



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 15, No. 11

WHOLE NO. 169

SEPTEMBER 1981

FAKED SUPPLEMENTARY MARKINGS

by N. Leonard Persson

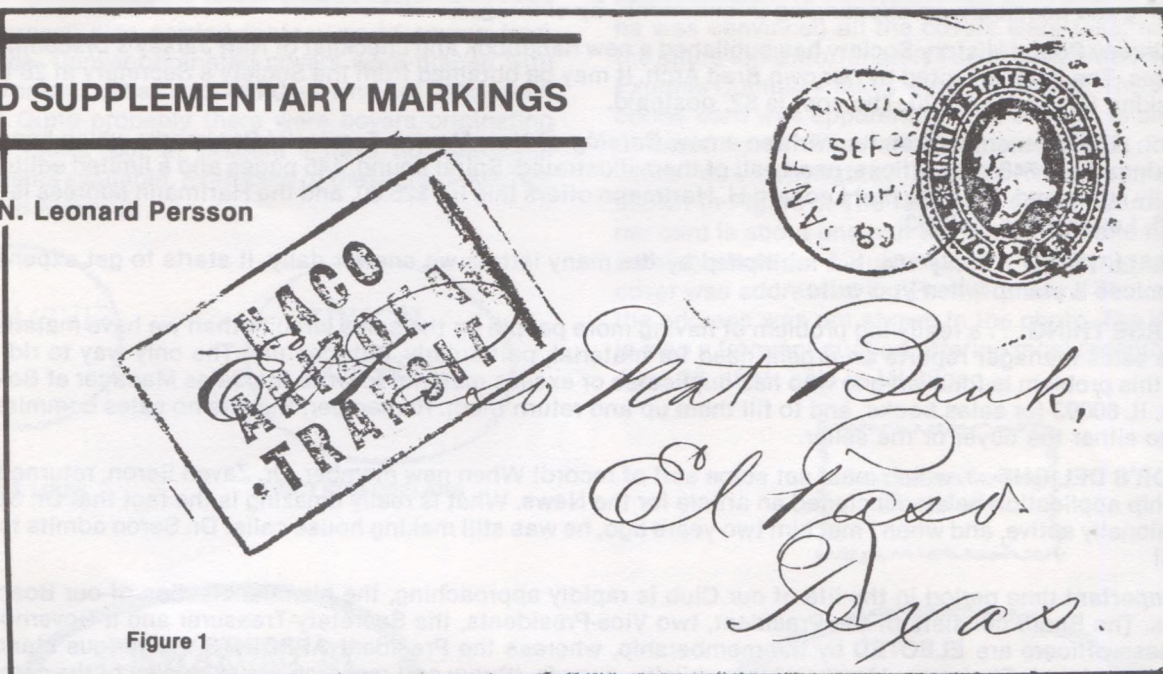


Figure 1

"Imaginative Fantasies" was the term given by one collector to a group of "improved" covers hatched in the Midwest some two to three decades ago. These covers with the fantasy handstamps added were:

- Not too skillfully produced — though they fooled some pretty good cover people for a while.
- Not cleverly conceived — the monotonous similarity was a key to exposure as frauds.
- Not carefully researched — the indicated or suggested usages were ludicrous.
- And not smartly distributed — if financial gain indeed was the motive, the project failed miserably.

The fantasies, in general, were produced starting with legitimate, fairly cheap covers postally used from the late 1880's into the early 20th century. A various assortment of rubber handstamp markings were added in red and blue ink with a myriad of in-between shades.

The perpetrator and producer of the covers was a part-time dealer from the Chicago area. He frequently took bourse tables at the local shows. His tables were popular since he consistently seemed to maintain a large stock of very legitimate collectible material. He was a most congenial and likable person, and even after he was recognized as a cover faker many in the philatelic fraternity thought of him more as an impish little boy caught with his hand in a cookie jar than as a crook. Although expelled from a major philatelic society, he occasionally shows up as a visitor at stamp shows.

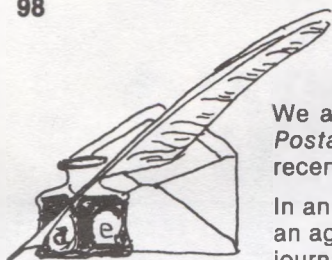
Apparently the first widely produced fake marking from this source read "NACO/ARIZONA/TRANSIT" in three

straight lines framed in a rectangle (Fig. 1). It is struck in red or magenta on covers postmarked usually around 1889 at San Francisco. Some bear a printed bank corner card. Those not having a return address bear a dated Bank of California oval handstamp on the reverse side of the envelope. The covers were addressed to the El Paso National Bank or its cashier, W. H. Austin, and most carry the El Paso, Texas, postal receiving backstamp.

I purchased my first "NACO" at a relatively high price from a reputable source in the mid 1950s. Shortly thereafter I had the opportunity to show this "what had to be unique" cover to Dr. Sheldon Dike, compiler of the New Mexico Territorial Catalog. Dr. Dike then showed me his "unique NACO." The two covers were generally identical, varying only in the San Francisco and El Paso posting and receiving dates. This pair of covers, of course, raised some questions: Could a letter traveling between two major cities go strangely astray — off the route — out of the mail bag — or what have you? Could such an unusual occurrence happen twice? Why would anyone at little Naco even have such a handstamp, etc., etc.?

Shortly thereafter Dr. Dike began receiving more reports of this strike as other territorial collectors began submitting examples for recording. Still later the "NACO ARIZONA TRANSIT" began appearing on other than El Paso Bank covers. At least one cover from the 1880s with a 2¢ Brown is known dated earlier than the bank covers. Incidentally it should be noted that Naco didn't get a post office until 1899! Another cover has been seen with this marking used in conjunction with Parcel Post stamps.

Continued On Page 99



We are indebted to author-member **CHARLES DEATON** for donating a copy of his *Texas Postal History Handbook* to our Library. Deaton's, a stamp firm based in Houston has recently moved to 7273 Brompton Rd., Houston, Texas 77025.

In an effort to add to our philatelic library, and to save subscription costs, we have entered an agreement with the Vermont Philatelic Society to exchange copies of our News for their journal, *The Vermont Philatelist*. Their back issues are being sent to our library with an Index, in exchange for ours. I would appreciate those members belonging to other state societies investigating the possibility of exchanging publications. By sharing, we all benefit!

The New Jersey Postal History Society has published a new handbook and checklist of *New Jersey's Discontinued Post Offices*. The book is edited by our own Brad Arch. It may be obtained from the Society's Secretary at 28 Briar Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. The cost is \$2, postpaid.

Dr. Sheldon H. Dike, member 434, has written a new *Catalog of New Mexico Territorial Postmarks* which has over 2250 markings from 748 post offices, nearly all of them illustrated. Spiral bound, 145 pages and a limited edition of 200, serially numbered. We note that Leonard H. Hartmann offers this for \$25.00, and the Hartmann address is P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233.

IT'S A SMALL THING . . . only 18¢, but multiplied by the many letters we answer daily, it starts to get expensive. Please enclose a stamp when you write.

IT'S A LARGE THING . . . a really big problem of having more people on the sales circuits than we have material to send. The sales manager reports an urgent need for material, particularly 19th century. The only way to rid ourselves of this problem is for everyone who has duplicates or excess material to write the Sales Manager at Box 83, Winnetka, IL 60093 for sales books, and to fill them up and return them. Remember, there is no sales commission charged to either the buyer or the seller.

AN EDITOR'S DELIGHT . . . which must set some sort of record! When new member, Dr. Zaven Seron, returned his membership application he also included an article for the News. What is really amazing is the fact that Dr. Seron is professionally active, and when I met him two years ago, he was still making house calls! Dr. Seron admits to the age of 83!

A most important time period in the life of our Club is rapidly approaching, the biennial election of our Board of Governors. The Board consists of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-Treasurer and a Governor-at-Large. These officers are **ELECTED** by the membership, whereas the President **APPOINTS** the various standing committees and their Chairmen. Membership, publicity, awards, library and research are examples of the committees appointed by the President, who also appoints the editor, executive secretary and sales manager.

We invite any member who has the desire to serve his Club in any of the above capacities to please let us know. Don't be afraid to nominate a fellow member (with his permission, of course) who might be too modest to submit his own name, and whose talents you feel would be a valuable asset to the Club. *We need you to become involved!*

I will be attending SESCAL in October and would welcome the opportunity to meet those members planning to attend this event. I'll be at the APS table on Saturday, the 17th, at 2 PM. Perhaps we can have an informal get-together.

With best philatelic wishes,

Alyce



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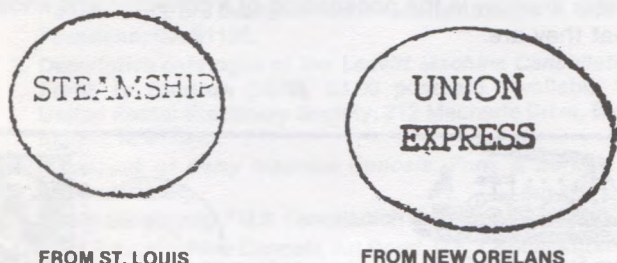
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FAKED SUPPLEMENTARY MARKINGS

Continued From Front Page

The second wave of El Paso Bank covers featuring added auxiliary markings did not involve a single shot cachet but a volley of fantasies. The stars and oval or shield frames were different, but the letters from a rubber print set were unmistakably identical. Bank corner carded covers from St. Louis now carried a "steamship" mark; those from New Orleans read "Union Express" and from Fort Worth we were given "Forwarded By Great Western Express." The "Union Express" also carried fantasy-world covers from Pecos, Texas. Denver-originated covers were graced with "Pacific Express." (That was weird — why not "Mountain Express"?) Quite probably there were covers originating from other cities, but at present I have no additional reference items available. Examples of these five markings are shown in Figure 2.



FROM FORT WORTH



UNION
EXPRESS

FROM PECOS, TEXAS



PACIFIC EXPRESS CO.



FROM DENVER

Figure 2

About the same period of time as when the "supplemental carrier" markings were becoming a common sight, two unusual handstamp "corner cards" began finding their way into the stocks of some unsuspecting dealers. I first was shown the Wells-Fargo and Adams Express corner cards in 1968. A Mr. Schlessinger of Arcadia Stamp Co. had a pack of the El Paso Bank covers containing several examples each of the Wells-Fargo and Adams items. When he was convinced all the covers were fake, he destroyed the entire lot. Unfortunately I do not recall to whom the two Express Company fakes were addressed. The Wells-Fargo corner card was apparently novel enough to earn a listing in Leutinger's *The Handstamps of Wells, Fargo & Co.* which was copyrighted in 1968. The two markings are shown in Figure 3. The facsimile of the Adams fancy corner card is about one-half the actual size and taken from a catalog photo for a July 20, 1981, California auction. The cover was addressed to "Prof. Ottoway." The remainder of the address was not shown in the photo. The Wells-Fargo is also a frequent auction offering most recently noted in a June 28, 1981, sale in Michigan.

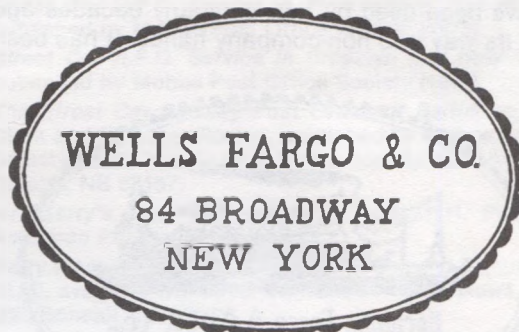
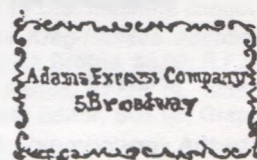


Figure 3

Apparently our creative faker didn't throw away his printing set when his El Paso covers were exposed or when his stock of them became exhausted, for in the late 1960s there appeared two new fantasies on previously unnoted sets of correspondences. The first set featured the "S.S. River Dennis"; the other, the Hermann Ferry & Packet Co. The story of the S.S. River Dennis by David Gronbeck-Jones appeared in *Linns Stamp News*, October 25, 1976.

Ed: For further examples of the "PAQUEBOT" markings, readers may refer to the August 1974 American Philatelist which also discusses the S.S. River Dennis markings in an article entitled "Spurious Paquebot Marks."

Fake markings on covers in this group include those in Figure 4. It should be emphasized that the lettering used in "PAQUEBOT" in the cogged oval is identical with the tag lettering in the strikes shown in Figure 2. There is great similarity in the double fancy oval frames of the S.S. River Dennis and Wells-Fargo. the dimensions vary slightly but neither tracing was taken from an original cover.

See Next Page

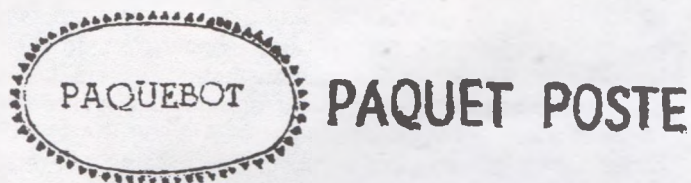


Figure 4

Finally we come to the very common Hermann Ferry & Packet Co. cachet. The packet boat handstamp could very well have been used by that company decades ago later finding its way into non-company hands. It has been seen

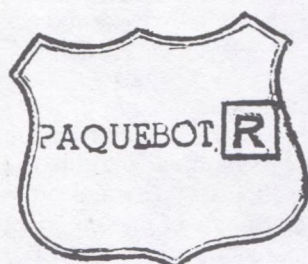
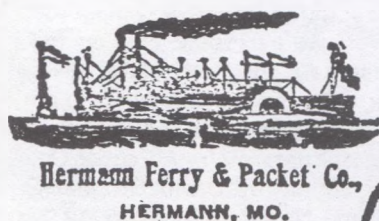
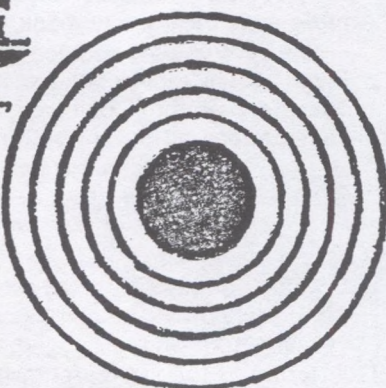


Figure 5



struck on waybills and on covers apparently as a return address and for some unknown reason, on either the face or reverse of various covers. Most of the Hermann Packet Boat and its associated sister handstamps appear on covers addressed to Langenberg & Co. of Cooper Hill, Mo. The strike varieties shown in Figure 5 include the packet boat with and without frame, "PAQUEBOT R" in a shield and the large bull's-eye in five rings. The last is only known struck on the backs of envelopes. Evidence linking these with the El Paso covers and suggesting a common creator are the uniquely-shaped letters in "PAQUEBOT." A Chicago cover dealer several years ago acquired a large job lot of covers from our friend, and laced throughout it were about a dozen Hermann covers. These specific covers are now in the possession of a collector who knows what they are.

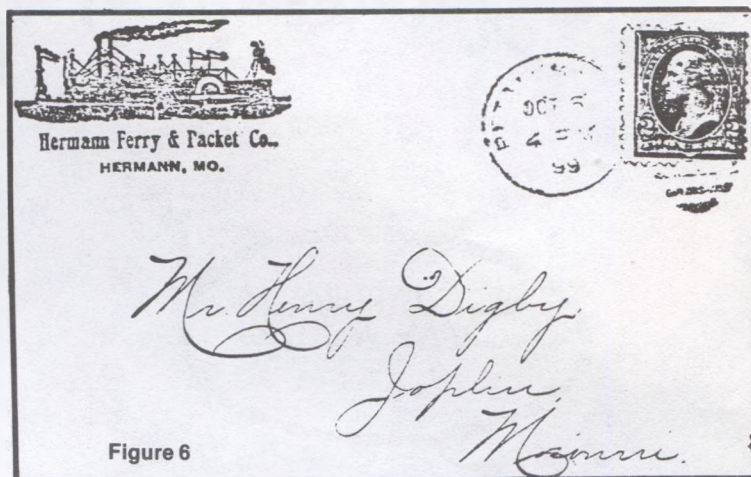


Figure 6

Figure 6 has been included just to show how a little thought and common sense may prevent a relatively inexperienced collector from falling into a faker's trap. This cover was shown to me by a dealer who had thought he had found a great inland packet boat rarity. The first question I asked myself was, "Why the Hermann, Missouri, return address?" The cover was mailed in Petaluma, Calif., October 5, 1899, and received in Joplin, Mo., October 9. In addition, the back flap was sealed with wax bearing a monogram "C." Obviously it was an ordinary personal letter and not a business letter. The other question I asked was, "Could this possibly have been carried by the private packet company?" First of all there was no reason for such a service. The train ran from California to Missouri. Secondly, there was no opportunity for the company to get its hands on this letter. The receiving backstamped postmark was applied at Joplin, the ultimate destination. One interesting thing about this particular cover is the address. Apparently the faker ran out of Langenberg & Co. covers before he ran out of red ink!

The producer of these fakes also played around with some Civil War era covers. If the U.S.C.C. membership so wishes, the author will share his information concerning this venture in a future issue.

MACHINE CANCEL BIBLIOGRAPHY

by John W. Koontz

Some of our readers may not be aware that there is ample literature available on machine cancels. For the benefit of us all, I list all the known publications (known to the author, that is). If the reader is aware of other catalogues or informative booklets on the machine-cancels, let me know and I will update the list. John W. Koontz, P.O. Box G, W. Bowie Sta., Bowie, MD 20715.

1. *Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, Third Edition, Langford (1976), \$20.00 postpaid.
2. *Standard Encyclopedia of Doremus Machine Cancels*, Langford (1968), \$3.00 postpaid.
Items 1 and 2 are available from Frederick Langford, Box 802, Pasadena, CA 91102.
3. Descriptive catalogue of the *Leavitt Machine Cancellations*, Frank B. Stratton (1976), \$3.00 postpaid. Available from United Postal Stationery Society, 212 Mecherle Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701.
4. *Handbook of Barry Machine Cancels*, Funk & Bond (1972), \$4.00 postpaid.
5. "Barry Supplement," U.S. Cancellation Club News, Jan.-Mar. 1973
6. *Barr-Fyke Machine Cancels*, Art Bond, U.S. Cancellation Club News, Mar.-Jul.-Sep. 1969.
7. "Barr-Fyke Supplement," U.S. Cancellation Club News, Sep. 1973.
8. *Hampden Machine Cancels*, Art Bond, U.S. Cancellation Club News, Mar.-May-Jul. 1970.
9. Hampden Supplement, U.S. Cancellation Club News, Jul. 1973.
10. *Pneumatic Machine Cancels*, Art Bond, U.S. Cancellation Club News, Nov. 1971 and Jan. 1972
11. Pneumatic Supplement, U.S. Cancellation Club News, May 1973.
12. *International Machine Cancels (1888-1910)*, Art Bond, U.S. Cancellation Club News, 1974.
13. *U.S. Postal Slogan Cancel Catalog*, Luff (1968, revised 1975), \$5.75 plus 75¢. Available from Moe Luff, 12 Green Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977.
14. *American Machine Bar Cancel 1884-1894 — A Handbook for Collectors*, Reg Morris (1975), \$6.50.
15. *American Machine Cancels — The History, Machinery and Postal Markings of the America Postal Machines Co., Part 1, 1886-1890*, Reg Morris, \$10.00.
Items 14 and 15 available from Reg Morris, 71 Heathermount Drive, Courthouse, Berks, England RG116HJ.
16. *Rapid Canceling Machines — Mfrs. and Impressions*, Ken Olson (1946).
17. *Postal Historian's Notebook*, Ken Olson. Available from Leonard A. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233.
18. "Early U.S. Machine Cancellation," article by Edwin E. Puls in *U.S. Philatelic Congress Book* (1959).
19. "Palmer Machine Marking — 1876," article by R. J. Payne in *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Mar. 1966.
20. "Time Marking — Cummins Machine Cancels — Classification" by Johl and Segnitz in "XX Killers," Dec. 1948 and Feb. 1950.
21. "Time Marking — Cummins Machine Cancels," Rapp *Postal History U.S.A.*, Vol. 5 No. 2 Jun. 1976, Vol. 7 Nos. 3 & 4 Sep.-Dec. 1978, Vol. 8, Nov. 3 and 4 1979.
22. The machine cancel type charts published by A. H. Pike in "Collectors Digest" in 1922. These were probably the first attempts at classification; a remarkable pioneering effort, but obviously incomplete and incorrect in the light of present knowledge.
23. Delf Norona's *Cyclopedia of U.S. Postmarks* (Vol. 1, 1933 and Vol. 2, 1935) included articles by K. H. Smith on the machine cancellations of Cincinnati and Boston.
24. Fred G. Floyd published in 1936 articles in the "American Philatelist" and other media, some of which were later consolidated into a series on "The Machine Commats of Boston 1876-86" in *Billig's Handbooks* (Vols. 12 and 13) and in Blake and Davis *Boston Postal Markings to 1890*.
25. The magazine *Postal Markings* in the 1930s and early 1940s was the next vehicle for publication of machine cancel-types, but attempted no classification, except elementary designation of some Columbia types by Pike.
26. *XX Killers*, the journal of the U.S. 20th Century Cancellation Society, edited by Paul H. Segnitz from 1946 to 1955, was principally devoted to slogans. However, it contained several remarkable classifications of Barr-Fyke, Fummins (Time-Marking), Doremus, Hampden and Pneumatic cancellations as used in the 20th Century. It is now known that the Doremus treatment contained several errors and the other makes, except Cummins, are incomplete as usage before 1901 was omitted.
27. *A Survey of U.S. Machine Postmarks*, R. F. Hammer (1981), \$5.00, P.O. Box 614, Wallingford, CT 06492. This booklet will provide the beginner with an illustrated overview of typical cancels from 13 U.S. machine cancel manufacturers.
28. *History of the Krag-Hansen Postmarking Machine and Its Factory*, Fredrick Brofos, \$5.00, R.F.D. 1, Warner, NH 03278.
29. *Flag Cancel Forum*, #1-56, 19, 1968-1974 now out of print. John R. McGee, Editor, Box 98, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
30. "U.S. Machine Cancellation", Arthur H. Bond, *The American Philatelist*, Nov. 1971, Vol. 85 No. 11.
31. *Street Car R.P.O. Service in Philadelphia*, Robert J. Stets, published by Mobile Post Office Society (1978).
32. *Street Car R.P.O. Service in Brooklyn and New York City*, published by Mobile Post Office Society (1979).
33. *The Street Car Railway Post Office of Baltimore*, Douglas Clark and F. Edgar Ruckle, published by Mobile Post Office Society (1979). Mobile Post Office Society, 5030 Aspen Drive, Omaha, NB 68157.
34. Mr. Barry's Oval Cancellations, George H. Phillips, *The American Philatelist*, Oct. 1980.
35. *Barry Machine Cancels*, Eugene M. Funk and Arthur H. Bond, \$6.00, available from U.S. Cancellation Club News, P.O. Box 286, Bonsall, CA 92003.

FLAG CANCEL CACHET COMPENDIUM

A Review by John W. Koontz

The Flag Cancel Society has recently published, in very limited edition, a new book, *Flag Cancel Cachet Compendium*. This newest addition to the machine cancel literature field was compiled by Paul G. Abajian. The compendium consists of full scale reproductions of photocopies of all known cacheted covers with U.S. flag cancels. There are five (5) major sections in the compendium:

Section I	Air Mail
II	Historical and Special Events
III	Flag Day
IV	Navy Day
V	First Day Covers

New items are solicited by the author. For information about the availability and price, write the Flag Cancel Society, D. W. Prosser, Sec., 7664 State Street Rd., Watertown, NY 13601.

For Love Of A Cancel

by Alyce Evans

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ON THE HARDNESS OF WOODS, AND PROBABLY MORE

We've read that postmasters carved their cancels from various woods such as apple or pear, but that they preferred "boxwood" because of its hardness and durability.

An interesting article on "wood engravers" in a late 19th century Harpers Monthly Magazine listed the woods in ascending order of hardness: (1) Beech, (2) Apple, (3) Pear, (4) Cherry, (5) Sycamore, (6) White Wood, (7) Boxwood.

Boxwood was preferred by engravers because of its toughness and closeness of grain. The article also stated that a five-inch square was the maximum size obtainable from Boxwood. That last part sent me scurrying to the encyclopedia to find out *why* "just five inches" and the answer was because Boxwood is a very slow grower, adding only an inch to its diameter every twenty years. It also stated the use of Boxwood for turnery and musical instruments was mentioned as far back as Pliny, Virgil and Ovid.



Perry Sapperstein has sent some fake cancels which have been struck over previously cancelled stamps. These are all on the 3¢ 1861 issue. The "WAY between bars" is struck over a target cancel. The reverse side is also pictured, and gives a good example of what is commonly called "bleed-thru." In fact, all the cancels shown here have significant bleed-thru. The "PAID in oval" has been struck over a pen-cancelled "X." Not shown are two identical examples of this cancel, one struck over a target and the other struck over a pen cancel of two parallel lines. This last stamp is also grilled. The "four arrowheads" are struck over a small circular. The "skull & bones" is magenta, and struck over a faint black, possibly a target cancel. Another example of this (not shown) cancel is in black and it too has been carefully placed in the middle of the stamp. The "PAID 3 in circle" is in blue. An attempt was made to bleach out the pen cancel under it without success, as traces of the pen cancel remain. The bleached area stands out like a headlight under a UV lamp.

Did the faker really think he could pass these off as genuine, or was he merely "practising" his black art? We suspect the latter, as most at first glance are so obvious as to appear downright ludicrous.



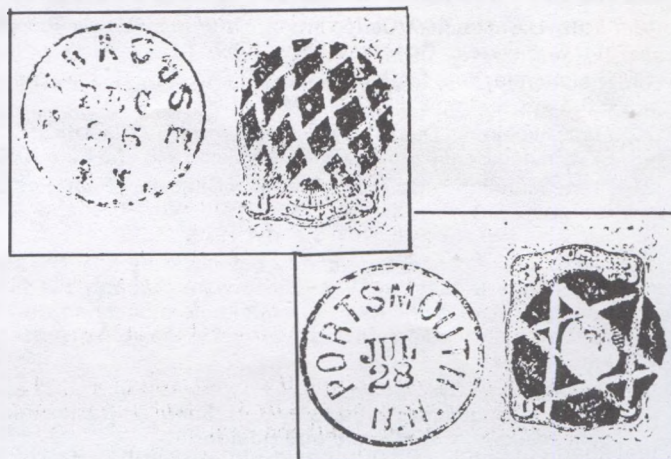
Race K.

An interesting geometric on a 3¢ green banknote, from Watertown, Wis.

SKINNER-ENO UPDATE

by C. W. Bert Christian

Two unlisted cancels that can now be identified as to town of origin through these two covers. The grid from Syracuse, N.Y. has a slightly three-dimensional effect due to the curved negative lines. Both strikes are black and the Portsmouth, N.H. star is an intense black, possibly due to a new and wet ink pad and/or a very new cancellor. No year dates, back stamps or docketing is available but the shade of the stamps suggests 1865-66 usage.



MORE VANDALS OF PHILATELY

by Prof. C. S. Thompson, Jr.

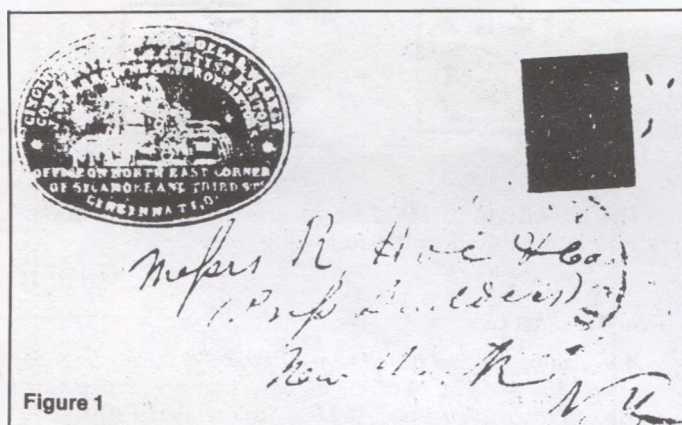


Figure 1

The magnitude of loss to philately as the result of the destruction of this glorious cover demands a special exposure. Figure 1 shows the cover as it was acquired with its stamp removed. Originally, that space was occupied by a copy of Sc#2 which paid the postage from Cincinnati, Ohio, to New York City. The folded letter paper upon which it reposed is gray in hue and has a beautiful double line blue oval corner card with white lettering. The upper half reads, CINCINNATI DAILY AND DOLLAR WEEKLY/COMMERCIAL L.G.CURTISS EDITOR/J.W.S.BROWN & Co. PROPRIETORS. In the center there is a cut of a printing press in white outline format. Across the lower half of the oval is the legend, OFFICE ON NORTH EAST CORNER/OF SYCAMORE AND THIRD STS/CINCINNATI, O.

The contents of letter addressed to Messrs. R. Hoe & Co. (Press Builders)/New York/N.Y. are equally interesting and read as follows:

Messrs. R. Hoe & Co.

Gents,

We received yours of Jany. 31st by due course of mail and after consulting the propriety of purchasing your double cylinder press with a view to our interest, we feel that it will be best not to purchase at present. Our old Tayler press works the outside of our daily, while your single cylinder works the inside as the sheets come from the Tayler press, which keeps still in good order — the new press we purchased from you is an admirable machine. We print now very near 8,000 daily. Your press prints our weekly outside on Saturday — inside on Wednesday — we print 16,000 copies (weekly). If our weekly continues to increase as it has done, and we see no reason why it should not, we shall be obliged to purchase a double cylinder press the coming summer.

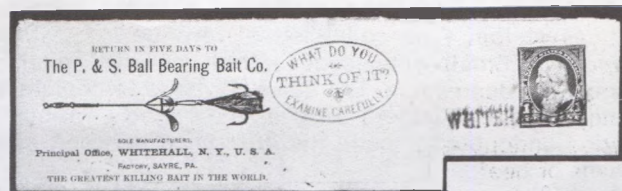
Respectfully,

J.W.S. Brown & Co.
Pub.
Cin. Coml.

In order to appreciate the immensity of the destruction, a copy of Sc#948, 10¢ brown orange, type A2, was placed in the vacant spot and the cover xeroxed. This process dropped the color out and reproduced the stamp in its original shade of black. The original stamp was lightly tied by a

A FAVORITE CANCEL

by Wm. R. Weiss, Jr.



The interesting thing about the above cover is that it is not the "cancel" that makes the item so neat. The stamp is Scott #279, the 1¢ green Bureau Issue on an advertising cover from a Bait (I assume fishing bait) Company in Whitehall, N.Y. The straightline "WHITEHALL, N.Y." is in purple. What is interesting about all this is that the oval "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? EXAMINE CAREFULLY" is a matching purple advertising marking! My theory is that the gentleman who owned the Bait Co. also happened to be the Postmaster of Whitehall, N.Y. When he would send one of his advertisements out to a customer, he would dutifully cancel the stamp with the Whitehall straightline and then add the advertising oval marking — which he probably had made himself! I would be interested in hearing from anyone (my address is 1519 Hausman Ave., Allentown, PA 18103) who has a matching oval advertising marking with the Whitehall cancel as well. I also wonder just how common a practice it was (or wasn't) for postmasters (or others) to use these "advertising" markings?

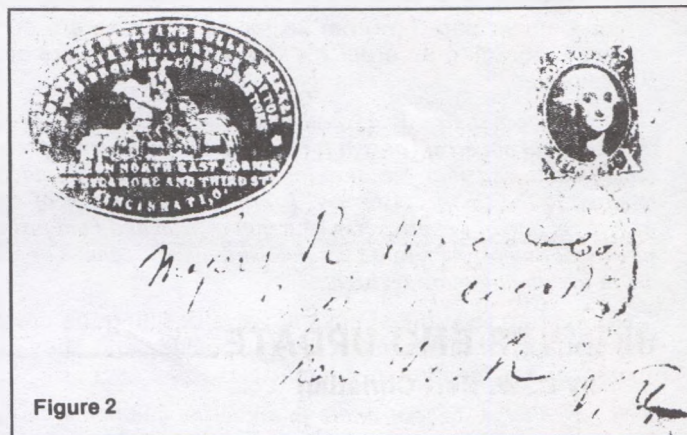


Figure 2

portion of the red circular CINCINNATI O. 10 handstamp with the stamp itself receiving a red circle cancel. This is evidenced by the faint red circle marks which are seen just to the right of the stamp in Figure 2.

The proprietor, J.W.S. Browne, in addition to his printing business, was the owner-operator of BROWNE & CO's CITY POST which was located in that city. Mr. Browne issued two stamps for use with his mail service — Sc#29L1, a one cent denomination, and Sc#29L2, a two cent value. These local stamps properly used on cover are quite valuable.

This cover is a prime example of a stamp collector's gain and a postal history collector's loss.

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

THE FANCY CANCELS OF ED, KENTUCKY (Conclusion)

by William C. Walker

The compensation of postmasters of fourth class post offices at that time consisted of revenue from stamps cancelled. Small villages generated very little business during the depression. The sales he made to dealers and fancy cancel collectors all over the country during this period undoubtedly made the difference between eating beans or beef.

If a customer pre-franked the covers to be cancelled because he wanted to use certain stamps, he/she was expected to buy stamps in the amount of the franking on the covers. Fourth class post offices did not generally get commemorative stamps. If the postmaster claimed to the post office department that he cancelled \$1,200.00 worth of stamps and sold only \$300.00 worth, he obviously had to have a good explanation for the disparity between stamps sold and stamps cancelled. Most customers were happy to oblige. If they sent covers pre-franked with commemoratives or airmails, etc., they would enclose funds to buy a quantity of stamps of equal value so the postmaster's books would balance. Since the P.O.D. was making efforts to abolish the use of fancy cancels, a postmaster stating that he was canceling covers with fancy cancels would have been entirely unacceptable. Indeed, Mr. E. S. True, Ed, Kentucky's postmaster, was receiving postal directives to cease and desist from the use of fancy and/or colored cancels.

Upon receipt of a directive, Mr. True would 'cool it' briefly, but would revert to his old habits very shortly. The postmarks on many covers attest to his violation of a number of directives referred to in his letters to customers. Economic necessity undoubtedly contributed to his repeated violations of directives.

As early as Jan. 1930, E. S. True wrote a long letter to Floyd Shockley and Miss Zix ("I believe in writing the one of you I am writing the other so far as registers are concerned") regarding an order for "10 registered covers and 50 ordinaries."

"I have been indirectly advised that your postmaster has said that he would not accept or sign for any more registers with 'fancy' cancellations and that the next lot of such registers would be reported to the District Attorney. I feel sure that neither of you wish to get into any controversy with that official and I am just as sure that I do not, therefore I am not using 'fancy' cancels or colored in ink on any more registers."

He went on to suggest several ways of filling the order. The last part of his letter to Floyd Shockley and Miss Zix expresses his feelings in the matter:

"I haven't the slightest desire to argue the question with the Dep't or to question its rulings but, from the standpoint of an ordinary man, I fail to see wherein the Dep't is losing anything and it seems to me that it adds to the Postal revenues besides pleasing those who are interested in collecting odd cancels."

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am

Very truly yours,

(signed) E. S. True

P.S. Am enclosing two loose cancels, one is slang for a compliment and the other is 'there with bells on' at least with one on. But isn't he a 'bird,' and how?"

The two cancels he referred to are listed in the Loso de Windt catalog as numbers 267 and 270, U R A GOOD EGG (Fig. 1) and a likeness of a clown with a bell suspended from his hat and a bird flying overhead (Fig. 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

The solicitude of Mr. True in attending his customers' orders is exhibited in the following letter:

Ed, KY., May 3, 1930

Dear Mr. Shockley:

Am sending the last installment of your 270 covers by today's register. Also the last 10 of the 30 covers you requested sent by register in the regular way. At Miss Zix's request I sent \$7.00 in stamps on May 1. Am enclosing herewith a statement of the transaction and also including a carbon copy with the covers. Also am enclosing with the covers three stamped envelopes you had sent me and which I did not use. They probably will be of use to you and I see no reason why you should lose their value.

I have tried to carry out your wishes as I understood them with these covers and hope you will be pleased with them. I regret that present conditions have developed but it is a matter over which I have no control and I have to be governed by "orders" along these lines.

I have "put up" the difference in this transaction from my personal funds in order to carry out your wishes in the way this matter has been handled. If there is anything I can do for you (which I am permitted to do) I shall be glad to do it and I am not "kicking" about a little trouble.

And if the collecting business is really ended, I hope my friends will not entirely forget me and will drop a few lines occasionally when they have the time.

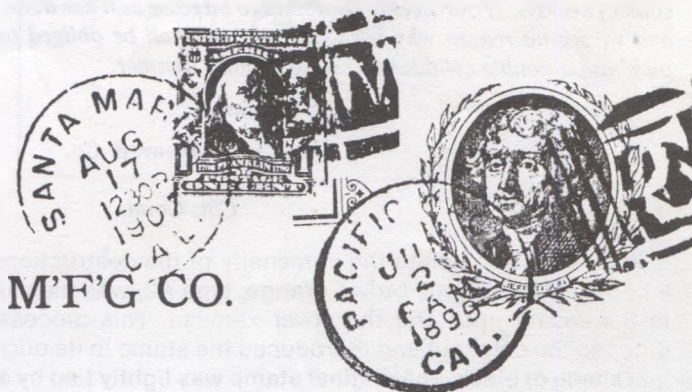
With best regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) E. S. True

E. S. True

Member Len McCabe has sent two rare cancels, previously unlisted, from California. Both are negative town letters, the intertwined, boxed 'PG' is from Pacific Grove, dated Jun 2 8 AM 1899. The negative 'SM' between negative bars is from Santa Maria dated Aug 17 1230 PM 1907. Len states he has seen two other 'SM' covers, but this is a first for the 'PG.' Thanks for sharing, Len.



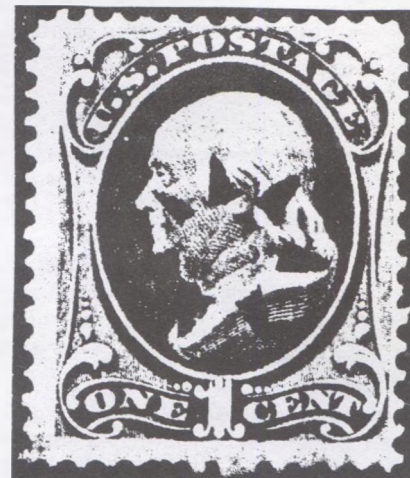
TEENIE WEENIES

by Clyde Jennings

The original idea of a cancel on a stamp was to prevent its being used more than once to pay postage. Thus it was apparent that the heavier the obliteration, the less likely the chance of such a cancel being removed and the stamp re-used. Postmasters realized this as evidenced by the magnitude of large and heavy cancels found on the majority of used stamps.

However, there were some Postmasters with a bit more of an esthetic sense for neatness, and a liking for smaller, more attractive and/or unusual cancels, as shown below — but these individuals were in the minority as not that many of these examples seem to be extant.

Photos by Walter Henderson, Melrose, FL.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1386 Paul R. Redlich, 1122 W. Lunt 7-C, Chicago, IL 60626
ILL. PH: Coles Co., Cumberland Co., RFD's; General: Special Machine Cancells.
- 1387 William H. Cresap, 16649 Woodlawn E. So. Holland, IL 60473
U.S., Germany, China, Canada.
- 1388 Harold C. Grumney, 276 Patrick Henry Rd., O.B.P., North Ft. Myers, FL 33903
U.S. Precancells.
- 1389 Frank P. Walker, 13224-L 98th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351
NW Missouri PH; Australia.
- 1390 James E. Reuter, 8803 Winterboork Rd., Randallstown, MD 21133
- 1391 David A. Runnion, 510 Coventry Rd. 4-C; Decatur, GA 30030
19th C. U.S. Fancy Cancells off cover; General U.S. & Foreign.
- 1392 Ronald W. Lawler, 95 Elm St., Wakefield, MA 01880
Cancelled U.S. Postal Cards UX-1-UX-9; Fancy Cancells; Machine Cancells.
- 1393 Niles F. Schuh, 3332 Jenks Ave., Panama City, FL 32405
Florida Stampless Covers and Town Cancells; Chile & Peru 19th C. Cancells.
- 1394 Allen L. Jones, 241 North High St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387
U.S. 1930-present; U.S. #65 and 3¢ Banknote Covers & Cancells.
- 1395 Zaven M. Seron, M.D., 3553 No. Orchard, Fresno, CA 93726
Postal History; Classics; Fancy Cancells; EFO's.
- 1396 Morris E. Selby, 2309 Ghent Ave., Kettering, OH 45420
U.S. Bureaus; Perfins: T & T's.
- 1397 William J. Duffney, P.O. Box 2151, Meriden, CT 06450
Devil & Pitchfork cancells (Conn. & Vermont); Ct. PH; U.S. Singles; Blackjacks.

The following members were inadvertently omitted from the July Membership Roster:

- 675 Hideo R. Yokota, 10 Anita Court, Belmont, CA 94002
U.S. Socked-on-the-Nose Postmarks, especially from NYC and Calif. towns.
- 1276 Herman L. Hill, Jr., 631-F Hampto Way, Jackson, MS 39211
Inland waterway covers (steamboat ms. & hs.); College & school covers; Confederate stamps & covers; Miss. covers & post cards; Early U.S. covers.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Warren Tingley has computerized, in code form, an INDEX of ellipse cancells with figure or letter centers taken from the Gilbert M. Burr article, "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues." This code of Mr. Tingley's is a system for organized listing of the different ellipse groups in a logical sequence to aid in locating a given code-type and variety, and reduces the need for a drawing of the ellipse. Available from the librarian, William H. Bauer, Box 1449, Spring, TX 77373.

REINSTATED

- 624 Robert Abelson, 11205 S. Washtenaw, Chicago, IL 60655
Pre-1920 Fancy & Unusual Cancells, U.S. Ship Cancells; Pre-1915 Alaska covers; Pre-1910 Illus. Adv. Covers; Pre-1900 IL, Ind., Wis. Covers; All Territorial items.
- 771 Dennis R. Burk, 75 Linsley Lake Rd., N. Branford, CT 06471
Cancells on U.S. #65 & 3¢ Banknotes; PA covers franked with #65.
- 690 Joseph Dienstfrey, 28146 Calle Casal, Mission Viejo, CA 92692
1851, 1857, 1861 - 3¢ issues.
- 560 H. R. Fishback Jr., M.D., 1526 W. Laurel, Visalia, CA 93277
Cancells on all 3¢ Greens & #210; Slogans & Cancells "Direct" on U.S. Commems.
- 1169 Vernon C. Grosse, Box 1936, University, AL 35486
Covers, letters, etc. of historical interest.
- 1043 Charles Hoffer, Box H, Cornwall, NY 12518
U.S. Postal Stat. Specialist. Dealer.
- 1316 James S. Leonardo, 1222 39th St., Des Moines, IA 50311
U.S. PH, 1700's-1900's, particularly Miss. Valley (IA, IL & MO); Des Moines, IA, 1846-date.
- 1030 Irv Miterman, 190 Windmill Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090
U.S. Fancy Cancells.
- 890 Bernard Newman, 1601 Harris Rd., Laverock, PA 19118
Stampless Covers; Adv. Corner cards dealing with Paper & Paper Products, U.S. & U.N. Stamps & First Day Covers.
- 1273 Harriet Riggs, Route 2, Box 400, Swansboro, NC 28584
U.S. Cancells, Banknote & earlier; NC stampless covers.
- 1306 Dr. Eugene E. Schrier, 3117 Cortland Dr., Vestal, NY 13850
U.S. 19th C. Fancy Cancells; U.S. used Blocks; U.S. PH.
- 1231 J. Thomas Showler, P.O. Box 6022, Philadelphia, PA 19114
Erie Co., PA PH.
- 429 Thomas O. Taylor, 525 N. Middletown Rd., Media, PA 19063
U.S. Fancy Cancells, Reg. Issues, Coils; Washington, DC, Postal Markings.

CHANGE OF COLLECTING INTERESTS

- 150 Paul Hannum—Only collecting interest now is 20th C. Fancies on Cover.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Robert J. Burwell
709 S. 3rd St., #612
Louisville, KY 40202 | Arthur R. Hadley
9635 E. Randal St.,
Columbus, IN 47201 |
| Larry Kelley
3870 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Suite 104382
Los Angeles, CA 90008 | Mark Metkin
1495 29th Ave.,
San Francisco, CA 94122 |
| Ralph N. Oko
Orland Pk. Curr. Exchange
15010 S. LaGrange Rd.
Orland Park, IL 60462 | Nicholas Shestople-
Harmgardt-Shestople
RD 6, Box 289
Shippensburg, PA 17257 |

PROJECT RESEARCH

This column is a free service to those members involved with research and data gathering. Philatelic research is, for the most part, a labor of love, and the rewards are not measured monetarily. Readers are urged to support those who unselfishly give of their time toward the furthering of philatelic knowledge, by submitting information when it is asked for. In sharing our knowledge, we all benefit!

New member Bill Duffney is researching the "Devil & Pitchfork" cancels of West Meriden, Conn., and Brattleboro, Vt. Would those members who have examples of these cancels on cover, please send an actual-size photocopy to Bill at P.O. Box 2151, Meriden, CT 06450. The addressee is of particular importance to Bill also.



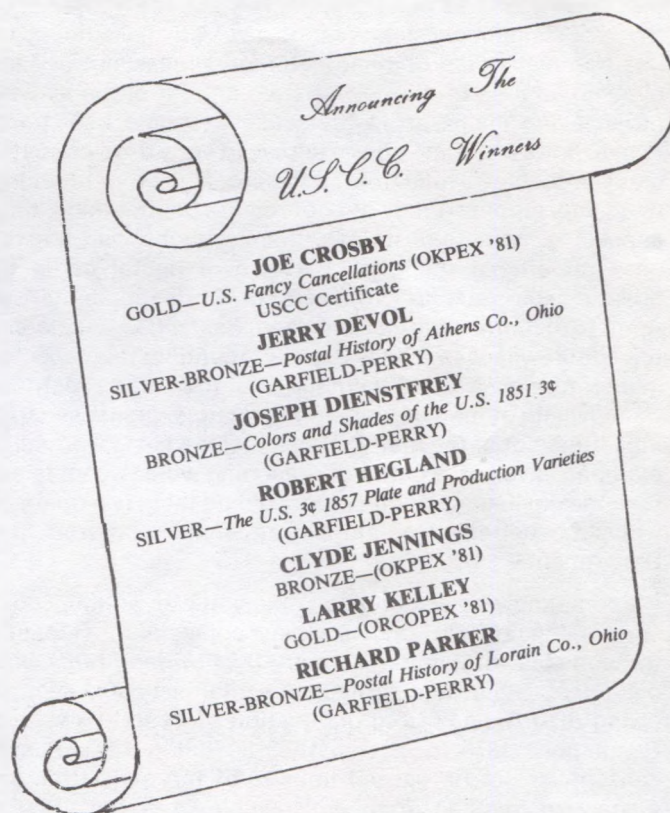
Help!

Does anybody know of a listing of "Post Office" cancels? The illustrated cover from Ilchester, MD, has been puzzling me for a number of years. I am sure that this cancel was the product of a duplex cancelling device sold by some national manufacturer. Also having seen a number of old-time ads for cancelling devices, I am sure that there are a goodly number of "Post Office" cancels. Has anybody compiled a listing of these cancels. Has anybody seen other Maryland (my other collecting specialty) "Post Office" cancels? Is anybody working on compiling a listing of this type of cancel?

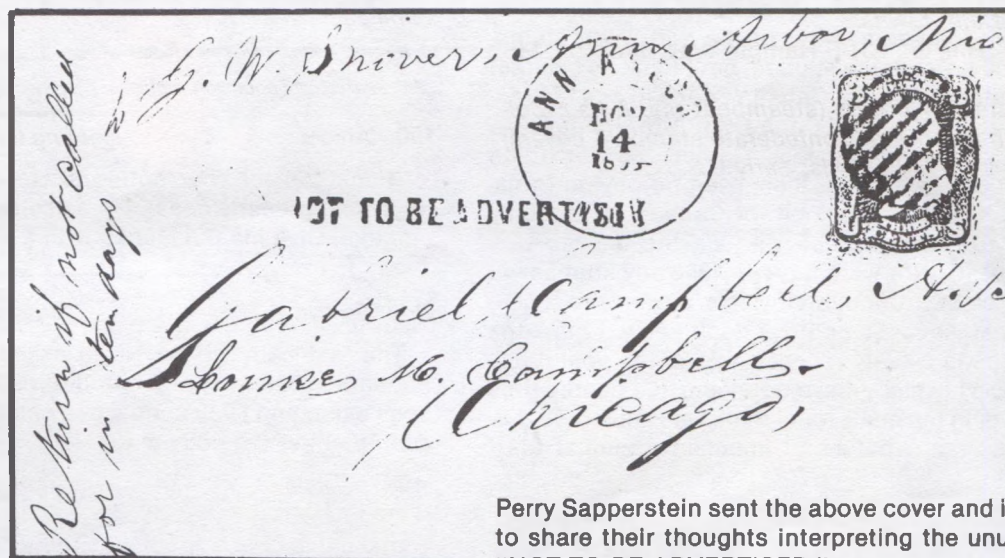
John W. Koontz
Post Office Box G
West Bowie, MD 20715.

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) 898-7238.



QUESTION CORNER



Perry Sapperstein sent the above cover and invites readers to share their thoughts interpreting the unusual marking, "NOT TO BE ADVERTISED."



THE MAIL BAG

Dear Editor:

I have no information about the origin/legitimacy of the cancel shown in "Question Corner" in July News, but perhaps the following may be of some interest. The card was presumably carried out of the mails and used in the belief that the "monopoly preservation tax" (in the amount of postage that would be chargeable on similar matter sent by mail) applied to the new postal cards. It probably was never in the mails, as in that case it should bear postmarks; however, some postal people in early days of postal cards probably misunderstood the procedures for handling them and supposed they did not require postmarking, only cancelling. At time of its use, there probably had not yet been an official ruling on carriage of postal cards by private expresses. In "Answers to Correspondents" in April 1874 *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant* the editor (who was a NYC Special Agent/postal inspector in later terms) says, "The language of the statute restricts the privilege of mail carriers (and private expresses) carrying letters out of the mail to those inclosed in Government stamped envelopes. Parity of reasoning would seem to extend the privilege to postal cards, but as there is a doubt, it would be better to obtain a formal decision from the Department."

I don't know how soon such decision was announced. I see none in later USM&P-OA (I have copies of most issues through May 1876), but in January 1884 *United States Official Postal Guide* (and perhaps in earlier issues) in section giving POD Rulings from publication of Postal Laws and Regulations 1879 to 20 Dec 1883 is Ruling #293. Postal cards must not be carried outside of the mail after the manner of postage stamped envelopes, as the stamps thereon cannot be canceled in a manner to insure security against their re-use, except at post offices."

On "More Vandals of Philately" Figure 2 in the July issue: Misidentification of a stamp which isn't there may strike one as a Lewis Carroll sort of thing, but I think Prof. Thompson has done something of the sort. With stamp, the cover would be valuable enough, but I think he can rest easy that the stamp was not Canada Scot #10 or #13. Vancouver Island was not part of Canada until 1871, but was a separate British colony in 1858. I think no Canadian stamps were used in Victoria then, even for paying Canadian postage on letters destined for Canada, as the only way for mail to reach Canada was via the U.S. so U.S. stamps were used. (Nor were there in 1858 any stamps yet issued for VI or BC.) Undoubtedly this cover bore a U.S. stamp; but whether 3¢, 5¢ or 10¢, I don't know. I think the answer must be in a fairly recent book on the postal history of BC and VI (which I have not seen). (Of course, this cover was never in the mails, but I think was subject to U.S. private express tax; whether VI imposed a similar tax I have no idea.)

(signed) Henry W. Beecher

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Ed: Professor Thompson replies:

Dear Alyce:

Thank you for your note and Henry Beecher's input. I really feel properly chastised as he is perfectly right in his remarks. Give me ten lashes with a wet noodle.

Dear Editor:

The last copy of the News asked about a cover with Pneumatic cancel type E dated April 19, 1898. Such a cover does exist, and I will send a copy directly to Mr. Koontz as soon as I get the copy made.

(signed) James W. Beach

Ed: Happiness is a man named Koontz when he receives your letter, Jim. Many thanks!