



Cancellation Club NEWS

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FALL 1985

NEW YORK CITY CANCELLATIONS ON THE FIRST U.S. POSTAL CARDS

Roger R. Rhoads

After the last three articles in the News I realized that there were a number of unanswered questions about NYC letter and number cancellations. Further I realized that with the recent Hoffers Covers and Stationery mail auction catalog and my personal collection of the first postal card (Sc UX1,3) I had the material to research this subject and provide some answers. As Mr. Curran says, postal cards are a blessing. They encourage a good strike, absorb the ink quickly and can be year dated through the message, docketing or plating. Data from this study led to some fairly interesting conclusions and, as so often happens, several new mysteries.

This work will be broken into five parts so that the subject can be better understood as follows:

- I. Introduction
- II. Number Killers
- III. Letters
- IV. Other Killers and Postal Markings
- V. Circular Date Stamp Varieties

I. Introduction

The first U.S. postal card with the large watermark (Sc UX1) was first used in

NYC on May 13, 1873. The small watermark version of the same design (Sc UX3) followed about 30 days later. The design was replaced with a new variety (Sc UX5) in late 1875. During that period over 230 million cards were sold and used with approximately 11% or 25,400,000 used in New York City alone, based on contemporary records.

Of course, this is in addition to all the other postal pieces in the stream as well. That's a lot of pounding with hand cancels as the first machine canceler (Leavitt's) wasn't used until June, 1876 and then only for a short period of time. Duplex devices were employed beginning in 1860 and were used throughout the life of the first postal card.

It is also probable that the cancelers were hand

carved for this period of time. Since many of the killers were circular, distances between the killer and circular date stamp (CDS) were measured and found to vary from virtually 0 to as much as 5 mm. while the mass-produced ellipse cancelers adopted in 1876 in NYC measure a uniform 1 mm. It also seems that the killers were free to rotate in the device with probably only a set screw to confine them instead of being keyed in place. Note the angle of the killer in relation to the CDS in Figure 1.

The CDS seems to have been cast in soft metal from a variety of master dies. The month, day and time slugs seem to move up and down and, at times, at an angle indicating they may have been hand fitted and

(Cont'd. on p. 119)

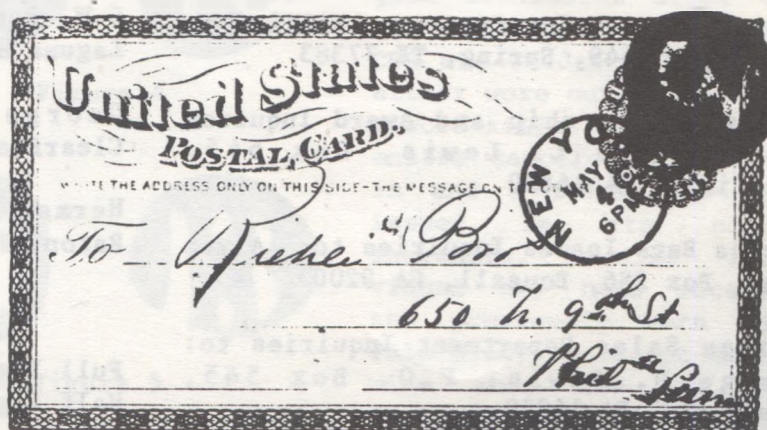


Figure 1

Dear Reader:

It is a pleasure to announce the election of the following officers of the U.S.C.C. for the 1986-7 term: President - Gary I. McIntyre, Vice-President - C.W. Bert Christian, 2nd Vice-President - Abe Boyarsky, Governor at Large - Herman Herst, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer - George H. Lewis. I know we all appreciate their willingness to serve.

To start the new year out with a bang, let's all take a moment now to submit our 1986 dues. You'll find elsewhere in this issue a note of explanation for the increase from \$6.00 to \$8.00.

At the urging of Tom Stanton, I recently spent a day at the National Archives to review correspondence in the file of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for the

period of the late 1840's and the 1850's. The file only contains incoming correspondence. One of the Third Assistant's responsibilities concerned the subject of postage stamps and there was considerable comment on the cancellation of stamps and problems relating thereto. The text of a couple of brief letters is included in this issue and we will run several others in the future. No doubt there is considerable information in the Archives for the postal historian to discover.

To you and your families, very best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Roger Curran

TWO STRAIGHT-LINES

Two cancels are illustrated for your consideration. They were submitted by Clyde Jennings who requests



help on making positive identifications. The cancel on the 4c Columbian is thought by Clyde to be part of a "THIRD CLASS MATTER" or "FOURTH CLASS MATTER" marking. But it doesn't match any such markings that he has. He wonders if the cancel on the Scott #213 might be from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Who can assist?

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set screwed in place.

This study included over 250 NYC canceled cards and black ink was the only color noted and the only color this author has ever seen on this card from this city. An analysis of the types of cancels showed 75% had number killers while 17% had letters either as the killer, in the CDS or both. The remaining 8% had killers of the widest variety from blobs to sunbursts, Maltese crosses and geometrics. Obviously the 250+ cards do not constitute an unpicked lot but represent cards selected for collections. Therefore these numbers should be taken with a grain of salt. However they are probably fairly representative of canceling practices at that time as very few uncollectible blobs have been found during most junk box searches.

II. Number Killers

Number killers were being used extensively in NYC by May, 1873 when the first U.S. postal card was issued. One of the questions often asked (including in recent issues of the News) is what was the significance of these numbers 1 through 14? Konwiser in his Stamps Magazine column in April, 1950 inferred that they referred to sub-stations. However, Stratton in his book on Leavitt machine cancellations believed the numbers were assigned to clerks in the main post office. Burr lends support to this supposition in his April, 1952 News article discussed in the Summer, 1985 News, p. 103.

This study sides with

Messrs. Stratton and Burr on this point. First, some general observations. Though 8 general types of circular date stamps were found on this card, only one main type (Figure 2) was found on cards killed with numbers. Further, as

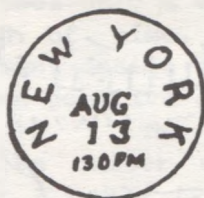


Figure 2

previously noted by others, they were all for out-of-town delivery. This infers that they probably originated from the same location within the Post Office. Evidence of this is the "family" appearance of some of the numbers in this study as though they were from the same set. (Figures 3, 4, 5)

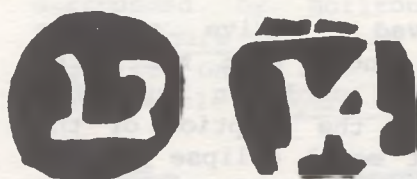


Figure 3



Figure 4

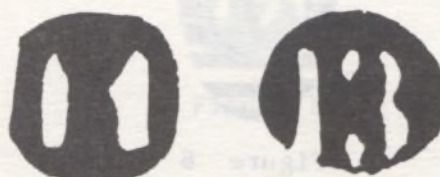


Figure 5

In support of Stratton's belief, the data seems to

indicate that 14 individuals were assigned these numbers while this card was being used from May, 1873 to early 1876. On twenty occasions the same number design was found on two or more cards separated by 3 to 38 days. However at no time was another design of the same number found used between these dates. In other words, a single person was identified by that number and that design until it wore out. If another person were assigned the same number, this study should have found overlapping usage dates.

Going still further, it seems that these individuals probably did not supply their own killers. The numbers may have been procured or supplied from a single source or individual. Evidence of this is the previously noted "sets" of numbers. Also sub-varieties of the circular date stamp were identified (to be discussed later). As killers wore out and were replaced, the CDS sub-variety was almost invariably changed also, though apparently not badly worn. Therefore it is possible that a single individual at the main post office kept the duplex cancelers in good mechanical order and fitted them with a metal CDS and wooden killer when either wore out. Thus when a wood killer wore out, the entire canceler was turned in and a refurbished one issued in its place. Therefore, another individual may have received the previously worn CDS. This study could not determine when the CDS was replaced. Apparently the emphasis was on maintaining a sharp, clear strike and

the CDS was replaced before it wore badly.

As for other numbers, Bond in the May, 1968 News recorded the number 16 used in the 1872-76 period. This author has never seen anything higher than 14. The Hoffers Card and Stationery mail bid sale of March 27, 1985 lists a negative 15 on a UX1 dated July 9, 1873 (lot 2018). However on close inspection it was indeed a 13.

As previously reported, the numbers can be put into three categories: circular with negative Arabic numerals, positive Arabic with or without a circular rim and Roman numerals, both negative and positive. Seventy percent of the number-killed cards studied were of the negative Arabic variety. Twenty percent were of the positive Arabic variety and only 10% were Roman numerals, making the latter quite scarce but not rare.

As noted, the negative Arabic numbers are far and away the most plentiful during the time period. All the numbers from 1 through 14 are well represented and may be available in equal quantities. The fewest varieties found were four for the number 2 and the most was twelve for number 6. This does not necessarily mean that the number 2 is more scarce than others. This may be more of a quirk of studying items selected for collections rather than randomness.

The numbers are rather unimaginatively carved (Figure 6). One exception found is shown in (Figure 7). This number 3 is dated



Figure 6



Figure 7

December 22, 1875 and when turned upside down becomes the profile of the bust of an old man or a hag. This may have been a flight of fancy carved by its user.

Carved negative numerals are known from the first postal cards in May, 1873 until the adoption of the cast metal ellipse cancels in 1876. Hoffers lot 1771 is a carved negative 12 dated May 1, 1876 while Figure 8 is an ellipse (Tingley H931) and is dated May 20, 1876 which means the metal ellipses apparently were adopted in this time span. Tingley's



Figure 8

list in the Summer, 1984 News shows extensive use after this date on 3 cent green Bank Notes.

Positive Arabic numerals are quite another matter. Sets of positive numbers were evidently issued in early 1874 and replaced in mid-1874 by negative ones. Then a few months later positive sets were again

used and supplanted once more in late 1874.

The first positive number in this study is dated July 23, 1873 (Figure 9) and the only one noted in that year. The next usage is



Figure 9

January 12, 1874. Of the 37 numbers that can be positively dated, 24 of them were used from January 12 until May 28, 1874 (Figure 10), peaking in April with 10 in that month. No positive numbers



Figure 10

were noted in June, but the next set shows up on July 17, 1874 and extends to December 30, 1874. Eleven of the 37 were in this span. Only the number 1 was used past late October, while the negative numbers begin to show up again in mid-September. Only one other positive Arabic numeral was noted outside this time span on June 11, 1875 (Figure 11). Also only one of this number did not have a circular ring around it (Figure 12).



Figure 11



Figure 12

It appears that when the last negative numbers issued in late 1873 wore out, they were replaced by the positive ones. Since all did not wear out at the same time, there is some overlapping. However when the positive ones wore out they were replaced with positive ones until the decision was made to go to negative sets again when overlapping once again happens. This was repeated again in late 1874.

The only exception to this is the number 4. No positive 4's were found in this study. Further, negative numbers were found on cards dated in the months January through July, 1874 when many other positive numbers

were being used. Therefore it is assumed for some unknown reason there are no positive Arabic 4's. (Burr does imply, however, in his April, 1952 News article that the series is complete to 14.)

The Roman numerals were also used only a very short period of time. Of 15 different design varieties, 10 were positive and 5 were negative. The earliest positive number was dated August 8, 1874 (Figure 13) and the latest September 28, 1874 which is the same time of usage as the second period of positive Arabic



Figure 13

numerals. Note how the positive numeral is surrounded by horizontal bars (Figure 14) while the negative ones are in a black circle (Figure 15).



Figure 14

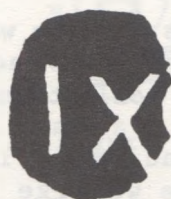


Figure 15

From this study and Curran's previous article we can account for 2,3,4,7, 8,9,10,12 and 14 of the

positive numerals. Obviously there is every reason to believe that the other lost sheep will be found as well. However some will be harder to find than others. Curran reported that Roman numeral I was listed in Hoffers mail auction. Closer inspection of lots 1808 and 1809 convinced me that these are positive Arabic number 1's because of their configurations, and they are included in that count in spite of the horizontal bars around the numbers.

Roman numeral I was found though as a negative number (Figure 16). Two were



Figure 16

dated February 7 and March 22, 1876, well after the mid-1874 usage of other Roman numerals and used just before the metal ellipses were adopted. However the other negative Roman numerals were dated June 27, September 29, and October 28, 1874 which seems to bracket the second usage period of the positive Arabic numerals. Skinner in the Spring, 1985 News shows two XII designs and one of these is different than that found in this study. Therefore negative Roman numerals may not have been issued in complete sets but were perhaps isolated items crafted by the user themselves.

(To be continued)

BOSTON CANCELS

A detailed and highly regarded book, Boston Postmarks to 1890 by Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis was published in 1949 and reproduced in 1974 by Quarterman Publications, Inc. Contained within it are illustrations of the different examples, known to the authors, of the very distinctive and interesting cancels of the main Boston post office during the 1878-1882 period consisting of a large inked square or circle with a negative number or letter in the center. Figure 1 illustrates the generic types. We show in Figures 2 and 3 examples that are not listed in Blake and Davis. (Figure 3 is shown through the courtesy of Gilbert Levere). For those not having immediate access to the book, listed cancels include a number or letter: in a square - 1 to 13, A to F, H, J to N; in a circle - 1 to 13, 16, 20 to 22 with negative arcs in 20-1, A to F, H, J to O; in circle with negative inner ring - 1 to 14, 17 to 19, A to C, E, F, H, J to M, O, S, T, V to X, Z; in square with negative horizontal lines above and below the figure - 1 to 14, 17 to 22, A to C, E, F, H, J to M, O, S, T, V to X, Z. Also included is a large (more



Figure 1

than 90) miscellaneous grouping of squares and circles that have been altered in some way - a

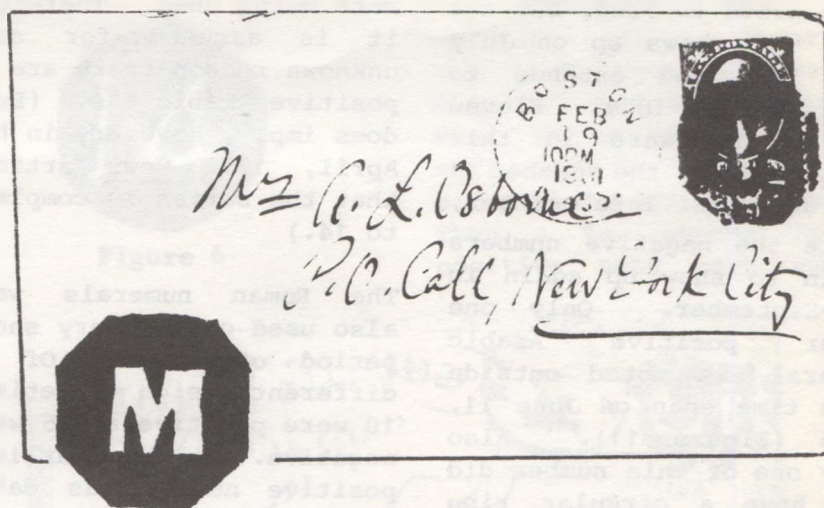


Figure 2

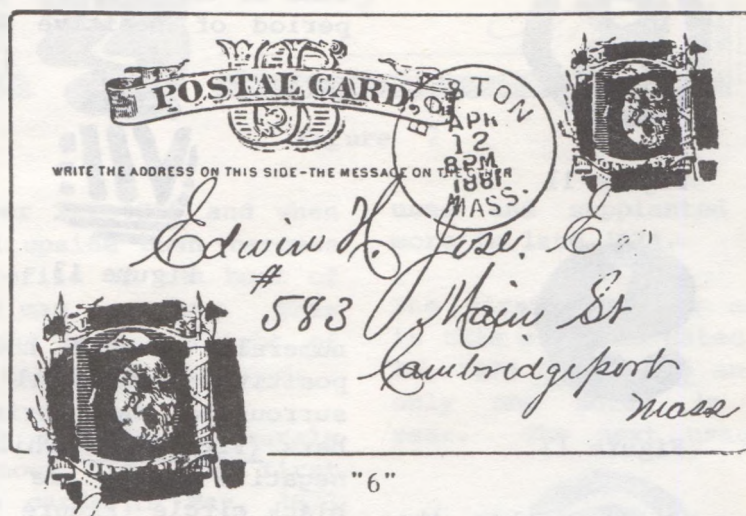


Figure 3

line or lines cut through them, part or parts cut off the edges, etc. See the Winter 1985 News for an explanation and several illustrations of such cancels.

With this article we launch a survey of cancels in reader's collections to see what we can add to the Blake and Davis listings. Therefore we urge (not to mention wheedle and cajole!) you to review any holdings you have of these cancels and notify the editor of unlisted items. For the most part these should involve on-cover or on-card examples where the

full cancel is clear. Also, there would be no question of the Boston origin. However, these cancels are usually readily identifiable as being from Boston and some off-cover stamps bear very well placed strikes so that one can essentially see the full design. Figure 4 qualifies as such a stamp and the cancel is unlisted.



Figure 4

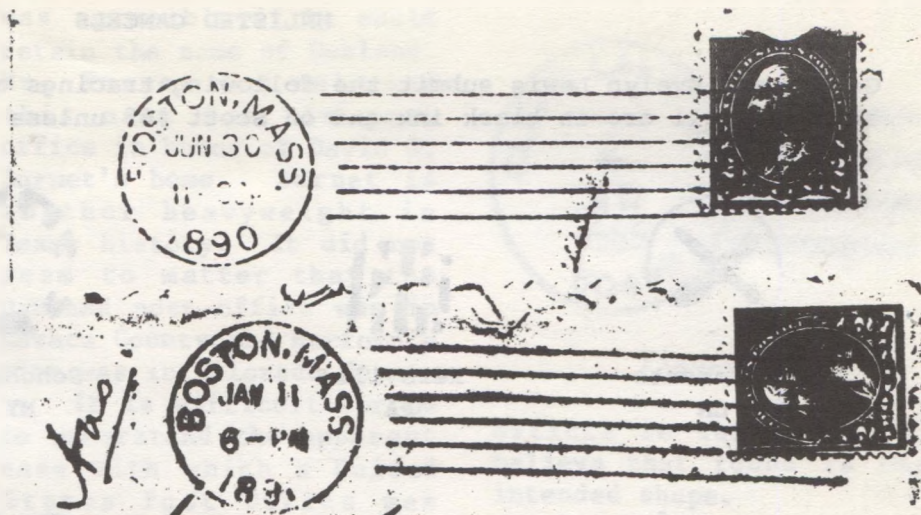
Off cover stamps should be no later than Scott #206 since there are some later uses of the Boston type cancel from other towns. Clear photocopies of the unlisted items will be appreciated. Of course, knowing what is listed in the miscellaneous category will not be possible without access to the book. In such cases it is suggested that readers send, as a starter, very brief (one or two sentence) descriptions to the editor. It is in this miscellaneous category that we are most likely to find unlisted cancels.

Your assistance will be most welcome and we will, of course, report fully in the News all new listings received.

Roger Curran

DIAL H FOR...
by R. F. Hammer

In my US Postmarks 1871-1925 I illustrated the evolution of postmarks leading to the first flag cancel on Machine H, Boston. The keystone was the discovery of an American Postal Machine Co. large dial (1880's type) used in 1891 showing the H. That led to the discovery that the scarce 1890 no-die-space large dial was the same dial as the 1891 H dial, in effect linking the first flag with the first APMC postmark of 1884. I recently discovered another 1891 large dial dated January 11, 1891 - this one like the 1890 postmarks, no H. As far as I know, these are the only two 1891 large dials reported so far. Any readers who can supplement this data are requested to



write to Roger Curran, Editor, or to R. F. Hammer, P.O. Box 614, Wallingford, CT 06492.

ANOTHER COLORED ELLIPSE

In the Winter 1985 News (page 53) we discussed the scarcity of ellipse cancels with colored ink. The only one seen with any frequency is a Washington, DC cancel in blue. We noted Willard's comments about colored ellipses found on Scott #210. He illustrated in his book The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887 the cancel shown in Figure 1 describing it as being in a bright magenta. We



Figure 1

mentioned his doubts about its authenticity. Comes now a similar cancel, illustrated in Figure 2, in a bright purple on a Scott #210. As discussed in the earlier News article, perhaps Willard's "magenta"



Figure 2

and your editor's "purple" are the same color. What is apparently part of the CDS, also in purple, shows on the left edge of the stamp.

Can anyone report other examples of this type of ellipse - in magenta or purple - on Scott #210 or other issues?

NOTE

In submitting dues please retain the membership card.

UNLISTED CANCELS

George and Evelyn Lewis submit the following tracings of cancels unlisted in Skinner and Eno. All are in black ink and on Scott #65 unless otherwise noted.



Sacramento
CA



Kersville
PA



Schoharie
NY



Waits River
VT



Pomfret
CT



Atlanta
GA



New York
NY



Camden
NJ



Junction City
KS
#94



Southbury
CT



Saint Joseph
MI



New York
NY



Hancock
MI



Wilmington
NC
#94



Fairfield
CT



New Oxford
PA



New York
NY



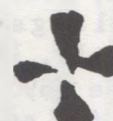
Rising Sun
IN



Elba
NY



Lock Haven
PA
#94

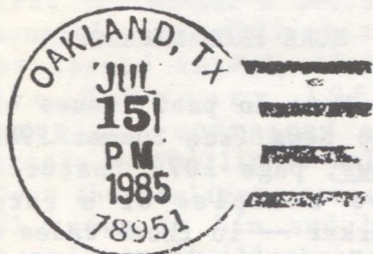


Kane, PA
Blue town and cancel

Oakland, Texas
by Bill Henderson

Texas, like many states which were first territories, started out with a few large counties. As people moved in, these large counties were carved up into many smaller ones. At times the location of the county line took on the proportions of a small war, with the line being moved several times. So, it is not uncommon to find a Texas post office has been in two or more counties without the post office ever moving. It is not so common to find a Texas post office that picked up and moved across a county line and retained its name. This did happen to Oakland, TX 78951.

The present site of Oakland is in a land grant to James Bowie, a hero of the Alamo. As early as 1844 there was a store here which was a stop on the Columbus and Gonzales stage line. At that time it was called



Prairie Point. In 1857 A.C. Herford laid out a town site. To promote the growth of the town, and the sale of lots, Mr. Herford applied for a U.S. Post Office. The P.O.D. turned him down, saying there were several existing post offices in the area. This did not stop Mr. Herford. He talked Amasa Turner, postmater of the Oakland post office, into moving "his" post office to Herford's town site. Amasa

was agreeable if he could retain the name of Oakland. Mr. Turner had selected this name for his post office in honor of David G. Burnet's home. Burnet is another heavyweight in Texas history. It did not seem to matter that the Oakland post office was in Lavaca County and Herford's site was in Colorado County. It is difficult for me to understand the apparent ease with which a United States Post Office was moved across a county line, some ten miles on the strength of an agreement of two "good-ole-boys". Try that today! A hundred years ago things were a bit more relaxed. Truly the original Oakland post office was Mr. Turner's post office, and he could do what he pleased. And he did.

The record states Oakland was established in Lavaca County in 1848, and I assume Amasa Turner was the first postmaster and held that job until 1866 with some time off. The Confederate records list a change in postmaster to one Davis C. Neen, no time given. Perhaps Amasa's loyalty to the "Stars and Bars" was questioned. At any rate Amasa was back in charge for the big post office move.

PRESENT SHAPE

Warren Bower reports some observations on the type of cancel that is illustrated in Figure 1. You'll note that it is oval rather than round and this shape is seen with some frequency. We also note enough round cancels (see the illustration with Bill Henderson's



Figure 1

article in this issue) to believe that round is the intended shape.

Warren noticed oval cancels appearing in the last several years and originally thought they resulted from a glancing strike of the handstamp or application of the postmark on an uneven cover surface. He recently had the opportunity to examine the canceler at his local post office. Herewith his interesting comments:

"... on mailing a package here in Clear Lake with some odd stamps on which I wanted a nice, but lightish philatelic cancel, the PO clerk loaned me his 4-bar canceler to use as I wished to hit the stamps. So I got a nice straight-down cancel on an even surface. It appears that the plastic (likely not rubber anymore) relieves its internal stresses to become oval per the illustration. As I recall, there was no metal to keep it "round" and the plastic must be a bit softer than the older styles of cancelers".

Comments will be welcomed.

READER'S COMMENTS

Henry W. Beecher provides some informative comments on the subject matter of two recent News articles. We excerpt his letter below:

"The marking shown in Figure 3 of "More foreign postmarks" (News Summer 1985, p. 105) was applied in Montreal to indicate the amount of postage due to be collected by the Baltimore post office. At that time the postage due on short-paid international mail was double the deficiency; and as no Canadian postage had been paid on that post card, the deficiency was their post card rate of 4c (to the U.S. the same as within Canada). "TAXE/CHARGES" was presumably used to satisfy the required use of the two official languages of Canada, French and English, in less space than another alternative, "Taxe a percevoir/Postage Due." Now they simply use a circular mark with "T" above a horizontal line and an amount below. I suppose the "T," although standing for "Taxe" is considered as a symbol rather than as an abbreviation requiring an English equivalent, because it is so used by all countries on UPU mail.



Shortpaid articles from other countries are marked by the exchange office in the origin country, and again in the US exchange office with the amount to be collected. The postal convention between the U.S.

and Canada provides that the post office of mailing will mark the amount to be collected in the destination post office. (This implicitly assumes that the currencies of the two countries exchange at parity).

In case US postage is used on an article mailed to the US in another country, its value can be claimed as a credit against the amount marked as postage due. However, few postal clerks are aware of this rule, and even fewer postal patrons, so almost always the amount marked will be collected—unless the marking is disregarded entirely, as often happens nowadays."

Commenting on Warren Bower's article "U.S. Postage Due Precancels" (pp. 106-7) Mr. Beecher states: "One good reason for reduced use of printed precancels on postage due stamps before WWII is that it was contrary to regulations. The Third Assistant Postmaster General instructed on September 25, 1934, that 'under no circumstances shall postage-due stamps be precanceled.' I am not sure that was the first ruling to that. When I read it in Postal Bulletin 16515 (September 27, 1934), I took it to be a reminder. I have no idea of the rationale for the prohibition. I will guess that in continuing to precancel dues with hand canceling devices (other than the handstamps with city and state between lines, as furnished for small quantity local precancellation), postal workers felt that they were not "really" precanceling. (Collectors of precancels have generally agreed,

CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

defining a precancel as one made with a device not also used for regular cancellation.) Perhaps a postage-due clerk would precancel only the quantity of dues needed on his tour; thus there would be no unauthorized precancels in stock should a postal inspector or other official interested in enforcing regulations pay a visit.

For that matter, I can see no good reason for any kind of cancellation of postage due stamps. Of course, the proximate reason is that the law required it. The Act of March 3, 1879, which first provided for the use of such stamps, said that they were to be canceled as postage stamps are canceled. I can see more point to requiring a dated postmark, so that the tied stamp would constitute a full receipt for payment of the postage due—but I believe the regulations have never explicitly called for a postmark."

MORE FROM MACEDON

We have in past issues of the News (see Summer 1985 News, page 107) featured two examples of a rate marker -- in those cases a "5" and a "10" -- being used by Macedon, N.Y. to cancel stamps of the 1861 issue. Walt La Force submits a third example, this time a "3" canceling a 3c of the 1857 issue. Although we illustrate only the stamp in Figure 1, it is on cover.



Figure 1

MORE FIRSTS

Now let's see, where were we? In the Summer 1985 News we discussed the first cancel of adhesive stamps by a U.S. post office. It was a New York City post office cancel first applied in 1842 to carriers stamps prepaying the fee for city delivery service. These stamps, however, were not for regular postage; i.e., not for the transmission of mail from post office to post office as, say, from New York to Philadelphia.

But after the domestic postal rates were lowered in 1845 and standardized at five cents per half ounce for distances under 300 miles, a few postmasters, primarily in 1846, did issue their own adhesive stamps, called postmasters' provisionals, to permit prepayment of postage.

We must turn again to New York City to find the first postmaster's provisional (Scott# 9X1) which was issued in July 1845. The February 1982 Chronicle contained an article by Phillip T. Wall about the earliest uses of 9X1 known to him and he described and illustrated eight covers bearing the stamps that were postmarked July 15, 1845. One he considered as being of "highly questionable" authenticity. Regarding the others, the stamps on each (except for one that is uncanceled) are canceled by the well known New York City red curved "PAID" that is illustrated in Figure 1. This then, we may conclude, is the first cancellation used on a U.S. adhesive issued for

PAID

Figure 1

the prepayment of postage. On each of the six covers, the "PAID" marking was struck twice, once to cancel the stamp and once on the cover itself. This marking, incidentally, had been employed for a number of years on stampless letters. (Who can tell us the earliest recorded use?) It contrasts with the boxed "U.S." marking discussed in the Summer 1985 News that was prepared specifically to cancel the carrier stamp. The concept for the "U.S." cancel, however, was taken from the cancel (see Figure 2) applied to the private City Despatch Post stamps before the Post was operated by the New York



Figure 2

Post Office.

Returning to the curved "PAID" to cancel the New York postmaster's provisional, the practice did not last, at least as being the principal canceler. In the August 1982 Chronicle, Mr. Wall estimates that 4,000 of the approximately 5,000 existing used copies of 9X1 have manuscript cancels. He further estimates that there are about 400 copies that have red "PAID" cancels and also notes, very interestingly, that copies are known canceled by the boxed "U.S." marking. However, these are rare. Use of the curved "PAID" as a cancellation

is recorded in Skinner and Eno as late as 1852.

Regarding other postmasters' provisionals, cancels largely included "PAID" markings, manuscripts and townmarks. Each issuing postmaster presumably grappled on his own with the matter of how best to cancel these isolated forerunners of the first general issue postage stamps. And indeed these stamps were not always canceled.

Turning our attention to 1847, we now find, of course, the first general issue postage stamps of the Post Office Department. As mentioned in the Fall 1984 News (page 57), Section 50 of the 1847 postal regulations states: "Stamps so affixed are to be immediately cancelled in the office in which the letter or packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished to certain of the post offices for that purpose." If the office did not have a large enough volume of mail to warrant receiving an "instrument," which produced the cancel illustrated in Figure 3, the regulation specified the use of manuscript cancellations. This enclosed grid containing 7 bars has a diameter of about 18mm.



Figure 3

In the May 1976 Chronicle, Creighton C. Hart made the following observation:

"Prior to the first

issuance of stamps each post office had been operated pretty much on an individual basis. What postal markings were used including size, shape and design had been up to the local postmaster; even the color of ink was his choice. However, the introduction of stamps called for something not needed before, a canceller to prevent their reuse... The enclosed circular grid with seven bars is believed to be the first uniform postal marking furnished officially by the Post Office Department." (Emphasis added)

But not all of the post offices receiving this cancel took to its use. Speaking of New York City, Chase mentioned that the square unframed grid (see p. 51, Fall 1984 News) came into use soon after the postmaster's provisional was introduced in 1845 and continued to be the grid of choice until the townmark became the exclusive canceler in 1851. (The grid is found about as often as the red "PAID" on 9X1 according to Wall.) Chase stated: "New York City very rarely, while both the Provisionals and the 1847 issue were current, used a round gridiron. A very few covers have been seen thus cancelled in the 1851 period...the latest December 24, 1851."

And in the above-mentioned Chronicle, Hart said of Philadelphia:

"... post office clerks were the models of obedience after receiving their official instrument! Fourteen covers are listed

during July 1847 and all of them have the stamps properly cancelled with the 7-bar grid. In August the clerks began to slip back into old habits. Of the twelve August covers only half are cancelled with the official canceller.

As time passed the official grid was used less and less while the PAID and townmark were used oftener and oftener. The clerks soon learned that by using the postmark as a canceller, letters were postmarked and cancelled with one blow. This became standard practice..."

It is of interest to follow the enclosed circular grid over the ensuing years with special notice given to the 18mm seven-bar variety. As with the increasing variety of cancellations during the 1850's and beyond, we do see through the mid 1860's an increasing variety of grids. We illustrate several examples of the 18mm grid in Figure 4. We

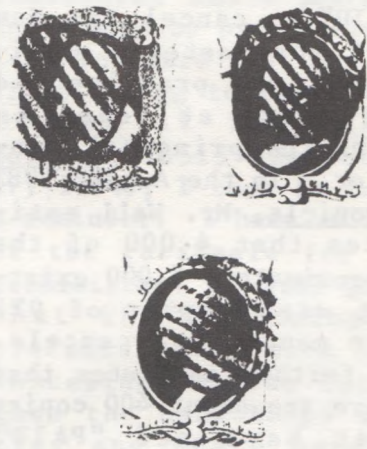


Figure 4

illustrate several other grid types in Figure 5. In Figure 6 are presented

unusually small and large examples on Scott #65s. By about the late 1860s and certainly in the 1870s, use of the enclosed circular grid was becoming infrequent. Figure 7 illustrates a 21 mm grid canceling a Scott #147.



Figure 5



Figure 6

We would be pleased to illustrate in a future article more in the way of late uses of the 18mm grid and ask readers to check their holdings for such items. Of course, one cannot say that any such cancellations were necessarily produced by the instruments mentioned in the 1847 regulations. (Indeed, for how long a period were they provided by the Post Office Department?) But it does seem reasonable to speculate that such cancellations, not applied as a part of a duplex handstamp, may have been applied by these

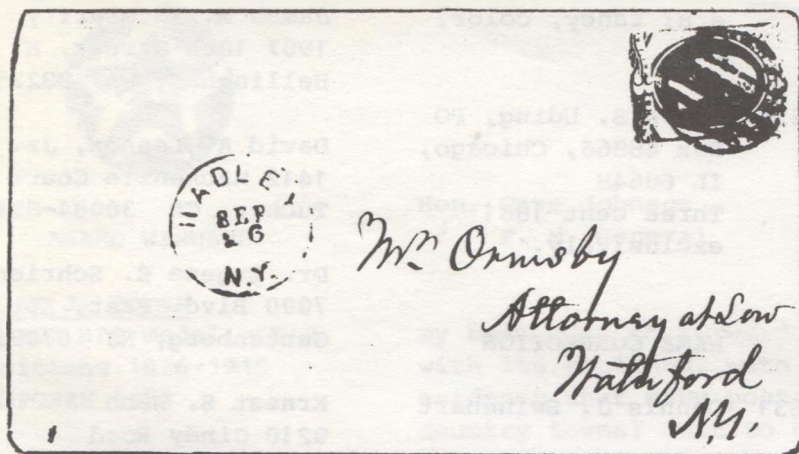


Figure 7

early cancelers. Contributions and comments are eagerly sought!

Roger Curran

were never returned because it is not difficult to find them unused.

But what about the two cancellations? They cer-

tainly seem to be pre-printed. They are very sharp and well lined up with the edges of the covers. Also, of considerable interest is the fact that they are both printed in the same distinctive red ink. Could it be that such cancelers were sometimes applied by the War Department as a service to postmasters and dated according to the schedule by which they were to be submitted? If so, the War Department overlooked the postal regulation that precluded the use of the CDS as a canceler.

If you can shed any light on these interesting cancelers, please write!

MYSTERY CANCELS

Harry Taber submits two covers, illustrated in Figure 1, addressed to the Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C. The addresses are, of course, preprinted. Although the covers are obviously "canceled", the back flaps still have the original gum and have never been sealed. The statement in the lower portion of the Halcottville cover reads: "This envelope will be used for the transmission of Monthly Reports, Form 125B." Mr. Taber also provided a similar uncanceled cover that bears a statement about "Weekly Reports" to be transmitted by postmasters.

"Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army" covers such as these are quite common and are return covers provided to postmasters (and others?) to send in some sort of report, perhaps a weather report. Apparently many

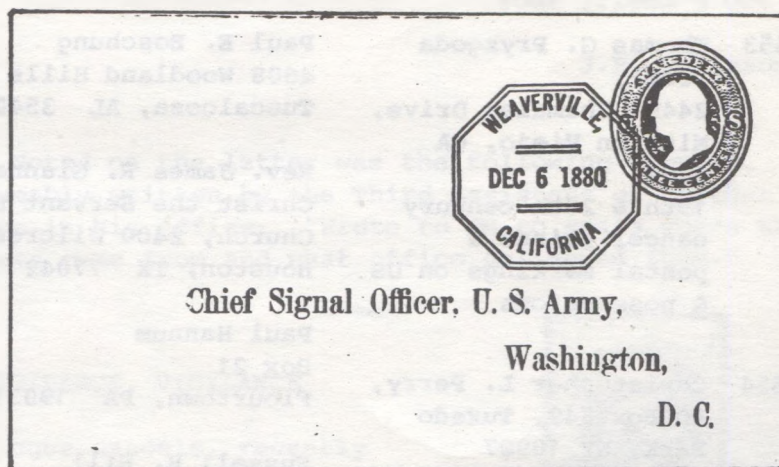
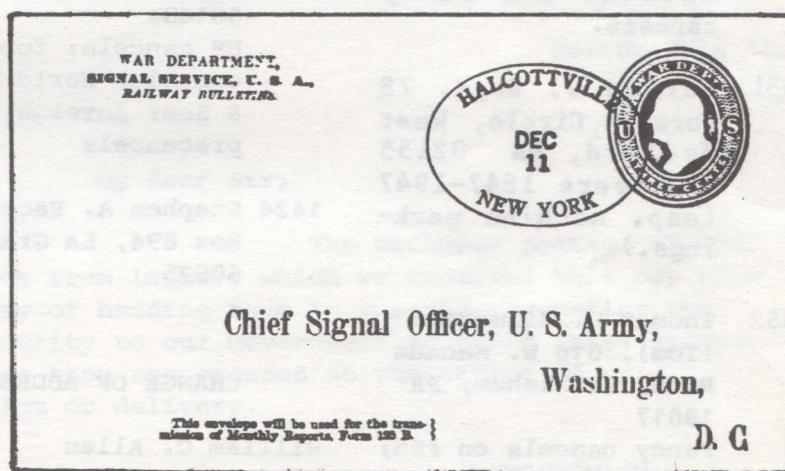


Figure 1

NEW MEMBERS

1646 Michael D. Sabatelle,
PO Box 136, Brooklyn,
NY 11204
US Covers, singles,
precancels,
cancellations; UN;
worldwide: Great
Britain & Germany

1649 Henry B. Scheuer, PO
Box 535, Madison
Square Station New
York, NY 10010
Machine cancels
particularly from
Washington, DC.

1650 Ray N. Norris, 114
Glenra Drive, Catons-
ville, MD 21228 USP
c a r d s , U S P
Stationery, US early
machine and fancy
cancels.

1651 Harold J. Boyd, 78
Norwich Circle, West
Medford, MA 02155
US covers 1847-1947
(esp. machine mark-
ings.)

1652 Thomas L. Zimmerman
(Tom), 610 W. Macada
Road, Bethlehem, PA
18017
Fancy cancels on #65;
NY Foreign Mail
Cancels

1653 Thomas G. Pryzgoda
(Tom),
24401 Chamalea Drive,
Mission Viejo, CA
92691
19th & 20th century
cancellations &
postal markings on US
& possessions

1654 Christopher L. Perry,
PO Box 549, Tuxedo
Park, NY 10987
Banknote cancels,
NYFM, numeral, letter
cancels; Civil War

era; fancy, color,
etc.

1655 Bryon S. Uding, PO
Box 48866, Chicago,
IL 60648
Three cent 1861
exclusively.

NAME CORRECTION

1631 Dennis J. Swinehart

RESIGNATION

(Lt. Col.) John P. McGowan
(retired)

REINSTATED

291 J. William Ross, PO
Box 575, Lombard, IL
60148
US cancels; foreign
cancels; World Perfins
& Son; foreign
precancels

1424 Stephen A. Paczolt, PO
Box 694, La Grange, IL
60525

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William C. Allen
Box 6051
East Lansing, MI 48823

Paul E. Boschung
4608 Woodland Hills Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405-2717

Rev. James R. Giannantonio
Christ the Servant Lutheran
Church, 2400 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, TX 77042

Paul Hannum
Box 21
Flourtown, PA 19031

Russell H. Hill
95 White Road
Meriden, CT 06450-3438

James M. Inverarity
1907 18th Street, H7
Bellingham, WA 98225

David A. Lennox, Jr.
1412 Mackenzie Court
Tucker, GA 30084-8211

Dr. Eugene E. Schrier
7000 Blvd. East, Apt. 147D
Guttenberg, NJ 07093

Ernest S. Webb
9210 Cindy Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

William R. Weiss
PO Box 5358
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Paul Wisner
P.O. Box 412
Thiells, NY 10984

Louis E. Zell, Jr.
38 Front Street, Apt. 5F
Binghamton, NY 13905

James Wrobliske
4111 Still Glade Lane
Kingwood, TX 77339

Bruce Blaike
P.O. Box 278
c/o Union Oil Co. of CA
Cloverdale, CA 95425-0278

David X. Zubatsky
10 N. Market Street #404
Lancaster, PA 17603

CHANGE OF ZIP

Samuel Fisvitz
Ventnor "J" 154
Century Village
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Vernon A. Johnson
121 Jeannie Court
Hurst, TX 76054



AWARD WINNERS

William J. Bomar

Gold and BIA medal - U.S.
Expositions 1876-1915
(STAMPOREE '85)

John M. Hotchner

Gold and BALPEX research
award - Stamp Separation;
Its Development from 1840
to Modern Times (BALPEX
'85)

J.B. Ludin

Gold and Ed Ruckle Memorial
Award - Postal Markings of
Oneida County, NY,
1796-1850 (BALPEX '85)

Randolph L. Neil

Grand, APS pre-1900 medal
and Trans-Miss PS award -
Great Britain: The 1/2
Penny Value of the Queen
Victoria Jubilee Issue
(Omaha Stamp Show)

William S. Dunn

Reserve Grand, APS 1900-40
award and 131A award - The
2c Carmine Washington
Issues, 1922-38 (Omaha
Stamp Club)

Warren R. Bower

Regional Champion of
Champions - U.S. Postage
Dues: Postal History of
NYC's Due Mails, 1879-99
(Omaha Stamp Club)

William F. Rapp

Silver - Vermont: The
Stampers Period (Omaha
Stamp Club)

Herman Herst, Jr.

Silver - bronze - The
Ruhleben (Germany) Prisoner
of War Camp for British
POW's in WWI (Omaha Stamp
Club)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Post Office Boston
19th July 1848

Hon. Cave Johnson
P. M. General

Sir

I deem it
my best duty to forward to you the accompanying letter
with its contents, with the remark that we have frequent
evidence that many post masters (especially in the
country towns) omit to cancel the stamps on letters they
forward, and that many are yet ignorant that such is
their duty. Would not a circular from the department
be advisable to remind them of the law and enforce
a compliance.

Very Respectfully

Your most ob. Sevt.

Nath. Greene
P.M.

Boston July 12, 1848

Nath. Greene Esq.

My dear Sir,

The enclosed postage stamps
I took from letters which we received this day with
a view of handing them to you and suggesting the
insecurity to our Government of using these stamps
unless they are crossed at the office of
receipt or delivery.

Respectfully

Your friend & Obt Sevt

J.P. Robinson

Ed. Noted on the letter was the following comment,
presumably written by the Third Assistant or another
person in his office: "Wrote to PM to state where the
letters came from and what office delivered them."

VIGILANCE, VIGILANCE

Two bogus cancels, recently
reported by readers, are
presented. The "running
deer" in Figure 1 appears



Figure 1

TAYLOR MADE

PROTECTIVE POUCHES

**Clear, Strong, Inert,
Dimensionally Stable
DuPont "MYLAR" Type D**

- COVER PROTECTORS.
- PAGE PROTECTORS.
- "TUCK'S T'S" (pouches & sleeves
for cover mounting w/o adhesive).
- COVER PAGES.



(215) 566-7067

Taylor Made Company
P.O. Box 406
Lima, Pa. 19037

* MYLAR IS A TRADE NAME OF DUPONT

* TUCK'S T'S IS A TRADE NAME OF TAYLOR MADE PAI APPLIED FOR

STEEL POSTMARKING HANDSTAMPS

I will beat any other bona fide offer by \$25.00 for RPO steels.

Also purchase other RMS/PTS and P.O. artifacts. **FRANK R. SCHEER**

18 E. ROSEMONT, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22301-2325



on a Scott #147 and was found to be counterfeit by the PF this year. The fancy "US" in Figure 2, similar to Skinner and Eno #PT USM-6, was declared fake on a recent APS certificate.



Figure 2

NOTICE ABOUT DUES

The club's officers have concluded that it will be

necessary to raise the annual dues to \$8.00 per year. The dues have not been changed since 1977.

The primary reason for this increase is that publication of the U.S.C.C. News has increased to approximately \$3,000.00 per year. Since we have 450 members paying \$6.00 per year, we are incurring a deficit of \$300.00 per year. This does not include other club expenses such as postage, books for library, club awards at WSP Shows, etc.

It is hoped that our members will understand the necessity of the increase.

WANTED US Army Post Office covers of World War II dated the first day of operation. Will pay a minimum of \$10 or will trade. Want list is available. WANTED ALSO KOROR, Palau, covers, postal history, precancels.

A. Lewandowski

Box 1

New York, NY 10040

HENRY C. CHLANDA

Postal History

Large stock of U.S. covers from stampless to 1920. Photocopies or approvals against wantlists.

P. O. Box 732, LARCHMONT, NEW YORK 10538

(914) 834-0490

OHIO PH

A September flyer from the Ohio Postal History Society (OHPS) caught our attention and we quote briefly from it:

"The tale of a square postmark and the postal history of Columbiana County highlight the current issue of the Ohio Postal History Journal.

The Little Beaver Bridge 'box' is Ohio's most unusual and celebrated cancellation. John Diehl discusses the history of this odd, square postmark. One of the few known examples of this rarity is pictured."

Individual copies of the journal, which is published quarterly, are available from Richard Parker, 1526 Marview Drive, Westlake, OH 44145. For information about the OHPS, write Allison W. Cusick, Box 29544, Columbus, OH 43229.