



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 18, NO. 6

WHOLE NO. 192

SPRING 1987

## NOTES ON 19TH CENTURY CANCELLATIONS BOOK

By Herman Herst, Jr.

He's gone now to his reward, and many of the newer collectors are pursuing their pleasurable hobby of collecting and studying their U.S. fancy cancels with only a passing recognition of the name.

The name is Edward Norton Sampson, familiarly known as "Nort." Nort, a General Electric executive, was one of those individuals in big business who seldom stayed in one place long enough to hang his hat. It was Schenectady, NY, Itasca, IL, Lynn, MA, Stratford, CT, and other cities in Connecticut and Massachusetts and elsewhere.

And after a move, one of the first things he did was to make contact with philatelists in the area, thus becoming well known in all parts of the East and Midwest.

About 1950 when I was in Paris, I met a stamp dealer there by the name of Michel Zareski. Zareski had produced an expensive book, picturing several thousand fancy U.S. cancels. Zareski, I must admit, had a reputation for adding fancy cancels to stamps that did not have them, as well as for placing rare stamps on covers on which they did not "grow." Whether his motives in producing a book were to salve a bad reputation, or to make his name remain in a more favorable connection

after he was gone, I do not know.

But it was a good book, and nothing like it had every been produced. He needed someone to put out an American edition, and I purchased the American rights to the book. The original book was in French, but translating it was a simple matter. Thus was born the second edition of the book, called Herst-Zareski, produced by Moe Luff, who at the time combined his philatelic interests with a printing job.

The trouble with the first Herst-Zareski was that perhaps two-thirds of the listings did not carry the name of the post office whence they emanated. This prompted a letter from Nort. He asked if he could help by identifying those as yet unidentified offices. Of course the offer was accepted.

Nort prepared a small notebook in which every illustration was identified by the Herst-Zareski number. Every auction catalog that came in was studied, and if one of the the H-Z cancels was offered with identification, it was noted. Nort went to stamp exhibitions, studied the exhibits, and added names to the list. He corresponded with collectors, chasing down any clue that might lead to pinning

another cancel to another town.

It took years to sell out the H-Z catalogs. I believe 3000 were originally ordered; they sold for \$5 each, such a small markup over the cost of manufacture that dealers were reluctant to handle it because of the relatively small discount offered them. And during all the time, Nort continued making notes. The time came to consider another edition.

Dozens of hours were consumed adding town names to the manuscript for the third edition. But Nort had by now identified all but several hundred fancy cancels. The third edition appeared with a new name: it was now Herst-Sampson. The price remained the same; a somewhat larger printing enabled the unit cost to be reduced.

Many collectors asked that the book be expanded, with pictures of the hundreds of other fancy cancels that might have been included. But cost was a factor. Zareski was an artist, and we were bound to his illustrations. To have added new ones would have been to junk the original text, and to start all over, for it would have thrown the numbering system out of kilter. Nort and I agreed that it was impractical. The third

(cont'd. on p. 87)



Dear Reader:

and redbud. Ah Spring!

Roger Curran

The USCC is pleased to announce the availability now of life memberships for \$100.00 and, beginning for 1988, sustaining memberships for \$20.00 per year. More details on the latter will appear in our Fall issue.

This issue includes the fourth installment of the series on New York Foreign Mail Cancellations. Bill Weiss has shown some interesting covers and conveyed well the sense of enthusiasm that the study of these fascinating markings has long produced. I urge you to report unlisted or unusual items in your collections to Bill.

Warmer weather has definitely arrived in the Washington area with daffodils, forsythia and cherry blossoms in full bloom. By the time you read this it'll no doubt be dogwood, azaleas



#### AWARD WINNERS

##### William R. Weiss, Jr.

Gold and USCC award - New York Foreign Mail Cancellations 1870-1876 (March Party, Cleveland)

##### William H.P. Emery

Vermeil - Early Texas Mail (March Party)  
Vermeil - same exhibit (ARIPEX '87, Tucson)

##### Robert W. Collins

Gold and Wm. J. Uihlein award for best Americana-Alaska Water Routes and Markings (MILCOPEX '87, Milwaukee)

##### Joe H. Crosby

Vermeil and USCC award - United States 19th Century Fancy Cancellations (ARIPEX '87)

##### John R. Mason

Silver - bronze - The Development of Machine Cancels 1880-1920 (ARIPEX '87)

#### NEW MEMBERS

1708 Col. John W. DePauw, 312-B Lovell Avenue, Carlisle, PA 17013  
U.S. Classics; Fancy Cancels

1709 Edward J. Festi, PO Box 94, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 Postmarks of: Stafford, Stafford Springs, Stafford Spa, Staffordville, West Stafford, CT.

(cont'd. on p. 87)

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

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Full Page.....\$40.00  
Half Page.....\$25.00  
Quarter Page.....\$15.00  
Column Inch.....\$ 4.00



(cont'd. fr. front pg.)

edition took several years to sell out, but eventually it did.

Nort's list of unidentified towns was smaller when the fourth edition appeared. Had Nort lived, there is no doubt that that list would have been whittled down considerably; one might wish that Nort had lived long enough to have been able to throw the notebook away with the words, "Well, that job is finished."

Sales of the fourth edition went well; Nort and I learned that to print more than three thousand of a book of this nature was not wise. (Philately may be a hobby of millions, as some folk like to say, but if it is, many either cannot read a philatelic book, or do not wish to.)

An offer came from HJMR, the now defunct firm of philatelic literature sellers and printers. They would keep Herst-Sampson in print, in exchange for the rights to it. Payment would be made in a number of books of the new edition, which were divided equally between Nort and me. HJMR kept its end of the bargain; the book was reprinted several times. Of course, as the cost of printing and binding went up, so did the cost of the book. No longer was it \$5.00.

Two very minor crises came up with the second edition. Nort and I doubted that the illustration in Figure 1 was right from the beginning and wanted to delete it. We were told that it was a valid marking, and that the collector had seen it on a



Figure 1

3c green. We left it in although I insisted that this was a rubber stamp from a child's toy. I still think so. But Nort and I were much more positive about another cancel, which resembled the onetime popular figure of a Kewpie Doll. I deleted it from the original Zareski book, and sketched the "P O D" cancel (see Figure 2) taking it from a cover postmarked Redden, Del. My artistic ability was inferior to that of Zareski.



Figure 2



Figure 3

We should never have allowed the illustration in Figure 3 to remain as it did. This was used at the Democratic National Convention in Houston in 1924, and it is called the "modern Kicking Mule." Zareski put it in, and it has stayed, the only 20th century cancel, I believe, in a book of 19th century cancels. ■

(cont'd. fr. pg. 86)

1710 Jeff M. Schumer, 1010 Fallscroft Way, Lutherville, MD 21093 Pre-1900 U.S. Music Advertising Covers

1711 Thomas O. Miller, 3015 Powhatten Parkway, Toledo, OH 43606 R.R. Post Office cancels from U.S. & Canada; RFD; Doane; 4 Bar cancels

1712 James G. Baird, 1960 Forrest Road, Winter Park, FL 32789 Private Coil P.H.; Revenue cancels; Classic Precancels to 1903.

1713 Frank W. Anderson, 4432 Bell Chase Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116 PH of Cape Ann Mass.

1714 Mrs. Carolyn Buttke, Rt. 4, Box 309, Elkhorn, WI 53121 Meters, Postmarks, Post Cards

1715 N.M. Hoffmann, 5538 Mapleridge Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45227 PH, Machine Cancels, Booklets, Air Mail Covers

#### REINSTATED

1191 Richard J. Micchelli, P.O. Box 248, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046 U.S. - P.H.

#### RESIGNATIONS

Stanley G. Cohen  
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Sidney Reznick  
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Francis Adams



## NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS

Unlisted Types  
by W.R. Weiss, Jr.

We would like to regress, for a moment, in our discussion of previously unlisted NYFM's, to elaborate on the dialogue which was presented by this writer and your editor in the Fall 1986 News. That dialogue was based primarily on the hypothetical "definition" of NYFMs, and whether a cancellation should, or should not, be classified as a NYFM.

The writer's basic position was well outlined in that issue, so to repeat here would be redundant. Suffice it to say that it is our opinion that whenever a cancellation was used on a cover to a foreign country, posted in NYC, it qualified as a NYFM. The editor disagreed slightly, pointing out some valid reasoning in the process. One central point, however, revolves around the use of specific types of New York City circular date stamps in conjunction with the fancy killer. The CDS which is apparently the most controversial in this discussion is the "time and day" type CDS which, we admit, we are most often exposed to, and normally see, used on domestic mail.

In Figure 1, we show you the Conventional Type C4, the negative "H" in solid circle, on cover to Mexico, dated July 3, 1873. This, by the way, is the latest usage of this type we record of this very scarce cancel (used for about two months only). In Figure 2, we show you conventional type C8, a negative "2" in solid circle, on cover, also to Mexico, dated January 17,



Figure 1

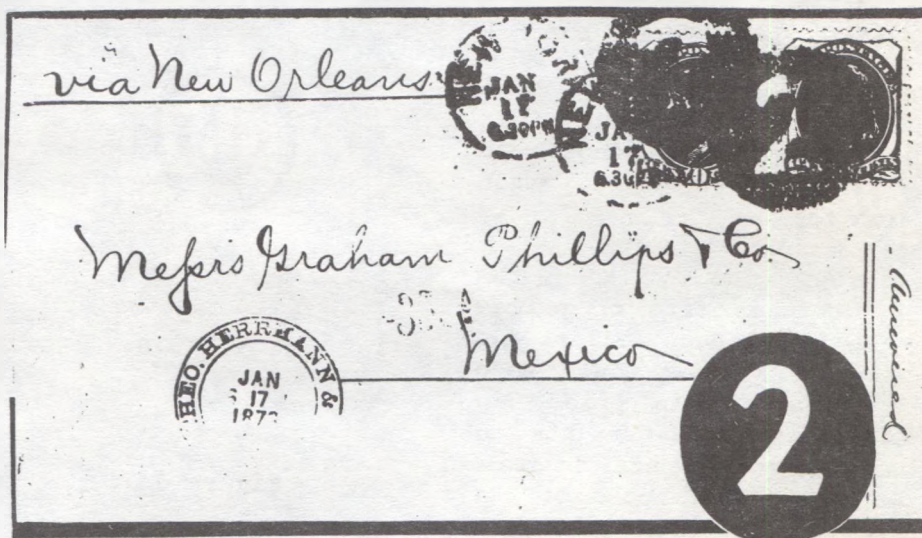


Figure 2

1875. To date, this is the only reported usage on cover. We show these two examples to point out several things of interest. First, these two types were not declared by the writer to be NYFMs - they were listed in the book on NYFMs by Van Vlissingen-Waud as NYFMs. Apparently, the authors agree with the current writer about the definition of NYFMs. Second, note that the Figure 2 cover has the "time-day" CDS.

Now we move on to Figure 3. This cover, also to Mexico, is dated February 6, 1873. It is a negative "9" in a solid circle. It bears the same blue Merchant oval of Theo. Hermann & Co., the same "2" in black, but it bears the controversial "time-day" CDS whereas Figure 1 bears a black CDS with the tiny "six-point stars" at the bottom.

Figure 4 is a grid-type cancel, measuring approximately 15mm wide by 20mm



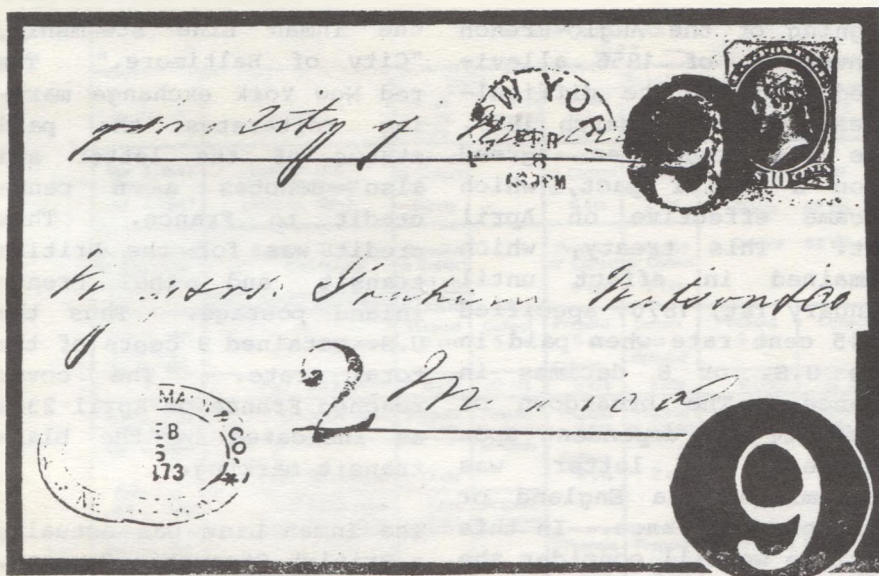


Figure 3

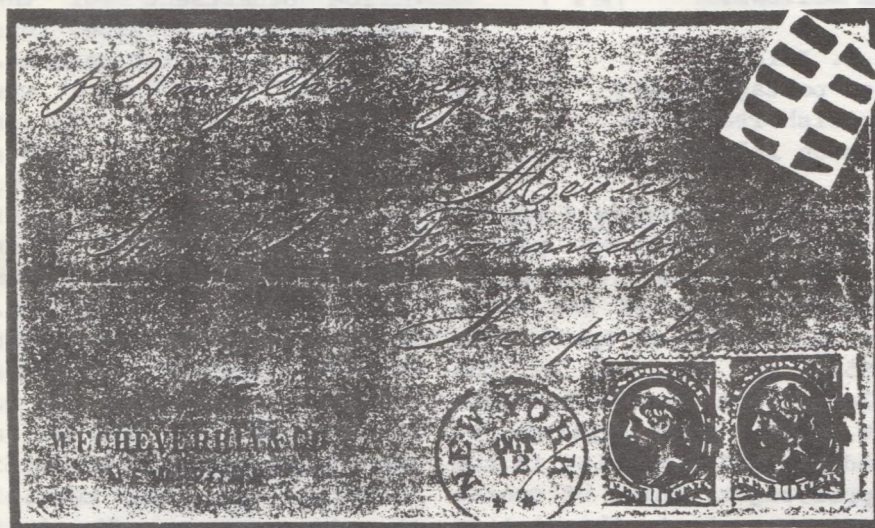


Figure 4

high, in black, with two vertical rows of horizontal bars in the form of an ellipse. The CDS is black, with the tiny "six-point stars" at the bottom. The cover is to Mexico, dated October 12, 1872, with black Merchant handstamp at lower left of M. Echeverria and Co. This grid most closely resembles Type F11, but F11 has seven rows of horizontal bars, and this type has six. Both Figures 3 and 4 are previously unlisted types, and we would like to hear from any reader who can provide confirming examples

on cover, with either a photograph, a photocopy, or the actual cover, and if possible, a tracing.

It should be apparent to readers that I am leading up to something, and indeed I am! Since likely the two greatest students of these cancellations felt that Types C4 and C8 were indeed qualified NYFM's, then doesn't our logic lead us to conclude the: A) they did not feel the CDS to be the most important "fact" in identifying a NYFM, and B) if C8 is indeed a NYFM, then

isn't our Figure 3 also a NYFM?

Another interesting, although certainly inconclusive, observation I have made is that in studying usages in this period to Mexico, I find that all the examples I've seen bear a BLACK CDS! Can readers make a special effort to locate their Bank Note usages to Mexico and determine if any exist with a RED CDS? It may be possible that something significant was intended by the N.Y.P.O. in the use of a black CDS. Maybe not, but it is still an interesting thought, and we would appreciate hearing from anyone interested enough at P.O. Box 5358, Bethlehem, PA 18015. ■

#### NYFM COVERS

Henry Beecher submitted comments about postal markings, apart from the cancellations, on the two NYFM covers illustrated by Bill Weiss in the Winter 1987 News. The cover to France includes a "10" marking which Mr. Beecher addresses beginning with some background information.

"From 1 January 1870 to 1 August 1874 there was no postal convention in force between the U.S. and France, and hence no postal accounts kept between the two countries. Mail could be sent via Great Britain (with accounting between that country and the U.S. and France), or it could be sent direct. That this cover went direct is shown by the octagonal postmark, certifying to its arrival at Brest by a French packet coming from the U.S. The date of the New York postmark is not



given, but it must be the same as the sender's date-stamp, 8 March, a Saturday. The mail-steamer schedule published in U.S. Mail & Post-Office Assistant showed as departing on that date a French Line steamer, under contract to France, to take French mail direct . . .

"Since 1 July 1864, letters sent to (or received from) a country with which the U.S. had no postal convention, and sent direct in ships regularly employed in carrying mail, had been subject to U.S. postage of 10¢ per half ounce. (Incoming covers in this status were commonly stamped "STEAMSHIP.") Of course, such letters were subject to collection by the destination country of its inland postage. In Hargest, History of Letter Post Communication between the United States and Europe 1845-1875, pp. 165-68, will be found an explanation of that charge, for France 5 decimes (or 50 centimes) per ten grams (nearly 1/3 oz.). The cover in question was stamped for collection of 10 decimes (almost 20¢) postage due for carriage from Brest to Montpellier."

Regarding the Peru cover, Henry believes the carriage sequence to be from New York to Colon on an American packet, and from Panama to Peru on a British packet. ■

#### TRANS-ATLANTIC MAIL MARKINGS by Tom Stanton

In the previous issue a pre-treaty cover from the U.S. to France was discussed. Efforts to consummate a postal treaty with France had been thwarted in the early 1850s, however the

signing of the Anglo-French convention of 1856 alleviated many of the difficulties. Thus in March 1857, the two countries agreed upon a postal pact, which became effective on April 1st. This treaty, which remained in effect until January 1st, 1870, specified a 15 cent rate when paid in the U.S. or 8 decimes in France. The breakdown of the rate was dependent upon whether the letter was transmitted via England or directly to France. In this article we will consider the via England route. For this route the rate was divided as follows:

U.S. Inland	3 cents
Sea postage	6 cents
British Transit	2 cents
French Inland	4 cents

The cover in Figure 1 represents an American packet handling of the French mail. The cover entered the mails at St. Louis on April 7th, 1858, as depicted by the black 32mm year-date CDS. St. Louis also applied the red "Paid/15" marking in the upper right, which of course indicates that the letter was fully prepaid at the single rate. The cover reached New York in time for the April 10th sailing of

the Inman Line steamship, "City of Baltimore." The red New York exchange marking reiterates the paid status of the letter and also denotes a 6 cents credit to France. This credit was for the British transit and the French inland postage. Thus the U.S. retained 9 cents of the total rate. The cover reached France on April 23rd as indicated by the black transit marking.

The Inman Line was actually a British Steamship Company, however, it was under contract to the U.S. Post Office Department for the Trans-Atlantic service, thus the American packet marking. The "City of Baltimore" was launched in January 1855 and immediately entered service as a French transport during the Crimean War. In April 1856 it made its first Atlantic crossing from Liverpool to Philadelphia. The 2400 ton, 330 foot vessel commenced on the Liverpool to New York run in January 1857 and thus was a two-year veteran of Atlantic crossings when she carried the shown cover. The 1858 Postmaster General Report indicates that slightly over 1.25 million letters were

(cont'd. on p. 93)

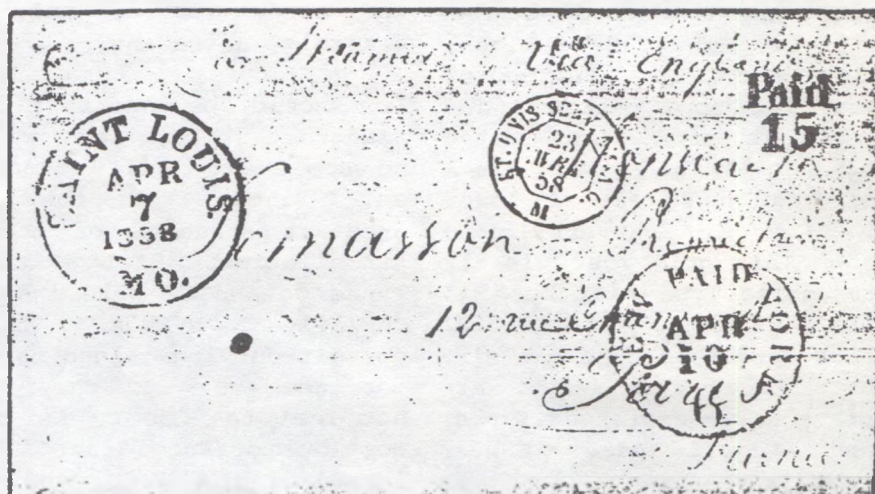


Figure 1



CALIFORNIA RATES OF POSTAGE 1847 — 1863											
By Act of	Distance	Rate		Private Ship Letter				DROP LETTERS	④ Foreign Mail to Europe, Asia, Africa Single Rate 1/2 oz		Comments
		Single Double Triple	1/2 oz 1 oz 1-1/2 oz	At Port of Entry	Ship Fee	From Port of Entry by U. S. Mail Total					
Mar. 3, 1847 Effective Jul. 1, 1847	Eastern U. S. to Pacific Coast (Astoria, Ore.)	Prepaid or Collect 40 cts		Prepaid or Collect ③ 6 cts	Prepaid or Collect ③ 2 cts	East - Pacific Coast Single 42 cts Double 82 cts		② Prepaid or Collect 2 cts	Prepaid or Collect 40 cts plus rate from Eastern U. S.		① Exact date not known.
Aug. 14, 1848 ① Effective Oct. 1, 1848	Eastern U. S. to California	Prepaid or Collect 40 cts		Prepaid or Collect 6 cts	Prepaid or Collect 2 cts			Prepaid or Collect 2 cts	New York or Boston Exchange Offices		③ Act of Mar. 3, 1845
	Within Pacific Coast Area	12-1/2 cts									
Mar. 3, 1851 Effective Jul. 1, 1851	0 - 3000 miles	Prepaid 3 cts	Collect 5 cts	Prepaid 5 cts	Collect or Prepaid	Prepaid 5 cts	Collect 7 cts	Prepaid or Collect 1 ct	Mail to Gr. Britain or a foreign country via Gr. Britain 5 cts plus rate from Eastern U. S. (no triple rates).	To Canada by Eastern U. S.	① Effective Feb. 27, 1861
	Over 3000 miles	6 cts	10 cts	6 cts	2 cts	8 cts	12 cts				
Mar. 3, 1855 Effective Apr. 1, 1855	0 - 3000 miles	Prepaid 3 cts	Prepaid by stamps or cash	Prepaid 5 cts	Prepaid or Collect	Prepaid or Collect Single 5 cts Double 8 cts		Prepaid or Collect			② Act of Apr. 3, 1860 Drop letters delivered by carrier.
	Over 3000 miles	10 cts		Collect 6 cts	2 cts	" 12 cts	" 22 cts	1 ct.		15 cts	
Effective Jan. 1, 1856	0 - 3000 miles	3 cts	Prepaid by stamps								
	Over 3000 miles	10 cts									
Feb. 27, 1861 Effective Jul. 1, 1861	Over Rocky Mts.	10 cts		① Prepaid or Collect 5 cts	Prepaid or Collect 2 cts	Single 5 cts Double 8 cts " 12 cts " 22 cts		③ ② Prepaid by stamp 1 ct.	After 1857 many new rates to countries, as France 15 cts 1/4 oz		④ No attempt has been made to give a complete listing of foreign mail rates with countries as the Prussian closed mail.
Mar. 3, 1863 Effective Jul. 1, 1863	Any distance in U. S.	Prepaid by stamps 3 cts		2 = Local 4 cts		Prepaid or Collect Any distance in U. S. Single 6 cts Double 12 cts		Prepaid 2 cts 1/2 oz Collect 2	Rate same from any part of U. S.		Feb. 16, 1864 rate reduced to 10 cts

## RATE CHART

Through the courtesy of Pat Herst we present the above chart, as compiled by the late Dr. W. Scott Polland, with a couple of very minor adjustments. We believe it organizes well a considerable volume of information.

## STOCK FREE

This article briefly traces the use of a specific "FREE" marking, originally intended for stampless mail, as a canceler of stamps. It is illustrated in Figure 1 (Skinner-Eno PM-FR 8) and must have been a stock style of some postmark supplier as it is known from various towns in the 1850's even as a canceler. Wakefield, RI is one such town and a Wakefield cover is illustrated in Simpson's USPM 1851-61 by Alexander. Lot 203 of the Eno sale in 1986 by Frajola consisted of several covers with "FREE" markings as cancels on 1861 issue stamps including two from towns using the Figure 1 cancel -- Fairfield, Vermont and

**FREE**

Figure 1

determine that it too is Scituate. Both 3c greens are Continental printings so the cancels were applied at least as late as 1873.

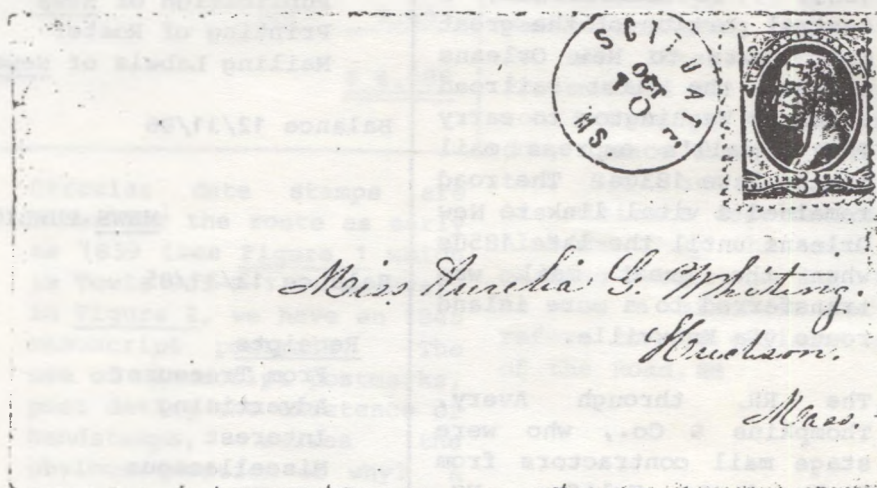


Figure 2

Kellogsville, Ohio.

We come now to two items submitted by Alyce Evans. First is a cover (Figure 2 with the cancel strengthened on the illustration) from Scituate, Massachusetts with a 3c green canceled by the "FREE" in Figure 1. Her second item is an off-cover 3c green also bearing the "FREE" as a cancellation plus enough of the CDS to

Who will add to the story? What other towns used this "FREE" as a canceler. How late can such use be shown? Who or what company supplied this marking and can it be shown in a postmark advertisement? We would like to run a follow-up in the near future so please help out if you have additional information!

Roger Curran



U.S. TRANSIT MARKINGS  
by Tom Stanton

The Petersburg Railroad was the first commercial carrier in the State of Virginia. It had been preceded by the Chesterfield RR, but the latter was a company railroad constructed to ship coal to Richmond. The Petersburg RR (officially known as the Petersburg & Roanoke RR) was constructed to tap the rich lands of the Roanoke valley in North Carolina and to divert the resources reaped in that region from the Dismal Swamp Canal route to Norfolk northward into the "industrial" centers of Petersburg and Richmond.

The road was chartered in February 1830 and completed to Blakeley, NC in August 1833. It constituted a central portion of the great mail route to New Orleans and was the first railroad south of Washington to carry PMG Kendall's express mail in the late 1830s. The road remained a vital link to New Orleans until the late 1850s when the great mail was transferred to a more inland route via Knoxville.

The RR, through Avery, Thompkins & Co., who were stage mail contractors from Richmond to Halifax, NC, were authorized to transport the mails from January 1st, 1835 and very possibly earlier. Route agents were assigned in March 1839, when David Bull, Spencer Baldwin, Enoch Reynolds and Alphonse Labbe processed the mails between Washington and Richmond. It seems from the records that Bull and Reynolds operated on the southern half of the route, although definite documentation of this is lacking.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented herewith is a U.S.C.C. financial report for 1986. Your careful attention is invited. The previously reported Special Fund contained monies from the General and Sales Accounts and in 1986 this fund was merged into these two accounts. Please direct any comments or questions to our treasurer.

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance 12/31/85		\$ 9,947
<u>Receipts</u>		
Dues	\$ 3,947	
Sale back issues of <u>News</u>	273	
Donations	36	
Interest	518	4,774
		\$14,721
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Postage	\$ 291	
Supplies	212	
Refund of Dues	13	
Purchase of Books	20	
Officers' Expenses	65	
Publication of <u>News</u>	2,700	
Printing of Roster	181	
Mailing Labels of <u>News</u>	40	3,522
Balance 12/31/86		<u>\$11,199</u>

NEWS PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Balance 12/31/85		\$ 76
<u>Receipts</u>		
From Treasurer	\$ 2,700	
Advertising	196	
Interest	52	
Miscellaneous	88	3,036
		\$ 3,112
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Printing <u>News</u>	\$1,400	
Typing <u>News</u>	669	
Bulk Mail Charge for <u>News</u>	238	
Prepare & Mail <u>News</u>	349	\$ 2,656
Incidental Supplies	\$ 45	
Photocopies, Postage	115	160
		2,816
Balance 12/31/86		<u>\$ 296</u>



SALES DEPARTMENT

Balance 12/31/85 \$ 6,480

Receipts

Sale of Mounting Supplies	\$ 84	
Sale of Stamps	6,250	
Insurance Fees	512	
Dues	32	
Donations	27	
Insurance Settlement	616	
Interest	284	
Miscellaneous	57	7,862

\$14,342

Expenditures

Retirement of Sales Books	\$ 7,608	
Circuit Insurance	644	
Postage	536	
Supplies	138	
Transfer Dues to Gen. Acct.	32	
Sales Books, Circuit Invoices	561	
Boxes for Sale Circuits	30	
Miscellaneous	104	9,653

Balance 12/31/86 \$ 4,689

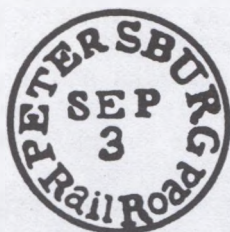


Figure 1

Circular date stamps are known for the route as early as 1839 (see Figure 1 which is Towle 305-W-1). However, in Figure 2, we have an 1845 manuscript postmark. The use of manuscript postmarks, post dating the existence of handstamps, raises the obvious question of why? A new route agent, who had not

yet obtained a handstamping device seems unlikely in this case. For at the time of posting, three agents were employed on the route, to wit, J.K. Martin, T. Wertenbacker, and J. Poyner; the first two had been employed for at least four years, while the latter had been assigned to the route in August 1844. Therefore the question remains, did one of the agents misplace his handstamp or what? Was an agent temporarily incapacitated and had a substitute performed the service? This is one of the many unknowns that makes the study of RR postmarks all that more interesting.

On the cover shown, the letter was datelined from Amelia County, Va. and postmarked on April 16th, 1845. In all likelihood it was transmitted via the Wilmington & Raleigh RR from Weldon, thence through Charleston, S.C. and westward to its ultimate destination in Alabama. By the way, the marking Petersburg & RR Road is not a misnomer for it refers to the official name of the Road. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 90)

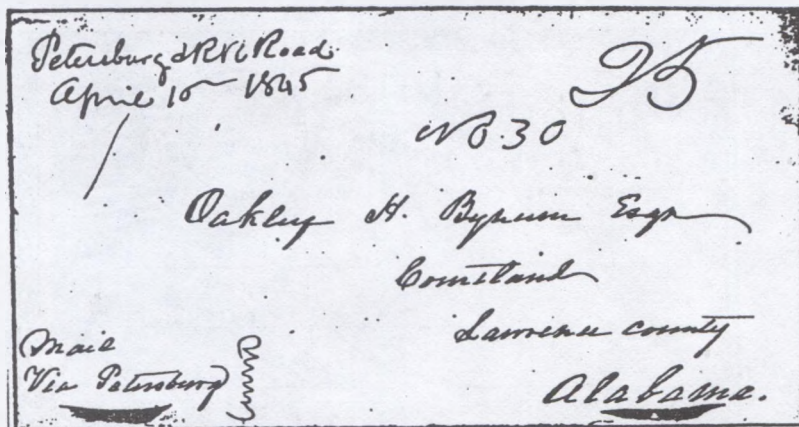


Figure 2

carried in the French mail during the year. As would be expected, the majority of these were carried by the Cunard Line. The Inman Line steamers were grouped under the heading of Miscellaneous Lines, which carried less than 5 percent of the French mail. ■



## CHARLES FRICKE - THE HEADACHE REMEDY

by Roger Rhoads

In the last issue of the News, Roger Curran was stumped about the year of use of a UX3 postal card from New York City canceled with an 11-bar ellipse with a "5" in the center. The problem centered around deciphering the year date on the backside. Was it a "4" or a "6"? If a "4", this would be the earliest date of the 11-bar "5". If a "6", then it would be the first reported use of this "5" ellipse in 1876.

My particular specialty is the postal history and usage (including cancels) on the first U.S. postal card (UX1 and 3), and I knew of a source that would help with the year question without consulting a cryptographer. Charles A. Fricke has studied and published extensively on this card, and he successfully plated it and then published his findings in 1973, the card's anniversary.

To understand the difficulty of his work, the largest multiple known is a block of ten. Old correspondence from the National Bank Note Co., which made the plates, indicated there were two forms of 36 subject plates each. Mr. Fricke's job was to find a way of readily identifying each of the 72 subject plates by plate flaws. As a result of hundreds of hours of work and classification of over 12,000 copies, his book on plating (see bibliography) not only allows the collector to find the appropriate fly specks, but allows him to date the year of printing (1873, '74 or '75) from progressive flaws.

This card, printed by the Morgan Envelope Co. of Springfield, MA, was first sold on May 12, 1873 using large watermarked (90 x 60 mm) cardboard. This paper was quickly replaced by the smaller watermarked (55 x 38 mm) variety which went on sale in early July when the paper maker, Hudson and Cheney Paper Co. of North Manchester, CT, encountered considerable problems in maintaining the quality demanded. Quality problems continued, mostly having to do with printing the fancy scroll work on the very rough and coarse paper. (The winning contract bid of about \$1.40/ 1000 was \$0.20/1000 lower than that of the next lowest bidder, which may help explain the nature of the problem.) Therefore a new card was designed (UX5), and it went on sale on September 30, 1875. Though post offices continued to sell the older card until stocks were gone, the first postal card design officially lasted 28-1/2 months.

With this knowledge and Mr. Fricke's book, I went to work on a photocopy of Gil Levere's card. The arrows

in Figure 1 point to the major basic flaws which existed from the very first printings. They were used to identify this card as subject plate 34. Going beyond that, progressive flaws show the card to have been printed in 1875.

Does this answer Mr. Curran's question? Well, it certainly eliminates 1874 as the year, which leaves 1876 as Mr. Curran's other choice. After examining a sharper photocopy of the card I agree with the earlier analysis that the writer wrote a "6". However, November 25, 1876 is more than one year after this card was discontinued. Almost certainly the NYC post office didn't have old stock left to sell, as NYC used more cards annually than any other, over 11% of the total sold. The answer, I believe, lies in the fact that this card has a printed form on it. It was quite common for banks and other businesses to buy large numbers of these cards and have standard forms printed on them. Note that there was even a second press pass to print "Esq. Cashier." on the front side. I believe



Arrows point to gap in bottom frame line and gap in scroll line

Figure 1



this bank just had not used up its supply of printed forms, though the cards had been purchased more than a year earlier.

As an aside, the number in the lower portion of the backside appears not to be in the same hand as that which filled in the rest of the form and addressed the front side. It's possibly some sort of notation of record by the recipient.

If you would like to read more about this card and its fascinating history, Mr. Fricke edited an engaging contemporary account gleaned from records of the day. It's still for sale by the United Postal Stationery Society, Box 48, Redlands, CA 92373, for \$10.00.

If you would like to try your hand at plating and dating any of the cards you may own, the plating book is also available from the UPSS for \$5.00. Don't forget a \$0.50 handling for either of these references.

If you only have one or two of them that continue to bug you, and you don't want to count fly specks, send me a good photocopy and I'll try to help. ■

#### Bibliography

A Contemporary Account of the First United States Postal Card 1870-1875, ed. by Charles A. Fricke, 1973

Plating of the First United States Postal Card (An Original Research Project), Charles A. Fricke, 1973

Ed. While on the subject of the postal card and the earlier article about it, let us withdraw the state-

ment "We can speculate that the notations were hurried because the month was omitted in the dateline." The month was indeed omitted but there was another reason. Ted Bozarth pointed out that the explanation lies in the preprinted message "Your favor of the \_\_\_\_\_ inst. received with stated enclosures." (A "24" was written in the blank when the card was filled out.) The definition of "inst." in this situation is "of the current month." Therefore, when replying to the addressee's "favor of the 24 [of the current month]" it would be clear to the addressee in what month the reply was written. Thus it would be unnecessary to cite the month in the dateline. And when assuming that a substantial number of such replies would be written during the course of a day, the extra step of inserting the month could, in the aggregate, represent a significant amount of unwarranted extra time. ■

#### TALK ABOUT VOLUME BUSINESS!

Knowing of Abe Boyarsky's interest in the United States 3¢-1861's, a friend, Dr. Stanley Bierman, sent him a copy of an article from The Metropolitan Philatelist, October 1, 1917. Abe was kind enough to share it with us and the text follows:

#### 200,000 U.S. THREE CENT STAMPS OF 1861

After being so many years in the stamp business it is of interest to look back over the past, and recall some of the experiences in handling large lots of stamps which in the years gone by seemed

of but little value. We think of the thousands of 1851 3¢ imperf. both on and off covers, that we have handled, also of the 3¢ 1857 and 1861 and the hundreds of thousands of the then despised 3¢ green, which were, if used at all, thrown into the most common mixture; and these containing wonderful cancellations and interesting postmarks. But say! If we had those old 3¢ 1851-57 and 1861 and 3¢ green unpicked, as at that time bearing those interesting postmarks and cancellations of various kinds, including the kicking donkey, and other queer things, would they not go like "hot cakes." I guess yes; and how about a nice little used block of nine 1851 1¢ that cost me nothing, and for which I received the wonderful price of 50¢. How many dealers today can even show a block of four now? Where has my block of nine gone which I sold so many years ago? If the present owner will send it to me I will buy it, and pay "big" interest on the original price. Yes, there is great interest shown now in stamps which were considered very common and of little interest years ago. But the nearly half barrel (about 200,000) of the 1861-7 3¢ reds which I owned at one time, would be sought after now to "beat the band." The lot were mostly soaked from the paper, and of course contained a great variety of shades, grills, postmarks and many interesting cancellations. Many of these I sold at about 75¢ or less per 1000. Those are scattered near and far no doubt, and I suppose have been well picked over. That half barrel of 3¢ stamps of 1861 has a history as it was only the culls or leavings



from about a barrel of old issues from the 1847 issues, up through the sixties. From that barrel stamps by the thousands were sorted out which would be considered very valuable now. I need not tell just what they were, but no doubt would bring many thousands of dollars now, more later.

J.E. Handshaw

#### TOWNMARKS WITH BARS

One of the interesting New York City townmark varieties of the 1850's consists of those with what were apparently intended as canceling bars inside the circle. They are reported by Chase with one heavy or 2-4 narrow bars. One of these townmarks reproduced from Simpson's USPM is illustrated in Figure 1. This variety was discussed in the Fall 1984 News. With the exception of the "ocean mail" postmark (which is a further example of the "canceling bars" type appearing in 1854), such NYC townmarks were noted by Chase only during the latter half of 1851 and to a very limited extent in 1852.

There was another NYC townmark used in 1856 that contains one bar. In this type, the single bar appears to perhaps result from a blank slug filling a slot in the townmark. Examples are considered "very common" according to Simpson's USPM. Figure 2 illustrates a February 14 (1856) cover. On the back is a note signed by Ashbrook as follows: "Earliest Reported By Ashbrook Up To Aug 25, 1944." Who can report an earlier 1856 date or even 1855?



Figure 1



Figure 3

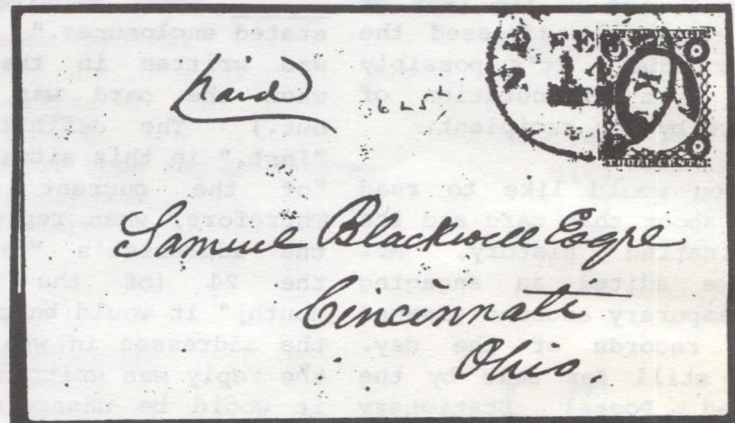


Figure 2

Regarding the "ocean mail" postmark, Ashbrook made quite a study of it and we provide herewith some of his data. Ashbrook's earliest known use was February 25, 1854 and we illustrated one of these covers in the Fall 1984 News. We say "one" because he recorded 5 covers on that date, all to domestic addressees but none involving the "ocean mail" to California route. His earliest known "ocean mail" use was March 6, 1854 and he recorded the marking at least as late as September 1861. He reported a very few anomalous uses to foreign destinations and even one domestic circular use.

An interesting aspect of the ocean mail marking concerns the grid itself. It is frequently, perhaps typically, referred to as a 7-bar grid. And indeed, frequently only 7 or even 6 bars actually show. However, the grid was made with 8 bars.



Figure 4

We illustrate in Figure 3 a clear 8-bar strike on a 1c imperforate issue reproduced from Volume II of Ashbrook's The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1957.

We should take note of one other NYC postmark, without a date (Figure 4 from Simpson's USPM) used apparently only during the latter part of 1851 and 1852 on printed circulars. It surely employs the granddaddy of canceling bars. It was not mentioned in Chase's 3c book and it may be that it is only found on the 1c issue. (See Ashbrook book). A great variety of NYC town-

(cont'd. on p. 99)



## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

With the recent transfer of the sales director position from George Lewis to Bill Bomar, we wish to extend our appreciation to George and Evelyn Lewis for tremendous contributions to the Club in managing the sales department for the past several years. It is through efforts such as theirs that this Club, or indeed any club, becomes a success. A brief recap is in order.

The sales department was in a state of disarray when George Lewis volunteered to become director. He drove to Illinois and picked up all of the Club's material and the members' material for sales through our circuit system. George and Evie took great pains to inventory the members' material and locate all of the missing circuits. They then established a system which gave greater control over members' material. They made it a point to reply to all letters promptly and acknowledged receipt of material sent to them usually within one day of receipt. They laboriously retired all material which had been in the club's hands too long and paid the members the money due them for sold or 'lost' material. They secured tax exempt status for the Club and invested Club funds in interest-bearing accounts. They put the Club "in the black" and restored members' confidence in the sales department.

George and Evie also implemented an idea of making available the U.S.C.C. award for outstanding exhibits of cancel-related material, to both members and non-

members. This helped increase Club membership and rewarded exhibitors for their efforts in building winning exhibits. Our Club has roughly doubled in size thanks in significant measure to their outstanding efforts.

It is hard to determine just how many hours per week they devoted to Club work, but the sum total during the years is impressive. Also, George used his car for Club business on innumerable occasions; most recently in taking everything that would fit in his station wagon to our new sales director. Bill will have the advantage of taking over a smoothly functioning system with which George and Evie took the time to acquaint him.

We know we speak for all U.S.C.C. members who have used the sales department during George's tenure in saying thanks to George and Evie for a job well done!

Bill Walker, Immediate  
Past President

Gary McIntyre,  
President ■

## CLEAR AND DISTINCT

John Hancock reportedly signed the Declaration of Independence in a bold script so the King could read the name without his glasses. If the King had been living in the Banknote era, he probably could have read the numeral cancels of the South Woodstock, VT postmaster halfway across the room. Figure 1 illustrates a cover from the collection of Alyce Evans. The "3" is 25mm. high and is noted on 3c Banknotes. Alyce consulted with Frank Mandel, who mentioned these cancels in his 1985 Congress book article, and provided some interesting information. A large "1" has been seen canceling 1c Banknotes. Indeed, a cover is known bearing both 3c and 1c Banknotes canceled by a "3" and "1" respectively. These cancels exist in magenta and blackish brown.

It seems that the handstamps used to apply these numerals are not "stampless cancelers," previously used to rate stampless mail, as there is no evidence of their use before the Banknote era.

Roger Curran



Figure 1



## FRAUDULENT INTENT

It caused a great amount of concern within the Post Office Department and indeed among the citizenry during the early years of the postage stamp. And this matter of cleaning and reusing stamps resulted in a lot of action, too. In terms of correspondence files we reviewed at the National Archives, perhaps the most interesting comment about the problem was contained in a newspaper clipping. The text of the letter that transmitted it to the POD is presented in Figure 1 and the text of the clipping in Figure 2.

One of the notions for preventing these dastardly deeds resulted in what we now call "patent cancellations," although many cancellations embracing the basic concept were never patented. These quaint cancellations were to include, in the process of application, the cutting, scraping, punching holes in or otherwise mutilating the stamp so as to prevent a reuse.

In the fall 1984 News we mentioned that a Marcus P. Norton obtained in 1859 a patent for a duplex hand-stamp and the New York City postmaster had to deal with him to employ such a device in 1860. The duplex feature was not the only innovation associated with this hand-stamp. The canceler, or "blotter" as Mr. Norton called it, was designed to cut into the stamp itself and allow the ink to sink into the paper's fibers, rather than lay on the printed surface, and thus make cleaning more difficult if not impossible. In his patent specification Mr.

Montgomery Blair, Esq.

Dear Sir, The matter alluded to in the enclosed paragraph may have received your attention.

If there is any truth in the statement of the improper use of defaced stamps it seems to me desirable that some official announcement of the fact should be made.

My principal reason for addressing you at this time is that many ladies are making great effort to collect stamps with the laudable intention of applying the (undecipherable) to be received from the sale of them to the Sanitary Commission. It is their impression that they are used in the manufacture of "papier mache."

Hoping to hear from you on the subject.

Yours very truly

Wm. Tucker

P.S. You would be surprised to see how very lightly many of the stamps are defaced. I enclose a specimen.

Figure 1

AN ADROIT FRAUD ON THE GOVERNMENT. Several enterprising fellows in Connecticut have gone into the collection and restoration of old postage stamps on a large scale. One of their modes of procedure is to visit unsuspecting clergymen in needy circumstances and state that as a matter of curiosity they desire to procure a million postage stamps, for which they will give two hundred dollars. The minister thinking it worth while to make an effort for the two hundred dollars in these hard times, opens his files of letters and carefully cuts off the stamps; sets the Sabbath school children at work in all the country around, and eventually earns his money. In one instance the girls in a boarding school were set at work collecting stamps, with the understanding that the money obtained for them should be devoted to a certain object of benevolence, and they were very industrious in hunting and begging old stamps all over the country among their acquaintances. How many millions of stamps the speculators obtained it is impossible to say, but it is now understood that they clean and sell the stamps, and thus defraud the government. And it is a business that pays well for a million three cent stamps are worth \$30,000, and the collection and restoration of them does not probably cost one tenth that sum. This is a matter that some government detective should investigate.

Figure 2



Norton described it thusly:

"It cuts the postage stamp in as many places as there are sharp edge projections upon the face of the blotter, while at the same operation the places thus cut through the postage stamp are inked by the same means whereby the cutting was done, thus preventing a second use of such postage stamp, for, although the ink thus put on be washed therefrom by any process, the places thus cut will show the first use and detect and expose the second or fraudulent use of such postage stamp. All the difficulties attending the efficient postmarking of letters and the blotting and cancelling of postage stamps by the use of any kind of stamp now used by the government are fully overcome by the use of this stamp."

Not guilty of any understatement, was he? How many people were thinking along the same lines in 1859 we don't know but Figure 3 presents the text of a letter to the POD that reflects a similar idea.

A series of three articles by Fred. R. Schmalzriedt in the Collectors Club Philatelist (Jan 1931, Apr 1931 and Jan 1932) remains the most important reference on patent cancellations. After discussing the Norton patent, the next earliest patent Mr. Schmalzriedt found was in 1863. However, "patent cancellations" are noted as early as on the 1847 issue. A most interesting cover is illustrated on page 251 in Skinner-Eno of a 5c 1847 issue canceled by a blue "patent" grid. Patent cancellations are very rare before about 1860 or 1861 when their frequency

Hon Joseph Holt  
Postmaster General

New Orleans Aug 5th 1859

Sir,

The above postage stamp I took from a letter received by mail from Pascagoula Miss. With the use of a very little time and patience, and a piece of india-rubber I could send you fifty as well prepared for defrauding your Department as this one is. The facility with which it is done leaves me in no doubt that the revenue suffered serious loss in this way. A simple preventive of the evil could easily be adopted. If the letter stamp were made with a border of very short sharp points to make rather a deep bruise than a puncture, it would render the restoration of the postage stamp impossible.

Respectfully Yours

Geo. C. Brower

Ed. It is assumed that Mr. Brower was a citizen of New Orleans and not associated with the New Orleans Post Office.

Figure 3

began to increase. Regarding the cancellations on pre-1861 issue stamps, Mr. Schmalzriedt stated, "With few exceptions . . . these cancellations consist of a large number of small dots or squares, arranged in disc form, the projections on the device, responsible for the dots, being so pointed and sharp as to pierce the stamp, or at least imbed themselves deeply into it." Three examples from his article are shown in Figure 4.

Never really used widely, patent cancellations are noted basically through 1866 and then again in 1872/3 and running late into the 1880s. And in between these periods we find of course the grilling of postage stamps which was predicated on the same



Figure 4

basic idea except employing it in the stamp production rather than the stamp cancellation phase.

Roger Curran

(cont'd. fr. p. 96)

marks exist with the very wide spacing between "NEW" and "YORK" and an article on the subject is planned for the future.

Roger Curran



LATE GRID  
FORTY YEARS AFTER?

In previous issues, we discussed the "instrument" supplied to larger post offices by the Post Office Department at the time the 1847 stamps were issued. (See Fall 1985 News.) The "instrument" was designed specifically to cancel stamps. Just how long this canceler, an enclosed 7-bar grid with an 18mm diameter, was provided is not known but its use dropped steadily, at least in the 1850's, so that by the mid-1850's its relative frequency was rather low. Of course, the appeal of using the townmark as a canceler, thus avoiding the need of two stamping operations, and the profusion of smaller post offices using postage stamps (and their own canceling devices) after introduction of the 1851 issue stamps contributed mightily to the declining ratio.

In the Fall 1985 News we illustrated a couple of uses of this type of grid on 1870's banknotes. We also have such a cancel on the 2c red brown issue of 1883. However, the cover in Figure 1 represents the latest use of which we know. From Bradford, NH, the 2c green issue of 1887 was cancelled on October 12, 1889. As stated in the Fall 1985 article we cannot be sure that any such late use was necessarily produced by the POD-supplied canceler but it certainly may have been so.

That the Bradford cancel does not appear to be duplexed increases its possibility of being from an early "instrument." Salkind's U.S. Cancels 1890-1900 does not list this grid.

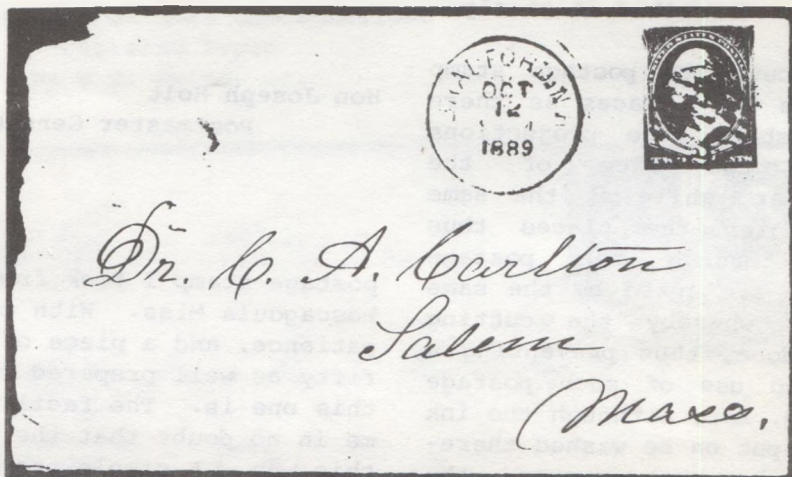


Figure 1

Readers are urged to check their collections to see if we can extend the October 1889 date or add interesting usages of this cancellation type.

Roger Curran

EW

Alyce Evans sends word of a multiple letters cancel reported by Norman Brassler that is unlisted in Skinner-Eno. Since her articles on multiple letters cancels are devoted to the bank note

era, Figure 1 from East Windsor, Mass. is presented separately. It is undoubtedly an "EW" but the middle arm of the "E" is certainly weak, giving the letter the appearance of a "C." The stamp is a #65. A tracing from Billig of what is assumed to be the same cancel is shown in Figure 2. ■

EW

Figure 2

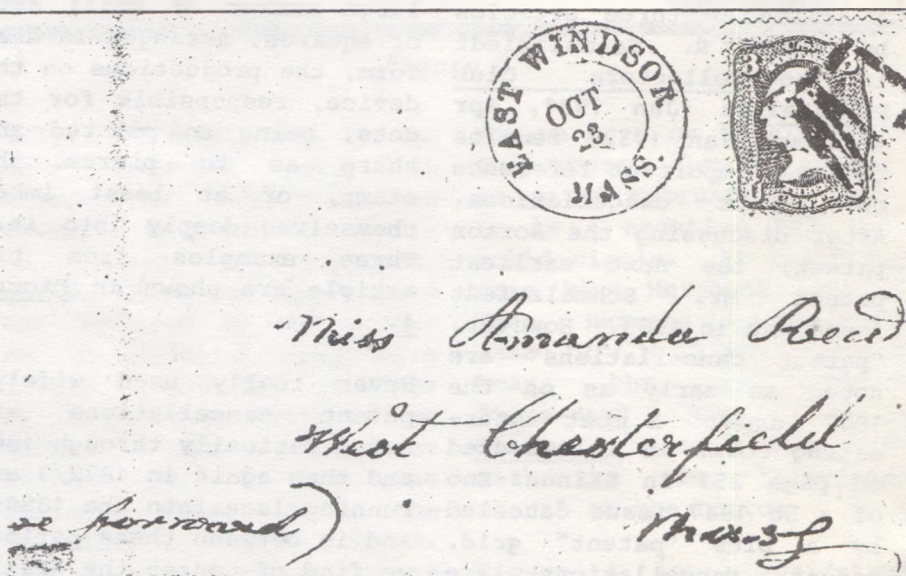


Figure 1



# FOND MEMORIES

It was a pleasure to receive a letter from one of the first members of the USCC, Al Boerger, in which he reminisced about the old days and the origins of the USCC. Feeling sure readers of the News would also find Al's letter of interest, we quote a major portion herewith:

"In the mid 30's Ernie Hack had a stamp shop on Mack Avenue in Detroit where Joe Ragsdale, Karl Koslowski and a few 'oldies' made regular stops. Hack was able to 'buy' wholesale - really big. Another such dealer was Al Stewart in Toledo (big for him was an understatement - he bought by the millions). Had an entire floor in a large bank building where he manufactured packets for 5¢ & 10¢ stores (nation-wide). Bundled stock came from everywhere and #65's, 3¢ Greens and the like were offered by the shoe-box full. Yes he also bought stamp snakes and I had the pleasure then of buying stamp snakes from him. Of course they were 'unpicked' and every single stamp in the five pound lots he subsequently sold had a tiny pin hole in it. I know you thought that the pin holes were from the Paris sidewalk stamp exhibits but that old story is a crock of bull. Of course I still have a few examples of a stamp snake, just as it was strung together in the 1880's.

During the Depression no one had time to buy - but they did have time to 'do stamps' - and picking out fancy cancellations was a chance to make a few extra dollars. Buying bundled stock and

taking out the 'goodies,' then rebundling the stamps and usually selling them for the same price as originally paid was the rule.

USCC originated in Detroit - Flint - Saginaw and Toledo during the annual stamp events where we met - exchanged our surplus and really enjoyed 'fooling around with cheap stamps'. Bob Schoen in Saginaw, Charlie Starnes in Midland, Reynolds and son in Flint and a few in Detroit made up the initial club - there was no thought of enlarging it - just some friends at that time."

In subsequent correspondence, Al elaborated on the stamp snakes. As he learned the story when obtaining his snakes, some were strung to be hung in doorways and others were for duplicates. Remember there were no glassines in those days. (Your editor assumes the "doorway" snakes were to display the dealers' wares.) At first, Al removed all the stamps with grills and fancy cancels and sold most of the rest back to Al Stewart. Thousands of the desirable items were pressed out in subsequent years by collectors and dealers to close the pin holes as much as possible. How many such stamps are in your collection?

Al also recalled a similar stringing operation: "My grandmother showed me how to string popcorn - some was colored and these strings were hung for decorations. I also helped string rolled up colored paper when it was hung in doorways, after being strung on a cord. Popcorn usually was eaten by the chickens the following day - after the party was over." ■

# LIBRARY UPDATE

By Alyce Evans

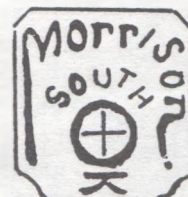
## Nineteenth Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin

This 28-page looseleaf publication contains 684 examples traced to exact size of the fancy cancels of Wisconsin, together with their origins. It also contains an alphabetical town/county index. This revision was compiled by Frank Moertl and is available from him at N95 W32259 County Line Road, Hartland, WI 53029. The cost is \$3.00 pp.

## More on Morrison

This 43-page publication by John M. Prendergast, Jr. contains not only the cancels whittled out of wood by the railway postal clerk A. J. Morrison, it also contains a most fascinating biography of this soldier of fortune and follows his life through the Civil War. Despite the loss of two fingers suffered in one of the battles, Morrison became an expert whittler and his RUT. AND TROY RPO/MORRISON SOUTH/NORTH cancellers exhibit his unusual talent. This booklet catalogs the date and killer stamps chronologically, with dates of usage. Limited printing of only 300, available from Mr. Prendergast at 5930 East 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. Price is \$5.00 pp.

Copies of both are being placed in the USCC Library.■





## HOTEL MARKING

Primarily during the 1840's, hotel markings are occasionally noted on letters and it is assumed that they denote service by the hotel in picking up from or delivering to the post office the letters bearing such markings. Encountering a partial hotel marking of some sort on an off-cover stamp is intriguing as Clyde Jennings found out. We quote his recent letter:

"Wonder if I can get some help from the membership out there? It's the square cancel in Figure 1 (photo courtesy of Walt Henderson, Melrose, FL): am trying to learn the source, or at least what the full cancel reads.

It is in blue, and the center is easy: "Mar(ch) 20, 1898." Beginning at 12:00 and continuing clockwise I can make out, ". L. S(H or N)E" only; next is, "T(?)END"; "COLUM(B?)"; and finally, "HOTEL" very clearly.

I wrote to Chambers of Commerce and/or historical societies in Columbia, S.C.; Columbia, Ga.; and Columbia, Tenn., trying to determine whether there is now, or had at one time been, a hotel there with a similar name, maybe even a General Shelby. No luck from any of them, though all responded to the effect: no record of a hotel with a similar name.

The parallel bars are black, are definitely over the blue hotel part of the cancel. So apparently it was deposited in a hotel, given the hotel's cancel, then on to a post office where the regular black bars cancel was applied. With the blue



Figure 1

so obviously under the black I have just about ruled out a hotel receiving mark. S.O.S!"

Clyde Jennings  
319 West 70th Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32208



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