



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 17, No. 4

WHOLE NO. 182

FALL 1984

EARLY DOMESTIC MAIL CANCELLATIONS OF NEW YORK CITY

In our last issue, Warren Tingley categorized the major varieties of ellipse cancels used in New York City during the 1870's. This article turns the calendar back to the 1850's with a few comments about the years immediately before and after. A list of source references is provided at the end. It is hoped that readers will supply additional information for a future article on the subject.

At the beginning of the decade of the 1850's, the cancellation used in New York City was a square grid (Figure 1) containing eleven or, much less frequently, thirteen bars. Red or black ink was employed although brown has also been noted. The latest known use of this cancellation cited in Chase was December 11, 1851. (Interestingly, a similar thirteen bar grid was used in Detroit on the 1861 issue.) Rare use in New York City was also made of a round grid, although perhaps not after 1851.



Figure 1

Until the middle of August 1851, the New York City townmark was applied with red ink. At that time, two

changes occurred. The practice of using a separate obliterator was essentially dropped in favor of simply using the townmark to cancel stamps. Also, the color of the ink for the townmark was changed to black. To enhance obliterating capabilities, townmarks were introduced in August and September of 1851 incorporating one large or several small bars. Figure 2 illustrates one such townmark and two actual uses.

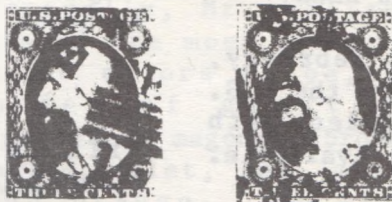


Figure 2

It appears that the postal clerk who processed the cover illustrated in Figure 3 was determined to have the canceling bars well placed on the stamp even at the expense of a complete strike of the townmark itself. With one exception discussed below, the use of canceling bars in New York City townmarks probably did not extend beyond 1852 and they were not regularly used after 1851. The

practice of using the townmark exclusively to cancel stamps on domestic mail, however, continued throughout the decade. A variety of townmarks were employed including the one illustrated in Figure 4 which was used for about two weeks during the middle of July. Until the mid-1850's, use of year-dated townmarks in the United States was rare.

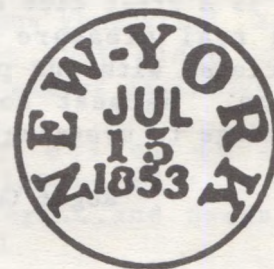


Figure 4

In 1854, a townmark appeared (Figure 5) that incorporated an eight bar grid. The illustration is in enlarged form. It was applied with black ink although one example with red ink is reported in Ashbrook on a ten cent 1857 issue. This marking is usually referred to as an

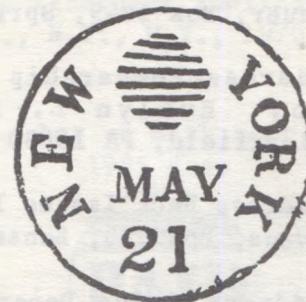


Figure 5

(Cont'd on p. 64)

Dear Reader:

In this issue you'll find an article entitled "About Our Members" with information on member activities pertinent to our community of interest. Club members are surely interested in what other club members are doing and I urge you to let us know of your activities so that this article can become a regular feature. I think this is one more way in which our shared endeavor can come alive for all of us.

Its hard for me to believe that 1984 is coming to an end and with it the completion of editing a first cycle of issues of the News. This is a great club and it is a real pleasure to be associated with our publication. Warmest holiday greetings to everyone!

Roger Curran

ILLINOIS CANCELLATIONS

In the spring issue we described and offered a new 84 page booklet on 19th century Illinois cancellations compiled by Richard Russell. We still have a very substantial supply of this fine publication at \$6.00 each postpaid (with \$1.75 of that going to USCC.) If you haven't added this item to your library, we commend it to your attention. Orders should be sent to Editor, CCN, 8803 Mead St., Bethesda, Md. 20817 and we'll rush a copy to you! Figure 1 is a Chicago



Figure 1

cancellation and one of 1,093 markings illustrated in the booklet.



AWARD WINNERS

Randolph L. Neil

Gold, Ingeborg Herst memorial award and USCC award - The U.S. 2c Issue of 1883-87 (STAMPSHOW)

Clyde Jennings

Gold and USPCS award - Color Cancellations on the First 60 Years of Regularly Issued Normal U.S. Stamps (STAMPSHOW)

Gold (Fun Section) - Centers of Interest (Stamp Festival, New York City)

Nonie Green

Gold and APS research award - U.S. Registered Mail 1845-1925 (STAMPSHOW)

(Cont'd on p. 60)

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WHAT'S IN A COLOR?

The cancellation in Figure 1 appears to be ordinary enough. However, there is one aspect that the illustration doesn't capture. The color of this cancellation is magenta. Or at least it is assumed to be, but more on that later. The stamp is a Scott #184.



Figure 1

With very few exceptions, ellipse cancellations are black. This is remarkable because so many towns used ellipses and, generally speaking, colored inks were more frequently employed during the period in other cancellations. Figure 2 is from Washington, D.C. and is described by Gilbert M. Burr as in "a beautiful brown ink." This item was sent to him by Delf Norona and Burr stated that he knew of no others like it. Figure 3 is from an article in the January 1958 News by Dr. Robert S. deWasserman and is also from Washington but in blue ink. Dr. deWasserman reported this item with either a "1" or a "2" in the center, on Scott #s 182 and 184. He stated that he had never seen this ellipse in black.



Figure 2



Figure 3

And then there is the intriguing report in Willard about magenta ellipse cancellations on the 2c red browns. He reports two such examples, one with an "H" in the center and the design appears to be somewhat similar to that in Figure 1. The second example was blank in the center area. About the former, Mr. Willard questioned its genuineness because it was so well struck and its color "just too bright." Also, it didn't come from an unpicked lot. No town of origin was identified for either item.

Now, regarding color cancels on the 2c red brown generally, Mr. Willard listed the most commonly found colors to be, in order of greatest frequency: magenta, brown, purple, violet, red, green and orange. He also remarks: "Any novice collecting cancellations on the two cent red brown knows that magenta cancellations are frequently encountered..." Upon inspecting a small collection of 2c red browns, there was a color noted that predominated but to your editor's eye it was purple and not magenta. Only one magenta was noted. Webster's defines magenta as purplish red and purple as about mid-way between red and blue.

With this background, several questions are raised for the reader's consideration. Is purple the predominately found color cancellation on the two cent red brown, suggesting a typographical error in Willard? Or is the sample inspected atypical? Could it be that "magenta" has developed a particular connotation in the minds of stamp collectors down through the years that is not quite the same as might otherwise be ascribed? Are there other cancellations like Figure 1 either in magenta or purple in readers' collections? If so, is town of origin identifiable? What other information can we present on ellipse color cancellations generally? And why is it that black ink was used almost exclusively?

Your editor is quite tangled up in this whole matter....and needs your help!

REFERENCES

Burr, Gilbert M., Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations of the Bank Note Issues, The American Philatelist, V.49, Dec. 1935.

Willard, Edward L., The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887, Vol II, H.L. Lindquist Publication, Inc., N.Y., N.Y., 1970.

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WHAT IS IT?

by Theodore W. Bozarth

At first glance it (Figure 1) seems like an eminently discardable 1c black postal card of 1881 (UX 7), badly creased, soiled and smeared, but "otherwise fine", as the auction catalogs say. It appears to be a commercial message that was sent from Latrobe, PA, to Saltsburg, PA, a smaller town about 15 miles away, both in western Pennsylvania, to the east of Pittsburgh. The dispatch postmark year date is unreadable but "Jan 8" is clear. The printed message on the reverse is hand dated: "Jany 8th, 1886".

So far it is still waste basket material, but in the upper left is a strike of a New York City "PAID ALL" foreign mail marking dated "Sep 20, 89". Now the "89" could be an error for "86", erroneously read by the inserting clerk in NYC, but how explain the eight months difference? Or is it a three years and eight months difference? Did someone mistake the address for Salzburg, in Austria? The absence of other transit and returning markings seems to rule that out.

Did a NYC foreign mail clerk try to adjust or clean his hand stamp on a handy postal card? (It obviously needed cleaning. Figure 2 shows how a later version (1897) of the "G" marking printed.) I doubt that a trained clerk would ever do that, and certainly scrap paper would have been available. Or did a discarded "PAID ALL" marker fall into the hands of

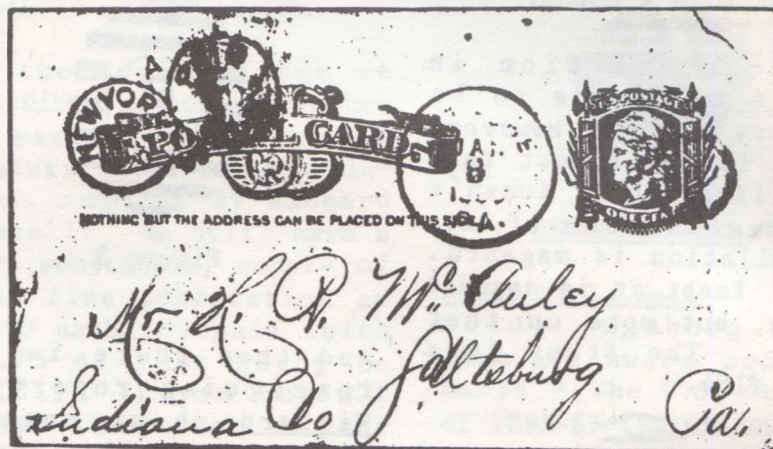


Figure 1

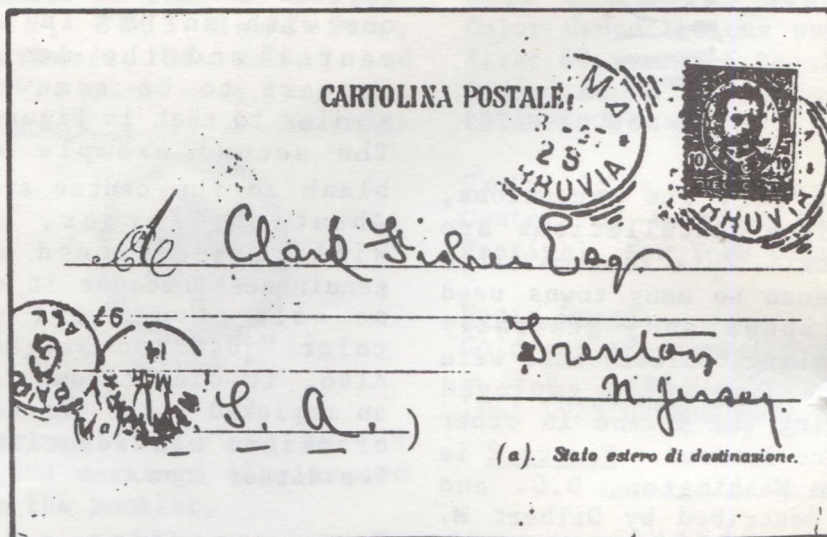


Figure 2

unauthorized persons? Certainly it would be a very handy device to enhance otherwise unimpressive covers and cards.

Does anyone have another explanation? Does anyone have other covers showing this extraneous foreign mail marking? Does anyone have a legitimate strike of this large-letter "G" marker after Sep 20, 1889?

QUESTION CORNER

The postmark illustrated in Figure 1 was submitted by John Mason, who inquires as to its usage. Some speculate that it is a railroad or ticket agent

marking, but others have disputed this hypothesis. As can be seen the postmark is from Beaver Falls, NY and is a quite unusual double circle with "PAID" below the date. The usage is in 1883 or just two months after the stamp used was issued. For the railroad consideration, the nearest route is Towle-Meyer 104 operated by the Utica & Black River RR. This line had tracks along the Black River just 3 to 4 miles west of Beaver Falls and in 1883 had 3 route agents operating between Utica and Ogdensburg. The Beaver Falls post office had been in operation about 17 years at the time this cover was posted. Can



Figure 1



anyone lend a hand as to the usage of this marking?

AUXILIARY POSTAL MARKINGS

In categorizing the different types of cancellations found on stamps, one of the important groups is that of auxiliary postal markings, not intended to be used to cancel stamps but pressed into such service as a convenience. The most commonly noted examples are "PAID" markings and rating numerals which are found with some frequency through the late 1880's, albeit with greatly decreasing use toward the end. (Of course, in the case of the former, one must separate out such items as the common Boston cancellations employed in the 1850's and early 1860's that enclosed the word "PAID" in a grid and were designed as cancelers.) However, beyond rating numeral and "PAID," there were a large

number and variety of other auxiliary markings so used, at least occasionally, that make fascinating study.

Presented in Figure 1 is one example to illustrate the subject. The cover was posted in Boston for delivery within the city and franked with a 2c vermilion to pay the drop rate that included carrier delivery. The post office determined that the addressee had moved to Readville, Mass. and the letter then became subject to the first class rate (3c

prepayment) which was made up through the addition of a Scott #206. In one operation the cover was marked "FORWARDED" and the 1c stamp canceled.

One further comment about the cover cannot be resisted although not pertinent to the subject of the article and that concerns the negative "A" Boston cancel with the negative lines. In the October 1952 issue of the USCC Quarterly, Wilbur W. Davis related an interesting story about such cancellations that was handed down from a postal clerk there at the time. With some frequency, two or more handstamps with the same obliterator were used at the same time in the main Boston post office. As a quality control measure, therefore, some were then defaced (e.g., part of the circle or square cut off or a line or lines cut through the face) to make them distinctive so that when assigned to a postal clerk, that person's

(Cont'd on p. 56)

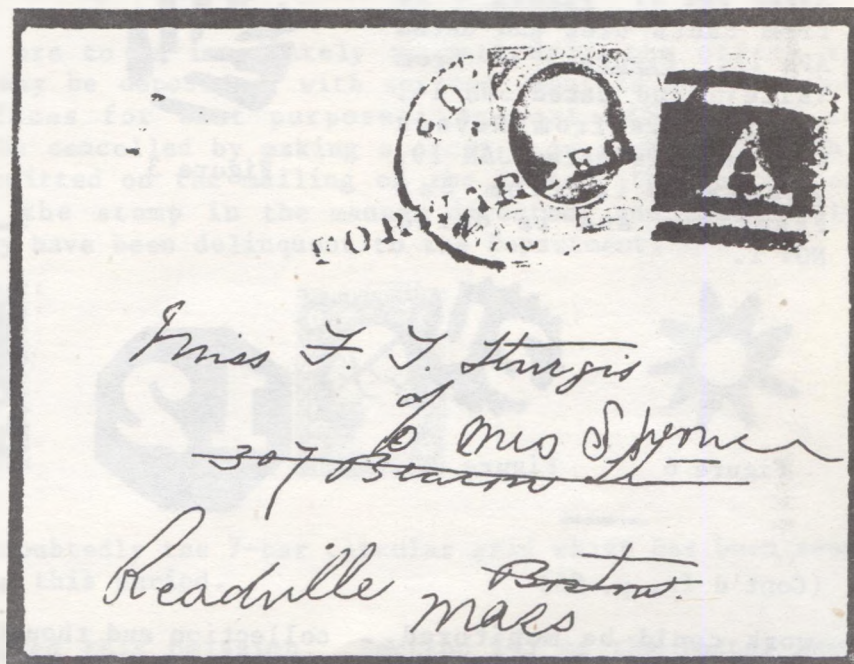


Figure 1

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN

That phrase, originating in 1851, became a byword for opportunity and the advice was taken by so many men and women. We feature in this issue California fancy cancellations unlisted in both Skinner-Eno and Herst, from the collection of Ted Mills.

Figure 1 is from Redwood. No year date is available. The killer and townmark are black and the stamp is #65. Figure 2 is from Mountain View. The killer is black and the stamp is #65. The interesting townmark is greenish blue. It includes "Santa Clara Co" and is dated November 8, 1867. (It has also been seen in 1868.) A manuscript "Cal" has been added.

Except for Figure 5 which was struck in blue, the cancellations illustrated in Figures 3-7 are black. None of the covers shows a year date. Stamps canceled are #65 except for Figures 6 and 7 which are #94. Figure 3 is from Folsom and dated FEB 2. Figure 4 is from Santa Cruz and dated APR 17. Figure 5 is from Vallejo and dated JUN 14. Figure 6 is from Nevada City and is dated JAN 19. Figure 7 is from San Francisco and is dated NOV 1.

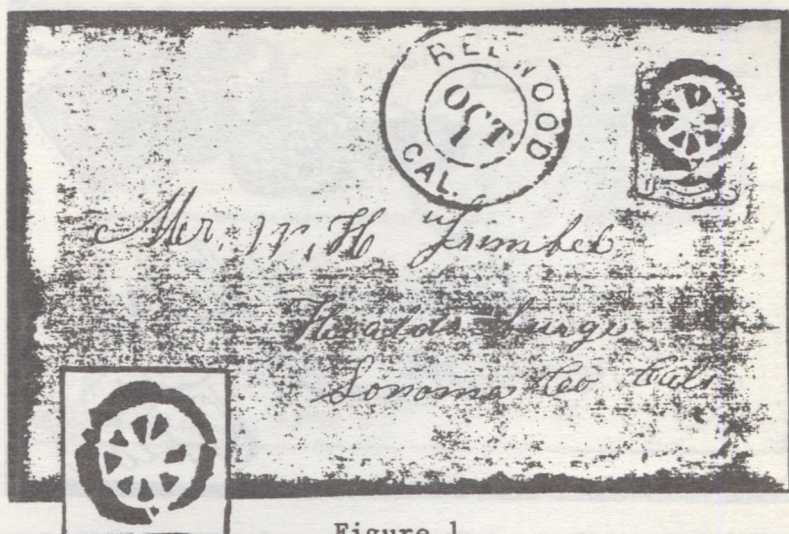


Figure 1

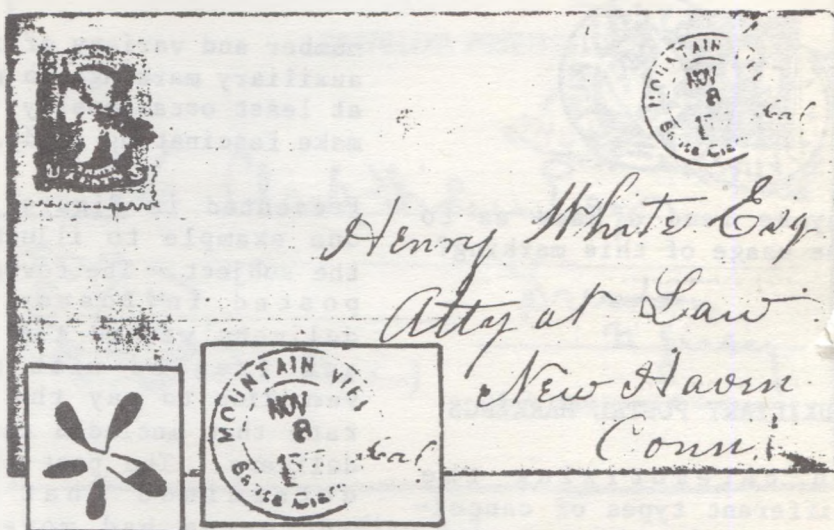


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 2

(Cont'd fr. p. 55)

work could be monitored. Mr. Davis stated the he had 91 examples in his

collection and thought more existed. Several illustrations from his

article are reproduced in Figure 2.

(Cont'd on p. 66)

"Black Blob" Award

Alyce Evans reports that the cover illustrated in Figure 1 received a certificate from the Philatelic Foundation stating that the

stamp did not originate on the cover and the tying cancellation is counterfeit. The cover was sold this year by a large auction house. Alyce described the cancellation as having a strange,

greyish color.

NEW JERSEY PROJECT

The New Jersey Postal History Society is working on a book to list and hopefully illustrate every known New Jersey cover with a 5c or 10c 1847 stamp. Should you own a cover or covers, know the whereabouts of one, or just happen to have a clipping from an auction catalog, the NJPHS would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Send photocopies, photographs, comments, suggestions, etc. to project coordinator Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton, N.J. 07011.

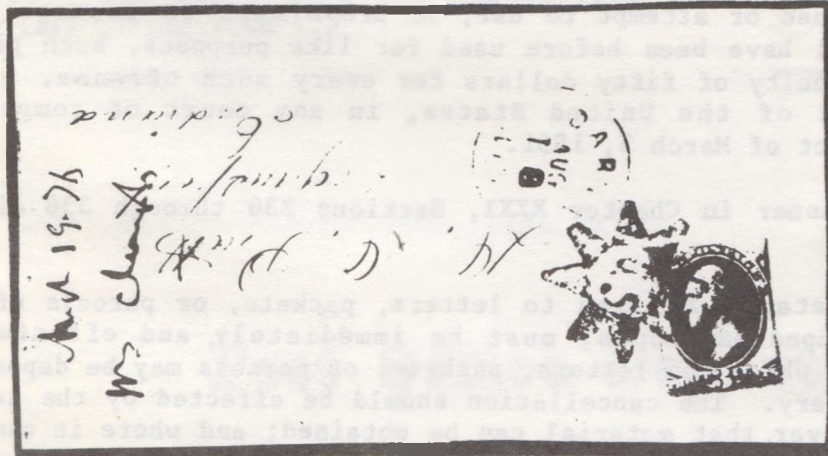


Figure 1

EARLY POSTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE CANCELING OF POSTAGE STAMPS

In the Summer 1984 issue of the News the 1893 Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&R) pertaining to the canceling of postage stamps were presented through the courtesy of Warren Bower. With this impetus it was decided to research the earlier PL&R's to see what light they shed on the subject.

Of course, the first mention of this subject would logically be in the 1847 edition. Although Section 11 of the Act approved March 3, 1847 gave the Postmaster General (PMG) the authority to issue postage stamps, no mention of the means of canceling them was made in the Laws. However, the PMG saw fit to state the following in Chapter 68, Section 501 of his 1847 Regulations, to wit:

Sec. 501. Stamps so affixed are to be immediately cancelled in the office in which the letter or packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished to certain of the post offices for that purpose. In post offices not so furnished, the stamps must be cancelled by making a cross x on each with a pen. If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, the Postmaster delivering it will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and immediately report the postmaster who may have been delinquent to the Department.



The instrument referred to is undoubtedly the 7-bar circular grid which has been seen from numerous post offices during this period.

The act of March 3, 1851 corrected this omission. Section 143 of the Postal Laws published in 1857 states:

Sec. 143. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of every postmaster to cause to be defaced, in such a manner as the Postmaster General shall direct, all postage stamps attached to letters deposited in his office for delivery, or to be sent by mail; and if any postmaster, sending letters in the mail with postage stamps attached, shall omit to deface the same, it shall be the duty of the postmaster to whose office such letters shall be sent for delivery to deface the stamps and report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General. And if any person shall use or attempt to use, in prepayment of postage, any postage stamp which shall have been before used for like purposes, such person shall be subject to a penalty of fifty dollars for every such offense, to be recovered in the name of the United States, in any court of competent jurisdiction.---Sec. 4, Act of March 3, 1851.

The PMG prescribed such a manner in Chapter XXXI, Sections 336 through 338 of his 1851 Regulations:

Sec. 336. All postage stamps affixed to letters, packets, or parcels of any description, and all stamped envelopes, must be immediately and effectually canceled in the office in which the letters, packets, or parcels may be deposited for transmission or delivery. The cancellation should be effected by the use of black printer's ink wherever that material can be obtained; and where it cannot, the operation should be performed by making several heavy crosses or parallel lines upon each stamp with a pen dipped in good black writing ink.



Sec. 337. If the canceling have been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and forthwith report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires.

Sec. 338. The use of the office rating or postmarking stamp as a canceling instrument is prohibited, unless it be used with black printer's ink, and in such manner as thoroughly to effect the object.

Note particularly the limitation on the use of the postmarking stamp or CDS as it has come to be known.

The 1866 Postal Laws reiterated, in Section 229, the 1851 Law; however, the PMG's 1866 Regulations depict a significant change. Sections 176 and 177 restate verbatim Sections 336 and 337 of the 1857 edition. The change in canceling philosophy is witnessed in Section 178 which modifies the previous Section 338.

Sec. 178. The use of the office rating or post-marking stamp as a cancelling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the post-mark, when impressed on the postage stamp, is usually indistinct, and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect. The postage stamp must, therefore, be effectually cancelled with a separate instrument.

This requirement first appeared as a supplementary postal regulation issued July 23, 1860.

Referring to the Bower article it can be observed that these regulations remained virtually unchanged through 1893. The only significant difference is the permission

to use the postmarking stamp at a receiving office. This was probably a concession to efficiency since it was a requirement to backstamp the received mail during this era.

The 1870's circular (Figure 1) illustrates the efforts of the USPOD to enforce these regulations.

(Note: The above Laws and Regulations were extracted from the Theron Wierenga reprints of the PL&R's.)

(No. 52.)

Post Office Department,

Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General,

SIR:

Letters mailed at your office have been found with the postage stamps thereon canceled with the post-marking stamp.

Similar neglect in future will not be excused by the Postmaster General.

The latter clause of the Regulations of 1859, section 397, is repealed, and the use of the office rating or post-marking stamp as a canceling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the post-mark, when impressed on the postage stamp, is usually indistinct, and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect. The postage stamp must, therefore, be effectually canceled with a separate instrument. See section 178 of the Regulations published in 1866.

Your special attention is also directed to the duty imposed upon Postmasters by section 178 of the Regulations, which is as follows:

"If the canceling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the Postmaster at the office of delivery will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and forthwith report the delinquent Postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires."

Very respectfully,

W. H. H. TERRELL,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

POSTMASTER

Figure 1

AN EARLY HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND TOWN MARK

By J. Fred Rodriguez

The earliest town mark for Huntington, N.Y. listed in the American Stampless Cover Catalog (Third Edition, 1978) was noted as the circular type in 1842. Under "Miscellaneous Type Fancy Town Post Marks", a fancy semi-circle, 32mm., in black, is also noted for the period of 1843-44. Prior to this period only manuscript postmarks were reported known.

The cover in Figure 1 may then be considered a discovery. It is a red arc with a 21mm. inner semi-circle. "Huntington", printed in a stencil-like type, is in a 30mm. arc. "N Y" is in manuscript as is the date, "Jan 17", and the rate "18 3/4", is the rate for a single page, sent 150 to 400 miles, per the Act of March 3, 1825, effective May 1, 1825.

Inside this stampless cover, headed "Huntington, L.I. Jan 16, 1826" is a bill for \$7.65 to the State of New York for its advertisement (notice of sale of lands for taxes) printed from June 9, 1825 to Jan. 16, 1826 in The American Eagle, Editor H. Herskell.

The American Eagle was Huntington's first newspaper, having been brought from Sag Harbor by Samuel Seabury in 1821. Herman Herskell, a printer with the paper, soon became its editor and finally its proprietor. Shortly after the date of the above letter Herskell sold the paper to Samuel Fleet in March 1826. Fleet published it as The Portico

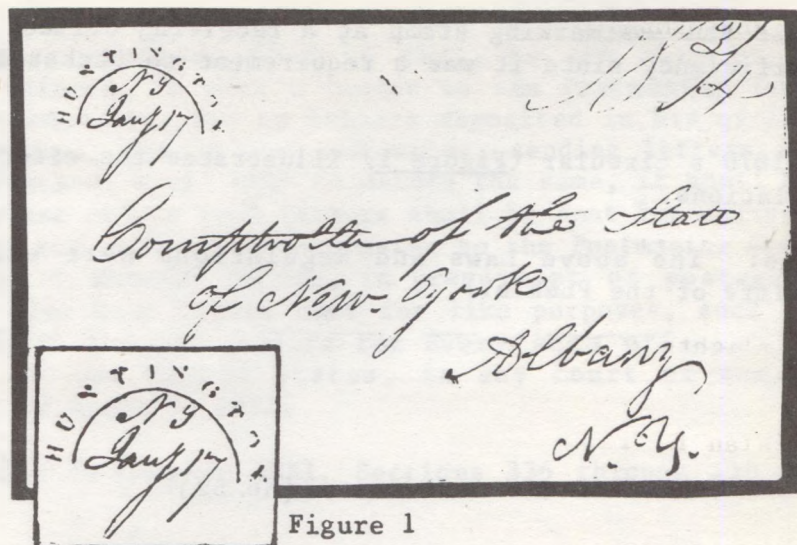


Figure 1

from March 31, 1826 until February 1827. Until 1838 Huntington was without a newspaper until Walt Whitman began publishing The Long Islander. The poet was quick to learn that the confining routine of newspaper publishing was not for him and dropped the venture. Shortly thereafter, The Long Islander was taken over by Edward O. Crowell whose first issue of that weekly was on July 12, 1839, and since then not one issue has failed to go to press. Only its publishers and editors have changed in 143 years of reporting Huntington's news.

Ed. Sample copies of the Long Island Postal History Society Journal, of which Fred is the editor, are available at \$2.50 from him at P.O. Box 49, Greenlawn, L.I., New York, 11740.

(Cont'd fr. p. 52)

Gold, Ruth Engel memorial award and Ann Apfelbaum Award -- U.S. Registered Mail, 1845 - 1925 (SEPAD '84)

Dr. William H.P. Emery
Vermeil - Early Texas Mail
Via Ship, Saddle, Stage
(STAMPSHOW)

John R. Mason
Silver-bronze - History of
U.S. Transit Markings
(STAMPSHOW)

C. B. Bert Christian
Gold and APS pre-1900 medal
- The 10c Issue of 1861-
1867 (SESCAL 184)

Stanley M. Bierman, M.D.
Silver - Essays, Proofs,
and Trial Colors of United
States Issues (SESCAL 184)

Brad Arch
Silver award and gold medal
- New Jersey Discontinued
Post Offices (MERPEX, Mount
Laurel, N.J.)

Walton Eugene Tinsley
Gold - Tasmania (AUSIPEX)

Richard B. Jordan
Gold - Rhode Island
(AUSIPEX)

Brian M. Green
Large vermeil with special
prize - U.S.A. Virginia in
the Confederacy (AUSIPEX)

NEW MEMBERS

- 1596 Gregory Gordon, 2803 Ocean Park Blvd. #261, Santa Monica, CA 90405 U.S. hand cancels; transits including foreign transit markings; Field PO's; First flights & FDCs; 19th & 20th century.
- 1597 Alan H. Patera, 505 Lincoln Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Nevada; Western Mining Towns.
- 1598 Richard B. Graham, P.O. Box 14338, Columbus, OH 43214 U.S. Postal History; Edit 1861 section Chronicle and Linn's Postal History
- 1599 Janice L. McFarlane, 7883 Lichen Dr., Citrus Heights, CA 95610 Calif DPOs, RPOs, FDCs; Early U.S.; Censored material; Dealer.
- 1600 Ronald J. Orlando, 54 Pullman Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217 Stamps; Covers; Postmarks; Postal History; Just about everything. A New Cachet Maker; Dealer.
- 1601 Hagen Staack, Dr., 176 East Rock Road, Allentown, PA 18103 U.S.; Naval; R.R.; Judiaca; First Flights.
- 1602 Russell A. Fritz, 23127 Apple Hill Lane, Prairie View, IL 60069 Officials; Banknotes; Coils.
- 1603 R.H. Brown, III (Mickey), 3300 Somerset Ct. Marietta, GA 30067

U.S.; Aviation Topical; Third Reich; Jap. occ. of China.

- 1604 Hubert J. Stadlmayr, P.O. Box 1438, Tustin, CA 92681 U.S. Naval Cancels Type 3.
- 1605 Francis J. Crown, Jr. (Lt. Col.), P.O. Box 145, Fort Dix, N.J. 08640 Georgia Postal History.
- 1606 Paul E. Miller, 591 Lynchfield Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 Stampless; Free Franks; U.S. covers; and U.S. used stamps.
- 1607 LeRoy Lipman, Jr., 3424 Janellen Drive, Baltimore, MD 21208.
- 1608 Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., 195 Main Street, Ridgely Park, NJ 17660 Dealer; Auctioneer; U.S. & Worldwide Stamps & Postal History.

REINSTATEMENT

- 1076 Sol Salkind, 3591 Poinciana Dr., Suite 216, Lake Worth, FL 33463 All Cancels.

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Margie H. Sterken, 2330 Valleywood Dr., SE, Apt. K-6, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

William R. Bartlett, P.O. Box 566, Memphis, TN 38101

Jerry M. Brown, Box 1, 2nd General Hospital, APO, New York, NY 09180

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Edmund B. Thomas, Jr.
Martin H. Toly, Jr.
John A. Turrentine, Jr.
Dr. W.R. (Randy) Woodward

CHANGE OF COLLECTING
INTERESTS

349 Perry Sapperstein

Delete reference to no grills and add to present interests: Singles with grills, Covers with grills especially with auxiliary markings including foreign usage or unusual covers; Paid cancels & color cancels; Everything with grills.

CHICAGO "INITIALS" POSTMARK

by
C.W. Bert Christain

The large Chicago double circle postmark and the geometric canceling the stamp (Figure 1) are struck in blue and in all probability the two are combined into a duplex canceler. Different killers are known to have been used with this double circle date stamp and four different combinations of initials are recorded in the CDS, replacing the Logo for the year date.

Mr. Richard McPCabeen made an extensive study of this duplex with initials and came to the conclusion, although admittedly unproven, that the various initials used were those of the canceling clerks on duty, possibly even

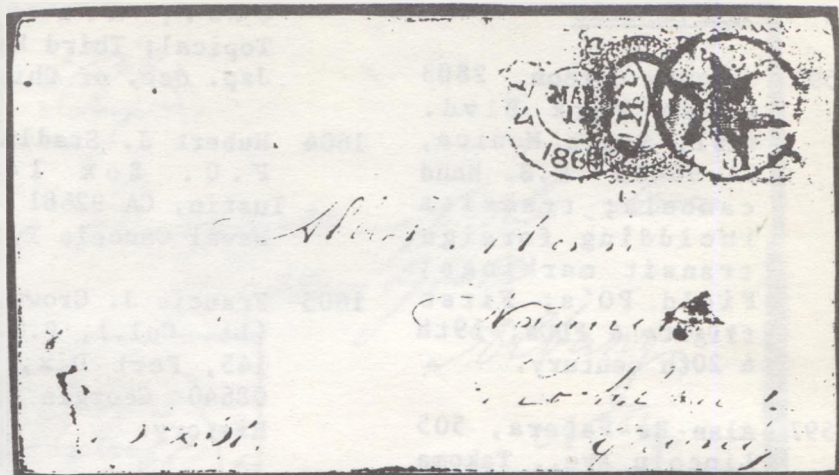


Figure 1

CANCELLATION UPDATE

James C. Cate provides information on three cancellations that serve to update the Skinner and Eno book. SD-G 112 listed as Cambridge (?), Mass. is Cambridgeport, Mass. ST-6P3 listed as New York (?), N.Y. is New York, N.Y. Previously unidentified PS-SD 3 is Blackstone, Mass.

Hanmer, R.F., "U.S. Machine Postmarks, 1871 - 1925," Second Edition, published by the author, P.O. Box 614, Wallingford, CT 06492 \$15.00 postpaid.

In his second and greatly expanded edition Mr. Hanmer discusses 27 machine cancellation manufactures. These range from the early emissions of Myers, Leavitt, Palmer and Clark to the latter productions of Boswell and Universal. As the author states the work is not intended to be a complete catalog of these markings. However, Mr. Hanmer has generated an excellent survey of the topic. Some depth is presented for the major companies, particularly American and International. And adequate references are cited for those wishing to further study the markings.

With a abundant illustrations, a company identification time graph and scarcity factors this is a highly recommended effort.

A copy of this publication has been added to the USCC library.

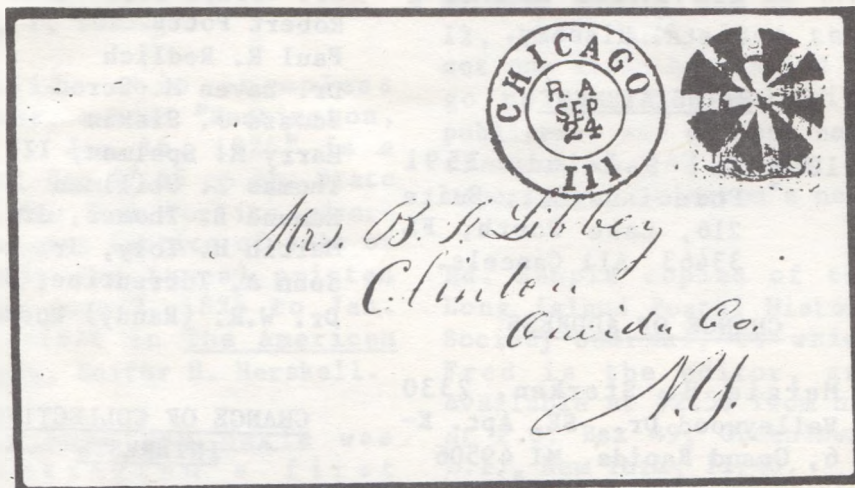


Figure 1

denoting a certain shift. Earliest date of use of this combination was found to be September 11, 1863.

The confirming New York cover is illustrated in Figure 1.

Ed. A related article on local Chicago postmarks with initials appeared on page 86 of the May 1981 News.

A REVIEW

By T.E. Stanton

NOW, THAT'S CANCELED!

Could we describe it (Figure 1) as the complete cancel? Perhaps, in one sense, because the obliterator not only cancels the stamp but states that it has done so. The cover is postmarked STOCKBRIDGE MASS DEC 10 and the docketing reflects a year date of 1875. The stamp is a Continental printing and the obliterator, consisting of the word "CANCELED," is struck with purple ink.

Of course, it is possible that this marking was actually designed as a canceler, but let's consider another idea. The May 1968 News carried an article about a handstamp manufacturer, a Mr. Z., who sent out frequent bulletins in the early and mid-1870's. (Mr. Z. claimed to have distributed 35,000 of his ads to every state and territory.) The article, which illustrated a number of Mr. Z.'s markings, pointed out that some were not made for postmarking mail but to be used on various printed forms. Several that fall in that category are illustrated in Figure 2. Perhaps the "CANCELED" is of the same type. Comment is invited.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

At the Writer's Breakfast at STAMPSHOW '84, C.W. Bert Christian was presented the Apfelbaum Award for the best articles appearing in the American Philatelist for the previous year. Not only is the honor very substantial, but also the award itself - a check for \$1,000! Our congratulations to Bert.

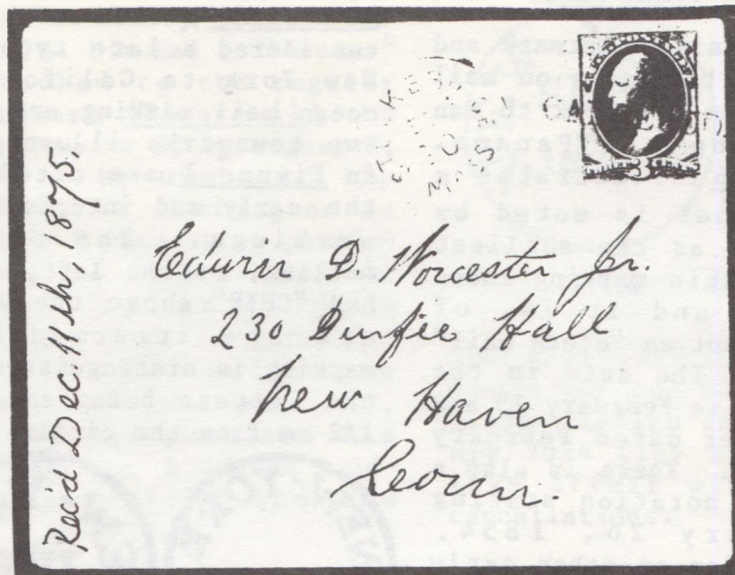


Figure 1



Figure 2

Also at STAMPSHOW '84, Clyde Jennings conducted a seminar on the subject of U.S. 19th century fancy cancels with 47 in attendance. That turnout shows real interest in the field and in what Clyde had to say. No doubt we all wish we could have been there.

The feature article of the May 1984 Bulletin of the Massachusetts Postal Research Society, entitled The Massachusetts Postmarks Designed by Walter Wesson, was authored by Theodore W. Bozarth. We trust the MPRS enjoyed that article as much as we did Ted's series of Wesson articles that was recently concluded in the News.

Sol Salkind has quite a project going! He originally began compiling material for a book on fancy cancellations on the

2c reds of the 1890's but has now expanded the subject to representative cancels of the 1890's and early 1900's. He is in particular need of information on covers with cancels for placing and dating purposes. Sol especially mentioned precancel covers. He would welcome any assistance and can be contacted at 3951 Poinciana Dr., Suite 216, Lake Worth, FL 33463.

ANSWER COLUMN

Jack Hilbing informs us that the letters "AP" appearing in the cancellation discussed on page 12 of the Winter 1984 issue are the initials of the postmaster, Abel Peil. Peil was appointed postmaster of Golden, Ill. on March 24, 1886 and served for three years.

(Cont'd fr. front page)

"ocean mail" postmark and was used basically on mail going from New York to San Francisco via Panama. Figure 6 illustrates a cover that is noted by Ashbrook as the earliest use of this marking known to him and it is, of course, not an "ocean mail" usage. The date in the townmark is February 25 and the letter dated February 25, 1854. There is also a receipt notation stating February 26, 1854. Information on other early usages is solicited along with comments on any conclusions reached on the originally intended use of this townmark if not for "ocean mail." In

Alexander, this mark is considered a late type of New York to California ocean mail marking and the two townmarks illustrated in Figure 7 are cited as the early and intermediate markings. The early marking, on the left, once had "SHIP" above the date and the intermediate marking is distinguished by the letters being about 2 1/2 mm from the circle.

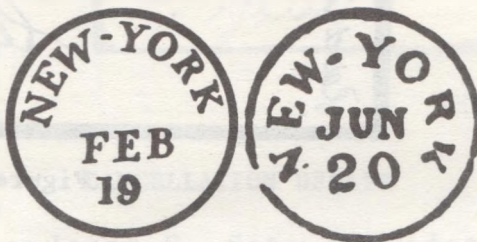


Figure 7



Figure 3

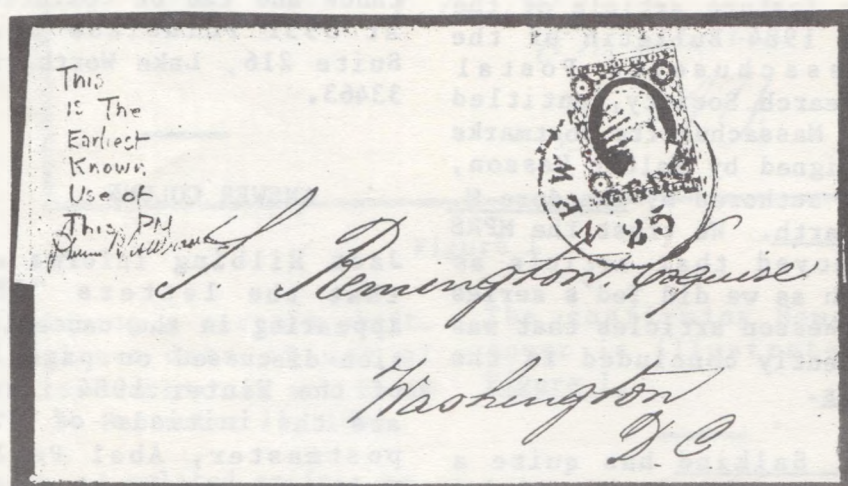


Figure 6

CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

The use of canceling bars in townmarks has been noted for several other cities and towns for at least brief periods during the 1850's. Figure 8 illustrates one such marking. An interesting later example (Figure 9) appeared in the July 1952 U.S.C.C. Quarterly submitted by Wilbur W. Davis. We quote Mr. Davis: "It is from Royalton, a small town in the East-Central part of Vermont. I have three items, each on a small piece of cover. Two of them cancel 3c green stamps of the 1881 issue and the third cancels a 2c ver-

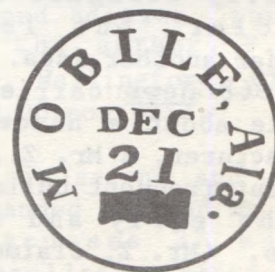


Figure 8



Figure 9

million stamp of the 1879 issue. In all cases, the relation of the cancellation to the letters is identical, proving the whole to be a stationary unit. In each case the marking is placed centrally on the stamp." Without a date, perhaps this marking was for third or fourth class mail and therefore used routinely to cancel stamps. The fact that two of the three stamps were 3c, however, suggests first class usage. Another

possibility is that the marking is actually a fancy cancellation and not intended as the townmark.

Mention was made above of a postmark that once contained the word "SHIP." This is a marking appropriate to include here since it was used for domestic as well as foreign mail. Mail carried by routes not established as post roads by non-contract ships normally received a ship marking. Figure 10 (courtesy of Gary Hendershott) illustrates a cover presumably originating in San Francisco, carried to New York via Cornelius Vanderbilt's Nacaragua route where it entered the mails, and then sent to Ann Arbor.

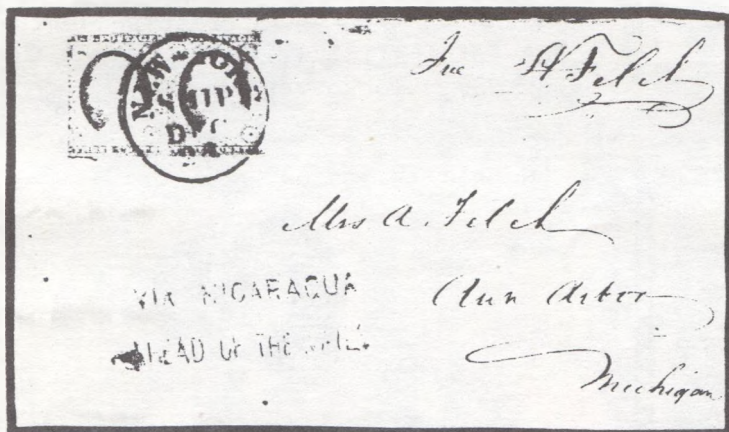


Figure 10

The circumstances of the change from using the townmark as a canceler in New York City, described in Bond, are very interesting. In July 1860, a postal regulation was issued which prohibited use of townmarks to cancel stamps and required that a "distinct canceller" be used. Reacting quickly to the specter of greatly increased processing time if two postmarking operations were to be employed,

New York City postmaster John A. Dix had a "blotter" attached to the regular townmark (Figure 11) and began using it by August 8, 1860. He wrote to the P.O.D. in Washington on August 8 requesting permission to employ such a device and was promptly advised that it infringed on a patent held by a Marcus P. Norton. Mr. Norton had obtained his patent for a duplex handstamp in 1859 and the

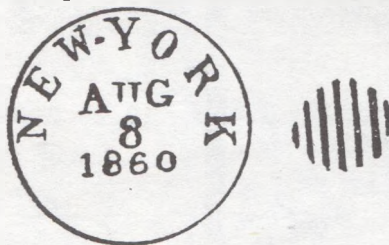


Figure 11

device had been used experimentally, with official approval, at Troy, N.Y. for three months in 1859. On learning of the patent infringement, Mr. Dix promptly made arrangements with Mr. Norton to obtain a supply of Mr. Norton's handstamps which were placed in service (Figure 12) by September 4, 1860. New York City was thus the first city to adopt a duplex handstamp containing both townmark and canceler.

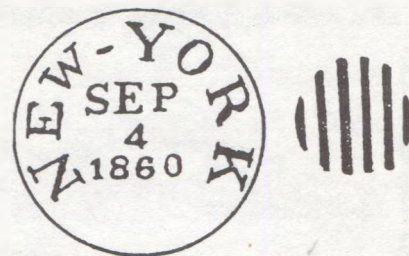


Figure 12

The grid obliterator was replaced in 1861 by a target design and in 1862 New York City began its love affair with fancy cancellations.

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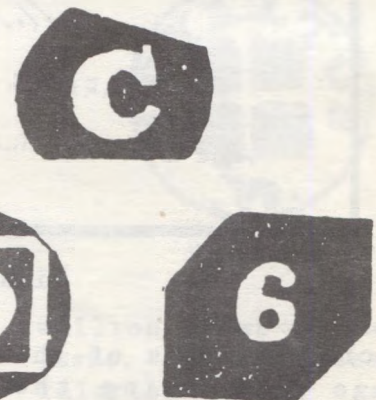


Figure 2

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Readers are urged to check through their collections for interesting or unusual items showing auxiliary postal markings as cancelers and provide information on them to the News.