



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 17, No. 5

WHOLE NO. 183

WINTER 1985

## EARLY USE OF NUMBERS AND LETTERS IN NEW YORK CITY CANCELLATIONS

Due to its size, location as a major port, and early and continuing prominence as a national center for commerce, New York City has over the years produced a veritable goldmine of postal history. We have in the past two issues touched on two areas pertaining to cancellations and continue now with a third article, this time on the subject of numerals and letters in early New York City handstamp cancellations. In doing so we turn for guidance to a most interesting article published in the May 1968 News by Arthur H. Bond.

To begin with, Mr. Bond stated his belief that use of cancelers showing letters to designate post office stations was begun in 1863 when free delivery started. They were attached in duplex handstamps to city delivery townmarks. Bond noted letters "D", "F" and "H" in cancelers but did not illustrate them. Skinner and Eno do show several letters-in-killers for New York City found on stamps of the 1861 issue which were in use during the 1861-7 period. Of the letters D, F and H, only the "D" (Figure 1) was illustrated but other letters (Figure 2) were also shown that do correspond to post office stations existing at the time.

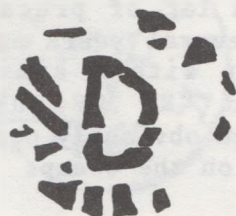


Figure 1



Figure 2

The 1st item in Figure 3 was reported by Mr. Bond to be used in December 1869 and the others during the 1869-71 period. The years 1872-6 produced cancellations illustrated in Figure 4.



Figure 3

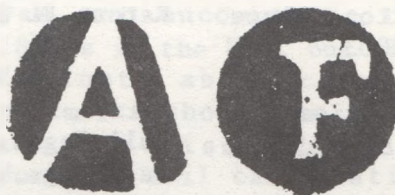


Figure 4

The first item in Figure 5 was also used during this period. It is similar in design to a contemporary Chicago cancellation which is the second item in Figure 5. Like so many Chicago cancellations of the period, it was struck in blue ink. The third item is a variation of that design, also assumed to be from Chicago, from an off-cover Scott #146 in blue ink.



Figure 5



Figure 6

During the 1872-6 period, the General Post Office employed numeral cancellations (Figure 6) to a limited extent and only on out-of-town mail. The  
(Cont'd on p. 79)



Dear Reader:

As of the middle of January, 234 members had paid their 1985 dues. For those who plan to send their dues but have not yet done so, we urge you to take a moment to do so. Your support is surely important and, by acting now, a follow-up letter from our treasurer will be saved.

We also renew the standing invitation to all members to contribute to the News or raise questions that can perhaps be answered through the News. This is your publication and we look forward to hearing from you.

Roger Curran

#### QUESTION CORNER

Illustrated in Figure 1 are two cancels each found on a

Scott #182. As can be seen, the "R" is well placed on the stamp albeit in one case upside down. A second solid "R" example, also well centered on a 1c blue, was noted in a dealer's stock. Could they be precancels used on a circular mail? In an auction lot of precancels sold several years ago was a stamp with a similarly shaped "R" (Figure 2) although obviously not well placed on the stamp.



R

R

Figure 1



Figure 2

Can anyone help on these perhaps related cancels and on the town or towns of origin?



#### AWARD WINNERS

George J. Ball, Jr.  
Reserve Grand, Postal History Society medal, U.S.C.C. award, and gold - Toledo Postal History to 1900 (AIRPEX, Dayton, OH)

(Cont'd on p. 70)

#### THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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## NEW YORK CITY "FREE"

Fred Rodriguez sends information on an interesting cover (Figure 1) in his collection bearing a New York City "FREE" postmark. We quote from Fred's letter:

"The cover is unusual as it depicts the use of a (Long Island) postmaster's free franking privilege while away from his post office. C. Wood was the second postmaster at Lakeland, a small Suffolk County village just east of Smithtown. Postmaster Wood was a real estate developer and untiring promoter of the value of owning Long Island real estate. He had a business address in New York City, at 208 Broadway and apparently divided his time between NYC and Lakeland...The contents are datelined 'N.Y. July 1/57' and are interesting as Postmaster Wood demonstrated his prophetic prowess of how Long Island would be like, although his timing was a 'little off'. I quote C. Wood: 'The land is increasing in value every year all over the Island & especially here near the L.I. Rail Road. The prospect is that the whole line of the Rail Road will be dotted with Houses from one end to the other in a few years.' This is certainly true today as many villages did arise from the direct influence of the LIRR and the Island is densely populated, although not as much out east."

The color of the ink being red is of interest because, as noted in the last issue of the News, the regular New York City townmark was changed from red to black

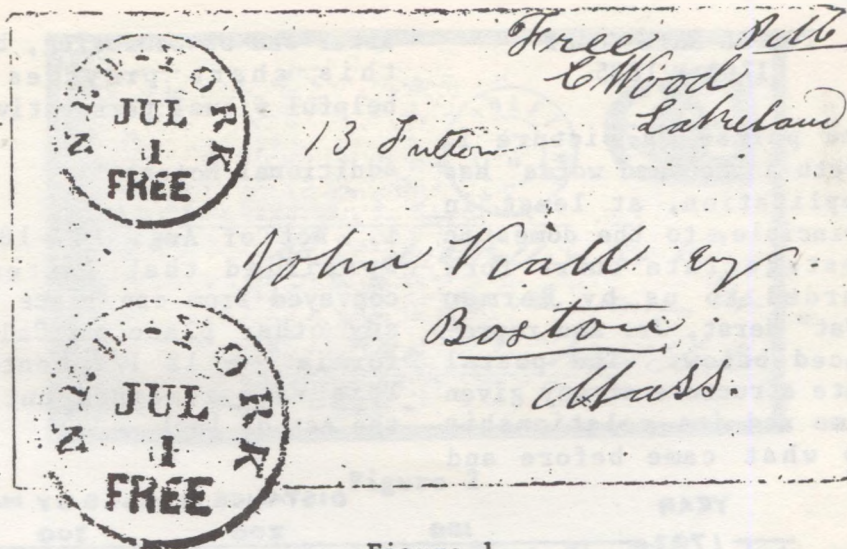


Figure 1

in 1851 presumably to accommodate its use as a canceler of stamps. Since "free" mail did not normally involve the use of stamps, except in the case of stamps that prepaid carrier service, it is not surprising to find the "free" townmark in red. However, what about the New York City carrier cancellations of the period for local delivery mail? Two of the most commonly found carrier postmarks (separate cancelers were not used) are illustrated from Alexander's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-1861 in Figure 2. Most often these

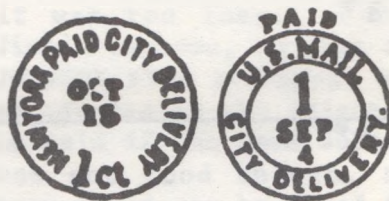


Figure 2

were applied in red instead of black. Of course, use of colored canceling inks was not uncommon in the 1850's in the U.S. but this footnote about carrier postmarks should be added to the discussion of domestic mail cancellation practices in New York City.

## ELLIPSE COLORS

Jim Hopkins responded to the article on colored ellipses in the last issue with a brown ellipse from New York City on a 3c green. The stamp and a tracing of the cancellation (the stamp actually has a double strike) are illustrated in Figure 1. Brown is a difficult ink color to assess as it can result from a degrading of black ink over time. And it can produce the muddy brown color as found in this example. If so, it was probably a poor batch of ink used at the time. The ink on this stamp is a very consistent brown color with no darker tinges or the like. Is a brown postmarking and cancelling ink known from New York City in the middle and later 1870's?



Figure 1



# POSTAL RATE CHART 1792 - 1885

The phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" has application, at least in principle, to the domestic postage rate chart forwarded to us by Herman "Pat" Herst, Jr. and reproduced below. The postal rate structure at any given time and its relationship to what came before and

after can be confusing, but this chart provides a helpful visual perspective.

## Additional Notes:

1. Act of Aug. 14, 1848 specified that letters conveyed from one place to any other place in California --- 12 1/2 cents. This rate remained until the Act of 1851.

2. The Act of 1855 specified a rate of 10 cents on single letters conveyed over 3000 miles. This was modified by the Act of 1861 to: "10 cents rate of postage on letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains to any state or territory on the Pacific, and vice versa."

YEAR	DISTANCE IN MILES BY MAIL ROUTE									
	100		200		300		400		500	
1792	6¢	8¢	10¢	12½¢	15¢	17¢	20¢	22¢	25¢	
1799	8¢	10¢	12½¢	17¢		20¢			25¢	
1816	"WAR OF 1812 RATES" - 50% INCREASE 2/1/15 TO 3/31/16									
1825	"RESTORED RATES" IN EFFECT 4/1/16 TO 4/30/16									
1845	6¢	10¢	12½¢	18½¢		25¢			PACIFIC COAST	
1851	5¢							10¢	40¢	
1855	3¢ PREPAID / 5¢ COLLECT PREPAYMENT COMPULSORY							6¢ / 10¢		
1863	3¢							10¢		
1883	3¢									
1885	2¢									

(Cont'd fr. p. 68)

## Randolph L. Neil

Grand award, gold, APS pre-1900 medal, and BIA Statue of Freedom award - U.S. 2c Issue of 1883-87 (MIDAPHIL '84, Kansas City)

## Henry S. Nowak

Vermeil - The U.S. 1c Blue 1861-69 (MIDAPHIL '84)

## Joe H. Crosby

Vermeil and U.S.C.C. award - 19th Century U.S. Fancy Cancellations (MIDAPHIL '84)

## James Wrobliske

Silver and best novice award - Fancy Cancels of the U.S. 2c 1883-87 (MIDAPHIL '84)

## Brad Arch

Silver - World War I Military Post Offices in New Jersey (NOJEX), Bronze - Faroe Islands (NOJEX)

## Harold Dylhoff

Bronze - Operation Crossroads (NOJEX)

(Cont'd on p. 75)



## STAR TREK

by Bruce London

I collect fancy cancels on 19th century United States stamps. A couple of years ago, I bid on an unphotographed lot in a mail auction. The stamp was the common 3c of 1861, but the cancel was described as a negative 5-point star in a circle. When it arrived, I was surprised and pleased to find that the cancel was more complex and unusual than the brief description suggested. It was a negative 5-point star, but the star was also intersected by two negative concentric circles and the points of the star cut into a wide outer circle (see Figure 1). I promptly



Figure 1

pulled my Skinner-Eno off the shelf and tried to find out from where this complex, combination star came. It wasn't listed, so I gave it a prominent place in the star section of my collection and went on to other things. Then, just a short time ago, Bill Weiss' 50th sale catalogue arrived in the mail and there, jumping out at me from the photos in the fancy cancel cover section was an example of the same star on cover with a clearly readable Middletown, NY CDS (see Figure 2). The single and cover now reside comfortably side-by-side in my collection. More importantly, a little bit of knowledge has been gained (and now shared - assuming that some of you didn't know this already), and I



Figure 2

have been able to enjoy the anticipation of the search and the thrill of the discovery. These are some of the best things about collecting fancy cancels.

## "NO NAME", TEXAS

By Bill Henderson

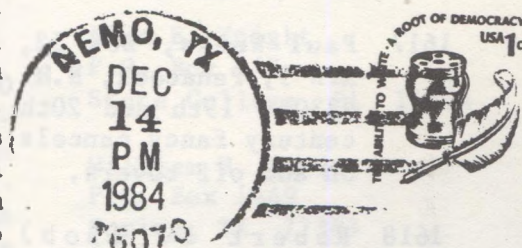
The name NEMO is an example of the local citizens' frustration in trying to obtain a name for their community and to-be post office. The name CLEBURNE, JOHNSON STOP was selected and submitted to the Post Office Department for official approval. The P.O.D. rejected this name; it was too long. Uncle Jimmie Johnson, to whom the JOHNSON STOP referred, was so angered by the rejection he said if the name Johnson was not good enough, the town could not be named for any man. Thus the village was left with "no name". At this point a school teacher suggested the Latin word for "no name" - NEMO. I assume Uncle Jimmie was happy, as it was not a man's name. So, you can get a postmark with "no name" on it.

On the 1923-24 map NEMO is shown to have been on the "Glen Rose and Cleburne

Road." These are both county seats, and this was THE road between them until the 1930's. I would have to believe the intent of the rather strange name "CLEBURNE, JOHNSON STOP" refers to a "Stop" on this road by the name of Johnson. Since Glen Rose is the county seat of the county in which the community was located, Somervall, the citizens knew the road as the "Cleburne Road". The folks in Johnson county knew it as the "Glen Rose Road". At this time all roads went through the county seat.

My source does not identify Uncle Jimmie Johnson. I assume he was a prominent, vocal citizen. This may or may not be true.

The NEMO post office, Somervall county, Texas was opened December 20, 1893.





## NEW MEMBERS

- 1609 Marshall O. Blount, Jr. Office of the Chaplain, 7th Support Group APO, New York 09279 FDCs & US Stamps.
- 1610 W. Scott Persons, Box 236, Tuckasegee, NC 28783 Attractive cancels of 19th Cent.
- 1611 Joseph C. Thompson, 2219 Manchester Rd., Louisville, KY 40205 US, Canada, Austria, UN.
- 1612 Rev. Elroy Treit, 3871 Hurst St., Burnaby, B.C., V5J 1M4 Canada U.S.-Canadian Cancels.
- 1613 Richard J. Wendt, 215 W. Elmwood, Clawson, MI 48017 U.S. Cancels
- 1614 E.M. Bitgood, 1632, W. San Lucas Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704 Large Banknote issues except 210, 212, 213.
- 1615 Leonard C. Schwartz, 5051 Live Oak Circle, Bradenton, FL 33507 Classic U.S.; NY State PH; Fancies thru Banknotes
- 1616 Jack D. Smolinske, P.O. Box 395, Avilla, IN 46710 SON; Coil # Singles.
- 1617 Paul Weeks, Box 52, RFD 5, Penacook, N.H. 03303 19th and 20th century fancy cancels on and off covers.
- 1618 Robert F. (Bob) Dumaine, 14654 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079 Dealer - Sam Houston

Philatelics, Inc.,  
U.S., Ducks.

- 1619 Raymond P. Corriveau, RFD 4, Box 264B, Manchester, NH 03102 Fancy cancels.
- 1620 Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., 700 Greenwood Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091 Official stamps; free franks; Wash., DC covers.
- 1621 Robert W. Gesell, P.O. Box 8248, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48107 U.W. Classics specializing in Black Jack issue & Proofs, Essays, Trial Colors.
- 1622 Richard A. Bingham (Dick), 24 Woodlawn Road, Hadley, MA 01035 Classic stamps: Scott #9 - 404 Covers: #10 to 1888 (year).

## REINSTATED

- 1279 John M. Hotchner 6121 Vista Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041 Geometric & Fancy Cancels on U.S. pre-bureau; Fancy number & letter cancels on pre 1900 worldwide; Worldwide EFOs.

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Michael M. Ludeman  
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Murray R. Pearce  
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- Harold Dylhoff  
23511 Paulson's Rd.  
Box 212 R 1  
Gobles, MI 49055
- Charles J. Sommer  
Dept. of Math/Comp. Sci.  
SUNY at Brockport, N Y  
Brockport, N Y 14420
- Duncan W. Gwynn  
595 John Muir Drive, #626C  
San Francisco, CA 94132
- Robert Swanson  
P.O. Box 25569  
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Tempe, AZ 85282
- ZIP CHANGE ONLY
- Barbara Fosdyke

(Cont'd on p. 73)



# FOREIGN POSTMARKS ON EARLY U.S. STAMPS

Foreign postmarks are noted occasionally on nineteenth century U.S. stamps. Such stamps normally also bear a U.S. cancellation and the placement of the foreign marking on the stamp is usually by happenstance. A most interesting collection can be developed of U.S. stamps showing these postmarks and we illustrate in this article three examples.



Figure 1

Figure 1 is a Scott #11 that shows a partial strike of a circular date stamp. Much more interesting, however, is the French postage due marking in the center section. It represents the numeral "3" and a full illustration of the marking as it typically appears is shown in Figure 2. These French

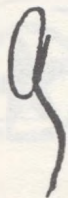


Figure 2

numerals are highly stylized and some bear very little resemblance to the figures with which we are familiar. Such markings began as manuscripts but were later applied by metal handstamps. Readers are referred to a brief but informative article on the subject by Paul J. Wolf in the March 1981 News.



Figure 3

Figure 3 illustrates a Scott #159 with a partial strike of a killer. The prominent postmark is a Bremen arrival marking. Dick Winter provided the following comments. "The cover was probably carried by a North German Lloyd steamer directly to Bremen.

The 6c rate was the direct rate by any steamship at this time. It arrived at Bremen on 29 January (29-1) 1875 and was processed by the German post office during the time period shown by the numbers and letters in the bottom of the markings. If..(the) marking shows 1-3N, for example, it would mean 1:00 - 3:00 (Nachmittag). I think the usual periods were two hour periods." On the stamp illustrated, the "N" is clear but the numerals difficult to decipher.



Figure 4

Figure 4 shows a Scott #210 with two interesting postmarks, one of them from Paris in a bright blue ink. Willard observed: "In some foreign countries there seems to have been a practice of recancelling the stamp itself rather than printing a receipt mark on



Figure 5

the front or back of the cover. This is especially true in Paris, France. An illustration of a similar cancel from Willard is provided in Figure 5. The other postmark was applied by the American Postal Machine Company at Boston in 1886. The first successful canceling of letter mail was achieved in Boston by this company in 1884.

Readers are encouraged to submit information about interesting or unusual items in their collections involving U.S. stamps with foreign postmarks.

Roger Curran

## REFERENCE

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

(Cont'd fr. p. 72)

P.O. Box 2568  
Pomona, CA 91769

Alan E. Knight  
P.O. Box 647  
State College, PA 16804

William H. Bauer  
P.O. Box 1449  
Spring, TX 77383



## A WINTER VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND

Cancellations unlisted in Skinner and Eno (S/E) from New England, courtesy of Ted Mills, occupy our attention in this article. All cancels and townmarks are in black ink and on Scott #65s unless otherwise noted.

Drifting east we pause in Westerly, R.I. to take note of its cancels in Figures 5 and 6.

In Massachusetts we tarry awhile beginning with Northfield (Figure 7) where the illustrated postmark



Figure 6

and killer are in blue black. Figure 8 is from New Bedford and is very similar to S/E GE-P 27 except that the inner circle has been quartered. Figure 9 shows, from left to right, Upton, Shelburne Falls and Pigeon Cove, the latter two postmarks and killers in blue. Figure 10 is from Harrison Square which became a station of the Boston post office in 1870. In a bit of a digression, an interesting earlier cancellation from this town, bearing the name of the postmaster, is illustrated in Figure 11.

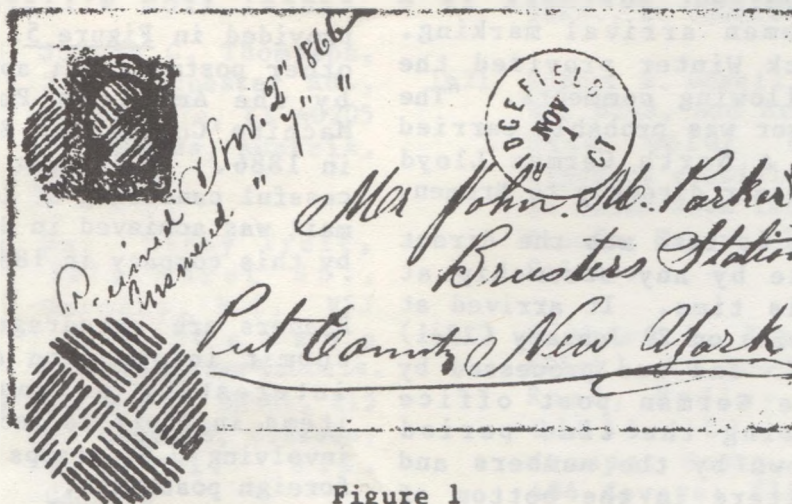


Figure 1

We begin with Connecticut. Figure 1 is from Ridgefield. Note the 1866 docketing. Figure 2 presents, from left to right, cancels from New Britain, New Haven and Hartford. Figure 3 illustrates cancels from Mystic River and Cheshire. Figure 4, docketed 1867, is from Norwich.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

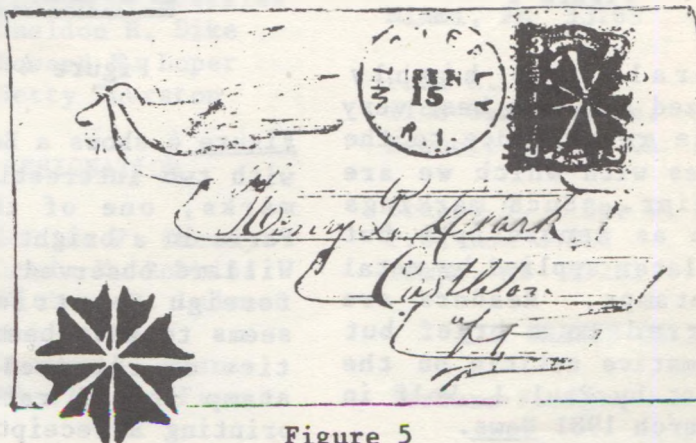


Figure 5



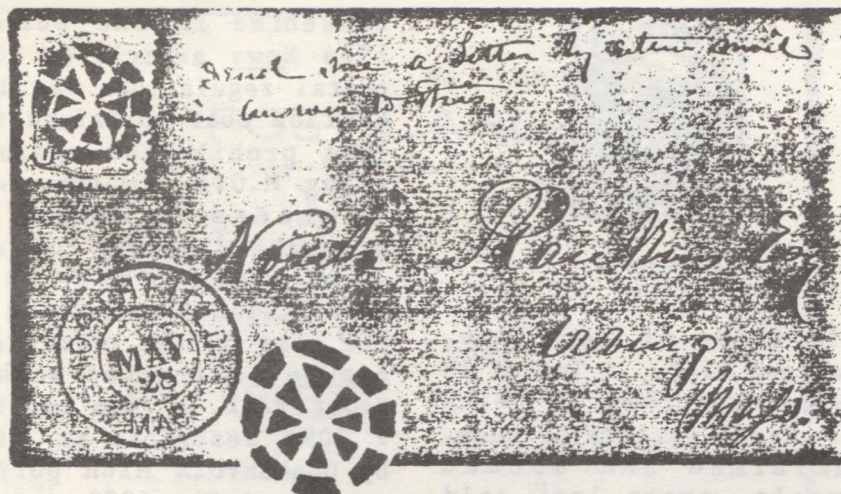


Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

This cancel is found on both the imperforate and perforated issues.

"X" marks the spot--in Vermont--from Rockingham, left and Windsor, right in Figure 12.



Figure 12

Down to the sea at Portsmouth, New Hampshire finds Figure 13 which is somewhat similar to S/E ST-0 30. Other New Hampshire killers are presented in Figure 14, left to right, from Centre Barnstead, Enfield Centre and East Jaffrey.

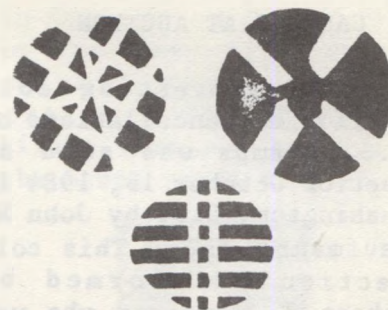


Figure 14

Now here we are on the border of Maine. Who can help us out with some unlisted material from this great state?

(Cont'd fr. p. 70)

Jospeh von Hake  
Gold - 19th Century  
Susquehanna County Markings  
(LEBPEX, Lebanon, PA)

Warren R. Bower  
Silver - U.S. Postage Dues,  
First Bureau Issue (Sunpex  
'84, Sunnyvale CA)

C. Kilbourne Bump  
Silver and BCPSG Bronze -  
The Victorian One Penny  
Issues of Bermuda  
(Philtelic Show '84,  
Boston)

(Cont'd on p. 76)



Figure 13



## CANCELS AT AUCTION

A most interesting collection of cancellations on U.S. stamps was sold at auction October 13, 1984 in Washington, D.C. by John H. Kaufmann, Inc. This collection was formed by Robert T. Anderson who was described recently in Linn's as a prominent Orlando, Florida attorney and lifelong collector. Many desirable items were included and the prices realized tell us something of the state of the market for choice material. A sampling is presented below with the winning bids that do not include the 10 percent buyer commission.



Figure 1

Figure 1 is a Scott #24 with a Dedham, Mass. "PAID" described as a fine stamp with a VF cancel. It sold for \$55.00. A Scott #26 with a "well struck Charleston 6 in black, VF" sold for \$18.



Figure 2

Figure 2 is a Scott #65 with a lovely masonic cancel that went for \$46. Six Scott #65's, each with a shield cancel, including the Brooklyn shield (Figure 3) discussed elsewhere in



Figure 3

this issue of the News, realized \$170. A lot of 13 covers described as "each w/3c tied, variety of dues, unclaimed and socked cancels, great lot" sold for \$260.00.



Figure 4

Figure 4, a Scott #158 with a "socked-on-the-nose" fancy patent cancel, well centered and fresh, XF" sold for \$32. A lot of 13 Scott #114's each with nice socked cancels including geometrics, nice PAID 3, few trivial faults, F-V/F" brought \$120. A Scott #159 bearing a NYFM cancel type A-10 (Figure 5) "couple tiny perf creases, VF" sold for \$24.00.



Figure 5

A Scott #179 horizontal paid with a well-centered Paris, France double circle "F-VF realized \$44. A VF Glen Allen, Virginia star precancel on a Scott #182 sold for \$60.00.

Presented in the Summer 1984 News article on 1893 postal regulations was the section that contained the flat prohibition against using M.O.B. (money-order business) stamps in stamping letters. We are confident that this prohibition also existed at the time of the cover (see Figure 6) franked with a Scott #212, a #216 and two # 209s described as "tied by CHARLEVOIX MICH purple octagonal Dec 1889 cancels on legal cover which has been reduced at both ends, a lovely peice." It realized \$90.



Figure 6

Finally in this brief review a Scott #238 "socked WORLDS FAIR STA SEP 19, '93 CDS, F-VF" sold for \$150.

(Cont'd fr. p. 75)

Brian M. Green

Large gold - Virginia in the Confederacy, 1861-65 (PHILA KOREA)

Budd Dickey

First place in U.S. category - Pittsburgh Stampless Covers (PITTEX '84)

John B. Ludin

Grand, Empire State PH Soc. award and gold - Postal Markings of Oneida County, 1796-1850 (FOPEX, Ft. Orange Stamp Club, Albany, N.Y.)



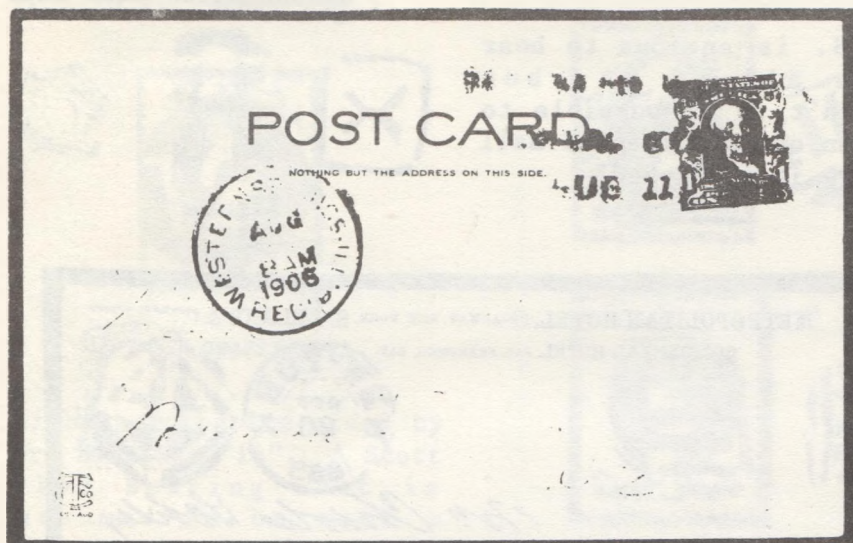


Figure 1

## CANAL STATION

Figure 1 illustrates a cancel you probably haven't seen before. Indeed, you undoubtedly can't see it well here because on the actual card it is virtually illegible. Warren Bower, who submitted the item, suggests that it is probably from a handstamp of a printing kit with rubber, changeable type. Sounds like it must be a place that doesn't process much mail doesn't it? And we suspect it is. The postmark is as follows:

"Sault Ste. Marie, Mich  
Canal Station  
Aug. 11, 1906"

The U.S. canal and a parallel canal on the Canadian side run along the St. Marys River between the twin cities of Sault Sainte Marie, Mich. and Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario. The canals are used by a huge volume of ship and barge traffic and connect Lake Huron and Lake Superior, bypassing the rapids of the river. For the convenience of the ships' crews and of passengers (to the extent present) and perhaps to

meet business needs of ship operators, this particular postal station must have been established.

## MORE CHICAGO INITIALS

Harry Kennedy submits (Figure 1) a Chicago cover, of later vintage than the one in the Fall 1984 issue of the News, that contains initials in both the townmark and ellipse. In this case, however, we know definitely what the initials stand for; i.e., the Madison Street station. In his book on the two cent red browns, Willard reports that the Postal Guide for 1887 lists eight stations

in Chicago, each with a one or two initial abbreviation. Figure 2 illustrates a Chicago "SY" killer that was applied by the Stock yards station.



Figure 2

## BROOKLYN SHIELD

Ted Mills sends additional information about the fine Brooklyn shield illustrated by Herman Herst, Jr. in the Spring 1984 News. Mr. Herst assumed that this cancel was applied in 1861. A cover in Ted's collection bearing this cancellation is postmarked November 18 with a year date that appears to Ted to be, under magnification, 1862. The cover illustrated in Skinner and Eno clearly shows November 14 in the townmark but the year date is difficult to read. Whether it is 1861 or 1862, we can now extend the known dates of use to five days. Ted reports that his copy

(Cont'd on last page)

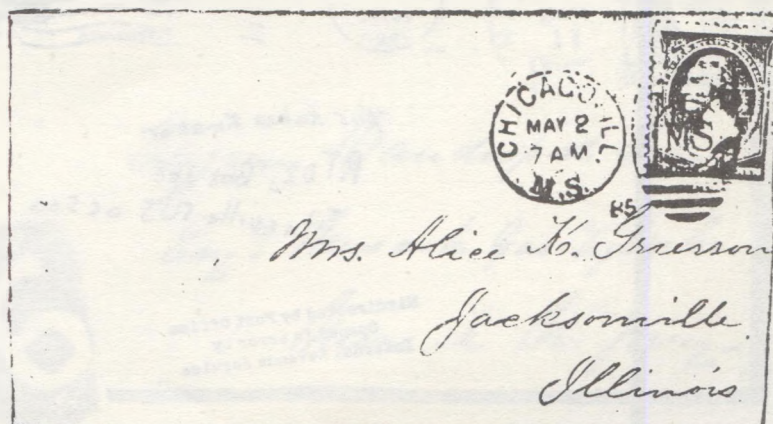


Figure 1



## MISDIRECTED MAIL MARKINGS

By Theodore W. Bozarth

You are not surprised that it happens; you are surprised that it happens so often that a handstamp is needed to identify misdirected mail received and opened at Internal Revenue offices. Apparently incoming mail is run through the opening machine without anyone bothering to read the address, as shown in the example (Figure 1), posted at Houston, TX, on Thursday, July 26. The machine marking on the back, ANSC IRS R(EC'D) / 07-30-84, indicates that it was not processed by the "ANSC" (probably Austin Sectional Center) until Monday, July 30, at which time the bottom was slit open. Later the mistake was discovered, the envelope was stapled shut, and the marking shown applied in magenta.

In his column in STAMP COLLECTOR for Dec. 10, 1984, Herman Herst, Jr., describes a similar cover delayed for three days at the I.R.S. office in Fresno, CA. We know the

I.R.S. is anxious to hear from all of us, but wouldn't it be possible to screen out misdirected mail before it is opened?



Figure 2

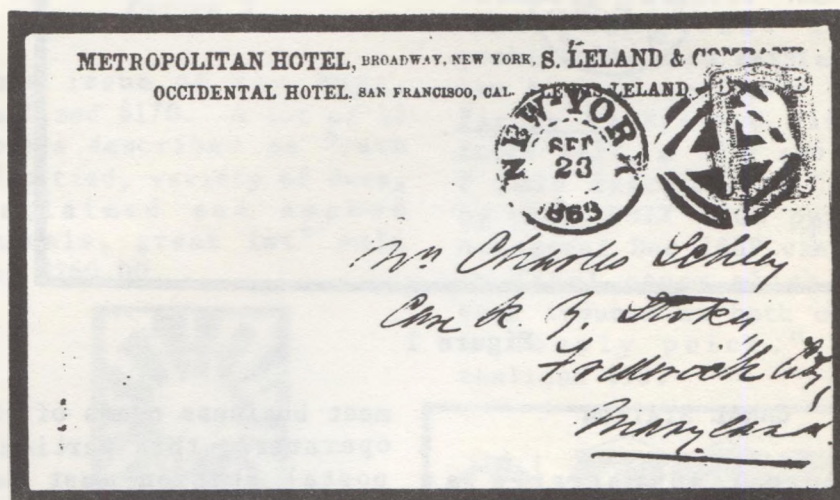


Figure 1

## UNLISTED CANCELS

From the three cent 1861 issue collection of Evelyn and George Lewis we present several cancels unlisted in Skinner and Eno. The attractive cover in Figure 1 is, of course, from New York City. The first item in Figure 2 is in blue ink and is from Evansville, Ill. The backward "R" is from Peoria, Ill. The third

item is from Greenwich, N.Y. The first item in Figure 3 is from Patterson, N.J. The horseshoe is from Albia, Iowa and third item is from Walton, N.Y. Figure 4 is from Wooster, Ohio.



Figure 3



Figure 1



Figure 4

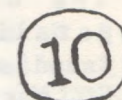


Figure 5

Town of origin is provided for two cancels listed but unidentified in S/E: GE-E77 is Wilton, Conn. and GE-R35 is Chicago, Ill.

George reports that the cancel in Figure 5, although not in their collection, listed as NS-J30 is from Ypsilanti, Mich.





Figure 7

highest number recorded by Mr. Bond was "16". A Scott #159 bearing what is assumed to be such a cancellation is illustrated in Figure 7. You will note that the "1" is not of the same shape as the "1" in "12" in Figure 6. Bond made the observation that since the life of such "killers" was only several months and most were roughly carved, a great variety will be found.



Figure 8

Figure 8 is a further example from Mr. Bond. How many among us would have assumed it to be a foreign cancellation? Figure 9 illustrates tracings of Roman numeral cancellations and the stamps from which they came. They are assumed to be New York City cancellations from the general likeness to the "VII" in Figure 6 and the partial townmark on one stamp that appears to be New York.



Figure 9

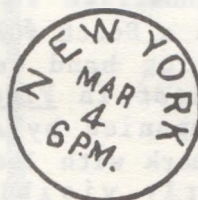
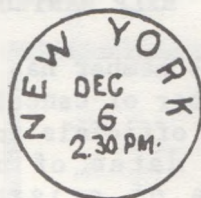


Figure 10

Figure 10 illustrates a New York City cancellation from an April 1952 article in the USCC Quarterly by Gilbert M. Burr. It has

been supplemented by an illustration of an assumed actual usage. Figures 11 and 12 illustrate covers of the period.

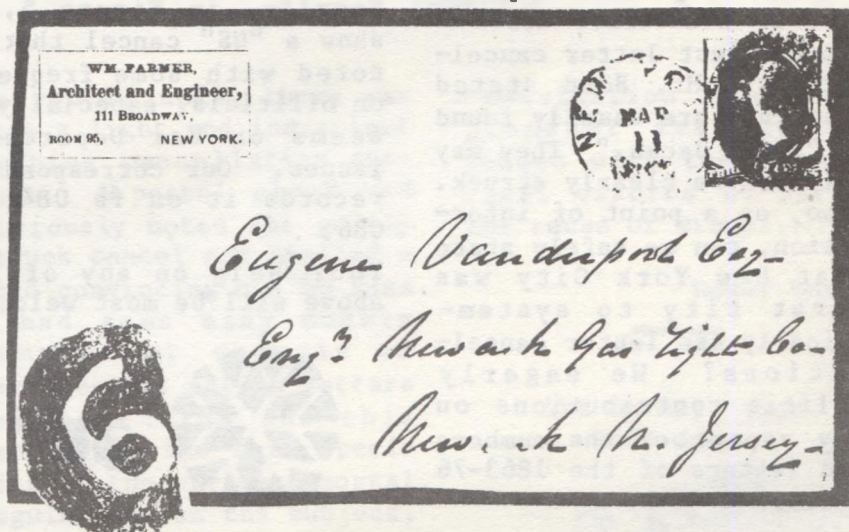


Figure 11



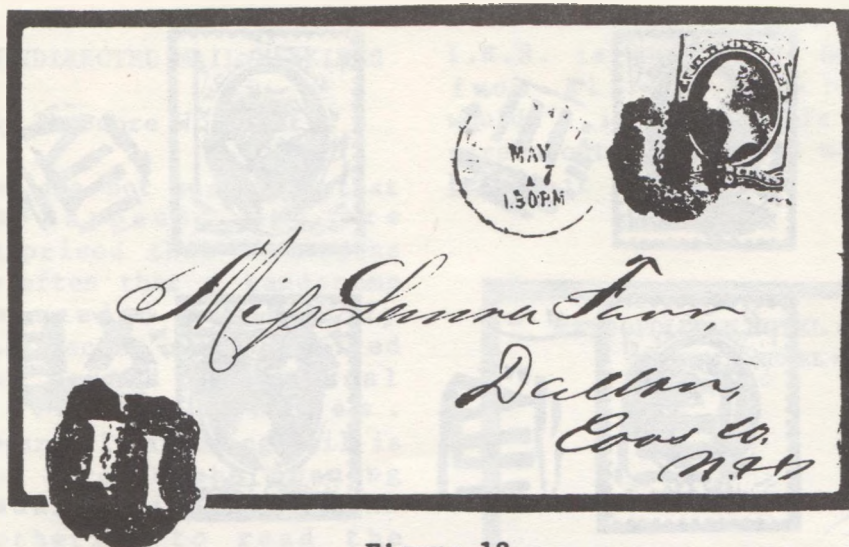


Figure 12



Figure 2



Figure 3

In 1876 a manufactured metal canceler was introduced and soon it replaced the earlier types. It produced, of course, the familiar ellipse cancellation (Figure 13).

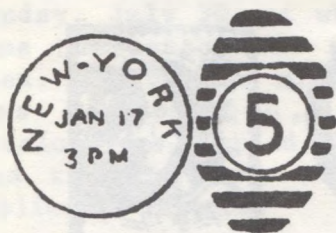


Figure 13

And now to you, the reader, an appeal to add to this interesting and understudied subject. We would like to illustrate more of the earliest letter cancellations. Mr. Bond stated that they are usually found on "Black Jacks." They may well not be clearly struck. Also, as a point of information, can we safely state that New York City was first city to systematically use letter cancellations? We eagerly solicit contributions on any aspect of the numbers and letters of the 1863-76 period.

Roger Curran

### HELP WANTED

A club member has submitted a number of cancels on off-cover officials in the hope that dates of usage and towns of origin for at least some can be learned. The snowflake in Figure 1 is on a Scott #078 and the pointing hand on a #075. The leaf in Figure 2 is accompanied by a partial townmark with letters "ON" clearly visible. The starburst on the right is in blue-green and cancels a #084. The "OK" in Figure 3 is on a #072 and the townmark on a #098. The 5-pointed star in Figure 4 was struck in blue-black ink on #s 0119 and 0102. Finally, in Figure 5, we show a "US" cancel that is noted with some frequency on officials, especially it seems on War Department issues. Our correspondent records it on #s 084 and 086.

Your help on any of the above will be most welcome.



Figure 1



Purple on #U055

Figure 4



Figure 5

### STEAMBOAT

"STEAMBOAT" markings, often found also as "STEAM", were applied by post offices receiving mail handed over from steamboats that had no contract to carry mails. The letters were so transported, therefore, as a favor to the sender. The folded letter dated October 22, 1851 in Figure 1 bears the familiar Albany, N.Y. two-line marking applied after the letter traveled up the Hudson River from New York City. The marking was struck in black. However, red ink was used from the inception of this



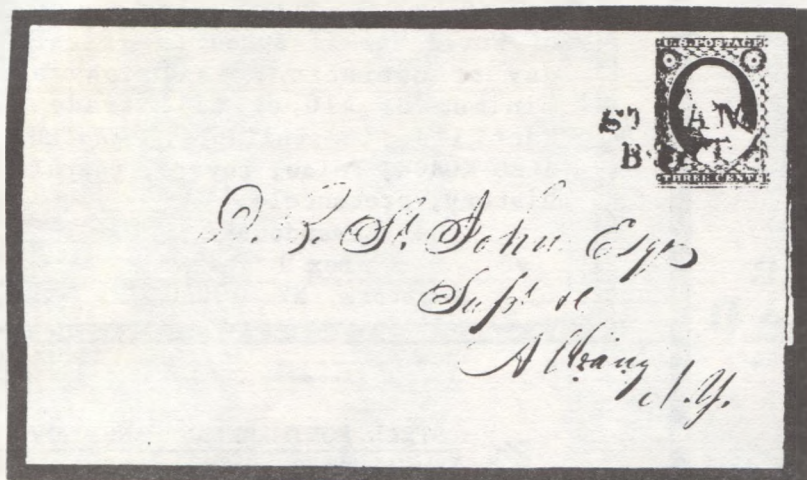


Figure 1

postmark in 1827 until 1850.

Known "STEAMBOAT" markings used in the 1850's consisted of a single line except for Albany and an obscure marking from New London, Conn. A tracing of the latter from Alexander's U.S. Postal Markings, 1851-61 is shown in Figure 2.

STEAM  
BOAT

Figure 2

Earlier years saw two-line "STEAMBOAT" markings from several towns in New York and Connecticut.

#### THE MANUSCRIPT LIVES

One evening last fall I sifted through the mail as usual and noted nothing out of the ordinary. An hour or so later my wife showed me a post card (Figure 1) that she thought might be of interest. What had not caught my attention earlier was the cancellation--a manuscript "X". Actually,

as you'll note, there was also a light and indistinct machine cancellation present. A postal clerk had obviously noted the poorly struck cancel and applied a more convincing one by hand. I had seen many modern manuscript cancels on packages but not on letters or post cards and this cancel, in the form specified in the earliest postal regulations on the subject, struck me as an interesting throwback.

To pursue the matter a bit I wrote to the postmaster at Randallstown inquiring about any specific procedures employed or problems encountered there in applying cancellations. His prompt response stated in part: "There is nothing unusual about the method of cancellation of this stamp. Cancellation of stamps using this method is done daily. All Postal personnel have been instructed to make certain stamps are cancelled..." Undoubtedly that's right. But for this postmark collector, the unexpected

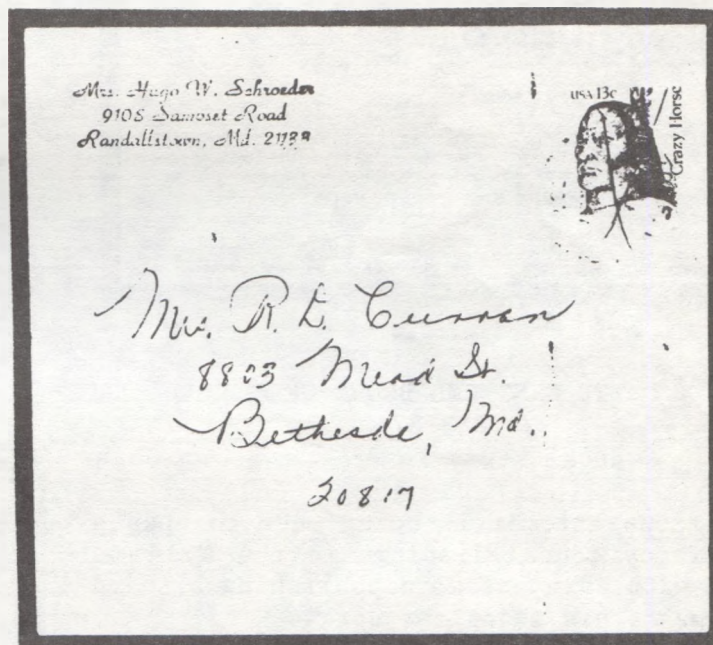


Figure 1

cancellation summoned up pleasant associations indeed with the country's first efforts to prevent the reuse of stamps.

Roger Curran

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of the cancel shows much more wear than that of Mr. Herst so perhaps the canceler was discarded shortly thereafter.