



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 18

NO. 5

WHOLE NO. 191

WINTER 1987

U.S. TRANSIT MARKINGS

By Tom Stanton

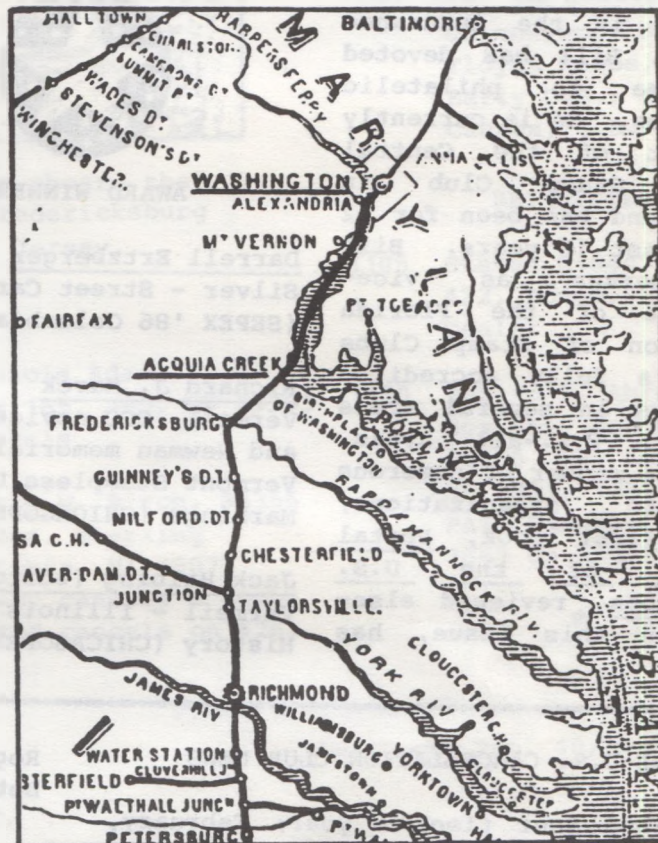
In the last two issues of the News we discussed the transit markings on northward bound railroad cars from the City of Washington. In this issue we will consider the markings applied on steamboats which plied the Potomac River south to Acquia Creek, Virginia.

Mails had been carried aboard Potomac River steamboats since shortly after the arrival of the first boat, the "Washington" in May of 1815. However, these early covers were postmarked at a post office situated at one end of the route or the other. It was not until March of 1839 when the first route agents, Spencer Baldwin and Alphonse Labbe, were assigned to the combined railroad/steamboat route between Washington and Richmond, that postmarks applied upon the boats were possible.

In the late 1830s the Washington & Fredericksburg Steamboat Co. was formed under the leadership of James Reeside, an experienced mail contractor and stage coach operator. From the beginning it enjoyed a close relationship with the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac RR Co., which completed this segment of the great mail route to Richmond. (See Figure 1). By 1845 the railroad company had secured a one-half interest in the steamboat

line and both concerns shared the same slate of officers with the noted Moncure Robinson at the helm.

By the early fall of 1847, the 30mm "Potomac Steamboat" CDS (Figure 2) was introduced by the agents on this route. It has been recorded as late as May 1854 and probably continued in use until the summer months of 1855, when the great mail was transferred to an all



From Doggett's Railroad Guide & Gazeteer
(1848) Scale 1:900,000

Figure 1



Towle G-21-a

Figure 2

railroad route between Washington and Richmond. The marking, used as a

(Cont'd. on p. 71)

BOMAR NEW SALES DIRECTOR

William J. Bomar of Orlando, FL has been appointed USCC sales director, effective February 16, 1987 succeeding George H. Lewis. He has been a member of the USCC since the 1950's.

recently been published.

Our appreciation goes to Bill for agreeing to manage this very important Club activity.



AWARD WINNERS

Darrell Ertzberger

Silver - Street Car RPOs
(SEPEX '86 Columbia, GA)

Richard J. Marek

Vermeil, CCC novice award
and Newman memorial award -
Vermont Stampless Postal
Markings (CHICAGOPEX)

Jack Hilbing (editor)

Vermeil - Illinois Postal
History (CHICAGOPEX)

Bernard C. Griffin (editor)
Vermeil - Oregon Postal
History Journal
(CHICAGOPEX)

Thomas Corette

Gold and USCC award - The
Two Cent Columbian Issue
(National Show, NYC)

Clyde Jennings

Gold, USCC award and Fla.
Stamp Dealers award - U.S.
19th Century Cancels and
Postal Markings (FLOREX '86,
Orlando)
Gold for same exhibit
(MIDAPHIL, Kansas City, MO)
Reserve Grand, Gold and USCC
award for same exhibit
(VAPEX '86, Virginia Beach)

J. Fred Rodriguez (editor)

Vermeil - Long Island Postal
Historian (MIDAPHIL)

Darrell Ertzberger

Silver - Streetcar RPO's
(VAPEX '86)

(Cont'd. on p. 77)

After retiring in 1984 from a career in the insurance business, Bill has devoted his time to philatelic activities. He is currently president of the Central Florida Stamp Club in Orlando and has been for 12 of the last 16 years. Bill also serves as vice-president of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs and is a fully accredited APS judge in several areas including U.S.-all areas. An active member of numerous philatelic organizations, Bill's first book, Postal Markings of the U.S. Expositions, reviewed elsewhere in this issue, has

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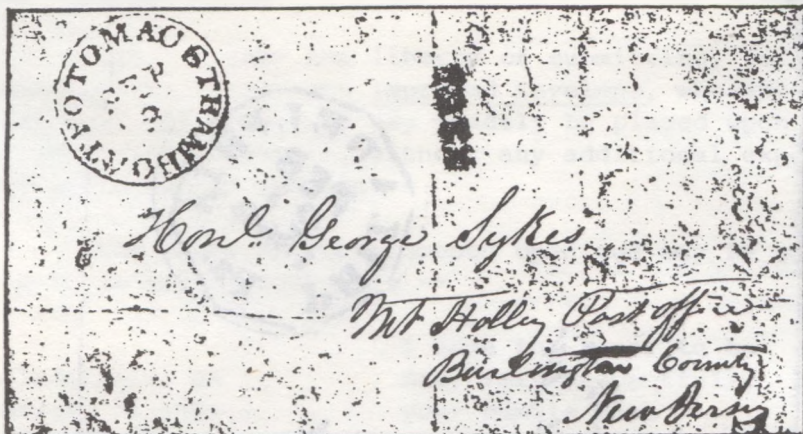
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Column Inch.....\$ 4.00

(Cont'd. fr. front p.)



September 9, 1847 folded written aboard the "Augusta" of the Washington & Fredericksburg Steamboat Co., SL "FREE" to New Jersey.

Figure 3

canceler of stamps as well as a postmark, was initially applied in red, but by late 1851 the color was changed to black, in accordance with existing postal regulations pertaining to cancellations. The cover in Figure 3 was written aboard the steamboat "Augusta" on September 9th, 1847 and was transmitted through the Washington post office, free of postage, to its ultimate destination in New Jersey. At the time this cover was posted, John K. Martin and Charles T. Hull were serving as route agents on the line.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1702 Don Harkins, 7030 Dogwood, Springfield, MO 65802 Postal History
- 1703 J. Blair Gibbs, 117 W. 21st Street, Chester, PA 19013 Penna. County/Postmaster Postmarks; 3¢ 1861-67 - Penna on Cover 3¢ 1861-67 - Fancy Cancels

- 1704 Francis Adams, P.O. Box 165, APO, NY 09333 Cancels
- 1705 Barry W. Birch, 36355 Samoa, Sterling Heights, MI 48077 Fancy cancels & town dated cancels on #26,

65 and 94

- 1706 Richard Sample, 4501 Hale Street, The Colony, TX 75056 Fancy & Pictorial Cancels; Texas; Hand Cancels & PM autographs; PH
- 1707 Prescott Van Horn, Jr., Rt. 3, 9 Chimneywood Drive, Floyds Knobs, IN 47119 Early U.S.; PH; Canada; G.B.

REINSTATED

- 1105 Steven Hines, P.O. Box 422, Monee, IL 60449 Dealer
- 1130 Philip F. Ahrens, RR1, Box 145, Yarmouth, ME 04096 PH; Cancels on 3¢ 1851, 1857, 1861; PAID Cancels on 3¢ 1861 on & off cover

FROM THE ARCHIVES

New York, Feb. 10/51.

Dear Sir,

I send Mr. Woolley's letter to you - not to trouble you to read it but to show you how the P.O. stamps are used. You will perceive it is not defaced, & therefore might be used again.

I have often received letters from the P.O. here, in this way. I have repeatedly urged upon Mr. Brady care & a compliance with his instructions. I also went to your predecessor several times & he promised to correct the evil.

As a friend to cheap postage I send you this information & shall be glad to have the letter returned to me.

I fear the P.O. Department has been greatly wronged by the negligence of deputies in this matter.

Respy yours

P.M. General

Lewis Tappan

To the Hon. J. Holt
Post Master General

Sir, I take the liberty of submitting, for consideration, a new and improved Envelope, whereby the Usual Post Office stamps may readily be placed upon the letter inclosed therein, without any additional expense, or trouble to the offices --

The edges of the proposed openings may be gummed or not, as may be advisable --

) I have the honor to be
Philadelphia, PA) Sir, very Respectfully
February 21 1860) your humble sevt
)

Benj. Morison

Ed. The "stamps" referred to are, of course, handstamp impressions. The notes on the envelope read as follows: "Proposed New mode of envelope for obtaining the common Post office stamps, both of mailing and receiving -- upon the letter included -- by Benj. Morison Philadelphia, Pa Feby 20/60." "N.B. The postage stamp, may be placed upon the letter also and consequently it will be canceled by the 'post office' stamp BM

Figure 2

Philadelphia 10/26/1861

Dear Vaux

Arrived safely last night. Have just been to see envelope man. Found him, just as I supposed, with a few samples of coarse brown envelopes, with two-sized holes, which he thought was a great matter to have such a variety--one big round hole and one little one. He was going to do great matters, but the war came on, and he thought it was not worth while to try--but Secretary Cameron is a particular friend of his and as soon as the war was over he would get him to take it up . . . He has thought of putting the stamp in the hole, but says the government will not post mark them unless they are made to do so. He wants to sell out the whole right--says his son owns half, but he would take a thousand dollars at any rate, on a risk. I told him I could not give him a thousand cents, for I have no money to give, but if he was a mind to say what he would let me have it for any time within a month, or how much more within three months, and how much in six months and one year, or any other proposition, I would consider it, to see whether it was possible to get back our thirty-five dollars we had spent, but it would require very particular personal application anyway, and perhaps after working hard for six months and spending considerable money, it would all amount to nothing. I think I will manage it all right to make some contingent arrangement, by which we can secure the use of this patent, and then we can add our improvements if necessary.

Thine truly,
Figure 3 Leeds

ly described as a misadventure compounded but a discussion of the post Morison activities is beyond the scope of this article.

Returning now to the substance of Mr. Morison's idea, whatever appeal it may have had in theory was no doubt quickly lost in practical application. In post offices processing a large volume of mail it is quite unreasonable to think that postal clerks would take the time and effort required to place the postmark directly over the hole. Indeed it seems to be just such a problem that is discussed in Mr. Morison's February 1862 letter. And the idea, discarded by Morison but embraced by Leeds, to encourage the placement of the postmark in the hole by putting the stamp on the letter beneath the hole, was completely off base. The practice of using the postmark (i.e., CDS) to cancel the stamp was forbidden by a POD regulation in 1860. Both the Leeds and Morison letters make mention of this complication.

And what of the received marking? Certainly received markings were common at one time but not in 1860. It wasn't until the mid-1870's that they came into frequent use. In 1860 they were very rare. In this connection it is interesting to mention that the received marking illustrated with the patent specification is different than that on the envelope sent to the Postmaster General. The patent specification illustration is of a received marking actually used in Philadelphia by about that time. This marking is listed as "scarce" in Simpson's USPM 1851-61 and Figure 5 is an

Friend Leeds.

Philada. Pa. Febr'y 6/62

widespread than it actually was.

Thy note of 3rd inst. was not received by me until this morning, it having been overlooked by the post office clerkes.

I must say that I anticipated a more favorable result at this time than thy report shows.

In reply to thy proposition to alter and extend the time specified in our agreement in relation to the patent envelope, which is the subject of the report, I have to say that, I think I can eventually do better with it. However, I do not desire to confine thee strictly to the said agreement! And therefore make the following offer in lieu of the terms of the said agreement; viz. pay me two hundred (\$200.) dollars cash within, say a week, from this date, and I will then assign, to thee or firm, the whole rights in the term of the patent yet to run--the price thereof to be as per agreement now standing, & the balance of said price, viz \$800. dollars to be paid out of the first profits realized by thee, from time to time, out of sales either of envelopes or rights! There is money in the thing, and all it wants is energy, with some such plan as I before suggested: that is, the putting a large card print, dark with white letters, over the whole or nearly the whole part of the envelope which is forward of the hole--placing the postage stamp in the left hand side below the said card,--leaving the balance of the envelope's face for the address'--thus compelling the sub post masters to put their office stamp through the hole on the letter enclosed!

The post master Gen'l's order, "not to erase the stamps by their Office Stamp", justifies the subs in refusing to place their office stamp on the postage stamp when the latter is found to be placed through the hole on the letter, or elsewhere.

I have no doubt, under such circumstances the Department will acquiesce in our desired arrangement to benefit the public, **as well as ourselves**, so far, as to order that the Post Office Stamps shall be placed as we desire--

Please inform, by return mail, whether the present offer is acceptable or not!

Very truly thine

Benj. Morison

--Friend Leeds--

--N. York City--

Figure 4



Figure 5

illustration taken from USPM. (Can any reader show another received marking used during or before 1860?) I suspect Mr. Morison thought the use of such markings to be much more

It is reported that Mr. Morison's occupation involved patents, presumably as an inventor or dealer in patents, or both. For his sake we trust other inventions with which he was associated were more successful than the envelope idea!

The seminal work on this subject, covering also the efforts of Leeds and Franklin, was presented in a series of three articles in Collectors Club Philatelist of April 1942, January 1943 and April 1944 by E. Tudor Gross. The quote from the patent specification and the text of the letters in Figures 3 and 4 come from this series. The subject was discussed more recently by Richard B. Graham in the Chronicle of August 1979 (#103) with a brief follow-up in the November 1979 issue.

One footnote is added. We mentioned that we knew of no POD response to Mr. Morison's February 1860 letter. No direct response, that is. However, the introduction of the 3c lettersheet (Scott #U36) in August 1861 did address the need Mr. Morison was trying to meet as articulated in the 1860 patent specification. We quote from the semi-official U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant of April 1861: "The Postmaster General has ordered the preparation of sheets of letter paper, cut, gummed and embossed with the three cent postage stamp - combining in one, both as a letter sheet and envelope... This will be a capital safeguard against the carelessness of

correspondents who are prone to omit placing postage stamps on their letters. It will also be just the thing to obviate the legal difficulty which sometimes arises in identifying the date of an enclosure with that of the official postmark."

Roger Curran

ON TARGET?

Not long ago our attention was drawn to the 5¢ 1847 issue with the purple target cancel illustrated in the Fall 1982 News. It was submitted by Clyde Jennings as one of several examples of fake cancels he was reporting to the USCC membership. Figure 1 is an



Figure 1

LEGISLATIVE SENTIMENTALITY?

In this our February issue it seems appropriate to illustrate the enclosed cancellation, submitted by Tuck Taylor, used in 1877. Tuck wonders if it was a killer left over from Valentine's Day. The Congress station was established at least by the 1860's and continued until October 1, 1881 when the East Capital Station at 4th and East Capital Streets was opened. It is assumed that the Congress station was not open to the public but operated just as a service to Congress.

enlargement of the earlier illustration. As a point of information we note only one target cancel (4-ring in red ink) reported in Skinner-Eno on an 1847 issue except for a 7-ring target from Montreal. Elliott Perry reported 4-ring targets on the 1847 issue from Hanover, NH and Greenwich, CT, also in red. These were the only targets on the 1847 issue Perry noted.

Target cancels on the 3c

imperforate issue of 1851 were considered rare by Chase and in his book on the 3c 1851 and 1857 issues he observed, "About the year 1860 the target began to come into more general use probably because some firm furnishing handstamps for the postmasters supplied such an obliteration."

It may be of some interest that we present Figure 2, a Scott #10 from plate one early. Most plate one earlies were no doubt used in the July-September 1851 period so perhaps this black cancel is a very early usage of a target. Repeat, perhaps. One of the unfortunate things about off-cover used stamps is that it is frequently impossible to confirm when they were actually canceled. This stamp does have a "good" certificate from the PF but we



Figure 2

still don't know just when it was used. Presumably it could have been used up until demonetization in 1861 or even 1862 but the chances are it was considerably earlier. I guess we'll just have to put it at the beginning of our target collection with the wistful feeling that it probably belongs there but also the realization that we'll undoubtedly never know for sure.

Roger Curran

NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS

Unlisted Types

by W. R. Weiss, Jr.

In our continuing presentation of previously unreported New York Foreign Mail cancellations, we are pleased to show two types in the "Free Hand" classification. Figure 1 is a cover which bears a design quite unlike any other NYFM. It is a circular design, in the center of which is a pair of "clothespins" facing each other, with a series of 10 various "wedges" and "triangles" forming an outer design. It measures approximately 23mm in diameter. The cover bears a 10¢ and a 12¢ National (Scott #150-151), a red "New York/12/Mar. 22" circular date stamp and a black "Lima, Peru" receiving mark on the reverse. In manuscript on the front is "Steam(er) 'Henry Chauncey'" and on the reverse in manuscript is "Received April 8/73." The stamps prepaid the 22¢ rate to Peru, carried by British Packet, then American Packet, via Panama. On the reverse is also a notation written by A. Van Vlissingen, "This is a previously unlisted NYFM type that should be added to next edition of NYFM Plates." Can any reader show us a second example of this cancellation? If so, we will be very pleased to hear from you.

Figure 2 has a well-struck design which features a dot in the center, four triangles (or "wedges") equidistant from one another, all pointing outward, with eight "wedges" with points inward in groups of two in between the four outward wedges. It measures 22-24mm depending on point

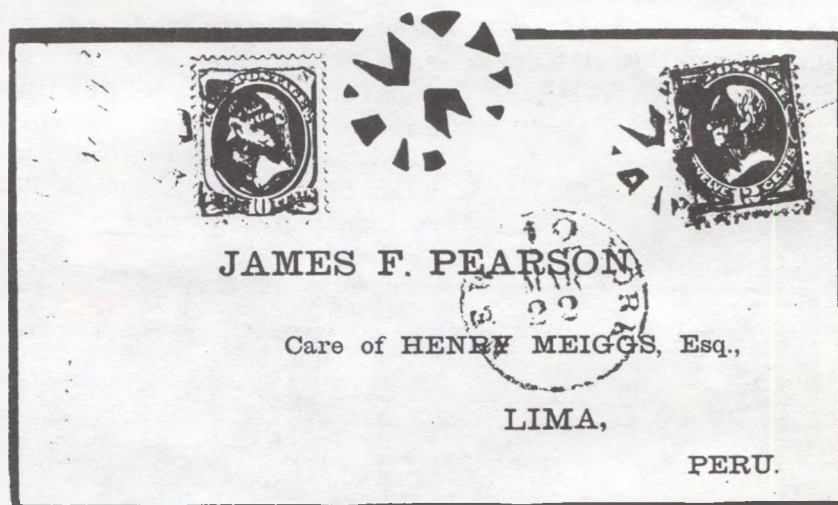


Figure 1

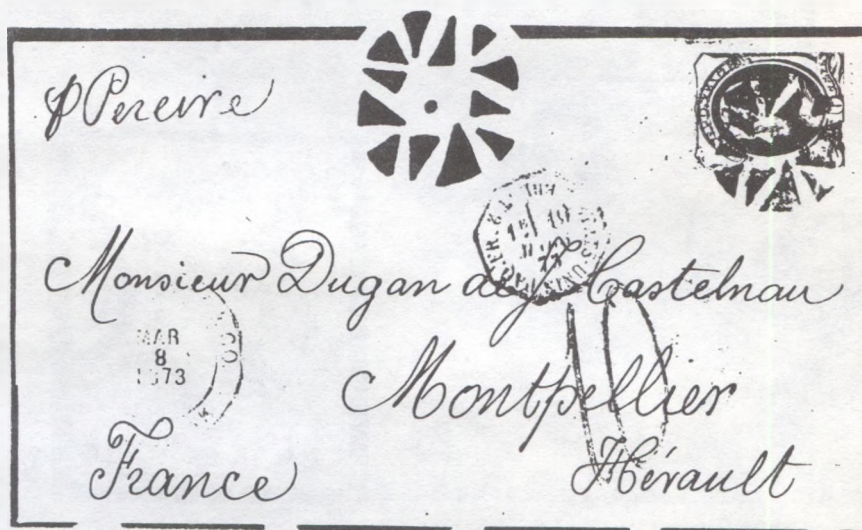


Figure 2

of measurement. The cover bears a 10¢ National printing (Scott #150), a red "New-York" CDS, a blue merchant handstamp of F. Cousinery & Co., a blue French "10" (Centimes) credit handstamp, and a blue French receiving marking. Manuscript "p(er) Pereire" is at upper left and the reverse bears a Paris transit CDS and a Montpellier receiving CDS. Both of these new types are struck in black, as are most

NYFM's. We would also be pleased to hear from any fellow collector who can show us a second example of this new type.

It is interesting to note that these two cancellations were used within 12 days of each other and both had generally escaped notice by previous students until now! I believe these examples point out with clarity that new and previously unrecorded examples of New York

Foreign Mail cancellations are to be found - if we merely bother to look! As stated earlier, the purpose of these articles is to present previously unreported NYFM's. Any reader who can supply a photocopy (and a tracing, if possible) of a new NYFM is invited to do so.

TRANS-ATLANTIC MAIL MARKINGS

By Tom Stanton

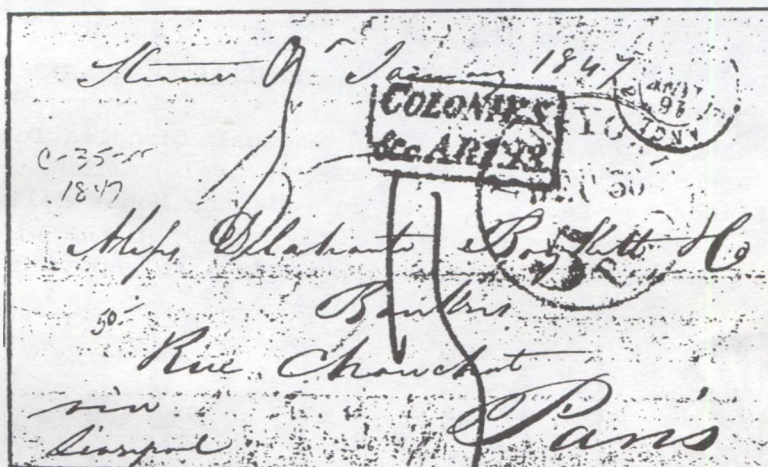


Figure 1

Prior to 1857 there was no postal treaty between the United States and France, however, mails between the two countries could be forwarded under the Anglo-French treaty of April 1843. By this treaty the French were to pay Great Britain at the rate of 40 decimes per ounce for sea conveyance and British transit. A single letter was considered to be one weighing one-fourth ounce or less, thus the single rate was obtained by dividing the above amount by four.

On a letter from the U.S. to France, the American writer was required to prepay and all he could prepay was the U.S. inland postage. The recipient in France was required to pay the Anglo-French treaty rate plus the French inland postage. On such letters to Paris this inland rate was five decimes. (One decime was the approximate equivalent of two cents).

The cover in Figure 1 was carried aboard the Cunard steamship "Cambria" which sailed from Boston on January 1st, 1847. This 1400 ton vessel had been built by Robert Steele & Son of Greenock, Scotland. She was

launched in August of 1844 and made her maiden voyage the following January. On this her eleventh trans-Atlantic crossing she reached Liverpool on January 13th after a stop at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The cover originated in New York on December 30th as depicted by the red 35mm "5 PAID" CDS. This represented the U.S. inland rate for under 300 miles as specified by the Act of 1845. It was forwarded to Boston, probably by steamboat across Long Island Sound to Stonington, Connecticut and thence by railroad to Boston in time for the above sailing. In England the cover received the red boxed "Colonies/& Art 13" marking, which refers to Article 13 in the Articles in the Accounts, the appropriate section of the Anglo-French treaty. The indistinct red double circle in the upper right corner is the Boulogne, France entry marking. In the center is the French 15 decimes due marking (10 decimes to the British plus 5 decimes French inland postage), representing the amount collected from the addressee. Thus the total postage collected on this

letter was the equivalent of 35 cents.

(Cont'd. fr. p. 70)



George Ball
Gold - The Michigan Strip
(AAPEX '86, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

Louis Geschwinder
Silver and PH award - 19th
Century U.S. Machine
Cancellations (LEBPEX '86,
Lebanon, PA)

King Parker
Vermeil - A Postal History
of San Francisco (SUNPEX,
Sunnyvale, CA)

Brad Arch
Gold - New Jersey Transit
(MERPEX X, Mount Laurel, NJ)

James Cole
Gold - Cancellations of the
Bank Note Era (Worthington
Stamp Club Show, OH)

(Cont'd. on p. 84)

NEW JERSEY CIRCA 1869

Presented below are fancy and unusual cancellations from New Jersey submitted by Brad Arch that are not illustrated, or for which town of origin is not identified, in Skinner and Eno. We also include the Mount Holly cancel because it is a clearer strike. Readers are referred to page 9 of the Winter 1986 News which illustrates Newark cancels from this time period, also reported by Brad.



PP-L 25

BORDENTOWN



BRIDGETON



CAMDEN



CAMDEN



DOVER



EGG HARBOR CITY



ELWOOD



SD-T 35

ELIZABETH



FRANKLIN



HUDSON



CR-X 13

KEYPORT



LAMBERTVILLE



LAMBERTVILLE



LAMBERTVILLE



LAMBERTVILLE



MIDDLETOWN



MORRISTOWN



MORRISTOWN



MORRISTOWN



LC-M 1

MOUNT HOLLY



NEWARK



GE-C 33

NEW BRUNSWICK



NEW BRUNSWICK

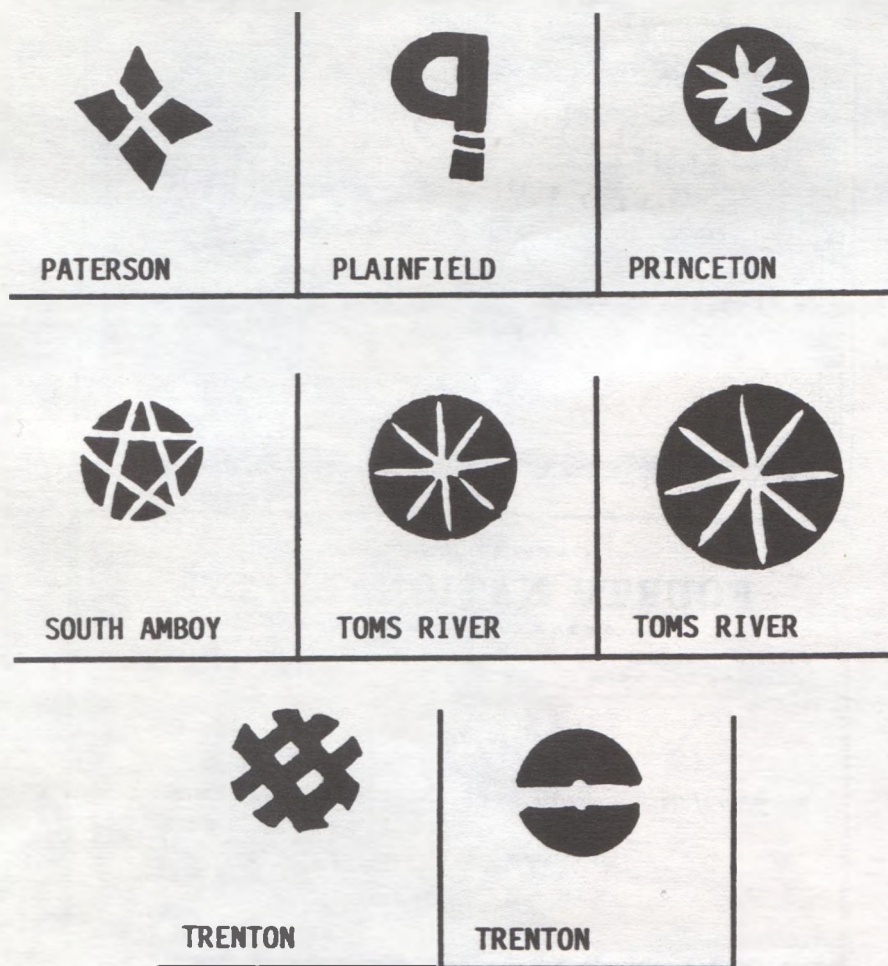


ST-E 16

NEW DURHAM



ORANGE VALLEY



USEFUL NEW BOOK ON POSTMARKS

BY Herman Herst, Jr.

Considering the fact that the collecting of U.S. Exposition covers is as popular as it is, it is surprising that so few books have been attempted on the subject. The first was attempted by the late Raymond Marsh, of Syracuse, who forty years ago put together perhaps the finest collection of World's Fair covers ever assembled. Three wealthy collectors, Adolph Steeg, Dr. Warren Atwood, and Dr. Charles Bullock all sought them, and when they competed, the fur really flew. As they passed on, and their collections were broken up, the late Edwin Payne picked up where they left off. More recent-

ly, William Bomar began to accumulate a collection which today must be the finest ever. Dozens of rare markings, some of which but one or two are known, Bomar collected -- markings that none of his three progenitors even knew existed.

These covers are around and one never knows when one will turn up. The auction house of William A. Fox of Springfield, N.J. recently had a miserable, soiled cover, with a large piece missing, postmarked "SUB. TROP EX. STATION JACKSONVILLE, FLA," an 1888 Fair. Fox knew it was a rare marking, but in that condition, it did not seem to be worth making into a single lot, so it was included with some other cheap covers.

It brought about \$500 or \$600. In philately, when something is rare enough, even two thirds of a cover can bring a surprising price. The postmark comes in two types; nine examples are known, nicely divided between four of one, five of the other.

For thirty years, much in the way the late "Nort" Sampson never went to a philately gathering without his notes on fancy cancels of the last century, Bill Bomar noted every World's Fair postmark that he saw. When added to those in his own collection, it was finally ready to be published. "Postal Markings of United States Expositions," a soft cover, 206-page book, with examples of thousands of postcards and covers is the result. The book is one more star in the crown of one of the newer publishers of philatelic books, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., P.O. Box 611388, North Miami, Florida 33261-1388. The price is \$25.00, postpaid, deluxe \$35.00.

This book really ought to sell. One good reason is that there are still many Exposition covers to be found, with markings worth in the hundreds of dollars, that in the half century since these became popular, have escape the notice of this generation of collectors. Can anyone suggest a more pleasant hobby, one that gives the collector the pleasure of the chase, and at the same the possibility of purchasing something almost literally "for pennies" that becomes worth hundreds of dollars once it is recognized?

PASS THE ASPIRIN!

Nobody ever said it would be easy - this matter of dating nineteenth century postal markings, especially pre-machine. First of all, a great many covers not only have no postmarked year date, but also no docketing and no remaining enclosure that might have been datelined. Cards are usually better because a dateline is often present on the back. But even when there is a year date, one may not be sure as the following examples attest.

We have been interested in the matter of when manufactured ellipses were first introduced since they became such a widespread and thus important cancellation in the postal history of our country. In the Summer 1985 News, we reported Joe McDonough's December 1874 and March 1875 postal cards bearing New York City 11-bar ellipses with a "5" in the center and put them forward as the earliest known uses, at least to your editor, of a manufactured ellipse hand-stamp. Since then we have received information on two cards from Gil Levere. Photoreductions of the front and back of one card, with the manuscript numerals strengthened, are presented in Figure 1.

Now what have we here in terms of a year date? You see the problem. It was initially thought to be a "6" and then a "4". If a "4" we have a new earliest date for the 11-bar "5" ellipse. If a "6" then we have a first reported use of this "5" ellipse in 1876. Your editor guesses a "4". (The CDS type was used through 1876 and beyond so it doesn't help.) We do

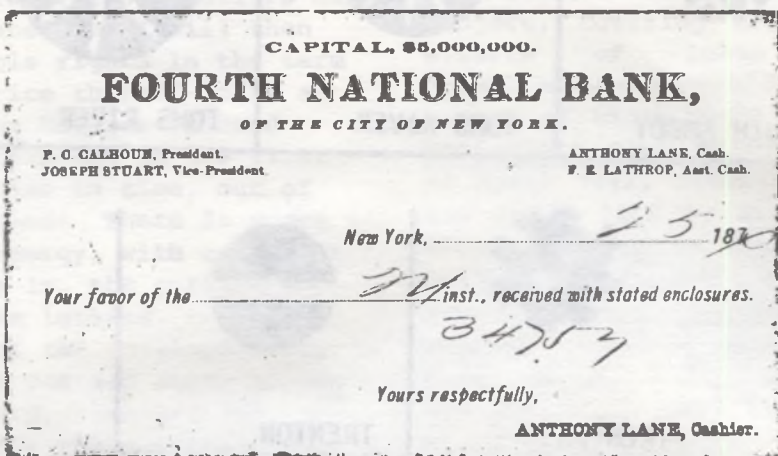
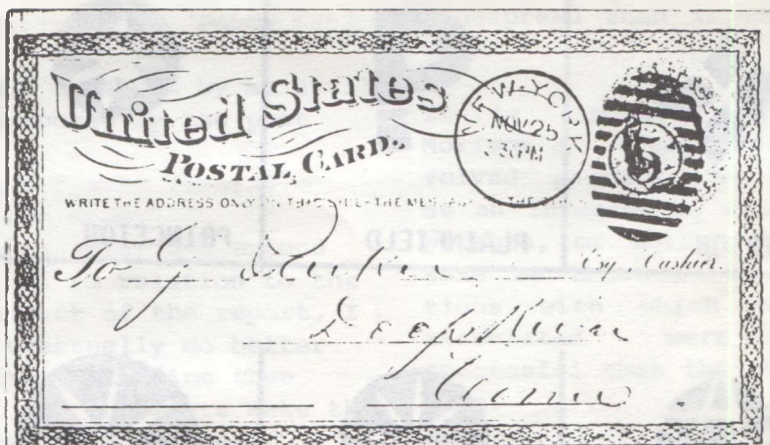


Figure 1

note that the two other "4"s differ from the 187"4" but look at the differences between the two "5"s. And the "24" shows the sweeping connecting stroke that could produce the 187"4." We can speculate that the notations were hurried because the month was omitted in the dateline. Graphologists, let us hear from you. Or

postal historians or those knowledgeable about the Fourth National Bank and its officers in 1874.

What we need here is a clear date. Certainly so, but that doesn't necessarily mean the date would be correct as Mr. Levere's card in Figure 2 illustrates. If this date is right, our good

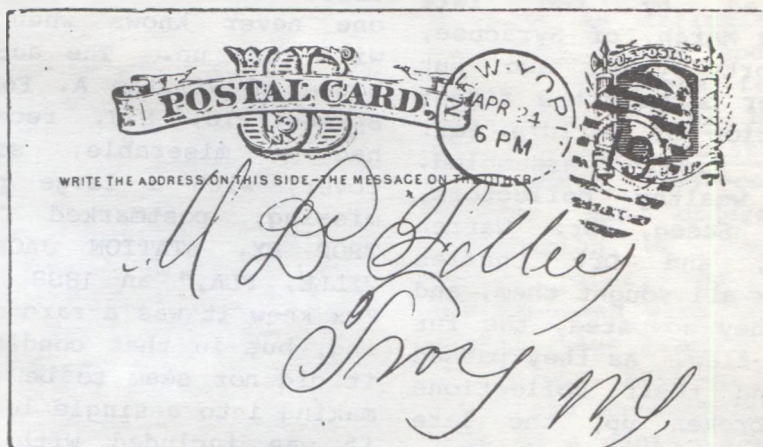


Figure 2

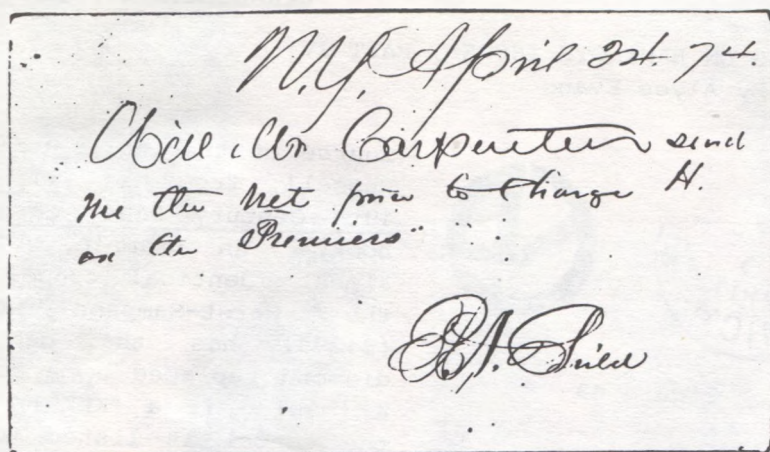


Figure 2

friend, the 11-bar "5" ellipse will have to take a back seat as no longer the earliest known ellipse and the very common 9-bar New York City ellipse, that we thought appeared in 1876, would now be recorded two years earlier. There is no denying 1874 in the dateline but, alas, it simply cannot be. The Scott catalog tells us that postal cards with that design (UX4 and 5) weren't issued until 1875. Gil reports this card to be a UX5.

So we have to look at all aspects of a cover or card, even when there is a clear date, for confirming or contradicting evidence. And in cases where there is neither, at least of a conclusive nature, reassurance is really to be gained in finding other contemporary examples of the marking. Comment is invited.

Roger Curran

GREMLINS CREEP IN

Handstamps of the nineteenth century used to apply circular date stamp markings typically had removable slugs so the date and, where included, the time could be

changed. And with this manual operation came inevitable human error by postal clerks. (After all, who's perfect?) Inverted slugs are noted with some frequency and also, at times, omitted slugs and slugs placed in the wrong slots (a day slug, for example, where the month belongs). We show in Figure 1 two CDS and kicking mule impressions submitted by club member Ernie Webb; the bottom one, of course, with an inverted month. They both appear on Neah Bay Indian Agency, Department of the Interior penalty envelopes.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 2 shows a normal "ocean mail" marking (Skinner-Eno PM-OM 1 illustration) and Figure 3 shows a strike with the day and month inverted and each slug placed in the slot of the other. (It was Lot 731 in the Eno sale by Frajola in 1986.) The overall effect is to create a marking with a very different appearance from the normal. Indeed, this type of variation was given a separate listing in Skinner-Eno (PM-OM 2).

Roger Curran

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MULTIPLE LETTERS ON BANKNOTE ISSUES, PART IV

By Alyce Evans

Figure 41. BIG RAPIDS, MICH., negative "AC" on #210. Source: Alyce Evans. This cancel was identified as to origin in Postal Markings, Vol. 9, page 10 of the April 1940 issue, and reported by Willard. I have never seen this cancel on cover. . .has any member?



Figure 41

Figure 42. MONROE, WISC., "AK" on 3¢ green. Source: Alyce Evans. The tracing is from the Wisconsin PHS pamphlet 19th Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin and I have queried some WPHS members in an effort to determine the meaning of these letters with no luck. . .however they are still searching. I've no record of a cover in my files, nor have I seen another, save my own, off-cover example. Does any member have one?



Figure 42

Figure 43. COLDWATER, MICH., stylized "ED" on #210 cover dated Dec 5. Source: USCC News, Jan. 1973. These are believed to represent the first name of Ed R. Root who was postmaster from Jan 30, 1882 to Feb. 19, 1886. The letters are illustrated, but not identified in Willard's book.

Figure 44. GREENCASTLE, IND., Greek "SIGMA CHI"



Figure 43

letters on 1875 postal card dated Jun 25 with 1878 year docketing on the back. Source: Ed Hines. These fraternal letters were probably the work of George J. Langsdale who was PM from June 24, 1874 to March 27, 1885. This cancel is not listed in the Baker book on Indiana.



Figure 44

Figure 45. WHITE PLAINS, NY., negative "F.T." on #210. Source: James Wrobliske. A UX7 postal card dated Sep 17, '83 with this cancel has also been recorded.



Figure 45

Figure 46. CHICAGO, ILL., (blue) "K-diamond-K" in 'coffin' on UX3 postal card with a June date, and also recorded on #158 and 159.

Source of tracing: Richard Russell, from his Illinois 19th Century Fancy Cancellations book. An example of an almost identical cancel in the Herst-Sampson book (#1299) has the central diamond replaced by a small K (making it a "KKK"), and the cancel is listed there as a Ku-Klux-Klan in Coffin. I believe this is the same cancel as the "K-diamond-K," and that a worn diamond marking was mistaken for a small K.



Figure 46

Figure 47. BELOIT, WISC., "KKK" in circle on 3¢ green, #158. Source: Alyce Evans, tracing taken from the pamphlet 19th Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin. Sep. 28 is the date of the single cover I have recorded for this cancel. Exactly what these letters stand for is not known to me, but I have been told that they may have Klan significance.



Figure 47

Figure 48. MYSTIC BRIDGE, CONN., adjoined "MB" on #210 dated Jul 7 and backstamped 1885. Source: James Wrobliske who reported another cover dated Aug 4 and backstamped 1885. These two covers plus one with an Aug 22 '87 date are the only year-dated covers I have been able to record. The cancellers were very fragile and wore quite rapidly. To

do a detailed study of the many versions of this cancel, one would need year-dated covers. I have only a preliminary study to offer, from examination of 20 stamps, three covers, and 20 photocopies, mostly from auction catalogs. These 40 do not a study make, but it is a start. Members with covers having year dates are urged to help complete this study by sending photocopies of their covers.

Beginning with the earliest stamp I have found with this cancel - the 1879 issue - I have divided the Mystic Bridge "MB" cancels into the following types:

Type I - Found on the 1879 issue (#184), and the 1881 re-engraved (#207).

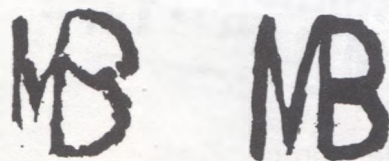
Type II - Found on the 1881 re-engraved issue (#207). As this cancel wore, the deep 'V' of the M became clogged, changing its appearance considerably.

Type III - Found on the 1881 re-engraved issue (#207).



Type I

Type II



Type III

Type IV



Type IV



Type IV



Type V



Type VI

Figure 48

Type IV - Found on the 1883 issue (#210). This type has been dated by the two Wrobliske covers reported above and was used in 1885. The cancel wore rapidly as shown by the three examples dated 9 Apr, 22 July and 4 Aug. These are from a recent Bill Weiss auction.

Type V - Found on the 1883 issue (#210). This pair shows the difficulty in trying to determine the various types since the second strike bears little resemblance to the first.

Type VI - Found on the 1883 issue (#210). This example is dated both front and back with an '87 year date. The

cancel is smudged and may just be a rather-worn Type V.

Figure 49. FAIRLEE, VT., "VT" on #210. Source: Alyce Evans. Willard stated in his book that this cancel was from Fairlee, N.H., but in a letter to this writer admitted it was a mistake and should be VT. The Nov '58 issue of the News has a page from the Willard collection which shows a quite different "VT" from Fairlee (Figure 49A). The 'V' lacks serifs, and the 'T' has a slanted top and is contained entirely within the arms of the 'V'. It is dated Sep 8, 1884. For some reason, Willard chose to omit this cancel from his book.



Figure 49

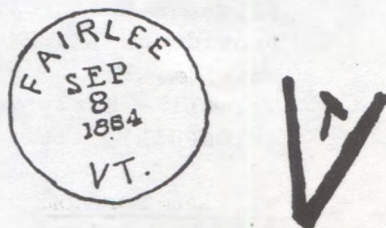


Figure 49A

DONATIONS

The USCC gratefully acknowledges donations from C.S. Dunford-Jackson in memory of Mary Jennings who was C.S. Dunford-Jackson's mentor, and from Thomas M. Mills, James M. Mundis, R.E. Prall, and William C. Walker.

(Cont'd. fr. p.77)

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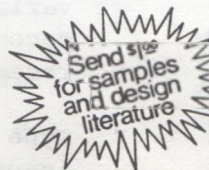
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