



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 19, NO. 5

WHOLE NO. 199

WINTER 1989

NEW NEW YORK CITY FANCY CANCELLATIONS

By John Valenti

The city of New York provides cancellation collectors a wealth of material for our hobby. It is always exciting, therefore, to discover a new NYC fancy cancel, particularly one as striking as the subject of this article. Figure 1 shows a circular rate advertising cover from the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company to a country store in New Hampshire. At first glance the one cent large Banknote stamp appears tied by a nondescript wood or cork cancel. Closer examination reveals just the opposite. The cancel is, in fact, a side view of a bird in flight.



Figure 1

The entire cancel is not distinct. The wing and downward bent tail at left are clearly struck. The bird's head and beak are more lightly impressed, making immediate recognition of the nature of the carving difficult. Nevertheless, a close examination readily allowed a tracing of the design.



I wonder whether the overall shape of the cancel, particularly the curve from beak to tail, was determined by the material from which the cancelling device was carved. Perhaps the back roughly follows the rounded edge of a dowel.

The bird appears possibly to be a "jay". Does anyone have other suggestions? Can anyone report a confirming cancel on or off cover? I am unable to determine whether the stamp is a National or Continental printing. (Circulars

receive no date stamp and the envelope's contents have disappeared.) Can anyone suggest an approximate date by virtue of the advertisement? Dating the cancel will assist my study of the NYC circular cancellations of the 1870s. If you have information on this subject, please contact the editor or me directly at 612 Sycamore Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090. ■

Dear Reader:

It's a pleasure to announce that Thomas E. Stanton will become the new editor effective with the next issue. Tom has, of course, been a regular contributor to the News and he has otherwise provided this editor with valuable advice and assistance over the past five years. He is a very knowledgeable student of nineteenth century U.S. postal history and has contributed to the field in many ways. Tom's address is 2109 Alice Avenue, Apt. #2, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

In the last issue (page 67) we mentioned Clifford W. Woodward's research project compiling data on Corry, PA markings and requested assistance. Your editor neglected to mention Cliff's address for those who don't have the USCC membership list. It is 1805 Shaler

Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116. Please contact Cliff if you can supply photocopies of Corry markings. And we should also mention Jim Cole's address in connection with his article in the Summer 1988 issue (page 51) on Washington, D.C. ellipse cancellations. It is 804-D Orchardglow Close, Fairfield, OH 45014. If you can help on this subject, you are urged to do so. Incidentally, Jim has received a number of responses, including some quite extensive reports of new data and some new ellipse designs. A follow-up report is planned in the near future.

Well, it's been a great pleasure and privilege to serve as editor. You, the readers, have been most supportive and tolerant in this endeavor and please know that it has been greatly appreciated! I hope

at least occasionally to offer articles in the future and ask that you extend to Tom, as I'm sure you will, your continued support through contributions to these pages.

Roger Curran

BRIEFLY NOTED

Enclosed with this issue is a copy of the USCC advertisement handed out at our club table at VAPEX. If readers would be interested in making copies available at upcoming shows or meetings, we would be pleased to send a supply. Write to Roger Curran at the address on the masthead and specify the number of copies needed.

On page 73 of the last issue the Carondelet cancel should be listed as Missouri, not Maryland.

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ADVERTISING RATES

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

SALES DEPARTMENT - IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION NOTICE

To all parties interested in the U.S.C.C. Sales Department!!

My notice in the summer issue of the News regarding insurance requirements needs clarification. In quoting from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) new rates bulletin effective April 3, 1988, things got garbled. I've concluded the best way to correct matters is to explain the Sales Department's overall Insurance program.

The Sales Department requires that all circuits be shipped only via USPS-Parcel Post, Insured for \$100.00, and a receipt obtained (and retained for at least 4 months). This is the minimum amount necessary for the USPS to require the recipient to sign for the package. The fee (in addition to the postage) is \$1.50. When a parcel is insured for \$100.00 or more it receives a U.S. Postal Service classification of "Controlled Mail" and receives better security protection, including a full service tracer. Effective immediately, if a circuit is not insured for \$100.00 the member mailing the parcel must be held liable for the loss and could lose the privilege of receiving circuits.

The Sales Department also maintains full transit insurance via the APS Insurance Plan for the value of all circuits while in your custody or in transit, up to \$1,500.00 per shipment. This "excess" insurance is over and above the \$100.00 USPS insurance and also costs \$1.50 per shipment from member to member. Like the USPS insurance, it is mandatory and must be reported to the Sales Department and paid, even if no purchase is made from the circuit. This "excess limits" insurance charge of \$1.50 is added to your remittance to the Sales Department. All such funds are accumulated in a separate in-house account and are submitted in toto to the Insurance Plan Manager of the APS bi-monthly. Limits in excess of \$1,500.00 per shipment are available if needed. (USPS insurance is limited to a maximum of \$500 at a fee of \$5.00 per shipment.)

Our insurance coverage does not insure against mysterious disappearance of an individual item, only for the loss of an entire sales book or an entire circuit. If a single item turns up missing (and it does happen with surprising regularity) the Sales Department is responsible to the owner for the value stated in the circuit book. A U.S.C.C. Sales Department "Mysterious Disappearance" fee of 2% of the total value of each circuit book (Minimum of \$1.00 per book) is charged and deducted from the proceeds at the time of retirement. These funds are segregated and maintained in a separate in-house account. Hopefully the 2% fee will be sufficient to cover these increasing "mysterious disappearance" losses. Should you ever receive a circuit book with an item missing and not accounted for, by all means, notify the member who sent you the circuit (in writing, retaining a copy) and also notify the Sales Department, listing the book number, the page number, and (as best you can determine) what is missing.

DO NOT USE UPS OR ANY OTHER PRIVATE CARRIER TO SHIP U.S.C.C. CIRCUITS!!

UPS will not knowingly provide indemnity on stamps or coins and are in many urban areas quite lax in providing prudent delivery. We have had UPS parcels "left on a chair on the porch", "left on back entrance steps" (subject to the elements), "left with neighbors and/or baby sitters", etc. Current UPS policy simply does not afford the responsibility our owner-members deserve and expect.

William J. Bomar
Manager-Sales Department-U.S.C.C.

MORE ON DUPLEXES

In the Fall 1988 issue we commented briefly on the problem that was likely to arise in using a handstamp duplexing the CDS and killer when the stamp was not placed on the upper right hand corner of the cover. The desired effect of having the CDS right side up and the stamp canceled by the killer often had to be sacrificed. We illustrated a cover with two stamps on the upper left corner with the left-most stamp canceled by the CDS and the right stamp canceled by the CDS and killer. We now show a solution to the inconvenient placement of a single stamp in Figure 1. But how about the duplex application in Figure 2? Certainly the postal clerk could not have wanted for better stamp placement and there was ample blank space to the left of the stamp. All systems go, right? No, not really. In examining the Kalida, Ohio marking (which is magenta), one notes that although the overall handstamp is applied upside down, the date portion is right side up! We can speculate that the postal clerk saw the error of the inverted date slugs and concluded that it was more important to have the date easily read than it was to cancel the stamp with the killer and have the "Kalida/Ohio" inscription right side up.

This brings us to a curious marking supplied by Gilbert Levere shown as Figure 3. The UX-5 cover bears a Boston November 6, 1879 CDS and cancel and a magenta East Andover, N.H. November 7, 1879 marking used as a "received" marking. Note too the "7" marking, also in

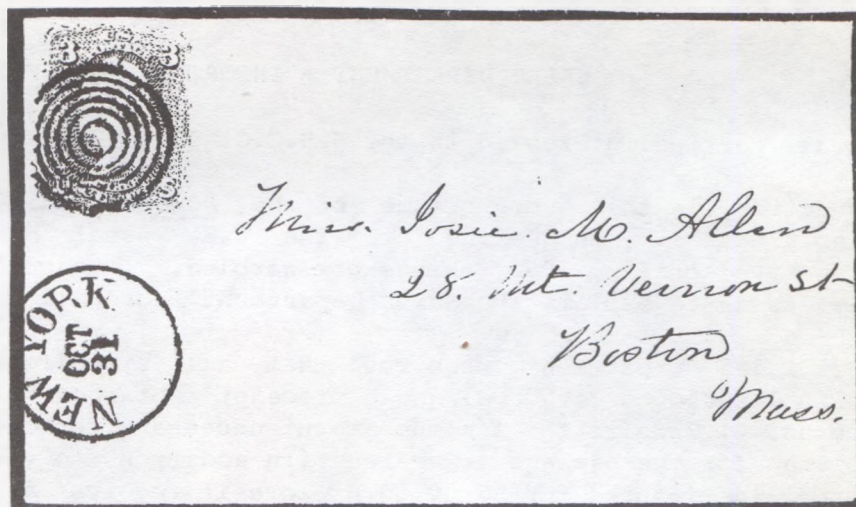


Figure 1

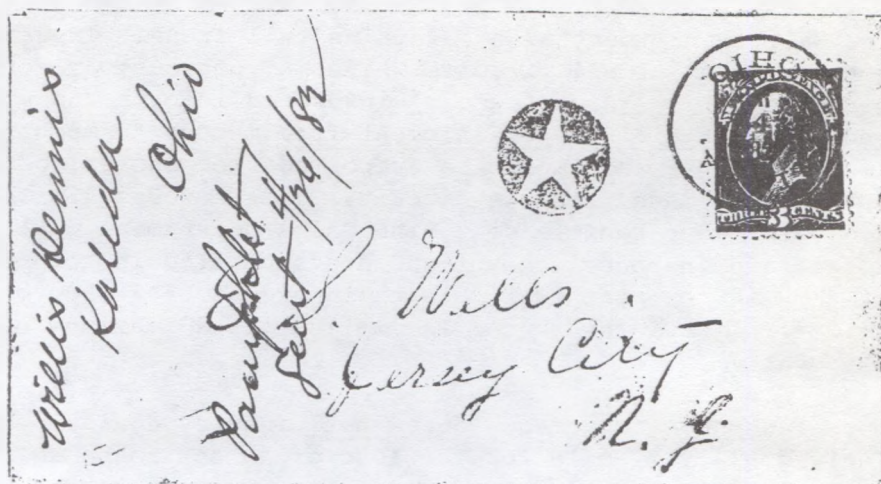


Figure 2

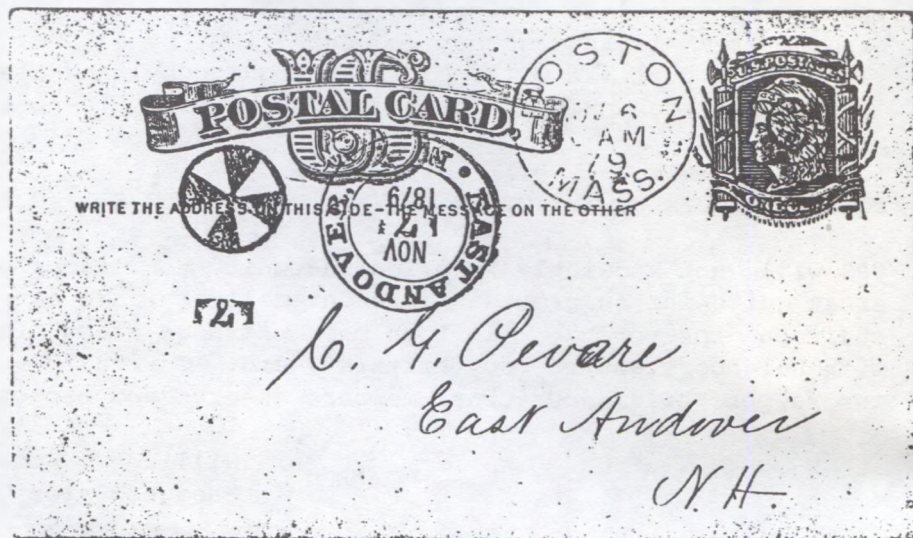


Figure 3

magenta, below the East Andover killer. As pure speculation, the following is offered. Might it be that on November 7 the normal "received" marking was not available and the clerk thought perhaps just a day slug would be sufficient and happened to apply it upside down? Then after doing so he thought that the numeral with nothing else didn't suffice so he used the regular handstamp and killer duplex, also upside down. Or could it be that it was thought a "received" marking should be upside down on the postal card to differentiate it more from the Boston marking, which documented when the card entered the mails, since the "received" marking could not be placed on the back of a postal card as it would on envelopes? Comment is invited.



Figure 4

While we are on the subject of duplexes, Arthur Bond mentioned in his 1963 article on duplexes (see page 62 of last issue) that the idea of using a duplex CDS and killer, first employed on a regular basis in New York City in August 1860, soon caught on elsewhere and he mentioned Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago and Saint Louis, all of which were using duplexes before June 1861. Figure 4 illustrates early duplex covers from Cleveland and Saint Louis.

Roger Curran

NEW MEMBERS

1776 Ashton, Mr. M.S.,
107 Ashworth Park,
Kuntsford, Cheshire

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| WA16 9DQ England
Early markings | | NJ 08852 U.S.
Columbian Issue -
unusual/fancy
cancels (off cover) |
| 1777 Gary Fredericksen,
1357 Paseo Isabella,
San Dimas, CA
91773 2c green
Wash. - #213;
booklets; singles;
PBs. | 1781 | J.N. Rosenberg, Box
C-160, Cinnaminson,
NJ 08077 Classic
U.S. |
| 1778 Mario C. Barbieri,
519 Lenox Avenue,
Westfield, NJ 07090
2c Columbian;
Columbian Exposition | 1782 | Anders G. J. Rhodin,
M.D., Prof. Bldg.,
Nichols Road,
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Postal History:
Mass., NY, Maine, WW
II - Pacific |
| 1779 Col. Carl L. Steig,
260 Merrydale Road,
Apt. 15, San Rafael,
CA 94903 Cancellations of District of
Columbia | 1248 | Dr. John M. Buckner,
2839 NW 21st Avenue,
Gainesville, FL
32605 |
| 1780 Edwin L. Weyer, 40
Arrowwood Lane,
Monmouth Junction, | (see | MEMBERS, p. 80) |

NEW YORK STARS

By the time of the banknote era of the 1870's, New York City had pretty much finished with fancy cancels, as we normally think of them, on first class domestic mail. (Generally speaking, local, circular and certainly foreign mail show greater use of fancies during this period.) Letters, numbers and rather mundane and nondescript geometrics, etc. were the norm with what seem to be a limited number of exceptions. Of course there was the "devil's mark" and some of the letters, in particular, were enclosed in rather fancy designs. (See also the 1870s NYC illustrations in the Herst-Sampson Postmark Catalog.) One NYC cancel noted with some frequency is the solid star illustrated in Figure 1. A star noted less frequently is the segmented star in Figure 2. Your editor would be very interested in reports on fancy cancels of a distinctive nature used by NYC on first class domestic mail during the 1870-1876 period. ■

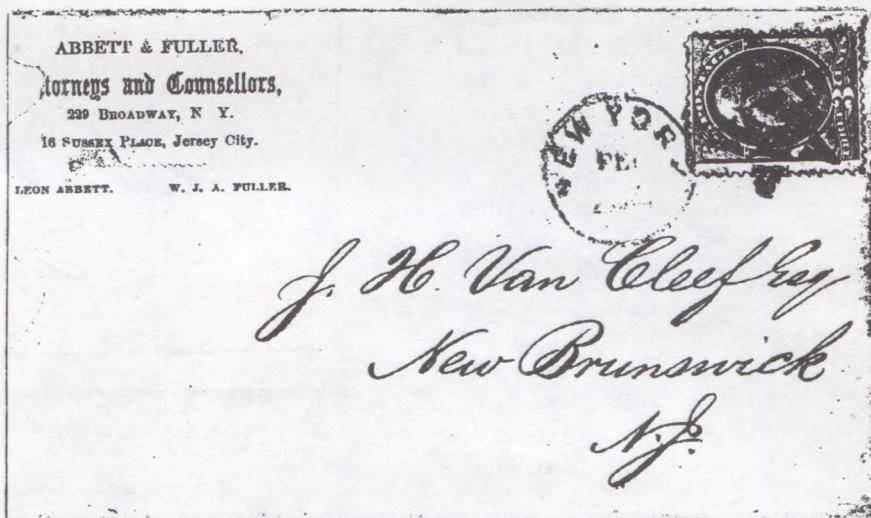


Figure 2

MEMBERS (continued)

RESIGNATIONS

Royce Walston
John C. Finck
Seaton C. Mendall
Denver W. Henline
I.H. Cherrington
Harry C. Smith

CLOSED ALBUMS

Daniel A. Stone
Theodore O. Mills

DONATIONS

Arthur E. Beane, Jr.
C.S. Dunford-Jackson
Ray N. Norris
J. Thomas Showler
Warren P. Tingley
Mary Turner
William Walker

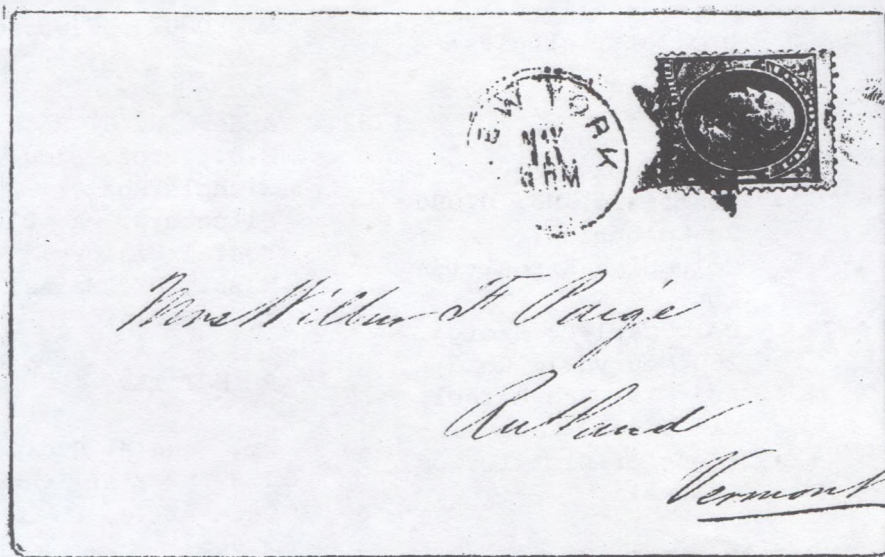


Figure 1

CANCELLATION INFORMATION

Continued from the last issue we present more cancels from the collection of George and Evelyn Lewis covering the 3c regular issues of 1861 and 1867. They are unlisted in Skinner-Eno. 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



blue



New York, NY

Boston, Mass.
(#94)Chesapeake City,
MDProvidence,
RIBridgeport, CT
(#88)

Salem, Mass.

New London,
CTPetersburgh,
VAProvidence,
PANewburyport,
Mass.West Woodstock,
CT

(blue CDS & cancel)



COLORFUL CANCELS IN CLUB MEMBER COLLECTIONS

Now, cancellation connoisseurs, gather 'round Figure 1. "Is it really" you may ask, allowing that it is a nice strike, "... something for the connoisseur?" We think so because the cancel is in a bright orange-red and has a "good" certificate from the Philatelic Foundation. Adding to its interest is that the stamp is a Scott #207, which means the marking could not have been applied until at least 1881. In your editor's experience, limited as it is, some red "PAID" and "PAID ALL" markings have been noted on banknotes but these are normally found on earlier issues than the re-engraved. Who can help by providing other examples of this or similar markings used in the same general time period? We would, of course, also like to pin down where Figure 1 came from.

Figure 2 shows a 1c 1861 issue canceled by a blue Baltimore "DUE/3" in a circle. Blue on blue, very nice!

Figure 3 is a Continental printing 10c issue with a fine impression in a lightish brown color. The stamp is fresh and bears a well-formed, delicate, purple "Maltese Cross" cancel. No special postal history significance whatsoever, just a very attractive overall effect.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Figure 4 is a 1c Agriculture official printed, of course, in yellow. Canceling the stamp "on-the-nose" is a violet negative star which, reports owner Wayne Lindquist, is not quite as dark as it appears in the illustration.

Color cancels add so much, of course, to cancel collections and some resulting color combinations are quite lovely.

 VAPEX REPORT

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the USCC, we met at VAPEX on November 18-20, 1988. VAPEX was chosen because that is where, one year earlier, through the initiative of Clyde Jennings, a separate and very successful marcophily (cancels and other postal markings) exhibition and competition was held. A report on VAPEX 1987 was provided on page 7 of the Winter 1988 News.

We held a very informal meeting Friday, enjoyed an excellent slide show Saturday by Clyde showing many remarkable cancellations in his collection and manned a club table throughout the show. There were 10-12 club members there with additional attendees at Clyde's presentation. Certainly the member who traveled the farthest was Frits Van Gulick from the Netherlands who had also attended CHICAGOPEX a couple of weeks earlier. A more enthusiastic and energetic collector of early U.S. cancellations on either side of the Atlantic is hard to imagine!

There were several exhibits of special interest to the USCC. Three by club members (with descriptions taken from the VAPEX brochure) were:

BANK-NOTE ISSUES (1870-1888). Fancy cancellations with emphasis on New York foreign mail. Frits Van Gulick.

DIVERSITY OF U.S. POST OFFICE MARKINGS, 1870-1890. The exhibit covers the different types of postal markings found during this period and provides examples of each. Jim Cole.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--KILLERS FOR 25 YEARS, 1860-1885. Study of cancels used in various Washington, D.C. post offices from use of circular datestamps only to fancy metal combined devices. Thomas O. Taylor.

They were excellent and your editor found himself returning time and again during the show to reexamine various parts. There is so much information in situations such as this to absorb! And as an aside, let's applaud the recent action by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society to make photocopies available of certain exhibits at reasonable cost. It is a fine idea and one that will be very helpful in disseminating information on subjects of widespread interest. There was one other exhibit-- by a non-USCC member -- that should be mentioned. Entitled The 3-Cent Stamp of 1861-67, this exhibit by Milton Mitchell addressed all aspects of the issue with a large section on cancellations that was quite a blockbuster.

I would urge the members and officers of the USCC to consider club meetings in the future as there is a real opportunity for enlightenment and pleasant association. The interest in cancellations is surely there.

Roger Curran

U.S. - Netherlands Ties

Club member Frits Van Gulick is president of the Netherlands Society of U.S./Canadian Philately and is seeking ways to establish and strengthen contacts between U.S. and Netherlands philatelists interested in U.S. stamps and postal history. Exchanges of correspondence, literature and even occasional visits are obvious vehicles and there are no doubt others. Frits wonders how he and we might best set about pursuing increased contact. He also announces "Project 1992" of the Netherlands society which will take the form of a special exhibition in 1992 in connection with the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. It will probably be held in Amsterdam/The Hague with dates yet to be determined. Frits wants very much to encourage participation by U.S. and Canadian philatelists. Ideas, views and suggestions from the U.S. side would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps a "working group" with broad participation would be desirable. Preparation well beforehand, of course, will be necessary. Those with any suggestions about strengthened contacts generally or "Project 1992" in particular -- or who have a personal interest in participating-- are urged to contact Frits. His address is 3 Smalle Streek, 3871 BW. Hoevelaken, The Netherlands.

DEEP SOUTH CANCELLATION

Figure 1 is a Scott #10 canceled with a grid. A tracing of the grid as it appears on the stamp is presented in Figure 2. The



Figure 1



Figure 2

line running down from the left side of the grid tells us the whole marking would have been that shown in Figure 3, a tracing from Simpson's United States Postal Markings, 1851-1861 by Thomas Alexander. This



Figure 3

marking is similar to the New York "ocean mail" marking we have discussed several times in that it includes a canceling grid but has a broader purpose than just as an obliterator.

We can assume that the stamp in Figure 1 was probably placed on its side on the

cover, given the direction of the strike on the stamp. But who is to say after noting the cover in Figure 4 taken from Ashbrook's The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857. We have seen no other covers showing strikes applied in this manner.

The "Due/WAY 1c" marking was applied by Mobile, one of the oldest U.S. cities. It is the only "seaport" of Alabama, located on the Mobile River where it enters Mobile Bay which empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

"WAY" markings were applied to mail given by private parties to steamboat personnel on steamboats holding contracts to carry mail in locked bags. This loose mail was delivered to the post office at the next landing and for this service the captain received 1c per letter. It seems that the Mobile marking was applied primarily (perhaps exclusively?) to mail from

New Orleans which did not go through the NOPO but was received by steamers enroute to Mobile. Your editor has made no study of the marking but from what he has read and seen in auction catalogs, it appears to have been used for a limited time shortly after the 1851 stamps appeared in July. It is listed as "extremely rare" in Simpson's USPM, meaning two to three copies known, but there are more (presumably genuine). The latest use we have noted was on a cover in the Kelleher sale of January 1988 (Lot 287) with a JAN 29 (1852) Mobile CDS. Who can help with additional information on this very interesting marking?

Roger Curran

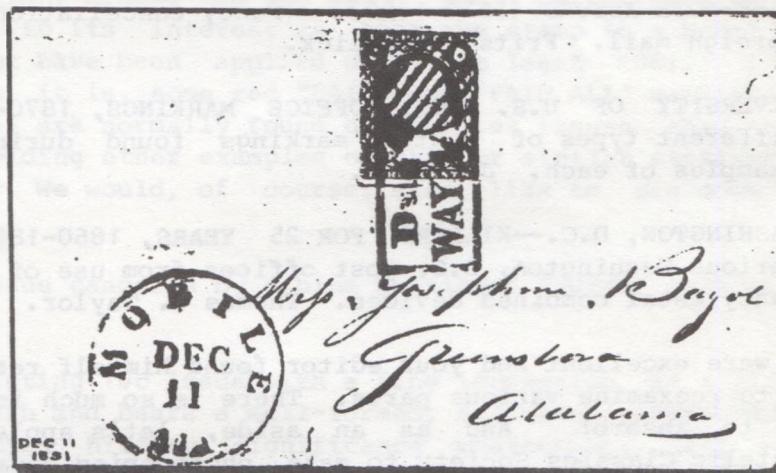


Figure 4

MORE ON COGWHEEL

The article in the last issue of the News about the cogwheel canceling a postage due stamp on a cover from Italy to San Francisco brought forth some interesting information. First, Warren Bower reported a Cogwheel cancel on a postage due stamp (J3) in his collection. (See Figure 1.)



Figure 1

Then John Mahoney sent a copy of an April 1966 Western Express. The article reports off-cover stamps with cogwheels as follows: three singles and one pair of J3, two J5, one #212, one #206, and one #213. Polland also showed an 1883 postal card from Hong Kong to San Francisco marked postage due and bearing a pair of postage dues canceled by cogwheels. All stamps were reported cancelled by what specialists call the "Type II" San Francisco cogwheel. Figure 2 illustrates tracings by John Mahoney of the three types. Perhaps the Type II



Cog I

Cog II

Cog III

Figure 2

cogwheel might have been resurrected for use on incoming postage due mail and also used occasionally to cancel postage stamps arriving uncanceled in San Francisco from other post offices.

Figure 3 illustrates what Warren Bower terms a "rough tracing" of a cancel applied to a postage due stamp that was added in San Francisco to an 1881 cover from Tucson. He also reports



Figure 3

four 1887 covers that bear high value postage dues added at San Francisco canceled by a San Francisco CDS. ■

NONQUITT BOX

Figure 1 presents a rather unusual rectangular CDS and target duplex used from a town we hadn't heard of before. We consulted The Post Offices of Massachusetts by Lawrence W. Merrola and Frank M. Crowther published in 1981 by the Massachusetts Postal Research Society. Described as a "summer post office," it was established in May 1884 and discontinued in April 1964 when it became a rural branch of the New Bedford post office. Nonquitt is on the western shore of Apponaugsett Bay about five miles south of New Bedford. Presumably there was not too much mail processed at Nonquitt in the 1880's and this may account for what appears to be a postmark impression applied by a quite inexpensive rubber handstamp. ■

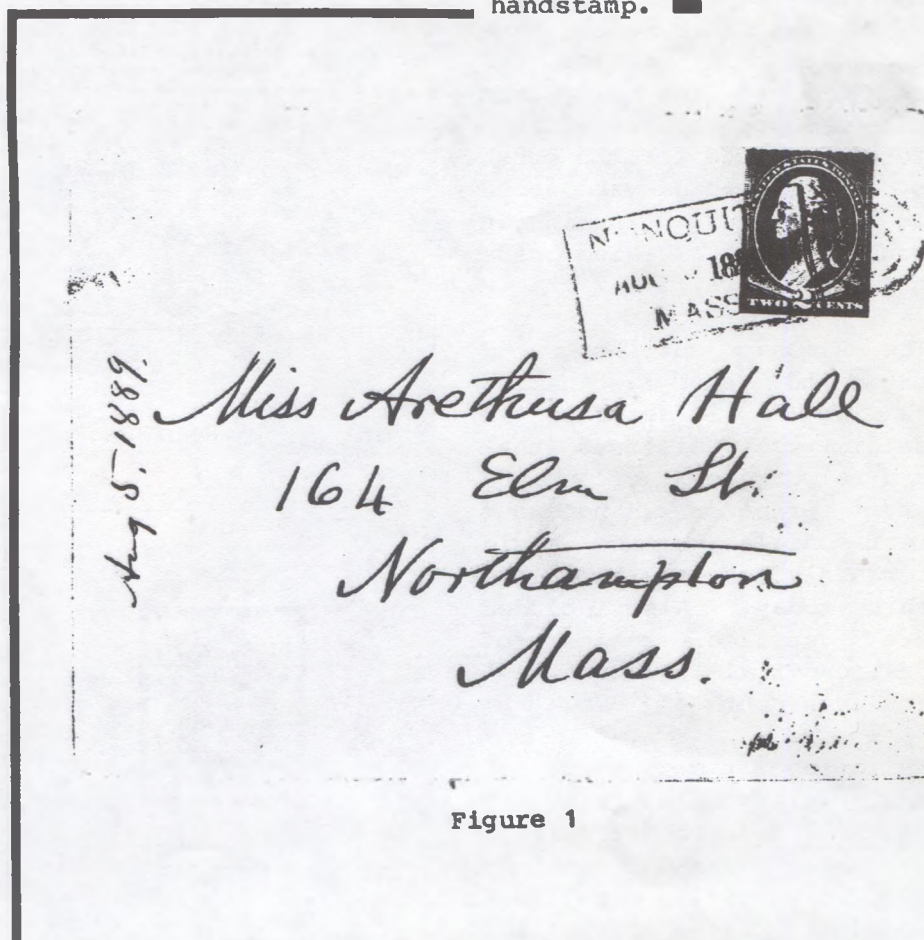


Figure 1

EARLY PRECANCELS

Most precancels of the large banknote era appear on one cent issues paying the circular rate for business mailings. Figure 1 is such an example used to transmit a copy of Clark's Cleveland Almanac for 1875. On page 32 of the Spring 1988 News we illustrated a similar use involving an insurance company's annual report sent from Montpelier, VT. R. Malcolm Hooper in his excellent book, A Historical Survey of Precancels, discusses the Montpelier cancels and states that Allan R. Brown, who wrote a number of articles on bar and line precancels published in The Precancel Optimist during the 1935-49 period, reported that one of the company's directors told him that the precancels were applied to sheets of stamps by employees of the company. We mention this because the ink used in writing the address on the Cleveland Almanac appears very similar to that used for the brush stroke precancel and could be the same. The ink in both cases is a medium shade of muddy brown.

The Almanac consists of 30 pages and makes fascinating reading as it describes in detail the "diseases" that can be cured by the compound and recites numerous testimonials. We could certainly use something like this today! Also included are detailed tables of "astronomical calculations" for each month of 1875.

While on the subject of early precancels, we show Figure 2 described thusly in a John Kaufmann auction: "2c Vermillion (183) w/printed Glen Allen, Va.

Clarks' A B C Anti-Bilious Compound.

PRICE, \$1.00 PER BOTTLE.

Science has yet failed to discover another medicine equal in merit to Clark's Anti-Bilious Compound, for curing diseases of the Liver, Stomach, and Blood.

It possesses most astonishing power to remove disease. It is entirely vegetable. Its ingredients are so happily combined that it possesses far greater curative power than any other medicine, and at the same time its taste is not in the least unpleasant.

While we do not claim that our Compound will cure all diseases, we do claim that it will cure all diseases which can be cured by giving health to the Stomach, Liver, and Blood.

WE WILL GIVE

\$100 for a case of Consumption (first stage) which it will not cure.

\$100 for a case of Catarrh which it will not cure.

\$50 for a case of Female Weakness which it will not cure.

\$50 for a case of Liver Disease which it will not cure.

\$50 for a case of Dyspepsia which it will not cure.

\$50 for a case of Sick Headache which it will not cure.

NOTICE TO DRUGGISTS.

We do not print cards on Almanacs, nor send them to druggists for distribution, because we prefer to put no other person in the distribution ourselves.

We do not make any cash advance.

We do not commission our Compound, nor receive orders for less than one gross.

From these facts we never deviate. We make this explanation, that druggists may be saved the trouble of writing to us for our preparation by the dozen, or on commission.

Our Compound may be bought in small or large quantities of almost any wholesale dealer in the principal cities, and of many in smaller towns of whom you buy other medicines. Upon application we will send a circular giving the price at which our Compound is usually sold, and a list of several dealers of whom it may be bought.

We trust you may secure a small amount as soon as your customers desire it, and thus accommodate your patrons and be prepared for the increased demand.

R. C. & C. S. CLARK, Operative Chemists;
CLEVELAND, O.

Mr. Jas. McKee
South Cambridge
Mass.



Figure 1



Figure 2

pre-cancel, thinned but fine appearing & quite Rar." Indeed this may be a very rare item. Can any reader report another Glen Allen precancel on a 2c issue? It is listed but not priced in Scott for two 2c values: #157 and #183. ■



AWARD WINNERS

Thomas L. Zimmerman

Vermeil and USCC award - New York Foreign Mail Cancellations (SEPAD 88)

Thomas O. Taylor

Silver - Cancels on the 2c Vermillion Banknote (SEPAD 88)

Vermeil - Washington, D.C. - Killers for 25 Years (VAPEX '88)

Niles F. Schuh

Vermeil, USCC and USPCS awards - Florida Stampless Mail (BALPEX 88)

Gold - Florida Stampless Covers (FLOREX 88)

Kenneth J. Evans

Silver - A Walk Through 19th Century U.S. Postmarks (BALPEX 88)

LeRoy Lipman, Jr.

Vermeil and Maryland PHS award - Two Centuries of Baltimore Postal History (BALPEX 88)

W.E. Tinsley

Gold - Tasmania: The 1870, 1880 and 1892 Issues (SESCAL 88)

Brad Archer

Vermeil - New Jersey Transit (SESCAL 88)

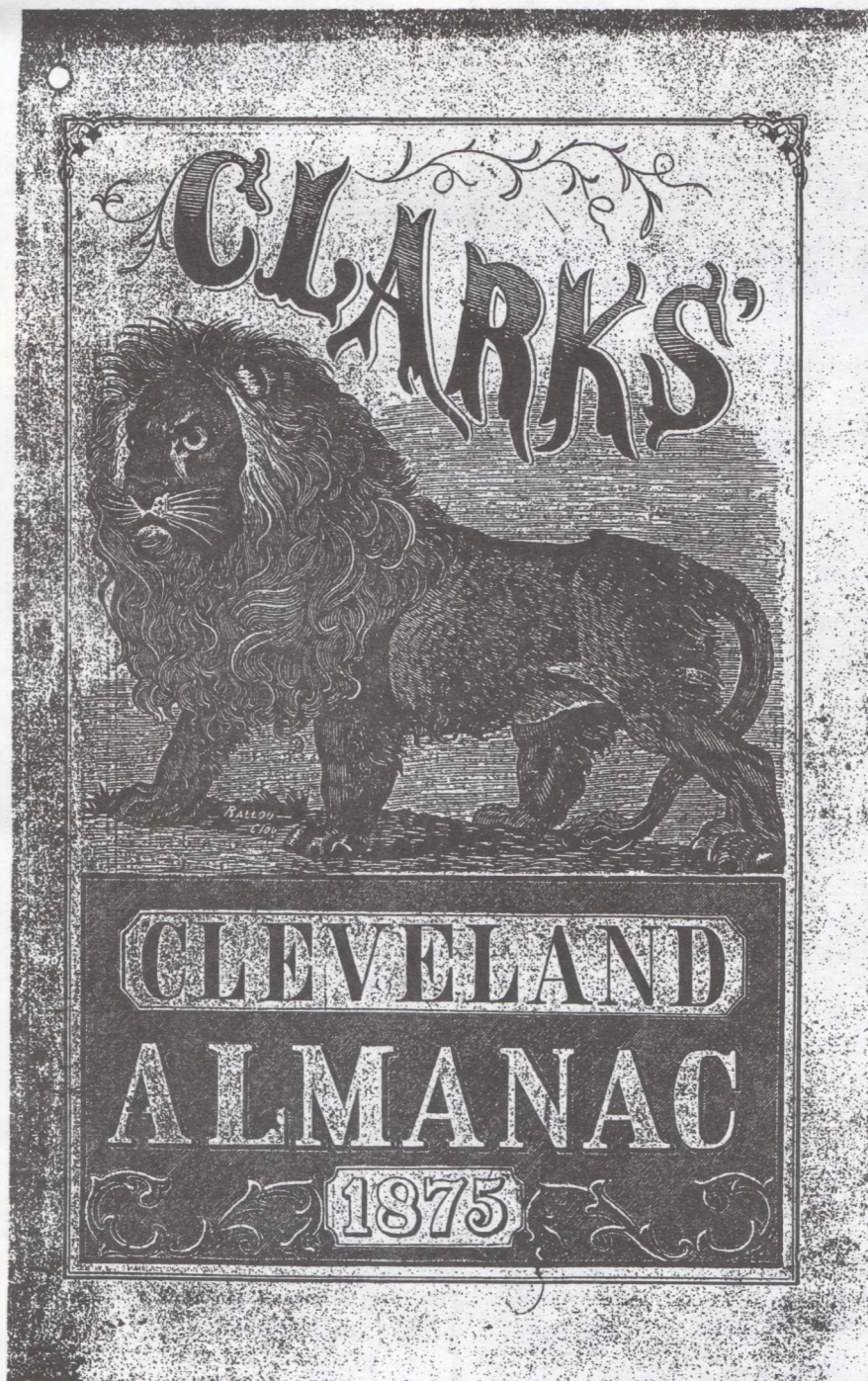
Gold and Postal History Society and best in postal history class - New Jersey Circa 1869 (MERPEX 88)

Darrell Ertzberger

Silver - Streetcar RPOs (SESCAL 88)

Silver - Cottrell Press Issues of the Transportation Coil Series (FLOREX 88)

(see AWARDS, p. 88)



FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

We have mentioned before that much of the correspondence in the Post Office Department files, written during the early years after postage stamps were issued in 1847, concerned the problem of fraudulent reuse of postage stamps. The letter below is but another example.

Post Office Oberlin Lorain Co O
Dec 26 - 1849

Hon J. Collamer
Post Master Gen-

Sir

James Dascomb Prof of Chemistry at this Institution having been making experiments in regard to removing the cancelling mark commonly used by the Post Masters in cancelling P.O. stamps, and thinking that perhaps frauds might be committed in this manner I have thought it proper to inform you in relation to the matter for indeed I know that frauds have been attempted here by attempting to remove the cancell mark but did not succeed not having used the same material for extracting the mark, which was used by Prof Dascomb. By a very simple chemical process he was enabled to remove the mark so that it could not be distinguished from the genuine. I suggested to him to try an article which I use in the office for stamping letters, composed of Indigo and oil. He tried it but did not succeed entirely in removing it. He also tried common Blue writing ink, but could not succeed in removing it

I would suggest the propriety of using some material which is indelible to be used uniformly through out the U.S.

I have spoken to Prof Dascomb, and he says he will write you more fully in relation to the matter, and enclose some stamps which he has experimented upon

Hon J. Collamer
PM Gen

With much respect
I am your Obt Svt
H. W. Stevens PM

(Awards cont'd.)

John M. Hotchner

Vermeil - The Little Red
(PRINCEPEX 88)
Gold - Stamp Separation:
from 1840 to Modern Times
(FLOREX 88)
Bronze and AAPE award -
Little Red (VAPEX '88)

William P. Emery

Gold - Landmarks and
Postmarks of 19th Century
Rhode Island (RIPEX 88)
Silver - Postmarks of
Galveston, Texas 1838-1900
(MIDAPHIL 88)

C.W. Christian

Grand, Gold, APS pre-1900
medal, USPCS award and BIA
award -- The U.S. One Cent
1861 (MIDAPHIL 88)

Howard J. Selzer

Gold - Michigan Postal
History During the 19th
Century (MIDAPHIL 88)

Randy L. Neil

Grand, Gold, Trans-Miss PS
award, and APS pre-1900
medal - Great Britain: Half
Penny Value of the Queen
Victoria Jubilee Issue
(Omaha Stamp Show)
Reserve Grand (for best U.S.
Exhibit), Gold, USPCS award,
CPS award for best member
exhibit - The U.S. Two Cent
Issue of 1883-1887
(CHICAGOPEX 88)

Frits Van Gulick

Vermeil and USCC award -
Bank Note Issues 1870-1888:
Fancy Cancellations
(CHICAGOPEX 88)
Silver - same exhibit (VAPEX
88)

James M. Cole

Silver - Diversity of U.S.
Post Office Markings, 1870 -
1890 (VAPEX '88)

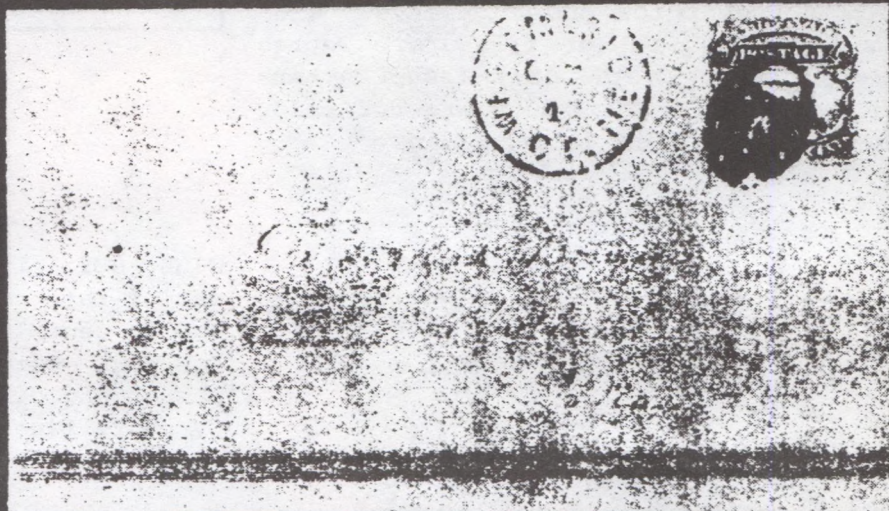
AN INTERESTING THROWBACK

One of the practices that so enriches the study of early U.S. cancellations was that of using postal markings as cancelers that were not designed to cancel stamps-- "PAID," "STEAMBOAT," "FORWARDED," and "REGISTERED" to name just a few. Fortunately, such markings are fairly common through the 1870's, but how about the 1980's? Figure 1 is a delightful item submitted by Gilbert Levere who describes it as follows:

"Normal postage for the new rate of 25c was applied but the cancellation was . . . a straight-line post office auxiliary marking "DAMAGED IN HANDLING" . . . with no indication of a mailing date or regular cancellation, machine or otherwise. To top it off, the original cover shows no signs whatsoever of having been damaged.

The News would welcome reports of other modern-day examples of non-cancellation postal markings used as cancelers. ■

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Figure 1

DUES REMINDER

If you have not already done so, please take a moment now and submit your 1989 dues of \$8.00 to our treasurer, George Lewis. This is the last issue members will receive if 1989 dues are not paid. We sure don't want to lose you!



WANTED: Collection & Distribution Wagon cancels from N.Y., Washington, Buffalo. Send Xerox copies. Will pay cash or trade. Bruce L. Corey, 108 Marilyn Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092.

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