



Cancellation Club NEWS

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WHOLE NO. 195

WINTER 1988

STAR TREK III: THE VOYAGE TO WESTHAMPTON

by: Bruce London

Some time ago, I purchased a nice cover displaying a terrific example of the Westhampton, Mass. "UNION Star," Skinner-Eno #ST-C 14 (see Figure 1). The cover



Figure 1

was addressed to Miss Hattie A. Judd, Springfield, Mass., and dated November 25, 1865 (see Figure 2). Since this date seemed to be much later than the other usages I had recalled, I was a bit worried about authenticity. Consequently, I decided to see if I could find more information on this cancel. My first step was to go back through my small accumulation of old auction catalogues to search for other examples of this cancel on

cover. The several examples found were dated between 1862 and mid-1864. Since mine was dated so much later, my doubts lingered.

As usual in a situation like this, I turned to the members of the USCC for help. And, also as usual, help came in abundance. Alyce Evans, in particular, sent documentation that the cancel was used as late as 1866. My worries about my own copy were relieved, but my appetite for more information was whetted, too. So, I decided to see if the club members could help me conduct a "census" of these cancels. My call for information went out in the Summer 1985 issue of the News and, true to form, several members of the club responded. Between these responses and my own continuing search, I have been able to document the existence of 36 covers with the

"UNION Star" cancel; 26 of these have legible dates in the CDS. The dates of use are as follows: 1862 - June 26, July 12, July 26; 1863 - March 7, April 25, May 2, September 7, October 3; 1864 - January 5, January 19, March 9, March 19, May 7, May 20, June 15, July 2, July 23; 1865 - June 13, August 11, November 25; 1866 - July 10, October 9, December 15; 1867 - January 24, May 11, June 10.

As you can see, the latest recorded usage is actually in mid-1867. (This was the cover that sold in the Eno sale.) I recently picked up a cover showing a very late usage: May 11, 1867 (see Figure 3). Note how worn the device appears to be relative to the earlier example in Figure 1. Judging from the amount of wear, I would have to guess that the device was retired from use in mid-1867.

You will also note that both of my covers are addressed to Hattie A. Judd. Alyce Evans informed me that Frederick Judd was the postmaster in Westhampton at the time. (Perhaps he created the cancelling device, although I don't know for sure.) Hattie Judd was his daughter. Many of the covers with the "UNION Star" cancel are from the Judd correspondence, including at least 10 of the 36 covers

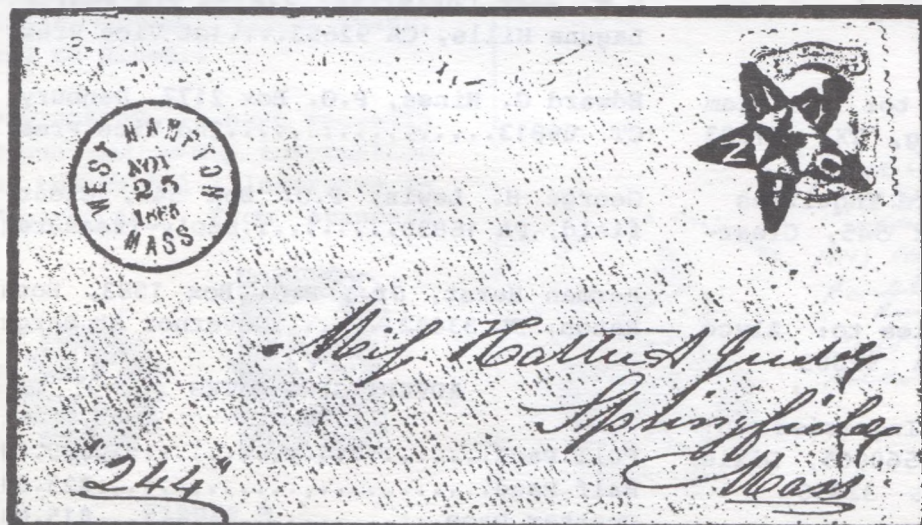


Figure 2

(cont'd. on p. 3)

Dear Reader:

The results are in and, as reflected in the box below, we now have in place our officers for the 1988-9 term. Thanks to our nominating committee for producing an excellent slate, which was elected overwhelmingly, and for the willingness of each nominee to serve.

A few words are offered about two articles in this issue. The cover article deals with a very popular and attractive cancel and Bruce London provides interesting information about its use. At the end, Bruce requests information about another distinctive star cancel and we would like to join with Bruce in urging you to report any examples in your collection. I have long thought this to be one of the most delicate cancels used in the banknote era with its numerous fine lines

radiating from the center.

Bill Weiss discusses three unlisted NYFM's, two of which are dramatically different from any NYFM's yet reported. They are really quite remarkable and it is a real pleasure to publish them.

As important as it is to report new information, it is your editor's view - and hopefully yours, too - that the News should also educate and entertain its readers. That is our objective and we would very much welcome comments on what has been presented and what you would like to see in the future in terms of basic approach, general subjects, specific articles, etc. It is, indeed, your journal!

Roger Curran



AWARD WINNERS

Alan Parsons
AFCDS award - Sullivan
Cachets and Cancels
(SYRAPEX, Syracuse, NY)

John B. Ludin
Vermeil - covers from Oneida
County, NY (BALPEX '87)

LeRoy Lipman, Jr.
Silver and Maryland PHS
Trophy - Two Centuries of
Baltimore Postal History
(BALPEX '87)

Dr. W.H.P. Emery
Gold and USPS award - Early
Texas Mail (STAMPSHOW '87)

Richard W. Cutts, Jr.
Vermeil and USCC award -
United States Three-Cent
Issue of 1869 Issue
(STAMPSHOW '87)

(cont'd. on p. 14)

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(cont'd. fr. front p.)

OLD TYME CANCEL

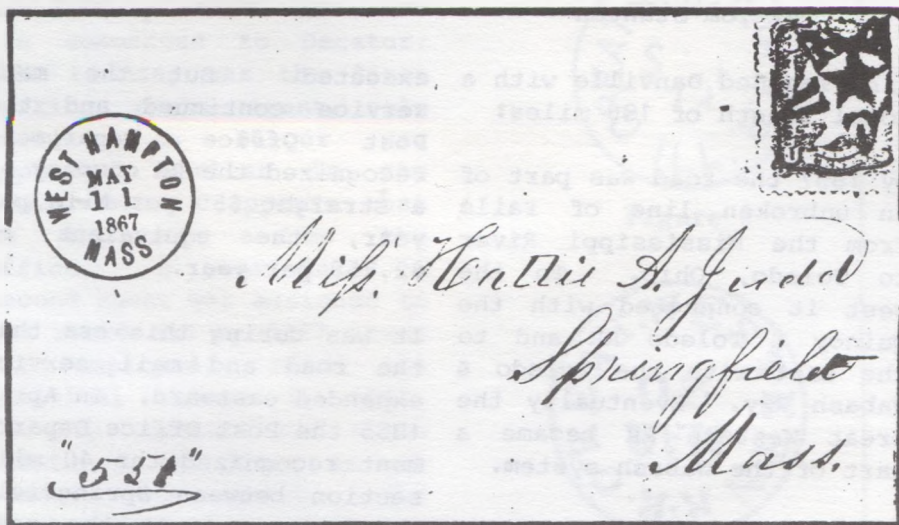


Figure 3

mentioned above. Alyce has noted two different handwriting styles in the Judd correspondence, and suggests that this might indicate letters to Hattie from both her mother and her father. Several covers from the Judd correspondence have numbers written in the lower left corner (see "244" in Figure 1 and "551" in Figure 2). "244" has appeared on at least one other cover. I have no idea what these numbers might mean.

If any of you have more information on this cancel, please drop me a line. (My thanks to the following USCC members for information: Arthur Beane, Abe Boyarsky, Roger Curran, Alyce Evans, and Ed Hines.)

POSTSCRIPT: I have recently begun gathering information on the cancel illustrated in Figure 4. From standard

references and my own research, use of the cancel from the following towns is noted: Oyster Bay, NY; Plant City, FL; Clayton, NY; Brewsters Station, NY; Ilion, NY; Bethlehem, PA; and Ferenbaugh, Steuben Co., NY. I have found it most often in black, but also in blue, purple and magenta. Please send information on date and place of use, color of ink, and, if possible, on the manufacturer. I would appreciate reports on usages from the towns mentioned as well as from additional towns. If enough information comes in, perhaps there will be another sequel: STAR TREK IV! ■

Fancy cancellations can appear when you least expect them. But there it was, in the office mail, the cover illustrated as Figure 1. This warranted some investigation! Your editor found that the matter was well reported in The Herald-Mail of Hagerstown, Md. of December 13. Seems like Boonsboro has an annual "Old Tyme Christmas" celebration and postmistress Julie Green joins in, processing an estimated 1,000 cards and letters this year with the special cancellation. Incidentally, the CDS, forming the tassel of Santa's cap, reads: "Old Tyme Station /Dec/13/1987/Boonsboro, Md. 21713." Several portions of the interesting Herald-Mail article are quoted herewith:

"The post office has received packs of cards from just about every state requesting the cancellation, Green said. Last year, people from as far away as Germany and Australia sent mail to the town for the cancellation. . .

"Since special cancellations
(cont'd. on p. 5)



Figure 4

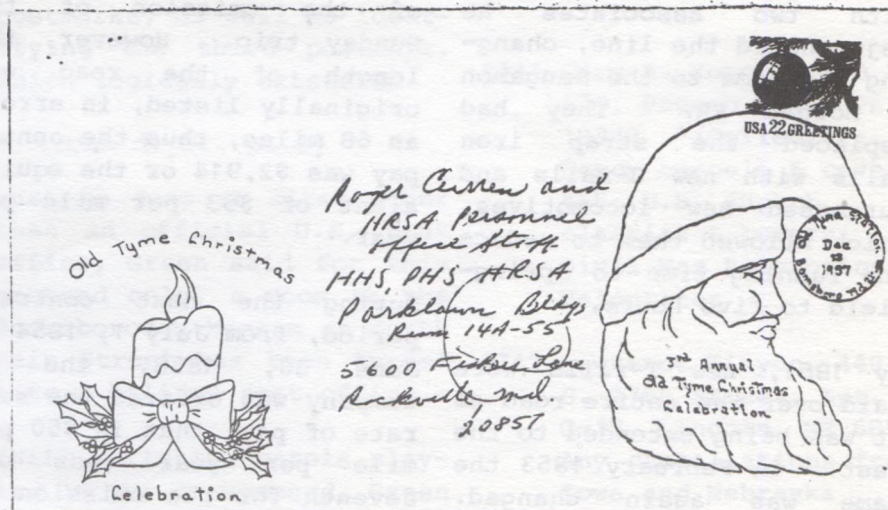


Figure 1

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD OF ILLINOIS

By Tom Stanton

The Great Western RR evolved from the Northern Cross RR, which commenced operations in November of 1838 on an eight mile stretch of track running eastward out of Meredosia. By the end of the year the tracks were extended to Morgan City.

In August 1839 a second locomotive, the "Illinois," was received from the Baldwin plant at Philadelphia. It joined the "Rogers" which had been running for about ten months and enabled the company to schedule two daily trips over the twelve mile route. They travelled at a rate of about six miles per hour.

The company extended the road to Jacksonville in 1840 and to Springfield in 1842. However, the road failed to earn a significant profit and in 1843 the State leased the railroad to S.M. Tinsley & Co. Continued deterioration of the locomotives and the strap iron rails forced the company to operate with mule and oxen power.

In 1847 the State sold the road at auction to Nicholas Ridgely of Springfield. With two associates he rejuvenated the line, changing its name to the Sangamon & Morgan RR. They had replaced the strap iron rails with new U-rails and purchased new locomotives, which allowed them to reduce the running time to Springfield to five hours.

By 1851, new T-rails were laid over the entire road as it was being extended to the east. In February 1853 the name was again changed. This time to the Great Western RR and by 1855 the

line reached Danville with a total length of 180 miles.

By 1857 the road was part of an unbroken line of rails from the Mississippi River to Toledo, Ohio. To the west it connected with the Quincy & Toledo RR and to the east with the Toledo & Wabash Rwy. Eventually the Great Western RR became a part of the Wabash system.

The road intersected the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis RR at Springfield; the Illinois Central RR at Decatur; and the Chicago Division of the Illinois Central at Tolono, thus forming an important east-west linkage for the major north-south railroads in the state.

MAIL CONTRACTS

The initial mail contract was awarded in May 1850 with the Sangamon & Morgan RR for the route from Naples to Springfield. The contract specified a rate of pay of \$50 per mile per year for daily trips. This was amended in July to six trips a week, thus one-seventh of the pay was deducted because of the omission of the Sunday trip. However, the length of the road was originally listed, in error, as 68 miles, thus the annual pay was \$2,914 or the equivalent of \$53 per mile per year.

During the next contract period, from July 1, 1854 to June 30, 1858, the RR company was offered the same rate of pay, that is \$50 per mile per year less one seventh for the omission of the Sunday trip. However, the contract was not

executed. But the mail service continued and the Post Office Department recognized the RR company at a straight \$50 per mile per year, the equivalent of \$2,750 per year.

It was during this era that the road and mail service expanded eastward. In April 1855 the Post Office Department recognized the 40 mile section between Springfield and Decatur. At the same time the service was augmented to twelve trips per week and the RR company's rate of pay increased to \$75 per mile per year, thereby setting the annual compensation at \$7,125. In December of the same year another 37-1/2 miles were added to the route, through the inclusion of the section from Decatur to Tolono. Two more expansions occurred during the contract period. The first being a 36-1/4 mile section from Tolono to Danville was accomplished in November 1856. Finally the last six miles to the Indiana state line were added in July of 1857. At this point in time, the route existed from Naples to State Line, 174-3/4 miles and the company received an annual compensation of \$13,106.25.

In the next four year contract period the rate of compensation increased to \$100 per mile per year. In 1859 a five mile branch to Meredosia was added to the route. This latter section had previously been under contract to the Quincy and Toledo RR.

ROUTE AGENTS

The first route agent was

assigned in April of 1855, immediately after the service commenced to Decatur. John Lindsay was the first working route agent, although C.L. Burger was appointed earlier in the month, but it appears that he did not assume the office. A year later a second agent was assigned to the route and by 1857 three were employed. After the political change in 1861, the POD replaced all three agents on the line, as was common throughout the country. At this point, one agent, J.N. Sweet, operated on the section of the road between Springfield and Meredosia, while the other two agents, William W. Booream and C.W. Gregory, ran from Springfield eastward to State Line.

POSTMARKS

Two postmarks are known that were used during the antebellum era. However, this presents a dichotomy in that three route agents were employed. Obviously, a third postmarking device was employed, but since it was in all likelihood a minor variation of one of the two known, it has yet to be isolated. The two postmarks have been labeled by Towle (U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks, 1986) as 577-A-1 and 577-B-1 (Figures 1 and 2). The Wyer collection contained the former on a cover bearing the imperforate 3-cent stamp of 1851. Figure 3 illustrates a cover with the type II 3-cent stamp of 1857. Neither cover has a definite year date. A cover with the latter postmark existed in the Remele and Wyer collections with the marking on a 3-cent Nesbitt envelope and the contents dated 1858.



Figure 1



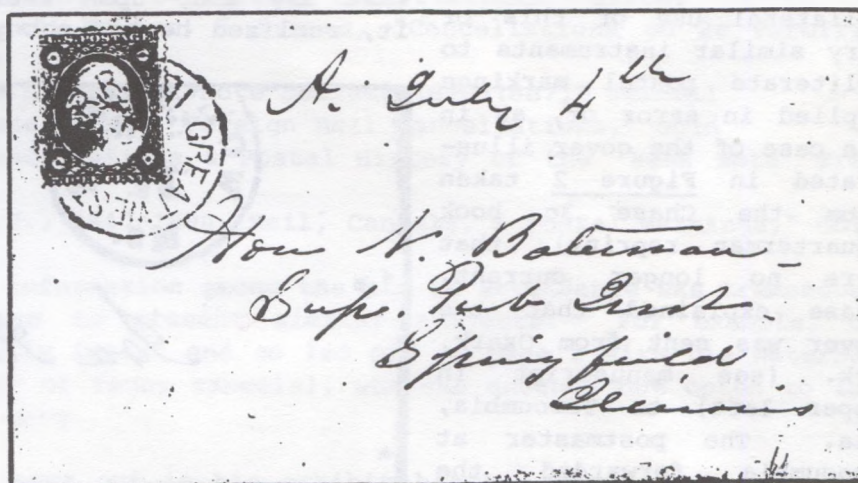
Figure 2

hours yesterday sorting and stamping the letters by hand. . .

"The cancellation was created by a local mail carrier, Green said.

"Green said the cancellation stamp will be returned to the postal department in Baltimore within about 30 days and then be destroyed.

"It will never be used again," she said. "That's what makes it so special."



Blue Towle 577-A-1 June 29 (no year date) on cover to Springfield, Ill.

Figure 3

The author would appreciate assistance in dating these postmarks, as well as identifying the third postmark, which logically exists. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 3)

must be done at sites other than an official U.S. post office, Green said for this weekend only, a room at the Boonsborough Museum on North Main Street has been turned into a holiday post office.

"With Christmas carols playing in the background, Green and post office clerk Barbara Franquist spent

NEW MEMBERS

- 1741 Gary A. Konopka, PO Box 571, Pocono Lake, PA 18347 */Collector: Fancy cancels & covers #65; U.S. superb classics & covers; Civil War Patriotics; Valentines
- 1742 Lawrence Kinyon, 4401 S. 27th Street, Apt. C-18, Lincoln, NE 68512 Any cancellations from Iowa and Nebraska

(cont'd. on p. 9)

ALL PURPOSE CANCELER

We discussed in the Fall 1985 News the "instrument" provided to the larger post offices by the Post Office Department to cancel stamps when the 1847 stamps were issued. The familiar impression made by this canceler is illustrated in Figure 1. In this article



Figure 1

we wish to mention a collateral use of this or very similar instruments to obliterate postal markings applied in error or, as in the case of the cover illustrated in Figure 2 taken from the Chase 3c book (Quarterman reprint), that were no longer current. Chase explained that the cover was sent from Ozark, Ark. (see manuscript in upper left) to Tuscumbia, Ala. The postmaster at Tuscumbia forwarded the letter to Conklin, Ala. and added his townmark and also the "5" marking to indicate five cents was due on delivery in Conklin as a forwarding charge. However, before he sent the letter on

he carefully canceled the "Paid 10" in manuscript with two strikes of the grid canceler.

In Figure 3 we show the obliteration of the date portion of "WORCESTER, MASS. MARCH 10" townmark. Apparently, the day the cover was processed was actually March 11 as a second strike of the townmark with March 11 appears on the cover. When the postmaster noticed his error he obliterated March 10 and restructured the townmark with the correct date. Perhaps this was the first piece of mail he stamped that day and, upon seeing it, realized he had not yet

changed the townmark from the day before. It is interesting to note that the grid was on hand although presumably not regularly used for the cancellation of stamps. The double duty use of townmarks was of course very common in the 1850's as a time saver.

Figure 4 recently caught our eye in a dealer's stock. It is canceled by both a "FREE" and a grid. We rather assume--although realizing it is a quite speculative assumption--that the stamp was first canceled by the "FREE" (which appears to be the case) and then the postmaster, who upon reflection

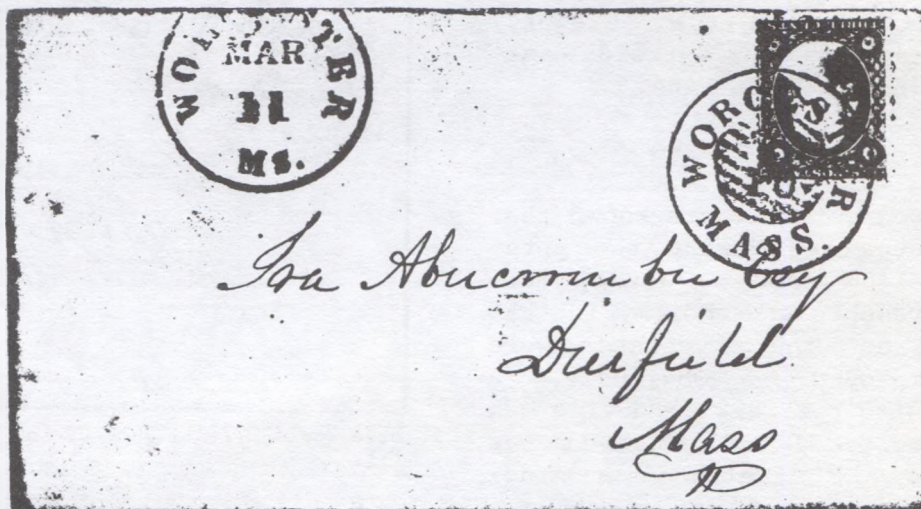


Figure 3

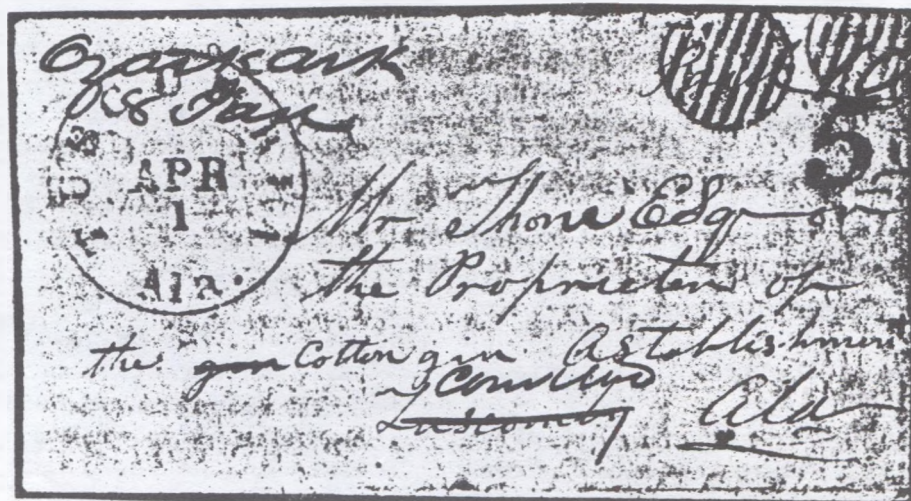


Figure 2



Figure 4

thought it somewhat incongruous to cancel a stamp paying postage with a "FREE," decided to obliterate that mistake and at the same time cancel the stamp in the traditional manner.

Roger Curran

VAPEX REPORT
By Clyde Jennings

VAPEX '87 held at Virginia Beach, Va., November 20-22 presented what is believed to be philately's first ever Marcophily competition. Marcophily consists solely of cancels and postal markings and has been a popular facet of the hobby for many years as witness the large membership of the USCC and the number of dealers living well off of this type material. Marcophily is not to be confused with postal history which, as I see it, is basically a study of rates and routes, and serious consideration is being given at the international level to establishing a separate section for exhibits of this nature as differentiated from postal history. There have been Marcophily exhibits per se, shown from time to time by various exhibitors, but this marks the first time a separate section has been allocated by any show for a group of these exhibitors to go head-to-head in competition. There were 55 frames and 828 pages holding 5633 individual items entered.

Seven of the ten collectors invited entered exhibits as follows, with titles and number of frames indicated, plus award levels received:

Joseph H. Crosby, 10 frames, "U.S. 19th Century Fancy Cancellations," Gold
Bruce London, 5 frames, "19th Century U.S. Fancy Cancellations," Silver
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. ("Tuck") Taylor, 5 frames, "Cancellations on 2c Vermilion Bank Note Stamp," Silver
Roy Lipman, 10 frames, "The U.S. 3c Bank Note Series, 1870-1887," Vermeil
William R. Weiss, Jr., 13 frames, "N.Y. Foreign Mail Cancellations," Gold
James M. Cole, 6 frames, "Cancellations & Postal History of the 'Bank Note' Era," Silver
Clyde Jennings, 6 frames, "U.S., 1847-1900, Mail, Cancels, & Postal Markings," Gold

As expected, the exchange of information among the six in attendance was tremendous, as was seeing how each chose to present similar subjects. For example, one exhibitor chose to make an early impact and so led off on page 2 with his Waterbury cancels (the ultimate category of fancy cancels), whereas another one opted to lead up to them and finish with a bang.

Each exhibitor was asked to point out in his exhibit his key piece, favorite item, or most difficult acquisition. These are the answers:

Crosby: a Waterbury arrow through heart on a Valentine Day cover dated February 14th; a reportedly unique Seated Liberty with "I Overcame Difficulties" around it; a "Used and Done For" cancel from Fair Haven, Conn.

London: one of the more difficult NYFM's, type A20, shown on all eleven of the Bank Note values (Remember his entertaining article on this subject in the Summer 1985 News?); a horizontal strip of 3 one cent Bank Notes with a dual strike "PAID" in shield of Dedham, Mass; a Waterbury Skull & Crossbones on cover; a NYC Roman Soldier's head on cover.

Taylor: a bisect on cover with certificate; closed mail cover via England to Italy with NYFM and Great Britain cancels, all for only two cents; a newspaper wrapper rate of .02, plus British half pence; an Indian profile cancel probably from a Western fort.

Lipman: most difficult a Glen Allen, Va., pen cross-hatch precancel forwarded with a 3-cent B.N. with geometric cancel and Detroit CDS; Shoo Fly cancel on strip of 3 from Evansville, Ind.; favorite and biggest thrill at obtaining -- the Scott #169 Special Printing.

Weiss: cover bearing a NYFM cancel which originated outside U.S. in Cuba, one of two reported, to Barcelona, has Cuban stamp and .29 in US stamps, by NY Steamship to

NY; favorite is block of four .15 cent stamps on piece of an ad cover with a double strike; cover out of Canada carried by Wells Fargo, through NY to London, with two .06 Canadian stamps on a six cent US entire.

Cole: (the exhibitor unable to attend).

Jennings: A Waterbury Running Chicken on 3 cent '69; one of three known Boston Eagle & Thunderbolt covers, in use one day only; ten yellow cancels; most fun -- Pot(!)tstown, Pa., commode seat cancel.

The VAPEX people were most pleased with the reaction to this section by visitors at the show and the general interest it generated among other visitors and judges as well. So much so, in fact, that plans now are to repeat it next year with the hope even more exhibits of this nature will be attracted to the show. All seven were invited back, plus an open invitation to others with exhibits of this type is being extended. The show provided the Cochrane Award, a beautiful silver tray, for the best exhibit in this section, and will do so again next year. Dates of the 1988 show are November 18-20 in the Pavilion Center at Virginia Beach, Va. Write to Leroy P. Collins, P.O. Box 2183, Norfolk, VA 23501, for a prospectus or further information -- it will be well worth your while! ■

Ed. We want to complete the report on the exhibits mentioned. Clyde was too modest to do so. He also won the Grand Award, James H. Cochrane Award, USCC award and the APS pre-1900 medal. Bill Weiss also won the USPCS award. Congratulations to all Macrophily section exhibitors on an excellent showing!

IT MEANT SOMETHING TO SOMEONE

Gary O'Neill sends the covers illustrated in Figure 1, dated 1880 and 1882, and asks about the meaning of the "B.L." marking. Gary mentioned that he has assumed the "B.L." to represent a clerk's initials, but he wonders about that since he also has an 1898 cover bearing a "B.L." marking. The "B.L." in the top cover in Figure 1 is in the same blue-green ink as the "ADVERTISED" oval.

In the Chronicle (issue 116) an 1883 cover is shown bearing a similar marking, but with the letters "C.L." rather than "B.L." The "C.L." is in the same purple ink as another marking on the cover, an "UNCLAIMED/I.D./N.Y." enclosed in a circle. Interestingly, there is no town CDS on the cover. Most Chronicle readers who responded about this "problem cover" thought

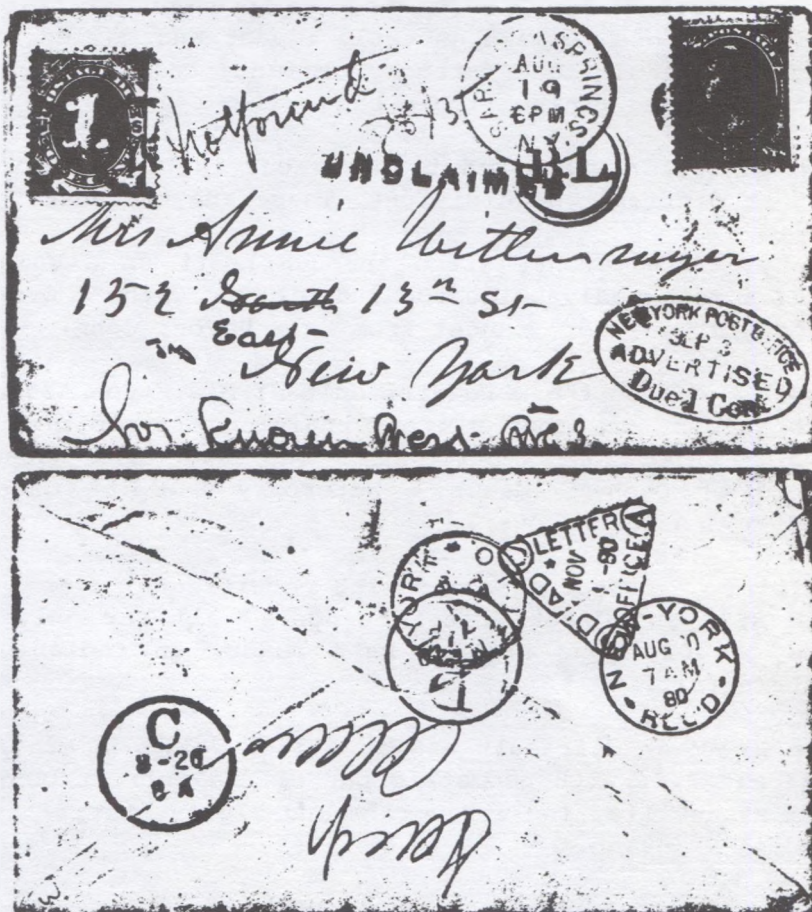


Figure 1

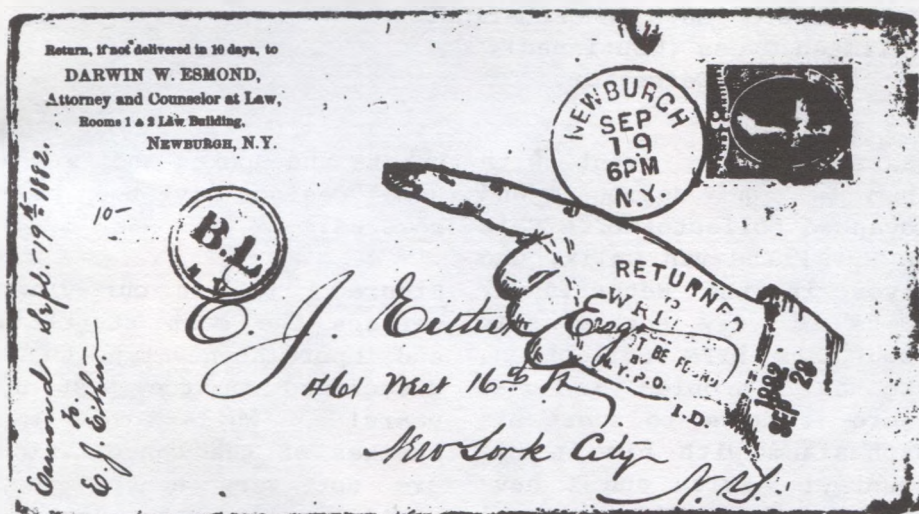


Figure 1

that the "C.L." marking denoted the initials of the clerk in the "I.D." which was interpreted as standing for either Inquiry or Investigations Division. There was also speculation that "C.L." meant carrier letter as the cover also had an affixed "Letter returned by carrier" label which was reported to be used in the 1881-91 period on letters returned to the post office by the carrier because he was unable to deliver.

The common thread in all the above covers is that they were addressed to New York City and could not be delivered. It is surely tempting to think of "L."

as referring to "letter." Carrier and box letters perhaps? This explanation, however, doesn't seem to compute very well. Is the lack of a town CDS on the Chronicle cover significant? Was it a local letter? (It did have a 3c banknote.)

Your thoughts and comments will be welcomed. ■

(cont'd. fr. p. 5)

1743 John A. Valenti, 612 Sycamore Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090 Banknote issues, 2¢ Jackson, usages, NYFM, NYC Fancy cancels

1744 Neil A. Goldwasser, Shelter Bay Club, Suite 12C, 1225 River Road,

Edgewater, NJ 07020

1745 Douglas Youngblood, 1018 E. Evergreen St., Wheaton, IL 60187 Cancels from Swastika, Ontario; Swastika, New Mexico and Third Reich

1746 John Grabowski, 1249 Nursery Hill Lane, Arden Hills, MN 55112 U.S. Cancels

RESIGNATIONS

1686 Steven M. Roth
640 David L. Jarrett
1714 Carolyn Buttke
1402 Gregory A. Hanson

CHANGE OF COLLECTING INTEREST

1455 Donn R. Bearden, 451 Jacqueline Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405 To: 19th c. Worldwide early issues

CORRECTED FROM EARLIER LISTING

1738(LM) Robert Pilch, 4146 Belford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229 19th c. town and fancy cancels

DONATIONS

Robert Abelson
Richard M. Denton
James M. Mundis
J. Thomas Showler
Mary Turner
Bill Walker

CLOSED ALBUM
William J. Taylor

NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS

Unlisted Types (Continued)

By W. R. Weiss, Jr.

As we mentioned in a previous article, it is a quite exciting event when we can show you a previously unreported NYFM which is other than one of the "dull" types. From the late Dave Beals came the first report of a Masonic cancellation (Figure 1)! This is only the sixth NYFM design which can correctly be termed "topical" in design, along with C1, 2, 7, 10 and 11; all, of course, "Conventional" designs.

share such an event with them. A serious and advanced collector of NYFM's is Mr. Frits van Gulik, who lives in the Netherlands. Frits is very enthusiastic about his NYFM collection. The only problem is that there is no one to share his enthusiasm with him in his country! Frits and I have corresponded for several months, and he has many questions and observations to share about NYFM's, and feels frustrated that he has

bursts and Spokes and "Free-Hand" designs have been discovered.

Figure 2 is, in our view, perhaps the most startling and important new type to be discovered in the past 20 years! While the two strikes of the cancellation are not very heavy, they plainly are negative letters which clearly read, from top left, to bottom right "NYPO"! Previously recorded "Conventional" Types C3 and C4 both bear a negative "H" letter, but here we have the first --and only-- reporting of an abbreviation, i.e., "New York Post Office." Interestingly, the "P" has a tiny period (".") after it, but none of the other three letters has the period. I would speculate that when the cancel was carved, all four letters may have had the period, but likely after a few strikes, the tiny holes quickly filled with ink. It makes no sense to carve a four-letter design and put a period after only one letter.

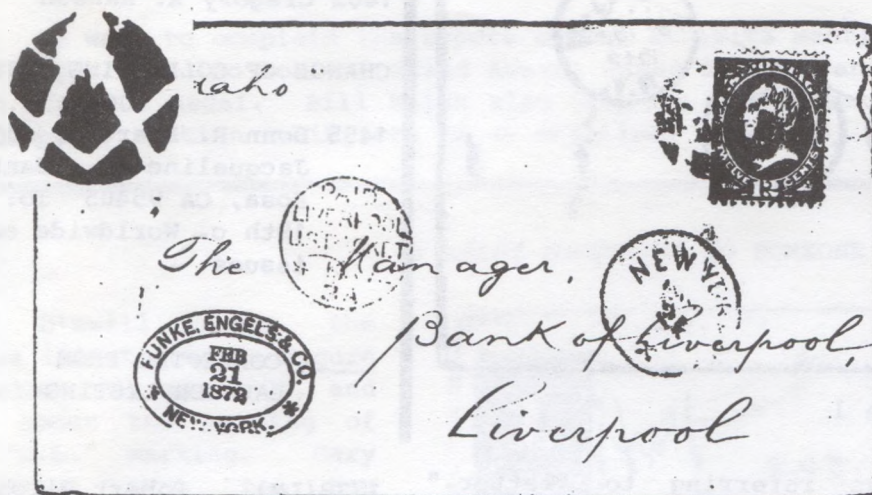


Figure 1

The cover bears a 12¢ Bank Note, used to Liverpool, England, on February 21, 1872. It also bears a "New York" CDS, a Liverpool/U.S. Packet CDS and a Merchant handstamp of "Funke, Engels & Co." I will be very anxious to see if any reader can show us a second example of this cancel.

One of the most gratifying things about writing on a specific subject, is the joy we receive when we meet new collecting friends with similar interests to ours. We trust the reader (and editor!) will allow us to

no one to "talk" to in his country. Why don't you consider writing to Frits? I'm sure he will be thrilled to hear from fellow collectors interested in NYFM's, and I'm sure he will answer you. His address is: Frits Van Gulik, 3871 BW Hoevelaken, 3 Smalle Streek, The Netherlands. Tell Frits I introduced you!

We have previously stated that despite the fact that since the book "New York Foreign Mail Cancellations" by Van Vlissingen-Waud was written in 1968, very few new designs other than Sun-

The folded letter sheet bears two copies of the 3¢ (Continental) Bank Note to pay the 6¢ rate via British Mail to England. The letter inside bears the date of May 4, 1872 and the red "New York" CDS also is dated May 4. A black Warrington receiving CDS is on the reverse.

Can any reader show us a second example of this cancellation? We suspect that since the "N" shows signs of breakage in the left bottom "leg," that the cancel was short-lived, but if any

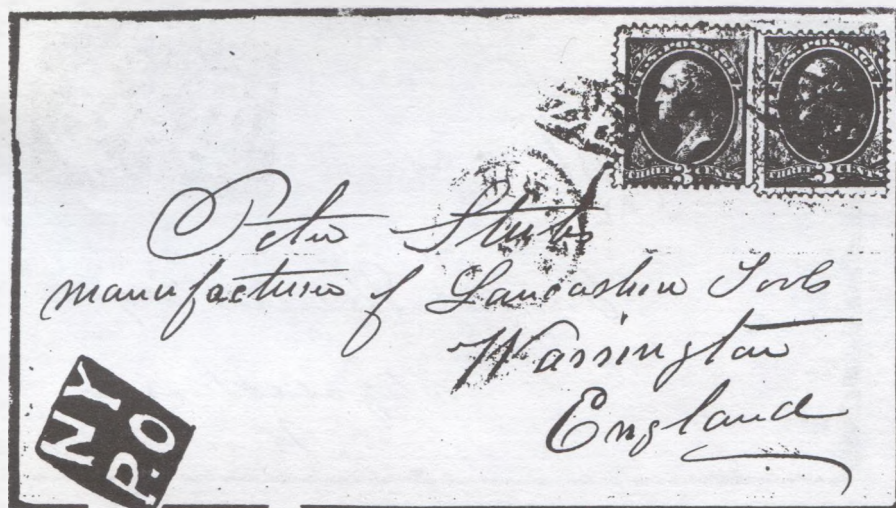


Figure 2

reader can show us a confirming example, we would be most grateful. The purpose of this series of articles, aside from reporting new NYFM types, is to encourage fellow USCC members to examine their Bank Note covers, and report any new type, or provide a confirmation of a newly reported type to the author, or to the editor who will gladly forward communications to me. Any contribution of information will be acknowledged in a future article, unless you prefer to remain anonymous.



Figure 3

We are fortunate to be able to show you another startling new type in this article. Figure 3 is a bit difficult to describe in words, but I would say it is either a "tilted cross" or a stylized "X". What would you say? The group of 5 rectangles each measure approximately 5mm x 7mm except the center one, which is a 5mm square. The stamp is a 10¢ (National) Bank Note, the red CDS reads "New York/Paid All/Br. Transit." The stamp pays the 10¢ rate to Switzerland by closed mail via England effective May 1870, the CDS is dated Nov. 26, and black Swiss

transit and receiving CDS markings are on the back.

Note that to the right of the top vertical rectangle is a "wedge." We make mention of this for a very important reason. It is quite possible that this particular cancel started out in life as something other than what we see here. For example, if we were to imagine three more "wedges", one at each corner of the design, we suddenly would have, instead of a "cross," a circular grid divided into nine sections (three rows of three)! When reporting the specific data of a particu-

lar cancellation, it is wrong to omit anything we can see with our eyes. There are times when "extra" marks, such as this "wedge," are nothing more than over-inking or a piece of foreign matter caught on the device, but the extra wedge can possibly be something meaningful and may help us to better identify a cancel that evolved from an earlier state. In this case, since I am not aware of any six-segmented circular grid in this shape of rectangles, it is most likely as we have

described it: a "tilted cross."

We ask that any reader who can show a confirming example of Figure 3 contact either the author or the editor. Please include a photocopy of your example. We are also continuing to ask the aid of all USCC members in our ongoing project to record all NYFM cancels that exist on cover. We have recorded nearly 1,100 covers to date, and that figure reflects almost 400 that were added in 1986-87 alone. To participate in this project, merely record the NYFM type using Van

Glissingen-Waud numbers, note the stamps used, the destination, and the date (if possible). Photocopies are not necessary if you are sure of the type identity, but are helpful if you are in doubt. At some point it is our hope to publish the accumulated data, but to have any chance to succeed, we need your help! ■

ONE FOR TWO

One of the interesting and certainly most basic varieties of cancelers used in the 1850's consists of those designed to cancel two stamps. According to Chase in his 3c book, such cancelers were used mainly in California and, in referring to one example, he stated that it was undoubtedly made because of a considerable amount of mail to the east requiring two stamps. From July 1851 through March 1855 the prepaid postage rate was six cents per one-half ounce. When payment was made by stamps, only three-cent and one-cent stamps were available to the sender to make up the rate. Two three-cent stamps were, of course, normally employed.

We illustrate in Figure 1 a cancel from Chase (Quarterman reprint), the origin of which he did not identify.

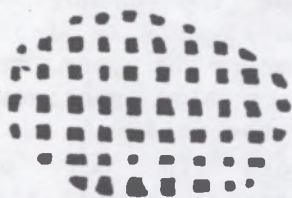


Figure 1

The cover in Figure 2 shows it to be from Weaverville, California. From Coburn's Letters of Gold we illustrate in Figure 3 another Weaverville cover bearing what is apparently one half



Figure 2



Figure 3

of the two-stamp cancel. (Coburn explains the cover's markings to indicate seven cents paid in cash which, with the three-cent stamped envelope, comprised the ten cent rate to the east.) The rate changed from six cents to ten cents in April 1855. We can speculate on the basis of this cover that the Weaverville postmaster cut a two-stamp canceler down after concluding it was no longer needed given the introduction of a ten-cent adhesive to pay the new rate.

San Francisco was known to use a two-stamp canceler and a cover from Coburn is presented in Figure 4 showing a large oblong eight-bar grid. Chase illustrated two rather similar Marysville, Cali-

fornia two-stamp cancels and we show in Figure 5 a Marysville cover from Ashbrook's The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857, Volume 2. Beyond the cancel the townmark is of considerable interest with its "PAID BY STAMPS" inscription. This surely represents one of the great redundancies encountered in the study of postal history. While before 1856 there were certainly two ways to prepay postage -- cash and stamps -- there was no reason for preparing a townmark with that notation since the very mail on which the marking was placed contained the stamps themselves. But postmark enthusiasts find it delightful and quaint, don't we?!

Roger Curran

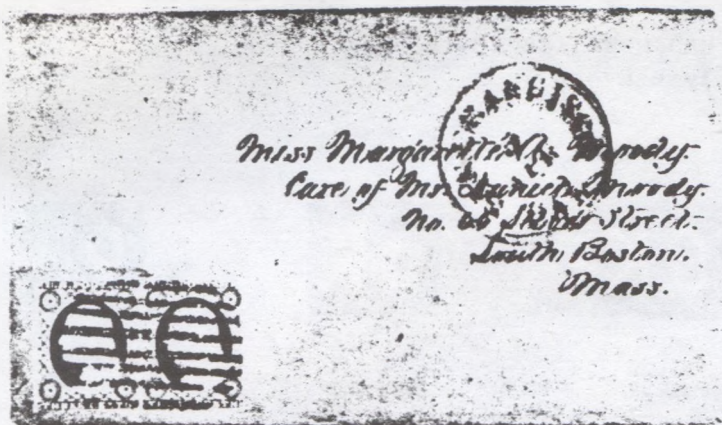


Figure 4



Figure 5

NOTED BRIEFLY

On page 117 of the Summer 1987 News we illustrated several cancellations appearing on off-cover 3c banknotes in the collection of club member LeRoy Lipman, Jr. including that in Figure 1. We noted in the catalog

6

Figure 1

for the Weiss auction of September 12, 1987, lot 676 described thusly: "Superb blk. -'6" (to celebrate 1876 Centennial) ties F-VF stamp to XF cvr. from Coudersport, Pa., Rare." From the illustration, it certainly

appears to be Mr. Lipman's
"6".

Hubert Skinner advises that the Tolland, Ct. "grid" illustrated on page 106 of the Summer issue is a patent-style cancellation with a cutting device in the center. Hubert reports having two on-cover and two off-cover examples to confirm this.

Illustration 466 (see Figure 2) in Nineteenth Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin, a publication reviewed by Alyce Evans in the Spring 1987 News, seems to us to be an especially effective (whether actually intended or not) example of a cancel with a three-dimensional appearance.

We noted with amusement an



Figure 2

advertisement that ran in the United States Mail and Post Office Assistant of December 1865 and other issues for Kraus' new stamping pad, as follows:

"This PAD recommends itself when seen or used. No one will ever be without who has used one, or look for any other. It gives a clear, clean impression, does not gum the type; is not affected by the weather, and is certain death to postage stamps or bank paper."

HELP WANTED

The Mailer's Postmark Permit Club (APS Affiliate #100) is preparing a new checklist of all known Mailer's Precancel Postmarks (MPP's) used since their authorization in 1925.

It is the desire of the MPCC to make this list as accurate and as complete as possible. Therefore, we are asking for help from any and all collectors. If you have a MPP and/or have any information relating to MPP's, you are asked to please contact the Editor of the checklist.

The Editor is: Scott A. Shaulis, 119 W. Sanner St., Somerset, PA 15501. Any help at all from interested readers would be greatly appreciated.

"O.K." CANCELS ON BANKNOTE ISSUES, PART II

By Alyce Evans

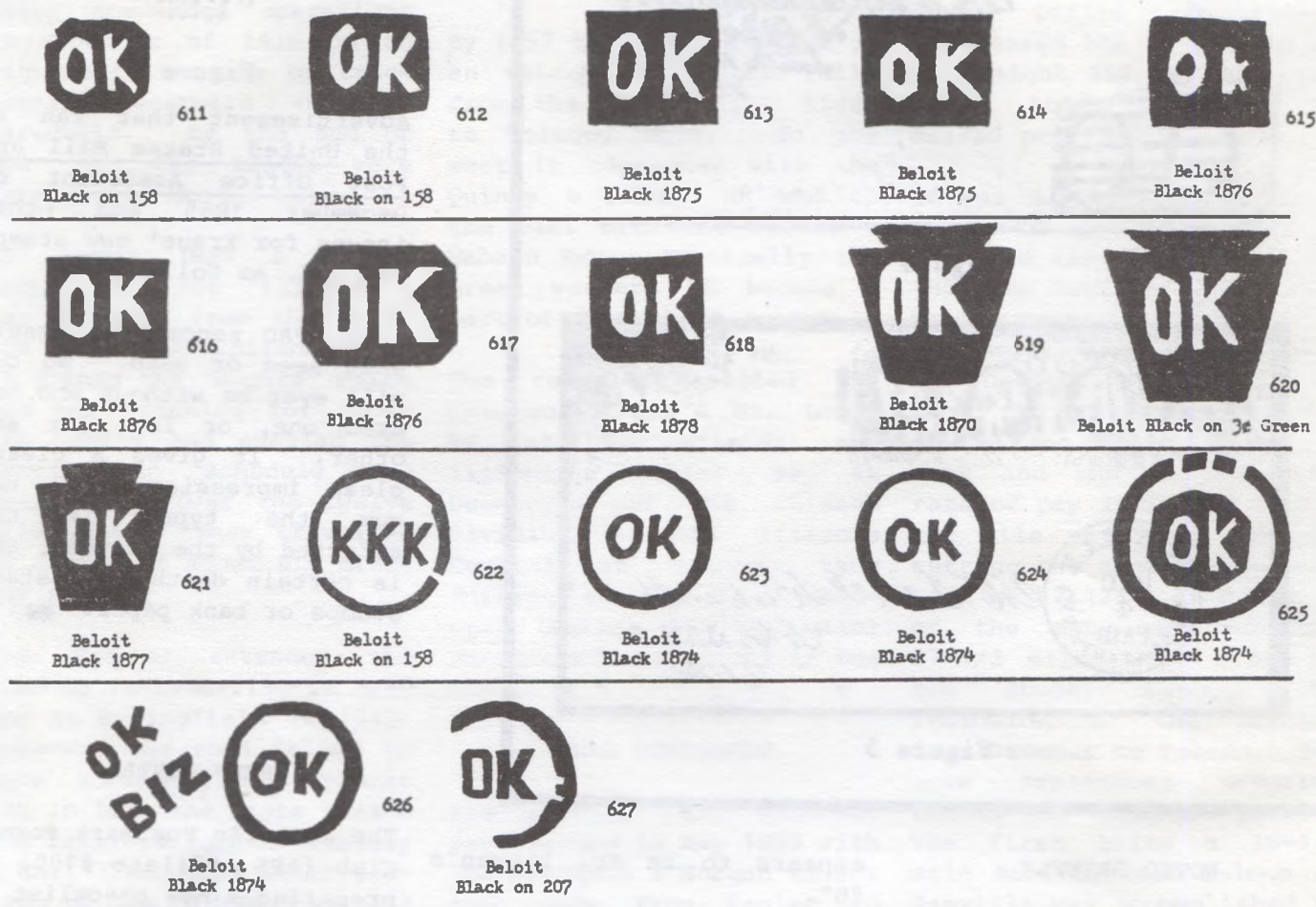


Figure 17

Figure 17. BELOIT, WISC. For the convenience of our readers we show a page from the 19th Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin, Bulletin #18, 1987 published by the Wisconsin Postal History Society. This example shows what a dedicated and cooperative effort can accomplish in documenting accurately, and in detail, the evolution and use of fancy cancels from a specific area. The period of use ranges from the 1870 issue to 1882. The postmaster during this time was Henry P. Strong who served from June 23, 1870 to Sep 23, 1883. The 1877 Official Register lists two clerks in

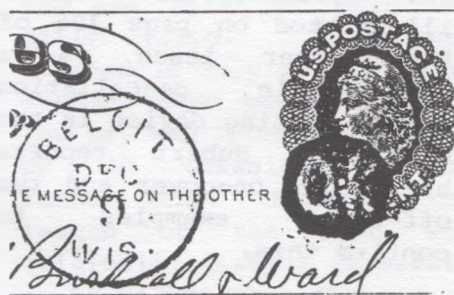


Figure 17A

addition to the postmaster, so it is possible these carvings were the work of more than one person. The only addition I have to this list is shown in Figure 17A, which seems to be #625 without the outer circle, or maybe #611? It is on a UX3, dated Dec. 9, message side

dated 1874 and was sent in by Ed Hines. ■

(to be continued)

(cont'd. fr. pg. 2)

John M. Hotchner
Gold (periodicals) - The Philatelic Exhibitor (STAMPSHOW '87)
Vermeil (newspaper col.) - U.S. Notes (STAMPSHOW '87)
Vermeil - Stamp Separation: Its Development from 1840 to Modern Times (STAMPSHOW '87)
Gold - same exhibit (INDYPEX '87)

Budd W. Dickey
Vermeil - The Four-Cent Jacksons, Issues of 1883 (STAMPSHOW '87)

(cont'd. col. 2, pg.15)

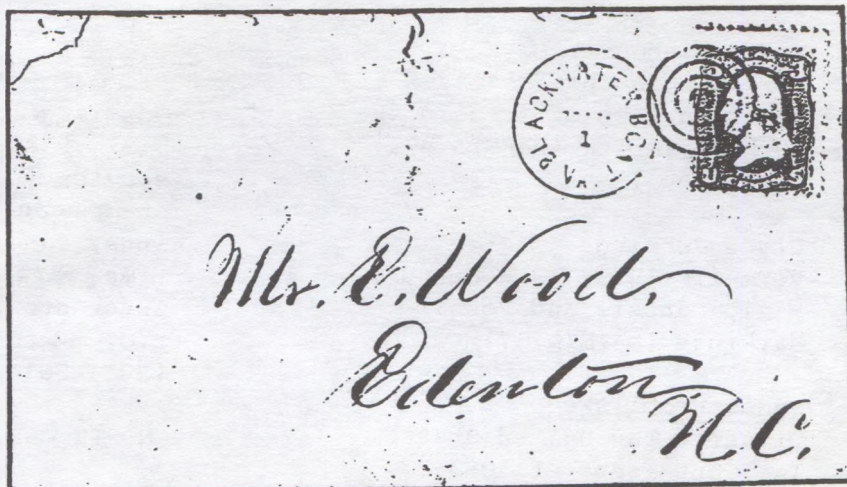
BLACKWATER BOAT, VA.
By Tom Stanton

The "BLACKWATER BOAT/VA." 24mm postmark presents an enigma. The author requests the assistance of the readership in determining the use of this postmark.

The marking is known on two covers, one addressed to Edenton, NC (Figure 1) and the other to Lake Scuppernong, NC (Figure 2). The latter is docketed in 1868. On first glance it appears to be a normal post office marking, however a search of the postmaster appointment records does not reveal an office by that name in Virginia. If not a post office, was it a route agent's marking?

A steamboat route from Franklin Depot, Va. to Plymouth, NC existed as early as November of 1843 (1843 PMG Annual Report). This 107 mile route started on the Blackwater River at Franklin Depot, then traversed the Nottoway and Chowan Rivers into Albemarle Sound. In 1868 the route was let to Jacob Brandt Jr. and included the intermediate offices of Edenton, Colerain Landing, Harrellsville, Gates Ferry, Winton, Riddicksville and South Quay. At Franklin Depot the route connected with the Seaboard & Roanoke RR route, which ran from Portsmouth, Va. to Weldon, NC. John Kay lists route agent service on the route as early as 1858 (Towle, U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks). However, when post war route agents were assigned has not been determined.

The two covers shown have not retained their original contents, thus the origin of the letters is unknown.



Cover to Edenton, NC, possibly used in 1868. The stamp appears to be grilled, although this cannot be definitely confirmed from the photocopy.

Figure 1



Cover to Lake Scuppernong, NC, docketed in 1868. Note the relative positions of the four-ring target cancellations to the townmarks on the two covers. A duplexed device was not used.

Figure 2

Reports of other examples of this marking would be most appreciated, particularly if the origin of the letter is known. The author would like to confirm or deny the route agent and route hypothesis, as well as determine the period of use of the marking. ■

(Awards cont'd.)

Robert W. Collins
Silver-Bronze (periodicals)-

The Alaskan Philatelist
(STAMPSHOW '87)

William H. P. Emery
Vermeil - Early Texas Mail
(FLOREX 87)

Joe von Hake
Gold - U.S. Domestic Rates
from Act of 1787-1861 (SEPAD
87)

Thomas Taylor
Vermeil - Washington, D.C.
Postal Markings (SEPAD 87)

Henry W. Houser

FIP championship class -

Austrian Post Offices in the
Turkish Empire (HAFNIA 87,
Copenhagen)Clyde JenningsVermeil - U.S. 19th Century
Mail, Cancels and Postal
Markings (HAFNIA 87)James WrobliskeSilver - The United States
Two Cent Issue of 1883-87
(HAFNIA 87)

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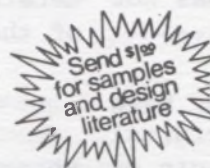


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