



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 17, No. 6

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SPRING 1985

## US POSTAGE DUE PRECANCELS-ESPECIALLY THE EARLY YEARS

By Warren R. Bower

Postage due stamps in the United States have been used over the years as official post office receipts for postal fees to be paid on short-paid or wholly unpaid mail, either of domestic or foreign origin. Some of this mail did not fully pay the rate involved. Other mail was charged a fee for an extra service that was not expected at time of mailing. The 1¢ fee for "Advertising" for the addressee's full or new address, the fee for returning mail back through the Dead Letter Office, and fees for "Forwarding" or "Returning" non-first class mail are examples. And there was 3rd or 4th class mail that was sometimes rated up to the 1st class rate (for various reasons) that would be charged due the added required postage. From the time postage due stamps were first issued in 1879 until 1975, domestic mail between cities sent completely unpaid, or incoming foreign mail short-paid, was charged a penalty of double the amount unpaid (the latter a UPU rule). After 1975 unpaid domestic mail has not been acceptable and is returned to sender with a fee due or destroyed.

Postage due stamps also

served a useful purpose in collecting Business Reply Return Mail fees and postage. This is mail sent by a business to potential customers with an offer of some type to be accepted and returned in a permit envelope or by a permit card for which the business would pay the postage to the post office on its return, plus a small fee for the service. This was usually cheaper than the older practice of putting return postage on the envelope, much of which was not returned. In such instances, postage due stamps provided a "credit" service to postal patrons, just as the regular postage stamps provided a prepaid or "cash" side for the usual mailers.

It was intended to apply the postage due stamps just before handing over the item of mail and collecting its charge from the addressee, but the expanding city and RFD deliveries required at times that the due stamps be applied and canceled in advance at the post office of the addressee. Generally speaking, the one fee that would have a due stamp applied at other than the addressee's post office would be the 1¢ fee for "Advertising" at a post office for the

addressee's new address. That fee belonged to the post office making the advertisement.

Postage due stamps are, of course, not good for postage and were not to be sold to the public for most years of their existence. Postage due stamps were first issued in the USA in mid-1879, but in the past 10 years have been largely replaced by meter strips in the larger post offices.

If postage due stamps were to be applied only at the post office, and not good for payment of prepaid postage, then why were they canceled? Certainly there is no doubt that the Post Office Department intended that they be canceled. It seems to have been a basic post office procedure that any type of postal stamp be canceled when used. The Postal Guides contain a number of references about reporting any post office that failed to cancel its postage or postage due stamps.

In the early years (1879-1900), postage due stamps were canceled in various ways (and some not at all), depending somewhat on the volume of mail that the particular post office

(Cont'd. on p. 85)





## AWARD WINNERS

George J. Ball, Jr.

Grand award, gold, Peninsular State Phil. Soc. award for best member exhibit and APS award - Toledo Postal History to 1900 (AAPEX '84, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

Rollin C. Huggins, Jr.

Gold and MPS Wm. J. Uihlein award for best Americana - U.S. Official Stamps (MILCOPEX '85, Milwaukee)

Randolph L. Neil

Gold and APS research medal - Great Britain, Queen Victoria Jubilee Issue 1887-1900 (MILCOPEX '85)

Brad Arch

Gold, postal history award and Maurice Apfelbaum award

- Faroe Island, 1919-1984 (BEPEX '85, Bergen Co., N.J.)

Joseph F. McDonough

Silver - Turn 'em Over - 19th Century Postal Cards (BEPEX '85)

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Gold and the freedom award - U.S. Color Cancels, 1847-1907 (SARAPEX '85, Sarasota, FL)

James Wrobliske

Gold and U.S.C.C. Award - Fancy Cancellations (SARAPEX '85)

## NEW MEMBERS

1623 Eric Cutler, 255 West Street, Dedham, MA 02026 19th Century U.S. Cancellations; U.S. to 1940.

1624 Marilyn N. Nosaka, 430 Point Lobos #1, San Francisco, CA 94121 U.S. Postal

## CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

## Markings.

1625 Donald F. Clark, 7600 El Paso Street, La Mesa, CA 92041 Postmarks & Cancellations.

1626 Roger Rhoads, 588 Jefferson Drive, Highland Heights, OH 44143 UX 1&3 - Fancy Cancels, unusual usages, postal history.

1627 John M. Mahoney 2722 Monserat Ave., Belmont, CA 94002 All phases of Hawaii-primarily cancellations.

1628 Webster F. Stickney, 7590 Windlawn Way Parker, CO 80134 (Dealer) U.S. Postal History.

1629 W.L. Strauss (Bill), Box 66 Oil Field

(Cont'd. on p. 96)

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(Cont'd fr. front pg.)

handled. Small town post offices tended to use the postage stamp killers, some the town and state oval, many used a "ms" inked "X", and a few used "Due 3¢" etc. handstamps. (See Figure 1).

ences of the postmaster in charge of the post office. Some of the cities used distinctive designs on their precancels that are identifiable off-cover; others used merely inked lines.

A large group of postage

# NEW YORK CITY

The first precanceled postage due of New York City was apparently used by the Main Post Office from August 1879 to about May 1887. Branch stations did not precancel postage dues but post-cancelled with a cancel indicating the station letter. After mid-1887 the main post office post-cancelled dues for many, many years.

This precancel, the "New York City Pearls," used exclusively for dues, was applied by a roller device of multi-impressions having the letters "N" and "Y" at right angles in an oval of solid dots (Pearls). It was commonly printed in blue ink, but also briefly and very early in black ink. The blue cancel is actually a common cancel, as NYC was a major user of dues and the cancel lasted 7-1/2 years. (See Figures 2 and 3.)

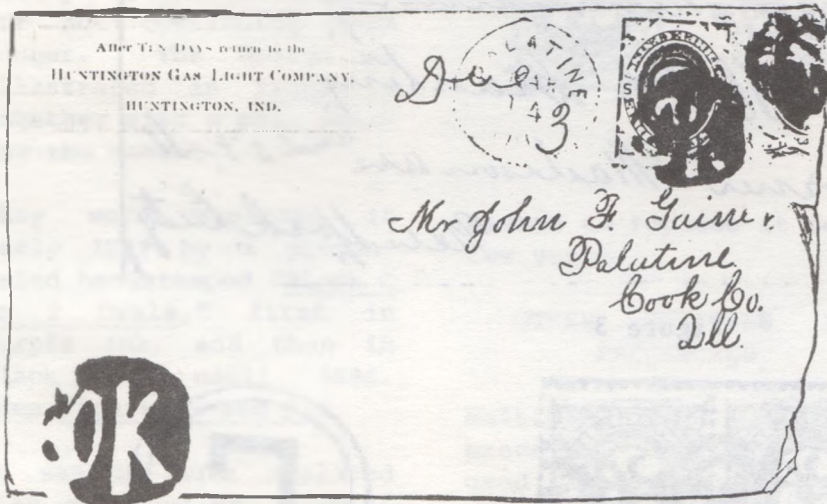


Figure 1

Many of the larger cities precanceled their early postage dues, as it was faster than post-cancels on individual pieces of mail. Some large cities, such as Boston, Philadelphia, Washington DC, etc. did not use precanceled dues for many years. Some cities would start precanceling, then stop and restart again later, depending upon the prefer-

due precancels are classed by collectors as "Line or Bar" types in that they have no town and state names in the design. "Lines" are continuous from one stamp to another and "Bars" have breaks between stamps.

Listed below by city or type are some major examples of precancels.



(20mm wide)

Figure 2

## CHICAGO

Chicago was an early user of precanceled dues, and tried many types in a few decades. Listed are the major types as they occurred.

"Chicago Pearls" were used for a short time in about 1880. There are few year dated covers available to estimate their months of



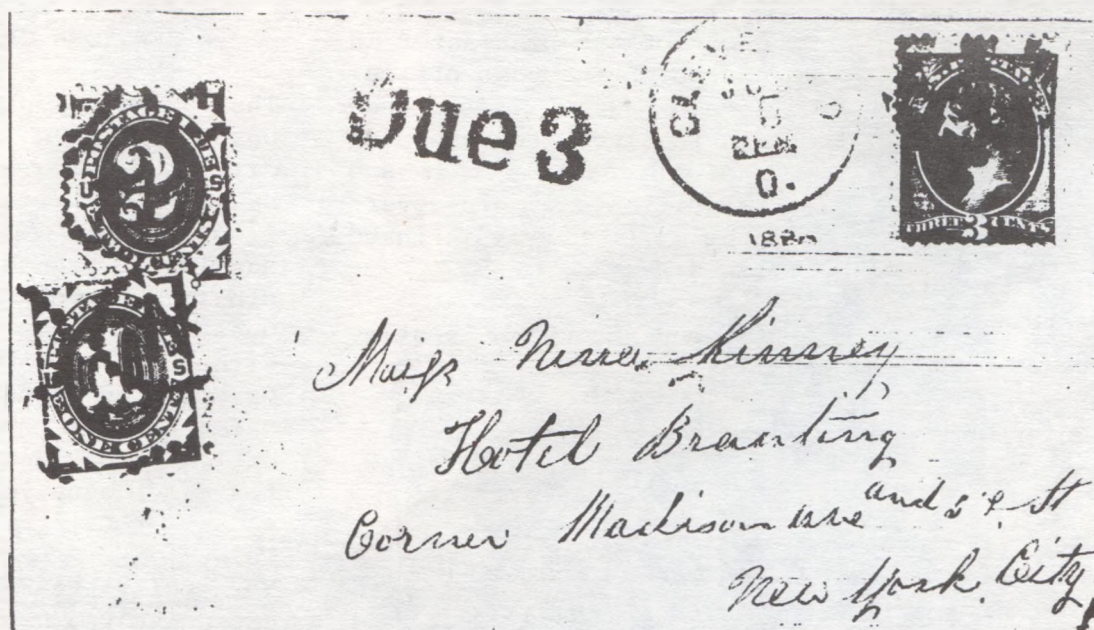


Figure 3



(21mm wide)



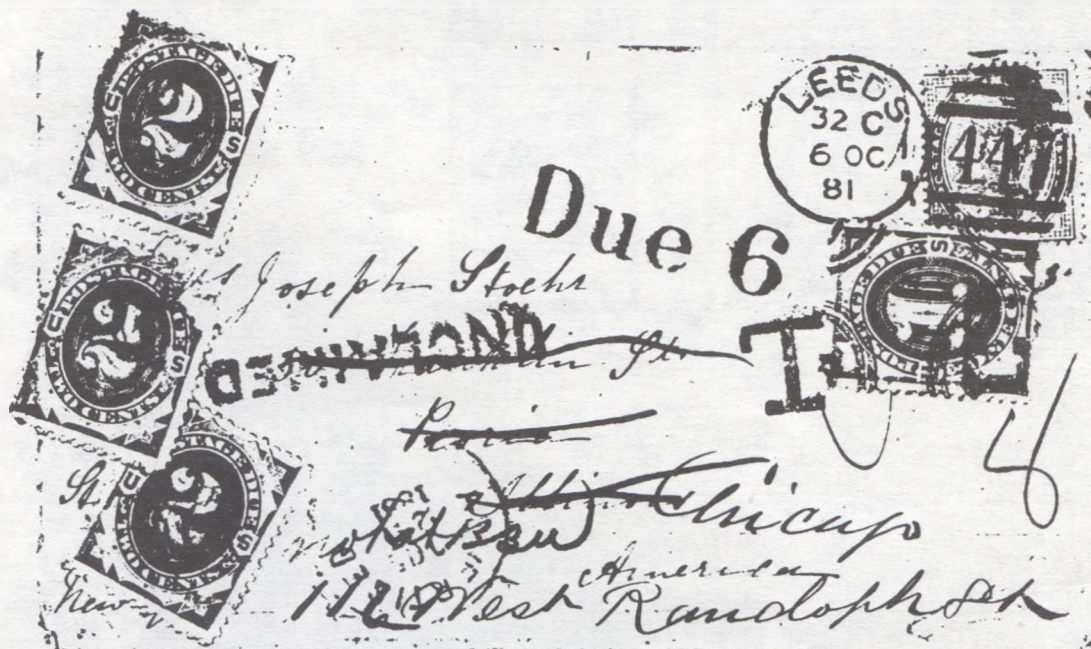
(greatly strengthened)



(20mm wide)

Figure 4

Figure 5



A first class letter from England to Peoria, Ill. short paid 3¢ thus due 6¢. It was then forwarded to Chicago where it was advertised (1¢ due with the Chicago precancel added). Unclaimed, it was sent to the Dead Letter Office and then back to England.

Figure 6



use. There are so few strips and/or blocks that we really aren't certain if they were produced by rollers or handstamps. The current estimate is that rollers were used as with the NYC Pearls they copied. Cancels were in faint purple ink which is likely to be the reason for not continuing them longer. The design is illustrated in Figure 4 together with a pair bearing the cancel.

They were replaced in early 1881 by a precanceled handstamped "Block C in 2 Ovals," first in purple ink, and then in black ink until 1884. (See Figures 5 and 6.)

It was in turn replaced with a stenciled, precanceled black "3 Bar"



Figure 7

design, identifiable by spacing and width of the bars. (See Figure 7.)

This was replaced in 1888 by a black "3 Wavy Line" stenciled precancel, used into the 1890's. (See Figure 8.) The "3 Bars" and the "3 Wavy Lines" often had multiple overlapping and give the illusion that there were more bars or lines per design than was actually the case. The stencils often tended to break down in use to produce very smudged lines. Sometimes they were used with a blue crayon "ms" line that



Figure 8

seemed to replace it for a few years.

#### OTHER MULTIPLE LINE PRECANCELS

Multiple line (or bar) precancel designs were used in the 1880-94 period on dues from St. Louis, MO; St. Paul, MN; Rochester, NY; Omaha, NE usually in black ink. (See Figure 9.)



St. Paul



Omaha

Cleveland



St. Louis

Rochester

Figure 9

#### SINGLE LINE PRECANCELS

Single line (or bar) designs were used to precancel dues from Minneapolis, MN; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Omaha, NE; Indianapolis, IN and others. Usually they consisted of straight ruled crayon or pen-inked lines, normally black, but sometimes in purple or blue crayon, or red ink. Most are difficult to identify off-cover, and so many are not listed in precancel books.

(To be continued)

#### REGISTRY MARKINGS

We touched briefly in the Fall '84 News on the subject of auxiliary postal service markings used as cancellations on nineteenth century stamps. Probably the largest single category is that of registry markings. They are scarce before 1870 but are found in substantial variety on the large bank notes. Figure 1 illustrates an early example (from a U.S.C.C. circuit, no less!) and the full Philadel-

phia marking from Skinner and Eno. Figure 2 shows cancellations from the 1870's and 1880's. In all cases the registry marking is the only postmark on the stamp so it was clearly intended to be the cancellation and was not a happenstance placement. Towns had to be of some size, of course, to make the acquisition of a registry handstamp even worthwhile. Otherwise, the markings were applied in manuscript and many such covers are noted. Figure 3 illustrates one example.





## REGISTERED

Figure 1

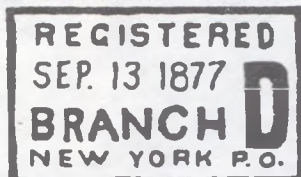


Figure 2

The New York registry marking in Figure 4 falls into a separate category as it was clearly designed as a canceler and is similar in concept to third and fourth class New York City

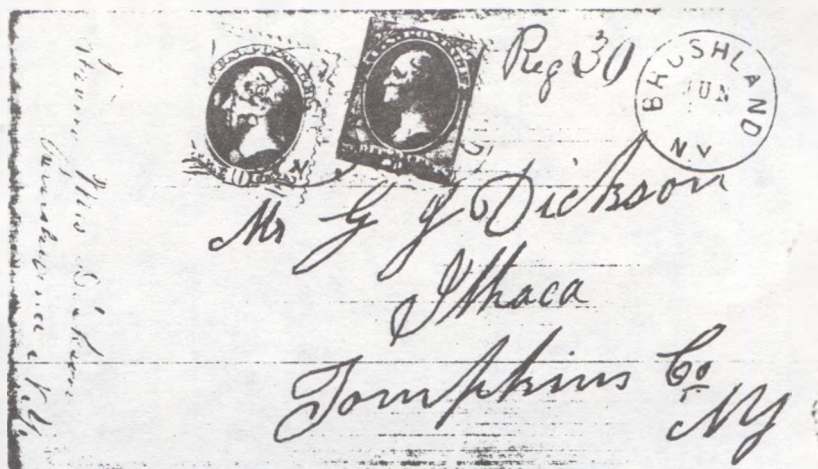


Figure 3



Figure 4

cancelers of the period. We assume registered mail was processed by a special section of the New York Post Office which had its own cancelers. Drawings of similar examples from Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia are shown in Figure 5.



(Registry Division)

Figure 5

of early New York City number and letter cancels on postal cards was carried in a recent Hoffers Covers and Stationery catalog. Included were 11 roman numerals of the type illustrated in the Winter '85 News. The dates of use were in the August to December 1874 period. Numbers 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 14 are present. (We can add numbers 2 and 4 from our observation.) Two cards bearing a negative roman numeral 12 are also present.

Burr noted negative arabic numbers to 16 but not including 15. Solid numbers with solid outer circles he noted to 14. In a statement about number cancellations in the 1872 to 1876 period generally, Bond stated the highest number he had seen was 16.

Several tentative conclusions are drawn. A series of roman numeral cancels, from 1 to 14, was used. They are only infrequently seen because they were used for a limited period, perhaps as short as six months, and at the same time as other numeral cancels were employed.

### MORE LETTERS AND NUMBERS

A lovely and extensive run

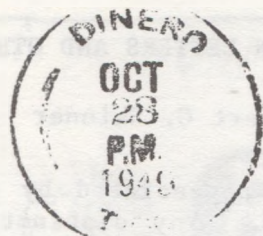
(Cont'd. on last pg.)



"MONEY", TEXAS

by Bill Henderson

Perhaps this Texas community is unique. Many Texas communities were unhappy with the final name of their post office, as it was not their first choice. For this particular community the Post Office Department wore a white hat. The citizens did not get their first selection, but a suggestion by the POD was approved by them. For some time this community on the west banks of the Nueces River was known as Barlow's Ferry. The name came from Mr. E. Barlow, who I suspect operated the ferry. When Barlow's Ferry had grown sufficiently to merit a post office, in 1885, this name was sent to the POD for the new post office to be. The POD said no, as that name was already in use. (I have been unable to find that Texas ever had a post office by that name.) Along with the rejection was a suggestion from the POD that the name DINERO, which means "money" in Spanish, might be used. Some unknown POD employee knew a bit of history. During Texas' fight for independence, Santa Anna, the Mexican general, sent a mule train through this area. The mule train carried "dinero" in the form of gold to pay the general's troops. Not too far from the future sight of Barlow's Ferry, Texas troops ambushed the mule train. The Mexicans unloaded the gold, buried it, and escaped into the sunset on the unburdened mules. For years people have searched for Santa Anna's gold in this area. The yellow gold was never found, but black gold was found in 1918.



Records indicate Dinero post office was opened November 4, 1885 in Live Oak County. Zip code directories though 1969-70 list it as a post office with a zip of 78350. The 1974 zip code directory lists it as a branch of Mathis, which is in San Patricio county and with a zip of 78386, which is also the zip of Mathis. From 1980 through 1982 Dinero is listed as a branch of Corpus Christi, which is in Nueces County, and the zip was changed back to 78350. The 1983 and 1984 directories list it as a CPO of Corpus Christi with the same zip of 78350. The current postmark does not indicate it is other than a post office. The current "postmaster", Mr. John Morgan, says his facility has always been in Dinero, and the parent office has changed a few times.



Figure 2

cancels on 3c greens. Figure 1 nails down the origin of a purple cancellation that may be in the collection of a number of readers. From Putnam, Connecticut the cover is dated October 25, 1879. The Liberty Bell in Figure 2 is from Concord, N.H. The cover from which it was traced does not bear a year date but the stamp is a Scott #158.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

A 12 page bulletin compiled by James B. Hale revising and enlarging upon the 1946 Straight Line Postmarks of Wisconsin edited by Paul Segnitz and Ray Van Handel. Published by the Wisconsin Postal History Society.

A 43 page handbook, The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, Supplement to Handbook No. 5, by Lawson B. Entwistle and published by the Canal Zone Study Group. Includes corrections and

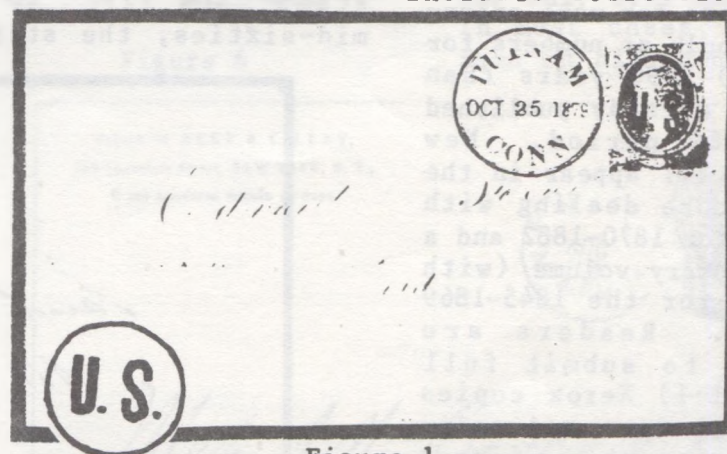


Figure 1

PATRIOTICS

Ted Mills submits two interesting patriotic

additions to the original volume and new types and new markings.



## NOTES ON NEW YORK STATION LETTERS AND OTHER SIMILAR MARKINGS

Hubert C. Skinner

Certainly the various cancels or killers used on mail at New York City is a fascinating area for investigation. This student of cancels of all types has been working on New York markings along with those from many other towns for many years. The number and variety, interest and complexity, and other factors pertaining to the NYC markings are exceeded by only one other city -- New Orleans (where more than one thousand markings of interest will ultimately be brought to the notice of cancel collectors).

These notes were prompted by an article by Roger Curran in the Winter 1985 NEWS. It is timely to comment on the progress of compiling additional volumes on United States Cancellations to supplement the volume published in 1980 by Skinner and Eno. The cancellation archives which have been drawn together to document listings of cancels in these volumes are far more extensive in bulk or numbers for the 1870-1890 years than for the already published 1845-1869 period. New volumes will appear in the near future dealing with cancels for 1870-1882 and a supplementary volume (with prices) for the 1845-1869 period. Readers are invited to submit full scale (1:1) Xerox copies with year date and color notations to this writer. It must be understood, however, that volume of mail received may preclude acknowledgement of listings received, but all new items

will be appreciated by the authors. Any distinctive and, therefore, "listable" cancels will be most welcome for any of the year sequences.

## NEW YORK STATION LETTERS

The New York station letters were used quite early on letters delivered through New York City Delivery carrier system. They have been seen on various covers bearing 1c stamps of the 1851-63 period; most, however, do not have certain year dates indicated. The station letters were attached to the hour marking and these in a few cases have been seen canceling the stamps themselves (see PM-CR 6), though they were intended as postmarks not killers. The earliest dated cover in the Skinner Collection is April 6, 1857, and the stamp is a type II 1c imperforate issue (SCN 7). Another, from April 22, 1861, is on a cover bearing a type IIIa perforated stamp (SCN 22). By the mid-sixties, the station

letters were in use as killers and/or incorporated into the circular date stamp (see Figure 1, S-E LS-F 2). By the seventies, station letters A-G were commonly used as negative killers. Later, numerous other styles and varieties were used (see typical examples in Figure 2). A number of unusual types have been noted (see Figure 3). Many of these markings appear on the reverse of covers. Though most of the types figured by Roger Curran in his article are confirmed by covers in the S-E archives, the "A" similar to the Chicago killer can not be confirmed at present.

## New York Numeral Cancels

In 1870, a set of solid numerals in a circular frame was in use at New York on outgoing mail (not seen on local letters). These are fairly common and occur frequently on the grilled issues. This "set" numbers from 1 to 14 and apparently was obsolete by the time the Continental

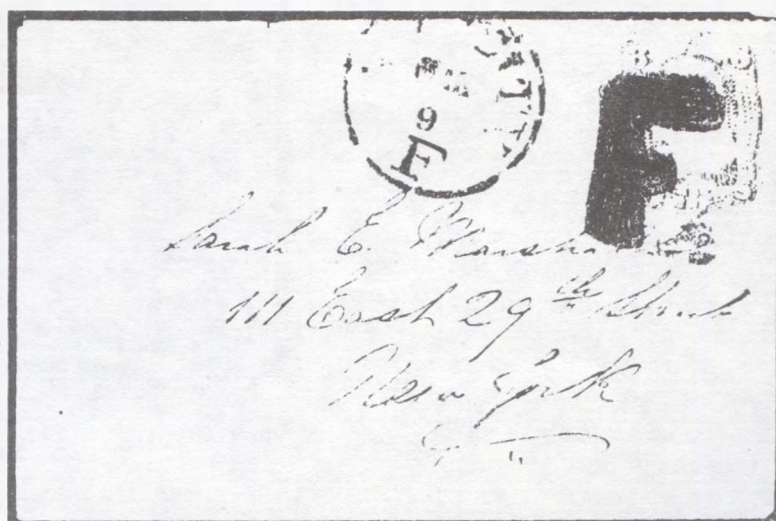


Figure 1



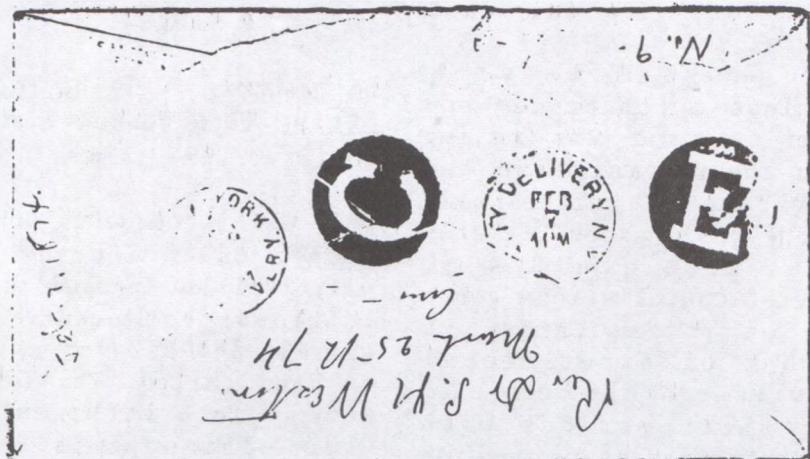


Figure 2



Figure 3

Bank Note issues appeared in 1873 (see Figure 4). By the mid-seventies (after 1873) two or more "sets" of negative numerals (from 1 to 14) had appeared (see Figure 5). More decorated types are noted also (see Figure 6).



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Roger Curran illustrated several roman numeral killers "assumed to be New York City"; these "positive" types are indeed from New York (see Figure 7). Also, at least two types of "negative" roman numeral "XII" are recorded (Figure 8). Curran's "12" in lined grid (his Figure 8) can not be confirmed as a New York City marking.



Figure 8

The ellipsoid numerals in grid style killers which came into common usage in New York in the late seventies occur in a "set" numbering from 1 to 32. For reasons not yet explained, higher numbers do occur (as high as "52") but only even numbers and, in most cases, these are seen on high denominations

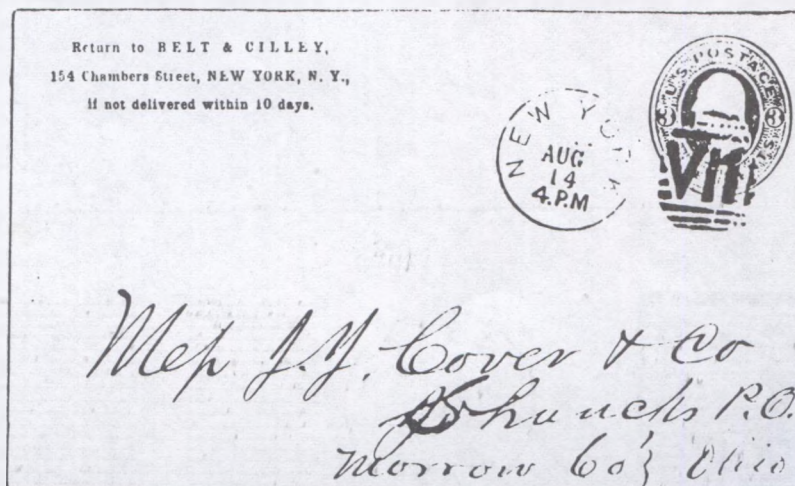


Figure 7



rather than the low values. This enigma is intriguing.

In conclusion, New York City offers a fascinating collecting area in United States cancellations. The writer would welcome any additional information or ideas on the unanswered questions. Xerox copies of any covers bearing geometric or other unusual killers from New York City before 1870 are most desired, especially if addressed to foreign nations.

#### EARLY LEAVITT CANCELS

Although there were isolated earlier attempts to employ rapid canceling machines in the processing of mail, Thomas Leavitt's machines were the first to be used on a continuing basis. Leavitt postmarks are noted from 1876 to 1890 and primarily from Boston, although none are noted

from there in the last several years.

The problem Leavitt machines encountered--and never overcame--was dealing with the varying size and thickness of letter mail. As one would expect, therefore, most examples of Leavitt cancellations found are on postal cards. A number of experimental Leavitt cancels were used for short periods with concentration on processing batches of third class mail of uniform dimension. Figure 1 is an example and this cancellation, like the others, is quite rare. The stamp is a Scott 182. Figure 2 is believed to be a further Leavitt example from Boston where this cancellation was used in 1882 and perhaps other years. The stamp is a Scott 206. Figure 3 reproduces an illustration of the cancel from Blake and Davis. Does anyone know of this cancellation being used in cities other than Boston?

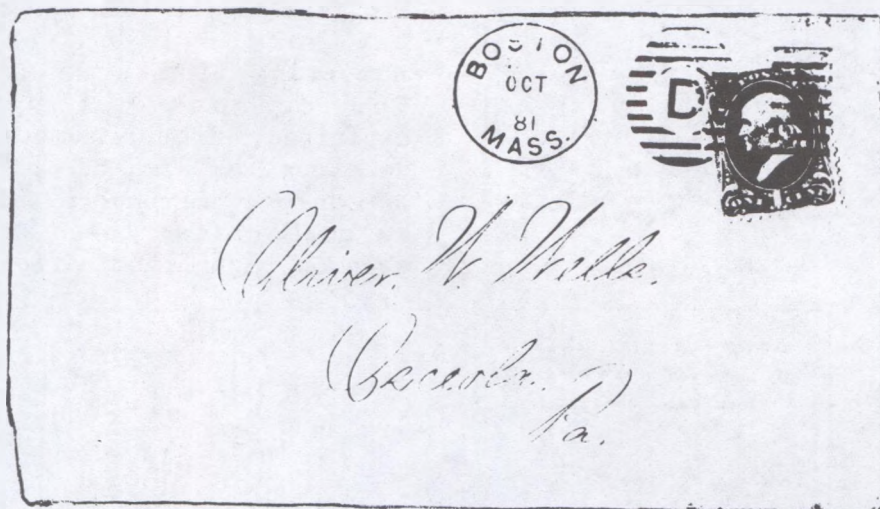


Figure 1



Figure 2

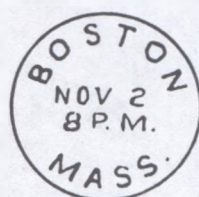


Figure 3

#### A REVIEW

Ball, George J., The Toledo Strip, Ohio Postal History Society, 1984, 73pp.

This excellent monograph by George Ball discusses the political and postal machinations that occurred in the mid-1830's over a plot of land called "The Toledo Strip." Both Michigan and Ohio claimed this small strip of land, only 468 acres in extent, however it did contain the important mouth of the Maumee River into Lake Erie and the town of Toledo. As is known the dispute was eventually settled in favor of Ohio. After a succinct discussion of the political maneuverings, Mr. Ball presents an in-depth view of the postal ramifications. He discusses the nine post offices that were in existence during the era, detailing the postmarks and the political sentiments of the postmasters as manifested in the postmarks. As would be expected these sentiments varied, some pro-Michigan and others in favor of Ohio. Numerous full cover illustrations aptly portray the postmark variations. Also a listing of covers known to the author provides considerable insight to the dispute. In all an outstanding work with extensive documentation, worthy of any postal historian's bookshelf.

Tom Stanton

The book is available from the OPHS, 1526 Marview Dr., Westlake, OH 44145.

\$6.50 postpaid



## A FANTASIA OF PHONIES

By C.W. Bert Christian

Not totally content with making stamps from Card Proofs, altering postmarks in an attempt to increase the value of covers and manufacturing phony grills to fool the uninitiate, the fake artists devoted considerable time to fashioning a wide variety of fancy cancellations.

From an old album loaded with several hundred 'fancies' we have been privileged to select some of the most interesting varieties for initial exposure in the News. Several collectors of cancellations have viewed the entire collection and are of the unanimous opinion that about 90% of the strikes are phony. Fortunately, the volume is now in safe and knowledgeable hands and will never again enter the market place.

The examples shown in Figure 1 are considerably larger than necessary to do the job required of them but perhaps our artist was thinking "Big is Beautiful". The circular designs on both of the covers are quite handsome, each almost perfectly struck in black. The post office records do show us an Eddytown, N.Y. but does any one find a Post Office for Aleanti, Mich., or is the townmark also a phony? So far the early lists of Post Offices and atlases of various vintages have kept the writer in the dark.

During the fancy cancel period animals were a popular subject for design.



Figure 1

The copies in Figure 2 are handsome examples even though not recognized as legitimately used. The rabbit (top left) is the only one seen by the author in any color and in this instance is struck in blue. The little figure next to him may be a 'non-kicking' mule - or is it a donkey?

The center copy of a 1c Bank Note bears a crude imitation of the well-known fox, known to have been used from Hockanum, Conn. during the 1860s. The legitimate cancel is called the 'Fox', so-named after Postmaster Fox.

There are various well-known strikes of horse



heads but these two in red and blue (middle row, left and right) are no match for any of the recognized varieties.

Seldom does one see a negative strike in the 'fancies' so the rather handsome dog on the 2c 1890 copy instantly raises suspicion.

The standing horse presents a rather good counterfeit of a similar strike that has been attributed to Postmaster Hill of Waterbury, Conn. The true standing horse is known only on the 3c 1861 stamp, 30 years prior to this copy.

The pig was not so popular as a subject for a cancel, though one is recorded in the Skinner-Eno volume. The example at lower right appears to be another and an unrecorded copy of a pig. Whatever he represents, he is a loser.

In whole Number 160 of the News, Alyce Evans took up a preliminary study of "pigs" showing the various stages of wear on the design from Corry, Pa. It must be admitted the Corry example is much more of a pig than this one with its snout resembling that of a hippo and the tiny slender legs. Perhaps he was a dancing pig?

There were many birds in the volume of fantasies and the seven characters in Figure 3 present the most unusual ones.

The flying bird on the 2c Bank Note at the upper left is in red and is a good copy of a similar design known to be used from Rockford, Illinois during the 1861 period. However,



Figure 2

the true Rockford strike is found only in blue and black.

The strange bird in a circle is on a yellow envelope and is struck in a very bright green, while the vicious looking character at the left of the second row is in a strange reddish-purple shade. The balance of the strikes are black and for the most part are very well done for fakes.

With the exception of the

first mentioned, these creatures are total strangers to the writer and bear no resemblance to any of the recognized designs in the cancellation records, ranging from Delf Norona, 1935, to the more recent listings of Skinner-Eno.

Further into this Phoney Phantasy we found Fish and Fowl and Eagles and Uncles (See Figure 4). But all that is another story.

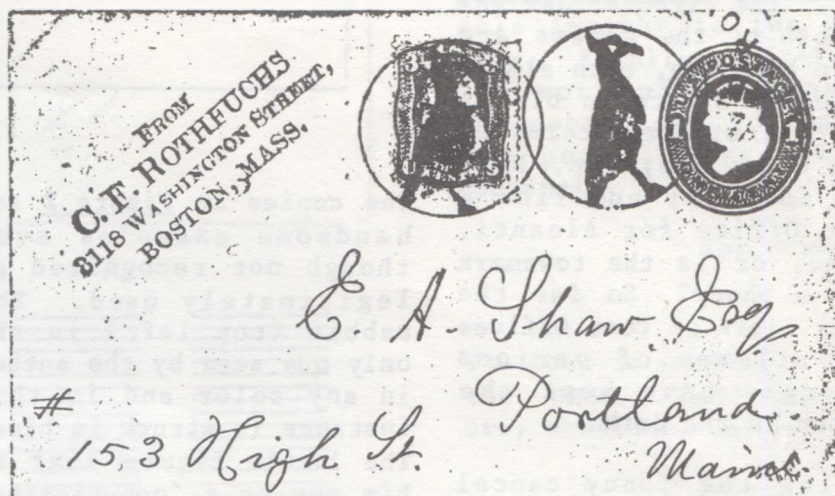


Figure 3





Figure 3

### QUESTION CORNER

Who can explain the 31mm "PAID in townmark" in black ink shown in Figure 1 submitted by Henry Nowak. It is certainly an unusual usage. In his book on the 3c issue of 1851-7, Chase reported NYC "PAID in townmarks" found on the 1851 issue "to a limited extent." The American Stampless Cover Catalog describes but doesn't illustrate a 31mm red NYC "PAID in townmark" used in the 1850's and a similar one with a year date used on SHIP mail during 1856-7. A recent auction catalog shows a NYC "PAID in townmark" with a year date, apparently in black, on a

wrapper canceling a 1c 1857 issue.

We believe the illustration to be a double weight letter, hence the "Due 3." The rate is not correct for a SHIP letter. The "United States of America" portion of the address raises a question about the letter's origin but possibly without a state cited and the word "Columbia" present, the writer wanted to be sure it wasn't sent to South America. Perhaps this townmark was just used by happenstance with no particular significance. Your comments are solicited.



Figure, 4

Ed. Regarding the Michigan cover in Figure 1, an altered Ypsilanti is suggested with the first three letters removed (perhaps lightly struck to begin with). The first "A" was then hand drawn, the first "I" converted to "L" and the "L" to "E". Note the town name centered to the right suggesting the need for more letters on the left side. ■

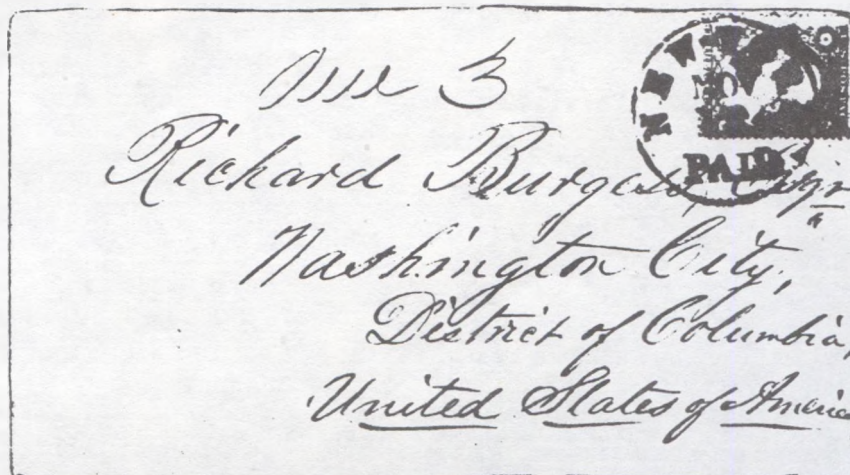


Figure 1



## A LOOK BACK

By Herman Herst Jr.

Almost a half century ago there were many stamp dealers selling stamps, but there were not very many dealers who made a specialty of early United States covers. The writer was one of them; there were very few competitors. And although many dealers printed price lists of the stamps they wished to sell, I know of only one other dealer who printed a list of early U.S.A. covers. That dealer was the late "Nort" Sampson, who is still sorely missed.

A reader of one of my columns in another publication sent me a copy of what in November 1940 I called "album brighteners". While many stamps today bring considerably more than they did in 1940, the rate of appreciation of fine covers is equally incredible. Let me give a few:

Quincy, Flor. stampless, PAID 3, 1852 \$.65

5c 1847, Philadelphia, with Blood Local tied \$5.00

3c 1861, Boise Idaho, 1866 Territorial use \$1.75

3c Reay Entire, Wells Fargo OROVILLE, Cal. and Omaha and Ogden Railroad on back \$3.00

Ditto, with Wells Fargo BULLIONVILLE, Nev. \$2.25

2c Green entire, unused, SPOKANE AND SALMON RIVER STAGE LINE, superb \$2.00

Patriotic, Zouave with Bayonet, 3c 1861, Saint Denis, Md., Fine \$1.50

U.S. POSTAL AGENCY, SIBERIA, with Censor Marks \$4.00

5c Omaha, #288, on V.F. Spanish-American War patriotic showing

Battleship "Oregon", Cat  
\$8.00 \$2.75

I recall that at about that time I had bought one of the finest collections of Exposition and Fair covers I had ever seen. About thirty were listed. The prizes, in retrospect, included an all-over advertising cover from the SOUTH CAROLINA AND INTERSTATE AND WEST INDIAN EXPOSITION which was the winter version of the 1901 Buffalo Pan-American exposition. The cover was priced at \$2.50. There were also a few foreign covers, including some very fine Mulreadies from Great Britain. The one penny envelopes were \$4.50 and the wrappers \$2.75.

Perhaps you think that the prices were reasonable, even for 45 years ago. I wish that I could agree. The price list read, at the beginning, "Issued Irregularly, as time and material permits." There was no second issue. Collectors of the period must have thought the prices unconscionably high, for no one broke down any doors trying to buy the listed items. After all, in 1940, one could buy a new Chevrolet for less than \$400, and I recently saw a grocery ad of the same period offering shredded wheat at two boxes for 11c -- and believe me, each box was larger than the one that costs \$1.10 today!

(Cont'd. fr. p. 84)

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## CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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tory.

- 1631 Dennis S. Winehart,  
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IL 61914 (Dealer)  
Fancy Cancels.
- 1632 John P. McGowen (Lt.  
Col., retired) 5112  
Olive Street, San  
Diego, CA 92105  
Bulls eyes (Targets)  
- Hand Cancels on  
1938 Prexies #803-34.
- 1633 Thomas M. Mills, P.O.  
Box 549, Goshen, NY  
10924 Dealer.
- 1634 Louise P. Cavanaugh,  
LCDR USN Ret., 95  
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Vera Cruz occupation  
1914; Mil. Stat.  
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1902.

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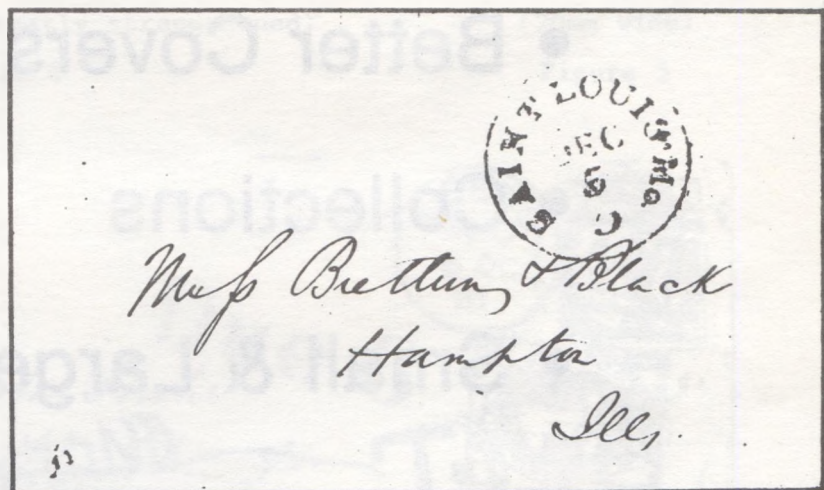
## THE COLOR OF POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS -- CIRCA 1851

In the Fall 1984 News, we discussed the Postal Laws and Regulations concerning the canceling of stamps. One aspect concerns the ink color to be used. Sec. 336 of the 1851 Regulation states, in part: "... 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." (Emphasis added.) How well was this regulation followed? With the able assistance of the readership, perhaps we can attain a definite answer. Examining earlier covers one notes that red was the predominate color employed prior to the issuance of this regulation. But when and if individual post offices changed to black cancellations can only be resolved by examining and recording the pertinent data on a post office by post office basis from the extant covers in your collections. Needless to say your contributions will be reported in these pages.

Dr. Carroll Chase in Chapter XLVIII of his epic work on the 3 cent stamp of 1851 discusses the postmarks of New York, Philadelphia and Boston. We presented some of his observations about New York in the Fall '84 News. Chase notes that Philadelphia was a post office that did not readily accept the regulation relating to the color of its cancellation as it continued to employ blue ink until January 1854.

I wonder if there were any letters from the PMG to the Philadelphia postmaster on this subject. Boston presented an enigma, Yankee individualism perhaps! It utilized a black grid on the 1847 issue, but changed to red when the 1851 stamps were issued, directly contrary to the regulations. Further, shortly after the 1851 issue appeared, the Boston postmaster began using what has become known as the "small paid in grid," initially struck in red. However, as Chase observed, the post office soon changed to black although with a slight overlap. The latest red "paid" cancellation recorded by Chase was July 26, while the earliest black was a week earlier,

The first (Figure 1) of these with a "5" at the base was initially used during the 1847 period with its earliest usage occurring in November 1850. Uses continued after July 1, 1851, but primarily on unpaid letters. It appeared in red as late as August 5 and in black as early as August 13. The second rated postmark, with a "3" at the base (Figure 2), did not appear until after the rate change effective July 1, 1851. The earliest recorded marking is July 3 in red, which color continued until August 6. A strike in black has been noted on August 10. The last postmark to be discussed is also a holdover from the 1847 period (Figure 3).



"Saint Louis, Mo./5" red 33 1/2 mm CDS on a Dec. 5, (1850) envelope to Hampton, Ills.

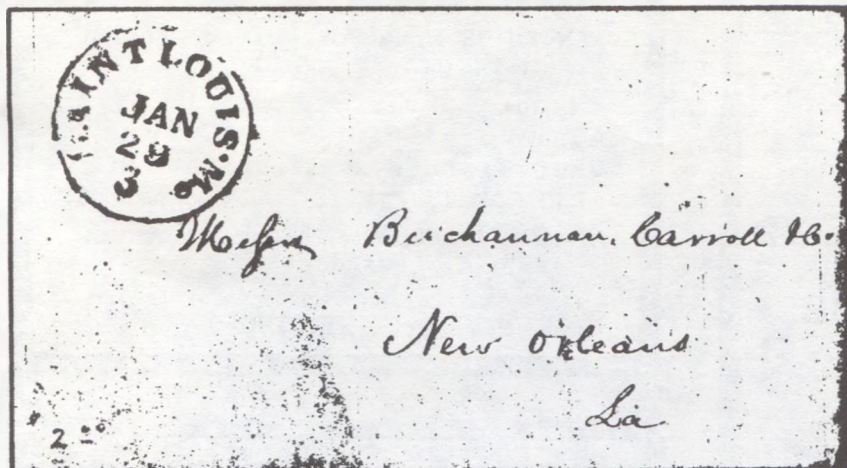
Figure 1

that is, July 19.

Let us turn our attention to St. Louis. The clerks there used three distinct postmarking devices during the period when the 1851 stamps were issued. Two have the postal rate as an integral part of the CDS.

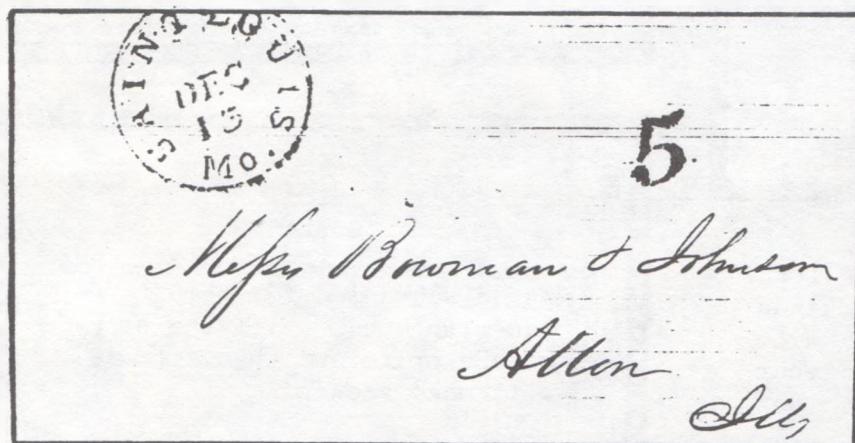
Employed as early as December 1850, it was struck in red until August 1 and in black by August 27. From a combination of the above dates one observes that St. Louis changed the color of its postmarks during the five day period between August 6 and August





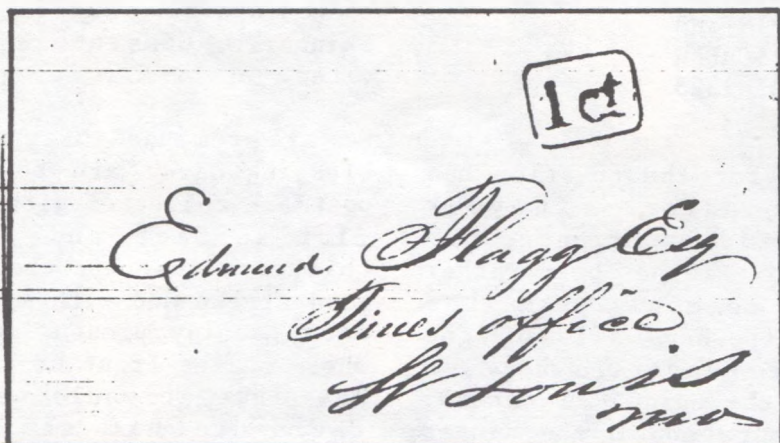
"Saint Louis, Mo./3" black 33 1/2 mm CDS from the Buchanan-Carroll correspondence. Red "Paid/3" in oval is barely visible in the upper right corner, indicating that red ink was still used in the post office, but not for postmarks.

Figure 2



Saint Louis/Mo." red 33 1/2 mm CDS on Dec. 15, 1850 folded letter to Alton, Ill.

Figure 3



Boxed "1ct" in black on July 2, 1852 local foled letter.

Figure 4

10, 1851.

One other St. Louis postal marking is of interest, that is, the boxed "1ct" (Figure 4), used on drop letters. Although dating of these is frequently impossible, it has been seen in red in July 1851 and in black for later markings.

Tom Stanton

#### REFERENCES:

Chase, Carroll, The 3c Stamp of the United States, 1851 - 1857 Issue. Revised Edition, Tatum Stamp & Coin Co., Springfield, Mass., 1942

Adler, James W. et. al., "St. Louis Postal Facilities and Postmarks, 1821 - 1861," St. Louis, Mo., 1960.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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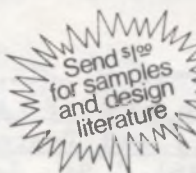


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(Cont'd. fr. p. 88)

This series and the other two noted were the only really distinctive series of numbers used in New York City before the advent of the ellipse cancel handstamp.

Going beyond, a question is raised for the readership. Was there something special about the number 12? The

basis for the question has three parts. In your editor's experience, the negative 12 has been rather more commonly seen than many (perhaps all) of the other numbers. We also note the unique 12 cancel, illustrated in the Winter '85 News, that appears somewhat like a foreign cancel. And finally there are the negative roman

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numeral 12 cancels mentioned above and in Skinner. Comment is invited.

We are reminded of what a blessing cards are to the postmark collector with the flat surface and even thickness that encourage a good strike and with a year date usually present somewhere on the front or back. How nice it would be if their use had started before 1873.

Roger Curran