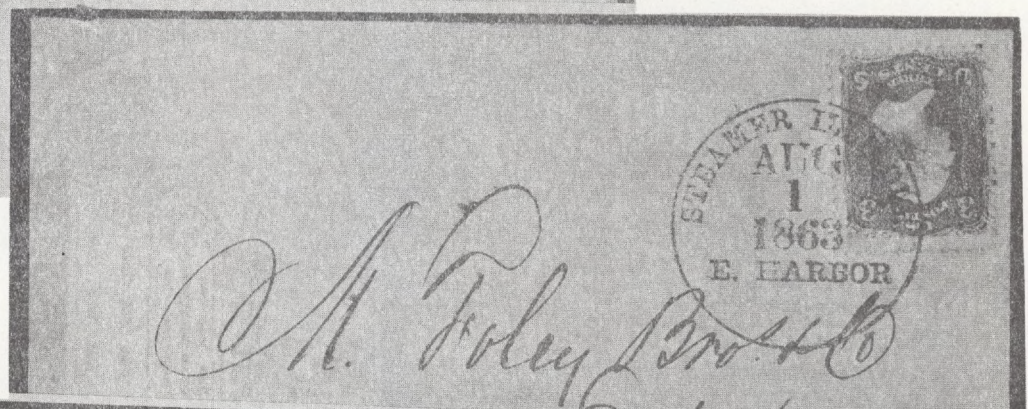
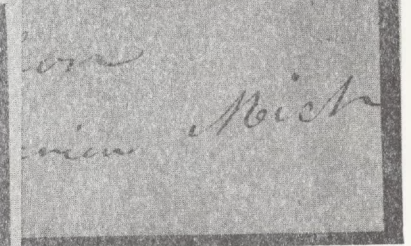
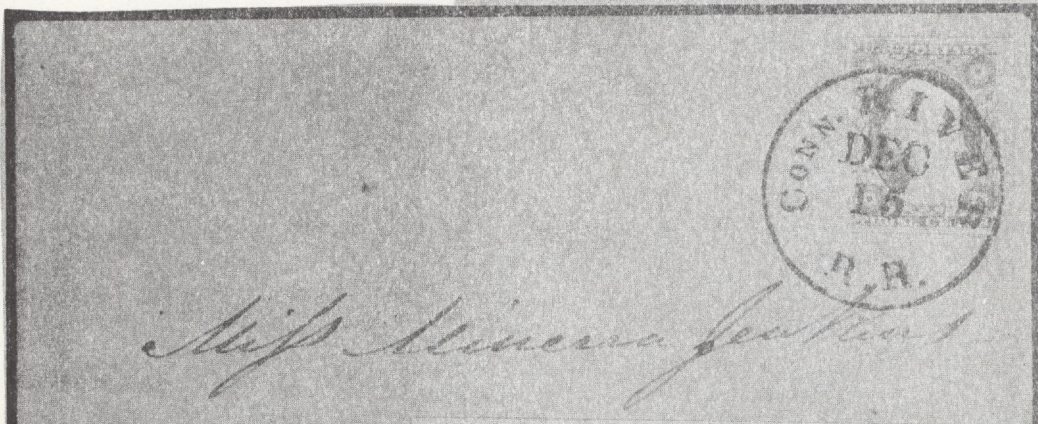
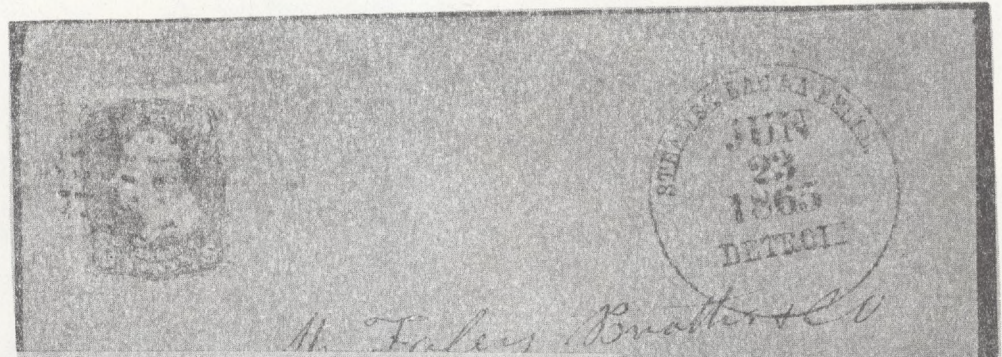
Fancy Cancels on U. S. Stamps and Covers is a branch of Philatelic endeavor which is continually gaining favor along with studies of Postal History. Even the more common letters and figures used as killers are interesting more and more students of the subject.

The Machine Markings Attributed to Palmer,
Continued from Page 60.

As there is little chance of finding the elusive Palmer postmark on this side of the Atlantic - comments and correspondence would be a most welcome substitute!

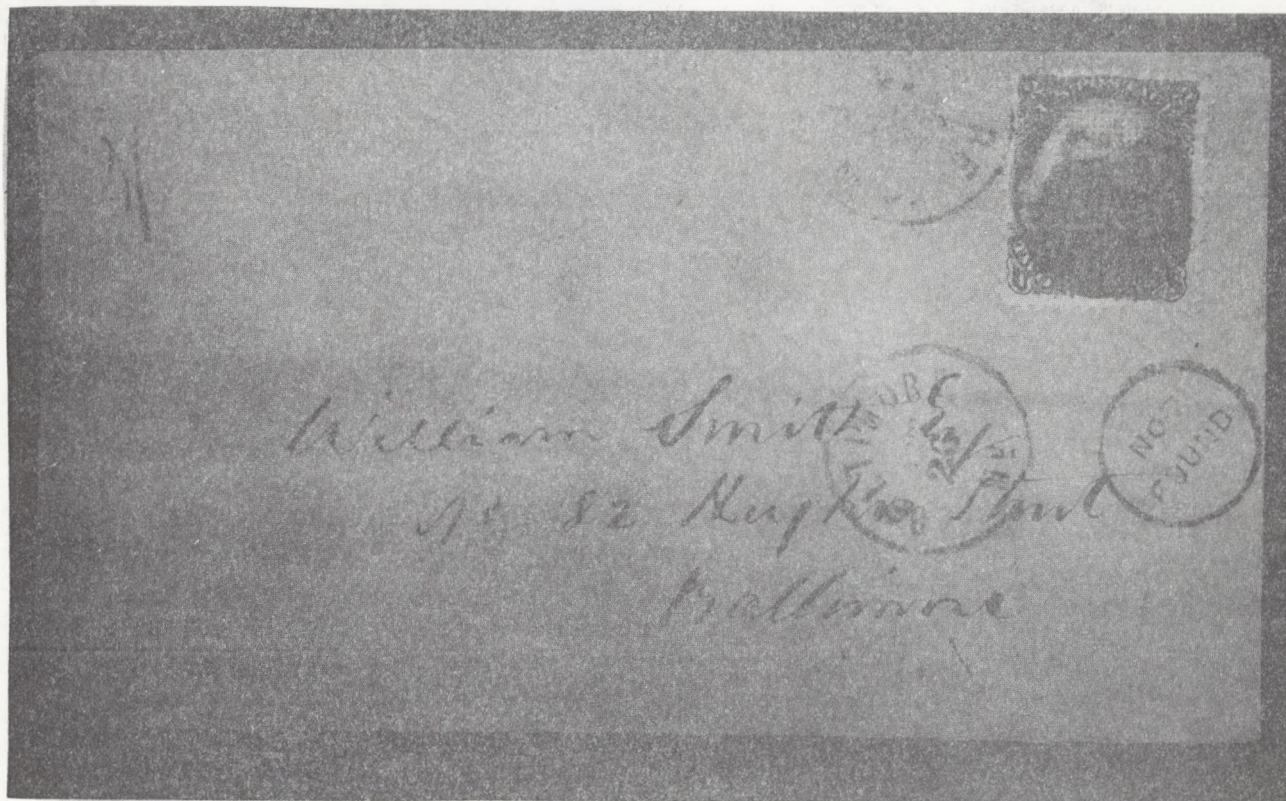


SEE PAGE 58



SEE PAGE 58

Baltimore Drop Letter, with street address, for house delivery. Postmarked on the 15th, the month not readable. Not delivered. Postmarked again on the 26th, again the month not readable, and handstamped "Not Found" in small circle. In the upper left corner, in a different hand, the manuscript figure "3". Since there is no new address shown, it is unlikely that this is for forwarding out of the city. Forwarding in the city would have cost 2¢, forwarding elsewhere, 3¢. A more likely explanation is that it was a charge for advertising, although this, too, is not noted. But apparently the letter was called for at some point, for it escaped the Dead Letter Office. The stamp, neatly tied by the edge of the CDS, is Scott No. 87, the "E" Grill.



Another interesting cover from the Black Jack Collection of Paul J. Wolf (#743).