



STENCIL POSTMARKS

AND OTHER STENCILED MARKINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. MAILS:

Stampless Period Through The Banknote Period, Part 1

By Frank Mandel

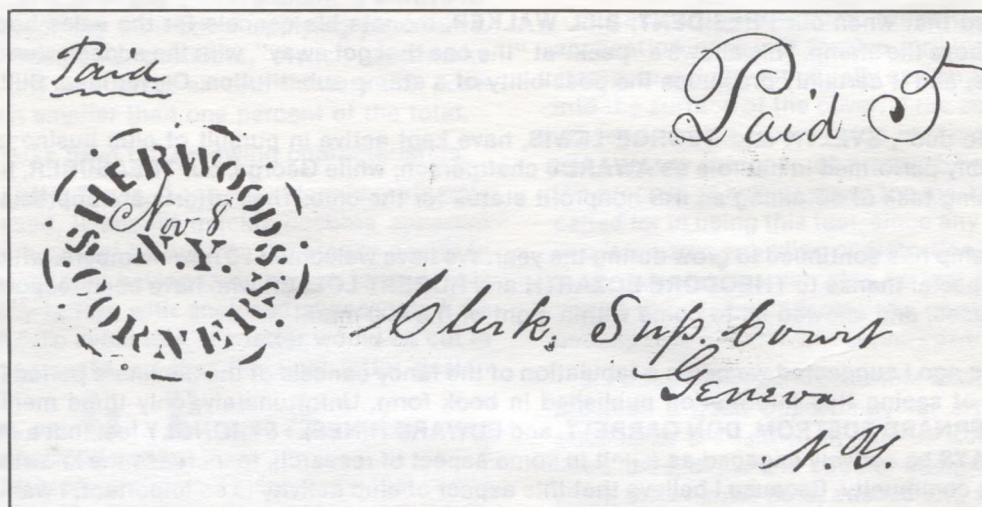


Figure 1. Stencil postmark from SHERWOODS CORNERS, N.Y. on folded letter, dated Nov. 8, 1845. Color: grayish green; Manuscript date and "Paid 5" are black.

Stencil postmarks comprise a quite distinctive class being, as they are, the results of a unique method of applying the markings to covers. The ink or paint is applied to the surface through designs cut into non-absorbent materials similar to the templates used in mechanical drawings or drafting. By carefully brushing ink through perforations in the stenciling device, a design, in this case a postmark, is created on the cover below.

The tools needed for stenciling were (and are) relatively simple to acquire and use. They included the thin sheets from which the stencils were cut, the brushes and devices used to apply the design, and the ink or paint which was applied to form them.

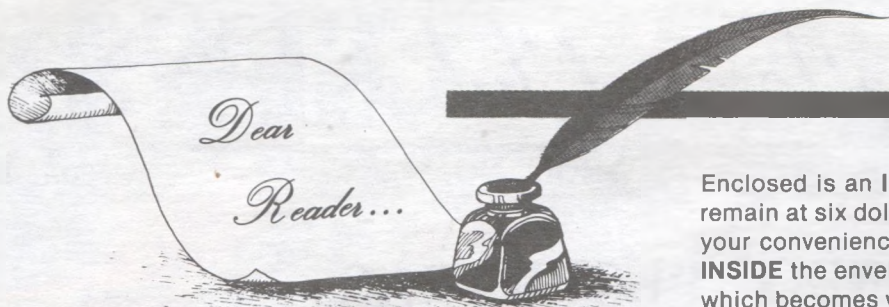
In the 19th Century the materials available for cutting the stencil devices would have included various types of paper, soft woods in very thin sheets, vellum, and zinc, copper or brass in very thin sheets. Since most 19th Century postmasters would have been concerned about the cost and durability of their instruments, it is likely that thin metal sheets would have been the material of choice. The perforated designs were cut into these materials with a wide variety of hole-punches.

Stencil postmarks were almost always applied with brushes. Stencil brushes were generally blunt ended, looking rather like the lathering brushes used in shaving by our grandfathers. But the ink also could have been applied with regular brushes of varying sizes, artist brushes, dabbing materials such as sponges, rollers, or even quill pens.

The inks used in stenciling postmarks were usually flat and very opaque, and may have included so-called sign-writers' "japan colors" (for more on this aspect, see below).

As a technique, stenciling dates back into antiquity, but the earliest verifiable stenciling can be ascribed to Western China in about 1000 A.D. Trade routes carried the technique to Western Europe by the Middle Ages. Virtually every type of material and object has been subjected to the stenciler's craft. They have been used to embellish such diverse things as cloth, wood and plaster; to decorate furniture, floorboards, mantelpieces, pews and choir stalls; to create beautiful wallpapers; to letter signs; and to make elaborate playing cards.

(Cont. on page 51)



Enclosed is an **INVOICE** for the 1983 **DUES**, which still remain at six dollars. These are due January 1, 1983. For your convenience, an addressed envelope is included. **INSIDE** the envelope is your 1983 **MEMBERSHIP CARD**, which becomes valid once your dues are paid. Sign, and **KEEP** the card. Don't send it back. Enclosing it now saves postage costs for a separate mailing. Checks should be made payable to the U.S.C.C.

We are now **EXCHANGING JOURNALS** with the **WISCONSIN POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY** and the **DIXIE PHILATELIST**. Exchange with other clubs is important, as it provides each with individual reference material. Members are urged to discuss this exchange program with the various societies with which they are affiliated.

We've noticed that when our **PRESIDENT, BILL WALKER**, mounts his cancels for the sales books, he places a photocopy above the stamp. This allows a "peek" at "the one that got away", with the added value of tracing it for a reference file, and it certainly precludes the possibility of a stamp substitution. Clever idea, Bill!

The "dynamic duo", **EVELYN** and **GEORGE LEWIS**, have kept active in pursuit of club business this past year. Evelyn has ably performed in her role as **AWARDS** chairperson; while George, our **TREASURER**, has managed the time-consuming task of obtaining an IRS nonprofit status for the club. Their efforts are appreciated.

Our membership has continued to grow during the year. We have welcomed 70 new members, which include those reinstated. Special thanks to **THEODORE BOZARTH** and **ROBERT LOLLER** who have been responsible for several of the new faces, and allowed us to come within eight of the 400 mark!

Some months ago I suggested we begin a tabulation of the fancy cancels of the banknote period (1870-1893), with the purpose of seeing this information published in book form. Unfortunately, only three members responded (thank you **BERNARD EDSTROM**, **DON GARRETT**, and **EDWARD HINES**). I **STRONGLY** feel that a club such as ours should **ALWAYS** be actively engaged as a unit in some aspect of research, to increase the knowledge available to the philatelic community. Because I believe that this aspect of club activity is so important, I want to again solicit your active assistance in collecting data for the 19th century project.

To make it easier for our members to contribute information, and to focus attention on a limited area at any one time, I would like to organize our research in the following manner. Each issue will announce a subject, or subjects, which will be covered the following quarter. To start, we will begin with a single subject, **ANCHORS**. Members are requested to send in examples of **ANCHOR** cancels of the 1879-93 period. Any additional information concerning the use is also solicited, such as dates of use, name of postmaster, etc. Photocopies are requested, and (if able), include a tracing if they are not clear. Please note the color of cancel, stamp identity, docketing dates (both front and back).

This data will be assembled and published in the following issue. A file will be kept and continually updated until enough material on each subject has been obtained to publish a monograph. This can be an interesting and philatelically valuable project. Information is available on cancels of this period, but it has never been organized so that it can be easily referenced. We can fill this need and embark on some enjoyable research at the same time.

ANCHORS AWEIGH!

Happy Holidays!

Alyce

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**STENCIL POSTMARKS AND OTHER STENCILED MARKINGS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. MAILS:
Stampless Period Through The
Banknote Period.**

(Cont. from front page)

It is difficult to determine exactly why certain U.S. postmasters settled on stencils as a device for applying postmarks. Perhaps the travelling stencil artists who roamed the American countryside during the 19th Century, remaining with households until the decorating work that had been contracted was completed, may have brought this method to the attention of a few. Certainly, by the 1840's, printers and engravers sometimes advertised stenciling as an adjunct to their regular printing methods and a few came to specialize in it. In any event, stenciling always remained an extraordinary method of applying postmarks. Compared to handstamp products, stencil postmarks make up only a tiny fraction of all 19th Century U.S. postmarks, very much smaller than one percent of the total.

Stencil postmarks have the following characteristics:

1. Distinctive Letter Types. If one considers how stencils are made and used, it should quickly become apparent that certain letters cannot be cut into the stencil device in a continuous line without having their centers fall out. This would include any letters with enclosed spaces, such as "O," "P" and "A." To avoid this, the letter would be cut in discontinuous segments, so that the final letter design

would be broken, e.g., **O**, **P**, and **A**. In fact, even letters without enclosed spaces were often cut in such a discontinuous fashion, probably to facilitate the laying down of the design. Sharp, continuous angles were things to be avoided, since the action of drawing a brush across sharp angles could easily result in snags and splatters.

2. Manuscript Dates. It would have required quite an assortment of different stencils to produce one full calendar of stenciled postmarks. Rather than keep such a stock on hand, postmasters virtually always added the dates in manuscript. The ink used to write in the dates sometimes matched the ink or paint used to stencil the town/state names, but quite a few examples have been seen with ink different in type and/or color.

3. Distinctive Inks. As noted above, the ink used to create stencil postmarks was an unusual solid, flat and very opaque variety, and frequently appears to have more in common with paint than conventional cancelling and writing inks. A surprising number of examples are in colored inks, with many beautiful and subtle hues, similar to the "japan" colored paints used in decorative stenciling. Even black and brown stencil postmarks often appear to be more rich and solid than their handstamp counterparts.

4. Period Of Use. Most of the 19th Century U.S. examples examined were used between 1829 and 1868. Only one example has been seen dating prior to 1829, and its status as a stencil product is at least debatable. (Discussion of the FRANCISTOWN, N.H. postmark will follow.) Only a handful of uses have been reported with uses after 1868, the latest verified use being on a 3¢ Banknote cover dated 1878 (NEW ROADS, COLLETON CO., S.C.).

5. Brush Marks. If examined closely, under magnification, many stencil postmarks show roughly parallel striations, evidence of the stencil brush having been drawn across the stencil device in the process of creating the postmark. Often these are strong enough to be spotted with the naked eye.

6. Settling Of The Ink At The Edges. When closely viewing any separate segment of a stencil postmark, attention should be drawn to the edges of the design. These edges are usually crisply and sharply defined, and darker than the central portions of the individual segment. This apparently is due to the fact that when the ink was brushed on, natural liquid tension caused it to cling to the edge of the stencil device, and away from the center of the segment. Handstamp devices often produced the opposite appearance, with the ink accumulated and thickest at the centers of each letter segment rather than at their edges.

7. Lack Of Indentations. Since the unusual manner of application does not involve striking paper with a handstamp, one does not usually see any indentation or "bite" into the surface of the cover. If the cover is opened up and viewed from the reverse side of the postmark, one should not see any evidence of pressure having been applied in the process of setting down the marking. A little caution is called for in using this test, since any wetting of paper may result in some wrinkling or distortion of the underlying surface. Indentations can also be lost if the cover has been ironed out. Heavy indentations or abrasions of the paper usually rule out stencil use, however.

8. Fancy Cancels. The manner in which stencils were cut provided a good opportunity for artistic license. Stencil postmarks are known in various configurations: straight lines, arcs, ovals and circular designs. Quite a number include ornamental dots, dashes and stars. Since the outer line of an oval or circular stencil always had to be broken in any case, some of them are comprised of small arcs and semi-circles giving the outer line a slightly scalloped look, or of a series of dots and dashes. These varied patterns result in postmarks which are often a delight to the eye.

9. Origin In Small Towns And Villages. Compared with handstamps, stencil products probably required greater skill and care in application. They also had to be dated in manuscript. This usually made them unsuitable for use in large towns where the volume of mail was considerable. The largest town users were: KINGSTON, N.Y. and PARKERSBURG, VA. (now W. VA.), both of which were county seats. Most of the other users were small villages.

10. Scarcity. Since most stencil postmarks originate from small towns and villages, and many appear to have been used for only short periods of time, they are infrequently encountered. I have been collecting and looking for them for nearly five years and have been impressed by the large number which are represented by one to ten known examples. It is easier to provide a list of the most "common" examples, with estimates of the number in collector hands:

KINGSTON, N.Y. (100)
SHERWOODS CORNERS, N.Y., ALL COLORS (50)
PARKERSBURG, VA., ALL COLORS (25)

Figure 1 reproduces the well-known stencil postmark from SHERWOODS CORNERS, N.Y., which has many of the foregoing characteristics.

(To be continued.)

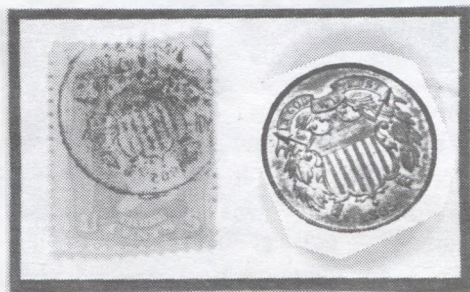
FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL _____ by Alyce Evans _____

QUAINT CANCELLING METHODS

Many of the postmasters of the 19th Century were expert "whittlers" and their legacy has provided us with many examples of their beautiful artwork. Some, however, didn't care one whit about whittling—either they couldn't—or wouldn't, and chose to cancel their stamps with whatever was close at hand. If they weren't artistic, they certainly were ingenious, and the following examples show their methods of cancelling were quaint indeed.



Rubber bottle stoppers made convenient cancelling devices being as handy as the nearest medicine bottle. The raised numbers on the bottom indicated the size. Used as a method of cancelling, the sizes would always print in reverse, of course. The size 2½ shown here is on a 3¢ green banknote.



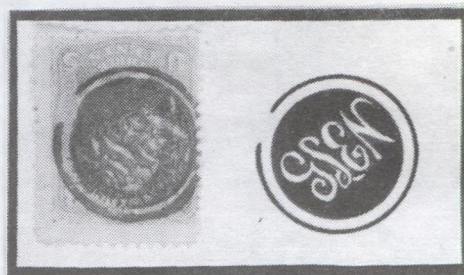
The postmaster at Marshall, Michigan applied a handle to the two cent copper coin of 1865 and used it as a canceller. Small matter that it would print in mirror-image; it got the job done, was very durable and was inexpensive.



Lacking a handy canceller, one imaginative, or possibly lazy clerk resorted to a digital device, shown on the 2¢ red brown of the 1883-87 period. This method is the ultimate in convenience, always being at hand.



William H. Gilchrist, postmaster of McIndoes Falls, Vermont from 1870-1885, practiced frugality to its limit by using a rubber trade mark from the bottom of a boot as a cancelling device. This trade mark, a diamond-shaped piece of rubber with the words **DIAMOND RUBBER**, was vulcanized to the instep of the sole, and could be removed. An example of his inexpensively obtained canceller is shown on a 3¢ green banknote, and naturally, the words appear in reverse order.



A personal seal composed of negative script letters spelling GLEN, was the cancelling tool of E.M.K. Glen, postmaster of Macedon, N.Y. The above example is struck on the 3¢ 1861 issue.

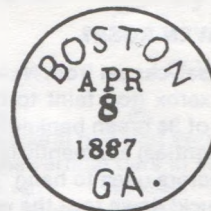


Concern over the re-use of stamps was evidently on the mind of a thoughtful clerk at New London, Conn., who cancelled his stamps with a written message, thereby creating one of the quaintest cancels we have seen. On Feb. 5, 1866 he penned this gentle admonishment on a 3¢ 1861 stamp: "This Stamp is used up — don't you see".

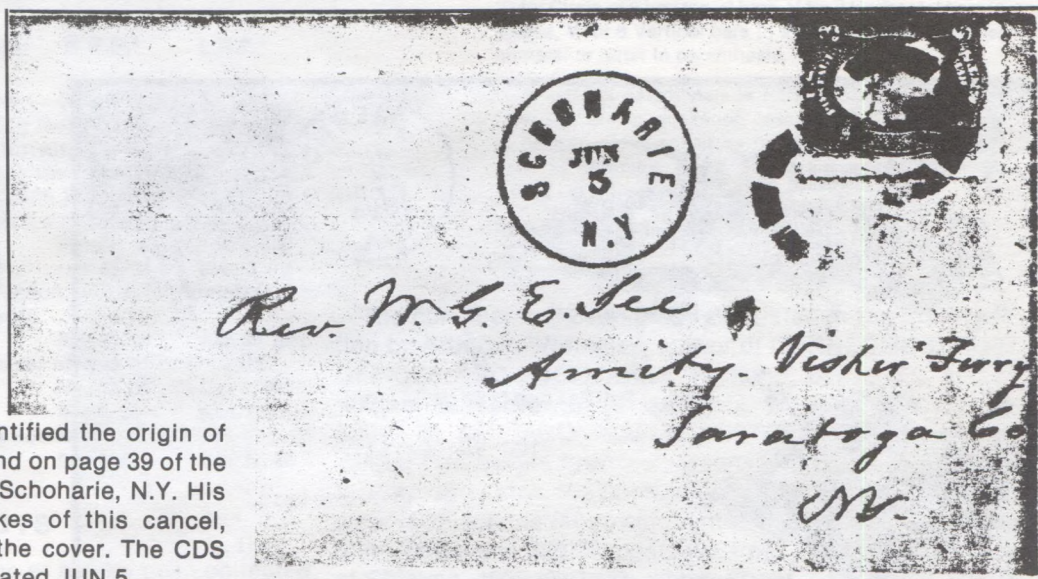
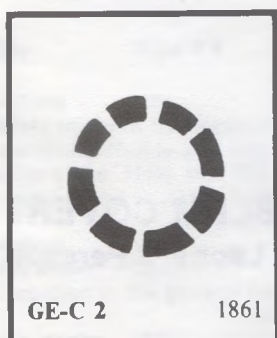
CANCEL UPDATE

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

The Hooper, N.Y. "star within a star" cancel, shown in the last issue was struck on a 3¢ 1861 stamp, (the stamp did not show up in the printed copy, nor was it described, which made it appear as a stampless cover).



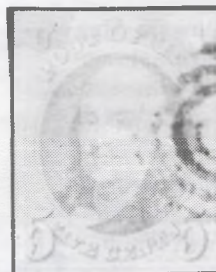
Joe McDonough has recorded an unusual Boston, Ga. cancel on a UX 9, dated Apr 8 1887. The cancel is an elliptic, enclosing an elongated, intertwined "US".



Joe McDonough has also identified the origin of the "broken circle" cancel found on page 39 of the Skinner-Eno book (GE-C 2) as Schoharie, N.Y. His cover shows two partial strikes of this cancel, which tie a 3¢ 1861 issue to the cover. The CDS reads Schoharie, N.Y. and is dated JUN 5.



CLYDE JENNINGS has sent the cancels shown below which he declares to be fake. He also briefly describes them:



Purple Target on the 5¢ 1847 issue.



Poor example of the famous "Kickin' Mule".



In purplish ink, a color unknown in Glastonbury, Conn. Pre-cancel.



Paid in Star — poorly done, plus ink comes through back of stamp very badly.



Brilliant Green Skull on a 3¢ 1861. Foundation certificate guarantees it as a 'Genuine Fake'!

QUESTION CORNER

NEW HAVEN ROSE?

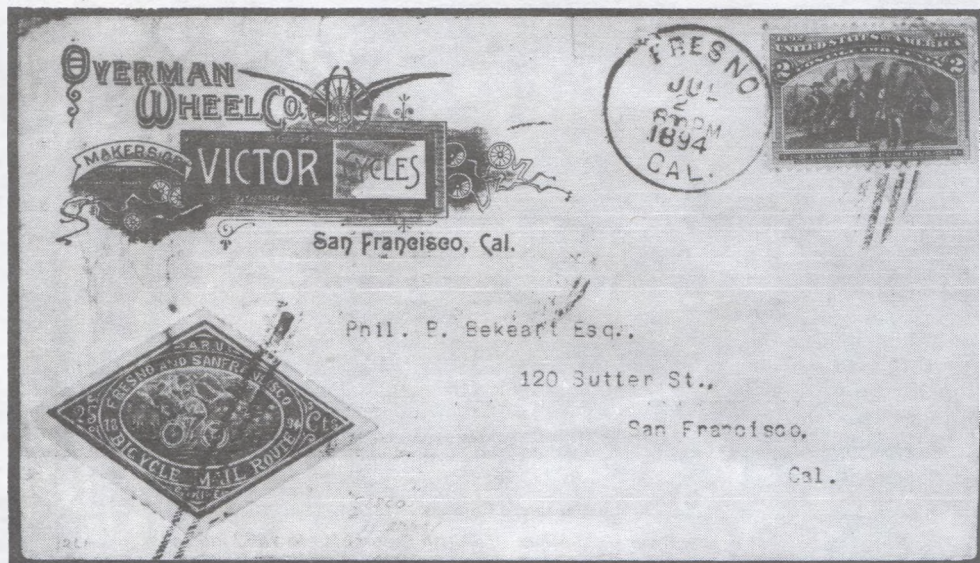
Is any reader familiar with a "rose" cancel from New Haven, Conn? **Frederick Lorence** has sent a xerox (too faint to reproduce) of a New Haven cover having a pair of 3c green banknotes and cancelled with what his dealer (in his eighties) adamantly insists is a "New Haven rose". The old-time collectors used to hang "pet names" on certain cancels, which have 'stuck' down thru the years. The small 6-pointed geometric resembling a star from Hingham, Mass., known as the "Hingham bat", is such an example. Perhaps the New Haven "rose" is a pet name for a rose-appearing geometric?

MEDFORD MULE?

Walter La Force questions the existence of a Medford, Mass. "mule" cancel. He acquired a cover several years ago, (before he learned that auctioneers had vivid imaginations), with a "mule's head" cancel. Unfortunately, the cancel is too faint to reproduce here. Write Walt at 7 Wishing Well Circle, Penfield, NY 14526, if you've heard of or own such an animule.

WORLDS FAIR MARKINGS

Edwin R. Payne's book on World's Fairs Exposition Postal Markings covered the period of 1851-1901. **Benjamin Ladin** asks if this project has been continued by the author's son, Robert J. Payne, and if so, where may he be contacted. Information may be sent to Ben at P O Box 2789, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

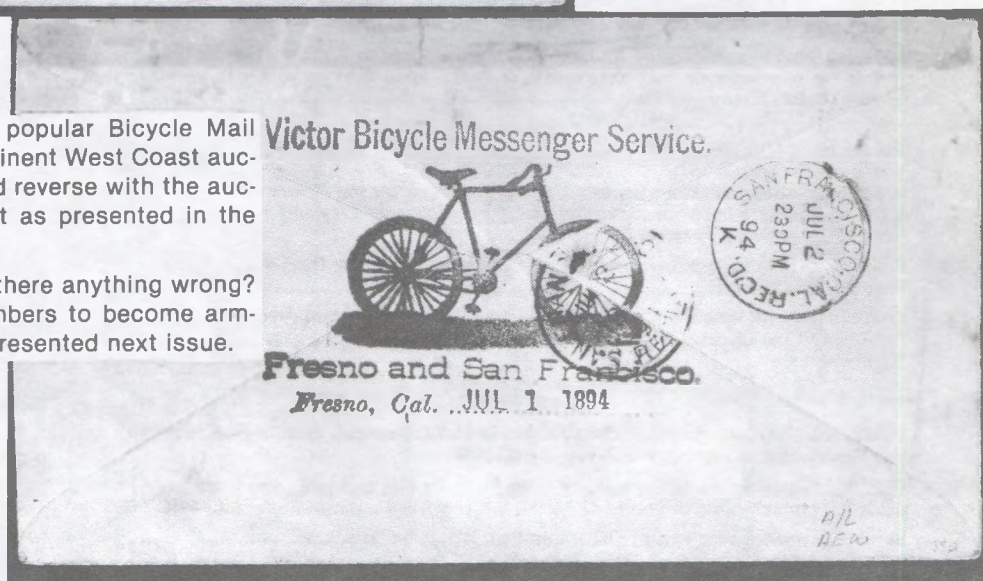


PROBLEM COVER?

By N. Leonard Persson

An attractive cover bearing the popular Bicycle Mail Route stamp was offered by a prominent West Coast auction house in October. The front and reverse with the auction write-up are pictured here just as presented in the catalog.

What is authentic about this? Is there anything wrong? Here's a chance for all USCC members to become arm-chair analysts. A synopsis will be presented next issue.



45

- ☐ Unlisted violet h/s of "Victor Bicycle Messenger Service" on reverse of cover to San Francisco bearing 2c brown violet (#231) tied by FRESNO / CAL cds and grid and 25c green local (#12L1) tied by parallel bars pmk; attractive manufacturer's c/c; S.F. recv'g b/s's; some small edge tears and stains; **Exceedingly Rare.... PHOTO**

ECV
ECV \$500-750

WALTER D. WESSON'S TIME-ON-BOTTOM (TOB) DUPLEX HAND-CANCELLERS, Part 4

by Theodore W. Bozarth

CONNECTICUT

The five cities of this state using Wesson's patented postmarking devices were known to Willard, causing him to conjecture that the cancellers were made and sold by someone in the state, hence his description of them as the "Connecticut type". We now know that Massachusetts had six cities using these cancellers, and that Rhode Island was the home state of their inventor, Walter D. Wesson. Connecticut provides some interesting varieties, and New Britain, New London and Norwich were still using the Wesson-made cancellers well into the 1890's, long after most post offices had apparently discarded theirs.

City	Willard #	Killer Type ¹	E.R.P. ²	L.R.P. ²
Hartford	1180	H (1) (Fig.10)	Oct. 22, 83	Sep 19 (88)
A late strike of this postmark showing the outer circle starting to crumble; probably also origin of Boston and Brooklyn CDS without outer circle. Note that Fig. 10 shows the postmark on a scarce variety of the 1¢ postal card of 1886, with keystone missing at the top UX9 (UPSS S 8f).				
Hartford	1180 var.	H (2) ³	Feb 24, 83	Feb 6, (88)
New Britain	1234	H (1)(Fig.11)	Nov 13, 84	(Dec 3, 93)
Exception to the general rule that Wesson TOB killer numerals are without serifs.				
New London	1239	H (C)	Aug 21, 84	Aug 30, (95)
Killer letter looks like "O" in unclear strikes of later years.				
Norwich	1260 var.	H (A)	Nov 23, 85	Dec 1, 94
Norwich	1260	H (B)	Dec 6, 84	(Oct 1, 93)
Complete duplex seen used as transit backstamp, Oct 25, 88. (Fig. 12)				
Putnam	1293	H (P)	Dec 9, 83	Dec 22, 88

ILLINOIS

Chicago has had the advantage of having been collected and studied by both Gilbert Burr and Edward Willard for the period of elliptical killer handstamps and by Clarence W. Hennan and Delf Norona for all of the XIXth century. This would suggest that any variety not known to either Willard or Norona may be considered to be elusive, and probably scarce, but it is always possible for a small hoard of once rare markings to surface at any time.

Chicago	1123 var.	C (1) ⁴ (Fig.13)	Feb 17, 82	Nov 13,82
	1123 var.	H (A) ^{3,4} (Fig.14)	Mar 29, 82	Apr 10, 82
	1123 var.	H (1)	Mar 3, 84	Aug 4, 84
	1123 var.	H (2)	Nov 19, 83	Nov 19, 83
	1123 var.	H (3)	Nov 17, 83	Nov 17, 83
	1123 var.	H (4)	Sep 18,84	Dec 20, (84)
	1123 var.	H (5)	Nov 20, 83	Feb 26, 85
	1123 var.	H (6)	Mar 29, 84	Mar 29, 84
	1123	H (7)	Apr 25, 84	Aug 26, 84
	1123 var.	H (8) ⁴ (Fig.15)	Dec 4, 83	Sep 4, 84
	1123 var.	H (9)	Aug 8, 84	(Feb 5, 85)
	1123 var.	H (10)	Feb 19, 84	Dec 31, 84
	1123 var.	H (11)	Jun 16, 84	Jun 16, 84
	1123 var.	H (12)	Oct 13, 84	Oct 13, 84
	1123 var.	H (13)	(Jun 21, 83)	Dec 27, 83
	1123 var.	H (14)	Aug 16, 84	Aug 16, 84
	1123 var.	H (15) ⁴	Nov 30, 83	(Mar 2, 85)
	1123 var.	H (16)	Sep 8, 83	Dec 12, 83

Illustrated in Norona as Type A-83 on page 329 of the reprint.

Quincy 1294 H (Q)(Fig 16) Mar 31, 83 Apr. 12, (88)
Quincy, IL, and Putnam, CT, were two of some half-dozen Wesson TOB users to employ city's Initial in the killer. Unfortunately, this does not show clearly in Fig. 9, in Part 3.

IOWA

Burlington	1114	H (D)	Oct 17, 84	Jan 28, 85
Exception to the general rule that Wesson TOB killer letter "D", for Deposited mail, has vertical bars in ellipse.				
Burlington	1114 var.	No killer	Feb 22, 84	Feb 22, 84
Used as receiving backstamp. (Fig. 17)				

KENTUCKY

Covington	1141	H (C)	Jun 25, 86	Jun 25, 86
Covington	1143	V (D)	May 24, 86	May 24, 86
Newport	1258	H (C)	Jan 1, (?)	Nov 20, (87?)
Newport	1257	V (D) (Fig. 18)	May 22, 83	May 28, 87

¹C for Circle of 8 horizontal bars, H for 9 Horizontal bars in ellipse, V for 6 Vertical bars in ellipse, followed by killer numeral or letter in parenthesis.

²Year date in parenthesis is NOT in CDS, but obtained from backstamp, docketing or inclosure. Complete date in parenthesis supplied by reliable contributor but not seen by compiler. E.R.P., Earliest Reported Postmark; L.R.P., Latest.

³Unknown to Willard.

⁴Unknown to Norona.

The compiler has been greatly assisted in the Conn. section by **Arthur J. Warmley**, author of **CONNECTICUT POST OFFICES AND POSTMARKS** (Portland, CT, 1977), and by **William H. Heisler**, of Philadelphia. **Dr. Harvey W. Karlen**, editor of **CHICAGO POSTAL HISTORY**, very graciously copied TOB covers from his personal collection for many of the Chicago dates. His book, while it does not cover the TOB area, is invaluable for any student of postal markings and is still available at \$20.00, postpaid, from The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610. **Jack Hilbing** was equally kind in sharing knowledge of his specialty, Quincy, IL., and **Robert J. Payne** and **William H. Heisler** supplied supplemental data. Additions and corrections to the above list may be sent to the author at RFD 2, Box 168, Titusville, NJ 08560. Please enclose a xerographic copy if at all possible.

References:

Norona, Delf, "Chicago Postal Markings (1836-1892)", in **CYCLOPEDIA OF UNITED STATES POSTMARKS AND POSTAL HISTORY**, Vol 2 (1935, reprinted 1975), pp. 322-346.
Willard, Edward L., **UNITED STATES TWO CENT RED BROWN OF 1883-1887**, Vol II (New York: Lindquist, 1970), pp. 116-164.



Figure 10

See Next Page

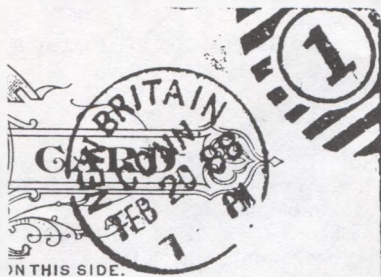
TOB *Continued*

Figure 11

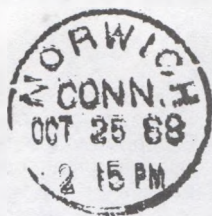


Figure 12



Figure 13

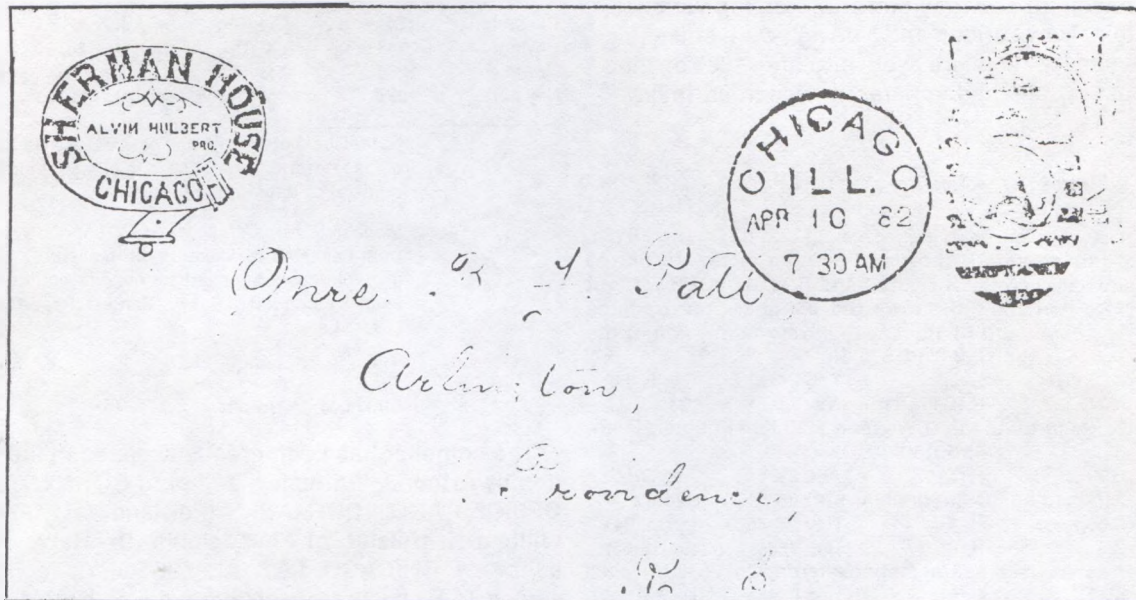


Figure 14

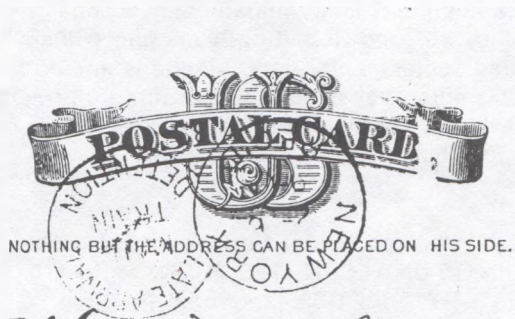


Figure 15

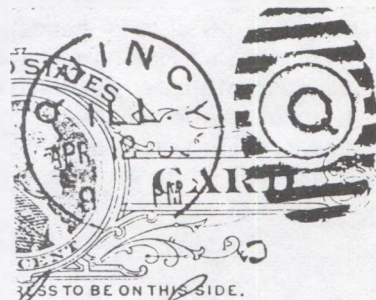


Figure 16



Figure 17

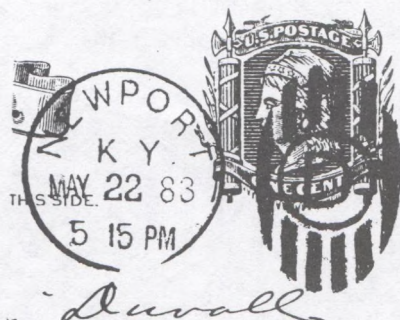
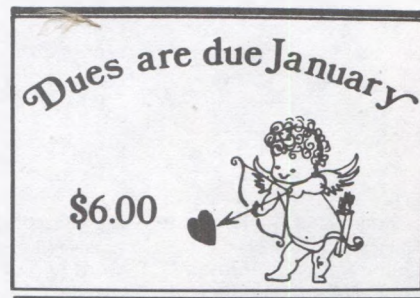


Figure 18



A FEEBLE-MINDED ODDITY



Warren Tingley shares with us a most unusual "cover". It is made of sheet brass with overlaps on the back to simulate a 3x5 inch envelope. The postmark and address have been etched into the brass. Unfortunately the etching does not photocopy clearly so we are unable to show a picture of the cover. The letter is addressed in etched intaglio script to A. W. Stockton, Minn. Legislature '95, St. Paul, Minn., and the 25mm CDS (a tracing is pictured above) has the etched wording: "FEEBLE MINDED, MINN. FEB 18, 1895". On the reverse flap is a picture of the head of a dog. Although there is no stamp remaining, perf shadows indicate one had been placed in the upper right corner and varnished over. The purpose of this strange item is not known, but it seems likely a constituent was not too happy with the poor performance of his Congressman, and was trying to get his message across.

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!

Arthur White is currently working on a book on the "Allan Line" (Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company) and is seeking cancellation data for Portland American Packet; Chicago Am. Pkt.; and Detroit Am. Pkt. Arthur would consider photocopies of covers (both sides) most valuable, and will naturally re-imburse copying costs. Members may contact him at Box 211, Wakefield, MA 01880.

The WISCONSIN POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY is updating several of their Postal History Project booklets and would appreciate help from our members who have examples of the following in their collections: Straight Line, County and Postmaster, Flags, Fancies, Territorial, RFD's, Doane, Classified Station, Perfin and Railroad cancels. Photocopies may be sent to Frank Moertl, N95 W32259 County Line Rd., Hartland, WI 53029. Please include any docketing & backstamp information which has dated notations as well as the color of the CDS and cancel, and the Scott number.

Joe McDonough has agreed to tabulate those towns which used the intertwined "US MAIL" cancels and would appreciate any photocopies which show town of use. This commercially-made killer was used by many towns, and occurs in black, blue and magenta. There are more than four recorded types or variations of this cancel. Please note the color, any dates from backstamps or docketing, and the stamp number on the photocopies and send to Joe at 1000 West Saddle River Road, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423.



Announcing The U.S.C.C. Winners

**ARTHUR E. BEANE, JR.**

SILVER-BRONZE—Massachusetts Star Cancels
(Boston Philatelic Show) plus USCC Root Memorial Award.

DR. WILLIAM H. P. EMERY

SILVER—Early Texas Mail
via Ship, Saddle, and Stage (ROMPEX)

LEWIS K. FOSTER, JR.

GOLD—N.Y. Foreign Mail Cancellations (SESCAL)
plus the USCC Root Memorial Award.

NONIE GREEN

SILVER—Pan American Airways FAM-14 Flights
(SPACEPEX)
VERMEIL—U.S. Registered Mail (ROMPEX)

RUTH GRISSMANN

SILVER—The Troubled Iowa Railroads (ROMPEX)

PAUL HANNUM

1st PRIZE—20th Century Fancy Cancellations (AMPEX)
BLUE RIBBON—20th Century Fancy Cancellations
(VALPEX) plus voted "most popular in show".
BRONZE—20th Century Fancy Cancellations (SEPAD)

M. D. MYERS

GOLD—Petroleum Geology (NASHPX)
plus voted "2nd best in show" by dealers.

WILLIAM F. RAPP

SILVER BRONZE—Nebraska Postal History —
the 19th Century (ROMPEX)

DR. JOSEPH F. RORKE

CHAMPION-of-CHAMPIONS AWARD in the World Series of
Philately competition for his exhibit of Black Jacks.

CHARLES E. SAWYER

SILVER—Japan — Two Sen Yellow of 1874 (SPACEPEX)

WILLIAM C. WALKER

GOLD—20th Century Fancy Cancels (SUSQPEX)
1st PRIZE (BLUE RIBBON)—
20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancels (PITTPX)

HOWARD A. WALLACE

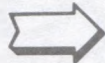
SILVER—Niles, Michigan — From the Time of Statehood
(INDYPEX)

CHARLES L. YUSPEH

GRAND—New Orleans Postal History (INDYPEX) plus the
APS medal, USCC Root Memorial Award

LITERATURE AWARDS

SILVER-BRONZE—ILLINOIS POSTAL HISTORIAN,
Periodical class, JACK HILBING, editor. (STAMPSHOW '82)
BRONZE—THIS WEEK IN STAMPS, Newspaper Columns
class, JOE MCDONOUGH, author (STAMPSHOW '82)



Form No. 1550. **REGISTRY BILL** Sent *7 Nov* 1904

Registered articles dispatched in Registered Pkg. Ent. No. *127*

From the Post Office at **HADLOCK, WASH.**

To the Post Office at *New York 22 9*

REGISTRY No.	CLASS.	NAME OF PERSON ADDRESSED.
<i>130</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>The American Tobacco Co</i>

99933

RECEIVED BY *P.M.* NEW YORK 4-PM 1904

Figure 3. Registered articles were received.

Postmaster.

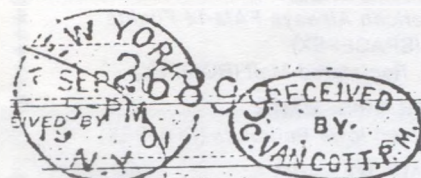


Figure 1.

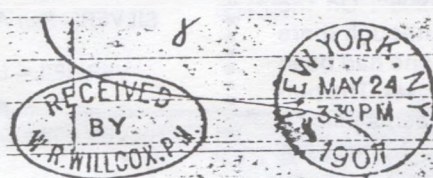


Figure 4.

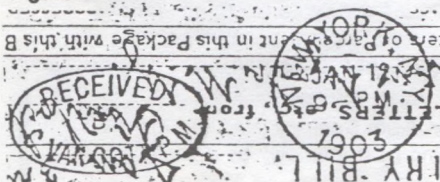


Figure 2.

The purpose of the registry service provided by the Post Office is the safer transmission of mail than ordinary mail affords. The method of safeguard of a registered letter is to have the registered letter from the time it is deposited in the post office where it is mailed, until it is received by the person to whom it is addressed, to be in the custody of a sworn officer of the post office. These officers include postmasters, their assistants and the sworn clerks of their offices, postal clerks, transfer agents and letter carriers. Every person to whom the custody of a registered letter or article is entrusted must make a record of it, give a receipt for it when it is received, and take a receipt when he or she parts with the registered matter.

With the registered pouch and inner sack system in effect, the large urban post offices require a great many receipts. To this end, in New York and Chicago, existing cancelling machines were adapted to handle the inter-office postal cards, Form 1550, used for certifying receipt of registered letters. It appears that during the New York City postmastership of Cornelius Van Cott (1889-1904) an American Postal Machines Company machine was initially used to "cancel" these interoffice receipts (Fig. 1). Known use of this American cancel is from Oct. 20, 1898, to Oct. 11, 1902; note the oval is to the right of the dial. This was followed by an International Postal Supply Company machine with a similarly inscribed oval but to the left of the dial, seen Jan. 12, 1903 — Sept. 21, 1904 (Fig. 2). Van Cott left office for some reason and Edward Morgan was Acting Postmaster from Oct. to Dec., 1904. During this period the C. Van Cott, p.m. oval, with his name cut out, was used on the International machine, seen Nov. 14 — Dec. 12, 1904. At the same time the letters RE of RECEIVED were accidentally damaged by the "engraver" (Fig. 3). W. R. Willcox

By John W. Koontz

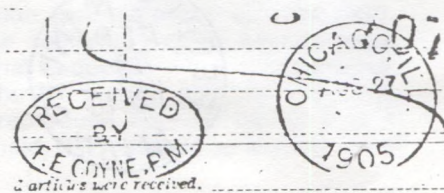


Figure 5.

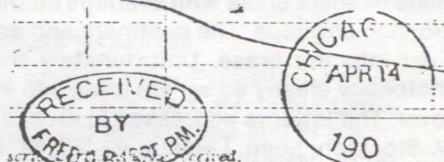


Figure 6.



Figure 7.

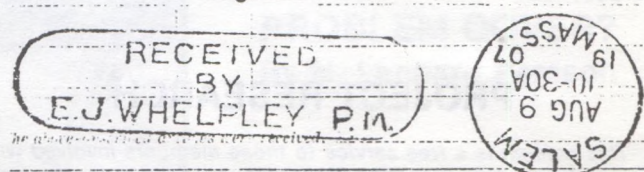


Figure 8.

was appointed postmaster of New York, effective Jan. 1, 1905, and a new oval with his name was introduced, seen Mar. 9, 1905 — May 24, 1907 (Fig. 4).

The Chicago Postmasters, not to be out done in efficiency, had an International machine installed for registry receipt cancelling. The first Chicago Postmaster using a rapid cancelling machine for registers receipt cancelling was F. T. Coyne seen Feb. 1, 1904 — Jan. 2, 1906 (Fig. 5). Then two of the rarest registry receipt machine cancels known, were used. First, a single card dated April 4, 1907 (Fig. 6), with Fred A. Busse, P.M. in the oval and then a single card dated May 14, 1907, with the name, D. A. Campbell, P.M. (Fig. 7) was placed in service.

A third town using a machine to provide receipts for registered mail was Salem, Massachusetts. One card with E. J. Whelpley, P.M. has been reported (Fig. 8). This American Postal Machine Company had the "slogan" transposed, whereas that recorded by Postmaster Van Cott in New York had the "slogan" to the right of the dial. E. J. Whelpley's was rather like the International versions.

There could be a reason for this transposition as the Registry Bill Card (Form No. 1550) was modified in 1900. In the post-1900 cards, the bottom line is given over to the recipient Postmaster whereas pre 1900 cards required both the dispatching and receiving Postmaster to sign on the same line. Thus the 1890's style card contained the Postmaster "slogan" to the right hand side of the card which was not the case in the later version of the Registry Cards.

Because so few of these interoffice registry receipt cards find their way into collectors' hands, these "cancels" rank among the scarcest of machine cancels.

Continued on next page

CANCELLATION COINCIDENCE

BY Prof. C.S. Thompson, Jr.

Figure 1 shows a letter that originated at Naugatuck, CT., and was directed to Roxbury, CT., in 1842. Manuscript markings include the town and date and an original charge of six cents which paid the fee on letters carried under thirty miles. As is evident, this rate was disallowed, crossed out, and a new charge of ten cents assessed. This fee was charged on all letters carried over a distance of thirty to eighty miles. However, the real point of interest is the fancy handstamp in black which the addressee, Cecelia A. Baker applied when the letter was received. A close inspection shows that the fancy frame design surrounding her name is almost identical in appearance to the one used at Brookfield, CT., during the same period. The only apparent difference is the removal of the fancy rosettes in the lower half of the frame to make room for the BROOKFIELD CT straight line town name and the manuscript day and date. An overlay made by the writer shows the two markings to be almost identical in size and format. Most likely these two handstamps were sold by an itinerate drummer working the area in and about Naugatuck and Brookfield. This is further suggested by the close proximity of the two towns which are only ten miles apart.

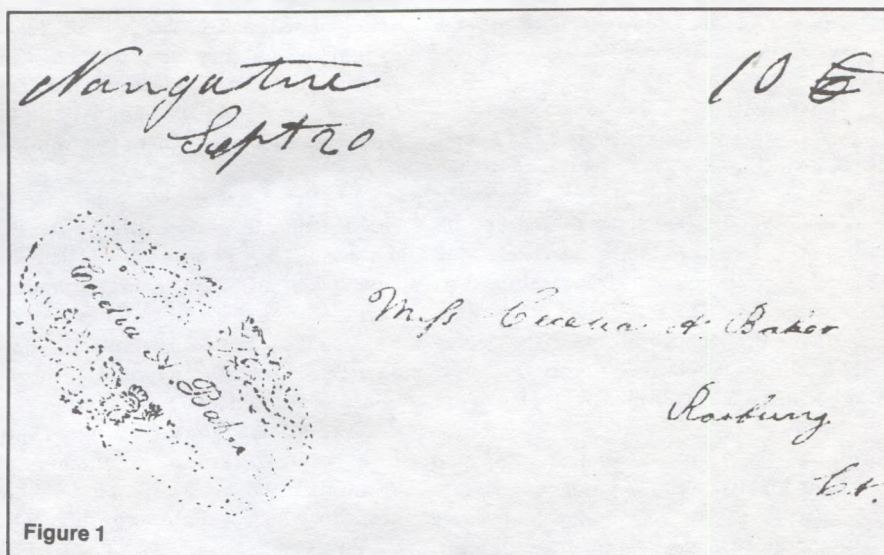


Figure 1

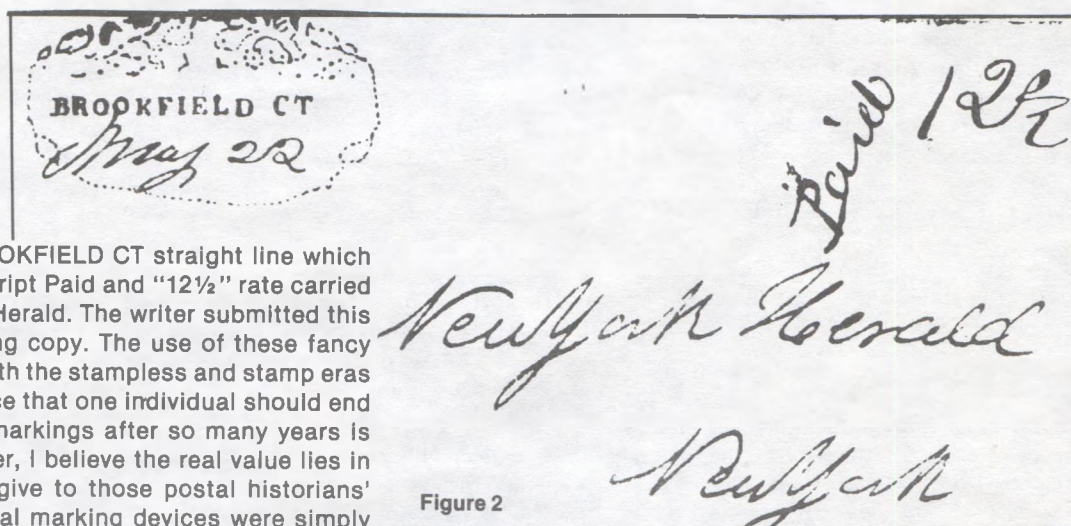


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the BROOKFIELD CT straight line which is struck in blue. A manuscript Paid and "12½" rate carried the letter to the New York Herald. The writer submitted this to the ASCC for their listing copy. The use of these fancy handstamps is known in both the stampless and stamp eras of philately. The coincidence that one individual should end up with two such similar markings after so many years is simply astounding. However, I believe the real value lies in the credence it seems to give to those postal historians' thesis that the truly unusual marking devices were simply modifications of items designed for other uses. In this case it appears that they were sold to individuals for use in stamping calling cards, etc. It would seem also that those postmasters who chose to use them did so with the feeling that perhaps their individuality would provide their towns with an aura of distinction not enjoyed by their neighbors.

Naugatuck is located in New Haven County and at the time of the letter had a population of less than 2000. Roxbury, on the other hand, is located in Litchfield County and during the same period had less than 1000 inhabitants.

REGISTRY MAIL *Continued***Bibliography:**

The Story of Our Post Office by Marshall Cushing, A. M. Thayer and Co., Boston, Mass. 1893, page 407, 408.

International Machine Cancel 1888 to 1910 — A Handbook for Collectors by Author H. Bond, U.S. Cancellation Club News, Denver, Col. 1974.

International Registry Receipt Machine by Frederick A. Brofos, *Machine Cancel Forum*, #22, February 1976, page 95.

America — International Registry Receipt Machines by Frederick A. Brofos, *Machine Cancel Forum*, #27, July 1976, page 129, 130.

A New American Service Mark by John Koontz and John R. McGee, *Machine Cancel Forum* #72, April 1980, page 927.

Received Markings by Richardson and others, *Postal Markings*, Whole #119, August 1941, Vol. 10, No. 12, p. 12.

Registry Machines Cancels by John W. Koontz, *Machine Cancel Forum* #95, March 1982, pages 1359-1361.

Watch Those Dates!

By Herman Herst, Jr.

The late Van Dyk MacBride, who did so much towards bringing Confederate States collecting out of the doldrums, once showed us the best buy he ever made.

MacBride, one of the nation's top collectors in the period between 1910 and 1920, contributed a great deal at that time towards our knowledge of grills. He probably was the first collector to concentrate on a single issue of stamps on cover, at a time when cover collecting was indulged in by only a few. He felt, more than sixty years ago, that the 1869 issue, in use for only months was relatively scarce on cover, and he built a fine collection of them.

Professional activities demanded too much of MacBride's time, and he not only disposed of all of his stamp and cover holdings; but, he seemed to lose all philatelic interest for twenty years or so. As he got on in years, and found more and more leisure time — and as the funds to nurse a hobby became more and more available, he turned to stamps once again.

It was undoubtedly the literal slaughter of Confederate State stamps that took place at the Arthur Hind sale in the early 1930's that prompted the decision. It was the nadir of Confederate collecting. We attended the sale, and we were shocked to see rare postmaster provisionals bring sickening discounts from catalog. MacBride concluded, and correctly, that the situation could not last. But it was the depression; cheap as they were, we bought no Confederates.

The MacBride collection contained many rarities when it finally came on the market, and many of them had cost him as many nickels and dimes as the dollars that they brought. But none of these was the cover that he held up to the writer as his "best buy." That was not even a Confederate stamp. It was a United States stamp, Scott No. 26, and the last time we looked, it listed in the Scott Specialized at \$2.25. (When he bought it, it probably was no more than a quarter.)

The common 3¢ stamp was cancelled at Columbia, S.C. and it bore a clear dated postmark: December 20, 1860.

"That cover cost me a few pennies! I have been offered \$100. for it, but of course I won't sell," he told us.

Of course he wouldn't sell, nor would anyone else, knowing that that "cheap" cover went through the post office of the capital of the first state to secede on the very day that South Carolina announced its independence of the United States of America. Talk about first day covers . . .

MacBride was possessed of a mind that enabled him to spot rarities by the date in the postmark. Thousands of letters must have been postmarked in Columbia that day; it was no different from any other day. But come up with one dated the previous day, December 19, and show it to an avid Confederate collector, and you will get a shrug of the shoulders. Owning a December 19th cover is akin to holding a "place" ticket in a horse race when you bet the horse to win. Sympathy you may get, but not much more.

The popularity of territorial postmarks pays off fine dividends among those who know their dates. A cover from Portland or Salem, Oregon dated February 16, 1859 is a nice western, but two days earlier, both of those cities were in Oregon Territory, for on February 14, 1859 Oregon entered the Union. Do not expect the cancels to have a "T" for Territory, nor to have the letter of an abbreviation of it. Money was money, even in those days, and one may or may not find Territorial indication in the marking. (Remember, California never was a territory; it came right into the union from annexation from Mexico, without a territorial government. And some places — Eugene, Oregon for example, continue to use "O.T." in its postmark for eight years after Statehood — until 1867.)

In the 1930's there were really only three dealers with shops in New York who were making an attempt to carry a real stock of covers. Robert Siegel was one, the late Joseph Strauss was another, and the writer was a third. (There were some who sold them by mail, and there were of course the big-name dealers such as Klemann, Sloane, Economist, and Souren who sold covers, but they did not welcome the \$2 and \$3 collector that we three did.)

In the 1940's, the writer, as a service to cover collectors, produced a pocket card listing dates of interest to Statehood and Territorial covers; dates of secession and entering the Confederacy for the 11, 12 or

13 Confederate States (let us not now go into the debate as to how many there actually were; bloody duels have been fought for less.) When our good friend, Nort Sampson asked us for rights to reproduce the card, we gladly gave them to him, especially since it gave an opportunity to collect an error or two made on our original card.

Nort produced the card for a number of years, as many who read these lines will testify. Many is the time at a stamp show where we find a cover collecting friend delving through a box of miscellaneous covers, and out comes the blue cardboard list to make sure that the cover from Columbia, S.C. is the first day of the Confederacy, or the cover from Kansas is dated after February 28, 1861, for it is then not a Kansas cover, but a Colorado territorial.

For the generation of cover collectors that has come along since Nort put out his last cardboard list, we thought that this publication might have far greater value to its readers if the most recent list were reproduced here. Added to the Confederate and the Territorial dates are the dates on which each of the original thirteen Colonies entered the Union. (The date of its acceptance of the Constitution forms the basis for these dates.) Bear in mind that a cover from North Carolina dated earlier than November 21, 1789 is not a Colonial cover, (North Carolina having declared its independence in 1778) but is actually a cover from North Carolina when it was an independent nation.

So, dear reader, go to work. Fasten this chart on cardboard,* protect it in acetate, but whatever you do, keep it handy for ready reference whenever you contemplate looking over covers that are for sale. Just bear in mind that the great majority of dealers are completely ignorant of the facts we have given you, and everything is in your favor to pick up a hundred dollar cover for a quarter or a dollar.

Van Dyk MacBride did it forty years ago, and it is no secret that the smart boys are still doing it today. And don't let it be on your conscience if some dealer's ignorance enables you to get that hundred dollar cover for a quarter; he asked for it, and you earned it.

And it does indeed happen every day.

**Ed: We've done it for you, dear reader. Enclosed with this issue is your personal copy of these important dates.*

LIBRARY UPDATE

The following items have recently been added to our Club Library. They are available for loan to members, and for those who would also like to purchase them for their personal libraries, we have listed where they may be obtained, and the price.

Connecticut Post Offices and Postmarks, by Arthur J. Warmsley, 1977. (\$25.00 postpaid, Art Warmsley, P.O. Box 213, Portland, CT 06480). This book differs from the dry fare normally encountered in state post office lists by injecting anecdotal accounts of the postmasters and their offices. Another unusual feature is the chapter on Fancy Cancellations, with over 500 examples illustrated, with most identified. First postmasters are noted in the alphabetical listing of offices, which is current to May 31, 1971.

New York Postal History: The Post Offices and Postmasters from 1775 to 1980, by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr. (\$40 postpaid, \$32 to APS members, published by the APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16801).

Nineteenth Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin, (kindly donated) and published by the Wisconsin Postal History Society, 1958. (\$1.20 postpaid, Frank Moertl, N95 W32259 County Line Rd., Hartland, WI 53029). Over 350 examples with origins are reproduced in this 15 page booklet. An update is currently in progress. (See *Project Research*, this issue).

Oregon Post Offices 1847-1982, by Richard W. Helbock, Ph.D. (\$18 postpaid, from the author, 6012 SW Kelly Ave., Portland, OR 97201).

The Post Offices of Massachusetts, by Lawrence M. Merolla and Frank M. Crowther. (\$25 postpaid, from Arthur E. Beane, Jr., 2 Linden St., Kingston, MA 02364). A complete listing of all post offices since statehood through June 30, 1979. Published by the Mass. Postal Research Society. A scarcity rating is also provided for each listing.

Scarcity and Value Rating of Vermont Discontinued Post Offices. (\$1.00 plus a #10 SASE from the VPS secretary, 93 Saratoga Ave., Burlington, VT 05401). The Vermont Philatelic Society publishes this 1982 revised edition of 486 DPO's, with pricing guide.

The Search For The Truth About The New Haven Beehive, by Arthur J. Warmsley, 1982. (\$4.50 postpaid, from the author P.O. Box 213, Portland, CT 06480). A dissertation on the relative merits of one of the most controversial markings in Conn. Postal History.

Western Doanes, by Richard W. Helbock, Ph.D. (\$12.50 postpaid from the author, 6012 SW Kelly Ave., Portland, OR 97201). "Doanes" were rubber handstamps provided by the Post Office Dept. to smaller offices during 1903-1906, and consisted of a large circular postmark dial with killer bars enclosing a number. This number was correlated to the dollar volume of Postmaster compensation. Edith R. Doane pioneered the study of these devices, which were named in her honor. The book covers 12 Western states and lists more than 2,000 post offices that used this particular type of marking.



THE MAIL BAG

Dear Alyce:

Although not affecting his over-kill demonstration of fakery, I think Calvet M. Hahn wrote too hastily in some of his peripheral comments in "A 'Killer' That Wasn't" (USCC News, Summer 1982, pp. 36-37). First, if the faker were moderately well-informed, he would not have been thinking of the Prussian closed mail rate of 30¢, inasmuch as the cover is endorsed "via Bremen" and postmarked "Direct," and has none of the markings appropriate to PCM, but rather of twice the 15¢ half-ounce rate by direct mail to Bremen, not mentioned by Mr. Hahn.

Then the crayon markings are explained on the basis of debit and credit markings still being required on transit letters in 1868, "and this was a transit letter." As I understand it, a transit letter was one going beyond the bounds, not of the North German Postal District, but of the German-Austrian Postal Union territory. Wurttemberg was not in the NGPD, but was in the G-APU. The U.S. postal convention was made with the NGPD, but rates set by it paid to destination anywhere in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Luxembourg. Thus accounting marks were no more needed on this cover than on one to Prussia.

I cannot understand what is meant by "15¢ . . . which was the international rate, not the rate to Wurttemberg" and "5¢ or one-half of the correct 10¢ rate."

I agree that the cover was unpaid. (Had it originally borne an untied 10¢ stamp, not only would no crayon markings be needed, but the New York exchange office marking would have included "PAID ALL.") Being unpaid, under the terms of the convention in effect in 1868, it was subject to collection on delivery of the unpaid postage (4 silbergroschen) and a fine of 2 silbergroschen. This would seem to explain the "6" as a postage-due marking, and the "2" as a separate indication of the fine. I cannot think why the "6" should have been marked through.

Inasmuch as the Wurttemberg currency was the kreuzer, one would expect the final due marking to be in that currency. (Are there some unmentioned figures near the "2"?) If Wurttemberg used the same kreuzer and gulden as the other south German states, then 6 silbergroschen would be about 22 kreuzer. However, if it used the same gulden, but divided it into 16 kreuzer rather than the 60 of the other states (as my Scott Catalogue indicates), then its kreuzer would be equivalent to a silbergroschen.

I suppose another reason to suspect the stamp as a later addition is its position. Wasn't it uncommon even in 1860 for a stamp to be placed in the middle of an envelope? But that, or a spot still lower, was the only clear space, large enough for a stamp, available to the faker. Had he used postage for the single rate, two stamps (of those available in February 1860) would have been required, and that would have been a tight squeeze.

Henry W. Beecher

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1462 Artur Lewandowski, P.O. Box 1, New York, NY 10040
US Army Post Office covers of World War II dated FIRST DAY OF USE.
- 1463 Thomas O. Edison, P.O. Box 246, Hayward, CA 94543
Western RPO's; New Mexico, Arizona Territorials; West Coast Paquebots.
- 1464 Mrs. Dorothy M. Stump, 170 Steeplechase Rd., Devon, PA 19333
19th Century US Fancy Cancellations; Early Pre-cancels; Postal History of Persia (Iran) and Iran Postal Stationery.
- 1465 Warren F. Kimball, Jr., RFD 1, Box 91, Contoocook, NH 03229
New Hampshire Postal History; Insurance cc; numerous others.
- 1466 Henry H. Fisher, 4636 Dundee Ave., Columbus, OH 43227
Swiss, U.S. Postal Cards, used.
- 1467 Arthur White, Box 211, Wakefield, MA 01880
Maritime Postal History; Transatlantic Mail; Papua; British Postal History
- 1468 Barbara Cox, 1835 Palmas Dr., San Marino, CA 91108
Pre-1920 U.S. used singles.
- 1469 Robert J. Tausendfreundt, 1852 E. Monmouth St., Philadelphia, PA 19134
Fancy Cancels and older Postmarks from the Philadelphia area.

REINSTATED:

- 1308 Howard J. Selzer, P O Box 37, Des Plaines, IL 60017
Postal History of Michigan, especially St. Joseph County; Transatlantic Mails; Postal History of Singapore & Malaya.
- 1038 M. Jack Reinhard, 329 Glenmeade Ct., Gretna, LA 70053
Bank Note Issues; Officials — War Dept. in particular & 7¢ Stantons; Eagle Air Mail — C23.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Donald Anderson
P.O. Box 10063
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Harmgardt-Shestople
150-30-8705
HQ DET, USMCA-
NEU ULM, ATTN: DEH
APO New York 09035

Curtis B. Bruce
484 Via Arboles
San Marcos, CA 92069

Rev. F.K. Smyithe
Star Route 2 Waldenheim
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

George F. Krieg
826 S. Wabash
Kokomo, IN 46901

Thomas R. Stone
390-36-6139 HQS-DIVARTY
APO SF 96358

Charles F. Nettleship, Jr.
5525 N. Via Entrada
Tucson, AZ 85718

Zip Change Only:
Herman Herst, Jr.
P.O. Box 1583
Boca Raton, FL 33429

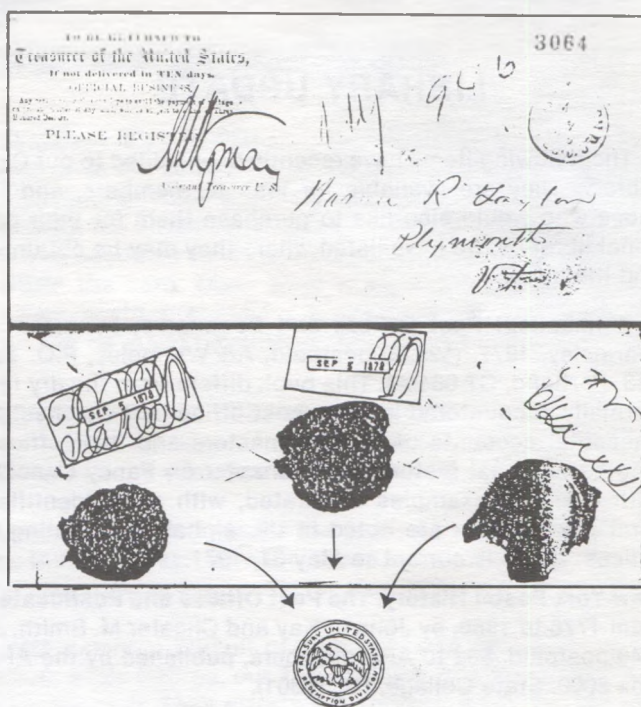
SANDICAL '83 — in April, in San Diego. USCC members invited to exhibit.



Theme is
"International Transportation
of the Mails".

For prospectus contact
Ed Prall
P O Box 236
Spring Valley, CA 92077

A FAVORITE COVER



Joe McDonough shares another cover that he feels would be of interest to the members. It is a large official envelope of the Treasury Dept., franked with the signature of the Ass't. Treasurer, Albert U. Wyman. The postmark reads WASHINGTON, D.C. REG'D., and dated SEP 4, 1878. Joe states it's the back of the cover that intrigues him. The flaps are sealed with wax impressions of the Great Seal, surrounded with a legend which reads, TREASURY UNITED STATES REDEMPTION DIVISION. A rectangular hand stamp with fancy scroll lettering, dated SEP. 5, 1878, is lightly struck beside each seal. In the illustration above, Joe has enhanced the scrollwork on the handstamps to make them more legible, and thinks they may be intertwined letters of P.O..D.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

WANTED

US ARMY Post Office covers of World War II,
dated FIRST DAY OF USE. List Available.
Will pay a minimum of \$10 for every cover I can use.
A. Lewandowski
Box 1, New York, NY 10040

DEALER IN OLD U.S. COVERS.

Approvals sent upon request.
B.D. Sheff
P.O. Box 47, Seffner, FL 33584

APS

USPCS

USCC

WANTED

PAID cancels on 3¢ 1861 on and off cover.
Daniel Knowles
165 Hudson St., Apt. 21
New York, NY 10013