



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 15, NO. 12

WHOLE NO. 170

NOVEMBER 1981

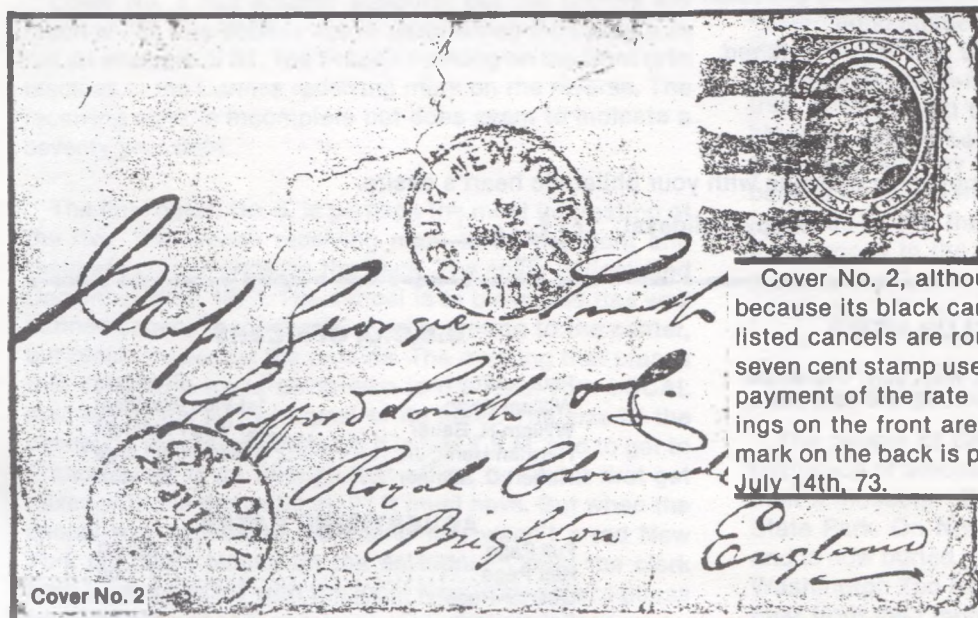
NEWLY FOUND NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELS

by Edward Hines

The covers that are shown here have been found over a period of the last ten years. None of them are illustrated in the standard reference work, *New York Foreign Mail Cancellations*, written by Arthur Van Vlissingen and Morrison Waud.

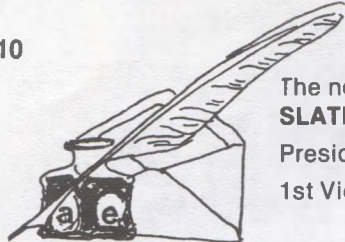


Cover No. 1 has what appears to be an "X" on its side. The blue mailer's mark on the left is dated September 6th, 1871. The red New York Paid All next to the stamp is dated September 7th. The "X" is in black as is the receiving mark from Amsterdam, dated September 21st, 71.



Cover No. 2, although a bit tattered, is very interesting because its black cancel of three bars forms a square. All listed cancels are round or are crosses of some sort. The seven cent stamp used to frank the cover is a one cent over payment of the rate to England. The red New York markings on the front are July 2nd and although the receiving mark on the back is partial, it is in black and clearly shows July 14th, 73.

Continued On Page 111



The nominating committee, chaired by N. Leonard Persson, wishes to present the following **SLATE OF OFFICERS**, to serve from Jan. 1, 1982 to Dec. 31, 1983:

President: William C. Walker

2nd Vice President: Bert C. Christian

1st Vice President: Gary A. McIntyre

Secretary-Treasurer: George H. Lewis

Governor at Large: Herman C. Herst, Jr.

These are extremely well-qualified candidates and they have expressed some excellent plans for the future of the Club. Enclosed with this issue is an addressed envelope with a ballot enclosed. Please mark and sign the ballot and return it as soon as possible. Write-in selections for each office are permissible. The new slate of officers will be introduced in the January issue.

Attached to the ballot is an **INVOICE FOR THE 1982 DUES**, which still remain at six dollars. This will be the only notification regarding a dues payment, which is due January 1, 1982. Please make your six dollar checks payable to "USCC."

The bottom of your ballot sheet has a space for your vote to select the winner of "**A FAVORITE CANCEL**" contest. Check your back issues for the names and articles and write in your favorite. The winner, who will receive a year's free membership and a box of organically-grown avocados, will be announced in the January News.

Also enclosed is your **1982 MEMBERSHIP CARD** which becomes valid when you **PAY** your 1982 dues. Sign and keep the card. I managed to confuse some of you last year who felt that by receiving your card, your dues were paid. Enclosing the card now saves the postage on a separate mailing.

Our Librarian, **WILLIAM H. BAUER**, has been elected to the important post of President of the American Philatelic Society. Our congratulations to Bill, and our thanks for his willingness to continue as our Club Librarian in addition to the many responsibilities he will have as President of the APS.

The **TRIVIA** Department reports that USCC members do not like **T-SHIRTS**. This conclusion is based on the fact that only one member has ordered these shirts which have our logo silkscreened across the front (see the May issue for details). The Dept. hinted that perhaps the editor "blew it" when she had these designed . . . as a profit-making venture for library purchases. The shirts, available in medium and large, are \$7.95 postpaid, and may be ordered from the editor (checks payable to USCC).

With this issue I start my second year as editor of the News. One of the nicest things about being an editor is the contacts one makes with the members. During this year I count it fortunate that I was able to meet a few of you in person, several of you via "Ma Bell," and a great many by correspondence (I have written over 400 letters to you this year). And, I am most grateful to those members who have been supportive by submitting articles. Our membership has continued to grow . . . we started with member #1312 last November, and ended with member #1412 with this November issue. I would like to see our membership number increase to 500 by next November. It can be done, if we give prospective members a reason for joining. Support your Club by submitting an article!

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all thru the land
Sat USCC members, poised pen in their hand
They'd been good all year long, save for one big omission
To their editor they had not sent a submission
They had been warned, they wished now they'd listened,
"No article . . . no pit stop! by Donner and Blitzen"
Their articles finished, they took to their beds
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.*

And may Santa fill your little chimney-hung glassine with your philatelic heart's desire.

Happy Holidays!

Alyce

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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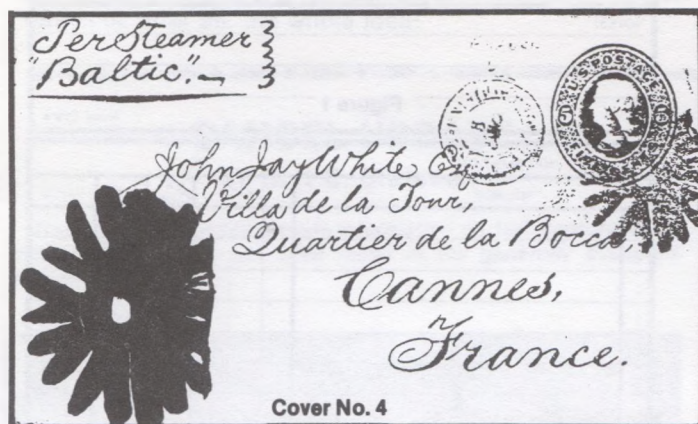
ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page \$25.00
Half Page \$12.00
Quarter Page \$ 7.00
Column Inch \$ 2.00

Continued From Front Page



The cancel on Cover No. 3 is similar to the listed S2. However, the spokes of this black sunburst are joined as pairs, very closely together. The New York P.O. postmark dated November 18th is in red. The receiving mark on the back is Wien, 76. It is in black.



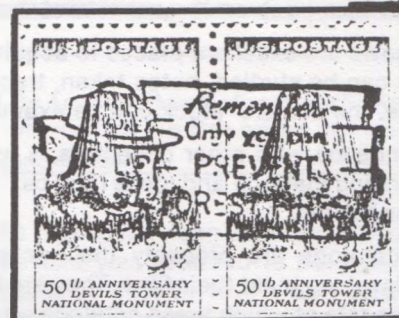
Cover No. 4 has another sunburst but the spokes are much wider. The spokes are in pairs which indicates it is not an example of S7. The French marking on the front is in black as is the Cannes receiving mark on the reverse. The receiving mark is incomplete but does seem to indicate a seventy year date.

The final cover, No. 5, is perhaps the most interesting of the five. The French receiving mark is on the front and there are no markings on the back. The cover is docketed December 23rd, 1877. The cancel is in black and has well defined spokes that are triangular, pointing to the center, but block shaped on the outside. The marking that places this cover in a world of its own is the New York LOCAL marking at the left with part of its killer. The size of the cancel on the stamp indicates it is a N.Y.F.M. and to get to France it had to go through that office, but did it first get mixed with the domestic mail? It must have. But when the cancel was applied to the stamp why wasn't a red New York postmark placed on the envelope? Could the clerk have been satisfied with the local New York date? I guess he must have been.



A PREVENT FOREST FIRES CANCEL

by J. W. Beach



Between 1956 and 1974 the Post Office used a drawing of Smokey the Bear as a propaganda cancel (Luff ® 4920A) to help publicize the need to prevent man-made forest fires.

The Forest Service sought a slogan and a symbol to attract attention to and popularize their fire prevention efforts. At one time they used "Bambi" as an effective symbol, but its use was too restricted by the Disney interests. A bear was then selected and the currently used Smokey the Bear character was developed.

Shortly after this (May 1950) there was a fire in the New Mexico Lincoln National Forest. Twenty-four of the fire fighters, mostly soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, were caught on the Capitan mountains and had to take protective measures to save themselves. When the fire passed them, they found a black bear cub clinging to a burned tree. Ross Flatley, who was with the group, took the cub to his wife Pat. She treated its burns and fed it. When the game warden, Ray Bell, came two days later he flew the bear to Santa Fe where it was cared for by a veterinarian, Dr. E. J. Smith, then by the Bell family. Because of his experiences in the fire he was named Smokey. After two months, the Forest Service took him over as a living exemplification of their Smokey the Bear symbol. Mr. Homer Pickens flew Smokey from New Mexico to Washington, D.C., where he lived in the zoo and proved to be an effective aid in the fire prevention efforts.

The people of Capitan, NM, claimed their area as the birthplace of Smokey Bear, and without federal or state aid built a museum. It became part of a small Smokey Bear State Park. On November 9, 1976, Smokey the Bear died and is now buried in that park. He has been replaced in the Washington Zoo by another Smokey the Bear symbol — a bear from the Lincoln National Forest.

For Love Of A Cancel _____ by Alyce Evans

ESTABLISHING A REFERENCE FILE & CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR FANCY CANCELS

Once bitten by the “cancel bug,” a collector may easily become a “cancel addict,” obsessed with recording every fancy cancel that ever existed, together with its origin. He may be dismayed with the paucity of books that have been written on the subject, but if he is persistent, he will discover other sources are available from which he can build his reference file:

- Back issues from older publications such as *Postal Markings And Stamps*.
- Postal history journals of the various state societies. The members of one such society — the Wisconsin — published their own book on the cancels of their state.
- Stamp shows are excellent places to acquire information. Exhibits can be studied, notes taken, tracings made and, of course, the dealers' stock can be examined.
- Correspondence with other collectors is an effective way of exchanging material and ideas (and can also result in lasting friendships).
- Auction catalogs are probably the nucleus around which most devotees build their files. They are in plentiful supply, and the rate at which these catalogs are published is ever-increasing as more firms enter the market with both auction catalogs and net price sales. This situation delights the cancelist, as he clips and snips this precious information. He doesn't even mind the inflated prices, since he really doesn't need to buy the material in order to study and record it. Actually, inflation has done him a service. For example, five years ago a lot described as "five covers, all with different shields" would leave him guessing (and frustrated) as to their appearance and origin. Today, each of these shields, thanks to inflation, might command its own individual lot, and also be pictured. Of course, the older auction catalogs with name sales such as Knapp and Paige are scarce and difficult to obtain, but these can be begged from friends or borrowed from philatelic libraries and xeroxed since they rarely come up at auction.

• The undaunted cancelist badgers his friends for xeroxes of their material, writes to total strangers with the same request, and thanks God that Eno & Skinner had the wisdom and foresight to publish a “clip and file” unbound version of their cancel book, keeping his hardbound copy immune from scissor-attack.

And one day the collector will survey his accumulated hoard of clippings, tracings, notes and xeroxes and decide to organize it, for the sake of his own sanity, if nothing else.

Ease of accessibility is probably the most important function to keep in mind when designing a reference system. Ideally, the information will be available at fingertip reach, and a 3" x 5" file card is excellent for this purpose. A box for filing these cards can be made out of lightweight plastic — a convenient size is 2" high, 5½" wide and a foot long.

Designing the card is the next step. You will want to record specific data about a cancel: the dates of use, color, Scott number and origin. You will also want space to glue

examples and room for remarks and notes about the cancel. The top could be ruled for numbering, coding or cross-indexing references, such as state, town or by stamp. When you have finished ruling the card, it will appear similar to the example shown in Figure 1.

The reverse side of the card can be used to describe source of information, such as an auction name, lot no. and date; whether on or off cover; condition and value (Figure 2). It's worth the small sum to have your cards printed professionally. If you try to rule your own, you'll soon realize you won't live that long!

N.O.							
				DATE	Scott number	Color	ORIGIN
NOTES:							

Figure 1

Alyce Evans

INFORMATION		NO.			
SOURCE		DATE	On Cover	COND.	VALUE
0					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

Figure 2

The classification system should be easily remembered, follow a logical progression and be as simple as possible. For my system I selected the twenty-five classifications listed below and filed them alphabetically. Further breakdown may be made by having subtitles, also arranged alphabetically, behind the main title cards. An example would be: BIRDS: Bluebird, chicken, duck, eagle, etc.

<i>Main Title</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Main Title</i>	<i>Code</i>
ANCHORS	AC	LETTERS	LE
ANIMALS	AN	MASKS	MA
BIRDS	BI	MISC	MI
CRESCENTS	CC	MULTIPLE LETTERS	ML
CLOTHES	CL	MUSIC	MU
CROSSES	CR	NUMERALS	NU
DOMESTICS	DO	PEOPLE	PE
FISH	FI	PLANTS	PL
FLAGS	FL	SHIELDS	SH
FRATERNAL	FR	SKULLS	SK
GEOMETRICS	GE	STARS	ST
HEARTS	HE	WORDS	WO
INSECTS	IN		

See Next Page

See Next Page

ESTABLISHING A REFERENCE FILE...

Hints on making this classification system more workable:

1. Use the same color index tab for *all* the *main* classifications, for ease of visual recognition, and make this color as bright as possible.

2. Identify the main index tabs with the two-letter code printed in large letters.

3. File the cards behind each subtitle in alphabetical order, by town origin, placing the "unknown" examples in the rear.

4. Since most categories will probably include a "Negative," "Positive" and "Colored" subtitle tab, you can eliminate the need for the "Positive" tabs by automatically placing these directly behind each category. You might wish to use the same color tab for all the "Negative" subtitle tabs, and another color for all the "Colored" tabs. By experimenting, you will develop ideas that will help you find what you want, and quickly.

You will probably want to make some refinements and adjustments as your file expands, but it won't take long before the system becomes second nature to you, and you will be able to find a given cancel at a moment's notice. Which is, after all, the whole idea!

CANCEL UPDATE

BY Bert C. Christian

Readers are invited to provide information on 19th century fancy cancels which have not been listed in the generally accepted reference works.



Figure 1

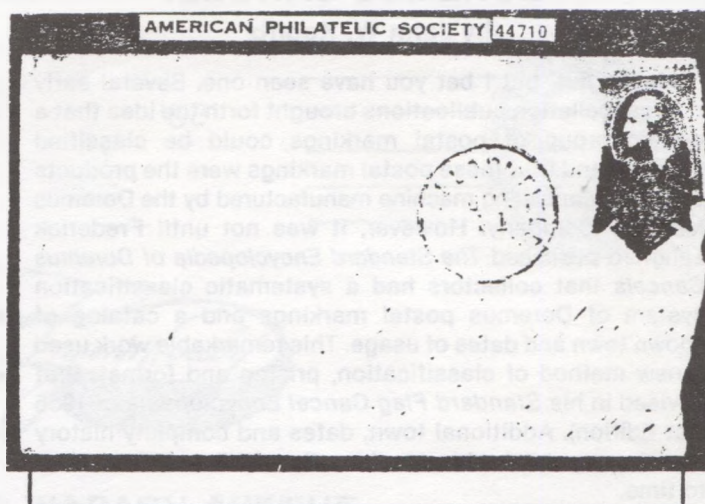


Figure 2

The 3c, '61 showing the rather crudely cut cork cancel of a letter (Figure 1) has reposed on its side for more than 20 years in the writer's collection with the ever-present question: Should it be mounted upside or downside? Is it an M or a W? Personal leaning had been toward a W but, wrong again. The recently surface cover (Figure 2) proves it to be an M, representing Montgomery, ALA. Both strikes are in blue.

We are changing the name of the "SKINNER-ENO UPDATE" column to "CANCEL UPDATE." The column will now include information on fancy cancels used for the entire period from 1847 through 1899. One of the ongoing functions of this Club has been to provide information on cancels which were not listed in the generally accepted reference works. We invite members who have unlisted cancels, or additional information on listed ones, to submit them for this column. The cancels should be on cover or piece to validate their origin.

EAGLE SHOT DOWN BY APS



Members of The American Philatelic Expertizing Service have examined the item submitted and it is their opinion that it is

a fake cancellation.

Our thanks to member Jean West for letting us know the cover shown here was returned to her recently from the APS Expertizing Committee with a fake certificate, which stated, "that in their opinion, the cancellation was fake." The eagle cancel appears to be outlined with a pen and filled in, as opposed to being struck with a canceling device. The CDS reads Bloomfield, Jul 11, with the state marking too faint to read. Several towns named Bloomfield were in existence during the time-frame in which the stamp shown on the cover was used. The stamp is the two-cent red brown of the 1883-87 period. The cover was addressed to Miss Helen B. Wheelock, St. Johns, Clinton Co., Mich.

Do any of our members own or have records of a similar eagle? Or is this a 'unique' item? Ms. West returned this cover to the dealer from whom she had purchased it and received a full refund. Occasionally, fake material which has been returned to dealers finds its way back into the market. To prevent our readers from unknowingly purchasing this material, we would like to publicize those items which have received a fake certificate. If you have, or have had, an item which has been expertized as fake, please send us a copy of the certificate and we will publicize it.

MACHINE CANCEL BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE

The following were omitted from the Bibliography published in the September News:

Flag Cancellations; Machine Cancel Forum; Postal History—USA, a bi-monthly published by the 4th Class Cancellation Club.

NEVER HEARD OF A DOREMUS CANCEL?

by John W. Koontz

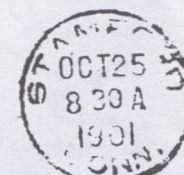
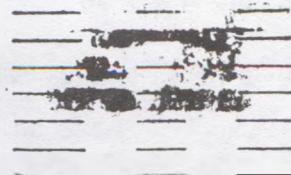
Maybe not, but I bet you have seen one. Several early U.S. cancellation publications brought forth the idea that a certain group of postal markings could be classified together and that these postal markings were the products of a rapid cancelling machine manufactured by the Doremus Machine Company. However, it was not until Frederick Langford published *The Standard Encyclopedia of Doremus Cancels* that collectors had a systematic classification system of Doremus postal markings and a catalog of known town and dates of usage. This remarkable work used a new method of classification, pricing and format, first devised in his *Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia* of 1955 (1st Edition). Additional town, dates and company history have been published in *Machine Cancel Forum* from time to time.

State and town collectors have seen Doremus cancels in collections, as the Doremus cancelling machine was used in over 730 towns (Fig. 1). R.P.O. collectors have seen them as three Chicago streetcar routes had Doremus cancels (Fig. 2). Those who collect receiving postal markings (Fig. 3) and service markings would also have Doremus cancels.

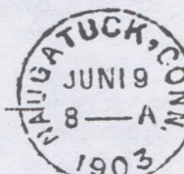
There are six basic Doremus cancel types, A, B, C, D, E and F, with four major subtypes or combinations of the basic types, DC, CD, EC and DB. The major types are illustrated for reference.



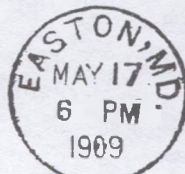
TYPE B



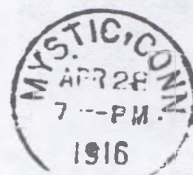
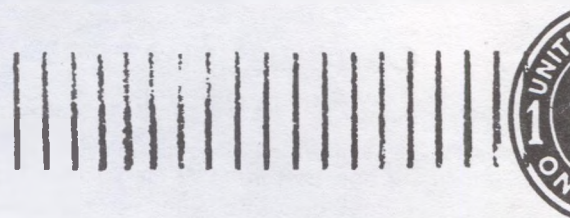
TYPE C



TYPE D



TYPE E



TYPE F



BIBLIOGRAPHY

"History of Rapid Cancelling Machines with a Classification of Postal Markings" by A. H. Pike, *Collectors Digest*, Volume IV, No. 6, June-July 1922.

Rapid Cancelling Machines Manufactures and Impressions — Handbook No. 1, K. F. and V. M. Olson, 1946.

"Rapid Cancelling Machine Construction and Operations" by Kenneth F. Olson, *Stamps*, Dec. 14, 1946.

Postal Markings, the Journal of International Postal Marking Society.
XX Killers, The Journal of the Twentieth Century Postal Cancellation Society.

Rapid Cancelling Machines — Data Book No. 1 by K. F. and V. M. Olson, 1952.

The Standard Encyclopedia of Doremus Cancels, by Frederick Longford, P.O. Box 802, Pasadena, CA 91102, \$3.00 (still available from the author).

The Introduction of Postmarking Machines to Norway by Frederick Brofos, Warner, NH 03278, 1981.

"U.S. Machine Cancellations" by Arthur H. Bond, *The American Philatelist*, Nov. 1971, Volume 85, No. 11.

The United States Transit Catalog Volume II 1887 to 1974 by Charles L. Towle, Mobile Post Office Society 1977 page II — C-23, 24.

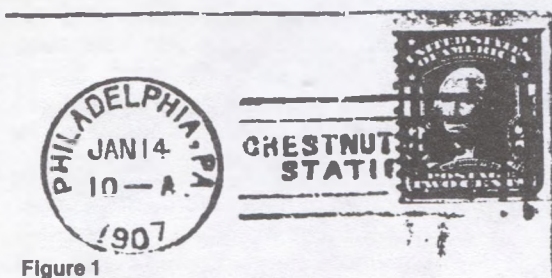


Figure 1

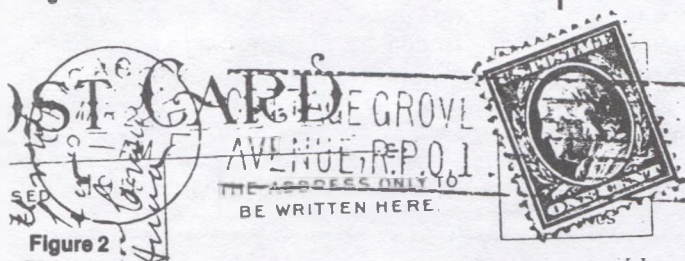
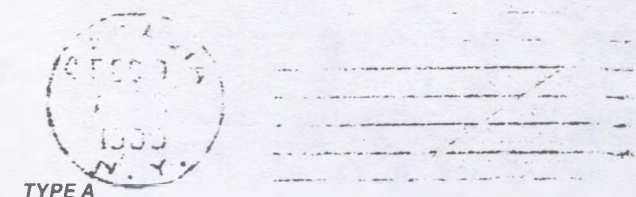


Figure 2



Figure 3



TYPE A

HELP IS NOT FAR BEHIND

by John W. Koontz

When one makes a mistake in print, the world will let one know. Having looked right instead of left on my date tables, I got the days of the week wrong in the Pneumatic Type E article (July *U.S.C.C. News*, No. 168).

Now for the good news! James W. Beach sends us a photocopy of an Apr. 19, 1898, usage on a nice cover, Figure 1. The new table of usage is as follows:

Date	Day of the Week
Apr. 14, '98	Thursday
Apr. 15, '98	Friday
Apr. 16, '98	Saturday
Apr. 19, '98	Tuesday
Apr. 20, '98	Wednesday
Apr. 21, '98	Thursday

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
APR 19 1898
10:50



199-203 WABASH AVENUE,

Figure 1.

Who has the Monday cover?

MUSIC DEALERS, CHICAGO.

MORE . . . On Those Faked Supplementary Markings by Herman Herst, Jr.

Member Persson's account (see September issue) of the fake covers that an Illinois dealer spread around the country a few years ago performs a wonderful service — for those who are members of this club. But for the hundreds, maybe thousands, of others who have not read this publication, these fake covers are still going to be bought and sold by many collectors and dealers.

Fake covers, unlike old soldiers, do not silently fade away. They continue to exist and continue to plague our existence.

With all of the discussion of these fakes in these pages, no one has yet discussed how they were put into circulation. Many of them were so outrageously counterfeit that they fairly screamed their identity to anyone seeing them. For this reason, the crook did not offer them over a counter at a stamp show, individually priced.

Instead, in many of our weekly magazines, he took a small ad, either display or classified, with a minimum of words. Usually it read something like this: "Over \$100 worth of early U.S.A. covers, special \$12.00," with his name and address following.

The sucker who sent his money would receive twelve or fifteen covers, each with a price pencilled in the corner. There would be a half dozen cheap stampless, perhaps New York, Boston or Philadelphia, each priced at \$3 or \$4. There would be some 3¢ 1861s (\$2 or so each), a few Bank Notes (\$1 or so), and then came the dynamite. Two or three of the El Paso National Bank entries, each "improved" with a fake Express or Steamboat marking (and priced at \$25 or more) would round out the lot, bringing the total to the \$100 value promised.

When these fake covers began to show up, the source was not suspected. The faker did a right smart business, judging by the frequency with which they were seen. The raw material he had to work with was seemingly inexhaustible; for many years, the writer and other dealers had been seeing envelopes addressed to the El Paso National Bank.

Unfortunately, our weekly stamp magazines were not too much help in stopping the circulating of these fakes. Once it was established where they were coming from, specific complaints were sent to the magazines which had been taking the ads. In most cases, the complaints were ignored. The magazines did not answer. In other cases, the magazine appeared to be more interested in whether the advertiser sent the subscriber something, even if it was loaded with fakes.

The writer spent several checks for \$12 trying to convince the magazines that what their advertiser was sending out was not only a disgrace, but a hazard to philately as well. Finally, one national organization, the American Stamp Dealers' Association, realized what was happening and the member was expelled. Soon after, the ads stopped.

But while the ads have stopped, the individual is still around, and without a doubt, some of the covers are as well. As long as he continues without a conscience, collectors may take credence in the saying that "to be forewarned is to be forearmed." But what of the thousands of collectors who are not members of the U.S.C.C.?

And if you are wondering what you get for the modest dues you pay to belong to the U.S.C.C., this is a fine example. If you have been spared the embarrassment and the inconvenience of buying a nice looking cover that you admired until you found out it was fake, isn't that a modest price to pay for the knowledge?

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

by William C. Walker

Dr. B. R. Bales was one of the most prolific originators of fancy cancels in postal history. In less than nine months, he created at least 89 beautiful cancels. It is probable that he produced an additional 10 or 20, and possibly more.

His son reports that he chose a town whose name suggested a design. He then prepared an appropriate sketch. This was transferred to a piece of heavy linoleum. "Taking a knife, he cut away that part that was not to be transferred. He then mounted the linoleum onto a block of wood."

Having done this, he prepared the covers and sent them to himself, his son and a few friends. Some of his covers show his wife, Mary, as sender. The only other names of addressees noted are Wm. V. Miller and W. G. Fountaine. The latter gentleman also produced quite a few cancels during this period.

Mostly, the postmasters agreed to allow the letters to go through the mail. Occasionally he was refused. In a very few cases, more 'regulation' cancels were added to the stamps by someone in the postal system. Nearly all of his covers are registered. The great majority of his creations are very scarce and many are rare. It is doubtful that more than five or ten covers were prepared by Dr. Bales in nearly all cases. Surviving examples are extremely hard to find.

The art work is very good and the majority of the cancels are colored. Some are known to exist in two or more colors.

Dr. Bales covered a large part of southern Ohio from his home in Circleville. He drove to the towns he had chosen and put the prepared covers in the postal system. He put many thousands of miles on his car during this time. Some of the post offices are 100 miles from his home. Older readers will appreciate his dedication. The roads in the early 1930s were not super highways and in some cases not paved at all. For that matter, the cars of that period were not as dependable as are the automobiles of today.

He spent the winter of 1933-34 in Venice, Florida. As you might imagine, the town's name inspired him to carve a scene of a gondola being poled through the waters. This cancel is found in three colors. During his stay, he traveled to many towns such as Venus, Campville, Fort Green, Laurel and others. In each case, he induced the postmaster to register a few covers which were addressed to himself or "Bill" Fountaine or "Bill" Miller.

The earliest date of postal usage to be found on a Dr. Bales cover so far is August 2nd, 1933. The last on a cover, with his name as sender, is April 2nd, 1934. There are a number of fancy cancels which he may have carved, on covers with somewhat earlier or later dates. Information on them will be welcomed with open arms.

The accompanying illustrations do not 'do justice' to the beauty of his work. The colors he employed on his artistic creations make a rainbow seem drab by comparison. Brilliant brown, purple, magenta, silver and gold are among the hues to be found on his covers.

Most of his cancels are on covers from Ohio and Florida. The balance are from towns he visited on his trip to and from Florida. On a number of occasions, he mailed the prepared covers to other states for entry into the postal system. Black Wolf, Kansas; Blue Bell, Utah; and Swan, Iowa

are among the towns that cooperated in making the mails beautiful and colorful during this period. It is doubtful that any other philatelist or postmaster created more fancy cancels than Dr. Bales. Even more remarkable is the fact that he achieved this record in less than a year. Had the Postmaster General not 'cracked down' when he did, it is probable that the number of cancels to his credit would be much higher. Look around — these rare covers are even found in dealers' 'junk boxes' occasionally. The thrill of a 'find' can be yours.



SWAN, IOWA
11-4-33
Black



BEE RIDGE, FL.
1-8-34
Registered (R) & Backstamped (B.S.)
Orange, Red



LYNX, OHIO
8-2-33
Magenta



LAUREL, FL.
1-5-34
Blue, Green



BAREFOOT, KY.
9-26-33 — 10-2-33
R & B.S.
Purple, Red



VENICE, FL.
2-7-34
Water & canopy — lite blue-green;
gondola — magenta; clouds &
birds — dark blue.

VANDALS OF PHILATELY

by Prof. C. S. Thompson, Jr.

In a recent *Vandals of Philately* column I took to task some of the old-time philatelists for being guilty of ruining some very nice philatelic items. The gripe centered on the removal of certain stamps from covers and folded letters so that they could be placed in their albums.

Now comes to hand an item in which the stamp was not removed but still the folded letter was forever ruined by the indiscriminate scribbles of a philatelist long since deceased. Figure 1 shows that it was a folded drop rate circular by the use of a manuscript notation at the upper left reading "Open printed sheet" and the name of the addressee Oelrich & Co. The mailing fee was paid by placing a copy of Sc#24, Type V, at the upper right which was subsequently cancelled and tied by an indistinct black town mark. The stamp is position #78 from the left pane of plate five. Written across the upper portion in purple ink is the message "Compliments of" followed by a black rubber handstamp reading "WM. A. McDONNELL/1646 MADISON AVE., N.Y." and directly below, also in purple ink, "Member #1." As if this was not enough desecration, the donor again took his purple ink and wrote a further three-line statement. "At second annual Convention/Empire State Phil Society/August 25/99." How many of your readers would think of committing a similar cover crime in 1981, even for a friend?

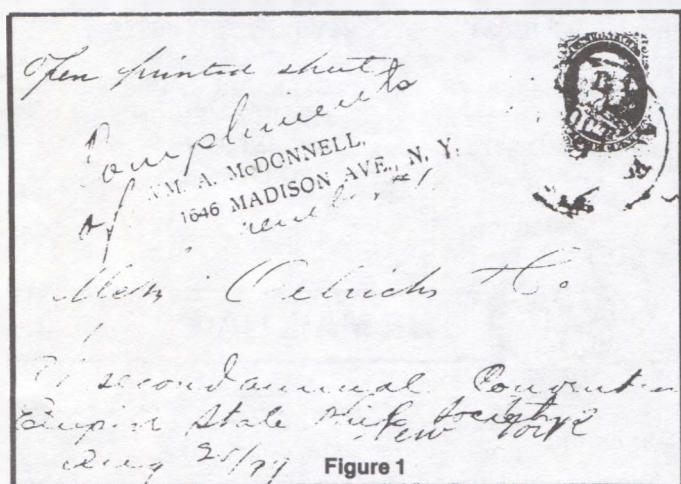


Figure 1

TEMPLE OF HEALTH, SOUTH CAROLINA

by Jim Inverarity

Among the many mineral springs in South Carolina is one located in Abbeville county in the western part of the state. This spring was the site of an inn called "The Temple of Health," built about 1775. It was originally constructed of logs and contained seven rooms in the main building and several slave cabins in the rear. John Calhoun was among the famous guests at this stagecoach stop. The inn operated a post office from June 23, 1823 to October 29, 1877 (Fig. 1). In 1857 the *Register of Officers and Agents* records for this post office a total revenue of \$14.94.

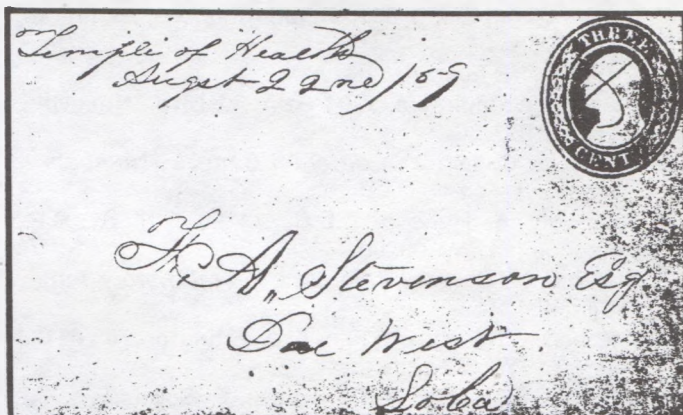


Figure 1.

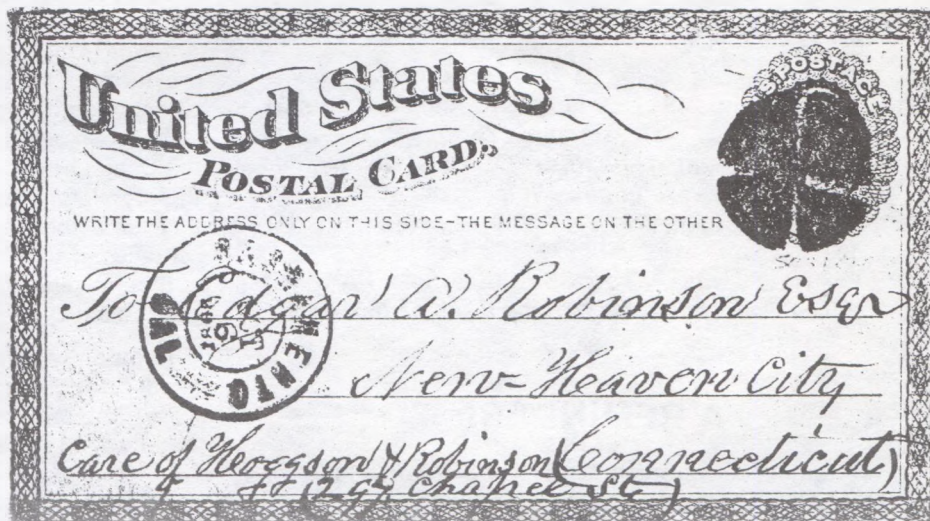
DATE	POSTMASTER
23 Jun 1823	Nathaniel Townsend
27 Jan 1829	George W. Wilson
6 Feb 1836	John Cunningham
25 Jun 1846	Stephen W. Cunningham
22 Jul 1846	James W. Black
11 Dec 1851	Stephen W. Cunningham
10 Nov 1852	John Cunningham
24 Feb 1859	Stephen W. Cunningham
24 Dec 1859	Micajah B. Latimer
7 Sep 1866	Mrs. Eliza A. Clinkscales
9 Feb 1869	M. B. Latimer
26 Oct 1869	Albert G. Latimer
6 Jan 1875	David Crawford
29 Oct 1877	Discontinued, mail to Antreville

(The office may have been closed during the Civil War.)

A FAVORITE CANCEL

by Joe McDonough

This is a weird one... well, it's from California. The postmark reads Sacramento, CAL, October 6 9981. If you invert the year date it becomes OCT 6 1866, and this card wasn't issued until 1873! The handwritten date on the reverse is 1875... so much for California.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1398 Richard Yep, 895 Pacific Ave., Apt. 640, San Francisco, CA 94122
Fancy Cancels on 19th C. US Stamps; NYFM on/off Cover; Fancy Postmarks & Adv. Covers; General US; B-O-B & Fancy Cancels on B-O-B.
- 1399 Thomas A. Regan, 90 Kimball Hill Rd., #49, Hudson, NH 03051
US Plate Blocks; Apollo II FDCs, Coils; Booklets; Old Envelopes
- 1400 John D. Kohlhepp, 8010 Remington Ave., Baltimore, MD 21207
19th C. US Postal History
- 1401 Arthur W. McIntyre, 2204 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212
General Collector of different Cancels, Numbers & Markings.
- 1402 Gregory A. Hanson, D.D.S., 14120 84th St. S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290
19th C. US Covers (Stampless, Postal History, Fancy Cancels).
- 1403 Robert K. Garrity, 275 Park Ave., Arlington, MA 02174
19th C. World Fancy Cancels
- 1404 Ernest S. Peyton, P.O. Drawer T, Scottsdale, AZ 85282
Western US Coll./Dealer
- 1405 Hattie F. Elliott, 1415 N. Elmendorf, San Antonio, TX 78207
US Stamps; Hand Cancellations; US Souvenir Cards; Coil Pairs
- 1406 Ronald C. Newbery, Sr., RD 1 Box 67, Cold Spring, NY 10516
US 19th C. Covers; France 19th C. Covers; Censored Covers.
- 1407 Dr. Joseph Novosel, 80 IH 10 North, Suite 102, Beaumont, TX 77702
US Officials; Banknotes On & Off Cover; Revenues, First Issue.
- 1408 Joseph A. Tramontana, P.O. Box 26784, Elkins Park, PA 19117
19th C. US Cancels, Fancy Cancels; 20th C. US Cancels, Fancy; Confederates.
- 1409 Ron I. Gross, 3521 W. Villa Rita Dr., Glendale, AZ 85308
Fancy Cancels on the 3¢ 1861 issue. Coll./Dealer.
- 1410 Nonie Green, 2401 Colorado, San Angelo, TX 76901
US Registered Mail; Germania Design 1900-1922 of Germany & related countries; TX Postal History; Pan American Airways Flights; Volcanoes.
- 1411 H&H Marketing, 127 West 56th St., New York, NY 10019
- 1412 Evelyn L. Lewis, P.O. Box 545, Clearfield, PA 16830
Fancy Cancels on the 3¢ Rose Issue of 1861-1868.

A REMINDER!

Don't forget . . . the Sales Dept. needs your duplicates for the circuits.

Reinstated:

- 1146 Edward G. Hines, 240 Prospect Ave., Apt. 632, Hackensack, NJ 07601
Banknote Fancy Cancels and Markings.
- 1223 Carey Brown, 22 Pearl St., Oyster Bay, NY 1171
US 319-320 on cover with cancellations of that time; Dance on Stamps.
- 1256 William J. Osterbauer, 937 W. Evergreen Dr., Visalia, CA 93277
19th C. US covers, stamps.
- 434 Dr. Sheldon H. Dike, 1420 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
Territorial covers of New Mexico, Arizona & Colorado.
- 557 Merrill S. Johnson, 2508 Wassar Ave., Visalia, CA 93277
Unusual & Fancy Cancellations, Townmarks on US Postal Cards, S1, S2, S4, S6, S7, S8.
- 762 Henry M. Spelman III, Box 645, San Anselmo, CA 94960
New Hampshire Covers to 1869. Coll./Dealer.
- 1089 Elwyn J. Doubleday, Jr., Box 259, Alton Bay, NH 03810
New Eng. PH; Dealer/Coll.

Change Of Address:

Richard C. Cross
2402 W. Muriel Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Allen V. Fracchia
749 Mikkelsen Dr.
Auburn, CA 95603

Robert M. Hedges
P.O. Box 306
Hancock, MD 21750

Capt. Kurt Sanftleben
HQ 3RD MED BN
3RD INF DIV
APO NY 09162



Dear Editor:

The cover illustrated in "Question Corner" for September is a "request" letter mailed (1865?) when the system of returning such undeliverable letters direct from the destination post office to the sender was still fairly new. Leech, in *The Post Office Department of the United States of America* (Arno Press 1976 reprint), says an Act in 1860 first provided that letters bearing the sender's request for return if undeliverable, and his address, were to be returned, rather than being advertised and, if still unclaimed, sent to the Dead Letter Office, as the practice had been. (Perhaps this provision was in the Act of 3 April 1860, 12 Stat. 11; I haven't checked.) My guess is that the Chicago post office used the "NOT TO BE ADVERTISED" stamp so the still relatively uncommon return requests would not be overlooked.

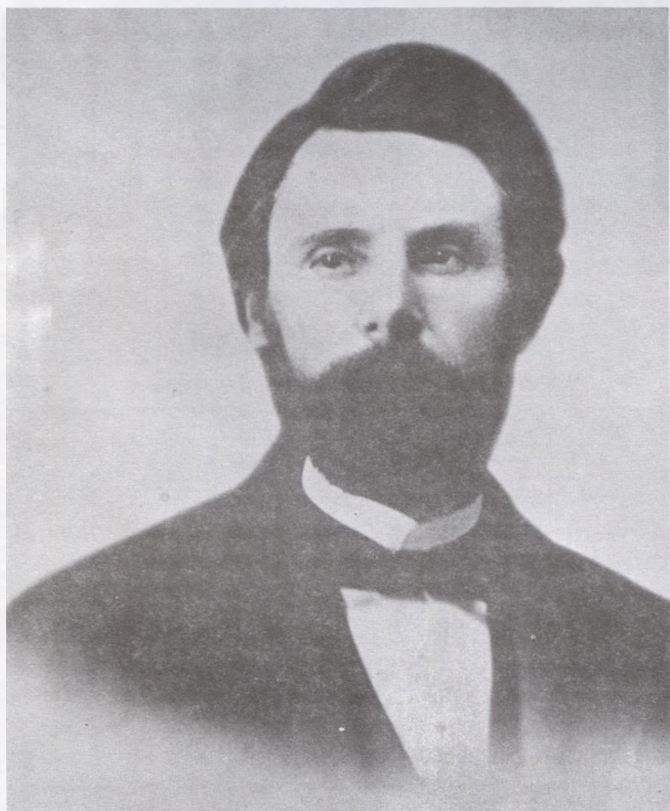
Apparently simple "card" letters (those bearing the sender's address, but without a specific request for return) were first required to be returned direct by the Act of 27 July 1868 (15 Stat. 194).

Sincerely, Henry W. Beecher

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!

Update On The West Meriden "Devil & Pitchfork"



Covered with dust, on the top shelf of a storage rack in an unused room at the main Meriden Post Office is where Bill Duffney discovered the photograph of the postmaster responsible for those "devil & pitchfork" cancels. The postmaster's name was George Washington Rogers and he served as postmaster of West Meriden from 1861-1865; 1866-1867. Bill is also researching other West Meriden cancels, such as the negative "H" and "Padlock" cancels, and would appreciate a photocopy from members who have examples in their collection. Bill's address is P.O. Box 2151, Meriden, CT 06450.

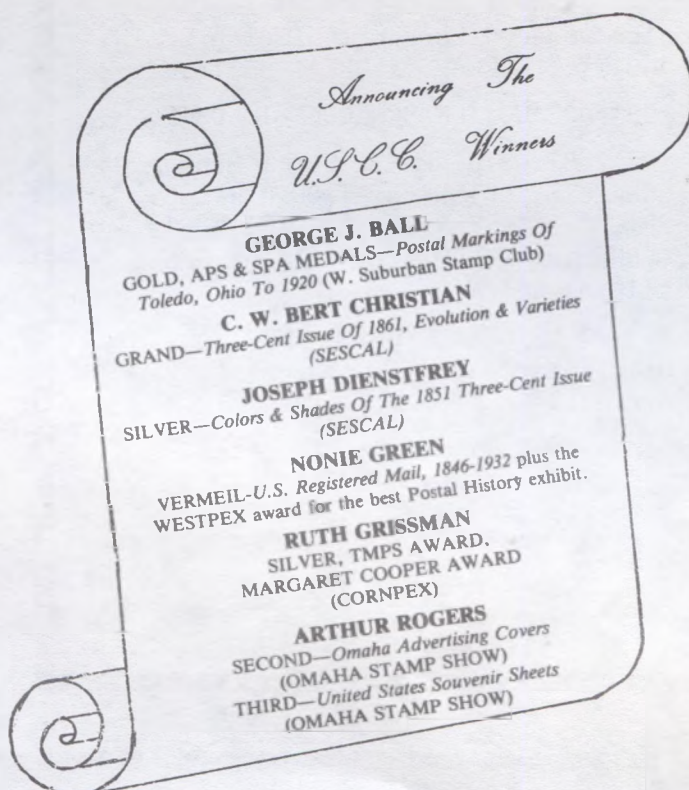
ABOUT OUR MEMBERS . . .

Bill Duffney gave a lecture at the Middletown Conn. Stamp Club in November on "Jacksonian Politics and the Pitchfork Postmaster." William F. Rapp was a guest speaker at SUNPEX in November on the topic of "Postal History Research." Perry Sapperstein spoke on the "U.S. 3¢ 1861 Stamps" at VAPEX during the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society seminar.

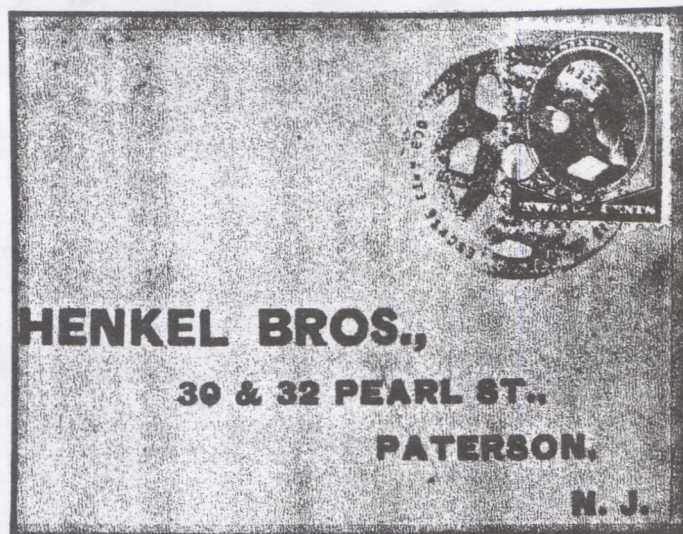
The Paul J. Wolf Collection of Departmental Specimens will be auctioned in late January by the Simmy Boston Auction Gallery.

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.



THE QUESTION CORNER



Wayne Lindquist submitted the above and wonders if any member might have an explanation for the unusual canceling device. The wording on the outside rim (in mirror-image) appears to be German. Beginning at 7 o'clock and proceeding clockwise, the letters appear to read: ERCAS(?)E ETNA 600 (L?)ESSEN EIG — CO. There appears to be no CDS. The stamp is #210, the two-cent red brown of the 1883-7 period.

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