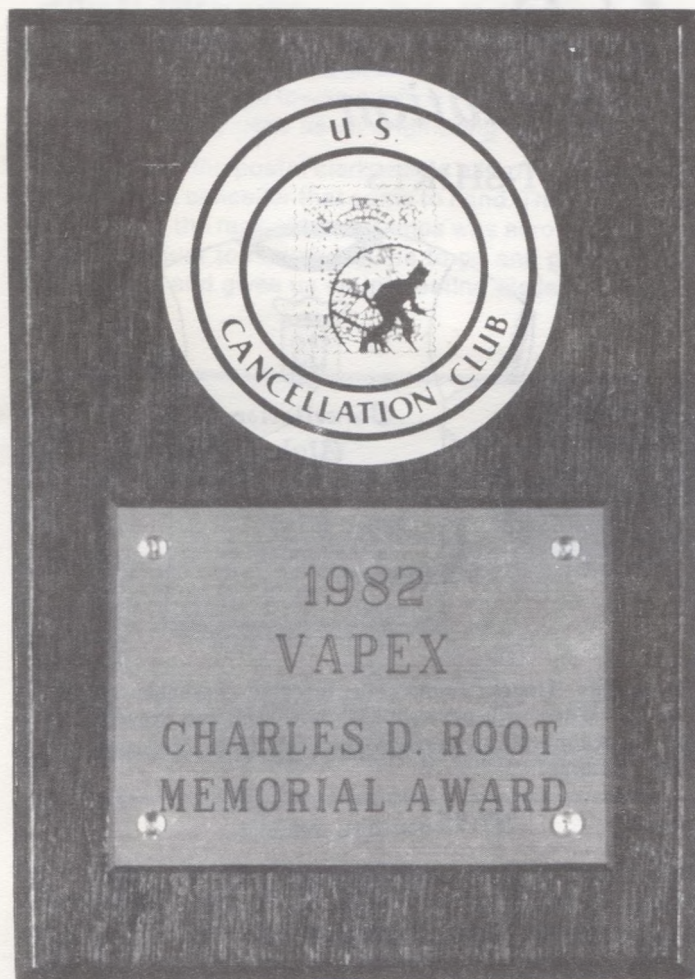




## Award To Honor Charles D. Root



Our Awards Chairman, **Evelyn Lewis**, has announced the Club is offering a walnut plaque, inscribed **Charles D. Root Memorial Award**, for outstanding exhibits of cancellations. This award is presently being offered at the APS sponsored "World Series of Philately" shows and honors the first editor of the USCC who, with great dedication, fulfilled that position from the beginning of the Club in 1951 until his death in 1975 at the age of 84.

The first USCC member to win this award was **Lewis K. Foster Jr.** for his gold medal exhibit of New York Foreign Mail Cancellations 1870-1876 at WESTPEX, a San Francisco show held in April of this year.

### CRITERIA FOR THE USCC AWARD

#### Purpose of the Award

To provide recognition for qualifying exhibits of United States cancellations and postmarks as detailed under Cancellations Defined, and to encourage further study, research and exhibiting of such material.

#### Cancellations Defined

An exhibit qualifying for consideration for the USCC Award may contain examples from any of the following categories: Fancy, which includes simple and geometric designs, fraternal, pictorial, etc.; Circular Date Stamps; Railroad; R.P.O.s; Street Car; Flag, Machine; Manuscript; Exposition; Patent and Auxiliary markings when used as the obliterator.

#### Qualification

An exhibit that is not wholly of cancellations, such as a specialized study of a single stamp, an issue or a country, should contain within the whole presentation at least 20 percent of the total pages showing cancellations relating to the exhibit title.

#### Recipient

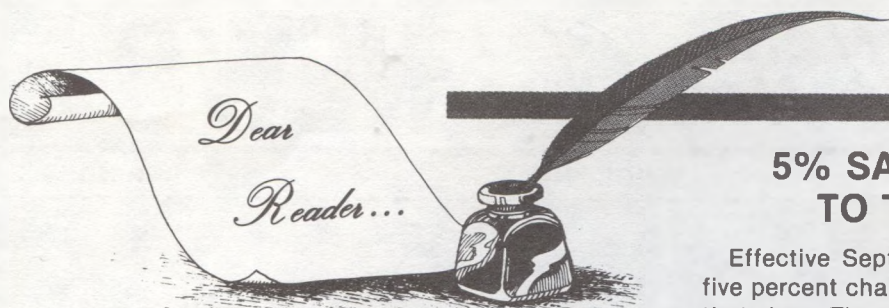
Membership in the USCC is not a prerequisite for consideration of an exhibit for the award.

#### Presentation

It is not mandatory to present the USCC Award to each and every exhibition to which it has been made available, but rather to reserve the privilege for an exhibit of merit which qualifies totally under the preceding criterion.

#### Consideration

Judging shall follow contemporary procedures of the regularly provided panel of APS accredited judges. No special rules will be required.



## 5% SALES CIRCUIT CHARGE TO TAKE EFFECT SOON

Effective September 1, 1982, the Club will institute a five percent charge to sellers on all circuits received after that date. The purpose of this small charge is to build up an insurance fund which will eventually reduce the amount of insurance required when members forward circuits by mail.

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

From time to time we get letters from members informing us they have not received circuits for a long time. We welcome all letters which bring problems to our attention. The only thing we welcome more, is the help members give to eliminate the problem. One way to help can be in the form of forwarding circuits *promptly* — certainly within 10 days.

A second way is for more members to mount their duplicate stamps and covers and send them to the club. Many, if not most, members have accumulated items which are not really a part of their primary collecting interest. Also, many members' interests have shifted into new fields. Why not send these items to the club for sale to other members? It is fun and will provide the means to buy items in which you have a current interest. It also will help other club members who are seeking that which you no longer want. A more compelling reason is this: The club charges a very small sales commission. Most clubs charge 20 percent. Most dealers need an even higher percentage to conduct their business. This almost 'free ride' is yours because club officers, News editor and circuit director serve without pay. Help yourself — help the club and write to our sales circuit manager for books to fill. His address is P.O. Box 83, Winnetka, IL 60093.

**STAMPSHOW '82** will be held August 19-22 at the Milwaukee Expo. Center. The APS is providing tables for all Affiliates to display their Journals and membership information. We are Affiliate No. 75, and any member attending this show who would like to volunteer to help man our table, please contact me.

Philatellically yours,

*Bill Walker*

## U.S. Cancellation Club T-SHIRTS



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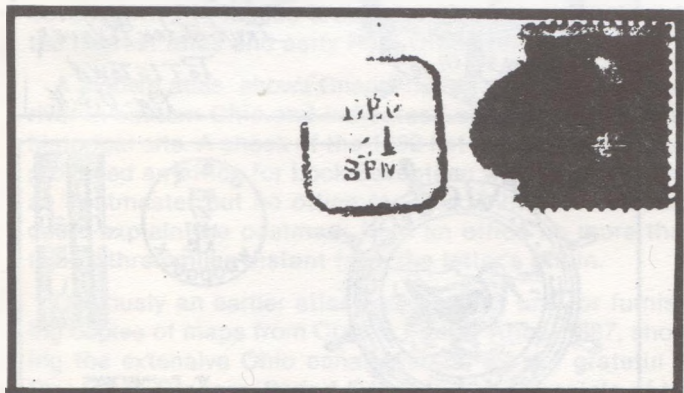
*Ed: Shortly before he died, our immediate past President, Paul J. Wolf sent us the following two articles from his outstanding Black Jack collection. In his memory we publish these last efforts from his philatelic pen.*

## A PHILADELPHIA DROP LETTER

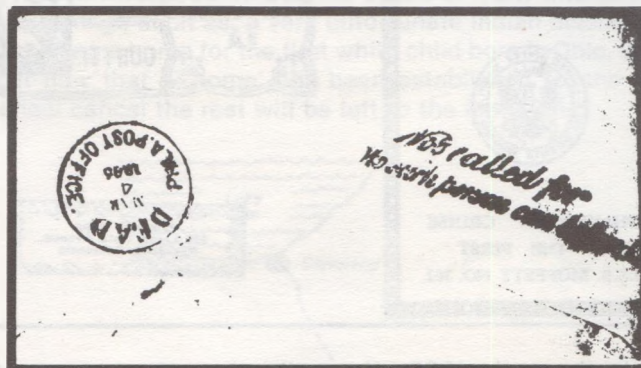
Among the mass of Philadelphia Drop Letters, which are quite the most frequently seen of all Black Jack domestic covers, once in a while one stands out as different. The usual example is a single Black Jack cancelled with a carrier post mark showing the delivery, and these have been seen up to the 6th in a day! Quite different from today!

Shown here is a variation. It is quite unusual. The stamp is cancelled by a blob killer, and next to it is a datestamp of Dec 21, 3PM in a rectangle with truncated corners. There is no year date, but as the stamp is an "F" Grill, Scott No. 93, it is very likely a usage of 1868. The handstamp used in place of the usual townmark is a Philadelphia receiving handstamp, here used as an originating datestamp.

Apparently the postal clerk was in a hurry, as usual, and took the first canceller that came to hand. The other possibility is that the rack of handstamps was across the office, and it was just too much trouble to go and get one! This did the job, and gives us an interesting piece.



## An Unusual Auxiliary Postal Marking In The Black Jack Era



Philadelphia Drop Letters are among the most common of all Black Jack covers. Probably 50 percent or more of all Black Jack covers originated in the larger cities of the North East: Boston, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington and they outnumber all the others by a wide margin.

Nevertheless, it pays to examine even the most pedestrian-appearing cover carefully, for there are many desirable variations. One such is shown here. The writer was at a bourse recently in California, and going through a book of 19th Century U.S. covers, came upon yet another Philadelphia drop letter. The face was as plain-Jane as it could be, merely the name and address and a Carrier CDS of Jan 26, 1865, 3rd Delivery, socked on the nose. Not much of interest there! But the reverse, shown here, was something else. Two handstamps. First, a two-line Italic handstamp, "Not Called For/No such person can be found." And second, a circular dated handstamp: "Dead Phila. Post Office Mar 4, 1865."

I have looked at many hundreds, if not thousands, of Black Jack covers from all points of origin, and these handstamps were new to me! Needless to say, I bought it. And displayed back-upwards, it will do nicely in my Black Jack Exhibit, "Auxiliary Postal Markings."

The cover of the July 1958 News showed an unusual ellipse of the number "21" in a horizontal oval, of unknown origin (Fig. 1). Wayne Lindquist submits the cover shown here (Fig. 2) addressed to Avon, Conn., which shows this same cancel on a 1¢ blue banknote. Wayne thinks this is probably a circular use of New York City origin, due to the advertising corner card of the N.Y., New Haven & Hartford R.R., with a New York City address.



Fig. 1

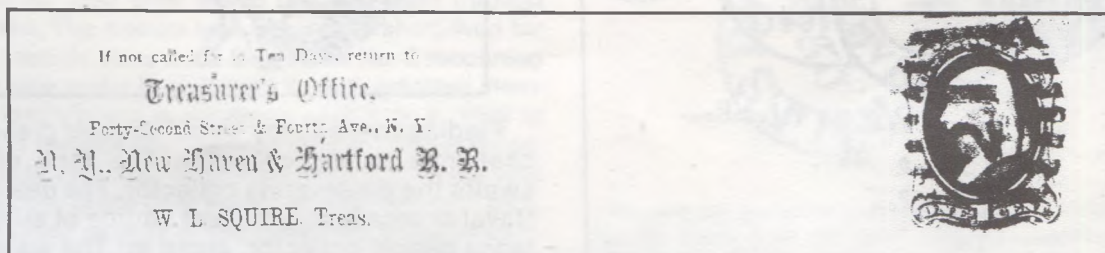
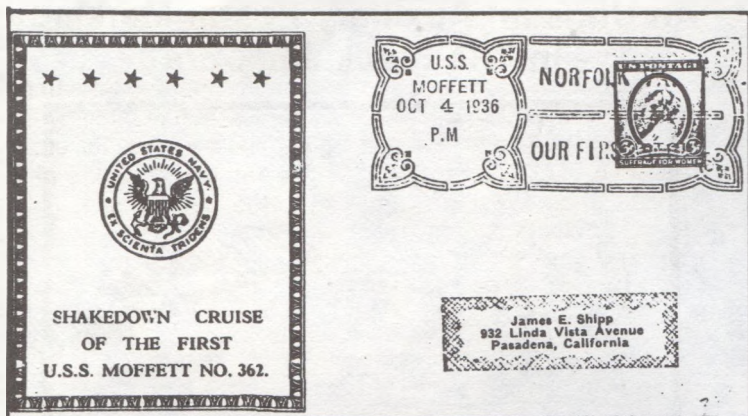


Fig. 2

# FANCY NAVAL CANCELS

By William C. Walker



In the early 1930s the collecting of covers postmarked on ships of the United States Navy became very popular. For the Navy personnel, it was good public relations. At the time, a large part of the Fleet was antiquated.

The "top brass" was doing all it could to popularize the Navy. Their objective was to obtain increased congressional appropriations which would permit the building of new ships and the retirement of superannuated vessels.

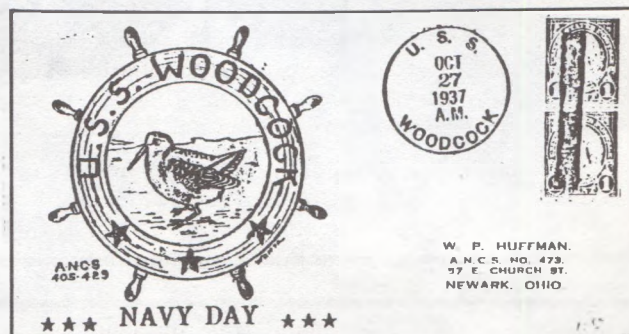
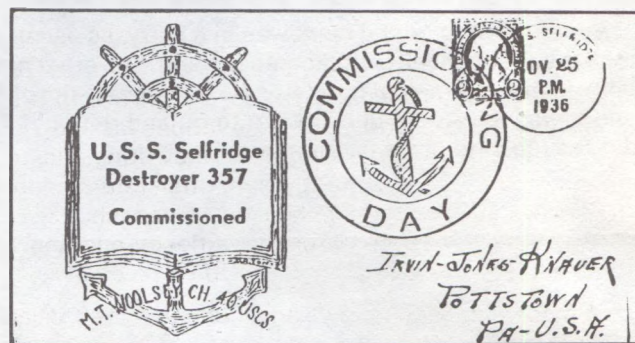
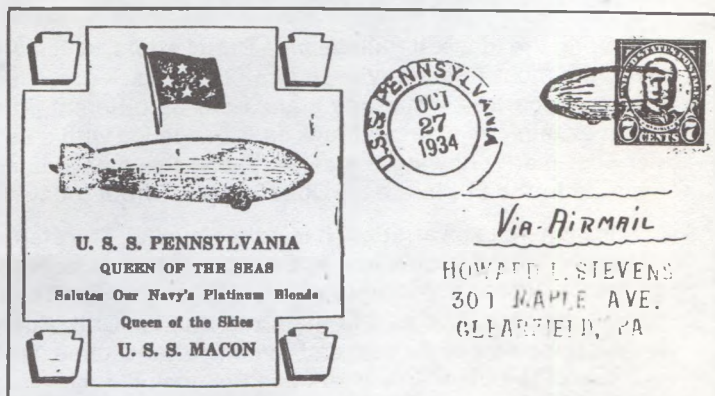
A Naval cover collector in many cases developed a friendship through correspondence with the ship's postal clerk. If a ship was embarking on a cruise, the collector would send prestamped envelopes to the ship and request a cover from each port of call. From keel laying to decommissioning, a ship was "covered."

The cancels illustrated here are examples of the ordinary and fancy cancels of this period. Many of the cancels were used in color. None of them are common and many are extremely scarce. The proverbial needle in a haystack is as readily found as some of those shown here. Registered fancy cancels are rare.

Perhaps the most sought after are those postmarked Tokyo Bay Sept. 2, 1945, the date of the formal surrender of Japan. During the war the practice of using a ship's name on the cancel was discontinued for security reasons. Consequently, only those few ships which prepared a cancel to commemorate the event offer the collector a chance to have a Naval cover noting this historical event.



A great many ships' covers have cachets relating to the last surviving lighter-than-air craft, the U.S.S. Macon. Only rarely, however, does a cancel in the likeness of the dirigible come to light. The cancel here was struck in blue on covers from the U.S.S. Pennsylvania in 1934.



Finding these fancy ships' cancels presents a real challenge to the collector. The thrill of a "find" awaits the persevering collector. The dealer's box of Naval covers is the likeliest source of supply for the fancy cancel collector. Jump in! The water's fine.

## CANCEL UPDATE

by C. W. Bert Christian

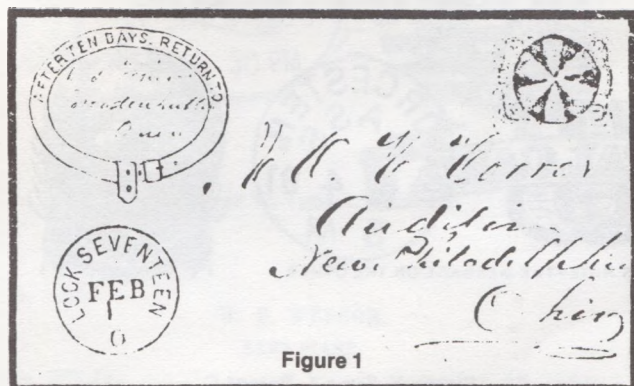
THE LOCK SEVENTEEN,  
OHIO PINWHEEL

Figure 1

The reporting of a previously unrecorded 'fancy' seldom excites any interest beyond the satisfaction of having tied another marking to the town of origin after its identity has remained in obscurity for a hundred years or more. Beyond the fact that the pinwheel in circle on this stamp is unlisted in the standard works on cancellations the overall cover (Figure 1) is quite interesting; the handwriting, the general format and especially the Gnadenhutten return address in frame (which has been enhanced). Gnadenhutten? Lock Seventeen? The names aroused curiosity and sent us to the nearest atlas and early Post Office records.

A modern atlas shows Gnadenhutten on the Tuscarawas river in eastern Ohio and indicates Lock Seventeen as an historical site. A check of the 1862 list of U.S. Post Offices produced an office for Lock Seventeen with Godfrey Heck as Postmaster but no office for Gnadenhutten. This fact could explain the postmark from an office no more than two or three miles distant from the letter's origin.

Obviously an earlier atlas was needed, and for furnishing copies of maps from Cram's Family Atlas, 1887, showing the extensive Ohio canal system, we are grateful to Richard B. Graham, Period Editor for the Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Society.

Originating in the Cleveland area, the Ohio-Erie Canal wandered generally southward through Akron to New Philadelphia and Lock Seventeen, southwest to Columbus, thence south to Portsmouth at the Ohio river. The map shown (Figure 2) covers a handful of counties in northeastern Ohio and outlines Tuscarawa County where the canal closely paralleled the Tuscarawa river at the location of the Lock Seventeen office.

The office was established on July 14, 1862 and discontinued April 18, 1892 after which the mail went through Gnadenhutten. The closure was apparently short-lived for the county records show Lock Seventeen No. 2 reopening seven days later under P. M. Daniel V. Heck (another member of the family?) and in operation until Feb. 8, 1895 at which time it became just plain Seventeen. This information was made available, very timely, by Editor Alyce who furnished a copy of the Ohio Postal History Journal, Vol. 4, No. 1, containing records of the Ohio Post Offices beginning in 1810.

Tuscarawas County was the scene of many interesting happenings such as, a very unfortunate Indian massacre, providing a home for the first white child born in Ohio, etc., but now that a 'home' has been established for the pin wheel cancel the rest will be left to the historians.

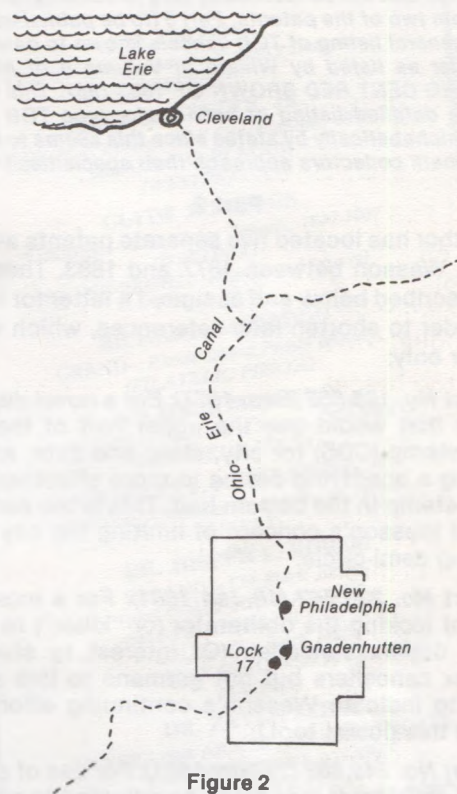
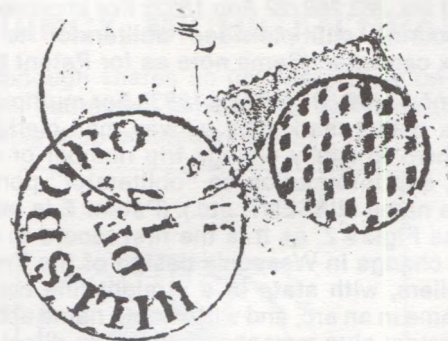


Figure 2

A new addition to the family of Grids is this black strike from Hillsboro, Illinois. Being very similar to Eno-Skinner #SD-G38 from Westborough, Mass. and #SD-G54, Wheeling, W.VA., the Hillsboro cancel, if found in an incomplete or weak strike, could be confusing. Each of the three has seven rows of dashes but the two listed strikes are 18 mm in diameter, whereas the Hillsboro measures 21 mm, and the dashes are somewhat oblique in format.



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

# WALTER D. WESSON'S TIME-ON-BOTTOM (TOB) DUPLEX HAND-CANCELLERS, Part 2

by Theodore W. Bozarth

(Part 1 of this study was published in *Cancellation Club News* of May 1981, but was incomplete in that the long sought copies of Wesson's patents were not yet available. These copies have since been received and will be discussed here in some detail with illustrations from two of the patents. Part 3 (to be published later) will include a general listing of TOB cancels known to date; in alphabetical order as listed by Willard in Volume II of his *UNITED STATES TWO CENT RED BROWN OF 1883-1887*. This will be followed by a detailed listing of each major type TOB postmark, organized alphabetically by states since this seems to be the way most postmark collectors approach their specialties.)

## Part 2

The author has located five separate patents awarded to Walter D. Wesson between 1877 and 1883. These will be briefly described below and assigned a letter for identification in order to shorten later references, which will be by that letter only:

- A. *Patent No. 195,552 (Sep. 1877)*: For a novel duplex canceller that would use the upper half of the circular date stamp (CDS) for city, state and date, and for inserting a scarifying device to more effectively cancel each stamp in the bottom half. This is the earliest record of Wesson's concept of limiting the city name to the top demi-circle.
- B. *Patent No. 236,742 (18 Jan 1881)*: For a more secure way of locking the obliterator (or "killer") to the CDS on a duplex canceller. (Of interest to students of duplex cancellers but not germane to this study except to indicate Wesson's continuing efforts to improve this postal tool.)
- C. *Patent No. 249,863 (22 Nov 1881)*: For use of a multiple sided obliterator that could be adjusted to print different information, and for securely inserting date digits into the CDS, much like cartridges are inserted into the cylinder of a revolver. This is reproduced in much reduced size in Willard (Vol II, page 7) and was the first clue as to the identity of the designer of the TOB cancellers. The drawing from Patent C is reproduced here as Figure X. Note that the earliest known usage of this type of canceller, Figure Y, precedes the actual award of the patent. Characteristics are: both city and state in arcs in upper half of CDS, entire date expressed by numerals ("Quaker dating").
- D. *Patent No. 263,268 (22 Aug 1882)*: For improved method of securing multiple-sided obliterator to CDS of duplex canceller. (Same note as for Patent B.)
- E. *Patent No. 286,884 (16 Oct 1883)*: For multiple use of a duplex postal marker by railway mail clerks, permitting them to easily change trip number or direction, dates, and information on "obliterator" portion (e.g., clerk's name MISSENT, etc.). (Patent E is reproduced here as Figure Z, as it is the first record to show the slight change in Wesson's design of the Type 2 TOB cancellers, with state in a straight line beneath the city name in an arc, and with month name abbreviated. The bottom slug may show either trip direction, as in the Boston, Providence and New York R.P.O. canceller, or the characteristic Time-on-Bottom, as seen in Figure W, the author's earliest known usage of the Worcester Type 2 TOB.)

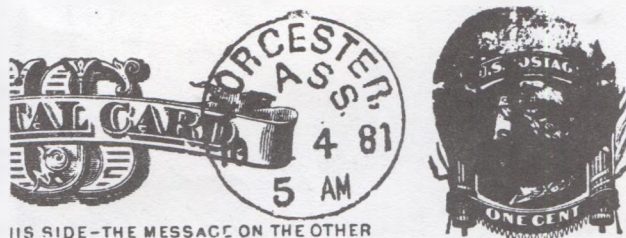


Figure Y, Type 1, Patent C

(No Model.)

W. D. WESSON.  
HAND STAMP.

No. 249,863.

Patented Nov. 22, 1881.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

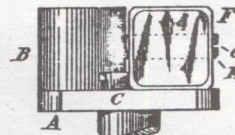
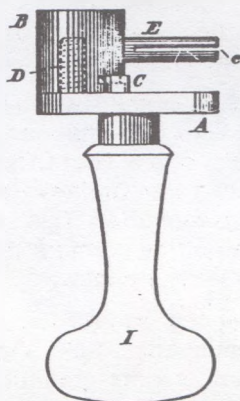


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

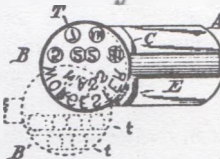


Fig. 5.

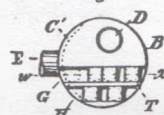


Fig. 6.

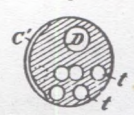


Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

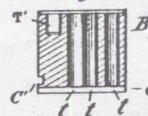


Fig. 9.



WITNESSES:

J. H. Schell. }  
A. R. Brown. }

INVENTOR:

Walter D. Wesson

Figure X

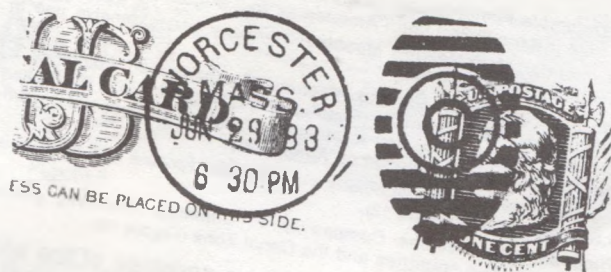
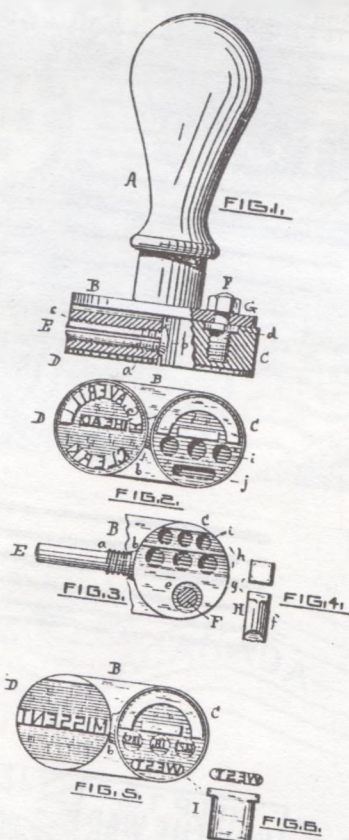


Figure W, Type 2, Patent E

(No Model.)

W. D. WESSON.  
HAND STAMP.  
Patented Oct. 16, 1883  
No. 286,884.



WITNESSES,

Warren R. Price

Ida L. Foster

INVENTOR

Walter D. Wesson

Figure Z

## Announcing The U.S.C.C. Winners

### BRAD ARCH

VERMEIL—Bermuda Postal Markings  
(ARIPEX)

### JOE CROSBY

GOLD—19th Century U.S. Fancy Cancels  
(FRESPEX)

### LEWIS K. FOSTER, JR.

GOLD—N.Y. Foreign Mail Cancellations, 1870-76  
plus U.S.C.C. PLAQUE  
(WESTPEX)

### CLYDE JENNINGS

VERMEIL—U.S. Color Cancels, 1847-1907  
(WESTPEX)  
SILVER-BRONZE—Centers of Interest  
(WESTPEX)

### RICHARD B. JORDON

GRAND—Rhode Island Postal History  
(FILATELIC FIESTA)

### MICHAEL McCLUNG

BRONZE—The 3-Cent Stamp, 1861-1868  
(GARFIELD-PERRY)

### CHARLES F. NETTLESHIP, Jr.

VERMEIL—Railroad Postmarks of Vermont  
(ARIPEX)

### DR. JOSEPH F. RORKE

GRAND—The Black Jacks  
plus GOLD TONG AWARD,  
plus APS MEDAL (WESTPEX)  
GOLD—The Black Jacks  
plus PHOENIX PHIL. ASSOC. AWARD  
(ARIPEX)

### DR. ZAVEN SERON

SILVER—plus ARA SILVER CERTIFICATE,  
plus PRESIDENT'S AWARD  
(FRESPEX)

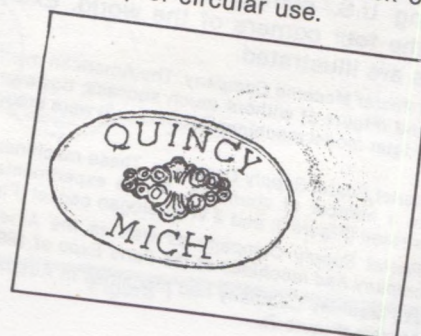
(Title of exhibit not mentioned in press release.)

### WARREN TINGLEY

BRONZE—Ellipse Cancels on the Two Cent Red Brown  
of 1883-1887  
(GOLDPEX)  
plus the Lighthouse First-time Exhibitor Award.

## QUINCY, MICHIGAN OVAL

Joe McDonough shares an unusual cancel on a U 116 from Quincy, addressed locally. The lack of a CDS indicates probable drop or circular use.



Ed: Full size copies of specifications and diagrams of Patents C & E are available upon request from the editor. Send a No. 10 SAE.

Errata: The third line of the third paragraph at the start of this study (May '81, page 82) should read: number or letter(s), not number of letters.

# U.S. Machines Used Abroad Or When Is A "Foreign" Machine A U.S. Cancel

by John W. Koontz

Part of the fun of machine cancel collecting is the search for the information and the cancels of U.S. machine manufacturers or U.S. inventions used abroad. There are three aspects to this search:

1. Literature relating to U.S. machines used abroad.
2. The postal markings of U.S. machine cancel manufacturers used abroad.
3. The postal markings of cancelling machines which were invented or patented by U.S. citizens but manufactured by a foreign company.

A quick review in my library noted the following references relating to the "foreign" postal markings of U.S. machine cancel manufacturers or the postal markings of U.S. inventors used abroad:

## JOURNALS

*Machine Cancel Forum*, Post Office Box G, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

*Flag Cancellations*, Box 657, Tuscarawas, Ohio 44682.

*Canadian Flag Cancel Bulletin*, Larry Palge, Sec., 1069 Shillelagh Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23323.

*Maple Leaves*, No. 112, 119, 121, 124, 127 and Vol. 15, No. 12, The Journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

*BNA Topics*, Jan. 79, Jan. 81, June 61, May 61. The Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, c/o U. G. Green, 77 Victoria St., Toronto, Canada, M5C 2B2.

*Journal of the Postal History Society of Canada*, No. 18, Box 3461, STN. C, Ottawa, Canada, K1Y 4S7.

## CATALOGS

*Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, by Frederick Langford, Box 802, Pasadena, Calif. 91102.

*Doremus Cancel Encyclopedia*, by Frederick Langford, Box 802, Pasadena, Calif. 91102.

*Collect British Post Marks*, by Dr. J. T. Whitney, 75 Church Road, Hadleigh, Essex SS7 2OR, England.

*U.K. Machine Marks*, by Jack Peach, 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London, WC2E 9EU, England.

*The Canadian Flag Cancellations Handbook 1896-1973*, by Ed Richardson, P.O. Box 939, League City, Texas 77573.

*Slogan Postal Cancels of Canada*, by David Proulx, 7629 Homestead Drive, Baldwinsville, N.Y. 13027.

## MONOGRAPHS

*Early Stamp Machine*, by W. G. Stitt-Dibdon published by the Postal History Society of Great Britain 1964 (out of print). This excellent work on British machine cancels contains 30 references alone.

*The Introduction of Postmarking Machines to Norway*, by Frederick Brofas Warner, NH 03278.

*Collect Canada Covers*, by Edward Richardson, published by America Philatelic Society.

*Canadian Machine Cancellations Part 4*, by Ken Barlow, 1055 Ottawa Avenue, B.C., Canada.

The following U.S. companies sent their cancelling machines to the four corners of the world. Examples of their markings are illustrated.

1. *The American Postal Machine Company*. The American machines were tried in England (Figure 1) without much success; however a number (12-15) of their later model machines (Model no. 2) were brought to Chile (Figure 2).
2. *The International Postal Supply Company*. These machines have been successful in a number of countries. A rare experimental Canadian cover is illustrated (Figure 3) and a WWI slogan cancel (Figure 4).
3. *The Barry Postal Supply Company* as well as the *American Postal Machine Company* had machines at the Paris Expo of 1898 (Figure 5).
4. *The Barr-Fyke Machine Company* had machines in Australia (Figure 6) as well as Mexico (Figure 7).

5. *The Columbia Postal Supply Company* had machines on the continent of Africa (Figure 8) and Latin America as well (Figure 9).
6. *The Imperial Mail Marking Machine Company* had extensive use in Canada (Figure 10).
7. *The Bickerdike Mail Marking Machine Company* had machines in Canada (Figure 11), Germany (Figure 12), and Norway. While the Bickerdike Machine Company was a Canadian company and not a U.S. company, its machine was based on American's.
8. *The Doremus Machine Company* placed their machine in a number of U.S. possessions (Figure 13).
9. *Time Marking Machine Company/B. F. Cummins Company* placed machines in five countries and the Canal Zone (Figure 14).

This is by no means an extensive coverage of the wide range of countries, towns, dates, or the types of U.S. machines used abroad — only a glimpse to whet the appetite of collectors.

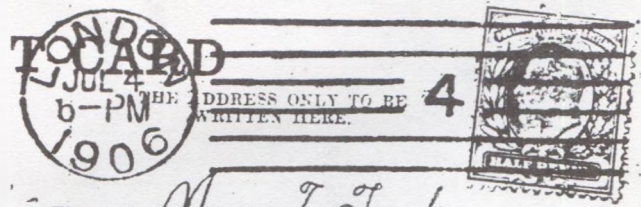


Figure 1

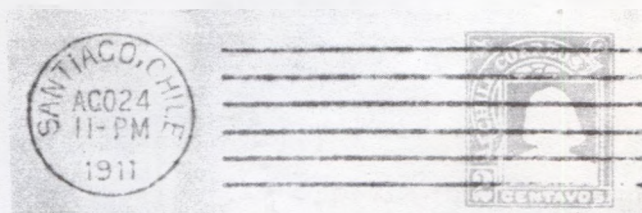


Figure 2

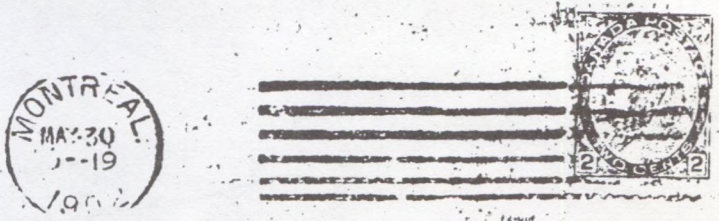


Figure 3



Figure 4

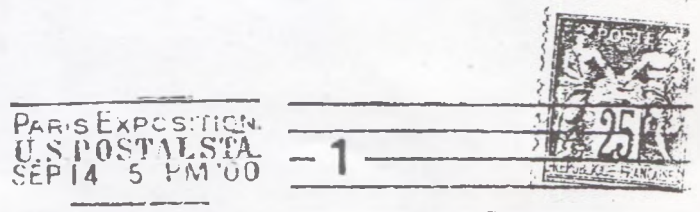


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

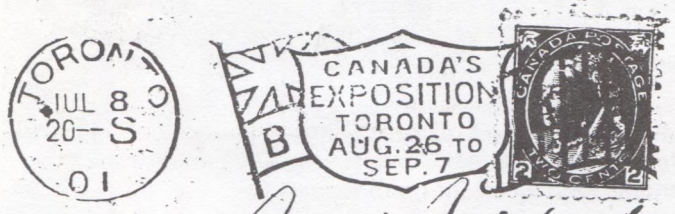


Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

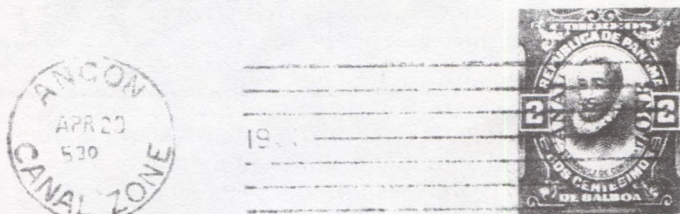


Figure 14

### A NEW COUNTRY FOR THE DOREMUS CANCEL

In Frederick Langford's *Standard Encyclopedia of Doremus Machine Cancels* he noted Doremus machine cancels were used in the following countries or territories outside the U.S.A.:

Hawaii	1903-1908
Puerto Rico	1902-1906
Philippines	1904-1905

We can now add Cuba to this list, from a cover sent by Joe Holleman, dated 1902, which shows a Doremus received marking on the reverse side (Figure 1).

Mr. Langford noted "every Doremus machine installed was equipped with a RECEIVED die." It is logical now to search for the Doremus die used to cancel outgoing mail. From the configuration of the date dial, the outgoing canceller should be a Langford type D. See Vol. 15, No. 12, November 1981 *U.S.C.C. News* for an example of a Doremus type D Cancel.

Joe's Havana, Cuba received cancel is a rare find and now the search is on for its partner, an example on outgoing mail!



Figure 1

# For Love Of A Cancel \_\_\_\_\_ by Alyce Evans \_\_\_\_\_

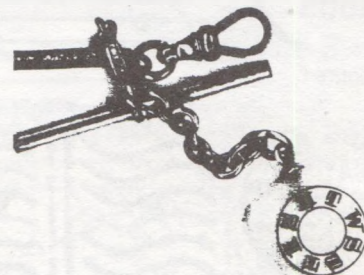
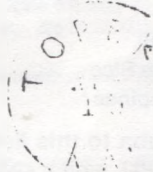
## MASONIC CANCELS



The Masonic Temple Festival card shown above is from a reproduction of an antique 19th century printer's cut. It illustrates many of the Masonic signs including the seeing eye, trowel, apron, square and compass, open book — most of which can be found as fancy killers on U.S. stamps. Careful scrutiny of the cut will reveal several other Masonic emblems.

A seldom seen Masonic cancel with a "Pythagorean Theorem" design, is identified by the arrow. The cancel graphically illustrates the well-known geometry theorem, "the square of the length of the hypotenuse of a right triangle equals the sum of the squares of the lengths of the other two sides." An example of this cancel is shown here on an 1867 3¢ rose grill and tied to a Topeka, Kansas cover.

Another very interesting Masonic is the key-stone enclosing a cryptic circle of letters "TKSHTWSS." A similar likeness can be seen in the printer's cut immediately above the all-seeing eye. This cancel was first reported to the USCC by Walter I. Plant in October 1955 with origin unknown. The origin is still unknown to this writer. The closest I've come to finding this cancel was on a Masonic watch fob which showed the same design on marble, in an antique store. A photo of this fob is shown next to the cancel shown by Mr. Plant. If any reader has this cancel on cover or off, please let me know.



## New Cancels Reported

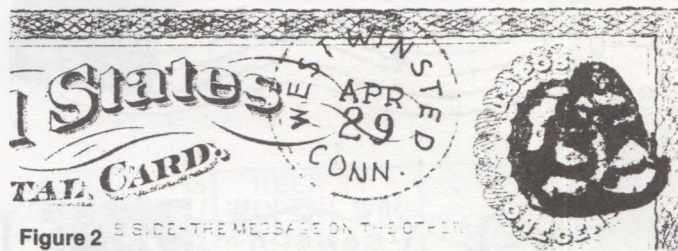
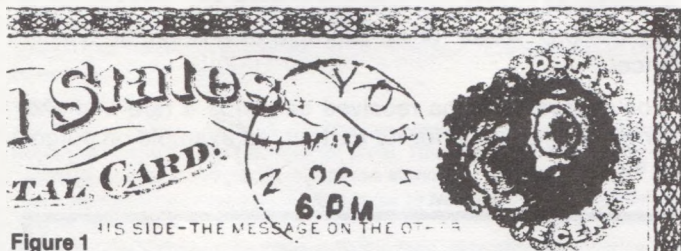


Figure 1 THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Figure 2 THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

From the collection of Merrill S. Johnson we show two postal cards (Sc. No. UX-3) with unusual cancels, in black.

Figure 1 from New York resembles a "figure eight." Figure 2 from West Winsted, Conn. seems to be an inverted face or mask (enhanced for reproducing).



Ted Mills sends us photos of two Waterbury-type cancels which received fake APS certificates. These cancels are on the 3¢ 1861 issue.



## THE HALE FORGERIES

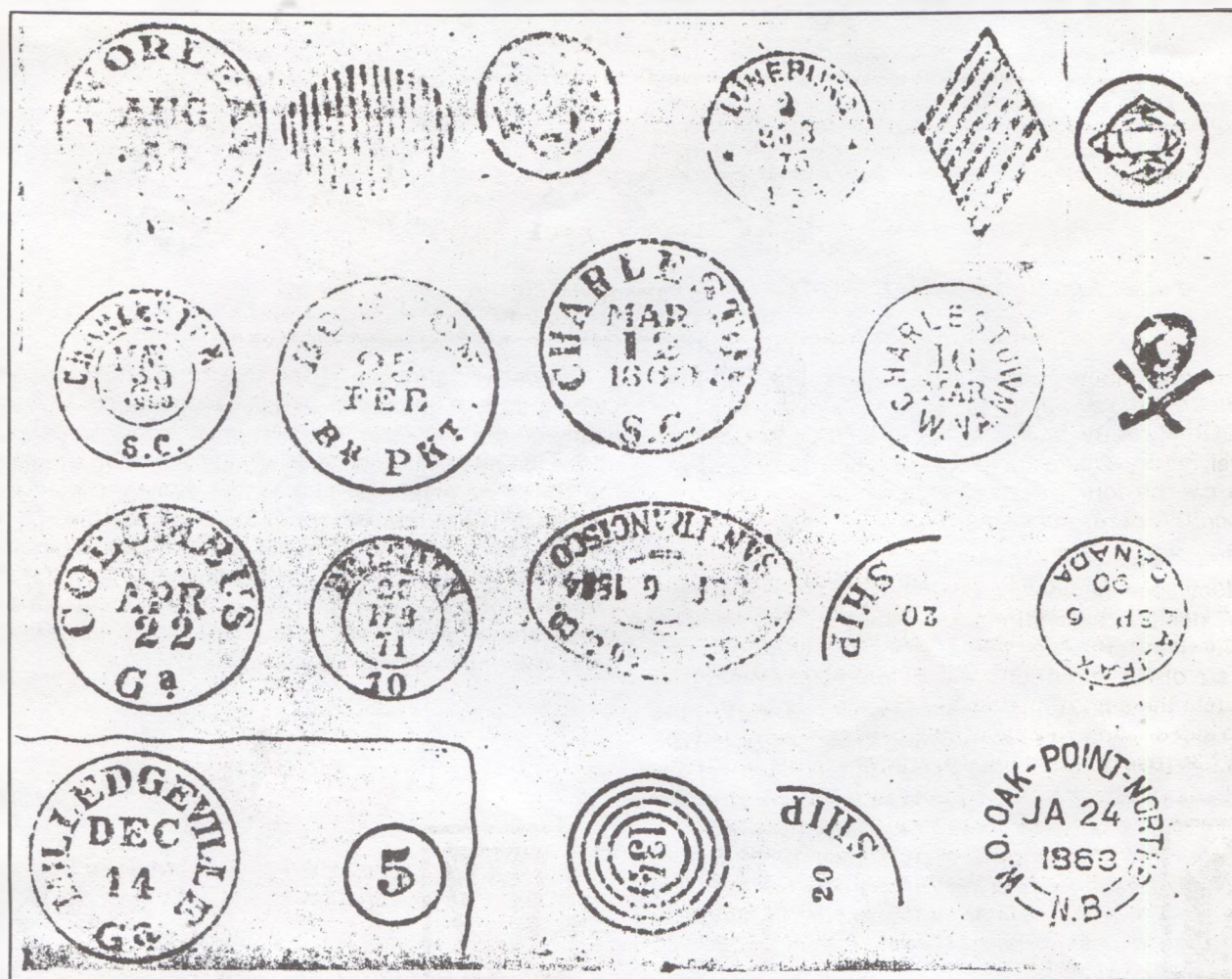


Figure 1

The December 20, 1936 issues of *Postal Markings* carried part one of a three-part article on the forgeries of William Hale. Mr. Hale had been in Federal custody in an Atlanta Penitentiary when he passed away, and found among his possessions were a quantity of fake handstamps and cancellation blocks. Sample impressions were made with these handstamps, which were then destroyed. Photographs were then made of the sheet of impressions. Items from these photographs were published in *Postal Markings* and are shown above (Figure 1). While the exact scale of the photographs is not known, these reproductions are thought to be close to the actual size of the forged markings.

The devices were cut by a foreign engraver and were so marked. All but one were carved from boxwood. The exception is the Charlestown, W.Va. "skull and crossbones." This was made from maple and is of particular interest to me since I have a cover in my collection with, I believe, a legitimate cancellation (Figure 2) showing marked differences from the Hale example. I have only seen one other example of the Charlestown skull and bones, and it too was on the 3¢ green banknote, but off-cover. If any member has a similar cover or a Charlestown, W.Va. cds, of the banknote era, I would appreciate a photocopy. There is a cautionary note regarding these fakes which *Postal Markings* printed: "CAUTION — It is not known in most cases whether genuine marks substantially similar to these exist or not.

Whether any particular item among those shown in this series is to be looked upon as a counterfeit or an entire fake is therefore not stated."

Additional photographs of other forgeries were printed in this series of articles and we will reproduce them in future issues of the *News* as space permits.



Figure 2

**ERRATA:** Credits were left off the North Evans article in the Winter '82 issue. Arthur E. Beane, Jr. and Jim Inverarity kindly donated their covers (Figures 1 and 2 respectively, page 4) for this study.

## 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!*

### Potter And Vail Machine Cancels



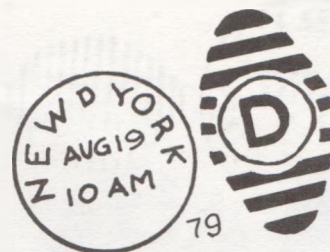
Although never officially acquired by the Post Office Department, the Potter and Vail cancelling machine was used on a test basis during the period of 1896 to 1900. Examples of these cancellations are only known from four towns, all in Illinois: Kewanee, Canton, Galesburg, and Chicago.

A distinguishing feature of the majority of Potter and Vail cancellations is the herringbone killer design shown in the illustration. Many of the Potter and Vail without the herringbone killer can be recognized by the townmark. The townmark is generally the three line straight postmark of the illustration or the larger oval as shown in Figure 8 in the article by John Koontz in the Winter, 1982 *Cancellation Club News*. However, there are a few examples which do not fit in these descriptions. These exceptions tend to resemble Barry cancels.

Jack Hilbing is currently engaged in a research project to provide an in-depth study of the Potter and Vail cancels and their history. Part of the effort is to record all known examples of these cancels. He would appreciate a photocopy of any Potter and Vail cancel that you may have in your collection or stock. He would also be interested in any additional background regarding the machine and its inventors, Edward M. Vail and Gideon Potter. Information can be sent to Jack Hilbing, 380 Indian Hill Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60090.



**David J. Simmons** is researching the handstamps and machine cancellations of Downers Grove, Illinois (DuPage County). He would be pleased if those members who have examples of these cancellations on cover/piece would send him xerox copies of the exact size of the cancellations. Dave is still researching the Mass. towns of South Hadley, Worcester and Malden and would appreciate members sending examples of these towns also. Material can be addressed to David at Washington Univ. School of Medicine, Dept. Surgery/Orthopedics, 4960 Audubon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110.



Code H931-D

**Warren Tingley** is still looking for ELLIPSE cancels on the large size banknotes which have numbers or letters in the center, to update his lists. In an effort to identify the issuing town, he would especially appreciate those examples on cover or piece. He shares the above unlisted variety (new to him) of a New York dater which has the "D" in the dater placed between NEW and YORK, instead of at the bottom, the usual placement, and wonders if this is a trial or a transition sample. If a collector or a NYC specialist knows, please send your information to Warren at 1627 Riverview Rd., Apt. 409, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441.

## LIBRARY UPDATE

Our sincere appreciation to authors John Koontz and Dr. Dike for the donation of the following books to our Library:

*New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalogue* by Dr. Sheldon H. Dike.

*The Time Marking Co. — B. F. Cummins Co.* by Louis Geschwindner, Reg Morris and John W. Koontz.

## Book Review

*The Time Marking Co. — B. F. Cummins Co.*  
by Louis Geschwindner, Reg Morris and John W. Koontz.

This award winning comprehensive study of the postal history of the manufacturers of *Time Marking-Cummins* cancel, lists not only each state, town and type usage, but illustrates with a cover or card each cancel type. There are listings by cancel type and also a separate listing by state and town. The authors have researched into company history, patent and congressional sources. With this publication, a new standard has been set for machine cancel literature as well as an extensive bibliography.

*The Time Marking Co. — B. F. Cummins Co.* is a must for not only machine cancel collectors, but anybody who handles 20th century U.S. Covers, cards, postcards, and especially state or town postmark collectors. *The Time Marking Co. — B. F. Cummins Co.*, is a postal historian's delight!

The cost is \$20.00 post paid (Foreign order, \$24.00 post paid air mail) from John R. McGee, Machine Cancel Forum, P.O. Box 98, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, USA.

U S  
MAIL

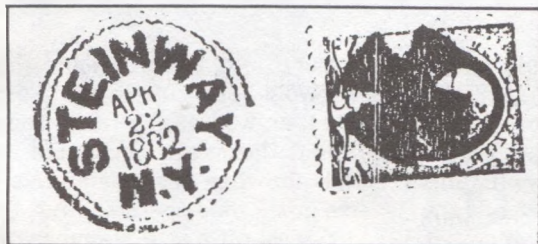
## THE MAIL BAG

## MORE ON STEINWAY, N.Y.

The Question Corner of the Winter '82 issue of the News asked for information on Steinway, N.Y. Our member John McCracken sent a copy to his friend John H. Steinway, Chairman of the Board of Steinway & Sons, piano makers, whose father was Theodore Steinway, the great and well-known philatelist. Mr. Steinway's reply to John McCracken is excerpted below:

Dear John:

... I am, of course, fascinated by the 'Question Corner.' I can tell you the story. My grandfather and his brothers acquired 440 acres of real estate in what is now the northern end of Astoria in 1871 and created the equivalent of a company town. The present Steinway Street in Astoria was the main street of town, all of the cross streets were named Albert Street, William Street, Theodore Street, etc. — the names of all the brothers. They did build our factory which we still occupy at the north end of Steinway Street. My grandfather lived in the Steinway mansion which still stands at the corner of 18th Avenue and 41st Street, and is a landmark in Queens. Up until 1898 it was an incorporated village in the state of New York and had its own post office. I have three or four similar covers in my collection, cancelled "Steinway, New York." They are very hard to find. . .



Ed: Shown above is an unusual Steinway CDS from one of Mr. Steinway's personal collection of covers.

## AND MORE . . . from Herman Herst Jr.

"The Steinway piano factory presently is in Queens and it is presently a branch of the Queens P.O. which is now a part of New York City. It was not until 1898 that Queens, Brooklyn joined the metropolis. (Scott #C 38, the 5¢ air mail) commemorated the 50th anniversary of this union. There is still a Steinway branch there. It can now be stated that during World War II the Steinway piano factory was converted into a factory manufacturing machine guns for the armies of this country and its allies."

## Gerontology On Stamps

Dear Fellow Philatelists:

I am writing in the hope you can help me locate a specific cancel for my topical collection of aging (old age, gerontology) on stamps. I am attaching a copy of the item which was used at the National Retirement Show held in Chicago, May 1976. I hope that some member of your Club can assist me or suggest a source. I am an APS member, 89904.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Herbert Shore

5839 Meadowcrest  
Dallas, TX 75230.

## VANDALS OF PHILATELY

by Prof. C. S. Thompson, Jr.

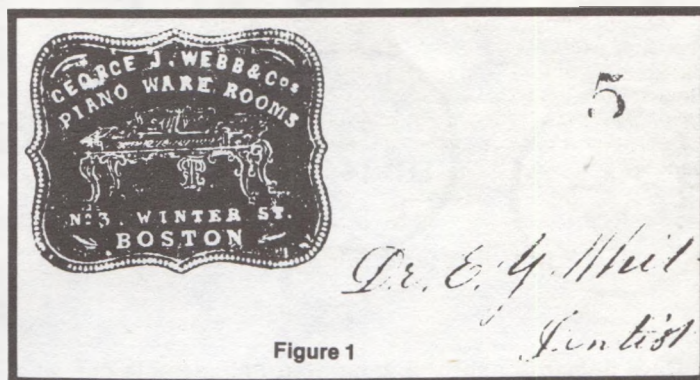


Figure 1

The covers shown in Figures 1 and 2 illustrate two very nice piano dealer corner cards. Figure 1's corner card is nicely embossed in blue with white lettering. It is, of course, from the stampless period as indicated by the black numeral five rate mark. The old time vandals had nothing to remove from this cover, so philately has been spared a damaged or destroyed gem.

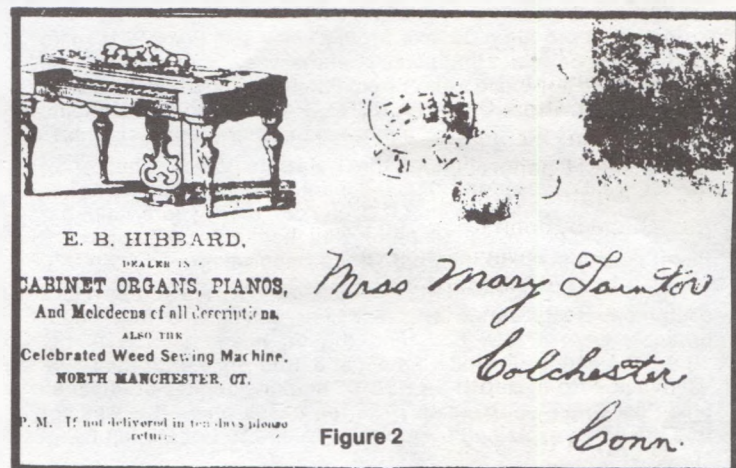


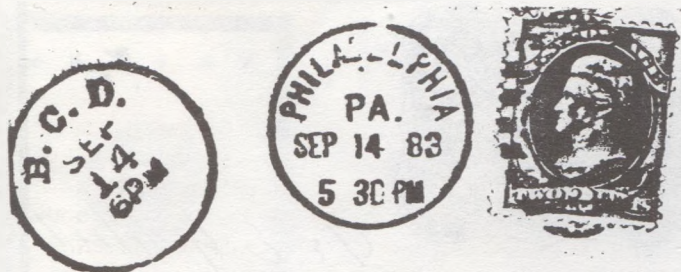
Figure 2

In Figure 2 we see the destruction of a nice cover in two ways. First, the stamp that once reposed there was removed by soaking the cover in water. This resulted in staining the cover and leaving considerable gum on the paper where the stamp had been placed. Second, the stamp that was removed in all probability was a Sc. No. 65. This conclusion seems indicated by the small black double circle which reads: North Manchester, Ct., June 11, 1863. The letter is directed to Colchester, Ct., and thus would have only required the use of the then current three cent value. How sad it is to see this cover lost to future generations.



How, When & Where  
to Retire

## QUESTION CORNER



Dave Semsrott sent the illustrated Philadelphia cancel and requested help in explaining the "B.C.D." marking. We forwarded the example to a Philadelphia expert, Robert J. Stets, and share the information from his reply excerpted below:

The "B.C.D." circular marking seen on some Philadelphia covers with 1883 yeardates, has intrigued collectors, but its significance has not been completely explained. Some collectors thought it might be a carrier marking, but we now agree that "B.C." means "Box Clerk" — the "D" could be either "Delivery" or "Division."

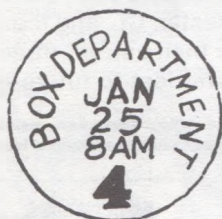
Some time ago Alton Gaumer wrote a small item in the PPHS (I do not have the date, but first class postage was 15¢ at the time). He stated that he had found a cover from Pittsburg with a circular cancel reading "BOX CLK NO. 3/PITTSBURG, PA./DEC/22/3AM/1898" and suggested that the "B.C.D." might mean "Box Clerk Dispatch."

At a following meeting of the Delaware Valley Chapter of PaPHS, we discussed the "B.C.D." marking, and compared notes. John Kay, who worked as an R.P.O. clerk for many years, said that the "D" could not mean "Dispatch," as that had a completely different meaning within the Post Office Department.

We noted that nearly all the available covers were addressed to center city Philadelphia addresses, or businesses that might probably have a P.O. Box, and that in nearly all cases, the "B.C.D." marking showed a time just a little while after the Philadelphia postmark, or "PHILA REC'D" marking applied at Philadelphia Post Office upon receipt. The few cases where this was not true, could be explained by a clerk's failure to update his hand-stamp at midnight.

Two covers bearing the "B.C.D." marking and addressed to locations outside center city were **readdressed to a Box Number.**

We therefore agreed that the Philadelphia Post Office had an employee (or employees) whose job it was to place mail in the boxes at the main Post Office, and that for some reason, during 1883, (not known at this time) he was instructed to place his identifying stamp "B.C.D." on all mail he deposited in those boxes.

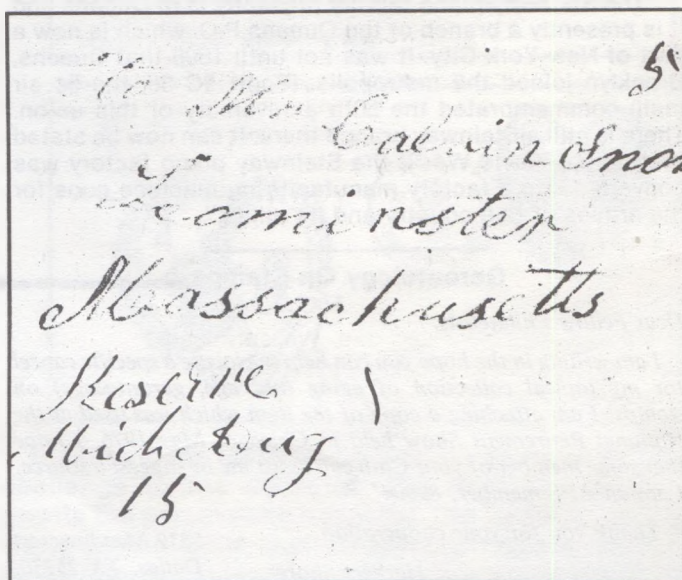


John S. Maye has a cover with an unusual receiving mark (shown above). This cover originated from Newark, N.J., Jan. 24, 1885 and was sent to the Office of the Chief Signal Officer in Washington, D.C. The BOX DEPARTMENT receiving mark is located on the reverse of the cover and is accompanied by a standard Washington, DC receiving CDS. Can anyone explain this marking?

Does any member have another example of this "face in profile" cancel, or information concerning it? The cover has a Sioux C. & PAC. RPO CDS, dated Jan. 12, and is an advertising cover for the Merchants Hotel of Sioux City, Iowa. It is addressed to New York City.

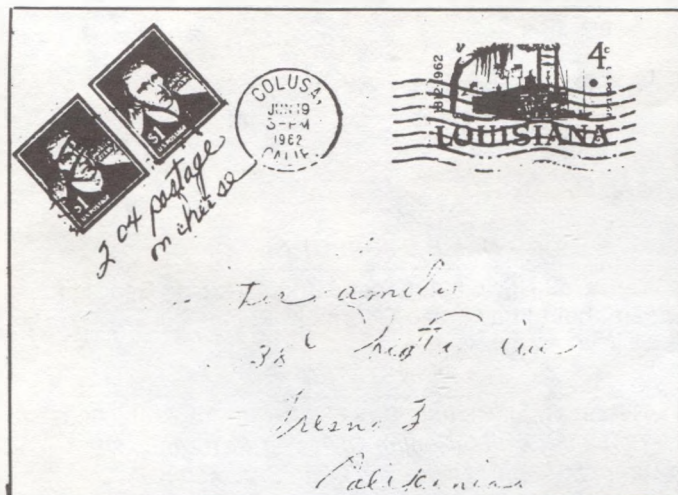


Harold Dylhoff is seeking information on the Reserve, Michigan post office. He would particularly like to pinpoint the location of this office, as well as the town. The book, *Michigan Place Names*, lists Reserve as being in St. Joseph County. It further states the first postmaster was Herm Huntley, and the Reserve post office operated from April 14, 1850-September 13, 1860. Dylhoff has a stampless folded letter which originated from Reserve, addressed to Mass. The rate marking "5" and "Reserve, Mich. Aug. 15" is in manuscript. The date line on the letter inside reads Mendon-Aug 10-1851. If any Michiganite has a clue to this locale, send it to Harold, Route 1, Box 212, Gobles, Mich. 49055.



# A CHEEZY COVER

by Zaven M. Seron, M.D.



I recently obtained the interesting and odd-ball cover shown here, and have attempted to reconstruct its postal adventures through the mails of Central California. The cover is a normal-size envelope with a CDS from Colusa, CA. dated June 19, 1962 and addressed to Fresno, CA. The franking is 4¢ which is appropriate for that time, but also on the cover are two \$1.00 *precancelled* Patrick Henry stamps and a notification below the stamps "2.04 postage on cheese." No other markings or evidence that this cover was taped or attached to a package is evident. The precancel is from a large double-circle parcel post date canceller. This type of canceller is still in use at the present time.

Here is how I reconstruct the events. The sender wrapped a large parcel of cheese, secured it with twine, tucked the envelope with a 4¢ stamp attached under the twine and proceeded to the Colusa PO (Colusa had a population of less than 3500 during this period). The PM removed the letter, applied the machine cancel and again put it back under the strings of the package. In 1962 parcels were collected by the H.P.O. (Highway Post Office) van — in this case enroute from Sacramento to Fresno. It was then delivered to the *parcel post* section of the Fresno PO, which in those days was separate from the main post office system.

The clerk at the Fresno parcel post depot weighed the parcel and found it required exactly \$2.00 more postage, stuck the pair of \$1 stamps on the letter (why not on the package?), wrote her cheezy note thereunder and turned the package over to the parcel post truck carrier for delivery to the Gauthier Family, where he collected the \$2 due postage. Our mail carrier, who has worked in the Fresno PO since 1955 made inquiries and learned that during the '60s, parcel post clerks commonly used precancelled stamps to collect postage due. We surmised that there was enough postage due business on that particular day to warrant precancelling *not less than six* \$1 stamps (see the precancel size) or a strip . . . or even a half-sheet?

Of course some questions come to mind. Why wasn't prepayment required? Why were the stamps for postage due placed on the envelope instead of the package? I would welcome any additional information regarding this type of use: 3353 N. Orchard St., Fresno, CA 93726.

# COMPUTERIZE YOUR ALBUMS

Ed: Warren Tingley is one of our more active contributors. One of his interests is the ellipse cancels on banknotes and his definitive work, *Index Of Ellipse Cancels*, can be obtained from our Library. Warren sends examples of pages from a recent exhibit which illustrate a new way to construct album pages and the necessary words and descriptions with the use of a home computer. Excerpts from Mr. Tingley's letter which accompanied the illustrations follow:

" . . . It's a great way for someone who can't hand letter (anymore) and just wants a practical, neat way to present and mount stamps. It's practical for a specialist who often deals in only one size stamp and who has a working reference collection and who is constantly adding or changing stamps and/or arrangements. These may be the first computer-made pages for a stamp exhibit — or album, for that matter. A better job with more frills and variety could be done with the new graphics printers. So, I expect "Junior" will now begin making his own album pages, as he'll be using a computer for more and more applications in the home, school and office. Sure a bright future for that amazing machine!"



# A REMINDER!

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

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1434 Jerry Bowdren, Box 3181, Reading, PA 19604  
*U.S. Fancy Cancels. Dealer.*
- 1435 Warren D. LaVille, P.O. Box 66, Newport, WA 99156  
*Fancy Cancels; Pre-1900 Covers & Stamps; Stampless Covers.*
- 1436 Roger D. Curran, 8803 Mead St., Bethesda, MD 20817  
*US Stamps & Postal history of the 19th and early 20th Centuries.*
- 1437 Wilma Hinrichs, 4200 SE Indianola Rd., Des Moines, IA 50320  
*Iowa PH; US, UN Stamps; Hand Cancels; Cachets, Gen. Coll. of anything pertaining to cancellations.*
- 1438 Col. W. W. Southard, Jr., 11177 Hwy 87 E, Adkins, TX 78101  
*19th Century Fancy Cancels; Blackjacks.*
- 1439 John F. Erker, Jr., P.O. Box 2135, San Rafael, CA 94912  
*U.S. Stamps; Fancy Cancels; Slogan Cancels; 19th c. U.S. Covers.*
- 1440 John D. Woolever, 2250 Worrington St., Sarasota, FL 33581  
*All kinds of Cancellations, esp. Slogans and "Odd Ones"; Topical Stamps (Saints, Airmail, Dogs); Xmas Seals.*
- 1441 Mark E. Palmer, P.O. Box 9628, Warren AFB, WY 82001  
*US Commems.; Maine Cancels; Selected FD Covers.*
- 1442 Dr. William H. P. Emery, 1421 Schulle Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666  
*Texas Postal History.*
- 1443 Thomas Z. Stillman, 2529 Dartmouth Ave., Visalia, CA 93277  
*Tulare, CA. and Colorado Covers; Aerophilately.*
- 1444 Lynn A. Linchytz, 787 Cornaga Ave., Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
*Dealer/Collector in 19th century Fancy Cancellations.*
- 1445 Elliot E. Blum, 787 Cornaga Ave., Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
*Dealer in 19th c. Fancy Cancels.*
- 1446 Michael M. Ludeman, P.O. Box 5494, Irving, TX 75062  
*U.S. Machine Cancels; Texas Machine Cancels; Early Slogan Cancels.*
- 1447 Robert D. Swanson, P.O. Box 5002, Santa Ana, CA 92704  
*Machine Postmarks; RPO's.*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Daniel M. Bagby  
P.O. Box 5-H  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Theo. W. Bozarth  
RFD 2 Box 168  
Titusville, NJ 08560

Bill Claghorn  
511 Liberty  
El Cerrito, CA 94730

Richard W. Cutts, Jr.  
1312 Elm St.  
Georgetown, TX 78626

Len McCabe  
P.O. Box 208  
Clovis, CA 93613

Larry Sell  
Box 604  
Hornell, NY 14843

Brad Sheff  
P.O. Box 47  
Seffner, FL 33584

Daniel A. Stone  
1317 Wolf Trail  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

### RESIGNED:

S. Morris Engel  
Pat Feiner  
Allen Fracchia  
L. A. Weilbacher

### ADDRESS CORRECTION:

Mark A. Higgins  
P.O. Box 173  
Maynard, MA 01754

### NAME CORRECTION:

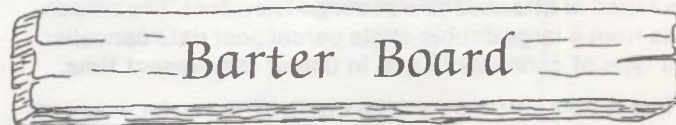
The Winter '82 News listed member no. 1426 as George K. Lewis. It should have read George K. Fisher.

### REINSTATED:

- 1181 Robert G. McClellan, Box 563, Northbrook, IL 60062  
*Black Jacks; McClellan Civil War Patriotics; US Airships; Stampless (Fancy, Oval, Steamship).*
- 1270 John S. Maye, 1320 W. Lincoln Hwy, Schererville, IN 46375  
*All areas of U.S.—Covers, Cards & Related Collateral.*

### CLOSED ALBUM:

Lyman R. Greenwood, Jr.



Will trade my covers, postal history picture postcards (which includes several hundred from Calif., most are pre-1915) for your illustrated advertising covers (pre 1930). Eugene M. Espy, 1383 Briarcliff Rd., Macon, GA 31211. (APS member no. 56103.)

### CLASSIFIED ADS:

**DEALER IN OLD U.S. COVERS.** Approvals sent upon request. APS-USPCS-USCC. Brad D. Sheff, P.O. Box 47, Seffner, FL 33584.

**WANTED: VENICE** (any of seven U.S. towns in different states) or ECLIPSE, VA. postmarks, 19th or 20th century. Wanted for colleagues in Europe. Send *Priced* or photocopies with price to George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180.

**NOTE:** Stamp thefts from any part of the country should be reported promptly, preferably by telephone to avoid any delay, to James H. Beal, Chairman, Stamp Theft Committee, P.O. Box 2457, Vienna, OH 44473. Telephone: 216-856-5895.