



Cancellation Club NEWS

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My Work with PAID Cancellations on the 3¢ Stamp of 1861

by Howard S. Marks

By the time I was in high school in the early 1960's, I had already gone, in varying degrees of depth, through foreign stamps, U.S. singles, first day covers, and commemorative mint blocks. With regard to the latter categories, it had become difficult in budgetary terms to go back much further in time and a rat race trying to keep up with the Post Office's new issues. I'm not sure just why -- perhaps it was because "stamp collecting" had disappointingly come to mean only saving up enough money to go to the dealer for one more numbered stamp -- but an advertisement for George Linn's book The PAID Markings on the 3¢ U.S. Stamp of 1861 caught my eye.

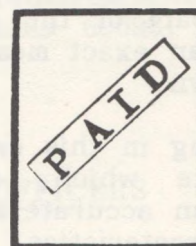
The \$2.25 sent off to Linn's was one of the best investments of that magnitude I've ever made. Pursuit of my new specialty brought the satisfactions I was seeking. The field afforded me pleasant hours poring through dealers' stocks of a stamp of limited interest to most collectors and, back at home, trying to ascertain just what it was I had bought. Also, I found myself working in an area in which finances were not the determinant of success. No one could place an order for a complete set of PAID cancellations at any price; rather, perseverance and resourcefulness were the assets that would lead to acquisitions. Most importantly, I found myself able not only to make acceptable progress against the 106 types described in Mr. Linn's book, but to find some new types as well.

In the opening paragraph of this book, George Linn wrote the following:

There is a certain fascination in building a specialized collection, and in the study and search necessary for its completion. The thrill of a new find gives me as much pleasure as the fisherman gets from landing a ten-pound bass or as the golfer gets from a hole in one.

I have been lucky enough to experience the thrill of a meaningful find. It is the purpose of this article to describe five important PAID markings* that I acquired in the early 1960's (before a fifteen-year lay-off for college, graduate school, and starting a career) and which form the cornerstone of my collection today.

*Readers should note that my reference library has been limited to Mr. Linn's original book and one follow-up article each by him and by Abe Boyarsky. Thus it is quite possible that the three types I describe as discoveries may be well known by collectors today, and even that they already could have been identified by others at the time in question, 1960-1962.



Fancy PAID - I wrote to George Linn in 1961 submitting sketches of what I considered my more interesting specimens. The first related to the discussion of his Fancy PAID Type II. Mr. Linn's book had indicated some uncertainty as to whether or not the letters of the word PAID touched the oblong box as he had drawn them. I sent along the following

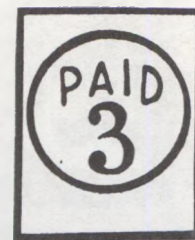
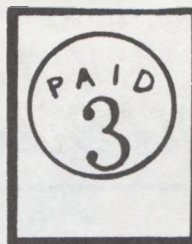
PAY 1979 DUES NOW!

sketch made from a light but very clear strike in blue off cover. This example made me quite confident that the marking is as shown above with space between letters and box. Mr. Linn responded that he, too, had grown "inclined to believe from the three copies I have that the letters do not touch the frame line." Thus the issue may properly have been laid to rest, with my example adding to the confidence behind the conclusion.

As to towns of use, Mr. Linn noted Napoleon, Ohio in his book, and he also mentioned a double strike from that town shown in Herst-Zareski which matches my sketch in appearance. By the time of our correspondence, Mr. Linn had also found this marking used from South Groton, Massachusetts. My example is marked Burr Oak, Michigan in pencil on the back. Finally, a strike used on a Confederate stampless cover from Darlington, C. H., South Carolina which agrees with mine in every detail was auctioned by Sotheby Parke Bernet on March 9, 1978. It brought \$90.

PAID 3 in Circle - I found two PAID 3 in Circle markings which I did not feel had previously been cataloged. The first, the strike of which is only average, is off cover. The diameter of the circle measures 19mm. The word PAID is in a slight arc quite far down from the circumference of the circle, and there are large spaces between the fine letters. What is most distinctive about this cancellation is the height of the letters. At only 2 1/2 mm, they are clearly smaller than the smallest letters in an arc previously described (3 1/2 mm on Linn's PAID 3 in Circle Type II). This part of the strike is very clear, permitting an exact measurement. No town of use is known.

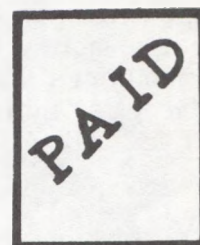
The second marking in this category is also seen in a strike which, although only average, permits an accurate appraisal of its distinguishing characteristics. The circle is fairly heavy and measures 21 mm in diameter. The letters are in an arc somewhat down from the circle. The unique feature is found in the fact that the letters are all quite verticle with the I and D almost completely parallel. Mr. Linn's closest cancellation would be Type XIII, but the letters of that type are clearly taller and closer together than mine, and the word measures only 12 mm in length as opposed to 13 1/2 mm as shown above. My example is on cover from Newportland, Maine.



Ionic PAID - The gem of the group in terms of strike is an Ionic PAID in blue off cover. Serifs which are the same thickness as the remainder of each letter distinguish this as an Ionic cancellation, as shown by a bold, complete, and absolutely clear impression. The unique aspect of this marking is its size: 6 mm x 24 mm. To my knowledge, no others have been identified which are as long as this one at the same height. On the subject of this marking, George Linn wrote the following to me:

That is one of the interesting things about collecting in this manner. One can often make a find that can be a very scarce item . . . The Ionic is a new one and a very scarce one undoubtedly.

No town of use is known.



PAID in Circle - Condition-consciousness was prevalent in the early 1960's, although not nearly as much as today, in my opinion. Mr. Linn included some excellent advice on this subject as the "final word" in his book:

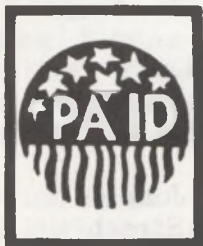
No real student of stamps or of cancellations can ever afford to throw away or discard a poor example unless he has acquired a better one. The poor example tells the same story as a good one and the story cannot be complete if the poor copy is discarded with the hope of finding a better one.

Condition-conscious collectors never can be students.

This advice was responsible for one of the highlights of my collection. It is a

cancellation which I considered to be a new find at the time of acquisition, and which I still treasure even though I know it has become fairly widely known since then.

The stamp to which I refer is off cover, is missing part of the lower left corner, and carries a rather below-average cancellation that at first showed the word PAID and I couldn't-tell-what-else. The purchase price was 25¢. A considerable amount of study showed the cancellation to consist of a negative word PAID in a circle with negative stars above and wavy stripes below. Covers I have subsequently seen have proved this to be another of the artistic circular PAIDs used in Dedham, Massachusetts. Although showing considerably larger stars, this is probably the same cancellation as is included as No. 1830 on page 255 of Herst-Sampson. A fine strike on cover brought \$150 at an Al Zimmerman auction (June 21, 1977), and a more average strike on cover brought \$50 in a recent David G. Phillips auction (July 1, 1978). I'm glad, despite its condition, that I acquired mine sixteen years ago.



After a lengthy hiatus, I returned last year to work on PAID Cancellations on the 3¢ Stamp of 1860. Following a slow start, I have been able to add about 20 more PAID cancellations to my collection. The feeling of satisfaction I receive upon adding a marking calls to mind the words George Linn wrote in his letter of 1961:

The real enjoyment that comes from stamp collecting only comes after a collector has found an interest . . . and has entered into the chase . . .

Collecting these cancellations certainly has provided this sort of enjoyment to me.

* * *

I would be glad to correspond with any and all Cancellation Club members on this subject and, of course, I am anxious to purchase any cancellations not already in my collection. Please write me at 20 Beekman Place, New York, New York 10022. I will reply promptly.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN . . .

It's not too early to take care of your 1979 membership dues. We urge all members to fulfill this obligation promptly. The U.S.C.C. depends on you and your support. Early payment of dues means that we can serve you better. Please send the \$6.00 payment to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

WRITERS WANTED

Once again we find that we must plead for contributions for the newsletter. Our resources are almost completely used up. If we have no articles, we cannot print the U.S.C.C. News. We urge everyone to participate in this important endeavor. Without a variety of contributions we cannot produce a publication which meets the varied needs and interests of our membership. We need your help.

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QUESTION CORNER

Dear Sir,

I would like to let the membership know that I'm in the midst of a postal history project and I need some help. I need information, documents, covers, etc. relevant to the postal history of McHenry County, Illinois. Further, I will be happy to send a list of towns to whomever would like to have one.

Thank you,

Michael Zolno

Dear Sir,

I am confused about your lead article in the July U.S.C.C. News. I thought "unreported handstamped postmarks" would exclude manuscript cancellations. Could you explain more fully?

Thank you,

Lowell S. Stanley

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PENNSYLVANIA wanted. I collect Wilkes Barre, Penna and DPO's now a part of Wilkes Barre. Also Centre County, Pa. Send for list of Post Offices. Howard Lee, Box 5950, New York, N. Y. 10017.

From James Ronnerud:

I enjoy the U.S.C.C. News each time.

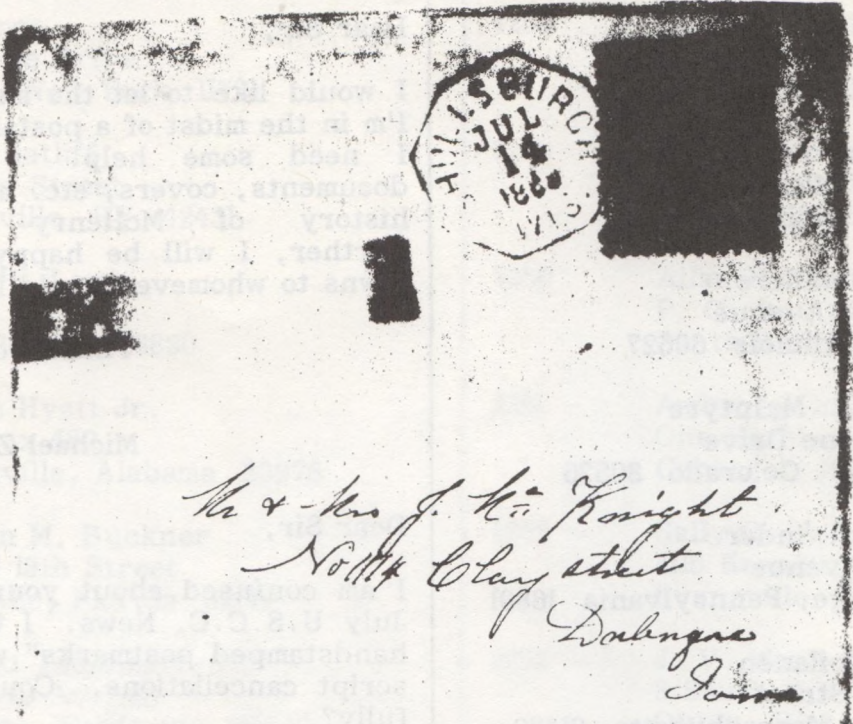
WISCONSIN

Shuilsburgh

89

CP

OCTAGONS



From Denny Donnell:

ILLINOIS

Pocahontas Burgess

87

CP

Twp. Bond Co.

This envelope carried the wedding announcement of my grandparents to his brother in California. Needless to say one of my prized philatelic possessions and I am happy to discover that it also represents a previously unlisted octagonal postmark from Illinois.

From Theodore O. Mills:

VIRGINIA

Williamsburgh

SOL

From Bob Hedges:

IOWA

Waukee

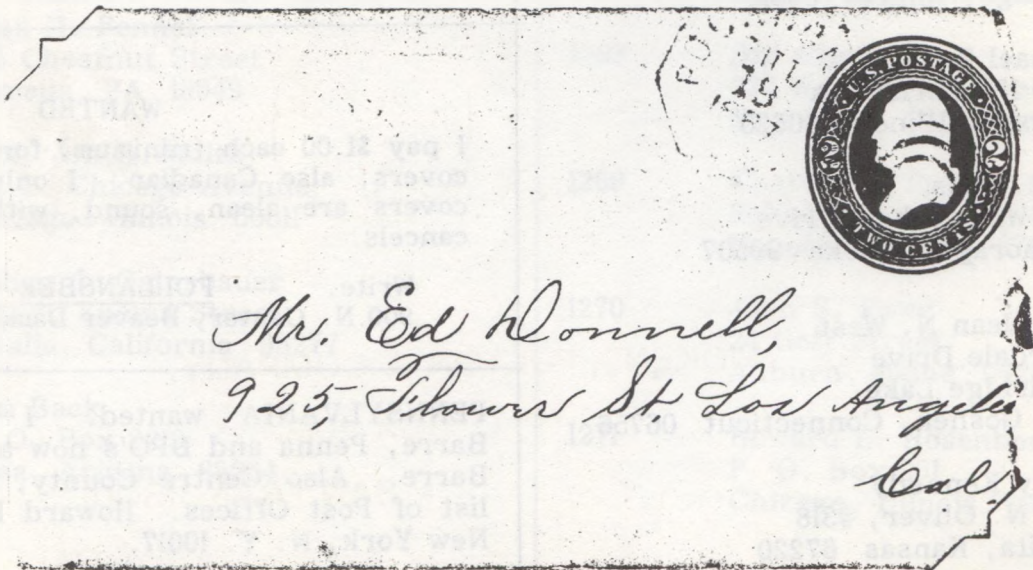
83

CP

De Soto

81

CP



From Harry L. Fine:

All these Montana postmarks are of territorial usage. I began collecting Montana territorial postmarks on cover and cards in 1939 and Fort Laramie in 1931. Stamp collecting preceded my interest for several years before my interest in postmarks. E. D. MacHattie of Helena, Montana (now deceased) had a doubled circle Stoneville, MT on postal card. Where it is now is one of those \$64,000 questions.

P.S. Your NEWS is a great improvement.

MONTANA

Augusta	85	CP
Radersburgh	81	CP
Ulida	65	CP

From Warren Wagener:

CALIFORNIA

Westside	95	DOL
(Santa Clara County)		
Westside	95	CP
Skyland	95	CP
(Santa Clara County)		
Oakland	98	DOL MOB
(Alameda County)		
Pleasanton	88	CP
(Alameda County)		

I have include the county alongside the listing of towns (for California) for two reasons. One is to assist in locating the town. Secondly, California county collecting is done two ways -- statewide and by county. A collector of a specific county would be more likely to have a more extensive collection.

From J. Thomas Showler:

<u>IOWA</u>		
Winthrop	78	CP
<u>PENNSYLVANIA</u>		
East Springfield	--	CP
<u>OHIO</u>		
New Washington	82	CP
<u>VERMONT</u>		
West Fairlee	74	CP

California had 27 original counties when created in 1850. It now has 50 counties and has had many boundary changes. Note Willow (which became Willows on May 15, 1916) on the list. Westside became Cupertino 19 July, 1900. San Juan became San Juan Bautista 16 November, 1905.

North San Juan and San Juan are two entirely different places about 175 air mails apart. North San Juan is east of Marysville and San Juan Bautista is 41 miles south and east of our house in San Jose.

One interesting fact is that your California check list shows no towns in the southern part of the state using octagon cancels with Bakersfield being the most southernly. With the exception of Oakland, all of the towns are smaller.



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It is dues time again for the U.S.C.C. We urge all members to fulfill this obligation for 1979 promptly. The life of this organization depends on the support of its members -- and that support has, of course, its financial aspects. Please send the \$6.00 payment to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.