



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 15

No. 2

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March, 1980

In the last issue of the U.S.C.C. Newsletter we indicated that Alyce Evans have consented to be a regular columnist for the Newsletter. However, Ms. Evans is considerably more prolific and prompt than the editor of this Newsletter. She has already submitted enough columns to carry us almost through 1981.

However, we have decided that she should be forced into providing more of her excellent columns. Consequently this issue will be an Alyce Evans "Feast". We are printing all of the articles which she has submitted to date, so that our members will be able to better comprehend the scope of her interest and knowledge of the fancy cancellation field.

Herewith, with pleasure is the first course.

Please refer to Page 18 for Biography on Ms. Alyce Evans.

FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL

by Alyce Evans

cross my heart

The postmasters of the 1860's expressed their "heart-felt" sentiments not just on Valentine's Day, but all through the year, their emotions being recorded by the many kinds of hearts they carved, some plain, some fancy . . . some broken.

Three of our favorite hearts, personalized with a negative "MY" in the center are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3. These are struck in black on the 3¢ 1861 issue.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

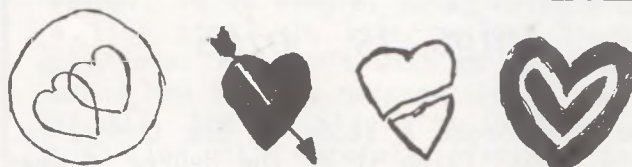


Figure 1, involving a bit of ego on the part of the Dayton, Ohio postmaster who carved it, quite graphically explains his name, which was "Meinhart". Two covers in our files show dates of use on June 28, 1867, and July 1.

Figure 2, (enlarged 10%) was identified as being from N.Y. in a recent auction sale, but one of our members, Theodore O. Mills has this example on cover which shows it originating from Winchester, Illinois. Mr. Mills has another cover dated May 16 showing the same heart with the normal pointed shape at the bottom, thus the "point" on our off-cover example could just be worn down.

We don't know where Figure 3, with the "cross my heart" originated. This off-cover example was offered recently in a net priced sale. It is our very favorite, and since it is the spring season, we'd like to indulge ourselves in a little romantic phantasizing. Here was a whittler who obviously believed that it paid to advertise, and that "faint heart ne'er won fair lady". Indeed only a "hard-hearted Hannah" could have failed to be impressed! Had I been the object of his affection, and just received a valentine with the stamp so cancelled I'd have left off lacing my high-button shoes, picked up hoops and petticoats and raced to that ardent swain with the stamp pad who was proclaiming for all the world to note, sentiments to the effect that:

"Roses are red
Violets are blue
Cross my heart
I love you"

Ah, when hearts were young and gay,
and all the world loved a lover!

FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL

pigs is pigs

We have begun a study on the Corry, Pa. pig, classifying it by the degree of wear as exhibited in Figures 1, 2, and 3. The examples in our files show this cancel occurring only on the 3¢ green banknotes.

Figure 1, which we'll call the "early impression", shows a long snout and long forelegs.

The "middle impression", Figure 2, shows the snout broken off, and the forelegs still long.

In the "late impression", Figure 3, the snout is further reduced, and the forelegs are much shorter.

To expand our study on this pig, we'd like any reader who has information including dates of use, the stamp on which this cancel is found, and changes in design which show further evidence of wear, to please contact me at P.O. Box 286, Bon-sall, Ca. 92003, and I will assimilate, consolidate and give you a cancel update. And while we can't promise the humor of Ellis Parker Butler in his "Pigs" story, our Corry pigs should still provide interesting reading.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig 3



Reprints of the Sam Paige Auction Catalogs in book form were recently advertised by the publishing house of Symphony Press. Mailers were sent out offering a pre-publishing price of \$19.95, (a modest price for such an annotated work), and it was given coverage in two philatelic publications.

We have just received a letter from the Editor, Scott Trepel, who regretfully informs us that due to lack of response, he is forced to abandon the Paige project.

It is a shame that more people did not support this publishing endeavor, since the Paige catalogs contain so much valuable information important to the postal historian and the fancy cancel collector.

Samuel C. Paige was one of the first who pioneered the field of postal history through auction, which began in 1950 and continued through 1963. His catalogs, (generally printed in small runs which accounts for their extreme scarcity), were profusely illustrated. Portions of the collections of many notables such as Ashbrook, Chase, Cole, and Davis were offered in his sales, giving us a rare opportunity to view much of the better and scarcer material in a concentrated showing before it became scattered throughout innumerable collections.

We would like to thank Mr. Trepel for the time and effort involved in his attempt to present this valuable reference work. We are very sorry his brainchild died in infancy. It is philatelic's loss.

FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL

1973, Year of "Discovery"?

1973 many "previously unrecorded" items made their debut that year. Many of these items are just now being expertized and are receiving fake certificates. We intend to present some of these, (as well as others), in this column.

Our candidate here is a rather crudely carved "N S" with "reaching hands". The first record I have on this cancel is Feb. '73, when it was sold by a large auction house for almost \$200.00. It next appeared in a 1977 sale, and finally, was seemingly offered in 1978 for well over the \$200.00 amount. This is a 3¢ green American banknote, the 1879 issue.

I would have hesitated to buy this item for four reasons:

1. It emerged with the dubious material that made its appearance in 1973.
2. The very heavy-appearing ink is suspicious looking.
3. The strike is perhaps a bit "too well centered", (one thing about owning the rear half of a kicking mule on a stamp . . . you can rest assured it's probably genuine).
4. It seemed to be a "unique item", with no known siblings, and a questionable pedigree.



Ed: Does anyone have any information on this cancel pre-dating the 1973 appearance indicated by Ms. Evans?

We'd like to qualify the term "unique" insofar as fancies are concerned, as being more than just "rare and uncommon", rather, it is single, sole, being without a like kind. In other words, there is only one. We don't wish to imply that a brand new face is necessarily a fake, not at all, but it should be regarded with suspicion until carefully examined, particularly if it entered the market with other "unknowns". We've often wondered why a counterfeiter would make just one item, why not at least 3 or 4, as long as he'd gone to all the trouble to execute the first one.

Our candidate for this month received a fake philatelic Foundation Certificate in May of '79, and was subsequently returned to the auction house which had sold it in 1977. Buyer Beware!



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Full Page	\$25.00
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Quarter Page	\$ 7.00
Column Inch	\$ 2.00

Ed: Following extensive efforts in this regard, we have persuaded Alyce Evans to furnish some information concerning background. Here is what she provided.

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on
alyce evans

Collecting Interests...U.S. 19th Century
Fancy Cancellations
(Taken 3 Gold
Awards) W. VA.
Postal History

Membership Societies:

1. American Philatelic Society
2. Society of Philatelic Americans
3. Pennsylvania Postal History Society
4. Virginia Postal History Society
5. U.S. Cancellation Club
6. Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum
(I used to work as a volunteer in the Library).

I'm working on a book on W. VA. Postal History. Eventually hope to publish a "Philatelic Biographical Dictionary"..compiling the data now.

Am primarily interested in researching the origin and history of cancels, and to support my study, have compiled a voluminous data file and philatelic library.

By writing a column for the U.S.C.C. News, I believe I can share with other collectors some of this data, and at the same time, the exposure that the column offers will provide a source of additional information from readers which can be added to my files.

SPECIAL COVERS FOR REGISTERED MAIL

by George Phillips

For a number of years the Post Office Department issued special covers for the use of registered mail, such as the one shown here. I have been unable to learn just how they were issued. But in my experience they are rather scarce today. When you do find one, however, you will have invariably found some excellent postmarks, and almost always in red ink. This cover bears, at the lefthand end, the statement "Patent June 4, 1878."

Buffalo Gap was established in Custer County (in the Black Hills of what is now South Dakota) on July 9, 1877 and was discontinued on September 15, 1879. However, the same postmaster was appointed for a new post office called Buffalo, in the same general location, on March 6, 1880, and the name was changed to Buffalo Gap on May 10, 1880. At the time this cover was mailed, the area had become South Dakota, the date of statehood being November 2, 1889, but the postmaster was still using his Dakota Territorial postmark.

The envelope is addressed to the Postmaster at Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon and bears the registration number, "100." Apparently about two inches have been trimmed off the righthand end. I would like to hear from anyone who has further information about this type of cover -- or better yet, write it up for the U.S.C.C. News.

the life's blood of the U.S.C.C. News

Consists of your contributions. Once again, this newsletter is late, because of a lack of submissions. The life's blood of this publication is the submissions of our club members. Remember, this is your paper!

earliest exhibition cancel found

by Herman Herst, Jr.

For many years, the special postmark used at London's 1852 International Exhibition has been regarded as the first such cancel known. That particular fair was held 11 years after what has been regarded as the first World's Fair of modern times, the famous Crystal Palace Show of 1851.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain for December 1979 contains the surprising news that a marking commemorating the 1851 Crystal Palace Fair has been discovered. Long rumored to exist, but not having been recorded, the single example illustrated in the Robson Lowe publication bears an imperf Penny Red, tied to a cover to Sheffield by a London cancel, numeral "14" in an oval. A backstamp from the Charing Cross station gives the date as June 27, 1851. (The fair opened on May 1, 1851.) The newly discovered marking is a hand-stamped straight line on the front of the cover at the upper left reading "Great Exhibition". The name is not unusual; this is the name by which the Fair was originally known. It is only with the passing of years that the name was changed in popular use to "Crystal Palace".

Lowe quotes the book "Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom", published by George R. Pearson, as stating "It has been suggested that a handstamp was used for the 'Great International Exhibition'; but no examples have ever been found and it is now believed not to have been used."

The new discovery confirms that the handstamp was not only prepared but actually used. Lowe suggests that since a marking of the type just found is "unlike any contemporary handstamp issued by the General Post Office . . . one can presume that it was privately made for application on mail sent from the Exhibition to the nearest head post office, at Charing Cross."

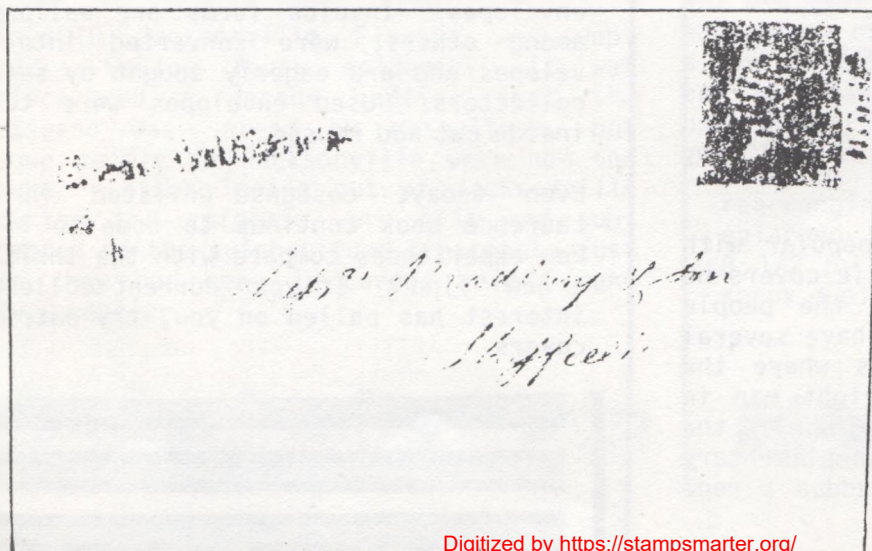
The plans for the Exhibition showed no location for a post office within the Great Exhibition building, but we do know that several post office officials were assigned to the Committee for the Exhibition. With a great deal of mail originating at the show, and still a resulting absence of the marking until now, it is suggested that the marking may have been used, not on every cover, but perhaps on the top letter of a stack of letters delivered to the Charing Cross post office, to indicate the origin.

Whatever the reason for its scarcity, now that the single example has been found, the search should be on for additional covers. They must exist somewhere for the finding.



short on circuits!

Circuit material needed!
In the last three years we have more than doubled the number of 19th century circuits that we have been mailing to members. Now, we find ourselves virtually devoid of material other than the items currently in circulation. In order to keep the circuits running at the present rate, we desperately need new books. Please send us books if you have them. The only alternative is a reduction in the number of circuits -- and we would like to avoid that eventually.



Civil War Patriotic Covers

By William Walker

It would hardly be possible to write an article on this popular field of postal history collectors without a mention of the greatest collector of them all, Mr. George Walcott. He formed a magnificent collection of these prior to his death and it was sold at auction in New York under the direction of his friend, Robert Laurence. A hardbacked book was published with over 3200 illustrations of the more outstanding designs.

Due to a fatuous law which prohibited photographing stamps and currency, since repealed, small squares of paper were placed over the stamps. This of course detracts from the appearance of the covers depicted in the Laurence catalog.

1934 was hardly the best time to dispose of anything at auction. America was in the throes of the Depression. The prices realized in most cases were far below what Mr. Walcott paid at the time of acquisition. Rumor has it that there was collusion among some bidders present at the auction, which further served to reduce the prices realized.

Most of the "Patriotic" designs were lithographed. A great many designs were pirated by other printers. Slight changes were made in the design of the test. This of course contributes to the multiplicity of designs extant.

The finest (and most scarce) of these covers are engraved designs. They are the work of Magnus and Kimmel, both immigrants from Germany. Lincoln, of course, was a popular subject for these covers, as was General Scott during the brief period when he directed the Union forces military efforts.

While General McClellan was popular with the designers of these patriotic covers he most certainly was not with the people sending or receiving them. I have several covers, and have seen others where the text was altered from "the right man in the right place" to "the wrong man in the wrong place" or some other uncomplimentary change. One aspiring artist added a rope around McClellan's neck.

A more popular military figure was Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, one of the first casualties of the war. Featured on over forty different covers, he was a close personal friend of President Lincoln. The President is reported to have wept on receiving the news of his death.

The designs which are caricatures reveal much of the strong feeling of people during the war. While some are amusing, most show a grim determination to crush the rebellion. Postally used, these are scarce and command high prices. Unused, they are relatively plentiful and cheap. This is due largely to the fact that a huge number of these unused covers turned up in a warehouse around the turn of the century.

The postmarks reveal that patriotic covers appear to have been most popular in the first half of the war. As the war dragged on and the casualties mounted, there seem to be fewer of them.

Reading (or trying to read) the contents of these covers tells much more of the feelings and experiences of the writers. It also reveals that a low level of literacy was a problem that existed then as now. A great many of the letters are riddled with misspelling and generally show a phonetic approach to writing. Some of the letters are very touching, i.e. a wounded soldier relating how many soldiers were dying in the hospital.

Confederate states' patriotic covers are very scarce. Later in the war, as the Union forces' blockade choked off supplies from Europe almost any kind of paper was pressed into service and writing paper and envelopes. Invoice forms and wallpaper, among others, were converted into envelopes and are eagerly sought by serious collectors. Used envelopes were turned inside out and reused.

Even today, designs unlisted in the Laurence book continue to come to light. Few experiences compare with the thrill of a new "find". If your current collecting interest has palled on you, try patriotic covers.

letters get blame for epidemics!

by Herman Herst, Jr.

It was not very long ago that cannons were fired into the air to ward off contagious diseases. It was not much more than a century ago that yellow fever and other epidemics were fought by booming cannons.

We may laugh at such crazy ideas now, but as recently as 60 years ago, otherwise sensible people blamed epidemics on letters that went through the mail. The mail had to go through, but what it had to go through before it was delivered!

For hundreds of years, letters were blamed for the spread of plague in Europe. No one thought to blame it on the rats that often traveled on the same ships with the letters. The rats were free to come ashore at each port the ship visited, but letters were gathered together and sent to one of the "purifying centers" to kill the disease. Such centers were located, among others, at Livorno (Leghorn), Italy and Marseilles, France.

Letters were put in containers with slits, and sulphur was lit under the container. The fumes penetrated the letter, which also had been previously cut with slits so that the fumes would touch the contents on the letter as well as the outside. (Fortunately, stamps had not yet come into use, so there could be no damage to any on the outside, nor on the inside.)

In 1910, Jacksonville, Florida, was swept by a yellow fever epidemic. It was discovered a decade earlier that the disease was spread by mosquitoes, but some people in Jacksonville were not too sure. Letters going out of Jacksonville during the epidemic were slit and subjected to the sulphur fume treatment, just as they had been in Europe a half century earlier.

The Jacksonville letters can only be told by the dates in the postmarks, and the slits. On the contrary, the European fumigated can easily be told by the hand-stamp, usually in French, but sometimes in Italian, explaining the drastic treatment the letter had received. However, not all fumigated letters received the postal marking.

Today such diseases have either been completely eliminated, or put under control, but as so often happens our collections remain mirrors of history, and have their story to tell of an era not too long ago, when barbaric health customs were still practiced.



ERRATA

. . . Noticed that the dates on Type 2 and 3 examples were deleted. . which makes the paragraph about Type 2 example a bit confusing. Spent months trying to find that Dec. 22 cover or one close to the different town marking of Dec. 23 and couldn't believe my good fortune when Bert Christian showed me his. . so perhaps you might want to include an update in the next column:

Type 2 was Dec. 6 and Dec. 22.

Type 3 was Jan. 10; Aug. 20; and Dec. 23.

These are all the covers I've been able to find. . .

Alyce Evans

. . . In piecing the article to fit your format, paragraphs and tables got misplaced, losing continuity, the strong point of the system. And four town were left in transportation. I'll be glad to send readers directions for rearranging the paragraphs, etc. And enlarged Tables II set of ten sheets on 8 1/2 by 11 will be sent to readers for Xerox duplicating costs. . .

Warren Tingley



1303	Theo Van Dam Box 26 Brewster, NY 10509
1304	Robert M. Shaw 24 Ford Place Murray Hill, NJ 07974
1305	Willis F. Cheney Halladay Road Middlebury, VT 05753

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1291 | Royce Walston
P.O. Box 8954
Waco, TX 76710 |
| 1292 | Frank W. Crowther
39 Sterling Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889 |
| 1293 | Rev. Elwood S. Poore
212 W. Live Oak
Jacksboro, TX 76056 |
| 1294 | Peter S. Wisner
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Thiells, NY 10984 |
| 1295 | Henry Chlanda
Box 1531, Wall Street Station
New York, NY 10005 |
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Bartlett, TN 38134 |
| 1297 | Seaton E. Mendall
526 E. Bluff Drive
Penn Yan, NY 14527 |
| 1298 | James R. Alexander
5825 Cardwell
Waco, TX 76710 |
| 1299 | Prof. S. Morris Engel
6417 W. 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90048 |
| 1300 | Bradford D. Sheff
P.O. Box 24044
Tampa, FL 33623 |
| 1301 | Craig A. Engel
P.O. Box 108
Arnold, CA 95223 |
| 1302 | Paul Dowling
17 Saddle Club Drive
Midland, TX 79701 |

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 725 | Joe H. Crosby
6943 S. Olive Way
Englewood, CO 80112 |
| 842 | Charles Yuspeh
5800 Fleur De Lis Drive
New Orleans, LA 70124 |
| 1001 | Kenneth T. Steward
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*if you have not paid
1980 dues, you will
receive no further issues
of
this newsletter -- sorry.*