



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 18, NO. 8

WHOLE NO. 194

FALL 1987

## STRAIGHTLINE "LOCAL PRECANCELS" AS FOUND ON THE PAYING OFFICE COUPONS OF THE 1945-1951 U.S. POSTAL NOTES

John W. Watts, Jr.

The experimental U.S. Postal Note Issue of 1945-1951 was a feasibility study of the use of sectional (perforated with slits for tearing) pre-punched tabulation cards for use by postal patrons for the transmittance of sums of money having a value of ten dollars or less. The issue consisted of eleven different cards -- a Star value card and ten dollar value cards (the one through ten dollar value respectively). Additionally, eighteen adhesives having values from one cent through ninety cents (Scott #'s PN1-PN18), were issued for the purpose of making up Notes with decimal dollar amounts.

Figure 1 illustrates a first day of issue (February 1, 1945) Postal Note having a face value of \$1.23 as determined by the face value of the Note (\$1) plus the total value of the franking adhesives (23¢). The illustration has been photoreduced.

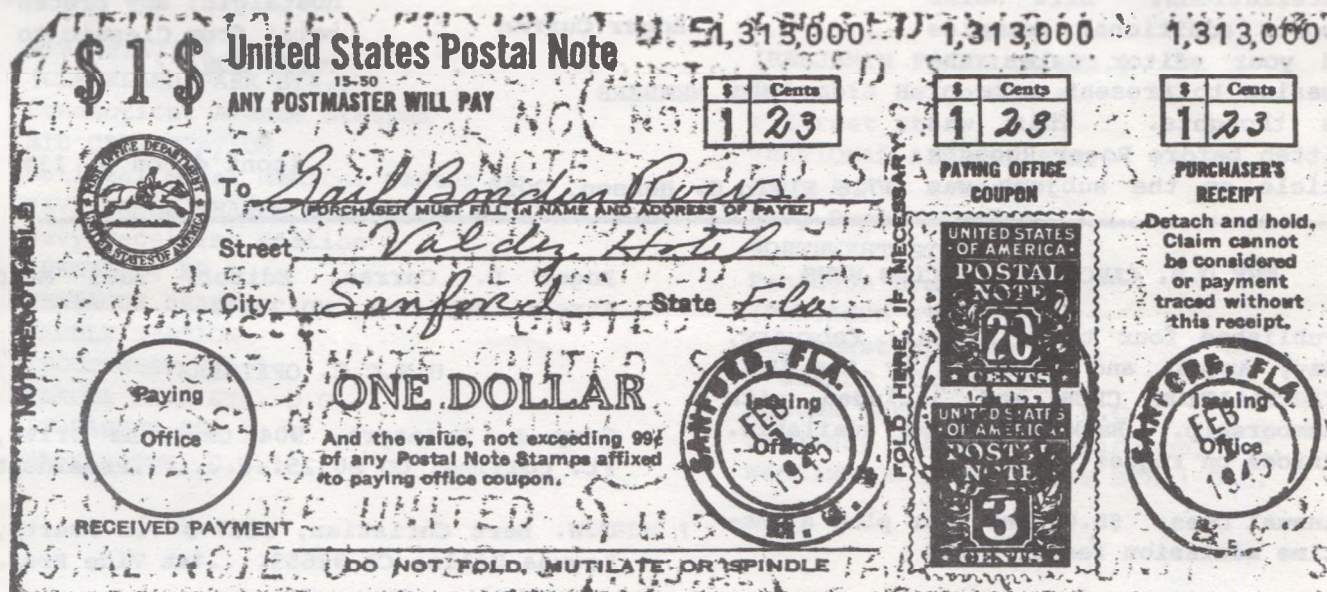


Figure 1

Postal regulations required that the Paying Office Coupon (that part of the Postal Note which was, when needed, franked with one or two adhesives) be retained by the redeeming Post Office for six months. After the six month period the coupons could be disposed of in accordance with waste paper regulations. Over the years I have been able to accumulate a sizeable quantity of the coupons; and the study of those coupons led to the discovery of a supplemental marking.

Supplemental markings are not found on the Paying Office Coupons of redeemed Postal Notes with the exception of Notes originating at various post offices in and around Washington, D.C. These supplemental markings appear as "Local Precancels" as the

(cont'd. on p. 123)



Dear Reader:

Holiday greetings to all and best wishes for a satisfying 1988. In the area of our mutual philatelic interest, who knows what information may come to light next year to advance our understanding of certain postal markings or what interesting items will find their way to our collections! Your editor has often reflected on how fortunate people are to have hobbies such as ours with the stimulation and enthusiasm they can so consistently provoke.

This issue continues debate on whether New York numeral cancels of the 1872-76 period, appearing on foreign mail, should be classed as New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) cancellations. Bill Weiss reports additional examples and your editor takes the occasion to present more of his thoughts. This was written before Roger Rhoad's article on the subject was

received which we are pleased to include. There is a bit of redundancy in this free-for-all but it hopefully won't detract from the interest readers may find in the discussion.

We welcome a new author, John Watts, on a subject that is surely new for us and extend deep appreciation for the continuing contributions of Alyce Evans and Tom Stanton who have added so much to these pages over the years.

Please remit your dues promptly to George Lewis in the envelope provided and also include your completed ballot for USCC officers for the 1988-9 term. And be sure to retain your 1988 membership card.

Roger Curran

#### NEW MEMBERS

1726 Elvin G. Henson, 2050

Sweet Briar Lane,  
Jacksonville, FL 32217  
U.S.

1727 Watt C. White, 171  
Highline Trail,  
Stamford, CT 06902  
U.S. Classics through  
banknotes; fancy  
cancels/postal mark-  
ings; color shade  
varieties off cover  
only

1728 Mary Turner, 1409 N.  
Monroe Street, Monroe,  
MI 48161 Fancy;  
slogans; slogans on  
appropriate stamp or  
cover; humorous or odd  
connections

1729 George Boam, 71-01 52nd  
Avenue, Maspeth, NY  
11378 Postal markings;  
fancy; odd historical;  
nostalgic; any precan-  
celed from Classic to  
1937; SON

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Published four times a year; February, May, August and November by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and included with membership. Back issues as available. Prices on request.

Annual Dues: \$8.00 per year plus a one-time admission fee of \$1.00

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(cont'd. fr. front p.)

coupons were straightline precanceled prior to their having been made up for the transmittance of money. This is apparent (see Figure 2) as the adhesives were affixed after the application of the straight line precancel. The fact that the adhesive was placed over the precancel is most obvious in the capital "C" of Connecticut. Also the "Local" nature of the precancel is confirmed by the fact that the name of the postal facility constitutes the precanceler and is the same as that found on the circular Money Order Business Canceler. Figure 3 is a clear example.

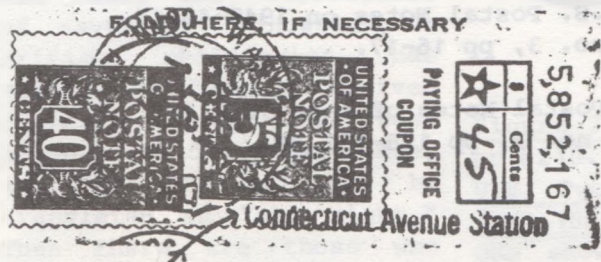


Figure 2



Figure 3

Table 1 is a listing of currently known post offices where straightline precancels were used. Additionally the presence of an asterisk "\*" following the post office name indicates that non-precanceled coupons have been found and post office names appearing in brackets "[]" have only been found to exist in the non-precanceled form.

APEX STATION  
 [CLEVELAND PARK STA.]  
 Connecticut Avenue Station  
 MID CITY STATION  
 National Naval Medical Center Br.  
 NAVY ANNEX BRANCH WASHINGTON, D.C.  
 Navy Receiving Station  
 [PENTAGON BR.]  
 PENTAGON BRANCH  
 RANDLE STATION  
 [SOUTHWEST STA.]  
 TAKOMA PARK STA. D.C.  
 [TREASURY STA.]  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.\*

[BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STA.]  
 Columbia Heights Sta.  
 F Street Sta.  
 [NATIONAL AIRPORT STA.]  
 Navy Annex Branch  
 Navy Dept. Station  
 NORTHWEST STATION  
 Pentagon Branch  
 [PENTAGON STA.]  
 Southeast Station  
 T STREET STATION  
 Takoma Park Station, D.C.\*  
 Treasury Station, Washington, D.C.  
 WASHINGTON (FRIENDSHIP STA.) D.C.

TABLE 1

The occurrence of these precancels naturally raises the question, "Why?" I can provide no conclusive explanation. Also, given the presence of several Navy offices among those using the precancels, it is interesting to note the following quote from the postal regulations:

"Postal notes shall be sold at all post offices of the first and second classes in the continental United States, excluding Alaska, Hawaii, and outlying Possessions.

Postmasters shall place postal notes on sale at the main offices and at stations and branches, except Army and Navy post offices."



Were the Navy offices in question somehow not considered traditional "Navy post offices" or was there some exception granted to the regulations?

Any comments about or answers to the above questions are eagerly sought by the author.

#### References

1. Watts, John W. "Introductory Notes on the U.S. Postal Notes on 1945-1951" Modern Postal History Journal, vol. 3, no. 3, pp 16-17.
2. Watts, John W. "Identification of the U.S. Postal Notes of the 1945-1951 Issue" The American Revenuer, vol. 40, no. 3, pp 158-162. ■

#### REVIEW

Fishback, Hamilton R. & William C. Walker, 20th Century United States Fancy Cancellations, Revised, 1987, published by the authors.

Fishback and Walker have provided an excellent update or revision of the 1952 Loso-Dewindt book on 20th century fancy cancellations. In this tome they have added much to the historical background of these markings, as well as nearly doubling the number of cancellations recorded. The initial chapters discuss the origins of the fancy cancellations and their subsequent development through the first four decades of the century. This is followed by an extensive and authoritative discourse on the Postal Laws and Regulations that affect the subject. Following chapters on values and forgeries, the authors launch into the core of the treatise, the listing of the cancellations. The first listing reiterates the Loso-Dewindt effort and contains catalog number, place and period of usage, type of service, color and remarks. This section illustrates 1271 markings. Next the authors list 907 cancellations that have been recorded since the 1952 opus. The data presented is the same as for the original listing plus an estimate of value.

The above chapters are followed by an extensive appendix, which besides discussing data on the makers of these cancellations, also yields valuable information on the origin of town names and the tales behind some of the strikes.

This book, plus a pricing guide booklet, is available from William R. Weiss, Jr., P.O. Box 5358, Bethlehem, PA 18105 for \$40.

Tom Stanton



AWARD WINNERS

Grand - Philadelphia  
Independent Mail Services  
and Local Posts (STAMPEX  
'87, Warminster, PA)

Reserve Grand and Best Cover  
Exhibit - Philadelphia  
Domestic Mail 1870-1900  
(VALPEX '87, King of  
Prussia, PA)

Grand and First in British  
Commonwealth - Bermuda - One  
Penny Victorian Issue  
(VERPEX '87, Brattleboro,  
VT)

Richard J. Marek  
First in Vermont Postal  
History - Vermont's Foreign  
Mail, 1817-1918 (VERPEX '87)

Norman Shachat

C. Kilbourne Bump

(cont'd. on last p.)



"O.K." CANCELS ON BANKNOTE ISSUES, PART I  
By Alyce Evans

Ever wonder about the origin of the expression "OK"? In Byingtons' Grammar of the Choctaw Language edited by D. G. Brinton in 1870, we learn that "O.K." is derived from the Choctaw language and means the "correctness of anything." However, a British philologist has stated the term is derived directly from the West African Mandingo language, in which "o ke" can be translated as "all right." Then there are those who believe the term is of Greek origin, from "olla kala" meaning "all is well" and, here in America, etomologists have traced the term back to an 1839 political campaign. Whatever the origin, it was a popular cancel with postmasters for three decades.

I've recorded some two dozen towns where this cancel was used, and about 16 off-cover examples whose origin remains a mystery. Hopefully, members will send in photocopies of these on cover to complete the study. I've included a few examples from auction catalogs and since these are reduced around 50%, I tried to have them enlarged and traced, but the sizes are approximate. If members have these examples on cover, please send full sized photocopies to correct the records.

**Figure 1.** BURLINGTON, KANS. neg. OK in heart on 3¢ green cover dated Apr 20. Source: Ed Hines.



Figure 1

**Figure 2.** CALAIS, VT. "OK" on #210. Source: Willard's U.S. Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887 book. Of the six OKs shown by Willard, this is the only one he identified. Calais used a larger OK, found on the 1861 issue (see S-E LC-OK1).

OK

Figure 2

**Figure 3.** CORNWALL BRIDGE, CONN. "OK BIERCE" in circle on 3¢ green cover dated 1875. Source: Ed Hines. The partial CDS is a blue double oval, with a blue c/c from the Cornwall Bridge Iron Co. located in Cornwall Bridge, Conn. The postmaster in 1877 was J. A. Bierce.

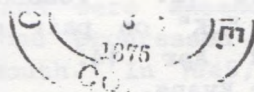


Figure 3

**Figure 4.** FOX LAKE, WISC. neg. "OK" on #158. Source: 19th Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin, Bulletin #18, Wisconsin Postal History Society.



Figure 4

**Figure 5.** GENEVA, WISC. Our source for these 3 examples is the same as for Figure 4. Figure 5 is BLUE on #158; Figure 5A is a BLUE checkerboard on #158; Figure 5B is BLUE, used in 1878.



Figure 5



5a



5b



Figure 6. LAW. & BRAD. R.R. "OK" on #156 cover dated Feb. 25. Source: Siegel 11/68 auction. This is the Lawrence, Mass. & Bradford, N.H. route. Tracing is approximate size.

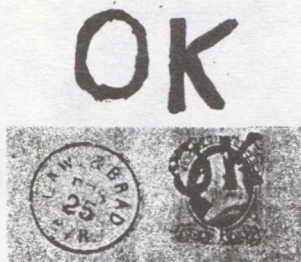


Figure 6

Figure 7. LYONS, WISC. neg. "OK" on #146. Source: same as for Figure 4.



Figure 7

Figure 8. MOLINE, ILL. neg. "OK" on #184 cover dated Jun 11. Source: D.G. Phillips 6/77 auction. Tracing is from the July '63 News.



Figure 8

Figure 9. N.Y. & WASH. R.P.O., "OK" on 3¢ green cover dated Sep 27. Source: Ed Hines.



Figure 9

Figure 10. ORFORD, NH. "OK" in circle on #158 cover dated Dec. 21. Source: Ted Mills.



Figure 10

Figure 11. PALATINE, ILL. Neg. "OK" on 3¢ green cover dated Aug 17. Source: Ed Hines.



Figure 11

Figure 12. PUEBLO, COL. neg. "OK" on pair of #207 dated Apr 14. Source: Alyce Evans.



Figure 12

Figure 13. RAYMOND, MISS. neg. "OK" on 3¢ green cover dated Mar 21. Source: Weiss 9/87 auction. Tracing approx. 2-1/2 mm larger than

original.



Figure 13

Figure 14. SOUTH GARDNER, MASS. neg. "OK" on UX3 postal dated Feb 28, message side dated 1878. Source: Frajola 9/85 auction. Tracing is 2mm oversized.



Figure 14

Figure 15. WHITEWATER, WISC. neg. "OK" used in 1876. Source: same as for Figure 4.



Figure 15

Figure 16. WILCOX, ARIZ. neg. "OK" on U227 cover dated Nov. 16, 1883. Source: Spelman 4/80







Figure 16

(To be continued) ■

### THE EASTERN RAILROAD by Tom Stanton

In the 1840's there were two railroad routes from Boston, Massachusetts to Portland, Maine (see Figure 1). The Boston & Maine RR (B&M RR) conducted an inland line via Haverhill and ran over the tracks of the Portland, Saco & Portsmouth RR (PS&P RR) from South Berwick to Portland. The Eastern RR transported the mails from Boston to Portsmouth, New Hampshire along the coastal route via Salem and Newburyport. This RR also used the tracks of the PS&P RR northward, but now from Portsmouth. This latter route is the subject of the current article, while the B&M RR route will be discussed in a future article.

The Eastern RR was chartered in 1836 after a three year battle in the Massachusetts legislature. The major opposition naturally came from the stage coach operators who ran numerous lines over the route. Construction began in August 1836 and was completed to Salem two years later. The Massachusetts section was completed in November 1840. The New Hampshire construction commenced in 1839 and was completed in December

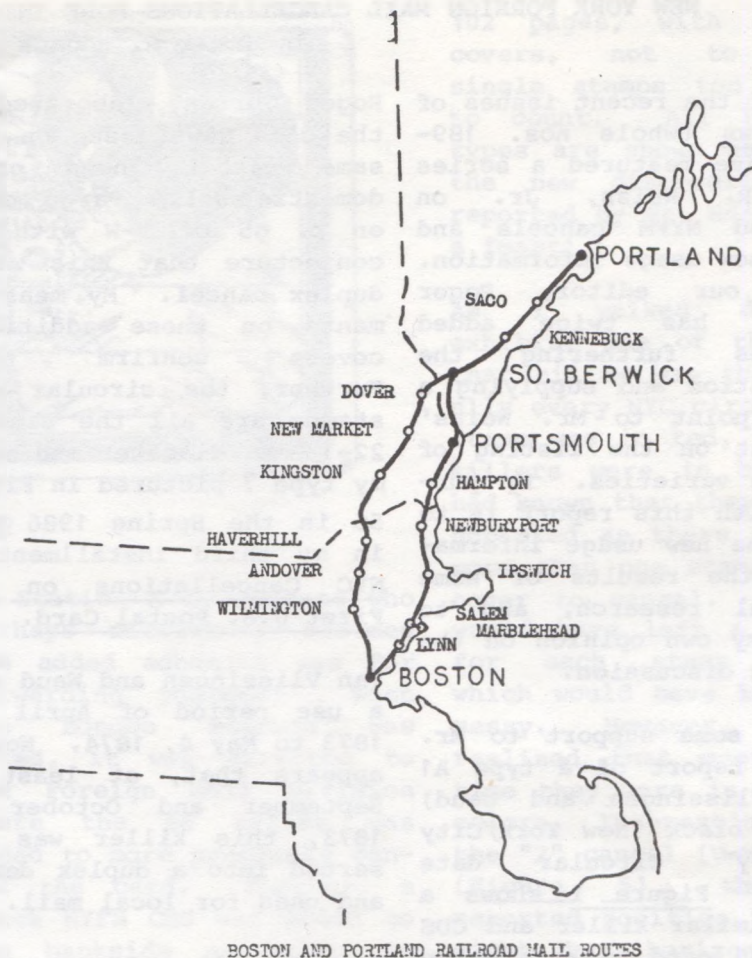


Figure 1

1840. The connection to Portland over the PS&P RR was effected in early 1843.

The initial mail contracts were let by the Post Office Department (POD) in April 1839 and were extended as the road progressed toward Portsmouth. In 1845, under new compensation legislation, the POD recompensed the RR company nearly \$9300 per year to carry the mail on this 54 mile route and the short branch to Marblehead from Salem.

The initial mail service was closed pouch and it was not until July 1848 that route agencies began. At this time G. W. Clark and E. A. Bodwell were appointed to process the mails travelling along the coastal route between Boston and Portland.

Some three months later, a third route agent, F. W. Nichols, assumed his duties. Three agents continued to work the route during the antebellum period.

The agents employed two distinct postmarks during the pre-war era. The first, a 32mm date stamp (see Figure 2), exists in two minor varieties. This

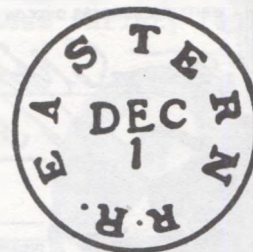


Figure 2

(cont'd. on p. 137)



## NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS MORE INFORMATION (AND CONFUSION)

by Roger R. Rhoads

Four of the recent issues of the News (whole nos. 189-192) have featured a series by W.R. Weiss, Jr. on unlisted NYFM cancels and other new usage information. Also, our editor, Roger Curran, has twice added articles furthering the information and supplying a counterpoint to Mr. Weiss' argument on the listing of certain varieties. My purpose with this report is to add some new usage information, the results of some personal research, and to offer my own opinion on the listing discussion.

First, some support to Mr. Weiss' report of a type A1 (Van Vlissingen and Waud) with a black "New York/City Delivery" circular date stamp. Figure 1 shows a very similar killer and CDS on a UX1 card to that shown in Figure 4 in the Fall, 1986 News, only this one is dated Sept. 13, 1873. Further, lot 239 in the July 11, 1987 auction of David G. Phillips Co. was a UX3 card used locally with exactly the same killer and cancel dated Oct. 11, 1873.

Roger Curran elaborated in the same News issue on this same cancel shown on a domestic Wells Fargo cover on p. 65 of V-W with the conjecture that this was a duplex cancel. My measurements on these additional covers confirm this. Further, the circular date stamps are all the same at 22-1/2mm. diameter and match my type 7 pictured in Figure 56 in the Spring 1986 News in my third installment of NYC Cancellations on the First U.S. Postal Card.

Van Vlissingen and Waud show a use period of April 18, 1873 to May 4, 1874. Now it appears that, at least in September and October of 1873, this killer was inserted into a duplex device and used for local mail.

Figure 2 illustrates another use possibility. This copy of a UX3 card with a 1 cent Banknote was mailed to London on Oct. 13, 1874. This was prior to the Universal Postal Union agreement of July 1, 1875. Therefore, this card was rated the same as a letter,

a 6 cent rate for 1/2 oz. Apparently the writer was accustomed to the 2 cent rate for postal cards to Germany or Switzerland by prior treaty and only added a 1 cent stamp. At the entry port the card was marked "INSUFFICIENTLY PAID" and 6 cents was added to the base rate as a fine for deficient postage. This made for a total rate of 12 cents with 2 cents prepaid. The manuscript "5" indicates 5 p (10 cents equivalent) due from the recipient. (This rate information was taken from the April 1875 Official Postal Guide.)

For this article, the interesting aspect of this card is that it is canceled with a V-W type A6 NYFM killer and a "City Delivery" CDS with an "A" station mark at the top of the circle. Also, the spacing suggests a duplex device. At first glance, this is apparently another use of a NYFM killer used as part of a domestic cancel, but this time the piece is definitely foreign mail.

Figure 2 includes the tracing of the killer, while Figure 3 is copied from the Van Vlissingen and Waud reference. All major measurements match to the reference and, therefore, this is not one of the smaller domestic varieties as discussed in V-W. Further, the authors do not report a smaller version of A6 in their book. The broken appearance of the tracing can be explained as a very late usage, 10 days beyond the latest reported by V-W.

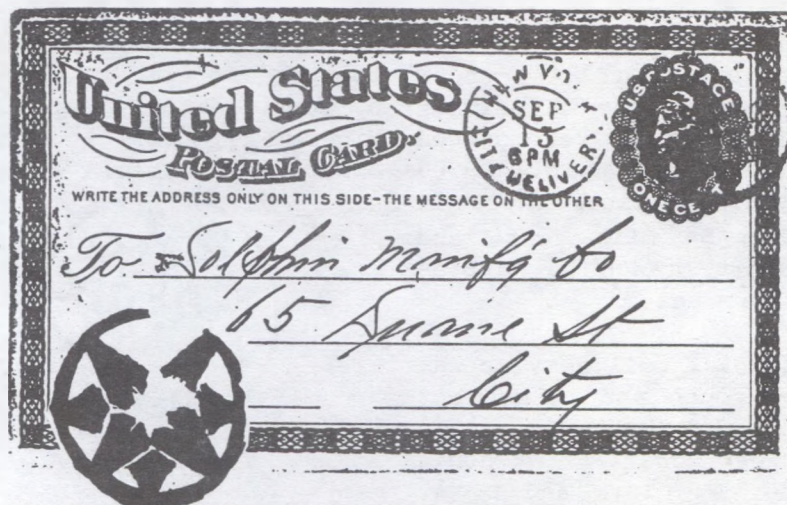


Figure 1

The use of the CDS with an



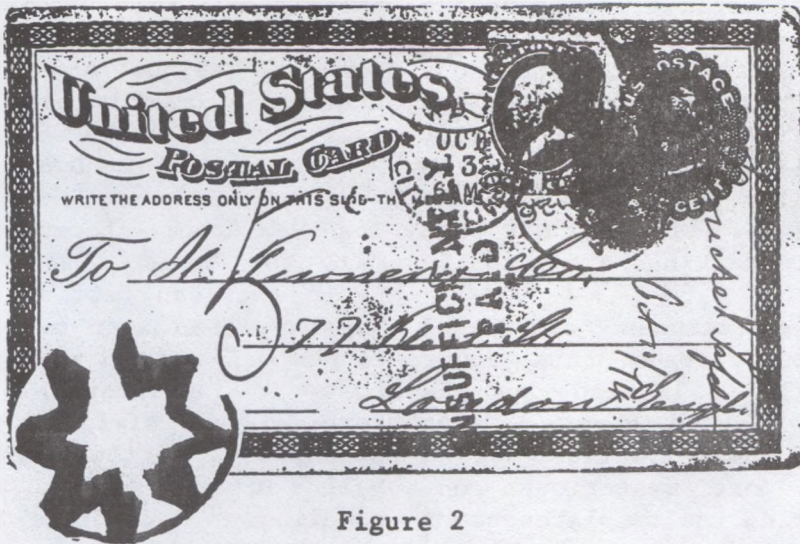


Figure 2



A6

### Figure 3

"A" in it suggests that it was canceled at Station A, not at the Central Office as were NYFM and other City Delivery pieces. This anomaly worried me for a while, so I dug back into my reference pieces used for my earlier-mentioned three installment series.

In one of those rarest of philatelic coincidences, I found another card with a similar "NEW A YORK", "City Delivery" CDS. So similar that it was identical right down to the OCT/13/6 AM slug inserts! The killer was an unusual (for NYC) smudge with no apparent shape.

Then I looked much more closely at the card in Figure 2 and took measurements. I found that not only was the CDS identical, but the smudge was there as well. This meant that the card was originally canceled

at Station A by someone who perhaps mistakenly assumed the added adhesive was for forwarding postage. When the London address was noted, it was directed to the Foreign Mail Division where the A6 killer was added to more precisely cancel the card. Further, a black NYFM CDS was added to the backside as shown in Figure 4 (V-W postmark #21). Thus, this isn't another type of usage at all, but a very well disguised normal one which simply extended the previous known use period.



### Figure 4

Now I would like to add some more research information on the use of numbers in NYFM cancels. This past March, I attended the Garfield Perry Party here in Cleveland and had the most delicious opportunity to view in detail Mr. Weiss' gold medal-winning NYFM collection on exhibit. If you haven't seen it, find a way to do so! Twelve frames and

102 pages, with over 140 covers, not to mention single stamps too numerous to count. All the major types are shown as well as the new discoveries being reported by Mr. Weiss. It's a feast!

As I walked down the exhibit, one of the things that hit me was that virtually every NYC circular date stamp was in red, while the killers were in black. I had known that they were not duplexed as there was often more than one stamp on each cover to cancel. A duplex would have left a CDS mark for each stamp canceled which would have been quite messy. However, I hadn't realized that most of the time they were in different colors. Interestingly, only the "2" cancel (V-W type C8) (Figure 5), the newly reported positive "1" in an eight bar horizontal grid (Figure 6), and a solid cross cancel (type F23) (Figure 7) of the over 140 covers had a black "time of day" circular date stamp on them. Only a very few others, addressed to Mexico and Central America, had black date stamps, but without the time in the CDS. These corresponded to types found in V-W, but nothing in V-W matched the CDS on the first three noted. Note, there is a CDS in V-W with a time slug, but that is a rimless variety (#32).



C8

Figure 5





Figure 6



F23

Figure 7

With my measurements and photocopies kindly provided by Mr. Weiss, I went back to my work published in the third installment. All three date stamps were similar to Figure 43 in the Spring, 1986 News, here shown as Figure 8. According to my methods of measurement noted in that issue, the CDS alongside the C8 cancel is a type 1A3 as was the one on the F23 cancel. On the cover with

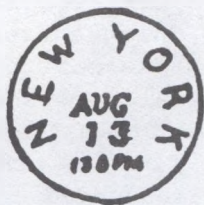


Figure 8

the "1" cancel, the type is 1A8 (Note there is no "P.O." in the CDS as earlier reported by Mr. Weiss). Both types were earlier reported by myself to be used solely with number killers on domestic mail.

Allow me to make some other observations on these covers. Seeing the "2" cancel on cover, I noticed for the first time that it was duplexed with two CDS's on it (see Figure 2 in Mr.

Weiss' article in the Spring 1987 issue). I say "it" as this cover is the only one reported. (Incidentally, V-W report the date as Jan. 17, 1876 while the cover was actually postmarked on Jan. 17, 1875.) No other NYC post office markings are noted.

Van Vlissingen and Waud obviously used this cover for the C8 listing, but the CDS on this cover is not among their listings. I find this most mysterious considering the completeness of their research.

Mr. Weiss introduced us to another new cover in that same News issue with a "9" killer. Again, the black CDS is a type 1A3. The cancel appears to be duplexed, but there is no proof of this, and again, there are no other NYC post office markings.

In the first installment of his series, Summer 1986, Mr. Weiss shared his discovery of the "1" killed cover. Roger Curran provided a counterpoint to listing this item by showing a similar cancel and argues that Mr. Weiss' cover "bears an erroneous use of a domestic mail cancel on a piece of foreign mail." Figure 9 is a domestic killer from my own collection, again very similar to that of Mr. Weiss and possibly a duplicate of that illustrated by Mr. Curran. Mr. Weiss' cover is dated Aug. 12, 1874; Mr. Curran's, Nov. 2, 1874; and my card, Oct. 31, 1874. All three CDS's are type 1A8.

I argue along with Mr. Curran that none of these three number canceled covers rightly belong in the NYFM cancellation listing. The evidence is that the CDS on each is of a type earlier

identified with domestic mail and the killers are of similar designs and sizes that were commonly used for mail for delivery outside NYC but within the U.S.

The V-W book states that mail for Mexico and other Latin American destinations may have been sent overland to New Orleans and thence by boat. Apparently, the Foreign Mail Division sent such pieces to the Domestic Mail Division for such handling. I theorize that the "2" and "9" covers, both bound for Mexico, were canceled by the Domestic Division after receiving the covers mistakenly uncanceled from the Foreign Division. As for the "1" cover going to Egypt, just as the cover in Figure 2 was first canceled by the Domestic Division, this cover probably erroneously went to the wrong box where it was hit by a domestic cancel, and then went on to the Foreign Division for the final NYC hit.



Figure 9

I do not follow Mr. Weiss' argument that anything listed by V-W must be valid. I have extremely high regard for the authors and this work. However, books are written with the best knowledge at hand at the time. Judgements must be made that may later prove to be wrong. For example, the domestic CDS on the "2" cover is not listed, perhaps by oversight.

The last item in Mr. Weiss' exhibit that I wish to dis-



cuss is a cover to Switzerland via England franked with two 10 cent Banknotes killed with a solid cross, type F23 (Fig. 7). The cover is dated Feb. 22, 1871 (Figure 10). The black CDS is similar to that shown in Figure 8. While the time slug is virtually unreadable, enough is there to identify it.

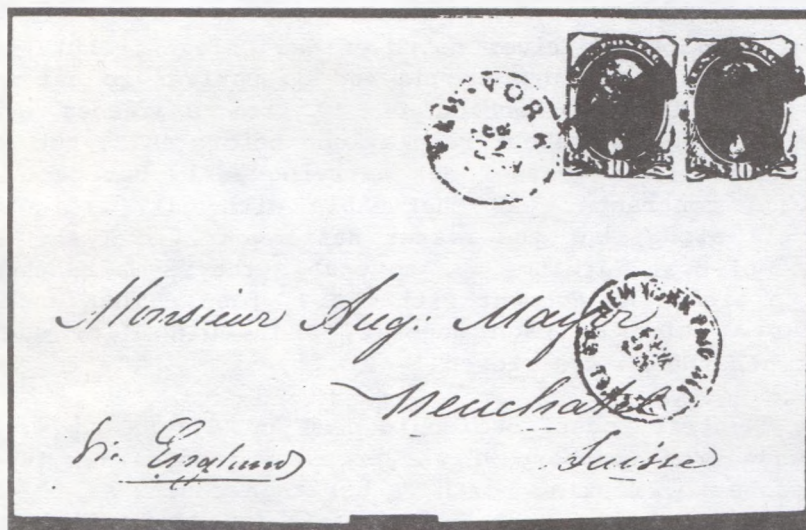


Figure 10

The CDS appears to have been applied separately from the killer strikes on the two stamps as it does not appear on the cover a second time. As earlier noted, it definitely is of the same type, 1A8, as used with number killers; yet my previous work showed that this particular type did not come into use until mid-1874.

Adding to the confusion, Mr. Weiss supplied me with a photocopy of another cover canceled with this rare killer (only three covers reported). Again, the cover was bound for Switzerland with a single 10 cent Banknote attached. However, the CDS is a somewhat larger transit marking of a type normally found on NYFM mail.

It is dated May 12, 1872. Mr. Weiss also noted in

private correspondence that the third cover was in the collection of the late David Beals. It is to Holland and is dated 10/14/71 with no "time of day" CDS. I am at a loss to explain this paradox that on three known covers, only one has a black "time of day" CDS. Do you, the reader have an explanation?

In the final analysis, each of us must decide what is collectible. In postal history and cancellation collecting, there are few hard and fast rules. Each of us must "do our own thing", but when buying for our collections, the knowledge shared by Messrs. Weiss, Curran and the author should be weighed. Caveat Emptor!

Acknowledgement: I would like to sincerely thank Mr. William Weiss for sharing photocopies of his collection and providing much expert information. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 122)

1730 John S. Hackmann, 109  
Red Pine Avenue,  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
Cancellations; first  
day covers; commemora-

tives

- 1731 Henry F. Franke, 1211  
Bergen Street,  
Ingleside, IL 60041  
Fancy cancels; U.S.  
officials
- 1732 John R. MacDonald, 515  
E. Anderson Avenue,  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
19th c. used US,  
Canada, France, Great  
Britain. PH: Brooklyn;  
Bennington; VT etc.  
Classic precancels
- 1733 I. H. Cherrington, 39  
Oak Drive, New Hyde  
Park, NY 11040 Cancels,  
U.S., Canada, Ireland
- 1734 Oakley Shields, 4890  
Old Highway, Mariposa,  
CA 95338 19th c. U.S.  
cancellations; late  
19th c. and early 20th  
c. precancel; pen  
cancellations
- 1735 Tom Hamm, Jr., 850  
Cedro Way, Stanford, CA  
94305 U.S. PH - esp.  
Western
- 1736 Mrs. Jean Neil, 1896  
Mt. Baker Hwy.,  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Alaska postmarks; oil  
related cancellations  
worldwide.
- 1737 Rev. Henry G. Turnbull,  
59 Washington Street,  
Newport, RI 02840 DPOs;  
AZ, NM, OK Territori-  
als; OK small towns to  
1910; U.S. cancels; GB  
duplex numerals
- 1738 L. Robert Piltch, 4146  
Bedford Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY 11229  
19th c. town and fancy  
cancels

(cont'd. on p. 137)



## READER RESPONSE

The riverboat mail and mystery cover articles in the last issue brought forth some interesting comments. Henry Beecher writes:

"In 'Riverboat Mail', your title and remarks imply that you know that the Anna Perret at the time it carried this letter was operating solely on the river north (a 'post road') of New Orleans. But if it is possible that it ran south of New Orleans and in the Gulf, then the "DUE 2 cts." would be proper: it would be a ship/ steamboat letter subject to postage rate of 2¢ plus ordinary postage to a PO beyond the one at which it was put into the mails. If part of that 5¢ charge (for 1/2 oz.) was prepaid, the balance was due on delivery.

"If you are sure this letter originated on the river north of New Orleans, (but why carry downriver a letter which would have to turn around and go upriver to get to Nashville, or would it go by RR?), then collection of 2¢ from addressee was improper, I think. I don't claim to know much about regulations before 1872, but as I read 1857 PL&R, letters brought to a PO by vessel not carrying mail, but over a route on which there were US mail contracts, was chargeable with only ordinary postage same as if in the mails all along, but the master still got 2¢. I should think that the purpose of the name-of-boat markings was to enable the PM where ship letters were put into the mails to credit an account with the 2¢ fees. That would obviate paying cash to the master at time of each deposit, and would allow such letters to be deposited at times when the PO was closed.

"To understand the routing of the "Mystery Cover" one would need an 1871 RR map. . . There never were many RRs going west from southern NH, so probably sender knew that St. Regis Lake would be reached sooner by routing north rather than south. I think there have never been more than two bridges across Lake Champlain, one just south of the border, one in Canada (it really is across the outlet river, not lake proper). They could well not have existed in 1871, so that transfer at Montreal would have been fastest. On return, I'd guess on current AMTRAK route on west side of lake, then west from Plattsburg; but possibly (if necessary RRs existed then) on Canadian RR up St. Lawrence to Cornwall, then SSE to the Saranac region.

"I know that in somewhat later years the US-Canada postal agreements provided that mail of one country could be routed through the other, where doing so made for faster delivery, and I should not be surprised if that were true at least as early as 1868. However, I would expect such US mail would be in bags labeled to a US PO, which would not be opened in Canada. Perhaps there was a slip and this letter was sorted into the wrong bag . . ."

Hubert Skinner comments:

". . . the STEAMER/ANNA PERRET marking is a privately applied 'advertising' marking placed on the letter by the purser or master of the named steamer. The STEAM marking shows definitely that the vessel was a non-contract steamer without a mail-carrying contract which was obliged to hand the letter over to the postmaster at the port of arrival. The STEAM marking is an ORIGIN MARKING showing the 'origin' of the letter as described above; thus, it (the STEAM) is an official postal marking. The oval PERRET marking is not. A WAY letter is a letter picked up by a CONTRACT MAIL CARRIER on the 'way' between post offices - but otherwise similar in the case of river mail. The postal acts required that the U.S. single rate postage be PREPAID on STEAM letters by enclosure in a postal stationery envelope or with an affixed adhesive. The circular DUE/2 cts (IF genuine) is not supposed to be on this letter, as you state in your article. There has been some fakery in this area and I cannot determine whether it is genuine without seeing the original cover . . .

"MYSTERY COVER: evidently the contents are not present. If so, I believe that you might find that the dateline is Montreal and that somehow it entered the mails



without Canadian postage (due to oversight or tolerance) traveled via Burlington to Walpole where the stamp was cancelled and the letter postmarked again. This seems much more likely to me than that it was deliberately detoured through Canada on the way to St. Regis. It may have been mis-sent to Walpole and had been intended to be taken off the train at Burlington for transport to St. Regis. This is just an idea -- not a firm answer . . . If it originated at Walpole then it seems that 'via Montreal' would be a more likely endorsement than 'via Burlington.'"

We received from Prescott Van Horn an 1868 railroad schedule which suggests that the cover could have traveled from Walpole to Montreal in time to be postmarked on the same day although not by the schedule in 1868. Since there were frequent schedule changes during this period, Tom Stanton will attempt to locate an 1871 schedule and we will report any significant information found. ■

## REVIEW

Weiss, William R., Collecting United States Covers and Postal History, published by the author, 1987

Mr. Weiss has produced an excellent primer or introduction to U.S. postal history. He aptly explores a wide range of topics from advertising covers to thematic postal history. Although technically neither of these fields would be considered as postal history by the purist, they definitely provide interest and variety to the collector. Other topics in this profusely illustrated book include but are not limited to air mail covers, Confederate postal history, Civil War usages, independent mail carriers and expresses, carrier covers and trans-atlantic mails.

The author states that one of his objectives is "to tell as much as we think necessary to whet the appetite of a novice, but not so much that only a specialist would care," and he admirably accomplishes this goal. Although a few technical errors have crept into the manuscript, these do not detract from the overall usefulness. Each section is well documented through extensive references from which the novice can expand his knowledge. The only criticism the reviewer has to these references is that complete citations were not given. However, the major benefits the reader can obtain are through these references and the numerous cover illustrations. In all, as an introduction to the many subjects presented, the author has achieved his purpose.

Available from the author at P.O. Box 5358, Bethlehem, PA 18105; \$15 softbound or \$25 hardbound.

Tom Stanton

### A CANADIAN "OK"? by Alyce Evans

In the Summer issue of the News, our editor, Roger Curran, gave a brief introduction to the book Canadian Fancy Cancels of the Nineteenth Century, and mentioned the similarity between some Canadian and U.S. fancy cancels. Leafing through the book, one sees many familiar cancels which the book lists as "origin

unknown". Some of these "unknowns" appear to be identical to U.S. cancels that have been documented on cover, while others are known on off cover U.S. stamps. An example of the latter is the "OK" in wavy lines, Figure 1. This cancel is listed in the book with P.O. of origin unknown. This cancel also appeared through the years in various U.S. philatelic publications as having been seen on the 3¢



Figure 1

green banknotes, and of unknown origin. I've only recorded two examples on my file cards--one is a single 3¢ green from a Siegel '72 (cont'd. on p. 137)



## NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS

## Unlisted Types (Continued)

By W. R. Weiss, Jr.

As a full-time professional philatelist specializing in U.S. postal history, one of the most frequent complaints I hear from collectors goes something like this: "I can't find a new area to begin collecting, because there is nothing new to be discovered in that (any) area." I can understand the frustration. Most serious advanced collectors would like to get into an area that can yield new "finds" which serve to add the "thrill" they need within their collecting lives. We can honestly say that the area of New York Foreign Mail cancellations is such an area. Since we began this series of articles, we have recorded in our files over ten new types not known to previous students, and fellow collectors have shown us at least that many more. Think of it! The Van Vliissingen-Waud book was printed in 1968, and their collections were sold in 1972. In the next fourteen years, no more than five new NYFM's were reported in the philatelic press, and of those five, two were reported by Morrison Waud. Fortunately, there remains a solid core of serious NYFM collectors who are continuing the search, and we are pleased to be counted among them!

We learned from David Beals, III before his death that he possessed a third example of the heart cancel we reported in the Summer 1986 News. Mr. Beals' example (Figure 1) may not show too clearly for it is a "third-hand" photocopy. The cover is to France and bears 6¢ and 10¢

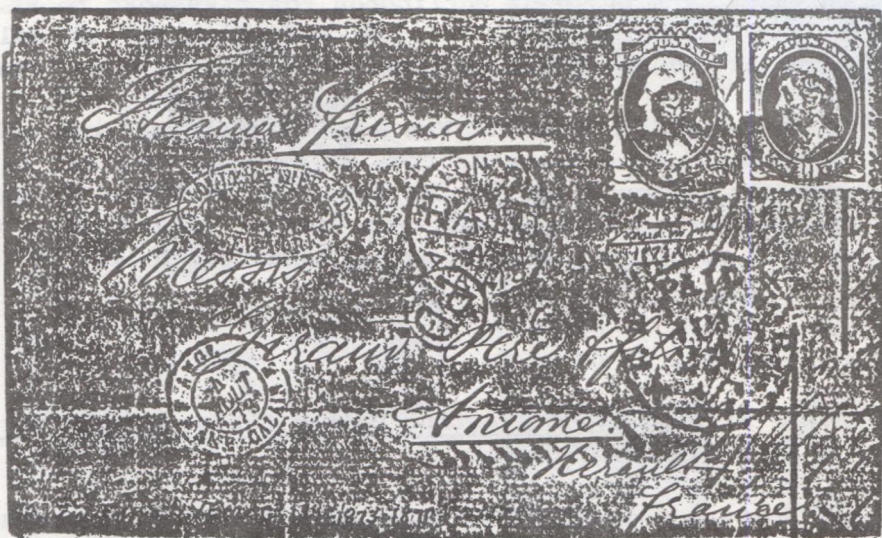


Figure 1

(Continental) Bank Notes. It has two strikes of the heart and a "New York/Paid 12/Jul 24" CDS, a merchant oval, a London transit and French receiving CDS, all 1873. This type has previously been assigned number C13, and it is the third reported use on July 24, 1873! It is interesting to note that not a single example of this cancel was found and duly reported until Morrison Waud's report of 1973, and in the next 13 years only two additional examples were found and all three dated July 24, 1873! It is possible that this cancel was only used this day, although not likely, and we feel sure that someone will turn up another example. How about you?

We have long felt that the listings of New York Foreign Mail cancellations in the Van Vliissingen and Waud book were, in some instances, not entirely well-grouped. Figure 2 will serve to illustrate perfectly why we disagree with their assign-

ments in some cases. It is, in my view, one of the more exciting discoveries in the area of NYFM's to come along in many years! Why? You have surely noticed by now that virtually all of the new types we have recorded in these articles have been in the groups designated as "Sunburst-Spoke" and "Free Hand" designs. Only a few of the new discoveries can be classified under the old system as "Conventional" and, to the best of my knowledge, no new "Geometric," "Star" or "Wheel" has come to light in many years. In our previous articles, we have recorded a few new "Conventional" designs, including the heart, and a couple of numerals. Under the classification of Conventional designs, a geometric leaf (type C1) has been recorded and under Free Hand, a stylized leaf (type F2) has been recorded (see Figure 3). Along comes a new type of leaf, not previously seen or recorded by students, and it is quite different from either C1 or





Figure 2



Figure 3

ing CDS on the back. Can anyone offer a confirming example of this cancellation on cover? If so, we will very much appreciate hearing from you.

Our disagreement with the Van Vlissingen-Waud listings becomes apparent. Why should two cancellations, which are both obviously leaves, be classified under two separate sections, rather than together? In another case of quite similar designs, one is classified as a "Star" and the other a "Geometric." While we do not wish to depart from our intent in recording new cancels, we felt a word along these lines was warranted. Perhaps a new classification system is in order? What do you think?

Figure 4 is still another of the negative numeral in solid circle types, of which we have previously reported two. This one, contributed by E.M. "Dick" Bitgood, is a negative "12" in solid circle. It is struck twice on two 10¢ Bank Notes on a cover used to Mexico. The cover bears the black New York/time-day CDS of February 15, 1875, a black

"25cs," a blue merchant handstamp of "Fredr. Probst & Co." and (I presume) a Mexican receiving CDS on back. Of interest is the fact that the positive circle measures 29mm in diameter, which is quite a bit larger than any I've previously seen, although I doubt that there is any significance to this fact. From collector Ted Wassam comes a report of a negative "11" in his collection, also on a pair of 10¢ Bank Notes, also from Probst, also with the "time/day" CDS, to Mexico on March 14, 1874. We note in the David Phillips Auction of 9/20/86 (lot 596) a negative "8" in circle on 3¢ and 6¢ Bank Notes, used to France on

April 28, 1875, also with time/day CDS. We have now recorded the following negative numerals used abroad from New York City: "2," "8," "9," "11," and "12." Who can show us either a second example of any or a different numeral?

Dick Bitgood provided the pleasant news that he too owns an example of one of the items we previously reported in the Winter 1987 News as Figure 2 (refer to that issue) and ironically, his example is also dated March 8, 1873, also to France! His example bears two 10¢ stamps.

Dick further reports the item shown in Figure 5, a most unusual and quite distinctive cancellation. It appears to be three vertical bars, each approximately 23mm tall, spaced about 6mm apart, and the total of the three measuring approximately 25mm wide. We presume it is struck in black. (Dick didn't say.) The cover bears two 10¢ Bank



12

first bearing only three sections that I recall seeing. If any reader can report a second example on cover, please let us know.

Dick was good enough to provide us with several

the actual cover, and I will trace the cancel. Thank you.

Comments and contributions should be directed to the writer at PO Box 5358, Bethlehem, PA 18015. ■

**NOTE:** Readers are reminded of the dialog between Mr. Weiss and your editor about whether the negative numerals should be termed NYFMs. Such cancels were used by the main post office in New York to some extent on out-of-town domestic mail during the 1872-6 period and it has been your editor's belief that uses of this type of cancel on foreign mail were of a happenstance nature. Mr. Weiss addressed the matter in the Spring 1987 and Fall 1986 issues and your editor in the Summer 1986 issue.

The three covers illustrated by Mr. Weiss bearing numeral cancellations are all addressed to Mexico and bear a domestic-type CDS (the "8" he reports, however, is addressed to France.) Mr. Weiss noted in the Spring 1987 issue that all examples he had seen of usages to Mexico during the NYFM period bore a black CDS as opposed to the normally found red CDS on NYFMs. This corresponds to the Van Vlissingen and Waud p. 14 observation:

"Mail to Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Islands may have been sent from New York to New Orleans and thence by boat to destination. All of such mail the authors have seen bears black New York postmarks... this indicates handling by the Domestic Mail Division in New York, apparently after clearing the Foreign Mail Division where NYFM



Figure 4

(11)

other new types as well as those shown here. Unfortunately, Dick doesn't trace and tracings from photocopies can be difficult and



Figure 5

Notes, which are tied by a often not very accurate. It "New York/Paid All/Sep. 2 is most important to provide (1873)" CDS, a "PD" and a strong, clear photocopies French receiving CDS, as when sending us new types or well as a "12" rating mark. there is no way we can use them, as much as we would like to! If you can't properly listed in the F12 trace, feel free to send me family although it is the



cancellations were applied. A few such covers show red New York postmarks along with black postmarks; the red postmarks probably were put on in error prior to clearing the Foreign Mail Division."

From the three covers mentioned it appears to your editor that if such mail was cleared by the Foreign Mail Division, at least some of it received domestic and not NYFM cancellations. The question arises as to whether mail to certain foreign destinations (in addition to Canada which V-W reported received no NYFM cancels) was to be handled by the Domestic Mail Division and not at all by the Foreign Mail Division. If that is the case, such usages of domestic numerals would of course not be "happenstance" but rather planned and intended usages. Regardless, the "8" on a cover to France would still seem to be purely happenstance application of a domestic mail duplex handstamp to a piece of foreign mail. Figure 1 illustrates a domestic "8" on a photo-reduced cover docketed "March 20/75."

Mr. Weiss and your editor would welcome reader comment. ■

(cont'd. fr.p. 127)

simple circular marking with the lettering "Eastern RR" within its circumference occurs in three colors, i.e., red, blue and black. Catalogued by Towle as 4-A-1,2, its existence dates from 1848. The second marking (see Figure 3) is also known in the first year of route agency. This 34mm CDS has the wording "Eastern RR/Ms" around the circumfer-

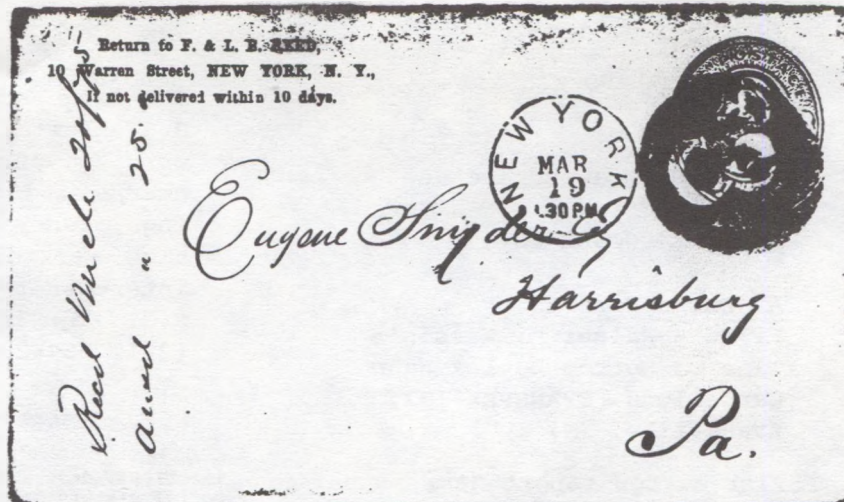


Figure 1

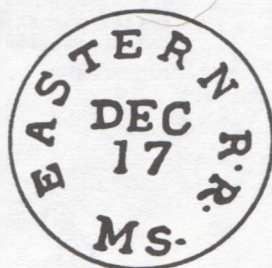


Figure 3

ence. Denoted 4-B-1 by Towle, the marking occurs in blue and black inks. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 131)

1739 Taylor T. Redden, 539 Cornell Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081  
Color cancels on U.S. 1847-1881; British Colonies; Topicals - flowers

1740 Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33881  
Florida PH

#### REINSTATED

1486 Charles J. Sommer  
232 Clark Street  
Brockport, NY 14420

1640 Daniel S. Pagter, PO  
Box 6394, Albany, CA

94706 Misc. fancy cancels on U.S.; Nevada town cancels; fancy cancels on cover of Spec. Del. stamps; U.S. Parcel Post stamps. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 133)

auktion, the other is a double strike on a pair of 3¢ greens, Figure 2.



Figure 2

Now, was this whittled whimsy carved by a Canadian, or U.S. postmaster? How did it manage to appear on both Canadian and U.S. stamps, as did others in this Canadian book? One possibility is that uncanceled stamps on covers from the U.S. to Canada and vice versa were canceled by the receiving station. If this type of use were to be found on cover, our intriguing mystery would be solved. ■



(cont'd. fr. p. 124)

## POSTAL HISTORY

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Fuller awards report next issue!

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Long Island Postal History Society  
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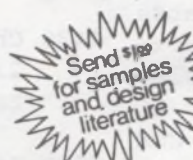


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