



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 12 No. 17 Whole No. 144

July 1977

Figures 1 and 2 from The Vandals of Philately, on the following pages:

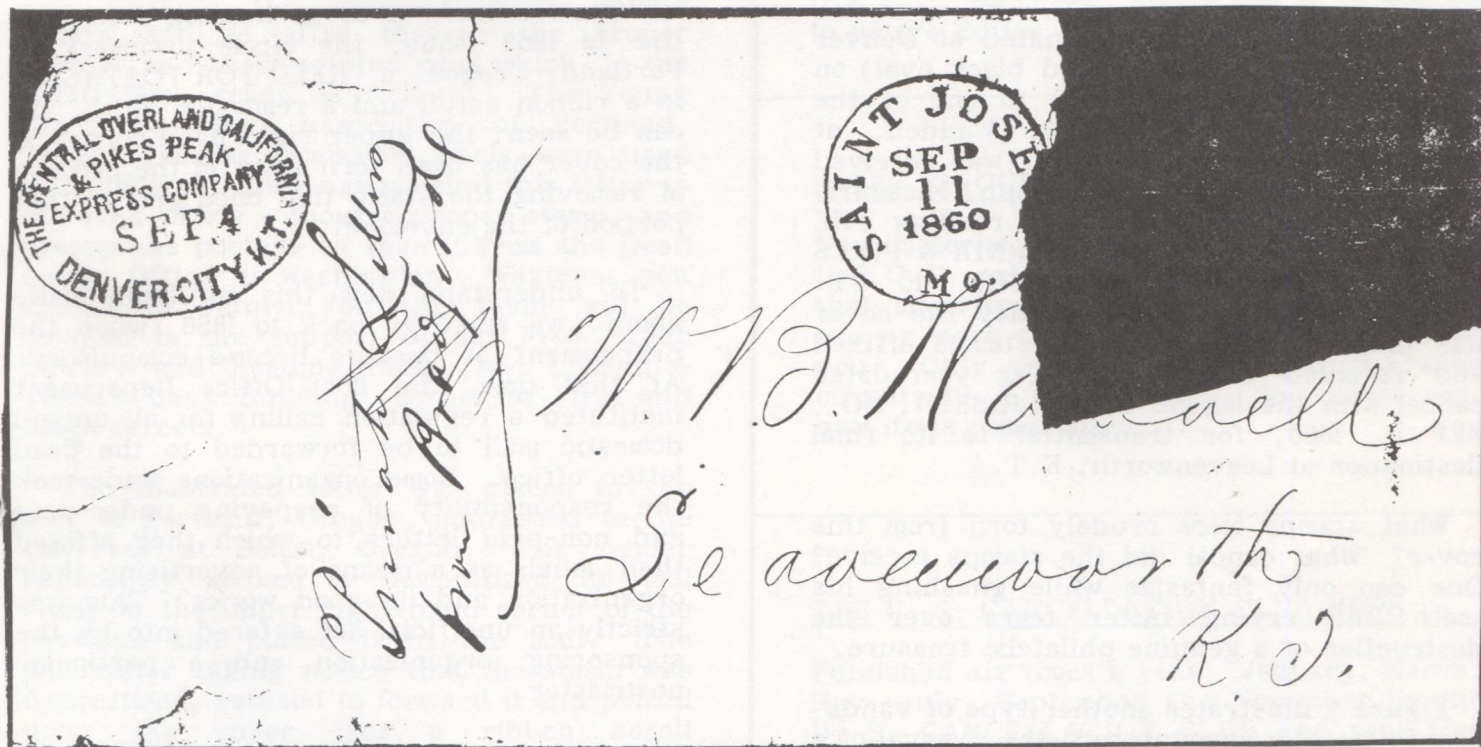


Figure 1.

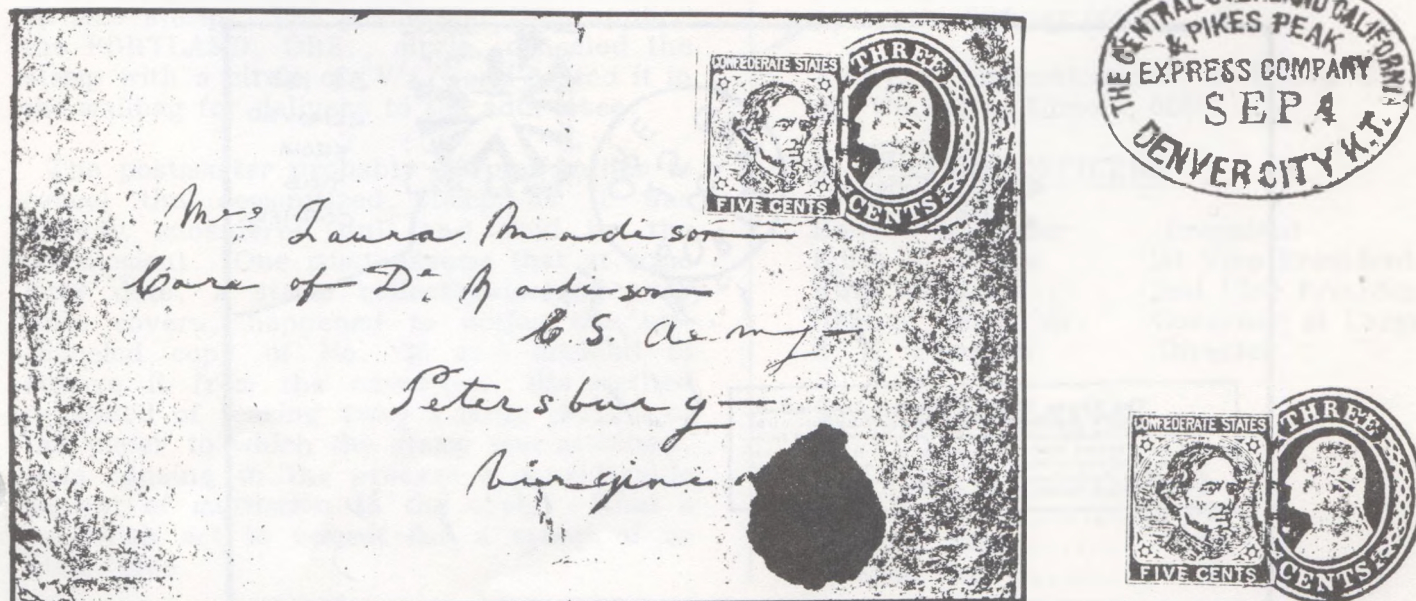


Figure 2.

THE VANDALS OF PHILATELY

By C.S. Thompson, Jr.

Figure 1 shows the remains of an historically important cover of the pony express period. The express that carried this letter on part of its journey was operated by Russell, Majors & Waddell, from April 3, 1860 to July 1, 1861, and was known as the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Co.

This ravaged cover originated at Denver City, K.T., (upper left-hand black oval) on Sept. 4th. It was directed to one of the company owners, Mr. W.B. Waddell, at Leavenworth, K.T. The cover was received and backstamped at Saint Joseph, Missouri, with two company black ovals reading THE CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA & PIKES PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY SEP. 10 ST. JOSEPH, MO. The following day the cover was placed in the mail with stamps affixed and received a black circular year-dated cancel with the legend SAINT JOSEPH, MO., SEP 11, 1860, for transmittal to its final destination at Leavenworth, K.T.

What stamps were crudely torn from this cover? What cancel did the stamps receive? One can only fantasize while gnashing his teeth and crying bitter tears over the destruction of a genuine philatelic treasure.

Figure 2 illustrates another type of vandalism frequently encountered, the removal of a part of the stamps used to pay the total postage requirement.

This envelope is a U10, Die 5, used after demonitization in the Confederacy. It bears a Confederate #7 and most likely contained another #7 originally to pay the Confederate ten cent rate. The letter is addressed to Mrs. Laura Madison, Care of Dr. Madison, C.S. Army, Petersburg. Virginia.

Figure 3 shows a cover bearing a copy of the 3¢ 1869 issue, the circle townmark of Portland, Oregon, a "HELD FOR POSTAGE," in a ribbon scroll and a remission label. As can be seen, the upper right hand corner of the cover has been torn away in the process of removing the stamp that once graced that portion of the envelope.

To understand how this mutilation came about, we must go back to 1856, when the prepayment of postage became compulsory. At that time, the Post Office Department instituted a regulation calling for all unpaid domestic mail to be forwarded to the dead letter office. Some organizations undertook the responsibility of prepaying under-paid and non-paid letters to which they affixed their labels as a means of advertising their organization and its good works. This was strictly an unofficial act entered into by the sponsoring organization and a particular postmaster.

Among the most notable of the organizations engaged in this activity was

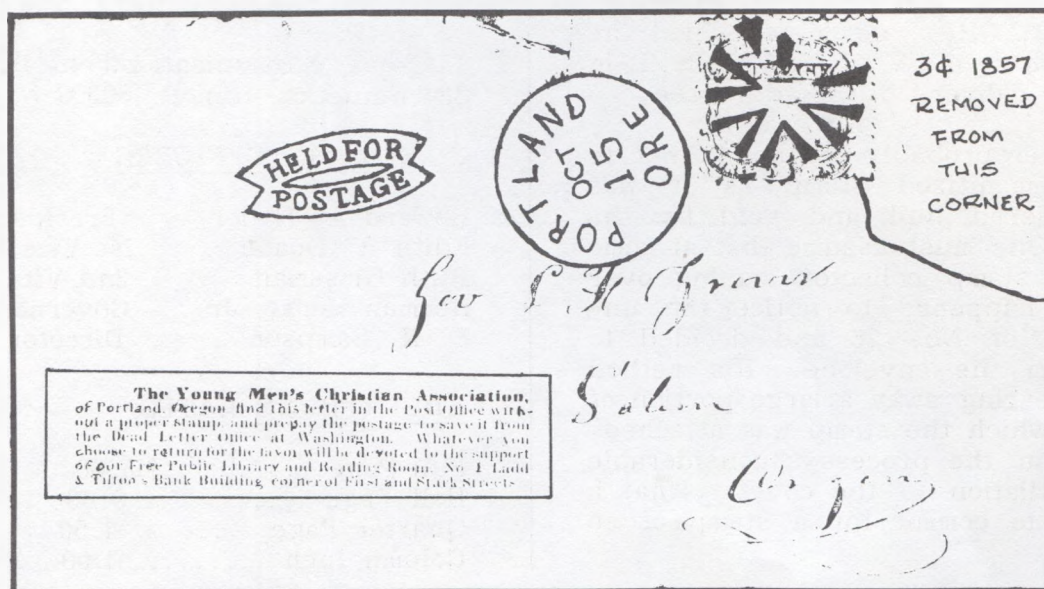


Figure 3.

Charity of Dubuque, Iowa, whose label read as follows: "This letter was detained at the Post Office at Dubuque, Iowa, on account of non-payment of postage. One who realizes how important it may be to have letters forwarded immediately, has placed the necessary stamps on the letter. To repay him, please send postage stamps addressed to 'Charity' Dubuque, Iowa."

However, the forwarder that appears to have been most active was the Y.M.C.A. who called at the Post Office on a daily basis to sort through the accumulation of unpaid letters and to affix thereon the proper postage and their printed label which, in the illustration, reads as follows: "The Young Men's Christian Association of Portland, Oregon (similar remission labels were used with different town names) find this letter in the Post Office without a proper stamp, and prepay the postage to save it from the Dead Letter Office at Washington. Whatever you choose to return for the favor will be devoted to the support of our Free Public Library and Reading Room, No. 1 Ladd & Tilton's Bank Building, corner of First and Stark Streets."

The illustrated letter was placed in the mail at Portland, Oregon, addressed to the Governor at Salem, Oregon. The sender apparently affixed a demonitized 3¢ 1851 stamp at the upper right-hand corner of the envelope and placed it in the mail. The postmaster taking notice that the stamp was demonitized, refused to forward it and placed upon the cover face a ribbon scroll handstamp reading "HELD FOR POSTAGE." The Y.W.C.A. representative noting the hold marking, proceeded to affix the then current 3¢ 1869 stamp. The postmaster then applied the PORTLAND, ORE., circle, canceled the stamp with a circle of "V's," and placed it in the mailbag for delivery to the addressee.

The postmaster probably did not bother to cancel the demonitized stamp as it was already considered null and void by the government. One must assume that at some later date, a stamp collector looking over some covers, happened to notice the uncanceled copy of No. 26 and decided to remove it from the envelope. His method consisted of tearing away a large portion of the paper to which the stamp was attached, thus causing in the process a considerable amount of mutilation to the cover. What a vandalish act to commit for a stamp of so little value.

The examples illustrated in this article represent but a minute part of the philatelic vandalism that has been witnessed many times by collectors and dealers alike. Let us hope that the contemporary collectors will not perpetrate nor perpetuate the desecrations created by their hobby forebears.

The Cancellation Club News needs articles for upcoming issues. Maybe your special interest should be feature story material. If your knowledge would be of interest to U.S.C.C. members, please put it in writing to us c/o Editor.

SALES CIRCUITS

New material is desperately needed for the U.S.C.C. sales circuits. If you are one of that majority of members who take part in one or more circuits, we'd like to hear from you. Only with your help can the sales circuits be a real benefit. So, please send new items immediately.

THE U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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Address communications to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093

U. S. C. C. OFFICERS

Howard A. Mader	President
Edith R. Doane	1st Vice President
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Full Page.....	\$15.00
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A Letter from Our President

Dear Friends in U.S.C.C.,

Greetings to all! I want to take this opportunity to thank our Secretary - Treasurer Jim Challenger and our other officers for revitalizing our club after the death of Mr. Root.

Only by reading our correspondence for the last year and one-half could you realize the details that had to be handled and re-organized. Again, "Thanks" Jim, for a good job.

Now that all major details have been taken care of we are asking each member to help improve our club and cause it to grow.

We want to be the "best" organization serving the Cancellation Collector through providing information, circuits and services.

The listing below is where we need your assistance:

1. We need new ideas to make our club the "best".
2. We need articles on cancellation or a story on your favorite cover.
3. We need you to encourage new members.
4. We need you to provide duplicates from your collection for our circuits.
5. We need you to use our advertising columns to dispose of surplus cancellations and covers.
6. We need your suggestions of members to serve as officers.
7. We need your surplus books to be donated to our library.
8. And lastly, request the sales circuits to get new material for your collection.

The collecting of postal history and cancellation is growing at a rapid rate. We hope all of you have a good year in building your collection and ask a friend to become a member.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Mader,
President, U.S.C.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

The primary deterrent in soliciting material for the club circuits is the length of time that the owner's material is tied up - plus the fact that unsold returns are usually badly dog-eared and worn from constantly handling, shipping, etc. These obstacles would be eliminated if the material were offered in the form of a mail sale, which would involve considerably less bookkeeping for the sales manager.

Bruce W. Ball

Editor's reply --

We would still appreciate a solution to the member who holds circuits too long. Almost every time we send a notice, the member resigns. We cannot afford to lose these members -- yet circuits should move faster. As indicated in an earlier issue, circuits were almost twice as fast on the West Coast as the East Coast. Then members get to see double the material. Why?

Dear Sir:

Single copies of the bulletin are only 50¢ and a years subscription is only \$2.50 while you say dues do not cover the cost of the bulletin -- suggest you raise the cost of bulletin to non-members so they are at least enough to cover costs.

Sherwood "Bud" Anderson

Editor's Reply -- Done

Dear Jim:

Regarding the few members who seem to question your ability - par for the course - no one can expect 100% support. I suspect you have close to 100% support from those members (including myself) who appreciate what you are doing for our club.

I hope these comments will be of value to you.

E. N. Sampson

Dear Sir:

I find the circuits quite adequate.

Paul Clayton

Dear Sir:

The raising of dues by 50 per cent seems entirely unwarranted at this time. Here are a few reasons why I feel that it is unjustified.

1. The club is just coming to life after a period of dormancy and I imagine most members, like myself, are waiting to see what directions the new club will take; what it will have to offer. Whether to stay in the club or not was a decision to be thought about, even without a raise in dues.

2. The membership is chided for not taking a larger part in the club, then the directors, with only eight members present, vote a 50 per cent dues increase. In my opinion, if the directors want to run the club without input from the members then let them, but they will have to provide services worth \$6 per year. If they want to run the club democratically, then no important business should be considered at a meeting where only a small percentage of the membership can be present.

3. The News is declining. This is mainly the fault of the lack of authors, but it has continued to decline after reorganization. For example, the November issue contained only one paragraph of philatelic information (and 8 illustrations). The "Question Corner" has been deleted, even though in May, the Editor stated that he had enough questions "to fill an entire issue".

4. Although \$6 is about average for a small philatelic society, this society, at this time, offers less in return than any comparable society I know of. Agreed, members have not responded to the call for manuscripts for the News, but there are many places to publish philatelic manuscripts; for example, the American Philatelist is in need of articles.

5. It is stated in the November News that "the cost of the printing and mailing of the Newsletter alone exceeds the entire amount collected for dues." Why then, may I ask, is a nonmember subscription offered for \$2.50? I am unable to imagine what is the real reason for the 50 percent dues increase.

Please consider this letter my resignation from the USCC. If you do not want to print this letter, I would appreciate it if you would circulate it to the other directors.

Douglas N. Clark

Editor's Reply --

We will try to reply to some of the questions raised by Mr. Clark in his letter of resignation, as his complaints might well be those of other members.

The question of raising dues was not one of whether or not the U.S.C.C. was adopting a new, viable program. It was one of pure mathematics. As I have previously indicated, the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter to the members six times a year is in excess of the entire dues collected from the membership. Without a dues increase it would have been necessary to dip into the funds held in the Treasury and run the U.S.C.C. at a continuing loss.

A decision made by eight members is indeed not a good one. Yet there is a question as to how more members will ever be present at an annual meeting. Notice of the meeting was sent to all members. It was held in connection with a major Midwest philatelic show. It was held on a weekend so that no one would have to miss employment time. Yet few attended. It is my understanding that the previous annual meeting in Florida only attracted three members. Decisions must be made by someone, and rightly or wrongly, it was made by those who elected to attend.

The Newsletter is declining. I still personally am in agreement with this statement. I will accept the blame for this fact, as I have been unable to obtain authors willing to write for free for the publication. Over the past few years there has been a plethora of new publications -- and they are to some extent competing for the same authors. New discoveries are fewer and farther between than fifteen years ago. These statements are not excuses, but they are factual. I am committed to improvement of the Newsletter, but to date, I will agree with Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark asks about the Question Corner. I began it to see if member's questions could be answered. I had on hand sufficient questions to cover an issue. However since starting this corner, we

have received few new questions -- and we have not seen answers to the questions raised. I reluctantly concluded that it may be only an occasional feature.

Regarding non-members subscriptions, they are no longer offered at \$2.50. The cost of printing is \$0.30 per copy; the cost of mailing \$0.24 per copy. To this figure one can add the cost of the envelopes -- plus the stuffing, stamping and postage time of the girls in my office which is donated to the U.S.C.C. If we add to this figure the cost of sometimes printing an extra page, the publication of the annual roster issue, the sometimes announcement of library availability, the extra postage needed to mail these extra pages, hopefully it becomes obvious that the increase in dues was not an arbitrary or unthoughtout gesture.

Dear Sir:

I reluctantly submit my resignation from U.S.C.C. - not because of any dissatisfaction with the organization or any of its members but inflation is taking its toll on my collecting activities and since cover cancels is one of my least active fields.

I wish you and my fellow officers and the U.S.C.C. good fortune and success.

Mario Danieli

Dear Sir:

Someone messed up my note on the Dr. Price's query on page 123 in the March NEWS. How come?

The envelope's paper should have read wove, not, "woven", also the initials are on the mail car of the train and has nothing to do with the cancel.

Let us have better accuracy, I hate to be misquoted.

George T. Turner

P.S. Again the forgery of the envelope stamp is type TWO not eleven.

NEW MEMBERS

1193 John F. Worley, 3201 Armory Court, Fairfax, VA 22030

1194 William G. Delano Jr., 326 Byrnes, San Antonio, TX 78209

1195 Mrs. Jean N. West, 60 N. Greenwich Rd., Armonk, NY 10504

1196 Jack Smilowitz, 1851 N. Ivar, Apt. 305, Hollywood, CA 90028

1197 Alan E. Knight, P.O. Box 647, State College, PA 16801

1198 Larry R. Sell, Box 1333, Alfred, NY 14802

1199 Bernard H. Edstrom, 190 Ormno Orchard Rd. S., Wayzata, MN 55391

1200 Cliff Adams, Box 864, Key West, Fla. 33040

1201 Lauri A. Moilanen, 6 Holt Street, Fitchburg, Mass. 01420

1202 Richard E. Drews, P.O. Box 464, Skokie, IL 60076

1203 Edward C. Hyers, Drawer 10380, Bradenton, FL 33507

1204 Stephen Krulik, Box 753, Bowie, MD 20715

1205 Jack M. Trammell, P.O. Box 1167, Arlington, TX 76010

1206 George J. Ball Jr., Seaman Rd., Oregon, OH 43616

1207 James Wrobliske, 206 Eleanor St., Houston, TX 77009

ADDRESS CHANGES

1136 Harry Kennedy, 50 W. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45405

1189 Robert G. Jones, 2 Rue de Furstemberg Vie, Paris, France

1069 James Patterson, P.O. Box 4478, Phoenix, AZ 85003

905 Maj. Francis J. Crown J, Box 5145, Fort Lee, VA 23801

771 Dennis R. Burk, 75 Linsley Lake Road, North Branford, Conn. 06471

1098 Daniel M. Bagby, P.O. Box 7267, West Trenton, NJ 08628

554 Chester C. Peterson, 3926 N. Monticello Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

- 371 Stephen M. Farndell, Leisure World
Apt. 249B, 13190 Seaview Lane, Seal
Beach, CA 90740
- 417 Robert G. Babb, 612 Palomas SE,
Albuquerque, NM 87108
- 743 Paul J. Wolf, P.O. Box 7005, Missoula,
Mont. 59807
- 696 Stephen M. Sims, 1701 Cache Drive,
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
- 513 N. Leonard Persson, P.O. Box 774,
Barrington, IL 60010
- 999 LTC. Thomas R. Stone, 15740 Edgewood
Dr., Dumfries, VA 22026
- 1038 M. Jack Reinhard, 329 Glen Mead Ct.,
Gretna, LA 70053

RESIGNED

- 1120 Dogblas N. Clark
464 Frank G. Bowling Jr.
972 Edward J. Dietrich

LOST MEMBER

Kenneth S. Reed

DECEASED

- 342 Emily Moorefield, 13190 Seaview Lane W.,
Seal Beach, CA 90740

QUESTION CORNER

How does the membership feel about the formation of committees for specific club functions such as membership, publicity, sales circuits? Increased opportunity for member participation could be exciting. Let's hear some pros and cons.

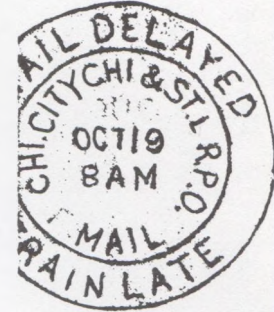
The Editor --

FROM: Harry Taber:

Enclosed is an interesting backstamp that I picked up while in Florida and one that I have never seen.

Could you possibly reproduce it in a future issue and find out if anyone knows of it? I had a variety of Train Late cancels but never have seen this one.

Would like to know what the F. mail means and why the Chi. City is in the cancel as well as the R.P.O.



FROM: Peter Stafford:

I came across a very interesting cancel last week on a 15¢ Columbus.

It was a typical duplex type of dates and barred numeral.

Unfortunately I cannot make out the number or whatever in the barred part.

But the interesting part is the section '3' between dates and killer. Is this known about?

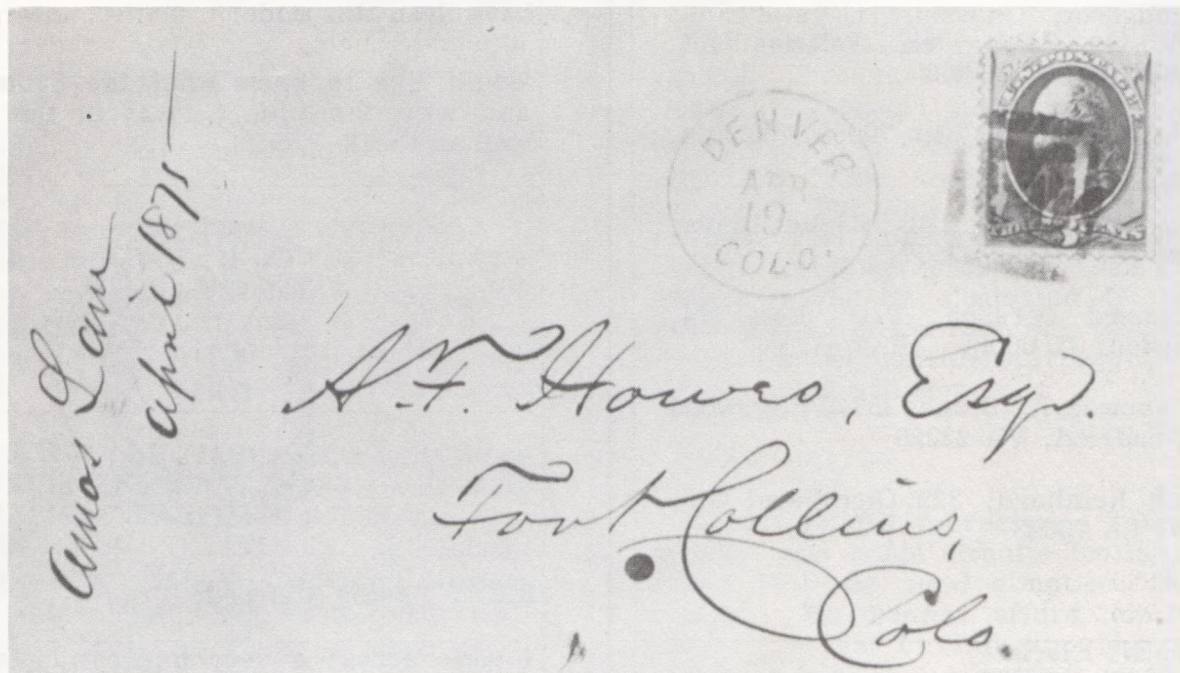


FROM: Henry S. Nowak:

Although very much concerned about collecting fancy or unusual cancellations mostly off cover, on our early classics, I do not have any where near enough of disposable duplicates to fill even one book.

Perhaps there are others, with just a few, and maybe something could be worked out with us all. Then it may be a sign of the times, everyone wishes to buy and no one sells.

Inadvertently omitted from May's "An Unusual Masonic Stamp Killer on Cover" by Harry Fine was the following illustration.



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Wanted to buy NH covers and DPO's send for free buying list.

Henry Stevens Box 417
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The following comprise a complete collection of the hard-to-find flag cancels of Alaska:

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Fairbanks, Alaska, A-14, on a commercial cover	15.00
Juneau, Alaska, A-14, vf on post card	15.00
Nome, Alaska, H-14, vf strike on post card	30.00
Nome, Alaska, A-14, vf strike on a Santa Claus philatelic (?) cover	10.00

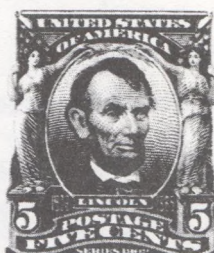
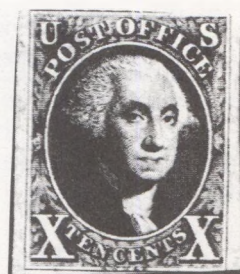
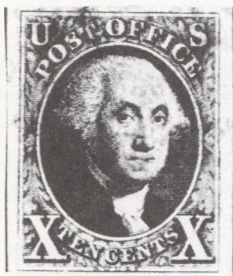
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(stamps and coins not kept at residence)

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UNITED STATES STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY

U.S. Stamps & Postal History are regular features of my "Net Price" Sales. These Sales are conducted every two months or so and are an attractive method of adding desirable items to your collection as an "alternative" to Auction buying. Lots are one of a kind and are sold at the "Net" prices indicated in the Catalog (which is profusely illustrated with hundreds of photographs) to the first order received. While we do offer outstanding quality "gems" such as those shown here, we strive to include "something" for everybody" and cover the entire spectrum of U.S. Philately, at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$3,000.00 per lot. Regular features include; mint & used stamps, plate blocks, fancy cancels, proofs, Postal History of all areas which have proven to be the most popular; classic issues on cover, Civil War area, Advertising covers, fancy cancels on cover, unusual usages, Expositions, Airmails on cover, "back of the book" on cover, scarce first days, etc. U.S. Cancellation Club members wishing to receive a copy of our next catalog may send 50¢ in stamp or coin. We suggest, however, that you try a one-year subscription at \$3.50 - which is deductible on any order in the one-year period. You will find our material to be as described, our service prompt and courteous and our guarantee to be easy to live with! Give us a try, send your 50¢ or \$3.50 today to:



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