

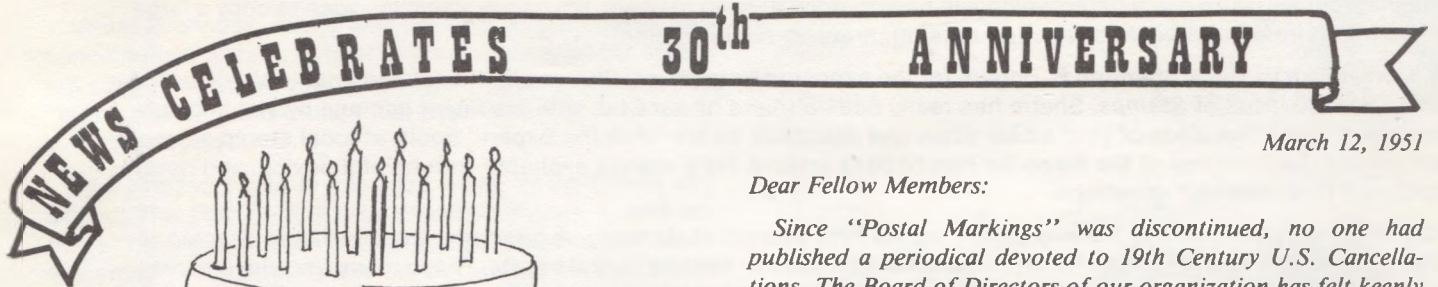


Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 15, NO. 8

WHOLE NO. 166

MARCH 1981



March 12, 1951

Dear Fellow Members:

Since "Postal Markings" was discontinued, no one had published a periodical devoted to 19th Century U.S. Cancellations. The Board of Directors of our organization has felt keenly the necessity for such an organ and this, the first issue of "U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly," is the result. Mr. Root our Secretary-Treasurer has, in addition to his other duties, taken on the task of editing the Quarterly.

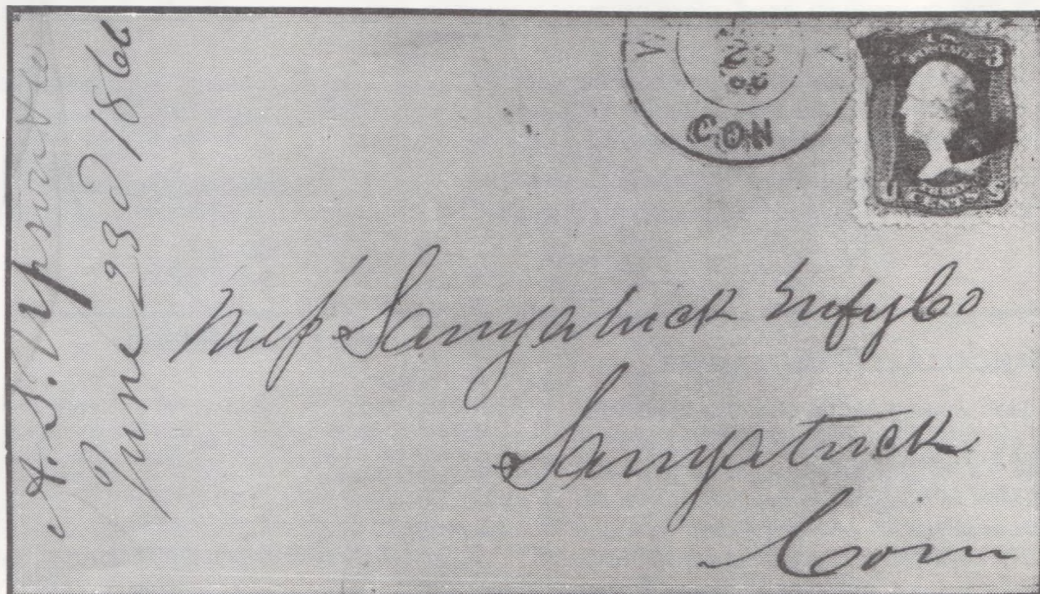
It goes without saying that no matter how good a job Mr. Root attempts to do, the success of the magazine will be largely in the hands of the members themselves. They must supply him with the material from their collections; they must write articles based on their own experiences, knowledge and observation. By disseminating the specialized knowledge of individuals, we can make this publication one that all of us will want to preserve since the literature on cancellations is indeed scanty.

Please don't hide your light under a bushel. If you have material which you think would interest others, get in touch with Mr. Root.

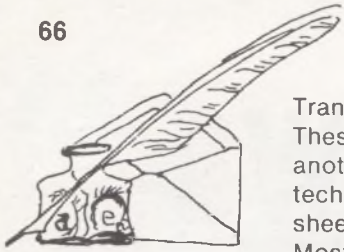
Cordially yours,

Leonard V. Huber
President

Thirty years ago, in April 1951, the first issue of our publication was published (it was then called the U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly). It is an appropriate time to express our appreciation for the efforts of our first editor, Charles D. Root, who for over twenty-four years labored successfully to make this club the primary organization for U.S. postal markings and cancellations. The first issue contained a letter that we are reproducing here and which was written by the President at that time. It is as timely today as it was thirty years ago.



In a Siegel sale last year, a Waterbury "T" was offered as "unlisted, extremely Rare & Possibly Unique." Recently, another cover from Waterbury with a "T" cancel has been found, which would seem to deny the "possibly unique" status of the Siegel offering. (See above.) Are there any more out there?



Transparent acetate "overlays" can be of great benefit to the cancel or postmark researcher. These transparencies make it easy to compare the size and design of one cancel against another by simply placing the overlay on the example to be compared. Due to modern Xerox technology, one can make his own overlays by simply substituting a clear, special acetate sheet for the plain paper normally used in an ordinary Xerox or other photocopying machine. Most "Instant Printing" concerns who offer photocopy facilities can provide this service for you. It's not cheap, being about 75¢ for a complete 8½ × 11 copy, or you can order the sheets from Xerox for 45¢ a page, which will handle from 30 to 40 cancels. It's handy when you wish to copy a large page from a reference book, or auction catalog. It surely beats tracing!

We would like to thank Sherman E. Rogers for the exposure he gave our Club in his "Philatelomania" column in the Dec. 27, 1980 issue of *Stamps*. Sherm has really been a friend of our Club with his fluent pen and by yielding submissively to the demands of your editor when she descends on his "Ask the Expert" booth at local stamp shows, armed with back issues of the News for him to pass around. He's always available with helpful advice, and never too busy to answer our questions.

The Indiana Postal History Society published its first Journal in January. A quarterly, the Journal is devoted to every aspect of Indiana Postal History, from territorial days to modern postal events. Those members who are interested in contributing research or subscribing, may contact our member — editor Robert Rhodehamel, P.O. Box 128, Carmel, IN 46032.

The article by Bert Christian, *Pen Cancel vs. Pin Cancel* in this issue has a Confederate corollary. Brian Green, writing in the Fall 1980 issue of *Strictly US*, relates the South used inferior glue during the Civil War, causing improper adhesion of their stamps. One enterprising person used needle and brown thread to sew a stamp to a cover. Mr. Green goes on to state this cover, known as the "Boydton Sewn Cover" is unique to Confederate philately.

If member participation warrants, we'd like to begin comprehensive tabulation of every known US fancy cancellation used during the banknote period. The end result of these tabulations will be issued as a loose-leaf publication. In our opinion the preferable way to publish research material on cancellations is in a loose-leaf form, to allow for additions and corrections to be included easily. We would like to publish as much background information as we can acquire on each cancel, including postmaster, origin, comparative rarity, color, dates of use, and types of ink used. We will also include information on known fraudulent cancels. It has often been said that the way to get information for a second book is to write the first, because readers immediately advise you of errors and omissions. Unfortunately, too often the second book never gets written.

To avoid this possibility, the use of a loose-leaf format will allow us to continuously update the original publication. We sincerely request that all members review their collections and forward to us photocopies of all fancy cancel strikes on cover (or on piece where the origin is shown) of their banknote material. If the cancellation is indistinct, please include a tracing or drawing of the strike, and any additional information you might have concerning the cancel. Those wishing to become involved in this research project please advise us. We really need your assistance.

If the front page of your issue has a red dot, it means that our records show that you are delinquent in the payment of dues for 1981, and this will be your last issue unless payment is received. Send your six dollars to Box 286, Bonsall, CA 92003.

Due to the ever-increasing cost of postage and publishing costs of the Newsletter, it seems expedient to forego first class mailings and to try third class bulk mailings. This will reduce our mailing cost by 70%. Since third class mail is not forwarded, please let us know immediately of an address change.

We will reproduce the Barry and International Machine Cancel books if enough readers are interested in ordering them. We estimate the cost per volume to be approximately five dollars. Those interested, please let us know right away.

Alyce

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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Alyce Evans, Editor,
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by Herb McNeal

Fancy cancellations and postmarks from Florida post offices are scarce and sought after by collectors of the state's postal history. The relative scarcity is perhaps due to the fact that there were relatively few post offices in the state when fancy cancellations were so much in vogue — about 1870 to 1890.

Unusual shapes, sizes, and designs of postmarks and cancellations (in fact, almost any deviation from the standard single line circle cds) is enough to qualify as a Florida "fancy cancel," and those illustrated herewith are clearly in that category.

Two rimless circle fancies are those of Fort Reid and Cocoa. The Fort Reid, F1, is shown in Figure 1, and appears to be struck from a hand-carved wood cut, as does the small star cancellation on the stamp of the 3-cent green entire. The post office was established in Seminole County in 1873, and discontinued in 1903.

Cocoa, Fla., Indian River is shown used with #210 in Figure 2. The month, day, and year are shown in a small double-line inner circle. Cocoa is located on the Indian River, in Brevard County.

Large, double-line octagons are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. Orange Mills, located on the St. Johns River in Putnam County, was established in 1850, discontinued in 1910, re-established in 1912 and discontinued in 1925.

The Tangerine octagon (Figure 4) includes county name (Orange), and is combined with a "wheel of fortune" cancellation. The post office, established in 1881, is still in operation.

Figure 3

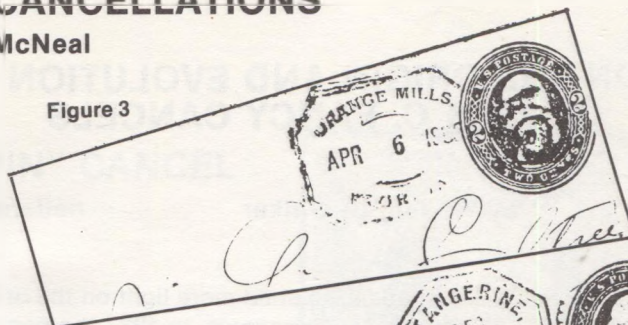


Figure 4

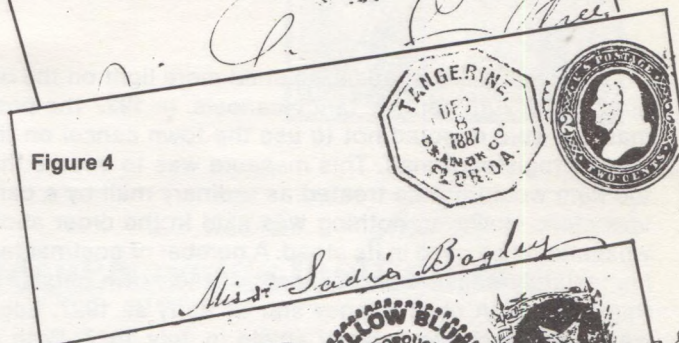


Figure 5

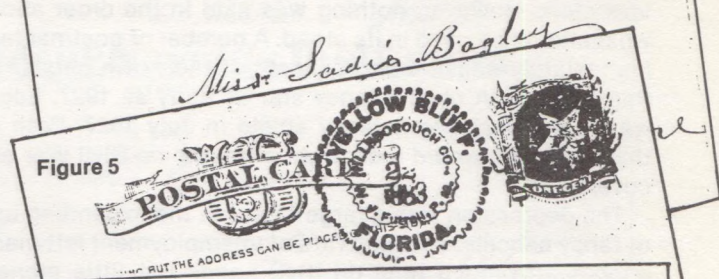


Figure 6

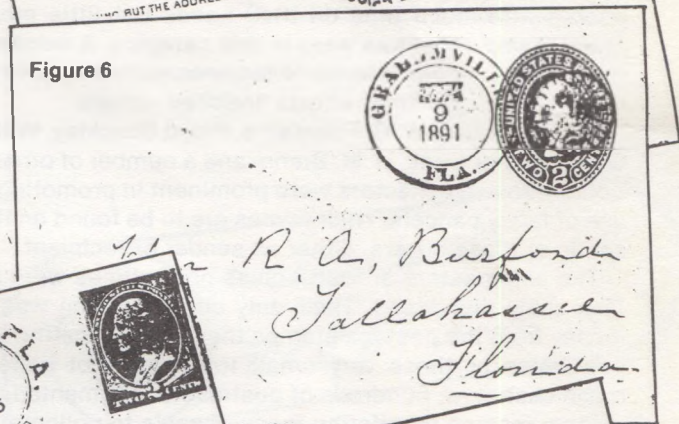


Figure 2

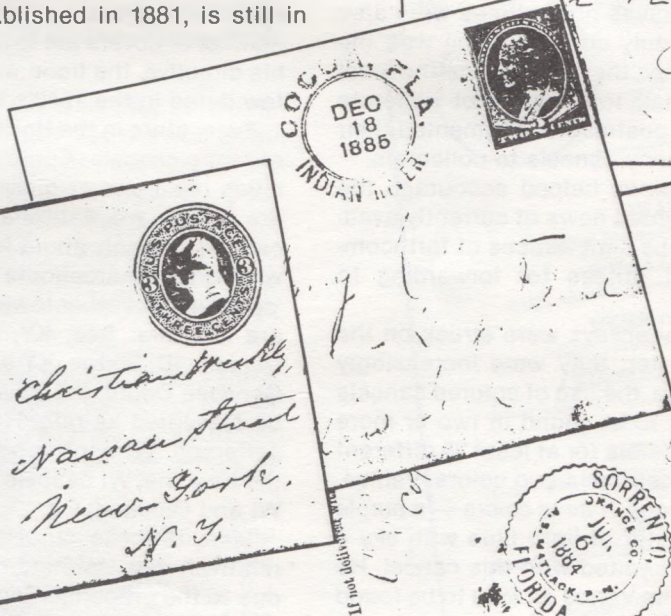


Figure 1

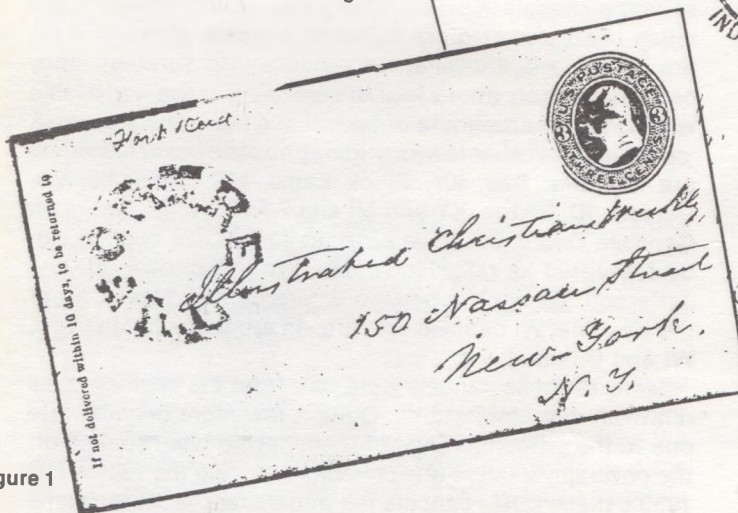
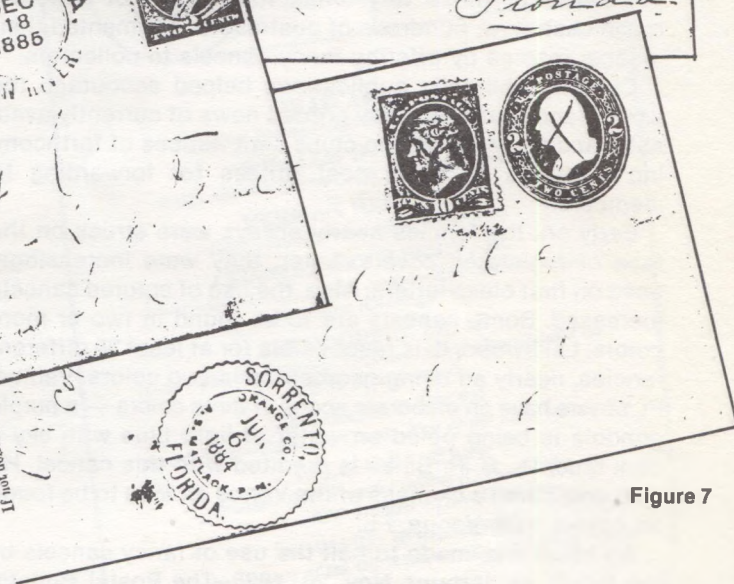


Figure 7



One of the fanciest Florida cancellations is that of Yellow Bluff, in a double serrated or cogwheel circle. Shown in Figure 5, it includes both county and postmaster names, and is combined with a negative star cancellation. The post office existed from 1875-1877 and 1882-1888.

Another serrated circle is shown in Figure 6. Sorrento's postmark also included county and postmaster names in a plain inner circle, and is known without the outer circle. Established in 1878, Sorrento is now a post office in Lake County.

Grahamville (Figure 7) qualifies as a fancy cancel because of its bold, serified letters in a double circle, as well as the accompanying "wheel of fortune." A stop on the route of the Ocklawaha River steamers in Marion County, Grahamville became a post office in 1875 and the office was discontinued in 1910.

Illustrations from the writer's collection.

Data on establishment and discontinuance of offices from "A Chronology of Florida Post Offices," Alford G. Bradbury & E. Story Hallock, Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs (1962).

ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF 20TH C. FANCY CANCELS

by William C. Walker

These words are intended to shed more light on the origins of the 20th century fancy cancels. In 1927 the postmasters were directed not to use the town cancel on the face of registered mail. This measure was to ensure that the item would not be treated as ordinary mail by a careless clerk. However, nothing was said in the order about what should be used in its stead. A number of postmasters immediately began using cancels of their own choosing. San Rafael, CA used a fancy star as early as 1927. Edgewater, NJ employed a fancy shield in July 1927. Both of these cancels would look 'right at home' on Civil War era covers.

The depression was a large factor in the expanding use of fancy cancels. The high rate of unemployment left many people with much time on their hands but little money. Many stamp collectors were in this category. A number of them with a special interest in fancy cancels helped in promoting their use. Their efforts 'inspired' others.

Dr. B. R. Bales, W. G. Fountaine, Floyd Shockley, William Gilley, Walter Brink, H. M. Brehm and a number of other nationally known collectors were prominent in promoting the use of fancy cancels. Their names are to be found on thousands of these covers, either as sender or recipient.

The postmasters of fourth class post offices were also financially distressed. Their only compensation was the money from the postage stamps they sold. Since the local population of these very small towns did not generate much cash flow, hundreds of postmaster augmented their meager income by offering fancy cancels to collectors.

Obliging philatelic publications helped encourage the use of fancy cancels. They printed news of currently available fancies. Many stamp clubs sent notices of forthcoming meetings to these post offices for forwarding to members.

Early on, the fancies nearly always were struck on the face of registered covers. Later, they were increasingly used on first class letters. Also, the use of colored cancels increased. Some cancels are to be found in two or more colors. Lakewood, IL is responsible for at least 35 different fancies, nearly all being geometrics in two colors. Venice, FL covers have an elaborate scene in three colors — a purple gondola is being poled on water of light blue with sky a dark blue. Dr. B. R. Bales is credited with this cancel. He also originated a likeness of the Venus de Milo to be found on covers from Venus, FL.

An effort was made to halt the use of fancy cancels by the P.O.D. as early as Nov. 20, 1928. The Postal Bulletin 14849, Section 9, states: "Correspondence received at the department indicates that quite a number of postmasters are using unauthorized rubber stamps for the purpose of canceling stamps on registered mail, the evident intent of many of these stamps being to advertise some particular locality, city or some local event. The use of these unauthorized canceling devices on registered mail should be immediately discontinued and only such canceling devices used in canceling stamps on registered mail as have been authorized by the department."

CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS



PATRICKSBURG, IND.
3-17-34 (Reg.)
One Green Strike



BEE, KY.
6-22-34 (Reg. & B.S.)
8-6-34 (First Class)
Purple, Blue, Green



ELKTON, MICH.
11-4-30
(Reg. & B.S.)



11-10-30
Black
FILER CITY,
MICH.
(Reg. & B.S.)



GENESEE DEPOT, WIS.
9-14-29
(Reg. & B.S.) Black



SHAROCK, OKLA.
4-19-30 (F.C.)
One Black Strike

This directive had about as much effect as would emptying the contents of a water pistol on the Chicago Fire. Study of a large number of the fancies reveals that 1929 saw more, rather than less fancy cancels.

Other efforts were subsequently made to eradicate the practice with a similar lack of success. In 1934 the Third Assistant Postmaster General made a strenuous effort to halt their use and succeeded to a large degree. Although a number of covers are to be found with dates subsequent to his directive, the flood was reduced to a trickle with only a few dated in the 1940's and 1950's.

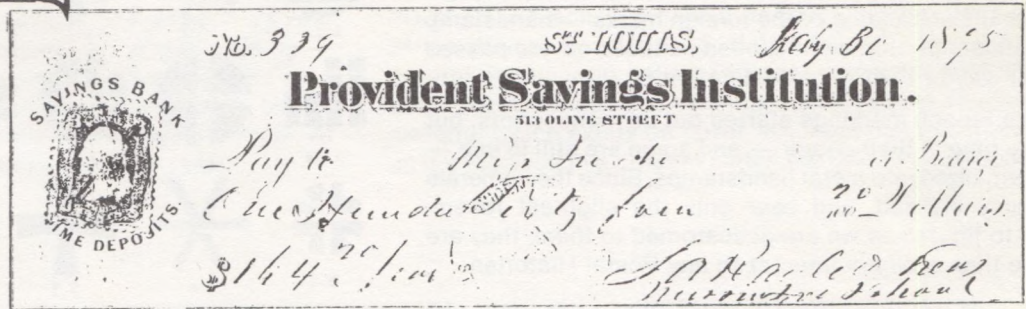
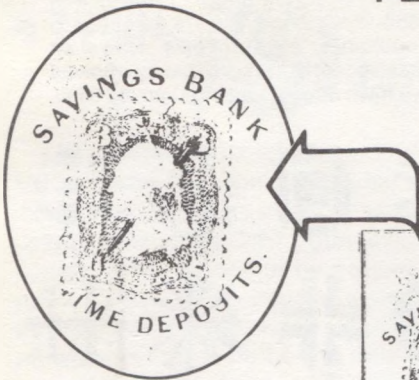
Every state in the Union but Rhode Island saw the usage of fancy cancels. Approximately one thousand towns and cities used one or more different cancels. Many of them are rather rare. Talcville, NY produced 18 different fancy cancels but only about four of each were made and at this writing the whereabouts of even these few are unknown. A 'sprinkling' of other towns originating fancy cancels which are rare are: Bee, KY, Black Eagle, MT, Callaville, VA, Daniels, ID, Elkton, KY and MI and Filer City, MI. Although Genesee Depot, WI 'gave birth' to 43 fancies, over 30 can be classified as rare. Horseman, WI, Indiantown, FL and Jefferson, WI each produced a rare cancel. Nearly all of the Keshina, WI cancels are rare, as are those of Madison, WI and Oakland, CA.

Many of these cancels were rare from the beginning, as relatively few were struck. Quite a few more became rare due to the preponderance of them having been soaked off the covers by dealers and collectors. During the 1940's and 1950's these fancy cancels fell into disrepute. At the same time, much of the franking used to cancel them increased in catalog value to the point that the stamps on the covers could be sold more readily than the covers intact. Countless thousands were destroyed this way.

In a future edition of USCC News we will publish correspondence between postmasters and collectors of these cancels. It should be of help to those wanting a better insight of the origins of the 20th century U.S. Fancy Cancels.

Readers having pertinent information are invited to share it with fellow members and correspondence is welcomed. Address is 102 Elizabeth St., Clearfield, PA 16830.

PEN CANCEL vs "PIN" CANCEL
by C. W. Bert Christian



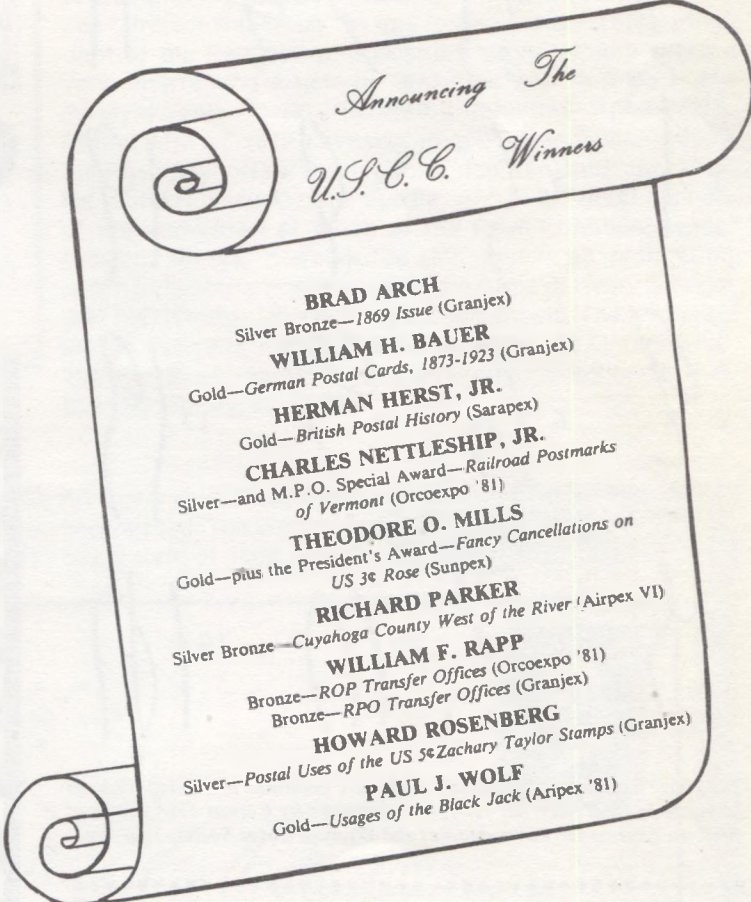
Collectors with an interest in the stamps issued during the Civil War years, and in use in the immediate post-war period, are no doubt aware that regular-issue postage stamps were often substituted for revenue stamps. Most values of the first issue revenues were available for use late in 1862 or early 1863 but, with the country so deeply involved in the war effort, shortages of many items and in many areas occurred. It is evident that all cities and towns did not have adequate supplies of all revenue values at all times.

The postal regulations up to the end of 1862 stated, in effect, that the only tax stamp that could be used on an instrument or article was a revenue that so specified on the face, i.e. playing card revenue only on a deck of cards, bank check stamp on a check, etc. After that date the rule was relaxed and there was some indiscriminate use of the various revenues. In instances when a revenue shortage was absolute the postage stamp was usually available as a substitute.

Some firms employed a rubber handstamp for cancelling revenues but for the most part they were cancelled by pen and ink, usually the firm's initials and date or, as in the case of checks and promissory notes, often the initials of the borrower or the lender.

Most collectors shy away from a pen-cancelled stamp but how about a "pin"-cancel as on the check pictured above? As the stamp is not otherwise cancelled, was the pin really intended to obliterate? First thought is that the stamp was attached by the pin but it still remains securely affixed by its own gum. There is little doubt the pin is original for it is solidly rusted into position as it has been for the last 25 years of present ownership.

Perhaps in 1875 pins were 'in' for the additional rust-holes indicate the check was probably long pinned to another document. The stamp is not of the later gridded printing and the date of 1875 seems late for postage-revenue substitution. Whatever the reason for the pinned postage, one of our 19th century school treasurers unknowingly created a novel paycheck for Mifs Tucker.



- BRAD ARCH**
Silver Bronze—1869 Issue (Granjex)
- WILLIAM H. BAUER**
Gold—German Postal Cards, 1873-1923 (Granjex)
- HERMAN HERST, JR.**
Gold—British Postal History (Sarapex)
- CHARLES NETTLESHIP, JR.**
Silver—and M.P.O. Special Award—Railroad Postmarks of Vermont (Orcoexpo '81)
- THEODORE O. MILLS**
Gold—plus the President's Award—Fancy Cancellations on US 3c Rose (Sunpex)
- RICHARD PARKER**
Silver Bronze—Cuyahoga County West of the River (Airpex V1)
- WILLIAM F. RAPP**
Bronze—ROP Transfer Offices (Orcoexpo '81)
Bronze—RPO Transfer Offices (Granjex)
- HOWARD ROSENBERG**
Silver—Postal Uses of the US 5c Zachary Taylor Stamps (Granjex)
- PAUL J. WOLF**
Gold—Usages of the Black Jack (Aripex '81)

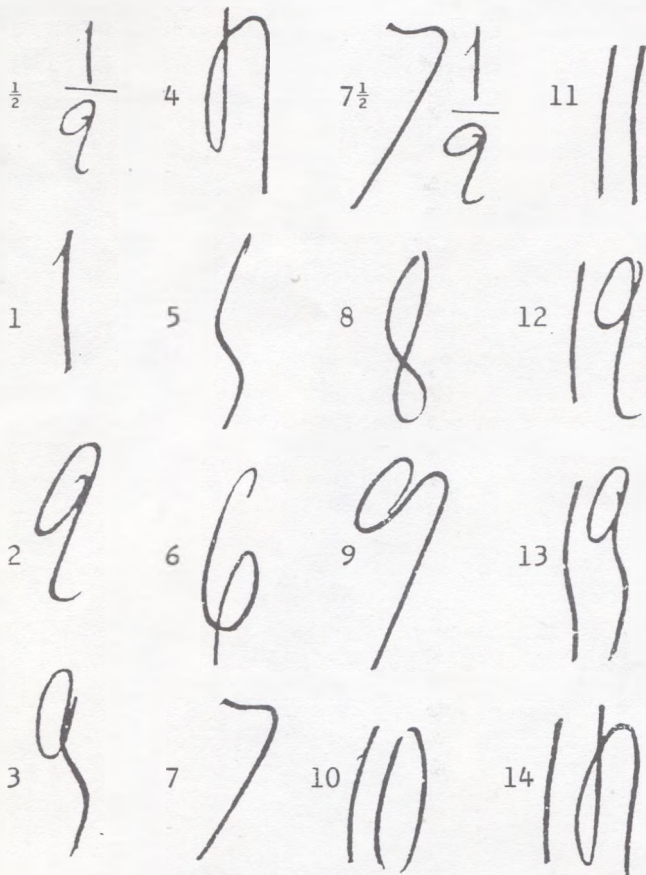
FRENCH POSTAGE DUE MARKINGS

by Paul J. Wolf

Someone is sure to ask the question: "Why show a page of French Postage Due markings in the U.S. Cancellation Club News?" We specialize in the markings of the United States.

The reply is simple. Such markings appear on a great many covers sent from the United States to various locations abroad, U.S. covers of great merit and interest, and quite often the interpretation of them includes a requirement for understanding of the foreign marks — handstamp and manuscript, that were applied as these covers passed on their way to their final destination.

These French markings started out as manuscripts, but at some time in their career — and some are still in use — were formalized into metal handstamps. Since the numerals are highly stylized, and bear only the slightest resemblance to figures as we are accustomed to them, they are of more than ordinary interest to any Postal Historian.



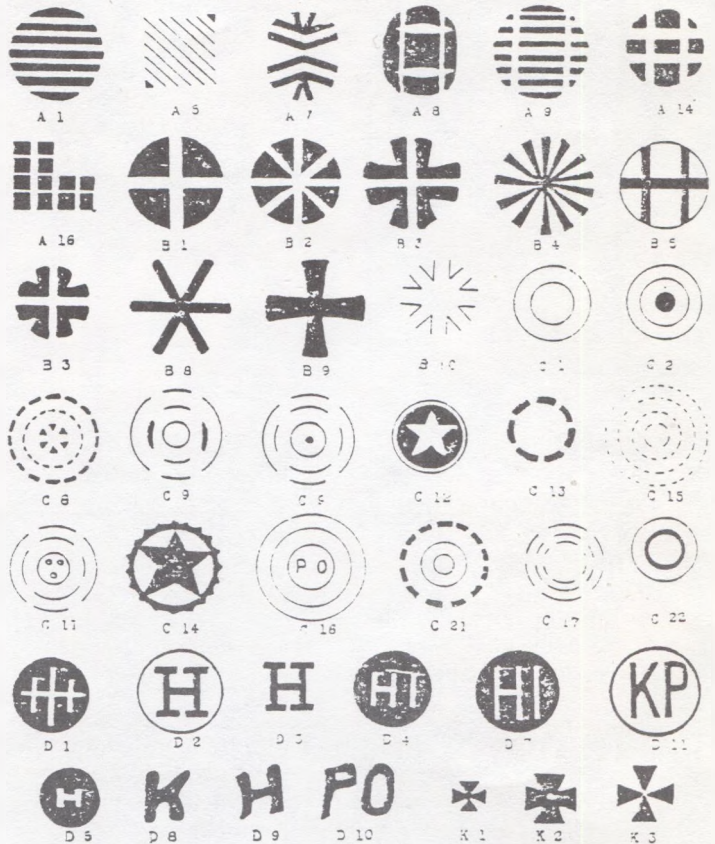
The above markings (reduced half size), were published in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal Aug. 31, 1907, and reprinted by Everett Erle, editor of Western Express the publication of the Western Cover Society years ago.

STAMP THEFT COMMITTEE

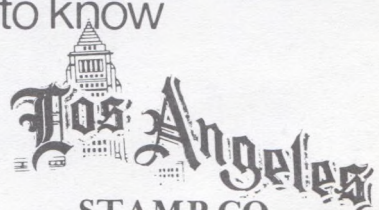
Maryette B. Lane is chairman of the APS Stamp Theft Committee. All stamp thefts should be reported immediately to Lane, 490 23rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33704, telephone (day, night, or weekend) 813-898-7328.

HAWAIIAN POSTAL MARKINGS

One would expect to find the following cancels in any book on U.S. Fancy Cancellations (actually, one of these is shown in the Eno-Skinner book). However, these had their origin in Hawaii and were used there during the 1859-1900 period. We are indebted to Ted Mitchell, editor and publisher of *Mitchell's Hawaiian Philatelist*, who published these recently and graciously allowed us to reproduce them, which we have done, reducing them by 50%.



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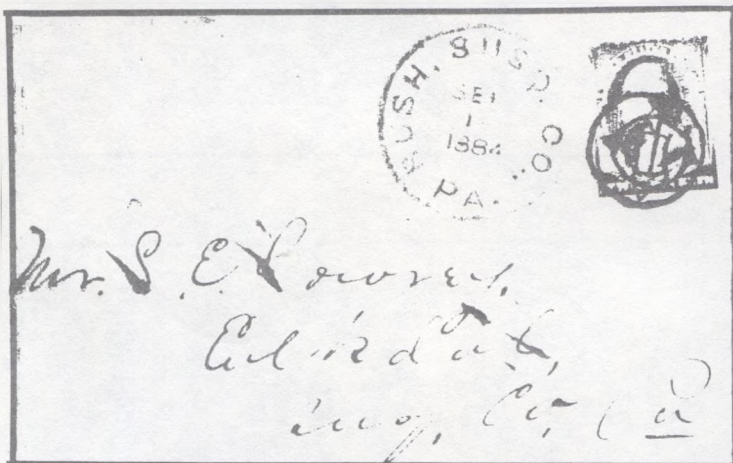
For Love Of A Cancel _____ by Alyce Evans _____

A TURIN,  N.Y. GEOMETRIC

Like biting into an apple and finding half a worm, having half a cancel and wondering what the other half looks like, can sometimes be just as frustrating. We finally found a cover which showed the entire cancel and ended a six year search. It turned out to be nothing out of the ordinary — just a simple, nicely carved geometric from Turin, NY on a 2¢ green of the 1887 period. Just another geometric, but for all we know, it could be the only one known on cover. At any rate, we can finally lay our curiosity to rest!



Page 181 of the Eno-Skinner book lists the "W in Anvil," PO-Wt 61 in black. We have it on cover, in blue with a blue 26mm Winchester, Ct. CDS, dated Aug 22. I've talked to several people who have additional listings to add. Let's share our information by sending in photocopies of unlisted material which exists on cover. We'll publish this material as it's received in a column called the Eno-Skinner Update.



In response to our Rush, PA article in the Nov. News, Brad Sheff sent this cover from Rush, which is cancelled with a commercially manufactured "POD" in blue with a matching blue CDS, and used on the 2¢ red-brown of 1883, two decades after the Rush find. Brad is researching the towns which used this marking. For further information see "Project Research" in this issue. Joe von Hake, president of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society wrote a very entertaining article on these early Rush finds in the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, the journal of the PPHS. Armed with an 1872 township map of Grangerville (where the Rush post office was located), Joe went door knocking. He found Russell Kunkle, age 84, who is the great nephew of the addressee of much of the Rush correspondence, Rebecca Kunkel (Kunkle). Joe also uncovered information which indicates a postmaster by the name of Henry Granger was responsible for whittling those cancels. The four page article includes the 1872 township map of Grangerville. The PPHS address for those interested members is P.O. Box 309, Darby, PA 19023.

My suspicions were immediately aroused when this VOLCANO, WV cover was offered to me last year and I refused it because it was apparent the stamp had been added. The stamp was grilled (grilled stamps were not issued until 1867) and the CDS has a date of 1866. Equally apparent was the "tie" of the target cancel to the cover... it had been added by a different shade of ink (both the CDS and target cancel are in blue). Close examination under a stereomicroscope confirmed my suspicions. Last week this cover was sent to me again. I wish the dealer would get it off the market for good, or give it to the "SCRAP" program (Stamp & Cover Repository & Analysis Program), a joint effort by the Classics Society and the Philatelic Foundation for research and study of fakes. People who knowingly try to sell 'doctored' and faked material should be dropped in the same volcano as those individuals who "trash-can" their fake P.F. Certificates, and immediately offer this fake material for sale; their loss to philately would be negligible.



A BRIEF AND INCOMPLETE POSTAL HISTORY OF SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

by David J. Simmons

Ed: We received an interesting manuscript from Dr. Simmons which records some of the postal history of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Because of space limitations we cannot publish it in its entirety, but excerpts from the article follow. For the cost of xeroxing and postage (50 cents in stamps) we will be happy to send to those interested members the full article and a detailed map of South Hadley in 1865 showing residences and names of occupants.

South Hadley, Massachusetts is home to Mt. Holyoke College, and my interest in the postal history of the town is simply an accident of time . . . I courted and married a student of the College. And between those events, I amassed a large quantity of mail postmarked at South Hadley. I've always wondered how many cover collections began in that way?

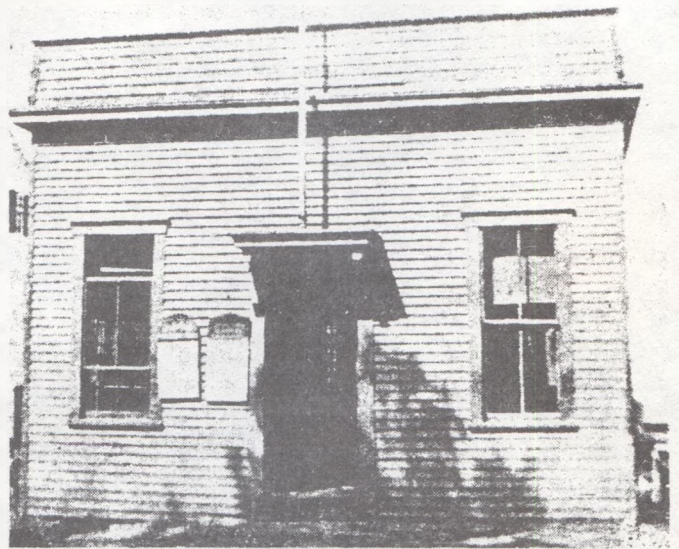
This history is taken, for the most part from a series of notes which were compiled in a rather charming fashion for publication in the *200th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of South Hadley (1753-1953)*.

A deed is recorded on August 8, 1662, showing that John Pynchon of Springfield acquired or bought from the Indians 500 acres of land in what is now a part of South Hadley. The cost was 150 fathoms of wampum and a few other considerations. This deed was given by Weequogon, his wife Awonusk, and son Squomp. The wampum was made of shells shaped into beads, pierced and strung on string, and was valued at about 750 shillings.

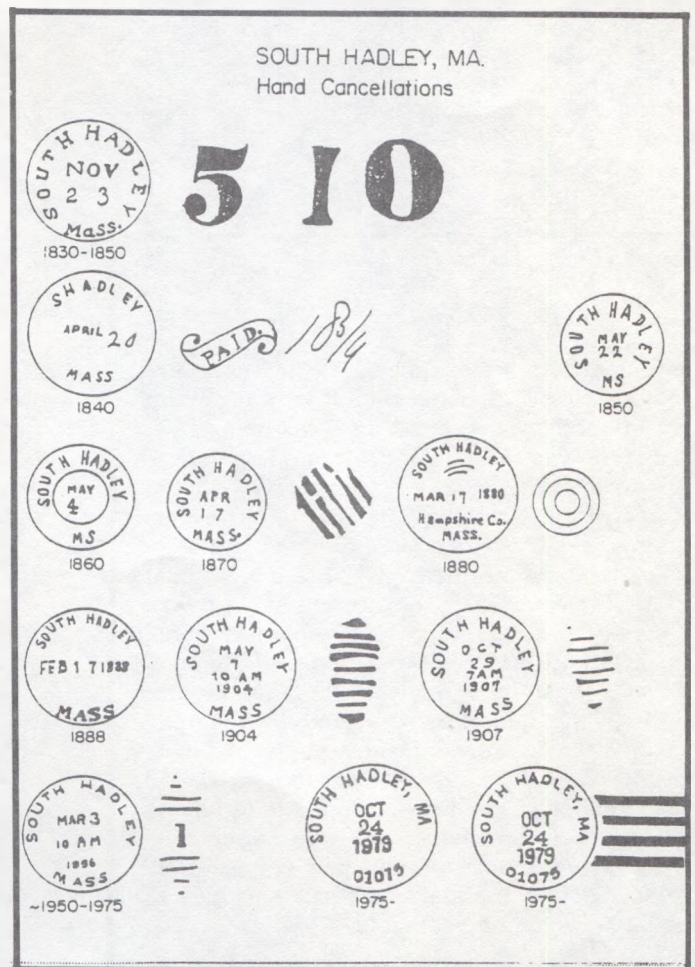
In 1803, a post office was established in South Hadley. The list of Postmasters and dates of appointment were:

William Taylor	January 1, 1803
Ralph Snow	January 12, 1811
Daniel Warner	December 8, 1814
Daniel Lamb, Jr.	December 30, 1819
Andrew Henry	August 11, 1820
David Chandler	February 26, 1821
Andrew Wright	May 18, 1835
Gilbert A. Smith	March 3, 1838
David Chandler	July 1, 1841
Gilbert A. Smith	January 26, 1847
George L. Smith	June 28, 1849
Orson G. Couch	April 25, 1857
Gilbert Morgan Smith	May 1, 1861
Thomas White	December 24, 1891
Marie E. White	July 30, 1904
Daniel J. O'Connell, Jr.	January 13, 1914
John H. Preston	April 30, 1923
Robert A. Glesmann, Jr.	May 25, 1936
John G. Barry	January 3, 1963

My collection of South Hadley cancellations does not include material from 1803-1829. The accompanying illustrations begin in the year 1830 and are self explanatory. From 1830 through 1845, my examples were struck in red ink, with green ink used on July 27, 1849 and October 3, 1850 (top line, 10¢ rate). The "PAID" cancellation with the 10¾ rate ms. rate notation and those struck thereafter are all in black ink. The earliest cover with a geometric "killer" in my sample was dated April 17, 1872. I have no doubt that my collection is incomplete, so I invite any and all correspondence so that a fuller history of the South Hadley post office can be written at a future date. Interested members may write me at 12043 Spruce Haven Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141.

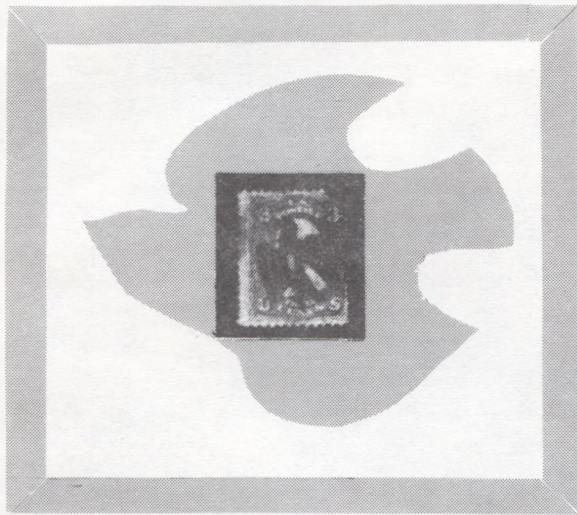


The old Post Office



MY FAVORITE CANCEL

by Jean West



I acquired the accompanying Rockford, Illinois BLUEBIRD quite by accident.

I stopped in for a visit with a local stamp dealer and mentioned an article I had read about someone who collected fancy cancellations (being an artist, I had found the idea of fancy cancels very intriguing, even though I had never seen any). He said he knew nothing about them — had never had any calls for them — but went over to his safe and brought out an old stock book.

After going through many pages, he finally stopped and handed me a stamp. My heart skipped a beat. It was love at first sight! The stamp was a U.S. #65 with a small corner gone, but dead in the center was a beautiful brilliant blue bird. I was frantic, wondering what I'd do if I couldn't afford it. When I asked how much it was, he thought for a minute and then said, "I guess five dollars would cover it."

At that moment I became a stamp collector specializing in 19th century fancy cancels. I've been collecting them now for about seven years (if I'd only known sooner) and I must admit I fall in love with almost every acquisition. The excitement of a find or a special bargain or something unusual never wears off. But the Rockford, Illinois Bluebird is still my favorite, and the "show piece" of my collection.

Ed: The illustration shown here is taken from a colored photograph which shows the stamp mounted on a large, blue, artistically-drawn bluebird and mounted with a blue border. Mrs. West writes she mounts her special stamps on appropriate art work, incorporating her own original designs or works of famous artists.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Two Letter S's and one Letter T in heavy negative block letters on LINCOLN STAMPS—#148, 159, 186 or 208. Dan Lincoln, Greenhurst, NY 14742

WANTED TO BUY: I would like to purchase postmarks, and especially cancelled covers from any town named UPSHAW. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, I know of three towns named UPSHAW—one on Cobb Co., GA, one in Winston Co., AL, and another in Missouri. There may have been others of which I am unaware, but I would like to purchase any postal material from any town named UPSHAW. Please write, giving description, condition and price. Ted O. Brooke, 79 Wagonwheel Ct. NE, Marietta, GA 30067

PROJECT RESEARCH

The Empire State Postal History Society is doing a revision of their publication "Manuscript Post Offices of New York State." The editor, Henry Chlanda, informs us the last edition was published in 1973 and it consisted of 40 pages with 2,000 listings of the different manuscript towns known. As the new edition is planned for later this year and he would like to be as up-to-date as possible, Henry requests our members to send in any information they might have. He wants as much date information as possible (month, day and year) along with a description of the type of cover (stampless, #11, #26, etc.). Duplicate towns are fine as he is listing early and late dates. Send information to Henry Chlanda, P.O. Box 1531, Wall St. Sta., New York, NY 10005.

Brad Sheff is tabulating all towns which used this commercially prepared, intertwined "POD." Numerous towns used this monogram marking. If you have any examples of this cancel on cover, send the name of the town, date of use (if given) and the stamp used, to Brad Sheff, Box 24044, Tampa, FL 33623.



Another member, Bill Claghorn, is researching the towns which used the cancel shown at right. It is a black oval 38 x 49mm with a negative large US 25mm high and small PO 5mm high and two large 6mm cuts for normal reading town and state. It is found on U294 series envelopes and concurrent stamps. Can anyone add other towns or information? Send photocopies or tracings to Bill at 230 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024.



Our Director, Hubert Skinner, requests help with regard to New Orleans cancels used during the 1872-1884 period. He would like members who have full covers to xerox these and include the backs if they have pertinent information such as receiving marks, year-dated docketing, etc. Dr. Skinner mentioned these killers were changed more than once a week during much of the 1872-1884 period and he is trying to detail the span of use of all the types. Off-cover material is useless unless it is on a piece large enough to show the town circle and dating information (even the month and day can help). Any interesting or unusual cancels before 1872 would be appreciated also. Send your photocopies to Dr. Skinner at P.O. Box 4097, New Orleans, LA 70178.

WANTED: Ellipse-type cancels with centers of numerals, letters, etc. on common stamps of the 1880s—esp. accum. of 2¢ browns & 2¢ greens. Stamps only or on scraps of paper with part or all of the dater, or on 2 x 4s or plain covers. Warren Tingley, 1627 Riverside Rd., Apt. 409, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

INTRODUCTORY OFFER: 25 percent off on purchases of most well-known stamp and coin supplies. Send 28¢ postage and mailing label to: Valuable Heritage Collectors Supplies, P.O. Box 195, Darlington, WI 53530

THE TALE OF TWO LIBERTY BELLS

by N. Leonard Persson

Not every philatelic surprise needs to involve the expenditure of a great deal of money. Nor does the thrill of discovery need to be associated with a monetary bonanza. One of the dividends of postal history collecting is the continuous possibility of non-monetary surprise and discovery when least expected.

Personally, I find I have a rather strong tendency to try to pair or match items in an attempt to "tell a story." I find it most rewarding to attain a 20th century postmark coinciding with my collecting interest and then pair it with a nice photo postcard of that town's Main Street taken in the approximate period of postmark usage. A cover showing the purser marking of an Alaskan gold rush steamer can be rare and, if located, quite expensive. But many times the search for a picture postcard of that same ship can be more difficult even though, if found, the card may only cost a dollar or two.

Pairing covers may include a letter to and a letter from, for example, a certain territorial town or prison camp. Last day usage of a postal rate and first day usage of the new rate can make a nice album page. Only the collector's imagination limits the possibilities of matching covers or cards.

All of the above is in preface to a story which I could not have dreamt up — even in my wildest imagination!

Back in the 1930's when I was a little tad, my father was appointed executor of the estate of one Peter Cerelius of St. Paul, Minnesota. After all estate matters had been settled, there were some extraneous papers to be disposed of. The only two items of which I am aware that were preserved were Mr. Cerelius' homestead deed and an envelope from Stockholm, Wisconsin, bearing a pretty red stamp depicting the Liberty Bell (Figure 1). Dad told me to keep the whole envelope and not to tear off the stamp. (Not bad for a non-collector.)

All these years I have kept this item as the first cover I ever owned.

Last summer I attended a stamp show in Minneapolis and spent several hours going through all the dealers' cover stocks — the good albums and the cheap "shoe boxes." Now, if a cover is clean, of some peripheral interest and cheap enough, I suppose I might very well buy it. The cover pictured in Figure 2 was priced 20¢. I bought it.

A month or so later I just happened to compare it with my first "Liberty Bell" cover and was surprised to note it, too, had been posted in Stockholm, Wisconsin. But that wasn't all. The year, day, and even the time of posting were all exactly the same! So here are two envelopes both addressed to St. Paul, Minnesota, but to *different* parties which very well could have been postmarked by successive strikes of the same handstamp — reunited after 45 years.

Now that's what I call "Pairing Covers"!

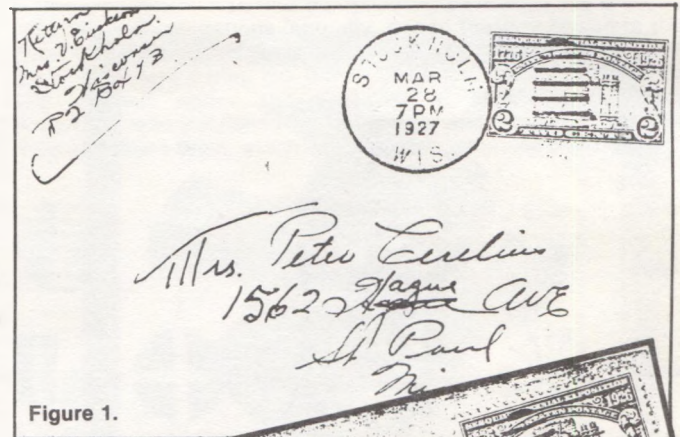


Figure 1.

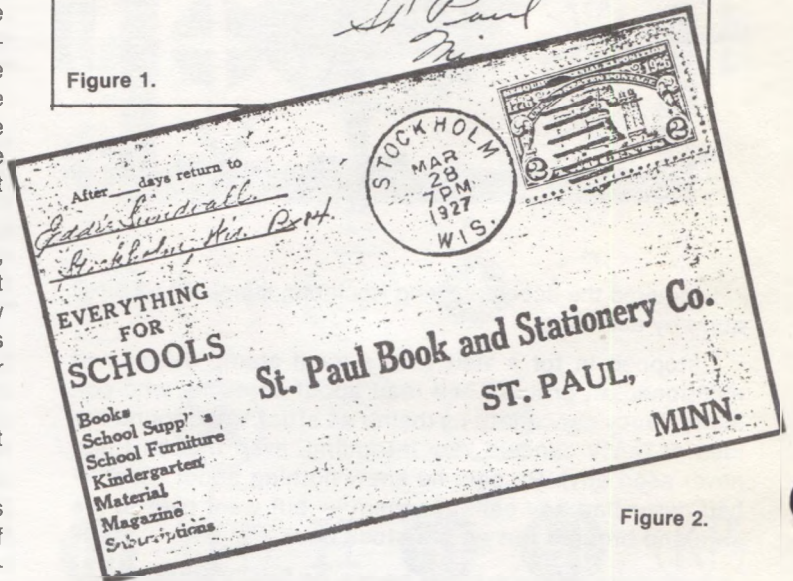
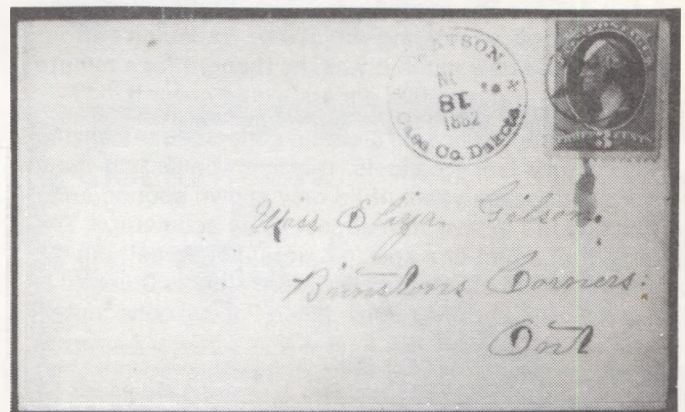


Figure 2.



Brad Sheff sent this cover and noted there were five interesting features about it:

1. a 3¢ banknote used to Canada
2. a territorial cover
3. county postmark
4. star cancel
5. inverted date

Individually, these aspects are rather common, but when they are all together they become the features of an unusual cover.

**CONTENTS OF
THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB LIBRARY
January 1, 1981**

The following is a list of those items — books, journals, auction catalogues — that comprise the Library of the U.S. Cancellation Club. Any member of the Society may borrow from this Library upon request. We do ask that for each request you pay a nominal charge of 50 cents (Mint U.S. stamps are acceptable) to help defray the costs of postage and, of course, pay the return postage.

Books will be loaned for a period of 30 days, and can be requested by writing to: William H. Bauer, USCC Librarian, Box 721, Wheaton, IL 60187.

The Librarian openly solicits additional contributions for the Library. Such contributions should be related to postal markings and cancellations or to postal history, in keeping with the purposes of the organization.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

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THE U.S. CANCELLATION INDEX by Chester M. Smith, Jr., and Joseph D. Hahn (*U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Volumes 1-10)

Postal Markings

19th CENTURY UNITED STATES FANCY CANCELLATIONS, 1951 second edition revised, by Herman Herst, Jr. (Michel Zareski)

20th CENTURY UNITED STATES FANCY CANCELLATIONS (With 1967 Pricing Guide by R. L. Markovits) 1952, by Foster W. Loso and Heyliger de Windt

A CATALOG OF RAILROAD COMPANY, STREET RAILWAY COMPANY, & EXPRESS COMPANY PRINTED CANCELLATIONS ON THE 1898 U.S. REVENUES, edited by Richard D. Fullerton

A CHECKLIST OF STREET RAILWAY POST OFFICES 1891-1929, 1961, by Robert A. Truax

BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOK, Volume 33, *19th CENTURY UNITED STATES FANCY CANCELLATIONS*, 1972 revised edition, by Herst-Sampson

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METER STAMP PRICE LIST, 1955 first edition, by Walter M. Swan

OLD BAY LINE (BALTIMORE STEAM PACKET COMPANY) MAIL, 1965, by Jesse G. Johnson

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PRICE PREDICTIONS — Volumes One & Two, 1947, by Joseph Ensign Granville

RAILROAD POSTMARKS OF THE UNITED STATES 1861-1886, 1968, by Charles L. Towle and Henry A. Meyer

RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES MANUFACTURERS AND IMPRESSIONS, 1946, by K. F. and V. M. Olson

A REGISTER OF SHIPS AND POSTMARKS OF THE U.S. NAVY, 1946, by Joseph A. Frayne and Deane C. Bartley

Simpson's U.S. POSTAL MARKINGS — 1851-1861, by Thomas J. Alexander (1979 edition)

THE MAIL OF THE A.E.F. — AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES 1917-1921, 1940, by Hennen M. Sanford

THE TALE OF THE KICKING MULE, 1949, by Lee H. Cornell
TROLLEY CAR MAIL SERVICE IN PHILADELPHIA, 1971, by Wylie H. Flack and Robert J. Stets

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SLOGAN CANCEL CATALOG, 1963 edition, by Moe Luff

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CALIFORNIA *POSTMARKS OF RAILWAY POST OFFICES AND ROUTE AGENTS IN CALIFORNIA 1973*, by Clarence D. Brenner

COLORADO *COLORADO POSTAL HISTORY — SOME EARLY RAILWAY POSTAL ROUTES*, 1974, by John H. Willard

DAKOTA *POST OFFICES AND POSTMARKS OF DAKOTA TERRITORY*, 1973, by George H. Phillips

FLORIDA *FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL MARKINGS DURING THE STAMPLESS PERIOD*, 1957, by Mrs. Harold Major Pickett, Kenneth L. Rice, and Henry M. Spelman III

INDIANA *THE POST OFFICES OF SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA*, 1956, *Postal History Bulletin No. 4*, by the Evansville Stamp Club, Evansville, Indiana
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KENTUCKY *POSTMARKED KENTUCKY — A POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FROM 1792 to 1900*, by Alan T. Atkins

LOUISIANA *THE GREAT MAIL*, 1949, by Leonard V. Huber and Clarence A. Wagner

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- POSTAL FACILITIES AND POSTMARKS, DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, THE TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA, AND THE TERRITORY OF MISSOURI, 1804-1821, 1960 revised**, by C. Corwith Wagner
- PRE-TERRITORIAL AND ORLEANS TERRITORY TOWN MARKINGS** by Hubert C. Skinner (Article in the NOPEX '72 Exhibit Program)
- MAINE** **MAINE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTMARKS, 1943**, by Sterling T. Dow
- MASSACHUSETTS** **BOSTON POSTMARKS OF 1890, 1949** (1974 Quarterman reprint), by Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis
- THE POST OFFICES OF MASSACHUSETTS**, by Elwyn J. Doubleday
- MICHIGAN** **MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN, 1958**, by Milton L. Greenebaum
- MISSISSIPPI** **THE POSTAL HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI, STAMPLESS PERIOD 1799-1860, 1969**, by Bruce C. Oakley, Jr.
- MONTANA** **MONTANA TERRITORIAL POST OFFICES**, by Harry L. Fine (Article in the *American Philatelist*, Vol. 89 #9)
- NEW HAMPSHIRE** **SCARCITY GUIDE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE POST OFFICES**, by E. J. Doubleday and H. B. Stevens
- NEW JERSEY** **DISCONTINUED POST OFFICES OF NEW JERSEY, 1975**, by Stanley E. Griffith
- NEW MEXICO** **NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG**, by Sheldon H. Dike
- NEW YORK** **THE NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS 1870-1876, 1942**, by Edwin Milliken
- NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS, 1968**, by Arthur Van Vlissingen and Morrison Waud
- OKLAHOMA** **INDIAN TERRITORY MAIL, 1966**, by Gaspare Signorelli and Tom J. Caldwell
- RHODE ISLAND** **PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND — POSTAL MARKINGS AND CANCELLATIONS BEFORE TWENTIETH CENTURY, 1959-1960** (reprints from U.S. Cancellation NEWS), by John H. Smith
- SOUTH DAKOTA** **THE POST OFFICES OF SOUTH DAKOTA 1861-1930, 1975**, by George H. Phillips
- VERMONT** **A SCARCITY AND VALUE RATING OF THE POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS FROM THE DISCONTINUED POST OFFICES OF VERMONT**, by Micahel J. McMorrow
- WISCONSIN** **EARLY WISCONSIN RAILROAD POSTMARKS, May 1950**, by Roland L. Hustis (Bulletin #4 of Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs)
- FLAG CANCELLATIONS OF WISCONSIN POST OFFICES, May 1948**, by Kenneth F. Olson (Bulletin #3 of Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs)
- A LIST OF ALL KNOWN POST OFFICES IN THE TERRITORY AND STATE OF WISCONSIN FROM THE FIRST P.O. ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 1821 TO OCTOBER 1917, 1948**, by the Wisconsin Postal History Group
- STRAIGHT LINE POSTMARKS OF WISCONSIN, May 1946**, by Paul H. Segnitz and Ray Van Handel (Bulletin #1 of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs)
- UNITED STATES TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG — WISCONSIN STAMPLESS COVER SECTION, 1950**, by E. N. Sampson
- Confederate States**
- CONFEDERATE PATRIOTIC COVERS, INCLUDING A CHECK LIST OF ALL KNOWN DESIGNS, 1943**, by Van Dyke MacBride
- SOME NOTES ON THE POSTAL LEGISLATION OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA 1861-1865, POSTAL RATES, EARLIEST KNOWN DATES OF USE OF THE STAMPS OF THE GENERAL ISSUES 1946**, Stanley B. Ashbrook
- CRAZY CONFEDERATES OR BOGUS ADHESIVES, 1969**, from "Confederate Philatelist," Vol. 13, No. 7, by H. F. Rooke
- Stamps Of The United States**
- THE GENERAL ISSUES OF UNITED STATES STAMPS, 1909**, by Eustace B. Power
- THE UNITED STATES COLUMBIAN ISSUE, 1893, 1942**, by A. A. Lauzon
- THE UNITED STATES TWO CENT RED BROWN OF 1883-1887, (Two Volumes) 1970**, by Edward L. Willard
- NOTES ON THE GRILLED ISSUES OF THE UNITED STATES, 1940**, compiled by Lester G. Brookman
- TEN DECADES AGO 1840-1850 — A STUDY OF THE WORK OF RAWDON, WRIGHT, HATCH, AND EDSON OF NEW YORK CITY, 1949**, by Winthrop S. Boggs
- United States Postal Stationery**
- UNITED STATES STAMPED ENVELOPES — ILLUSTRATED AND IDENTIFIED, 1939**
- UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD CATALOG, 1965 edition**
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NASSAU STREET, 1960, by Herman Herst

THE NOBLE OFFICIAL CATALOG OF UNITED STATES BUREAU PRECANCELS, 48th Edition, January 1966, by G. C. Mynchenberg and Horace Q. Trout

THE PICTURE POSTCARD & ITS ORIGINS, 1966, by Frank Staff

PONY EXPRESS, 1936, by Edward S. Knapp

SHIPS OF THE U.S. NAVY LOST AND DAMAGED IN WORLD WAR II WITH KNOWN POSTMARKS, 1946, by Joseph A. Frayne and Dean C. Bartley

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THE EDWARD S. KNAPP COLLECTION — PHILATELIC AMERICANA, Part II, Parke-Bernet Galleries, November 3-8, 1941

THE GEORGE W. HALE COLLECTION OF UNITED STATES FANCY CANCELLATIONS, Robert A. Siegel Sale #171, April 29

THE OUTSTANDING COLLECTION OF U.S. TERRITORIAL COVERS FORMED BY HERBERT T. DARLINGTON, Samuel C. Paige, December 7, 1956

UNITED STATES STAMPS, COVERS, SPECIALIZED CANCELLATIONS, John A. Fox, November 14, 15, 16, 1960

UNITED STATES SPECIALIZED COLLECTION: 1847 ISSUE, 12¢ BLACK 1851-1857 ISSUES, 3¢ GREEN COLLECTION (WILLIAM R. STEWART), Robert A. Siegel #203, October 7, 1957

CANCELLATIONS AND COVERS OF THE UNITED STATES #6 1861 ISSUE (B. H. HANDY), The Collectors Shop, Sale #110, November 12, 1953

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(J-B Publishing Co.)

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SHIPS AND POSTMARKS OF THE U.S. NAVY

Volume 1 #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS — U.S. Cancellation Club
All issues are available, although many early issues are copies, not originals. The U.S.C.C. News is loaned in units as follows:

Volumes 1 & 2 1951-1955

Volumes 3 & 4 1956-1959

Volumes 5 & 6 1960-1963

Volumes 7 & 8 1964-1967

Volumes 9 & 10 1968-1971

Volumes 11 & 12 1972-1977

Volumes 13 & 14 1978 to date

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
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1000 W. Saddle River Rd.
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423 | 1348 George F. Krieg
501 S. Armstrong St.
Kokomo, IN 46901 |
| 1335 Duncan W. Gwynn
304 E. 20th St., #2-D
New York, NY 10003 | 1349 Justin A. Underwood
1040 W. River Rd., N.
Elyria, OH 44035 |
| 1336 Robert H. Rhodehamel
5320 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208 | 1350 L. A. Weillbacher, Jr.
723 N. Charlotte
Columbia, IL 62236 |
| 1337 Millicent Witz
P.O. Box 229
Brooklyn, NY 11210 | 1351 Ronald A. Czplicki
P.O. Box 4039
Inglewood, CA 90309 |
| 1338 Ernest S. Webb
4751 Windmill Rd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001 | 1352 Eugene N. Costales
P.O. Box 308
Garden City, NY 11530 |
| 1339 John W. Watts, Jr.
2633 Western Hills Dr.
Donelson, TN 37214 | 1353 David O. Semsrott
1392 Justerini Dr.
Ballwin, MO 63011 |
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7 Wishing Well Circle
Penfield, NY 14526 |
| 1341 Louis B. Green
7051 Fair Oaks Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45237 | 1355 Wm. H. Shafer, Sr., M.D.
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Winchester, VA 22601 |
| 1342 Frank Mandel
54 Barrow St., Apt. 1-B
New York, NY 10014 | 1356 Clyde Jennings
319 W. 70th St.
Jacksonville, FL 32208 |
| 1343 Kirk Wolford
P.O. Box 151
Twain, CA 95984 | 1357 Richard W. Cutts, Jr.
249 Walnut Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 |
| 1344 David F. Marik
3738 W. Mangold Ave.
Greenfield, WI 53221 | 1358 Mrs. Pat Feiner
P.O. Box 5637
Huntington Bch. CA 92646 |
| 1345 Martin H. Toly, Sr.
111 Lamson St.
Syracuse, NY 13206 | 1359 Dr. Robert M. Lynn
7320 Baylor Ave.
College Park, MD 20840 |
| 1346 R. Edward Prall
P.O. Box 236
Spring Valley, CA 92077 | 1360 C. W. Bert Christian
2287-D Via Puerta
Laguna Hills, CA 92653 |
| 1347 William B. Robinson III
1641 Bruce Lane
Green Bay, WI 54303 | |

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Denver W. Henline Box Q Burnthills, NY 12027	Donald E. Makinen Rt. 2 Box 38 Freeport, TX 77541
J. R. Kesterson P.O. Box 8097 Cincinnati, OH 45208	Richard F. Philip 1614 Forest Hill Dr. Aiken, SC 29801

Milton G. Wicker
508 Lindley Road
Greensboro, NC 27410

RESIGNED

J. V. Woollam

EXPELLED:

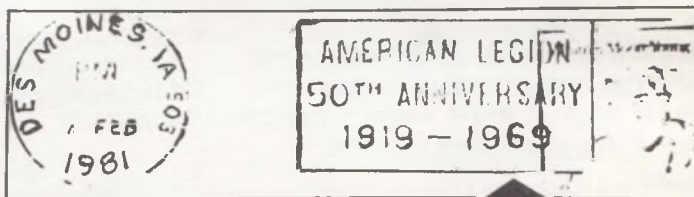
Maurice Grossmann

Ed: We have omitted the new members' collecting interests this month because of space limitations. These interests will be included in the May issue, which will list all the members and their collecting interests.



THE MAIL BAG

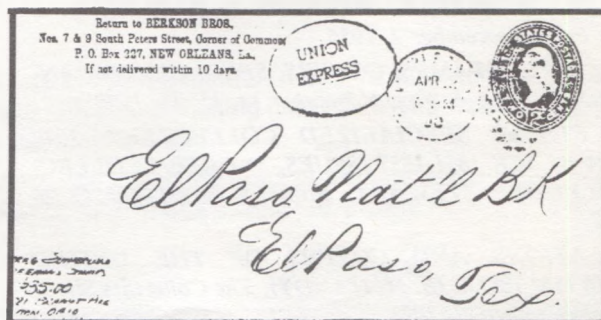
12 YEARS LATER -----



Member Ruth Grissmann who has been editor of the *Iowa Postal History Society* since 1972 has sent the following:

Enclosed is another bit of "Hanky Panky at the Post Office" but of a different sort. These cancellations showed up on Des Moines mail during January to mid-February. I wrote the Des Moines Postmaster, William D. Burch, for an explanation. He thanked me for calling it to his attention. His explanation, "Special cancellations are authorized for use by the United States Postal Service Headquarters for a specific period of time. A die hub is manufactured to fit our letter sorting machines and reflects the special cancellation. When the specific time for use expires, we retired the die hub to our supply office. In this particular case, the die was inadvertently retrieved from Supply and activated. As a result of your letter and our investigation, we have re-emphasized to our personnel the importance of strict control procedures to preclude any future errors of this nature."

THE QUESTION CORNER



We borrowed the above cover from member Greg Sutherland to pursue the unusual **red** UNION EXPRESS OVAL marking which overlaps the New Orleans, LA. CDS dated APR 22 6 PM 90. Both the 25mm CDS and barred oval are in black. The backstamp has a 28mm CDS of El Paso, Tex. and is dated Apr 27 6 PM 1980 with a barred target. Both CDS and target are in black. We have checked *The Great Mail* and other sources and can find no mention of a "Union Express" Company, and would appreciate a response from any reader who can supply some information on this marking.