



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 17, NO. 7

WHOLE NO. 185

SUMMER 1985

## EARLIEST MANUFACTURED ELLIPSE?

In the Winter 1985 News we showed on page 80 what we assumed was the earliest type of ellipse cancellation used in New York City produced by a manufactured metal handstamp. (The earliest dated example of this type known to Arthur Bond, who reported on this subject in the May 1968 News, was May 26, 1876 and we are unaware of an earlier one.) Actually we almost didn't run the illustration because the article was devoted to earlier cancellations. But we're so glad we did because reference to it brought forth two postal cards from Joe McDonough that appear to really break new ground. Figure 1 illustrates the earliest of the two cards and from the docketing on the front and the message dateline on the back we can determine that it was posted in December 1874. The actual date of the postmarking is December 2\_. The second numeral of the day date in the townmark is unreadable. The other card, with the same "5" ellipse, is postmarked March 11 with a message dateline of March 11, 1875.

The ellipse type illustrated in the Winter 1985 News came in a series. Bond noted numerals 1 to 30, with the absence of a "6", and a single reported example of "33". The latest recorded date for

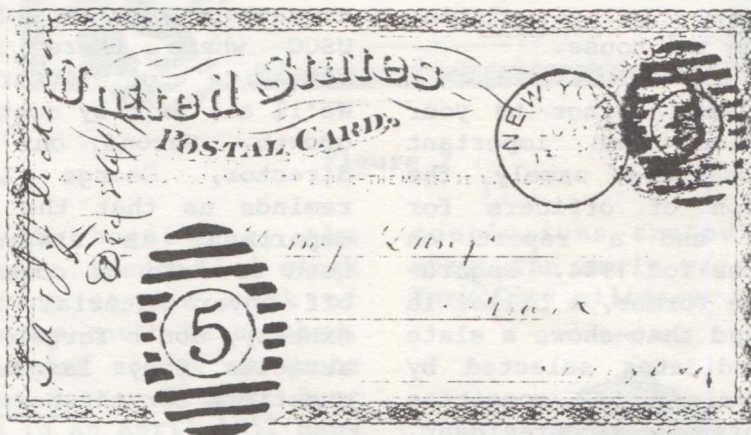


Figure 1

this ellipse was August 9, 1878. He reported several other types for varying periods during the 1877-79 period. One of them matches Figure 1 and had been seen with numerals "5" and "6". Bond noted the "6" used during the May 22, 1877 to August 31, 1877 period. (Ted Bozarth recently reported an October 11, 1877 usage.) February 17 with no year date was seen for the "5".

Bond speculated about the original manufacturer of ellipse handstamps in the U.S. He cited an 1878 advertisement by John Goldsborough that claims an 1874 patent for such a canceler but Bond stated the patent "...does not cover the basic features of this type of handstamp." By "this type," he meant ellipse. He also noted that Benjamin Chambers, Jr. "...had been the principal manufacturer of steel

handstamps for the POD since 1867..." The whole matter is of great interest because the manufactured ellipse became, of course, the most popular pre-machine canceler in the U.S. and its early use in New York City probably represents its earliest use anywhere in the country.

Considering the above, a possible reconstruction of events is offered. John Goldsborough was the first person in this country to act on the concept of a manufactured metal ellipse, albeit not clearly described in his 1874 patent of a duplex handstamp. The design concept probably came from contemporary British cancellations. He produced at least the "5" and "6" ellipse handstamps for testing purposes and the "5" was used experimentally

(Cont'd on p. 103)



Dear Reader,

Greetings! I hope you are having a fine summer with opportunity for some diversion from the normal routine. Weather in the Washington, DC area has so far been a bit cooler than usual and as I write this, a pleasant breeze, made more enjoyable by low humidity, is circulating through the house.

This issue brings to your attention some important club business; namely, the election of officers for 1986-7 and a report on finances for 1984. Regarding the former, a ballot is enclosed that shows a slate of candidates selected by a nominating committee appointed by our president, Bill Walker. You will notice space provided also for write-in candidates. Please submit your ballot in the envelope provided within two weeks if

possible.

It seems a good time now to mention several things. First, as of June 24, 1985 we have 445 dues paying members as compared to 432 on June 30, 1984. We also have six honorary life members (past presidents). Let's each of us seek to make our philatelic acquaintances aware of the USCC where there is a mutuality of interests. We'll all gain by continued growth. Second, our sales director, George Lewis, reminds us that the sales department is always in need of both on cover and off cover material. And finally, don't forget those articles (any length) or questions for the News.

Roger Curran

#### NEW MEMBERS

1635 Gary L. O'Neill, 38  
Pinewoods Ave., Troy,

NY 12180 Circa 1900  
machine cancels; #65  
fancies off cover; 1¢  
BN fancies on & off  
cover.

1636 Wendell L. Triplett,  
310 Henry Watters Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28303  
Number & Letter can-  
cellations on U.S.  
Postal Cards.

1637 Thomas M. Gardner, 92  
Pearl Street, Essex  
Junction, VT 05452.

1638 Darrell R. Ertzborger  
PO Box 16361, Alexan-  
dria, VA 22302 NC Can-  
cels, Railroad Cancels

1639 Paul Glicksman, 35  
Adair Ct., Malverne,  
NY 11565 U.S.  
Classics; UN; Israel;  
Souvenir Cards &  
Sheets.

1640 Daniel S. Pagter, PO  
Box 6394, Albany CA  
(Cont'd. on p. 105)

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

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Clearfield, PA 16830....Sec'y-Treasurer

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Half Page.....\$25.00  
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Column Inch.....\$ 4.00



(Continued fr. front page)

in New York City to a limited extent in 1874 and 1875 on out-of-town mail. (We assume Bonds February 17 example noted above was 1875.)

During this time, of course, cancelers containing hand carved numerals and letters were normally employed. For example, a card in Ted Bozarth's collection (Figure 2) shows a hand carved "5" that is crudely reminiscent of Figure 1 and is docketed October 22, 1874. And Ted also has the more common negative "5" in an approximately 25 mm circle used February 19, 1875.

By early 1876, to continue our theory, a decision was made to obtain a set of manufactured steel ellipses - after all, the hand carved killers did deteriorate rapidly and sometimes were not that well carved to begin with. (The design adopted was a bit simpler than the experimental one. Could that have been because it produced a bolder strike or was a little cheaper?) Perhaps the experimental "6" was known to be on hand, having never been used, and therefore a new "6" not ordered. (We'll speculate that the early "5" was misplaced or damaged while in service experimentally.)

It would be interesting to know whether the different numerals began showing up at the same time, since the "6" doesn't seem to have appeared, as we noted above, until May 1877. We have assumed that as of some point, and perhaps



Figure 2

from the beginning, the numerals identified clerk stations so the work of employees could be checked. As a brief aside, we quote from a letter Gilbert Burr cited in an April 1952 News article from a Mr. Kiely, one time New York City postmaster:

"These numerals were assigned to clerks in the New York Post Office to designate who handled the mail and the area from which it came."

Regarding numerals used to designate the area from which the mail came, Burr cited one set of correspondence sent by a business firm where all letters bore killers with the same numeral. He also stated:

"Another firm's mail whose place was on South Street in the City, between April and October 1877, we find a large part of the numerals between 5 and 24 which of course would show that this plan was not followed."

Information that readers can provide is eagerly sought so that we can add to or modify the tentative

conclusions stated above about the early use of New York City ellipses.



#### AWARD WINNERS

##### Ruth Grissman

Silver - Two Troubled Iowa Railroads (ARIPEX '85)

Silver and second in postal history - Rise and Fall of Iowa's RPO's (Fed. of Iowa Stamp Clubs)

##### Charles F. Nettleship

Gold and Second Award, MPOS - Railroad Postmarks of Vermont (ARIPEX '85)

##### Henry S. Nowak

Silver - The One Cent Blue in Use, 1861-1869 (ARIPEX '85)

Vermeil - The War Years - Use with cancellations of the 1¢ 1861-65 (ROMPEX)

(Cont'd. on p. 108)



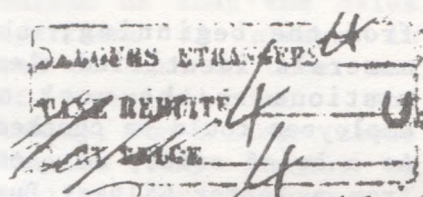
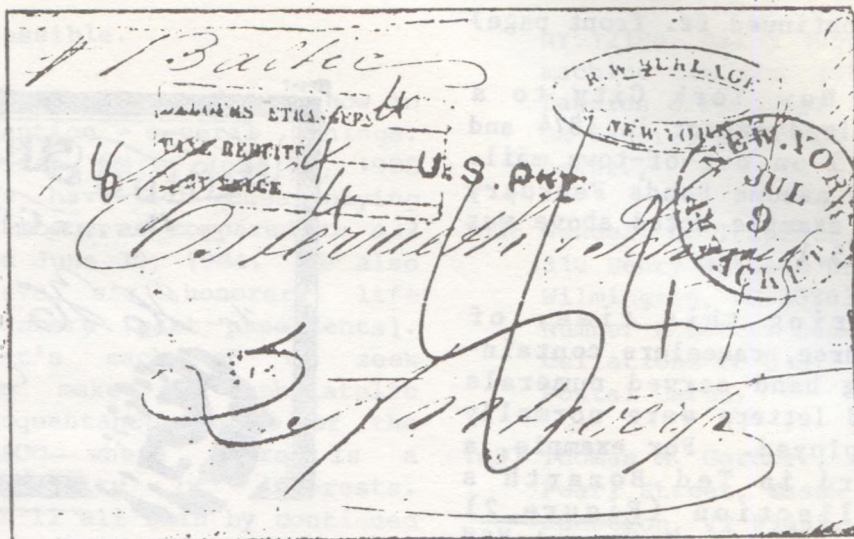
## MORE FOREIGN POSTMARKS

As a continuation of the article in the Winter '85 News concerning foreign postmarks on early U. S. stamps, we present three further examples.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a Scott #11 with red grid cancels and a partial boxed marking in black. We asked Dick Winter to examine this intriguing item and he offers the analysis quoted below which he cautions cannot be given with complete certainty since the cover is not available. Herewith his comments: "I believe the partial strike of the boxed marking is a Belgium marking. I am enclosing a photocopy of a cover (see Figure 2) in James Van Der Linden's recent book on U.S.-Belgian Transatlantic Mails, a short monograph of 28 pages in Flemish. The boxed marking on that cover is an accounting marking used in Belgium to show the breakdown of rates under the Anglo-Belgium Treaty, or accounting between Belgium and England. Since the U.S. had no Treaty with Belgium until December 1859, letters from the U.S. to Belgium went either by British Open Mail to England and then by Anglo-Belgium Treaty to Belgium, or by mails through France and then by French-Belgium Treaty. The British Open Mail rates were 5c by British Packet or 21c if carried by American Packet.



DÉBOURS ÉTRANGERS \_\_\_\_\_  
TAXE RÉDUITE \_\_\_\_\_  
PORT BELGE \_\_\_\_\_

translates to

FOREIGN DISBURSEMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
RATE CONVERTED \_\_\_\_\_  
BELGIAN POSTAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 2

This paid the letter to England, all the sender had to pay. The boxed marking came in three different forms, according to Van Der Linden, in use from about 1841 on to the late 1850's. This marking was the third type (later type) and different from the earlier ones by not having separation lines dividing the box into the three areas, but rather having just three lines on which to write numbers after each phrase. This marking, according to Van Der Linden was first used in red (the example that I show you) and then later used in black ink (from July 1855). Without knowledge of the above, I asked a very knowledgeable 1851 stamp collector to examine the stamp and tell me the year of use, if he could, by color and plating. He evaluated the use as 1855 based on the stamp

alone. So, if we are both correct, it would be reasonable to guess that either 1855 or 1856 was the year of use...What makes the item particularly interesting is that covers to Belgium at this time are quite difficult to find. I would love to have seen the cover from which this stamp came. If you let your imagination run, you can imagine a cover with seven 3c 1851s on it paying the 21c B.O.M. rate by American Packet, this stamp being on the left hand side of the cover, probably in a second row. The rest of the cover would have had markings similar to the example that I send to you. Everything the same, except 1851 stamps across the top. Very nice!"

A vaguely reminiscent but much simpler marking is shown on a section of a post



card addressed to Baltimore in Figure 3 with a boxed magenta TAXE CHARGES 8 CENTS handstamp marking and a Montreal June 22, 1955 townmark. Who will explain the 8¢ charge?



Figure 3

Figure 4 shows a Scott 116 with a partial strike of a French exchange office marking in blue ink. A similar Paris marking from Hargest is also illustrated. The inscription means From the United States by American packet via Calais. This marking was used from 1867 to 1869.



Figure 4

Figure 5 illustrates a Swedish cancel on a Scott #220 submitted by Bill Menker. Bill has been advised that it is a railroad cancel and is noted in the FACIT catalog. An explanation given for these cancels on U.S. stamps is that the stamps were used by American tourists. Can someone elaborate on this matter for us?

Finally, let's briefly turn things around. Figure 6 is a foreign stamp with a U.S. marking. The Newfoundland stamp issued in '32-37 also



Figure 5



Figure 6

has smudge marks. It is assumed that a package bearing these stamps arrived in New York City from Newfoundland whereupon the double oval hit the stamps either because there was not open space on the cover or there was a perceived need to further cancel the stamps.

Readers are urged to submit other examples of U.S. postmarks on foreign postmarks as well as the reverse.

Roger Curran

#### REFERENCES

Hargest, George E., History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe, 1845-1875. Quarterman Publication, Lawrence, MA, 1975.  
Van Der Linden, James,

#### Transatlantische Postverbindungen U.S.A.-Belgie. 1984

(Cont'd fr. p. 102)

94706 Misc. fancy on U.S.; Nevada Town cancels; Fancy cancels on cover of special delivery stamps; U.S. Parcel Post covers.

1641 John A. Beckwith, 49 Massaco, Simsbury, CT 06070 Town & fancy cancels; U.S. thru #616.

1642 Dr. Franz M. Enzinger, 8031 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

1643 Michael Koplin, 203 East 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218

1644 Terence M. Hines, Pace University, Psychology Dept., Pleasantville, NY 10570 Hanover, NH covers; modern (post 1938) postal history.

1645 Peter F. Buckley, 107 Glenwood Rd., Hampton, VA 23669 U.S.

1647 Bruce Jay Lewin, DDS, 1624 Southbrook Dr., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

1648 Labron Harris, Jr., PO Box 623, Glen Echo, MD 20812 1861 issue on cover; US to France 1870-1875 Dealer.

#### REINSTATED

502 Carey S. Dunford-Jackson, 218 West Asher St., Culpeper, VA 22701 Postal markings on U.S. stamps.



## U.S. POSTAGE DUE PRECANCELS - ESPECIALLY THE EARLY YEARS

(Continued)

by Warren R. Bower

## TICKET PUNCHED PRECANCELS

Perhaps the ultimate precancel was produced by a ticket punch that punched holes in the due stamps in the early years from Baltimore, MD and Binghamton, NY. Baltimore used a heart-shaped punch(es) and Binghamton used a 5-pointed star. (See Figure 10.)



Figure 10

this type of precancel was frequently carried over to postage due stamps with large orders similarly produced by electrotyping. The cover in Figure 11 shows such a cancel but with an unusual story. Los Angeles roller precanceled several sheets of the 3¢ due when the regular stock was exhausted. Most were used on Fan letters to Mary Pickford from Australia in August 1919. A sudden War Tax affecting Australian letters to the U.S. was the cause.

## BEP PRECANCEL

The only Bureau of Engraving and Printing

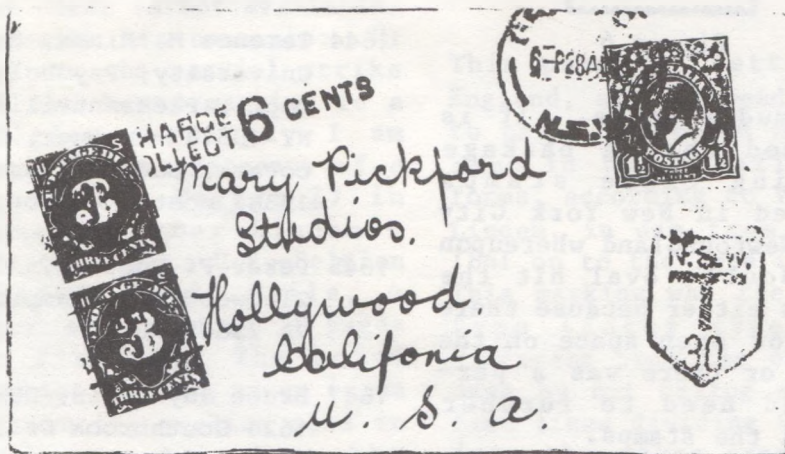


Figure 11

S LOS ANGELES  
CAL.  
(hand drawn)

## "CITY, STATE WITH 2 LINES" PRECANCELS

On May 23, 1903 the Post Office Department required that precancels for postage stamps have the city and state names between lines or bars. Use of

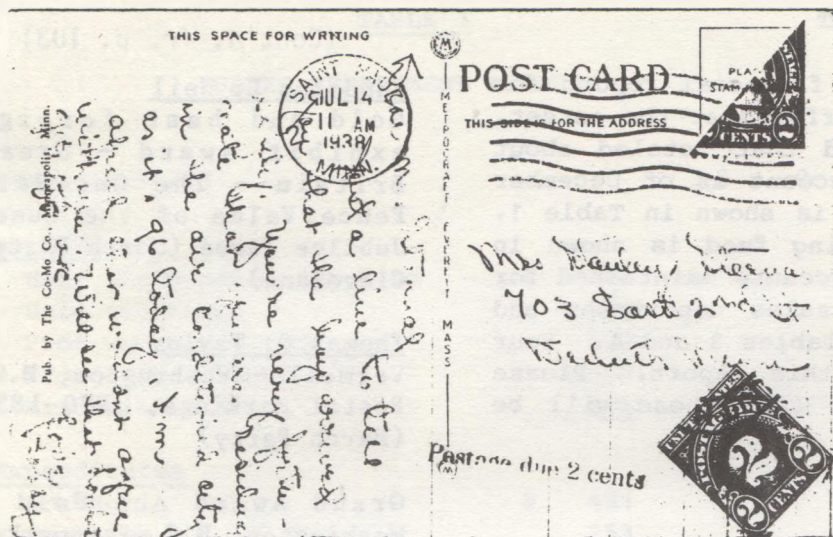
## PARCEL POST TYPE PRECANCELS

Near the start of WWII we tend to see a reduced use of the "City, State and Line" precancels in favor

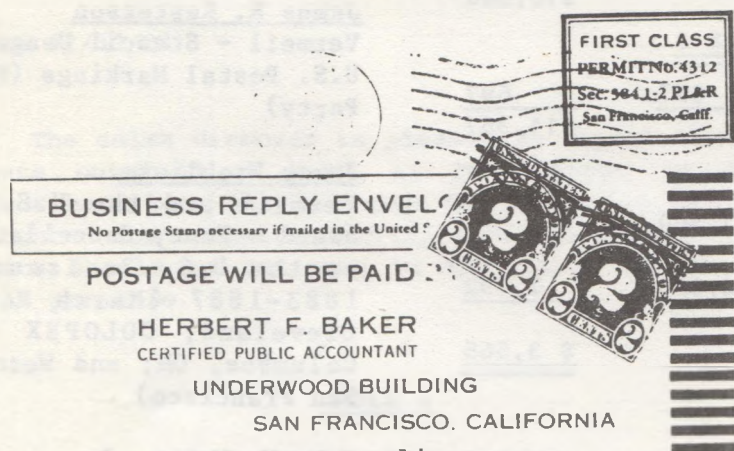
of various parcel post oval handstamps (with and without town identification) usually without dates. Other precanceled dues were made with wavy-line roller cancels for the big use due post offices. The smaller post offices, with little due mail, tended to use 1st class postal handstamps, or still various "ms" pencil or ink lines or "x's" as they had for many years. Perhaps the printed "City, State and Line" precancels for dues just weren't worth the expense, or the increased mail of the war just didn't allow time to prepare them. But for the most part, at that time the post offices ceased using the old type of locally printed precanceled dues and went to various rollers that could be prepared quickly at the post office. Figure 12 illustrates a Duluth oval precancel.

We hope this brief overview has been of interest. It is well to remember that the rules for postage due collections were many pages in the Postal Guides, etc. and changed over the large number of years involved. As background information, we have tried only to give the major reasons for the use of postage due stamps to illustrate some of the "whys" of them. On the subject of local precancels on postage dues, too little has been published, and reference material is not readily available nor likely to be complete.





Christian illustrating several covers where the rate marker was used as a killer. One cover from Macedon, N.Y. showed a "10" canceling a Scott #65. Henry Nowak has submitted a lovely mate to that cover in Figure 1. He also sent several other examples of numerals used as killers. The top left in Figure 2 is from New Brighton, Pa. and cancels a Scott #26. Top right is from South Lancaster, Mass. and cancels a



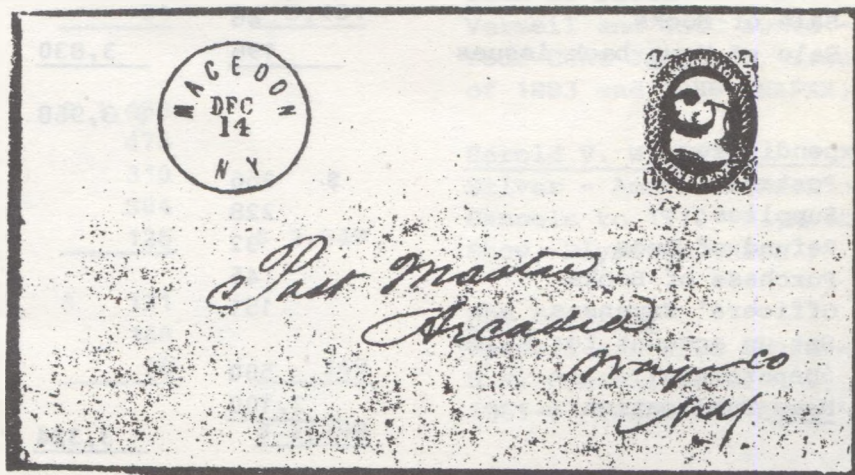
The comprehensive catalogue has yet to be printed.

## MORE RATING NUMERALS AS KILLERS

The summer 1983 News  
carried an article by Bert

Ed. Those wanting more detail on some of the cancels mentioned above are referred to articles by Mr. Bower listed below that appeared in the BIA's U.S. Specialist:

New York City - Oct and  
Dec, 1975; Chicago, Ill -  
Feb and Dec 1976; St.  
Louis, MO - Jan 1978;  
Baltimore, MD - Aug 1975;  
Minneapolis, MN - Oct  
1978.





## FINANCIAL REPORT

(Cont'd. fr. p. 103)

Presented herewith is a U.S.C.C. financial report for 1984. A word of explanation is offered at the outset. The largest club asset is a fund that totaled about \$10,600 in an interest bearing account as of December 31, 1983. A report on that fund is shown in Table 1. Activity for the U.S.C.C. operating fund is shown in Table 2. Separate and specific accounts maintained for our two principal activities -- sales department and News publication -- are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Your careful attention is invited to this report. Please direct any comments or questions (and these will be most welcome) to our treasurer.

TABLE 1

## SPECIAL FUND

Balance 12/31/83		\$10,660
<u>Receipts</u>		
Interest	\$ 697	697
		<u>\$11,357</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Publication of <u>News</u>	\$ 1,100	
Print Sales Booklets	692	
Advance to Sales Department	<u>6,000</u>	<u>7,792</u>
Balance 12/31/84		<u>\$ 3,565</u>

TABLE 2

## OPERATING FUND

Balance 12/31/83		\$ 128
<u>Receipts</u>		
Dues	\$ 3,588	
Sale of Books	46	
Sale of <u>News</u> back issues	<u>196</u>	<u>3,830</u>
		<u>\$ 3,958</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Postage	\$ 266	
Supplies	228	
Refund of Dues	32	
Purchase of Books	45	
Officers' Expenses	151	
Set up account for Sales Department	500	
<u>News</u> Publication	<u>2,100</u>	<u>3,324</u>
Balance 12/31/84		<u>\$ 634</u>

Randolph L. Neil

Gold and best foreign exhibit award - Great Britain - The One Half Pence Value of the Queen Jubilee Issue (March Party, Cleveland)

Thomas O. Taylor

Vermeil - Washington, D.C. Postal Markings, 1800-1830 (March Party)

Grand Award and Gold - Washington, D.C. Postmarks, 1860-1885 (DELPEX '85, Wilmington, Del.)

James R. Kesterson

Vermeil - Stencil Usages as U.S. Postal Markings (March Party)

James Wrobliske

Vermeil and the U.S.C.C. award - Fancy Cancellations on the U.S. 2c Issue of 1883-1887 (March Party, Cleveland; COLOPEX '85, Columbus, OH; and Westpex, San Francisco)

John W. Watts, Jr.

Silver and APS post-1940 award - The U.S. Postal Note Issue, 1945-1951 (March Party)

Silver - U.S. Postal Note Issue, 1945-51 (RIPEX '85, Providence)

Robert O. Boyer

Silver - Postal Markings of Ohio's Capital Cities, 1803-1853 (March Party)

Abe Boyarsky

Vermeil and U.S.C.C. award - United States Cancellations, 3c 1861-67 (Filatelic Fiesta '85, San Jose)

Dr. John B. Ludin

Gold and Empire State PHS award - Postal Markings of



TABLE 3

## SALES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT

Balance 12/31/83		\$ -0-
<u>Receipts</u>		
Sale of Mounting Supplies	\$ 242	
Sale of Stamps	4,653	
From Operating Fund	500	
From Special Fund	6,000	
Miscellaneous	196	11,591
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Postage	\$ 401	
Supplies	253	
Retirement of Sales Booklets	7,203	
Circuit Insurance	134	
Miscellaneous	371	8,362
Balance 12/31/84		<u>\$ 3,229</u>

NOTE: The sales director is pleased to report that all accounts outstanding prior to the change in sales director have been settled with the exception of three unaccounted for circuits (#1513, 1514 and 1519). These circuits should be returned to the sales director as soon as possible.

TABLE 4NEWS PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Balance 12/31/83		\$ -0-
<u>Receipts</u>		
From Treasurer	\$ 3,200	
Advertising	157	
Sale of Booklets	40	
Interest	34	3,431
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Printing News	\$ 1,433	
Typing News	476	
Postage for News	310	
Mailing Service for News	304	
Envelopes for News	126	\$ 2,649
Incidental Supplies	\$ 131	
Photocopies, Postage, Phone	148	
Purchase of Booklets	70	349
		<u>\$ 2,998</u>
Balance 12/31/84		<u>\$ 433</u>

Oneida County Postal Villages 1796-1868 (ROPEX '85, Rochester)

John M. Hotchner

Gold and EFO Collectors Club award - Stamp Separation - Its Development from 1840 to Modern Times (ROPEX)

Gold and APS research award - Stamp Separation: Its Development from 1840 to Modern Times (ARIPEX '85)

John R. Mason

Silver - A History of Transit Markings (ROMPEX)

Henry W. Houser

Large Gold - Austrian Art Officer in the Turkish Empire and Large Vermeil - United States Waterburys (ISRAPHIL)

Herman Herst, Jr.

Large Silver - The Postal System of the British Prisoner-of-War Camp at Ruhleben, Germany during WWI, 1914-18 (ISRAPHIL)

Warren R. Bower

Grand award, Gold in Postal History, Gold TMPS medal, APS pre-1900 medal and APS research medal - US Postage Dues, Postal History of New York City's Mail, 1879-1899 (CIAPEX '85, Des Moines)

Budd W. Dickey

Vermeil and USCC award - Four Cent Jacksons, Issues of 1883 and 1888 (NAPEX)

Harold V. Williams

Silver - American Machine Cancellations to 1910 (Plymouth Show, Plymouth, Mich.)

Abe Boyarsky

Vermeil and USCC award - U.S. Cancellations - 3¢ 1861-67 (SANDICAL-EXPO '85)

(Cont'd. on p. 111)



## FIRSTS

Here are a couple of questions for you: What is the first United States cancellation of adhesive stamps and when was it first used? Question number one is easy enough but the second may not have a conclusive answer at this time.

To deal with these matters we must identify the first United States stamp or, perhaps more pertinently in the actual circumstance, the first stamp recognized by the United States. That takes us back to the City Despatch Post established as a private post in New York City on February 1, 1842 by Alexander M. Greig. It issued an "ornamental stamp" (Figure 1) to permit the writer to to prepay the Post's local delivery service. (This stamp, incidentally, was the first adhesive issued by a local post in the U.S.)

Beginning on August 16, 1842 this post was operated by the New York Post Office



Figure 1

as the United States City Despatch Post (USCDP). Part of the agreement that transferred responsibility to the N.Y.P.O. was that outstanding City Despatch Post stamps would be recognized by the USCDP.

The first cancellation of the USCDP--and thus the



Figure 2



Figure 3

first cancellation of the United States--is illustrated in Figure 2. Please note that the "S" is not followed by a period. The first USCDP postmark is shown in Figure 3 and reproduces an illustration from One Hundred Years Ago by Elliott Perry and Arthur G. Hall. The cover illustration in Figure 4, from Perry and Hall, has a USCDP postmark dated August 16 and is docketed August 17, 1842. The stamp has the boxed U.S. cancel which, as is typical, does not tie the stamp to the cover. (The cancel and the postmark have been strengthened

a bit by your editor in an attempt to bring them out.) Perry and Hall said of this cover: "...no definite proof exists that the stamp was used on this cover." The Philatelic Foundation accepts USCDP covers without tying cancellations for expertization. It examined the August 16 cover and declined to render an opinion.

In a follow-up article to One Hundred Years Ago in the Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 28, no. 1,

Perry illustrated a cover used on August 19, 1842 with the boxed U.S. cancellation on a USCDP stamp. Of this cover Perry states that it "appears to be the earliest known use" of the USCDP stamp and the boxed U.S. cancel. (Did Perry mean the earliest combination or the earliest use of each item, period?) Figure 5 illustrates the design of that stamp which is the first United States adhesive postage stamp.

Additional information from the readership is eagerly solicited on early USCDP

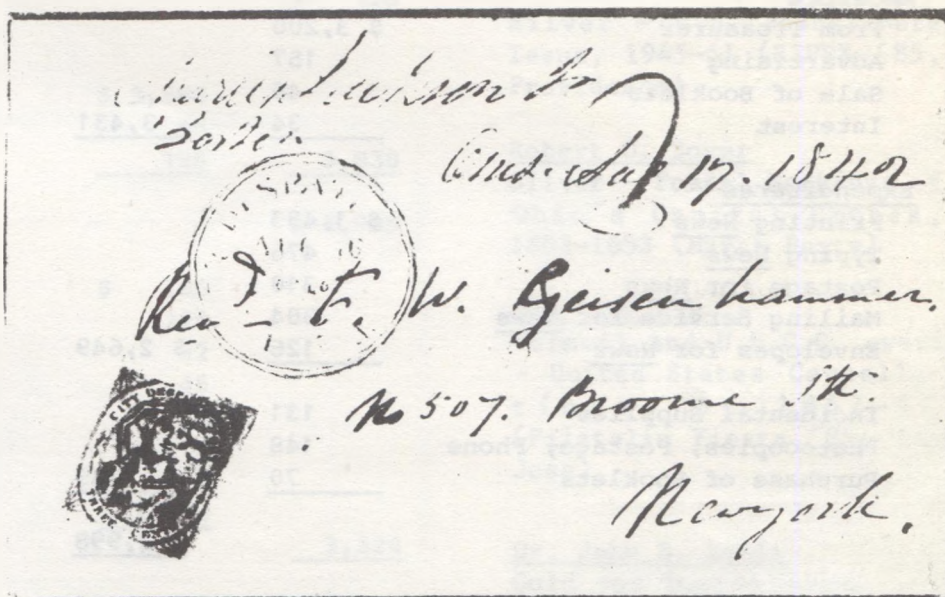


Figure 4





Figure 5

cancellations.

Note: In addition to the 30-page follow-up article mentioned above, the Collectors Club Philatelist published briefer Perry articles on the subject in Vol. 28, Nos. 2 and 3 and vol. 29, no. 1.

Roger Curran

#### Basic Reference:

Perry, Elliott and Hall, Arthur G., One Hundred Years Ago 1842-1942, American Philatelic Society Handbook, 1942.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Leo Conn  
2707 SE 14th Street  
Ocala, FL 32671

James W. Lovell, Jr.  
1520 Ward Avenue #901  
Honolulu, HI 96822-3556

Robert J. Burwell  
301 South Spring, Apt. 202  
Independence, MO 64050

Louis E. Zell, Jr.  
142 Crestmont  
Binghamton, NY 13905

Michael A. Riddle  
P.O. Box 4111  
McLean, VA 22103-4111

Larry A. Mentrum  
2858 NW Santanita Terrace  
Portland, OR 97210-3363

Margie Sterken  
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Apt. K-6  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

David S. Liebschutz  
P.O. Box 882  
Linville, NC 28464

Robert F. Lewis  
3331 Morningside Road,  
Devon, Wilmington, DE  
19810

Ltc. Francis J. Crown, Jr.  
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Roswell, GA 30076

Sidney P. Kanne  
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Atlanta, GA 30305

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John E. McLaughlin  
Moe Luff  
AMOS ENO

(Cont'd. fr. p. 109)

Herbert P.L. McNeal  
Silver - Florida Postal  
History During the War  
Between the States, 1861-65  
(Richmond Stamp Club Show)

Robert L. Lisbeth  
Bronze - Virginia CSA  
Postal History Sampler  
(Richmond Stamp Club Show)

W. E. Tinsley  
Gold and UPSS award - Postal  
Stationery of Tasmania  
(BECKPEX '85, Fullerton, CA)

Hubert C. Skinner  
Grand award, PHS award,  
Oklahoma Philatelic Society  
award, and APS award - New  
Orleans Postal History, 1792  
- 1860 (OKPEX '85, Oklahoma  
City)

Gold - Civil War New  
Orleans, Its Postmaster's  
Provisionals and Postal  
History, 1861-65 (Richmond,  
VA Stamp Club Show)



## STAR TREK II: THE SEARCH FOR A-20

by Bruce London

(Ed. Bruce's first STAR TREK contribution appeared in the Winter 1985 News.)

All of us probably have a particular portion of our collection that we consider the "highlight". I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about mine. It's not some phenomenally rare item that I picked up for a fraction of its value. As a matter of fact, it's not a single special item. Nor is it even particularly unusual. But it is something that I had to search long and hard for - and that, I suppose, is the reason that it has given me so much enjoyment.

What is it? Well, I just found the last item that completed my attempt to get New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) cancel number A-20 on all denominations of the large banknotes. The NYFM cancels are described in the Arthur Van Vlissingen and Morrison Waud book New York Foreign Mail Cancellations, 1870-1876. The A-20 (see Figure 1) can be described as a star-within-a-star-within-a-circle. It is not considered to be scarce. As a matter of fact, Van Vlissingen and Waud rank each NYFM cancel as rare, scarce, or common. The A-20 is "common". It is known to exist in black and red. The red cancels were purportedly used on supplementary mail, and red is much the scarcer. I decided to put together a complete set of black cancels only.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let me back up a bit and tell you about my



Figure 1

search. I began to collect fancy cancels in earnest in November 1982. At that time, I bought a small collection of 3c greens as a starter. I went to a bourse in late January of 1983 and there I found a partial set of A-20s grouped together as one lot in a dealer's stock. I bought them, and the hunt was on!

The original grouping was pretty complete. It contained nice strikes of A-20 on the following denominations: 1c, 2c, 3c, 6c, 7c, 10c, 15c, and 30c. Missing were the 12c, 24c, and 90c.

With only three items absent, you might think that it would be a quick and easy job to complete the set. Well, it took almost two years! The first item I found was the 24c purple. It took me only a couple of months of searching through dealers' stocks, bourses, and auction catalogues until I found it in an auction in Connecticut. I put a very high bid on the lot and, mercifully, got it for a good bit less than I was willing to pay. Since then I've seen several nice 24c with A-20s, and they all sold for less than I paid for mine. But who can patiently wait for another one to come along in a

situation like this?

Next, almost a year later, I found a 90c in a small weekend bourse in South Florida. I was systematically working my way from table to table, searching for cancels of any sort, when I suddenly I turned a page in a dealer's stock book, and there it was! A few quick negotiations, and it was mine. I have since seen two others and been told of a third.

We had finally reached the point where all I needed was the 12c black to complete my set. Ironically, I kept seeing this stamp photographed in auction catalogues, and I would flip back to the description of the lot (as fast as I possibly could!) only to find that it was a red cancel. This must have happened to me four or five times. I even bought one of these and displayed it in my exhibit - but it wasn't what I really wanted.

Finally, late in 1984, the day came when an auction catalog containing the 12c black with black cancel arrived in the mail from Texas. I put in my bid - again, at least triple market value - and sat back and watched the mail for the next couple of weeks. Eventually, the stamp arrived, the price was reasonable, and the set was complete. Along the way, I picked up a 6c pair with a nicely-centered strike of A-20 straddling both stamps (see Figure 2). Van Vlissingen and Waud note





Figure 2

that pairs of stamps with NYFM are scarce. I also found a 6c with black A-20 on cover to Hamburg, Germany (see Figure 3). This, by the way, is the only A-20 on cover that I spotted in the entire 2 years. That's a bit surprising because, according

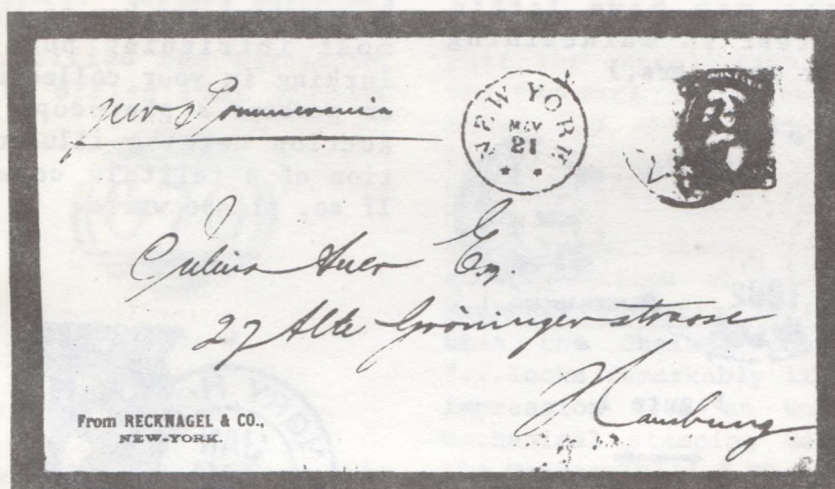


Figure 3

to Van Vlissingen and Waud, they should not be particularly scarce. At any rate, I now have the cancel on all denominations, on a nice pair, and on cover.

When I started my search, I assumed that the 12c, 24c and 90c would be pretty hard to find because they were generally high denominations. I was partly right and partly wrong. Van Vlissingen and Waud list NYFM cancels on various banknote denominations in descending order of scarcity as follows: 90c, 30c, 15c, 12c, 1c,

24c, 2c, 7c, 3c, 10c, 6c. Therefore, NYFM cancels are harder to find on 1c stamps than on 24c stamps. And they are harder to find on the 30c and 15c issues than on the 12c issues. So, when I purchased my original grouping, some of the most difficult denominations were already included.

I'm sure most of you have had the experience of finding just the stamp you've been searching for for a long time. You can imagine how happy I was when I found each of these

items, especially the 12c. I was glad to find them; now I'm sad that the search is over.

## PRE AND POST

The cover illustrated in Figure 1, submitted by Warren Bower, is a circular from Norwich, Conn. and addressed to a nonexistent "Pine wood, Mo." It was then sent back to Norwich for return to the Henry Publishing Co. The Norwich post office applied the postage due stamp and presumably collected the 1c when it handed over the circular to the company. So far a nice but not remarkable cover. There is, however, an aspect that makes it really distinctive and perhaps you have already noticed it. The NORWICH CONN oval that was used to post cancel the 1c Franklin was also employed to precancel the 1c due stamp! Now how many times have you seen that combination on a cover? Warren reported seeing a New York City cover recently that showed almost identical pre and post canceling ovals--only the station letters were different. He noted that "combination" covers would be most likely found on third class circular mail but not too many towns and cities used third class cancels to cancel postage due stamps until the 1920's or so and by then third

(Cont'd. on p. 115)

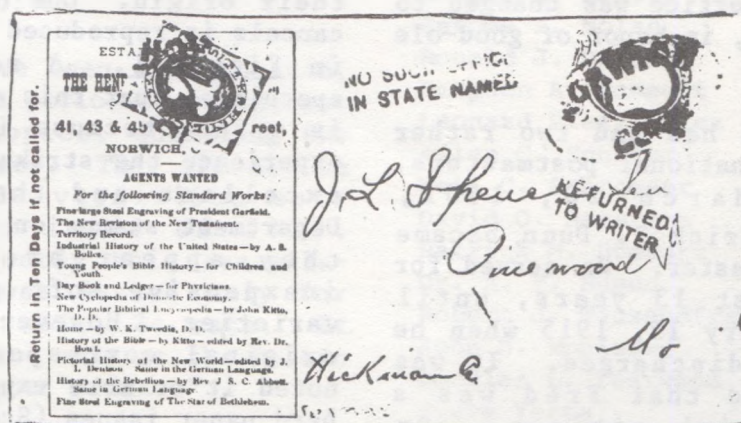


Figure 1



## KHRONE/LYONS, TEXAS

by Bill Henderson

Prior to May 5, 1886 this community was known as Khrone or Krohne (both spellings are found in the records). In the early 1870's, George Khrone erected a gin in the area. Now some Yankees might think this is rebel talk for a moonshine still. Not so. A gin- a cotton gin- is a plant where cotton is separated from the vegetation and seed, and then the "clean" cotton is pressed into a package of some 500 pounds, called a bail. This roughly is a wagon load of "dirty" cotton fresh from the field. People began to settle around the gin, and on August 23, 1872 a post office opened near the gin with George as the first postmaster. He served until January 21, 1874 when William A. Lyon became postmaster.

About 1880 the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe railroad came into the area, and a construction camp was established near Khrone. The site, no doubt, was influenced by the gift of Mr. Lyon to the railroad of 50 acres of small land. On May 5, 1886 the name of the town and post office was changed to Lyons, in honor of good-ole Bill.

Lyons has had two rather international postmasters. On March 20, 1902, Frederick P. Dunn became postmaster. He served for almost 13 years, until January 15, 1915 when he was discharged. It was found that Fred was a British citizen. On September 30, 1957 Lina Jacqueline Murray became

postperson. Postal patrons came for miles to meet their new postperson. Lina was a WW II war bride and all wanted to hear her French accent. I assume Lina was an U.S. citizen, as she has now served more than 27 years.

(Ed. Bill noted the poor quality of the postmark in Figure 1 which even so is the best of several in his collection. He observed that small post offices such as Lyons cancel mail only on request (as opposed to sending it to a mail processing center) and hence may have little interest in maintaining their cancelers.)

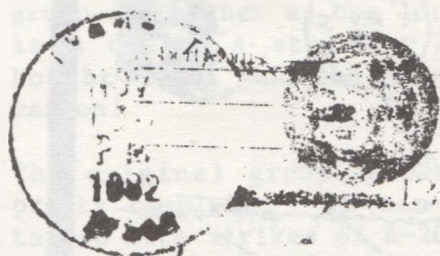


Figure 1

## MORE ON "US" CANCELS

In the Winter 1985 News, we illustrated a number of cancels on off-cover officials and asked if readers could identify their origin. One of the cancels is reproduced again in Figure 1. A reader speculates that this cancel is a fake because in his experience the strikes are excellent and the War Department stamps on which they appear are the inexpensive soft paper varieties. However, our original correspondent noted it on more expensive hard paper issues (Scott #s 084 and 086) and another reader has it on a #089 and

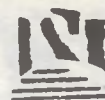


Figure 1

reports seeing poor strikes of this cancel. Of course, there is the possibility that a faker was confused as to which type he or she was "canceling." The other thought about this somewhat common cancel is that it comes from a town near one of the larger Army installations.

Do you have the key to this most intriguing puzzle lurking in your collection or perhaps a photocopy or auction catalog illustration of a telltale cover? If so, please write.



Figure 1

## HUNGRY HORSE, MT

The U.S.C.C. has received a kind offer from Will Dakin to assist any collector who is interested in obtaining a Hungry Horse cancellation (see Figure 1). Will lives two miles from Hungry Horse and can be reached at P.O. Box 215, Coram, MT 59913



## ELLIPSE ORIGIN

In the cover article of this issue, mention is made of the assumption that John Goldsborough borrowed the ellipse concept in the cancelers he produced from the design of British cancellations then in use. In an April 16, 1984 article in Linn's, Peter Collins noted that cancels such as that in Figure 1, reproduced from his article, were employed by British post offices beginning in 1844 as a replacement for the Maltese crosses. Collins explained that the numerals identified the particular post office that applied



Figure 1

the cancel.

The ellipses used in this country, with few exceptions, did not contain the vertical bars by the sides of the numerals. Figures 2 and 3 are the only cancels produced by manufactured metal ellipses known to your editor used in the U.S. that have this characteristic. Both illustrations are taken from an October 1952 article in the News by Wilbur W. Davis. About Figure 2, Davis stated:

"I have it on all the issues beginning with 1875 and running into 1890. The seven denotes the station number. Chelsea is a station of the Boston Postal District although it is not, nor never was, a part of the City of Boston.

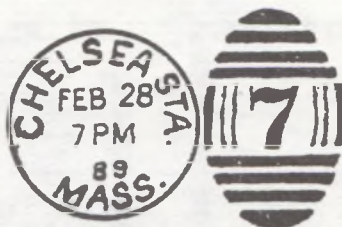


Figure 2

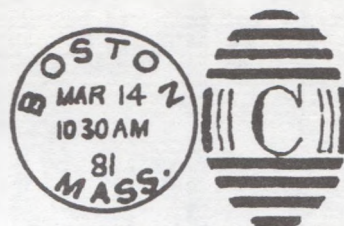


Figure 3

One noticeable feature is that the cancellation with its townmark is generally sharp and clear and well placed on the cover. It is very attractive."

Russ Hanmer states in the second edition of his U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925 that the Chelsea postmark "...looks remarkably like an impression from an English mechanical stamping device, the Pearson Hill." The typically sharp strike mentioned by Davis is also suggestive of a machine cancellation but whether it was applied by handstamp or machine has not been settled.

Regarding Figure 3, Davis termed it "uncommon" and stated:

"I have been able to find, over a period of years, but six copies, including two on cover. They are all on the 2c vermillion soft paper issue of 1879. Apparently this cancellation was issued only for local mail, 2c rate. It was used only at the Boston main post office."

Who can shed additional light on this scarce "C" cancellation or on other

manufactured ellipses in the U.S. with sidebars?

(Cont'd. fr. p. 113)

class mailings were frequently permit (stampless) mailings or the company used stamps with city and state precancels of a different type.

You'll note that "Hickman Co." is written as part of the address. Warren consulted the Postal Guides and learned that in Hickman Co., Tenn. there is, west of Nashville, a town named Pine Wood.

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Figure 1

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### UNION STAR

Certainly one of the most interesting and attractive of the early star cancellations is the Westhampt on, Mass. patriotic star illustrated in Figure 1. Bruce London has recently acquired one on cover dated November 25, 1865 and would

like to place it in the perspective of other known dates of usage. If you have such a cover in your collection or have any records of such covers, please contact Bruce with the date or dates of use at Dept of Sociol. and Soc. Psychol., Fl. Atlantic Univ., Boca Raton, FL 33431. Bruce has already gathered some information on this cancel and plans to write an article on the subject in the News. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.