



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 19, NO. 4

WHOLE NO. 198

FALL 1988

COMPOUND LETTERS

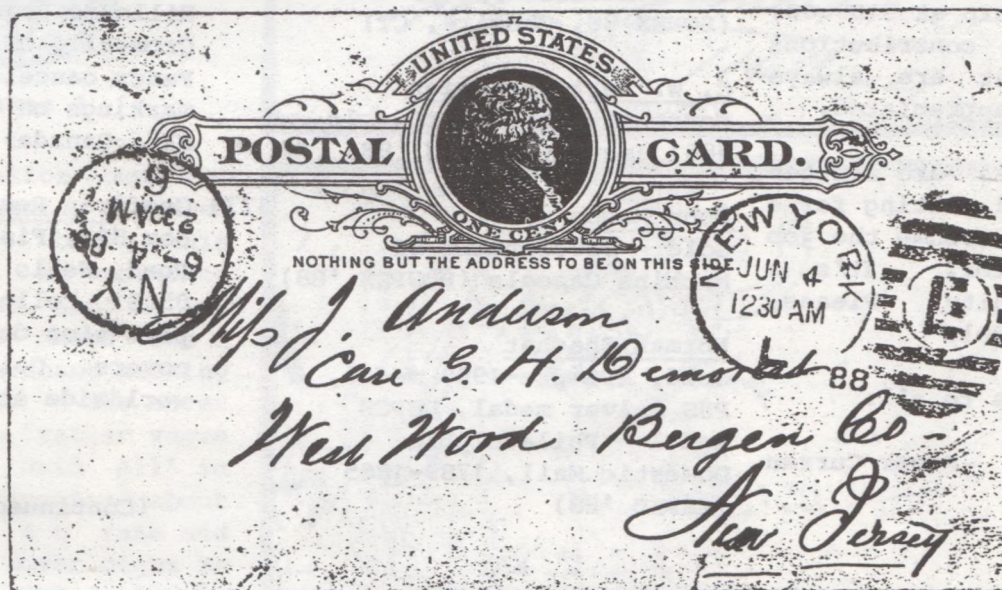


Figure 1

Who has seen a New York duplex bearing one station letter in the CDS and another in the killer? Figure 1, a postal card in Ted Bozarth's collection, seems to be such an item. In the March 1968 News, Arthur Bond outlined the growth of the NYPO and by 1888, the date of the postmark in question, Bond's report shows that the ex-Harlem PO, located at 3rd Avenue and 124th Street, had been designated Station L for 25 years and the postal station at 8th Avenue and 33rd Street had been designated Station E for 32 years.

An erroneous fitting together of the two markings in the duplex during manu-

facture that went undetected, presumably for a short period, by Station E or L personnel? We think not. Your editor's conclusion is that what we have is a quite remarkable combination of one full strike and one partial strike of an "L" killer so aligned as to create the impression of an "E" killer. The partial strike would be basically just the right side of the killer produced perhaps from a light glancing blow. Figure 2 is a rough representation of the partial strike over the full strike with the partial strike inked in for emphasis. The partial strike seems to be in almost exactly the same position as the full strike except that it is some 7 mm.

to the left. Most recognizable is the horizontal



Figure 2

bar below the circle where the partial strike begins below the midpoint of the circle.

Although we doubt it, the alignment is so good one wonders if it might even have been intended by the clerk to create the resulting appearance.

Roger Curran

Dear Reader:

You'll find a dues notice and return envelope (membership cards are being discontinued) with this issue. And with them we renew our annual request that dues be remitted as soon as possible. The Club also offers a Sustaining Membership at \$25.00 and a Life Membership at \$100.00. Beyond that, contributions in any amount are always welcomed and appreciated.

As these lines are written we are still waiting for a volunteer to assume the job of News editor. It's a great opportunity! Please, don't be bashful.

Happy holidays to all.

Roger Curran



AWARD WINNERS

Alex Currie

Silver, USCC award - The 2c Trans-Mississippi of 1898 (SONEX 88, Chesire, CT)

C. W. Bert Christian

Court of Honor award - 1c 1861 Issue (ORCOPEX '88)

John Mason

Gold - Development of Machine Cancels (HOUPLEX '88)

Norman Shachat

Gold, APS pre-1900 medal, PHS Silver medal, USPCS medal - Philadelphia Domestic Mail, 1789-1865 (SEPAD '88)

NEW MEMBERS

(LM) 1772 Stephen W. Ekstrom, P.O. Box 207, Cromwell, CT 06416 1861 3c and its variations/cancels; Cromwell (Upper Middletown, Sebeth) CT Postal History

1773 Rudolph B. Ekstrom, 54 Hillside Road, Cromwell, CT 06416 Fancy cancels and markings on UX5 and UX7; Canada; BNA

1774 Geoffrey Remond, RR #1 Box 81A, Fish Pond Road, Wells River, VT 05081 Collector and part-time dealer of US covers. Collects worldwide stamps

(Continued on p. 68)

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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ONE RARE COVER

Figure 1 is a very attractive NYFM cancel reproduced from the Van Vlissingen and Waud book. According to the authors it is also a rare cancel. Club member



Figure 1

Frits van Gulick owns the cover in Figure 2 which happens to bear this cancellation. He mentioned that the cover had no New York CDS but there was a New York merchant marking on the back. The cover also has two "rather vague strikes of 'Paid All' in red." Frits inquired about the unusual 4 c rate and thought the cover might be suitable for publication in the News.

Indeed it is! Trans-atlantic mails specialist Dick Winter advises that the cover is a wrapper and enclosed a newspaper. He stated that it could be identified as a wrapper because the broad flap exists only on embossed

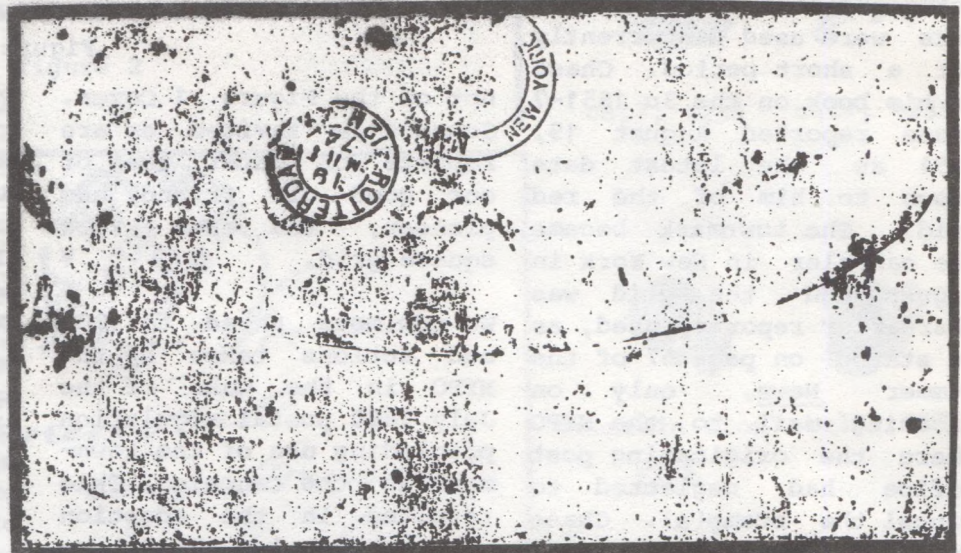


Figure 2

wrappers and not on addition to the cancel, embossed envelopes. There this cover represents a rare rate and use. There was a 4c newspaper rate to Holland in 1874. Thus, as Certainly a most desirable item! Dick pointed out, in

ILLINOIS CANCELLATIONS

In earlier issues of the News we described and offered an 84-page booklet on 19th century Illinois cancellations compiled by Richard Russell and published by the Illinois Postal History Society. We still have five copies of this fine publication at

\$6.00 each postpaid (with a portion of that going to USCC). One copy has a slightly damaged cover and is available at \$5.00. If you haven't added this item to your library, we commend it to your attention. Orders should be sent to Editor, CCN, 8803 Mead Street, Bethesda, MD 20817 and we'll rush a copy to you! Figure 1 is one of



Figure 1

TWO INTERESTING COVERS

The square grid of New York was used at least as early as November 1846 on the New York Postmaster's Provisional. Its use continued through the four years of the 1847 issue and is one of the most frequently encountered handstamp cancels on the 1847s. Throughout this period, it was struck only in red. Almost immediately after the introduction of the 1851 issue, however, the cancel with black ink is noted and both red and black inks were used concurrently for a short period. Chase in his book on the 3c 1851-7 issue reported August 19, 1851 as the latest date known to him of the red grid. The townmark became the canceler in New York in August and the grid was thereafter reported used, as we stated on page 57 of the Summer News, only on incoming mail to the NYPO where the originating post office had neglected to cancel the stamp(s). Chase reported December 11, 1851 as his latest known use of this grid.

We show in Figure 1 a folded lettersheet datelined December 13, 1851. It was apparently found in a mailbag from Philadelphia. Since New York was not the originating post office, no New York townmark was applied but the stamp was canceled by the tell-tale grid. No other postal markings are on the front or back. We suppose this item should be regarded as "canceled not earlier than December 13." When Chase stated December 11, should we assume that to be the dateline of the letter? Presumably there would have been no dated New York marking just as there was

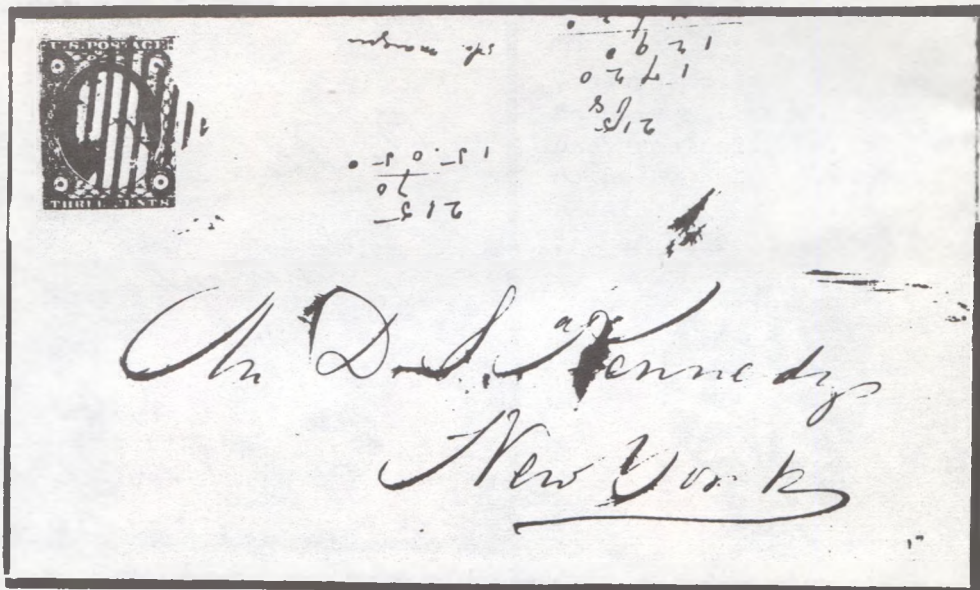


Figure 1

not on the Figure 1 Cover. Comment is invited as are reports of later uses of our good old friend and pioneer, the New York square grid.

We now move ahead to 1860 and actions taken by the NYPO in the wake of the July 1860 postal regulation precluding use of the townmark as the canceler. This resulted in the adoption of the duplex handstamp incorporating the townmark and a canceler by New York and other cities. The story of this development is admirably told by Arthur Bond in his article "Time-saving Duplex Handstamp; Its Invention, Use and Manufacture," Postal History Journal, VOL VII, No.1, June 1963. (Those with interest in this subject are urged to read it. See also page 65 of the Fall 1984 News). New York postmaster John A. Dix promptly adopted a duplex handstamp and wrote to the POD in Washington about it on August 8. The text of that letter, reproduced from government records, is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows a cover postmarked August 10, 1860 with an unduplexed New York townmark. Separate grid cancels are also present. It may well be the duplex was in regular use on August 10 but the clerk continued the practice of applying separate cancels in those cases where the stamp placement on the cover prevented easy application of the duplex. Later on it seems that in cases of awkward (for duplex markings) stamp placement, cancellation of the stamp with the townmark as an exception was at least tacitly accepted. But on August 10 in the NYPO the July regulation was no doubt very much in mind. Figure 4 is an 1861 or 1862 example from New York where the prohibition was not followed.

Your editor would greatly appreciate learning about any covers bearing the New York duplex townmark and grid canceler earlier than August 8, 1860. Also, we would like to establish when after July 23, 1860 (date according to Dix of the PMG order prohibiting use of the

POST OFFICE, New York, August 8, 1860.

SIR: The order of the Postmaster General of the 23d ultimo, prohibiting the cancelling of postage stamps by the dotting or post-marking stamps, and requiring the work to be done by a separate instrument, could not be executed in this office without an increase of our clerical force. We were compelled, a few days ago, to keep back a mail nearly half an hour in order that the postage stamps on the letters to be transmitted by it might be properly cancelled.

When the letters amount to tens of thousands, the duplication of the work of cancelling and post-marking is a very serious matter. On Monday our carriers and messengers brought to this office 11,985 letters for the mails. In this extremity, and with an extreme reluctance to augment the clerical force of the office for the purpose of doing the work, I have hit upon an expedient which answers the purpose perfectly. It occurred to me that the "separate instrument" required by the department might be attached to the post-marking stamp, and I sent for the stamp-maker and gave him my idea, which he has carried out very well. The cancelling stamp is soldered on to the other, so that one handle answers for both, and the double operation is performed with one blow. There is, therefore, no increase of work.

I send you a specimen of the work on the enclosed envelope.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN A. DIX, P. M.

Hon. HORATIO KING,
First Assistant P. M. General.

Figure 2

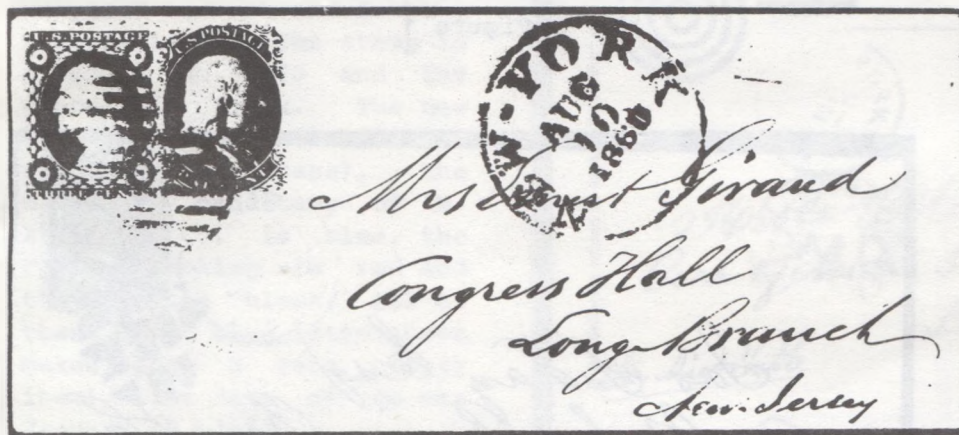


Figure 3

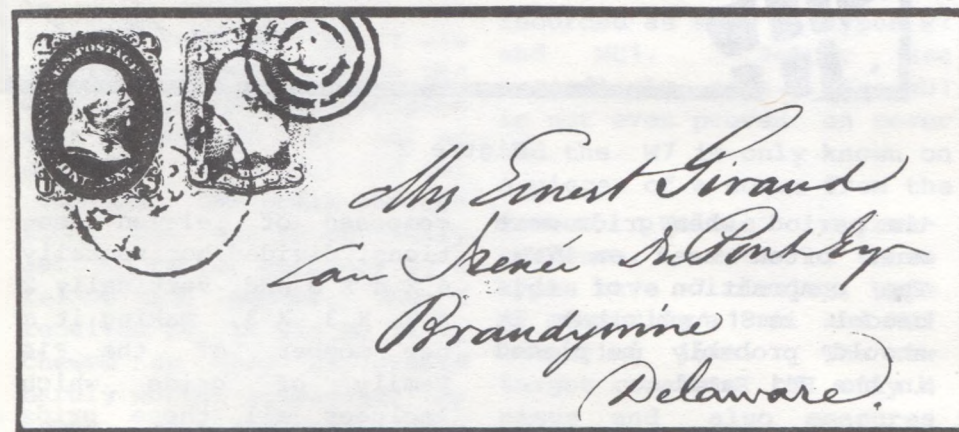


Figure 4

townmark or canceler) the cancelers.
NYPO began using separate

Roger Curran

ANIMALS AND SUCH

Elsie Meyersburg sends a page of tracings of thought-provoking cancels in her collections and her interpretations of what they seem to represent. We illustrate several and invite information and comments about them.



cat?, #235 cat?, #235



mountain lion? bull?, #78
#285



bird?, #207 mule?, #212



#210

Let us mark your dues



NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS
Unlisted Types (Continued)

by W. R. Weiss, Jr.

The late David Beals of Kansas was a premier collector of New York Foreign Mail cancellations and was a contributor to the Van Vlissingen-Waud book that appeared in 1968. He began collecting NYFM's in about 1952 and at the time of his death in 1987, he had assembled one of the best NYFM collections ever formed. On his passing, his collection of NYFM's, as well as his other great collections, came onto the philatelic market. We were fortunate enough to purchase the majority of Dave's on-cover NYFM's and in Dave's collection were a fair number of previously unlisted types. We take this opportunity to show them to you and hope that other collectors will come forward and show us second examples!

Figure 1, aside from being a previously unrecorded NYFM, is unusual in the respect that most NYFM grids reported to date have been segmented in some way. This new type, as you can see, is composed of six solid horizontal segments. The longest segment measures 21mm and the cancel is 23mm high. The stamps are Scott No. 150, the New York CDS is black as are the cancels, the "2" is also black, and on the reverse is a blue "R. Palanca" merchant handstamp. As we have reported previously, we have never seen a red CDS on a cover to Mexico and would appreciate hearing from any reader who can show us one. The cover is dated February 17, 1871 which is during



Figure 1

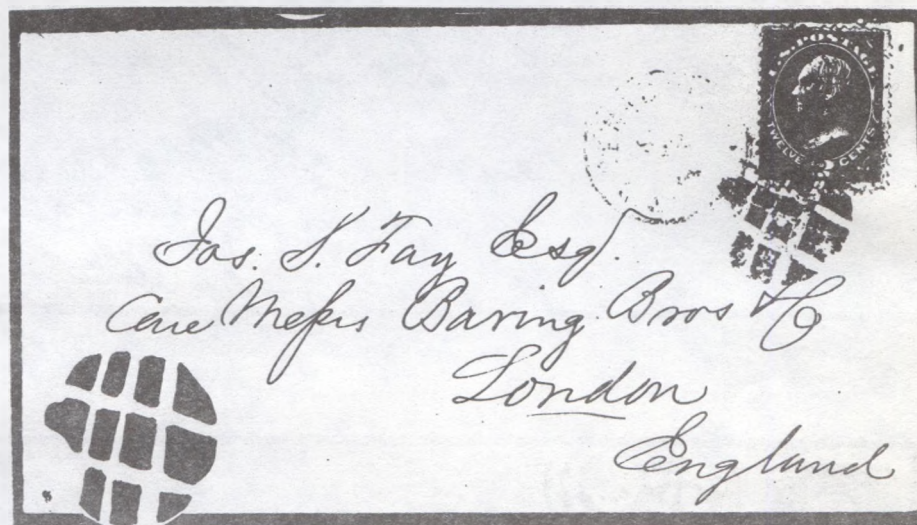


Figure 2

the period when grids were most often used on NYFM. The composition of this cancel is such that it should probably be placed in the F11 Family.

Figure 2 is another irregular grid and is similar in appearance to several others we have reported in prior articles. This one, which measures approximately 22mm in diameter, is

composed of eleven sections, divided horizontally 4 X 4 X 3 and vertically 2 X 3 X 3 X 3, making it a new member of the F14 Family of grids which includes all those grids which are divided into four vertical rows. The cancel is black and ties a Scott No. 151 to this apparently double-rate cover to London. The red London receiving CDS is unfor-

Unfortunately too light for us to read a year date, but it had to be between 1870 and 1874. The red New York CDS is most unusual. Although poorly struck, we can see enough of it to conclude that it is a "New York/U.S. Notes" Depreciated Currency marking. It is unusual because we only record one other NYFM cover with this marking.

Figure 3, another new member of the F14 Family, is a sharp 20mm diameter grid of twelve sections arranged in three horizontal rows of four segments each. As NYFM grids go, this one is rather small compared to most and is very well defined. The stamp is a Scott No. 150 and the cancel is black. The New York CDS is red (as is most often the case), the merchant handstamp of H. Astie & Co. is blue, the French marking is red and the "8" is black. All of these on a blue lettersheet makes this a very pretty item! The date of use was January 20, 1871.

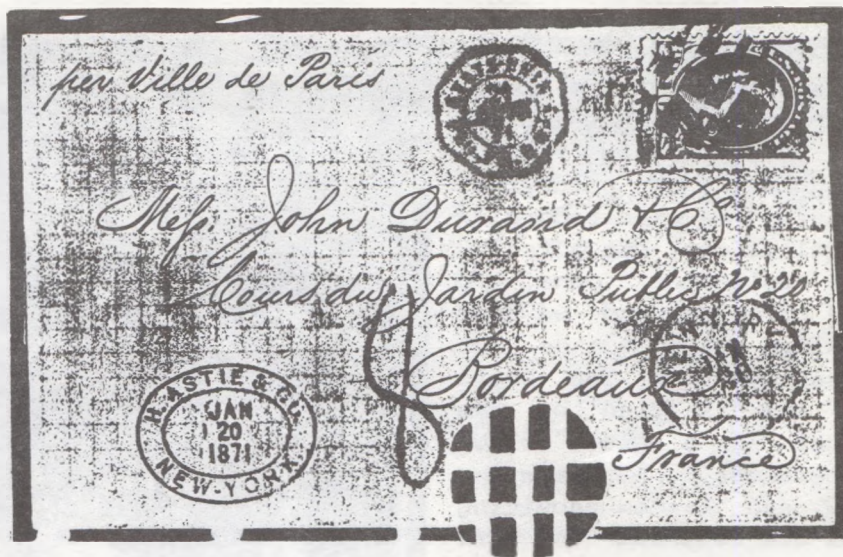


Figure 3

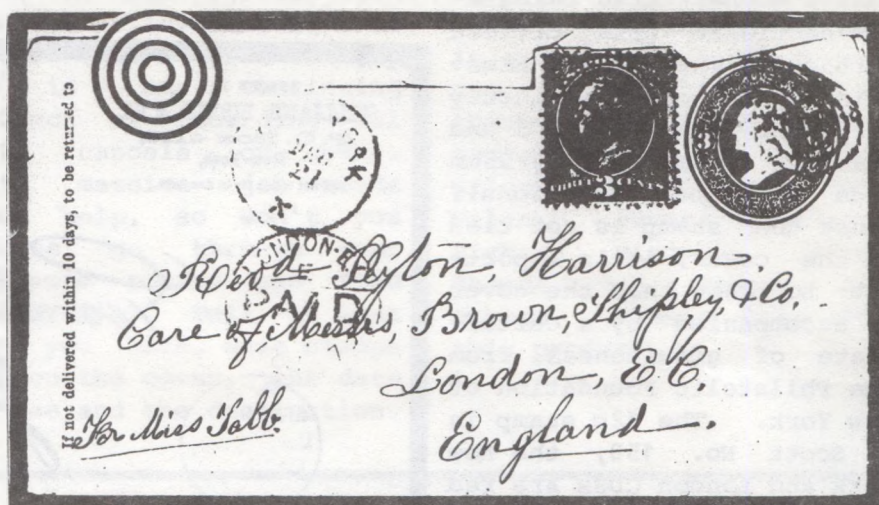


Figure 4

The cover shown in Figure 4 bears a cancel which to me is quite exciting, although I must confess that I was sorely tempted to toss the cover in the wastebasket when I bought it! Let me explain. The cover did not come from the Beals collection, but was thoughtfully sent to me for purchase by a fellow USCC member. When I received it, it was so badly chewed up that it seemed hardly worth salvaging! My sense of posterity fortunately won out and I managed to amateurishly repair the cover at the top enough to be able to show you a very interesting cancel. Only two targets have been previously

recorded as NYFM's, types W7 and WU1. Both are exceedingly rare. The WU1 is not even proven on cover and the W7 is only known on a piece of a cover from the famous Wallis correspondence. Both of these types have 7 circles, type W7 measuring 18mm and WU1 measuring 15mm. The new target consists of only 4 rings and also measures 18mm in diameter. It is exciting also because it is the first new member of the W(heel) Family of NYFM's to be discovered in over 20 years! I am sure glad I didn't toss it away! The

stamp is a Scott No. 158 and the 3c Entire is the 3c Reay on white, the New York CDS and London receiving mark are red, and the date of use is December 21, 1873. Can any other USCC member show us another example?

In Figure 5 we welcome a new member of the F12 family. Type F12 consists of grids with three, four, or five sections, divided into three vertical rows. This cancel, in black, measures 29mm (center sections) by approximately 30mm high. We say "approx-

imately" because the two top sections of the cancel are unstruck, thus we are partially guessing - which is normally an incorrect thing to do when recording cancellations, but a fellow NYFM collector owns two more of these, and we have examined them, thus our measurements! The Scott No. 148 is tied by the cancel to a blue folded lettersheet. Both the New York and London receiving CDSs are red, and the date of use is January 11, 1873.

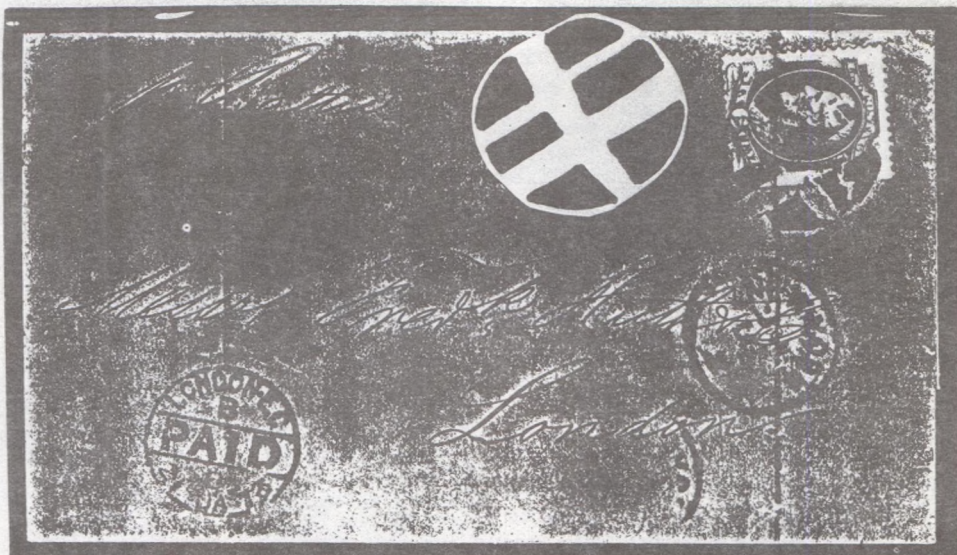


Figure 5

Figure 6 is another new F12 Family member, also being a six-sectioned grid, divided vertically into three rows. This cancel is distinctly different than Figure 5 and measures 29mm high by 25mm wide (center sections). Since the stamp is not tied to the cover, it is important to know that the cover is accompanied by a certificate of genuineness from the Philatelic Foundation of New York. The 12c stamp is a Scott No. 150, the New York and London CDSs are red and we now have three recordings of the "U.S. Notes" CDS on NYFM! The date of use is January 30, 1871 and the use to Scotland is not common. We presume it to be a double-rate usage.

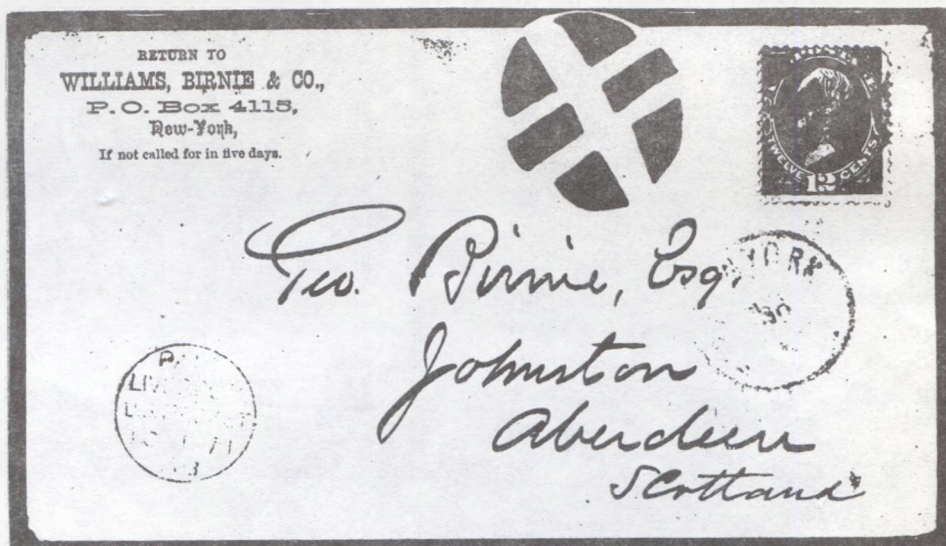


Figure 6

Figures 7 and 8 are both cancels which greatly resemble already listed NYFM's, but upon closer examination reveal to us that they are completely new types deserving of their own numbers. They also prove to us the need for collectors to examine their cancels carefully, always being alert for a "new" cancel to share with fellow philatelists. Figure 7 looks at first glance to be a type F13e. It is an

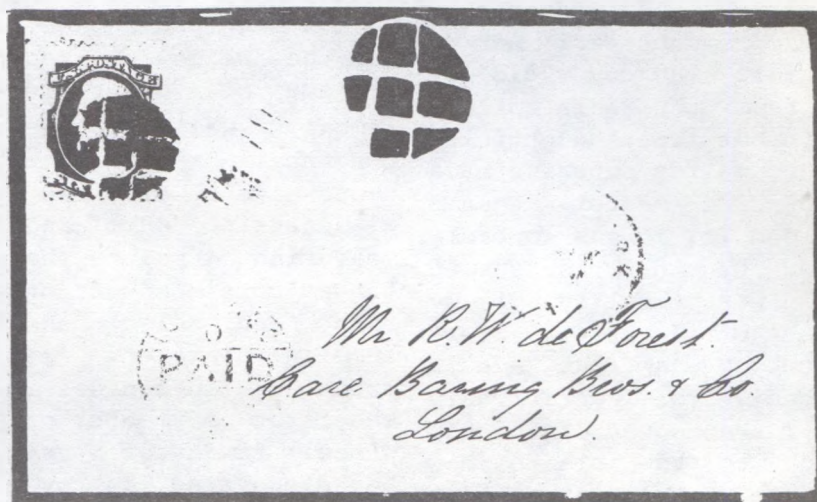


Figure 7

irregular circular grid of 8 sections, divided into vertically 2X3X3, and horizontally 3X3X2. Listed Type F13e measures almost exactly 22-23mm in diameter while the new F13 Family member measures only 16mm wide by 18mm high, much smaller than F13e. The Scott No. 159 is tied by this black cancel on a white cover to London, posted June 26, 1871. The New York and London CDSs are both red.

Figure 8 is a new F12 Family member, being a 23mm high elliptical grid composed of two vertical rows of 4 sections to each side. Although very similar in appearance to F12b, F12b measures 26mm high! The black cancels tie two Scott Nos. 159 and one Scott No. 157 to a yellow cover to France. The "PD", London transit and "New York/Paid/ 6" CDS are all in red, and the French receiving mark is black.

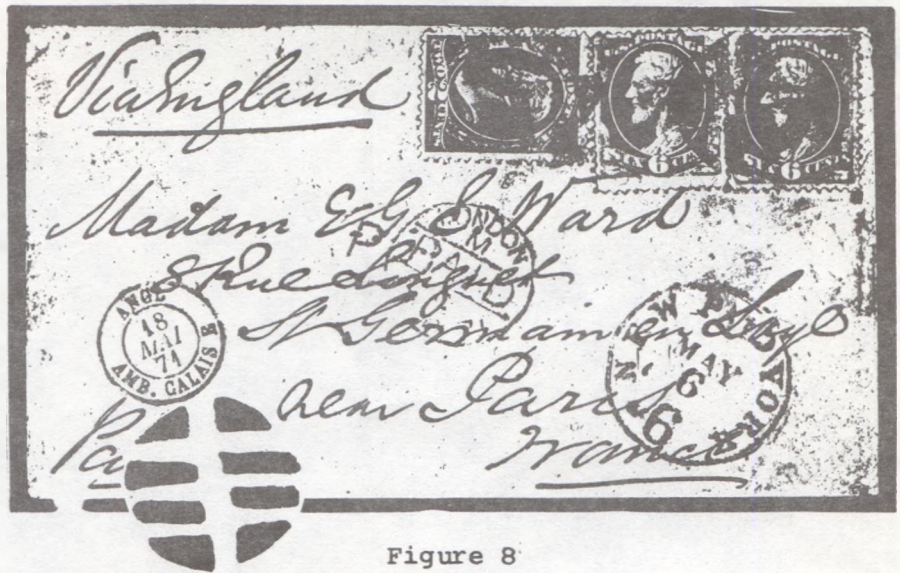


Figure 8

We conclude this installment of our series with another invitation to fellow USCC members to help us in our continuing project of recording all NYFM cancels on cover. This massive job needs your help, so won't you please go through your Banknote covers and find the NYFM's? Tell us what type you have, what stamps are on the cover, the date of use and the destination.

If you can supply a photocopy of the cover, all the better. Our census is now in excess of 1,300 covers and constantly growing thanks to fellow USCC members such as Chester Wilcox, Gary O'Neill, John Valenti, Howard Rosenberg, Richard Michelli, Roger Rhoads, Ted Wassam, and others. Please help with this project. ■

CORRY RESEARCH PROJECT

Clifford W. Woodward writes about a research project he has been pursuing and we are pleased to mention it and encourage your response. A portion of Mr. Woodward's letter is quoted herewith:

"For several years now I have been compiling data with regard to the townmarks and cancellations (both fancy and plain) of Corry, Pennsylvania. At this time I already have defined at least seven distinct types of "eagles", and have recorded half a dozen markings new to Skinner/Eno. My eventual goal is a comprehensive catalog of the

Corry markings. . . I would like to seek assistance from the philatelic audience most likely to benefit from this work. I would be interested in receiving good photocopies of material from anyone with such, and would be glad to reimburse for postage, copying, and so on."

Figure 1 is one of the Corry eagles illustrated in Skinner - Eno. ■



Figure 1

CHANGING ADDRESS?

Although we realize contacting the News may not be the first thing you think of when undertaking a change of address, we urge you to inform the News as soon as possible. We get five or more notifications back with each bulk mailing. The News itself is not forwarded. The Club pays 30c for each notification and now pays 65c to mail the News first class to the club member in such a situation. Added to the cost, of course, is the delay in receiving the News. So we ask that you please get word to us when an upcoming address change is known.

MAYBE IT IS,
AND THEN AGAIN. . .

Okay, your editor admits it — going hook, line and sinker for the cover illustrated in Figure 1. It was in a USCC circuit and had perhaps been passed over by a number of club members. And why not? After all, it is ambiguous at best — and yet, there is that, shall we say, apparition quality. Dare we mention even an angel as a possibility? Ahhh, but nothing comes through clearly. The cover was postmarked "CAMBRIDGE STA." and entered the mails June 12. From the received marking on the back, we can determine the year to be 1885. Can readers help either in terms of additional examples or perhaps show another Cambridge Station cancel of which Figure 1 is a partial or otherwise distorted strike?

We are reminded of the comments made by H.P. Atherton writing in 1959 about his column "picturing quaint, curious and finally 'impossible' fancy U.S. cancellations" in Mekeel's during the 1920s. He said the column "finally succumbed when things came to me suggesting that 'This is apparently a Butterfly on a Corn Stalk', and 'animals' such as P.T. Barnum never saw." Haven't we all applied our imagination in this way, hoping and sometimes convincing ourselves of the presence of an unusual, desirable and overlooked cancellation.

While we're at it there is this one other cancel on a 2c red brown we picked up several years ago, also from a USCC circuit at a modest price that surely seemed like an intricate

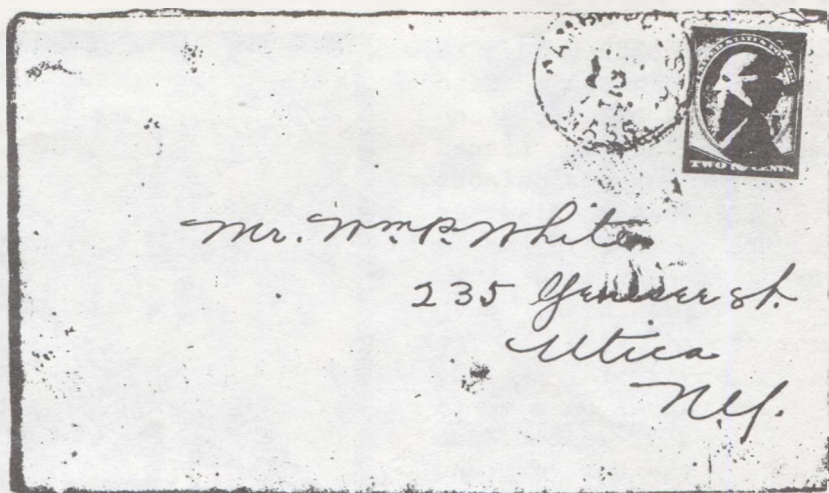


Figure 1



Figure 2

swan design. (We shudder to think what Mr. Atherton would have thought about it!) However, in this case, a year or so ago we noted (Figure 2) what certainly seems to be the same or very similar cancel as #1425 in Herst's fancy cancel book (Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume 33). It reports 1883 as the year date which may well refer to the 2c red brown which was issued in 1883. No town of origin was identified. Can anyone pin it down?



Figure 3

Edward Willard does discuss "a crudely cut swan" from Northampton, Mass. in Volume

Two of his The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887. He illustrates a photograph of the cover, which doesn't show the cancel clearly, and it is possible that it is the same one which, subsequent to the Figure 1 and 2 impressions, became larger and more crude over time with ink caked on the cork or wood.

Now, how about it, readers. Let us hear from you about the mysteries lurking in your collections.

Roger Curran

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

1775 Rosa Wilmer, 69 East 87th Street, Chicago, IL 60619 U.S. including covers, cancels, PB's, RPO's, HPO's; Germany; Canada; Australia; Latin America; Liberia, etc.

REINSTATED

1341 Louis B. Green, 2700 Date Palm Road, Boca Raton, FL 33432 US 1 and 2, and type A40

537 Jerry B. Devol, Rte. 3, Box 56, Devola, OH 45750

SCARCE CANCEL DATE?

Figure 1 is an 1884 postage due cover from Chiavari, a town on the northwest coast of Italy. Has anyone seen a cover quite like it; indeed, has anyone seen a cover remotely similar to it? What we are getting at, of course, is the cog wheel cancel on the 10c postage due. Skinner-Eno reports San Francisco cogs on both the 1861 and 1867 issues, but who has seen one on a later issue, even the 1869s? Although your editor saw the cover, he unfortunately neglected to compare the cancel with the three recognized types of San Francisco cogs. With this limited introduction, we invite your comments. ■

MORE ON "O" CANCEL

The "O" cancel of unknown origin illustrated as Figure 5 on page 41 of the Summer 1988 News brought forth a copy of a cover in Ed Quinn's collection (see Figure 1) which appears to be the same cancel or certainly one very similar to it. From the corner card we assume the cover entered the mails at Springfield, Illinois. Regrettably our photoreduced illustration will not be as clear as Ed's photocopy which shows a very nice cover with the cancel almost perfectly centered between the vertical margins with a most attractive symmetry in relation to the stamp design on which it was struck.



Figure 1



Figure 1

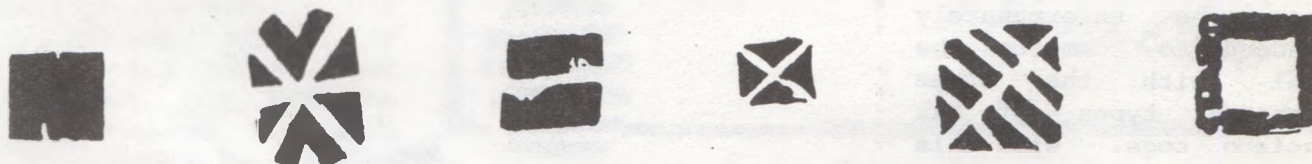
(cont'd on p. 73)

CANCELLATION INFORMATION

From the cancellation collection of George and Evelyn Lewis that covers the 3c regular issues of 1861 and 1867, we are pleased to present the following items unlisted in Skinner-Eno except as noted. All cancellations are in black ink on Scott #65 unless otherwise identified. Post offices of origin are stated where known. Readers who can identify additional origin post offices are urged to contact either George and Evelyn or the editor.

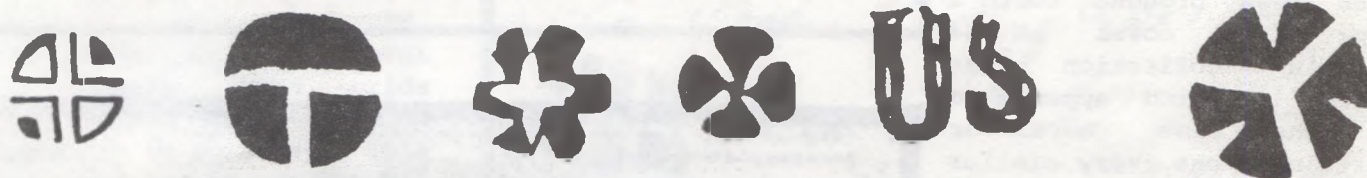


#88



#94

blue



#94

Quincy, IL

Albany, NY

Lockport, NY

West Point,
Miss.Brattleboro,
VT

#94

Old Point Comfort,
VAAdams Centre, New York, NY
NY

#94

Sacramento,
CABoston, Mass.
(red CDS)Tamaqua, PA
Patent
(The center lines
are cut.)New York,
NY

Evansville, Ind.

New York,
NY



Hartford, CT

#94

#88



blue



Zanesville,
OH

blue

#94, blue



#88



#94

Hartford, CT

Tuskaloosa,
Ala.

East Cambridge,
Mass.



#94



#94



#94



#94



#94



blue



#94



Corry, PA

Sherwoods,
NYNew York, Saratoga Springs,
NY

NY

New Berne,
NCEmporium,
PAVermillion, OH
(blue CDS & cancel)

Norwich, CT



Leeds, NY

Hopkinton,
Mass.Brattleboro,
VTCincinnati,
OH
(blue CDS
& cancel)Carondelet,
MDMadison,
Ind.

Boston, Mass.

Fessenden Mills,
NHCanaan, NH
(blue CDS
& cancel)

blue

(cont'd fr. p. 69)

Alyce Evans submits the "O" in Figure 2 which is centered almost as nicely as that in Figure 1.

Ed also supplied the 1882 cover partially illustrated in Figure 3 which bears a Buffalo, NY "O" cancel.



Figure 2



Figure 3

This illustrates the fact that similar cancels do not necessarily originate at the

same post office. Indeed, Alyce pointed out that Boston produced several "O"s of the general design under discussion. Figure 4 presents an "O" that is somewhat similar to that in Figure 3, but clearly different. Especially



Figure 4

noticeable is the larger diameter of the interior circle.

Roger Curran

MAINE NARROW GAUGE R.P.O. CANCELS WANTED
 Albion & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1885-1933)
 Palermo & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1895-1896)
 Waterville & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1902-1908)
 Harrison & Bridgton Jct. R.P.O. (1908-1917)
 Farmington & Bangor R.P.O. (1902-1903)
 Kingfield & Farmington R.P.O. (1903-1913)
 Phillips & Farmington R.P.O. (1913-1917)
**BRUCE L. COREY, 108 MARILYN AVE.
 WESTBROOK, ME 04092**

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