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Concellation Cub NEWS

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FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL

By Alyce Evans

Beginning with the current issue, we have a special treat for U.S. Cancellation Club members. We would like to welcome as a regular U.S.C.C. News columnist a lady who has been a Cancellation Club member for some time, Alyce V. Evans. Ms. Evans tells us she spends approximately $60 \%$ of her waking hours emersed in researching cancels, and has consented to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with our readers on a regular basis. If the article entitled "Salem Witch Hunt" which follows, is any indication, we eagerly look forward to reading "For Love of a Cancel" in each ssue

## SALEM WITCH HUNT

It has been called a "witches' broom", a "hex symbol", a "fertility symbol", and more commonly, the "Salem witchmark." Call it what you will there exists at least four distinct types of this cancel with measurable and observable differences. These differences cannot be attributed to wear, nor do they follow a chronological pattern of change.

The following examples are on cover, and are used with the $3 \$ 1861$ stamp. Both the cancels and the 24 mm circular date stamps are in black

Type 1 is the most unusual, showing a broad base and six rays.


## HELP IN IDENTIFYING ELLIPSE CANCELS ON SCOTT 210

By Warren P. Tingley

E. L. Willard's fine and thorough book on this stamp, "The Two Cent Red Brown of 1883 - $1187^{\prime \prime}$ published by H. L. Lindquist Publications in 1970 concludes in Volume Two with a 48 page chapter on these ellipse cancellations (after some 116 pages of other interesting cancels, etc.). Included are excellent drawings of over 300 different town and type ellipses with all or part of their dater circles. The text has more descriptions and informative discussions on these, and lists the known varieties of figure and letter centers on this numerous commercially made cancel.

## WILLARD'S DRAWINGS ESSENTIAL

The drawings in Willard's book are essential for identifying ellipse cancels on stamps soaked off the cover, assuming one has only a few covers or pieces with the complete postmark. As collectors know, the postal clerks were quite proficient in those days in following postal regulations. They applied the duplex cancel so the killer ellipse hit the stamp, and the date circle the envelope. So most of these single stamps off paper have the ellipse only.

It is quite a chore to run through a hundred or more drawings each time one has an ellipse cancel to identify. My memory isn't as good as it used to be, so to reduce the work and tedium, a code representing the chief components of the frame of the ellip-

Type 2 has a triangular split in the base and has eight rays.


Type 3, the more common example, has a split down the length of its base and eight rays


Type 4 is the Her-st-Sampson example \#987, and the writer is unaware of any examples that exactly fit this tracing

Type 4 Herst-Sampson

Type 2 examples show smaller spacing between the letters of the town mark which indicates a different variety of town marking and was possibly used one day earlier (Dec. 22), than the Type 3 example, (Dec. 23 ), but not necessarily in the same year.

Since none of the covers indicate the year of use, help from the readers is needed to establish the time span this cancel was used.

Type 3 examples have been recorded of -f-cover on the $1 \$ 1861$ issue, and on the Black Jack of 1863.

One wonders who first called it a witch mark. Salem, being synonumous with witcheraft, perhaps had a decen-dent-warlock as its' postmaster during the 1860's. And perhaps he carved the Witches' Broom, or "hexenbesen", the name applied to "outgrowths on trees, consisting of fine slinder branches arranged parallel to each other and emanating from an enlarged axis." This description does seem to fit our cancel.

Perhaps some modern-day warlock knows the true meaning of this design and share with us his information.

Or perhaps he was joyfully preparing for one of the Witches' "Sabbaths" ... festivals which emphasized the season of breeding of animals to promote their fertility. Is out witchmark then a representation of a male and female fertility symbol?

Meanwhile, the hunt goes on!
This study has been accomplished thru the kind assistant of Scott R. Trepel and W. (Bert) Christian who furnished source material.

FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL.
Alyce Evans

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ses was devised as an "index" to Willard's drawings and as an aid in identification. Refer to Table I Supplement for details of this code system.

Essentially, the code consists of four letters and figures. The first is a letter to represent one of the four different types of ellipses (horizontal, vertical, arc and circle, and concentric circles). Second is a figure, the total of the long and short bars or arcs. The third refers to a barrell (B) or split barrell (S), or the number of short bars. The fourth indicates the number of circles.

Referring to Table I compiled from information in Willard's book, 79 different towns produced some 773 major varieties of these cancels. The bulk -- 698 -- are the horizontal bar type ellipses. The vertical bar type accounts for 54 varieties. The arc and circle type, and the concentriccircle type with bars have the appearance of ellipses, so are included. These add only eight varieties for each type. Although not an ellipse, Willard also lists the type of cancel with concentric circles only for convenience. This adds only five varieties.

The other eight drawings also fit the code, and are:

Springfield \& Detroit H9XX (bars only)
York A4X2
East Capital Station
AX4X4
Roxbury Station
A4X2
Erie
A6X4 - sm bull's eye center

Erie

Middletown, Conn.
CXX4-1g bull's eye center

A45l - sm bull's eye center

As Willard stated, there is a host of these interesting numberless and letterless elli-
pses that should be organized to round out the ellipse information available to collectors.

Permission to use information on ellipse cancels from Willard's book was kindly given by the copywright owner, H. L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 153 Waverly Place, New York, New York 10014

1387 H731-G (wd. spaces, G sl. shaded, serifs).

1388 H10.61-1 (lg. thick l, hvg. top serif, normal bottom. Could this be Wilmington, North Carolina to match2?).

1389
H931-1 (wd. spaces. Hollow 1. CAL showing in dater normally where last town letter are).

1390

1391

1392

1394

1395
V1041-3 (el turned sideways lg : heavy 3 is vertical in semi-oval).

H931-10 (slender 10, 1 serifed).

H82X-7 (only 4 bars shown in sketch. Could be 10 bars?).
?H102X-7 (-N.D.C., in dater, so must be Washington. If 10 bar, it is already listed.)

H73l-27 (wd. spaces. slender figs., serified).

H4BX-T (shaded T, serifs).

And no doubt there are many more to be identified or the identity is known of many that should be included in Table II. Collectors are urged to send this information to the News Editor for listing. Dates should be given where known so those cancelled within a reasonable time after September 10, 1887 (when the two cent green went into service) may be termed "late use."

## STAR CENTER ELLIPSE

The star center ellipses pictured in Willard on the last page of drawings of ellipses also "fit" into this code description for the frame. All seven happen to have different code symbols. The Hll.4.1-hollow star is Hoboken, New Jersey per piece in the writer's collection.

Ellipse Cancels on \#210 not listed in Willard:


G not very clear on left stamp which is a double strike.

H-11.31 or 931 Rubber


H-6B1-1
Cleveland, Ohio Newburgh Station February 3, 1887 Double Strike



H-721-City with outer oval inner "circle" is horizontal oval.


H-931-1
$\qquad$ ale? State?


These are taken from willard or observations of his drawings, etc. The notes involved the shape and relative size of figures and letters (regular, shaded, serifed, etc.). Even if all descriptions were available, there is no sufficient space to provide the necessary details in a short article. It would require quite a lengthy paper to do the job right -- as is understood to have been done by Blake and Davis. However, this little added detail in the tables should help in some cases.

Referring back to Table I, most groups contain less than ten towns, and tehre is one of 15 towns. The relatively few towns in each of these small groups make it fairly easy to identify these ellipses. However, the remaining four groups are much larger.

Three have almost 40 towns each (35, 37 and 39) and one a whopping 80. With these large groups, it should help to examine the frame lists of Table II series, noting the added descriptions and varieties to aid identification. And here it is especially handy when the last letter or two (the more the better) of the town name in the date circle happens to fall on the stamp. Scanning the code list of the proper frame, it often is a simple matter to pick the town by the last few letters (or even a few consecutive letters) especially if a letter or two of the state also shows

## NOVEL FEATURE

The only novel feature of this code over the usualy narrative description is the includion of the short bars when occurring in place of the barrell or split barrell. This makes the description more precise than the common practice of using total bars alone. Its use increases the number of code groups is 38 for figure centers, and 15 for letter centers.

Examination of Table l discloses that 30 towns ( 21 figure and nine letter) having 53 varieties may be identified simply by observation of the prime type. By expanding Table I into lists of towns for each code group, and adding the varieties of the different figures and letters for each town -- but disregarding the frame types -- 15 may be identified by figures alone (all N.Y.C. high figures) and 14 towns by letter(s) alone. Considering frame types having either figures or letters, 134 varieties from 62 towns are identifiable. Of course, there is duplication in these series of numbers but they do illustrate how much may be learned from casual observation and use of the expanded Table II series.

## ABBREVIATED NOTES

Table II series also contains some abbreviated notes as to characteristics of the ellipse, figures, or letters helpful in identification.

With few exceptions (one in Maine, two in Iowa, and one in Pennsylvania) the state names are abbreviated -- and in the usual one to four letters. New York (City) does not show the state, nor do two types from Philadelphia which have the state abbreviation in the ellipse. Station A Boston omits the state.

## INCOMPLETE WILLARD'S DRAWINGS

Some of Willard's drawings are incomplete, and this is noted to the right following the varieties listed for each town. Judgment was used to make up the missing information, so caution should be observed in these cases. Where the text in Willard disagreed with the drawing, information taken from the drawing was placed in the tables.

One "unidentified" town per the ellipse only sketches in Willard has been added to Table 1. The Number 1385, H62X-D, is Chicago (per the writer's copeis with part of the dater) as suspected by Willard. Also added is a Georgetown Station, D.C. in CXX3-G as per the drawing of this by Willard by the September, 1957 issue of the U.S.C.C. News. There are 13 more sketches of "unidentified" ellipses that are waiting to be labeled by a student of these cancels.

List of Unidentified Ellipses in Willard:
Willard's

Number
1381

1382
1383

1384

1386

## Code Description

H931-A (fine line A. req.)

H11.5.X-G (lg. G)
H12.41-C (shaded with top serif)

H931-H (4 double serifs, slender cross bar)

H931-S
serifs)

## WORD SYMMETRY

For convenience, the towns have been arranged alphabetically by states and then by cities within that state, rather than alphabetically by cities alone as in Willard. Because of symmetry of placement of the words in the dater, one can estimate the number of letters in the complete town name, and concentrate accordingly in the list. To help this, the list shows the relative position of the town and state names by the spacing provided between. A short space indicates the state immediately follows the town, and a wide space shows the state abbreviation to be at the bottom of the dater (and flipped over). The so-called "Connecticut type dater") (found only on some H931 and V641 frame types) where the state abbreviation is in a straight line just below the arc of the town name, is indicated by a small ' $c$ '.

## TABLE I

Summary of No. of Towns, Types \& Major Varieties of Ellipse Cancels as Listed by E. L. Willard

From "Two Cent Red, Brown of
1883-1887" by E.L. Willard, Pub. by
M.L. Lindquist Pub., Inc., NYC, 1970

## H-HORIZONTAL BAR ELLIPSES

FIGURES
LETTERS


| T\&T | Var. | Code | Code Description of Frame | T\&T | Var. | Code |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 10.21 | 10 bars total inclu. 2 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| 1 | 3 | 10.2X | 10 " " " 2 " No Circle |  |  |  |
|  |  | 10.31 | 10 " " " 3 " Circle | 1 | 1 | H10.31 |
| 7 | 22 | 10.41 | $10^{\prime \prime} \quad$ " 4 " " | 1 | 1 | 10.41 |
| 1 | 2 | 10.61 | 10 " " 6 " |  |  |  |
| 8 | 26 | 11.31 | 11 bars total inclu. 3 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 11.3VX | 11 " " " ${ }^{\text {" }}$ "Vt. No. Crl |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 11.51 | 11 " " " 5 " Circle |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 12.61 | 12 bars total inclu. 6 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 13.51 | 13 bars total inclu. 5 Short Circle | 1 | 1 | H13.51 |
|  |  | 13.91 | 13 " " " 9 " | 1 | 1 | 13.91 |
| 1 | 1 | 14.61 | 14 bars total inclu. 6 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| $\frac{1}{231}$ | $59^{\frac{1}{3}}$ | 15.71 | 15 bars total inclu. 7 Short Circle | 60 | $\overline{105}$ |  |
|  |  |  | V-VERTICAL BAR ELLIPSES |  |  |  |
| 1 | 2 | V421 | 4 bars total inclu. 2 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| 1 | 5 | V42X | 4 " " ${ }^{\text {" }}$ " No Circle |  |  |  |
| 3 | 4 | V531 | 5 bars total inclu. 3 Short Circle |  |  |  |
| $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\frac{23}{34}$ | V641 | 6 bars total inclu. 4 Short Circle | $\frac{4}{(4)}$ | $\frac{20}{(20)}$ | Y641 |
|  |  |  | A-ARC and CIRCLE ELLIPSES |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | AH2X3 | 2 arcs total 3 circles 4 horz.neg. li |  |  |  |
| 1 | 3 | AV4X1 | 4 arcs total circle vert. neg. line |  |  |  |
| 2 | 3 | A4X2 | 4 " " 2 Circle |  |  |  |
| $\frac{1}{(5)}$ | $\frac{1}{(8)}$ | A6X2 | 6 arc total 2 Circle |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | C-CONCENTRIC CIRCLES |  |  |  |
| 1 | 6 | C532 | 5 B. Tl. inclu. 3 sht. btwn. 2 Crl. |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | C842 | 8 " " " 4 " " |  |  |  |
|  |  | C952 | 9 " " " 5 " " 2 " | 1 | , | C952 |
|  | (17) | cxx3 | No bars 3 concentric circles |  | $\frac{1}{12}$ | CXX 3 |
| (4) | (11]) |  |  | (2) | (2) |  |
| 248 | 646 |  |  | 66 | 127 |  |

Summary:

| Towns | 179 | Towns and Types | 314 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| R.P.O. | 1 | Varieties (Major) | 773 |
| Stations Named | 14 |  |  |
| (not nos. or letters) |  |  |  |

[^0]





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L-COIICENTRIC CIRCLES WITH BARS RETWEEN - FIGURES ORLETTER INCENTERS
C532
    WASHINGTON D.C. I 2 3 456 F: HT AVGTOLG. STOEX 4 HVY SERIS,5 CURV TP.
C842
    DeSnuet Dak IO D:INCOMPLETE.
C952 Cl:CINNATI O. A L: SHAD, SERIFS
C-CCNCENTPIC CIRCLES (NO GARS) FIGURES OP LETTER INCENTERS
cyy?
```



| ${ }^{\text {B }}$ B/RL $=$ harrel F.figure | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {s- }}$-nulside | Vevery | SIZERATIN | G SCALES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| : PECT - between HVY- heavy | P10-pointed | VARevaries | Fig.oriet. | Ellipse |
| BOT-Lettan L-leller | $P D=$ round | orvariety | Hts.m. | Widths, m. |
| $e$ afmut or Log larae | RT-right | WD-wide | 10 +-V.LG | 24 + - VWD |
| Cannsipe U. IF laft | SEFP- sefarate | or width | 9-10.LG | 22-24:WD |
| Cil circle in millimetar | StlP-short | "\%o without | B-9-MLG | 20-22-M.WD |
| O- Anterer M=modarate | SL slight | YR.year in | 7. B AVG | 18-20. AVG |
| diameter 110 minanth | SM- sinall | 2figs. | C. 7 M .5 SM | $16-18=$ M.NAR |
| [A.l.ey HAD Marrow | STT straight: | YRAR-4figs | 5-6.5M | 14-16= NAR |
| F. ellipse fuEGenenative | T-tentative |  | 5 - V.SM | 14 - = VIIAR |
| Ix-except N.I.- not illust. | IHK-thick |  | If not shown | , size is c. avg. |

    ETINERALNOTES uridEXPLANATIONS for Tebles II Italo
    
1 - Thingerifs lofund Lathem. All other figs ate shoden and also have: 2 - lobe, Lraie flat with ser if upi
2- lobes:4-serif base; 5 lobe top flat; 6-lobe: 7 top flat with scrif down; 9 -labe

MARKS above or under fins or latsombefore ownrianie or in" llest rif tive fiotes" ind ic ate:


$\checkmark$ in Des Notes $=$ a avg figor let ht and . llipese widel,

Oata in Thbl-9IT-1 TolO mostly from" Thell, S. Tiwo Cent RedBrown 1883-1987"Vol.II Chpt. on
Ellipse Cancellations. By Edward L. Willard 1970
C) byH.L.Lindquist Publications Inc. N.Y.C. 10014 and wsed with their permission


```
V-VERHOAL GAR ELLIPSES-LETTERS INCENTERS
```

V641

| COINTGTON © KY. | 0 | L. REG. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ni:WPURT © KY. | 0 | L: Pes. |
| WORCESTER C MASS. | D | L: REG |

## WORCESTER C MASS

L: REG.
NEW YORK
ABCDEEF GHJKL L: THKREGEXG SERIFS.VAR:THIN.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& M \text { P S T } \begin{array}{l}
\text { D: LINBOT.YRQS. VAR:HYP;IEM } W-Y \cdots . \\
\text { DO VAR:DCTSP.O. }
\end{array} .
\end{aligned}
$$




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        Salivt rMulg f-1H|t, i a
            Av4\times1
                TEPPF. HAUTE HIE 1 2 3
            ^1 XZ
                IEAVEINWORTH V.AN:2
                LOWELL MASS. i 2
                    A5x2
                        ARIDGFPORTT CONIN. ̇
            A5\times3
            MLEAlI' NSY. 2
```

DEE NOTES


F ITIIK 211 Sin

F: 2 LG. CURV BNSE, SERIFS.
F: 2LG. CUFV BASE, SFRIFS.

## QUESTION CORNER

Dear Sir:
I am working on a study of the postal markings of the Canal Zone Study Group. Many of the devices used by the Canal Zone were supplied by the U.S. Post Office Department, and the devices had counterparts in the U.S.

I am especially interested in certain postmarks used in the Canal Zone between 1906 and the mid 1950's, which consisted of a CDS that varied from $25-27 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~mm}$ in diameter with a vertical elliptical killer containing a number in a circle in the center.

Could you advise me of someone in your Club with whom I might correspond on this subject?

Sincerely yours,<br>Lawson P. Entwistle

Dear Sir:
I have been a member (\#522) of the U.S.C.C. for many years. At this time I would like to sell my collection to Club News. Can you suggest the best way to go about it? This material is in excellent condition. Starting with Jan. 1961 to date. The only copies missing are Jan. 1969, May, September, November, 1975, January, March, November, 1976, January 1979.

I have 2 copies of July, 1958)
" " 1 " " Nov., 1958)

" " l " " Nov., 1959)
Will include these 5, totalling 105 copies. Your advice would be much appreciated.

Most Sincerely,

Marcia N. Ruhl

## 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.

## TIME TO PAY DUES

It is dues time again for the U.S.C.C. We urge all members to fulfill this obligation for 1980 promptly. The life of this organization depends on the support of its members -- and that suppport has, of course, its financial aspects. Please send the $\$ 6.00$ payment to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

One of the really great men in the study and collection of postal marks was Arthur Bond. He wrote or acted as co-author of the manuals which USCC published and was always ready to help those who went to him for information.

On Tuesday, November 27, 1979, Mr. Arthur H. Bond died following a long illness. Mr. Bond was 88 years of age

We offer our condolences to his family and many friends. He will be missed.

## PLEASE

## PAY


DUES



[^0]:    *Includes 1 R.P.O.

